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INSIDE, PAGE 1B

SR 54 West booming with development

By Kathy Steele
ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

State Road 54, east of U.S. 41, tends to hog the spotlight on new development. After all, it is home to premium commercial shopping meccas, including Tampa Premium Outlets and the now-rising star of Cypress Creek Town Center.

Brightworks Crossing, an apartment and retail project, is going up at Wesley Chapel Boulevard and State Road 54. And, other area development includes Florida Hospital Center Ice, luxury car dealerships, a thriving Shops at Wiregrass, and commercial and residential expansions at Wiregrass Ranch.

But, west of U.S. 41, with its large parcels of open land, the game of catch-up is on. Apartments, single-family homes, offices,

hotels and shops are under construction, awaiting permits, or have just cleared the rezoning hurdle.

The mixed-use, master-planned community of Asturia is among many new developments that are reshaping Pasco County's future. The changes are particularly noticeable in Land O' Lakes, on the north side of the state road from U.S. 41 to Starkey Ranch.

Construction sites and new development pop up - boom, boom, boom.

The progression of development is taking a natural course of following where land is available, said Lars Kier, president of the Central Pasco Association of REALTORS.

"It's moving away from Wesley Chapel and Tampa," he said. "It's just a natural growth that way."

Also, the western side of Pasco County is largely developed, he added.

Central Pasco and East Pasco are more rural.

"Real estate is establishing itself where it's easier to develop," Kier said. "With all the growth in Pasco, I would definitely think all of it is going to be pretty well-developed."

Occasionally, the county's rural past meets up with its urban future.

Down the entrance drive into Asturia, a small herd of cows munches grass on an open field. Behind them, construction workers raise the roofs on new homes.

But, Asturia isn't all that's happening. From U.S. 41, west, there are the Shoppes at Ballantrae Village; Mystic Pointe apart-

See SR 54, page 13A



COURTESY OF METTLER TOLEDO

Mettler Toledo opened its 270,000-square-foot manufacturing plant in Northpointe Village, off State Road 54.

Mettler Toledo brings jobs to Pasco County

By Kathy Steele
ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Mettler Toledo celebrated the grand opening of its 270,000-square-foot manufacturing plant in Northpointe Village, with tours, refreshments and a ribbon cutting.

The Swiss-based company is a global supplier of precision scales and services used in research, and the packaging and production of food and pharmaceuticals.

Mettler Toledo announced plans in 2017 to relocate its Town 'n Country facility, and also to close its plant in Ithaca, New York. About 600 employees now work at the new plant at the Northpointe shopping center, off State Road 54 at Suncoast Parkway.

Nearly 170 people were hired in the past year, with most coming from Pasco County.

"We have a global leader now located in our county," said Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey. "It's an amazing company. Opportunities like this one bring even more enthusiasm to our region."

The facility will be home to four busi-



KATHY STEELE

Mettler Toledo executives and local dignitaries cut the ribbon the 270,000-square-foot manufacturing plant.

ness units.

Currently onsite are Tampa-based Safeline Metal Detection and X-Ray Inspection, and Eagle Product Inspection.

During the summer, they will be joined by Mettler Toledo's Hi-Speed Checkweighing, which currently is in Ithaca; and, Vision Inspection, currently in Aurora, Illinois.

The units offer a range of services, including the design and manufacture of systems that check for contaminants, provide quality control for products and packaging, and test for safety of foods and pharmaceuticals.

During tours of the plant, visitors walked

through the sales and services departments, plant operations area, training room, and quality control area.

The campus also has an on-site fitness room, a recreation room with ping pong and foosball, a courtyard and the "Northpointe Café."

In quality control, visitors got a demonstration of Mettler Toledo's testing equipment.

The one on display is capable of checking 300 boxes of chocolates in 1 minute for contaminants, and missing pieces of candy.

In her remarks, Starkey singled out

See JOBS, page 13A

Sports tourism expert praises Pasco's offerings

By Kevin Weiss
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As Pasco County stocks up on sports and recreation facilities, one local sports tourism expert envisions the growing area as a regional asset and an enticement for attracting more big-ticket sporting events to Tampa Bay.

Jason Aughey, senior director at the Tampa Bay Sports Commission, was the featured guest speaker on March 22 at an economic development briefing hosted by the North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce at Hunter's Green Golf & Country Club.

While much of the talk focused on the Tampa Bay region as a whole, Aughey touched on Pasco County's current impact and potential as a sports destination.

"The future is extremely bright," said Aughey, who is bullish on the county's renewed focus on sports tourism.

He specifically mentioned the "world-class" Florida Hospital Center Ice in Wesley

Chapel, which opened in early 2017 as the largest hockey complex in the southeastern United States.

"People come here and see that — they're blown away," Aughey said.

He said another feather in the county's cap is the construction of a \$44 million, 98,000-square-foot, multi-use indoor sports complex being built in the Wiregrass area.

The Wiregrass sports complex — set to open by spring 2019 — could be used as an ancillary site for large indoor volleyball tournaments, such as the Gasparilla Volleyball Kickoff Classic, which are currently hosted at the Tampa Convention Center.

The Wiregrass facility, developed by RAAD Sports LLC, also can host basketball, soccer, lacrosse and cheerleading events, among others.

The speaker lauded existing centers, including Saddlebrook Resort — which hosted the Fed Cup Tennis Semifinals last



COURTESY OF NORTH TAMPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Tampa Bay Sports Commission senior director Jason Aughey was the featured guest speaker at a March 22 economic development briefing hosted by the North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce.

See TOURISM, page 13A

SHOPPING FUN ON 41

Artwork by Laney Lowrey from Marchman Technical College

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Your memory problem: Is it aging or dementia?

By B.C. Manion

bcmajian@lakerlutznews.com

Those attending Dr. Andrew E. Budson's talks at the Plantation Palms Golf Club in Land O' Lakes last week had two key take-aways.

First, if you're having problems with your memory, go to a doctor who specializes in memory issues. In some cases, the problem may be the result of something that's completely reversible, and even when it's not, the sooner treatment begins, the better, said Budson, co-author of the book "Seven Steps to Managing Your Memory."

The second takeaway was this: If you're looking for something that's very likely to help your memory, exercise is the key.

"People often ask me, 'Dr. Budson, is there a magic pill out there to help improve my memory?' My answer is, 'Yes, there is. It's called exercise.'"

Budson gave two talks on April 6 as part of a program presented by Keystone Place at Terra Bella, a new retirement community that will be opening in Land O' Lakes, which will offer independent living, assisted living and memory care accommodations.

To get things rolling, Budson asked the audience during the 12:30 p.m. talk to consider whether these common memory issues were a result of normal aging, or something else:

- You walk into a room to get something and you forget why.
- You're having trouble remembering the name of a friend of yours from church, even though you've met her a half-dozen times.
- You're having trouble remembering some of the details of your life, such as your wedding.
- When you are driving and not paying attention, you take one or more wrong turns, and you end up somewhere you did not intend to be.
- You spend too much time looking for your keys, glasses, wallet or purse.
- Your family said you've asked that question before.

One of the key things to watch for is a change in behavior, Budson said.

"If you are someone who every morning



Dr. Andrew Budson

as you're getting ready to leave the house you spend 5, 10 or 15 minutes hunting around for keys, glasses, wallet, purse, and now you're getting a little bit older and you're still spending 5, 10, 15 minutes hunting around the house for these things, well, that's probably normal for you.

"But if you are someone who is always very organized, never spend any time hunting around for these things — and now you're spending 5, 10, 15, maybe 20 minutes, maybe an hour, maybe you never find that wallet, you have to replace the credit cards or you have to replace the cellphone because you couldn't find it, you know, that would be concerning," Budson said.

He gave another example. "Anyone can forget that they've already told their best friend that story and start to tell it again, or cannot remember the answer to a question and ask it again. Sure, that can happen once or twice, no big deal.

"But, for somebody that's telling the same story, again and again and again ... every time you meet this individual they tell it, maybe even twice during the same visit, that sounds like rapid forgetting. Rapid forgetting is never normal," he said.

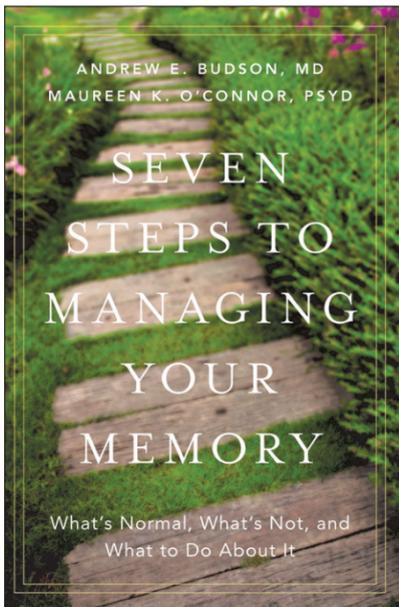
To help explain how memory works, the doctor used the analogy of a filing system.

"The file clerk is our frontal lobes. It is our frontal lobes' file clerk's job to take the information in from the outside world and to put it inside the file cabinet.

"So, when we want to retrieve a memory, you can picture the frontal lobe file clerk pulling open the file drawer, leafing through the files until he finds the memory that he's looking for," he said.

As we get older, our file clerk doesn't hear quite as well as he used to, so information may need to be repeated a couple of times in order for it to be stored in the file cabinet.

It also can take longer to retrieve a memory, and we may need a hint or cue about



COURTESY OF THE ROCHE ASSOCIATES

what a memory was about, he added.

But, the main thing is, if a memory goes into the cabinet — it can be retrieved.

Using the same filing system analogy, he then focused on the file cabinet itself.

"The file cabinet is another part of the brain. It's actually our hippocampus. The hippocampus is the part of the brain that stores new memories. It's located in the temporal lobes.

"The problem with diseases like Alzheimer's is that it damages the hippocampus, and ultimately, in fact, destroys the hippocampus.

"Imagine if you pull open the drawer of the file cabinet and you look down inside, and you find out there's a big hole in the bottom of the file drawer.

"You can have the most efficient file clerk in the world, taking information in from the outside world, putting it into the file cabinet. If there's a big hole there, the memories are going to disappear, never to be retrieved again," he said.

DIET AND EXERCISE CAN STRENGTHEN MEMORY

The doctor also explained the distinction between the terms dementia, Alzheimer's and mild cognitive impairment.

Dementia is a general term that means that someone's thinking and memory have declined to the point that it interferes with day-to-day function, he said.

It can be caused by things that are easily treatable and actually completely reversible, but also can be caused by serious diseases, including Alzheimer's.

Mild cognitive impairment means that a person has a confirmed memory loss, but that the individual's day-to-day function is normal, Budson said.

