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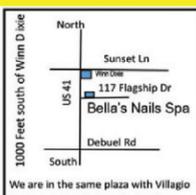
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**INSIDE,
PAGE 1B**

Pasco considers mobility fee rate update

By B.C. Manion
bcmansion@lakerlutznews.com

The Pasco County Commission is considering changes to its mobility fee rate structure, which could lead to higher rates in a couple of categories by virtue of removing discounts they now receive.

The update also calls for lowering fees in seven land-use categories, and changing the fee charged for residential development in rural areas on lots of 5 acres or more.

Mobility fees are based on the transportation impacts caused by new development, which is typically expressed in the number of trips the development generates, as well

as the length of the trips it creates, according to Bill Oliver, of W.E. Oliver P.E., LLC, the county's consultant on the mobility fee update.

The mobility fees are charged to new construction.

Currently, the mobility fee for a new single family home is \$9,800 in the rural district; \$8,570 in the suburban district; and, \$5,835 in the urban district.

During a Sept. 25 workshop, a majority of commissioners agreed that removing a 7 percent incentive for apartments in the county's urban fee district would not pose any problems for the county.

Commissioner Mike Moore urged his col-

leagues to drop that incentive.

"It's no secret, my frustration, on every corner and every street, we're putting up apartments," Moore said.

"We don't need any more high-end apartment complexes on 54 and 56, in that corridor. So, why would we incentivize them?"

"We're talking about taking up valuable land, frontage of (State Roads) 54/56, that could be job creators, and they're getting filled with apartment complex after apartment complex and storage facility after storage facility, and it's getting crazy.

See MOBILITY, page 11A



CHRISTINE HOLTZMAN

Swinging for the fences

They're not major leaguers, but these boys were giving it their all during a night game under the lights at Oscar Cooler Sports Complex, Field No. 2, at 770 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road, in Lutz. The sports complex is a magnet for families, as young boys and girls use the complex for baseball, football, soccer and cheerleading. On this particular night, it was the Hot Rods vs. The Bats. Above, in between the first and the second innings, this trio of friends pose for a photo. From left: 9-year-old Benny Lamberson, of Land O' Lakes; 8-year-old Aiden Pace, of Hudson; and, 9-year-old Chase Alleger. They play for The Hotrods.



Two-year-old George Winn sits on his dad Trevor's shoulders while watching his 9-year-old brother, Riggs, at bat. The family is from Land O' Lakes.



Three-year-old Nyla Schmeding, left, and her friend, 4-year-old Lisa Maynard, both from Lutz, watch the baseball game under the lights. Nyla's brother is No. 14 Jacob Schmeding and Lisa's brother is No. 8 Jonathan Allred.

Forensics research center expected to break new ground

By Kevin Weiss
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Construction is now underway in Land O' Lakes on a forensics and training facility that will offer a collaborative resource for universities, forensic scientists and law enforcement.

Ground was broken during a Sept. 19 ceremony for the K9 Tactical Center/Florida's Forensic Institute for Research, Security and Tactics, or F.I.R.S.T for short.

The complex will be next to the Adam Kennedy Memorial Forensics Field, otherwise known as the "body farm" that sits on 5 acres next to the Land O' Lakes Detention Center, off U.S. 41.

The forensics research and training center will strive to improve crime scene operations and investigations in the realm of homicides, missing persons cases and so on.

It will include a laboratory for research and forensic casework, classrooms, a morgue and evidence storage.

The educational focus will be on forensics, anthropology, geochemistry, legal medicine, forensic intelligence, aviation re-

See FORENSICS, page 11A

Local science project wins national recognition

By Brian Fernandes
bfernandes@lakerlutznews.com

Understanding the scientific process of cryoprotection may seem a bit daunting for many of us.

But, 14-year old Hailey Mahadeen not only has the answers, she also has the credentials to back up that knowledge.

Hailey, now a freshman at Sunlake High School, recently was named a Broadcom Masters Finalist — one of only 300 students nationwide to receive that distinction. The honor came for her middle school science fair project.

The Land O' Lakes native first became intrigued by the concept of cryoprotection during eighth grade at Charles S. Rushe Middle School.

"I thought it was really interesting and something totally different that I had never heard about before," she said. "That night I went home and started conducting my research."

Hailey's class required students to come up with a project for the science fair and she chose cryoprotection as her topic.

Cryoprotection is the process of protecting animal or plant cells, while in a frozen state or during transplanting.

In her research, Hailey studied the histo-



BRIAN FERNANDES

Raoul and Nikki Mahadeen with their daughter Hailey (center) at Sunlake High School. Hailey became a Broadcom Masters Finalist for her science project, Cryoprotection.

ry of cryoprotection dating back to the 1940s, how the process has evolved over time, and the freezing of fat and stem cells.

After making it to the school fair with a select few, judges chose her project to move on to the district level. It was at this point that Hailey received the news that she was nominated as a Broadcom finalist, with the possibility of presenting her project in Washington D.C.

Although she was not selected to make the trip to the nation's capital, Hailey's work received recognition during science fair

See SCIENCE, page 11A

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Judson was a trailblazer

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

The Pasco-Hernando State College community is mourning the recent death of Dr. Robert Judson Jr., the college's second president.

The educator began his career at Pasco-Hernando State College in 1972, when the college was a community college — known as the college without walls — and was in the process of opening its doors to Pasco and Hernando county communities, according to a news release from the state college.

Judson was hired as the college's first instructor and counselor/recruiter, subsequently teaching the first course the college ever offered.

The following year, Judson moved into a role as the college's first coordinator of financial aid, where he wrote grants for student aid programs and was responsible for veterans' affairs.

He received his doctoral degree in education in 1976, and in 1977 became dean at East Campus. In 1983, he took on the role of East Campus provost, followed by college vice president and executive vice president, according to the release.

In 1994, Judson succeeded Dr. Milton O. Jones — the man who had hired him — and made Florida history by becoming the first black to be named president of a community college in the Florida Community College System.

Under Judson's leadership, the college experienced exponential growth.

"Bob Judson was a remarkable leader," Timothy L. Beard, Ph.D., current PHSC president, said in the release. "He worked his way up the ladder, knew every inch of the college, understood our students, and helped realize the college's potential. He was admired and respected for his vision and his authenticity."

Judson opened a three-story health building, housing state-of-the-art equipment on the college's West Campus. He also helped establish radiography, and drafting and design programs still popular today.

Judson also led the building of a child care center on West Campus.

He opened the Public Service Technology building on East Campus in Dade City, where aviation, law enforcement and corrections, and fire academy programs are currently housed.

He remodeled North Campus in Brooksville.

And, he purchased the land for a perma-



COURTESY OF PHSC

Judson made Florida history by becoming the first black to be named president of a community college in the Florida Community College System.

nent Spring Hill Campus, which was erected in 2010.

Judson also facilitated a partnership with the University of South Florida to offer formal four-year degree programs on PHSC campuses.

In an interview for the College's 30-year anniversary commemorative book, he said: "I want to be known as a president who intelligently expands the college for the good of all concerned."

He added: "I hope I'm remembered as a president who was sensitive to the needs of our students, faculty and staff. Most of all, I hope I've distinguished myself as a president who helped make PHSC a great college, and a wonderful place to learn and work."

Beard, who now holds the same role as Judson once held, put it like this: "The college community will remember his leadership. He will always have a place in college history, and in the hearts and minds of the many PHSC faculty, staff and students he influenced."

A funeral service is planned for Judson on Sept. 29 at 12:30 p.m., at Hopewell Baptist Church, at 890 N.W. 15th St., in Pompano Beach.

PHSC is planning a memorial service to honor Judson on Oct. 9 at 1 p.m., at the PHSC Performing Arts Center on its West Campus, at 10230 Ridge Road in New Port Richey.

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Greeting our 'heroes'

Members of the GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club helped to welcome home a group of veterans returning from their Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. The Honor Flight takes veterans to visit the memorials for the conflicts in which they served, including World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars. Club members, from left: Linda Mitchell, Barbara Booth and Dee Knerr are accompanied by a couple of military officers.

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Sister Mary David Hydra escorts Sister Helen Lange to her 105th birthday cake, as Sister Roberta Bailey, Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida assists. Sister Helen resides at the Heritage Park Health and Rehabilitation Center, and the other sisters live at the Holy Name Monastery in St. Leo.

Sister Helen turns 105

By B.C. Manion
bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

Sister Helen Lange, a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Florida in Saint Leo, celebrated her 105th birthday on Sept. 28.

