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INSIDE
PAGE 1B
YAMAHA

Demand, prices for gas is dropping

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

In any given day in the United States, drivers pump 369 million gallons of gasoline into their vehicles, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. If cars could travel in space, and get 20 miles per gallon, that would be enough to travel to the moon and back — more than 15,000 times.

Since 1990, the price of gas has skyrocketed 184 percent, from a national average of \$1.24, to today's \$3.52, according to federal data. Yet, consumption remains brisk, even if actual volume is down. That's thanks to better fuel efficiency, and the advent of hybrids and electric cars.

Labor Day is a busy weekend for gas stations as many families choose to travel by car to small vacation spots away from home. Typically, that kind of demand would push prices higher. But this year might be a little different, AAA spokesman Mark Jenkins says. "The demand is higher, and you'll see prices inch up a little bit," he said. "And if it



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO

A lot goes into the price of a gallon of gasoline, right down to how much fuel consumers are buying versus how much is being produced.

does, you won't have to wait long for it to fall right back where it was before."

Still, gas prices this weekend are expected to be the lowest in four years, and Jenkins believes a gallon of gas could fall

below the \$3 mark for the first time since the end of 2010.

That might be perfect timing for Pasco

See GAS, page 7A

FUNNY BUSINESS:

Local graduate returns to headline comedy show

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

Working comedians — the ones who aren't famous yet — tend to take whatever gigs they can get. Sometimes that means half-empty bars, or coffee shops or off-nights in a tiny comedy club.

In Steven Lolli's case, it meant a clothing-optional resort in Land O' Lakes 10 years ago.

"It was one of the worst shows I've ever had in my life," he said, recalling the scene at Caliente Resorts off Land O' Lakes Boulevard, with a smile.

Lolli had been doing comedy about eight years at the time, and the Gaither High School graduate had returned to Tampa to set up some shows. Not one to turn down work, he tried a nicer, more approachable style to his comedy. And the crowd wasn't buying it.

"The crowd was bad and I was bad," Lolli said. "I should have been my angry self."

What a difference a decade makes.

Lolli's back in town, but he's not trying to win over any skeptical crowds. Instead, he's bringing his own following to the



MICHAEL MURILLO/STAFF PHOTO

Comedian Steven Lolli performed at Caliente Resorts 10 years ago, and he'll headline a show at the Carrollwood Cultural Center on Aug. 30.

Carrollwood Cultural Center at 4537 Lowell Road, for his "High Class Poverty Comedy Tour" on Aug. 30. And he'll be his angry self on stage, because it's taken him pretty far in his 18 years as a stand-up comedian.

Lolli didn't give anyone there the impression he would eventually make a career out of telling jokes when he graduated high school, and he headed to the Orlando area soon after to attend the University of Central Florida before making his way to Los Angeles. It was there in the California sun he gained a reputation for fitting in at venues where he'd look out of place.

Lolli began frequenting comedy clubs where the performers and audience were

overwhelmingly African-American. He might be one of the only white people on stage — and the only Jewish person in the room — but he was something else, too. He was funny, and the crowds responded to him.

Nationally known comedian Katt Williams helped develop Lolli's moniker, "The Urban Jew," and eventually hired him as a writer.

Minority audiences appreciated his honesty and responded to his earnest delivery, Lolli said.

"I started talking about race. I started talking about Jews and blacks," Lolli said.

See FUNNY, page 7A

Saint Leo unveils cybersecurity masters program

By Michael Murillo
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Providing personal information on the Internet can save time and offer convenience, but it also carries well-known risks.

Hackers, identity thieves and malicious software can jeopardize someone's financial and personal well-being with just a few clicks of a mouse.

Even if you try not to share your information online, companies that have your data and store it on their computers can make you susceptible if they become a target of hackers.

As a result, cybersecurity — the efforts of organizations to thwart attacks on networks and sensitive data — has become an important focal point for information technology professionals.

At Saint Leo University, it's about to be a masters degree program. And according to Vyas Krishnan, a professor with the department of computer science and information systems as well as the lead academic technologist, it couldn't come at a better time.

"You hear in the news about so many data breaches, and hackers getting onto corporations' networks and stealing either customers information or stealing their proprietary information," Krishnan said. "This problem has been worsening over the past five years."

Because of increased demand, the industry is seeing a shortage of trained cybersecurity professionals, he said, making the program valuable to prospective students.

Krishnan will oversee the new 36-credit hour program beginning this fall. The first offerings will be on-campus only, with online availability coming early next year.

A combination of five existing courses offered at the university and seven new courses make up the program, which at-



COURTESY OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

Vyas Krishnan will oversee Saint Leo University's new cybersecurity masters program, which was 18 months in the making.

tempts to cover the areas of vulnerability that exist in systems run by corporations or government agencies. And those systems, Krishnan said, are getting more complicated and more vulnerable as time goes on.

"A lot of the complexity of information technology infrastructure has resulted in multiple points of weakness," he said.

As a result, a professional in that field needs to know the various areas where threats can manifest, how to defend against

Protecting yourself from cyber threats

While no system is 100 percent safe, there are some common sense steps individuals can take to keep themselves better protected from threats, said Vyas Krishnan, who oversees the new cybersecurity masters program at Saint Leo University.

- **Make sure your computer has an antivirus program and firewall installed.** These tools help identify existing threats and prevent them from getting through to your computer.

- **Keep your operating system up to date, and let it update automatically if possible.** "It's a complex piece of software, and when it's initially released in the market, there could be some vulnerabilities that they may not be aware of," Krishnan said. Updates allow the company to close potential holes in the system, but they can't fix the problems if the user doesn't allow it to be updated.

- **Make sure any website where you give personal information is secure.** A website where you have to type in personal information should have 'https://' instead of 'http://' in the address bar. That extra 's' means the information is encrypted and better protected.

- **Be careful about responding to emails that look like they're from companies you know.** Legitimate correspondence from a company won't ask you to provide sensitive information. If it does, it could be a scam designed to look like a real email from a known company.

See CYBER, page 7A

Patients offer their perspectives on needed reform

By B.C. Manion
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Before she became ill, Ashleigh Pike was a vibrant young woman who delighted in teaching elementary school children.

Now she lives life from a wheelchair, with her mother providing her full-time care.

"On the outside, I look fine," the former teacher said. But, "my quality of life has been greatly compromised."

The young woman suffers from a form of dysautonomia, a malfunction of the autonomic nervous system. That system controls automatic functions of the body, such as heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, kidney function, temperature control, and dilation and constriction of the pupils, according to Dysautonomia International's website.

Pike was one of several panelists at a roundtable discussion of health care issues, as seen from the patient's perspective.

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis hosted the session on Aug. 19 at The Bethany Center in Lutz to help inform his work as a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Healthcare subcommittee. Later in the week, Bilirakis hosted a second roundtable, focusing on health care issues from the point of view of providers.

The first 21st Century Cures Roundtable, "Patients and the Patient Perspective," put a human face on the often complicated and frustrating experiences that ill people have in trying to find treatments and cures for their conditions.

Colleen Labbadia shared the heartbreaking story of her young son, who has been diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a progressive condition that is always fatal. Labbadia urged a greater degree of flexibility for clinical trials in the effort to find

ways to treat and cure the condition.

"Each loss of function is like a little death," Labbadia said. "Parents like myself, we're willing to accept significant risk."

Dr. Samantha Lindsey advocated for Alpha-1 patients, such as herself. Alpha-1 is the most common known genetic risk factor for emphysema, and also can lead to liver disease, according to the Alpha-1 Foundation's website.

Anyone who has been diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease should be tested for Alpha-1, the website recommends.

Early diagnosis can make a tremendous difference, Lindsey said.

"Even though I look healthy on the outside, my lungs are like the lungs of a 104-year-old," she said.

Gretchen Church and her husband, Michael — who both suffer from Parkinson's disease — were at the session to advocate for better medical treatment for people who have the conditions.

"I probably don't look like I have Parkinson's, but believe it, I do," said Gretchen Church, of the Parkinson's Action Network.

The couple said that Bilirakis and his congressional colleagues should help people with Parkinson's by making it possible for these patients to use telehealth services — a remote form of health care delivery.

Telehealth services would make life easier for Parkinson's patients who often have



Ashleigh Pike, left, looks on as her mother, Beth Pike, describes the impacts that Ashleigh's illness has had on the young woman's life.

B.C. MANION/STAFF PHOTO

trouble getting around, Church said. It also would reduce financial burdens.

One obstacle to telehealth are current state licensing requirements that require doctors to be licensed in the state to serve patients there, Michael Church said. The problem is that many people live in states where there are no doctors specializing in movement disorders.

"For the Parkinson's community, telehealth has the potential to be powerful," Gretchen Church said. It could help people live independently longer, she added.

Dr. Wayne Taylor, a leukemia survivor, said there's room for improvement in the matches for clinical trials. Taylor, a physician from Hudson, underwent a clinical trial, and once he was in remission, he was able to undergo a double umbilical cord transplant.

In a double umbilical cord transplant, the blood-forming stem cells collected from the umbilical cord blood of two babies is used for blood stem cell transplantation. One umbilical cord would not provide sufficient

stem cells for the transplant.

When it comes to clinical trials, Taylor believes more people could benefit from better matching.

Patricia Stanco, a regional care manager for the ALS Association's Florida Chapter, posed some questions for Bilirakis and his congressional colleagues to consider:

"Is there a smarter way to do research? Is there a common-sense approach to access?"

She also wonders if changes can be made in Food and Drug Administration regulations.

"There are surely ways to get more shots on goal for research," Stanco said.

Janice Starling, a kidney transplant recipient, was there on behalf of the American Association of Kidney Patients.

"If people in Congress would do more of what we're doing right now, we'd get more help," Starling observed.

She noted that Medicare often doesn't cover treatments that are effective, or will cover them only for a specific period of time when more time might be necessary.

"What is going on? Why can't we get the help we need?" Starling asked.

Dr. David Lubin, a recently retired physician from South Tampa, also offered some observations from the audience.

"Insurance companies and big pharma are in control of medicine," Lubin said.

With the vast array of illnesses, Lubin said, it takes "almost Solomon-like" wisdom to know where to direct efforts and resources.

From a personal perspective, Bilirakis said he's watched family members and friends suffer from rare conditions that have no cures.

"The right thing to do is to help our people, our patients," Bilirakis said. "I want to take the politics out of this."



↑ **Dr. Daniel Heinig**
Dr. Jeremy Tharp →





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Health care providers offer prescription for better services

By B.C. Manion

bcmalion@lakerlutznews.com

There's no easy fix for the challenges facing today's health care system. But there are some steps that can improve its overall performance, panelists said at a roundtable discussion hosted by U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis.

Bilirakis hosted two 21st Century Cures roundtables at The Bethany Center in Lutz last week. One focused on health care from a patient's perspective. The other took a look at the issue from a provider's point of view.

At the Aug. 22 session, "Spurring Innovation, Advancing Treatments, and Incentivizing Investment," Bilirakis asked panelists to talk about regulatory roadblocks and other issues that hinder patient care.

The providers had plenty of suggestions for Bilirakis and his congressional colleagues to consider as they set policy in Washington, D.C.

Dr. David Morgan, the chief executive of the University of South Florida's Byrd Alzheimer's Institute, told Bilirakis the diagnosis of Alzheimer's patients must improve. About one in five people diagnosed with Alzheimer's do not have the disease, Morgan said.

The disease can be accurately diagnosed with PET — positron emission tomography — scans, but those are expensive and generally not covered by insurance, Morgan said. Proper diagnosis is important not only for treatment of patients, but also to ensure that clinical trial results are not skewed by including patients in the trials who do not have the disease.

Morgan also sees reform needed in the way clinical trials are conducted. The current approach takes too long and costs too much, he said.

Other health care providers agreed that changes are needed regarding clinical trials. They also called for changing the Food and Drug Administration's regulatory practices.

Dr. Clifton Gooch, of USF's Morsani College of Medicine, said the FDA needs to



B.C. MANION/STAFF PHOTO

A panel of health care providers discusses ways to improve health care delivery to patients. Reducing bureaucracy, increasing funding and encouraging innovation are some of their suggestions.

focus on simplicity, transparency and consistency. Standards for clinical trials must become more flexible. The current approach looks for a particular outcome with a specific group of people, but it fails to consider how the drug benefits a sub-population.

