The beach has been noted before, but park staff give visitors’ care some credit for outdoor beauty

By AMBER R. JIOVANI Pinellas News

ST. PETERSBURG — Ft. DeSoto Park’s North Beach is No. 1 again.

According to TripAdvisor, an Internet travel service, the north beach at the county park is the top beach in America this year. Editors of the TripAdvisor Popularity Index determined the rankings, and mentioned a “spectacular combination of soft white sand, calm, clear water and a laid-back atmosphere.”

The park was honored by judges for its historic bunkers, building, wildlife and serenity. The park is no stranger to receiving national accolades. In 2005, Dr. Stephen Leatherman, also known as “Dr. Beach,” placed the park at the top of his annual list of best beaches in the nation.

“No doubt, you will see dolphins and perhaps a manatee,” stateFlorida.com beach and surf expert David McRee said. “You will surely return with a handful of shells and other treasures you’ve picked up. North Beach is the place to bring the kids for a swim.”

See BEACH | Page 2

Sungoddess coronation kicks off Festival of States

By AMBER R. JIOVANI Pinellas News

ST. PETERSBURG — Tonight, we meet the new Sungoddess. She is one of 15 college-age women who will participate in the annual Festival of States coronation ball and pageant.

The black-tie event, sponsored by Synovus Bank, begins at 7:30 p.m. at The Coliseum.

The Sungoddess, who represents the Festival of States and its organizing group, the Suncoasters, must have finished her first year of college, be single and live in Pinellas County south of Ulmerton Road.

Each year, the ball’s proceeds — about $30,000 — is donated to local schools and students for scholarships and programs. Officially named as a 1921, the festival began in 1986 as a parade to celebrate George Washington’s birthday. The festival was originally produced by St. Petersburg’s Chamber of Commerce and recreation department to entice seasonal residents to stay longer. By 1986, the festival grew too large for city staff to produce it, so a group of community leaders took charge.

See FESTIVAL | Page 5

No issue: DUIs among deputies, other workers show no pattern, office says

By DOUGLAS E. JESSMER Pinellas News

ST. PETERSBURG — After launching a banner on the Walling- ton-Indian Rocks Bridge in the early morning hours of March 21, an employee of the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office was charged with drunk driving.

The arrest was the fifth drunk- driving arrest in as many weeks among employees of the depart- ment, a total that includes two deputies assigned to jail operations. “In no way is the situation un- usual, or is there any sort of un- debting issue,” Sheriff’s Office spokeswoman Cecilia Barroda said Tuesday. “This is a very large agency, and we are very forth- coming with information pertain- ing to arrests of our members.”

When arrests are made among the 3,200-vanermb office, Barroda said, the department discloses them to the public “to be as tran- parent as possible.”

She said the Sheriff’s Office offers employee confidential, professional help, should they seek it. An employee assistance program is available through a third-party vendor, and within the ranks, critical incident stress man- agement (CISM) is offered. CISM is a program that in- cludes specially trained peers, medical health professionals, chaplains and counselors.

INSIDE Ft. DeSoto fast facts, timeline, park map

It’s rare for guests to pollute, and when trash gets spread, it’s from wildlife, the park’s supervisor says.

By AMBER R. JIOVANI Pinellas News

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**EVENT CALENDAR**

Submit your events to news@pinellas-news.com.

**Today**

**EMILY SMITH BAND** Award-winning Scottish singer and songerper Emily Smith, who has finally established herself as one of Scotland’s leading lights in folk music, will perform at 7 p.m. in the Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center, 324 Pine St. Tickets are $22 and $30. For information: 727-942-5685 or www.tarponsarts.org.

**Friday, March 28, 2008**

**NO PINELLAS NEWS PUBLISHED** We publish on Fridays, not Thursdays.

**Wednesday, April 2**

**VACCATURE BINGO TOURNAMENT** at 11 a.m. in the Clearwater Main Library, 100 N. Osmoia Ave. Compute against others in Guitar Hero III and CSR Super N6. Prizes and snacks will be provided.

