

Kayaker Paddles from Minnesota to Gulfport – and Beyond

By Cathy Salustri

With a cold front following him and rain all around him, kayaker Daniel Alvarez paddled into Gulfport Thursday afternoon. He'd spent the night, by his best estimation, on a spoil island on the intracoastal waterway, somewhere by the Narrows

See *Kayak*, page 6



Kayaker Daniel Alvarez started his paddle in Minnesota. He will steer his kayak to Key West before he's done with his watery journey.

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O'Maddy's Madness Approved on St. Patrick's Day

Once again, Gulfport will allow O'Maddy's to close part of Shore Boulevard on St. Patrick's Day. The waterfront restaurant will hold its third annual St. Patrick's Day party and donate 30% of the day's sales to the Boca Ciega High School baseball program.

The city granted Joe Guenther, who manages O'Maddy's for the owner, Maddy Guenther, permission to close parts of Shore Boulevard and 54th Street South from 8 a.m. on Sunday, March 17 until 3 a.m. the next morning.

AquaMania, Springfest Scheduled for April

On April 6 and 7, Gulfport's waterfront will host its second annual Aquamania. This year the festivities will include Jet-Ski races in Boca Ciega Bay. On April 27, the annual Springfest will move to Clymer Park for the first time.

Joe Guenther has challenged *the Gabber* in the Aquamania anything that floats race. - Buckle up Joe!



Can You Read to a Dog?

By Cathy Salustri

Shyne Eugene Shorter, 9, came to the Gulfport Library with his family "to read." The Bear Creek Elementary student must read 30 books every month, and last Thursday he read at least one of them to Maya, a "reading dog" who visits the library with her human, Bobbi Mosher.

Nine-year-old Shyne Shorter can, and so can his sister Aaliyah. They both came to the Gulfport Public Library to read to Maya, a golden retriever trained to listen.

Therapy Dogs International (TDI) trains dogs and their handlers to work in a variety of therapeutic situations, including work as "Tail Waggin' Tutors."

"The main objective of this program," TDI's web site explains,

See *Reading*, page 11

4th Friday Food Truck Festival

Join them on Friday, February 22nd, from 5-9 p.m. for their one year anniversary with some of the best food truck in the Tampa Bay Area: Americanwiener, Mobile Munchiez, Tasty Stacy, Jimmy Meatballs, Killer Samich, Renny's Oki Doki, The Cheesesteak Truck, Mike Off The Hook, Hog Father BBQ and new this month: Chowder Bus/Taste of Boston.

Live music by "Joel & Dakota", father/son duo from Tarpon Springs. And, first time this year, the ever popular Rocketship Car!

What a line-up for this fun evening event on Corey Avenue, downtown St. Pete Beach. Free admission and parking. Chairs welcome; coolers/ alcohol prohibited. Food truck prices apply. Visit www.coreyave.com or call 727-498-8778.

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Women's Club to Hold Annual Flea Market

The Pasadena Women's Club is holding its annual flea market at its clubhouse located on the corner of Central Avenue and Sunset Blvd., St. Petersburg on February 23rd from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Selections include furniture, clothing, jewelry, housewares and much more all prices reasonably.

The Pasadena Women's Club is a bridge and social club and welcomes new members and guests. There is regularly scheduled bridge on each Monday and once each month there is a tea and luncheon. On selected evenings, the members and guests enjoy a pot luck meal with entertainment when arranged. They donated to charitable organizations including "Sallie House". Call 727-345-4884 or 727-323-7356.

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Celebrate Floridiana Festival

The "Floridiana Festival & Highwaymen Artist Show" returns to the historic Palladium Theatre on Sunday, February 24th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrate Florida's cultural and historical legacy - and meet the Florida Highwaymen artists - at this eclectic antiques and collectibles show! From vintage Weeki Wachee mermaid memorabilia and souvenirs from long-closed roadside attractions, to oodles of fun old Florida ephemera and tropical treasures, kitschy-kool rules! "Tropicalize" your home with vintage rattan accent pieces, or perhaps pick up some retro Aloha shirts from the racks of hundreds.

The legendary Florida Highwaymen artists will be participating too, showing and selling their iconic Florida land and seascape paintings. Meet and mingle with James Gibson, Issac Knight, R.L. Lewis, Carnell Smith and Roy McLendon Sr. Another special feature on February 24th will be complimentary valuations (with paid admission) of your vintage Florida paintings - including that of the Highwaymen - by an appraiser and expert in the field. If you're not sure what your old Florida art is worth, or who the artist is, bring your paintings along!

Celebrate Florida's cultural and historical legacy at the "Floridiana Festival & Highwaymen Artist Show," Palladium Theater, 253 Fifth Avenue N. in downtown St. Petersburg. Admission is \$6; \$3 for under three years. Art valuations included in price of admission. Info www.hulahula.biz or hulahula@tampabay.rr.com.

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Aqua Zumba at Beach Family Aquatics Center

Get all the fun and benefit of Zumba with low impact and all the resistance qualities of the water. Perfect for all ages and fitness levels as you work at your own pace. Burns calories, tone your whole body and have fun while you're doing it. Class is offered at The City of St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center on Saturday mornings from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Cost is only \$5 SPB residents and \$6 non-residents. Join anytime.

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Forever yours, *Sandy V.*

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Molly GB.

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Marina Master Planning Charrette

The Marina Master Planning charrette, to gather public input, in regards to future Marina improvements is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 21st at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53rd Street S., Gulfport. For more information please call Gulfport Municipal Marina Harbormaster Denis Frain at 727-893- 1104.

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Gulfport Senior Art Reception

You are cordially invited to the Artist reception on Friday, March 1 from 6-8 p.m. at the Gulfport Public Library Friends Room at 5501 28th Ave. S. Betty Staebell's class will be highlighting their art work throughout the month of March.

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Show Appreciation for Mayor Mike

The City of Gulfport will honor Mayor Michael J. Yakes' retirement

by renaming the Gulfport Recreation Center to the Michael J. Yakes Recreation Complex. Join City Council, City Staff and other elected officials at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Blvd. S., on Saturday, February 23 at 10 a.m. This event will honor the retirement of the Honorable Michael J. Yakes, Mayor of Gulfport, 1991-2013.

For more information, Please contact Lesley Demuth, City of Gulfport City Clerk, at 727-893-1012 or email ldemuth@mygulfport.us.

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Meet the Candidates

The Kenneth City Homeowners' Social Club will sponsor a Meet the Candidates Night on Monday, February 25th at 7 p.m. in the Community Hall, 4600 58th Street N. The following candidates have been invited: Al Carrier, Troy Campbell, Joanne DeSimone and Wanda Dudley. Anyone wanting to submit a question for the candidates should email dicklaneau05@ymail.com

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Kayak, from front page

(a skinny stretch of water off Indian Rocks Beach). He paddled into the Boca Ciega Yacht Club, pulled his 17-foot banana-yellow sea kayak out of the water, and waited for his Gulfport connection to get him hot soup and a warm home.

Mr. Alvarez is nearing the end of his 4,000 mile paddle from the northern edge of Minnesota to Key West. His trip, he hopes, will do more than offer him personal satisfaction: he wants

to make people realize they need to help protect the waters that pushed him along his journey.

“Outdoors” magazine offered Alvarez a \$10,000 grant to make the journey, and he, in turn, donated some of his own money to the four organizations he says help protect the route. He endorses four organizations on his travel blog, Predictably Lost: Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, American Rivers, Gulf Restoration Network and Florida Wildlife Federation.

“You need a lot of equipment to paddle 4,000 miles from the northern tip of Minnesota to Key West, but more than any boat, paddle, or sleeping bag, you need water,” Mr. Alvarez says on “Predictably Lost”. The Boca Ciega Yacht Club and the Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce co-hosted a reception for him and on Friday he spoke at the Gulfport Library. This past weekend, he climbed aboard his skinny sea kayak, and pointed it towards Key West. His only company, as it has been for much of his trip, is a plastic pink flamingo he pulled out of the water.

“I was going to throw it out, but then I named it,” he said. “Once you name something...”

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Please read this story online at TheGabber.com and look for the link to his blog, Predictably Lost. Sincere thanks to Gulfportian Margarete Tober, Mr. Alvarez’s “Gulfport connection” who told the Gabber about this aqua-adventurer.

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Spring 100 Artist Show

Suntan Art Center is pleased to present The Spring 100 Artist Show, a fine art show created by artists for artists on February 23rd and 24th. Located in Horan Park at 7701 Boca Ciega Drive next to the new Community Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the two-day outdoor event will feature fine art, crafts, live music as well as tasty festival fare for your al fresco dining pleasure. Vendors and artists may contact the Suntan Art Center for more information at 727-367-3818 or www.Suntanart.org.



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Gulfport's Get Rescued

GULFPORT: Gulfport's Get Rescued, the animal rescue festival and fundraiser, is preparing for its ninth annual event to take place on Saturday, February 23rd, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This popular event has evolved from one block and a handful of animal rescue groups in its first year to a popular and festive event representing animal rescue groups from throughout the region. Gulfport's Get Rescued is one of the largest animal rescue events in the state, with 100% of proceeds benefitting participating 501c3 rescue groups. Animal rescue organizations, many appearing with adoptable pets, take over Beach Blvd. to raise funds and awareness for their causes. Additionally, animal-related vendors, artisans and craftsmen offer their wares to festival-goers. Pet related activities will include a pet parade with adoptable pets, pet care education, pet services, a pet food and supplies drive, animal rescue groups, pet food samples, training

demos, canine massage, food, music and games. Each year, thousands of attendees, many accompanied by their own canine companions, make their way to Gulfport to participate in what has become a beloved tradition. Well behaved pets and their leashed people are welcome! The daytime event welcomes the public to attend at no charge, with plenty of complimentary parking in and around the area. Visit 3129 Beach Blvd. S., Gulfport.

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Tails at Twilight

Tails at Twilight - the Get Rescued celebration is the popular evening component of a full day of festivities that begin with Gulfport's Get Rescued, the beloved annual street festival and fundraiser held on Beach Blvd. on the same day. Later in the evening, after the pets have gone to bed, all are invited to a lively evening of fun for humans that will also donate to the important cause of animal rescues. The evening will include dancing and music,

catered hors d'oeuvre, a cash bar, fresh flowers and festive décor will add to the party atmosphere. Opportunity drawings will take place during the evening. Proceeds from ticket sales, after expenses, will be donated to rescue groups participating in the evening event. Live and silent auctions will offer a chance to support participating non-profit rescue groups with a variety of auction items up for bid including travel, hotel stays, art, wine and food, pet accessories, restaurant gift certificates and much more. Rescue groups solicit their own items and will receive 100% of proceeds from their auctions. Tickets for the Get Rescued Evening Celebration are \$20 donation. Advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door on the evening of the event from 7-10 p.m. at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom, 5500 Shore Blvd. S. For more information on Tails at Twilight, contact Lynda Shehan at 727-323-3892 or send an email to No1Ringmaster@aol.com.

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Wednesday Morning Yoga

Yoga with Valerie on Wednesday mornings is at the Gulfport Recreation Center. Class starts at 9 a.m. and cost is \$10 a class. Class suitable for all levels, yoga meets you where you are at. For more information call Valerie at 727-557-4258 or go to her website-getfitwithvalerie.com. Please bring a yoga mat and a bottle of water.

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Bob Worthington Mayor - City of Gulfport



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- ★ "Since I was a child, my parents instilled in me that to give back to our community, our City of Gulfport, we were helping Gulfport improve - we were improving our quality of life, we were moving forward. They showed me that with hard work and volunteering within the community we could help to improve our future! I volunteer at least 1000 hours per year to this City! I see our FUTURE!"

Bob is a PROUD Member of The American Legion Post 125 - S.A.L. Vice Commander

Email: bob4gulfport@gmail.com Cell: 727-916-8014
Facebook: Bob Worthington for Mayor of Gulfport, Florida

Paid for and Approved by Robert E. (Bob) Worthington for Mayor - City of Gulfport

Get your Pass-a-Grille Home Tour Tickets

Tickets for the 16th Annual Pass-A-Grille Woman's Club Home Tour on March 23rd are now available. The tour has sold out the last several years, so organizers are stressing the need to get tickets early.

The tour is open from 1-5 p.m. and includes five delightful Pass-a-Grille homes, the Suntan Art Center, the Gulf Beaches Historical Museum and the PAGWC Clubhouse. Listen and learn from local artists and resident historians and eat and shop at local establishments with special deals. Free parking and shuttles are available and the tour goes on rain or shine.

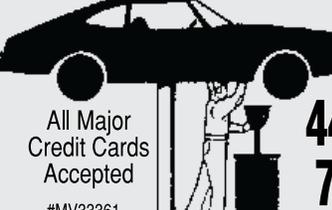
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Zumba Classes Three Days a Week

Zumba is an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow calorie burning dance fitness class that's moving millions of people towards joy and health. The St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr, is now offering Zumba Classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9-10 a.m. The cost is only \$6 per class. Join anytime. Visit www.spbrec.com or call 727-363-9245.

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10K to Benefit Cancer Patients

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH: The BRA Bikers Raising Awareness® 10 Mile Walk will be held on Saturday, February 23 along the beaches (sidewalk), through beautiful residential areas and Walsingham Park. The event begins and ends at Crabby Bill's Seafood Inc. 401 Gulf Blvd. in Indian Rocks Beach. To register go to <http://www.bikersraisingawareness.com>, raise \$500 (no sign up fee) to be eligible to receive an event t-shirt, and after walk celebration buffet dinner. For those not registering on line bring your donations to Crabby Bill's Seafood

Inc. Check in starts at 7 a.m., walk starts at 8 a.m., celebration buffet dinner starts when the last walker gets in. Walkers are welcome to invite family and friends to the celebration dinner afterwards for a fee of \$20 for each of the walkers guest(s). RSVP and payment deadline for the dinner is February 16th; mail to BRA Bikers Raising Awareness®, PO Box 3442, Seminole, FL 33775. All proceeds benefit Tampa Bay breast cancer patients. Details and donation forms at info@bikersraisingawareness.org or call Evi at 727-698-0078. All funds raised pay for local patients' living expenses going directly to the source such as utility co., rent, insurance, etc. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent

of IRS law. Tax documents are available upon request. Go to www.bikersraisingawareness.org for more information about BRA.

Introductory Digital Photography Workshop

This workshop is designed to give the complete novice a solid understanding of their compact digital camera and the fundamental knowledge needed to embark upon a lifetime's exploration of photography. The St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr, will be offering a Introductory Digital Photography Workshop on February 28th, March 28th, and April 25th from 6-9 p.m. The cost is \$10 per class. Call 727-363-9245.

Give Kids a Smile Event

Eligible students in grades K-5 will receive free dental screenings and cleanings this Friday, February 22, during the annual Give Kids a Smile Pinellas event. The free visit will include two bite wing X-rays, a cleaning, sealants and fluoride treatment. Children who may need further services such as fillings will be scheduled for a follow-up treatment visit on March 15. The services will be offered at six sites throughout the county. Each year, roughly 450,000 children around the nation benefit during localized Give Kids a Smile events that are supported by dentists and dental hygienists who volunteer their time and services. For more information, read: <http://newsroom.pcsb.org/?p=11530>.

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Reading, from front page

“is to provide a relaxed and ‘dog-friendly’ atmosphere, which allows students to practice the skill of reading.”

The site goes on to explain that children who may be self-conscious when reading aloud in class in front of their friends will not have those same issues when reading to a dog.

“By sitting down next to a dog and reading to the dog, all threats of being judged are put aside,” the site explains. “The child relaxes, pats the attentive dog, and focuses on the reading. Reading improves because the child is practicing the skill of reading, building self-esteem, and associating reading with something pleasant.”

Shyne and his eight year old sister, Aaliyah, told the Gabber that they

like reading.

Maya looks forward to hearing new readers the second Thursday of every month. Gulfport does not charge for this service, but part-time youth librarian Kaley Classen suggests calling the library to let them know you’re coming. You can reach the Gulfport Public Library at 893-1074.

Library Director David Mather came to Gulfport in July of last year; Ms. Classen came later in the year. Together, they say they want to build the youth program. Mr. Mather calls Maya’s appearance as a reading dog “a blessing” in their efforts to build the youth program.

“Maya’s mom came to us with the idea, but it was a blessing because we were looking for something to kickstart it,” he says.

Also on tap for kids at the library:

- Story time Thursdays mornings at 10:30.
- Family movie time, once a month on a Saturday.
- Teen activities every Wednesday afternoon at 3.
- Craft time once a month

Please read this story online at theGabber.com and look for a link to the library’s new web site and calendar of events.

...

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<p>SHIRLEY WILSON BLAKE Abstract Composition & Techniques May 9-12 4 Day Workshop All Medias \$425</p>	<p>JUDI BETTS Luminous Watercolors June 28-July 1, 2013 \$525 <i>All Levels Welcome</i></p>	<p>RICHARD STEPHENS Watercolor With Passion October 24-27 \$425</p>
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Letters

It's our Policy

Dear Editor: Re: Gulfport Mayoral Candidates Debate Issues at City Hall, By Cathy Salustri (Feb. 14, 2013 issue)

As a nonpartisan political organization that has as part of its mission to encourage informed and active participation in government, the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area was pleased to moderate the recent Mayoral Candidate Forum in Gulfport.

