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Elevated road proposal finds lessons in history

By Michael Hinman

mhinman@cnewsdpubs.com

The deadline is here for groups wanting to convince the Florida Department of Transportation to part with valuable road rights of way in Pasco County's State Road 54/56 corridor.

The FDOT asked for the proposals after it received an unsolicited request to lease the rights of way to build a 33-mile elevated toll road that could possibly shorten the trip between Zephyrhills and New Port Richey to less than 30 minutes.

Gerald Stanley and International

Infrastructure Partners LLC piqued the interest of state officials and the county as a whole with the request in June, and it's created debate on not only if it's good for the county, but if such a project is even feasible.

Those answers are yes and yes, said John Hagen, president and chief executive of the Pasco Economic Development Council. The fact is, Pasco County is growing quickly, and even an expanded State Road 54 struggles to accommodate the traffic it receives.

"You either have to build a bunch of new lanes and widen it out, or you have to

See ROAD, page 14



International Infrastructure Partners have proposed building a 33-mile stretch of elevated road, like this one built over the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway in Tampa, to help move traffic from one side of the county to the other. But some observers warn that state officials should keep some hand in any project that gets approved. (Photo by Michael Hinman)

Slutzky's stage life proves he's not a 'boring' lawyer

By Michael Hinman

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Jerry Slutzky has had many auditions in his life. But none was more grueling than the one where he eventually found his future fiancée.

A lawyer and financial advisor who works right off State Road 54 on Sterlington Drive, Slutzky had maintained a profile on the website Match.com almost since the beginning of the site's existence.

Helen Techler, an audiologist out of Dunedin, posted a profile, and received 100 responses. She didn't want to go through it, and instead tasked her daughter to pick out three. One of them was Slutzky.

"I was nervous, but I would go into any meeting like this just looking for someone who enjoys doing things, and being someone who shares that interest," Slutzky said. "With Helen, I got the rose."

But he did have a bit of an advantage. Slutzky has been auditioning his entire life, finding a home on the stage for many popular productions like "Music Man" and "Kiss Me Kate."



Jerry Slutzky is a man who wears many hats. By day, he's both an attorney and a financial advisor. By night, he'll ditch the shirt and tie, and take on all kinds of characters on stage. He returns as Georges, the gay nightclub owner, in the musical 'La Cage aux Folles' on Nov. 1 in Largo. (Photo by Michael Hinman)

Slutzky was born into a family of Chicago lawyers, and would become one himself. But there was something about the stage that always fascinated him — and the theater bug was something he could never cure. So much that even today, with a busy work schedule and a full personal life because of Helen, he makes the time to appear on stage, like the starring role in the upcoming production of "La Cage aux Folles" in Largo.

ing production of "La Cage aux Folles" in Largo.

"In high school, I played trombone, and our orchestra always played for the spring musical," Slutzky said. "I would be in the pit orchestra, but it always looked like more fun to be on stage than in the pit."

See LAWYER, page 14

Community to meet about trees Oct. 29

By B.C. Manion

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When word got out about Hillsborough County's plans to cut down trees in the U.S. 41 medians in Lutz, it took howls of protests to silence the chain saws.

Armed with promises from State Sen. Jon Legg, R-Lutz, and Hillsborough County officials to work with the community to find another solution, a meeting has been set for Oct. 29 to discuss what to do instead.

The county had planned to cut down the trees because it wanted to return maintenance of the medians to the Florida Department of Transportation, which has jurisdiction over the highway. The state roads department would only take over if 91 of the 135 trees in the median were removed.

The trees slated for destruction were 64 crape myrtle, 14 wax myrtle, seven live oaks, three Shumard oaks and three red maple.



It took a partnership among several groups to work out a plan to prevent chain saws from taking down the trees in the medians along U.S. 41 in Lutz. Those who banded together to help protect the trees included, from left, Debra Evenson, executive director of Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful; Chris Smith, assistant manager at the Walmart in Lutz; State Sen. John Legg; and Sam Calco, Louise Friar, and Mike White of the Lutz Citizens Coalition. (Photo courtesy of the Lutz Citizens Coalition)

After a contentious community meeting on Jan. 24, however, the county put the brakes on that plan and agreed to return to the community for another meeting to discuss potential solutions.

Recently, the trees won a two-year reprieve, when Walmart stepped forward with a \$5,000 check to cover maintenance costs. That solution resulted from a partnership between Legg, Hillsborough County, the

Lutz Citizens Coalition and Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful.

Walmart said it would revisit the matter in two years, Legg said. Meanwhile, efforts can be made to broaden support.

Now that a temporary solution has been found, another community meeting has been set for 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 29 at the Lutz

See TREES, page 14



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Clinical studies have shown the majority of fibromyalgia patients started having symptoms after a traumatic event (like a car accident, work injury or a fall), sometimes months or years later.

Mark Pelligrino, MS (author of The Fibromyalgia Survivor), reported that after studying over 2,000 fibromyalgia patient's files, he found two-thirds of fibromyalgia patients started having symptoms after a traumatic event.

Maybe your past doctors don't even believe that your fibromyalgia is a real disease, but you know it is. You feel it every day – when you wake up in the morning, when you try to keep your house cleaned...even simple tasks like cooking dinner becomes a chore.

Prescription drugs are at best a "band-aid" that may cover up the daily warning signs of a painful disease, but often have unwanted side effects.

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PHCC gearing up to talk about Porter Campus

By B.C. Manion
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A view from State Road 56 of one of the buildings under construction for the new Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch. (Photo by B.C. Manion)

Three sessions have been scheduled to provide information about Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch, a new satellite campus of Pasco-Hernando Community College that is scheduled to open in January.

The Porter Campus, which is under construction at Mansfield Boulevard and State Road 56, is situated in an area poised to attract major employers and substantial residential growth in coming years. It is directly across State Road 54 from the site where Raymond James, an international financial services company, is expected to build an office park.

The Porter Campus plans include six buildings. One of its structures will stand 122 feet tall, giving the campus the bragging rights of having Pasco County's highest building.

College officials anticipate attracting students from Pasco, Hernando and Hillsborough counties. One day, the Porter Campus is expected to draw about the same number of students as the college's West Campus, the main campus in New Port Richey.

The information sessions are designed to provide a wealth of information to potential students.

Three individual sessions are scheduled at Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel, in the second floor conference room of Wellness Plaza, 2600 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. Each session will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., and they will be on Nov. 4, Nov. 5 and Nov. 6.

The sessions are intended for prospective, current and returning PHCC students who are interested in attending the new Porter Campus.

College faculty and staff will be on hand

PEDC earns international award

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@newspubs.com

The International Economic Development Council had reason to recognize Pasco County earlier this month, bestowing its Gold Excellence in Economic Development Award to the Pasco Economic Development Council.

PEDC had established an unconventional, collaborative entrepreneurship program called the Pasco Enterprise Network. From that, a new business incubator, as well as a microloan fund for small businesses, was formed.

"These awards are meant to honor the organizations and individuals who are dedicated to making a positive change in their communities," IEDC chair Paul Krutko said in a release. PEDC "uses creative solutions and inventive ideas, and offers other regions a wonderful example to learn and benefit from."

The enterprise network, recognized as the best of the best for communities with populations of between 200,000 and 500,000 people, is a one-stop resource for finding guidance and assistance for new businesses, according to the PEDC's website. It's a collaborative effort of nonprofit groups that provide consulting, counseling, education and technical assistance.

"Basically, this was all put into place because there was a lack of capital for startup businesses and small businesses in the county," said Krista Covey, the PEDC's economic development manager. "We are about job creation and about supporting our local economy to help our businesses grow and be prosperous. The hindrance was capital."

The microloan program has put capital back on the market, especially during a time in the recent past when banks weren't exactly lending to small businesses. With a pool of \$320,000 thanks to investments from Saint Leo University, various banks and other groups, nine loans of up to \$35,000 have been distributed so far with low interest

rates and terms of no more than six years.

The loans themselves have created 24 jobs in the county, Covey said, and this past summer, even had its first payoff when 301 Designs Inc. paid back its loan 17 months ahead of schedule.

An online retail apparel company, 301 Designs started in the home of its founder, Gil Gauthier, and is now operating out of a 2,400-square-foot warehouse space.

"If a company comes in and has a good business plan in place, that's great," Covey said. "Even if they don't have a business plan, we automatically refer them to the small business development center and they'll be walked through the whole process."

Even if a company qualifies for money under the microloan program, the help doesn't stop there.

"We offer ongoing technical assistance along with the other help they'll receive from the PEDC," Covey said. "We want them to be successful, and we want them to be a viable business."

Its incubator at the Dade City Business Center is the first of its kind in Pasco County. The SmartStart incubator is an overall partnership that includes the help of Dade City government officials, the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce, Florida High Tech Corridor Council, Saint Leo, the Florida Small Business Development Center, and the University of South Florida's USF Connect.

The IEDC has more than 4,000 members around the world, and its excellence in economic development awards recognizes the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and most influential leaders.

This award is the sixth state- or national-level accolade in the last three years for the PEDC.

"We know that a successful economy depends on small businesses and the support of entrepreneurship," said PEDC chief executive John Hagen, in a release. "Working together as a support network, entrepreneurs will be more likely to succeed."

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BABY CHICKS ARE IN! • CHICKEN COOPS

The power of the printed word

By Diane Kortus
Publisher



I first considered writing a column about the demise of Patch last August when AOL Inc. announced it was shutting down most of its community websites.

I mentioned this to a couple friends not in the newspaper business, and each gave me a puzzled look. "Patch?" they said. "Never heard of it."

One thought it was a website for people who liked to quilt; another was sure it had something to do with rabbits.

Just in case you, too, never heard of Patch, it was a network of 900 or so websites around the country that posted local stories written by employees and viewers, including local Patch sites in Land O' Lakes, Lutz and New Tampa.

The Patch concept piggy-backed what we do best at The Laker/Lutz News — giving readers stories about local people, events and issues that are only found in their weekly community newspaper. We call this hyperlocal news.

Patch offered this same hyperlocal formula, but in a digital format. And while Patch's stories, photos and video clips were often very good, most of its websites never drew enough viewers to justify selling ads to local businesses.

Patch failed not because of poor content, but because not enough people went to its website. There was never enough traffic to create the momentum needed to generate advertising dollars to cover its expenses, much less make a profit.

So why was Patch unable to pull people like you to its websites when its content was much like the stories you're reading in this week's Laker or Lutz News?

We believe the answer is so simple that it has been overlooked.

The stories Patch covered and we write about are not urgent enough for you to search for them online. You're just fine getting your community news in a weekly newspaper delivered to your home.

We know from several research studies in our industry that only 25 percent of regular readers of community newspapers go to their paper's website. And when they do, it's just once a month on average.

This means if you're reading this column, you have probably never visited our website at www.LakerLutzNews.com. And my staff and I are OK with that because we never stopped believing in the power of the printed word.

I believe egos get in the way of many publishers and journalists who incorrectly assume their stories are so important that they must be posted on their websites as

soon as they are edited. They believe readers are as consumed as they are with getting news 24/7.

Here at The Laker/Lutz News, we accept what the research verifies — that you like getting your community news the traditional way — in a newspaper delivered to your driveway that you can read when you choose.

Those of you who do visit our website mostly go there to get digital links to stories you've already read in print. Or, you may be a seasonal resident wanting to keep up with the news here when you're back north. Or, you may want to share it with relatives who live elsewhere.

We think of our website as a service to readers who want to link our stories to their websites or Facebook pages. We've made it easy to navigate with a searchable archive of local stories going back to 2009.

