

**Inside this week...**

**Community Players Opening Gala**  
 see page 2

**Floral Design Class**  
 see page 5

**Women's Club Annual Fundraiser**  
 see page 6

**Foreclosure Prevention Workshop**  
 see page 17

**Howard Troxler To Speak At Library**  
 see page 20

**Pink Flamingo Tour Home Search**  
 see page 27

**Dog Foster Homes Needed**  
 see page 31

**Stetson Panel Discusses Wrongful Convictions**  
 see page 33

**Farewell To Healthcare**  
 see page 36

**Meals On Wheels Needs Drivers**  
 see page 45

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## Santa, North Pole Cow Meet For Breakfast on Beach

By Cathy Salustri

Saying that he "needed to give the reindeer a break before their busy night this week." Santa Claus brought North Pole Cow to a breakfast in his honor Tuesday morning. Santa and North Pole Cow dined on chicken biscuits, Danish, and fruit at the St. Pete Beach Community Center, where locals and visitors alike joined them.

While Tyler Boling came from Kentucky to visit with North Pole Cow, locals Jacob Gaines, 7, and his older brother Zach, 8, had only to travel from Tierra Verde to pose with the unusual twosome.

The city of St. Pete Beach recreation staff took photos of everyone as they visited with Santa and will give them to them later this month. The St. Pete Beach Chick-fil-a, where North Pole Cow started her career before moving to the North Pole, donated the food.



## Art Walk Welcomes Winter



Photo by Leigh Clifton

Art Walk vendor Sigrid Hasath is all smiles as she shows a smiling Marilyn Anthony one of her warm knitted hats. Hasath hand-knits her pieces; the knitted hats, gloves and scarves proved to be big sellers at the last Saturday Art Walk of 2009 last weekend, as the temperature dipped low enough for coats and hats. Anthony is visiting from Canada, where they know cold!

## Mr. Bill

By Cathy Salustri

Bill O'Connor was ready to die in September. I saw him on a bay cruise that left from St. Pete Beach, and he had come straight from a doctor's appointment where his doctors told him he had prostate cancer as well as lower bowel cancer.

Beach locals know the tall, gentle, joking man in the motorized scooter only as "Mr. Bill." Mr. Bill lives across the street from the Dolphin Landings boat docks, and on the first and last Wednesday of the month he takes his scooter down to the docks to see



Mr. Bill O'Connor

See *Mr. Bill*, page 50

## Opening Gala and VIP Performance

The City of Gulfport will be celebrating its Centennial Anniversary in 2010! Together, the City of Gulfport and the Gulfport Community Players will be kicking off this year long celebration by staging a never-before-seen musical at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater of Gulfport entitled, "Gulfport: The Musical".

The Players will be staging a special one-night-only VIP performance of this musical on Friday, January 8 preceded by a social hour beginning at 7 p.m. VIP Tickets are available by advance reservation only for just \$25 each, which includes hors d'oeuvres and two complimentary drinks. To

reserve your VIP tickets, please call the Players at 727-322-0316 to RSVP, and include your name and phone number in your message. A Players member will call you back to confirm your reservation and place you on the VIP list!

About this play: Gil Perloth, with the help of Lynne Brown, wrote "Gulfport: The Musical"-including the music for it - during the last year and a half. Gil has lived in Gulfport for the last 12 years and is quite well known for his playwriting ability, with many published plays to his credit. "Gulfport: The Musical" centers on highlights of the history of Gulfport, with a little poetic license thrown in for good measure! It is most definitely a musical, with over 20 original songs, plus a little

history. Chances are, most of us will not be around for Gulfport's 200th anniversary celebration, so be sure to catch this one!

Help Gulfport kick off its Centennial Celebration in style! Meet your neighbors and friends at the Theater for a little finger food, socializing, and a great play about our wonderful City! If you can't make it to this special VIP performance, the play will run from January 9 through January 24, with tickets priced at \$15 each.

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## New Mat Pilates Exercise Class

Classes will start the first week in January. This class will be offered Monday and Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. and Tuesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Classes will be \$8 dollars each. Please contact the instructor Lisa at 639-9277 or John at the Rec. at 893-1079 for more information. Also for more details on all our classes please visit the Rec. center link on our website: [http://www.mygulfport.us/City\\_Departments/Leisure\\_Services/Rec\\_Center/NEW/index.htm](http://www.mygulfport.us/City_Departments/Leisure_Services/Rec_Center/NEW/index.htm).

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## Two Free Services for Pets in Need

People on limited income and those facing financial hardship can receive free pet food by calling to apply and make an appointment for pick-up. Pit Bull and Pit Mix owners can have their canine companion spayed or neutered at no charge, thanks to the Florida Animal Friends license plate program. Service includes pet vaccinations and rabies shots. Fix a Pit applications are accepted in-person on Tuesdays from 9-4 p.m. No appointment needed, remember to bring your form 1040 (individual income of \$20,000 or less, add \$5,000 income for each additional person in household.) Do not bring your dog with you. Located at 9099 130 Avenue N. Hours are Tuesday-Thursday, 11-7 p.m.; Friday, 11-6 p.m.; Saturday, 11-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Monday closed. For more information call, 727-586-3591 or go to [www.spcatampabay.org](http://www.spcatampabay.org).

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## Beginner's Watercolor with Margo

Margo is back for her yearly winter watercolor session at the Gulfport Recreation Center. Classes are on Tuesday mornings from 10-noon. Session starts January 12 and ends February 16. Cost is \$60 for the six week session and is payable at first lesson. For more information, call Margo at 347-1859 or John at

the **Gabber**

### Holiday Deadline

Next week's Gabber will be distributed on Wednesday December 30th.

Deadline for advertising for the December 31st issue is Noon on Tuesday for all advertising.

**Be safe this Holiday Season!**

the Recreation Center at 893-1079. Bring soft pencil, eraser and 8-1/2 x 11 drawing paper to first class.

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## Audition for "You Can't Take It with You"

The Gulfport Community Players will be holding auditions for the comedy, "You Can't Take It with You", on Monday, January 4 and Tuesday, January 5 at 7 p.m. Auditions will be held at the Players' Back Door Theater, located at 4919 17 Avenue S. in Gulfport. This classic comedy will be directed by Eileen Navarro and she'll need a cast of 19 people, including: seven females (mid 20's to 50's). One of these females must be black, in her 30's. Eileen also needs another actress in her late 20's who can perform ballet movements. She'll also need 12 males (20's - 70's), including one black actor. There will be cold readings at the audition, although not necessarily all from the script. Performance dates are March 4 through March 14, 2010 at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater of Gulfport.

This play is set in New York City during the Great Depression. The play revolves around the very eccentric family of Martin Vanderhof, a former Wall Street tycoon, who spends his time throwing darts and going to college commencements throughout the city. His daughter is a playwright, while her husband manufactures fireworks in their basement. Their daughter practices ballet in the living room under the tutelage of a Russian instructor. There is also a dinner party that goes very wrong, ending with some exploding fireworks and a night in jail! Toss in a very complicated romance, made even more complicated by one set of the parents, and you have a very funny comedy that should be just the thing to start off the New Year!

This play won the Pulitzer Prize in 1936, and a few years later (after being made into a movie), it won the Academy Award for Best Picture for 1938. It's a very fast moving play, with a lot of physical action involved.

All interested people are urged to try out for a part, regardless of their previous acting experience.

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# la fogata

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#### OPEN

9-5 Mon - Wed, 9-2 Fri, Closed Thursday

#### Publishers / Editors

Ken & Deb Reichart

#### Customer Service / Sales

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#### Serving

Gulfport, South Pasadena,  
Azalea, Grand Central District,  
Northwest St. Petersburg, Tyrone,  
Kenwood, Central Oak Park,  
Southwest St. Petersburg, Maximo,  
Tierra Verde, St. Pete Beach,  
Pass-A-Grille, Treasure Island,  
Pinellas Point

Circulation 13,000

#### Deadlines

Editorial Copy Monday - Noon  
Display Advertising Tuesday - 5 pm  
if proof is required - Monday Noon  
Classified Advertising Tuesday - 5pm

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## “Antiques in the Park” Returns to Gulfport

Following the successful November premiere of Gulfport’s “Antiques in the Park” series, the show will return to Clymer Park on Saturday, January 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This outdoor antiques and collectibles fair is co-sponsored by the City of Gulfport and the Gulfport Lions Club, and is held in the first block of Beach Boulevard at the intersection of Gulfport Boulevard.

There will be a great assortment of vintage fun for sale at Antiques in the Park including estate jewelry, old pottery, art, china and glassware, clocks, old beer signs, tools, linens, toys, Florida memorabilia, furniture, primitives, and even vintage Aloha shirts. Admission and parking for the public is free. The rain date for the antique show is the next day, Sunday, January 3.

Antique dealers should call 727-421-0441 for registration or visit [www.hulahula.biz](http://www.hulahula.biz).

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## Annual Christmas Light Display

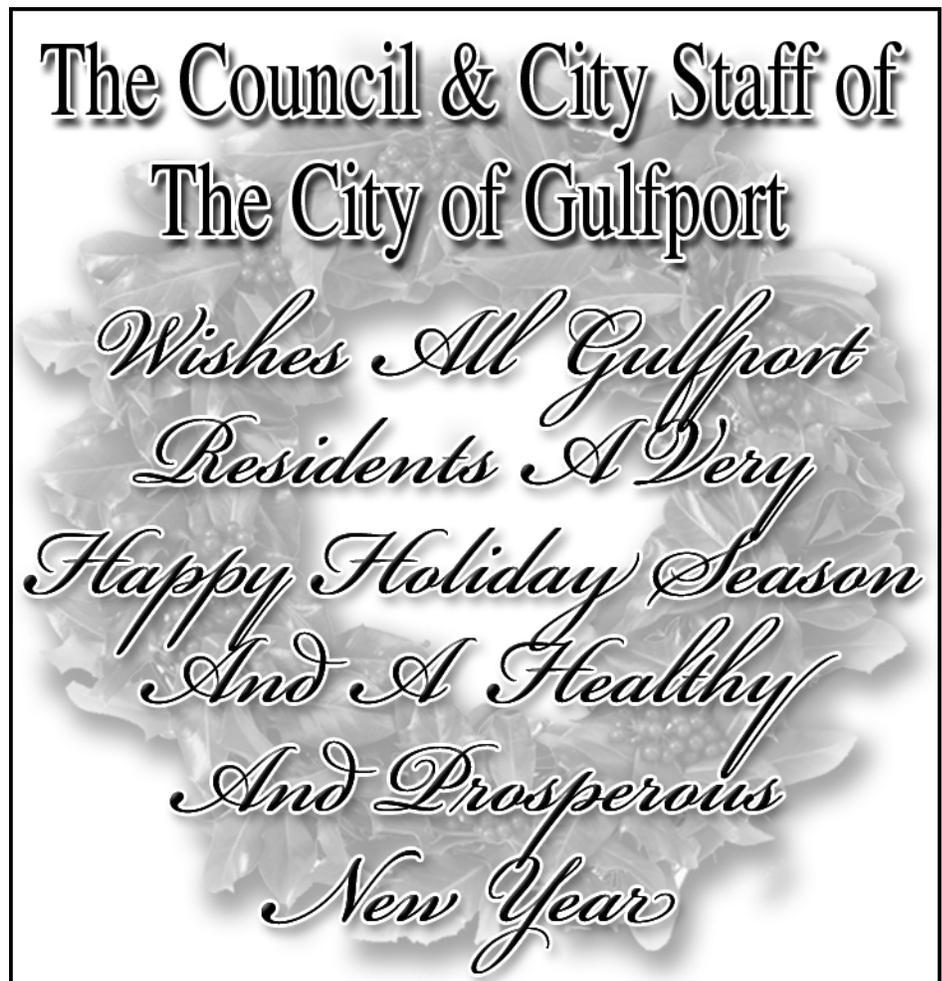
The Oakdale Christmas Display located at 2719 Oakdale Street S. in St. Petersburg boasts an estimated 100,000 lights. The display blanketing nearly 1/2 acre features hundreds of moving and animated items, lots of inflatable and lit up figures and displays, a walking yard tour that includes an 18-train HO scale model RR and a dazzling fiber optic forest. For the kids there are hands-on games and bubble machines. Oakdale is off of Fourth Street just south of 22nd Avenue S. Operates daily from 6-10 p.m. Free. Visit [christmasdisplay.org](http://christmasdisplay.org).

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## Senior’s Chat Room to Resume in January

The Gulfport Senior Center, 5501 27 Avenue S. in Gulfport, will hold a Chat Room every Friday at 2 p.m. It will resume on January 8. Happy holidays to all.

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## BPW to Meet

Frank Farkas, D.C. will be the speaker at the next Business Professional Women St. Petersburg/Pinellas meeting. Farkas is the Clinic Director of the Farkas Chiropractic Clinic in St. Petersburg. He will speak on health and wellness. The meeting will be Thursday, January 7. The group meets at 400 Beach Seafood and Tap House located at 400 Beach Drive NE in St. Petersburg.

Networking begins at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting begins at 12 noon. Meetings are open to the public but reservations must be made by noon the Tuesday prior to the meeting. Cost is \$16 for members and \$21 for visitors.

BPW St. Pete Pinellas is the local chapter of Business and Professional Women/USA. Founded in 1919, the organization is multigenerational and nonpartisan. The local organization's mission is to achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education and information.

For more information or for contact information visit [www.BPWStPetePinellas.org](http://www.BPWStPetePinellas.org) or to reserve email [RSVP@BPWStPetePinellas.org](mailto:RSVP@BPWStPetePinellas.org) or call 727-471-8248 or fax 314 602-7823.

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## Floral Design Class

A new Floral Design class is coming to the Gulfport Recreation Center in January. Laurie Marino, floral designer and instructor, is bringing her popular floral design class back.

You will learn basic floral design and make an arrangement in this new week long session starting Wednesday January 13 and ending January 27, all materials and flowers (fresh) are provided. All you need to bring are your scissors. Step by step instructions-no experience necessary. Pre-registration with deposit required. Call Laurie directly at 727-289-4818. She can also be emailed at [makeitandtakeit@yahoo.com](mailto:makeitandtakeit@yahoo.com). Only \$22 per class or \$60 dollars for the full 3 week session.

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## Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ



6315 Central Ave.  
St. Petersburg  
727-347-1226

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Adult Sunday School

9:30am

*Christmas Eve Service*

December 24 7:30 pm

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## Gulfport Lions Club Spaghetti Supper

The Gulfport Lions Club will be hosting their Spaghetti Supper on January 9. All their events support community outreach programs in sight conservation; four Pancake Breakfasts, a Shrimp Boil in March, along with our Fish Fry (September), our Spaghetti Suppers (October and January) and Journey for Sight (March). Some of the entities that they sponsor are The Florida Lions Camp for the Visually Impaired, The Watson Center for the Visually Impaired, the Conklin Center for the Multi- Handicapped Blind, the Central Florida Eye Bank,

Southeast Guide Dogs, WUSF Radio Reading Service, the Florida Lions Foundation, our local eyeglass and examination program, local Scouting and Little League programs, and many more. So please come out and support your local Lions.

The menu will consist of spaghetti and meatballs, salad, garlic bread, dessert, coffee, tea. This is an all you can eat supper, so bring your appetite, your family and friends. Cost is \$7 per ticket. Children under 10, \$4. All Gulfport Lions Club members have tickets, so if you want to pre-purchase them, ask any local Lion. Otherwise, they will have an adequate supply of them at the door.

There will be door prizes, so come on down to the marina area and visit with the Lions on Saturday, January 9 at 4630 Tifton Drive S., right behind the Gulfport Marina. They will be serving from 4-7 p.m. Directions: go south on 49th Street to the stop sign at the water, turn left and follow the road around to the Lions Club. Their next event will be a Pancake Breakfast on February 6.

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## Gulfport Women's Club Annual Fundraiser

The Gulfport Women's Club will hold their Annual Card/Game Party on Wednesday, January 27. It will be a noon luncheon at Town Shores Auditorium with games beginning at 1 p.m. Event includes door prizes and an auction of generous donations given by local businesses. It is best to book a group table for your game so book early. Public groups are invited. Donation is \$12 with proceeds to be donated to schools and seniors. For information or tickets call Petie at 343-6450 or Julie at 343-6587.

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## Get Help with Medicare Enrollment

With the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period upon us, (November 15 through December 31), now is the time for seniors to review their current health care and prescription drug coverage. The Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, Inc is a local source for information and assistance to help them through this important period in Medicare. The Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, Inc., in partnership with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs' SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) program, are reminding Florida Medicare beneficiaries to carefully evaluate their health care needs and seek assistance as needed with preparing for the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period.

With so many options among Medicare Prescription Drug (Part D) Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans, which vary by location, it is important for seniors to understand what options are available to them. Medicare beneficiaries who have questions or concerns about the upcoming Medicare Annual Enrollment Period have a place to turn and get objective assistance with comparing plans.

Specially trained SHINE volunteer counselors provide free information and assistance at several locations throughout Pasco and Pinellas Counties. Consumers can speak to a volunteer by phone. Call the Elder Helpline toll-free at 1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337) and ask to be connected with a SHINE counselor.

month and every Thursday at 9 a.m. From there they travel to different parks to do their walking. Cost is \$2 per trip. Please call John at 727-893-1079 if you are interested. Once they have formed the club they will put out a monthly schedule with a start date.

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## Join the Walking Club

It is almost that time of year for the walking club to begin. The walking club meets two Tuesdays of the

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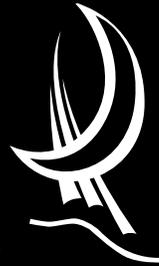
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## Garden Club to Hold Workshops

The Garden Club of St. Petersburg will hold a Coffee & Garden Crafts Workshop on Monday, January 4 from 10-12 noon at the Garden Club Center, 500 Sunset Drive S. in St. Petersburg. A materials fee of \$3.50 for Garden Club members and \$4.50 for guests and the general public will be charged to cover supplies.

The workshop will be on "Making Something New from Something Broken". Bring some of your broken jewelry that you no longer want and make a new fun items from it. All craft workshops are open to the general public, potential new members and guests. Please bring your own scissors, pencil and small paint brushes. Coffee and tea will be furnished. For more information, call Betty Martin at 343-2255.

They will hold their Horticulture for Weekend Gardeners (aka the "Night Bloomers" Circle) on Tuesday, January 5 at 7 p.m. at the Garden Center. The program will be "Green Florida" by Mary Campbell of the Pinellas County Extension and will cover every aspect of living green in your daily life. Help the environment, save money and help your community. For more information, contact Derri Davisson at derridavisson@hotmail.com or call 727-423-7644. Meetings are open to the public but there will be a \$5 charge for nonmembers of the Garden Club to help cover speaker expense.

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## Expand your Boating Knowledge and Skills

The America's Boating Course presented by the St. Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron is available to anyone 12 or older. Instruction is free. Cost of the materials is \$25 per family. Classes are held once a week (two hours each Monday), for seven weeks. Completion of this course will enable the student to skipper a boat with confidence. Because most skippers will attend only one safety course, we believe it should be as comprehensive as possible. Plus, graduates are eligible to join the squadron and take advantage of all the other great educational opportunities afforded to SPSPS members. The class starts Monday, January 11 from 7-9 p.m. at the St. Petersburg Sailing Center, 250 Second Ave SE, Demens Landing, St. Petersburg. Pre-registration is required. You may do it online at [www.boating-stpete.org](http://www.boating-stpete.org) or call 727-498-4001. The course chairman will contact you for confirmation.

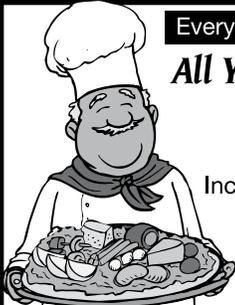
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## Friday Open Air Market in Treasure Island

The Treasure Island Chamber of Commerce announces that the Friday Open Air Markets has started every Friday until March (excluding holidays) from 9-2 p.m. at the Community Center, Market features arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, music, free parking and free gift wrapping during December. Rain or shine.

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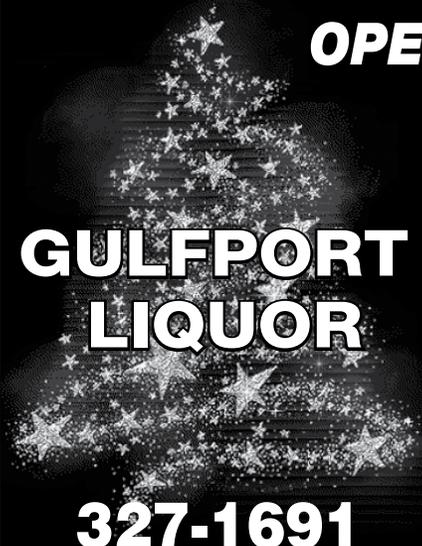
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## Woman's Club Holds Craft Competition

Members of the GFWC St. Petersburg Woman's Club at 40 Snell Isle Boulevard NE will hold their annual Arts & Crafts Festival on Friday, January 8 at 1 p.m. A variety of works will be on display such as quilting, crocheting, bead work, painting and photography to name a few. Guests are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. Winners from this event will go on to the Regional Federation of Woman's Club Arts & Craft Competition in February.

For more information on monthly meetings, diverse activities including arts and craft projects, monthly excursions, book discussions, weekly sewing and card games or rental information of their clubhouse, please call 822-4982. Guests are welcome to attend all our events. GFWC St. Petersburg Woman's Club has been serving the community since 1913.

