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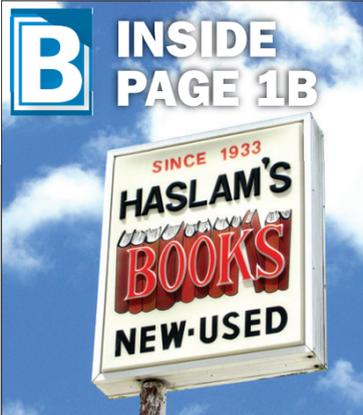
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Putting 'cool' back in Oscar Cooler

By **B.C. Manion**
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

When it comes to baseball, a level playing field is crucial.

That's one of the reasons a fundraising effort is under way to buy a better grade of clay for the baseball diamonds at the Oscar Cooler Sports Complex.

Warming up properly is important, as well, to improve form and prevent injuries. And that explains the goal of building additional batting cages for the baseball teams that compete at the park, located at 766 E. Lutz Lake Fern Road.

The fundraising effort — which includes a baseball clinic, a golf tour-

nament and an equipment drive — aims to raise money for improvements at the park, said Jeff Stanislow, a member of the Lutz Baseball board.

The organizers came up with a catchy name for their effort, asking people to "Put the Cool Back in Oscar Cooler Park." They also enlisted the aid of Lou Piniella, whose career in Major League Baseball spanned a half-century, including stints as a player, manager, broadcaster and consultant.

The University of South Florida baseball program also is pitching in by hosting a clinic for players, to

See **COOL**, page 7A



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LUTZ BASEBALL

A player warms up in a batting cage at the Oscar Cooler Sports Complex. More batting cages are needed to meet the demand.



RON LUDWIN/PHOTO

Golf is a favorite pastime of many older players, but it has not really attracted the younger generation. For golfers like Richard Buddy of Wesley Chapel, it might be harder to find golf courses in the future.

Bye Bye Birdie

Dwindling ranks of golfers handicap golf courses

By **Michael Hinman**
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

Golf courses are in trouble, and Florida — which boasts more golf courses than any other state in the nation — could be hit the hardest.

The latest to experience trouble is Scotland Yards Golf Club on U.S. 301 in Dade City. The bank that holds the mortgage

on the course, First National Bank of Pasco, started foreclosure proceedings against the 100-acre course last month. However, course owner David Rinaldo says those problems look worse than they actually are.

"The course has financial issues like every golf course in America," Rinaldo told The Laker/Lutz News in an email. "But it is not shutting down."

Golf courses are suffering financially in dif-

ferent parts of the country, especially Florida, as interest in the sport wanes from its peak over the last few decades. Last year, 160 golf courses shut down in the nation, and 300 have closed in the last few years, the National Golf Foundation reported, according to published reports.

Florida has more than 1,200 courses, enough to have one course for every 16,000 people. That's just too many for the market to sustain, one golf pro says, especially with other recreational activities that may be less time consuming and less expensive competing against the game.

"Golf was in its heyday 20 or 30 years ago, when that was the thing to do, both so-

See **GOLF**, page 7A

Veterans lobby for new VA clinic site in Pasco

By **Michael Hinman**
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

The men and women who have served our country during times of war, or in case of war, have been fighting a new conflict to ensure they have access to the federally provided health care they were promised.

But now part of that battle might turn into a turf war between the west and east sides of Pasco County.

Veterans gathered at the West Pasco Government Center last week to tell U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis where they want to build a new consolidated center made possible thanks to a Veterans Affairs bill signed by President Barack Obama last month.

The bill has set aside \$1.3 billion to create or expand 27 VA clinics around the country, including Florida's only new one — a planned 114,000-square-foot facility that would consolidate five existing locations on the west side of the county.

Many veterans have come to depend on having those centers in New Port Richey and Port Richey, and some are balking at the idea of moving the new consolidated center into Land O' Lakes, or even into Zephyrhills or Dade City.

No plans have been finalized, or even proposed, on where this new facility would take place. But a majority of those speaking up last week were pushing for the government to take over the former Community Hospital campus in New Port Richey. That hospital shut down in 2012 after its owner, HCA Healthcare, opened the new Medical Center at Trinity on State Road 54 just east of Little Road.

But bringing that building up to the standards needed for a new VA clinic could be costly.

"We tried to get Community Hospital about seven years ago," said one veteran,



MICHAEL HINMAN/STAFF PHOTO

Kathleen Fogarty, chief of the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa, shares some of the issues her facility has faced in recent months during a packed town hall meeting of veterans hosted by U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis, right.

Paul Rizzo. "We met with the VA, and they turned us down, because they said the building was unsafe. It was only built for one floor, but it's three floors."

Despite that, Rizzo wants to have the new clinic there.

"I still say that Community Hospital is one of the best places that we could use," he said. "It's been standing there for 50 years now, so how is that unsafe? They say we need a complete overhaul of the building there, but what we really need is a complete overhaul of the VA."

The Land O' Lakes area has also been shared as a possible location for a new VA clinic, since it's in central Pasco. However, east Pasco also remains on the radar simply because of the available land out there in case VA officials decide to build something new.

But getting out that way might create as many problems as simply going to the James Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa, some say. Plus, a clinic already exists near Florida

See **VETERANS**, page 7A

Bulls hope to raise big money with funny fundraiser

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

Wiregrass Ranch High School believes comedy and cross-country means some cash for their sports program.

On Sept. 7, the school's cross-country teams will benefit from a comedy show at Side Splitters Comedy Club, 12938 N. Dale Mabry Highway. The weekend's headliner, Tommy Johnagin, will perform at the 7 p.m. show, with 70 percent of admission receipts going to the school.

According to Side Splitters general manager Brian Thompson, having a comedy fundraiser is a good way to raise money and have a good time doing it.

"It's a nice way for the parents to get out and generate some money for whatever event they're raising for specifically," Thompson said. Wiregrass Ranch has had fundraisers at Side Splitters in the past, and the comedy club has also had events benefiting other groups."

The audience can seat 250, and has the potential to bring in thousands of dollars in fundraisers, he said.

Those funds would be welcome, since maintaining good teams can be expensive. It can cost between \$4,000 and \$6,000 each season to meet all expenses and maintain adequate funds in reserve, according to boys coach Chris Loth. Several rounds of T-shirts and meet entry fees can add up, with an awards ceremony thrown in as well.

Wiregrass Ranch also charters a bus for one meet each season. The school will use it this year to compete in Tallahassee.

As a result, Wiregrass Ranch must get creative with their fundraising, and pairing up with a comedy club seemed like a good fit.

"We have very supportive families and friends and alumni who are going to come



COURTESY OF TOMMYJ.COMEDY.COM
Tommy Johnagin, a 'Last Comic Standing' runner-up, performs at Side Splitters on Sept. 7. The show also is a benefit for Wiregrass Ranch High School's boys and girls cross-country teams.

out," Loth said. "So we thought it would be a good night to get some of the families together without the kids, and have a good time and raise some money as a result."

A fan of stand-up comedy, Loth is familiar with the club and the headlining comedian. He saw Johnagin at a local stop a few years back, and thought his style would be a good fit for the event. Johnagin is a regular on late-night talk shows, and placed second in an earlier season of "Last Comic Standing" on NBC.

If the event does well for the school, Loth said it could become part of their regular fundraising efforts. The Bulls already host a 5-kilometer run, sell advertising space on their T-shirts, and partner with a merchandiser to raise money.

It's important to stay creative with fundraising and not fall into a routine, he said.

"Our philosophy is we don't want to do the same thing every single year," Loth said. "We want to give lots of different people the ability to participate and reach a lot of different folks."

Loth is hoping for a sellout on Sept. 7, and could see doing a similar event every other year if it's successful.

The school would be happy to see the event match the success of the teams themselves. Wiregrass Ranch is known to have successful cross-country programs for both boys and girls. They're considered one of the top teams in Pasco County, and have a number of top 10 finishes at the state meet to their credit.

The parents have been very supportive of the team and they expect to have a successful fundraising evening at the comedy club, Loth said. As a close-knit group, he feels like everyone does their part to make sure the teams, and the program in general, maintain a level of success.

"We ask a lot of ourselves, and in turn ask a lot of our parents and they always come through for us," Loth said. "We try to make it a family, and family supports each other with whatever you're trying to accomplish."

Comedians Alex Stone and Krishna Reddy also will perform.

For more information and to buy tickets, visit SideSplittersComedy.com. Tickets purchased on the website also benefit Wiregrass Ranch's cross-country teams.

LIBRARIES

Land O' Lakes Branch Library

- Baby Storytime, 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., every Thursday
- Toddler Storytime, 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., every Friday
- Preschool Storytime, 11:30 a.m., every Friday
- Reading Buddies, 10 a.m., every Saturday
- Alzheimer's Association/Caregiver Support, 11 a.m., Sept. 3
- Teen game night, 6 p.m., Sept. 5
- CoderDojo Tampa Bay, 11 a.m., Sept. 6 and Sept. 20
- Popcorn and a movie, 2 p.m., Sept. 6
- Teen volunteer training, 5 p.m., Sept. 9 and Sept. 23
- Teen Advisory Board, 6 p.m., Sept. 9 and Sept. 23
- Computer skills, 10 a.m., Sept. 10
- LOL Social Seniors, 10 a.m., Sept. 11
- Toddler Time, 10 a.m., Sept. 13
- Tween gaming, 2 p.m., Sept. 13
- Japanese Class, 3 p.m., Sept. 13 and Sept. 27
- Family Night Out, 6:30 p.m., Sept. 16
- Land O' Lakes Book Club, 1:30 p.m., Sept. 17
- Afternoon Movie, 1:15 p.m., Sept. 18
- Kids crafts Teddy Bear Tea Party, 2 p.m., Sept. 20

The library is closed Sundays and Mondays, and is located at 2818 Collier Parkway. It can be reached at (813) 929-1214.

Austin Davis Public Library

- Toddler Time, 10:30 a.m., every Thursday
- Storytime, 3 p.m. and 11 a.m., every Thursday
- Tai Chi with Bonnie Birdsall, 6:15 p.m., every Monday
- Baby Time, 11:30 a.m., every Tuesday
- Block party, 3:30 p.m., Sept. 8
- Book discussion: "Faith Boss Darling's Last Garage Sale," by Lynda Rutledge, 1:30 p.m., Sept. 9

The library is located at 17808 Wayne Road in Odessa, and can be reached at (813) 273-3652.



