

Largo man arrested in crime spree

Suspect charged with carjacking, burglary ... Page 5A.

LARGO LEADER

Eight O'Clock Theatre show 'I Hate Hamlet' satirizes playwright

Comedy runs through July 17 at Largo Cultural Center ... Page 1B.



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LARGO



Under the weather

On July 7, the area around East Bay Drive and Fulton Drive received 2.66 inches of rain, followed by 5.1 inches between midnight and noon on Friday. ... Page 2A.

COUNTY



State stops plans for park campsites

Gov. Rick Scott and Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Herschel Vinyard announced in a press release July 8 that the Florida Park Service had been told to stop plans for expanded camping at Honeymoon Island State Park. ... Page 4A.

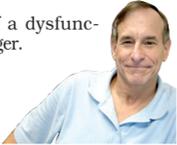
PET CONNECTION Speaking of Pets

Dr. Michael Rumore of Lake Seminole Animal Hospital describes the differences between dangerous and harmless lumps on pets. ... Page 6A.



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Ulmerton Road work set to begin

State DOT project calls for 1.5-mile segment to be widened to six lanes

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO - Here comes the construction cones; another Ulmerton Road widening project is expected to begin Aug. 2.

The first segment of the project will be from 119th Street to the Lake Seminole bypass canal. The existing four-lane highway will be widened to six lanes.

That 1.5-mile segment, at an estimated cost of about \$16.9 million, is expected to be completed in November 2013, Florida Department of Transportation officials said.

Construction will take place primarily during the day. Lane closures are permitted at night between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m. To reduce the contract times and increase "contractor productivity," the contractor will be allowed to close lanes at major intersections during the weekends.

Intersection improvements include creating dual left turn lanes on Ulmerton Road onto Ridge Road/113th Avenue South. The project also will add a new left turn lane on southbound Ridge Road onto westbound Ulmerton Road.

Additional turn lanes will be added on Seminole Boulevard in the northbound and southbound direction onto Ulmerton Road. Some median and signal improvements also are included in the work.

Over the next several weeks, the agency is expected to advertise for bids

for two additional segments of the project, from the bypass canal to Wild Acres Road and Wild Acres Road to El Centro/Ranchero Road.

Largo Mid-Pinellas Chamber of Commerce President Tom Morrisette said that at least for now, he has not heard any concerns from businesses about the project.

"We did host that transportation breakfast earlier in the year where all this information was presented, and I have been receiving FDOT updates as a result of that meeting as promised," Morrisette said. "I'm hoping they've been communicating regularly with the businesses to be impacted which I believe will prevent any significant backlash. Regardless, the work will be done."

The breakfast Morrisette referred to was held Feb. 3, at which time DOT Project Manager Timothy Drawhorn said that the last segments to go to construction will be on the east end of the highway, east of 49th Street to 38th Street, which is unfunded, and 38th Street to I-275, which was expected to begin in 2013. The estimated cost of all the unfinished work is about \$91 million, including the three projects between 119th Street and El Centro Blvd./Ranchero Blvd.). Finished and unfinished work along Ulmerton Road entails about nine miles of highway



The first segment of the Ulmerton Road widening project is from 119th Street to the Lake Seminole bypass canal. Photo by TOM GERMOND

See ROAD WORK, page 4A

Stand clear



Photo by JIM LAYFIELD

Thousands of worker bees return with nectar and pollen to produce honey and feed the larvae in their artificial hives, maintained by a Largo beekeeper. Since 2006, bee colonies have abruptly disappeared, up to 60 percent worldwide by some estimates. Studies suggest several factors such as virus, mites, pesticides, and global warming, which may be causes leading to the collapse of colonies. Besides making honey, honeybees pollinate fruits, vegetables, and nuts.

Fertilizer ban in effect in Pinellas through Sept.

By SUZETTE PORTER

About seven weeks have passed since Pinellas County's fertilizer ban went into effect. Shelves that once displayed a multitude of plant foods now seem empty.

Kelli Levy, watershed management director, said July 8, only a few complaints have come in since the county's fertilizer ban began June 1. The ban on the sale and use of fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorous from June to September is part of an ordinance passed Jan. 19, 2010, by Pinellas County Commissioners.

Commissioners delayed implementing the ban for a year to allow time to educate the public and give businesses time to plan their inventories for four months when they would not be able to sell certain fertilizer products.

Levy said the ordinance and ban are important to the work her department does to protect the environment and improve water quality.

Pinellas County has 437,000 parcels of land, and 90 percent of them are residential - meaning there are a lot of lawns and landscapes to maintain.

"We have a green addiction we need to get under control," Levy said. "We need to get green in a smarter way."

Fertilizers applied during the rainy season most often end up in the storm drains and eventually Tampa Bay where it can have a devastating effect on water quality.

Restricting the application from June to September is one way the public can help officials working to improve water quality in local waterways.

See FERTILIZER BAN, page 4A

City officials prepare for another lean fiscal year

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO - City officials are recommending a tax rate increase of about .24 mills in the proposed \$65.4 million operating budget for the next fiscal year as property tax revenues are expected to remain "virtually flat."

The proposed tax rate is 4.55 mills, equivalent to \$4.55 for every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The operating or general fund budget reflects a 3 percent increase from the fiscal year budget, largely due to the replacement of the City Hall roof for \$1.5 million. City officials said their goal is to cut \$2 million in operating fund expenditures.

"For the past five years, the city budget has been significantly impacted initially by property tax reform that mandated reduced property tax revenue, followed by the economic recession and subsequent slow recovery that resulted in a further reduction in revenues," said City Manager Mac Craig in his budget message.

"Both intergovernmental revenue and user charges have been impacted by the economy because people are buying fewer goods and services. Overall, all revenue sources are projected to be relatively flat for FY 2012, with the economy slowly improving in FY 2013 and going forward," he

said.

Because of the economic downturn, city officials said there are significant constraints on the ability of local governments to fund operations. For FY 2012, the county Property Appraiser's Office estimates a 4.4 percent decrease in the city's tax base.

No raises are proposed in the budget. The total personnel positions in the budget are 873.54, down 25.27 from the current fiscal year.

No utility increases are proposed in the next fiscal year, though increases are proposed in future years.

Budget reductions have included freezing open positions to generate short-term savings, eliminating positions, eliminating raises, tightening the budget, creating service efficiencies, and improving cost allocations among funds, Craig said.

Among other budget highlights:

- There is a \$200,000 transfer estimated in FY 2011 and a \$150,000 transfer proposed for the FY 2012 budget for the Largo Golf Course. Future general fund transfers are planned at decreasing levels throughout the 5-year period.
- As the golf course's financial situation improves, the General Fund support will be decreased, city officials said. Some city commissioners have been critical of substantial

general fund transfers to the golf course, seeking ways to make it financially stable.

• Included in the capital improvements program is the replacement of the Highland Recreation Complex at a cost of about \$15.3 million and construction of a new fire station at a cost of \$3.4 million. City officials expect to use funds from Penny for Pinellas to fund the two projects.

Long-term financial fiscal challenges, Craig said, are that the local and state economy is projected to remain weak due to a weak housing market, continuing credit crisis and high unemployment.

Projections include modest property tax revenue increases equal to income growth over the next five years. Raising the tax rate is always difficult, especially in a weak economy, Craig wrote.

The proposed tax rate of 4.55 mills is the rolled-back rate, which is the rate required to generate the same property tax revenue as in the prior year, not including new construction and annexation. The total budget is \$149 million.

City commissioners usually make more budget recommendations during work sessions in the summer before voting on the final budget and millage rate during two public hearings in September.

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City warns about flooding possibility

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO - Rain gauge data indicates that many sections of the city have received in excess of 7 inches during a 20-hour period beginning July 7 at 2 p.m.

This storm period is the result of a disturbance over the Gulf of Mexico which is pushing rain storms in a linear pattern directly over the city in what is referred to as "train event", where one storm follows another as if on a railroad track, city officials said.

On Thursday night, the area around East Bay Drive and Fulton Drive received 2.66 inches of rain, followed by 5.1 inches between midnight and noon on Friday.

Ulmerton Road at 66th Street received 3.1 inches Thursday night, followed by 3.58 inches between midnight and noon Friday. Receiving the heaviest rains were 150th Avenue and 66th Street, which received 4.55 inches

Thursday night, and an additional 4.1 inches Friday morning, for a total of 8.65 inches.

Compounding this amount of rain is the fact that much of the heavier rainfall occurred during the period of rising tides. This is critical to the areas on the east side of the city, which drain into Tampa Bay. Rising tides mean water flowing through the drainage system flows much slower than on lower tides, leading to more water backing up.

The city's Public Works Department said that while street and parking lot flooding did occur during these rains, there have been no documented cases of blockages or pipe collapses being at fault. The rainfall has been occurring at such levels that it cannot run off.

Waters will only recede once the rains have slowed down. The department says it has surveyed the city's maintained drainage systems repeatedly since this rain period began last week, and plans to continue to do so as long

as this weather pattern persists.

"To put this rainfall into perspective, Largo normally expects to receive 49 inches of rain per year. In just the past week, sections of the city have received over 20 inches of rain, or almost half our annual expected total," a city news release said.

Residents can help by ensuring that drainage inlets, ditches, or swales in their yards or the street in front of their yards are kept clear of debris.

It has been a few years since this type of continual, daily heavy rain has been experienced in the Largo area. "Unfortunately, once the ground becomes saturated with moisture and cannot absorb any more, new rain water has no option except to run off into drainage systems at a faster rate. With weather forecasts calling for more rain through the end of the week, the city sees the continued possibility of localized flooding as heavier rainfall periods occur," city officials said.



Photo by TOM GERMOND
A motorist creeps his way into an auto repair shop on Walsingham Road as heavy rainfall continued Friday afternoon.

Briefs

Commission OKs bargaining agreement with firefighters union

LARGO - City commissioners have approved a collective bargaining agreement for city firefighters.

The agreement, which was approved July 5, calls for no pay increases for firefighters in the current fiscal year and leaves the decision of a pay increase for the next fiscal year up to the City Commission. No funds have been included in the proposed fiscal year 2012 budget for raises.

The city negotiated with the International Association of Firefighters on the agreement, which has been ratified by firefighters/EMTs, firefighters/paramedics and fire lieutenants.

"The Largo Professional Firefighters wanted to send a clear message that they understand the tough economic times and poor economy when they voted to accept the proposed contract. Their number one goal is to serve and protect the citizens of Largo," said an IAFF press

release.

With the recent reduction in staffing levels that resulted in the removal from service a rescue unit and the threats of reducing the staffing of a heavy rescue squad unit to only one firefighter, the union voted to preserve the staffing that was in place as of October 1, 2011, until October 2012, the release said.

The firefighters also accepted a 37 percent reduction in personal insurance credits for over one third of the members, as well as restrictive language on the type of health insurance that must be obtained.

IAFF members will receive 12 hours of personal option time off that has to be used in the next physical year or be forfeited.

"We are relying on the words of Mayor Pat Gerard when she said that we have to trust the City Commission to take care of them during these tough times," said Local 2427 IAFF President Dale Rosko. "Our firefighters believe in the City of Largo, the citizens and its elected officials that we risk our lives to serve. We truly believe they will take care of us when times are better."

The agreement will be in effect until Sept. 30, 2012.

Economic stimulus program approved

LARGO - An economic stimulus program designed to allow businesses to have temporary signage has been extended for another year.

City commissioners July 5 gave final approval for the extension of the program, which allows businesses to obtain a one-year permit for either a 32-square-foot banner securely affixed to a building or a 32-square-foot feather sign located on private property.

Sixty-six temporary stimulus sign permits have been issued since the program was started on July 7.

Board OKs sign relief for U.S. 19 corridor

LARGO - The city Planning Board July 21 approved a code amendment to allow for greater sign height for parcels adjacent to the U.S. 19 corridor.

The issue will go before the City Commission in August. The reconstruction of U.S. 19 as an elevated and limited access roadway significantly impacts visibility of adjacent commercial and industrial properties and their signage, city officials said.

Other jurisdictions have made provisions to permit additional sign height to allow visibility from the elevated portion of the highway to address uninterrupted travel speeds long the corridor.

- Tom Germond

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Around Largo

City events



DJ Dancer 1 Dance Club – Every Friday this month, 7 to 11 p.m., Largo Community Center.

Description: "Come dance the night away in our 5,400-square-foot ballroom as our resident DJ, DJ Richard plays the best dance songs throughout time. Nightly give-a-ways. No outside food or beverages allowed. Call 518-3131." Admission is \$7.

Largo Square Dancing – Every Friday this month, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m., Largo Community Center.

Description: "Are you interested in Square Dancing? Well, we have one of the best callers in the country right here. Come dance the night away as our resident "Caller" Allen Snell leads you around our floor. Refreshments are available for purchase. Call 518-3131." Admission is \$6 at the door.

Flick N Float Family Movies – Every Friday this month, 7:30 p.m., Southwest Pool.

Description: "Bring your favorite float or chair from home and join us for a Friday night family movie. Free hot dogs and concessions also available. Games and activities are planned for each event. The movie will begin at dusk or approximately. Call 518-3126 for more information."

Admission is \$4 with card, \$5 with no card or for a family of five, \$20 with card, \$25 with no card.

Largo Swing Dance Saturdays – Every Saturday this month, 7 to 11 p.m., Largo Community Center.

Description: "Come enjoy an evening of dancing and socializing. Every Saturday night, enjoy a free lesson from 7 to 8 p.m., and a DJ dance from 8 to 11 p.m. Our resident DJ is Savoy Swing. Don't miss

out on our 5,600-square-foot sprung hardwood floor. For more information, visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131." Admission is \$7.

Soulful Saturday Nights with Michael Dessel – Every Saturday this month, 8 to 10 p.m., Largo Community Center.

Description: "Enjoy an evening listening to the sounds of Michael Dessel, formerly "Molten Mike," as he plays some of your favorites. He is one of Tampa Bay's best Blues artists. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. Each show will have a different theme and different genre of music. Don't miss this wonderful night of music. Call 518-3131." Admission is \$9.

Largo Golf Course Junior Golf Program-Session 1 – July 18, 20, 25 and 27, Largo Golf Course.

Description: "Learn the keys to accurate putting, chipping, iron and wood play while learning the basic rules and etiquette of golf. The program, which is open to both boys and girls, has a ratio of 1 instructor to every 8-10 participants. Call the Pro Shop at 518-3024." Admission is \$60 per session.

Ultimate Boot Camp – Every Monday and Wednesday this month ending July 29, 5:45 to 6:30 p.m., Highland Recreation Complex.

Description: "Are you looking to take your health to the next level? Try Highland Recreation's Ultimate Boot Camp. This class will help tone lean muscle, build core strength, lose fat and increase your metabolism. Ultimate Boot Camp's outdoor, co-ed classes are appropriate for all fitness levels and will

get results fast. For additional registration and class information, call 518-3016."

Admission is \$56 for residents, \$70 nonresidents.

Teen Tidalwave Tuesday – Every Tuesday this month, 7 to 9 p.m., Highland Recreation Complex.

Description: "Papa John's Pizza is sponsoring a program specific to middle and high school aged kids. See your friends and catch up on the weekend. Snacks and giveaways are planned. Call 518-3018." Admission is \$3.

Drumming with Steve – July 8, 2 to 3 p.m., Largo Library.

Description: "Learn some fun African drum beats in this interactive program where kids make their own music."

The event is free.

Intro to Golf for Women – Starting Saturday, July 16, 9 to 10 a.m., Largo Golf Course.

Description: "This brand new Saturday class is for the ladies only! Join our instructors for golf instruction that will focus on the skills necessary to be successful in the game of golf. Lessons include a round of golf following the completion of the four-week session. Call 518-3024." Admission is \$32 for residents, \$40 nonresidents.

Hot Yoga Classes – Every Saturday this month, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., Highland Recreation Complex.

Description: "Benefits of this style of yoga include: improved flexibility; muscle tone development; release of toxins and increased weight loss. Room is heated to 85 degrees. Please bring a towel and water to class. Call 518-3016." Admission is \$36 for residents, \$45 nonresidents.

Basic Dog Obedience – Every Thursday starting July 14 through Aug. 18, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Highland Recreation Complex.

Description: "Dog training that

focuses on teaching companion dogs basic manners such as sit, down, stay, loose-leash, walking and more. Weather permitting. Current vaccinations required. This is a 6-week course. Call 518-3016."

Admission is \$65 for residents, \$81.25 nonresidents, \$99.25 without a card.

Itty Bitty Pool Party – July 15, 8:45 to 10:45 a.m., Highland Family Aquatic Center.

Description: "Enjoy quality time with your preschool age children in a safe aquatic environment. Contests and activities are planned and snacks are provided. Door prizes will be given away throughout the event! Moms clubs are welcome. Call 518-3018." Admission is \$2.50.

Monthly Night Hikes – July 16, 6:30 p.m., McGough Nature Park.

Description: "Join us every third Saturday of the month for a guided walk through the woods, seeking out nocturnal animals such as raccoons, owls, opossums, bats and more. Flashlights are optional. Pre-register by calling 518-3047."

The event is free.

Friday Night Fever – July 22, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Highland Recreation Complex.