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## Abused Children Need Your Help

Be the voice for an abused or neglected child. Hundreds more volunteer Guardians ad Litem are urgently needed to be a child's voice in court and the child welfare system. The average time needed is six to 10 hours a month. A Guardian ad Litem works with a professional staff and an attorney to ensure that a child has a safe, caring and stable environment.

The first training in 2010 will meet Tuesdays and Wednesdays evenings, 6-9 p.m. for five weeks starting January 12.

Call 727-464-6528 to arrange to attend a 30-minute orientation. For more information and an application go to [www.guardianadlitem6.org](http://www.guardianadlitem6.org).

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## Ombudsman Program Needs Volunteers

Florida's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers to join its corps of dedicated advocates who protect the rights of elders residing in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family care homes. The program's local councils are seeking

additional volunteers to identify, investigate and resolve residents' concerns. Special training and certification is provided.

All interested individuals who care about protecting the health, safety, welfare and rights of long-term care facility residents -- who often have no one else to advocate for them -- are encouraged to call toll-free (888) 831-0404 or visit the program's Web site at <http://ombudsman.myflorida.com>.

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## 2nd Mile Recovery Group

Meetings promote growth in Christ and recovery from addictions. Open to all those affected by addiction whether individually afflicted or burdened with someone who is. Meetings will be held Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at Tradewinds Church located at 6740 Park Street S., So. Pasadena. Call 344-1501 for more information.

...

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FREE Courtesy Rides Available . Bring your repairs to us... Your Car will Thank You!

**Present this coupon to receive our special:**

<h1 style="margin: 0;">\$23<sup>95</sup></h1> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Plus Tax &amp; Disposal</p>	<p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Reg. \$34.50 + Tax</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Save \$10<sup>00</sup></h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Check your brakes.</li> <li>▪ Check your belts &amp; hoses.</li> <li>▪ Change your oil filter.</li> <li>▪ Check &amp; rotate your tires.</li> <li>▪ Check for tune-up and conduct a 22 point vehicle inspection.</li> </ul>
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Sales tax. Offer good for most cars & light trucks. Includes up to 5 qts. Premium Oil, Filter. Does not include synthetic oils. Must present this coupon at time of order. Coupon expires 1/13/10

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: large;">TUNE-UP</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Starting At</p> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">\$39<sup>95</sup></h2> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">4 Cyl. Most Cars</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Must present this coupon at time of order. Coupon expires 1/13/10</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: large;">4-WHEEL BALANCE</p> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">\$18<sup>00</sup></h2> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Must present this coupon at time of order. Coupon expires 1/13/10</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: large;">FRONT END ALIGNMENT</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">• Most Cars • Includes Tire Rotation</p> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">\$54<sup>95</sup></h2> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">Appointment may be necessary</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Must present this coupon at time of order. Coupon expires 1/13/10</p>
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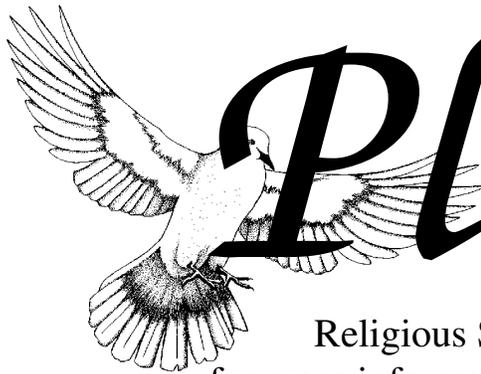


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for more information on placing your ad in this special section

**St. Vincent's  
Episcopal Church**  
5441 9th Avenue North  
Saint Petersburg, Florida 33710  
**(727) 321-5086**

**Schedule of Worship**  
**Sunday Worship**  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM  
**Wednesday 10:00 AM**  
(Healing)

Worship with us Sunday  
mornings at 10 am  
Get info now at [kingofpeacebcc.com](http://kingofpeacebcc.com)



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KING OF PEACE  
METROPOLITAN  
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727-323-5857 • 3150 5th Ave. N., St. Pete

The **Island Chapel**  
**Sunday Services**  
8 am & 10 am  
Children's Nursery Provided  
Adult Sunday Bible Study 9:00 am  
Children's Sunday School 10:00 am

**Dr. Mike Wetzel, Pastor**  
Chris Howard, Associate Pastor of Worship & Education  
1271 Pinellas Bayway, Tierra Verde, FL. 33715  
(behind the Mercantile Bank)  
**(727) 866-7362**  
Website: [www.theislandchapel.org](http://www.theislandchapel.org)

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We are a lay led Fellowship guided by truth,  
reason and tolerance. We invite you to  
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Discussion - 10:15 AM  
Program - 11:00 AM  
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**A Non-Denominational  
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**EVERYONE WELCOME**  
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Christmas Eve Service 6pm**

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727-302-1674  
email: [LakeMaggiore11@knology.net](mailto:LakeMaggiore11@knology.net)  
**Single, Widowed, Divorced?**  
Join us on Sunday at 9:30 am for Bible Study &  
Fellowship. Refreshments, Birthdays Celebrated  
**Sunday Morning:**  
Bible Study 9:30am. Worship Service 11am.  
**Sunday Evening:**  
Discipleship Training 6pm Worship Service 7pm  
**Wednesday:** Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7pm

**TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD**  
Metaphysical Community Church  
1950 2nd Ave. No., St. Petersburg  
**(727) 822-8628 (727) 822-3157**  
Sunday Worship Services 11:00 am  
12/24 Thurs ~ Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service - 7:00 pm  
12/27 Sun, Burning Bowl Service 11:00 am  
12/27 Sun. Reiki & Healing Touch 12:30 pm  
**Check our WEBSITE for Classes/Events**  
[www.templeofthelivinggod.org](http://www.templeofthelivinggod.org)

**Trinity United  
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1150 49th St. N.  
321-1088  
[www.TrinityStPete.org](http://www.TrinityStPete.org)

**Everyone Welcome - Open and Affirming**

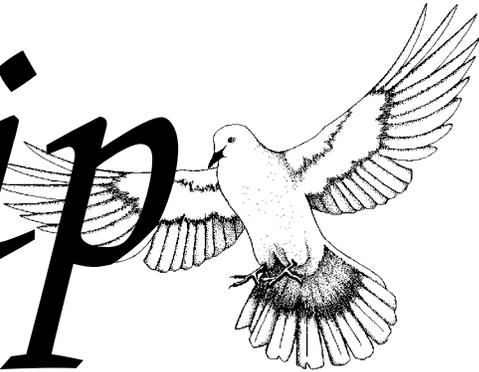
**Sunday Mornings**  
Contemporary Worship service: 10:30am  
Children's Sunday School: 9:30am  
Adult Sunday School: 9:45am  
Middle School Youth Group: 3:00pm  
Children's Nursery Provided  
Thursday Pastor's Book Study: 6:30pm  
Rev. Gaye Bosley-Mitchell, Pastor

**+** **Have Questions?** **+**  
**Get Answers!**

**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
and School**  
**Pastor Paul Burtzloff**  
301 58th St. South  
St. Petersburg, FL. 33707

**Traditional Service 8:00 AM**  
**Contemporary Service 10:00 AM**  
**Traditional Service 11:30 AM**  
**Sunday School 9:00 AM**

# Worship



## Grief Support Group Begins in January

Each Friday beginning January 8 from 10 a.m. until noon GriefShare DVD's will be shown at Cornerstone Community Church at 6745 38 Avenue N. in St. Petersburg. Everyone who is experiencing a loss of a loved one is welcome. You may begin at any time throughout the 13 weeks. Cost is \$1 at each session to help pay for the workbooks. Professionals who work with grieving people will be most helpful to you. For more information please call 727-343-7747.

## Hog Heaven Barbecue Dinner

First United Methodist Church of Gulfport will hold their 3rd Annual Hog Heaven Barbecue dinner on Saturday, January 9 from 5-7:30 p.m. John "Ribdog" Verville, Master Kansas City Barbecue Society judge, will be cooking his championship pork. In addition to generous portions of competition quality hickory-smoked pulled pork, dinners will include hickory smoked baked beans, cole slaw, bread and dessert. Tickets are \$7.50 in advance or \$8.50 at the door. Hot dog dinners for children under 12 are also available for \$3. Purchase

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PRESBYTERIAN  
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*Welcomes You*  
Sunday Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Terrific Tuesday ..... 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
**5312 27th Ave. S. 321-8086**

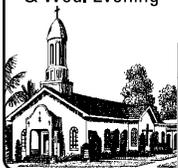
tickets at the church office located at 2728 53 Street S. in Gulfport or call 321-3620 or 727-488-9031.

## Thrift Shop has Sales on Thursdays

St. Vincent's Thrift Shop is now featuring a sale every Thursday when all clothing is half off. Many items to choose from. Located at 5124 Gulfport Boulevard, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**First United Methodist Church of Gulfport**  
www.gulfportumc.org  
**28th Ave. S. & 53rd St. 321-3620**

<b>Child Care</b> both Sun. morn & Wed. Evening	<b>Sunday Mornings</b>
	Sunday School 9:15a
	Traditional Serv. 10:30a
	Fellowship for all 11:30a



**Join Us On Christmas Eve at 7 p.m.**

**St. Philip's Anglican Church**  
7865 66th St. N.  
Pinellas Park, FL 33781  
727-549-0400

The Rev. John H. Poole  
Sunday School ..... 9am  
Sunday Worship ..... 10am

**Wednesday:**  
Mass 11am & 7pm  
Bible Study 11:30am & 7:30pm  
www.stphilipsanglicanchurch.org

**Join Us For SUNDAY SERVICES**  
Sunday 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist  
Our Thrift Store is open Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit Food Pantry  
Food Pantry is Open 1st & 3rd Sundays from: 10 am to 12:30 pm  
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**PASADENA COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
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9:00 am Direct Connection Contemporary Service  
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11:00 am Traditional Service  
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227 - 70th Street South St. Petersburg, FL 33707  
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## Apply for Sungoddess Scholarship

The 2010 Festival of States, produced by The Suncoaster's of St. Petersburg, is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 54th Annual Junior Sungoddess Scholarship Program.

The Junior Sungoddess program, which began in 1956, is a scholarship-based program which recognizes high school Junior and Senior girls in Pinellas County who

display community awareness and involvement, academic achievement and embody the values and poise to represent the Festival of States as goodwill ambassadors. Over \$5,000 in scholarship awards were provided to the winner and two runners-up last year. Applications are available on the Festival of States website at [festivalofstates.com](http://festivalofstates.com)

All applications must be completed and returned to the Festival Office by January 11, 2010. Applicants must be the daughter of a family

residing in Pinellas County with plans to further her education after high school and must be 16 years of age by March 1, 2010.

The applications will be judged on community service, academic achievement, and three essay questions and will be used to determine the top 20 candidates who will serve on the 2010 Junior Sungoddess Court.

The 2010 Junior Sungoddess will then be selected from the Court based on leadership qualities, personality, poise and their ability to speak comfortably to the judges and large groups.

...

## Corey Avenue Sunday Market Returns

The Corey Avenue Sunday "European Style" Market is back and boasts new hours this season: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Corey Avenue is blocked between Blind Pass Rd. and Boca Ciega Dr. featuring over 35 local vendors. Many Corey merchants and restaurants are open during the market offering relaxed dining and shopping pleasures while live music is being played for your listening enjoyment. Plenty of free parking and all within walking distance. Corey Avenue is located just off Gulf Blvd. between 73rd and 75th Avenues. Free admission. Visit [www.coreyave.com](http://www.coreyave.com) or [www.suntanart.org](http://www.suntanart.org), or call 727-498-8778.

...

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**For More Information Florida Insurance Service South Pasadena, FL. 727-302-0000**

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**3435 15th Ave. So.**  
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<p><b>Soapy's Too</b> <b>1202 28th St. So.</b> (next to Wildwood Park. corner of 28th St. &amp; 12th Ave. So.) <b>St. Petersburg</b></p>	<p><b>Coin Laundry</b> <b>1435 49th St. So.</b> (next to Save-On-Seafood, corner 49th St. So. &amp; 15th Ave. S.) <b>Gulfport</b></p>
--	---

Grungy old laundromats with cheap washer pricing, without HOT water, and with cool dryers will cost you more in the long run.

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- **AIR CONDITION**, All 3 of *Soapy's* Laundromats are Air Conditioned
- **ADVERTISED WASHER SIZE**, Is correct per manufacturer's website and sizing standards.
- **OPEN 24/7**, All locations are open 24 hours per day, 7 days a week so you don't have to rush. We are also open every Holiday!
- **CLEAN LAUNDROMATS**, *Soapy's* prides itself on being clean.
- *Soapy's* Change machines always have quarters.
- **BRIGHT & SECURE**, Extra bright lighting, security cameras and alarms.
- *Soapy's*, Continually gives back to the community with \$750,000 invested, periodic free food BBQ's, and we sponsor local charities and events.

**Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday 7am-6pm**  
Wash Specials at: 3435 15th Ave. S. & 1435 49th St. S.  
**Look For the Red, White & Blue Buildings**

## USCG Safe Boating Classes in Gulfport

Boating Skills and Seamanship is a 13-week course offered every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. at US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 7-16 located at 3120 Miriam Street S. in Gulfport. Lessons include a 400-page manual and a class covering basic charting in local waters. For the \$40 fee you also are awarded a certificate at the end of the course and a chance to learn everything you need to know to feel secure on the water.

You may start any Thursday. Course completion may help with insurance discounts. Call 727-686-6940 for more information or leave a message at 321-4455.

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## Attention Animal Lovers

A non-profit organization specializing in domestic and wildlife orphaned babies is seeking house/shelter. Please call Bottle Babies R Us, Inc. at 727-831-7561.

...

# City Whys? Have you got a question for your city government?

Email your request to [News@TheGabber.com](mailto:News@TheGabber.com)

By Cathy Salustri

**Q:** St. Pete Beach has an electric golf cart/cab that gives people rides for tips only. What would have to happen for Gulfport to allow this sort of vehicle to operate during art walks and special events? --(This question arose as a result of a personal discussion at a recent Gulfport city council meeting)

**A:** Gulfport city manager Jim O'Reilly said the city would be interested in discussing such a venture if the vehicles met safety requirements for low-speed vehicles, as determined by Florida Statute 3216.2122. These requirements include seatbelts, headlights, turn signals, brake lights, reflectors, parking brakes, a rearview mirrors, windshield and a vehicle identification number. The same statute says that these vehicles may only operate on streets with speed limits under 35 MPH. Sections (5) and (6) of this statute indicate that cities, counties, and the Department of Transportation may prohibit operation of these vehicles in the interest of safety. This statute appears to have no other conditions under which a city or county could prevent these vehicles from operating.

*Have a question about local government? Send it to [News@TheGabber.com](mailto:News@TheGabber.com).*

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**\$29<sup>95</sup>** **Reservations  
Welcome**  
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Full  
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Available

# WellNEWS

All the news that's fit.

By Scott Lafee

## A Contagion Called Loneliness

Loneliness is like a bad cold, say researchers at the University of California San Diego, Harvard and the University of Chicago. Lonely people tend to share their loneliness with others, gradually creating a larger group of lonely, disconnected people who drift and reside on the fringes of social networks.

"We detected an extraordinary pattern of contagion that leads people to be moved to the edge of the social network when they become lonely," said Chicago psychologist John Cacioppo, who conducted the study with James Fowler, an associate professor of political science at UCSD, and Nicholas Christakis, a professor of medicine at Harvard. "On the periphery, people have fewer

friends, yet their loneliness leads them to losing the few ties they have left."

Loneliness is often associated with a variety of mental and physical diseases that can diminish quality of life and even shorten it, researchers noted. Being able to better recognize when lonely people are at risk can help doctors and therapists intervene more successfully, helping lonely people reconnect with their social group.

The study used records of the Framingham Heart Study, which has studied the people of Framingham, Mass., since 1948. The original group of 5,209 participants has expanded to more than 12,000.

### GET ME THAT. STAT!

The first study in 20 years to look at how much television children watch in home-based child care settings reports that it's double earlier

estimates. The study, by researchers at Seattle Children's Research Institute, found that preschool-aged children in care facilities based out of homes watch an average of 2.4 hours of TV per day, compared to 0.4 hours at center-based settings. The amount of television watched declined with the number of staff possessing college degrees.

### STORIES FOR THE WAITING ROOM

Being tall and overweight as a kid -- or maybe just being tall -- could be a marker for increased risk of obesity in later years.

A new study, reported in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, monitored 2,800 children, measuring them for height and weight in the third and 12th grades. Seventy-nine percent of children who were overweight or obese in the third grade were still overweight as high-school seniors.

More surprisingly was the discovery that overweight children who were in the top 25th percentile for height in the third grade had an 85 percent probability of being overweight as 12th-graders, compared with a 67 percent probability for overweight children who were shorter.

Even tall, normal-weight children had a higher risk -- 25 percent -- of becoming overweight as seniors compared to 17 percent for shorter, normal-weight kids.

...

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 <p><b>Karkov Vodka</b> <b>\$10.99</b> 1.75 Ltr</p>	 <p><b>Grand MacNish Blended Scotch</b> <b>\$14.99</b> 1.75 Ltr</p>	 <p><b>Jack Daniels Whiskey</b> <b>\$34.99</b> 1.75 Ltr</p>
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Buy One  
Get One FREE**

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**Sushi Grade Tuna**

**\$10.95**  
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**Graham's Fish Spread**

**\$1.00 OFF**

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**This Holiday Give the Gift of Giving**

Gulf Coast Community Care needs volunteers age 30 and older for its mentoring program. Volunteers are matched with children who need a positive adult role model.

Many of the children are in kinship care or live with a single parent who is going to school and working. There is a special need for volunteers for children of all ages. Volunteers give the gift of time to one child and are provided social events and support by agency staff. No experience is necessary. There are no costs.

Volunteers spend a few hours a week in simple activities such as reading, fishing, baking, teaching a craft, or visiting a park with a child. We have children throughout Pinellas County waiting for mentors!

To learn how you can make a lasting difference in the life of a child, call Adults Mentoring Children at (727) 479-1841.

...

**DBSA Support Group**

DBSA Support Group for adults and teens meets every Thursday night from 7-9 p.m. at Northeast Presbyterian Church, 4400 Shore Acre Boulevard in St. Petersburg. If you suffer from depression, bipolar or other mental illness, call Mary at 204-9343.

...

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## Beta Sigma Phi

Sunshine City Council's Ways and Means annual Spaghetti Dinner/Cook-off and Dessert Auction will be held on Saturday, January 16 from 5-7 p.m. at Five Towns Magnolia Club House on 58th Ave. and 79th St. N. Members and guests will enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner complete with homemade desserts. A dessert auction will be held featuring a variety of homemade desserts. The winner of the spaghetti sauce competition will be awarded the "Golden Spoon" for the year. Cost is \$8.50 for adults and \$3 for children 2-10 years old. For reservations contact Kay Ansel at 343-5117 or Linda Wilmoth at 498-7359.

Beta Sigma Phi is an international sorority which provides women with a social and cultural outlet. The 12 chapters of Sunshine City Council meet at various times depending on the chapter format. Chapters may participate and support a variety of service projects in the area. If you would like to learn more about Beta

Sigma Phi, please contact Sharon Melton at 595-9625.

Laureate Epsilon Theta's Executive Board will meet on Tuesday, January 5 at 7 p.m. at Carmelita's Restaurant on Park Street. Elaine Penner is the hostess.

For more information, contact Sharon Ingram at 321-2849.

...

## Free Foreclosure Prevention Workshops

St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services (SPNHS) will begin

offering free foreclosure prevention workshops on a weekly basis effective September 14 at 1600 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street S. in St. Petersburg from 6-7:30 p.m. HUD certified counselors will be on site to provide struggling homeowners an overview of the foreclosure process and offer individual counseling opportunities to develop an action plan to avoid foreclosure. All homeowners, regardless of circumstances, are encouraged to attend. Call 821-6897 for more information.

...

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Kitchen Closed Christmas Day	<b>SATURDAY December 26th 5-7pm</b> <b>Legion Dinner</b> Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetable, roll & butter <b>\$6.50</b>	<b>SUNDAY BREAKFAST</b> 8:30am - 11:00am - \$3.50 <b>Entrées</b> 1. Eggs to order 2. Omelett 3. Pancakes/French Toast (rotating) All include bacon or sausage, home fries, toast, juice & coffee	
<b>Music &amp; Dancing:</b>	<b>Tuesday:</b> 7-10 PM Karaoke	Now Serving Lunch! Tue-Thur 11-3 Friday 11-2 Sunday 2-5	Friday Night Saturday Night We Have Pull Tabs! Southern Knights 7pm - 11pm

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8	7	2	3	5	9	1	4	6



By Fred Wilder

The Art Guild will be accepting paintings from members for its first show of the new year on December 31 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. If you are not a member we encourage you to become one. Bring them to The Treasure Island City Hall Auditorium at 120 108 Avenue. Start the New Years off right. There will be a reception for the winners on Saturday, January 9 at 1 p.m. We will have an art demonstration by Kerry B. Diddy. Refreshments will be served. For more information call Fred at 360 8390.

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# The Gabs

By Leigh Clifton

## With just a few days left until Christmas, how much more shopping do you have to do?



**Latoya Harris, St. Pete:** "I think I have three more gifts to buy; I started shopping about two weeks ago. I did a little bit on Black Friday, because I felt a little guilty if I didn't try to at least take advantage of the sales. Everybody was going to get four gifts for Christmas, but now that idea is gone! My daughter Jade and my son Dee will each get about ten gifts instead. Dee is just home from the military and after the holiday he ships to Korea, so I got him things he can really use. The last to buy for is my boyfriend Gary; he's so hard to get gifts for. You know men, when they need or want something; they usually just go out and get it themselves. So I'm trying to surprise him."

