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If I Ran the Circus... For Peace and Harmony

By Anna Vodopyanova

Saturday, October 25, at the annual Circus McGurkis at Lake Vista Park, Lynn Carol Henderson (pictured right) will promote the Quakers' mission of peace and harmony, and offer soothing, healing teas encased in fancy boxes.

Henderson is a member of St. Petersburg Quakers' Care and Counsel Committee and an adjunct professor of art in the Program for Experienced Learners at Eckerd College. She has set up her artist's booth at Circus McGurkis for more than 40 years, since she moved to St. Petersburg from Philadelphia with her husband George in 1973.

They were pacifists at the time of the Vietnam War, Henderson says, and she dedicated her art to making the world better.

See *Circus McGurkis*, page 55



Pioneer Way at Autumn Harvest



The annual Autumn Harvest and Family Activity Day at Boyd Hill Nature Park's Pinellas Pioneer Settlement had a large turnout this past Saturday, October 18. Events included hand-dipping candles, making butter and tractor rides.

The park will host a family activity day on November 8.

Ethan McClintock, 9, makes a candle at the Saturday's Autumn Harvest in St. Petersburg.

Missing Gulfport Toddler Found

When a three-year old boy went missing on 1:30 Sunday afternoon, October 19, Gulfport police and the community sprang into action.

Gulfport officers responded to a report of missing three-year-old near 55th Street and 16th Avenue S. When his mother couldn't immediately find him, she called the police.

Police estimate that, in addition to an extensive police search of the immediate area, almost 40 residents and a Pinellas County Sheriff's helicopter joined the search.

Local Leo Potts found the toddler in nearby vehicle nearly two hours after he

See *Toddler*, page 12

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No November 4 Council Meeting

Gulfport City Council will not meet on November 4.

"Due to the renovation of the Gulfport Public Library, it was necessary to move a voting precinct," City Clerk Lesley DeMuth said. The city moved the precinct to city hall, which would make a simultaneous city council meeting in the same space challenging.

...

Mayors' 49th Street Cleanup

On Saturday, October 25, please join Gulfport Mayor, Sam Henderson and St. Petersburg Mayor, Rick Kriseman, other elected officials and staff members, as well as residents of the Childs Park and Westminster Heights Neighborhood Associations and Gulfport Residents along with organizers, Gulfport Neighbors to collaborate in a cleanup with "One Street, Two Cities, One Goal: Community Collaboration" in mind.

Registration begins at the Tangerine Greenway, on the corner of 49th St. S. and Tangerine Ave. S., at 8:15 a.m. Saturday, October 25.

All ages are welcome. You are invited to come out and meet your neighbors from both sides of 49th Street. The Gulfport Trolley will provide transportation to take volunteers to the various work locations. A limited amount of pickers will be available, but if you have your own, please bring it and wear comfortable footwear and gloves. Water will be provided.

This event is presented by the Gulfport Neighbors and Co-Sponsored by the city of Gulfport and the city of St. Petersburg. For more information, please contact 727-893-1118.

...

"Fringe Florida" Author to Speak

Start your Halloween fun early with an evening exploring "Fringe Florida: The Unusual Subcultures of the Sunshine State" with author Lynn Waddell.

Waddell, who wrote the popular 2013 book, "Fringe Florida: Travels Among Mud Beggars, Furries, Ufologists, Nudists, and Other Lovers of Unconventional Lifestyles," will be

Gabber October 23 – October 29, 2014

speaking at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Ave S., Gulfport, on October 30 at 7 p.m. The free program is sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library and supported by the Florida Humanities Council with funding from the Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs.

Librarians from around the nation awarded Fringe Florida a bronze in ForeWord Reviews' National Book of the Year Awards travel essay category. Creative Loafing Tampa awarded Fringe Florida "Best

Journey into Florida's Underbelly" and Tampa Bay Times books editor Colette Bancroft called it one of the "best non-fiction books of 2013."

Award-winning journalist and St. Petersburg resident Lynn Waddell has covered major news events in Florida for more than 15 years. Her travels throughout Florida and eye for the unusual led to her critically acclaimed first book, an offbeat tome that takes readers inside some of the state's most eclectic and daring worlds.

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October Half-Off Sale at the Library

In preparation for the upcoming renovations at the Gulfport Public Library, The Circle of Friends book shop will be offering every book for sale at half price during the month of October. That means it's time to stock up on some great reading for as little as 25-cent paperbacks, and hardback bestsellers for 50 cents or a dollar.

The library book shop won't be accepting donations of books during October or the construction period that follows, as the library will be closed. Watch for dates for the reopening and great winter/spring programs and events. For more information, call 727-893-1074.

...

General Election Qualifying Period

The city of South Pasadena will hold a municipal election on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 for the election of two commissioners. Qualifying begins at noon on November 3 and ends at noon on November 17. Candidates shall have been a resident of the city for one year and shall be a duly qualified elector of the city.

An informational meeting will be held on Monday, October 27 at 10 a.m. at City Hall for anyone interested in becoming a candidate for the March 10 election. If you need further information, please call the City Clerk's office at 727-347-4171.

...

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4NR2 Concert at Horan Park

The city of St. Pete Beach in partnership with HCA West Florida Pinellas County Hospitals invites you to join them for their final concert of our October Concert Series. On Friday, October 24, enjoy the sounds of 4NR2, A Foreigner Tribute Band. Bring lawn chairs and blankets to relax outdoors under the stars in our beautiful waterfront Horan Park, located at the St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr. Activities start at 6 p.m. and the band will take the stage at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Complimentary valet parking is available. Food, beer, and wine available for purchase. For more information call 727-363-9245 or visit spbrec.com.

...

Seniors' Chat Room Five Year Anniversary

The Gulfport Senior Center's Chat Room will be celebrating their fifth anniversary on Friday, October 31 at 1:30 p.m. Come in your favorite Halloween costume and enjoy food, drinks, entertainment, and lots of fun!

Must be a registered Gulfport Senior Center member. Membership is easy and free for all individuals 50 years of age or older. For more information, please call the Event Line at 727-893-5657.

...

Find The Music in You

Find The Music in You Presents a free November musical open house. Donna Dobbs, experienced music educator, composer and musician, invites you to a unique music show for ages 5 to 105.

Find out how music can be just a fun experience. There are no lessons, no practice, and no charge; just enjoy the fun. Open houses are held the first Thursday of every month, and no experience or talent is required.

City of Imagination is located 2726 54th St. S., Gulfport. The open house is Thursday November 6, from 3 to 5 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. The event is free.

Please call 727-480-0865 or email info@FindTheMusicInYou.com for more information.

...

Howl-O-Fest

Want some family-friendly activities? Join the fun at Howl-O-Fest on Friday and Saturday, October 24 and October 25 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Boyd Hill Environmental Studies Area, 2900 31 St. S. Visit the festive trick or treat cabins with free goodies for all participants. Trick or treat bags provided. Activities include inflatable games, a climbing rock wall, arts and crafts, \$1 hay rides, a \$1 Kids Frozen

Trail, and a \$1 spooky trail to entertain children of all ages. Live dance show performances featuring Competitive Edge Dance Company. Carnival style concessions available for purchase. Admission \$5/person. Proceeds benefit City of St. Petersburg TASCO Teen Programs. For more details call 727-893-7813. Rain date: Sunday, October 26. For more information on programs and activities provided by St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation see stpeteparksrec.org

...



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This is a free event... everyone is welcome!
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Front Page News: The Gabber Covers Gulfport

Want to learn more about your community newspaper? Come out to the Catherine Hickman Theater, Friday, November 7, 6 to 8 p.m. for a reception featuring covers from over four decades of the *Gabber* newspaper. Meet the publishers and staff and see a little bit of the Gulfport area's history reflected through local headlines.

The *Gabber* printed its first edition in November 1968. Then known as the *Gulfport Gabber*, the paper was a resource for everything from city government to yard sales – and proudly remains so to this day. While the editions have grown in size and

circulation (distribution now averages 13,000 papers in Gulfport, South Pasadena, parts of St. Petersburg and the Gulf beaches) the *Gabber* has never lost its passion for community and the lives of its readers.

“Front Page News: The *Gabber* Covers Gulfport” will be on display through November in the lobby of the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Ave. S. For more information, contact 727-893-1118.

...

Lithuanian Club

The Lithuanian-American Club at 4880 46th Ave. N. in St. Petersburg is serving lunch every Thursday at 1 p.m. The fall/winter seasons schedule of luncheons are: one week cepelinai

and the other week koldunai. The cost is \$7 for entrée, side, dessert and coffee. This Thursday's menu is cepelinai (boiled grated potato meat dumplings), served with bacon and/or sour cream, dessert and coffee. As usual, there is Lithuanian beer and fresh baked Lithuanian bread to buy every Thursday. Please call Vida at 727-866-7936 for reservations or more information. Everyone is welcome.

...

Small Dog Park Closes for Maintenance

The city of Gulfport's small dog park at 2726 54th St. S. will be closed for routine maintenance through late November. The city will keep you posted on the re-open. The new schedule during this process: Large dog schedule is Monday, Wednesday and Friday; the small dog schedule is Tuesday and Thursday. The city appreciates your patience throughout this process.

Please contact Tim Connor at 727-893-1092 if you have any questions regarding the closure of the park.

...

Mamma Mia Here They Go Again!

Due to popular demand, The ProjectFREE theater group will present an encore performance of the adaptation of “Mamma Mia.”

Twenty intellectually disabled performers with diverse abilities played to over capacity crowds in three shows last week at Gulfport's Catherine Hickman Theater.

Kim Costanzo, executive director of Project Free reported that “the energy packed show inspired by the hit musical Mamma Mia moved the audience to laughter, tears dancing, singing and multiple standing ovations. We are so happy and proud of our players and incredibly pleased with the community's response.”

Due to the show's success and sold out performances, there will be encore shows on Saturday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 26. General admission tickets (\$15) are available at the box office. Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Ave. S. in Gulfport. For more information call 727-893-1020.

...



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The City of Gulfport Recreation Division presents:

2014 Spooktacular Halloween Bash

Friday, October 31, 2014

7-9 p.m.

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Crime Awareness Monthly Meetings

Please join your neighbors at the Crime Awareness meeting on Monday, November 10 at the Neighborhood Center at 1617 49th St. S. at 7 p.m. offered by the city of Gulfport Police Department and coordinator Ernie Stone.

Please mark your calendars for future Crime Awareness Meetings. The following meetings are Monday December 8 and Monday January 5.

Residents and business owners are encouraged to get to know their neighbors and to develop contacts for the purpose of making each other aware of things that are

out of the ordinary. The Gulfport Police Department will provide the resources to any party interested in getting more involved in your neighborhood.

For more information or how you can get involved, please contact 727-893-1111.

...

Trunk or Treat Event at Horan Park

Come out Tuesday, October 28 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. for the new Trunk or Treat event at Horan Park, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr. Enjoy trick or treating, a hayride, crafts, costume march, music and food.

They are still looking for

individuals/businesses to decorate their trunks and hand out candy to costumed kids. It is free to enter and participate. A contest will be held for best dressed car! Go to spbrec.com for more information including the trunker application form or call the Community Center at 727-363-9245.

...

Seeking Businesses for Halloween Bash

The city of Gulfport's Recreation Division is seeking Gulfport businesses to participate in a new Trunk-or-Treat event, by handing out candy to the children as they "trick or treat" around the parking lot. A donation of \$25 will get each business their own space, and candy to hand out to the children. Businesses will also be able to decorate their space/vehicle and have a game for the children to play supplied from the Recreation Center. Ribbons will be awarded to the top four decorated space/vehicles.

The bash will still include a frightful haunted house, a Boo-Room for tots, a costume contest for ages 0 to 17 including a family theme and a Haunted Snack Shack.

The 2014 Spooktacular Halloween Bash is set for Friday, October 31, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Sponsorship donations may be mailed or dropped off at the Gulfport Recreation Center located at 5730 Shore Blvd. S., Gulfport, 33707. Contact Marivel or Nicole at 727-893-1068.

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Early Voting at Gulfport Neighborhood Center

The Gulfport 49th Street Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th St. S., is one of Pinellas County's early voting locations for the November 4, 2014 General Election. The Neighborhood Center will be open for all Pinellas County voters from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. now to November 2.

For more information, visit Deborah Clark Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections website at votepinellas.com, email election@votepinellas.com or call 727-464-VOTE (8683).

...

Skyway Marina District Car Show

The Skyway Marina Monthly Cruise-in and Car Show will take place on October 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is held the last Saturday of every month. The event will take place at the Flamingo Resort, 4601 34th St. S. and will feature antique, classic, hot rod, custom and exotic cars, vintage and custom motorcycles and trucks from yesteryear to today. The event will also be serving up hamburgers and hotdogs, cold beverages, music, and trophies for the cars.

