

# LARGO LEADER

## Sadra Bostick excels as Fanny Brice in 'Funny Girl,' critic says

Production runs through March 11 at Eight O'Clock Theatre ... Page 2B.



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ENTERTAINMENT



### Art Hop and Taste Fest tickets on sale

Registration for event begins at 5:30 p.m. March 24 at the Largo Public Library and participants may "hop" to several local shops between 6 and 8 p.m. via free shuttle buses. Each business will feature an artist and offer refreshments. ... Page 1B.

### LARGO Block party blast set for First Friday

First Friday will feature a block party blast March 2, 6 to 11 p.m., on First Avenue Southwest between Clearwater-Largo Road and Ridge Road. Live rockin' blues music, local restaurants, food trucks and craft vendors will be on hand. This marks Largo's last First Friday until September.

### COUNTY Two kittens have new lease on life

Firefighters from Seminole Fire Rescue Station 29 responded to a house fire Jan. 10 on 79th Avenue. They quickly extinguished the flames confined to the kitchen and back section of the house. Two kittens were hiding behind some boxes, covered with soot and water and wheezing from smoke inhalation. ... Page 5A.



### VIEWPOINTS Carl Hiaasen

Columnist weighs in on GOP stance on birth control. ... Page 13A.



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# City seeks public input on budget

Officials plan to hold three 90-minute meetings with the public and conduct survey

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO - City officials hope to broaden the group of citizens who provide input in the decision-making process for the city's budget for next fiscal year. In the past four years city officials have conducted focus groups, roundtable discussions and citywide budgetary work sessions. Most city commissioners Feb. 21 liked the recommendation that the roundtable discussions be replaced with three 90-minute meetings during the week for added convenience to the participants and that an electronic survey be conducted from email addresses the

city has on file. City officials have noticed that the same group of people have been participating in the event for the past three or four years, prompting Commissioner Curtis Holmes to question whether the process was necessary. "If we're the ones who are hired to do this, it seems like we are having this massive debate in here about whether we have one meeting, two meetings, three meetings. ... Why don't we just go back from whence it came. This is our decision. It's our call. If someone has a suggestion, let them contact one of us. Let them contact all of us ..." he said. Mayor Pat Gerard replied that there were several

times in the 12 years she has been on the commission that it has tried to make decisions and "there were dozens of people out there that disagreed with what we were trying to do." "My preference was to ask them beforehand. It was my idea to start this public input process, so we can have this argument all night. But I think it's important. I want to know what people are thinking. We might not have it down perfect yet, but I think the input is important. The input is as important as educating the public

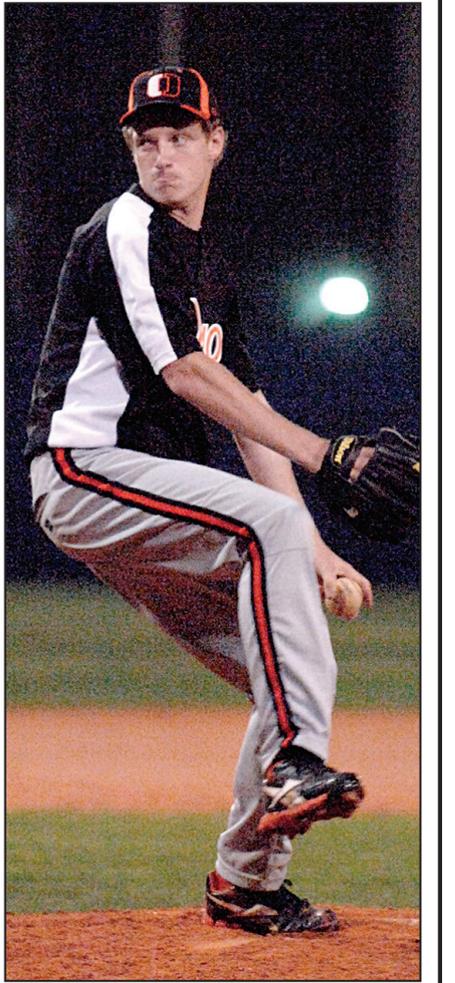
See BUDGET, page 4A

### Osceola rolls



Above: Largo's Alan Mead connects for a base hit up the middle Feb. 23 in a high school baseball game at Largo. With the game tied 2-2 after 5 innings, Osceola scored once in the sixth inning and again in the seventh to win 4-2. Osceola stayed undefeated at 5-0 while Largo dropped to 1-3. Right: Left-hander Travis Carden came on in the sixth inning and picked up the win for Osceola.

Photos by JIM LAYFIELD



## Five sheriff's candidates debate issues at forum

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO - Candidates for Pinellas County sheriff touted their experience for the office and fired a few salvos during their first appearance together at a public forum. Five candidates for sheriff, incumbent Bob Gualtieri, Republican; Randy Heine, Democrat; Tim Ingold, Republican; Everett Rice, Republican; and Scott Swope, Democrat; were each given 10 minutes to discuss why they should be elected sheriff. The forum was held Feb. 23 at Largo High School. It was sponsored by the Parent Teacher Student Associations of Largo High and Largo Middle School.

#### Robert Gualtieri

Gualtieri, who was chief deputy prior to being appointed sheriff Nov. 7, said the last four years have been "transformational" for the Sheriff's Office. "It is a much different operation than four or five years ago or certainly six, seven or eight years ago. We had to break the mold we had to deliver services differently because of the economic downturn," Gualtieri said, who was responsible for the sheriff's budget the last four years. He said the Sheriff's Office has cut \$108 million from the operating budget, has eliminated 616 positions, including 167 law enforcement deputies and about 250 detention deputies in the jail and noncertified positions throughout the agency. "Against that backdrop for the last three years in a row we have reduced the crime years in our service area. For the last three years we have reduced the crime rate by 12 percent," Gualtieri

said. Gualtieri started his career 30 years ago working at the county jail, having "boots on the ground." He said that it was an important part of his background because the jail is the largest part of the sheriff's operation. Gualtieri worked as a Dunedin police officer and then throughout the Sheriff's Office for 15 years, such as in investigative operations and patrol. He went to law school and then worked for an attorney's office in Tampa. Former Sheriff Jim Coats asked him to come back as general counsel. "It was a no-brainer because I'm a cop at heart. That's what I've always been. That's how I grew up in my professional life. It was a very easy decision to come back to the Sheriff's Office," he said. Shortly after that, the chief deputy retired, and Coats asked him to take on that position.

#### Randy Heine

Heine, who has a college degree in business administration and is a Pinellas Park business owner said, "the office of sheriff was never intended for a cop to run." "It is an administrative post. Our government is so messed up now. It is my belief and others that you can't have the fox watching the henhouse," Heine said. As sheriff, he would lobby in Tallahassee to take some laws off the books, he said. "Marijuana should be controlled like alcohol. If you want to use it, you use it in your own home, and that's it. Who's to say what we are not

See CANDIDATES, page 4A

## Pinellas Park, Largo recreation accord takes effect March 5

By JULIANA A. TORRES

PINELLAS PARK - The Pinellas Park City Council unanimously approved an agreement with the city of Largo Feb. 23 that will allow the residents of both cities to share access to recreation programs and facilities at a reduced rate. Largo commissioners passed a similar resolution with a 5-1 vote Feb. 21. Effective March 5, Pinellas Park residents will be able to purchase a Largo recreation annual membership at the residential rate of \$10. Similarly, Largo residents will be able to purchase a Pinellas Park recreational ID card for the residential rate of \$5. Residents then will be able to register for classes and programs hosted by either city, said Debra Rose, Pinellas Park library and recreation services administrator. "This proposed agreement we feel would offer the residents of both cities really a much broader range of recreational opportunities," she told the Pinellas Park council Feb. 23. "Both cities tend to have a little bit different focus in our classes and

Largo residents will be able to purchase a Pinellas Park recreational ID card for the residential rate of \$5.

programs, so this would allow people to move back and forth fairly freely between the two programs." Council members spoke favorably of the deal, agreeing that it could benefit Pinellas Park residents who work in Largo and vice versa. Councilman Jerry Mullins asked if Largo had a splash park. "They do. As it happens, one of their main facilities will be under construction this year, so we might expect a little bit of influx (of) customers for our Skyview pool facility," Rose said. Rose went on to explain that

See RECREATION, page 4A

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# Former teacher, Margaret 'Dorris' Hart, dies at home

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO – Margaret "Dorris" Hart, 90, a longtime teacher known for her sense of humor, died Feb. 18 at home.

Hart was born in Atlanta, Ga., where she lived with her parents, Clarence Dorris and Sophie Irene (Brinkman) Hart. After her mother died, Harts' grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Brinkman, took her to Savannah and raised her as their child until she went to Georgia Southwestern College for Women (now Georgia College and University).

Hart graduated in 1947 with a bachelor's degree in secondary education. She taught in Augusta from 1947-1962 until she moved to Largo. She taught English, speech and dramatics at Largo Jr. High/Middle School until she retired in 1984.

"Seeing her name in writing, or saying it aloud, brings a smile to my face," said Karen Seibert, who was at Largo Middle School for 17 years as a teacher and assistant principal.

"She had a great sense of humor, and it was always a pleasure to be around her. Many hundreds of her former students would agree. Although she took her challenge of teaching very seriously, she made every effort to make her lessons interesting and fun. Dorris Hart was an exemplary teacher, and a dedicated professional," Seibert said.

Her colleagues learned from her as well, Seibert said. "You see, Dorris was the faculty member who could be depended upon to support her fellow teachers. She was the first one to applaud others' successes, and the first one to offer help to those in need. Dorris was the one who kept the rest of us from taking ourselves too seriously, the one who could make us laugh by sharing her past experiences," Seibert said.

"Dorris Hart was a big reason why the faculty at Largo Middle School was so close, and why it was so much fun to work together. It was a privilege to work with Dorris Hart, to know her and to love her. She will be missed, but her legacy to students, colleagues and friends will live forever," Seibert said.

Neal Solar said Hart was his English teacher at Largo Middle School more than 30 years ago, but he remembers her classroom as if it were yesterday.

"Ms. Hart always took great interest in her students and was visibly proud of them when they did well. I will always remember her smile as she wore it often," Solar said.

"I felt so fortunate to meet Ms. Hart again as an adult after not seeing her for many years. I was so happy to learn that she was still the wonderfully engaging person that I remembered," Solar said.

"We laughed when I told her that I still remembered the first part

of the Gettysburg Address, which we had learned in her class many years ago," Solar said.

"Ms. Hart was a dedicated teacher and a true credit to her profession. She made a lasting impression on me and I think of her often as many things she taught me I still appreciate today," Solar said.

"We have taken care of Doris's pets here for over 35-40 years that I can remember," said Dr. Don Morgan, Bluffs Animal Hospital. "Her last two dogs, Jodie and Smokey, were very special to her and I am sure that their companionship helped extend her life beyond general expectancy. Ninety years is a wonderful age to live, God bless her," Morgan said.

Hart was a member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Largo; Pinellas County Council of Teachers of English; Pinellas County Teachers Association; North Pinellas County Retired Educators Association, and a long time member of Largo Ladies in Retirement Group.

Hart is survived by her many cousins including, Patricia Powell, Orlando, along with her children, Trish and Gary; Barbara (Carlisle) Metts, Leesburg, Ga.; Carol Nilson Seales, Augusta, Ga.; and Kristine Nilson, Jefferson City, Tenn.

An inurnment will take place at a later date at Serenity Gardens Memorial Park in Largo.

## How to contribute

All press releases are published on a space available basis. They are subject to editing for grammar, length and general newspaper style.

We are not able to predict exactly the issue it will be printed – or even guarantee that it will be used.

The deadline for all copy is Friday, noon, preceding publication date. The newspapers are published Thursdays. For upcoming events, please send in your announcement two weeks in advance, if possible.

All submissions can be dropped off at the office or mailed to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772, emailed to editorial@TBNweekly.com or faxed to 397-5900.

Questions? Call 397-5563 or send an email.

Please include a contact name and number on all submissions.

Personal photographs can be picked up at the office after publication; however, their safety is not guaranteed (please don't give us the last picture you have of Ol' Uncle Albert.)

Please type letters to the editor (or print legibly) and include your name, town of residence, phone number and signature and mail to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772. Emails should include town of residence and telephone and be sent to tgermond@TBNweekly.com. We will not print the letter writer's phone number.

Letters are printed on a first-come, first-served basis. They may be edited to correct grammar, spelling and factual errors. They also may be edited for clarity.

Please keep letters to editor to 500 words. Longer letters may be cut due to space limitations.

**Note: Email is the most effective way to submit press releases. Name your club in the subject area of the email so we can recognize it as a nonprofit group.**

## Savoring the samples



Photo by TOM GERMOND

Edible Arrangements' Nicole Pittman, behind the booth, left, and Francesca San Giovanni serve samples to patrons of the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business Expo/After Hours Feb. 22 at the Largo Cultural Center. The event featured more than 40 area companies and organizations that provided food samples, presentations, performances and giveaways.

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# Largo detective recognized for his work in FBI case

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO – A Largo detective has been recognized by the U.S. Department of State for his investigative work in a child pornography case that led to the arrest of a federal law enforcement officer.

Detective Corey Monaghan is a member of both the FBI Innocent Images Task Force and the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Both of these groups are charged with patrolling the Internet for people intent on exploiting children.

Part of Monaghan's duties include detecting, charging and arresting those people who propagate child pornography. Operation Flicker came to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Tampa in June. Monaghan was assigned as the lead agent in July.

The subject of the investigation, James Cafferty, was a Largo resident and a federal law enforcement officer with the Department of State.

Stacey Aruda, supervisory special agent of the cybercrimes unit of the Tampa Office of the FBI, said at the City Commission's meeting Feb. 21 that "this was a difficult case from the get go."

Another agency that had been assigned the case sought help from the FBI. Monaghan volunteered to help.

The FBI started digging through the information and were able to determine that the suspect was a U.S. Department of State agent. He was assigned as the regional security officer for the U.S. Embassy in London as the chief of security for the U.S. ambassador to England.

"Pretty big black eye for DSS," Aruda said. "We worked very closely with DSS, attended a number of meetings at Department of State headquarters to work this the best possible way we could to make sure we got all the information we could and make whatever charges we could come up with stick on this individual because the department of State wanted him out as quickly as we could prove that he done what was alleged."

Monaghan traveled to D.C. three or four times and sat in meetings "with way more lawyers than we wanted to sit in meetings with," she said.

"Tremendous job," Aruda said. At first the suspect lied, but through the investigative skills of Monaghan and an FBI agent, "we were able to break him down and get him

to admit to everything plus more and move forward with the investigation," she said.

Cafferty was taken into custody and turned over to the U.S. Marshal's Service. Monaghan completed a forensic search of Cafferty's computer and located more than 40,000 images of child pornography. Cafferty has pleaded guilty to transportation of child pornography and faces up to 20 years in prison. Cafferty had his federal law enforcement credentials removed.

For his efforts, Monaghan was awarded a plaque of recognition from the U.S. State Department at the commission meeting.

Largo Police Chief John Carroll said in recognizing Monaghan, he is "taking it as an opportunity to applaud the benefits of the Largo Police Department in task force operations because of all the technology and investigative capacity of the FBI has brought to the city of Largo to our membership in that task force."

Aruda echoed the remarks. "There is a great benefit to the city of Largo for working on federal task forces. Because Cory has the keys to the kingdom of the FBI. Whatever Largo needs from the FBI, they get through Cory," she said.

## Police beat

### Suspect charged with sexual battery

LARGO – Detectives arrested a suspect on sexual battery charges Feb. 22.

The victim was in sixth grade at the time that the sexual abuse began, Largo police said.

Over the course of about four years, the suspect, identified as Tony Wells, 44, Clearwater, committed several acts of sexual battery against the victim.

Wells admitted to his crimes Feb. 15 on a phone call with detectives. Since the confession, Wells had been an at-large transient being sought for his acts. He had been staying in various shelters and homeless camps throughout mid Pinellas County, police said.

Largo police located Wells Feb. 22 arrested him and took him to Pinellas County Jail. He is being held on a \$100,000 bond.

### Police arrest three in robbery case

LARGO – Three persons were arrested in conjunction with the Feb. 15 beating of a victim who suffered serious injuries.

The incident occurred in the parking lot of Mike's Pizza, 14479 Walsingham Road. As the victim was walking through the parking lot, a vehicle pulled up and the occupants called out to him. The victim thought he recognized the people in the car and

approached it. A brief conversation ensued until the occupants of the vehicle attempted to steal money from the victim's hand.

The victim did not release the money, so as the vehicle drove off, the victim was left hanging out of the car window, police reports said.

The victim, hanging out of the car, was beaten by other occupants of the vehicle as it sped down Walsingham Road. After about 500 feet, the victim fell from the vehicle as it fled away. The victim suffered serious injuries and was transported to Bayfront Hospital.

Largo police detectives began working the case. Detective Brendan Arlington learned that four subjects occupied the suspect vehicle. The driver, front seat passenger and one of the rear passengers have been identified and charged with robbery. The fourth occupant was not charged with a crime.

The front seat passenger of the vehicle, Grant Charles Denton, 31, Largo, grabbed the money from the victim and battered him as the vehicle fled. He was located, arrested and taken to jail under a \$12,000 bond for strong-armed robbery and criminal mischief. The rear passenger of the vehicle, Terrence Louis Dawson, 28, Largo, beat the victim as the victim was hanging on to the vehicle. He was located, arrested and taken to jail under

a \$10,000 bond for robbery. The driver of the vehicle, Thomas Christopher Towell, 25, Seminole, was arrested and charged with strong armed robbery. Bond was set at \$10,000.

### Dunedin stabbing appears accidental

DUNEDIN – Pinellas County sheriff's deputies say a stabbing during Dunedin Mardi Gras celebration is most likely an accident.

Deputies responded about 9:15 p.m. Feb. 21 to an area on Main Street near the Pinellas Trail.

According to deputies, Robert Joseph Casey, 56, of Madeira Beach was dressed as a pirate and posing for pictures with a group of teenagers that he did not know.

Deputies said Casey had a knife in a scabbard as part of his costume. One of the teens in the group grabbed the knife and posed for a photo pointing the knife at Casey. Someone subsequently noticed that Casey had blood on his shirt and called for help.

Dunedin Fire Rescue personnel responded and transported Casey by air to Bayfront Medical Center for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

Deputies would like to speak to the teen who held the knife and posed for the photo. He is described as a white male, about 6

feet tall, wearing a white T-shirt and flashing pink glasses. The teen is asked to call Deputy Chris Mantzanas at 727-582-6200.

### Man dies after falling from golf cart

PALM HARBOR – A Palm Harbor man died Feb. 21 after falling from a golf cart in the parking lot of Ferman BMW, 31480 U.S. 19 in Palm Harbor.

According to a report from the Florida Highway Patrol, George Karlis, 29, was standing on the rear platform of a 2008 Club Car golf cart being driven by Tarek S. Assem, 51, of New Port Richey about 9:25 a.m. Feb. 20. The golf cart was near the west end of the parking lot and during a turn, Karlis lost his balance and fell to the ground.

He suffered serious injuries and was taken to Bayfront Medical Center where he died the next day.

### School evacuated for bomb threat

PINELLAS PARK – Pinellas Park police responded to Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School, 6410 118th Ave. N. in regards to a bomb threat Feb. 23.

