

LARGO LEADER

Largo Cultural Center welcomes guitar trios for show on Feb. 2

This month will bring a Beatles experience and Jane Monheit to the center ... Page 1B.



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LARGO



Painting donated to Largo library

The Largo Public Library received a donation of a watercolor painting depicting the Largo Atlantic Coast Line train depot that once stood in downtown Largo on Jan. 22.
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COUNTY

City airs designs for intersection

Indian Rocks Beach residents gathered to look at designs of the pocket park at the intersection of Walsingham and Gulf Boulevard.
... Page 4A.

POLICE BEAT

Largo motorcyclist dies in crash

A 19-year-old Largo man died from injuries suffered when his motorcycle crashed into a Chevy Cavalier about 6:34 p.m. Jan. 23 near the Seminole Center Plaza at Walsingham Road.
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SCHOOLS

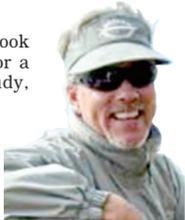


The Largo High School winners of Anthony Telesca Foundation Safe Driving Art Contest were presented with their prizes Jan. 22.
First prize went to Cambry Gordon, who received a prize of two roundtrip airline tickets donated by JetBlue Airways and \$200. Yacinia Colachio received \$100 for her second place entry.
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VIEWPOINTS

Carl Hiaasen

Conspiracy kook should make for a good case study, columnist says.
... Page 12A.



On the move for improved transit

PSTA board to ask county for sales tax referendum to avoid drastic cuts

By SUZETTE PORTER

While the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Board is moving forward with plans to improve local service and better connect to the rest of Tampa Bay, its first priority is maintaining current levels of service.

But, record ridership and higher-than-ever demand is putting a strain on finances.

The PSTA board agreed Jan. 23 to ask Pinellas County Commissioners to authorize adding a referendum to the November 2014 election ballot that would ask voters to approve a transit improvement sales tax.

"We are at a point where we either ask the county to put a referendum for a new funding source on the ballot or start planning to drastically cut bus service," PSTA CEO Brad Miller told the board.

Miller estimated that PSTA would be forced to cut up to 30 percent of its bus service by 2016 if more money didn't come in to pay to keep its buses on the road.

However, despite recent media reports, the board did not talk about a specific sales tax amount or any projects the money would fund, according to PSTA Manager of community relations Bob Lasher.

Lasher said in an interview Jan. 24 that the bigger priority is keeping the buses running.

Lasher said projections show that property tax revenue, which currently funds a large portion of PSTA's budget, would remain flat until at least 2018, while operating expenses would continue to increase. He said the board wanted to make the

See PSTA, page 4A



Riders headed to Countryside in Clearwater board a PSTA smart bus at the Park Street Station. Photo courtesy of the PSTA

The 20th annual Pinellas Folk Festival celebrated music, history



Above, Thomas Johnson, 15, of Seminole joins Charlie and Kim Cox in Native American-style flute music on log cabin stage of Heritage Village in Largo during the Pinellas Folk Festival Jan. 26. At left, Sean Calder, 12, of Largo enthusiastically shaves down wood using a drawknife as he was taught by members of the St. Petersburg Wood Crafters Guild.



Above, the Leigh Humes Band performs on the Lowes Barn stage during the Pinellas Folk Festival. At right, a single bag piper plays for the crowd gathered around the Heritage Village bandstand while the Dunedin Scottish County Dancers prepare for their performance.



City prepares downtown development incentives

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - The city of Largo is preparing four different incentive programs designed to encourage growth and development of the West Bay Drive downtown area.

The Largo commissioners gave their full support for three of the incentives presented Jan. 15 and expressed hesitation for the fourth program awarding businesses for the creation of new jobs. Since then, Economic Development Manager Teresa Brydon has been working on an amendment to the West Bay Drive's Community Redevelopment plan that will allow the use of incentives and must be approved by the county.

"I don't see them denying, as it will not impact their revenue," she said recently. "Their share that goes to the community redevelopment fund will continue to be used for the infrastructure and the things they

specifically asked for."

But Largo's portion of the tax increment financing, an average of \$362,886 per year, could be budgeted to fund the new programs. The changes would prompt the formation of a new advisory committee - made up of members of the community development advisory board and two other people from the West Bay Drive area - to oversee how those funds would be spent.

Rewarding job creation

Commissioners only objected to the fourth incentive program, which would provide a grant to businesses that create three or more new or relocated jobs within the West Bay Drive district. If approved, Largo would be the first city on the west coast of Florida to institute such a program.

Largo businesses already can apply for a state qual-

fied target industry tax refund by creating high-wage jobs in certain categories. But the state standards require businesses to create 10 jobs new to the state of Florida and sell their goods out of state, qualifications most small businesses have trouble meeting, Brydon explained to the commission Jan. 15.

"This particular one now provides us an opportunity to work with smaller businesses that are what I call homegrown," she said.

The program would require the jobs have wages that are 115 percent of the county's annual average wage and fall within a specified industries: communications and information technology, life science, business or financial services, clean energy, emerging technologies, aviation or aerospace and corporate headquarters. The city was not

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Around town

First Friday in Largo

LARGO – Enjoy live entertainment, food trucks, vendors and street performers on First Fridays, 6 to 11 p.m., at the corner of Clearwater-Largo Road and First Avenue Southwest.

The event is sponsored by O'Shy's Tap House. Interested vendors and street performers can call 588-4444.

Visit www.discoverlargo.com.

Widowed people to meet

LARGO – The New Horizons Club for Widowed People will meet on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2 p.m., at the west clubhouse of the Imperial Palms Rental Apartments, 101 Imperial Palms Drive.

A representative from the Suncoast Sea Bird Sanctuary in Indian Shores, the largest sanctuary and avian hospital in the United States, will speak on the care of the sea birds in their facility.

After the meeting, the members will go to dinner at the Thirsty Marlin, at 351 W. Bay Drive. Widowed people are always welcomed at our meetings.

For more information and membership, call Betty Baker at 392-5028.

Glass club holds 34th annual show

LARGO – The Sparkling Clearwater Depression Glass Club will present their 34th annual Show and Sale on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 2-3, at the Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Ave.

The show will be open on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for both days.

The show and sale will feature national dealers offering American-made art glass, carnival glass, depression glass, elegant glass, pattern glass, china, pottery, dinnerware and kitchenware from the last century.

For more information, call 725-2069 or visit ClearwaterDepressionGlassClub.com.

Disability center holds open house

LARGO – The Disability Achievement Center will host an open house offering tours and information about its programs on Thursday, Feb. 7, 4 to 6 p.m., at 12552 Belcher Road S. in Largo.

Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome. No reservations are required.

The center, serving individuals with disabilities of all ages in Pinellas and Pasco counties, provides programs under four core services: information and referral, independent living skills, self and systemic advocacy and peer mentoring. The center also provides programs for employment, transition from school to work, from nursing home to the community, smoking cessation, emergency planning, medical equipment recycling and limited home modifications.

For more information, contact Laurie Rys at 539-7550, or email laurier@disabilityachievementcenter.org. Visit the center's website at www.disabilityachievementcenter.com.

Picnic benefits accident victim

LARGO – A community picnic will be held Sunday, Feb. 24, 10

a.m. to 4 p.m., at Eagle Lake Park, 1800 Keene Road, Shelter 3, to benefit the McNally family with its medical bills.

John McNally was in a car accident Oct. 18, leaving him in the hospital for three months.

The event includes food, face painting and kite flying. The cost is \$10 per person. Children 8 and younger will be admitted free.

For more information or to RSVP, please email mcnallyfamilypicnic@gmail.com or call Patience at 420-5219.

Gem society hosts show, sale

LARGO – The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society announces its 43rd annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show and Sale Friday through Sunday, March 1-3, at the Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Ave. N. in Largo.

The show will open to the general public Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is \$5 for adults. Students with parents or an ID are \$4 and children 6 and younger are free.

Finished and raw gems and minerals will be for sale from dealers and society members. Jewelry, equipment and tools also will be sold. Refreshments will be available.

The show will feature a grand drawing for a variety of jewelry, hourly drawings, displays, grab bags and demonstrations.

The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, a south county non-profit organization, promotes popular interest, education, and research in the earth sciences and lapidary arts. The group sponsors public exhibitions and shows, educational lectures, demonstrations and field trips for study and collecting.

For more information, call 657-0998 or visit www.sgams.com.

Cracker traditions



Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

From the porch of the McMullen House, Pinellas Weavers Guild member Sara James of Clearwater explains the ins and outs of spinning to visitors of Heritage Village during the Pinellas Folk Festival Jan. 26. James' spinning wheel is a modern, more versatile design that allows her to spin a variety of materials, though cotton was the material most readily available to Florida cracker families, she said. Below, Susan Boyer Haley sings to the "parishioners" at Heritage Village's Safety Harbor Church.



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Watercolor of Largo train depot donated to library

LARGO – The Largo Public Library received a donation of a watercolor painting depicting the Largo Atlantic Coast Line train depot that once stood in downtown Largo on Jan. 22.

Longtime Largo resident Dede Farmer Grow and her husband Bob donated the painting, library Director Casey McPhee reported.

The painting originally belonged to Grow's father, Edward B. Farmer, who was an Atlantic Coast Line agent in Largo from 1932 to 1963. Grow and her family purchased the painting in 1967. The artist Marion Senyk presented it to Farmer.

A framed copy of the Largo Sentinel article detailing the presentation to Farmer accompanies the watercolor, which will be installed in the library's Local History Room on the second floor.

Grow is moving out of the state and wanted the library to have this piece of Largo history for everyone to enjoy.



Photo courtesy of the CITY OF LARGO
Largo Public Library Director Casey McPhee, left, accepts the donated watercolor of the Largo Atlantic Coast Line train depot from Largo resident Dede Farmer Grow and her husband Bob. The couple also donated a framed article about the painting.

Adventure breakfast



Photo courtesy of LARGO KIWANIS
Bambi Collector of Pathfinder, Inc. receives a certificate of appreciation from Kiwanis Club of Largo/Mid-Pinellas President Bruce Blazej after speaking at the club's Jan. 25 breakfast meeting. The club is working out the details to have Pathfinder set up their tree-climbing program at the seventh annual Pawfest, a carnival for kids and dogs at Largo Central Park on April 6. Pathfinder, a nonprofit organization, is one of only 13 outdoor adventure programs accredited by the Association of Experiential Education and the only accredited program in Florida. Call 328-0300, ext. 225 or visit www.pathfinder-ed.org. For more on the local Kiwanis, visit www.largokiwanis.org.

City calendar

Chinese New Year

LARGO – The Suncoast Association of Chinese Americans and the Chinese-American Association of Tampa Bay will celebrate the Year of the Snake during the 2013 Chinese New Year Celebration on Saturday, Feb. 2, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., at Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive.

The event is free and open to the public. Seating for the estimated 1,000 attendees is limited; lawn chairs are recommended.

First 200 children will receive the traditional Chinese 'red envelope' as a gift. There will be games, arts, crafts, food and entertainment for all to experience. The event also will feature stage performances including a dragon dance, lion dance, traditional folk dance, kung fu demonstration, and Chinese instruments.

For more information, visit

www.facebook.com/sacatampa, www.sacatampabay.org or www.caat-tampabay.org.

Train Weekend

LARGO – Ride miniature trains around Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive, on Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., during the first full weekend of the month.

The next train weekend is Feb. 2-3. For more information, visit the "Train Weekend" link at www.LargoEvents.com.

Touch-a-Truck and Florida Clown Day

LARGO – Bring the whole family to enjoy the fun of Touch-a-Truck and Florida Clown Day on Saturday, Feb. 9, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Largo Central Park at 101 Central Park Drive

At the 20th annual event, children will get to climb, honk and play around in every vehicle you can imagine, including fire trucks, dump trucks, motorcycles, buses, military vehicles, a Bayflight helicopter, 18-wheeler and more.

Florida Clown Day, brought to you by the Uptown Clown Alley, will feature more than 100 clowns from all across the state of Florida. These clowns will entertain friends and family with balloon animals, face painting, goofy tricks and lots of laughs.

Kids of all ages will enjoy inflatables, train rides, rocket ship car rides and a delicious food court in the middle of the park at this free event.

Some of the attractions will require a wristband. Limited on-site parking will be available, or park for free at Largo High School or

Largo Middle School. Call 587-6740, ext. 5014 or visit LargoEvents.com.

Business Expo

LARGO – In conjunction with the Touch-A-Truck event, the city of Largo will host its first annual outdoor community wide business expo on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 11 a.m., to 4 p.m., in Largo Central Park.

Learn about services, products and programs local businesses and Largo Recreation facility instructors could offer to you and your family.

The event is free. For more information, call 587-6740, ext. 5008.

Senior driver safety course offered

LARGO –The Largo Community Center will host an AARP

driver's safety six-hour course over two days on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 7-8, 9 a.m. to noon., at 400 Alt. Keene Road.

The cost is \$12 for AARP cardholders or \$14 for those who have no AARP card.

February's theme is "Lost In Space".

Get hands-on experience while learning construction, programming and teamwork.

Tickets range from \$5 to \$9.25. Call 518-3125 or visit PlayLargo.com.

Lego Building

LARGO – Lego Building, for ages 5 to 12, meets on first Saturdays, 10 to 11 a.m., at the Southwest Recreation Complex, at 13120 Vonn Road.

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County employees give day of service

For employees of Pinellas County, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a Day of Service, a day to use time off from work to volunteer for the community.

In Clearwater, about 40 volunteers were hard at work for six hours at two homes in the Stevens Creek community. This is the second year that county staff has spent their Day of Service at the Habitat for Humanity development. At one home, they planted shrubs and laid down sod. At the other, workers painted a two-story house.

"Our organization could not continue to function if we did not have the level of commitment we get from Pinellas County and from throughout Pinellas County," said David Fornek, the site supervisor.

One of the homeowners, Rebecca Burgess, was looking forward to moving into her new house along with her husband, grandmother and five children. She and her children helped lay sod in what will be the backyard of their two-story home.

"I feel very blessed to have all these people helping here," she said. "It still does not feel real. I keep opening my eyes saying, 'Is this my house?'"

Cleaning the trail

In other parts of Pinellas County, people were scouring the Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail for trash and other debris as part of the Pinellas Trash Bash. Many of the volunteers were high school students who participated in the cleanup as part of their work in the Bright Futures scholarship program. Others were trail users or residents who wanted to make a difference in their neighborhoods.

Clearwater resident Jennifer Flory walked the trail and picked up litter with her 17-year-old son, Michael.

"It's a perfect day to be out on the trail," she said. "We're grateful to have the day off so we can do this."

The two picked up bottles, wrappers and "lots of cigarette butts," according to Michael.

The two said they were considering adopting a mile of the trail.



Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS

Emmitt Brown, who works for the Pinellas County Department of Environment and Infrastructure, does some of the heavy lifting Jan. 21 at the Habitat for Humanity project.

Trash Bash was the kickoff to the county's Adopt-A-Mile program, for which a group or organization can adopt a one-mile portion of the trail. Participants agree to clean their portion of the trail every other month for two years and the organization or group's name is printed on trail markers in recognition of their commitment.

The program is sponsored by Keep Pinellas County Beautiful. For more information on the Adopt-a-Mile program, call 533-0402 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/trailgd/PDF/Adopt-a-Mile-Pinellas-Trail.pdf.

DOWNTOWN, from page 1A

interested in new retail jobs, Brydon later clarified.

"The objective is to bring in professionals and people that can spend money in order to facilitate the development and keep the retailers and restaurants that we do have and keep feet on the street," she said.

New jobs created anywhere in the West Bay Drive district would qualify for a grant of 5 percent of all certifiable annual wages. Jobs created in a rehabilitated office building could qualify for 10 percent of the business' wages and those created in a newly constructed office building could earn a grant worth 20 percent of those wages.

The awarded grant would be paid out over five years and be capped at \$10,000 per job or \$50,000 per year for all jobs created.

Commissioner Robert Murray objected that the incentive awarded businesses "after the fact," when businesses really created jobs as there was a demand for service increased.

"I don't see the public good as much as I do on the other incentives," he said.

He also didn't see the fact that Largo would be the first for the area to create such a program as a good thing.

"If we're the first, we end up creating this arms race," he said.

Mayor Pat Gerard also voiced objections to the program, asking how the program would be administered and how businesses would be measured for compliance. She also was less than enthusiastic that the program would award businesses for moving jobs to downtown Largo from other parts of the county.

"I don't want to be accused of stealing jobs from St. Petersburg," she said. "I'm still open to (the program) but not quite as comfortable."

Commissioner Woody Brown said he wasn't "100 percent sold" on the idea.

"But we need to use the money that we've taken in the last several years ... and use it to build the downtown, which is what we've collected it for," he said. "I don't discount any ideas. But I'd like some more information on what other communities have done."

Developing the East Bay downtown

The city's economic development staff would bring the job creation program back up for discussion in June or July, Brydon said. In the meantime, they would be moving forward on the other three programs that did receive a more positive response from the commission.

The first of the programs would encourage businesses to switch

their signs to the freestanding monument signs that will be required in the West Bay Drive district by June 2017. The early sign replacement program would offer up to \$200 in a grant to cover the permitting and planning fees associated with the construction of the new sign. The program matches a citywide sign incentive.

The housing incentive program would offer funds for each residential unit constructed. This second incentive would offer \$5,000 for each unit or 5 percent of the hard construction and land costs of each unit, up to \$10,500 - with the total amount not to exceed \$250,000.

The city wants to not only incentivize development of vacant land into residential housing that adhere to the district's urban design vision, but also encourage the construction of "second tier" homes, a concept Brydon said she had trouble defining.

"We have a lot of greater starter homes," she said, explaining that new families can find plenty of two-bedroom or small-size homes within the city. "What's happening is when people out grow their first home, there are not always options for them in Largo.

Brydon hopes the program could prompt quality homes with more space that could keep growing families within Largo's borders.

The third program would focus on encouraging the development of office space. The real estate development grant would reimburse businesses for improving or constructing a project with a minimum of 15,000 square feet of office space. The grant would be worth up to 50 percent of the project's projected taxable value increase. The buildings could be multi-story or multi-use projects, as long as they included the minimum office space requirements.

"The key is to try to bring more offices into the downtown, to try to build the daily workforce numbers," Brydon said.

The office space program builds on the incentive for increased residential development, Brydon said.

"How great it would be to walk across the street or down the street and be able to go to work?" she asked.

Likewise, the job creation program would complement the creation of office space.

"My thinking was, if you asked them to build it, you need to help them fill it," Brydon said.

Depending on how quickly the county approved the amendment to the redevelopment plan, Brydon hoped to be able to present the first three incentive programs for final commission approval in late summer.

"The big discussion will be whether or not we implement that job creation incentive," she said.

PSTA, from page 1A

public aware of its request for a different way to fund transit as early as possible to allow everyone to have a say in the matter.

"We want the public fully involved," he said. "We want this vetted so we can find out how best to serve the public. We didn't want to be accused of coming up with anything at the last minute or the public saying they weren't involved in the decision."

He said regardless of any future changes in transit, not enough money is coming in to pay for operational expenses, such as fuel, insurance and labor costs.

"There is a widening gap between revenue and expenses, and we need to add additional funding just to cover that," he said. "Then we need to look to providing for future needs. Whether that is by adding more bus service or bus and rail has not been determined."

Dunedin City Commissioner Julie Ward Bujalski, who also serves on the PSTA board, said Jan. 23, "This is just the first step in the process and all we're doing today is asking the county if they'll give us permission to ask voters."

Four of the county's seven commissioners serve on the PSTA board, Commissioners Susan Latvala, Janet Long, Norm Roche and Ken Welch.

"I truly believe that this comes down to a quality of life issue for citizens in Pinellas County," Long said. "The infrastructure in our community is not the best that it can be and our citizens deserve better than that. We cannot afford to stay stuck in the moment and it's time to plan for the future."

Latvala agreed, saying, "This is the right thing to do and the right time to do it."

The board also stressed the need to continue work on a comprehensive transit plan to present to the voters well ahead of the referendum.

PSTA Chair Jeff Danner, who also is a member of the St. Petersburg City Council, said the public would be a part of the planning for improved transit services.

"This will be a full countywide, multi-modal transit plan that we will be refining with the help of the community over the next year and a half," he said.

Community bus plan and public input

County residents can participate in the ongoing Pinellas Community Bus Plan, which is an in-depth study of the PSTA bus system.

The study is a way to find strengths, areas for improvement and get suggestions on how to improve efficiency and increase ridership. Officials want to gain more information about the needs of residents, workers and visitors.

One way to participate is to fill out an online survey available at bus-plan.psta.net or via the Quick Links on the home page at PSTA.net. Look for the Pinellas Community Bus Plan link on the bottom of the left side.

Survey questions begin with basic demographics, where you live, sex, age, basic household income and the question "have you ridden PSTA more than twice in the last year."

General questions include whether PSTA provides an important service and whether it provides an adequate amount of public transit. Officials want to know if PSTA's public image is good or poor or somewhere in between. They want to know if PSTA is important and whether more or less should be invested to provide transit service in Pinellas County.

The survey asks participants where their closest bus stop is located. It asks them to choose from a preset list the main reason they don't use transit and any other reasons a person might not choose to use the bus system. Reasons listed include having no service near your home or when you need it; takes too much time, not reliable, too many transfers, not safe, cost, the need to travel in a private car and others.

The next section allows the public to choose changes to bus service that would make them more or less likely to use PSTA. Next, participants are asked to select what routes they would most likely ride.