The Cruise-in and Car Show is free to all. For more information, call Christopher Breton at 727-490-2000.

For more information about the Skyway Marina District, please contact Linda Bowler, SMD Manager, at 727-866-2696 or via email at Linda@skywaymarina.com.

...

American Legion Post 158 Membership Drive

The American Legion Post 158, Treasure Island is going to be opening their doors to the public. Ike Royster, the Commander at the post announced that this will happen on Friday October 24 through Sunday October 26 for their recruitment drive for Legion, Sons of American Legion (SAL) and Auxiliary memberships.

Many activities will take place over

that weekend with games and raffles. Join Friday or Saturday and be eligible for the early bird dinner on Saturday, October 25. Blood drive Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of Treasure Island City Hall across from the Post. Bar poker walk on Sunday to many Treasure establishments with best hand, worst hand and other prizes. They hope to see you there and welcome you aboard.

...

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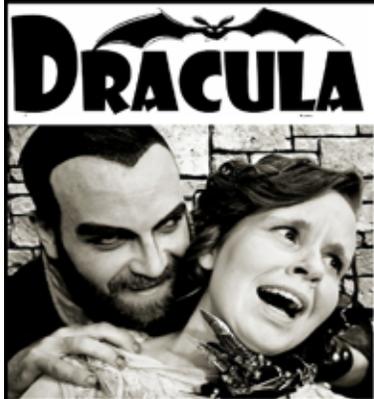


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9

St. Pete Beach Loses, Does Not Admit Defeat

By Cathy Salustri

After years of litigation centering on whether or not a former commission violated open government laws on St. Pete Beach, the most recent ruling in a chain of appeals found in favor of plaintiff Jim Anderson. This overturns the former appeal, which found in favor of the city of St. Pete Beach.

The lawsuit alleges that former commissioners circumvented Government in the Sunshine laws by holding seven shade meetings (where minutes are not immediately made

public and the public may not attend) where it planned changes to the comprehensive plan. A comprehensive plan serves as the city's blueprint for how and where to develop or redevelop areas and buildings.

The St. Pete Beach city attorney and special legal counsel on this issue (Bryant, Miller, Olive) are looking into what legal action, if any, the city of St. Pete Beach should pursue in light of the ruling against the city in a recent lawsuit. The ruling, in favor of political activist Jim Anderson, judged the city commission's process of adopting its comprehensive plan included violations of the Government in the Sunshine Laws.

City officials did not respond to the

question, "Is the comprehensive plan invalid?" based on the judgment.

The city commission will hold a special meeting this Friday, October 24, at 5 p.m.; Anderson says he believes the litigation has not ended.

...

Potato Bake Dinner at Gulfport Methodist

The United Methodist Men are presenting their "Loaded" Baked Potato Dinner, Saturday, October 25 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Featuring a large baked Idaho potato, loaded with all the fixins': sour cream and chives, chili, broccoli and cheese, etc. You name it, they'll have it. All this with a salad, dessert and coffee, tea, etc. for a donation of \$6. Tickets will be available at the door or church office. Dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall at the church located at 2728 53rd St. S. Gulfport. Come out and enjoy good food and fellowship with them. Remember, take outs are available.

...

Teen Night Program

Ongoing registrations for the 2014-2015 Teen Night Program continue for teens in middle school to age 17. The program provides recreation and social activities. It also offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, service projects and overnight lock-ins. The teens utilize the gymnasium, gameroom and outdoor area. Program hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Annual registration is \$2 residents/\$22 non-residents. For more information please call John at 727-893-1079.

...



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AL#10306

Toddler, from front page

went missing. The child had walked to the alley and climbed in an unlocked vehicle.

Potts heard the child crying, which drew him to the car.

“Apparently he couldn’t figure out how to get back out,” Gulfport Police Department Media Liaison Tom Woodman said.

Woodman also praised the Gulfport community.

“Thanks to the collaborative efforts of law enforcement and the Gulfport citizens, this child was located and returned to his family safely,” he said. Although the parents do not want their names released, Woodman said, “The child’s family and the Gulfport Police Department are grateful for the assistance of the Gulfport citizens.”

...

Walking History

Like to know what Gulfport looked like in the early days of its long history? Join Lynne Brown for a Walking Tour through the old Veteran City on Sunday afternoon, November 9 at 2 p.m. Meet at the Gulfport Historical Museum, 5301 28th Ave. S., where you’ll receive your illustrated guide book and map, then set out on the walk, which covers about a mile and takes a little over an hour. Back at the museum, they will have an old-fashioned tea party and a chance to discuss what we’ve discovered.

Registration is required, and the cost is \$10. Email us at info@GulfportHistoricalSociety.org to reserve your place.

...

Happy Birthday to You!

Ready to party? Whether you are celebrating your birthday this month or not, this party is for you. You are invited to the Gulfport Senior Center, 5501 27th Avenue S. on Friday, October 24 at 3 p.m. for birthday cake, games, and fun for everyone. Provided by Dolphin’s View.

Must be a registered Gulfport Senior Center member. Membership is easy and free for all individuals 50 years of age or older. For more information, call the Event Line at 727-893-5657.

...



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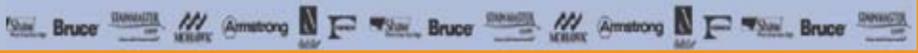
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Take the Gabber on Vacation...



Karen, John and Stephanie Orban traveled to San Antonio, Texas on a business trip and visited the Alamo. Being friends with the owners of the *Gabber*, of course they took along their favorite paper. Rumor has it that the *Gabber* also visited several establishments along the famous "Riverwalk"...

Send us your picture with you and your *Gabber* on vacation.
Include a brief description and your name.

News@TheGabber.com

Pasadena Place Culvert Replacement

Gulfport will pay to replace four 48" storm sewer pipes in the Pasadena Place subdivision, part of the Pasadena Yacht and County Club. The corrugated metal pipes run from Gulfport Boulevard, through the subdivision, and empty into the bay. The pipes, corroded after almost two decades of service, will cost \$455,000 to replace.

"In time of heavy rainfall the pipes leak and cause heavy soil erosion, requiring many areas to be filled with new soil," Public Works Director Don Sopak wrote in his memo to council about the project. "The heavy rains in September and October 2013 caused a portion of the asphalt roadway to collapse over two of the pipes."

In December of last year, Gulfport City Council approved an emergency repair for those pipes. Next the city must remove the pipes and replace the remaining ones; the state gave Gulfport \$245,000 towards the project.

Gulfport will pay Advanced Engineering and Design, Inc. \$31,785 for design services, preparation of contract documents, state permits, bidding and construction administration services. This is the same company that repaired the lines and roadway in December.

...

Deadline to enter Veterans Parade

Get your family, organization, or business in on the fun! During Heroes Weekend the city of Gulfport will host the Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 9 at 11 a.m. All are welcome to join the parade on Beach Blvd.

If you are interested in participating, please stop by City Hall at 2401 53rd St. S. to pick up an application or download and print a copy at the city's website mygulfport.us/heroesweekend/ and scroll down under the tab "Veteran's Parade." The deadline to enter the parade is Tuesday, November 4. This is a great opportunity for local organizations to participate in this wonderful event "Heroes Weekend." Please contact Gail at 727-893-1118 or gbiro@mygulfport.us for more information.

...

Gabber October 23 – October 29, 2014

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Attention Young Environmentalists

Earth Scouts will be meeting at the Gulfport Public Library the first Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 4 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Earth Scouts aims to raise awareness of environmental issues, take action through hands on activities, and adopt new environmentally friendly behaviors. Open to all school age children and their parents. For more info contact Ashly Bargman at 727-320-5497.

...

Plan Now For New Year's Eve

The Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce is planning an exciting new level of fun as it hosts a New Year's Eve celebration like none before. The theme of "Glitz, Glamour & Glitter" will feature a variety of entertainment and surprises at an extravagant gala on December 31. The event will be held at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom (5500 Shore Boulevard South). Doors open at 8 p.m. and the celebration will continue until 1 a.m.

The Gala will include dancing and live music by the popular party band "Daydreams," as well as D.J. dance music, party favors, a midnight ball drop, full cash bar, complimentary champagne toast, commemorative photo booth, roaming magician and balloon artist, sumptuous decorations, and more spectacles and surprises to be revealed that evening. Guests are encouraged to dine at one of Gulfport's many fine restaurants prior to the event and late night tapas will be served after 10 p.m.

Tickets for "Glitz, Glamour & Glitter" are on sale at the Gulfport Beach Bazaar Box Office (3115 Beach Boulevard South) or the Gulfport Casino. Admission will be \$35 per person. A limited number of exclusive "VIP Party Rooms," including personal concierge service for each room, will be offered for \$200 each.

For more information, contact the Beach Bazaar Box Office at 727-381-8548 or email GulfportBeachBazaar@gmail.com, and visit the "Glitz, Glamour & Glitter" Facebook page.

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Gabber October 23 - October 29, 2014



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Vote for the 2015 Gecko Ball

Theme organizers of Gulfport's annual Gecko Ball are encouraging the public to vote now on the theme of next year's event. August 29, 2015 will be the date of the 7th Annual Gecko Ball, building on the tradition of this increasingly popular annual event one week before Gecko Fest. Past themes have included "Geckos in Wonderland" (with an Alice in Wonderland twist), "The Lizard of Oz" (evoking all things Oz),

"Hooray for Geckowood!" (Hollywood glamour), "Gecko Night Fever" (1970s/Disco), and "Roaring Geckos," the 1920s/Gatsby era theme from earlier this year. Each theme inspires its own array of costumes, décor, food and music for the Gecko Ball, and also leads to a separate costume theme for Gecko Fest itself.

Four themes have been selected for final voting by the public for 2015:

"Gecko Gras" (A celebration of Mardi Gras and Carnivale)

"Rocky Horror Gecko Show" (A celebration of the campy cult film classic)

"Gecko Grease" (A celebration of the 1950s, "Grease," sock hops, etc.)

"Cirque de Gecko" (A celebration of cirque and circus)

Voting will continue through November 14, 2014. Please only cast one vote per person. To vote, go to the Facebook page for "Gecko Ball" at facebook.com/geckoball and "LIKE" one of the four themes. Please also "like" the page while you're there to receive updates on the event. You may also email your choice to geckoball2015@gmail.com.

The winning theme will be announced in late November, allowing party-goers approximately nine months to plan and create their 2015 Gecko Ball costumes!

Watch for Gecko Ball tickets to go on sale a few weeks prior to the event. Gecko Ball sells out every year, so ball-goers are urged to get their tickets as far in advance as possible.

...

Celebrate St. Pete Beach Author

St. Pete Beach's Wendy Wax is back! Come out for a celebration of beaches, books, libraries and song at a book and music event with St. Pete Beach native Wendy Wax, author of the USA Today bestseller "The House on Mermaid Point" and popular Tampa Bay area musicians Ian and Evan Koteles of 10th Concession, who will perform the song inspired by the book, "Mermaid in You," which they co-wrote with Wendy.

The event is Wednesday, October 29, 6 p.m. at the St. Pete Beach Public Library, 365 73rd Avenue. Call 727-363-9238 for more information.

...

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On the grounds of the
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TASCO Field of Screams

Teens, young adults, and adults don't miss the 9th Annual TASCO Field of Screams: Carnival of Chaos on Thursday through Sunday, October 30 and 31, and November 1 and 2. Hours of operation are 7 p.m. to midnight at Boyd Hill Environmental Studies Area, 2900 31st St. S. TASCO's Field of Screams is voted the #1 scare in Tampa Bay. Be challenged to escape the fun house, navigate through the dark woods, break out of the big top and flee the midway to safety. Try to navigate through the "No Way Out" maze. Participants are exposed to darkness, loud noises, bright lights, wooded trails and intense scare zones. Not suitable for young children; parental discretion is advised. Tickets are \$10 age 18 and under, \$15 age 19 and over; subject to availability. For more details call 727-892-5060 or for information about TASCO Teen Programs visit stpeteparksrec.org/tasco.

...

Acoustic Jam at Gulfport Library

Bring a guitar or acoustic instrument to the library Monday, October 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. for an informal jam session. Meet other musicians and exchange musical know-how in a fun and relaxed setting. As always, it's free! Questions? Call Alex Hooks, librarian, at 727-893-1073.

...



Wine Talk

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This Malbec is a beautiful purplish red with an aroma of berries, cherry marmalade, plum, raspberries and raisin. And has notes of chocolate, coffee, and caramel. The Malbec Region of Argentina produces red wines of great concentration and intensity.

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

Gulfport Donates to MADD

Although the Gulfport Police Department doesn't collect enough contraband to fall under the state law requiring it donate a certain percent of seized funds to community crime prevention programs, Chief of Police Rob Vincent asked the city to comply "with the spirit of the law" and donate \$1,000 to Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Gulfport City Council unanimously agreed to do so at the October 7 council meeting.