...



**Larry Thompson, Treasure Island:** "I've gotten most of it done, but I still have a few special things to get still. I think it gets you more in the Christmas spirit if you have a little pressure to get it done. I started two weeks ago, but I avoided the Black Friday sales; I like to try and stay in good spirits for Christmas."

...



**Lucy Stecura, Gulfport:** "I'm all done because we decided about 20 years ago not to shop for presents, except for the children. They got presents up to age 18. Then between ages 18 and 21, they got a check so they could go out and buy their own stuff. It's really wonderful because the pressure is off. We became freer without the added stress of having to try and figure out what someone wanted. Most times, whatever you got wasn't really what they wanted anyway! I haven't even been to the mall. I work in an industry where we work right up until Christmas, so I don't really have time to shop anyway. I will buy a gift, if it's necessary, for an office party, or something like that. But we prefer to just have friends over for nice food and wine because I really enjoy cooking. That's our gift to all of our friends. I think that's a better present anyway."

...



**Rene Jalbert, Gulfport:** "None, I'm all finished. Of course I have a few "scramble presents" in case someone shows up unexpectedly. You have to keep a few of those around at the holidays or else you'd feel guilty about not having anything for someone. I am so grateful to still have my husband with me and I love living in Gulfport. My gifts to my friends are that I donate to charities in their names. I give to the Red Cross, Humane Society, Metropolitan Ministries, Doctors without Borders and several cancer groups. My friends then will receive a card that tells them the donation has been made in their name. I think that's a great gift and fits the spirit of the season."

...

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## Rotary Club of St. Petersburg

The Rotary Club of St. Petersburg Suncoast meets every Tuesday at noon at Gigi's Restaurant, 6852 Gulfport Boulevard (Pasadena Shopping Center). They encourage those interested in becoming members to attend as a guest.

For more information, please contact Jerome Hendrickson at 727-321-8719.

...

## Maximo Center has Community Information

The Maximo Community Police Resource Center, 4815 34 Street S. has information for you. The Center, staffed entirely by volunteers, provides 2010 Census Employment Applications, free bicycle registration, free "Club" for select automobiles, free cell phones for "911" use only, a collection point for old eyeglasses which are used by health service agencies, lists and free shipment of

items needed by our Armed Forces overseas and much more. Call 866-7177.

...

## Howard Troxler to Speak at Main Library

*St. Petersburg Times* columnist Howard Troxler will speak at the Main Library, 3745 Ninth Avenue N. in St. Petersburg on Thursday, January 7 at 2 p.m. His appearances usually fill the auditorium so plan to come early to get a good seat.

...

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## College

### Financial Aid Myths

Don't believe these college financial aid myths.

Myth #1: You can't afford college. The truth is most college students require some form of financial aid. Don't ignore college because of its "sticker price".

Myth #2: You have to be very poor, very smart or very talented to qualify for financial aid. Financial aid comes in many forms such as the federal government, the college or university itself, a parent's employer and others. When you take the time to explore all the possibilities, you will be surprised as to what services you may receive.

Myth #3: You can get more scholarships by paying someone to search for you. Scholarship scams are everywhere. Beware of any group or individual that guarantees a scholarship if you pay a fee. Check out [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) or [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) for more information.

Myth #4: My child will pay for college, so my salary doesn't matter. Most need-based financial aid is based on parents' income and assets. The FAFSA form, available online at [www.fasa.ed.gov](http://www.fasa.ed.gov) asks for information similar to what you need for your income taxes. After submitting FAFSA, you'll receive a report that shows how much the government expects you to pay.

Myth #5: You can wait until you get accepted to a college before worrying about financial aid. Most financial aid is doled out on a first-come, first-served basis. No one should wait to get started. Looking for financial aid

probably isn't a teen's idea of a good time, but it is better than graduating from college in debt.

...

### Foster Me

Greyhound Pets of America needs foster homes for our retired racers. Here's an opportunity to have a pet without the expense and help these gentle dogs get ready to be taken into

their forever homes. It's a fulfilling service and we need foster homes desperately. What a fun way to get to meet many different characters and offer a loving atmosphere to ease the ex-racers into living in a real home. To become a foster home or to adopt a greyhound, check out their website at [www.greyhoundpets.com](http://www.greyhoundpets.com).

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## New Knitting Class

Always wanted to knit, but never understood purl or cast on? Or enjoy knitting but not sure how to make that certain project? Now here is your chance! New themed knitting class for beginners and advanced students now at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Blvd. S. Classes are on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. until noon, and cost \$35 per month. Materials will not be included. Call the instructor, Latoya at 823-0437 for more information and a list of materials.

...

## Pasta Every Monday Night

Sons of Italy Lodge, 2500 34 Street S. offers Pasta every Monday night. Served from 4-8 p.m. and includes all the pasta you can eat, two meatballs, salad and coffee for \$6. Other beverages are optional. Look for their flotilla of flags.

They can cater and provide the venue for your events. Call 323-2691 or visit [sonsofitaly2427.com](http://sonsofitaly2427.com) for updated information and schedule of events.

...

## Bayfront Gift Shop Needs Volunteers

The Bayfront Medical Center's Gift Gallery is in need of volunteers. There are three convenient 4-hour shifts daily. Along with the gift shop they are opening a baby boutique in the new Bayfront Baby Place. You will receive a meal ticket to their cafeteria, and free parking at the hospital when you work. If you are interested in becoming a Gift Gallery or Baby Place Boutique volunteer or would like more information, please contact Cyd Hendrick at 893-6878.

...

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# Crossword Puzzle

Solution on Page 18

## ACROSS

- 1 Washington's follower
- 6 Piece of cake
- 11 "\_\_\_ Robinson"
- 14 Wise lawgiver
- 15 Gestation stations
- 16 Alley \_\_\_
- 17 Silent diner
- 19 Spanish one
- 20 Middle of a famed palindrome
- 21 Tie the knot
- 22 Phoenix-to-Seattle dir.
- 23 Socialite being pompous?
- 28 Stop start
- 29 Queue before Q
- 30 Maui melody makers
- 31 Lou's sidekick
- 32 One of the Lesser Sundas
- 33 Tortilla flour
- 35 Director in a brawl?
- 40 Johnson, of "Love at First Bite"
- 41 Seine tributary
- 42 Mulhouse Mrs.
- 43 Golden Fleece carrier
- 45 Letters on some hulls
- 46 Assist
- 47 President in

deliberation?

- 53 Sound of disapproval
- 54 Last year of Caligula's reign
- 55 Geological span
- 56 \_\_\_ now or never!
- 57 Essayist chilled to the bone?
- 63 Formerly named
- 64 \_\_\_ a time
- 65 Ramlike
- 66 Unconventional
- 67 Usefulness
- 68 Actress Hiller

## DOWN

- 1 Question
- 2 Female kangaroo
- 3 Tuscaloosa's site, briefly
- 4 Byrd composition
- 5 Farm sound
- 6 Reminder
- 7 Call \_\_\_ day
- 8 Food-label stat
- 9 Bellman
- 10 Studier of the Upanishads
- 11 Active Alaskan volcano
- 12 Singer Millsap

- 13 Gives birth to
- 18 Infant
- 23 College-credit unit
- 24 Not identified, medically
- 25 Defendant's plea
- 26 Motorist's mishap
- 27 Exclamation of reproof
- 28 TV network
- 32 Food preservative, familiarly
- 33 Lasses
- 34 Have a birthday
- 36 Short reptile?
- 37 Blenny or bluehead
- 38 Participant's comment
- 39 Author Buntline
- 43 Pink-eyed rat
- 44 Raised Cain
- 48 U-shaped river bend
- 49 Treeless plain
- 50 More congenial
- 51 Not at all, vernacularly
- 52 Jack
- 58 Meal starter
- 59 Utmost
- 60 Relatives
- 61 Not Rep. or Democrat
- 62 French marshal Michel

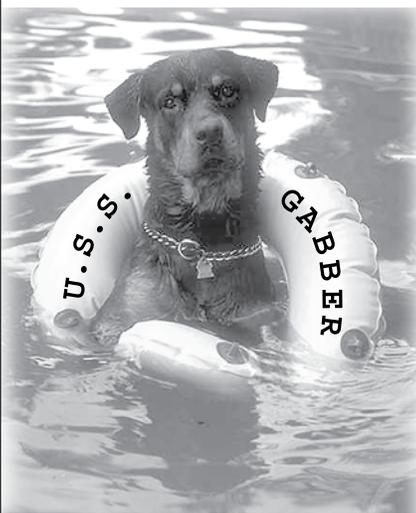
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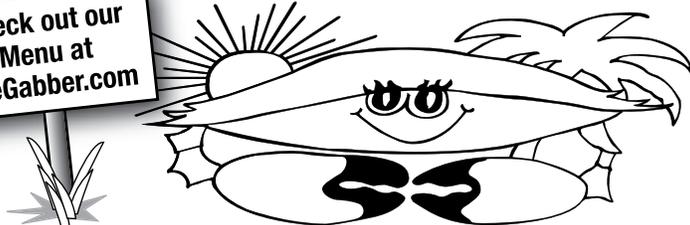
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# Points On Pets

By Matthew Margolis

## Adopt, Donate or Send Bleach

The Humane Society of Elkhart County is in crisis mode. Ann Reel, the shelter's executive director, told MSNBC, "In one month alone, the shelter had to euthanize 600 animals."

They're not alone.

In recent weeks, city papers from Baltimore to Fresno have run stories on the impact of the economic recession on animal shelters. That impact is breathtaking.

Since it began in December 2007, the recession has taken a suffocating toll on animal shelters in the form of dwindling donations, adoptions and volunteers -- with many people now in need of a second or third paycheck and no free hours to volunteer. At the same time, the housing meltdown from coast to coast led to a staggering increase in pet drop-offs and abandonment. The two formed the perfect storm.

Add to that the fear of looming cuts in government budgets and it's clear the use of the word "crisis" is not hyperbole.

Barring a fiscal miracle, New Leash on Life ([www.newleash.org](http://www.newleash.org)), an animal shelter in Newhall, Calif., will close its doors this month after 12 years and thousands of adoptions.

Just 20 miles down the road, Dawn Smith, president and founder of Daphneyland ([www.daphneyland.com](http://www.daphneyland.com)), the nation's largest Basset hound rescue, told the Associated Press the rescue is garnering only half of the monthly monetary dona-

tions it needs to survive. Underscoring the urgency, Smith said, "Conditions will only get worse during the holidays."

Why? The failure rate on pet adoptions during the holidays is through the roof. Christmas stirs urges for warm woolen mittens and whiskers on kittens. Then the holidays pass, the mittens go in the drawer, and that kitten or puppy isn't so cute anymore.

In response to this crisis, nonprofits and city-funded shelters are working overtime to expand their donor bases and implement new fundraising ideas. Many of the nation's Humane Societies currently offer pet-assistance programs that provide free pet food to owners who are struggling financially. In response to the housing crisis, the Pennsylvania SPCA created a program called "Good-Home Guarantee." They vow to keep and care for your pet -- free of charge -- for as long as it takes you to find a home. Programs like these keep pets and owners together, thus avoiding otherwise unnecessary abandonment.

But the single most essential program to shelters remains spay/neuter. According to Stephen L. Zawistowski, executive vice president for national programs and science adviser for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, "No single social welfare group has made a greater impact on a problem than the people working in animal shelters," emphasizing that their success has everything to do with spaying and neutering.

What can you and I do to help this holiday season?

First, spay or neuter your dog or cat if you haven't already. Then, consider donating time, professional expertise, money, food, cleaning supplies and/or blankets to your local animal shelter. Reel's reply to people who ask how they can help: "Adopt, donate or send bleach."

But if nothing else, make a solemn vow to provide ongoing shelter and care for your existing pets. And if you aren't currently a pet owner, please wait to become one until you are sure you can handle the responsibility.

...

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## SPCA Pet of the Week



Boo was the companion of an elderly person who felt that they could no longer look after this little guy or his feline friend. He's all black with one small white spot of white fur on his chest. He has a wonderful cheeky face and a totally winning Purr-sonality: playful, trusting, friendly, loving... just such a great kitty! Visit Boo at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave N in Largo, or call 727-586-3591.

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Contact Cynthia at 893-1231

Meals on Wheels:  
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- Thursday 12-31 Meatloaf, homefries and green beans.



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\*The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertising. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience

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# Horoscope Guide

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You know you have the potential to do what you apply yourself to do. You also realize that whatever you pursue, you will be trading your life essence to achieve it. Going into the new decade, the big question becomes: Which endeavors are worthy of your energy? If you ask for a sign, you'll get one.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your problem-solving skills are uncanny, and your sense of timing is stellar. Endeavors started in the past that never got off the ground will get a second (or third, or fourth) try this week, and the results will be enlightening. You'll learn what didn't work and replace the element with a more effective ingredient.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You will bring a higher quality of attention to daily endeavors like feeding yourself and your family, making your environment comfortable and communicating with warmth and humor. The added grace you apply to these seemingly menial tasks will allow you to explore new dimensions of greatness.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You love a fresh start. "Beginner's luck" is your thing. You're too focused on a fabulous future to shed a tear for the decade coming to a close. Try to be sweet with those who have a harder time letting go of the past. Social grace requires that you recognize and respect the tender emotions of others.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Your powers of observation will be boosted this month. You'll read body language, listen between the lines and be open to emotional knowledge even when it defies logic. You'll start the decade off by making a decision based on your astute perceptions. Loved ones will be favorably affected by your choice.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You have a magnificent talent -- the rare

ability to selflessly focus on others. It doesn't matter whether you're nervous or excited about what's in it for you. Your success comes because you drop everything in order to figure out what the other person needs. And you deliver on that need brilliantly.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Owning things can be stressful. Maintenance of property can be expensive and time consuming. Get back in touch with your original intentions. Remember when you couldn't wait to get your hands on this piece of property? Hold a happy thought about what's yours. Enjoy it.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). It has been estimated that there is about 200 times more gold in the Earth's oceans than has been mined in the entire world's history, though its form is mostly so diluted it's useless to a jewelry maker! This week you're on the lookout for concentrated goodness -- obvious in its appeal. Don't settle for less than solid gold.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may spend most of the week with a restless feeling, but that goes away at the start of the new year. The searching will pay off. You'll strike upon a goal you can get behind. Once you do, your passion grows stronger. If the goal has nothing to do with money, you'll still find a way to make money by achieving it.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Though it might be easier to go through life unfettered by what other people think, the fact is, you really do want people to trust and admire you. Your desire to be well considered will lead you to a noble act. Once you begin this endeavor, it is no longer about pleasing others. Your purpose will be to do what is right.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your psychic powers kick in strong in

this transition of decades. Assume you know at least some of what is going to happen in the years to come, and open the curtains of your consciousness so that you may see it. As you peek into the future, you'll have a remarkable sense of your own destiny.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You will not feel overly serious, but you will be just serious enough. Get organized. Make lists. Center yourself on the experiences you want to have before the decade is over. Once you understand your objectives, you'll be able to return to the jolly state that is so appropriate for the season.

**This Week's Birthdays:** For you, with age comes levity! Your heart grows lighter, your mind brighter. Nearly everything you endeavor you can see as a game. From this vantage, you realize that much is possible, little is personal and everything is attainable when you learn the rules and become a masterful strategist. January brings magical moments -- take pictures. An important purchase in March will connect you with new faces. Developments at work in February and June make it possible for you to travel.

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## Music at Gulfport Beach Pavilion

**Monday, 1-3:30 p.m.**

Carol & Joe, Karaoke Kraz

**Tuesday, 1-3:30 p.m.**

Jules w/music

**Wednesday, 1-3:30 p.m.**

Open

**Thursday, 1-3:30 p.m.**

Cookie returns with karaoke & dancing

**Friday, 1-4 p.m.**

Joanne & Chris, The Silver Spinners

**Saturday, 1-3:30 p.m.**

Jay & Lolita "Tunesters"

**Sunday, 1-3:30 p.m.**

Italian American accordion by Woody for fun & dancing

*Donations accepted*

*Weather permitting*

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## Pink Flamingo Tour Home Search

The Pink Flamingo Home Tour date has been set for March 13, 2010! The committee is researching renovated homes from 1910 to 1950, located in the Beach Boulevard area and east and west of Beach Blvd. up to five blocks. If you have a home that you would like the committee to consider, please call Event Coordinator Dolly Tickell at 727-347-4747 or Act1@tampabay.rr.com.

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## Drowsy Driving Danger

The American Association of Safety Councils and the Suncoast Safety Council are issuing a warning about the dangers of driving while drowsy. A U.S. Dept. of Transportation poll says that 37% of the driving population says they have nodded off for at least a moment or fallen asleep while driving at some time in their life. According to the National Sleep Foundation, driving while drowsy may be just as deadly as driving drunk.

If you are about to fall asleep you will experience some or all of the following: You yawn a lot or need to rub your eyes. You have trouble keeping your eyes open and focused. You nod and can't keep your head up. You daydream or have wandering, disconnected thoughts. You find yourself tailgating or driving at irregular speeds. You miss road signs, drive past your turn or can't focus on your route. You feel irritable, restless or impatient. You drift off the road and hit the rumble strips or cross into another lane.

Pay attention to these symptoms and make sure you pull off the road.

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## 1960 Class of Largo High Reunion

The 1960 Class of Largo High School will hold their 50th class reunion in May 2010. Anyone who knows someone in that class please contact them as they are still missing addresses. Other years may also attend. For information email DKLEAL@aol.com or call Dee at 727-743-3944 or visit largohigh1960.com.

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## ATTENTION: Medicare Recipients

Between November 15th and December 31 you are entitled to change your Medicare coverage without any penalty. This includes joining or changing the medicare prescription drug plan and/or joining a new medicare supplement plan including the new Medicare Advantage Plan

For a "FREE" evaluation of your options call:

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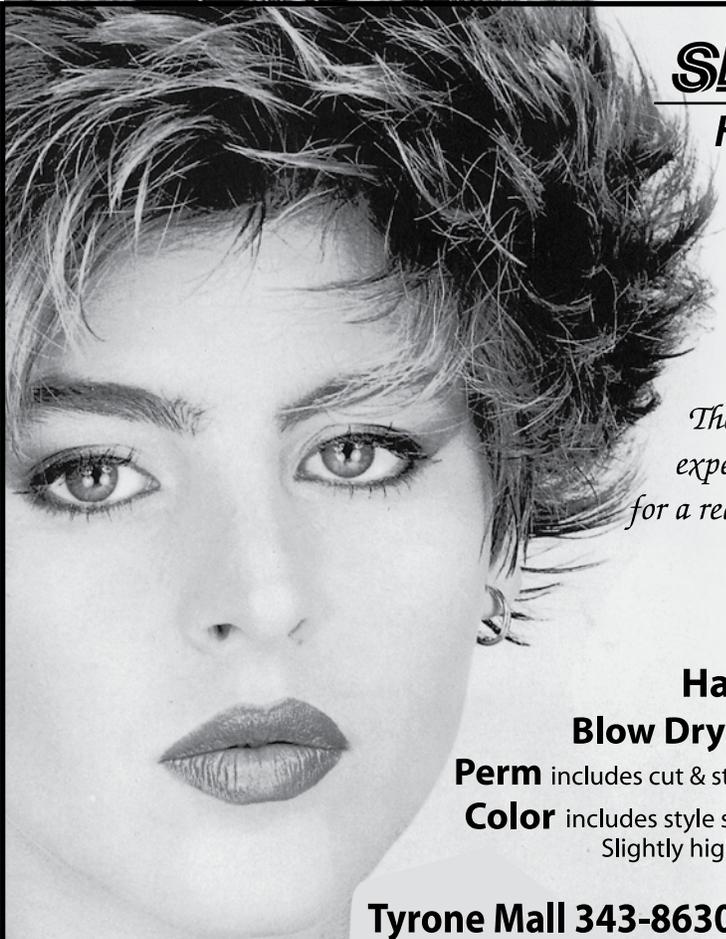
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# Gulfport Leisure

**Senior Center 5501 27th Ave. So. 893-1231  
or 893-2237**

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Closed for Holidays:** The Senior Center & GEMS will be closed on Fri. Dec. 25 and again on Fri. Jan. 1 in observance of the holidays.

**Thank You, St. Vincent's Episcopal Church Thrift Shop:** The Senior Center would like to give public thanks to the St. Vincent's Thrift Store for their generous donation of \$2,500. St. Vincent's Thrift Store has been very supportive of programs and activities at the Senior Center for many years.

**Thank You, Gulfport Merchants Association:** The Senior Center is very grateful for the generous donation of \$200 from the Gulfport Merchants Association. Thanks being such a supportive neighbor!

**Thank You, Response Link:** Thanks to Response Link for the donation of \$200 toward the purchase of pies for the Senior Center's Holiday Dinner Party held on Wed. Dec. 23.

**Thank You, The Love Notes:** The Love Notes provided a very lively holiday performance at the Senior Center on Tues. Dec. 15. About 60 participants enjoyed the afternoon of free music & refreshments. Thank you, Love Notes! Their next performance at the Senior Center will be held on Mon. Feb. 15.

**Thank You, Norma Thornton:** Special thanks to Senior Center/Foundation member Norma Thornton who has arranged for a water cooler service in the Senior Center Fitness Room. All expenses are taken care of by Norma.