Over time, about half of the people with mild cognitive impairment go on to develop Alzheimer's or another form of dementia, but the other half don't, he said.

Once a memory problem has been determined, the next step is treatment, Budson said. There are standard medications that have been approved by the U.S. Food and

Know the 10 signs

- Memory loss that disrupts daily life
- Challenges in planning or solving problems
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work, or at leisure
- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble with understanding visual images or spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
- Decreased or poor judgment
- Withdrawal from work or social activities
- Changes in mood or personality

For more details on this list and for more information about Alzheimer's, visit ALZ.org.

Drug Administration, he said. Plus, there's more research underway now than there ever has been during the 110-year history of Alzheimer's.

Early treatment is crucial, he said.

"They (medications) can turn the clock back by six to 12 months," he said. "I am much more likely to be able to turn the clock back all of the way to 12 months, all the way to make their memory like it was a year ago, if they come to see me early."

Research also shows that lifestyle changes can help, he said.

"The Mediterranean diet, and a few variations of it, is really the only diet that study after study after study has been proven to be healthy for the brain and good for the memory," he said. That diet includes fish, olive oil, avocados, fruits and vegetables, nuts and beans, and whole grains.

Exercise also is good for you, but before increasing your activity, be sure to check with your doctor, he said.

The recommended amount of exercise is at least 30 minutes of aerobic exercise five days a week, plus two hours a week of things that help with strength and balance, and flexibility.

Besides reducing the risk for stroke and improving your mood, exercise can help you sleep better — which is critically important for the memory, he said.

"Remember we talked about how the new memories are stored in the hippocampus, in our new memory file cabinet? Well, it turns out there's another memory file cabinet that is storing the older memories. It is during sleep that the memories go from the short-term, temporary store (file) to the long-term permanent store (file)," he said.

Besides exercise and diet, other ways to strengthen the memory including social engagement and learning new things, Budson said.

There is no evidence, however, that doing brain-training games and crossword puzzles will improve the memory, he said.

"What the studies show is that if you spend time doing crossword puzzles, or Sudoku or computerized brain training programs, you get better at crossword puzzles, Sudoku and computerized brain training programs. It simply does not translate to overall brain function," he said.

TIRED OF CHAIN FOOD?

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By ANNE KIBBE

The Laker/Lutz News Account Manager

Ask him what he's most proud of about his family-owned and operated Italian restaurant in Land O' Lakes, and owner Ben Pumo will tell you it's his family garden.

For nearly two decades, award-winning Benedetto's Ristorante Italiano has won the hearts — and taste buds — of its customers with its fresh flavors and authentic New York-style Italian cuisine. But, what many diners don't know is that their meal is truly homegrown.

Chef Pumo ventured into hydroponic gardening this spring inspired by a desire to take his passion for cooking to the next level. Housed on 30 acres of land in East Pasco that's been in the Pumo family since the 1850's, the team is already harvesting beautiful green peppers, cucumbers, kale and much more. Banana trees produce the filling for Pumo's popular banana bread, and fresh basil makes his pesto pop.



Ben Pumo

"I have to say, the experience of planting our own seeds, picking the ripe produce, and prepping the food with our own hands to serve to our customers is what it's all about," says Pumo. "What we're doing is truly farm-to-table dining at its best."

In addition to homegrown produce, they source their shrimp — the true Key West pinks — locally. Their grouper is always fresh from Florida, and beef is purchased locally. "I love cooking," says Pumo. "Growing my own ingredients is the best way I know to do justice to the dishes I prepare. Fresh from the farm to the table is the real deal at my restaurant."

Benedetto's is open Wednesday and Thursday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m., and Sundays from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. with live jazz on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Dinner reservations are recommended. Full service catering is also available for private events.

For more information, visit www.benedettoitaliano.com, or call (813) 909-9694.

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PUBLISHER & OWNER: DIANE KORTUS, dkortus@lakerlutznews.com

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IT SUPPORT: STEVE MISTRETTA
DISTRIBUTION: Florida Circ, LLC • ken@floridacirc.com

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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

The Pasco Alliance of Community Associations will meet April 12 at 7 p.m., at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The panel of guests will discuss the topic, "Community Green Management: Best Practices." For information, call Wayne Mooney at (352) 467-9808, or visit MyPACA.org.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Big Brothers Big Sisters will host "Custard Conversation with the CEO" April 12 at 6 p.m., at Culver's, 12538 State Road 54 in Odessa. The guest speaker will be Stephen Koch, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters Tampa Bay. Participants can share ideas on how to help more kids in the community. RSVP at margaretg@bbstampabay.org.

HERNANDO COUNTY FAIR

The Hernando County Fair & Youth Livestock Show will take place April 13 to April 21 at the Hernando County Fairgrounds, 6436 Broad St., in Brooksville. There will be live entertainment and livestock shows daily. There also will be a truck and tractor pull April 14 and a demolition derby April 21. Admission is \$8 for age 13 and older, \$4 for ages 4 to 12, and free for age 3 and younger. Gates open at 5 p.m., during the week and noon on weekends. For information, visit HernandoFairgrounds.com, or call (352) 796-4552.

RABBI TO SPEAK

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host Rabbi Hayim Herring from April 13 to April 15. Herring has worked with more than 300 rabbis and congregations on a wide range of issues, including continuing rabbinic education, volunteer leadership development, governance, strategic planning, organizational foresight and innovation. There will be a Shabbat dinner after a D'Var Torah presentation April 13 at 6 p.m. The cost is \$20 for adults, \$15 for ages 4 to 11, and free for kids age 3 and younger. Reservations are required. For information, call (813) 962-6338, or email execdirector@kolami.org.

BOOK BAZAAR

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will have a book bazaar April 13 and April 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a diverse selection of books, audio and video media, magazines, and related materials, all for a modest cost. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

BLOCK PRINTING

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer printmaking/stamp carving April 14 from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants can learn the basics of block printing by designing, carving and printing a completed bookmark. Registration and a signed liability form are required. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

BOARD GAMES, PRIZES

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host "Bored? Try Board Games at the Library" April 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be prizes for participants. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

Pottery exhibit & sale

Jack Boyle's San Antonio Pottery, 11903 Curley St., in San Antonio, will present a Student Exhibition and Sale April 14 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Current and past pottery students will showcase their work. There will be pottery class demonstrations, light snacks, beverages and live music.

Admission is free. A percentage of sales will benefit the Thomas Promise Foundation.

For information, call (352) 588-4228, or email potteryboss@gmail.com.



GARDENING LECTURES

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will host a master gardener April 14 at 9 a.m., to answer questions and share tips on identifying plants. At 10 a.m., there will be a lecture on irrigation. Participants can learn to improve an irrigation system's performance and the steps to take to ensure landscape will survive rising temperatures. Registration is required. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

PRETEEN GAMING

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer preteen gaming April 14 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., for ages 9 to 15. Participants can play the latest video games and classic board games. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

NATIVE PLANT FIELD TRIP

The Nature Coast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will have a field trip to Honeymoon Island State Park April 14 at 10 a.m. Participants will visit two of the nine natural communities in the park, discuss the island's history, and have lunch at a nearby restaurant. There is a \$2 entrance fee for a single-occupant vehicle and \$8 for two to eight occupants in a vehicle. For information, contact Gail Parsons at (813) 928-1412 or gailpar1@verizon.net.

MAKE A JOURNAL

The Lutz Branch Library, 101 W. Lutz-Lake Fern Road, will celebrate National Library Week with a class to make a journal April 14 at 3:30 p.m. Participants can stop by anytime between 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

TECH HELP

The Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., will offer one-on-one tech help, by appointment only, April 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. To schedule, call (813) 780-0064.

TASTE OF CARROLLWOOD

The Carrollwood Area Business Association will host "Taste of Carrollwood" April 15 at George M. Steinbrenner Field, in Tampa. There will be free food tasting, family activities including a scavenger hunt, in-crowd entertainers, musical performers, a Kids Corner, numerous vendors and more. Admission and parking are free. No tickets are required. For information, visit UseCABA.com, call (813) 264-0006, or email join@usecaba.com.

COOL RUNNINGS FILM

The Tampa Theatre, 711 N. Franklin St., in

downtown Tampa, will show the movie "Cool Runnings" April 15 at 3 p.m., as part of its Family Favorites Films series. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for ages 2 to 12, and \$7 for theater members. For information, visit TampaTheatre.org.

WOMAN'S CLUB FUNDRAISER

The GFWC New Tampa Junior Woman's Club will host its 21st annual charity auction and fundraiser, "Tee It Up for Charity: A Topgolf Event," April 15 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Topgolf Tampa. There will be three hours of Topgolf fun, a buffet dinner, a silent auction, and a 50/50 raffle. All funds raised will go back to the community in the form of volunteer service projects and in-kind donations. Tickets are \$75. For information, visit GFWCNewTampaJuniors.org/no5000.

APPRECIATE PASCO

"Appreciate Pasco: Good Deeds Day" will take place April 15 from noon to 6 p.m., at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. This community volunteer appreciation festival will kick off Volunteer Appreciation Week in Pasco County. There will be musical entertainment, activities, games, prizes, arts and crafts, vendors, and volunteer awards and acknowledgments. Guests should bring a chair. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted. RSVP at ActionNetwork.org/events/appreciate-pasco-festival.

PAINTING FUNDRAISER

Painting with a Twist, 1924 Oak Grove Blvd., in Lutz, will host a fundraiser April 15 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$45 per seat, with 50 percent of the proceeds benefiting Sunrise of Pasco. To register and see what participants will paint, visit tinyurl.com/yccnemx4.

LAND O'LG&T

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host the Land O'LG&T group April 16 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., for ages 16 and older. Join in for conversation, snacks and education on the LG&T community. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

LOL BOOK CLUB

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host the LOL Book Club April 17 at 1:30 p.m., to discuss "The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy" by Rachel Joyce. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

BOOK DISCUSSION

The Hugh Embry Book Discussion Group will meet April 17 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, to discuss "The

Black Rose: The Dramatic Story of Madam C.J. Walker, America's First Black Female Millionaire" by Tananarive Due. New members can attend. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

JOB FAIR

Hillsborough Community College-Dale Mabry Campus will host a Job Fair April 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the gym. More than 50 employers with hiring opportunities are scheduled to attend. The Career Resource Center offers students tools and services to assess skills and interests, explore occupations, develop resumes, and prepare for interviews. The event is open to the public. Admission is free. For information, contact Jean Switalski at (813) 253-7310.

RAPUNZEL PERFORMANCE

The Lutz Branch Library, 101 W. Lutz-Lake Fern Road, will present "Rapunzel," by the Creative Arts Theatre Company, April 18 at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., for ages 4 and older. The show will be an inventive new adaptation of the tale of the young woman who lives in a high tower. For information, call (813) 273-3652.