There were 75 guests at the party, including three relatives, according to Cheryl Chadick, development assistant for the Benedictine Sisters of Florida.

The relatives who came to the party were Sister Helen's cousin, Joan Schmidt, from Brandon; and, her niece, Monica "Shotsie" Keyes, who traveled from Salem, Virginia. Keyes was accompanied by her daughter, Stefanie Martin, who is Sister Helen's grandniece.

Kym Hoerr honored Sister Helen with three dozen roses, Chadick added.

"The party was a huge success. Sister Helen looked beautiful, as usual," Chadick said.

The festivities were held at Heritage Park Health and Rehabilitation Center in Dade City.

Sister Helen, formerly known as Laurina Lange, was still a teenager when she traveled by train from Texas to Florida to pursue the religious life, according to an Aug. 17, 2016 Laker/Lutz News report.

The year was 1930, and she was accompanied by four of her cousins — Irma Multer, Pauline Block, and Rosaria and Rosanna Matthiesen. They, too, had decided to answer God's call.

She recounted many of her experiences in a memoir she wrote called "Kicking the Habit."

In the account, she describes growing up on a farm in Olfen, Texas.

Her family prayed often, enjoyed making music, and had frequent gatherings with friends and relatives, her memoir says.

One of her favorite times of the year was Easter.

"Holy Week was truly Holy Week. There were no radios, no running around, no dancing or partying," her memoir says.

"On Holy Saturday, all of us kids were sent out to pick flowers to build Easter nests for the bunny to come. While we were out hunting the flowers, little did we know that mom was busy dyeing the eggs — which we never saw until Easter morning.

"We made small nests with the wildflowers we picked out in the fields.

"On Easter Sunday morning, we all tumbled out of bed to see what the Easter bunny had brought. There were eggs of all

colors neatly laying in our nest of flowers. What a beautiful day!"

She enjoyed shopping days with her mother, her memoir reports.

Once the necessary items for the household were purchased, she and her mother would stop by the drugstore for an ice cream soda.

"They only cost 25 cents back then," her account says.

"Another favorite treat was a chocolate bar with marshmallows and nuts. This was called a Tango. It was only five cents," the memoir adds.

Of course, living on a farm required hard work.

There was "cotton to chop, cotton to pick, maize to head, tractors to run, cotton to haul to the gin, repairs to be done. Too many chores to mention," the book recounts.

And, she attribute her family's deep faith as a key influence in her decision to pursue the religious life.

Over the years, Sister Helen would be a teacher, a band director and a principal. She would oversee a hostel for visitors from other countries. And, later, she would work in elder care.

She also moved around quite a bit. Her first assignment took her back to Texas, but she also worked in New Orleans and Slidell, Louisiana, and in various parts of Florida, including San Antonio, Venice, Sarasota, North Miami, Ocala and Jacksonville Beach.



Standing before attendees as they sing 'Happy Birthday' at her party, Sister Helen takes the first taste of the cake celebrating her 105 years.

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CORRECTION
Johnathan Blalock played for the Lutz Chiefs during the Pasco Police Athletic League jamboree when the Chiefs were still part of PPAL. That association lasted nearly 30 years, until the organization joined the Tampa Bay Youth Football League in 2010. A story published in the Sept. 26 issue of The Laker/Lutz News included outdated information in a photo caption.

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What's Happening

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FAMILY NIGHT

Unity North Tampa will host a Family Night on Oct. 5 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., at its new location, at 19520 Holly Lane in Lutz. Families get together the first Friday of the month for a potluck supper and activities, including games, art, construction toys and more, for toddlers through teens and accompanying adults. Everyone is welcome. For information, call (813) 948-4884.

BOOK BAZAAR

The Friends of the Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host a book bazaar Oct. 5 and Oct. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a diverse selection of books, audio and video media, magazines, and related materials, for a modest cost. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

OUTDOOR MOVIE

The Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce will host an outdoor movie night, "Cinema Under the Stars," Oct. 5 at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd., featuring the film "Hocus Pocus." Admission is free. Concession items will be available for purchase.

WOMAN'S CLUB

The Woman's Club of Zephyrhills will meet Oct. 5 at noon, at the clubhouse, 38545 Fifth Ave., in Zephyrhills. Lunch will be served. There also will be an unveiling of a new Little Free Library, which will be installed in co-op with the New River Library. The club is open to ages 18 and older. For information, email Becky Finley at finleyr1817@yahoo.com.

DANCE PARTY FUNDRAISER

Lucas Magazine will host The Black Honkeys Halloween Spooktacular Dance Party on Oct. 5 at 7 p.m., at Spartan Manor, 6121 Massachusetts Ave., in New Port Richey, to benefit Pasco Kids First. Wear a costume. There will be a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle and a photo booth. The cost is \$50 per person and includes dinner, and a sweets and treats dessert table. A vegetarian option will be available. For information, call Yvette Behmer at (727) 849-5353.

THE MUSIC OF PRINCE

The USF Sun Dome will host "4U: A Symphonic Celebration of Prince" Oct. 5 at 8 p.m. The show will feature a live band performing alongside a full symphony orchestra, highlighting Prince hits, as well as his lesser-known music. For tickets, call (800) 745-3000.

YARD SALE FUNDRAISER

Old Spring Lake Community Center/Museum, 4184 Spring Lake Highway in Brooksville, will host its annual yard sale fundraiser Oct. 6 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a variety of vendors and a food truck. Proceeds will help pay utilities and other needs to keep the building up and running. At the end of the year, the center/museum also donates \$500 to the needy. For information, call (813) 363-3535.

AUDUBON SOCIETY

The West Pasco Audubon Society will meet Oct. 6 at J.B. Starkey Wilderness Park Education Center, 10500 Wilderness Road in New Port Richey. At 8 a.m., there will be a morning nature walk. At 10:30 a.m., there will be a "Beginning Birding: Introduction to Birding" class. The program at 11 a.m., will be "Northern Parula Story," presented by Ken Tracey. For information, email J. Mike Kell at jmike65@gmail.com, or visit WestPascoAudubon.com.

OPEN HOUSE PARTY

The Straz Center for the Performing Arts will host an Open House Party on Oct. 6 from noon to 4 p.m., at 1010 N. MacInnes Place in Tampa. There will be



Newland Communities will host Concerts for a Cause at Bexley, 16950 Vibrant Way in Land O' Lakes, to benefit Feeding Tampa Bay. All concerts are from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The upcoming lineup is:

- Oct. 6: From Me 2 You (Top 40 dance tunes)
- Oct. 13: The Rhythmics (pop, funk and dance music)
- Oct. 20: Frequency (cover tunes)
- Oct. 27: Fall Festival featuring Raydio (songs from the '70s)

The festival also will have a pumpkin patch, costume contest, face painting and food trucks.

Guests are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items or cash donations, as well as lawn chairs or blankets. For information, visit Concerts4Cause.com.

entertainment, including DJ Cutty Jones, the Opera Tampa Singers and local performers; an unveiling of the new "Art on the Walk" exhibit, with live painting by local artists; and, a KidZone with face painting, games, crafts and a few surprises. There also will be a gourmet popsicle truck, backstage tours, a musical bench and Fin Harp.

SAUCY SPOOKTACULAR

The Main Ingredient, 1903 Collier Parkway in Lutz, will host "Saucy Spooktacular" Oct. 6 starting at noon. There will be a live cooking demo from the "Eat Up Show" from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.; the "Saucy Queen" Michele Northrup from noon to 2 p.m.; and a costume contest from noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free and includes samples. For information, contact Christina Sweet at (813) 388-6472 or themainingredientlutz@gmail.com.

SILLY SAM PERFORMS

Silly Sam The Music Man will perform Oct. 6 at 11 a.m., at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, Rehearsal Hall. Silly Sam will bring his wind instruments, strings, percussion and electronics. Tickets start at \$7.50. For information, visit StrazCenter.org.

BREWFEST FOR HOSPICE

The fall "Brewfest for Hospice" will take place Oct. 6 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd., to benefit Gulfside Hospice. The event will feature unlimited sampling of craft beer and wine, live music, vendors, food trucks, games and more. Tickets are \$25 for a single, \$45 for a double or \$120 for a six pack. Admission includes a souvenir cup, and access to all the vendors and music. Food trucks are an additional cost. For information and tickets, call (727) 845-5707 or BrewfestForHospice.org.