**Thank you, Senior Center Friends:** The Senior Center staff could not carry on without the wonderful support of our friends. Thanks to all of our Senior Center volunteers, the Foundation Board of Directors, the Senior Center Leadership Team, and area businesses

and agencies who have supported us throughout the past year. We wish all of you a happy and health New Year.

**"A Night in Italy" at the Senior Center:** Tickets (\$10) are now available for "A Night in Italy" that includes a Spaghetti Dinner at 6pm and a performance by the Italian-American Society of St. Petersburg in the Catherine Hickman Theater at 7pm. It all happens on Friday, January 29. Hurry, tickets are limited!

**Folk Dance Class for Beginners:** The Italian American Society of St. Petersburg will teach Folk Dance Classes for beginners for those who want to be a part of their dance group. Class for newcomers is on Thursdays at 7pm.

**New Art Class Starting:** A new art class will be offered on Wednesdays starting Jan. 6 at 1pm. Must provide your own art supplies. Call now to get your name on the list. Seating is limited.

**Weight Loss Management Classes:** Need a little help with losing weight? How about joining a series of Weight Loss Management Classes on Thursdays starting January 7 at 1pm? Call now to sign up as space is limited. These classes are made possible by the Senior Center Foundation.

**Electric Cars - History of Investment Possibilities:** Our Investment Discussion Group is hosting a special presentation by Cliff Ruffner on Electric Cars: A Quick History of Investment Possibilities on Wed. Jan. 13 at 10:30am. Newcomers welcome.

**Senior Center Health & Beauty Fair:** Coming Soon: Four Day Health & Beauty Fair (Jan. 19-22) from 9am to noon. Tues. Jan. 19: Health Screenings; Wed. Jan. 20: Free

haircuts, manicures, massages; Thurs. Jan. 21: General Health info and sign-ups for financial assistance (must qualify); Thurs. Jan. 22: Flea Market, Valentine Card Workshop at 10am (call to reserve space); Fashion Show & Sub Sandwich Lunch at 11:30am (Lunch Ticket: \$3.00, must get in advance).

**Legal Assistance:** The Community Law Program will provide free legal assistance to qualifying residents 60 yrs. and older on Fri. Jan. 15 at 9:30am. Call the Senior Center for income guidelines.

**Computer Classes:** One-on-one training sessions are available at no cost. Call for an appointment.

**EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:**

**AARP Driving Classes:** are held on the first two Tuesdays of every month from 1-4pm. Call 341-0130 to register and fee info.

**Wii Bowling:** Wii Bowling: Every Thurs. at 1pm, and Tues. Jan. 5 and 19 at 6:30pm.

**Chair Yoga:** The Senior Center will once again be offering Chair Yoga. Classes will be held at the Gulfport Casino starting Wed. Jan. 20 at 1:30pm. Free but must be registered as a Senior Center member.

**Movie of the Month** - Come join us for a free movie in the Hickman Theater on Mon. Dec. 28 at 12:45pm. Movie: It's a Wonderful Life with Jimmy Stewart.

**Bone Strengthening Exercise:** Every Tues. at 11:15am

**Live Chat Room:** Fri. at 2pm (temporarily relocating to the Library)

**Ongoing Support Groups:**

Diabetic Support (1st & 3rd Mon. at 10am)

Hearing Support (1st & 3rd Mon at 2pm)

Vision Support (2nd & 4th Mon at 2pm)

Caregiver Support, Wed. 2pm



**Gulfport Library 5501 28th Ave. So. 893-1074  
or fax 893-1072**

**Library Closes** at 5:00 pm on Thursdays, December 24 & December 31.

**Art Exhibit:** Paintings by Ray Vaillancourt. Through December 30.

**Testing for 2010 Census Jobs:** Tuesdays through February, 3:00-6:00 pm. FMI: go online at www.2010censusjobs.gov or call toll-free: 1-866-861-2010.

**One-on-One Computer Instruction:** By appointment only--contact Alex Hooks at the Reference Desk, or call 893-1073.

**Genealogy Discussion Group:** Saturday, December 26, 1:00 pm.

**Short Stories Study Group:** Monday, December 28, 1:00 pm. Presented by local

chapter, Brandeis University Women.

**Retrospective Exhibit of Paintings by James Scalse:** Through January 27. Opening Reception: Friday, January 8, 5:00-7:00 pm.

**Scrapbookers Club for Teens & Adults:** Saturday, January 9, 1:00 pm. Make beautiful pages of memories.

**Legal Puzzles Study Group:** Monday, January 11, 1:00 pm. Presented by local chapter, Brandeis University Women.

**Suncoast Computer Users Group (SCUG):** Thursday, January 14, 6:00 pm.

**The G & O Book Club:** Saturday, Janu-

ary 16, 1:30 pm. Philosophical discussion group based on the works of mystic G. I. Gurdjieff and philosopher P. D. Ouspensky.

**Coffee/Talk:** Thursday, January 21, 10:00 am. Discussion of Three Cups of Tea, by Greg Mortenson and David Relin. Books / discussion guides are available at the Reference Desk.

**Coffee/Talk Movie:** "Cut From Different Cloth: Burqas and Beliefs" (Red Door Video, 2005). Thursday, January 21, 1:30 pm. This documentary film by Cliff Oloff and Olga Shalygin explores the struggle for equal rights for Afghan women. (1 hr.)

# Services *City Sponsored Activities* in the Community

## Recreation Center 5730 Shore Blvd. So 893-1068

**RECREATION WEBSITE**-www.mygulport.us and follow the links: City Departments, Leisure services, Rec. Center.

**Tomlinson Skate Park Sticker**  
Annual cost \$5 res./\$10 non-res.  
Registration: Age 17 and under must be accompanied by a parent, have proof of residency and fill a consent form. Availability to register: Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Open Gameroom** - Tues. & Thurs., 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Adult Basketball** - Mon., Wed. & Fri, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and Thurs., 6-9 p.m.

### PROGRAMS

**School Year Child Care Program** - Grades K-5, (up to age 14 on in-service days).

**Teen Night** - Teens, age's middle school to 17. Mon., Wed. & Fri. 6-9 p.m.

**Tot Time Program** - Ages 3-5 year old, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

**NEW CLASSES**- Call instructor for more information

- Beginners Watercolor-Tue. 10 a.m.-Noon. Call Margo at 347-1859
- Mat Pilates- Mon. & Wed. 10-11 a.m. & Tues. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Call Lisa at 639-9277
- Floral Design-Starts Wed., Jan. 13 thru Jan. 27th. Call Laurie at 289-48

- Knitting Class- Thurs. 10:30 a.m. Call Latoya at 823-0437
- Weight Loss 4 Week Workshop. Starts Tue., January 5th 6:30-8:30 p.m. call 893-1079 to register

**CLASSES** - Call instructor for more information

- Dog Obedience - Call Lisa at 772-3631.
- Fencing - Wed., 4:30 & 5:30 p.m. Call Jim Campoli at 813-855-3112.
- Gymnastics - Fri., 5:30 p.m. Call Barbara at 804-9400.
- Karate - Mon. & Fri., 6:30 p.m. Call Diane at 459-1399.
- Nia - Wed., 9:00 am. Call Kaluwa at 729-9410.
- Noisemakers - Mon., 6 p.m. Call Gabe at 345-7472.
- Sumyie - NEW DAY, Mon., 6:30 p.m. Call Mike at 320-5035.
- Stretch and Tone - Tues. & Thurs., 9-10 a.m. Call Jean 302-9423
- Tai Chi - Tues. & Thurs., 9 a.m. Call Oletta at 344-5181 or Marge at 345-6708.
- Tennis - Tues., 4:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Call Jack at 430-0690.
- Watercolor NO Class in DEC.-Thurs., 6:30 p.m. Call Patsi at 501-3559.
- Watercolor- Art for Living Call Judith at 328-7490.
- Yoga - Thurs., 6:30 p.m. Call Maureen at 381-2166

**Neighborhood Center**  
1617 49th St. So./893-1070

**Overeaters Anonymous:** Sun. 6:15-8:15pm



5500 Shore Blvd. So.  
893-1070

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

featuring the  
"CALIENTE BAND"

Thurs., Dec. 31  
8pm-12:30am

7:30pm Doors open  
Tks \$15 Advance  
Reservations suggested

#### SIG HARDER'S BAND & DANCE

Social & Ballroom Dancing

Sun., Dec. 27  
6-10pm, \$7

#### WEEKLY DANCES

Every Tuesday

12 - 3pm- **Ballroom Lessons** \$7  
12-1 Inter, 1-2 Beg., 2-3 Dancing

6:30-10:30pm-**Argentine Tango** \$7  
6:30-8pm Lesson, 8-8:30 Practice,  
8:30-10:30pm Milonga

Every Wednesday

6 - 11pm- **Swing Dance** \$7  
6-8 Lessons, 8-11pm Swing Dance

## Dance into 2010 New Year's Eve Celebration

At The Gulfport Casino Ballroom

Thursday, Dec. 31st

8pm - 12:30

7:30 pm Doors Open

Music by one of the areas

Favorite Variety Bands

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## Pinellas County to offer H1N1 Vaccinations To General Public

The Pinellas County Health Department announced Monday that the public can get vaccinated for the H1N1 virus, more commonly known as "Swine Flu," at five health department locations.

The main health department center located at 205 Dr. Martin Luther King St. North in St. Petersburg will offer vaccinations from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturdays.

Four other locations will offer vaccinations weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. They are:

- Pinellas Park: 6350 76th Avenue North
- Largo: 12420 130th Avenue North
- Clearwater: 310 N. Myrtle Avenue
- Tarpon Springs: 301 S. Disston Avenue

For more information, residents can visit the health department's website at [www.PinellasHealth.com](http://www.PinellasHealth.com).

## USCG Safe Boating Classes

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 78 has a 13-week continuous cycle of Safe Boating Classes every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Warren Webster Community Center, 1500 Pass-a-Grille Way, St. Pete Beach (1 mile south of Don CeSar) Start at your convenience. First class, come at 7 p.m. to register. Begin any Tuesday and finish 13 weeks later or take up to 2 years to finish. Christmas vacation December 29.

Cost is \$40 for 13 weeks and includes a new 400-page manual. Call Jim at 360-4846, or Warren at 321-7801, or Phil at 865-2226.

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## Rescue Group Needs Foster Homes for Dogs

Florida Doggie Paws Rescue needs more volunteers and foster homes for small to medium breed dogs. Their mission is to responsibly rescue, spay/neuter, rehabilitate, foster and find permanent loving homes for unwanted, abandoned and abused dogs in the community and throughout the State of Florida.

There are many advantages to fostering a dog. Foster homes are not responsible for any vet bills or expenses. The rescue will transport the dog and take care of any veterinary needs. The rescue has a trainer available for you to use. In addition, they act as a support system that you can call anytime - day or night, if you have questions about the dog's behavior, health, etc... You are not alone! But the best reason of all to foster is the reward of knowing that you saved a life.

Please fill out a volunteer application at [www.floridadoggiepaws.com](http://www.floridadoggiepaws.com) or call Florida Doggie Paws at 813-283-1695 and open your heart and your home to one of these poor dogs that just needs a place to stay for a few weeks until they can find their forever home.

Florida Doggie Paws Rescue is an all volunteer, foster based 501 (c) 3 Organization. All donations are tax deductible.

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 <p><b>Kenneth City</b> 545-5383 4707 66th St. N. (by Sweetbay) M-F 8:30-8:30 Sat 9-6 • Sun 12-5</p> <p><b>Lighthouse Crossing</b> 347-5897 3993 Tyrone Blvd. (Wal-Mart Ctr by Subway) M-F 9-9 • Sat 9-6</p> <p><b>S. Pasadena</b> 345-7769 6800 Gulfport Blvd. (in Publix Ctr, next to CVS) M-F 9-8:30 • Sat 9-6</p> <p><b>Senior Specials</b> M-F until 2pm</p> <p><b>Pick your stylist! Same day service!</b></p>	<p><b>Kids Cut</b> Free Shampoo &amp; Light Dry <b>\$7<sup>95</sup></b> 11 &amp; under <b>Fantastic Sams®</b> Blow-dry style, curling iron, set, design lines, or specialty cuts extra. GAB Expires 1/6/10</p>	<p><b>Adult Cut</b> Free Shampoo &amp; Light Dry <b>\$10<sup>95</sup></b> <b>Fantastic Sams®</b> Blow-dry style, curling iron, set, design lines, or specialty cuts extra. GAB Expires 1/6/10</p>
	<p><b>Fantastic Sams®</b> YOUR STYLE AWAITS™</p>	
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	<p><b>Call Ahead Sign In!</b></p>	

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*Shutterbugs*



Christmas on Dupont Street. Jan, Denise and their two girls. Merry Christmas!

-Submitted by Denise Diaz

Have a Photo You Want to Share?  
 Send it to: [News@theGabber.com](mailto:News@theGabber.com)  
 Include a brief description and your name.  
 The Gabber will be happy to include it in an upcoming Shutterbugs.

## Free Phones for Hearing-Impaired

The Deaf and Hearing Connection recently announced the addition of several new telephones, ttys and captioned telephones available through its no charge equipment distribution program. Deaf and Hearing Connection offers amplified telephones and related equipment at no cost to permanent Florida residents who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind or speech-impaired.

This telecommunications access program is funded by a surcharge

currently on all Florida telephone consumers' bills. Equipment is available by appointment Monday through Friday at the Deaf and Hearing Connection's main office located at 7821 Seminole Boulevard in Seminole or at satellite locations throughout Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. For a complete list of distribution locations or to schedule an appointment, call 727-399-9983 (Voice) or 727-399-9422 (TTY).

The Deaf and Hearing Connection, Tampa Bay's only non-profit hearing center, also offers free hearing screenings by appointment, low cost

hearing aids, cleanings and repairs. The Deaf and Hearing Connection specializes in communication access for deaf, hard of hearing or late deafened people.

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## Low-Cost or Free Mammograms

If you are a woman 40-64 years of age of low income without health insurance living in Pinellas County you may be eligible for a free or low cost Mammogram. For additional information please call 820-4117. The guidelines and eligibility requirements will be provided to you at that time.

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## Learn about Toastmasters Club

Toastmasters is a positive learning environment where leaders develop professional skills needed in this tough economy. You will learn to evaluate your current skills, have productive discussions at work, practice speaking in front of a people, control nervousness, take on new roles, and develop yourself as a leader.

City Power Toastmasters is a non-profit organization devoted to continuing leadership skills in a relaxed, diverse and upbeat atmosphere. Join them every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m., One Fourth Street N., Municipal Services Building, 6th Floor, Room 600, downtown St. Petersburg. Guests are always welcome. For more information call 893-7918.

...

## Old Cell Phones Can Be Lifeline for Seniors

Donate your old cell phones to the Senior Safety Phone Project, which provides seniors in Pinellas and Pasco counties with free emergency cell phones. The Area Agency on Aging of Pasco - Pinellas collects donated cell phones, tests and charges the phones, and then distributes them to seniors in the community. For a full list of the donation and distribution sites in Pasco and Pinellas counties, please call the Senior Helpline at 1-800-96ELDER (1-800-963-5337).

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## Start the New Year with a Boating Course

Start the 2010 new year off with a Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Skills and Seamanship course on Tuesday evening, January 5. Programs are conducted from 7:30-9:30 p.m. each Tuesday and are conveniently located on the USCG base at 1300 Beach Drive SE, St. Petersburg. Call 727-898-1324 for information. Completion satisfies the state of Florida boater I.D. safety education requirements.

...

## Attention Veterans

It's official. DD-214's are now available online. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>.

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180 which can be downloaded from the website.

...

## Trolley Token Purchase Locations

The following locations offer tokens to ride the Gulfport/St. Pete Beach trolley: Domain Home Accessories, 3129 Beach Blvd. S., The Outpost, 3007 Beach Blvd. S., Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Blvd. S., in Gulfport and Bluewater Outfitters, 341 Corey Ave. in St. Pete Beach.

If you are a Gulfport or St. Pete Beach business that is interested in having your shop participate as a Gulfport-St. Pete Beach Trolley token purchase location, call Brian VanSlyke at 893-1069. Soon, flamingo window cling signs will mark your business as a "Trolley Token" location!

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## Stetson Panel Discusses Wrongful Convictions

By Kate Bradshaw

Alan Crotzer can list the number of years, months, weeks, days and hours for which he was in prison for a violent crime from which DNA evidence recently cleared him.

He told a captive audience at Downtown St. Petersburg's Studio@620 last Tuesday that when he was incarcerated in 1981, he figured the justice system would do what it was supposed to do, and he would be cleared. A victim of the crimes of which he was accused – robbery, two counts of rape and kidnapping – had described someone at least seven inches taller and 70 pounds heavier.

He fought for years to have his case looked at, and urged that DNA evidence would set him free.

It wasn't until he was decades into his sentence that, with the help of the New York chapter of the Innocence Project, DNA evidence that was seemingly miraculously preserved did just that.

Now, he works as an intervention specialist for at-risk youth.

Crotzer is one of 246 people in the US who have been exonerated through DNA evidence.

He spoke as part of a Stetson University College of Law panel titled "Justice Delayed, but not Denied." The panel focused on the mission of the innocence project, the systemic problems that result in so many wrongful convictions and the ways in which they can be reformed.

These, panelist and Stetson Law Professor Judith Scully said, include forced or false confessions, suspect

misidentification, mishandling of evidence and many others.

So far, eleven people have been cleared of past crimes after being sentenced, and many fear that the number of innocent individuals who are incarcerated may be much larger.

What makes the issue more complex, said panelist Roberta Flowers, also a Stetson law professor, is that DNA evidence isn't always available, which means that those researching a potentially wrongful imprisonment don't always have definitive evidence that could free someone who's wrongfully accused.

Flowers and Scully are co-coordinators of the Stetson chapter of the Innocence project, a nationwide nonprofit that works to free the wrongfully convicted. The Stetson chapter is one of only a few chapters that do not review cases where DNA evidence is available.

Among reform Flowers suggests to help reduce incidences of wrongful conviction are taping confessions, better evidence preservation, utilizing double-blind suspect lineups where the conducting officer does not know who the suspect is and making DNA testing cheaper and more readily available.

Last week, a team of 68 Florida lawyers urged the state Supreme Court to assemble a panel examine why at least 11 Floridians have been wrongfully incarcerated. The panel will likely be called the Florida Innocence Commission, and would be modeled after a similar panel in North Carolina.

...

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## Flaming Fundraiser



Fire dancers put on an at-times harrowing show for onlookers in the parking lot adjacent the Beach Theater last Saturday. The fire show was part of an all-day benefit to raise funds to help cover medical expenses for Kevin Giordano, 27, who was recently diagnosed with colon cancer and will have to undergo several major surgeries in the coming months. Part of the proceeds from the event, which featured live music, cult film screenings and more, also benefited the American Cancer Society.

## Our Lady of Guadalupe



Most Holy Name Church recently celebrated the the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The story started December 9, 1531, when the Holy Mary told Juan Diego to be her special messenger to the Bishop of Mexico City. Juan was to tell the Bishop that the Mother Mary wanted a church to be built where she could manifest her Son and hear the petitions of her spiritual children.

## Take the Gabber on Vacation...



We went on a wonderful 8-night cruise on the Carnival Freedom, stopping at some fun ports along the way including San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. Thomas; Antigua; Tortola; Virgin Gorda and Nassau, Bahamas. Snorkeling and swimming in crystal clear water were two of our favorite activities.

- Daniel Hodge and Mike McCue

Send us your picture with you and your Gabber on vacation.

Include a brief description and your name.

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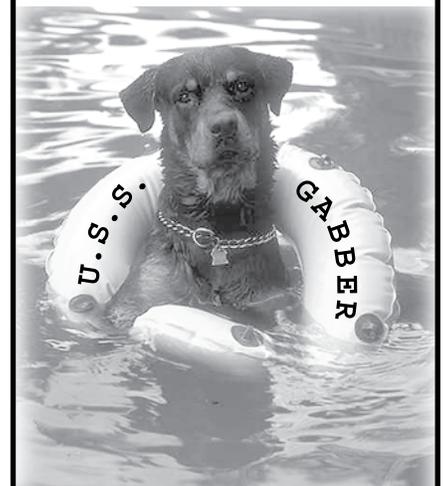
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# Attorney Keith Sanders Handles Bankruptcies with Experience and Sensitivity

By Greg Stem

“I guess you could say my motto is ‘been there, done that,’” says Keith Sanders, from the law office of Andre Keith Sanders, P.A.

He says that for two reasons. First, he says his more than 17 years of experience as an attorney specializing in handling “literally thousands” of bankruptcies means that he has dealt with virtually any kind of problem or issue that might arise with them. And, secondly, he had to file a Chapter 13 bankruptcy himself a few years ago. He says that experience makes him very sensitive to the kinds of things people face when making the difficult decision to file.

“Most attorneys have never been in a situation where they have been worried about how to keep the lights on, but I have been there myself so I can really relate to what people are going through,” said Sanders. “Plus, many people are very embarrassed when they come to me, but I when I tell them how embarrassing it was for me to have to stand in front of judges and colleagues who knew me and go through the process myself, that usually helps to put people more at ease and understand that I have been there and done that MYSELF.”

“You know, in 99 percent of bankruptcy cases the situation is that bad things happen to good people and then they have gotten into a bad situation. They have gone through an expensive health crisis or a divorce or perhaps someone has just gotten in over their head with debt. It’s very easy in today’s consumer driven society for that to happen,” said Sanders.