As the nation moves toward more personalized medicine, "we need to approach nontraditional trials," agreed Dr. Thomas Sellers, the center director and executive vice president for the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute.

"We really need to bring the right drug to the right patient at the right time," Sellers said.

Dr. Richard Finkel, chief neurologist at Nemours Children's Hospital of Orlando, said the focus must be greater on patient-centered cures.

"Patients are willing to accept different levels of risk. But the FDA doesn't look at it that way," he said. "They are very risk averse."

A patient with a short life expectancy, for instance, may be willing to accept a much higher risk than someone who has a slow-developing disease, Finkel said.

There are various roadblocks in the research arena, panelists said.

"Funding is dismal," Sellers said. Not only is that hurting research on specific treatments, it's also hurting the entire research arena.

"A lot of people are getting out of the (research) game," Sellers said, which he characterized as a "major casualty."

Even when there is money, the grant process takes too long, panelists said. Those selecting grant winners also need to broaden their thinking, Sellers said.

"They're not selecting for innovation. They're not selecting for bold ideas," Sellers said. "Somebody has to be pushing the envelope."

Finding money to pay for pilot trials is difficult, too.

"The trouble with pilot trials is that nobody wants to pay for them," Gooch said.

There's also a need to reform the regulatory process used by the FDA, panelists said. Improvements are needed not only in speeding the time it takes to get a new drug to market, but also in regulatory processes involving the development of new medical devices.

Lisa Novorska, chief financial officer for Rochester Electro Medical Inc., said her company can know how to improve a device, but can't pursue those improvements because of the costs to comply with FDA requirements. The FDA plays a valuable role in protecting the public, but it also creates paperwork nightmares for small businesses, she added.

The agency's inspections also can force small companies to lose valuable work time as employees are occupied answering questions on issues that seem compelling.

Geary Havran, president of NDH Medical and chairman of the Florida Medical Manufacturers Consortium, agreed. The FDA should focus on high-risk issues, not those with little or no risk, he said.

As Sellers put it: "I think the question is: What's a reasonable amount of oversight?"

The medical device manufacturers also are calling to an end of the medical device tax, which they say has a disproportionate negative impact on smaller companies.

Payment for medical services is another huge issue.

"The payment issue is sometimes as much of a barrier as regulations," said Glen Hortin, clinical pathology medical director of the southeast region for Quest Diagnostics.

Diagnostic tests play a substantial role in guiding physician decisions, Hortin said.

"There's a possibility of destroying people's access to lab tests, if the payments are cut too much," Hortin said.

Many tests that have been developed could help doctors diagnose their patients more accurately, but are too expensive for patients to afford and are not covered by their insurance plans.

In the long-term, the nation needs to shift from operating on a "sick-care" model to placing a greater emphasis on prevention, Hortin said.

Bilirakis believes the private sector can help solve some of the problems facing patients today. Incentives are needed to spur private investments in health care, he added.

"Regulations can stand in the way of private investments in health care," Bilirakis said. "The bottom line is the potential for reform is huge."

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What's Happening

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

KEYSTONE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Keystone Civic Association will have its general meeting Aug. 28 at Keystone Park, 17928 Gunn Highway in Odessa. Its annual ice cream social begins at 6:30 p.m., open to the public to meet and greet neighbors. At 7 p.m., the Hillsborough County planning commission will make a presentation on land use growth strategies. For information, call Barbara Aderhold at (813) 968-6866.

OPEN MIC POETRY NIGHT

The Downtown New Port Richey Art Gallery, 6231 Grand Blvd., will host an open microphone poetry reading Aug. 29 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. There also will be a one-act play performance of "Two Stories." Admission is free. To RSVP, call (727) 848-6500, or email nprgallery1@gmail.com.

ZOO SALUTES HEROES

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is celebrating Family Fun Month throughout August by offering a free weekday admission to active duty, retirees and veterans of the U.S. military and first responders. To take advantage of the offer, the military member or first responder needs to register online at LowryParkZoo.org/Hero, print a voucher, and present it with valid identification at the zoo ticket window. The voucher is valid for the military member or first responder, plus one free guest.

CACTUS, SUCCULENT SALE

The University of South Florida Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive in Tampa, is hosting the 20th annual Central Florida Cactus & Succulent Society Labor Day Show & Sale Aug. 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission and parking are free. For information, call (813) 974-2329, or visit Gardens.usf.edu.

GECKOFEST IN GULFPORT

The 14th Annual GeckoFest will be Aug. 30 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., at 3129 Beach Blvd. S., in Gulfport. There will be more than 200 arts, crafts and food vendors, live music, costume contest, and a street dance at 8 p.m. For information, call (727) 322-5217, email gulfportevents@gmail.com, or visit GulfportMA.com.

QUAIL HOLLOW BIKER BASH

Quail Hollow Country Club, 6225 Old Pasco Road in Wesley Chapel, is hosting a Biker Bash & Labor Day Weekend Pool Party Aug. 31 from noon to 5 p.m. There will be live music by Southern Rock Tribute Band, a cash prize bikini contest and more. For information, call (813) 333-0033.

WINE WALK WEDNESDAY

The Shops at Wiregrass, 28211 Paseo Drive in Wesley Chapel, will host Wine Walk Wednesday Sept. 3 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For a \$15 donation to benefit the Jason Ackerman Foundation, guests will receive a souvenir wine tumbler and passport for wine and food tastings. There will be live music and the latest fashion trends. Guests must be 21 or older, and show valid identification. For information, visit TheShopsAtWiregrass.com.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

First United Methodist Church of Land O' Lakes, 6209 Land O' Lakes Blvd., is hosting a women and children nondenominational Bible study Thursday mornings. The study will follow Servants of God starting Sept. 4



Castelfranc, France



Sunset Sails, Port-Au-Prince Haiti

'AROUND THE WORLD' EXHIBIT

The Downtown New Port Richey Art Gallery, 6231 Grand Blvd., will present the exhibit "Around the World in 30 Days" debuting Sept. 5 at an open house reception from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Music for the evening event will be provided by local musician Michael Chauncey. Refreshments will be served.

Gallery professional artists will display works in all media, each depicting a place the artist has traveled to, or imagined. Guests can visit local and foreign places — both famous and unknown — on land, sea, and in the air. Organizers say the show will appeal to those who love to travel, and appreciate the beauty and diversity of the Earth and its inhabitants.

The exhibit runs through Sept. 27. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday noon to 6 p.m.

For information, call (727) 848-6500, or email nprgallery1@gmail.com.

from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For information, email Jeanine Coris at ejcoris@live.com, or call (813) 910-7670.

TAMPA BOAT SHOW

The 2014 Progressive Insurance Tampa Boat Show will be Sept. 5-7 at the Tampa Convention Center, 333 South Franklin St., in Tampa. Hours are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be interactive features for families and boaters of all experience levels, free hands-on clinics, and boating lessons. Adults 16 and older are \$12. Children 15 and younger are free. For information, visit TampaBoatShow.com.

GREYHOUND DOGS

Bay Area Greyhound Adoptions is going to be at Pet City, 2119 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes, with adoptable greyhounds, Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, call (813) 272-2332, or visit BayAreaGreyhounds.org.

9/11 GRATITUDE RIDE

Quail Hollow Country Club, 6225 Old Pasco Road in Wesley Chapel, is hosting the Fifth Annual 9/11 Gratitude Ride to benefit the Pasco County Fire Benevolent Fund Sept. 6. Registration is from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., with a dedication ceremony at 9:45 a.m. The 40-mile poker run starts and ends at Quail Hollow. There will be a post-ride party at noon. The event also includes live music by The Greg Billings Band, a raffle, food, bike show and vendors. For vendor information, call Dan Turner at (813) 928-2160.

GRACE COMMUNITY FAMILY FEST

Grace Community is hosting its Family Fun Fest Sept. 7 at Wesley Chapel Elementary School, 30243 Wells Road, where the church has services. There will be a 10:30 a.m. worship service, along with an interactive Grace Harbor program for kids, a social time with ice cream sundaes, and a jump house. For information, call (813) 994-9363, or visit ExploreGrace.com.

JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB RECRUITING

The GFWC New Tampa Junior Woman's Club will recruit new members at a general meeting Sept. 8, with a hands-on project at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting at 7 p.m. There also will be a recruitment session Sept. 16 with social time at 6:30 p.m., and a club presentation at 7 p.m. Both meetings will be at Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 5340 Primrose Lake Circle in Tampa. For information, visit GFWCNewTampaJuniors.org.

DIVORCE SEMINARS FOR KIDS, ADULTS

Break Thru Ministries of Tampa Bay and Heritage Church, 1854 Oak Grove Blvd., in Lutz, is offering two divorce seminars for kids and adults every Monday at 7 p.m., beginning Sept. 8. There is a book fee for both classes, and childcare is available at the adult class. To register, visit YesHeritage.com. For information, call (813) 210-1563.

PLANT SOCIETY MEETING

The Nature Coast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will meet Sept. 9 at 7 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. George Kish will present "Native Florida Plants for Drought and Salt Tolerant Landscaping." There will be light refreshments and a native plant drawing. For information, call (727) 376-7663.

JANE GOODALL AT USF

Jane Goodall, the scientist behind the landmark study of chimpanzee behavior, will give a lecture at the USF Sun Dome Sept. 9 at 7 p.m., sponsored by the University of South Florida's College of Arts and Sciences. There will be a question-and-answer session following the lecture. Goodall's newest book, "Seeds of Hope: Wisdom and Wonder from the World of Plants," along with other publications, will be available for sale. There will be a book signing after the event. Admission is free for

current USF students, but students must reserve a ticket in advance. Tickets for the general public can be purchased through Ticketmaster.com, Ticketmaster outlets, at the USF Sun Dome box office, or by calling (800) 745-3000.

SWAP & SHOP

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club is planning a Swap & Shop fundraiser Sept. 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Lutz Community Center, at Lutz Lake Fern Road and U.S. 41, behind the Lutz Library. Cost is \$8, and guests should bring several items to swap, including new or gently used re-gifts, home décor, art, accessories, plants, jewelry, handbags or knick-knacks. Clothing or shoe donations are not permitted. Beverages and snacks will be provided. For information, call (727) 642-5959.

SCALE AEROBATIC COMPETITION

Bay City Flyers of Land O' Lakes is hosting IMAC 2014, a scale aerobatic competition, Sept. 13-14 at 8:30 a.m. Gates open at 6 a.m., for pilot setup. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided. Kitchen opens at 11 a.m., for lunch. Admission is \$3 for spectators. For directions and information, visit BayCityFlyers.org.

PUP PADDLE IN PORT RICHEY

There will be a Pup Paddle & Kayak Race at Gill Dawg Marina, 5419 Treadway Drive in Port Richey, Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event is pet friendly, and will include music, a doggy show, bounce house, raffles and pet vendors. Proceeds will benefit Raffle Rescue Inc. To register, visit Paddle4Minds.weebly.com.

CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST

Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care is having a photo contest for its 2015 calendar to showcase Pasco County's natural beauty, wildlife and special events. All photos must be shot in Pasco County. Photographers can submit multiple pictures. Deadline for entry is Sept. 15 at 5 p.m. For information and questions about the contest, call Kirsty Churchill at (727) 845-5707, or email GHPPCphotos@gmail.com.

FINANCIAL CLASS FOR WOMEN

The Hillsborough County /UF/IFAS Extension Service, along with the Financial Planning Association of Tampa Bay, is offering a "Women and Money" three-class series on Tuesdays, starting Sept. 16, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The classes will be at the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, 1002 East Palm Ave., in Tampa. Topics include money decisions, goal setting, protecting assets, investing basics and estate planning. Seating is limited. Cost is \$10 for the entire series. For information, call Lisa Leslie at (813) 744-5519, Ext. 54143.

COASTAL CLEANUP IN NPR

There will be a Coastal Cleanup Sept. 20 from 8 a.m. to noon to clean up the salt flats, mangroves and lagoon edges at Pasco Palms Preserve in New Port Richey. Bug spray, garbage bags, gloves, safety vests, water and some food will be provided. Participants should bring grabbers, kayaks and 5-gallon buckets or smaller. No dogs allowed. The group will meet at Eagle Point Park, 4499 Strauber Memorial Highway in New Port Richey. For information, call (727) 847-8140, ext. 8333, or email KatieMacMillen@pascocountyfl.net.

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Enrollment increases at Wiregrass Ranch's Porter Campus

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch began its fall semester this week, with an enrollment topping 2,100.

