Therapy dog brightens patients’ days

By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

Willie helps spread cheer each Tuesday

Everybody at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills knows they will have a visitor on Tuesdays. He just happens to have a wet nose, fur and four legs. Each Tuesday, Willie the therapy dog goes around the hospital to visit patients well enough to see him. People stop in the hallways to come and spend a few minutes with the 9-year-old golden retriever and patients’ faces light up when he enters their room.

Jaimee Underwood, director of the intensive care unit (ICU) and progressive care unit (PCU) for the hospital, said she has seen a lot of benefits from Willie’s weekly visits.

“I think it’s very therapeutic for the patients,” Underwood said. “It adds in the healing. It puts the smile on the face of someone who is sick. The patients who have a long stay really look forward to Willie coming back each week. I think it definitely decreases the anxiety and it truly does help their healing.”

Underwood said they ask all the patients if they would like to visit with Willie before he shows up. He does not go into the emergency room or the ICU to protect the patient and Willie.

Willie is led each week by his owner Kay Hoffland of Ridge Manor, north of Dade City. She said Willie has been a therapy dog for almost a year, starting at the Hugh Embry Library in Dade City and then Heartland Rehabilitation Center in Brooksville.

“He had to go through six weeks of therapy dog training,” Hoffland said. “They learn to move forward, left, right and back on command so they can move in a tight spot. They learn to ‘leave it’ on the floor. He had to learn to sit and stay with me walking away and him staying there.”

Willie also had to learn not to lick the patient for their comfort and to make sure no medication is transferred.

The pair get to the hospital, 7050 Gall Blvd. in Zephyrhills, at about 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and they stay until all the patients who have requested a visit can see him. That sometimes takes until 2 p.m.

“I don’t have the heart to leave if someone signed up and know he’s coming,” Hoffland said. “We see everybody. Sometimes I’m in a room for less than five minutes, but sometimes it’s much longer. I stay as long as they want to see him.”

Hoffland said she wanted to train Willie as a therapy dog in hospitals because of the care her father Richard Wilson received.

“My dad came to emergency care at the hospital in December with congestive heart failure,” Hoffland said. “He was in ICU and PCU for a long time and hospice told us to take him home and make him comfortable because they thought he wasn’t going to make it.”

The care Wilson got helped him pull through and he recently left on a trip out West.

“I said I had to give back somehow and one day I saw a big sign on the back of an SUV that said therapy dog,” Hoffland said. “I jotted the number down and said, I have to see THERAPY, page 21

PASO APPROVES PANHANDLING BAN

The Pasco Commission approved a preliminary law on June 7 to ban all panhandling within the county on all days except Sundays.

The ordinance bans any form of panhandling in unincorporated Pasco on all county and state roadways, which includes selling anything or asking for donations. The one-day exception was mainly given because of the large volume of newspapers that are sold on Sundays.

Representatives from The Tampa Tribune and the St. Petersburg Times argued the outright ban would have cost nearly 200 people their part-time jobs selling newspapers while walking on the medians of the roadways.

Those representatives showed the commissioners the traffic volume is significantly lower on Sundays, as much as 55 percent of the typical levels during the week. The ban has been framed as a safety issue, so the statistics helped push the board toward the concession.

County Attorney Kristi Wooden said the numbers presented are accurate and gave the commissioners assurances that groups would be unlikely to challenge the legality of passing the ban with the Sunday exemption based on safety. Wooden added accidents involving pedestrians are 31 percent less likely on a Sunday.

“We heard from people who sell the papers on Sunday that they depend on the money to keep their homes,” said Pasco Commission Chairwoman Ann Hildebrand. Hildebrand said she regularly buys a Sunday newspaper from roadside vendors.

The ordinance states anyone selling anything on the roadside must be at least 18 years old and is required to have photo identification while wearing reflective vests. Nonprofit groups would be required to register with the state before soliciting donations.

While the daily newspapers were satisfied
Regional transportation authority feels Scott’s veto pen

By Kyle LoJacono
klojacono@cnewspubs.com

Even though only $950,000 of the $615 million vetoed from Florida’s budget by Gov. Rick Scott was from Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA), it came as a shock to the organization.

The portion of the budget cuts could be crushing for the regional board, which has had an annual budget of $1.75 million since it was established in 2007 by the state Legislature. It was created to plan transportation strategies for the seven counties that make up the Tampa Bay area, which includes both Pasco and Hillsborough.

“The transportation needs of the region have not changed; traffic congestion has not diminished,” TBARTA officials said in a statement responding to the cut. “We need a vision for the long term and solutions for the short term.”

TBARTA spokesperson Amy Ellis added, “Our funding and revenue vary year to year and some are multi-year contracts. Other dollars may make up the shortfall. It’s too early to know. We are still reviewing and will budget accordingly.”

TBARTA has yet to release its own budget, but one would have to be in place by the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1. Ellis said TBARTA members are using information gathered during six recent telephone town hall meetings, which drew involvement from 60,000 people.

Pasco Commission Chairwoman Ann Hildebrand is her county’s representative on TBARTA’s board and was disappointed with the cut. “I think we’ve done a lot with the small budget we had,” Hildebrand said. “We’ll continue to do everything we can with the money we have for the growing region.”

TBARTA estimations show traffic congestion is expected to double by 2035 in its region and triple by 2050. TBARTA currently has a staff of 13. Of those positions, three are vacant. It oversee the planning and operations of the Bay Area Commuter Services, a ride matching program including car and van-pooling alternatives in TBARTA’s five northern counties.

For more information on TBARTA or to read its entire response to the budget cut, visit www.tbarta.com.
MEDICAL PROJECTS
Medical Center of Trinity, a 400,000-square-foot center under construction at SR 54 and Little Road in Trinity, is set to open in November. The five-story project, estimated at $210 million, will replace the 40-year-old Trinity Community Hospital in New Port Richey. The project includes a 90,000-square-foot medical office. The 55-acre site has ample space for expansion.