Another section asks the public to agree or disagree with a number of statements including that PSTA can get you where you need to go. Officials want to know if the public thinks it is easy to make connections, if the service is time efficient, if it is safe, convenient, a benefit to

the community and more.

The survey asks participants to prioritize future transit investments. Choices include making transfers easier, starting service earlier or ending service later, decreasing wait time, improving pedestrian access, making travel quicker, increasing reliability, increasing connectivity outside the county, serving more places and direct service to key destinations.

The final page contains a box where people can write out what they think PSTA can do to better inform the public. There is also a space to make it more likely that a person would become a more frequent rider in the future. There is a third box for any additional comments. Lastly, there is an opportunity to provide the participant's name and an email address to receive updates on the bus plan and other news about PSTA's service.

Officials will use the information to come up with a plan that includes recommendations for improvements that can be done quickly, within one to three years, as well as short-term options that can be done in four to six years. Planning also will include mid-term solutions to be done in seven to 10 years and long-term alternatives that could take as long as 15 to 25 years to implement.

Officials expect to have results of the local study wrapped up by late spring or early summer, Lasher said. At that time, they'll begin incorporating the information into the overall bus plan to improve service. Lasher said a top complaint is that it takes too long to get to a destination because there are too many stops. He said some believe more express routes with limited stops are needed.

Residents also can send in feedback about bus service using forms on the PSTA website. Look for the Contact Us link on the far right of the top menu. Select the Customer Comment Form and then choose either the general comment form or the complaint/commendation form.

Lasher said people can use the forms to request additional bus stops, which sometimes can be done immediately, or inform staff of problems, such as a bench turned over or trash at a stop. They can even turn in a rude driver.

"We're in the business of service - that's No. 1," Lasher said. "We want people to be involved."

PSTA, HART merger

PSTA is continuing work with the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority on a Consolidation Study, as mandated by the state Legislature. The study is looking at ways to consolidate resources to cut costs and improve service for both organizations.

The PSTA board voted Jan. 14 to follow recommendations from the study that included conducting a more extensive and in-depth desk audit. PSTA advocates asking the state Legislature to fund the additional study. HART does not support the desk audit or asking for funding.

"PSTA always has and will continue to support any measure that improves regional transit," Danner said Jan. 14. "We look forward to continuing the collaborative efforts forged with our various transportation partners throughout the bay area. We have already identified ways to improve efficiencies and service and look forward to putting those in place along with finding new ones as we move forward."

HART and PSTA met Jan. 28 to go over the Consolidation Study, which must be delivered to state legislators by Feb. 1. The next steps remain to be seen, but will most likely include continued work by both agencies to find common solutions to improving transit service for Tampa Bay.

Lasher said PSTA and HART have worked together since at least 2005, which is the year he started work for PSTA. He said the routes that link Pinellas and Hillsborough are funded by a special state grant that provides commuter service across the bay during rush hour. Unfortunately, ridership is "light," he said.

Regardless, PSTA remains committed to supporting transit in Pinellas and throughout Tampa Bay, he said.

Good planning makes a difference

When the recession hit in 2008, PSTA had to make some difficult adjustments. Lasher said staff poured over ridership data and looked at every single bus run to see the effects before making changes. He

IRB residents have a say on intersection

By BRIAN GOFF

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH - Earlier in the day on Jan. 29 Indian Rocks Beach City Manager Chuck Coward expressed some concern that perhaps nobody would show up at a special open house the city was holding that evening. It was planned to show off design concepts for the Walsingham Road-Gulf Boulevard intersection.

He needn't have worried. When the City Hall doors opened at 6 p.m. people were there and kept coming until it ended at 8 p.m.

The open house was twofold: To show residents planned changes to the traffic pattern at the intersection, and to show what the "pocket park" at the intersection would look like. Two designs were presented and residents were asked to look them over, talk to city officials and design consultants, have a coffee and a snack, then sit down and write out their comments. Dozens showed up and did it.

The intersection design would eliminate the right hand yield-only lane coming off Walsingham onto Gulf Boulevard. Motorists would have to come to a complete stop before proceeding. In addition the traffic island would be eliminated. The idea would be to make it safer for pedestrians.

Resident John Thayer didn't like that part of what he saw.

"My concern is losing the yield going north," he said. "Most people coming off the bridge are heading north. All the traffic goes north so it is going to be an inconvenience."

Suzanne Thayer liked the park concepts.

"I liked the house better than the beaches," she said. "I think that will be nice."

She added a comment that must be music to the ears of city officials. "I like this meeting, it is a good idea and gives us plenty of information, this is perfect."

The park concepts that she spoke of depicted in one case a history theme and in the other, a beach theme.

In the beach theme large depictions of beach balls and beach chairs and actual sand would be in the park.

In the history theme, as seen through the frame of an old house, there would be a statue of an Indian and other depictions of parts of the city's history.

Resident Bob Linderman liked the history concept with the Indian statue but wasn't thrilled with the idea of an old house frame.

"There was an ugly house there when the city bought the property," he said. "That house had no history. But I do like the idea of the park making the intersection more interesting."

Then Linderman brought up a subject that was prevalent throughout the evening.

"I would like to see ways they can incorporate golf carts into the design," he said. "I don't have a golf cart but more and more people are using them and it would be nice for them to be able to get to that part of town."

Later resident Larry Gerwig also made a case for golf carts.

"I'm proud they are trying to enhance the community," he said. "But I wish they would find a way to help the golf carts get through that intersection and not have to retrofit it later. I do like the concepts for the park and it will portray the identity of our beach and as the public drive by they will capture the image of our beach."

Residents Doug and Karen Davies both thought the evening was worthwhile.

"So far it is great what we've seen," said Karen. "It improves the look and safety of that intersection and we think that is important."

Coward, who had been worried earlier in the day, was anything but worried during the open house.

"I'm delighted," he said. "I've seen people tonight who are very involved in the community, and I've seen a lot of new faces. People have turned out to offer their thoughts and comments. There was a lot of interest and curiosity."

Those who attended were asked to fill out a form with their preferences. Coward said if there is overwhelming support for one design over the other, then that is what he'll recommend to the commission. If not he said then both options will be presented.

Among those mingling about during the evening was Mayor R.B. Johnson. He had said earlier that he and the commissioners would be getting their first look at the park concepts at the open house. Now they will be asked to decide which one will grace what has been termed the signature intersection of the city. Coward says he hopes to have a recommendation for the commission by the end of February.



Photos courtesy of the PSTA

Above, riders wait to board a PSTA bus at the Grand Central Station on a route up U.S. 19 north to Tarpon Springs. At right, Riders line up to board the popular PSTA beach trolley at a stop in Madeira Beach.



said it is always difficult to make cuts to routes because for some people the bus is the only way they have to get where they need to go.

Fortunately, good planning helped with a difficult situation. Lasher said officials at PSTA are constantly planning and have plans going out to the year 2050.

"We're regularly reviewing routes and making in-depth analysis to realign service to need," he said.

But, making changes is not easy to do, considering 22 municipalities pay for PSTA service and expect to get their equal share, Lasher said.

"From 2008 to 2010, we made some tough choices," he said. "People rely on us. They're dependent on us. But there is not a big enough investment in local transit to meet all the needs. We can't provide service late nights or on the weekends. We need to put transit where people ride it."

To do that requires a new funding source. Tourism is Pinellas County's No. 1 industry and tourists provide a big boost to PSTA's ridership, especially along the beaches. Having a transit sales tax would allow tourists to help fund transit improvements, Lasher said.

Moving from funding transit through ad valorem to using a transit sales tax would remove a "big chunk off the county's back," Lasher said.

"It would spread out the burden and a percentage would be picked up by the tourists with their sales tax money coming in," he said.

Lasher said it is important for the public to realize that fares cannot fund transit service although Pinellas pays for more of its costs with fares than most other places.

"There is nowhere in the world where transit pays for itself," he said.

The federal government pays for the buses, which are designed to run 12 years. Public transit authorities, such as PSTA and HART, are responsible for the cost of fuel, operational costs, labor, insurance and maintenance.

PSTA operates 24/7 with staff cleaning, fueling and servicing buses getting them ready to go back on the road the next day. Buses are on the road, depending on the route, as early as 6 a.m. and some continue to nearly midnight.

"We're working all the time so we can be ready to do our job, which is providing the best transit service we can," Lasher said.

But increasing costs and decreasing revenues are creating limitations.

"We need a different funding source to move forward," Lasher said. "The alternative is cuts to service, which won't get us where we need to go."

Police beat

Largo motorcyclist dies in crash

SEMINOLE - A 19-year-old Largo man died from injuries suffered when his motorcycle crashed into a Chevy Cavalier about 6:34 p.m. Jan. 23 near the Seminole Center Plaza at Walsingham Road.

Florida Highway Patrol Trooper K. Stillwell reported that Deven Lee McCormick, 18, of Seminole was driving southbound on Seminole Boulevard when he made a left turn into the Seminole Center Plaza at Walsingham Road in front of Michael Evan Schneider, who was traveling northbound in the outside lane.

Schneider's motorcycle struck McCormick's vehicle and he was ejected from his motorcycle. He was taken to Largo Medical Center where he later died.

McCormick and his passenger Abby Hunter, 16, of Canada received minor injuries.

Charges were pending. The crash remains under investigation.

PCSO investigating death of 5 year old

CLEARWATER - A 5-year-old Clearwater girl died Jan. 19, eight days after child protection investigators removed the child from her home and placed her in foster care.

During a press briefing Jan. 24, Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri announced that an investigation is under way into the child's death. The sheriff also announced that he also had initiated a review of policies and procedures surrounding child removal.

The child did not receive a medical screening within the 72-hour period after removal as required by law, Gualtieri said.

He said while it is not known and may never be known if the death of the child could have been prevented with the medical screening, a review of the internal policies was the appropriate course of action to ensure that medical screenings of children will be done in compliance with the law in the future.

Deputies were called to a mobile home park at 2381 Gulf to Bay Blvd. in unincorporated Clearwater about 1 p.m. Jan. 11 after receiving reports that a small child had been seen wandering around without supervision.

Deputies found the child's mother, Stephanie Judah, 35, under the influence of prescription drugs. They said the home was "unsuitable for the well being of the child." Deputies arrested Judah and took her to jail. She was released on \$5,000 bond Jan. 16.

Child protection investigators then removed the child, Elizabeth Holder from the home and placed her in foster care. Her foster parent left her in the care of a babysitter on Jan. 18.

According to investigators, on the morning of Jan. 19, "the child awoke, played and watched TV. Later the same day the child passed away after she suddenly grabbed her head and began yelling that it hurt."

The babysitter called 911 and the child was taken to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead about 5 p.m. The Medical Examiner's Office is performing an autopsy to determine cause and manner of death.

Robbery/homicide detectives are currently investigating the death, and Gualtieri also is conducting a "self-initiated parallel investigation" to review the policies and procedures used by the child protection investigations division when children are removed from their homes.

The initial results of Gualtieri's investigation show that the Sheriff's Office failed to comply with a state law requiring a health screening within 72 hours of being removed from a home.

Gualtieri said as a result, the office is working on putting various procedures into place to ensure that medical screenings of children comply with the law in the future. An internal affairs investigation also has been opened.

Woman charged with DUI manslaughter

CLEARWATER - A Clearwater woman was booked into the Pinellas County Jail about 10:25 a.m. Jan. 28 on charges of DUI manslaughter and property damage as well as careless driving in connection with the Oct. 27 crash near the Bayside Bridge that resulted in the death of a Bartow woman.

Her bond was set at \$20,000.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Veronica Herrera, 32, was traveling southbound on County Road 611 in the inside lane after exiting the Bayside Bridge when she failed to negotiate a curve and traveled into the median. Her vehicle struck some landscaping and then traveled into the northbound lanes of CR-611.

A passenger in her car, Noi Pinheiro, 45, was partially ejected from the vehicle. Pinheiro was taken to Bayfront Medical Center and died from her injuries Oct. 30. She was not wearing a seatbelt.

Five teens injured in crash on I-275

ST. PETERSBURG - Five local teens were injured Sunday afternoon after a flat tire caused the driver to lose control of their vehicle, which overturned several times.

Mitchell Keith Overton, 16, of St. Pete Beach, was driving a 2003 Yukon XL southbound on Interstate 275 at the 19 milepost about 2:42 p.m. when one of the tires blew and he lost control of the vehicle, according to a report from the Florida Highway Patrol. Overton overcorrected and the vehicle began to rotate clockwise before overturning multiple times before stopping in the southbound lanes of I-275.

Hanna Elizabeth Tremain, 16, of Gulfport was ejected from the vehicle and suffered serious injuries. According to the FHP, she was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash.

Overton and three other passengers, Kayleigh Alexis Leon, 17, of St. Petersburg, Chelsea Amberlynn Mathews, 16, of Pinellas Park and Marco Simeon Hatzilias, 16, of St. Petersburg were wearing seatbelts and received minor injuries.

All five were taken to Bayfront Medical Center for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. Portion of I-275 were closed for about two hours.

Teen shooter sought

CLEARWATER - A 16-year-old shooting suspect was identified and is sought, according to a Clearwater police.

Kwuwashawn Wyche was identified as the shooter in an incident that happened on Jan. 25. Wyche was allegedly involved in a physical altercation with an adult male on Engman Street near Holt Avenue. At some point during the fight, he allegedly brandished a firearm and shot the male, who sustained life-threatening injuries. Wyche's current location is unknown, and he is believed to be armed.

The shooting happened at 4:52 p.m. after a fight occurred between two subjects, resulting in gunfire. An adult male was shot and was taken by helicopter to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries.

To report information, call 562-4242 or text the tip to TIP411.

Firefighters' corner



Photos courtesy of LARGO FIRE RESCUE
Largo Firefighter Alberto Delgado takes a chainsaw to a trailer donated by Rancho Village for the department to use for search and rescue training, hose management and ventilation Jan. 22.

A new appointment



Largo District Chief James "Kelly" Callahan was appointed to the position of Chief Emergency Medical Officer for the Pinellas County Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team on Jan. 23. Callahan has worked in emergency public safety services for more than 20 years starting his career in Largo in 1991. In his new position, Callahan will be interacting not just with departmental personnel, but county public safety services, Pinellas County Emergency Management, the state of Florida and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Pinellas County search and rescue team wins state award

DAYTONA - The Florida Fire Chiefs Association named the Pinellas County Technical Rescue Team as the 2012 Search and Rescue Responder of the Year during a ceremony in Daytona, Jan. 24.

The team, made up of firefighters from Largo, Clearwater, Pinellas Park and St. Petersburg, was recognized for rescuing a construction worker who was buried to his thighs 6 feet below ground level when soil collapsed during a Clearwater stormwater project in August. The man was freed after three hours without serious injury.

Largo Firefighter Tim Garten represented Largo Fire Rescue at the association ceremony.

"To have our Pinellas County team awarded was absolutely phenomenal," said Largo Assistant Fire Chief Michael Handoga.

The Pinellas County Technical Rescue Team responds to any incident that requires special equipment or skills such as building collapses, trench rescue, high angle rescue, and industrial accidents. Firefighters selected to the team are required to attend ongoing training.



The Florida Fire Chiefs Association named the Pinellas County Technical Rescue Team as the 2012 Search and Rescue Responder of the Year during a statewide ceremony in Daytona, Jan. 24.



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**Breakfast with Champions:
A Veterans Panel Discussion**
Sat., February 16 10am-11:30am
Hear the stories, plights and triumphs of four veterans ranging from WWII to current conflicts. Continental breakfast.
Tickets: \$15

**Wheels for Warriors
Bike Nite**
Sat., February 23 6pm-9pm
Motorcycle enthusiasts will receive free Guinness beer, free food, meet pin-up girls. Free t-shirts for the first 100 bikers.
Tickets \$15

**Stars & Stripes USA
Spirit of America Show**
Fri., March 22 6pm-VIP / 7:30pm GA
Enjoy dancing to the 19-piece 10 O'Clock Swing Band Orchestra, Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, show hostesses and more.
Tickets: \$24 or VIP w/dinner: \$45 (limited)

**Spring Golf Tournament
at Belleair Country Club**
Thursday, April 4 8:30am Shotgun
Golf at Tampa Bay's premiere golf course. Enjoy prizes, breakfast, lunch, and auctions.
Tickets: By 2/28 :Ind. \$115 Foursome: \$430 After 2/28: Ind. \$125 Foursome: \$450

**Red, White and Craft
Brews Fest**
Sat., May 18 5pm-9pm
Got beer? We do! Sample over 70 craft and specialty brews thanks to JJ Taylor and Cigar City Brewing. Free food.
Tickets: \$25

**24th Annual Abilities Wine
Tasting & Silent Auction**
Sat., May 25 VIP 6pm / GA 7pm
Florida's largest running and most prosperous wine tasting and silent auction returns.
Tickets: \$75 or \$150/VIP Available at:
Call 727.600.8911 or abilitiesfoundation.com

**Memorial Day
Family FunFest**
Mon., May 27 10am-4pm
Enjoy rock wall climbing, bungee jumping, face painting, arts & crafts, military vehicle rides, bounce house and photo opps.
Tickets: \$10/adults \$5/youths 4-12

Vintage Car Show
Sat., June 8 11am-2pm
Witness vintage cars from the 1920s to 1980 along with pin-up girls and food for purchase with a food truck rally.
Tickets: \$15

Ride Through History
Saturdays 10am-4pm
July 13 & 27, August 10 & 24
Enjoy military vehicle rides, witness WWII reenactors from the 1st Infantry Division as well as free hot dogs.
Tickets: \$10/adults \$5/youths 4-12

**Treats for Troops
Dessert Tasting**
Sat., September 21 6pm-9pm
Enjoy desserts, spirits, cheeses, flavored coffees, a cigar lounge, and a silent auction to benefit the museum and the Abilities Foundation.
Tickets: \$30

**Las Vegas Night
Tournament**
Sat., October 5 6pm-10pm
Play blackjack, roulette, craps, slot machines, poker, Texas Hold 'em tournament, a full buffet dinner, auctions and prizes.
Tickets: By 9/5: \$35/casino \$75/poker tourney After 9/5: \$40/casino \$80/poker tourney

**Halloween Spooktacular
for Kids**
Sat., October 26 11am-2pm
Go on a scavenger hunt for tricks and treats, decorate cookies and cupcakes, have fun with arts and crafts and a costume contest.
Tickets: \$10/adults \$5/youths 4-12

Snacking with Santa
Sat., December 14 11am-2pm
Go on a scavenger hunt for candy, have fun with arts & crafts and decorate cookies and cupcakes with Santa.
Tickets: \$10/adults \$5/youths 4-12

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Business news

Pomeroy joins Synovus

ST. PETERSBURG – Synovus Bank of Florida, a division of Synovus Bank, recently announced that Kenneth D. Pomeroy has joined the bank's south Pinellas commercial team as a senior vice president and commercial banker.



Kenneth Pomeroy

Pomeroy is responsible for serving commercial clients and prospects throughout southern Pinellas County and is based at the bank's downtown St. Petersburg office. Pomeroy has more

than 35 years of experience in the financial services industry, and most recently held the position of Central Florida president and Florida corporate banking executive for Superior Bank in Birmingham, Ala.

Pomeroy majored in finance and credit banking, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. He has been an active member of REIC Tampa Bay, Westshore Alliance, and Life-work Leadership Tampa Bay.

Contacts, eyeglasses business to open

LARGO – America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses will open its second store in the Tampa Bay area on Friday, Feb. 1, in Largo Mall.

America's Best offers a full range of optical goods, including eyeglasses and contact lenses.

As a grand opening gift, the first 100 shoppers will receive an eyeglass cleaning kit. Shoppers also can register to win a \$1,000 eyeglass wardrobe during the grand opening week. No purchase is necessary for the eyeglass cleaning kit or the \$1,000 wardrobe drawing.

"We are very excited to expand into the Tampa-St. Petersburg area," said Reade Fahs, president and CEO of America's Best, in a press release. "We carefully selected this vibrant location to make quality eyecare at low prices accessible for area residents. We look forward to serving our new customers and becoming an integral part of the community."

N.L. Elgut, M.D., and Associ-

ates LLC will offer eye exams which include full medical and ocular history, glaucoma screening, visual acuity measurement, peripheral vision screening, depth perception and color vision screening, objective and subjective refraction, internal and external eye health evaluation and prescription evaluation.

Eye Institute launches contest

LARGO – From now until Feb. 28, 2013, individuals who become a fan of The Eye Institute of West Florida by liking the practice's Facebook business page can enter the My LASIK Valentine Contest by utilizing the custom Facebook application that has been set up for the practice's free LASIK essay contest.

To be eligible to win, fans must submit an essay to the contest application explaining why their loved one deserves the gift of clear vision for Valentine's Day.

The essay with the most votes via the contest application will win free LASIK for their loved one courtesy of The Eye Institute of West Florida. All entries to the My LASIK Valentine Contest will receive a gift certificate for \$500 off LASIK Laser Vision Correction at The Eye Institute of West Florida.

Visit www.eyespecialist.com or call 518-2020.

Baxter Title relocates



Standing in front of the new Baxter Title Corp. office at 11580 Oakhurst Road, Suite 1, Largo, are, from left, Zac Hickey, Kerrie Frick, Kristie Baxter and Doug Baxter.

