

# Firefighters mourn beloved chaplain

The life of Rev. Paul Pierce celebrated Feb. 12 ... Page 4A.

# LARGO LEADER

## Sea-Blues Festival to feature Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Lee Boys

Also, the New Shanghai Circus comes to the Largo Cultural Center Feb. 16 ... Page 1B.



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### LARGO



## Highland preps for party rentals

Highland Recreation Complex's new PlayWorld, ExerPlay and renovated Aquatics Center will be available for rent for parties or celebrations starting on June 10. ... Page 3A.

### POLICE BEAT

## Gator stuck in drain rescued

Pinellas County sheriff's deputies and officials from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission had an interesting duty Friday afternoon when they were called to the scene of an alligator stuck in a roadway storm drain. ... Page 5A.



Officials free an alligator stuck in a roadway storm drain Feb. 8.

### HEALTH

## HealthSouth earns certification

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Largo, 901 Clearwater-Largo Road, recently earned certification for Disease-Specific Care in hip fracture rehabilitation. The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval was awarded to the hospital for its compliance with the organization's national standards for healthcare quality and safety in disease-specific care. ... Page 8A.

### SPORTS

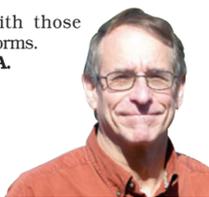
## Largo runner signs with university

Hannah Palm, a senior at Keswick Christian School, has decided to continue her academic and running career at Charleston Southern University, a Division I school in Charleston, S.C. ... Page 14A.

### VIEWPOINTS

## Tom Germond

Dealing with those dreaded earworms. ... Page 11A.



### Features

Business	7A
Classifieds	5-7B
Community	13A
County	5-6A
Entertainment	1-4, 8B
Faith & family	10A
Health	8-9A
Just for fun	2B
Largo	2-4A
Outdoors	15A
Pet connection	12A
Police beat	5A
Sports	14A
Viewpoints	11A

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# Curbside recycling to expand

## Largo commission agrees to expand services as soon as possible

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - Largo recycling coordinator Marissa Segundo clicked her heels with excitement outside the community room in city hall Feb. 12, after Largo commissioners expressed enthusiasm for the city's plans to expand the recycling services they offer to residents.

Currently, the city collects materials from 14- or 18-gallon recycling bins left in front of single-family homes once a week, collecting plastic bottles numbers 1 and 2, mixed paper, aluminum cans and flattened cardboard,

but not glass or cans made of steel or tin. About 32 percent of residents participate in the optional program, a rate the city has had no success in increasing, Segundo explained to the commission.

"The amount of recycles kept out of the landfill over the past four years have kind of plateau-ed at about 22 percent, despite multiple modes of outreach," she said.

The city has wanted to transition to a single-stream curbside recycling program, in which far more materials are collected with an automated side-loader just like the vehicle that currently collects residents' trash. In such a program, the recyclables would be sold to a material re-

covery facility where the various recyclables would be sorted into clean and homogenous types of materials.

Tampa Bay's lack of such a facility has been a hindrance to implementing the more user-friendly service up until now, Segundo said.

"Now that the processing options have been available, we are able to move forward with presenting plans for potential changes," she said.

In a single-stream program, the city could collect 11 new types of recyclables, said Gene Ginn, assistant solid

See RECYCLING, page 4A

# Thousands attend Touch-A-Truck, Clown day

By BRIAN GOFF

For the past 18 years, Largo has hosted its Touch-A-Truck and Florida Clown Day at the Largo Central Park, and each year it gets bigger.

In 2012, between 12,000 and 15,000 people showed up. That number was likely exceeded by this year's event, held Feb. 9.

The crowds had plenty to see. Trucks of all descriptions were displayed in the parking lot with hundreds of children climbing all over them. There were fire trucks, dump trucks, tree trimming trucks, ambulances, garbage trucks, mail trucks, police trucks, tow trucks and a limousine.

Jessica Newsome, Largo's special events coordinator, said this year brought something new.

"This year the Coast Guard will be towing in one of their boats," she explained before the event. "They haven't been here for the past couple of years so it will be fun to have them participating."

But what the crowds entering the park from the north side first encountered was a Bayfront Medical Center helicopter. Children were lined up on both sides of the chopper for the opportunity to get inside and sit in the pilot's seat and handle the controls.

Mike Smith of Largo and his sons Trevor, 11, Evan, 6, and Logan, 4 made that their first stop.

"They just like to touch things," said Smith. "The helicopter was their favorite; it was fun. We come here all the time, but this year, I didn't realize that this was on today. I just happened to drive by and saw the crowd and just had to come in. I'm glad we did."

Aiden Fulling, 3, of Oldsmar took a turn "driving" a farm tractor.

"This is such a family-friendly place, and it is free," said Aiden's mom, Kristina.

In fact, apart from the food court, the only thing that cost any money were the bouncy houses, which required a \$5 wristband.

Kristina Fulling said her son loved the event. "He likes everything, especially the trucks," she said. "We'll definitely come back."

One family who has come back several years in a row was the Krzyzaniak family of Largo. Mary Krzyzaniak said her son Kyle's favorite was the "mouse truck," the Truly Nolen vehicle. But he had an ulterior motive aside from the trucks.

"He loves the hand-outs," she said. "He especially likes the beads."

This year, the event featured a new element, especially

See TRUCKS, page 4A



Above, children and adults alike line up to see the Bayfront Medical Center helicopter at Largo's Touch-A-Truck day Feb. 9. At left, Logan Smith, 4, of Largo is all smiles on the large lawn mower.

Photos by BRIAN GOFF

# Two sentenced to life in Largo police homicide investigations

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - The accused in two murder trials, stemming from separate Largo police investigations that each began in August 2008, were convicted and sentenced to life in jail on consecutive days in Pinellas County courts Feb. 7 and 8.

Both of the convicted were family to their victim. A 44-year-old Largo man will be locked up for the murder of his 76-year-old wife. The grandfather of a 4-year-old girl, who was beaten and died of starvation, is the first of two adults whom Largo investigators have pinned for the child's death.

## A younger husband found guilty

In the first case, Joseph Keeler was found guilty of murdering his wife, Rita Lisa, in their home at the Blue Skies mobile home park. The 76-year-old woman was found dead with multiple lacerations to her head and neck and multiple skull fractures on Aug. 6, 2008.

Keeler went to his neighbor's



Joseph Keeler

home earlier that day to report that his wife was dead. According to police statements at the time, Keeler said he told a detective that he was responsible for her death.

Blood from the scene linked Keeler to Lisa's death, and detectives disproved several of his statements. He was arrested the following day.

Keeler's jury trial began Feb. 5 and concluded after only three days,



Sylvester Carew

according to court documents. The jury found him guilty, and the judge's sentence was immediate: life in prison without the possibility of parole.

"This conviction was the direct result of the hard work of countless members of this agency," Detective Scott Gore, the primary investigator

See CONVICTIONS, page 4A

# Budget forecast calls for modest growth in 2014

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County officially kicks off its budget preparation season Feb. 21. But, work on fiscal year 2014 budget has already begun.

County Administrator Bob LaSala and Eric Naughton, the new director of the Office of Management and Budget, presented county commissioners with the budget forecast for fiscal years 2014-2023 at a Feb. 5 work session.

LaSala told commissioners that despite media reports to the contrary, the budget forecast includes no recommendations for any specific actions. LaSala's plan will come with his proposed budget due in July.

The purpose of the forecast is to identify challenges, weigh potential options and help commissioners make policy decisions. Looking at budget projections over the long term rather than focusing on a one-year budget solution drives better decision-making, he said.

This is the fourth year county staff has prepared a formal budget forecast, which includes 10 keys funds: General, Tourist Development, Transportation Trust, Capital Projects, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Districts, Airport, and three Utilities funds - water, sewer and solid waste.

Naughton presented the particulars, including

See FORECAST, page 4A

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# City calendar

## Largo Community Center

Largo Community Center is at 400 Alt. Keene Road. Visit [LargoCommunityCenter.com](http://LargoCommunityCenter.com) or call 518-3131.

### Senior driver safety course offered

LARGO -The Largo Community Center will host an AARP driver's safety six-hour course over two days on Thursday and Friday, March 7-8, 9 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$12 for AARP cardholders or \$14 for those who have no AARP card.

### 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.

## Highland Recreation Complex

Highland Recreation Complex is at 400 Highland Ave. Visit [HighlandRecreation.com](http://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. The cost is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Admission for youth up to age 17 is half-price.

### Tiny Tot Story Time

LARGO - Children ages 5 and younger are invited to dress to the theme for a morning of fun on second Fridays, 10:15 to 11 a.m., at Highland Recreation Center.

Hear a story, make a craft and enjoy a snack. Preregistration two weeks prior is required. The cost is \$5 for residents or \$6.25 for nonresidents.

### Lego Friends

LARGO - Lego Friends, for ages 5 and older, meet to build new projects on third Saturdays, 11 a.m. to noon, at Highland Recreation Complex. February's theme is "Kingdoms & Castles."

Meet new friends while exploring the land of Legos. Tickets are, with a recreation card, \$5 for residents and \$6.25 for nonresidents or \$9.25 without a card.

### 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.

## 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](http://PlayLargo.com).

### 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.

### SilverSneakers program

LARGO - The SilverSneakers program - an innovative health, exercise, and wellness plan to help older adults live healthy, active lifestyles - is coming to the Southwest Recreation Center and Pool.

## A voice for foster children



Photo courtesy of the LARGO KIWANIS

Bruce Blazej, Largo Kiwanis club president, gives Carol Conaway, president of Suncoast Voices For Children, a certificate for her presentation at the club's monthly dinner Feb. 7. The Kiwanis Club of Largo/Mid-Pinellas learned that Suncoast Voices For Children provides for the physical, psychological, educational and social needs of abused, abandoned and neglected children in Pinellas and Pasco counties when there is no other resource available. There are around 3,000 children in the child welfare system in Pinellas and Pasco counties at any given time, with about 70 entering the system each month. Statistically, 27 percent of these children will never return home. Children in foster care are twice as likely to be held back a grade and less than 40 percent of children in foster care graduate from high school. Suncoast Voices, a charitable foundation whose funding comes from nongovernment sources, is located in Largo. For more information, call 582-3609, or visit them at [www.suncoastchildren.org](http://www.suncoastchildren.org).

The programs gives members a daily fitness pass, daily pool admission for fitness swimming and classes including Aqua Fit & Trim, tai chi, chair exercise, muscular strength and range of movement and Fit Over 50. Check with your health plan today to see if you are eligible.