Our stories are posted Thursday morning, the day after you get The Laker or Lutz News at your home. I've never understood why most newspapers do the opposite — post stories to their websites before their readers have a chance to read them in their printed product. From my perspective, it's like competing against yourself and cannibalizing your primary product.

Which takes me full circle back to Patch. I believe Patch faced a daunting challenge from its beginning because AOL ignored what research has told us for years — that people seldom go online to seek hyperlocal news.

It's not that news websites are never viable. Certainly national websites for newspapers like USA Today and the Washington Post attract readers because they break important national and international stories. Even daily newspapers can have a strong Web following, especially for sports coverage where fans demand the immediacy of game results.

But the kinds of stories Patch posted and we write about are not crucial to your daily routine. Most of our stories are not things you need to know about immediately. Rather they are stories you enjoy reading about when you have the time.

Much has been written about newspapers being dinosaurs — that our industry is on its way to extinction because of the Internet. The Patch experiment proves that prediction false.

The Laker/Lutz News has never been as well read as they are today. People have an innate yearning to know what's happening in their community, and will forever get a thrill when they see the name or photo of someone they know in the newspaper.

And there's a good chance when they do, they will likely cut the story out, stick it on their refrigerator and mail a copy to friends and relatives.



Tackling those couch potatoes

Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive tackle Gerald McCoy tells students at Corbett Preparatory School that when he was their age, he hated to go outside. But he soon learned that exercise and healthy eating had to be part of his daily routine, and it should be for them, too. McCoy's talk was part of Corbett's 'Good for You' learning unit that focuses on nutrition, exercise and well-being. (Photo courtesy of Courtney Pastor)

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Brooklyn Nye, 3, gets her face painted by artist JoAnna Esposito during this year's Rattlesnake and Music Festival in San Antonio.



Former rodeo cowboy Thomas Glasgow, known as 'Cowboy Tom,' performs some rope tricks for the crowds at this year's Rattlesnake and Music Festival in San Antonio. The annual event, shortened to a single day, still drew strong crowds to hear music, eat food, and of course, see rattlesnakes. (Photos by David J. Rice)



A barrel train pulled by a four-wheeler gave kids a thrill during this year's Rattlesnake and Music Festival. Rich Rachel lounges at a picnic table in the background.

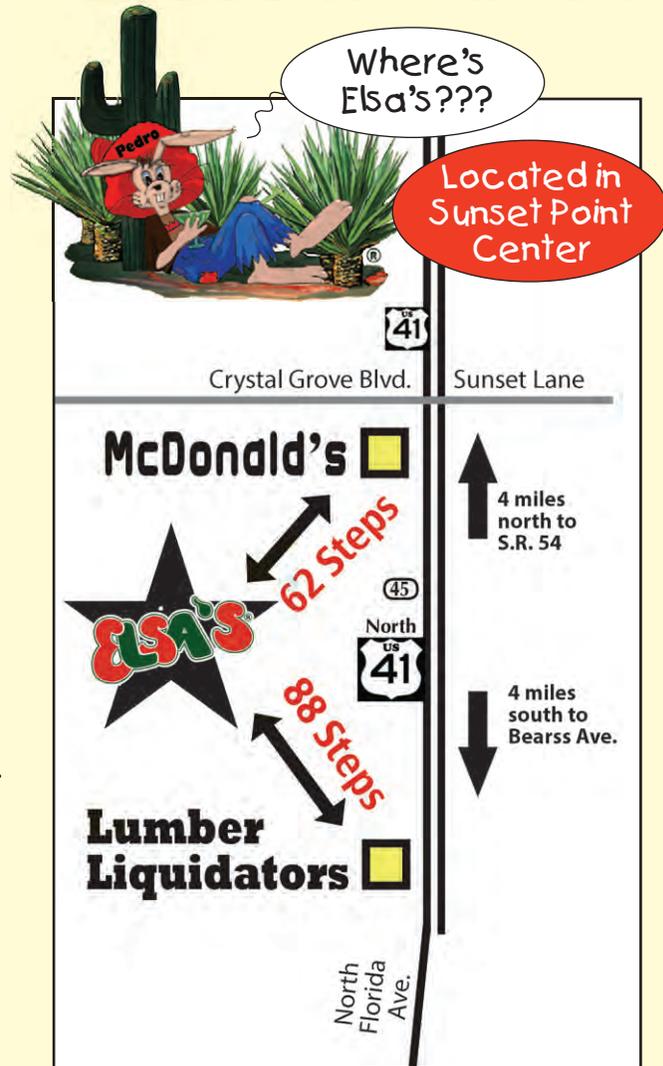


Artist Kathleen Barnes weaves chair seats for an audience of interested buyers visiting the Rattlesnake and Music Festival in San Antonio last weekend.



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Community health fair

Weinberg Village in Tampa will host a community health fair on Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 13005 Community Campus Drive. The event includes flu shots, spine alignment checks, hearing tests, memory tests, blood pressure checks, and information on home exercises and senior resources. Elder care attorney Susan Haubenstock will be available to discuss planning. For information or to RSVP, call Toby Zarolnick at (813) 969-1818, or email toby.zarolnick@jewishtampa.com.

Cancer support at Keystone Church

Keystone Community Church, 21010 State Road 54 in Lutz, is hosting a cancer support group program on Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. Guest speaker will be hospice nurse Debbie Gossett on the topic of How to be a Good Cancer Support Person. For information, call Walt Bockmiller at (813) 527-8211, or call the church at (813) 948-4522.

Chatterboxes meeting

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, will host a Chatterboxes support group on Oct. 24 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. The group assists individuals suffering from communication deficits as a result of a cerebral vascular accident or other neurological disorder. Caregivers and spouses are encouraged to attend. For information, call (727) 834-4946.

Free dentistry services

Dental Designs of Florida, 16680 N. Dale Mabry Highway in Tampa, will offer free dental services on Oct. 26 for those without dental insurance. Patients can choose between a dental cleaning or tooth extraction. The services will be offered between 8 a.m. and noon on a first-come, first-served

basis for both children and adults. For information, call (813) 908-5151, or visit FreeDentistryDay.org.

Food addicts program

Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wesley Chapel, 33420 State Road 54, is hosting the program "Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous" on Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This is a 12-step program for men and women of all ages. There is no fee and no weigh-ins. For information, visit FoodAddicts.org.

Tampa Kidney Walk

The National Kidney Foundation of Florida is hosting the Tampa Kidney Walk on Oct. 27 at Curtis Hixon Park on East Zack Street on Oct. 27. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. The walk starts at 10 a.m. The walk is a three-mile stroll through downtown Tampa. For information, visit TampaKidneyWalk.org.

Free mammograms

Florida Hospital Carrollwood, 7171 N. Dale Mabry Highway, is offering free mammograms through Nov. 30 to any woman who has never had a screening. To qualify, register online at JoinThePinkArmy.com. Registration is subject to hospital verification.

For women who do get yearly screenings, the hospital is offering discounted mammograms for \$76, cash only. To qualify for discounted price, register at the same website and schedule a mammogram by Nov. 30. The procedure must take place by Dec. 31.

Free Alzheimer's program

The USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute, Right at Home, In Home Care, Horizon Bay Memory Care, and Hyde Park United Methodist Church are sponsoring a

free community program, "Alzheimer's Disease: What Family Caregivers Need to Know," on Oct. 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the church, 414 Magnolia Ave., in Tampa. Topics include understanding the disease, progress in treatment, managing behaviors and communication strategies. Lunch will be provided. For information or to register, call (813) 974-4357.

Prepared childbirth course

The obstetrics program at Medical Center of Trinity is offering a six-week prepared childbirth class beginning on Oct. 30. Classes meet one night per week from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The fee is \$70. The center is at 9330 State Road 54. For information or to register, call (727) 834-5630.

Hospice orientations

Gulfside Regional Hospice is hosting orientations for new shop volunteers as follows:

- Oct. 30, 9 a.m. to noon, Lutz Thrift Shoppe, 1930 Land O' Lakes Blvd., for Central Pasco volunteers
- Oct. 31, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Gulfside's East Pasco Administrative Office, 37826 Sky Ridge Circle in Dade City, for East Pasco volunteers

For information, call Jennifer Ball or Tracey Thompson at (813) 780-1235.

New anxiety support group

The Tampa Bay Anxiety Association is a meet-up group set up so members can take an active part in making decisions about when and where to meet. The group meets throughout the Tampa Bay area. Panera Bread on Williet Way in Wesley Chapel is the newest venue to serve those in the North Tampa area. Meetings are usually in the evening. Membership is \$5 a year. For information, visit meetup.com and search for "Anxiety Association" under groups.



Aging services for seniors

Hillsborough County Senior Centers offer a variety of free programs and activities to local seniors 50 and older. These include blood pressure checks, exercise classes, health education, games, recreation, educational classes and more. There are 16 senior dining centers and eight senior centers that provide hot nutritious noontime meals for those 60 and older. The local Lutz senior center is at 112 First Ave., and can be reached at (813) 264-3803. For information and a list of other senior and dining centers, call (813) 272-5250, or call the Elder Helpline at (800) 963-5337.

Arthritis aquatic exercise

Calypto Divers in North Tampa is offering the Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Program on Mondays and Fridays at 10:45 a.m., at 401 E. Bearss Ave. This is a warm-water aquatic exercise program to help control and reduce arthritis pain, all taught by nationally certified Arthritis Foundation leaders. For information or to register, call Calypto Divers at (813) 969-3483.

—Health notes are run for free on a first-come, first-served basis. Please send all information at least two weeks before an event.



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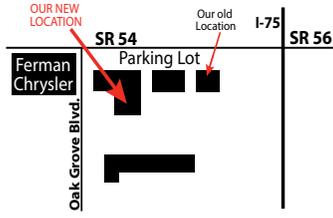
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Books for Troops offers peaceful respite

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@cnewspubs.com

Patricia Murphy was delivering magazines to the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, when a young man in a wheelchair approached her.

The man, who had lost his leg in the war, couldn't have been more than 20 years old, she recalled. But here he was, thanking her for magazines.

The young veteran told her that reading the magazines at the hospital was helping him through a tough time, and he told her he wished he could have had something to read while he was deployed.

He wasn't living at a base, he explained. He was living in a tent on the outskirts of Iraq. Having something to read, he told her, would have made a difference.

Murphy said she thanked the young man for his service, stepped into the elevator and burst into tears.

The experience inspired the Land O' Lakes woman to launch Books for Troops. Now, in its third year, the organization has shipped more than 15,000 books to troops overseas and delivered 5,000 books to local veterans.

It has an annual drive in October to collect the books that it sends out all year.

"We are accepting action adventure, suspense, mystery, comedy and comic books," Murphy said. "The most important thing is that they are in very good condition."

Besides shipping books to military personnel overseas, some books are delivered to hospitals and nursing homes.

Because of military regulations, the organization cannot accept books about religion, the apocalypse or pornographic materials, Murphy said.

The effort is aided by an army of helpers, Murphy said, noting this year three Girl Scout troops from Land O' Lakes are helping with the collection drive, and four scout troops from Lutz are helping, too.

"The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts come and they clean them and sort them by genre," Murphy said.

Local civic groups and businesses also play a huge role in the effort. Many businesses help by putting out collection boxes. Wesley Chapel Kia, she noted, has been there from the beginning.

The storage unit for Books for Troop is at the 54 U Store in Lutz, which is a year-round collection site, Murphy added.

"All of the paperbacks get shipped to the troops," she said. The hardbacks are delivered to nursing homes.

Any books that can't be shipped or delivered because of their condition are recycled, so nothing is wasted.

Murphy has been amazed by people's generosity.