**Thursday, April 3**

**UNDERSTANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP** This seminar, held from noon to 2 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, helps future and existing business owners evaluate their entrepreneurial strengths and weaknesses. Discussions shed light on the challenges of owning your own business. Held at the Epicenter, 13065 79th Ave. N., Clearwater. For information: yswarn@clearwaterchamber.org

**Friday, April 4**

**CHICAGO CITY LIMITS** Chicago City Limits, New York’s longest running show, is hailed as “theatrical and unrepeatable” in The New York Times. “An Evening With City Limits,” the national touring production, has been presented at discrete venues across the country, including Lincoln Center, the Smithsonian Institution, Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon, the Super Bowl, and at colleges and regional theaters in North America and Europe. Performances are at 8 p.m. in the Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center, 324 Pine St. Tickets are $22 and $30. For information: 727-942-5685 or www.tarponsarts.org.

**Saturday, April 5**

**APAC IFLR GIRL.** Join empowerment women working toward a world without violence with the 108 h.s. RN and 80s wave. The event has a post-race cutthroat breakfast, awards, giveaways, music and more. Sobies different age groups, mother-daughter teams, baby strollers and joggers are permitted with special start. No pets or inline skates. Begins at 7:30 a.m. For information: 727-942-4767 or apaciflrgirl@gmail.com.

**RECYCLE BETAFA** Pinellas County Utilities holds the annual event over the weekend of April 5 and 6 at North Shore Bay in Belleair Beach. The event is free. Open to the public. For information: 727-446-5000

**GIANT YARD SALE** at the England Brothers Bond, 5120 6th Ave N., Pinellas Park, Florida. For information: The Citizens Police Academy Alumni Assn. will hold the sale, and is looking for donations of household items, though on large appliances. Benefits the American Cancer Society. For information: 727-941-0790.

**SAND AND SAND MEET.** The 19th annual West Coast Mower Show and Swap Meet will be at the Town Square Plaza Parking Lot, 5121 6th Ave N., Pinellas Park, Dollar bills for the Hot 100.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6**

**Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament** will be held at Pinellas Park Softball Complex. Ages 12-65 registration. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission to all.

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**FOOD WASTE AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.** Food waste can be a food source, a fertilizer, composting. For information: 727-941-0790.

**PINEY WOODS MEDITATION** with the Meditation Society of Clearwater.

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**PINEY WOODS MEDITATION** with the Meditation Society of Clearwater.

**May 15th: Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto began his trek across the southeastern United States.**

**1841:** The Civil War breaks out with no fortification on either Fort McHenry or Fort Sumter. The two islands played a minor role in the war, serving as a Union blockade.

**1862:** Army engineers made the reservation of McHenry and Fort Sumter key permanent on this date.

**1908:** Construction began on the military posts on McHenry and Fort Sumter.

**1910:** The military reservation on McHenry Key, Ft. DeSoto after the Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto. It was officially a suffix of Ft. DeSoto on Egmont Key. Company A, 1st Artillery came to Ft. DeSoto.

**1911:** Nine volunteer buildings were constructed at a cost of $125,000.

**1912:** The post quartermaster gare a report of conditions at Ft. DeSoto. Hoods of moccasins caused the men to suffer day and night.

**1913:** The Ft. DeSoto garrison was transferred. It became inactive with just a few personnel.

**1920:** Both Ft. Dade and Ft. De Soto were commissioned, becoming active at each post.

**1932:** The Corps Authorized the Secretary of War to sell Ft. DeSoto and Ft. Dade. The U.S. Army and the government chose not to purchase the land.

**1931:** Many storms and hurricanes hit Ft. DeSoto, reducing the value of the 26 buildings that were on the Batter. Battery Richggort collapsed.

**1932:** The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners bought the 72-acre tract on McHenry Key for $32,000.

**1941:** The War Department decided to turn McHenry Key into a bomb range and, after buying it back from Pinellas County for $114,404, it returned it to military status.