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel is a $121 million project now being built on a 52-acre site on Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, north of SR 56. The 200,000-square-foot facility will have three stories and will begin operation with 80 beds, with plans to expand to 300. Construction began in December and the project is expected to take 18-24 months to complete.

Pasco Regional Medical Center, based in Dade City, began an 8,400-square-foot expansion of its emergency department in February. The project, which is expected to take about nine months to complete, will add eight exam rooms and new imaging equipment. A renovation also will be done on the 4,300 square feet of existing space.

Florida Medical Clinic is adding a 30,000-square-foot administrative building that will be the company’s corporate campus in Land O’ Lakes. The $3.5 million facility is under construction on SR 54, near Livingston Road. Florida Medical Clinic also will see at least three major additions to its healthcare offerings in Zephyrhills this year – expansions to its same-day surgery clinic, clinical rheumatology and urgent care facilities. The same-day surgery will grow by 1,200 square feet. Rheumatology will increase by 7,500 square feet and there are tentative plans for a 7,000-square-foot addition to urgent care.

BayCare Outpatient Imaging Center opened in December next to St. Joseph’s Hospital North. The hospital opened in 2010 on Van Dyke Road, adding 500 jobs to the local economy.

NaVista Care Communities at Lutz Center, 19591 N. Dale Mabry Highway, scheduled to open soon with 120 beds, will serve people who are undergoing rehabilitation. The 550,000-square-foot center is expected to bring about 150 jobs to the area. Patients are expected to have stays at the facility ranging from three to six weeks. The center has 16 private rooms and 92 shared rooms.

ROAD PROJECTS
Pasco County is in the midst of widening SR 54, in the most expensive road project the county has ever taken on. The $105 million project involves widening SR 54 to six lanes from I-75 to Curley Road in Wesley Chapel, a distance of about 3.2 miles. Work is expected to wrap up in 2012.

Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, also known as CR 581 or SR 581, recently was widened, between SR 54 and SR 56. W. Lutz-Lake Fern Road is being widened from two to four lanes in an area that’s just east of the Suncoast Parkway to the Boulevard of Roses. The next segment of the road’s widening will continue to North Dale Mabry Highway, but that portion of the project is not yet funded.

Improvements also are being made on I-75, with 32.6 miles of highway being widened between SR 56 and the Hernando County line.

Two new rest stops also are being constructed on I-75, between SR 54 and SR 56, to replace outdated facilities. The rest areas, which are on both sides of the interstate, are expected to open by year-end. The estimated cost of the project is $25.1 million.

EDUCATION PROJECTS
Pasco-Hernando Community College opened a 25,000-square-foot building in May at Sunlake Boulevard and SR 54. The campus has schools of nursing, health science, tech and design, business education and justice studies. At full capacity, the campus is expected to serve about 1,000 students and will have 50-60 staff members.

Saint Leo University is in the midst of building a new $11.5 million school of business building at its main campus in Dade City. The 50,000-square-foot structure will house the Donald R. Tapia School of Business. Classes are set to begin in the new building on Aug. 23. The building includes nine classrooms, a large lecture hall which doubles as a computer lab, and a broadcast technology suite.

Pasco-Hernando Community College expects to begin construction this summer on the $52 million Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch. College officials are hoping to begin classes at the campus in January 2014. The college expects to have about 300 employees at the campus, which will have an estimated enrollment of an equilibrium of about 700 full-time students. The campus will be built on a 60-acre tract at 2727 Mansfield Blvd., just off SR 56, next to Wiregrass Ranch High.

Pasco County Schools expects its new $6 million Academy of Culinary Arts, now under construction at Land O’ Lakes High, to open this fall at the high school, 20325 Gator Lane. The 18,000-square-foot center will include three kitchens, commercial kitchen square-foot facility at 33633 Venezia Drive, near the corner of SR 54 and Livingston Road. The $1.8 million project had its ribbon cutting to signal its opening on May 26.

DOWNTOWN THE ROAD?
T. Rowe Price, a global investment management firm, already has acquired a 72-acre site SR 54 and Sunlake Boulevard, across from Rasmussen College. It plans to open a corporate campus there that could employ up to 1,600 workers, although that may not be anytime soon.

Raymond James, a financial services company is eyeing a potential site in Wesley Chapel. The company has signed a letter of intent to purchase land in Wiregrass Ranch. According to Rep. Will Weatherford, who successfully pushed through legislation for $4 million in state road money to build access roads to a Wiregrass Ranch site...
X-treme Indoors offers state-of-the-art fun

By Zack Peterson

X-treme Indoors offers state-of-the-art fun business, X-treme Indoors offers a variety of the community. "We built what we think is something good for where to do something," Davis said. "We build, " Davis said. "But we'd been thinking May 9. Perkins all live in the neighborhood and about the concept for about a year."

Last year, Michael Davis had a vision of a place the community could have something active to do. His vision culminated in X-treme Indoors, the newest activities center in Wesley Chapel. Along with two others, fellow neighborhood friends Glen Samuels and Jermaine Perkins, Davis opened X-treme Indoors on May 9.

"It took us about a month and a half to build," Davis said. "But we’d been thinking about the concept for about a year."

Davis explained that he, Samuels and Perkins all live in the neighborhood and have little ones.

"There’s typically nothing to do in the area but go to the movies or travel elsewhere where to do something," Davis said. "We built what we think is something good for the community!"

Now that it’s completed and open for business, X-treme Indoors offers a variety of activities.

Michael Davis, one of the three business owners, test drives one of the racing simulators that allow drivers to experience the road with Indy cars, stock cars or Rally Racing cars. Wired to the Internet, these simulators allow people at X-treme Indoors to race against other people across the country. Davis said they found the racing simulators at a trade show and that they’ve been "a real hit so far."