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Pasco EDC honors local businesses for creating jobs

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

One day nearly a decade ago, Marcus and Erin Meyer realized their dream of opening their own business, kickstarting Gator Cleaning Solutions out of their garage. Not long after, it would move to a new home the couple bought in Land O' Lakes, before finally taking up 2,500 square feet of warehouse space in Odessa.

They employ eight people in their corporate office, and more than 80 people on cleaning crews that now include restoration services, carpet and grout cleaning.

They have provided plenty of jobs in the cleaning industry, and because of that, they are one of eight companies honored by the Pasco County Economic Development Council at its Industry of the Year Awards at Saddlebrook Resort.

"The reason why we were nominated in the first place is because there was a lot of

focus on job creation, which is great, because we've created a lot of jobs," Erin Meyer said. "And we're still growing. It's exciting — a little nerve-racking at times, but it's fun. There are days I'm pulling my hair out, and days I'm doing a dance."

Pasco EDC honored Gator Cleaning with one of two service and distribution awards, the second going to A&K Energy Conservation in Dade City. They both were chosen from more than 30 nominees, who were judged based on growth in areas like technology, innovation, job creation, capital investment and community service.

While some companies were born and grown up in Pasco, others were attracted by what the county had to offer and relocated here. DataMentors LLC started 15 years ago in Tampa, but relocated to Wesley Chapel seven years ago on land they purchased on Oak Myrtle Lane.

"It's kind of nice looking out the window and seeing trees instead of concrete," said Bob Orf, the chief executive of DataMentors, which was honored with the technology award Tuesday night. "We took a little bit of a risk when we bought the land. There was no road to it when we purchased the property. We were the first building in this area, and it's worked out terrifically."

DataMentors is a data management company that requires a secure location for its many servers. The company started with five employ-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LARISA BEDGOOD

DataMentors LLC, one of the Pasco Economic Development Council Industry of the Year winners, has maintained strong employee retention by finding ways to keep them motivated. Here Brandon Magliano, left, gets ready to receive the ball from Michael Meyers during a table tennis game in the office while Michael Cajigas looks on.

ees, but now has 36, working in areas like programmers and technicians.

"We do a lot of recruiting right out of colleges like the University of South Florida and the University of Central Florida," Orf said. "There are not a lot of high-tech companies in Pasco, but you know, we're happy to be here, and be one of the pioneers here."

Half the employee base lives in Pasco, while the other half commutes in from Hillsborough County, Orf said. That's great for him, however, because the "reverse commute" — driving in the opposite direction of rush-hour traffic — makes working in Pasco quite appealing.

"We don't have a lot of turnover here," he said. "Almost a third of our employees

have been with us at least 10 years. And, you know, we try to do what's right for our employees, because that's a win-win for us."

Other winners at the Pasco EDC event included:

- MedActive Oral Pharmaceuticals of Odessa won the new business award.
- Rochester Electro-Medical Inc., of Lutz, and Seaway Plastics Engineering Inc., of Port Richey, both won manufacturer of the year.
- Pasco-Hernando State College in New Port Richey was given the special contribution award.
- Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative of Shady Hills was given the special recognition award.



When DataMentors LLC bought its land in Wesley Chapel, there wasn't even a road built to it yet. Seven years later, they already are looking at how they will expand in the future.

Brewfest makes a landing at Skydive City in October

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Skydive City in Zephyrhills will host its inaugural Skydive City Brewfest Oct. 25, with a beer pouring and sampling event featuring the award-winning beverages created by local homebrewer Robert Hilferding and up to 25 other homebrewers from around Central Florida.

Hilferding is a long-time Zephyrhills resident and businessman who took up homebrewing as a hobby after retiring. Last June, he won the 2014 American Homebrewers Association Homebrewer of the Year award with his best-in-show entry in the Scottish and Irish ale category.

Bill Back, a Zephyrhills businessman who worked with Skydive City in the past, developed the idea and pitched it to Hilferding and Skydive City general manager T.K. Hayes over the summer.

"After learning of Robert's outstanding accomplishment, I certainly felt there should be a way to celebrate together with the community," Back said, in a release. "The venue at Skydive City is an ideal location for this first-ever event offering a casual and inviting vibe suited for both tasters, brewers and guests."

Skydive competitors and enthusiasts from around the world are expected to begin arriving at the drop zone ahead of

the FAI World Championships of Canopy Piloting, set for Nov. 1-7 in Zephyrhills. The Brewfest will overlap with many competitors already in town to train daily.

"We'll be there to welcome them with a fine cold homebrew and more," Back said.

Brewfest also will include offerings from regionally licensed craft breweries provided by the Dade City Brass Tap and the Sunset Bar. The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Skydive City to promote the event, and will host a VIP tasting area.

The Skydive City Brewfest is set for Oct. 25 from 3 p.m. to midnight at 4241 Sky

Dive Lane in Zephyrhills.

Beer pouring and tasting, along with a live disc jockey, will run from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., with live bands taking over from 8 p.m. to midnight. And award ceremony is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Beer and wine also will be available for purchase, with tickets costing \$20 in advance, or \$25 day of the show. An entry fee of \$5 will be collected for non-tasting patrons, spectators and concert attendees.

To get advance tickets, visit Bookings.burblesoft.com/index/53/25.

For information, email Bill Back at backconstruction@verizon.net, or call him at (813) 355-1195.

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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.

VOLUNTEER FOR GIRL SCOUTS

Girls Scouts of West Central Florida is looking for adults to volunteer, including troop leaders. Various positions are available to work behind the scenes to support troop leaders, to train other volunteers, and work with girls as program facilitators or camp facilitators at Girl Scout camps. Volunteers also are needed for the Girl Scout Cookie program. For information, call (800) 881-4475, or visit GSWCF.org.

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

'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 will be provided by local musician Michael Chauncey. 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. 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.

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.

COUNTY FAIR SEEKS NOMINATIONS

The Greater Hillsborough County Fair is looking for nominations for its Harvest Awards to be presented Oct. 23 at the county fairgrounds. Categories include Farm Family of the Year, Urban Agriculturalist, Agribusiness of the Year, and others. Deadline for nominations is Sept. 5. For online nomination, visit HillsboroughCountyFair.com. For information, call (813) 737-3247.

FOOD TRUCK RALLY

The Lutz Citizens Coalition will host its First Friday Food Truck Rally Sept. 5 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Lutz Preparatory School, 17951 U.S. 41. The event includes music.

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

COASTAL CLEANUP LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Help spruce up Land O' Lakes

Volunteers are needed for Coastal Cleanup Sept. 20 in Land O' Lakes. The cleanup will start at 8 a.m., when volunteers pick up supplies at SunTrust Bank, at the corner of State Road 54 and Osprey Lane. There will be free lunch and prizes at the same site from 11 a.m. to noon. Cleanup includes school grounds, parks, roads and waterways. For information, or to register, call Betsy Crisp at (813) 929-2725. For business donations of food, call Kurt Conover at (727) 861-5141. For door prize donations, call either number.

Clean up New Port Richey preserve

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 Katie MacMillen at kmacmillen@pascocountyfl.net. For information on other clean up locations across Pasco County, call Jennifer Seney or Rachelle Dobbs at (727) 856-4539.



information, call Dan Turner at (813) 928-2160.

BOLLYWOOD MOVIE SERIES

The New Tampa Regional Library, 10001 Cross Creek Blvd., is hosting a free Bollywood movie series Sept. 7 and Sept. 14 at 1 p.m. It will spotlight movies from the library collection. The series is for adults only. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

GRACE COMMUNITY FAMILY FEST

Grace Community Church 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.

EMBROIDERS' GUILD MEETING

The Gulfview Chapter of The Embroiders' Guild of America will meet Sept. 10 at 10:30 a.m., at The Lakeside Club, 12606 Shadow Ridge Blvd., in Hudson. There will be a business meeting, followed by a class on Swedish weaving. Stitchers of all levels are invited. For information, call Betty Brandt at (727) 856-3643.

SWAP & SHOP

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club is planning its 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.

BENEFIT CONCERT, COOKOUT

The Becky (Colson) White Benefit Concert and Cookout will be Sept. 13 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Wilderness Lake Beef O' Brady's, 7040 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The cost of \$25 per person, and includes a cookout-style buffet, draft beer and wine on the patio, along with a silent auction and music by the Roger Allen Band, Tangent 45 and White Moves First. White, an administrator at First United Methodist LOL Early Life

Academy, is battling chronic lymphocytic leukemia. For information or to donate, call Kathy Hershelman at (813) 417-8897.

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.

MASONIC LODGE FISH FRY

J.F. Swartzel Masonic Lodge, 3109 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road, will host its monthly fish fry Sept. 19 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cost is \$10 for eat in, an \$8 for carry out.

FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT

The Festival of Flight Wesley Chapel 2014 will be Sept. 19-21 at the Tampa North Flight Center, 4241 Birdsong Blvd., in Lutz. There will be a sunrise launch at 7 a.m., each day, and a balloon night glow from 7:30 p.m. to dusk Sept. 19. The event will include live music, food, airplanes, kites, delta trikes, and balloon rides for purchase. Admission is free. For a full listing of events and schedule, visit FestivalOfFlightWesleyChapel.com.

WATER AEROBICS AT OAKSTEAD

The Oakstead community pool, 3038 Oakstead Blvd., in Land O' Lakes, is hosting water aerobics on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. Cost is \$4 per class. For information, call Julie Brucker at (813) 996-7186.

PILATES CLASSES

Back in Health Wellness Center, 18942 N. Dale Mabry Highway in Lutz, is hosting mat Pilates classes on Tuesdays at 10 a.m., and Saturdays at 9 a.m. Classes are a small-group setting and \$8 each. First class is free. For information, email Susan Mosher at lemondropcc22@gmail.com.

RUNNING CLUB START-UP

Mentmore Running Group is looking for local runners of all levels to join. The free group runs Monday through Friday at 5 a.m., and 8 p.m., and Saturdays at 6:30 a.m. It starts and finishes behind Wells Fargo, 18975 State Road 54 in Lutz, at Mentmore Boulevard. There will be monthly field trips, couch-to-5-kilometer training, fitness and camaraderie. Strollers are welcome. For information, email Monica Del Re at mdelre@gmail.com.

