

LARGO LEADER

Sheryl Crow headlines A Taste of Pinellas at Vinoy Park May 5

Tickets for annual food and music festival range from \$15 to \$25. ... Page 1B.



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ENTERTAINMENT



At the box office

Marvel Studios presents "Marvel's The Avengers" – the superhero team-up of a lifetime, featuring iconic Marvel superheroes Iron Man, The Incredible Hulk, Thor, Captain America, Hawkeye and Black Widow. ... Page 3B.

LARGO

Chamber to hold update on transit

"How to Get There from Here: A Pinellas Transit Update" is the topic of a Business Leadership Breakfast presented by the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, May 8, 7:45 to 9:15 a.m., at Largo Medical Center, 201 14th St. SW.

The program will feature updates on regional transportation projects and initiatives including an overview of Ulmerton Road reconstruction and other road projects in addition to reports on mass transit and airport operations. Guest speakers are Timothy Drawhom, a project manager with the Florida Department of Transportation; Brad Miller, CEO of Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, and Michelle Routh, community/media relations director at St. Petersburg/Clearwater International Airport. Cost to attend is \$15 for chamber members and \$20 for nonmember guests. To register, call 584-2321.

SCHOOLS

School presents Disney musical

Disney's Beauty and the Beast will be presented by the Largo High School's Fine Arts Department, Thursday, May 3, and Friday, May 4, 7 p.m., in the Largo High School auditorium. Tickets are \$10 and are on sale at the school. For reservations and information, call 588-3758.



"This is our biggest production of the year, and the biggest musical we have ever done," said Debbie Wortock, the school's drama teacher.

"Beauty and the Beast" is based on the 1991 Disney film of the same name. Seven new songs were written for the stage musical.

VIEWPOINTS

Carl Hiaasen

Charge in Zimmerman case has lawyers scratching their heads, columnist says. ... Page 13A.



On tap: A 'business friendly' lease

City commissioners strive to accommodate bar owner's brewing plans

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO – How about calling the beer Largo Lager? That's the name city Commissioner Curtis Holmes came up with, tongue in cheek, for beer that might be brewed soon in downtown Largo.

The owners of the Barley Mow, 518 West Bay Drive, want to lease property just to the north of the business for a warehouse to help accommodate their brewing plans. The house, at 140th St. NW., had been rented to an individual on a monthly basis for housing until April. The property is now unoccupied.

At issue during the commission's May 1 meeting were city officials' efforts to assemble parcels on the block through purchases totaling about \$2.47 million. The purpose of the acquisitions was to consolidate all individual parcels under one ownership to make negotiations easier with a developer at a later date.

If city commissioners decided not to form a lease on the subject property, staff would demolish the structure in preparation for future redevelopment.

Barley Mow co-owner Jay Dingman said in a letter to Holmes that the owners would pay for any modifications needed to make the building compliant with city

codes as a warehouse and assume all responsibilities for upkeep as a warehouse. They offered to lease the property for \$300 a month.

He also said the business is feeling the limitations of its current location and that he and his fiancé, Colleen Huffman, the co-owner, do not intend to make it the permanent home for the business. They hope to work with staff eventually to find another location where they could "scale our business the way we intend to." They

See BREWING, page 4A

Group tries to derail plans for transit improvements

By TOM GERMOND

CLEARWATER – Opponents of light rail sharply criticized the transit service at a forum April 29, saying that there are more efficient and less expensive ways to resolve traffic gridlock.

The purpose of the forum at the Feather Sound Country Club was "shedding light on light rail and the tax increase to pay for it," a flier said.

The South Pinellas 912 brought in speakers who took issue with light rail and other transit projects in other areas, citing poor ridership, large construction and maintenance costs and heavy federal government subsidies.

Barbara Haselden, South Pinellas 912 organizer, said her group took a map and identified seven hubs full of businesses along the proposed Pinellas County rail route in mid-April. They went door to door to get their opinions on rail.

"These were the people that were on the exact route ... And we want to find out if they were happy about that

"The most just maddening thing is this routine claim that rail transit is the future. Folks, it's the past."

– Ed Braddy
Light rail opponent

and essentially, no one had heard of the rail plans."

"One in 31 supported the rail when we told them of the plans or 2.5 percent. Again, we went to 279 businesses. Most business owners were very upset," Haselden said.

Randal O'Toole, an author and an analyst of growth, land and transportation issues and a senior fellow for the Cato Institute, berated transit operations in Portland, Ore., his hometown

"They have subsidized light rail to the tune of \$4 billion in counting," he said. "The costs are going up and they are spending more and more on each new rail line as it comes out."

The area has a commuter train that costs 60 percent more than they expected it to

cost. Ridership is very low, he said.

Portland's first transit line cost \$15 million a mile. The second cost \$55 million a mile, O'Toole said.

"They are building one now that costs \$205 million a mile," he said.

Asked why the light rail systems are so popular in Europe, he said the average American rides rail transit 96 miles a year. The average European rides rails transit 108 miles a year.

"They have four times as many trains yet they only ride it 10 percent more than we do," O'Toole said

Ed Braddy, a former Gainesville city commissioner who is now the executive director of the American Dream Coalition, said leaders have to



American Dream Coalition Executive Director Ed Braddy addresses a crowd at a light rail forum at Feather Sound.

be convinced to look to the future.

"The most just maddening thing is this routine claim that rail transit is the future. Folks, it's the past," Braddy said.

He recommended the use of one-way street conversions and hot lanes with high occupancy tolling among other mobility tools.

"You can build your way out of congestion," he said. "Maryland's intercounty connector is electronic tolling so you don't have to stop. It has reduced by half the daily com-

mute. ... Just across the bay you have the Selmon Crosstown Expressway – reversible lanes, electronic tolling, financed 100 percent with user fees. It's elevated in the medians so there wasn't eminent domain," Brady said.

State Rep. Jeff Brandes, R-St. Petersburg, via Skype, also said he was working to stop light rail in Pinellas County and encouraged the organization to stay involved. He called it "a boondoggle program."

See TRANSIT, page 4A

Walk A Way Train

Several volunteers help students get to elementary school safely

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO – All aboard the Walk A Way Train. It departs from the intersection of 134th Avenue North and Washington Avenue at 7:45 a.m. Monday through Friday. Destination: Ridgcrest Elementary School.

The Walk A Way Train is the name coined by a group of school parents whose families live in the neighborhood near the elementary school, 1901 119th St.

Basically, the volunteers escort the children to school in the mornings and then home again in the afternoon.

The students' safety, the vol-

unteers said, is the primary objective.

Before the program was launched, some of the children walking to the school caused behavior problems. That has subsided, the volunteers said.

"I like the fact there is no more fighting because there was a lot of fighting when we didn't have this with all the kids going and coming. So I just like the fact that the kids are actually coming to school and willing to come to school to learn," said Natalie Taylor, one of the volunteers who initiated the program after a school fair in December.

One of the vendors at the fair was All Children's Hospital,



Natalie Taylor, left, talks to students while they wait for other children to join the Walk A Way Train.

which sponsors a "Walking School Bus" program designed for students who live within two miles of the school. Ridgcrest volunteers embraced the program and tailored it to their needs.

All Children's Hospital donated safety vests, T-shirts and other materials for the program, which Ridgcrest Principal Donna Benkert said helps nurture "a feeling of community and camaraderie."

"I can tell you from the school's perspective, the tardiness has declined. They are getting here early enough to have a good breakfast, too," Benkert

said. "Plus, they are coming in a good mood. We have a really good support system here."

The numbers of students that participate fluctuates, generally from 28 to more than 50, depending on the time of year and other factors.

"The best thing I like about the Walk A Way Train is that there were several mornings I got up and I saw so many kids walking by themselves. I'm a mother," said Traci Blankumsee, a Walk A Way Train volunteer. "... I feel good as a parent that we are getting kids to school on time for breakfast and safe."

Azania Ali, another volunteer, has observed a change in students' behavior since the program started.

"What I love about the kids in the morning when we are waking up is some of them are grouchy, but if they see us coming out smiling, and we give them hugs and try to talk to them, their behaviors really change," Ali said.

Parents who want their children to participate in the program must sign consent forms.

The goals of the program, as

See TRAIN, page 4A

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'Trash'ion action continues with Viewers Choice Award

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO - For the first time, the city officials invite 'trash'ion aficionados to be judges in the Trashy Fashion Show with the Facebook Viewer's Choice Award.

Interested voters should log on to facebook.com/LargoRecycles and select the photo album Facebook Vote for Winning 'Trash'ion. Facebook viewers can cast their vote by clicking "like" on the photo of their preference. The design with the most "likes" on Tuesday, May 15, at 2 p.m., will be the winner. The Facebook Viewer's Choice winner will receive a gift certificate to Midori Salon and Spa in Largo.

The city of Largo's fifth annual Trashy Fashion: a Recycled Fashion Show celebrated Earth Day April 21 by promoting waste reduction and alternative uses of trash. More than 40 innovative 'trash'ion designs were spotlighted on a 30-foot runway at the Largo Cultural Center.

Winners were selected by age category and received gift certifi-

cates to Midori Salon and Spa. They are as follows:

Junior designers - elementary school

Runner-up
Designer: Brianna Douglas and Angela Cuff

Model: Angela Cuff

Design materials: 75 pages of newspaper, 1 dog food bag, 262 used gift cards, 1 old headband, 100 twist ties, 8 water bottle caps, 4 worn out shoes, 6-feet of tape, 100 staples, 5 nonworking fashion watches, 2 ribbons, and one-quarter stick of hot glue.

Winners
Designer: Hannah and Luz Morillo

Model: Hannah Morillo

Design materials: 134 soda can tabs, 3 water bottle caps, 12 crushed eggshells, foam insulation, 10 water bottle bottom halves, ribbon, tile netting and an old bed skirt.

Teen and tween designer

Runner-up
Designer and model: Kyra Connolly

Design materials: 7 paper bags

Winner

Designer: Linda and Anna Mink

Model: Anna Mink

Design materials: discarded (stained) tablecloth, leather from the cushion of damaged couch, 1 water bottle, 1 stray button, 1 cord from a discarded curtain, and 1 broken necklace.

High-end designers - high school

Runner-up
Designer: Maria Daniela Thurber

Model: Deniann Grant

Design materials: 6 large paper bags, 5 plastic shopping bags, 2 folders, 1 old gift bag, 3 bottle caps, and 2 magazines.

Winner
Designer: Amber and Allie Malott

Model: Amber Malott

Design materials: 2 magazines, 8 yards of bubble wrap, 1 burlap rice bag and 53 beverage labels

'Trash'ion designers - adult

Runner-up
Designer: Garden Fairies of SHAMC (Safety Harbor Art and Music Center)

Model: Noelani Tagarelli

Design materials: 78 plastic water bottles, 6 plastic cups, 4 plastic place mats, one-quarter of a pool cover, 1 tire tube, 2 bottle caps, and discarded Christmas decorations.

Adult winner
Designer: Neva "The Diva" Durham

Model: Karissa Gonzalez

Design materials: 1 used bamboo room curtain, 1 used plastic fish room curtain, 1 fur trim, flowers from old silk flower arrangements, old shoes from Goodwill, 2 family-size bags of Skittles, and tart candies.

Trashiest - overall
Designer: Chloe Kelsch and Courtney LaGamba

Model: Brianna Passione

Design materials: 24 electrical cords, 15 garbage bags, 1 sheet of aluminum foil, 3-feet of chicken wire, 1 old curtain, and 1 net.



Hannah Morillo models an outfit in the Trashy Fashion Show April 21. She and Luz Morillo designed the outfit. They won first place in the Junior Designers category.

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.

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Diggin' the Arts at the Florida Botanical Gardens

LARGO – Enjoy a day of family fun in the beautiful and tranquil surroundings of Pinellas County's Florida Botanical Gardens at the Diggin' the Arts festival with hands-on activities, displays, vendors, booths, music and refreshments Sunday, May 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

Participate in the plein air – open air – painting competition. Registration for this free event is at 10 a.m. and the works, painted in the gardens, are judged at 3:30 p.m. First prize is \$150, second prize \$100 and third prize \$75. Visitors may watch the contestants in action as they paint beautiful garden scenes.

Enter a raffle to win a rain barrel, each decorated by one of the participating museums; tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

Get Warholized at the Leepa-Ratner Museums Andy Warhol exhibit, experience watercolor and pottery demonstrations by the Dunedin Fine Arts Center,

complete a color reproduction of Georgia O'Keefe's "The Poppy" with the Museum of Fine Arts of St. Petersburg, make botanical sun catchers and learn about the Chihuly glass collection with the Morean Arts Center or learn about the Crochet Coral Reef with the Florida Craftsmen.

Learn about bonsai, orchid cultivation, sumie painting and Asian ink painting through demonstrations and horticultural programs offered during the festival.

The groups La Lucha Trio, offering a unique taste of jazz and Evergreen, with the sounds of Ireland, round out this cultural event with music from around the globe.

Guided tours of the Florida Botanical Gardens will be offered hourly.

The Diggin' the Arts festival is a collaboration with the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, the St. Petersburg Museum of

Fine Arts, the Morean Art Center, the Leepa-Ratner Museum, Dunedin Fine Arts Center and the Florida Craftsmen.

The Florida Botanical Gardens, located at 12520 Ulmerton Road in Largo, showcases gardens of tropical plants, roses, fruits, herbs, hibiscus, bromeliads and more. Paths wind through 150 acres and connect with Heritage Village and the Pinewood Cultural Park campus. The gardens are open every day from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Admission is free.

The Botanical Bounty gift store is in the Parks and Conservation Resources building. It is open Monday through Friday starting at 10 a.m. On Sunday, May 6, the Botanical Bounty gift shop will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information about the Florida Botanical Gardens, visit www.flbg.org or call 582-2100.



Enter a raffle to win a rain barrel decorated by one of the participating museums, during Florida Botanical Gardens at the Diggin' the Arts festival Sunday, May 6. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

Around Largo

City events



Picnic in the Park, Thursday, May 3, noon to 2 p.m., Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road.

Description: "Enjoy an old fashion picnic with hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, chips, macaroni salad, and all the fixings. Lunch is served on the back patio. There are no refunds. For more information, visit PlayLargo.com or call 518-3131."

Tickets are \$7 and must be purchased in advance.

Square Dancing, Fridays, May 4, 11, 18 and 25, 7:30 until 10:30 p.m., Largo Community Center.

Description: "Like country style dancing? Square or round? Spend the evening dancing to profession-

al caller Allen Snell. Join anytime."

Call 518-3131
The fee is \$5

Train Weekend, Saturday, May 5, and Sunday, May 6, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive

Description: "Ride the miniature trains of Largo Central Railroad on the first full weekend every month in Largo Central

Park. For a schedule of dates as well as pictures from this event, please go to the Special Events Train Weekend page at Largo-Events.com."

Call 587-6740, ext. 5014.

The event is free, but donations are accepted.

Stories in the Park, Saturday, May 5, 10:30 a.m., McGough Nature Park, 11901 146th St. N.

Description: "Come join our park rangers each month for a morning story, a hike through the park and snacks with your kids. Held the first Saturday of each month. Call 518-3047 to preregister today!"

The cost is \$3 per family.

Open Air Market, Saturdays,

May 5, 12, 19 and 26, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., Largo Community Center.

Description: "Individuals are invited to browse a wide variety of vendors selling fresh and local produce, artisan foods, unique arts and crafts, jewelry, health and beauty items and much more. The market will be open every Saturday until June 9. Largo's Open-Air Market is made possible by the City of Largo and the Pinellas County Health Department. For more information or to become a vendor, call 518-3131."

Kid Power Operation Lunch Line in 3D, Saturday, May 5, 11 a.m., Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive.

Description: "Journey deep inside the human body in 3D to learn the value of nutrition and exercise. Come sing along, dance and use your 'kid power' to make health-enhancing choices and feel great. Preview the show at KidPowerPrograms.com."

Call 587-6793.

The fees are \$7.50 adult, \$6.50 children, \$6 schools, \$22 Family 4 Pack.

Swing Dance Saturdays, Saturdays, May 5, 12, 19, and 26, 7 until 11 p.m., Largo Community Center.

Call 518-3131.

Description: "Come enjoy an evening of dancing and socializing every Saturday night. Enjoy a free lesson from 7 to 8 p.m. and a DJ dance from 8 until 11 p.m. Our resident DJ is Savoy Swing. Don't miss out on our 5,600-square-foot sprung hardwood floor. For more information visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131."

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Gualtieri fires four employees for 'loafing and idling'

By SUZETTE PORTER

LARGO - Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri announced May 1 that he had fired three deputies and one sergeant for "extreme loafing and idling."

The men lost their jobs "for failure to work during their assigned shifts, a violation of the agency's General Orders and policy," according to a press release. Gualtieri said the excessive inactivity was documented when it occurred for more than one hour.

Deputies intentionally concealed their cruisers, they disconnected their agency required GPS, and left their assigned areas in order to go home, visit family, or idle in other locations,

Gualtieri said. They responded to calls if dispatched, but did not initiate any law enforcement action for hours at a time. One even admitted watching a movie while he was supposed to be on the job.

"These deputies by their intentional actions essentially cheated the taxpayers out of well over \$24,600 during the time of the investigation - which was from July 1, 2011 to Dec. 31, 2011," Gualtieri said. "We believe our findings are a snapshot of what was going on for a longer period of time. This is behavior that will not be tolerated, and they are being held accountable."

Two other deputies received suspensions. A seventh deputy

was named in the original investigation, but the charges against him were unsubstantiated.

The following is a list of those fired and the reasons.

- Deputy Kenneth L. Burroughs, 42, has worked for the Sheriff's Office since Oct. 1, 1996. He is accused of idling and loafing 172 times for a total of 285 hours, or 35 8-hour workdays. His base pay was \$27,38. Gualtieri said Burroughs' behavior cost taxpayers \$7,807.

- Deputy Robert G. Harmer, 42, was hired by the Sheriff's Office on June 10, 1990. Gualtieri said Harmer's idling and loafing time included 180 instances for more than 251 hours, or 31 8-hour days, costing taxpayers \$7,853.

His base pay was \$31,28.