**1944:** After the war, McHenry Key was sold back to Pinellas County for $2,458.24.

**1962:** Ft. De Soto opened when the toll Pinellas Bayway enabled island visitors to arrive by car.

**1963:** Park officially dedicated.

**1977:** Fort DeSota relics were placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**FAST FACTS**

**Largest park in Pinellas County 1.18 acres consist of five interconnected islands**

**More than 7 miles of waterfront with almost 3 miles of white sand beach**

**During World War II, the island was used for bombing practice by the pilot who dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945**

**The foundation of the fort itself was constructed of a stone-concrete formula, and the walls and ceiling used a stone, iron and concrete mix.**

**Ironically, Ft. DeSoto was never the site of any major battle, and the weapons of Ft. DeSoto and Ft. Dade were never fired in anger at an enemy**

**Ft. DeSoto has the only four 12-inch weapons of Ft. DeSoto and Ft. Dade on Egmont Key.**

**Ft. DeSoto has the only four 12-inch seacoast rifled mortars – model 1890, mounted on 1886 carriages, mounted in the continental United States.**

**Also at the fort are six-inch Armstrong rapid-firing guns (model 1896) which were originally mounted at Ft. Dade, and are the last two guns of that model year in the United States.**

**The land was once owned by Tocobaga Indians**

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**Ft. DeSoto Park**

**In Focus**

**Built for defense**

The land that’s now Ft. DeSoto Park first defended the coast

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**BEACH FROM Page 1**

North Beach is located at the northern point of McHenry Key. The expansive white-sand beach has a concession stand, picnic shelters, woodlands, and a large paved parking lot. North Beach is the main beach for swimming at Ft. DeSoto, and lifeguards are on duty from Easter through Labor Day. Park Supervisor Jim Wilson said, “After word No. 1 in 2005, Wilson said, the number of park visitors increased about 10 percent. The park was averaging 2.7 million visitors, now numbers about 3.2 million.

Wilson said the park is an around-the-clock-operation, with 45 staff members. Benefits cut people cannot.

“We must be good stewards of the land.” Wilson said. “It’s care for goats to pollinate flowers, he said, adding that visitors are usually good about placing trash in the proper receptacles. Us,

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**SOUTH TAMPA**

**TAMPA DAY**

**CAMP COUNTRY**

**Counseled Trail**

**Counseled Trail**

**Barriere Free Trail**

**Bicycle Path**

**Bicycle Path**

**Bicycle Path**

**Bicycle Path**

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**Outdoors**

**Getting outside makes you feel better.**

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**POSTMASTER:** Pleasesend changes of

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**OpinionsexpressedhereinarenotnecessarilythoseofthePinellasNews oritsowner.**
**Race your mug jugs**

Boats made of recyclables the focus of coming `regatta`

**St. Petersburg** – Got some old milk jugs lying around? You could build a boat and race it next weekend.

This year’s Recycle Regatta, sponsored by Pinellas County Utilities, will be at 10 a.m. on North Shore Beach, by Flex Wylie Park in St. Petersburg. Children and adults race one-of-a-kind, home-built boats from recyclable materials, including cardboard, plastic bottles and坨له bakery plywood.

“Each boat is created through the imagination of its builders,” spokesman Mug Campbell said, “and for many of these unique boats, it will be their first and last time in the water.”

“Whether they will make it to the finish line – even if it’s questionable, but the enthusiastic
crows have a great time and also
cant include Zach Nazidick as`
tutelage,” he added.

Each participant will receive a commemorative item, and water and light snacks will be provided for participants. In winners in each category will win trophies.

- **10 a.m. – Children in third, fourth and fifth grades**
- **11 a.m. – Children in sixth, seventh and eighth grades**
- **12:30 p.m. – High school**
- **1 p.m. – Adults or open**

The competition will be rain or
tide, and second-grade children may
race the race if accompanied by parents or guardians.

Last year, Campbell said, more than 200 participants.
Though in many places, the
two towns of Clearwater or
45 cents in tolls to get across
Florida looked like before high-
to take for granted… and that trans-
spend the day.

And that’s too bad.

There are too many to have been
southerners, like me,
outdoors that many
in Florida.

St. Pete – care exhaust
get in the
you don’t smell in Cleartown or

**Herald Village closes for county picnic**

Herald Village will be closed to the public next weekend for a Pinellas County employee appreciation picnic. The site will be closed April 1 and 2, and reopen April 3. The picnic will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on both days.

Pinellas County employee appreciation picnic.