MOSI FREE FOR YOUNGSTERS

The Museum of Science & Industry, 4801 E. Fowler Ave., in Tampa, is now offering free admission to all children younger than 5. For information, call (813) 987-6000, or visit MOSI.org.

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If you can not make the Free Screening, please contact us for a free in-office screening during normal hours.

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Double feature for cheap at Capitol Theatre



On the Cheap

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

Most of us don't take enough opportunities to spend time with friends and family. Busy schedules and money always are obstacles to breaking our routines and doing something different.

So when something comes up that looks like fun, I want to tell you about it in this column.

But it's not for everybody.

If you have an unlimited budget and money is no object, this isn't the place for you. You'll have no trouble finding fun things to do on your own. And if you have nothing but free time and can go anywhere at a moment's notice, you don't need to read this column.

In fact, why are you even reading this column right now? Just board your private jet and head to Paris or Barcelona, and enjoy your weekend.

But if you're like most of the rest of us, you have to fit things into a tight schedule — and it has to fit a tight budget, too. It needs to be worth your time and go easy on your wallet.

There aren't too many things like that, but there are still a few out there. And it's my job to find them for you.

This week I'm going to tell you about an opportunity to go to the movies. Sounds boring, you say? Movies today are usually overpriced and underwhelming?

Well, this isn't a typical night at the theater. These are movies you already know you like. And it's a double feature, so you're seeing two great movies for one price. And that price is cheaper than a regular movie.

Oh, the venue is much more interesting than a normal movie theater, too.

Sound better? Great. Then let me introduce you to Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., in Clearwater. It's probably been around longer than you have: It opened in 1921 with a Mediterranean Revival facade that really helped it stand out. And after nearly \$10 million in recent renovations, it maintains its classic style with modern upgrades.

So it's a fun place to see a movie. Or two movies. On select dates this month, they're showing double features of popular modern classics. For example, one night they're pairing up "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "Alien." On another, it's "Grease" and "American Graffiti." Then they're showing "Rocky" and "Rocky II" together.

And each night, it's just \$7 to see them both.

Now, some of you might be thinking, "Hey, I can watch some of those movies at home for free. Sometimes they're even on television." Well, have you ever seen these movies on the big screen? If you have, you



COURTESY OF CAPITOL THEATRE

The Capitol Theatre in Clearwater is a beautiful place to watch a movie, and this month they have double features for one low price.

know it's not the same. And if you haven't, this is a chance to finally see the original versions the way the filmmakers intended.

That kind of atmosphere makes great movies even greater.

Besides, where's your sense of adventure? Why sit at home when for \$7 you could take a friend or a loved one to a historic theater and see something you know you'll enjoy?

Two somethings, actually. It's a double feature, remember? That's a great deal, and cheap enough that it justifies a little drive time to get there.

By the way, this is a pretty cool date idea, too. You could spend a lot more money seeing one movie you might end up hating, or

you could see two films you like, and keep some cash in your pocket. I bet your date will notice your creativity and wise financial decisions. That's how you make a good impression in my book.

But there are only a few chances to catch this deal. "Close Encounters" and "Alien" are showing Sept. 6., "Grease" and "American Graffiti" are scheduled for Sept. 19, and the Rocky movies will be shown on Sept. 27.

The first film starts each night at 7. For more information, call (727) 791-7400 or visit AtTheCap.com.

If you know of an inexpensive, fun thing to do, let me know at mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com. But please, keep it cheap. We're on a budget here.

PUBLISHER'S COLUMN

Just like Pinocchio became a real boy, we've become a 'real' newspaper

By Diane Kortus

Publisher

It's been just over a month — five issues — since The Laker/Lutz News became a bigger newspaper. And reaction from our readers has been overwhelmingly positive.

Yes, we've received a few calls from people complaining that our new size is cumbersome to hold while drinking a cup of coffee. But that's truly the only complaint we've received.

The most common comment we hear is that our larger format makes us a "real newspaper," apparently because we're now the same size as a daily newspaper.

That perception has surprised us.

From our perspective, we've always been a real newspaper because we employ real journalists who write balanced stories about people and news in our community. We're

real because we publish every Wednesday without fail, and spend lots of money delivering our free paper to 30,000 homes, and at more than 300 newspaper stands, so you can read us every week.

It reminds me of that old adage, that perception often is more important than reality. So I suppose that we should be happy by the perception that our new size makes us more real, even though my staff and I thought we always were real.

I imagine this must be how Pinocchio felt when he finally became a real boy.

Just so you know, the content of The Laker/Lutz News has not changed with our larger size. We have the same reporters writing the same types of stories about our community.

What's changed is our design staff now has more room to place stories, create bigger headlines, and use bigger photos and

more graphics. We're one of few newspapers in the state to have color on every page — even our classified pages — so our artists have more to work with now that we're bigger and more colorful.

Our bigger size also gives us space for more stories. This week, for example, Michael Murillo is launching a new feature, "On the Cheap." His first column tells you about a super deal at the beautifully renovated Capitol Theatre in Clearwater that sounds like great fun for families or couples. Michael will be writing about inexpensive things to do on a regular basis to help you plan your weekend.

Our bigger size also allows us to enhance the presentation of other features we've been publishing for some time. For example, B.C. Manion's monthly column, "Worth The Trip," is now profiled on the front page of our new B section. Don't miss this week's

story about Haslam's Book Store in St. Petersburg — an amazing place for book lovers and those just looking for someplace new to explore.

Our other two monthly columns, "Getting to Know You," by Michael Hinman, and another column by Michael Murillo, "Presenting the Past," are published the other two weeks of the month.

Our goal is to give you a special feature to look forward to every week, in addition to our usual news and feature stories. These first-person columns by my staff give our papers a unique voice, and lets you get to know our writers on a more personal level.

The positive comments we've heard from readers, and the support we've received from our business community, encourages us to continue to work hard to bring you the best community newspaper we can.

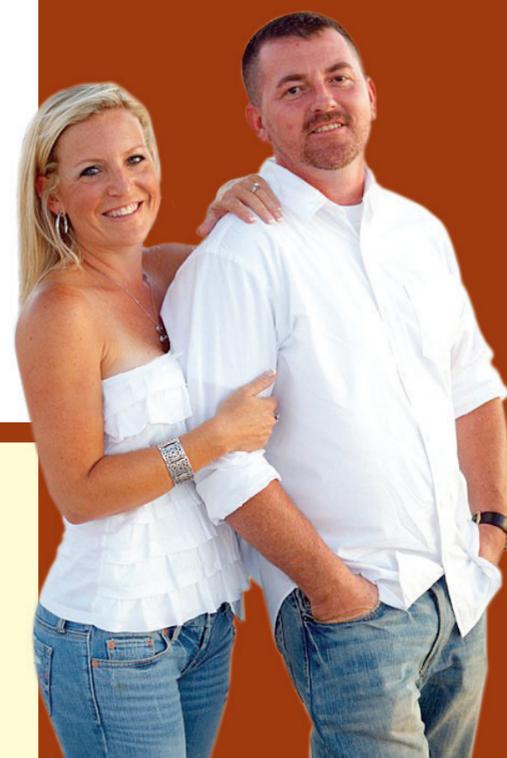
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Who is the best A/C manufacturer?

Surprising to many, the top 20 brands are made by just eight manufacturers. There is almost no difference in quality and performance between same-level units made by Carrier, Trane, Rheem, Lennox, Amana, Bryant or Goodman.

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Don't believe everything you read on the Internet

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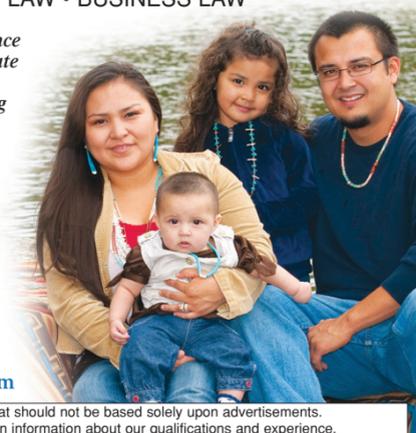
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Feds offering loans, grants for rural expansion

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Zero-interest loans and grants are now being offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in an effort to promote long-term economic growth and community vitality in rural areas.

The funding programs, administered by the USDA Rural Development department, includes \$30.6 million in no-interest loans, and \$9.2 million in grants to establish revolving loan funds that finance business and economic development activities in rural areas.

Applications for these funds will be accepted through the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, federal officials said. That would include rural utilities eligible for USDA financing under the Rural Electrification Act who wish to help administer the funds locally.

The funding is designed to help with business startup and expansion, business technical assistance and job training, and community facilities projects that support economic development.

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis through state offices of the USDA and are evaluated monthly.

The Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program is looking to improve conditions in designated Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones, and for members of Native American tribes in rural areas, for grants up to \$100,000.

Funding can be used to support business incubators, feasibility studies and business plans, long-term strategic business planning, leadership and entrepreneurial training, and other related efforts.

USDA also has two other grants available from funds put together for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program, including a \$500,000 grant for rural transportation projects, and a \$250,000 grant for federally recognized Native American tribes. Those funds can be used to provide technical assistance and training to help rural communities improve passenger transportation services or facilities.

For details, visit USDA.gov.

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POLITICAL AGENDA

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PASCO HOUSING COMMITTEE TO MEET

Pasco County's Affordable Housing Advisory Committee will have its first meeting Sept. 15 beginning at 9 a.m., at the Central Pasco Government Center, 4111 Land O'Lakes Blvd.

For information, email mlmiller@pasco-countyfl.net.

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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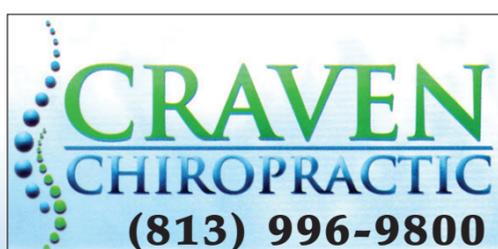


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COOL, from page 1A

help them hone their skills. And Domingo Ayala — a baseball celebrity known for providing comic relief — will be there, too.

