

LARGO LEADER

Jazz vocalist Jane Monheit to perform at Largo Cultural Center

Cultural Center also will host an Interactive Beatles Experience Feb. 8 ... Page 1B.



LARGO



Runners in the 5K Play Dirty obstacle course push up the mud pit created in the Largo Central Park Nature Preserve Feb. 2. See page 3A.

Truck, Clown Day is this weekend

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., at Largo Central Park. ... Page 2B.

POLICE BEAT

Man jailed for attempted murder

Pinellas County sheriff's deputies arrested a Largo man Feb. 1 in connection with a shooting in the Coral Way neighborhood.



Trevon Griffin

Around 7:10 p.m. Friday, a deputy patrolling the Coral Way neighborhood heard what sounded like a gunshot, then a woman's scream for help. ... Page 6A.

BUSINESS



To celebrate the opening of a new outdoor dining patio, the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Village Inn. See page 9A.

SCHOOLS

Teachers earn Foundation grants

The Pinellas Education Foundation recently announced the teacher grant recipients for the 2012-13 Teach for Excellence Grant, WorkNet Career Grant, Achieva Credit Union Grant, and Progress Energy Grant. ... Page 12A.

VIEWPOINTS

Bob Driver

Party talk: what to do about guns. See Bob Driver's column. ... Page 11A.



Briarwood project restarted

Plans for apartment complex on Seminole Boulevard to be renegotiated

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - Largo city commissioners agreed Feb. 5 to the parameters of a renegotiated agreement with the current owners of the Briarwood RV Park, who want to develop the 13.8-acre property into a 260-unit apartment complex.

The property at 2098 Seminole Blvd. was annexed into the city in August, after the commission approved an annexation agreement that would cap development of the land at 19 units per acre, allowing the exact amount of apartments the owners intended. The com-

mission also approved in November a new land use designation for the property, termed "residential high," a change that had to be approved at the county level by the Pinellas Planning Council.

Residents of the nearby Coastal Ridge townhomes and Palm Hill Mobile Home Park have protested against the proposed complex at both the city and county level. The presentation to the commission Feb. 5 was not a public hearing, but Barry Chase, president of Coastal Ridge Homeowners Association, raised several concerns during general public comment.

Chase questioned whether the planned drainage

would be sufficient and whether the estimated traffic increase of 140 cars was a realistic projection for 260 apartments. The residents of the adjacent properties, who live in townhomes and mobile homes, have spoke out against the proposed height of the buildings as well.

"How would you ... like to have a four-story apartment building staring down at your backyard with your kids out there playing or your wife in the back?" Chase asked the commission.

However, Tom Morrisette, president of the Central

See BRIARWOOD, page 4A

Chinese New Year celebrated in Largo park

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - More than 2,000 people attended Tampa Bay's first Chinese New Year celebration in Largo Central Park Feb. 2, organized by Suncoast Association of Chinese Americans and the Chinese-American Association of Tampa Bay.

"It was considered very successful," said Jessica Tien, spokeswoman for the organizations.

"We received a lot of congratulation. A lot of praises."

The four-hour program featured the dragon and lion dances, folk dances, kung fu demonstrations and Chinese music as well as games, food and arts.

The Chinese New Year officially begins Sunday, Feb. 10. In Chinese tradition, 2013 is the year of the snake, which symbolizes wisdom and good business. People born in a year of the snake which happens every 12 years, are said to be intelligent, insightful and influential.

The year also marks the first time the local Chinese organizations tried to host an outdoor event.

The groups are already negotiating with Largo for use of the park next year, Tien said.

"We really love the venue," she added.



Students from the Tampa Chinese School perform a lion dance, above, and a dragon dance, at left, during the Chinese New Year celebration at Largo Central Park Feb. 2. For more photos, see page 4A.

Photos by JIM LAYFIELD

A simple message

Coach teaches kids about fitness, foods and fun

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - On the day after the Super Bowl, Brandon McIntosh had his work cut out for him.

The participants of the Fit Kids program, children and their parents alike, were slow to circle around their coach as they gathered on the Southwest Recreation Complex field Feb. 4.

"Raise your hand if you had a soda last night," McIntosh said, adding about chicken wings to the poll. "Raise your hand if you had over four pieces of pizza last night."

"I had three!" one child volunteered.

McIntosh, a recreation program supervisor for the city of Largo, started the class with

two minutes of running in place. But after only a few moments, he cut in.

"Stop, stop, stop. Guys, what's the deal today?" he asked, demanding better form from his sluggish and talkative class. "I want to see the knees up. Now you got three minutes. Ready?"

See FIT KIDS, page 4A



Largo recreation program supervisor and coach Brandon McIntosh, in the blue sneakers, leads the Fit Kids group on a run at Southwest Recreation Complex Feb. 4.

Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

County begins veterans services action plan

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County Administrator Bob LaSala presented a Veterans Services action plan Feb. 5.

The plan was presented at the end of an advertised work session on the budget forecast for the years 2014-2023.

The county came under fire at the Jan. 29 commission meeting when many veterans and veterans' advocates crowded the room to speak on inadequate staffing of the county's Veterans Services Unit and a lack of response to people needing assistance with claims.

Three of the five Veterans Services Officers positions are currently unfilled. Two new hires are expected to begin work within three weeks, but will need to be trained, tested and certified, which could take up to six months. The senior VSO position also is vacant. LaSala said staff expects to fill that position within 60 days.

The consensus from the Jan. 29 discussion was that two VSOs could not handle the need. LaSala was asked to take immediate steps to fix the situation.

He announced Feb. 5 that Hillsborough County was offering immediate assistance by providing a VSO three days a week. Another VSO provided by Florida Department of Veterans Affairs will begin work three days a week on Feb. 7. A retired former Health and Human Services VSO has agreed to volunteer 20 hours a week beginning Feb. 11 to help with the backlog of phone calls and assist walks-ins and veterans who schedule appointments. The VSO assigned to the St.

See VETERANS, page 4A

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City calendar

Largo Central Park

The Largo Central Park is at 101 Central Park Drive. Within the park are Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, and the Largo Public Library, at 120 Central Park Drive. For information about special events, call 587-6740, ext. 5014 or visit 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., at Largo Central Park.

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.

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., at 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.

Genealogy seminar

LARGO - The Pinellas Genealogy Society will present its annual all-day educational seminar and book sale at the Largo Library on Satur-

day, Feb. 9, starting at 8 a.m.

Sharon DeBartolo Carmack will be the guest speaker. She is an author of several books and articles and is widely recognized as an excellent genealogist.

Registration will be accepted the morning of the seminar at the library. The cost is \$50 and includes breakfast and lunch.

Largo Community Center

Largo Community Center is at 400 Alt. Keene Road. Visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131.

Weekly events

• **Square dancing:** Fridays, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. Spend the evening dancing country-style to professional caller Allen Snell. The cost is \$6.

• **Open Air Market:** Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Browse through a variety of vendors in a market featuring local produce, crafters, food, jewelry, artists and entertainment.

• **Swing dancing:** Saturdays, 7 to 11 p.m. - Enjoy an evening of dancing and socializing on a 5,600-square-foot sprung hardwood floor. Free lessons from 7 to 8 p.m., followed by a dance with music by DJ is Savoy Swing. The cost is \$6 with a recreation card and \$7 without a recreation card.

• **Bay Area Singles dance:** Sundays, 6 to 10 p.m. Dress to impress, and join about 150 singles and friends of all ages to dance to an extensive music library to fit every taste. Cost is \$8.

Southwest Recreation Complex

Southwest Recreation Complex, which includes an aquatic complex, is at 13120 Vonn Road. Call 518-3125 for recreation or 518-3126 for the pool. Visit PlayLargo.com.

My Little Valentine

LARGO - Celebrate Valentine's Day with crafts, snacks and games during My Little Valentine, an event for children, on Sunday, Feb. 13,

11 a.m. to noon, at the Southwest Recreation Center.

Wear red to help celebrate. The participation of a parent, grandparent or caregiver is required.

The cost is \$5 in advance or \$8 on the day of the event.

Kids Only Saturday Night Fun

LARGO -The Southwest Complex will open the game lounge and gymnasium just for children to play games and activities on Saturday, Feb. 16, 5 to 8 p.m.

A child registration form is required. This program will be held at the same time as the tennis socials and is open to all kids between the ages of 5 and 10.

The cost is, with a recreation card, \$2 for residents and \$2.50 for nonresidents or \$5.50 without a card.

Highland Recreation Complex

Highland Recreation Complex is at 400 Highland Ave. Visit HighlandRecreation.com or call 518-3016. During construction, the complex is accessible from Lake Avenue.

Little Lucky Leprechaun

LARGO - Enjoy themed crafts, snacks and games at Little Lucky Leprechaun on Friday, Feb. 22, 11 a.m. to noon, at the Highland Recreation Complex

The cost is \$5 in advance or \$8 on the day of the event. The participation of a parent, grandparent or caregiver is required.

Zumba Bash

LARGO - Join the Zumba Bash on Saturday, Feb. 23, 6 to 8 p.m., in the gymnasium at Highland Recreation Complex.

The event will feature raffle prizes, healthy snacks and nonstop Zumba. All adults and children 8 and up are encouraged to come to experience the mix of music, fitness and fun.

See CALENDAR, page 3A

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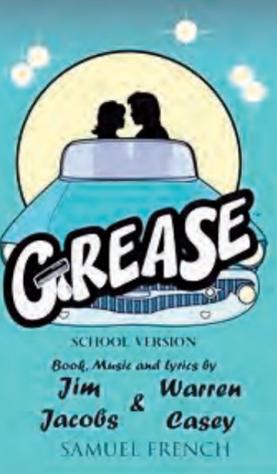
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Library solicits survey responses

LARGO – The Largo Public Library is conducting a survey in order to gather input from the community for the library’s 2014-2016 strategic plan.

In this short survey, the library requests feedback from patrons on such things as library events, collection development, and digital services. The Largo Public Library Strategic Plan focuses on program initiatives. The current plan will be updated by the end of this fiscal year for the 2014-2016 term.

The survey is active through March 31. Paper copies are available at the library or patrons may complete the survey on the library website: www.largopubliclibrary.org.

Bryne to speak at society’s meeting

LARGO – Joan Bryne, director of the Largo recreation, parks and arts department, will speak to the Largo Area Historical Society during its meeting on Monday, Feb. 11, 6:30 p.m., at the Largo Feed Store, 105 Central Park Drive.

Bryne will speak to the society about the department’s many different activities, which include youth sports and activities for seniors.

The society holds meetings on second Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Meetings start with a potluck dinner followed by the speaker and usually concludes by 8:15 p.m. New members are always welcome.

For more information, call President Don Forehand at 709-7382, or First Vice President Charlie Harper at 584-4906.



Joan Bryne

Play! Dirty



Runners in the 5K Play Dirty obstacle course push up the mud pit created in the Largo Central Park Nature Preserve Feb. 2. The event, put on by the city’s department of recreation, parks, and arts was the city’s first adventure run. Proceeds supported Largo organizations including the Friends of Largo Recreation and Parks, Largo Summer Camp Scholarships, the Meals of Hope Program and Friends of Largo Nature Parks.

Photo courtesy of the CITY OF LARGO

Kiwanis Club invites new members

LARGO – The Kiwanis Club of Largo/Mid-Pinellas is seeking new members so the club can increase its service to the local area.

The club meets at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast at The Royal Palms at 200 Lake Ave. NE, in Largo on the first, third and fourth Fridays and at 6:30 p.m. for dinner at a local restaurant on second Thursdays. Each hour-long meet-

ing features a speaker.

The speaker for the Feb. 1 meeting was Edna “Lou” Remz, lieutenant governor of Florida Kiwanis’s Division 12.

Kiwanis is an international service organization whose focus is on the needs of children. For more information, call 536-0412 or visit www.largokiwanis.org.

CALENDAR, from page 2A

The cost is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Admission for youth up to age 17 is half-price. Comfortable clothing and dance shoes or sneakers are recommended.

Complex looking for instructors

LARGO – The Largo’s Recreation, Parks and Arts Department is seeking enthusiastic instructors for fitness, preschool and school age classes at the new Highland Recreation Complex.

Interested instructors should contact Mandy Petersen or Christina Heubel at 518-3016.

McGough Nature Park

The center at McGough Nature Park, at 11901 146th St. N., is open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Call 518-3047.

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 N. St.

This will be a free interpretative nature hike through McGough’s habitats.

Call 518-3047.



Edna “Lou” Remz

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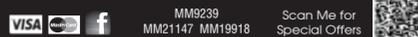


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Year of the Snake



Above, Dominique Fernandez, left, 7, and Ashley Leighton, 7, both of Tampa check out the Third Prince at the Chinese New Year Celebration in Largo Central Park Feb. 2. At left, Ying Wu, left, of Tampa and Ping Wang of Orlando, members of the Sunshine Dance Group, came prepared for the sun.

Photos by JIM LAYFIELD

Tampa International CEO shares vision

By LESTER R. DAILEY

CLEARWATER - Forty-one years ago, a former World War II airfield was transformed into what was generally considered to be the best airport in the world, and the first to use the "people movers" that have become standard equipment in many major airports. Now, the airport's CEO, Joe Lapano, has unveiled the results of a \$1.8-million study aimed at making Tampa International Airport even better.

"The design of the airport was brilliant 41 years ago" but is now showing its age," Lapano told the Clearwater City Council at its February 4 work session. "And when we studied the problems, we found many opportunities."

Congestion at curbside and on the nearby roadways is a major problem, and Lapano attributes much of it to rental cars that are rented in remote locations and driven to the terminal to load, unload or park. The plan advocates turning the underutilized "South Development Area" near the existing post office on the approach road to the terminal into a one-stop shopping center with rental car storage and maintenance, restaurants, hotels for humans and pets, a convenience store and other amenities. From there, passengers could step off the people-mover and onto a train for the 1.5-mile trip to the terminal.

"This (South Development Area project) will be a huge opportunity for the airport," Lapano told the councilmembers. "This will be the most efficient rental car facility in the country."

In addition, many of the airport's 573 employees, and some of the nearly 6,500 employees of airlines, restaurants and other services at the airport, could be moved from the terminal to the "South Development Area" and provided with parking spaces for their cars there. That would eliminate, or at least postpone, the necessity to build a new terminal.

Terminal usage has actually declined over the past few years. "Enplanements" peaked at 9.5 million passengers a year in 2007 but then dropped to its current 8.5 million when the double-whammy of the economic crisis and the BP oil spill took a severe toll on Gulf Coast tourism, according to a graph Lapano supplied.

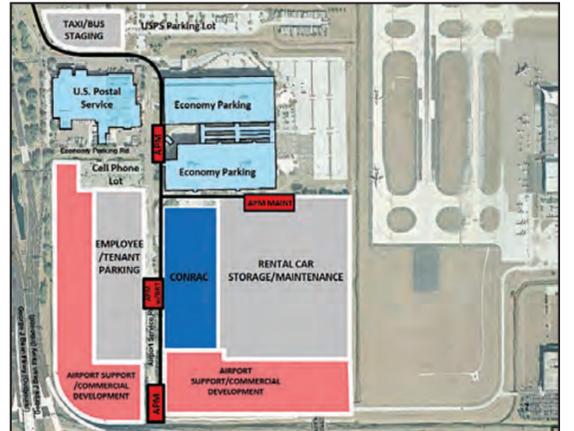
But Lapano expects Florida tourism to rebound in the coming years. He predicts that annual "enplanements" will reach about 14.4 million by 2031, and the main terminal passenger count, both inbound and outbound, will be double that number.

He expects to accommodate those crowds by demolishing the current Marriott Hotel and building a new one elsewhere on the airport's property. He also plans to expand the current terminal building a bit. Government agencies such as Customs and TSA will be relocated to more central locations, and some airport businesses may be moved or eliminated.

"With that plan, we can go through 2041 without touching the north" end of the airport, Lapano said. And it will avoid the expense of building a new terminal.

"We have a brilliant airport" terminal, he said, "Let's just stay with what we have."

Noting that airline travel is "a pretty flat market in the U.S." Lapano said that support services are a growing percentage of his airport's income. But the airline picture isn't entirely bleak because international travelers are filling some of the void, he added.



Images courtesy of the CITY OF CLEARWATER

Shown top is how the South Development Area currently is laid out. Above are the plans for how to make the South Development Area more efficient and effective.

"What I showed you is going to be expensive, but it's fundable," Lapano told the councilmembers. "It's going to cost over a billion (dollars). But you don't have to spend the money until you need to."

While praising the plan, Clearwater Mayor George Cretekos said that he hopes the changes will include ground transportation to Clearwater and other Pinellas County destinations. Lapano replied that ground transportation to nearby cities is not the airport's responsibility, but he agreed that it is sorely needed.

"I got a non-stop flight to Zurich," Lapano said. "But I can't get a non-stop bus to Tampa."

BRIARWOOD, from page 1A

Pinellas Chamber of Commerce, voiced support for the complex. "We believe it's a good project," he said. "We have a lot of businesses down there that will benefit greatly by the project just by bringing people in."

At a public hearing in December, the Pinellas Planning Council decided to not approve the residential high land use designation for the Briarwood property, citing some of the neighboring residents' concerns about density and building layout. The council "did not feel comfortable relying upon the city's annexation agreement," Largo Community Development Director Carol Stricklin explained.

However, standards established in a development agreement would require public hearings at the city and county level before the developers made any changes in the future. The property owners, Dockside Investors VII and BDC Investors II, acquiesced to the council's suggestion to pursue a development agreement.

The proposed agreement outlines much of the same parameters the annexation agreement established, such as limiting development to 19 units per acre.

"The development agreement will simply cap the number of units to make it clear to the Pinellas Planning Council the exact nature of the product," Stricklin said.

The property owners also have agreed to a preliminary site plan that places the apartment buildings further toward the interior of the property, away from the townhomes and mobile homes at its north and northwest borders. Parking and landscaping along the exterior provide the additional space between the residences, up to 150 feet from the

southern border and 200 feet from the northern side, Stricklin said.

"By providing those very large setbacks, we feel we have addressed that concern, in addition to the required buffering between the properties," she said.

Three-story buildings will be required to be at least 20 feet from the property line, and four-story buildings set back at least 45 feet, city Planner Jesus Nino said.

The agreement also specifies not only a maximum of four stories for any buildings, but a maximum height of 70 feet, which will allow for some architectural leniency in the design of the roof.

The 30-year agreement also requires the property owners to connect the development to the city's sidewalk system and provide a bike rack. It also specifies a minimum ratio of 1.5 parking spaces per unit.

Commissioner Robert Murray pointed out that the development agreement gave the city more control and the nearby residents more say at required public hearings. By contrast, a planned project with up to 118 units would not have needed commission approval.

Mayor Pat Gerard requested that the agreement specify that the apartment buildings be placed toward the southern end of the property, away from the established residential communities.

"I think the surrounding neighborhoods would appreciate that," she said.

If necessary approvals were obtained, Nino said the apartment project was not projected to break ground until "close to 2015."

The draft development agreement also states that the apartments would be sold at market rate and not as affordable housing.

In other items, the commission also:

- Allowed the plans for a new, one-story Chase Bank building at 801

Medals of Gallantry

During the Feb. 5 meeting, Fire Chief Mike Wallace presented Medals of Gallantry to two firefighters who acted quickly to save a man's life while off duty.

On the evening of Oct. 23, Lt. Shaun Carroll and Firefighter Paramedic Kyle Lighthiser were working out at the CrossFit of Tampa Bay gym in Largo when one of the patrons collapsed. With a gym full of bystanders, Carroll and Lighthiser immediately began performing CPR, telling another patron to call 911. Before the patient left the gym, he had regained a pulse and was awake, though not fully alert. Carroll drove to the hospital and met the man in the emergency room while Lighthiser stayed back to help debrief the witnesses.

"If you're working out at a gym and somebody collapses and you have the forethought and the calm to work through a cardiac arrest while your off duty, I think that very much characterizes gallantry," Wallace said.

W. Bay Drive, within the Community Redevelopment District. The building will appear to be two stories, as normally required within the corridor.

- Approved the Public Works Department's purchase of 16 vehicles for a total of about \$1.7 million.
- Approved support of the Florida League of Cities' 2013 legislative action agenda.

FIT KIDS, from page 1A

Go! Run!

McIntosh said started the Fit Kids program, which meets on Mondays and Thursdays nights at 5:30, because he saw the epidemic of childhood obesity firsthand.

"I saw kids in the summer time with sweaters and hoodies on," he explained. "I'd ask them, 'Why are you wearing that? It's hot outside.'"

The children said they were covering up their weight. They didn't want to be bullied. He realized that their weight was causing depression and low self-esteem.

"I was seeing kids run around here not really happy with their bodies," McIntosh said. "Some of them starve themselves, which is so bad."

The realization was eye-opening, he said. McIntosh, who has a background in sports management for major league baseball teams, grieved to see children so stressed out by adult problems.

"A kid should be a kid," he said. "My program emphasizes making fitness fun, in a way that it's not for punishment."

Instead of punishing kids with push-ups or laps for poor behavior, McIntosh makes the activity engaging. He mixes the very basic workouts with a bit of competition, camaraderie and his own kid magnetism that was immediately apparent to Chrisoula Kiriazis when she first brought his two boys to his flag football program four years ago.

"He has lots of energy; kids are

really attracted to him. They really listen to what he says," she explained. "He was incredibly motivating, an optimistic coach."

When McIntosh started the Fit Kids program in May 2010, Kiriazis signed up her boys, Winchester and Zachary, who are now 12 and 10, respectively.

"I had never heard of a program that talked to kids about nutrition as well as did exercise with them. All activities I'd been to with my kids involved exercise followed by candy or junk food offered as a reward for performance," Kiriazis said. "It drove me absolutely bonkers as a doctor."

Kiriazis, who works full-time as a primary care physician, said she saw her own kids growing in confidence, strength and agility through the program. She thought McIntosh's idea should be expanded.

"Brandon began a program that built on the momentum of what's happening in this country," she said. "It's not just taking them to the soccer field, it's about teaching them how they should be eating."

Fit Kids also is unique in that it encourages parents to join their children in the workout. But McIntosh said he was continually stymied in gaining parental participation on the nutritional aspect of the program.

"The kid doesn't buy the food, the kid doesn't have a job, so the parent has to be on board too," he said.

He provided the children with

food logs to take home, but wanted a better way to communicate the principles of healthy eating to their parents.

In April 2012, Kiriazis suggested they partner up to write a straightforward, informative book that would carry McIntosh's simple message. They met every weekend for about six months before self-publishing "Fit Kids for Life: A Parent's Guide to Raising Healthy Children" in November.

The book is useful at all levels and ages, said Kiriazis explaining that her adult and senior patients have said they've found the book helpful. While she's not a pediatrician, treating parents is part of the continuum of promoting a healthy lifestyle.

"As a parent, you're probably not thinking, 'Well I have to take care of myself and be healthy because that's important for my kids.' But that's really the truth. If you're not healthy, you can't take care of your kids," she said.

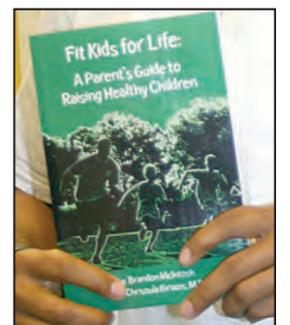
McIntosh said he's spreading the word about his fitness program through local pediatricians. He'd like to some day tour hospitals and other recreation centers to reach a greater audience with his message of fun, fitness and healthy eating.