"In a way, I’d like to give back to the community through this."

For those interested in the activities at X-treme Indoors, prices are set according to the blocks of time that can be spent on either virtual racing or in the batting cages. The batting cages are measured in 15-, 30- and 60-minute time blocks starting at $15 and ranging up to $50. Virtual racing is measured in the same increments at $8 to $29.

Discounts are available for customers who become members of the organization.

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George S. Boswell completes basic training

Air Force Airman George S. Boswell graduated basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Boswell completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Boswell is the son of Joe Boswell of St. Pete Beach and the brother of Barbie Boswell of Wesley Chapel.

Richard Lopez completes noncommissioned officer training

Army Master Sgt. Richard Lopez graduated from the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas. The nine-month course is considered to be the capstone of noncommissioned officer training, preparing new and prospective sergeants major for duties as senior noncommissioned officers in positions throughout the Department of Defense and allied nation forces. Course completion is mandatory for promotion to the ranks of master sergeant, sergeant major, command sergeant major and equivalent ranks from other branches of the military and allied nations.

Lockley completes basic training

Air Force Airman Xavier M. Lockley graduated basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Lockley completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Lockley is a 2010 graduate of Wiregrass Ranch High and is the son of Kendall Lockley of Wesley Chapel.

Ideal Protein makes losing weight easy and convenient

Most people want a miracle when it comes to losing weight.

“The ability to change is one of the hardest things a person can do,” said Zephyrhills chiropractor Mark Frank. "But you can’t lose weight unless you change your diet and eating habits.”

After years of looking into different weight loss programs, Dr. Frank has found a system that makes it possible for people to change their eating habits.

“Ideal Protein is as close as it gets to working with people’s busy lives to make it easier for them to lose weight,” said Dr. Frank.

In the 10 months that Dr. Frank has been working with the Ideal Protein program, he has helped more than 50 patients lose 25 pounds or more. One patient, Zephyrhills resident Paula Lombards, has lost 104 pounds. Women typically lose two to three pounds a week and men three to five pounds.

The program is so effective, Dr. Frank explains, because Ideal Protein packages foods in tasty, nutritious portions that are easy to make and convenient to carry.

“There is no measuring, no guessing,” said Dr. Frank. “All you need to do is add vegetables and meat or fish. The program even provides breakfasts and snacks so you get exactly what you need to stay healthy and lose weight.”

The Ideal Protein program works especially well for people with busy schedules, such as stay-at-home moms, teachers, nurses, doctors, medical technicians, business owners, students, police officers, firefighters and sales people.

Ideal Protein was developed by a physiologist in France 25 years ago and has been available in North America through doctor offices for just eight years. It is designed to help the body lose fat while sparing muscle mass.

The program transforms the body’s ability to digest sugars properly by regulating insulin levels. It gives the pancreas a well-deserved break by limiting simple and complex carbohydrates until the weight loss goal is achieved.

“When the body does not digest sugar properly, metabolic disease develops, which is the root of diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol and obesity,” said Dr. Frank.

“The body is continually being overworked because it can’t handle the sugars and starches of processed foods that most people live on.”

For decades, Dr. Frank has talked to patients about the importance of diet and weight loss. In the 30 years he has been a chiropractor in Zephyrhills, obesity has been the single most pervasive medical problem affecting his patients.

“We’re swamped in an epidemic of obesity,” said Dr. Frank. “And now we are seeing it in children.”

This past December, Dr. Frank’s daughter, Celeste Holstein, joined her father’s practice. After receiving a degree in biology from USF, Celeste attended Life University Chiropractic College in Atlanta, where she graduated as valedictorian.

With her daughter joining his practice, Dr. Frank has been able to expand his practice to include more nutritional counseling and the Ideal Protein program. The practice has also added monthly support group meetings for its weight loss patients.

“Patients learn to eat differently for the rest of their lives with Ideal Protein, so once they lose their weight, they keep it off,” said Dr. Holstein.

Working with her husband and daughter is Laure Frank, who counsels weight loss patients and also maintains an Ideal Protein store that offers a wide selection of the program’s pre-packaged foods.

Call Laure at the Frank Clinic of Chiropractic & Natural Health Care to set up a free consultation to learn how the Ideal Protein program will help you lose weight and change your life forever.
WANTED: ‘MAYOR’ OF WESLEY CHAPEL

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominees for its 2011-12 Honorary Mayor’s Race.

The kickoff for the race will be at the chamber’s July 21 Mixer at 6 p.m. on July 21. The Laker/Lutz News is sponsoring the mixer at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Wesley Chapel. Wesley Chapel Toyota will provide the food.

Those interested in vying for “Mayor” should email a short biography and also indicate that they support office@WesleyChapelChamber.org. Votes are cast in the form of donations to help chosen charities.

In other news, the chamber’s new telephone number is (813) 994-8554. The chamber’s new address is 601 S Wesley Grove Blvd., Suite No. 105, Wesley Chapel, FL. 33544.

The Wesley Chapel Business Forum and Networking group meets on Monday mornings to network and develop referrals. Casual networking begins at 8 a.m. and is followed by the meeting, which typically wraps up between 9:30-9:45 a.m. The group meets in the dining room at Lexington Oaks Golf Club, 26133 Lexington Oaks Blvd., Wesley Chapel. For more information call John Roth at (813) 877-2622.

GUESTS FROM ‘DOWN UNDER’ VISIT DADE CITY SUNRISE ROTARY

Some visitors from Australia recently dropped in to visit members of the Dade City Sunrise Rotary Club. The visitors are part of the Rotary Foundation’s Group Study Exchange program. The group consisted of a Rotary team leader and four young professional non-Rotarians. The exchange program is a cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for business people and professionals between the ages of 25-40. Members of the exchange team spend four weeks experiencing the host country’s culture and institutions and also observe how their vocations are practiced abroad, as well as developing personal and professional relationships and exchanging ideas.