SPIRITUAL WORKSHOP

Unity North Tampa, 19520 Holly Lane in Lutz, will host "Ignite Your Intuition," a workshop presented by Rev. Mary Lou Houllis, Oct. 7 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Participants can learn how to recognize and trust their inner voice, practice

techniques for calming the body and mind, and understand the language of symbols. Suggested cost is \$30. For information, call (813) 948-4884, or visit UnityNorthTampa.com.

CUT FOR A CAUSE

ULTA Beauty will host its annual "Cut For a Cause," to benefit the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Oct. 7 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at all ULTA stores. No appointments are necessary. Walk-ins only. The salon will make available \$20 cuts with flash dry, \$10 facials, and \$10 pink extensions, while supplies last.

KIDS YOGA

Sun Yoga Tampa, 19026 Geraci Road in Lutz, will offer kids yoga Oct. 7 at 3 p.m. Participants can learn basic poses and play games. The cost is \$10 per child, \$15 for two and \$20 for three. Adult family members are free. For information, visit SunYogaTampa.com.

CLASSIC FILM

Cobb Grove 16 Theatres, in Wesley Chapel, will show the movie, "Halloween," on Oct. 7 and Oct. 10, as part of its Flashback Cinema classic movie series. Tickets are available online at CobbTheatres.com, CMXCinemas.com or at the box office.

INTERACTIVE CONCERT

The Florida Orchestra will perform "Get Up and Move" at the Glazer Children's Museum, 110 W. Gasparilla Plaza in Tampa, Oct. 7 from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Participants can explore the minuet, tango, ballet, square dancing and more at this interactive concert. Admission is free with paid admission or membership to the museum.

VIVA TAMPA FESTIVAL

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at the free ViVa Tampa Bay Hispanic Heritage Festival Oct. 7 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., at Centennial Park, 1800 E. Eighth Ave., in Tampa. There will be Latin food vendors, cultural and artisan vendors, local band performances, cultural dance exhibitions, and an award ceremony recognizing the

city's most influential Hispanic leaders. Proceeds from the festival will benefit the Course of Action Foundation, which provides USF students at the Muma business school with scholarships to broaden their studies. For information, visit VivaTampaBayFestival.com.

PUMPKIN PATCH

Harvester UMC, 3432 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes, will host its annual "Playtime in the Pumpkin Patch" on Oct. 9 and Oct. 15 at 10 a.m. The event is recommended for ages 2 to 8, but all are welcome. Admission is free. Pumpkins will be for sale daily from 3 p.m. to dusk, starting Oct. 1.

EAST PASCO WRITERS

The East Pasco Writers Forum will meet Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to noon, at Country Aire Manor, 10249 U.S. 98 in Dade City. Meetings are divided into two sessions: critique of original works brought by members and visitors, and critiques of voluntary monthly writing assignments. For information, call Marjorie Nanian at (248) 231-7167.

PIZZA & PJ SHABBAT

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host a Pizza & PJ Shabbat on Oct. 12 at 6 p.m. There will be guitar playing, singing, dancing and food. PJs are not required. Participants can dress comfortably. The program is recommended for ages 15 months through second grade. Family Shabbat services will take place at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person, with a \$25 family maximum. RSVP by Oct. 10 by emailing frontoffice@kolami.org.

FARMERS MARKET

The San Antonio Farmers Market will take place Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at City Park, 12202 Main St., in San Antonio. There will be fresh produce, plants and herbs, honey, jams, jewelry, wine, baked goods, yard art and more. The market is sponsored by the Rotary Club of San Antonio.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Keystone United Methodist Church, 16301 Racetrack Road in Odessa, will host a Holiday Craft Fair on Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be handmade crafts, plants, gift baskets, vendors, a bake sale, and refreshments. For information, visit KeystoneUnitedMethodistChurch.com.

AMERICAN LEGION

The Lutz/Land O' Lakes American Legion Post 108 will meet Oct. 13 at 9 a.m., at Harvester United Methodist Church, 2341 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes. The Post's home building was damaged by a storm, and the group is looking to build its membership and find a new home. For information, email Ray Williams at rwms2906@gmail.com.

OLD TIMERS PICNIC

The annual Old Timers Picnic will take place Oct. 13 at the Pasco County Fairgrounds, Clayton Building, 36722 State Road 52 in Dade City. Anyone who has lived in Pasco County more than 20 years can attend, along with family members. Participants should bring a covered dish and their own table service. Ice tea and lemonade will be provided. Lunch service begins at noon, but guests can arrive early to "talk old times." There also will be prizes and a short meeting to elect officers. For information, email Diane Jones at desjones1018@yahoo.com.

VENDORS WANTED

Beach House Wiregrass Assisted Living & Memory Care, 30070 State Road 56 in Wesley Chapel, is looking for vendors for its Fall Festival on Oct. 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$10 a table, and all proceeds to the Alzheimer's Association. For information, call (813) 508-6677.



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Oct. 20 & 21

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Closer Look

AN ADVERTISER PROFILE

Discover Sugarshak Designs

Special to The Laker / Lutz News

When you step into Sugarshak Designs in Dade City, Goldie — the store's greeter and former farm dog — welcomes you with a wag of her tail and invites you to browse for that perfect gift or home decoration.

Sugarshak Designs specializes in home décor, upcycled and repurposed items, gifts, consignments, wedding and party decorations, flower arrangements, quirky signs and hats, one-of-a-kind jewelry, local honey and jelly, and handmade greeting cards.

Owner Denise Scopel creates many of the items in her store, including decorating bottles, tumblers, lampshades, mannequins and much more.

"I enjoy making and decorating things," Scopel said. "I look for things that I can either repurpose some way or upcycle, to make it different. I do wreaths, flower arrangements, horseshoes. If you show me a picture, I can usually create something pretty close to what the item is."

Scopel began exhibiting and selling her creations under a tent in the outdoor market scene, and then managed someone else's store, before opening Sugarshak last spring. The store's name is a tribute to Scopel's five grandchildren, who call her "Sugar."

"I wanted a store that wasn't just antiques or purchased gifts. I wanted to have local artists' items, plus repurposed and recycled, so it's an all-around kind of store," said Scopel. "I keep my prices low, because I want people to find something they love and be able to afford it."

Unique among stores specializing in home décor, Sugarshak has a Male Room, a space designed for items that interest and make appropriate gifts for men.

"We have something here for everyone," Scopel said. "We created the Male Room because I wanted something for men to be able to look at and relate to while their wives are shopping."

In addition to owning Sugarshak, Scopel also does planning for small weddings, and her store has a space devoted to wedding decorations.



"We have toasting glasses, cake knives, ring-bearer pillows and flower-girl baskets, fun things like socks for the bride's fathers, tote bags for the wedding party and even little wedding signs with clever sayings," said Scopel.

Scopel does as much or as little decorating and planning as a bride wants, and also helps with smaller events, such as baby showers and anniversary parties.

"Whatever the event, I'll set it up and make it look pretty," she said.

Because Scopel wants you to feel at home in her store, she provides a comfortable couch for weary shoppers and waiting spouses. The couch also gives people a handy place to lavish attention on Goldie, the store's canine ambassador of goodwill.

"Goldie was my grandfather's dog, and I brought her home with me about six years ago," Scopel says. "Goldie was a farm dog who lived underneath the house, and she's just the best dog ever — she doesn't bark and is very friendly and laid back."

Goldie may pass the day napping, but she loves her job at Sugarshak.

"She knows when it's time to go to work, and lies by the back door waiting on me to leave," Scopel said, "She's become my mascot, and people always come in asking about Goldie."

On your next visit to Dade City, be sure to visit Sugarshak, take a seat on the couch and be greeted by Goldie. And then take home something rustic, western, or just plain fun for that bare wall, baker's rack or empty end table.

"There's something here for everyone, and I'll bet you'll find something that you can't leave without," said Scopel.

Sugarshak Designs

(813) 526-6631 • 14247 7th St • Dade City
HOURS: Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 5:30pm
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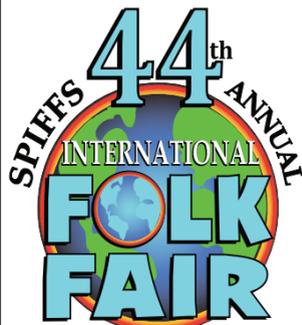
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COURTESY OF GULFSIDE HOSPICE & PASCO PALLIATIVE CARE
During the Spring Brewfest in March, festival-goers enjoyed live music and sampled beer and wine offered by local breweries.