"I like changing kids' lives. That's our future," he said.

For more about the program or to purchase the book "Be a Fit Kid," visit www.beafitkid.org. Proceeds from the \$10 book are donated back to charitable causes.



Above, coach Brandon McIntosh leads the Fit Kids class in a running drill. At left, McIntosh and Dr. Chrisoula Kiriazis collaborated on the book "Fit Kids for Life," pictured below.



Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

VETERANS, from page 1A

Petersburg office will work out of the Clearwater office two days a week.

LaSala estimated that the backlog would be cleared within three weeks.

Hillsborough County agreed to provide a loaner VSO for two weeks to one month, after which time staff will assess future needs for that assistance. The FDVA will provide a VSO for two months with the possibility for more time if needed.

The county's Veterans Services will have five VSOs in addition to office support specialists and case managers, according to the action plan. The Veterans Services Unit is currently, and will continue to be, supervised by a senior VSO, as well as a

program manager, LaSala said.

The newly hired VSOs are scheduled to attend a four-day training course in March. Hillsborough County will provide training for the VSOs prior to the March training.

In addition, Health and Human Services will monitor the phone backlog, appointment scheduling and walk-in traffic daily to ensure the action plan is working for the next three months. Afterwards, monthly monitoring and reports will be done to evaluate the efficiency of the program.

LaSala pointed to misinformation that came from the Jan. 29 meeting and stressed the point that the county was only one of 11 places where veterans could get assistance with their claims.

"Pinellas County is not accredited but does have

power of attorney to help," he said.

Claims processed by the county are passed on to one of the accredited organizations, he said.

He said the figure of \$57 million in claims for the county in 2012, as presented by the FDVA, was incorrect. He said it was only \$44 million and that the county's office contributed about \$16 million of that total.

He also disputes the assertion that revenue generated by claims would go down due to the county's problem with staffing.

"I don't expect to see a drop in revenue, I believe it will be an increase," he said.

He said so far for the first quarter of 2013, the numbers are up and he expects the numbers to exceed previous years.

It costs the county an estimated \$500,000 to provide veterans services. Commissioner Norm Roche suggested using that money to assist the 11 organizations instead of running a separate program.

"We (the county) assist with the most difficult cases, the ones that are hard to get into the system," said Commissioner Karen Seal.

She said county VSOs had been able to provide that help because "we had a very skilled staff."

Commissioners also talked about the communication issue between staff and the veterans.

"There was clearly a communication issue," Commission Chair Ken Welch said. "We need to eliminate the backlog and make sure the same problems don't happen again."

Commission sides with Tampa Bay Rays on stadium issue

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Commissioners support the Tampa Bay Rays' request to explore stadium locations outside the county.

The commission favors doing whatever is best to keep a major league baseball in Tampa Bay – even though the preference is to keep the Rays in Pinellas.

Commission Chair Ken Welch invited Rays' officials to attend the Feb. 29 commission meeting. He said it was time to have an "important conversation for our community and our partners, the Tampa Bay Rays."

"It was a long endeavor to get baseball in our community," he said, while recognizing the county's partnership with the citizens of St. Petersburg and city officials.

However, due to restrictions that are part of the contract between the team and the city of St. Petersburg, communication between interested parties has been stifled. To date, Mayor Bill Foster has refused to allow any talks that involve a stadium outside St. Petersburg's city limits.

Welch made it clear that his first choice would be for the team to stay in Pinellas due to the support of local taxpayers that made it possible to build Tropicana Field, where the Rays have played since March 31, 1998.

He pointed to the more than \$100 million in tourist development (bed) tax money that has funded debt service on The Trop since 1986, as well as the savings to the city of about \$1 million in taxes due to the county taking over ownership of the stadium in 2002.

"It's been an incredible journey to bring baseball to the Tampa Bay community," he said, as he reminded everyone that there had been a community on the site, who had been promised jobs and a better economy.

Welch was referring to Laurel Park housing complex, an affordable housing project where 500 people had lived. The complex was torn down to make room for what would first be known as The Florida Suncoast Dome, which opened in March of 1990. The stadium changed its name to the Thunderdome in August 1993 and the Tampa Bay Lightning played there for two years.

In April of 1995, the city of St. Petersburg signed a 30-year lease with the Devil Rays, who changed their name to the Tampa Bay Rays in 2007. That lease, which requires the team to play at Tropicana Field, expires in 2027.

Welch said it was important to keep the focus on expanding the vision of having major league baseball in Tampa Bay "for our children and their children."

"Nothing is going to happen without dialogue advancing in an open and honest way," he said.

Team Owner Stuart Sternberg said the Rays hoped to "continue to move the ball forward and really come up with a solution for long-term success."

He thanked the county for its contributions.

"Baseball clearly would not be here without those

past efforts," he said.

He thanked the city of St. Petersburg Council and the mayor, but said, "We're just a baseball team and we try to provide some entertainment nightly."

He said in the Tampa Bay region about 100 million hours were spent each season watching Tampa Bay Rays' games, either at the Trop or on TV, which is good but not good enough.

"We've had a great five year run," he said. "But, attendance is just not up to snuff. Season tickets are the lifeblood of baseball and other sports teams because we make our annual plans on the sales."

The team has less than 1,000 season ticket holders and fewer than 300 in St. Petersburg. "Having 300 home city season ticket holders is not enough," he said.

Last year, the team ranked last in attendance of all other major league baseball teams, despite having a winning season and an appreciative fan base.

"I want to be here and I want the franchise to be here," Sternberg said.

Attendance is a limiting factor for the team's future, he said.

He said he never believed the team would stay at Tropicana Field through the end of its lease, which is why the team proposed building a new stadium on the waterfront in St. Petersburg in 2007.

He admits feeling disappointed when the proposal for the new stadium "fell on deaf ears."

He said he doesn't believe that the team's "best chance to succeed, win and create a sense of excitement and keep players here" could happen while playing at the Trop.

Average attendance at MLB games is 30,000 a year. Attendance to Rays' home games in 2008 was 22,600 and 19,200 in 2012. The team believes another location would increase attendance.

Currently, one-third of fans come from Hillsborough County, one-quarter from Pinellas and the remainder from other locations.

Sternberg said the team had done what it could to be regional, playing games in Orlando and moving spring training to Port Charlotte in hopes of spreading its fan base throughout the state.

The Rays have not made any decisions about moves to other locations and can't even explore the possibility due to the lease agreement with St. Petersburg. However, management wants to explore sites identified in a 2010 report by the ABC Coalition, which was initiated by former St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker in 2008. Two of the sites are located in Hillsborough County and one is in Pinellas.

"We just want to follow up on the report," Sternberg said. "We may find out where we are best, but I don't imagine that will be the case. But I don't know. I want to ensure baseball is here for 100 years not just until the end of a lease."

He said it would take time to figure out the best stadium location, make plans and then construct it.

"Time is not a friend of ours," he said. "MLB is taking an interest. It's important to see that something is done here."

Welch wanted assurances that serious consideration would be given to sites in Pinellas.

"Given the substantial investment by Pinellas County, we have quite a stake in this," he said.

Sternberg assured Welch that sites in Pinellas would be considered.

"It's not our intent to do anything other than follow up on the ABC report," Sternberg said.

Welch said the debt for Tropicana Field would be paid by 2015. He said it was time to "broaden our thinking" and look to the future.

Commissioner Janet Long asked Sternberg what it would take to move the conversation forward between the team and Mayor Foster.

"I don't know," he replied. "If I had any sense of it, I would have already done it."

"It saddens me that we have to have this conversation," said Commissioner Susan Latvala. "It (the team) is a business as well as an asset to the community. I wish it were the decision of the board (of county commissioners). We want you in the best place."

Sternberg said it wasn't right to have a winning team with no support behind it.

"We should be in the top 20 (for attendance) and that would be enough to run a ball club," he said.

He said in the early years when attendance was low, everyone told them "just win," and all will be well. The Rays have factored in that at the same time the team was peaking, the economy was trending downward, but he said other MLB teams went through the same problems with the economy and didn't have the same drop in attendance. He estimated that the economy affected attendance by 10 to 20 percent.

The Rays have the most affordable tickets in MLB.

Fans can bring in their own food and drink. The team has offered free parking as an added incentive, as well as promotions and after-game concerts.

"We really need to get the message out about how good this team is," Commissioner John Morroni said. "People are focusing on negativity. We need to remember the positive."

Sternberg said more people coming to the games would make a big difference.

"If we could just get everyone to show up once in a while," he said.

Sternberg said the team didn't aspire to "get to be the Yankees, but we have to get to average (attendance)."

St. Petersburg City Council Chair Karl Nurse said the way to get past the stalemate was "to take the first step."

Nurse favors talks with a developer who presented plans for a stadium at Carillon Business Park in north St. Petersburg. Beyond that, he doesn't know the next step.

"We're kind of in a box," he said. "We can only look at what is in front of us."

He mentioned other sites – Westshore and downtown Tampa – that could be possible locations.

"We need to have a dialogue," Welch agreed.

He then passed on a message from Foster, who attended the meeting but had to leave early, to Sternberg about a time for a future meeting "if the Rays are open to that."

"Out of respect to the mayor and his office, I won't violate his authority," Welch said. "But if the mayor would allow you to look in both counties, I would support it."

Heroes honored at 18th Appreciation Luncheon

ST. PETERSBURG – A number of local heroes accepted awards during Pinellas Commissioner John Morroni's Appreciation Luncheon for Emergency Personnel Jan. 25, at the Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park.

The 18th annual luncheon continued Morroni's tradition of honoring the men and women who serve as emergency personnel. The sold out event of 415 supporters raised more than \$24,000 for the Pinellas County Sheriff's Police Athletic League.

The 2012 Appreciation Awards recognize exceptional dedication and efforts above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of the citi-

zens of Pinellas County. The honorees were:

- Deputy James Cooper with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
- Officer Karl Wassmer with the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 10
- Dustin Seabolt, firefighter with Palm Harbor Fire Rescue
- Megan Hollern, paramedic; Jeff Banks, emergency medical technician; John Hanshaw, paramedic and Michael Gonzalez, EMT, all of Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services

"I am so pleased with the support of this luncheon each year, and the support of our first responder community," Morroni said.



Deputy James Cooper, left, poses with Pinellas County Commissioner John Morroni at the Jan. 25 Appreciation Luncheon for Emergency Personnel.

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Police beat

Largo man in jail for attempted murder

LARGO - Pinellas County sheriff's deputies arrested a Largo man Feb. 1 in connection with a shooting in the Coral Way neighborhood.

According to the sheriff's report, around 7:10 p.m. Friday, a deputy patrolling the Coral Way neighborhood heard what sounded like a gunshot, then a woman's scream for help. Deputies responded to 3744 135th Ave. N., where they found Brieonne Danielle Roiland, 30, of Largo, screaming she had been shot.

As medical personnel tended to Roiland's injuries, deputies set a perimeter around the immediate area and apprehended Trevon Lamar Griffin, 19, running through a field a short distance away from the crime scene. After conducting preliminary interviews, it is believed Griffin had attempted to rob Roiland at gunpoint when she was shot in the neck.

Griffin was transported to the Pinellas County Jail. He was charged with attempted first degree murder, no bond; attempted armed robbery, bond \$100,000; discharging a firearm in public, \$500



Trevon Griffin

bond; resisting arrest without violence, \$500 bond; and possession of marijuana, \$500 bond.

Roiland is currently recovering from the gunshot wound at a local hospital.

Juvenile burglars caught

CLEARWATER - Clearwater police arrested three juveniles on Jan. 29 for multiple vehicle burglaries, according to a police report.

Around 9:15 p.m., a witness called police to report seeing three suspects burglarizing unlocked vehicles in an apartment complex parking lot, the report said. The witness provided a description, and responding officers located two suspects at MacArthur Park Apartments. The third suspect was arrested east of U.S. 19.

The suspects are all juveniles, and officers linked them to five vehicle burglaries at Wellington Apartments and Park Place Apartments, the report said.

VA surgeon charged with drug fraud

ST. PETERSBURG - A surgeon employed at Bay Pines VA Medical Center is out on bond after his arrest on multiple counts of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud.

Richard Carpenter, 58, of St. Petersburg was arrested at Bay Pines hospital, 10000 Bay Pines Blvd., Jan. 30 and taken to the Pinellas County jail where he was charged with five counts of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud and one attempt to obtain a controlled substance by fraud. He was released the same day on \$30,000 bond.

According to investigators with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Carpenter has been fraudulently obtaining the prescription drugs since October of 2012.

Investigators received information Jan. 28 about a prescription fraud case involving a doctor.

According to the information received, Carpenter had called in several fraudulent Valium (Diazepam) prescriptions for himself beginning in October 2012.

Investigators say that Carpenter used an acquaintance doctor's name and DEA number to obtain the prescriptions illegally. Carpenter also used his health care insurance to offset the cost of the prescription.

In all, Carpenter obtained at least 500 Valium 5 mg pills and had attempted to obtain more before his arrest. The investigation continues.

Man in jail for two Largo robberies

LARGO - Largo police detectives arrested a man suspected of two robberies Jan. 30, including the robbery of Fifth Third Bank that occurred earlier in the day.

Lt. Mike Loux, spokesperson for Largo PD, said detectives were following up on leads from the Dec. 14 strong-armed robbery of BB&T Bank, 14141 Walsingham Road, when they located Ronald J.

Massey, 30, and arrested him. The arrest came about four hours after the armed robbery of Fifth Third Bank, 11281 Ulmerton Road.

Largo PD released photos of an armed robber wielding a knife just after 2 p.m. Jan. 30 with a release about a robbery at Fifth Third Bank that occurred about 12:53 p.m. In a report released just before 5 p.m., detectives reported they had located and arrested Massey.

Massey was charged with both robberies. His booking report is not yet available from the Pinellas County Jail.



Photo courtesy LARGO POLICE

This man armed with a knife is accused of robbing the Fifth Third Bank, 11281 Ulmerton Road in Largo just before 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30. Ronald J. Massey, 30, was arrested and charged with the robbery later that afternoon.

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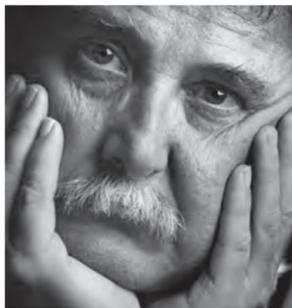
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A decade of recovery through work

Vincent House has helped individuals with mental illnesses rediscover themselves and realize their dreams

By TIFFANY RAZZANO

PINELLAS PARK – In 1993, Elliott and Dianne Steele's youngest daughter was in the prime of her life. She'd recently graduated from high school and had embarked on her own for the first time, attending college away from home. The popular student was excited, effervescent, happy. And her parents couldn't be more proud.

But six months into her college career, the Steeles received a phone call that no parent ever wants to get: Their daughter began to exhibit symptoms of schizophrenia and she was unable to care for herself.

"This changed not just her life, but our lives forever," Elliott Steele said.

The couple, which lives in Indian Shores, watched their daughter struggle not only with her illness, but also with the subpar mental health services available to her in Pinellas County. They stood by her side the entire time, fighting for her, rooting for her.

Over the years, they evolved from her strongest supporters to tireless advocates for all those with psychiatric needs throughout the entire county, as well as across the state and the country. They became heavily involved with the regional and Florida chapters of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

In 2003, inspired by their daughter, they opened the doors to the Vincent House in Pinellas Park.

Now the nonprofit organization celebrates 10 years as a restorative community, using the idea of "recovery through work" to help those who struggle with mental illness to realize their potential and to move beyond the boundaries that grew around them from the stigma of their disease.

Getting started

Armed with a culinary background working for Hyatt Corp. as well as a law degree, Elliott eventually worked his way up to the position of administrative director of support services at the University Community Hospital in Tampa. Dianne owned Steele Animal Hospital in Seminole.

In 1999, he quit his job and she sold the veterinary clinic. They decided it was time to focus their efforts on mental illness advocacy full-time.

"It was time to do something more," Elliott said.

There are more than 800,000 people with "severe and persistent" mental illness in the state, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression, he added. "More than 40,000 of them are in Pinellas. And they're not receiving the treatment they need."

At the time, Florida ranked 47 among all 50 states when it came to per capita mental health funding. Today, it ranks 51, Elliott said. "Even below Puerto Rico."

The concept for Vincent House is based on similar clubhouse programs in other states. Those who join are members, not patients, and it focuses on creating a local community center for those with mental illness, revitalizing their hopes and dreams while preparing them for real life work experiences.

The couple teamed up with Bob Dillinger, public defender for Pinellas and Pasco counties, to obtain the funding they needed to create such an environment.

"[Dillinger's] a very strong advocate for people with mental illness," Elliott said. "He's an advocate for people, period."

It took nearly two years, but their relentless grassroots efforts earned them the state funding they needed to open a clubhouse in Pinellas.

On Jan. 20, 2003, doors to Vincent House, which



at first operated out of a former sub shop in a local strip mall, opened.

"Literally, the fridge at the time was an ice chest," Elliott said, "and there was a grill in the back yard that we cooked on."

But they had to start somewhere, Elliott said, and the members began to trickle in.

"We were much smaller then," Dianne said, "but it was the same basic idea: we wanted to help people transform their lives."

During the summer of 2005, having outgrown its location, Vincent House moved to its permanent home at 4801 78th Ave. With around 250 active members – around 60 of them dropping in daily – and 600 lifetime members, it wasn't long before even this new 2,800-square-foot space was too small. But they were receiving less and less money from the state each year. So the nonprofit began a fundraising campaign, raising more than \$1 million to build a 5,000 square foot addition to the building.

Looking back at its humble beginnings, Dillinger is struck by how far Vincent House has come.

"More than a decade ago, [it] started in a small strip store. It now has a beautiful state-of-the-art facility," he said. "What has not changed is the delivery of hope to those with mental illness. Without hope, people will not succeed in life and may actually become a societal liability."

How they help

Vincent House operates much like a small, self-contained city.



Photos courtesy of VINCENT HOUSE

Above, Mike Parker, left, and Mike Taddeo whip up a delicious meal in the Vincent House kitchen. At left, Vincent House member Latoya Johnson was hired as a mail clerk at the Public Defender's Office. For the past decade, Vincent House, 4801 78th Ave. N., has helped individuals with mental illnesses rejoin the work force and rebuild their confidence.

There's a bank, a cafeteria, a thrift store, a business and media center.

Its members run all of these areas. They prepare the meals. They answer the phones. They run the retail thrift shop. One group creates and designs newsletters for the nonprofit.

The tasks and duties they learn while on the job prepare them for working in the real world, Dianne said.

"They come in with no hope, no confidence, no self-esteem," she said. "This builds them back up. Working is rehabilitation for them."

The nonprofit helps them utilize their newfound skills beyond the walls of Vincent House. The organ-

ization teams up with local businesses to help its members find first transitional employment (sometimes staff members even train on the job with them to make for a smoother transition) and eventually permanent, independent jobs.

Vincent House also assists members in meeting education goals, whether it's earning a GED or applying to colleges, and helps them in other areas, such as finding housing.

New members walk through the door each day. The Steeles, amazed by the transformations they see, can't help but think back to their own experience of

See VINCENT HOUSE, page 8A

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Business notes

Spa to host weight loss seminar

LARGO – A free weight loss seminar will be presented Wednesday, March 13, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at i spa Health Studio, 9225 Ulmerton Road, Suite 306. Attendees will learn about the medically supervised Ideal Protein weight loss program. The free workshop will show how participants can achieve weight loss goals in a healthy manner while maintaining muscle mass. There will be no pushy sales. The workshop includes foods to sample. For reservations and information, call 386-4004 or visit www.ispahealth.com.

Rapp Brewing ranked tops

PINELLAS PARK – A national beer rating website has ranked Rapp Brewing Company in Pinellas Park as the best new craft brewery in Florida. Ratebeer.com's coveted ranking comes just four months after Greg Rapp, a longtime home

brewer and founder of the Pinellas Urban Brewers Guild, opened the nano-brewery in a warehouse on Bryan Dairy Road. Ratebeer.com members from around the world base the ranking on ratings. The popular website also ranked Cigar City Brewing in Tampa as the best brewery in Florida and CCB's Huhnapu's Imperial Stout the best beer in Florida.

"I'm honored by the ranking, especially since so many excellent breweries opened last year," said Rapp in a press release. Rapp is a former software engineer who began brewing 10 years ago. "We all learn from each other and it's great to be part of the craft beer renaissance in Tampa Bay, the center of Florida's craft beer scene."

The brewery includes a 650-square-foot tasting room and hosts special events for craft beer enthusiasts, including frequent gatherings of home brewers. It specializes in small-batch artisanal ales and lagers and explores myriad beer styles, including some once thought to have been lost to history and others that push the boundaries of modern craft brewing.

Rapp Brewing is distributed by Great Bay Distributors, though most of its beer is sold directly to

customers at the tasting room. "We plan on limited distribution and instead desire to focus on direct interaction with craft beer enthusiasts," Rapp said. The tasting room offers pints and flights of beer to sample, as well as growlers to take home beer.

Business & Family reorganizes

Business & Family Insurors Inc. recently announced a reorganization, effective Jan 1, 2013. As part of the reorganization, Karen E. Gonzalez was named as president. Gonzalez brings more than 25 years of experience to her new position having served at some point in all areas of the agency since its inception in 1982.

Currently, she heads up the commercial insurance department as well as taking a leading role in the agency management.

Angela C. Clemow has been appointed secretary. Clemow has worked in the agency since 2000. Although proficient in many lines of coverage, she currently heads up the residential property department.

Rich E. Clemow Jr. and Ron G. Clemow remain active in their positions as vice president of facilities and investments and vice

president of personal and commercial transportation insurance, respectively.

TowBoatUS earns award

CLEARWATER – An on-the-water towboat company that helps Gulf Coast boaters get home safely was singled out for its professionalism at the recent BoatUS Towing Services annual conference in Clearwater Beach.

Tower of the Year honors went to TowBoatUS Tampa Bay, which is owned and operated by Capt. Larry Tieman and Capt. Clayton Tieman. The company has eight locations along the Gulf Coast from Tampa Bay to Cedar Key, including St. Petersburg, Tampa Bay, Clearwater, Tarpon Springs, Hudson, Homosassa River, Crystal River and Yankeetown.

Much like an auto club for boaters, an annual on-the-water towing plan with TowBoatUS gives boaters and anglers a reliable way to call for assistance when their boats break down on the water, run out of gas, or run aground.

The locally-owned company is part of a nationwide network of over 300 ports and a fleet of over 600 TowBoatUS and Vessel Assist towboats. The company was hon-

ored for its near perfect towing dispatch operation, superior customer service and satisfaction, as well as towing case management.

The company also received two additional awards, including the BoatUS Membership Achievement Award for selling the most BoatUS memberships in the entire fleet. It also was honored with the BoatUS Dispatchers Choice Award, given by the dispatching staff at the BoatUS 24-hour call centers for providing members with fast response and utmost professionalism during

the dispatch process. "We have grown our business to become the largest BoatUS towing service provider in the United States and we are very proud of our accomplishments," said Capt. Tieman in a press release. "With 14 boats and 16 captains, we handle over 2,500 requests a year for on-the-water assistance. If you're broken down or run out of gas near shore, we're very proud that we can get a bright red towboat with a professional captain to your location in usually an hour or less."