That's an increase of nearly 300 students over its initial enrollment in January, when Pasco-Hernando State College opened the satellite campus in Wesley Chapel.

"We continue to exceed the enrollment expectations. We're very delighted with that," said Stan Giannet, provost at the campus on Mansfield Boulevard, just south of State Road 56 in Wesley Chapel.

"Compared to the spring term, we added another 70 class sections that were necessary based on the projected enrollment," Giannet said.

On the first day of the fall semester, Patti Rocco, administrative assistant to Giannet, was excited about the 2014-15 academic year. She loves working on the Wesley Chapel campus, even though it means driving over an hour a day from Weeki Wachee to get there.

"It's just wonderful. It's like one big family," Rocco said, noting she can't say that's been her experience in all of the jobs she's had throughout the years.

The campus is a phenomenal place to work, she said. "It's warm. It's wanting to do what's best for the students."

So far, the most popular courses are those leading to an associate's degree, as well as programs in information technology, nursing and human services, Giannet said. Students also are expressing an interest in business courses.

Debuting this fall are the bachelor's degree program in supervision and management, and the surgical technology

and pharmacy technician certification programs.

There are tracks within the management and supervision program that gear people for general management, health care management and public service management, Giannet said. The degree provides coursework to enable people to develop and hone the skills necessary to handle the responsibilities that managers and supervisors face.

The surgical technology and pharmacy technician programs will prepare graduates for jobs that are in high demand and that offer good pay, Giannet said.

Figures are not yet available, but Giannet said Porter Campus is attracting students from Hillsborough County, and those numbers appear to be growing. The campus also has a sizable number of students enrolled in its evening programs.

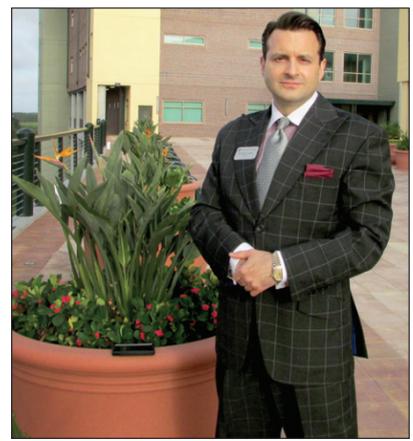
Classes are offered Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9:40 p.m., and on Friday until 4:30 p.m. Registration for this semester ends Aug. 29, while registration for the spring semester begins in early November.

In addition to debuting new programs this fall, the college also will open a café in its library in September. It will offer salads, sandwiches and other light fare, Giannet said. The college always planned to have a café, it just took some time to go through the process to select a provider.



Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch began its first full academic year on Monday. It also is debuting some new programs and adding a café, where students and faculty can grab a quick meal.

B.C. MANION/STAFF PHOTOS



Stan Giannet, the provost at Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch, is looking forward to the campus' first full academic year. The campus is a satellite of Pasco-Hernando State College.

The campus is situated near many good restaurants in Wesley Chapel, so many students leave campus for meals, Giannet said. However, students carrying a full load do not have time to leave campus, so this café will provide a convenient way for them to grab a quick bite.

The campus continues to seek to create a sense of community among the students, faculty and staff, Giannet said. It also wants to play the role of an intellectual and cultural hub for the community at large.

"We want to be very open and inviting to our community," he said.

One way that Giannet seeks to foster strong relationships with students is by hosting events such as Pizza with the Provost and Picnic with the Provost, where he has a chance to share campus news, to field questions from students, and to hear feedback about how things are going.

He also has a Provost Success Academy, which focuses on themes aimed at helping

students succeed. As part of that academy, the college will host a domestic violence awareness symposium in October.

The overall goal of the campus is to engage students and provide assistance to help students succeed, Giannet said. He thinks students are taking advantage of opportunities available on campus.

"The amount of activity in our library — from the perspective of traffic utilizing library services — is comparable to our largest campus, which is the West Campus in New Port Richey," Giannet said.

He describes the college's personnel as being "very student-driven, student-focused, compassionate and caring."

"I think it's clearly evident," Giannet said. "We want to provide a meaningful experience for students when they're on our campus."

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

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NUTRITION AND DIABETES

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, is offering the community education class "Nutrition & Diabetes" Sept. 2 at 10 a.m.

The class will cover the basic principles of nutrition, including how meal timing, carbohydrates, proteins and fats can affect blood sugar.

Seating is limited, and reservations are required.

For information, call (727) 834-5630.

ATRIAL FIBRILLATION SEMINAR

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, 14000 Fivay Road in Hudson, is hosting its "Learn About Treatment for Atrial Fibrillation" seminar Sept. 2 at 3 p.m.

Dr. Luis Annoni, a board-certified cardiac electrophysiologist; and Dr. Michael Wahl, a board-certified cardiac surgeon, will discuss a breakthrough procedure.

Admission is free. Light refreshments will be served.

Seating is limited, and reservations are required.

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

NAMI BASICS PROGRAM

The National Alliance on Mental Illness is offering a free educational program for parents and caregivers of children and adolescents living with mental illness.

The program is for six sessions starting Sept. 3, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, at Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, 14000 Fivay Road in Hudson.

Those attending will be provided with critical information and strategies related to caregiving, view presentations, and take part in discussion and interactive exercises.



COURTESY OF REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BAYONET POINT

Bob South honored as Employee of the Month

Bob South, a transporter with the lift team at Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, was named the hospital's July Employee of the Month. South received a pin, a blanket gift, a reception with refreshments for his colleagues, a front-row parking spot for his use for one month, and a \$50 gift card. Chief operating officer Shalin Shah, left, congratulates South, along with associate chief operating officer Dajana Yoakley and human resources vice president Geoff Washburn.

To register, call (727) 277-8059 or (727) 992-9653.

Space is limited, and reservations are required.

For information, call (813) 929-5555.

'A MATTER OF BALANCE'

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, 14000 Fivay Road in Hudson, is offering "A Matter of Balance," a program designed to help people manage concerns about falls and increase physical activity.

Classes will be on Wednesdays and Fridays, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., starting Sept. 3, for four weeks.

Seating is limited, and reservations are required.

For information, call (727) 869-5498.

DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT

The Health & Wellness Center at Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel, 2700 Healing Way, is offering a four-part series on diabetes self-management.

The series runs on Thursdays from Sept. 4-25 at 6 p.m.

Topics will include nutrition, medications, exercise, glucose monitoring, complications, stress management and foot care.

ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE TOPS \$32 MILLION IN DONATIONS

Donations from the ice bucket challenge recently topped \$32 million nationally, according to the most recent tabulations from The ALS Association.

Florida chapter spokeswoman Alissa Gutierrez said she hopes the Florida organization will see an increase in donations as well, according to a release.

The challenge became a viral sensation thanks to Pete Frates and his family. The former Boston College baseball captain has lived with ALS since 2012, and has been an advocate for The ALS Association Massachusetts Chapter.

The challenge is, within 24 hours, to pour a bucket of ice water over your head, or make a donation to an ALS charity. Or both.

To donate to The ALS Association Florida Chapter, visit ALSFL.org.

Clloser Look

AN ADVERTISER PROFILE

Professional eye care at your local Sam's Club

By Mike Matthew
Special to The Laker / Lutz News

Dr. Anthony Valenti is an optometrist with an office inside Sam's Club next to the eyeglass booth. A simple nameplate on the door marks the entrance to his office. Inside that door is a state of the art eye care facility.

Wesley Chapel Sam's Club customers can now get a professional eye exam as well as their glasses and contacts in a single convenient location. This is a full scope optometric practice capable of providing all of the services found in a typical optometric office without the additional overhead costs.

In addition, Dr. Valenti provides something extra. He can examine deep inside the eye without dilation using retinal imaging. This technology provides him with a 200 degree view inside of the eye. Patients will be able to review those images right there in the office alongside Dr. Valenti.

A retinal scan provides a greater single view along with the ability to isolate deeper layers of the retina. All of this is obtained quickly and painlessly without the need to dilate the pupil. The retinal scan is included with the eye exam at no additional charge.

Dr. Valenti and his wife both graduated from the State University of New York College of Optometry in 1989. He started his own practice in 1993. They moved to Florida with their two girls in 2005.

"I've experienced enough snow to last a lifetime," says Dr. Valenti. "I love the water. Now we can enjoy our time outdoors for more than those three short months of summer on Long Island."

"Our goal is to get the entire family down here now," says Dr. Valenti. "We miss the family and the food, but not the traffic and the cloudy weather."

He worked at a medical clinic for nine years before an opportunity to lease space in Sam's Club prompted him to start his own practice again. "I'm very happy with this decision says Dr. Valenti.



Dr. Anthony Valenti

Currently, the majority of his work is for glasses and contacts, including specialty contact lenses (multifocal, astigmatism, and Keratoconus) He also treats Red Eye, Glaucoma, removes foreign bodies, and manages dry macula degeneration.

Exams are also performed for systemic diseases that affect the eyes such as diabetes, high blood pressure and arthritis. Certain medications, such as Plaquinal, require special tests to guard against ocular side effects.

His work includes co-management of Cataract and Lasik surgery. He provides his clients with pre-op testing and post-op follow-up exams.

Dr. Valenti is happy to come in early or stay later for appointments and is available for emergencies, such as when a client gets something in their eye. He accepts medicare and is currently being credentialed for private medical insurance. He will see patients from 4 to 104.

His wife is a retired Optometrist. They have two daughters. The eldest will be attending the University of Florida in the fall with the goal of becoming a Pediatric Ophthalmologist. His youngest daughter is currently in 11th grade and plans to pursue a career in either architecture or medicine.

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Water still primary gold standard in Zephyrhills

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

Long before there was a Zephyrhills, and even before there was a Pasco County, people would journey through the dense, dangerous Florida forests to find a small oasis near the headwaters of the Hillsborough River.

There they could find plenty of fresh, clean water bubbling up from the ground, always at a refreshing 72 degrees.

The waters at Crystal Springs may not have had the healing and restorative powers some believed at the time, but it was certainly quite tasty. And by the time Zephyrhills itself was founded in 1910, the area already had a reputation for some of the best water in the state.

So it's no wonder a businessman named Don Robinson saw the potential of turning that water into more than just a local commodity in the early 1960s, and Zephyrhills bottled water was born.

Today, hundreds of thousands of gallons of that commodity is shipped throughout the state. The plant, off 20th Street and Alston Avenue in Zephyrhills owned by Nestle Waters North America, employs 250 people making an annual average wage of \$46,000. Another 900 more people or so have jobs related to the operation around Florida.

"It's a great economic driver, but it's also a great story for Zephyrhills to tell, and one it has told for decades," said Vonnice Mikkelsen, executive director of the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce.

This year, Zephyrhills bottled water celebrates its 50th anniversary, continuing to put this small city of nearly 14,000 people it borrowed its name from on the map. Local historian and retired educator Madonna Wise remembers the first time she saw Zephyrhills water after moving to the area in the early 1970s.

"The whole phenomenon of bottled water was developed more in the 1990s, but I do recall a lot of businesses before that having that big bottle and drinking station,"



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO

These waters used to be a popular recreational spot with local residents, especially since the water stays a constant 72 degrees. When it closed to the public in the late 1990s, it created an uproar that continued for years.

she said. "Even then, you would pull out a small paper cup to get a little bit to drink, and it was fresh water from a place just down the road."

The spring water operation of Zephyrhills requires an average of about 650,000 gallons of water per day from Crystal Springs, said Kent Koptiuch, a natural resource manager with Zephyrhills parent company Nestle Waters. It's shipped directly from the spring on a more than three-mile journey in an underground 10-inch diameter stainless steel pipe.

Once it arrives at the plant, it goes through a complex purification and packaging process — but it can be ready to ship in less than 15 minutes.

"I grew up in the country, and we would drink our water out of a hose as kids," Koptiuch said. "But if you look at history — especially ancient European, Asian and African history — people have been bottling water for thousands of years."

Of course, those methods would have been in goatskins or sheep stomachs ... not

exactly the most appetizing way to make water portable.

"They didn't have plastic bottles, but they still had to travel, and they had to carry water somehow," Koptiuch said.

The springs naturally push out an average of 35 million gallons of water per day, literally turning a small stream near the site into the Hillsborough River.