**McGirts, PNC to merge**

The McGirt’s chain of restaurants and the Plaza Financial Group have announced that they have agreed to merge their companies. The new company, which will be called Mid-Southeast Financial, will have headquarters in St. Petersburg and will operate restaurants in the area.

**Doomed Boats Hold Anti-Pollution Regatta**

STUART – About 200 people turned out Saturday for the fifth annual Florida Anti-Pollution Regatta, held at the Stuart Yacht Club.

The event, which is held to raise awareness about environmental issues, featured races for children and adults.

**Tides Clothing to Kids board members announced**

The Florida Turnpike’s new board has named three new members of its board of directors – KP Coggins, John Hines and Kathleen Simon. The new board members will replace those who left the board when the Florida Turnpike Trust Board was dissolved last year.

**Safety Harbor, Demens Landing Park, Suncoast Pier to Close Over Weekend**

Three beach parks will be closed this weekend due to high winds and rough surf.

**Misfit Children and Teens” event planned in Safety Harbor**

The Misfit Children and Teens event will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at the Safety Harbor Downtown Park, 110 South Palm Avenue, Safety Harbor.

**Police seek information on deputy’s disappearance**

Detectives are looking for information on a deputy who disappeared Thursday.

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Volunteers train for emergencies

During training, actual incident breaks out

CLEARWATER—Members of Civil Air Patrol from across the Tampa Bay area assembled for continuing training Saturday in air and ground search and rescue.

Three airplanes and members of several units in Clearwater, St. Petersburg, Tampa and Brooksville trained in emergency services specialists at two sites—Clearwater Air Park and Starkey Park in New Port Richey.

The exercise was overheard in its early hours by an auxiliary officer from the U.S. Air Force Civil Air Patrol, who was patrolling the area.

“We’re moving our units to a monthly training cycle to develop and maintain critical skills in the event of an emergency,” said Maj. Rod Miles, the commander of the U.S.AirForce.CAP in Citrus County, a mission backed by CAP’s parent organization, the U.S. Air Force. CAP is the Air Force’s volunteer civil defense agency.

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A look at the candidates who will compete tonight at the Festival of States coronation ball:

The Festival of States coronation ball: thousands yearly. The Festival draws more than 280 civic and business leaders and journalists from across the state and out of state. The Festival of States is a three-day event held in North Straub Park in St. Petersburg, Florida, that provides educational programs and networking opportunities for professionals in arts and music.

To view the Festival of States schedule of events, visit festivalofstates.com.

The candidates for Florida governor and lieutenant governor are:

- Sylvester Ziglar and Shara Loudermilk
- Ryan Winkler and Sheila overlays
- Andrew Gillum and Jennifer Carroll
- Ron DeSantis and Jeanette Nunez
- Alex Kolomaytsev and Natacha Bouchard
- Question: What is the Festival of States and when is it held?

The Festival of States is an annual event held in North Straub Park in St. Petersburg, Florida. It is a three-day event that provides educational programs and networking opportunities for professionals in arts and music. The Festival is held in March, and the specific dates for the event can be found on the festivalofstates.com website.
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DELIBERATION OF TITLE ON THEparcel of LAND generally Located at

Florida33756, whose mailing address is

Court Administration, original with the Clerk of this Court either before service of

Lot 41, WILD WOOD, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Official

A COPY OF THIS NOTICE

MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. and WELLS FARGO BANK NA,....

IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

Return to the Clerk of the Circuit Court either before service on the Plaintiffs

MAR 07, 14, 21, 28, 2008 030701

Clearwater, FL 33756-5165.

The names and addresses of the

TO:

IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY,

FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR

THE DATE OF SERVICE OF

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an order of Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 10, 2008, and entered upon the docket of this Court, docket number 07-10985-CI-12, in the cause

on or before March 28, 2008. As a consequence of the entry of the Judgment of

Deceased, whose date of death

THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE

CLEAN UP. INVENTORY AND DELIVERY OF DECEASED’S RESIDENCE

Florida, will hold a SECOND PUBLIC HEARING upon the

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT,

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Pinellas Park, Florida, will hold a FIRST

FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR

SULLIVAN & HOGAN, P.A.