TowBoatUS Tampa Bay, winner of the Tower of the Year award at the recent BoatUS Towing Services annual conference in Clearwater Beach, is an on-the-water towboat company that helps Gulf Coast boaters get home safely.

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VINCENT HOUSE, from page 7A

finding help for their daughter.

"We constantly see family come in with a son or daughter, or an uncle, aunt, brother, or sister," Dianne said. "I think that if at the time such a program existed for our daughter, if we had a place like this to go to, if we had been able to walk into a facility like this and be treated with dignity, things would have been much different."

Who they've helped

There is no one mold for a member of Vincent House. The men and women who seek help from the organization range in age from teens to seniors.

Some are high school dropouts, and some hold graduate degrees. Some are homeless and have lived on the streets; others live with their families or are successful professionals.

No matter their background, all of them rely on the programs at Vincent House to help them overcome their illness and get back on their feet.

Joe Stabile, 57, of Pinellas Park, who has come to Vincent House from the very beginning, puts it bluntly: the nonprofit quite literally saved his life.

"The bottom line is, if I never came here, I'd probably be out on the streets, or dead somewhere," he said. "It's a phenomenal place. I've been blessed to come here."

An addict, Stabile has been clean for some time now, and rents a place with several other Vincent House members.

Chiquita Ivory, 35, of Pinellas Park, found the Vincent House three years ago, when no other program seemed to be helping.

"Coming here made me want to be a better person," she said. "It has helped me to build my self-esteem, and to grow and to be the mature person I've become."

Today she holds two jobs, and loves them both. This past

November, at one of her jobs she was recognized as Employee of the Month.

Ron Ritchie, 61, of St. Petersburg, felt unemployable when he first joined Vincent House six years ago. Today he works as a transportation specialist for a local hospital, a job he was only able to get because of his work at Vincent House making pickups and deliveries.

"I'm really impressed by this place," he said. "It's something really special."

What the future holds

As Vincent House celebrates a decade of helping individuals with mental illnesses, Elliott and Dianne Steele are preparing to step down from their positions of executive director and assistant director, respectively.

"Every place needs some new blood every once in a while," Dianne said.

The couple will remain active with the organization though. But they'll be handing leadership over to William McKeever, program coordinator, who is passionate about Vincent House and its work in the community.

"We really do what no other organization does in the community

and perhaps in the state," he said. "And that's help people who really live on the fringes of society."

The organization's big project moving forward is a possible expansion to Pasco County.

The Steeles say they'd like to see a Vincent House in each of Tampa Bay's counties, but Pasco needs it the most.

"There's so little up there for those with mental illness," Dianne said.

A board for the potential Pasco Vincent House has already been organized, and weekly, sometimes daily, discussions, on making it happen are under way.

Vincent House also continues to seek donations and alternative funding for its work, as the state provides less and less funding each year.

Its new "Sponsor a Life" program individuals to pledge a monthly gift to help provide scholarships to potential members who would otherwise be unable to afford the monthly dues. And on Feb. 2, the nonprofit will host its Puruses 4 Hope sale. All proceeds from the sale of new and nearly new purses and accessories will benefit the organization.

For more information, visit www.vincent-house.org.

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Business notes

HomeBancorp to purchase Mortgage Investors

ST. PETERSBURG – Tampa-based HomeBancorp Inc. and Mortgage Investors Corporation, a St. Petersburg-based mortgage lender specializing in VA refinance mortgage loans, recently executed an agreement for HomeBancorp to purchase Mortgage Investors Corporation.

Under the terms of the agreement – which is subject to regulatory approval – Mortgage Investors Corporation will operate as a wholly-owned subsidiary of HomeBancorp Inc. The transaction is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2013.

“Our experience and expertise has resulted in us refinancing over 350,000 VA mortgage loans for our nation’s veterans,” said William Edwards, chairman of the board of Mortgage Investors Corporation, in a press release. “We are proud to have helped veterans save millions of dollars over the years in reduced mortgage payments, and we are especially proud of our more than 1,200 employees who have made this company what it is.”

According to Edwards, the two companies have worked together over the last five years and have built a strong working relationship.

“We are confident that our acquisition of Mortgage Investors Corporation will allow for expanded VA lending opportunities for veterans across the country, and enhance the capital position, strength and profitability of both organizations” said Jerry Campbell, chairman, president and CEO of HomeBancorp Inc.

It is not anticipated that the acquisition will result in any significant changes to the business operations of Mortgage Investors Corporation. Edwards will retire as chairman of Mortgage Investors Corporation, a position he has held since 1994, but will remain as a consultant. It is expected that the remainder of the Mortgage Investors Corporation employees will remain, including all of the senior management team, who will continue to oversee and conduct the operations of Mortgage Investors Corporation in the future.

Zounds Hearing set to open

CLEARWATER – Zounds Hearing will open its first Tampa Bay area store on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 2541 Countryside Blvd., Suite 3.

When Zounds founder Sam Thomasson started Zounds about nine years ago, he didn’t do it for fame or fortune. He did it because his 2-year-old daughter had experienced sudden and profound hearing loss.

Having spent 25 years as an electrical engineer, Thomasson was in a position to impact his daughter’s future. She was frustrated to tears with the standard hearing aids she wore due to discomfort, but also because despite their high cost, they didn’t work well in places with a lot of background noise.

Thomasson put his technical skills to work, and after 57 patents, developed the groundbreaking Zounds Hearing Aid, which changed his daughter’s life, and continues to change the lives of people who wear them today.

“There is a large senior population across the Tampa Bay area and the Zounds product line is a terrific match for their needs,” said Sean Diamond, president of Zounds Hearing of Tampa Bay, in a press release. “There is a great deal of excitement for Zounds coming back to the area.”

Airport earns nomination

ST. PETERSBURG – The St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce recently announced its inaugural Good ‘Burger Award nominees and St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport was nominated as a Cool Company (Large).

A Good ‘Burger – short for “St. Petersburg” – is a business, organization or individual making a positive impact on the greater St. Petersburg area.

Outdoor dining



To celebrate the opening of a new outdoor dining patio, the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Village Inn, 13105 Walsingham Road, Largo. Cutting the ribbon was Village Inn owner Danny Lehan and Mayor Pat Gerard.

Home care service opens

CLEARWATER – FirstLight HomeCare, provider of nonmedical in-home care for adults, recently opened in Pinellas County.

FirstLight HomeCare is owned and operated by a local husband-and-wife team Steve and Jennifer Rattner, who share a passion for growing a business in their local community and providing in-home support services for the aging population and others in need of assistance. Located in Clearwater, FirstLight HomeCare is well positioned to provide service to residents throughout Pinellas and Pasco counties.

“We are looking forward to servicing the residents of Pinellas and Pasco counties,” said Steve in a press release. “Going into the home care industry, we’ll be able to help the aging population live well at home as well as lend a helping hand to people, like us, who are caring for their own family while caregiving for the seniors in their lives.”

FirstLight HomeCare offers nonmedical in-home care customized for seniors, new mothers, adults with disabilities and those recovering from illness, injury or surgery. The demand for high-quality in-home care is at an all-time high, with more than 12 percent of Americans 65 years old and older wanting to remain independent for as long as possible. FirstLight HomeCare combines best practices of a dynamic senior leadership team with more than 80 years of collective senior care experience and innovative approaches.



Steve and Jennifer Rattner

Synovus receives customer service excellence awards

ST. PETERSBURG – Synovus Bank of Florida, a division of Synovus Bank, recently announced that Synovus received 17 national awards from Greenwich Associates for excellence in both Middle Market and Small Business banking.

Among 750 banks evaluated nationwide, only 39 received national excellence awards for Middle Market banking, and only 42 for Small Business banking. Synovus received four regional awards as well.

“These awards are a testimony to the excellent service our team members provide customers day in and day out,” said Kessel D. Stelling in a press release. Stelling is chairman and chief executive officer of Synovus. “We want to thank our customers for their continued trust and confidence in us, and we know we must continue every day to earn the right to be their bankers and financial advisors.”

“Synovus Bank of Florida is proud to be part of the Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough county markets and their surrounding areas,” said Dominic A. DiMaio, president and CEO of Synovus. “We live here, we know our customers, and we strive to deliver products, services, and expertise that help our customers achieve their financial goals. We are always focused on improving our customers’ experience every time they do business with us, and these awards demonstrate our bank’s dedication to delivering exceptional customer service.”

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Looking for a home



Alvin

Meet Alvin, who has been at Pinellas County Animal Shelter since Thanksgiving. He is well trained, 1 year old and 58 pounds. He was found as a stray by a police officer who brought him here for safety. He loves to play with the other dogs at the shelter. Bring this article with you and adopt him for only \$25, which includes neuter surgery and his shots. 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.



Nevah

Meet Nevah, an absolute beauty whose mane forms a heart. She truly is a lovebug who enjoys the company of just about everyone, even dogs. She loves to cuddle up for a good movie, prefers to be nuzzled up as close as she can to her human and would bring plenty of smiles and love to her new fur-ever home. Adopt her for \$35, which includes vaccinations, spay surgery, microchip, 30 days of pet insurance, and your new best friend. Visit SPCA Tampa Bay at 9099 130th Ave. N., Largo or www.spcatampabay.org.



Houdini

This little girl is aptly named because she disappeared for six days. Her foster dad thought she had escaped outside and ran away. As a last resort, he removed the front cover of the washer/dryer, and there the little kitty was. Thus, the black-and-white beauty became Houdini, or "Dini." Born around Nov. 1, she is laid back and loves to snuggle, though she also loves to play rough with her sister, Janet, the spirited one. To meet these cuties, call Save Our Strays at 545-1116 or visit www.saveourstraysinc.com.



Milo

Milo is a 4-year-old male domestic shorthair cat. He is a sweet tiger kitty who is full of personality. He loves to be brushed and pretend he is a lion. Milo gets along with other cats at the shelter but would rather bask in the sun by your window. Milo is neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. To learn more about Milo and the other adoptable animals at Pet Pal Animal Shelter, call 328-7738 or visit 405 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg.



Paw prints

Rumore named a finalist for award

SEMINOLE – Dr. Michael Rumore of Lake Seminole Animal Hospital has been named to the short list for Petplan pet insurance's 2013 Veterinarian of the Year award.

Rumore's nomination stood out from more than 2,200 nominations Petplan received from pet parents nationwide since autumn of last year.

"We are delighted to highlight the work of outstanding vets across the country," said Natasha Ashton, co-CEO and co-founder of Petplan, in a press release. "Dr. Rumore was selected because he exemplifies Petplan's core values of providing an exceptional level of care to pets and remarkable customer service to 'wow' pet parents."

"I am incredibly honored to be recognized this way, but the honor has to be shared with my fantastic staff and fellow veterinarians Dr. Britton and Dr. Wilkinson at Lake Seminole Animal Hospital," said Rumore. "It has always been a team effort."

Five shortlisted veterinary professionals have been selected in each of three categories, including Veterinarian of the Year, Veterinary Practice Manager of the Year and Veterinary Technician of the Year. One winner will be chosen in each category by Petplan's accomplished Veterinary Awards judging panel, comprised of prominent pet health professionals and veterinarians.

SPCA to offer class

LARGO – A four-week intermediate study program will be offered beginning Wednesday, Feb. 27, 7 to 8 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N.

Attendees will learn how to build their dog's confidence – along with their own – by practicing canine commands and handling skills. Classroom focus is on creating real-life scenarios to help owners and their dogs practice. The first class reviews commands such as wait, stay, leave it and come.

Cost is \$45 for dog and owner. To register, visit www.spcatampa bay.org. For information, call 586-3591, ext. 9+137.

HSP offers low cost spay/neuter clinic

CLEARWATER – In order to serve the community better, the Humane Society of Pinellas is now offering a low cost spay and neuter clinic on Mondays at 3040 State Road 590.

Appointments are required.

Depending on the pet's weight, the cost of this service starts at \$50 to \$80 for male dog neutering and \$60 to \$90 for female dog spaying. Cat neutering starts at \$40 and cat spaying starts at \$45.

To schedule an appointment, call 797-7722, ext. 4.

Also available on second and fourth Saturdays, from noon to 4 p.m., is the society's low cost vaccine clinic. The cost to vaccinate a dog is \$70; cost for cats is \$40. This service is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Prices are subject to change.

SPCA to offer canine basics workshop

LARGO – A canine basics workshop will be offered Saturday, Feb. 16, 12:30 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N.

The workshop will be packed with practical tips for stress-free living with a dog. Attendees will get the basics on handling and communicating with the canine in this two-hour class. Training works best when everyone in a family understands commands and process.

Cost is \$15 for SPCA adopters and \$25 for the general public. Call 586-3591, ext. 9+137.

To register, visit www.spcatampabay.org.

Tournament to benefit HSP

CLEARWATER – The 29th annual Love Fore Charity Golf and Tennis Tournament will take place on Saturday, March 2, at the Countryside Country Club, 3001 Countryside Blvd.

The event will benefit the Humane Society of Pinellas. The cost to play a round of golf is \$100 and includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, hole-in-one competition, skills games and raffles. The cost to compete in the tennis tournament is \$85. Every participant will receive a gift. Teams or individuals can make reservations online at HumaneSocietyofPinellas.org or by contacting Twila Cole at 797-7722, ext. 222.

Every three years, the Board of Governors of Countryside Country Club selects recipients for the charity tournament for the upcoming three years.

"I have worked as a volunteer with the Humane Society for over 10 years, and I personally love the good works of the Humane Society of Pinellas," said Helen Henwood, 2013 Love Fore tournament chair, in a press release. "I knew that I wanted to be a part of this endeavor on their behalf, but even I was moved by how quickly the Board accepted my nomination for HSP for the 2013 tournament."

Proceeds from this popular tournament will help support HSP's programs to keep low income members of the community and their pets together including spay / neuters, exams and vaccines, as well as the pet food pantry.

"This tournament has supported many worthwhile organizations in the past and we are honored to be this year's benefactor," said Sarah Brown, executive director of Humane Society of Pinellas. "It is a major fundraiser for us and we couldn't thank the volunteers and staff of the club enough."

HSP to compete in Rachael Ray Challenge

CLEARWATER – The Humane Society of Pinellas recently was named one of only 50 shelters in the country to compete in the 2013 ASPCA Rachael Ray \$100K Challenge.

HSP is competing for a grand prize of \$100,000, as well as various smaller prizes. In total, more than \$600,000 in prizes will be awarded.

The 2013 ASPCA Rachael Ray \$100K Challenge is a nationwide competition for animal shelters (and their communities) aimed at getting more animals adopted or returned to their owners than ever before.

"The ASPCA Rachael Ray \$100K Challenge is a great opportunity for us," said Sarah Brown, HSP executive director, in a press release. "It's going to be a lot of work and we're going to need a lot of help from our community but we know we can do it. It will be worthwhile to get more animals into loving homes, and the money we hope to win will help us continue to save lives long after the challenge has ended."

The challenge runs June through August. HSP's goal is to adopt out 1,000 more pets than they did in the same period in 2012.

For information, visit HumaneSocietyofPinellas.org/100K.

SPOT announces February specials

PINELLAS PARK – February is National Spay and Neuter Month and to celebrate Stop Pet Overpopulation Together's spay and neuter clinic will offer two specials.

The two specials for pets, includes a \$25 cat spay and neuters and \$50 male mutt neuters for the month of February. Space is limited. To pre-pay and reserve a spot, call 329-8657.

For information, visit www.SPOTusa.org.

Stop Pet Overpopulation Together is a nonprofit organization serving the Tampa Bay area. The SPOT clinic is at 4403 62nd Ave. The clinic is open Monday through Thursday.

Barkus Parade set

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – JD's Restaurant and Lounge will host its third annual Barkus Parade Saturday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m.

Attendees and their dogs can dress for the parade. Prizes will be awarded to the best dress dog and the best-dressed owner. There will be food and drink specials under the tent as well as live music. Lawn chairs are welcome.

Donations will be accepted on behalf of the SPCA.

For information, call 595-1320.

Cat foster families needed

Save Our Strays, a no-kill cat rescue organization, needs foster families. Each week this winter, Save Our Strays has seen "returned" cats, but all their foster homes are full and there is no place to put these cats until they can find new forever homes.

Foster families are needed to care for these cats on a temporary or permanent basis. Many are sweet, loving kitties that just want to be a lap cat again. Foster participants must be able to drive and be able for a home visit from a current volunteer prior to fostering. Dry food and litter are furnished if needed.

Call 481-5262 for details.

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LETTERS

Guns in right hands create safer environment

Editor:
I was browsing through the Jan. 25 Beacon when I came across Suzette Porter's article with the title, "Arming our schools is not the way." As a relatively well-educated man and a recently retired local police officer, school resource officer, SWAT team member, traffic homicide investigator, police chaplain and current pastor, I was anxious to read Porter's take on the current school safety issues we face.

Is Porter being serious in the first three paragraphs? I don't hear people talking about or insinuating that we ought to have "armed guards" all over our schools. I do know that we already have well-trained, armed, and hand selected school resource officers in our middle and high schools now, and they're doing a great job of keeping the peace and having positive interaction with the students. Remember, I was one of them. We do a good job.

Porter states that The National Rifle Association and "others" (unnamed) say that we can keep our children safe using "gun-toting guards" at our schools. Porter appears to be exaggerating the point in an apparent attempt to say that we will have gone too far if we do arm certain responsible leaders in the elementary schools. She visualizes something like "a police state."

Thankfully, Porter then reveals her prejudice toward guns in general. That's sad. If we cannot leave our past fears and discomforts behind, we may never grow up. I speak from experience but will not bore you with the details. Porter doesn't like guns. Sadly, her father was killed in a hunting accident before she ever really knew him. There were neither guns in her house nor any in the schools. She continues with exclaiming that there were tensions and issues when whites and blacks were forced to attend school together in the '70s. I too, remember those days. I was there. We actually don't know how many knives and or guns may have been there. We found some knives but few guns.

Porter states, "I can't imagine going to school in a place where armed guards were the norm."

Can you imagine armed and uniformed school resource officers? They're doing wonders for the middle and high schools. Imagine them - imagine peace in the hallways and classrooms. Ms. Porter, we're not safe in many average places in society today. Bad guys you don't know about because you can't see them could shatter your peaceful world in a heartbeat. You just don't see them. Perhaps because you'd prefer not to.

I'll agree with you "parents have to be responsible. They have to pay attention to their kids." Absolutely. And many are doing a poor job of it. You note that violence and killing are romanticized on TV, in video games, and news broadcasts. Then you declare that "No one is teaching our youth the difference between pretend and reality." Please let me introduce you to a phenomenon: our mainline churches are doing it. Of course, in this day and age, it's sometimes difficult to get the children there because some parents have abdicated the authority of teaching and the proper upbringing of children in the home. Let's suggest that the parents of our youth put down the TV remote, put the beer back in the fridge, and start setting an example for their own kids to follow - start spending quality time with them and turn off the tube. I could ramble for some time here.

In closing, I think history proves time and time again that responsible gun packers are an asset to any civilized society. When I was toting a gun as a cop, I never was challenged by a criminal. I was never beat up. I was never fired upon and I never picked a fight with anyone. Guns, by themselves, do absolutely nothing to "create any environment." But guns in the right hands can and do help create a safer environment and help to ensure that it continues. Not everyone grows up in a peaceful environment, but anyone can help to create one. But they may need some back-up. Guns are just another tool that may help make that happen.

It has been great chattin' with you. Let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater. Peace to you and yours.

John McNeil
Pinellas Park

The side of reason and sanity

Re: "Arming our schools is not the way," by Suzette Porter, Jan. 31

Editor:
My wife and I are from Michigan and spend the winter months here at Treasure Island. We receive the Beach Beacon newspaper each week and enjoy reading it. I have to say that your article on gun control, "Arming our schools is not the way" was, in my opinion, most astute and very well thought out.

I completely agree with your logic and have a tough time understanding why so many of our citizens cannot see that the NRA is obviously less concerned with reducing gun violence than they are with maximizing profits from increased weapon sales. They seem to hide behind the illogic that any increased regulations on any type of weapon or ammunition will ultimately be the demise of the 2nd Amendment. It plays, as usual, on people's fears.

You are right-on in your evaluation of what would happen by arming more of us to defend against the very few that would commit these acts. Just glad we have folks like you who are not afraid to present the side of reason and sanity.

L.E. Holland
Treasure Island

Liberal agenda

Editor:
I've noticed your newspaper features a lot of columnists who despise the 2nd Amendment and want nothing more than to seize and ban all firearms.

For a change, why don't you feature a columnist who actually supports the 2nd Amendment and understands the need for a well-armed private citizenry? Or would that violate your liberal agenda?

Thomas A. Timcik
Seminole

Public transportation vital to the area

Editor:
In the Jan. 31 edition of the Seminole Beacon there were two articles that reminded me of how important public transportation is in bringing Florida's number one industry to the area. One article discussed the financial difficulty of PSTA and the other was a letter to the editor rejecting light rail. If the main access to the area is Tampa airport then it is almost impossible to reach the beaches of Pinellas County other than by rental car.

How much more business will come to Pinellas for recreation and culture/sports if better public transport were available is hard to predict, but I am sure its absence detours vacationers to other areas. I am an optimist. Surely those businesses that depend on tourism will recognize the need to improve public transportation and support this need with calls on their representatives and activism for public funding.

David Robinson
Seminole

What do you think?

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

Here are some more guidelines for letters:
• Letters are printed on a first-come, first-served basis. They may be edited to correct grammar, spelling and factual errors. They also may be edited for clarity.

• Please keep letters to editor to 500 words. Longer letters may be cut due to space limitations.
• **The deadline to submit letters to the editor pertaining to the March municipal elections is Feb. 15.**

• Letters should address issues or current events. Please refrain from making unsubstantiated allegations. The newspaper will not print letters that contain slanderous or racial statements.

• Please do not use profanity.

Baker meets some gun control folks

Baker did not know many of the people at the party. His workmate Jim had invited him out of kindness, so Baker went. Maybe he'd make some new friends.

Jim greeted Baker, got him a drink, and introduced him to a small group whose members were already engaged in a spirited conversation. Baker soon learned what the topic was: guns.

Bellyfat was saying, "Take away my guns and you automatically make me a target of every crook and nut case I meet."

Gray Beard agreed. "We're at war with the bad guys, and you can't simply disarm the good guys and let them get blown away."

Hornrims used sarcasm. "Oh, yeah. Every good guy will recognize a bad guy from the get-go, and will shoot him in the kneecap at once. Good guys are all expert marksmen, right?"

Linda Lovely broke in. "Guns aren't the problem. It's people. Society has got to try harder to find the loners and misfits before they go wild."

Baker wished he were elsewhere. As he turned to go, Bellyfat said, "Hey there, stranger. What are your views on the gun control issue?"

Baker gave his best conciliatory smile and said, "You probably wouldn't want to hear them."

Hornrims said, "Why not? Do you own a gun?"

Baker said, "I used to, but my dog ate it. And I never did learn to shoot straight, so I figured society would be better off if I just put my trust in God."