While people no longer visited the springs hoping to be cured of ailments, Crystal Springs was a popular local recreational attraction for decades. However, when landowner Robert Thomas closed the springs in 1996, some residents in the 150 homes near the springs were outraged. They fought for years to reopen the springs to the public, and even tried to block Nestle's ability to extract water from the site.

Today, the only remnant of those recreational days is a set of cement steps leading into part of the pooled water. The rest of the springs have been restored to their natural state and deeded over to an organization

known as the Crystal Springs Foundation that created the Crystal Springs Preserve.

More than 50,000 students ranging in age from elementary school to college visit the springs every year. An indoor classroom nearby teaches them all about the environment, and even water ecology. And small wooden bridges give visitors a chance to see where the springs and the Hillsborough River interconnect.

"The most students we get are fourth- and fifth-graders," Koptiuch said. "Our focus is to educate the youth because they are going to be our future leaders."

Zephyrhills has been the "City of Pure Water" long before the bottling plant existed, but the business has helped solidify that slogan and made it even easier to market the city as a whole, the chamber's Mikkelsen said.

"It's an international brand anchored right here in Zephyrhills," she said. "It's clean manufacturing, and very high-tech. It's exactly the kind of company you want to have, and we're very fortunate that we already have them."

GAS, from page 1A

County commissioners, who will spend September debating on whether they should increase local gas taxes by a nickel to help pay for much-needed new roads in the county. Their biggest concern is having that extra tax passed on to the customer. But it might be hard to notice in a county where the difference in gas price from one side to the other is nearly 25 cents per gallon.

On Sunday, New Port Richey had one station offering fuel for \$3.01, and many others well below \$3.10, according to GasBuddy.com. However, by the time a driver reaches Wesley Chapel, the best she might find is \$3.14 at a Sam's Club.

And forget Zephyrhills. The cheapest there was \$3.25 at a Marathon station just outside of Wesley Chapel.

Why? It's all about logistics, Jenkins said. "There are a lot of variables that goes into how much gas costs, but one of them is

quite simply their distance from supply," he said. "Gas is usually tankered in from the ports, and the further they have to go, the more it might cost in the end."

If most of central Florida's fuel is shipped into Tampa's ports, then places like Lakeland and even Orlando should be sky-high when it comes to gas prices. But it's not, Jenkins said, because underground pipes sends thousands of gallons of fuel each day across the state from Tampa's ports directly into the area's home of Mickey Mouse.

"You also have to consider retail competition," he said. "If you're in an area where there are fewer gas stations, your prices are going to be a little higher because there is less competition."

LOOKING BEYOND THE PUMP

Gas is big business nearly anywhere there are cars and roads, but stations themselves aren't really making a killing when it comes to profits. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that for every dollar spent in gas, 13 cents go to taxes, 8 cents to distri-

bution and marketing, 14 cents to refining, and 65 cents goes straight back to the companies that supply the gas in the first place.

The typical gas station may tack on a few pennies more for its own profit, but it usually has the smallest impact. Instead, these stations make their money by getting people inside their convenience stores, earning a much higher profit margin from drinks, snacks and tobacco products than they could ever see at the pump.

Wawa, the Pennsylvania-based chain that has opened dozens of locations in the Tampa Bay area over the past year, uses fresh food to get drivers through its doors. One of the longtime area brands it competes with is Atlanta-based RaceTrac, which might not offer made-to-order subs, but is not shy about helping its customers wake up in the morning. The stores offer an expanded coffee bar with six flavors, as well as prepackaged sandwiches and salads, company spokeswoman Ashleigh Collins said.

Collins wouldn't say how much impor-

ance RaceTrac puts on attracting customers inside the store from the pumps, but touts the fact it's a "one-stop shop" for customers who want to fuel up, stock up, or both.

"For the most part, gas stations are using gas as a conduit to get you inside their convenience stores," Jenkins said. "Whatever they are offering in their store, that is basically their lifeline. And for the most part, the gasoline they offer is just a means of getting consumers into the door."

Gas prices have been dropping for nearly two months, but the market's bottom is quickly approaching, Jenkins said. In just a few weeks, refineries will start switching from its summer blend, and the changeover will wreak enough market havoc to kick up prices.

"We could see prices jump in September, and continue that way through the rest of the fall," he said. "But this hasn't really been the typical year, and I wouldn't be surprised to see a lot more happy people at the pump by the end of the year because of where prices might end up."

FUNNY, from page 1A

"One thing about the black crowd is they really respond to true emotion, when you're really being honest."

That response was a pleasant contrast to other clubs he visited, where politics and social relationships dictated who got to perform, and too many comedians wanted to mold their act into a television-friendly package. Lolli wanted to protect his edge rather ingratiate himself to the people who were the gatekeepers and could deny him stage time.

Performing in African-American clubs might not have looked natural at first glance, but it was a natural fit for his style and philosophy.

Cutting his teeth in tough rooms, and gaining acceptance from what could be con-

sidered challenging audiences, made Lolli more fearless in his comedy and more confident in his abilities. And while the 38-year-old could pass for a young executive on the street, it's a different story on stage. His material is adult-oriented, salted with the kind of language that gives his rants emphasis.

But Lolli doesn't simply rely on dirty words for shock value. His language is an extension of his thoughts and perceptions at that particular moment. While he has plenty of prepared material, he allows himself to veer off track frequently and create something original out of unscripted moments from earlier that day or while he's on stage.

There's a lot of risk with that method, and grabbing the microphone in front of a packed house without a clear idea of what you'll say beforehand can be scary. But his real fear is not being true to himself.

"I'm more afraid to not say what I mean,"



"I'm more afraid to not say what I mean. It's the most gratifying feeling to be yourself."

— comedian Steven Lolli

Lolli said. "It's the most gratifying feeling to be yourself."

It also can provide a career boost if things go well. Lolli once performed at an event honoring a cable executive, with many important agents and actors on stage and in the audience. It would be a perfect time to play it safe and not make fun of their industry, but that isn't his style.

He came out aggressive with his material, got the audience on his side, and has received a lot of work as a result of that edgy performance. That included a 2012 guest appearance on the NBC comedy sketch show "Betty White's Off Their Rockers."

He'll deliver more of the same at the Carrollwood Cultural Center, though he'll have a lot more time to explore his thoughts and expand his material. He'll also have his parents, Joy and Gerald, in the audience. They're proud of his success and have taken note of his rising notoriety as the venue promotes his show.

They also haven't seen him perform in years, but that doesn't mean they'll get the easy treatment from their comedian son on Aug. 30. In the end, they know he has to be himself.

"They'll be all right," Lolli said. "I might make fun of them, too."

CYBER, from page 1A

them, and how to maintain the integrity of the entire system.

Class subjects include database security, risk management, cloud computing security, systems security management, network security, strategic planning, and legal and compliance issues. The latter is important

because different business sectors such as health and finance have different requirements, and a skilled cybersecurity professional needs to know the nuances of their particular industry, Krishnan said.

Graduation results in earning a master's degree, but there's more to it than that. Industry certifications are an important part of the information technology field, Krishnan said, and the program is designed

to help graduates qualify for them.

The new program, which is open to students with some previous information technology education or work experience, was 18 months in the making. The university already is pleased with the initial interest, officials said. Around 20 students will take part when the degree is first offered, which exceeds Saint Leo's original goals.

The online offering in 2015 will allow

them to increase capacity as well.

Krishnan, who has been with the university for five years and played an integral role in getting this program off the ground, also is satisfied with the program's development and course offerings.

"I feel very good about it," he said. "I think we've done a great job in putting together a very sophisticated, technically advanced, state-of-the-art program."

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Bikers return to remember Sept. 11 terrorist attacks

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

In their world, it might be Harley-Davidson vs. Yamaha, Honda vs. Suzuki. But when it comes to honoring those who sacrificed their lives on Sept. 11, 2001 — and giving a little something back to local first responders — there's nothing that can keep these bikers apart.

September is right around the corner, and with it the 13th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 people died, including more than 440 first responders who died in the collapse of the World Trade Center alone.

Local Realtor Dan Turner hasn't forgotten what those brave men and women did that day, and he is making sure no one else does either with his fifth annual 9/11 Gratitude Ride.

Turner recruited more than 350 of his fellow motorcycle riders last year to raise \$6,000 for Pasco County Fire Rescue Benevolent Fund, and he is anxious to top that this year.

"A lot of people, I think, have kind of moved on, so I'm glad we are doing it," Turner said. "There aren't too many events that go on anymore to remember the people, and I'm glad to see people on this ride who haven't forgotten."



Dan Turner, left, and his wife Cheryl address bikers in front of the Pasco County Government Center on U.S. 41 last year, ahead of their ride to honor members of Pasco County's Fire Rescue as part of the Pasco County Choppers 9/11 Gratitude Ride.

Unlike past gratitude rides, this year's will start and end at the Quail Hollow Golf & Country Club, 6225 Old Pasco Road in Wesley Chapel, beginning at 8 a.m. on Sept. 6. Turner will kick off the events with a brief ceremony at 9:45, and then the hundreds of bikers will head to two fire stations in Dade

City and Zephyrhills, to thank the men and women there for their service.

After the ride, the festivities will resume at Quail Hollow beginning a little after noon, featuring a free concert from The Greg Billings Band, as well as food, games, vendors and more.

If you go

WHAT: 9/11 Gratitude Ride
WHO: Pasco County Choppers
WHERE: Quail Hollow Golf & Country Club, 6225 Old Pasco Road, Wesley Chapel
WHEN: Sept. 6, with opening ceremonies at 9:45 a.m., and afternoon events beginning just after noon
COST: Free, open to the public
INFO: Facebook.com/911GratitudeRide

One of the highlights of this year's event comes in the gratitude ride's raffle, Turner said. A guitar is available signed by three popular metal bands of the 1980s — Great White, Winger and Slaughter. The bands, which took part in the recent Hairpalooza event in July, also signed a drumhead that will be auctioned off.

For those who like motorcycles more than rock, a \$500 gift card from Harley-Davidson also is among the prizes.

"The most important thing that we want everyone to know is that it's open to the public," Turner said. "It doesn't matter if you ride a bike or not. Come out and help us support our fire departments, and remember 9/11 too."

For more information on the event, visit Facebook.com/911GratitudeRide.

POLITICAL AGENDA

SEND POLITICAL NEWS TO MHINMAN@LAKERLUTZNEWS.COM

POLL FINDS GOVERNMENT, RELIGION STILL MIX

Religion continues to be a major issue when it comes to political decisions, and a new poll from Saint Leo University suggests that the divide won't be closing any time soon.

More than 1,000 people were asked two questions about recent religious arguments made at the government level: prayer before meetings, and whether private companies should be forced to provide contraceptive coverage to women.

For prayers at meetings, Saint Leo asked the question based on a court decision that allowed government bodies to open meetings with a prayer. More than 64 percent of those surveyed agreed with the decision — including 58 percent of independent voters — while 27 percent said no.

More than 53 percent of Democrats agreed with allowing prayer compared to 86 percent of Republicans, according to the poll. However, among those who didn't want prayer at meetings, only 7 percent of Republicans agreed.

The results of a second poll related to the Hobby Lobby U.S. Supreme Court case was much closer, with 47 percent saying employers should not be required to pay for contraception that induces abortion as part of its health insurance plan, while 38 percent said yes.

Some 70 percent of Republicans agreed with the Supreme Court on this issue, joining 31 percent of Democrats. Another 15 percent said they were not sure how they felt, representing less than 20 percent of surveyed independents, Democrats and Republicans.

The Saint Leo University Polling Institute conducted the national poll of 1,016 people, including 802 likely voters, between May 28 and June 4. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

COALITION FORMS TO REFORM MUNICIPAL PENSIONS

A new group, Taxpayers for Sustainable Pensions, has formed from Florida's business advocates and policy groups interested in achieving municipal pension reform.

The groups were inspired to create the coalition after lawmakers failed to pass a municipal pension reform bill earlier this year. Florida's municipal pension plans have amassed more than \$10 billion in debt due to excessive benefit levels, the group said in a release, and one-third of all municipal pension plans are less than 70 percent funded.

Coalition members include Americans for Prosperity-Florida, Associated Industries of Florida, the Florida Chamber Foundation, the Florida League of Cities, Florida TaxWatch, the National Federation of Independent Business and R Street Institute.