Description: "Friday Night Fever is geared for kids age 3 through Grade 5. Open gym, activities, snack shop and more! Child registration form required. Younger children are offered separate activities in the preschool room. All children must be potty trained. Call 518-3016."

Admission is \$2 for residents, \$2.50 nonresidents, \$5.50 without a card.

Fourth Saturday Car Show Series – July 23, 5 to 7 p.m., Largo Community Center.

Description: "Every fourth Saturday of the month during the summer, come visit the Largo Community Center to see some of the area's finest cars. Each car entry is \$10. Awards will be given nightly to Best in Show for each decade. The car show series runs through September. Call 518-3131."

The event is free.

Splash's Treasure Hunt – July

23, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Highland Family Aquatic Center.

Description: "Hidden treasures are all over the aquatic facility for children to gather. Hunts are divided by age group: 4 and under; 5-7; 8-10. Door prizes will be given away throughout the event! Come aboard the pirate ship, but beware of the plank! Call 518-3018."

Admission is \$5 for residents, \$6 nonresidents, \$9 without a card.

Infant Massage – July 30 and Aug 6, 8:15 to 10:15 a.m., Highland Family Aquatic Center.

Description: "Provides parents and caregivers of infants the opportunity to learn massage techniques designed to meet the special needs of your bundle of joy. Benefits include relieving discomfort from gas and colic to stimulating brain development and sensory awareness. Babies will cry less and sleep more. Instructor is certified by the International Association of Infant Massage Sweden. Call 518-3018."

Admission is \$50 per infant, \$40 will be refunded at the end of the second class.

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State says no to Honeymoon Island camp expansion

By SUZETTE PORTER and AMANDA SEBASTIANO

DUNEDIN – Residents of Pinellas County and the city of Dunedin can rest easy. The state has canceled plans to expand camping on Honeymoon Island.

Gov. Rick Scott and Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Herschel Vinyard announced in a press release July 8 that the Florida Park Service had been told to stop plans for expanded camping at Honeymoon Island State Park.

"After seeing the public's reaction, it is clear that this is not the right time to expand camping at Honeymoon Island State Park," Scott said in the press release sent out Friday night. "These natural treasures belong to all the tax-paying citizens of this state and it would be unfair to proceed with a plan that so many Floridians are so adamantly opposed to."

DEP had targeted Honeymoon Island as one of the first of 56 parks to add new overnight camping sites including space for recreational vehicles. Officials had said that Honeymoon Island could get up to 45 campsites on 17.5 acres east of the southern beach parking lot.

The governor has instructed DEP and the Florida Park Service to meet with local communities, state park citizen support organizations and other park stakeholders before formally proposing the addition of amenities or services, including family camping, at any state parks.

A huge crowd showed up at the Hale Senior Center in Dunedin July 5 for a hearing on proposed campsites on Honeymoon Island. The vast majority was against any change that might distract from the natural setting or harm the environment.

With raised fists and chanting, an angry crowd was anxiously waiting for a decision, ears glued to the speakers that played what was going on behind the closed doors of the senior center. Poster boards with large, red letters spelled out messages from "save our park" to "not for sale."

Inside the building, fire marshals restricted the access to about 750 people who stood by as a panel

of speakers and locals spoke about the pros and cons of adding the campsite, along with what it would mean for the city, the environment and Dunedin residents.

Dunedin resident Louise Blaisse and her husband Ken traveled to Florida from California in an RV. Considering her past with RV campsites, she is well aware of what this addition will mean for the park, she said.

"To make this area suitable for an RV park, they're going to have to make an area for the campers to dump their trash, among other things," Blaisse said. "I want to know where they plan on getting rid of it. This park is beautiful and I don't want to see that happen; you'd have to see it to understand," she said.

A repeated comment that buzzed around outside the building was that there are already at least two RV parks nearby that are often vacant, with little to no travelers.

Many of the crowd members came from areas other than Dunedin, but still found the news of what might happen to the landmark unsettling. Robyn Nuzzolo, who has organized various events involving local public awareness issues, came from Clearwater to hand out petitions. Signatures make changes, she said.

"We need real numbers to make a difference; numbers are what it's all about," Nuzzolo said. "There is so much that we can do, even one person can make a difference in this," she said.

Near the street, protestors rallied drivers to pull into the parking lot and join the crowd. Grandparents with their grandkids, mothers and students waved their signs to a steady flow of honking cars, applauding the cause.

Darby Jones, a St. Petersburg resident, has been going to Honeymoon Island most of her life, before officials even closed the bathrooms on the island, she said.

"Each state has a legal duty to protect the assets within that state; they're violating the public trust," Jones said. "We really need to talk about that issue a lot more," she said.



Photo by AMANDA SEBASTIANO

Pickers rallying more locals into the event to save Honeymoon Island, July 5 at the Hale Senior Center in Dunedin.

The Florida Park Service also is rethinking how to proceed at Fanning Springs, DeLeon Springs, Edward Ball Wakulla Springs and any other parks under consideration for campsite expansions.

The island, which received its name in 1939, has received various awards including the title of America's first two-time winner of the National Gold Medal for Florida State Parks. An estimated 1 million visi-

tors ventured to the park between 2005 and 2006.

The park is home to several different types of animals, such as gopher tortoises, rattlesnakes, owls and more recently, a few bald eagles. It also is pet-friendly, with a pet beach located near the entrance of the park.

For more information on Florida's state parks, visit www.FloridaStateParks.org

Around Pinellas

Civic improvements highlight MB budget

MADEIRA BEACH – The City Commission got a first look at the city's budget for the upcoming year at their June 28 regular meeting. What they saw was a half-dozen major projects, some of which have been in the planning stages for years, that are due to start during the next fiscal year.

City revenues are expected to decline again next year, and expense cuts reflect the belt tightening needed in the budget. A 4.6 percent loss due to decreases in property values is less than in prior years, interim city manager Bill Mallory said.

Nonetheless, general fund departmental spending has been cut by 12.1 percent, and some staff positions have been cut or downgraded.

No increase in the city's millage (tax) rate of 1.7954 is being proposed, Mallory noted.

Commission members, some of whom had criticized the last budget for not having enough detail, appeared pleased with the budget notebook that appeared to be at least 1,000 pages. Mallory took nearly two hours at the commission meeting to "summarize" the document. He said he was saving a detailed discussion for the commission's workshop session.

The large civic improvement projects due for the coming year were a major expense item. A half-million dollar street resurfacing project is scheduled to begin later this year. That job will eventually include all of the city's roadways. Mayor Travis Palladeno said in a later comment he would like to do at least half of the city this budget year.

Another \$125,000 will be spent on new curbs and gutters. A striping machine will be purchased so city workers can stripe roads and parking lots.

Archibald Park will get \$200,000 in improvements, including a new deck and landscaping. Undergrounding of utilities in the park is not part of the current budget.

A \$10,000 FDOT beautification grant will be used for landscaping of the city's gateway entrance at 150th Avenue.

Beach upgrades include \$100,000 to replace dune walkovers, another \$100,000 to repair beach groins, and \$300,000 for seawall repairs. The money will come from the special projects fund.

The marina will get new floating fuel docks, paid for with \$70,000

from the Marina Enterprise Fund.

Boardwalk repairs and maintenance at John's Pass Village are in the budget, along with \$10,000 to light the date palms at Christmas.

The budget includes \$100,000 to be spent on the repair and maintenance of City Hall.

A number of the projects scheduled to be done have been planned for years, with money set aside in the budget, Mallory said.

"It's time to step up to the plate and play catch-up," Mallory told the commission. "We can't keep putting these projects into the future," he said.

All of the planned civic improvement projects are coming at a time when the city manager and public works director jobs are being combined. Asking the new city manager to step in and do public works with all the projects going on "is not feasible," Mallory said.

Mallory is recommending a new special projects coordinator position be created during a "two year transition period." He indicated the job would no longer be a management position and offer "a significantly reduced salary." Indications are Michael Maxemow, the city's longtime public works director, would fill the job.

Other personnel changes involve downgrading of the community development job from a director position to a manager, cutting one full-time parks maintenance worker, addition of a fire inspector/code compliance officer, and the addition of two temporary firefighters (to be made permanent when a federal grant for their hiring arrives).

The initial budget presentation by Mallory was well received by the commission members.

"I'm very pleased," said Commissioner Robin Vander Velde, who had been sharply critical of the previous budget.

Palladeno, who had campaigned for budget changes, commended Mallory for this year's budget preparation.

– Wayne Ayers

City unveils \$15.1 million budget

SEMINOLE – City residents received good news June 28 when City Manager Frank Edmunds announced no tax increases and no service cuts in the city's proposed budget for fiscal 2012.

The \$15.1 million budget is \$756,952 less than the current budget

and \$2.6 million less than the budget of four years ago.

"This budget submission is consistent with the fiscal responsibility and direction of the City Council," Edmunds wrote in a memo to the City Council. "With a continuation of declining assessed property values, no increase to the millage rate will result in our taxpayers paying less for city services. This budget does not propose an increase in service fees and does not require the use of reserve funds. The proposed FY2012 budget is balanced to forecast revenues."

The largest change will be seen in the Recreation Department, where the budget is \$439,029 less, or 27.6 percent, than the current budget.

No personnel cuts are targeted. The majority of the change is due to an anticipated \$20,000 savings in electricity cost associated with a new air conditioning system and the cost of the system, which is in the current budget.

The city's proposed library budget is down \$75,889, or 8 percent, with no personnel cuts.

Most of the savings comes following a \$45,000 capital outlay in the current budget, which will not be duplicated in 2012.

Other savings will be seen due to changes in the state retirement system, decreasing employer contributions. In the library division, the savings is estimated at \$35,111, or 50.6 percent.

The city's first workshop on the proposed budget is Wednesday, July 13, 6 p.m., at City Hall.

In other action, Councilors:

- Passed on a first reading an ordinance to voluntarily annex property at 10073 130th Lane.

- Authorized city officials to execute an engagement contract for \$2,400 with Fantasia Productions for sound and lighting services for the 2011 Music in the Park series.

- Approved contracts totaling \$3,600 for six musical groups that will perform during this year's Music in the Park series.

- Named Thomas Barnhorn the city's voting delegate for the Florida League of Cities annual business meeting.

- Authorized Edmunds to retain Solar Impact Inc. for engineering services to conduct a solar feasibility study on the Seminole Recreation Center.

– Bob McClure

FERTILIZER BAN, from page 1A

Levy assures that plants won't be harmed from the lack of nitrogen and phosphorous during the summer months. Residents who followed the law and used a time-release fertilizer in May shouldn't have to worry about feeding their plants for at least four-months.

Levy advises citizens to read the label before applying fertilizers or pesticides.

"The label is the law," she said. "People should follow the instructions."

In addition, she said, it is important never to use more than what the label calls for.

"Plants are not like us at Thanksgiving," she said. "They take up just what they need and no more. The rest ends up in the environment. Less is better with plants."

Education is a big part of how Pinellas County plans to stay green and beautiful, and protect the environment. Levy said people in the business of taking care of lawns, landscapes and gardens are required to attend classes to learn best practices techniques. The classes end in certification.

County certified landscapers will display a decal with the Pinellas County logo, meaning they've been training in the best ways to mow lawns and trim trees and bushes. They'll know not to blow grass clippings into roadways, Levy said.

By ordinance, staff at commercial landscape companies must be trained in county-approved best management practices for mowing, trimming and landscape debris management by July 18.

"Landscapes that are maintained properly don't need as many resources (water, fertilizer,

etc.). There is less stress on the plants. They're healthier," she said.

She encourages residents to ask commercial landscapers and yard maintenance companies if they are certified and, if not, ask them to contact the county.

Same rule goes with companies that apply fertilizer. Levy said commercial applicators must be state-certified in green industry best management practices and licensed through the state.

Levy said residents should look for the county's decal to make sure people working in their yards or applying fertilizers are legal.

The fertilizer ban applies to turf grass (lawns) and landscape plants – essentially anything planted in the ground, Levy said. The ordinance does allow an exception for vegetable gardens. In addition, plants grown in containers are exempt.

"We won't be driving around looking for people watering their fern hanging on the porch," Levy said. "But if we see someone doing something like spraying their lawn, we will stop and ask them what they're doing," she said. "We'll always ask."

The fertilizer ordinance allows fines of up to \$2,500 to be levied for a variety of environmentally harmful practices, including the use of fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorous from June 1 to September.

Phosphorous cannot be applied at any time without a soil test from a state-certified laboratory confirming it is needed.

From October through May, residents can apply slow-release fertilizers containing no more than 50 percent nitrogen. Additional restrictions apply. Visit www.pinellascounty.org/enviro

ment/watershed/fertilizer.htm for more information.

The ordinance also requires environmentally-friendly landscape maintenance practices, such as keeping grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste out of the streets, driveways, sidewalks, storm drains and surface waters.

Private homeowners are advised to become familiar with the recommendations of the University of Florida IFAS Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program when applying fertilizer. For more information, visit fyn.ifas.ufl.edu.

Meanwhile, Levy says everything residents need to keep their plants happy is available at local lawn and garden shops and larger retail stores. She recommends the use of compost and other organic materials.

Gardeners may not find what they've used in the past, but legal fertilizers are available for vegetable plants, citrus trees, other fruit-bearing plants, patio and container plants, as well as houseplants. Levy did admit that in the first weeks, more products might have been removed from retailers' shelves than necessary.

"We're working on getting it all sorted out," she said.

As part of her job, Levy reviewed hundreds of product labels and brochures before approving or disapproving their use in Pinellas County. She said she was surprised at the number of new organic products, including one that is a slow-release liquid.

She encourages residents to take a close look at what's available on the shelves and research exactly what they need to keep their lawns and landscape plants healthy. She said sometimes what looks like a fertilizer deficiency

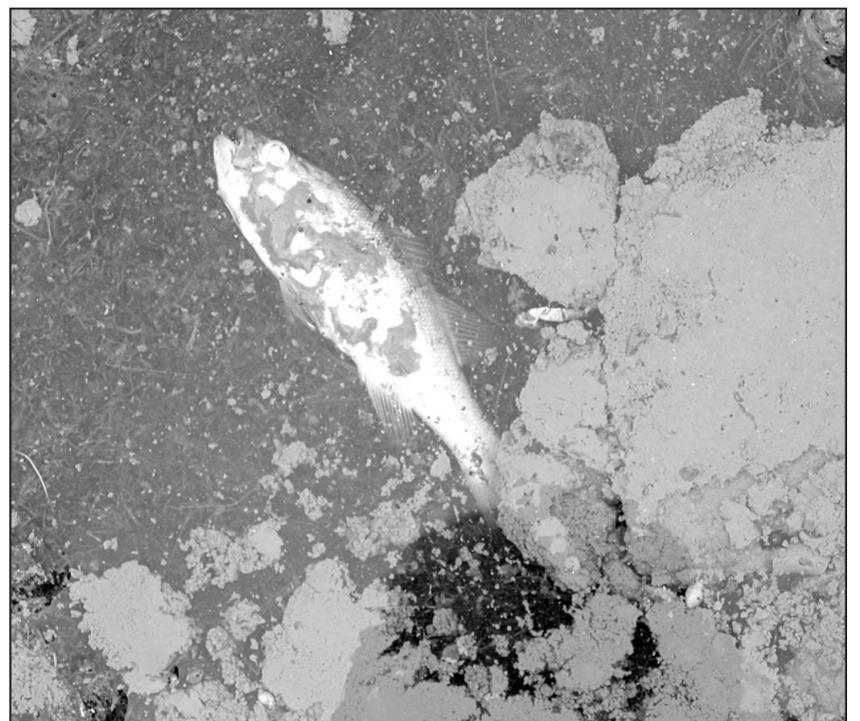


Photo by JENNIFER L. GRAHAM/U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Harmful algal blooms kill fish and other aquatic creatures. The blooms occur as the result of an overabundance of nutrients, such as nitrogen fertilizers. Pinellas County's fertilizer ban is one of many ways officials are trying to combat the local problem.

might be something else, such as insect damage. Some residents cut grass too short or don't use a sharp blade, Levy said. Florida turf varieties should be left to grow to 3 1/2 to 4 inches before cutting.

Nitrogen isn't the only nutrient that keeps grass green. The micronutrient, iron, can be applied to give yards a color boost. Some plants, such as palms, need very little nitrogen at all.

Residents with questions about their plants needs should call Pinellas County Extension at 582-2100 or visit pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu.

Levy's department uses a "snitch line" that allows the public to report violators of the county's laws that affect the environment and water quality. Residents who see people using fertilizers illegally or sweeping debris into storm drains or other violations are asked to call 464-4425 or email watershed@pinellascounty.org. Violations also can be reported via the county's website, www.pinellascounty.org/forms/water_quality.htm. Callers and those using the website form can remain anonymous, Levy said.

ROAD WORK, from page 1A

from I 19th Street to I-275.

Project specifications require that the contractor maintain one access point to each business or property. Turn lanes in front of the Largo Mall in the east lanes will be provided. Signage also will be provided.

City Economic Development Director Teresa Brydon said city officials are going to try to post information about the project on a Web

site or by other means.

She said city officials think the Ulmerton widening is a great project, but they recognize the impact it will have on businesses.

