



Chamber News

2025







Friday June 6, 2025 38550 5th Avenue, Zephyrhills

"Basics of ChatGPT"

A special presentation from **A Valid Company**



Thursday June 12, 2025 Chamber Business Breakfast

Sponsored by: Just Pull It

At Golden Corral, 6855 Gall Boulevard, Zephyrhills

EAST PASCO CHAMBER BUSINESS BREAKFAST

THURSDAY, JUNE 12TH, 7 A.M.



AT GOLDEN CORRAL 6855 GALL BLVD ZEPHYRHILLS, FL 33542

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSOR:



Sponsored By: AdventHealth

The Greater East Pasco Chamber of

Commerce Invites you to

A Celebration of Progress and Purpose

Thursday, August 28, 2025 6 pm-9 pm DAN CANNON AUDITORIUM

> 36722 State Road 52 Dade City, Florida 33525

2025 Annual Celebration Seating Options:

Momentum ~ (Individual) \$75 Cornerstone ~ (Seating for 6) \$425 Legacy ~ (Seating for 8) \$550

Please RSVP to victoria@eastpascochamber.org, 352-567-3769 or 813-782-1913 or visit our website to register.

DESSERT & RAFFLE DESSERT & RAFFLE DONATIONS

SEEKING DONATIONS FOR OUR RAFFLE & DESSERT DASH FUNDRAISER

Last Day to Donate: August 27th

Contact: (813) 782-1913 or 352-567-3769 victoria@eastpascochamber.org









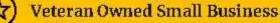
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Core Connections - May 15, 2025 At the Dade City Office

Wonderful Engaged Members!





Looking forward to seeing you at the next event on June 20, 2025 at the Zephyrhills Office!



Another opportunity that the chamber offers New Members, Seasoned Members and Perspective Members to network.

Come learn about "your" benefits you will receive when you join the Chamber!

Held the 3rd Thursday of the Month at 8am-9am

Location with alternated between the Dade City and Zephyrhills Office

- * Get Engaged
- * Ask Questions
- Receive Answers
- Introduce you and your business to the staff
- Introduce you and your business to the other attending businesses
- * Exchange Business Cards & Brochures
- * Network
- Build relationships and potential customers

COFFEE & NETWORKING FRIDAY ZEPHYRHILLS OFFICE MAY 9, 2025





Engaged Members



Listening to important information

A great opportunity to engage one on one with your fellow members, build a relationship and learn.



More information 352-567-3769 or 813-782-1913 www.EastPascoChamber.org

COFFEE & NETWORKING TUESDAY DADE CITY OFFICE MAY 20, 2025



Engaged Members



Remember



Relaxed but learning



"That was important information to hear



That was very intersting

More information 352-567-3769 or 813-782-1913 www.EastPascoChamber.org

COFFEE & NETWORKING TUESDAY DADE CITY OFFICE MAY 27, 2025



Engaged Members



Received important information and a coffee cup



Learning about each others business



one, imformative



More information 352-567-3769 or 813-782-1913 www.EastPascoChamber.org

COFFEE & NETWORKING FRIDAY ZEPHYRHILLS OFFICE MAY 30, 2025



Learning more chamber



Meet your Chamber staff so we can promote you



Learning about each others business



New Members getting engaged



0

9am



Join your fellow at this casual, one one one. imformative opportunity

More information 352-567-3769 or 813-782-1913 www.EastPascoChamber.org

DD YOU KNOW?

Breakfast 7am (2nd Tue)

Social Media (Follow, Like & Share Chamber's posts)

Sponsor a

You can come Hang Out with your fellow chamber members at all these Networking **Opportunities?**

Attend other chamber Annual Events



Core Connections 8-9am 3rd Thu, alternates between offices)

Schedule an Open House or Tour of your business



Coffee & Networking 8-9am Every Tue in Dade City & Every Fri in Zephyrhills

Call 352-567-3769 or 813-782-1913 for more information

You asked for more networking opportunities and we listened

A fun, casual, and entertaining opportunity to get to spend quality time getting to know your fellow chamber members and growing your business.

Mark your calendars to join us each week through the summer!









We can't wait to see you and also to get to know more about you and your business, also!



501(c)(3) non-profit organization



Chair: Sid Jarrett, Jarrett Ford Dade City Vice Chair: Nick Burgess, AdventHealth Pasco County Foundation Past Chair: Matt Maggard, Shumaker Past Chair: Dr. Randy Stovall, PHSC, Provost Emeritus Treasurer: Terena Jones, Habitat for Humanity East & Central Pasco **Secretary:** Dennis Harmeson, Zephyrhills/Wesley Chapel Ministerial Assoc. Ana Crespo, San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union Andy Taylor, TECO-Emera Carolyn Hodges, Faithful Friends Pet Cremation David West, Dade City Church of Christ Debbie Murray, East Pasco Republican Club Dennis Feltwell, Pasco-Hernando State College East Campus Provost Eugenia Parlow, Two Men and a Truck Julie Cotton, Lynch, Cotton & Associates, P.A. Karly Jarrett, Jarrett Ford Dade City Katie Duncan, AdventHealth Dade City & Zephyrhills Kelly Sinn, Sunrise of Pasco, Inc. Kendall Deford, Kendall Deford Handyman Kimberly Poe, Pasco County Schools-Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools Kevin Sullivan, Accident Attorney Pascal Collard, Sarah Vande Berg Tennis & Wellness Center Sam Abrahani, Memco Properties, Inc. Shane Bedward, AdventHealth Dade City Shane Barker, Vitis Realty Sue Prenderville, SONG Printing Tiffany Anderson, Saint Leo University Valerie Rochon, Rocycle, LLC

Emeritus Sister Roberta Bailey, O.S.B., Benedictine Sister of Florida **Ex-Officio** Councilman Steve Spina, City of Zephyrhills

STAFF

Vicki Wiggins, President & CEO Ivan Abare, Member Relations Jo Uber, Membership Relations Coordinator Melody Floyd, Marketing Coordinator Victoria Jefferson, Event Coordinator



Board of Directors & Staff 2024-2025



May Renewing Members

Adams Homes Brewer Law PA **Community Business Solutions** Craftsman Manufacturing Dex Imaging, Inc. East Pasco Democratic Club East Pasco Electric **IR Staffing** J R Golf Carts Kona Ice of Zephyrhills Nextgentec **Profit Growth Catalysts RMR** Air Conditioning, LLC Signarama New Tampa SouthState Bank Zephyrhills/Dade City State Representative Randy Maggard Tampa Type and Print The Garden Nursery Vitoria Farms Vrana Consulting Zephyrhills/Wesley Chapel Ministerial Association

IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS



Don't miss out on great Networking Opportunities

Just a small part of your Chamber Membership Benefits Important ways you can support your fellow local small businesses and it doesn't cost you any money!

Leave a Google Review, Like and Follow their Facebook page



REMINDER:

Refer a New Member and receive \$25.00 credit towards your membership renewal!



May New Members

A Valid Company FiCare FCU Marcio Cruz Dade City Mighty Dog Roofing of SE Tampa S & S Nutrition (Herbalife) The Music House.com The Raigwon O'Neal Foundation



Don't miss out on great Networking Opportunities Just a small part of your Chamber Membership Benefits

Important ways you can support your fellow local small businesses and it doesn't cost you any money!

Leave a Google Review, Like and Follow their Facebook page





REMINDER:

Refer a New Member and receive \$25.00 credit towards your membership renewal!

5 WAYS TO UTILIZE YOUR CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP





GROW YOUR BUSINESS / BECOME MORE VISIBLE

- · Help the chamber to learn more about your business for better referrals
- Build relationships with fellow members by attending events
- · Shop fellow members to support them
- Let the community know more about your business
- Place brochures & business cards in chamber offices
- Provide informational articles & photos for the Monthly Newsletter
- Follow, Like & Share all the Chamber's Social Media pages / posts



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

- · Coffee & Networking (8am every Tue in Dade City office & Fri in Zephyrhills office)
- Core Connections (3rd Thu, alternates between Dade City & Zephyrhills office)
- Breakfast (2nd Tue Monthly, location alternates depending on sponsor)
- Ribbon Cuttings / Celebrations
- · Help the chamber to learn about and share your Social Media posts



MARKETING / ADVERTISE

- · Keep updated materials in chamber offices
- · Advertise in Chamber Directory (twice a year)
- · Advertise on Chamber website & in monthly newsletter
- Tuesday Newsday email eblast (every Tue)
- Spotlight on Business
- Event sponsorship
- · Promote your events



ENGAGEMENT

- Volunteer
- · Attend special events
- · Attend community events
- · Provide informational articles & photos for the Monthly Newsletter
- · Schedule an open house & tour

Advocacy & Representation

Make the chamber aware of business challenges

ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION

- Attend Economic Summit Event
- Attend Access Events (Access East Pasco & Access to Opportunity)
- Post chamber membership decal in public location
- Membership signals trustworthiness & professionalism
- Attend events to gain access to local dignitaries & local officials

352-567-3769 - DADE CITY OFFICE 813-782-1913 - ZEPHYRHILLS OFFICE

WWW.EASTPASCOCHAMBER.ORG





What does it mean to you?