- Deputy Samuel Mitchem, 42, was hired on May 2, 1994. He is accused of idling and loafing 212 times for more than 314 hours, which is equivalent to 39 8-hour days, costing the taxpayers \$9,002. His base pay was \$28,67.

- Sgt. Christopher W. Metro, 43, has been employed by the Sheriff's Office since Jan. 13, 1991. He was fired for failure to supervise squad members, including Burroughs and Mitchem; neglecting supervisory responsibilities; failure to use available technology and other tools to monitor staff activities; leaving his area of assignment; and idling, going to personal residence. The Sheriff's Office documented 10 in-

stances of idling of at least one hour each, having knowledge of the deputies' idling and failure to act. He reportedly admitted to watching a movie while on duty.

Two other deputies were suspended. Brian T. Clark, 40, a sheriff's employee since April 27, 1998, was suspended for one day for lack of self-initiated activity and "about" four instances of idling. Robert J. Wojciechowski, 46, who was hired by the Sheriff's Office on Dec. 1, 1986, was suspended for two days for lack of self-initiated activity, failure to have his GPS repaired and "about" four instances of idling.

Allegations against Deputy Gregory C. Burnham, 41, were unsubstantiated. Burnham was

hired Dec. 1, 1986.

Gualtieri sent a message to all his employees about the terminations.

"Although public safety is always our first consideration, the taxpayers of Pinellas County deserve to know that their tax dollars, which are our salaries, are earned by each of us every day through the provision of effective law enforcement services.

"Through this adversity, I remain proud of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and its members and recognize that the misconduct by these deputies is inconsistent with the fine work performed daily by the majority of the 2,800 members of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office."

Event pays tribute to man who did much for Belleair

By BRIAN GOFF

BELLEAIR - Some people might describe Belleair's upcoming Backyard Bash on May 12 as a fundraiser, while others prefer to call it an event to help young athletes in need. Danielle Felten of Belleair's Recreation Department is one of those people.

Felten describes the Backyard Bash as a time when the community can come together and chip in to help shore up the Ed Wahlbeck Scholarship Fund and at the same time pay tribute to the man who had done so much for the Belleair community before his death two years ago.

"We don't want the fund to die," she said. "This is a time to make everybody aware of the need. Ed did so much for youth football in Belleair and now we can help his memory with something tangible."

When Ed Wahlbeck, only 54 years old, passed away of a heart attack on May 12, 2010, his family knew he would not want flowers or cards. They realized the best way to honor him would be to keep helping young athletes in need. So, the Ed Wahlbeck Scholarship Fund was born.

Ed's son Eric, now Belleair's Parks and Recreation director, said he and his brother, Carl, grew up with young men in need always around the house.

"My mom and dad would just bring a young person into our home and feed them," he said. "And they would pay for the registration into whatever sport he played and often that person would stay with us, sleep in our home. We didn't give it a second thought."

Ed did more than that. He coached his sons all through school. Eric remembers it well.

"One year he would coach me, then the next year he would coach Carl and it went like that until we finished school. Then when we went to Largo High and he didn't coach us any more he would come just to watch our practices. It was a great feeling to know your dad was always there."

Getting the scholarship fund off the ground was not difficult. According to Eric, the moment people heard about the fund they contributed, more than \$10,000. That was just two years ago and already \$7,000 has been disbursed to sports organizations in the area.

It costs a young athlete \$250 to play tackle football, primarily for the Belleair Bolts, now known as the Belleair Chargers. The scholarship fund has paid the full freight for 29 youngsters who would otherwise not be able to play. It costs \$100 to play baseball. Thirteen athletes have been



Photo courtesy of TOWN OF BELLEAIR
A scholarship fund honoring the late Ed Wahlbeck has been established to provide sports scholarships to young athletes.

fully funded to play for the Seminole Junior Warhawks in the past two years. Two other athletes were helped so they could play in the Belleair flag football league.

What would move a family to create such a thing to honor their husband and father? Eric Wahlbeck says it was not a difficult decision.

"He was such a great role model," he said. "It is a good feeling to be able to help others and that is what my dad would have

wanted. He was a shirt off the back type guy. He would be proud to see what the scholarship fund in his name has been able to do."

Eric recalls the story of one young man who was helped by his dad.

"For several years this boy was around our house and Dad and Mom paid his way to play baseball. One year his own mother took him to register and discovered they wanted the \$100 fee. Well, the woman called my dad and told him that they were suddenly charging to have her boy play baseball. My dad finally told her that he had been paying all along. She couldn't believe it. But that's the way he was, he didn't do any of that for praise, he just did it."

To continue the memory of the man "who just did it," the Belleair Recreation Department is holding the Backyard Bash on the grounds of the Dimmitt Community Center, Saturday, May 12, 5 to 9 p.m. There will be lots of games, food and fun. It's free.

As part of the event a huge oak tree on the East athletic field will be dedicated in memory of Ed Wahlbeck. A plaque will be erected to remind residents of his contribution to youth athletics.

And there might be a special guest. One of the young athletes helped by Ed and Mary Wahlbeck

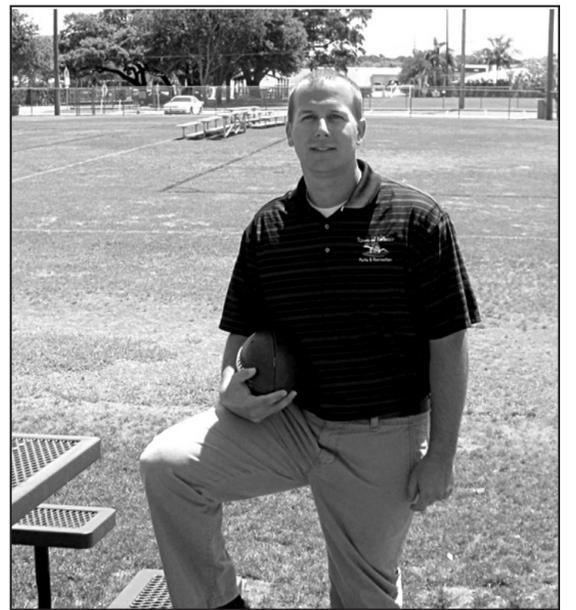


Photo by BRIAN GOFF
Eric Wahlbeck, Belleair's Parks and Recreation director, is the son of Ed Wahlbeck, who will be honored by the town on May 12.

over the years was D'Qwell Jackson, the starting middle linebacker of the Cleveland Browns. Jackson, who is from Largo and attended Seminole High School, ate many meals at the Wahlbeck

household and now, says Eric, "I called him and told him of this event and invited him along. I hope he will be there."

For more information, call 518-3728.

Around Pinellas

City insists extra parking not needed for beach sand

BELLEAIR BEACH - Relying on advice given seven years ago by the county's former coastal coordinator, the City Council has decided to push back on demands that it create more public parking spaces to gain beach nourishment this year.

Uncertainties over the funding and portions of the beach to be nourished resurfaced earlier this month when County Administrator Bob LaSala said the city may be billed up to \$200,000 that the county is expected to lose in state funding because Belleair Beach is not meeting public parking regulations. Twenty-eight additional spaces are needed at the south end of the city, based on state requirements that there must be nearby parking spaces to each of the beach accesses.

With the beach nourishment project set to begin in several weeks, the council held an emergency meeting April 23 to discuss the issue. County commissioners Neil Brickfield and Karen Seel attended the session.

Frustration over the parking issue and its potential effect on the upcoming beach nourishment project were evident from the beginning, as Mayor Kathy Mortensen spoke of the difficulties in finding the extra parking spaces the county now says are needed. Three alternatives have been discussed since the issue came up with the county late last year, she said, and none has proven workable, as yet.

Allowing parking on side streets was rejected due to problems with emergency vehicle access, and the purchase of residential lots proved cost prohibitive, Mortensen indicated.

The only option remaining at this time has been to reconfigure Gulf Boulevard to create parking spaces in the right-of-way along the west side of the road. Mortensen indicated the city has "gone back and forth with the county" on that subject, and is planning to discuss it in budget hearings to be held later this year.

"We have it in the budget to look at parking (on Gulf Boulevard), but Mr. LaSala has said the county may or may not approve paying for that project," she said.

City Attorney Paul Marino cautioned the council not to commit to doing something in a budget that has not yet been approved. Providing the needed parking spaces on Gulf Boulevard is estimated to cost \$145,000, or \$5,000 per space.

"Is the city under any (legal) obligation to provide the parking?" Councilmember Rob Baldwin asked Marino.

"No agreements have been made to provide parking," Marino replied.

Marino also said that (the former Pinellas County coastal coordinator) Nicole Elko had approved beach nourishment for the city last time, "but (current coastal coordinator) Andy Squires came on and decided we did not meet the requirements."

Mortensen said she was "confused, angry and frustrated" when she received the communication from LaSala indicating the city may (or may not) be billed for the nourishment expense for the south portion of the city.

"We have worked so hard to get this resolved," she said. "Take us off the 'stepchild list' and give us some assistance."

Mortensen said she wanted to know if the county

would be willing to work with the city on financing the costs of the extra parking spaces.

"There are a lot of unknowns, a lot of questions," she said. "We certainly can't commit the city to set aside the money."

The county is trying to "hold our feet to the fire," Mortensen said. "I have on asbestos boots right now, and it's not going to work."

Baldwin recommended the council take a combative stance, and declare that the ruling by Elko that the city met the parking requirements during the last nourishment event is still valid.

"We are being asked to spend money we don't have for a road we don't own and a commitment we don't have," Baldwin said.

The county needs to agree not to assess the city any penalty for the perceived lack of parking spaces, Marino said.

"If the state comes after the county, and the county comes after us, I want indemnification, verification we are not responsible, that we are not paying it," he said.

Baldwin proposed a resolution declaring, "The city is relying on the previous representation from the county that we meet the qualifications and are entitled to the sand." He added the attorney's recommendation that the county not hold the city responsible for any charges relating to the lack of parking.

The resolution passed 4-2, with Mortensen and Vice Mayor David Dumville opposed. Councilmember Leslie Notaro was absent.

Mortensen said the action goes too far, in her view.

"I don't think two wrongs make a right," she said. "Nicole Elko may have been right, she may not have

BREWING, from page 1A

currently lease their property from the city.

Commissioner Robert Murray said he supports leasing the house to the Barley Mow for a warehouse on a monthly basis, providing that if a developer is interested in acquiring the property, the city can obtain control of it as quickly as possible.

"I can't see tearing down homes in that area until we have something definite on the horizon. I think getting some kind of income from it is better than no income, once we tear that house down," he said.

TRANSIT, from page 1A

Haselden said the county's bus system is headed for insolvency in the next few years.

In an email, PSTA spokesman Bob Lasher disputed the contention. "PSTA is in no way heading toward 'insolvency,'" he said.

He said PSTA developed a plan that provides the agency several years of time while it uses new revenues from four different types of fare adjustments over the past three years, draws down on its reserves, takes advantage of substantially increased advertising revenue, saves resources through competitive contracting for higher-cost paratransit services and maintains a reduced level of bus routes, which were previously cut by about 8 percent.

"This time is needed to develop PSTA's longer term plans including identification of a sustainable set of revenues," Lasher said. "We will, as we always have every year, develop a balanced budget each year and will not become insolvent."

Opponents of light rail have spoken out against proposals to raise the sales tax by 1 cent to finance Pinellas transit improvements, including several people at the meeting who had signs saying "no tax for trax" on their vehicles.

At this point, the sales tax is under consideration along with other

TRAIN, from page 1A

spelled out on the consent form, are to increase daily physical activity for children and adults in the neighborhood; increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists; reduce traffic around the neighborhood and

school and increase community connections by helping neighbors to get to know each other.

The volunteers walk at the front of the line, in the middle and the end to ensure the train makes its way safely to school. However, the rules allow for interaction.

"I think part of the beauty of it is that it is not so regimented because then the kids wouldn't walk at all. It's a pleasure. The kids like it. If you make it so that they walk in a straight line, no talking, they wouldn't enjoy it. It's a fun thing," Benkert said.

The volunteers hope to expand the program and

that we would like to keep in Largo."

The Barley Mow, a craft beer bar, opened Nov. 10. The owners are in the process of obtaining federal approval to brew a variety of beers. Dingham, who was at a meeting, said business is good and sales have increased weekly.

"The only thing missing from Barley Mow Brewing Company is the brewing," Dingman said.

He said the brewery must obtain a federal brewer's notice to do so. He said, "We are down to the last link," which is written permission from the landlord stating that they have permission to brew on the premises. City officials said they would address that request.

has been selected, they are in the early stages of the project.

The cost of the proposed Pinellas County project, which includes 24 miles of light rail, 16 stations, the right of way and structures, is \$1.5 billion to \$1.7 billion, consultants have said.

Basically, the proposed rail line follows the CSX corridor between Clearwater and Largo and continues along East Bay Drive with a connection to the Clearwater-St. Petersburg Airport. It runs along Roosevelt Boulevard and Ulmerton Road, connecting to the Gateway area, Pinellas Park and downtown St. Petersburg. It also includes a regional connection across Tampa Bay.

Haselden said her group members have attended meetings county officials have held pertaining to transit planning. Officials were invited to the meeting at Feather Sound. Among the officials in attendance were county Commissioners Nancy Bostock, Norm Roche and Neil Brickfield and Largo City Commissioner Curtis Holmes.

Asked why no official from agencies involved in Pinellas transit planning was asked to make a presentation, Haselden said the organization has heard the agencies' position on transit and now South Pinellas 912 wants to present its side. She said the group spent a lot of time and money to bring in national speakers who have experience with transit in areas that Pinellas officials have made reference to in its discussions.

encourage parents to participate. For more information, contact the school at 558-3580.

"I like working with kids, period," said Evelyn Barbara, another volunteer. "Being around them you get to know the different personalities - things that may be going on at home. They have someone to talk to."

Police beat

Two die in shooting

LARGO - The deaths of a married couple who appear to have been arguing in their vehicle is under investigation.

At about 12:22 p.m. April 25, Largo police officers responded to a reported shooting. The incident occurred in the parking lot of the Walgreens Pharmacy located at 2991 Roosevelt Blvd., police said.

A married couple was traveling eastbound on Roosevelt Boulevard. They appeared to be having a domestic argument as their vehicle was being driven carelessly in the roadway. At a point the vehicle pulled into the Walgreens parking lot.

The male driver exited a Red Ford pickup and shot the female passenger several times with a handgun. The male then shot himself once in the chest. Both subjects died on scene.

The two individuals are James Ronald Wolski, 35, of Largo and Stacie Dinae Wolski, 40, of Largo.

Police arrest man at bar

LARGO - A man was arrested April 29 after he allegedly caused a disturbance at a local bar. Largo police reports said that at 10 p.m. Lance Anglada, 42, of Largo caused a disturbance at Wild Wilky's bar off Ulmerton Road.

He was asked to leave and refused to do so. Once officers arrived, he was again asked to leave and refused to do so. Once outside the bar, he continued his attempts to go back into the bar. He was arrested and taken

to jail. Anglada was charged with disorderly conduct, resisting an officer without violence, and trespass after warning. He is in jail in lieu of \$550 bond.

Operation nets 758 pounds of drugs

LARGO - Pinellas County residents turned in more than 758 pounds of unwanted and unused prescription drugs during the April 28 Operation Medicine Cabinet.

This was the seventh collection event since 2009. Saturday's four-hour event took place in 14 locations throughout the county and was held in conjunction with the federal Drug Enforcement Agency's National Take Back Day.

According to Pinellas County Sheriff's deputies, the breakdown for collections was as follows:

- Sheriff's Office, 113.77 pounds
- Clearwater Police Department, 381 pounds
- Largo Police Department, 38.25 pounds
- Pinellas Park Police Department, 35.12 pounds
- Treasure Island Police Department, 2.14 pounds
- Gulfport Police Department, 8 pounds
- St. Pete Beach Police Department, 13.4 pounds
- Tarpon Springs Police Department, 12.5 pounds
- St. Petersburg Police Department, 154 pounds

The Sheriff's Office operates Operation Medicine Cabinet year-round, except during the four-hour events. Residents can

drop off medications during business hours at the Sheriff's Administration Building, 10750 Ulmerton Road, Largo; and the Sheriff's North District Office, 737 Loudon Ave., Dunedin.

If possible, please safely remove medications from bottles and place in zip lock bags. Liquids should remain within their original containers and the caps secured with tape. Remember to remove labels from the bottles and destroy them.

This program is for the public and not for commercial use, including doctors' offices. Any prescription drug or medicine used for people or pets, including pills, liquids, inhalers, patches and Epi-Pens. No syringes or medical equipment will be accepted.

Service honors fallen canines

PALM HARBOR - The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and the Clearwater Police Department honored fallen police canines during a memorial service Tuesday, April 24, at Curlew Hills Memory Gardens Pet Cemetery, 1750 Curlew Road in Palm Harbor.

During the annual service, the agencies honored retired canines from both units that have passed away.

At this year's memorial, three service canines were remembered:

- K-9 King, 1972-1984, Years of Service: 1973-1978
Handler: Ray Poole (Retired Lieutenant), Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
- K-9 King was one of the origi-



Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and Clearwater Police Department honor fallen police canines during an annual ceremony at Curlew Hills Memory Gardens Pet Cemetery in Palm Harbor. King, Nitro and Mako are among those remembered at the April 24 event.

nal PCSO Canines

- K-9 Nitro, 2001-2011, Years of Service: 2002-2009

Handler: Deputy Robert Cahoon, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

- K-9 Mako, 1997-2011, Years of Service: 1998-2005

Handler: Sergeant James Hall, Clearwater Police Department

Detective recognized

TALLAHASSEE - Pinellas County Sheriff's Homicide Detective John Spoor, along with several other law enforcement and civilian recipients, were recognized by Gov. Rick Scott and

See POLICE BEAT, page 6A

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POLICE BEAT, from page 5A

the Florida Cabinet during National Victims' Rights Week. In a special presentation April 25 at the state Capitol in Tallahassee, Spoor and other winners received a special tribute for their commitment to preserving the rights of crime victims in Florida.

Spoor was nominated for this honor for his work in connection with a 2006 cold case homicide.