That last comment put a chill in the air. "What are you - some sort of Jesus freak?"

Baker said, "No, but I've been checking out the TV preachers to see what God's position on guns is. Whatever God wants, I'm all for."

Bellyfat erupted. "This wise guy is making fun of us."



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

Hornrims said, "Sounds like it. What's your name, pal? And aren't you concerned about guns and innocent kids being mowed down?"

"My name is Baker, and I'm just as concerned as you guys are. I'm just not as noisy. I'm more of a reader than a talker."

Gray Beard said, "Oh? And you think reading about gun ownership will do more than having a national debate about it?"

Baker said, "Maybe it would, if only we'd shut up for a few days and get acquainted with the pertinent facts."

"Such as?"

"Such as on the day the 20 Newtown children died, more than 50 million other kids went to school without being harmed. Such as that in the U.S. since 1982, seventy mass shootings have taken place, leaving 543 people dead. That's an average of 18 fatalities a year caused by nut cases. That's too many, but during the same period more than 564,000 other homicides took place in America. Of all the murders committed, mass shootings account for one-tenth of one percent," Baker said.

Linda Lovely said, "So should we just ignore the mass shootings, on the basis of statistics?"

Baker said, "There's no chance of our ignoring them. The news media won't let us. Once a shooting takes place that results in more than

five deaths, the media have no choice but to go ballistic with their coverage. Every news outlet in America becomes terrified that their competition will beat them, either with the basics of the shootings or on the fallout - the funerals, the grieving families, the profiles of the dead kids, the renewed warfare with the NRA, the hand-wringing editorials about the nation's culture of violence. Nobody will admit it, but we've turned mass shootings into morbid celebrations, occasions for uproar, finger-pointing, demands for change, political posturing, promises of action - and then guess what comes of it all? Nothing. Or almost nothing."

Bellyfat pushed a finger against Baker's chest. "So what do you suggest, Mr. Know-it-all? What do you think should be done?"

Baker said, "I don't know. Neither does anyone else. The best idea I can come up with is that we'd better accept the inevitable. The guns are out there, and they'll stay. So will most of the shooters. The same goes for the NRA, the gun manufacturers, the payoffs to the lawmakers, the whole heart-breaking catastrophe. Remember the financial crash of 2008, and how we paid billions of undeserved dollars to gut-rotten banks because they were 'too big to fail'? Well, that's what's happened with the gun control dilemma. It's become too big a problem to solve."

No one spoke, until Linda Lovely said, "So, Mr. Baker, where lies hope? Don't you have any hope?"

Baker said, "Yes. I hope I'm wrong about what I've said here tonight." He finished his drink, found his host, said good night and headed home. What a swell party.

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



Chinese students teach professor

I went to Hainan, China, to teach an intensive two-week, 13-session hospitality course at Hainan University. Instead, it became a transformational teaching and learning experience for me.

Hainan is a tropical island and the largest vacation destination in China.

The mutual happiness, respect and gratitude between the students and me provided an unmatched feeling of excitement. Students excelled at assignments, asked deep questions and showed an authentic desire to learn and study.

Aside from the coursework, the students invited me to dinner three times. One evening they first invited me to a park where I was happily surprised to be playing games that involved chasing, running, and dancing. These games were like Duck, Duck, Goose and Ring Around the Rosies.

The activities revealed the unique qualities of many students that may not have surfaced in a typical course. During dinner, a student asked: "What types of games do you play with your students in America?"

I replied, "I don't and wouldn't."
"Why is that?" asked the student. I said I didn't know and would get back to him on that.

I did not like this answer and felt that a possibility for a good experience, the opportunity for healthy, decompressed, connected exchange was lacking in my courses. I continued to search for my answer to that question.

During reflection, my mind landed on a conversation I had on my arrival flight with a 16-year-old Chinese student from Beijing who attended a private high school in Boston.

I had asked him: "What surprised you most about studying in the USA?"

Without hesitation, he said: "The mindset



As I As I See It
Denver Severt

or preoccupation related to sex of many students."

Surprised, I asked: "And how is it different from what you are used to?"

He said: "I am quite trained to keep my mind on study and have less access to these things."

He said he had attended the top-ranked high school in Beijing and was at a high-end private Boston high school. He was hoping to differentiate himself in the application process to U.S. universities.

Before I left China, the students presented me with a notebook of appreciation filled with personal letters. Some playfully wrote in Chinese, challenging me to read it.

Later back in my UCF office, a Chinese student was looking at one of the Chinese writings and read what one young man had written.

"Yesterday we went to the park with the American professor. Today in class, the professor came up to me and said, 'This young man is a leader.' Tonight I am going to bed knowing for the first time, I am a leader."

Getting back to the question I was asked in China, the answer lingered in my mind. Maybe it would seem inappropriate to play games here with students in a park or elsewhere. Maybe American students are too busy.

Maybe it was even a rare situation for students and a professor to go to the park in China. I confirmed that it's common for university students to play these games in China. They were innocent and fun.

Do other cultures preserve the innocence of children for a longer time? How do they teach and sustain the purity in the desire to learn and study? How can we sustain purity in the desire to learn and advance?

Perhaps it's not fair to compare Chinese and American students in this way. In China a university experience is a privilege; in the United States it is almost a necessity.

Is it the advanced nature and freedom of our society that somehow also exposes students to too much too soon?

I know I could not answer these questions. I reflected and wondered if perhaps my mind was too closed when trying to answer this question back in China.

But I made a determination: I can play games and maintain an open, friendly demeanor with my American students. No matter the answer, I knew that something was vastly different in the two societies and in the games played at this age and stage of life.

I returned to my classes with a new determination, approaching my courses and others with an invigorated and open mind to playing or singing or dancing or meeting outside the course room to extend the discussions or just to get to know each other better.

As Gandhi told us, we must be the change we want to see in the world.

UCF Forum columnist Denver Severt is an associate professor with the Rosen College of Hospitality Management at the University of Central Florida. He can be reached at Denver.Severt@ucf.edu.

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Teachers earn Education Foundation grants

LARGO - The Pinellas Education Foundation recently announced the teacher grant recipients for the 2012-13 Teach for Excellence Grant, WorkNet Career Grant, Achieva Credit Union Grant, and Progress Energy Grant. Each year, the foundation - through the funding of many sponsors - offers thousands of dollars for these classroom enhancement programs, which are designed to help teachers enrich the classroom learning experience. This year, the foundation awarded more than \$142,000 in grants.

In order to award more deserving teachers with funds, the foundation recently launched a Classroom Sweetheart's Campaign. Designed to raise funds for the grants program, the campaign allows individuals to donate money to the grant program on behalf of their sweetheart. The sweetheart will also receive a Valentine's Day card, and depending on the option chosen, a gift certificate for a box of chocolate from Schokolad Chocolate Factory in St. Petersburg. Visit www.pinellaseducation.org for details.

The following teachers won Teach for Excellence Enhancement Program Grants:

- Academie Da Vinci - Vicki D. Poppell
- Anona Elementary - Sheila F. Baker, Kris Devlin, Kyle Halkett, Mary Bellack, Laurel Hall-Peters, Stephanie Wager, Kristen Ledbetter, and Kathryn Adikes

- Bay Point Middle - Bennie R. Smith, Esvicloria Blasingane, and Paul Douglas
- Calvin Hunsinger - Marilyn Harris, Liza L. Johnson., and Christine Ehlers
- Campbell Park Elementary - Stephanie Frump
- Dixie Hollins High - Jeannie G. Wallace, Lalita S. Mehlenbacher, and Bruce Myers
- Dunedin High - Michelle L. Kelley, Marc Allison and Bernadine Valentine
- Forest Lakes Elementary - Karen L. Gums, Genie Merrer, Ellen E. Lattanzio, Rachel M. Pages, Amanda Jackson, Kim Kennelly, Susan Kypriotakis, Pauline Bitetzakis, Pat Finke, Michelle Sealise, Janet Sontheimer, Kay Durrance-D'Azzo, Lorraine Yaslowitz, Jennifer A. Kennedy, Kelly Rexford, Suzanne Bradford, Stacey Rutledge, and Wendy Smith
- Garrison-Jones Elementary - Sandra C. Schmitt
- High Point Elementary - Victoria S. Hagedorn and Kathleen Ford
- Hospital Homebound - Phyllis Sciarra, Marti McCann, Ed Galmish, and Patrice Mykytko
- Lakewood High - Jason J. Ness
- Largo Middle - Katherine Hawley, Melissa Colgan, and Leslie J. Pohley
- Leila Davis Elementary - Allison M. Chester
- New Heights Elementary - Jennifer H. Perez
- Nina Harris Exceptional -

- Stephanie S. Porch
- Oldsmar Elementary - Sharon A. Miller, Kathy Dupris, and Nicole Schellhammer
- Osceola Middle - Krista A. Wilson
- Perkins Elementary - Anne M. Weller, Jean Wark, Landis Braddock, and Kristi Shultz
- Pinellas Park High - Dale F. Konig
- Ridgecrest Elementary - Sharon F. Gage, Karen Bixler, Dorothea Anderson, Liz Auderer, and Heather Willard
- James B. Sanderlin - Elenora I. Branson
- 74th Street Elementary - Elaine G. Harris
- Sexton Elementary - Roseann V. Sacino, Betsy Courtenay, Suzanne Craig, Donna Fannin, Carolien Goossens, and Suzanne Iak
- Woodlawn Elementary - Arcilous Mincey

The following teachers won Achieva Credit Union Grants:

- Bardmoor Elementary - Melissa Donley
- Calvin Hunsinger - Deborah Corrado
- Coachman Transition North - Deborah Vest
- Countryside High - Daniel Smith
- Curtis Fundamental Elementary - Cathy Fuhs
- Dixie Hollins Adult Education - Karen G. Bells
- Dunedin Highland Middle - Michael Skinner
- Fuguitt Elementary - Amy Coury
- Gibbs High - Betty Scott
- Douglas Jamerson Elementary - Pam Ziesmann
- Highland Lakes Elementary - Jennifer Leggio
- Lake St. George Elementary - Jennifer Bradley
- Lakewood High - Emily Thompson
- Largo Middle - Katherine Hawley and Melissa Colgan
- Nina Harris Exceptional - Jacquie Grimes
- Orange Grove Elementary - Kim Lopez
- Osceola Fundamental High -

- Tracey Raecek
- Perkins Elementary - Del Brenn
- Pinellas Park High - Cynthia Freed and Virginia Brengle
- Pinellas Park Middle - Rebecca Buidens
- Safety Harbor Middle - Maria Audura Little
- 74th Street Elementary - Barbara Killinger
- Tarpon Springs High - Amanda Gagliardo

The following are the recipients of the WorkNet Career Grant:

- Bay Point Middle - Bennie R. Smith
- Countryside High - Daniel C. Smith
- Lakewood High - Jason Ness
- Pinellas Park Middle - Colleen Quinn
- Woodlawn Elementary - Monica Taylor

The following are the recipients of the Progress Energy Grant:

- EWS Eckerd youth Challenge Program - Mindy Shaw
- Forest Lakes Elementary - Janet M. Acerra
- Lakewood High - Jason Ness
- Largo Middle - Leslie Pohley
- Leila Davis Elementary - Catherine Brkjaic
- Northeast High - Elizabeth Royak
- Orange Grove Elementary - Allison Swift
- Osceola Middle - Krista Wilson
- Safety Harbor Middle - Chris Bobrowski, Jeanne Gagliardo, Nichole E. Karbon, and Matthew Miller
- Seminole Vocational Education - Anthony Woodworth

Doughnuts with dad

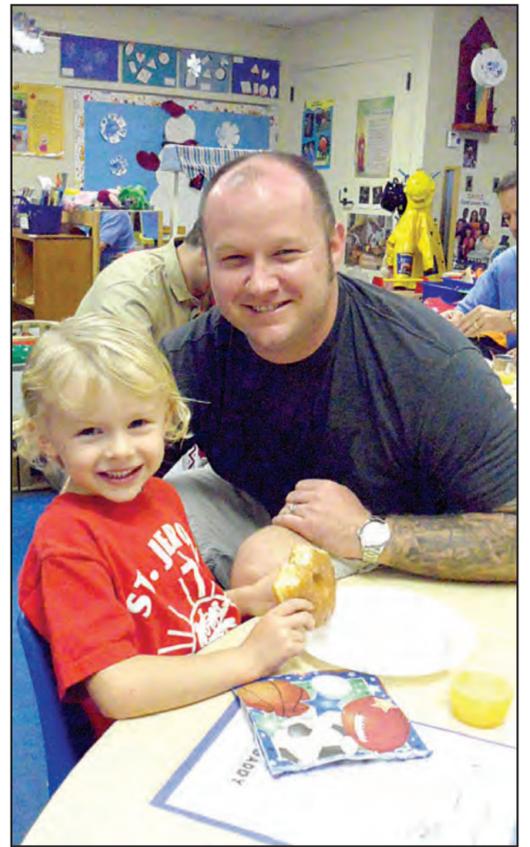


Photo courtesy of ST. JEROME EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER. St. Jerome Early Childhood Center had a "Doughnuts with Dad Day," Jan. 28. Preschool children made placemats for their fathers, who visited the school before they went to work. From left are Casey Carpenter, 4, and his father, Mike.

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Vote for your favorite outstanding educator

LARGO - Community members are invited to vote online for their favorite Outstanding Educator of the Year finalist in Pinellas by going to www.pinellaseducation.org.

In an effort to showcase the excellence of Pinellas County Schools' six 2013 finalists, the Pinellas Education Foundation, with the support of the Tampa Bay Rays, has featured each finalist on its website.

The winner of "fan favorite," along with the announcement of the 2013 Outstanding Educator of

the Year, Business Partners of the Year and Unsung Hero will be revealed at the 2013 Evening of Excellence on Monday, Feb. 25, at Ruth Eckerd Hall. The finalists are as follows:

- Jennifer Anderson of East Lake High
- Becky Bride of Palm Harbor University High
- Krista Kelleher of Sawgrass Lake Elementary
- Jennifer Klimis of Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary
- Jean Wark of Perkins Elementary
- Joanne Wright of Safety Harbor Middle

Free driver's ed classes offered this summer

LARGO - Registration has begun for Pinellas County Schools' free driver's education classes set for the summer.

These are open to public and private school students. Registration will continue until all the slots have been filled.

There are two 10-day sessions, which will run 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Session 1 will be held June 10 to 13, 17 to 20, 24 and 25. Session two will be June 25 and 27, July 1-3, 8-11, and 15.

Students can choose from the following sites:

- Boca Ciega High School (session one only), 924 58th St. S., Gulfport. Contact Bob Medici or Randy Shuman at 893-2780, ext. 2158.
- Clearwater High School, 540 S Hercules Avenue. Contact Tom Shaneyfelt or Pete Eagleson at 298-1620, ext. 172.
- Countryside High School,

3000 State Road 580, Clearwater. Contact Kevin O'Sullivan or Scott Hernon at 725-7956, ext. 2059.

• Dixie Hollins High School, 4940 62nd St. N., St. Petersburg. Contact Lynn Keiser, George Johnson or Robert Stickney at 547-7876, ext. 2073.

• Dunedin High School, 1651 Pinehurst Road. Contact Brian Bruch or Robert Beckman at 469-4100.

• East Lake High School, 1300 Silver Eagle Dr., Tarpon Springs. Contact Robert Jenkins or Adam Tedora at 942-5419, ext. 1070.

• Lakewood High School, 1400 54th Ave. S., St. Petersburg. Contact Anthony Givins or Sam Roper at 893-2916.

• Largo High School, 410 Missouri Avenue. Contact James Casey or David Angelo at 588-3758, ext. 2102.

• Northeast High School, 5500

16th St. N., St. Petersburg. Contact Dave Redding or Larry Rudisill at 570-3138, ext. 1133.

• Palm Harbor University High School, 1900 Omaha Street. Contact John Baker or Vincent Parisi at 669-1131, ext. 2250.

• Pinellas Park High School, 6305 118th Ave. N., Largo. Contact Ralph Young or Paul Hanson at 538-7410.

• St. Petersburg High School, 2501 5th Avenue. N. Contact Chris Blackwell or Dusty Boylson at 893-1842.

Requirements and policies are:

- Students must be at least 15 years old and possess a learner's permit or operator's license when the session begins.
- Two absences will result in an automatic withdrawal.
- Three tardies equals one absence.

Call Nickolas Grasso at (727) 588-6125.

The deans' lists

Oppong makes dean's list

LARGO - Emmanuel Oppong of Largo was recently named to the dean's list at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College for the fall semester. He is studying engineering.

To make the dean's list, students must earn at least a 3.5 grade-point average.

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, is a comprehensive residential college with more than 4,700 students.

Deal makes dean's list

CLEARWATER - Cassandra L. Deal of Clearwater was named to the dean's list at Western New England for the fall semester. She is a junior majoring in English.

To earn this honor, students must earn at least a 3.3 grade-point average or higher.

Western New England University is a private, independent, co-educational institution founded in 1919. Located on a 215-acre suburban campus in Springfield, Mass., Western New England University serves 3,700 students, including 2,550 full-time undergraduate students.

Logemann makes dean's list

SEMINOLE - Rachel Logemann of Seminole recently was named to the dean's list at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn.

To earn this honor, students must earn a 3.5 grade-point average or higher while taking at least 12 credit hours for the semester.

U.S. News, Forbes.com and The Princeton Review have recognized Carson-Newman, a Christian university in Jefferson City, Tenn., as a leading liberal arts institution.

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School notes

Schools need 500 mentors

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County school officials have made it a goal to recruit at least 500 additional mentors by the end of the school year.

The campaign is "Get Engaged – Be a Mentor!" and kicked off in January.

"All children need and deserve at least one adult in their life who will listen to them and guide them and cheer for them. Mentors truly do change lives, and even a small investment of time can provide a lifetime of rewards," said Michelle Roberge, PCS coordinator of family and community relations. "We're asking our community members to consider mentoring a Pinellas County student."

The public is asked to help make a difference in a child's life.

"When one selflessly shares their time, their knowledge and their experiences with a child, they have the opportunity to positively impact our students and our community as a whole," said Superintendent Michael A. Grego. "I am so thankful for the many people throughout our district who have dedicated themselves to supporting our students through mentoring."

For more information, contact Michelle at 588-6405 or robergem@pcs.org.

Anniversary gala and auction set

CLEARWATER – St. Cecilia School's 10th Anniversary Gala and Auction is set for Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Belleair Country Club. Tickets are \$75, and there will be dinner, dancing, a cash bar, and a silent and live auction. Auction items include four grandstand tickets to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, an eight-day northern-California trip, a southern-California trip, a Montana summer home trip, braces, jewelry, spa packages, fine wine, hotel stays, and NFL pro helmet signed by Joe Montana, Jerry Rice and Steve Young.

For details, contact the school at 461-1207.

Fundraiser set

SEMINOLE – Starkey Elementary School is having a Spirit Night fundraiser on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 5 to 8 p.m., at Mo'Ziki restaurant, 10801 Starkey Road in order to raise funds to send the fifth-grade class on an overnight adventure to Kennedy Space Center. During the set hours, 10 percent of all food purchased will go toward the students' trip.

Finalists for Business Partner Award chosen

CLEARWATER – The finalists

for 2013 Business Partner of the Year with Pinellas County Schools have been chosen. The winners will be announced at an Evening of Excellence celebration on Monday, Feb. 25, at Ruth Eckerd Hall.

Companies and organizations were nominated in three categories: elementary, secondary and district.

Each year, business partners are honored by the Pinellas Education Foundation at this event, where first, second and third-place winners are announced. The winner in each category will represent Pinellas County at the state level in each category.

More than 50 businesses and community organizations were nominated for the three categories by school personnel, parents and/or community members regarding the work they do that directly benefits students through financial support, other resources and/or volunteer hours.

The finalists are the following:

- Elementary:
- Anona United Methodist Church
 - Keller Williams Gulfside Realty
- Secondary:
- Our Savior Lutheran Church
 - Ford PAS
 - Low's
 - Ryan Wells Foundation
- District:
- Crown Automotive Group
 - DITEK
 - Horace Mann Insurance

FAFSA Nights set

Students and parents are invited to FAFSA Nights, which offers one-on-one assistance so that they may complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid quickly, in order to qualify for the most financial aid as possible for college. The nights are on Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the following locations:

- Feb. 19, Dunedin High
- Feb. 26, Lakewood High
- March 12, Largo High

Scholarship accepting nominations

Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program is now accepting nominations for outstanding young volunteers. The program will award more than \$425,000 in scholarships and prizes, ranging from \$50 Kohl's gift cards to \$10,000 scholarships. Nominations for kids ages 6 to 18 will be accepted until Friday, March 15, at www.kohlskids.com. More than 2,300 young volunteers will be selected. Nominators must be at least 21 years old.

There will be two nominees from each of the more than 1,100 Kohl's stores nationwide who will win a \$50 gift card, and more than 200 will win regional schol-

arships of \$1,000 toward post-secondary education. Also, 10 national winners will get a total of \$10,000 in scholarships for post-secondary education, and Kohl's will donate \$1,000 to a nonprofit organization on each national winner's behalf.

Trainee of the Year award announced

PALM HARBOR – Christina Chadwick, a senior at East Lake High, has been named the Trainee of the Year by the German American Chambers of Commerce. She was nominated for her internship work at Bauer Foundation Corp., an Odessa-based subsidiary of Bauer Group, an international construction and machinery manufacturing company headquartered in Germany. Her award came with a one-week, all-expenses-paid trip to Berlin.

Bauer Group is an international construction and machinery manufacturing company headquartered in Germany.

"My career goals became so much more evident through the process of training (at Bauer) that I am now focused on pursuing mechanical engineering in my future," Chadwick said in her acceptance speech.

She said she worked in various capacities for Bauer until she found her "passion working in the mechanic and weld shop."

The experience with Bauer gave her real world experience in the professional realm, she said.

"As my confidence grew, I realized that I had earned the respect of the other workers. I also learned the value of great teamwork and the importance of good communication," she said.

Reinhardt earns chiropractic degree

PALM HARBOR – Frank Reinhardt recently earned his doctor of chiropractic degree from Logan College of Chiropractic in St. Louis.

The son of Frank and Kathy Reinhardt of Homer Glen, he plans to practice at Palm Harbor Chiropractic and Rehabilitation in Palm Harbor.

At college, Reinhardt completed 10 trimesters of study – the equivalent of five two-semester academic years. His doctor of chiropractic curriculum encompassed basic and clinical sciences, chiropractic science, research and patient care.

Email information and notices to Largo Leader Editor Juliana Torres at jtorres@TBNweekly.com. You also can send mail to 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772 or call 397-5563, ext. 324.

Our deadline for announcements is Friday at noon.

Reflections



Photo courtesy of MELISSA MARTIN
Maiera Beach Fundamental School fourth-grader Abigail Martin, left, and eighth-grader Julianne Baschuk have advanced to the state level in the Reflections 2012-13 art competition. Martin is competing in dance choreography and Baschuk in visual arts. Top finishers at the state level will advance to the national level. Reflections is a national program that offers art competition in photography, visual arts, literature, film production, musical composition and dance choreography.