At around 10 a.m., the middle school's school resource officer was told about a message found on a bathroom wall that said a bomb was set to go off at 3 p.m. that day.

Tampa to help in the sweep.

"They'll do a complete search of the inside of the building, looking for anything suspicious," Unmisig said. "The kids are not in any danger right now. They're safe and sound across the street."

Police completed an extensive search of the school by 1:30 p.m., at which time students were permitted to re-enter the school, Unmisig said. The investigation into the person responsible for the message is ongoing.

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## Around Pinellas

### City considers change in height, density restrictions

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – The condo boom of the last decade has left Indian Rocks Beach with fewer hotel and motel rooms, and city leaders are concerned that they are losing out on the number of tourists who visit the city and spend their money in local establishments.

City commissioners agree that perhaps more motel or hotel rooms are needed; yet none is being built. The commission met with members of the Planning and Zoning Board Feb. 16 to find out what can be done to encourage such development. Commissioners were told that height and density restrictions were stopping developers from coming into the city to do business.

As it is now, the city allows two stories over parking to a maximum height of 46 feet. The P&Z Board is asking the city to consider raising the height to 75 feet.

The discussion centered around and was restricted to the Triangle, or Narrows business district. Members of the P&Z Board were asked why they settled on 75 feet as the new maximum height.

"I got to 75 feet because that is the height of the building I live in," said board member Larry King who lives in a building constructed before the current regulations were in place.

"There are not a lot of projects going on in the Triangle," said board member Gene DeLucia. "It is tough to make a project economically feasible under current conditions. The 75 feet is a signal to business that we want to work with them."

Board member Rogers Quimby agreed that more motel rooms are needed.

"It seems that to be financially feasible we need 75 feet," he said. "But people automatically think Big Box when they hear 75 feet so we have to be able to regulate it."

In fact, regulation was something that both the commission and board members wanted to maintain.

City Manager Chuck Coward said new restrictions could be written to make sure that a process of review was in place and just because the maximum 75 feet was in place didn't mean that every new development would be granted 75 feet.

Members of the commission were cool to the idea of raising the height restriction in the city to 75 feet. Commissioner-elect Jim Labadie, who operates a "mom and pop motel" said he was hesitant when he first heard 75 feet.

"But now that I hear more, it has possibilities, especially with careful review in place," he said. "But we all want to maintain the quality of life we have here."

Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin said the city has to be careful what it allows because it is the city which provides services to support all new businesses.

"We want to encourage business," she said. "But we have to make sure we protect the interests of our citizens. I don't think people want big box stores. I have no problem with further development but I'm not as enthusiastic with 75 feet. I'm not sold on 75 feet."

Vice Mayor Phil Hanna agreed.

"I'm very pro business, but I'm leery at 75 feet. I do like the idea of a review committee to protect our needs," he said.

Mayor R.B. Johnson was also cool to the height suggestion.

"I blanch at the idea of 75 feet," he said. "And I don't want the perception that there is some sort of right for new buildings to be 75-feet high."

Coincidentally, according to Chuck Coward, was an idea floated by local businessman Bob Munce that he build a 110-room hotel in the Narrows business district. The hotel would be 75-feet high, well above current restrictions.

As current regulations stand, a new hotel on Munce's two acres of land in the Triangle, would be allowed only 30 units and be 46-feet high. Coward says if Munce applied for a permit to build the 100-room, 75-foot hotel, his application would be rejected out of hand.

"It is so far beyond our current regulations that we wouldn't even consider it," said Coward.

Speaking at the meeting, Munce, who has lived in Indian Rocks Beach since 1948, said the 75-foot height would be best for him, but it need not be the final plan.

"We can look at different designs," he said.

Several residents also spoke at the meeting, all of whom said 75 feet is too high.

Tricia Priest said, "I like the idea of a boutique-type hotel, but let's keep it Indian Rocks."

Bert Valery said, "I have no trouble with a hotel concept, but it should be built with our rules, not some cookie cutter design. I'm concerned about 75 feet, 75 feet is too high."

City leaders must weigh those sentiments against the comments of P&Z Chairman Rick McFall, who said developers have absolutely no interest in coming here as long as the height restrictions remain the way they are.

Johnson asked perhaps the most telling question of the evening. "What is the right height?"

That has yet to be answered. City staff has been instructed to look at the dialogue from the special meeting and return with some suggestions for the commission to consider.

– **Brian Goff**

### Community Garden project gets off the ground

INDIAN SHORES – The proposed Community Garden policy was unanimously approved at the Feb. 14 Indian Shores Town Council meeting.

The purpose of the garden as outlined by town officials is to provide a location for Indian Shores property owners to grow fresh vegetables, herbs and flowers.

The proposed garden will be assigned an address on Second Avenue East because it has gate access. A key access system will be provided for security.

Indian Shores property owners can purchase one or more "earth boxes" for garden membership on a "first-come, first-served basis."

The town will provide automatic watering for the "earth boxes".

Garden members will have access to the garden daily between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., year-round.

Organic gardening is being encouraged. No pest control will be allowed on adjacent member plants. Garden members will provide their own tools for plant maintenance and must comply with the town's community gardener agreement.

A bid of \$16,475 by Acerbo Inc. of Indian Shores was accepted for construction of the garden.

Town Administrator E.D. Williams noted that \$8,745 was available in town funds for this project. The remaining funds for the project will come from the restricted funds account for beautification, which has a balance of \$43,579.71 available. A budget amendment will need to be made in order to redirect the funds.

Bob Brotherton, who is spearheading the project, recommended that a volunteer site coordinator be found. Brotherton also noted that there is a grant available to obtain matching funds if applied for by March 1.

– **Jeannie Carlson**

### City to get 2 electric car recharge stations

SEMINOLE – Owners of electric cars will soon have a place to get a recharge in Seminole.

City councilors voted unanimously Feb. 14 to pass a resolution allowing City Manager Frank Edmunds to enter into an agreement with Progress Energy for the installation of two electric vehicle charging stations in the parking lot of the Seminole Recreation Center.

"They will be built near the flag pole in the parking lot, facing 113th Street," said Edmunds. "It's for anybody with an electric vehicle to use."

Edmunds said there will be no charge to use the facility.

Progress Energy will build the two charging stations through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. There will be no cost to the city.

Progress Energy will retain ownership of the units through the term

that the city have three meetings as opposed to the roundtable session.

"I think we will see some new people. I think we will get some new ideas. I think that's a good idea," she said.

City officials have used the roundtable format for three years. The advantages include getting a clear consensus from participants to develop a product that was useful to the commission and staff in forming the budget. Besides attracting the same participants over three years, disadvantages are that the sessions were difficult for citizens with fam-

competence."

"When I was a sheriff I served in every leadership position in the (Florida) Sheriff's Association, including the president and legislative chairman," he said.

Rice said he merged "six municipal departments into the Sheriff's office, saving those municipalities tens of millions of dollars."

From 2004 to 2006, he served in the Florida House of Representatives, co-sponsoring the Jessica Lunsford Act, which is designed to punish sexual offenders and reduce their ability to commit further acts.

Jessica Lunsford was a 9-year-old Florida girl who was sexually battered and murdered in February 2005 by a previously convicted sex offender.

"My experience as the sheriff and as a cop told me that we needed to be monitoring sexual predators that were under supervision. For years I tried to get the Legislature to do that, but they wouldn't do that," Rice said.

The sexual predator was under supervision, but was not being monitored with GPS or anything else; "it was pretty easy to get that bill through, and today Florida has the strongest sexual predator law in the country," Rice said.

### Scott Swope

Swope is the founding shareholder of a law firm.

A former deputy, Swope said he is running for sheriff because he believes the agency has been "mismanaged for a very long time."

Among the examples, he said the Sheriff's Office conducted a coordinated raid on three different Internet gambling cafes at the

increase in participants.

"It's very common in a recreation program that we would not fill to completely 100 percent," Rose said. "For most programs, a little bit excess capacity there. What we're hoping is that by facilitating this movement ... both cities draw more customers."

The cities of Safety Harbor and Oldsmar have a similar shared recreation program, Rose said.

"They have found it very successful, and right now they're in the process of enlarging it to include Tarpon Springs and Dunedin," she said.

The city of Largo currently charges nonresidents \$55 for an annual recreation card. Pinellas Park charges a nonresidential fee of \$25 for seniors or \$85 for youth and adults to obtain their

of the agreement, which expires April 27, 2013.

Plans call for the construction of two Eaton Pow-R-Station units that will fill a depleted all-electric car battery in about four hours.

In other action, councilors:

- Passed an ordinance on first reading that amends the current budget to recognize additional revenue of \$228,355 from the fiscal 2011 budget. A total of \$127,500 comes from the infrastructure fund balance and \$62,712 from the CIP fund balance. A total of \$32,105 comes from the city's general fund balance.
- Approved \$2,100 in payment to four musical groups that will perform at the 2012 Pow Wow Festival.
- Named Tom Barnhorn a candidate to the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust board for the Florida League of Cities.

– **Bob McClure**

### Charter schools to be permitted in more areas

CLEARWATER – An application by Inland Southeast Clearwater Development LLC to build a charter school at 21810 U.S. 19 North had ramifications far beyond the property in question. It led to an easing of restrictions on where charter schools can be built throughout the city.

A charter school is a publically funded educational institution that is privately operated under a charter granted by the county school board. Unlike traditional public schools, it has greater latitude in its curriculum, teaching methods and the hiring and firing of teachers.

On July 19, 2011, the city's Community Development Board denied Inland Southeast's application because the property where the proposed charter school would be built is in a commercial general area on the Future Land Use Map and is zoned commercial. Both of those classifications preclude charter schools.

The matter could have ended there, but it didn't. Members of the Community Development Board began wondering whether the requirements of those classifications were too strict. At its January 17 meeting, the board unanimously recommended that the charter school's application be approved, with a change to its lighting provisions.

At its Feb. 16 meeting, the city Council debated whether to approve Inland Southeast's application as well as the broader question of whether schools should be allowed in CG areas that are zoned commercial. Michael Delk, head of the city's planning and development department spoke in favor of easing the rules, saying it would not only accommodate the current applicant but will provide guidance in future cases of a similar nature.

"Many jurisdictions throughout the U.S. and Pinellas County (e.g. the city of Dunedin and the city of St. Petersburg) allow schools in commercial districts," Planning and Development Department Planner Catherine Lee wrote in a staff report. "This expands infill potential, especially for charter schools which may have smaller student enrollments (than traditional public schools). The proposed amendment expands the number of land use classifications in which public educational facilities may be located and clarifies and brings consistency between state statutes and the (city's) Community Development Code. The proposed amendment will further the goals, objectives and policies of the Clearwater Comprehensive Plan, is consistent with other provisions of the Clearwater Comprehensive Plan, will not result in inappropriate or incompatible uses, will not adversely affect the natural environment or impact the use of property in the immediate area, and sufficient public facilities exist to implement the proposed amendment."

"The proposed amendments will clarify the definition of public educational facilities and list three new future land use classifications in which they will be allowed. These proposed amendments are not inconsistent with other provisions of the comprehensive plan."

Before drafting the two amendments, one to change the Clearwater Comprehensive Plan and one to amend the Community Development Code, the city's legal staff sent copies of the proposed changes to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, and that agency's input was included in the final drafts. On Feb. 16, the City Council unanimously approved both amendments.

– **Lester R. Dailey**

### BUDGET, from page 1A

about the budget."

The commission can't always do what citizens want, but "at least they are going to know why," she said.

Commissioner Woody Brown said he prefers to hear as much as he can from residents and the proposed format is a good effort in trying to limit "hearing the same things from the same people."

Commissioner Gig Arntzen also agreed with the recommendation

### CANDIDATES, from page 1A

supposed to do in our own homes. Is that the government's right. No. That's our liberty," Heine said.

Heine said the government is basically broke.

"People need to be able to make money. I own property," he said, "and I'm sure each and every one of you do."

"We have to stop giving raises to government employees until the people in the private sector can catch up," Heine said.

He proposes as sheriff he "will cut his pay to \$99,000 per year and no one will make more than I do." The difference in the pay, he said, will go to the lowest paid workers in the department.

"Thirty days after I'm elected the employees will elect their own new chief deputy," Heine said.

### Tim Ingold

Ingold joined the Sheriff's Office in 1979 as a deputy and three years later became an undercover narcotics detective, rising through the ranks until retiring as a captain in 2010.

Ingold said he worked with budgets, noting that he ran the special operations division that had a \$23 million budget. He was in charge of court security at the time he retired, overseeing a \$17 million budget and hundreds of employees under his command.

He ran the local Fraternal Order of Police for 18 years, he said, serving as president for nine years.

"I think it was through that office I garnered the respect of the deputies during that time," he said.

Commenting on the recent lean budget years, Ingold said the

sheriff's budget was \$146 million in 2000 and had nearly doubled in 2008 to \$288 million.

"You don't earn the right to label yourself a fiscal conservative when you have to cut because the money is there. You earn that right when you spend that money wisely when money is available, during those early years," Ingold said.

One of his top issues is personnel evaluations.

"I think that's one of the most critically important things you can do with an employee is to sit down with them once a year and talk about their strengths and weaknesses and what they need to do, as part of their career paths as part of their future," he said.

He said the agency got away from "that a bit and went to a system that's basically a pass-fail ..."

"I think it does a disservice to the employees," he said.

### Everett Rice

Rice served four terms as sheriff.

"When I left there in 2004, the agency was a model for professionalism and advances in technology," he said.

He began public service as a teenager in the U.S. Maritime Marine Service. He served as a deputy for about 15 years and rose through the ranks as a lieutenant, captain and chief of detectives.

He left the Sheriff's Office when he graduated from law school and then was in private practice. Rice was elected sheriff in 1988.

He said he was elected as a reform candidate "because the Sheriff's Office had a reputation of brutality, corruption and in-

### RECREATION, from page 1A

the new city's recreation software system Rec Track would help Pinellas Park track the success of the program, using a separate code set up just for Largo residents who are registering at the resident rate. Last week, Largo went live with a similar software system, she said.

"Both cities will be able to see exactly how many people are able to take advantage of the program," she said. "We'll be able to track how many of them are enrolling in classes, year-to-year progress and track the impact on revenues, etc."

Pinellas Park didn't anticipate adding any new staff or programs to accommodate the potential



Photo by TOM GERMOND

From left, Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, Randy Heine, Scott Swope and Everett Rice listen as Tim Ingold takes his turn at the podium during a public forum on the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office race.

same time.

"Imagine the coordination to have enough detectives to descend on three Internet cafes at exactly the same time," Swope said.

He said the agency stopped the "Little old ladies from being able to play poker online. I'll give you that. But the law they are enforcing is of dubious legality and constitutionality."

He said shortly after Gualtieri became sheriff, the agency initiated Operation Lower the Boom, a

program designed to make reporting car stereo noise violations simple.

"The Florida Statute on vehicle radios has already been declared unconstitutional," Swope said, and the Sheriff's Office is enforcing a county noise law that "is of dubious constitutionality."

He said deputies shouldn't be arresting people for "nonviolent misdemeanors that don't affect public safety."

"The Sheriff's Office needs to get its priorities straight. The ar-

rest policy needs to be changed," he said. "Right now deputies are encouraged to make arrests in order to generate statistics. And the problem is, that policy encourages deputies to arrest people who probably shouldn't be arrested in the first place," Swope said.

"When I'm sheriff, the law will be enforced, but it will be enforced with a clear sense of priority, and it will be done within the boundaries of the United States Constitution," he said.

similar card. Now Pinellas Park and Largo residents will be able to obtain an annual membership to the other city's recreation program for \$10 and \$5, respectively.

"We can offer some opportunities to Pinellas Park residents where they may have limited resources and we have excess capacity," said Largo Recreation, Parks and Arts Director Joan Byrne, in a press release. "This benefits Largo residents because the additional revenue helps reduce the overall programming costs. At the same time, we have Largo residents who may work or attend school in Pinellas Park and using these facilities may be more convenient at times."

Each city will retain the ability to allow its residents the first opportunity to register for popular

programs, a Pinellas Park press release about the agreement later stated. To start, Pinellas Park is extending its early resident summer camp registration period from one week to two weeks. It also will initiate a residential preregistration period for the 2012-2013 afterschool Open Rec program.

"We're very excited about this possible partnership between the two cities," Rose said.

The Pinellas Park vote in favor of the agreement was unanimous.

Later, Rose said the joint recreation program could be a starting point for future partnerships.

"This has helped to stimulate dialogue and cooperation between the two recreation programs, and we are already working with Largo on other ideas for partnerships," she stated in a release.

# Firefighters, oxygen masks and Nell's Fund save lives

By CHARY SOUTHMAYD

SEMINOLE - If it's true that cats have nine lives, two abandoned Siamese kittens now have just eight lives left, but they have Seminole firefighters and donated equipment to thank for still being alive at all.

The firefighters from Seminole Fire Rescue Station 29 responded to a house fire Jan. 10 on 79th Avenue. They quickly extinguished the flames confined to the kitchen and back section of the house. The damage was not extensive, but the house had filled with a lot of smoke. While searching for any people who might be inside, the firefighters did find signs of life. Two kittens were hiding behind some boxes, covered with soot and water and wheezing from smoke inhalation.

"We are trained to search for people and we also search for animals," said firefighter/paramedic Tyanne Hutchinson, one of the firefighters who responded to the scene. "We got lucky with these two."

Pet oxygen masks on board the fire truck were put to good use. The kittens were immediately given oxygen and then transported to Lake Seminole Animal Hospital for further treatment.

"When they arrived they looked pathetic, they were skinny and a mess," said Dr. Michael Rumore, the veterinarian who attended to the 7- to 8-week-old kittens.

Fortunately they had not suffered burns in the fire, but they did require medical care. Since the kittens had been abandoned and no one ever claimed them, there was no owner to cover the cost of their veterinary treatment.

That's where Nell's Fund came in.

After the death of their beloved 11-year-old chow/collie mix named Nell on Sept. 11 of

last year, Ken and Stephanie Opalenick of Largo were looking for some way to help them deal with their overwhelming grief and loss.

"Dr. Rumore helped us through a lot of hard times with Nell. He saved her life two or three times," explained Ken. "We decided to give money to help him with other animals that otherwise couldn't afford treatment."

The kittens, nicknamed Char and Coal, were the first beneficiaries of the Opalenicks' donation, called Nell's Fund.

At a ceremony Feb. 21 at Seminole Fire Station 29, the Opalenicks were on hand as Dr. Rumore and his father, Vincent, who oversees Nell's Fund, presented the firefighters with a certificate of appreciation that included, "Nell's Four Paw Salute for Compassion and Courage."

Seeing first hand how the fund they had established in memory of their pet was making a difference proved extremely emotional for Stephanie, who

was moved to tears.

"She was everything to us, our little child," she said. "Helping others makes it better."

"There is a huge need out there to help strays," said Dr. Rumore. "A fund like this helps to bridge the gap."

It is estimated as many as 150,000 pets die in fires each year, most due to smoke inhalation. This past Valentine's Day, Seminole Fire Rescue and other fire departments in Pinellas County were the recipients of 65 oxygen masks from Invisible Fence of the Suncoast and Oakhurst Veterinary Hospital in Seminole. The donation is part of Project Breathe, established by Invisible Fence with the goal of equipping every fire station in America and Canada with pet oxygen masks. In addition, Oakhurst staff members are teaching animal CPR and animal first aid training protocol to local fire departments.