As part of our standard Candidate Forum process we encourage the audience to submit written questions. In order to insure fairness to all candidates we screen the questions to make sure they are understandable and without personal attacks. The majority of questions are asked exactly as they are submitted. However some may be reworded for clarity, and some are combined with other questions that address the same subject. This focus on fairness to candidates and the public is, we are told, the reason we are so frequently asked to moderate candidate forums.

The League's policy is to keep all questions for a reasonable amount of time, and to not turn them over for

examination by the public, the press, or the candidates.

Karen Coale
President, League of Women Voters
of the St. Petersburg Area
...

Fluoride in our Water

Dear Editor: I am surprised and disheartened that since the decision to add fluoride to our water system there has not been a flood of letters in protest.

Parents are told by dentists that their children get cavities from lack of fluoride. Dentists make a lot of money selling their so called fluoride "treatments". Cereal, various sweets and other food loaded with high fructose corn syrup most likely is the cause of cavities.

Google the word "fluoride" and read many facts about it. One interesting fact on Google: "There has never been a single randomized clinical trial to demonstrate fluoridation's effectiveness or safety. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) classifies fluoride as an unapproved new drug".

Anne Smith
...

Tour Barbara Gilberg Habitat

By Natalie Leggette

Join me for a tour of the park on February 21st at 10 a.m. and learn the reasons why you shouldn't feed wildlife and get a handout on the subject. Barbara Gilberg Habitat is located at 1600 Pasadena Avenue next to the electronic billboard on Shore Drive. Meet me in the Pavilion.
...

Women's Club to Hold Card Party

You are invited to join the Women's Chamber of Commerce of the Greater Gulf Beaches, established in 1936, for their annual "Card Party" and luncheon on March 6th. The luncheon will be held at The Wine Cellar located at 17307 Gulf Blvd., No. Redington Beach. Cost is \$20. Cards will be played from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with lunch at noon. For a reservation please call Ruth at 343-0223 by the Friday, March 1st. All money collected will go to their two charities, "Angels Against Abuse" and "Women in Transition". Please join them as they help others in need.
...

Letters to the Editor

Please keep letters to the editor as brief and to the point as possible. Letters must be typed in upper and lower case on plain white paper or emailed to publisher@thegabber.com.

One letter per author every four weeks.

All letters are printed and edited for length and content at the discretion of the editors.

The Gabber encourages and welcomes all letters.

The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers, staff or advertisers.



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Sunshine City Festival is Coming

The Grand Central District will be hosting the Sunshine City Festival on Saturday, February 23rd from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will take place on the 2400-2500 blocks of Central Avenue in the heart of the Grand Central District and will celebrate the unique characteristics of Saint Petersburg with a nod to "Old Florida."

The Sunshine City Festival will include live music, arts/crafts vendors, food vendors, and the Grand Central District's 8th Annual Chili Cookoff. Entertainment will be provided by Tampa Bay's own American Idol contestant Melissa McGhee, as well as local artists Steve Arvey and "Scotty Lee and the Treblehooks".

The Chili competition will run from 12 p.m. - 3 p.m., and prizes will be awarded in multiple categories. Chili Tasting Tickets will go on sale soon...they will be \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the event. Visit gda@grandcentraldistrict.org or call 727-828-7006.

...

Pedaling for Pink

Viva Las Chicas will host their Second Annual bike ride Pedaling for Pink on March 2nd. A one-day ride through Pinellas County, which will include a 5-mile, 32-mile, and a 64-mile route, will raise money to help Tampa Bay families affected by a cancer diagnosis. This bicycling event is designed for families and diehard riders alike, with something



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for everyone. Visit www.p4pvlc.org to register and get all the latest news and information.

...

Community Wellness Expo

Make a day of fun, fitness, and health at the St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Community Wellness Expo Saturday, March 2nd from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Willis S. John Recreation Center located at 6635 M.L. King Jr. Street N. You'll be inspired by educational wellness

presentations with live healthy cooking and fitness demos. Vendors focus on health and wellness with valuable health information for all ages. Enjoy a family fun area with a rock wall, inflatable games, raffles, prizes and much more. This is a free event sponsored by the City of St. Petersburg Parks & Recreation, Florida Central Credit Union, St. Petersburg College, United Healthcare, Walmart, and Northside Bikes. Contact Kim at 727-893-5994 or visit www.stpeteparksrec.org.

...



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Alan Levine, MD, Medical Director, Palms of Pasadena Hospital Pain Center, Board Certified in Anesthesiology and Pain Management

FEBRUARY 25 • Lunch 11:30am - Seminar 12:00 noon

*Palms of Pasadena Hospital - Professional Building
1609 Pasadena Avenue South, Boca Ciega Room*



What is Causing Your Shakes and Tremors - Common Neurological Disorders in the Mature Population

Alberto Vasquez, MD, Board Certified in Neurology and Neuromuscular Diseases, Director of the Palms of Pasadena Stroke Program

FEBRUARY 27 • Lunch 11:30am - Seminar 12:00 noon

*St. Albans Episcopal Church - Parish Hall, 330 85th Avenue
(Corner of 85th Avenue and Boca Ciega Drive)*

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Whale of a Sale Returns

The Junior League of St. Petersburg (JLSP) announces today the Whale of a Sale is back by popular demand. This legendary one day rummage sale is returning on Saturday, February 23rd from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, Harbor Hall (former Dali Museum) located at 1000 Third Street S.

Come and be the first to see what is for sale by purchasing a ticket to the Sip & Sea Preview Party and VIP Reception on Friday, February 22nd. Enjoy signature cocktails, priority shopping and a VIP gift with VIP

entry at 6:30 p.m. General admission starts at 7:30 p.m. with preview shopping, light hor d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The Sip & Sea Preview Party will also feature DJ Brian Oblivion while you shop for great bargains! Purchase a ticket to experience this treasure hunting party. VIP tickets are \$40 and general admission tickets are \$30 each for the Sip & Sea.

Tickets can be purchased at www.jlstpete.org or mail a check to the JLSP headquarters located at 500 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street N. Suite 201, St. Petersburg, FL 33705. Proceeds from this event will support the Junior League of St. Petersburg's community projects and programs.

Call 727-895-5018 or visit www.jlstpete.org.

...

Hockey Comes to Corey Fresh Market

Along with over 40 local vendors, including organic produce, specialty foods, arts/crafts and live music, the Tampa Bay Lightning "Rolling Thunder" bus will be at the Corey Fresh Market with a fun day planned for family and friends on Sunday, February 24th from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. .

The Rolling Thunder Tour is a mobile program dedicated to bringing the Lightning experience to the fans. This one of a kind attraction provides an interactive opportunity for all fans to enjoy. The tour gives fans a chance to get geared up for the hockey season by bringing friends and family to participate in interactive games. Events sometimes feature appearances by the Lightning Girls, Thunder Bug, Lightning personalities, giveaways and much more!

Corey Fresh Market is located in downtown St. Pete Beach just off Gulf Blvd. where there's always free parking. Visit www.coreyave.com or call 727-498-8778.

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State of Maine Day

On Saturday, March 2 there will be a State of Maine Day held at Fort Desoto Park, Tierra Verde at Shelter #5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your own lunch and chairs. No reservations are required. Call Brenda Wiley at 813-634-4766 or Sue Bemis at 813-634-1010 with questions.

...

Learn about the St. Johns River

The USF St. Petersburg Florida Studies Program and the Student Environmental Awareness Society present "Florida's St. Johns River," a lecture and film hosted by author Bill Belleville at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 27.

Belleville, author of *River of Lakes: A Journey of Florida's St. Johns River*, will discuss the documentary "Water's Journey: The River Returns" at Harbor Hall, 1000 Third Street S. Produced by Karst Productions, Water's Journey explains the history of the St. Johns River and its importance to Florida.

Belleville will discuss the film and his personal experiences with river.

Formed 100,000 years ago, the St. Johns River is home to hundreds of species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and other water creatures. Before Europeans arrived in Florida, many Native American tribes called the river home. The river runs 300 miles from its marshy headwaters south of Melbourne through Jacksonville.

For more information about the event or the Florida Studies Program, please call Chris Meindl at 727-873-4872.

...

Who's Counting?

The women of First United Methodist Church-Gulfport (located on the corner of 28th Ave. S. and 53rd St.) want you and your friends to join them for this birthday luncheon at noon on March 12th. Cost is just \$5. They will celebrate all birthdays together at their Annual Birthday Party luncheon!

They must know how many are attending, so gather some friends, then call the church office at 321-3620 (M-F, 9-noon) to make your reservations. Let them know before March 5th.

...



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Happy Birthday, Betty!

*Longtime Gulfport resident
honored by family*

Betty Bonfield, who raised her family of 7 children in Gulfport and still lives nearby in Brentwood, celebrated her 90th birthday Saturday when her sister, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren all gathered at the Sirata to wish her a happy birthday.

Relatives came from as far as Mrs. Bonfield's home state of North Dakota. Mrs. Bonfield's youngest son, Mike, still lives in Gulfport. He works for the City of St. Pete Beach. She told her family she was "shooting for 100!"

In that case, we'll see you in ten years, Mrs. Bonfield.



Shrimp Boil at Lions Club

Their seventh ever Shrimp Boil is being set up for you on Friday, March 8th served by the Lions of Gulfport, at their den at 4630 Tifton Drive S. in Gulfport (right behind the Marina off 49th St. S.). Dinner will be served from 4-8 p.m. and open to the public. BYOB. Rain or shine.

The menu features a great supply of fresh, peel and eat Gulf shrimp, homemade hushpuppies (check to see if they have any "Barbaric Hushpuppies" too) and cole slaw, baked beans, coffee and iced tea and desserts. A generous 1/2 lb. (weighed before cooking) serving for everyone and at a cost of \$9 per person, you can bring the entire family. Additional shrimp can be purchased at \$5 per 1/2 lb. Unfortunately, this is not an all you can eat dinner for a one time cost (as most of their events are) but well worth the price. Children under 10 years of age are half price.

You are welcome to bring your favorite beverage - BYOB (as they cannot sell beer or wine), as long as you share with the chefs.

Plenty of tickets will be available at the door, or contact any of your Lion friends. This is a Gulfport Lions Activities Project, with all of the net proceeds generated to be allocated to their community outreach programs, especially Sight First activities and community sponsorships, ie: Little League, Scouts, Christmas Toy Shop, etc., as are all of their fundraiser projects (Spaghetti Suppers; Pancake Breakfasts; Fish Fry etc.).

Please make sure you are part of this popular annual social event. If you need directions call the Lions Den at 515-7509 the day of the event. Hope to see y'all there!

...

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Island Festival 2013

This year's street fair Festival will serve as the kick off for Gulf Beaches Historical Museum's 20th anniversary! On March 2nd from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Museum plays host once again to a celebration of island culture that can only be found in our south beach communities. Join County and City officials as they commemorate 20 years of all volunteer service to the community.

Music by the Eckerd College Lifelong Learning Institute's "New Horizons Band" and the "St. Pete Shanties" who sing the songs that sailors, fishermen, and dockworkers sang with a special Florida emphasis.

The Florida Suncoast MG Car Club will show collectors cars. The car club, organized in 1980, is the most active British car club in the Tampa Bay area.

Special character appearance by legendary hermit Silas Dent and walking tours led by costumed docents. See the new exhibit, a tribute to the now defunct St. Pete Beach Police Dept. and visit with the Museum's version of "officer friendly". Art, craft and treasure vendors, including the Museums own "Treasure Table" will be present.

The Museum is located at 115 10th Ave., Pass-a-Grille, St. Pete Beach. Always free admission. Call 727-552-1610 or visit www.gulfbeachmuseum.com.

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Courting Fun at Town Shores



Pictured are the Town Shores Shufflers with their guests, The Red Hatters, who visited for the "Fun Day" on February 1st.

On consecutive Fridays in Feb., three separate groups were hosted for a "fun day" by the Shuffleboard Club. On the 1st, it was the Town Shores Red Hatters followed by the Pass--Grille Shuffleboard club on the 8th. On the 15th it was a sizable group from the Bocce Club who cued up with the club. The game of "hoss collar" was played, where two person teams work together to accumulate the most points. Ice cold soft drinks and snacks were enjoyed between the two games of six frames. Attendance was enough to require use of 8-10 courts, some which hadn't had a disc slide for two years. Hopefully, some of the visitors will get the shuffle bug and show up regularly (or occasionally) for the weekly play on Tuesdays and Fridays.

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4	2	6	3	5	1	9	7	8
5	1	8	6	7	9	4	2	3

Gulfport Garden & Bird Club

Things are not working out very well for the garden club. The tour of the Florida Botanical Gardens and Heritage Village was rained out and the March trip to Warm Mineral Springs had to be canceled.

The next meeting will be the annual Tea and Business meeting on April 11th at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center. Details to be provided later.

...

Mayor Pension Approved

Gulfport Mayor Mike Yakes will draw a state-approved pension. Because he served for over 20 years, the mayor will receive half his mayoral salary, \$4,800, every year.

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The Gabs

This week we went to the Gulfport Library and asked younger readers to tell us the name of their favorite book. Here's what they said:



Kendrick Stevens, 3: "Skeleton book."

...



Shyne Shorter, 9, Bear Creek Elementary: "Dinosaurs and Birds."

...



Aaliyah Shorter, 8, Bear Creek Elementary: "Half-Minute Horrors."

...



Lilly Stanley, 7, Sunflower School: "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets."

...

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Beth-El Shalom
Messianic Congregation
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St. Petersburg 345-7777
www.Jewishheritage.net
Worship Service
Friday 7pm

World Day of Prayer

On Friday, March 1st, Church Women United will hold a World Day of Prayer service at Maximo Presbyterian Church located at 3200 58th Avenue S. The service starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

...

Thrift Shop Sale

First United Methodist Church - Gulfport Thrift Shop announces their sales this week. You will find sale prices on all of their "winter clothing". It's a grand chance to get some new-to-you, warm things to wear when you travel north for Easter, or for other family events. Or, get ready for next year's winter weather now!

They love their return customers. They return because of all the clean, useful, thrifty items they share with you. If you haven't stepped inside yet, this is a great month to check them out on Friday and Saturday from 9-12 noon. They are located on 53rd St. S. near 28th Ave. S. See you Friday or Saturday!

...

Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ

You Are Always Welcome

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Nursery Available
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Wednesday 11am & 7pm



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St Petersburg
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www.st-lukesumc.com
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Wednesday 5:30 meal 6:15 classes
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Program - 11:00 AM

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Wednesday Healing Eucharist 12 pm
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Worship



Fish Fry at Gulfport United Methodist

The annual United Methodist Men's Fish Fry has been set for Friday, March 1st from 5-7 p.m. by the United Methodist Men of First United Methodist Church. Dinner will be served in the fellowship hall at the church, 2728 53 Street S.

Featuring the always popular menu of fried fish, cole slaw, tartar sauce, baked beans, hushpuppies, grits, tea, coffee and dessert and all you care to eat at a donation of \$8.95, this annual event continues to be bigger and better each year. Take outs are available.

Advance tickets are strongly suggested in order to assure an adequate supply of fish. Tickets are available at the church office or by calling Les McEwen at 321-3672.

Remember, take outs are available.

St. Alban's offers Pulled Pork BBQ

The Men of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, located at 330 85th Avenue in St. Pete Beach, invite the community to a Pulled Pork BBQ Supper on Saturday, March 2 at

5:30 p.m. The meal consists of pulled pork, buns, baked beans, cole slaw and chips. It will be a fun event including drawings. Advance tickets are necessary and are available in the church office and following Sunday services at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact the church office at 360-8406.

...

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 Traditional Service.....10:30am

Wednesday evening:
 Supper and Bible Study...6:00pm

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www.gulfportumc.org

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 Alternative Worship with Communion at 8:45am
 Traditional Worship & Church School at 10:00am
 Coffee, Cookies & Fellowship at 11:00am
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Gulfportpc@tampabay.rr.com

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 at 10:30AM

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Lifeguard Certification Training

Interested in becoming a Lifeguard? St. Pete Beach Family Aquatics Center will be offering training. Lifeguard training class is open to anyone 15 years and older. Class will be offered three times this spring: Session I March 9-21, Session II April 6-18, Session III May 4-16 at the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Drive. Cost is only \$160 for St. Pete Beach

residents and \$180 nonresidents. Sign up now to become a Certified Lifeguard. For more information call 727-363-9264 or visit www.spbrec.com.

...

Community Band to Perform Concert

"Broadway and Ireland" is the featured theme for the free concert presented by the South Pasadena Community Band on the evening of Wednesday, March 13th, at

7:30 p.m. The concert will take place in the Treasure Island Community Center, 1 Park Place and 106th Avenue. Director Max Millsbaugh will lead the band with selections which include Jersey Boys, The Toy Trombone, selections from "The Music Man", Flute Rag, Fantasia on an Irish Hymn and Ireland. Come join the band for this musical treat!

...