"We are going to be here to do what we can, but it's tough. We are trying to get creative on ways to help them, but there is not much at this stage of the game that we have been able to come up with," Brydon said. "That doesn't mean we won't try to turn over every stone to try to help them."

The city can at least provide information on critical dates of project

work, she said.

Among business owners who have received some type of notification about the project is Santo Sardo, owner of Sardos Pizza located just west of Seminole on Ulmerton Road. Sardo is concerned about the impacts of the work on his restaurant, such as having a smaller entrance way.

He said he hasn't heard enough details about the project, such as how long it's going to take.

"I'm nervous about it," he said.

Largo man arrested in crime spree

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Local law enforcement spent a harried couple of hours July 6 chasing a car thief and burglar through sections of Clearwater before making an arrest in Belleair Bluffs.

The "crime spree" started in unincorporated Clearwater on July 6 about 6:30 p.m. The incident ended around 8:30 p.m. with the arrest of Nicholas R. Fox, 24, of 10572 Oakhurst Road, Largo.

More than 30 units and five canine units from police departments in Clearwater and Largo, as well as deputies and a helicopter from the Pinellas County Sheriff's office worked the incident, which covered more than 20 square miles, said Joelle Castelli, public safety spokesperson for the city of Clearwater.

It all started when Fox took some keys off the bar at Oz, an adult establishment at 13577 U.S. 19 N. in unincorporated Clearwater, and stole a patron's car, according to the Pinellas County Sheriff's office.

Deputies were investigating the car theft when Clearwater police received a call about shots fired and aggravated assault on North Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Sheriff's deputies said Fox apparently found a loaded handgun in the stolen car and began firing.

Clearwater police located the stolen vehicle and tried to stop it, according to a media alert. But officers decided to end the chase when the car left their city and entered an area of unincorporated Pinellas County.

Another Clearwater officer found the car about 7:20 p.m. where it had crashed into a wall near the intersection of Monterey Drive and Belleair Road – about the same time sheriff's deputies and a helicopter arrived on the scene to assist, said Sgt. Thomas Nestor, public information officer for the sheriff's office.

Meanwhile, Fox found an unlocked back door at a residence on Monterey Drive close to where he crashed the vehicle

stolen from the parking lot at Oz. The residents were home at the time and, according to the sheriff's report, were "startled" when their unexpected visitor entered the house.

Deputies said Fox convinced Joseph Stillwell, the homeowner, that he was being chased and needed help. Stillwell agreed to help Fox, but as they were driving out of the subdivision, Clearwater police officers approached. Stillwell then stopped to talk to the officers.

As soon as Stillwell left the vehicle, Fox got behind the wheel and drove away. He made it to Antique Alley in Belleair Bluffs where he left the vehicle and took off on foot, Nestor said.

Witnesses in the area gave deputies the address of a man they said fit the suspect's description. Deputies proceeded to the apartment located at the Belleair Bluffs address. As deputies arrived, Sean Brown, who lives at the apartment, exited the apartment and told authorities that Fox was inside.

Deputies entered the apartment and made the arrest. Nestor said it was about 8:30 p.m. – two hours from the time

Fox stole his first vehicle. Fox was booked into the Pinellas County Jail just before 1 a.m. July 7.

He was charged with one count of carjacking with no weapon and one count of burglary to an occupied residence. He also was charged with violation of probation by sudden snatching and resisting arrest without violence. His bonds totaled more than \$120,000. No bond was set on the VOP charge.

Nestor said the resisting charge was the result of his fleeing from officers. He also had attempted to change his appearance by shaving his head and changing his clothes while inside the Belleair Bluffs apartment.

Nestor said deputies along with Clearwater PD were still working to piece together everything that happened and it was likely more charges would be



Nicholas R. Fox

Briefs

Legislative delegation meeting canceled

State Rep. Jim Frishe, R-St. Petersburg, chair of the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation has canceled the public hearing meeting of the delegation members for July 14.

In announcing the cancellation of the meeting that was set to be held at the St. Petersburg College campus in Clearwater, Frishe said that the sole purpose of the public hearing was to address the issue of a possible development on Honeymoon Island.

However, since the governor and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection have announced that those plans are no longer under consideration, there is no need for the meeting, Frishe said, in a press release.

Frishe said, "We thank the governor and the Department of Environmental Protection for their positive response to the citizens of Pinellas County. We also thank our citizens for their willingness to get involved. As I often say, democracy is a participatory form of government. If you don't participate, it won't work."

Sheriff hosts meeting on Pinellas Safe Harbor

CLEARWATER – Sheriff Jim Coats is hosting a community forum Thursday, July 14, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Bayside High School, 14405 49th St. N., to discuss Pinellas Safe Harbor with residents and business owners in the area.

The sheriff will update neighboring residents and business operators on the activities at the shelter and the community partnerships generated by the project.

Chief Deputy Bob Gualtieri will give a presentation on the impact the shelter has had on the jail population and in the homeless community.

The Forum also will give citizens an opportunity to ask questions and to provide feedback to Coats and Gualtieri about the project.

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Looking for a home



Blitzen

Blitzen is a 5-year-old male orange tabby who has been waiting to be adopted since last Christmas. He is a shy boy and needs a quiet home with no little children. To give Blitzen the home he deserves, call Friends of Strays at 522-6566 or stop by the adoption center at 2911 47th Ave., N. in St. Petersburg. Visit www.friendsofstrays.com.



Gertie

Gertie is a 2-year-old Boston terrier/Chihuahua mix. She is a happy girl and loves to play with her doggie friends, but when she is tired Gertie prefers to jump into a human's lap for love and relaxation. She would do best in a home without young children. To adopt Gertie, stop by Pet Pal Animal Shelter, 405 22nd St. S. in St Petersburg. Call 328-7738. Visit www.petpalanimalshelter.com.



Butterscotch

Butterscotch promises to be a sweet addition to any home. He's a young pit bull terrier who tips the scales at 35 pounds. He was dropped off at Pinellas County Animal Services after hours, so we don't know much about where he came from, but he is looking for a new family to call his own. If you bring this article with you to Animal Services, Butterscotch can be yours for the low fee of \$20. The shelter is at 12450 Ulmerton Road in Largo. Call 582-2600.



Princess

Princess is a 5-year-old calico who is very affectionate and enjoys being petted and talked to. Princess gets along with most other laid-back kitties like herself, and she'll charm her way right in to your heart. Adopt Princess at the Suncoast Animal League, 1030 Pennsylvania Ave. in Palm Harbor. Call 786-1330.

Lipomas, cysts and lumps, oh my!

Nobody wants a lump or bump on his or her pet. Unfortunately, cancer can occur in nearly any type of animal, and the very possibility can be stressful for pet owners. Fortunately, some bumps are nothing to be concerned about, though telling the difference between the two can be challenging.

Both tumors and cancers occur when tissue grows abnormally. Benign tumors stay in one area, while malignant cancers spread by growing into surrounding body parts or catching a ride in blood vessels or lymph tracts. Definitely telling the difference between a benign tumor and a malignant cancer involves taking samples of the area for examination. There is no general "cancer test" that can be done on an animal's blood, though there are a few tests for very specific types of cancer.

One type of common and benign tumor is the lipoma. Lipomas are benign tumors of fat, and are very common in older dogs, especially retrievers. They typically are round, smooth and directly beneath the skin, so the hair on top is undisturbed. Lipomas, while benign, can be a problem if they grow too big, or are in the wrong location. Some



Speaking of Pets
Michael J. Rumore, DVM

lipomas can grow to the size of cantaloupe, and even smaller ones can interfere with leg movement or bodily functions if they are in the wrong place. If a lipoma is small and not causing problems, it may be considered a cosmetic problem rather than a health problem. Lipomas tend to grow in spurts, and may shrink with weight loss.

If an older dog has a lump, it is impossible to tell with 100 percent certainty whether it is a lipoma or a more serious

growth without taking a small sample. Some serious cancers can mimic the "feel" of a lipoma and fool a person into ignoring them. Sometimes this sample can be taken with a needle in a procedure known as a fine needle aspirate, or FNA. Lipomas that become a problem, because of size or location, are usually easily surgically removed. Because they are solid tumors or fat, they cannot be drained with a needle.

Cysts are small pockets of

fluid or solid material beneath the skin, and are not actually tumors. They tend to occur in older small dogs, but can occur at any age or in any breed. These pockets of fluid can become painful, or even potentially rupture as pressure builds. Some cysts grow to a certain size and then remain stable. Occasionally a cyst can be a sign of a more significant health problem; some tumors or cancers can also become cystic. Determining with absolute certainty that a lump is a cyst involves taking a sample of the fluid or solid matter within the capsule, often with a needle or through biopsy. Because the lining of the cysts is still present, simply draining the fluid or matter does not remove them; they typically grow back unless completely surgically removed.

Many lumps and bumps are not a big concern, though determining which are and which are not serious involves some work. Benign lumps can sometimes be ignored, as long as they are in the right location and not growing too fast. When in doubt, get your pet's lump checked out!

Dr. Michael Rumore is the owner of Lake Seminole Animal Hospital.

Pet photo winner



Best buddies

Riley, left, and Tank are obsessed with each other and have been that way since day one. Everything they do, everywhere they go, they have to be touching in some way. They even wait for each other to be served food before they start eating. These two sweethearts are the absolute pride and joy of Lacey Buttitta of Clearwater Beach. As our precious pet photo winner for July, she wins a \$25 gift certificate from Classy Canines Mobile Pet Salon. Our August winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Park Animal Hospital in Pinellas Park. Send photos to csouthmayd@TBNweekly.com.

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Rainy weather good for proliferation of mosquitos

By SUZETTE PORTER

Mosquitos love the rainy season and the abundance of water it brings to replenish "nursery" areas where their young can be nurtured to adulthood.

Florida is home to 80 species of mosquitos, according to an article written by Jorge R. Rey, a professor at the University of Florida. He describes them as one of the "most versatile organisms on earth."

"They can reproduce in virtually any natural or man-made deposit of water ...," he writes in an article published by the Entomology and Nematology Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida.

Public health and safety officials continually preach about the importance of keeping water away from homes and businesses because without water, mosquitos can't breed.

Rey explains that the mosquito life cycle begins with the egg stage, when the females lay their eggs in "any water-holding area," such as tree holes, ponds, puddles, ditches, and artificial containers including old tires, planters, buckets and more.

Hatchlings, called larvae, grow into pupae from which the adults emerge. Males usually emerge first and remain around the breeding site, waiting for the females, Rey wrote.

"... it is only the female that will seek a blood meal, which most species need in order to develop their eggs," he says.

Rey also said female mosquitos lay batches of eggs during their three-week to five-month life span. For some species, each batch requires a blood meal.

This blood meal, most usually referred to as a bite, is more accurately described as a sting, according to Rey. During the blood-sucking process, the mosquito injects a small amount of saliva, which is the cause of swelling and itching. It is through the saliva of an infected mosquito that diseases such as West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis and canine heartworm are spread.

Pinellas County uses a "tactical approach" to control mosquitos, according to a brochure produced by the Mosquito Control department. It all begins with monitoring via traps in locations countywide. Blood from sentinel chickens in eight locations is tested regularly for signs that mosquito-borne viruses are in the area.

Mosquito Control uses a combination of methods to hamper the insect's ability to breed. Staff treats targeted bodies of water and swampy areas to kill mosquito larvae. Crews clear vegetation that prevents water from flowing freely in lakes and marshes. Insecticide is sprayed by truck and helicopter.

Public health and safety officials continually preach about the importance of keeping water away from homes and businesses because without water, mosquitos can't breed.

During the rainy season, messages go out urging county residents to keep empty anything that can hold water. Mosquitos can develop in any water that stands for more than four days.

Mosquito Control offers several tips for combatting mosquitos around homes and businesses:

- Regularly check and empty water in containers such as flowerpots, saucers, wheelbarrows, trashcans, recycling bins, buckets, discarded tires and plastic wading pools. Drill holes in tire swings so water can drain.
- Store small boats upside down and make sure water doesn't collect in tarps covering boats or other stored items.
- Replace water in bird baths at least once a week and water in pet dishes daily.
- Clean out gutters so they won't hold water.
- Flush out bromeliads twice weekly or treat with larvicide.
- Treat ornamental ponds and rain barrels with larvicide.
- Stock ponds with Gambusia fish that eat mosquito larvae.

Despite everyone's best efforts, there will still be mosquitos. To avoid being a female mosquito's next meal, ex-

perts advise everyone to practice the Five Ds.

1 and 2 - Dusk to Dawn. Mosquitos favorite feeding time is between dusk and dawn; the time outdoor activities should be avoided.

3 - Dress. If outdoors when mosquitos are active, wear light-colored clothing that covers most of the skin.

4 - DEET. Experts say repellants with DEET are most effective. Other recommended types are those containing Picaridin and oil of lemon-eucalyptus. Officials advise to read labels before purchasing and using any repellant. Some are not recommended for children under age 3. Repellant should be sprayed on exposed skin and clothing, but not under clothing.

5 - Drain. Get rid of all standing water. Mosquitos cannot breed without water.

Pinellas County is home to two types of mosquitos that experts refer to as "ankle-biters" because they most often take their blood meal below the knee. They are tenacious feeders, fly-

ing away at any movement, only to return repeatedly until they get a meal. Experts say that behavior often makes one mosquito appear like more.

Professor Rey concludes his article by debunking several mosquito myths.

He says while bug zappers are effective against mosquitos, they do not control them and can be harmful to populations of beneficial insects. He advises that electronic "repellers" are a waste of money.

Mosquitos do not nest, so they cannot nest in vegetative areas. Vegetative areas without standing water are not home to breeding mosquitos.

Birds, bats, owls and other

birds eat mosquitos but not enough to serve as a control method.

He says claims that spraying adult mosquitos is best are wrong. Eliminating the insect before the adult stage is better.

Claims that the plant Citrosa repels mosquitos also aren't true, Rey says. Citronella oil is used as a repellant, but the undisturbed plant does not release oil and thus cannot repel.

Pinellas County offers a variety of information about mosquitos and methods for control on its website, www.pinellascounty.org. Look for the "mosquito control" link on the front page under special interests.



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Derelict crab trap removal event planned

On Saturday, July 16, Tampa Bay Watch, along with community volunteers, will participate in a crab trap removal effort at six Tampa Bay locations, including Belleair Bluffs, Upper Tampa Bay, Alafia River, Cockroach Bay, Boca Ciega Bay and Demen's Landing.

The event is timed to coincide with the regional closure of blue crab fishing. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has mandated a temporary closure for the harvest of blue crabs from traps in all waters of Broward through Pasco counties including the waters of Tampa Bay.

FWC is requiring regional closed seasons for the blue crab fishery to help facilitate efforts to identify and retrieve lost and abandoned blue crab traps in state waters of Florida. The local closure runs through through July 19 and extends out to three miles offshore and applies to both commercial and recreational free-standing traps. Blue crab traps attached to private property are excluded from the closure. All commercial and recreational traps left in state waters during the 10-day closure will be consid-

ered derelict and can be removed. It is important to note that even though the fishery will be closed, not just anybody can remove a trap. Anyone interested in being involved must be a part of an organized effort that has been authorized by FWC. Three regional, 10-day blue crab trap closures take place in designated areas in Florida in odd-numbered years, and three other closures occur in even-numbered years.

Derelict and abandoned crab traps in the waters are a problem for several reasons: They continue to ghost fish (fishing that continues despite the inactivity of the trap) killing not only the crabs but several other recreationally and commercially important species; they pose a navigational hazard to boaters; they can cause damage to valuable and sensitive habitats such as sea grass or natural hard-bottom environments. Manatees, dolphins and sea turtles can also become entangled in the trap line causing injury or death.

"This event is great because it gets community volunteers involved in helping to preserve and protect the bay by removing de-



Tampa Bay Watch remove a derelict crab trap from a local estuary.

bris and keeping marine life from needlessly getting caught and killed in abandoned traps," said Serra Herndon, habitat restoration director for Tampa Bay Watch, in a press release.

It is estimated that there are thousands of derelict crab traps that have been accumulating for decades in Tampa Bay. Each year, Tampa Bay Watch performs surveys to identify derelict traps and conducts clean-ups to remove them. Having conducted 16 crab trap removals since May 2004, Tampa Bay Watch has successfully removed 775 traps from the waters of Tampa Bay.

For more information regarding the FWC's trap-retrieval pro-

gram, blue crab trap closure dates, or regulations, call Kyle Miller at 850-487-0554 or visit MyFWC.com/Rules and click on Fishing - Saltwater.

For information on Tampa Bay Watch's local effort, call Serra Herndon at 867-8166, ext. 227, or email sherndon@tampabay-watch.org.

Tampa Bay Watch is a nonprofit stewardship program dedicated exclusively to the charitable and scientific purpose of protecting and restoring the marine and wetland environments of the Tampa Bay estuary encompassing over 400 square miles of open water and 2,300 square miles of highly developed watershed.

