

LARGO LEADER

At the box office – A horrifying apparition haunts a young couple

“The Apparition,” a supernatural thriller, stars Ashley Greene, Sebastian Stan ... Page 1B.



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ENTERTAINMENT



Blondie to perform in Pinellas Park

The Whip It to Shreds Tour comes to England Brothers Park on Sunday, Sept. 23. Gates will open at 3 p.m. Tickets start at \$14. Visit ticketfly.com. Blondie and Devo will co-headline the show. ... Page 8B.

LARGO City mulls over budget proposals

The economic development division is too important to eliminate, city commissioners said Aug. 17. During a work session on their departments' budgets, all commissioners spoke out against deleting the division, which is part of the Community Development Department. ... Page 2A.

COUNTY Plans move ahead for new building

Pinellas County is closer to the start of construction on a new public safety facility and centralized communication center. Pinellas County Commissioners unanimously approved an amendment to the guaranteed maximum price with Land Lease Construction Inc. of Tampa. The Aug. 7 approval initiates construction of the project, according to a staff report. The price is nearly \$68.5 million. Construction is expected to take 24 months. ... Page 7A.

BUSINESS Chamber honors four area leaders

The Central Pinellas Chamber presented awards to four individuals ... Page 11A.

VIEWPOINTS Bill Cotterell

Florida's electoral votes absolutely essential for Romney, columnist says. ... Page 9A.



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City OKs sign replacement bonuses

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO – Largo commissioners voted 6-1 to approve an ordinance Aug. 21 offering businesses incentives to replace pole signs with monument signs in the next five years.

The tiered program will help promote the replacement of nonconforming pole signs throughout the city, city officials said. Businesses are required to replace the signs before June 2017.

During the first year, the program would include 10 \$200 grants that will be available to offset building permit fees in addition to a 25 percent sign square footage bonus.

Among the proponents of the program are the Cen-

tral Pinellas Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Harriet Crozier said the chamber is being proactive toward the incentives. She called chamber officials and was told that they want to put together educational programs for all businesses in Largo, she said.

She asked how the city was going to deal with businesses that don't replace their pole signs as required by June 2017.

Community Development Director Carol Stricklin said the code enforcement process will give businesses "a reasonable time to comply."

"But it's at some point there could be people that would go to our code enforcement board who would be asked to remove their nonconforming signs," she said.

Commissioner Curtis Holmes, who voted against the

program, said that the "little stipend we are throwing out there is minute compared to what the cost of doing this is."

Largo resident Geoff Moakley said the city spends "perhaps thousands of dollars trying to mandate and replace highly visible pole signs with low visibility monument signs."

He said he depends on viewing gas station advertising on pole signs. As he is driving on four-lane and six-lane highways, he won't be able to see monument signs three hundred yards away.

"Keep pole signs, which are the life blood of business advertising," he said.

The final reading ordinance is set for the commission's meeting Sept. 4.

Packers upbeat about season

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO – Rick Rodriguez, who is starting his 13th season as head coach of the Largo High Packers, is counting on his team's experience to give him a good shot at winning his eighth consecutive district title.

"We have a real solid group of seniors. Quite a few have started for three or four years, that's important ... especially at our skilled positions," Rodriguez said.

Those include senior Harry Brown, 5-11, 205 pounds, a linebacker and running back; and senior Juwan Brown, 6-1, 180 pounds, quarterback.

Juwan Brown has a "lot of football savvy" and has developed into one of the top players in the state of Florida through his work ethic, Rodriguez said.

"I love these kids and I love the game and I will do it until I die. If I won the Powerball yesterday, I'd still be here. Just in better clothes."

– Jeremy Frioud
Largo defensive coach

See PACKERS, page 8A



Largo head coach Rick Rodriguez makes assignments for his team during practice. Photo by TOM GERMOND

SYNTHETIC DRUG ABUSE

A family lost

A Largo couple struggles when their 15-year-old gets addicted to synthetic drugs

Editor's note: The family's last name is being withheld to maintain some of their privacy. This story is part of the last segment of a three-part series.

By ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

LARGO – It killed one of her close friends. It caused another one to have a severe seizure. But the addiction was too strong. She kept using. But it's "only" synthetic marijuana. It's "legal." It's "no big deal."

At least those are the arguments she told herself and tried to use on her parents.

Jessie's addiction to synthetic drugs has wreaked destruction on her family as her parents try all they can to save their little girl. She is only 15. But Missy and Jeff of Largo won't give up on their daughter.

The turning point

Before all their lives changed, Jessie was a dream kid. She was the first girl to be born in the father's side of the family in more than 80 years. She was sweet, loving, kind and talented.

"Extremely talented," Missy said. "In sports and anything. Anything Jessie did, it was effortless. She was very good at softball. She was really good at school. She always got good grades. She was always the center of attention. Everyone wanted to be like Jessie. She was just always very outgoing, very outspoken, very fun. She was like the life of the family."

"It's so sad to talk about her like 'she was, she was,'" Jeff

replied. "It sounds like she's dead."

"I know she's still in there," Missy said. "Just hopefully someday it will come back out."

Their family has always been close, enjoying activities with both Missy's and Jeff's large extended families and also spending time together as their own little unit – Missy, Jeff, Jessie, and Jessie's 11-year-old brother. Jessie and her family loved doing everything together – roller skating, fishing, camping, beach outings, movies and family dinners. Jessie loved special hunting trips with her dad.

All of a sudden, around eighth grade when Jessie was about 13, she started hanging out with a different crowd. They were much older than her – around 18 to 20. Jessie started to pull away, but at first it just seemed like normal teenage stuff. She was moodier and didn't want to hang out with the family, and at first, Missy and Jeff tried to give her some space and a little bit of freedom since she was growing up.

But as Jessie pulled away more and more, her parents began monitoring her Facebook page. When Jessie unfriended her parents, Missy created an account pretending to be a teenage boy.

"I became friends with her friends so finally she trusted that I could be her friend," Missy said. "And you watch her Facebook page and you kind of figure out what's going on. We were wondering what Spice and K-2 were. I mean, you think it's

just kid language. We knew what pot, marijuana and those kinds of things are. But we had no clue what this was."

"On Facebook, all of the friends, they're so stupid," Jeff added. "They talk openly that they have the drugs and to come on over."

Missy and Jeff began finding packages of the synthetic drugs in Jessie's room, purse, and even hidden outside. They did some research, found out what they were. People were calling it "legal pot," and Missy thinks that is how Jessie and her friends got the misconception that it was okay and safe.

"Jessie was never into drugs or smoking or alcohol," Missy said. "She was very against smoking. And she had been in a very good crowd of friends. And then one day it seemed like the table kind of turned and she veered off down the wrong path of friends. And she admitted it was peer pressure. They kept pressuring her and pressuring her and making fun of her, saying that she wasn't cool (if she didn't try the synthetic drugs.)"

'But it's legal'

Missy and Jeff had already talked to Jessie about not doing drugs, alcohol or smoking. They explained why they are bad and talked about the consequences. But they weren't prepared for this new kind of drug.

Neither Missy nor Jeff come from families or backgrounds that involve drug or alcohol abuse, so it was shocking to all of a sudden have to deal with



Missy shows a favorite picture of her daughter, Jessie, from back in the "good old days" before Jessie got addicted to synthetic drugs. Photo by ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

her daughter's addiction. She and her friends did all kinds of synthetic drugs – K-2, Spice, Scooby Snax, Smileys, WTF, Jazz. Jeff hates how the packaging is so colorful with cartoons or "cool" images on it that are made to attract kids. Both parents are shocked that they

are so accessible. "It really boggles the mind that anybody could just walk into a gas station and buy something that makes them hallucinate," Missy said. "It has

See FAMILY, page 4A

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Largo: Economic development too critical to cut

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO – The economic development division is too important to eliminate, city commissioners said Aug. 17.

During a work session on their departments' budgets, all commissioners spoke out against deleting the division, which is part of the Community Development Department.

The proposed budget reductions would eliminate two full positions, which are the economic division manager and neighborhood planner, reducing full-time equivalent positions from 62.25 to 60.25.

Commissioners noted that the city has undertaken many efforts to stimulate economic development in the city since the manager's position was first filled in April 2008. Though they didn't mention her by name, the manager is Teresa Brydon.

"I think it's not a great time to let go of the economic development manager, being that we have done all this work to get ready for when people are going to be able to start developing something again," Mayor Pat Gerard said.

The other position that city officials plan to eliminate from the budget is the neighborhood planner. Gerard asked if the economic development manager is retained whether she could pick up some of the neighborhood coordinator's duties.

"I think people are bit traumatized that we are even thinking of cutting that (economic development manager) and the neighborhood person," Gerard said.

Commissioner Robert Murray agreed with her on economic development.

"I think the economic development manager is key at this particular point, especially with the uptick with all the planning and permits that are being pulled now," Murray said. "I think it's a vital position to have."

Commissioner Curtis Holmes said several developers contacted him and said they thought it was a terrible idea that they would consider getting rid of the economic development manager.

"They had nothing but high praise for the current person in the office," Holmes said.

Commissioner Gigi Amrtzen said that when the city lists its top priority is promoting economic development, "we are doing ourselves a disservice." "I think we need to keep the position to maintain what we have," she said.

Commissioner Woody Brown said he thought it was "a horrible time to consider removing that function," adding that the commission needs to figure out how to find \$84,000 to fund it.

If the commission agreed to cut the manager's position the business ombudsman in that department would be reassigned to administration and continue in the role as the small-business liaison and have some other duties.

Community Development Carol Stricklin listed several activities that would be discontinued if the economic development department were eliminated.

Those include reduced pro-active business recruitment, outreach and

assistance for development site selection; reduced coordination with Pinellas County Economic Development to work with leads generated by the state and reduced support for the economic development incentives program," she said.

"We would discontinue our coordinated economic development marketing program," she said.

The program consists of regular attendance at marketing events. In addition the department regularly communicates with business community through its electronic newsletter, story of the week and social media.

The business community views the economic development manager as "their advocate," Stricklin said.

"What would really change is that the city would no longer have that senior economic development professional as the face of economic development for the city of Largo," Stricklin said.

Though City Manager Mac Craig said finding money to fund the economic development position is difficult, he suggested that the city expand contracts for groundskeepers' and custodial services as city employees vacate those positions to provide savings in the budget.

The city's proposed operating budget reflects a reduction about \$2.6 million and the equivalent of 23.23 full-time employees. City officials are proposing a 7.3 percent property tax increase, bringing the tax rate to 4.9 mills.

At this point, the commission is providing direction for the city officials. The final decisions on the tax rate and the budget for the next fiscal year will be made at a public hearing Sept. 20.

Largo events

Free Genealogy/Family History Classes in September, Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive

Description: "Free classes this month include: Using Ancestry.com and familysearch.org (LDS site), Using Library of Congress website, Tracing Living Persons and several more. See the complete listing with details of classes and scheduled times at www.flpgs.org/classes.aspx. Email Bob Bryan at BBryan84@gmail.com or call 595-4521 for more information.

The event is free.
Swing Dance Saturdays, Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 7 until 11 p.m. Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road.

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."

The fee is \$6 with a recreation card and \$7 no recreation card.

Train Weekend, Sept. 2 and 3, 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 of 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 LargoEvents.com."

Call 587-6740, ext. 5014.

The event is free; donations accepted.

Labor Day Poolside Picnic, Sept. 3, 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., Highland Family Aquatic Center, 400 Highland Ave.

Description: "Bring the family and a blanket to enjoy your own picnic basket by the pool, during our extended 4 hour session. Make sure to receive your free chair massage in addition to our family and friends discount admission. This is our last public session of the season so don't miss out. Please do not bring alcohol or glass into the facility. Splash's snack bar will be open."

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Steven Oyer, 4, of Seminole, gets a few pointers from his dad, Andrew, at the Kiwanis Club of Seminole Breakfast's Family Fun Fishing Day Aug. 4 at Taylor Park in Largo. Awards were given for the first catch, most fish, smallest fish and the top three largest fish.

Photo by JIM LAYFIELD

NOAA ups the odds for a busy hurricane season

By SUZETTE PORTER

Experts with NOAA's Climate Prediction Center now say there is a 35 percent chance that the 2012 Atlantic Hurricane Season will have above-normal activity, which is an increase from predictions made in May.

Gerry Bell, Ph.D., lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at the Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, made the announcement at an Aug. 9 teleconference.

"We are increasing the likelihood of an above-normal season because storm-conducive wind patterns and warmer-than-normal sea surface temperatures are now in place in the Atlantic," Bell said. "There conditions are linked to the ongoing high activity era for Atlantic hurricanes that began in 1995. Also, strong-early season activity is generally indicative of a more active season."

The new outlook calls for a 50 percent chance of a near-normal season, 35 percent chance of an above-normal season, and 15 percent chance that activity will be below normal.

The outlook calls for a total of 12 to 17 named storms to form in 2012, five to eight hurricanes and two to three major hurricanes.

As of Aug. 9, six named storms have formed and two strengthened into hurricanes. Laura Furgione, acting director of the National Weather Service, pointed out that two of the named storms formed before June 1, the official start of the season.

She said it was only the third time in history that two named storms formed before June 1. The other times were in 1887 and 1908. Four additional named storms formed this year in late June.

"Then it was a quiet July," she said. "Activity picked up again in early August."

Mid-August marks the historical peak of the season.

An average hurricane season includes 10 tropical storms, six hurricanes and two major hurricanes with maximum sustained

The new outlook calls for a 50 percent chance of a near-normal season, 35 percent chance of an above-normal season, and 15 percent chance that activity will be below normal. The outlook calls for a total of 12 to 17 named storms to form in 2012, five to eight hurricanes and two to three major hurricanes.

winds exceeding 110 mph, categories 3-5 on the Saffir-Simpson scale.

"However, the vast majority of tropical storm and hurricane activity typically occurs during the August-October peak of the hurricane season," according to NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

The experts say 78 percent of tropical storm days usually occur in the three-month period, as well as 87 percent of minor hurricane days and 96 percent of major hurricane days. Maximum activity is in early to mid-September.

Experts with Colorado State University's Tropical Meteorology Project released projections for the remainder of the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season Aug. 3, saying between now and Nov. 30, activity most likely will be slightly less than average.

Dr. Phil Klotzbach, research scientist, and William Gray, professor emeritus of atmospheric science, said in the updated report that the remainder of 2012 "will have about" 10 named storms, five hurricanes and two major hurricanes, Category 3, 4 or 5.

Furgione said the reason outlooks and predictions for hurricane season are made is to help provide information to prepare ahead of the storms.

"Folks need to be prepared now," she said, referencing the web-site ready.gov as a resource to help.

She talked about the need to become a "weather-ready" nation with people informed and ready regardless of predictions and seasons.

She also pointed out that residents in coastal communities weren't the only ones at risk due to the dangers of inland flooding. "Inland flooding is the most dangerous aspect of hurricanes," she said. "More than half the deaths associated with hurricanes in the United States come from inland flooding."

She said 2012 marked the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Andrew, the last Category 5 hurricane to hit the United States. Andrew came ashore in south Florida on Aug. 24, 1992 and then made landfall a second time as a Category 3 in Louisiana. It was the third costliest storm after hurricanes Katrina and Ike.

"Be prepared each and every season, regardless of predictions," she said. "We have no control over if a hurricane will form or when or where. Being prepared gives us power."

NOAA climatologists announced Aug. 9 that El Nino likely would develop later this month or in September.

"El Nino is a competing factor, because it strengthens the vertical wind shear over the Atlantic, which suppresses storm development. However, we don't expect El Nino's influence until later in the season," Bell said.

Hurricane Ernesto and Tropical Storm Florence formed off the African coast earlier than is typical, which experts say is indicative of an active season.

Furgione said officials were concerned about the potential for the public to be apathetic since it had been some years since a major hurricane had affected the United States. She said the public's preparedness often is tied to the experiences they remember.

"We have a long way to go until the end of the season, and we shouldn't let our guard down," she said. Hurricane season continues through Nov. 30.



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Understanding the various effects of synthetic drugs

By SUZETTE PORTER

They're addictive. Their effects are unknown. Yet, they're available at the local convenience store and the Internet.

K2, Spice, Ivory White – they're marketed as a legal high. Lots of people are doing them, so what's the problem?

There are many issues with these drugs, according to Dr. Cynthia R. Lewis-Younger, managing and medical director for the Florida Poison Information Center in Tampa.

"Because people take them for their psychological effects, they all go into the brain," she said. "We know that drug use can change the brain. Particularly with the synthetic cathinones, we've been seeing severe outcomes," including psychotic behaviors, which may persist for the long term.

"We don't know if those are permanent, but I think it will be likely. We have seen seizures and very high temperatures, both of which can be deadly," she said.

But what concerns her most, is the violent acts that have been associated with the users of these drugs. Synthetic cathinones are designer stimulants also known as bath salts.

"This has apparently included suicides, murders and attempted murders. Users may need multiple people to restrain them physically until they can be sedated for behavior control."

Marvin Coleman, vice president of Community and Business Relations at Operation Par, agrees that synthetic drugs are "becoming pretty much a significant issue."

About 30 percent of the agency's clients said in a recent poll they had used synthetic drugs or had experienced some issues with the drugs. Operation Par assists families experiencing problems associated with substance abuse and mental health issues.