Piniella will be a keynote speaker at a banquet following a golf tournament that is at Avila Golf & Country Club on Sept. 15. Organizers hope to attract about 200 baseball players to the clinic and about 120 golfers to the golf tournament.

They want to raise enough money to pay for six new batting cages and some repairs to existing cages. The goal is to have the new baseball cages ready by next February, in time for the spring season.

Organizers also hope to purchase some clay to top dress the diamonds, to help prevent bad bounces and help prevent injuries to players.

“For years we’ve been using the less expensive clay because it’s \$300 a truckload, and baseball clay is \$1,500 a truckload,” Stanislow said.

Besides reducing bad ball hops and pre-

If you go

WHAT: ‘Domingo’ Day at Oscar Cooler Sports Complex

WHEN: Sept. 14, with registration at 10:30 a.m., and event concluding with a 3 p.m. awards ceremony

DETAILS: Baseball clinics led by the University of South Florida baseball team, with visits from baseball celebrity Domingo Ayala; a hit, run and throw contest; a keynote speech from Ayala; and an awards presentation.

COST: \$25

VIP TENT ACCESS: Those wanting more personal access to Domingo Ayala can have their pictures taken with him in a VIP tent. Cost is \$50 per person, \$150 per family

venting injuries, the more expensive clay lasts longer, he said.

Piniella agreed to volunteer his time to help the cause because he has friends at Oscar Cooler park, Stanislow said, and he lives at Avila, where the golf tournament is being held.



Evan Stanislow, who plays for a youth team named after the Chicago Cubs, delivers a pitch during a spring game at Oscar Cooler Sports Complex. The league is raising money to get a higher grade of clay to help prevent bad ball hops and player injuries.

About 300 players compete in the fall league, and about 400 play in the spring league, Stanislow said. About three-quarters come from Lutz, but there also are players from Odessa, Land O’ Lakes and Wesley Chapel.

The park hosts some practice sessions for travel ball teams during the off-season, as well.

GOLF, from page 1A

cially and sports wise,” said Laura Sanderson, a pro at Meadow Oaks Golf & Country Club in Hudson. “Everyone built a bunch of golf courses because, back then, we could keep them full. But now people’s interests have changed, especially the younger generation. People just have better things to do with their time and money.”

The summer season hasn’t helped, when many seasonal residents are in their northern homes, and those remaining finding it too hot to hit the links. Even Meadow Oaks, which averages 275 golfers a day during the peak season, is seeing just a little more than 100 during the summer months.

But getting through those times means knowing that it’s coming, and being ready for it. Quail Hollow Golf Course in Wesley Chapel, for example, has focused on attracting a lot of non-golf events like motorcycle shows and big band performances, Sanderson said.

“You just have to take care of where you’re at,” said Nic Kalojiannis, one of the people in the ownership group that leases and manages Heritage Harbor Golf and Country Club in Lutz. “We do a lot of weddings, sweet 16s, and golf tournaments. It’s a process as a whole that you need to have, just to try and get you through tough seasonal times. Like this year, it’s rained pretty much all day every day, it seems like.”

These events give exposure to the golf course, which is owned by the Heritage Harbor Community Development District.

“We’re out here on Lutz Lake Fern Road off of North Dale Mabry, and we have a beautiful sign and the upkeep is really nice,” Kalojiannis said. “But the clubhouse was built in the back, kind of off the beaten path. We always have people coming in to our events telling us they didn’t even know we were back here.”

Other courses, however, would likely struggle no matter what they tried to do. And all of that goes back to how golf courses

were originally financed.

Mortgages — typically in the millions of dollars — were structured in a way that a course could pay its note and still make a profit by charging \$70 a round, for example.

“People don’t have that kind of excess money anymore, or if they do, they are not really willing to put it toward golf,” Sanderson said.

Instead, many have to cut fees, and then find ways to save expenses. More often than not, golf courses choose to skimp on maintenance — which could drive away even more golfers, and make their financial situation worse.

Even after Plantation Palms Golf Club in Land O’ Lakes shut down in May, maintenance crews kept the course in mostly good shape. However, when the workers stopped coming, the course fell into disrepair.

“After a matter of a couple months of that, it becomes completely unplayable,” Sanderson said. “You’ll lose the greens, and it’s not that you can just go back and mow it. You’ll have to replace it, and that could

“The park is an important place for kids. A place to build relationships. A place to build teamwork,” Stanislow said.

It also provides a healthy alternative to video games or other diversions, which can get them into trouble, he added.

Giving young people healthy diversions was exactly what the late Oscar Cooler had in mind when he pushed Hillsborough County commissioners to provide land for a baseball field in Lutz. When commissioners were dragging their heels about providing funding to build the baseball facility, Cooler recruited community volunteers to get the job done.

That was decades ago. Since then, thousands of youths have enjoyed a sports complex that has brought together generations of families to play and watch sports.

“When you have something of that kind of legacy, that’s been part of a community for so long, it’s really important to embrace that and have that story continue on,” Stanislow said.

Lutz Baseball is a nonprofit organization. For more information, visit LutzBaseball.com.

VETERANS, from page 1A

Hospital Zephyrhills. That facility will not be a part of the consolidation, officials said.

“Most people, especially disabled veterans, have financial problems, and transportation is a huge factor in their lives,” said Lauren Price, an Iraqi war veteran who is one of the founders of the VeteranWarriors advocacy group. “We have some limited mass transit here in West Pasco, and there is much more minimal mass transit that gets out to Trinity. And before someone offers all that real estate out in Dade City or Zephyrhills, I will remind them that the only mass transit out there are the mud swamp runs.”

Despite hosting the town hall, Bilirakis will have minimal input on where the new facility will be located, he said. That decision, instead, will rely on the VA department itself, which also will receive an additional \$10 billion to outsource some of the care to private doctors when VA officials get behind. It also gives Robert McDonald, the U.S.

Department of Veterans Affairs secretary, the power to remove senior executives not meeting expectations more easily than before.

Congress put the legislation in motion this past summer after a series of reports highlighting backlogs in service and other problems at VA hospitals around the country. A government investigation found some of those hospitals were guilty of flubbing appointment lists while supervisors turned a blind eye.

The report, however, said there was nothing connecting the delays created by that activity with preventable deaths.

But some of the veterans in New Port Richey still feel like they’ve been treated improperly by the system. However, James Haley VA Medical Center chief Kathleen Fogarty said many of the delays and problems experienced locally are from the sheer volume facilities like hers have taken on.

“I am very pleased to tell you that all of our clinics were audited, and we did not have any discrepancies in the scheduling,” Fogarty said. “But will I tell you that we

don’t have any waiting lists? Absolutely not.”

That’s because her system handles 89,000 unique patients every year, she said. Haley has 4,000 patients a day, and conducts 42,000 consultations a month.

“I am very blessed to have the University of South Florida a bridge away from me,” Fogarty said. “They don’t have a hospital they use to train all of their doctors. We are the primary facility they use, which is a great thing for us because I think we get the best doctors out there.”

Besides where the new consolidated

cost you \$1 million right there.”

Plantation Palms was put up for sale last month for \$1.2 million, considerably down from the \$2.2 million MJS Golf Club LLC paid for it in 2011.

Plantation Palms was one of many communities in the region, and in the country, anchored by golf courses. But that’s not happening anymore. Some homeowners in Plantation Palms complained about the loss of home value, and many golf course designers have turned to Europe and Asia to build new courses, not finding any market in the United States.

But is golf fighting for its life? Sanderson doesn’t think so. It’s more about “righting the ship.”

“Golf is still strong, we just have too much product out there, too many courses out there,” she said. “We definitely need to grow the industry from the standpoint of the younger generation, but we’re just shaking out some of the excess courses. The ones that survive are going to end up being good in the long run.”

clinic should be located, the more than 100 veterans who attended also shared some of the services they’d like to see there. That includes urgent care, physical therapy, radiology, women’s care and greater access to dental, Bilirakis spokeswoman Summer Robertson said.

If any other veterans wants to express their preferences on where the clinic should go and what should be there, they can call Bilirakis’ office at (813) 501-4942, or send an email to the congressman through his website at Bilirakis.house.gov.

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State medical license fees are dropping for some

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Fees to license certain health care professionals are coming down, thanks to a little streamlining with some of Florida's medical organizations.

Both the Florida Board of Medicine and Florida Board of Nursing have identified excess fees to eliminate, and that should provide a cost savings to those seeking various licenses, according to a release.

The Board of Medicine will reduce the physician license renewal fee from \$360 to \$250 for those renewing their license in 2015 or 2016.

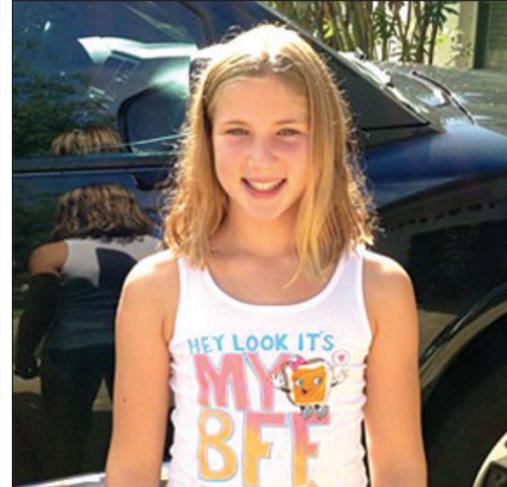
The Board of Nursing reduced the initial application and license fee effective July 1.

That means those who apply as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse will now pay \$100 instead of \$165.

"The Board of Medicine supports an opportunity economy in which every Florida physician can pursue the dream of practicing medicine in the Sunshine State," said Dr. Nabil El Sanadi, chair of the Board of Medicine, in a release. "We will continue to search for ways to support the increase of licensed medical professionals in the state of Florida."

Medical professionals who practice in Florida are required to be licensed.

For more information on the license renewal process, visit FlBoardOfMedicine.gov, or FlBoardOfNursing.gov.



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Caffeine fix could be fatal

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

An 18-year-old high school senior died just before his graduation in May, stunning the community.

What killed him, however, was a new form of substance abuse that has been growing among teenagers — pure caffeine powder consumption. And the FDA is warning families about the lethal implications of abusing it.

"We feel sad for this young man and his family," said Dorene Thomas, local chair of the LiveFree Coalition, in a release. "Even though caffeine is not an illegal drug, it can lead to serious health issues, even death."