### Lego Building

LARGO - Lego Building, for ages 5 to 12, meets on first Saturdays, 10 to 11 a.m., at Southwest Recreation Complex. Get hands-on experience while learning construction, programming and teamwork. Tickets range from \$5 to \$9.25.

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# Highland available for party rentals

LARGO – Highland Recreation Complex's new PlayWorld, Exer-Play and renovated Aquatics Center will be available for rent for parties or celebrations starting on June 10.

The complex, at 400 Highland Ave, will offer multiple packages starting as low as \$125 for PlayWorld, the three-story indoor playground, and ExerPlay, the indoor active gaming room. Exer-Play and PlayWorld party packages include a 90-minute play session, 15 guests, one hour in a party room, paper products and a T-shirt for the birthday child.

Aquatics party packages include a two-hour pool session, 15 guests, use of a shade structure and a T-shirt and big squirt for the birthday child. Private parties also are available.

For complete party offerings and prices, contact the complex's party coordinator at 518-3016.



Largo staff get a sneak peak of Highland Recreation Complex Jan. 28. Photo courtesy of the CITY OF LARGO

## Around town

### Learn about Largo's new sign ordinance

LARGO – The Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce and the city of Largo will present an informational program designed to assist businesses in successfully meeting the new signage criteria on Thursday, Feb. 28, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the community room of Largo City Hall, 201 Highland Ave.

Representatives from the city and sign industry will provide presentations and offer one-on-one assistance. Topics to be covered include "The Largo Sign Code – Then and Now," "The Sign Permit Process," "Signage and the Florida Building Code," "Sign Incentives" and "Hiring a Sign Contractor – Things to Know."

The deadline for compliance of the new sign ordinance is June 5, 2017. To reserve seating, call the chamber at 584-2321 by Feb. 25.

### Museum hosts breakfast with veterans

LARGO – The Armed Forces History Museum will host the Breakfast with Champions, a veterans panel discussion, on Saturday, Feb. 16, 10 to 11:30 a.m., at 2050 34th Way N. in Largo.

Hear the stories, plights and triumphs of four veterans ranging from World War II to current conflicts.

Featured speakers will be John Residence, a survivor from the WWII battle of Iwo Jima; Bill Allen, a prisoner of war in the Korean War; Mike Jernigan, a veteran who was wounded in Iraq and Frank Correa, who served in the Persian Gulf War.

Tickets are \$15 and include a continental breakfast. Call 539-8371 or visit [www.armedforcesmuseum.com](http://www.armedforcesmuseum.com)

### Museum invites bikers for Wheels for Warriors

LARGO – Motorcycle enthusiasts will receive free Guinness beer all night and free food as part of the Armed Forces History Museum's Wheels for Warriors Bike Night on Saturday, Feb. 23, 6 to 9 p.m., at 2050 34th Way N. in Largo.

Jim's Harley-Davidson and Full Throttle Magazine is sponsoring the event, with food thanks to the Florida Restaurant Purchasing Group.

Meet pin-up girls from Pin Up America and leave the museum with one case of Guinness beer. Free T-shirts will be given to the first 100 bikers.

Tickets are \$15. Call 539-8371 or visit [www.armedforcesmuseum.com](http://www.armedforcesmuseum.com).

# Foundation to host Art Hop and Taste Fest

LARGO – The Greater Largo Library Foundation will host its sixth annual Art Hop and Taste Fest on March 2, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Largo Public Library, 101 Central Park Drive.

This year's event will showcase art from the private collection of Angelo Dundee. Entertainment will include Tampa jazz singer Lisa Casalino and Osceola Fundamental High School piano students under the tutelage of John Campbell.

The event also will feature fine art of all different mediums from local artists as well as great food samples from local restaurants such as Salt and Pepper, Nauti Nancy's, ClearSky Beachside Café, RG's Bookmark Café, Texas Cattle Company and Four Monkeys Candy Connection.

A youth art exhibit will display work from Largo High and Elementary school students. That artwork, featuring 35 high school and 47 elementary school students, is currently featured in the Gallery 120 within the library during regular business hours.

The foundation also will feature artwork from the clients of PARC. This year, theater groups from Francis Wilson Playhouse and the West Coast Players will serve as greeters and guides.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., and participants may "hop" to several local shops between 6 and 8 p.m. via free shuttle buses. Each business – including Belleair Flowers, My Salon, Beans About Cook-

ing and William Dean Chocolates – will feature an artist and offer refreshments. A silent auction will be held at the library, as well as chance drawings and door prizes.

Individual tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. With the purchase of a VIP ticket – \$100 for an individual or \$150 for a couple – your name will be included in the program and you will receive an invitation to a thank you dinner in April.

Tickets can be purchased at any of the Art Hop stops, at the library or by calling the Greater Largo Library Foundation at 586-7398. Tickets also are available online at [www.gllf.org](http://www.gllf.org).

### 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](http://www.largopubliclibrary.org).

# Heritage Village offers Finding Florida lecture

LARGO – As part of the Speaking of History lecture series, writer Cathy Salustri will present Finding Florida: Revisiting the Guide to the Southernmost State on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2 p.m., in the Pinellas Room at Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N. in Largo.

During the Great Depression, the Federal Writers Project of the Works Progress Administration hired writers throughout the United States to develop tour books for each state. The authors of Florida's book included a white man, Stetson Kennedy, and an African-American woman, Zora Neale Hurston, who were prohibited by segregation laws from traveling together. Despite such obstacles, the book that resulted from their efforts, "Florida: A Guide to the Southernmost State," captured a slice of life along Florida's roadways just before America's entry into World War II would forever transform the peninsula.

More than 70 years later, Salustri and her dachshund, Calypso, traveled nearly 5,000 miles

throughout Florida in a camper van to witness how the landscape had changed since the original journey.

Salustri's love of Florida spans the entire state. Her travels have taken her to places highways bypassed long ago, as well as those spots where natural beauty has survived the onslaught of overpopulation.

She attended the University of Central Florida and earned degrees at St. Petersburg College and the University of Tampa before embarking on an academic journey through the Florida Studies Program at University of South Florida St. Petersburg. This presentation relives her experience of taking "the ultimate Florida road trip" to retrace the paths followed by Hurston and Kennedy more than seven decades ago. This month-long journey formed the basis of her master's thesis that she completed in March 2012.

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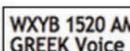
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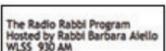
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# Largo fire department mourns beloved chaplain

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – The Largo Fire Department is mourning the loss of one of its first chaplains, the Rev. Paul Pierce.

“He’s beloved. The department absolutely loved him,” said Assistant Chief Doug Swartz. “The department had become Pierce’s ‘flock,’” Swartz said.

“The chaplain had a passion for service above self. He really knew how to put the work he did for the church and fire department above all else. His family was important; we were a part of that family,” Swartz said. “He was a very caring soul that would want to take care of everybody.”

Pierce, 68, was still actively volunteering with the department as recently as Dec. 18, when he gave the invocation at the Largo Commission meeting. But his battle with prostate cancer took a turn for the worse, metastasizing to his spine, said Fire Deputy Chief Shelby Willis. He died Feb. 6.

“(The cancer) kind of came back with a vengeance,” Swartz explained. “Just recently, he had gone under care of hospice and they had stopped treatment on it.”

Pierce began volunteering with the department in 2001, one of four such religious leaders that the department brought on to minister to firefighters as well as members of the community in emergency situations. The timing proved providential.

“They were fortunately in place when the events of Sept. 11 took place,” Swartz said.

Pierce’s brother was a firefighter in Massachusetts when he died, creating a personal call for Pierce to serve, Swartz added.

“He carried a spirit and just a real excitement about what we did. He was like a little kid out there,” he said. “The biggest thing for me was the smile that he brought and the comfort and the compassion he was able to bring to our guys and gals on the line.”

Pierce looked after the mental wellbeing of his flock, providing words of comfort or counsel and sometimes just a calming presence.

“There are certain triggers that evoke some emotions even in the most seasoned firefighter or paramedic,” Swartz said.

His commitment to the Largo firefighters was by no means the beginning of his career. Pierce was pastor of First Baptist Church in Watertown, Mass., and later an associate pas-

tor for Faith Community Church in Largo. He also served as chaplain to the Largo police and the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office.

Pierce studied at International Seminary in Florida as well as Boston University and held a master’s degree in theology.

Before becoming ordained in 1984, Pierce was elected selectman in Stewartstown, N.H., and helped established a health center for the Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital. He also owned and operated a grocery store.

Pierce was active in promoting voluntary prayer in schools, helping to author the Massachusetts law that allowed for an observed moment of silence. As part of National Prayer Committee, he was invited to the White House by President Ronald Reagan and was interviewed on the Phil Donahue Show, The Today Show and for Time Magazine. Pastor Paul also hosted a radio program in Boston, Mass.

He was a missionary in Haiti, and in Florida he taught at Florida Beacon Bible College and was director of Tampa Bay Christian Network.

A memorial service for Pierce was held Feb. 12. To honor Pierce, his family requests donations be sent to Suncoast Hospice in his memory.



Reverend Paul Pierce

## RECYCLING, from page 1A

waste manager. That includes the addition of plastics numbers 3 through 7 – anything from butter tubs, disposable plates and cups to fruit containers and black planting pots – aluminum foil; steal and tin cans; clear, brown and green glass; milk and juice paper cartons and juice boxes.

The recycling carts themselves would be larger and easier to roll out to the curb. They would also protect the recyclables from the rain or blowing away in the wind.

“I’ve been waiting for this for a long time. I’m tired of taking the bin out overloaded and chasing down the papers down the neighborhood all the time,” Commissioner Michael Murray said in his comments supporting the program.

The automated collection also would reduce the personnel from two employees who need to get out of the truck to pick up the bins down to only one employee who never leaves the truck.

“Automated collection methods have historically proved to increase worker safety and create efficiency of the collection program,” Ginn said.

Most importantly, other recent single-stream programs implemented in the Tampa Bay region have shown 50 to 100 percent increases in resident participation as well as the amount of materials recycled, Segundo said.

Implementing the program would cost about \$2 million in capital funds if implemented immediately, said Charles Jordan, budget analyst for the city’s public works department. The city would spend about \$600,000 for new side-loader vehicles and the rest on new recycling carts.

In general, however, any investment costs would be offset by a reduction in operating costs, specifically an annual reduction of \$100,000 to \$120,000 in tipping fees, charged to the city for offloading waste at landfills.

“In five years, that’s a substantial amount of money,” Jordan said.

Additionally, the city would save operating costs by reducing its vehicles, reducing curbside collection workers through attrition as well as reducing worker’s compensation costs, Jordan explained. The city pays out about \$240,000 in worker’s compensation for its current, more hands-on recycling program. For its automated curbside garbage collection, that amount is only \$1,000, Jordan said.