Coleman also talked about the problem of unknown long-term effects.

"It's hard to know the effect it will have on people 10 to 20 years in the future," he said.

Prescription drugs are developed over time, studied and verified as safe for legitimate use. Known side effects are listed. Yet, they are often taken off the shelf after several years of use.

"Five to 10 years later, long-term problems come out that outweigh the benefits of some of these drugs," he said. "Those drugs were researched and regulated. But, without the regulation, the danger sky-rockets."

Coleman also is concerned because the drugs are manufactured in secrecy using unknown and ever-changing formulas.

Treatment is more difficult for those addicted to synthetic drugs because of the lack of control of the manufacturing process, Coleman said.

"You don't know what's in it, so you have to be careful on the medical side of the treatment," he said.

He said the products could contain derivatives of illegal drugs such as heroin, methamphetamines or cocaine, which increases the danger of addiction.

"Treatment is a very tricky thing, because the drug may be an unknown even after drug testing," he said. "Treating synthetic addiction is a very tricky thing."

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, withdrawal symptoms from synthetic cannabinoids, includes elevated blood pressure, restlessness, drug craving, nightmares, sweating, nausea, tremor and headache.

Coleman defines an addict as someone who is losing control or has the inability to control their habit – something in their life that is causing hurt and pain, destroying their family and making them unable to work or go to school.

Teens are highly vulnerable due to the marketing toward that age group. He said marijuana users switch to the synthetic version either because they're trying to quit or because they believe it is safe because it is legal. Synthetics are appealing to other drug users because they're thought to be legal, and they believe the drugs will produce the same effects of the illegals. Synthetic drugs are not detected by drug tests.

The effects of the drugs may vary per person or age group. For example, one of the side effects of bath salts is that once ingested it causes an increase in body temperature "as the body tries to eradicate the foreign thing they ingested," Coleman said.

"Some handle it better," he said. "It depends on the person. We don't know how it will affect everybody."

John Melton, an investigator for Pinellas County Justice and Consumer Services, said bath salts have been known to cause people to hallucinate and have reactions of feeling as if their skin is on fire. They take off their clothes.

"There are verifiable reports by authorities of ODs (overdoses) on this stuff," Melton said.

According to William Pellan, director of Investigations for the District Six Medical Examiner Office, only one cause of death has been reported in Pinellas County that involved synthetic cannabinoids.

"That death involved a 19 year old that drowned in Clearwater," he said. "There have been other deaths that we investigated that were determined to have synthetic cannabinoids present in their toxicology results, but did not directly cause or contribute to their death."

Known side effects

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement reports a number of side effects associated with synthetic drugs.

Mild effects from the use of bath salts include:

- Increased heart rate
- Agitation
- Diminished requirement for sleep
- Lack of appetite
- Increased alertness and awareness
- Anxiety
- Fits and delusions
- Nosebleeds

More serious side effects associated with bath salts include:

- Muscle spasms
- Blood circulation problems
- Increased blood pressure
- Kidney failure
- Seizures

- Risk of renal failure
- Hallucinations
- Aggression
- Severe paranoia
- Panic attacks
- Sharp increase in body temperature

Side effects from synthetic marijuana include:

- Agitation
- Vomiting
- Dangerous hallucinations
- Loss of consciousness
- Elevated blood pressure
- Seizures
- Increased heart rate

Help is available

Operation Par provides help with substance abuse problems. Coleman said parents are welcome to call for help if their child is involved in synthetic drugs. He said treatment varies depending on each unique case. The process begins with taking information about the problem followed by a drug test. Then a treatment plan is developed.

Cost depends on the plan; however, Coleman stressed that money should not be a limiting factor as help is available for those on limited incomes. Depending on the type of program, a sliding scale price may be available. Service could even be free for those qualified thanks to state and local funding.

"Operation Par gave away \$4 million in services last year," Coleman said.

He said Operation Par had been successful with treatment of individuals addicted to synthetics. He said treatment programs often mirrored those for other drugs.

"It's not harder to cure," he said. "But it can be harder to overcome." One of the reasons is temptation. For example, a recovering alcoholic knows it is easier to stay sober if they stay out of the bars. But all a synthetic drug addict has to do is walk into the neighborhood convenience store and the temptation is right there behind the counter, he said.

For more information on Operation Par, call the 24-hour hotline at 1-888-727-6398 or visit www.operationpar.org.

Additional resources can be found online at www.pinellascoalition.com, the website for LiveFree! Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Pinellas County.

Everyone's affected

Synthetic drugs don't just affect the users. Their families suffer as well. Lewis-Younger believes the problem really encompasses everybody.

"We have a serious problem with drug use of any sort in this country as a whole," she said. "While the number of people who use those particular drugs (synthetics) is not so small, when we look at all drugs that can be abused, the number is phenomenal. All of us are impacted – because of the impacts on health care system, and the costs to the system to pay for all the jails and the hospital care required."

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chemicals in it that scientists don't really know what they are yet. And then they go and change the chemicals as soon as they make them illegal, so it's legal again because they changed a compound in it."

Teens don't tend to think about their mortality or long-term consequences.

"As teenagers, they think they're indestructible," Jeff said. "And like everyone's told them about cigarettes and that they can kill you, but some people smoke cigarettes for 50 years sometimes before anything happens. So they may think this Spice thing will take a long time and they can stop any time they want. But it can cause brain damage."

Unfortunately, sometimes it only takes one time to cause permanent damage. Missy has reached out to numerous other parents online whose teens and young adult children have been affected by synthetic drugs. She recently talked to one mom whose son was very smart and was a student in grad school. One weekend, he decided to party and tried synthetic pot for the first time. After just that one time, he got serious brain damage and is hardly the person he used to be. Missy said she feels grateful that they have not lost their daughter completely, but she still is terrified for what could happen.

Jeff said that it is harder for the kids to get real marijuana, so they do the synthetic kinds instead. Plus, if they are caught with marijuana, they get arrested. But if they are caught with synthetic drugs, they are immune.

"Probably in the back of their mind they think, 'If it hurts us so bad, why make it so available to us?'" Jeff said.

For a good kid like Jessie, the technical legality made it easier for her to justify what she was doing in the beginning.

"The biggest fight that we would have," Missy said, "is she said, 'I'm not buying real pot. That's illegal.' And that was a lot of it in the beginning. 'It's legal, it's legal, it's legal.' But we could see that it was destroying her. It took her soul. It took every bit of the sparkle in her eye and it made her dark. She became very hollow and very shallow. And then she would just start staying out because she knew that she'd get in trouble. Instead of listening to us as her parents, trying to ground her or scold her, she would just not come home."

Wild child

Every time Jessie ran away or just wouldn't come home, Jeff had to go out searching for her. He was on call 24 hours a day. It could be 2 a.m. and he and Missy went to sleep just for a few minutes and Jessie would slip out of the house. Jeff would be out until 4, 5, 6 a.m. trying to catch up with her. He might find her again at 8 a.m. as she came straggling down the street by herself, he said, or maybe they wouldn't find her until 3 p.m. the next day. Missy said their friends would call and tell them that they saw Jessie at the local gas station buying spice and was hanging out with her "bad friends," as her parents called them.

"We became very good detectives," Jeff said. "When she wouldn't come home, we had to start calling her friends and we'd have to make the call – is she just out running around, or did somebody grab her and take her? So better safe than sorry, we had to go find her, so we have to call everyone, waking them up, asking, 'Have you seen Jessie?'"

Jeff would go around, knocking on doors in the middle of the night, trying to find his daughter. When he would finally find her and bring her home, she'd be all mad and protest. She would stick around long enough to shower and get something to eat, but as soon as Jeff and Missy were in bed, she would slip out again.

Sometimes Jessie would even leave a note, saying she would be back in 15 minutes. At 8:05 a.m. But then it would be two more days until they found her or she came home on her own.

For a while, Missy and Jeff used a GPS tracker on Jessie's phone to track her down. Missy would be on the computer, talking to Jeff on the phone as she told him which direction to turn as he drove around trying to find their daughter. But eventually Jessie figured out how they were finding her, so she shut off her phone to stay hidden.

Jeff worked as a private contractor, but he lost a lot of clients because whenever Jessie was out of

school, he had to watch her.

"It's babysitting a 15-year-old," Missy said. "He would call me at work and all he'd done was go to the bathroom and she would run out the door. 'Well she's gone.' 'What do you mean? You're there with her.' But he goes to the bathroom, she's gone. He goes outside to do something, she's gone. You literally have to follow her around. You can't chain her to a bed. It gets very trying to where some days you just want to throw your arms and say, 'That's it, I'm done. I'm tired. I'm over it.' But you know what? You can't do that. You can't give up on your child."

Pretty soon they realized that even school was not a safe place.

"I would drop her off at school at 7 in the morning, and she walks in the door and walks right back out the back door of the school," Jeff said. "And then I'm there at the end of the day, thinking she went to school all day long."

There was a gas station right across the street from the high school where Jessie and her friends bought the synthetic pot and then go hang out all day. When her parents started getting calls from the school, Jessie said that she was late to class, and that is why the school calls. The parents caught on, though, and were horrified to learn that she and her "bad friends" would spend all day at this "nasty old man's" house who appeared to like the young girls far too much, Jeff said. His granddaughter used to live with him, so that is why the kids started going over there, but then she moved back to Tampa, yet the kids still kept going over there, Missy said.

"Any kid that wanted to could come to his door and hang out there," Jeff said. "So all these kids who wanted to do drugs or spice or whatever would just walk out of school and over to his house. ... I talked to him this one time and told him I don't like Jessie being at his house, but I had to write it all down because he's deaf."

Missy said they have reported the man to the police several times, but they don't know what came of that.

Everything about Jessie changed after she started using synthetic drugs. She was no longer the sweet, kind girl that her parents knew.

"It was like a Jekyll and Hyde kind of thing," Jeff said. "She'd be nice but then if she wanted to go somewhere or do something (and wasn't allowed to,) she'd just get irate and mean. I heard that happened a lot with kids (on these drugs.) It makes them very angry and mean and messes up their brain a bit. I'm surprised more crimes haven't been committed because of this."

Interventions

Numerous times, Jessie's family has taken huge measures to try to get her cleaned up. The first was in that first summer Jessie started using synthetic pot.

"In June 2010, she had run away from home one night, and I think it was the first time we ever called the police on her, and I was frantic," Missy said.

Missy called her dad and aunt up in Georgia to talk about the situation. Her aunt offered to take Jessie for the summer. Get her out of the environment. Away from those friends. Let her play with her cousins and maybe she would snap out of it. But that didn't last for long. She wanted to come home. She missed her friends. She put up a fuss.

"It was all because Jessie didn't have the control that she thought that she had and the freedom that she thought she had," Missy said.

But she wasn't home more than a few days before she was smoking the synthetic pot again. At that point, Missy and Jeff researched rehab centers and sent Jessie to Inspirations for Youth in Fort Lauderdale. She remained there from late July until September, missing the first few weeks of high school. She seemed to be doing a lot better, but those same friends were still around, and after a few weeks, Jessie caved to the pressure and old habits.

"We sent her back (to Inspirations) for a second time," Missy said. "But I think that time Jessie kind of knew what to do to manipulate the system to get out quickly."

That rehab center was primarily for alcohol and traditional drugs. It didn't know as much about Spice and the synthetic drugs because they were so new, Missy said. But one of the people at Inspirations helped Missy and Jeff find Wellington Retreat Residential Treatment Center in Palm Beach. There is a specialized adolescent program that has an in-



Photo by ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

During her first stay at Wellington Retreat Residential Treatment Center, Jessie did art therapy. She knows her mom loves suns, so she painted suns for Missy. She also told her mom that she wants to learn how to love, and she wants to live. She also wants people to learn how to trust her again.

tensive inpatient program for teens 13 to 18. They treat for both the drug and behavior problems and also help the kids continue their schoolwork through the Florida Virtual School.

The teens at Wellington live a structured life, and participate in the 12-step programs of both Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. They attend group sessions and one-on-one counseling, and they must live healthy, clean lives.

As time went by, Jessie began to improve. Her attitude got better and she realized she has a problem. She participated in the steps of NA and apologized to her parents and began being truthful. But then insurance began to call. They didn't want to pay for Jessie's rehab anymore, and they wanted to kick her out. Missy was on the phone with their insurance company multiple times a day, begging them to let Jessie stay longer. She couldn't leave. She wasn't ready. Even her doctors and therapists called the insurance company, trying all they could to make them understand the severity of the situation.

"The doctors told my insurance company, 'If this child is released, her death will be on your hands,'" Missy said. "Every day we called the insurance company three or four times a day to say don't let her go. We got to 32 days."

After those 32 days, Missy and Jeff began paying out-of-pocket. But the program costs between \$5,000 and \$6,000 a week. The doctors and owner of Wellington, however, didn't want to see Jessie fail, so Missy and Jeff paid what they could, but even that was about \$800 a week. After a total of 65 days in the residential program, they downgraded Jessie to the non-residential program. She stayed with her grandparents, who live nearby, and they drove Jessie to and from the center each day for 30 more days. But after that, they just couldn't afford it anymore. Their house was already in foreclosure. Jessie had to come home.

"She gets in there and when she's there for a few weeks, she's saying 'I love you,' and 'I miss you,'" Jeff said. And she believes it. She's very sincere about it. But then she gets back and someone sticks spice in front of her and it happens all over again."

The tools Jessie learned in rehab helped her stay clean for a little while, but she left before she was strong enough to be able to fully turn her back on the peer pressure.

"When she came back from rehab, she was amazing," Missy said. "She was like our beautiful little girl again. You could actually see she was like a 15-year-old again. She started going to school again and was actually doing really good. She was trying to control her anger and trying to control her thoughts. She was laughing and smiling again."

Jessie would come sit next to her parents to watch TV with them, and Missy said she didn't even want to breathe. She was so happy that her daughter wanted to spend time with them, that she was afraid to do anything that might scare her off.

But Jessie needed more time in rehab to get stronger before she was strong enough to face her old environment again. She eventually gave into peer pressure and was soon using synthetic drugs again.

Even watching these drugs destroy the friends around her wasn't enough to make her quit. The addiction was too strong.

"One of her friends died, and another one overdosed," Missy said.

"One or two of her friends had a seizure," Jeff added. "And the doctor said it was due to Spice. And I'm surprised she hasn't had something like that yet. We just haven't given up on her, you know? That's why we keep trying to find her at night and put her in rehab. I'm sure if we didn't intervene, she'd probably be dead by now."

In early July, her parents sent Jessie back to Wellington, where she remains. Missy and Jeff intend to keep her there as long as they possibly can. She needs enough time to get better. The bills keep rolling in, though, and right at the 30-day mark, insurance started calling again. But they are not going to give up.

Program for success

David Carlyle is a therapist and school psychologist who works at Wellington Retreat. While he was not at liberty to discuss Jessie's case specifically, he could give insight on how these drugs affect people and how Wellington tries to help.

The drugs commonly cause auditory hallucinations, he said, and sometimes visual hallucinations. People lose their motivation and motor skills as well.

"It affects memory," Carlyle said. "It affects cognitive reasoning. It affects your social relationships, in terms of all skills, cognitive and emotional skills to get along with other people. It has a huge impact on school."

Teens are particularly at risk for getting involved with these drugs, he said, because they are easily accessible and specifically marketed toward youth.

"As a teen therapist, what really bothers me is that the packaging is completely designed to get a teenager to buy it," Carlyle said. "The colors, the cartoons. ... It's a juvenile market that these manufacturers are obviously marketing to. It's purposely targeting teens, which is very disturbing because it's deadly. There are some very powerful tranquilizers in these things."

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FAMILY, from page 4A

The first step at Wellington is to get the drugs out of the teens' system. At first they seem "completely out of it," Carlyle said, but as the drugs clear out of their systems, they begin to get better.

"And it's almost like they wake up and they turn around and go, 'Oh my gosh, I risked my life for a cheap high,'" Carlyle said.

Synthetic drugs are more dangerous than regular marijuana, Carlyle said, because it can shut down critical centers of the brain, including breathing. The formulas are constantly changing, too, so one never knows exactly what they are putting into their body.

Wellington treats both addictions and psychiatric disorders, using evidence-based treatments like emotional interviewing and the 12-step programs, he said. The kids have an intense schedule full of individual and group therapy, family sessions, and school.

"We try to basically retrain a person's brain so they are not reaching for the pills but instead have coping skills," Carlyle said. "We equip them with these skills so they are able to function in areas of home and school and with friends without resorting to being chemically happy."

The teens also are taught about biology and why they have reacted the way they have to the drugs. They learn about the parts of the brain and how these drugs affect the decision making center of the brain, so they end up making their decisions only based on pleasure and feelings. They are even shown scans of their own brain so they can physically see the damage that has been done.

The teens wake up early and have to shower, have good hygiene and eat a healthy break-

fast. They must be dressed appropriately as well. Many of the kids have been on the street, and if they do not dress appropriately, they have to wear scrubs until they can earn their regular clothes back, Carlyle said. Everything there is based on a reward system. If they make achievements and behave well, they earn rewards, such as credits that build up so they can buy things from the center's store.