Caffeine powder produces are essentially 100 percent caffeine, according to a release. Approximately 3 grams, or a single teaspoon, is roughly equivalent to the caffeine found in 25 cups of coffee.

On average, there are more than 3,000 milligrams in one teaspoon of pure caffeine powder, comparing to only 74 milligrams of caffeine in one teaspoon of instant coffee.

Teenagers and young adults are exposed and even attracted to this substance, FDA spokeswoman Jennifer Dooren said, in a release. In order to achieve an extra boost, the

pure caffeine powder is often taken before practices and workouts.

Partygoers take it to combat the depressant effects of alcohol or marijuana. And it's also popular among college students as a way to help stay alert during late-night study sessions.

"These produces are not regulated yet," Thomas said. "Teens can easily get these products online, and they're very cheap. If parents don't pay attention to what their children are consuming, tragedies may happen again."

For healthy adults, the FDA recommends a caffeine limit of 400 milligrams, or about 20 to 28 ounces of coffee per day. Over-consumption of caffeinated beverages such as energy drinks also can lead to caffeine overdose.

Officials say it's hard to measure if the consumption of caffeine is reaching lethal levels. Symptoms like rapid or dangerously erratic heartbeat, seizures, vomiting, diarrhea, stupor and disorientation may indicate an overdose is occurring.

"We definitely suggest our parents warn their children on caffeine overdose," Thomas said.

HPH Hospice joining with Chapters

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

HPH Hospice has taken a big step forward to create an affiliation with Chapters Health System, a not-for-profit post-acute health care system headquartered in Temple Terrace.

Chapters already affiliates with LifePath Hospice in Hillsborough County and Good Shepherd Hospice in Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties.

The affiliation between HPH and Chapters is expected to be finalized by the end of December, according to a release. When it's completed, the two will work together to provide services to address the needs of patients coping with advancing age, complex medical conditions, and end-of-life issues throughout the six central Florida counties they currently serve.

"With continuously changing state and federal regulations and reimbursement practices in today's environment, it takes a tremendous amount of education and financial strength to maintain quality (and) compassionate care," said Tom Barb, HPH's president and chief executive, in a release.

"This partnership will enhance our common not-for-profit missions, and guarantee that more patients coping with serious illnesses have access to exceptional care at a challenging time in their lives."

Even with the affiliation, HPH will continue to use its current branding, and will continue to raise funds through the HPH Foundation to support programs specific to patients and families in Hernando, Pasco and Citrus counties.

HPH was founded in 1984 as Hernando-Pasco Hospice, and shortened it to its current name in 2006 when the organization expanded into Citrus County.

The company employed 526 people in 2013, providing care to nearly 4,600 patients.

Chapters Health is the parent of LifePath Hospice, first licensed in 1983 as Hospice of Hillsborough. In 2004, Chapters acquired Good Shepherd Hospice, which had been delivering hospice care in Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties since 1979.

Last year, Chapters employed more than 1,300 people, and delivered services to nearly 13,000 patients.

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Chalk Talk

Send school news to news@lakerlutznews.com

DENHAM OAKS OPEN HOUSE

Denham Oaks Elementary School, 1422 Oak Grove Blvd., in Lutz, is hosting an open house Sept. 9 starting at 6 p.m.

Pre-kindergarten through second grade students can visit from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Third through fifth grade students can visit from 7:15 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Pizza will be served in the cafeteria from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. PTA members and their children will receive a free slice of pizza and drink. The cost for non-members is \$3.

For information, call (813) 794-1600.

RIGBERG INDUCTED INTO CHEFS SOCIETY

Michael Rigberg, chef instructor and executive chef at Land O' Lakes High School, was inducted into the American Academy of

Chefs, the honor society of the American Culinary Federation, during a ceremony July 27 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Rigberg has more than 40 years experience in the hospitality industry.

PHSC COLLEGE NIGHT

Pasco-Hernando State College will host its annual College Night Sept. 9-10 for prospective students in the Pasco County area.

The two-night event will be in the gym at the Dade City campus, 36727 Blanton Road, Sept. 9 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and at the New Port Richey campus, 10230 Ridge Road, Sept. 10 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

There will be representatives from PHSC and numerous public and private colleges, universities and other education institutions, as well as military participants.

Information will be available on admissions, financial aid and programs for post-secondary study.

Admission is free.

For information, call (855) 669-7472.

RAYS BASEBALL FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO PHSC

Pasco-Hernando State College Foundation

recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Rays Baseball Foundation Community Fund Grant Program. The funds will support PHSC's Concept College outreach program that provides an opportunity for at-risk students to explore a variety of career paths.

NEW LEADER FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

Jeffrey Yungmann from the Hernando County School District has been approved by the Pasco County School Board to serve as a new charter school supervisor.

Yungmann began his education career in 1989 as a math teacher.

He has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of South Florida, and a master's degree in education administration from Grand Canyon College in Arizona.

Three new charter schools — Learning Lodge Academy, Classical Preparatory Charter School and Pepin Academies-Pasco — join six existing charter schools.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM GRADUATES SECOND CLASS

On Aug. 1, PharmaWorks and CareerSource Pasco Hernando graduated

its second summer internship class.

The curriculum is modeled after the 20th century style of German apprenticeships, and is comprised of classic German training and classroom studies, with a practical 21st century approach.

The internship program teaches not only tangible skills, but instills soft skills by educating interns on how to write resumes and conduct successful workplace etiquette.

Pharmaworks and CareerSource Pasco Hernando work in partnership providing on-the-job training and career opportunities.

For information on internships, on-the-job training or employer participation, visit CareerSourcePascoHernando.com, or call (727) 484-3400, or (352) 200-3020.

BISHOP MCLAUGHLIN OPEN HOUSE

Bishop McLaughlin Catholic School, 13651 Hays Road in Spring Hill, will host an open house Nov. 2 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be family tours, and individuals can sign up for shadow dates.

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Wells makes history, Moore ready for November

By Michael Hinman
mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

The Pasco County Commission has had its share of lopsided victories in the last 30 or so years. But there's never been one like the District 4 race last week between current commissioner Henry Wilson Jr., and Mike Wells Jr.

More than 36 percentage points separated Wells from Wilson, the largest margin of victory since 2010 when Commissioner Pat Mulieri defeated independent candidate Clay Colson to keep her seat on District 2 by 40 percentage points.

Winners who pick up more than 60 percent of the vote in races typically are incumbents like Mulieri, who captured 61 percent of the vote in 1998, and 62 percent in 2002. But rarely, if ever, is the candidate who hits that milestone the challenger looking to unseat the incumbent.

Wilson won his seat in an upset win over Mike Cox in 2010, surprising nearly everyone with 52 percent of the vote. This time around, with most of the attention on the open seat left by Mulieri's retirement in District 2, there was a question on whether or not Wilson would even be challenged by anyone else.

That is until early April when Wells, the son of former county commissioner and current county property appraiser Mike



B.C. MANION/STAFF PHOTOS

Last week's primary election attracted less than 15 percent of registered voters. But that's all that was needed to elect one county commissioner, and nominate another one for the November election.

Wells Sr., decided it was time to run.

"We need leadership there, and we need it right now," Wells told The Laker/Lutz News last month ahead of the primary. "We lost Ann Hildebrand on the commission a few years back, and now Ted Schrader says he is retiring in a couple years. Quite frankly, that creates a vacuum that needs to be fixed."

Wells would take the seat with 68 percent of the vote, the biggest win of any commission candidate over an incumbent since at least 1980. The former Enterprise Rent-A-Car area manager and current real estate agent won every precinct in the county, and never trailed Wilson as the results were tabulated last week.

"When I started this journey very late into the campaign season, I did so because I

wanted the opportunity to help as many people in Pasco County as I could," Wells wrote on his Facebook page after the election. "So I went into the community and met with you. We met, we talked, you talked, and I listened. I'm still holding on to all of our conversations, and all of your stories."

Because this seat was decided during primary season, Wilson will continue as a commissioner until November. He told The Laker/Lutz News that he will spend that time doing what he has done all along: serving the people of Pasco County, and "looking out for their best interests."

"As far as my future, right now we are trusting God for what he has planned ahead of myself and my family, and am excited to see where that journey will take us."

One other commission seat remains up for grabs, and that's the one being vacated by Mulieri, who is retiring after 20 years. Mike Moore, who raised far more money than his opponents, took a first step toward that seat with a primary win.

"I am humbled by the support our campaign has received from so many people from across Pasco County," Moore said. "I also deeply appreciate all the volunteers who have worked very hard toward our victory this evening."

Moore won a little more than 50 percent of the vote in a campaign where he raised

more than \$100,000, and received support from outside political groups that purchased airtime on local television stations featuring Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco.

Finishing as the runner-up for the second time in the primary is former state Rep. Ken Littlefield, who earned 28 percent of the vote.

"It was an impressive win by Mike Moore," Littlefield said. "To prevail in a three-candidate primary with over 50 percent of the vote is a notable feat and deserves congratulations."

Littlefield will continue to do what he has done the last five years, he said: "Get up early, put a tie on, and go work for Hodges Family Funeral Home."

"I enjoy the work, and at this time, have no plans to run for public office," he said.

Bob Robertson, a financial analyst who lives in Lake Bernadette in Zephyrhills, left the door slightly more open for a possible future run.

"It was important to me to offer myself without accepting funds from anyone that might compromise me later," he said. "Hopefully now, life returns to some sense of normal. As to future plans, impossible to know at this point."

Moore now faces Erika Remsberg, who won the Democratic nomination for the District 2 commission seat without opposition.

Community voices at the polls for the primaries



Lavinia Pascariu Gollapudi and Victor Gollapudi pulled up to the polling place at the Land O' Lakes Community Center shortly after 6 p.m., to be sure to beat the closing time an hour later.

The couple recently moved to the area from the St. Louis metro area, and said they didn't know much about the candidates.

Victor noted that it wouldn't matter who was on the ballot because they consider voting to be their civic duty.



Debra Townsend, a 60-year-old kindergarten aide who works in Hillsborough County, was casting her first vote in Pasco because her family just moved to Wesley Chapel.

She came out to vote against Gov. Rick Scott.

"I don't like our governor, she said. "I don't like him at all. I made sure I was here."