Aside from assessing whether the city should proceed with the plan, staff asked the Largo commission how fast they thought the program should be implemented. Staff could push citywide implementation of the program quickly, possibly as soon as 120 days, public works Director Brian Usher said.

Alternatively, the program could start with a “soft opening,” implanting the program to 2,500 homes sometime in the summer as a way of

evaluating the true impact on participation rate. Or, the city could save capital funds by delaying citywide implementation until January or March 2014.

The commissioners were unanimous in their support of going to a single-stream program. Commissioner Woody Brown said he would like to see the program throughout the whole city rather than just a small portion of the city in a pilot program.

“I think this is a great program. I think it’s going to be very, very successful, so much so that it will reduce our solid waste to the point where we’ll be able to pick up trash once a week,” he said.

Usher said the department often considered a reduction in pick-up, but had to consider other factors, such as the warm Florida climate, which was not conducive to longer trash turnarounds.

Murray also supported faster implementation of the program.

“I would really like to see this rolled out as soon as possible, citywide. I think it’s really important. I think we owe it to ourselves and we owe it to future generations to start recycling as much as we can as quickly as we can,” he said.

Usher commented that Largo was taking the lead in considering an internally run, single-stream recycling system.

“There are more than a few communities that are watching what we do here and are prepared, once our proposal is awarded, to talk to the vendor about extending it to their communities,” he said.

## TRUCKS, from page 1A

for the parents: a business expo. Fifty-one businesses set up in the middle of the park, allowing residents to check out the services available in their community. Most of the businesses handed out free goodies to take home.

A more familiar element of the event were clowns – more than 100 of them from all over Florida. Uptown Clowns Alley gathered the clowns so the children could interact with them.

“The clowns have been part of this for years,” said Newsome. “They wanted to participate because they have a built-in natural audience with all the children. They have been doing this for as long as I can remember.”

The helicopter, however, seemed to enjoy a distinct popularity among the children who attended the event. Bryan and Jaime Marshall from St. Petersburg were making their second annual trip to the event with their children, Lincoln, 6, Molly, 4, and Callie, 1.

Waiting in the helicopter line, the children couldn’t wait to get aboard. The family already had some fun times over at the trucks, they said.

“The kids love it,” said Bryan Marshall. “They love the hands-on approach, and they get to blow the horns. Molly liked the mail truck and Lincoln liked the fire truck and dump truck. But now he says the helicopter is his favorite.”

Marshall admitted, with a sheepish look, that he loved all the trucks and the helicopter as much as the kids. They definitely will come back next year, he said.

Perhaps nobody liked the helicopter more than Dan Wright of Indian Rocks Beach, who stood back just admiring the aircraft. It brought back many memories, he said.

“I’m an ex-Navy search and rescue guy,” he said. “I spent 20 years in a helicopter, and I’m here today with my granddaughter because my son is over in Afghanistan flying helicopters right now. I still get a chill every time I watch a helicopter land.”

He said having the helicopter on the ground so the children could explore it and touch it was a good idea.

“This is a good thing and it could inspire a child,” he said. “This has got to be a kid’s dream come true right here.”



Photos by BRIAN GOFF

Above, clowns join the fun during the Touch a Truck and Florida Clown Day at Largo Central Park Feb. 9. At left, Aiden Fulling, 3, of Oldsmar hops aboard the farm tractor.

## CONVICTIONS, from page 1A

in the case, stated in an email announcing the conviction.

### A grandfather convicted

Zineah Johnson, 4, was taken to Northside Hospital on Aug. 16, 2008. She died at the hospital shortly thereafter, with “obvious signs of abuse and malnutrition,” Largo police recently explained.

The caregivers who brought her to the hospital – namely her grandfather, Sylvester David Carew, now 58, and his girlfriend, Nikki Tyler Gardner-Bradley, now 43 – were arrested on Nov. 24 later that year. The investigation had revealed that while Zineah was beaten regularly, she died of starvation. The Pinellas County Medical Examiner ruled the death a homicide on Oct. 22, 2008.

While Largo Detective Laura Young, was able to establish probable cause to charge the two with first-degree murder, the help of the U.S. Marshal’s Florida Regional Fugitive Task Force was needed to eventually find them in Hillsborough County.

Carew’s trial recently had been scheduled for Oct. 14, according to court documents. However, he pleaded guilty to first-degree murder on Feb. 8. He was sentenced that day to life in prison.

Gardner-Bradley, the second suspect in this case, is still in a psychiatric facility pending competency, Largo police reported.

## FORECAST, from page 1A

projections for some growth over the forecast period.

“We’re not going to have big levels of growth, instead it will be a slow, steady increase,” he said.

The national economic outlook shows a slow climb out of the recession with the gross domestic product expected to grow by 2 percent to 2.9 percent annually over the next three years.

The outlook for the state and county is dependent on the pace of recovery for the job market and the housing market, Naughton said. Florida led the nation in foreclosures in 2012 with one in 32 homes facing foreclosure – twice the national average. Thus far, improvement in the housing and job markets has been slow.

Tourism is the bright spot for Pinellas County with more than 5 million overnight visitors in 2012 and bed tax collections coming in at a record \$28.7 million.

“The sad part is tourism doesn’t have high-paying jobs,” Naughton said.

Two-thirds of the revenue for the general fund comes from property taxes. The general fund is the largest and pays for the majority of expenses. Despite projections for about 2.5 percent growth in property values next year, there still won’t be enough money coming in to sustain current levels of service for the coming year or any of the years contained in the forecast.

Naughton said the projected budget in the forecast uses money from the service level stabilization account to make up the difference between revenue and expenses in fiscal year 2014. The SLSA represents savings from previous years when the commission approved budget cuts above and beyond as recommended by staff to create “a glide path and soft landing” when the economy began to improve, LaSala said.

“We’re starting from a good place,” he said. However, projections for fiscal years 2015 through 2023 show a shortfall of \$18 million to \$58 million.

“What’s the major driver for the increase in expenses?” Commission Chair Ken Welch asked.

“Cost of personnel,” Naughton answered. He said the budget factored in pay raises for employees.

“They’ve gone without for about four years,” he said. He said there was a growing concern about the county’s ability to recruit and retain quality personnel.

LaSala said some money had been set aside for possible pay raises. “We’ll wait and look at the market,” he said. There’s also an unknown for future pension costs.

### Problem funds

Money for the emergency medical services fund continues to be a problem area with staff estimating that reserves will be gone by fiscal

year 2017, despite millage rate increases the past two years.

LaSala said some savings could come from renegotiating the contract with the ambulance provider. Other ways commissioners could get more money for the fund would be another millage rate increase, increasing ambulance user fees or reducing funding for first responder contracts.

“Money from property tax and ambulance fees never will be enough to pay the cost of the system,” LaSala said.

Officials are currently waiting for results of a study looking at changes to EMS that could save money in future years.

The Fire District Fund is balanced going into fiscal year 2014, in part due to millage increases in past years. Naughton pointed out that expenses likely would create revenue shortfalls in the coming years.

Another problem area is the Transportation Trust Fund, which is expected to run out of money in fiscal year 2018. Commissioners must take steps to increase revenue or cut expenses no later than fiscal year 2017. Suggested strategies include subsidizing the fund using general fund money, using an independent revenue source to pay for stormwater needs associated with roads, adding local option gas taxes or reductions in service levels.

### Other funds

The capital projects fund will remain solvent throughout the forecast period as long as staff continues to successfully match projects to available revenue. Naughton reported that it might not become necessary to borrow \$85 million from Solid Waste as previously approved by the Commission.

The airport fund also will continue to stay balanced as long as capital projects stay within expected grant revenue. LaSala said no one has shown interest in the former Aircro Golf Course property. The commission approved closure of the golf course in 2011 to allow staff to explore development of the property to bring in additional revenue.

Annual rate increases approved through fiscal year 2015 will keep a balance between revenue and expenses for Utilities Water, Sewer and Solid Waste funds. However, additional rate increases of 2 percent a year likely will be needed to keep the water fund balanced through fiscal year 2023. Rate increases of 2.75 percent through fiscal year 2023 would keep the sewer fund intact. Tipping fees and electricity sales will



Bob LaSala

provide sufficient revenue for the solid waste fund through the end of the forecast period.

### Tourist development fund forecast

Again, tourism provides a ray of sunshine for county budget planners. Bed tax collections are expected to grow by 4 percent this year followed by 3.5 percent in fiscal year 2014 and 3 percent thereafter.

In addition, by fiscal year 2015 the debt service to Tropicana Field and Dunedin spring training facility will be paid. Money could be available for new capital investments and promotional activities. However, reduced funding from federal and state sources to pay for nourishment might mean more bed tax funds would be needed to keep the county’s beaches in sand.

### Unknown variables

Many unknowns could affect the budget, including federal and state mandates, actual collection of property taxes, new property tax exemptions, speed of the economic recovery, compensation issues and, new to this year’s forecast – climate change, which Naughton said addressed concerns about the frequency and intensity of storms.

### Preparations and next steps

Department managers have a few months to develop their budgets. Overall, staff will continue to streamline operations and look for new funding sources. They’ll be asked to focus on offering sustainable programs and services in tune with the “new normal for revenue growth,” Naughton said.

LaSala said he had a “productive” meeting with Sheriff Bob Gualtieri as staff prepares to “do a deep dive” into the area of public safety. The sheriff’s budget takes a large share of the general fund budget despite massive cuts in the past few years.

Community involvement will play a part in the budget process with an E-Town/I-Town Hall meeting on April 10 and public hearings in September. Adoption of the budget and millage rates is scheduled for Sept. 17. The next budget year begins Oct. 1.

Commissioners asked if community outreach meetings would be scheduled as in past years. LaSala said no meetings were planned, as attendance did not warrant the expense.

LaSala said this year staff’s strategy of prioritizing funding was based on reaching the North Star.

“It’s a form of art,” he said. “It describes how we’re trying to align the organization on a single focus.”

LaSala said the commission creates and shapes the North Star through strategic planning and monitoring.

“Steering of this ship (county government) will use the North Star as a pivot point,” he said.

## Police beat

### Gator stuck in storm drain rescued

LARGO - Pinellas County sheriff's deputies and officials from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission had an interesting duty Friday afternoon when they were called to the scene of an alligator stuck in a roadway storm drain.

A concerned citizen called the Sheriff's Office about the stuck gator about 1:30 p.m. When law enforcement officers arrived on scene, which was blocks from Walsingham Elementary School, they found the 8-foot gator stuck in the drain with its head trapped in the opening.