"Too many Florida cities are facing a bill they cannot pay without reducing public services or increasing taxes," said Robert Weissert, chief research officer for Florida

TaxWatch, in a release. "Our hardworking taxpayers and local government workers deserve a sustainable pension system that cities and their residents can afford. As government pensions become more generous, even surpassing pensions given to military retirees, they have plunged Florida's municipalities into nearly \$11 billion in debt that future taxpayers will be forced to pay."

BILIRAKIS TO HOST OFFICE HOURS

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis will host office hours Aug. 27 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at the Congressman's Wesley Chapel office, 5901 Argerian Drive.

The office hours are part of his ongoing effort to solicit feedback from his constituents, according to a release.

Appointments, which are scheduled on a first-come basis, can be made by calling (727) 232-2921.

POLL WORKERS NEEDED FOR NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Energetic? Service-oriented? Then the Pasco County supervisor of elections may be looking for you.

Poll workers are needed for the general election Nov. 4. Positions are paid, but potential candidates will need to be able to stand, bend, stoop, lift approximately 30 pounds, and have normal vision and manual and physical dexterity.

Applicants also need to write and read English, have an email address, and be able to work the entire day from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

All positions receive mandatory paid training the month preceding the election.

For information, call (800) 851-8754, or visit PascoVotes.com.

MOBILE HOURS FOR ROSS

U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross, R-Lakeland, will host mobile office hours Sept. 9 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Lutz Library, 101 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road in Lutz.

Other dates in Lutz include Oct. 14 and Dec. 9.

For more information, call (863) 644-8215, or (813) 752-4790.

FREE RIDES TO THE POLLS

Pasco County Public Transportation will do its part to help get out the vote by offering free rides to the polls on election days for the upcoming cycle.

The deal was worked out between PCPT and county elections supervisor Brian Corley, and was approved by the Pasco County Commission last week.

On election day Nov. 4, voters who present their voter information card will ride free to their local polling location. The goal is to encourage and promote participation in the election process, while also introducing public transportation as a viable option for travel throughout the county, said PCPT director Michael Carroll.

In return, Corley's office will use available media advertising and respective websites to inform potential riders and voters how to access and navigate the transit system.

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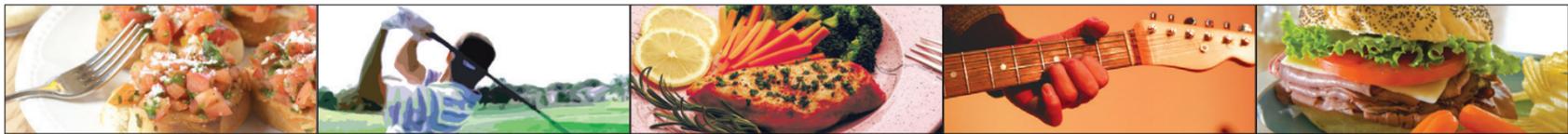
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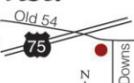
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COURTESY OF PIONEER FLORIDA MUSEUM & VILLAGE

Visitors can see an old railroad depot and hop aboard an old-time rail car during the Pioneer Day & Old Time Gospel Sing on Aug. 30 in Dade City.

Get a taste of Florida's past at the Pioneer Day & Old Gospel Sing

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

Come take a trip into the past at Pioneer Day & Old Gospel Sing at the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village.

Event goers can enjoy music, check out traditional craft demonstrations, grab a bite to eat, and watch the reenactment of the Bradley Massacre, a dramatization of a Seminole raid, said Jessica Budin, front office manager for the museum.

Music will play throughout the day, and the Seminole raid reenactment will be presented at 11:15 a.m., and 2 p.m., Budin said.

Visitors will be able to observe living history exhibits, check out vendor booths, and enjoy gospel music by local performers. The event also features plant sales, children's games, a petting zoo and other activities.

Food available for purchase will include barbecue pulled pork sandwiches, hamburgers, hot dogs, sweets and drinks.

For those who are planning to come, it's a good idea to bring cash because there aren't ATMs, and the vendors typically do not accept credit cards, Budin said. It's also a good idea to check the weather reports and bring an umbrella if rain is expected, because the event will go on rain or shine, and many of the activities are outdoors.

A Seminole raid reenactment will give onlookers a chance to observe the dramatization of the Bradley Massacre, which occurred during the Third Seminole War. The massacre took place on May 14, 1856, in the tiny outpost of Darby.

A small band of Seminoles crept undetected toward the house of Capt. Robert Bradley and opened fire, killing two people during the raid.

Bradley's Massacre has been recorded as the last attack by a Native American tribe on a settler's homestead east of the Mississippi River.

If you go

WHAT: Pioneer Day & Old Time Gospel Sing

WHEN: Aug. 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road in Dade City

COST: Adults \$8; senior citizens 55 and older, and children, \$6; kids younger than 5 and museum members, free. Parking also is free.

INFO: Call (352) 567-0262, or email curator@pioneerfloridamuseum.org

Other attractions include a chance to:

- Visit the Old Lacoochee School
- Experience life as the Overstreets lived at the John Overstreet House
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- Climb aboard the 1913 Porter steam engine housed in the Trilby Depot
- Observe the collection of early farm equipment, vintage buggies and carriages in the Mable Jordan Barn
- Take a look at a 1946 Chevy fire truck and a 1921 LaFrance fire truck
- Explore the museum's main building, shop at the gift shop, and look at the museum's collections

Admission to the museum is included in the price of admission to Pioneer Day, Budin said.

The event tends to get a nice turnout, she said, estimating between 1,000 to 1,500 people. The annual event has been at the museum since 1975.

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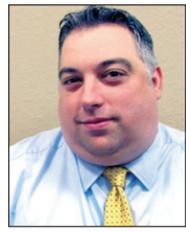
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Getting to know You

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

It all started with a trip to Canton, Ohio, to watch Warren Sapp get inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

It was 2011, and newspaper sports reporter Joey Johnston had just walked into a Tilted Kilt restaurant after a long trip where he had a chance to watch his son, Joey Johnston Jr., pitch for the Keystone Little League team. He was proudly donning his Keystone baseball cap, and that gave one of his dinner companions an idea.

"One of my colleagues said, 'Why don't you ask the waitress to wear the cap, and I'll take a picture of you,'" Johnston said. "She put it on her head, and we got a picture, and it was pretty funny."

The next day, Johnston attended an event at the Hall of Fame where he had a chance to see some former Tampa Bay Buccaneers players he covered as a writer for The Tampa Tribune, like quarterback Brad Johnson.

"I got my cap on my head, and remembering the night before, thought it might be fun if I asked Brad to do the same thing," Johnston said. And he did.

Seeing that the different sports celebrities in attendance were having fun with it, Johnston kept it going, asking people like

ESPN broadcaster Chris Berman, and even NFL commissioner Roger Goodell to pose, and all of them do.

"I started putting the pictures on my Facebook page, and I knew the parents would get a kick out of it," Johnston said.

However, the journey of the Keystone cap almost stopped right there. It was fun to do at the Hall of Fame event, but even celebrities wearing a baseball hat has to get stale at some point.

"I came back, and I sort of didn't do it for a while," Johnston said. "Then, several months later, I somehow got into the habit of taking that cap wherever I went. It didn't take long, but if I ran into somebody, I would ask them to pose with the cap."

It's a tradition that continues to this day, giving Keystone Little League — which draws players from all over the surrounding area, including Pasco County — a chance to rival the exposure Plant High School received from baseball caps worn by Brad and Monica Culpepper in a season of "Survivor" on CBS.

Throughout all the famous people who have since posed with the Keystone cap, parents and friends on Facebook keep asking for more.

"It's a lot of pressure, and I try to do my best while they patiently wait for the next one," Johnston said. "I think they're sort of amazed on who has worn it so far. They think it's funny."

Johnston keeps the photos in an album on his Facebook, but has plans for something a little bigger.

"I'm thinking I would like to do a little book on the team over the past two years, and maybe I can have it done in time for Christmas for the parents," he said. "It would-



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO

Joey Johnston poses with his well-traveled Keystone Little League baseball cap, which has been held by some of the bigger names in sports and entertainment. Johnston's son, Joey Johnston Jr., is a pitcher on the team.

n't be anything too major, but might be a nice keepsake for them."

Johnston doesn't let his hobby interfere with his work, but he's always looking for an appropriate time somewhere to bring out his cap.

"It's just pure fun," he said. "We do it for laughs, and it's great trying to find unusual

Getting to know Joey Johnston

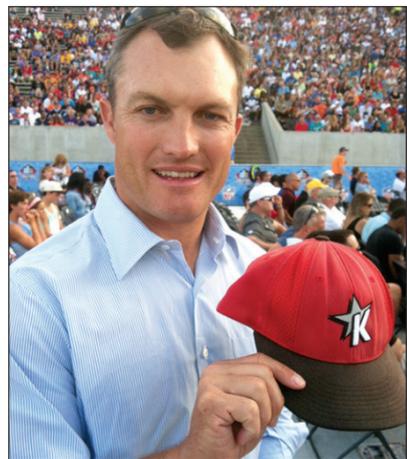
Some of the people who have mugged it up with the Keystone Little League cap include:

- Ronde Barber, retired cornerback of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- Derrick Brooks, Hall of Fame linebacker with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- Bob Buckhorn, mayor of Tampa
- Billy Donovan, head coach of the Florida Gators men's basketball team
- Tony Dungy, former coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Indianapolis Colts
- Roger Goodell, commissioner of the National Football League
- Jon Gruden, former coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- John Lynch, retired strong safety with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- Joe Maddon, manager of the Tampa Bay Rays
- Kelly Nash, Sun Sports broadcast team
- Jerry Springer, syndicated talk show host
- Stu Sternberg, principal owner of the Tampa Bay Rays
- Tampa Bay Buccaneers cheerleaders
- Tim Tebow, free agent football quarterback
- Dick Vitale, former coach and ESPN broadcaster

people to wear the hat."

He's always scouting for new prospects.

"I'm going to try and milk it for a few more months," he said. "I've got Lovie Smith on my radar."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOEY JOHNSTON

Joey Johnston, a sports reporter for an area daily newspaper, looks for good opportunities to convince celebrities to pose with his Keystone cap, like retired Tampa Bay Buccaneers strong safety John Lynch.



This snowman might not be famous, but Joey Johnston felt he would be perfect to pose with his Keystone Cap during a trip to Montana.



Football might be Tim Tebow's game, but he had no problem posing with a baseball cap from the Keystone Little League team.



Jon Gruden, who led the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to its only Super Bowl win more than a decade ago, is still never too busy to pose with Joey Johnston's Keystone cap.

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Dade City train issue draws federal attention

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

A problem with CSX Corp., stopping trains in the middle of intersections in Dade City has drawn attention not just from local officials, like Dade City city manager William Poe and Pasco County sheriff Chris Nocco, but from a Congressman as well.

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis says he has initiated a Federal Railroad Administration investigation into CSX after the company twice stopped trains in the middle of roads, because of what it said were federally mandated stop times for workers.

"As Pasco County's voice in the United States Congress, I echo the concerns raised by the police chief, sheriff and other community leaders regarding the recent CSX situation," Bilirakis, R-Palm Harbor, said in a release. "These preventable delays posed not only considerable inconvenience to residents, but more importantly, they represented an irresponsible and flagrant disregard for the public safety needs of our community."

It's not exactly clear what the railroad administration will be able to do. However, Bilirakis said he was assured by officials within the agency that they will conduct a "thorough investigation into what occurred in both cases, and take proactive steps to ensure that similar incidents are avoided."

The problem stemmed from two separate incidents in July and August where engineers stopped trains after meeting the maximum number of hours they could work. The engines, according to local officials, were left running and unattended, in one case blocking three of the four available intersections in and out of a neighborhood for more than five hours.

That resulted in an angry letter from Poe soon after, decrying CSX for creating potential safety issues, and forcing local law enforcement to help secure the train and direct traffic.

"This thoughtless action on the part of your crew created a tremendous strain on our ability to provide essential public safety services," Poe said in a July 16 letter to CSX. "The area adjacent to the train tracks is a residential neighborhood, and the roadways that were blocked provide the main access to numerous other neighborhoods, schools, parks, (a) cemetery and other facilities. A high volume of pedestrians, as well as vehicular traffic, go through this neighborhood on a daily basis."

CSX responded to the complaints by saying it would work to avoid blocking



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO

Railroad crossings are dangerous places, but city and county officials in Dade City say it's become even more dangerous after two separate instances where CSX trains have blocked a number of intersections for hours. CSX says it will break up train cars in the future, so that vehicles can still pass through.

intersections for long periods of time in the future. And when it does, it will give local officials a heads up, and separate train cars so that intersections are clear for vehicular traffic.