...

Monthly Mini Health Clinic

Come out to the Gulfport Senior Center on the last Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon for a variety of health screenings. Blood Pressure, Vein, Vision, Hearing, Medicine Review, and Balance screenings will be available. (Screenings may differ month to month depending on availability.)

Must be a registered Gulfport Senior Center member. Membership is easy and free for all individuals 50 years of age or older. For more information, call the Event Line at 727-893-5657.

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The Gabs

How would the legalization of medical marijuana impact Floridians?



Tonya Cronic: "I don't think it'll impact us too terribly much. People that are already smoking are gonna keep smoking. They're not gonna stop just because it's legal."

...



Mandy Keyes: "I don't know about Floridians as a whole. My boyfriend has epilepsy, so... I know that his medications do not work. When they up his dose on one kind of medication, he gets what they call 'the stupids' which is very common on that medication. So he tries to supplement it with a different medication, but the different ones that doctors have tried have not been successful. One of them makes your hair fall out, you know, all of these side effects. It's not economically feasible and also illegal to try to get it on our own, but I really, really want him to try it, so I'm really hoping it passes, because if we can get it through his insurance, then it will be so much easier to see if that helps. He can die because of [epilepsy]. It's really hard on his self-esteem, too."

...



Jonathan Fox: "I think that there would be a lot less incentive to prosecute and imprison people over extremely trivial offenses and a lot of people who benefit greatly from what is a pretty moderate substance would be able to have access to the remedy to their illnesses without having to worry about getting in trouble with the law or losing their jobs. I think, overall, it will be positive."

...



Veronika Slep: "I think medical marijuana could be very beneficial to people with major health issues. I'm excited to see the opportunities it may bring for those truly in need of it. However, the legalization of marijuana in general will possibly have a negative impact on Floridians because I think there's going to be a lot more teen usage and usage of the drug when you're at work or driving a car."

...

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Horoscope Guide

By Holiday Mathis

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're not going to get where you want to go by being like everyone else. This week you'll learn more about your own unique talents when you hang out with someone who has an eye for spotting that kind of thing in others. It's likely this person is talented in his or her own right and therefore recognizes the spark.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Believe in and support the rising stars in your life. There will be good news about someone you care about this week. This may not seem to change your world in any direct or practical way, though you can bet it will have an effect the way most uplifting things do. Hope and optimism are underrated forces for good.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You long to be known on deeper levels now. It takes a devoted person to give you the understanding and care you need. Those who are extremely self-confident may have trouble relating to you, as they are so centered in their domain that they assume the others around them are thinking and feeling as they do.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're working on giving your love without worrying about what comes back or whether things are balanced. However, when it becomes obvious that you are much more generous to someone than he or she is to you, it gets difficult not to think critically about the arrangement. Friday's truth-telling should even things out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You will try to see yourself as others see you, concentrating on your weak areas. You are capable of great improvements this week precisely because of your exceptional balance of inner confidence and sincere humility, which is driven by a deep desire and willingness to do what it takes to be your best.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Something that occurred long ago is still having an effect on you. Because of this, your current options may seem more limited than they really are. You need another opinion on the matter. Or maybe you need six more opinions. Who can open your eyes? Seek insight from big, open minds.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Lately nothing bothers you more than the abuse of power, and you'll be a watchdog for that dynamic. With your special kind of hearing (partly with your ears but mostly with your mind and soul), you will be aware of mixed messages. You will see straight through the liars, and you'll sniff out hidden motivations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). This week brings a strong need to commit yourself to going deeply into things: subjects of interest, worthy endeavors, relationships with potential for real connection. This will require that you forgo some of the distractions that keep you riding the surface of life, especially the distraction of glowing screens.

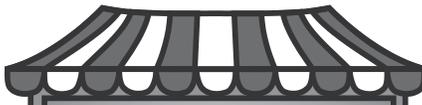
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Besides trying to capture clouds and waves, there are few efforts more futile than attempting to make the chaotic world predictable. When they ask for definitive answers and unreasonable projections this week, it's perfectly acceptable, lucky even, to say, "I don't know" and leave it at that.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Tolerance is a process. It starts off difficult, but the more you let go the easier it gets. There are times when it's easier to accept others than to accept yourself, and vice versa. Whichever kind of acceptance is easiest for you, practice that, and it will eventually lead to whichever acceptance you need the most.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You want your own happiness, and you want others to be happy, too -- maybe all of them. Or maybe most of them. Who are the exceptions? That's whom you'll be working on

loving in the weeks to come. Love and forgiveness will ultimately be your freedom ticket.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Plato said, "The measure of a man is what he does with power." You will be given a new responsibility, and with it comes a great deal more influence than you had before. It's a calling to kindness if ever there was one, and you'll rise to the occasion.



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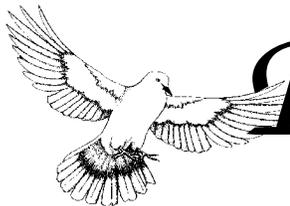
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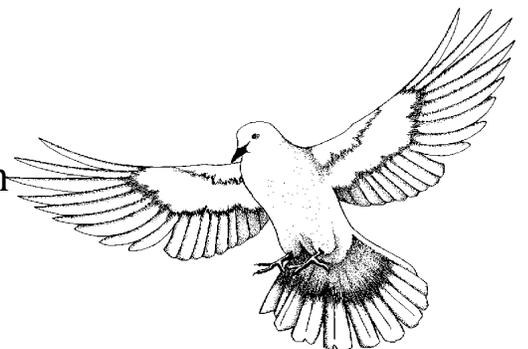


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Free Chemical and Electronics Collections

Residents in north and south Pinellas County can safely dispose of many household electronics and chemicals at two upcoming free household mobile collection events in October.

The events are offered by Pinellas County Solid Waste. Upcoming south county collection happens Saturday, October 25, at the St. Petersburg Allstate Center, 3200 34th St. S. in St. Petersburg.

The collections run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For everyone's safety, participants must be in a vehicle. The events are subject to change

due to severe weather.

Residents can drop off electronics such as camcorders, cellphones, computers, TVs, DVD players and microwave ovens. Chemical items accepted include automotive fluids, batteries, fuel, paint and fluorescent bulbs along with other mercury containing devices.

Items that will not be accepted include air conditioning units and other large appliances, radioactive, biological or infectious waste, fire extinguishers, tires and propane tanks.

The 15th and final collection event of 2014 is scheduled for November 15 at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th St. S. in Gulfport.

For more information on mobile collections including a full list of accepted items, instructions on how to transport chemicals and future dates, visit pinellascounty.org/utilities/mobile.htm.

...

American Legion Post 158 Membership Drive

The American Legion Post 158, Treasure Island is going to be opening their doors to the public. Ike Royster, the Commander at the post announced that this will happen on Friday October 24 through Sunday October 26 for their recruitment drive for Legion, Sons of American Legion (SAL) and Auxiliary memberships.

Many activities will take place over that weekend with games and raffles. Join Friday or Saturday and be eligible for the early bird dinner on Saturday, October 25. Blood drive Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of Treasure Island City Hall across from the Post. Bar poker walk on Sunday to many Treasure establishments with best hand, worst hand and other prizes. They hope to see you there and welcome you aboard.

...

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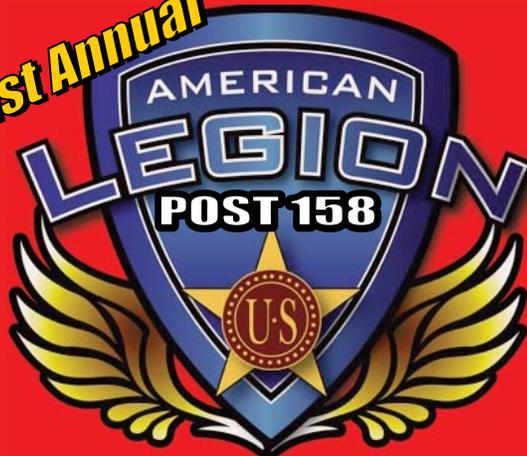
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RECRUITMENT SIGN UP SPECIAL FRIDAY OCTOBER 24th

Public Invited, Fall Recruitment weekend begins with incentives, Games, Drawings, Give-aways, Karaoke, Hats, Pins, T-Shirts and other Memorabilia for sale as well as being given away.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25th

Public Invited, All of the above PLUS...

Early Bird Sign Up Ends 3:00 p.m., Early Bird Dinner 5:00pm to 7:00 p.m.

It pays to be an early bird!!! Each early bird will have his/her name automatically entered into a drawing. Plus they will have their name entered again for each new recruit they signed up prior to the Early Bird cut off. Drawings will be held at 5:00 p.m. for a \$10.00 Bar Tab, at 5:30 p.m. a \$10.00 Bar Tab, at 6:00 p.m. for \$25.00 Cash, at 6:30 p.m. for \$50.00 Cash and at 7:00 p.m. for \$100.00 Cash... You do not have to be present to win!

SUNDAY OCTOBER 26th

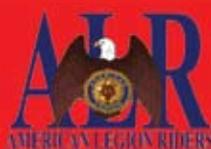
Public Invited, Fall recruitment weekend with incentives...

Plus our very own Riders will be sponsoring an age appropriate Poker "WALK" Pub Crawl.

Sign up begins at 10:00 a.m. - First Card 11:00 a.m. - Last card in at 3:00 p.m.

All bars within walking distance on Treasure Island and last card will be at the Post.

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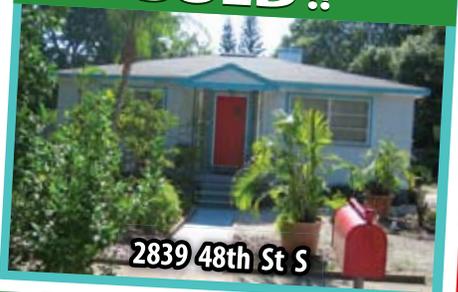
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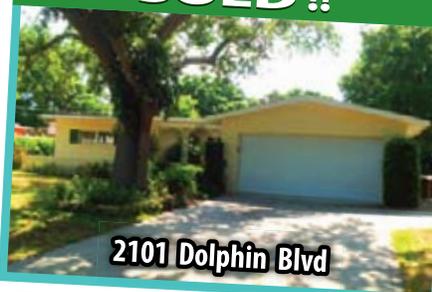
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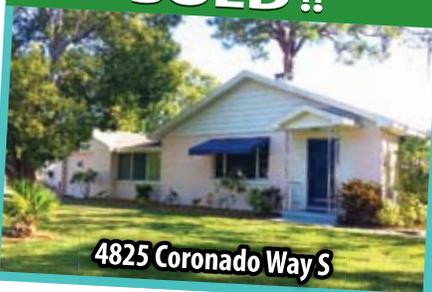
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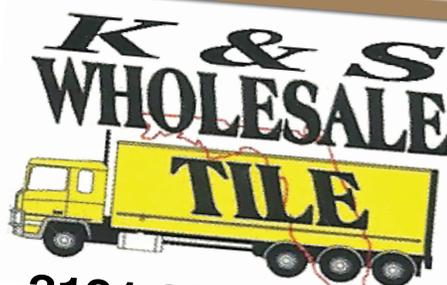
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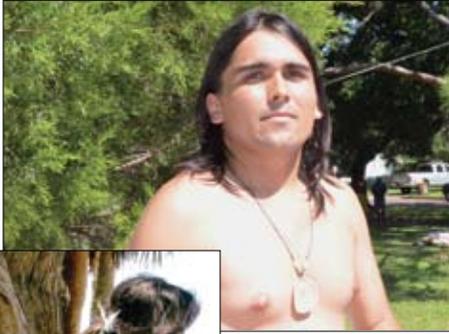


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IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Brandon Latronica recently appeared in a Bright House documentary about Florida's first people. He also works with Elizabeth Neily and her First Florida Frontiers historical group, where he portrays a Tocobagan. At Gulfport's birthday bash Saturday, October 11, you may have seen him in costume as one of

Florida's first Floridians. His grandmother, Daphne Palesky, wants everyone to know how proud she is of her grandson.



Know someone who deserves the *Spotlight*?

Send us a photo and a brief explanation of why that person is special.

Please include your name and phone number to:

News@theGabber.com

Gulfport Public Works Housekeeping

Gulfport City Council agreed to buy a \$31,000 mini-excavator that will allow public works employees to perform work on easements too small to accommodate the city's backhoe.

The city will piggyback on a Manatee County contract with JTV for manhole rehabilitation. JTV prices have not increased since 2006, Public Works Director Don Sopak told council. The company will rehab manhole covers for both the sanitary sewer (sewer lines that carry effluent from homes and businesses to a water reclamation facility) and the storm sewer (sewer lines not connected to the sanitary sewer lines; these lines carry stormwater and runoff to the nearest body of water).