Dade City Sunrise Rotary’s member, Camille Hernandez, recently returned from leading a team to Australia. The group study team has put its personal and business lives on hold to foster goodwill and share professional ideas with their vocational counterparts while they travel through the area.

In addition to their Australian guests, the club also took some time to honor Brent Sutton, of Grower’s Fertilizer, who has been named the group’s Rotarian of the Year. This honor goes to the member who exemplifies the spirit, goals and objectives of the Rotary organization.

KUDOS AND MILESTONES

PHIL MINDEN JOINS PEDC BOARD

Phil Minden, CEO of Pasco Regional Medical Center, has joined the board of directors for the Pasco Economic Development Council. Pasco Regional Medical Center is a member of PEDC’s Corporate Council. Corporate Council members are investors in PEDC at the $10,000 annual level or above. Minden is replacing his predecessor, Gary Lang, as the medical center’s representative on the board.

PEDC is a nonprofit organization that promotes countywide economic development.

AVON REP WINS AWARD

Rosie Heim of Land O’ Lakes was recently honored as the Avon’s President’s Club Luncheon, where the company celebrates its best performers. Heim received three awards. She was honored for her leadership, for her increased sales in 2010 and for her sales volume. She has been with Avon for about 13 years and she serves all of Pasco County and beyond.

Send business news to bcmanion@cnewspubs.com

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KUDOS AND MILESTONES
When Samuel Pasco first set foot in Florida in 1859, he probably did not think there would someday be a county named after him.

Pasco was born in 1834 in London and lived until age 83 before his death in 1917. He immigrated to Charlestown, Mass. in 1846, where he graduated from Harvard College.

Pasco moved to Monticello in Florida's panhandle in 1859, where he was the principal of Winscomb Academy; now Arcilla Christian Academy; until 1861. He left the high school to join the Confederate Army during the Civil War, and he became a member of the Democratic National Committee. At that time, Hernando County was split into three separate counties because of growing population. The central portion remained Hernando, the northern section Pasco, and the southern third was shortly called Banner County, which remained Hernando, the northern section Pasco, and the southern third was shortly called Banner County, which was unpopular with others in the state legislature.

The name Pasco County was first proposed by Richard Bankston, a member of the legislature at the time. Bankston recorded some of the discussion about the fledgling county in a letter:

"...From 1881 to 1887, Hernando county, especially the southern end, rapidly filled with a high type of settlers, many of whom I know and remember pleasantly. We all were weary of traveling the sand trails of Brooksville, the county seat, to attend court, or transact other business of varied nature, and when we would meet, as neighbors will, at our community post office and store, comment was loud and complaint vigorous and prolonged against the hardships of the trip.

Unanimous sentiment was for division—the proper steps to take to attain that result was the issue for discussion. After deliberation, it was resolved that a committee of two be named to go to Tallahassee in the interest of the desired end, the Hon. J. A. Hendley and myself being the committee selected. Mr. James Grady moved that we be instructed to call our county 'Banner' county.

As we learned, the newly elected state legislature, the Committee of 1859, denied the motion to split Hernando County. We then began to seek for an unobjectionable name. At that time the body was in joint session, voting for United States senator, and very enthusiastically elected Judge Samuel Pasco of Monticello to the position. It struck me as an inspiration to call our county 'Pasco.' I immediately went to the committee room, where I had a desk and

changed our bill making the name Pasco instead of Banner.

We gave the finished bill to Senator A.S. Mann, who at once introduced it in the Senate, and it passed unanimously.

Edward Perry, Florida's governor at the time, signed the bill, making sure Samuel Pasco's name would live on in state history. Interestingly enough, there is no documentation of Pasco spending any time in the county.

—This summer, we will take you on a tour of four historic places earned their names. Information is provided by interviews with Pasco County historians Jeff Miller of Flistory.org and the West Pasco Historical Society. See also Blanton, Dade City, Darby, Dublin, Drexel and Ehren got their names next week.

Pasco County was named after former U.S. Sen. Samuel Pasco, who, it seems, never even stepped foot in the county. (Photo courtesy of Jeff Miller)
First Presbyterian
First Presbyterian Church of
Zephyrhills, 5510 19th St., hosts worship
services at 10 a.m. each Sunday.
Sunday school for adults is at 8:30 a.m.
and children are dismissed for their classes
during the 10 a.m. worship. Coffee fellowship follows worship.
Choir practice is 7 p.m. every Wednesday.
Bible Study is 7 p.m. each Wednesday.
First Saturday at First Church meets at
6 p.m. the first Saturday of each month in
the Fellowship Hall
“Walkers’ meet in Zephyrhills Park at the
bandstand at 7:30 a.m. Thursday and
Saturday and 5:30 p.m. Friday.
4th annual block party, 5-7 p.m. June 18
Vacation Bible School, 6-8:30 p.m. June
20, 21, 22.
For more information, visit www.first-
pcz.org.
First Christian
First Christian Church (Disciples of
Christ), 6040 Eighth St. in Zephyrhills, will
have a worship service at 9:30 a.m.
Pastor Paul Holland will bring the
Children’s Church is also at 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Group meets each Monday at
10 a.m.
Bible Study at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. every
Thursday.
Visit us at www.zhillfirstchristian.org.
Calvary Baptist
Calvary Baptist Church, 4724 Fox
Ridge Blvd in Wesley Chapel.
Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m.
Church services at 10:30 a.m.
For more information or a ride, contact
Pastor John Reichard at (813) 300-7693.
First United Methodist
First United Methodist Church of
Zephyrhills, 38635 Fifth Ave., hosts tradi-
tional services at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., and a
contemporary service at 9:30 a.m.
For more information: on Facebook
“First United Methodist Church of
Zephyrhills,” online www.fumczhill.org.,
or via phone (813) 782-5645.

EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES
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Camps saddle up at Odessa barn

Kids learn how to ride and care at WCM Horse Camp

By B.C. Manion
bmanion@cnewspubs.com

When the kids arrive at WCM Horse Camp in Odessa, they troop over to check out a board to find out what horse they’ll be riding that day, then the group heads out to raise the flag as part of the daily routine.

Then it’s back to the barn, where they get an idea of what it takes to take care of a horse, such as brushing the animals and cleaning their feet.

Some of the time, they’re out with a camp counselor, learning how to handle a horse.

Other times, they’re doing arts and crafts or playing games near the barn.

Other parts of the regular schedule include lunch, a time for snacks and water activities at the end of the day.

“When they go home, they’re happy, wet and tired,” said Diane Tanguay, who runs the arts and crafts sessions during the summer camp.

The horse camp hosted by West Coast Morgan’s, a horse barn at 17126 Boy Scout Rd, offers campers a close-up look at the life of a horse, said trainer Valerie Siemer.

“So many kids, especially the young girls, are so horse crazy I think this helps them focus a little more on the reality of it,” she said. “They learn good stuff here. They learn the basics, “ said Skidd, who went to the camp for the first time last week. But she’s no stranger to horses, she’s been riding since she was 7.

“It gives them something to be close to away from the kids and the drama of school,” said Taylor Ekovich, a counselor who began riding at the barn when she was 7.

“I went to camp my whole life, every summer I met my best friends through the camps I went to,” Skidd said. “I learned that this was more of a lifestyle, not just a sport,” she added.

Horses are excellent teachers, Fiorino said. They require care but offer valuable lessons.

“For seven years – since she was 4. She thinks the camps teach children how to appreciate animals and offer a fun way for them to learn about compassion and responsibility,” Tanguay said.

Faith Graves of New Port Richie, was at the camp for the first time last week. But she’s no stranger to horses, she’s been riding for seven years since she was 4.

“I love it,” she said. “I love being outdoors and hanging out with horses. It’s relaxing.”

At the camp, she said, “you learn to position the reins properly.”

The campers come from all over the Tampa Bay area, including Land O’ Lakes, South Tampa, Odessa, Lutz, Westchase and other communities.

Instruction varies from camper to camper based on experience level, Tanguay said.

Safety is emphasized at the camp.

“Each camper must wear a helmet and shoes without heels,” said Skidd, who went to horse camps when she was a girl.

“Each horse is accompanied by a counselor. We do not turn children loose with horses,” Tanguay said.

The 30-acre facility, owned by Anne and Glenn Winograd, has a 30-stall barn and 27 horses. In addition to its summer camps, it offers lessons for people of all ages. It also boards and leases horses.

The cost for the week-long camp is $300, but the farm is willing to make arrangements for half-days or fewer days.

Tanguay thinks dropping by the camp is the best way for parents to find out if the camp would be a good fit for their child.

For more information call (813) 920-9870 or visit www.westcoastmorgans.com.

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Send us your news and photos from your event for publication in The Laker.

Send good quality photos (200 dpi minimum) to news@cnewspubs.com
subject line: ATTN: Community Photos

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GROVE 16 & CINÉBISTRO
MOVIES WITH A DIFFERENCE

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THE LAKER
June 22, 2011
So often, gardeners defy nature by planting, tending and coaxing sun-loving plants in shady spots, like turf under a tree. Why not give in to the conditions and plant a perennial that will thrive in a shady nook?

The University of Florida’s Gulf Coast Research Center in Hillsborough County is hybridizing an amazing diversity of caladiums. Dr. Zhanao Deng, an associate professor in the Environmental Horticulture Department, has developed a wide array of pinks, red, white and shade of green caladiums, plus unique leaf shapes and sizes.

Another bonus is caladiums are easy to grow and are also versatilie. You can grow them in the ground or in planters or even in a hanging basket. Grown not for their flower but for the large colorfull heart-shaped leaves, there’s sure to be one that fits in most any garden scheme. The fancy types are taller plants, growing up to 2-inches tall, while the dwarfs are a bit shorter but get their name because individual leaves are smaller. There is also a strap-type, which has a longer, narrower heart-shape to the leaf.

Fancy cultivars, like Florida white ruffles (long thin ruffled leaves that have some sun tolerance), cranberry star (large white leaves with dark red speckles) and Florida whitewater (strap-like leaves with wavy leaf margins showing decent sun tolerance), are three unique varieties to look for. Some of the newer fancy caladiums can be found at the annual Caladium Festival in Lake Placid, in late August each year.

Although native to the Amazon River basin, caladiums appreciate our warm, humid climate. In spring, plant caladiums tubers, cut the leaves or bud up, planting them only about 0.5 to 1-inch deep. They will appreciate richer soil than is typical of most Pasco County soils. Add enriching amendments, such as manures or compost, at planting time to maintain a moist, welldrained soil.

Once in the ground, caladiums are very low maintenance. With the periodic addition of a slow-release fertilizer and removal of an occasional damaged leaf, caladiums won’t need lots of attention. What a welcome treat to have at least one low maintenance plant growing in our hot gardens!

For more information about caladiums, visit the University of Florida’s website: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP00300.pdf.

B.J. Jarvis is Pasco Extension Director and Horticulture Agent. She can be reached at bjjarvis@ufl.edu
KIDS STUFF

FREE MOVIES
Cobb Theatres Grove 16 will host free
summer kids shows at 10 a.m. every
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Doors
open at 9:30 a.m. Same day ticketing only.
The movies on June 28, 29 and 30 are
Karate Kid and Nanny McPhee Returns.
Grove 16 is located at 6333 Wesley Grove
Blvd. in Wesley Chapel. For information, call
(813) 948-5444.