A CSX spokeswoman told The Laker/Lutz News in a statement last week that the company "apologizes for the disruptions caused by trains blocking road crossings in Dade City. We understand the frustrations of residents and local officials, and are making operational adjustments. CSX will make every attempt to keep trains running through Dade City, except under emergency circumstances."

CSX also heard from Bilirakis' office as well.

"I also called leaders within CSX to put them on notice that this type of behavior is unacceptable, and will not be tolerated," Bilirakis said. "The people of Pasco do deserve better than this, and I will not rest until I receive assurances that those responsible will be held accountable, and that proper plans are in place to prioritize the health, safety and well-being of our community."

The Federal Railroad Administration is one of 10 agencies within the U.S. Department of Transportation that deals with intermodal transportation, according to the group's website. Led by fifth-generation railroader Joseph Szabo, it was created by the Department of Transportation Act of 1966.

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Arthur Kirk retiring from Saint Leo University

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Arthur Kirk Jr. says he will retire as president of Saint Leo University after the 2014-15 academic year.

"While presidents often get credit for success, I am most proud of those at Saint Leo who embraced our mission, practiced our values, and pursued our vision, never fearing change, and working tirelessly to create a successful and sustainable university for the 21st century," Kirk said, in a release. "The faculty, staff, trustees, alumni and friends have all been an integral part of what stands today as the third largest Catholic university in America."

When Kirk first joined Saint Leo as its president, it was known as Saint Leo College, and had a student body of a little more than 7,400. However, in his nearly 18 years, that number has more than doubled to 16,450 students served by more than 240 faculty members, and offering 48 degree programs, from the 22 available when Kirk first started.

Kirk's tenure also included the founding of the Center for Online Learning, which serves students all over the world. The physical campus itself continues to grow as well, with 11 new buildings over the years, and three renovated buildings, adding 70 acres and 1 million square feet of facilities.

Retiring was not an easy decision for Kirk, according to a release. And he said he would miss the students more than anything else.

"They stand as role models by practicing our core values while on campus, and then

living them in the world as alumni," Kirk said. "Saint Leo University is not about a president; it is the collective seeking each day to go from good to great. I will miss leading and working with such a wonderful collection of men and women with purpose."

Saint Leo's board of trustees already has contracted with an executive search firm, Witt/Keiffer, to help find a successor to Kirk. The search, they said, will be nationwide.

"The board of trustees takes seriously its role in finding the next leader for these dedicated people, and most importantly for our students," said Cindy Brannen, the board's chair, in a release. "The university can never repay Dr. Kirk for all he has done at Saint Leo but we will start by working diligently to appoint a president who shares the university's commitment to its mission, values and vision, and embraces his legacy of hard work and dedication."

Kirk became the eighth president of Saint Leo in 1997 after serving as president of Keuka College in upstate New York. He had begun his administrative career at Kean University in New Jersey where he served as assistant director of the division of college development, and director of alumni affairs.

Kirk moved on to become the executive vice president and chief financial officer of College Misericordia in northeastern Pennsylvania.

He received his bachelor's degree and his master's degree in administration from Kean University. He earned his doctorate from Rutgers University.



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Tierra del Sol! Great 4/2.5/2 family home with plenty of room to grow, upgraded kitchen with maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances and granite counter tops. Master bedroom has tray ceilings with a walk-in closet. Must see to appreciate! **\$185K.** (lit)



Lexington Oaks Village! One owner 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 car garage home has a split bedroom plan perfect for in-law accommodations. This home is located on a dead end street. Screened lanai and a picket fenced backyard with a scenic pond view. **\$199.9K.** (ris)



5015 Sq. Ft. 6 Bedroom Home on 1.18 Acres! This spacious home features 2 living areas plus a mother-in-law suite and 2 master bedrooms! The front area has 4 bedrooms and 2 baths with a living room, dining area and 2 car garage. **\$499K.** (asp)



Devonwood Villa! Move-in ready 2/2/2 on a pond in a upscale gated community. Large great room floor plan with trayed ceilings, diagonal ceramic tile, upgraded ceiling fans, a true gourmet kitchen with custom 42" cabinets, tile backsplash and granite countertops. **\$227K.** (dev)



Trinity Preserve! Great new home still under the builder warranty! ****NOT IN FLOOD ZONE** FLOOD ZONE X** NOT A SHORT SALE **** This almost brand new 6/3/3 home with 3,889 sq. ft. sits on a retention pond and is surrounded by nature. **\$369.9K.** (mou)



Valencia Gardens! This beautiful 3/2/2 home is a split floor plan with all new laminated wood flooring in bedrooms and tile throughout balance of home. Relax in the screen room while enjoying the natural beauty of the spring fed 3 acre pond. **\$179.5K.** (bil)



Lexington Oaks Pool Home! This spacious 4/3.2/3 home has over 3600 Sq. Ft. of living space, Travertine tile in living area, lots of crown molding and 10 Ft. ceilings. Kitchen features dark Maple cabinets, granite countertops, food prep island and more! **\$359K.** (sil)



Meadowbrook Estates Pool Home! Totally remodeled 3/2/2 on over an acre of land, with NO CDD!! NO HOA!! New tile roof, new A/C, granite counter tops in kitchen and baths, stainless steel appliances and new kitchen and bathroom cabinets. **\$299.9K.** (win)



Lexington Oaks! This 3/2/2 beauty is on a low traffic cul-de-sac street. Open great room design with high ceilings, wraparound formal dining plus an eat-in kitchen featuring stainless steel appliances. PVC privacy fenced yard with a barbecue area. **\$169.9K.** (win)



Twin Lakes Pool Home! Completely remodeled 3/2/2 home screened pool on a cul-de-sac, formal living room and dining room with vaulted ceilings and laminate flooring. Large family room with sliders leading to the screened lanai and pool. **\$209K.** (asa)

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San Antonio! Tampa Bay Golf & Tennis Club 2 bedroom 2 bath rooms and a 2 car garage with beautiful wood flooring, crown molding, granite in kitchen and more. Come live the 55+ Community Country Club life. **\$149.9K.** (tee)



Carrollwood Meadows Pool Home! Move-in ready 4/2.5/1 home with a huge bonus room or in-law suite. Fenced backyard with pool, lots of storage, separate living room and family room, plus a dining room and the kitchen opens to the family room. **\$196.2K.** (pro)



Crossings at Lake Tarpon! Move-in ready 3/2/2 private pool home on conservation lot with no back yard neighbors. Improvement to the property includes new flooring in the bedroom, painting, new fans and lighting, updated kitchen with granite counter-tops. **\$249.9K.** (jod)



Two Houses for the Price of One in Zephyrhills! The front section of this fully renovated 1994 mobile home features a 3 bedroom, 2 bath residence, in back private in law quarters features 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, and a fully equipped kitchen. **\$174.9K.** (way)



Townhouse in Tampa! Amazing 2/2.5/1 townhome with a private backyard, freshly painted, new carpet, and new decking. Main level features huge living and dining room and dining room with vaulted ceilings and laminate flooring. Large family room with sliders leading to the screened lanai and pool. **\$115K.** (woo)



Sabal Harbour in Bradenton! This 4/2/3 with formal living and dining rooms greet you with wood floor on the dining room and neutral 18 x 18 porcelain tile in the living room and throughout the house. Huge kitchen with an island and has maple cabinets. **\$290K.** (cay)



North Bay Condominium in Tampa! Great for investment or first time home buyers. This condo has 2 bedrooms and 2 baths, an eat-in space in the kitchen, a large family room and is close to pool. **\$39.9K.** (new)



Westchase Pool Home! Beautiful 3/2/2 with a great lanai and pool area, formal living & dining rooms are combined and great for entertaining. Spacious kitchen with extra-large island, closet pantry, built in desk, breakfast nook and a fantastic family room. **\$325K.** (sto)



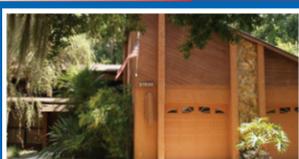
Lakeshore Village in Tarpon Springs! Adorable 3/2/2 house located in desirable community with a pristine conservation view. Ideally located on a tree lined street of larger homes, this home features a great room and a split bedroom floor plan. **\$229K.** (cen)



Oak Crest Estates in Zephyrhills! Completely remodeled 3/2/2 on an oversized lot, new carpet, new paint, new stainless steel appliances, large kitchen with a breakfast bar and pantry. Spacious open great room floor plan with ceiling fans and vaulted ceilings. **\$139.9K.** (oak)

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Lake Marjorie Estates! Amazing waterfront 3/2/4 home with an enormous living and dining room, gourmet kitchen with all the bells and whistles including stainless steel appliances, granite countertop and an island cook top with butcher block. **\$2100/mo.** (hop)



Grand Oaks! This 4/3/2 has a split bedroom plan with living room, formal dining room, kitchen features eat in space, ample cabinet storage, pantry, and breakfast bar. Master bedroom has sliders to lanai, large walk-in closet and master bath with garden tub. **\$1450/mo.** (ged)



Timber Lake Estates! Lovely 2/2/2 manufactured home with a spacious living area, washer and dryer in unit, screened lanai and a beautiful water view make this a must see! Included is lawn maintenance, water, sewer, and trash. **\$800/mo.** (bro)



Oak Creek! This beautiful and well maintained 3/2/2 home is located in the appealing community of Oak creek and includes a community pool and amenities for Tenants. **\$1500/mo.** (blu)



Wilderness Lake Preserve! Stunning 3 bed room plus den 2 bath home in great location. This home features a very open and airy floor plan, tile in all the right places, nice kitchen with lots of cabinets and counter space and a breakfast bar. **\$1595/mo.** (gre)

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Gators look to build on last year, reach playoffs

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

Nobody can accuse Land O' Lakes High School of having a poor season in 2013.

They went 8-2 and held half their opponents to 14 points or less — including two shutouts — while scoring more than 30 points in each of six games. In many respects, they were a dominant team.

For most schools, those results might be good enough for a district title, or at least a playoff berth as district runner-up. But the Gators stayed home for the post-season because their two losses were to district foes Springstead and Sunlake, who finished ahead of them in Class 6A-District 6.

Head coach Brian Wachtel expects his team to remember what happened and apply some of those lessons from last season.

"It's like being in a 100-meter race and the last 20 yards just not being able to kick it in," Wachtel said. "And I think they've grown from that and worked hard and learned a lot from it. And they're going to put a lot of that into this upcoming season."

And the upcoming season should feature a good number of those players back in the huddle. Land O' Lakes will return eight starters on offense from last year, including several skill positions. Having that many players return on one side of the ball is an asset for a team looking to build on last year, the coach said.

"I think it's great for consistency when you have guys back that know what they're doing, they've been in the system, they've got game experience, they're more seasoned," Wachtel said. "I think that definitely helps you when you're going into the season."

One of the returning players is quarterback James Pensyl. He was one of the area's top passers last year with a nose for the end zone and a knack for limiting turnovers.

Pensyl, who has made an oral commitment to Oregon State University, can tell the offensive line has improved just by having more time to execute in practice compared to last year.

"Going against our defense in practice (last year), I barely had any time to throw



MICHAEL MURILLO/STAFF PHOTO

An improved offensive line is giving the quarterback more time to make plays in practice, Land O' Lakes' James Pensyl said.

the ball," he said. "This year I have time. I have the time I'm supposed to have. I can make my drops and make the reads."

The receivers also are showing more experience, with good knowledge of the routes and where they're supposed to be on the field, Pensyl said.

Wachtel, now in his fourth year coaching the team, acknowledges that they play in a competitive district with difficult opponents. But the Gators already have proven they can win games, and are looking to finish stronger than last season, when they went 2-2 over their final four contests after beginning the year with six straight wins.

How they finish will once again be critical to their playoff fortunes, but right now the team is more focused on how they'll start their 2014 campaign. Their schedule is back loaded with district games — they don't face a team that defeated them last year until mid-October.

But the Gators aren't looking past Week 1. Wachtel doesn't want his team worrying about future opponents when they have other teams to face first.

"There's no sense in looking down the road because you've got to take care of

2014 Gators Schedule

8/29 — at River Ridge	10/10 — at Hudson
9/5 — Anclote	10/17 — Sunlake
9/12 — at Ridgewood	10/24 — at Fivay
9/19 — Mitchell	10/31 — at Springstead
9/26 — Gulf	11/7 — Lecanto

everything in the beginning," he said. "We just go week by week."