The center also works closely with the teens' parents, keeping them updated about their children's progress but also teaching them how to not be enablers or codependents. If the therapists see anything "broken" that may contribute to the child's problem, then they work with the family to help the situation. Parents also have the chance to talk to each other, so they can help and get help from other parents who have gone through the same things.

Teens are in a unique place in life, so therapists work with them on things like peer pressure, self-esteem, and how to fit in better with their family and at school, Carlyle said. They are also growing and have a lot of energy, so they are positive outlets for that energy, such as through the gym, ice-skating or at a park. Missy said that Jessie was given a membership to Lifestyles Gym and was thrilled to work out regularly. Jeff said he is glad for this because if she is focusing on healthy living, maybe she will be less inclined to make unhealthy decisions.

Wellington also has its own restaurant where people in its programs can work. That way they feel useful and can learn healthy life skills that can not only help them lead a structured life, but the skills also can help them when they leave Welling-

ton, Carlyle said.

For all of these techniques and therapy to have the best chance for success, people should stay in rehab for no less than 60 days, Carlyle said. And even then, they need to have a gradual transition back into "real life." People should stay close to their psychologist or therapist and continue to attend NA meetings every day - certainly for the first 90 days.

"Those are the kids who make it. Those are the adults who make it," Carlyle said. "You have to work at these things. If you do not work on these things when you get out of rehab, it was all a waste. We can clean you up real good. We can clean up anyone. But you have to use it. You have to face temptation eventually, so we like to let go very gradually. From inpatient to intensive outpatient-to-outpatient and then at home. Stepping down gradually."

Eventually, the addict will face temptation again. At that point, it's a test to see if they have truly learned their coping skills. The addict also must be able to sever ties from harmful friends and start over.

"It's a matter of the ability to latch onto and develop relationships with non-using peers," Carlyle said. "If they can't do that, then there isn't a lot of hope. Because every teenager wants to be accepted so badly. Even if they at least want two or three friends. And if those friends use, it's hard to say no."

Hanging onto hope

So far, Jessie has been able to remain at Wellington. She is showing progress in her therapy and group sessions, Missy said. She has worked with Carlyle on self-respect and respect for her family, learning to get back her self-confidence, Missy said. Now,

instead of yelling and screaming on the phone with her parents, she is learning to stop, take a deep breath and speak appropriately. She is opening up in group, and she is working on honesty. Missy is ecstatic that Jessie has brought her grade up from an F to a B in school.

"She's really been dedicating herself to school down there," Missy said. "And you know, I think she's just really trying. She's really trying to make herself better. And I can just hear it in her voice - the sincerity."

It seems that Jessie wants to get better, Missy said, and she is aware that she still has a lot of work to do before that can fully happen.

"Jessie is very afraid of coming back to Pinellas County," Missy said. "She knows drugs are still available here. She knows the stores that will sell them to her. She's very scared and trying to figure out what her plan will be next. She's starting to come to terms with her addiction. With her behavior. Trying to be honest with her dad and I."

But as soon as she hit the 30-day mark, the insurance company started calling again, Missy said. They want to know the exit plan. They don't want to pay for more treatment.

"You can't discharge a child who still needs so much help," Missy said. "Fighting an insurance company is like fighting a brick wall. You just get nowhere."

Jessie will stay in the residen-

tial treatment center for as long as possible, but after that, Wellington has agreed to make an exception in her case and allow her into the transitional housing program. Usually one has to be at least 16 to be in that program, but if Jessie can maintain impeccable behavior and meet the right criteria, she will be allowed to be in that program.

"It's a very intensive outpatient program," Missy said. "It's very expensive - \$1,000 a month. We're looking to get a sponsor to help cover the cost because we are fighting one battle trying to get our house out of foreclosure, trying to pay for Jessie's rehabilitation. So going into transitional housing, she could be there another month or she could be there six months. It all depends on Jessie and how she progresses."

The transitional housing program is a small step down from residential, and it is very structured, Missy said. Jessie will have to get good grades in school, stay clean and sober and abide by every rule. If she does not, then she must go back to residential or go home. But she and Jeff have not given up. It will still take more time to learn what damage has been done, and what damage is permanent to Jessie's brain. But they have to believe that they have not lost their little girl for good.

"As a mom and dad, you just cannot ever give up on your kids. Ever," Missy said. "We made a

promise the day both our kids were born that we would protect them and guide them through life until the day we die."

Missy has formed a Facebook group called Mothers Against Synthetic Pot, which is a resource for parents who can come together to learn about this issue or discuss their shared experiences about their children's addiction. It has been helpful for Missy to talk to other parents who have gone through the same things she has, so she wanted to create a safe space for other parents to connect and support each other.

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County volunteer's desire to learn never goes away

By IRENA MILASINOVIC

Seventy-one-year-old Bill Beattie spends his Fridays at the Pinellas County Watershed Management building just like any other Pinellas County employee. He moves with ease throughout the building and shifts from one task to the next. If it weren't for his volunteer badge, he could be mistaken for a permanent county employee.

He spends a few hours a week "doing dishes at the lab," said Beattie. It involves cleaning and preparing sample and transport containers to eliminate the possibility of cross-contamination in the field. He has been certified to perform water sample collection field equipment preparation.

"His doing dishes as he says is an important step in water quality analysis," said Natasha Dickrell, Pinellas County Watershed Management section volunteer coordinator.

To Beattie, volunteering is about assisting in any way he can. He lets the trained professionals do their job and he is there to help, he said.

After lunch, he shifts from the lab to the computer area.

Beattie, a retired computer system analyst, enters historical data from field sheets allowing the county to meet the require-

ments for data documentation. The data he enters is used to support mandatory monitoring and regulatory programs in relation to the Federal Clean Water Act.

Helping hands Outstanding volunteers

"He commented about sweeping floors or fixing things and when we found out about his computer skills, we knew he would be a great fit," recalled Dickrell.

Shortly after his retirement, the St. Petersburg resident began browsing the Internet to volunteer. "You can only play so much," he said of his short-lived break. Beattie, a Tampa Bay area resident since 1947, said that his love for water led him to Watershed Management at Pinellas County.

"Bill has great stories about his memories of structures, beaches and fishing. He believes in what we do and shares many of our passions for protecting and managing surface waters," said Dickrell. "He inspires us because he supports what we do and gets excited with us."

"I feel that I get more out of volunteering at the county than I give them," Beattie said.

Spending his Fridays at the county broadens his knowledge. "The county is a great place to learn because it's so diversified and you can go into any direction. You are never too old to learn and grow."

This same philosophy followed Beattie through his entire career. His first job was at the city of St. Petersburg in 1959 as a truck serviceman in the Fleet Maintenance Department. In the mid '60s, he was one of the few employees who took two computer classes that were offered at the local college and opportunities grew from there.

He was transferred to the Computer Services Department in 1968 as an operator and eventually worked his way up to operations manager. He continued his career at Progress Energy as a computer programmer and analyst, where he still does part time contracting work.

"I have been fortunate enough to have a great career and this is my way of paying back."

It hasn't gone unnoticed. "When volunteers are described as assets, Bill would be considered indispensable. He is a pleasure to work with and truly aims to help with whatever we



Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS

Bill Beattie of Seminole volunteers in the lab for the Pinellas County Watershed Management in the mornings and enters data in the afternoon.

need him to do," said Dickrell.

In the past two years, Beattie has been nominated for the Partners in Public Service award. Each year, volunteers are nominated by their departments for PIPS awards in four categories: individual, group,

youth and retiring. And although he didn't win, Beattie feels like a winner.

"I am just happy to keep working and learning."

Pinellas County volunteers can expect to make a difference in the life of their community,

while exploring interests, sharing knowledge, assisting others and making friends.

For more information, visit www.pinellascounty.org/volunteer, email volunteers@pinellascounty.org or call 464-VIPS (8477).

Briefs

DHSMV plans temporary website outage

TALLAHASSEE - The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles wants customers to be aware of its plans to bring all services offline at 6 p.m. Sept. 7. The Department plans to restore all services by 9 a.m. Sept. 10.

The planned outage is an effect of the agency's data center move from headquarters in Tallahassee to one of the state's primary data centers, also located in Tallahassee. The move is complex and will require a complete shutdown of all DHSMV enterprise systems throughout the weekend. Customers will not be able to access online services, and employees will not have access to work email accounts during the weekend of the move.

The department has been planning the move in detail, and the technical team continues to refine plans and implement steps to minimize risk and potential impact to customers and business partners. While the department plans to have the systems operational by 9 a.m. Sept. 10, it is possible some services will not be restored at that time, which can affect normal business operations. DHSMV is not scheduling appointments in its driver license offices Sept. 10-11. Customers, who know their driver license, identification card or license plate will expire on or before Sept. 7, should visit an office or www.GoRenew.com before 6 p.m. Sept. 7. Be sure to visit www.GatherGoGet.com to prepare for your next visit to a driver license office.

In addition to the early September move, another phase of the move will take place beginning 6 p.m. Sept. 21. Online services will be unavailable during this phase, which the department estimates will take one to two days to complete. In-office services will not be affected.

The move is part of the state's data center consolidation plan. In 2008, Florida lawmakers passed legislation that mandates all state agency data centers and computing facilities to consolidate into state primary data centers by 2019.

To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.fhsmv.gov.

FEMA helps with insurance settlements

TALLAHASSEE - Even if survivors of Tropical Storm Debby have insurance, temporary disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency may still help.

Disaster assistance may be able to fill insurance gaps or help those who have been waiting more than 30 days on a homeowner's insurance claim.

To receive assistance residents must write a letter to FEMA explaining their situation and provide insurance documentation that proves they filed their claim. Any help awarded is considered an advance and may need to be repaid promptly to FEMA once an insurance settlement is received.

Assistance also may be available to those who have exhausted their policy's additional living expenses.

Survivors need to mail their insurance information and their letter requesting help to:

FEMA
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P.O. Box 10055
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Information also may be faxed to 1-800-827-8112.
Survivors must repay their disaster assistance if there is a duplica-

tion of benefits after they receive their insurance settlement.

Those who still have questions may call the FEMA helpline at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).

Assistance is available in most languages and lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing and use a TTY may call 800-462-7585.

They also may call the state Insurance Consumer Advocate helpline at 877-693-5236, toll-free in Florida, and 850-413-3089 from out of state.

For more information on Florida's disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov or www.floridadisaster.org.

PCHA recognized as best in Florida

LARGO - The Florida Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials recently honored Pinellas County Housing Authority as best in the state at its 2012 annual convention and trade show in Orlando.

The "Housing Authority of the Year" award recognized the housing authority that ranked highest for commitment to solving housing and associated community problems, innovation, industry involvement, affiliations with state and federal associations, awards received, and high performer designation from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"This award is a testament to the strategic direction provided by PCHA's Board of Commissioners and the dedication of PCHA's extraordinary staff. This is just the beginning of what our team will accomplish," said executive director Debra Johnson. "We have been able to significantly improve the quality of life for residents by creating affordable housing opportunities and by coordinating community resources to help residents overcome barriers to self-sufficiency."

FAHRO, which is comprised of more than 200 housing and community development agencies and associates, cited the outstanding affordable housing provided by PCHA.

"We are happy and honored to receive this award. This recognition is the result of a dedicated hard working staff focused on providing the best possible affordable housing. With the continued leadership of an exceptional executive director, I am excited to be a part of this great housing authority," said Joseph Triolo, chairman of PCHA's Board of Commissioners.

In a recommendation letter to FAHRO, Anthony Jones, director of the Housing Finance Authority and the Community Development Department for Pinellas County, wrote, "As the lead agency for affordable housing development in Pinellas County I can attest to PCHA's drive, dedication and willingness to work for the people they are in business to serve. The Pinellas County Housing Authority believes that when they help one family become self-sufficient, resources are made available to help another family in need. This philosophy is one that our agency shares and strongly embraces."

The PCHA creates housing opportunities for nearly 10,000 county individuals by utilizing public and private funding. Their focus is on providing affordable housing through the development, ownership, and management of properties and administration of rental subsidies.

For more information, visit www.pinellashousing.com.

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

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County commissioners unanimously approved a resolution Aug. 7 designating the Ulmerton Road Opportunity Corridor as a brownfield area.

Commissioner Karen Seel was absent. The resolution is the last step in the process between the county and the city of Largo designed to spur redevelopment along the corridor from Seminole Boulevard to Roosevelt Boulevard.

According to Mike Meidel, director of economic development, the centrally located area of about 4 square miles contains extensive industrial and commercial properties that have high job creation potential due to zoning, land use, parcel sizes and geographic location.

Meidel said the area encompasses about 2,600 parcels of land on about 2,600 acres. He said property owners can opt out of the designation, which 18 have done thus far.

At a June 21 public meeting at the St. Petersburg College EpiCenter, Meidel explained that brownfield is “kind of a real estate term,” according to the meeting transcript. He said it was derived from the original term of “greenfield,” meaning a site that had never had any kind of structure on it. He said greenfield sites were considered clean and ready for development.

A brownfield site is one that has had something on it previously. In

addition, to meet the legal definition for the brownfield designation it has to have had an activity that may have had the perception that it could have been contaminated.

Examples of activities included dry cleaners, gas stations or printing plants. He said not all properties within a brownfield-designated area may be contaminated.

He told people attending the June 21 meeting that the Ulmerton corridor was “just a large area that we’re trying to target for redevelopment.”

“Some of those sites, no doubt, include contamination of some kind because they’ve been heavy industrial uses over years. But some of them, no doubt, do not contain contamination,” Meidel said. “And there’s nothing about the designation that says any individual parcel is contaminated or even tainted in any way.”

He said studies have shown that show future land values usually go up in brownfield areas because the cleanup on the property takes away the uncertainty of possible contamination.

Property owners inside a brownfield area can receive incentives to assist with cleanup and redevelopment.

According to a staff report, the designation allows county and city staff to offer incentives and encourage investment and redevelopment in the area.

Incentives available to properties that opt into the designation include:

- Regulatory assistance, such as aid for meeting government agency permitting requirements
- Technical Assistance with acquiring grants and loans
- Loans from the state brownfield area guarantee loan program
- Tax credits and exemptions, including sales tax on building materials used on projects
- Job creation credits

Meidel said new and expanding businesses eligible business could receive up to a \$2,500 job creation refund bonus for each new full-time job created.

Properties also could be eligible for federal grant programs for assessment, cleanup, loan funds and job training.

Commissioner Nancy Bostock asked if adjacent property owners could opt in to the designation.

Meidel said properties adjacent to the brownfield area could not opt in due to the goal of creating “one big cohesive area” of property within unincorporated Pinellas and the city of Largo.

“This gives a lot of opportunity for redevelopment,” said Commission Chair John Morroni.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to clean up the area and incentivize redevelopment,” Meidel said.

For more information, visit www.pccd.org and click on the redevelopment tab.

County moves forward on public safety campus

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County is closer to the start of construction on a new public safety facility and centralized communication center.

Pinellas County Commissioners unanimously approved an amendment to the guaranteed maximum price with Land Lease Construction Inc. of Tampa. The Aug. 7 approval initiates construction of the project, according to a staff report. The price is nearly \$68.5 million. Construction is expected to take 24 months.

The new five-building facility will be located on 40 acres at 10750 Ulmerton Road in Largo. Plans call for construction of a three-story, 218,330-square-foot building hardened to withstand a Category 5 hurricane. The building will be the home of Emergency Management Services, Emergency Operations Center and the Sheriff’s Office.

In addition, the campus will include three other hurricane-hardened buildings, a 25,432-square-foot vehicle maintenance building, 2,303-square-foot communications building and a 23,047-square-foot central energy plant.

Plans also call for a four-story, 221,315-square-foot parking garage, 300-foot communications tower and extensive site work.

Operations at facilities currently on the site, including the Sheriff’s Office, will continue during the construction. The old buildings will be demolished and a parking lot built after existing services have moved into the new facility.

Paul Sacco, director of real estate management, said an additional \$1.1 million would be needed for EMS and the new consolidated 911 operation. Another \$1.3 million is needed for work to be done by Business Technology Services.

He said the sheriff helped keep project costs down

by agreeing to use 90 percent of current equipment, office furniture and more.

“That saved us millions of dollars,” Sacco said.

Sally Bishop with Emergency Management Services also helped save project dollars by agreeing to a plan to combine dining and training facilities into one building.

The project will be paid for with capital improvement funds provided by the Penny for Pinellas tax. Construction is expected to begin this year.

In other business, commissioners:

- Unanimously approved advertising an Aug. 21 public hearing on a proposed ordinance amending county code for residential solid waste collection. The amendment would provide for license requirements and fees for haulers.
- Approved, 5-1, a staff recommendation to negotiate a contract for consultant services with Water Company of America of Oviedo for revenue enhancement opportunities for the Department of Environment and Infrastructure. Commissioner Norm Roche voted no, saying the county should have its own experts available to do the job.

County administrator Bob LaSala explained that the company would be using a proprietary software application. New revenue generated by the company’s findings would be split with for three years after

the savings were identified. The split would be 52 percent to the DEI Utilities Enterprise Fund and 48 percent to WCA.