Her dad emphasized the importance of voting, and that stuck with her.



Elizabeth Beck, 34, a Land O' Lakes kindergarten teacher, said she wanted to be sure to cast her ballot in the race for governor.

"I want to vote for the candidate who will best support our schools, my students and my profession," she said.

She also wanted to set a good example for the students she teaches at Pine View Elementary School.



Amos Davis, 68, of Wesley Chapel, is a retired vehicle glass installer, who wanted to support the governor.

"I voted for Scott," he said.

Davis came to the polls bearing a list of suggested candidates from his wife.

"She knows more about this than I do," he said. "I'm just an old redneck hillbilly."

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Send health news to
news@lakerlutznews.com

FHWC hosts women's event

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel is hosting a free, multi-generational women's health and wellness event at Saddlebrook Resort, 5700 Saddlebrook Way in Wesley Chapel, Sept. 20 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event will include health and wellness presentations from area experts, and a healthy cooking demonstration. There will be free health screenings,

pampering and giveaways. A continental breakfast and full lunch are included.

The keynote speaker will be ABC Action News anchor Deiah Riley.

Admission is free, but registration is required.

Women can register by calling (813) 929-5432, or visiting tinyurl.com/WCWomensEvent.

services and equipment such as physical, occupational and speech therapy, counseling services, surgeries, prescriptions, wheelchairs, orthotics, eyeglasses and hearing aids.

Children must be younger than 17, and families must meet economic guidelines, reside in the United States, and have a commercial health insurance plan.

Grants are available for medical expenses families have incurred 60 days prior to the date of application, as well as for ongoing and future medical needs.

Parents or legal guardians can apply for grants at UHCC.org. There is no application deadline.

SURVIVING CANCER SEMINAR

Dr. Roberto Diaz from the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute will speak about surviving cancer Sept. 25 at 7 p.m., at Keystone Community Church, 21010 State Road 54 in Lutz.

The program is free, and will cover new treatments for cancer, and allow for a question-and-answer period.

For information, call Walt Bockmiller, chair of the Keystone Cancer Support Group, at (813) 527-8211. Or call Keystone Community Church at (813) 948-4522.

MOFFITT RECRUITING PATIENTS FOR RESEARCH

H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute is recruiting male patients and their caregivers for a research study that takes a closer look at the uptake of prostate cancer information and health services.

Participants should be between the ages of 40 and 75, and newly diagnosed in the past three months. Patients also must have a caregiver who is willing to participate.

For information, call Shani Davis at (813) 745-6806, or email shani.davis@moffitt.org.

MS SUPPORT GROUP

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, will host a monthly multiple sclerosis support group on the second Tuesday of the month.

The next meeting is Sept. 9 at noon. Caregivers and family members are invited.

For information, call (727) 372-1568.

OBSTETRICS TOUR AT TRINITY

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, is offering tours through its obstetrics program.

The next tour is Sept. 10 at noon. Guests will visit the mother-baby and birthing suites, and observe the Infant Safety and Security Program.

Space is limited, and reservations are required.

For information, call (727) 834-5630.

NEW MINUTECLINIC IN LUTZ

MinuteClinic has opened a new walk-in clinic inside the CVS store at 2322 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Lutz.

The clinic is part of the company's plan to add 150 new clinics nationwide in 2014. No appointments are required. Most

health insurance is accepted.

The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For information, visit MinuteClinic.com.

UNDERSTANDING MEDICARE

Charlotte Kocian will present a seminar on understanding Medicare Sept. 10 at 11 a.m., at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Tampa.

Topics will include who is eligible, what options are available, and the various plans and parameters.

Admission is free.

MEDICAL GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN

The UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation is seeking grant applications from families in need of financial assistance to help pay for their child's health care treatments, services or equipment not covered — or not fully covered — by their commercial health insurance plan.

Qualifying families can receive up to \$5,000 per grant, with a lifetime maximum of \$10,000 per child to help pay for medical

NAMI PEER-TO-PEER

The National Alliance on Mental Illness will host a free Peer-to-Peer recovery focused education program for adults living with mental illness from Sept. 5 to Nov. 7.

The program is 10 two-hour sessions for individuals at least 18 years old. It incorporates presentations, discussions and exercises, and provides a toolkit of information on up-to-date research, symptoms, relapse prevention, and skills for making decisions and reducing stress.

Classes are from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at BayCare Behavioral Health Veterans Resource Center, 6819 Massachusetts Ave., in New Port Richey.

To register, call (727) 992-9653.

ATRIAL FIBRILLATION SEMINAR

The Health & Wellness Center at Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel, 2700 Healing Way, will host the seminar "Atrial Fibrillation: Treatment of Irregular Heart Rhythm" Sept. 9 at noon.

Guest speaker Dr. Binu Jacob will discuss the causes and symptoms, and the minimally invasive treatment options available.

Lunch will be provided.

Space is limited, and reservations are required.

For information, call (813) 929-5432.

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Local educators get year of MOSI for free

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The Museum of Science & Industry in Tampa is offering teachers and school district employees from three counties complimentary annual memberships.

The offer, MOSI officials said, was to thank teachers and school employees for "all they do," according to a release. It will be open to those working in Pasco, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

Any employee can get free admission to more than 450 exhibits and displays focused on science, technology, engineering, art and math education, or STEAM. The memberships are valid for 12 months from the date of registration, and are valued at between \$45 and \$75 for an individual, according to the facility's website.

To redeem their membership, school employees must visit MOSI in person at 4801 E. Fowler Ave., in Tampa, and present a valid identification and a recent pay stub.

"Teachers and school board employees are some of the hardest working people in

the nation, and we wanted to show our incredible appreciation of them and their work," said MOSI president Wit Ostrenko, in a release. "We believe it takes a village to educate the children in our community, and MOSI is an integral part of that village, as the only information educational institution in Tampa with the sole focus of STEAM learning. We want to make sure that MOSI's resources are available to bay area teachers."

Pasco County Schools superintendent Kurt Browning, in a release, praised MOSI's recognition of "the important roles education professionals play in our community, and we appreciate this generous way of acknowledging their impact."

The membership does not include IMAX Dome Theatre films, special engagement exhibitions, or specific rides.

The museum is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and weekends from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For information, call (813) 987-6000, or visit MOSI.org.



COURTESY OF PATRICIA SERIO

Woman's club ranked 'most outstanding'

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club was awarded the Lois B. Perkins Award as the Most Outstanding Club in the Florida Federation at a recent convention in Orlando. This is the second consecutive year the club has garnered the award. Local members attending the convention were, from left, Cheryl Benton, Cathy Mathes, club president Kay Taylor, Nancy Fisher, Ciel Birkett and Sharon Bard.

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Program, expectations on the rise at Freedom

By Michael Murillo
mmurillo@lakerlutznews.com

According to the record books, Freedom High School finished with a 3-7 record last year.

But head coach Tom Donohoe doesn't see it that way.

"The program was 8-8," said Donohoe, now entering his third season at the helm. "That's the way we look at it, because we coach varsity and JV. Our goal is to improve as a program."

Including junior varsity records, instead of back-to-back 3-7 campaigns, Freedom improved from 6-10 to 8-8 over the previous year. At least from the coach's perspective.

Rebuilding from the ground up — the varsity team hasn't had a winning season since 2009 — means looking at improving all aspects of the Patriots' football program. Installing discipline, structure and stability at all levels of play is important, Donohoe explained.

Practices are more organized, and the program as a whole has a clear understanding of what they're trying to do. The same coaches lead both teams, so the transition from junior varsity to varsity should be a smooth one for players as they advance in the system.

While that focus didn't translate into more wins over the previous season for the Patriots, there were bright spots and areas of improvement. Freedom was involved in a number of close games, including two road losses by a total of 10 points to Strawberry Crest and district foe Steinbrenner.

Freedom plays both of those teams at home this year, and Donohoe is looking forward to seeing year-to-year improvement as they tackle familiar opponents throughout the schedule.

The Patriots' defense also was a bright spot in 2013, providing solid play and keeping the team in many games. Eight starters are returning from last year, which provides stability at what already was a strong point for the team.

Defensive backs and linebackers should be particularly effective this season, Donohoe said.

The defense understands that they'll be



MICHAEL MURILLO/STAFF PHOTO

Structure and organization are key words at Patriots' practices under coach Tom Donohoe.

expected to continue their solid play and help the team turn the corner in 2014.

"It's going to be on us to step up and score points defensively," said linebacker Lee Carabali.

The team has been hitting the weight room over the summer, and is now stronger as a result. He's even seen improvement in the offense as the defense faces them in practice.

That improvement would be welcome in 2014. While the defense was doing their part to help the team win last year, the other side of the ball wasn't as effective.

"Our offense was sputtering," Donohoe admitted. The Patriots only reached the 20-point mark once all last year, and failed to score 10 points four times.

But Freedom closed the year with two straight wins, including a 33-13 win over Wiregrass Ranch in their home finale.

The team is returning six starters, has talented weapons at skill positions and had strong performances in seven-on-seven competition over the summer, Donohoe said. A new offensive coordinator should provide fresh perspectives as well, giving the coach plenty of optimism for the coming season.

"It's definitely going to be a better year in

2014 Patriots Schedule

8/29 — at King	10/2 — at Sickles
9/5 — Middleton	10/17 — Tampa Bay Tech
9/12 — at Wharton	10/24 — Steinbrenner
9/19 — at Gaither	10/31 — at Wiregrass Ranch
9/26 — Strawberry Crest	11/7 — Riverview

terms of offensive productivity," Donohoe said. "No doubt about it."

The attitude change has made an impact on experienced players like defensive back Aaron Cox.

"A lot of people, since I was a freshman, were playing around and not really disciplined," Cox said. "But now that we have better coaches, they've been working with us and we've been working real hard."

The players have come together and bought into the system, he said.

With so many returning starters, the Patriots are feeling good about improving their fortunes in 2014. But Donohoe also is excited to see how newer players perform.

He expects athletes who played junior varsity to step up and contribute immediately. They should be comfortable with the system and ready to perform,

FREEDOM PATRIOTS

LAST YEAR: 3-7

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KEY RETURNING PLAYERS

Johnny Rodicio, slot back
Lee Carabali, linebacker

PLAYER TO WATCH

Sayff Saed, wide receiver, quarterback
"He can do a number of different things. He has a lot of talent and can go into a lot of different positions." — Coach Tom Donohoe

which Donohoe hopes will lead to some better numbers for the varsity squad.