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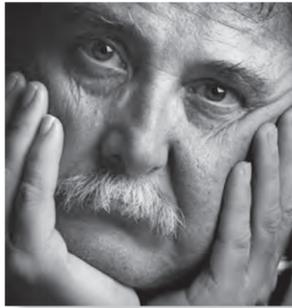
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Come meet Rocco, a 2-year-old guy with long hair and big, golden eyes. He grew up in a home with a daycare and lots of kids, so he is great with little ones. Unfortunately, one of the children developed an allergy to him, and he came to be at Pinellas County Animal Services. Rocco likes to play and cuddle – sometimes at the same time. He weighs 10 pounds and is a great family cat. Bring this article with you and adopt her for only \$25. Call 582-2600, visit 12450 Ulmerton Road, Largo or www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices/petfind.htm.

Dig this

SPCA offers Canine Delinquents class

LARGO – The Canine Delinquents class will be presented Saturday, Feb. 23, 2:30 to 4 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N. Cost is \$15 per dog for SPCA adopters and \$20 per dog for the general public. Call 586-3591, ext. 9+137. The class is for those who live with a canine delinquent. This class is designed for young dogs from 6 months to 2 years who have not outgrown puppy behaviors such as inappropriate chewing, darting out the door, barking and elimination. Instructors will address individual concerns and needs. All human family members are welcome. To reserve a spot, visit www.spcatampabay.org.

Doga class to be offered

LARGO – Doga, “Yoga with your Dog,” will be presented Sunday, Feb. 24, 2 to 3 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N. Cost is \$15. Call 586-3591, ext. 9+137. Doga class participants enjoy an hour of bonding time with their dog. Stretch, massage and meditate ... the exercises are tailor-made for humans and their canines. Beyond Massage class helps dog owners perfect techniques to relax their canines. The class is offered fourth Sundays, 2 to 3 p.m. To reserve a spot, visit www.spcatampabay.org.

SPCA to host Beyond Massage class

LARGO – The Beyond Massage class will be offered Saturday, Feb. 9, at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N. Cost is \$10. Call 586-3591, ext. 9+137. This class offers a unique communication experience for attendees and their dog. Participants will activate intelligence, strengthen confidence and teach their dog to think rather than react. Canine comfort includes massage techniques and how aromatherapy and flower remedies can reduce stress in fearful dogs. To reserve a spot, visit www.spcatampabay.org.

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Eye institute offers vision seminar and screenings

LARGO – The Eye Institute of West Florida is providing free vision and glaucoma screenings along with a vision loss seminar Friday, Feb. 8, 11 a.m., in the Pinellas Room of Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N.

Robin Quigg, a certified ophthalmic technician, will present a 20-minute overview of the four leading causes of vision loss and the current treatment options. Topics will include macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, cataracts and glaucoma. Other topics may include dry eyes, flashes and floaters, corneal and eyelid conditions.

Vision screenings will assess visual acuity in each

eye. Correction glasses or contact lenses should be worn at the time of the screening.

An Amsler Grid evaluation can alert the possible presence of macular changes in the eye and elevated eye pressure indicates suspicion of glaucoma. A portable, electric vision machine and hand-held tonometers will be used during the screening. A free screening doesn't substitute for a complete eye exam by a doctor.

Preregistration is required for vision screenings available before and after the presentation. To register, call 784-3733. No registration required for the presentation.

Registration opens for 2013 Clown Alley School

ST. PETERSBURG – Registration is now open for the 2013 Clown Alley Clown School, produced by the Suncoasters of St. Petersburg and sponsored by All Children's Hospital.

This popular community program, which is open to students of all ages, has been a tradition in St. Petersburg since 1972. Christine Davison, a graduate of the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Clown School, teaches character definition, make-up, costuming and performance techniques during the one-day class.

The class will be presented Saturday, March 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the All Children's Hospital Education Conference Center, 701 Fourth St. S., St. Petersburg. All participants will be invited to show off

their new skills in the Illuminated Night Parade on Thursday, March 21, and again in the Santa Parade in December.

The cost is \$20 a person, plus \$10 for each additional family member. The fee includes instruction, a Clown Alley T-shirt and a box lunch. Make-up and supplies also will be available for sale.

Advanced registration is recommended. To register, call 821-9888 or visit suncoasters-stpete.com. Same-day registration begins at 9 a.m. and continues until the class is full.

The Suncoasters of St. Petersburg are a civic organization of nearly 200 local business leaders who produce events in celebration of St. Petersburg.

Briefs

HealthSouth to host AT program

LARGO – A program on assistive technologies will be presented Monday, Feb. 11, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital, 901 Clearwater Road N.

Erin Wiley, program specialist with TGH Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, will present the program.

Assistive technologies can transform an individual's ability to pursue employment, education and daily living activities with a disability. Assistive technology is any item that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. AT can be bought, improvised or modified.

Some examples of AT are speech communication devices, computer access tools and software, assistive devices for hearing and vision, aids for daily living and mobility. Come learn more about the advancements in this field.

To RSVP, call Nicole Viegut at 588-1895.

NEDA Walk Tampa Bay releases video

NEDA Walk Tampa Bay recently released "Walk for Them," a video created as part of the organization's online campaign to raise awareness for the upcoming 5K walk.

"Walk for Them" is a community call to action, meant to encourage people to sign up for the walk by tackling some of the stigmas and misconceptions surrounding eating disorders. The video presents alarming statistics about eating disorders, many of which heavily impact Tampa Bay, while empowering viewers to join the fight for lives in their community.

According to the press release for the video:

- An estimated 300,000 people in the Tampa Bay area are suffering with an eating disorder
- Of diagnosed cases, 20 percent are male
- The fastest growing demographic in which new

cases are discovered are middle-aged women.

NEDA hopes to spread awareness by encouraging supporters to share this video with social networks and sign up for the upcoming walk at www.fighteatingdisorders.com.

The National Eating Disorders Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by eating disorders. NEDA campaigns for prevention, improved access to quality treatment, and increased research funding to better understand and treat eating disorders.

For information, visit fighteatingdisorders.com.

Sheridan Radiology, Pinellas Radiology Associates join forces

ST. PETERSBURG – Sheridan Radiology Services Inc. – which currently provides radiology services to more than 53 medical facilities nationwide – recently joined forces with Pinellas Radiology Associates, a group of eight radiologists in the Tampa/St. Petersburg area.

Together, Sheridan Radiology Services Inc. and Pinellas Radiology Associates have formed Sheridan Radiology Services of Pinellas Inc.

The new entity will continue to furnish the radiology service programs at Pinellas Radiology Associates' 11 sites in the Tampa Bay area. In addition, under the new structure Pinellas Radiology Associates' leadership and radiologists will continue to guide Sheridan Radiology in the provision of program services at St. Petersburg General, Edward White Hospital, Northside Hospital and eight outpatient sites.

"By joining forces with Pinellas Radiology, we continue to expand and solidify Sheridan's ongoing presence on the West Coast of Florida," said Maria Rodriguez, M.D., in a press release. Rodriguez is chief medical officer of Sheridan Radiology Services.

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Clearwater teen musician gets national spot to air her talents

By BRIAN GOFF

CLEARWATER – Is it work or is it fun? Do the countless hours spent practicing the French horn make Kaitlyn Resler want to try something else? Not a chance. The 17-year-old Clearwater Beach native says playing classical music on her instrument is all she has ever really wanted to do, and it is as much fun as it is work.

Resler will be performing on National Public Radio on Sunday, Feb. 3, the result of securing a place through a national audition process. To get there, however, has been a long road that began when she was a little girl.

"I was just a little kid when I began playing music," she said. "It was never really work for me; it was a fun thing to do. I played a little sports, I did some running, but music was where my heart was."

Resler's father, Robb, says it was obvious from a young age that Kaitlyn had special talent.

"My wife and I are both musicians," he said. "She started playing in the fourth grade, and right away we enrolled her in lessons so she wouldn't pick up any bad habits. She played right through middle school. It was evident that she caught on fast with an unusual ability. So we thought that she had some very unique talents."

Resler said his daughter loved music so much that she lobbied to be able to go away for summer music experiences.

"She wanted to go away for five or six weeks, the whole summer," he said. "We finally said yeah, let's give this a shot. So she went to Tennessee and she came back improved. She had made quantum leaps. That summer, we went up to hear her two or three times, she was playing with college students. She had a passion that she wanted to be a symphonic player. We never had to tell her to go practice."

Last year, Kaitlyn auditioned to be a substitute player with the Florida orchestra. She got on the sub-list and has been called three times to fill in – something she loves to do.

"It was an amazing experience," she said. "They are a group with such dedication and talent; they are so friendly and so amazing."



Photo by BRIAN GOFF

Kaitlyn Resler practices her French horn at home as she readies for her next performance.

She says she will absolutely go back to play with the Florida Orchestra if she is called again, and that seems likely.

Her current teacher, Carolyn Wahl, a longtime member of the orchestra, has nothing but praise for the teenager.

"She is an excellent student and musician, and she has great potential in this field," she said. "I'm not at all worried about her becoming a professional musician."

The life of an aspiring classical musician is a life of constant learning. For the past two summers, Resler has attended the Kinhaven Music School in Weston, Vt. They are summers packed full of rehearsals and practices as the students prepare to play a series of concerts with the local symphony orchestra.

Resler is a full-time student at the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibb's High School in St. Petersburg. She is a senior and she has already begun to apply to notable music schools around the country to further her musical education. The money she makes from those stints with the Florida Orchestra helps pay for the auditions she must perform to get into those schools.

In the next six weeks, she has lined up auditions at schools right across the country. She will be auditioning for the Curtis School of Music in Philadelphia, Juilliard and the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, the Bienen School of Music in Chicago and the Colburn School of Music in Los Angeles. Her preference she says would be Curtis in Philadelphia.

"It is a much smaller environment and I like Philadelphia," she said. "I had a lesson with the horn instructor there and she's great. It is much harder to get into but I am confident, I'm practicing like crazy to be extremely prepared, I'm doing mock auditions, I'm going to make sure I'm prepared and ready."

Wahl, her instructor, has no doubt Kaitlyn will make it. "She should have no trouble getting into any school," she said. "I expect her to be accepted to everywhere she applies."

Her performance on NPR on Feb. 3, at 5 p.m., could help get her the attention she needs to move on with her career.

As for that question of work or play, Kaitlyn says it is a little bit of both. "It is like you are working, and always practicing but I enjoy doing it. I guess the best way to say it is I love my work."

Community calendar

Publisher to address club

PINELLAS PARK – Patrick Manteiga, publisher of La Gaceta, the only newspaper in the country that is printed in English, Spanish and Italian, will be the speaker at the next meeting of the Greater Pinellas Democratic Club Thursday, Feb. 7, 6 p.m., at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

Started by Manteiga's grandfather in the 1920s, La Gaceta was passed on to his son, and subsequently to Patrick Manteiga when his father died in 1998. Serving Tampa and contingent communities, the unique publication is the oldest minority-owned newspaper in the United States.

The evening will start with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner at 6:30. Admission is \$15. For reservations, call Betty Morgenstein at 360-3971.

Books needed for book drive

A book drive for the Goodwill Childhood Literacy Program begins Friday, Feb. 1 and runs through Friday, March 15. People in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, Polk, Hernando and Marion counties are asked to donate new or gently used books for children ages 2 to 5.

Goodwill's BookWorks program promotes literacy by putting books into the hands of children from low-income families. Goodwill volunteers read to groups of preschool children at Head Start centers and other locations and then present each child with a personalized book to take home.

To donate books, attach a note indicating they are "For BookWorks" and drop them off at any Goodwill-Suncoast store or donation site in any of the

participating counties. For donation locations, visit www.goodwill-suncoast.org or call 888-279-1988.

Autism family date night set

CLEARWATER – Family Date Night for Autism is set for Friday, Feb. 8, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Countryside Recreation Center, 2640 Sabal Springs Drive.

BJ's Brewhouse of Countryside sponsors the

event, and tickets are \$10 per person. The cost includes dinner, dessert, activities, photo booth, dance party, and a special date night gift. Gluten-free options will be available. Activities, geared for children ages 16 and younger, are 5:30 to 7 p.m., dinner is 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and the DJ dance party is 7 to 8:30 p.m.

To reserve a spot, call 793-2339, ext. 245. Payment is due by Friday, Feb. 1, and space is limited.

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Faith briefs

Crossroads Christian Church

LARGO – Author of the recent book "Unexpected Gifts," Chris Heuertz will speak about how Christians can help people in extreme need everywhere on Saturday, Feb. 9, 5 p.m., at Crossroads Christian Church, 1645 Seminole Blvd.

Heuertz speaks from experience: his knowledge comes first hand from his travels throughout the world and his three years in India learning from Mother Theresa. Using stories from his work, he will talk about what people can do together to make a difference for those who are hurting because of poverty, suffering from pediatric AIDS or enslaved by the commercial sex trade. Heuertz identifies community as one of the keys for facing these issues.

Heuertz will speak at a dinner at Crossroads Christian Church. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Reservations are required. For reservations, call 584-8601.

Heuertz also will speak during the worship services Sunday, Feb. 10, at 9:30 and 11 a.m.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

LARGO – As part of the annual Art for Faith's Sake concert series, a pipe organ concert will be presented Sunday, Feb. 10, 3 p.m., at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 455 Missouri Ave.

The free concert will feature the famous young German organ virtuoso Felix Hell. Call 585-9969 or email don@poplargo.org.

Paradise Lutheran Church of Treasure Island

TREASURE ISLAND – Paradise Lutheran Church of Treasure Island now offers a Saturday worship service at 4 p.m., at 10255 Paradise Blvd.

The Saturday service is in addition to the church's regular Sunday service at 10 a.m. A number of members requested the afternoon service, according to Pastor John R. Thompson, "because it means they can sleep a little later on weekends without missing church."

St. Giles Episcopal

PINELLAS PARK – St. Giles Episcopal, at 8271 52nd St. N., invites the public to learn more about food addiction and solutions on Saturday, Feb. 16, 1 to 6:45 p.m.

To RSVP, call Rita at 521-3854. Cost is \$10, which includes a healthy dinner.

The Chabad Jewish Center of Greater St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG – A Purim celebration for adults featuring world-renowned hypnotist Richard Barker will take place Saturday, Feb. 23, 8:30 p.m., at the Chabad Jewish Center of Greater St. Petersburg, 4010 Park St. N.

Originally from the United Kingdom, Barker has entertained thousands from the Cayman Isles to Las Vegas to South America. He has appeared on television and radio shows and is the author of "Secrets of the Stage Revealed: The Guide to Hypnosis and Stage Hypnotism."

Barker's approach to stage hypnosis is fresh and unique, and he brings many new angles to the fast paced intriguing show.

In addition to the show, there will be a Megillah reading at 8 p.m. Guests also will enjoy hors d'oeuvres, desserts and cocktails. Cost is \$13 a person prior to Monday, Feb. 18 and \$15 thereafter.

For reservations or information, call 344-4900 or visit www.ChabadSP.com.

Good Samaritan Church UCC

PINELLAS PARK – Daily columnist and humorist Jonathan Richard Cring and artist/musician Janet Clazzy will bring their 2013 tour Finding a Message in a World aTwitter to Pinellas on Friday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m., at Good Samaritan Church UCC, 6085 Park Blvd.

The show will feature comedic and inspirational essays from Cring's national daily column at www.jonathans.com as well as original musical tunes played by Clazzy on the oboe and WX-5 Wind Machine.

Cring is the author of 11 titles, including "Digging for Gold," "20 Other Reasons to Kiss a Frog" and "Mr. Kringle's Tales ... 26 Stories 'Til Christmas." He is the recipient of the Best Screenplay Award at the Top Ten Films in America.

"We take some time to bring you music, humor, fresh insights into life in these United States and ways to find a message," Cring said in a press release. "The program is a

nonstop, intergenerational explosion."

Clazzy is a musical original, having played in orchestras from coast to coast, and is often compared to Kenny G.

"I have this fabulous instrument called the WX-5 Wind Machine, which gives me 250 sounds at my fingertips," she said. "We call the music 'clazzy' – the spirit of classical with the soul of jazz – pop-minded."

Clazzy also was the founder of the Summer Pops Orchestra and the first female conductor in the state of Tennessee.

A free-will offering will be taken and copies of books, CDs and DVDs will be available for purchase. For information, call 544-8558 or visit www.spirited2013.com.

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church

CLEARWATER – Renowned pianist Rebecca Penneys will perform Sunday, Feb. 10, 3 p.m., at Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, 110 S. Fort Harrison Ave.

Penneys will perform a program featuring the romantic qualities of the piano. The program will include selected works from Mozart, Bartok, Ravel and Chopin. Attendees will be treated to a true musical Valentine in the warm surroundings and excellent acoustics of the Peace Church sanctuary.

Dividing her time between New York and Florida, Penneys is professor of piano at the famous Eastman School of Music, founder of the new Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival and Friends of Piano at USF and Artist-in-Residence at St. Petersburg College, a position created for her in 2001. She has performed and taught internationally for over 30 years and made many recordings. Her latest CD from September 2011 is a bicentennial tribute to Chopin and Schumann.

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

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

For more information, call 446-3001 or visit www.peacememorial.org.



Jonathan Richard Cring and Janet Clazzy



Rebecca Penneys

Mom offers tips to make parenting less challenging



Mom 2 Mom
Kadi Hendricks Tubbs

As a mom, I am always trying to be the best parent I can be. My husband is the same way. It's not easy especially in today's world. But I recently heard some information that I felt was really useful.

Author Andy Stanley and his wife Sandra did a video presentation called Future Family, and one section was on parenting. It is about tips the Stanleys learned from others and from parenting their own two boys and one girl into adulthood. It isn't everything there is to know about parenting, but at least there are ideas to ponder, especially since we weren't given manuals with instructions to follow when our children were born.

Parenting needs to start when our children are young, and the Stanleys break childhood into four stages of parenting. The discipline years are ages 1 to 5. The training years are ages 5 to 12. The coaching years are ages 12 to 18. Then the friendship years are 18 years and older.

When I think about this, I realize how true this is. We really need to start discipline young because it is so much harder if you don't start to discipline kids until middle school.

I think today we have so many parents trying to be their kid's friends when they are younger and aren't being parents. This causes problems. As Andy Stanley puts it, there is a time for friendship. He explains that "later is longer," meaning we have so many years to be friends once your child turns 18. But being their friend and not their parent at a younger age can break the relationship.

As far as discipline, there are three things that are non-negotiable: disobedience, dishonesty and being disrespectful. If your child does any of these they need to be disciplined. If kids know there are consequences, their attitudes may change.

Also, I think it's important that we discipline our kids out of love. I know my parents would always say it hurt them more than it hurt me. I know what they mean now after having two of my own little girls.

Something that is really important is being there for your kids. I know we are all busy, but the years go by so fast. We need to take time for family.

One of the best times to really connect is having dinner together. You can interact with your kids and learn about their day. Having this time together will last a lifetime. The Stanleys talk about it and I know it from personal experience. The dinner table is where a family bonds. It does take planning, so we need to write this in on our schedule. We schedule time for everything else, so we need to make our kids top priority. It is so worth it. Our kids won't be little forever.

Another good tip mentioned was to make sure you are part of the carpool. You can find out a lot about what's going on with your child and their friends during the drive. Kids forget you are driving and they start talking.

Something else to consider is making your house the gathering place for the kids in the neighborhood. I know you're thinking, "No, that's a bad idea," but remember – you know what's going on in your house. You don't know what's happening if your kids are somewhere else.

Another tip – and one my parents always kept to – don't allow televisions or phones in kids' bedrooms. My parents always wanted to know what we were watching and to whom we were talking. I know today there is so much technology out there, from cell phones to iPads, that it's hard to monitor our kids, but we need to.

How we raise our children the first 18 years of their life will last with them forever. Oddly enough, it lasts into our future generations.

To watch the Future Family video for yourself, visit www.FutureFamily.org.

Kadi Hendricks Tubbs, mother of two girls ages 7 and 8, lives in Seminole. Visit her blog at Mom2MomFamilyFun.blogspot.com.

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ICAI Hispanic Outreach Center 727-445-9734
GRAYDI Neighborhood Family Center 727-584-7200
Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center 727-791-8255
Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Center 727-442-5355
Hours and days of operation vary, call site before visiting.
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Free Health Resources is an alliance of health care professionals committed to providing quality services to their community, free of charge. The goal is to educate the public regarding issues related to attaining and maintaining good health and preserving the quality of life. This event includes the Eye Institute of West Florida, Bob Evans Hearing, The Diabetic Shoe Guy, Comfort Home Health and Mountcastle Vein Center.

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Is your back going out more than you are? Learn about the latest minimally invasive surgeries performed at the **Florida Spine & Neuro Center at Largo Medical Center**.

presented by Paula Jewell, Florida Spine and Neuro Center Representative

Monday, February 4 • 11:00 a.m.

The Centre • 1500 16th Street, Palm Harbor

Friday, February 8 • 11:00 a.m.

Largo Medical Center • 201 14th Street SW, Largo

Monday, February 18 • 11:00 a.m.

Hampton Inn • 1200 34th Street North, St. Petersburg

Wednesday, February 20 • 11:00 a.m.

Hampton Inn • 39284 US Highway 19 North, Tarpon Springs

Wednesday, February 27 • 11:00 a.m.

Holiday Inn Express • 975 Broadway Street, Dunedin



Keep Your Heart Healthy

From diet and nutrition, to the importance of being active and improving your cardiovascular health, learn ways that you can keep your heart healthy on a daily basis.