"The first time I did it, I thought maybe I'd get 100 or 200 books," she said. "But no, I ended up with over 5,000 at the first book drive."

Murphy said the donation of books has outpaced her ability to raise money to ship them.

It costs \$15 to ship a box of 30 books, said Murphy, noting her husband's company, Psychological Assessment Resources, donates the shipping boxes.

While she can get enough books to satisfy requests, she can't raise enough money to ship them.

Murphy thinks the books provide an excellent diversion for troops, when they have some down time.

"It is a really good way to get their mind off the heat, the bugs," she said. When they're staying in remote places, she added, "they don't have television."

The books go to war zones, but she's also shipped them to such places as Japan, Germany and China. They also go to hospitals all over the country.

If anyone would like to volunteer, host a collection box, or make a tax-deductible donation, email Patricia Murphy at BooksforTroops@verizon.net .

A new duck dynasty



Finding the fastest duck in the county was determined during races at the inaugural Duck Gala hosted by Mid-Way Farm & Ranch Supply in Spring Hill. The event also included pony rides, hot dogs, and music from singer John Barker. (Photos courtesy of Mid-Way Farm & Ranch Supply)



Max Bianchet carries a duck during the inaugural Duck Gala at Mid-Way Farm & Ranch Supply Oct. 12. Some 50 Indian runner ducks competed for the best-dressed and fastest in the county during the event, complete with a fashion show and music from John Barker.



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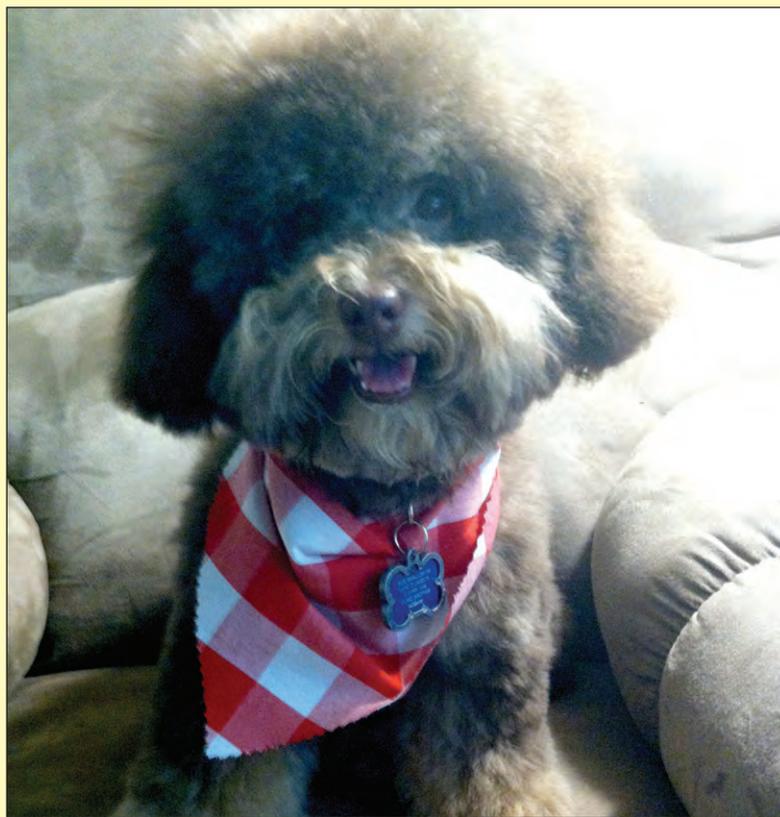
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Peanut loves to shake hands

Peanut is a 7-month-old miniature poodle. He enjoys giving high fives, shaking hands and playing with his older brother Duke. Peanut loves to play baseball and loves to pose for pictures. Peanut's very proud owner is Laura Rivera from Land O' Lakes.

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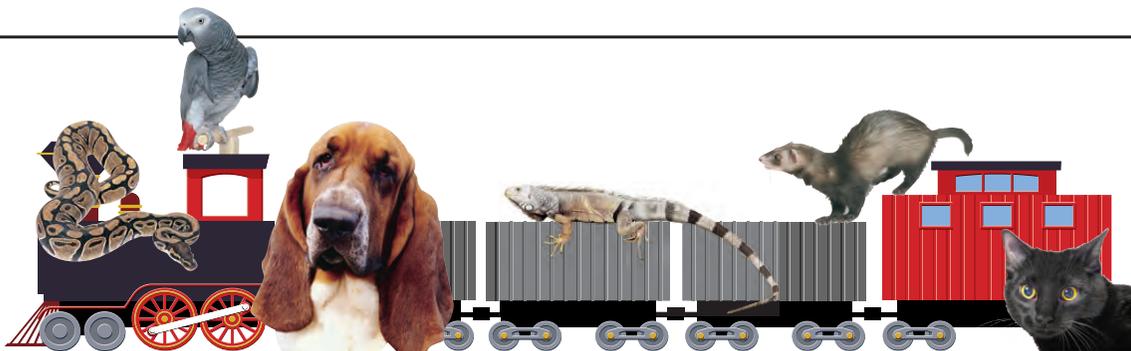
Send us a picture and information on your favorite pet!

Write a short paragraph about why your pet is special along with a photo and mail to: Pet of the Week, c/o The Laker, P.O. Box 479, Lutz, FL 33548 or email to kwelton@cnewspubs.com, ATTN: Pet of the Week

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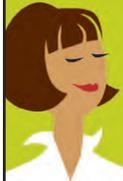
For more information on how to adopt Panther or other animals with Pasco County Animal Services, visit tinyurl.com/AdoptPasco.

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What's Happening

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REPUBLICAN CLUB

The Republican Club of Central Pasco will host Pasco County elections supervisor Brian Corley on Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m., at Copperstone Executive Suites, 3632 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes. Corley will discuss the election for House District 36, what's new in voting, and the midterm election of 2014. For information, call Steve Graves at (813) 996-3011.

THE SKYWAY BRIDGE STORY

Inkwood Books, 216 S.Armenia Ave., in Tampa, will host journalist and Florida native Bill DeYoung on Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. as he discusses and signs his book "Skyway: The True Story of Tampa's Signature Bridge and the Man Who Brought it Down." For information, call (813) 253-2638.

WOMAN'S CLUB MEETS

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club will meet at the Lutz Community Center on Oct. 24 at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and fellowship. Newcomers are welcome and membership applications will be accepted. For information, visit GFWCLutzLandOLakesWomansClub.org.

BRITISH COMEDY

Steinbrenner High School's theater department will present "Noises Off," Michael Frayn's British comedy, Oct. 24-26. The comedy offers a glimpse into the chaotic attempts of a cast to pull off one show without anything going awry. Performances are Thursday and Friday at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for general admission, \$10 for seniors, and \$6 for students. The school is at 5575 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road in Lutz. For information, call (813) 792-5131.

PUBLIC RECREATION MEETING

The Southwest Florida Water Management District will have a public information meeting on recreational opportunities on district-managed lands on Oct. 24 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Tampa Service Office, 7601 U.S. 301. For information, visit WaterMatters.org/recreationevaluation.

UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL SECURITY

The Offices of Independent Financial Services will host a free Social Security seminar for adults 55-65 on Oct. 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at its office, 20635 Amberfield Drive in Land O' Lakes. Light appetizers and refreshments will be available. To RSVP, call (813) 908-2701.

TAMPA BOOK CLUB

The Tampa Branch of The American Association of University Women's book club will meet at Barnes & Noble on North Dale Mabry Highway next to Piccadilly's, on



BEER-O-WEEN

Whole Foods Market, 1548 N. Dale Mabry Highway in Carrollwood, will host Beer Class: It's Beer-o-ween on Oct. 24 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For a \$5 donation to Whole Kids Foundation, those attending can taste a variety of beers, learn what to pair them with, and have appetizers. Those in costume will be entered to win a beer gift basket. To register, email Maria.Gumina@WholeFoods.com.

Oct. 24 at 10 a.m. to discuss the book "The Life of Pi" by Yann Martel. For information, call Avis Chaplick at (813) 920-7077.

COMEDY CLUB EVENING

The Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road in Tampa, will host Marion Grodin, daughter of comedian Charles Grodin, for a comedy club evening on Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m. to kick off the annual Jewish Book Festival. Marion Grodin is the author of "Standing Up: A Memoir of a Funny (Not Always) Life." Tickets are \$8 in advance, and \$10 at the door. For tickets, visit JewishTampa.com. For information, call (813) 769-4725.

GLOW-IN-THE-DARK ZUMBA

Inner Rhythm Dance Studio, 23600 State Road 54 in Lutz, is having a glow-in-the-dark Zumba party on Oct. 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be a Halloween costume contest and raffle. Those attending should wear a light Halloween costume or glow-in-the-dark accessories. Tickets are \$12 in advance, or \$15 at the door. For information, visit dancestudiolutz@gmail.com.

HAUNTED HOUSE ON 41

Pasco County Parks & Recreation presents The Haunted House on 41 on Oct. 25-26 from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. Some scenes may be too intense for young children. Admission is \$1 per person. For information, call (813) 929-1229.

LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Land O' Lakes Library's

book sale is Oct. 25-26 starting at 10 a.m. There will be used books, videos and audiotapes for sale. All proceeds support library programming. There will be a sneak peek on Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. for a \$5 admission fee. The library is at 2818 Collier Parkway.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

The Museum of Science & Industry's education department will host a Parents' Night Out on Oct. 25 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. for children older than 5. The staff will care for and entertain children with video games, museum treasure hunts, creative play and more. Kids will dine on pizza and drinks. Cost is \$25 per child. MOSI is at 4801 E. Fowler Ave., in Tampa. For information, call (813) 987-6000.

FIRST BAPTIST DRAMA PRESENTATION

The First Baptist Church of Lutz will present "Judgement House: Words," a seven-room drama, on Oct. 25-26 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and on Oct. 27 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Admission is \$3. The drama is not suitable for young children. For information, call (813) 949-7495.

DOGGIE HOWL-O-WEEN

Northdale Park will host a Doggie Howl-o-ween on Oct. 25 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at 15550 Spring Pine Drive in Tampa. The event includes dog, child and owner dress-up contests, followed by a Halloween carnival. For information, call Adrienne Rouse or Pat Cullina at (813) 264-8956.

SENIOR HALLOWEEN SOCIAL

Keystone Park will have a Senior Halloween Social at the Keystone Recreation Center, 17928 Gunn Highway in Odessa, on Oct. 25 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. for adults older than 50. The event will feature food, music, games, a costume contest, and social activities for seniors. For information, call Don Wright at (813) 264-3819.

BONSAI TREE DEMO

Eve's Garden Gifts, 5602 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes, is hosting a free bonsai tree demonstration on Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants will learn how to prepare their tree for the fall season, including proper containment, trimming, potting and shaping. For information, call (813) 996-5012, or visit evesgardengifts.com.

LUNCH FUNDRAISER

The Path of Holiness Christian Church in Land O' Lakes will have a lunch fundraiser on Oct. 25. For \$6, a meal of yellow rice, pork, black beans and bread will be delivered to homes or businesses. For information, call Lilly Fontanez at (813) 746-9329 or (813) 991-0192.

WHOLE FOODS TRICK OR TREAT

Whole Foods Market, 1548 N. Dale Mabry Highway in Carrollwood, will host free trick-or-treating on Oct. 26 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Bring kids in costume and collect tasty treats throughout the store. For information, call (813) 874-9435.