To us it means:

- Building Relationships
- Seeing you attend Networking Opportunities & Events
- Hearing about your business growing
- You giving us information so we can help to promote your business







WE HAD AN INCREDIBLE TIME ON THE GREEN...

THANKS TO YOU!















SEE YOU IN 2026!





14112 8th Street Dade City, FL 33525 352.567.3769 38550 5th Avenue, Zephyrhills, FL 33542 813.782.1913

To Our East Pasco Chamber of Commerce Members,

One of the most important resources we provide for our community is the Business Directory which can be found in our magazine and on our website. We are extending an offer to you to include your advertisement for your business which will be printed in the **next two editions for one price**.

As an extra benefit for each member, the publisher provides a flip book for our homepage which has a link to your email and website if you have included it in your ad.

The attached insertion order has the list of all the rates and sizes which you may choose for your company. Please let us know how we can include your business by contacting our local partner by email to jet@bhmediainc.com, by calling her at 813.682.9364, or by simply filling out the form.

We want you to take advantage of this great opportunity to promote your business so please let us know if you have any questions and we look forward to working with you.

Thank you,

Vichi Wiggins

Vicki Wiggins, MBA, CFRE President/CEO



Reserve Your Space NOW! Final Date to be Included in the Upcoming Magazine September 1, 2025

P.O. Box 3088 | Zephyrhills, FL 33539 | 813.682.9364 Jet Breden-Hall | jet@bhmediainc.com | www.bhmediainc.com

BH MEDIA, INC. SPECIFICATIONS

Production Email: jet@bhmediainc.com

COLOR: CMYK

- FILES: Hi-Res PDF files preferred, with all type converted to outlines w/art embedded.
 - PDF files must be high resolution (300dpi)
 - · Ads built to the exact ad dimensions.
 - File names must contain advertiser name or abbreviation, and proper 3-letter extension

ADDITIONAL ACCEPTABLE FORMATS:

- · InDesign with EPS/TIFF support files
- High Resolution (300dpi) Illustrator files (no nested files such as separations)
- High Resolution (300dpi) Photoshop files
- Publisher, Powerpoint or Word files are NOT acceptable for professional print

PHOTO: High resolution, 300dpi with photo credits

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ALL MATERIALS / DIGITAL FILES must be submitted to BH Media, Inc at jet@bhmediainc.com

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Payable to BH Media, Inc. via CC, Debit, or Check. (Checks mailed to BH Media, Inc., P.O. Box 3088, Zephyrhills, FL 33539)

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□ Full Page \$1500	□ 1/8 Page \$375 □ Back Cover \$2250
□ 1/2 Page \$1062	
□ 1/4 Page \$625	□ Inside Front Cover \$1875
	st Pasco Chamber Members Deduct 20% OFF Ad Rates

Upon Receipt of Signed Insertion Order (IO), we will create a PDF proof for Approval and/or changes. Payment is Due BEFORE publishing. Questions? Call 813.682.9364. Please email IO to: jet@bhmediainc.com

This insertion order represents confirmation of the agreement between agency/advertiser, BH Media, Inc. and East Pasco Chamber of Commerce. Payment is due upon receipt of invoice. ADS NOT PAID IN FULL WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE PUBLICATION. ONLY PREMIUM AD POSITIONS ARE GUARANTEED.

Due to print and publication deadlines, please be advised that all sales are final and no refunds will be issued. Further, due to publication and distribution of print materials containing information as to all Advertisers, no Advertiser may withdraw from participation. Advertiser agrees to participate for the duration of the publication without exception.

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Champion Members





Conviva Senior Primary Care is dedicated to providing personalized healthcare for seniors in our community. We focus on

giving you more one-on-one time with your doctor and creating holistic care plans tailored to your needs. Our compassionate approach ensures you receive the best care possible. For more information, contact Janice Whaley at 813-624-0626.

We offer fully customizable business consulting services tailored to meet your unique business and budget needs. Our expert team provides comprehensive solutions including accounting, bookkeeping, payroll processing, and tax services, and more, ensuring your business operates smoothly and efficiently. Whether you're a startup or an established company, we're here to help you manage your finances and streamline operations for growth and success. Let us support you every step of the way!



Offers a wide variety of storage options. We have a large selection of air-conditioned units ranging from 5x5 to 10x20. We also have covered RV/Boat storage that includes electric hookups. We even have large enclosed air-conditioned mini shops. Please stop by or call us for the latest deals or check us out at our website.



A local health insurance broker. I love meeting with my clients and helping them find the right choice for their needs. It should never be about the company or about the agent, just about the client and how I can help them achieve the best outcome in today's medical world. Keeping in touch and continued assistance is also a wonderful perk when you deal with someone local.



We are a state certified and licensed roofing contractor serving Pasco County and the greater Tampa Bay area. We're ready to provide any roof installations and repairs you may need. We specialize in shingle, metal and single-ply membrane roofing. We have the knowledge and experience to provide you with the best products and service at the best price. That's Quality Roofing.

Business Spotlight

San Ant

Champion Member

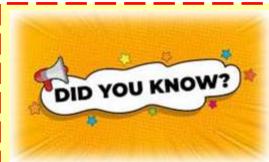
San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union is a not-for-profit serving the community since 1955, with San Antonio, Dade City, Zephyrhills, and Wesley Chapel locations.

They are for the community; for neighbors, friends, family; for you. They offer personalized financial advice, education, products and services to help your money go further – solutions to help you achieve your financial goals.

Citizens Federal Credit Union Discover the value of ownership at San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union. Your Future. Our Community. Together.







- You can submit monthly informational articles and photos about you, your employees and your business for our Electronic Newsletter?
- You can Sponsor a Chamber Breakfast and be able to introduce your business to the attendees?
- Advertisement at a cost effective price is available in: Monthly Electronic Newsletter, Chamber Magazine & Website?
- We offer you a Referral Program that can pay your renewal membership dues when you refer a new member and they join the chamber?
- You can be a Sponsor for some of our largest events: Kumquat Festival, Pigz In Zhills BBQ & Blues Festival, Joe Kiefer Golf Tournament, and Incredi-Bowl?
- Attending Core Connections each month helps you learn more about your chamber benefits?
- You can schedule a personal appointment to help you understand how to take full advantage of your chamber benefits?

Want more information about your benefits or learn how to engage with other members?

Call us at 352-567-3769 or 813-782-1913.

Did you know that both numbers ring at both offices?



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Better Routes Easier Schedules

GoPasco is improving bus routes and schedules Coming June 2, 2025

For Detailed Information visit:

www.GoPasco.com





Route 14	 Eliminating the area west of US 19, including Cross Bayou 	
Route 18	 Eliminating the area west of US 19, including Cross Bayou Eliminating Saturday service Adding service to Trouble Creek and Moog Rd. bus transfers Eliminating Marine Pkwy. 	
Route 21	 Eliminating Clayton Blvd. Adding service on Library Rd. 	
Route 25	 Eliminating Saturday service 	
Route 31	Eliminating Saturday service	

Updating Routes to Better Serve the Community

Route 23	 Adding service to the YMCA to Mitchell Blvd. Adding service to Bryant Square community off Legend Pasture Rd. New Route 24 will now service area north of West Pasco Government Center
Route 30	 Consistent schedule every 40 minutes Eliminating segment from Zephyrhills Transfer Station to Tucker Rd. (segment to be serviced by the new Route 35)
Route 31	 Extending the service area south of Morningside Dr. on Fort King to Clinton Ave. to US 301 Adding service to Moore Mickens area east of US 98 Bypass

New Routes:

Route 24	 Travels on Little Rd. from West Government Center to SR 52 (previously part of Route 23) Adding full service on Embassy Blvd. to Gulf View Square Mall
Route 35	 Servicing from Zephyrhills Transfer Station to Tucker Rd. (previously Route 30) Servicing 20th St., CR 54 (previously Route 54)
	 Adding service to Eiland Blvd., Dean Dairy Rd., Chancey Rd. and Paul Buchman Hwy.



"Non-Election Years"

Often, we are asked what we do during off-election years with the perception that we stay busy only 3 or 4 months every two years. Reality is that it takes a whole year to prepare for the next election. New employees, volunteers, and outside help often remark they had no idea managing elections was so involved. Election administration necessitates we live our professional lives in two-year cycles and is often referred to as the "PIA" model which stands for Planning, Implementation, and Assessment.