Friday, February 15 • 12:00 noon

presented by Gregg Schuyler, MD • Cardiology

YMCA/Jim & Heather Gills Campus • 3200 1st Ave. S, St. Petersburg



Total Joint & Arthritis

Do you suffer from arthritis and joint pain? Dr. Mixa will discuss treatments for arthritis and also review surgical solutions for hips and knees.

presented by Thomas Mixa, MD • Orthopedic Surgeon

Thursday, February 21 • 11:30 a.m.

Edward White Hospital Auditorium • 2299 9th Ave. N., Suite 1-G, St. Petersburg (one-story office building on the east side of hospital)

Thursday, February 28 • 12:00 noon

Northside Hospital Auditorium • 6006 49th Street North, St. Petersburg (located on 2nd floor of Medical Office Plaza next to hospital)



Are You or Someone You Love Suffering with Hip Pain?

Learn about the causes of hip pain, advanced treatment options and the newest minimally-invasive procedures available.

Thursday, February 21 • 6:00 p.m.

presented by John Pope, MD • Orthopedic Surgeon

Allegro Living • 4600 54th Avenue South, St. Petersburg



Alzheimer's Disease

From causes and symptoms, to research and diagnostics, Dr. Nasser Razack will review this disabling condition and steps that you can take early on to lessen your chances of acquiring Alzheimer's disease.

Friday, February 22 • 12:00 noon

presented by Nasser Razack, MD • Interventional Neuroradiologist

Northside Hospital Auditorium • 6006 49th Street North, St. Petersburg (located on 2nd floor of Medical Office Plaza next to hospital)



Seniors Living with Diabetes

With age comes an increased risk for specific diabetic complications that require diligence and care to properly mitigate them. Learn ways to help you in your later years so you can live a healthy life.

Friday, February 22 • 12:00 noon

presented by Fadi Saba, MD • Internal Medicine

The Fountains at Boca Ciega Bay • 1255 Pasadena Ave. S, St. Petersburg



Irregular Heart Beats

Does your heart race, skip or slow? Discover what your heart beats mean as cardiologist Dr. Dennis Cassidy discusses arrhythmias, including atrial fibrillation, and new treatment options.

Tuesday, February 5 • 12:00 noon

presented by Dennis Cassidy, MD • Cardiac Electrophysiologist

The Fountains at Boca Ciega Bay • 1255 Pasadena Ave. S, St. Petersburg



Eating for a Health Heart: Restricted Salt and Fluid Tips

Got questions about salt intake and high blood pressure? Limiting salt will reduce the fluid you retain and help lower your blood pressure. Dr. Johnson explains how diet affects your heart and body.

Wednesday, February 6 • 12:00 noon

presented by Suzanne Johnson, DO • Family Medicine

Ivy Ridge Living • 7179 40th Avenue North St Petersburg



Are You A Candidate For Partial Knee Replacement?

Join Dr. Swiggett as he gives an in-depth discussion on the latest in partial knee replacement.

Thursday, February 7 • 11:30 a.m.

presented by Robert Swiggett, MD • Orthopedic Surgeon

Edward White Hospital Auditorium • 2299 9th Ave. N., Suite 1-G, St. Petersburg (one-story office building on the east side of hospital)



Preventing Heart Disease And Stroke

Join Dr. Hobbs as he discusses ways of staying healthy and the prevention of heart diseases and stroke. Join us at the YMCA – Jim & Heather Gills campus for this great discussion.

Friday, February 8 • 11:30 a.m.

presented by David Hobbs, MD • Family Practitioner

YMCA/Jim & Heather Gills Campus • 3200 1st Ave. S, St. Petersburg



Solutions for Your Hip Pain

Hip pain can be unbearable. At the **Florida Knee & Orthopedic Pavilion at Largo Medical Center**, innovative surgical solutions can lead to shorter hospital stays and faster recovery times.

presented by Pat Kosiba, RN • Florida Knee & Orthopedic Pavilion Rep.

Tuesday, February 12 • 11:00 a.m.

Hampton Inn • 1200 34th Street North, St. Petersburg

Wednesday, February 13 • 11:00 a.m.

Largo Medical Center • 201 14th Street SW, Largo



Know Your A-Fib Options

There are new treatment options available to reduce your Atrial Fibrillation symptoms and improve your heart's rhythm, including CryoAblation therapy. **Northside Hospital** is proud to be the only hospital in the county to provide this innovative procedure.

Wednesday February 13 • 12:00 noon

presented by Robert Sheppard, MD • Cardiac Electrophysiologist

Northside Hospital Auditorium • 6006 49th Street North, St. Petersburg (located on 2nd floor of Medical Office Plaza next to hospital)



Let's Talk Spine - Dining with The Doctor

Do you suffer from back pain, hip pain or arthritis? If so, this seminar is for you! Dr. Davis will present a question and answer format.

Wednesday, February 13 • 11:30 a.m.

presented by Clinton Davis, MD • Orthopedic Surgeon

Edward White Hospital Auditorium • 2299 9th Ave. N., Suite 1-G, St. Petersburg (one-story office building on the east side of hospital)



Stroke – Are You At Risk?

February is American Heart Month! High blood pressure, elevated cholesterol and heart disease are all factors that increase your risk of having a stroke.

Wednesday, February 13 • 4:00 p.m.

presented by Tami Podlasek, RN • Stroke Coordinator, Edward White Hospital

Allegro • 4600 54th Avenue South, St. Petersburg



Heart Smart 2013

Join us at **Largo Medical Center** for this annual event including a Heart Healthy Cooking Demonstration, American Heart Association update on the latest research and information from expert physicians on keeping your heart healthy.

FREE Peripheral Arterial Disease (ABI) Screenings & Blood Pressure screenings available. Register today!

Tuesday, February 26 • 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Largo Medical Center • 201 14th Street SW, Largo

11:15 a.m. Kathy Fenelon – The Latest American Heart Association Research

11:30 a.m. Executive Chef Michael Cole – Heart Healthy Cooking Demo

12:00 p.m. Joseph Diliberto, MD – The Latest In Minimally Invasive Heart Valve Surgery

12:30 p.m. John Norris, MD – Atrial Fibrillation in 2013: *What's HOT and What's Not*

1:00 p.m. Michael Sore, MD – Treating a Heart Attack in the Largo Medical Center Emergency Room

1:30 p.m. Merrill Krolick, DO – Peripheral Arterial Disease: Preventing Circulation Problems



Recognition of a Heart Attack

Learn the signs and symptoms associated with an acute heart attack as well as risk factors, medical therapy, and preventative strategies aimed at reducing the risk of future or subsequent cardiovascular events.

Tuesday, February 26 • 6:00 p.m.

presented by Chris Wilson, DO • Cardiologist

Magnolia Gardens • 3800 62nd Avenue North, Pinellas Park



Orthopedics & Upper Extremities

Dr. Butler will discuss treatment options for hand, elbow and shoulder pain.

Thursday, February 28 • 11:30 a.m.

presented by Adrian Butler, MD • Orthopedic Surgeon

Edward White Hospital Auditorium • 2299 9th Ave. N., Suite 1-G, St. Petersburg (one-story office building on the east side of hospital)

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LETTERS

Crass political pandering

Editor:

You recently printed two letters that must be taken to task. First: Your readers deserve better than the misleading allegations in "A misinterpretation of the Second Amendment," Jan. 18. The writer presented his opinion that the framers of the U.S. Constitution did not "intend" to protect the individual right to "keep and bear arms."

He failed to provide any source material for his statements. Without doing so his views are of little value since he was not there when our Constitution was written.

Whatever his personal take on this is – we all know one thing – the wording "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed" is there and its meaning as clear as a bell ringing.

The second letter that must be looked at is "Do simple and sensible things first." Jan. 18.

This letter seemed well intended but in my opinion put forth some dangerous ideas. One was that gun owners should be "held accountable for their use or misuse." Should owners of baseball bats, tire irons or kitchen knives be accountable for actions of others? Of course not. The other unfortunate idea was that "assault" and "high capacity" weapons should be regulated.

Millions of Americans have weapons of all sizes and capacities and never misuse them. Infringing on their enumerated rights. The use of terrible criminal activities to attempt to strip the rights of our citizens is crass political pandering at best and near treason at worst. There is nothing in the U.S. Constitution, other than the amendment process that gives any president, Congress or the Judiciary the power to touch our Bill of Rights.

G.P. Martin
Pinellas Park

Ineffective gun laws

Re: "A misinterpretation of the Second Amendment," Leader, Jan. 17

Editor:

Excellent! About time somebody explained the realities about the Second Amendment. If only those that need to know would take the time to understand! 21st century citizens need to understand five other salient points concerning the Second Amendment:

1. 18th century communication consisted of hand-written letters, newspapers and books. Instant electronic communication (The Internet, Facebook, Twitter, email, telephones) didn't exist and weren't even a part of their vernacular or an idea in anyone's head.
2. 18th century transportation delivered communications by walking, horseback or stagecoach over land, sailing ships by sea. Hard-surfaced roads, interstate highways, railroads, airplanes, or engine-powered container ships didn't exist and weren't even a part of their vernacular, or an idea in anyone's head.
3. 18th century transportation of communications took place by walking, horseback, stagecoach or sailing ships, and often took days, weeks and sometimes months to reach its destination.
4. Standing armies didn't exist. The federal government and the fledging states (colonies?) couldn't afford them, as they were burdened with Revolutionary War debt.
5. If standing armies did exist, deploying them to defend against any civil or military situation was not feasible. An army in North Carolina couldn't be sent to New York to quell the situation in a timely manner.

Under those 18th century realities, the only viable option was to enable the separate states to defend themselves with a citizen militia, hence the Second Amendment.

The original concept of the Second Amendment had nothing to do with individual rights to own firearms. It had everything to do with the separate states defending themselves from any civil or military situation.

The 18th century militia has morphed into the current National Guard, which is commanded by the governor of the state in which it exists. Currently, the president of the U.S.A. must obtain permission from the governor in order to activate and/or deploy a state's National Guard.

Although the U.S. Supreme Court has altered the Second Amendment to enable individual rights of gun ownership, that doesn't mean that individuals are released from the responsibilities of gun safety and human compassion. The world's most lax, ineffective gun laws, regulations and rules have made the U.S.A. one of the industrialized world's most violent.

That is exactly why we must change to be more civilized about the responsibilities and safety of gun ownership.

Mike McDonald
Clearwater

Light rail isn't the way to go

Editor:

There are many reasons why Pinellas County should not consider light rail between Clearwater and downtown St. Petersburg, a 24 mile route and I will mention a few:

1. Inflated ridership statistics. I notice that buses are mostly or completely empty of passengers. Any increase in ridership at present is due to the vagabonds who come to sunny Florida for the winter.
2. Only 3 percent of residents use public transportation. Why should 97 percent of our residents in Pinellas County pay a 1 percent sales tax increase when they never use public transportation?
3. If passed, this 1 percent sales tax increase would make Pinellas County the highest taxed county at 8 percent and this would be a disaster for businesses in Pinellas County.
4. Any light rail plan must include Hillsborough County. Many have already stated that it is imperative that Hillsborough County be included in any light rail plan. Since Hillsborough County defeated a referendum in 2010 regarding a sales tax increase for light rail, it would appear that Hillsborough County is not interested in any tax increase for light rail.
5. What happens if light rail fails in Pinellas County? From all indications, if light rail is established and then fails because of economics or other reasons, then Pinellas County must re-pay the government for the government's investment. Of course, the taxpayers would be stuck, once again.
6. Suggestions: I suggest that PSTA begin by replacing Brad Miller with a competent, experienced manager who is capable of operating PSTA effectively and economically. It is evident that Brad Miller is way over his head in his present job.

Chuck Graham
Pinellas Park

A warning about domestic violence

Editor:

Super Bowl Sunday is a few days away. It may be a great day for football, but it is the worst day of the year for domestic violence. Congress has failed to renew the Violence Against Women Act. Shame on them. Please be careful. Remember domestic violence is alcohol-fueled. Please be careful.

Jeff Shelton
Largo

Homeowners group thanks town of Belleair

Editor:

The Board of Directors of the Belleview Biltmore Homes Association Inc., representing 553 unit owners within the Residential-Planned-Development, by formal resolution, would like to thank the town of Belleair on its foresight in purchasing the golf course.

By so doing, the town successfully retained a prime water source and premium greens space that will benefit the entire town of Belleair.

Board of directors
Belleview Biltmore Homes Association
Belleair

Notes on narrow-mindedness

So there he was, the newly inaugurated president of the United States, all set to review several dozen marching bands and other honor groups, and what does he do? He pops a wad of chewing gum in his mouth and begins chomping away in public like a ninth-grade dropout hanging out on a street corner in Tampa.

Is this an overly critical view of Barack Obama last week as he stood in the reviewing stand and acknowledged the plaudits of the citizenry? Is there anything illegal or disreputable with chewing gum in public? Illegal, no. Disreputable, yes. At least in my opinion, which is often twisted, off-base, snobbish and condemnatory. And I plead guilty to all of that.

But at least now I'm more aware that some people chew a special kind of gum that contains nicotine, which helps them resist the urge to smoke cigarettes, another disreputable habit. By recognizing the Nicorette chompers and tipping my hat to their attempts to quit smoking, I have become slightly less narrow-minded than before.

If I continue to wage war on my long-term narrow-mindedness, I'll have a long-term conflict on my hands. I'm critical of too many things, in myself and others. The shame of it all is that most of my griping pertains to perfectly harmless practices.

Such as tattoos. I've spent decades of my life searching for any tattoo – large, small, simple, elaborate, witty – that is more attractive or otherwise superior to the naked, unadorned, pristine God-given skin that the tattoo replaced. I have yet to find such an epidermal engraving, nor do I ever expect to.

I first encountered tattoos in the U.S. Navy. Many of my shipmates sported them. They said such imaginative things as "Mother,"



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

"God and country," "Arlene," and "Death before dishonor." I quizzed the tattoos' owners thusly: "Were you drunk when you authorized the tattoo?" The answer was invariably "yes."

I can understand doing stupid things while drunk. But today I encounter intelligent, educated people who rarely hoist a beer or smoke a joint but who nonetheless have tattoos. Their reasons for disfiguring themselves are as varied as the tattoos themselves. After years of privately scorning most tattooed persons, I've finally learned to withhold judgment and walk away. (Please hold your applause.)

I've tried to do likewise with folks who install metal balls in their noses, earlobes, tongues, navels and reproductive organs. Still I find it difficult to keep my mouth shut and my opinions to myself when I encounter an otherwise rational human who has chosen to adorn himself/herself like a float in the Gasparilla parade.

Each time it happens, I'm flooded with questions: Are these people off their rockers? What sort of statement are they trying to make? Is there some sort of brotherhood or sisterhood that they're admitted to when they attach metal balls to their carcasses? Or is the presence of a ball or a tattoo a sign of defiance, a middle finger thrust into the face of conventional society? I cheerfully admit my ignorance of the answers to these and other

questions. I just tell myself "It takes all kinds" and pass on.

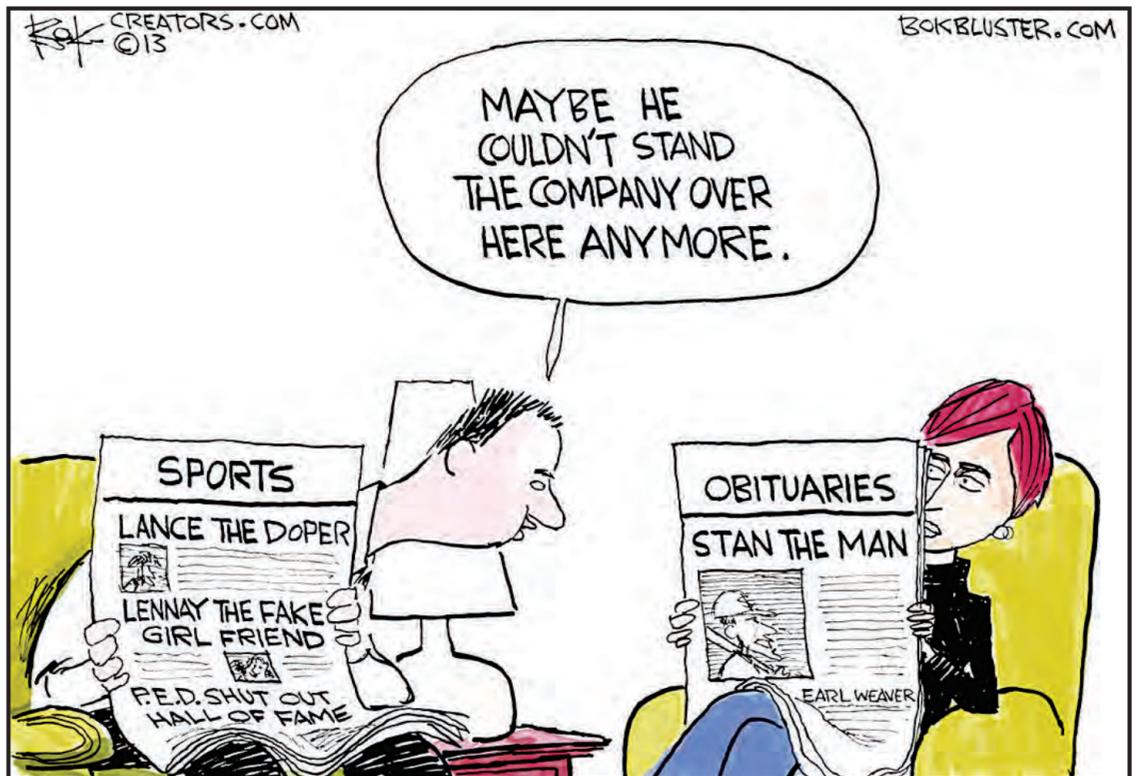
But what happens the next time I'm scheduled for major surgery and I notice that the surgeon or anesthesiologist is sporting a golden ball in his nostril or a forehead tattoo proclaiming "Elvis Lives!?" Does Medicare cover the costs of surgeries canceled by panicky patients who roll off the gurneys screaming, "Find me some doctors who don't look like Christmas trees!"

Dislike of tattoos and decorative balls is a minor blip on the radar screen of narrow-mindedness. I'm not sure which area of life contains the largest degree of intolerance. Religious belief is surely among the top ten. As much as Americans like to wave the banner of religious freedom, the evidence of religious prejudice is on display every day of the week.

The same goes for political bias. It's natural and acceptable for people to have contrasting ideas about government. But narrow-mindedness occurs when you or I absolutely refuse to admit that the other guy's ideas should at least be listened to and examined. The years ahead will determine whether political narrow-mindedness was powerful enough to sink our beloved ship of state.

I'll close by revealing two minor victories I have managed to achieve over my cultural blinkerdom. One is my previous bafflement over people who wear baseball caps on backward. I use to call that practice stupid and purposeless. Now, I just look away. Same thing for men (many of them in high positions) who routinely carry around a three-day facial stubble. I once favored prison for such clods. Now I'd settle for a simple \$500 fine.

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



On flaky professors and nutty ideas

As of this writing, conspiracy flake James Tracy still has a job teaching at Florida Atlantic University, despite having stated the following:

"While it sounds like an outrageous claim, one is left to inquire whether the Sandy Hook shooting ever took place – at least in the way law enforcement authorities and the nation's news media have described."

Written on his personal blog, Tracy's theory ignited international outrage, more anguish in Newtown, Conn., and uncountable demands that he be fired.

But instead of canning Professor Tracy, FAU should put him on display as a lab specimen of paranoia in full bloom. Let him continue teaching his "Culture of Conspiracy" classes and video-stream his lectures, so that students far and wide can study this bizarre psychological phenomenon.

The most disturbing of historic events – from Pearl Harbor to the Holocaust, from the Kennedy assassinations to the 9/11 attacks – have spawned rabid cults of doubters. The Internet has given these agitated souls what they never had before: a gathering place, where they can fantasize endlessly among their own kind.

Soon after the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary, Tracy declared that the media coverage "was intended primarily for public consumption to further larger political ends." He called the tragedy a "meticulously crafted facade" and hinted that the facts were being manipulated by gun-control advocates in government!

Several hundred journalists were apparently duped, or secretly in league with the anti-gun plotters. Included by implication in the dark cabal were the eyewitnesses, survivors, first responders, coroners, Connecticut State Police and families of the victims (if there really were any victims).

What made Tracy stand out from other



Carl Hiaasen

ranting online troglodytes was his tenured position at FAU in Boca Raton. The university administration was duly embarrassed and apologetic, but also compelled to note that Tracy had posted the rubbish on his own blog, on his own time.

Within days, a queasy reality took hold of the professor himself, and he began to backpedal. In an interview with West Palm Beach's WPTV, he said:

"In terms of saying that Sandy Hook, the Newtown massacre, did not take place is really a simplification – an oversimplification – of what I said."

Oh, how he must have wished that were true. Then, lurching onward: "I said there may very well be elements of that event that are synthetic to some degree, that are somewhat contrived. I think that, overall, the media really did drop the ball."

If you're waiting to hear Tracy's version of what really happened in Newtown, don't hold your breath. He hasn't specified which aspects of the press coverage were "synthetic" or "contrived," though he has tepidly conceded that 20 first-graders probably did die from gunfire that day in the school.

Well, at least those darn reporters got something right.

On-scene bedlam is part of any mass murder. Conflicting and even wrong information always gets passed along in the first frantic minutes. That happened in Newtown, just as it did in lower Manhattan in 2001.