• Unanimously approved funding recommendations from the Substance Abuse Advisory Board for distribution of \$293,518 in Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant funds for fiscal year 2013. The money will be distributed as follows:

- Sheriff’s Office, \$82,500 for sexual predator and offender tracking
- Justice and Consumer Services, \$29,352 for planning
- Suncoast Center, 45,000 for jail diversion expansion
- Family Resources, \$33,000 for community placement intake service
- Adult Drug Court, \$30,000 for a treatment expansion

• MORE Health, \$25,000 for firearm safety and injury prevention

- ALPHA House of Pinellas County, \$14,000 for child abuse education and prevention
- Boys and Girls Clubs of the Suncoast, \$10,000 for Street SMART program
- Gulfport Police Department, \$20,000 for in-car video cameras
- Pinellas Park Police Department, \$4,666 for flashlight replacement and upgrade
- Unanimously approved change order 1 with Quinn Construction Inc. for Beckett Rolling Lift Bridge Improvements. The change adds \$21,440 to increase the project cost to \$384,790. Repairs to mechanical, structural and electrical components are being done to increase functionality and extend the life of the bridge located on Riverside Drive in Tarpon Springs.

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Summer bait problems quickly coming to an end

The natural progression of summer baitfish stocks seems to be on track. Pilchard fry too small to use for anything other than chumming mangrove snapper a month ago is now the perfect size for fishing under a weighted float. The juvenile pilchards can be cast-netted along bridge shadow lines at night as well as the swash channel up and down the beach when

the winds are offshore. Be careful to not overcrowd your live well, which is an easy thing to do with the abundance of bait and water temperatures close to 90 degrees. It's making it tough to keep the small baits alive for very long. Upon exiting the passes each morning the past few days it was easy to see the changes taking place. Flocks of terns and pelicans are working the tide lines



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

just a short distance from shore. The water they're dipping and diving on is cloudy and churned up, not from rough seas but from the masses of bait fish and the

predatory fish gorging themselves on them. These muds have been producing fast fishing for the Spanish mackerel and ladyfish, but be on the lookout for the arrival of schools of bull redfish. These giants, often 20 pounds or better, make their way near shore this month and are a blast to catch on light tackle. Target the fish with live pinfish

or grunts as well as fresh cut ladyfish on the bottom. Pompano schools are around right now and some of the fish have been pretty big. Keep your eyes out for pompano skipping out of the water when you're idling around deep grass flats and sand shoals near the passes. Bounce crazy jigs in bright colors off the bottom with a fast retrieve to trigger the strike, a teaser fly

above the jig will add some flare, as well as increase your odds for a hook up. *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.*

PACKERS, from page 1A

"He loves the game," Rodriguez said. Another star is senior Derrick Doss, 5-9, 190 pounds, a linebacker and running back. "All these kids have been playing football since they were 8 years old," Rodriguez said. MaxPreps, a service that calls itself America's source for high school sports, says that the Packers' strength will be at the skilled positions and kicking game. It says the weaknesses are on the lines. Rodriguez had similar comments. "Our biggest issue is the offensive line coming through, making plays," he said. Rodriguez likes his team's attitude toward practice, despite the yearly ritual of working out in the stifling heat before the season starts. "These kids love to come to practice and play. They know we're going to work," Rodriguez said. "I tell them if you pay the price, come Friday night, it's easy. It's just like in the classroom. If you work hard Monday through Thursday, you take that test on Friday, you are going to feel good about yourself and not have to worry about it. Same about football." The Packer's have a "solid" schedule, Rodriguez said, with no easy opponents. They start the regular season at home Aug. 31 against Bradenton Southeast, which was 7-3 last year. The school is known for producing top athletes in varsity sports. Harry Brown has high hopes for the Packers this season. He said that many of the Packers have been playing together for a long time. Brown enjoys playing linebacker the most, because of the contact.

"I feel good about the season. I feel pretty confident. If everybody plays with confidence and intensity, we should dominate Pinellas County," he said. He plans to play college football but hasn't made a commitment yet. A key to the Packer's continued success is the coaching staff, which has been together for several years, Rodriguez said. Defensive Coordinator Jeremy Frioud has been with the Packers for 11 years. Eric Wilson and Dave Angelo also are longtime coaches for Rodriguez. "A solid foundation, that's where it starts," Rodriguez said. He still has the enthusiasm as he has had since playing football at Northeast High School and now, at the age of 59, he takes it "one year at a time." Frioud also loves being on the gridiron. "I love these kids and I love the game and I will do it until I die," Frioud said. "If I won the Powerball yesterday, I'd still be here. Just in better clothes."

- Largo's 2012 schedule**
- Aug. 24 - BRADENTON BAY SHORE (Fall Classic)
 - Aug. 31 - SOUTHEAST
 - Sept. 7 - PINELLAS PARK
 - Sept. 14 - at Countryside
 - Sept. 21 - at Osceola
 - Sept. 28 - at East Lake
 - Oct. 5 - DIXIE HOLLINS
 - Oct. 19 - BOCA CIEGA
 - Oct. 26 - at Lakewood Ranch
 - Nov. 2 - at Tarpon Springs
 - Nov. 9 - GIBBS



Defensive coordinator Jeremy Frioud chats with the defense during a drill.

Photos by TOM GERMOND



The Packers expect great play from Harry Brown, No. 9, who loves making contact on the defense.



Largo Packers take a break from the heat.

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Tampa Bay Newspapers prints pictures of Little League, baseball, football, soccer and sports teams as a community service. Submissions can either be dropped off at our office or mailed or emailed to us. Please identify all team members, from left to right, and list where they are from, such as Largo, Seminole, etc. If you use email, please send an electronic image of the photo in a JPEG image; don't send the photo embedded in a word or other document. The newspapers also print announcements about upcoming golf tournaments for charities.

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LETTERS

A world stage to stir things up

Editor:

Freedom of speech offers us the right to agree or disagree. It does not offer us the right to be disobedient, disrespectful or destructive. It is not freedom of attitude. It is not freedom of anger. It is not freedom of anarchy. The saying "actions speak louder than words" is not constitutional law. Freedom of speech is about civil discourse not civil disobedience.

The average citizen would not carry a stick, brick, chains, etc. with intent to cause harm, damage or destruction to another person or property. The average citizen would not throw a projectile knowing and intending for it to cause harm or destruction to another person or property. The average citizen would not push, shove, trip, spit or pull the hair of another person without the intent to cause harm, damage or destruction.

With any world stage, such as the Republican National Convention in Tampa, there are going to be actors or posers if you will that are not going to be conducting themselves in a reasonable and responsible citizen manner. Their intentions are to cause immediate mayhem to property that does not belong to them. To others such as our police, firefighters, military and any and all persons in positions of authority or anyone who attempts to rein in their destruction.

These actors, these posers are very well paid professional protesters trained and schooled in creating mass mayhem. They market their skills to the highest bidder. I believe that if they could get paid enough they would walk the streets proclaiming the second coming.

Rest assured, they do not live in our city. They do not live in our state and quite possibly they do not even live in the United States. Again this RNC event in Tampa will provide them with an enormous world stage. They are not going to miss any opportunity to stir things up. They are out to win the OSCAR of protester acclaim. Getting beaten, "bring it on," because cameras are rolling. Getting arrested, all the better, because now their name and fame will up their asking price.

Unfortunately for you and me and our city and our taxpayer resources, we are the ones who will pay for their performance. We are the ones who will pay for their staged anger. We are the ones who will pay for their staged anarchy. Our city could quite possibly be left with billions of dollars of damage, while they are on their way out of town to their next big gig.

Remember, it is freedom of speech only, not a free-for-all.

Laura D. Zahn
Dunedin

Getting somewhere on Gulf Boulevard

Editor:

I read with some interest an article in the August 9 issue of Tampa Bay Newspapers written by Executive Editor Tom Germond entitled, "Lakeland takes safety a step further."

In his article, Mr. Germond suggests that he would "like for our local governments to embrace Lakeland's idea," which in essence is to add additional Ped Xings to our roads, with fines clearly posted for motorists who fail to stop when "flagged." His example of a road needing these added security measures is Gulf Boulevard.

As someone with a slightly differing opinion and a detail-oriented personality (to put it mildly) I would like to hold sway. A resident of Redington Beach for quite a few years now, I believe myself qualified to point out a few other facts for consideration.

One - Gulf Boulevard has no end of crosswalks! The other day, as I was driving from 107th (Treasure Island) to 161st (Redington Beach), I counted the number of zebra stripes between the two locations. They numbered twenty-three. When I searched how many miles were in between, my computer came up with 4.62 miles. That means there are crosswalks every two-tenths of a mile, which equates to one every 1,056 feet.

Two: The speed limits on Gulf Boulevard don't need to be messed with. I will offer as proof my ability to actually count the PED Xings while navigating my vehicle up the road. With limits ranging from a heady 30 to 35 MPH and Xings every 1,056 feet, it's easy to describe the goings that stand as "slow." What will happen to the speeds on the road if the distance between signs shrinks even further - might have to put up more warnings - "Caution, snail crossing."

Three: Even when drivers are attentive, PED walkways can be dangerous. Ever in a situation when you were driving north up Gulf Boulevard inches behind but to the right of a large truck or SUV when it came to a dead halt in the middle of the road? Note: the situation is the same if you are travelling south and you are slightly behind to the left. With the larger vehicle blocking your view, you can't see why it stopped, but you hit the brakes as a precaution. All of a sudden a hat or an umbrella pops up in front of you indicating that a pedestrian just got very lucky. What about drivers who are not as cautious, or may have developed an immunity to the amount of signs they see? I've witnessed quite a few close calls!

Rather than adding more signage perhaps we should adopt a European flair. Let the poor guy trying to cross the road dodge speed-crazed motorists who have no regard for vehicular protocol - let alone a pedestrian waving a red or yellow flag. Just kidding and don't take offense if you're European. Forget about it. I have a large family in Italy. I love youse guys.

If a change needs to be made, post the fines on existing signs but please, for the sake of anyone actually wanting to get somewhere on Gulf Boulevard, don't add any more Xings!

Jo Iannotti
Redington Beach

Clean up the beach mess

Editor:

I could not believe my eyes when I saw all the debris and dead algae on a recent Sunday on Clearwater Beach. In all of my 15 years living here I have not seen the beach as dirty and smelly as I found it this past weekend. This is absolutely unacceptable ... and something should be done now to correct this.

If the dead algae are coming from the dredging they are doing to replenish Belleair Beach they should be billed for the clean up, but it should have been cleaned up in the first place anyway. Tropical storm Debbie passed this way more than three weeks ago and there's no excuse for the beach being so nasty. I found the same situation at the Seminole street boat ramp when I went to see the 4th of July fireworks. If it's a matter of not having the necessary funds to have the beach cleaned up then, we should consider doing away with one of the commissioner's positions. This should free up enough funds to clean up the mess. I kept thinking when I was at the beach and I was a tourist visiting that I would never have come back. This is just plain stupid!

Michael Maribona
Clearwater

Consider history in Biltmore decision

Re: "Suggestions for the Biltmore project," by Ken Keating, Aug. 9

Editor:

As a resident of Belleair, I couldn't agree more with Ken Keating's analysis of the dance moves being handed out to us. What is so hard to understand? It is a win/win situation. Not only will this project put hundreds of people back to work, it will restore this magnificent historical building that will make a very proud statement for years to come. I feel that I speak for all of the believers that we can make this happen. Please consider the history when making your final decision.

Joan Friel
Belleair

A business executive as president?



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

Next January after Mitt Romney is inaugurated as president and the GOP controls both houses of Congress, we may see a movement to pass a new amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

It will add another requirement - beyond being at least age 35 and having been born in the USA - for becoming president. The amendment will make it mandatory that any chief executive will have spent at least five years working in business.

From what I'm reading recently, Gov. Romney would favor such a change. And so would millions of voters who believe, for various reasons, that government can and should be run as a business. Some wise person once said, "The business of America IS business." Case closed.

However, a look at presidential history reveals that businessmen presidents (of which there have been only a few) have been disasters, nincompoops or somewhere in between. Beginning in the 1970s and working backwards, we have Jimmy Carter. He did well at growing and selling peanuts, but his administration will be chiefly remembered for his use of the word "malaise" and for his presiding over Iran's holding 52 Americans hostage for 444 days, during which Carter authorized a rescue operation that was royally botched by the U.S. military.

Before Carter, the next business type president who comes to mind is Herbert Hoover, our first millionaire president. He was financially successful as a mining engineer and investor, but he failed to anticipate the 1929 stock market crash and Great Depression until it was too late to do anything about them. A few years earlier, Ohio newspaper publisher Warren G. Harding won the presidency by promising a "return to normalcy," following the close of World War I. In the three years before he suddenly died, Harding

was tarred by the Teapot Dome scandal, brought on by bribes taken by Harding's secretary of the interior. Although Harding was guiltless, his name and administration will always bear the Teapot Dome as their chief memory.

If you can think of a business-trained U.S. president who has generally been regarded as great or near-great, please let me know. I'm always open to persuasion.

On the other side of the ledger, let's look at some outstanding presidents who were abject failures when it came to running a business. George Washington was a planter and distillery-owner, but the demands of conducting a revolutionary war and helping to found the greatest nation on earth only served to screw up his finances to a fare-thee-well. Abraham Lincoln's chief talent as an Illinois storekeeper was to get in debt and stay there for much of his life. Harry Truman steered his men's clothing store into bankruptcy, and was paying off his creditors well into his career as a U.S. senator.

The aristocratic Franklin D. Roosevelt might be looked on as something of a businessman if we only took notice of his total assets. In truth, except for a short period as a Wall Street lawyer, FDR hardly worked at all until he got swept up in politics.

A recent article by Todd Purdum in "Vanity Fair" magazine asked this question: If a business background does little or nothing to guarantee high achievement in the White

House, what sort of preparation does? Is there a common denominator in the lives of our great or near-great presidents that helped them attain and deserve top ranking in our nation's Hall of Fame?

A possible answer: facing and overcoming great adversity in early life. All the great presidents experienced handicaps or struggles, but somehow got through them. Toughened and disciplined by their ordeals, our outstanding leaders were better able to withstand the constant hell that every Oval Office occupant faces.

Has Mitt Romney's personal and business career forced him to undergo suffering and privation? It doesn't seem so. In fact, his undisputed success in the business world may actually hamper him if and when he reaches the White House, just as it has done with other business-background presidents. That's because - contrary to what so many people believe - politics and business are such vastly different worlds.

If I'm a corporate CEO and want something done, I snap my fingers and a loyal subordinate makes it happen. There is no legislature to oppose me, no Supreme Court to overrule me, and - in most cases - no news media wolves lurking at my door to trumpet my every mistake.

But in the political jungle, few proposals move in a straight line to completion. What awaits every U.S. president is opposition, second-guessing, treachery, compromise, public opinion, and the ever-present threat of war-like actions by any of a dozen foreign governments. Such pressures seldom exist in a corporate boardroom. If Mitt wins on Nov. 6, he may soon wish he were back captaining the good ship Bain.

Bob Driver is a former columnist and editorial page editor for the Clearwater Sun. Send Driver an email at tralee71@comcast.net.



On Paul Ryan and other VP picks

Random thoughts on Mitt Romney's selection of Paul Ryan for vice president:

Have you ever voted for a candidate because of his running mate? Me neither.

No president has significantly helped himself with a vice presidential pick since 1960, when Lyndon Johnson delivered much of the South for John F. Kennedy.

Far more often, the second banana hurts the ticket. Consider Sarah Palin four years ago and Dan Quayle in 1988. But John McCain was going to lose anyway, and hoped Palin would be a "game changer." And the first President Bush was going to beat Michael Dukakis anyway, despite the arrival of Quayle.

That said, with his pick, Romney helped himself with the most conservative element of the Republican Party.

Because of his record as Massachusetts governor - the state health care plan, his support of abortion as a U.S. Senate candidate, advocacy of an assault-weapons ban - a large segment of the GOP still considers Romney too moderate, or worse, squishy. They would have liked Sen. Marco Rubio more, but 18 months in statewide office does not imbue veep-level gravitas (see: Palin, Sarah.)

Speaking of Florida, our 29 electoral votes are certainly needed by President Obama, but absolutely essential for Romney. That's why the Democrats might actually stop talking about Romney's taxes and start reminding voters here about Ryan's work as budget chairman. Expect the words "Medicare vouchers" in Obama television spots and mailings, particularly in retirement enclaves. Scaring old people is a time-tested tactic for Florida Democrats, and the Republicans keep giving them ammunition. Even if Rom-



Florida Voices
Bill Cotterell

ney had put Betty White on his ticket, Democrats would have said that under his economic-recovery plan, your grandma is a "shovel-ready project."

Ryan does nothing for Romney among women, black and Hispanic voters, three voting segments in which Republicans badly need to show improvement.

Condoleezza Rice might have helped Romney with blacks and women - and brought the foreign-policy credentials that Romney lacks - but it wouldn't have been nearly enough, against Obama.

Rubio would have fired up the far-right part of the party, and could have spoken Spanish at campaign events in Arizona and New Mexico. Almost certainly, he would have moved Florida into the red column.

But the Republican record on immigration isn't going down well with Hispanics - certainly not in contrast to Obama's recent actions regarding children of undocumented immigrants. Any relaxing of the rhetoric would be labeled "amnesty" by the Reluctant Romney-ites of the Right, causing many to stay home. Besides, any conciliatory message would have to come from the top guy, not his understudy.