GREYHOUND DOGS

Greyhound Rescue and Adoptions of Tampa Bay will host two meet and greets for greyhounds and their adoptive or foster parents on Oct. 26. The first one is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Port Richey Petco, 9638 U.S. 19 in Port Richey. The other is from noon to 2 p.m. at Suncoast Crossing Petco, 16248 State Road 54 in Odessa. For information, call (813) 971-4732, or visit Great-Greyhound.org.

SUNLAKE BAPTIST FESTIVAL

Sunlake Baptist Church, 18908 Sunlake Blvd., in Lutz, will have a fall festival on Oct. 26 from noon to 4 p.m. The event is free and includes a bounce house, face painting, food, and a variety of games. For information, call (813) 949-9248.

TEMPLE TERRACE OKTOBERFEST

Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Temple Terrace will have an Oktoberfest on Oct. 26. The festival is a traditional German celebration with a rock-climbing wall, pumpkin bowling, craft vendors, food, and an "oompah" band. Admission is free. For more information, visit the church's website at CORLutheran.wix.com/cor/.

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Traffic had to find an alternative route last week from U.S. 41 to the beginning of Dale Mabry Highway as CSX worked to replace railroad tracks at its crossing there. (Photo by Michael Hinman)

Dale Mabry entrance reopens, but more roadwork coming

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@cnewspubs.com

Good weather and some fast work shortened the time southbound traffic on U.S. 41 was unable to access North Dale Mabry Highway directly. But expect some more lane closures this weekend.

CSX Transportation is repairing railroad tracks at the crossing right at the start of Dale Mabry, and road closings last week forced drivers to take County Line Road or Brinson Road.

Northbound traffic will get to experience the same beginning at 5 a.m. on Friday, forcing those looking to get onto U.S. 41 from North Dale Mabry Highway to once again use County Line or Brinson roads, according to Florida Department of Transportation spokeswoman Kris Carson.

Part of southbound traffic was reopened by Monday for North Dale Mabry Highway, but it was limited to a single lane. It's expected to fully open by mid-week.

That's part of a number of road delays that will affect the central Pasco County area and northern Hillsborough County area over the next week. Construction continues primarily along the Veterans Expressway,

which could affect traffic on its northern end, the Suncoast Parkway.

However, the Suncoast is also part of the all-electric tolling conversion project where tollbooths are being eliminated and only SunPass and drivers being billed by their license plate will be accepted.

To help accommodate the work, the southbound off-ramp of Van Dyke Road on the Suncoast will be closed overnight on Oct. 22 and Oct. 23. County Line Road will have closures and detours as well, with the northbound on-ramp closed Oct. 23 and Oct. 24, and the southbound off-ramp closed Oct. 24.

For the Veterans, there are going to be general lane closures nightly from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. from Sunday night to Friday morning. There also is expected to be some single-lane closures near Gunn Highway this week southbound for restriping that will result in a new traffic pattern on the northbound on-ramp.

Schedules can change, however, depending on weather and other factors.

The Florida Department of Transportation and Florida's Turnpike should be completed with both projects overall by summer of 2015.

Wilderness Café Expands Evening Hours, Promoting Hershey's Ice Cream

Tiffany, General Manager of Wilderness Café says that the addition of Hershey's Ice Cream has only increased their demand for Italian Gelato and Specialty Desserts after school and into the evening hours.

"Chris and I are here to serve the local community, with great product offerings, at a reasonable price, in the relaxed atmosphere of a local café."

"Our morning KAHWA coffee is amazing, so we decided to open at 6:45 am to best serve the on the go coffee and breakfast sandwich commuter traffic," Tiffany explains.

"Chris has expanded the luncheon Panini and Wrap Menu offerings, and increased the inside seating capacity to manage some of our larger lunch groups from the neighboring businesses."

"And the addition of Hershey's Ice Cream ... that's added to the after school and after work crowd," Tiffany smiled.

"So, Chris said we better stay open in the evenings too." Tiffany wasn't smiling that much, until Chris added,



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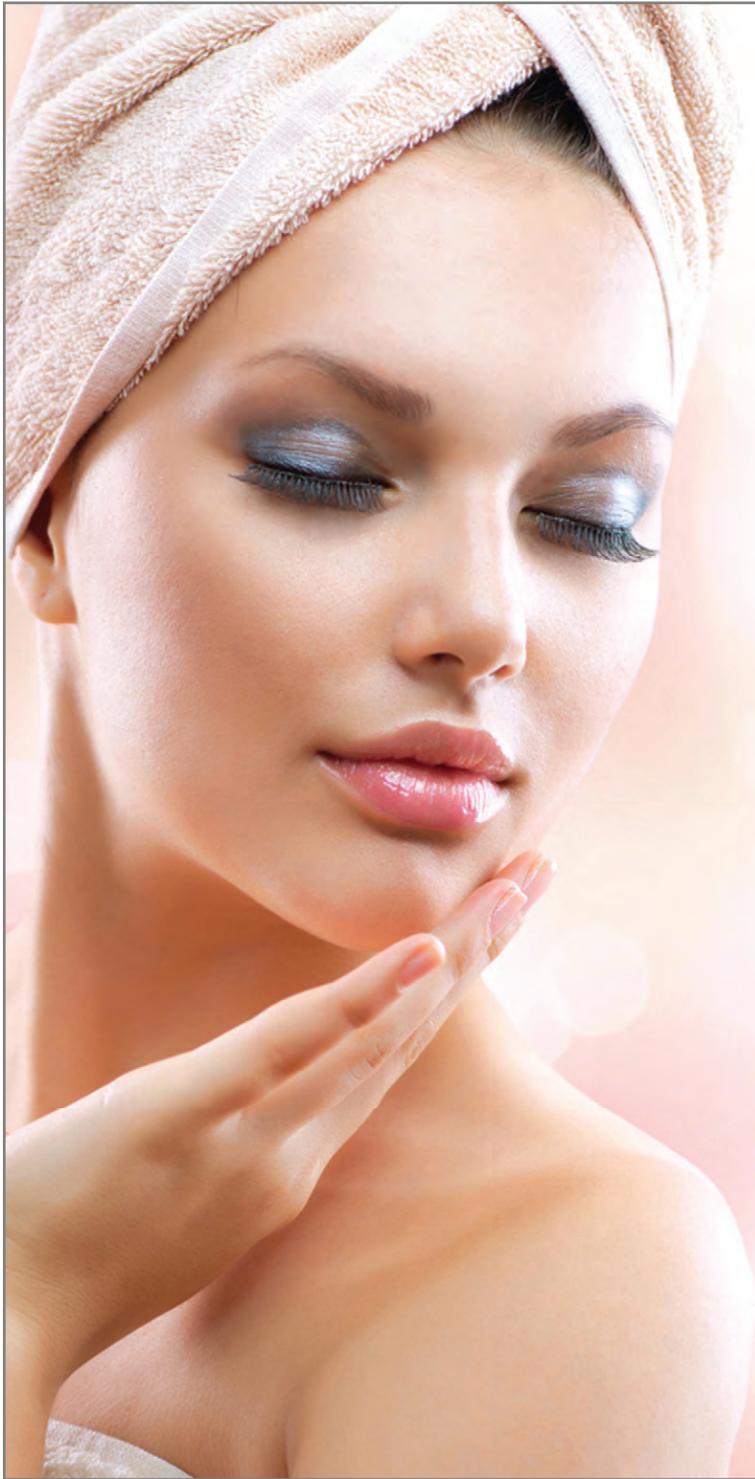
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Chalk Talk

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VETERANS ELEMENTARY FESTIVAL

Veterans Elementary School PTA will host an Owl at the Moon fall fundraising festival on the school campus, 26940 Progress Parkway in Wesley Chapel, on Oct. 25 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event will include carnival games, inflatables, a dunk tank, photo book, pumpkin decorating contest, music, vendors, and concessions. Proceeds from the event will help the PTA provide essential programs and services to the school.

AIR FORCE COLONEL TO SPEAK AT SAINT LEO

Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Sheri Andino Straka, a resident of Lake Jovita, will speak at Saint Leo University's Teco Hall Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. Straka is the recipient of the Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit. She currently is the Air



Force JROTC instructor at Springstead High School in Spring Hill where she also serves as the senior aerospace science instructor. Her presentation is one of several special programs in celebration of Saint Leo University's 40th anniversary of those who serve the nation. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call (352) 588-7233

ALL PRO DADS BREAKFAST

Thomas Weightman Middle School hosted its first All Pro Dads Day breakfast in the school's media center on Oct. 2. The event connected 75 dads and their middle school students. For an upcoming schedule of more All Pro Dads meetings, visit AllProDad/3830.

ROBOTIC SHOWCASE AT UT

Robocon Tampa Bay will be held Oct. 26-27 at the Bob Martinez Sports Center at the University of Tampa, 401 W. Kennedy Blvd., in Tampa. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free. Guests can watch a full-scale robotic competition with massive Frisbee shooting robots, participate in a college and career fair, and learn more about industrial and medical robotics, and tech careers in Tampa Bay. For information, visit RoboconTampaBay.com.

PHCC TO HOST FREE WORKSHOP

Pasco-Hernando Community College will host a free information workshop "Knowing Your Options for High School and Beyond" on Oct. 29 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at its West Campus, 10230 Ridge Road, in New Port Richey. Representatives from the Pasco County school district and PHCC will provide information on advanced placement, dual enrollment, International Baccalaureate programs, and more. Space is limited. For reservations, email balfouk@phcc.edu.

NICOLE KANDIL JOINS ORCHESTRA

Nicole Kandil of Lutz has earned membership in the Bob Jones University Symphony Orchestra in Greenville, S.C. Membership in the top-tier orchestra is by audition only. Kandil is currently pursuing a degree in music education.

BRIDGE BUILDING CONTEST

The Department of Mathematics and Science at Saint Leo University, State Road 52 in St. Leo, will host its annual Bridge-Building/Bridge-Breaking competition on Oct. 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the Greenfelder-Delinger boardrooms of the Student Community Center. Students from kindergarten through high school can watch small-scale model bridges built by physics

and engineering students be tested for weight. All bridges are destroyed at the end of the event. Those attending also will have a chance to speak to faculty members. For information, call Jo-Ann Johnston at (352) 588-8237.

DISTRICT LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE TOOL

Hillsborough County parents now have the option to use the school district's new grade book tool, Edsby, which provides classroom assignments and grades. To register, go to sdhc.edsby.com. Parents will need the name of the child's school, the child's student number, last four digits of the child's Social Security number, and the child's birthday. An Edsby registration video tutorial can be found at sdhc.k12.fl.us. For information, call Grace Posada at (813) 840-7064.

LAND O' LAKES THESPIANS EXCEL

The Land O' Lakes High School Thespians Troupe 4740, took part in a one-act play competition at Haines City High School over the Oct. 5 weekend. The group performed the play "Drop Dead, Juliet" and went on to receive a rating of Excellent. Cast member Carinne Julien also received the All-Star Cast award.