Since the beginning of the year, we have been meeting in work groups to analyze each facet of elections. In this way we determine what went well, what could use improvement, and what needs to be totally revamped. We are also in the process of formulating our new fiscal year budget. Many of the findings in the post-election meetings require budget considerations. We also conducted the annual municipal elections.

Plans are in place to take a closer look at our Continuance of Operations Plan (COOP). Because hurricane season and the election cycle peak simultaneously, the unthinkable task of managing an election within a compromised infrastructure is a reality as evident by Hurricane Milton last fall.

This year will also be focusing on maintaining the integrity of the voter registration rolls by conducting the annual list maintenance program in accordance with 98.065, Florida Statutes. Voters who have been inactive for two years will be notified via post card to update their information. The office utilizes the National Change of Address (NCOA) database to locate voters who no longer reside at their address of record. This sort of vigilance ensures that elections in Pasco County run smoothly, transparently, and trouble-free!

MOLD is Dangerous ~ Odor Removal & Remediation

Is there a foul Odor in or around your Home? Does a strong odor catch you off guard when you come home? Are you embarrassed when company drops by? If this sounds familiar, give us a call. Our PuroClean Staff are trained specifically on Mold & Odor Removal in Pasco County and surrounding areas. If we can determine the source, then we can decontaminate and safely dispose of the hazardous materials. Our PuroClean crew will help you with some of the following:

- Search every nook and cranny to find the source of the odor
- Did you have a recent water leak? Bathroom tub overflow?
- Look Up.....Yes the AC vents can be a tell tale sign you have mold growth.
- Check your AC Closet...is it properly vented? Does water leak onto the floor?
- Rainy season is fast approaching.....be sure to Clean your Gutters to avoid water coming into your home

Check your closets for any damp carpet....there may be a pipe leak and mold will grow on any organic materials.

If this sounds familiar, give us a call. Our crews are trained specifically on Mold & Odor removal. If we can determine the source, then we can decontaminate the area and safely dispose of the hazardous materials discreetly. Whether that be carpeting, flooring, drywall, etc., we give it our best and walk away with a job well done. Let us use our professional equipment to help determine the problem areas and provide a solution before it gets worst.

With our professional equipment, we are fully prepared to work on any odor. You can breathe easy knowing we get the job done quickly and quietly. (813) 528-4060

You called the right team for the job...PuroClean does it professionally!

Charles Visalli, Business Development Representative, Zephyrhills, FL. 33542













CHAMBER BREAKFAST

MAY 8, 2025 SPONSOR LOWMAN LAW FIRM



MAY 8, 2025 SPONSOR LOWMAN LAW FIRM

CHAMBER BREAKFAST



Pregnancy Care Center of Zephyrhills

April 8, 2025





Reach out to find out what they are in need of and how you can help!

Pregnancy Care Center of Zephyrhills 38435 North Avenue Zephyrhills, FL 33542 813-780-6885



S & R Services May 9, 2025 5344 9th Street, Suite 111 Zephyrhills, FL 33542

813-909-6955







Our Vision:

"to be the best resource to support our members and attract new business"

Why Join?

<u>Promotion of your business</u> ~Links on our website the preferred conduit for business development and tourism in our area ~Advertising Opportunities ~Sponsorship Packages

<u>Awareness of your brand</u> ~Multimedia program partnership ~Event participation ~FREE Ribbon Cuttings Introduce your business to the community

<u>Networking with your clients</u> ~Interaction with potential customers ~Business Breakfasts ~Chamber Ambassador Opportunities ~Events and Committees

Receive a credit of \$25.00 for each new member you refer!

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813-782-1913 ext 202



Diane McElvenny Territory Sales Manager Pasco County (352) 583-4204 (727) 647-3931 cell

WASTE CONNECTIONS

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Dale Allison (352) 521-0055 10741 US Hwy 301 | Dade City, FL 33525 www.jimbrownedadecity.com dallison@jimbrowneauto.com



HOME • MOBILE HOME • AUTOMOBILE • BUSINESS



Pasco County Encourages You to Adopt a Pond

~Preserving stormwater ponds will benefit communities, wildlife and aquatic plants~~

Pasco County's Public Works Department is pleased to launch our Adopt-A-Pond and Lake Management program. This volunteer-driven initiative encourages you and your neighbors to adopt a stormwater pond and help remove invasive plants, plant native vegetation and clean up trash and pollutants.

Adopting a pond can help balance the needs of communities, wildlife and aquatic plants by:

- ✓ Improving water quality
- ✓ Preventing stormwater pollution
- ✓ Attracting wildlife
- ✓ Maintaining plant diversity



To get started, please fill out our Adopt-A-Pond application: mypas.co/adoptapondform.

Water is a precious resource, and you can help ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the water ecosystem. Stormwater ponds are

vital in managing rain runoff, preventing flooding and filtering polluted water before it reaches larger waterways.

"There are two main benefits of adopting a pond," says Environmental Program Coordinator Milla Turner. "By cleaning up a stormwater pond you help improve water quality before it flows downstream, and you create a healthier environment for Florida's native plants and wildlife."

The Adopt-A-Pond program is open to homeowners (and neighborhood associations) who live on or near ponds that connect to the Pasco County stormwater system.

To learn more about this project, visit: mypas.co/adoptapond

June 15th is a special day

Celebrate is with us as we wish that special "Father" in your life





Stay Storm Ready: Refresh Your Hurricane Preparedness Plan

Hurricane season is here again, and while you may consider yourself an expert already, it's always a good idea to brush up on your knowledge. Those who have weathered storms with us in the past understand the serious risks hurricane season can bring, and it's important not to take them lightly. Pasco Sheriff's Office encourages you to review our hurricane preparation tips to ensure the safety of yourself, your loved ones and your property.

Before a storm threatens our area, pack an emergency kit with enough supplies to last each person in your family for a few days. Essential items to include are a gallon of water per person per day, non -perishable food, flashlights, batteries, a first aid kit and medications. Don't forget to pack essentials for your pets too! Remember to have cash on hand during hurricane season in the event there's no power. Make copies of important documents, including insurance information, and store them in a waterproof container. To ensure you have all the essentials in your kit, visit Ready.gov/kit.

To prepare your property for a storm, secure or bring indoors loose outdoor items that could become projectiles. Clear away debris like fallen branches to prevent damage. Trim trees and shrubs and keep drains and gutters clear. If you live in a flood-prone area, prepare sandbags in advance. Unplug non-essential electrical equipment to guard against power surges. Freeze water in bags to keep refrigerator items cool during outages. Lastly, ensure all exterior doors and windows are secured.

Regularly monitor weather activity in your area; a storm's trajectory can shift quickly. Visit NOAA.gov for the most accurate and up-to-date storm information. When making storm plans, determine if you're in an evacuation zone. For Pasco County, you can find this information on the Pasco County Government's website at PascoCountyFL.net. Arrange to stay at a safe location and make a plan to get there if told to evacuate. Write down your hurricane plan and share it with loved ones so they know where you'll be and how to contact you. Additionally, follow local government agencies on social media for updates on shelter locations, evacuation zones, transportation and more.

There are additional dangers to be aware of once the storm passes, such as harmful debris and potential criminals looking to exploit vulnerable people. Be cautious while assessing your property for damage; specifically, look out for hidden dangers in grass and standing water, including downed trees, power lines or wildlife. Use safety gear such as protective eyewear and gloves when clearing storm damage. Adhere to orders issued by local authorities; this helps ensure your safety as rescue crews may not be able to get to you during a storm, or potentially for some time after.

If you need to repair your property, determine if the contractor you're considering is licensed. Unlicensed contractors can place citizens at risk of poor quality work or noncompliance with building codes. Property owners can also become liable for injuries, have limited resources in the event of a broken contract and may become victims of additional scams like identity theft. PSO also wants citizens to be cautious of scammers impersonating disaster relief funds. Before giving money or personal information, verify the charity's legitimacy by visiting their website.

Sheriff Chris Nocco



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Happy Birthday Chamber Members With June Birthdays

We Hope Your Day Is and Was Amazing!



Pasco Students: Ride All Summer Long for \$20

~~Summer Haul Pass provides unlimited bus rides~~

Students can spend the summer hanging out with friends – and avoid spending a lot of money getting there! If you have a valid student ID, you can ride Pasco County Public Transportation (GoPasco) buses all summer for just **\$20!** This special student rate runs through **June, July and August 2025**!

WHAT: Summer Haul Pass

WHEN: June 1 – August 31, 2025

Find Summer Haul Passes at these locations:

GoPasco Administrative Office

8620 Galen Wilson Boulevard

New Port Richey Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller

East/West Pasco Gov't Centers Select Pasco County Libraries

Various Locations New Port Richey Public Library



Main St., New Port Richey

For more information about the student Summer Haul Pass or GoPasco bus routes and schedules, please visit: GoPasco.com.