When a trapper from the FWC responded, deputies and citizen bystanders pulled the alligator out of the drainage opening. After looking over the gator for injuries, FWC officials will transport it to an alligator farm near Dover.



Pinellas County Deputies and officials from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission free an alligator stuck in a roadway storm drain Feb. 8.

### Man arrested for burglary, robbery

LARGO - A Palm Harbor man was arrested at the Sheriff's Administration Building in Largo Feb. 7 and charged with one count of burglary, two counts of robbery and one count of dealing in stolen property.

Trevor David Winsett, 24, was booked into the Pinellas County Jail at 9:17 p.m. Bond was set at \$75,000.

Detectives assigned to the Robbery/Homicide and Burglary and Pawn Units arrested Winsett in connection with a smash and grab burglary on Jan. 29 and the Jan. 17 and Feb. 1 robberies at a Munchies conven-



Trevor Winsett

ience store, 2100 Bayshore Blvd. in Dunedin.

Approximately 100 scratch-off lottery tickets were stolen from the store during the smash and grab burglary. The suspect was identified after fingerprints on the cashed-in winning tickets came back to the suspect's brother.

According to detectives, following the Jan. 29 smash and grab burglary, Winsett, gave scratch-off lottery tickets to his brother to repay a debt. Deputies say some hours later the suspect's brother and his girlfriend cashed in the winning tickets at a 7-Eleven, 100 Alt. U.S. 19 in Palm Harbor.

Fingerprints lifted from the cashed in lottery tickets came back to the suspect's brother. Through their investigation, detectives were able to link the suspect to the burglary, as well as the two robberies.

### Robbery suspect found dead in Seminole

SEMINOLE - A man wanted in connection with the Feb. 6 robbery of the Bank of America in Seminole is dead.

According to Pinellas County sheriff's detectives, the body of Richard Plent, 51, was located during the morning hours of Feb. 8 in Millennium Park, 12410 74th Ave. Detectives say the death is not suspicious. According to detectives, the preliminary investigation indicates the suspect may have died due to an overdose from over the counter medications.

The manner and cause of death will be determined through an autopsy by the Medical Examiner's Office.

Detectives had been looking for Plent in connection with the Feb. 6 robbery of the Bank of America, 6801 Seminole Blvd.

According to detectives, Plent, who was a transient, entered the bank about 9:13 a.m. and demanded cash from the teller. The teller complied and the suspect fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspect was last seen running out of the south door of the bank.



Photo courtesy of PCSO  
Surveillance photos from the Bank of America show Richard Plent, 51, at the teller window about 9:13 a.m. Feb. 6. His body was found Feb. 8 in Millennium Park in Seminole.

## Explorers attend three days of leadership training

Members of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 900 spent Feb. 1-3 at the Florida Sheriff Caruth Camp in Inglis for three days of leadership training.

Explorers from St. Petersburg Police and Pinellas Park police departments joined the Sheriff's Explorers. Forty-six Explorers in all attended this second annual camp.

The Explorers took part in a series of team-building, challenge courses and high ropes exercises designed to teach leadership skills and teamwork. Members of the Sheriff's Office Command Staff provided instruction.

The Explorer Post is an opportunity for young people to learn firsthand about the challenges and rewards of a career in public safety. The Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 900 is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America and is highly regarded with national championships in several categories of Law Enforcement Exploring.

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Explorers are immersed in many facets of the agency's operations: patrol, corrections, investigations, forensics, training and more. Deputy sheriffs also serve as mentors and instructors, giving Explorers the benefit of their experience in these areas. Several former Explorers are now Pinellas County deputy sheriff's or city police officers.

Anyone with an interest in the Sheriff's Explorer Post is asked to contact Deputy Jim Butterfield at 453-7461.



Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 900 takes time out for a photo at the second annual Explorer Leadership Development Program Feb. 1-3 at the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch, Caruth Camp in Inglis.

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## Notices

## Foundation to host seminars

The Community Service Foundation will host a free, two-part first-time homebuyers seminar on Tuesdays, March 5 and 12, 6 to 9 p.m., at Pinellas County Housing Authority, 11479 Ulmerton Road, Largo.

The seminar is designed to help first-time homebuyers go through the process of purchasing a home and qualifying for down payment and closing costs assistance. Participants must attend both sessions to earn a certificate.

CSF also will host a free two-part household budgeting seminar on Thursdays, March 21 and 28, 6 to 9 p.m., at the Sunshine Center, 330 Fifth St. N., St. Petersburg.

The seminar is designed for people who want to live better on less and/or to save to buy a home. Participants must attend both sessions to earn a certificate. To register or for information, call 461-0618, ext. 3, or visit [www.csfhome.org](http://www.csfhome.org).

## Railroad repairs close roadways

Pinellas County Department of Environment and Infrastructure and CSXT Railroad are beginning a project to improve railroad crossings on Belleair Road and Wyatt Street between Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue and Clearwater Largo Road.

The project will take place in two phases with anticipated construction detours taking place:

- Belleair Road from South Myrtle Avenue to Scranton Avenue to begin Friday, Feb. 15, through Thursday, Feb. 21.

- Wyatt Street from Clearwater-Largo Road to South Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue to begin Friday, March 1, through Thursday, March 7.

The project will replace the existing crossings with a reinforced structure and new rails to provide an improved lifespan and to construct ADA compliant sidewalks. Roadway resurfacing will finish the job at both locations.

## Waste collection scheduled

SEMINOLE - Pinellas County brings its household hazardous waste collection to the Seminole Home Depot, 10550 Park Blvd., Saturday, Feb. 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Drive up and drop off hazardous and unwanted electronics and chemicals. Pinellas County Solid Waste offers this service free to county households. Businesses should arrange for drop-off and payment by calling Creative Recycling at 813-621-2319 for electronics, or contact Pinellas County Solid Waste at 464-7500 for chemical vendor information.

Household electronics and chemicals - such as TVs, cell phones, computers, paints, motor oil, fertilizers and batteries - should never be dumped in the regular trash, drains, storm sewers or on the ground. These products can be harmful to the envi-

ronment and to the people handling them if they are not disposed of properly. Electronics contain useful materials that can be extracted and recycled, such as aluminum, glass and plastic.

For more information on mobile collections, what to bring and what not to bring, or the permanent Household Electronics & Chemical Collection Center, call Pinellas County Solid Waste at 464-7500 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities).

## County offices to close for training

Pinellas County government offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 18, Presidents Day, for in-house training.

The following offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 18:

- The Tax Collector and Supervisor of Elections offices

- The Pinellas County Courthouse, the offices of the Property Appraiser and Clerk of the Circuit Court

- The offices and adoption center at Pinellas County Animal Services

- The Solid Waste Administration Building facility

- The Environmental Education Center at Brook-Creek Preserve

- The Cultural and Natural History Center at Weedon Island Preserve and Heritage Village

The HEC3 and scalehouse/landfill will be open regular hours on Monday, Feb. 18, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Parks and Conservation Resources administrative offices will be open and beach and boat ramp passes will be available for sale. All county parks, boat ramps and beach accesses also will be open.

All Pinellas County facilities will resume normal hours of operation on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

## Elections office mails out ballots

Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark mailed 26,903 ballots Feb. 5 to domestic voters residing in the nine municipalities conducting elections on March 12.

On Jan. 25, 311 ballots were mailed to absent military and overseas voters.

Additional mail ballot requests will be fulfilled as received. To request a mail ballot, visit [www.vote-pinellas.com](http://www.vote-pinellas.com), call 464-VOTE (8683), or email [absentee@vote-pinellas.com](mailto:absentee@vote-pinellas.com) and include date of birth.

Domestic voters are civilian voters residing within the United States and active-duty military voters residing in Pinellas County. Absent military and overseas voters include all active-duty military, their spouses and dependents, currently absent from their places of residence; and civilians who are U.S. citizens residing outside the United States.

The numbers of mail ballots requested and returned are updated daily at [www.vote-pinellas.com](http://www.vote-pinellas.com).

## Duncan reappointed to TBARTA

TALLAHASSEE - Gov. Rick Scott announced the reappointment of Ronnie Duncan to the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority.

Duncan, 55, of Tarpon Springs, has been the president of The Duncan Companies since 1998. He served as Pinellas County Commissioner from 2004 to 2008 and was a member of the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District from 1999 to 2005.

Duncan received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Georgia. He is reappointed for a term beginning Jan. 30, 2013, and ending Sept. 20, 2015.

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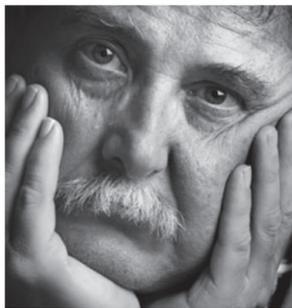
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Dr. Krystel has over 30 years experience helping patients solve medical problems with dental solutions, often by working with physicians and medical sleep specialists. And he may be able to help you. For a free sleep apnea screening, or consultation about your already diagnosed sleep apnea, come in and see Dr. Krystel. Call (727) 575-7900 for an appointment.

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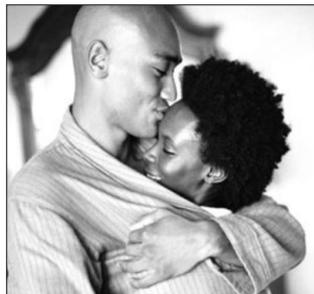
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## consumer business guide

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## Business notes

### Valpak expands in Canada

LARGO – Valpak, a leader in local print and digital coupons will expand its print circulation and footprint in Canada.

In collaboration with Valpak of Toronto East, 360,000 additional homes in the greater Toronto area will begin mailing each month starting in April, in addition to the current 80,000 household circulation.

"This is the first step in embarking in our collective effort to expand our position in Canada as a leader in print and digital marketing solutions," said Michael Vivio, president of Cox Target Media, provider of Valpak, in a press release. "Having a strong presence in Toronto is a key component to expanding our circulation throughout the rest of Canada."

Currently, Valpak has eight franchises in Canada, with a circulation of 7 million households. The Valpak growth strategy calls for increasing circulation by 2.7 million households in 2013, and further increases in 2014 and 2015. Valpak Manufacturing Center is in St. Petersburg. Cox Target Media is based in Largo.

### Deli Diva recognized by state

LARGO – Deli Diva recently was recognized by Gov. Rick Scott and the state of Florida as one of 62 restaurants in the state to have a full year of absolutely no health violations.

Deli Diva is the only restaurant in Pinellas County to receive this distinction.

### Chamber workshop set

SEMINOLE – SCORE and the Seminole Chamber of Commerce will present a small business workshop Thursday, Feb. 21, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Seminole Chamber office, 7985 113th St. N., Suite 208.