Polish American Society

The Polish American Society, 1343 Beach Drive SE (next to Coast Guard commissary) will hold their next dance on February 24th. Doors open at 1 p.m.; bar is open at 1:30 p.m. Dinner is from 2-3:30 p.m. and costs \$7. Dancing is from 3-6 p.m. and costs \$5 for members and \$7 for guests. Become a member.

Please RSVP for dinner; Golombkis and Pierogis will be served. Bring family and friends and support Polish heritage. You will meet all nationalities.

Call Bev at 727-526-6835 or visit www.polishamericansociety.org.

...

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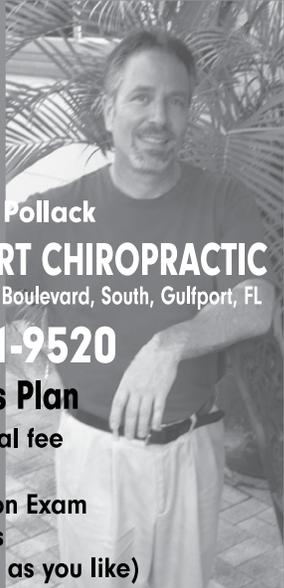
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Wellness Auto Accident Chronic Pain

Crossword Puzzle

Solution on Page 18

ACROSS

- 1 Ladyfingers, e.g.
- 6 "Oh, give me ___"
- 11 Trouble
- 14 Super Bowl sight
- 15 Rhinal
- 16 Columnist Landers
- 17 Easy target
- 19 GI carrier
- 20 Partner of tooth
- 21 Trail denizen
- 23 Peculiar
- 27 Virtual ___
- 29 Monopoly pieces
- 30 Unproductive
- 31 Landlord, e.g.
- 32 Inferred
- 33 Pygmalion monogram
- 36 ___ cava
- 37 Pentagon features
- 38 ___ Good Men
- 39 New Haven student
- 40 Prevent
- 41 Enamor
- 42 See 63 Across
- 44 Cascade peak
- 45 Fix in the mind
- 47 Avon offering
- 48 On the wagon

- 49 Racetrack figure
- 50 Fib
- 51 General Chennault, e.g.
- 58 Hard-rock link
- 59 Dodge
- 60 Minneapolis suburb
- 61 Cousteau's sea
- 62 Railroad car
- 63 *Short People* singer, with 42 Across

DOWN

- 1 60 Minutes network
- 2 Ring king
- 3 Set of tools
- 4 CPR specialist
- 5 Tackle box gizmo
- 6 Actress Dickinson
- 7 John, of the Chargers
- 8 Big Ten sch.
- 9 PC brand
- 10 City east of South Bend
- 11 Mudskipper, e.g.
- 12 Beginning
- 13 Contestant
- 18 Henpecks
- 22 Martinique, e.g.: Fr.
- 23 Push

- 24 Steam bath item
- 25 1960 Johnny Preston hit
- 26 Riding the waves
- 27 Active snake
- 28 Sister of Ares
- 30 Half of a German city
- 32 Giant
- 34 Ms. Midler
- 35 Take an oath
- 37 Big rig
- 38 Latin I word
- 40 Made to appear smaller
- 41 Camera part
- 43 Before, to Browning
- 44 False coin
- 45 Worship of Allah
- 46 Library no-no
- 47 Faux pas
- 49 Procter & Gamble detergent
- 52 Roman 56
- 53 TV chef Martin
- 54 "Sweet as apple cider" girl
- 55 Martini base
- 56 Wind up
- 57 Kind of gun

Picking up Speed

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61						62						63			

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Celebrity Bartending Event to Benefit Charity

On February 21st Pete and Shorty's in Pinellas Park is hosting a celebrity bartending event benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County. Join them for festivities from 6-9 p.m., including an exclusive silent auction, drink specials and the opportunity to indulge in the company of well-loved celebrities.

Be a foodie for the cause and grab a box of "Shorty Burgers," otherwise known as tiny bites of heaven that come dressed to impress every taste bud they meet. In fact, hanging out

in the dining area might actually be the location of choice. In addition to serving drinks behind the bar, celebrities will be mingling amongst guests.

Pre-announced "star-tenders" include: three-time Olympic gold medalist swimmer, Brooke Bennett, radio personality of 98.7 The Fan and MJ Morning Show, Meredith Walusek, and Major League Baseball All-star pitcher, two-time World Series Champ, David Wells! Visit the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BBBSPC to view more celebrity bartenders like Ray's broadcaster, Todd Kalas and lead

singer of Cheap Trick, Robin Zander. Big Brothers Big Sisters has been helping children and families in Pinellas, Hernando and Citrus Counties for more than 45 years.

Pete & Shorty's is located at 7402 49th Street in Pinellas Park.

...

Market Collects Pantry Donations

The Gulfport Merchants Association continues to collect donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs to be distributed to the Gulfport Senior Center Pantry. Bring your donations to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent each Tuesday during the Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market, on Beach Blvd. below 29th Ave. S., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each week. The Pantry, which offers food and other needed items to struggling Gulfport individuals and families, is in great need of donations to keep up with the needs of its clients. The stock of items on Pantry shelves has been greatly diminished since the holidays and new donations will be much appreciated.

...



SONS of ITALY

Don't Miss Our FASHION SHOW
Sunday, Feb 24th
12:30 ~ 4pm

Chef Joe is Back
for your Culinary Pleasure!

Thursday Night Fine Dining

3 Course Dinner • \$9.99
4-8 pm

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Formerly the Wealth Building Coalition



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<p>Enoch Davis Center 1111 - 18th Ave. S. St. Petersburg, Florida 33705 727-893-7134</p>	<p>James B. Sanderlin Family Center 2335 - 22nd Ave. S. St. Petersburg, Florida 33712 727-321-9444</p>	<p>Daystar Life Center 226 - 6th St. S. St. Petersburg, Florida 33701 727-823-5993</p>	<p>Childs Park YMCA 691 43rd St. S. St. Petersburg, Florida 33711 727-209-9622</p>	<p>Lealman and Asian Center 4255 - 56th Ave. N. St. Petersburg, Florida 33714 727-520-9820</p>
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For a list of all 12 Pinellas County VITA sites, call 2-1-1 or visit www.Taxes-4Free.com

Gulfport City Wide Sale is coming up

It is that time again Gulfport!! The City Wide Yard Sale is Saturday, March 16th. Do not miss this awesome opportunity to have your Gulfport address on the brochure for this year's sale. The City of Gulfport is now kindly accepting addresses to be added to this year's City Wide Yard Sale brochure.

For your Gulfport address to be added to the Yard Sale Brochure: You can fill out a form at City Hall, 2401 53rd St. S. or the Gulfport Public Library, 5501 28th Ave. S., or easily email your Gulfport address to Justin Shea at jshea@mygulfport.us. So dig into the garage, closet or shed and get rid of all that stuff you haven't used for a year or more! Most likely, someone's looking for what you don't want anymore. The deadline to get on the brochure is Friday, March 8 at 4 p.m.

For more information, please contact Justin Shea, City of Gulfport Technical Events Specialist, at 727-893-1118 or email jshea@mygulfport.us.

...

Suntan Art Center Turns 50

Suntan Art Center will kick-off its 51st year with a gala celebration, "All That Art" on March 16th. The event will take place at the historic Don Vista building, 3300 Gulf Blvd, St. Pete Beach. Suntan is a non-profit community art association that has grown in numbers from the founding 29 to nearly 300 members. For the past several years it has supported the city building it calls home, keeping it open for the community to enjoy. The evening festivities will include caricatures by noted artist Bruce Norris, a silent auction of fabulous local deals and artwork, door prizes and an exhibit from the collection of historical local photographs by longtime Tampa Bay editor and photographer, Bob Preston. Wonderful hors d'oeuvres and desserts from beach eateries will be enjoyed to jazz and oldies by the "Phil Greek Panorama Band". It promises to be an evening of fabulous food, drink, and music to celebrate "All That Art." Tickets are \$50 per person and are available in limited numbers. Call 727-367-3818 or

Gabber February 21 - February 27, 2013

emailsuntanartcenter@verizon.net for details.

...

New Instructor for Stretching Class

Stretching for seniors will be receiving a new instructor from the Boca Ciega Center in March. This class will restart on Tuesday, March 5th in the Theater Lobby area at 5501 27th Ave. S. You must be registered with the Senior Center to enjoy this free class.

...

Tennis Clinics

The Gulfport Recreation Center offers off site tennis classes taught by Jack Carey Jr. at Chase Park, (corner of 53rd St. S. & 27th Ave. S.). On Tuesday, Jack teaches Quick Start Tennis for kids 10 and under 5-6 p.m. and Intermediate Adult from 6-7 p.m. On Thursdays, Jack teaches Point Playing juniors from 5-6 p.m. For more information contact Jack at 727-280-4276 or check out his website at www.beachtobaytennis.com.

...

Attorney Keith Sanders, Handles Foreclosure Defense and Bankruptcies with Experience and Sensitivity

You could say my motto is "been there, done that," says Keith Sanders, from Sanders Law, P.A.

He says that for two reasons. First, he says his more than 20 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. 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 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. They have gone through an expensive

health crisis or a divorce or just got in over their head with debt."

He began his career as a staff attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice 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.

"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.**

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.

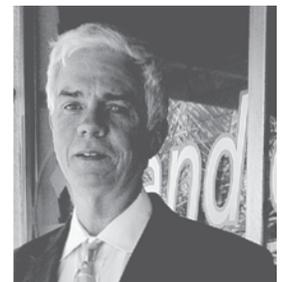
The firm also handles Short Sale negotiations, defense against foreclosures, wills & trusts, civil litigation and personal injury.

Despite what you may have read or heard recently, any debt discharged in Bankruptcy is a non taxable event as far as the IRS is concerned.

Realtors, Hospitality Workers, Business Owners, Self Employed and anyone else affected by the BP Oil Spill, NOW is the time to file your claim. Please call us for more information.



Se Hablo Español



We understand this is not an easy process or concept to grasp. We would like an opportunity to explain in depth and in terms that are relatable to you, the homeowner, just what this means and how it could be of benefit to you and your future. Every situation is different and therefore has a different solution, so please call us and let us discuss what is best for you, and then you can decide what course to take. Remember there are "LEGAL SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR FUTURE" and we would like the chance to show those to you.

Only you can make the call.

Evening and weekend appointments are available.

**Sanders Law, P.A.
6702 Gulf Blvd.
St. Pete Beach, FL.
727-209-0744**



Horoscope Guide

By Holiday Mathis

Feelings can be rather hard to put into words even on the best of days, but verbiage is hopelessly tricky right now. The Virgo full moon on the 25th is ideologically opposed to everything Mercury retrograde stands for. The moon wants precision and emotional clarity. Mercury retrograde offers illusion and fuzzy logic. Since explanations can't do your emotions justice, consider alternate expressions, like music or pictures.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're a cosmic favorite now, and you don't have to prove yourself. You only have to show up and do what you came to do. If it's within your ability, you'll nail it. If not, you'll learn so that you can nail it another time. Either way, your effectiveness has nothing to do with you personally, unless you choose to see it that way.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Contests of one are easy to win. And why not make things easy on yourself, if only for a few days? When you consider yourself in a league of your own and resolve not to compare yourself to others, success is inevitable. It's your week to hone your skills and grow your talents through independent practice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There have been times when your whim has led you to purchase items at the perfect moment. You were able to buy low and watch the value increase. Another such moment will occur between now and Wednesday, so keep your eyes open for deals and opportunities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You see the beauty in simplicity. Only on very rare occasions have you acted to make life more complicated than it needed to be. To keep up the trend, this week you'll have to remind yourself to do the necessary maintenance, get rid of what you don't use and avoid attaining what you don't really need.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's been suggested that getting to the top is a lot easier than staying at the

top. This isn't entirely true. It's just that many people are so seduced by the trappings of success that they get distracted and forget to keep doing the work. As long as you keep doing the work, you'll maintain your position.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you're obsessed with doing everything at the so-called "right time," you will miss many opportunities. Most doors do not open and close at a particular time. They operate because they are pushed or triggered. As you get clearer in your purpose, the timing becomes irrelevant.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You wish you could solve every problem. Your resources are not unlimited, but they are deep. You may not have the exact solution for the problem you face midweek, but you're always willing to give your smile to anyone who doesn't have one of his own. Your heart has the power to heal others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are no perfect people. Being the old soul that you are, you're willing to accept that fact and get on with the business of honoring those close to you for all they bring to this life. And when you choose to see perfectly just how imperfect a person is and give your total acceptance, you are love in action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Once you've mastered a task, there is a very short window of time in which you still enjoy doing that exact thing. Challenge and satisfaction are linked. That's why you're always striving to learn and do more. This week has you tackling ambitious aims with a smile on your face.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Some marketers assume that if their wares are packaged right, you will buy. What they don't know is that you have extrasensory perception. When it's turned on, you only put your money into what's real, useful, of high quality and priced right. Just don't forget to turn it on before you take out your wallet this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Position yourself so that you have to try, but not very hard. When you extend yourself a little, people want to reach over to help you. When you extend yourself a lot, they will be too afraid to help, because it looks like a lost cause. Success is a result of walking that fine line.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't be in such a hurry to change. You still haven't accepted the most wonderful things about yourself. You're better off working on accepting yourself -- and that's so easy this week that there's no point in calling it "work." All you have to do is direct some of your natural kindness and generosity toward yourself.

This Week's Birthdays: Few people have both common sense and intellectual brilliance, as you do. You'll do the things you know you should do, refusing to let your active mind distract or tempt you. In March, you will stretch to accommodate a challenging person and find that you are deeper and more loving ever after. You'll exchange promises in April. Shared goals lead to family bonding in May. Summer brings passion and adventure. Invest in your professional vision, and it comes together beautifully in July.

...

Music at Gulfport Beach Pavilion #6

Monday, 1-3 p.m.

Karaoke by Jay & Lolita alternating with Arlene & Len

Tuesday, 1-3 p.m.

Mark Blackwood Harmonica/Open Mic

Wednesday, 1-3:30 p.m.

Karaoke by Harold & Donna Wurtz

Thursday, 1-3:30 p.m.

Karaoke by Dave and Cookie

Friday, 2-4:00 p.m.

Entertainment by "Geno"

Saturday, 1-3 p.m.

Ann & Ray

Sunday, 1-3:00 p.m.

Entertainment for dancing by Woody & his accordion

Tai Chi for Arthritis Moves to Library

Beginning Thursday, March 7 at 2 p.m., the Tai Chi for Arthritis class is moving to the Gulfport Library. Classes will continue every Thursday at the Senior Center until the move to the Library.

...

PYS Senior Spring Concert

The Pinellas Youth Symphony continues to celebrate its 55th Anniversary season with a concert performed by senior level orchestras and chamber ensembles on Saturday, March 2nd at 7 p.m. at the St. Petersburg College Music Center, 6605 Fifth Avenue N. in St. Petersburg. Donations are appreciated.

The Serenade Strings, The Pinellas Youth Symphony and PYS chamber ensembles, comprised of top musicians from the county and surrounding areas, will perform. Visit www.pysmusic.org.

...

Chito Ryu Karate

Sensei Diane Konstantinovic has been teaching classes at the Gulfport Recreation Center for over 20 years. Chito Ryu is a traditional Japanese martial art. In these classes you will learn self-defense, focus and self-discipline, conditioning, exercise regiments, the Kata Art form and weapons training. Classes are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. with advanced students staying until 8:30 p.m. Classes are \$40 per month. For more information, contact Diane at 727-459-1399.

...

Junior Magic Basketball League

The City of St. Pete Beach Recreation and AD Basketball has partnered with the NBA and Orlando Magic with its youth basketball program. The program offers two coed age divisions: Grades 3rd through 5th and Grades 6th through 8th. All participants will receive a Junior Magic Jersey, trophy, and a ticket to a Magic home game. The league will run from April to late June. Cost is

Gabber February 21 - February 27, 2013

\$90 per athlete. Registration starts March 2nd at 10 a.m. at The St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr. Visit www.spbrec.com or call 727-363-9245 for more information.

...

St. Patty's Day Party at the Senior Center

How green can you go? It's the St. Patrick's Day Party on Wednesday, March 13 beginning at 2 p.m. at the Theater Lobby and Senior Center 5501 27th Ave. S. Tickets are \$5 worth of fun and

includes entertainment, snacks and a free ticket for a special drawing.

From 2-2:30 p.m., enjoy Irish music by seasoned tenor, Paul Fornatar at the dining area stage followed by musical entertainment by the Toonsters. Wear your St. Patrick's green for the "Luck of the Irish" costume contest with prizes for the most decorated! Enjoy an afternoon of fun at the Gulfport Senior Center. For more information call 893-2237 or 893-1231. This event supports the Senior Center and its programs through the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation.

...

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He is Board Certified in Family Medicine, and is a Fellow of American Academy of Family Physicians.

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- Well women exams/pap smear
- Immunizations
- B12 shots

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Gulfport Leisure

Recreation Center 5730 Shore Blvd. So 893-1068

ACTIVITIES

Open Gym – Tues. 6.-9 p.m. Annual reg. \$2 res/\$22 non-res.