Enjoy beer and wine samples, and help a good cause

By **Brian Fernandes**
bfernandes@lakerlutznews.com

The Fall Brewfest for Hospice on Oct. 6 gives people a chance to sample beer and wine, while benefiting Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care.

The venue for the event is Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd., and it's scheduled for Oct. 6, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Admission is \$25 for one ticket, \$45 for two and \$120 for six.

The entrance fee covers beer and wine samples from various local breweries and wineries.

Food trucks will offer an array of choices, and picnic benches will be available.

Strictly Business, a band made up of local business owners, will provide live entertainment.

There also will be health care organizations offering information, and vendors selling arts, crafts, jewelry, candles and other goods.

Festival-goers will be able to play cornhole and other games, too.

"It's a fun event, but we're doing it for a good cause," said Kirsty Churchill, community relations manager for Gulfside Hospice & Pasco Palliative Care, the only nonprofit hospice care that serves Pasco County exclusively.

The hospice organization accepts patients regardless of whether they can pay

If you go
Fall Brewfest for Hospice
WHERE: Land O' Lakes Heritage Park, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd.
WHEN: Oct. 6, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Cost: \$25 for one ticket, \$45 for two and \$120 for six
DETAILS: Brewfest offers event-goers a chance to sample beer and wine, play games and purchase meals from food trucks.
INFO: Contact Leesa Fryer at leesa.fryer@ghppc.org or (727) 845-5707. Tickets are available online at BrewfestForHospice.org and at (727) 845-5707.

the expenses.
The fundraiser is important, Churchill said.
"Events like this really help cover the gap of what's not paid for by Medicare, Medicaid and insurance," she explained.
The event is open only to those age 21 or older.
Tickets are available online at BrewfestForHospice.org and by calling (727) 845-5707.
For additional information, contact Leesa Fryer at leesa.fryer@ghppc.org or (727) 845-5707.

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Rosebud Continuum is having a fall open house

By B.C. Manion
Bcmanion@lakerlutznews.com

Sessions on sustainability will be offered by leaders in the field at an open house planned this month at the Rosebud Continuum in Land O' Lakes.

The free event is set for Oct. 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 22843 Hale Road, according to a news release from the venue.

Those attending will have a chance to stroll around the grounds, purchase native plants and fruit trees, take guided walks through a native plant trail and see demonstrations.

The Biogas Band will be making its debut, with a sound system that runs entirely on biogas, and smoothies will be sold, prepared using power from solar panels. There's also plenty of free parking, according to event organizers.

- Sessions include:
- Off Grid Living: A 20-minute lesson in the classroom, followed by a trip to the trailer to see it in action. The 40-minute sessions begin at 9 a.m., and 12:30 p.m.
 - Biodigester workshop: Turn food waste into fuel and fertilizer. This 35-



FILE

Visitors to an open house at the Rosebud Continuum will have a chance to learn about sustainable gardening practices.



Learn about Florida native plants during a session at the fall open house at the Rosebud Continuum in Land O' Lakes.



Interested in keeping bees in your backyard? You can learn about it at an open house on Oct. 20 at the Rosebud Continuum, at 22843 Hale Road in Land O' Lakes.

minute session includes a 15-minute talk followed by a 20-minute live demonstration. The workshop begins at 11:15 a.m.

- Aquaponics: Get an introduction to aquaponics through a 15-20 minute talk, followed by a visit to the Rosebud Aquaponics system.
- Florida Native Plants: Find out more

about Florida Native Plants in a 25-minute talk. Talks are offered at 10 a.m., and 1 p.m.

- Backyard Bees: Meet a beekeeper and learn what it takes to create your own backyard beehive. This 40-minute session is being offered at 10:30 a.m., and 11:45 a.m.
- Bats: Learn about the importance of

bats in a 25-minute talk beginning at 1:30 p.m.

- Native wildflower walks: Visit a wildflower meadow, with start times at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.
- Edible Plant Workshop: Find out more about edible plants during this workshop at 11:45 a.m.

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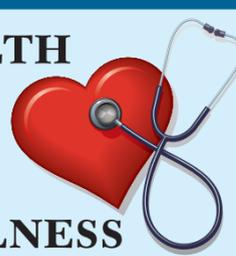
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FREE FLU CLINICS

Florida Hospital Centra Care will host two free flu shot community clinics.

- Oct. 4 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at Citrus Park Centra Care, 6930 Gunn Highway in Tampa
- Oct. 8 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at Carrollwood Centra Care, 4001 W. Linebaugh Ave., Tampa

BIRTH CENTER TOURS

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer birth center tours at 1 p.m., on Oct. 7, Oct. 14, Oct. 21 and Oct. 28, in its Labor & Delivery Unit.

The tour is designed to introduce the services available to the entire family and is an opportunity to have questions answered.

To register, call (813) 443-2046.

TROUBLESHOOTING DIABETES

St. Joseph's Diabetes Center will offer a free three-week course on "Troubleshooting Diabetes" at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 13312 Cain Road in Tampa.

Classes are at 6 p.m., on Oct. 9, Oct. 16 and Oct. 23.

Week 1 will address target values and the factors that can affect them.

Week 2 will cover diet concerns, pitfalls and myths.

And, Week 3 will be a workshop to guide you on how to partner with your diabetes health care team for optimal results.

To register, call (813) 870-4995.

BREAST-FEEDING SUPPORT

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer a breast-feeding support group Oct. 9 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., in Garden Classroom B.

Admission is free. To register, call (813) 443-2046.

MARTIAL ARTS & SELF-DEFENSE

Pasco-Hernando State College will offer a Martial Arts and Self-Defense course for health care professionals starting Oct. 9. The course will be offered through six two-hour classes (6 p.m. to 8 p.m.) at the PHSC West Campus, 10230 Ridge Road in New Port Richey.

Martial Artist Master James Rivera will teach how workers can protect themselves and safeguard their clients.

Caregivers and community members also can participate.

Participants can learn the principles of the techniques to prevent injury and will receive 1.2 continuing education credits.

To register, call (727) 816-3123, or email stroutk@phsc.edu.



WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

The Alzheimer's Association will host the Walk to End Alzheimer's on Oct. 20 at Starkey Ranch District Park, 11880 Lake Blanche Drive in Odessa. This is the first time the (pet-friendly) walk will take place in Pasco County.

Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Participants can take the 3-mile walk and learn about the disease, advocacy opportunities, clinical studies enrollment, and support programs and services.

There also will be a chance to honor those affected by Alzheimer's with a Promise Garden ceremony.

Anyone interested can sign up as a team captain, join a team, or register to walk as an individual.

For information and registration, visit ALZ.org/walk.

PELVIC HEALTH

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel will offer "What's Going on Down There?" as part of its Pelvic Health Series, Oct. 10 at noon, at Inspiration Place, Wellness Plaza, third floor.

The discussion will include how to take care of yourself after childbirth and beyond. Topics will be urinary incontinence, pelvic pain and back pain.

To preregister, please visit FHWesleyChapel.org/events.

LOSS OF A CHILD

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 2348 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes, will offer a candle ceremony for remembering the loss of a child on Oct. 11 at 7 p.m., in the church.

Regardless of whether the loss was decades ago or last week, any parent, grandparent, family member or friend who has ever suffered the loss of a child, by miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion, can attend to share in this time of remembrance.

To register the child's name, call (813) 949-4565.

NAMI AWARDS BANQUET

The 12th annual Mental Illness Awareness Week Education and Awards Banquet will take place Oct. 11 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Spartan Manor, 6121 Massachusetts Ave., in New Port Richey.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Pasco (NAMI Pasco) will host the event.

The keynote speaker will be Alisa LaPolt, NAMI Florida executive director, on "Politics after Parkland."

Deadline for ticket purchases is Oct. 5. Tickets will not be available at the door.

For information, call (727) 992-9653, or visit NAMIPasco.org.