When introducing him in Norfolk, Romney made a point of mentioning Ryan's anti-abortion Catholicism and his Midwestern family values. That's probably as close as the

campaign wants to get to the "culture wars," which fires up conservative GOP voters but makes independents uneasy.

During the Republican primaries, Obama and the Democrats were decrying a supposed "war on women." Now, we're sure to see reminders from both sides about the coverage of birth control services under Obama's national health-care plan, which appeals particularly to students and young working women. But the law's provision that employer-provided health insurance cover contraceptive services alienates devout Catholics.

Then there are style points. Ryan brings 14 years of Washington experience, of which Romney has none, and some strong - if controversial - credentials on fiscal policy. If any powerful congressional committee chairman can run as an "outsider," it will be Ryan, and the contrast to Joe Biden will be obvious.

And before Democrats dismiss him as a youthful upstart, they might want to consider that, at 42, he's only a year younger than Kennedy was in 1960 - and he's been in Congress five years longer than Obama was when he ran for president.

A bit of trivia: Who was the last sitting House member elected vice president?

In 1932, Franklin Roosevelt needed a Southerner to balance the ticket and chose House Speaker John Nance Garner of Texas. "Cactus Jack" is mainly remembered for saying the vice presidency "ain't worth a pitcher of warm spit," although many historians agree he actually referred to another bodily fluid and the polite press of the era cleaned up the quote.

Bill Cotterell is a retired Capitol reporter who worked for United Press International and the Tallahassee Democrat. He can be contacted at bcotterell@gmail.com

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Here are some more guidelines for letters:

- Letters are printed on a first-come, first-served basis. They may be edited to correct grammar, spelling and factual errors. They also may be edited for clarity.
- Please keep letters to editor to 500 words. Longer letters may be cut due to space limitations.

Central Pinellas Chamber presents Inspire Awards

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO - Four area leaders received Inspire Awards from the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce Aug. 14 for having a positive impact on the lives of others.

They are Jill Lawrence, wellness director at the YMCA of the Suncoast Bardmoor Branch; Dr. Larry Feinman, chief medical officer at Largo Medical Center; Phyllis Alderman, president of Shepherd Village; and Largo City Commissioner Gigi Arntzen.

Lawrence spends every day working with people to help them live a healthier lifestyle, making a difference in the lives of the YMCA LIVESTRONG participants who are cancer survivors, wrote the YMCA's Sherri Joyer, who nominated Lawrence for the award.

"Jill knows how important it is to listen to others, and she is a certified facilitator in the Y-USA Listen First Institute, where she teaches students of all ages how to reach out and really listen to friends, family and co-workers," Joyer wrote.

Lawrence has been with the YMCA for 15 years, beginning as a group exercise instructor before working up to the wellness director position.

"She is very proud to be a part of an organization whose mission is to strengthen the community," Joyer said.

Sue Osborne of Pinecrest Place Retirement Community nominated Feinman for an Inspire Award.

"Dr. Feinman has a long history of serving our community through his role as chief of staff at Largo Medical Center, a brilliant surgeon, and as the first CMO of Largo Medical Center," she wrote. "He has taken on many daunting tasks in these roles and has shown extraordinary leadership skills, ensuring positive outcomes."

Feinman was charged with integrating the Suncoast Hospital staff of physicians into the fold of Largo Medical Center.

In addition Feinman was an essential part of the team that integrated the graduate medical education program into the culture of Largo Medical Center.

"Under his leadership, the medical staff has come up to embrace the students and the concept of more minds advancing medicine in our community," she wrote.

Shepherd Village's Susan Shirley nominated Shepherd's Village founder Phyllis Alderman for an Inspire Award.

"I have known Phyllis for 30 years, and she has consistently given of herself for others," Shirley wrote. "She has a very compassionate heart for single parent families."

Shepherd's Village is a goal-based two-year program that assists single-parent families

through transition by providing affordable housing and life skill development for each resident.

"Phyllis brings authentic encouragement and hope to others," Shirley wrote. "Her true joy comes from seeing others catch the vision that God really does have a unique and personal plan for each life and delights in leading them along their own 'Pathway to Purpose.'"

Several chamber members nominated Inspire Award recipient Gigi Arntzen, a Largo city commissioner and president of the Rotary Club of Largo. She spent 30 years in administration for county government and is finishing her sixth year on the City Commission.

"Gigi Arntzen is an honest and good friend," wrote Largo Commissioner Harriet Crozier. "She is a good listener. She is someone who knows what needs to be done and gets the job done beautifully."

Arntzen is a "great organizer" which helps when planning large projects such as the Rotary Club's largest fundraiser, "Death by Chocolate," Crozier wrote.

The chamber's Women In Business Council presented the luncheon at Greektown Grille. The emcee was Tammy Robiconti, marketing and public relations director for Largo Medical Center.



Photo by CINDY PAQUIN/CENTRAL PINELLAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
The Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce Inspire Award Winners from left are Jill Lawrence, wellness director at the YMCA of the Suncoast, Bardmoor Branch; Larry J. Feinman, chief Medical Officer of HCA West Florida Division; Phyllis Alderman of Shepherd's Village; and Gigi Arntzen, Largo city commissioner.

Biz notes

First Bank honors Keniston

ST. PETERSBURG - Deb Keniston was recently honored with a Five Years of Service Award from First Bank.

Keniston is a financial services representative at First Bank's Pasadena branch. She lives in Largo.

Gallery commissions souvenirs for RNC

ST. PETE BEACH - Nancy Markoe Fine American Crafts Gallery recently commissioned several American artisans to create souvenirs for attendees of the Republican National Convention.

"It is our hope that those attending the convention, will purchase items that are made in America as remembrances of their trip," said Markoe in a press release. "Monies spent on American made items puts money into American pockets, which in these economic times is really needed. American made - Americans paid!"

The gallery will feature special works with an elephant theme created for the RNC. New Jersey jeweler Jan Palumbo has created elephant cufflinks in sterling silver; Georgia glass artist Paul Bendzunas, famous for his unique technique in hand blown glass, created elephant themed vases and South Carolina glass artist Kenneth Marine was commissioned to create patriotic red, white and blue elephants.

Pizazz to host open house

ST. PETERSBURG - Pizazz Song and Dance Troupe will host an open house Saturday, Sept. 8, 1:30 p.m., at the Academy of St. Petersburg City Theatre, 4025 31st St. S.

The troupe is seeking kids ages 7 to 14 who love to sing and dance and enjoy Broadway. Attendees are invited to watch or join in classes of Broadway Show-stoppers, Tap and Show-off Time.

Sponsored by St. Petersburg City Theatre, Pizazz Song and Dance Troupe is a year-round traveling troupe of performers who perform song and dance reviews throughout Pinellas County, as well as at St. Petersburg City Theatre.

Call Gidget Cross at 515-5380.

Pancheros Mexican Grill to celebrate anniversary

CLEARWATER - Pancheros Mexican Grill will celebrate its 20th anniversary Tuesday, Aug. 28, 4 to 6 p.m., by offering guests burritos for \$1 at its Clearwater location.

The offer is Pancheros Mexican Grill's way of thanking its loyal customers for two successful decades.

Visit www.pancheros.com.

Kalamazoo Olive Company opens

DUNEDIN - Kalamazoo Olive Company opened its doors Aug. 9 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 1232 C.R.1 in the Winn-Dixie Plaza.

Dunedin Mayor Dave Eggers and business owner James Ryan took part in the event along with 60 honored guests. This is the second location for Kalamazoo Olive Company.

The grand opening will take place Saturday, Aug. 25, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be special offers, complimentary bloody marys from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., free food and appetizers, demonstrations and free food samples.

Kalamazoo Olive Company carries a range of ultra-premium extra virgin olive oils, authentic aged balsamic vinegars, specialty oils, imported Italian pastas, sauces, dips, spices, olives, and unique gift ideas.

What's Selling in Pinellas County

ST. PETERSBURG **\$103,000**
4 Bedrooms/1.5 Baths



SOLD
Wonderful light filled home on a quiet tree-lined cul-de-sac. Large kitchen has marble flooring, wood cabinets, new countertops and looks out over your spacious fenced backyard. Includes new half bath, new roof, updated full bath, new carpet, new laminate flooring, updated windows and doors and inside laundry room.

Mike Murphy
Realty Executives - Adamo

LARGO **\$134,000**
3 Bedroom/2 Bath



SOLD
Corner lot in a great neighborhood. Courtyard entry. Laminate flooring throughout living spaces. Vaulted ceiling in LR with stone fireplace. Updated kitchen w/breakfast bar, travertine floor, granite counter and stainless appliances. Garage partially converted to extra living space.

Tom Cato
Realty Executives - Adamo

SEMINOLE **\$128,500**
2BR/1.5BA/2CG/1CP



SOLD
Great location offers easy access to Park Blvd., beaches, shopping and restaurants. Large utility shed, plus a bonus full bath in the garage. Spacious Florida room that leads out to the patio area. Fully fenced backyard and beautifully landscaped front yard.

Sandy Hartmann & Associates
Realty Executives - Adamo

LARGO **\$288,000**
4 Bedrooms/3 Baths



SOLD
Open split plan with both formal living/dining areas plus a spacious family room. Screen enclosed pool and above ground spa. The kitchen is remodeled with many new appliances. It offers a breakfast bar and pass-through window/snack bar to patio. Hurricane shutters and much more!

Mary "K" Kottich
Century 21 Top Sales

Networking clubs follow the 'leads'

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

The upcoming schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, Aug. 28 - Professional Leads Network, First Watch Chapter, 7:30 a.m., First Watch, 2569 Village Drive, Clearwater. Visit www.pro-leads.net.

- Tuesday, Aug. 28 - The Board, Network Professionals, 7:30 a.m., at Panera Bread, Bardmoor Shopping Center, corner of Bryan Dairy and Starkey roads, Largo. Call 742-6343.

- Tuesday, Aug. 28 - Business Network International, Winners Circle, 7:30 to 9 a.m., Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Call Dave Proffitt at 230-9240.

- Tuesday, Aug. 28 - Network Professionals Inc., Seminole Chapter, 7:30 a.m., Perkins Family Restaurant, 8841 Park Blvd., Largo. Call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.

- Tuesday, Aug. 28 - Yacht Club Breakfast, sponsored by Creative Business Connections, 7:30 a.m., St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call Darrell Baker, area director, at 586-4999 or visit www.cbnet.biz.

- Tuesday, Aug. 28 - Network Professionals of St. Pete, 7:30 a.m. For information and meeting location, call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.

- Tuesday, Aug. 28 - Free Networking International, Bayside Group, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Bay Pines Sports Bar, 9685 Bay Pines Blvd., St. Petersburg. Call Janet Landt at 455-7510, email jplady1@hotmail.com or visit www.freenetworkinginternational.com.

- Tuesday, Aug. 28 - Network Professionals Inc., ICOT Lunch Chapter, 11:45 a.m., at Tucson's Southwest Grill, 13563 Icot Blvd., Clearwater. Call Eddie Montoya at 813-477-3533.

- Tuesday, Aug. 28 - Tri-City Network Professionals, 11:45 a.m., at Applebee's Restaurant, 5110 East Bay Drive, Clearwater. First visit is free. Call 492-7921.

- Wednesday, Aug. 29 - Business Network International, Financial Freedom, 7:15 a.m., at Bardmoor Country Club, 8001 Cumberland Road, Largo. Call Phil at 409-1609 or visit www.BNIFinancialFreedom.com.

- Wednesday, Aug. 29 - Pinellas Executives' Association, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., at Cove Cay Country Club, 2612 Cove Cay Drive, Clearwater. Call Donna Perry at 784-6507 or visit www.peafl.com.

- Wednesday, Aug. 29 - BNI Business Connections Country-side, 7:30 a.m., at Grillsmith, 2539 Countryside Blvd., Suite 6, Clearwater. Cost is \$11. Call

Renee Jones at 813-749-2780, email bnivcf@gmail.com or visit www.bnibusinessconnections.com.

- Wednesday, Aug. 29 - BNI Power Team, 7:30 a.m., East Lake Woodlands Country Club, 1055 East Lake Woodlands Pkwy., Oldsmar. Visit www.bni.com.

- Wednesday, Aug. 29 - Network Professionals Inc., Downtown Clearwater Breakfast Chapter, 7:30 a.m., at the Residence Inn, 940 Court St., Clearwater. Call Kim Anton at 539-7110.

- Wednesday, Aug. 29 - Network Professionals of St. Pete, 7:30 a.m. For information and meeting location, call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.

- Wednesday, Aug. 29 - Free Networking International, Seminole Christian Hope Team, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Palace of the Orient, 10425 Park Blvd., Seminole. Call Dave Harden at 458-6890 or email daveh@freenetworkinginternational.com.

- Wednesday, Aug. 29, Professional Leads Network, 11:45 a.m., at Sage's West Bay Bistro, 883 West Bay Drive, Largo. Call Woody Brown at 518-1967 or visit www.pro-leads.net.

- Wednesday, Aug. 29 - Professional Leads Network, Foy's Chapter, 11:45 a.m., Stacey's Buffet 1451 N. Missouri Ave., Largo. Visit www.pro-leads.net.

- Thursday, Aug. 30 - Network Professionals Inc. Clearwater-Largo Chapter, 7:30 a.m., RG's Restaurant, 1565 S. Highland Ave., Clearwater. Call Liz at 424-8995.

- Thursday, Aug. 30 - Suncoast Free Networking International, 8:30 to 10 a.m., at Park Station Building, 5851 Park

Blvd., Pinellas Park. This networking meeting includes brainstorming a business, a gratitude session and networking tips. Call Walt Morey at 647-8242.

- Thursday, Aug. 30 - Free Networking International, 1 p.m., at the Belleair Grill and Wine Bar, 1575 S. Fort Harrison, Belleair. Purchasing lunch is optional. Call Rita Shepard at 415-9496.

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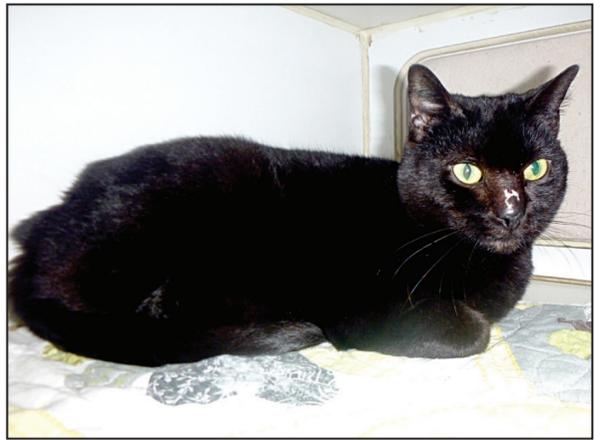
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Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County

- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

Leader
Section B
August 23, 2012
Visit www.TBNweekly.com



Top five diversions

• **"The Importance of Being Earnest,"** by Oscar Wilde, through Sept. 2, at West Coast Players Theatre, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org. Two gentlemen living in 1890s England use the same pseudonym, Ernest. All is fine until they both fall in love with women using that name, leading to a comedy of mistaken identities. This trivial comedy for serious people is directed by Rand Smith.

• **Moxy Concert - Believe in Miracles,** Friday, Aug. 24, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$27 in advance and \$32 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. This concert and variety show will feature the area's most talented performers, vocalists and musicians including singer/songwriter and musician Jayne Kelli, award winning performer Rebecca Zapen, American Idol Experience Dream Ticket winner Vanessa Quillao, actress and singer Becca McCoy and singer/songwriter and musician A.J. Swearingen. There also will be a special performance by Moving Arts of Tampa Bay, and the talented vocalists Jennifer Real, Rossana Spallino, Chantelle Ashby and Reggie Dockens.

• **Damon Fowler,** Friday, Aug. 24, 9 p.m.; and Saturday, Aug. 25, 8 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets are \$13 in advance or \$15 the day of the show. Call 822-3590 or visit www.spcollge.edu/palladium/. With his hybrid of roots rock, blues and sacred steel, plus songwriting and vocal skills, it's no wonder critics are extolling Fowler's originality and technical guitar expertise which has been compared to Johnny Winter and Jeff Beck, while his slide guitar hints of Duane Allman. He can play fiery guitar runs with the best of them, but it's his lyrical work on lap steel and Dobro that makes him stand out among the legions of guitar heroes. Fowler's sparkling original compositions pair perfectly with well-chosen cover tunes from Billy Joe Shaver, Merle Haggard and the Amazing Rhythm Aces. Because of his versatility, Fowler has been called upon to work with Jeff Beck, Buddy Guy, Johnny and Edgar Winter, Robin Trower, Gregg Allman, Jimmy Vaughn, Junior Brown, Rick Derringer, Little Feat, The Radiators, Chris Duarte and Delbert McClinton. A Tampa Bay musician who's made good, Fowler is one of the most original and seasoned artists on the national circuit.



Damon Fowler plays the Palladium Aug. 24-25.

• **Hippiefest,** Saturday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets range from \$45 to \$79. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhal.com. Hippiefest will present five well-known players who were initially inspired to pick up their instruments due to their love for rock and blues: Johnny Winter, Edgar Winter, Rick Derringer, Leslie West and Kim Simmonds. Audiences will have an opportunity to hear five great musicians all in one incredible tour of rock and blues music. Ruth Eckerd Hall will again feature a Hippiefest marketplace offering beads, tie dyes and other iconic reminders of Woodstock, San Francisco and a generation that brought a whole new outlook to life.