Everyone is reading this months newsletter and WOW it had so much great information in it that they can't wait to receive next months!



Have you emailed Melody your articles for the July Newsletter?

Deadline is usually the 2nd Friday in June!

Still Stylish with Cheryl Staron

7 TIPS TO CHOOSE THE PERFECT FAMILY PHOTO OUTFITS

Deciding what family photo outfits to wear can be just as challenging as finding the perfect photographer. These are photos that are going to hang on your walls and be cherished for years to come. It can seem overwhelming when considering what to wear but it doesn't need to be.

No matter what type of family photo you are wanting.....Spring, Fall, or on vacation at the beach.... use these tips to help you pick out the perfect outfits for you and your family's group photo.

- **1. Coordinating colors not matching.** Long gone are the days of everyone wearing a white shirt and matching pants. You don't have to have everyone buy a white shirt and jeans. Allow personalities to shine with colors and patterns. Pick a couple of colors and choose clothes that will fit in this color scheme.
- **2. Don't forget accessories to go with your family picture outfits**. Accessories not only add to your outfit but they can be fun to use in photos. Have a man wear a tie for the woman to hold, necklaces for the kids to play with or hats to hide behind. Remember the idea is not to create these perfect photos. Family photos are a time to capture who your family is at that time. For example, if you are taking family pictures at the beach consider adding sand pails and toys, a picnic basket, colorful beach towels, wide brimmed sun hats or beach balls.
- **3. Limit patterns.** Having one outfit in the mix that has a pattern with all the colors in it can add interest to your family pictures. However, not everyone in the photo should wear patterns as it may be distracting in the final image. Consider picking one outfit for your family photos that has a lot of colors or a fun pattern. Choose that outfit first. This gives you plenty of colors to choose from to pick your coordinating colors.
- **4. Look for clothing collections.** When shopping for kids clothes, head to stores that typically have color coordinating collections. You can then purchase clothes for all the children from one store. Don't be afraid to lay all the clothes on the floor of the store to see what they will look like together. It may be easier to start with the kids clothes and then moved on to the adult outfits.
- **5. Say no to characters.** Just like patterns, characters on shirts can be pretty distracting. Characters, like too many patterns, can make your photo not only look too busy but can quickly date your photo.
- 6. Avoid all white or all black clothing. As mentioned earlier, it's better to do coordinating colors rather than all white. Another reason to avoid white is because it is very easy to lose all the depth and details of white clothing. The same can be said with all black. It's easy to lose all the depth and details of black clothing in pictures.
- **7. Textures are your friend.** In photographs using textures like scarves or belts add a little more depth and interest to an image. Don't shy away from using a few different textures. By adding different textures through the material of your family outfits or your accessories you are adding depth and interest to your photos.

So what colors are best for family photos? Although there's no magic answer to this question, it's best to consider a few different things. What colors do you look best in? What color makes you feel confident? Did you know that there are five universal colors that everyone can wear? Those are the colors you should consider wearing in your family photos. Don't know what those colors are? As a Certified Color Specialist, I can help you find the perfect color family for your priceless and cherished family photos.

As a Certified Color and Signature Style Specialist, my best suggestion is to think classic for what to wear in your family photos. These photos will treasured for years to come. By choosing simple, classic clothes you will help give your images a timeless feel.

Cheryl Staron





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SUBARU

Subaru of Wesley Chapel



Want your business in one or our "Business Spotlights"?

Email Melody@eastpascochamber.org your "Spotlight" info in 100 words or less, your logo in a high resolution jpg.

This is a great way for us to promote you and your business.

Attending Networking events is another way you can promote yourself!



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You never know where his smiling face will pop up or who he will meet!

Like here at 2025 Incredi-BOWL with Special Olympics Florida

Have you seen "Ivan" out and about visiting our Chamber Members or helping our community?

If you have seen him help us track his adventures by snapping a photo and email it to melody@eastpascochamber.org so she can share your photos and we can keep track of him!



2025 Incredi-BOWL Congratulations! Congratulations! Congratulations! **& Funeral Care**





Sacred & Personal: 3 Inspired Ways to Write Wedding Vows with Heart and Faith

By Claudia Mitchell-McLeod, MBA, DTM

Owner of Notary Near Me Florida

Proud member of the East Pasco Chamber of Commerce

In the golden light of a Tampa Bay evening, Rachel reached for Michael's hand and whispered, "This is everything I prayed for." Their vows were personal and poetic—rooted in faith, yet uniquely their own. That's what more couples are craving today: sacred wedding ceremonies that still feel authentic and deeply personal.

As a local wedding officiant, I've had the joy of guiding couples through this beautiful balance. Whether you're planning your own wedding or helping someone close to you, here are three ways to write wedding vows that feel heartfelt and faith-filled.

1. Scripture-Inspired Vows

Brittany and James started their ceremony with 1 Corinthians 13:7. But James didn't stop there. He added: "When we laugh, when we argue, when we dream and when we doubt—I will choose to love you." That's how you personalize Scripture: make it your foundation, then speak from the heart.

2. Family-Centered Promises

When David married Tasha, he turned to her 10-year-old son and said, "I didn't just fall in love with your mom—I found a place in my heart for you, too." The moment was unforgettable—and so was the message: marriage can be about more than two people. Let your vows reflect the full picture of your love.

3. Unity Rituals with Meaning

Angela and Marcus used a Unity Candle, but with a twist—their mothers lit the initial candles to symbolize the generations of love that brought them to this moment. Whether you choose a sand ceremony, foot washing, or a cross-building ritual, it should tell your story.

Your wedding ceremony should sound like *you*—but still reflect the sacredness of the moment. And when your guests leave saying, "That was so them—and yet it felt holy," you'll know you've done it right.

Claudia Mitchell-McLeod, MBA, DTM is the owner of Notary Near Me Florida, offering faith-forward and personalized wedding officiant services throughout the Tampa Bay area.

Learn more at www.NotaryNearMe-Florida.com

Chamber Exclusive: Mention this article and receive \$25 off any Wedding Officiant service.





Pasco County Libraries Launches Summer Reading Quest

~~Readers of all ages: record how much time you read to earn fun prizes~~

Turn the page from an ordinary summer into a storybook world of imagination and adventure! We invite you to join our **Once Upon a Summer Reading Quest**, transporting you to a place with captivating performers, binge-worthy books, prizes and a shared community journey!

WHAT: Summer Reading Quest

WHEN: NOW – August 2, 2025

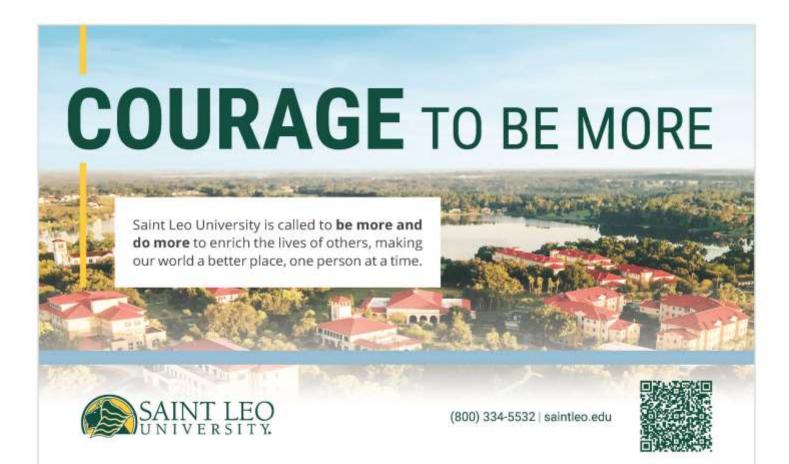
WHERE: Beanstack app and here: bit.ly/PascoSRC2025

To qualify, you must enter **600 minutes of reading** and **record-keeping** in the *Beanstack* app.

When you complete the challenge, you'll be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 gift card in your age group, courtesy of Friends of the Library and Friends of Zephyrhills Public Library. Other individual prizes will be up for grabs at all our library branches, so get started today!

To learn more about the quest, events and *Beanstack*, visit bit.ly/PascoSRC2025.

For more information about Pasco County Libraries, including the library catalog, e-content, programs, events and links to all Pasco County Library branches, visit pascolibraries.org







(352) 424-5155 ultimateacspecialists@gmail.com www.ultimateacspecialists.com

Chamber Membership helps you reach your goals!