GENEALOGY SEMINAR

The West Pasco County Genealogical Society will host a genealogy seminar April 18 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the CARES Enrichment Center, 12417 Clock Tower Parkway in Hudson. Participants can learn how to locate vital records through ancestry research, and what information can be found both online and offline. Admission is \$5 for society members, and \$7 for non-members. To register, email debbehagner@yahoo.com, or text (727) 271-0770.

TEEN POETRY

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host Teen Poetry April 18 at 4 p.m. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

SENIOR CENTER

The Land O' Lakes Senior Center, 6801 Wisteria Loop in Land O' Lakes, offers activities for age 60 and older, such as adult coloring, music, word search, games, karaoke, Wii, bingo, crafts and more. The center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, call (813) 929-1200, or visit PascoCountyFl.net, and click on "Seniors" under the "Residents" header.

GUV'NA RACE

The Lutz Civic Association is looking for Guv'na Race candidates. Those interested must live or work in Lutz, and have a desire to help community charitable organizations. The race has been part of the Lutz community for almost three decades. The winner is announced at the Lutz Independence Day Parade on July 4. Email jenn4parade@gmail.com.

WATER SURVEY

Tampa Bay Water needs input and feedback for the 2018 Long-Term Master Water Plan, in reference to the region's water supply and the next source of drinking water. To take the survey, visit FutureWater.org. Participants also can watch a 5-minute presentation on projects under consideration.



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Showing some appreciation for those who do good

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

This is a festival that takes time out to celebrate the good that people do in their communities.

The name of the event is Appreciate Pasco: A Community Volunteer Appreciation Festival, and it will feature entertainment, food, prizes, awards and recognitions.

It also will highlight Good Deeds Day, an international event held in 93 countries, to recognize good works that often go unnoticed, but that help make the world a better place.

The appreciation festival will be held on April 15 from noon to 6 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes.

"We anticipate it will kick off in flying colors and it will be an annual event," said Appreciate Pasco organizer Elise Mysels.

Appreciate Pasco kicks off several other annual celebrations, including annual National Volunteer Week, Health Care Volunteer Week, National Park Service Volunteer Week, and Worldwide Volunteer Recognition Day on April 20. It also coincides with National Representation Day, which focuses on ending corruption in government.

Over the past three months, Mysels and a core group of about five volunteers, known as the Pasco County Volunteer Activists, have worked to pull Appreciate Pasco together.

It's the first festival of its kind in the Tampa Bay area for Good Deeds Day and Representation Day, said Mysels.

"There are a lot of people in our community that do stuff behind the scenes that nobody knows about," said Mysels. "They deserve to be recognized. We're trying to make this an initiative that supports smaller types of groups and organizations, and bring to the forefront their needs and causes."

Entertainment kicks off at noon at the park's new bandstand, with WMNF radio station's Florida Folk Show. WMNF is a co-sponsor of the festival through Represent.us.

Performers will be Ronny Elliott, a singer/songwriter and WMNF co-host; The Florida Boys, a Pinellas County-based trio; Tom Scudiero, a Dade City singer/songwriter; Treble Hook, whose real name is Scotty Lee Rexroat, a Dunedin-based singer/songwriter; Jim Mason, a Spring Hill native, with more than 40 years in the recording industry with performers, such

Appreciate Pasco: A Community Volunteer Appreciation Festival

WHEN: April 15, noon to 6 p.m.

WHERE: Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Land O' Lakes

COST: Free

DETAILS: The festival celebrates volunteers in Tampa Bay, with arts and crafts, entertainment, food, prizes, and volunteer awards and recognition.

INFO: ActionNetwork.org/events/appreciate-pasco-festival

as, Peter, Paul and Mary, John Lennon and Buffalo Springfield; and, Dottie South.

More than 70 businesses, vendors, civic organizations, and nonprofits from Tampa Bay are expected to participate. They include Courteous Canine; Arts in Motion Pasco; Davis Family Hearing; Harley-Davidson of Tampa; Ferman Buick-GMC; Moore-Mickens Education Center; Gulfside Hospice; Sierra Club; Represent.us Pasco County; Catholic Charities; Oasis Pregnancy Centers; Sunrise Pasco; Women's March; and Organize Florida.

The nonprofit, OneBlood, will drive up its Big Red Bus for blood donations, and free wellness checkups.

Attendees can vote for their favorite nonprofit, with monetary awards going to the top three vote-getters.

Food vendors are Whaley's BBQ, Vallarta's Mexican Restaurant and the Sno Shack.

International Good Deeds Day began in 2007 as an initiative organized by Ruach Tova of the Ted Arison Family Foundation. The event's partner is the nonprofit Points of Light, which was founded by President George H.W. Bush.

Good Deeds Day and Points of Light promote innovative programs that engage volunteers in providing public service. The event day focuses on 17 sustainable development goals adopted by the United Nations, including eliminating poverty; gender equality; affordable, clean energy; decent work and economic growth; good health; and climate action.

Good deeds, large and small, can change the world, Mysels said.

"Good deeds can be something as small as a smile or holding a door open for someone," she said.

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CORRECTIONS: The onset time for Narcan, which can prevent opioid overdoses, is 1 minute to 3 minutes. An incorrect timeframe was reported in a story published in The Laker/Lutz News on March 21.

The Land O' Lakes High School band last competed in the State Concert MPA in 2004. Incorrect information was provided to The Laker/Lutz News in a story published on April 4.

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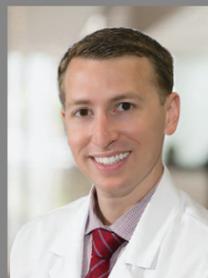
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Bereavement services planned

By B.C. Manion

Bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

People who work or volunteer for Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care are familiar with the sense of loss and sadness that survivors often face when a loved one passes on.

To help people who are struggling, Gulfside offers bereavement support groups.

And, it also organizes community memorial services that are open to anyone who has lost a loved one during the past year, as a way to honor the lives of those who have passed away.

This year, two community memorial services are planned, according Charlie Lowry, bereavement manager at Gulfside.

The first service is scheduled for April 24 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Trinity Church of Wesley Chapel, at 33425 State Road 54.

The second service will be May 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church at 8320 Old County Road 54 in New Port Richey.

"We invite people from the community to come and be a part of that service of remembering," Lowry said.

The idea is to "make sure that everyone knows that those who have passed on have

not been forgotten," he said. "We try to give some significance to their lives, and to the survivors, as well."

The service will feature various readings, will have music and will have time for reflection, he said.

There will be a time during the service, when people who have lost a loved one will be asked to stand to silently honor them.

After the service, there will be refreshments, and people will be able to mingle, Lowry said. Some may choose to bring photographs of loved one, to show to others, or may want to share a story or two, he said.

The idea is to remind people that there are others who are experiencing a similar loss, he said.

"A lot of times people feel alone, left alone," Lowry said.

The communal service, he said, "kind of helps us come to grips with it."

The services are open to anyone who would like to attend.

Refreshments will be served and seating is limited, so RSVPs are requested by April 20.

To RSVP, contact Jan Double at (727) 845-5707 or jan.double@ghpc.org.

To learn more about Gulfside Hospice, call (800) 561-4883, or visit GHPPC.org.

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Pine View continues journey toward IB designation

By B.C. Manion

bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

An International Baccalaureate team recently visited Pine View Middle School, to determine if the Land O' Lakes school has met the requirements to become an authorized IB Middle Years Programme World School.

The team spent two days at the school, interviewing staff, students and parents, and observing classrooms to ensure that the IB framework has been embedded in Pine View's learning environment, according to Jennifer Warren, the school's principal.

The team's report will be forwarded to IB officials for their review, she said, noting she expects to receive an answer on the school's authorization within 60 days to 90 days.

Pine View, at 5334 Parkway Blvd., has been a IB Middle Years Candidate School since May of 2015 and has been implementing the program since the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.

As it awaits word on its designation, Pine View also is preparing for next school year,

when it will join the list of magnet schools in the Pasco County school district, Warren said.

And, it will be shifting to a seven-period school day to better accommodate its curriculum, according to Becky Cardinale, the middle years programme coordinator.

The seventh period allows students greater opportunity to explore courses, Cardinale said.

"A seven-period day allows for more teacher planning time and for more professional development time," Warren said. "A lot of planning work is required of teachers."

Students at Pine View have four traditional core classes: Individuals and societies (social studies), science, math, and language and literature. They also have an arts class, language acquisition (which is foreign language), and a combination physical education and design.

As the school converts to a magnet school beginning next school year, it will be accepting students from throughout the district.

It received 89 applications for its inaugural magnet year, with applications coming from charter school students, out-of-county

students and 15 of the district's middle schools. Ultimately, 49 of those students chose to attend Pine View.

"Those living within Pine View's attendance boundary, have first choice," Warren said. Then, slots are opened up to students from outside of the school's boundaries.

Although the school's curriculum meets the Florida standards, the delivery of instruction is different.

For instance, "one of the standards with the middle years programme is that students have both a visual and a performing art component, sometime in their time at Pine View," Cardinale said.

"For incoming students, we're going to be combining students who are interested in band or chorus as a performing art, we're going to be combining a visual art in with that class.

"So, they're going to be learning about visual art through the lens of a performing art," she said.

The school also has a new barn, and students associated with the agricultural program have garnered numerous awards, Warren said.

Overall, parents have been responding

positively to the school's IB curriculum, both the principal and Cardinale said.

"We're preparing kids for jobs that don't necessarily even exist yet," Cardinale said.

"You can tell a parent: Your child is learning skills they can apply in whatever job they choose..."

"We want our students to be collaborators. We want them to love learning. We want them to be problem-solvers.

"Show me a career that doesn't require students to do all of those things," Cardinale added.

At the middle school level, the program is for every student, Warren said.

"You hear IB, and it has a very elite connotation to it, that it's only certain students, of a certain caliber," she said. "Well, really every student, no matter what their IQ is, can be an acquirer, or a thinker, or a problem-solver, or caring.

"I think it is just teaching them all of the things that make for a well-rounded adult," she said.

Students attending Pine View, "have the broadest liberal arts opportunity of any (public middle school) student in the county," Warren said.




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SHELL'S GARDEN GUIDE APRIL

By Dax Gonzalez

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Store Manager Dax Gonzalez

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Vegetable Gardens: Fertilize vegetable gardens, they are now growing strong stems and branching in preparation to set lots of blooms. Side-dress 6-6-6 or 8-8-8 fertilizer at the rate of 1-2 pounds per 100' row. Should be seeing some excellent growth!