On Oct. 29, 2006, Hoeschele Bernard Thomas, 48, was shot and gravely wounded just after 1 a.m. in front of a residence located at 11706 126th Terrace in Largo.

Sheriff's deputies and detectives responded, the crime scene was processed and evidence gathered, but the case eventually became a cold case.

In May of 2011, Spoor reviewed the case, and began making connections between the Hoeschele Thomas homicide and other crimes in the area at that time, notably, an unsolved drive-by shooting in Clearwater, and an auto theft in Largo.

He incorporated these cases into the homicide case, and began to get results. He coordinated with multiple prisons to conduct interviews of witnesses, and was able to use current charges, pending cases, prison locations and length of sentences to convince multiple subjects to cooperate.

His painstaking work paid-off, and Spoor was able to establish a suspect in the homicide, Lloyd "Pooh" Neal, who was already serving a life sentence for a murder committed in Clearwater. Spoor's efforts resulted in the successful charging of a suspect who killed two people.

Former fire chief sentenced to life

CLEARWATER - Former Clearwater Fire Chief Jamie Geer was sentenced to life in prison on April 27 when he was found guilty of sexual battery, lewd or lascivious battery and unlawful sexual activity with a minor. The

sexual battery charge carried a mandatory life term.

Geer, 58, was arrested in December 2010 when he was accused of having an ongoing sexual relationship with a girl known to him from the time she was about 8 until well into her teens. He was immediately fired as fire chief upon his arrest.

Man charged with domestic kidnapping, battery

CLEARWATER - Clearwater police responded to the 3000 block of St. John Drive on April 27 to respond to an armed, suicidal subject, according to a police Facebook report.

While en route, units were advised that Tyler Arpi, 19, of Safety Harbor allegedly forced an 18-year-old woman he knew into a vehicle against her will, the report said. He was believed to be armed with a handgun. Units circulated around the area to look for the vehicle, which was located at Enterprise Road and McMullen Booth Road. Arpi was arrested during a traffic stop.

Arpi was charged with tampering with a domestic witness, domestic battery - strike or touch, and domestic kidnapping and bodily harm. No bail was set for him, and he was being held at the Pinellas County Jail.

An air-soft gun and knife were recovered from the vehicle.

Man charged for sexually battering two women

CLEARWATER - A Clearwater man was arrested after he allegedly abducted a 45-year-old woman at gunpoint on South Myrtle Avenue and Bryant Street around 3 a.m. on April 25, according to a Clearwater Police Facebook post.

Larry Coburn, 34, allegedly abducted the woman and drove her to Largo where he sexually battered her before eventually letting her go. The victim called police, and law enforcement officers searched for a gold four-door Toyota, which was later spotted in Largo.

The suspect fled on foot.

Around the same time, the Belleair Police Department said they had a second victim - a 51-year-old female who also said she was sexually battered at gunpoint by the suspect.

Clearwater police officers found the suspect on Ranchwood Drive around noon, where he was working for a lawn service. The suspect has an extensive criminal history of violent crimes, the report said, and he is on federal probation for a 2003 narcotics charge.

Coburn is charged with two counts of sexual battery, armed robbery, kidnapping, kidnapping while committing a felony, and is also on a hold for the U.S. Marshals. There is no bail offered for the sexual battery charges and for the Marshals hold, but bail for the remaining charges was set at \$450,000.

Off-duty deputy killed in crash

LARGO -Pinellas County Sheriff's deputy Jason Shoulta was fatally injured in a motorcycle crash while off duty just after noon, Friday, April 27.

Shoulta, 43, of Oldsmar has been with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office since March 3, 1999. He was currently assigned to the Patrol Operations Bureau, and has also served as a Bailiff in Court Security and was a member of the SWAT Team, among other assignments.

In a message to all members of the Sheriff's Office, Gualtieri said, "Our thoughts and prayers are with Jason's family and friends. There is no sense that can be made of such a tragedy and no words that can make this easier on anyone."

The Florida Highway Patrol investigated the crash, which occurred 12:15 p.m. April 27 in Pasco County. The location was the intersection of Perrine Ranch Road and County Road 77 (Seven Springs Road).

According to the FHP news release, Shoulta was operating his 2010 Harley-Davidson Street Glider southbound on County Road 77 approach-

ing the intersection with Perrine Ranch Road.

The second driver, Taylor Anne Vanderbilt, 20, of Tampa was driving her vehicle northbound on County Road 77. FHP crash investigators say preliminary findings show that Vanderbilt attempted to make a left turn into a gas station at that intersection and entered directly into Shoulta's path.

Shoulta attempted to avoid a collision by abruptly applying the brakes but still struck the right rear of Vanderbilt's car. He suffered critical injuries and was transported to Bayonet Point Hospital. He was pronounced deceased at 1:23 p.m.

The Sheriff's Office critical incident teams are assisting Shoulta's family and colleagues.

Man charged with domestic kidnapping, battery

CLEARWATER - Clearwater police responded to the 3000 block of St. John Drive on April 27 to respond to an armed, suicidal subject, according to a police Facebook report.

While en route, units were advised that Tyler Arpi, 19, of Safety Harbor allegedly forced an 18-year-old woman he knew into a vehicle against her will, the report said. He was believed to be armed with a handgun. Units circulated around the area to look for the vehicle, which was located at Enterprise Road and McMullen Booth Road. Arpi was arrested during a traffic stop.

Arpi was charged with tampering with a domestic witness, domestic battery - strike or touch, and domestic kidnapping and bodily harm. No bail was set for him, and he was being held at the Pinellas County Jail.



Deputy Jason Shoulta

An air-soft gun and knife were recovered from the vehicle.

Student throws 'destructive device' at school

CLEARWATER - A 17-year-old student at Countryside High reportedly set off a "destructive device" at the school around April 27, 12:20 p.m., according to a Clearwater Police Facebook report. Police responded to the incident.

The student mixed chemicals in a bottle and threw it in an outside hallway that leads to the parking lot, the report said. No one was injured, but one female student was taken to a local hospital to be evaluated after complaining about a headache from fumes.

Police arrested the student who threw the device.

Fatal motorcycle accident on Belcher

PINELLAS PARK - A motorcyclist died after crashing into a SUV on Belcher Road April 24.

Pinellas Park police and fire rescue personnel responded to the crash in the 12000 block of Belcher Road at around 8:20 p.m. The motorcyclist - Sergio Valdivieso, 34, of Largo - was not wearing a helmet and was transported via helicopter to Bayfront Medical Center with life-threatening injuries. Investigators later discovered that Valdivieso had died on the evening of April 25.

Valdivieso was driving his 2003 Suzuki motorcycle north on Belcher Road when he collided with a 2001 Mitsubishi SUV, according to police reports. The driver of the SUV - Diana Moss, 49, of Largo - had initiated a left turn into the path of the motorcycle. She was not injured in the crash.

Speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors in the crash, investigators report. No charges have been filed at this time. The crash remains under investigation.

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Jones calls session 'banner year' for beach interests

By BOB MCCLURE

MADEIRA BEACH – State Sen. Dennis Jones may be leaving office but his final year will be remembered for a long time as a good one for Pinellas County beach interests.

Jones, R-Indian Shores, is leaving office due to term limits but calls the end to his long legislative career a banner year as far as the beaches go.

"The governor had \$10 million in the budget for beaches but (State) Representative (Jim) Frishe and I, by working with the (Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association), got it to \$22 million," Jones told members of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council. "When we match it with federal dollars, it will give us \$58 million (for fiscal 2013)."

Unlike a year ago, Frishe said Scott better understands the need for maintaining the state's beaches.

"The governor finally understands beaches are the seed corn for the state's tourism," said Frishe. "That's what makes our economy in the Bay area tick, particularly here in Pinellas County."

ty." Jones said the fiscal 2013 money would help the state to fund seven beach nourishment projects, including a \$5.6 million effort at Honeymoon Island State Park that will start in the fall.

This will be the first beach upgrade to the popular park since 2008 when it received nourishment and T-head erosion control structures. This time around there will be more structural upgrades, said Andy Squires, coastal manager at Pinellas County Environment and Infrastructure.

Jones said he expected beach nourishment funding to slowly return at the state level. Most of the funding comes from the documentary tax stamp collections.

"It's not where we need it to be but we haven't removed the statutory language," Jones said. "So as the economy comes back, funding will grow."

Frishe said beach interests got a major shot in the arm this session with the passage of the



Dennis Jones

Dennis Jones Beach and Preservation Act, which streamlines the permit process with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for nourishment projects. Among other things, the measure repealed a law that required a permit when taking a (beach sand) core sample.

By passing the legislation, it lowers the cost of nourishment and puts projects on a faster time cycle.

Jones said the next step would be to pass legislation to protect identified sand service areas used for nourishment purposes from oil and gas pipes.

"Mapping the Gulf and Atlantic is the most important thing we can do," he said.

Jones also said continued education with new state legislators on beach issues would be very important as long as term limits are in place.

"There are going to be new members that you're going to have to educate," Jones said. "They're good people but they don't know a thing. It's going to take time to get them up to speed. They've got to realize that one-third of the state's economy is tourism."

In other action:

• Indian Shores Mayor Jim Lawrence said allocation of the Pinellas County Gulf Boulevard Beautification Funds has been delayed again, this time by County Administrator Bob LaSala due to questions about the minimum number of public parking spaces necessary to receive state funds for beach nourishment. LaSala said Belleair Beach may be billed up to \$200,000 that the county is expected to lose in state funding because Belleair Beach is not meeting public parking regulations. Indian Shores is also affected and may have to pay up to \$64,000. Both towns are challenging the county mandate. If they lose, their portion of the additional costs could come out of their Gulf Boulevard Beautification Fund proceeds. According to a memo from former Pinellas County Coastal Coordinator Nicole Elko, one parking space is necessary for every 53 feet of shoreline to be eligible for state nourishment funds.

• Former BIG-C president Nick Simons was given an honorary gavel.

• Squires said this year's Sand Key nourishment project is now expected to begin around May 12.

County attorney gets good review

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – County Attorney Jim Bennett is doing a good job, according to his 2012 performance review. In a report revealed April 24, Bennett scored 381.5 out of 400.

Bennett scored a 4 out of 4.10 for his personal and professional integrity and the integrity of his department. He also scored a 4 for his ability to perform legal services in a timely manner and for keeping commissioners and staff informed of court rulings and other matters affecting legal interests in the county.

His weak area was communication – advocacy for policies, programs or ideas that serve the best interest of the county and communication of information to the media in a way that increases public understanding of county issues and activities and builds a positive relationship with the media.

County Administrator Bob LaSala pointed out that while the review was favorable, no merit increase is attached due to a freeze on staff raises.

Bennett thanked the commission for its support and said he'll have 25 years working in the County Attorney's Office in June.

Voting conflicts discussed

Commissioners recently asked Bennett to research the differences in rules for elected and appointed officials in terms of participating in decision-making conflicts when there is a voting conflict.

Bennett said his research shows that a local elected official with a voting conflict does not have to state publicly the nature of his or her interest in the matter until before the vote. Appointed officials must disclose that they have a voting conflict prior to participation in the matter.

There is no restriction of an elected official's participation, which by state statute is defined as "any attempt to influence the decision by oral or written communication," Bennett told commissioners.

Appointed officials who intend to participate must file a memorandum of voting conflict prior to the meeting where the matter will come

up for vote, or if the disclosure has not been made prior to the meeting, appointed officials must disclose that they have a voting conflict prior to participating.

Bennett said he could find no legal reason for the differences in the state statutes. He said commissioners were free to be more restrictive and could restrict or eliminate an appointed official's right to participate when they have a voting conflict.

Commissioner Ken Welch said the issue of participation and voting conflicts had come up at the Metropolitan Organization and Local Planning Agency. He said people participating when they have a voting conflict could still influence a decision. He advocates "sitting out the entire matter."

Commissioner Susan Latvala said that members of some boards have members appointed for their expertise and that having them refrain from participation might not allow them to provide a "level of understanding" to other members.

"Declaring (a voting conflict) put colleagues on notice ...," Latvala said. "They'll have less influence because they declared."

Commissioner Karen Seel said she would like to see the rules be the same for all officials and that voting conflicts be known from the start. She said when she has a voting conflict, "I don't want to participate at all."

Commissioner Norm Roche said that while Latvala made a good point, he agreed with Seel.

"If they have a voting conflict, they shouldn't be involved at all," he said. "And a board with only one person with expertise is rare. It would be better to not even be involved."

Bennett said he would work on an ordinance or resolution to make the county's participation rules uniform for elected and appointed officials with a preference on no participation in matters where a voting conflict was involved. Officials also would be required to state the conflict upfront.



Jim Bennett

Briefs

Beach recycling expands to more areas

Visitors to Pinellas County beaches will be able to recycle more materials at more locations, which began May 1.

The expanded recycling effort along the beaches is part of Phase II of the Gulf Beaches Recycling Program and will include an expanded, more efficient collection. Waste Management Inc. has been selected as the vendor providing centralized collection and reporting services.

As in Phase I of the recycling program, residents and visitors should look for new blue plastic recycling containers at beach access areas and along the beaches. The convenient containers for collecting recyclables will be placed near parking areas so beachgoers can drop off items as they enter or leave the beach. Recycling bins also may be located along the beach side for the convenience of the public. Phase II of this program offers the potential to recycle more materials. With the exception of yard waste, all recyclable materials defined in the Recycle Today directory are acceptable, such as aluminum, plastics, magazines and newspapers. The directory can be accessed at www.pinellascounty.org/recycle.

Phase II of the Gulf Beaches Recycling Program is expanding services in the towns of North Redington Beach, Redington Beach, and Redington Shores. Additionally, county beach access areas such as Fred Howard Park, Tiki Gardens beach access, Park Boulevard boat ramp, and St. Pete Beach also are included in the program.

Pinellas County staff, Waste Management and representatives from the participating Phase II cities recently met to analyze the various sites and coordinate operations. Reports from the participants in Phase I indicate high participation rates and minimal contamination.

With an estimated 13 million visitors to Pinellas County each year, this program will deliver a strong eco-friendly message to all beachgoers.

See BRIEFS, page 8A

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County seeks public input on prescription drug law

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Commissioners approved May 8 as the date for a public hearing on proposed ordinance amendments that continue the local fight against prescription drug abuse.

Commissioners first approved an ordinance on May 4, 2010, that set a moratorium on pain management clinics operating in Pinellas. This moratorium also required clinics to register so officials could better track the number of pain management clinics in the county and set basic standards to operate a pain management clinic.

Commissioners were concerned about a lack of action by the state Legislature. The local ordinance provided additional methods the sheriff and others could use to combat what many describe as a prescription drug abuse epidemic.

An amendment approved on Sept. 28, 2010, required clinics to provide additional registration information and pay a fee to allow the county to recoup costs from administering the program.

Officials soon realized that by restricting their efforts toward pain management clinics, they were missing a segment of physicians termed as high prescribers of pain medications. The commission amended the ordinance again on Nov. 8, 2011, to require registration of clinics if doctors write 34 or more prescriptions for a certain class of narcotic drugs. The ordinance's title was changed from pain management to high prescribers. The registration fee was reduced and standards of care by high prescribers were added to the ordinance.

The moratorium also was extended until 60 days after the end of the 2012 legislative session as commissioners again waited to see if the state would take action to prevent prescription drug abuse. Since

County commissioners were concerned about a lack of action by the state Legislature. The local ordinance provided additional methods the sheriff and others could use to combat what many describe as a prescription drug abuse epidemic.

no action was taken, commissioners will discuss the possibility of extending the moratorium on any new high prescribing clinics until 60 days after lawmakers convene in 2013. The Prescription Drug Advisory Task Force also recommends changing the minimum number of prescriptions high prescribing physicians write a day from 34 to 20. No change is proposed for the registration fee.

Airport rules and regulations

Commissioners also approved a request from staff to advertise a public hearing on June 5 to consider repealing existing airport rules and regulations for the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport in favor of new ones.

The first airport rules and regulations were approved March 3, 1977, with subsequent amendments on Jan. 24, 1984, July 24, 1984, June 27, 1995 and April 27, 1999. On Dec. 5, 2000, they were repealed and re-adopted.

Staff has prepared revised rules and regulations that comply with

current practices, procedures and regulations. Revisions include, but are not limited to, updated definitions, new self-fueling policy and modification of erroneous and obsolete subject matter, according to a staff report.

Airport tenants were provided with a final draft of the proposed new rules and regulations for review and comment. Staff said no comments were received within the 30-day review period.

Dunedin Downtown Master Plan

Commissioners approved advertising of a May 22 public hearing on the proposed Dunedin Downtown Master Plan.

Twenty-three years have lapsed since the commission approved the city of Dunedin's redevelopment plan for 217 acres located in the downtown and surrounding vicinity. The city now proposes to extend its redevelopment planning and tax increment financing another 15 years to 2033.

The redevelopment district boundaries are generally New York Avenue to the east, Hancock, Jackson and Bay streets to the north, the St. Joseph's Sound to the west, and Scot/and Wood streets to the south.

The Dunedin City Commission adopted the updated plan Jan. 6, 2011, and is requesting the commission's approval of the update.

Since the Dunedin Community Redevelopment District was established in 1988, the county has contributed \$2,541,888 in tax increments (ad valorem taxes) to the district's redevelopment trust fund. County staff says any changes to the tax increment financing arrangement would have to be decided at a subsequent public hearing following approval of the plan update.

BRIEFS, from page 7A

Visit www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/beamch or call 464-7500 for more information.

PSTA helps rescue lost family member

ST. PETERSBURG – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, along with Tampa and St. Petersburg police departments, joined together April 16 to quickly find and reunite a missing woman with her family.

"I got the call from Tampa Police around 9:40 in the morning and within 15 minutes we were able to get her enroute back to her family," said PSTA Safety and Security supervisor Jim Egbert. "It was outstanding teamwork ... along with some really good luck."

Tampa detectives had been looking for 76-year-old Virga Black after she was reported missing from her Bank Drive home just after midnight on Monday, April 16. They tried several times to reach Black on her cell phone, but she did not answer. Eventually a stranger answered the phone and said that he had bought it for \$20

from a lady who was riding the bus in Pinellas County. With that tip, detectives contacted PSTA with Black's description and asked if the agency's Bus Operators could keep an eye out for her.