• **Santana,** Sunday, Aug. 26, 8 p.m., at 1-800-ASK-GARY Amphitheatre, 4802 U.S. 301 N., Tampa. Tickets start at \$39.50. Call 813-740-2446 or visit www.livenation.com. Santana takes to the road this summer, launching the Shape Shifter Tour 2012. Since Santana emerged from the San Francisco Bay area music scene in the 1960s, the group has sold more than 100 million records, reached more than 100 million fans at concerts worldwide, and been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Santana has won 10 Grammy Awards, including a record-tying nine for a single project, 1999's "Supernatural." Among other honors, Carlos Santana is No. 20 on Rolling Stone's list of the 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time.



From left, Ashley Greene stars as Kelly, Sebastian Stan as Ben and Tom Felton as Patrick in Warner Bros. Pictures' and Dark Castle Entertainment's supernatural thriller "The Apparition," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

Opening this weekend

Shepard, Bell team up for 'Hit and Run;' Felton tackles 'The Apparition'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'Hit and Run'

Genre: Action, comedy and romance

Cast: Dax Shepard, Kristen Bell, Bradley Cooper, Tom Arnold, Beau Bridges, Kristin Chenoweth, David Koechner, Michael Rosenbaum, Joy Bryant and Ryan Hansen

Director: Dax Shepard and David Palmer

Rated: R

From the producer of "Wedding Crashers" - written by and co-directed by and starring comic talent Dax Shepard - "Hit and Run" is the story of Charlie Bronson (Shepard), a nice guy with a questionable past who risks everything when he busts out of the witness protection program to deliver his fiancé (Kristen Bell) to Los Angeles to seize a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Their road trip grows awkwardly complicated, when they are chased by the feds (led by Tom Arnold) ... and increasingly dangerous, when Charlie's former pals, a band of gangsters (led by Bradley Cooper), enter the fray.

'The Apparition'

Genre: Supernatural thriller

Cast: Ashley Greene, Sebastian Stan, Tom Felton, Julianna Guill, Luke Pasqualino and Suzanne Ford

Director: Todd Lincoln

Rated: PG-13

When frightening events start to occur in their home, young couple Kelly (Ashley Greene) and Ben (Sebastian Stan) discover they are being haunted by a presence that was accidentally conjured during a university parapsychology experiment.

The horrifying apparition feeds on their fear and torments them no matter where they try to run. Their last hope is an expert in the supernatural, Patrick (Tom Felton), but even with his help they may already be too late to save themselves from this terrifying force.

'Premium Rush'

Genre: Action

Cast: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Michael Shannon, Dania Ramirez and



Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Dania Ramirez star in Columbia Pictures' "Premium Rush."

Jamie Chung

Director: David Koepf

Rated: PG-13

Dodging speeding cars, crazed cabbies and 8 million cranky pedestrians is all in a day's work for Wilee (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), the best of New York's agile and aggressive bicycle messengers. It takes a special breed to ride the fixie - super lightweight, single-gear bikes with no brakes and riders who are equally part skilled cyclists and nutcases who risk becoming a smear on the pavement every time they head into traffic. But a guy who's used to putting his life on the line is about to get more than even he is used to when his last envelope of the day - a routine "premium rush" run - turns into a life or death chase through the streets of Manhattan.

See OPENING, page 4B

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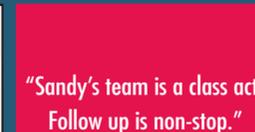
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England Brothers Park set for September shows

PINELLAS PARK – The city will attract music aficionados from around the Tampa Bay region in September with two concerts at England Brothers Park, 5010 81st Ave. N.

First up will be Sublime with Rome on Saturday, Sept. 1. Gates will open at 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$27. Visit ticketfly.com.

The original ska-punk outfit Sublime split up following the death of lead singer and guitarist Bradley Nowell in 1996. In 2009, surviving members Eric Wilson, bass guitar, and Bud Gaugh, drums, partnered with Rome Ramirez to form Sublime with Rome. Initially, the new lineup concentrated on performing songs by Sublime. In 2011, Sublime with Rome released "Yours Truly," which included the U.S. Alternative hit "Panic."

When Gaugh left the band in late 2011 to focus on his family, he was replaced by Josh Freese. DJ Rocky Rock also will join the band.

The show also will feature performances by Matisyahu, Cypress Hill, Dirty Heads and Pepper.

According to his artist bio, since first emerging on the international stage in 2005, Matisyahu has established a reputation for following his muse – from the stripped-down roots reggae of the gold-certified Live at Stubb's to the trippy ministrations of Youth to the polished pop eclecticism of Light. In 2010, he returned to the venerable Austin venue that introduced him for Live at Stubb's II, demonstrating that all those travels had somehow only strengthened his connection to his musical bedrock. It was a whirlwind half-decade journey, one that earned Matisyahu a place in pop culture at large.

Currently based in Los Angeles, Matisyahu recently released "Spark Seeker," a new studio album. The vocalist and songwriter explores uncharted territory on his fourth studio effort, partnering with a number of collaborators along the way.

"It just felt good to sort of restart everything," Matisyahu says in a press release promoting the new album.



Photo by BEAU GREALY/PRESS HERE PUBLICITY

Matisyahu performs Sept. 1 at Pinellas Park's England Brothers Park.

He considers the impermanence of the physical form one of the central themes of "Spark Seeker."

"We live in a world where people tend to think in extremes and categorize with ultimate statements," Matisyahu says. "While it's true that at one point it would've been pretty accurate to describe me as Hasidic reggae, for most of my career my music has been a blend, a mixture."

Cypress Hill has long represented the will of the people according to the band's management group, Velvet Hammer Music.



Photo courtesy of DOVE SHORE PHOTOGRAPHY/ABC PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Dirty Heads join the lineup Sept. 1 at England Brothers Park in Pinellas Park.

The Los Angeles-based trio of rappers B-Real and Sen Dog and producer DJ Muggs provided distinctive insight into the harsh realities of ghetto life, championed marijuana before it became fashionable and made it acceptable for rappers to use Spanish in their rhymes. Given its visionary bent, it makes sense that the group wanted to call its new album – and its first under the Snoop Dogg administration at Priority Records – "Rise Up."

"The term itself is pretty strong, like a call to action for people to stand up for what they believe in," B-Real says in a press release promoting the album. "With this album, we tried to take an aggressive approach on pretty much the whole thing. I wanted to focus on making some raw, aggressive, in your face hip-hop as well as still touch on that alternative base that we have."

The Southern California SoCal rock/reggae/hip-hop band The Dirty Heads was called one of Rolling Stone's Best New Bands of 2010.

The band features Dustin Bushnell, vocals/guitar; Jared Watson, vocals; Jon Olazabal, percussion; Matt Ochoa, drums; and David Foral, bass.

The Dirty Heads' new album "Cabin by the Sea" debuted on Billboard's Top 200 Albums chart at No. 18, Independent Albums chart at No. 3, Alternative Albums chart at No. 4, and the Current Digital chart at No. 9.

Later in the month, New Wave icons will play the park. The Whip It to Shreds Tour comes to England Brothers Park on Sunday, Sept. 23.

Gates will open at 3 p.m. Tickets start at \$14. Visit ticketfly.com. Blondie and Devo will co-headline the show. Blondie veterans Debbie Harry, Clem Burke and Chris Stein, along with newer band members Leigh Foxx, Tommy Kessler and Matt Katz-Bohen will be playing the acclaimed songs from their most recent album "Panic of Girls" as well as the biggest hits from their storied four-decade career. Devo, who released their first studio album in two decades with 2010's highly praised "Something for Everybody" and have been touring since. Devo will mix up their set with their newer material and the classics. Original members Mark and Bob Mothersbaugh and Gerald and Bob Casale will take the stage with tour drummer Jeff Friedl rounding out the lineup.

Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
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55				56				57		58				59
60						61	62					63		
64						65						66		
67						68						69		

- Across**
- Backstabber
 - Filled
 - Church song
 - "Much ___ About Nothing"
 - Shower fresh
 - Embryonic sacs
 - Beauty
 - Gravitational forces
 - Drool
 - Viral disease
 - "___ we having fun yet?"
 - Browning's Ben Ezra, e.g.
 - Cattle
 - Like the flu
 - A-line line
 - Back talk
 - Beloved of Aphrodite
 - Barely gets, with "out"
 - Press interviews of politicians (2 wds)
 - Give off, as light
 - Artemis' twin
 - Blunted end
 - Fencing sword
 - Aligned
 - ___ Sorvino, actress
 - 1970 World's Fair site
 - Cooking meas.
 - Prayer
 - Octaves
 - Cuspid (2 wds)
 - "Dig in!"
 - Toll
 - Bring out
 - Biochemistry abbr.
 - Flip, in a way
 - Oblivion
 - Chester White's home

- Down**
- "From ___ to riches"
 - State capital of South Australia
 - End of the quip
 - Fink
 - Adjust
 - Bright fish
 - Ring bearer, maybe
 - ___ lab (acronym)
 - Cracker spread
 - Smug smiles
 - Blindness
 - Department store section
 - Some services
 - Idle fancy
 - Pork and ___
 - Bovril (2 wds)
 - Sit in the sun
 - Delivery vehicle
 - Vermin
 - V.I.P.
 - Aug. follower
 - Barely beats
 - Civil War side
 - Bunches
 - Kind of ears
 - Ground cover
 - Artist's garments
 - European capital
 - Kidney waste product (pl.)
 - Italian herb (pl.)
 - Barely make do (2 wds)
 - Common aspiration
 - The "O" in S.R.O.
 - Clarified butter
 - "Don't go!"
 - ___ el Amarna, Egypt
 - ___ to Billie Joe"

Sudoku

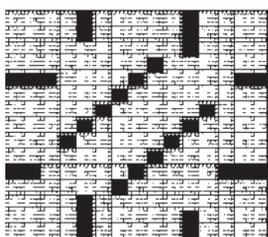
5	9	1	4		3			
6					5			1
	4							9
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	7				2		4	3
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	2		3					7
		5		8	1	2	4	

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

Sudoku answers from last week

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

Crossword answers from last week



Horoscopes

August 23, 2012

Capricorn

December 22 – January 19

Smile, Capricorn. Great things are in store. A chance encounter proves very lucrative indeed. A work issue is resolved with a bit of ingenuity.

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18

Passion ignites, and love is in the air. Make plans to reconnect with that special someone, Aquarius. A home improvement project hits a snag.

Pisces

February 19 – March 20

Thoughts of yesteryear inspire you to start a new tradition. Get the family involved, Pisces, so it will truly be yours. A deadline approaches with fury.

Aries

March 21 – April 19

A project gets off to a rocky start, but lucky for you, Aries, there will be no further snags. A family recipe brings people together and turns dinnertime into a smash.

Taurus

April 20 – May 20

Troubled times come to an end and free you up for some real fun, Taurus. Travel, hobbies, sports and so much more could be on the agenda.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21

Face it, Gemini. Hopes are dashed for now, but all is not lost. A better opportunity will present itself. A houseguest brings harmony to your home.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22

Your fortitude is put to the test with a friend. Don't give in, Cancer. You are on the right page. Revving up your fitness routine is a good idea.

Leo

July 23 – August 22

Make no mistake, Leo. One slip of the tongue could cause the whole thing to come crashing down. Be careful what you say and in how you approach it.

Virgo

August 23 – September 22

A principle is challenged. Stand your ground, Virgo. A financial dilemma is resolved with help from a pro. An avenue of opportunity opens up.

Libra

September 23 – October 22

Career goals are easily attained with the right training, but you're looking for it in all the wrong places, Libra. A young friend owes you one—payback time.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 21

Sunny days are here again, as old friends and new drop by for a visit. So many adventures await, Scorpio. A shopping trip uncovers quite the find!

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21

The to-do list grows out of hand, and you must seek the help of others. Start with those who owe you a favor, Sagittarius, and don't let them weasel out of it.

SPO 2012-13 season set

ST. PETERSBURG – St. Petersburg Opera's seventh season will feature Sondheim, Puccini and Richard Strauss in a trio of magnificent obsessions.

St. Petersburg Opera Company will launch its seventh season of main stage operas with "Sweeney Todd," a tale of a barber obsessed with revenge, with performances on Oct. 5, 7 and 9; at the Palladium Theater, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg.

Extremely popular with opera companies, "Sweeney Todd" won eight Tony Awards including Best Musical, Best Book and Best Score. Stephen Sondheim's chilling, suspenseful, heart-pounding masterpiece is the tale of an unjustly exiled barber who returns to 19th century London to seek revenge against the judge who framed him and ravaged his young wife. The barber's blood lust soon expands to include his unfortunate customers, and the proprietress of the pie shop downstairs soon gives new meaning to her promise to "serve anyone."

Sophisticated and uncompromising, "Sweeney Todd" has a great sense of fun, mixing intense drama with moments of dark humor. The production will be performed in English with the original full orchestration.

Next, on Feb. 1, 3, and 5, Tosca will fend off the advances of the lecherous Scarpia.

Performances will be Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 3, 2 p.m.; and Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m., at the Palladium Theater.

Since its premiere in 1900, Puccini's Tosca has never left the repertoire of the world's opera companies. Tosca is the story of a singer, Floria Tosca, and her lover, the painter Mario Cavaradossi. After helping a friend who is a political fugitive escape from the police, Cavaradossi is arrested and tortured. The corrupt chief of police, Scarpia, offers to save Cavaradossi if Tosca will submit to his sexual desires. She is torn between her love for Cavaradossi and her morality. The drama intensifies with murder, betrayal and passionate declarations of love, all set to Puccini's glorious melodies and lush orchestrations.

The production will be performed in Italian with English subtitles.

Following last year's sold-out sensation, "Seasonal Sparkle" will return for another glorious salute to the holidays on Dec. 18 and 19, 7:30 p.m., at the Palladium Theater.

The acclaimed St. Petersburg Opera chorus and orchestra will be joined by soloists for a dazzling performance that will put everyone in the mood to celebrate. A treat for the whole family, highlights of the evening will include a portion of Bach's Christmas Oratorio, excerpts from the Nutcracker ballet, some of opera's most beautiful arias and a sneak preview of some of next season's most exciting music. And of course, there are favorite carols and seasonal songs.

Maestro Sforzini will conduct and guide the audience through this unique seasonal offering of musical virtuosity.

Finally, on May 31, June 2 and 4, St. Petersburg Opera Company will present Richard Strauss' Ariadne auf Naxos.

Performances will be May 31, 7:30 p.m.; June 2, 2 p.m.; and June 4, 7:30 p.m., at the Palladium Theater.

The richest man in Vienna plans to entertain his guests with both an opera and an Italian burlesque. The first act shows the competitive spectacle that arises when it is announced the two pieces must be performed at the same time. The composer fights to save his "high art" while viewers witness the scheming of the various theatrical directors and performers. The second act is the performance of "Ariadne auf Naxos," the improvised combined efforts of the opera and burlesque troupes to convey a touching story about love lost and love found.

Richard Strauss' entertaining opera features three major roles for women: the Composer (a pants role), the Prima Donna (Ariadne), and Zerbinetta, the leader of the commedia dell'arte players. All three have some of the most virtuosic singing you will ever hear, and along with the whimsical ensembles and soaring instrumental interludes this creates an evening of excitement and energy for performers and audience both.

The production will be performed in German with English subtitles.

Season tickets are now on sale. Call 823-2040 or visit www.stpeopera.org.

Looking ahead

Clearwater

• **"The Importance of Being Earnest,"** by Oscar Wilde, through Sept. 2, at West Coast Players Theatre, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org. Two gentlemen living in 1890s England use the same pseudonym, Ernest. All is fine until they both fall in love with women using that name, leading to a comedy of mistaken identities. This trivial comedy for serious people is directed by Rand Smith.

• **Hernando's Hideaway Speakeasy & Casino Night,** Saturday, Aug. 25, 7 to 10 p.m., at Winter's Dolphin Tale Adventure located at Harborview Center, 300 Cleveland St., Clearwater. The Regional Chamber of Commerce and Clearwater Jazz Holiday will partner to host the event which will raise funds for the annual Clearwater Jazz Holiday festival. The themed event will feature a night built around the 1920s illusion of a smoky backroom setting of gambling, dancing and (pretend) illegal spirits as seen in the movies. Open to the general public, the event is black-tie optional. The event will include hors d'oeuvres and beverages provided by BayStar Restaurants. Tickets are \$65 in advance or \$75 at the door. Visit www.clearwaterflorida.org or call 461-0011.

• **"Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory,"** Saturday, Aug. 25, 3 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets are \$5. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhd.com. Part of the Capitol Classics Family Movie Series sponsored by Tampa Bay Parenting Magazine, the film stars Gene Wilder. Having proven itself as a favorite film of children, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" has transcended the family genre becoming a worldwide cult film phenomenon. There's a timeless appeal to Roald Dahl's classic novel, which was playfully preserved in this charming musical, originally released in 1971, from the colorful carnival-like splendor of its production design to the infectious melody of the Oompah-Loompah songs that punctuate the story.