Organic Vegetable Gardens: Use Shell's Naturals 3-3-3 Organic Garden Fertilizer with its new & improved formula, now including Humates & Mycorrhizae for great microbial soil conditioning, on sale now!

Pest Control: As mentioned above, Garden Friendly Fungicide (GFF) is a great disease killer that is for organic gardens. GreenCure Fungicide is another good product. The key to most organic products is being consistent with application, when you purchase it, ask us for our best tips for applying these organic products. Continue to watch for aphids on your vegetable plants. If you have them, use Triple Action Neem Oil, Conserve Naturalyte (Spinosad), or Natural Pyrethrins (unless you have cats) - all of these are natural, organic aphid control solutions. Be sure to treat the underside of the leaves. We also have predatory insects like lady bugs available for purchase! Grasshoppers, aka Lubbers or Locusts, emerged last month, and if you didn't get Nolo Bait™ in your yard, then you might be seeing more mature hoppers now (and remember they can migrate from other areas too). These voracious eaters can chew through a garden in a few days. You can lure them away from your garden and ensure that they don't procreate again by using Nolo Bait™, an organic grasshopper insecticide. Make bait traps out of 2-3" PVC pipe, ask us how!

Shell's Feed & Garden Supply, Inc., has been family owned and operated since 1961, serving residents of Tampa, Lutz, and Land O'Lakes. Our unique combination of garden, farm, & feed supplies, including our own Shell's branded formulations, have been helping Tampa Bay grow great gardens and landscapes for three generations. Lutz resident, Greg Shell, is the owner of the store. He took over operations in 2007 from his father who originally started the family business. Dax Gonzalez, our General Manager, has worked for Shell's Feed for over 12 years.

If you have any questions, please let us know. As always, we are here to help.
(Above information obtained from UF IFAS and the Hillsborough County Extension Service and condensed to serve our customers)

9513 Nebraska Avenue • Tampa, FL 33612
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Noon - 6 p.m.

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PARTIES - MEETINGS - EVENTS

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Send health news to news@lakerlutznews.com

The Laker/Lutz News likes to keep our readers informed about available classes, seminars, lectures and events regarding health and wellness issues. Hospitals, doctors, individual practitioners and anyone related to the health care industry can submit information, at least two weeks in advance, to be considered for publication. Photos of events, recognitions and so on, also are welcome. Submissions should include who, what, where, when, cost, contact information, identifications for individuals in a photo (unless it is a large group), and a photo credit. This information should be emailed to news@lakerlutznews.com.

LIFE WITH ADULT CHILDREN

Access Health Care Physicians will offer a lecture called "Life with Adult Children at Home: The Challenges & What Can You Do to Make It Work" April 12 from 5:15 p.m. to 7 p.m., at 5350 Spring Hill Drive in Spring Hill.

For information and to register, call (352) 688-8116, ext. 4344.

BREAST-FEEDING CLASS

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer a breast-feeding class April 14 from 9 a.m. to noon, in Garden Classroom A.

Topics will include latching and positioning, the benefits of immediate skin-to-skin contact, newborn hunger signs, tips for returning to work, breast-feeding lifestyles, and when to call a health care provider or lactation consultant for help.

The cost is \$25. To register, call (813) 443-2046.

TAI CHI, YOGA

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer a Tai Chi class April 16 at 6 p.m., for anyone who would like to increase flexibility, core stability and balance, as well as reduce stress.

There also will be a chair yoga class April 17 from 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m., to help improve balance and increase endurance, flexibility and range of motion. Guests should bring water and wear comfortable clothing.

A signed liability waiver is required for

both classes.

For information, call (813) 929-1214.

ESSENTIAL OILS FOR HEALTH

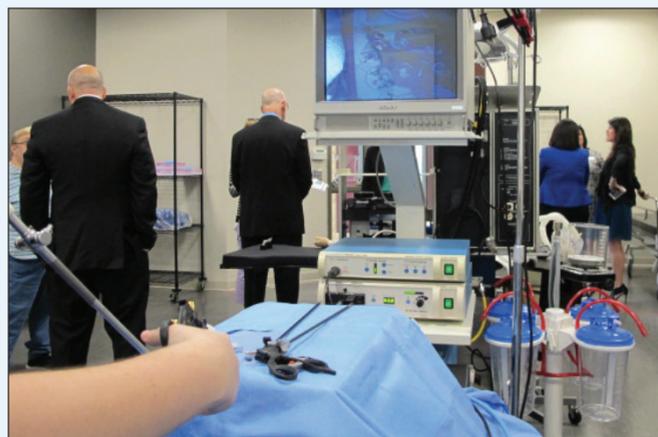
Deanna Jacobs will offer an "Intro to Essential Oils" April 17 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Living Food Bakery & Café,

38201 10th Ave., in Zephyrhills.

Participants can learn the methods for using oils for personal health, care and well-being. There also will be a free raffle.

For information, call (813) 479-7724.

Continued on next page



COURTESY OF KATIE GREISCH

Rasmussen launches new program

Rasmussen College, in New Port Richey, hosted a surgical technologist associate degree program launch and open house, in March. Participants were able to tour the surgical suite that allows students to get hands-on experience in a simulation lab, before completing the required practicum in a real-world health care environment. The laparoscopic video tower and laparoscopic simulator was just one piece of equipment in the suite, which looks and feels like an operating room.

Queens are born in APRIL

Lay Away & Gift Certificates Available

10% OFF ALL JEWELRY REPAIRS <small>Not valid with any other offers. With coupon. Expires 4/30/18</small>	\$5.00 OFF WATCH BATTERY <small>Limit 1 per customer. Including installation. Not valid with any other offers. With coupon. Expires 4/30/18</small>	FREE JEWELRY CLEANING "While You Wait" <small>Not valid with any other offers. With coupon. Expires 4/30/18</small>
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COURTESY OF FLORIDA HOSPITAL

A great day to go for a walk

Florida Hospital celebrated National Walking 2018 at its campuses in Tampa, Carrollwood and at Connerton Long Term Acute Care. The hospital encouraged everyone to get in 10,000 steps.

CARE AFTER MENOPAUSE

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, will offer a seminar on "Gynecological Care After Menopause: Do I Really Need It?" April 17.

Dr. Malieri Colon-Rivera will discuss menopause symptoms and options for care.

Admission is free. A complimentary light lunch will be provided.

For information and to RSVP, call (727) 834-5630, or email MedicalCenterTrinity@HCAhealthcare.com.

HEALTHY SKIN

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will have a seminar on "Secrets to Healthy Skin" April 17 at noon, in the fourth-floor classroom.

Dr. John Morrison, board-certified family medicine, and medical esthetician Lolita Wilczar will discuss tips and treatment options for preventing skin damage, premature aging, and cancers of the skin.

A light lunch will be provided.

For information and to RSVP, call (844) 504-9378.

OBSTETRICS PROGRAMS

The Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, will offer these upcoming programs:

- Tour of Obstetrics: April 17 and April 24 at 5 p.m.
- Newborn Care Class: April 18 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Infant CPR: April 25 at 6 p.m.

For reservations, call (727) 834-5630, or visit MedicalCenterTrinity.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

These upcoming community events will take place at the Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, except as noted:

- Breast Cancer Support Group: April 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (9332 State Road 54, Suite 402)
- Compassionate Friends Support Group: April 18 from 7:15 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Lymphedema Support Group: April 19 at 3 p.m.
- Chatterboxes: April 19 at 3 p.m.
- Huntington's Disease Support Group: April 19 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For information, call (727) 834-5630, or visit MedicalCenterTrinity.com.

WALK FOR WISHES

Walk for Wishes, a nationwide Make-A-Wish fundraiser, raises funds for wishes of children in the community who are battling life-threatening medical conditions.

This year, the Walk for Wishes will take place April 28 at 8:30 a.m., at Water Works Park, 1710 N. Highland Ave., in Tampa.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., for the

3-mile walk. The event starts at 9:30 a.m., and is scheduled to finish at 11 a.m. Pets are allowed.

Participants who register by April 15 will receive a T-shirt.

The cost is \$20 for adults. Children age 8 and younger are free.

For information and to register, visit tinyurl.com/yd6568tx.

BILIRAKIS RECEIVES AWARD

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis was given the Champion Award by the National Association of Community Health Centers, in recognition of exemplary and continuous legislative leadership and advocacy on behalf of 25 million patients who utilize the Community Health Centers throughout the country.

Bilirakis has a long history of championing common-sense health care solutions, and ensuring that the centers remain a viable option in which the insured, uninsured and underinsured can get high-quality primary care, mental health and dental care.

Health care advocates presented the award for his efforts on Capitol Hill on March 15.

PEDIATRIC SAFETY FAIR

Oak Hill Hospital's Pediatric ER will host a Kids' Safety Fair April 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at its main entrance at 11375 Cortez Blvd., in Brooksville.

The fair will feature music and games, as well as an opportunity to:

- Learn the CPR basics and water, scooter, bike and skateboard safety
- See the Bayflite helicopter up-close
- Step inside the Hernando County Fire Rescue and EMS trucks
- Meet local pediatricians, nurse superheroes, Bayflite helicopter pilots and EMS heroes
- Save a teddy bear in the Teddy Bear Clinic
- Play "Operation" with surgical nurses
- Diaper and swaddle challenge with the Maternity Suite nurses

- High-five the good guys from the Hernando County Sheriff's Office
- Crawl through the Hernando County Fire Corps Fire Safety House

Admission is free, and a complimentary lunch will be provided (one lunch per person).

For information, call Katie Stacy at (352) 597-6317.