"A lot of these guys played with us for the last couple of years," he said. "They're a product of what we've been doing, and they know the expectations. It should be their time to shine."

"We feel like we're finally getting to that point where we should be successful a little bit more in varsity now, too."

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LUTZ BASEBALL GOLF EVENT SEPT. 15

Avila Golf & Country Club, 943 Guisando De Avila, will host a golf event benefiting Lutz Baseball on Sept. 15.

Tee time is at 1 p.m., and the cost is \$150 per person. Sponsorships are available.

For more information and to register, visit LutzBaseball.com.

CHEVAL CARES 5K SET FOR SEPT. 20

The third annual Cheval Cares 5K run will take place Sept. 20 to benefit the Pediatric Cancer Foundation.

The event begins and ends at the Cheval Athletic Club, 4142 Cheval Blvd., in Lutz. There will be a post-race family fun party after the event.

The cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for children. Registration will not be available on the day of the event for non-residents of Cheval.

For information and to register, visit ChevalCares5K.com.

SOCCER LEAGUE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

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

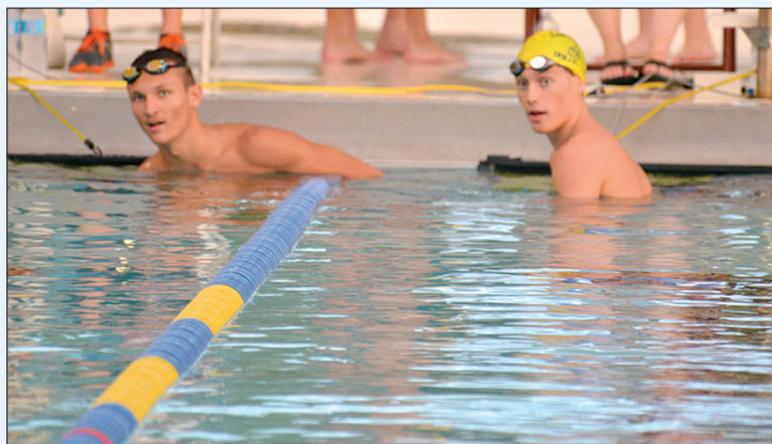
The league is open to boys and girls in north Hillsborough and Pasco counties from ages 5 through 19.

Each team will have one practice day per week, and a game on Saturdays. Practices and games will be at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex, 3032 Collier Parkway. To register, visit GTBFC.com.

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

HIKE FOR HOSPICE IN NOVEMBER

Gulfside Hospice will have its eighth an-



COURTESY OF RON LUDWIN

A swimming start

Jordan Wheeler, right, a senior at Land O' Lakes High School, takes a breather after finishing the 100-meter butterfly against Mathew Finn, left. Both were taking part in the first swim meet of the new school year as Land O' Lakes faced off against Ridgewood at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex.

nual Hike For Hospice on Nov. 16 at Rasmussen College, 18600 Fernview St., in Land O' Lakes.

The event includes a 5-kilometer run and walk.

Registration is \$25 for adults, \$15 for students, and \$10 for children younger than 11. The cost includes a T-shirt, breakfast and beverages.

To register or to receive sponsorship information, call (800) 561-4883. Registration also is accepted at FristGiving.com/GulfsideHospice.

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 Field 10 of the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex, 3032 Collier Parkway. The games begin in October.

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

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, New York.

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.

ROTARY GOLF OUTING OCT. 24

The Daybreak Rotary Club of Zephyrhills will have its 22nd annual golf outing on Oct. 24 at the Links of Lake Bernadette Golf Club, 5430 Links Lane.

The event includes a round of golf, various challenges and contests, dinner, door prizes, and an awards banquet.

Registration begins at noon with tee-off starting at 1 p.m.

The cost is \$85 per person. For information, call Theresa Sommers-Peacock at (813) 788-3369, Mike Wooton at (813) 777-1222, or Nelson Ryman at (813) 997-5939.

CENTRAL FLORIDA OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Lake Jovita Golf & Country Club, 12900 Lake Jovita Blvd., in Dade City, will host the Central Florida Open Championship Sept. 18-19.

Up to 144 of the top professional and amateur golfers in central Florida are expected to compete on the club's South course.

Tee, range and custom flag sponsorships are available.

For information, call Rick Weber at (352) 588-9200, or email rweber@lakejovita.com.

SPORT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE FOR SENIORS

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.



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'Something for everybody' is book store's mantra



Worth the Trip

By B.C. Manion
bmanion@lakerlutznews.com

If you're a reader, or know a reader, chances are you'll find a book to purchase or a gift to buy at Haslam's Book Store, a St. Petersburg institution since 1933.

Step inside Florida's largest bookstore and it soon becomes clear you could spend days perusing its vast collection.

John and Mary Haslam opened the store, which is now situated at 2025 Central Ave., at the height of the Great Depression. In the beginning, the store rented reading materials to patrons for a few cents a day, said Ray Hinst Jr., who now operates the bookstore along with his wife and partner, Suzanne Haslam. Their son, Ray Hinst III, also works at the store, representing the fourth generation of the family-owned business.

Over the years, the bookstore has operated at four locations, expanding along the way. It now takes up about three-quarters of a city block, offering 300,000 to 400,000 new and used books.

"It's bigger than a lot of libraries, and nowadays, we have more books than a lot of libraries," said Hinst Jr.

Its diverse selection of new and used books is intentional.

"We try to have something for everybody. We specialize in what the cash register says the community and the market wants," Hinst said. "We don't have an agenda. If there's a category that sells and there are books available in that category, we'll go ahead and do it."

Over the years, the store's selection evolved.

After World War II, it began offering new books, initially to help fill a need in the construction industry for contractors to prepare for licensing exams.

Then it added a large selection of Bibles, inspired by Hinst's father-in-law, Charles Haslam, who worked at the store and was a preacher.

"There's a need for it," Hinst said. "Folks should have someplace where they can go to have a spiritual resource. That room includes many sides of the spiritual coin."

The store also has how-to books covering every imaginable topic — from how to be a better writer, to choosing plants for your garden, to perfecting your crochet.

There's a vast collection of books that are entertaining, amusing or mysterious, including works from Florida writers such as Tim Dorsey, Randy Wayne White, James Swain and Carl Hiaasen.

Book collectors may find it helpful to make an occasional visit to Haslam's, to help them find that rare book, or two. And parents who want to encourage reading can check out the offerings in the store's children's section.

Over the years, Hinst has seen scores of changes in the bookselling industry. Many of the large bookstores have closed because of real estate prices. And electronic publishing and e-books, for instance, have had a considerable impact.

It's far easier for authors to publish electronically and to have books printed on demand. But the number of publishers print-



B.C. MANION/STAFF PHOTOS

Ray Hinst III and Ray Hinst Jr., help customers find what they're looking for at Haslam's Book Store, Florida's largest bookstore in St. Petersburg. The store stocks hundreds of thousands of new and used books.



It would take days to fully investigate the used and new books available to patrons at Haslam's Book Store in St. Petersburg.



People travel from all over the world to check out the books available at Haslam's Book Store in St. Petersburg.

ing traditional bound books has plummeted.

The number of titles on the market has soared, but it's harder to ferret out quality, Hinst said.

"There's all kinds of stuff out there that you can download. How do you choose?" he asked. "Anyone with a laptop or a tablet or one of these (smartphone) can write a book, and for very, very nominal amounts of money, can publish both electronically and in a printed, bound version. Not everybody has extraordinary and literary command of the English language and so, it can be problematic."

Besides selling books, Haslam's also buys them. Hinst suggests anyone who wants to sell him books call ahead to see if he's interested.

The popularity of authors waxes and wanes, he explained. There are instances when the store would have been interested in a particular author 10 years ago, but

isn't now.

"The people who read that author are generally no longer with us," Hinst explained.

Values for books fluctuate, too. "Some things have remained valuable over the years, and as time goes by, may increase in value," he said. "Other things have peaked in their value, but they'll hold it. Other things lose their value."

Demand plays a role, too. "I may have nine or 10 of them, in which case, I don't want yours. I don't care how much it's worth," Hinst added.

Ultimately, he said, "we are investing our money in it, so we determine how much we want to invest."

Besides its size, Haslam's also is uncommon because it has remained a family operation for more than eight decades. Hinst thinks that's because the enterprise provides ample challenge for the family members and employees who work there.

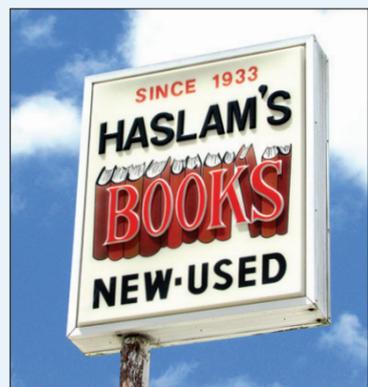
"You have to pay attention to your customers, to your market. If your market changes, you need to change with it," Hinst said. "In a lot of cases, that may be what happens to family businesses, the market changes — there's an evolution in the service or the product in which they have chosen to engage, and they don't make that transition. They don't reflect what's going on."

The business is devoted to the preservation of the printed word, but it's also aware of the importance of profit, Hinst said.

"Keep in mind, we're a business. We're not a library," he said. "We're not here out of the goodness of our hearts, only. The cash register, we have learned over the decades, is a good guide to success."

Being a new and used bookseller also offers its own kind of adventure, he said.

"For me, as a buyer, every day is like



If you go

Haslam's Book Store, Inc.
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Haslams.com
Open Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Open Sunday - noon to 5 p.m.

Christmas. You open up that box of books and you never know what's going to be in there," Hinst said. "You never know what phone call you're going to get — I got some of these' or 'I got one of those'."

"It's that kind of thing that makes it interesting to come to work every day," he said.

Despite the increasing popularity of electronic readers, Hinst expects printed books to have staying power.

People often ask him: "What are you going to do when books go away?"

He typically responds: "We don't think they're going to go away."

When people buy a book, Hinst noted, they own it. No one can come along later to edit or delete it.