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Four Bedroom Manufactured Home! This home is located on 2 wooded acres, huge formal living room with vaulted ceilings, extra-large family room with fireplace, large kitchen with appliances, and master bedroom with a sitting room. No HOA or CDD fees. **\$119K.** (ehr)



Asbel Estates! 5/3/3, in-law quarters, a beautiful paradise in the back yard, 2720 sq. ft., home features Brazilian hardwood floors, imported Italian tile, with stainless steel appliances, 352 sq. ft. covered patio with pavers & a 40' heated pool w/oversized spa. **\$274.9K.**



Lexington Oaks Village Pool Home! Desirable floor plan features over 300 Sq. Ft. of living space with a 3 way split bedroom floor plan. This 4/3.5/3 plus Office and Pool with child safety fence home is situated on a premium pond lot with a fully fenced back yard. **\$310K.** (spe)



Ashton Oaks Pool Home! Model perfect 3/2/2 plus office, very private wooded setting located at end of cul-de-sac lot, custom fixtures, flooring and upgrades, covered entertainment area and screened heated pool, with lush landscaping & privacy fence. **\$233.9K.** (ash)



Carpenters Run! Beautiful 3/2/2 with a separate office space has many updated features. Master bedroom has a beautiful wood floor, crown molding, sliding glass doors leading out to screened patio. Master bathroom has updated double vanity. **\$159K.** (spi)



Foxwood! Cute as a button, very well maintained 2/1.5/1 huge screened lanai, Laminant flooring in most areas. Roof was replaced in 2004. This is a great home for first time home buyers, retirement or investment. This will not last long! **\$79K.** (fox)



Meadow Pointe! This 4/2/2 home is in Mint Condition on a conservation lot in gated community, with a formal living room and dining room, large family room, and an extra-large kitchen with granite counter tops and new stainless steel gas appliances. **\$209K.** (wre)



Carpenters Run! Affordable - This three bedroom two bath home has a spacious layout that is bright and open with a great room / dining room combination, vaulted ceilings, and a large eat-in kitchen with plenty of cabinets and counter space. **\$145K.** (tin)



Lexington Oaks Village! Spacious 2/2/2 home has over 1800 Sq. Ft. of living space. Large foyer at entry w/plant shelves & diagonal set porcelain tile leads to spacious great room area including open kitchen, breakfast nook, & family room & dining area. **\$184.9K.** (war)



Lexington Oaks Pool Home! This 4/2/2 is the lowest price pool home in Lexington Oaks. All tile or laminate floors, granite in kitchen, GE Profile stainless steel appliances, wired for surround sound, new AC, picket fenced back yard facing conservation & pond. **\$197.5K.** (gri)

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Move-In Ready in Tampa! M/I Homes Award winning Grandshore Floor plan, this 5/4.5/3 with almost 5000 Sq. Ft. has a preferred stacked stone elevation on a premium lot overlooking serene pond with tree lined background, and fabulous amenities! **\$414.9K.** (bre)



Excellent Grand Hampton Home in Tampa! Just 1 minute from the clubhouse and amenities and 2 minutes from Wiregrass and Bruce B. Downs. This 3/2/2 home has a large living/dining area with a built-in entertainment center and office area. **\$239.9K.** (dun)



West Meadows in Tampa! Gorgeous 3/2/2 home is in a gated community. Enjoy the spacious and updated features, bamboo wood floors, nice open floor plan, separate dining area, split bedrooms, and a utility room with washer and dryer included. **\$185.5K.** (cyp)



Desirable Hunters Green! This 3/2/2 with interior featuring living room and dining room, eat in kitchen, inside laundry room with utility sink, study (can be easily converted to a 3rd bedroom), master bath with dual sinks, garden tub and separate shower. **\$161.5K.** (nat)



Cross Creek 4 Bedroom in Tampa! Enjoy this 4/2/2 on a quiet cul-de-sac in a fabulous "NO CDD" community. Master suite with garden tub and separate shower, kitchen features solid Oak cabinetry, and New Energy Star AC installed in 2009. **\$189.8K.** (bir)

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Lake Padgett East! Lovely 3/1.5/1 living/dining combo with volume ceilings, patio, porch deck featuring sliding glass doors, near shopping, and major highways. **\$995/mo.** (dov)



Lake Como Homesites! Great 2/1/2 on a quiet country lane, all newly renovated kitchen and bath, fenced area for pets, oversized deck that is wheelchair accessible. **\$1000/mo.** (gre)



Wilderness Lake Preserve! This 4/2/2 features formal living and dining plus family room with wood floors. Kitchen features solid wood cabinets & upgraded countertops. **\$1395/mo.** (blu)



Cheval West Village! This 5/3/3 kitchen has stainless appliances. Plus upstairs bonus room with closet, large yard with lush tropical garden, and a community pool. **\$2495/mo.** (cho)



Wilderness Lake Preserve! This 3/2/2 home is move-in ready, split plan with large master suite, separate dining, great room off the kitchen, and a bonus Florida room. **\$1395/mo.** (wav)



Lovely Manufactured Home on 1 Acre! This 4/2 is recently updated interior including new tile and carpet. Very spacious, fireplace, and the kitchen has a nice center island. **\$1000/mo.** (mit)



Nice Home in Foxwood! This 3/2/1 is centrally located and has a parking pad on the side of the home for a boat or RV. New flooring. Enjoy privacy in your backyard. **\$1100/mo.** (fox)



Timber Lake Estates Manufactured Home! This 2/2/2 with tons of extras, spacious living area, washer/dryer, large sun room! Lawn care, water, sewer, & trash included. **\$875/mo.** (sha)



Landings at Bell Lake! Beautiful 4/2/2 located on a large lot with tons of space inside and out. Open floor plan with living/dining combo, eat-in space, and a great room. **\$1400/mo.** (yac)



Cross Creek Home in Tampa! This 5/3/2 sits on a huge corner lot which has a cul-de-sac behind. Eat-in kitchen, breakfast bar and dining area, formal living and family room. **\$1695/mo.** (cyp)

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LAWYER, from page 1

That prompted Slutzky to audition for the next play, hoping to make it into the chorus. Instead, he was cast as the lead — a trend that would continue for the next two productions as well.

"The next three shows after that, however, I didn't get the part," Slutzky said. "That brought me back down to where I needed to be. Otherwise, who knows, I may have skipped law school to pursue acting, and I may have ended up as your waiter somewhere. The concept of a starving actor is just not for me."

"La Cage aux Folles" is probably more familiar to audiences through its comedy film adaptation "The Birdcage," which starred Robin Williams and Nathan Lane in 1996. Slutzky plays Georges, a character similar to Williams' Armand Goldman, the owner of a gay nightclub, who suddenly finds himself entertaining a visit from the very conservative family of his son's fiancée.

"The storyline is the same as the movie, but it's a totally unique experience," Slutzky said. "People will laugh until their sides hurt."

Slutzky openly invites friends and clients



Acting has been a passion for Jerry Slutzky since he was a teenager growing up in Chicago. Here, he plays Tevye, a poor Jewish milkman with five daughters, in a 2006 production of the musical classic 'Fiddler on the Roof.' (Photo courtesy of Jerry Slutzky)

alike to his performances, but still gets surprised looks from some when they realize who's on stage.

"People think that because I'm an attorney, I must be conservative, quiet or boring, but that's not the way many of us are at all," Slutzky said.

Performing in shows is a huge time com-

If you go

'La Cage aux Folles' takes the stage Nov. 1-17 at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive in Largo.

Shows are at 8 p.m. on Thursday through Saturday, with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$29, and \$16 for students.

For more information, call (727) 587-6793, or visit www.LargoArts.com.

mitment, so great that Slutzky limits himself to one production each year. But even with a grueling schedule, the stage is where he feels he belongs.

"You know that feeling you get when you've worked inside in a freezing cold air-conditioned office all day, and your car has been outside baking in the sun?" he said. "You get in, and you get that wonderful feeling of heat that warms you down to the bone. That's the feeling I get when the spotlight hits me."

every emotion in that role, and that's particularly meaningful for me," Slutzky said. "My heritage is Russian Jew, and at the time the story is set, that could've well been my family being thrown out of Russia."

After more than 40 years on the stage, Slutzky said he's still excited to see younger people in the audience. Newer generations have so many ways to be entertained, and going to the theater usually isn't high on the list.

"I was worried a few times that it was a dying art form," Slutzky said. "But now I see a whole new generation who do have a love for Broadway musicals, and I am very happy."

ROAD, from page 1

build up," Hagen said. "And in some places, (widening) just won't work very well. You have stores and neighborhoods right up to the road. If you end up widening with new lanes, you're going to be bulldozing."

Some business owners, however, disagree. In an August meeting with Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey, a few members of the Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce expressed opposition to the road, fearing it would allow traffic to bypass their businesses.

"Things are going to get congested if we keep going the way we're going," Hagen said. "The idea that you're going to attract more business somehow as we turn the place into a parking lot is something to re-think here. A way for local businesses to get more business is to separate out the people who are not planning to stop anyway — who are just wanting to get across the county — and opening up the surface roads to local traffic."

Following the money

If built, the elevated expressway would be the first privately owned toll road in Florida. Cost estimates weren't shared, but using the elevated road built for Tampa's Lee Roy Selmon Expressway in the early 2000s

as a model, builders could be looking at a cost of \$70 million ... per mile. That would bring the total price tag of this project to around \$2.3 billion.

Stanley's group, IIP, would raise the money through private sources like hedge funds, and then try to recoup that investment — with the necessary profit — through toll revenue collected by travelers who choose the expressway.

Yet, that profit model could be troubling. Last year, toll roads in Florida collected revenue of \$616 million from travelers. That's broken down to \$1.3 million per mile. Applying those numbers to this project would generate prospective revenue of \$44.2 million each year. Even if IIP never spends another dime on the road, it would take the company 52 years to recoup its investment.

But that might be OK. Neil Gray, director of government affairs for the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association in Washington, D.C., says investors in projects like this know what they're getting in to, and many are willing to play the long game.

"We're talking as much as 99 years," Gray said. "A 99-year concession is patient money. It also allows them, from the private side, to make these things happen that might not be viable on the state level. They can pool that money together right now, and build it right now."

Not accounting for inflation or other in-

creases and variables, a 99-year agreement on a Pasco elevated roadway would generate revenue of \$4.4 billion — doubling the initial investment.

Learning from others' mistakes

The FDOT, however, should be very careful about such long deals, says the U.S. Public Interest Research Group Education Fund, an independent advocacy group that has spoken out against road privatization.

In a 2009 report authored by Phineas Baxandall, any agreements between the government and a private entity should clearly spell out expectations, and leave some of the decision-making — like toll rates — to the public. On top of that, no deal should last longer than 30 years, because even if the toll road fails, the structure will still be there, and the county will have to deal with it.

Toll roads really can fail, by the way. Just look at the Camino Colombia Toll Road in Texas. Built in 2000 at a cost of \$90 million, the 22-mile road between the Mexican border and Interstate 35 north of Laredo was expected to generate \$9 million in its first year alone based on the traffic created by the North American Free Trade Agreement, U.S. PIRG said. Instead, the road that charged tractor-trailers \$16 each earned just \$500,000.

Within a few years, the road was sold at auction to an investment company for \$12.1 million, who in turn shut it down. The Texas Department of Transportation needed that road in operation, and it cost the government entity \$20 million to buy it and reopen it.

"No matter who runs it, the physical structure is going to be there, and it never goes away," said Gray, adding that lessons are being learned to prevent another Camino Colombia debacle. "Each time these transactions are done, the government side is getting smarter and smarter and smarter. Now you have governments that negotiate contracts that include a series of performance metrics. If you fail to maintain those level of standards, you will breach the contract, and the government gets the road for free."

Something has to be done

Florida has a big problem on its hands

when it comes to roads, and it may depend on private proposals like IIP's to grow the state's infrastructure.

By 2020, Florida is expected to be \$47 billion short in funding transportation improvements, like repaving, lane expansion and new roads.

"Our gas tax funding that pays for the highway system is no longer sustainable," said Christa Deason, a spokeswoman with Florida's Turnpike. "People are driving less, they are using transit more, and buying hybrid cars. There is not a ton of money pouring into the coffers anymore to build these roads, or even to maintain the ones we built 50 years ago."

Pasco County has hit a similar wall. Commissioners had proposed a local gas tax increase to help fund road maintenance and construction for the coming year, but it failed under public pressure.