Sanders offers a free initial consultation with no set time limit on it. “It might take 20 minutes or it might take two hours, it just depends of the client’s individual set of circumstances,” he said. “We can meet at their home or in my office, we can even do it over the phone if they can provide me with the financial information we need to discuss their situation.” Sanders says that he can often offer other solutions besides bankruptcy such as re-negotiating payment schedules with creditors or reorganizing personal finances. “For example, I often have people who can avoid bankruptcy if they just get out from under the burden of a house they can no longer



afford because of a job loss or some other situation,” he noted.

He moved to the Tampa Bay area in July 2005 from Atlanta where he was a partner/owner of Hamilton & Sanders, LLC a firm specializing in consumer bankruptcy and real estate closings. The firm regularly filed between 40-60 bankruptcy cases a month. Prior to that he worked for three other major law firms in Atlanta from 1992 to 2003. All three firms specialized in consumer bankruptcy cases. He began his career as a staff attorney for the United States Trustee in Atlanta. He is licensed to practice law in both Florida and Georgia.

“I like what I do because I feel like I can help people get a fresh start,” said Sanders. “When you have financial difficulties it can really affect your entire life. It has negative implications on you emotionally and it can even damage or ruin your personal relationships. I do try and encourage people to come see me early on, even if they are just starting to get behind in payments or feel they are in over their head. If you can start working with an attorney from the very start it can really reduce your stress level as I can stop harassing creditor calls. I can also see if we can work out arrangements that a creditor might not consider when working directly with my client.”

“Since the initial consultation is free, you really don’t have anything to lose to meet with me and we can

assess your situation and see how it might be best for you to proceed. Bankruptcy can be one solution to getting back on your feet financially, but it may not be the best or only solution for you. As an experienced professional, I can help you sort through those issues and see what is right for you,” he noted.

Sanders has held a number of seminars and written professional papers concerning bankruptcy law in general, ECF requirements and new issues. He is a former director of the Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Georgia.

Outside of the courtroom, Sanders lives in an unusual home in Gulfport that was one of the featured properties in last year’s Pink Flamingo Tour of Homes. It has a tree growing right up through the floor and up through the ceiling of his kitchen. He has three dogs and a cat. When he was living in Atlanta he was very involved with helping raise funds for a number of AIDS service organizations. He is hoping to get involved with local charitable groups as soon as possible.

**Keith Sanders, Esq.**  
**The Law Group of Andre Keith Sanders, P.A.**  
**6702 Gulf Boulevard**  
**St. Pete Beach, FL 33706**  
**727-209-0744**  
**keithsanderslaw@gmail.com**

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# Somethin' on my mind

By Bill Northrop

B\_Northrop@theGabber.com

## Farewell to Healthcare As We Know It

In 1787, at the end of the Constitutional Convention, Ben Franklin was reported to have said, "you have a Republic, if you can keep it."

To twist that phrase torturously, by the time you read this Wednesday, you will have a health bill reform, if the system can survive it. Actually, you won't have much of a reform until 2014, and the Senate's approval has to go through a conference committee with the House before a bill can get to the president's desk which won't be until February of 2010.

By then we may know all of the details of the bill which could be 1,000 or 2,000 pages. Few really know the details, but it has been voted on anyway. Some may like it; some may not. I for one, having read all 1,000 pages of the original House bill, know that those little details, public option insurance plan or not, will give government control of almost all facets of the medical system.

In the meantime, what we think we know is that 30 million people will get insurance coverage they never had; 23 million will still be without medical insurance; Medicaid will be expanded to include more people; individuals and businesses can choose from a package of pre-determined insurance programs and families with incomes of \$88,000 or less, will get government subsidies; employers with 50 or more employees will have to provide health insurance or pay a fee of \$750 per employee; everyone will have to buy some insurance or pay a penalty of up to \$750 for an individual or \$2,250 for a family; and no insurance company can restrict coverage to anyone, and fees for older customers will be controlled and limited.

To pay for this, there will be a 40 per cent tax on any existing plan that exceeds \$23,000 in value for family coverage or \$8,500 for individuals; an added Medicare tax for family incomes above \$250,000; fees on health insurers, pharmaceuti-

cal companies, and medical device manufacturers; 10 per cent tax on customers of tanning salons (in lieu of a tax on cosmetic surgery - think Pelosi); and \$480 billion in cuts to Medicare over the next ten years. Those cuts will be to hospitals and health care providers.

Cuts will also reportedly be made to Medicare Advantage plans (not the drug portion which will supposedly be expanded to close the "doughnut hole").

There will be a voluntary long-term health care plan and various experimental pilot programs to cover patients, and, a national health care corps, if this is retained from the previous bills.

Supposedly, over ten years, this will more than pay for itself. Of course, taxes will be levied for the four years before the new plan will have been implemented.

States (read, state taxpayers) will have to pay more for Medicaid because Medicaid will be expanded to cover more people. However, Nebraska, the Dakotas, Wyoming, Montana, Vermont, and Massachusetts, are exempt as a trade-off for their voting for the package. Florida will help pay for their share.

Whatever the cost or savings projections are, don't believe them. There are no real incentives to reduce system use and costs. Taxes on insurers and medical device makers will increase costs. More people will be subsidized and covered, and, there is no control on legal liability for health care providers so unnecessary medical procedures will not be curtailed.

Expanding medical care through government has appeal and many feel it is morally correct. However, don't expect it to be cheaper, or, in the long run, easier to access. Do expect fewer providers to accept the much lower Medicare fees, and do expect many health care institutions to close over the years.

...

## Calling All Future Big Brothers

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County needs at least 125 Big Brothers to meet the needs of their current waiting list. Make a difference in a child's life. There are several different programs to suit your preferences including their Sports Buddies Program. Take a child to sporting events (like the Rays game) for which they supply the tickets and watch or participate in sports activities together. Not interested in sports? That's OK! Sports Buddies is just one option. You can select mentoring activities to suit your preferences and the child's.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Big Brother, please email your contact information to ShirleyN@bbbspc.org or call 727-518-8860 for more information.

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# American Legion Activities

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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Lunch Served 11am-3pm  Ron's Karaoke 7pm	Southern Knights Band 7-11pm  Kitchen Closed Christmas	Southern Knights Band 7-11pm  Free Pool 'til 5pm  Dinner 5-7pm	Breakfast 8:30-11am Kitchen Open 2-5pm	No Lunch Served	Lunch Served 11am-3pm  Ron's Karaoke 7pm	Lunch Served 11am-3pm Euchre 1pm Bingo 6pm Kitchen open

Don't forget to get your tickets for the \$1,000 drawing to be held next Tuesday, December 29 at 8 p.m.

There are still a few New Year's Eve tickets available. The cost is \$30 per person which includes dinner, party favors, and champagne at midnight, followed by breakfast. The Southern Knights band will be playing for your listening and dancing pleasure. A seating chart is located in the lounge.

Join us for dinner on Friday and Saturday nights from 5 to 7 p.m. The Southern Knights band also plays after dinner. Wednesday nights we have bingo starting at 6 p.m. Food is available during bingo. Every Wednesday at 1 p.m. join us for euchre.

## Post 305

**6999 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach 367-1596**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Christmas Eve Bar open 11-5	Christmas Day SAL Bartending Light Fare Open 12-6	Steak Dinner 6-8pm Geno 7-10pm	NASCAR/Football Open 12-6pm Wings 3-5pm	Bucky Burgers 5-8pm Bus Boys Karaoke 7-10 pm	Harry 7-10pm	Frank Caine 7-10pm

New Years Eve tickets are available at the bar.

We have Ragtime Annie and her husband scheduled for Friday nights through the season. They play some Dixieland, Ragtime, Oldies and old Standards and great singalongs. We have our great "Bucky Burgers" prepared by the "Bus Boys" along with Vivian's world famous potato salad.

Tuesday nights with Harry are rapidly becoming a jam session again. Last week we had Harry on guitar, Denny on piano, Herman on electronic accordion, Pauli on drums. They put on a great show. This will likely grow as we have a sax player and some others in the wings who pop-in from time to time.

Dee LeBlonc does karaoke Monday nights. She has a strong following. Wednesday is our special dinner offerings.

Wednesday nights we have Frank Caine who sings and does some karaoke using his very rare collection of karaoke video disks. He puts on a great show. Friday night fish dinners will be available.

Geno has returned for Saturday nights which is steak night. He plays a variety of instruments, sings, tells jokes, etc. His creativity will be readily apparent.

Note: All meals, unless otherwise noted, are served from 6-8 pm and entertainment is from 7-10 pm.

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# Gulfport Centennial Countdown Continues!

## Gulfport's Centennial

100 Week Countdown to 100 Years!



The sign says "Palmer's 5,10,25,50 & \$1 Store." Where was this place with the big price range, and who was Palmer? Answer next week.

**Think you know the answer?**

Send us an email with your answer, name and phone number to [News@theGabber.com](mailto:News@theGabber.com)

In just 42 weeks, Gulfport will celebrate the centennial of its incorporation, October 12, 1910. We'll be reminding you every week with an interesting old photograph from the collection of the Historical Museum. See if you can identify the people, places, and above all the decade of each picture as it comes along. To make it a little bit of a challenge, we won't publish the correct caption until the following week.

...

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:

The house shown last week was one of those on the four corners of Beach Boulevard and 27th Avenue that went up right after the arrival of the streetcar line, which enabled builders to bring in lumber to the trolley depot in the middle of the park. It dates from about 1907 and was owned by a family named Sackrider, though throughout most of its years of existence it was used as a rental.



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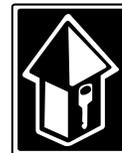
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## Historical Museum Seeks Volunteers

Have you ever thought of volunteering? Gulf Beaches Historical Museum has a large, diverse group of volunteers who participate in all aspects of the Museum.

Do you enjoy looking at "neat old things" and learning more about them? Volunteers who work behind the scenes carry out the function of the museum's mission: "to preserve our island history".

Do you love visiting with people? Volunteers teach touring visitors and assisting in the gift shop. You represent to the public a friendly, inviting experience!

By contributing your time and sharing your wealth of experience the Museum will continue it's proud tradition of being an "all volunteer operated" organization. No special skill, talent or knowledge is needed, other than an interest in our island history. The rewards of volunteering are many, including the friendships you'll make.

As a Pinellas County Volunteer you will receive special benefits, invitations and rewards for committing six hours a month. Training is provided at the Museum. It is their goal to place volunteers into activities they will enjoy. They couldn't open our doors without the help of volunteers! Please join today!

If you would like to be a part of this vital group please leave a message at the museum, 727-552-1610. Gulf Beaches Historical Museum is located at 115 10 Avenue in Pass-a-Grille, St. Pete Beach.

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## Foster Hope... Foster A Child

Imagine being taken away from your home, not knowing where you will go, leaving behind your favorite things. Now, imagine this through the eyes of a child. There are more than 3,500 dependent children in Pinellas and Pasco counties due to child abuse, neglect or abandonment. Many of them need loving foster parents. For more information on becoming a foster parent, please call Eckerd Community Alternatives Recruitment Line toll-free at 1-866-233-0790.

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# Local Obituaries

**FOLTZ, EMMA LOU**, 96, of South Pasadena, died Dec. 17, 2009. Beloved mother of Pauline Mayes; grandmother of five; and a great, great-great-grandmother. [www.rlwilliams.com](http://www.rlwilliams.com).

...

**HERRING, KIRBY LANDON**, 61, of Gulfport passed away December 16, 2009. He is survived by many loving family members are friends.

...

**LEITENBERGER, BETTY F.**, Betty Fulton Leitenberger (formerly Mansfield), 91, of South Pasadena, passed away Dec. 11, 2009. Betty graduated from St. Petersburg High School and from seminary, but spent most of her career in finance. Betty is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth Mansfield (Gary Carnal); granddaughter, May Carnal; as well as many nieces, nephews and caring in-laws. She will be remembered as a loving and beloved mother, grandmother, aunt and sister, who was dedicated to preserving her family and caring for those she loved even through the most difficult times. A memorial will be held at a later date. Online guestbook @ [www.davidcgross.com](http://www.davidcgross.com), David C. Gross Funeral Homes, 6366 Central Ave., 727-381-4911.

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**WARE, JEAN MARIE**, 78, of Gulfport, passed away Dec. 15. Survivors include her daughter, Debbie Tosi; 2 sons, Ken and Eddie; 3 sisters, Patsy, Nancy and Barbara; 2 brothers, Edward and Warren; 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Memorial Park Funeral Home, 5750 49th St. N., St. Petersburg, FL, 33709.

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## In Memoriam



**JAMES POE**

**Jan. 30, 1948 - Sept. 16, 2009**

Wanting to wish you a Merry Christmas, New Year and throughout the coming years to Jim, those he loved and loved him. He is and will be truly missed, forever in our hearts and in spirit with all of us, always. Thoughts, prayers, blessings and peace to him and all of you.

All our love,  
Tasha, the dogs, friends and family

...

## Yoga for the Insecure

**ST. PETE BEACH:** Easy yoga and meditation class taught by certified Yoga Instructor Osha Ray begins October 6th at the St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Drive. You will be guided to respect, accept, and listen to the needs of your own body while learning to do the poses correctly. Increase your strength and flexibility while decreasing tension and anxiety.

Class is for all levels and beginners are welcome. Drop in any Thursday at 9:30 a.m. No pre-registration necessary and cost is just \$7 per class. Bring a yoga mat if you have one and a small blanket. See sample of Osha's DVD at [www.yogawithosharay.com](http://www.yogawithosharay.com) or contact her directly at (727) 388-6682 and [osharay@yahoo.com](mailto:osharay@yahoo.com).

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## Dog and Cat Shelter Seeks Donations

The We Care for Paws Foundation, a non-profit dog and cat shelter, currently houses over 45 dogs and 30 cats. Most of the animals are unadoptable due to medical problems, behavioral problems or old age, and they will live out their lives in peace at the shelter. We are always in need of items for the animals, such as cat condos; cat and dog treats, beds and toys; shampoo, flea preventatives such as Advantage or Frontline, heartworm preventative tablets (HeartGuard), towels and blankets. As always, cash is needed to help pay for medical expenses. If you would like to donate any of these items, please call Jan at 896-6315.

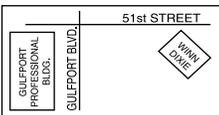
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...

## State Required Safe Boating Classes

Do not become a victim, statistic or the subject of a search and rescue. Be prepared for unforeseen, challenging and potentially dangerous events on the water:

Always have plenty of fuel and remember the 1/3rd Rule: Use only 1/3rd out, 1/3rd back and you should never run out of gas.

Start out with a charged battery and back-up when possible.

Always file a Float Plan with someone who cares and cancel it when you get back.

Do not go out in bad weather or when it is threatening. Keep a weather eye and go home before you need to do so.

Always have the required U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) equipment in good working order and not outdated: USCG approved life jackets for each passenger that fit properly and wear them, appropriate fire extinguishers that work, visual distress signals (flares, etc.), navigation lights that work properly, an appropriate anchor with sufficient line and a marine VHF radio that works.

Always appoint a lookout to help watch for other boats, crab traps, shallow water, etc.

Always carry sufficient water/gator aid to prevent dehydration, hypothermia, and sunscreen to prevent burn.

Do not boat under the influence.

Drive safely and carefully at a reasonable speed based on the conditions at the time.

Learn or enhance your Boating Skills and Seamanship at the U.S.C.G.

Auxiliary, Flotilla 72 each Tuesday night, 7:30-9:30 p.m., 1300 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg. Call 898-1324 for information. Completion satisfies the state of Florida boater safety ID requirements.

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## Free Acupuncture Clinic for Veterans

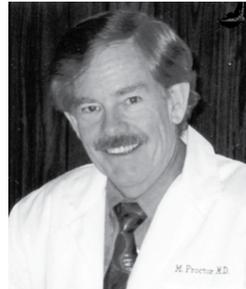
Acupuncturists Without Borders is offering a free acupuncture clinic

to provide treatment for veterans, their families, and their health care workers. These acupuncture treatments address stress, insomnia, post-traumatic stress syndrome, depression and anxiety. The clinic is held at Unity of St. Petersburg, 6168 First Avenue N. in St. Petersburg at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday. The clinic is free, donations are welcome. For further information, please call 727-204-5203.

...

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Embalming or alternative preparation  
Cremation Services  
Casket or urn

\*\*Items listed are a sampling of items not covered.

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Following are some of the calls that Gulfport Police responded to during the past week.

**Friday 12/11**

- Domestic Verbal-** 1800 Blk 60th St. S.
- Suspicious Person-** 5500 Blk 28th Ave. S.
- Criminal Mischief-** 5200 Blk 8th Ave. S.
- Theft-** 2800 Blk 59th St. S.
- Robbery-** 900 Blk 58th St. S.
- Narcotics/Drugs-** 2200 Blk 53rd St. S.
- Criminal Mischief-** 3000 Blk 50th St. S.
- Theft-** 5600 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
- Criminal Mischief-** 2200 Blk 56th St. S.
- Trouble with Individual-** 2000 Blk 52nd St. S.
- Animal Complaint-** 4900 Blk 18th Ave. S.
- Theft-** 5300 Blk 29th Ave. S.
- Noise Complaint-** 5500 Blk Shore Blvd. S.
- Theft-** 3000 Blk 49th St. S.

- Hit & Run-** 4900 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
- Saturday 12/12**
- Noise Complaint-** 5100 Blk 16th St. S.
- Animal Complaint-** 700 Blk 58th St. S.
- Theft-** 5600 Blk Newton Ave. S.
- Street Obstruction-** 4900 Blk 20th Ave. S.
- Battery-** 1200 Blk 52nd St. S.
- Trouble with Individual-** 1200 Blk 52nd St. S.
- Sunday 12/13**
- Trespasser-** 5400 Blk Shore Blvd. S.
- Drunk Driver-** 1500 Blk 62nd St. S.
- Noise Complaint-** 5600 Blk Newton Ave. S.
- Drunk Person-** 1900 Blk 52nd St. S.
- Noise Complaint-** 3100 Blk 53rd St. S.
- Drunk Person-** 5000 Blk 9th Ave. S.
- Animal Complaint-** 1200 Blk 55th St. S.
- Theft-** 5400 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
- Trespasser-** 5100 Blk Preston Ave. S.
- Trespasser-** 900 Blk 58th St. S.
- Burglary-** 1800 Blk 49th St. S.
- Call for Officer-** 900 Blk 58th St. S.
- Monday 12/14**
- Noise Complaint-** 900 Blk 54th Ave. S.

- Battery-** 2500 Blk 50th St. S.
- Noise Complaint-** 900 Blk 54th St. S.
- Battery-** 1000 Blk 49th St. S.
- Animal Complaint-** 5500 Blk Shore Blvd. S.
- Animal Complaint-** 2000 Blk 54th St. S.
- Criminal Mischief-** 5800 Blk 13th Ave. S.
- Theft-** 5500 Blk Shore Blvd. S.
- Tuesday 12/15**
- Criminal Mischief-** 5000 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
- Noise Complaint-** 5200 Blk 11th Ave. S.
- Criminal Mischief-** 2900 Blk 56th St.
- Harassing/Threat/Obscene Calls-** Location Withheld.
- Thursday 12/17**
- Domestic Battery-** 6300 Blk 10th Ave. S.
- Trouble with Individual-** 3100 Blk Beach Blvd. S.
- Animal Complaint-** 5600 Blk 29th Ave. S.
- Truant-** Trail.
- Burglary-** 1700 Blk 58th St. S.
- Trouble with Individual-** Trail Spur.
- Burglary-** 3100 Blk Beach Blvd. S.
- Call for Officer-** 3200 Blk 58th St. S.
- Call for Officer-** 5000 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
- Animal Complaint-** 5400 Blk 14th Ave. S.
- Harassing/Threat/Obscene Calls-** Location Withheld.
- Drunk Person-** 5400 Blk Shore Blvd. S.

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## Crime Awareness Meeting

Submitted by Jeri Reed

The next Gulfport Crime Awareness & Prevention Meeting will be held on Monday, January 11 at 7 p.m. at the Neighborhood Center located at 1617 49 Street S. This meeting is citywide so all can share.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and would like to offer some tips in that area (these tips are a combination of info received from local police departments)! Avoid shopping alone, stay alert to your surroundings, avoid carrying large amounts of cash, never leave purses unattended in shopping carts – keep it close to your body, carry your wallet in an inside coat pocket/front pants pocket or zippered pocket, walk to your car with your keys in your hand, lock your car doors immediately once you get inside.

When shopping on-line you should only use companies you know and trust, keep your personal information private and your password secure, use secure websites for purchases by looking for the icon of a locked padlock at the bottom of the screen or “https” in the URL address.

If your family participates in gift giving, be aware that by putting the boxes out front for trash pick up, you are alerting passerbys that you have “new toys”. Consider disposing of the packaging by other means. When you get the “new toys”, record the brand name, description, model and serial number for your records – just in case!

We encourage everyone to attend and participate in our next meeting. For more information, contact Jeri Reed at 727-548-5566 days and 727-327-3509 evenings or at Jrvolunteer@aol.com.



## Korean War Veterans Association

If you served in Korea during the Korean War up to the present, you are eligible for membership in the KWVA. They also welcome anyone who wishes to volunteer their time, energy and service. They meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at VFW Post 4364, 5773 62 Street N. in St. Petersburg. Call Clarence Dadswell, President, at 525-6496.

KWVA Chapter 14 is dedicated to preserving the historical contributions of our military who have served and sacrificed in the Korean theater from 1950 to the present.