It's handy, too. No batteries required.



The size of Haslam's Book Store can't be fully appreciated until you step inside and begin exploring its wide-open spaces and small rooms that are stocked with nearly every kind of book imaginable.

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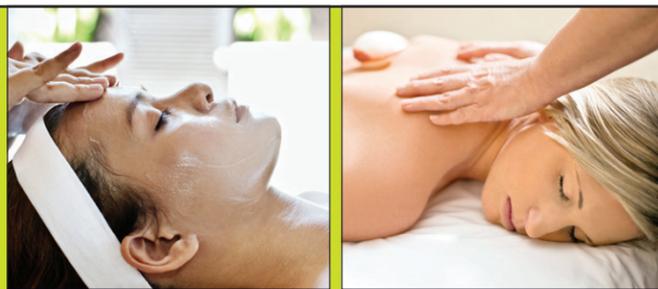
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Don't forget the annual heartworm checkup

Special to The Laker/Lutz News

One of the most fundamental responsibilities of pet ownership is an annual visit to the veterinarian for a heartworm checkup.

Dr. Stephen Jones, a veterinarian and the president of the American Heartworm Society, is offering some answers to common questions about this ritual.

My veterinarian is recommending a heartworm test, but my dog was just tested a year ago. Why does he need a test again so soon?

Your dog should have an annual heartworm test to determine if he became infected during the previous season.

It takes months before a dog with heartworm will test positive. So testing annually — usually at the time the prescription for his heartworm medication is being renewed — makes sense.

As with many diseases, the earlier heartworm can be diagnosed, the better the chances he will recover. If heartworm disease in a dog goes undetected and untreated, the worms can cause progressive and potentially fatal damage to his arteries, heart and lungs.

If my dog is on continuous heartworm prevention, why does he need to be tested?

Annual testing ensures his prevention program is working. Heartworm medications are highly effective, but dogs can still become infected.

Why? A common reason is simple forgetfulness. Missing just one dose of a monthly medication, or administering it late, can leave a dog unprotected. Even if you do everything right and on time, it's no guarantee.

Some dogs spit out their heartworm pills when their owners aren't looking. Dogs also have been known to vomit heartworm pills, or rub off a topical medication. Whatever the cause of missing or delaying a dose. Any of these mishaps can put your dog at risk of heartworm infection.



COURTESY OF ISTOCK

Do my cats need heartworm protection too?

Like dogs, cats get heartworm disease. And while cats are not easily infected as dogs, it only takes one or two heartworms to make a cat very sick. That's why the American Heartworm Society recommends year-round heartworm prevention for both dogs and cats.

Because heartworm disease in cats may or may not involve infection with adult worms, the diagnosis can be challenging. Veterinarians typically run heartworm blood tests on cats before putting them on medication the first time, but later rely on such procedures as chest X-ray and ultrasound to confirm diagnoses.

More information about heartworm disease and its prevention can be found at HeartwormSociety.org.

Remember, pets need year-round prevention to keep them healthy and free of deadly heartworms. Your pet's annual heartworm checkup is crucial.

- StatePoint

PET of the WEEK



The dog in black

Cash, named after Johnny Cash because of his head-to-toe black fur, is a 50-pound, 8-month-old Golden doodle. Cash adores spending time with his family, and is especially happy and playful with the 5-year-old daughter of the Brickner family of Lutz. He know just how gentle to be with her. Cash's best trick is that he rings a bell when he needs to go outside.

Send us a picture and information on your favorite pet!

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

PLEASE NOTE: OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESS MUST BE INCLUDED FOR YOUR PET TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION.

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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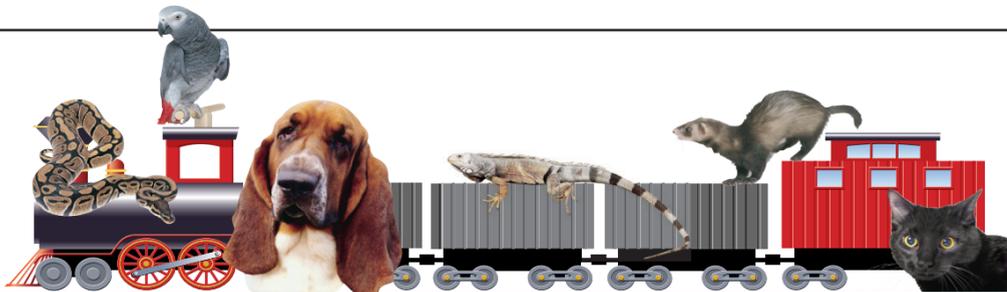
A fun kitten for you

Luke came to the shelter when he was about 10 weeks old, and has been spending time with his brother, Robbie, who's also up for adoption. He is very spunky and he loves to play.

To adopt Luke or pets like him, visit Pasco County Animal Services at 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes. For more information, email adoptionpartners@pascocountyfl.net.

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BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to mhinman@lakerlutznews.com

POSTIGLIONE NEW COO AT GULFSIDE

Kathleen Postiglione has been appointed the new chief operations officer and senior vice president of business development at Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care.

Postiglione will now oversee the clinical operations for Gulfside patients, which services residents of Pasco County.

Postiglione started working at Gulfside in 2004 as the director of nursing. She served as both vice president of operations and chief operations officer before her recent promotion.

Before working at Gulfside, Postiglione was the director of corporate compliance at Good Shepherd Hospice in Lakeland, and spend more than 15 years at AT&T's Bell Laboratories as a member of the technical staff.

She has a bachelor's degree in nursing from Holy Family University in Philadelphia, and her MBA with a focus on health care management from American InterContinental University in Illinois.

For information on Gulfside, call (800) 561-4883, or visit GHPPC.org.

KUMQUAT FESTIVAL SELLING SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce is now accepting reservation packages for the 2015 Kumquat Festival, set to take place Jan. 31.

Packages start at \$500, and include logos and links on the KumquatFestival.org website, as well as booth space at the festival. Premier packages, which run from \$1,000

to \$5,000, include additional features.

The event is expected to draw 45,000 people from Florida, who live here seasonally, and who are visiting.

For information, call John Moors at (352) 567-3769, or email jmoors@dadecitychamber.org.

TAYLOR JOINS RUSSELL ADAMS REALTY

Vernon Taylor has joined Russell Adams Realty Inc., as vice president of real estate services.

Taylor will be focused on company growth, training, legal and ethical compliance, news releases and general brokerage duties, assisting Russell Adams.

Taylor was president of the Greater Tampa Association of Realtors in 2010, and chaired its professional standards committee. He is the District 6 vice president for Florida Realtors, and is on the association's board of directors.

Taylor has a master's degree in education, is a licensed real estate school instructor, and teaches ethics among his various training programs.

To reach him, call (813) 949-3600.



Vernon Taylor

• Oct. 7 — Maj. Ruth VanDyke, an author discussing her book on women in the military

• Oct. 14 — Diane Kortus, president and owner of The Laker/Lutz News

• Oct. 21 — U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis

• Oct. 28 — Michael Walters on water management

• Nov. 4 — Byron Poore on what successful investing and salsa have in common

For information, call (813) 857-7089.

EAST PASCO NETWORKING

The East Pasco Networking Group has scheduled several speakers for the coming months. The group meets every other week at the Village Inn at 5214 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills. Networking begins at 8 a.m., with the meeting starting at 8:30 a.m.

Upcoming speakers include:

• Retired pastor Fred Agnir, who also is an aspiring musician and author, Sept. 9

• George Swatzbaugh of Emerald Home Inspection Service LLC, Sept. 23

• Bob Hatfield from U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis' office, Oct. 14

• Jack Mariano, Pasco County commissioner, Oct. 28

Also, the group will have its early fall mixer Sept. 16.

CATHOLIC BUSINESS NETWORKING SEEKS MEMBERS

The Catholic Business Networking group is looking for Catholic business owners, employees and supporters interested in joining it for regular meetings every Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 2348 Collier Parkway, Land O' Lakes.

The group has annual dues of \$60, and there is a minimum attendance requirement of two meetings per month.

For information, call (813) 833-4737, or visit CBNTampa.com.

BUSINESS LINK AVAILABLE

Business Link, a monthly small business gathering hosted by the San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union, meets the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:30 a.m.

The meeting is designed to provide a networking and information-sharing platform for the business community.

For locations, details and to reserve a seat, email rgaddis@sacfcu.org, or call (352) 588-2732, ext. 1237.

VENDORS SOUGHT FOR EXPO

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce is looking for vendors for its upcoming Community Business Expo, which will take place Nov. 13 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Dan Cannon Auditorium, 36722 State Road 52, in Dade City.

Vendor fees begin at \$50 for chamber members, with bundle fees available for \$150, which includes space at the expo plus a year membership with the chamber. Sponsorship opportunities are available for \$500.

For information, call John Moors or Melody Floyd at (352) 567-3769, or email them at jmoors@dadecitychamber.org, or mfloyd@dadecitychamber.org.

WESLEY CHAPEL CHAMBER HEADING TO TUSCANY

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce is planning a nine-day trip to Tuscany, Italy.

The trip is planned to begin Oct. 20, and space is limited.

For information, call (813) 994-8534, or email office@wesleychapelchamber.com.

'DANCING WITH OUR STARS' RETURNS

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will once again host "Dancing With Our Stars," with a performance scheduled for Oct. 18.

The chamber still has a few dance slots to fill, as well as a need for volunteers to help behind the scenes for the "stars" who will be trained by dance professionals to perform a short routine.

The overall winner will be based on monetary votes, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting arts programs in the community.

To participate, volunteer or even sponsor, visit CentralPascoChamber.com, or call (813) 909-2722.

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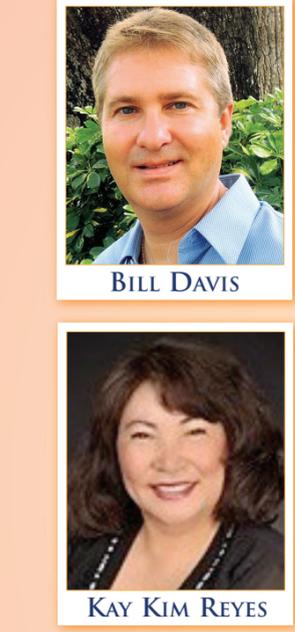
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