Clearwater teacher wins yearlong fellowship

CLEARWATER – Valerie Christou of Clearwater, a science teacher at St. Petersburg High, was recently chosen for a year-long fellowship program in the prestigious National Science Teachers Association's new science teacher academy.

One of nine teachers selected from Florida, Christou will receive a comprehensive NSTA membership package, online mentoring with trained mentors who teach in the same discipline, and the opportunity to participate in a variety of Web-based professional development activities, including Web seminars. In addition, she will receive financial support to attend and participate in NSTA's 2013 National Conference on Science Education in San Antonio.

"We are thrilled to provide these teachers with the resources and support needed to help them feel confident and passionate about the critical work they do in inspiring today's youth to become tomorrow's leading STEM professionals," said Gerry Wheeler, interim executive director, NSTA. Hundreds of people applied, but only nine teachers were selected from Florida. "Lockheed Martin values the importance of providing training and resources to teachers so they are better equipped to teach the next generation of scientists, engineers and mathematicians,"

said Emily Simone, Lockheed Martin's director of Global Community Outreach. "We're excited to partner with NSTA and support the fellows."

The 2012 Fellows were selected on the basis of several criteria, including showing evidence of a solid science background and displaying a strong interest in growing as a professional science educator.

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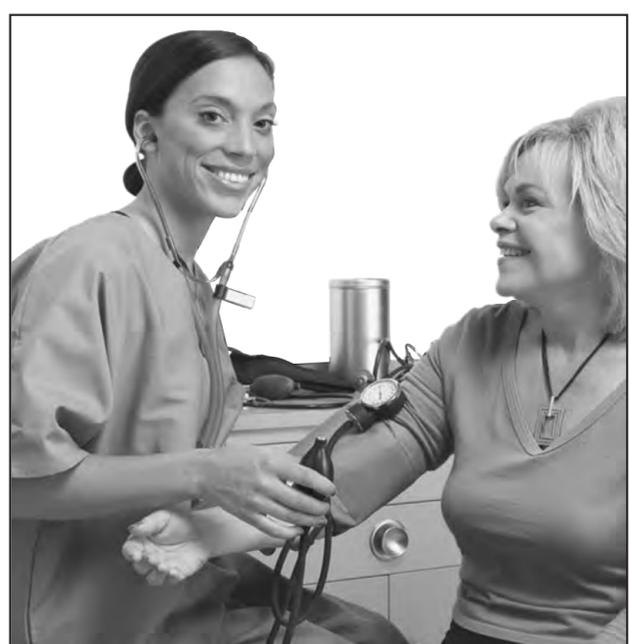
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The Mexican War: A controversial conflict

The Mexican War, which took place from 1846 to 1848, is typically an overlooked but important conflict, important for both parties. The conflict is often pointed to as an example of naked American imperialism. In fact, critics claim that the United States deliberately provoked the war as an excuse to acquire western lands to the Pacific Ocean. It is true that we had intentions to expand our borders, the concept of manifest destiny. That term, by the way, is credited to journalist John L. O'Sullivan, and made its appearance first in 1845. Whether the term was formally used at the time or not is immaterial; the idea behind it, though it had its critics, was popular.



Genealogy exposed

Peter Summers

(http://archives.gov), and the Pinellas Genealogy Society offers a class on ordering those records. Check the society website where upcoming classes are listed (http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flpgs). Another PGS class, one on military records in general, also may be of value.

Ancestry.com (a fee site that is freely accessed at your public library) is also a good site to find various lists of combatants and pensioners, as is Fold3 (www.fold3.com). The Veterans and Widows Census of 1890 also may list surviving veterans of the Mexican war. A very productive site is Descendants of Mexican War Veterans (http://www.dmwv.org). There you will find history, rosters, pictures, and more. Another "must" site to use is one authored by Joe Beine (http://www.militaryindexes.com). The Family Search site (https://familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://familysearch.org/searchapi/search/collection/1979390) provides a digitized index of pensioners of that war, and that site also has microfilm indexes of the compiled service records.

The Pinellas Genealogy Society offers a class focused on the Mexican War, and when it is scheduled, you can find it in the class list at the society webpage mentioned earlier.

Although the Mexican War is considered a minor conflict in the scheme of American wars, it was nonetheless tremendously important in terms of our westward expansion, not to mention uniquely valuable to those who have ancestors who participated in it. The records are not online at this point, but they are reasonably available from the National Archives and some specialized websites, and should not be overlooked in our research.

Peter Summers is an amateur genealogist who has been working on his family history since 1972. He is past president of the Pinellas Genealogy Society.

Bay Pines names new chief of staff

SEMINOLE - Dr. Dominique Thuriere was recently named the new chief of staff of Bay Pines VA Healthcare System.

A reception to introduce Thuriere was held Jan. 29 at the medical center.

The celebration came on the heels of a system-wide announcement made by Suzanne Klinker, director of Bay Pines VAHCS, on Jan. 9 informing employees that Thuriere was selected for the organization's top clinical executive position.

Prior to Thuriere's appointment, she served as the healthcare system's chief of Mental Health and Behavioral Science since 2000 prior to becoming the organization's acting chief of staff last June.

As the chief of the Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service, she provided oversight and held responsibility for a large and complex mental health service comprised of 14 subspecialty programs staffed by 138 mental health professionals.

During her tenure as chief, the service expanded exponentially and was recognized by the VA as one of the best mental health services in the nation.

"Dr. Thuriere's collaborative spirit, interest in innovation, and dedication to mentoring today's and tomorrow's health care professionals all while being an active participant in the community makes her an ideal leader for Bay Pines VA Healthcare System," Klinker said.

Thuriere started her VA career in 1990 at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa as an inpatient psychiatrist and joined the staff at Bay Pines in 1993. In addition to her work in VA, she also has a faculty appointment at the University of South Florida College of Medicine.

Thuriere is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo College of Medicine and completed her residency training in New York City at the North Shore University Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. She is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

"I come to work every day with a clear and singular purpose: to treat veterans with compassion and to offer them the highest quality care," Thuriere said. "If I have accomplished this so far, it is only because I have been fortunate enough to work with extremely talented and dedicated VA health care professionals that come to work every day with that same mission."

"I am extremely honored to have been named chief of staff," she added, "and look forward to working with all of our clinical and administrative professionals at Bay Pines as we continue to provide the very best health care services to our veterans."

The Bay Pines VAHCS is one of the nation's leading VA healthcare systems, employing more than 3,800 medical professionals and support staff. The Joint Commission and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities accredit the facility. The healthcare system is also a three-time winner of the Robert W. Carey Circle of Excellence Award, the VA's top honor for quality achievement.

The organization operates nine health care facilities to include the main medical center located in Bay Pines and outpatient clinics located in Bradenton, Cape Coral, Naples, Palm Harbor, Port Charlotte, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, and Sebring. Every year Bay Pines VAHCS treats nearly 100,000 veterans while providing a full range of medical, psychiatric, and extended care services in outpatient, inpatient, nursing home, and home care settings.



Dominique Thuriere

Faith briefs

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

LARGO - As part of the Art for Faith's Sake concert series, the Augustana Choir will perform Saturday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m., at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 455 Missouri Ave. The choir is from Rock Island, Ill. The concert is free.

For information, call 585-9969 or visit www.poplargo.org.

Chabad Jewish Center

ST. PETERSBURG - Purim in the Circus will be presented Sunday, Feb. 24, 4:30 p.m., at Chabad Jewish Center of Greater St. Petersburg, 4010 Park St. N. International performer Billy

Bob Steinberg and Chucko the Clown (Charles Sidlow) of Circus Sarasota will present an interactive circus sure to delight guests of all ages.

In addition to performing in top theaters and venues throughout North America, Steinberg has made international appearances including the Singapore International Comedy Festival, New Zealand, Australia and in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he performed in the Bolshoi Circus of St. Petersburg.

Upon graduation from high school Chucko the Clown was encouraged to audition for Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey Circus Clown College. He became one of an elite group of 50 students, selected from over 5,000 applicants. After 20 years where he produced and performed comedy antics working as International Clown Coordinator. Upon his return to the United States he helped develop and create Circus Sarasota.

In 2009 and 2010 he also was invited to perform in China at their international arts festival. Most recently, he was asked to work with the "Jose Michel European Clowns" on their debut in America.

Besides the performances by Billy Bob and Chucko, attendees will be able to nosh on traditional circus fare such as hot dogs and fries, hot pretzels, cotton candy and popcorn. There also will be crafts, music and balloons.

Prior to the program, there will be a Megillah reading at 4 p.m.

Reservations before Monday, Feb. 11, cost \$5 a person or \$20 for a family. After Feb. 11, cost is \$7 a person.

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

St. Petersburg Community Church

ST. PETERSBURG - A Valentine's movie night will be presented Saturday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m., in the fellowship hall at St. Petersburg Community Church, 4501 30th Ave. N.

The featured film will be "Courageous." Children, ages 5 to 10, are welcome to join us for a program specifically designed for them during the movie. A nursery also will be provided for children, infant to age 4. Popcorn will be served during the movie. The event is free.

To RSVP or for information, call 525-0012 or visit www.gracetograce.org.

Chabad of Clearwater

CLEARWATER - As part of the Chabad of Clearwater's distinguished speaker series, Bernd Wollschlaeger - son of a Nazi tank commander - will give a lecture on Sunday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m., at Holiday Inn Express, 2580 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd.

Wollschlaeger will talk about his family history, his discovery of the events of the Holocaust, his move from Germany to Israel and his decision to become a Jew. His father was a Nazi tank commander who was personally decorated for heroism by Adolph Hitler.

"The story is really quite unbelievable," said Wollschlaeger, who has written of his family's wartime past and his own conversion to Judaism in a memoir, "A German Life - Against All Odds, Change is Possible".

The lecture is titled "My Father Was A Nazi."

Wollschlaeger said his aim in telling his story is to help others understand "how we as individuals can stand up and make a difference to prevent something like the Shoah from happening again."

Admission is \$10. For reservations, call 265-2770 or visit www.jewishclearwater.com.



Photo courtesy of CHABAD OF CLEARWATER
Bernd Wollschlaeger

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Military briefs

Zachery Martin

LARGO - Marine Corps Pvt. Zachery Martin recently earned the title of United States Marine after graduating from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Martin is the son of Gena Stanford of Largo, and Dennis Martin of Clearwater. Martin is a 2011 graduate of Osceola Fundamental High School in Seminole.

Joel Quattlebaum

LARGO - Marine Corps Pfc. Joel R. Quattlebaum recently earned the title of United States Marine after graduating from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Quattlebaum is a 2008 graduate of Largo High School.

Kevin Kissoon

LARGO - Marine Corps Pvt. Kevin Kissoon recently earned the title of United States Marine after graduating from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Kissoon is the son of Rohinie Kissoon of Largo, and Dhanasar Kissoon of Largo.

Kissoon is a 2011 graduate of Dunedin High School.

Brian O'Neil

SEMINOLE - Army Lt. Col. Brian O'Neil was recently notified of his promotion to full colonel. His pinning ceremony will take place in the Hall of Heroes in the Pentagon in early March. He currently holds a position within the Office of the Army Chief of Staff.

O'Neil is the son of James and Susan O'Neil of Seminole. He is a 1985 graduate of Port Charlotte High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1989 from Niagara University, Niagara Falls, N.Y.

O'Neil has served in the Army since his commissioning in 1989, with overseas tours in Korea, Turkey and Afghanistan. He has been stationed at Fort Sam Hous-

ton, San Antonio, Texas; Fort Lee, Va.; and Fort Lewis-McChord, Tacoma, Wash., as well as at the Pentagon.



Brian O'Neil

Cadets march in Inaugural Parade

The following Virginia Military Institute cadets were among the approximately 1,500 who marched in this year's presidential Inaugural Parade Jan. 21:

- Anthony Augustine of St. Petersburg. Cadet Augustine's parents are Ms. Tara T. Augustine and Mr. William F. Augustine.
- Stephen M. Hartnett III of Clearwater. Cadet Hartnett's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Stephen M. Hartnett Jr.

The Corps of Cadets marched through the heart of Washington, D.C., from the U.S. Capitol Building to the reviewing stand at the White House. The Corps was the final group in the parade, passing the president in review at about 6:30 p.m.

The cadets' participation marked the 14th time that the VMI Corps of Cadets has marched in a presidential Inaugural Parade. VMI, with an enrollment of 1,600 cadets, is the nation's oldest state-supported military college. U.S. News and World Report has ranked it among the top three public-supported liberal arts colleges in the nation.

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Weedon Island Center celebrates 10th year

ST. PETERSBURG – The public is invited to join the Friends of Weedon Island as it celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center Saturday, Feb. 16, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Planned activities begin with opening remarks by invited dignitaries and community leaders. The featured speaker is former Pinellas County Commissioner Barbara Sheen Todd, who led community efforts to lease Weedon Island from the state of Florida and implement a management plan that protected the Native American burial mounds, preserved the coastal mangroves, protected the sea grass beds and maintained the indigenous flora and fauna.

Trained guides will lead a series of hikes throughout the preserve. There are hikes specially designed for families; others focus on Native American history and coastal ecology.

Arts and crafts activities, including fish printing and Play-Doh pottery, will be offered for children and adults. Videos chronicling Weedon Island Preserve's history and ecology will be offered for viewing in the center, and a scavenger hunt will take place within the center's exhibit areas. All guests who complete the hunt will receive prizes.

Guests will enjoy music by Native American flute players. An anniversary cake and light refreshments will be served at noon.



Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS

Cutting the ribbon at the opening of the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center on Nov. 2, 2002 are, from left, St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker, Pinellas Commissioner Bob Stewart, Pinellas Commissioner John Morroni, Tom Muntz, Pinellas Commissioner Barbara Sheen Todd, Connie Kone, Kathleen Schwallie, Pinellas Commissioner Susan Latvala, Pinellas Commissioner Karen Williams Seel, Ed Hoffman Jr. and Pinellas Commissioner Ken Welch. Holding the ribbon are students from the Seminole Ahfachkee School.

For information visit www.weedon10-eorg.eventbrite.com. The Friends of Weedon Island is a non-profit group that supports environmental preservation and education at the preserve.

Weedon Island Preserve protects more than 3,700 acres of natural ecosystems and is located at 1800 Weedon Drive NE in St. Petersburg. The preserve is operated under the Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Re-

sources Department and is open to the public seven days a week, including holidays, from 7 a.m. to 15 minutes before sunset. Its many outdoor activities include walking trails, a fishing pier and a canoe/kayak launch.

The Cultural and Natural History Center in the preserve features the permanent exhibit, Connecting People and Place, an art-inspired, hands-on educational exhibit which reveals the area's

history, ecology and people. The center is open Thursday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is closed all Pinellas County holidays.

To learn more about Weedon Island Preserve and its upcoming programs and events, visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org or call 453-6500. To register for programs and events visit Videos featuring Weedon Island Preserve can be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/pccvt1.

FWC, DEP increase service in state parks this year

When the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission acquired additional personnel from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 2012, its staff gained new responsibilities.

Now, FWC officers patrol all of Florida's woods and waters, including its state forests and state parks.

Gov. Rick Scott said, "By combining the efforts of Florida's environmental law enforcement, we can ensure that our state's many visitors are safe and natural resources are protected. This efficient approach provides FWC more opportunities to serve Florida families and enhance the natural condition of our state parks and forests."

"We have become more efficient and effective with an even broader range of skills and experience," said Col. Jim Brown, director of the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement. "By reducing supervisors, increasing the number of officers in the field and working closely with DEP's Florida Park Service, we have been able to increase service levels in the parks by 28 percent."

The statistic refers to the number of activity hours in the parks in the first six months after the consolidation – July through December – compared to the same period of 2011, when a smaller number of DEP

officers was patrolling the parks alone. The consolidation of officers became official July 1, 2012.

"We are pleased with the extremely high level of service provided to our state parks and visitors by FWC law enforcement professionals," said Donald Forgiore, DEP's Florida Park Service director. "The safety of our visitors and the environment is our top priority. With the consolidation of Florida's environmental law enforcement divisions, we have a larger pool of officers from multiple areas of the state who are available to efficiently and effectively assist the state parks when called."

The consolidation was recommended by the Law Enforcement Consolidation Task Force and sponsored by Rep. Rich Glorioso and Sen. Jack Latvala in a bill that the Florida Legislature approved. Gov. Rick Scott signed the consolidation bill into law. The change was projected to improve service to the public and cut costs. Though the initial savings are limited, the efficiencies created will save the state more than \$3 million over the next five years and \$1.28 million in recurring annual savings.

"We are already seeing benefits," Brown said. "We look forward to continuing to enhance service and ensure that people can safely enjoy our state parks, state forests and all of Florida's beautiful natural resources."

Sports briefs

Walk to help raise funds for children

LARGO – Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas will host the third annual "Because Every Child Counts" 3K Walk on Saturday, Feb. 9, at Eagle Lake Park, 1800 Keene Road.

The walk will start at 11 a.m. at shelter No. 5. Registration will open at 10 a.m. The organization is accepting donations for the event.

Proceeds raised from the event will support Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas's goal of providing a safe, nurturing and educational environment for children ages 2 months to 6 years of age, many of whom are living in poverty and in homeless situations. If you cannot participate in the walk, you can donate at www.childcarepinellas.org

Seminole Chiefs seek coaches

SEMINOLE – The Seminole Chiefs youth football organization is accepting applications for team coaches.

The Chiefs play games at the Seminole Youth Athletic Association facility at 12100 90th Ave. The season runs from August through November. Deadline for applications is March 1.

The Chiefs also are looking for cheer coaches.

For more information, visit www.seminolechiefs.org.

O'Neil named director of family programs

CLEARWATER – The Carlouel Yacht Club, 1091 Eldorado Ave., has hired swimming specialist Ian O'Neil as the new director of family programs, aquatics and wellness. His responsibilities will include overseeing the club's swim team program, aquatic facilities and developing new athletic programs and family activities.

Prior to this position, O'Neil served as the aquatics director of Countryside Country Club where he



Ian O'Neil

worked since 1991. He has also served as the head swim coach at Countryside High for the last 12 years and was honored as Pinellas Coach of the Year in 2002, 2004, and 2009. He was also nominated as the 2012 Pinellas County Athletic Conference boys team coach of the year. He is the current president of the Tampa Bay Aquatics swim team board.

"We are thrilled to have such a highly regarded swimming professional at Carlouel," said Lee Mackay, general manager. "In addition to rebuilding the Pirate's swim program, Mr. O'Neil will expand Carlouel's recreation and safety programs to include scuba instruction, CPR certification courses, and a variety of athletic activities both on land and on water."

O'Neil has high expectations for Carlouel's swim team program.

"My ultimate goal is to make Carlouel Yacht Club an acting participant in the ninth branch of Tampa Bay Aquatics," O'Neil said. "Currently 700 swimmers strong, the USA registered swimming team is recognized as one of the top competitive teams in the country, and I intend to elevate Carlouel's swim program to the highest level."

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Executing a game plan can be difficult

Another week down and another cold front has past.

It can be difficult this time of year to execute the game plan you've had in your head all week. Clear blue skies and a northerly breeze often mean tough conditions for fishing. Take it or leave it. That's your choice.

As someone who earns a living through fishing I often find myself on the water on a lot of days that might look pretty to the untrained eye.

However, from an angling standpoint, they can be a recipe for failure. Following are a couple of shallow water tidbits that might help put a couple extra fish in the boat on those less than perfect days.

If you want to fish the shallows on bluebird days, you're going to have to stay as far away from the fish as possible and be as absolutely quiet as possible. Long rods and light line will help you get the bait out there. Bringing up another point, I love to fish artificial lures as much as anyone.

However, if the water temperature has dipped and there's no cloud cover, the bites will be few and far between. Fresh pinfish are readily available right now and if you cut their tail off they make the perfect redfish and gator trout bait.

Positioning your boat and controlling the amount of noise coming from it is perhaps most important. Approach your desired location from an up wind heading. This may require you to take a different angle to the area.

This approach will allow you to use your trolling motor on a very low speed, thus lessening the chance of spooking the fish from a distance that will never allow you to set up on them. As your making your way to the fish consider shutting your bait well down and relocating your bait to an outside towable bait pen.

Lastly, get your crew to believe in what you're doing. Get them excited about catching some big fish in such skinny water. Let them know that anything they can do to control the vibrations coming off the boat will only help to catch more fish.

Definitely try to get everyone to sit down and relax and to let you freshen the baits and net the fish, you know your boat best and can move around it while making as little noise as possible.

Until next week, get bent!



Fish Tales

Capt. Tyson Wellerstein

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

Gardening briefs

Society to host show

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

The event will begin with a plant preview at 9 a.m. followed by the auction, starting at 10 a.m. There is no admission charge and parking is free.

For information, call Ruth Cannon at 550-7993, email gramorchid@gmail.com or visit www.fwcso.org.

Coast Orchid Society will meet Thursday, Feb. 14, at the Pinellas County Cooperative Extension, 12175 125th St. N.

An educational class will be presented at 7 p.m. Corinne Arnold will discuss mounting orchids. At 7:30 p.m., Jim Roberts will speak on Dendrobium ansum and its hybrids.

The meeting will include an orchid sale, raffle and refreshments. Visitors are welcome. Admission and parking are free.

For information, call 550-7993.

Library to host organic program

SAFETY HARBOR – A free program on organic spring gardening will be presented Thursday, Feb. 7, 2 p.m., at the Safety Harbor Library, 101 Second St. N.

Master Gardener Jai Hambly will explain how to ready gardens for the spring with organic gardening. Hambly of Organic Living will teach attendees how to be a successful gardener in Florida. Participants will take home free seedlings and gardening products. For information, call 724-1525, ext. 112.

Orchid Friends sale set

SEMINOLE – The Orchid Friends sale will take place Saturday, March 2, 9 a.m. to noon, at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 10891 102nd Ave. N.

The sale will feature a variety of blooming and non-blooming plants as well as supplies for sale. Advice on orchid care and culture will be offered. For information, call 475-0750.

Orchid society to meet

LARGO – The Florida West

Obituaries

Joseph John D'AMARO Jr.

Joseph John D'Amato Jr., 67, of Largo, Fla., made his transition on January 11, 2013. He attended Juilliard School and played saxophone professionally. He was an Army veteran and upon his return from Viet Nam, graduated from Pace University in 1972. He had a Stock Brokerage and Tax Accounting business for 30 years in Largo. He is survived by his fiancée, Connie Collins; sister, Joan DePergola; three daughters, Jennifer DeYoung (Steve), Tracy Reed (Danny), Aerica D'Amato (Sherman Brown); and 5 grandchildren, Taylor Kelly, Hayden Reed, Cody and Hannah DeYoung, and Enzo Brown. He was laid to rest Sunday, January 20, 2013 at Serenity Gardens, and Father Muldoon officiated. A memorial service followed with Aerica D'Amato presenting his eulogy and Reverend Ken Ahrens of Lake Placid officiating. 70 guests attended from the Tampa Bay area.

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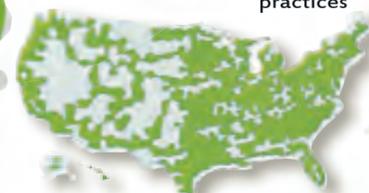
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Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County



- Classifieds
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Leader
Section B
February 7, 2013
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Top five diversions

• **The Florida Orchestra: Broadway Now!** Friday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m., at the Straz Center, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa; Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m., at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg; and Sunday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$15. Call 892-3337 or visit www.floridaorchestra.org. The program will feature 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.