It wasn't a conspiracy at Sandy Hook Elementary; it was honest human error. Law-enforcement sources told journalists things that turned out to be inaccurate (misidentifying the shooter as his brother, for example, and stating that their mother was a teacher at the school). The mistakes were corrected within hours.

In the end, the facts of the crime remain hideously simple. Twenty-six people, most of them first-graders, were shot dead by a single, heavily armed man named Adam Lanza. The blood on the walls was real, the bodies were real, and so is the lifelong heartbreak.

Many believe that the pain caused to the families by Tracy's blogging justifies his firing by FAU. Others, including some who are mortified by his postings, say his views should be tolerated because campuses ought to be havens of intellectual freedom.

Incompetence is a separate issue. That a professor of communications is so ignorant of basic newsgathering practices is pathetic, but at this point Tracy's value in the classroom is not as an instructor but rather as a case study.

He's not just another academic blowhard with scant real-world experience. He's a bona fide conspiracy kook who appears disarming-ly normal. For that reason alone he's worth observing, though it remains to be seen how many students will be flocking to his lectures.

If FAU dumps him, Tracy will be a hero in the sweaty universe of anti-government paranoids, who already blame sinister forces for the professor's misfortunes.

These days he's keeping a low profile, ducking Anderson Cooper and hunkering in the shadows of the Internet, where no idea is too repugnant to find a fan base.

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

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

New test standards to focus on critical thinking

By BOB McCLURE

SEMINOLE – The state's top official for public schools told a gathering at St. Petersburg College Jan. 23 that a change in state testing two years from now will require teachers to focus more on instructing the skill of critical thinking.

Pam Stewart, chancellor of public schools for the Florida Department of Education, told those attending a Village Square discussion on the new Common Core Standards that teachers won't have to teach to certain standards, such as they do now for the FCAT exam, but they will need to concentrate on a new style of approach.

"I believe if teachers use the questioning skills where it does dig deeper," Stewart said, "they (students) will be prepared for whatever test is put in front of them."

Stewart gave an example on reading comprehension. If a woman wears a dress to a ball, teachers should not just ask what color was the woman's dress. Teachers should ask why the woman chose that color, Stewart said.

The idea is to make students think more freely, she said.

"Every teacher has the obligation to teach the standards," Stewart said. "I hate the phrase teaching to the test. But if it's important knowledge for our students to know, I think it's important to teach it."

She noted that panels of experts and teachers statewide determined the Sunshine State Standards for the next generation and it's important that teachers teach to those standards.

"I think one of the problems we have is when teachers pass out those worksheets that are a drill," Stewart said. "That's inappropriate and doesn't do a good job of preparing students for life, testing or anything we want to prepare students for – unless we think we're going to send them out into the world to deal with worksheets every day."

"I think it's important to have a clear understanding of what the standards are," she added. "Should there be a week where you brief kids on how to take a test? Probably but nothing more. We should be driven by the standards."

Created by teachers and educators across the country, the Common Core standards provide clear expectations for what students should be learning in each grade to prepare for college or a career.

The new standards were born from the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top Assessment Program, which was funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. To help meet President Barack Obama's goal of restoring the nation's position as the world leader in college graduates by 2020, the Race to the Top Program awarded two grants totaling \$330 million for new student assessment systems.

One is the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. The other is the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.

Florida has signed on to the PARCC assessment system. It is one 23 states and the District of Columbia that have done so. Twenty-two other states have signed on to the SMARTER system.

Both systems assess math and English language arts from third grade through high school.

The PARCC coalition will specifically test students' ability to read, complete research projects, excel in classroom speaking and listening assignments, and work with digital media.

It also will end the single end-of-year accountability test in favor of a series of exams throughout the school year. Those assessments will be used to create a combined, single score and reduce the pressure of a single test. PARCC also will give teachers information about students' progress throughout the year.

Florida is currently phasing in the standards.

Michael Greg, superintendent of Pinellas County Schools, said the



Photo by BOB McCLURE

A panel of education officials discusses the next phase of testing standards in Florida at a Village Square discussion Jan. 23 at St. Petersburg College. From left are Michael Grego, Pinellas County Superintendent of Schools; Mindy Haas, president-elect of Florida PTA; moderator Bill Heller, a dean and professor at the University of South Florida-St. Petersburg; Nancy Millichamp, media specialist at Madeira Beach Fundamental School; Pam Stewart, chancellor of public schools, Florida Department of Education; and Doug Tuthill, president of Step Up For Students. The new Common Core Standards go into effect during the 2014-15 school year.

PARCC assessments would change the way teachers teach.

"The PARCC assessment will be much more complex," he said. "I've seen questions. It's a much more higher order of thinking. We should be teaching students how to critically think."

While some educators have criticized the concept of assessments, Grego said he likes the idea and believes without them, education would not function properly.

"The only purpose for assessments is to drive instruction," he said. "Assessment is a wonderful tool that helps assist the heart of this profession and that's teaching and learning. The problems we're having are not based on FCAT or assessments. It's what we're doing with those assessments. So let's take the best (of FCAT) and move and evolve from that."

Grego said it all revolves around retooling current teachers and reshaping the college curriculums of future educators.

"We debate whether or not the grading of schools is good or bad," he said. "But the fact is we have to ensure that the population of Florida is well educated. As a superintendent, I would focus more on the instruction. On training and working with teachers."

Stewart backed up Grego's remarks about assessments and measuring students' progress.

"However, it must be done in a healthy manner," she said. "I don't think there's anyone in the Turlington Building or the capital that wants to see children so stressed out that they can't go to school. But that's not to say we shouldn't measure."

"If we use assessment to drive instruction, we've done a great service to our students," she said. "Common Core is about having kids discover their own. It will create life-long learners because we are no longer making passive learners by the teacher disseminating the information. We're helping students discover it on their own and be able to answer questions that they never could before."

Stewart said Common Core, content-wise, is not a major shift from the state's next generation of Sunshine State Standards.

"It's just a shift in the way we instruct students," she said.

For more on Common Core, visit www.fldoe.org/schools/cc.

Telesca Foundation recognizes safe driving art contest winners

LARGO – The Largo High School winners of Anthony Telesca Foundation Safe Driving Art Contest were presented with their prizes Jan. 22.

First prize went to Cambry Gordon, who received a prize of two roundtrip airline tickets donated by JetBlue Airways and \$200. Yacinia Colachio received \$100 for her second place entry.

The competition asked students to design a poster that effectively communicates to teenagers the dangers of unsafe driving practices.

Along with sponsoring the competition, the Anthony Telesca Foundation provided \$1,000 to the Largo High School art and driver's education departments on behalf of the two winners. The nonprofit foundation works with public safety and law enforcement organizations, high school districts and community business leaders to help educate and encourage teenagers to drive safely. Knology was a corporate supporter for the contest.

For more information about the foundation or to view winning entries from other participating high schools, visit www.anthonystelesca.org.



Largo High School student Cambry Gordon's poster's won first place in the Safe Driving Art Contest.



Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Two Largo High School students were awarded for their submissions to the Anthony Telesca Foundation Safe Driving Art Contest Jan. 22. Pictured are, from left, Angelo Telesca of the Anthony Telesca Foundation, Largo High School Principal Bradley Finkbner, the school's first place winner Cambry Gordon with his winning entry, second place winner Yacinia Colachio with her entry, School Resource Officer Mark Dakoski and Richard Lightle of Knology.

School notes

Stotts wins Support Employee of the Year

LARGO – Debra Stotts, an office clerk at Largo Middle School, was named Pinellas County Schools 2013 Support Employee of the Year at a recent breakfast celebration in Clearwater. She will represent the district's more than 6,300 full- and part-time support employees in the Florida School-Related Employee of the Year program in the spring.

Stotts won the Indirect Involvement with Students category. Irma Vargas, a bilingual assistant at Skycrest Elementary won the Direct Involvement with Students category, and Katherine Dickinson, a secretary/bookkeeper at Curlew Creek Elementary, won the Limited Involvement with Students category.

Stotts is a six-year veteran of Pinellas County schools and was nominated for her leadership, volunteerism, community outreach efforts and the relationships she builds with students and parents. She mentors three students, volunteered more than 700 hours at Largo Middle and Largo High in 2011-12 year and serves as Largo Middle's PTSA president. Stotts has organized numerous safety initiatives, school fundraisers and community service projects.

"She has always been one to arrive early and stay late," said Largo Middle Assistant Principal Gail George-Coppens in a nomination letter. "She is always the first to ask if there is something she can do to help. It is always Debbie who can appraise a task and devise methods by which it can be done more efficiently."

Students earn faculty honors

LARGO – Two Largo students, Keri and Kristen Hannukainen, recently earned faculty honors at the Georgia Institute of Technology for earning a 4.0 grade-point average for the fall semester.

School officials travel to Germany to learn

LARGO – Pinellas County Schools Superintendent Michael A. Grego and School Board Member Robin L. Wikle have traveled to Germany to learn more about the German vocational and apprenticeship educational system. They were joined by Paul Wahnish, director of East Lake High's academy of engineering and other Tampa Bay educators.

The delegation toured several academic institutions and industry headquarters and was an opportunity to study Germany's dual education system, which offers students hands-on experience in various fields. This model propels German students for college, vocational schools, apprenticeships and careers after high school.

"This trip is a wonderful opportunity for us to learn more about Germany's highly successful dual education model and consider which pieces we may want to implement or expand upon here in Pinellas County," Grego said.

The Pinellas Education Foundation funded the school officials' trip in its entirety.

"We live in a global marketplace, and it is essential for businesses to stay abreast of benchmarks and practices of industry peers in other countries," said Pinellas Education Foundation Chairman Jim Myers.

Wahnish, who participated in a similar trip in 2008, is also the

founder of Career Technical Education Foundation Inc. The Pinellas County-based nonprofit career education foundation supports high school career academies throughout the southeast.

The number of German companies operating in the Tampa Bay region has grown 35 percent in the past four years, Wahnish said. The delegation will visit with several of those companies.

"The idea is to be able to give our students here in Pinellas County an opportunity to have a viable job and be an asset to the community," Wahnish said. "Our goal at CTEF is changing the face of education today to meet the needs of tomorrow."

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Gator club holds post-signing day tailgate party

ST. PETERSBURG – The 2013 post-signing day Gator Tailgate Party, with speaker Marty Choen of Gator Bait magazine, will be held Thursday, Feb. 7, 5:30 to 8 p.m., at Ferg's Sport Bar, 1320 Central Ave. For University of Florida Athletic Association members, tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door; \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door for nonmembers; \$10 in advance and at the door for children 5 and up. There will be a buffet, door prizes, raffles, vendors and a cash bar. Visit www.pinellascountygatorclub.com.

Light tackle bottom fishing makes for a great day on the water

Beautiful weather conditions last weekend made for some calm seas and some excellent light tackle bottom fishing for hogfish, white grunts, blue porgies and the occasional keeper red grouper.



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wellerstein

With trout fishing being a bit slow in the northern part of the county, this particular style of fishing has not only helped in putting some quality tasting fish in the cooler but is an absolute blast on the same tackle used for trout and redfish.

Most anglers heading out to do some bottom fishing for grunts and porgies would only think to bring some squid for bait, but if you're searching for hogfish you're going to need shrimp or fiddler crabs.

The shrimp are easier to come by in the bait shops. However if you're proficient at catching your own fiddler crabs that could obviously be cheaper. Either way, bring plenty of bait as the action is usually constant once a productive area is located.

Targeting ledges in 30 to 50 feet of water will put you in the right area. Using medium action rods spooled with 15-pound braid, 25-pound fluorocar-

bon leader and a half ounce pink jig head, thread the shrimp onto the hook tail first. Once a hogfish is caught, stay busy, as the hogfish seem to get progressively chummed up with the more shrimp that are dropped down.

Inshore, there have been a few redfish around. Targeting low incoming tides we've been able to manage a few reds each trip. Clear blue skies and windless days don't allow for much forgiveness from the reds, so lately we've gone to a strictly cut-bait routine versus using artificials or trying to stalk and sightfish with select shrimp. Fresh cut pinfish broadcasted in an area that's holding mullet will allow you to cover a large area without spooking the redfish. Until next week – get bent.

Tyson Wellerstein 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.

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Rays Fan Fest set at The Tropicana

ST. PETERSBURG – The 2013 Tampa Bay Rays Fan Fest is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Tropicana Field.

Admission and parking are free. This year's event will feature a variety of activities for kids. Youth stations include "Reading with the Rays," Sagcor Coaches Clinic with Rays coaches, Sweetbay Kids Run the Bases and High Five stations with Rays players, photos with Rays mascot Raymond and DJ Kitty, baseball interactive activities for all ages and appearances by Rays players and coaches at various stations throughout the day.

Fans are encouraged to stop by the MetroPCS Call-A-Friend Stage to have the opportunity for a Rays player to call a friend or family member.

A donation to the ALS Association Florida Chapter will again allow fans to receive a wristband, which grants the opportunity to get autographs from Rays players and coaches. Rays TV and radio broadcasters and more than 25 former major league players also will sign autographs for free throughout the day.

Rays Manager Joe Maddon will again serve up his traditional Thanksmas meal. A limited number of fans will have the opportunity to enjoy a plate of Maddon's homemade spaghetti, meatballs, sausage and pierogies, a meal he has served at area homeless shelters over the last seven winters as part of his Thanksmas initiative. Meals also include salad, mixed desserts, water and soda.

Those fans purchasing tickets also will be eligible to win raffle prizes including autographed memorabilia and more. All proceeds benefit the Rays Baseball Foundation and local Salvation Army centers.

The Rays Charity Yard Sale returns for a third year, giving fans the opportunity to purchase unique game-used and autographed memorabilia dating back to the inaugural season. All proceeds benefit the Rays Baseball Foundation.

Between the Rays Charity Yard Sale, Thanksmas, and autograph sales at the 2013 Rays Fan Fest, more than \$100,000 was raised to benefit the Salvation Army, the ALS Association and the Rays Baseball Foundation.

To promote Reading with the Rays, the club's summer reading program, Rays players will read select stories to kids throughout the day.

In the kids' interactive zone, kids can take cuts in a big league batting cage, try out their fastball in the speed pitch booth and swing for the fences in the Wiffle Ball Home Run Derby.

Sweetbay Supermarket High Five Station will once again allow kids to run the bases and receive high fives from players as they cross home plate.

In addition, at the Sagcor Coaches Clinic station, Rays coaches and staff will conduct free clinics for kids of all ages, and clubhouse tours will be offered throughout the day.

The Rays also will use their social media accounts to give fans even more opportunities for team and player interaction and exclusive prizes throughout Fan Fest. The team's main Twitter account – @RaysBaseball – will serve as a communication hub where fans can get up-to-date information on events happening throughout the day and answers to questions about Fan Fest.

Twitter users also can have their messages posted on the RaysVision video board at Tropicana Field by using the #RaysFanFest hashtag for all messages relating to the event.

Rays ticket sales personnel will be available to assist fans throughout the day in the purchase of season tickets, group tickets, and a special Fan Fest pack offer.

Fans can call 888-FAN-RAYS or log on to raysbaseball.com for more information about 2013 Rays Fan Fest.

Upcoming events

Blue Jays open spring season Feb. 24

The Toronto Blue Jays' spring training schedule will consist of 16 home games, highlighted by a visit by the American League Champion Detroit Tigers and contests versus all A.L. East Division rivals, including two visits by the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox.

The 2013 action begins in Dunedin on Sunday, Feb. 24, at Florida Auto Exchange Stadium against the Baltimore Orioles. All games begin at 1:05 p.m.

To place ticket orders, call 888-525-JAYS at 733-0429, or visit www.bluejays.com, or www.dunedinbluejays.com.

The schedule is as follows: Sunday, Feb. 24, Baltimore Orioles; Monday Feb. 25, Boston Red Sox, (split squad); Tuesday Feb. 26, Minnesota Twins; Wednesday Feb. 27, Houston Astros; Friday, March 1 Tampa Bay Rays; Saturday March 2, Philadelphia Phillies; Tuesday, March 5, Baltimore Orioles; Saturday, March 9, Detroit Tigers; Sunday, March 10, New York Yankees; Thursday, March 14, New York Yankees; Saturday, March 16, Baltimore Orioles; Tuesday, March 19, Houston Astros; Friday, March 22, Boston Red Sox; Saturday, March 23, Atlanta Braves (SS);

Monday, March 25, Philadelphia Phillies; Tuesday, March 26, Pittsburgh Pirates.

Registration open for Eagle Lake Classic

LARGO – Registration is open for the second annual Eagle Lake Classic 5K Run and Walk on Sunday, March 10, 9 a.m., at Eagle Lake Park, 1800 Keene Road.

"What differentiates the Eagle Lake Classic from other 5K runs and walks in the area, is that the course is a mostly paved trail through this beautiful scenic park in mid-Pinellas County," said Polly Kraus, race director. "We invite the entire community to participate in this family-friendly event."

The event is chip-timed for runners concerned with their time, but Kraus encourages everyone to come and try walking the course.

"We originally started this event to promote healthy living and we urge families and folks of all ages to come out and participate," she stated.

The first 500 registered runners will receive a T-shirt. First, second and third-place awards will be given out in each age group. Everyone is invited to a post-race breakfast.

The cost is \$25 for adults and \$20 ages 18 and younger. Limited registration will be available for \$30 on day of the race beginning at 8 a.m. at Eagle Lake Park.

To register, visit www.eaglelakeclassic.com. For more information, call 531-5829.

Spin for Kids event set

ST. PETERSBURG – The Spin for Kids 2013 Spin Event will take place Saturday, Feb. 2, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Vinoy Park, 701 Bayshore Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

Patrons are urged to participate in the ride by reserving a bike from one to five hours for individuals or teams. Each rider will receive a swag bag, which includes an event towel, t-shirt and discounts from sponsors. Lunch and refreshments will be provided, and prizes will be presented to top spin teams. The goal is to raise \$100 minimum per hour of spinning, or \$1,000 per spin team. Interested spinners can register and track donation totals online. For more information, visit www.playsmart.org.

Tampa Bay's top spin instructors, Tampa Bay Rays baseball players, Raymond and the Rays Street Team will push attendees to reach new fitness levels.

Those who are not able to ride are still encouraged to participate by supporting a spinner or a team.

Knights to host golf tournament

LARGO – The St. Catherine of Siena Knights of Columbus is having an inaugural golf tournament on Saturday, Feb. 23, at East Bay Golf Club, 702 Country Club Drive in Largo.

Everyone is welcome. Prizes will be awarded and sponsorships are available.

To register, call Bob M. at 538-9108 after 5 p.m.

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Moccasin Lake Park, beloved nature haven, to be preserved

By ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

CLEARWATER – It's a green haven of trees and wildlife in the middle of the densest county in the state. Moccasin Lake Nature Park, at 2750 Park Trail Lane, is just off of U.S. 19 between Drew Street and State Road 590 and is home to six ecosystems in its 51 acres of land. Now at the end of a master plan process for the park, the clear consensus is that the park should be preserved in its current, natural state indefinitely, though the technical details of how best to do that are still being sorted out.

"As part of the (advisory) group, one of the primary focuses is maintaining the facility as a nature park and an environmental education center instead of having it transform into another type of facility," said Jason Mastropietro, a member of the Suncoast Herpetological Society and a member of the Moccasin Lake Stakeholder Advisory Committee. "Like, it's not going to be a ball park, for example. So it's guiding towards that type of direction."

The Suncoast Herpetological Society – a nonprofit, educational group for people interested in reptiles and amphibians – is one of the groups that meet regularly at Moccasin Lake Park, and therefore Mastropietro was selected as its stakeholder representative on the committee.

The Clearwater Audubon Society is also a major stakeholder with the park, and Cynthia Kluss, Audubon program chairwoman and historian, is the committee stakeholder adviser for that group.

"What we're trying to do is keep the facility as close to what it does now," Kluss said. "It's a flavor of the outdoors. There's just enough of the outdoors there so you can appreciate what goes on. One of the live oaks has a tremendous beehive up in the trees, and that's pretty impressive. You get your binoculars out and look up there and there's a lot of activity out there. And you go down to Moccasin Lake and there's an observation deck and you can see limpkins, alligators, and other wildlife."

It is rare to have so many different ecosystems in that size of an area, but there is dry prairie, hardwood hammocks and forest, scrub swamp, wetlands, hardwood swamp and pinelands.

Both Kluss and Mastropietro agree that Moccasin Lake Park has value to the community because it gives the general public the opportunity to get a taste of nature and the wilderness without having to drive far away. This is a little haven nestled right in the middle of an urban setting.

"They will understand what it is to walk under the trees and be observant and quiet," Kluss said. "It's kind of a transition between total urban and total wildlife, and we're trying to keep that but modernize some of the facilities."

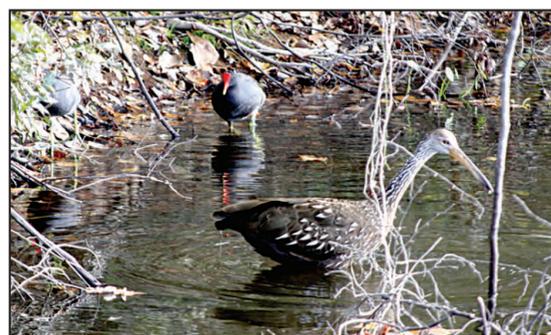
One of the original features and goals of the park when it was established in 1982 was to use and demonstrate sustainable energy, said Felicia Leonard, parks and recreation cultural affairs administrative support manager and key city contact with the Moccasin Lake advisory committee. Now, however, the technology has changed so much and keeps changing rapidly that what the park has is outdated and it would not be able to keep up with technology fast enough to make it worth keeping that as part of its mission, Leonard said.