The workshop, intended for both chamber mem-

bers and nonmembers, helps business owners to identify their best customers – and offers tips on how to find more of them.

Cost is \$15 for chamber members and \$20 for nonmembers. To register, call 392-3245 or visit [www.seminolechamber.net](http://www.seminolechamber.net).

### Ruth Eckerd Hall sets new record

CLEARWATER – The recent appearance by Robin Williams and David Steinberg set a new record at Ruth Eckerd Hall with a total paid attendance of 2,185.

This is the highest paid attendance since the theater was renovated in 2003.

The previous record for a single performance was held by comedian Kathy Griffin set in 2007 with a paid attendance of 2,166.

Ruth Eckerd Hall Inc. is the 2,200-seat Ruth Eckerd Hall, the 500-seat Capitol Theatre, the 200-seat Murray Studio Theater, The Marcia P. Hoffman Performing Arts Institute and Ruth Eckerd Hall On The Road. Ruth Eckerd Hall Inc. is a not-for-profit organization. Its mission is to engage the community to master, experience, discover and explore quality performing arts.

### Raymond James branch relocates

ST. PETE BEACH – The St. Pete Beach team of Raymond James Financial Services Inc., member FINRA/SIPC, recently relocated to 8041 Blind Pass Road.

Peter Glickenhous, branch manager and owner, has been an investment adviser since 1983 and has served the beach area since July 2007. With this move, the branch has increased its office space to facilitate weekly investment seminars.

## Wawa opens



Photo courtesy of WAWA, INC.

Local officials and community members, including Sen. Jack Latvala and former Governor Bob Martinez, joined Wawa executives at the grand opening of the company's first Tampa Bay location, 3101 Gandy Blvd., Pinellas Park, on Feb. 8. The day included a presentation highlighting Wawa's milestones and "Hoagies for Heroes," a charitable hoagie-building competition between the Pinellas Park Police and the Pinellas Park Fire Departments. Wawa, a popular gas station and convenience store in the Mid-Atlantic Region, has more than 600 stores in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, and now Florida.

## Networking groups

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

The upcoming schedule is as follows:

- Friday, Feb. 15 – BNI Referral Masters, 7 a.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call Bill Mantooth at 639-6690 or visit [www.bnireferralmasters.com](http://www.bnireferralmasters.com).
- Friday, Feb. 15 – Network Professionals of St. Pete, 7:30 a.m. For information and meeting location, call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.
- Friday, Feb. 15 – Professional Leads Network, Upper Pinellas Chapter, 7:45 a.m., at R & G Cafe, 1565 Highland Ave., Clearwater. Visit [www.pro-leads.net](http://www.pro-leads.net).
- Friday, Feb. 15 – Professional Leads Network, Bay Area Executives Chapter, 11:45 a.m., at Tum Rub Thai, 32716 U.S. 19 N., Palm Harbor. Visit [www.pro-leads.net](http://www.pro-leads.net).

- Monday, Feb. 18 – Network Professionals Inc., 7:30 a.m., at Perkins Restaurant, 8841 Park Blvd. N., Largo. Call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.
- Monday, Feb. 18 – Professional Leads Network, St. Petersburg Chapter, 7:45 a.m., at Ricky P's, 6521 Fourth St. N., St. Petersburg. Visit [www.pro-leads.net](http://www.pro-leads.net).
- Monday, Feb. 18 – Ready Set Grow Group, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., at Hometown Family Restaurant, 10395 Seminole Blvd., Largo. Call Jamie Limbaugh at 831-2450 or email [jamil@freenetworkinginternational.com](mailto:jamil@freenetworkinginternational.com).
- Monday, Feb. 18 – Free Networking International, Clearwater Two Cups Connect Group, 2:30 to 4 p.m., at Bay Coast Coffee Market, 2525 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Clearwater. Call Wayne Porter at 642-6173, email [waynep@freenetworkinginternational.com](mailto:waynep@freenetworkinginternational.com) or visit [twocupsconnect.com](http://twocupsconnect.com).
- Tuesday, Feb. 19 – BNI Success Alliance, 7:30 to 9 a.m., at Our

Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in the Dubois Center Building, 750 San Salvador, Dunedin. Call Art Dryce at 786-3667 or visit [www.BNISuccessAlliance.com](http://www.BNISuccessAlliance.com).

• Tuesday, Feb. 19 – Professional Leads Network, First Watch Chapter, 7:30 a.m., First Watch, 2569 Village Drive, Clearwater. Visit [www.pro-leads.net](http://www.pro-leads.net).

• Tuesday, Feb. 19 – The Board, Network Professionals, 7:30 a.m., at Panera Bread, Bardmoor Shopping Center, corner of Bryan Dairy and Starkey roads, Largo. Call 742-6343.



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# Heart month: Know your numbers and stay heart healthy

By ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

CLEARWATER – February is American Heart Month, and doctors with Morton Plant Hospital urge people to get the facts and know their risk status.

"American Heart Month is crucial for educating the public about the signs and symptoms of heart disease, to allow people to assess the risk factors and seek appropriate help if they recognize any symptoms or risks because we know that early intervention is key in saving people from heart attacks," said Dr. Vanessa J. Lucarella, director of cardiac rehabilitation at Morton Plant Hospital and is also with the Clearwater Cardiovascular Consultants.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women, with about 600,000 people dying in the U.S. each year from heart disease, or one in every four deaths, according to the Center for Disease Control.

Often, women think heart disease is a "man's disease" and do not think they are at risk for it, Lucarella said. However, it tops the charts, with 24 percent of deaths in women being from heart disease, followed by cancer at 22.2 percent.

"A lot of women think heart disease is limited to the adult, overweight male smoker, when in fact it's the leading cause of death in women," Lucarella said. Greater than 550,000 women die of heart disease, which far exceeds the death rate due to lung and breast cancer, which is about 233,000."

In men, 25.2 percent die from heart disease, followed by 24.4 of cancer. But the good news as that for both men and women, most of the risk factors are reversible, Lucarella said.

Although increased age and unlucky genes do contribute to one's risk for cardiac disease, the most significant factors are blood pressure, blood sugar, lack of aerobic exercise, smoking, high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity and abdominal girth, Lucarella said. And all of these can be changed.

In regards to smoking, even if someone has smoked for years, Lucarella said, after quitting for two years, one's smoking-related heart disease risk goes back to the same amount as a non-smoker. Smoking can still cause long-term lung disease, but the risk for cardiac health can be wiped clean.

People should also pay attention when they go to the doctor and if they are borderline at-risk in any area, make active lifestyle changes to fix the problem before it gets worse, she said.

"Know your numbers," Lucarella said. "You can't



Photo courtesy of MORTON PLANT HOSPITAL  
Dr. Vanessa J. Lucarella

be complacent about going to a physician and being told, 'Oh, your blood pressure is a little high,' and then not do anything proactive to address and correct it. ... For example, your blood pressure should ideally be 120/80. If your blood pressure is 140/90, a physician might say, 'Well, did you have coffee before your visit?' and the patient dismisses it. The patient needs to be obliged to come back without the caffeine on board and ensure their blood pressure is meeting its goal."

The same goes for all the key numbers. The people the most at risk are men over 65 and post-menopausal women, Lucarella said. For people who make it to age 40, the lifetime risk for coronary disease is 49 percent for men and 32 percent for women, she said.

There are many things people can do to get healthier hearts, Lucarella said.

"The best and most simple thing that families can do is really take a close look at what's in their refrigerator," Lucarella said. "The best heart-healthy diet concentrates mainly on fresh fruits and vegetables.

**Know your numbers**  
Stay within the following numbers to protect yourself from heart disease:

- Cholesterol – 200 or less
- LDL cholesterol – 100 or less
- Body mass index – Less than 25
- Blood pressure – 120/80 or less
- Blood sugar – Less than 100
- Abdominal girth – 35 inches or less

Avoid excessive cheese and dairy, which are very high in fat. ... Use lean fat protein choices like chicken and fish – ideally having fish three times a week. Make sure the family is making exercise a part of their life as a fun family activity. Everyone going out bike riding after dinner or walking. At least 30- to 45-minutes a day of aerobic activity."

Foods high in antioxidants are also good choices, she said. Oatmeal with berries or a high fiber cereal with berries is a good choice in the morning, and it is important to reduce one's refined sugar and flour intake.

What makes heart disease even more dangerous in women is that the warning signs are subtler, Lucarella said.

"In men, it's usually the crushing chest pain and pain radiating into the jaw or arm as a mark of heart disease," Lucarella said. "But in women, the symptoms are much more subtle. There may be ex-

ertion fatigue or shortness of breath."

This is why it is key to follow through with seeking medical attention and taking early action to lower one's risk. But if anyone is experiencing exertion-mediated chest pressure radiating into the arm, jaw or scapula area, constant chest pain, shortness of breath or fatigue, heart palpitations or a racing heartbeat at a low workload it is crucial to call an ambulance immediately, Lucarella said.

"Studies have shown that if you're in the hospital within an hour after the onset of symptoms, you're far more likely to benefit from the tools we have, like acute balloon angioplasty or stents or emergency bypasses," Lucarella said. "If you get there early, your heart muscle doesn't have time to deteriorate from the loss of blood flow from the heart attack. The most important thing is you don't try to deal with it yourself."

Too many people ignore the signs or want to drive themselves to the hospital, but that can lead to death, she said.

Lucarella encourages people to take charge of their health. Reduce their body fat, because people with large bellies of a girth over 35 inches and increased adipose tissue are more at risk. Have a body mass index of less than 25. Keep one's total cholesterol at 200 or less and LDL cholesterol at 100 or less. Maintain blood pressure at 120/80 or less. Keep blood sugar at 100 or less, eat healthy foods and get regular exercise, and you will be on your way to a long and healthy life.

## HealthSouth Rehab earns certification

LARGO – HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Largo, 901 Clearwater-Largo Road, recently earned certification for Disease-Specific Care in hip fracture rehabilitation.

The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval was awarded to the hospital for its compliance with the organization's national standards for healthcare quality and safety in disease-specific care.

"By choosing to have The Joint Commission evaluate our hip fracture program, we are making a significant investment in quality on a day-to-day basis," said Kevin Conn, vice president of operations for HealthSouth, in a press release. "The

Joint Commission certification provides us a framework to take our hospital to the next level and helps create a culture of excellence."

According to Conn, this is a major step toward continually improving the care HealthSouth provides to offer patients peace of mind knowing they are getting quality care at the industry's highest standard.