The cooperative community effort has resulted in the best possible outcome for two kittens that very well could have per-

ished in a fire that was caused by a discarded cigarette in a kitchen wastebasket. Instead, they are healthy, beautiful and as fate would have it, no longer abandoned and homeless. They were adopted together by Seminole Fire Chief George Bessler's family.

"We had two cats at home and one of them recently passed away at age 14," Bessler said. "This hit close to home and my daughter, Candice, went down to see the kittens. They came home with her that night."

The kittens not only have a new lease on life, they have new names. Candice has renamed them Phillip and Henry.

Reflecting on the course of events and many caring individuals who gave two abandoned kittens the chance at a much better life, Dr. Rumore commented, "That fire might have been the best thing that ever happened to them."

For more information on Nell's Fund to help sick and injured strays, visit [www.nellsfund.org](http://www.nellsfund.org).



Photo by CHARY SOUTHMAYD  
Seminole Fire Rescue firefighter/paramedic Tyanne Hutchinson demonstrates how a pet oxygen mask fits over the face of a rescued kitten.



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# Homeless people creating problems along 'corridor'

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - They shower in the pool, urinate by the dumpster and scare the guests. A local hotel wants them to go away.

Christine Sieber, general manager of TownePlace Suites by Marriott, 13200 49th St. N., Pinellas Park, appealed to Pinellas County Commissioners Feb. 21 for a solution to the problems caused by transients trespassing on the property.

"They're loitering, lying in the grass, passed out drunk in the parking lot, swimming and showering in the pool, urinating and defecating by the dumpster, pulling up bushes, panhandling, asking guests for money, beer and cigarettes, asking to trade sex for money, beer and cigarettes," she said.

Guests with children are seeing the homeless exposing themselves on a daily basis. It's a big problem for an establishment known for its family and professional environment, Sieber said.

She expressed her thanks to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and the Pinellas Park Police Department, but said the response is reactionary, not proactive.

She said the problem has been going on for about a year.

"It just seems lately that it has escalated out of control," she said.

Pinellas County Commission Vice Chair Ken Welch agreed that the problems "are unacceptable."

Commissioner Nancy Bostock said Sieber isn't

the only one complaining. A small business owner located just around the corner from the Marriott has to clean up excrement from their yard, she said. Bostock believes the problem is the result of concentrating the homeless problem into one small area.

"I've heard it as well," said Commissioner Norm Roche, who described the problem as an unintended consequence for businesses located near Pinellas Safe Harbor and Pinellas Hope.

Pinellas Safe Harbor, which is operated by the sheriff's office, is at 14840 49th St. N. Pinellas Hope, which is run by Catholic Charities, is at 5726 126th Ave. N. - about two miles away. The Marriott is about a mile south of Safe Harbor.

Roche said a more proactive approach was needed along the corridor.

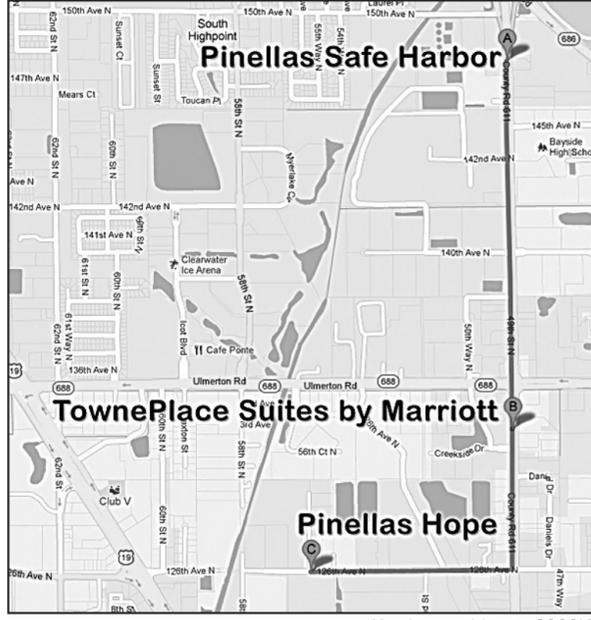
"That's exactly what we need to do," said Commissioner Karen Seel.

She said more patrols along the corridor were needed. She also asked that the sheriff provide a report on what was happening at Pinellas Safe Harbor.

Bostock suggested that the commission look at passing a loitering ordinance or take other steps to ensure a more proactive response to the problem.

"Do we know they're from Safe Harbor," asked Commissioner Susan Latvala. "They have a nice facility."

Sieber said the homeless come from Safe Harbor and Pinellas Hope. She said it happens during the day when they have nothing to do. She said they



Map data copyright 2012 GOOGLE

Pinellas County Commissioners are concerned about what they're calling a "corridor," mostly along 49th Street in Pinellas Park, where the homeless population is creating problems. Pinellas Safe Harbor, which is operated by the sheriff's office, is at 14840 49th St. N. Pinellas Hope, which is run by Catholic Charities, is at 5726 126th Ave. N. - about two miles away. The TownePlace Suites by Marriott is about a mile south of Safe Harbor.

travel on foot or on bicycles and are looking for a cool place to rest.

"We need to know who they are," Latvala said.

She said Safe Harbor residents have showers and a nice facility in which to live. But, Safe Harbor is at capacity most of the time now, she added.

"I agree this is not acceptable," she said.

County Administrator Bob LaSala asked Sieber to provide information to Carl Harness, assistant county administrator, who was instructed to get in touch with the sheriff, personnel from health and human services and Catholic Charities, who runs Pinellas Hope, to initiate a coordinated response to the problem.

## Briefs

### PSTA sets ridership record in January

ST. PETERSBURG - Transit ridership in Pinellas County reached an all-time high of 1,126,563 rides for the first month of 2012. That's a jump of 8 percent over January 2011.

"We've seen strong ridership across the board," said PSTA CEO Brad Miller. "This is the second month in a row where we've set record ridership with an average increase of 8.5 percent. ... It's very encour-

aging and proof that people in Pinellas County are willing to ride." Transit officials suspect that higher fuel prices may play a role in the ridership increase, but other factors, such as the economy and increased tourism, can also affect ridership.

In the near future, PSTA is hoping to expand bus service, increasing access to public transit service throughout Pinellas County. Those improvements are part of a new, comprehensive plan featuring light rail service between St. Petersburg, Gateway and Clearwater. Improved bus servic-

es and park and ride facilities will make it easy for citizens in outlying communities to take advantage of this newly designated light rail corridor.

To learn how to plan a trip and ride PSTA, visit [www.PSTA.net](http://www.PSTA.net) or call the PSTA InfoLine at 540-1900.

### EMS Advisory Council has open spot

Pinellas County officials are looking to fill a vacancy on the county's Emergency

Medical Services Advisory Council, an advisory group that provides information about emergency medical services issues in Pinellas County to the Board of County Commissioners, sitting as the county's EMS Authority.

Interested parties should submit a cover letter or resume and short bio to provide background information to the EMS Advisory Council. Materials should be submitted to EMS Division Manager Craig Hare by March 27.

The list of applicants will be considered

by the EMS Advisory Council at their March 29 meeting after which a recommendation will go before the Board of County Commissioners for approval. Applications should be sent to the following address:

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# Couple helps keep county's Eagle Lake Park pristine

By BOB COSTIGAN

On any given day, amid the natural habitat, wetlands and large variety of animals at Pinellas County's Eagle Lake Park, Art and Wanda McKay are likely to be found. For the last six months, the husband and wife team have been volunteers at the Keene Road Park in Largo. They have generously given their time and energy to ensure the 163-acre park is clean and well kept for all who visit.

According to Art, he and his wife both enjoyed walking around their subdivision, located nearby, but they became tired of walking on the hard concrete and seeing the same homes day after day. When the county opened the park last year they were overjoyed at the idea of being able to walk amongst the natural surroundings and beauty the park had to offer.

Wanda had worked for an insurance agency for a number of years while Art worked for Pinellas County's building inspection department. Since both had retired and had some free time on their hands, they decided to volunteer at the park.

Wanda said they're there two or three times a week and both love it. She may be a bit bias but believes Eagle Lake is one the prettiest parks around. Art calls it an "oasis in the asphalt, with all the greenery, the little ponds, all the critters and birds and snakes" that makes Eagle Lake Park their home.

They are both involved in all aspects of maintaining the park. One project is cutting back the greenery that grows over and onto the asphalt walkways and cement sidewalks to make it safer for those who use them including walkers and bicyclists.

They are also helping to eradicate an invasive plant known as the "Caesar weed" that has started growing in the park. Wanda said while it's pretty with dark green leaves and pink flowers, it gets stickers on them after blooming. Animals then get the stickers on their paws and spread the weeds throughout the park as they walk. To date they have taken out almost 200 large trash bags full of weeds and trimmings.

The McKay's aren't the only ones who like the

When the county opened Eagle Lake Park last year Wanda and Art McKay were overjoyed at the idea of being able to walk amongst the natural surroundings and beauty the park had to offer.

park. Hundreds of others visit the park each week. Some come to enjoy walking, roller-skating or bicycling amid all the natural beauty. Others come with their pets to one of the three dog parks. Still others enjoy a family gathering at one of the six picnic shelters available for rent.

The land originally belonged to the Taylor family, one of the original settlers in Pinellas County. They used the land as a citrus grove and for cattle grazing. The county purchased two parcels of land that comprises the park in 1998 and 2006. They have tried to keep much of the development of the park with a citrus grove theme.

Wanda enjoys the volunteer work she does at the park, noting "it's great exercise, being outside in the beautiful fresh air." She encourages others to "get off the couch" and get outside as well and enjoy all there is to see and do.

Art is equally happy volunteering, noting that you can set your own schedule and what you would like to do and all of the tools and equipment you need are provided.

Park visitors have stopped both to ask how they can volunteer and they direct them to www.pinellascounty.org for more information. They have also seen other people that aren't volunteers in the park picking up trash and trying to help keep the park nice and clean.

Thanks to the hard work and effort of people like Art and Wanda McKay the public is able to enjoy all the natural beauty that Pinellas County has to offer.

This article was provided by Pinellas County Communications.



Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS

Art and Wanda MacKay of Largo love helping in Eagle Lake Park.

# Ex-Globetrotters to play in Seminole band fundraiser

By BOB McCLURE

SEMINOLE - As part of its efforts to raise funds for the Seminole High School marching band's trip to the 2013 Tournament of Roses Parade, the SHS band boosters have organized a charity basketball game involving former members of the Harlem Globetrotters.

The Globetrotters alumni will play a team billed as the Tampa Bay Generals in a pair of games Saturday, March 24, at the St. Petersburg College-Gibbs campus gym, 6605 Fifth Ave. N. Games tip off at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

"We're spending \$40,000 in an effort to raise \$15,000," said booster club marketing coordinator Dennis Wheeler.

Among the well-known former Globetrotters expected to play are Matt "Showbiz" Jackson, Tyrone "Hollywood" Brown, Reggie "Airman" Dixon, Wayne "Above and Beyond" Clark,

Sterling "Smooth" Forbes and others.

Jackson, a former player at Savannah State, was recognized as the "Clown Prince" of basketball as the lead showman and longtime member of the Globetrotters from 1987 to 2007. He was known for his behind-the-back half-court trick shot.

Dixon is also a basketball trick artist, while Clark is a 10-time Nike Slam Dunk champion. Forbes is a former basketball standout at Southwest Texas State University.

"It will be an honor to help these hard working young students to achieve their goals," said Clark in a release. "We are looking forward to this opportunity because it allows us to give back to those who have always enjoyed and continue to support the Harlem Globetrotters."

"We are bringing our A game with some of the best slam dunking, ball handling and trick

dribbling in the world," said Brown. "We will have a good time, make the audience laugh and give them a family-fun performance that they will never forget."

The Seminole High School Marching Band is preparing for its second trip to Pasadena, Calif. The band will entertain an anticipated one million spectators and an international television audience of over 40 million as they march down the famous Orange Grove and Colorado boulevards on New Year's Day.

The two benefit basketball games are among many projects the students and band boosters are using to raise the needed funds to cover travel expenses for the 140-plus-piece band.

General admission is \$15 in advance and \$22 at the door. Premium VIP seating is available for \$25. To purchase tickets or get additional information, call 254-9556 or visit www.shswhawkband.com.

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# Fishing good despite recent poor weekend weather

Unfortunately it doesn't look like we're getting out of this weather pattern anytime soon, with the last three weekends being a bust on the weather; we can only hope that these fronts will give us a break soon. Telling you about just how good the weekday fishing was last week feels a bit like rubbing it in, but fishing has been good - in fact it's been real good. Redfish have definitely made their entrance in our northern coun-

ty. Speckled trout fishing is excellent. Sheepshead are staging up for their spring spawn and there's enough action from those "wild card" fish i.e. pompano and black drum to almost count on it. Redfish are showing up in traditional places, barrier islands, spoil islands and no motor zones are holding fish. Finding clean water with a healthy mullet population has been the key for finding the fish



**Fish Tales**  
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

on the incoming tide. Once the tide is up, scan the shoreline for fish that will hold up around the small oyster bars that can typically be found along mangrove points. Live select shrimp under a float have been working

well. Sheepshead fishing is improving as schools of larger sized fish group up for their spawn. Target pass bridges and jetties when targeting the bigger fish. Use fresh pieces of shrimp fished on either a jig head or a small hook with a split shot for weight. Also, now is a good time to have a few pompano jigs on hand, especially when fishing in or near the passes. Look for the pompano to stage up

and feed on the strong part of the tide. The first thing in the morning or early evening is the best time to trick these tasty speedsters. Keep your eyes open for a chance at spotting a school of breeder sized black drum. These giants will often hang out over deep grass flats and can sometimes be seen tailing in the shallows usually early in the morning. Pinellas Point is a good area to look, as well as the

flats around the Dunedin causeway. Cast gulp shrimp on a stout jig head into the school and hang on. Until next week - get bent! Tyson Wallerstein can be reached at [capt.tyson@hotmail.com](mailto:capt.tyson@hotmail.com). To get a fish photo in the paper, send the photo along with your name, when and where it was caught to [editorial@TBNweekly.com](mailto:editorial@TBNweekly.com) or mail it to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772.

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## Briefs

### Get fit at Highland Recreation Center

LARGO - Largo Recreation is striving to increase the overall fitness level of children "in a fun, safe and motivating environment" with Highland Recreation's Fit Kids Program.

Children ages 8-14 will learn the importance of staying active and physically fit through a variety of speed, agility drills and cross training activities. With the help of staff, children will get a full body workout using various equipment including medicine balls, free weights and exercise bands.

This program helps boost children's self-esteem and socialization and gets kids excited about health and wellness.

Largo's Fit Kids is held Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 6:15 at the Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave. Cost for each four-week session is \$20 for residents and \$25 for nonresidents. Program dates

run March 1-22 and April 5-26.

For more information, call 518-3016 or for additional Fit Kids programs offered at Southwest Recreation Complex, visit [PlayLargo.com](http://PlayLargo.com).

### Southwest Pool offers Water Safety Instructor Class

LARGO - The City of Largo Recreation, Parks and Arts Department announces the beginning of an American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor Class scheduled for Saturdays, March 3, 10, 17, and 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Southwest Pool, 13120 Vonn Road.

The prerequisite for this course is a minimum age of 16 and successful completion of the Fundamentals of Instructor Training, which is mandatory and will be offered on March 1 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Class cost is \$160 for residents and \$200 for non-residents, and all individuals must have a city recreation card to participate. There is an additional fee payable to the American Red Cross for books and materials.

This course teaches the skills necessary to become an American Red Cross certified Water Safety Instructor. This certification is widely accepted throughout the aquatic profession and provides individuals with the knowledge and skills to teach others, of all ages and abilities, how to swim.

The deadline for registration and payment is Feb. 29. To get enrolled today, contact Southwest Pool at 518-3126 or visit [LargoPools.com](http://LargoPools.com) for additional information.

### Bonner Nature Park campout set

LARGO - A Family Cookout and Campout will take place Friday and Saturday, March 9-10, at Bonner Nature Park, 14444 143rd St. N.

The event will kick off on Friday, 6 p.m. and will conclude Saturday, 8 a.m. Attendees will enjoy experiences such as a cookout, night hike, wildlife show, s'mores around a campfire and breakfast.

Cost is \$10 a person. Children age 2 and younger

are free. An adult must accompany all children. Campers must bring a tent and camping gear. The deadline for registration is Wednesday, March 7. To reserve a spot, call 518-3047 or visit [LargoNature.com](http://LargoNature.com).

### Audubon Society to host shorebird class

DUNEDIN - The Clearwater Audubon Society will sponsor a shorebird identification class Saturday, March 3, 8 a.m., at the Honeymoon Island Nature Center at Honeymoon Island State Park, 1 Causeway Blvd.

Attendees will meet at the center for a class on how to identify shorebirds before taking a walk with the instructor on the beach to practice their new skills.

Shorebirds are one of the most interesting families of birds but can be challenging to identify correctly. No prerequisites are required. There is a small fee to take the class.

For details, call Marianne Korosy at 742-1683 or email [mkorosy@gmail.com](mailto:mkorosy@gmail.com). Visit [www.clearwateraudubon.com](http://www.clearwateraudubon.com).

### Island Earth Days 2012 set

DUNEDIN - Island Earth Days 2012 will be Saturday and Sunday, April 14-15, at Honeymoon Island State Park, 1 Causeway Blvd.

Hours will be Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Presented by the Friends of Island Parks, Honeymoon Island State Park and Caladesi Island State Park, the event will feature live music and entertainment on an outdoor stage, the Sharkbite Challenge Kayak Race, make-and-take rain barrel workshops, bungee jumping, rock wall, fresh seafood, arts and crafts, environmental vendors, Osprey Village education area, guided nature and beach walks and activities and crafts for kids.

A single donation of \$8 per vehicle at the gate includes free parking. Pets on a six-foot hand-held leash will be permitted. For information, call 738-2903 or visit [www.islandearthdays.com](http://www.islandearthdays.com).

## Interfaith Understanding God In America

As part of its initiative to promote interfaith understanding, Chapel on the Hill (United Church of Christ) in Seminole invites the community to attend a six-week series entitled God In America, based on the acclaimed PBS series with the same name.

The sessions will occur on **Six Consecutive Thursday Evenings, beginning Thursday, Feb 2.** Each session will begin at 6pm and run for one hour. We will watch a twenty-minute video and then have a guided discussion for the remaining forty minutes.

**Please join us for one or more of these interesting and informative sessions.**

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# Some safety tips for operating personal watercraft

Personal Watercraft have seen a virtual explosion in use since they were first introduced in 1973, and it is easy to understand why. They are relatively modest in price and operating costs, versatile and fun to operate or simply take a ride. Now, if you haven't figured it out yet, in real life anything like this has a downside, and here it is - they are also very dangerous if proper care is not taken and/or if an inexperienced person is operating a PWC.



**Safe boating**  
Loren Reuter

dos and don'ts should be thought of as "hints" to a successful PWC excursion:

- Do:**
- Wear goggles or some type of wrap-around eye protection as you will be getting water in your eyes.
  - Keep aware of other boaters and people or sea creatures in and near the water, such as fishermen, swimmers, and manatees, which may be affected by the operation of the PWC. Also, most PWC accidents involve PWCs crashing into one another, so pay attention.
  - Remain aware of any passengers you may have as they can easily fall off.
  - Be certain to dress for both the weather and the water as you and your passengers will almost certainly experience both.
  - Take time, at a minimum, to become familiar with the basics of the "rules of navigation" so that you will have the knowledge to operate a PWC in a lawful manner.
  - Operate the PWC in a way that is both respectful and safe to other people, including your passengers and yourself.