Spanish mackerel, trout and sharks will keep anglers busy

Summer heat can slow down fish as well as anglers. Early starts along with picking days that offer good moving tides will definitely bring better fishing. Bait woe's continue in the north Pinellas region, just as we were getting spoiled with a couple of weeks of being able to chum up perfect sized pilchards. We're now inundated with small pilchard fry. The majority of these baits are still too small to put on a hook, but there is a percentage of usable sized bait mixed in.

The small fry bait is well on its way to being an every situation option. What was considered to be too small to use a couple of weeks ago, some of the tiny pilchards have grown up just enough to be cast out underneath a float or fished on the bottom with a small sinker. Make sure that you use a 1/4 inch mesh cast net for these little guy's or you'll have quite a mess on your hands. These baits may seem too small to be appealing to larger game fish like trout, snook and reds - but think again; remember, fishing is a game of matching the hatch, so it's time to shrink your hooks and possibly your leaders and take advantage



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

of what Mother Nature has given us to work with.

Anchoring up over deep grass patches just inside the passes on a good moving tide has provided good action for trout, Spanish mackerel, ladyfish and small sharks. Live chumming with the tiny pilchards will get the fish into a frenzy. Use a weighted float to assist in casting the small baits and a small long shank hook to help prevent cut-offs.

Shark fishing also can be a good option this time of year, especially when you're taking kids fishing. Small blacktip sharks can be found roaming the bottom in many deep cuts throughout the ICW. Almost any cut bait will work when targeting these pup sharks, but oily baits like mullet or ladyfish seem to work best. Be sure to take a couple of chum blocks to help attract the sharks. Until Next Week - get bent!

Tyson Wallerstein can be reached at capt.tyson@hotmail.com.

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EDITORIAL

Park proposal was no picnic

Honeymoon Island lovers send strong message to Gov. Scott

Gov. Rick Scott made the right decision by canceling plans to expand camping on Honeymoon Island.

Most of the credit, though, for the defeat of the plan should go to the public. Park lovers sent a message loud and clear that they were adamantly opposed to the proposal – as well they should be.

State officials' plans to allow campsites on Honeymoon Island run roughshod over efforts to protect the park's diverse shorebird population and other natural resources.

The Department of Environmental Protection had named Honeymoon Island as one of the first of 56 parks where state officials want to add overnight camping sites, including space for recreational vehicles.

The state park could have established up to 45 campsites on 17.5 acres east of the southern beach parking lot, under the state agency's plans.

Area residents, environmental activists and others turned out in droves at a meeting in Dunedin last week to express opposition to the proposal. They offered convincing arguments about why plans for the campsites should be rejected.

The St. Petersburg Audubon Society points out that the island is critically important to nesting shorebirds, seabirds and wading birds, many of which are protected species. The island has a bald eagle nest, a great horned owl nest and numerous osprey nests. It is a wintering area for peregrine falcons.

The campsites could have negative effects on birds' nesting activities. As the Audubon Society also asks, how will stationary and vehicle campground lighting be controlled to ensure that sea turtle hatchlings and migratory birds are not disoriented at night?

Threats of vandalism and more encroachment upon wildlife habitat should not be taken lightly, especially on an island that has about 1 million visitors a year.

The park already offers many recreational activities, such as interpretative tours, picnicking, surfing, fishing, canoeing, kayaking and bird watching. Agencies that have the responsibility of protecting natural resources should look skeptically on any plans that could oversaturate the area with activities. New campgrounds will require roads, restrooms, bathrooms and other amenities.

The state's ambitious plans to use parks for camping sites create the perception that additional opportunities for revenue for financially strapped agencies were driving the issue. If such is the case, state officials should look at other ways of raising park revenue, such as through fees.

Hats off to the lovers of Honeymoon Island for making a strong case for the need for environmental ethics.

LETTERS

Support the Antiquities Act

Editor:

The immense turnout to protect Honeymoon Island from overdevelopment this week is a great demonstration of how connected our community is to public lands, and how important protecting them is.

Unfortunately, some leaders in Washington, D.C., don't seem to share this popular public sentiment. Case in point: ongoing efforts to gut President Teddy Roosevelt's Antiquities Act. This act gives the president authority to designate new national monuments on sites already owned and enjoyed by us, the American people. If you have visited the Grand Canyon, or the Statue of Liberty, you've enjoyed just a few national treasures that presidents of both parties have used this act to protect over the last 100 years.

Florida has benefited from national monuments, including Fort Matanzas, and two National Parks that started as monuments – Biscayne and Dry Tortugas. I hope Congressman Bill Young will oppose attacks on the Antiquities Act so that our nation's leaders can continue to protect our most cherished public lands and waters for future generations, including Florida's remaining special places.

Frank Jackalone,

Senior organizing manager/Florida & Puerto Rico Sierra Club
St. Petersburg

Hopes institute can show results

Editor:

I have a great deal of respect for St. Petersburg College, but this new "Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions" has me scratching my head. It would have four forums a year that would be financed through membership fees! I guess that leaves all the poor people out of the discussion.

What was the result of the "soft launch" forums on the Gulf Coast oil spill? Are there now laws forcing the oil companies to replace all the defective blowout preventer valves? Have all the businesses been reimbursed for their losses in this man-made disaster?

Will the institute be offering free architectural classes on building minimal survival housing for 13 million unemployed people and the future generations who will have only low skill, low wage jobs available?

Most taxpayers look at think-tanks as people who study something to death and then publish results that anybody could say "I told you so!" I hope SPC can show some nuts-and-bolts, on-the-ground results from this new institute.

Malcolm Johnson

Seminole

Too many guns

Re: Editorial, June 30, about Largo and Clearwater police taking hundreds of guns off the streets by offering \$50 and \$100 gift cards.

Editor:

About a month ago, having nothing better to do, I attended a gun show for the first time at the fairgrounds in Tampa. I arrived in about 15 minutes before the doors opened and found about 100 people in line to pay the \$8 entrance fee.

Once inside, the gun dealers had long tables displaying hundreds of guns of all types. I had sticker shock over the price of the guns. Name brand guns \$500 and up, way up. Assault rifles \$1,200 to more than \$3,000.

If one has a Florida concealed weapons permit, he can pay for the gun and take possession on the spot. Without the permit, a three-day waiting period. I was informed by a sales guy for a big gun dealer that so many guns were being sold, there would be more than an hour wait to fill out the paperwork to buy a gun. I witnessed dozens of guns being delivered.

Almost every weekend there are gun shows like this somewhere in Florida. Four times a year at the Tampa fairgrounds. It would appear the efforts of the police to remove guns is a drop in the bucket compared to the volume of new ones being sold just at these shows.

Ray McJohn

Treasure Island

A plea for doggie etiquette

Editor:

I'd like to take Karen Guay's letter to the editor of July 7th's Beacon just a bit further. I, too, am an animal lover, and I very much appreciate those who observe our leash laws and laws that require us to clean up after our dogs, in our neighborhood parks and in walking them around our neighborhoods, as well.

I'd also like to make a plea, though, for a little doggie etiquette, a little common courtesy, when it comes to our public beaches, too. While we do have designated dog-friendly beaches in Pinellas County, we also have beaches with signs posted that clearly indicate dogs are not allowed at those particular beaches; e.g., Madeira Beach, Treasure Island, etc. No matter how cute and friendly Fido may be, not everyone appreciates him running up to them with an enthusiastic greeting.

I can only imagine how much joy some dogs experience running across the sand at the water's edge, so by all means, take them to the beach and enjoy it with them. Just, please, take them to a dog-friendly beach.

Cynthia Varney

Madeira Beach

Acting requirements of various jobs

Does your job require you to be an actor? If not, you may be one of the few who can get away without having to put on a performance to earn your pay.

A couple of weeks ago I visited one of our better local restaurants. My waiter – I'll call him Harry – used to take part in stage productions. I asked him if he'd done any acting lately, and he said, "No. This job gives me all the acting opportunities I need."

I didn't ask for details, but as I watched Harry in action I could tell what he meant. The role he was playing was that of the accomplished waiter. He was well-dressed, attentive, solicitous, disciplined in his movements. He joined with me in some small talk, but didn't try to be my buddy. He behaved likewise with his other customers. He exuded polite, professional detachment. It was easy for me to see that Harry was proud to be not just a waiter, but also a good one, the kind that returning diners might ask for as they entered the restaurant.

Was Harry a phony, in the negative sense of that term? I don't think so. If he was, then most of us are probably phonies as we perform our daily duties. I prefer the term "actors." Society demands that we pretend. If we didn't, civilization would crumble.

Who are the best actors? Public school teachers must rank high on any list of performers. On an average day a teacher will stand in front of 30 ill-mannered, rebellious children who may hurl insults and spitballs at her. In her heart she'd like to mace or taser the ringleaders. Instead, she acts restrained, disciplined and in charge. Meryl Streep couldn't do a better job of it.

Most cops are marvelous actors. Each day they face the dregs of society – drunks, crackheads, liars, enraged motorists – while being required (at least initially) to play the role of a fair-minded arbiter not easily influenced by the words and actions of pond scum. Of course, beyond a certain point a cop is free to drop the



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

pretense and take painful and necessary actions.

Firefighting, I would guess, is one occupation where no one pretends. When you're in a

TV newsreaders are usually consummate actors. Day after day they stand there and glibly narrate complex stories of war, finance, science and politics. In truth, they do not comprehend one-fifth of the information they are purveying, but you'd never know it. Their motto: "Fake it until you make it."

burning tenement whose walls may collapse on you at any second, you have no time or reason to be an actor. Firefighters don't even have to pretend they're not scared as they wade into danger.

TV newsreaders are usually consummate actors. Day after day they stand there and glibly narrate complex stories of war, finance, science and politics. In truth, they do not comprehend one-fifth of the information they are

purveying, but you'd never know it. Their motto: "Fake it until you make it."

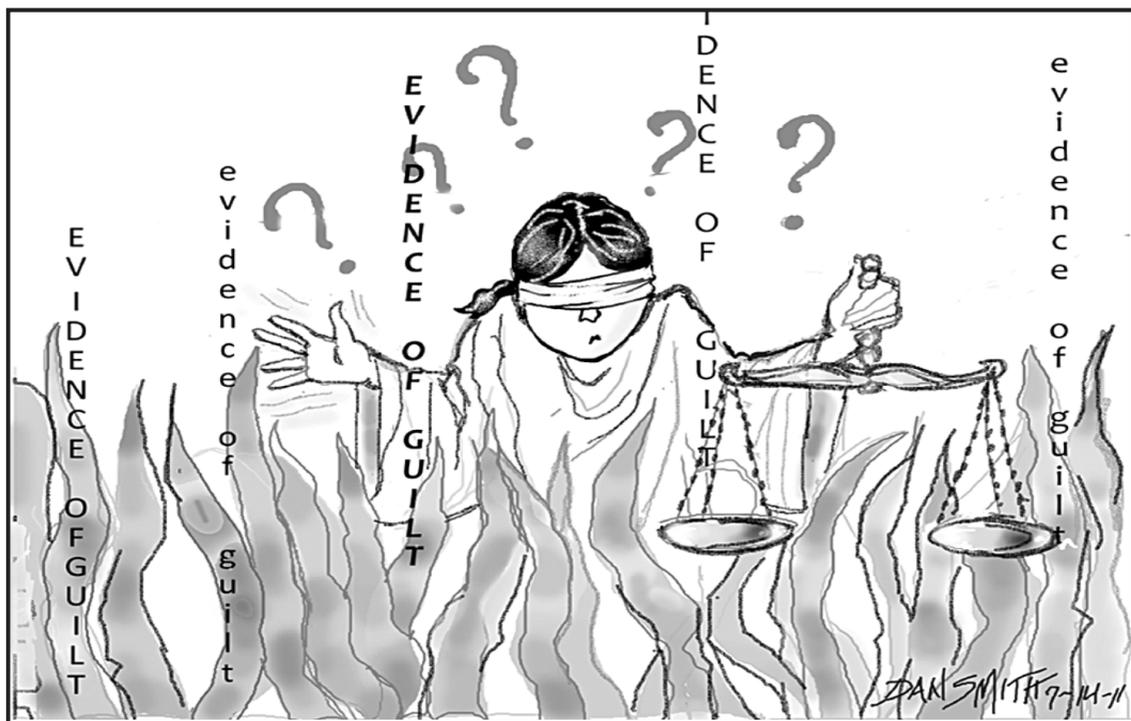
No profession requires its practitioners to be an actor more than does politics. Although a few public office-holders may act as they honestly feel, most cannot and will not. There careers demand that they play a role. They must behave, as they believe their constituents would wish them to. This requirement can change from hour to hour, or from audience to audience. If politicians were suddenly turned into animals, they would be chameleons.

Trial lawyers – the best ones – are often excellent actors. At a second's notice, they must fake outrage, approval, indignation, sympathy. Their job is not to be sincere, but to win the case for their clients.

Air traffic controllers seldom show their emotions. They are paid to remain calm. They speak in a low, controlled manner, so as to persuade airline pilots (and others who may be listening in) that there's nothing to get excited about. They do this despite the fact that they have the task of keeping dozens of supersonic aircraft from colliding with one another as they (the controllers) figure out which ones should be permitted to land, take off, or stand by for the next 37 seconds on Runway 040. I must assume that the default on-duty emotion for typical air traffic controllers is subdued terror. Therefore, they are superb actors. They deserve Oscars or Golden Globes just for not screaming six or eight times each hour they work.

So are bartenders and psychiatrists. They must deal with clients who are drunk or crazy or both. These customers are inclined to speak gibberish. The barkeeps and the shrinks must listen, and pretend to give a pig's whistle about what the customer is whining about. It takes outstanding actors to carry out such a role day after day.

Bob Driver is a longtime columnist and editorial page editor for the Clearwater Sun. Send Driver an email at tralec71@comcast.net.



Help wanted to replace a light bulb

There ought to be a support group for dysfunctional picture hangers.

I would be the first to join.

Whenever the inspector general, my mother, visits me she has something to say about the pictures on my walls.

"That picture is too high," she said recently. "Your pictures should always be at eye level."

"Well, grow a couple of inches," I said.

I also seem to have a problem hanging pictures straight. Can't count how many times I've had to re-hang pictures. And, yes, I've filled most of the nail holes I left with the wrong kind of compound. Consequently, the blotches on the walls appear as if the walls have melanoma.

Wish I could blame my lack of interior decorating skills on the fact that I'm vision impaired (blind as a bat), but I think the problem is more serious than that: I'm mechanically inept.

While most of my pals in junior high school took a class called "shop," I took art. That was a complete waste of time because although I learned the basics about sketching and the use of watercolors, I never received instruction on how to hang a painting.

Never been good with a hammer, saw and nails, either – although I do take pride in having put the screws to a few politicians.

Electrical work? Scares me to death. Would be much more confident that I could perform simple electrical work if I could find the book, "Changing Light Bulbs for Dummies."

Fluorescent light bulbs? Won't touch them. I'll leave any work involving fluorescent light bulb fixtures to the professionals, such as the Navy Seals.

Don't do "assembly required," either. No sir. It took me hours to build a shower tower in my master bathroom. At least it's stand-



Tom Germond

ing; I'm used to the 45-degree angle.

Have trouble with "assembly required," instructions, too. Heck, sometimes it takes five minutes just to find the set of instructions written in English.

Suffice it to say that over the years, I've relied extensively on professional help to pre-

Electrical work? Scares me to death. Would be much more confident that I could perform simple electrical work if I could find the book, "Changing Light Bulbs for Dummies."

vent my homes – and my sanity – from disintegrating.

Plumbing? If I can't fix the problem with Drano, I usually call somebody.

The other day, I sought help at a building supply store for a problem I had with a clogged shower drain.

"Excuse me, sir," I asked, "does this stuff work?"

I was referring to some liquid miracle cure in a bottle with a hazmat label on it.

"That will help, but you'd be better off to drop the trap and snake it," an employee said. "Oh, of course," I said.

But that would require me to remove the shower tower. I refuse to take the time to try and rebuild it.

So I guess I'll have to call my plumber friend. I always try to observe and learn from him.

I once watched him replace the flush lever and other parts in my toilet.

"I think I could do that," I told the plumber. "No, you'd probably muck it up," he said.

The truth hurts.

Electronics? Again, nothing's simple. A few years ago, I bought a stereo turntable in an attempt to play old LP albums. I plugged it in, and ... nothing. After about an hour of reading the troubleshooting section, I came to the conclusion that the machine didn't work.

I took it back to the store where I bought it, and an employee said, "You didn't hook up the belt."

"I didn't know it had a belt," I said. He looked at me curiously.

Pants have belts. Cars have belts. But I never had to install or replace a belt on my old turntable, the 1962 RCA Victor I owned for two decades. They don't make things like they used to – and nothing's easy to fix.

Over the years, I've tried to replace insulation, install vinyl tile, fix a water heater and undertake other home improvement projects with limited success. Believe it or not, I'm fairly competent at painting; I seldom paint my carpet.

But I'm also a great believer in handymen. I'm overdue on calling a professional for some work I need done, such as hanging a large picture on a masonry wall – at eye level.

I really don't spend a lot of time checking the professional qualifications of handymen.

But since I'm going to need one to hang a picture in my house, he'd better be at least 6 feet tall.