...

Safe Trick or Treating

Come trunk or treat in a safe environment this year at Grace Connection Church, 635 64th St. S. October 31, 6 to 8 p.m. Free candy! For more information, call 727-492-2058.

...

American Legion Auxiliary 125 News

The Adult Halloween Costume Contest will take place at the post October 31 with voting beginning at 9 p.m. for best costumes with first, second and third place prizes. Come dressed up in your best Halloween costume.

Come play Bingo Wednesday starting at 6 p.m. \$1 for small card, \$2 for large card or buy \$15-\$31 packets! 14 regular games at \$50 and one jackpot \$250 + final game winner take all!

Annual Christmas tree lighting bus tour is scheduled for Sunday, December 21 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets on sale now at \$10. Please see a bartender at the post. Limited seating available so hurry and get your spot.

American Legion Post 125 is located at 6440 5th Ave. S. Call 727-347-6085 for more information.

...



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On Site

Racing Over the New Pinellas Bayway Bridge

By Anna Vodopyanova

As the sun set on October 17, runners raced for the first time across the newly opened Pinellas Bayway Bridge. The 5K walk/run started on the east side under the bridge after a golf tournament at Isla del Sol and free beer at its Yacht and Country Club's Tiki Bar, and stretched west to the beach and the Alden Suites where the bash continued with food, drinks, music and the Paddle Board Flotilla.

Some runners wore sea creature outfits, including shark and jellyfish costumes, while others showed off four-lane bridge hats and the Bayway Bridge Bash shirts with a dolphin in the sun design. Rae Ann Darling Reed and Sean Gallagher took first place in female and male categories, respectively.

The new, elevated Pinellas Bayway Bridge replaces the old drawbridge, built in 1962. The project took three years to complete, and is expected to greatly reduce congestion on Tierra Verde heading to and from St. Pete Beach.



Runners Christy Smith (finished 80th) and Tracy Kennard (finished 81st) show off Bayway Bridge Bash shirts at the starting line of the race.

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Methodist Church**

13400 Park Blvd.
Seminole, FL 33776

11/6 at 11 AM

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11/12 at 3 PM

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of Commerce**

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Seminole, FL 33772

11/21 at 11 AM & 2 PM

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A licensed agent will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call 727-582-9151 or TTY 1-800-955-8770 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

Y0011_81862 0814 CMS Accepted

Fort De Soto Nature Walk

Come out for a guided nature walk through beautiful Fort De Soto Park on November 1 or 2 from 10 to 11 a.m. Nature walks wander through one of the park's six different natural communities. The featured walk November 1 will be "Mangrove" with Fort De Soto volunteer guide, Rhonda; November 2 will be "Arrowhead" with volunteer guide, Margaret. Participants should meet at the east end of the park. A park map is available online. \$5 parking

fee. Registration required. Fort De Soto Park, 3500 Pinellas Bayway S., Tierra Verde. Call 727-552-1862 or visit pinellascounty.org/park/guided-walks.htm.

...

Hurricanes: Decision Making Realities

On Wednesday, October 29 at 4 p.m., join Dan Chesnut at the Gulfport Senior Center, 5501 27th Ave. S. for a well-researched and colorful power point presentation that covers the local history of hurricanes and tropical storms. You

will also learn what you should know to make your personal decisions regarding what to do when a storm threatens.

Must be a registered Gulfport Senior Center member. Membership is easy and free for all individuals 50 years of age or older. For more information, please call the Event Line at 727-893-5657.

...

Swingtime Halloween Ball

Put on your best costume and get ready to swing with all sorts of exciting characters! It's Swing Time's 13th Annual Halloween Costume Ball at the Gulfport Casino Swing Night, Wednesday, October 29. The Ball starts with a one-of-a-kind dance lesson: Shim Sham (with Special Zombie Styling!) 7 to 8 p.m.; no partner needed. Starting at 8 p.m., dance 'til the midnight hour to the Ultimate Halloween Swing/Dance Music Mix. All Halloweeny music, all the way to midnight.

The Halloween Costume Ball features a costume parade and contest with \$300 worth of cash and prizes for the Best, Scariest, Hottest, Funniest, Swingiest, and Most Original costumes. The Ball features loads of chocolate, candy, and trick-or-treats; door prizes; a zombie shim sham; a steal dance mixer; plus special Halloween decor and atmosphere.

Gulfport Casino's vintage waterfront grand ballroom is smoke-free and provides a full bar and free parking. Just \$8 admission includes everything, and all ages are welcome. Experience Tampa Bay's best Halloween dance party, twelve years running. For more information, visit events@swingTime.info or call 813-840-3715.

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Oktoberfest

St. Matthew Episcopal Church, 738 Pinellas Point Dr. S. in St. Petersburg will have an Oktoberfest on Tuesday, October 28 from 5 to 7p.m. Brats, sauerkraut, German potato salad, apple strudel and beer will be available. Donation is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 6 and under. For tickets call 727-409-8248.

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 <h3>AMERICAN LEGION</h3> <p>ANDY ANDERSON POST 125 6440 - 5th Avenue South</p>		<p>CLUB HOURS: Mon - Sat. 10a.m. - 1a.m. Sun. 11a.m. - 11p.m.</p> <p>347-6085</p>
<p>Friday, October 24, 4:30~6:30pm White Fish Baked w/ Wine Sauce or Battered, French Fries, Slaw, Roll/Butter, Dessert ~ \$7.75 ~ or ~ Corned Beef & Cabbage, Boiled Potatoes, Veggies, Roll/Butter, Dessert ~ \$8.00</p>	<p>Saturday, Oct 25, 4:30-6:30pm Legion Dinner All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad, Garlic Toast, Dessert \$7.00</p>	<p>SUNDAY BREAKFAST 8:30am-11:00am BREAKFAST BUFFET Complimentary Bloody Mary or Mimosa \$5.00</p>
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Hooah on a Saturday

By Elizabeth Brown-Worthington

If you were awoken by the sound of motivated teens screaming “Raiders!” and “Hooah!” at seven in the morning on Saturday October 18, then you probably live near Boca Ciega High School. Boca Ciega’s 600-cadet strong Army JROTC program held their second annual raider meet on Saturday, competing in five different events against six different schools.

Raiders is a physical fitness team that goes above and beyond not only preparing students for boot camp, but also building their muscles and building a family. Boca Ciega hosted Alonso, Anclote, Gibbs, Hudson, Newsome, and Strawberry Crest High Schools, and all teams were stretching on the football field by 6:30 a.m. Each school also brought three separate teams: male, female, and mixed.

The day began with all units in formation on the football field for introductions and motivational chants to get the energy going. The cadets then filed into the CWMP auditorium to take a written First Aid test. Afterward, teams ran down the trail and back. The Gulfport CERT team cooked lunch for all of the cadets, totaling around 250 students.

Throughout the day, each team was to complete four different events: the sandbag carry, litter carry, tire flip



Boca Ciega won a total of 22 trophies, with the female primary team taking first place overall.

and rope bridge event. These four different events all required strength, but mostly teamwork – the key to success in JROTC.

For each event, the teams were graded on how quickly they completed the task and during the awards ceremony the top three male, female and mixed teams received a trophy; trophies were also awarded to the top three teams from each group, overall.

Boca Ciega won a total of 22 trophies, with the female primary team taking first place overall. Most important, however, everyone had a great time, made new friends and learned to be part of a team that works together and motivates each other.



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Chattahoochee: Echoes of Tortured Souls

By Cathy Salustri

Want a good scare this Halloween season? Head up to Chattahoochee. No, not the river – you're headed for the old Florida State Hospital for the Insane, today simply called "Florida State Hospital." This former jail known for cruelty to its inmates now houses the scariest, most dangerous mentally deranged people in the state.

It's not hard to picture a One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest scenario here, and hospital has no recent history of patient abuse and torture. It's the stuff that happened further back in time that will send shivers down your spine as you drive through the grounds.

WHAT: In 1876, the Florida State Hospital for the Insane opened. Before that, it was a prison run by Malachi Martin, whose name should be enough to give most of us nightmares. In his book "The American Siberia," J. C. Powell opens with the following description:

"In the fall of 1876 a singular spectacle might have been observed at the little town of Live Oak, in Northern Florida. A train had just arrived, and from one of the cars some thirty odd men disembarked and formed an irregular procession by the roadside. The sun never shone upon a more abject picture of misery and dilapidation. They were gaunt, haggard, famished, wasted with disease, smeared with grime, and clad in filthy tatters. Chains clattered about their trembling limbs, and so inhuman was their aspect that the crowd of

curiosity seekers who had assembled around the depot shrank back appalled.

"These thirty starved and half-dying wretches were about half of the convicts of the State of Florida."

Construction started here in 1832, and the hospital first served as a federal arsenal during the Second Seminole War. Confederate troops used it as a staging area during the Civil War. After that, the buildings became a prison, then the hospital for the insane.

Two buildings survive from the Second Seminole War, when it was a federal arsenal: The officer's quarters now serves as an administration building, and a powder magazine, soon to be a museum.

WHY: Somewhere inside these buildings, the state's most severely mentally ill wait – some for recovery, some to recover enough to

be found competent for execution. Others declared "not guilty by reason of insanity" may wait forever – the state places no time limit on their confinement. White buildings and rolling hills marry comely and creepy.

Cue the scary music.

WHO: The Department of Children and Families runs Florida State Hospital.

WHERE: Along US 90 at the edge of north Florida. You'll find the sprawling grounds of the hospital itself at 100 North Main Street.

BEST part: Your imagination. This is a beautiful set of buildings until you let your imagination take the reins. The place resembles something between the Overlook Hotel in "The Shining" and every horror movie about insane asylums ever. Are there ghosts? That's for you to decide.

WORST part: You can't access the inside of Chattahoochee, at least, not unless a judge and team of psychiatrists have decided that's the best and safest place for you. And if that happens, you've got bigger problems than ghosts.

FUN fact: The facility once had a beauty parlor "to offset chronic rage" of the inmates, researchers later explained.



MAGIC Question: Free.

Contact Cathy Salustri at CathySalustri@TheGabber.com.

New Docks at Gulfport Casino

A new floating dock will replace a fixed dock at the Gulfport Casino. The dock will have eight transient boat slips, over 1,400 feet of deck and will accommodate boats up to 35 feet long.

The city will use grant funds to fund the majority of the project. A Boating Infrastructure Grant will fund 75% of the cost with the city paying the remainder, which translates into \$41,000 of the \$163,000 replacement costs.

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Newton's Haunts Open

Two Haunted Houses for two great causes: Biffs Kids of Pinellas and Pinellas Park Fire Department Explorers Post 945. The Midway Massacre, mirrors, mazes, and Stitches The Insult Clown are waiting inside for you. The Hallows Forgotten Existence, where evil lurks between the past and present will appear all around you when darkness falls. No children under 13 admitted without parent; \$3 donation per person, per haunted house.

October 24, 25. 5600 Block of Newton Ave. S. 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

For more information call 727-557-6349.

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Fresh Market Clothing Swap to Move

Gulfport's Tuesday Fresh Market popular "Clothing Swap" is moving to a new location. Held the second Tuesday of every month, the Clothing Swap will now be held in the courtyard at 2908 Beach Boulevard.

Participants are invited to bring up to five gently used garments to exchange for vouchers that may be used to select clothing brought in by other participants. Items may be for women, men or children. Gently used shoes and wardrobe accessories are also accepted. Please provide hangers for all garments to be used in the swap. For anyone interested, vouchers may also be purchased for \$3 each. Donations of clothing above the five-garment limit are encouraged and accepted. Cash donations are also accepted.

All cash collected, donated clothing,

and non-selected garments at the end of the swap will be donated to Community Action Stops Abuse (CASA).

CASA is a local non-profit organization providing services to survivors of abuse or violence.

The Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market is open year-round. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Tuesday. The Market is located in Gulfport's historic Waterfront District on Beach Boulevard below 28th Avenue South.

Gulfport's Fresh Market is a

community-spirited gathering in a small, "Old Florida"-style town. Vendors offer a variety of products, including but not limited to, local, organic and hydroponic fruits and vegetables, honey, teas, cheeses, fresh breads, pastries, vegetarian/vegan and ethnic foods, candy, garden plants, fresh flowers, bath and body products, jewelry, pet products, art, jams, jellies, and much more.

Visit the Market's Facebook page at facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket for more information and for up-to-date information on current vendors.

...

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Save Our Strays



Tippy, a super friendly Tuxedo boy, loves to tend to the little kittens in his foster home. He washes them like he is their mother. Tippy has a look-alike brother Todd; the six-month-old brothers are very social and love attention. They have been completely vetted, are microchipped and are available for a special adoption donation of \$35 each. Tippy or Todd might be your new best friend. To meet this fun-loving pair, call a Save Our Strays volunteer at 727 687-4207. Additional cats may be seen on SOS' website saveourstraysinc.com.