They participate in numerous charitable contributions to the memory of our veterans such as the creation and dedication of the beautiful and inspiring granite Korean War memorial at Freedom Lake Park in Pinellas Park. In addition to parades, they serve as honor guards for military funerals including those veterans without families or friends; folding flags to be later used at funerals; serving as color guards for Tropicana Field and other events, rendering support to members in need and participation in other patriotic and charitable endeavors. They also participate in a number of youth oriented events and sponsor youth scholarships. Of course there is always time for a number of enjoyable events such as outings, dinners, get togethers, etc.

Their meetings reflect a relaxed yet formal format which concludes with sharing coffee, tea, sandwiches and pastries while engaged in pleasant conversation and socialization with members and guests.

If you are a veteran of the Korean theater from 1950 to the present, come and join their group of friendly members. You'll be glad you did.

## St. Petersburg Writers Club

The Club meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the West St. Petersburg Library, Eighth Avenue and 67th Street N., adjacent to St. Petersburg College. Anyone interested in writing, whether a seasoned professional or a beginner is welcome to attend.

The purpose of the St. Petersburg Writers' Club is to encourage every member to write more effectively and to be published appropriately. Most of the reading time is devoted to members' reading from their works-in-progress and hearing other members' critiques.

Membership is open to writers of all ages and all levels of writing skills, working in any literary genre. Dues are \$10 per year.

Guests and new members are always welcome. For more information, call Marthat Dupes at 736-3355 or Pat First at 397-8833.

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## Attention Shutterbugs!

How do you see your town and your life? Send us your best photo--it can be of anything, from a picture of your pooch or a mailbox you think is cool--and we'll choose one to run every week starting July 2.

E-mail your photo to news@thegabber.com. Photos should be at least 200dpi and in JPG format. Alternately, bring or mail your printed photos to The Gabber, 1419 49 Street S., Gulfport, FL 33707. The Gabber cannot guarantee printed photos will get returned.

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# Everyday Cheap\$Kate

By Mary Hunt

## 7 Bargains and After-Christmas Tips

I don't know anyone who relishes the idea of putting Christmas away for another year. However, I have to admit that today's great reader tips almost have me looking forward to it!

**HOLIDAY BABY.** I've found ways to save money on everyday items at the after-Christmas sales. I found infant sleepers that say "My First Christmas" marked down to \$1 each at one store and Onesies with holiday graphics for 50 cents each at another. I bought several sizes to donate to our local crisis pregnancy center. Christmas sleepers are just as warm Jan. 1! -- Susan V., Missouri

**PAPER POTENTIAL.** When buying wrapping paper at the discount sales after Christmas, look for pat-

terns that will do double duty during the year. Last year, I bought silver paper at 90 percent off that works beautifully for weddings and polka-dot paper for birthday gifts. -- Susan V., Missouri

**SMART CARD.** As a teacher, I get lots of gifts from my students during the holidays. It can get expensive to write and mail 20 or more thank you notes to them. This year, I bought a package of 20 Christmas cards at Walmart for \$3. I cut the fronts off the cards and turned them into postcards. On the blank backsides, I drew vertical lines to separate the address sides from the message sides. I wrote a brief thank you note on each and mailed them for 27 cents each. I put the leftover envelopes in my envelope drawer for future use. -- Gretchen, California

**DECORATIONS DISMANTLED.** When I pack my holiday decorations,

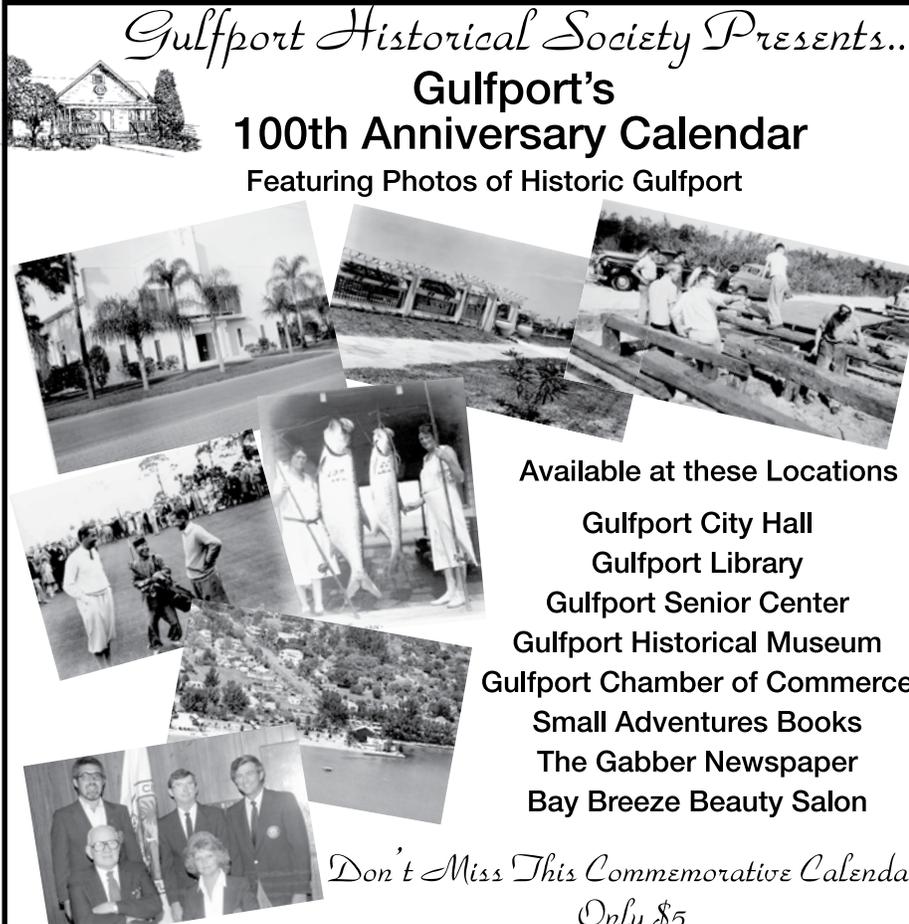
I put each strand of lights into a different plastic shopping bag to keep them from getting tangled. I keep my ornaments in brown paper bags and put them in a plastic tote bag. I usually can get several ornaments in a paper bag, and it keeps them from breaking. -- Lisa, Virginia

**HEIGHT HELP.** I am vertically challenged, so I've found a creative way to reach my holiday decorations in the back of a deep closet. After the holidays, when I put everything away, I take a long strand of cheap Christmas ribbon or string and staple it firmly to the box. I let the strand dangle and push the box to the back of the shelf. The ribbon is long enough to be accessible. To get the box down, all I have to do is grab the ribbon and pull the box toward me until I can reach it. -- JoAnne K., Maryland

**HOLIDAY JUMBLE.** I have accumulated so many plastic tubs of Christmas decorations that I decided to mark each tub with a number and letter. When packing away my decorations, I make a list of everything that is going into a particular tub. Then I put the list on my computer. When the next Christmas season comes, I check the list and only bring in the tubs I need to decorate a particular area. -- Janet F., e-mail

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*Gulfport Historical Society Presents...*



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## Volunteer Nurses Needed at Free Clinic

Are you enthusiastic, friendly and optimistic? Do you have a couple hours a week or a month to volunteer in a warm and friendly environment with a great team? St. Petersburg Free Clinic offers free medical care to the medically underserved adult. We need volunteer nurses to assist our volunteer physicians and staff ARNP. All you need is a giving heart and a current license. Please be that listening ear and helping hand to someone in need. Go home feeling great by knowing that you have made a difference! Contact Angel Schumaker at [aschumakerspfc@yahoo.com](mailto:aschumakerspfc@yahoo.com) or call (727) 821-1200, ext. 114.

St. Petersburg Free Clinic is located at 863 3rd Avenue North and provides temporary assistance for families and individuals in need of the basics of food, shelter, health care, limited financial assistance and referral information. For more information about the Free Clinic visit [www.stpetersburgfreeclinic.org](http://www.stpetersburgfreeclinic.org).

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## Meals on Wheels Needs Drivers

Volunteers are needed to deliver hot, nutritious meals to the homebound throughout Pinellas County. Volunteering for the Neighborly Meals on Wheels program is a hands-on, front line experience. If you have 1½ hours midday to help in your own neighborhood, you could help improve someone's life and make a real difference in this critical area of need. Meals are picked up at a site near you and delivered to the homebound in your area (maps and directions are provided).

Many Pinellas County seniors are living alone, too poor to buy food, or too frail to shop and cook for themselves. And the need is growing every day. Do someone else a favor and you will be doing yourself one!

Neighborly needs compassionate, caring volunteers to share their time with lonely, isolated seniors. Please call Pat Hazell at 727-573-9444, ext. 291 to start helping your community today.

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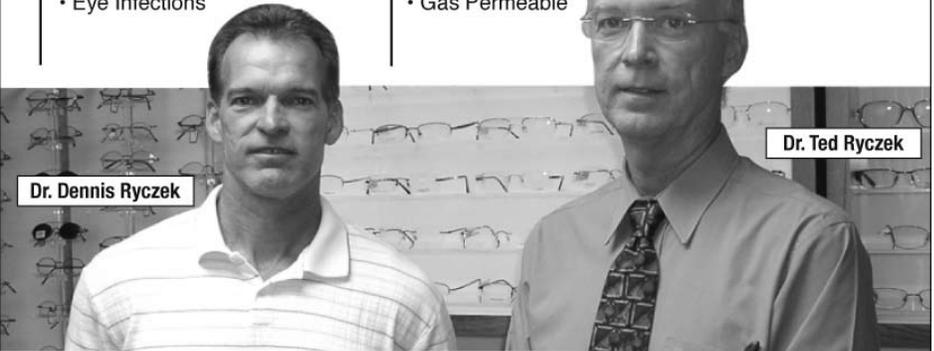
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# Your SOCIAL SECURITY

By Tom Margenau

## Shhh! Mum's the Word on Social Security Rule Change

**Q:** I filed for my retirement benefits about a year ago and had to take my birth certificate to the Social Security office as part of the process. But a neighbor told me that when she filed for her benefits several weeks ago, they told her a birth certificate wasn't needed. Did they trust her and not me? Or did the rules change?

**A:** The rules changed -- sort of -- but very quietly. The Social Security Administration isn't publishing this information so don't tell anyone that I told you!

The law still requires people who are applying for Social Security retirement benefits to prove that they are old enough to qualify for them. And for more than 70 years, SSA has demanded that applicants provide a certified copy of their birth certificate or some other old record of age -- like a baptismal certificate -- in those rare instances when a person's birth was not recorded in official records.

But SSA conducted some internal studies and learned that in many cases, they already have satisfactory proof of age in their records. This is usually because a retiree had to provide a birth certificate when he or she first applied for a Social Security card many years earlier.

So now, as a general rule, if a person's allegation of birth on the retirement application agrees with

the date of birth on the old Social Security card application form, then no further evidence of age is needed. But the revised rules leave a great deal of discretion to the representative reviewing your claim, which is primarily why the agency isn't promoting this as a major policy shift. If that person has any reason to think there might be a problem, he or she can ask you to bring in a birth certificate.

**Q:** In your columns, you frequently encourage people to file for Social Security benefits online. But given all the problems with people hacking into computers and stealing private information, and knowing that you have to input your Social Security number and all sorts of other personal information when you file for Social Security, do you think filing online is safe?

**A:** I think it's as safe, and probably safer, than doing anything else on the Internet, whether you're ordering a blouse from an online catalog or applying for an auto loan from your local bank's website.

I asked officials at the Social Security Administration to help me answer your question. They referred me to their website where I found pages of reassurances. Long story short: They take every precaution they can to safeguard your information. But if you're still skeptical and want to read the long story, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). Under "Questions," select "All Other Topics," and then type "Internet security" into the "Search by Keyword" box.

**Q:** I get Social Security disability benefits, but I'm having trouble making ends meet. I've found a job that will pay me about \$1,300 per month. How much money can I make and still keep my Social Security disability checks?

**A:** This can be a sticky situation because the only reason you're getting disability benefits from the federal government in the first place is because you told them you can't work. But there is a bit of wiggle room here because the law says you are eligible for Social Security disability benefits only if you are unable to do "substantial" work.

So, what is "substantial"? Government policy makers establish a substantial earnings limit each year. It's currently set at \$980 per month. So, your potential \$1,300 monthly salary puts you well over that legal limit.

However, there are several other related rules that come into play. For example, there is something called a "trial work period." During this nine-month period (although it can be extended in some cases), you are essentially allowed to earn as much money as you can and still collect your full disability check. And then after that nine-month span, if you're still working and making over the \$980 limit, your benefits may be stopped. I say "may be stopped" because once again, there are extenuating circumstances that could permit you to continue getting disability checks. The only way you'll find out which rules apply to you is to contact your local Social Security office.

One word of warning: When you tell them that you've returned to work, that may trigger a review of your disability claim. And there is a chance they may conclude that your condition has improved to the point that you can no longer be considered disabled -- your benefits may be cut off even without the "trial work period."

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## SPCREA to Meet

Attention people who worked in education anywhere...The South Pinellas County Retired Educators Association, SPCREA, invites you to come to Picadilly in St. Pete, at 19th Ave. and 34th St. North. They meet the second Thursday of each month from October through May at 11 a.m. Join them for entertainment, educational programs and other activities. Call Joyce at 526-5065 for information.

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## Find a Yoga Class That's Right for You

St. Pete Beach: The St. Pete Beach Community Center is offering three new Yoga classes this Fall, appropriate for all skill levels from beginner to advanced. Yoga Instructor Wendy Hessinger will be teaching Hatha Yoga, Silver Sneakers Yoga for Seniors, and Beach Yoga; interested participants should contact her for class dates and times at (727) 686-0123 or stpetebeachyoga@yahoo.com. All classes are held at the Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Drive.

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## Fine Dining Every Thursday Night

The Sons of Italy has opened its fall season with great new meal choices that change weekly and include entree, salad and dessert for \$9. Reservations requested for parties over five. Call 323-2691 or Giuseppe at 798-6355. The Sons of Italy dining room is located at 2500 34 Street S. next to Kentucky Fried Chicken (watch for their flotilla of Italian flags). Visit [SonsofItaly2427.com](http://SonsofItaly2427.com).

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## Polish American Society Dances

Polish American Society of St. Petersburg located at 1343 Beach Drive SE (next to the Coast Guard commissary) is open for dancing and dinner on Sundays through May 31 from 3-7 p.m. Dancing from 4-7 p.m. Dinner from 3-4:30 p.m. Call 894-9908 or visit their web site at [www.polishsociety.org](http://www.polishsociety.org) for more information.

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## Gulfport Tuesday Market

Every Tuesday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. you can find the Gulfport Tuesday Market on Beach Boulevard south of 28th Ave. S. in Gulfport in the Waterfront District. It is a free and family friendly event. Each week you will find produce, music, and craft and art vendors like Anne Painted Signs who offers custom painted and decorative signs for your home, office and garden. Contact: <http://gulfport-market.com>, [info@gulfport-market.com](mailto:info@gulfport-market.com) or Leslie Gilchrist at 727-439-1485.

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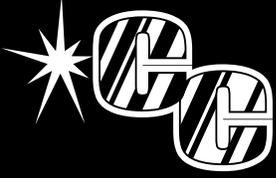
## Volunteer with the Arthritis Foundation

The Arthritis Foundation is seeking volunteers to become "Arthritis Ambassadors". The Foundation offers training to interested individuals to prepare them to serve the Foundation through a variety of positions. Volunteers can be trained to teach Arthritis Foundation programs and services, to do speaking engagements, work in the Arthritis Foundation to help with general office duties, mailings, phones, etc.

For more information, call 800-741-4008, ext. 231.

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# Your Health

By Rallie McAllister M.D.

## Excessive Drinking Shrinks Your Brain and Your Memory

Moderate alcohol consumption may be good for your heart, but new research suggests that it doesn't appear to offer the same protective benefits for the brain. While moderate amounts of alcohol don't necessarily help the brain, regularly consuming more than two drinks a day can definitely harm it.

Habitual consumption of more than 14 alcoholic drinks per week actually causes the brain to shrink, according to the results of a study conducted by researchers at Wellesley College in Wellesley, Mass. The scientists found that the more alcohol an individual drinks on a regular basis, the lower his or her total brain volume.

For the study, the Wellesley researchers evaluated brain size and alcohol consumption patterns in more than 1,800 adults between the ages of 34 and 88 years. The subjects were enrolled in the Framingham Offspring Study, which includes children of the original Framingham Heart Study participants.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans were performed and used to measure brain volume, a relatively reliable indicator of brain aging and health. Compared to those who abstained from alcohol, the subjects who habitually consumed more than 14 drinks per week had a 1.6 percent reduction in brain volume.

Although chronic drinking is detrimental to the entire brain, the cells of the hippocampus are especially

vulnerable to damage from alcohol. The hippocampus is a small, curved structure in the brain that is vital to learning and memory formation.

When the structure is surgically removed, a person's ability to store most new experiences in memory is permanently lost. In individuals with advanced, debilitating Alzheimer's dementia, the hippocampus typically is the first brain structure affected, and often the one that is most profoundly damaged by the disease.

In an animal study supported by the National Institutes of Health, scientists at Scripps Research Institute in San Diego found that chronic alcohol consumption dramatically reduced the number of new brain cells that normally form in the hippocampus.

For the study, rhesus monkeys were allowed to voluntarily consume a sweetened beverage containing 6 percent alcohol during one-hour sessions, five days a week for five months. A control group of monkeys had equal access to a similar, alcohol-free beverage.

Analysis of brain tissue revealed that alcohol consumption significantly reduced new brain cell growth and proliferation in the hippocampus. Compared to the non-drinking monkeys, those consuming alcohol exhibited a 58 percent decrease in the number of new brain cells formed in the hippocampus and a 63 percent reduction in cell survival.

Based on the results of their study, the researchers concluded that chronic alcohol consumption not only causes existing cells of the hippocampus to die off, it also keeps new cells from forming. These findings have important implications for humans, since shrinkage of the hippocampus is known to coincide with declines in cognitive abilities, such as memory and learning, and can ultimately lead to dementia.

Although the hippocampus typically shrinks with age, the rate at which it becomes smaller differs substantially among individuals. While regular physical activity and continued learning have been shown to enhance the size of the structure, chronic alcohol consumption appears to reduce it.

In the earliest stages, loss of brain volume is associated with temporary, minor lapses in memory, such as forgetting a doctor's appointment or the name of a casual acquaintance, according to the results of a study published in the medical journal *Neurology*.

The study included 500 adults ages 50 to 85 with no history of dementia. The subjects were asked about their experiences with occasional memory problems, such as having trouble thinking of the right word or forgetting events that had occurred in the previous hours or days.

After evaluating the subjects' brains using MRI scans, researchers found that in individuals with occasional memory lapses, the hippocampus was measurably smaller than in subjects with no memory problems.

Protecting the hippocampus is especially important for people who have been diagnosed with early Alzheimer's as well as for those who are at high risk for developing the disease. A study conducted by researchers at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland showed that having a large, healthy hippocampus may allow some older adults to compensate for Alzheimer's-related brain changes.

If you're determined to keep your hippocampus healthy and your mind sharp as you grow older, don't stop exercising or learning new things. And if you enjoy drinking alcohol, continue to do so only in moderation.

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## Telephone Reassurance Program

Did you know that volunteers from the Gulfport Senior Center make a morning telephone call every day of the week except Sundays and holidays to make a welfare check for many Gulfport seniors? They constantly hear from those they call who live alone how reassuring it is to hear that friendly voice on the phone to start their day.

If you are a person who would like to add your name to the list of Gulfport residents who already enjoy this service, call the Senior Center and speak to Susan at 893-2237 or Cynthia at 893-1231. This service is free to all Gulfport residents.

...

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Seniors in Service provides a tax-free income of up to \$425 per month to income-qualified volunteers who serve as Foster Grandparents. This income does not affect eligibility for food stamps, housing, Medicaid or any other assistance. Volunteers must be 55 years old or older and serve for 15 - 40 hours per week.

Foster Grandparents serve in public school classrooms, Head Start centers and after-school programs. They spend their time one-on-one or in small groups with at-risk children.

Volunteers make a significant difference in the lives of the children and elders they serve! Learn more at [www.seniorsinservice.org](http://www.seniorsinservice.org) or call (813) 932-5228 for more information and an application.

...

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We recently were in Georgia and cam across this site. We thought it was funny. My daughter Lauren insisted we take a picture.

-Submitted by  
Collyn Lockamy

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**Mr. Bill**, from front page if the twice-monthly bay cruise will go out. This night was no different, even if he seemed down. He appeared on his scooter with his Navy hat on, his suspenders adorned with medals from World War II.

"I got a bit of bad news today. I have cancer," he announces after he parks his scooter and stands. His voice quavers a bit but his eyes remain dry. He tells us briefly about his diagnosis, then changes the subject.

"My son's coming tonight," he says proudly. His son, Dan O'Connor, a St. Pete Beach police officer, arrives straight from work. Dan is one of six O'Connor children, but the only one who lives in Florida and the impetus for his parents moving away from the cold, white north.

Despite his obvious joy at seeing his son, Mr. Bill is sad. Dan tells us his father didn't want to treat the cancer and only agreed to one treatment while he thought things over.

Three months later he admits he's glad he allowed doctors to treat him, although he says he was initially skeptical of radiation.

"I never heard of it, I didn't want no part of it, and I said, 'If God wants me he can have me without all this radiation,'" he says Monday night from his 10th floor condo. As he speaks the sun flames into a brilliant orange and red behind his back.

When he buzzed me in to his condo Monday night I hadn't seen Mr. Bill since that night in September and I didn't know what to expect. I do not expect him to be standing at the door, waiting for me, and I am relieved at how strong and healthy this 85-year-old cancer patient looks.