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**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 93098-07-AG**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

*George S. Carrico, deceased*

**NOTICE OF CLAIMS TO DECEASED ESTATE**

The administration of the estate of George S. Carrico, deceased, whose date of death is March 20, 2008, and whose place of death is Pinellas County, Florida, is hereby commenced by the undersigned, Roderick S. Fisher, 4310 100th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Florida 33782.

All creditors of the estate of George S. Carrico, deceased, are hereby notified to present their claims to the personal representative, Roderick S. Fisher, 4310 100th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Florida 33782, within three months after the date of the publication of this notice.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Hearing will be held on April 7th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in City Hall, 5141 78th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Florida 33781.

A copy of this notice, a copy of the Inventory and Appraisement and a copy of the Administration Petition may be obtained from the court clerk.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**NOTICE OF CLAIMS TO DECEASED ESTATE**

The administration of the estate of John L. Carrico, deceased, whose date of death is January 12, 2008, and whose place of death is Pinellas County, Florida, is hereby commenced by the undersigned, John L. Carrico, Jr., 3661 154th Street North, Pinellas Park, Florida 33781.

All creditors of the estate of John L. Carrico, deceased, are hereby notified to present their claims to the personal representative, John L. Carrico, Jr., 3661 154th Street North, Pinellas Park, Florida 33781, within three months after the date of the publication of this notice.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Hearing will be held on April 7th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in City Hall, 5141 78th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Florida 33781.

A copy of this notice, a copy of the Inventory and Appraisement and a copy of the Administration Petition may be obtained from the court clerk.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**NOTICE OF CLAIMS TO DECEASED ESTATE**

The administration of the estate of Deborah A. Bushnell, deceased, whose date of death is March 28, 2008, and whose place of death is Pinellas County, Florida, is hereby commenced by the undersigned, Deborah A. Bushnell, 204 Scotland Street, Dunedin, Florida 34698.

All creditors of the estate of Deborah A. Bushnell, deceased, are hereby notified to present their claims to the personal representative, Deborah A. Bushnell, 204 Scotland Street, Dunedin, Florida 34698, within three months after the date of the publication of this notice.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Hearing will be held on April 7th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in City Hall, 5141 78th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Florida 33781.

A copy of this notice, a copy of the Inventory and Appraisement and a copy of the Administration Petition may be obtained from the court clerk.
Rays plan post-game barbecue, Air Force flyover, all-stadium team tributes to former professional baseball players who called the historic Al Lang Field their spring training home.

ST. PETERSBURG — After 83 years of spring training baseball, Al Lang Field’s last game is today. The Tampa Bay Rays plan a celebration in the final game, against the Cincinnati Reds, at the Downtown ballpark.

Festivities include an Air Force fly-over, a presentation of the All-Time Al Lang Team, a roster of the best playerstocall the Al Lang sitetheir spring training home, a free post-game barbecue for all fans in attendance, and numerous giveaways.

The Rays will move their spring training to Charlotte Sports Park in Port Charlotte for the 2009 season.

“Baseball history emanating from this site rivals that of any major league stadium and none of it would have been possible without Al Lang, who was unsurpassed as an ambassador of baseball in this state,” Rays President Matt Silverman said. “His actions sparked St. Petersburg’s economy nearly a century ago and helped shape a city. While we are playing our last game at Al Lang Field, the Rays organization will see it as his legacy lives on in St. Petersburg.”

Hall of Fame Monte Irvin will be signing autographs from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Among the other guests of honor are John and Hugh Fugen, great-nephews and the closest living relatives of Al Lang.

Rays fans hosts will give away Al Lang Field commemorative posters to the first 6,500 fans through the gates. A special on-field presentation will reveal the All-Time Al Lang Team, a roster of the best players to call the Al Lang site their spring training home. The team will include numerous Hall of Famers and at least two players at every position.

After the game, the fans are invited onto the field for a free barbecue and live music. Kids will have the chance to run the bases and play catch on the field.

Between innings, the Rays and the Rays will recognize teams who played on the historic site, including the St. Petersburg Saints, Boston Braves, New York Yankees, St. Louis Cardinals, New York Mets and St. Petersburg Pelicans.

The Rays will pay tribute to the late Tommy Walton, the singing hot dog vendor who entertained fans at Al Lang Field for nearly two decades.