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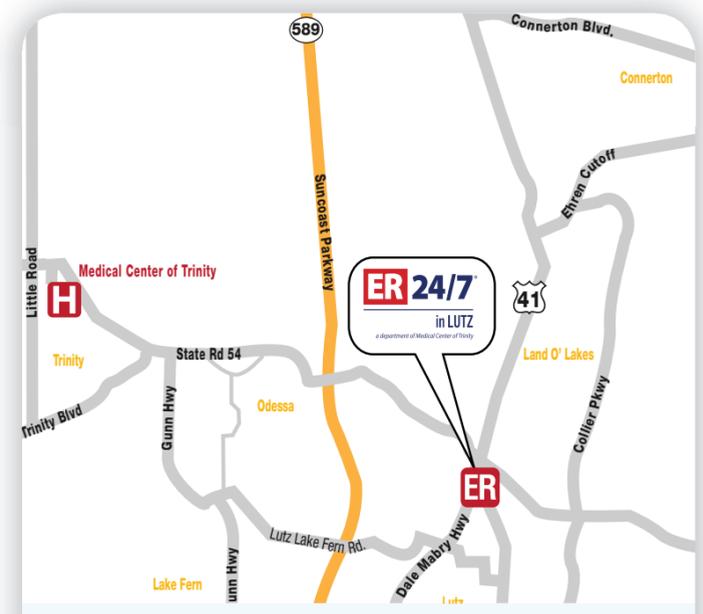
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DREAM HOME IN STAGECOACH 4/3, 2,489 sq. ft. Wooded Conservation Lot. NO CDD. Elegant Formal Dining Room. Master Suite offers a beautiful sitting room / Den. and Master Bath offers every amenity. \$289,900. Call Cody at 813-909-0712

ANGUS VALLEY - WESLEY CHAPEL WOW 6 bedrooms! 3 Full baths. Completely renovated home on over 1 acre. Bring the whole family and the horses. NEW stainless steel appliances, NEW Tile and Carpet, NEW granite countertops, NEW air conditioning, NEW electric, New asphalt driveway, NEW, NEW, NEW. MUST SEE TO BELIEVE!! \$174,999 Call Cody at 813-909-0712

SKI, FISH, SWIM, RIDE, PLAY! BEAUTIFUL CORNER LOT, 3 bed/2 bath, 1807 sq ft in quiet, secluded neighborhood of Paddock Groves Estates Addition to Lake Padgett Estates. New carpet and paint. Features 3 Ski Size Lakes, Private Boat Ramps, Lakeside Parks, Tennis Courts and is close to the Horse Stables. \$220,000 Call Cody at 813-909-0712

WESLEY CHAPEL'S ANGUS VALLEY Double wide mobile home over 1,800 living space, 4 bedrooms, 2 bath, 2 garage. Cash or conventional financing \$155,900! Phil Tamm 813-408-1357

UPSCALE GATED COMMUNITY OF ASHMONTE, located within the impressive community of Oakstead. 3/3, 2153 sq. ft. pool home. Elegant and meticulously UPDATED home is an experience to enjoy! Community offers many amenities including tennis courts, fitness center, playground, soccer/sports field, hiking trails, adult & large kiddie pools. Near excellent schools, shops, medical facilities, local grocer, restaurants and major roads. Call Cody at 813-909-0712

SUNCOAST POINTE VILLAGE-LAND O LAKES 3/2, 1158 sq. ft. home. Convenient and practical floor plan. Indoor laundry. Low community fees. Northpointe Shopping Center with a great selection of shops, bars, restaurants is just 3 minute drive away. Located near the Suncoast Parkway it is a short 20 minutes to Tampa International Airport. \$185,000 Call Cody at 813-909-0712

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LAKE PADGETT RENTAL! Charming 3 Bed/2 bath 1,578 sq ft rental home with 102 feet of LAKE FRONTAGE and Boat Ramp. Access to Lake Padgett. Access to 3 ski lakes. Bring your boat and horses! \$1,750 per month. Call Cody at 813-909-0712

WILDERNESS LAKE PRESERVE 3 Bed/3 Bath rental 3,554 total sq. ft. 3 car garage, large lanai overlooking pond. \$1,900 per month. Call Phil Tamm 813-408-1357

LAKE LOTS

LUTZ 2.44 ACRE LAKEFRONT NO HOA or CDD includes well, septic and impact! Call Faith Garcia today. 813-503-6610

SKI LAKE 300' road frontage & 250' lakefront. Property is large enough for 2 homes. On lakefront with white sandy bottom. No Deed Restrictions. Call Cody Adams 813-909-0712

LAKE KEEN JUST NORTH OF SUNSET IN LUTZ. 48 acre lot to build the home of your dreams! Swim, ski, Jet Ski or fish to your heart content! \$134,900 Call Faith Garcia 813-503-6610

GATED 1.66 ACRE WATERFRONT lot in Odessa Call Rick 813-245-5507 or Faith 813-503-6610

VACANT PROPERTY

WOODED BEAUTY BELL LAKE & ALPINE in Land O Lakes. Come build your dream estate or family compound. Great Location, beautiful wooded lot. Almost 3 acres. NO DEED RESTRICTIONS! City water available. Property can be subdivided into two lots. Build on one and sell the other. \$299,900 Call Cody at 813-909-0712

SPRING HILL. 51 Acres on Kanawha! Call Phil Tamm 813-408-1357

RARE GEM BUILDABLE LOT IN LAKE PADGETT ESTATES - Build your dream home or invest for the future with access to 3 ski lakes, including Lake Padgett. Owners have access tennis courts, recreation areas and horse stables. NO CDD. Bonus - A short ride to outlet mall and choice restaurants! Call Cody at 813-909-0712

S.R. 54 - Land O' Lakes 4+ ACRES. Call Phil Tamm 813-408-1357

.60 Acre MOBILE HOME LOT just \$19,500! Call Faith Garcia 813-503-6610

WESLEY CHAPEL 1.65 Acres in Quail Hollow Pines. Call Phil 813-408-1357 - Builder available

5.9 ACRES includes POND Corner of Livingston and Wallace in Lutz. Build your dream home with your own private 5.9 acres with pond. Grandfather Oaks surround the property. \$274,900 Call Cody at 813-909-0712

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have only students in kindergarten through sixth grade for the 2018-2019 academic year.
For more information, please visit UnionParkAcademy.org.

STUDENT ART EXHIBIT

Pasco-Hernando State College's Rao Musunuru, M.D. Art Gallery will exhibit "A Student Showcase" April 18 to May 16, at its West Campus in New Port Richey.
The annual event highlights diverse talent achieved without influence from staff or faculty. Visitors can experience completed works of photography, drawing and mixed media, from past and present art students.
There will be an opening reception sponsored by the PHSC Student Government Association April 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the gallery.
For information, call (727) 816-3231, or visit PHSC.edu.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis is accepting nominations for his annual Teacher of the Year awards, to honor the outstanding educators of Florida's 12th District.
Teachers and educators from all schools, and all grades, in District 12, are eligible.
Nominations should be emailed to tucker.obrien@mail.house.gov, and include the name, school and contact information of the nominee.
The deadline is April 27.
An awards ceremony will take place in May.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Saint Leo University is offering an academic scholarship opportunity for students who are intent on starting an MBA program this summer, have the undergraduate grades



COURTESY OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

SAINT LEO AIMS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Saint Leo University is focused on helping others and saving the planet - one plastic cap at a time. The school recently collected and shipped about 15,000 pounds of bottle caps for recycling, for the Caps of Love program.
The proceeds from the effort are used to purchase new and refurbished wheelchairs for children with mobility issues.
Students, faculty and staff were joined

by local organizations, schools and businesses in the collection of plastic lids. The tops from bottles of soft drinks, laundry soap, shampoo, prescriptions, peanut butter jars, yogurt cups and more were among the boxes loaded onto a truck and shipped to Commercial Recycling in Tampa.
The Caps of Love organization, which will change its name to Chariots of Love, has presented 79 wheelchairs to children over the years.

to prove they can do serious work, and the commitment and discipline to study online all the way through to degree completion.
For those who qualify and apply by April 20 for admission to the summer semester starting April 30, the MBA tuition per credit hour will be reduced.
The per-credit scholarship represents a

savings of \$6,000 throughout the course of the 36-credit-hour program.
For information about the scholarship, visit SaintLeo.edu/mba-online-scholarship-form.
For additional details, email graduate.admissions@saintleo.edu, or call (800) 707-8846.

BOOKS BY THE BEACH

Students from both River Ridge High School New Teacher Academy and Hudson Elementary School will take part in a "Books by the Beach" scavenger hunt and walk on April 13.

The walk to Hudson Beach and back, for a philanthropy project, will start at the Healthy Families Pasco-Hernando office and include multiple book breaks to collect books on the way to the beach. Each stop will be an adventure.

Along the walk, students will write questions about safety on the sidewalk, share signs to encourage students to read all summer, and create passport-type logs for the students to remember their stops.

Area groups, including Pasco Retired Educators, United Way Pasco, and On the Road for Safety, will join in the event to man the tables along the way.

Each Hudson Elementary student will leave with a backpack filled with summer reading materials.

CHARTER SCHOOL INFORMATION SESSION

Union Park Charter Academy, set to open in August in Wesley Chapel, will have an information session April 17 at 6:30 p.m., at Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch, 2727 Mansfield Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

A team will walk through the plans for the academy and will answer questions.

The school will educate students in kindergarten through eighth grade, and will

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JOB, from page 1A

Mettler Toledo's commitment to apprenticeship programs for manufacturing jobs. Because of its on-site cafes, the company also started a culinary program at its Switzerland headquarters that will be adopted in Pasco.

Four students in Pasco's AmSkills program — Melissa Fink, Alex Gerwe, Nikki Daniels and Josh Ortiz — attended the Mettler Toledo's opening.

AmSkills is a Tampa Bay initiative that helps high school students, adults and veter-

ans seeking manufacturing jobs. The program operates in Pasco, Pinellas and Hernando counties.

AmSkills instructor Dan Albright said he was able to place some of his students at Mettler Toledo.

Daniels, 36, was impressed with her tour. She is in the adult program at AmSkills.

"I'm very interested and excited that (Mettler Toledo) is close to this area," she said. "It's what we're looking for."

Ortiz, 19, also is in the adult program, which will last 17 weeks. "I want to be able to find a job," he said. "Something I can go into, and be proud of and have a career."



COURTESY OF METTLER TOLEDO

Visitors to Mettler Toledo are greeted in the lobby of the manufacturing plant, which produces equipment for the food and pharmaceutical industries.

SR 54, from page 1A

ments; Bexley by Newland Communities; Florida Hospital Central Pasco ER; Asturia Corporate Center; South Branch Ranch; and, Publix at Gunn Highway and Starkey Ranch.

A drive into Bexley reveals the Spring Hills Suites Marriott hotel under construction, and the Lakeside Walk apartments, which are preleasing.

Other locations on State Road 54 are filled with clusters of housing frames or smoothed over plots of ground, waiting for a construction start. Or, motorists can spot a sign planted in the dirt, "The Preserve New Homes" coming.

On the south side, for sale signs offer up large swaths of vacant land, waiting on the next development wave. Some parcels are

newly rezoned, and need site plans and permitting before more development sprouts.

Some small commercial projects are visible, as well.

The DCI Professional Center at State Road 54 and Ogden Loop has a sign heralding a fall 2017 opening for the 18,000-square-foot office complex, across from Asturia.

So far, all that is finished there is a paved parking lot.

Stanley Steemer is nearing completion on State Road 54, just west of U.S. 41.

Sienna Village II is planned as an expansion of the existing Sienna Village, a small office complex off State Road 54, also just west of U.S. 41.

The expansion, at State Road 54 and Sofia Drive, will have 150,000 square feet of offices, and 30,000 for commercial.