The advisory committee held several public meetings and also asked people to participate in public surveys about the park. There was a tremendous turnout for both, Leonard said. The overwhelming consensus was that everyone wants the nature park to stay as it is in its natural state and for it to be used for educational purposes.

"The mission and vision statement created by the Moccasin Lake Stakeholder Advisory Committee is that the mission of Moccasin Lake Nature Park is to preserve its local Florida ecosystems with the focus on conservation and education," Mastropietro said.

In order to ensure these things, the committee is studying the city charter, land use and zoning categories to determine what would be the best and most effective way to permanently preserve the park in its natural state and prevent it from being used for anything else in the future. Right now there are three possibilities, Leonard said. They could either keep it the same as it is now if they decide there are already enough protections under current statutes and zonings; they could change its zoning from recreation/open space to a nature preserve zoning, though that would mean they would have to change the nature preserve language to include allowances for minimal structures such as boardwalks; or they could change the city charter to specifically protect the park, ensuring that it would take a public referendum by the voters in order to ever allow the park to be used for anything else.

Leonard said that the park might have those desired protections al-



Photos by ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

Top left, shell trails and boardwalks weave around under the forest canopy at Moccasin Lake Nature Park. Top right, a red-breasted woodpecker pecks for food. Above, a limpkin and some common moorhens hunt for food in shallow waters of Moccasin Lake. At left, the quiet beauty of Moccasin Lake Nature Park will be preserved.

ready. The current statute states: "No municipality-owned real property which was identified as recreation/open space on the city's comprehensive land use plan map on Nov. 16, 1989, or at any time thereafter, may be sold, donated, leased for a new use, or otherwise transferred without prior approval at referendum, except when the council determines it appropriate to dedicate right-of-way from, or easement over, such property. Such recreation/open space property may be leased for an existing use, without referendum, unless such lease is otherwise prohibited by charter or ordinance."

Cliff Norris, supervisor of Moccasin Lake Nature Park, said it is important that the park is saved forever, no matter what method is used to do that.

"It would protect the trail sections, the area of the park that is not impacted by buildings for impurity," Norris said. "And it would stay a habitat for the animals, for the plants, and for the city of Clearwater residents in keeping the green space. So that would be excellent."

Leonard said there is not any kind of thought or plan to change the use of the park; this is merely a protective measure.

Norris has been with the park since day one, and he said it is important to the community. There are all kinds of snakes, reptiles, mammals, birds and plants on the property. There have even been foxes breeding in the park, he said, and it is an important bird sanctuary.

"It's a very special place for bird migration," Norris said. "And it gives the public a chance to get out into nature. ... It's just enjoying nature not on a screen. Not on a computer screen or a TV, but truly being out there and experiencing what the wilderness is and getting hands-on-

experienced with nature."

Going forward, the committee hopes that the park can expand its educational opportunities and exhibits.

"The vision is to provide more educational wildlife and habitat educational opportunities," Kluss said. "We're hoping to expand on that and having some of the invasive species put under control like the air potato."

She added that they want to bring out biologists to help identify the invasive species and then work to get rid of as many of them as possible.

"Part of the plan is to have the survey done by a professional biologist as to what we have and what we want to keep and the invasive species that need to be removed or at least controlled to a point where the native species have a chance to dominate the landscape," Kluss said. "We don't want to reach that tipping point."

Part of the educational display would include invasive plants and animals so people can recognize and be more aware of them, Kluss said. One example is the Bufo Toad, which is a giant and is extremely poisonous to animals, including pets. If a dog licks it, it can die, and the toads are not afraid of people or other animals. If people have seen them in real life in a safe environment, then they could recognize them easier in everyday life and hopefully better protect their pets.

There will be one more public meeting where the committee will seek the community's input about the 10-year plan. There are also opportunities for students to volunteer at the park and earn Bright Futures volunteer hours.

Briefs

Orchid society to host auction, sale

LARGO – Florida West Coast Orchid Society will host its annual orchid auction and sale on Saturday, March 16, at Largo Cultural Center's Historic Largo Feed Store, 105 Central Park Drive.

Plant previews will start at 9 a.m. The auction will begin at 10 a.m. There is no admission charge. Parking is free. Credit cards will be accepted. For information, call Ruth Cannon at 550-7993, email gramorchid@gmail.com or visit www.fwcos.org.

Native plant society to meet

LARGO – The Pinellas chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will meet Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m., at Pinellas Extension Service, 12520 Ulmerton Road.

Tara Bess will speak on the constitutional amendment proposed by

Florida's Water and Land Legacy. This campaign is a citizen-led petition drive to let Florida voters decide in 2014 whether to adequately fund protection of the state's water and natural resources. The proposed constitutional amendment will let Floridians choose whether to set aside one-third of an existing revenue source – the documentary stamp tax on real estate transfers – and dedicate it to resource protection.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Call Cindy Smith at 595-5955.

McGough to host night hike

LARGO – A night hike will be presented Saturday, Feb. 16, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at George C. McGough Nature Park, 11901 146th St. N.

This will be a free interpretative nature hike through McGough's habitats. Call 518-3047.

Sundamizu Bonsai Club meets

CLEARWATER – Sundamizu Bonsai Club meets second Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon, at Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail Lane.

Attendees learn about Bonsai. Meetings feature demonstrations, lectures and workshops. There is no charge. Call Lois Shopp at 742-3301 or email Sundamizu@aol.com.

Weedon to host guided hikes

ST. PETERSBURG – Guided hikes will be offered Saturdays, Feb. 2, 9, 9 to 11 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

Participants should bring water and a snack. Preregistration is required. Call 453-6500 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org.



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Six-by-six strings

California Guitar Trio, Montréal Guitare Trio join forces for concert

LARGO - The California Guitar Trio and the Montréal Guitare Trio join forces for a memorable performance Saturday, Feb. 2, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive.

This six-by-six-string "phenomensembles" features virtuoso guitarists from four countries, including Japan, Canada, Belgium and the United States. Together, CGT and MG3 will explore intricate original compositions as well as new arrangements of progressive rock, world, jazz and classical music.

Tickets for the show start at \$24.50. Add \$5 to the price for tickets purchased at the door. For information, call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com.

The two outfits fuse more than 40 years of combined performing experience into one unique performance. In a pleasantly surprising way, CGT's steel stringed-guitars blend naturally with MG3's nylon-stringed guitars, as each trio's fret boards chase the others' original compositions and new arrangements of progressive rock, world, jazz and classical music.

The California trio

The California Guitar Trio formed in 1991.

Paul Richards of Salt Lake City, Utah, Bert Lams of Affligem, Belgium, and Hideyo Moriya of Tokyo, Japan first met in England at one of a Guitar Craft Courses, presented by guitar legend Robert Fripp, founding member of the progressive rock group King Crimson and known in the music industry as a master of cross-picking and developer of Frippertronics. After completing several of these intensive courses, the three toured worldwide with Fripp's League of Crafty Guitarists. They continued working together in Los Angeles, founding The California Guitar Trio in 1991, to create original compositions, surf covers, and classical re-workings. The band was originally planned as a quartet until one member decided the commitment required wasn't feasible.

According to the trio's biography provided by SRO Artists Inc., CGT makes use of a wide range of instrumental styles fusing European classical music, rock, blues, jazz, world music, and surf music.

The Montréal trio

Founded in 1998, the Montréal Guitare Trio quickly established itself as a force to be reckoned with by bridging diverse genres of music. The trio features Glenn Lévesque, Marc Morin and Sébastien Dufour.

The trio's virtuosity, precision, creativity and dynamic stage presence have earned them a loyal following around the world. Noted for the wit and warmth of their interactions with audiences, the MG3 won the 2011 Opus Prize for concert of the year in the Jazz/World Music category. They have given hundreds of concerts in prestigious venues in North America, Europe, New

See STRINGS, page 4B



The Montréal Guitare Trio bridges diverse genres of music. The group will join the California Guitar Trio in concert Feb. 2 at Largo Cultural Center.



Yesterday and Today, the Interactive Beatles Experience, takes the stage Feb. 8 at Largo Cultural Center.

Photo courtesy of BILLY McGUIGAN

Largo Cultural Center's February lineup

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

LARGO - The Largo Cultural Center's February schedule includes a variety of concerts and stage productions.

Kicking off the month will be the iWonder Magic Show on Saturday, Feb. 2, 11 a.m.

iWonder is the place where reality and illusion collide. Attendees will witness i-mazing, eye-popping magic with Bob and Chris. It's more than just tricks - it's magic, it's fun and it's for everyone. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and \$6.50 for children.

Next, the California Guitar Trio and the Montreal Guitar Trio will perform Saturday, Feb. 2, 8 p.m. (see story at left).

Bright House Networks will present the Bright Stars Senior Talent Show Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m.

Bill Murphy, feature reporter of Tampa Bay On Demand, will host the show. Audiences are invited to come out and support the Senior Stars. Three performers will be chosen by the audience to go on to perform in the Tampa Bay Senior Idol. Tickets are \$6.50.

For more information about the Bright Stars Senior Talent Show, call Bright House Networks at 329-2763.

Yesterday and Today, the Interactive Beatles Experience, will be presented Friday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m.

Yesterday and Today is unique and unlike any other Beatles show out there. The band does away with the wigs and the accents and concentrates on the music and stories about the music.

The audience is asked to put down their favorite Beatles song on a note card prior to the show. The band then puts together a set list based upon the audience's requests. The show is about bringing everyone together to celebrate such powerful music.

The show will feature cabaret seating. Tickets are \$29.50. Add \$5 to the price for tickets purchased at the door.

The Classics IV take the stage Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m. One of the most popular and influential groups of the '60s and '70s, The Classics IV have 13 consecutive chart singles to their credit. The band's gold records include "Spooky," "Stormy," "Traces of Love" and "Everyday With You Girl."

In 1993, The Classics IV were honored for their musical achievements by the state of Georgia and were included into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame.

Tickets are \$29.50. Add \$5 to the price for tickets purchased at the door.

Rave On! The Buddy Holly Tribute will be presented Sunday, Feb. 10, 2 p.m.

Billy McGuigan has received national attention and critical acclaim for his portrayals of the legendary Buddy Holly. Audiences continue to



Photo by RANDEE ST. NICHOLAS/CONCORD MUSIC GROUP

Jane Monheit plays Largo Cultural Center Feb. 14.

be awed by his energy, realism, sincerity and talent. Having appeared in more than 400 performances of "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story," McGuigan and his band have broken box office and attendance records in six theaters across the country. The show will include hits such as "Peggy Sue," "Raining in My Heart," "It's So Easy," "That'll Be the Day," "True Love Ways," "Oh Boy" and "Rave On."

The show will feature cabaret seating. Tickets are \$29.50. Add \$5 to the price for tickets purchased at the door.

Largo Lions Club will present Carme's Vintage Vegas on Monday, Feb. 11, for two shows: 2 and 7 p.m.

With more than 40 years of performing in Las Vegas, and a powerful baritone voice, Carme and his band will have audiences laughing, remembering some of the great stars and asking for more. This show has it all, including playful impressions of famous performers, artful

See CULTURAL CENTER, page 2B

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CULTURAL CENTER, from page 1B

storytelling and songs ranging from sentimental to zany. Tickets are \$22.50.

Jane Monheit will perform Thursday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. Monheit has firmly established herself as one of the post-millennial jazz world's foremost vocalists. She has been a featured performer in the nationally televised "Christmas at the White House" and has appeared on numerous television shows including "David Letterman,"

"The View," "The Today Show" and "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." Tickets start at \$34.50. Add \$5 to the price for tickets purchased at the door. Jim Stafford will perform Friday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m. Stafford is a world-renowned comedian and classical guitar player. He has made 26 appearances on "The Tonight Show," was a performer and writer for the "Smothers Brothers Show" and even hosted his own TV show on ABC network. He performs regularly at the most talked-about show in Branson, Mo. - but now Tampa Bay area residents can see him here in Largo.

Stafford's hits include "Spiders and Snakes," "Wildwood Weed" and "My Girl Bill." Tickets start at \$24.50. Add \$5 to the price for tickets purchased at the door.

The New Shanghai Circus will take the stage Saturday, Feb. 16, for two shows: 3 and 8 p.m.

The circus will feature astonishing athletes stretching the limits of human ability in this spellbinding show. Fearless performers with boundless energy will defy gravity and execute breathtaking feats while bringing audiences more than two thousand years of Chinese circus traditions.

If it's humanly possible, and even if it's not, Shanghai's acrobats, jugglers and contortionists do it with spectacular flair. These acrobats have earned a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records for their amazing feats of jar-juggling, plate-spinning, hoop-diving and aerial ballet.

Tickets start at \$24.50. Add \$5 to the price for tickets purchased at the door.

For tickets and information, call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Largo Cultural Center is at 105 Central Park Drive, Largo.

Read about upcoming entertainment and live music events throughout Pinellas County by visiting www.TBNweekly.com. Look for links to the online calendars in the left column.

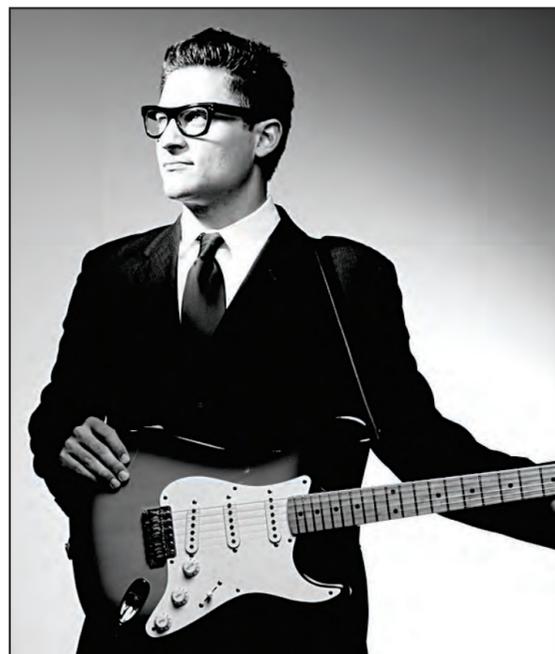


Photo courtesy of BILLY MCGUIGAN
Billy McGuigan stars as Buddy Holly in *Rave On! The Buddy Holly Tribute*, set for Feb. 10 at Largo Cultural Center.

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Crossword

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	
13						14				15		16		
17					18							19		
20							21				22			
			23			24			25					
26	27	28		29			30		31				32	
33			34		35			36		37			38	
39				40		41				42				
43						44			45		46			
	47				48		49			50		51		
			52					53			54			
		55				56	57		58			59	60	61
62				63				64						
65				66						67				
68					69						70			

Across

- "Naughty you!"
- Shiny on top?
- ___ test for identification (acronym)
- Atlas, e.g. (hyphenated)
- Happening
- Carbonium, e.g.
- Upkeep
- Chester White's home
- Doctor's ___
- To go back over again
- Fill
- Sundae topper, perhaps
- Bauxite, e.g.
- Bombard
- Incurred (2 wds)
- Airhead
- Pink, as a steak
- Optician's rouge
- Doesn't ignore
- Oolong, for one
- Bridge positions
- Military slang for exploration of an area
- "___ of Eden"
- Actor Green of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"
- Defeat decisively
- Get misty-eyed
- "Come to think of it ..."
- Aggravate
- Willingly
- Dispute
- Wrestling hold
- Came in first
- Having retrospective effect (law, 3 wds)
- "Aladdin" prince
- Hotel offering
- Daughter of Mnemosyne
- Amniotic ___
- Hasenpfeffer, e.g.
- Botherer

Down

- Jerk
- Try, as a case
- During
- Bison features
- Bag
- Blackout
- Way, way off
- "The ___ Ranger"
- Treat
- Verbal exchanges
- Do, for example (music)
- "___ calls?"
- Patio
- Banana oil, e.g.
- Lover of Dido, in myth
- Carry away, in a way
- Aroma
- Court wear
- ___ devices, e.g., TVs, radios and computers
- Milk-Bone biscuit, e.g.
- Brightly colored perching birds
- Wealthy, powerful businessman
- Artist's stand
- Far from ruddy
- Jews and Arabs
- Corrupt
- A combination of interlaced parts
- Reduced sail size
- Danger signal
- Pepsi, e.g.
- Fast-moving card game
- ___ bag
- Ponzi scheme, e.g.
- "Beetle Bailey" dog
- "High" time
- Functioned as
- Clinch, with "up"

Sudoku

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

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

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

Crossword answers from last week

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72

Horoscopes

January 31, 2013

Capricorn

December 22 - January 19
Come on, Capricorn. This is not the time to quit. You're too close to give up on a goal now. Look to another for the motivation you seek.

Aquarius

January 20 - February 18
A relative makes an amazing recovery, and it's up to you to get the word out, Aquarius. A party could be in order. Magical moments at work put you on cloud nine.

Pisces

February 19 - March 20
Relax, Pisces. Resources are not as scarce as they seem. Someone has been holding out on you at work—and for good reason. Listen before you act.

Aries

March 21 - April 19
Phooey, Aries. You are making a mountain out of a molehill. Stop with the melodrama and focus on what is really bothering you. The fix is easy.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20
Home improvement projects top the list, but lucky for you, Taurus, help is on the way. Travel plans get under way, and the deals abound.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21
Gentle Gemini. You don't like to make a fuss at home, but you have no choice. Your pleas for help will continue to fall on deaf ears if you don't.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22
Attention to detail is essential to success. Go over your work repeatedly to ensure all is as it should be, Cancer. Someone in authority is watching

Leo

July 23 - August 22
Ooh-la-la, Leo. Sparks fly at home with a gift, and magical times ensue. A kid-friendly project breaks the ice at a meeting and gets the creative juices flowing.

Virgo

August 23 - September 22
Truly, Virgo. You are much more talented than you give yourself credit for. Believe in yourself and reach for the stars. A furry addition perks up spirits at home.

Libra

September 23 - October 22
Nothing is a lost cause, Libra, not even that young friend you're ready to give up on. Look, learn and listen, and when the time comes, you will have the right words.

Scorpio

October 23 - November 21
Stupendous, Scorpio. There is no other way to describe your work ethic this week. You will attack every task with zeal, and it will pay off big.

Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21
The budget cruncher is over, Sagittarius. Celebrate with a night on the town. A minor change in attitude at work brings a project to completion.

Opening this weekend

'Bullet to the Head' stars Sylvester Stallone, Sung Kang; a zombie falls in love in 'Warm Bodies'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'Bullet to the Head'

Genre: Action and thriller
 Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Sung Kang, Sarah Shahi, Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje, Christian Slater, and Holt McCallany
 Director: Walter Hill
 Rated: R
 Sylvester Stallone stars as Jimmy Bobo, a career hitman who enters into an unlikely alliance with by-the-book detective Taylor Kwon to bring down the ruthless killer of their respective partners.

'Warm Bodies'

Genre: Horror and romance
 Cast: Nicholas Hoult, Teresa Palmer, Rob Corddry, John Malkovich, Analeigh Tipton, Dave Franco and Cory Hardrict
 Director: Jonathan Levine
 Rated: PG-13
 A funny new twist on a classic love story, "Warm Bodies" is a poignant tale about the power of human connection. After a zombie epidemic, R - a highly unusual zombie - encounters Julie - a human survivor - and rescues her from a zombie attack. Julie sees that R is different from the other zombies, and as the two form a special relationship in their struggle for survival, R becomes increasingly more human - setting off an exciting, romantic, and often comical chain of events that begins to transform the other zombies and maybe even the whole lifeless world.

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

'The Gatekeepers'

Genre: Documentary
 Director: Dror Moreh
 Rated: PG-13
 Charged with overseeing Israel's war on terror - both Palestinian and Jewish - the head of the Shin Bet, Israel's secret service is present at the crossroad of every decision made. For the first time ever, six former heads of the agency agreed to share their insights and reflect publicly on their actions and decisions. "The Gatekeepers" offers an exclusive account of the sum of their success and failures. It validates the reasons that each man individually and the six as a group came to reconsider their hardline positions and advocate a conciliatory approach toward their enemies based on a two-state solution.

'The Haunting in Connecticut 2: Ghosts of Georgia'

Genre: Horror
 Cast: Chad Michael Murray, Abigail Spencer, Katee Sackhoff, Emily Alyn Lind and Cicely Tyson
 Director: Tom Elkins
 Rated: R
 A young family is tormented by the horrors of the past in "The Haunting in Connecticut 2: Ghosts of Georgia," a chilling new film based on a true story from Lionsgate and Gold Circle Films. Building on the terror of The Haunting in Connecticut, this horrifying tale traces a young family's nightmarish descent into a centuries-old Southern hell. When Andy Wyrick (Chad Michael Murray) moves his wife Lisa (Abigail Spencer) and daughter Heidi (Emily Alyn Lind) to a historic home in Georgia, they quickly discover they are not the house's only inhabitants. Joined by Lisa's free-spirited sister, Joyce (Katee Sackhoff), the family soon comes face-to-face with a bone-chilling mystery born of a deranged desire ... a haunting secret rising from underground and threatening to bring down anyone in its path.