FOR A GOOD CAUSE

ROCK CLIMBING
Vixens Against Violence will present a coved
rock-climbing event from 6:30 p.m. June 26
at Vertical Ventures, 5402 Pioneer Park
Bldg., suite E, in Tampa. The organization
raises awareness of domestic violence.
Tickets are $55 and include food,
equipment, safety lessons and one free pass
for another day of climbing. Raffle prizes,
climbing competitions and more. For
information, visit www.VixensAgainstViolence.com.

CPR CLASS
Lonnie Clark of Be Safe CPR, will have a
CPR class from 2-5 p.m. June 26 at the
Copperstone Office Complex, 3632 Land
O’ Lakes Blvd. Cost is $25. To register, call
(813) 840-5381.

FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

YAPPY HOUR
The Hound’s Meow, 16311 N. Florida Ave. in
Lutz, will host a yappy hour and fundraiser
to benefit Lost Angels Animal Rescue from
5-8 p.m. June 25. Hang out with your hound
and enjoy food and sweets, two glasses of
wine, dog treat buffet, raffles, giveaways
and silent auction. Cost is $10 per person. For
information, call (813) 960-6111 or visit
www.houndsmeow.com/events.html.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

THRIFT STORE SALE
HPB Hospice Thrift Store & More is having a two-day sale from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. July 1
and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. July 2. Special pricing on furniture, collectibles, clothing and linens.
The event is to thank the community for supporting the store, located at 4910 S. Allen
Road in Zephyrhills. For information, call (813) 355-4830 or visit www.hpbhospice.org.

JOIN THE CLUB

FAMILY VALUES
The Faith and Family Values Republican
Club of Pasco will meet at 7 p.m. June 23
at Grace Baptist Church in New Tampa, 3600
Cypress Ridge Blvd. in Wesley Chapel. The
guest speaker is Pasco County Sheriff Chris
Nocco. For information, call Carlos Saenz at
(813) 546-4686 or visit www.PascoFFV.org.

RADIO CLUB
MOSI’s Amateur Radio Club will host a field
day for amateur radio operators from 2-8
p.m. June 25 and 8 a.m.-2 p.m. June 26 at
MOSI, 4801 E. Fowler Ave. in Tampa.
Operators will show off their emergency
capabilities, digital and satellite technology,
voice communications and historical Morse
code. For information, call (813) 244-8704 or visit www.moshamradio.org.

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Area baseball talent shines in MLB draft

Millions of kids grow up dreaming of one day playing professional baseball and four local talents took a step toward completing that fantasy during the MLB draft June 6-8. They have until Aug. 15 to sign with the team that selected them, but for now the lucky few can be easily spotted by the beaming smiles they are likely showcasing.

By Kyle Louacono
klouacono@cnewspubs.com

Tough decision for Bulls’ Gant

John Michael Gant’s pitching for Wiregrass Ranch earned him a difficult choice. He signed a scholarship with Division I Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, earlier this year, but was also drafted by the New York Mets in the 21 round with the No. 642 overall pick on June 7.

Gant said it was his dream to play Division I baseball at his signing, but the chance to sign professionally was too big of an opportunity for the Bulls ace. He inked his name to a contract with the Mets on June 10.

The shock of being drafted still hasn’t hit Gant, or the fact that he has signed with a professional team. “I figured I would be drafted, but it was still a surprise because it’s every little kid’s dream,” Gant said. “It’s a huge opportunity.”

Gant participated in a pre-draft workout a few days before the draft began at the Mets stadium.

“That was my first time there,” Gant said. “I got to see what an ERA is, and the regular mound. It was really cool. The stadium is huge. It was awesome throwing in there.”

The 6-foot-4, 180-pound Gant throws a fastball, curveball and changeup. He had a 60 record with two saves, a 1.90 ERA and 95 strikeouts as a senior for the Bulls. He was named to the Sunshine Athletic Conference first team in 2011 despite being somewhat new to pitching.

“It was awesome working with coach (John) Swymer in high school,” Gant said. “He basically made me into the pitcher I am today. We’ve worked together the last two years and I didn’t really pitch before that. I was a shortstop my freshman year and pitched a little as a sophomore, but rele- arly first took to the mound as a junior.”

That move to the pitching seems to have been a good one, earning Gant his first real job ever. “I guess I’ve just concentrated on baseball.” Gant said with a laugh. “I never had any job before.”

Former Gator picked by Cardinals

Jonathan Cornelius, a 2006 graduate of Land O’ Lakes High, was selected in the 21 round with the 680 overall pick by the St. Louis Cardinals on June 7. The 6-foot-2, 200-pound left-handed pitcher recently graduated from Florida Institute of Technology, a Division II pro- gram in the Sunshine State Conference (SSC).

As a senior at Florida Tech, Cornelius had an 8-1 record with a 2.39 ERA during his time at Florida Tech. He was named the SSC South Region second team in 2011 despite pitching for Wiregrass Ranch in both his junior and senior years.

Cornelius received several honors for his work on the rubber his final season at Florida Tech, including being named to the ABCA first team, All-South Region first team, Academic All-District first team and the American Baseball Coaches Association/ RAWLINGS All-Region South Region second team. While at Land O’ Lakes, Cornelius had a 6-5 record in both his junior and senior seasons under current Gators coach Calvin Bassey.

Maggard picked by the Tigers

Former Pasco High and current Florida Southern College senior catcher Zach Maggard was picked by the Detroit Tigers in the 34 round with the No. 1,037 pick in the June 10.

The 5-foot-11, 180-pound Maggard was a four-year starter for the Moccasins, where he played in 182 games, 177 starts. He hit .291 with 67 runs scored, 26 RBI and nine home runs in 2011. His 34 career homer runs are the third most in Florida Southern program his- tory.