• **Leon Redbone**, Friday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$29.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. 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.

• **"Love Times Five,"** by Dennis Jones, Feb. 8-24, at Venue Ensemble Theatre, presented at Venue Actors Studio, 9125 U.S. 19 N., Pinellas Park. Call 822-6194 or visit www.venueactorstudio.org. Performances are Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. A portion of ticket sales from each show is donated to a benefit organization. This hilarious, side-splitting and – at times – poignant collection of one act romantic comedies by Dennis Jones is directed by Richard N. Rosen. "Love Times Five" features the 2011 and 2012 WCP summer drama one-act winners, "The Cupid Contract" and "The Deluxe Option," as well as three other sophisticated and fresh comedies tied together with a brilliant and sardonic narration that comprises a program of totally delightful theatrical fun.

• **Yesterday and Today**, the Interactive Beatles Experience, Friday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$29.50. Call 587-6793 or visit www.largoarts.com. Yesterday and Today is completely unique from any other Beatles show out there. The band does away with the wigs and the accents and just 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.

• **Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons**, Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$59.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhal.com. 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 hits such as "Sherry" through "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," "Grease" and his resurgence following "Jersey Boys," he and the Four Seasons have sold more than 100 million records.



Photo courtesy of VENUE ENSEMBLE THEATRE
Starring in the Venue Ensemble Theatre production of "Love Times Five" are, seated, from left, Rosalyn Savell, Lou Russo and Suzy Fritz; and, standing, Ira Wolf, Chris Carmichael and Dave Graff.



Largo Cultural Center welcomes jazz vocalist Jane Monheit Feb. 14.

Photo by KIRK RICHARD SMITH/AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS

A Valentine's Day show

Gifted jazz vocalist Jane Monheit to perform at Largo Cultural Center

LARGO – For those seeking a special treat for Valentine's Day, jazz and adult contemporary vocalist Jane Monheit will romance audience members with a performance Thursday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive.

Tickets start at \$34.50. A \$5 charge and applicable service fee will be added at the door. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com.

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 "Late Show with David Letterman," "The View," "The Today Show" and "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

An extraordinarily gifted jazz vocalist whose sincere and romantic interpretations of exceptional songs has made her a favorite in both the jazz and cabaret worlds, Monheit has garnered numerous accolades in the past decade. Her first album, "Never Never Land," was voted top debut recording by the Jazz Journalist's Association and stayed on the Billboard Jazz chart for over a year. Subsequent albums either charted high, or in several cases, debuted at No. 1, and yielded two Grammy nominations in the Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocals category, recognizing the work of Vince Mendoza on 2002's "In The Sun" and 2004's "Taking A Chance On Love."

Monheit's complete discography includes "Never Never Land" (2000), "Come Dream with Me" (2001), "In the Sun" (2002), "Live at the Rainbow Room" (2003), "Taking a Chance on Love" (2004), "The Very Best of Jane Monheit" (2005), "The Season" (2005), "Surrender" (2007), "The Lovers, The Dreamers, and Me" (2009) and "Home" (2010).

Monheit celebrated the 10th anniversary of her recording career in 2010. To mark the anniversary, the jazz vocalist released "Home," a heartfelt collection of standards that represented a passionate return to her roots as a jazz musician. The CD features the band she has worked with onstage and off for most of her career, as well as special guests such as John Pizzarelli, Mark O'Connor, and Larry Goldings.

"Home" is perhaps the lightest album of Monheit's 10-CD discography. Treasured songs include the upbeat Arthur Schwartz/Howard Dietz classic "A Shine On Your Shoes," the swinging Rodgers and Hart gem "Everything I've Got Belongs To You," a charming rendition of Irving Berlin's "Isn't It A Lovely Day," and Jerome Kern/B.G. Desylva's



Photo by VINCENT SOYEZ/AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS
Jane Monheit plans to release her new CD, "The Heart of the Matter," this April.

accentuate-the-positive "Look For The Silver Lining."

"I'm so much more drawn to the happier songs," Monheit said in a press release at the time. She explained that "Home" was the first album she had made in its entirety since becoming a mother. "Having a beautiful child in my life has really lightened me up, especially where music is concerned."

New CD due in April

Monheit will release her 11th CD, "The Heart of the Matter," on

See MONHEIT, page 4B

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Looking Ahead

Largo

- **Touch-a-Truck and Florida Clown Day**, Saturday, Feb. 9, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive, Largo. The free annual event is designed for children fascinated with big trucks and funny clowns. There also will be a business exposition featuring local businesses. Call 586-7415 or largoevents.com.
- **The Florida Suncoast Barbershop Chorus**, Sunday, Feb. 10, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road. Tickets are \$13 in advance. The show includes a meal. Call 518-3131.
- **Carne's Vintage Vegas**, Monday, Feb. 11, 2 and 7 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$22.50. Call 587-6793 or visit www.largoarts.com. With more than 40 years of performing in Las Vegas, and a powerful baritone voice, Carne and his band will have you laughing, remembering some of the great stars, and asking for more. This show has it all including playful impressions of famous performers, artful storytelling, and songs ranging from sentimental to zany.
- **Celebrity Showcase Series featuring the Atlantic City Boys**, Tuesday, Feb. 14, 1 and 7 p.m., at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo. Tickets are \$14 in advance. Call 518-3131.
- **Jim Stafford**, Friday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$24.50. Call 587-6793 or visit www.largoarts.com. Famous for his million-selling records, "Spiders & Snakes," "Cow Patti" and the infamous "My Girl Bill," Stafford satirizes the obvious with his music and comedy. 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.
- **The New Shanghai Circus**, Saturday, Feb. 16, 3 and 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$24.50. Call 587-6793. Astonishing athletes stretch the limits of human

- ability in this spellbinding show. Fearless performers with boundless energy defy gravity and execute breathtaking feats while bringing you 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" by their amazing feats of jar-juggling, plate-spinning, hoop-diving and aerial ballet.
- **Celebrity Showcase Series featuring the New Dawn Singers**, Thursday, Feb. 28, 1 to 3 p.m., at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo. Tickets are \$14 in advance. Call 518-3131.
- **"The Producers,"** with book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan, and music and lyrics by Mel Brooks; March 1-17, presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25.50 for adults and \$12.50 for children 19 and younger. Call 587-6793.
- **"Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits,"** created and written by Gerard Alessandrini, May 3-19, presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25.50 for adults and \$12.50 for children 19 and younger. Call 587-6793.
- **"The Swashbuckling Adventures of Alex Jones,"** with book, music and lyrics by Jason Tucker, July 12-21, presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25.50 for adults and \$12.50 for children 19 and younger. Call 587-6793.

Clearwater

- **"Move Over Mrs. Markham,"** by Ray Cooney and John Chap-

- man, through March 3, presented by Early Bird Dinner Theatre at the Italian-American Club, 200 S. McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Performances are Thursday through Sunday, with seating at 4 p.m. Matinees are Thursdays and Saturdays, with seating at 11 a.m. Admission is \$32 plus tax and includes dinner and the show. For reservations, call 446-5898 or visit www.earlybirddinnertheatre.com.
- **"The Red Velvet Cake War,"** by Nicholas Hope, Jamie Wooten and Jessie Jones; Saturday, Feb. 9, 2 p.m., at the West Coast Players Theatre, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. In response to popular demand, the theater has scheduled one additional matinee of this popular production. Tickets are \$16. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org.
- **Vienna Boys Choir**, Monday, Feb. 11, 1 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets are \$18 and \$25. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Part of the 2012-13 Adults at Leisure Series and returning for the fifteenth time, the world's preeminent boys' choir delights audiences with purity of tone, charm, and a repertoire of Austrian folk songs, waltzes, classical masterpieces, beloved pop songs, holiday favorites and medieval chant.
- **Steve Miller Band**, Wednesday, Feb. 13, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$49.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. 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. The Steve Miller Band is brand name rock that millions have come to trust. The band is best known for a string of 1970s hits such as "The Joker," "Take the Money and Run," "Fly Like an Eagle," "Rock'n Me," "Jet Airliner," "Jungle Love" and "Abracadabra."
- **Sheryl Crow**, Thursday, Feb. 14, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$49. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. The multiple Grammy-winner and humanitarian will return to REH for the first time since her sold-out show in April 2008. Free-spirited, fearless and fierce, Crow has garnered nine Grammys, performed duets with musical luminaries such as Sting and Mick Jagger, released seven studio albums which sold more than 35 million records worldwide, saw the launch of her very own clothing line Bootheel Trading Co., is a cancer survivor and passionate humanitarian and has performed for President Obama. From humble beginnings as a jingle and back-up singer, Crow has reached the pinnacle of professional solo success. Crow's debut, the seven times platinum "Tuesday Night Music Club," hit No. 3 and earned three Grammys, 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."
- **Shaun Hopper and Adam Rafferty**, Friday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$25. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Hopper will be joined by Rafferty for one night only at the Capitol Theatre. 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-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.
- **Jim Brickman**, Saturday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$40. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Brickman, an award-winning PBS superstar and the best-selling piano artist today, returns to Ruth Eckerd Hall with his Valentine concert. Brickman has revolutionized his genre with melodies such as "Valentine," "The Gift," "Love of My Life," "Simple Things" and "Peace" that reaffirms idealism and romanticism.
- **Hooray for Hollywood**, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets are \$25 and \$35. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Part of the 2012-13 Adults at Leisure Series, the show will feature favorites from the silver screen when 14 singers and dancers, more than 30 songs and 300 costume changes, movie clips, and a red-hot band take the audience on a nostalgic journey through 50 years of the most popular movie musicals.
- **Johnny Winter**, Sunday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre.

Crossword

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

- Across**
- Beg
 - Malcolm X" director
 - Victorian, for one
 - Military air base
 - Unit of fineness of silk fibers
 - Rigid support for a broken bone
 - "Crazy" bird
 - Condo, e.g.
 - Characteristic carrier
 - Weapon with a long, pointed blade
 - Conspiratorial group of plotters
 - Accord
 - Allocate, with "out"
 - "Comprende?"
 - Covered with gold
 - Clip sheep's fleece
 - "Cut it out!"
 - Diagram showing family lineage
 - About to explode
 - Director's cry
 - ___ Wednesday
 - Parenting challenges
 - At attention
 - Back of the neck
 - "My boy"
 - "This means ___!"
 - Flowering vine
 - Bit
 - Small harpsichord
 - Anger
 - Render harmless
 - Element B
 - Come to mind
 - Glide along on ice
 - Move by taking steps
 - Bust, so to speak
 - 100 centavos
 - "Let's ___"
 - Appear
 - Morgue, for one
 - "Don't give up!"
- Down**
- Be worthwhile
 - Wallop
 - Lowlife
 - Cliffside dwelling
 - Corn ___
 - Decline
 - Long
 - Beef buy
 - Final notice
 - Break into fragments
 - Filter
 - One way to stand by
 - Speculative
 - Enlarge, as a hole
 - Corrode
 - Big ___ Conference
 - "___ on Down the Road"
 - Lawn mower's path
 - "Buona ___" (Italian greeting)
 - "... ___ he drove out of sight"
 - Water-filled ditch surrounding a castle
 - Shed tears of grief
 - Committed to live and work in a specific place (2 wds)
 - Strong woody fiber
 - Druid, e.g.
 - Clergyman who also has a secular job (hyphenated)
 - "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.
 - Long, long time
 - In pieces
 - At sea
 - "Cast Away" setting
 - Come again
 - "Trick" joint
 - Airhead
 - Pirate's pal

Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers from last week

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

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

Horoscopes February 7, 2013

Capricorn

December 22 - January 19
Your knack for collecting leads you to an incredible opportunity. Seize it, Capricorn. It's made for you. A true blue friend could use some savvy advice.

Aquarius

January 20 - February 18
Go for it, Aquarius. There is nothing holding you back but you. A well-deserved vacation is on the horizon. Invite a few friends along and amp up the fun.

Pisces

February 19 - March 20
Romance heats up, and small gifts arrive by the handful. Show your appreciation in a big way, Pisces. A new face brings new ideas to the table.

Aries

March 21 - April 19
Baby steps, Aries. Pulling out all of the stops at this point will get you nowhere fast. Caution is key to making progress. A financial opportunity beckons.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20
You're not one to toot your own horn, but if you want to move up the ladder, that's what you're going to have to do. Time to strut your stuff, Taurus.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21
Romantic adventures are on tap. Enjoy yourself, Gemini. Fitness goals are revised with a gift. Do your homework to ensure you get the maximum benefit.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22
Chatty Cancer. You like to talk, but if you aren't careful this week, that could get you into trouble. Watch what you say out loud and on paper.

Leo

July 23 - August 22
Time to live it up! There's much fun to be had this week, if you let yourself. Remember, all work and no play makes for a dull Leo. A question is answered.

Virgo

August 23 - September 22
Romantic gestures get the week off to a great start. Enjoy, Virgo, and don't forget to return the favor. News from home revs up the excitement!

Libra

September 23 - October 22
Psst, Libra. More is more this week. Express how you feel, show your appreciation and watch your relationship with a loved one blossom. A phone call proves insightful.

Scorpio

October 23 - November 21
Happiness comes in many forms, Scorpio. What brings you joy may not work for another. Keep that in mind as you make plans for a visit with a friend.

Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21
A new arrival turns life at home upside down. Go with the flow, Sagittarius, and you just might have a bit of fun. The workload increases.

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010313

Opening this weekend

'Identity Thief' pairs Bateman, McCarthy; Mara, Tatum experience 'Side Effects'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'Identity Thief'

Genre: Comedy
 Cast: Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy, Jon Favreau, Amanda Peet, Tip "T.I." Harris, Genesis Rodriguez, Morris Chestnut, John Cho, Robert Patrick and Eric Stonestreet
 Director: Seth Gordon
 Rated: R
 Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy lead the cast of "Identity Thief," an all-star comedy in which a regular guy is forced to extreme measures to clear his name.

With everything to lose after his identity is stolen, he'll find out how crazed you can get trying to settle a bad credit score.

Unlimited funds have allowed Diana (McCarthy) to live it up on the outskirts of Orlando, where the queen of retail buys whatever strikes her fancy. There's only one glitch: The ID she's using to finance these sprees reads "Sandy Bigelow Patterson" ... and it belongs to an accounts rep (Bateman) who lives halfway across the United States.

With only one week to hunt down the con artist before his world implodes, the real Sandy Bigelow Patterson heads south to confront the woman with an all-access pass to his life. And as he attempts to bribe, coax and wrangle her the 2,000 miles to Denver, one easy target will discover just how tough it is to get your name back.

'Side Effects'

Genre: Psychological thriller
 Cast: Jude Law, Rooney Mara, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Channing Tatum
 Director: Steven Soderbergh
 Rated: R

"Side Effects" is a provocative thriller about Emily and Martin (Rooney Mara and Channing Tatum), a successful New York couple whose world unravels when a new drug prescribed by Emily's psychiatrist (Jude Law) - intended to treat anxiety - has unexpected side effects.

Emily (Rooney Mara) and Martin Taylor (Channing Tatum) are a young, beautiful, wealthy couple living the good life, with a mansion, a sailboat and every luxury money can buy - until Martin is sent to prison for insider trading. For four years, Emily waits for him in a tiny apartment in upper Manhattan, but his release is just as devastating as his incarceration and Emily sinks into a deep depression.

After a failed suicide attempt, psychiatrist Jonathan Banks (Jude Law) is called in to consult on Emily's case. Desperate not to be hospitalized, Emily agrees to a regimen of therapy and antidepressants, a decision that will change the lives of everyone involved. When Emily's symptoms don't improve, Banks prescribes a new medication that quiets her demons. But the side effects of the drug have chilling consequences: marriages are ruined, Banks' practice is decimated and someone is dead - but who is responsible? Devastated by this professional setback, Banks becomes obsessed with finding an answer. But the truth he uncovers threatens to destroy whatever is left of his career and his private life.

'Top Gun 3D'

Genre: Action and adventure
 Cast: Tom Cruise, Kelly McGillis, Val Kilmer, Anthony Edwards, Tom Skerritt and Michael Ironside
 Director: Tony Scott
 Rated: PG

"Top Gun," Paramount Pictures' 1986 classic from director Tony Scott, producers Don Simpson and Jerry Bruckheimer, and starring Tom Cruise, will take off on a new adventure with an exclusive six-day 3D engagement in select IMAX theatres beginning Feb. 8.

The film has been re-mastered for the IMAX 3D release and subsequent debut on Blu-ray.

"Top Gun" was re-mastered for the big screen from high-resolution original negative scans and painstakingly converted to 3D by Legend3D under the supervision of the film's director, Tony Scott. Rendered in 3D, the film's complex, long shots reveal extraordinary depth and clarity, allowing viewers to explore every detail of the action. From the spectacular aerial dogfights to the intense close-ups in the cockpits, each frame enables the audience to feel a part of the story.

The story of an elite group of pilots competing to be the best in their class and earn the title of "Top Gun" captured the imagination of a generation and earned a worldwide box office of over \$350 million upon its release. The film stars Tom Cruise as Maverick and Kelly McGillis as his civilian instructor. The film also stars Val Kilmer, Anthony Edwards and Meg Ryan.

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

'A Glimpse Inside the Mind of Charles Swan III'

Genre: Comedy and drama
 Cast: Charlie Sheen, Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Aubrey Plaza and Patricia Arquette
 Director: Roman Coppola
 Rated: R

Set in a stylized Los Angeles, "A Glimpse Inside the Mind of Charles Swan III" is a playful comedy of lost love, friendship, revenge fantasies and Brandy Alexanders.

Charles (Charlie Sheen) is a successful graphic designer whose fame, money and charm have provided him with a seemingly perfect life. When his true love, a perplexing beauty named Ivana, suddenly breaks off their relationship, Charles' life falls apart and he swirls into a downward spiral of doubt, confusion and reflection. With the support of his loyal intimates - Kirby (Jason Schwartzman), Saul (Bill Murray), and his sister, Izzy (Patricia Arquette) - he begins the hard road of self-evaluation to come to terms with a life without Ivana.

The film begs the question: Is it possible to love and hate someone at the same time?

'Lore'

Genre: Drama, thriller and war



Photo by BOB MAHONEY

Above, Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy lead the cast of "Identity Thief", an all-star comedy in which a regular guy is forced to extreme measures to clear his name. At right, Rooney Mara and Channing Tatum star in "Side Effects," directed by Steven Soderbergh.



Photo by BARRY WETCHER/OPEN ROAD FILMS

Cast: Saskia Rosendahl, Kai Malina, Nele Trebs, Ursina Lardi, Hans-Jochen Wagner, Milka Seidel, André Frid and Eva-Maria Hagen
 Director: Cate Shortland
 Rated: PG-13

The year is 1945. Left to fend for herself when her SS officer father and mother, a staunch Nazi believer, are interred by the victorious Allies at the end of World War II, Lore, a 14-year-old German girl (Saskia Rosendahl), must lead her four siblings on a harrowing journey across a devastated country. When she meets the charismatic and mysterious young refugee Thomas, (Kai Malina)

Lore soon finds her trust shattered by feelings of hatred and desire as she must put her trust in the very person she was always taught to hate in order to survive.

'The Sorcerer and the White Snake'

Genre: Action and fantasy
 Cast: Jet Li, Shengyi Huang and Raymond Lam
 Director: Tony Ching and Siu-tung
 Rated: PG-13

Action director Ching Siu-Tung helms this fantasy film based on an old Chinese legend about an herbalist who falls in love with a thousand-year-old White Snake disguised as a woman.

Jet Li stars as a sorcerer who discovers her true identity and battles to save the man's soul.

'Would You Rather'

Genre: Thriller
 Cast: Brittany Snow, Jeffrey Combs, Jonny Coyne and Sasha Grey
 Director: Steffen Schlachtenhaufen
 Unrated

In the wake of her parent's death, Iris struggles to make ends meet while caring for her terminally ill younger brother.

Shepard Lambrick, a seemingly philanthropic aristocrat, expresses an interest in helping them.

When he invites her to an exclusive dinner party, she accepts. Also attending the dinner party are seven more desperate individuals. They soon find themselves trapped in Lambrick's mansion and forced to

play a sadistic game of Would You Rather, where the winner will be awarded untold amounts of money.

As the game progresses, the dilemmas Iris and the other players face grow increasingly deadly.

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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LOOKING AHEAD, from page 2B

405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$39.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. The Texas guitar tradition runs deep. It's a gutsy school of blues playing, marked by thick tones, aggressive attack and tons of technique, all delivered in a flamboyant, swaggering style that is endemic to the Lone Star State. One name that ranks atop all others is Johnny Winter, the international ambassador for rocking Texas blues for the last 30 years. His 2009 Grammy-nominated disc titled "I'm A Bluesman" adds to his Texas-sized reputation. This tour, Winter brings audiences material from his 2011 release *Roots* while reacquainting them with his iconic guitar playing.

Dunedin

• **The Creative Artist Guild Art Exhibit**, a fine art reception, Friday, March 8, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Stirling Art Studios & Gallery, 730 Broadway, Dunedin.

Gulfport

• **USA Dance**, Monday, Feb. 25, 7 to 10:15 p.m., at Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Blvd., Gulfport. Admission is \$7 and includes a dance workshop, professional and amateur exhibitions, dance hosts and snacks. For information, call 397-5754.

Indian Rocks Beach

• **The Bob Gray Welcome Back Members' Exhibition**, through Feb. 18, at Beach Art Center, 1515 Bay Palm Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach. Named for the late Bob Gray, a patron of the center, the show will celebrate the arrival of the new year and the arrival of the center's artists, instructors and students from their northern homes. Works in a variety of media will be shown including watercolor, oil, acrylic, drawing, photography, mixed media and ceramics. Cash and ribbon awards will be chosen by Amanda Cooper. Cooper is the curator of exhibitions for the Morean Art Center in St. Petersburg. For information, call 596-4331 or visit www.beachartcenter.org.

Pinellas Park

• **Sunstation Show Chorus presents "Destination,"** Sunday, Feb. 10, 3 p.m., at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Tickets are \$15. The Sunstation Show Chorus will explore the cities and neighborhoods where music of our generation was born with songs such as "Blue Suede Shoes," "California Girls" and "Kansas City." Call Beverly Timpf at 530-7190 or visit www.sunstationshowchorus.com.

• **Love is in the Aire**, Sunday, Feb. 24, at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Attendees will enjoy the great composers' songs of love and passion performed by the Matinee Opera Players. Doors will open at 2:30 p.m. and the concert will begin at 3 p.m. Admission is free, but cash donations are accepted.

• **Pinellas Park Orchestra**, Sunday, March 3, 7:30 p.m., at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave. Admission is free but donations are encouraged. Call Dick VanDommelen at 415-9650 or visit www.pinellasparkorchestra.com.

Safety Harbor

• **Les Paul and Mary Ford Tribute Concert**, Tuesday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m., at the Safety Harbor Public Library, 101 Second St. N., Safety Harbor. The Safety Harbor Public Library, with the support of the Friends of the Safety Harbor Public Library, will host this tribute to music legends Les Paul and Mary Ford. Tom Doyle and Sandy Cory Doyle will perform some of the magical hits recorded by this historic duo and will explain Les Paul and Mary Ford forever changed the music recording industry. Doyle is a luthier, guitarist, and sound engineer who worked with Paul for more than 45 years. This performance also will include a presentation of authentic Les Paul memorabilia. This program is free and open to the public. Call 724-1525, ext. 112.