Photo by FRANK MASI



Photo by JONATHAN WENK



Photo by SAEED ADYANI

'Stand Up Guys'

Genre: Action and comedy
 Cast: Al Pacino, Christopher Walken, Alan Arkin, Julianna Margulies, Vanessa Ferlito and Mark Margolis
 Director: Fisher Stevens
 Rated: R
 "Stand Up Guys" stars Academy Award winners Al Pacino, Christopher Walken and Alan Arkin in a tough but touching action comedy as retired gangsters who reunite for one epic last night. Val (Pacino) is released from prison after serving twenty-eight years for refusing to give up one of his close criminal associates. His best friend Doc (Walken) is there to pick him up, and the two soon reteam with another old pal, Hirsch (Arkin). Their bond is as strong as ever, and the three reflect on freedom lost and gained, loyalties ebbed and flowed, and days of glory gone by. And despite their age, their capacity for mayhem is still very much alive and well - bullets fly as they make a hilariously valiant effort to compensate for the decades of crime,

drugs and sex they've missed. But one of the friends is keeping a dangerous secret - he's been put in an impossible quandary by a former mob boss, and his time to find an acceptable alternative is running out. As the sun rises on the guys' legendary reunion, their position becomes more and more desperate and they finally confront their past once and for all.

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

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Miniature Art Society presents annual exhibit at Leepa-Rattner

TARPON SPRINGS – The Miniature Art Society of Florida is presenting its annual Miniature Exhibition through Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art, 600 Klosterman Road.

The show features a spectacular display of miniatures, including paintings, scrimshaw, fired porcelain and sculpture. The exhibit boasts works created by some of the world's finest miniature artists. With few exceptions, all of the art is for sale.

Approximately 800 works of art are on display from

204 artists, in addition to the society's permanent collection of more than 100 miniatures. Also on display will be the Miniature Artist's of America Traveling Exhibit. The artwork is well lighted and magnifying glasses are available for the complete enjoyment of the small treasures. Most of the artists create under magnification, using a variety of mediums and methods

and the tiniest of brushes for paintings. Entries from 31 states and 10 countries provide a wonderful diversity of subject matter and framing techniques. Of the approximate 900 works of art submitted for entry in the show, a jury of award-winning

miniaturists has carefully selected only the very finest for display.

Visitors have an opportunity to talk to and observe artists while they work. These artists are willing to demonstrate their techniques, whether oil painting or scrimshaw, pencil drawings or fired porcelain. Demonstrators will be from England, Canada, many U.S. states and local Florida artists.

The distinguished judge for the show is award-winning miniature artist Kay Petryszak of Largo.

Petryszak is a consistent lecturer on miniature art for schools, museums, and various organizations. She also has been a judge for many miniature shows in the United States and Australia.

"Technology may be taking over the world, but an exquisite original work of miniature art still has to be created by hand," Petryszak said in a press release. "The talent, imagination, skill and patience of these artists continue to produce amazing and breathtaking gems. Bouquets to the MASF for always encouraging artists to raise the bar of excellence on their works."

This year's award winners are:

- Best of Show – "A Woman's Touch," by Luann Houser, Aurora, Ind.
- Judge's Second Choice – "The Royal Fluorologist," by

William Mundy, Oxfordshire, U.K.

- Excellence in All Entries – "Venetian Carnival," by Irina Kouznetsova, Quebec, Canada
- Best Work by a First-time Entrant – "Krzysztof," by Ewa Buksa-Klinowska, Warsaw, Poland
- Best Work by a Young Artist – "A Call from London," by Anastasia Baranoff, Murietta, Calif.
- Best Cat Award – "Nala," by Brenda Morgan, Dardanelle, Ark.

• Work selected for the MASF Permanent Collection – "A Woman's Touch," by Luann Houser, Aurora, Ind. The Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and free for children and students with identification. Admission also is free for members of the museum and members of the Miniature Art Society of Florida.

For information, call 712-5762 or visit www.spcollege.edu/museum.



Images courtesy of THE MINIATURE ART SOCIETY OF FLORIDA
"Nala," by Brenda Morgan



"Dame Maggie Smith as Duchess of Grantham," by Pauline Denyer



"Sun Bathers," by Linda Rossin



"Jeweled Hibiscus," by Anne G. Langan

STRINGS, from page 1B

Zealand, and Australia.

The band's most recent CD, "Cambria," is the globe, the MG3 settled down in Montreal last spring to record their fourth CD, Cambria. The product of a long period of musical introspection and the trio's most accomplished and personal work yet.

CGT+MG3

Inspired in 2009 by an impromptu studio session together in Montreal, CGT and MG3 released a live recording in 2011. Their combined talents have led to showcases at numerous arts presenter conferences and an extended co-bill tour throughout North America. Already, the CGT+MG3 fusion has appeared at the Iridium in New York City, the Montreal Jazz Festival and the Napa Valley Opera House.

This week's other top diversions:

• **The Florida Orchestra: Video Games Live;** Friday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m., at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$40. Call 800-874-9020 or 893-7832 or visit www.themahaffey.com or www.floridaorchestra.org. Featuring music from such popular video games as "Mario," "Zelda," "Final Fantasy," "Halo" and "Warcraft." The Florida Orchestra and the USF Chamber Singers will join forces in a performance setting of synchronized video footage and rock-concert lighting, along with well known internet solo performers, electronic percussion and unique interactive video game segments for gamers in the audience. Its creator, producer and world-renowned game industry veteran Tommy Tallarico host the concert.

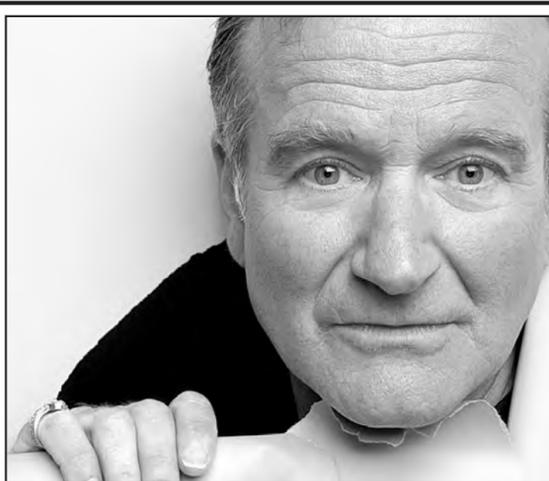


Photo courtesy of RUTH ECKERD HALL

Ruth Eckerd Hall welcomes Robin Williams Feb. 1.

• **Robin Williams and David Steinberg,** Friday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$59. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. An Academy Award-winning actor and multiple Grammy Award-winning performer, Williams is unparalleled in the scope of his imagination and continues to add to his repertoire of indelible characters. Well known for his free-associative monologues and for pointing out life's absurdi-

ties through his astute social and political observations, Williams performed 90 shows in 65 cities before 300,000 fans over the course of his most recent stand-up tour. It was in 1978 when Williams first captured the attention of the world as Mork from Ork on the hit television series "Mork & Mindy," which ran on ABC for four seasons. He then made his cinematic debut in 1980 when he starred as the title character in Robert Altman's "Popeye." His additional film credits include "The World According to Garp," "Moscow on the Hudson," "Good Morning Vietnam," "Dead Poets Society," "The Fisher King, Hook," "Mrs. Doubtfire," "Jumanji," "The Birdcage," "Good Will Hunting," "Patch Adams" and "Night at the Museum." Williams will be appearing along with David Steinberg for an evening of laughs.

• **Willie Nelson,** Saturday, Feb. 2, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$48.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. A living legend, this iconic Texan is the creative genius behind historic recordings like "Crazy," "Hello Walls," "Red Headed Stranger" and "Stardust." Nelson's career has spanned six decades. His catalog boasts more than 200 albums. He's earned every conceivable award and honor to be bestowed on a person in his profession. He has also amassed reputable credentials as an author, actor and activist. Nelson tours tirelessly, climbing aboard Honeysuckle Rose III (he rode his first two buses into the ground), taking his music and fans on a seemingly endless journey to places that were well worth the ride.

• **Arlo Guthrie,** Saturday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$55. Call 791-7400 or visit www.attheat.com. Arlo brings audiences humor, hope and inspiration, celebrating his famous father, Woody Guthrie, in song. The legendary singer-songwriter, storyteller, social commentator and humanitarian offers a special celebration of his father's 100th birthday and immeasurable contributions to American folk music with his Here Comes The Kid Tour. Woody's legacy can be seen in Arlo's humor, political and social activism and gift for storytelling.

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Southern-fried fun

West Coast Players serves up a succulent, side-slitting comedy: 'Red Velvet Cake War'

Sweetgum, Texas serves as the setting for the Jones-Hope-Wooten comedy "The Red Velvet Cake War" - and it's a sure bet that regionalism and local color provide a primary ingredient in this comical concoction.

"The Red Velvet Cake War," by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten, runs through Sunday, Feb. 3, at West Coast Players Theatre, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Tickets are \$16. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m.



Curtain Call
Lee Clark Zumpe

Due to popular demand, the theater has added an extra performance, set for Saturday, Feb. 9, 2 p.m.

It's no surprise audiences have relished this deliciously droll production: West Coast Players has taken a recipe for Southern-fried fun and perfected it, bringing to the stage a zany assortment of consummately rendered characters. Directed by Ashlie Ann Johnson, current vice president of West Coast Players Theatre, "The Red Velvet Cake War" is far more than slapstick and rapid-fire one-liners. Johnson and her able cast have managed to get at the very heart of the play's idiosyncratic characters.

The story revolves around the Verdeen family, and, in particular, the three Verdeen cousins, Gaynelle, Peaches and Jimmie Wyvette. As the play opens, the audience learns Gaynelle is the center of attention in Sweetgum, having "accidentally" driven her minivan through the bedroom wall of her ex-husband's girlfriend's doublewide. With gossip swirling, the self-righteous, self-appointed matriarch of the Verdeen clan, Aunt LaMerle, decides to cancel the annual family reunion. In fact, LaMerle seizes upon the situation to go on a crusade against members of the family she sees as inferior: namely, Gaynelle, recently incarcerated and soon-to-be evaluated by a psychologist; Peaches, a saucy firebrand who works as a mortuary cosmetologist; and Jimmie Wyvette, the rough-around-the-edges store manager of Whatley's Western Wear.

But the three Verdeen cousins have their own plan: They decide to host the family reunion themselves, to restore Gaynelle's confidence and to humiliate LaMerle. When LaMerle discovers their intentions, a high-stakes bet is made involving who can make the tastiest red velvet cake ... and if Gaynelle loses, her house goes to LaMerle.

Set in the middle of Texas tornado season, the action quickly spins out of control as the fast-paced plot speeds toward the hysterical showdown.

Janice Creneti stars Gaynelle Verdeen Bodeen. Creneti is a talented area actress who has appeared on stage at West Coast Players on several occasions, including an award-winning turn as Leona in "Small Craft Warnings." As Gaynelle, she captures the heartache, frustration and fury of a woman scorned without sacrificing the character's core congeniality. It's easy for the audience to empathize with Creneti's Gaynelle - and it's easy to laugh with her as she struggles to get back on her feet.

Cherie Albury plays Peaches Verdeen Belrose who's dealing with her own frustrations: Peaches' trucker husband has been missing for years, leaving her with unfulfilled needs. Albury is delightfully shameless as Peaches finds the time to lust after a one-eyed delivery man in the midst of the madness.

Lisa O'Brien practically steals the show. O'Brien, portraying tomboyish Jimmie Wyvette Verdeen, is about as spot-on as it gets. O'Brien has excellent comic timing, a strong stage presence, humorous



Photos courtesy of WEST COAST PLAYERS
Top left, Colleen Coughenour, left, stars as Cee Cee Windham and Janice Creneti as Gaynelle Verdeen Bodeen in the West Coast Players Theatre production of "The Red Velvet Cake War." Above, Rick Bronson stars as Sheriff Grover Lout. Below, Lisa O'Brien stars as Jimmie Wyvette Verdeen. At left, John Kobasic stars as Aubrey Verdeen and Patricia Bates Smith as LaMerle Verdeen Minshew.



physicality and faultless facial expressions. In a show that boasts many gifted actors, O'Brien still manages to mesmerize the audience in nearly every scene in which she appears.

Patricia Bates Smith has imbued LaMerle Verdeen Minshew with a perfect blend of vanity and despotism. Beneath the thin veneer of Southern charm, Smith conceals the rattlesnake that is LaMerle - and the audience senses that her venom is lethal.

Many other actors turn in great performances in this production of "The Red Velvet Cake War," including Donna Donnelly as Elsa Dowdall, John Kobasic as Aubrey Verdeen and Jessica Burchfield as Bitsy Hargis. John Timberlake portrays the one-eyed deliveryman Newt Blaylock, whose glass eye ends up in the oddest places throughout the show. Mabel LaCola, who has worked behind the scenes for years at West Coast Players, takes to the stage as Mama Doll Hargis. Colleen Coughenour, a drama

teacher at Lakewood High School, plays Cee Cee Windham, host of the Texas community television show "Hospitality House." Rick Bronson's physical comedy in two roles had audience members laughing uncontrollably. Bronson plays both Purvis Verdeen, a wonderfully weird death-obsessed relative; as well as the highly-strung sheriff of Sweetgum, Grover Lout.

"It can be said that nobody laughs as hard, fights as viciously or loves as deeply as a family," Johnson wrote in her notes from the director. "While the hi-

larious antics will tickle your funny bone and leave you rolling in the aisles, I know you also will find that the loving bonds of this family also tug at your heartstrings."

The West Coast Players Theatre production of "The Red Velvet Cake War" lives up to that promise, introducing audiences to a dysfunctional Southern family filled with eccentric characters skillfully depicted by an ensemble cast.

For information and tickets, call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.com.

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Ruth Eckerd Hall announces February entertainment lineup

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

CLEARWATER – Robin Williams, Frankie Valli and the Steve Miller Band are among performers scheduled to appear in February at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater.

For information about or to purchase tickets for upcoming performances, call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com.

Kicking off the month will be Robin Williams, taking the stage Friday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$59.

In a rare Tampa Bay appearance, Williams will undoubtedly bring along his repertoire of indelible characters. Well known for his free-associative monologues and for pointing out life's absurdities through his astute social and political observations, Williams performed 90 shows in 65 cities before 300,000 fans over the course of his most recent stand-up tour.

Born in Chicago and raised in both Michigan and California, Williams trained at New York's Juilliard School under John Houseman. It was in 1978 when Williams first captured the attention of the world as Mork from Ork on the hit television series, "Mork & Mindy," which ran on ABC for four seasons.

Williams will be appearing along with David Steinberg for an evening of laughs at Ruth Eckerd Hall.

For the first time since his sold-out show in 2011, Willie Nelson will perform in concert Saturday, Feb. 2, 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$48.50.

The iconic Texan is the creative genius behind historic recordings like "Crazy," "Hello Walls," "Red Headed Stranger" and "Stardust." His career has spanned six decades and his catalog boasts more than 200 albums. He's earned every conceivable award and honor to be bestowed on a person in his profession and he also has amassed reputable credentials as an author, actor and activist.

Special guest Lukas Nelson will open the show.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra will play Monday, Feb. 4, 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$18.

An annual favorite, this 16-piece orchestra continues to pack venues across the country. The talented troupe remains true to the legacy of the band that broke attendance records up and down the East Coast and had 31 Top 10 hits in 1940.

Next, the Lowe Family will take the stage Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$18.

Direct from sellouts in Branson, Mo., this multi-talented family finally comes to Ruth Eckerd Hall for the first time, offering an incredible blend of show-stopping classical, Broadway, Irish, jazz, bluegrass, old-time favorites, spectacular dance, six-part harmony, gospel and more.

The Florida Orchestra will bring its War of the Romantics program to Ruth Eckerd Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 10 a.m. Tickets start at \$24.

Part of the Coffee Concerts series, the program will feature Wagner's Ride of the Valkyries, Liszt's Les Preludes and Schumann's Manfred Overture, among other works. Teddy Abrams conducts this morning concert, with complimentary coffee and doughnuts served before the performance.

Koba Entertainment will present "Strawberry Shortcake: Follow Your Berry Own Beat" Friday, Feb. 8, 6 p.m. Tickets start at \$25.

This all-new musical production features the most spirited red-haired girl, Strawberry Shortcake. Strawberry Shortcake, and her best friends Orange Blossom, Lemon Meringue, Blueberry Muffin, Raspberry Torte, Plum Pudding and Cherry Jam, prove that little girls can do berry big things. This musical adventure takes the audience to the whimsical land of Berry Bitty City where the whole town is buzzing with anticipation for the Glitzy Glaze Talent Show. Follow Strawberry Shortcake and the rest of the girls as they each prepare for their moment in the spotlight.

Before the sweet berry girls hit the stage, attendees will sing and dance with The Doodlebops. Responding to calls from their legions of clamoring fans, Rooney, Moe and Dee Dee Doodle will take the stage in a live concert performance that gets their whole audience movin' and groovin'.

Next up, Ruth Eckerd Hall will welcome Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m.

Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990, just five years after its creation. With his remarkable baritone to falsetto voice, Valli has charted 71 hits including 40 in the Top 40, 19 in the Top 10 and eight that made it to No. 1. From his initial hit "Sherry" through "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" "Grease" and his resurgence following "Jersey Boys," he and the Four Seasons had sold more than 100



Photo courtesy of RCA RECORDS



Photo by DANNY CLINCH/EMI MUSIC



Photo courtesy of RUTH ECKERD HALL

Above, Tampa Bay area audiences have three opportunities to catch "A Chorus Line" at Ruth Eckerd Hall in February. Performances will be Tuesday, Feb. 26, 8 p.m.; and Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2 and 8 p.m. Top left, Daughtry performs on Feb. 23. Top right, Willie Nelson takes the stage Feb. 2.

million records even before the invention of CDs.

As part of its Pops Series, The Florida Orchestra will perform Broadway Now! on Sunday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$15.

It's a hit parade of songs from such best-loved Broadway shows as "Brigadoon," "The Phantom of the Opera," "West Side Story," "Jekyll & Hyde," "The Scarlet Pimpernel," "A Little Night Music," "Les Miserables," "Man of La Mancha," "Sweeney Todd" and "Jersey Boys." Victor Vanacore will conduct.

The Vienna Boys Choir will perform Monday, Feb. 11, 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$18.

The world's preeminent boys' choir will delight with purity of

tone, charm and a repertoire of Austrian folk songs, waltzes, classical masterpieces, beloved pop songs, holiday favorites and medieval chants.

The Steve Miller Band will take the stage Wednesday, Feb. 13, 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$49.50.

The current tour follows three of the most busy, productive years in the long career of Steve Miller, an artist at the peak of his powers. In 2010 came the release of "Bingo!", the band's 16th studio album and its first since 1993's "Wide River." Less than a year later, the band followed up with "Let Your Hair Down."

One of rock music's all-time greats, the Steve Miller Band has sold more than 30 million records in a career spanning more than 40 years. His trademark blues-rock sound made him one of the key artists in classic rock radio.

Multiple Grammy-winner and humanitarian Sheryl Crow will return to Ruth Eckerd Hall Thursday, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$49.

This will be Crow's first concert performance at Ruth Eckerd Hall since her sold-out show in April 2008. Free-spirited, fearless and fierce, the performer has garnered nine Grammy Awards, performed duets with musical luminaries such as Sting and Mick Jagger and released seven studio albums which sold more than 35 million records worldwide.

Crow's debut, the seven-times-platinum "Tuesday Night Music Club," hit No. 3 and earned three

Grammy Awards, including Best New Artist, Record of the Year and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for the classic "All I Wanna Do." The album also featured "Strong Enough," "Can't Cry Anymore" and "Leaving Las Vegas."

Back for the first time since 2006 with a rock symphony and laser light spectacular, Alan Parsons Live Project will perform Friday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$49.

It was Parsons' genius as a sound engineer for Pink Floyd's "Dark Side Of The Moon" that brought him to the attention of the music world, but he has gone on to enjoy success as a producer, songwriter and performer. With the Alan Parsons Project, popular songs include "Eye in the Sky," "Games People Play" and "Don't Answer Me."

Jim Brickman will perform Saturday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$40.

Audiences will enjoy an evening of dazzling piano, vibrant vocals and the warmth and humor that have people returning year after year.

Brickman – PBS superstar and the best-selling piano artist today – has revolutionized his genre with melodies such as "Valentine," "The Gift," "Love of My Life," "Simple Things" and "Peace" that reaffirm idealism and romanticism.

As part of the Adults at Leisure series, Hooray for Hollywood will be presented Sunday, Feb. 17, 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$25.

This troupe of 14 singers and

dancers will take the audience on a nostalgic journey through 50 years of the most popular movie musicals. The show features more than 30 songs and 300 costume changes along with movie clips and a red-hot band.

"In the Mood" will be presented Thursday, Feb. 21, 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$18.

The show is a celebration of big band rhythms and intimate ballads of the Swing Era, America's "greatest generation," and the music that moved a nation's spirit, inspired hope, and helped win a war.

Verdi's La Traviata also will be presented Thursday, Feb. 21, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$50.

Forbidden love is thwarted in Verdi's famous story set in 19th century Paris as Violetta Valery ends her affair to preserve the honor of her beloved Alfredo Germont. The opera will be presented in Italian with English superlites.

Joshua Bell will perform Friday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$50.

With breathtaking virtuosity and rare sweetness of tone, Bell dazzles audiences with his artistry and enthusiasm. French Impressionists is the latest of this Grammy winner's many CDs. The classical music superstar's exciting program includes works of Schubert, Strauss, Dvorak and Prokofiev.

Daughtry and 3 Doors Down will perform Saturday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$52.50.