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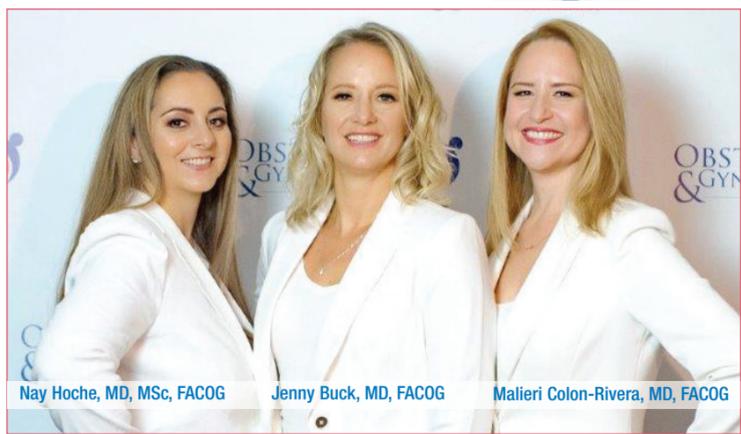
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Gearing up for fall lawn care

By Nicole Pinson
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

As we move into fall, it's time to review our lawn care strategies.

It's important to be proactive with lawn care, and not rely solely on fungicides or insecticides.

If your lawn is regularly under stress from lack of water, poor fertilization, excessive traffic, insect damage, or injurious mowing techniques, it will be more susceptible to diseases and pests.

It's important to be on the lookout for problems, because it is easier to identify and solve pest and disease issues when they are noticed early.

For example, large patch is a fungal disease that occurs when temperatures cool, typically from November to May.

Large patch primarily affects St. Augustinegrass and zoysiagrass lawns.

Unfortunately, many disease problems aren't noticed until the roots are destroyed, and the above-ground leaves appear yellow or brown.

Sometimes, homeowners see these symptoms, and respond with additional water and/or fertilizer. Unfortunately, if the problem is fungal, water and fertilizer can worsen the situation.

Once fungus has damaged a plant, that portion of the plant cannot "heal."

Fungicides help stop the disease from spreading to healthy plant tissue. Homeowner-approved fungicides may be

applied, but they do not repair dead or dying turf.

If you spot and treat disease early, turf damage may be minimal, and you should see improved growth in the healthier areas of the lawn. But, if you wait too long, the disease may progress quickly, killing grass and resulting in costly treatment and sod replacement.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE A PROBLEM?

Bring a sample of your turf to your local county Extension office. A good sample size is a square-foot of grass. Select your sample from an area that is on the border between healthy grass and the discolored or unhealthy-looking grass.

This type of sample shows a progression of symptoms, and helps Extension staff and master gardener volunteers to determine what issue is affecting your lawn.

Use a shovel to dig up this piece of sod, including the roots. Then, place the sample on newspaper or in a cardboard box and bring it to your local Extension office. (You may place the sample back in the yard when you return home.)

Another option is to send a sample directly to the University of Florida lab. The lab will determine if a pathogen is present on the turf and has a quick turnaround time with a preliminary diagnosis provided within 24 hours to 48 hours.

A Rapid Turfgrass Diagnosis costs \$75 per sample, and you will receive a report with recommendations. (For more informa-



COURTESY OF NICOLE PINSON

Earwigs are considered beneficial because they feed on chinch bugs, mole crickets and other insects in the soil.

tion about this, go to this link: turf.ufl.edu/rapiddiag_general.shtml.

Insects that may be present include fall armyworms, chinch bugs, mole crickets and sod webworms. Check the free, UF/IFAS online library, called "EDIS," for more information on each of these pests, and other gardening and home topics. EDIS stands for Electronic Data Information Source, and the website is edis.ifas.ufl.edu.

If you don't know if you have an insect or disease problem, rule out the insects first.

DO A SOAP FLUSH

When you notice signs of damage, do a soap flush. Besides being simple, sometimes people discover they have beneficial insects in their yards. For instance, earwigs and big-eyed bugs eat chinch bugs.

- To perform a soap flush, you'll need:
- Liquid dishwashing soap. Some publications suggest that lemon-scented works best (Note: Don't use a degreaser)
 - A watering can or bucket

• A container or zip-top bag to collect insects for ID

Here's what you do:

- Look for an area that shows a progression of symptoms, such as an area with signs of damage and no damage.
- Use a watering can to mix 2 Tablespoons of liquid dishwashing soap with 2 gallons of water.
- Apply the soap mixture to a 2 foot-by-2 foot area of grass.
- Wait 2 minutes to 3 minutes. Insects will begin to appear as they move to the soil surface.
- Flush late in the afternoon or early morning for best results.
- Check for different stages of an insect's life cycle, such as adults and caterpillars.
- Collect samples. Bring to the Extension office for assistance, identification and control recommendations.
- Repeat the process in several areas of the yard to get a good sample of insects present.

If you need help identifying an insect, check with your local county Extension office.

For additional information, check out these IFAS publications: "Insect Pest Management on Turfgrass" by E. Buss and A. Dale (2017) and "Turfgrass Disease Management" by M.L. Elliott and P.F. Harmon (2018). Both of these publications were used as sources of information for this column.

For additional information, contact pinsonn@hillsboroughcounty.org, or call (813) 744-5519, ext. 54145.

Nicole Pinson is the Urban Horticulture Agent in Hillsborough County.



Medical Center of Trinity invites you to join us for Girls Night Out, an interactive, educational, fun-filled event for women.

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- Breast Health - Take Care of the Girls!
Alene Wright, MD
- Burning Up! Tips for Surviving Menopause
Reut Bardach, MD
- Does Your Heart Move to the Beat?
Raul Jimenez, MD
- Is Chocolate Good for Your Heart?
Vinod Raxwal, MD
- Put Your Bones to the Test
Samantha Lindsay, MD
- Signs of a Hernia
Tiffani Shelton, DO
- STEMI Alert!
Rami Akel, MD
- My Legs Hurt!
Patrick Cambier, MD
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- Trinity Tool Time – Your Trinity Construction Questions Answered
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- What Can You Do to Prevent Infection/Sepsis?
- What Is An AED?
- When The Golden Years Aren't So Golden
- Women & Heart Attacks

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- Doggie Cakes
- DSD Re-purposed Wood Creations
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Chalk Talk

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CRUSADER FOR A DAY

Tampa Catholic High School, 4630 N. Rome Ave., in Tampa, will offer "Crusader for a Day," an eighth-grade shadow program, Oct. 4, Oct. 18, Oct. 25 and Nov. 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The program provides a child the opportunity to learn about the Tampa Catholic student experience.

For information, call (813) 870-0860, ext. 232, or visit TampaCatholic.org.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Tallahassee Community College Foundation has awarded Megan Everett, of Lutz, with the TCC STEM Council Scholarship.

The TCC Foundation will award more than \$250,000 in scholarships to students based on merit, need and other factors during the fall 2018 semester.

NEW ADMINISTRATORS

Pasco-Hernando State College recently named the following people to new administrative positions.

• Lisa Richardson succeeds recently retired William Shustowski as executive director, PHSC Foundation.

Richardson began her new role as associate vice president of alumni and college relations/executive director in August. Most recently, she served as provost at the East Campus in Dade City.

Richardson received a Doctor of Education in educational leadership from Argosy University in Phoenix, Arizona; a Master of Education in curriculum and instruction from National-Louis University in Evanston, Illinois; and a Bachelor of Arts in education from the University of Florida, Gainesville.

• Ed Goolsby is now provost of the East Campus. He has served in various capacities at the college since 2007, including associate dean at North Campus; interim dean, arts and sciences, West Campus, and most recently, dean of workforce development.

Goolsby earned a Doctor of Management in organizational leadership, specializing in information systems technology, at the University of Phoenix; and a Master of Business Administration, Master of Science and Bachelor of Science in management information systems from the University of South Florida.

• Marcia Austin was selected as the new dean of workforce development, care and technical education.



COURTESY OF THE GREATER ZEPHYRHILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ten students awarded citizen honors

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce recognized 10 students as Citizens of the Month for September. The students were: Ari Kellerman, The Academy of Spectrum Diversity; Samuel Geist, The Broach School; Laniya Constant, Chester Taylor Elementary School; C.J. Pelto, East Pasco Adventist Academy; Cyhlas Davis-Payden, Heritage Academy; Abbygail Johnson, Raymond B. Stewart Middle School; Kendra Carter, West Zephyrhills Elementary School; Justin Negron, Woodland Elementary School; Nyjohn Moody, Zephyrhills Christian Academy; and Sophia Martin, Zephyrhills High School.

Previously, Austin was employed with Hernando County Schools for 28 years, serving in a variety of positions. She also was an adjunct professor at PHSC for more than seven years.

Austin earned a Doctorate in education leadership and an Education Specialist in education from Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale; a Master of Science in education from Fordham University, Bronx, New York; and a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from St. Francis College, Brooklyn, New York.