**Don't:**

- Operate at high speed in congested areas, no-wake zones, or during periods of limited visibility.
- Jump boat wakes
- Cut across areas where people are swimming or fishing.
- Play "chicken" with other boaters or race up to other vessels and change direction at the last moment as part of a game - it is one that can turn deadly quickly.

**COURTESY:** While boaters in general are a friendly group of people, there are some individuals who do not seem to know, or possibly care, about matters of common boating courtesy. I believe that the maneuverability and speed and the ensuing "sense of freedom" that operating a jet ski can bring to people often makes them forget, or become oblivious to the obvious - that they often dangerously cut in front of other boaters, kick up dangerous or annoying wakes, jump wakes, disrupt swimming and fishing, and are just having too much fun to notice or care. Again, unawareness on the water can be dangerous for everyone.

Among the duties of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the promotion of recreational boating safety. The USCGA offers ongoing boating safety classes in which you can learn and under-

There are several things that make PWC's unique on the water. One is that they are smaller than most other vessels and can be more difficult for other boaters to see. Another is they are highly maneuverable and can rapidly change their course and position relative to other vessels. Third, they are so small and maneuverable they often seem like "toys" to be played with by the operator. A PWC is, in fact, classified as a Class A powerboat and its operation comes with the same responsibility as operating any other powerboat. Consequently, when you are operating a PWC you are for legal and liability purposes operating a real motor boat and are subject to the same laws, duties, and responsibilities as other powerboat operators.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** An operator of a PWC is the captain of a high performance motor boat and bears the same level of responsibility of a person operating any other vessel on the water. PWC operators must follow the same navigation rules as other boat operators and are responsible for the safety of their passengers, the impact of their wake, and other responsibilities, just as other boat operators. A PWC operator must be physically capable of handling their vessel and mentally capable of exercising proper judgment in its operation.

**SAFETY:** Because of their relatively low visibility and high maneuverability, PWC operators must remain aware of their surroundings at all times, cognizant of the fact that their position, or even their presence, may be undetected by other boaters. Also, every person on a PWC is required to wear a life preserver, and in cold, or even cool water, it is a good idea to wear some type of protection, commonly a wet suit and goggles, to keep water out of the eyes. Also, all PWCs are required to carry a fire extinguisher, and to be licensed and registered as any other motorboat.

Some common sense safety matters about operating a PWC can be learned the hard way (learning by doing it yourself) or the easy way (learning through a safety course or from an experienced operator). The following



When people operate a personal watercraft, they are for legal and liability purposes operating a real motor boat and are subject to the same laws, duties, and responsibilities as other powerboat operators.

stand basic boating skills, including PWC operation. For information on the closest course offered in your area, simply send

an email to Auxiliary Staff Officer Jim Fogle at [foglejcgau@tampabay.fl.gov](mailto:foglejcgau@tampabay.fl.gov) for information on a boating skills and seamanship

course near you. And remember, let's be careful our there! Loren D. Reuter serves as the

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Staff Officer for Public Affairs and Publications, Flotilla 7-2, St. Petersburg.

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# Lockheed Martin expands Pinellas Park facility

PINELLAS PARK - Lockheed Martin's operation in Pinellas Park officially opened a new 57,000-square-foot manufacturing facility Feb. 22 that will produce aircraft canopy components for the F-35 Lightning II fighter.

"Their new expansion ... is specifically for the F-35 canopies," Pinellas Park Mayor Bill Mischler later said. "It is the only place in the United States that will build the canopies for the F-35, and I think we ought to be really proud of that."

The new facility, 9300 28th Street N., is an annex to Lockheed Martin's existing 197,000-square-foot building that has been producing structural components for more than 10 different types of aircraft since 1997. The operation began with 80 employees and has since grown to its current workforce of 250, with additional jobs expected as the F-35 program moves toward peak production.

The expanded facility can support production of up to 20 F-35 canopy units a month.

"The Lockheed Martin Pinellas facility has distinguished itself with its quality, safety and effi-

ciency and has become a center of excellence for the manufacturing of F-35 canopies," Harry Glenn, chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Bill Young, chair of the House Appropriations subcommittee on defense, said at the ribbon-cutting event Feb. 22.

Aircraft canopy components include the "windshield" of the aircraft - a clear plastic bubble - and the frame, ejection pyrotechnics and other structures that support it.

The building used in the expansion used to be a warehouse for another company in the Gateway Centre industrial park, said company spokesman Joe Stout. The building was under renovation to make it suitable for its new purpose since the summer until January.

"The first canopy work will move into the building around April and will ramp up in the (coming) months," Stout said. "Ultimately the operation could add up to 100 jobs, depending on government orders for the new F-35 fighter."

The F-35 is expected to be one of the largest military aircraft programs in history, including

thousands of aircraft to be produced for world air forces over several decades. The F-35 Lightning II is a fifth-generation fighter, combining advanced stealth with fighter speed and agility, fully fused sensor information, network-enabled operations and advanced sustainment.

Lockheed Martin is developing the F-35 with its principal industrial partners, Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems.

Core competencies at the Pinellas Park facility include sheet metal and extrusion fabrication and structural subassembly. To date the facility has produced components for the C-130J, F-22, F-16, C-5 and P-3, in addition to the F-35. Besides supporting Lockheed Martin aircraft programs, the facility does work for several other companies.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin is a global security company that employs about 123,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. The corporation's net sales for 2011 were \$46.5 billion.



Lockheed Martin employees work on a canopy for an F-35 Lightning II fighter in the existing building at Pinellas Park.

Photo courtesy of LOCKHEED MARTIN

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## Networking clubs follow the 'leads'

Networking groups, aka "leads" groups, meet on a regular basis at various locations in the area. Some groups charge a fee to attend, and most require reservations. Persons considering attending any group for the first time are encouraged to make contact in advance.

The upcoming schedule is as follows:

- Friday, March 2 - BNI Referral Masters, 7 a.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call Bill Mantooth at 639-6690 or visit www.bnireferralmasters.com.
- Friday, March 2 - Network Professionals of St. Pete, 7:30 a.m. For information and meeting location, call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.
- Friday, March 2 - Professional Leads Network, Upper Pinellas Chapter, 7:45 a.m., at R & G Café, 1565 Highland Ave., Clearwater. Visit www.pro-leads.net.
- Friday, March 2 - Professional Leads Network, Bay Area Execu-

tives Chapter, 11:45 a.m., at Tum Rub Thai, 32716 U.S. 19 N., Palm Harbor. Visit www.pro-leads.net.

Monday, March 5 - Network Professionals Inc., 7:30 a.m., at Perkins Restaurant, 8841 Park Blvd. N., Largo. Call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.

Monday, March 5 - Ready Set Grow Group, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., at Hometown Family Restaurant, 10395 Seminole Blvd., Largo. Call Jamie Limbaugh at 831-2450 or email jamieL@freetworkinginternational.com.

Monday, March 5 - Free Networking International, Clearwater Two Cups Connect Group, 2:30 to 4 p.m., at Bay Coast Coffee Market, 2525 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Clearwater. Call Wayne Porter at 642-6173, email waynep@freetworkinginternational.com or visit twocupsonnect.com.

Tuesday, March 6 - Professional Leads Network, First Watch Chapter, 7:30 a.m., First Watch, 2569 Village Drive, Clearwater. Visit www.pro-leads.net.

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## Biz notes

### Love story wins contest

PINELLAS PARK – A Pinellas Park resident was a runner-up in a national contest "Great American Love Story," sponsored by Great America Cookies. Wendy Benn received a \$250 American Express gift card after her entry was chosen from hundreds of others in the contest. In her essay, "Love at First Kiss," Benn tells the story of how she met her husband Richard when she was age 19. This year, Feb. 14 marked their 25th wedding anniversary.

For the contest, Great America Cookies asked their customers to write their love story in 200 words or less. According to the essay she submitted, Richard was the brother of Wendy's best friend. One night, she came to pick up her friend. Richard had just returned home from the Army and drove a car up beside her.

"Our eyes locked but I didn't think much of it," Wendy wrote.

But later in the weekend, her friend called and insisted Wendy come to her brother's birthday party at his request. Wendy hesitated, but went.

"One thing led to another, and it was literally love at first kiss," she wrote.

Twenty-five years later, the Benns have three children. Together, they lived through good times and bad, including the loss of Richard's sister and Wendy's best friend, who died of cancer.

Even after so many years together, Wendy still laughs at her husband's jokes, including a recurring one he tells when meeting new people: "I'm Rich, but only my name."

"I always laugh along and not because it's funny – I have heard it a million times – but because I know we are rich in love and happiness," she wrote. Wendy's submission garnered 168 votes.

For more about Great America Cookies, visit [www.greatamericacookies.com](http://www.greatamericacookies.com).

Chapter of the American Business Women's Association recently named Shaouon Powell as its Woman of the Year for 2012.

Chapter members selected Powell for her contributions to the chapter and community. She is currently the best-practices chair of the group and has served as president, vice president and on several other committees. Powell is active in her church and teaches at Eckerd College.

ABWA is a national non-profit formed 63 years ago by Kansas businessman Hilary Bufton. The Sunshine City Charter Chapter has the distinction of being the first chapter formed in Florida in May 1950. The ABWA mission is to support and promote women through education, leadership, networking and national recognition.

The organization's fundraising events raise money for the ABWA education fund used to award scholarships to deserving individuals.

### Contractor earns NARI awards

ST. PETERSBURG – Jeffery M. Wolf General Contractor Inc. recently received two Contractor of the Year awards from the Tampa Bay Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

Jeffery M. Wolf General Contractor Inc. was awarded first place in Residential Exterior Specialty and second place in Entire House Under \$250,000.

According to a press release from the contractor, both projects required solving technical difficulties. The Residential Exterior Specialty project also had to meet the special requirements of historic preservation. The Entire House project used recycled materials wherever possible, as well as water-saving devices, extra insulation and a solar water heating system.

### Belltech to host Walsingham Village Festival

LARGO – To thank its customers, Belltech Com-



Taking part in the February meeting of the Old Northwest Largo Association are Largo business owners.

puter Solutions will sponsor the Walsingham Village Festival on Saturday, March 3, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., at 14219 Walsingham Road.

The festival will include free food and drinks and fun for the whole family. There will be live entertainment, a bounce house and snow cones.

For information, call 595-5000.

### Old Northwest Largo meets

LARGO – The Old Northwest Largo Association met Feb. 13 at Xtra Medium Video Productions, 214 West Bay Drive.

Xtra Medium Video Productions relocated from Clearwater to Old Northwest Largo in January.

### Powell named Woman of the Year

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**Doorways Program gets donation**  
 TARPON SPRINGS – The Rotary Club of Tarpon Springs presented \$50,000 to the Pinellas Education Foundation. This money will allow 10 more students to be able to receive scholarships for college and mentors in high school through the Doorways Program.

**Notebook**

**Lakewood High 40th reunion set**

ST. PETE BEACH – Lakewood High's class of 1972 is hosting its 40th reunion on Friday and Saturday, July 20 and 21. The Friday event is at Silas Dents, and the Saturday event is at Grand Plaza on St. Pete Beach. Cost is \$150 per person for both evenings or \$75 for just Friday or \$125 for Saturday only.  
 Visit [www.classreport.org/usa/fl/st\\_petersburg/lhs/1972](http://www.classreport.org/usa/fl/st_petersburg/lhs/1972) or find the Facebook group by searching Lakewood High – Fortieth Reunion.

hush puppies, cole slaw, pudding, iced tea, juice and coffee. Child meals cost \$4 and include pizza, french fries, pudding, iced tea or juice.  
 To pre-order tickets, call 461-1200 or stop by the school. People also may pay at the door.

**Mansur makes president's list**

OLDSMAR – Hannah Mansur of Oldsmar has made the fall semester President's List at Gadsden State Community College in Gadsden, Ala. Full-time students who earn all As in college-level courses are named to this list.

**Dines makes Dean's List**

CLEARWATER – Jacob Dines of Clearwater has made the Dean's List at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. To earn this honor, students must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.  
 Drake is a private, independent university with about 3,300 full-time undergraduate students.

**Cormier makes honor society**

CLEARWATER – Jacob Cormier

of Clearwater has been inducted into Phi Zeta Kappa's junior honor society at Fairleigh Dickinson University's College at Florham in Madison, N.J. To qualify for this honor, students must complete at least the first 60 credits toward an undergraduate degree, and of these, 44 must have been earned at FDU with a cumulative grade-point ration of 3.2 for all of them.  
 FDU's College at Florham is located at the former Vanderbilt-Twombly estate. Its focus is on providing outstanding on-campus and residential living opportunities, hands-on learning experiences, strong graduate and professional school preparation, and customized educational options.

**Dvornik makes Dean's List**  
 CLEARWATER – Teale J. Dvornik of Clearwater has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. To earn this honor, students must receive at least a minimum of a 3.5 grade-point average out of 4.0 while taking at least 12 credit hours of coursework. This is the highest academic recognition given at the school each semester.

Samford is the largest private university in Alabama, with more than 4,700 undergraduate and graduate students. It offers undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees in eight schools: Arts, arts and sciences, business, divinity, education, law, nursing, and pharmacy.

**McCormick makes WPI's Dean's List**  
 SAFETY HARBOR – Gabriel McCormick of Safety Harbor has been named to the Dean's List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass. McCormick is a junior majoring in electrical and computer engineering.  
 A total of 1,151 undergraduate students achieved the criteria for WPI's fall Dean's List, which is defined as completing a certain level of work at the A level in courses and projects.  
 "WPI's academic programs are remarkably rigorous, so being named to the Dean's List is a testament to hard work, a sharp mind, and a commitment to excellence," said Provost Eric Overström. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to learn subjects ranging from engineering to science to business and the humanities, and through our innovative project-based curriculum they conduct professional-level research and solve important problems all over the world. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled at facing such demanding challenges, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

Founded in 1865 in Worcester, Mass., WPI was one of the nation's first engineering and technology universities. WPI's 14 academic departments offer more than 50 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts, leading to bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees.

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# Talkin' about your generation

Lately, I find it necessary to restrain my inner curmudgeon when speaking to young adults about politics.



Mary Sanchez

Put me in a roomful of educated, middle-class twentysomethings holding forth on their liberal views and my brow furrows and my jaw clenches.

This might come as a shock to regular readers of my column. It's not that I disagree with their views they express or that I find them insufficiently articulate or passionate. They have these qualities, often in spades.

Ask them about the latest kerfuffle in the culture wars and prepare yourself for the disdain of the enlightened. They'll give you that "you're kidding me" roll of the eyes they reserve for middle-aged adults still stuck on issues they feel are largely resolved.

Here's one that flat out makes them howl with laughter: the idea that you can "pray away the gay" in people. This stuff strikes them as absurd; they have friends who are out of the closet, studying alongside them in class. They also have countless sexually active peers who take the pill or use condoms.

They are refreshingly unperturbed by the anxieties that columnists and talking heads of my generation make into hobbyhorses. Pew Research Center has reported that 18- to 29-year-olds view gay couples raising children, unwed people cohabiting or parenting children together with a statistical shrug. They simply don't see these trends as harmful to society.

The same polling also found they value parenthood highly, and the vast majority says they want to have children and marry, but they will likely do it later than past generations.

In other words, the 18- to 29-year-olds of the millennial generation have fine instincts.

What bothers me is that the issues that set them off, and the way they react, are exactly what you'd expect of young adults raised with relative privilege who seem to have no reason to fear that their lives will lack for a certain level of comfort. But they do have reason to fear.

My reply has become this: These culture war issues aren't the challenges that will matter to your generation. Your generation's fate is being decided right now in all this hubbub in Congress about the debt ceiling and taxes and spending cuts and entitlement "reform" and health care "reform." And, by the way, what do you think about all that?

Blank stares. Don't get me wrong: The so-called social and cultural issues are important. I suspect that by the time these young people are middle-aged and presumably have gained a level of social capital and economic clout, many of these societal shifts will no longer be controversial.

But I worry what they are not seeing with their oh-so-tolerant eyes. Sure, they wax on about getting beyond racism. And they are adept in the language and gestures of diversity, often showing off the evidence of their enlightenment with racially diverse selections of music in their iPods.

But what they don't seem to grasp is the complex and enduring interconnection of race and class. They are unaware that a wealth gap is widening between the races and is greater than it has been at any time in the past quarter century. As reported by Pew in July, the median wealth in white households is 20 times that of African-Americans and 18 times that of Hispanics.

What do they think is fueling this trend, and what can be done about it? Is it a good thing that income and wealth distribution in America is polarizing?

More blank stares. We've been hearing an earful lately about the sort of world that will be left to succeeding generations. That sort of rhetoric featured prominently the recent debt limit fight in Congress.

What I don't often hear is young people grasping how it's them - their generation - whose fate at 65 or 70 is being decided by Mitch McConnell and John Boehner and Barack Obama. They face catastrophe if medical inflation is not controlled now. They will face personal adversity if the political class of today decides we can do away with the social safety net.

Despite our current recession, the worst since the Great Depression, the existential threats to the U.S. economy and way of life will not arise in the next decade. The baby boomers will retire and be cared for in precisely the way they were promised.

No, the potential calamity will befall those that come after. They need to get ready.

Mary Sanchez is an opinion-page columnist for The Kansas City Star. Readers may write to her at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108-1413, or via email at msanchez@kcstar.com.

## LETTERS

### Good old boy syndrome?

Editor:

As a "part-timer" in Pinellas Park, I have been following the campaigns for the open seat for the Pinellas Park City Council. I was quite surprised that the city is allowing the council (members) to openly endorse a candidate. I have worked on many campaigns over my many years and this type of thing has always been an ethics violation. This also looks like the "good old boy/girl" syndrome. I'm wondering if anyone is looking into this.

I can't vote here, but my wife can and she is voting for the other guy.

J. Martin  
Pinellas Park

### Upset with electric recharge stations

Editor:

In response to the Feb. 23 news story "City to get 2 electric car recharge stations," it is so nice that the federal government and local budget-tight governments are able to offer free transportation fuel to a few while the rest of us are paying \$4 a gallon.

Please also keep in mind they (electric car owners) are also using our roads at no cost since they pay no gasoline tax.

What a trip. I am a third-generation Floridian and love our state and environment. It is all about white beaches. Guess I'm one of the strange ones that feel all this new found "green" is bad. If we had the Keystone pipeline maybe there would be no need to drill in the Gulf. And if we do drill the Gulf, why so deep?

But the one question I can't seem to get an answer on is why can't Florida power plants run on natural gas?

Sorry to pick on the electric cars, but what's with a car that only goes 35 mph? Isn't our whole highway system based on the gallon tax and what's the "green foot print" of the batteries?

Everett Jones  
Seminole

### Appreciates Tapas Garden

Editor:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Indian Rocks Beach Library, I would like to express our appreciation to the management and staff of Tapas Garden for hosting our annual volunteer appreciation luncheon on Sunday, Feb. 19. The food was delicious, the staff was courteous, and the atmosphere was charming.