"Our focus is to serve the needs of the Pinellas County and Tampa Bay community," said Conn. "Each day, our staff works to provide a differentiated level of care and offer services that get patients

See CERTIFICATION, page 9A

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# Make a life-long plan to eat small meals with 'dense calories'

*Editor's note: Beginning this week, Tampa Bay Newspapers will publish a food column written by Michael Straw, owner and executive chef of Personal Chefs of South Pasadena.*



**Culinary Corner**  
Michael Straw

Chefs are men and women "forced" to be around delicious food all day, able to eat as much as desired, and the best part – we get paid for it. No wonder slender chefs are few and far between. Most of us get our willpower together eventually and find a way not to eat ourselves to death.

After cooking in restaurants for more than 30 years I've found some great tricks that turned into a consistent way of eating. The result is losing any amount of weight desired with minimal exercise.

The main trick is really understanding metabolism – or how our bodies convert food into fuel. To survive everyone requires three macronutrients: carbohydrates to give us the sugar our brains

and muscles need, proteins for cellular growth and reproduction (athletes' muscles get bigger by eating more meat), and fats for neuroplasticity and proper cell function. If our body doesn't get its proper fuel for the day, we begin to store food in the form of fat. This is because our brain doesn't know when it will get its next proper meal. Nature made it that way so that when we haven't had a meal in days (like back in our hunting days) we can convert fat into the needed sugar and thus keep on hunting – or shopping in today's times.

When we decrease our carbohydrates but not the other nutrients, our fat cells begin to shrink and our pants seem to get bigger. This is the method behind all "low carb" diets on the market today. Fat weighs less than muscle so when you burn fat your clothes will get looser, but your overall weight will decrease at a slower pace. People on these diets get back into

their "old pants" sooner but move the scale slower. Next we need to understand the big trick – eating all the time! If our body thinks it will get fed all the time it will start to burn it all the time. Buffet eaters are the opposite of this: they don't eat again for maybe the rest of the day and so their body doesn't know when it will get fed again, so it starts to store food for emergency energy. Look at most people at buffets and you'll understand.

The next trick is not feeling hungry with these smaller meals. The way to do that is to make sure that all of these smaller meals have a "high caloric density." Food we eat can either be up to 100 percent useful for our bodies or almost 100 percent non-useful – or referred to as being empty calories. White flour is the best example of the latter and also the most prevalent, as it is used in almost every fast food sandwich, pasta and pizza. It lacks in nutrients so much that we had to add or "enrich" it with vitamins years ago to pretend to make it healthy. It's

the reason we're hungry again in two hours after eating fast food and we end up overeating.

Calorically dense foods are those that have only components in them that we will use in some way to help fuel our bodies properly. Eating these foods gives us the nutrition our brains and cells need in order to grow and function properly. Examples of these are seeds like quinoa, high omega-3 fish, lean meats, walnuts, legumes like lentils, all fruits (especially avocados) and almost all vegetables. Iceberg lettuce is more than 90 percent water and will fill you up for just one hour. Whole grains are good as they make us feel fuller, but tend to be mostly fiber and have minimal nutritional value but great for good colon health.

So make a life-long plan to create a way of eating that incorporates only foods cooked from scratch, three small meals and two small super snacks, using only "dense calories" and you'll never have to "diet" or feel hungry again.

## Industry news

### Pioneer in pregnancy prevention visits Pinellas

ST. PETERSBURG – Dr. Michael A. Carrera, a visionary in the field of adolescent pregnancy prevention, will visit St. Petersburg on Feb. 14-15. He will be recognized at the Feb. 14 St. Petersburg City Council meeting and he will speak at All Children's Hospital on Feb. 15.

The Carrera Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention began in New York more than 25 years ago as part of the citywide Children's Aid Society.

The local program at the Pinellas County Health Department replicates his nationally recognized program that is now in 20 states throughout the nation. The Pinellas program is the only one in Florida.

Carrera is the Thomas Hunter Professor Emeritus of Health Sciences at Hunter College of the City University of New York and Adjunct Professor of Community Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York.

Since 1970, Carrera has directed the Adolescent Sexuality and Pregnancy Prevention Programs for The Children's Aid Society in New York. He is serving as vice president and director of Adolescent Services at the Children's Aid Society in New York.

Carrera's program works with a selected group of middle-school students and provides them with cultural, physical and educational opportunities until they reach college age. His strategy of creating a nurturing and supportive environment for at-risk children, whom he sees as "at-risk children," has been successful in preventing teen pregnancies as well as preventing young people from dropping out of school.

Many of Dr. Carrera's program graduates have pursued college careers in a variety of fields.

The Pinellas County Health Department's Carrera program is funded by the federal Office of Adolescent Health) Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grant through the Juvenile Welfare Board and the Children's Services Council of Pinellas County. The program is implemented locally by the Pinellas County Health Department and is based at John

Hopkins Middle School in St. Petersburg.

For more information on the program, visit [www.stopteenpregnancy.childrensaidsociety.org](http://www.stopteenpregnancy.childrensaidsociety.org). For information about the Pinellas County Health Department, visit [PinellasHealth.com](http://PinellasHealth.com).

### Roscoe receives chiropractic degree

CLEARWATER – Jared Roscoe, D.C., recently received his Doctor of Chiropractic degree during commencement exercises at Palmer College of Chiropractic, Florida campus, in Port Orange.

Roscoe is the son of Gregory and Linda Roscoe of Pittsburgh, Pa. He currently resides in Clearwater and will be establishing a clinic in the area. To earn the degree, Roscoe completed more than four academic years of professional study at Palmer College.

### Bon Secours celebrates anniversary

ST. PETERSBURG – In 2013, Bon Secours St. Petersburg Health System begins a year of celebrating 50 years of continuous operations.

On June 16, 1963, a brand new "convalescent home" called Florida Care of St. Petersburg opened to much fanfare. J. Brailey Odham, a Florida businessman and politician, spearheaded the effort and declared

that Florida Care would be "the finest convalescent center in the world." Within a few months, Odham, who had no health care experience, found running the facility to be too difficult and sold it to a nursing home operator from Philadelphia, Warren P. Griffith, who changed the name to Fairview of St. Petersburg. Later, it became known as Fairview Manor.

In 1975, the Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg purchased the home, converted it to a nonprofit, Catholic skilled nursing facility, and renamed it Maria Manor Health Care. Then, in 1988, at a time when many Catholic dioceses were divesting themselves from operating health care facilities, the Sisters of Bon Secours, through the newly incorporated Bon Secours Health System, assumed control of Maria Manor's operations. The five-year-old health system was already operating nursing homes and hospitals in Virginia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Florida.

In November of 2000, Bon Secours Place, an assisted living facility licensed for 105 residents, was added to the campus. The facility was developed as a community with a neighborhood concept containing approximately 12 residents per neighborhood.

Bon Secours St. Petersburg Health System will be celebrating its golden anniversary throughout the year with a number of events, including a special prayer service in April and a formal gala in the fall.

### CERTIFICATION, from page 8A

back on their feet and functioning in their communities. We are thrilled to receive this endorsement from The Joint Commission."

To earn the certification, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Largo underwent a rigorous on-site survey. A surveyor

with expertise in the care of patients with hip fractures from The Joint Commission evaluated the hospital's hip fracture program for compliance with standards of care specific to the needs of patients and families, including the provision and quality of care, medical staff, leadership and medication management.

### Come to the Best Fish Fry In Town!

Friday, February 22 & March 8 from 5-7pm at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 1955 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater, Florida. Come in and visit or enjoy our curbside service ... No need to leave your car! Purchase tickets at the Rectory (727-531-7721) in advance for \$8.00 each or buy them at the door for \$9.00 each. Meal includes delicious fried fish, fries, hushpuppies, coleslaw, drink & cookie. Beer and Wine for donation. Children's Pizza Meal available for \$4.00. Sponsored by your favorite local seafood retailer, WARD'S SEAFOOD MARKET.

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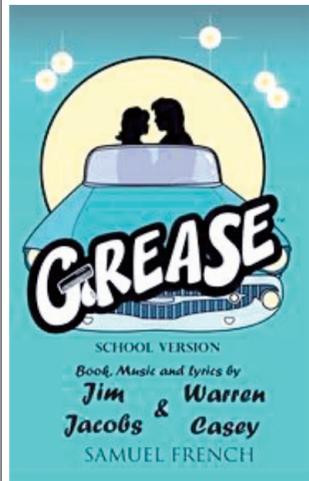


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# The best teachers can have a positive impact

I recently saw one of my beloved second grade teachers after 35 years. I actually took my two little girls who are 7 and 8 to see her with me. I figured if anything, she would remember me more because I was that age when I was in her class at Madeira Beach Elementary School back in the 1970s.



**Mom 2 Mom**  
Kadi Hendricks  
Tubbs

through our church bulletin. Some of you may have had her when she taught school; she was a wonderful teacher.

I remember she had a treasure chest we could go in and get prizes when we were good. I also remember we had a guinea pig as our class pet. Each weekend, one student would get to take the pet home. She was always very nice and made school fun.

I think when you get a good start in your early years of educa-

tion, it really paves the way for the rest of your education. At that time, I enjoyed school, and I think I even wanted to be a teacher.

Now, I look at my kids and the teachers they have had so far. Their teachers have been very good. Both of my girls love going to school. My youngest daughter wants to be a teacher when she grows up.

Teachers are with our kids sometimes more hours in the day than we are as parents. Besides parents, teachers are probably the second biggest influence in a kid's life. We want those influences to be positive, especially during the time our kids are in elementary school. We need for our kids to be told positive things about themselves. We need our kids to have good self-esteem. This comes from teachers and from us as parents.

I was talking to a teacher who retired about two years ago. She told me a story about how a student she had in first grade recently found her through the Internet. This student had been looking for her for years and mailed her a note saying how she had helped him, more than 30

years ago.

He was new to the school and, at first was put in another class. But that teacher told him he wasn't smart enough for her class because she had the higher readers, so he needed to go to a lower level. This teacher accepted him into her class with open arms and told him that he was smart and promised to help him be a better reader. At the end of his first grade year, he was reading really well.

He remembered how she was so nice to him and didn't put him down. I asked her what he was doing today. She said he was married to a girl from that first grade class. Both of them are doctors.

I know teachers have a lot to deal with these days; several of my family members are educators. But the impact a teacher has can change a person's life. For me, Mrs. Gastor was that special teacher who had a positive influence in my life.

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

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## Faith briefs

### Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

LARGO - The Augustana Choir will perform Saturday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m., in the sanctuary of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 455 Missouri Ave.

Admission is free. A freewill offering will be received. Established in 1931, the Augustana Choir has performed in some of the most storied venues around the world, including Carnegie Hall, Chicago's Orchestra Hall and the Uppsala Cathedral in Sweden.