Highlights of new development on State Road 54, from U.S. 41 to Starkey Ranch, include:

SHOPPES AT BALLANTRAE VILLAGE

The shopping center outside the master-planned community of Ballantrae includes DQ Grill & Chill, Domino's Pizza, Dunkin' Donuts, T-Mobile, Hungry Greek, a dental office and a spa.

Circle K convenience store is adjacent to the shops, at the entrance into Ballantrae.

MYSTIC POINTE APARTMENTS

The upscale, gated apartment complex will have 252 apartments, and a Key West vibe when construction is complete. Preleasing on one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments is underway.

The complex is between Bexley by Newland Communities to the west and Ballantrae to the east, off State Road 54.

BEXLEY BY NEWLAND COMMUNITIES

The master-planned community is under construction on more than 1,800 acres, off State Road 54, east of Suncoast Parkway. Newland Communities announced in March that more than 250 new homes have been sold.

On the entry drive into Bexley, Spring Hill Suites Marriott is being built. Lakeside Walk apartments are under construction, but are preleasing.

Bexley's clubhouse is home to the Twisted Sprocket Café, which is open to the public for breakfast, lunch and happy hour.

FLORIDA HOSPITAL CENTRAL PASCO ER

The emergency room facility is open outside Bexley, providing medical care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SOUTH BRANCH RANCH

Sembler and Altman Development Corp., had March pre-application meetings sched-

uled with Pasco County planners for property rezoned in 2017 at the northwest corner of Suncoast Parkway and State Road 54.

Altman is proposing 16 buildings, including a clubhouse. There would be more than 350 apartments with one-, two-, and three-bedrooms.

Sembler is proposing a project with a grocery store, fitness center and shops. Outparcels facing State Road 54 could be future sites for restaurants, offices, shops and a gas station.

Both are part of South Branch Ranch, according to county records.

LAND INVESTMENT PARTNERS OFFICES/APARTMENTS

The Atlanta-based investment company plans to build two, three-story premier office buildings of 75,000 square feet each, at the southeast corner of Suncoast Parkway and State Road 54.

The company also plans 300 apartments, with access off Northpointe Parkway in Northpointe Village.

The locations are part of the Suncoast Crossings development property, and adjacent to the newly opened manufacturing plant by Mettler Toledo.

ASTURIA CORPORATE CENTER

The Pasco County Commission approved a plan in 2017 to build up to 200,000 square feet of premier office space on the north side of State Road 54, west of Asturian Parkway. The business park will be part of the mixed-use, master-planned community of Asturia.

Harrod Properties Inc., is developing the project, which will be built in phases and without pre-signed tenants.

PUBLIX AT STARKEY RANCH

A 45,000-square-foot Publix grocery store is expected to open in fall 2018 at State Road 54 and Gunn Highway. An additional 30,000 square feet will be available for more retail.

Tampa Bay regional sporting events on tap through 2022:

- 2018 NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship
- 2018 NCAA Division I Track & Field
- 2019 NCAA Women's Final Four
- 2020 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball First and Second Rounds
- 2021 NFL Super Bowl LV
- 2021 NCAA Division II Men's & Women's Cross Country Championships
- 2021 NCAA Division II Men's & Women's Soccer Championships
- 2021 NCAA Division II Women's Volleyball Championships
- 2022 Southeastern Conference Basketball Tournament



COURTESY OF TAMPA BAY SPORTS COMMISSION

The Tampa Bay Sports Commission (TBSC) is a private, nonprofit, 501c3, charitable corporation that serves the entire Tampa Bay area as the lead organization for bidding on and hosting premier sports, and entertainment events. It is one of 27 sports commissions in Florida. There are more than 600 throughout the United States.

TOURISM, from page 1A

April. And, he noted the Wesley Chapel District Park and the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex, which provide ball fields for youth and amateur sports.

Having those places to play at is the first step in driving a thriving sports tourism market, Aughey said.

The community's location is another advantage because of the relative ease of navigating from Central Pasco and East Pasco, to downtown Tampa and Tampa International Airport.

Aughey observed: "While there's that line that truly does delineate Hillsborough and Pasco County, we see it as nonexistent. When we're dealing with event organizers and say, 'Hey, our airport is less than 30 minutes from Wesley Chapel or Land O' Lakes,' it's an attention-getter."

The Tampa Bay Sports Commission (TBSC) is a private, nonprofit, 501c3, charitable corporation that serves the entire Tampa Bay area as the lead organization for bidding on and hosting premier sports, and entertainment events.

Aughey said the organization's partnership with Pasco has evolved significantly during the past decade and has to grow with the county's new tourism director, Adam Thomas, a former professional baseball player who's expressed a heavier interest in drawing more sporting events.

Aughey stressed the big business of sports in his presentation, noting the

Tampa Convention & Visitors Bureau estimates over a third of the region's visitor nights are sports-related.

It not only extends to Super Bowls and national championships, but the youth and amateur realm, too.

Aughey explained: "If you think about it, sports really is recession-proof. People aren't going to cut their child's opportunity to participate, or potentially with their future if they're eligible for a scholarship. And, discretionary income, in terms of people going to different sporting events, it's not going to disappear."

Big-ticket regional events yield significant economic impact by generating thousands of hotel room nights in a short period, he added.

For instance, the 2017 College Football Playoff National Championship at Raymond James Stadium yielded more than 60,000 hotel visitor nights.

Pasco recorded its highest-ever daily hotel room revenue on game night, the second Monday in January, Aughey noted. And, on the three days leading up to the game, the county's average daily hotel rate increased 25 percent, 60 percent and 57 percent, and the average revenue per available hotel room increased 54 percent, 136 percent and 118 percent compared to same days in previous years.

The national championship game fostered a sense of pride with the Tampa Bay community, and its success helped Tampa secure its fifth Super Bowl bid, for February 2021, he said.

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Saint Leo to retire jersey of its first MLB draftee

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Nearly 50 years have passed since Fred Cambria last sported a Saint Leo University baseball uniform, but his contributions to the program won't be forgotten.

Cambria — the first Major League Baseball draftee in Saint Leo history — will have his No. 22 jersey retired by the school on April 14, prior to a Lions home game against Sunshine State Conference foe Rollins College at 1:30 p.m.

In a pregame ceremony, Saint Leo's athletic department will unveil a sign saluting No. 22, which will hang on the outfield fence at Thomas B. Southard Stadium.

Cambria will throw out the first pitch surrounded by family, university administration, alumni and other special guests.

Cambria was a standout pitcher for Saint Leo from 1966 to 1969 for the then-Monarchs under coaches Bill Meyer, Norm Kaye and Bob Sullivan.

His skillset on the mound eventually caught the eye of the Pittsburgh Pirates, who selected him in the third round (58th overall) of the 1969 MLB Draft.

The former big leaguer was "overwhelmed" when he received a call a few weeks back from Saint Leo athletic director Fran Reidy about the plan to retire his jersey.

"It's a great honor for me. It really is," Cambria, now 70, said.

"There are no words to put into it because if it wasn't for Saint Leo, I don't know where I would be. It was a great fit for me... and it really was just perfect for me; couldn't ask for anything more."

Cambria, at 6-foot-2, originally intended to play basketball at Saint Leo after enrolling from Queens, New York. However, he changed his mind after seeing a bulletin board posting for baseball fall tryouts.

"I don't think I had a career in basketball, so I went with baseball, and it's the best decision I ever made," said Cambria.

"I thought the great opportunity was in baseball, and Mr. Kaye, who was the baseball coach at that time, also gave me a great opportunity to pitch, and things started to work out pretty well."

Cambria also credits coach Meyer for his development as a ballplayer. Meyer, who also served as a baseball scout for a handful of MLB organizations, taught Cambria various nuances like locating inside, throwing sliders and altering pitch speeds.

Said Cambria, "He knew a lot about pitching and helped me tremendously on getting to the next level. That's how I really matured on the mound, with Bill's guidance."

Among Cambria's favorite memories in a Saint Leo uniform was a home game against Florida State University that was played at then-Mickens High School in Dade City.

Florida State, ranked No. 1 at the time, "came down to beat up on us a little bit," Cambria said. But, he recalls leading Saint Leo to a 3-2 victory after racking up 18 strikeouts and hitting a home run, to boot.

"It was a lot of scouts in the stands to see Florida State, and I think they turned their attention a little bit to me on that one; that was pretty good," Cambria said.

After he was drafted out of Saint Leo, Cambria went on to pitch for five seasons in



COURTESY OF SAINT LEO ATHLETICS

Fred Cambria was a standout pitcher for Saint Leo University from 1966 to 1969 for the then-Monarchs, under coaches Bill Meyer, Norm Kaye and Bob Sullivan. He became the school's first Major League Baseball draftee after the Pittsburgh Pirates selected him in the third round (58th overall) in the 1969 draft.

the Pittsburgh Pirates and New York Yankees organizations, including for the 1970 National League champion Pirates.

At just 22, Cambria pitched six games for the Pirates, including five starts, posting a 1-2 record, and 3.51 ERA and 14 strikeouts in 33.1 innings.

A young player seemingly destined for a lengthy career, he was never the same after suffering a rotator cuff injury that season.

With few developments in treating sports injuries at the time, Cambria tried making a comeback. But, he toiled in the minors, and he was released twice in one year — out of baseball by age 25.

"I saw the writing on the wall," Cambria said. "I was disappointed for about six months, 'Why me?' But, I tried to never think of it that way. It was a blessing in disguise."

Though a hapless ending to what could've been, Cambria still savors the short time spent in the majors.

That included the opportunity to suit up with three of the game's most recognizable names in the Pirates organization: Roberto Clemente, Willie Stargell and Bill Mazeroski.

Said Cambria, "It's kind of rare today that a young feller, just coming up to the big leagues, played with three Hall of Famers. I think that's what made the Pirates such a dynasty in the '70s, because they had great leadership because of those three guys. Roberto Clemente was a great leader, a great ballplayer; and the same for Willie Stargell.

They molded this team, they were respected, and it was great camaraderie. So that was a great feather in my cap, having those gentlemen teach me the game the right way and playing it the right way."

After his playing career, Cambria spent the next decade-plus in the business world as an Izod salesman.

He returned to the game — and school — he loved, when he served as Saint Leo's head baseball coach from 1990 to 1991. He compiled a 55-46 record in those two seasons.

Incidentally, the coaching opportunity arose following his 1987 induction into Saint Leo's athletic hall of fame, where he reconnected with Kaye, the school's athletic director at the time. Kaye later thought of Cambria when searching for a baseball coach in 1990.

"I enjoyed it very much. It was very interesting," Cambria said of coaching at his alma mater. "I learned a lot about the game of baseball. Because you play, it doesn't mean you know it, and how to teach kids and things like that."