We would also like to thank Tapas Garden, as well as TJ's Italian Café, Coasters Bar and Grille and PJ's Oyster Bar for their generous donations of gift certificates that were distributed as door prizes at the event. They were much appreciated by the lucky winners.

Finally, we would like to thank our precious volunteers who assist Jane Mitchell, our library director, in the daily operations of the library. Anyone wishing to become a Friend of the Indian Rocks Beach Library is encouraged to stop by the library or call Joe Gillespie at 595-1496.

C. Joseph Gillespie  
President  
Indian Rocks Beach Library

# Remembering Sadie Hawkins Day

This week contains Feb. 29, which means that 2012 is a leap year and therefore time to have a presidential election. In olden days, Feb. 29 was also celebrated as Sadie Hawkins Day, the time when girls were permitted to ask the boys of their choice for a date or whatever else the girl might have in mind.

Sadie Hawkins was the invention of Al Capp, a brilliant cartoonist who for 40 years or so drew the comic strip *Li'l Abner*. In the strip, Sadie was the homeliest girl in Dogpatch. She never had a date or a boy friend. Finally, as she reached the desperate age of 35, her father decreed that on a given date every spinster in Dogpatch would be entitled to pursue any unmarried male of her choice. If by sundown she could drag him across the finish line, the man had to marry her.

Capp invented Sadie Hawkins in 1937, as one more colorful character in the *Li'l Abner* cast. By the early 1940s the idea of an annual Sadie Hawkins Day had swept the nation. Each February, hundreds of colleges and high schools held Sadie Hawkins dances and carnivals. At one point an estimated 40,000 events took place. A related tradition sprang up which decreed that every four years - on Feb. 29 - women were free to propose marriage to their sweeties. I'm not sure anyone knows how many weddings were generated by this Leap Year custom.

I suppose Sadie Hawkins Day is remembered in scattered places throughout the land, but it's no longer a big deal. The reason it has disappeared? Some say feminism killed Sadie, and good riddance. Sadie was a symbol of the old-fashioned American single woman (if such a creature really ever existed), who passively waited for men to come calling,



Driver's Seat  
Bob Driver

and who wouldn't have dreamed of walking up to a guy and saying, "Hey, sport, let's you and me get together for coffee, lunch or maybe some hi-de-ho."

Today American women are in many ways the absolute equal of men, and can do and say pretty much what they please, without fear of being criticized. An example of this is Facebook, where postings by women are frank and fearless. Women's language is also unfettered. Perhaps the poster girl for today's American woman is the comedienne Chelsea Handler. Her jokes, language and chosen topics range from the ladylike to the raunchy, with all stops in-between. Chelsea wouldn't recognize Daisy Mae, and vice versa.

Daisy Mae's only role in life was to wait. Today's women don't have to wait, unless they choose to. They have all sorts of options for meeting romantic partners. Chief among them are the online dating services. For a fee, an applicant can jump into the dating pool by revealing all sorts of intimate and boring facts about himself/herself. Such as age, race, sexual orientation, religious preference, eye color, favorite breakfast food and education level. I imagine it's a lot like constructing a Facebook site.

Finding a partner via an online dating service is much less sweaty than joining a church

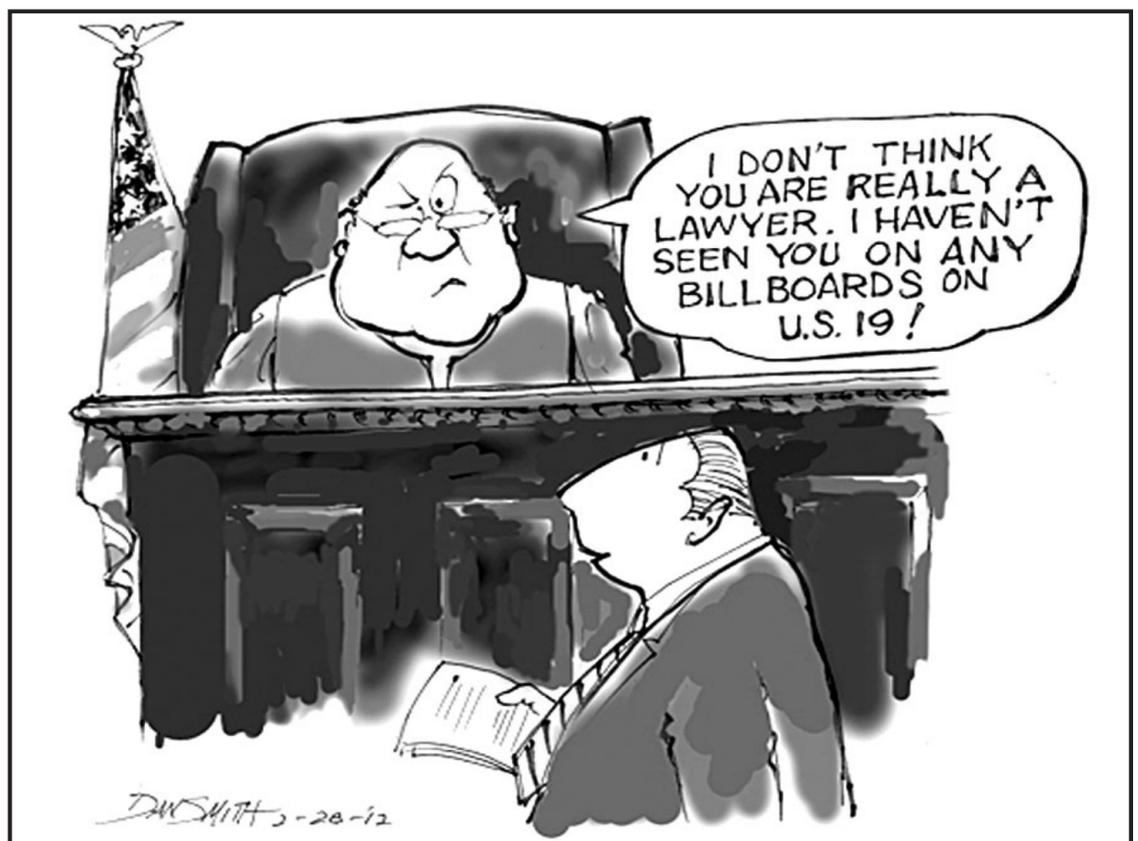
group or hanging out in bars. If your online listing triggers 10 or 20 responses, you need not go through the horrors of actual dating. Such as taking a shower, putting on makeup, saying hello, smiling, doing chitchat, and trying not to appear nervous or needy. With computer dating, you can sit comfortably and safely at home while screening all the responses your own listing elicited. One click of a key disposes of anyone who doesn't sound like a future mate.

I foresee the day when engaged couples will lay eyes on each other for the very first time as they stand at the altar. Online romance services will have done all the other stuff that normally precedes a wedding date. But even as I write those lines, it occurs to me that - for centuries in many cultures - families, clergy and village matchmakers have been finding suitable mates for young people. Their success rates have probably been as high as with modern electronic methods.

In view of modern divorce rates - when half of all marriages fail - it's likely that online dating services will be with us for many years to come. Will they bring happiness to most of their clients? Probably not. The futile search for the perfect mate is one of the oldest stories known to humankind. It never seems to end.

Would Daisy Mae have been helped by a matchmaking service? Of course. At the very least, it would have brought her into contact with Dogpatch's most eligible bachelors, and she wouldn't have had to chase them down in an annual foot race.

Bob Driver is a former columnist and editorial page editor for the Clearwater Sun. Send Driver an email at [tralec71@comcast.net](mailto:tralec71@comcast.net).



# GOP marches backward in the '60s

In their unflagging efforts to distance themselves from mainstream America, Republican leaders have gleefully seized upon a social issue that's guaranteed to backfire in November.

Birth control. If you're mystified, you're not alone. Ignoring years of public-opinion polls, the GOP is boldly marching backward into the 1960s to question whether contraception is a legitimate healthcare benefit.

The target, as always, is President Obama. He issued an executive mandate requiring that free birth control be included in health plans provided to employees of schools, charities and hospitals connected to religiously affiliated institutions.

Although the mandate excludes churches, Roman Catholic bishops are in a huff, saying the contraception provision violates the First Amendment and "freedom of religion."

Never mind that Obama softened the rule so that the insurance companies, not the employers, will pay for the coverage. Never mind that many employees served by these healthcare plans don't share the same religion as the institute for whom they work.

Republican strategists see the controversy as another opportunity to bash Obama's healthcare reforms, and also to rile up white Christian evangelicals who don't like the president anyway.

As political miscalculations go, this one could be epic. If you're looking for a sure way to galvanize female voters against your own party, attack birth control.

Whom does the administration's mandate help? Teachers, secretaries, nurses, lab techs - working women who can't afford, or don't choose, to get pregnant.

Yet to hear the wails of outrage, you'd think these hospitals and schools were being ordered to round up their workers and force-feed them birth-control pills against their will.

Leading the opposition are Catholic bishops, whose archaic dictums against contraception



Carl Hiaasen

are widely disregarded by their own flock. According to most surveys, about 98 percent of sexually active Catholic women use some type of birth control.

It's safe to assume that rather large segment includes employees of, say, the University of Notre Dame.

Polling also shows that more than two-thirds of all practicing Catholics believe you can still be a good Catholic if you use contraception. So, they basically humor the church hierarchy on this subject, politely listening to priestly reminders and acknowledging the occasional admonition from the pope himself.

There's no movement to excommunicate parishioners for the alleged sin of using condoms, IUDs or pills because that would effectively leave most churches empty as a tomb on Sundays.

Now, after decades of having their stance against birth control ignored, Catholic bishops have finally found a receptive audience: Republicans in Congress.

Last week, having nothing more important to do, a House committee scheduled a hearing modestly titled: "Has the Obama Administration Trampled on Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Conscience?"

Meanwhile, Senate Republicans are seeking to block any health-insurance rules that conflict with a business owner's private beliefs, whatever that means. If such an amendment passes, we could theoretically see a mass conversion to Catholicism among company executives trying to squirm out of offering birth control in their employees' medical policies. Smart corporations already provide contra-

ceptive coverage because it's way cheaper than paying obstetrical costs for unplanned pregnancies.

Interestingly, as the bishops and their newfound evangelical allies promise to fight on in the courts and in Congress to knock down the president's rule, little mention is being made of the large federal sums received by many of the religiously affiliated institutions affected by the birth-control mandate.

Why should any school or hospital that takes a dime of taxpayer money be exempt from providing the same healthcare benefits that apply across the board? That's what contraception is - basic health care - and that's how it's perceived by a majority of Americans.

In a New York Times/CBS poll last week, 65 percent of those surveyed said they support Obama's directive that all health-insurance plans should include birth control. Fifty-nine percent of everyone interviewed, as well as 57 percent of Catholics, said contraceptives should also be provided by the medical plans of religiously affiliated employers.

Obviously, limiting the availability of birth control is an unpopular idea in this country. That it's getting traction in Congress illustrates how completely the Republican Party has been carjacked by its bug-eyed, right-wing fringe.

Even as national women's groups mobilize to support the administration, the GOP presidential candidates are piping up to denounce the birth-control benefit as a sinister plot against religion. Among the alarmed is Mitt Romney, who as governor of Massachusetts uttered not a whisper of objection to a state law that was virtually identical to the president's mandate.

You can be certain that the fall election won't hinge on social issues that were settled in the minds of voters decades ago. If the Republicans stay on this sorry, dead-end path, Obama's task is clear:

Ice the champagne. Carl Hiaasen is a columnist for the Miami Herald. Readers may write to him at: 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132.

## Tampa Bay Newspapers

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**Pets of the Week**

**Harli**

Harli is an 8-year-old female kitty. Her owner passed away, so she is looking for a loving home. She is spayed, current on her vaccinations, and a very sweet kitty. She would do well with another friendly cat. To adopt Harli, call Pat at Second Chance For Strays at 535-9154. Visit [www.secondchanceforstrays.petfinder.com](http://www.secondchanceforstrays.petfinder.com).



**Jonsey**

Jonsey is a very sweet hound dog mix in need of a little love and extra attention. He is very athletic and loves to jump, run, and play outdoors. Jonsey will definitely benefit from the canine behavior classes offered by the SPCA Tampa Bay, where he will learn to be a well-mannered pooch. Adopt Jonsey at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N. in Largo or call 586-3591.



**Here and there**

**Woman's club celebrates member's 100th birthday**

LARGO - The Clearwater Woman's club will be celebrating the 100th birthday of Viola Freeman at its meeting Wednesday, March 14, 12:30 p.m.

Freeman has participated in Woman's clubs for over 50 years. The meetings are held at The Palms of Largo, 200 Lake Ave. NE in the dining room.

The club will have a cake and flowers for Freeman and the president of all the Florida Woman's clubs, Teddy Hulse, also will be attending.

**Club to host speakers on healthcare**

PINELLAS PARK - Several speakers will address the Greater Pinellas Democratic Club about healthcare issues Thursday, March 8 during the club's meeting at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

Dareen Rice, former president of the St. Petersburg League of Women Voters and area spokesperson for the nonprofit group Progress Florida will explain the virtues of the Affordable Healthcare Act. Michelle Cyr, Tampa Bay's AARP field coordinator, will speak on the organization's role in healthcare, and Wayne Rush will discuss the Canadian healthcare system.

Also, Cheryl Schroeder, executive director for West Central Florida Federation of Labor will discuss the role of unions in the upcoming national election.

The Greater Pinellas Democratic Club meeting will start with cash bar cocktails and social time at 6 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m. and concludes with the guest speakers' presentations, questions and discussion.

The public is welcome to attend. Reservations are requested. Dinner costs \$15.

Call Betty Morgenstein at 360-3971.

**Highland to host puppy preschool**

LARGO - Puppy preschool classes will be offered April 3-24 at Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave.

Classes are Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. This social development and training course teaches puppies basic off-leash control, chew toy training, socialization with other dogs and people, play-biting, and house training.

Puppy preschool is for dogs 10 to 14 weeks old. All puppies must

have the first set of vaccinations 10 days prior to the start of class. Cost for the four-week session is \$65 for residents and \$81.25 for non-residents.

For information or to register, call 518-3016 or visit [PlayLargo.com](http://PlayLargo.com).

**United Methodist Cooperative Ministries' to hold Walk-for-the-Dream Fundraiser**

LARGO - United Methodist Cooperative Ministries/Suncoast, Inc., a social services outreach program headquartered in Largo, will hold Walk-for-the-Dream fundraiser on Saturday, March 31, 9 a.m. until noon, at the Florida Botanical Gardens and Heritage Village in Pinewood Cultural Park, 12520 Ulmerton Road.

The public is invited to participate as individuals or teams to raise funds for Cooperative Ministries' life changing programs for at-risk children and families by getting sponsors for their participation. Teams are being formed from Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, Citrus and Manatee counties with volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life.

Individuals who collect a minimum of \$35 or more in sponsorships will receive a free T-shirt and a boxed lunch for a picnic in the park. Top fundraising individuals will have the chance to win big prizes. Awards also will be given for the top fundraising groups and those with the most official walkers. Registrations along with funds collected must be turned in to Cooperative Ministries no later than March 15.

Founded in 1975, United Methodist Cooperative Ministries/Suncoast, Inc. is a nonprofit, social service outreach mission of the Gulf Central District of the United Methodist Church. Cooperative Ministries mobilizes over 4,000 volunteers and provides a wide variety of nonsectarian social service programs in five Gulf Coast Counties to more than 15,000 individuals and families dreaming of help with basic social, educational, and economic needs.

For more details, call 442-6881, ext. 5, or register online through [www.UCMC.info](http://www.UCMC.info).

**Retired teachers plan meeting**

ST. PETERSBURG - The South Pinellas Retired Teachers Association will meet Thursday, March 8, 11 a.m., at Piccadilly Cafeteria, 1900 34th St. N.

SPCREA meets second Thursdays, October through May.

Meetings are open to all who have worked in the field of education whether in Florida or elsewhere, including teachers, support personnel and administrators. Meetings begin at noon and include an activity planned by the hospitality committee.

SPCREA often plans field trips of interest to the group. For information, email Joyce Walters at [jellen1943@yahoo.com](mailto:jellen1943@yahoo.com).

**Looking for former Girls Inc. club members**

PINELLAS PARK - Girls Incorporated of Pinellas is reaching out to the women who attended Girls Club or Girls Inc. of Pinellas to form an

alumnae association in celebration of the organization's 50th anniversary.

"We know there are lots of girls in our community who attended the Girls Club and have grown into successful role models for today's girls," stated Susan Olsen, community development coordinator for the club. "As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we want to be sure to include and honor our past members."

Girls Inc. will host an anniversary lunch on Friday, May 4, at Feather Sound Country Club, 2201 Feather Sound Drive in Clearwater. At the event, the club will honor Dr. Akiko Tanaka, co-founder of the Tampa Bay Research Institute, as the first Outstanding Woman in Science honoree.

Girls Incorporated of Pinellas was known as the Girls Club until its name was changed in 1990 to Girls Inc. If you or someone you know attended the club, contact Olsen at 544-6230, ext. 112, or at [solsen@girlsinc-pinellas.org](mailto:solsen@girlsinc-pinellas.org). Don't forget to check out [www.girlsinc-pinellas.org](http://www.girlsinc-pinellas.org).

**Girl Scouts sell cookies through March 18**

The Girl Scouts are introducing a new cookie this year, Savannah Smiles

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida's Cookie Program runs through March 18.

If you don't know a Girl Scout, visit [www.gswcf.org/cookies](http://www.gswcf.org/cookies) or download the mobile app \*\*\*\*GSCOOKIES, \*\*472665437 starting Feb. 24 for cookie booth locations near you.

Girl Scouts are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. To join the organization or volunteer today visit [www.gswcf.org/join](http://www.gswcf.org/join)

**Golden Singles meets**

LARGO - The Golden Singles meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Golden Corral, located just east of the Largo Mall on Ulmerton Road.

The Singles has no dues. The only cost is for meals.

The Singles meets on the second Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Pinellas Park Senior Center, 7625 59th St. N. Guests are asked to bring a dish to share and \$2.

Entertainment is planned for each gathering. Call Pat at 520-8797 or Flip at 290-6066.

**County to offer dog-training class**

LARGO - A dog training class will be offered Saturday, March 3, 10 a.m., at Pinellas County Animal Services, 12450 Ulmerton Road.

Attendees will learn the basics of dog training in a free seminar for all who have adopted dogs from Pinellas County Animal Services or other shelters in the county. Topics will include housetraining, loose-leash walking and dealing with challenging dog behaviors. Dogs are not permitted at the class. Call 582-2600 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices](http://www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices).

**St. Patrick's Day dinner to support troops**

PINELLAS PARK - American Legion Post 104 and Auxiliary are having their 7th annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Pot o' Gold Raffle on March 17, 3 to 6 p.m., at 7550 60th St. N.

Dinner is \$8. All proceeds will go to sending overseas packages to service personnel.

The event will include prizes and a raffle starting at 3 p.m. as well as other activities supporting the nation's troops.

For more information, call Mary Creager at 586-0372.