"We need to look at progressive ways to move traffic on 54," Commissioner Starkey said.

During its presentation last week to county officials, the Urban Land Institute — the independent growth and development analytical group — strongly suggested Pasco stay away from the elevated road, and instead concentrate on reducing the need for more roads in the first place. That means developing communities that have live, work and play all within walking distance, or easily accessible through public mass transit.

"What ULI was trying to say is that we need to reduce trips so that people don't have to go all the way across the county to get to a Wiregrass mall for instance," Pasco EDC's Hagen said. "We should create shopping experiences that are close by, that people can walk to."

No matter what someone's position is on the proposed elevated road, the conversation must continue, he said.

"People are just reading a small article in the paper, or they see a 30-second thing on television, and it doesn't really explain the full complexity of how to do traffic planning, and how it fits into good community planning," Hagen said. "Trying to get people engaged to create some light rather than heat, that would be a good step."

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MM31331

HOUSE, from page 1

Community Center, 98 First Ave., N.W.

The meeting is intended for volunteers in Lutz who may want to participate in the maintenance of the medians along U.S. 41.

Mike White, founder and president of the Lutz Citizens Coalition, said he's happy with efforts made to date to preserve the trees.

"I think it's a win-win," White said. "The voice of Lutz was heard loud and clear."

He said the solution demonstrates great

follow-through by Legg, the county, Walmart, Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful, Hillsborough County and the Lutz Citizens Coalition.

"Everyone stepped up to the plate," White said.

On another front, the Lutz Citizens Coalition recently received approval to adopt Sunset Lane, from U.S. 41 to Livingston Avenue.

White said he expects the cleanups to occur about a half-dozen times a year, followed by a social gathering of the volunteers.



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BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to mhinman@cnewspubs.com

WELLCARE TO COVER MEDICAID IN NEW PARTS OF FLORIDA

WellCare Health Plans Inc. says its Staywell Health Plan product has been recommended for contract awards by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration to provide managed care services to Medicaid recipients in seven of the state's 11 regions.

It's part of the state's Managed Medical Assistance program, and will service regions that include Tampa, St. Petersburg, Tallahassee, Orlando and Miami. It's expected to cover 2.2 million Medicaid beneficiaries.

The services are expected to begin next April.

The Tampa-based WellCare already services 394,000 Medicaid members, 84,000 Florida Healthy Kids members, 79,000 Medicare Advantage plan members, and 39,000 Medicare Prescription Drug Plan members in Florida.

GTAR SIGNS ONLINE CONTENT AGREEMENT

The Greater Tampa Association of Realtors Inc., or GTAR, has signed a multi-year news syndication marketing partnership agreement with World Property Channel of Miami.

World Property Channel provides an automated and customized online news feed service for the websites of individual real estate agents, brokers and associations. It is expected to help them build larger online audiences.

GTAR will promote the channel's news syndication service to its local agent and broker membership base at discounted pricing. The company's current news syndication customers include the Miami Association of Realtors, the Pinellas Suncoast Association of Realtors, and other local and regional broker and agent sites across the United States.

GUDE JOINS WILLIAM RYAN HOMES

David L. Gude has been appointed construction manager for the Tampa division of William Ryan Homes, which builds in communities throughout the Tampa Bay area, including Pasco County.

Gude will be responsible for all planning, budget forecasting, staffing, trade relations and construction operations in the region. He also will have complete control of the builder's construction and warranty operations in the region.

Gude is a graduate of the University of South Florida, and has more than a decade of construction-related experience with large national builders in the area.

William Ryan builds houses locally in Grand Hampton in New Tampa, Ashton Oaks in Wesley Chapel and Lago Del Rey in Land O' Lakes.

FIFTH THIRD PARTNERS WITH RACETRAC ON ATMS

Fifth Third Bank has partnered with RaceTrac Petroleum Inc. to provide ATMs at 225 convenience stores in Georgia and Florida. Installation of the ATMs will begin this month with completion projected by the end of 2013.

This is Fifth Third's largest ATM relationship with a convenience store chain.

Both Fifth Third and RaceTrac have locations throughout George and Florida, with 169 banks in Florida, and soon another 151 ATM locations in the state as well.

Local RaceTrac locations include 3817 Land O' Lakes Blvd. in Land O' Lakes; 15474 State Road 52 in Land O' Lakes; and 23390 State Road 54 in Lutz.

ENERGIA RIBBON CUTTING

Energia Wellness Studio, 3836 Flatiron Loop, Suite 101 in Wesley Chapel, will have a ribbon cutting Oct. 23 beginning at 5 p.m.

The event includes tours, wines, hors d'oeuvres, samba lessons and more. The company will also plant 2,500 trees through the Trees for the Future program.

For more information, call (813) 973-7300.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER GRAND OPENING

North Tampa Behavioral Health, 22901 State Road 56 in Wesley Chapel, will host a grand opening Oct. 24 beginning at 5 p.m.

The event will include entertainment, tours and hors d'oeuvres.

To RSVP, call (813) 922-3300.

SMALL BUSINESS EXPO COMING TO DADE CITY

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce will host its 2013 Small Business Expo Nov. 14 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Hampton Inn, 13214 U.S. 301 in Dade City.

The event is free, and is open to the public.

For more information, call (352) 567-3769, or visit www.DadeCityChamber.org.

PARTY STORE OPENS IN LUTZ

LOL Party Shop, 24720 State Road 54 in Lutz, will open its doors Nov. 10 by owner Cheryl Friesen.

The shop will offer both unique and basic party supplies, sold at discount prices.

It will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's closed on Mondays.

For more information, visit the store's website at www.PartyStoreDevelopers.com.

UPCOMING SCORE SEMINARS

The Pasco-Hernando Chapter of SCORE, which historically stands for Service Corps of Retired Executives, will hold the following upcoming seminars:

- **Increase Sales-Master Selling Skills** at the Hugh Embry Branch Library, 14215 Fourth St., Dade City, Oct. 26 at 12:30 p.m. It will re-address "old mindsets" when it comes to sales, and introduce a solution-based process.

- **Using the Internet in Your Business** at the New River Branch Library, 34043 State Road 54, Wesley Chapel, Oct. 31 at 5:30 p.m. It will review the various roles a website can support in enhancing a business.

- **E-Marketing Concepts** at the Centennial Park Branch Library, 5730 Moog Road, Holiday, Nov. 5 beginning at 5:30 p.m. This is a workshop to assist attendees in obtaining an understanding of how marketing technologies can enhance the ability of small businesses to reach customers and communicate their brands, products and services.

- **How to Apply for a Business Loan** at the Hugh Embry Branch Library, 14215 Fourth St., Dade City, Nov. 6, and at the Regency Park Branch Library, 9701 Little Road, New Port Richey, on Nov. 7. Both start at 5:30 p.m. This is a workshop focusing on the individual requirements of the participants, including startups, mature businesses and purchasing of existing businesses.

For more information, or to register, visit www.score439.org.



This gift basket, filled with more than \$600 worth of fine liquors, is being raffled by Council 8104 of the local Knights of Columbus to support the Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home in Land O' Lakes. (Photo courtesy of Tim Belley)

LOCAL NURSING HOME RECIPIENT OF 'CHEER'

The Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home, which opened its 120-bed skilled nursing facility in Land O' Lakes in 1999, is the beneficiary of this year's Basket of Cheer fundraiser.

Hosted by Council 8104 of the Knights of Columbus in Land O' Lakes, the fundraiser brings much-needed money to worthy organizations in the area.

"The Baldomero Lopez State Veterans Nursing Home is a highly regarded facility, and our Council 8104 has supported the home in various ways for years," said Tim Belley, chairman of this year's event, in a release. "The purpose of the proceeds is to help fund activities such as luncheons, television, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, as well as a Super Bowl party for those at the home."

The basket includes a mixture of liquors including Pravda vodka, Corazon Blanco and Seagram's Seven. The ticket drawing for the basket will take place Nov. 26 at T.J. Liquors, 4710 Land O' Lakes Blvd., where tickets will also be sold ahead of the drawing.

The basket itself has an estimated retail value of more than \$600.

Baldomero Lopez was a first lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War, posthumously receiving the Medal of Honor for smothering a hand grenade with his own body during the Inchon Landing on Sept. 15, 1950.

For more information, go to BasketOfCheer.info.

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Banks reconsider foreclosure strategy

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Bank of America and Wells Fargo have agreed to implement new procedures designed to address possible violations of the national mortgage servicing settlement, according to state attorney general Pam Bondi.

The improvements are in response to reports the two banks were falling short of servicing standard requirements set forth by the National Mortgage Servicing Settlement. That settlement was finalized in February 2012 with five banks, including both Bank of America and Wells Fargo, that would provide as much as \$25 billion to provide loan modifications, refinancing and even payments to borrowers who lost their homes.

The two banks said they would implement substantial changes in their loan modification application procedures that would improve

borrower communication, simplify the document collection process, provide more direct attention to loan modification applicants and housing counselors, and ensure that the banks' foreclosure attorneys are armed with the proper information regarding the borrowers' loss mitigation efforts.

"The new procedures being implemented by Bank of America and Wells Fargo ensure that the banks will do a better job of providing Florida's distressed homeowners the timely and effective assistance they need," Bondi said in a release. "The changes the banks are now implementing are in response to numerous homeowner complaints supplied by my office, as well as other attorneys general, demonstrating a disturbing pattern of potential noncompliance by the banks with the loss mitigation procedures required by the settlement."

Verizon provides \$35,000 in charitable grants

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

More than \$35,000 in grants has been awarded to three Pasco County organizations from the Verizon Foundation.

The grants were given to the Pasco County's Mobile Medical Care Unit, AMIkids and RAP House to help those organizations support domestic violence prevention and service programs.

"I am extremely pleased with the commitment and generosity that the Verizon Foundation has exhibited towards Pasco County," said State Rep. Richard Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes, in a release. "These grants totaling \$35,000 will go a long way towards helping children and families in need throughout Pasco County."

The Mobile Medical Care Unit, which received \$15,000, is a "doctor's office on wheels," which provides medical care for those in need. The staff includes a nurse

practitioner, emergency medical technician and an outreach attorney. The unit travels to more than a dozen locations in Pasco, serving homeless residents who have no insurance.

AMIkids was awarded \$10,000 to help children with a troubled past overcome various obstacles in life to become responsible and productive people. The program began in 1969 by a juvenile court judge in Fort Lauderdale.

RAP House, a runaway and youth crisis program for troubled youth more formally known as the Runaway Alternatives Project, was given \$10,000. That organization serves children between the ages of 10 and 17 through Youth & Family Alternatives with a goal of helping to strengthen and provide social services to children and families in need.

In all, Verizon Foundation had \$100,000 in grants available.



Closer Look

AN ADVERTISER PROFILE



Back row (l to r), Drew Riggs, Michelle Teaford, Peg Shaffer, Teresa Spencer, Ashley Bish, Steve Cox; front row (l to r), Michael Schipano and Fred Davis

Highly qualified stylists and still reasonably priced

by Mike Matthew
Special to The Laker / Lutz News

Michael Schipano and Fred Davis are co-owners of HairStyle Salon in Land O' Lakes. Michael has the styling experience while Fred brings an experienced business perspective. Together they have created a flourishing salon experience for their clientele.

"We're an independently owned salon, not a chain," says Michael. "We wanted to create an open and inviting atmosphere for guests along with an engaging and friendly atmosphere for our stylists to work."

Michael worked as a stylist for more than 20 years in the New Tampa area before starting HairStyle Salon two years ago. "I wanted to pay it forward to a new generation of stylists," says Michael.