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Publisher/President: Dan Autrey
dautrey@tbnweekly.com

Accounting Manager: Andrea Marcarelli
tbnandy@yahoo.com

Retail Advertising Manager: Jay Rey
jrey@tbnweekly.com

Classification Advertising Manager: Shelly Fournier
sfournier@tbnweekly.com

Executive Editor: Tom Germond
tgermond@tbnweekly.com

Production Manager: David Brown
production@tbnweekly.com

Internet Services Manager: Suzette Porter
webmaster@tbnweekly.com

Seminole/Beach Beacon: Bob McClure
bmccclure@tbnweekly.com

Largo Leader/Dunedin Beacon: Tom Germond
tgermond@tbnweekly.com

Belleair/Beach Bee: Chary Southmayd
csouthmayd@tbnweekly.com

9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772

727-397-5563 • Fax: 727-397-5900 • www.TBNweekly.com

Clearwater Beacon: Alexandra Lundahl
acaldwell@tbnweekly.com

Pinellas Park Beacon: Juliana A. Torres
jtorres@tbnweekly.com

General Editorial
editorial@tbnweekly.com

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Briefs

Evening Pediatrics opens Largo office

LARGO - Evening Pediatrics, based in St. Petersburg, recently opened its second location at 12190 Seminole Blvd., Suite A. Evening Pediatrics was founded in 2008, with the desire to provide after-hours medical care, without the expense of the emergency room. Evening Pediatrics aims at creating a calm and soothing environment while providing exceptional care to infants, children and adolescents when a primary care physician's office may be closed. Evening Pediatrics serves as the intermediary between a child's primary care physician and the emergency room. "We found parents were traveling long distances to visit our St. Petersburg Office located off of 49th St. N.," said Michael Cibran, owner. "Our decision to expand to the Largo area was based on the need for a pediatric after-hours clinic in the area. We hope to continue growing and to eventually have several convenient locations for all families in Pinellas County."

Keystone Healthcare to sponsor seminar

CLEARWATER - Keystone Healthcare and Rehabilitation Services Inc. will host a seminar on staying healthy after physical therapy on Saturday, July 16, 2 to 3 p.m., at the Hampton at Clearwater, 1099 N. McMullen Booth Road. The seminar will cover what steps should be taken to maintain strength and flexibility after physical therapy ends. Attendees will have an opportunity to speak to a licensed physical therapist. The event will include free computerized balance testing and refreshments. Parking will be available in the Hampton at Clearwater's parking lot by Sam Ash Music and at the Kapok Tree. Call 726-8861, ext. 1036.

Largo Medical invests in graduate medical education program

LARGO - Largo Medical Center is investing more than \$2.1 million in new education and meeting facilities to accommodate the growth of the hospital's graduate medical education program, and the hospital's capacity for employee and community education. The project includes a 200-seat conference center, resident resource rooms on patient care floors, on call rooms, a resident dining room and renovation of the current medical staff dining area. "This conference center will assist us in educating the more than 118 resident physicians who are a part of our 13 graduate medical educational programs here at Largo Medical Center," said Richard H. Satcher, chief executive officer of Largo Medical Center, in a press release. "As we continue to grow, this conference center will give us the space and flexibility to provide some of the most diverse and quality educational lectures not only for our medical residents and fellows, but also for all of our health care employees and the community." The conference center's main meeting room will seat 200 people. This room will be able to be subdivided into four smaller meeting rooms. Also, three additional conference rooms will be located just steps away and will provide space for smaller group meetings. The multipurpose conference center will connect electronically with Nova Southeastern University, the University of South Florida and other higher-learning institutions to share educational presentations through a state-of-the-art audio-visual system. Construction is set to be completed in November 2011. The graduate medical education program of Largo Medical Center is the third largest osteopathic program in the south and has been designated as

a statutory teaching hospital by the Agency for Health Care Administration.

Pincrest place holds educational event for adult children

LARGO - Pincrest Place will host an educational event called "the 40/70 Rule." It is a program designed to help adult children learn about issues facing their aging parents. This free event will be held Wednesday, July 27, 5:30 to 7 p.m., at Pincrest. "We wanted to give the 'sandwich generation' some things to think about as they deal with their parents," said Sherrie Ngo, sales director at Pincrest Place. The seminar will have a social half hour for networking with other attendees, then an hour-long program with tips for the participants. Joining the Pincrest staff in the presentations will be a certified financial Planner, Drew LaGrande, local attorney, and Brenda Chappell of Moss Feaster. "This program is designed to provide insight on the issues facing seniors and to give some real information about the options available. Being aware is the best way to prepare. Hopefully, this program will help adult children begin discussions with their parents, making future decisions easier," said Chappell. Topics will include options in retirement living, how to pay for it, what legal documents are needed to protect your parent's interests and finally, how to pre-plan the final days. "We want the participants to leave with a better sense on how to talk to their parents, and with a check list of things they need to do to make their parents future, and theirs, easier," says Ngo. Call Sue Osborne at 543-5050 or email HYPERLINK "mailto:sOsborne@horizonbay.com" sOsborne@horizonbay.com

Support groups

AIDS Partnership Inc., meets for a free fellowship dinner on third Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., at Brockus Hall, Good Samaritan Church, 6085 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park. Email AIDSPartnershipinc.org. **Adult Children of Alcoholic and Dysfunctional Families** meets Mondays, 7:30 p.m., and

Thursdays, 6 p.m., at St. Paul United Methodist Church, Children's Ministry Center, Room 100, 1199 Highland Ave., Largo. Email ACAPinellas@yahoo.com. **Adult Children of Alcoholic and Dysfunctional Families** meets Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Pinellas County, 5023 Central Ave.

Email ACAPinellas@yahoo.com. **Al-Anon** meets Mondays, 8 p.m., at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 455 Missouri Ave. Al-Anon, which helps the family and friends of problem drinkers, meets in Largo. Call 548-6811. **Alzheimer's Support Group** meets fourth Fridays, 1:30 to 2:30

p.m., at Arden Courts of Seminole, 9300 137th St. N. Call 517-7800. **Alzheimer's Support Group** meets first Wednesdays, 10 to 11:30 a.m., at Dunedin Recreation's Dr. William E. Hale Senior Activity Center, 330 Douglas Ave. Call 298-3299. **Alzheimer's Support Group** meets Wednesdays, 10 to 11 a.m., in the executive board room on the second floor of the "A" building at

The Fountains at Boca Ciega Bay, 1255 Pasadena Ave. S. Call Florence Nicely at 321-9746. **Alzheimer's Support Group** meets last Thursdays, 6 p.m., at Barrington Terrace Assisted Living Residence, 333 16th Ave. S.E., Largo. Call 588-0020. **Alzheimer's Dementia and Parkinson's Support Group** meets Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m., at First Church of the Nazarene,

6565 78th Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Call Ruth Pfeiffer at 391-5168. **Association of Late-Deafened Adults** meets third Saturdays, 3 to 5 p.m., at the Safety Harbor Library, 101 Second St., Safety Harbor. Call 724-1525. **Bayfront Medical Center Stroke Support Group** meets fourth Wednesdays, 3 p.m., at Bayfront Medical Center's Sheen Conference Center, 701 Sixth St. S., St. Petersburg. Call 893-6765. **Breast Cancer Support Group** meets third Thursdays, noon to 1 p.m., at American Cancer Society, 4801 86th Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Call 543-0702 or email info@ccsa.us.

CHADD: Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder meets first Tuesdays, 7 to 8:45 p.m., at Bay Pines VA Medical Center, 10000 Bay Pines Blvd., Building 20, in the medical auditorium. Call 572-8082 or visit www.chaddonline.org/chapters/chadd601.html. **H.E.A.L. of Tampa Bay**, a national support group for people whose health has been impacted by the environment. For times and locations, call Betty at 726-0423. **Healing After Loves Suicide**, which provides support for suicide bereavers, meets the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Personal Enrichment Mental Health Services, 11254 58th St. Call 394-8222. **Headache Support Group** of Pinellas County meets to share information about causes and treatment on fourth Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., in Conference Room A. Carillon Outpatient Center, 900 Carillon Parkway. Sponsored by St. Petersburg Neurology Clinic and St. Petersburg Headache Institute at St. Anthony's Health Care. Call 825-1250. **Hearing Loss Association of America**, Clearwater Chapter, meets first Tuesdays, 3 p.m., in the Wellness Center building, Morton Plant Hospital, 300 Pinellas St., Clearwater. Call Barbara Emmons at 799-0398 or email bemmons@tampabay.rr.com. **Lupus Support Group** meets third Saturdays, 1 p.m., in the community room of Panera Bread in the Bardmoor Shopping Center, corner of Starkey Road and Bryan Dairy, Largo. Meetings include speakers and round table discussion. Membership is not required to attend. Call 447-7075. **Nicotine Anonymous**, Clearwater's "You Can Do It" group, meets Sundays, noon, in the Board Room on the first floor at Morton Plant Hospital. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using nicotine; or, having been a smoker, to encourage and give support to those who are still struggling with nicotine addiction. Email pelican@gte.net.

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Obituaries

Recognizing that some readers wish to share the life and loss of a loved one with the community, Tampa Bay Newspapers publishes paid obituaries in our weekly papers.

The deadline for submitting obituary information is 9 a.m. on Monday, for that week's papers. Obituaries will publish in all six of our papers.

Obituary information should include: full name, age, city and date of death. You may also choose to include the names of living and/or predeceased relatives, work history, clubs and/or activities that they participated in. If you wish to include the name of the funeral home handling arrangements keep in mind that we are a weekly publication and the paper may publish after the services have taken place.

For further information, including cost, please call Tampa Bay Newspapers at 727-397-5563, or you can submit your information through our Web site, www.TBNweekly.com, or by e-mail at: obits@TBNweekly.com.

Tampa Bay NEWSPAPERS
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Pinellas Park business expected to create 30 jobs

By JULIANA A. TORRES

PINELLAS PARK - Nautical Structures Industries, a yacht accessory manufacturing corporation, will be expanding its operations to a larger Pinellas Park facility and adding about 30 new employees to its staff over the next three years.

"We are currently over capacity at this point in time," Lynsey Skewes, company controller, said. "We've been able to come through the recession and start hiring again."

Nautical Structures Industries manufactures deck cranes, stairs and boarding equipment for yachts. The company will be moving from their current facility at 10351 72nd St. N., on the south side of Bryan Dairy Road, to a vacant, 94,000-square-foot building about half a mile away on the north side of the highway, near the intersection with Belcher Road. Along with purchasing the property's 5 acres, the company is investing about \$6 million into the expansion project.

"We are thrilled to report that business is great, and it's the right time to take our operations to another level," Nautical Structures president Bob Bolines stated in a press release. "The city of Pinellas Park and Pinellas County Economic Development have been enormously helpful as we've put together our expansion plan."

The city and county economic development helped the compa-

ny take advantage of Florida's Qualified Target Industry program, which gives a tax refund for new jobs in targeted industries. The company also received help with financing the expansion through an Industrial Revenue Bond, through which local governments can offer qualified manufacturers tax-free, below-market interest rates to help them purchase land, buildings and equipment.

"By helping Nautical Structures grow its operations in Pinellas Park, existing jobs will be retained and new jobs will be added. Wages from these jobs will have a local economic impact of \$1.9 million annually," Mike Meidel, director of county economic development, stated. "The retention of existing businesses is critical to Pinellas County's economic success."

The company currently employs 37 people, including five engineers who help customize about 85 percent of its products. The new jobs to be added to its operations will vary from high-tech, higher-paid jobs, such as an industrial engineer and quality control manager to specialized jobs such as welders, manual mechanists and hydraulic, electrical and mechanical assemblers, Skewes said.

"We've been getting very busy, which is very good for us," she said. "We may have to be hiring for a second shift."

The renovation of Nautical Structure's new facilities at 7301

114th Ave. will take about six to eight months to complete, Skewes said. The building has been abandoned for about five years and subject to internal vandalism.

The company began demolition at the site June 29. The plan is to move NSI Precision, its division that produces customized parts for other manufacturers, in October and slowly move the rest of the company in by the beginning of 2012, Skewes said.

"There's so many people that are going to be involved in this," she said, of the expansion, mentioning the contractors and subcontractors hired through the renovation process. "It's not just helping one medium-sized company. It's going to be helping a lot of people."

Nautical Structures started in 1983 as a smaller-scale manufacturer, making small davits and tail-lifts.

"We've grown quite a bit from back then," Skewes said. "We're on a kind of upswing again, and it's great."

The company exports about 85 to 90 percent of its products, she said.

"I am very happy with Nautical Structures' choice to remain in Pinellas Park," the city's mayor Bill Mischler stated. "Job creation, repurposing of an underutilized site, business retention ... these are all elements of a healthy city that will greatly benefit the citizens of Pinellas Park."



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

A crane stands ready to be tested at Nautical Structures Industries site in Pinellas Park.

TBN wins 11 awards in Florida Press Association contest

Tampa Bay Newspapers won 11 awards in the 2010 Better Weekly Newspaper Contest, including three first-place awards.

"We are extremely pleased to be recognized for winning numerous awards in many categories in what is among the most competitive newspaper contests in the country," TBN Executive Editor Tom Germond said. "This is our best showing in the contest, and our efforts are a credit to the hard work of all TBN employees and correspondents."

"We will continue to strive for excellence and to embrace high standards of journalism that readers should expect from newspapers, large or small," Germond said.

Seventy-three newspapers competed in the contest, submitting more than 1,500 entries. Newspaper editors and publishers judged

the contest.

Awards won by Tampa Bay Newspapers are: Education, first place, Alexandra Lundahl, Clearwater Beacon, "Students beat the odds and earn diplomas."

Outdoor writing, first place, Alexandra Lundahl, Clearwater Beacon, "Many flock BP's claim center."

Feature picture, first place, Thomas Michalski, Pinellas Park Beacon, "All tucked out."

Feature picture, second place, Branden Bell, Largo Leader, "Getting a grip."

Feature picture, third place, Jim Layfield, Largo Leader, "Heads up."

Health, second place, Alexandra Lundahl, Clearwater Beacon,

"Tragedy prompts drowsy driving prevention week."

Criticism, second place, Lee Clark Zumpe, Largo Leader, "The Last Exorcism," "True Grit," "The Tourist."

Agricultural writing, third place, Bob McClure, Seminole-Beach Beacon, "Madeira man grows 24-pound radish."

Sports column, second place, Bob McClure, Seminole-Beach Beacon, "Remembering a character."

Front page makeup, second place, Tom Germond, Largo Leader, "Serious column, second place, Harlan Welkle, Belleair Bee, "Pet home hospice."

The awards were presented July 1 at the Florida Press Association and Florida Society of Newspaper Editors annual convention at the Vinoy Resort and Golf Club in St. Petersburg.

Biz notes

Chamber to host bowling event

LARGO - The Largo/Mid-Pinellas Chamber of Commerce will host its seventh annual Shake, Rattle and Bowl on Wednesday, July 20, 5:30 to 8 p.m., at Liberty Bowling Lanes, 11401 Starkey Road.

This business-networking event will feature bowling, refreshments and a variety of great prizes.

Cost is \$200 to sponsor a lane, which includes a team of four to five bowlers, company name advertised on bowling lane, food and beverages, name and logo on commemorative program and prize contests. Basic team registration is \$125 for a team of four to five players, food and prize contests.

Space is limited to 12 teams. To register or for more information, call 584-2321 or email tom@largo-chamber.org.

Chamber seeks award nominations

LARGO - The Largo/Mid-Pinellas Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for its Citizen of the Year and Mac Norcross Small Business Person of the Year awards.

The presentations will take place during the chamber's 59th annual meeting on Friday, Sept. 16, at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort, 1160 Gulf Blvd., Clearwater.

Citizen of the Year nominees have focused attention to the Largo/Mid-Pinellas region through their direct efforts which has generated acclaim or public notice; have outstanding achievement in community service; and have performed volunteer (uncompensated) services to the community. Offices/chairmanships of national, state and local civic and nonprofit organizations will be considered.

Mac Norcross Small Business Person of the Year nominees must own a locally operated independent or franchised business with 50 or less fulltime employees

and be an active member of the chamber. A commitment to the community, as demonstrated by contributions of personal time and/or resources, and a proven commitment to local entrepreneurship/small business must be demonstrated.

Nomination deadline is Aug. 19. For nomination forms or for more information about award criteria, call 584-2321 or email tom@largo-chamber.org.

SPCA Tampa Bay hires Martha Boden

LARGO - The board of directors for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Tampa Bay recently named animal welfare executive Martha Boden chief executive officer.

"Martha brings a unique combination of professional animal welfare and nonprofit management experience which will serve us well in achieving our mission to be the leader in animal advocacy for the Tampa Bay community," said James Lutz, SPCA Tampa Bay president.

Boden's career has included executive positions in the for-profit workplace as well as in the not-for-profit sector. This experience has allowed her to leverage her business knowledge in the support of animal welfare. She served as the CEO of the Humane Society of Indianapolis from 2002 through mid-2008. Under Boden's leadership the HSI staff streamlined internal procedures, set goals and measured their progress in increased animal adoptions and other service priorities. Even as the national economy faltered, annual contributions to HSI grew, as did the number of donors and repeat gifts, substantially reducing the organization's budget deficit.