The players have bought into the system, aren't looking ahead, and are making progress toward the kind of focus and consistency required to be successful, Wachtel said. He also credits the coaching staff with helping build a strong foundation for a winning program.

But in the end, it's not the assistant coaches nor Wachtel himself who will determine the team's outcome in 2014. For all the preparations, game plans, workouts and practices, it's the players who will have to take care of business when the games count.

"Those are the guys who've got to pull it off out there on Friday night," Wachtel said. "We can put them in a position to be successful, but they've got to pull the trigger."

LAND O' LAKES GATORS

LAST YEAR: 8-2

2-2 in the district
third place in Class 6A-District 6

KEY RETURNING PLAYERS

James Pensyl, quarterback
Ethan Weiland, wide receiver
Anthony Hendrix, safety

PLAYER TO WATCH

Conor Heaney, defensive line
"He's a talented kid. When he cranks it up, he moves well. It's a matter of getting out there on the field on Friday night and going 100 miles an hour." — Coach Brian Wachtel

And Pensyl is eager to do just that, by leading a team that will try to limit mistakes and play up to its potential.

"We're definitely a playoff-caliber team," he said. "We're the only team that can keep ourselves from the playoffs."

PPAL gets up close with Tampa Bay Bucs

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

Football season is almost here, but for members of the Wesley Chapel Bulls, it got an early start during a recent visit with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at One Buc Place.

Members of the Pasco Police Athletic League had a chance to watch the Buccaneers, under head coach Lovie Smith, practice, and then received some pointers from some of the players afterward. It's the kind of access not every young football player gets, said Pasco County Sheriff's Office liaison Cpl. Mary Guyer.

"On that Monday, we got rained out, so the kids didn't get to go out on the field," she said. "But on Tuesday, they were able to get out there again, and got autographs, pictures, and some training on the practice field."

PPAL took several hundred kids from teams like the Bulls over a two-day period to meet and greet the Bucs before they start their 2014 season. The league got a boost this month when Wesley Chapel Toyota donated \$5,000 to the league, which will help some of the underprivileged players who might not be able to afford uniforms to be able to do just that.

Guyer has her own connection with the Bucs. Former linebacker Derrick Brooks, who was recently elected as the third Buccaneer to join the Pro Football Hall of



COURTESY OF MARY GUYER

Zachary Wood, left, and Giovanni Irizarry of the Pasco Police Athletic League football team the Wesley Chapel Bulls, pose with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers mascot during a visit to a preseason training session with the professional team. The event included autographs and some tips from some of the veteran players.

Fame, has given Guyer the title of "sheriff of football." Guyer works closely with PPAL as representative of the sheriff's office.

This weekend is a bye week for the league because of Labor Day, but games resume Sept. 6 with contests including Land O' Lakes vs. Dade City, Trinity vs. Hudson and Wesley Chapel vs. Zephyrhills. Fields locally are located at Pasco High School in Dade City, the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex on Collier Parkway, Sam Pasco Park in Zephyrhills, and Wesley Chapel District Park on Boyette Road.

To learn more about the league, visit PascoPAL.com.



LOL STARS GOLF TOURNEY SEPT. 20

The Land O' Lakes Stars Baseball Club will host a fundraising golf tournament Sept. 20 at the Lexington Oaks Golf Course, 26133 Lexington Oaks Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

The event will help the little league team raise funds for a trip to Cooperstown, N.Y. Sponsorships are available. For information, visit LOLStars.org.

SOCCER ACADEMY FROM GRACE COMMUNITY

Grace Soccer Club will host its 3v3 Academy for children in first through sixth grade.

The program is designed to strengthen soccer skills, sportsmanship and faith.

The cost for the six-program session is \$25. They will be on Wednesday nights Sept. 10, Sept. 17 and Sept. 24, as well as Oct. 1, Oct. 8 and Oct. 15 at the church's property on Boyette Road.

For information, call (813) 994-9363, visit ExploreGrace.com, or e-mail soccer@exploregrace.com.

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Senior Sports is seeking players older than 60 for a number of regular co-ed sporting events, including Slo-Pitch softball for fall and winter competition.

Senior Sports has participants who play golf every Wednesday and bowling every Thursday. It also has added tennis and indoor volleyball.

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

REGISTRATION FOR ADULT SOCCER LEAGUE ONGOING

The New APSL, a recreational but competitive league for men and women, will have registration for fall leagues through

Aug. 30. The season begins Sept. 7.

Men's, women's and co-ed games are played Sunday afternoons at Benito Middle School, 10101 Cross Creek Blvd., in New Tampa. For information, visit NewAPSL.com, or call (747) 999-5425.

NEW TENNIS LEAGUE

The Tri-County Tennis League is looking for individuals, teams and facilities to begin league play.

It will include age divisions from 40s and older. League play also will feature ratings-only play regardless of age.

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

T-SHIRTS SUPPORT CROSS-COUNTRY COACH

"I Run For Keppel" T-shirts are available to help support Land O' Lakes High School cross-country coach Kris Keppel, who is battling pancreatic cancer.

The shirts are \$15 each, with all proceeds going to Keppel.

For information or to make a donation, call (813) 406-5730, or email carolyn011jr@hotmail.com or kbdehaas@aol.com.

SOCCER LEAGUE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The Greater Tampa Bay Football Club is now accepting registrations for its fall and winter soccer league.

The league is open to boys and girls in north Hillsborough and Pasco counties from ages 5 through 19.

To register, visit GTBFC.com. For information, call Frank Coorey at (727) 423-8886, or e-mail fcoorey@verizon.net.

SENIOR SOFTBALL REGISTRATION IN SEPTEMBER

A 60-and-older co-ed slow-pitch softball league will have registration and drafts Sept. 12, Sept. 19 and Sept. 26 from 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex, 3032 Collier Parkway at Field 10.

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

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Technology, band march to new fundraising beat

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

Bake sales, car washes, spaghetti dinners. There's so many traditional ways to raise money for a good cause.

But when the Wiregrass Ranch High School percussion program decided it was time to transform from a strong winter drum line to a premier one, they realized their efforts to raise \$25,000 would have to be far from traditional.

"I had to recreate our fundraising strategy a little bit," said second-year band director Patrick Duncan. "Our families were just selling to each other, and it didn't do us any good when mom and dad were just looking for the same coworkers all the time, asking if they can buy this, or if they can buy that. At a certain point, they are not going to buy, and parents get really turned off from fundraising."

A lot of money nowadays is being raised online, through crowdfunding websites like Kickstarter or Indiegogo. Duncan and his team, however, chose GoFundMe, a site that has raised more than \$400 million for various fundraisers since its launch.

Unlike Kickstarter, GoFundMe will fund a campaign, even if the financial goal is not met. And unlike Indiegogo, the band would not have to wait for a campaign to end before they can start withdrawing money.

That means once Wiregrass Ranch's band raises \$900, for example, it could buy a set of low-octave crotales. A little more than \$5,000 would be just enough to pay for a studio vibraphone.

"They don't penalize you for taking out money early," Duncan said. "And if you don't meet your goal, you can keep the money raised, and continue to try and raise more funds until you get what you need."

The money will purchase 14 sets of instruments including three vibraphones, a marimba, two crotales, a snare drum, and four pairs of marching cymbals. These instruments will let the percussion line expand from its current 15 to 18 during marching season, to more than 30 in the wintertime as part of an indoor percussion line.

It would be the area's second indoor percussion line, joining the existing one at Sunlake High School.

"Our percussionists basically don't have a performance avenue after marching season ends" in November, Duncan said. "By doing this line, we have something that can join with our winter guard, and it's very musically engaging. There are some really fast-moving lines, and it's always based on some kind of concept, some kind of story. It's like something you might see in a performing arts center."

Duncan already has percussionists ready to join the line once the instruments are bought, and some of his other band members — even those in the wind instruments like trumpets and tubas — have expressed an interest in broadening their musical horizons.

The indoor drum line would perform at area events, including competitions in Plant City and Daytona Beach — the latter an event that typically draws more than 3,000 people.



The Wiregrass Ranch High School marching band's drum line practices after school with players like, from left, Alex Dabrow, Robert Rodriguez, Ashleigh Hans and Sam Ryan. The line is raising \$25,000, so that they can keep playing after marching season ends in November.

MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTOS

Donate right now to the Wiregrass Ranch High School percussion program. Visit GoFundMe.com/WiregrassPercussion.

Duncan wants the new line to start this school year, but to make it happen, he would have to have auditions right after the Thanksgiving break, with first rehearsals set for just after Christmas. While he could get the line together with just half the money he wants to raise, Duncan is really hoping the community will pull through and help put Wiregrass Ranch's musical program on the map.

"We have too many percussionists right now, which is a good problem to have," he said. "You have them going in and out during performances so that they can all get a chance to play, and sometimes you even double up parts so you can include more people. But that doesn't always make much sense, as that's not the way the composer intended for it to be played."

As of Monday, the band has raised a little more than \$400 in the campaign. Most of the donations have been in the \$25 range, although GoFundMe is capable of accepting larger contributions. Wiregrass Ranch is set up at GoFundMe.com/WiregrassPercussion.

"We started this in hopes that we can find some people who are interested in giving back, and giving to a cause," Duncan said. "This will give a lot of students the opportunity to get that performance time in their spring semester, and it's something audiences will not want to miss."



Brandon Serrata belts out some chords on the keyboard during a recent percussion line practice at Wiregrass Ranch High School.



There's always room for a trap set, even in marching band, as Joseph Gallagher proves during a recent practice at Wiregrass Ranch High School.



Haley Frederick doubles up on her mallets on the vibraphone, as part of Wiregrass Ranch High School's marching band percussion line. She would be one of the players joining an indoor drum line, if the band can raise enough money online to buy additional instruments.

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Hillsborough County pet shelter unveils all new surgical suite

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The Pet Resource Center, Hillsborough County's public animal shelter, has unveiled its new state-of-the-art veterinary suite aimed at helping the community's homeless animals.

An expanded medical facility has replaced the shelter's former surgical room. This will allow the county's veterinarians and technicians to now perform up to 70 surgeries and 50 examinations a day, according to a release. The new veterinary suites are expected to increase adoptions by making more pets healthier and available faster.

While the bulk of the surgeries performed at the Pet Resource Center are the spay and neuter sterilizations of adoptable shelter pets, county veterinarians are routinely called upon to perform other skilled medical procedures, such as eyelid repairs, life-saving amputations, and even forensic testing for investigators.

The county's newly upgraded medical suite also allows members of the veterinary staff more opportunities to perform a larger number of the treatments most commonly needed by shelter animals. These include blood and skin tests to properly diagnose and treat issues such as heartworms, skin diseases, viruses and other maladies frequently found in homeless and neglected pets.

County veterinarians also will utilize the shelter's first-ever digital radiograph machine. The new acquisition will be instrumental for quickly revealing information that saves time and lives, county officials said.

The X-ray machine and other veterinary tools aid animal cruelty investigations, put more pets on the path to adoption, and cut costs by eliminating the need to send animals to outside facilities.

The veterinary facilities are to be utilized strictly for the care, treatment and sterilization of the animals in temporary residence at the county shelter. Residents seeking care for



COURTESY OF MARTI RYAN

Dr. Bill Zingalie checks out a young dog at the new Pet Resource Center at Hillsborough County's public animal shelter. The new facility will allow veterinarians to perform up to 70 surgeries and 50 examinations each day.

owned pets are reminded by officials to visit their family veterinarian.

Because the Pet Resource Center often is the first place to receive the community's lost and surrendered pets, shelter officials said they hope to be the first place adopters consider when bringing home a new pet.

The facility, located at 440 N. Falkenburg Road in Tampa, is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., for adoptions, lost pet searches, and county pet license tags. All animal adoptions include spay and neuter surgery, microchipping and vaccinations.

For more information on pet adoption in Hillsborough County, call the Pet Resource Center at (813) 744-5660, or visit HillsboroughCounty.org/Pets.

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If you would like to invite Dolce and Molly into your family, email Cat Crusaders at adopt@tampacatcrusaders.org. For more information about other adoptable cats, visit TampaCatCrusaders.org/animals/list.