• Gerene Thompson began her new role as dean of arts and sciences. Previously, she was the associate dean of academic affairs at Polk State College in Lakeland.

Thompson earned a Doctor of Philosophy in higher education, graduate certificates in leadership in higher education and college teaching, and Master of Education in curriculum and instruction from the University of South Florida; a Master of Arts in history from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas; and a Bachelor of Arts in pre-law/history from Barry University in Miami Shores.

DONATIONS HELP ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Businesses and citizens in Wesley Chapel came together to donate more than \$2,000 worth of food to support local elementary students in need for the 2018-2019 school year.

Full Circle Food Outreach hosted and benefited from a Stock-the-Pantry Food Drive over the summer.

Raffle tickets also were sold and generated another \$250 in donations and raffle items.

Food and donations generated from the food drive and after-party at Country Walk Clubhouse in Wesley Chapel will fill weekly food bags for students who are dependent on free or reduced school meals, or identified by school staff as food insecure.

Students enrolled in Full Circle's program receive a bag filled with two breakfasts, two lunches and snacks each Friday during the school year.

For information about Full Circle Food Outreach, call (813) 619-8009 or email Info@FullCircleFoodOutreach.org.

PASCO SCHOOLS ENHANCE EVENT SECURITY

Pasco County Schools has installed new safety procedures for all sporting events, as of Sept. 14.

From now on, only clear plastic, clear vinyl and clear Ziploc bags will be permitted.

No other bags of any kind will be permitted, including backpacks, fanny packs, purses and duffle bags. Some exceptions will be made for diaper bags, medically-necessary bags, and school/professional photographers' camera bags.

Meanwhile, no re-entry will be allowed into games if a patron leaves, and no tickets

will be sold after the beginning of the fourth quarter for football and basketball.

Parking lots will be cleared immediately after games, and no loitering or after-parties will be allowed.

The rules were developed in conjunction with the Pasco Sheriff's Office after violence occurred at two Florida high school football games this season, and after surveying other school districts that are implementing similar procedures.

For more information, please visit tinyurl.com/ybsfgloo.

BE A BEXLEY SPONSOR

Bexley Elementary, off State Road 54 in Land O' Lakes, is looking for business sponsors for the 2018-2019 school year.

A Silver Paw Partnership sponsor will have its business cards displayed in the front office, and a business recognition on the school's website and Facebook page, as well as the PTO Facebook page and newsletter. The silver sponsor also will receive a Certificate of Sponsorship and a Paw Partner car magnet.

A Gold Paw Partnership sponsor will include everything in the Silver level, plus: a business banner displayed outside the school for the 2018-2019 school year, and a complimentary booth space at the annual Bexley Elementary School Carnival, in the spring.

For more information, contact Kathy Hrach at (813) 382-3138 or email her at pawpartnerships@gmail.com.

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MOBILITY, from page 1A

Commissioner Kathryn Starkey, however, expressed reluctance.

"We have a shortage of workforce housing. I think we ought to be careful," Starkey said.

Moore said he's talking about high-end apartments that are popping up along the corridor.

Starkey said one way to address her concern might be to set a threshold to identify apartment developments that could continue to receive an incentive, and those which would not.

While commissioners cannot take any actions at workshops, their discussion can indicate which way they're leaning. In this case, they agreed to bring back the apartment incentives issue for when they hold a public hearing on the proposed fee update.

On another category, Starkey failed to sway a majority of commissioners when she suggested eliminating, or at least reducing, the incentive for hotel development.

"I'm not sure we need to subsidize hotels anymore," Starkey said. "They're running at 90 percent occupancy."

Moore said he'd want more information before going that route.

"Do we have enough product yet? How much product do we need in Pasco County before we take that away?" Moore asked.

Starkey said the incentive wouldn't have to be stripped entirely, but the county could charge something.

"They're paying zero," she said.

Commissioner Jack Mariano suggested looking at the issue again in five years, when the county plans to do its next update of the mobility fee rates.

Commissioner Ron Oakley agreed: "We're trying our best to be a premier county and we're getting there. Don't put the brakes on before we get there."

On another issue, Oakley said asked if the county could reduce the gap between the fees paid in rural districts, versus the other fee districts.

Oliver explained that the rates paid in rural areas are higher because residents living there drive longer distances, thereby having a greater impact on the county's roads. They also enjoy a higher level of service because there's less congestion.

Oakley said the disparity in rates bothers rural residents.

"They're concerned about having to pay so much more here, and everybody says 'Well that's because you've got a longer trip on the road and that's got more impact."

"It seems like it's harsh," Oakley said, noting a lot of "have been arguing and fussing" because of high mobility fees.

David Goldstein, chief assistant county attorney, said the proposed fee schedule addresses that issue.

Under that schedule, a new single-family home built on 5 acres or more in the rural district would pay the same fee as the same-size home built in the suburban district. Those built on smaller lots in the rural district would continue to pay the rural rate.

Goldstein noted: "Our vision for the rural area really is larger lots, so we didn't think that a large lot in the rural area should be penalized for building on a large lot in the rural area."

Mobility Fees update

Pasco County is considering an update to its mobility fee schedule.

Some quick facts:

- Pasco County's mobility fee was last updated in 2014. (Since then, infrastructure costs have increased by 6.7 percent and the county's incentives program has expanded).
- Fees have essentially held constant since 2011.
- The county has rural, suburban and urban fee districts.
- There are 11 fee schedules, with 81 land uses in each schedule.
- The fee schedule has incentives to encourage specific types of development, in specific areas. (The county pays those subsidies, using taxes from nongrowth sources).
- The update introduces five new land uses. They are: Non-veterinary kennel; breakfast/lunch only restaurant; fast-casual restaurant; ice-skating arena; and active/passive warehouse.
- The update also calls for reducing fees in seven land use categories. They are: High-rise condominiums; age-restricted communities; congregate care facilities; college/university in suburban/rural areas; churches in suburban areas; hospitals; and hardware/paint stores (but not big box stores such as Lowe's or Home Depot).
- The proposal calls for updating the mobility fee schedule every five years, instead of every three; and, reducing the administrative fee for permit applications from \$392 per permit to \$136 per permit.

Source: Bill Oliver, of W.E. Oliver P.E., LLC, the county's consultant on its mobility fee schedule update. This information was presented by Oliver to the Pasco County Commission during a workshop on Sept. 25.

The update calls for reducing fees in these categories: High-rise condominiums; age-restricted communities; congregate care facilities; college/university in suburban/rural areas; churches in suburban areas; hospitals; and hardware/paint stores (but not big box stores such as Lowe's or Home Depot).

The update also introduces five new land uses: Non-veterinary kennel; breakfast/lunch only restaurant; fast-casual restaurant; ice-skating arena; and active/passive warehouse.

Besides changing specific categories, there's also a proposal to update the mobility fee schedule every five years, instead of approximately every three years, as has been the practice.

Lengthening the time between updates, coupled with an increasing number of permit applications, would allow the county to reduce the permit administration fee from \$392 per permit to \$136 per permit, Goldstein said.

The update also proposed additional incentives to spur development along U.S. 19.

Next, the proposed fee schedule goes to the Pasco County Planning Commission for its recommendation, and then it comes back to County Commission for final action.

If adopted, county staff recommends that the new fees take effect on Jan. 1.

mother added, regarding her daughter's drive for excellence.

Even with the turn of events in the past year, Hailey remains grounded, continuing to pursue other interests.

She's been an avid dancer for 12 years and performs with her team in competitions. She's also involved in Sunlake's Student Council and Homecoming Committee.

Friends and classmates have acknowledged that they don't have Hailey's depth of understanding when it comes to cryoprotection.

"Even once I explain it to them, they're like, 'That's cool, but I really don't know what you're talking about,'" she said, laughing.

Sunlake Principal Michael Cloyd said he's happy to see Hailey on such a positive trajectory.

"It's really essential for students to have a solid foundation in science," Cloyd said. He believes that preparation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) is a driving force for preparing tomorrow's leaders.



KEVIN WEISS

A Sept. 19 groundbreaking ceremony was held for the F.I.R.S.T. campus, which will be adjacent to the Adam Kennedy Memorial Forensics Field, otherwise known as the 'body farm,' that now sits on five acres of land next to the Land O' Lakes Detention Center, off U.S. 41.

FORENSICS, from page 1A

construction and cyber forensics.