St. Petersburg

• **The Art of Golf**, through Feb. 17, at the Museum of Fine Arts, 255 Beach Drive NE, ST. Petersburg. The museum will play host to the first major exhibition in America devoted to the popular game of golf, so rich in history and tradition. Organized by the High Museum of Art in Atlanta and the National Galleries of Scotland, this show will feature approximately 90 works by Rembrandt, Childe Hassam, George Bellows, Norman Rockwell and Andy Warhol, among others. Some of these works have never before been on public display. They all point to golf's ability to inspire extraordinary works of art. The centerpiece of the exhibit is Charles Lee's "The Golfers" (1847), the world's greatest painting in this genre. Museum hours are Monday through Wednesday and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Regular admission is \$17 for adults, \$15 for those 65 and older, and \$10 for students 7 and older, including college students with current identification. Children 6 and younger and museum members are admitted free. Docents conduct tours of special exhibitions and the collection Monday through Saturday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. On the second Wednesday of the month, the general tour begins at 11:15 a.m. Family tours are conducted on Saturday at 11 a.m. For information, call 896-2667 or visit www.fine-arts.org.

• **"The Piano Lesson,"** by August Wilson, presented by American Stage Theatre, through March 3; at the Raymond James Theatre, 163 Third St. N., St. Petersburg. Call 823-PLAY (7529) or visit www.americanstage.org.

canstage.org. Generally, main stage performances are Wednesday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Saturday and Sunday, 3 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$59 depending on the date and time of the performance.

• **"An Empty Plate in the Café du Grand Boeuf,"** by Michael Hollinger, through Feb. 17, at FreeFall Theatre, 6099 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call 498-5205 or visit www.freefalltheatre.com. Performances are Thursday, 7 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$37 for adults and \$34 for students, seniors and military members. There is a \$7 surcharge for premium seating.

• **"Can't Help Falling in Love,"** with Chris MacDonald's Memories of Elvis, Saturday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., at the Palladium Theater, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$34. Call 822-3590 or visit www.spcollege.edu/palladium. MacDonald is the only tribute artist hired by Elvis Presley Enterprises to perform at Graceland's Heartbreak Hotel for seven consecutive years. This big Las Vegas-style show features a full production nine-piece band, dancers and singers. MacDonald leads the celebration which highlights several stages of the iconic King of Rock 'N' Roll's career, including the early years, movies, black leather '68 comeback and white fringe '70 Vegas concerts.

Seminole

• **"Porgy and Bess,"** by George Gershwin and DuBoise Heyward, Sunday, Feb. 10, 1:30 p.m., at the Seminole Community Library, at St. Petersburg College, Seminole campus, 9200 113th St. N., Seminole. The Pinellas Opera League will be showing the DVD "Porgy and Bess." A \$3 donation will be requested at the door to cover equipment expenses. For information, call 394-6905.

• **The Sunshine and Moonshine Event**, Saturday, Feb. 23, 6 to 10 p.m., at Screwe Louie's Porpoise Pub, 8701 Seminole Blvd., Seminole. This meet-and-greet event will feature Tim Smith, his "still hand Tickle and his assistant Howard from the Discovery Channel series "Moonshines." The event will include live musical performance by Rebel Pride Band and Tailspin. Tickets are limited. For tickets and information, visit www.imagebranders.com.

Tampa

• **Tampa Bay Symphony winter concert**, Monday, Feb. 25, 8 p.m., in Ferguson Hall at Straz Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Tickets are \$20 at the door. Free tickets are available in advance and at the door for students. Students 18 and older must show student identification. The concert will feature a "Northern Lights" theme, with the exciting Symphony No. 1 by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius; Edvard Grieg's jolly "Wedding Day at Troldhaugen" and incidental music from "Peer Gynt." Mark Sforzini, Tampa Bay Symphony's new music director, has chosen audience favorites and fresh music everyone will enjoy. Sforzini also continues as executive and artistic director of St. Petersburg Opera. He was principal bassoonist of The Florida Orchestra for 15 years. www.tampabay.com.

Tarpon Springs

• **"Trial by Jury" and "The Sorcerer,"** presented by the Gilbert & Sullivan Players, Feb. 8-10, at Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center, 324 Pine St. Tarpon Springs. Performances will be Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. Cost is \$18 for adults and \$15 for members and students. Call 942-5605 or visit www.tarponarts.org. The production is directed by Jamie Bierchen with music direction by Constantine Grame. "Trial by Jury" was the first of the many Gilbert and Sullivan collaborations after their first successful show, "Thespis." Only 40 minutes in length, it is a perfect union of tuneful music and clever words. Traditionally, it is paired with "The Sorcerer," another short work, which satirizes early Victorian customs and various theater devices. The story revolves around the village sorcerer who distributes a love potion to everyone that causes each person to fall in love with the very first person he or she meets. Naturally, the consequences are not what was intended.

• **Cirque Zuma Zuma**, Friday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m., at Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center, 324 Pine St. Tarpon Springs. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$26 for members and students. Call 942-5605 or visit www.tarponarts.org. Audiences and critics worldwide agree - Cirque Zuma Zuma is unlike anything they have ever seen. Described as an African-style Cirque du Soleil, this ultimate African Circus, from the cradle of all cultures, is alive with music, mysticism, magic and excitement. These wildly talented performers bring nonstop action and amazing feats to the stage, keeping audiences breathless. The show includes: limbo artists from Egypt, African dancers,

traditional gumboot performers, amazing pole acts, the Zuma Zuma acrobats, very small comedians from the heart of Africa, Gabonese tumblers, contortionists from South Africa, the Africa Lion dance, percussionists from Zimbabwe, South African vocalists, and more.

• **Koresh Dance Company performance**, Saturday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m., at Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center, 324 Pine St., Tarpon Springs. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for members and \$10 for students. Call 942-5605 or visit www.tarponarts.org. Renowned for their powerful stage presence, Philadelphia's Koresh Dance Company has been hailed as a vital force on both national and international stages. Koresh Dance Company was founded 20 years ago by Israeli-born choreographer and artistic director Ronen Koresh and his brother, executive director Alon Koresh. Koresh Dance Company's critically acclaimed work attracts increasing audiences across the nation and abroad, as does their reputation for passion and outstanding technique. This 20th Anniversary Production includes jazz-based works from the 1990s, fun selections with music from 1940s and 1950s. Ronen Koresh's latest works, including his version of Ravel's famed Bolero.

Miniature Art Society of Florida scholarship deadline is Feb. 8

Since 1985, the Miniature Art Society of Florida has awarded more than 80 scholarships, totaling more than \$110,000, to Pinellas County high school seniors who wish to continue their education in the fine arts.

In 2013, MASF budgeted \$6,000 for its scholarship endeavors, which may be offered in \$500 to \$2,000 awards depending upon the number of applicants who qualify. MASF encourages aspiring young artists in high school senior classes to apply for this scholarship opportunity.

Scholarship applications are currently being accepted. The deadline to apply is Friday, Feb. 8. Applicants will be interviewed on Saturday, March 16 or 30.

For an application form, visit miniatureartsocietyofflorida.com. The primary purpose of MASF scholarships is to encourage young artists to pursue a career in the fine arts, whatever their creative goals may be. MASF hopes that scholarship recipients will be motivated to create miniature art in the future, and that miniature art aficionados from around the world will be able to enjoy those creations in a future MASF annual show.

Treasure Island Art Guild offers award

TREASURE ISLAND - The Treasure Island Art Guild is offering a \$1,500 scholarship award to a student going on to study art at a university this next summer.

This is a way the guild has of giving back to the community by encouraging all young art students to prepare for the challenging assignments of university life.

The deadline for submitting artwork is March 10. For information, visit www.TreasureIslandArtGuild.org.

MONHEIT, from page 1B

Tuesday, April 16, via Emarcy/Decca Records. The new CD is said to traverse the spectrum of popular music, ranging from The Beatles to Broadway.

"The Heart Of The Matter" is described as being an homage to great songwriters and voices from across a variety of musical genres. Monheit has crafted a carefully chosen and eclectic selection of 12 tunes ranging from "Golden Slumbers/The Long And Winding Road" by The Beatles to Buffy St. Marie's "Until It's Time For You To Go" as well as "Depende de Nos" by Ivan Lins. Monheit has even included her take on the "Sesame Street" classic, "Sing," a song she often sings for her young son Jack.

In addition, the "The Heart Of The Matter" contains the first song recorded by Monheit on which she has written both the words and the music, "Night Night Stars."

"This album is really different from my last," Monheit said in a press release. "I knew it was time for the focus of a project to be lyrical interpretation ... over the years, it's become the most important part of my approach to music. The songs were chosen just for that reason. I didn't worry about genre or style - just that each song dealt with a message I wanted to share or story I wanted to tell."

"The Heart Of The Matter" was produced and arranged by Gil Goldstein, and recorded this past November at Avatar Studios in New York City. The CD features Monheit on lead and background vocals, Michael Kanan on piano, Gil Goldstein on electric piano and accordion, Romero Lubambo on acoustic guitar, Neal Miner on bass, Rick Montalbano on drums, Rogerio Boccato on percussion, David Eggar and Richard Locker on cello, Barry Crawford and Kathleen Nester on alto flute and Sheryl Henze on bass flute and c flute.

On "The Heart of the Matter," Monheit continues to dig deep into what brought her to this music in the first place: great songs, and her passion for interpreting them. Her closeness to these songs and the musicians who play them combined with the fearless honesty with which she conveys her musical ideology lends great maturity and sincerity to both her studio work and her live performances.

Pinellas audiences will no doubt enjoy an evening of incomparable romantic interpretations of celebrated standards and songs as Monheit plays the Largo Cultural Center this Valentine's Day.



Photo by VINCENT SOYEZ/AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS
Jane Monheit, scheduled to perform at Largo Cultural Center Feb. 14, continues to dig deep into what brought her to music in the first place: great songs, and her passion for interpreting them.

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Music scene

Merle Haggard, Sheryl Crow play area venues; Shepherd, Montoya headline Sea-Blues

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

Bay area venues, both large and small, will present an array of rock legends, jazz giants, blues and country artists in the coming weeks.

The **Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival** will be presented Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 16-17, at Coachman Park, 301 Drew St., Clearwater.

This year's festival headliners include Kenny Wayne Shepherd and Coco Montoya.

While enjoying great live performances, attendees also have an opportunity to experience Gulf Coast cuisine as vendors dish up jumbo shrimp, crab cakes, oysters and crawfish and gumbo.

Saturday's lineup will include performances by the Shepherd, Magic Slim, The Lee Boys and Hamilton Loomis. Gates will open at noon.

Sunday's lineup will feature performances by Montoya, Ruthie Foster, Moreland and Arbuckle and Trampled Under Foot. Gates will open at 1 p.m.

Coolers, food and drink will not be admitted into the park. One sealed bottle of water per person is allowed. Chairs and blankets also are permitted. There also will be chair rentals at the venue. Pets are not allowed. Assistance animals are permitted. Personal umbrellas are allowed; however, beach umbrellas, sunshades, tents and canopies will not be permitted. General admission is free. There is limited reserved seating available for purchase. Visit www.clearwaterseablues.com.

Following is a list of other music scene events in the coming weeks:

1-800-ASK-GARY Amphitheatre

- Zac Brown Band, Friday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m.
- The Amphitheatre is at 4802 U.S. 301 N., Tampa. Call 813-740-2446 or visit www.live-nation.com.

Capitol Theatre

- Richard Marx, Thursday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m.
- Leon Redbone, Friday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.
- David Wilcox, Saturday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.
- Shaun Hopper and Adam Rafferty, Friday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.
- Women of Ireland, Saturday, Feb. 16, 2 and 8 p.m.
- Johnny Winter, Sunday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.
- Travis Tritt, Tuesday, Feb.

19, 7:30 p.m.

- Irish Rovers, Saturday, Feb. 23, 5 and 8 p.m.
- Loudon Wainwright III, Thursday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Capitol Theatre is at 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com.

Crowbar

- Scott H. Biram, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 8 p.m.
- MURS, Wednesday, Feb. 13, 8 p.m.
- Jukebox the Ghost, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 8 p.m.
- That 1 Guy, Saturday, Feb. 23, 9 p.m.

The Crowbar is at 1812 17th St. N., Tampa. Call 813-241-8600 or visit www.crowbarlive.com.

Jannus Live

- The English Beat, Thursday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m.
- Grace Potter & The Nocturnals, Friday, Feb. 15, 8:30 p.m.
- Whigfest, Sunday, Feb. 17, 8:30 p.m.

Jannus Live is at 16 Second St. N., St. Petersburg. Call 565-0550 or visit www.jannuslive.com.

Largo Cultural Center

- Yesterday and Today, the Interactive Beatles Experience; Friday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m.
- The Classics IV, Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m.
- Rave On! The Buddy Holly Tribute; Sunday, Feb. 10, 2 p.m.
- Jane Monheit, Thursday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.
- Jim Stafford, Friday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m.

The Largo Cultural Center is at 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Call 587-6793 or visit [largo arts.com](http://largoarts.com).

The Local 662

- Caspian, Monday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.
- The Queers, Saturday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m.
- Bad Rabbits, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m.

The Local 662 is at 662 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call 258-4829.

The Mahaffey

- The Florida Orchestra: War of the Romantics; Thursday, Feb. 7, 11 a.m.
- Merle Haggard, Friday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m.
- The Florida Orchestra: Broadway Now; Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m.
- Preservation Hall Jazz Band and the Del McCoury Band, Sunday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.

The Mahaffey is at 400 First St.



Photo by MARK SELIGER/SACKS & CO.



Photo courtesy of RUTH ECKERD HALL

Above, Irish Rovers take the stage at Capitol Theatre on Feb. 23. At left, Kenny Wayne Shepherd is one of two headliners for the Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival. Bottom left, Ennis performs Feb. 10 at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College. Below, Ruth Eckerd Hall welcomes Frankie Valli, pictured left, and the Four Seasons perform Feb. 9 and Sheryl Crow Feb. 14.



Photo courtesy of ENNIS

S., St. Petersburg. Call 892-5767 or visit www.themahaffey.com.

The Palladium at St. Petersburg College

- Kathleen Madigan, Friday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m.
- Michael Kaeshammer Trio, Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m.
- Ennis, Sunday, Feb. 10, 4 p.m.
- Palladium Chamber Players, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m.
- Blues at the Crossroads, a tribute to Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf featuring the Fabulous Thunderbirds, JJ Grey, Jody

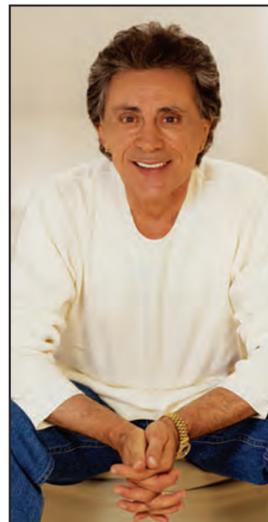
Williams and James Cotton; Friday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m.

- Fourth Big Boogie Woogie Piano Blues Stomp featuring Bob Seeley, Daryl Davis, Carl "Sonny" Leyland and Liz Penneck and Dr. Blues; Saturday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m.

The Palladium at St. Petersburg College is at 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Call 822-3590 or visit www.mypalladium.org.

The Ritz Ybor

- The xx, Thursday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m.
- Lotus, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 8 p.m.



Photos courtesy of RUTH ECKERD HALL

The Ritz Ybor is at 1503 E. Seventh Ave., Tampa. Call 813-247-2518.

Ruth Eckerd Hall

- Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m.
- The Florida Orchestra: Broadway Now; Sunday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.
- Vienna Boys Choir, Monday, Feb. 11, 1 p.m.
- Steve Miller Band, Wednesday, Feb. 13, 8 p.m.
- Sheryl Crow, Thursday, Feb. 14, 8 p.m.
- Alan Parsons Live Project,

Friday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m.

- Jim Brickman, Saturday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m.
- Joshua Bell, Friday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m.
- Daughtry and 3 Doors Down, Saturday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m.
- Sandy Hackett's Rat Pack, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2 p.m.
- The Florida Orchestra: Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5; Sunday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Ruth Eckerd Hall is at 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com.

See MUSIC, page 6B

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Singer/songwriter David Wilcox to perform at Capitol Theatre

CLEARWATER – David Wilcox, considered by fans to be a true American treasure, will perform Saturday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St.

Tickets start at \$25. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Wilcox's songs are a strong elixir. He has more than 750,000 discs and has been writing songs for 30 years. He believes that the right song at the right time changes people's lives.

By some standards, the Cleveland-born singer/songwriter/folk musician got a late start in music.

Wilcox was taking classes at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, in the mid 1970s when he was inspired to learn guitar after hearing a fellow college student playing in a stairwell. Wilcox transferred to Warren Wilson College, in Swannanoa, N.C., in 1981 and graduated in 1985. In the 1980s, he began playing regularly at a club in nearby Black Mountain.

Wilcox released his debut album, "The Nightshift Watchman," in 1987.

This independent album gave listeners a taste of his lyrical insight and his smooth baritone voice, virtuosic guitar chops and creative open tunings. A few years later, Wilcox won the prestigious Kerrville Folk Festival New Folk award, which led to a deal with A&M Records by 1989.

His first release on the label, "How Did You Find Me Here," sold more than 100,000 copies the first year largely by word of mouth.

Now more than a dozen albums into a career marked by personal revelation and wildly loyal fans, Wilcox continues to find and deliver joy, inspiration, and invention. This songwriter's songwriter possesses a range and tenderness rare in folk music. His songs have been covered by artists such as k.d. lang and many others.

Recent releases include "Open Hand" in 2009 and "Reverie" in 2010. Wilcox's "Open Hand" was recorded in seven days from start to finish in December 2008.

No computer tricks were used and all of the songs on this release were recorded live – with just four human beings playing music together. Very minimal overdubs were used, so most of all what listeners hear is exactly as it was played together by Wilcox and the other musicians live. Dan Phelps produced and played guitar and keyboard; Jon Evans played bass guitar and upright bass and James McAlister handled drums and percussion.

The singer/songwriter's 17th CD, "Reverie," was recorded in front of an audience, but it doesn't sound like a live album since the crowd was nearly silent.

The album was recorded this way to capture the energy of the connection, where songs breathe and expand by the combined conductivity of the crowd. Wilcox performed over two nights at The Monastery in Cincinnati, Ohio.

"I write like my life depends on it," Wilcox said in a press release



Photo by RHYS ALBRECHT

David Wilcox plays Clearwater's Capitol Theatre on Feb. 9.

promoting the release. "These songs are maps to where the money is hidden, maps to get you free. They are songs that are the way out of the maze. These songs say, 'Do you really want to hear this song? Because it might hurt, or start a really intense conversation, or healing in a profound personal way.' These are ... keys."

"Reverie" reminds loyal devotees and new fans alike that Wilcox has mastered his craft, from open tuning acoustic guitar and sawed-off capos to his storytelling wit and insightful metaphors.

"I expect a lot from a song," Wilcox said. "Picture those rows of huge radio antennas out in the southwest desert. All those ears listening deeply and far away. Music is like that for me, an antenna ... a way to

amp up the signal from this beautiful love ripping at my heart."

In addition to his writing prowess, his skills as a performer and storyteller are unmatched. Wilcox is said to hold audiences rapt with nothing more than a single guitar, thoroughly written songs, a fearless ability to mine the depths of human emotions of joy, sorrow and everything in between.

"Music still stretches out before me like the headlights of a car into the night," Wilcox said, reflecting on 20 years of record-making and touring. "It's way beyond where I am, but it shows where I'm going. I used to think that my goal was to catch up, but now I'm grateful that the music is always going to be way out in front to inspire me."

MUSIC, from page 5B

Skipper's Smokehouse

- 10th annual Rockabilly Ruckus featuring Blair Carman Band, Nikki Hill, Six Volt Rodeo, Sara Rose Band, Rocket 88, Slip & The Spinouts, The Downshifters, Ted Stevens, and Doo Shots; Saturday, Feb. 9, 4 p.m.
- Jonathan Richman, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
- Antsy McClain and The Trailer Park Troubadours, Friday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m.
- Cope, Saturday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m.
- Colin Lake, Sunday, Feb. 24, 5 p.m.
- The Gibson Brothers, Tuesday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m.

Skipper's Smokehouse is at 910 Skipper Road, Tampa. Call 813-971-0666 or visit www.skippersmokehouse.com.

The Straz Center for the Performing Arts

- The Florida Orchestra: Broadway Now; Friday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m.
- Carolina Chocolate Drops, Friday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.
- Lindsey Stirling, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 8 p.m.
- Dark Star Orchestra, Thursday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m.
- The Florida Orchestra: Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5; Friday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m.

- Hilary Hahn, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m.
 - Jesse Cook, Thursday, Feb. 28, 8 p.m.
- The David A Straz Jr. Center – formerly the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center – is at 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org.

State Theatre

- Reel Big Fish, Friday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.
 - Old 97's, Saturday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m.
 - Fishbone, Friday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m.
 - This Day in History, Friday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m.
- State Theatre is at 687 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call 895-3045 or visit www.statetheatreconcerts.com.

Tampa Bay Times Forum

- Muse, Saturday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.
 - Pink, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m.
- Tampa Bay Times Forum is at 401 Channelside Drive, Tampa. Call 813-301-2500 or visit www.tampabaytimesforum.com.

Tampa Theatre

- Matisyahu, Saturday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m.
- Tampa Theatre is at 711 N. Franklin St., Tampa. Call 813-274-8982 or visit www.tampatheatre.org.

For more music and concert information, visit [TBN weekly.com](http://TBNweekly.com).

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Photo courtesy of STRAZ CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS



Above, Carolina Chocolate Drops perform Feb. 15 at Tampa's Straz Center for the Performing Arts. At left, The Palladium at St. Petersburg College welcomes Michael Kaeshammer Feb. 9.

Photo courtesy of NEW FRONTIER TOURING

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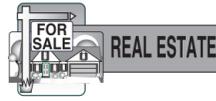
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Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County

1-800-806-5154
www.pinellascounty.org/community/hfa

Programs available in Pinellas, Polk and Pasco counties.
* If you have not owned a home in the last 3 years

10. Waterfront Sales

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 Ellson, Coastal Properties Group, (727)408-4888.

SEMINOLE, 3BR/3BA, DOCK, Boat Lift. All Appliances. California Closets. Hurricane Shutter. One Pet Allowed. 9412 Tara Cay Court. \$229,000. (727)688-3599.

15. Beach Property

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

20. Condo Sales

Belleair Bluffs, WATERFRONT CONDO, Drastically 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, Updated. Wood/ Carpet/ Tile. Heated Pool, Furnished, Petless. \$124,900. (727)460-5350.

NEW LISTING SEA TOWERS Condo Columbia # 810. Renovated Kitchen with Peninsula & New Cabinets, Two Master Suites. \$164,500. Best 55+ Waterfront Community. ReMax, Nancy Scott, (727)455-6641.