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- Ribbon Cutting
- Event Sponsorship's
- Networking—Online & In Person
- Member to Member Discount
- Website Job Listings



(352) 5

kwoodarek@sacfcu.o





Creative Writers Wanted! Saint Leo U to Host Summer Residency for Master's and Micro-Credential Programs

Visiting Writers Include Phillippe Diedrich, Asa Drake, Heather Sellers, Chrissy Kolaya

Saint Leo University's two-year, low-residency Master of Arts in Creative Writing Program is accepting applications until **Sunday**, **June 15**, in fiction, nonfiction, or poetry for the university's upcoming cohort. The annual summer residency will take place during Summer 2 Term, **Monday**, **July 14**, **through Saturday**, **July 19**, at University Campus, 33701 County Road 52, St. Leo, FL 33574.

The master's in creative writing is completed online with the exception of the two-week summer residency.

Information about the master's degree program and graduate applications can be found at <u>saintleo.edu/creativewriting</u>.

In addition to the master's, Saint Leo is offering a **creative writing micro-credential**, which includes one summer residency, and not the full master's curriculum, so participants can join in this year's summer offering at a fraction of the price. The micro-credential in creative writing is open to anyone who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in any subject, from any university or college, who loves to write.

Those interested may register for the micro-credential through Saint Leo's Skills Academy at <u>https://skillsacademy.saintleo.edu/creativewriting</u>. The deadline to register is Sunday, June 15. Those who complete the program receive a Credly digital badge through the Saint Leo Skills Academy.

Visting Writers

Not only will participants in the master's program and micro-credential program learn from Saint Leo faculty, but they also will have the opportunity to learn from and work with four visiting writers: <u>Phillippe Diedrich</u>, <u>Asa Drake</u>, <u>Heather Sellers</u>, and <u>Chrissy Kolaya</u>.

More Information

For more information, contact Gianna Russo at gianna.russo@saintleo.edu.

About Saint Leo University

Saint Leo University is a Catholic Benedictine university dedicated to helping learners of all backgrounds and ages gain the competence and courage to be more. Offering more than 55 degree programs to more than 13,000 students each year, the nonprofit university is known for providing a values-based education in the liberal arts tradition and a community of belonging for those who seek a greater purpose in life. Saint Leo is regionally accredited and offers a campus in the Tampa Bay area of Florida, regional education centers, and several online programs. The university is home to more than 106,000 alumni. Learn more at saintleo.edu.

Media Contact: Mary McCoy, senior editor & media relations manager,

mary.mccoy02@saintleo.edu,

(352) 588-7118 or cell (813) 610-8416



Good Morning I thought I'd stop by the Chamber to get some information -Since I'm told you know everything

I'm looking for a great place to grab a quick breakfast

DID YOU KNOW?

The Chamber loves to refer their members!

Would you happen to have a list of your other local restaurants?

I've heard I must eat at all of them, because they are so delicious!



SPIVEY KARATE HAPPENINGS

On June 21, at Spivey Karate will be holding a 1,000 Kicks Kick-A-Thon for St. Jude Children's Hospital. This event is open to anyone, any age, martial artist or not. Minimum donation is \$10 but more will be greatly appreciated. Awards for the 4 largest contributions will be a sword, a pair of chrome sai, a 2-piece bo staff & a free month of karate classes. A special patch for \$3.25 will be available for those who want it. 4-5 year olds can stop at 100 & 6/7 years olds may stop at 200. Everyone who has ever attempted the 1,000 Kicks, has completed it. The record is by a 5-year-old who performed over 1,300 kicks. Doors open at 10AM for warmups, waiver signing & the contributions submitting. The photo is taken at 10:30, then the 1,000 Kicks begin. It should end in approximately 1 hour. Location is 12240 S. U. S. Hwy 301, Dade City, Fla. 33525. For more info call or text 352-518-9409. E-mail is spiveykarate@gmail.com

JUNE ENROLLMENT SPECIAL

KARATE: 1/3 off 3, 6 or 12 month enrollment & ½ off the uniform

TAI CHI: free t-shirt with a

3 month enrollment



Participates in the Camp Endeavor Benefit Tournament held in Dundee, Fla. (left) Ashton Ahl, competing in the 12-14 yr. Black Belt division, finished in 2nd place in the weapons category. (Right) Jaxon Dean, taking part in his first open tournament, scored a 2nd place in the Beginners 9 to 11-year-old weapons division. (center) Instructor, Bill Spivey, placed 3rd in the 56 & over Black Belt weapons & forms divisions and won the Grand Champion award for the Grand Masters Kata.

At Spivey Karate, all 8 yr. old & up students, who enroll at the 2 classes per week price, can now have unlimited attendance

Join our team

Do you have a passion for organizing? Why not get paid to do what you love!

We're Hiring !

Organizers

- part time position
- 🌽 availabililty 9am to 3pm
- 🤌 ability to lift 50 lbs
- > high attention to detail
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SEND INTEREST EMAIL WITH:

- Why you want to be an organizer
- Photos of areas you have organized

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MINUTES MATTER.

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Hello friends!

Have you ever wondered if you really need 7 spatulas? Is your closet full of "maybe I will wear that someday" clothes?

If you are ready to make space for a calmer, more intentional life, you are in the right place! We are sharing practical tips and strategies to help you simplify your space with a few intentional mindset shifts.

New on the Blog





Embracing a Minimalist Lifestyle

So here you sit, looking around at all your things, trying to figure out where all this stuff came from. Life gets busy and things pile up. You are not alone. So many adults find themselves living in a space that feels less like a happy home and more like an overstuffed storage unit. But here's the thing. There is a simpler way. A way that doesn't require you to get rid of everything, but helps you learn to live with

intention. Embracing a minimalist lifestyle can help you find more peace and clarity in your day to day routine without so much stuff.

Keep Reading button with link to blog <u>https://tinaschwaborganizing.com/2025/04/23/embracing-a-minimalist-lifestyle/</u>



Use the power of a "maybe" box.



Not Ready to Commit?

We know it can be a struggle to let go of your things. If you are feeling unsure about any items, put them in a maybe box. Revisit this box in a month. If you haven't needed or missed them, you can feel good letting them go.

Enjoy Your Living Space

Your home should not serve as storage space for stuff you don't need, use or even want. When you clear your space, you create room to live and enjoy the special moments. Focus on why you own things to make sure your belongings align with your lifestyle and bring you and your family joy!

Professional organizer Approved Products

Tried and true, we have learned what works to implement organizing solutions in your spaces. This shoe rack is a perfect solution to help you set and keep your boundaries on the amount of shoes you own. We love that it's vertical to help you maximize your storage space.

Check out all of our professional organizer approved moving supplies to find the solutions that will work best in your space. Shop Organizing Products button links to https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09H2FTXBS? linkCode=ssc&tag=onamztinaschw-20&creativeASIN=B09H2FTXBS&asc_itemid=amzn1.ideas.K1FDPG7CTVT1&ref =aip sf list spy ons mixed d asin&th=1



Professional Organizing Results

Are you ready to embrace a "less is more" lifestyle, but just aren't sure where or how to get started? We are here to help! We specialize in decluttering your spaces and implementing personalized organizing

solutions that work for you. Schedule your free consultation and let's get to work crafting your

customized home organization plan!

Let's Get Organized button links to https://tinaschwaborganizing.com/contact/



"If the person you are talking to does not appear to be listening, be patient. It may simply be that he has a small piece of fluff in this ear."

- Winnie-the-Pooh by A.A Milne





Welcome, Spring. Hello, Savings!

Finding the right vehicle for your budget is a breeze.

- · Shop all makes, models, and years
- Use our vehicle pricing tools
- Take virtual test drives
- Review auto buying tips, safety ratings, and more
- Apply for auto loan pre-approval

... all without leaving your couch.



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www.SACFCU.org/spring

Saint Leo University's 2025 Valedictorian, Salutatorian Aim to Make Difference in Health Care, Global Service

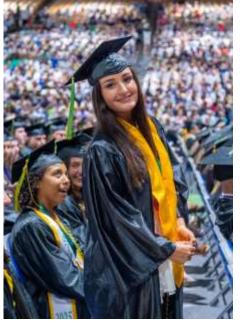
Kristina Arwady of Altamonte Springs to follow grandfather's path and be a physician

Jacqueline Pollok of Dade City plans a career in national security, international affairs, or law

Kristina Arwady hopes to follow in her grandfather's footsteps in health care. He was a Mexican immigrant, who started as a janitor, worked hard, and became a family medicine physician with his own practice. Just like her grandpa, Arwady is working toward becoming a physician.

The valedictorian for Saint Leo University's Class of 2025, Arwady graduated May 7 *summa cum laude* with a 4.0 GPA and earned bachelor's degrees in <u>management</u> and <u>medical humanities: pre-med</u> and a minor in Spanish. She also graduated from Saint Leo's Honors Program. Arwady is from Altamonte Springs, FL, and graduated from Lake Brantley High School. She is the daughter of Michael and Suzanne Arwady.