I am there because he has an amazing canon of stories. When we started to

talk to me on the boat that night in September he told me captivating tales about World War II. He told me about taking his children boating. Somebody, it seems, needs to hear these stories.

I am there to hear some of

grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren: he's going to live a while longer.

Doctors told him he would be dead by Christmas without the treatment. Now, he says, he has a few more years. Not that the years behind him

your number ain't up until it's up." On trips to shore the corpsman would pick up the wounded and leave the men with "NT" written on their forehead. NT stood for "No Transport" because another medic believed the men would die, even with treatment. Mr. Bill reluctantly left these men except for one time.

"They blew the whistle, which meant 'we can't take no more wounded' and we ran back to the boat."

A wounded soldier with NT on his forehead caught his attention.

"He was moaning and said, 'Take me, take me!' and we grabbed him," Mr. Bill remembers. They got the soldier on the boat.

"Dr. Pumfrey said, 'We ain't got enough to do? Do you know what this means? This man's dying,'" Mr. Bill says, then adds:

"Five days later he was still alive."

After the war he married Betty, who met him on a train en route to see her fiancé. In short order the fiancé was a thing of the past and, despite a brief breakup because she wasn't Catholic, 62 years after their wedding day they're still going strong.

"She hustled me, don't let her tell you any different," he jokes. Betty looks up from her book and raises her eyebrow at this. She smiles and says nothing, just lowers her eyes back to her Fern Michaels book.

At the urging of Betty's uncle, Mr. Bill joined the Toledo Fire Department. He ultimately became the fire chief. During his tenure he wrote a history of the fire department. Betty helped put the book together. As he neared retirement, the department went on strike. Disgusted by the strike, he quit the department. Even now, the strike makes him angry.



"I feel better. I'm very happy," World War II veteran and retired fire chief Bill O'Connor says. O'Connor finished his 60th (and hopefully final) radiation treatment two days before Christmas.

these stories. He welcomes me into the condo and presses a blackberry brandy into my hand "to warm me up." Mr. Bill towers over me by 18 inches and seems every bit as alive, perhaps more so, as he did in September.

"How are you feeling?" I begin.

"With both hands!" he replies jokingly, then gets serious. "Two more treatments and I'm done. I finish up this week. Git-r-done!"

That is Mr. Bill's Christmas gift to himself, his wife, six children, seven

haven't been good; he's had a full life. It just isn't over yet.

Mr. Bill was a Navy corpsman ("A medic," he explains to me when he sees my puzzled look) in the Pacific theatre of World War II.

"I was out on a salt boat. We went and took young, healthy marines and dropped them off. Then we went out and waited," he says.

They returned to pick up the wounded and bury the dead at sea.

"Those were bad days," he says quietly, adding, "but

"They had to call on volunteers. I quit. Firemen don't strike. And they did. They left that city bare," he says with emotion.

Two years ago Dan called them and said he'd found the perfect place for them. They moved in to a condo two floors above him. They each got a motorized scooter. Being out of the snow and in the sunshine gave them a new lease on life, their son says.

Mr. Bill says he'd probably be dead if Dan hadn't moved them out of Toledo, because he doesn't believe he would have found out about the cancer.

"What's supposed to be is supposed to be," he says, then points his finger at Dan, who is in the kitchen, counting out medicine with his mother. "That's our boy there," he says with a smile.

Their son enjoys having his parents close as much as they enjoy being close. Right now Dan's busy restoring a boat much like the one his father taught him to handle when he was a pre-teen.

"We all came of age on it," Dan remembers, "I just want him behind the wheel of a 26-foot Lyman once more in his life."

Midway through the interview, Mr. Bill tells me to stay put and returns with a box. "I'm Santa Claus," he says "pick something or two out of here that you like."

It is a box of costume jewelry, well-made and well-kept. I protest, but the look in his eye tells me that I will leave his home with a piece of jewelry. I select a pair of silver earrings and a pink and gold necklace, remembering my grandfather and his penchant for giving me very similar pieces of jewelry. My throat closes as I swallow tears. It seems so unfair that someone like this has to get sick, has to endure a battle with cancer that he may or may not win. He has so many stories, has done so many things. There isn't nearly enough room in this paper to retell his life.

Mr. Bill doesn't call himself a hero. He saved countless soldiers in World War II and then more men

as a fireman, but he doesn't focus on this. He proudly displays his medals and loves to tell stories, but he isn't boastful. I wonder where the soldier- the NT left for dead- is today. I wonder if he knows anything about the man who saved him over 50 years ago. I wonder if that man knows Mr. Bill's name.

I can't tell that soldier about Mr. Bill, about how he still remembers that young man left for dead.

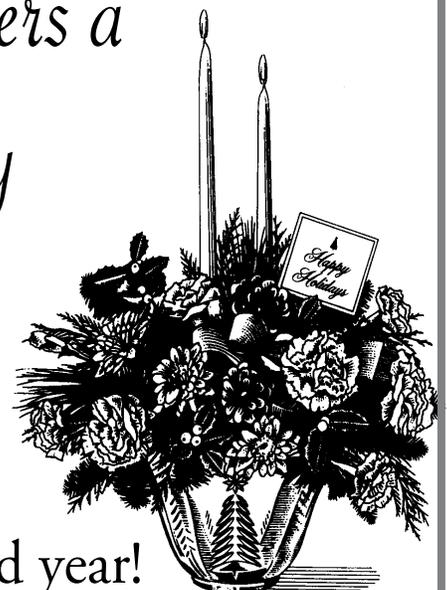
But I can tell you. I don't know how much longer Mr. Bill will live—and I certainly hope he'll be buzzing around St. Pete Beach on his scooter for many more years—but I am lucky to know him and glad to hear about his life. When you see him buzzing around Dolphin Village, stopping in the Publix or the Regions, you should know you are in the presence of an extraordinary man who fought so we could celebrate freely this Christmas.

Thank you, Mr. Bill, and Merry Christmas. May you celebrate many, many more.

...

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and  
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# Sustainable Living

By Shawn Dell Joyce



## Power of Giving

We all have heard the old saying that it is better to give than receive. Well, a recent study has proved it scientifically; the real key to happiness is generous giving. In times of economic stress, it is even more important because giving actually builds your wealth and the wealth of the local community.

People who give charitably are 43 percent likelier to say they are “very happy” than non-givers are, and non-givers are 3 1/2 times likelier than givers are to report they are “not happy at all,” notes Arthur C. Brooks in his book “Who Really Cares: The Surprising Truth about Compassionate Conservatism.”

Brooks also notes that several large studies have found that a senior citizen who volunteers has a 40 percent lower probability of dying in a given year than a person of the same age and health level does.

In a surprising turn, Brooks proves that giving also increases personal, as

well as national, prosperity. Brooks quotes a survey that controlled for education, age, race and all the other outside explanations for giving and income increases. The survey proved that a dollar donated to charity was associated with \$4.35 in extra income for the giver. About \$3.75 of that was generated by the multiplier effect the dollar had in the local economy. At the national level, a 1 percent increase in giving increases the gross domestic product by about \$36 billion.

Ancient Greeks understood this concept well and developed the cultural habit of tithing, or donating 10 percent of their incomes to charity. Charitable giving helps build strong communities and families. Giving and volunteering promote bonds of trust among neighbors and help to sustain numerous charities providing critical services in education, health, the arts, the environment and disaster relief.

The most beneficial giving is done anonymously and without

any expectations by the giver. Anonymous giving gives you a better sense of personal well-being, increased self-esteem and a better perception of your own wealth. Those who give tend to be more grateful for what they have and satisfied with their personal wealth instead of seeking more.

Many of us lost our jobs and/or homes this year. In fact, about 1 in 19 Americans is on unemployment benefits, and 1 in 4 children relies on food stamps for the next meal. If you are having a hard time getting into the holiday spirit because you have been affected by the recession, remember that it is especially important to give. Start by listing 25 things you are grateful for, from the food in your belly to the clothes on your back.

Then take the time to write a personal, heartfelt note of thanks to someone who shared time, inspiration or money with you when you needed it. Doing this one simple act reminds you of others’ generosity and recalls the feeling of gratitude you felt as the recipient. You are primed and ready to try giving. Here are a few suggestions:

--Slip money anonymously to someone who needs it. No strings should be attached, and you should not expect credit. Can’t find a person? Give it to your local food bank instead.

--Holiday workers often hear lots of complaints and little praise. Take time to point out good service to the manager of a store or restaurant. Write a letter praising a service worker (mail deliverer, doorman, building superintendent, clerk, etc.).

--Volunteer your time with local nonprofit organizations. The long recession has gutted the budgets of most nonprofits. They could use some extra help to get through the holidays.

--Practice random acts of kindness on a daily basis. Start by smiling at strangers; give up your seat on the bus; add a quarter to someone’s expired parking meter; pay the toll of the guy behind you; never miss an opportunity to praise a child; sit and listen to an elderly person.

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# Pet Butler: America's Pet Waste Cleanup Service

By Cathy Salustri

Dan Vickers scoops dog poop. It's his job. Vickers, who owns and operates the local Pet Butler office, goes into his customer's yards, scoops their dog's waste, and disposes of it. He's in his third year of scooping, and he says business is growing steadily, although many people don't realize such a service exists—or how affordable it is to hire Pet Butler.

"Most people figure it's going to be very expensive, but our services start at \$10.85. That's to clean up after one dog one time a week," Vickers explains. The price remains the same regardless of the size of the dog.

The service itself is pretty straightforward- you can sign up online at the company's web site (PetButler.com) or on the phone (800-738-2885) and select how often you want Vickers to come clean up after your pooch. Simply tell him which gate to use, he says, and he'll show up, clean up after your dog, and be on his way.

"To most of my customers, I'm almost invisible," Vickers says "All I need to know is how to get in the yard. The scheduling, payments, and everything else can get handled online if people wish."

While most people hire him for once a week service, some customers have him come by two or three times a week. He collects the waste—along with fallen fruit, if customers wish—and goes on his way. Aside from making your yard a more comfortable place for you and your pup, he also says he's doing a service to the environment. He also cleans up pet waste from common areas of apartment homes and condominiums.

According to the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP), America's 71 million dogs produce almost 30,000 tons of



Dan Vickers scoops dog poop. He is in his third year and says business is growing. For \$10.85 a week Vickers can come to your home and clean up after your pet.

waste every day. TBEP has an ongoing program that educates people about the environmental benefits of cleaning up after their pets as well as the hazards of leaving the waste to biodegrade. TBEP says "an average size dog dropping produces three million fecal coliform bacteria," and that almost all the fecal coliform found in stormwater comes from animals.

Vickers wholeheartedly agrees with their efforts, on a professional and personal level. Aside from the environmental reasons, he adds that there are aesthetic reasons.

"It stinks, which is really not what you want when you're grilling outside," he says, then adds "and your dog doesn't like stepping in it more than you do!"

Obviously, there are many reasons to pick up after your pet (or pets), but there's no reason you have to do it all by yourself. PetButler is the perfect service for anyone who has a hard time bending over or with limited mobility, but it's also a wonderful convenience for a busy

professional. Consider giving Pet Butler's services as a gift this Christmas, or give yourself a gift and hire Vickers to clean up after your dog. It's an inexpensive luxury for some, and a welcome break for others.

*Call or visit Pet Butler's web site today and make arrangements for Vickers to come scoop your dog's poop! Pet Butler services make a superb gift for the entire family- including your dog.*

**Pet Butler**  
**Dan Vickers**  
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**(800) Pet-Butler**  
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### Homework Meltdown?

#### Help for Parents

The purpose of this session is to use this time to complete work assigned by teachers and improve study habits.

**Certified Teacher - 13 years experience**

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**Sessions: Monday - Thursday**

6-7 or 7-8 pm

Fee: \$40 per week

\$25 for 2 days / \$15 per day

Space is limited.

Call Marlene Tench

**688-8990**

**WATERCOLOR LANDSCAPE PAINTING-** for Beginners. January 12th-February 16th People who have Never Held a Brush are Led through 6 lessons, starting with pencil drawing leading to a finished painting. Phone Margo 727-347-1859 or Jonathon at Gulfport Recreation Center 727-893-1068.

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# SERVICE GUIDE

Deadline: Tuesday 5pm • Monday 3pm if proof (727) 321-6965 fax (727) 327-7830

## Lawn/Landscape

**Prices Slashed For Holidays!**

Is your house cleared from limbs

**Coppolas Tree Service** **FREE MULCH**  **Certified Mangrove Specialist**

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Stump Grinding  
20 Years Experience  
Licensed/Insured  
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**JEFF'S LAWN SERVICE-** Mowing, Trimming, Edging, Blowing, Yard Clean-ups. Leaf and Debris removal. ALSO: Odd jobs. Reasonable rates, 727-341-0185

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## Moving/Hauling

**DAN'S HAULING-**341-1135. Full Service Cleanups. Bobcat & Demo Work.

## Painting

**PINNIX PAINTING INC.-** Interior, Exterior. In Business Locally Since 1980. Free Estimates. Commercial Residential References Upon Request. Lic. #C4334. 548-9293.

**BYRON JOHNSON PAINTING PLUS, INC.-** Interior/Exterior Painting, Staining, Drywall, Taping, Pressure Washing, Free Estimates. Lic. #C-9894, Insured, Quality Work. 727-365-1088.

## Plumbing

**LINGO'S PLUMBING RELIABLE-**Repairs, Replacements, Fixtures, Sewers, Cleaning, Remodels, New Construction, Better Business Bureau Lic.#CFC1426040. 727-403-9523.

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**Specializing In Water Conservation & Repairs GreenPlumbers Accredited**

**321-0964**

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## Plumbing

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## Miscellaneous Service

**PURZ 'n' FURZ-** Pet Sitting, Bonded & Insured. Overnights, Dog Walking, Pet Taxi. 727-251-2428. Gulfport/S. Pasadena, W. St. Pete & Beaches.

**100'S OF WINDOWS-** White, Aluminum, Bronze & Bathrooms, Aluminum Awnings. We Make & Re-Screen Screens. 5485 Haines Rd., St. Pete. 727-526-1494.

## AFFORDABLE AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

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**SEWING MACHINE REPAIRS -** In Your Home. Most Repairs Done in Home. All Makes, All Models. Work Guaranteed. 393-3632.

## TRAVELING HAIR-DRESSER AVAILABLE

Licensed & Insured. Please Call Lois at 522-4562 or Cell 410-5419.

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# EMPLOYMENT

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## Help Wanted

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**LITERARY AGENT WANTED-** Established Writer Seeking Agent with Proven Success Record. If you can Place Manuscript with Established Publishers write to me: dkrause3@tampabay.rr.com

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## Automotive

### SCOOTER ESCAPES SERVICE & SALES

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### UP TO \$500

Paid For Junk Cars, Trucks, Vans. 727-458-7710, 727-458-3721.

## Furniture/Appliances

**FURNITURE REPAIR**-In Home! Dents, Scratches, Broken Legs, Cabinet Glass, Split Seams, Etc. 23Yrs Experience. Affordable. Town Shores Discount. 813-558-0646, 727-289-8262.

**DINING ROOM TABLE**-Formica with 6 Chairs and Hutch. Rattan Pull-out Sofa. Bedroom Furniture, Full Bed, Dresser, Night Stand. White Wash Entertainment Center. Affordable. 954-270-4882.

## General

**CANOE 14FT.**-Paddles, 4 Life Vests. \$200. obo by 12/26 727-415-8114.

**OPEN LAWN TRAILER**- 6x12, Many Features. Tool Racks, Spring Loaded Ramp, Toolbox, Jack, Gas Can Holders & Much More! \$750. 727-434-1156.

**URGENT TREE SERVICE**  
Firewood for Sale - Split Oak  
**FREE**  
Delivery 24/7  
727  
**804-1289**  
2205 52nd St. S.



**FRANKLIN MINT** - Princess Diana Porcelain Doll, 18" tall. \$50. 727-488-7944.

**THE BOOK LADY SAYS**- Wear a Classy Embroidered Gulfport Tee Shirt, \$17.95. Small Adventures Book Shop, 3107 Beach Blvd 727-347-8732. Closed Sunday & Monday.

**GULFPORT LIONS CLUB** - Available For Parties, Weddings, Meetings. Great Waterfront Location With Full Facilities. Call Art for Info and Dates. 321-5717.

**LADIES DARK BROWN**-Mink Jacket. Size Small \$95. 727-321-2564.

### OTHER WORLDS METAPHYSICAL SHOP

Jewelry, Books, Incense, Drums, Harps, Flutes, Bagpipes, Sitar & More. Great Selection of Gemstone Jewelry in Stock. Readings by Appt. Tuesday-Saturday 10-6. 722 Pasadena Ave. So., 345-2800. www.theotherworlds.com. Business is Great, Thank You!

**FIREHAWK INDY 500 TIRE**- 235x70x15, Like New, \$25. Black, Like New, \$10, JVC Stereo, Large Speakers, Phono, Receiver, Cassette Player/Recorder, \$60. Chevy Astro Van Rear Bench Seat, \$50. Heavy Duty Wood Wall Cabinet, White, 14Wx22Hx45L, \$30. 727-329-9922.

## Health & Fitness

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## Marine

### SLIPS AVAILABLE

**\$650** Also  
ft. 1 Lift &  
2 Catamaran  
Slips  
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**22FT. SAILING SLOOP**-Swing Keel. 8HP, Electric Start and Trailer. \$1600 o.b.o. 727-542-2445.

**14 FT. STARCRAFT**- Good condition. Needs motor. \$100 o.b.o. Call 321-2564.

## Pets/Animals

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**AMERICAN ESKIMO DOG**- 3 yr. old, sweet, small, lovable Female. Rescue dog needs lovable owner. Sacrifice \$350. Must Sell. 865-9009.

**BEAUTIFUL BLACK 5-Month old Kitten**. Updated on All Shots. Very Sweet! Free to Loving Home 727-327-0993

**LARGE DOG CRATE**- Metal, Like New. \$50. 410-3516.

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**GUNS WANTED!** - Call 727-488-4175 or 352-422-3441.

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UNCLE JOE AT HOME 345-2992  
SAVE THIS AD FOR FUTURE USE LIC.#FLA43422  
**Clip & Save**

## Legal Notices

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on 1/8/2010 at 10:30am a 1997 Landr #SALJY1247VA704239 will be sold pursuant to F.S. 713.78 All sales will be held at Pete's Towing Recovery. 1955 Calumet St., Clearwater, FL. 33765. 727-461-1066. Leinor reserves the right to bid.

## Legal Notices

**PLACE YOUR AD HERE**- \$13.00 for 20 words, includes notarized affidavit of publication and tear sheet. \$5.00 notary fee. 321-6965.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

INSURANCE AUTO AUCTION, INC. gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 1/18/2010, 10:00am at 5152 126 AVE. NORTH, CLEARWATER, FL. 33760, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of Florida Statutes. INSURANCE AUTO AUCTION, INC. reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

1G1AW6999DR218388	1983	CHEV
1FTCR14A1RTA53491	1994	FORD
4M2DU52P7VUJ50694	1997	MERC
JF1GM4254VH411418	1997	SUBA
1FTRX07W1YKA64612	2000	FORD
2P4FP25BX9R548032	2000	PLYM
4KZTR272031005984	2003	NATR

Published 12/24/09 The Gabber Newspaper

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**- That on 1/4/2010 at 10:30 a.m. the following mobile home will be sold at public auction pursuant to F.S. 715.104. 1973 MERC HS 34472. Tenant: Gregory B. Szymanski. Sale to be held at: MHC East Bay Oaks LLC, 601 Starkey Rd., Largo, FL 33771. 813-241-8268. (TG 12/17/2009 & 12/24/2009)

## Yard/Garage Sale

### ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES SHOW

January 9, 9-5p.m. Bottles, Pottery, Postcards, Stoneware, and Much More! 160 Tables At the Manatee Convention & Civic Center. One Haben Blvd & Rt. 41, Palmetto, FL. Saturday Admission \$4. Early Admission Jan 8th, 4-7:45p.m. \$15.00 Good Both Days.

## Lost & Found

**PLACE YOUR AD HERE**- Call 321-6965.

**LOST BLACK BUNNY**-Vicinity of 51st St. & 13th Ave. S. Missed So Much. If Found Please Call 727-328-1475. Leave Message.

**FOUND ON BENCH**-Next to Casino. Large Bag of New Purchases. Call the Gabber to Identify. 727-321-6965.

**WILLIAM J. JORDAN**-Please Contact me I Found Something that Belongs to You at the Art Walk 407-212-9409.

## Card of Thanks

**PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN** (Never Known to Fail) - Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me & show me here you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (3) times. Holy Mother, I place this prayer in your hands. (3) times. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days and then you must publish it and it will be granted to you. L.M.C.



# CLASSIFIED

Deadline: Tuesday 5pm | Monday 3pm if proof is required (727) 321-6965 fax (727) 327-7830

## Card of Thanks

**PRAYER TO ST. JUDE** - This novena has never been known to fail. This novena must be said for 9 consecutive days. Publication must be promised. Oh Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present urgent petition. In return, I promise to make your name known and call you to be invoked. St. Jude, pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. Say 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys & 3 Gloria's. R.S.

**POWERFUL PRAYER TO HOLY SPIRIT** - Holy Spirit, you who solves all problems, who lights all roads so that I can attain my goal, you who give me the divine gifts to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me, I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things and confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with you, in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. G.B.