Technology, too, will play a major role in the research, including virtual autopsies with 3-D scanning and chemical isotope analysis.

The K-9 portion of the project, meanwhile, will be the first time Pasco has had a dedicated facility for tactical training for the K-9 unit, the Pasco Unified SWAT team and sheriff's deputies.

When completed, the F.I.R.S.T. campus also will house training facilities in the arenas of cybersecurity and unmanned vehicles.

The \$4.3 million state-funded project is expected to be complete by late 2019.

Pasco Sheriff Chris Nocco said the campus — particularly the forensic anthropology "body farm" fields — will have international draw, because of the location's subtropical climate.

The sheriff also said the facility overall will advance national policies for public safety, in the realm of forensics, K-9 tactics, crisis management, design thinking and so on.

"We're going to be training people from all over the country," Nocco said. "This is not about the Pasco Sheriff's Office. This is about all of us. This is about saving lives and making our community better."

He added: "The amazing thing is, as we keep building this out and as we break ground, more partners keep coming on and on, and we keep expanding."

Once complete, the forensics center will be the first in Florida, and only the seventh in the nation.

The University of Tennessee in Knoxville started the first forensic training and research center in the 1970s. Other facilities are at Western Carolina University, Sam Houston State University, Texas State University in Carbondale, Southern Illinois University and Colorado Mesa University.

A ONE-STOP RESOURCE

But, F.I.R.S.T. is touted as the first true cooperative effort between academia and practitioners.

Academic partners include the University of South Florida, University of Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University and Pasco-Hernando State College, among others.

The project already has some Florida-based forensics scholars buzzing.

Dr. Phoebe Stubblefield is a forensic anthropologist and research assistant scientist at the C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida, in Gainesville.

For her, F.I.R.S.T. means having a one-stop resource for university-based forensic labs from all across the state.

"Why should we not work together? First, it gives us a chance to share our ideas between ourselves. It'll produce more re-

search for the whole state," said Stubblefield, who plans to bring her graduate students to the campus "on a cyclical basis."

Stubblefield also noted the forensics center will facilitate long-term studies on body decomposition rates in subtropical climates, something she said is presently "not well researched."

"That whole overall decomposition area — we're still bringing the picture together," Stubblefield said. "I know (F.I.R.S.T.) will help with research, because there's just not enough data."

The possibilities also excite Dr. Heather Walsh-Haney, an associate professor who chairs the Department of Justice Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University, in Fort Myers.

Walsh-Haney has been studying forensic anthropology for 21 years. She gets called upon to help solve anywhere between 80 to 110 cases every year across the state.

She, like Stubblefield, stressed the need for more comprehensive studies on body decomposition rates within subtropical conditions, for crime-solving and death investigation purposes: "It doesn't take a neurosurgeon to realize our temperatures are hotter, we have different animal scavenging habits, our plants are different and our soils are different."

Once F.I.R.S.T. is in operation, she and her group of graduate students plan to visit on a bi-weekly basis.

Aside from conducting forensic research studies and experiments, she said they'll also assist detectives and other law enforcement officials on an assortment of hot and cold cases.

The complex, she said, "highlights the fact that we have to have community involvement in order to solve cases."

She added: "The only way we can catch the folks who perpetrate these crimes is through science and the collaboration with law enforcement."

"This facility here, smack dab in the center (of Florida), is a wonderful location for scientists and law enforcement from the south and north to come here and train."

Meantime, local officials believe F.I.R.S.T. will be an economic driver for the county.

Bill Cronin, president/CEO of the Pasco Economic Development Council, who was present at the groundbreaking ceremony, stated F.I.R.S.T. will have an economic impact to the county of at least \$7.8 million in its first year, with a recurring impact of \$2.8 million each year "thanks to the hundreds of visitors that are going to come here and train."

Furthermore, he noted the facility will attract other forensics-related businesses and organizations to Pasco, possibly along U.S. 41.

"This particular location will help us activate the part of U.S. 41 that's been fairly difficult for us to draw business into," he said, "and it takes what was an otherwise non-producing government-owned site and creates a real asset for economic development."

SCIENCE, from page 1A

competitions.

Her father, Raoul, recalled being with her during the Pasco County competition. He was prepared to offer words of encouragement, if her project wasn't selected as a top-10 finalist.

"All of a sudden, her name gets called out," he said. "It was a really outstanding feeling."

As she climbed the ranks, Hailey attended a three-day state competition in Lakeland, an event that showcased the work of 3,000 Florida students.

One state judge was so impressed by Hailey's project, he remarked he hadn't seen anything like it during his 18 years of judging.

Hailey's parents are proud of her dedication and her decision to take on such a demanding topic.

"Hailey took the project really serious, which was really cool for us to see," said her mother, Nikki.

"Hailey is just extremely motivated," her

mother added, regarding her daughter's drive for excellence.

Even with the turn of events in the past year, Hailey remains grounded, continuing to pursue other interests.

She's been an avid dancer for 12 years and performs with her team in competitions. She's also involved in Sunlake's Student Council and Homecoming Committee.

Friends and classmates have acknowledged that they don't have Hailey's depth of understanding when it comes to cryoprotection.

"Even once I explain it to them, they're like, 'That's cool, but I really don't know what you're talking about,'" she said, laughing.

Sunlake Principal Michael Cloyd said he's happy to see Hailey on such a positive trajectory.

"It's really essential for students to have a solid foundation in science," Cloyd said. He believes that preparation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) is a driving force for preparing tomorrow's leaders.

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Sunlake High swimming primed for a big splash

By Kevin Weiss

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The Land O' Lakes High varsity football team upending Sunlake High in the 12th annual Butter Bowl wasn't the only long-running sports streak broken between the two rival schools.

The other came in girls swimming and diving — with Sunlake finally getting the upper hand against its crosstown foe.

The Seahawks girls defeated the Gators in a dual meet 108-78, on Sept. 19 at the Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex Pool.

It marks the first time Sunlake has defeated Land O' Lakes in a head-to-head competition.

Further, it's just the third time that Land O' Lakes has lost a dual meet since 2004.

The Gators entered the season with a 144-2 streak in this type of meet, according to longtime Gators head coach Robin Hilgenberg.

Sunlake head coach Lorin Macdonald said the momentous win — plus the sizable point margin — is "a big confidence builder" as the team enters its conference and state series meets later this month.

"We ended up beating (Land O' Lakes) by a lot more points than I was anticipating," she said, noting the scores are usually much closer between the two schools.

Sunlake's rare victory against one of the state's perennial swim programs is no fluke.

Last year, the Seahawks girls team were regional champions in the Class 3A-Region 3 meet.

They followed that performance with a fourth-place finish (out of 48 schools) at the Class 3A state finals, shattering numerous school records along the way.

This year's squad, however, may be even better.

It's certainly deeper and more experienced.

Just about every key contributor returns from last season.

That includes junior Chloe Grimme, who at last year's state meet won the 50 free (23.11) and placed second in the 100 free (51.18), earning All-American honors.



FILE

The Sunlake High girls swimming and diving team looks to build upon last season's fourth-place finish at the Class 3A state championships. Shown here are coaches and members of the 200 free relay that placed first at states, from left: Coach Shelly Koutras, Tori Eurell, Audrey Ballash, Hanna Barton, Chloe Grimme and Coach Lorin Macdonald.

She was also part of the 200 free relay and 200 medley relay that placed first and third at states, respectively.

Other Sunlake standouts include future Division I talents in seniors Elise Ballash (verbal commit to University of North Florida) and Hanna Barton (verbal commit to University of South Carolina), along with Tori Eurell, Audrey Ballash and Alex Sprague.

With a roster of 31 swimmers, the Seahawks also have added depth, buoyed by a formidable freshman class paced by Amber Ewald and Leah Fonnatto.

"We have a really, really strong team this year," Macdonald said. "There's a lot more drive, especially behind our girls who went to states last year. They have a lot of drive and they have a lot of hunger to do very well this year."

Barton, a team captain, put it like this: "We definitely are stronger (this year). I think we are closer because we won last year and so we were all like really proud of each other. I think it's even more close-knit this year. We all definitely are a lot more motivated and re-

alize what we're capable of doing."

Fellow team captain Elise Ballash added: "We are the strongest, most positive and close-knit that I think we've been in the past four years. I'm really looking forward to this season."

GRIMME'S PRESENCE FELT

There's no question what Grimme's impact means to the team — as an individual state champion and the 2017 Sunshine Athletic Conference East Swimmer of the Year.