"I want to follow in his footsteps, pursuing medicine and, hopefully one day, having the business skill set to manage my own practice too," she said about her grandfather. "My ultimate goal is to attend medical school and become a physician. I am currently working on medical school



applications, but in the meantime, I will be pursuing an MBA in health care management, continuing with graduate school at Saint Leo. I am so excited!"

Not only was Arwady focused on her studies at Saint Leo, but she also played on the women's soccer team, tutored other students in chemistry and biology, and served as president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). As an extension of her role as SAAC president, she promoted several community initiatives including a partnership between Saint Leo University Athletics and Make-A-Wish® Southern Florida.

"Saint Leo has pushed me to be courageous in my academic pursuits, my sports career, and my faith," Arwady said. "Pursuing a double major and being part of the Honors Program while being a student-athlete was not easy, but Saint Leo gave me a pathway to do just that.

"I had the courage to come back from three knee surgeries and return to play each time, all because of the Saint Leo Athletics staff and the other amazing people who supported me along the way," she continued. "With my faith, Saint Leo encouraged me to defy the norm and be different than the rest of the world, trying my best to choose Christ and follow and surrender everything to him. I am so grateful."

Salutatorian Jacqueline Pollok

A keen interest in the world helped Saint Leo University's salutatorian for 2025, Jacqueline Pollok, select her fields of study. Pollock, who is from Dade City, FL, and graduated from Wesley Chapel High School, was Saint Leo's second highest academically ranked member of the Class of 2025. She graduated *summa cum laude* with bachelor's degrees in <u>criminal justice: homeland security</u> and international studies.

She also graduated from the Honors Program and was the recipient of the 2025 Clara McDonald Olson Scholarship



Excellence Award. She is the daughter of Veronica Pollok and Joseph Pollok.

"I chose my majors in international studies and criminal justice because of my deep interest in global security and the ways that international events and policies shape our world," Pollok said. "International studies provided me with the necessary historical and cultural context to understand the dynamics between countries, which is essential for comprehending current global issues. Criminal justice offers me a deeper understanding of the legal systems and enforcement structures that help maintain order and security, both domestically and internationally."



During her time at Saint Leo University, Pollok was a member of the Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society, thePi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, and the Sigma Iota Rho Honor Society for International Studies, where she served as secretary. In February, Pollok presented her paper, "The Influence of the Southern Border Crisis on International Human Trafficking," at the Florida Conference of Historians, a professional academic conference held in Punta Gorda, FL.

Experiential learning also was an important part of her academic journey, and Pollok completed three diverse internships. She served as an undergraduate researcher, examining the relationship between sport, global culture, and World War II; worked as a customer service representative for a local business; and interned at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Tampa, FL, assisting the Economic Crime and Transnational Organized Crime divisions.

Her community service efforts included volunteering at the Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller Office in Dade City, working weekly at the Scared Heart Earl Childhood Center in 2022, and volunteering with the Pasco County Teen Court Program in 2021, helping support juvenile rehabilitation initiatives.



"I plan to pursue a professional role that allows me to engage with issues related to national security, law, or international affairs — areas I've grown passionate about through my academic work and internships," Pollok said. "I also intend to pursue graduate work in security studies to strengthen my expertise and prepare for long-term career opportunities in public service."

Photo cutlines/captions Photos provided by Saint Leo University

Kristina Arwady, valedictorian for University Campus, Saint Leo University, at commencement May 7 at Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL.

Jacqueline Pollok, salutatorian for University Campus, Saint Leo University, at commencement May 7 at Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL.

Kristina Arwady of Altamonte Springs, FL, left, valedictorian of Saint Leo University's Class of 2025, and

Jacqueline Pollok of Dade City, FL, salutatorian, at the university's Celebration of Academic Excellence in April.

Kristina Arwady, center, with women's soccer teammates Arielle Jacus and Elise McDonald after receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday at Saint Leo University.

Jacqueline Pollok, right, in Galway, Ireland, on a Saint Leo University Honors Program trip in spring 2025 with fellow Honors Program student, Wren Chretien.

About Saint Leo University

Saint Leo University is a Catholic Benedictine university dedicated to helping learners of all backgrounds and ages gain the competence and courage to be more. Offering more than 55 degree programs to more than 13,000 students each year, the nonprofit university is known for providing a values-based education in the liberal arts tradition and a community of belonging for those who seek a greater purpose in life. Saint Leo is regionally accredited and offers a campus in the Tampa Bay area of Florida, regional education centers, and several online programs. The university is home to more than 106,000 alumni. Learn more at <u>saintleo.edu</u>.

Media Contact: Mary McCoy, senior editor & media relations manager, <u>mary.mccoy02@saintleo.edu</u>, (352) 588-7118 or cell (813) 610-8416





Solo Mom's Recovery & Healing Ministry

Rescue - Restore - Rebuild

Upcoming Classes Tiny tots bible study

Weekly

Bible study for kids to do with moms following the Trueway kids Bible plan includes Bible lesson, craft, and a game. Infant care provided by volunteers.

Moms bible study

Weekly

A study designed for moms only. Read the Word together, share insights, exchange prayer requests and praises, and pray for one another. Grow together as sisters in Christ. Childcare provided by volunteers in the playroom.

Garden Club

Weekly

Moms and volunteers maintain the garden together. Activities include prayer, weeding, harvesting and cleaning vegetables, adding soil, and watering plants to keep them healthy.

Life Skills Class

Weekly

Learn practical crafts and skills with rotating teachers and topics. Childcare provided by volunteers in the playroom.

Our Mission

Solo Moms provides comprehensive restoration for single mothers and their children escaping human trafficking, domestic violence, and other complex trauma. The Healing Hub serves as a safe communal space where mothers know they belong and are loved by Jesus and community.

"We rebuild families one by one, just as we would rebuild a city brick by brick."

Contact Stacy Hester Solo Moms Recovery and Healing Church, Inc.

813-479-5926

WEBSITE: https://www.rescuerestorerebuild.com/services/





Are You Engaged with the Chamber?

If not Mark Your Calendars and get engaged this month:

- Tue Jun 3rd, 8-9am Coffee Tuesday at Dade City Office
- Fri Jun 6th, 8-9am Coffee Friday at Zephyrhills Office
- Thu Jun 12th, 7am Chamber Breakfast at Golden Corral Zephyrhills
- Fri Jun 13th, 8-9am Coffee Friday at Zephyrhills Office
- Sat Jun 14th Flag Day Celebrating the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777
- Sun Jun 15th Father's Day Wishing all of the Father's a Wonderful Day
- Tue Jun 13th, 8-9am Coffee Tuesday at Dade City Office
- Thu Jun 19th, 8-9am Core Connections at Zephyrhills Office
- Fri Jun 20th, 8-9am Coffee Friday at Zephyrhills Office
- Tue Jun 24th, 8-9am Coffee Tuesday at Dade City Chamber
- Fri Jun 27th, 8-9am Coffee Friday at Zephyrhills Chamber

We look forward to seeing many time this month!



Your News Articles need to be emailed to melody@eastpascochamber.org by May 16, 2025 for the June Newsletter!

We want to be able to promote you and let everyone know about you and your business! This is a benefit included in your Chamber Membership

Questions call Melody at 352-567-3769 ext 202

The Five-Star Experience You Deserve

By Claudia Mitchell-McLeod, MBA, DTM

When you visit Bern's Steak House in Tampa, you expect excellence.

From the moment you arrive to the final course, every detail matters. The service, the setting, and the care with which you're treated leave a lasting impression.

That's the same intention I bring to each notary appointment.

Because what's being signed isn't just paper—it's part of a life moment. From marriage licenses to healthcare directives, every document I handle carries emotion, importance, and purpose.

The Notary Experience You Deserve

I'm Claudia Mitchell-McLeod, the notary and wedding officiant behind Notary Near Me Florida—and a proud member of the East Pasco Chamber of Commerce.

Whether I'm notarizing a Power of Attorney for a senior, guiding a couple through adoption paperwork, or officiating a wedding, my goal is to provide the kind of professional, compassionate experience you'd expect from a five-star service provider.

I meet clients where they are—literally. I offer mobile notary services throughout the Greater Tampa Bay area, available during the day, in the evening, on weekends, and even holidays.

What You Can Expect

A calm, respectful presence Step-by-step guidance through the signing process Witnesses available upon request A reminder to bring valid, government-issued ID Clear expectations: I'm a notary, not an attorney—I cannot provide legal advice or interpret documents

Wedding Services

As both a commissioned notary and ordained minister, I provide wedding services tailored to your vision:

- Quick sign-and-go ceremonies
- Intimate elopements
- Grand, personalized weddings—Christian or secular

I'm also happy to assist in writing your vows and helping you begin your marriage with purpose, beauty, and Joy for a Lifetime.