See ECKERD, page 10B

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1. House Sales

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10. Waterfront Sales

HARBOR BLUFFS, 4BR/3BA, Waterfront, Pool & Dock, \$825,000. Kerry Ellison, Coastal Properties Group, (727)408-4888.

HARBOR BLUFFS, 5BR/5.5BA Mediterranean Inspired Waterfront Estate. Protected Deep Water Location With Two Boat Lifts. Visit www.HarborBluffsWaterfront.com \$2,485,000. Kerry Ellison, Coastal Properties Group, (727)408-4888.

15. Beach Property

SAND KEY, Bayside Gardens IV, 1BR/1.5BA Condo, Ground Level. Recent updates/ upgrades, \$195,000. John Doran Realty (727)447-9579.

20. Condo Sales

Belleair Bluffs, WATERFRONT CONDO, Dramatically Reduced. Million Dollar View! NOT 55+ Building. Beautiful Spacious 2BR/2BA, Private Garage, Walk-in Closets. Great Value \$189,000. Contact Cindy Kisida Keller Williams Gulfside (727)466-7344.

DAN'S ISLAND, 2BR/2BA Almost 1,900SF, Marina View Pets OK, Clubhouse. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton (727)644-0400.

HARBOR CLUB, BELLEAIR BLUFFS, 1BR/2BA, Intracoastal Water View, 55+, 1,050SF, Wood/Carpet/Tile. Heated Pool, Furnished, Petless. \$124,900. Call (727)460-5350.

HARBOR GREENS, SEMINOLE 2BR/2BA, Golf Course View, 55+, 1,200SF, Heated Pool. Furnished, NICE! Small Pet Okay. \$105,000. Oakhurst Realty, (727)397-6656.

LAKEVIEW OF LARGO SOUTH UPDATES Great Condos Available

2BR/2BA, 1st Floor Unit, Eat-in Kitchen, Step-in Shower, Covered Parking. **\$82,900**

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20. Condo Sales

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SEMINOLE GARDENS BUY WHILE PRICES ARE AT AN ALL-TIME LOW! BEAUTIFUL 56-ACRE COMPLEX

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TWO LARGO VILLAS, 2BR/2BA, Heated Pool, Extra Storage. 1-All Ages, \$64,900.

1-55+, Water & Golf Course View, Bonus Room, \$67,900 Peg Decker, C.L.S., (727)459-2598.

25. Townhouse Sales



Best View, Best Location, Best Condition!

Tara Cay, South Village, 3BR/4BA +bonus room/4th bedroom. End unit, 2,174SF. Pristine condition throughout. Balconies on the 2nd and 3rd floors, 1st floor porch/sun deck, on canal w/access to the Intracoastal, community boat docks and pool. Newer A/C, updated appliances, tankless water heater, wood softener, central vac, wood-burning fireplace w/circulation fan and granite hearth.

Reduced: **\$249,000.** Sophie Anastasio, Keller Williams Gulfside, (727)244-8338 or email Sophie@KW.com. View property/photos at www.sophie1.com



2BR/2BA/1CG, 1,600SF, 55+. On Boca Ciega Point Chip & Putt Course. \$175,000. Ginny Leeds, Realty Concepts, (727)798-5484.

35. Mobile Home Sales

Come Home To GLENWOOD ESTATES 5 STAR, LAND-OWNED, 55+ PARK. All 2-3BR/2BA/2CP. \$175/Mo. Maintenance. Amenities include a heated pool, a catch-and-release fishing pond, shuffleboard & horseshoes. Dusk To Dawn Security. Brochures Available at Community Building, 12501 Ulmerton Rd, Largo. PLEASE CALL TO VIEW! IMapp Realty Group, John Dops, 727-510-3331

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5. Real Estate Sales

95. Property Management

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155. Furnished Condos

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Imperial Point, MOVE IN NOW! 1BR/1BA, 2nd floor, south exposure. Bldg #4. Full sun porch, 2 pools, Tennis courts, 46" Samsung TV. \$1,200/Mo Seasonal; \$800/month, Annual. Lease option to buy, with credit towards purchase. \$62,500K. (727)595-6437.

LARGO, CLOSE TO BEACH 1BR, 55+. Completely Updated. Pool, Clubhouse, Laundry, Non-smoking, \$695/Mo. (727)709-1156, (914)841-6490.

LARGO: PENTHOUSE GREENS, 2BR/2BA, W/D. \$850/Month. Annual. Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD, 2BR/2BA, 55+, 2nd Floor, Partially Furnished. Annual. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton (727)644-0400.

SEMINOLE, 55+, 2BR/2BA, Completely Updated, Hardwood Floors, Beautifully Furnished, Pool, Clubhouse, Laundry, \$850/Month, Includes Water, Trash. (847)208-6890.

SEMINOLE, 55+, 1BR/1BA WITH Den. Gated Community, Awesome Clubhouse. All Utilities Paid, 12 Month Lease With First Month FREE. \$780/Month. Jeff, (727)423-7712.

160. Unfurnished Condos

BELLEAIR BLUFFS, 1BR/1BA, Close to Shopping/ Water, Pool, Clean. \$650/Month. 2525 West Bay Drive. (727)458-6775.

2BR/2BA, AWESOME WATER View. Secure Bellevue Biltmore Villa, 1,630SF, Petless, \$1500/Mo. Coldwell Banker, Brigitte, (727)641-2192.

DUNEDIN BEACH, 2BR/1BA, Royal Stewart Arms, Elgin Bldg, #105. 55+, First Floor, Pool, Tennis, Exercise Room, \$800/Month. (727)685-4772.

PINELLAS PARK, VENDOME Village, 55+. Lovely 1BR/1.5BA/1CG Villa, LR, DR, Den, Includes Cable, W/S/T, Rec Center, Pool. \$700/Mo. (703)938-2004.

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SEMINOLE, 2BR/2BA, Laundry Room With W/D, Eat-in Kitchen, Balcony. Includes. Cable/Water, Pool, Dock, 1st/Last/Security. \$925/Month. (727)686-1604

160. Unfurnished Condos

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170. Furn. Apartments

MADEIRA BEACH: 1BRs & Efficiencys. Fully Equipped. Weekly. No Pets. Includes Utilities. (727)397-4130.

175. Unfurn. Apartments

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BELLEAIR GREENS APTS. 2BR/2BA units on Biltmore Golf Course. Newly renovated. Across from police, rec center. (727)365-6821.

LARGO, 215 11TH ST SW, 2BR, Duplex, C/H/A, Nice Condition, Laundry/ Utility Room, Smoke Free, Credit Check, \$675/Month, (727)584-6283.

DELUXE 1BR, 1,012sf, \$625/Mo. Seminole Gardens, 55+, New AC, Appliances, 13'x22.6' Bedroom, Walk-In Closet, Large Screened Porch. Immaculate! Petless. (727)743-3589.

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DUNEDIN'S Best Kept Secret! 1-2BR, \$299 move-in special. Pet Friendly, Sparkling pool. Logarto Apts. (727)733-0423.

LARGO: VERY CLOSE TO Transportation, Shopping, Hospital. 1BR/1BA, \$600/month, 2BR/1BA, \$650/month, 2BR/2BA, \$700/month. (727)280-6001.

MOVE IN SPECIAL

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

SMALL STUDIO, LARGO, 848 3rd Ave. NW, Remodeled. Petless. \$575/month, includes utilities, +\$250 security. (727)768-1143.

S.W. LARGO: LG. 1BR/1BA, \$500/Month. Quiet. Laundry on Premises. Petless. \$400 security. Yearly lease. (727)595-2228. Last Month FREE!

185. Beach Rentals

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH Cozy, Clean, Furnished Cottages. Available Feb. 1st. 1-2BRs starting at: \$595/week +tax (February, March) Steps to Gulf Beach. Pet Friendly. (727)595-8013. www.SunshineCozyCottages.com.

FURNISHED/ UNFURNISHED 1-5 Bedrooms Condos, Houses, Duplexes Weekly/ Monthly/ Annual Bob Schmidt, (727)580-9797 Tropical Isles Realty, Inc. (727)593-0744, (800)655-0744

245. Room For Rent

SAFE, CLEAN, QUIET. Fully Furnished. Utilities, Cable Included. Deposit, References, ID Required. From \$140/Week. (727)547-1199.

SEMINOLE, Heartbreak House, Quiet, Furnished, Share house, Pool, Cable W/D, No smoking/Illegal drugs. \$120/Week and up. Utilities Included. B.G.C. (727)331-3935.

265. Commercial Rentals

BELCHER RD. S. OF EAST Bay, Professional Office Condo, 1,500 SF, \$1,400/Mo, End Unit. (727)530-3535

NEWLY RENOVATED, TWO offices/ connecting door. Includes shared signage, parking lot, lobby, kitchen, restrooms and server/ phone room. \$750 plus electric. John (727)631-5900.

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305. Fun Things To Do

ACADEMY OF GENETIC SCIENCES PRESENTS Its Second Public Gala The Balanced Body Everyone is invited to a fun and informative evening, 02/06/13, from 6-8pm, at Suncoast Ballroom, 7500 Ulmerton Road, Rosetree Plaza, Largo. A mini presentation on the Balanced Body from Kate Busby, a Tapas, Dancing, Admission \$55. Reservations suggested (727)535-1893. For more info contact kate@ags168.com

190. Waterfront Rentals

ISLAND ESTATES 2BR/2BA Condo in 2/Story Building. Laundry and Dock on premises. \$950/Month. Annual Lease. Vangie (727)501-3268, Pappas Realty & Mgmt

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- 970-980 Estate, Garage, Yard, Moving Sales
- Professional Services Directory

190. Waterfront Rentals

SAND KEY EXCEPTIONAL Condominium Residence With Commanding WaterViews From Every Room. Large, 2,172SF, 2BR/2BA, Unfurnished, \$1,945/Monthly. (727)595-6656.

SEMINOLE, 2BR/2BA, POOL, W/D. Cable Included. Balcony, Great Water View. New Interior. Quiet. Elevators. \$950/Mo. (727)439-4739.

TREASURE ISLAND, 105 110th Ave. 2BR, Dock, Laundry, \$935/Mo. Walk To Beach. Credit Check. Pets OK. (727)367-9474.

195. Seasonal Rentals

SAND KEY Clearwater Beach. Furnished, Large 2BR/2BA Condo, Pool, Seasonal/ Annual. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton (727)644-0400.

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

210. M.H. Rentals

LARGO: NOT IN A MHP! Beautiful fenced lot. 1BR/2BA/CP, W/D hook-up, Petless. \$500/month +sec/ utilities. (727) 596-9515, (727)656-9071

NEAR BAY PINES VA & Madeira Beach, 1BR, \$555/Month +\$300 Security, Includes W/S/G, Cable. Pets OK. (727)393-1628.

215. Efficiency Rentals

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315. Personals

COMPANION WANTED Old-fashioned, good looking, healthy gentleman seeking a live-in lady companion on a 5/Acre Estate. If you are 50-65, active, like to garden and live in the country without financial obligations please contact, perinr55@aatt.net

345. Lost & Found

</

485. Help Wanted

P/T RESIDENT AIDES. Pinecrest Place, a premier retirement community, is seeking aides to provide daily care to our AL & Memory Care residents. We are looking for enthusiastic, energetic and caring people to become a part of our team. Part-time, various shifts. Must be available to work weekends and holidays. Candidates can apply in person at 1150 8th Ave. SW, Largo, or fax resume to M. Kristall at (727)581-8409. EOE, DFWP.

485. Help Wanted

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525. Medical Help

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640. Furniture

585. Auctions

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505. Part-time Help

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Capitol Theatre announces busy February show schedule

CLEARWATER – Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes, Richard Marx and Leon Redbone are among performers scheduled to appear in February at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St.

For information about or to purchase tickets for upcoming performances, call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com.

Starting off the February list of shows at Capitol Theatre, Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes will perform Friday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$39.

Bruce Springsteen, Steve Van Zandt, Garry Tallent and Jon Bon Jovi have all played with the Jukes. This band delivers the exuberant rhythm and blues feel that is the Jukes' trademark, the driving sound of the legendary Jukes horn section, and a guitar-oriented rock and roll feel — all with the joy of making music that has defined them for more than three decades.

Arlo Guthrie will perform Saturday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$55.

Arlo brings audiences humor, hope and inspiration, celebrating his famous father, Woody Guthrie, in song. Legendary singer-songwriter, storyteller, social commentator and humanitarian Arlo Guthrie offers a special celebration of his father's 100th birthday and immeasurable contributions to American folk music with his Here Comes The Kid Tour. Woody's legacy can be seen in Arlo's humor, political and social activism and gift for storytelling.

Rescheduled from the original Dec. 4 date, Richard Marx will return to Capitol Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$42.50.

For more than 20 years, Marx has consistently and powerfully made his mark on the music industry. His debut single "Don't Mean Nothing" and self-titled debut album kicked off his career as a solo artist in 1987 and went on to sell three million copies. His 1989 follow-up CD, "Repeat Offender," became even more successful, selling more than seven million copies worldwide. From 1987 to 1990, he became the first male solo artist in history to have his first seven singles reach the top five on Billboard's singles chart, including the No. 1 hit songs "Hold On to the Nights," "Satisfied" and the worldwide classic "Right Here Waiting."

Leon Redbone will perform Friday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$29.50.

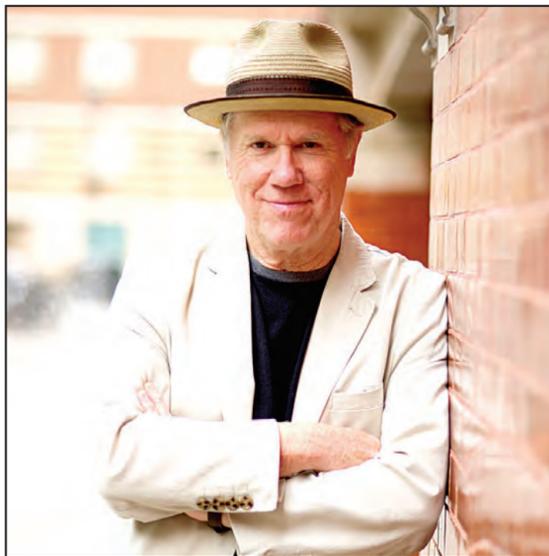
Although he has appeared in films and on TV, Redbone's main focus is to honor songs from the first half of the 20th century through live performances. Donning his signature white fedora, jacket and sunglasses, Redbone's delivery is intimate and low-key, but his mastery of the guitar is impressive as he offers finger-picking with a ragtime bounce or jumps between chords with the grace of a hurdler.

With a single guitar, thoroughly written songs, a fearless ability to mine the depths of human emotion, and a quick and wry wit, David Wilcox will hold his audience rapt on Saturday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

A songwriter's songwriter, with lyrical insight, a smooth baritone voice, virtuosic guitar chops and a range and tenderness rare in folk music, Wilcox delivers joy, inspiration and invention through his music and unmatched storytelling.

Next, Shaun Hopper and Adam Rafferty will play Friday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$25.

Hopper's repertoire is global in scope, crossing and combining musical genres on the fly. Moving thematically through his set, he takes his audience on a virtual tour from Celtic imagery and classical medley to soulful ballads and jazzy improvisations, all of which he'll counter punch with a Nashville "Hot Licks" session, fret-tapping original or '70s pop song. An unparalleled master of the fret-board, Hopper merges complex melodies, harmonies and bass lines along with a one-



Photos courtesy of RUTH ECKERD HALL
Above, country singer Travis Tritt takes the stage Feb. 19. At left, Capitol Theatre welcomes Loudon Wainwright III on Feb. 28.

of-a-kind mix of percussive elements, which simply captivates. Rafferty has played as a first-call guitarist with the greatest musicians on the planet at countless music festivals and in concert halls with Dr. Lonnie Smith, The Dizzy Gillespie Big Band, L.A. studio legend Bennie Wallace, and bassist Bob Cranshaw from the original Saturday Night Live band, to name a few.

The following day, Tampa Bay audiences will have an opportunity to experience the next generation of Ireland's leading female performers as Women of Ireland take the stage Saturday, Feb. 16, 2 and 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$29.

These world champion dancers are some of Ireland's finest female performers. They will bring Irish and Celtic music to the Capitol Theatre. This energetic, compelling and innovative concert production shares Irish music, song and dance, and a wealth of Irish talent.

Next, Johnny Winter will perform Sunday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$39.50.

Winter has been ranked by "Rolling Stone" magazine as one of the greatest guitarists of all time. The Texas native and his band return to Clearwater with a performance at the Capitol Theatre.

Winter, the international ambassador for rocking Texas blues for the last 30 years, will bring audiences material from his 2011 release "Roots" while reacquainting them with his iconic guitar playing. His 2009 Grammy-nominated disc titled "I'm A Bluesman" adds to his Texas-sized reputation.

Later that week, Travis Tritt will take the stage on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$59.

The country singer will bring his latest acoustic tour to the Capitol Theatre. Special guest Aaron Parker will open the show.

Tritt was one of the leading new country singers of the early '90s, holding his own against Garth Brooks, Clint Black, and Alan Jackson. He was the only one not to wear a hat and the only one to dip into bluesy Southern rock. Consequently, he developed a gutsy, outlaw image that distinguished him from the pack. Throughout the early

'90s, he had a string of platinum albums and Top Ten singles, including three No. 1 hits.

Partway through 1989, Warner Brothers' Nashville division signed Tritt, and his debut album, "Country Club," appeared in stores in the spring of 1990. It was preceded by the Top Ten hit "Country Club." Upon the release of his debut album, Tritt entered the first ranks of new country singers. His next two singles, "Help Me Hold On" and "I'm Gonna Be Somebody," hit No. 1 and No. 2 respectively. "Put Some Drive in Your Country," which had a clear rock and roll influence, stalled at No. 4, since radio programmers were reluctant to feature such blatantly rock-derived music.

The Irish Rovers will put on two shows Saturday, Feb. 23, at 5 and 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$39.

When The Rovers are in town, it's always a rollicking good time. They return for their 14th visit, bringing their signature wit, a wink, and charm both ageless and irresistible. The Irish Rovers return with songs that have captivated and delighted audiences since 1963 — songs such as "Wasn't That A Party," "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer," "The Irish Rover," "Drunken Sailor," "A-Rovin'" and "The Unicorn."

The Family Film series continues with a screening of the 1984 fantasy film "The NeverEnding Story." Tickets are \$5.

A troubled boy — Bastian Balthazar Bux — dives into a wondrous fantasy world through the pages of a mysterious book.

Closing out the month at Capitol Theatre will be a performance by Loudon Wainwright III on Thursday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Wainwright wrote his first song, "Edgar," about a Watch Hill, R.I. lobsterman, and was soon signed to Atlantic Records by Nesuhi Ertegun. Several years later, Clive Davis lured him to Columbia Records, where 1972's "Album III" yielded the top 20 hit "Dead Skunk."

His recording career spans a total of 23 albums, including 2009's Grammy-winning "High Wide & Handsome," a musical tribute to Charlie Poole (1893-1931), the legendary, yet obscure North Carolina singer and banjo player.

CKERD, from page 6B

Multi-platinum band Daughtry has scored four No. 1 hits, garnered four Grammy nominations, won four American Music Awards, sold more than 7 million albums and played sold out concerts around the world in less than four years. Daughtry's self-titled debut was the fastest selling rock debut in Soundscan history and its follow up "Leave This Town" marked the quintet's second consecutive No. 1 album. Daughtry's latest album, "Break The Spell," was certified gold in four weeks, features new radio hit "Start of Something Good," the album builds on the band's reputation for melodic hooks and anthemic choruses while providing a powerful showcase for Chris Daughtry's emotionally resonant voice.

Since forming in 1995, Mississippi rock quintet 3 Doors Down has sold more than 16 million albums worldwide, garnered three Grammy nominations, two American Music Awards, and five BMI Pop Awards for songwriting, including BMI's coveted Songwriter of the

Year award. The band's debut album, 2000's "The Better Life," which is now certified six times platinum, featured the smash hit "Kryptonite." Their sophomore album, 2002's "Away from the Sun," saw similar success with its radio mainstays "When I'm Gone" and "Here Without You." Their subsequent efforts — 2005's platinum certified "Seventeen Days" and 2008's 3 Doors Down — debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 200 Chart.

Sandy Hackett's Rat Pack will bring the style, swing, swagger, and nonstop party of the original Rat Pack to Clearwater Sunday, Feb. 24, 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$18.

Recreating the sound of the original Rat Pack, the group will perform songs of the legendary Ron Miller, who wrote "For Once in My Life," "Yester-Me, Yester-You, Yesterday" and "Touch Me in the Morning." Additional voiceovers by Buddy Hackett make this show unforgettable.

As part of its Masterworks series, The Florida Orchestra will perform Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 on Sunday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets start at \$15.

Principal violist Ben Markwell will perform Jongen's Suite for Orchestra and Solo Viola with its gorgeous ethereal melodic lines and swelling lyrical harmonies in a night with Franck's dramatic tone poem Le chasseur maudit (The Accursed Huntsman) and Tchaikovsky's beloved Symphony No. 5. Rossen Milanov will conduct.

"A Chorus Line" comes to Ruth Eckerd's stage for three shows. Performances will be Tuesday, Feb. 26, 8 p.m.; and Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2 and 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$50.

In an empty theatre, casting for a new Broadway musical is almost complete. For 17 dancers, this audition is the chance of a lifetime. It's what they've worked for — with every drop of sweat, every hour of training. It's an opportunity to do what they've always dreamed of — dance.

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