PROGRAMS

2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR CHILD CARE PROGRAM:

Registrations for the 2012-2013 School Year Child Care Program continue for children who will be entering Kindergarten thru age 14. Non-refundable annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$110 for non-residents. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Hours of registration are Monday–Friday from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

2012-2013 TOT TIME PROGRAM – CURRENTLY FULL. Call the Recreation Center at 893-1068 for more details.

2012-2013 VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten) PROGRAM: CURRENTLY FULL. Call the Recreation Center at 893-1068 for more details.

2012-2013 TEEN NIGHT PROGRAM - The Teen Night Program is a great hang out for teens in middle school to age 18 (if still in high school). It provides recreation and social activities. It also offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. The teens utilize the gymnasium, gameroom

and outdoor area. Program hours are Mon., Wed. & Fri. 6-9 p.m. Annual reg. \$2 res/\$22 non-res.

NEW CLASSES - Interested in teaching a class? Call John at 893-1079 for info

CLASSES - Call instructor for more information.

• Braveheart Bootcamp- Call Ally at 727-748-6612 or allymorrell@scotsman-fitness.com

• Chair Yoga- Fri., 10-11 a.m. Call Joyce at 727-345-0679

• Conversational Spanish - Mon., 6:30-7:30 p.m. Call 727-482-2125 for more info.

• Cooking Classes- Call Heather for dates and times at 850-264-1715

• Fencing - Wed., 4:30 p.m. Call Jim Campoli at 813-855-3112.

• Gymnastics – Thurs., 5:30-6:15 p.m. Call Barbara at 804-9400.

• Hula- Call Kalina at 727-251-0424.

• Karate - Mon. & Thurs., 6:30 p.m. Call Diane at 459-1399.

• Kickboxing Cardio – Call Bonita at 941-243-7740 for more info.

• Stretch-n-Tone - Tues. & Thurs., 9-10 a.m. Call Jean at 727-302-1016 for more

info.

• Tai Chi – Tues. & Thurs., 9-10:15 a.m. Call Marge at 345-6708.

• Tennis - Tues., 5 p.m. & 6 p.m. Call Jack at 280-4276.

• Walking Club- Thurs., 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call John at 727-893-1079 for more info.

• Yoga in the A. M. – Wed., 9-10 a.m. Call Valerie at 557-4258.

• Yoga in the P.M. - Wed., 6:30–7:30 p.m. Call Tamara at 512-2763.

• Zumba- Tues., 6:30 p.m. and Thur., 7:45 p.m. Call Rachel at 727-748-6612

TOMLINSON SKATE PARK

All skaters/bicyclists MUST purchase a City of Gulfport Skate Park sticker to use the City of Gulfport's Tomlinson Lake Skate Park. Stickers MUST be visibly placed on the helmet. Annual fee for stickers is \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents. Also, all skaters/bicyclists 17 years of age or younger MUST have a signed parental consent form filed at the Gulfport Recreation Center which is located at 5730 Shore Blvd. S. Availability to register: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m.–8 p.m. Stickers valid from October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013. Bicycles permitted on SUNDAYS only.



Gulfport Library

5501 28th Ave. So. 893-1074

or fax 344-6386

TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

One-on-One Computer Instruction: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30 am-1:00 pm. First come, first served.

eSalon: Tuesdays, 3 – 5 pm. Would you like to download ebooks from the Library? Learn how! Browse, place a hold, and check out ebooks from our digital catalog. Meet with others to learn the basics or to discover new ways of using your e-Reader; tablet; and/or mp3. Come by or call the Reference Desk, 893-1073.

ADULT/ALL AGES PROGRAMS

Real Florida author Jeff Klinkenberg: Thursday, Mar. 14, 7:00 pm. *Tampa Bay Times* staff writer presents his thoughts & reminisces about the Sunshine State. FMI & to reserve your seat, please call 727-893-1073.

Free Thinkers Open AA (Twelve Step) Meeting: Tuesdays, 5:45-6:45 pm. FMI: Call 727-360-9069.

Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers: Wednesdays at 10:00 am. (previously known as Gulfport Creative Short Story Writers).

Beginning Spanish Classes: Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:30 am. FREE & open to everyone

Conscious Awareness Group: Thursdays, Feb. 21 & 28, from 12:30 – 4 pm (some sessions will not last this long). Sessions will include a short meditation, an

audio recording of a chapter of Practicing the Power of Now, a discussion, and video recordings of Eckhart Tolle's teachings from Eckhart Tolle TV.

Tai Chi for Arthritis: Thursdays, starting Mar. 7 at 2:00 pm. Same group that is being hosted at the Senior Center will move to the Library's meeting room in March. FMI, call 727-893-2237.

AARP Income Tax Assistance: Fridays & Mondays 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. FMI, call 893-1073. TAXPAYERS MUST BRING SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS FOR ALL PERSONS LISTED ON THEIR TAX RETURNS, A PICTURE ID, AND ALL PERTINENT RECORDS SUCH AS W2'S, 1099'S, other income & credits, & a copy of last year's return if available. Free Electronic filing is available at all sites.

Real Estate News You Can Use Forum: Wednesday, Mar. 6, 5:00 – 6:45 pm. FMI, call Stephanie Slavick, 727-202-7011.

Writing Workshops with Trace Taylor: Sats., Feb. 23, Mar. 9, 23, & 30, 2 – 4 pm. Participants will be guided on how to create a book. FMI call 893-1073.

Coffee/Talk Book Club: Thursday, Feb. 21, 10:30 am. Discussion of The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey, over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Please call 893-1073 FMI.

SCORE Consulting: Tuesday, Feb. 26.

FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals the fourth Tuesday of every month. Call 893-1073 FMI & to schedule an appointment.

CHILDREN/FAMILY PROGRAMS

StoryTime: Thursdays, 10:30 – 11:00 am. Our staff reads picture books and leads activities selected for preschoolers. Youth Services area around the rocking chair by the Easy books.

Crafts with Cailey: Saturday, Mar. 9, 11:00 am – noon. More seasonal fun! For more details call Cailey, 727-893-1134.

Reading Assistance Dog Maya: Thursday, Mar. 14, 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Enjoy a "Paws to Read" & share a story with a beautiful Golden Retriever... Call to schedule an appointment. 893-1073.

Free Family Movie Day: Saturday, Mar. 16, 10:30 am is first feature, followed by second film at 1:30 pm. Enjoy them with free popcorn provided by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library! FMI, call 893-1073.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Game Zone: Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 pm. Come challenge your friends on the latest XBOX 360 games or just hangout. Free Refreshments. FMI, call 893-1074 & ask for Sheri.

Open Monday-Friday: 10 am-7 pm &

Saturday: 10 am-4 pm

Services *City Sponsored Activities* in the Community

Senior Center 5501 27th

Enjoy the benefits of all the classes and events below at the Gulfport Senior Center. It's easy to join. Come in and sign up today! Ask for Gail or Rachel to give you a tour! This is your Center! Pick up your February schedule or go online at <http://www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org>

Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation! Help our page grow and get daily valuable information!

SPECIAL EVENTS

1st Friday Flea Market: - Friday, March 1, 9 a.m. - Noon

Gulfport Senior Artist and Reception at the Gulfport Library! You are cordially invited to the Artist reception on Friday, March 1 from 6-8 p.m. Betty Staebell's class will be highlighting their art work throughout the month of March in the Friends room!

Movie Day: Tuesday, March 12th, 11:00 am. Watch a FREE movie!

St. Patrick's Day Party: Got Green? Wednesday, March 13, 2 p.m. \$5 includes Irish entertainment by Paul Fornatar, The Toonsters and join in the "Luck of the Irish" costume contest to win as well as a special drawing! Green beer for \$1 a glass provided by the Theater staff from 2 - 3 p.m. in the Theater Lobby.

St Patrick's Day Dinner: Wednesday, March 13, 4:30 p.m. \$7 includes traditional Irish dinner. Corn Beef, Cabbage, red potatoes, rolls and Dessert.

Safe Home Workshop: Wednesday, March 20, 1:30 p.m. Join Buddy Cloud with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Communities for a Lifetime as he discusses The SAFE Homes program. Buddy will discuss a collection of home related safety tips to help keep your home in tip-top form for secure and mobile accessibility and comfort.

Founding Mothers: 1st Eckerd College Presentation

Series on Tuesday, March 26 at 10:30 a.m. at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Ave. S. This is free and open to the public.

Nutrition Class: Boca Ciega Center is hosting a nutrition class on Wednesday, March 27 at 2 p.m. Diabetic Management and Cardiac Diets will be featured. Door prize offered and free blood sugar check.

Hospice and Caregiving: Want to know more about what Hospice does and do you need questions answered? Join Janet Pattison on Thursday, March 28 at 1 p.m. for free info.

TRAVEL! Call Carolyn at 727-347-0806.

Saturday, February 23rd - HARD ROCK CASINO TAMPA, \$20 in free play, Harvest Buffet still gives \$5 off w/ card ... \$20 Bring valid ID

Thursday, February 28th - FL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL with CHUBBY CHECKER performing, includes festival admission, freeseating(spaceavailable) & reserved (additional cost) are both offered, don't miss one of FL's best festivals, and be sure to treat yourself to a delicious Strawberry Shortcake! ... \$31

Monday, March 4th - FL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL with LOUISE MANDRELL & LORRIE MORGAN performing, same as above.

Tuesday, March 5th - FL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL with BOBBY VINTON performing, same as above.

Thursday, March 7th: HARD ROCK CASINO TAMPA, \$20 in free play, Harvest Buffet still gives \$5 off w/ card ... \$20 Bring valid ID

Tuesday, March 12th: HARD ROCK CASINO TAMPA, Special Night-Time Offer, \$25 in free play, 5 pm - 10 pm ... \$20 Bring valid ID

New Hard Rock stop by Escot: \$20 gets your \$30 in free play and a luxury ride. Bus leaving at 7:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday and 3:30 p.m. stop

on Sunday and Tuesday. Call ahead to reserve at Call for reservations 727-545-2088 or toll-free: 888-571-7778 or reserve ahead on line at www.escotbuslines.com. Parking in Library lot only.

SPECIAL SERVICES
G.E.M.S. Gulfport Extended Mobility Service: Affordable transportation for Gulfport residents 55 and over. \$65 annual membership. \$2 per ride and your ride to the Senior Center is FREE!. Go to the mall, grocery store, doctor's appointments and more. Call 727-893-2242 for more information.

Fitness Center Schedule: Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm, Friday: 8:00 am - 3:30 p.m. Annual sign up for the Fitness Center is an affordable \$25 a year or \$40 a couple. Stop by the Senior Center and take a tour of our state of the art fitness facility.

FREE Legal Help for people over 60 and meet the required income criteria: Community Law Program visits the Senior Center every 3rd Friday of the month at 10 a.m. Call 727-582-7480 to see if you qualify.

AARP Driving Classes: are offered March 5 and 7 at 12:45pm. Must attend both days. \$12 for AARP member and \$14 for non-member. Call 893-1231 or 893-2237 to register.

Support Groups
Diabetic Support Group on Mondays at 9:30am

Caregivers: Every Wed. at 2pm

More Activities: To view the Senior Center calendar in its entirety, please log onto HYPERLINK <http://www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org>.

Neighborhood Center

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

Faith Cathedral International Church: 9:30am, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays; 4th Sunday Bible Study
Overeaters Anonymous: Sun. 6:15-8:15pm



**5501 27th Ave. So.
893-1070**

Gulfport Community Players *present*

"THE WOMAN IN BLACK"
A re-enactment of a Gothic ghost story with a spine-chilling climax!
Feb. 21 - March 10
Thurs.-Sat. 8pm
Sun. matinee 2pm
Tickets \$15, available at Gulfport Casino, Beach Bazaar & the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce or call 727-322-0316



**5500 Shore Blvd. So.
893-1070**

GET RESCUED FUNDRAISER
Sat., Feb. 23, 7-10pm
\$20 Raffles, Auction, Entertainment

ELLIS HALE'S BAND
Ballroom & Social Dancing
Sun., Feb. 24, 6-10pm, \$7

USA Ballroom Dance
Mon., Feb. 25, 7-10:15pm
\$5 Members, \$7 Non-members

MARIO DELEON'S BAND
Ballroom & Social Dancing
Sun., March 10, 6-10pm, \$7
No Ballroom Dance Sun., March 3

DANCE FOR FUN FUNDRAISER
For Historical Society
Fri., March 1, 8pm-12am
Tks \$6 ea./2 for \$10/\$5 Advanced
772-3053, Music 70's-today

Every Tuesday
Ballroom Lessons
12-1pm Intermediate Lesson
1-2 Beginner Lessons
2-3 Dancing
Argentine Tango
6:30-10:30pm, \$7
6:30-8pm Lesson,
8-10:30pm Dance
Every Wednesday
Swing Dance
6-7pm Bonus Lesson
7-8pm East Coast Swing Lesson
8-11pm Swing Dance, \$7
Every Thursday
Salsa Dance
6:30-8pm Beg. & Inter. Lessons
8-10pm Dance, \$7

Pinellas Citizen University Begins

Ever wonder how county government works and what goes on behind the scenes in the various departments that provide local services?

Pinellas Citizen University unravels the mystery. Similar to other leadership classes, PCU brings students face to face with county administrators and decisionmakers. During this remarkable 10-week course, participants go behind the scenes at many Pinellas County operations and talk to the experts

as the class explores a wide range of county functions.

Students meet and talk with county officials and elected county leaders. Through exciting field trips and hands-on exercises, PCU participants learn firsthand how Pinellas County provides services to nearly one million county residents.

Experience the drama of a 9-1-1 emergency medical response. Visit the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority. Get a behind the scenes look at traffic signal control, mosquito control and roads and bridges. Tour the South Cross Bayou

Water Reclamation Facility and find out how they make reclaimed water out of waste water. Sit in the grand jury room, and talk to the judges and administrators within our criminal justice system. Get an overview of tourism and economic development. Tour the Pinellas County Jail.

Class enrollment is limited. Classes meet Thursday nights, usually from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuition for PCU is \$35 which includes a class shirt, all course materials, graduation ceremony and diploma.

Enrollment applications and a complete course schedule are available online at www.pinellascounty.org/citizenu or by calling 464-5197.

...

Open House + Gallery Talks

Please join in celebrating the two person show, "Fish Out Of Water" on Sunday, February 24th from 12 noon to 5 p.m. at Gugliotta Gallery, 104B Eighth Avenue, Pass-A-Grille (St. Pete Beach).

The exhibition is a joint effort of politically-inspired works by Diane Gugliotta and Mark Mitchell. The contemporary art is intended to inspire transparency and honest dialogue. "I chose Mark because his work, like mine, entertains and inspires while causing one to think about society's concerns." —Diane Gugliotta. Talks and demonstrations for 20 minutes each will be at 12 noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Refreshments are available. Show runs through February 28th.

...

Chair Yoga Class

Chair yoga with Joyce is a slow and easy, but challenging workout that accommodates people with physical limitations. In chair yoga the movements, based on traditional Hatha yoga postures are done seated or standing supported by a chair, so almost anyone can participate. Classes meet on Fridays at 10 a.m. at Gulfport Recreation Center. The cost is \$7 per class. Please contact Joyce at 345-0679 for more information.

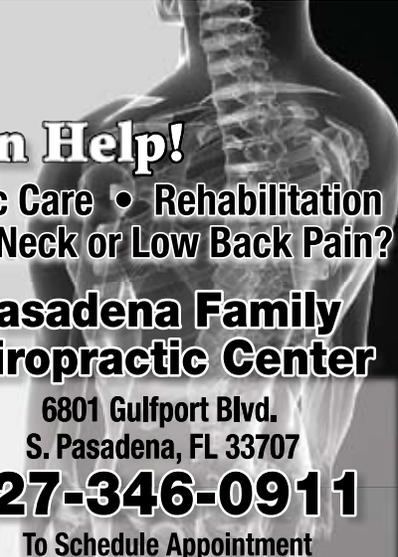
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Free Job Training for Veterans

Veterans transitioning to civilian employment often need help navigating the civilian job market. Now, for a limited time, Goodwill's Suncoast Business Solutions can help. A free program, made possible by funding from JP Morgan Chase & Co., will help veterans gain the information, skills and assistance they need to find and keep employment.

The Veterans Civilian Workplace Initiative begins March 18. Seminars will be held at Goodwill Industries-Suncoast headquarters, 10596 Gandy Blvd., St. Petersburg.

The Initiative consists of three seminars:

- **Transition to Civilian Employment:** Identify the skills developed in the military that may be applied to the civilian job market. Improve job-seeking skills and learn how to adapt to the cultural shift from the military to the civilian workplace.

- **National Retail Federation (NRF):** Provides relevant customer service strategies ideal for the retail environment and leads to an NRF certification in customer service.

- **Financial Literacy:** Essential information on money, credit and debt management, budgeting and investments, for both pre- and post-employment.

Upon completion of the program veterans will receive individualized placement assistance through Goodwill Temporary Staffing agency.

A limited number of slots are available, so interested veterans are encouraged to apply now by calling 727-577-6411.

...

Genealogy Class

Do you want to learn more about your family tree? Every second Friday of the month from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center, instructor Kay Boatwright will assist you in researching your family history. Learn where your ancestors come from and what nationalities; find out the variations of the spelling of your surname and how to build a family tree. You must be a Senior Center member to attend this free class.