Notary Know-How: The Experience Edition

Q: What is a Notary Public—and why does it matter?

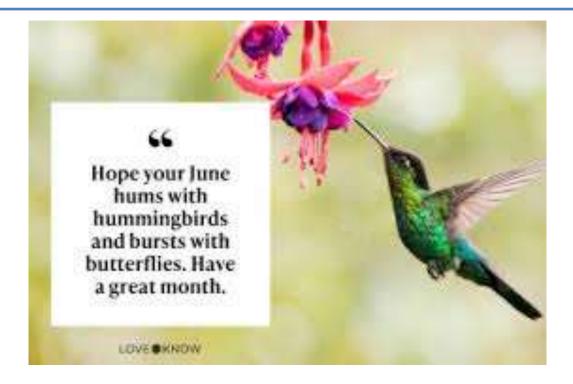
A: A notary public is an official commissioned by the state to act as an impartial witness during important transactions. Notarization ensures the person signing is who they say they are—and that they're doing so willingly. It adds a layer of trust and legality to everything from real estate deals to end-of-life planning.

Let's Serve Together

If someone you know is navigating a milestone—whether planning a wedding, transitioning a loved one to assisted care, or finalizing real estate paperwork—I'd love to help. Call or text me at 813-239-4117 www.notarynearme-florida.com

Facebook & Instagram: @notarynearmeflorida





Saint Leo University Celebrates More Than 1,400 Graduates in 2 Ceremonies at Florida State Fairgrounds May 7

► Founder and former CEO of WWC Global, executive director of Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs address Class of 2025 graduates

► Dr. Ed Dadez named university president emeritus, Trustee John Picciano receives honorary degree

With more than 1,400 students crossing the stage in two commencement ceremonies today (Wednesday, May 7), Saint Leo University celebrated the Class of 2025 along with some "firsts" among the graduates, as well as honoring some university legacies. The graduates, families, faculty, and staff came together at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa, FL, for the ceremonies.

Twelve students proudly claimed the title of "first" as they are Saint Leo's first graduates in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program in the College of Health Professions. On Monday, May 5, they participated in a pinning ceremony, pledging to uphold the ethical, scientific, and legal standards of their chosen profession. Emma Hayhurst of Merrimack, NH, said she chose Saint Leo because of the university's dedication to building a new nursing program. "Additionally, Saint Leo's strong values of compassion, integrity, and service reflect the kind of nurse I aspire to be," said Hayhurst, one of the first graduates.

Another student celebrating being "first" was **Forgive Semackor** of Riverview, FL, who became the first graduate in Saint Leo's **Bachelor of Arts in Music Program** in 30 years. In Fall Semester 2023, Saint Leo once again began offering a <u>music</u> major.

"I knew I wanted to be a teacher, and when I found out Saint Leo was re-introducing the major, I decided that it would be a great choice to teach a subject that I was really passionate about," Semackor said.

The commencement ceremonies also provided an opportunity to recognize the contributions made by two longtime supporters and benefactors of the university. **Dr. Edward Dadez** was named *president emeritus*, having retired in February after serving as the university's 11th president. Dadez, an alumnus who earned a Master of Business Administration degree in 2002.

"During his tenure Dr. Dadez addressed the challenges that Saint Leo University was facing, he led the faculty and staff, changing the culture of the university and ensured that Saint Leo had a strong focus on students and their success," said Saint Leo University Board of Trustees Chair Edwin Narain in conferring the *emeritus* title upon Dadez.

Receiving an honorary degree was Board of Trustees member and alumnus **John Picciano**, CEO of Oglethorpe Inc. As a student, he distinguished himself and was named outstanding sophomore and junior and served as the president of his fraternity and the Interfraternity Council. He continued a life of service to his community, making a difference in the lives of those with mental health and addiction issues. And he continued his lifelong contributions to his alma mater.

"I therefore recommend the university grant John R. Picciano, Class of 1969, the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in recognition of his outstanding commitment to Saint Leo University, his community, and in recognition of the inspiration example he sets for all," said Dr. Susan Kinsella, vice president of Academic Affairs, in conferring the honorary degree.

Morning Ceremony

Graduating during this ceremony were University Campus undergraduate students; master's degree students in accounting, business administration, computer science, cybersecurity, and psychology; and Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) students.

Recognized as **valedictorian** and **salutatorian** for the Class of 2025 with a 4.0 GPA was **Kristina Arwady**, of Altamonte Springs, FL, who graduated *summa cum laude* with bachelor's degrees in management and medical humanities: pre-med with a minor in Spanish and from the Honors Program. Arwady also was a member of the women's soccer team.

"Over the last three and a half years, Saint Leo University has become my family," Arwady said. "The people have made this place home, and I am so grateful for the many opportunities and experiences I have had here."

Jacqueline Pollok of Dade City, FL, was the campus salutatorian for 2025, graduating summa cum laude with

bachelor's degrees in criminal justice: homeland security and international studies. She also graduated from the Honors Program and was the recipient of the 2025 Clara McDonald Olson Scholarship Excellence Award.

Giving the morning commencement address was **Dr. Lauren Wittenberg Weiner**, founder and former CEO of WWC Global, an organization dedicated to helping military spouses find career opportunities. In 2018, WWC Global won the largest contract to a woman-owned business in U.S. Special Operations Command headquarters (Tampa, FL) history — the headquarters for the U.S. Navy SEALs and U.S. Army Green Berets. Annual revenue for WWC reached \$100 million before Wittenberg Weiner sold it in 2022.

Her advice to the new graduates: Don't be afraid to take a different path. "In my own life, it was the times that I took a huge pivot from what everyone seemed to expect from me that I found my biggest success," Wittenberg Weiner said. "At this point, I've made that pivot multiple times in my life. Each time, I heard: 'You're crazy.' 'This isn't going to work.' 'You're throwing away everything you worked for.' Thanks to an amazing mentor who guided me the first time I even contemplated taking a path that was different than what was laid out for me, I realized something: Just because you can do something, doesn't mean you have to."

She said she gathered the information from her naysayers, weighed each decision carefully. "I'll tell you that the four-word response that fueled more of my success than any other words: 'Oh really? Watch me," Wittenberg Weiner told the graduates.

Admitting to being a "goody two-shoes," she said she found ways to upend expectations without breaking the rules. "As a young overachiever, I got really good at knowing all of the rules and all of the expectations," Wittenberg Weiner said. "But what I didn't realize until later is that there is a ton of space, in both those written and unwritten rules, to find your own authentic path to your own version of success."

Afternoon Ceremony

Graduating during the afternoon ceremony were Center for Online Learning and education center undergraduate students; World Campus students (studying internationally); master's degree students in creative writing, criminal justice, education, education specialist, instructional design, social work, and theology; and doctoral students in criminal justice and education.

Being recognized among students from Saint Leo's Center for Online Learning were top performers, graduating *summa cum laude* with a 4.0 cumulative GPA, were **Frances Wesby** from Grovetown, GA, who earned with a bachelor's in business administration, and **Kamera Woodruff** from Madison, FL, who earned a bachelor's in elementary education.

The top performer for Saint Leo's graduating seniors from its education centers, with a 4.0 cumulative GPA and graduating *summa cum laude*, was **Leslie Willis** from Brooksville, FL, who earned a bachelor's in elementary education.

Giving the commencement address for the afternoon ceremony was **retired Maj. Gen. James S. Hartsell**, executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. Hartsell, who earned the nickname "Hammer," leads the 1,500-member department responsible for serving the nation's third largest veteran population. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps with honor for 37 years of active and reserve duty, beginning as an enlisted Marine in 1981 and completing distinguished and highly decorated military career as a major general.

A native of Florida, Hartsell's 22-year civilian career in the health care industry included serving in marketing, product management, U.S. and global business development, hospital administration and health care leadership. Upon retirement from the Marine Corps, he moved back to Florida and joined the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, where he launched the Future Operations Division. His late son, Evin Hartsell, graduated from Saint Leo in 2015 with a degree in psychology.

Hartsell said his "mission will be accomplished" if the students kept a key word, key phrase, and a key memory that "you can carry with you in your heart, your mind, and your spirit as you embark on your exciting new life pathways as graduates of Saint Leo University."

That key word he hoped they use for the rest of their lives is *resilience*. "The key phrase is 'be the change; say *I will*,' and the key memory I want you carry with you to use when you need it to help inspire and motivate yourself during your life endeavors, is where this word and this phrase came from. He attributed them to their fellow alumnus, Evin B. Hartsell, who earned a bachelor's in psychology in 2016 and master's in business posthumously in 2018.