Pet Pal Animal Shelter



Diamond is a Labrador/ Pit Bull Terrier mix. Diamond walks great on a leash, and will need a patient, loving family to make her feel at home. You must own your house to adopt Diamond. Diamond is 3 years old. Diamond is spayed, vaccinated, and microchipped. Visit Pet Pal Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Pet Pal Animal Shelter, 405 22nd St. S. Call 727-328-7738 or visit petpalanimalshelter.com.

Obituaries

GRIFFIN, CHESTER JR., "Brad," 70, of Town Shores of Gulfport, died Tuesday, October 14, 2014, unexpectedly at his home. He was born on August 14, 1944 in Middletown, OH, the son of Chester and Rosemary Griffin. He is a 1963 graduate of Lemon-Monroe High School in Monroe, OH and served in Vietnam for the US Air Force. He loved antiques and owned a shop for 15 years in Massachusetts. He sold the shop and moved to Florida where he continued his passion for antiques. He enjoyed traveling and going on cruises with his friends. We will miss the sound of his laughter and his big smile.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He leaves behind a loving brother Greg (Rhonda) Griffin, one niece Jenny Walker, a very dear friend Don Gohlike, and many cousins. At the family's request, the memorial announcement will be made at a future date. ALifeTribute.com.

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Medicare Info at Library

Medicare Prescription Drug Plans: This is an overview of Medicare Part D. You'll learn about eligibility and enrollment, how to compare and choose a drug plan, and financial assistance programs. Tuesday, October 28, at 11 a.m.

All programs are presented by SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders), a program of the Florida Dept. of Elder Affairs in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging. Programs will be presented in the auditorium of the St. Petersburg Main Library, 3745 9th Ave. N. Register by calling 727-893-7928.

In addition, one-on-one appointments with a SHINE Medicare Counselor will be available at the St. Petersburg Main Library, Wednesdays, October to December 3, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The SHINE counselor can help answer your questions about Medicare, assist with enrollment in Medicare Savings Programs, and can help you determine which Medical and/or Medicare Prescription Drug Plan best fits your needs. Call 727-893-7928 to register for an appointment.

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Crossword Puzzle *Solution on Page 18*

Getting Around

ACROSS

- 1 Squealers
- 5 Fasteners
- 10 Ring the bells
- 14 Spanish river
- 15 Soap or horse
- 16 Hodgepodge
- 17 Western locale
- 20 Elvis' shoes
- 21 Social affairs
- 22 Dandy
- 23 Gotcha!: pl.
- 26 Hops companion
- 28 Renovates
- 32 Fenny tract
- 36 Bunyan's tool
- 37 Thinner
- 39 Common contraction
- 40 Midwest locale
- 44 Impudent
- 45 Show scorn
- 46 Marriage vow
- 47 Mama's pants
- 50 Prohibition: law
- 52 What 36 Across does
- 54 Library feature
- 55 Advice
- 58 Capricorn
- 60 Drone

DOWN

- 64 Dixie locale
 - 68 Excited
 - 69 Persian wheel
 - 70 Portent
 - 71 Celebrated city
 - 72 Well-known dummy
 - 73 Mailed
- DOWN**
- 1 Confederates
 - 2 ___ ben Adhem
 - 3 Genuine
 - 4 Soissons soldier
 - 5 *The Man with a ___*
 - 6 Shower time: abbr.
 - 7 Denomination
 - 8 Introduction
 - 9 Obeisance
 - 10 Rocky pinnacle
 - 11 Viking
 - 12 Italian resort
 - 13 Pilot's spectacle
 - 18 Do ranch work
 - 19 Storing locale
 - 24 ___, a bone
 - 25 Alexander II freed them
 - 27 Concert group
 - 28 Coarse files
 - 29 Kick out
 - 30 Sawlike organ: zool.
 - 31 French river
 - 33 What the Norway is
 - 34 Derogatory
 - 35 Milkmaid's need
 - 38 Fish smokery: Scots
 - 41 Hankering
 - 42 Apollo's mother
 - 43 ___ of Ephesus: Shakespeare hero
 - 48 Containers
 - 49 Faints
 - 51 Barcelona Petes
 - 53 Squelched
 - 55 Ruler
 - 56 Paragon of villainy
 - 57 School event
 - 59 Weight allowance
 - 61 Juicy fruit
 - 62 East of ___
 - 63 Carry on
 - 65 What some women hide
 - 66 Tree
 - 67 A Shropshire ___

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
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71							72						73		

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1.75 Ltr

Glenfiddich 12-Year
\$29⁹⁹
750 ml

Jim Beam Bourbon
\$10⁹⁹
750 ml

Kahlúa Liqueur
\$29⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Patrón Tequila
\$38⁹⁹
750 ml

Jose Cuervo Tequila
\$29⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

New Amsterdam Vodka or Gin
\$19⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Karkov Vodka
\$10⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Smirnoff Vodka
\$17⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Crown Royal Whiskey
\$39⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Bombay Sapphire Gin
\$31⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Seagrams 7 Whiskey
\$17⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Jameson Irish Whiskey
\$21⁹⁹
750 ml

3 Olives Vodka
\$23⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Pinnacle Vodka
\$17⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Bacardi Oakheart Spiced Rum
\$19⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Ketel One Vodka
\$35⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Glenlivet 12-years
\$29⁹⁹
750 ml

Bacardi Rum Light & Gold
\$19⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Canadian Club Whiskey
\$19⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Svedka Vodka
\$19⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Johnnie Walker Red
\$29⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

Knob Creek
\$29⁹⁹
750 ml

Finlandia Vodka
\$25⁹⁹
1.75 Ltr

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Spear of History Goes to Beach Bazaar



To help win the “Spear of History” for Beach Bazaar – and beat O’Maddy’s – Angela Lagan stands on her head at one of Gulfport’s sundials. Judges awarded the team a half point because Lagan had help maintaining the headstand. “Evil” Wayne and Patrick Rhodes, representing O’Maddy’s, received a full point for the task.

“Evil” Wayne and Patrick Rhodes. Stella’s neither called nor showed for the challenge.

Teams, who each paid a \$50 entrance fee, had an hour to collect eight local “artifacts” and solve 17 Gulfport history-related riddles, some of which came with tasks to accomplish, such as snapping a photo of a team member standing on his head at one of Gulfport’s sundials, or finding the former Java Jane’s and singing a song to earn a free tea.

O’Maddy’s lost by a scant half-point. Judges awarded the team extra points for blindly trusting Guenther, who sent them to the hunt with no prior knowledge of why they were going there. Next year, however, judges promised to penalize the O’Maddy’s team if Guenther did not materially participate in the hunt.

The Gulfport Historical Society will hold both a business and individual scavenger hunt in the spring. Winners in the individual hunt category win cash while the business winner receives the “Spear of History,” created by Gulfport artist Chris McKinley, to display for as long as they hold the title.

Although Biff and Angela Lagan opened a business in Gulfport just few years ago, it appears they know town history better than the Guenther family. In a business-to-business face off Saturday afternoon, the Lagan’s Beach Bazaar team solved more history-related riddles and performed more tasks related to Gulfport’s past than O’Maddy’s, the popular purveyor of fish sandwiches and beer.

The hunt, initially slated for March, was postponed when two of the three teams – Stella’s Deli and O’Maddy’s – claimed “staffing emergencies.” Rather than win by default, Biff and Angela Lagan told the Gulfport Historical Society they intended to wait for a fair rematch.

Saturday, October 11, shortly after 1 p.m., the Lagans arrived with Mike and Judy Baggs in tow to round out their team. Joe Guenther sent two of his frequent customers,

Playground Gets Toddler-Friendly

Gulfport’s Caldwell Park will get a \$7500 facelift, including expanding the playground to provide equipment for younger children. The cost includes fencing and mulching in addition to equipment.

According to City Manager Jim O’Reilly, Ward Three Councilwoman Yolanda Roman brought him concerns from residents who wanted play equipment for smaller children.

Friends of Main Library Antiques Appraisal Fair

Dust off those family treasures, spiff up those “finds,” and plan to attend the Friends of the Library second Antiques Appraisal Fair on Saturday, November 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the auditorium at the St. Petersburg Main Library. All Friends of the Library programs are free and open to the public. No reservations are required. Main Library is located at 3745 9th Ave. N.

Appraisals for large items, such as furniture – or for antique firearms – will not be available, but small antiques, collectibles and books are welcome. Costs are \$5 for a single item or \$12 for three items; additional items at \$4 each. All proceeds will benefit the Library. For more information contact 727-827-0110 or visit splibraries.org.

Spaces Open for Market Vendors

With more than 200 members, the Tierra Verde Women’s Club always pulls together an ambitious shopping crowd for its Annual Gift Market and Garage Sale. This year is no exception because the 90-some selling spots (the size of a parking space) are going fast for the Saturday, November 2 event.

Shopping and selling is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. The location is downtown Tierra Verde on Pinellas Bayway (on the way to Ft. DeSoto Park). Featured are crafts, collectibles, household items, food and lots of fun.

Spaces (about 10’ by 10”) are \$25 each. Contact tierraverdegaragesale@gmail.com.

Gulfport City Wide Yard Sale

It is that time again, Gulfport! The City Wide Yard Sale is Saturday, November 1. 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. Deadline to sign up is Friday, October 24.

Here are the choices to get your Gulfport address added to the Yard Sale Brochure: Email Gail at gbiro@mygulfport.us with your Gulfport address. You can fill out a form at City Hall, 2401 53rd St. S. or the Gulfport Public Library, 5501 28th Ave. S., or visit mygulfport.us, go to events, then upcoming events, then City Wide Yard Sale.

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. Get on the brochure today! For more information, Please call Gail at 727-893-1118.

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City Whys?

Have you got a question for your city government?

Email your request to News@theGabber.com

By Cathy Salustri

City of Gulfport

Q: Are there any plans for the new playground next to Scout Hall to have a roof or cover, that would shield the kids from sun and rain? So many families these days are flocking to the Maximo playground because it has a big roof over it, which is such a great idea... Gulfport kids would really benefit from something similar. - Blakey Ross

A: "Unfortunately, due to budget constraints and our continuing efforts to provide numerous ongoing playground equipment updates and replacements to the respective neighborhoods throughout the city of Gulfport," City Manager Jim O'Reilly says, "at present, there are no plans to cover the new playgrounds."

GLITZ, GLAMOUR & GUTTER
New Year's Eve Gala

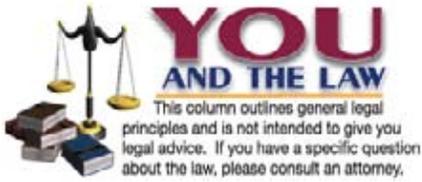
December 31st 8 pm - 1 am

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5500 Shore Boulevard South • Gulfport, Florida

Music & Dancing • Late Night Tapas
Champagne Toast • Party Favors

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Tickets: \$35⁰⁰/person, available at Beach Bazaar and the Casino
Hosted by the Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce



By Robert J. Myers, Esq.

What are the steps involved in the probate process? Part II

This Article is Part II in our review of the Florida probate process and follows our last feature on probate.

3. Appointing the personal representative

The court authorizes a personal representative to administer the deceased's estate. A personal representative, also called an executor/executrix, assumes the responsibility for closing an estate as soon as possible in an effort to distribute the estate's assets to those who rightfully inherit them without

delay. This person is critical to the probate process.

Personal representatives have a legal obligation to perform their duties honestly and efficiently. The heirs to an estate can hold a personal representative personally accountable for harming the estate's financial standing by neglect or deliberate action.

A will typically names the deceased's choice for personal representative, and probate courts will normally honor this choice. When no will exists, or if the personal representative named in the will declines to serve or cannot serve, the court has the authority to appoint a personal representative. Once the personal representative is appointed, the probate court recognizes the personal representative's authority to act on behalf of the deceased's estate. The court issues a document, called "letters of administration," identifying the personal representative as the estate's official representative. A personal representative can show this document to a bank officer, for example, to gain access to a checking

account.

Needless to say, the personal representative should be a trusted family member or close friend who will act to carry out the wishes of the deceased.

A person who decides that he/she does not want to be a personal representative can decline the appointment. A back-up, or successor, personal representative is then appointed. Similarly, if the personal representative feels that the job involves more effort than one person can handle, the court may appoint a co-personal representative.

4. Informing the affected parties

The personal representative is responsible for formal notification and the publishing of public notices in newspapers to inform potential heirs and creditors about the probate proceeding. After giving notice, waiting periods follow. Creditors, heirs, and others can file their claims against the estate during these periods of time.