Michael personally trained under Sam Villa and Michael Cole, two big names in the industry. He provides mentoring and constant training to all of his stylists. "We have extremely high-qualified stylists, yet we're still reasonably priced," says Michael. "Pricing is based on the demand for the stylist, not years of experience. Most of our stylists have more than 20 years experience."

Michael has a strong focus on furthering the education and expertise of his stylists. They have designers come in to teach classes on-site and also attend events where they can learn from well-known designers. All of the staff attend these events, both on-site and off.

They are currently participating in a Redken color rebel contest where each stylist attempts to predict the

newest trends. These contest and events help to keep everyone aware of the latest techniques and focused on providing the very best service to their clientele.

HairStyle Salon is an exclusively Redken salon. They have a color bar in the front of the salon where guests can work with their stylist to create the perfect hair color. A Redken top-shelf list of premium colors is also available to guests.

They also carry Pureology as their boutique line of sulfate free, color fade resistant, 100% vegan products for at home care.

Michael and Fred are very active in the community. "We try to give back and support other local businesses in every way we can," says Fred. "It takes a real commitment to run an independent business today. We have to help each other."

This independent attention to detail is evident in their website also. Guests can schedule an appointment online anytime day or night. They can request a specific stylist and that stylist will confirm their appointment via email or telephone. "It's a very easy system to use," says Fred. Guests can also call during normal business hours to schedule an appointment.

"We do everything we can to provide an over-the-top experience for our guests and a great working environment for our staff," says Michael. "It has to be about the experience," adds Fred.

Active military, teachers and uniformed service personnel (police, fire, emergency medical, etc.) always receive a 20% discount off every service.



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Scenic foliage tours for you and your dog

By Kim Salerno
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

It's that time of year again, to break out the light layers and trade sipping frosty lemonade on hot afternoons for savoring hot cocoa on chilly mornings.

Best of all, it's that time when Mother Nature dresses her very best.

If your fall spirit is kicking in and you're anxious to take in some glorious autumn foliage before it's gone, consider bringing along your favorite four-legged friend. He'll enjoy seeing the sights, but most of all, he'll love getting some fresh air and exercise with his favorite human.

From Alabama, to Maine, to Oregon, we've rounded up some of the best places to experience fall with your pet.

Southern Region

The south is a surprisingly great place to peep at some leaves, and Alabama's Oak Mountain State Park is a great spot to enjoy the onset of fall. From Oct. 19 through the first few days of November, you and your leashed dog can surround yourself in this huge, uncrowded park's

lush and brilliant vegetation, which makes a lovely contrast with its dark peaks and green valleys.

Mid-Atlantic Region

Famous for its spectacular fall leaf show, the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia draws thousands of tourists each year. One of only a few national parks that allows dogs on its trails, Shenandoah National Park offers some of the nation's most stunning views in any season.

However, it's especially beautiful in mid- to late October, when the foliage blankets the mountains in a tapestry of red, gold and orange.

Dogs are allowed on almost every trail in the park, but they must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet at all times.

Northeastern Region

When we think of fall, we often think of those iconic images from New England.

One of the best places to see the Northeast in all its autumn glory is Acadia National Park in Maine. There are a full 100 miles of pet-friendly trails in this park. Traverse diverse landscapes, including

tranquil sea islands, craggy mountains and lush forests.

Midwest

If you're headed west this fall, make the Kootenai National Forest in Montana a stop on your trip's itinerary.

You and your pooch will enjoy the beautiful and rugged wilderness setting, which is replete with vibrant colors from around late September through early October. A variety of dog-friendly trails will take you across gorges, valleys, meadows and tranquil forests.

Pacific Northwest

The towering trees and grandiose landscapes of the Pacific Northwest make its fall foliage particularly dramatic.

One incredible (and incredibly dog-friendly) place to leaf peep here is the Columbia River Gorge. It sits about 25 miles from Portland, Ore. and features spectacular views from the Columbia River, which are highlighted in mid- to late October by brilliantly colored foliage.

Along with the river, you'll be treated to views of cascading waterfalls, historic bridges and cliff-side railways.

Hiking trails in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area allow you to leaf-peep

at your own pace, and your leashed pet is welcome to tag along.

Rules and Regulations

It's important to note that even the most dog-friendly parks and hiking trails have strict pet rules.

Dogs can frighten wildlife, disrupt nesting birds or feeding animals, and disturb other hikers. For this reason, parks typically ask that dogs be kept on leashes 6 feet or shorter, and don't allow them to roam in wilderness areas.

To prevent damage and mess, most parks prohibit pets from entering buildings.

As in every other public area, you must clean up after your dog, keep him reasonably quiet, and prevent him from doing any damage. Remember that your dog will be in an unfamiliar setting, and may not behave as he usually does.

With a little planning, you and your pet can find the sweetest spots to welcome fall together.

—Kim Salerno is the president and founder of TripsWithPets.com, and is an expert in the field of pet travel. Her website features pet-friendly hotels and accommodations across the United States and Canada, as well as other pet travel resources.



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Working together for GOOD HEALTH

Who's who

Meet

Dr. Ricardo Prieto



Dr. Ricardo Prieto is the newest gastroenterologist at Florida Medical Clinic, joining the specialty as its ninth board-certified physician. He began seeing patients in September after completing his fellowship in Gastroenterology/Digestive Diseases and Nutrition from the University of South Florida.

After graduating from medical school in Puerto Rico in 2007, Dr. Prieto moved to Tampa for his medical internship and residency in internal medicine at the University of South Florida. After completing his residency, he continued at USF for another three years in a gastroenterology fellowship.

Dr. Prieto and his wife, Lian, live in Tampa Palms with their two children, 4-year-old Ricardo Jr. and 2-year-old Ariana. Dr. Prieto spends all of his free time with his young family and especially enjoys fishing with his son.

Dr. Ricardo Prieto Is FMC's Newest Gastroenterologist

After 14 years of higher education to become a gastroenterologist, Dr. Ricardo Prieto always thought he would return to his native Puerto Rico to practice medicine.

But when he completed his fellowship this summer at the University of South Florida, Dr. Prieto had an intriguing offer from Florida Medical Clinic to join its well-regarded gastroenterology practice.

"My wife and I had grown to love Tampa and USF — a great institution that provided me excellent clinical exposure," said Dr. Prieto. "So when the opportunity at FMC came about, we decided staying in Tampa was the right thing to do professionally, and for our family."

As FMC's newest gastroenterologist, Dr. Prieto is building his practice by providing care to FMC patients who are hospitalized and referred during their stay to his specialty.

"Many chronic conditions affect the GI system, and we are called in to help patients with problems they may have, like swallowing or with their digestive system," said



Dr. Prieto. "Fortunately, many of the problems we see are often very treatable and we can usually improve a patient's quality of life."

Gastroenterology covers everything in the digestive tract, from the mouth and esophagus, to the colon and rectum. Although some patients have sudden, acute problems, most suffer from chronic diseases or disorders of the pancreas, liver, gallbladder, esophagus, stomach, small intestine and colon.

Because he is a new physician, Dr. Prieto's schedule is fairly open, and he can see new patients within a week or two of their call. Many patients like the care they receive from Dr. Prieto because of his sensitive nature and because as a new doctor, he is up-to-date on the newest research and treatment protocols.

"I am fortunate to be backed up by some of the most experienced and talented gastroenterologists in Tampa Bay," said Dr. Prieto. "My patients have the benefit of the vast experiences of our team."

Dr. Prieto describes himself as a doctor who listens well, with the ability to make patients feel comfortable.

"I understand that it's not easy to talk about stool," said Dr. Prieto. "I am very sensitive to my patient's feelings and do everything I can to make them at ease."

"Gastroenterology is an incredibly interesting field that allows us to work with patients of all ages," he continues. "I find it very fulfilling to help someone get better, to relieve their pain with the right treatment, and to improve their quality of life."



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November 8 & 9, 2013



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H-LAK The Laker 4C-Thursday

Community Sports

Your Neighborhood Sports Source

A Pasco classic: Sunlake stops Land O' Lakes in OT

By Michael Murillo

The Laker/Lutz News Correspondent

When a football game looks like a good match-up on paper, too often the end result is a lopsided affair that fails to live up to expectations. It beat them.

And last Friday's contest between Land O' Lakes and Sunlake looked like a potential classic on paper.

This time, the game didn't meet expectations. It beat them.

At the end of the game — which required overtime — the Sunlake Seahawks defended their home turf, put themselves in good position in the district standings and turned away the previously unbeaten Gators with a 28-21 victory.

That overtime was necessary underscores how close the game was: Neither team led by more than seven points, and they were tied at halftime, the end of the third quarter and at the end of regulation. And when Sunlake stopped Land O' Lakes in overtime to clinch the win, Seahawks head coach Bill Browning's first thoughts came from the perspective of both a football coach and a football fan.

"It was just relief, and what a great game to be a part of," Browning said. "It was a great high school football game. Both teams played their hearts out."

Each team had an offensive star suiting up for the contest, and both showed up to play: Sunlake's junior running back Nathan Johnson and Land O' Lakes' junior quarterback James Pensyl had a hand in six of the seven touchdowns scored in the game. In the end, it was Johnson's third touchdown run in overtime that became the margin of victory, eclipsing Pensyl's three scoring passes.

But Browning pointed out that another player was instrumental in Sunlake's victory. Senior quarterback Esteban LeWallen didn't dominate the stat sheet, but his second start in place of injured junior Dayton Feiden was a solid one. He ran in a short touchdown and made important plays with his arm when it mattered.

"He came in and hit some very big passes in the course of that game that helped tremendously," Browning said.

While beating an undefeated team is cause for celebration in itself, there was more at stake than one football game. With the win, Sunlake improved to 2-1 in the dis-



Sunlake quarterback Esteban LeWallen (14) has now put in two solid games for the Seahawks, including leading his team in a tight match that resulted in an overtime win against the Land O' Lakes Gators last week. (Photos courtesy of Tony Masella of OurTownFLA.com)

6A-6 Football Standings

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Sunlake	7	1	170	44
Springstead	6	1	167	80
Land O' Lakes	6	1	202	82
Mitchell	5	3	199	185
Fivay	3	4	161	226

trict while Land O' Lakes fell to 1-1, keeping Sunlake alive for one of the two playoff spots. An earlier one-point loss to Springstead (currently 2-0 in district play) meant that losing to Land O' Lakes would have handed both teams a better current record and tiebreakers over the Seahawks, eliminating them from playoff contention.

Instead they emerged with new life, a big victory and a potential tiebreaker against their district rival.



Senior tight end Liam Heaney (1) runs the ball for the Land O' Lakes Gators in a tough 28-21 loss to the Sunlake Seahawks on Friday.



Sunlake Seahawks coach Bill Browning barks instructions to his players during a tight game that could have playoff implications for both Sunlake and the Land O' Lakes Gators.

But if the team is vulnerable to a let-down after such a big win, Browning plans to use the schedule to ensure that doesn't happen. The Seahawks have a bye this coming week, and he plans to use it to get them settled after an emotional victory and focused on their final district contest against Fivay (0-2 in district play, 3-4 overall) on Nov. 1.

Headed into their week off, Sunlake now has a 1,000-yard rusher in Johnson, renewed

confidence and an eye on the playoffs. But to Browning, none of that matters unless they take care of business in their final district game.

"It kept us in the hunt. It guaranteed nothing, but it kept us in the hunt," he said about the team's recent win. "Land O' Lakes still has to play Springstead, and of course, we still have to beat Fivay. All we can do is keep winning and things will take care of themselves, hopefully."