Evin, the Hartsells' second son, was born with a rare congenital neuromuscular dystrophy disease. While he was never able to walk and had to use a ventilator to breathe, he was filled with "self-generated determination to make a difference

in the world by finding ways to help others to better themselves," Hartsell said. "He did this by becoming a Big Brother counselor; an advocate by volunteering at the James R. Haley Veterans Medical Center, by helping charter the Phoenix Rising Power wheelchair soccer team, by helping to charter the Kappa Sigma fraternity at Saint Leo Leo, by writing an autobiography that he entitled *Abled in a Disabled World* where he boldly shares his life's journey of physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual challenges and discouragements, and yet eventually victories."

"Graduates, like your fellow Saint Leo alumnus Evin Hartsell, regardless of what life circumstances you may find yourself in after today, you too can choose to be resilient and to be the change for the better."

PHOTOS and VIDEO are available in Dropbox: <u>https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/5fvojlo6rnvwc8yyno0t0/</u> AFSyrLwEHrQaC9qMGS2fpOg?rlkey=3jmf4tzvdw21f3ygx1i46oxne&st=7ssunxpo&dl=0

Photo cutlines/captions Photos by Saint Leo University Saint Leo University graduated more than 1,400 students in two ceremonies at the Florida State Fairgrounds on Wednesday, May 7.

Dr. Lauren Wittenberg Weiner, founder and former CEO of WWC Global, was the afternoon commencement speaker.

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. James Hartsell, director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, gave the afternoon commencement speech.

Alumnus and Board of Trustee John Picciano received an honorary degree.

Happy graduates celebrate during the morning ceremony.

The softball team from Saint Leo University is ready to graduate during the morning ceremony.

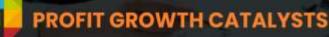
The scene at the Florida State Fairgrounds for the morning commencement ceremony for the Class of 2025 on May 7, 2025.

About Saint Leo University

Saint Leo University is a Catholic Benedictine university dedicated to helping learners of all backgrounds and ages gain the competence and courage to be more. Offering more than 55 degree programs to more than 13,000 students each year, the nonprofit university is known for providing a values-based education in the liberal arts tradition and a community of belonging for those who seek a greater purpose in life. Saint Leo is regionally accredited and offers a campus in the Tampa Bay area of Florida, regional education centers, and several online programs. The university is home to more than 106,000 alumni. Learn more at <u>saintleo.edu</u>.

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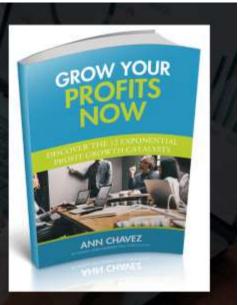




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3/18/2025	Cindy Bray Jerome Salatino	Executive Director, Hope Services, Inc. President/CEO, Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board
4/15/2025	Melonie Monson	Mayor of Zephyrhills, Former CEO/Executive Director of The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce and EPNG Platinum and Standing Ovation Award Recipient
	Jack Mariano	Pasco County Commissioner, District 5
5/20/2025	Bill Cronin	Pasco EDC
6/17/2025	Mike Fasano	Pasco County Tax Collector
	Mike Wells, Jr.	Pasco County Property Appraiser
7/15/2025	Nikki Alvarez-Sowles Vicki Wiggins, MBA, CFRE	Pasco County Clerk & Controller President/CEO Greater East Pasco Chamber of Commerce
8/19/2025	Chris Nocco Colonel Tait Sanborn Chase Daniels	Pasco County Sheriff Top Deputy, Pasco County Sheriff's Office Pasco County Sheriff's Office

9/16/2025	Todd Vandeberg Dr. Randall Stovall	Planning Director, City of Zephyrhills PHSC Dade City, Provost Dean Emeritus, ZEDC Chairman, Past Chairman Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce
10/21/2025	Tracy Hanson Brian Corely John Legg	Founder, Caterpillars to Butterflies Pasco Supervisor of Elections Pasco Superintendent of Schools
11/18/2025	Madonna Wise	Retired Educator and Author

Contact the Chair, Nils R. Lenz, 813-782-9491 or nilslenz@gmail.com, the Vice Chair, Amy Yarborough, cellphone: 813--312-4784 or her e-mail amyzingdestination@gmail.com,or any of our board members for suggested topics that you would like to hear about or to suggest specific speakers. If you would like to speak, contact us NOW to schedule your time during our Networking meetings.

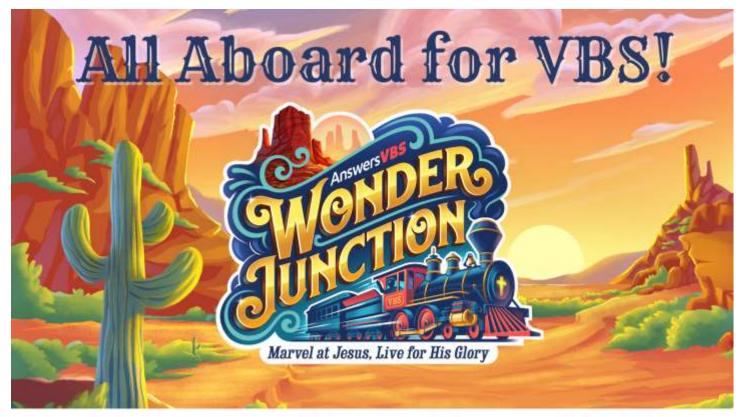
Networking is one of the best methods to make your business Grow. Finding a Network Group that offers great Speakers with relevant Topics for the –Growth & Enhancement of your business is not always easy!!

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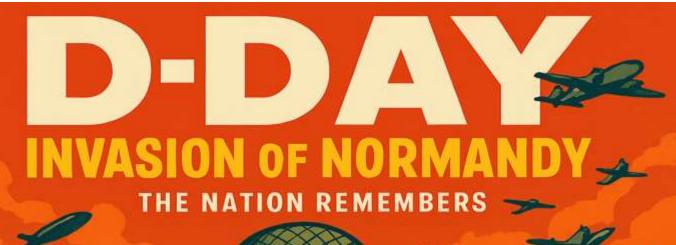
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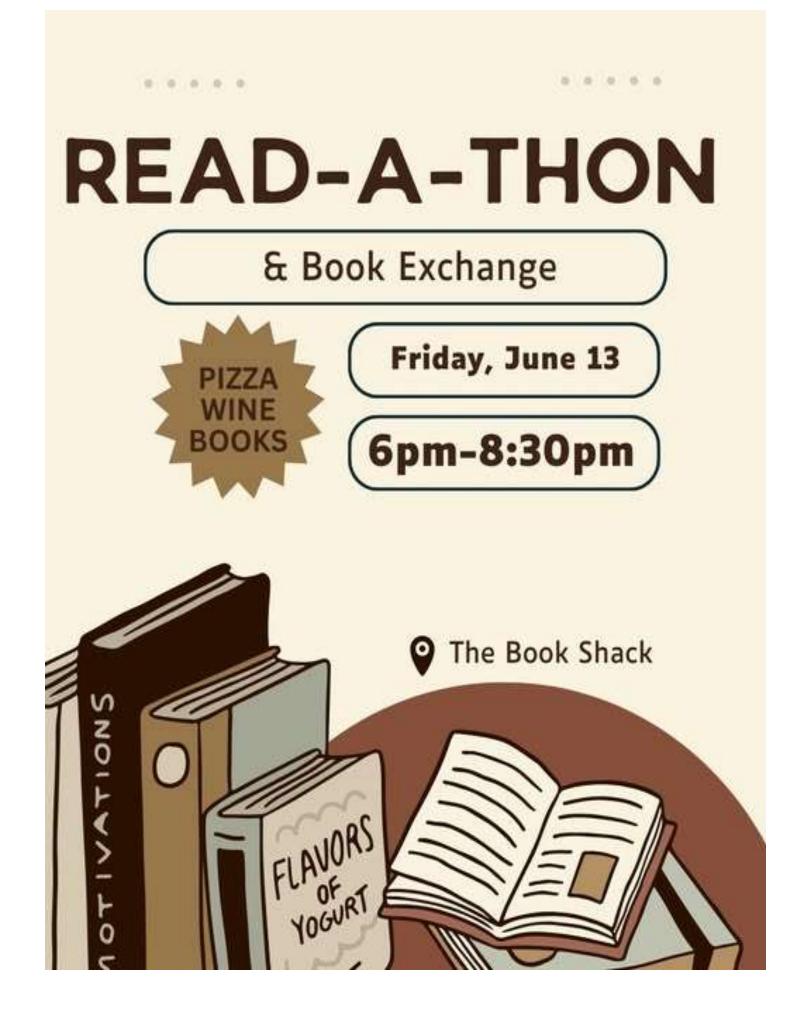
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