Boden will lead the SPCA Tampa Bay team that has been in a state of transition since the departure of executive director Beth Lockwood in October 2009. Boden's selection as the new leader is the result of an intensive nationwide search.

Boden is relocating from Cincinnati, Ohio, where she established a project management office within a division of the global consulting firm Accenture LLP.

Pawnshop expands into Clearwater

CLEARWATER - Big Tim's Pawn recently opened its second retail store, located at 1690 Clearwater Largo Road.

Big Tim's Pawn Clearwater is a 5,000-square-foot store serving residents of Clearwater, Largo and Belleair and adjacent communities six days a week, providing cash loans and retail deals with superior service.

"Opening a Clearwater store is a huge goal for me being a local guy," said Tim Russell, president and CEO of Big Tim's Pawn, in a press release. "I graduated from Largo High in '85 and never could get away from the area I loved."

According to Russell, his first store opened in 2009 in Pinellas Park. His customers were looking for a more northern county location.

The staff at Big Tim's Pawn Clearwater has more than 20 years of pawnshop experience.

Big Tim's Pawn is committed to improving the Pinellas County community by sponsoring local police and high school events like the Pinellas County Sheriff's Athletic Program and the Northeast High Cross Country program.

Jazzercise to host open house

LARGO - Laura Price, a Largo-area Jazzercise instructor, will offer a citywide free-for-all Jazzer-

cise open house Tuesday, Aug. 2, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall Gym, on the corner of Highland Avenue and Rosery Road.

Price also offers classes in Belleair at the Dimmitt Community Center.

"This event allows me to thank all the students who have made Jazzercise a success in Largo and Belleair," Price said in a press release. "I also want to give the public an opportunity to see what Jazzercise is all about."

Open house festivities will include information on the Jazzercise program and a free workout. Admission is free to everyone, and participants should dress to exercise. Refreshments will be served. Price also will offer limited-time special pricing options.

The 60-minute Jazzercise class includes a warm-up, high-energy aerobic routines, muscle-toning

and cool-down stretch segment. Jazzercise combines elements of dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga and kickboxing to create programs for people of every age and fitness level.

For more information, call Price at 512-7770 or email laura.price2@verizon.net.

Cattitude opens

LARGO - Lisa Menze, Largo's first certified feline master groomer, recently opened the area's only feline-exclusive resort, Cattitude, at 1931 West Bay Drive.

Menze has been grooming for more than 20 years. She became one of 65 certified feline master groomers in the world after completing her training with the National Cat Groomers Institute of America Inc.

Cat lovers in the area will experience an exclusive feline resort

featuring sedation-free grooming with state-of-the-art equipment. Cattitude also offers boarding with all suite accommodations.

Solace relocates

LARGO - Solace Insurance recently relocated to a new central Pinellas location in the Achieva Building, 10125 Ulmerton Road, Suite 200.

Solace, an established, independently owned, full service insurance agency, has been serving the community for more than 28 years. Community activists Bob Childress, CEO of Solace, and Suzan Decker Ross, owner of Decker Ross Interiors, teamed up to create a professionally designed office space, utilizing as much existing furniture and art as possible. Decker Ross provided design consultation and specification services throughout the extensive renovation process.

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Sunday 7:00 am & 9:00 am (Family Mass)
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Church news

Suncoast Community Church

LARGO – Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street will be offered Monday through Friday, July 18-22, 9:30 a.m. to noon, at Suncoast Community Church, 12855 110th Ave. N.

Designed for potty-trained children age 2 through grade six, this free vacation Bible school will challenge attendees to turn bad attitudes “inside out and upside down” through games, crafts, music, live drama, Bible stories and snacks.

To register, call 501-0281.

Church of the Ascension

CLEARWATER – A free summer concert series will be offered July 17, Aug. 21 and Sept. 18, 6 p.m., at 701 Orange Ave.

The concerts will take place outside beneath the oaks and will showcase the 49 tuned bells of the Church of Ascension carillon. Attendees may bring a lawn chair or sit in their car. Picnics and pets are welcome. The concerts will feature pops, light classics, patriotic tunes, opera and show tunes.

Call 447-3469 or visit www.churchofascension.org.

Parbawatiya Buddhist Center

Parbawatiya Buddhist Center will sponsor several events in the coming weeks at various locations.

A class in Buddhism and meditation will be offered Friday, July 22, 7 to 8:15 p.m., at Yoga 4 All, 8824 Seminole Blvd., Seminole.

This class will include two guided meditations and a teaching. It is perfect for anyone with an interest in Buddhism and meditation.

A class in Buddhism and meditation will be offered Sunday, July 24, 10 to 11:30 a.m., at Parbawatiya Buddhist Center, 201 Sixth Ave. S., Safety Harbor.

These days, many people are developing an interest in Buddhism and meditation. Buddhism is an open, flexible faith that may be practiced by anyone, regardless of ethnicity or religious background.

Cost for each class is \$10 or \$5 for students and those on a limited income.

The Parbawatiya Buddhist Center is a nonprofit organization. For information, call 797-9770 or visit www.meditationintampabay.org.

Volunteers needed

Parent Aide program

Parent Aide volunteers are considered foot soldiers in the front lines of effectiveness on child abuse prevention. Volunteers are committed to helping parents succeed at parenting. The program seeks volunteers to help break the cycle of child abuse.

Those interested in helping a struggling parent, having a positive influence on a family and making a difference in the community, call Carry at 544-3900.

Hospice of Florida Suncoast

There are numerous, wide-ranging volunteer opportunities with The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast for individuals interested in activities that truly make a difference in the lives of people with chronic illnesses and those nearing the end of life. Volunteers will assist with a broad variety of needs: visiting with patients and families; running errands; helping with light household chores, etc. The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast offers volunteer opportunities that serve patients and families behind the scenes.

Call Kathy Roble, director of volunteer services, at 586-4432 or visit www.thehospice.org.

Gulf Coast Community Care

Volunteers age 30 and older are needed for the mentoring program and are matched with children who need a positive adult role model. Many of the children are in foster care or live with a single parent who is going to school and working. Volunteers are needed for children of all ages.

They give time to one child and are provided social events and support by agency staff. No experience is necessary and there are no costs. Volunteers spend a few hours a week in simple activities such as reading, fishing, baking, teaching a craft or visiting a park with a child. To volunteer, call Beverly at 479-1841.

Guardian ad Litem

Close to a thousand children in Pinellas County need a Guardian ad Litem volunteer to be their voice in the courtroom and to advocate for them in the child welfare system. As a child's advocate, a Guardian ad Litem becomes familiar with the child's case and makes recommendations to the court to

help ensure the child has a safe, caring and stable environment.

Guardians receive ongoing assistance to help them make a positive difference in the lives of children. For information and an application, visit www.guardianadlitem6.org.

Humane Society of Pinellas

The Humane Society of Pinellas is seeking volunteers, particularly for weekend shifts. Opportunities include direct animal interaction using the acclaimed Open Paw method, administrative assistance, adoption counselors, event planning and fund raising and humane education. Animal lovers will enjoy an opportunity to join the first shelter in the Southeast to implement Open Paw while playing an important role in saving homeless pets.

Call Bobbie at 797-7722, ext. 237 or visit www.humanesocietyofpinellas.org.

American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is in need of volunteers to drive patients to and from their cancer treatments. The society has a special program called “Road to Recovery.” Volunteers also call and make appointments with those who drive the patients for their scheduled appointments.

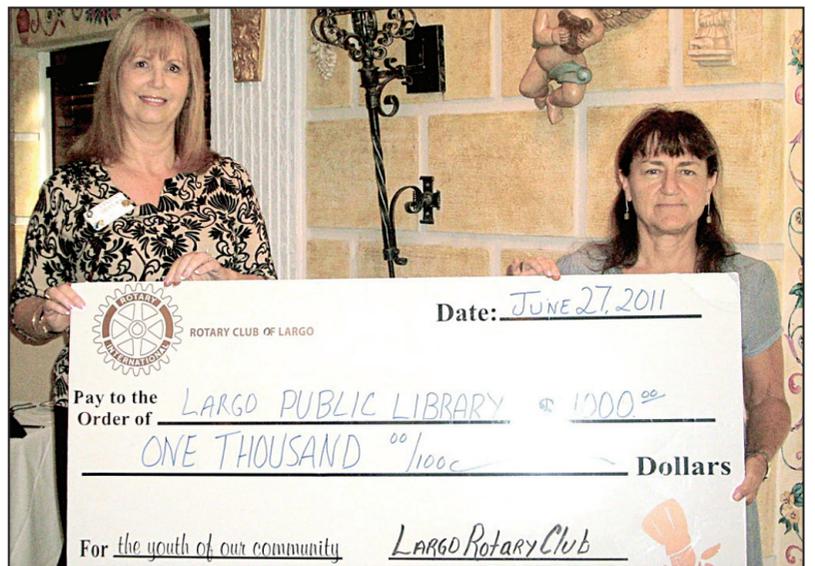
Countywide, only about 25 volunteers give time to drive these patients. Many more volunteers are needed to take clients to get their radiation or chemotherapy. The lack of having drivers is a very serious problem for thousands of cancer patients. It is not just a once a week trip, but some patients must go daily, over a several-month period. These patients are usually unable to drive because they are ill or have no car.

The American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program provides free transportation to and from their life-saving treatments. Volunteer drivers give their time and the use of their own cars to transport these patients.

Requirements to be a driver are a valid driver's license and a car in good condition. Volunteer hours are flexible and driving one day a week is acceptable. Training, maps and directions are provided.

Call the American Cancer Society Pinellas Unit at 812-7006.

Rotary donation



Linda Flower, left, president of the Rotary Club of Largo presents a \$1,000 check to the Largo Public Library's Mercedes Bleattler to provide a book honoring each of the club's speakers for the past year. These funds are made possible through the club's annual “Death by Chocolate – A Taste of the Holidays” held on the first Friday of December each year at the Largo Cultural Center.

American Red Cross

The Tampa Bay Chapter needs volunteer drivers and dispatchers to operate its Transportation Program in Clearwater. Drivers and dispatchers are needed to fill assignments from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Red Cross Clearwater Branch, 2481 Sunset Point Road.

The Red Cross community service provides free transportation to those who have no other means of getting to critical medical and dental appointments, rehabilitation or therapy sessions. Volunteers must be dependable, in good health, able to devote at least five hours (one day) per week to driving or dispatching, have a good driving record, be familiar with area street systems, have an eye for detail, be willing to undergo a background check and possess a strong sense of caring and helpfulness for the clients who use the service.

Dispatchers assist in scheduling and coordinating daily program operations, driver assignments, dealing with client pick-up and drop-off schedules. Prospective volunteer drivers and dispatchers undergo one to two weeks of training, which includes an orientation to the Red Cross and office computer systems, “ride-alongs” with current drivers and participation in Red Cross CPR and First Aid courses. For information, call the office of volunteers at 446-2358, or send an e-mail to moran@tampabay.redcross.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

More than 200 boys are on the waiting list hoping to be matched with a Big Brother. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County is searching for volunteers from all walks of life, but especially male and minority mentors.

Big Brothers Big Sisters matches “at-risk” children one-to-one with professionally supported volunteer mentors. Studies have shown that children

matched with a Big brother, big sister, or big couple are 96.5 percent more likely to be promoted to the next grade and 96 percent less likely to become involved with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

For more information visit www.bbbspc.org or call 518-8860.

Community Action Stops Abuse

Advocates are needed for survivors of domestic violence and their children. Volunteers (age 16 and up) are needed to help in the CASA Collection Thrift Shoppe to accept donations, greet customers, price and display merchandise. Volunteers are asked to commit to one four hour shift a week (10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.). Please visit the Thrift Shoppe at 1011 First Ave. N. to fill out an application Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Danielle at 895-4912, ext. 107 or send an email to info@casa-stpete.org.

Center for Victim's Rights

The Center for Victim's Rights is in need of volunteers to make calls or send e-mails to let residents know that a speaker is available to them and to organize the accumulated articles, literature and other operating materials. Computer knowledge is helpful but not a must. Volunteer time can be done from home. Other needs include: financial contributions; small desk and/or chair; file cabinets or other office supplies; business cards; a place to make free copies and businesses that will allow us to leave information for their patrons. Help with computer use would also be helpful. Call Cynthia at (352) 628-6481 and leave a contact number or email Advocate4Victims@aol.com. Contributions can be mailed to The Center For Victim's Rights, P.O. Box 531915, St. Petersburg, FL 33747.

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Diversions

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Leader
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Looking Ahead

Clearwater

• **"Last of the Red Hot Lovers,"** by Neil Simon, presented by Early Bird Dinner Theatre, July 14 through Sept. 4, at the Italian-American Club, 200 S. McMullen Booth Road. Seating for performances is Thursday through Sunday, 4 p.m. Seating for matinees is Thursday and Saturday, 11 a.m. Cost is \$29.90 a person. For reservations, call 446-5898. Visit www.earlybirddinnertheatre.com. Middle-aged and married, overworked and overweight, Barney Cashman wants to join the sexual revolution before it's too late and arranges three seductions:

the first, Elaine Navazio proves to be a foul-mouthed bundle of neuroses; Bobbi Michele is next, a 20-ish actress who's too kooky by half; and finally comes September and Jeanette Fisher, a gloomy, depressed housewife who happens to be married to Barney's best friend.

• **Art exhibit,** through Aug. 28, at Clearwater Main Library, 100 N. Osceola Ave. The exhibit features artwork by the Tampa Bay Surface Design Guild in the Osceola and Carnegie galleries. Surface design is the coloring, patterning, structuring and transformation of fabric, fiber and other materials. The purpose of the guild is to increase community awareness of surface design and its value. As a group, they exchange information on such creative processes as dyeing, painting, printing, stitching, embellishing, quilting, weaving, knitting, felting, beading, basket making, polymer clay, crochet and papermaking. For information about the design guild, visit www.surfaceguild.com. The exhibits are open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Friday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Call 562-4970.

• **Singles Dance,** Saturday, July 16, 7:30 p.m., at Colreavy Hall, 820 Jasmine Way. Designed for singles age 50 and older, the event will feature a performance by the Diplomats band. Admission is \$5 for members and \$7 for nonmembers. Reservations are not required. The group presents monthly dances on third Saturdays. Call 446-1619.

• **Concert 4 Hope,** Thursday, July 14, 6 to 10 p.m., at The Venue, 2675 Ulmerton Road. Tickets are \$20. Visit www.ltb11.org. Proceeds will benefit the LTB 11 Foundation, A Kid's Place and Joshua House. The LTB 11 Foundation will host the inaugural Concert 4 Hope. Brendan McLaughlin from ABC Action News will emcee the event and will be joined by the Black Honkeys, a Central Florida band. There will be a silent auction, free food, live music, raffles and drink specials. The LTB 11 Foundation Inc. was born from the extraordinary idea of the Leadership Tampa Bay Class of 2011. LTB 11 Foundation's mission is recruiting and guiding leaders in the community to benefit and better the community by supporting charitable organizations and providing scholarships to Leadership Tampa Bay for deserving individuals who work for charities.

• **Happy Together Tour,** Tuesday, July 19, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road. Tickets range from \$42.50 to \$68. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. The Happy Together Tour will feature performances by The Turtles featuring Flo and Eddie, The Grass Roots, The Association, The Buckingham and Mark Lindsay, former lead singer of Paul Revere and the Raiders. This annual roundup of popular 1960s and 1970s artists will include songs such as "Happy Together," "Elenore," "Midnight Confessions," "Temptation Eyes," "Cherish," "Windy," "Kind of a Drag" and "Just Like Me."

• **Jim Gaffigan,** Friday, July 22, 7 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road. Tickets range from \$39.75 to \$49.75. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Gaffigan has proven himself a major talent beloved to a wide range of audiences, achieving accolades and awards for his stand-up comedy, acting and writing. His clever, quiet style has made him one of the top five most successful touring comedians in the country today and his CDs and DVDs have reached platinum sales. Gaffigan has had an unprecedented number of appearances on late night's Letterman and Conan. His writing and voice work on the animated series Pale Force for Conan led to nominations for both a Broadband Emmy and a Webby Award.

See LOOKING AHEAD, page B3



Photo by JAMES CASS/PICTURE THIS OF PALMA CIA

Starring in Eight O'Clock Theatre's production of "I Hate Hamlet" are, standing, Amy Dobbert; and, seated, from left, Alexandra Gonzalez, Linda Rosenfeld and Travis W. Moore.

Theater review

EOT pokes fun at Shakespeare with 'I Hate Hamlet'

Any staged comedy that can successfully satirize the art of theater, television acting, Hollywood avarice and relationships is worthy of respect.

Eight O'Clock Theatre's pleasing production of Paul Rudnick's "I Hate Hamlet" takes a stab at it - with bare bodkin, no less. The comedy runs through July 17 at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive.

"I Hate Hamlet" revolves around an out-of-work actor: Andrew Rally, though unemployed, is coasting on a wave of celebrity. His work on a television series has earned him acclaim. After the show is canceled, he relocates to New York to seek different opportunities. While waiting for another acting job, Rally is offered the opportunity to play Hamlet on-stage in an outdoor production.