...

St. Pete Beach May Get New Library



Although the city planned to renovate the library in three years, residents could see construction on a new building start much sooner. The Pinellas Public Library Cooperative (PPLC) has traditionally offered construction grants, but the news that this year will be the last year for such grants has city staff planning ahead.

"We're the only community in PC [with the exception of Gulf Beaches in Madeira Beach] since the coop has formed that hasn't undergone a significant expansion, renovation and/or new construction," City Manager Mike Bonfield said.

For this reason, the city commission agreed to allow staff to press on with asking the PPLC for money to step up the planned renovation.

"There is a substantial lump of money there that I believe that PPLC wants to expend this year so that account goes down to zero," Library Administrator Phyllis Ruscella told the commission. She added that she will also apply to the state for state funding as well.

"Many people wonder, in today's world, with e-books and the Internet, is library usage down, and in many ways, it's going up for those reasons," City Manager Bonfield said.

80% of beach residents have library cards. The PPLC has \$570,000 to spend on qualified projects, although no one project can get more than \$200,000. Former Mayor Ward Friszolowski, who works for Harvard Jolly architects, donated his time to create preliminary plans for the new library.



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<p>Friday, Feb. 22nd, 4:30 - 6:30pm</p> <p>White Fish Baked with Wine Sauce or Battered, French Fries, Slaw, Roll & Butter \$7.75</p> <p>or</p> <p>Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Veggie, roll & Butter \$8.00</p>	<p>Saturday, Feb. 23rd, 4:30-6:30pm</p> <p>SAL Dinner</p> <p>ALL-U-CAN-EAT</p> <p>Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad & Garlic toast \$6.00</p>	<p>SUNDAY BREAKFAST</p> <p>8:30am-11:00am</p> <p>BREAKFAST BUFFET</p> <p>Complimentary Bloody Mary or Mimosa \$4.75</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small;">Serving Lunch Tues-Thur 11-3 Fri. 11-3</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">Music & Dancing</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">7-10 pm</p> <p>Tue/Thu: Karaoke</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Friday Night Saturday Night</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Sock Hop Sat. March 9 7-11pm</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">We Have Pull Tabs!</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Blood Mobile - Sunday, March 24th Free breakfast to all donors</p>



Mark your calendar to join us for our upcoming events.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH | 1:30PM

John D. Rockefeller

Learn about the philanthropic life and times of the fascinating American industrialist in this informative discussion led by Sterling University's Professor Phil Leto.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH | 9:00AM

A Time for Change

Enjoy a delicious breakfast with representatives of Redefined Living and Keller Williams Realty to hear expert tips on how to process change and move forward with beneficial decisions for your well being.

**TO ATTEND ANY OF OUR EVENTS,
PLEASE RSVP TO 1-727-474-8814
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Players Open "The Woman in Black"

The Gulfport Community Players will be opening Stephen Mallatrat's scary thriller, "The Woman in Black", tonight at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater of Gulfport. The play will run for three weeks, closing on March 10th. Tickets are just \$15 and are available at the Gulfport Casino, the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, or by calling 727-322-0316 for will-call tickets. Curtain time for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday is 8 p.m., while Sun is 2 p.m.

The director for this intense play is Eileen Navarro and she has selected a great cast that includes Morton Hess, Joseph Alan Johnson, Joyce Kelly and Ali Karikas. The setting for this play is in Victorian England and is the story of a young lawyer that journeys to a small town in England to attend the funeral of a client. While attending the funeral, he happens to see a young woman, dressed entirely in black, standing in the churchyard. He attempts to find out more about this "woman in black" from the villagers, but they are reluctant to talk of her. Later, he sees this woman again while he's spending the night at his client's house going through her papers, as her lawyer. He hears terrifying sounds and strange things happen as he tries to find reasons for these mysteries. They won't reveal the terrifying end!

This play opened back in 1987 and is still being performed today in London's West End. It has become the second longest-running non-musical play in the history of the West End. Plan to attend this thriller and be prepared to be frightened as well as entertained! Check out the Players' website at: <http://www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org> for more information. They'll be lurking for you at the Hickman!

...



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Call today!
727-321-6965



May I have this Dance?



On February 9th there was a Valentine's Day Dance in the Latvian Club. Dancers who performed are the group "Ritmas" of the American Lithuanian Club. The group is available to perform for nursing homes and other venues. They love to dance in front of an audience. Call the Lithuanian Club at 727-866-7936 or Rima at 727-522-5061.

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Gulfport Elementary Thanks PTA

Gulfport Elementary extends a sincere thank you to the Gulfport Elementary School Parent Teacher Association. Parent Teacher Association events for the 2012-2013 school year include:

- Sponsoring a booth at Gecko Fest;
- Welcome parents to the new school year;
- General and informational meetings;
- Chuck E. Cheese Family FUNdraiser;

- Boo-hoo/Yahoo Breakfast for new parents on the first day of school;
- Fall Family Fun Night;
- Fall Book Fair and Family Reading Night;
- Family Pizza and Movie Night;
- Domino's Pizza Night; and
- Promotions to increase PTA membership and awareness.

A special thank you to PTA Officers and Board Members: Holly Tracy, Lisa Jones, Anna Kate Mackle, Christine Vought, Patty McCaslin, Gena Silverman, Angela Norris, Jeremy Club, Stephanie Slavick, Rance Nesbitt and Barbara Pace.

...

Grief and Loss Coping Group to Form

Loss can be devastating and often individuals are unsure as to how they should process their grief. What can a grief support group offer you? A focus group is being created for opportunity to share your experiences with others who are struggling with similar grief. Discuss feelings and learn appropriate ways to express your bereavement while learning techniques for coping with the feelings associated with the loss and gain a sense of empowerment.

If interested, please call the Gulfport Senior Center at 893-2237 or 893-1231 to get on the list. This is provided by Coast's Older American's Program. For more information, contact Meagan Flores at 727-272-7771.

...

Fencing, an Olympic Sport

Calling students ages 8 to adult. Learn basic foil training by Fencing Master James Campoli. Or Sabre training, for those who have a basic foil knowledge. Classes are Wednesdays, Foil Training from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and Sabre Training from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 per class. Call Jim Campoli, one of three fencing masters in the State of Florida at 813-855-3113 for more information.

...

Scotsman Zumba Class Now on Tuesdays

Scotsman Fitness at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Blvd. S., will now be offering a Tuesday evening Zumba class. Zumba is an international dance cardio workout that incorporates dances such as Salsa, Merengue, Hip Hop, etc., with no experience needed. Classes will be Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 7:45-8:45 p.m. The cost is \$6 per class. Please contact Rachel (instructor) at 727-748-6612S or Scotsman Fitness is located at www.scotsmanfitness.com or via Facebook.

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Garden Club Flea Market and Sale

The Garden Club of St. Petersburg is located at 500 Sunset Drive S. in St. Petersburg.

Annual Flea Market & Plant Sale, "Hidden Treasurers – Something for Everyone" will be held on Friday, February 22nd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, February 23rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sale features jewelry, antiques, collectables, clothing, household items and plants. Lunch is available. On Thursday, February 21, they will host a "Wine & Cheese Preview Night" from 5-7 p.m., \$5 (preview night only).

License Free Fishing Days

With more than 3 million anglers in the state, it is likely you either know someone who fishes, or you are someone who fishes. Either way, Florida's license-free fishing days are the perfect venue to try your hand or introduce a friend to some of the finest fishing in the world.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) selected Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, Sept. 1 as the 2013 saltwater license-free fishing days. On these days, the requirement to have a recreational fishing license is waived for Florida's residents and visitors while they are saltwater fishing.

This year's freshwater license-free fishing days are Saturday, April 6 and Saturday, June 8.

Tae Kwon Do

Children ages 6 years old and up can learn this form of martial arts in a fun and safe manner. Tae Kwon Do is training that focuses on traditional self-defense techniques and values of martial arts. Classes are held at The St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The cost is \$69 per month. For more

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information contact Master Henry Hyde at 727-798-0220.

...

Senior Veterans can get Free Wills

Stetson University College of Law is partnering with the Community Law Program and the St. Petersburg Bar Foundation to prepare free simple wills and advance directives for WWII, Korea and Vietnam War veterans and their spouses.

Stetson's Center for Excellence in Elder Law and Veterans Law Institute will host a daylong program where volunteer attorneys

from the Community Law Program will provide free wills and advance directives for WWII, Korea and Vietnam War veterans and their spouses. Light refreshments will be served. Appointments are required in advance.

Event takes place on March 7, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Mann Lounge and Great Hall, Stetson University College of Law, 1401 61st Street S., Gulfport.

Walk-in appointments are not permitted. To schedule an appointment, call 727-562-7393 by March 1.

...



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The Clinical Research Group of St. Petersburg is undertaking a research study of an investigational drug for Excessive Daytime Sleepiness associated with narcolepsy.

You Must Be:

- 18-55 years of age
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- Have experienced excessive sleepiness in connection with narcolepsy diagnosis
- Not currently be diagnosed with a sleep disorder other than narcolepsy

If you qualify to participate, you will receive the study drug and all study-related physical exams and laboratory tests at no cost. You may also receive compensation for time and travel.

Call the Clinical Research Group of St. Petersburg, Inc.
Neil T. Feldman, M.D., Medical Director
1-800-242-3244 or 727-360-0853
2525 Pasadena Ave South Suite S
St. Petersburg, FL 33707

FA59239

Marine and Farmers Open Air Market

The Marine and Farmers Open Air Market at the Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing & Interactive Museum runs every Saturday beginning February 23rd from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Market is free to the public and will have over 50 vendors. Items for sale at the market include fishing equipment and marine supplies; household goods; sportswear and clothing; nautical jewelry; plants, fruits, and vegetables, and more! If you're interested in becoming a vendor, please call Jim at 727-365-4660 or visit www.centerforfishing.org. Vendor booths are \$25.

At 9 a.m. indulge in an all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast for only \$5. Proceeds help establish fishing clubs in all Pinellas County Schools and go to the non-profit Foundation. The Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum is located at 12211 Walsingham Road, Largo and also hosts training seminars for adults in the marine industry and weekend events for children.

...

Movie and Ice Cream Social

Enjoy a delicious homemade lunch on March 11th at Pinellas Park Recreation at 7625 59 Street in Pinellas Park. Join a group of fun

loving singles 55+ from throughout Pinellas Park for a Pot Luck Lunch at 1:30 p.m. Come and see a great movie called "Hope Springs" and ice cream will be provided. Join them for a full afternoon with good food, movie and ice cream! Bring a dish to share and \$2 or not a dish and bring \$5. All Pinellas County 55+ singles are welcome! For additional information call Pat at 727-520-8797.

...

Get Help with FAFSA

FAFSA Nights is an event aimed at helping students and their parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) quickly so they can qualify for the most financial aid possible. Attend FAFSA Nights on the following Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at one of the Pinellas County high school locations for one-on-one help with the 2013-14 FAFSA.

- Feb. 26 - Lakewood High School
- March 12 - Largo High School

The information is posted online here: <https://www.spcollege.edu/fafsanights/>.

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Local Obituaries

EVERY, JOHN, 94, of Gulfport, died Monday, Feb. 11, 2013 at his home. Born in Brooklyn, NY, he came here in 1986 from Closter, NJ. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in the European theater during WWII. He was a member of the VFW and a Mason. John was a family man, who survived his wife of 56 years, Dorothy. He is also survived by his children, William Avery and Dorothy Grayson and 2 grandchildren. There will be a visitation from 1-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday and a service on Thursday at 1:30-3, all to be held at A Life Tribute, Gulfport, 727-347-5521. Guests will be received beginning at 1. Donations may be made in John's name to 5th Ave. Baptist Church, St. Petersburg.

...

MCGINNIS, PAMELA ANN, 59, of Gulfport, passed away on Friday, Feb. 1, 2013. Born in Garden City, MI, she came to Florida in the late 60's, graduating from Dixie Hollins High School and later St. Petersburg College. Pam was an active and spirited Recreation Counselor with the City of Gulfport for over 10 years. She then volunteered at the Gulfport Senior Center, continuing her love of helping and sharing with others. Pam was devoted to her family and friends, whom she cherished above all else. She is survived by her mother, Mary Ann McGinnis; son, Beau McGinnis; her brother, Ken McGinnis & his wife Rosemary. Memorial services will be held at A Life Tribute, Gulfport Chapel on Friday, Feb. 15th, 6-9 p.m., service to start promptly at 6:30 p.m. Visit the family's personalized online Guestbook at www.alifetribute.com.

...

RONEY, HOBY EARL, 83, of Gulfport, Fla. Passed away February 13, 2013. He is survived by his loving family; wife, Agnes of 22 years; 10 children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a member of the American Legion Post 125. Interment will be at Bay Pines National Cemetery. R. Lee Williams 49th St. No., 727-527-1177.

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Excerpts heard at the February 12, 2013

St. Pete Beach City Commission Meeting Public Comment & Council Quotes

"We had a great turnout. We were up from last year... The transition to using the Sheriff really went smoothly."

– Al Johnson, Race Director for Beach Classic

"I did have one question on that. You doing that yourself personally?" – Mayor Steve McFarlin about a line in the agenda that suggests the city manager would hang banners over the street. The city manager clarified that references to "city manager" includes his staff.

"I did rely on George for directions and we ended up at the airport... I should have known better than to ask somebody from Pittsburgh for directions in Pinellas County." – City Manager Mike Bonfield, about Community Development Director George Kinney's directions to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. The TBRPC does not meet at the airport.

"We should have done this a long time ago. I think it was definitely a good move." – Commissioner Marvin Shavlan, about the move to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Due to the length of public comment, "Overheard at Gulfport City Council" will appear in next week's Gabber.



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Tough Questions of the Gulfport Mayoral Candidates

The Gabber asked both mayoral candidates four groups of candidate-specific questions based on items that have either appeared in *the Gabber* or that surfaced during recent debates. These are our questions verbatim; likewise, we have printed each candidate's response in its entirety. Neither candidate had the questions in advance.

**In His Words: Gulfport
Mayoral Candidate
Sam Henderson**

**Here's what Sam
Henderson said.**

**Often Beach Boulevard
seems to be the main
focus for politicians.
What do you feel is the
city's Achilles heel and
how do you fix it, bearing
in mind that you will be
one person on council?**

I think we've done better on not focusing everything on Beach Boulevard in recent years and we've had some good events that have become annual events on the Tangerine Greenway and now that the playground is moved further to the west near the Rec Center it gives more of an area of focus for youth events. So I think if we focus solely on Beach Boulevard, as politicians or public servants, maybe the intent was to focus on bringing people to our businesses, but otherwise I think that would be a mistake because there are other areas that are worthy of attention as well.

As far as our Achilles heel, it's Gulfport Boulevard just because of the fact that it's a divider through the city and hopefully through some of the contact we've had with the county we're going to be able to address making that less of a fence between north and south. Our only other Achilles heel that springs to mind is the same struggle that other municipalities are having, which is an ailing economy.

**You're all about the city
and the environment
but what about crime,
vacancies, and code**

**issues in Ward Four?
What can you point to
that you have initiated to
help with those issues?**

It's true that the environment and the community of Gulfport are important to me. Things that I've personally pursued to address crime, to address vacancies? I was supportive through voting to apply for the grants to move the police station to 49th Street, which has been thus far unsuccessful, through no fault of our own. I've worked with the police department and the city manager to establish our community liaison officer to work with our businesses and residents along the 49th Street corridor, and as far as addressing vacancies from a crime standpoint, I brought forward the resolution that passed restricting unwanted solicitation door to door, because accumulated materials on doorsteps of vacant homes is an invitation for criminal activity.

I also worked with a resident recently by connecting him with the chief of police and the city manager in hopes of revitalizing a Neighborhood Watch program in the Tomlinson Park area. Beyond that, I think the community buy-in that we have had for events in the 49th Street area have just helped show a higher level of activity, and I think that, in and of itself, is a deterrent.

From a code perspective I've been having discussions with the Community Development Director and the city manager about revisiting the process for certain kinds of residential variances in order to lessen the burden on residents.

**Currently the city
charter says Gulfport
should have 25% of its
budget kept in reserve.
At the debate you
mentioned you'd take
the reserves down to
that city-chartered
minimum from their
current amount of just
over 40% of the city
budget. Why do you
think that's a good idea?**

I didn't say that I would take it down to the 25%. In fact, I would prefer not to take it down to the 25% but I feel an obligation to at least consider using some portion of our reserve funds if it makes financial sense.

Editor's note: Upon reviewing the video of the debate, *the Gabber* determined that Mr. Henderson did NOT say he would take the reserves down to 25%. Mr. Henderson was correct in his statement above that he did not say he favored taking the reserves down to the 25%.

**What will the city
do if it doesn't have
enough money for a
catastrophic event?**

If we have a catastrophic event, having 100% of our general fund in reserves would likely not be enough. At that point we will be relying on outside help from state and federal agencies. And the money in reserves is not designated to pay for the repair or replacement of people's personal property, it is to pay for the repair of the infrastructure and city facilities.

Is 25% enough?