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\$43 Before 11:30 AM \$38 After 11:30 AM \$25 After 3:30 PM  
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**Blessed Sacrament Catholic School SPRING CARNIVAL**  
Friday - Sunday, March 16-18  
11501 66th Ave. North, Seminole

**Entertainment Line-Up:**  
FRIDAY, MARCH 16 7:00-11:00pm  
Aqua Groove  
SATURDAY, MARCH 17 6:00-7:30pm  
Erica DiCeglie and The Way Here  
SATURDAY, MARCH 17 8:00-10:00pm  
Praise and Worship  
SUNDAY, MARCH 18 2:00-4:00pm  
Gulf Blvd.  
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**Briefs**

**First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks**

LARGO - Celebrate Recovery meets Mondays at First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks, 12685 Ulmerton Road.

Celebrate Recovery is designed for anyone who is or knows someone who is struggling with hurts, habits, hang-ups, addictions, or life issues.

A dinner is served at 6 p.m. with worship at 7 p.m. After dinner, small groups meet at 8 p.m. The Café opens at 9 p.m. for coffee and desserts.

Free childcare (infants through 11 years old) will be provided from 6:50 to 9 p.m. by First Baptist Indian Rocks.

The March schedule is as follows:

- March 5 - Testimony
- Marcy 14 - Lesson 14: Ready
- March 18 - Testimony
- March 26 - Lesson 15: Victory

A new small group designed for adult children of dysfunctional families will start on Monday, March 5, for women.

Call 595-3421 or visit [www.indianrocks.org](http://www.indianrocks.org).

**Oakhurst United Methodist Church**

SEMINOLE - The "Country, Soul and Rock 'n' Roll" musical will be presented March 2-10, at Oakhurst United Methodist Church, 13400 Park Blvd.

The musical "Country, Soul and Rock 'n' Roll" will be performed in the Wesley Foundry of the church. Performances will include dinner shows on March 2, 3, 9 and 10 with doors opening at 6:15 p.m. Dinner will include chicken ala sesto over penne pasta, salad, bread, dessert and beverage. Tickets are \$25.

There will be one matinee on Sunday, March 4, 12:30 p.m. Doors will open at 12:15 p.m. The luncheon will include penne pasta ala sesto, salad, bread, beverage and dessert. Tickets are \$20.

Call 399-2821 or 391-4769.

The church encourages ticket holders to bring a nonperishable food item to support the local food bank. Additionally, there will be a themed basket silent auction with proceeds to benefit the local food bank.

**St. Catherine of Siena Church**

CLEARWATER - Ward's Seafood Market will sponsor fish fry fundraising events Fridays, March 2 and 16, at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 1955 S. Belcher Road.

The meal will include fried fish, hushpuppies, coleslaw and drink and cookie. Cost is \$8. A pizza meal also will be available for \$4. Those attending can drive up and receive the meal take-out style.

Proceeds will benefit the building fund for the church.

For advance tickets, call 531-7721.

**Calvary Episcopal Church**

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH - North Central College's 50-voice concert choir will perform Sunday, March 18, 4 p.m., at Calvary Episcopal Church, 1615 First St.

The group's repertoire includes "Psalm 117" by G.P. Telemann, "Regina Coeli" by W.A. Mozart, "I Waited for the Lord" by Felix Mendelssohn and "The Battle of Jericho" arranged by Moses Hogan.

Lighter, contemporary fare, such as "Birthdays" by Kirke Mechem and "A Red, Red Rose" arranged by James Mulholland, also are part of the program.

**Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church**

CLEARWATER - The 50-voice Butler University Chorale will perform Sunday, March 11, 3 p.m., at Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, 110 S. Fort Harrison Ave.

The performance, "Springtime Voices," will feature a program of sacred, classical and popular vocal selections, including American spirituals and special offerings from the men's a cappella group called Out of the Dawg House.

Fresh off the thrill of appearing in the 2012 Super Bowl half-time show, this excellent choir will present a vocal program as part of its Florida Springtime tour. Directed by Eric Stark, the chorale had the honor of singing at the Vatican last year. After their Florida tour, they will return home to sing the great Berlioz Requiem with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and Choir.

No tickets are needed and seating is first come, first served. An offering will be taken, with a \$5 minimum suggested. Doors will open at 2:30 p.m.

Following the concert, there will be a light reception in the fellowship hall.

For information, call 446-3001 or visit [www.PeaceMemorial.org](http://www.PeaceMemorial.org).

**Church of the Isles**

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH - North Central College's 50-voice concert choir will perform Sunday, March 18, 10 a.m., at Church of the Isles, United Church of Christ, 200 24th Ave.

The group's repertoire includes "Psalm 117" by G.P. Telemann, "Regina Coeli" by W.A. Mozart, "I Waited for the Lord" by Felix Mendelssohn and "The Battle of Jericho" arranged by Moses Hogan.

**Church on the Bayou in Tarpon Springs**

TARPON SPRINGS - The Church on the Bayou in Tarpon Springs will host a men's dinner meeting Monday, March 5, 6 p.m., at the Dockside Restaurant, 37611 U.S. 19, Palm Harbor.

The guest speaker will be Joe Burley, secretary for the Mental Health Advisory Council at Bay Pines VA Health Care System, whose mission is to educate, advocate and empower veterans to support mental health recovery. MHAC provides education on mental illness and recovery, and offers mental health programs to support recovery. Burley will lead a discussion on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The program is open to the public.

To RSVP, email [rjhaddad@gte.net](mailto:rjhaddad@gte.net) or call 804-8332.

**Toastmasters:**

- Donoghue-Dunedin Toastmasters Club meets weekly from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Unity Community Church, 1315 Bayshore Blvd. Call Marie at 455-7539.
- Pinellas County, for times and locations, call Pat D. at 224-9771.
- Realtalkers' meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m., at the Pinellas Realtor Organization Building, 4790 Ulmerton Road. Call Donna Moore at 831-3416.
- Seminole/SPC Club 5899 meets Tuesdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at the Seminole Community Library, 9200 113th St. N, Seminole. Guests welcome. Call Cathy at 578-0109 or visit [seminolespc.free-toasthost.com](http://seminolespc.free-toasthost.com).
- Speak Easy Club 4698 meets Mondays, 6:15 p.m., at the King Buffet Restaurant, 7610 49th St. N, Pinellas Park. Call 536-3392 or email [james.e.martin1@juno.com](mailto:james.e.martin1@juno.com).
- Suncoast Caring Community Toastmasters meets Thursdays,

5:45 p.m., at the Suncoast Hospice Garden House, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd. Call Kelly Siegel at 410-4322.

- Tampa Bay Women Speakers meets first and third Mondays.

See EVENTS, page 16A



Karen and Robert Jodal.

Karen and Robert Jodal of Seminole will celebrate their 40th anniversary on Feb. 27, 2012.

Karen and Bob were married

on Feb. 27, 1972, on Long Island where they met on a blind date. In 1975 they relocated to Texas where they lived for 30 years, raising a daughter and

two sons. The couple retired to Florida in 2007 to enjoy the beach. They have two grandchildren who they enjoy visiting back in Texas.

**Calendar of events**

**Tampa Bay Chief Petty Officers' Association**, meets second Mondays, 7 p.m., at Surf's Edge Enlisted Club, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa. Call 804-5227 or email [ljohn14@eckerd.com](mailto:ljohn14@eckerd.com).

**Tampa Bay Computer Society**, meets third Tuesdays, 6:45 p.m., Resource Center, 1510 Barry Road, Clearwater. Call 443-4433 or visit [www.tampa-bay.org](http://www.tampa-bay.org).

**Tampa Bay Grady White Club**, meets second Wednesdays. New members welcome. Call Capt. Ralph Wolf, president, at 531-6324 or visit [tampabaygradywhiteclub.com](http://tampabaygradywhiteclub.com).

**Tampa Bay Storytellers Guild**, meets third Sundays of odd-numbered months, 2 p.m., at Seminole Community Library, 9200 113th St. N, Seminole. Call 785-3041.

**Tampa Bay Vegetarians**, meets fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., for dinner at various area restaurants. Call 392-0268.

**Telephone Pioneers - Clearwater Life Member Club**, meets third Fridays, 11 a.m., at different locations, except for June, July, August and September. Call Eleanor Brasted at 725-4118.

**Church And Temple Directory**  
Tell the Public About Your Services Call 397-5563

**Holy Spirit Ecumenical Catholic Church**  
ALL are truly welcomed here...Come, share our joy!  
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6152 126<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Oaklefe Center), Largo  
727.232.3918 [www.HolySpiritECC.org](http://www.HolySpiritECC.org)

**St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church**  
DAILY MASS: Monday - Friday 7:00am  
Monday & Wednesday 11:00 am • Saturday 8:00 am  
CONFESSION SCHEDULE:  
Monday & Wednesday 10:30 am - 10:50 am  
Saturday 3:00 pm - 3:50 pm  
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm  
Sunday 7:00 am & 9:00 am (Family Mass)  
11:00 am (Traditional Choir) • 6:00 pm (Contemporary Choir)  
Parish Administration Office 727-531-7721 • [www.SCOSParish.org](http://www.SCOSParish.org)  
1955 S. Belcher Road • Clearwater

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**This Year, on March 30th, at the Millennium Gym in Largo, We'd like to see YOU in the picture!**

**For Details, contact "DOC" Bauer at 727-532-9379 or [yphd77@aol](mailto:yphd77@aol)**

**What's Selling in Pinellas County**

**St. Petersburg \$28,000**  
2 Bedroom/1 Bath

**SOLD**

Bungalow style 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with wood burning fireplace. Situated on a nice corner lot with fenced in yard

**Caroleanne Vorac**  
Realty Executives Adamo & Associates

**Seminole \$80,000**  
3 Bedrooms/2 Baths

**SOLD**

This home sits on a waterfront lot with the canal feeding into Lake Seminole. It is in a very convenient location being off Bryan Dairy Rd. for a commute to Tampa, the Beaches, the Medical Community and shopping.

**Sandy Hartmann**  
Realty Executives Adamo & Associates

**Seminole \$260,000**  
3 Bedrooms/2.5 Baths

**SOLD**

Awesome two story still home in Harbor View. Spacious lodge-like feel with this 3 bedroom, 2.5 baths, 2,386 sq. ft. Seminole home. Three decks, hardwood floors, and walk to beach! Sold for \$260,000 in 95 days.

**Rich Rippetoe**  
Coldwell Banker Sun Vista Realty, Inc.

EVENTS, from page 15A

6:30 to 8 p.m., at Countryside Mall, Bright House Demo Center, second floor, next to Sears. Email [tampabaywomenspeakers@yahoo.com](mailto:tampabaywomenspeakers@yahoo.com).

- Tarpon Springs meets second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at North Lake Family Church, 300 N. Highland Ave., Tarpon Springs. Visit [tampabaywomen.freetoasthost.org](http://tampabaywomen.freetoasthost.org).
- Temple Talkers Club 7295 meets Mondays, 7 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, 2470 Nursery Road. Visit [templetalkers.freetoasthost.org](http://templetalkers.freetoasthost.org).

**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly):**

- Clearwater 0296, meets Thursdays, 9 to 11 a.m., at Union Methodist Church, 1625 Union St., in the Fellowship Hall. Call 461-7101.
- Largo 287, meets Tuesdays, 6 p.m., at Highland Presbyterian Church, 1885 S. Highland, Largo. Call Carol Wegener at 581-0250.

- Largo 726, meets Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., at St. Dunstons Anglican Church, 403 First Ave. SW, Largo. Call 581-1435.

**Travel is Fun Senior Travel Club**, meets fourth Wednesdays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., at Lake Seminole Square, 8333 Seminole Blvd. Meetings include complimentary continental breakfast, photo trivia, raffles and contests. Call 391-0500, ext. 1211.

**Treasure Island Action Club**, meets second Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m., at the T.I. Community Center, One Park Place, and offers membership to senior citizens who live in Treasure Island at least three months annually. No meetings June, July and August. Call 547-4575.

**Treasure Islettes**, meets fourth Mondays, 7 p.m., at the Treasure Island City Hall, 120 108th Ave. Bingo is offered Thursdays, 6:45 p.m., at City Hall. Call Beverly Russian at 363-3165.

**Trinity Christian Community Center and Club** is open Monday through Saturday, 4 to 6 p.m., at 1590 Seminole Blvd., Largo. The center offers fun, new friends and live music, after-school youth and community classes, art gallery and family

evening entertainment. Call 858-4177 or visit [www.trinity.7p.com](http://www.trinity.7p.com).

**USEM-CA**, a forum for unincorporated county residents, meets last Thursdays, except June, July, August, November and December, 7 p.m., at the Seminole Community Library, 9200 113th St. N. Call Betty at 393-0187 or Art at 595-6834.

**United Daughters of the Confederacy, Mary Custis Lee Chapter 1451**, meets fourth Saturdays, September through June, 10 a.m., at the UDC Memorial Building, 3158 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd., Clearwater. Call Dorris at 585-5813.

**Upper Pinellas African Violet Society**, meets monthly first Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Palms of Largo, Cypress Palms. For information email [shelgl@yahoo.com](mailto:shelgl@yahoo.com).

Announcements are submitted by the public; information is subject to change. To place an item in the ongoing calendar or networking leads, send it at least two weeks in advance to [Calendar-Leads, Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772, or email editorial@TBNweekly.com](mailto:Calendar-Leads, Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772, or email editorial@TBNweekly.com).

# Downtown Largo

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<p><b>Friday</b> 6pm <b>O'Shy's</b> Largo Beer and Food Fest Showcasing local breweries &amp; food</p>	<p><b>Saturday</b> 8pm <b>O'Shy's and Barley Mow</b> \$1 OFF any locally brewed beer</p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> 2pm <b>Barley Mow Chicks Brew Day</b> Ladies Brew with Colleen or hang out and talk about beer</p>	

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# Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County



- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

Leader  
Section B  
March 1, 2012  
Visit [www.TBNweekly.com](http://www.TBNweekly.com)

## Top five diversions

• **"Funny Girl,"** with book by Isobel Lannart, music by Jule Styne and lyrics by Bob Merrill; presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, through March 11, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$12 for students age 19 and younger with identification. Call 587-6793 or visit [www.eightoclocktheatre.com](http://www.eightoclocktheatre.com). "Funny Girl" is the semi-autobiographical tale of Fanny Brice's meteoric rise to fame and her stormy relationship with Nick Arnstein, a wealthy and charming gambler. From her start as a gawky Brooklyn teen fast-talking her way into show business to becoming the toast of New York to the unraveling of her personal life, "Funny Girl" is a stunning, richly told tour de force about one of Broadway's biggest stars.



Photo courtesy of WILLIAM MORRIS ENDEAVOR ENTERTAINMENT LLC.  
Clearwater's Ruth Eckerd Hall welcomes Chris Botti March 2.

• **Chris Botti,** Friday, March 2, 7 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets range from \$39 to \$70. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com). A gifted trumpeter, Botti is a gifted instrumentalist, a talented composer and a charismatic performer who - since the release of his first solo album in 1995 - has created a series of recordings which have made him a virtual genre-of-one in the realm of contemporary jazz while at the same time capturing the attention of the pop music world. Since the release of his 2004 critically acclaimed CD "When I Fall In Love," Botti has become the largest-selling American instrumental artist. His success has crossed over to audiences usually reserved for pop music and his association with PBS has led to four No. 1 jazz albums and multiple gold, platinum and Grammy Awards. He has recorded and performed with the best in music including Frank Sinatra, Sting, Josh Groban, Michael Buble, Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell, John Mayer, Andrea Bocelli, Joshua Bell and Aerosmith's Steven Tyler. Through his singular combination of lush atmospheres and thoughtful improvisations, Botti has earned both critical acclaim and mainstream appreciation for a succession of best-selling albums including "To Love Again: The Duets" (2005), and "Chris Botti Live with Orchestra & Special Guests" (2006).

• **Shen Yun Performing Arts,** March 3-4, in Carol Morsani Hall at The David A Straz Jr. Center, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Performances are Saturday, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 and 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$50. Call 813-229-7827 or visit [www.strazcenter.org](http://www.strazcenter.org). In a collection of short pieces, audiences travel from the Himalayas to tropical lake-filled regions; from the legends of the culture's creation more than 5,000 years ago through to the story of Falun Dafa in China today; from the highest heavens down to the dusty plateaus of the Middle Kingdom. Tenors, sopranos and other award-winning vocalists perform piano-accompanied solos, along with a regular favorite - the stirring melodies of the two-stringed erhu, also known as the Chinese violin. Shen Yun's one-of-a-kind orchestra, with its all-original compositions, blends East and West like no other. The distinctly Chinese sound of ancient instruments like the erhu and the pipa are bathed in a rich sea of Western strings, percussion, woodwinds and brass. The result - two great classical music traditions producing one fresh, unexpected sound. Animated backdrops transport the audience to another world. Projected

See DIVERSIONS, page 2B

## Art Hop and Taste Fest Greater Library Foundation plans event

LARGO - Works of Duncan McClellan will be the featured collection Saturday, March 24, at the 2012 Greater Largo Library Foundation's fifth annual Art Hop and Taste Fest.

The exhibit collection will feature McClellan's work and pieces of noted glass artist from around the world and will be displayed in the gallery of the Largo Public Library during the foundation's fifth annual Art Hop and Taste Fest. Currently, McClellan's work depicts emotions relating to family, personal growth and the spiritual connections between each of us as souls.

"The images he uses, bold graphic stylized icons depicting natural relationships, evoke emotional responses. The rich coloration he uses in his glass and the voluptuous shapes he designs, invite closer inspection both inside and out," the foundation said in a press release.

The result is an interactive relationship between the interior and exterior surfaces of the vessels. A holistic approach is taken and the entire piece is considered in the design.

McClellan pours a lively expression of the nature of creativity into every piece.

Other featured artists are Carolann Mancuso, Clearwater, and David Braun, Clearwater. Mancuso is an art instructor and has displayed her art at many local events throughout Florida, she said.

"The process of making art is more important than the end result. I am a believer in art for art's sake, rather than for the sake of social justice, or national glory, or monetary gain. Nothing makes me happier than to see and feel the personal pleasure of expressing myself in my works of art. I love to find beauty in forgotten objects through still life and landscapes and overcoming obstacles that the painting induces," she said.

Braun is owner of Preferred Custom Printing and is a photographer. He was born and raised in Pinellas County, where he still lives and is a Largo High School graduate. Braun has spent his life admiring and appreciating all of Florida's beauty, the foundation said.

"He dedicates his work to capturing that natural beauty Florida has to offer. His photography portrays its subjects with such simplicity, yet elegance, it's a wonder he can capture so much



"Dragonfly," by Duncan McClellan.

detail and beauty in one shot. David hopes that when people look at his photography, they slow down and truly recognize how much there is to admire around them if they take the time to stop and look," the foundation said.

The foundation's rising star artists are Scott Durfee and George Medeiros both of St. Petersburg and of Spathos, LLC.

"Essentially self-taught, their passion has always centered on the arts and believe that art comes from within one's core and

that essence cannot be learned but must be nurtured," the foundation said.

The interest in their chosen medium came about with the move to Florida.

The palm spathe with its majestic yet simple form, immediately captivated their artistic spirit. Normally found on the roadside or trash heap, they believed the spathe deserved rescue and respect.

"Always conscious of the environment, they sought out ways to recycle this natural gem and it

quickly became their muse for creating unique sculptures. They have also thought outside the boundaries of the medium as sculpture and transformed it into a wearable form," the foundation said.