Unfortunately, Rally hates "Hamlet."

"I Hate Hamlet" is set in a gothic New York apartment once home to John Barrymore, the celebrated actor known for his groundbreaking portrayals of Hamlet and Richard III on stage; and, to a lesser extent, for cinematic roles in films such as "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and "Don Juan." Through his aversion to performing in "Hamlet," Rally inadvertently summons the ghost



Reel Time

Lee Clark Zumpe

of Barrymore - dressed in traditional Shakespearean attire.

Barrymore vows to convince Rally to go on with the show and to prepare for his performance as the Prince of Denmark.

Kate Gaudet directs the Eight O'Clock Theatre production of "I Hate Hamlet." In her notes, Gaudet underscores the most important aspect of the play.

"This is a comedy about facing and overcoming fear ... fear of failure, fear of rejection, fear of not being worthy," Gaudet writes. "All of the characters have something to overcome - to hilarious results."

That crucial component grounds the comedy and allows its characters to become something more than two-dimensional players in some frivolous farce.

The cast is up to the challenge, too.

Travis Moore plays Andrew Rally. Moore frames the role perfectly, projecting a mediocre actor with just enough aptitude to get by in front of television cameras. Moore is a caricature when nec-

essary but he also reveals Rally's apprehension and doubt at the right moments.

Andrew Hughes portrays John Barrymore, amusingly accentuating the late actor's grandiosity. He often utters his lines with thunderous bombast, evoking all the bluster and bravado that one might imagine from a reanimated Barrymore. At other moments, Hughes tones down his swagger and emphasizes his charm. This is best illustrated in a scene in which he is reunited with a former lover.

Alexandra Gonzalez plays Rally's girlfriend Deidre McDavy. McDavy, who has frustrated Rally with her strict vow of chastity, is a 29-year-old aspiring actress with virtually no talent. Gonzalez, a senior at Roosevelt University majoring in musical theater at the Chicago College of Performing Arts Theatre Conservatory, relishes the role as she tenderly parodies the would-be thespian.

Playing Rally's agent Lillian Troy is Linda Rosenfeld, who appeared previously in a number of musicals and comedies in the Tampa Bay area. A student of dialect, her depiction of Troy is a shrewd combination of Old World matriarch and Hollywood star peddler.

Amy Dobbert's Felicia Dantine

is a wonderfully exaggerated New York real estate agent - the one who dumps Rally in Barrymore's lap. Dobbert, last seen in EOT's "The Drowsy Chaperone," embellishes the character generously.

Jim Bennett delivers an unforgettable performance as Gary Peter Lefkowitz, Rally's lingering Hollywood connection. Representing the vacuous void of mass-market entertainment, Lefkowitz is bluster and conceit and rash decisions. Bennett captures the impetuous, boisterous deal-making arrogance perfectly as he tries to dissuade Rally from performing "Shakespeare for squirrels."

Rudnick masterfully sets up "I Hate Hamlet" to stress the differences between Hollywood and Broadway, between television and the stage, between players and performers and between celebrity and art. Along the way, he lampoons chastity, fleeting fame, Shakespearean vanity and the absurdity of Hollywood "success."

Performances of "I Hate Hamlet" are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for students 19 and younger with identification. Call 587-6793 or visit www.eightoclocktheatre.com.

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Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15									16				
17									18				
19					20				21				
22			23	24		25			26				
27					28		29		30			31	
				32				33				34	
	35	36					37		38			39	
40				41			42		43				
44				45				46			47	48	49
50			51			52		53		54			
55						56		57			58		
59				60			61			62	63		
64							65						
66							67						

- Across**
- The Holy Land
 - Gibson, e.g.
 - Irregular
 - Treat rudely, in a way
 - The Beatles hometown
 - Withers from grief
 - "Malcolm X" director
 - Dresden's river
 - "I, Claudius" role
 - Arctic
 - Order to attack, with "on"
 - Flamingo, for one
 - Deliver
 - Its motto is "Industry"
 - "Dig in!"
 - U.S. helicopter squadron (acronym)
 - Calf-length skirt
 - Balaam's mount
 - Cheque recipients
 - Accustom to urban ways
 - Gloomy
 - Acquire
 - Moray, e.g.
 - Seat of White Pine County, Nev.
 - __ brat
 - Agency to aid children in developing countries
 - Drive
 - Victorian, for one
 - Chip dip
 - Pepsi, e.g.
 - Acceptances
 - Decide to leave, with "out"
 - Related maternally
 - Self-centered
 - Reduces to bits
 - Oily skin disease
 - Lilac, e.g.
- Down**
- "White as a ghost"
 - Each
 - Embankments to prevent flooding
 - "... he drove out of sight"
 - "Dear" one
 - Hit the bottle
 - False gods
 - Atomic number 41
 - Varied
 - Death on the Nile cause, perhaps
 - Fine dinnerware
 - Inability to discriminate musical notes (2 wd)
 - Eggs cooked __ (2 wd)
 - Getaway spots
 - Hurting
 - I, for one
 - Bleaches
 - Arab leader
 - "Farewell, mon ami"
 - Affecting the lungs
 - Unspecified locale
 - Monotony
 - Hip bones
 - Frost remover (pl.)
 - Flammable substance
 - Cover
 - Catches sight of
 - Big shot (2 wd)
 - Consumed
 - Building block
 - Ancient colonnade
 - "C__ la vie!"
 - Aggravate
 - Mr., in India

Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers from last week

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

Crossword answers from last week

F	A	R	D	S	R	A	F	T	E	F	T	S
A	D	I	E	U	E	U	R	O	S	A	R	I
G	O	O	F	D	R	O	P	P	R	I	G	
A	F	R	O	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	
A	N	E	M	I	C	H	E	R	D	S		
M	U	S	I	C	A	L	C	O	M	E	D	
P	L	A	N	E	A	L	A	M	I	A		
S	L	U	G	F	A	R	A	D	U	G	L	I
Q	U	O	T	A	T	O	N	M	A	R	K	
S	H	I	R	R	B	L	A	N	K	S		
C	O	N	S	E	R	V	A	T	I	O	N	
A	N	T	I	Y	O	U	R	T	O	N	A	I
M	E	A	N	A	L	T	O	S	E	L	M	A
P	Y	R	E	S	T	O	W	E	D	I	F	Y

Place a Number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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Horoscopes
 July 14, 2011

Capricorn
 December 22 - January 19
 Ignorance can be bliss, especially this week when a chatterbox returns. Stay out of the loop, keep your nose to the grindstone, and they will avoid you like the plague. Capricorn.

Aquarius
 January 20 - February 18
 A romantic gesture does not go unnoticed. In fact, it starts a trend. The turnout at a summer get-together increases your inner circle by far. Aquarius.

Pisces
 February 19 - March 20
 Gloss over the details, Pisces, and you will miss out on something very important. The success of a friend deserves a party to remember.

Aries
 March 21 - April 19
 Don't let the desire for more stuff take over. Keep it in check. Aries, and remember it's not what you have but who you are that counts.

Taurus
 April 20 - May 20
 Evidence mounts against a friend. Be there for support. A fitness goal is within reach. Come on, Taurus. You can do it. The message is clear at work.

Gemini
 May 21 - June 21
 Dietary restrictions make it difficult for a friend to attend dinner parties. Work to change that, Gemini, and create a menu that will please everyone's palate and needs.

Cancer
 June 22 - July 22
 You don't like to toot your own horn, but if you want to be noticed, that's what you're going to have to do. Cancer. A letter raises questions about a personal matter.

Leo
 July 23 - August 22
 The laughs of youth take you back and inspire you to visit the place you grew up. Bring your family along to share the experience, Leo.

Virgo
 August 23 - September 22
 Retreat, Virgo. You've done enough. Give your loved one space to sort through things on their own. A supermarket find get the home fires burning.

Libra
 September 23 - October 22
 The need to get organized becomes clear when something falls through the cracks. Get a move on, Libra, and make sure it doesn't happen again.

Scorpio
 October 23 - November 21
 Life gets turned upside down with the arrival of a houseguest. Don't let the chaos get to you, Scorpio. Having fun is far more important than a tidy house.

Sagittarius
 November 22 - December 21
 Family matters take precedence this week, and you must rearrange your schedule to attend major events, Sagittarius. A book brings home a painful point.

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When did a cell phone become an oxygen machine?

By LISA HEIN

Jacks, hopscotch, pick up sticks, kickball, go fish, monopoly, slap the jack, marbles. Are any of these terms familiar with your child? If not, let's talk!

These were childhood games many of us grew up playing. In fact, when we got bored we would play one or two of these games on any given day ... and for hours! We never got tired of playing, nor did we fight with one another.

Several months ago, two children from my neighborhood were walking around looking bored.

So, I said hello to them and asked them what they were doing. The response was "nothing." As we continued to talk with one another I saw them getting restless, so I asked them if they

would like to play a game.

They agreed and I went inside and brought out the only game I could find - Pick Up Sticks. They looked at me with total blank stares on their faces. When I explained the object of the game, they began to smile and thought it was pretty cool. They played for about an hour and then ran home and asked their parents if they would buy some. (And guess what? They didn't go through withdrawals being off their cell phone!)

When we go back to the basics we might be able to create a diversion for our children. If we take a chance by sharing "other" things to do, we just might help our children find their childhood, better yet their social skills.

Children love to play games.



Lisa Hein

They just don't know it, because this world of technology has swallowed them up and left them believing if they don't have a phone in their hand, they are not accepted or part of the in crowd. When did a cell phone become an oxygen machine? Can you say epidemic?

When did cell phones become the only way of staying connected in the world? Wasn't the purpose of giving our children a cell phone was to keep us connected in times of emergencies? Didn't we tell our children when we handed

over this technical gadget that they were to use it to check in and that they better make sure they answered the phone every time we called them? And, so, how's that working for you?

How did it get so out of control? The answer may be simple; we didn't stick to our boundaries! Children need boundaries. Children need diversions in their lives. That doesn't mean speaking to a hundred people in one day. Children don't need to be talking or texting when they are at home either. If they need to speak to someone, use the home phone, if they need to send someone a note, write it and send it in the mail. Can we stop this insanity and get back to the simplicities of life?

It is up to us, the parent, to

plot a different path in our family life. There is a time and a place for everything. The time is not 24 hours a day communication. Limits are a necessity. There should be limits on computer time, cell phone usage, and limits on what they are watching on television. Boundaries. Limits. These are not bad words; in fact, they are probably two of the most important words when raising children.

We know that media and/or social media is not what it was when we were children. I get it! But, haven't we overdone the point? Do we even understand the health issues showing up from being in front of the computer too much and/or holding a cell phone to our ears too long? If we did, would that make us look

at things differently? We would limit our children to keep them healthy?

Technology has a purpose and a place. But, we don't have to continue to allow our children to pressure us into buying them every single social media gadget out there. We really need to understand that we are raising children with another addiction - technological gadgets!

Take time to wear your children from these addictive devices. Maybe, just maybe, if we show them that social media comes in all forms they just might want to check it out. And, they might just thank you!

Lisa Hein is a speaker, author and radio talk show host of "Everyday Parenting" on www.RadioEarNetwork.com.

LOOKING AHEAD, from page 1B

Gaffigan has had breakout guest appearances on many comedies and dramas ranging from HBO's cult hits "Flight of the Concorde" and "Bored to Death" to dramatic roles in all three versions of "Law and Order."

Indian Rocks Beach

• **Florida Artist Group Show**, through Aug. 17, at the Beach Art Center, 1515 Bay Palm Blvd. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The exhibit features works from the Florida Artists Group and includes 30 paintings, drawings, photographs and mixed media works from 16 artists. Works offer metaphor, narrative, abstraction and sharp-edged realism. The public is invited. The Florida Artists Group was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1949 and had its first annual statewide exhibition in 1950 in Gainesville. The group is made up of artists whose work has attained national or state-wide recognition. The artists showcased in the exhibition are from Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, Sumter and Citrus counties. Participating artists include Kevin Grass, Rhoda Tritschler, Mary Alice Harley, Kas Turner, Patton Hunter, Rebecca Skelton, Pamela Miles, Melissa Miller Nece, Marge Dimmitt, Shirley Frank, Candace Richey Ripoli, Jeri Johnson, Roberta Morgan, George Trimitsis, James Swallow and Cheryl Anne Day-Swallow. Call 596-4331 or email arts1515@aol.com.

Largo

• **"I Hate Hamlet,"** by Paul Rudnick, through July 17, presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Call 587-6793 or visit www.eightoclocktheatre.com. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets for musicals are \$26 adults, \$16 for children 19 and younger with identification. Tickets for plays are \$21 adults, \$16 for children 19 and younger with identification. Andrew Rally seems to have it all: celebrity and acclaim from his starring role in a hit television series; a rich, beautiful girlfriend; a glamorous, devoted agent; the perfect New York apartment; and the chance to play Hamlet in Central Park. There are, however, a couple of glitches in paradise: his series has been canceled; his girlfriend is clinging to her virginity with unyielding conviction; and he has no desire to play Hamlet. When Andrew's agent visits, she reminisces about her brief romance with John Barrymore many years ago, in Andrew's apartment. They summon his ghost and from the moment Barrymore returns, Andrew's life is no longer his own. Barrymore, fortified by champagne and ego, presses Andrew to accept the

part and fulfill his actor's destiny. The laughs are nonstop as Andrew wrestles with his conscience, Barrymore and his sword.

• **Flick-n-Float Movies on the Big Screen**, Friday, July 15, 7:30 to 11 p.m., at Southwest Pool, 13120 Vonn Road. Attendees can enjoy free hot dogs, prize giveaways and food from a featured restaurant sponsor while watching a movie on the big screen. Games and activities begin at 7:30 p.m. and movies begin at dusk. Wristbands for the new inflatable water slide will be available for purchase. Admission is \$4 a person with a recreation card and \$5 without a card. Family passes also are available for purchase. The featured film will be "How to Train Your Dragon." Call 518-3126.

• **Britishmania**, Friday, July 22, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 the day of the show. Call 587-6793. This concert will be a tribute to Beatles and The Rolling Stones. Covering the full spectrum of 'The Beatles' long and varied career, The Nowhere Band creates an unparalleled, entirely live, reproduction of '60s Beatles performances blending period costumes and authentic instruments with modern lighting and an abundantly talented quartet to create an experience any true Beatles fan simply can't afford to miss. The New Stones are a complete six-piece show band that look and sound like the real thing. The band members all bear an uncanny resemblance to the actual Stones members. Richard Stewart as Mick Jagger, will leave you thinking you were at an actual Rolling Stones concert.

• **Flick-n-Float Movies on the Big Screen**, Friday, July 22, 7:30 to 11 p.m., at Southwest Pool, 13120 Vonn Road. Attendees can enjoy free hot dogs, prize giveaways and food from a featured restaurant sponsor while watching a movie on the big screen. Games and activities begin at 7:30 p.m. and movies begin at dusk. Wristbands for the new inflatable water slide will be available for purchase. Admission is \$4 a person with a recreation card and \$5 without a card. Family passes also are available for purchase. The featured film will be "Nanny McPhee Returns." Call 518-3126.

• **Fourth Saturday Car Show Series**, sponsored by Imperial Palms Apartments, Saturday, July 23, 5 to 7 p.m., at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road. Attendees will have an opportunity to see some of the area's most impressive hot rods and classic cars at the car show. Cars of all ages are welcome. Entry fee is \$10 a car and prizes for best in show will be awarded for each decade. The Clear Water Blue-Grass Revue will perform. Spectator entry is free. All ages are welcome. Call 518-3131 or visit LargoCommunityCenter.com.

• **Flick-n-Float Movies on the Big Screen**, Friday, July 29, 7:30 to 11 p.m., at Southwest Pool, 13120 Vonn Road. Attendees can enjoy free hot dogs, prize giveaways and food from a featured restaurant sponsor while watching a movie on the big screen. Games and activities begin at

7:30 p.m. and movies begin at dusk. Wristbands for the new inflatable water slide will be available for purchase. Admission is \$4 a person with a recreation card and \$5 without a card. Family passes also are available for purchase. The featured film will be "The Karate Kid." Call 518-3126.

• **The Fixx**, Saturday, July 30, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are \$24 in advance or \$29 the day of the show. Call 587-6793. Still touring with all five original members since 1983, The Fixx has been heralded as one of the most innovative bands to come out of the MTV era. The Fixx has compiled three No. 1, five Top 5, a dozen Top 10 hits, and sold millions of albums sold worldwide. Instantly recognizable, The Fixx sound is unmistakably unique and stands out among the thousands filling the airwaves. Live, in concert, the band delivers that same sonic authenticity fans have come to expect from their recorded performances because The Fixx is the genuine article. Concert-goers, whether longtime fans, or those experiencing The Fixx for the very first time, are thrilled by the band's dynamic stage presence and trademark sound. The band's hits include "One Thing Leads To Another," "Red Skies," "Stand or Fall" and "Saved By Zero."

• **ZOSO**, Friday, Aug. 12, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are \$22 in advance or \$27 the day of the show. Call 587-6793. Billed as the Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience, ZOSO was formed in 1995 to create the most mesmerizing and accurate portrayal of the biggest band of the 1970's: Led Zeppelin. Named "Best Tribute Act in California" by Rock City News, ZOSO covers all of Led Zeppelin's hits such as "Stairway to Heaven," "Heartbreaker," "Rock 'n' Roll," "Black Dog" and "Kashmir."