• **Hippiefest,** Saturday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets range from \$45 to \$79. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhd.com. Hippiefest will present five well-known players who were initially inspired to pick up their instruments due to their love for rock and blues: Johnny Winter, Edgar Winter, Rick Derringer, Leslie West and Kim Simmonds. Audiences will have an opportunity to hear five great musicians all in one incredible tour of rock and blues music. Ruth Eckerd Hall will again feature a Hippiefest marketplace offering beads, tie dyes and other iconic reminders of Woodstock, San Francisco and a generation that brought a whole new outlook to life.

• **Bill Maher,** Saturday, Sept. 1, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhd.com. Host of the Emmy nominated "HBO's Real Time with Bill Maher," the comedian and political commentator will bring his notoriously candid stand-up comedy to Ruth Eckerd Hall. With more than 18 years in television, Maher has earned more than 20 Emmy nominations for his hit TV shows and specials. Maher's first creation, the late night talk show "Politically Incorrect," ran from 1993 to 2002 and featured a round-table discussion of current events with four guests coming from pop culture, politics and news. "Politically Incorrect" and "Real Time with Bill Maher" have featured many well known guests including Ben Affleck, Robin Williams, Chris Rock, John Edwards, the Rev. Al Sharpton, Larry King, and Ann

Coulter. Along with his two hit shows, Maher also has written four bestsellers.

• **"Moon Over Buffalo,"** Sept. 6 through Oct. 27, at Early Bird Dinner Theatre, 200 S. McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Doors open at 4 p.m. for performances Friday through Sunday. Doors open at 11 a.m. for matinees Thursday and Saturday. Tickets are \$29.90 for buffet and show. For reservations, call 446-5898 or visit www.earlybirddinnertheatre.com. In this screwball comedy set in 1953, traveling actors receive the opportunity of a lifetime when the famous film director Frank Capra wants them to be in his latest film. Hilarity ensues with a whirlwind of mistaken identities and a cast of off-beat but lovable characters.

• **"Pulp Fiction,"** Friday, Sept. 7, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets are \$5. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhd.com. "Pulp Fiction" is widely considered one of the most influential films of the 1990s. Director and co-screenwriter Quentin Tarantino intertwines the lives of two mob hit men, a boxer, a gangster's wife and a pair of diner bandits in four tales of violence and redemption. With an all-star cast featuring John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, Uma Thurman and Bruce Willis with cameos by Christopher Walken and Steve Buscemi this Oscar winning film pays homage to the traditions of many genres including film noir, campy B-horror flicks and American gangster and crime thrillers.

• **"Aurora Borealis,"** Sunday, Sept. 9, 3 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets are \$5. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhd.com. Presented by the American Alzheimer's Association, "Aurora Borealis" stars Joshua Jackson, Donald Sutherland and Juliette Lewis. The film follows a troubled young man struggling to right himself after the premature death of his father. This moving coming of age story is set against the frigid backdrop of a Minnesota winter where love begins to grow.

• **Shaun Hopper,** Friday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m., at the Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$20. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhd.com. The acoustic guitar wizard is known for his "finger-style" guitar playing. Hopper is at first glance an unassuming presence, a true southern gentleman whose humility stands in stark contrast to the prodigious talents he unveils on stage. An unparalleled master of the fretboard Hopper merges complex melodies, harmonies and bass lines along with a one of a kind mix of percussive elements captivating everyone within earshot. His original compositions and arrangements of well loved pop tunes are infused with cutting edge techniques resulting in a signature style which crosses over a full range of musical genres. Years of honing his craft led Hopper to the Winfield National Fingerpicking Championship where he won Best Instrumental Song in 2007 for his seminal piece "Autumn of Any Year." Later that same year, he won second place in the singer-songwriter

competition at Atlanta's famed Eddie's Attic Shootout Competition without singing a single note being the first and only instrumentalist ever to achieve such recognition.

• **"Vertigo,"** Friday, Sept. 21, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets are \$5. Call 791-7400 or visit www.attheatre.com. Recently named the greatest film of all time by The British Film Institute, "Vertigo" is directed by Alfred Hitchcock and stars James Stewart and Kim Novak. The film follows a retired police detective suffering from acrophobia who is hired as a private investigator to follow the wife of an acquaintance to uncover the mystery of her peculiar behavior. The film received mixed reviews upon initial release, but has garnered acclaim since and is now often cited as the defining work of Hitchcock's career.

• **Ian Anderson,** Sunday, Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$59.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhd.com. Anderson, of Jethro Tull fame, will be performing both "Thick as a Brick" in its entirety for the first time since 1972. The concert also will include Anderson's new album, "Thick as a Brick 2." This tour will feature a more theatrical production with video and additional musicians, including Anderson's band. The band includes bassist David Goodier, keyboardist John O'Hara, drummer Scott Hammond and guitarist Florian Opahle. All of the members have performed with Anderson on his solo dates over the years as well as having performed at various times as members of Jethro Tull. "Thick as a Brick 2" was produced by Anderson and mixed by Porcupine Tree's Steven Wilson. The album answers the question 40 years later, whatever happened to Gerald Bostock, the person credited with writing the lyrics for "Thick as a Brick," which hit No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Pop Albums chart.

Dunedin

• **Opening reception,** Friday, Sept. 7, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Dunedin Fine Art Center, 1143 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin. Celebrating the opening of four new space-themed art exhibits, the reception will include refreshments, an artist talk and live music. The new exhibits include Intergalac-

tic, Beam Me Up, My Favorite Martian and Blast Off. Admission is \$5 for adults, free for DFAC members. Call 298-3322 or visit www.dfac.org.

• **Intergalactic,** Sept. 7 through Dec. 21, at the Dunedin Fine Art Center, 1143 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin. One of four exhibits designed to present an array of work gathered to reflect a broad, though singular theme, Intergalactic features an all-media invitational. Artists from around the world take visitors out of this world. Extraterrestrials, black holes, lunar landscapes, celestial bodies ... what lies beyond this earthly realm - or not? Either way, the sky's not the limit for artists David Choi, Denis Gaston, Tsuneaki Hiramatsu, Shane Hoffman, Violet Hopkins, Masumi Kataoka, Andy Kehoe, Scott Listfield, Belli Liu, Sim Luttin, Timothy McMahon, Leah Pecoraro, Rene Rickabaugh, Isabell Schaupp, Sondra Sherman, Christel van der Laan and Marek Wyszomirski. DFAC galleries are open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. Gallery admission is free. DLM Children's Art Museum admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and free for DFAC members and children 2 and younger. Call 298-3322 or visit www.dfac.org.

• **Beam Me Up,** Sept. 7 through Oct. 14, at the Dunedin Fine Art Center, 1143 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin. One of four exhibits designed to present an array of work gathered to reflect a broad, though singular theme, Houston-based video and photographic team Hillerbrand & Magsamen share contemporary interpretations of parenthood and family. It is "life as we do not know it" in Beam Me Up. DFAC galleries are open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. Gallery admission is free. DLM Children's Art Museum admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and free for DFAC members and children 2 and younger. Call 298-3322 or visit www.dfac.org.

• **My Favorite Martian,** Sept. 7 through Oct. 14, at the Dunedin Fine Art Center, 1143 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin. One of four exhibits designed to present an array of work gathered to reflect a broad, though singular theme, My Favorite Martian in-

vites DFAC students, members and friends to reveal their inner aliens. DFAC galleries are open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. Gallery admission is free. DLM Children's Art Museum admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and free for DFAC members and children 2 and younger. Call 298-3322 or visit www.dfac.org.

• **Blast Off,** Sept. 7 through Aug. 17, 2013, at the Dunedin Fine Art Center, 1143 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin. One of four exhibits designed to present an array of work gathered to reflect a broad, though singular theme, in Blast Off: The Final Frontier, the David L. Mason Children's Art Museum casts its gaze to the stars with a trip to outer-space for the entire family. An exhibit of work from DFAC Summer Camp artists shares the same name, but occupies its own space in the Kokolakis Family Youth Gallery. DFAC galleries are open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. Gallery admission is free. DLM Children's Art Museum admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and free for DFAC members and children 2 and younger. Call 298-3322 or visit www.dfac.org.

• **DFAC's Kids' Art Fest,** Saturday, Sept. 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Dunedin Fine Art Center, 1143 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin. Co-sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Dunedin, the event will feature games, food and music. At 1 p.m., there will be an award ceremony for the young Blast Off artists. Admission is free. Call 298-3322 or visit www.dfac.org.

Gulfport

• **Gecko Ball,** Saturday, Aug. 25, 6 p.m., at the Peninsula Inn, 2937 Beach Blvd., Gulfport. "Hooray for Geckwood!" is the celebratory theme of this year's festivities. This is the fourth annual Gecko Ball, leading up to the 12th annual Gecko Fest, Gulfport's largest and most beloved street festival. "Hooray for Geckwood" will be a celebration befitting Gulfport's fun and funky, artistic nature by tweaking the glitz and glamour of old Hollywood with a quirky Gecko twist. Partygoers will step into a Geckwood fantasyland complete with all the trappings of a red carpet entrance. Over the top movie-related décor throughout

the Peninsula Inn will surprise and delight participants. A full dinner buffet for the occasion will conjure elements of classic Hollywood movies and characters. There will be a full cash bar. Entertainment will feature performances by Kevin Wilder and the Hollywood Mod Squad. Tickets are \$25 and are available in advance at Bo-Tiki, 3015 Beach Blvd.; Domain Home Accessories, 3129 Beach Blvd.; and T & Me Tea Co., 2908 1/2 Beach Blvd. in the Art Village Courtyard. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.gulfportma.com.

• **USA Dance,** Monday, Aug. 27, 7 to 10:15 p.m., at Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Blvd., Gulfport. Admission is \$7 and includes a dance workshop, professional and amateur exhibitions, dance hosts and snacks. For information, call 397-5754.

• **Gecko Fest,** Saturday, Sept. 1, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., in downtown Gulfport. Gulfport's whimsical send-off to summer is a combination of Mardi Gras and a Renaissance festival boasting strolling street characters, stage musicians, performing artists and merchants with all types of weird and wonderful wares. With more than 30,000 attendees and up to 200 artisans, craftsmen and quirky vendors expected at this year's free celebration, Gecko Fest encourages audience participation with a walking parade starting at 6 p.m. Roving characters provided by Your Total Entertainment will be roaming the streets and interacting with visitors along with the o-fish-al Gecko Goddess and the Gecko Court. Live musical entertainment will be provided on two main stages from noon to 10 p.m. The confirmed band lineup includes Circle 4 Band, Tropical Disturbance, Casey Allen, The Paul Anthony Band, Bing Futch, The Wrenchers, The Noisemakers and Urban Gypsies. The Kids Zone, provided by Spotlight Amusements will be bigger and better than ever, taking up one full city block. Costume contests will take place following the parade. Costume categories this year will include best Hooray for Geckwood! themed costume, best decorated hat and best overall, for both children and adults. Prizes include trophies created by local artist Owen Patch. The day culminates in Gulfport's famous

See LOOKING AHEAD, page 4B

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OPENING, from page 1B

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

'Robot & Frank'

Genre: Comedy and family
 Cast: Frank Langella, Susan Sarandon, James Marsden, Liv Tyler, Peter Sarsgaard, Jeremy Sisto and Jeremy Strong
 Director: Jake Schreier
 Not rated
 Set in the near future, Frank, a retired cat burglar, has two grown kids who are concerned he can no longer live alone. They are tempted to place him in a nursing home until Frank's son chooses a different option: against the old man's wishes, he buys Frank a walking, talking humanoid robot programmed to improve his physical and mental health. What follows is an often hilarious and heartwarming story about finding friends and family in the most unexpected places. "Robot & Frank" features an award winning cast including Academy Award nominee Frank Langella, James Marsden, Liv Tyler and Academy Award winner Susan Sarandon.

'Sleepwalk with Me'

Genre: Comedy and drama
 Cast: Mike Birbiglia, Lauren Ambrose, James Rebhorn, Carol Kane, Cristin Milioti and Aya Cash
 Director: Mike Birbiglia
 Not rated
 "I'm going to tell you a story and it's true ... I always have to tell people that," so asserts comedian-turned-playwright-turned-filmmaker Mike Birbiglia directly to the viewer at the outset of his autobiographically inspired, fictional feature debut. Birbiglia wears his incisive wit on his sleeve while portraying a cinematic surrogate. Viewers are thrust into the tale of a burgeoning



Photo by JEFFREY REED/OPEN ROAD FILMS
Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard hit the road in the romantic action comedy "Hit and Run."

stand-up comedian struggling with the stress of a stalled career, a stale relationship threatening to race out of his control, and the wild spurts of severe sleepwalking he is desperate to ignore. Based on the successful one-man show, "Sleepwalk with Me" engages in the kind of passionate and personal storytelling that transfigures intimate anguish into comic art. Produced and co-written by Ira Glass, "Sleepwalk with Me" features a stellar supporting cast that includes Lauren Ambrose, Carol Kane, James Rebhorn, Cristin Milioti and a sampling from the who's who of today's stand-up scene. Bursting with sincerity, Mike Birbiglia's foray into the medium marks the invigorating emergence of a strong and poignant American voice, at once hilarious and heartbreaking.

For more movie news including what's playing at local theaters, trailers and an opportunity to purchase tickets online, visit www.TBNweekly.com. Click on the "Movie News & Reviews" link on the left-side menu.



Photo by ADAM BECKMAN/IFC FILMS
Mike Birbiglia stars as Matt Pandamiglio and Lauren Ambrose as Abby in Mike Birbiglia's "Sleepwalk with Me."



Photo courtesy of SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS/STAGE 6 FILMS
Frank Langella stars as Frank and Liv Tyler as Madison in "Robot & Frank."

MFA appoints new associate director

ST. PETERSBURG – Don Howe has been named the associate director for institutional advancement at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg.

Howe is responsible for major fundraising, increasing membership and attendance, and enhancing awareness of the museum. "The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, has a great story to tell," said Kent Lydecker, MFA director, in a press release. "Our collection and special exhibitions are world-class. Our educational programs and concerts reach people of all ages. Our membership continues to grow and we are blessed with loyal donors and friends. Don will help build on our strengths and expand our audience and support."



Don Howe

Howe has been a highly successful radio and marketing executive. Most recently, he was senior vice president/market manager for CBS Radio in Tampa and Orlando, where he was responsible for nine stations, more than 200 employees, and more than \$50 million in revenue. He was previously market manager for CBS Radio in Denver, directing the operations of three stations. In both positions, Howe developed new stations and transformed others. He established new formats and shows and introduced innovative sales strategies and promotional events.

Before joining CBS Radio, he held executive positions with Clear Channel Communications for 17 years in Denver, San Diego, and finally New York City. In Denver, he was named the first general manager of the year in the newly merged Jacor and Clear Channel. In San Diego, he oversaw 100 radio stations in nearly 20 markets in California and Hawaii.

Howe was the first president of Clear Channel Advantage, based in New York, where he developed marketing opportunities for companies and products across all media – radio, television, the Web, billboards, concert tours and more. His clients included Estée Lauder, P&G, and On-Star, among many others.

Community service has been a hallmark of Howe's career. He is a current member of the Waterfront Parks Foundation in St. Petersburg. He has been president of the boards of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Food Bank of the Rockies, corporate chair of "Saturday Night Alive" of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and corporate and auction chair of the Heart Ball of the American Heart Association. He organized Concerts for a Cure for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the Kathy Duffy Fogarty Foundation.

"The Museum of Fine Arts is a cultural icon in St. Petersburg and Central Florida," Howe said. "It is an honor to work with this dedicated staff, trustees, volunteers, and support groups."

LOOKING AHEAD, from page 3B

Street Dance at 8 p.m., featuring The Urban Gypsies. Visit www.gulfportma.com, www.gecst.com or call 322-5217.

• **USA Dance**, Monday, Sept. 24, 7 to 10:15 p.m., at Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Blvd., Gulfport. Admission is \$7 and includes a dance workshop, professional and amateur exhibitions, dance hosts and snacks. For information, call 397-5754.

• **USA Dance**, Monday, Oct. 29, 7 to 10:15 p.m., at Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Blvd., Gulfport. Admission is \$7 and includes a dance workshop,

professional and amateur exhibitions, dance hosts and snacks. For information, call 397-5754.

Largo

• **Moxy Concert – Believe in Miracles**, Friday, Aug. 24, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$27 in advance and \$32 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. This concert and variety show will feature the area's most talented performers, vocalists and musicians including singer/songwriter and musician Jayne Kelli, award winning performer Rebec-

ca Zapen, American Idol Experience Dream Ticket winner Vanessa Quilla, actress and singer Becca McCoy and singer/songwriter and musician A.J. Swearingen. There also will be a special performance by Moving Arts of Tampa Bay, and the talented vocalists Jennifer Real, Rossana Spallino, Chantelle Ashby and Reggie Dockets.

• **Swing Dance**, Saturday, Sept. 1, 7 to 11 p.m., at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo. This recurring event features dancing and socializing. Attendees will enjoy a free lesson from 7 to 8 p.m. and a DJ dance from 8 to 11 p.m.

Savoy Swing is the resident DJ. The center boasts a 5,600-square-foot sprung hardwood floor. Visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131. Cost is \$6 with a recreation card and \$7 with no recreation card.