The event will feature fine art of all different mediums from more than 30 local artists, food samples from local restaurants like Clearsky Beach Cafe, RG's Restaurant and Bookmark Cafe,

See ART HOP, page 2B

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- George and Laurie Kirby

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ART HOP, from page 1B

Texas Cattle Company, Cottage Cafe, Pinecrest Place Retirement Community, Coffee Gourmet and more, and a Youth Art Exhibit by Largo High School and elementary school students.

The event also will feature artist and artwork from the clients of PARC.

This year the foundation is adding three theater groups as guides and greeter. The Eight O'Clock Theater, Francis Wilson Playhouse and the West-coast Players.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Largo Public Library and participants may "hop" to several local shops between 6 and 8 p.m. via free shuttle buses. Each business will feature an artist and offer refreshments.

The following businesses will be featured on the tour: Oscar's Award Glass and Mirror, Focus Graphix, Hammerhead ACE Hardware and the Amish Store.

There will be entertainment at the library and participants also can bid on silent auction items, win prizes at chance drawings and door prizes.

The event-presenting sponsors are Bright House Networks and Raymond James.

Individual tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Those who purchase a VIP ticket (\$100 individual; \$150 couple) will have their name included in the program and receive an invitation to the foundation's Thank You Dinner in April. Tickets may be purchased at any of the stops on the Art Hop, at the library or by calling the Greater Largo Library Foundation at 586-7398. Tickets also are available online at [www.greatergolibraryfoundation.org](http://www.greatergolibraryfoundation.org).

DIVERSIONS, from page 1B

behind the dancers, the hi-tech images lift the stage and set it amidst blossoming landscapes, deep forests, Mongolian prairies or celestial paradises.

• **Downchild**, Sunday, March 4, 5:30 p.m., at the Dimmitt Community Center, 918 Osceola Road, Belleair. General admission tickets are \$5 in advance or \$10 the day of the show. Call 518-3728 or visit [sundaysinbelleair.com](http://sundaysinbelleair.com). Part of the Sundays in Belleair outdoor concert series, the Belleair Recreation Department will welcome Downchild, an award-winning blues band hailing from Toronto, Canada. Attendees may bring blankets and lawn chairs. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Gates will open at 4:30 p.m. with the music from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

• **Itzhak Perlman**, Sunday, March 4, 7 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets range from \$50 to \$125. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerd-hall.com](http://www.rutheckerd-hall.com). Perlman is known for his irrepressible joy in making music as well as his charm, humanity and his dedication to education. The violin virtuoso is the winner of 15 Grammy Awards and four Emmy Awards, founder of the Perlman Music Program and a Kennedy Center Honoree, among numerous other distinctions. With him for this concert is his frequent collaborator Rohan De Silva, a native of Sri Lanka and both a graduate of and faculty member at The Juilliard School in New York. Attendees can expect an extraordinary evening of unforgettable music and virtuosity.

# Theater review

## Sadra Bostick shines as Fanny Brice in 'Funny Girl'



**Curtain Call**  
Lee Clark Zumpe

It is difficult to think about the 1964 Broadway musical "Funny Girl" without immediately stirring up memories of Barbra Streisand's iconic portrayal of Fanny Brice on stage and on screen.

Eight O'Clock Theatre's production of "Funny Girl" successfully shakes off the long shadow cast by Streisand, delivering a fabulous show with a solid cast.

"Funny Girl" runs through March 11 at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$12 for students age 19 and younger with identification. Call 587-6793 or visit [largoarts.com](http://largoarts.com).

"Funny Girl," with book by Isobel Lennart, music by Jule Styne and lyrics by Bob Merrill, is the semi-autobiographical story of Fania Borach - better known as Fanny Brice. Brice was a popular comedienne, singer and stage actress. Born in New York City, she

the actress in the part and not fair to the audience."

Instead, Woodruff Weir focused on finding the best actress/singer she could for the part, then filling the rest of the cast with "wonderful characters."

To play Brice, Woodruff Weir selected Sadra Bostick, a curriculum specialist for Pinellas County Schools. Bostick was most recently seen in EOT's production of "Nonsense," playing Sister Mary Amnesia. In the past, she has played Maria in "Sound of Music" and Annie in "Annie Get Your Gun."

If Brice was indomitable, Bostick is the embodiment of dogged determination. She conveys the character's fortitude and her resolve. With flawless dramatic flair, she reveals Brice's stubbornness, naivety and even her vulnerability. Meanwhile, she is consistently humorous, as the show's title implies she need be -

was in her mid-teens when she dropped out of school to perform in a burlesque revue. Within a few years, she was headlining for Florenz Ziegfeld in "Ziegfeld Follies"

The musical dramatizes Brice's early life, covering her rise to fame and her turbulent relationship with a captivating gambler named Nick Arnstein.

It's impossible to ignore Streisand's celebrated portrayal of Brice in the original Broadway run of "Funny Girl" as well as in the 1968 film adaptation, as EOT director Linda Woodruff Weir points out in her notes about this production.

"There is no way you can duplicate Barbra, or even have someone do an imitation of Barbra," she writes. "It's not fair to

See FUNNY GIRL, page 3B

## 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		

**Across**

- Cat's scratcher
- Seventh zodiac sign
- Fishing, perhaps
- Halo, e.g.
- Companion of Artemis
- Bolted
- Group of journalists covering the same topics
- Justice Black
- Aircrafts that can land on water
- Evita
- Chip dip
- Chinese dynasty
- \_\_\_ Master's Voice
- "Wanna \_\_\_?"
- Sub-Saharan scourge
- A chorus line
- 365 days (pl., 2 wds)
- \_\_\_ list
- Cashew, e.g.
- Insects between larva and adult stages
- Start too soon (3 wds)
- Allocate, with "out"
- Confines, as in jail
- Pistol, slangily
- Undertake, with "out"
- "-zoic" things
- Assail
- Shrewish women
- Paid post with minimal duties (pl.)
- Sundae topper, perhaps
- Writer whose characters symbolize a deeper moral meaning
- "Dear" ones
- City on the Arkansas River
- 100 centavos
- "\_\_\_ on Down the Road"
- Chaotic
- Knocked off, in a way

**Down**

- Beans
- Artificial bait
- Length x width, for a rectangle
- Aristophanes comedy, with "The"
- Scene of any event
- Rocks containing Fe
- Kentucky college
- Criticizes
- Infomercials, e.g.
- Literary club, e.g.
- Start of a quip (2 wds)
- "Cogito \_\_\_ sum"
- Long, long time
- Concrete section
- Tumors on mucous membranes
- Toni Morrison's "\_\_\_ Baby"
- Pilgrim to Mecca
- Terminal portion of small intestine
- Those who involuntarily repeat and hesitate when speaking
- Full development
- About to explode
- Money in the bank, say
- Intentionally (2 wds)
- Big galoot
- Digress
- "For \_\_\_ a jolly ..." (2 wds)
- Bouquet
- Art \_\_\_
- Paper money
- Paint thinner, British
- Cheat, slangily
- "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.
- Pivot
- Cambodian currency
- "\_\_\_ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto)
- House
- Money dispenser (acronym)

## Sudoku

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

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.

## Sudoku answers from last week

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

## Crossword answers from last week

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	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75

## Horoscopes

March 1, 2012

### Capricorn

**December 22 - January 19**  
This will be a week to remember as old friends and new drop by. Roll out the welcome mat and prepare to have a lot of fun, Capricorn. You deserve it.

### Aquarius

**January 20 - February 18**  
One more time, Aquarius. You are so close to reaching your goal. Pennies saved here and there will make a big difference later when you need it most.

### Pisces

**February 19 - March 20**  
Projects around the house wrap up, making way for a hobby. Time to clean out the closets and get cracking, Pisces. A new face proposes an old idea with a twist.

### Aries

**March 21 - April 19**  
Drop the pretense, Aries. Your body language is giving you away. Say what's on your mind and you'll be surprised at what happens next.

### Taurus

**April 20 - May 20**  
Try as you might, Taurus, you won't be able to fool others, much less yourself, for long. Face up to your limitations, work within them and all will go well.

### Gemini

**May 21 - June 21**  
Gracious Gemini. You give, and you give, and you give some more, but these days, it seems like no one is giving back. Don't let that stop you—you're making a real difference.

### Cancer

**June 22 - July 22**  
Pay them no heed, Cancer. Keep pursuing your idea, and you will prove to those naysayers that you're on to something great. An order is completed.

### Leo

**July 23 - August 22**  
You're the comeback kid this week, Leo. You manage to finish all of those tasks gone sour and take on more than your fair share of new responsibilities.

### Virgo

**August 23 - September 22**  
Your genius side kicks in, and suddenly you've got the answers for everything. Enjoy the accolades, Virgo. It's your turn to shine. An invite makes you giddy.

### Libra

**September 23 - October 22**  
Caution, Libra. You're veering off course. Take steps now to get back on track or prepare to suffer the consequences. A sporting event takes an unexpected turn.

### Scorpio

**October 23 - November 21**  
Relax, Scorpio. A friend has got your back. Keep plugging along on the big picture and let them attend to the minor details. A phone call puts you on cloud nine.

### Sagittarius

**November 22 - December 21**  
A chilling tale reminds you that some offers are too good to be true. Remember that as you weed through the paperwork on your desk. Something is amiss, Sagittarius.

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# Sundays in Belleair

Canada's blues institution Downchild performs at Dimmitt Community Center Sunday, March 4

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

BELLEAIR – Straight out of Toronto, Canada, Downchild – aka the Downchild Blues Band – is set to bring Chicago style, jump-band blues to Belleair this weekend.

As part of its Sundays in Belleair outdoor concert series, the Belleair Recreation Department will present Downchild Sunday, March 4, 5:30 p.m., at the Dimmitt Community Center, 918 Osceola Road, Belleair.

General admission tickets are \$5 in advance or \$10 the day of the show. Call 518-3728 or visit sundaysinbelleair.com.

Downchild formed in 1969 as The Downchild Blues Band. Co-founded by brothers Donnie and Richard Walsh. Recorded in 1971 in a makeshift studio, the band's debut album, "Bootleg," is considered one of the first independent albums produced in Canada. Legend has it Donnie and others circulated the album by hand before RCA Records Canada acquired distribution rights.

That was the beginning.

Now, 40 years later, Downchild is a virtual institution in Canada. With more than a dozen albums and a string of prestigious awards to testify to their blues virtuosity, Walsh and his band mates have won countless music industry awards, including a Juno (Canada's Grammy) for Best Roots and Traditional Album in 1991 for "Gone Fishing," the 1992 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Great Canadian Blues Award in 1992, and three Maple Blues Awards in 2005 for "Come On In." The band also earned the 2006 Maple Blues Award for Entertainers of the Year in 2006.

Downchild also served as inspiration for Dan Aykroyd and the late John Belushi. Aykroyd and Belushi's The Blues Brothers recorded Downchild's "Shotgun Blues" and Walsh's "(I Got Everything I Need) Almost" and adapted Downchild's hit single "Flip, Flop and Fly" for "Briefcase Full of Blues," which in turn helped Downchild on its climb to international fame.

Following the release of "Bootleg," Downchild hardly let a year go by without recording and releasing new material. The band's early discography includes "Straight Up" (1973), "Dancin'" (1974), "Ready to Go" (1975), "So Far" (1977), "We Deliver" (1979), "Road Fever" (1980), and "Blood Run Hot" (1981).

Long thought of as a robust road band, Downchild has delivered thousands of performances at concert halls, fairgrounds, saloons and roadhouses in every corner of North America. The band made its first concert appearance in Europe in 2008 at the Lille Blues Festival in France and returned in 2009 for the Tobakken Blues Festival in Esbjerg, Denmark.

Over those 40 years, Downchild has seen more than 80 great musicians on the payroll, including

Downchild formed in 1969 as The Downchild Blues Band. Co-founded by brothers Donnie and Richard Walsh.

Donnie's brother, the late "Hock" Walsh.

These days, Downchild members include Donnie as well as Chuck Jackson, vocalist; Michael Fonfara, keyboards; Pat Carey, saxophone; Gary Kendall, bass; and Mike Fitzpatrick, drums.

Donnie is still a driving force behind Downchild four decades later.

In 2009, the band released its 16th album, "I Need A Hat," on the Canadian independent label Linus Entertainment. With the release, Donnie and his band mates celebrated their collective longevity. "I Need A Hat" features a new batch of Walsh originals. The tracks are grittier, darker and decidedly more acerbically humorous than previous offerings.

"I Need A Hat" also boasts a number of iconic guest appearances, including Dan Aykroyd on harmonica, second-generation Canadian blues-rockers Colin James and Nashville-based Canadian roots music veteran Colin Linden on guitars, and Stax Records legend Wayne Jackson of the Memphis Horns on trumpet.

"We've been together long enough to know just how everything fits, every groove, every note, every piece of punctuation," Walsh said in the liner notes for "I Need A Hat." "It's not as if we have to go looking for hooks – they just happen. That's one of the great things about a band that's been together for as long as we have. It just gets better and better."

Attendees of the Sundays in Belleair concert may bring blankets and lawn chairs for an evening of music with family, friends and neighbors. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Outside food or beverage, including alcohol, will not be permitted. Other items, which will not be permitted, include coolers, weapons of any kind, fireworks or explosives of any kind, large backpacks, glass containers or aerosol cans, skateboards, bicycles (bike racks are located outside of venue entrance), scooters or any motorized vehicle and professional recording equipment.

Gates will open at 4:30 p.m.

Roy Powers and The Last Exit Blues Band will open the show followed by a performance by Peter McGraw.

Sponsors include Blues Destiny Records, Dimmitt Land Rover, MaintenX, Behar and Peteranecz Architects, Tampa Bay Newspapers, Bright House Networks and Great Bay Distributors.

For information, call 518-3728

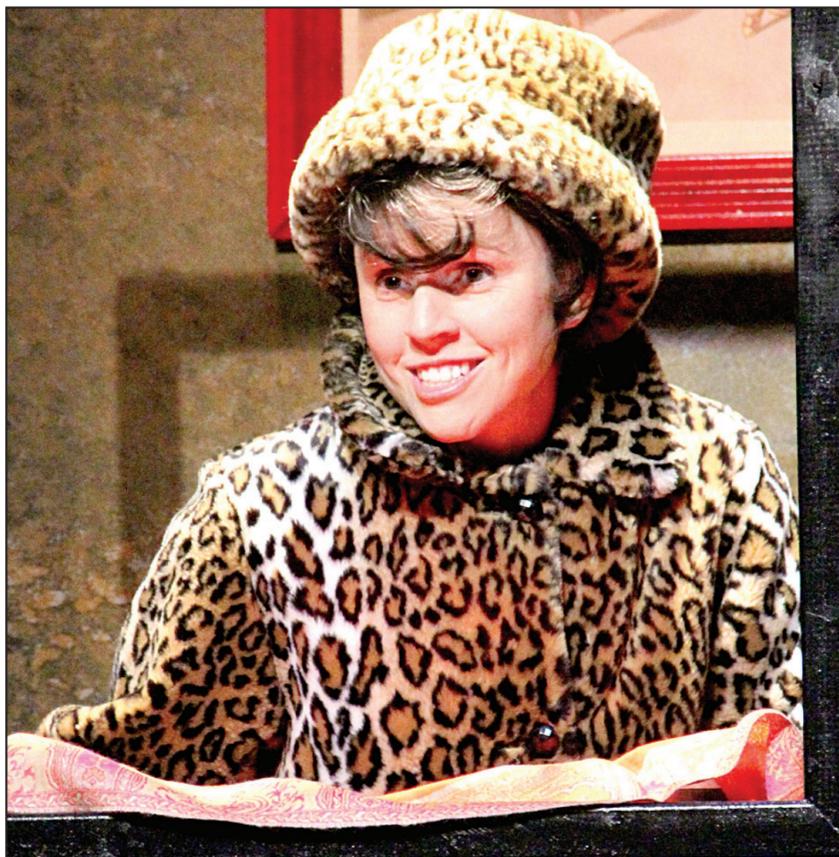


Photo courtesy of PICTURE THIS OF PALMA CEIA  
Sadra Bostick stars as Fanny Brice in the Eight O'Clock Theatre production of "Funny Girl," running through March 11 at Largo Cultural Center.

## FUNNY GIRL, from page 2B

though sometimes the humor is self-effacing and bittersweet.

She exhibits her range by serving up a splendidly audacious and unruly "Cornet Man" with the Keeney Lovelies and then delivering a touching rendition of "People."

And it is important to note that Bostick isn't playing Streisand playing Brice: While she obviously pays homage to the role's originator, she confidently makes the part her own adding subtle nuances that underscore the tragedy of a personal life that slowly unravels.

Trey Ryan is cast as Brice's romantic interest, Nick Arnstein. Ryan effectively emphasizes Arn-

stein's charisma in charm in the first act. In the second act, the EOT veteran – recently seen in "Mister Roberts" and "Guys and Dolls" – exposes Arnstein's corrupt side, his vices and his disastrous imperfections. While some actors might exaggerate Arnstein's shady nature, Ryan doesn't demonize him, allowing the audience to empathize with Brice's loyalty to her husband.

James Grenelle is perfect as dance instructor Eddie Ryan. The intimation of Ryan's unrequited feelings for Brice is adeptly encapsulated in Grenelle's intermittent sulky pouting and sporadic bitterness over Arnstein.

Other standouts include Ronnie Farley as Mrs. Brice, Stu

Sanford as Flo Ziegfeld and Kate Gaudet as Mrs. Strakosh. Woodruff Weir has, in fact, assembled a wonderfully talented ensemble to bring this tour de force to the stage. Behind the scenes, the EOT production staff has once again exceeded expectations. From set design and costumes to choreography and music direction, "Funny Girl" demonstrates the dedication and diligence of this cast and crew.

EOT's "Funny Girl" hits all the right notes: It is delightfully funny and endearingly touching and it features a parade of sensational musical numbers including "Don't Rain on My Parade" and "The Music That Makes Me Dance."

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**SHANGRI-LA 55+ COMMUNITY** 1BR \$600/Mo. & 2BR \$650/Mo. Pool, Clubhouse. Great Largo Location! To View Call (208)589-4242.

**LARGO 2BR/2BA GRD. FLOOR,** newly renovated, new appliances, paint, carpet, window coverings. Includes W/D, cable, water, trash. \$900/mo. +1 month security. (727)585-6828 (727)487-3959.  
**LAKEVIEW OF LARGO 55+** Beautiful corner unit 2BR/1.5BA. Newer Appliances. Furnished/ Unfurnished. Call (727)595-0423.

**185. Beach Rentals**  
**A MADEIRA BEACH GEM!** Close To Beach. Clean, quiet 1BR/1BA. Large yard. From \$550/month. (727)397-1800, ext. 261 kkoan@remax.net www.SunCoastHome.com  
**S.W. LARGO: LG. 1BR/1BA,** \$500/Month. Quiet. Laundry on Premises. Petless. \$400 security. Yearly lease. (727)595-2228. Last Month FREE!