CHECK THIS OUT

Adult soccer league wants players

With the fall season ready to commence, adult soccer players are being sought to participate in a league that plays men's, women's and coed games Sunday afternoons at CrossRoads Community Methodist Church on County Line Road in Wesley Chapel.

Players must be 18 or older.

For more information, call Colin at (747) 999-5425, or visit NewAPSL.com.

PHCC hoops round robin

Pasco-Hernando Community College will host a high school basketball round robin tournament Oct. 26-27 at the school's west campus, 10230 Ridge Road in New Port Richey.

The tournament will help coaching staffs assess players and foster teamwork.

Fee is \$150 per team, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the American Cancer Society in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The remaining proceeds will benefit the PHCC men's basketball program.

For more information, or to register, call Micheal Jones at (727) 816-3340, or email jonesm@phcc.edu.

Golf tourney to benefit LifeChoices

The third annual Golf for Life charity tournament hosted by LifeChoices Women's Care will take place Nov. 9 beginning at 1 p.m. at Quail Hollow in Wesley Chapel.

Entry is \$75, and includes greens fees, door prizes, dinner and other items. It is open to all level of golfers.

LifeChoices has helped women facing unplanned pregnancies with free services since 2009. Donations to the group are tax-deductible.

The tournament is looking for door prize donations as well as sponsors.

For more information, call Tom Beach at (813) 333-3543, or visit LifeChoicesGolf.org.

Get registered for Hike for Hospice

With Hike for Hospice coming on Nov. 10, Gulfside Regional Hospice will have a registration session at its Lutz Thrift Shoppe, 1930 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Oct. 23 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The seventh annual event includes both a 5-kilometer run and a 5k walk. It will take place at Rasmussen College, 18600 Fernview St. in Land O' Lakes, with a 7 a.m. check-in, and 8 a.m. start. Prizes will be awarded for top

fundraisers and fastest runners.

Registration fees are \$25 for adults, \$15 for students aged 11 to college, and \$10 for children 10 and younger.

All hikers will receive a T-shirt, breakfast and beverages.

Proceeds benefit patients and their families facing life-limiting illnesses in Pasco County, as well as support programs at Gulfside's Hospice Houses and Bereavement Centers. The event has raised more than \$250,000 since it began in 2007.

For more information, visit www.FirstGiving.com/Hikeforhospice, or call (800) 561-4883.

5k Freedom Run at Lake Como

A 5-kilometer run and a 2.5-kilometer walk benefiting the Florida Gulf Coast Paralyzed Veterans of America, will take place Nov. 10 beginning at 8 a.m. at Lake Como Family Nudist Resort, 20500 Cot Road in Lutz.

The run will take place through the resort's 200 acres that includes a nature preserve as well as a mix of pavement and cross-country.

Entry fee is \$20 if registered by Oct. 28, or \$25 after. Awards will be given in 13 age categories.

For more information, call (877) 879-5253, or visit LakeComoNaturally.com.

Zombies invade roller derby

Revolution Roller Derby will host a zombie-themed doubleheader Oct. 27 at 11 a.m.

Games are played at Astro, 875 Cypress St., Tarpon Springs. Doors open at 9 a.m., with the juniors bout starting at 9:30 a.m. and the Zombie Women at 11 a.m.

The event will raise funds for the 2014 season for Revolution, and will include the Pinellas County Junior Derby before The Blocking Dead face off against The Decaying Divas.

Tickets are \$8 in advance, or \$10 at the door. Children aged 5 and older are \$3, while military and students cost \$5.

For more information, visit www.BrownPaperTickets.com, or [Facebook.com/RevolutionRollerDerby](https://www.facebook.com/RevolutionRollerDerby).

Senior Slo Pitch registration

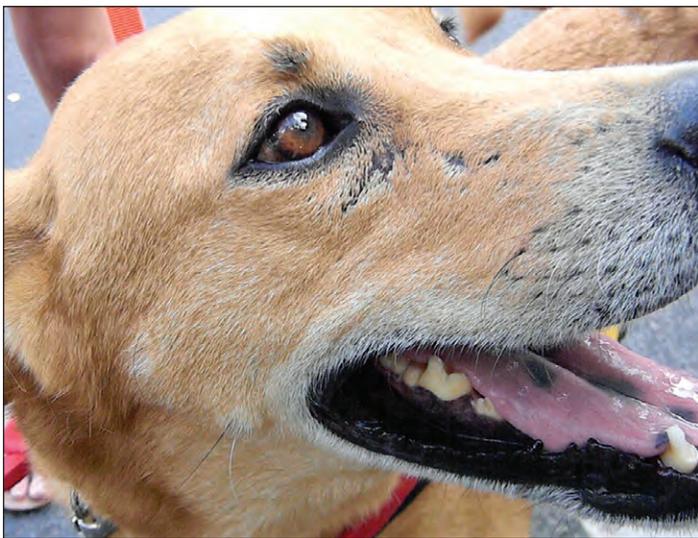
The Slo Pitch Softball League, geared toward players older than 60, will host registration every Friday beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex, 3932 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes.

Teams will be balanced, and will play Friday mornings at the community center.

For more information, call Walt Bockmiller at (813) 527-8211.

—Submit your sports updates to mhinman@cnewspubs.com.

Hot diggity-dog



Tampa Bay Veterinary Emergency Service is seeking a good home for Cookie Monster a 4-year-old lab who has had a rough life. He's being treated for heart-worms, been abandoned twice, and has even faced off with a coyote, earning these scars. To adopt him, call Sherri Cardona at (813) 265-4043. (Photos by Michael Hinman)



Charley Ann and Jessie Ann, two Lhasa Apso dogs owned by Sherry Parsons of Tampa, drove their Tampa Bay Rays concession stand into a first place judge's choice win during the pet costume contest at Dogtoberfest.



Bob Marley has nothing on this Chihuahua, Gidget. Gidget's proud owner is Pat Sklar of New Port Richey.



Ellie lays her head on Louie during Dogtoberfest at The Shops at Wiregrass last weekend. The two are up for adoption through Rugaz Rescue Inc. of New Port Richey.



Kaia, owned by the Coffey family of Wesley Chapel, doesn't seem too thrilled about the rider she picked up during Dogtoberfest at The Shops at Wiregrass over the weekend.

Be sure that pink donation is going to cancer research

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Pink has become a popular color in October because of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but the Better Business Bureau is warning those making donations to be wary of "pinkwashing" scams.

Every year, scammers find a way to take advantage of good deeds like giving to breast cancer research, the BBC said. But before making a donation, consumers should research the organization where the pink product claims to come from first.

The widely recognized pink ribbon symbol is not regulated by an agency, and does not necessarily mean it promotes breast cancer

research or charities. Some products have a pink ribbon in order to indicate that the company supports breast cancer programs, even if the company's contributions are not tied to the purchase of the specific product bearing the ribbon.

While other companies give a portion of an item's cost to a breast cancer organization, a consumer may need to research the claims in order to know how their donation will benefit the cause.

In some cases, companies will indicate that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of a pink ribbon product will go to support breast cancer programs, but put a cap on their maximum donation. Once the maxi-

mum amount has been met, the company may continue to sell the product with the pink ribbon without alerting customers that no additional funds will be donated to breast cancer organizations.

There are many companies that sell pink products where a portion of the sale price goes directly to the charity the business is supporting. While the majority of these efforts are trustworthy, the BBB recommends consumers take the following steps to double-check their efforts.

- **Ask questions.** Find out what percentage of the sales price will be donated, to which charity, and how the funds will be used.

- **Research the business.** Learn more about the business you're purchasing from by checking their BBB Business Review at BBB.org.

- **Confirm the charity's corporate partners.** Many national breast cancer charities list corporate partners and sponsors on their website. Check to make sure the business you're purchasing from is associated with the charity.

- **Consider a direct donation.** Find a charity that can be trusted at BBB.org/charity, and make a donation directly. When donating online, be sure to print the confirmation page, as many donations are tax-deductible.

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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in each word to spell something pertaining to Halloween.

SOLBGNI

□ □ □ □ □ □

ANSWER: *goblins*

THEME: CLOTHES

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|-------------|------------|
| ANORAK | BOXERS | JEANS | ROBE |
| APRON | BRA | JERKIN | SARI |
| BALDRIC | CAPE | KEPI | SASH |
| BANYAN | CLOG | KILT | SHOE |
| BELT | COAT | MASK | SLIP |
| BERET | FEZ | MINI | SOCK |
| BIB | FLANNELS | MITT | STOLE |
| BIKINI | GILLIE | PICTURE HAT | SUIT |
| BLOUSE | HOOD | PITH HELMET | TABARD |
| | | PUMPS | TAM |
| | | | THIGH BOOT |
| | | | TIGHTS |
| | | | TOGS |
| | | | TOPPER |
| | | | T-SHIRT |
| | | | TURBAN |
| | | | TWEEDS |
| | | | TWO-PIECE |

CRYPTOQUIZ

Each of the following cryptograms is a clue to the identity of a type of character often associated with Halloween. Using the hints P=L and W=A, decipher the clues to name the character.

- 1 N P I I G

- 2 J C G B W G

- 3 R J C K U M A V

- 4 M W T P U D

- 5 R V W Q B

Oh, how many artists have taken on the role of this character over the years, including Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt: _____

Answers: (1) Blood, (2) Undead, (3) Sunlight, (4) Garlic, (5) Stake, Vampire

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Yard Sales

GARAGE / YARD SALES

GARAGE SALE FRI & Sat, Oct. 25 & 26
8am- 2pm. Memory Lane (off Hanna Rd north of Sunset) Armoire, clothes, furs, collectibles, home décor, Christmas.

MOVING SALE! 11/1-11/3, 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 5637 Grindstone Loop, Lexington Oaks, Wesley Chapel. Outdoor and Indoor Items - Everything must go!

MOVING SALE! FRI/SAT, 10/25 & 26, 8am-5pm. Complete 3 pc blk leather liv-room set, 2 end tables & coffee table, w slate top, and rod iron lamps, Oak Ent. center and more!
YOU NAME IT, WE GOT IT!
28710 Twinbrook Ln, Wesley Chapel.

TIFFANY LAKE MANOR Community Sale
SAT, October 26, 8am-1pm.
Off Hwy 41 on Whitaker in Lutz.



FREE GARAGE SALE ADS!
3 lines of text, with 35 characters and spaces per line, FOR FREE*!

Call Rachel at **813.909.2800**
Ask about discounts for community garage sales & display ads!

*Private parties only

BUY 3 WEEKS GET 1 FREE
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Executive Director

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Community News Publications

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EOE/AA

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Must be friendly, reliable and approachable!

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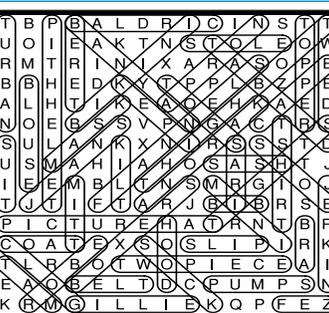
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TRUST is strong medicine

Jim Avery deals with emergencies all the time. When it came time for his personal emergency, Jim wanted to be rushed to the hospital he could trust. Regional Medical Center at Bayonet Point responded immediately. Jim said, "the ER staff treated me with respect and kept my family informed."



For more information please call Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, Toll free: **(800) 432-7811** or visit **RMCHHealth.com**

"I KNOW I COULD TRUST THE ER STAFF WITH MY EMERGENCY."

-JIM AVERY

FLORIDA'S WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR, 2013



**Regional Medical Center
Bayonet Point**

TOGETHER, PERFORMING AT A HIGHER STANDARD

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