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Mr. Myers is the owner of Akerson Law Offices which is located at 1135 Pasadena Avenue South, Suite 140, St. Petersburg. 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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<p>Wednesday Ray & Diane Karaoke 9-12</p>	<p>Thursday DJ Marcus</p>
<p>Friday Ray & Diane Karaoke 9-12</p>	<p>Saturday Juke Box 9-12</p>
<p>Sunday DJ Marcus 8 - 12</p>	

727-327-9100 • 727-455-9860 • Regular hours 9am - 3am

Reading Paws at the Gulfport Library

Everyone's favorite golden is back at Gulfport Library! Did you know reading to a pet can help boost your child's literary confidence? Come to the Gulfport Library Tuesday, October 28 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. to read a story to Maya, the reading assistance golden retriever. To make an appointment with Maya please call Cailey at 893-1133 or email eklasson@mygulfport.us.

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Halloween Double Feature

Trace Taylor and the City of Imagination Arts building will be showing a free double feature film Friday night, October 31 starting at 7 p.m. Come anytime to 11 p.m.

They will be showing Roman Polanski's 1967 "The Fearless Vampire Killers" (with Sharon Tate) and Ridley Scott's 2012 "Prometheus."

There will be no charge, but they will have a donation jug set up to help maintain equipment and support the free community movie nights they will be doing twice a month this winter. Stay tuned for more info.

Bring your own beverages and food; there are also plenty of great restaurants to grab take out from.

For more information, call Trace Taylor at 813-486-5437

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

Thursday, October 30
7:00 pm

Lynn Waddell's presentation of
Fringe Florida:

The Unusual Subcultures
of the Sunshine State
(Based on her book)

Presented by Circle of Friends
of the Gulfport Library.

Learn about her travels among
Mud Boggers, Furries,
Ufologists, Nudists,
& other lovers of
unconventional lifestyles.

Try your hand at Sudoku

Solution on Page 18

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

Gulfport Senior Center Foundation
& Roger Bell, Association Manager, Town Shores
presents



MONSTER MASH SOCK HOP



Gulfport Casino • October 25th • 7-11pm

**MUSIC • DANCING • FOOD
COSTUME CONTESTS • RAFFLE PRIZES**

Tickets: \$12 / each, \$20 / couple

Sold at:

Beach Bazaar, Gulfport Casino, Town Shores Office, or at the door



Gulfport Recreation

Recreation Center 5730 Shore Blvd. S. 893-1068

RECREATION WEBSITE: mygulfport.us and follow the links: City Departments, Leisure Services, Rec. Center.

ACTIVITIES

Open Gym/Gameroom - Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and Tues. & Thurs., 7:30-9 p.m. Annual reg. \$2 res/\$22 non-res.
Pickleball - Mon., 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Annual reg. \$2 res/\$22 non-res.
Table Tennis - Tue., 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Annual reg. \$2 res/\$22 non-res.

PROGRAMS

2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR CHILD CARE PROGRAM - On-going registrations for the 2014-2015 School Year Child Care Program are currently being accepted for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Non-refundable annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 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.

2014-2015 TEEN NIGHT PROGRAM - On-going registrations for the 2014-2015 Teen Night Program are currently being accepted. The Teen Night Program is a great hang out for teens in middle school to age 17. 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 more info.

CLASSES

Call instructor for more information.

Beginner's Spanish - Mon., 6-7 p.m. Call Ivone at 727-482-2125 for more info.
Beginner's Spanish - Starts Mon., November 3rd, 7:15-8:15 p.m. Call Ivone at 727-482-2125 for more info.
Fencing - Wed., 4:30 p.m. Call Ian Forestier at 823-0922.
German - Returns on November 4th. Call 727-755-3459 or Pegasus.scholar@gmail.com
Gymnastics - Thurs., 5:30-6:30 p.m. Call Barbara at 804-9400.
Hatha Flow Yoga AM - Returns in the Fall. Call Valerie at 557-4258.
Hatha Flow Yoga PM - Returns on Wed., November 5th, 5:30-6:15 p.m. Call Tamara at 512-2763.
Kids Karate - Thur. 6-6:45 p.m. ages 5-8 years old. Call Andel 727-459-1319
Karate - Mon. & Thurs., 6:30 p.m. Call Andel 727-459-1319
Tai Chi - Tues. & Thurs., 9:00-10:15 a.m. Call

Marge at 345-6708.
Tennis - Tues., 5 p.m. for 10 & under, 6 p.m. for Adults and Fri., 5 p.m. for juniors. Call Jack at 280-4276.
Urban Survivor Bootcamp Fitness - Tues., 6:15-7:15 p.m. Call Donnie Ali-McClendon at 727-550-7185.
Women's Self-Defense - Thur., 6:30-7:30 p.m. Call Donnie Ali-McClendon at 727-550-7185.
Yoga in the A M - Returns in the Fall. Call Valerie at 557-4258.
Zumba - Returns on Thurs., November 6th, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Call Rachel at 419-905-5562 for more info.

TOMLINSON LAKE SKATE PARK

As of October 1st, ALL skaters/bicyclists MUST purchase a new City of Gulfport Skate Park sticker to use the City of Gulfport's Tomlinson 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, 2014 - September 30, 2015. Bicycles permitted on WEDNESDAYS and SUNDAYS only.



Gulfport Library

Search our online catalog: pals.polarislibrary.com

5501 28th Ave. So. 727-893-1074
or fax 344-6386

The Library is OPEN for all regular service and activities as scheduled

Technology Programs

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

Beginning iPad Class: Thursday, Nov. 6, 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Learn how to both enjoy and benefit from your new technology. Pre-registration required. Sign up at the Reference Desk or call 727-893-1073.

Adult/All Ages Programs

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).

Gulfport Toastmasters: Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:30 pm. FMI, call 727-827-7875.

Women's AA Club: Fridays, 5:45 - 6:45 pm. FMI, call 893-1073.

Coffee/Talk Book Club: Thurs., Nov. 20, 11:00 am. Discussion of the classic, Tao te ching, 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. Acoustic Jam Session with Alex: Mon., Oct. 27, 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Join in and get in touch with your musical self. FMI, call 893-1073, Alex.

SCORE Counseling: Tues., Oct. 28, FREE &

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

Meet Rasheedah Sharif, Author: Thursday, Oct. 30, 5:00 pm. She will discuss her inspirational novel, Don't Come Down From the Chinaberry Tree. FMI about her work, visit www.rasheedahsharif.com.

Free Family Movie Day: Sat., Nov. 15, two movies, starting at 10:30 am and 1:30 p.m. Join us as for this popular monthly program. Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. For movie titles, call 727-893-1074.

Children/Family Programs

Science Club for K-5th Grade: Mondays, 3:00 - 4:00 pm. Back by popular demand! More fun for inquiring minds.

Storytime: Join Cailey every Thursday morning for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers. Sing songs, play instruments and meet other caregivers in the community. Thursdays, 10:30-11:00 am.

Yoga Storytimes: Thurs., Oct. 23, 3:00 pm for 2-4 year olds; 3:30 pm for 5-10 year olds. Don't worry-we won't split up siblings. All children must be accompanied by a caregiver. Mats a plus but not required. Call Cailey at 893-1133 for more info. Space is limited so

sign up early!

Teen Programs

Teen Hangout: Wednesdays, 3:00 - 4:30 pm. Play XBOX, watch movies, get help with homework, listen to music, and just have fun.

Teen Anime Club: Friday, Nov. 14, 3:00 - 4:30 pm. Get together on the 2nd Friday of the month to screen fun flicks while enjoying crunchy munchies. Network with other fans. For ages 12-18. FMI, call 893-1133 FMI.

**For more information, contact:
GULFPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Open Monday-Friday: 10 am-7 pm
& Saturday: 10 am-4 pm**

**All meetings and programs are FREE and
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

**PROGRAMS AND DATES ARE SUBJECT
TO CHANGE.**

**For more information, call: 727-893-1074
or check our website mygulfport.us/gpl**

Find Us On Facebook!

Department

Senior Center

**5501 27th Ave. S.
727-893-1231**

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center hours are Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. This month's calendar is out with valuable information. Stop by the Senior Center or download your copy at www.mygulfport.us and click the Senior Center link.

The Gulfport Senior Center Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 - 3 p.m. You must be over 50 and a Gulfport resident. Pre-qualification is also needed before use of the pantry. Please bring your Gulfport Picture I.D., a utility bill and proof of income. For more information, please see Rachel at the Center or call 893-1231.

Do you know someone who lives alone and could use a friendly check in call? Volunteers for the Re-assurance Telephone Program call Gulfport seniors every Monday through Saturday between 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. To sign up for this program, please visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

Special Events

Improv & Storytelling - Mondays @ 5:30 pm. Participants will learn the basics of improvisation, create & perform new stories together every. Experts & beginners are all welcome.

HCA Health Talks: News For Total Joint Replacement - Mon., 10/27 @ 2:30 pm. Dr. Rafat Nashed will update you on hip, knee, & other joint replacement advancements.

Monthly Mini Health Clinic - Thurs., 10/30 (Last Thursday of Every Month) @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. FREE health screenings: Blood Pressure, Vein, Vision, Hearing, Medicine Review, HIV, Balance, & Memory. Screenings may differ month to month depending on availability.

Hurricanes: Decision Making Realities - Weds., 10/29 @ 4:00 pm. This well researched & colorful presentation covers the local history of hurricanes & tropical storms & what you should know to make your personal decisions when a storm threatens.

HBO's "The Alzheimer's Project" Documentary Series - Fri., 10/31 @ 10:00 am. Take a look at the faces behind the disease & the forces leading us to a cure. Provided by The Alzheimer's Association.

Eckerd College OLLI - "The Wizard of Menlo Park: Thomas Alva Edison" - Mon., 11/3 @ 5:30 pm. Join us as we take a look at the life of the incredibly productive & often conflicted individual known as "the man who turned night into day," Thomas Alva Edison. MUST register prior to event by calling Eckerd College @ 727.864.7600. \$5 to OLLI

Family Town Hall Series - Tues., 11/4 @ 11:00 am. Are you tired of being ignored when your services or benefits get cut? We want to hear from you in the Town Hall Series. Sponsored by: For the Family. In Partnership with Neighborly Care Network.

Professional Speakers Bureau - Weds., 11/5 @ 2:00 pm. Join us for a free educational seminar. Ask the experts "SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?" Door prizes & refreshments. Please RSVP 727.893.1231.

1st Friday Flea Market - Fri., 11/7 @ 9:00 am - Noon. Don't miss out! Stop by and check out all the great deals!

HCA Health Talks: Understanding COPD - Mon., 11/10 @ 2:30 pm. COPD symptoms are sometimes dismissed as a "smoker's cough." The more you

know about the causes, symptoms, diagnosis, & treatment, the better your chances of preventing & treating COPD.

Law of Attraction: "Creating an Attitude of Gratitude" - Weds., 11/12 @ 1:30 pm. What is gratitude? How can changing your outlook to one of appreciation affect your life? Come learn how being grateful can bring other positive things into your life?

Cell Phone Class - Thurs., 11/13 @ 2:00 pm. Tony & Christine from The Cell Phone Solution will be here to answer your questions about your cell phone.

HBO's "The Alzheimer's Project" Documentary Series - Fri., 11/14 @ 10:00 am. This film highlights the challenges & successes of people who experience their loved one's gradual descent into dementia. Provided by The Alzheimer's Association.

Special Services

This is your Center! - Sign up today to enjoy all the classes and events offered at the Gulfport Senior Center. Ask Rachel to give you a tour! Pick up a copy of this month's schedule at the Senior Center or online at www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org. The Senior Center currently offers 55 monthly classes for residents over 50 to choose from. Membership required. Senior Center registration is easy and free.

FREE Phones for persons with mild to severe hearing loss - Florida residents with certified hearing loss are eligible to receive a free amplified phone from the non-profit Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI). Cordless and corded phones are available through FTRI at the Gulfport Senior Center every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am. You MUST call 727-399-9983 to qualify.

Community Law Program - Legal assistance is available from the Community Law Program every 3rd Friday of the month. You must be 60 years of age or older and qualify with the program. Call 727-582-7480 to qualify and to make the appointment. If you qualify, the legal assistance is free. The Community Law Program is provided by St. Petersburg Attorneys and exists to empower the most vulnerable in our community through pro bono legal representations and assistance and outreach.

G.E.M.S. Gulfport Extended Mobility Service Affordable transportation for Gulfport residents 55 and over as well as disabled under 55. \$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. NEW SCHEDULE AVAILABLE.

FITNESS CENTER SCHEDULE: Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 7:00 pm, Friday: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. 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.

Snack Bar

Bring a friend to the Senior Center and enjoy a light breakfast for only \$3.00 or lunch for only \$4.00. In a hurry? Order a boxed lunch-to-go by calling 893-2259. Great food! Great prices!