**185. Beach Rentals**  
**SEMINOLE GARDENS** 1BR/1BA, 704SF, 1st Floor, 55+, Sunroom, Remodeled kitchen, New tile. Nice! \$625/Month -Yearly. Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp. (727)397-2534  
**165. Villa Rentals**  
**BELLE OAK VILLAS, 2BR/2BA,** Cul-de-sac. All appliances, rear screened porch, pool. \$795/Month. (727)585-5569  
**VENDOME VILLAGE, 55+.** 2BR/2BA/1CG, Corner Unit. Completely Remodeled, Granite Countertops, W/D, Pool, Clubhouse. No Pets. \$875/Mo. (727)392-2673, (612)703-7638.  
**170. Furn. Apartments**  
**DOWNTOWN LARGO, NICE** Area, 1BR, Partially Furnished, Petless. \$510/Month. Includes Utilities. Rental Reference. (727)656-5127.  
**LARGO, 1BR/1BA, CLEAN,** Near bus. Petless. References. \$425/month+\$425 deposit. (727)535-3736, 9am-1pm.  
**175. Unfurn. Apartments**  
**SEMINOLE GARDENS, 55+.** 1BR Standard, \$600/Mo. No Pets. Nonsmokers Only. Robert G. Castles, P.A., Broker. (727)595-8229 www.SeminoleGarden.com  
**BELLEAIR BLUFFS** Deluxe 1-2BRs, 1st-2nd Floor. New Carpet. Overlooking Pool & Courtyard. One block from Intracoastal & Shopping, 2942 West Bay Dr. (727)483-4853.  
**BELLEAIR BLUFFS,** Small Complex, Nice, Large, Updated 2BR/2BA Apt, \$795/Mo.  
**KENNETH CITY, Nice,** Large 2BR/1BA Apt. \$700/Mo. Call (727)433-6257.  
**DUNEDIN: VERY NICE ROOM,** \$75/Wkly. Great Downtown Area! 326 Honey Street West. Call (727)586-2412 or Click www.586-2412.com  
**LARGE 2BR/2BA Waterfront.** Open kitchen to dining/ living rm. Hardwood floors, Fans, Built-ins. Great Views. ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED. \$1200/month. No Pets. (727)398-3916.

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**160. Unfurnished Condos**  
**SEMINOLE GARDENS** 1BR/1BA, 704SF, 1st Floor, 55+, Sunroom, Remodeled kitchen, New tile. Nice! \$625/Month -Yearly. Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp. (727)397-2534

**165. Villa Rentals**  
**BELLE OAK VILLAS, 2BR/2BA,** Cul-de-sac. All appliances, rear screened porch, pool. \$795/Month. (727)585-5569

**VENDOME VILLAGE, 55+.** 2BR/2BA/1CG, Corner Unit. Completely Remodeled, Granite Countertops, W/D, Pool, Clubhouse. No Pets. \$875/Mo. (727)392-2673, (612)703-7638.

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**LARGO 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartment Homes Starting From \$530. \$200 off 1st Full Month. Minutes From Beach! (727)586-1473**

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**LARGO 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartment Homes Starting From \$530. \$200 off 1st Full Month. Minutes From Beach! (727)586-1473**

**LARGO, 2BR/1BA, 2ND FLOOR,** 1,400SF, Deck, No Pets. \$695/Month includes W/S/T. Application and Background \$35. (727)744-1844.  
**LARGO: VERY CLOSE TO** Transportation, Shopping, Hospital. Move-in Special! 1BR/1BA, \$600/month, 2BR/1BA, \$650/month, 2BR/2BA, \$700/month. (727)280-6001.

**MADEIRA: 55+, NEAR BEACH,** 1BR, Sunroom, Corner condo, 2nd floor. Near VA, Shopping. \$575/Month. (727)398-7699.

**MOVE IN SPECIAL**  
**PINELLAS VILLAGE** NOW ACCEPTING FAMILIES 1ST MONTH FREE!! 2/BED \$625, 3/BED \$747 CALL TODAY!!! (727)399-2500

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**190. Waterfront Rentals**  
**2/3BR BEACH-FRONT CONDOS** Redington Shrs. Fantastic Views! 1,250-2,000SF. Furn./Unfurn. Heated Pool. Pets OK. \$1,375/month. (727)424-2945.

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**TREASURE ISLAND,** 105 110th Ave. 1BR & 2BR, Dock, Laundry, Starting At \$695/Mo. Walk To Beach. Credit Check. Pets OK. (727)367-9474.

**195. Seasonal Rentals**  
**SAND KEY, CLEARWATER BCH** Furnished 2BR/2BA Condos Available 1-12 Months. Florida Dreams RE Sales & Rentals, Inc. (727)595-5774.

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**200. Vacation Rentals**  
**CLEARWATER BEACH** Fully furnished 1BR & 2BR condo units. One month minimum. No smoking/ pets. JOHN DORAN REALTY. (727)461-9142.

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINE: Noon Monday Call 397-5563**

**265. Commercial Rentals**  
**LEASE/ RENTAL** IDEAL FOR SMALL BUSINESS 2 units, each w/office, bath & reception area, 2,000 SF Warehouse. Both: Bryan Dairy Road, 10830 Canal St. (727) 667-1647.  
**OFFICE & RETAIL SPACE** From \$430 Per Month. Ample Parking. Madeira Beach. (727)641-6465.  
**JOHN'S PASS VILLAGE** 500 SF Retail Space, Available Now. Call For More Information. (727)510-9849.  
**RETAIL/OFFICE, 400 SF,** 8535 Seminole Blvd. Garage/Storage, 500 SF, 8510 1/2 Seminole Blvd. Ample Parking in Rear. Reasonable Rates. (727) 642-0789.

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**210. M.H. Rentals**  
**BLUE SKIES M.H.P. LARGO.** Mobile Homes For Rent. Move-In Special. \$199. One Bedroom. Call (727)657-2104, (813)789-8331.  
**\$99 MOVE-IN SPECIAL** NW Largo. Limited Time Offer. All Ages. Pets, 7-Month Lease Includes W/S/G/L. Gulf Breeze, (727)559-8644.  
**NEAR BAY PINES VA & Madeira** Beach, 1BR. \$545/Month +\$300 Security, Includes W/S/G & Cable. Pets OK. (727)393-1628.

**225. Duplex-Triplex Rental**  
**LARGO, 10135 106TH AVE., N.** Unit 1, 1BR/1BA, \$600/Month. New carpet/ paint. Imm. Occ. Roomy w/Screened Porch, Storage Shed. W/S/T included, Convenient. Premier Properties. (727)738-1516.  
**LARGO, 2BR/1.5BA, C/H/A,** Carport, Close to trail. \$750/Month. (727)584-4682.  
**PINELLAS PARK, SPACIOUS** 2BR/1BA, 7671 43rd St. N. W/D Hook-Up. \$650/Mo, \$600 Deposit. Annual. (727)398-2925.

**LARGO, LARGE 2BR/1BA,** Carport, Dining Rm, W/D Hk-Up, Fenced, W/S/G Paid. By Beach. \$795/Mo. (727)542-7571.  
**NORTH ST. PETE.** 2BR/1BA, 6500 50th Ave. N. C/H/A. \$750/Month, \$400 Security. Convenient location. (727)385-1246.

**245. Room For Rent**  
**SAFE, CLEAN, QUIET.** Fully Furnished. Utilities, Cable Included. Deposit, References, ID Required. From \$135/Week. (727)547-1199.

**255. Accom. To Share**  
**CLEARWATER BEACH. LARGE** Room, Private Bath, Separate Kitchen. Private Entrance. Access To Pool. Furnished. Electric, Water, Cable included. No Pets. Singles Only. \$700/Mo. (727)647-3158.

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**RETAIL/OFFICE, 400SF, 8535** Seminole Blvd. Garage/Storage, 500SF, 8501 1/2 Seminole Blvd. Ample Parking In Rear. Reasonable Rates. (727)642-0789.</

485. Help Wanted

**EXP. MAINTENANCE**  
Worker, F/T position, Pool & Spa maintenance; janitorial svcs; general building/property repairs, plumbing/electric repairs; event setup (may include heavy lifting). Must have References, Clean Driver's License, Drug Test, No Criminal Background. **M-F 6:00AM to 2:30 PM.** Pay depends on skills. Applications available at **Golden Gate Residents Assoc.** 8201 40th St. North Pinellas Park, FL 33781

**EXPERIENCED HAIR STYLIST**  
Randy Roberts Salon Sabala Plaza, (727) 596-1763

**FULL TIME, CLERICAL OFFICE**  
position for Seminole marine repair company. Starting \$12/hour. Qualified candidates fax: (727)541-1777.

**GLOBAL CONNECTIONS**  
Customer Service/ Clerical for a travel club. Starting at \$8.50/hr. F/T 9AM-5PM M-F. Insurance, 401K, travel benefits, plus booking incentives. Must have computer, customer service skills. Fax resume: (727)467-9097, E-mail: kbrazier@gctravel.net

**GUEST SERVICES/ CLERICAL**  
Looking for a candidate that is computer literate, knowledgeable in Word & Excel. Must be a team player with excellent people skills, able to work weekdays & weekends. Please fax resume with references to: (727)595-3752. Please no phone call or walk-ins.

**HAIRSTYLIST WITH CLIENTELE**  
Booth Rental/ Commission. Nice, family salon! Park Street, St. Pete. Call (727)239-6685.

**HOUSEKEEPER WANTED FOR**  
Clearwater, FL, 33756 Private Home With 2 Adults, 3 Cats, 2 Dogs. Must Have: Own Vehicle, Phone & Home. Experience & References Required. Nonsmoker Only! Hours: 7:30am-1:30pm, M-F, 8am-10am Sat-Sun. Call (727)461-5786 before 5pm.

**HOUSEKEEPERS WANTED FOR BEACH CONDO RESORTS**  
Full or part time. Apply in person Tuesday thru Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm  
**RamSea Resort**  
17200 Gulf Blvd.  
North Redington Beach  
Ask for Mariann or Carol (727)397-0441  
Background check required.

**REGAL PALMS PREMIER**  
ASSISTED LIVING on the Palms of Largo campus is seeking an overnight receptionist to work four to five shifts per week. Phone and computer skills are necessary, dependability a must. Apply online at regalalp.com. EOE.

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Sell Your Home In The Classifieds!  
**CALL TODAY! 397-5563**

485. Help Wanted

**CITY OF PINELLAS PARK SEEKS PENSION BOARD MEMBER**  
Pinellas Park is seeking a citizen who is interested in volunteering to serve the community as a Trustee on the Firefighters' Pension Board. No special education is required; the term of office is four years. The Board meets during the regular workday at least quarterly and additional meetings are scheduled as needed. Trustees work with the Board's attorney, money managers and advisors to invest the plan's funds, interpret plan documents, and administer the benefits on behalf of the plan's members. Trustees are also encouraged to travel periodically at the Board's expense to attend educational seminars and pension conferences. Must be a City resident.  
For additional information, or to obtain an application form, please contact the City's Human Resources Department at 727-541-0700, extension 1309. Applications are also available at www.pinellas-park.com. The deadline to apply is March 16, 2012.

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Interested Candidates Must:  
• Pass Drug Test  
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• Hustle Is Your Middle Name  
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• Have Reliable Transportation  
• Be Team Oriented

Lunch Positions Available Immediately, 11-2 & 11-4.  
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PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We are seeking a full-time Administrative Professional to assist our onsite management team in the Clearwater area. Duties include answering telephones, assisting homeowners, keeping track of meetings/events and assisting onsite team with day-to-day responsibilities. A minimum of 5 years office experience, w/ prior experience working with HOAs and preparing association meetings is strongly desired. Should have ability to communicate effectively with staff and residents. Must possess good organizational and computer skills, and have intermediate computer skills in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and Outlook). Please send resume and salary requirements to: [careers@landmanagement.com](mailto:careers@landmanagement.com) Please reference job# TAMP27 when applying.

485. Help Wanted

**ACCESS REVERSE MORTGAGE**  
All FHA-Insured HECM Reverse Mortgages. Pinellas Based. Award-winning customer service. Lowest available fixed and adjustable rates. Highest available loan proceeds. #MBR656. (727)388-4453.

**580. Insurance**  
**MORTGAGE PROTECTION**  
Insurance, mortgage paid off at death or all premiums refunded. For info (727)642-8167

**505. Part-time Help**  
**DOCTOR'S ASSISTANT**  
Busy, fast-growing Chiropractic office seeking individual who is energetic, friendly, motivated and a team player, for a P-T position. Will train. Computer & people skills helpful. Great hours and pay! Call (727)544-9000.

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High Commissions Paid For Experienced Only! Timeshare Resale Phone Closers. 1(888)366-5670.

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**CNAs, HHAs NEEDED FOR**  
Pinellas County Area. Choose Your Hours. \$10-\$13.50 Per Hour. (727)822-3034

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Experienced, Compassionate, Reliable, Trustworthy. Will Make Life A Lot Better. Days & Nights. Excellent References. Call Bev, (727)530-0296, (813)952-8573. bevepowell@hotmail.com

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**AVON, EARN 40%**  
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All FHA-Insured HECM Reverse Mortgages. Pinellas Based. Award-winning customer service. Lowest available fixed and adjustable rates. Highest available loan proceeds. #MBR656. (727)388-4453.

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**CNAs, HHAs NEEDED FOR**  
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485. Help Wanted

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• Hidden costs can add up  
• Requirements may be unrealistic.  
Learn how you can avoid Work-At-Home Scams. Call: Federal Trade Comm. 1-877-FTC-HELP. **A message from Tampa Bay Newspapers and the FTC.**

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Experienced, Compassionate, Reliable, Trustworthy. Will Make Life A Lot Better. Days & Nights. Excellent References. Call Bev, (727)530-0296, (813)952-8573. bevepowell@hotmail.com

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Company Looking For On-line Trainers. Flexible Hours, Work From Home. [www.miniofficeoutlets.com/jericho](http://www.miniofficeoutlets.com/jericho)

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[tampabay.com/distributor](http://tampabay.com/distributor)  
1-866-498-4637.

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All FHA-Insured HECM Reverse Mortgages. Pinellas Based. Award-winning customer service. Lowest available fixed and adjustable rates. Highest available loan proceeds. #MBR656. (727)388-4453.

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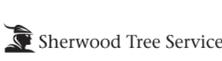
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**Attention Pinellas County Contractors**

The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners has recently re-  
vised county codes for Construction & Home Improvement Contrac-  
tors. The full ordinance can be viewed at the PCCLB website:  
[www.pcclb.com](http://www.pcclb.com). In summary, contractors MAY NOT:

- Engage in the business of contracting in the trades regulated by the State or County without a competency license certified or registered in the County.
- Intentionally furnish false/misleading information on an application for license.
- Hold oneself out as being licensed or registered, when not so li-  
censed or registered.
- Advertise to the public in any publication, business card, pamphlet,  
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County, which identifies a contractor offering services regulated by  
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and the certification/registration # issued by the state or county to  
that contractor.
- Subcontract any work to a person, firm or business organization not  
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# Opening this weekend

Danny DeVito gives voice to the lovable Lorax; party descends into chaos in 'Project X', a comedy

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

## 'Dr. Seuss' The Lorax'

Genre: Animation and adventure  
 Cast: Danny DeVito, Zac Efron, Ed Helms, Taylor Swift, Rob Riggle and Betty White  
 Director: Chris Renaud and Kyle Balda  
 Rated: PG

From the creators of "Despicable Me" and the imagination of Dr. Seuss comes the much anticipated feature "Dr. Seuss' The Lorax," a 3D-CG adaptation of the classic tale of a forest guardian who shares the enduring power of hope.

The animated adventure follows the journey of a 12-year-old as he searches for a real Truffula Tree, the one thing that will enable him to win the affection of the girl of his dreams. To get it he must find the story of the Lorax, the acerbic yet charming character who fights to protect his world.

Lending their vocal talents to the project are Danny DeVito as the iconic title character of the Lorax and Ed Helms as the enigmatic Once-ler. Also bringing their voices to the adventure are global superstars Zac Efron as Ted, the idealistic youth who searches for the Lorax, and Taylor Swift as Audrey, the girl of Ted's dreams. Rounding out the cast are Rob Riggle as the villain O'Hare, Jenny Slate as Ted's protective mother and beloved actress Betty White as Ted's wise Grammy Norma.

## 'Project X'

Genre: Comedy  
 Cast: Kirby Bliss Blanton, Jonathan Daniel Brown, Oliver Cooper, Alexis Knapp, Thomas Mann and Miles Teller

Director: Nima Nourizadeh  
 Rated: R

"Project X" follows three seemingly anonymous high school seniors - Thomas, Costa and J.B. - as they attempt to finally make a name for themselves.

Their idea is innocent enough: Throw a party that no one will forget, and have a camera there, to document history in the making ... but nothing could prepare them for this party. Word spreads quickly as dreams are ruined, records are blemished and legends are born. "Project X" is a warning to parents and police everywhere.

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

## 'Being Flynn'

Genre: Comedy and drama  
 Cast: Robert De Niro, Paul Dano, Olivia Thirlby, Lili Taylor, Wes Studi and Julianne Moore  
 Director: Paul Weitz  
 Rated: R

Being Flynn is the new dramatic feature from writer/director Paul Weitz.

Nick Flynn (Paul Dano) is a young writer seeking to define himself. He misses his late mother, Jody (Julianne Moore), and her loving nature. But his father, Jonathan, is not even a memory, as Nick has not seen the man in 18 years.

Jonathan Flynn (Robert De Niro) has long defined himself as a great writer, "a master storyteller." After abandoning his wife and child, Jonathan scrapes through life on his own terms, and ends up serving time in prison for cashing forged checks. After prison, he drives a cab for a number of years, but with his drinking and eccentricities now accelerating, he loses his job. Despite the occasional grandiose letter to his son, he has remained absent from Nick's life.



Photo by UNIVERSAL PICTURES/ILLUMINATION ENTERTAINMENT

"Dr. Seuss' The Lorax", a 3D-CG adventure from the creators of "Despicable Me" and the imagination of Dr. Seuss, features the voice talents of Danny DeVito as the gruff but lovable Lorax.

Suddenly facing eviction from his apartment, Jonathan impulsively reaches out to Nick and the two come face-to-face. The older man is eloquent and formidable; overwhelmed, Nick nonetheless prepares to integrate his father into his own life. But, as quickly as he materialized, Jonathan flits away again.

Moving on, Nick takes a job at a homeless shelter, where he learns from Captain (Wes Studi) and Joy (Lili Taylor) how to relate to the guests who arrive night after night. Seeing the homeless - some permanently, some temporarily so - and hearing their stories, Nick finds purpose in his own life and work. He also sustains a romance with a co-worker, Denise (Olivia Thirlby). Then one night, Jonathan arrives, seeking a bed, and Nick's senses of self and compassion falter. To give the two of them a shot at a real future, Nick will have to decide whom to seek redemption for first.

Cast: James Rolleston, Te Aho Eketone-Whitu and Taika Waititi  
 Director: Taiki Waititi  
 Not rated

The year is 1984, and on the rural East Coast of New Zealand "Thriller" is changing kids' lives. Inspired by the Oscar nominated "Two Cars, One Night," "Boy" is the hilarious and heartfelt coming-of-age tale about heroes, magic and Michael Jackson.

Boy is a dreamer who loves Michael Jackson. He lives with his brother Rocky, a tribe of deserted cousins and his Nan.

Boy's other hero, his father, Alamein, is the subject of Boy's fantasies, and he imagines him as a deep-sea diver, war hero and a close relation of Michael Jackson (he can even dance like him). In reality he's "in the can for robbery."

When Alamein returns home after seven years away, Boy is forced to confront the man he thought he remembered, find his own potential and learn to get along without the hero he had been hoping for.

## 'Boy'

Genre: Comedy and drama

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