• **Train Weekend**, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 1-2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive, Largo. Attendees may ride the miniature trains of Largo Central Railroad on the first full weekend of every month in Largo Central Park. For a schedule of dates visit LargoEvents.com. Admission is free but donations are accepted.

• **Labor Day Poolside Picnic**,

Monday, Sept. 3, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Highland Family Aquatic Center, 400 Highland Ave. Attendees may bring the family and a blanket to enjoy their own picnic basket by the pool during the center's extended four-hour session. The event will include free chair massages in addition to family and friends discount admission. This will be the last public session of the season. Alcohol and glass will not be permitted. The snack bar will be open. Cost for a family (five person minimum) is \$12 with a recreation card and \$23 without a recreation card. Call 518-3018.

• **Square Dancing**, Friday,

Sept. 7, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m., at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road. Attendees will spend the evening dancing to professional caller Allen Snell. Call 518-3131. Cost is \$6.

• **Stars & Stripes U.S.A.** Spirit of America Show, Friday, Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. to midnight, at the Armed Forces History Museum, 2050 34th Way N., Largo. Tickets are \$23. A limited number of VIP tickets are available at \$35 which includes a full dinner buffet consisting of short ribs, chicken, potato, vegetable, salad and dessert.

See LOOKING AHEAD, page 8B

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ADOPTION: 866-633-0397
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- Professional Services Directory

185. Beach Rentals

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190. Waterfront Rentals

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Redington Shrs. Fantastic Views!
Renovated 1,350-2,000SF.
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195. Seasonal Rentals

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210. M.H. Rentals

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225. Duplex-Triplex Rental

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245. Room For Rent

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Near Diagnostic Clinic.
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Includes shared signage,
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restrooms, and server/ phone
room. \$750 plus electric.
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Parking. Madeira Beach.
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Includes shared signage,
parking lot, lobby, kitchen,
restrooms, and server/ phone
room. \$750 plus electric.
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265. Commercial Rentals

NEWLY RENOVATED, TWO
offices/ connecting door. Includes
shared signage, parking lot, lobby,
kitchen, restrooms and server/
phone room. \$750 plus electric.
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From \$429 Per Month.
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AT YOUR SERVICE

355. Adoption

ARE YOU PREGN

485. Help Wanted

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- Hidden costs can add up
- Requirements may be unrealistic.

Learn how you can avoid Work-At-Home Scams. Call: Federal Trade Comm. 1-877-FTC-HELP.
A message from Tampa Bay Newspapers and the FTC.

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635. Bargain Corner

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CADILLAC CTS, 2003, Sage Green, Tan leather, 119,000 miles. Good Condition. \$5,000. O.B.O. (727)585-8382.

KIA 1998 SEPHIA
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 (727) 421-9018.

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LOOKING AHEAD, from page 4B

Call 539-8371 or visit www.armedforcesmuseum.com. This reenactment of a WWII 1940s event will feature the 19-piece 10 O'Clock Swing Band Orchestra featuring lead singer Ron Pond. The band is considered Florida's swing-igest big band. Tribute performances will include Don Jucean as Frank Sinatra and Sir Darrell Cole as Nat King Cole. The event also will feature a red carpet welcome, paparazzi, show hostesses, vintage attire, WWII re-enactors from the 1st Infantry Division, swing dance lessons, swing dancing and seats for those wishing to simply watch the show itself. Valet parking will be available for \$5 per car. Additional parking is available near the museum on 34th Way North in Largo and golf cart shuttles will be available to shuttle guests to and from the parking lot.

• **Swing Dance**, Saturday, Sept. 8, 7 to 11 p.m., at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo. This recurring event features dancing and socializing. Attendees will enjoy a free lesson from 7 to 8 p.m. and a DJ dance from 8 to 11 p.m. Savoy Swing is the resident DJ. The center boasts a 5,600-square-foot sprung hardwood floor. Visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131. Cost is \$6 with a recreation card and \$7 with no recreation card.

• **"The Full Monty,"** with book by Terrence McNally and music and lyrics by David Yazbek; presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, Sept. 14-23, at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Performances will be Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees will be Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25.50 for adults and \$12.50 for students. Call 587-6793 or visit www.eightoclocktheatre.com. Seeing how much their wives enjoy watching male strippers during their girls' night out, unemployed steelworkers in Buffalo, N.Y. come up with a bold way to make some quick cash. They decide to present a strip act at a local club and make their show better than the Chippendales dancers because they'll go "the full monty" – strip all the way. As the guys work through their fears, self-consciousness, feelings of worthlessness and anxieties, they come to discover that not only are they stronger as a group, but that the strength they find in each other gives them the individual courage to face their demons and overcome them. This production may not be suitable for children 11 and younger.

• **Square Dancing**, Friday, Sept. 14, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m., at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road. Attendees will spend the evening dancing to professional caller Allen Snell. Call 518-3131. Cost is \$6.

• **Swing Dance**, Saturday, Sept. 15, 7 to 11 p.m., at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo. This recurring event features dancing and socializing. Attendees will enjoy a free lesson from 7 to 8 p.m. and a DJ dance from 8 to 11 p.m. Savoy Swing is the resident DJ. The center boasts a 5,600-square-foot sprung hardwood floor. Visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131. Cost is \$6 with a recreation card and \$7 with no recreation card.

• **Square Dancing**, Friday, Sept. 21, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m., at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road. Attendees will spend the evening dancing to professional caller Allen Snell. Call 518-3131. Cost is \$6.

• **Swing Dance**, Saturday, Sept. 22, 7 to 11 p.m., at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo. This recurring event features dancing and socializing. Attendees will enjoy a free lesson from 7 to 8 p.m. and a DJ dance from 8 to 11 p.m. Savoy Swing is the resident DJ. The center boasts a 5,600-square-foot sprung hardwood floor. Visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131. Cost is \$6 with a recreation card and \$7 with no recreation card.

• **Blackberry Smoke**, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Atlanta-based Blackberry Smoke continues to grow into the premiere Southern Rock band of America. Over the last 24 months they have shared the stage with Zac Brown Band, ZZ Top, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Kid Rock, Jamey Johnson, Travis Tritt and countless others. Their video "Good One Comin' On" was No. 1 on CMT for two weeks and No. 3 for seven weeks straight.

• **Square Dancing**, Friday, Sept. 28, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m., at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road. Attendees will spend the evening dancing to professional caller Allen Snell. Call 518-3131. Cost is \$6.

• **Swing Dance**, Saturday, Sept. 29, 7 to 11 p.m., at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo. This recurring event features dancing and socializing. Attendees will enjoy a free lesson from 7 to 8 p.m. and a DJ dance from 8 to 11 p.m. Savoy Swing is the resident DJ. The center boasts a 5,600-square-foot sprung hardwood floor. Visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131. Cost is \$6 with a recreation card and \$7 with no recreation card.

• **"All the World's a Stage,"** Saturday, Sept. 29, 6:30 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Presented by the Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation, this will be the organization's 16th annual fundraising gala. The SPAF will present an evening of food, entertainment, silent auctions and dancing to benefit the Largo Cultural Center. SPAF is passionate about meeting the need for arts education in the community. Proceeds from this event go directly to that mission. Cost is \$100 a person.

• **Keiko Matsui**, Saturday, Oct. 13, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$45.50 in advance and \$50.50 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. After selling out her show at the center last year, the contemporary jazz icon returns. Matsui creates music both powerful and introspective, blending Western and Eastern musical influences. Her exquisite style of Japanese jazz spans three decades of international acclaim. Elegant piano melodies, a free spirit and creative genius mark her return to the Largo stage.

• **Hot Club San Francisco**, Sunday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$26.50 in advance or \$31.50 at the door. Call 587-6793 or visit www.largoarts.com. Fire up the holidays with a swinging gypsy wagon trip to the North Pole featuring many favorites and some rarer seasonal gems. This dazzling holiday performance has something for everyone. Make this season bright with flames of gypsy jazz.

• **Tom Rush**, Friday, Jan. 11, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$19.50. Call 587-6793 or visit www.largoarts.com. Rush's impact on the American music scene

has been profound. He helped shape the folk revival in the '60s and the renaissance of the '80s and '90s. His music has left its stamp on generations of artists. James Taylor, Emmylou Harris, Tom Petty and Garth Brooks have cited Rush as major influences.

Madeira Beach

• **"My Sister's Keeper,"** Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2:30 p.m., at Gulf Beaches Public Library, 200 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach. Part of the Summer Film Series, this 2009 drama stars Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin, Sofia Vassiliou and Alec Baldwin.

Oldsmar

• **Pastel Society of Tampa Bay's Summer Art Show**, through Aug. 31, at Oldsmar City Hall, 100 State St. W., Oldsmar. Original pastel paintings will be on display and for sale throughout the building showing some of the finest work of its over 60 members. Formed in 2006, members represent not only Pinellas but also Pasco and Hillsborough counties. The exhibit may be viewed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call Lorraine Potocki at 466-8791.

• **Celebrate Oldsmar**, Friday and Saturday, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, at R.E. Olds Park, 107 Shore Drive West, Oldsmar. Hours will be Friday, 6 to 9 p.m.; and Saturday, 5 to 9 p.m. Oldsmar's annual extravaganza is the city's way of saying thank you to its residents, businesses, visitors and event sponsors for making Oldsmar a great place. This year, the action will start Friday with a carnival of rides and games. The celebration will continue Saturday, with the carnival, inflatables, pony rides, Touch-a-Truck, food concessions and live music. Parking and admission are free. The Black Honkeys will perform on the amphitheater stage. There will be a fireworks display. For more details, call 813-749-1260 or visit www.MyOldsmar.com.

Pinellas Park

• **Sublime with Rome**, Saturday, Sept. 1, at England Brothers Park, 5010 81st Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Gates will open at 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$27. Visit ticketfly.com. The show also will feature performances by Matisyahu, Cypress Hill, Dirty Heads and Pepper. Sublime with Rome is a collaboration between Eric Wilson and Bud Gaugh of Sublime and Rome Ramirez. Vocalist and guitarist Ramirez had previously performed with Wilson and Gaugh occasionally, including YouTube's Raw Session and an attempted Sublime reunion. It became clear that Ramirez would not be replacing Sublime's lead singer and guitarist, Bradley Nowell, who died in 1996. He would simply be "featured with" former Sublime members. Sublime with Rome performed their first gig together in February 2009 in Nevada, followed by Cypress Hill's Smokeout Festival that October.

• **"Once Upon a Time in Central Park,"** by Gil Perloth, Sept. 7-23, at Venue Theatre, 9125 U.S. 19 N., Pinellas Park. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sundays, 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. For reservations, call 822-6194 or email venueactorstudio@gmail.com. Venue Theatre is proud to present the world premiere of the new musical by Perloth, who penned the hit musical "Ain't Retirement Grand!". "Once Upon a Time in Central Park," a warm delightful musical about love in the middle years, features Nancy Wright and Bob Hines and is directed by Daniel Harris. The production includes 14 new songs.

• **Movies in the Park**, Saturday, Sept. 22, 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 ndelgrosso@pinellas-park.com.

• **Whip It to Shreds Tour**, Sunday, Sept. 23, at England Brothers Park, 5010 81st Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Gates will open at 3 p.m. Tick-



Blondie plays England Brothers Park Sept. 23. Photo courtesy of PRESS HERE PUBLICITY

ets start at \$14. Visit ticketfly.com. Blondie and Devo will co-headline the show. Blondie veterans Debbie Harry, Clem Burke and Chris Stein, along with newer band members Leigh Foxx, Tommy Kessler and Matt Katz-Bohen will be playing the acclaimed songs from their most recent album "Panic of Girls" as well as the biggest hits from their storied four-decade career. Devo, who released their first studio album in two decades with 2010's highly praised "Something for Everybody" and have been touring since. Devo will mix up their set with their newer material and the classics. Original members Mark and Bob Mothersbaugh and Gerald and Bob Casale will take the stage with tour drummer Jeff Friedl rounding out the lineup.

Safety Harbor

• **Premiere Harbor Cinema**, Thursday, Aug. 30, 6:30 p.m., at Safety Harbor Public Library, 101 Second St. N., Safety Harbor. The Premiere Harbor Cinema film series presents the newest film releases on the big screen in the library. The featured presentation will be "The Lucky One," starring Zac Efron and Taylor Schilling. Free popcorn and lemonade will be served. Call 724-1525, ext. 112.

St. Pete Beach

• **Fourth Friday Food Truck Festival and Wine Tasting**, Friday, Aug. 24, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., on Corey Avenue, just off Gulf Boulevard in downtown St. Pete Beach. In welcoming the RNC to St. Pete Beach, Corey Avenue will host one of the largest food truck festivals in the area. More than a dozen trucks will participate. The event also will feature live music by Joel and Dakota, the father/son duo from Tarpon Springs. Participating merchants will be offering wine tastings sponsored by The Florida Orange Groves Winery while supplies last. This month's lineup will include Graffeaties, Hot Mess, Gorilla Gurt, Firehouse Grille, Americanwiener, 2 Asians & A Grille, Mobile Munchies, Keepn It Reel, Killer Samich, Just Smokin' BBQ, Tasty Stacy, Kona-Ice and Lettuce eat Healthy. Attendees may bring chairs. Coolers and alcohol are not permitted. Admission and parking are free. Call 498-8778 or visit www.coreyave.com.

• **Corey Avenue Car and Truck Show**, Saturday, Sept. 15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on the 300-400 block of Corey Avenue, St. Pete Beach. Hosted by the Corey Area Business Association, the judged show is open to all years, makes and model. Entry fee is \$15. Registration are being accepted. Registration ends one week before the show. More than 60 awards will be up for grabs. The show will run rain or shine. For registration and show information, call 547-8082 or visit www.premiumcarshows.com.

St. Petersburg

• **Global + Local: Studio and Contemporary Glass on Florida's West Coast**, through Oct. 14, at the Museum of Fine Arts, 255 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg. The exhibit will feature 60 works from approximately 10 collections, including the MFA's own. Recent MFA acquisitions of major works by Therman Statom and Michael Glancy are high points, as well as objects by internationally renowned artists Harvey Littleton, Lino Tagliapietra, Dale Chihuly, Richard Ritter, William Morris, Sonja Blomdahl, Dante Marioni, Toots Zinsky and Yoichi Ohira. Exceptional works by area artists Duncan McClellan, Owen Pach, and Chuck Boux also enhance the exhibition. McClellan's new studio/gallery in downtown St. Petersburg is attracting artists from around the globe. The Chihuly Collection and the Hot Shop at The Morean Arts Center and the Zen Glass Studio likewise reflect the city's emergence as a center for the display and creation of glass art. Museum hours are Monday through Wednesday and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Regular admission is \$17 for adults, \$15 for those 65 and older, and \$10 for students 7 and older, including college students with current identification. Children 6 and younger and museum members are admitted free. For information, call 896-2667 or visit www.fine-arts.org.

• **"Congratulations,"** by Lee Irby, through Aug. 26, at The Studio@620, 620 First Ave. S., St. Petersburg. Performances will be Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees will be Sunday, 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students and seniors. Call 895-6620 or visit www.studio620.org. In "Congratulations, Joe," slacker Joe lands a coveted job at the local prison and his working class parents Dominic and Helene are overjoyed; but pressures start to mount as Joe quickly gets promoted through the bureaucratic system, and he starts to crack. Add to the mix Joe's no nonsense girlfriend, his neurotic aunt, and her get-rich-quick scheming boyfriend, and you have the recipe for A Simple Theatre's hilarious new world premiere comedy. Directed by Gavin Hawk, the play stars Eddie McNally, Bonnie Agan, Sam Arnold, Ricky Wayne, Meg Heimstead and Kendall McGuire.

• **The Art of Music summer jazz series**, Friday, Aug. 24, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Museum of Fine Arts, 255 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg. The featured artist will be New York Guitar Cats. The series presents some of the best jazz in the area. Admission is \$5 for museum members and \$10 for nonmembers. Cost includes admission to the entire museum. Call 896-2667. The musicians perform in the glass conservatory. Listeners can mingle on the terrace overlooking the bay. The MFA Café is open and a cash bar is available.

• **Damon Fowler**, Friday, Aug. 24, 9 p.m.; and Saturday, Aug. 25, 8 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets are \$13 in advance or \$15 the day of the show. Call 822-3590 or visit www.spcollege.edu/palladium/. With his hybrid of roots rock, blues and sacred steel, plus songwriting and vocal skills, it's no wonder critics are extolling Fowler's originality and technical guitar expertise which has been compared to Johnny Winter and Jeff Beck, while his slide guitar hints of Duane Allman. He can play fiery guitar runs with the best of them, but it's his lyrical work on lap steel and Dobro that makes him stand out among the legions of guitar heroes. Fowler's sparkling original compositions pair perfectly with well-chosen cover tunes from Billy Joe Shaver, Merle Haggard and the Amazing Rhythm Aces. Because of his versatility, Fowler has been called upon to work with Jeff Beck, Buddy Guy, Johnny and Edgar Winter, Robin Trower, Gregg Allman, Jimmy Vaughn, Junior Brown, Rick Derringer, Little Feat, The Radiators, Chris Duarte and Delbert McClinton. A Tampa Bay musician who's made good, Fowler is one of the most original and seasoned artists on the national circuit.

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