Aside from her swimming ability, Grimme's everyday drive has also set the tone for the team.

As a freshman, she earned the nickname, 'Beast Mode.'

When Grimme hits the water, Macdonald said she's "like a machine."

"The amount of focus that she has is crazy," Macdonald said. "She just goes for it. There's no turning back when she's got her mindset on it."

Such presence and determination serves

as a motivator for everyone else, teammates say.

"She's a good teammate," Ballash said. "She like amps up the training atmosphere and the standard of training that we have here, too."

"We want to be able to contribute as much as Chloe does and do what Chloe can do," said Barton, "so it definitely pushes all of us, and it also just gets us more excited for each other because we know that with her, we are capable of doing some pretty cool things."

Grimme, surprisingly, didn't begin swimming until middle school.

She had played just about every sport until deciding to give competitive swimming a shot.

Her initial feelings toward the water-based sport: "Well, let's see how it goes."

The star swimmer admitted she "didn't really know how to do anything" when she first hopped into a pool.

She was immediately drawn to the 50 freestyle, because it was the shortest event.

Fair to say, it became a natural fit.

"The more I worked on it, the speed of my stroke (improved), so I really tapped into the 50," she said.

This year, Grimme hopes to repeat as 50 free state champion and win a state title in the 100 free.

She's also striving to break her own records.

"I've always wanted to be the best at what I do. I want to reach my full potential," she said.

In the meantime, Sunlake's coaching staff is focused on keeping the team grounded and supportive of one another in advance of the Sunshine Athletic Conference meet, on Oct. 13 at the New Port Richey Recreation and Aquatic Center.

It's another event — like the dual meet — Sunlake hopes to capture from Land O' Lakes, which has won every year since 2009.

"Even though we have such a strong team, I don't want us banking on the fact that we have a strong team and going in overly confident," Macdonald said. "If we go in overly confident then there's that chance we take a misstep."



COURTESY OF LAND O' LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

Callie Turner

LOCAL SIGNING

Land O' Lakes High School senior left-handed pitcher Callie Turner has signed to play collegiate softball at Division I University of Tennessee.

One of the state's top arms, Turner was named 2018 Miracle Sports Class 6A Player of the Year and Class 6A Pitcher of Year (which she also won in 2017).

Turner last season went 17-6, posting a 0.78 earned run average and 252 strikeouts in 153.1 innings pitched. She also tallied 20 complete games, including one no-hitter and six shutouts.

As a sophomore in 2017, Turner helped guide the Gators to its first fast-pitch state title, in Class 6A. That season, Turner went 17-2 with a 0.21 earned run average and 249 strikeouts in 132.2 innings pitched, also registering 18 complete games, 10 shutouts and four no-hitters.

She's also been a .300 hitter the past two seasons.

Softball recruiting website FloSoftball.com ranks Turner as the nation's No. 14 prospect for the 2019 recruiting class.

ALZHEIMER'S FAMILY ORGANIZATION CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 18th annual Alzheimer's Family Organization Tampa Bay Charity golf tournament is set for Nov. 10 at 9:30 a.m., at Crescent Oaks Country Club, 3300 Crescent Oaks Blvd., in Tarpon Springs. Cost is \$75 for player. It includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart rental on day of event, and breakfast and lunch. For information, visit AlzheimersFamily.org/golftournament.

TRIPLE-IMPACT COMPETITOR FINALISTS NAMED

Nine senior athletes from schools in The Laker/Lutz News coverage area were recently named finalists for the Triple Impact Competitor Scholarship through the Positive Coaching Alliance-Tampa Bay.

The Triple Impact Competitor



COURTESY OF KYLE LOJACONO

Wharton High boys cross-country team, led by senior Tre Rivers, is ranked fourth in Class 4A.

WHARTON HIGH SHINES AT CROSS-COUNTRY MEET

The Wharton High School boys and girls varsity cross-country teams each had strong showings at the North Port Invitational on Sept. 22, finishing fourth and fifth, respectively.

The boys team is currently ranked fourth in the Class 4A state rankings, while the girls are ranked 10th.

Their next meet is the Hillsborough County Championships on Oct. 5 at Idlewild Baptist Church.

Wharton's top finishers North Port BOYS

- Tre Rivers — 12th place (16:26)
- Josue Reyes — 23rd (16:48)
- Anthony Stephens — 32nd (17:06)
- Jared Hammill — 37th (17:09)
- Thomas Walter — 68th (17:51)

GIRLS

- Nicolina Otero — 14th place (19:43)
- Nia Rivers — 26th (20:23)
- Amanda Brake — 31st (20:33)
- Michelle Sullivan — 62nd (21:22)
- Callie Zack — 64th (21:25)



COURTESY OF POSITIVE COACHING ALLIANCE-TAMPA BAY

Gaither High's Alyssa Ferrante Gennaro is one of 44 Tampa Bay area finalists for the Triple Impact Competitor Scholarship through the Positive Coaching Alliance-Tampa Bay.

Scholarship seeks to salute student-athletes who have "demonstrated a commitment to improving themselves, their teammates and their sport as a whole," according to a release.

Applicants had to submit essays and receive at least three recommendations from coaches, teachers or administrators.

A total of 44 Tampa Bay-area student-athletes from the high school class of 2019 were named finalists for the Triple-Impact Competitor, which is presented by Sagacor Life Insurance Company. The Positive Coaching Alliance nationally received more

Triple Impact Competitor Scholarship finalists

- Estefania Acosta — Land O' Lakes
- Jessica Amis — Wiregrass Ranch
- Riddhi Banerjee — Steinbrenner
- Alyssa Ferrante Gennaro — Gaither
- Shea Forgas — Sunlake
- Adam Hahn — Land O' Lakes
- Adyson Harvey — Gaither
- Jameson Miller — Steinbrenner
- Esel Ro — Freedom

than 3,000 applications for Triple-Impact Competitor scholarships from the Class of 2019.

Next, each finalist will be interviewed by selection committee members.

Scholarship winners will be named at a Tampa Bay Rays game during the 2019 season.

SHARE THE LOVE GOLF TOURNAMENT

The first annual Share the Love golf tournament is set for Nov. 2 at Northdale Golf & Tennis Club, 4417 Northdale Blvd., in Tampa.

Check-in for the four-person scramble begins at 11:30 a.m., with a 1p.m. shotgun start.

The tournament will also feature prizes,



COURTESY OF JOHN MEDVID

HUGE HAUL

Jim Felice, left, and Joe Felice teamed to win first place at the South Pasco Bassmasters' (SPBM) September tournament, hauling in five bass for a total weight of 23.47 pounds on the Lake Kissimmee Chain of Lakes. That also included catching the tournament's biggest bass, at 6.28 pounds. The duo caught their fish flipping a 1-ounce jig in the Kissimmee grass and cattails. The next tournament is Oct. 20 at Lake Weir. For information, visit SouthPascoBassmasters.com.

raffles, food and drinks, and a silent auction.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Alegria's Kickin' for Kids, a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides new athletic-style school shoes to disadvantaged children throughout the Tampa Bay area.

For information or to register, visit KreweOfAlegria.com.

ROLLER DERBY BOUT

The Rolling Valkyries women's roller derby team, of Revolution Roller Derby, will skate against Lakeland-based Swan City Roller Derby on Oct. 7 at 5:30 p.m., at SpinNations Skating Center, 8345 Congress St., Port Richey. Revolution Roller Derby will donate a portion of its proceeds from the bout to benefit Sunrise of Pasco County Inc. Domestic & Sexual Violence Center. Tickets are \$12 at the door, or \$10 if you bring a canned good or toiletry donation. For information, visit RevolutionRollerDerby.com, or email info@RevolutionRollerDerby.com.

BUDDY RUN 5K SET NOV. 4

The eighth annual Buddy Run 5K is set for Nov. 4 at 8 a.m., at Trout Creek Park, 12550 Morris Bridge Road in Tampa.

Cost is \$30 if registered by Oct. 17, \$35 after Oct. 17 and \$40 on day of event.

Awards will be given for overall and masters male and female winners.

Proceeds from the event benefit Buddy Baseball, a noncompetitive league for boys and girls with special needs; and, Congregation Beth Am, a Reform Jewish congregation serving North Hillsborough and east Pasco.

To register, visit BuddyRun5k.org. For information, email BuddyRunDirector@gmail.com.