PSTA dispatchers immediately radioed their operators a description of the missing woman. Within minutes, she was spotted in Williams Park in downtown St. Petersburg.

"I had just started my day and was preparing the bus when I heard the call come over the radio," said PSTA bus operator Karen O'Hara. "They were looking for a woman with a brown jacket, brown pants and an orange hat. Sure

enough, there she was walking right by my bus. I went over and asked if she was lost and she said, 'I don't think so, but I lost my medicine.'"

O'Hara escorted Black back to her bus and called authorities to let them know she had been found. St. Petersburg Police met the bus at Gateway Mall and stayed with her until she was picked up by Tampa Police and reunited with her family.

"We are grateful for the partnership between PSTA and law enforcement. The quick decision of the bus operator may have saved a life," said Tampa Police Chief, Jane Castor.

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County OKs \$2.46 million contract

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Commissioners unanimously approved a six-year \$2.46 million contract April 24 with Environment Systems Research Institute for geographic information systems software, maintenance, training and support services.

An interagency Enterprise GIS Steering Committee that has been studying the county's needs since the summer of 2010 recommended contract approval.

According to a staff report, GIS is an integral part of the county's operation. The use of GIS also has been increasing, due to increased use of the technology by the public.

The committee assessed GIS best practices by local government and came up with a strategy and short-term action plan, which included use of common countywide GIS data standards. The plan also includes consolidation of GIS infrastructure, technology support and development services into Business Technology Services, instead of individual departments.

Currently, county departments are using a variety of GIS applications and some are out of date and no longer supported by vendors. However, the county has made a "significant investment" over the past few years in Environment Systems Research Institute products and services, the committee reports.

"ESRI is recognized as the world's leading GIS software vendor and ESRI's solutions

have become the defacto GIS standard in government," according to a staff report written by Property Appraiser Pam Dubov, BTS Director Paul Alexander and Purchasing Manager Joe Lauro, all members of the EGIS committee. "Since the county invested heavily in this software product, it was prudent to leverage the established close working relationship with ESRI to negotiate directly on a noncompetitive basis and bypass potential resellers of the product line."

The county's enterprise license agreement also includes provisions that allow local municipalities and the county to "seamlessly collaborate and share data," at no additional costs the report said.

During the first four years of the agreement, the county can install an unlimited quantity of ESRI software for a fixed cost of \$1,872,000. On the fourth year, the county must complete an inventory of installed software, which will be used to establish the perpetual license ownership.

Software maintenance and support services will cost a total of \$294,100 for each of the final two years of the agreement.

In other business, the commission:

- Discussed the possibility of creating a countywide domestic partnership registry. Welch said the cities of Clearwater, Gulfport and St. Petersburg were talking about creating a registry. He said it would give residents the right to visit their partners in the hospital and make critical care decisions.

"It makes sense for this to be countywide – not something passed by each city," he said in terms of ease of use of a registry by area health facilities.

Commissioner Nancy Bostock said she would like to learn more. Commissioner Ken Welch said he had asked staff to look at what others are doing and see what "it would look like" in Pinellas.

- Agreed to schedule a work session on the possibility of using sponsorships of mile markers on the Pinellas Trail and naming rights of park facilities to raise more money to pay for trails and parks.

Welch advised caution, remembering the "last time we tried to generate money for the parks and things got out of hand."

Commissioner Susan Latvala said the Parks Board was scheduled to discuss the idea and the possibility of beginning with a pilot program on a short piece of the trail to see if it works.

Budget information sessions scheduled

Pinellas County Commissioners will hold two budget information sessions in the community during the month of May. The sessions, in the city halls of Safety Harbor and St. Petersburg, will include updates on the development of the fiscal year 2013 budget. During the citizens to be heard portion of the meetings, citizens are welcome to share their views about the budget, the values they feel are most important to the community and the vision they have for the county's future.

The business information sessions are:

- Thursday, May 10, 5 p.m., Safety Harbor City Hall, 750 Main St.
- Tuesday, May 15, 5 p.m., St. Petersburg City Hall, 175 Fifth St. N.

This agenda will include a presentation by Sheriff Bob Gualtieri. Pinellas County is currently looking at an estimated \$11.9 million shortfall for fiscal year 2013. An additional \$10.7 million shortfall is projected for fiscal year 2014.

The county is continuing to work on setting a strategic direction for the future, define the services it provides and consider potential effects to the budget, such as additional unfunded mandates. The new fiscal year will begin on Oct. 1.

For more information, go to www.pinellascounty.org/budget, call 464-2600 or watch a video about the budget at www.youtube.com/pccvt1.

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Pinellas Park detective awarded for military service

By JULIANA A. TORRES

PINELLAS PARK – After returning in January from a 10-month deployment in Afghanistan, Pinellas Park Police Department's Detective Ernest "E.J." Stevens accepted two prestigious awards for his service with the Air Force Reserve over the last year.

Master Sgt. Stevens was named the 2011 Individual Reservist of the Year for the Readiness Management Group, part of the Air Force Reserve, as well as the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Augmentee of the Year for the Air Mobility Command's security forces. He also was a 2011 nominee for Air Force Reserve Command Outstanding Airman of the Year in the Senior Noncommissioned Officer category. He was one of 17 nominees from the entire Air Force Reserves for that award.

"It was wonderful," Stevens said. "I was very humbled that someone would put me in for such an award."

Stevens, 39, and his wife, Clare, traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to accept the Airman of the Year award during banquets held on April 9 and 10.

Stevens has served in the military for almost 20 years, first serving active duty with the Air Force for five years before switching to the reserves, reverting back to active duty twice, for Operation Desert Storm during the Persian Gulf War and after Sept. 11.

During his recent deployment to Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, he served as a Fly-Away Security Program Manager for the 455th Security Forces Expeditionary Squadron. Stevens oversaw up to 20 security teams, coordinated the flights scheduled for the day, gathered and disseminated intelligence, attended weekly meetings and also flew with the teams as they accompanied the transportation of cargo, troops and distinguished visitors.

"Our job was to provide security for those resources on the ground and in the air," he said. "We're a cab service in the air."

Stevens said he had a busy schedule handling what came down to a 24-hour-a-day, 7-days-a-week job.

"You get to sleep and something happens – you got to get up, and then you have to fulfill your obligations for your other shift. You're up for pretty much 20-some hours before you get to take a nap," he said.

Part of Stevens' task involved updating the annual training plan with new standard operating procedures and operating instructions.

"When I took over, we pretty much revamped everything, because it needed to be updated and had to be consistent with what everybody else was doing," he explained. "The nice thing about that is they used our system as a footprint for the whole region."

Stevens had been deployed two previous times, but said his time in Afghanistan was different.

"You had to be more aware of your surroundings," he said. "We got rocketed probably every other day. We had local nationals that were working on (the) installation, where you didn't know if they were a secret cell, or may have some ties to the Taliban."

The constant awareness was not unfamiliar to Stevens, who said he had to take the same precautions as he would wearing a police badge back

home. "You don't have rockets. But there's always terrorists everywhere," he said.

Due to halts in normal delivery routes, the military wasn't able to get certain food, making the overall food quality "substandard," Stevens said.

"We had to deal with oatmeal and (powdered) eggs that weren't all that great," he said. "They did the best they could. You're bound to lose weight over there."

Since his last deployments, Stevens had married Clare, now his wife of six years. Missing her and his children, two girls ages 2 and 4 and a 16-year-old son, made the deployment to Afghanistan that much harder.

"It was a little bit hard to adjust not having them all the time to talk to," he said. "But Skype is a wonderful thing."

Aside from video chats, Stevens said he was grateful for the support of family, friends and even Pinellas Park businesses and people he dealt with as a police officer who sent him packages and emails.

Stevens said he "couldn't be happier" at the Pinellas Park Police Department, where he's worked for the last 10 years. The Pittsburgh native ended up in the Tampa Bay area due to his travels with the military. At the end of his deployment following Sept. 11, he was stationed at MacDill Air Force Base, appointed as the noncommissioned officer in charge of security force training.

His superintendent at the time, Glenn Luben, now a lieutenant with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, encouraged him to join law enforcement.

"He told me to resign from my computer job in Texas and move down to Florida and get a job with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office," Stevens remembered.

Stevens had served as a road officer at a much smaller police department in Pennsylvania, consisting of only 11 sworn officers. He needed only to take a compliance course to be certified to serve as a law enforcement officer in Florida.

Unfortunately, there was a freeze in hiring at the Sheriff's Office. Stevens interviewed with other departments, but in particular, Sgt. Brian Unmishig, in charge of hiring for the Pinellas Park police, took notice of him.

"He called me almost every single day," Stevens said. "This is probably the best department that fit my needs, and also I fit their needs as well. Knowing that I was military, and knowing that I could be deployed at any time, they still hired me."

Stevens was appointed to work as a fraud investigator in department's Criminal Investigations division three years ago. After 10 months off from the job for his deployment, he was itching to return to police work, despite his three weeks leave.

"I couldn't stay away. I had to come in (and ask) 'What kind of cases you got going on? What can I help you with?'" Stevens said. "They just kept telling me, 'Enjoy your time off and stay away from here.'"

Stevens said he finds his work as a detective more fulfilling than his military roles.

"Because I was a victim of fraud myself ... it's important to me to help people get justice, for the things that people did to them," he said. "I can see the results. Whereas, if I'm deployed in a third world country where I was at, you can't actually see the



Master Sgt. Ernest Stevens, who serves as a Pinellas Park detective as well as in the Air Force Reserves is pictured with his trophy as the 2011 Individual Reservist of the Year for the Readiness Management Group.

results until after everything else is said and done over a period of 10 years or 15 years. We were just a small part of creating peace in that region."

Plus, Stevens said he finds the personnel at the department have become like family to him.

"I missed them just as much as I missed my family," he said, though he admitted it was a "little different feeling."

Stevens said his wife, Clare, has been the biggest help in his transition back to civilian life, just by sitting down and talking with him as well as allowing Stevens to take over some of the responsibilities she handled while he was gone, such as the lawn, taking the kids to school, and helping out with the bills.

For his recent awards, Stevens said credit goes to his comrades in the Air Force Reserves and the police department, but mostly to her and his children.

"My wife is pretty much the person that helps me accomplish most of my goals and objectives,"

Stevens said. "I told her, 'This award is pretty much yours, because you helped me get it. We push each other, make each other better.'"

The military awards will go on display, next to his 2009 Officer of the Year Award from Pinellas Park, in his daughters' bedroom.

"They wanted the trophy in their room so they can look at it," Stevens said. "They like the eagle."

Stevens said he's considered retiring from the reserves. He would like to spend more time with his family, concentrate on his law enforcement career and work on obtaining his master's degree in business management (he already had an associate's degree in criminal justice and bachelor's degree in business management).

But Stevens also wants to try to earn the rank of chief master sergeant with the Air Force Reserves.

"I think I can help make changes, and help people succeed in their careers and try to make a difference," he said. "It's something that I still believe in."

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Summer weather is taking hold; tarpon a possibility

Wow, what a beautiful weekend, hopefully you were able to get out. Kingfish, Spanish mackerel, red grouper, grunts, hogfish, tripletail, are just a handful of the many species that are available to anglers right now.

It's starting to feel like summer and it looks like we'll have another front-free weekend, it truly has been a strange spring, but I'll take it. Tarpon are be-

ginning to be a real possibility, and I can't wait to get my first fish hooked up for the season. Kingfish are still around and actually the cool down we had last week will help to keep them around for a little longer.

Kingfish anglers should target near-shore artificial reefs in the 40- to 50-foot range; lots of schoolie-sized kings can be found feasting on the bait schools holding in these



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

depths. Blue runners, cigar minnows and threadfins will get attention if the area is active.

Red grouper fishing has been good for those willing to run

out to the 80 foot depths; the Gulf Queen out of Clearwater marina reported 24 keepers on the boat last Friday, that's good fishing. Squid, frozen sardines and live pinfish will all work for the reds.

Hogfish have been a reliable target for those willing to take live or fresh frozen shrimp offshore. Gag grouper closures have forced anglers to diversify a bit. A combination of a pink

half-ounce jig head and a shrimp dragged along the bottom on the sandy side of natural ledges can produce good numbers of hogfish. Along with the hogfish this combination will yield big grunts and the occasional keeper red grouper.

Tripletail season is here and there are still plenty of crab traps out there to check, just another incentive to take live shrimp offshore. Live shrimp

are the best but pilchards are a good choice as well.

Until next week - get bent!
Tyson Wallerstein can be reached at 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 or mail it to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772.

Briefs

Junior Golf Tourney set for May 19

LARGO - Largo Golf Course, 12500 Vonn Road, is hosting the 2012 Junior Golf Tournament May 19 for boys and girls ages 6-17. Youth will be divided into three age groups, 6-9, 10-13, and 14-17. Start times will begin promptly at 7:30 a.m. for ages 6-9 and 9:30 a.m. for ages 10-17. Check-in is required 30 minutes prior to tee time. Girls will play from the gold tee markers; boys will play from the black tee markers. Six to 9 year olds are permitted to have a caddie (walking only). No caddies or electric carts for ages 10-17 (pull carts or carry only permitted). Pairings will be posted at LargoGolf.com by May 15.

All tournament participants will receive a T-shirt and a post-event meal. Awards will be presented to the top three boys and girls in each age category. Entry fee is \$45 per golfer before May 5, and \$55 after May 5. Preregistration is required by May 12. Registration forms are available at the Largo Golf Course Pro Shop or online at Largo.com. Convenient online registration is available at Active.com. For more information, contact Jason at 518-3024 or email jwilson@largo.com.

Get Fitness, 5K Run/Walk set for May 12

LARGO - Get Fitness will host a 5K Run/Walk Saturday, May 12, 8 a.m., at George C. McGough Park, 11901 146th St.

Festivities will begin at 8 a.m. Registration is open now at GetFitness.com. The first 250 registrants will get an inaugural race T-shirt, designed by Braden Rothig. All attendees will enjoy a free post-race health fair at Get Fitness with displays and healthy giveaways. Preregistration is \$15 (by check or \$15.75 online). Day of race registration is \$20.

Hundreds will take part in the event to support The Arthritis Research Institute of America Inc., a nonprofit research group studying osteoarthritis, the most common form of arthritis, with a 25-year study of more than 3,700 local participants.

A free family health day will take place in the park from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Local wellness providers like The Florida Institute for Hypnotherapy will be there with free screenings and giveaways.

Dedicated to the study of the No. 1 crippler of American adults, The Arthritis Research Institute of America provides important long-term research on osteoarthritis, which affects more than 21 million American adults.

Muschamp to speak at Gator clubs

TAMPA - The Pinellas County Gator Club and The Tampa Gator Club will present Gator Gathering 2012, featuring University of Florida head football coach Will Muschamp, Tuesday, May 22, at Wyndham Tampa Westshore, 700 N. Westshore Blvd., Tampa.

This year's event will feature a cash bar with signature Gator cocktails, a three-course sit-down dinner, autograph signing by Coach Muschamp, shop opportunities at Gator vendors, raffles, door prizes and much more.

Happy hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner service begins at 6:30 p.m.

The cost is \$35 for UFAA members and \$45 for Non-UFAA members. Add \$5 on day of event. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pinellasgators.com.

Gator Club hosts scholarship event

ST. PETERSBURG - The Pinellas County Gator Club's 10th Annual Emerson Celebration of Scholarship will be held Tuesday, June 5, 6:30 p.m., at 11 Central Ave.

The event's mission is to raise money for scholarships awarded to county students who will attend the University of Florida.

The evening will include passed hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment, a silent auction, presentation of scholarships to local students, and a cash bar with signature Gator cocktails.

Each year, the Pinellas County Gator Club honors a Gator great who makes a difference in the community. This year the club will recognize David Feaster, president and CEO of Cornerstone Community Bank.

Tickets are \$30 for UFAA members, \$40 nonmembers. Space is limited. Register for this event online at PinellasGators.com. Sponsor tables and VIP tickets are available.

Contact Lauren Christ for more information. Call 432-1470 or Gatorlvc@gmail.com.

Clearwater Audubon Society to meet

CLEARWATER - The Clearwater Audubon Society will meet Monday, May 7, at Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail Lane.

The event will kick off with a mix-and-mingle at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7 p.m.

Dolly Cummings, a representative of the League of Environmental Educators in Florida, will lead an insightful audience participation activity that can assist in asking the right questions about the candidates and issues coming up on the 2012 ballot. Since the focus of LEFF is on awareness, communication, and growth with respect to Florida's natural environment, this program will provide a special voter resource to attendees.

Call 462-6024 or visit www.clearwateraudubon.com.

Largo Recreation to host Camp Funshine

LARGO - Largo Recreation will host more than 60 full- and half-day summer camps.

Camp Funshine, a full day camp for grades completed K-5, will feature themed activities, swimming, field trips, arts and crafts, sports and special guests. The camp will be offered Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6

p.m., at Ponce De Leon Elementary School, 1301 Ponce De Leon Blvd., Clearwater. Camp Funshine will kick off on Monday, June 11 and will continue through Friday, Aug. 10.

Campers may sign up by the week or for the entire camp. Cost is \$76 a week for residents and \$95 for nonresidents. After care is available from 4 to 6 p.m. for an additional cost.

For information on Camp Funshine and other Largo summer camps, call 518-3016 or visit LargoCamps.com.

Philippe to host nature walk

SAFETY HARBOR - A guided nature walk will be offered Saturdays, May 19, June 16, 9 to 10:30 a.m., at Philippe Park, 2525 Philippe Parkway.

The hike is limited to 12 participants. Attendees will learn park history while exploring nature. Participants should meet at the Philippe gravesite at 9 a.m. Closed-toe shoes, water, sunscreen a hat and insect repellent are recommended. Reservations will be accepted through the Friday prior to the hike. An adult must accompany children.

To register, call 669-1947.