SAND KEY, OPEN HOUSE 1480 Gulf Blvd, Clearwater. 2BR/2BA, on the Gulf. All new everything, Bay and Gulf views. This Saturday and Sunday 1:00-5:00PM. \$410,000. (727)595-6341.

SEMINOLE GARDENS! Popular Complex With Tons of Amenities! www.SeminoleGardens.org

1BR/1BA, 1,012SF Water View! Remodeled! Light, Bright & Breezy! \$29,900

LYNN EVANS, Realtor (727)542-4243 Prudential Tropical Realty

5. Real Estate Sales

"HONEST & TRUSTWORTHY" "THE TILLEY TEAM"

WE WORK 7 DAYS A WEEK \$\$\$ CASH REBATES FOR SELLERS OR BUYERS

CALL: TOM TILLEY 727-643-5330 tilleyrealstate@gmail.com FUTURE HOME REALTY

20. Condo Sales

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

2BR/2BA 1,056 sq. ft. 3rd Floor, Elevator, 55+, Sunroom, Just Listed \$44,900

2BR/1BA, 1,016 sq. ft. Furnished, Granite Counters, 55+, Updated, Carpet. ONLY \$39,900

Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp. Cassius L. Peacock, Realtor Your ON-SITE Specialist (727)397-2534 MySeminoleGardens.com

SEMINOLE GARDENS! Sales & Rentals Robert G. Castles, PA, Broker (727)595-8229 www.seminolegarden.com

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.

30. Villa Sales

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

OPEN HOUSE

FEB. 10, 2013, 1-4PM. Lake Highlander MHP, 1500 County Road 1, Dunedin. Come see our homes and lots for sale in one of Dunedin's most beautiful 55+ resident owned communities. Visit our website at www.lakehighlander.com or call (727)733-5522 for more information.

FURNISHED, 2BR/1BA/Carport, Double-wide, enclosed porch. Appliances. Utility room w/W/D. Lot rent includes water, garbage, lawn. Central A/C. Lakefront, 55+ park. No pets. \$4,500. (727)519-5810.

Affordable 55+ Living **GLENWOOD ESTATES:** 5 Star, Land Owned. All 2-3BR/2BA/2CP, Furnished \$170/Mo. Maint. 12501 Ulmerton Rd., Largo. Brochures Available.

#195 - 2/2/2, Many Upgrades, \$74,888.
#5 - 2/2/2, Lake View, \$72,888.
#18 - 2/2/2, Lakefront, \$189,888.
#91 - 2/2/2, \$59,888.
#229 - 2/2/2, \$62,888.
#237 - 2/2/2, Water View, \$79,888.
On Premises Saturdays 9-4

For Viewing Call **IMapp Realty Group** John Doles, 727-510-3331

LARGO, 2BR/1.5BA, 55+ Close to beach/ shopping. Clean, large screened porch. Low lot fee. \$3,750. OBO (727)512-4747

RENT TO OWN, 55+ PARK, Tenant Check Required. Pool, Clubhouse, Great Location Behind Tri-City Plaza. (727)531-5386.

SEMINOLE MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE. Twelve Oaks Mobile Home Park. Priced to sell! All residents 55+. No Pets, No Rentals. Close to beach and shopping. Call Mon-Fri 9:00AM-4:00PM. (727)391-6268.

95. Property Management



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The Toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

OUT what you can find in the CLASSIFIEDS!

5. Real Estate Sales

125. Out of State

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Place Your Ad Of 25 Words or Less In More Than 100 Newspapers Across Florida For Only \$475/week.

You Can Reach Over 5 Million Readers Through Our Network Of Daily & Weekly Florida Newspapers.

Contact **Tampa Bay Newspapers Classified Dept.** (727) 397-5563



140. Furnished Houses

LARGO, 2BR/2BA, QUIET Suburb close to beach, shops Immaculate. Rent monthly or long term. Jim (845) 304-8060

155. Furnished Condos

LARGO, CLOSE TO BEACH 1BR, 55+. Completely Updated. Pool, Clubhouse, Laundry, Non-smoking, \$650/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.

ST PETE BEACH, 1BR/1BA, 1/2 block to the beach, 2nd floor. NO PETS \$850/month annual. (727)421-7841 leave message

160. Unfurnished Condos

PENNWOOD MANOR, RATED A Largo, 1BR/1BA, Sunroom, 55+, Ground Floor. No Pets, Includes: Cable, W/S/T Heated Pool. \$595/Month. (727)585-9492.

BOULEVARD CLUB 1BR/1BA, 55+, 1st Floor, Pool, Tennis, New Kitchen, Tile Floors. Porch. Petless. \$600/Month. (727)289-3511.

1BR/1BA, BELLEAIR BLUFFS, Spacious, bright, inside laundry room, 2nd floor. Very safe complex. No smoking, no pets. \$700/month +utilities. (727)698-6735.

DUNEDIN BEACH, 2BR/1BA, Royal Stewart Arms, Elgin Bldg, #105. 55+, First Floor, Pool, Tennis, Exercise Room. \$800/Month. (727)585-4772.

FIVE TOWNS, 55+, 2BR/2BA, First Floor, Updated. Near VA Hospital. Cable, Heat Included. \$800/Mo. (406)461-1733.

LARGO, OFF HIGHLAND, 55+ 2BR/2BA, ground floor, newly renovated, heated pool, no smoking, no pets. \$750/month + security. (727)242-7713

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.

RIDGEWOOD- PARK BLVD. Newly Remodeled, Near Seminole Mall. N/S. 1BR/1BA/1CP. Best unit in building. \$650/Month +\$650 Security. (727)492-3693.

SEMINOLE GARDENS 2BR/2BA, 1,056SF, 55+, 2nd Floor Elevator, New Floors! \$800/Month-Yearly. Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp. (727)397-2534

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

ST PETE TENNIS & YACHT Club, 2BR/2BA, Waterview, Updates, Gated, \$1,450/Month. Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

170. Furn. Apartments

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

175. Unfurn. Apartments

SEMINOLE GARDENS, 55+ 1BR Standard. No Pets. Non-smokers Only. Robert G. Castles, P.A., Broker. (727)595-8229 www.SeminoleGarden.com

AFFORDABLE & CLEAN! Largo 1BR, \$145/Wkly or \$595/Mo. Clearwater Studio, \$445/Mo. On Bus Line. Some Free Utilities. Call Or Click 586-2412.com

175. Unfurn. Apartments

BELLEAIR BLUFFS Deluxe 1-2BRs, 1st-2nd Floor. New Carpet. Overlooking Pool & Courtyard, 1 block from shopping & Intracoastal. 2942 West Bay Dr. (727)483-4853.

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)483-6283.

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.

DOWNTOWN CLEARWATER, 1BR. Close To Bus Terminal. \$490/Month. Call Bob, (727)515-0994.

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/BED \$625, 3/BED \$747 CALL TODAY!!! (727)399-2500

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

14465 WALSHINGHAM RD. 1BR, Enclosed Porch, Covered Parking. Just Newly Carpeted. \$595/Mo. (727)595-2275.

185. Beach Rentals

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

GULL HARBOR



THE BEST VALUE ON THE BEACHES!

We have MORE: Amenities, Fun Activities & include more Services. Spacious, Clean 1, 2 & 3 bdrm Condos Starting at \$915 Call us today and start your move home to Gull Harbor! 55+ www.gullharborcondos.com 17105 Gulf Blvd., NRB 727-392-0753

MADEIRA BEACH NICE 2BR Updated, \$700/Month. Nonsmoking, Petless. First/ Last/ Security. (727)392-7392.



TREASURE ISLAND, 1BR/2BA On the Beach/ Pool. \$800 + security. All Utilities, including cable. No pets. Available Immediately! (727)367-2727.

190. Waterfront Rentals

DIRECTLY ON BEACH Sand Key overlooking the Gulf. Spectacular, 2BR/2BA Condo. 110% Newly renovated from concrete slab to ceiling. All new appliances, miles of custom millwork throughout. Be the first to live in this exceptional waterfront condo. For viewing call (727)595-6565.

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

MADEIRA BEACH CONDO 55+. 2BR/2BA. Annual lease only. No pets. Non-smoking. \$1,400/month. (727)391-6407.

SAND KEY EXCEPTIONAL Condominium Residence With Commanding Waterviews From Every Room. Large, 2,172SF, 2BR/2BA, Unfurnished. \$1,945/Monthly. (727)595-6565.

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

TREASURE ISLAND, 105 11th 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.

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195. Seasonal Rentals

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

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

215. Efficiency Rentals

LARGO, MINUTES TO BEACH Fully Furnished. Clean & Private. Cable, Utilities Included. \$575/monthly +Security. (727)932-8809.

LARGO: FURNISHED EFFIC.

Newly Painted. Convenient Location. \$535/Mo. +Security. Includes Utilities. Annual Lease. (727)581-2990.

225. Duplex-Triplex Rental

TRIPLEX, 1BR/1BA, C/H/A, New windows and appliances. One-year lease, first and last month rent of \$700 +\$500 damage deposit. New paint. Immaculately managed. Cell: (850)543-2903.

245. Room For Rent

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

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.

OFFICE & RETAIL SPACE

From \$451 Per Month. Ample Parking. Madeira Beach. (727)641-6465.

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE Space available for rent/lease. PRIME LOCATION in heart of Seminole. 1,000 sq. ft. Located among Medical, Dental, and Financial Advising professionals. Abundant private parking. Contact Trudy (727)748-2049 for more information and exclusive showing.

300. Notices

A Research Study of Relaxation Instructions for Women Aged 30 to 65 is Being Conducted.

The requirements for participating are being female, aged 30 to 65, non-hospitalized, and speaking English as a first language. Participants practice relaxation activities for two months and record these times on an activity calendar. To apply for the study, please call 727-776-8361. The researcher, Ms. Roberta Bennett, a graduate student at Capella University, will return your call. Materials will be mailed to participants.

INCOME TAX PROS 1910 Drew, Clearwater, 33765 (727)851-6575 Español

345. Lost & Found

LOST WOMEN'S BRACELET, gold with butterfly charms. Lost at Green Market, Belleair, 1/25/13. (727)559-8985 anytime.

AT YOUR SERVICE

355. Adoption

ARE YOU PREGNANT? A Childless, Married Couple, (in our 30s) seeks to adopt. Will be hands on Mom and devoted Dad. Financially secure. Expenses paid. Nicole & Frank. 1(888)969-6134. FL BAR #150789.

360. Legal Service

1-SIGNATURE DIVORCE, Missing Spouse Divorce. Wills and Evictions! Starting at \$65. We Come to You! Since 1992

525. Medical Help

C.N.A.s & H.H.A.s Part-Time/Full-Time Needed In The... Largo, Seminole Areas

You Can Occupy This Space! Call the Classified Dept. Today: 397-5563

535. Business Opportun.

CREATE YOUR OWN CASH STIMULUS PLAN! Earn \$800 to \$1,500 per month as an independent distributor for the Tampa Bay Times.

Join a team that's growing. Discover the many benefits of becoming a distributor for Florida's largest and best newspaper.

535. Business Opportun.

Tampa Bay Times Home Delivery Independent Distributor Opportunities \$800-\$1,500 per month profit potential, paid weekly.

585. Auctions

COME ONE COME ALL THE PUBLIC CAR AUCTION BRING YOUR CAR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9TH, 1:00PM, PREVIEW 10:00AM

535. Business Opportun.

565. Loans & Mortgages

REAL ESTATE LOANS No age, job or credit qualifications. (727)495-6431

600. Merchandise

DEHUMIDIFIER FOR SALE. Hardly used, excellent condition. \$70. (727)595-9534.

585. Auctions

600. Merchandise

LAWNMOWERS FOR SALE. (6) TRADES ACCEPTED! 4 Self-propelled, 2 Push, My Hobby. Reconditioned. \$65-\$135.

610. Computer Equipment

QUAD-CORE PC Athlon II 631 processor, 6GB DDR3 Ram (support for up to 16GB), 500GB HDD, DVD/CD writer, Dedicated Direct X 11

615. Appliance Sales

KITCHEN APPLIANCE PKG: Almond FF Fridge w/lcemaker, Electric Range, Dishwasher \$425 or will separate. Black Microwave, \$35 (727)585-6017.

630. Absolutely Free

FREE TO FURREVER HOME Approx. 6-wk. old blk/wh male kitten. Loves to be held. Call Judy, (813)488-8527. I.D. Req'd.

640. Furniture

A BRAND NEW Queen Mattress, \$79. New In Plastic. Must Sell! Can Deliver. (727)667-8288.

BRAND NEW, CHERRY 5-PIECE Queen Bedroom Set; Headboard, Frame, Dresser, Mirror, Nightstand, \$295. (727)667-8288.

COUCH, LOVESEAT, RECLINER Matching, Good Condition, \$275. Glass-Top Table, 40"x60", Italian Base, 4 Swivel Armchairs On Casters. Excellent Condition, \$350. (727)394-0813.

MOVING-MUST SELL

Living Room Sofa, 2 chairs & wool rug, 8' x 11.5'. \$300 High Top Patio table +4 chairs w/brand new cushions, wood. Great condition. \$250 2 End Tables, Oak w/glass tops. Excellent Cond. \$150 Seminole. (727)729-4132.

QUEEN PILLOW-TOP Set: \$259, Warranty, 6 piece, 800-count sheets: \$20, all sizes! 700 Court St. Clearwater Tues. -Sat. 11AM-5PM (727)687-0213.

660. Want to Buy

FILM CAMERAS WANTED! Buying quality film photo equipment. Leica, Nikon, Hasselblad, Rollei, Zeiss, Alpa, MORE. What's in your closet? Leo, (727)286-7402.

TRAILERS/RVS

755. RV Sales

2004 27' WILDCAT, 5TH WHEEL Excellent Condition, Upgraded A/C & Refrigerator. Many Extras, One Slide, One Owner, \$12,000. Bob (727)595-1903.

AUTOMOTIVE

810. Auto Sales

CORVETTE 1980, RARE Survivor! 1 of 3,226 with a 305 Engine, Automatic Transmission. Low miles. Black on Black. Metal T-top. \$11,000, OBO. (727)584-2456. Leave Message.

885. Autos Wanted

\$400 & UP Minimum Guaranteed for Junk Vehicles, State Approved Disposal. Serving Pinellas 25 Years. (727)458-3721.

ALL AUTOS WANTED With or without title. Any condition, make, year or model. We pay up to \$20,000. Free towing. (813)703-7297

THINKING ABOUT SELLING OR TRADING?

I Will Pay More Than Trade-In On Good, Clean, Low-Mileage Vehicles. Harold Corey, Auto Broker (727)595-9393

885. Autos Wanted

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Up to \$1,000 more than CarMax We'll pay off your Loan Balance

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YOU'VE CALLED THE BEST! NOW CALL THE BEST! RUNNING OR NOT, TITLE OR NO TITLE MON. - SUN. 9AM - 9PM WE PAY \$400 TO \$6,000 CASH! FREE TOW 24/7 SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (727) 286-3209 www.WBCFast.com

BOATS/MARINE

910. Boat Slips

WET SLIPS FOR RENT From 25'-55'. Sail Or Power. Easy Access To Gulf. Madeira Beach. Ample Parking. \$7.55/ Foot. (727)641-6465.

915. Boat & Marine Svc.

L&M DOCKSIDE Boat Repair Full Mobile and Shop Service. All makes/ models. Factory-certified technicians. Licensed, Insured, since 1985. lmdocksideboatrepair.com. (727)501-1727.

GARAGE/ESTATE SALES

975. Garage & Yard Sales

BIG MULTI SALE. DON'T MISS! Many Goodies. Something for Everyone! Saturday, 8am-4pm Sunday, 9am-2pm. 839 6th Ave. SW, Largo. Across from Mildred Helms School.

CHAPEL TREASURES! An Unusual Thrift Shop Full of Fine Things. Friday & Saturday, 8AM-12PM, 12601 Park Blvd. Seminole. (727)391-2919. We Accept Donations And Drop Offs As Well. coth@coth.org

CLEARWATER, SAT & SUN 12 Noon - 5PM, Household items, lots of furniture, 3292 Buckhorn Drive

COUNTYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY CENTERS

FAMILY FUN DAY/ SALE. SATURDAY, 02/16 ENGLAND BROTHERS PARK 5010 81ST AVE. N. PINELLAS PARK 7:00AM-2:00PM. (727)528-7891. Sponsored by Northside Hospital

FLEA MARKET/CARPOT SALE Saturday, Feb. 9th, 8am-1pm. Teakwood Village East MHP, Largo, Past Largo HS on Missouri Avenue. Follow Arrows to Carport & Aloha Clubhouse. Something For Everyone! Light Breakfast & Lunch Available.

REDINGTON BEACH GARAGE Sale & Liquidation Of Bumble & Bumble Salon Products. 15821 Redington Dr. Fri-Sun, 9am-2pm.

SAT. & SUN. 8AM-4PM. 13948 105th Terr. N. (off Oakhurst Rd.) Household, Furniture, Misc.

SEMINOLE, 9-2 Housewares, tools, sporting equipment. 11642 80th Avenue North No early birds, please

WOODS AT LAKE SEMINOLE Neighborhood Garage Sale Saturday, Feb. 9 8am - 3pm Starkey Road to 102nd Avenue N. or 106th Avenue N. at the Palm Garden Rehab Center

SELL YOUR HOME IN THE CLASSIFIEDS. SPECIAL BY-OWNER RATES. CALL 397-5563 TODAY!

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Cabinets

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- Choice of Lobster Raviolin or Gnocchi con Melanzane
- Choice of Colorado Lamb Rack or Pan Seared U-10 Day Boat Scallops
- Dessert to share.

1568 MAIN ST. DUNEDIN 727.738.2808
 Dinner for two **\$75**
 (Special must be reserved by Feb. 12)

Jimmy's Special Valentine's Day Buffet

Prime Rib Carving Station Create your Own Pasta Station
 Tender Pink Shrimp • Stuffed Shrimp
 Mango Mahi Mahi • Chicken Parmesan Rolls
 and an array of Fresh Salads & Your Choice of Creme Brulee for 2,
 Key Lime Pie or Mango Cheesecake & A Complimentary Glass of Champagne

\$21.95
 Buffet Serving 5:30-9:30pm
 Live Music Inside or Outside Dining

Reservations Accepted but not required
727.595.8356
 401 Second Street, Indian Rocks Beach
 Just off Gulf Boulevard In the Holiday Inn Harbourside

Valentine Special
 Thursday, Friday & Saturday

The Loving Couple!
 Soup or Special Salad
 Filet Mignon & Lobster Tail
 Fresh Broccoli & Baby Carrots
 Savory Potato
 Warm Bread & Dipping Oil

\$34.90 per person
 Glass of Champagne \$6
 Split of Champagne \$11

13079 Park Boulevard • Seminole • 727-393-1703
grill131.com

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FREE Chamilia Bead with purchase of Two Beads.
 With this ad. Expires Valentine's Day Feb. 14th, 2013

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 Tuesday - Friday 10am-6pm • Saturday Noon-5pm

Sweetheart Specials for Two
 FOR BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

FEBRUARY 14 - FEBRUARY 17, 2013

TWO VALENTINE'S DAY PANCAKE COMBOS*
 Two of our made-from-scratch buttermilk pancakes topped with raspberry jelly, served with an egg any style and choice of two bacon strips or two sausage links. ONLY \$14

EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SWEETHEART COMBOS INCLUDES A FREE SLICE OF PIE. ENJOY!

TWO SWEETHEART CHEESEBURGER COMBOS*
 All-American Cheeseburger with French fries and a FREE slice of bouble-crust fruit pie. ONLY \$18

TWO STEAK & SHRIMP COMBOS*
 6 oz. top sirloin steak with golden-fried shrimp, Texas toast and choice of two dinner sides, a cup of soup, side garden salad or side Caesar salad. Plus, a FREE slice of double-crust pie. ONLY \$26

Village Inn
 13105 Walsingham Road, Largo, FL 33771
 727-596-4310

Valentine's Special Menu
 Thursday, Friday & Saturday
 Serving From 3:30-10:00pm

Surf & Turf • Prime Rib • 14oz Rib Eye Steak
 Filet Oscar • Roasted Duck • Twin Lobster Tails
 Lamb Osso Bucco • Fresh Salmon
 12oz Peppercorn NY Strip

From \$16.90
 Reservations Highly Recommended.
 call **727-584-5888**

Balla's STEAK HOUSE
 776 Missouri Avenue, Largo

Fresh Seafood & Steaks On Gulf Boulevard
 In A Sophisticated Yet Relaxed Atmosphere

Banquet Facilities Fine Wine & Spirits

Middle Grounds Grill

Make Your Valentine's Day Reservations Now
 Selling Out Fast!

Happy Hour Daily 4:30-7 pm
 Fri, & Sat. 10-11pm

Reservations Suggested - **727.360.4253**
 10925 Gulf Boulevard - Treasure Island
 Hours Sunday - Thursday 4:30pm-10pm
 Friday and Saturday 4:30pm - 11pm
 Scan Code to See Our Menu

SHEPARD'S BEACH RESORT CLEARWATER BEACH

\$26.95
 4 - 10 pm

Shepherd's Valentine's Day Buffet
 Thursday, February 14, 2013

Slow cooked Prime Rib
 Lobster Enchiladas
 Crab legs
 Seasonal Fresh Fish
 Thai green curry mussels
 Spicy Champagne Clams on a rich pomodoro
 Crispy Fried Shrimp
 Ribeye Steaks w/au jus
 Shrimp and Crab stuffed Basa w/lobster sherry cream sauce
 Miso glazed Mahi in lobster broth w/julienne carrots, fennel & tomato
 House smoked Brisket on a charred cedar plank and house BBQ sauce
 Salmon Oscar w/white wine cream sauce
 Korean style BBQ Chicken w/jasmine rice
 Chilled Seafood Station- Oysters, peel n' eat Shrimp, assorted Sushi
 An array of delicious appetizers, sides and salads
 Homemade desserts including Chocolate Covered Strawberries and Bananas Foster station!

Valentine's Special
Moët & Chandon Brut Champagne - \$75
Chandon California Brut - \$40

Reservations Strongly Recommended
www.shephards.com 727-441-6875
 619 South Gulfview Blvd Clearwater Beach

Valentine's Day
 Thursday, Feb. 14

The Wine Cellar Restaurant and Fine Catering

Duck Breast with Waldorf Salad and Cumberland Sauce or Mushroom Caps Elizabeth Stuffed with a Veal Ragout
 Florida Salad
 Romaine, Sliced Oranges, Red Onions and Vinaigrette
 Raspberry Sorbet
 Red Snapper Picatta with Diced Lemon and Capers
 Saffron Rice and Fresh Vegetable or Filet Mignon
 Paired with 1/2 Lobster Tail Stuffed with Crab Claw Meat
 Twice Baked Potato & Fresh Vegetables
 Strawberry Mousse or Chocolate Velvet Torte with Raspberry Coulis and Fresh Berries

\$31.50
 Regular Menu Available (no early birds, Feb. 14)

17307 Gulf Boulevard, N. Redington Beach
 727-393-3491

Celebrate

Fresh Lobster
 Seafood & Steaks
 Fabulous Live Music
 Thur - Sun

Now taking reservations for **Valentines Day**
 Don't wait! Reservations fill quickly.

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 The Shops of Sandpearl Clearwater Beach
 or
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