• **Mama Mia... It's Almost ABBA**, a tribute to ABBA Music, Saturday, Aug. 13, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are \$22 in advance or \$27 the day of the show. Call 587-6793. This tribute band recreates the music of Swedish pop sensation ABBA, performing songs such as "S.O.S.," "Fernando," "Dancing Queen" and "The Name of the Game." This six-piece, fully costumed and choreographed show was the first Canadian tribute to ABBA. Since then, members of the group have toured internationally throughout 11 countries at casinos, resorts, theaters and stadiums and on cruise ships.

• **Fourth Saturday Car Show Series**, sponsored by Imperial Palms Apartments, Saturday, Aug. 27, 5 to 7 p.m., at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road. Attendees will have an opportunity to see some of the area's most impressive hot rods and classic cars at the car show. Cars of all ages are welcome. Entry fee is \$10 a car and prizes for best in show will be awarded for each decade. Spectator entry is free. All ages are welcome. Call 518-3131 or visit LargoCommunityCenter.com.

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Movie Theaters to screen several Shakespeare plays

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

While Hollywood continues to push its parade of comic book heroes in a string of summer blockbusters, something a little different is destined to hit the big screen in the coming weeks.

NCM Fathom, Globe Theatre and Arts Alliance Media will present Shakespeare's Globe London Cinema Series, an exclusive in-theater series of classic Shakespeare titles.

The performances were recorded in 2010 - shot at the prestigious Globe Theatre in London, Shakespeare's theatrical home.

The series kicked off last month with "The Merry Wives of Windsor," but there's more thespian entertainment on the way.

Locally, the series will be shown at:

- Park Place Stadium 16, 7200 U.S. 19 N., Pinellas Park
- AMC Woodland Square 20, 3128 Tampa Road, Oldsmar

"Henry IV, Part 1," the next installment in the series, will be shown Monday, Aug. 1. The play is part of Shakespeare's second historical tetralogy which includes "Richard II," "Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2," and "Henry V." The play focuses on

a series of events beginning with Hotspur's battle at Homildon and ending with the defeat of the rebels at Shrewsbury in 1403. The play examines honor, rebelliousness and the struggle for power as well as Elizabethan era life. Written no later than 1597, "Henry IV, Part 1" can be viewed as a coming-of-age tale revolving around Hal or as a critique of the politics of medieval England.

Directed by Dominic Dromgoole, the production stars Roger Allam, Jamie Parker, Oliver Cotton, William Gaunt, Sam Crane and Christopher Godwin. Allam earned an Olivier Award for his portrayal of Falstaff.

Other presentations in the series include:

• "Henry IV, Part 2," on Thursday, Aug. 18. Picking up where "Henry IV, Part 1" ended, the play focuses on young Prince Hal's journey toward kingship. Over the course of the two plays, Shakespeare analyzes father-and-son relationships, presenting Falstaff as comic and disobedient father substitute for the Prince of Wales who is estranged from his own dying father, Henry IV. The king also provides a metaphor for England, which is in decline

and seeking rebirth.

• "Henry VIII," Thursday, Sept. 15. This work is based upon the life of Henry VIII of England. Directed by Mark Rosenblatt, "Henry VIII" illustrates the power struggle between the court and Cardinal Wolsey, the king's first minister and a symbol of Catholic power. Presented as a political thriller, "Henry VIII" is steeped with Machiavellian scheming and royal pageantry. The cast includes Dominic Rowan, Miranda Raison, Ian McNeice, Anthony Howell and Kate Duchene.

The original Globe Theatre was an open-roof venue constructed of wood and thatch. Built in 1599 by Shakespeare's own production company, the theater was destroyed by a fire in 1613 during a staging of "Henry VIII." A theatrical canon, used during the performance, misfired. Flames quickly engulfed the building's wooden beams and thatching.

Though rebuilt in 1614, the theater was closed by Puritans in 1642 and razed not long after.

The current incarnation, Shakespeare's Globe, is a reconstruction of the original Globe Theatre. The Elizabethan-style



Photo by JOHN HAYNES/NCM FATHOM

From left, Sean Kearns (Warwick), Joseph Timms (John of Lancaster), Oliver Cotton (King Henry IV), Jamie Parker (Prince Hal), and Patrick Brennan (Sir Walter Blunt) appear in Shakespeare's Globe's production of "Henry IV Part 1," in movie theaters Aug. 1.

playhouse was built in the London Borough of Southwark on the south bank of the Thames approximately 200 yards from the site of the original theater. It opened in 1997.

Shakespeare's Globe London Cinema Series will be broadcast in more than 260 movie theaters across the United States

through NCM's exclusive Digital Broadcast Network.

"NCM Fathom continues to offer audiences the finest in performing arts experiences in their local movie theaters," said Dan Diamond, vice president of NCM Fathom, in a press release. "This international collaboration will showcase some of Shakespeare's

finest works from the legendary Globe Theatre in London."

Tickets for Shakespeare's Globe London Cinema Series are available at participating theater box offices.

For a complete list of theater locations, prices and additional information, visit www.FathomEvents.com.

How to save on trips to local attractions this summer

The summer is a great time to visit some of the wonderful attractions we have in the Tampa Bay area. It can get quite expensive if you don't know how to find deals or know special days for reduced admission prices.



Mom 2 Mom
Kadi Hendricks
Tubbs

One of my kids' favorite places to go is Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo. The kids can go on rides and interact with the animals. On Sunday, July 24, admission price is just \$5 per person. Any other day the price is \$23.95 for adults and children; ages 3 to 11, are \$18.95. Parking is always free, which is a plus. You may have to fight the crowds on this \$5 day, but you never know unless you go.

If you like museums, one of Tampa's newest museums, the Glazer Children's Museum, is offering \$2 admission per person on the first Tuesday of each month. The special is

called Dollar Target Tuesdays. You have to go between 2 and 7 p.m., but the savings are well worth it. If you visit there any other day, admission is \$15 per adult and \$9.50 per child. This deal will last until March 6, 2012.

How about bringing the kids to Tampa's Museum of Science and Industry, MOSI? All summer long until Aug. 26, teachers get in free with a school ID. Teachers also get \$5 off for up to six of their family members. If you aren't a teacher, you can try to go Sunday, Aug. 7 - Friendship Day! Bring a friend and one of you gets in free. MOSI also offers a buy one, get

one deal on Aug. 21 for senior citizen's day and Sept. 3 to 5 for Labor Day weekend. You save half the price by going on these days. The regular price for adults is \$20.95, seniors are \$18.95 and children, ages 2 to 12, are \$16.95.

The Great Explorations Children's Museum in St. Petersburg offers active military personnel and first responders with ID free admission in the month of July. Regular admission is \$10 for those ages 2 to 54, and if you are 55 years old and up, the cost is \$9.

Also in St. Petersburg is the Salvador Dali Museum. This newly renovated museum displays the works of the late Spanish surrealist. The cheapest price is on Thursday night, between 5 and 8 p.m., when admission is \$10 and children, ages 6 to 12, are \$7. Otherwise, adult prices are \$21.

If your kids like dinosaurs, you need to head to Plant City, where you will find Dinosaur World. This attraction has more than 100 life-like creatures you can look at, some up to 80 feet tall. When you purchase a full admission priced ticket in August, you can come back in December for free. Tickets are \$12.75 for adults and \$9.75 for children, ages 3 to 12. One thing unique about this place is you can bring your friendly pets on leashes!

Have you heard about the movie coming out in September called "Dolphin Tale," featuring Clearwater Marine Aquarium's Winter the dolphin? The aquarium was where part of the movie was filmed and has been renovated. It is a lot of fun and educational for kids. The best coupons out there are the ones that come in your mail, the Valpak coupons. You can get

one free admission when you buy an admission. Regular prices are \$9.95 for children, ages 3-12; \$14.95 for adults, ages 13-59, and \$10.95 for seniors.

Of course, Busch Gardens is a fun place to go. I did some checking and found that the best price for a one-day ticket is to purchase a Busch Gardens gift card at Publix. It costs \$59.95 for an adult or child ticket. If you purchase online, an adult ticket is \$79.99 and a child's ticket, for ages 3 to 9, is \$71.99.

If you don't want to go on these special event days, your next best savings is to get a 2011 Entertainment book, which right now cost \$8.99 with free shipping (visit www.entrainment.com). In there, you

will find tons of coupons including: a free admission when you buy an admission ticket at Great Explorations; at MOSI, if you buy a ticket, you can get each additional ticket 50 percent off; at Dinosaur World, up to four admission prices are 50 percent off regular price as well as buy one, get one at the Salvador Dali Museum and Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

The price can add up when you take your kids to these attractions, so knowing the days and times to go for discounted admission prices is the key. Enjoy!

Kadi Hendricks Tubbs, mother of two girls ages 5 & 6, lives in Seminole. Visit her blog at www.mom2momfamilyfun.blogspot.com

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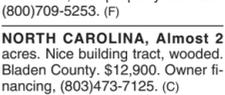
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135. Rentals

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New appliances. \$475/Month.
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170. Furn. Apartments

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175. Unfurn. Apartments

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2BR/1BA, includes W/D,
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1BR, 1,012sf. Immaculate, new
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Newer Tile, Carpet, Paint through-
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185. Beach Rentals

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\$795/month. Small Pet Okay. Call
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1BR/1BA & 2BR/1-1.5BA.
Pool, Laundry Room. Starting At
\$575/Mo. Credit Check Required
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Excellent Condition,

265. Commercial Rentals

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\$275 Two-Office Suite, \$400 Larger Office, Includes Electric. Additional Suites Are Available. Cornerstone Realty Services, (727)369-0788.

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305. Fun Things to Do

DARE TO DREAM NOW ON YOU Tube. Don't miss his New Original, "What About Us," also "Missing You" & "It Might Be You," all performed by Alex. Visit: youtube.com/user/alextributes. (C)

345. Lost & Found

FOUND: MANS RING, 7/3/11 Albertson's parking lot, Largo Mall. How long it laid there is anyone's guess. If this is your ring, contact me and provide a detailed description. It will be returned immediately. (727) 460-9403

FOUND: SIAMESE CAT, Female. Found in Oldsmar area. (727)397-9514.



355. Adoption

ABORTION NOT AN OPTION? Consider Adoption. It's a wonderful choice for an unplanned pregnancy. Living and Medical expenses paid. Loving, financially secure families await. Call Attorney Ellen Kaplan, (877)341-1309. #0875228. (C)

ADOPTION: 866-633-0397 Unplanned Pregnancy? Provide your baby with a loving, financially secure family. Living/ Medical/ Counseling expenses paid. Social worker on staff. Call compassionate attorney, Lauren Feingold. (FL Bar#0958107) 24/7. (C)

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370. Instructions-Tutors

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370. Instructions-Tutors

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375. Career Training

AIRLINE MECHANIC: TRAIN for high-paying Aviation career FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance. (866)314-6283. (C)

AIRLINES ARE HIRING: Train for high-paying Aviation Maintenance career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified. Housing available. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance. Call (866)314-3769. (F)

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400. Health & Fitness

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435. Adult Care & Service

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485. Help Wanted

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505. Part-time Help

St. Petersburg Times
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St. Petersburg Times

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Opening this weekend

Harry Potter takes on Lord Voldemort while Winnie the Pooh has a busy day

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

A number of new movies will hit theaters this week, including the following films opening in wide release:

'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2'

Genre: Action, adventure, fantasy and adaptation
Cast: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Ralph Fiennes, Helena Bonham Carter, Michael Gambon, Alan Rickman, Tom Felton, Bill Nighy and John Hurt
Director: David Yates
Rated: PG-13

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2," is the final adventure in the Harry Potter film series.

The much-anticipated motion picture event is the second of two full-length parts. In the epic finale, the battle between the good and evil forces of the wizarding world escalates into an all-out war. The stakes have never been higher and no one is safe. But it is Harry Potter who may be called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice as he draws closer to the climactic showdown with Lord Voldemort. It all ends here.

'Winnie the Pooh'

Genre: Family and animation
Cast: John Cleese, James Cummings, Craig Ferguson, Travis Oates and Bud Luckey
Director: Don Hall and Stephen J. Anderson
Rated: G

Walt Disney Animation Studios returns to the Hundred Acre Wood with "Winnie the Pooh."

Featuring the timeless charm, wit and whimsy of the original featurettes, this all-new movie reunites audiences with the philosophical "bear of very little brain" and friends Tigger, Rabbit, Piglet, Owl, Kanga, Roo ... and last, but certainly not least, Eeyore, who has lost his tail.

The entire story takes place in the course of a day. It's business as usual in the Hundred Acre Wood. Pooh wakes up absolutely famished and he happens to have no honey. So that sets him out on his journey, which is ultimately derailed - first by a contest to find Eeyore a new tail.

Pooh later finds a note from Christopher Robin that reads: "Gone out. Busy. Back soon." But then Owl misinterprets the note, proclaiming that the boy has been captured by a creature called a "Backson." Soon, the whole gang is on a wild quest to save Christopher Robin from the imaginary culprit.

It turns out to be a very busy day for a bear that simply hoped to find some honey.

The following will open in limited release. It may be several weeks before these films appear in local movie theaters.

'Snow Flower and the Secret Fan'

Genre: Foreign and drama
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Li Bingbing, Archie Kao and Ji-hyeon
Director: Wayne Wang
Rated: PG-13

Inspired by the bestselling novel "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan" by Lisa See, the film is a timeless portrait of female friendship.

In 19th-century China, 7-year-old girls Snow Flower and Lily are matched as laotong - or "old sames" - bound together for eternity. Isolated by their families, they furtively communicate by taking turns writing in a secret language, nu shu, between the folds of a white silk fan.

In a parallel story in present day Shanghai, the laotong's descendants, Nina and Sophia, struggle to maintain the intimacy of their own childhood friendship in the face of demanding careers, complicated love lives, and a relentlessly evolving Shanghai. Drawing on the lessons of the past, the two modern women must understand the story of their ancestral connection, hidden from them in the folds of the antique white silk fan, or risk losing one another forever.

What unfolds are two stories, generations apart, but everlasting in their universal notion of love, hope and friendship.

'Life, Above All'

Genre: Foreign and drama
Cast: Khomoiso Manyaka, Lerato Mvelase, Harriet Manamela, Harriet Lenabe and Keaobaka Makanyane
Director: Oliver Schmitz



Photo by JAAP BUITENDIJK

From left, Daniel Radcliffe stars as Harry Potter, Emma Watson as Hermione Granger and Rupert Grint as Ron Weasley in Warner Bros. Pictures' fantasy adventure "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

Rated: PG-13
Just after the death of her newly-born sister, Chanda, 12 years old, learns of a rumor that spreads like wildfire through her small, dust-ridden village near Johannesburg.

It destroys her family and forces her mother to flee. Sensing that the gossip stems from prejudice and superstition, Chanda leaves home and school in search of her mother and the truth.

"Life, Above All" is an emotional and universal drama about a young girl (Khomotso Manyaka) who fights the fear and shame that have poisoned her community. The film captures the enduring strength of loyalty and a courage powered by the heart. Directed by South African filmmaker Oliver Schmitz, it is based on the international award-winning novel "Chanda's Secrets" by Allan Stratton.

'Lucky'

Genre: Comedy
Cast: Colin Hanks, Ari Graynor, Ann-Margret, Jeffery Tambor and Elizabeth Uhl
Director: Gil Cates Jr.
Rated: R

After Ben wins the lottery, Lucy - his childhood crush - suddenly becomes obtainable. But she has a hidden agenda ... a desire to appropriate all of Ben's newfound wealth. Not everything is as it seems and Lucy realizes that she may have married into more than she bargained for when she discovers Ben's pastimes include the occasional murder. As the bodies start to pile up, so do her problems and Lucy

quickly appreciates that covering up for a fledgling serial killer is not as easy as it seems. If these newlyweds are going to make it work they will have to deal with some skeletons in their closet ... literally.

'Salvation Boulevard'

Genre: Comedy and thriller
Cast: Pierce Brosnan, Ed Harris, Jim Gaffigan, Marisa Tomei and Jennifer Connelly
Director: George Ratliff
Not rated

Pastor Dan is a charismatic preacher who has captivated a city with his charm.

Ex-deadhead and recovering hippie Carl is one of the loyal sheep in his flock. When Dan finds himself in a compromising situation, Carl is called into service in a most unconventional way. The megachurch is cast into shadow, and a hellish storm begins brewing that could jeopardize its entire existence. The road to hell - in this case, Salvation Boulevard - is paved with good intentions - gone hysterically wrong.

This material is perfectly suited for George Ratliff, who directed the award-winning documentary Hell House and the 2007 Sundance Film Festival hit Joshua. Down to every detail, you feel you are in capable hands. In a situation ripe with possibilities, the gloriously talented casts push their performances to the limit, spiraling this film toward instant cult-comedy status. In Salvation Boulevard, Ratliff peels back the onion to take a satirical look at Christian fanaticism - one guilty pleasure at a time.

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