Weedon to present Salty Topics program

ST. PETERSBURG - Salty Topics: Underwater Soundscapes of Coastal Florida will be presented Thursday, May 3, 6:45 to 8 p.m., at the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

The free program is the fourth in the 2012 Winter/Spring Marine Science Speaker series at the center. David Hastings, a faculty member and chemical oceanographer at Eckerd College will discuss ocean acidification and why it matters to Floridians.

Registration is required. Refreshments, donated by Friends of Weedon Island, will be served.

Call 453-6500 or visit www.edonislandpreserve.org.

Weedon to host guided hikes

ST. PETERSBURG - Guided hikes will be offered Saturdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26, 9 to 11 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

Attendees will learn about the ecosystems and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve

Netting a trophy

The Serve Into Spring USTA Tournament for juniors was held April 14 at the Largo Tennis Center, located at the Southwest Recreation Complex in Largo. Sean Crockett, 11, accepts a trophy from Toby O'Brien, who ran the tournament, for winning the Boys 12s.



while going along on this free guided hike. Participants should bring water and a snack. A hat and closed-toe shoes also are recommended. The hike is best for ages 6 and older.

Preregistration is required. Call 453-6500 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Great Weedon Bird Quest set

ST. PETERSBURG - The Great Weedon Bird Quest will be Friday, May 11, 8 to 10 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

Guests will learn to identify marks and behaviors of the island birds while taking advantage of this free guided hike. Binoculars will be available.

Advance registration is required. Call 453-6500 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Weedon to host evening event

ST. PETERSBURG - An Owl and Bat Prowl will be offered Saturday, May 5, 7:45 to 9:30 p.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

As the sun fades below the horizon, visitors will learn about

the night skies' noise as the winged wildlife emerge from their roosts. Attendees will learn about creatures of the night on this evening prowl by investigating screech owl coos, bat clicks and other eerie evening sounds.

Closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing highly recommended. Advance registration is required to participate in this free program.

Call 453-6500 or visit www.edonislandpreserve.org.

Weedon to host Wee-Time

ST. PETERSBURG - Wee-Time at Weedon will be presented Thursdays, May 10 and 24, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

This free program is designed to introduce preschool children to the wonders of the natural and cultural world. Every second and fourth Thursday of each month, children are treated to a variety of stories and hands-on activities that connect them to their environment.

Preregistration is required. To

See OUTDOORS, page 12A

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Are your trees storm ready? Time to take precautions

When it comes to trees and storms, there are victims and there are survivors. The question to ask yourself before the next inevitable – big Florida storm is: Will your tree survive or will it come crashing down on your roof?

Trees have a lot to contend with during storms. High winds snap them and break off branches. Rain loosens the soil, making it harder for the roots to hold them up. And the longer it takes for storms to move through an area, the more water accumulates in the soil and the more battering the trees take.

A tree's survival comes down to whether it is resistant to wind, if it is properly planted and pruned, has enough space for its root system, and is in good health. Trees with these properties can help to protect your home during a storm. Or at least minimize damage.

Here are some things to con-

sider when adding new trees to your landscape or maintaining the ones you already have.

That some trees are naturally more resistant to wind has been shown by surveying those still standing after hurricanes. They include southern magnolia, yaupon holly, dahoon holly, podocarpus, crape myrtle, pondcypress and baldcypress. Palms in this category include pindo, areca, Alexander and sabal. You can find a more comprehensive list at: tinyurl.com/7nneatg

According to the University of Florida's "Trees and Hurricanes," some of the weaker trees are ash, maple, water oaks, pecan, tulip poplar, Bradford pear, southern red oak, Australian pine, floss-silk tree, weeping banyan, silk oak and jacaranda.

After you have selected a tree for your yard and are getting ready to plant it, you need to picture it full grown. Make sure mature trees will have lots of space,

Growing Wise

Jane Morse



both in the air and in the soil, which gives them a better chance of surviving storms. Plant smaller trees near homes, power lines and other structures.

All trees need a certain amount of root space based on their mature size. Trees smaller than 30 feet tall need a soil area of at least 10-by-10 feet and should be at least two feet from paved surfaces. Medium trees with a height and spread less than 50 feet need at least 20 x 20 feet should be six feet from pavement. Trees with a height and spread greater than 50 feet need at least a 30-by-30 foot area and should be 10 feet from pavement. More space is needed if there is a high water table and the roots

have less than a depth of 3 feet for rooting.

When planting for shade it is more important to shade the east and west walls of a house than the roof. Small trees planted fairly close to the house for wall shade will be less hazardous than large trees which can fall on the house. For more information, see these links: tinyurl.com/6qgwm2z and tinyurl.com/6qgfe76.

If you are a do-it-yourself landscaper, dig the hole wide and shallow so that the top 10 percent of the root ball is above ground level. The outer inch or so of the root ball should be shaved off to remove all circling roots, and mulch should be applied 3 inches thick and in an area 2 feet in diameter for each inch of tree trunk diameter. Mulch should come up to the edge of the root ball, but not cover it. Roots will expand best when there are no soil differences, so it is best to stick with

the natural soil and not amend the planting hole. Establishment takes time and providing enough water is critical to tree survival. For more detail see this link: tinyurl.com/7e96cnj.

Trees are like children. When they are young they need lots of training to make sure they grow up strong, straight and healthy. Proper pruning is extremely important for good tree structure and the health of the tree. The most wind-resistant tree form is one that has a single leader or trunk with evenly spaced branches. There should be no narrow forks or branches leaving the trunk and if there are multiple trunks with sharp V angles these are very likely to split apart in a storm. Tree branches should remain 2/3 of their canopy.

Palms, on the other hand, should never have their fronds removed above a horizontal line, or less than a 90 degree angle off of the trunk. The so-called "hurri-

cane cut" is the worst cut of all for palms. Palms treated in this manner are robbed of food and vigor, and will be more likely to sustain severe damage or death from a hurricane.

Having trees that are beautiful, strong, healthy and wind-resistant just takes a little know how. Now that you know what to look for, go outside and inspect your trees. Make sure they have good structure and enough space for their root systems. If a tree needs help, contact a certified arborist who can advise you about pruning steps that can be done to create good structure, or for possible removal if the tree is hazardous.

And if a tree does fall or have to be removed, plant a new one. But plant a more storm-resistant one and make sure it gets regular pruning while young. See this link for a tree pruning schedule: edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep276

Jane Morse is UF/IFAS Extension Agent, Pinellas County.

OUTDOORS, from page 11A

register, call 582-2100 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org. For information, call 453-6500.

Water resources workshop set

ST. PETERSBURG – Annual Lakes and Ponds Education Day will be commemorated with a three-hour workshop on Saturday, May 19, 9 to 11 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

The free workshop is intended for volunteers and citizens interested in the health and management of water resources, specifically community lakes and stormwater ponds. The event will be presented in a tradeshow format with featured presentations. Attendees will learn about proper Florida landscaping. Free native plants and other items will be given to participants.

Registration is required. Seating is limited. Call 464-4605 or 453-3420 or email arivera@pinellascounty.org or mharrison@pinellascounty.org.

Weedon to host wildlife program

ST. PETERSBURG – Discovering Tracks, Scats and Signs, a free wildlife program, will be presented Saturday, May 19, 2 to 3:30 p.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

A Sensing Nature volunteer will show how to see wildlife that isn't always evident. Attendees will learn about tracking wildlife and other nature clues that will unveil wildlife's presence. Participants will apply the knowledge gained during an easy hike while becoming acquainted with some of Florida's wildlife and their associated animal tracks, scats and

signs. Closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing highly recommended. Advance registration is required. Call 453-6500 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Weedon to host photography hike

ST. PETERSBURG – A wildflower photography hike will be offered Saturday, May 26, 8 to 10 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

The free event will offer participants the perfect opportunity to hone their skills. After a brief classroom session, highlighting specific wildlife behaviors, guides will assist participants in capturing the natural beauty in photos. Advance registration is required.

Call 453-6500 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org.



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Government pay, perks excessive

It will be tough sledding, but the Florida Legislature needs to continue trying to rein in the unsustainable rise in public pensions and benefits.

Fortunately, the state has done a good job in recent years. Local governments, not so much.

Pew Center on the States said in a 2007 study: "Florida is a national leader in saving enough to cover its pension bill - but it hasn't yet put any money aside for future retiree health benefit costs."

Altogether, states are \$1.26 trillion behind the curve in paying for benefits, Pew said in a 2011 update.

Democrat controlled states such as California and Illinois are drowning in debt and seeing businesses flee because of pension obligations politicians have been unwilling to address.

For a look at the growing problems nationwide with public pensions, see this: www.nationalreview.com/articles/297094/public-employee-unions-gone-wild-patrick-brennan.

Granting overly generous public employee pay and benefits is easy for politicians. They can promise the moon, pick up a few votes for reelection, and let future generations worry about the cost.

Public employee unions know this and exploit it to the max. If they can't get costly benefits from local governments, they are not shy about running to Tallahassee. Legislators often are happy to please them, leaving it to the local officials to figure out how to pay the cost.

The American Legislative Exchange Council says state and local employee benefits are 69 percent higher than those of employees in the private sector.

Most private pension plans are defined contribution, meaning the employee contributes as much as he likes, up to a limit, and usually the employers match a certain amount. The pension depends on what the investment earns.

Most government entities have defined benefit plans, which promise employees a certain percentage of their pay upon retirement. If the state can't earn the money by investing, it must pony up anyway, which generally requires tax increases.

The Florida Retirement System began offering a defined contribution plan as an alternative in 2000 and about 15 percent of employees take that option.

One weak spot is that Florida is the only state where public employees pay nothing for their retirement. Gov. Rick Scott and the Legislature tried to fix that but were stymied, temporarily, by a court ruling.

There are also other gold-plated programs for state employees, such as the DROP program and health insurance subsidies for retirees. Florida TaxWatch has recommended eliminating both.

But the fiscal responsibility shown in Tallahassee hasn't filtered down to local governments.

James Madison Institute, a Tallahassee think tank, said, "As of year-end 2011, Florida's 100 largest cities oversee 208 separate pension plans for their employees. Of these, only 14 percent received a grade of "A," or were at least 90 percent funded; 62 percent received a grade of "C" or lower, and 15 percent were woefully underfunded."

Legislators have limited ability to nudge local politicians toward fiscal responsibility. That's mostly up to local voters. If they are happy paying higher taxes to provide better pay and benefits to public employees than they have themselves, so be it.

Lloyd Brown was in the newspaper business nearly 50 years, beginning as a copy boy and retiring as editorial page editor of the Florida Times-Union in Jacksonville.

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Florida Voices
Lloyd Brown

The sad decline of Time magazine

Younger readers (those below age 50) won't believe this, but there was a time when Time magazine packed a punch felt all over the USA, and sometimes overseas. Time's publisher, Henry R. Luce, wielded clout that made today's Rupert Murdoch appear laughable. Each week, millions of readers awaited their weekly edition of Time not just to learn its version of what of importance had been happening in the world, but what we should think about it and how we should feel.

Then along came changes. Lots of them. TV news (Walter Cronkite & Associates) became a major source of news for Americans. People got busier, and had less time to devote to news awareness. By small increments, Americans (especially new graduates of our schools and colleges) stopped learning how to read, or at least how to enjoy it. In the final quarter of the 20th century, the Internet came on the scene and supplied countless new channels of news and other information. The USA Today format - featuring shorter articles and bright graphics - exploited the public's demand for quick bursts of news without much supporting detail. "Don't explain things - just tell us what's the latest excitement."

Time magazine responded by imitating the new trends. The result: today each issue of Time is a grab-bag of short, snappy articles, a few thoughtful pieces, and exploding graphics. To detract attraction from its fading dignity, Time publishes yearly special issues such as its recent "The 100 Most Influential People in the World." This product, which landed in my mailbox two days ago, is an insulting and fraudulent over-statement, a collection of men and women who you may have heard of but who, with a few exceptions, do NOT exert significant influence on your life, or mine.

The possible exceptions include Barack Obama, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, financier Warren Buffett and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The "influence" of



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

most of the other Time selections resembles the ripple of a small rock tossed into a large pond. Take a gander at the following gallery of Time's "most influential people" and ask yourself (1) have you ever heard of this person? and (2) does it matter to you whether he/she lives or dies?

RENE REDZEPI. Age 34, a chef with his Copenhagen restaurant, who has some new ideas for cuisine.

YANI TSENG. Age 23, a professional golfer, the youngest one ever to win five major tournaments. She's obviously destined for renown, but will her success influence your own golf swing?

TIMOTHY DOLAN, 62, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, will be heeded by members of his faith in the Big Apple. Lutherans and agnostics will be forgiven for ignoring his policies.

RIHANNA, 24, a best-selling blonde singer from Barbados. She easily influences music fans to buy one or more of her records. Latest reports from the Hong Kong stock market and the fighting in Syria do not indicate that Rihanna is a major factor in either activity.

LOUIS CK. Time's description of Louis (written by Joan Rivers) isn't clear about why he's influential. He's 44 and is the moving force behind a show called "Louie," which I presume is a TV program. Whatever it is, I haven't heard of it before. Ms. Rivers says Louie is "the next Big One." Let's wait and see.

TIM TEBOW. He's a promising NFL quarterback and a thoroughly decent fellow, from

all we've heard. You can't help but wish him well. However, if you stop the next 20 people you meet and ask them, "How has Tim Tebow influenced you?", don't be surprised if their responses are slow and vague.

If none of the allegedly heavy-hitters listed above impress you as a top-ranking world influential, let your eyeballs roam over the following other candidates on Times "most" list:

Matt Lauer, Henrik Scharfe, Barbara Van Dahlen, Wang Wang, Xi Jinping, Samira Ibrahim, Anjali Gopalan, Asghar Farhadi, Silva Foster, Oscar Pistorius and Ifitkhar Chaudhry. If at least a few of these names don't pop up in the luncheons or cocktail parties you attend, don't feel bad. It seems clear that Time was desperate to come up with a selection of influential's that hadn't been chosen for other lists.

What irritates me most about Time's special issue isn't that many of their "most influentials" don't really deserve to be included. The truly bothersome angle is that Time, or any other entity, has to hang a superlative on the final list. Why must these people be labeled the "most" influential? Why not just say "influential" and let it go at that?

The answer, of course, is that in today's America we enshrine only No. 1 and tend to dismiss runners-up. If a person, team, performer or other entity isn't unique, the best, the most or the coolest, forget about him/her.

"So, Mr. Grumpy, why do you persist in reading Time magazine?" Force of habit, I suppose, plus the presence of some fine writers and reporters on the masthead. Columnists Fareed Zakaria and Joe Klein are rock solid in their analyses of the passing parade. However, if Time keeps reducing the size of its text type and using pastel inks to increase my squint level, I may have to give up.

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

LETTERS

Shining a light on gender equality

Re: 'Because you haven't asked,' Mary Jo Melone's column, April 26

Editor:

Thanks, Mary Jo. Though we get nationwide press as the Epicenter of the re-ignited ERA, this is the first time Beach Beacon has seen the light - Many THANKS.

Good to read you again, Mary Jo Melone at your "Because you haven't asked ..."

But we HAVE BEEN ASKING, begging almost, at the Florida legislature's table FOR 12 YEARS, 18/7!

We women are tired of being on the menu. We want our seat at the table ... we want the Florida legislative leadership to agree to just hear our ERA ratification bill!

This legislative war on women would not have gotten off the ground if we had an Equal Rights Amendment, for male and female alike, in the U.S. Constitution! This war is real, with sudden emergence of a thousand or so atrocious, unconscionable bills filed by one political party alone. These bills are designed to pull the chairs out from under American women and their men and families by curtailing their human rights and robbing them of any dignity so hard-won over hundreds of years.

We can't figure out why they try so hard to lose upcoming elections. We think maybe American Legislators is courting legislators. At least that's what House Speaker Cannon and Senate President Haridopolos inferred. They both spewed the same mantra about the ERA bills, that they would not give ERA a hearing "because it would hurt Business". Sounds like the heavy fist of ALEC to us.

Us/We are the 300,000-member National Equal Rights Amendment Alliance that has besieged the Florida legislators for the ERA bills we have managed to get filed since 2003 before them. Passed twice by Senate committees, ERA is refused a hearing/vote by the House every year since 2003, so it goes no further.

We've a huge nonprofit, nonpartisan, non-sexist organization that welcomes relief from the appalling sex discrimination that is burgeoning across America. Votes for the ERA in just three more states would put this political war on women out of business, and put ERA in the nation's contract with its people. It would make sex discrimination as Mary Jo describes it, a violation of the U.S. Constitution.

Anyone can help load America's food cart for ERA - GDP has risen by 9 percent in the many countries already with an ERA! All are welcomed to www.2PassERA.org to get the scoop, and email me, SandyO@PassERA.org.

Now is the time to tip the table toward America's working families, men and women, by passing the ERA. Three more states, including Florida, would nail it for all of us: "Equality under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."/gender. No sex discrimination, no kidding. At last.

Sure appreciate this singular opportunity by Beach Beacon for shining a light on gender-equality, so American, so needed for our Economy.

Sandy Oestreich

Founder-president, National Equal Rights Amendment Alliance Inc, and ERA Education Inc. North Redington Beach

The system is powerless to protect children

Editor:

I am a guardian ad litem in the Tampa Bay area. I want to present a hypothetical case: We have a father who lost his child three times in the last few years.

Recently, he has tested positive for drugs, twice, and arrested for DUI and driving on a permanently suspended license.

There have been numerous other charges over the years. His child is currently living with a family friend, placed there by a judge. However, the father still retains unsupervised visitation with his child. The goal here is unification for the third time. This will probably be accomplished in the near future. Fortunately, this child is old enough to see trouble coming, and, hopefully, will get out of the way. Suppose this were an infant?

This is a textbook case of how powerless the Department of Children and Families, the courts and guardian ad litem are when it comes to providing any real protection for children in Florida. The system as it exists is too easily manipulated. They do not have the legal tools to accomplish such protection. I'm embarrassed to say this but if you do know a child who is in harm's way, don't depend on the system to protect them. The recent case of two children, ages 5 and 11, having been living in a bus for several months, the parents in prison, are proof of what I'm saying here. Please get involved!