This year's program offers a variety of early music as well as some contemporary pieces.

### United Methodist Cooperative Ministries

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

The public is invited to participate as individuals or in teams. Attendees will stroll through the picturesque setting to raise funds for UCMC's life changing programs for at-risk children and families. Walkers get sponsorships for their participation in the event. Teams are being formed from Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, Citrus and Manatee counties with volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life.

Individuals who collect a minimum of \$35 or more in sponsorships will receive a free T-shirt. Top fundraising individuals will have the chance to win big prizes. Awards also will be given for the top fundrais-



Geri-Kay Lombard, left, and Amy Dyson, both from Largo, were part of the Anona United Methodist Church Walk team in the 2012 UCMC Walk-for-the-Dream fundraiser.

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## Benton-Quinette

Amy Sue Benton and Jasen Adam Quinette were married on Oct. 20 in Clearwater Beach. Sherry Fleux officiated. The bride is the daughter of Paul and Tara Benton of Largo. She is a graduate of the University of South Florida and is employed by Pinellas County Schools.

The groom is the son of Wayne and Mary Quinette of St. Petersburg. He is employed by the St. Petersburg Fire Department.

The wedding party included Kelsey Doughty, maid of honor; Brandon Quinette, best man; Vanessa Cespedes, Jemma Wilson, Kellin Girard, Hannah Henderson, Gen Funk and Kristen Quinette, bridesmaids; Adam LePrevost, Chris Spafford, Travis Witt, Tom Kras, Kevin Benton and Brian Benton, groomsmen; Maya Wilson, flower girl; and Evan Knotek, ring bearer.

A reception followed the ceremony at Holiday Inn Harbourside. The couple took a Western Caribbean cruise on their honeymoon. They reside in Clearwater.

Mr. and Mrs. Jasen Adam Quinette

ing groups and those with the most official walkers.

Registrations along with funds collected must be turned to UCMC no later than Feb. 28.  
Call 442-6881, ext. 5, or visit www.UCMC.info/walk.

### St. Petersburg Community Church

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

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. followed by the movie at 7 p.m. The featured movie will be "Courageous."

Children, ages 5 to 10, are welcome to take part in 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, but reservations are required. To reserve a seat, call 525-0012 or visit www.gracetograce.org.

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LETTERS

**Transit system critical to the economy**

**Editor:**

I'd like to address some recent claims made by the writer of a letter last week regarding transit in Pinellas County. The writer says that he objects to rail transit in the county because PSTA ridership statistics are "inflated" and buses run "mostly empty."

PSTA measures ridership just like every other transit agency in the country and its clientele includes mayors, tourists, retirees and commuters. Last year PSTA, a vastly undersized agency for our population as compared to other US cities, gave more than 14 million rides. PSTA has now set 14 all-time monthly ridership records in a row and is experiencing standing room only and even overcrowding on some of our routes.

Investments in our transit system are critical to our economy, getting people to their jobs. Even if you don't personally use transit, you and others may rely on people who do - from the waiter at your favorite restaurant, the housekeeping staff that keeps our beach hotels clean and inviting, or the medical assistant at your doctor's appointment. Without transit service, these businesses wouldn't have the staff to function.

For those who are still skeptical about PSTA's record ridership, the agency has produced a new video addressing the misconceptions about empty buses. It's called BusBuzz 2 - Busting the Empty Bus Myth and can be found at PSTA's YouTube channel, RidePSTA.

**Bob Lasher**

PSTA External Affairs Officer  
St. Petersburg

**Christy cares**

**Editor:**

This letter is to show my support for Tom Christy for Seminole City Council.

Tom Christy truly cares about the people of Seminole. Tom goes out of his way to help others. Tom has been an active member of Seminole. Tom has been an active member of St. Justin Martyr for eight years. He is highly respected. Tom has consistently served as an usher at Church. He has assisted at the Church Thrift Store by giving of his time and talent.

Tom has assisted with pickup and delivery of heavy furniture on the truck, for one example. Tom assists in various other ministries, as well. If someone needs Tom's help he is always there.

Please support Tom Christy for Seminole City Council. Tom will put forth much dedication and diligent effort for the City of Seminole if elected. I am confident that you will come to appreciate Tom as much as his friends do. Tom Christy cares.

**Beverly Logan**

Seminole

**History repeating itself?**

**Editor:**

After reading (and seeing) numerous arguments, informed and misinformed over the gun control issue, I would like to make a couple of what I hope will be valid points.

First, anyone who has looked at the faces of the most recent individuals committing these most horrible of crimes must agree that the gun was not the cause of the incidents. Secondly, the "solutions" being proposed lead me to quote from a newspaper article, which I found to have been published worldwide, when I was 4 years of age. "This year will go down in history. For the first time, a civilized nation has full gun registration. Our streets will be safer, our police more efficient, and the world will follow our lead into the future!" Sounds wonderful, doesn't it - until you learn that it was a quote by Adolph Hitler, upon endorsing The Weapons Act of Nazi Germany, which was adopted in 1938. Are we on the verge of having history repeat itself?

**Julian Fant**

Treasure Island

**Red - not yellow - means stop**

Re: "Does anybody see me out there," Tom Germond's column, Jan. 17.

**Editor:**

Yes, in a sense, pedestrians are invisible - and so are people who wear sunglasses. The difference is most pedestrians don't want to be invisible, whereas most folks wearing sunglasses do. All humor aside, I hear you when you say most pedestrians are invisible, and it is a problem.

I read your recent article in the Jan. 17 Beacon. Basically, I agree with most of what you say, but there is one major matter that I don't quite agree with you about - and that is your expectations. For example, one of your paragraphs read as follows:

"A few days ago, I was attempting to use a marked crosswalk in Dunedin on Alt. U.S. 19 near Edgewater Park. Six to eight vehicles whizzed by me before a motorcyclist stopped and let me cross."

It is clear that your expectation is, and was in this instance, that motorists are suppose to stop for you when your waiting/standing at the curb when, in fact, no motorist is required to stop for you while you're waiting at the curb. It is only when you enter the crosswalk are motorist required to stop - and you, as a law-abiding pedestrian are not to step into the crosswalk until it is safe for you to do so (i.e. at a time when a motorist can safely stop for you). For you to do otherwise (that is, step in front of a fast moving car) would not only be unsafe; it would be illegal for you to do so. It's no different than a motorist pulling out in front of a car when it was not safe to do so.

The motorist pulling out in front of a car needs to do so only when there is enough time and distance to do so safely. The motorcycle that stopped for you did so out of courtesy not because he was required, by law, to do so.

Your expectation is that a motorist must stop for you when you're standing at the curb waiting to cross. This is not the case and it's not the law. The problem is that most pedestrians have the same misconception that you have - the expectation that motorist are suppose to stop for you while your standing at the curb.

For your expectations to be more in line with the law, one important thing needs to change in Florida: the signalization of pedestrian crossings. If, and this is a big if, the desire is to allow pedestrians to dictate when auto traffic is to stop, then the pedestrian signal color needs to change from yellow to red. In your article, you noted the FDOT will be installing beacons but you didn't say what color the beacons would be. I contend that if the beacons are yellow, we still will have a problem. A yellow flashing beacon only means slow down and prepare to stop, it does not mean, undeniably to stop.

In the traffic code, yellow means caution. When a motorist (and cyclist) encounters a yellow flashing or solid yellow light, it means for him/her to slow down and prepare to stop - it does not mean for him/her to immediately stop. However, on the other hand, a red light means stop; red does not mean slow down and prepare to stop. Red means stop! Therefore, if the desire is for pedestrians like you and me to get automobile traffic to stop for us, then we need to be pushing a button at a signalized intersection that makes the light/beacon flash red, or turn red so that we can legally gain the right of way and cross the road.

Note that by gaining the right of way, we are still not completely safe. The way motorists drive around here, it is unfortunate that a red light doesn't necessarily guarantee that a motorist will stop.

**Steve Yost**

Treasure Island

**Andy vs. the 3 a.m. heebie-jeebies**

Every two weeks or so Andy awoke at 3 a.m. and was attacked by the heebie-jeebies. It had been this way most of his life. He assumed everyone got the heebie-jeebies at one time or another.

He hated them, but he had learned how to cope with them. The first thing he did, nowadays, was to arise and visit the bathroom. Nothing is more futile than to try to fight heebie-jeebies while encumbered by a full bladder. Then he returned to bed and did battle.

His next step was to curse at the jeebies (Andy used the short form of the expression because he was old and wanted to save time). Aloud or just in his mind, Andy called the jeebies every rotten name he could think of. This made him feel in control. Which of course he wasn't. But hurling foul words at the jeebies gave him courage.

He pictured the jeebies as having several forms. Mostly they were birds - vultures, crows, owls, ravens - dark, noisy, squawking creatures who swooped and dived above Andy's bed, threatening to land on his eyeballs or feet or rip off sizeable chunks of Andy's carcass. But he had learned that they never actually touched him. That's because the jeebies weren't real - they were all in his mind. Which, for Andy, was the worst place they could be.

All of the jeebies had names: Poverty, regret, failure, disease, hospitals, abandonment, climate change, loneliness, missed deadlines, atomic war, jail, lawyers, cold, tornadoes, rejected (and rejecting) girl friends, dementia, and being condemned to watch "The View" or "Maury" or "Judge Judy" for days at a time.

Andy first experienced serious assaults by the jeebies in his early 40s. By then he was divorced and living in a shabby furnished apartment in Oklahoma. His college alumni magazine told him of the worldly successes his former classmates had already begun to rack up. A repeated nightmare for Andy had



**Driver's Seat**  
Bob Driver

him being fired from every job, or else having a job and not knowing what his duties were. The jeebie attacks soon followed.

But with the years Andy grew wise. Or a

**Andy had heard about suicide hot lines. He wondered why no one had ever started a heebie-jeebie hot line.**

little wiser. He got better at fending off the jeebies. He learned what they loved, and hated.

They loved for him to just lie in bed doing nothing except be afraid. One reason jeebies attack sleeping people in the wee hours is that the victims are usually horizontal, naked or nearly so, and surrounded by darkness. And feeling totally defenseless.

The solution: do something. Anything. Turn on a light. Get out of bed. At least sit up. Juggle some tangerines. Jeebies find it very hard to attack a moving object, such as you, me or Andy.

Another approach: books. Andy's most treasured anti-jeebie weapon was a collection of New Yorker cartoons by George Price, whose main subjects were looney, penniless but unflappable city dwellers. Five minutes of

Price's cartoons could dispel almost any jeebie attack.

A second defense was Dale Carnegie's classic primer on how to stop worrying. It tells of men and women who had faced thousands of disasters (many of them imaginary) but who had overcome or outwitted worry using tools available to anyone, including Andy.