Support Groups

Diabetic Support Group on Mondays at 9:30am

Caregivers: Every Wednesday at 12:30pm

Hearing Loss Support Group, 1st & 3rd Mondays at 2:00 pm

Visual Support Group, 2nd & 4th Mondays at 2:00 pm

More Activities

To view the Senior Center calendar in its entirety, please log onto www.mygulfport.us

To view calendar events,
please visit mygulfport.us



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

Saturday, October 25
7:00 - 11:00pm

MONSTER MASH SOCK HOP
Food, dancing, raffles, costume contest.
Tickets: \$12 each or \$20 per couple.
Available at Town Shores office,
Beach Bazaar & Casino

Sunday, October 26
6:00 - 11:00pm

Ballroom Fusion Dance
Hosted by Swing Time
6:00 - 7:00pm: Waltz Lesson
7:00 - 8:00pm: Viennese Waltz Lesson
8:00 - 11:00pm: Dancing (Ballroom & Fusion Mix)
\$7 Admission ~ No partner needed
www.SwingTime.info

Monday, October 27
7:00 - 10:15pm

USA Ballroom Dance
U.S. Amateur Ballroom Dance
Association Dance & Lesson
Great DJ music, Dance hosts,
Show at 8:30pm 727-576-1206
Members - \$5 Non-members - \$7

Wednesday, October 29
7:00pm - 12:00am

SWING TIME HALLOWEEN BALL
7:00-8:00pm - Zombie Shim Sham lesson
8:00pm-12:00am - Swing Dancing
Costume contest, treats and prizes
\$8 admission

Sunday, November 2
6:00 - 10:00pm

Ballroom Dance with
Freddy Mack &
The Royal Blue Dance Band
\$7 Admission

Casino Weekly Dances

Ballroom Lessons every Tuesday
Noon - 3pm \$7
Argentine Tango every Tuesday
7 - 11pm \$7
Swing Dance every Wednesday
6 - 11pm \$7
Salsa Dance every Thursday
6:30 - 10pm \$7
Ballroom Fusion Dance most Sundays
6 - 11pm \$7

Gulfport Getaways - Tues., 11/18 - Robert's Christmas Wonderland. Explore the magical holiday forest at one of the largest & most beautiful Christmas & Collectibles Stores in America. Call GEMS at 727-893-2242 to reserve your seat by 11/12. GEMS Members \$6 / Non-GEMS Members \$8. (YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A GEMS MEMBER TO ENJOY GULFPORT GETAWAYS.)



Somethin' on my mind

By Bill Northrop

B_Northrop@theGabber.com

Don't Depend on the Bureaucracy

What in the world do we need an Ebola czar and a new multi-layered bureaucracy when we already have a Surgeon General of the United States who has been designated the highest public health officer in the federal government and whose duties are to protect, promote and advance the health of the nation?

Dr. Boris Lusniak is the acting surgeon general and is an expert in skin diseases and holds a master's degree in public health. He also has broad experience in special medical assignments across the world. He's qualified and, as indicated by his biography, has been an effective leader in dealing with world-wide health problems. Theoretically he heads up an elite corp of 6,800 uniformed officer public health personnel and has military status (rear admiral).

Instead we get a political mover and shaker (and fund raiser/spinner) Ron Klain, with no medical experience or knowledge that anyone has bragged about. He replaces Dr. Thomas Frieden, chief of the Center for Disease Control who has the credentials and knowledge but made a series of mistakes. I say "replaces"

but that's not accurate. Dr. Frieden wasn't replaced, but supplanted by pure politics. Dr. Frieden, for all his purported mistakes, had as his biggest problem that this country was not prepared – in spite of a huge bureaucracy looking after our health – to cope with an incident that was as the president said was, "very unlikely to occur here." We spend more time and effort on designing nutritional school lunches.

Even critics of the administration think someone should head up the effort to deal with the threat of Ebola. They just don't think it should be Klain. I agree, but find it appalling that the existing executive branch of government with all its money, knowledge and expertise, and millions of employees (including the surgeon general's office and the CDC) has to create a new bureaucracy to handle any new problem. That's a sad commentary on the organization of our government. Our government just doesn't work very well for all its power and size – which might just be the problem.

No. I still don't think we are going to have a full blown epidemic here. A handful of cases aren't an epidemic. And, yes, other diseases such as flu are more widespread and kill thousands a year. The problem with Ebola is that it appears to be 70 percent fatal, plus or minus

depending upon circumstances.

Also, it's stupid not to stop people coming here from West Africa or quarantine those who do. In 2009, during the swine flu epidemic, my daughter-in-law and grandchildren, who were on a Christian missionary trip to China, were quarantined in their rooms for a week when they arrived. That made sense, too.

I agree, too, that the best way to control the epidemic is to stop it in West Africa. We're helping to do that now – way too late and probably without enough vigor. Half measures aren't going to do it. We have to rally the world to that cause. That's partly the fault of another badly functioning organization: the World Health Organization. They have openly admitted that they didn't move soon enough on the epidemic and that most of the WHO appointees in those countries are unqualified political hacks. That's according to a recent internal memo obtained by the Associated Press.

All in all, the performance of government has been lacking mainly because we're expecting too much. The federal government can't oversee a country of this population and diversity and size. We have to be prepared on the local level. The Dallas hospital that handled the fatal case wasn't, but just thought they were. Interestingly, the hospital at Emory University in Atlanta where the CDC is headquartered were and is. Why, for instance, didn't officials at the Dallas hospital contact the Emory hospital which had already dealt with the problem and ask them for advice?

Having an Ebola Czar and a new bureaucracy is a waste of money and time, time being the most important aspect. The faster we bring implementation down to the state and local level the better off we'll be. A little common sense would help, too.

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Somethin' on My Mind is an opinion column written by Bill Northrop. It does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Gabber publishers, staff or advertisers. Contact Bill at B_Northrop@theGabber.com.

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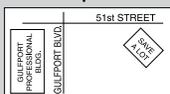


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 Thursday 8:30 - 1:00

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Letters

Light Rail

Dear Editor: Any number of disingenuous, fallacious and ultimately easily debunked arguments for why we should vote billions of dollars to construct a light rail system between Clearwater and St. Petersburg have been put forward by Greenlight Pinellas. These include:

"Tampa Bay will never take its rightful place among top-tier cities without light rail."

First, we're not talking "Tampa Bay," we're talking St. Pete/Clearwater. Secondly, "Tampa Bay" has been a destination city for decades. It has three major league sports franchises; has hosted the World Series, Super Bowls, and the NCAA Final Four; the GOP national convention and Bollywood awards, among others; and its beaches are a popular draw for tourists.

"Light rail is essential to draw both new development and industry."

Neither commercial nor residential developers are especially interested in the noise levels attendant with light rail. Remember Jake Elwood's apartment next to Chicago's El in the Blues Brothers movie? Moreover, both the directors of Merit Advisors and a commercial real estate firm said that their priorities are availability of a skilled workforce and the cost of doing business. "Mass transit has never been a driving force for us," said one.

Chief among Greenlight's selling points is that the portion of property taxes currently funding the area's transit will be eliminated by the one-cent increase in sales taxes. In Minneapolis, a tax increase is being talked about to cover the massive deficits incurred by its light rail

system. How long do you suppose it will be before Greenlight comes, hat in hand, to reinstate the property tax it now wants to eliminate?

With no valid argument for light rail, Greenlight supporters have resorted to the "keeping up with the Joneses" argument.

"Tampa Bay is the only major urban area without light rail."

Seriously? This is the best Greenlight can come up with to sell this boondoggle? St. Pete/Clearwater's combined population is 353,049. Charlotte's is 671,588. The missed deadlines, scaled-back route, construction cost overruns, and exorbitant operating, maintenance and administrative costs of Charlotte's 9.6-mile system are legendary. Greenlight proposed line is 26 miles. We won't be keeping up with Charlotte; we'll be barreling past them in our rush to fiscal doom.

Nowhere in the country has light rail lived up to its promised potential. What on earth makes its supporters think it will here?

David A. Highlands
St. Petersburg

Say Goodbye to Red Light Cameras

Dear Editor: It appears as though one of the city's biggest cash cows (red light cameras) just got barbecued up by Judge Mark W. Klingensmith of the 4th District Court of Appeals of the State of Florida.

On October 15, 2014, the Judge Klingensmith of the 4th District Florida Appeals Court ruled that the process set forth in the contract between American Traffic Solutions (ATS) and Hollywood, Florida, does not comply with the law because

the law does not grant the city an authority to delegate to a private third party vendor the ability to issue uniform traffic citations – only law enforcement officers and Traffic Infraction Enforcement Officers (TIEO) can.

The Judge wrote: "It is the vendor who initially determines who is subject to prosecution for a red light violation; it is the vendor that obtains the information necessary for the completion of the citation; it is the vendor that creates the actual citation; it is the vendor that issues the citation to the registered owner of the vehicle; and it is the vendor that eventually transmits the traffic citation data to the court."

Make no mistake: The contract the city of Gulfport has with ATS is the same standard contract ATS had with Hollywood and breaks the same laws.

Apparently we are all victims of this massive scam orchestrated by ATS. I expect nothing less than an apology by city officials, removal of all red light cameras, and reimbursement for all citations because we citizens deserve to be treated better than this.

So the next time a vendor approaches city council and says, "Have I got a deal for you," our council members should run for shelter, bar the doors, bar the windows, and just say no.

Deborah Blake

Letters to the Editor

The Gabber encourages and welcomes all letters. Please keep letters as brief and to the point as possible. Letters must be signed by the author and may be emailed to publisher@thegabber.com, mailed or dropped at the Gabber office. Commentary posted to thegabber.com or on Gabber Facebook pages may also appear in the paper. All commentary is subject to editing for length, clarity and content at the discretion of the editors. The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers, staff or advertisers.

POTATO BAKE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25th

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Sponsored by

Gulfport United Methodist Men
Church Fellowship Hall
2728 53rd Street South

MENU

Large baked Idaho potato...
LOADED with chives, chili, broccoli,
cheese, you name it!
With salad, dessert, and coffee/tea/etc.

DONATIONS

\$6 per person

Take out available

Gulfport First Responders Get ATV

Gulfport's penchant for street parties means a new vehicle for the fire department, but its usefulness won't end when the festivals go dark; the new all-terrain special rescue vehicle will allow first responders faster access to Clam Bayou's land parts, the beach, the Pinellas Trail, and any areas too small for traditional rescue units.

"We can get into Osgood Point," Fire Chief Jim Marenkovic said. "Also, we can get to the beach."

The all-terrain vehicle will cost just over \$22,000.

...

Spooktacular Halloween Bash

The city of Gulfport's Recreation Division is excited and preparing for their 2014 Spooktacular Halloween Bash set for Friday, October 31 at the Gulfport Recreation Center located at 5730 Shore Blvd. S.

New this year will be a Trunk-or-Treat where local Gulfport businesses will hand out candy to the children as they "trick or treat" around the parking lot. All the spooktacular festivities will begin at 7 p.m. with a bigger and better frightful haunted house, a "Boo Room for Tots," a costume contest for ages 0 to 17 including a family theme and a Haunted Snack Shack.

The Haunted Snack Shack will sell pizza slices for a \$1, "potion" for 50¢ and popcorn for 50¢. The costume contest will begin at 8 p.m. Winners will be chosen from eight age categories: 0-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-12, 13-17 and Family. There will be three awards given in each age category. The fun ends at 9 p.m. Plan to be there, as they are "dying" to see you!

...

Hatha Yoga Returns

Starting on November 5 Hatha Yoga with Tamara is back at Gulfport Recreation Center. The class is from 6 to 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays. Bring a mat, water, and towel and enjoy an evening of yoga flow. For more information please contact Tamara at 727-512-2763 or happyharteyoga@gmail.com.

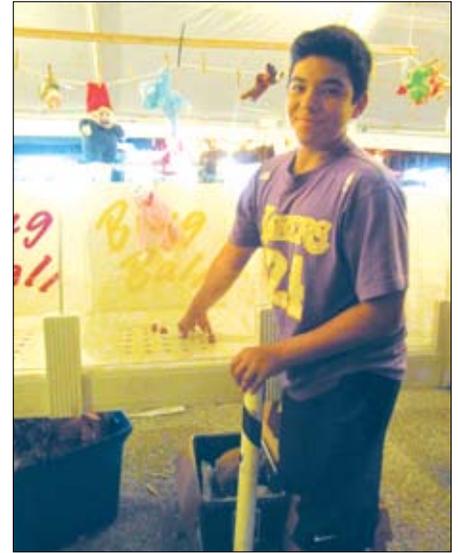
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Gabber October 23 – October 29, 2014

Oktoberfest Goes Bing

Elizabeth Brown-Worthington

Santiago Tovar, a freshman at Pinellas Park High School and also a member of Holy Name's Spanish community, volunteered at the Bing-Ball tent at Holy Name's annual Oktoberfest. The festival hosted rides for all ages, games, live music, food and beer. They also had 32 different raffle baskets up for grabs with everything from an e-reader to gift certificates to a gardening basket. Additionally, there was a 50/50 raffle which brought in a grand total of over \$6,000 dollars with the lucky winner receiving over \$3,000. Of course Bing-Ball, the fan favorite, made its appearance and remained busy all weekend.