Jeff Shelton

Largo



Zimmerman charge tough to prove

It will be astonishing if George Zimmerman is convicted of second-degree murder for shooting 17-year-old Trayvon Martin.

Not that Zimmerman was right to pull the trigger, but that particular charge will be extremely difficult to prove. Why Special Prosecutor Angela Corey didn't file for manslaughter instead has lots of smart lawyers scratching their heads.

Perhaps it's a strategic move aimed at nudging Zimmerman toward a plea bargain, but in the meantime her decision only serves to raise expectations among the many - outraged and grieving - who'd been calling for Zimmerman's arrest.

True, the lethal confrontation between the neighborhood crime-watch patroller and the Miami Gardens teen would never have occurred if Zimmerman hadn't been tailing Martin through that gated townhouse community in Sanford.

There's no law against walking at night while black, or running at night while black.

Or wearing a hoodie at night while black.

But Zimmerman was sure the kid was up to "no good," and he made a 911 call that stands as a tragic foreshadowing of what was to come.

"These a----- always get away," he said at one point, an edge of exasperation in his tone.

He ignored the police operator's advice to stop following Mar-



Carl Hiaasen

tin, and on the tape he can clearly be heard hastening his pursuit. It turned out that the teen was merely returning to the home of his father's girlfriend after a trip to a nearby store.

To win a conviction for second-degree murder, however, prosecutors must convince a six-member jury that Zimmerman acted in a manner that was "evinced a depraved mind."

Suspicion, unfounded or not, isn't inherently malicious. Nor is reckless judgment a sure sign of mental depravity.

A judge has sealed the file on this case, over the protests of this newspaper and other media outlets, so it's possible that Corey has evidence about Zimmerman's state of mind that we don't know about.

So far, the 911 tape of his phone call offers the best glimpse of what was going through his head. When you listen to the whole thing, there's no hint of violent intent, no overt racial slurs.

What you hear is a guy playing the role of cop without a badge, a guy who perceives himself as a protector of his home territory. He wants the police to come investigate a black kid in a hoodie.

Would Zimmerman have

chased a white kid in a hoodie? There's no way to know.

Would a white kid have approached Zimmerman, as Martin apparently did, to demand to know why he was being followed? It's very possible. Would the exchange have ended in a homicide? Again, there's no way to know.

Two things are certain. If Trayvon Martin had shot an unarmed George Zimmerman and claimed a "stand-your-ground" defense, Martin would have been put in jail that night. A black man shooting a white or a Hispanic man seldom gets the benefit of the doubt.

And if both Zimmerman and Martin were black, the country wouldn't know a thing about this case. Probably nobody outside Sanford would. One black man killing another rarely makes the headlines.

Long before the trial begins, the media fibrillation is under way, with no shortage of gasbags on both sides. Predictably, some gun nuts and racist droolers are trying to make a hero of Zimmerman and a street thug of Martin (who had no criminal record).

From extreme factions in the other camp, you may hear Zimmerman portrayed as a trigger-happy stalker of black youths, a view disputed by one of his African-American friends.

We'll probably never know what really happened when Martin and Zimmerman spoke face-

to-face, since one is dead and the other is trying to avoid prison. The few witnesses will probably give conflicting accounts of what they saw and heard.

Still, a trial is vital because Martin's death was so wrong and so avoidable, and it took place purely because Zimmerman foolishly propelled events in that direction. It's a classic case for manslaughter, not second-degree murder.

Jurors will be able to vote for that lesser charge of manslaughter, which might be why prosecutors overreached. A compromise manslaughter verdict is bound to stir less public reaction than an acquittal or a murder conviction.

Zimmerman's attorney will try to bypass a jury by asking the judge for a dismissal, based on Florida's brilliant "Stand Your Ground" law - now a favored legal defense for gang members and dope dealers who plug each other on the streets.

Given the national spotlight upon the Martin shooting, it seems unlikely that Zimmerman will be able to dodge a trial. Trayvon isn't around to tell his side of the story or to hear his killer's, but his family deserves a day in court.

Because in the end, a young man carrying a bag of Skittles and a can of iced tea laid dead in the grass, a young man who was being followed by a stranger and didn't know why.

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Publisher/President: Dan Autrey
dautrey@tbnweekly.com
Accounting Manager: Andrea Marcarelli
tbnandy@yahoo.com
Retail Advertising Manager: Jay Rey
jrey@tbnweekly.com
Classified Advertising Manager: Shelly Fournier
sfournier@tbnweekly.com
Executive Editor: Tom Germond
tgermond@tbnweekly.com

9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772
727-397-5563 • Fax: 727-397-5900 • www.TBNweekly.com
Production Manager: David Brown
production@tbnweekly.com
Internet Services Manager: Suzette Porter
webmaster@tbnweekly.com
Seminole/Beach Beacon: Bob McClure
bmcclure@tbnweekly.com
Largo Leader/Dunedin Beacon: Tom Germond
tgermond@tbnweekly.com
Belleair/Beach Bee: Chary Southmayd
csouthmayd@tbnweekly.com
Clearwater Beacon: Alexandra Lundahl
alundahl@tbnweekly.com
Pinellas Park Beacon: Juliana A. Torres
jttores@tbnweekly.com
General Editorial:
editorial@tbnweekly.com
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Is the wall of worry about the economy shrinking?

It's a well-worn cliché that strong equity markets often climb a "wall of worry" – rising even as investors fret about the under-lying economy. True to form, the U.S. equity market is off to a fast start in 2012, even though confidence remains

muted – perhaps because the obstacles that derailed the market's fast start in 2011 (tsunami, Eurozone crisis, U.S. debt downgrade) are not yet forgotten. Yet, reasons for optimism are more abundant this year. At a minimum, the U.S. economy has



Money matters
Liza Campa-Flanagan

racked up 10 consecutive quarters of economic growth, improving every quarter since last March.

Other encouraging signs that suggest the great wall of worry may not be quite as imposing in the months to come:

- Deleveraging fades – Consumer installment debt acceleration has accelerated in recent months.
- Energy sector revival – Onshore U.S. crude oil production increased by more than 10 percent in 2011, the first growth in four decades; the rig count for exploration directed toward finding oil is 50 percent higher today than a year ago.
- Signs of life in housing – Homebuilder optimism rose to the highest level since May 2007; single-family housing starts and construction spending are up 16.2 percent and 4.9 percent respectively from year ago levels;

ated at an annualized rate of 7.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2011; commercial and industrial loans grew 12 percent in the 12 month period ended Feb. 8.

- Manufacturing renaissance – Manufacturing capacity utilization is the highest in nearly four years; auto production is up 17 percent from a year ago; and U.S. exports set a record high in 2011 reflecting strength in overseas demand.
- Better jobs data – Initial unemployment claims have dropped to the lowest levels in almost four years and new job creation

has accelerated in recent months.

- Energy sector revival – Onshore U.S. crude oil production increased by more than 10 percent in 2011, the first growth in four decades; the rig count for exploration directed toward finding oil is 50 percent higher today than a year ago.
- Signs of life in housing – Homebuilder optimism rose to the highest level since May 2007; single-family housing starts and construction spending are up 16.2 percent and 4.9 percent respectively from year ago levels;

and the S&P 500 Homebuilding Index outperformed the overall market by a factor of 3.5 since the end of third quarter 2011.

For those investors who believe that better times really are ahead, it's important to work with investment managers who are well positioned to benefit from an improving economy, even if the road ahead could still be bumpy.

Liza Campa-Flanagan is a certified investment management analyst for Raymond James Financial Services Inc., 645 N. Indian Rocks Road, Belleair Beach.

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Absolute Auto and Truck Repair opens

LARGO – Absolute Auto and Truck Repair recently opened for business at 6175 126th Ave. N.

Christine Gonzales serves as the business' vice president and Bob Gonzales is president.

Peaks of Health opens

PINELLAS PARK – Peaks of Health Metabolic Medical Center recently celebrated its grand opening at 7600 Bryan Dairy

FINANCIAL NEWS
www.TBNweekly.com

Biz notes

Road with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The center's Tracie J. Leonhardt, D.O., studied the metabolic and hormone systems, completing a fellowship in anti-aging and regenerative medicine and completing board certification. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in metabolism and nutrition at the University of South Florida School of Medicine.

432 West Side celebrates anniversary

BELLEAIR BLUFFS – 432 West Side recently celebrated its one-year anniversary in its new location with a dress-up event and a preview of the new fall styles by Pantalon by LisetteL.

Customers enjoyed psychic readings by Mystic Goddess. 432 West Side is in The Plaza at 100 Indian Rocks Road N.

Client 1st Advisors to host shred event

CLEARWATER – Client 1st Advisors Inc. will host a document shred and cookout event on Saturday, May 19, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 611 Druid Road E., Suite 707.

Client 1st Advisors Inc. has contracted with Shred-It! to be on site to safely and securely dispose of confidential information. The surrounding community and their clients are invited to come and join in the fun.

RSVP is required by May 14. To RSVP, call 450-2301, ext. 101.

Bowman, team make top 10 percent

SEMINOLE – Assist-2-Sell Franchise Operations recently announced that Randy Bowman and his team made the top 10 percent of all Assist-2-Sell offices in North America in overall sales for 2011.

As a full-service real estate brokerage, Assist-2-Sell's team of experienced brokers and agents handled everything throughout the entire process of selling a home. That includes pricing the home, advertising and marketing online and offline, showing the home to prospective buyers, working with other local brokers and agents and managing all of the paperwork and the closing.

"My agents and I worked very hard last year, so I was really proud to accept the top 10 percent award," Bowman said in a press release. "It's something that will help keep us motivated in 2012. Last year, we focused on providing great customer service and saving home sellers a lot of money with our flat fee. And we're going to keep focusing on those things again this year."

Thrift store relocates

CLEARWATER – The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, formerly in downtown Clearwater, has moved and reopened at 23399 U.S. 19 N.

The charitable, nonprofit store reopened April 1 at the new location.

The store sells low-cost clothing, furniture and household merchandise, and also provides free furniture and clothing to needy families and to the homeless. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international Catholic lay charity.

Eye Shop opens

CLEARWATER – The Eye Shop, a new full-service destination for designer prescription eyewear, recently opened for business at 432 Cleveland St.

More than 100 people attended

the grand opening, which featured raffle prizes and food catered by Clearwater's Greek-town Grille. Pamela Rowan, The Eye Shop's owner and operator, included a chance to give back to the community in the festivities. During the event, guests were able to drop off old prescription eyeglasses and prescription sunglasses for the local Lions Club to repurpose for needy individuals.

"Our grand opening was the public's first chance to see how we combine function with fun, fashion and cost-effectiveness," said Rowan in a press release. "We offer the latest American and European name brands such as Gucci, Ray-Ban, Juicy, D&G and numerous others, so customers can have their prescription lenses in designer frames.

Physicians Center opens

BELLEAIR BLUFFS – Physicians Center For Weight Loss and Age Management recently opened for business at 232 Indian Rocks Road, Suite C.

The center will host a community grand opening on Thursday, May 3, 5 to 7 p.m.

The center features a medically supervised weight loss program. Other services include prescription HCG, bio-identical hormone replacement therapy, testosterone therapy, Myers' cocktail, custom formulated anti-aging skin care, B12 Injections and MIC Ultra injections.

All treatment plans and evaluations are supervised on-site by medical director Agnes P. Green, M.D. Green is a board certified physician and Belleair resident. She served as a physician for the 1998 Olympics and has been the lead physician for the Atlantic Coast Conference women's college basketball tournament.

The grand opening event will feature a ribbon-cutting by the mayor, raffles and new patient specials. Wine from Bella Vino and appetizers by En Garde will be provided. The public is invited to attend.

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Looking for a home

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Bebe is a 7-year-old female kitty with a thick white and black coat. She is a quiet girl who enjoys being petted. She is a bit intimidated if she's with many cats but one or two equally quiet, mature cats would be fine. Bebe has been spayed, microchipped and vaccinated. Call Save Our Strays Inc. at 481- 5262 or visit www.saveourstraysinc.com.



Angel

Angel is a 6-year-old female calico tabby cat. She is very sweet and probably would do best as an only cat or with one other friendly cat. She is front-declawed, spayed and current on her vaccinations. To meet Angel, call Pat at Second Chance for Strays at 535-9154. Visit www.secondchanceforstrays.petfinder.com.



Here and there

Anona United Methodist Church benefit concert set

LARGO – Dayve Stewart and The Vibe will perform a benefit concert Friday, May 18, 8 p.m., at Anona United Methodist Church, 13233 Indian Rocks Road.

Stewart, a Tampa native, is a nationally known up-and-coming jazz saxophonist. Stewart is currently on tour with the Rev. Al Green. He recently performed at the White House for President Obama.

Cost is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Funds raised will help send kids from the Ridgcrest Community to summer camp. Call 536-2863.

Pianist to perform at Calvary Episcopal Church

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – Cellist Theresa Villani and pianist Robert Shone will perform Sunday, May 6, 4 p.m., at Calvary Episcopal Church, 1615 First St.

The program will include 19th and 20th century works by various composers including Schumann and Schubert.

During the concert there will be a free will offering in support of the student section leader music scholarship program at Calvary. This is the eighth and final event of the 2011-12 Calvary Concert Series.

For more information, call 595-2374 or visit www.calvaryirb.org.

Friends hold book sale

LARGO – The Friends of the Largo Library will host a sidewalk book sale Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., near the entrance to the library, which is at 120 Central Park Drive.

All books will be fiction. Discards from the library will be 50 cents each. Buy two and get one free.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the library.

Call the library bookstore at 586-7392.

Knights to hold '50s Sock Hop

LARGO – The Knights of Columbus will have a '50s Sock Hop, Saturday, May 5, at St. Patrick Church, 1507 Trotter Road.

Admission is \$5. Doors open at 6 p.m. Dancing will be available from 6. to 10 p.m. Food will be available, including hamburgers, hot dogs, chili dogs, french fries and more.

Call John at 422-3753 or Bob at 290-8777.

Dog training seminar set

LARGO – A free dog-training seminar will be offered Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m., at Pinellas County Animal Services, 12450 Ulmerton Road. Attendees will learn the basics of dog training in a seminar for all who have adopted dogs from Pinellas County Animal Services or other shelters in the county. No dogs will be permitted at the class.

Call 582-2600 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices.

County to offer Saturday pet adoptions

LARGO – Volunteers from Pinellas County Animal Services will offer pet adoptions and adoption information on the following days and locations:

- Saturday, May 5, 9 a.m. to noon, at Pinellas County Animal Services, 12450 Ulmerton Road.
 - Saturday, May 12, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., PetsMart, Largo Mall, 10500 Ulmerton Road.
 - Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m. to noon, at Pinellas County Animal Services, 12450 Ulmerton Road.
 - Saturday, May 26, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., PetsMart, Largo Mall, 10500 Ulmerton Road.
- Call 582-2600 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices.



Anona United Methodist welcomes saxophonist Dayve Stewart May 18 for a benefit concert.



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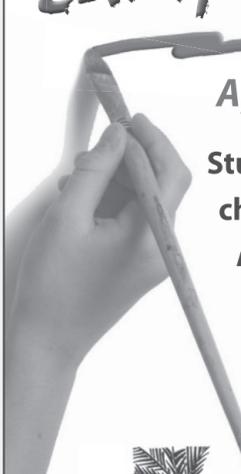
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Heather Pourchot
Realty Executives Adamo

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Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County



- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

Leader
Section B
May 3, 2012

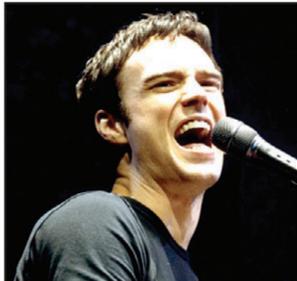
Visit www.TBNweekly.com

Top five diversions

• **A Taste of Pinellas**, Friday through Sunday, May 4-6, at Vinoy Park, 501 Fifth Ave. NE.

Single-day tickets range from \$15 to \$20 in advance and \$20 to \$25 the day of the show. A three-day pass costs \$45. VIP luxury seating also is available at \$150 for a single-day pass or \$300 for a three-day pass. For tickets, call 800-745-3000 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Children 12 and younger are admitted for free when accompanied by an adult. The annual food and music festival will feature tastes from top local restaurants, live music and a Kids' Zone for children. Entertainment will include performances by headline acts including Big & Rich, Sheryl Crow and The All-American Rejects.



Michael Cavanaugh joins The Florida Orchestra to present the music of Billy Joel May 4 at the Mahaffey Theater.

• **"Broadway's Best,"** presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, May 4-13, 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. The well-known dynamic creative team of Rocco Morabito (director) and Ronnie DeMarco (choreographer) have designed their dream show: a revue combining favorite ballads, laments and show-stoppers from Broadway's best. The lineup includes gems from musicals such as "Cabaret," "Chicago," "A Chorus Line," "Damn Yankees," "Gypsy," "Godspell," "Guys & Dolls" and "Mame."

• **Michael Cavanaugh** in concert: The Music of Billy Joel and More with The Florida Orchestra; Friday, May 4, 8 p.m., at the Mahaffey Theater, Progress Energy Center for the Arts, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets range from \$35 to \$75. Call 892-3337 or 800-662-7286 or visit www.floridaorchestra.org. Cavanaugh will perform show-stopping Billy Joel classics such as "Movin' Out," "Just the Way You Are," "It's Still Rock and Roll to Me," "New York State of Mind," "We Didn't Start the Fire," "Piano Man," "My Life," "You Might Be Right," "Tell Her About It," "She's Got a Way" and "Uptown Girl." Cavanaugh's reputation as a charismatic performer, musician and actor are due in part to his acclaimed role at both the piano and in lead vocals in the Broadway musical "Movin' Out" featuring the songs of Billy Joel. Cavanaugh was handpicked by Joel to star in the title role in the musical showcasing a style rivaling the Piano Man himself. Cavanaugh appeared in the show for three years in over 1,200 performances, receiving one rave review after another, which culminated in 2003 with both Grammy and Tony award nominations. His numerous engagements since cover such diverse venues as famed Las Vegas showrooms to the concert halls of the Cincinnati Pops, Indianapolis Symphony, Kansas City Symphony and Baltimore Symphony.