Cambria noted he was lucky to work alongside "a great assistant coach" in Frank Verdi for those two seasons. Verdi played in the New York Yankees organization in the '40s and '50s and later spent three decades managing for several Triple-A organizations recording over 1,300 wins.

Meanwhile, Cambria stayed closely tied

Additional Q-and-A with Saint Leo pitching great Fred Cambria

Why did you originally choose Saint Leo, being born and raised in New York?

"I never left New York City until I left for Saint Leo. I was recommended to Saint Leo because it was a small school, probably 1,500 kids — boys and girls. And, my parents and myself thought it was a great opportunity."

How does the game of baseball today compare to when you played in the 1970s?

"I've seen a big transition in baseball itself, the game itself. I'm not too happy with some of the rules that have been implemented the last couple of years — the play at home plate, the play at second base, the intentional walk — all these little things they're trying to change the game a little bit too much. It's been a great game for all these years, and I'd sure like to keep it the same way."

How have pitchers evolved over the last several decades?

"As far as the pitchers are concerned, boy, they've got some great athletes. The athletes today are so much bigger, stronger. But, I don't think they know the game as much as we do. To say that, the coaches at that time stressed more basic fundamentals of the game itself, and I don't see that today. I see a lot of pitchers trying to throw 100 (mph) and if you can't throw a strike, what's the sense? You see a lot more walks today. I think they're using numbers and velocity more than, like Greg Maddux, who I think is the best pitcher that ever lived. He threw in the high 80s with great movement, he threw first pitch strikes, and he won 352 games. You know, if you do the basic fundamentals and be successful, I think you could become a great pitcher; it's not just about velocity."

to America's pastime after his coaching stint ended at Saint Leo.

He served as a pitching coach for the San Diego Padres organization in the Arizona Fall Instructional League and the Australian Professional League.

He also became the commissioner of the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League (ACBL) and was selected to its hall of fame. (Cambria played in the ACBL in the summer during his Saint Leo career and was the first player out of the ACBL to make it to the MLB).

More recently, Cambria in 2013 became the first-ever commissioner of the Hamptons Collegiate Baseball League (HCBL), a summer baseball organization located in The Hamptons in New York.

Now retired, Cambria today lives in Northport, New York, staying busy with volunteer work in surrounding communities.

Cambria said he last visited Saint Leo about a year ago, as part of a seminar to guide student-athletes in career development and gaining employment after college.

"I was so amazed with the university and how it's grown, and what a great campus it is," Cambria said.



ACADEMY AT THE LAKES EARNS ACCOLADES

The awards keep coming for the 2017 8-man state championship-winning Academy at the Lakes Wildcats.

Players and coaches alike were well-represented on the 2017 Florida Christian Association of Private and Parochial Schools (FCAPPS) All-State and All-Conference selections, which were recently announced.

Nine players earned either All-State or All-Conference selections, including senior running back/linebacker Daniel Gonzalez, who was named the FCAPPS Heisman Trophy Winner award.

Gonzalez put up exorbitant numbers in 2017, leading the Wildcats in rushing (1,125 yards, 28 total touchdowns) and tackling (138 total tackles, 18 tackles for loss, 7.5 sacks, one interception).

Academy at the Lakes' FCAPPS honorees:

- **Head Coach Shawn Brown** — FCAPPS Coach of the Year
- **Jalen Brown** — All-Conference Quarterback
- **Denzyl Downing** — All-State Sportsmanship Award
- **Daniel Gonzalez** — FCAPPS Heisman Trophy Winner/All-State Linebacker
- **Andrew Kilfoyl** — All-State Offensive Lineman
- **Evan Lutz** — All-Conference Center
- **Zachary Moore** — All-State Special Teams
- **Jordan Oladokun** — All-State Defensive Back/Corner/Safety
- **Dylan Price** — All-State Defensive Lineman
- **Isaiah Smith** — All-State End

Meanwhile, Wildcats head coach Shawn Brown was named FCAPPS Coach of the Year and was recognized at the Nike Coach of the Year Clinic on Feb. 23.

In December, Academy at the Lakes de-

feated Jacksonville Old Plank Christian Academy 30-9 to win the FCAPPS state championship and finish 11-1. The football program's last state title came in 2006, when Academy at the Lakes played in the six-man ranks.

Each will be recognized at the FCAPPS Players' Awards banquet on April 14. The Wildcats also will host an in-house banquet on April 28.

LOCAL PREP BASEBALL PLAYERS RECOGNIZED

The 2018 Rawlings-Perfect Game Preseason All-American and All-Region selections were recently released and The Laker/Lutz News coverage area is well-represented.

Led by Steinbrenner High School senior outfielder Jordan Lala, who was named to the All-Florida second team, more than a dozen other players earned honorable mentions.

The Rawlings-Perfect Game Preseason All-Region teams are made up of top players from nine regions around the country.

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Local honorees:

- SECOND TEAM**
- **Jordan Lala**, Steinbrenner, outfielder
- HONORABLE MENTION**
- **Anthony Alvarez**, Gaither, pitcher
 - **Orlando Arevalo**, Gaither, infielder
 - **Britton Baxter**, Land O' Lakes, pitcher/utility
 - **Cody Dillard**, Land O' Lakes, second baseman
 - **Frank Furey**, Carrollwood Day, pitcher
 - **Julio Goncalves**, Academy at the Lakes, third baseman
 - **Danny Gutcher**, Gaither, shortstop
 - **Andre Hevesy**, Carrollwood Day, pitcher
 - **Julian Lopez**, Gaither, third baseman
 - **Noah Luke**, Steinbrenner, catcher
 - **Bailey McFatridge**, Steinbrenner, pitcher
 - **Rodrigo Montenegro**, Carrollwood Day, catcher
 - **Duncan Pastore**, Wharton, third baseman
 - **Andrew Spencer**, Steinbrenner, outfielder
 - **Grant Walford**, Steinbrenner, pitcher

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CHRISTINE HOLTZMAN

Using the illustrations, 22-month-old Harper Ruff, of New Tampa, interprets the Louise Yates book 'Dog Loves Drawing' to Victoria Hanley, left, Charlie, the toddler's mother Peiying Ruff, center, and her father Michael Ruff during her reading session at the Land O' Lakes library.



Charlie relaxes as he listens to one of his favorite stories being read aloud.

Charlie the Dog inspires local children to read

By Christine Holtzman
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

While many dogs know how to fetch and roll, Charlie has an unusual talent: He can encourage children to read.

Charlie is a therapy dog and is part of the R.E.A.D. team, along with library assistant Victoria Hanley, of Lutz.

The pair are involved in a new program at the Land O' Lakes Branch Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, called "Read with Charlie the Dog."

R.E.A.D. is an international program that seeks to improve the literacy skills of children through the assistance of registered therapy teams as literacy mentors.

Dogs like Charlie must complete a rigorous training period followed by passing a series of tests to qualify as a "Reading Education Assistance Dog."

Hanley and Charlie each completed their training with Courteous Canine Inc., in Lutz, in December of 2017, to become an official R.E.A.D. team.

Hanley said she was inspired to become a R.E.A.D. volunteer many years

ago when she first encountered the program in Lee County.

At the time, both her young daughters were diagnosed with dyslexia, and she found that just being in the presence of a therapy dog had strong physiological effects, a calming influence that helped her children gain the confidence to read aloud.

Hanley also noted that reading to a dog helps on all fronts because a dog is nonjudgmental and helps children relax. The experience often helps to increase a child's desire to develop his or her own reading skills.

The program is being offered for children at the Land O' Lakes Branch Library on Tuesdays, with four sessions available per afternoon.

Children taking part get 15 minutes of one-on-one time with Charlie and can bring their own book or choose one from Charlie's personal collection affectionately known as "Charlie's Favorites."

A signed waiver is required.

To schedule an appointment with the R.E.A.D. team, call the library at (813) 929-1214.



Six-year-old Emma Jane DeKort, left, gives Charlie a hug goodbye as Victoria Hanley congratulates her for an excellent reading session.



Victoria Hanley lets Charlie help pick out a book to add to his personal collection affectionately called 'Charlie's Favorites.'



Three-year-old Travis West, left, Victoria Hanley, center, and Charlie, the dog, all listen to 5-year-old Jordan West as he reads from one of Charlie's 'favorite' books.



Victoria Hanley, center, catches up with her 12-year-old daughter, Zoe, left, and her 15-year-old daughter, Bailey, before the start of the afternoon's last session of 'Read with Charlie the Dog' at the Land O' Lakes Branch Library.

PET of the WEEK



Finn is funny and sweet

Finn is a 1-year-old Belgian Malinois, and was rescued at 4 months old. He was left tied up at an old apartment complex, and Adelyn Adams of Land O' Lakes was able to give him a forever home. Finn is the best friend anyone could ask for. He is obsessed with his green ball, and loves to play fetch all of the time. Finn is extremely loyal and very protective.

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 mrathman@lakerlutznews.com, ATTN: Pet of the Week
PLEASE NOTE: OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESS MUST BE INCLUDED FOR YOUR PET TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION.

Adopt A Friend FOR LIFE



Come by and meet Peter

Peter is a medium-size domestic shorthair with a beautiful blue-gray color to his coat. He is somewhat stressed in the shelter and would very much like to find his way to a home. Could that be with you?



Darla has a rewarding smile

Darla is a young pup that came to the shelter as a stray in January. She is very nervous and shy, but with some patience and time, she can be very playful. Several volunteers have found a way to help Darla enjoy her time in the yard, and she loves to play with tennis balls. Darla will need someone who can give her time to adjust, in a quiet home.

If you would like to adopt Darla or Peter, be sure to visit Pasco County Animal Services at 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes. The adoption center is open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6:30 p.m. All adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchip and vaccines. For more information, email adoptionpartners@pascocountyfl.net.