**DEAR HEART OF JESUS**- In the past I have asked for favors. This time I ask this special one and take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favor, not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for (3) days, promise publication and favor will be granted. Never known to fail. In Grateful thanks. I will never stop trusting in God and his power. L.M.C.

**MAY THE SACRED** Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. Blessed Mother, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. Say this prayer for nine days, nine times a day. Then publish this prayer. Thank You, Jesus. G. M. B.

**NEVER FAILING PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL** - St. Michael, the Archangel, Defend Us In Battle; Be Our Defense Against the Wickedness and Snares of the Devil. May God Rebuke Him We Humbly Pray; and Do You Oh Prince of the Heavenly Host, By the Power of God, Thrust Into Hell Satan and the Other Evil Spirits Who Prowl About the World For the Ruin of Souls. Amen. St. Michael, I Resort to Your Protection and in My Faith, Offer This Light Which Shall Burn Every Tuesday. Comfort Me in My Difficulties and While Lodging in the House of Our Savior Intercede for Me and My Family That We Will Be Able to Hold God Close to Our Hearts and Be Provided for in All of Our Necessities. I Beseech You, to Have Infinite Pity in Regard to Favors I ask of You (Name Them) So That I May Be Able To Overcome All Difficulties as You Did the Dragons at Your Feet. Our Father (Say 3 Times). Hail Mary (Say 3 Times). Glory Be (Say 3 Times). This Prayer is to be Said 9 Tuesdays, in Succession and Each Tuesday a Candle Shall Be Lighted and a Copy of This Prayer Lft in the Church to Help Another Soul in Distress and Support the Devotion to St. Michael. This Miraculous Saint Grants Everything, No Matter How Difficult, Before the Termination of 9 Tuesdays. G.F.

## Happy Talk

I want to thank all the people who helped to bring Christmas to 145 children & 65 families. Without all of you I could not have done it.

Thank You and Merry Christmas  
*Verena*

Join me Friday for my annual Complimentary Breakfast Brunch 9am-?

## Happy Talk

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PERSONAL ITEMS - \$8.00 for 10 Words and 20c each additional word.

COMMERCIAL ADS - \$12.00 for 20 Words and 40c each additional word: ANIMALS FOR SALE, BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES, HELP/POSITION WANTED, INSTRUCTION/CLASSES, REAL ESTATE SALE OR RENT, SERVICE.

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(18) \$9.40/\$12.00	(18) \$9.60/\$12.00	(19) \$9.80/\$12.00	(20) \$10.00/\$12.00
(21) \$10.20/\$12.40	(22) \$10.40/12.80	(23) \$10.60/\$13.20	(24) \$10.80/13.60
(25) \$11.00/\$14.00	(26) \$11.20/\$14.40	(27) \$11.40/\$14.80	(28) \$11.60/@15.20

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# Real Estate

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fax (727) 327-7830



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## Real Estate for Rent

**CHATEAU TOWER-2BR/2BA**, New Appliances including W/D. Balcony and Carport. No Pets. Fantastic Waterview. Yearly lease \$950/Mo. Possible Option to Buy. 727-360-4123.

**GULFPORT 2831 50TH ST. S.-3/1 House**, New Flooring in Kitchen, Screened Patio, CHA, Coin W/D on-site. \$875/Mo. \$450/Security 727-742-5140.

**ST PETE BEACH APT.-2BR**, Completely Renovated, Handicap Accessible \$850/Mo. w/yearly lease. 727-363-3050.

**PASS-A-GRILLE DIRECT-Beachfront 2BR** Condo w/Extra Room could be Great Office, Covered Parking. Annual \$1475/Mo. Includes most Utilities. 727-866-1781.

**GULFPORT 2BR DUPLEX-2107 55th St. S.**, \$595/mo. Clean, on quiet Street. Ceramic Tile. CHA. Lots of rear parking. Great neighbors. Small pet OK. No Section 8 727-418-2242

**LARGE 2BR/1BA-Central Gulfport**, Updated, W/D, Quiet, Fenced Back Yard, Pets OK, MICHAEL SCHAFFER-REALTY RESOURCES, 727-409-1347.

**GREAT WATERVIEW-With Boat Dock** On Treasure Island. 205 110th Ave. 2BR Duplex. \$795/Mo. with Annual Lease. Terrazzo Floors throughout. All Utilities Included Except Personal Electricity. W/D hook-up, Small Pet Ok. Must See!! Call Sandy 727-418-2242.

**DUPLEX 2210 53RD ST. S.-1BR + Bonus Room**, \$625/Mo., \$500/Security. Includes W/S/G, Shed, Pets OK. Call 727-452-5942.

**NEAR TYRONE GARDENS-2BR/1BA**, Family Room, Large Beautiful Lot, In Excellent School District. Fresh paint. 1257 Essex Dr. N. \$765/Mo. 727-345-7036.

**SEASONAL RENTAL-Nicely Furnished House**. Large Yard, Updated Kitchen, Lanai, Washer/Dryer, Central heat/AC. Great location near Pasadena Yacht & Country Club. \$1150/Mo. (3 mo. minimum). Please e-mail for more info / pics. Rufescens@aol.com

**4678 13TH AVE. S.-2/1 with Garage**, Fenced Yard, A/C, Nice House \$700/Mo. Pets Ok Call 305-975-0840.

**TOWN SHORES GROTON BLDG-55+.** 3rd floor. 1BR/1BA with Marina View. Non Smoking. Covered Parking. Cable, Gas, Water Included. \$700/Mo. 1st/last/security. Accepting Applications Now. Also Available 2BR/1BA House, \$800/Mo. 954-270-4882.

**TOWN SHORES KENMORE-1BR** Deluxe. Immaculate. Parking at Security Door. Annual \$675/Mo. 1st/Last, Security Deposit. Cable/Gas/Water Included. Non-Smoker. 978-621-4846 or 978-621-2059.

**GULFPORT ART DISTRICT- 3 room Apt.** Courtyard, clean & quiet,. \$475/mo. 727-343-7933.

## Real Estate for Rent

**PASADENA CHATEAU TOWER - Great Waterview**, Pool, Remodeled 2BR/2BA, Balcony, W/D, Secured Bldg. \$1195/Mo. Yearly. Ralston's Realty Co. Diane, 727-367-6702.

**STUDIO APT.-Overlooks Park and Tennis Courts**. Large Bath with Tub. Conveniently located. Includes All Utilities/Cable/Internet. Credit Check Required. 727-688-7622.

**3BR/2BA HOUSE-1100sqft.** with Large Yard on Scenic Pond. CHA, New Carpets. \$850/Mo. plus 1st/Last and \$850/Security. Lawn Service Included. Available January 1st. 727-434-1156.

**SEASONAL RENTAL-In Gulfport.** 2BR/1BA, Furnished. Utilities/Cable Included. Nice and Quiet. Close to Art District. \$250/wkly plus Deposit. Also 1BR/1BA Available. 727-321-5146.

**TENANT NOT PAYING - For Fast, Reasonable Eviction Service**, Call Gulfport Attorney Karen S. Keaton at 327-5368.

**TOWN SHORES HAMPTON-Waterfront Condo.** 1st floor 1BR Unfurnished. \$695/Mo. Annual plus \$500/Security. All Amenities, Backyard BBQ. No Pets. 727-954-6659.

**SMALL QUIET EFFICIENCY- All Utilities Included.** 727-289-3588. Also need Part Time Handyman and Housekeeper.

**WATERFRONT-PASADENA-What a View!** 1BR/1BA Condo. W/D, Carport, Pool, Gated "Adult" Community. Annual Lease THE SUN TEAM 727-345-0099.

**LARGE 2BR/2BA HOUSE- So. Pasadena.** Close to medical & beaches. \$800/mo. plus Sec. No Pets. 727-452-5246

**SEMINOLE/LARGO- 2BR/2BA**, Remodeled, C/H/A, W/D, Screened Balcony, Carport. Walk to Schools. Great Neighborhood. \$1100/Mo. & Utilities, Cable/Water Included. Pets OK. 647-6780 After 5 p.m.

**SPBCH WATERFRONT- 2BR** Unfurnished, Quiet, Gated, Pool. 1 Small Pet. 2nd Floor Elevator. \$935/Mo., Annual. Chuck Yeoman, Owner Realtor, 727-418-6529.

**2715 54TH ST. S.- Small 1BR** Upstairs. \$500/Mo. \$400 Security or Studio Apt., Upstairs, \$450/Mo., \$300 Sec. Includes W/S/G, Small Pets OK. 727-452-5942.

**WATERFRONT - St. Pete, 3/2/2**, Near Treasure Island Bridge, Excellent Condition & View, Yacht Club Estates, See the Sunsets. \$1750/mo. 345-7036.

## Furnished Rentals

**808 13TH ST. N.-St. Pete, Ex-Large 1Br/1Ba**, A/C's, New Carpet, Part Utilities Inc. Petless, Porch, Park Nearby. \$550/Mo. \$400/Dep. 458-7899.

**SEASONAL POSSIBLE ANNUAL- 1st Floor**, 2BR/2BA, Den, Across from Clubhouse. Brand New Kitchen & Appliances, 55+. Patriot Square. No Pets/Smokers. \$1350/Mo. 845-426-5535.

## BOAT SLIP INCLUDED

Maximo Marina Area, Completely Remodeled 1BR/1BA Waterfront, Beautifully Furnished, Covered Parking, On Busline, Yearly \$950/Mo. Seasonal \$1500/Mo. 727-867-5536.

**GULFPORT SEASONAL-Rental.** 2BR/1BA, Fully Furnished. Adorable 1928 Keywest Duplex-bottom Level. Beautifully Furnished. \$990/Mo. plus Utilities. 2808 56th St. 1 block off Beach Blvd. Call Marcie Howard 813-375-2585.

**SEASONAL GULFPORT EFFICIENCY-** (furnished). Nice and Clean. Walk to Art District in Gulfport. Prefer Single Working person. No Smoking/Pets. \$700/Mo. 3mo. minimum. Cable/Utilities Included. 727-644-6194.

## Accommodations to Share

**ROOMMATE WANTED- Pasadena/Gulfport.** Full House Privileges, Utilities & Wireless Internet Included. 727-623-1432 or 727-344-0509.

## Commercial Properties Rent

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**6000 1st Ave. S. (\$59,900)**

Large 1br, private patio, new paint & carpet, newer appliances, lots of closets. Move right in.

**2630 Miriam St. S. (\$127,900)**

Gulfport Marina District dollhouse, completely renovated inside & out, new kitchen, bath, windows, flooring. 2 blocks to Gulfport Marina.

**5855 27th Ave. S. (\$200k)**

An absolutely beautiful 3/2 dream home! Inside and out, **SOLD** we will love this house. 5 blocks to the beach in the sought after Gulfport "Art District".

**1868 Shore Drive. S. #414 (\$175,000)**

Spectacular wide open water view from the 2300+ sq ft 4th floor corner unit, and the Seller will pay your maintenance fees for the first year! 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, large eat-in kitchen remodeled in 2007.

**1847 Shore Drive S #503 (\$90,000)** - Sale is subject to seller's lender's approval. Oh what a view - but it needs a lot of work-but oh the view is both east and west. Worth the work. Two bedrooms, one bath plus extra large Florida room. Active 55 plus community. 5 minutes to the white sands of St. Pete Beach. Convenient to shopping, hospital, restaurants, historic Corey Ave and that beautiful beach. Come home today. it will be worth the work.

**2502 58th St. S. (\$192k)** - Duplex in mint condition. 2/1 & 2/1 & glass room. Double lot detached 2 car garage. Many, many upgrades. Call for info.

**5845 62nd St. N. (\$109,000)** - Very nice home with lots of character. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath in Pinellas Farms. Extra room with inside utility room. Wonderful fireplace in living room and screened porch in front. Hardwood floors throughout. The perfect home at the perfect price! Tons of storage throughout. Very large yard.

**3880 37th St. S. Unit 51 (\$114,900)** - 3br/2ba, large condo w/private large screened balcony overlooking a park. Close to Fort DeSoto

**1847 Shore Dr. S. #309 (\$119,900)** - This is the location for your new home! Great location close to trolley and bus stops, shops, the Corey Historic District, medical facilities and white sandy beaches. Spacious unit with a completely renovated kitchen, new cabinets and appliances, granite countertops, tile throughout the unit. Large bedroom with walk-in closet and loads of storage space. Florida room overlooks an immaculate view of dock and intracoastal waters - and the very detailed updates throughout.

**1847 Shore Drive S #419 (\$194,900)** - 2200+ sq ft, 3/2.5 with wide-open intracoastal and Boca Ciega Bay waterviews. Totally remodeled, the granite and new cabinets in the kitchen and bath are what you've been looking for. It has a floor plan that provides the best of everything.

**6020 Shore Blvd. #712 (\$275k)**

Wide open water view of Boca Ciega Bay to **SOLD** the Gulf, pets welcome, lease ok. 2210 sf corner. Inside laundry, Florida room, Hurricane shutters. Across from Beach, Gulfport Art District

**12368 70th Street N (Largo) (\$149,900)** - Nice little pool home in Pinebrook Estates, new 16 in ceramic tile, Fibertech poolfinish, fenced yard.

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**RECENTLY SOLD**

	List Price
1868 Shore Dr. S. #209	Gulfport \$140,000
1819 Shore Dr S #304	Gulfport \$ 89,700
1868 Shore Dr S #601	South Pasadena \$275,000

**RECENTLY SOLD**

	List Price
7625 Sun Island, 306	Bay Island \$ 89,900
1113 58th St S	Gulfport \$299,000
6060 Shore Blvd. S. #904	Gulfport \$259,000

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Admiral Bldg.	1/1.5	11th FL
Essex Bldg.	1/1.5	4th FL

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## TOWN SHORES PLAZA

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**TOWN SHORES NEW ON MARKET, WINDSOR HOUSE #307** Open Water views, 1 bed, 1.5 bath, windows, newer a/c, new kitchen, paint etc. carport, Hurricane Shutters. Priced well @ **\$161,900**

**TOWN SHORES JAMISON #507** 1 bed/1bath standard unit, furnished, clean & updated w/carport. Priced @ **\$78,900**

**TOWN SHORES JAMISON #210** 2 bed/2bath standard unit, new kitchen, bath, pool views, carport, move in condition. Priced @ **\$125,000**

**TOWN SHORES AVALON #202** 2 bed/2bath deluxe unit, updated tile, carpet, paint, carport, move in condition. Priced @ **\$107,000**

**SEMINOLE GARDEN APTS** 8584 111th St. N. #310 \*\* 2 bed, 2 bath corner condo, stps to Clubhouse priced @ ~~\$60,000~~ **\$54,900**

**Avalon #206** 1 bed/1 bath, standard, beautifully updated & furnished. Pets 20 lbs, curb parking. Close to elevator & laundry room, 2nd floor. Priced **\$91,500**

**Lancaster House #603**, "Marina" water views, 2 be **CONTRACT PENDING** kitchen, very appealing Priced at **\$127,500**

**Lancaster #415**, 2 bed/2 bath, corner unit, beautifully, updated & furnished. **\$169,000**

**Lancaster #304**, 1 bed/1 bath, deluxe carport, marina views. **Great Buy @ \$99,000**

**Embassy #409**, 1 bed/1.5 bath, open water views, furnished. Owners motivated to sell. **\$159,900 Fabulous open waterviews.**

**Hampton #310**, 1 bed/1 bath deluxe, new carpet, new paint, waterfront marina views. ~~\$119,900~~ **\$99,000**

**Eagle Crest 6420 6th Ave. N.** 3 bed/2 bath 2,000 sq ft., Beautiful maintained home with "Green" Landscaping, close to beaches, Tyrone Square Mall and Churches Priced well at **\$285,000**

**South Pasadena - Boca Ceiga Apts - Intercoastal Waterfront** 2 bed/2 bath condo wide water views, beautifully decorated, pool, carport and dock with slips available for sale/rent. ~~\$160,000~~ **\$149,000**

**St. Pete Beach Starlight Towers - 7000 Beach Dr. Unit #308** corner Gulf Side Waterfront unit - Upham Beach Location.

2 bed 2 bath condo beautiful waterfront views. Enjoy pool & beaches right outside your door. 1 car garage with storage. Well Priced **\$479,000**

**SHORT SALE - Lealman Area - Single Family Residence - 4550 49th Ave. N.** 2 bed 2 bath, new driveway, walkway, deck, backyard w/serenity garden & pond. Large updated kitchen, new interior, and terra-cotta tile flooring. Great Buy @ **\$99,000**

#### HOMES

**NEW LISTING Lancaster #608** 2BR/2BA standard unit with Marina view, carport. Priced at **\$149,000**

**Gulfport 1713 59th Street South, Gulfport** 2 bed 1 bath block home, updated move in ready.

Attached carport, shed, landscaped. Steps to Holy Name Church, Stetson College Campus\*\*\* Priced well at **\$139,900**

**MARINA DISTRICT 2650 Tifton St. S.** 3/1 Cape Cod, 1.5 lot, fireplace room for boat/trailer. Priced at **\$139,000**

**SALE/RENT 560 Zanesville St. S. St. Pete, FL** 2 bed 1 bath w/carport, alley access, shady back fenced yard with oak trees double fence gate. Room for boat, pool, extra parking. Priced at **\$69,900**

**6901 Burlington Ave. N., Mini Estate** 4 bed/ 2 bath main home, gleaming wood floors, tiled kitchen

and hallway. Large kitchen, new cabinets, new appliances, new vinyl thermo windows. New a/c & heat, completely private fenced yard,

"Unique Family Home". Mother-in-Law apt., completely updated and functional, new a/c, appliances 2 screened porches. Alley access,

1/4 acre corner lot. Priced @ **\$350,000**

#### AVAILABLE RENTALS/SEASONAL/ANNUAL

<b>Diplomat #609</b>	<b>1 bed 1.5 bath annual, furnished</b>	<b>\$1000 Month</b>
<b>Dover #410</b>	<b>1 bed 1 bath annual, furnished</b>	<b>\$750 Month</b>
<b>Kenmore #207</b>	<b>1bed 1bath, furnished</b>	<b>\$750.00 Annual</b>
<b>Nottingham #601</b>	<b>2 bed 2 bath Panoramic views</b>	<b>\$1300.00 Mth</b>
	<b>Full Water views from 3 sides of unit</b>	

**St. Pete Beach** 2 bed 1 bath with porch 6767 Sunset Way s. #206 furnished, block to Upham Beach (St. Pete Beach) **\$1500 Mth.**

**6323 Bahama Shores Dr. South** 3 bed/2bath split plan, updated kitchen and baths. 2 car garage in ground pool **\$2300 Mth.**

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### TOWN SHORES

**DIPLOMAT- WOW What A View!** Remodeled kitchen with granite countertops Freshly painted throughout. New windows, 1.5 baths, furnished, **\$169,000**

**BARCLAY- 2 Bedrooms, 1 bath** Florida room, nearly new fridge, newer tile in kitchen & bath. Very clean. Cat friendly building **\$102,000**

**ETON- Town Shores on a Budget!** Ground Floor 'Deluxe'; Needs paint; updates needed reflected in the price. **\$65,000**

### GREAT GULFPORT HOMES

**FEELS LIKE HOME** Spacious Family Room, +LR, 2/1 with Nice Screened Patio +Detached 1/1 Studio/In-Law Unit with Kitchenette and Bath. A good buy at **\$134,900**

**BIG OAKS-POOL SIZE YARD** 2/1/1, Sliding door in Master Opens to Screened Porch. Listed at **\$155,000**

**TOTALLY UPDATED** 3/2, 1661 sq.ft. Granite Counter, Solid Wood Cabinets, 30 year Metal Roof / Pool sized yard/Family Room / Master Suite. **\$265,000**

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## 2-NEW LISTINGS

**MANCHESTER #510** - 1br/1ba deluxe, offering great water-views. Completely furnished, bright and cheery, move-in ready - Covered parking **\$103,000**

**CHATHAM #201** - corner unit, 2br/2ba, newer carpet, a/c, refrigerator, storm shutters in kitchen and Florida room. Just painted! Covered parking. Pet friendly **\$97,000**

**FAIRFAX #205** - 2br/2ba, laminate floors throughout, beautiful new kitchen, great waterviews, covered parking, pet friendly. **\$131,900**

**GROTON #304** - 2br/1ba, eat-in-kitchen, newer windows, carpet, fresh paint, st **SOLD** ers. Great waterviews. Very inviting at **\$129,900**

**GROTON #101** - End unit 2br/2ba deluxe. Beautifully Furnished, Newer carpet, T **CONTRACT PENDING** for outdoor Patio Panoramic wtrfrnt, views. Move in Ready **\$139,000**

**KENMORE 401 End Unit** - 2br/2ba, this spacious condo is very bright due to the numerous windows. Fully furnished which makes this unit very cozy and desirable. Secured bldg. pool in backyard, covered parking. **\$104,000**

**HAMPTON #402** - 2/2 deluxe. **\$159,000 Annual renter in place.**

**BARCLAY #205** - 2br/2ba, be the first one to live in this beautifully renovated condo. A great new kitchen appliances, tile & carpeting. Tuscan color **SOLD** make this unit so warm & charming. Covered parking, fabulous buy at **\$104,000**

**JAMISON #614** - 2/2 deluxe furnished. New AC & Heating. Covered parking. **\$103,000**

**CHATHAM #406** - 1Br with hardwood floors, new doors, a/c, and much more. Move in ready pet friendly. **\$95,000**

**Sept. 2 SOLD Oct. 3 Sold / 2 Contract Pending**  
**November 2 Sold / 1 Contract Pending**  
**December 2 Sold / 2 Contract Pending**



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