I enjoy the fact that we have more than the 25% that's required by our city charter. As a city, that puts us in a much better position than the other cities but at the same time, if we are in the position where we have to charge people an undue amount of money to pay our expenses, then I think we're required to consider the option of easing that burden by spending some of the tax dollars they've already given.

**What should the charter
stipulate about how
much money the city
keeps in reserves?**

I'm comfortable with the 25% as our charter requirement. While it's always nice to have the ability to have more in reserves, at some point you're tying the city's hands to spend as they feel is necessary if you require a greater amount to be in your reserves.

**Fecal matter in the
bay. Stormwater runoff
into Clam Bayou.
Toxic sediments
in Clam Bayou. As
a self-proclaimed
environmentalist, don't
tell us about money. Tell
us what needs to happen.**

I was and still am a great proponent of the project just recently completed by the SWIM program in Clam Bayou. That project reduced the amount of litter and contaminants entering the Bayou and I'm looking forward to seeing long-term confirmation that that is happening. At this point, I feel that we need to address

the watershed of Clam Bayou by revisiting the shelved 49th Street retrofit project. While this was only shelved for Gulfport due to economic reasons (we were unable to come up with matching funds to pay for our end of the work), we have since applied for non-taxpayer grant money through the RESTORE Act. We've been given an indication by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program that this project as well as the replacement of ailing wastewater lines are eligible for these monies and that we have a decent chance for receiving some level of funding. Additionally these funds can pay for additional sampling of water and sediments once the project is completed to determine how successful the project was and what further issues need to be addressed.

In short, we need to address our stormwater, wastewater, and runoff issues and further reduce contaminants to the bay, and then continually assess, through monitoring and sampling, how well we are doing with the restoration of our waterways.

Why haven't you suggested these solutions yet in your two terms as councilmember?

The short answer? I have. Clam Bayou has been a contentious issue since before I won a seat on council. Each time I've tried to address issues with Clam Bayou and Boca Ciega Bay in what I believe are environmentally reasonable ways, I have met with resistance from a small vocal minority of residents and the councilmembers who support their agenda. My opponent has historically been one of those councilmembers. Their actions, in my opinion, have actually served as an obstacle to accomplishing real restoration. I will continue

to pursue this regardless of who sits on council; my intent is to improve our waterways and to operate responsibly from an environmental and ecological perspective. I'm in it for the long haul.

In His Words: Gulfport Mayoral Candidate Bob Worthington

Here's what Bob Worthington said.

Often Beach Boulevard seems to be the main focus for politicians. What do you feel is the city's Achilles heel?

Probably 49th Street district is the Achilles heel, but the 49th Street district is so different than Beach Boulevard, or the other areas of Gulfport that are strictly residential. 49th Street is your business district that is more industrial in the fact that we have all different types of shops; we have a tire shop, a boat repair facility, welding shops and such like that. We have been working on cleaning it up. The city has put in planters to help beautify the area. We haven't seen business buy-in necessarily, and we need to work on that.

How do you fix it, bearing in mind that you will be one person on council?

I think it's trying to get businesses to buy in to the beautification of cleaning up their own area, so to speak, maybe painting, repairing the facade on their buildings to make it more appealing. It's kind of hard to do with an automobile facility because they're not that concerned with beautification although I do think Safety Tire has done great with cleaning up their area, their facility and I think it's paid off greatly

for them.

At the debate, you said in the event of a hurricane, we may need the reserve money. How much money is enough?

How much is enough is going to depend on the degree of storm damage that we get. We need to keep our city crews out working, therefore we've got to be able to pay them. Our police and fire and all the city staff will be working a lot of overtime assisting our citizens and cleaning up the roads. Our number one priority is going to be getting heavy equipment in here so we can clean up the roadways. Roadways have to be cleared in order to bring in assistance from outside of Gulfport. FEMA is not the answer to all the problems. When FEMA would come in is probably going to be two weeks after any type of incident. We have to make sure our citizens have food and water to sustain life, and necessary medical attention that we can sustain ourselves for at least a two-week period until FEMA is able to reach us.

It depends on the degree of devastation. For example, the only way to get into Pinellas County is by bridge. If we have a tidal wave type situation or a tidal surge, it's going to take out the bridges and/or their approaches, therefore until the bridges are replaced or assistance can come in by helicopter or by boat as in landing crafts from the military, we're on our own.

How should we get that money?

We're going to need to have that money from the reserves to start out with. When FEMA finally gets around to paying for assistance to cities, it's sometimes a year or more, and we the city

have to make sure that vital services such as electrical service, water and sewer and our roadways are up and working properly, and that money is going to have to come from the reserves until we are reimbursed. FEMA doesn't give you money in advance; they reimburse you. After we have finished our vital needs, then we work on such things as the marina, other buildings such as the Casino and city-owned property, and street lighting and such like that.

What is a justifiable expense for spending the reserves?

At this time today, I don't really see a reason the reserves should be spent. Our tax base in improving, our ad valorem base is improving, we can see, looking out in the future, the experts are telling us it's going to continue to improve. Under ordinary circumstance, bright sunshine-y days, I don't see a need to spend our reserves. It is called a rainy day fund.

When you stepped down you said you wanted to spend more time with your family. Last Tuesday night at the debate you said pressure from the Republican party was a reason. Which was it, and what has changed that you now feel it's appropriate to be back on city council?

The reason at the time was because of being pressured by the Republican party and I don't feel in local politics that we should be carrying the message of any political party. And, at the time, I just decided rather than to deal with it and work around them to just take a sabbatical.

Continued on Next Page

City Whys?

Have you got a question for your city government?

Email your request to News@theGabber.com

By Cathy Salustri

City of Gulfport: *Permits*

Q: What does the city do with permits that don't get closed out in a timely manner? What is a reasonable length of time for permits to remain open?

A: According to Gulfport's Community Development Director Fred Metcalf, "permits are good for six months and remain active as long as inspections are called for and approved within a six-month period. Any inactivity for a period of six months will result in the expiration of a permit. Generally, a new permit will be required to continue work."

That doesn't mean that if you don't complete the work in six months – but you are trying and have had city inspections – the permit will expire. It's when there's no activity in six months. An expired permit doesn't mean the issue is resolved and the work is approved; to complete the permit, you must reactivate it or get a new permit.

Gulfport issues about 1,400 permits per year and the city's one inspector performs 3,000 inspections every year. That works out to about 12 inspections a day.

You and your brother have lunch every day. His wife, Christine Brown, will start on council this term. No one can expect a family not to discuss work. How, in a family as close as yours, can voters be comfortable with a strong link between you and Councilwoman Brown, regarding the "Government in the Sunshine" laws?

How can we do it? Ask my wife what I did for a living. I worked secret and top secret security clearances. She still doesn't know what I did for a living, other than the fact that I went to Honeywell every day. And my brother still does not know what I did for a living. I can tell you that Miss Brown and myself are individuals and we certainly don't think alike. Our ideas for Gulfport are somewhat different. Just from past history of knowing her, she is very strong willed, and I believe the city will see her pushing the community's ideas – she doesn't need anybody else's ideas. She's got some ideas I think will surprise people. I don't know what they all are, but I can't wait to see. I think she's going to shock me.

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HEY KIDS!

Gulfport Little League is Now Registering For The Spring Season

Register Quickly and Easily Online At
GulfportLittleLeague.net
or in person every Tuesday in the month of February
from 6pm - 8pm at Gulfport Little League Field
1820 55th St. S., Gulfport, FL

For Further Information

Call Bruce
727-327-7383

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What's in season

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A photo of all florida fish species.

Click on Fishing & Boating, under the lifestyles link at

the **Gabber.com**

Catch some Jazz

On Thursday, February 28th, The Suncoast Dixieland Jazz Society will sponsor Bobby Tess and the Dixie Chaps from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Bilmar Beach Resort, Treasure Island. Admission is \$7, students and military free with I.D. Call 727-522-6877.

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Do you Speak Spanish?

Conversational Spanish is at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Blvd. S. Classes are on Mondays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. For more information please contact the instructor at 727-482-2125 or email her at tutoring@conversationalspanishnow.com. Please visit the website at www.conversationalspanishnow.com.

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USCG Safe Boating Program

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 78 has a 13-week continuous Safe Boating program every Tuesday, 7 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 day, come at 6:30 p.m. to register. Begin any Tuesday and finish 13 weeks later or take up to two years to finish.

February's program includes: "Piloting Your Boat - Part B" Feb. 26.

Cost is \$40 for 13 weeks and includes new 400-pages of materials. Call Jim at 360-4846.

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Children's Gymnastics Class

Sunshine Gymnastics at the Gulfport Recreation Center is an ongoing class on Thursdays from 5:30-6:15. Skills are introduced on balance beam, cartwheel mat, spring board, incline mat, and back handspring mats. Ages 5-12 for \$30 per month/\$15 registration. For more information call Barbara at 804-9400.

...

CTK Needs Pants and Shoes

Clothes To Kids continues to have a critical shortage of boys and girls pants (sizes 6-16) and tennis shoes

for kids in grades K-12. You can help by donating gently used clothes today and by attending the CTK annual Fundraising Luncheon on March 21st. It is all about the kids!

Purchase your tickets today and support the children in Pinellas County! Clothes To Kids will host their annual Clothe a Child Fundraising Luncheon on Thursday, March 21st, from 12-1 p.m. at the St. Petersburg Coliseum. The price for one ticket is \$50. (\$50 is what it costs CTK to provide a low-income, school-age child with a week's worth of clothing.) Table sponsorships begin at \$400 for a table of eight. Visit www.clothestokids.org to purchase tickets. The public is invited however no tickets will be available at the door. Contact Jennifer Jacobs at 441-5050, ext.22 or jenniferj@clothestokids.org Clothes To Kids, is a non-for-profit

organization which provides free clothing to low-income, school-age children in Pinellas County, free of charge. For more information, please call 441-5050 or visit www.ClothesToKids.org. In 2012, CTK was awarded a 4 star rating by Charity Navigator.

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Wednesday Evening Yoga

Yoga with Tamara on Wednesday evenings is at the Gulfport Recreation Center. The class focus is gentle Hatha yoga, breathing techniques and relaxation for the mind, body and spirit. Class starts at 6:30 p.m. and cost is \$10 a class. For more information call Tamara at 727-512-2763 or email her at tharte@tampabay.rr.com. Please bring a yoga mat and a bottle of water.

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Somethin' on my mind

By Bill Northrop

B_Northrop@theGabber.com

The Dream of Legalized Pot

If Colorado and Washington do it, can Florida be far behind? There's no real connection, but the issue of legalized marijuana has a common base within our state. Polls public and private, as in "what do you think about legalizing marijuana?", indicate a willingness to legalize marijuana as part of a dropping of the war on drugs which most think has been a failure.

Forget that the big M is a small part of the blend of cocaine, heroin, synthetic, and prescription drugs in which our country is awash. Legalizing marijuana is touted as a money saver (police don't have to worry about it), people saver (fewer people going to jail), life saver (medical use), money raiser (we can tax it), better for you and society than alcohol, and job creator (workers are needed to make, distribute and sell it). Then there are those pure libertarians - I'm tempted to join them- who say take whatever drug you want, use it to your heart's content, or until your body and brain gives up. It's your problem not mine. It's not just a state issue, by the way.

It's illegal under federal law, but the president has said that the Justice Department has other more important things to do than chase

pot users.

However, before lighting up and enjoying your freedom here, where it is illegal, or in Colorado where it isn't, some technical issues remain to be settled. Colorado's wrestling with this. The first thing is who should be allowed to use marijuana and is it just for smoking or as a food additive.

At what age should it be allowed: no age limit, 16, 18, 21? High school kids seem to be using it now, and at 18 you can fight in a war, and at 21 alcohol's ok. Then there's the issue of strength. Today's maryjane isn't the 60s hippie brand. Who oversees that or don't we worry about that? Should it be labelled like all other products?

Strength and quality are concerns. So, what are the determinants? What about where you can smoke? There are restrictions on smoking nicotine now. Do these apply to marijuana? If smoking marijuana doesn't harm the lungs or body as some contend, then second hand smoke shouldn't be a problem. Or, can you get high on second hand smoke? Talk about a cheap date. Besides, it smells better than tobacco.

What about marijuana as a food or part of food? Who and how does this get regulated? Should there be a limit on the amount that can be sold? What about driving a motor vehicle? How much is too much? How do we measure it? What about a toke at

lunch time during work hours?

What about growing for your personal use? Can you share or even sell small amounts to friends as in a shared cost? What if colleges and universities don't want it used on their campuses? Is synthetic marijuana the same as natural marijuana?

Then there are the regulations and controls on the business side. If it is going to be taxed - and that is one of the big arguments for legalization - government will not take kindly to those who do not pay the tax. Marijuana has to be grown, harvested, processed, packaged, distributed, marketed, and sold. Each of those steps require some parameters or regulations and most certainly taxation. That requires good bookkeeping and auditing and all that.

The people who can relate to this best are the bankers, financiers, accountants, lawyers, and finally and most importantly, the manufacturers. So much for the dream of the little entrepreneur dealing with his small community. It just might revitalize the tobacco industry which is struggling as countries all over the world fight smoking (Russia has started banning smoking in public). North Carolinians in particular know how to grow, process, package and market. Might be good for the paper industry, too. By the way, can you make a marijuana cigar? Not the same kind of leaves to roll, but what about a blend or tobacco leaves and marijuana? Oh, there are myriads of possibilities.

All of these regulations and taxes translate into costs not to mention government growth. If controlled, legalized marijuana can't compete with the street brands, street mj (unregulated and untaxed) is going to win. Then what? A war on unregulated marijuana? Will we be back where we started? Are we going in a circle?

Those pure libertarians make more and more sense every day.

What's on your mind?

Email your opinion to:

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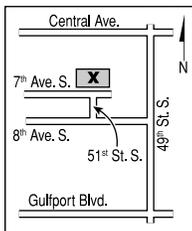
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Lunch Served 11am-3pm Ron's Karaoke 7pm	Kitchen Open 11-2pm Dinner 4:30-6:30pm Southern Knights Band 7-11pm	Southern Knights Band 7-11pm	Breakfast 8:30-11am	No Lunch Served	Lunch 11-3 Ron's Karaoke 7pm	Lunch Served 11am-3pm Euchre 1pm Bingo 6pm Kitchen Open for Bingo

The Legion Riders meet the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

We invite Auxiliary members to attend our meetings the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. We welcome your ideas.

Service Officer, Bob Cannon is at the Post on Thursday's from 9 a.m. till noon to offer assistance.

Dinners are now served 4-30-6:30 Friday and Saturday.

Post 305

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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Bar Bingo 7pm Food Served	Fish & Chicken 6-8pm Stan Johnson 6:30-9:30pm	Steak Dinner 6-8pm Lee Jay Nelson 6:30-9:30pm	ALA Fashion Show 1pm	Bucky Burgers 5-8pm Dee Karaoke 6:30-9:30pm	SAL Mtg.-6pm Pizza available All Day	Wednesday Dinner Special 6-8pm Music 6:30-9:30pm

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

Friday 2/8

- Noise-** 5100 Blk Tangerine Ave. S.
- Disturbance-** 5400 Blk Shore Blvd. S.
- Juvenile Trouble-** 900 Blk 58th St. S.
- Disorderly Conduct-** 5700 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
- Animal Call-** 5700 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
- Road Rage-** 2000 Blk 52nd St. S.
- Harassing Phone Call-** Location Withheld.

- Civil Matter-** 5600 Blk 31st Ave. S.
- Domestic-** 5100 Blk 13th Ave. S.

Saturday 2/9

- DUI-** 2400 Blk Beach Blvd. S.
- DUI-** 59th St. & 32nd Ave. S.
- Animal Call-** 1200 Blk 52nd St. S.
- Neighbor Problem-** 2400 Blk 53rd St. S.
- Theft-** 3000 Blk Beach Blvd. S.
- Fire Structure-** 1200 Blk 52nd St. S.

- Theft-** 2800 Blk Skimmer Pt. Dr. S.
- Disturbance-** 3200 Blk 58th St. S.
- Theft-** 4900 Blk Newton Ave. S.
- Hit & Run-** 4900 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
- Fraud/Forgery-** 2200 Blk 49th St. S.
- Domestic-** 5100 Blk 18th Ave. S.
- Sunday 2/10**
- Vandalism-** 6300 Blk Pasadena Pt. Blvd. S.
- Noise-** 1400 Blk Gray St. S.
- DUI-** 53rd St. & 26th Ave. S.
- Animal Call-** 5300 Blk 15th Ave. S.
- Vandalism-** 5100 Blk 13th Ave. S.
- Disturbance-** 5700 Blk Shore Blvd. S.
- Burglary Residence-** 1600 Blk 56th St. S.
- Shots Fired (Heard)-** 5600 Blk 14th Ave. S.
- Harassing Phone Call-** Location Withheld.
- Burglary Residence-** 5400 Blk Essex Ave. S.
- Burglary Residence-** 4900 Blk 13th Ave. S.
- Trespass-** 5700 Blk Essex Ave. S.
- Domestic-** 5800 Blk 11th Ave. S.
- Animal Call-** 5400 Blk 14th Ave. S.
- Monday 2/11**
- Juvenile Trouble-** 900 Blk 58th St. S.
- Open Door/Window-** 4900 Blk Jersey Ave. S.
- Burglary Residence-** 5500 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.