Maggard graduated from Pasco in 2007.

Local baseball players drafted

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By Kyle Louacono
klouacono@cnewspubs.com

Matt Campbell’s long journey

Matt Campbell was named Freedom’s Pitcher of the Year as a senior in 2010, but the former Patriot had to put in three years on the University of Florida’s (UF) club baseball team before getting a chance to shine in college.

Campbell, who just complet- ed his civil engineering degree, helped the Gators club team win the 2009 South Atlantic Conference championship and posted a 7-1 record with a 0.16 ERA and 63 strike- outs in 55 innings. However, the 6-foot-2, 200-pound right handed pitcher wanted his shot with the real UF squad.

He finally got that chance as a junior in 2010, when he appeared in eight games working 11.1 innings. Campbell’s workload increased to 15.1 innings in 15 appearances with a 2.86 ERA and 53 strike- outs. He finally got that chance as a junior in 2010, when he appeared in eight games working 11.1 innings. Campbell’s workload increased to 15.1 innings in 15 appearances with a 2.86 ERA and 53 strike- outs.

“I was watching the draft tracker and somehow I must have missed my name the first time it went by,” Campbell said. “She called and asked me if I was excited and I think my exact words were ‘am I excited about what?’ It didn’t make me too long to figure out what she was talking about.”

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**SPORTS**

**Ballet & football!**

**By Kyle LoJacono**

**THE LAKER**

Saint Leo University's newest coach is no stranger to winning in Division II men's soccer.

Keith Fulk was picked to lead the Lions earlier in June. He comes with a trio of NCAA Division II national championships, one as a head coach, another as an assistant and a third as a player. All three titles came while he was at the University of Tampa (UT), a member of the Sunshine State Conference (SSC) with Saint Leo.

"We are very excited to have a coach who is a proven winner in the Sunshine State Conference and with the Division II NCAA championship title on his resume," said Saint Leo athletic director Francis Reidy. He then added, "We had many very experienced and talented coaches involved in this search, but Keith's success, contacts within U.S. soccer and name recognition in Tampa Bay as well as Florida, brought him to the top of the list."

Fulk was equally as excited after learning he was picked as the man for the job.

"It's really exciting to have this opportunity," Fulk said. "It's a conference I know and a sport I love. I can't wait for the season to start."

Fulk spent the last eight years coaching outside of the collegiate ranks, choosing to lead various soccer academies. He comes to Saint Leo after spending a year with the IMG Academy in Sarasota, and has also spent time as an assistant for the under-16 U.S. men's national team. Fulk is an licensed coach with the U.S. Soccer Federation.

As UT's coach he amassed an 81-24-7 record in six seasons, including three SSC championships, three NCAA Division II tournament appearances and the 2001 national title.

The Spartans won 19-0-2 in the 2001 championship season and were ranked the No. 1 Division II team for much of the year. Fulk was named the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Coach of the Year that season.

Fulk was the Spartans top assistant coach in 1994 when they claimed another Division II national championship and conference titles in 1994 and 1995. He was also inducted into the SSC Hall of Fame in 2008.

Fulk replaces Joel Harrison, who resigned on May 6, citing "exciting changes taking place in (his) personal life." Harrison was 69-40-6 in seven years with the Lions, including a 9-6 record last season.

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"They sometimes laugh about it, but they'll see how much it helps me this season," Sanchez said. "They'll be begging to come and do ballet too!

Sanchez predicts his unconventional training will allow him to perform in the next big show — the Bulldogs kickoff classic contest at home against Central on Friday, Aug. 26 at 7 p.m. The 2010 Saint Leo University men's soccer team.

The 2010 Saint Leo University men's soccer team. (Photo courtesy of Saint Leo)

**Pasco's Guy gets first offers**

**By Kyle LoJacono**

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Crain was an assistant women's basketball coach at the University of Tampa for nine seasons. She is a 2003 graduate of the University of Charleston, where she played four years for the Golden Eagles basketball program.

Crain said Crain will be a physical education teacher at Land O' Lakes. The job was advertised because Fitzpatrick is on staff at Hudson High, not with the Gators. Fitzpatrick was also the All-Lake/Lake Luzerne News and Sunshine Athletic Conference East Coach of the Year last season.

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"I'm going to take everything I've learned about ballet and unfold it in the first game," Sanchez said with a laugh. "They won't know what hit them."

**Flag football training camp**

**The Land O' Lakes Recreation Complex on Collier Parkway will have flag football training camps each Sunday morning until July 31 from 9-10 a.m. The program is for boys and girls ages 5-17. Those interested should RSVP by calling (813) 508-1807 or email info@pascoyouthsports.com.**

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The 2010 Saint Leo University men's soccer team. (Photo courtesy of Saint Leo)
Trey McNickle has been playing baseball for most of his life, but it was a late move to become a pitcher that helped him earn a college scholarship.

The 6-foot-5 McNickle, who recently graduated from Land O’ Lakes High, first picked up a baseball about 14 years ago mostly as an outfielder, but a suggestion from Gators baseball coach Calvin Baisley moved him to the pitching mound.

“I hadn’t ever pitched in high school before my senior season,” McNickle said. “Coach Baisley asked if I wanted to give it a try in October. I figured it would be fun.”

McNickle signed June 6 to pitch at St. Petersburg College, where he plans to study business. He is still new to pitching, using mainly a fastball with movement, but his near sidearm delivery seems to give batters trouble when he comes out of the bullpen.

“Throwing almost sidearm was a suggestion by coach Baisley too,” McNickle said. “He said it would give people problems at the end of games. I knew if I was going to pitch, I wanted to be a closer and not a starter.”