Verizon teams up with Humane Society

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The Humane Society of Tampa Bay was buzzing with activity recently as families looking to adopt pets had an opportunity to do just that at half-price.

The Humane Society offered the promotion in connection with its Race Into Fall event with Verizon, which featured an Indy show car, a racecar simulator, giveaways, food and music at its Tampa location.

On any given weekend, the Humane Society averages up to 70 adoptions. The special, however, generated 100 adoptions for the entire weekend.

"We were ecstatic to see 100 animals go

to loving homes," said Sherry Silk, the local executive director of the Humane Society, in a release. "Not only is it wonderful for them, but every adopted animal leaves behind an open kennel for another pet in need. We are extremely grateful to Verizon for helping us save more lives."

Verizon's Florida region topped off the event when operations president Jeanmarie Milla presented the Humane Society with a check for \$10,000. The two organizations plan to continue the event on an annual basis.

The Humane Society of Tampa Bay is located at 3809 N. Armenia Ave., in Tampa. For information, call (813) 876-7138.



A true pet ambassador

Nirvana is a 2-year-old American bulldog and hound cross that loves to play. She is one of the 'Ambassadors' playgroup members, and has yet to find a dog she does not get along with. She is very kind and affectionate, and loves to play with people as well. And she seems to know commands. She is very well-rounded, and would be a great addition to any family.

To adopt Nirvana or pets like her, visit Pasco County Animal Services at 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes. All big, black or brown dogs are available for half off the normal adoption cost in August. The fees are \$35 for a dog that includes spay/neuter, heartworm test, vaccines and microchip. For more information, email adoptionpartners@pascocountyfl.net.

Together Against Rabies

Bring your pets & celebrate World Rabies Day with us!



Date: September 27, 2014 **Time:** 10:00am-3:00pm

Location: Ridge Manor Community Center
34240 Cortez Blvd • Dade City, FL 33523

Cost: Free admission

Rabies vaccinations: Free vaccination for dogs and cats (does not include county license)



All cats must be in a carrier. All dogs must be on a 6 ft leash or in a carrier.

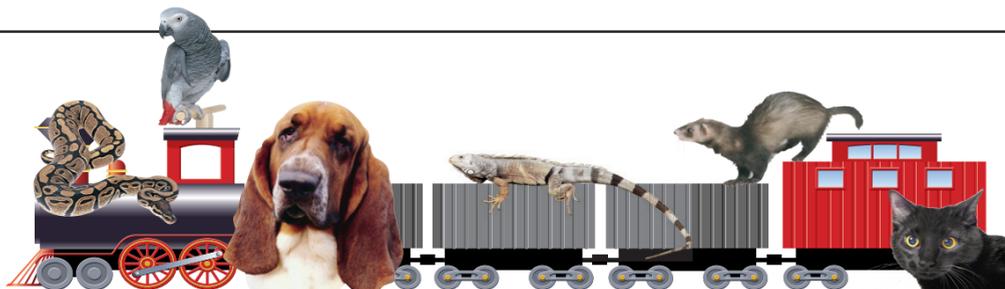
Event will include educational seminars, information on rabies disease and prevention, and a rabies vaccination clinic for dogs and cats. Everyone in the community is invited to attend. Snacks, Food, and Beverages will be available for sale.

For more information please contact Joya Coen with GentleCare Pet Hospital at 813-949-4416 or via email: vet@gentlecarepethospital.com



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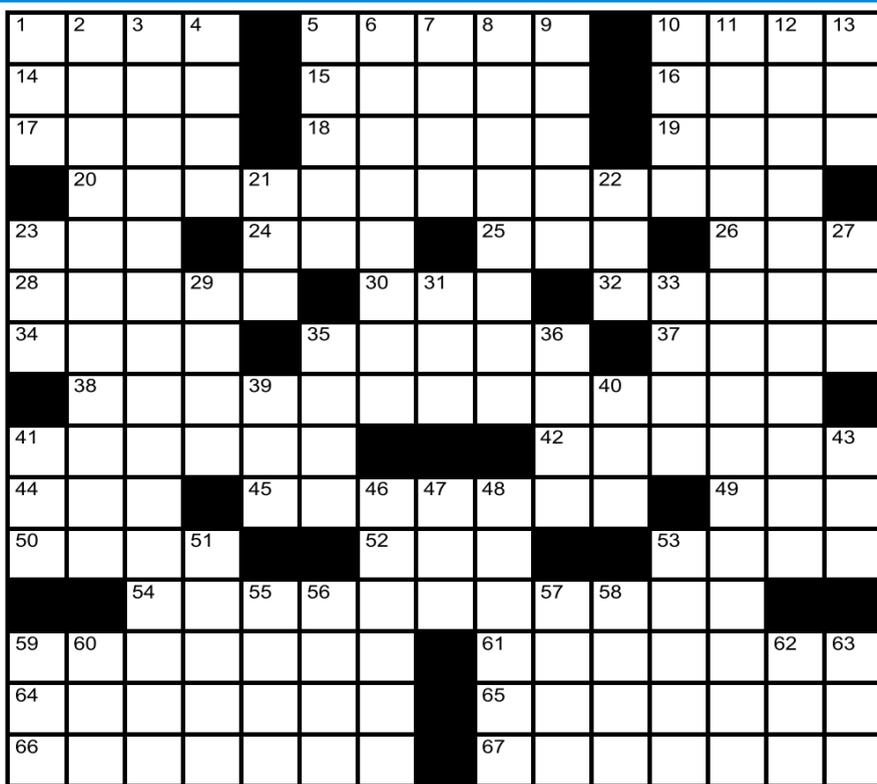
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Entries must be received by the Monday following publication date

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City: _____
Zip: _____



ACROSS

- 1. Intensifies, with "up"
- 5. Minute marine animal with transparent body
- 10. Network of nerves
- 14. In need of resupply, maybe
- 15. Ever (2 wds)
- 16. Chemistry Nobelist Otto
- 17. Soon, to a bard
- 18. Hen
- 19. Blows it
- 20. Assign too low a value
- 23. Australian runner
- 24. Fold, spindle or mutilate
- 25. Grassland
- 26. Beldam
- 28. Orange peels
- 30. ___-Wan Kenobi
- 32. Basil-based sauce
- 34. Fungal spore sacs
- 35. Change, as the Constitution
- 37. Put an edge on
- 38. Inhabitant of western African country (2 wds)
- 41. Crown
- 42. Foray
- 44. Nancy, in Nancy
- 45. Hereditary rulers
- 49. Atlanta-based station (acronym)
- 50. Again
- 52. Mythical monster
- 53. Prefix with phone
- 54. Sorcerer
- 59. Pathetic
- 61. Native of Laos
- 64. Orphaned child with new legal family
- 65. Olive stuffing
- 66. Haunt
- 67. Conveyed by horse-drawn sled

DOWN

- 1. "The ___ Daba Honeymoon"
- 2. Emancipation
- 3. Official declamations
- 4. E-mail, e.g.
- 5. Pelvic bones
- 6. Fatty deposit on artery lining
- 7. Golden Triangle country
- 8. The story told in a novel or play (2 wds)
- 9. One addicted to drinking
- 10. Perlman of "Cheers"
- 11. Momentous
- 12. Ominous
- 13. "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.
- 21. Dash lengths
- 22. Blueprint
- 23. Victorian, for one
- 27. Caught
- 29. Went out, as a fire
- 31. ___ canto
- 33. The America's Cup trophy, e.g.
- 35. ___ brat
- 36. Biblical verb
- 39. Cabernet, e.g.
- 40. Discouraging words
- 41. ___ lab (abbrev.)
- 43. In-flight info, for short
- 46. Snares
- 47. Branch
- 48. Buys and sells securities for quick profits
- 51. Blubbers
- 53. Allotted, with "out"
- 55. Pigeon's home
- 56. Regrets
- 57. Catch
- 58. Dog command
- 59. Drivel
- 60. Altar avowal (2 wds)
- 62. Absorbed, as a cost
- 63. Affirmative action

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B

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BUSINESS DIGEST

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WOMEN-N-CHARGE MEETING

Women-n-Charge will meet Sept. 5 from 11:30 a.m., at Pebble Creek Country Club, 10550 Regents Park Drive in Tampa.

The meeting includes lunch, a featured speaker, and networking. Cost is \$15 for members, and those who register the Tuesday before the meeting, and \$18 for everyone else.

For information, call (813) 600-9849, or email admin@women-n-charge.com.

NEW TAMPA ROTARY MEETINGS

The Rotary Club of New Tampa is welcoming Karen Frasier as its guest speaker Sept. 5 at 7 a.m., at Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club, 5811 Tampa Palms Blvd.

Other upcoming speakers include Rotary district governor Gary Gunter on Sept. 12, Advocates for World Health founder Ryan Kania on Sept. 19, and Mickey Castor from the League of Women Voters on Sept. 26.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR BUSINESS AWARDS

Bright House Networks and local chambers of commerce are seeking nominations for its second annual Regional Business Awards.

The awards honor companies, organizations and people who have made an impact with their products, services and thought leadership in the business community.

Nominations are currently being accepted through Sept. 26 in four categories ranging from small business to large business, including a category for start-ups.

Bright House will award prizes including

commercial television production, airtime, customer newsletter and cash, with a total value of more than \$1 million.

Those interested in applying can visit tinyurl.com/BrightHouseAwards.

The winning businesses will be honored at a dinner Feb. 5 at the Tampa Convention Center.

The \$100 application fee is waived for members of local participating chambers of commerce.

MORE JOBS IN FLORIDA

The job sector in Florida continues to grow, with another 2,100 people given an opportunity to earn a paycheck in July.

That helped the state's unemployment rate drop to 6.2 percent, down from the 7.3 percent recorded a year ago, but flat with June.

Florida's unemployment rate has steadily dropped since clocking in at 11.1 percent in late 2010, and has followed the economic recovery of the rest of the nation as it emerged from the Great Recession. The annual job growth rate, however, has exceeded the nation's rate since April 2012, Gov. Rick Scott's office said, creating 620,300 jobs since December 2010.

In July, the state's 24 regional workforce boards reported more than 39,100 people were placed in jobs. This counts anyone who receives employment and training assistance through a CareerSource Center, and finds a job within 180 days. Of these people, a little more than 8,000 received unemployment benefits, according to a release.

WINN-DIXIE JOINS FORCES WITH GATORS, SEMINOLES

Winn-Dixie, with locations throughout the region, has finalized a multi-year, multi-sport agreement to become the official exclusive supermarket of the University of Florida and Florida State University.

The agreements pair nearly 400 Florida-based Winn-Dixie stores with two of the largest and successful collegiate sports brands, the company said in a release.

With the official designation at both schools, Winn-Dixie secures the exclusive



COURTESY OF TIM TREBLE

Businesses helping vets

Volunteers like Wes Van Hout, left, Jan Roberts, Rene Van Hout, Austin Williamson, Karen Horgan, Robin Hanna and Sam Mendolera, collect donations to help struggling and homeless veterans and families through Metropolitan Ministries. The office staff of LOL Transport & Moving at the intersection of Land O' Lakes Boulevard and Ehren Cutoff are collecting items like shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream, and feminine products. To get someone from LOL Transport to pick up donations, call (813) 996-3775.

use of the athletic logos and trademarks in its advertising, signage and other marketing platforms throughout the year, including consumer promotions that will provide fans with the chance to win a variety of prizes tied to their favorite school and sport.

The partnership also will provide Winn-Dixie prominent presence and its customers VIP access during football tailgating festivities outside of Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee and Ben Hill Griffin Stadium in Gainesville.

BANK STANDS UP TO CANCER

Fifth Third Bank has returned its "Pay to the Order Of" campaign that earlier this year raised more than \$2.3 million for Stand Up to Cancer.

The campaign was first launched in January and leverages new checking accounts to help drive donations that support collaborative cancer research programs, the

company said in a release. For each new customer who opens a checking account with direct deposit, and makes three online bill payments, Fifth Third will give \$150 to the customer and donate \$150 to the cancer organization, more commonly known as SU2C.

The campaign runs through Oct. 17.

FIFTH-THIRD OFFERS STUDENT SWEEPSTAKES

Fifth Third Bank has launched its annual Student Banking Sweepstakes.

Through Sept. 30, students who open a checking account will be automatically entered into a sweepstakes offering \$10,000 toward college tuition.

Last year's winner was Tre' Watson, a rising football star at Tampa Catholic High School.

For more information, visit 53.com/students.

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