- Juvenile Trouble-** 5600 Blk 12th Ave. S.
- Juvenile Trouble-** 5200 Blk 12th Ave. S.
- Animal Call-** 1300 Blk 59th St. S.
- Vandalism-** 2600 Blk 52nd St. S.
- Disturbance-** 5200 Blk 12th Ave. S.
- Tuesday 2/12**
- Unknown Problem-** 1400 Blk 59th St. S.
- Animal Call-** 2200 Blk Beach Blvd. S.
- Burglary Residence-** 5300 Blk 7th Ave. S.
- Keep the Peace-** 4900 Blk 12th Ave. S.
- Juvenile Trouble-** 5600 Blk 12th Ave. S.
- Theft-** 5800 Blk 27th Ave. S.
- Keep the Peace-** 4800 Blk 27th Ave. S.
- Juvenile Trouble-** 5100 Blk 16th Ave. S.
- Wednesday 2/13**
- Juvenile Trouble-** 900 Blk 58th St. S.
- Disturbance-** 2500 Blk 56th St. S.
- Animal Call-** 4900 Blk 11th Ave. S.
- Domestic-** 4900 Blk 12th Ave. S.
- Juvenile Trouble-** 15th Ave. & 54th St. S.
- Disorderly Conduct-** Beach Blvd. & 28th Ave. S.
- Disorderly Conduct-** 2900 Blk 50th St. S.
- Animal Call-** 5400 Blk 14th Ave. S.
- Thursday 2/14**
- Noise-** 1200 Blk 59th St. S.
- Prowler-** 3000 Blk 53rd St. S.
- Animal Call-** 5400 Blk 14th Ave. S.
- Theft-** 5100 Blk Tangerine Ave. S.
- Drug Call-** 1900 Blk 49th St. S.
- Juvenile Trouble-** 900 Blk 58th St. S.
- Harassing Phone Calls-** Location Withheld.
- Theft-** 5200 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.

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Crime Watch Meeting

The Zone 1 Crime Watch Group will be hosting a crime watch meeting Saturday, February 23rd at 12 p.m., in Scout Hall (5315 28th Ave. S.). Officer Cavanah, from the Gulfport Police Department, will join us and listen to any concerns neighbors may have regarding crime in their neighborhood. He will also offer suggestions on how to better protect your valuables and yourself. Anyone living within Gulfport is welcome to come.

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Walking Club Returns

The Gulfport Walking club meets on Thursdays at 8:45 a.m. and departs by 9 a.m. Their walking adventures take them to many of Pinellas Counties beautiful parks. It is a walk at your own pace so feel free to do a mile or five miles. They return before 12:30 p.m. The bus fee for each trip is \$2. Call John at 893-1079 for further information.

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West Coast Orchid Society to Meet

The Florida West Coast Orchid Society will hold their monthly meeting, on the second Thursday of the month, March 14th at the Pinellas County Cooperative Extension (Botanical Gardens), 12175 125th Street N., Largo. A 7 p.m. Educational Class will be held with Bret Ullery on Dendrobiums. At 7:30 p.m. Paul Storm of Meke Aloha on "Schombos 103; The Fascinating Variety of Schomburgkia Hybrids with the Same Parents". An orchid sale, raffle, and refreshments follow. Visitors are welcome. Free admission and parking. For more information, please call 727 550-7993.

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Progress for Senior Center Foundation

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation has embarked on a new and exciting journey.

On January 31, the Foundation's Board of Directors unanimously voted to retain Ms. Jane Ogilvie as the organization's first Executive Director. In this capacity, Ms. Ogilvie will be responsible for leadership and management of the Foundation, communicate and drive the Foundation's vision, develop and manage the organization's budget, direct the day-to-day activities of any paid staff and/or subcontractors, and recruit and lead volunteers.

Ms. Ogilvie will also provide leadership in securing the financial

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resources necessary to support the Foundation's work and maintaining relationships with the Foundation's constituents.

"The Foundation is embarking on a bold and visionary pathway and having Jane at the helm will help ensure we navigate that path with clarity, poise, and professionalism", noted Michael Audino, the Foundation's President. "Jane's passion for the Foundation's mission, her commitment to the work of the Senior Center, and her concern for the older residents of Gulfport make her the ideal person to serve as our first Executive Director", noted Audino.

"I am humbled and honored by the Board's decision and grateful for their extraordinary vote of confidence in me", said Ogilvie. "The Foundation

has accomplished a lot for Gulfport and the Senior Center and I am totally confident we will accomplish even greater things in the future", Ogilvie noted.

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation is a Gulfport-based, nonprofit organization. The organization was founded in 2003 and Ms. Ogilvie was one of the founding members. The Foundation's mission is to "raise and distribute funds that support and enhance the health, educational, social and recreational programs and services of the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center."

You can learn more about the Foundation by contacting Ms. Ogilvie at 727-592-1933 or by visiting www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org.

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5				7				

News from Gulfport Teen Council

By Laura Karbowski

Hello everyone! This is Gulfport Teen Council's secretary Laura Karbowski and I am here to share with you our upcoming events for February! First up, we had Family Fun Day on February 16th. There was a great turnout although I unfortunately wasn't there due to a concert music competition held the same day. We also had our So49 Car Show on February 2nd. There was an amazing turnout. There were 65 cars entered in the event and music to top it off. Gulfport Teen Council served beverages and snacks so everyone

had fun and enjoyed the sun! Our last meeting was held in the City Council Chambers on February 13th at 4:45 p.m. We finished discussing our Resolutions and will soon look for another Outstanding Youth Award recipient. Our first recipient was Hunter Fletcher and we are still very proud of what he does in the community and at home. We are also looking for teens to volunteer in the Gulfport Library. It can be a lot of fun and easy to help so you help out your community all without breaking a sweat. You can contact Ms. Cailey Klasson, the Gulfport Children's Librarian, if you would like to volunteer. Ms. Klasson also mentioned she was doing research

into providing new computers for teens, so they could do their homework and not worry about the computer failing or crashing. Our next meeting will be held on March 13th at 4:45 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Anyone interested in joining our group can do so by contacting our advisor Marivel Gutierrez for more information.

...

Stretch and Tone

Stretch and Tone is at the Gulfport Recreation Center. Come check out this fun class full of great people led by Jean. Classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m. The fee will be \$3 for each class. Bring mat and light weights. Please call Jean at 727-302-1016 for questions.

...

Beta Sigma Phi

Laureate Epsilon Theta members and guests are looking forward to the Sunshine City Council's Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, February 23 at the Magnolia club house - Five Towns. All will have a most enjoyable meal, have fun with the silent auction and then the dessert auction.

At the February 13th meeting, Laureate Epsilon Theta members honored and celebrated the chapter sweetheart Kay Brown with a beautiful cake and wonderful gifts. The meeting was held at the home of Val Rankin.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 27 at the home of Miriam Garcia at 7 p.m. Miriam will present the program.

Members continue to collect items for the military, canned food items for the various food pantries in support of Preceptor Zeta Zeta's project and newspapers for the SPCA.

Members are busy planning for the 2013 Beta Sigma Phi Florida State Convention to be held on May 17-19 at the St. Petersburg Hilton. This will be hosted by the chapters of Sunshine City Council. The theme is "Suncoast Fiesta" and the committee is looking for sponsors for the convention. If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact Sharon Ingram, Convention Chairman at 321-2849.

Call Sharon Ingram at 321-2849.

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Care Givers Support Groups

Do you find yourself "caring" for the health concerns of another adult? Do you sometimes feel a need for a listening ear of another person who has empathy for your situation? If so, we invite you to visit one of our Care Givers Support Groups at Pasadena Community Church. Meetings are held on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Life Enrichment Center at 227 70 Street S.

Both groups are open to the public and provide a confidential setting for those attending to share with others who are in like situations their experiences, joys and concerns of "care giving". The person may be a relative or just a good friend. It is not necessary that the individual reside in the same house with you or even the same state.

Call Pam Lanning at 347-2809 or Barbara Posey at 381-2499, ext. 214.

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Foster a Feline, Please!

Save Our Strays has a policy that it will take back 'returned' cats. Unfortunately, many cats are being returned this winter. Their foster homes are full. There is no place to put these felines until new forever homes can be found for them.

A no-kill organization, SOS is actively seeking additional foster families to care for these cats on a temporary or permanent basis. Many are sweet, loving kitties that just want to be a lap cat again.

Please consider becoming a foster family for one of their displaced felines. Foster participants must be able to drive and be available for a home visit from a current volunteer prior to fostering. Dry food and litter are furnished if needed.

A win-win proposition, the cats are able to live in a stable home environment once again and their families can enjoy their amusing ways and affection.

Call SOS at 727-481-5262 for details.

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Wine Talk

with Lee Neal, a fine wine merchant for over 30 years.

Featuring The Juan Gil Wines from The Jumilla Region in Spain

Grown from 40-year-old vines - this wine is intensely juicy fruit, and hugely enjoyable.

On the nose this is big-time intense with fresh juicy ripe blackberry and plum fruit, delicate vanilla and sweet cedar spice. The palate mirrors the nose - but more so! Layers of lush spiced plum and sweet black cherry fruit, more layers of seet spice - yet with a mineral backbone, and structure added by integrated tannin.

Not to put too fine a point on it, this is delicious and it's difficult to believe that such quality is available at a very low price. Once in a while a wine comes along that we think is something really special, and this is such a wine. The label is beautiful and delicate, the bottle is a quality bottle, and the contents - well, try this next to a top-notch Bordeaux at four times the price; it will not be outclassed. A brilliant effort.

Hearty meats dishes and stews or rustic sausages would make good partners for this wine but it's equally a wine to be drunk and enjoyed just for itself.

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Red Hatters visit The Fountains



The Fountains of Boca Ciega Bay invited the Town Shores Red hatters to have their annual membership breakfast at their facility. A large group of Red Hatters car pooled to enjoy the delicious offerings and to plan and to make suggestions for upcoming events.

Jennifer Naster from Sales and Marketing hosted the event. Breakfast delights included: pancakes, eggs, hash browns and bacon and a wonderful fruit bowl, and of course, the coffee cups were always kept full. Three former Town Shores Red Hatters joined the group and were kind enough to show off their new residences. They extend their sincere appreciation to Jennifer and The Fountains.

Upcoming March events include: Bunko on the 8th, a play in Clearwater, a casino boat trip, an evening function to include significant others were proposed for future activities through May. For more information call Judy 344-7558 or Julie 343-6587.

Table Tennis is Back

The City of Gulfport Recreation Center is once again open for Table Tennis on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Anyone who is interested in playing should come to the Recreation Center and register. The one-time fees are \$2 for Gulfport residents and \$22 for non-residents. You must have your own equipment. If you have any questions please call 727-893-1068.

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Environmental Film Festival at Eckerd

The Visions of Nature/Voices of Nature Environmental Film Festival at Eckerd College (4200 54th Avenue S., St. Petersburg) announces its lineup of films through February 23rd. This year's festival opens with Daniel Nettheim's *The Hunter*, starring Willem Dafoe. The program is offered in collaboration with the International Cinema Series.

Notable presenters at this year's festival include Jeff Orlowski, director and cinematographer of *Chasing Ice*; Mark Kitchell, director of *A Fierce Green Fire - The Battle for a Living Planet*; and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Hedrick Smith, the narrator and co-writer of *Poisoned Waters*.

For fifteen years, the Visions of Nature/Voices of Nature Environmental Film Festival has brought compelling and important films to the Tampa Bay area and the Eckerd College community in order to raise awareness and promote discussion of questions relating to nature, place, and the environment. Film scholars and filmmakers from around the world engage the audience in lively discussions of the environmental perspectives contained in documentary, animated, experimental and feature films.

Screenings will be held in The Dan and Mary Miller Auditorium and are free and open to the public. All programs begin at 7 p.m. (except Sunday, February 17, which begins at 2 p.m.) Each program will feature an opportunity for audience questions immediately after the program. Complete details about each film can be found at <http://www.eckerd.edu/eff/13/>.

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Literacy Festival in its Third Year

The Third Annual James Weldon Johnson Literacy Festival will take place on Saturday, March 16th in the parkland behind the St. Petersburg James Weldon Johnson Branch Library located at 1059 18th Avenue S. and the adjacent Enoch Davis Center. The festival, run by the Friends of the Johnson Branch Library and co-sponsored by the City of St. Petersburg, celebrates the joy of reading and the importance of literacy to the African-American community. Admission is free and free books will be given to children of all ages.

Beginning at 9 a.m., live entertainment will be featured as well as children's activities including a puppet show, hula-hooper contest and bounce house inflatable. Drawings, presentations and demonstrations will take place and the festival will conclude at 4 p.m. with the annual Walk for Reading: a parade through the surrounding neighborhood.

Refreshments will be sold to benefit the library. For more information or to secure for vendors space at a cost of \$25, contact Kevin Johnson at 727-342-2235 or KevinJohnson5370@yahoo.com.

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Gulfport Detective Arrests Child Molester

By Cathy Salustri



Detective Sergeant Tom Woodman arrested a 72-year old alleged child molester on Valentine's Day.

Gulfport Police arrested 72-year-old Prometeo Inglesias-Bernal for lewd and lascivious battery on a child. An inter-office investigation, in which the Gulfport and Pinellas Park police departments worked together, resulted in this arrest, according to Gulfport Detective Sergeant Tom Woodman, who made the arrest. The two agencies started working together in January and culminated with Detective Sergeant Woodman's Valentine's Day arrest of Inglesias-Bernal. The family knew Inglesias-Bernal but, Detective Sergeant Woodman says, Inglesias-Bernal "was not a family member."

According to a press release from the Gulfport police department, "during the course of the investigation, detectives determined that Mr. Inglesias performed oral sex on the 13-year-old-boy at least once. The juvenile also fondled Mr.

Inglesias' genitals."

This is a second degree felony, and is not a capital crime. To protect the victim and the family, the police will not release the victim's name. Inglesias-Bernal lives at 7700 66th Street in Pinellas Park but police determined the abuse took place in Gulfport but Inglesias-Bernal faces allegations that the abuse happened in Pinellas Park as well.

Signs of trouble:

Detective Sergeant Tom Woodman says that "every case is different," but parents should watch for changes in the child's behavior around a certain person. This could indicate that person may be molesting the child.

"Either they're really excited to see that person, or they get real timid or strange around that person. Sometimes both, because they don't know what's right or wrong," Detective Sergeant Woodman said.

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Kassidy Latragna, 3, paints at Saturday's Family Fun Day. Family Fun Day, a city event, takes place in Tomlinson Park.

Family Fun Day Beats the Rain

This Saturday, the city's annual Family Fun Day just beat the rain. Every year the city sets up inflatable bounce houses, face painting, music, and arts and crafts stations in Tomlinson Park. The volunteer group, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), gives away hot dogs and bottled water. The city sponsors the annual two-hour event.

"It's basically an event to bring families out to the park and have some fun. It's just an overall positive experience," Justin Shea, the city's technical events specialist, said. "It was a good turnout. They packed everything away just before the rain came."

Shop the Thrift Mall and Gift Store

Pasadena Community Church now has four stores at one location (Pasadena Ave. and Second Ave. S.). Hours are 9-1 Wednesday and Saturday. The mall features three rooms: one with clothes, shoes, accessories and jewelry; one with gifts, china, glasses, sporting goods, children's clothes, toys and games; and one with furniture, household items, electronics, books and tapes. The other store is in the LEC building and features gifts.

...

Stetson to offer Information Sessions

Stetson University College of Law is hosting part-time law school information sessions in January, February and March for prospective law students who wish to learn more about the admissions process. Stetson enrolls new students annually in the fall. Prospective full-time law students are also welcome to attend.

Those interested in attending should RSVP for one of the sessions:

- Tuesday, March 12, at the Gulfport campus

All programs will start at 6:30 p.m. Registration begins at 6 p.m. To RSVP and for more information and directions to Stetson's Tampa Law Center or Gulfport campus, visit <http://www.law.stetson.edu/parttime> or e-mail lawadmit@law.stetson.edu.

...

Gentle Yoga Comes to St. Pete Beach

Improve flexibility and balance, tone muscles and enhance your overall physical and mental well being. Learning relaxation breathing is proven to reduce heart rate, lower blood pressure, and calm the mind. Gentle Yoga is held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-5:15 p.m. at the St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr. The cost is only \$10 per class. Visit www.spbrec.com or call 727-363-9245 for more information.

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By Robert J. Myers, Esq.

What is Probate?

Probate is a Court-supervised process which is normally required to wind up the personal and business affairs of someone who passes on. Probate involves the identification of and gathering of a deceased person's assets, the payment of taxes, creditor claims and expenses and, finally, the distribution of the deceased's assets to beneficiaries.

Probate documents are generally filed in the county where the deceased person lived. A filing fee is required to be paid to the Clerk of the Circuit Court to start the probate administration process. After a probate proceeding is initiated, a Circuit Court Judge is assigned to oversee the process. A Judge will, upon her/his approval, issue letters

of administration which appoints a personal representative of the deceased's estate. The Judge also resolves questions raised during the probate administration by reviewing all filed documents and holding Court hearings as necessary.