• **Creed**, Saturday, May 5, 9 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$39.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhal.com. Grammy-winning rock giant Creed will perform "Human Clay" as well as select songs from the "Weathered" and "Full Circle" albums. This event will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Creed fans to see the band in an intimate setting performing its blockbuster album "Human Clay" in its entirety. The band also is celebrating the 15-year anniversary of the band's debut blockbuster album "My Own Prison," which has sold more than 6 million copies to date.

• **"In the Next Room,"** by Sarah Ruhl, presented by freeFall Theatre Company, through May 20, at freeFall, 6099 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Performances are Thursday, 7 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Ticket prices vary according to performance date and time. Call 498-5205 or visit www.freefalltheatre.com. This charming and irreverent comedy of manners, set against the backdrop of a curious Victorian medical practice used to cure women of hysteria, explores the nature of intimacy in married life.

A Taste of Pinellas

Annual three-day benefit features music, food and fun

By LEE CLARK ZUMP

ST. PETERSBURG – Food and music will go hand in hand at **A Taste of Pinellas**, Friday through Sunday, May 4-6, at Vinoy Park, 501 Fifth Ave. NE.

Single-day tickets range from \$15 to \$20 in advance and \$20 to \$25 the day of the show. A three-day pass costs \$45. VIP luxury seating also is available at \$150 for a single-day pass or \$300 for a three-day pass. For tickets, call 800-745-3000 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Children 12 and younger are admitted for free when accompanied by an adult.

The annual food and music festival will feature tastes from top local restaurants, live music and a Kids' Zone for children. Entertainment will include performances by headline acts including Big & Rich, Sheryl Crow and The All-American Rejects.

The full entertainment schedule is as follows:

Friday, May 4

- Gates open, 5 p.m.
- Connor Christian & Southern Gothic, 5:30 p.m.
- Joe Nichols, 6:45 p.m.
- Big & Rich, 8:30 p.m.
- Fireworks, following the concert

Saturday, May 5

- Gates open, 3 p.m.
- RPM, 3:30 p.m.
- Cleveland Jones, 5 p.m.
- Ziggy Marley, 6:30 p.m.
- Sheryl Crow, 8:30 p.m.
- Fireworks, following the concert

Sunday, May 6

- Gates open, noon
- The Kinected, 1 p.m.
- A Rocket to the Moon, 2:15 p.m.
- Dashboard Confessional, 3:45 p.m.
- The All-American Rejects, 5:30 p.m.

Entertainment headliners

Together, Big Kenny and John Rich make up Big & Rich, an American country music duo who released their first studio album, "Horse of a Different Color," in 2004.

Big & Rich will perform Friday at 8:30 p.m.

That album scored four Top 40 country hits, including "Save a Horse (Ride a Cowboy)" and "Holy Water." Big & Rich followed up with the album "Comin' to Your City" in 2005 and "Between Raising Hell and Amazing Grace" in 2007. The latter featured the chart-topping single "Lost in This Moment."

Big & Rich plan to release their fifth studio album, "That's Why I Pray," later this year.

Five-time Grammy-winning musician Ziggy Marley will take the stage Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

A native of Jamaica, Ziggy Marley – along with his siblings – sat in on recording sessions with his father's band, the legendary Bob Marley and the Wailers, when he was just 10 years old. Years later, Ziggy and his sisters Sharon and Cedella and his brother Stephen formed Ziggy Marley & The Melody Makers. As a group, they crafted a soulful sound which blends blues, R&B, hip-hop and roots reggae.

The Melody Makers earned their first Grammy (Best Reggae Recording) for their third album "Conscious Party" in 1988. Subsequent albums included the Grammy-winning "One Bright Day" (1989), "Jamekya" (1991), "Joy and Blues" (1993), "Free Like We Want 2 B" (1995), Grammy-winning "Fallen is Babylon" (1997), "Spirit of Music" (1999) and "Ziggy Marley & The Melody Makers Live, Vol. 1" (2000).

Ziggy's first struck out as a solo artist in 2002, touring with such artists and Train, O.A.R. and Sheryl Crow. In 2003, he released his debut solo album, "Dragonfly." Ziggy has released several solo albums since then, including his most recent, "Wild and Free," in 2011.

Sheryl Crow will bring her blend of rock, folk, hip-hop, country and pop to A Taste of Pinellas Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

Since releasing her official debut album in 1993, Crow has won nine Grammy Awards. That first album, "Tuesday Night Club," included her hit single "All I Wanna Do" as well as "Strong Enough," "Can't Cry Anymore" and "Leaving Las Vegas." In 1996, she followed up with "Sheryl Crow," which featured the singles "If It Makes You Happy," "Everyday



Sheryl Crow headlines A Taste of Pinellas May 5 at St. Petersburg's Vinoy Park.

is a Winding Road" and "A Change Would Do You Good."

Crow's most recent studio release, "100 Miles from Memphis," is her seventh studio album. The album boasts a vintage, soulful Memphis sound that Crow recalls from her youth.

"I grew up in a small town 100 miles from Memphis, and that informed not only my musical taste, but how I look at life," Crow says on her website. "The drive to Memphis is all farmland, and everyone is community-oriented, God-fearing people, connected to the earth. The music that came out of that part of the world is a part of who I am, and it's the biggest inspiration for what I do and why I do it."

Chris Carrabba of **Dashboard Confessional** will perform a solo show on Sunday at 3:45 p.m.

Carrabba is best known as the singer, songwriter and vocalist of the Boca Raton based emo/acoustic Dashboard Confessional. The band's debut album, "The Swiss Army Romance (2000)," wasn't easy to come by at first: Fiddler Records only produced around 1,000 copies. Driven by its popularity, the album was re-issued in 2003 through Vagrant Records. The re-release included the bonus tracks "Hold On" and "This Is a Forgery."

By this time, Carrabba and Dashboard Confessional had already released a follow-up – "The Places You Have Come to Fear the Most" (2001) – and a third studio album was in the making. "A Mark, a Mission, a Brand, a Scar" was released in 2003 and featured the singles "Hands Down" and "Rapid Hope Loss."

See A TASTE OF PINELLAS, page 2B

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A TASTE OF PINELLAS, from page 1B

Dashboard Confessionals most recent album, "Alter the Ending," was released in 2009. The album is "a collection of songs that speak to the desire in all of us to bend the shape of our lives, to twist fate, to change the end before we arrive at it," according to the band's website.

"I've always looked at music as a way to feel better," Carrabba writes on the website. "I've written some sad songs and some happy ones too. But the goal has been the same every time: to feel good. To pick up a guitar, to enjoy holding it in my hands, to tell a story, and to feel better after having told it."

The All-American Rejects close the three-day festival, performing Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Hailing from Stillwater, Okla., the American alternative rock outfit is helmed by lead vocalist and bass guitarist Tyson Ritter. Ritter is joined by Nick Wheeler, lead guitarist and backing vocalist; Mike Kennerty, rhythm guitarist and backing vocalist; and Chris Gaylor, drummer and percussionist.

Founded in 1999, the band first achieved mainstream success with their debut self-titled studio album, "The All-American Rejects," released in 2003. That album spawned the singles "Swing, Swing," "The Last Song" and "Time Stands Still." The 2005 follow-up, "Move Along," generated the hit singles "Move Along," "It Ends Tonight" and "Dirty Little Secret."

The All-American Rejects certainly haven't been rejected by fans: Over the course of its career, the band has earned six Teen Choice Award nominations. The band also won the Rising Star Award at the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in 2008, the Best Pop Video Award at the Music Video Production Association Awards in 2006 and the Best Group Video Award at the MTV Video Music Awards in 2006. The ASCAP Pop Music Awards bestowed its Vanguard Award upon The All-American Rejects in 2007.

Restaurants

More than three dozen restaurants will offer up delectable selections at this year's Taste of Pinellas event. Following is a list of confirmed participants:

- 400 Beach Seafood & Tap House
- 4th Street Shrimp Store
- Alessi
- Angelos
- Annastella Cajun Bistro
- BellaBrava
- Bob Evans
- Brady's Backyard BBQ
- Cafe Gala
- Central Ave. Oyster Bar
- Crabby Bills Seafood
- Empanada World
- Fresh Go
- Harvey's 4th Street Grill
- Hooker Tea Company
- Hungry Howie's Pizza
- Island Flavors and Things
- MadFish
- Mama Micieli's

- Melting Pot
 - Mickey's Snacks
 - Mookie's Kettle Korn
 - Mrs. B's Southern Heritage
 - Murray's Chicago Deli
 - Old Farmer's Creamery
 - Parkshore Grill
 - Pie Factory
 - Pipo's Cafe
 - Riverside Grill House Veranda
 - Seabreeze Island Grill
 - Seasons Cafe & Bakery
 - Snappers Sea Grill
 - St. Petersburg Concessions
 - Sub Dude
 - Tampa Bay Cupcake Company
 - Texas Cattle Company
 - The Garden Restaurant
 - The Hangar Restaurant & Flight Lounge
 - The Palms Restaurant at the Flamingo Hotel
 - The Pub Waterfront Restaurant
 - The Sports Bar and Grill
- Clearwater's Alessi will be serving fresh lemonade, funnel cakes and festival favorites "grater taters." Brady's Backyard BBQ, found in Safety Harbor, will be dishing out pulled pork sliders, rib baskets, rib dogs, smoked wings and combread pudding.
- The Indian Rocks Beach institution that is Crabby Bills will be on hand, too, with its signature smoked fish spread, tropical mahi tacos, fried gator tail, shrimp grilled cheese, gator burgers and New England clam rolls. MadFish, from St. Pete Beach, will offer fresh strawberries in balsamic vinegar as well

as Asian glazed shrimp over coconut-scented rice.

From Pinellas Park, Mama Micieli's menu will include pastries and sweets, Italian greens, meatball subs, homemade manicotti, chicken Parmesan and Italian sausage subs with peppers and onions. Mickey's Snacks, based in Palm Harbor, will serve churros, sweet tea, hot dogs, roasted sweet corn on the cob, corn dogs, boiled peanuts, funnel cakes, shaved ice, candied nuts and giant sweet potato fries.

Murray's Chicago Deli, founded in Clearwater, will have Chicago hot dogs, chili cheese hot dogs, french fries, chili cheese fries, Chicago Italian beef hoagies and blackened Cajun chicken hoagies. Largo's The Pie Factory will be on hand with cupcakes and brownies, pie slices, tropical tea, cheesecake and triple chocolate thunder cake.

The Pub will serve teriyaki beef skewers, garlic shrimp skewers and barbecue chicken skewers. The Sports Bar and Grill, found on Bay Pines Boulevard in St. Petersburg, will have a menu featuring french fries, cheese fries, homemade meatball sliders, Italian sausage sliders with peppers and onions, barbecue pulled pork sliders, eggplant parmesan sliders and chicken tenders.

Attendees can try new and delicious tastes from the best local restaurants. Food tickets are 10 for \$10. Ticket sales benefit All Children's Hospital.

More festival fun

Families will enjoy the Kids' Zone at A

Taste of Pinellas in Vinoy Park for free on Saturday, May 5, between noon and 3 p.m. After 3 p.m., kids ages 12 and under remain free, but adults will need to purchase a general admission ticket or show proof of advance purchase.

The Kids' Zone will feature face painting, a rock-climbing wall, arts and crafts, Radio Disney and interactive health and safety activities from All Children's Hospital.

The Tampa Bay Rays also will be on hand to provide interactive games, prizes and giveaways. The Rays mascot, Raymond, also will make an appearance. All Children's Fit4Allkids program will offer sample tasting and recipe suggestions. Great Explorations Children's Museum will bring fun-filled interactive games and crafts for the whole family.

The following items will not be permitted on park grounds during A Taste of Pinellas:

- Pets (service animals are permitted)
- Outside food or drink
- Weapons
- Umbrellas
- Professional recording equipment

Proceeds will benefit All Children's Hospital Telethon. All Children's Hospital is the only specialty licensed children's hospital on Florida's west coast. Founded in 1926, All Children's has grown into a leading pediatric referral center that is dedicated to advancing treatment, education, research and advocacy in child health.

For event information, visit www.tasteofpinellas.com.

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Crossword

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

Across

1. Agreements
8. Turned violet-red
15. Deliberately arranged occasion for a candidate or celebrity (2 wds)
16. By and large (3 wds)
17. Colorless, flammable hydrocarbon derived from petroleum
18. Small island
19. Fast finisher?
20. ___ Grove Village, Ill.
22. O. Henry's "The Gift of the ___"
23. Little, e.g. ___
24. Arctic ___
26. Alone
27. Backboard attachment
28. Inability to swallow
30. Setting for TV's "Newhart"
31. Parody
33. Reduces the value of something
35. Shrek, e.g.
37. Small amount
38. Becomes hard
42. German cathedral city
46. Bull markets
47. Vacation souvenirs
49. "Walking on Thin Ice" singer
50. "Planet of the ___"
52. Eastern wrap
53. Bringing up the rear
54. Lacquered metalware
55. "What's ___?"
56. "Reveille" instrument
57. Sterile
60. Avoiding association with others
62. Do museum work
63. Take over for
64. Examined by experiment
65. Fixed (2 wds)

Down

1. Shows up
2. Very inexpensive item
3. Despise
4. Aquatic mammal
5. Big laugh
6. Family head
7. Address
8. ___ goods
9. Cable network (acronym)
10. Amstrayed
11. Privets
12. Nut
13. Chic
14. Ornamental patterns
21. Detective's need
24. Crush
25. NO3
28. Cipher
29. Met expectations?
32. Follow
34. "20/20" network (acronym)
36. Touched up
38. Large spiny lizard-like diapsid reptiles
39. Fights against
40. Futile
41. "Your majesty"
43. Sub sandwiches
44. Subjugate
45. Folded card for short informal letter
48. Poster heading
51. Anatomical dividers
53. Clear
56. Gaucho's weapon
58. Cracker Jack bonus
59. Anger
61. "Compende?"

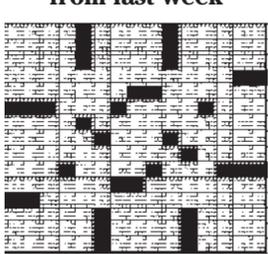
Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers from last week

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

Crossword answers from last week



Horoscopes
May 3, 2012

Capricorn
December 22 - January 19
This week is all about give and take, Capricorn. Do for others, and they will do for you. A special event calls for some extra-special gifts.

Aquarius
January 20 - February 18
Some habits are hard to break, Aquarius. Look to a mentor to help and you will succeed. A fitness goal is easily achieved with a new piece of equipment.

Pisces
February 19 - March 20
The odds may be stacked against you, Pisces, but that doesn't mean you won't come out on top with a little ingenuity. A weekend endeavor requires a leap of faith.

Aries
March 21 - April 19
Speak up, Aries, and the problem will be solved. A little miracle at home makes for an interesting weekend. Travel plans come together.

Taurus
April 20 - May 20
Cast aside all doubt, Taurus. The offer is genuine and will bring you many rewards. A test of faith begins—be strong. Money woes ease.

Gemini
May 21 - June 21
Feeling blessed these days, Gemini? Pay it forward. A compromise at home raises everyone's spirits and fun ensues all weekend long!

Cancer
June 22 - July 22
A business relationship blossoms with an addition. A larger-than-life personality drops by with an offer you can't refuse. Oh boy, oh boy, Cancer.

Leo
July 23 - August 22
Oops, Leo. You fall behind on a project, raising some eyebrows. Not to worry. You will get back on track sooner than you think, thanks to an innovation.

Virgo
August 23 - September 22
Spend less, save more and you'll definitely get more, Virgo. More in your bottom line and more peace of mind. Flowers provide a great pick-me-up.

Libra
September 23 - October 22
Lady Luck smiles on you, Libra, and there is nothing beyond your reach. A treasured heirloom resurfaces, bringing back many fond memories.

Scorpio
October 23 - November 21
The tiniest of changes make a vast improvement in a project. A rejection is a blessing in disguise. Be grateful for what you're given, Scorpio.

Sagittarius
November 22 - December 21
News from afar gets the creative juices flowing, and you accomplish more than you have in some time, Sagittarius. A game of wits at the office proves challenging.

Opening this weekend

‘Marvel’s The Avengers’ faces no big-screen competition on its opening weekend

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

Only one new movie will hit theaters this week – summer’s first potential blockbuster faces no challengers from Hollywood.

‘Marvel’s The Avengers’

Genre: Action and adventure
 Cast: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Hemsworth, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner, Tom Hiddleston, Stellan Skarsgård, Cobie Smulders, Clark Gregg and Samuel L. Jackson

Director: Joss Whedon
 Rated: PG-13
 Marvel Studios presents “Marvel’s The Avengers” – the superhero team-up of a lifetime, featuring iconic Marvel superheroes Iron Man, The Incredible Hulk, Thor, Captain America, Hawkeye and Black Widow.

When an unexpected enemy emerges that threatens global safety and security, Nick Fury, director of the international peacekeeping agency known as S.H.I.E.L.D., finds himself in need of a team to pull the world back from the brink of disaster. Spanning the globe, a daring recruitment effort begins.

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

‘A Little Bit of Heaven’

Genre: Comedy, drama and romance
 Cast: Kate Hudson, Gael Garcia Bernal, Peter Dinklage, Kathy Bates, Steven Weber and Whoopi Goldberg

Director: Nicole Kassell
 Rated: PG-13
 Marley Corbett (Kate Hudson) is young, beautiful, and wildly funny, but she’s afraid of opening herself up to true love and commitment.

Though she uses her humor to prevent matters from getting serious, a life-changing visit to her doctor (Gael Garcia Bernal) sends both of them on an eye-opening adventure of mutual discovery, leading to revelations neither thought possible.

‘The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel’

Genre: Comedy and drama
 Cast: Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Dev Patel, Tom Wilkinson and Maggie Smith

Director: John Madden
 Rated: PG-13
 “The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel” follows a group of British retirees who decide to “outsource” their retirement to less expensive and seemingly exotic India.