McNickle served as the Gators closer in 2011 recording six saves, more than any other pitcher in Pasco County. His relief work helped the Gators go 20-9 and reach the Class 4A regional tournament for the first time since 2008.

“He did a lot for us this year,” Baisley said. “I had to know we could bring him in to end the game and it saved our starters. As a batter he always seemed to get the big hit and now I get the chance,” McNickle said. “It’s been my dream and I can’t thank coach Baisley enough for what he did to help me.”

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By B.C. Manion

people know how to handle situations — when we stand up for other people, when we’re “active bystanders."

She voted to creating a community project to raise community awareness about these serious problems and to try to enlist others in a quest to create a community where all people are valued, honored and respected.

Jackie Bavin, the primary prevention coordinator for the center, is leading the project.

“Leaders naturally know when to step in, how to handle situations," Bavin said.

They have the skills to assess situations and to know how to turn if a situation is beyond their control, she said.

The program will cover a number of topics. Bavin said it will cover healthy relationships and discuss the topic of sexual abuse within relationships, she said.

Jackie Acevedo, left, and Tati Tjenma work on an activity in a leadership development program in Dade City. (Photo by B.C. Manion)

violent situations, bullying — it tends to stop them.

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The young women stood in a circle, outside in the parking lot, tossing soft, colorful balls at one another.

They called out each other’s names as part of an icebreaker aimed at helping them to develop skills to combat sexual violence, domestic violence, gender discrimination and other forms of abuse.

The group will meet weekly in three-hour sessions to devise a campaign to help young people to know when to step in, when to know how to respond when any of these issues touch their lives, or the lives of people they know.

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One of the things that we know is that when we stand up for other people, when people know how to handle situations —
Congratulations to the
2011 Prudential - Davis Productivity Award Winners and Recipients of the First Governor’s Excellence Awards!

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**Address:**

**City:**

**Zip:**

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### WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in each word to spell something pertaining to Father’s Day.

**NPCCII**

---

8. Big Apple inits.
9. Church recesses
10. Jen
11. Short opera
12. Arms, ammunition and equipment
13. Arst
21. Cavities
22. Destroy the interior of
24. Freethen
25. Always, in verse
27. “Tanzan” extra
28. Magazine feature
29. Medicinal plant
30. Consumed
33. “Gang”
34. Beairsth
35. Able to cure all
36. Cattle thieves
37. “First Blood” director Kotcheff
38. Photo
41. Impede, with “down”
43. Tank top
44. Come up with
45. Ukrainian Cossacks chief
47. Chocolate treat
48. Attack
49. Dead to the world
51. Event attended by Cinderella
52. A ship, maybe
53. Dorrites
54. J. Edgar Hoover’s org.
55. Hack

---

**A CROSS**

1. Cow, maybe
2. Completely
3. More inexplicable
4. Circle
5. Rein in
6. Carbon compound
7. “Green Gables” girl

---

**DOW N**

1. Bear witness
2. Completely
3. More inexplicable
4. Circle
5. Rein in
6. Carbon compound
7. “Green Gables” girl

---

**Mail in Your Game Page. Win Cobb Theatre Tickets.**

Complete this games page, fill out this form, and send the whole page to us for your chance to win 2 FREE movie tickets.

**Mail to:** Games Page, Community News Publications, 1930 Land O’ Lakes Blvd, Suite 14 Lutz, FL 33549

Entries must be received by the Monday following publication date

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**Guess who’s turning another year older this week!**

**June 19-25**

I was born on June 20, 1933, in New York, NY. I played Sal Fragione in Do The Right Thing. Who am I?

I was born on June 21, 1947, in Chicago, IL. I played Steven Keaton on Family Ties. Who am I?

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---

**TheLaker / LutzNews**

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PANHANDLING, from page 1

Wendi Burruss was at the commissioners meeting when the ordinance was passed and said she supplements her income by selling bottled water on the roadside. She said the extra money she earns has allowed her to stay off the street.

“Sir, ma’am, in God’s name, give (the homeless) some way to earn a living, or they will starve,” Burruss said.

The ban does not apply to Pasco’s five cities, Zephyrhills, Dade City, San Antonio, Port Richey and New Port Richey. Those city councils have the authority to pass their own panhandling policy.

New Port Richey already banned panhandling in May. That ordinance states it is “unlawful for panhandlers to express implied threats of physical injury or property damage, attempt to maintain extended contact after receiving a negative response or impede a person’s movement.”

Zephyrhills City Manager Jim Drumm and Dade City City Manager William Poe Jr. said they expect to discuss a possible ban later this summer.

To the south, Hillsborough County and the city of St. Petersburg have passed outright bans without the Sunday exception. The Tampa City Council narrowly voted against a similar ban and is planning several workshops to further discuss the issue. It is scheduled to have more discussion about passing a ban at its Aug. 4 meeting.

The Florida Legislature also considered an outright ban of some types of panhandling throughout the state, but a decision was not reached before the recent recess.

The issue has taken center stage as the down economy forces more people out of their homes onto the streets.

Commissioners have scheduled a public hearing for July 26 at the West Pasco Government Center, 7530 Little Road in New Port Richey, before the final adoption of the ordinance.

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THERAPY, from page 1

do this. It’s extremely rewarding and the patients love it. I hear all the time that the visit made their day. If I can give them a minute to forget about their trouble, then it’s worth it.”

Eleanor Childs of Zephyrhills was at the hospital on June 7 and received her first visit from Willie that day.

“I think it’s so great,” Childs said. “It relaxes people and gets their mind off of whatever is going on. It’s something they should have everywhere. There are a lot of people who don’t have anybody who can come visit them and this will brighten their day. People sure would enjoy this.”

For more information on the hospital, visit www.fhzeph.org or call (813) 788-0411.

Wiley and owner Kay Hoffland have been coming to visit patients at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills the last few months.

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