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Political advertisement paid for and approved by Kathleen Peters, Republican for Florida House, District 69.

Overheard at the October 21, 2014

Gulfport City Council Meeting

Public Comment & Council Quotes

"I'm inviting everybody to come out Saturday night... We need everybody to buy their tickets ahead of time because we won't be selling at the door." – Nicole Spence, about Gulfport Under the Stars, a fundraiser for the Gulfport Historical Society that will take place Saturday night.

"We're looking forward to a great day." – Margarete Tober, about the Mayors' Cleanup along 49th Street this Saturday. Gulfport Neighbors organized the cleanup.

"They are not finding any problems on their side of the street... I cannot afford this bill. My next door neighbor has a \$250 bill, too." – Page Caccamo, about a high water bill she told council didn't result from her water usage habits.

"We've had a lot of names on that building and I don't think we'd have a problem adding Bryer Hall to that building." – City Manager Jim O'Reilly, about a request to restore the name "Bryer Hall" to the side of the dog park building. Charlie Bryer was a community leader associated with the former shuffleboard courts.

"It's a pretty good article from 1980." – Ward One Councilmember Dan Liedtke, holding up a 1980 Gabber article about Charlie Bryer.

"There's a lot of other unique things going on that I can't share because they're secrets." – Ward One Councilmember Dan Liedtke about the November 9 VetSports Beach Volleyball Gulfport Open.

"One time we found a bag of money. Just saying." – Vice Mayor Christine Brown, about the annual Clam Bayou cleanup

"I want to put a nomination for Spirit of Gulfport... It's for Margarete Tober." – Ward Three Councilmember Yolanda Roman, who cited Tober's efforts with the Gulfport Neighbors.

"As we go forward and replace playgrounds in the future, I'd like us to consider it." – Ward One Councilmember Dan Liedtke, about providing covers for playgrounds.

"I think it's a great idea." – Vice-Mayor Christine Brown. Mayor Sam Henderson and Ward One councilmember Dan Liedtke also offered their agreement that Tober should receive the award.

"I was at the cleanup at Clam Bayou. The no-sees were at the cleanup at Clam Bayou." – Ward Four Councilmember Michael Fridovich

"We're need to have to have a fish-off." – Ward One Councilmember Dan Liedtke. Two weeks ago Liedtke and Mayor Sam Henderson tied for first place at the Gulfport Historical Society's annual mullet toss, which was sponsored by the Sea Scouts.

"If you would like to dine with the mullet king... he will be there Saturday night." – Vice Mayor Christine Brown, about Gulfport Under the Stars.

"It's one of the biggest events that we have. It includes a frightful haunted house, a boo room for tots, a costume contest... This year we're also seeking Gulfport businesses to participate in our Trunk of Treat." – Recreation Supervisor Marivel Gutierrez, about the Halloween festivities at the Michael J. Yakes Recreation Complex.

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Monster Mash Sock Hop

The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation and Roger Bell, Association Manager of Town Shores, present the Monster Mash Sock Hop. This event will be held on October 25 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Blvd S. There will be music, dancing and food available. There will be a costume contest and raffle prizes.

Tickets are \$12 each or \$20 per couple. Tickets are available at Gulfport Beach Bazaar, Town Shores office and at the door. The proceeds will benefit the Gulfport Senior Center.

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Halloween Hat Contest and Workshops

Thursdays in October, from 6 to 9 p.m., FAB Fiber, 5440 29th Ave. S., is host hat-making workshops to inspire awe and horror! Bring a hat and supplies to decorate or use one of theirs (limited supply) and use supplies in their stash to create an awesome Halloween Hat. The fee is \$25. RSVP 727-744-7051 or by info@

fabfibergulfport.com.

Ten percent of the fee benefits First Florida Frontiers, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit company of the Historic Florida Militia, Inc. Celebrating Florida through art, storytelling and music. Visit floridafrontier.com

Bring your handmade, upcycled hat Friday, October 31, 7 to 10 p.m. to the Art Village Courtyard for a Halloween Hat Contest! Enjoy Spooky Song Open Mike, and fabulous prizes!

...

Kenwood Celebrates Artist Enclave

St. Petersburg City Council unanimously approved Historic Kenwood to become an Artist Enclave Overlay District. This designation, the first of its kind in St. Petersburg, will be celebrated during Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association's BungalowFest weekend November 1 and 2.

The weekend will kick off on Saturday, November 1, at 7: p.m., with an evening gala featuring dining and music under the stars and a gallery opening, "Art in the Heart of Kenwood," which will showcase over 20 artists from the Artist Enclave

of Historic Kenwood. The gallery will be opened again on Sunday, November 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the celebrated BungalowFest home tour.

Kenwood's bungalow houses, with open porches, detached garages and unique architectural details, coupled with a welcoming, diverse community make this neighborhood a home destination for dozens of performing and visual artists. Nationally and internationally known artists – pianist Ray Luck, painters Steven Kenny and Curtis Snear, CyberCraft Robots studio, to name a few, and many talented local artists have settled into eclectic Historic Kenwood.

Saturday Evening Gala, November 1, 2900 7th Ave. N, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$40 (includes home tour ticket).

Sunday Home Tour, November 2, Seminole Park, 2900 Burlington Ave. N., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$15 in advance, \$20 day of.

To purchase tickets please visit Craftsman House Gallery, 2955 Central Avenue, ARTicles Art Gallery and Custom Framing, 1445 Central Avenue, or HistoricKenwood.org.

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Happy 100th Birthday, Ms. Danuta!

Ms. Danuta Bialasiewicz of Gulfport turned 100 years old this month. She had a birthday party in her home with family and friends.

Please help us celebrate her birthday month by sending her a birthday card attention: Jean Audino, 4919 28th Avenue, South, Gulfport, FL 33707.



Gulfport Players Holding Auditions

Looking for men (30s to 60s) and one woman (30s), the Gulfport Community Players are holding auditions Monday and Tuesday, November 10 and 11 to select the cast for "Escanaba in da Moonlight" running January 8 to 25.

Jim Cartwright is directing this comedy written by actor Jeff Daniels.

This is a hunting story to beat all hunting stories that spins a hilarious tale of humor, horror and heart as 35-year-old Reuben Soady works mightily to bag his first buck and finally take his place in the family record book. The play includes roles for five guys and one gal who can play the following ages.

Albert Soady – early 60s

Reuben Soady – 35

Remnar Soady – 33

Ranger Tom T. Treado – early 40s

Jemmer Negamanee – ageless

Wolf Moon Dance Soady – female in her 30s

Auditions will be held at 7 p.m. at the Back Door Theater, 1619 49th St. S. in Gulfport. Plan to arrive at 6:30 to complete an audition form. Photos will not be taken and resumes are not necessary.

The Gulfport Players encourage actors with all levels of experience – including absolutely none at all – to try out for roles in any of its plays.

For more information, please visit GulfportCommunityPlayers.org.

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Circus McGurkis,

from front page

“That was my mission. It’s still my mission,” she says, “to restore the environment and the sense of community.”

She classifies her spirituality as “Quagan” – a Quaker Pagan. “At the core,” she says, “there is a reverence for all living things, in both of the paths that I follow, so I choose which pieces of those paths to put together.”

Quakers are called “a society of friends in unity with nature,” Henderson says.

To be a Quaker, according to Henderson, means to bring peace and harmony to the world. “We believe in solving all kinds of conflicts through cooperation and non-violent interaction,” she says. “Which is not to say that we don’t resist the bad things from happening... but we try to be led by spirit.”

Pagans are also led by spirit, Henderson says. “[Pagans] believe in trans- and invisible forces, which create a unity for the whole world... It is our job to do our part to make the world a place of balance and peace and harmony.”

Circus McGurkis is a festival that encourages this message, Henderson says.

Quakerism began as a Christian group in 1600s, and incorporated acceptance and tolerance of all different points of view, Henderson explains. The Quakers were among the first abolitionists of slavery, and among the first to accept gay and lesbian rights, Henderson says.

Quaker artists helped found Circus McGurkis in 1971, a festival where all community groups are given a voice and all assemble despite many different causes, says Henderson.

Circus McGurkis – an idea from the Dr. Seuss book “If I Ran the Circus” – “could be any wild and crazy and fabulous thing,” Henderson says. “It’s a metaphor for peace – what kind of peaceful, wonderful and joyous thing would I put into the world? What would it be if every person had a chance to share their point of view and everyone got along?”

The 43rd annual Circus McGurkis peace education celebration is slated for Saturday, October 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lake Vista Park, 1401 62nd Ave. S., in St. Petersburg. For information, visit circusmcgurkis.org.

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Hard Candy

By Cathy Salustri

Why You Should Attend the Mayors' Cleanup Saturday

If you can read this, you can come to Saturday morning's Mayors' 49th Street Cleanup. Gulfport Mayor Sam Henderson and St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman will join the Gulfport Neighbors and the Childs Park Neighborhood Association in a joint cleanup of 49th Street.

In and of itself, this cleanup is not a big deal. Cleanups, especially in Gulfport and thanks to the Gulfport Neighbors, happen all the time. It's not really a big deal, certainly not worthy of a whole column.

But here's what is: This is not just politicians. Gulfport Neighbors organized this, and I have to credit Margarete Tober, the head of the organization, for engaging the Childs Park community. Gulfport long ago threw up its hands and appeared to have said, "Well, there's no more we can do to improve things along 49th Street. It's up to St. Petersburg residents now." St. Petersburg, prior to Kriseman assuming the reigns, had an "Emperor's New Clothes" approach to crime and quality of life issues along 49th Street.

I have heard, more times than I can count, that it's a "community standards" issue and if crime is higher than it should be, or if the arrests are targeted in one way or another, or even if the buildings look like hell, it's because the surrounding community finds it acceptable.

Margarete doesn't believe that, and if you know her you know she is a force. To my delight – my issues with 49th Street and the horrid

disregard shown for black residents on the east side of the corridor are well documented – she decided it was time to rally the troops.

She found a partner of sorts in a man called Brother John. I don't know him yet but hope to meet him at Saturday's cleanup. He's the president of the Childs Park Neighborhood Association, and he's rallying his neighbors to take part in the cleanup as well.

It's just a cleanup. I know that. It really shouldn't be a big deal.

But it is. To me, it's huge, and not because of the cleanup, but because I've heard for years that Childs Park and other south St. Pete residents don't care about the litter in or look of their communities, that they accept more crime and don't mind lack of decent groceries and other niceties we take for granted. Note that although I said "south St. Pete residents" I don't really believe that's what people mean when they say it. I mean, the streets of Broadwater and the pink streets aren't really rife with old Mello Yello bottles and Swisher cigar wrappers, are they?

So the way I interpret that – and the way most of us do but are too afraid to say it aloud – is "black people." Childs Park, by one estimation, is 97% black. Surrounding communities, except for Gulfport, are also predominately black. And while we all sit over here and grouse about the crime, most people also say "South Side residents" are content to exist as they do. Which to me screams tons more racism than anything else.

I have never believed that – the notion that people live a lesser existence because they don't mind. I find it insulting and suppressive. Trying to change this by going through elected officials is about

useless, because the folks currently representing the black communities are doing a pretty poor job of representing the residents (I am not talking about Mayor Kriseman, to be clear). A person who cared less about how much she upset people would call such representatives Uncle Toms, because they appear more concerned with what the white people think of them than what they can actually do to help their own people.

Thankfully, people don't need to rely on those representatives. The swelling of support – simply because Margarete contacted them and asked them to participate – from Childs Park proves that the people who live there care about their community and they consider 49th Street part of it, and will show up to put teeth in their words.

I have high hopes that I will see all of you out there Saturday, supporting this initiative. I also have high hopes that this cleanup will start a greater dialogue and segue into a conversation held between communities about how we can look beyond "this is how it's always been" and see each other as people. I hope that Gulfportians don't stay on one side of the street and St. Petersburgers don't stay on the other. I have faith that once we take, physically, the first steps towards each other, we can start to work with one another, not in spite of each other.

I may be making too much of this, but this Saturday, I suspect, could be the start of a beautiful friendship.

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Hard Candy is an opinion column written by veteran reporter Cathy Salustri. It does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Gabber publishers, staff or advertisers. Contact Cathy Salustri at CathySalustri@theGabber.com.

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