WHO HAS PREFERENCE TO SERVE AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE?

If a deceased person had a valid last will and testament, the person who is designated in the will to serve as personal representative will have preference to be appointed by the Court to serve. In the event the deceased did not have a valid last will and testament, a surviving spouse will generally serve. In the alternative, a majority of the heirs may select someone to serve as personal representative for approval by the Court. In our next article, we will together explore what the responsibilities of a personal representative are in the probate proceeding.

Mr. Myers is the owner of Akerson Law Offices which is located at 1135 Pasadena Avenue South, Suite

140, St. Petersburg, Florida. The telephone number is 727-347-5131. Mr. Myers welcomes calls regarding this article and other related legal topics. This column outlines general legal principles and is not intended to give you legal advice. If you have a specific question about the law, please consult an attorney.

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Assistance with Property Tax Exemptions

Representatives from the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's office will visit the Gulfport Senior Center on Monday, February 25 from 9 a.m. until noon to assist seniors in filing applications for a 2013 Property Tax Exemption.

Permanent residents of Pinellas County may qualify for one or more property tax exemptions, which may result in hundreds of dollars in property tax savings. But, they must apply before the March 1st deadline.

Florida offers several types of property tax benefits for qualified residents:

- Homestead Exemption for a primary residence
- Low Income Senior Exemption
- Widow/Widower Exemption
- Disability Exemptions and Exemptions for Blind Persons
- Exemptions for Veterans with a Service Connected Disability (or for his or her surviving spouse)
 - Discount for combat wounded Florida Veterans over age 65 who entered the service while a Florida resident.
 - An additional property tax exemption for certain deployed members of the United States military.

Some important facts to remember:

- The homestead exemption automatically renews each year, but not all of the exemptions do.
- If you purchased a property that had a homestead exemption at the time of purchase, that exemption will be removed on December 31, and you will need to apply for your own.
- The deadline to file for a personal exemption for 2013 is Friday, March 1, 2013.

Each exemption has its own set of qualifications. To find out if you qualify, or for additional information, call the Personal Exemptions Division at 727-464-3294, or visit the Pinellas County Property Appraiser website at <http://pcpa.org>.



Points On Pets

By Matthew Margolis

Where the Wild Things Shouldn't Be

And he sailed off through night and day and in and out of weeks and almost over a year to where the wild things are. -- Maurice Sendak, "Where the Wild Things Are"

In 1963, American author and artist Maurice Sendak bestowed a great gift upon budding readers the world over: the beloved children's book "Where the Wild Things Are." It's a story that takes place in the imagination of a child, and it's a story that celebrates the imagination of a child. But the impetus for the trip to "where the wild things are" is as commonplace as children and dogs.

The story opens with a little boy named Max dressed as a wolf and tearing through the house wreaking

all sorts of childlike havoc. As a punishment, his mother sends him to his room. And that's where things get really wild.

What's interesting to me about this story is that Max gets punished for racing around the house. I wonder what Max's mother would've done had it been her dog, and not her son, on the warpath through the living room.

You'd be amazed at how many people allow their dogs to run wild in the house, at how many encourage it, at how many come to regret it. Don't go down that path. That's why God created backyards and greenbelts.

We humans work hard to earn money to buy houses and furnishings and the special little tchotchkes that remind us of the places and people and moments we've loved. When we invite dogs into our lives, we implicitly

invite them into our homes; at least we should. But that doesn't mean they get to do whatever they want to the couch or the carpet. It doesn't mean they have carte blanche to run roughshod over our collectibles or our friends or ourselves.

As is true with almost everything in our dealings with dogs, consistency is key. If you want your dog to be calm in the house -- when you have guests over, when you're sitting down to a family dinner, when you just want some peace and quiet, whenever -- encourage only calm activities in the house. He can chew on a toy, gnaw on a bone, rest at your feet, nap in his bed, practice commands such as "sit," "down" and "wait."

Any excitable activity is best reserved for the out of doors.

In other words, don't chase him from room to room, hurl the ball down the hall or yell "get him, boy" as he launches himself off the back of the couch in hot pursuit of the cat. If you want peace inside your palace, cultivate peaceful practices.

The backyard is another story. Just as every child needs time to run wild in mind and in form, so does every dog. In the backyard, the ball is king. In the backyard, play rules supreme. In the backyard, the dog runs free. For it is in the backyard that you boldly echo Max's cry "to let the wild rumpus start!"

...

Save Our Strays



Meet Maverick, a 4 month old Tuxedo girl. She has a spirited mind of her own yet loves her foster Dad. This kitten has a ball playing with her brother Stache that has a white moustache. To meet this black & white beauty, call a SOS volunteer at 727 545-1116. Check SOS website at saveourstraysinc.com to see other friendly felines.

SPCA Pet of the Week



Say hello to our shining star, Diamond! This 10 year old Siberian Husky Terrier mix is a friendly old gal who is enjoying her retirement years. But don't let her age fool you! Diamond has no less spunk then she had as a puppy and would love to continue her training classes at our Sniff University training school. Want to meet Diamond? Come out to the SPCA Tampa Bay located at 9099 130th Ave. N.

in Largo. SPCATampaBay.org.

Pet Pal Animal Shelter



Ernie is a 9 month old, 46 lb., male Shepherd mix. He is looking for a family to love him and they don't even need to live on Sesame Street! To learn more about Ernie and our other adoptable animals, visit him today at Pet Pal Animal Shelter at 405 22nd Street S. in St. Petersburg. Call 727-328-7738 or visit www.petpalanimalshelter.com.

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Apply for Art Guild's Scholarship Award

The Treasure Island Art Guild is offering a \$1,500 Scholarship Award to a student going on to study art at a university this next summer. This is a way the Art Guild has of giving back to the community by encouraging all young art students to prepare for the challenging assignments of university life. Deadline for submitting art work is March 10th, 2013. For more information please visit: www.TreasureIslandArtGuild.org.

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Lithuanian-American Lunch this Thursday

The Lithuanian-American Club is serving lunch on Thursdays at 1 p.m. at 4880 46 Avenue N. in St. Petersburg. The winter schedule of luncheons are one week koldunai and the other week cepelinai. The cost is \$7 for entree, side, dessert and coffee. Today's menu is cepelinai served with bacon and/or sour cream, dessert and coffee. As usual, they have Lithuanian beer and fresh baked Lithuanian bread to buy every Thursdays. Call Vida at 866-7936 for more information. Everyone is welcome.

...

Free Amplified Phones For those who Qualify

Florida residents with a certified hearing loss are eligible to receive a free amplified phone from the non-profit Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc. and Family Center on Deafness. Monthly distribution site is the Gulfport Senior Center from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on the Third Tuesday of each month. For more information call the main office in Largo at 727-399-9983.

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From the Desk of Sheriff Bob Gualtieri



In our continuing effort to inform and educate Pinellas residents about the dangers and the much too often deadly consequences of abusing prescription and illicit drugs, our office has recently developed and launched a new website. The Drug Abuse Website, www.pinellasdrugabuse.com, is designed to assist families dealing with addiction by placing information and resources at their fingertips.

The website, the first of its kind in the state of Florida and possibly the country, strives to create awareness and promote the message that drug abuse is a serious matter and that to deal with it you must arm yourself with the facts.

The fact is seven Floridians die every day from prescription drug abuse, that's five times as many deaths as from all illegal drugs combined. The fact is- in 2008, more Floridians died from medication poisoning than from car crashes.

In response to the growing epidemic, our office developed and continues to implement a three point plan of action: education, treatment and enforcement. As such, we have taken the lead to shut down pill mills in Pinellas County and to aggressively investigate those who sell or obtain prescription drugs. We have established drop-off events, and more recently, permanent drop-off locations for unused and expired medications thru our Operation Medicine Cabinet program. We have developed community partnerships with NOPE, LiveFree, pharmacists and physicians to get the word

out about the proper disposal of prescription medications; and to present educational and prevention programs to students at the local middle and high schools.

Now, in our new Drug Abuse website, we have compiled multiple resources and information under one roof that we hope will put citizens on the right track to get the help and services they need to treat drug addiction.

The user friendly website provides links to resources including 211 Tampa Bay, SAMHSA Treatment Locator, Poison Control, Eckerd Community Alternative and Operation PAR. It also provides links to programs and services like Operation Medicine Cabinet, N.O.P.E., and LiveFree.

The Drug Abuse website also offers information on indicators of misuse and abuse of illicit and prescription drugs; signs of possible drug overdose and how to get help; safety tips to protect your medications; how to report criminal activity or drug crimes through the Sheriff's Office or Crime Stoppers; and a prescription drug pill identifier query.

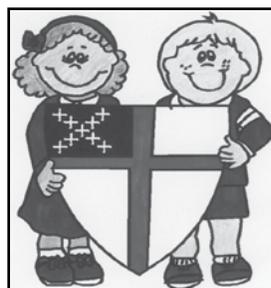
The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is committed to the safety and health of its residents. We invite you to visit the Drug Abuse website as listed above; or to access it through the Sheriff's Office website at www.pcsoweb.com. We hope you find it a useful tool and encourage you to share the resource with others. Together we can create awareness, combat drug abuse and continue leading the way for a safer Pinellas.

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Energy Express The latest trends for staying healthy

by Marilyn Preston

Heart Awareness Month -- I'm Seeing Red!

February is Heart Awareness Month. That accounts for all the red we're seeing on TV, in magazines and at special events. Heart disease awareness is red. Breast cancer awareness is pink. I wonder what color they'll use when low-T gets its own month?

But here's my real question: Is increasing awareness of heart disease enough? Is it getting the results the country needs? Not by a country mile ... not by a moon shot! Although they gave it February, heart disease is still the No. 1 killer of American men and women. And here's why I'm seeing red: It's a lifestyle disease. The truth is that most cases can be prevented by behavior change, and yet the decades-long war against it barely has a pulse. Why is that?

Any behavior-change expert will tell you: Awareness is part of change, but it must lead to action. To prevent heart disease, you need to go from a sedentary lifestyle to an active one. You need to stop eating processed foods that gunk up your heart, and start eating real food with nutrients that make your heart stronger and give you more Februarys. Stronger hearts last longer.

Awareness isn't enough. You have to be deeply ready to change.

Jumbo Gov. Chris Christie, for instance, is certainly aware that he weighs too much. But he isn't ready

to do a Bill Clinton. If he were really ready to change, he wouldn't be dining on doughnuts on "Letterman" and screaming "shut up" to a doctor who had the nerve to express concern.

Christie's risk of debilitating heart disease is much higher because he is morbidly obese. That's the inconvenient truth -- which makes me wonder if the next round of lawsuits against the National Football League will come from the 300-pound-plus front liners who are worried about what they're doing to their hearts, not just their brains.

So, if awareness isn't enough, what is? Personal responsibility! Readiness! Action! It's up to you to make healthier personal choices that are good for your heart.

So far, on a scale that matters, it's not happening. The meager number of people who exercise regularly has barely budged in the last 30 years. Obesity is gaining. Cupcakes rule! And despite countless campaigns to get people to eat their fruits and veggies, vegetable consumption has leveled off at a pathetic one cup per person per day. And fruit? For the last 25 years, it's held steady at a paltry half-cup per person a day.

Oh, we are a stubborn people. And so heart disease and its evil cousin, stroke, cause one in every three deaths in the United States.

That's equal to 2,200 deaths per day.

Day after day.

Other costs continue to depress the

economy and drag us down, physically and mentally. Cardiovascular disease -- CVD -- robs you of your peace of mind. It prevents you from enjoying so much of life, from working at full capacity. And it's so stressful to family and friends to see someone you love in pain, on nasty drugs, unable to walk a block.

The rising expense of diagnosing and treating CVD is also killing our health care budget. In 2010, heart disease and stroke hospitalizations cost us more than \$444 billion, including lost productivity. Every year, \$440 billion! That's real money, and just what we need to improve our schools, rebuild our bridges, and still have enough cash left over to plant and harvest community gardens in every undernourished neighborhood across America.

And so, dear reader, if you're beginning to see an offensive lineman in the mirror, consider making this Heart Awareness month your own personal wake-up call. Heart disease is mostly preventable! I'll repeat the basics: Quit smoking; maintain a healthy weight; eat unprocessed, clean, real food in appropriate amounts; do 20-40 minutes of vigorous exercise three to five days a week.

And one more healthy lifestyle habit that might surprise you: Be optimistic. Eat my greens? Yes, I can! A recent review of 200 studies found that the risk of having a "cardiovascular event" is approximately 50 percent lower in people high on optimism, life satisfaction, happiness.

So your work is cut out for you. And what well-paid work it is. Commit to change. Take action. Send a Valentine to your own heart, with one of those "forever" stamps on it.

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One Act Play Submissions Soon!

It's getting to be time to write those one act plays again! The Gulfport Community Players will be taking submissions during February and March of 2013 for their 13th Annual Summer One Act Play Festival. These plays have to be short, somewhere between 5 and 20 minutes in length. They must use a very limited set and props. You must submit two hard copies of your play(s) to: Gulfport Community Players, Inc., 1619 49th St. S., Gulfport, FL 33707.

The plays can be comedies, drama, whatever, but must be suitable for all audiences (no R-rated language, etc.). The Players would prefer plays submitted from somewhat local playwrights, in keeping with the spirit of community theater. The deadline for submissions is March 30th.

The Players will have their Play Reading Committee read the submitted plays in April. That committee will pick out what they think are the best plays and submit them to the Players' Board for vote and approval in May. If your play is chosen, you will be contacted by the Players. You will not receive any money for your play however, as the Players are a true community theater.

The chosen plays will be presented in their 13th Annual Summer One Act Festival at the Hickman Theater in July. The Festival will run from July 11th through July 21st, 2013. Good luck!

...

Teens Behind the Scenes Program

What happens when someone calls 9-1-1 with a medical emergency? Ever stand next to a traffic signal? What's it like behind bars in the Pinellas County Jail?

Area teens get an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at county government in Teens Behind the Scenes, a free program for local high school students presented by Pinellas County's Youth Advisory Committee.

Presentations take place once a month over the next five months. Students may attend one or more, or all five sessions. Sessions take place Wednesdays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Program line-up:

- Feb. 27—Undercover Paws

Enjoy a visit to Animal Services and learn about pet care and animal control.

- Mar. 20—9-1-1 101. Get a close-up look at the Pinellas County EMS system and participate in a first-responders exercise.

- April 24—Most Wanted. Take a tour of the Pinellas County Jail.

- May 22—Law and Order. Meet representatives from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's

Office and a county/circuit court judge.

Teens can also share some TV time with the Pinellas County commissioners at an awards night ceremony in the fifth floor Assembly Room of the Pinellas County Courthouse.

Registration deadline for each session is one week before the program date. Class sizes are limited. To register, visit <http://2013teensbehindthescenes.eventbrite.com> For more information on Teens Behind the Scenes or the Pinellas County Youth Advisory Committee call 727-582-2656 or go to www.pinellascounty.org/yac.

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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.B.



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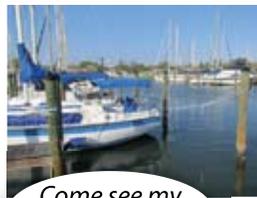


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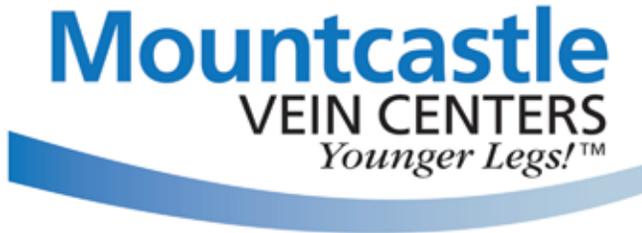
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- Not 'pain'.....modern treatments are relatively painless.
- Not 'complications'.....modern treatment is very, very safe.
- Not being 'laid up'.....patients can return to normal activities quickly.
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'In-Network' Provider Status:

Mountcastle Vein Centers accept all insurances and we are In-Network Providers with most. This greatly reduces your co-pay expenses. We are privileged to have attained this special, In-Network status with:

MEDICARE (and Medicare + Medicaid)

BC/BS

HUMANA

CIGNA

TRICARE

AETNA

UNITED HEALTHCARE

VA CENTERS (Preferred Provider)

1 Minute Test: Quick Screening Checklist

.....do you have any one of these indications of vein disease?

- spider and varicose veins, aching-tiredness-heaviness-pain
- discoloration of the skin, itching, burning
- night cramps-restlessness, swelling, edema

Our ultrasound evaluation requires 1 hour of your time, is the most complete and detailed in the region and will find the problem. Remember – most varicose veins are hidden. Very sick legs can appear normal.

Act now: Call (727) 865-6941

Today, call for an appointment for your Free Screening Consultation. Procrastination squanders opportunity. Without treatment, if veins are failing, the deterioration of your legs will continue to increase. And, as years go by, your insurance benefits seem likely to continue to decrease.

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- ✓ **Most Complete Evaluation** and the
- ✓ **Most Complete Treatment.**
- ✓ **Healthier legs look and feel younger.**