Enticed by advertisements for the newly restored Marigold Hotel and bolstered with visions of a life of leisure, they arrive to find the palace a shell of its former self. Though the new environment is less luxurious than imagined, they are forever transformed by their shared experiences, discovering that life and love can begin again when you let go of the past.

‘First Position’

Genre: Documentary
 Director: Bess Kargman
 Not rated
 Every year, thousands of aspiring dancers enter one of the world’s most prestigious ballet competitions, the Youth America Grand Prix, where lifelong dreams are at stake.

In the final round, with hundreds competing for only a handful of elite scholarships and contracts, practice and discipline are paramount, and nothing short of perfection is expected. Bess Kargman’s award-winning documentary, “First Position,” follows six young dancers as they prepare for a chance to enter the world of professional ballet, struggling through bloodied feet, near exhaustion and debilitating injuries, all while navigating the drama of adolescence. A showcase of awe-inspiring talent, tenacity and passion, “First Position” paints a thrilling and moving portrait of the most gifted young ballet stars of tomorrow.

‘LOL’

Genre: Comedy and drama
 Cast: Miley Cyrus, Demi Moore, Ashley Greene, Adam Sevani, Douglas Booth, George Finn, Ashley Hinshaw, Lina Esco, Tanz Watson, Thomas Jane, Jay Hernandez, Marlo Thomas, Austin Nichols, Gina Gershon, Fisher Stevens and Nora Dunn

Director: Lisa Azuelos-Alessandrini
 Rated: PG-13
 In a world connected by Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, Miley Cyrus stars as a teen girl navigating through the peer pressures of high school romance and friendship, while dodging her protective mother (Demi Moore), in Lionsgate and Mandate Pictures fresh coming-of-age comedy “LOL.”

An authentic story that perfectly captures coming of age in today’s digital world, “LOL” is a remake of the hugely popular 2008 French film “LOL.” Starting a new year of high school, Lola (Cyrus), (or “Lol,” as her friends call her), works to find the right balance between family, school, friends and romance. Broken-hearted by her ex, Lol’s world is soon turned upside down when she is surprised to find her best friend, Kyle (Douglas Booth), a musician in an up and coming rock band, could possibly be the love of her life. In her quest towards independence, self-identity and young adulthood, Lol discovers that while Facebook “status” is easy to change; true relationships are worth the effort.

‘Meeting Evil’

Genre: Thriller
 Cast: Samuel L. Jackson, Luke Wilson and Leslie Bibb
 Director: Chris Fisher

Rated: R
 When John Fleton, a depressed suburban family man and recently fired Realtor, offers to help a stranger, Richie, with his car, John is sucked into a surreal, nightmarish murder spree that forces him to



Photo by ZADE ROSENTHAL/MARVEL

Chris Evans, left, stars as Captain America and Robert Downey Jr. as Tony Stark/Iron Man in “Marvel’s The Avengers.”

question everything about his life, his mode of behavior, and the very nature of evil.

won’t do to protect her children.

‘Mother’s Day’

Genre: Horror and thriller
 Cast: Jaime King, Patrick Flueger, Rebecca De Mornay, Warren Kole, Deborah Ann Woll, Matt O’Leary, Briana Evigan, Frank Grillo, Lisa Marcos, Lyriq Bent, Tony Nappo, Kandysse McClure, Jessie Rusu, Shawn Ashmore, Vicki Rice and Alexa Vega

Director: Darren Lynn Bousman
 Rated: R
 “Mother’s Day” is a graphic remake of the Troma horror classic, “Mother’s Day.”

After a bank robbery gone wrong, three brothers go home to hide out ... only to discover that their Mother (Rebecca De Mornay) lost their house in a foreclosure. The new owners and their party guests become the deprived brothers’ unwitting hostages. Their sadistic Mother soon arrives and brilliantly takes control of the situation, ratcheting up the terror. As the hostages struggle desperately to survive the harrowing torture, they realize that there is nothing a Mother

‘The Perfect Family’

Genre: Comedy and drama
 Cast: Kathleen Turner, Jason Ritter, Emily Deschanel and Richard Chamberlain
 Director: Anne Renton
 Not rated

Suburban supermom Eileen Cleary (Kathleen Turner) is the ultimate Catholic, and when she’s nominated for the coveted Catholic Woman of the Year Award at her local parish, it looks like she’s about to get the plaque to prove it. Only one final test remains – introducing her family to the church board for the seal of approval.

Now, she must face the truth about her nonconformist family – a truth she has been glossing over for years. With her gay daughter (Emily Deschanel) about to marry her life partner, her unhappily married son (Jason Ritter) having an affair with the local manicurist, and her own marriage to a recovered alcoholic pulling at the seams, Eileen decides to take action, ramping up her meddling to new, and hilarious, heights.

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Italian Grandma’s Recipes Are Alive in Largo

When Eddie Donofrio was a kid in Philadelphia, his mother cooked a huge three-course dinner every day for him, his dad, two brothers and four sisters.

Even his dad got involved in the cooking by making everyone’s favorite linguine and clam sauce. The neighbors showed up at the Donofrio doorstep most nights in the hopes of getting invited in for some of Mama Donofrio’s made-from-scratch raviolis, meatballs and marina sauce.

Today, those same dishes are fashioned from the original recipes and served to eager diners at Eddie’s Pizzeria & Sports Bar.

Two Generations of Italian Cooking

Eddie’s love of good food goes back two generations as the Donofrio family has been cooking for their family, friends and customers for more than 50 years.

Before Eddie’s mom lost her battle with cancer, she wrote down all the cherished recipes passed down from Grandma Donofrio so that Eddie and his wife Amy could prepare them for their family. Out of

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this labor of love sprung a new career for the third generation of Donofrios. Eddie and Amy decided to open their own restaurant so they could share Mama’s cooking and, in doing so, keep her spirit alive. Four years ago they found a former sports bar in Largo on busy Seminole Boulevard that looked to be a perfect fit for their combination of original recipe Italian food served in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

Repeat Customers Tell the Tale

It didn’t take long for Eddie and Amy to discover that their passion for cooking

great Italian food was appreciated by more than just their family. Eddie’s has many repeat customers because the food is so good. Patrons walk in expecting typical sports bar food but as soon as they taste the pasta with clam sauce or the stromboli with sausage and pepperoni, they know that they’re in for a treat. Local insurance agent Mark Hayden eats at Eddie’s once a week and raves about the “phenomenal cheesesteaks,” the “never-frozen” wings and the pizza dough that’s made from scratch every day.

Sure, Eddie’s has all the amenities of a fully stocked sports bar-poker tournaments, televised sporting events on big screen TVs, beer, wine and a full liquor bar-but what sets it apart is a passion for cooking great Italian food. Come taste what may be the best kept secret in Largo-an Italian theme sports bar that serves awesome food lovingly crafted from recipes created by Grandma.

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TREASURE ISLAND: ISLE OF
Capri, Waterfront, 2BR, 8-unit private property. \$1,200/month +deposit. (727)239-9016.

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185. Beach Rentals



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190. Waterfront Rentals

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195. Seasonal Rentals

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205. Townhouse Rental

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210. M.H. Rentals

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225. Duplex-Triplex Rental

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505. Part-time Help

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505. Part-time Help

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505. Part-time Help

535. Business Opportun.

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600. Merchandise

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630. Absolutely Free

NURSING TEXT, JOURNALS, Red Geraniums. Keep family well. Spruce up yard. Please Only May 2nd-4th/ May 9th-11th Call (727)393-0932, 9AM-9PM. From Equal Rights Amendment.

635. Bargain Corner

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845. Golf Carts

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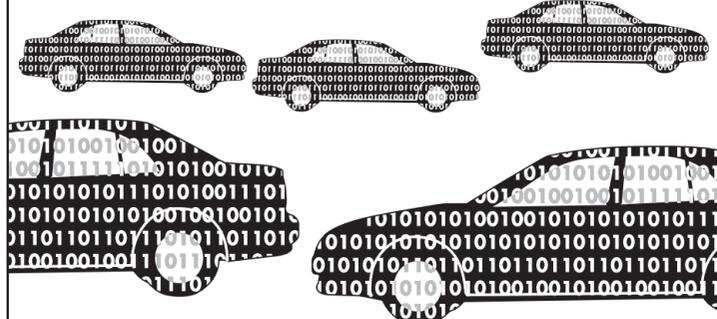
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Attention: Pinellas County Contractors/Professional Service Providers: Licensing and Advertising

Revisions to Chapter 22 of the Pinellas County Code Countywide Building Construction Industry Regulation and Construction Codes

Please be advised that Pinellas County Ordinance 10-68 was approved on December 14, 2010, by the Board of County Commissioners which revised Pinellas County Code, Chapter 22, Buildings and Building Regulations, Section 22-14, Acts prohibited and Section 22-15, Limitation on power of investigators, director; inspections; subpoenas; telephone records. The Ordinance can be viewed at the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board's website: www.pccib.com

Acts Prohibited: (and subject to fines).

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 any materially false, misleading, or misrepresentative information on an application for permit or license
- Hold oneself out as being licensed or registered when not so licensed or registered
- Engage in any activity requiring a permit without having obtained the appropriate permits
- Advertise to the public in any publication, transmission, business card, pamphlet, telephone directory, sign or otherwise that he is a contractor or that he will perform work in a trade requiring licensure without being duly qualified (licensed) to do so.
- Submit an advertisement to any publisher for placement in any publication which is primarily circulated, displayed, distributed or marketed within the County, which advertisement identifies a contractor offering services regulated by the State or County without including the name of the contractor or business and the certification or registration number issued by the state or the county to that contractor.
- Subcontract any work to a person, firm or business organization not holding an active certificate of competency for work involved in the subcontract.
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Looking ahead

Clearwater

• **PAVA exhibit**, through May 31, at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. On display is varied media visual art from 12 artists from the Professional Association of Visual Artists. Each artist is showing a small body of their work. A panel of their PAVA peers selected the artists. The artwork, which is available for purchase, is located in the upper East and West Galleries of the hall. The exhibit may be viewed during the hall's scheduled performances. PAVA is a not-for-profit, artist run organization. Visit www.pava-artists.org.

• **"Separate Beds,"** by Maryjane Cruise, presented by Early Bird Dinner Theatre, through June 3, at the Italian-American Club, 200 S. McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Seating for performances is Thursday through Sunday, 4 p.m. Seating for matinees is Thursday and Saturday, 11 a.m. Cost is \$29.90 a person. For reservations, call 446-5898. Visit www.earlybirddinnertheatre.com. Two couples navigate through their relationships on a Caribbean cruise. One seems perfect while the other seems stormy. The truth and lies of each marriage comes to the surface as they celebrate their anniversaries at sea. Ernie and Twink attempt to put the sizzle back into their marriage while Beth and Blake attempt to save theirs.

• **"Becky's New Car,"** by Steven Deitz, presented by West Coast Players, through May 13, at West Coast Players Theatre, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Performances are Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Admission is \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org. Dietz's heroine Becky Foster doesn't have a half-bad life; it has just become predictable and mundane. She has a solid yet dull marriage to her roofer hubby Joe. Together they have a son: a goofy college psychology major named Chris. Becky devotes herself to a decent job with a car dealership. However, her day-to-day routine is flipped upside down when Walter Flood, a charmingly quirky millionaire, comes into the dealership late one night.

• **"The Pajama Game,"** with music and lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross and book by George Abbott and Richard Bissell; presented by Francis Wilson Playhouse, May 10-27, at the playhouse, 302 Seminole St., Clearwater. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$26 for adults and \$13 for students. Call 446-1360 or visit www.franciswilsonplayhouse.org. Based on the bestselling novel "Seven and a Half Cents," "The Pajama Game" won the 1954 Tony for the best musical. Set in an Iowa pajama factory in the 1950s, this energetic musical is filled with memorable tunes such as "Hernando's Hide-away," "Hey There" and "Steam Heat."

• **Creed**, Saturday, May 5, 9 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$39.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhal.com. Grammy-winning rock giant Creed will perform "Human Clay" as well as select songs from the "Weathered" and "Full Circle" albums. This event will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Creed fans to see the band in an intimate setting performing its blockbuster album "Human Clay" in its entirety. The band also is celebrating the 15-year anniversary of the band's debut blockbuster album "My Own Prison," which has sold more than 6 million copies to date.

Largo

• **"Broadway's Best,"** presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, May 4-13, 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. The well-known dynamic creative team of Rocco Morabito (director) and Ronnie DeMarco (choreographer) have designed their dream show: a revue combining favorite ballads, laments and show-stoppers from Broadway's best. The lineup includes gems from musicals such as "Cabaret," "Chicago," "A Chorus Line," "Damn Yankees," "Gypsy," "Godspell," "Guys & Dolls" and "Mame."

• **Kid Power Operation Lunch Line**, Saturday, May 5, 11 a.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and \$6.50 for children. Call 587-6793 or visit www.largoarts.com. This live educational performance is a highly interactive musical show designed to teach children the importance of healthy eating and physical activity. Using visual effects in 3-D technology, the audience will join Kid Power on an amazing journey inside the human body of a boy named Max, to learn the value of good nutrition and exercise.

• **Sun Coast Mother's Day Fun Fest**, Sunday, May 13, noon to 3:30 p.m., at Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive, Largo. The event will include live music, children's activities, entertainment and tips on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle for the entire family. Admission to the park is free and food and beverages will be available. For music lovers, the main stage will boast hours of non-stop entertainment, featuring Tampa Bay singer and songwriter Jim Lanier and Jordan Boyer. Families will delight in off-stage performances by clowns, jugglers and a magician, and a special children's play area will feature inflatable jumpers, miniature train rides through the park and a commemorative photo booth. Donations are kindly accepted.

Emphasizing holistic health, this Mother's Day event also will include a health and wellness fair with various lifestyle demonstrations and exhibits by local nonprofit agencies and other community service providers. Call 483-0661.

• **Leon Russell**, Friday, May 18, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$34 in advance or \$39 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit [largoarts.com](http://www.largoarts.com). The legendary singer/songwriter is considered one of the most accomplished and versatile musicians in the history of rock and roll. In his distinguished and unique 50-year career, he has played on, arranged, written and produced more than 40 records in popular music. Russell has won two Grammy awards and was inducted into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2011.

• The 23rd annual **Abilities Wine Tasting**, Saturday, May 26, at the Armed Forces History Museum, 2050 34th Way N., Largo. This event features premium wines, auction items and gourmet restaurants. Presented by Raymond James and selected as a three-time, top-five finalist for WEDU's Be More Awards Special Event of the Year, Abilities' is Florida's longest-running and most prosperous one-night tasting, netting \$3.48 million to date. The tasting will begin with a VIP Officer's Club Reception from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by the Grand Tasting from 7 to 9 p.m. Among the restaurants and wine purveyors will be Salt Rock Grill, Island Way Grill, Parkshore Grill, 400 Beach Drive, O'Bistro, Melting Pot, Madfish, Casa Vinicola Zonin, Global Wines Distribution, Premier Beverage Company, Southern Wine & Spirits, Republic National Distributing, Johnson Brothers, Stacole, Spirits of Mexico, Pic Pac, Fine Wine & Spirits Warehouse, and Carrollwood Liquors. The event also will feature valet parking, live entertainment and a silent auction with a Jim's Harley-Davidson motorcycle, rare wines, autographed sports collectibles and original artwork. Grand Tasting tickets cost \$50 in advance, \$75 after May 12 and \$85 at the door. Tickets for the VIP Reception include entry to the Grand Tasting and cost \$75 in advance, \$150 after May 12 and \$175 at the door. For tickets, call 538-7370, ext. 234 or visit www.abilitiesfoundation.com.

• **"Nonsense II,"** with book, music and lyrics by Dan Goggin; presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, July 13-20, 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. This sequel takes place six weeks after the Little Sisters of Hoboken's first benefit show, and now they are back with a big Thank You show. They're a bit slicker,

having been "bitten by the theater bug." Things get off to a rousing start, and before long chaos erupts. Two Franciscans come to claim Sister Mary Amnesia (who has won the Publishers' Clearing House Sweepstakes). The nuns hear that a talent scout is in the audience.

Pinellas Park

• **"Grease!"**, presented by Venue Theatre's Musical Stars; May 4 through 20, at Venue Theatre and Actors Studio, 9125 U.S. 19 N., Pinellas Park. Performances will be May 4, 7 p.m.; May 5, 6, 13, 19 and 20, 2:30 p.m.; and May 12, 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for teens and adults and \$5 for children age 12 and younger. Call 727-822-6194 for reservations and more information. Directed and adapted by Selena Ambush, the production features choreography by Travis Mesman and vocal direction by Wayne Berman and Jason Miller.

• **Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ performance**, Tuesday, May 15, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the city auditorium, 7690 59th St. N., Pinellas Park. The free recurring concert offers an opportunity to relive the golden years of theater as lovely melodies are played on the Mighty Wurlitzer theater organ. The organ, lovingly restored by the Central Florida Theatre Organ Society, creates the sound of a full orchestra including a variety of percussion instruments and a bevy of sound effects. Attendees may bring a lunch to eat while enjoying the show. Performances are presented third Tuesdays. Call 557-6087 or 504-7012.

• **Shadows of the Mind Ballet Performance**, Saturday, May 19, 6:30 p.m., at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Attendees will experience a performance that takes them through the constant battles of good and bad, right and wrong, love and hate, within the "Shadows of the Mind." The production is copyrighted by Tai White, choreographer. No photography or video will be permitted. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$15 for students. Call 565-9010.

• **Latin Fest**, Friday, May 25, 6 p.m., at Calvary Chapel, 8900 U.S. 19 N., Pinellas Park. A cultural celebration, the inaugural Calvary Chapel Latin Fest will feature a live concert by the band Contagious, Latin cuisine and family activities. Cost is \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. For tickets, call 577-7705 or visit calvarystp.org/concert.

• **Movies in the Park**, Saturday, May 26, dusk, at England Brothers Park, 5010 81st Ave. N., Pinellas Park. The movie is free. Funds from the concession benefit the Firefighters' Benevolent Fund. Funds also are used for holiday toy and dinner giveaways and to assist fire victims in Pinellas Park. Call Nick DelGrosso at 687-4494 or email ndelgros@pinellas-park.com.



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