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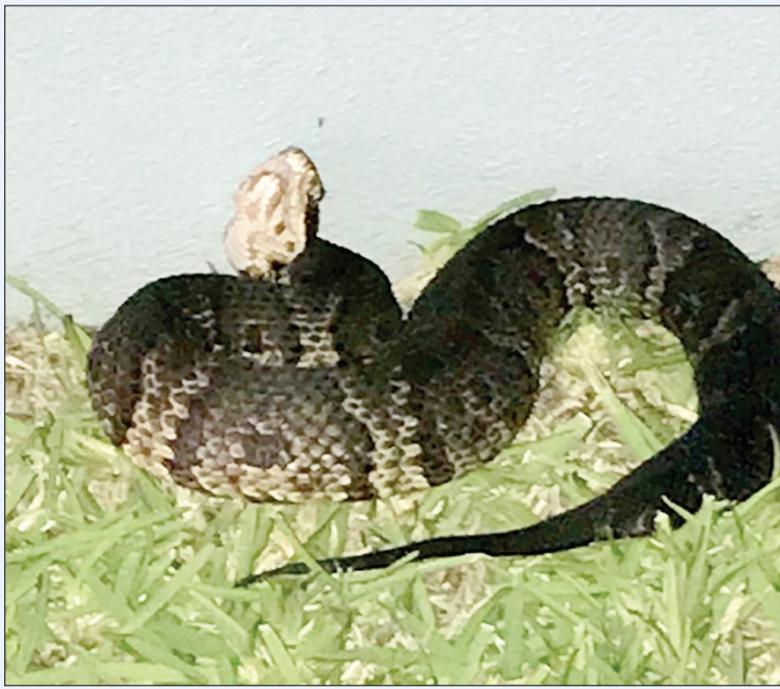
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www.gentlecarepethospital.com
[Facebook.com/GentleCare Pet Hospital](https://www.facebook.com/GentleCarePetHospital)

LOCAL WILDLIFE



Cottonmouths are venomous

Reggie Robinson came across this Cottonmouth near water at Asturia on State Road 54 in Land O' Lakes. The snake is a species of pit viper, found in the southeastern United States. Cottonmouths are usually found in slow-moving and shallow lakes, streams and marshes.

PET PAWS

ADOPTIONS FOR \$25

Pasco County Animal Services, 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes, is offering \$25 adoptions for the month of April.

All adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchip and vaccines.

The promotion excludes puppies and kittens younger than 6 months old, and dogs that weigh less than 25 pounds.

For information, call (813) 929-1212.

KITTEN SHOWERS

Pasco County Animal Services, 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes, will host "It's a Kitten!" April 21 and May 12 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., in Building B.

New foster families can come to the shel-

ter for training and education.

Donations of essential foster supplies are appreciated and needed. Kitten Milk Replacer (KMR), kitten bottles, microfibre bedding materials and more are always needed, and welcome.

RSVP at educationoffice@pascocountyfl.net.

SHARE YOUR PET NEWS

If you have pet news about adoptions, walks or other events for pet owners and their pets, you can let us know by sending us an email.

There is no guarantee of publication, but we consider each item we receive.

If you'd like to make a submission, send it to news@lakerlutznews.com.

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BUSINESS DIGEST

Send business news to news@lakerlutznews.com

CHUY'S HIRING AND OPENING SOON

Chuy's Tex-Mex is hiring in all positions for its new restaurant in Cypress Creek Town Center, at 25750 Sierra Center Blvd. Applications can be made at an on-site trailer.

Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Opening day currently is scheduled for April 24. The first 50 customers will receive 12 certificates for dinner for two.

For information, call Chuy's at (512) 367-9363.

NORTH TAMPA LUNCHEON

The North Tampa Chamber of Commerce will have its April 2018 Momentum Thursday on April 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Brookdale of Lutz, 414 Chapman Road.

For early bird registration, RSVP online with credit card at

NorthTampaChamber.com or by email to the chamber at Contact@northtampachamber.com by 5 p.m., April 11, at the discounted rate of \$15 (whether you eat or not).

After that date, the cost is \$20 (whether you eat or not), payable at the door by cash, check or credit card.

For information, call the chamber at (813) 563-0180.

HISPANIC LEADERS' MIXER

The Hispanic Business Leaders of the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will host a mixer April 17 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the White Room Bar & Lounge, 6472 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Land O' Lakes.

Enjoy two-for-one drinks, free soft drinks, refreshments and Latin music.

For more information, please call the chamber at (813) 909-2722, or visit CentralPascoChamber.com.

MERITAGE HOMES BREAKS GROUND

Meritage Homes broke ground on a model home at Lake Hanna Preserves in Lutz, in March.

The site is located on the west side of Hanna Road, south of Sunset Drive.

Homes of four and five bedrooms are planned on large, landscaped lots in this gated community.

For information, call Marcelle Sebaali, marketing manager, at (813) 386-8747, or visit MeritageHomes.com.

SONG PRINTING & DESIGN MOVES

SONG Printing & Design will have a "new location" celebration and ribbon cutting April 26 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at 38514 Fifth Ave., in Zephyrhills.

Celebrate with a glass of beer or wine at this free event.

For information, call owners Mike and Sue Prenderville at (813) 715-2212, or visit SongPrinting.com.

COFFEE SOCIAL

The North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce will have its Monthly Coffee Social on April 17 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., at Buttermilk Provisions, 2653 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

This is a "no agenda" event with time for social networking.

For information, call the chamber at (813) 994-8534.

UNCLE MADDIO'S HAPPY HOUR

The North Tampa Chamber of Commerce will host Uncle Maddio's April 2018 Happy Hour on April 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Uncle Maddio's, at 3949 Van Dyke Road in Lutz.

The restaurant will offer \$1 off any pizza, and buy-one, get-one free deals for

house wine and draft beers.

The event is free, but RSVP for a headcount by April 17.

For more information, please call the chamber at (813) 563-0180, or email Contact@northtampachamber.com.

MARKETING SEMINAR

SCORE will host a free seminar, "Results Based Marketing for Small Business," April 18 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Hugh Embry Branch Library, at 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City.

Learn how to cut through information overload to get the word out about your business.

For more information, please contact Sheila Neisler, of CatalystGetsResults.com, at (727) 842-4638, or send an email to score439@verizon.net.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BRIEFING

The North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce will have its monthly economic briefing lunch April 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Hunter's Green Country Club, 18101 Longwater Run Drive in Tampa.

Guest speaker will be J.D. Porter, who will give an update on Wiregrass Ranch.

The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members.

For more information, please call the chamber at (813) 994-8534, or email them at office@wesleychapelchamber.com.

Continued on next page

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Heatherton model home at Starkey Ranch

COURTESY PULTE GROUP'S WEST FLORIDA DIVISION

Pulte homes wins two awards in Grand Winner category

Pulte Group's West Florida Division won two awards in the Grand Winner category at the Tampa Bay Builder's Association Annual Parade of Homes. Pulte's West Florida division had four

model homes open to the public. Two won grand prizes in their categories. More than 95 model homes were open for tours for the 2018 annual event. The Oasis model from the Centex

Summerset at South Fork community in Riverview won the grand prize for homes in the \$250,000 to \$299,000 price range. The Heatherton model home from Pulte's Starkey Ranch in Odessa won the grand

prize for homes in the \$700,000 to \$749,000 price range. For more information, please visit either Centex.com/summerset or Pulte.com/starkeyranch.

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Tax Collector Mike Fasano, Special Olympics of Pasco Director Val Lundin, athletes, family members and tax collector staff were all on hand to deliver a check to the Special Olympics.

COURTESY OF GREG GIORDANO

Tax collector's office raises funds for special athletes

By Mary Rathman
mrathman@lakerlutznews.com

The Pasco County Tax Collector's five offices recently featured Special Olympics of Pasco as its charity of the month, raising funds through donations and the sale of specialty tags, and building awareness for the program.

This was the first time the organization was spotlighted by the tax collector.

Special Olympics is a sports and training program for people with intellectual disabilities. In Pasco County, year-round training in 17 different sports is provided free of charge to participants.

Val Lundin, director of Special Olympics

of Pasco County, said in a release. "It is so uplifting to see how the community embraced our program and gave so generously. With their kind donations, our athletes will continue to have the opportunity to participate and demonstrate their strengths and abilities. Pasco strong!"

A total of \$8,797.54 was raised through

the Pasco County Tax Collector's offices, and a check presentation took place at the Land O' Lakes office.

For information about the tax collector's charitable giving programs, call Greg Giordano at (727) 847-8179.

For information about Special Olympics of Pasco, call Val Lundin at (727) 774-3062.

The LAKER / Lutz NEWS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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ACROSS

- Unpleasant substance
- Oil group
- One-time Yankees rookie sensation
- Ireland
- Less easily found
- Southeast Nigeria people
- Bridgeline Digital stock designation
- Play loudly
- Elegantly fashionable
- Open sore
- Frozen water
- Sacred Islamic site
- "Kokomo" rockers
- Follows sigma
- Cease to exist
- Cool
- Doctors' group
- Less attractive
- Swiss river
- Greek sophist
- Grandmothers
- Afflict
- Russian pancake of buckwheat flour and yeast
- Actress __ Rachel Wood
- Not bright
- Western Asia peninsula
- Baseball speedster Gordon
- Golf score
- Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- Songs to one's lover
- Cattle's mammary gland
- Having ten
- Fencing sword
- Scarlett's home
- Hold valuables
- Italian Seaport
- Cain and __
- Bad places to live
- Large, wading bird
- Witches
- Cover with drops
- Props up the head

DOWN

- Philippine province
- Shallow channel
- Type of acid
- Cygnus' brightest star
- One who buys and sells securities (abbr.)
- Ill will
- Plant of the goosefoot family
- Intellectual
- Mineral
- Shiny silicate minerals
- Ottoman civilian title
- What you wear when eating BBQ (2 words)
- Soul and calypso song
- Advices
- Surrounds the earth
- Paddle
- Adjusted
- Succulent plant
- Forearm bones
- Belonging to Egyptian ascetic Apollo's colleague
- Type of mental illness
- One from Asia
- 007's creator
- Direct toward
- Pie __ mode
- Large terrier
- Hillsides
- Patriotic women (abbr.)
- Connects words
- For each
- Flower cluster
- Closes a deal
- Arabian desert
- Vaccine against poliomyelitis
- American state
- Religion practiced in China
- Type of sediment
- Hall of Famer Ruth
- "Layla" singer Clapton
- Gamble
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Midway between south and southwest

SEE SOLUTIONS, PAGE 6B

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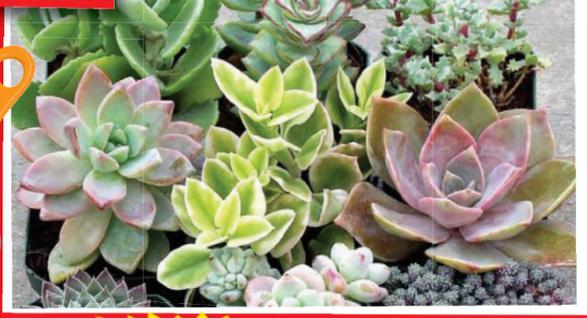


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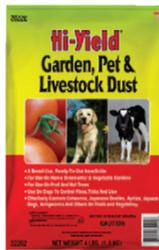
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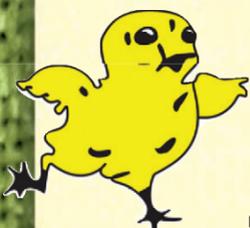
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