And there was Philip Roth's "Portnoy's Complaint," one of the funniest stories ever told. Andy had repelled many a jeebie assault by reading about Portnoy's inner and outer devils.

If all else failed, Andy pulled down one of Dave Barry's collections from the shelf. Dave was Andy's hero. Andy believed that if a group of jeebies were interviewed, they would say, "We can't frighten people when they're reading Dave Barry's columns. We hate laughter."

Andy had heard about suicide hot lines. He wondered why no one had ever started a heebie-jeebie hot line. It would be a 24-hour phone number that a person could dial up when a jeebie attack occurred or was imminent.

"Hello, I'm calling from Scranton and the jeebies are after me!" "All right, tell me about them. What shape and color are they?" "They're big and gray and look like vampire bats. Some of them are screaming 'Gonna getchoo, gonna getchoo, you worm!'" "Oh, yes, we've had several calls like that recently. Why don't you get yourself a glass of warm milk and tell me your deepest fears?" "Do you have time to listen to me?" "Oh, sure. We have dozens of hot-line counselors on duty. We get thousands of calls, mostly at night. You're not alone."

Beautiful words: "You're not alone." Andy would remember them, next jeebie attack.

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



**Help needed to get rid of earworms**

I'm not sure I should be telling you this. Some unidentified paranormal types have been playing head games with me.

Generally speaking, I try not to dwell on strange coincidences, especially when they involve the kind of music that makes me wretch, aka disco. However, a recent experience involving an old hit song called "More, More, More" has given me the willies.

The song, which hit No. 1 on the disco charts in 1976, was performed by the late Andrea True, who also was known as a porn star.

The lyrics aren't risqué by today's standards. And they're shorter than a quarter-back's cadence over the center.

Here's the chorus - if you want to call it that:

*More, more, more  
How do you like it, how do you like it  
More, more, more*

And now I can't get the words out of my head.

A couple of months ago on a Sunday afternoon as I was driving along Gulf Boulevard, I heard the song playing on my satellite radio.

*More, more, more.*

Jeez, I haven't heard that annoying atavistic wailing in 20 years, I told myself.

I remember that an ex-girlfriend, who we'll call Melinda, used to like hearing the tune on the radio. We were in our early 20s.

"They're playing our song, Tom."

"Right you are, dear," I said. I was an expert at conciliatory lying.

I think I've only heard "More, More, More" about three times since the disco era.

About 15 minutes after I heard the song a few weeks ago, I stopped into a restaurant. I



Tom Germond

hadn't been seated for 15 minutes when blaring through the speakers was Melinda's song again: "More, more, more."

I told the bartender that I'd just heard the song on my car's radio.

"That's weird," she said.

Twice within 30 minutes. Aliens? The raven? It's like déjà vu all over again.

I started wondering whatever became of Melinda. Did she become an artist? Is she married? Does she still listen to "More, More, More?"

Not going to call her. She might ask me some annoying questions, such as what my credit score is.

And that would be more, more, more than I can handle.

I heard the song about a week ago, too. *Take me where you want to Just get the cameras rolling Get the action going*

Now I've done it.

*More, more, more*

*How do you like it, how do you like it*

*More, more, more*

Why is this disco dirge stuck in my head? Time to consult the Internet. Experts refer to such songs as earworms, which are similar to parasites that get stuck in your head and cause a brain itch, "a need for the brain

to fill in the gaps in a song's rhythm." That's according to the "How Stuff Works."

"Unfortunately, like with mosquito bites, the more you scratch the more you itch, and so on until you're stuck in an unending song cycle," wrote Stephanie Watson, an author.

Advice from the Internet know-it-alls to get rid of the song is not much help.

"Very consciously, turn the song down to a whisper volume in your head. If it gets louder again, keep turning it down."

Didn't work.

"Try Prozac."

The thought depresses me.

Other advice is to choose another song with repetitive lyrics. That's kind of scary, too.

Let's start with Eric Clapton *I shot the sheriff. But I did not shoot the deputy.*

Sorry Eric, not working.

*Having my baby*

*What a lovely way of sayin'*

*How much you love me*

Makes me ill. Now I've done it. All kinds of hideous songs are running rampant in my noggin, thanks to my freak experience with "More, More, More."

*"I'm Henry the VIII I am, Henry the VIII I am, I am.*

Wears thin, too.

*"More, more, more.*

Damn earworms.

*Having my baby.*

I have a feeling it's going to be a long night.

Bring on the Prozac.

Tom Germond is executive editor of Tampa Bay Newspapers.

**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](mailto:tgermond@TBNweekly.com). We will not print the letter writer's phone number.

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

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.

**The deadline to submit letters to the editor pertaining to the March municipal elections is Feb. 15.**

The newspaper will not print letters that contain slanderous or racial statements.

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**Publisher/President:** Dan Autrey  
[dautrey@tbnweekly.com](mailto:dautrey@tbnweekly.com)

**Accounting Manager:** Andrea Marcarelli  
[tbriandy@yahoo.com](mailto:tbriandy@yahoo.com)

**Retail Advertising Manager:** Jay Rey  
[jrey@tbnweekly.com](mailto:jrey@tbnweekly.com)

**Classified Advertising Manager:** Wendy Edwards  
[wedwards@tbnweekly.com](mailto:wedwards@tbnweekly.com)

**Executive Editor:** Tom Germond  
[tgermond@tbnweekly.com](mailto:tgermond@tbnweekly.com)

**Production Manager:** David Brown  
[production@tbnweekly.com](mailto:production@tbnweekly.com)

**Internet Services Manager:** Suzette Porter  
[webmaster@tbnweekly.com](mailto:webmaster@tbnweekly.com)

**Seminole/Beach Beacon:** Bob McClure  
[bmcclure@tbnweekly.com](mailto:bmcclure@tbnweekly.com)

**Largo Leader:** Juliana A. Torres  
[jtorres@tbnweekly.com](mailto:jtorres@tbnweekly.com)

**Belleair/Beach Bee:** Tom Germond  
[tgermond@tbnweekly.com](mailto:tgermond@tbnweekly.com)

**Clearwater Beacon:** Alexandra Lundahl  
[alundahl@tbnweekly.com](mailto:alundahl@tbnweekly.com)

**Pinellas Park Beacon:** Tiffany Razzano  
[ttrazzano@tbnweekly.com](mailto:ttrazzano@tbnweekly.com)

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727-397-5563 • Fax: 727-397-5900 • [www.TBNweekly.com](http://www.TBNweekly.com)

**Palm Harbor/East Lake Beacon:** Bob McClure  
[bmcclure@tbnweekly.com](mailto:bmcclure@tbnweekly.com)

**Dunedin Beacon:** Tom Germond  
[tgermond@tbnweekly.com](mailto:tgermond@tbnweekly.com)

**General Editorial**  
[editorial@tbnweekly.com](mailto:editorial@tbnweekly.com)

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**Pets of the month**



**Honey**

This 4-year-old is as sweet as her name. Honey was given up by her owner, who said she is housetrained, good with other animals and children, but was too big for apartment living. She is 40 pounds. Bring this article with you to Pinellas County Animal Services and adopt her for only \$25. All pets are spayed or neutered, microchipped and have all their required shots. Visit her at 12450 Ulmerton Rd., Largo, call 582-2600 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices](http://www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices).



**Munster**

Munster is a 4-year-old orange-and-white Manx cat. He was released by his owner to Animal Services, where he had only days left to live before being rescued by Second Chance for Strays. This boy is incredibly lovable and friendly. He loves to meander over and just rub his head against you and cuddle up. He is neutered and current on his vaccinations. Call Pat at 535-9154 or visit [www.secondchanceforstrays.com](http://www.secondchanceforstrays.com).



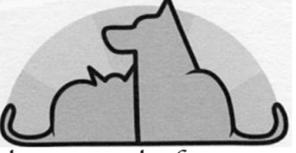
**Squeakers**

Meet Squeakers, an easygoing and friendly 2-year-old cat who would make a great companion to any family. Encourage him to talk, and you will hear how he got his name. He is fine with other cats and should quickly make himself at home in any loving environment. Adopt him at the Humane Society of Pinellas, 3040 S.R. 590, Clearwater. Call 797-7722 or visit [www.humanesocietyofpinellas.org](http://www.humanesocietyofpinellas.org).



**Rossi**

Rossi was born on Sept. 29 and is a handsome buff-and-white cat. He is sweet, independent and loves to play with strings, laser beams, feathers and other cats and dogs – don't be surprised if he enjoys cleaning your dog's face. When he is done playing, he only wants to be next to you and cuddle. He is a snuggler and great sleeping partner, insisting on having his belly rubbed. He is being fostered by All 'Bout Cats. He has been neutered, examined by a veterinarian, vaccinated, tested for FeLV and FIV and microchipped. Call 712-7773 or visit [www.allboutcats.com](http://www.allboutcats.com).



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**'Winter is coming,' but in the Game of Fleas, it does not matter**

Florida always stands out. Whether it's in the news, during elections, or just on a map, even those who are not fortunate enough to live in our great state know that Florida is unique. Pet owners become even more aware of Florida's specialness in January and February, when we have our yearly winter flea resurgence. Few other states are "lucky" enough to have a second flea season.

Fleas are black insects slightly bigger than a sesame seed, which can't fly, but can run and jump very quickly. They bite and suck blood, and a single female can lay 2,000 eggs over the few weeks she is alive. The flea eggs hatch into small worms called larvae, which then form cocoons, called pupae, and mature into adult fleas.

North of us, the flea population dies down with winter temperatures. Outside temperatures of less than 32 degrees for more than 72 continuous hours can kill fleas, flea eggs and larva. Unfortunately for us, the "thin blood" that causes many Floridians to wear heavy coats when the temperature drops to the 50's, doesn't apply to those pesky, jumping bloodsuckers, so the flea scourge continues unabated. Combine that with increased wildlife activity from all that fruit your neighbor left on their tree,



**Speaking of Pets**  
Michael J. Rumore, DVM

and we sometimes see more fleas in January and February than mid-summer.

Pet owners who have dogs itching around the base of the tail, or cats with small pin-prick scabs around the neck and base of the tail, should always consider fleas, even if you are not seeing the little critters crawling around. With people, we would never doubt that someone was stung by a bee because they don't have an actual bee on them at that moment. Similarly, dogs and cats may itch at a flea bite long after the flea has jumped or been scratched off the pet. Some dogs and cats are

especially allergic to flea bites, and a single bite can cause them to scratch themselves until they are bleeding.

One telltale sign of fleas is "flea dirt." These little black comma or dot-shaped specks are the feces of feeding fleas and can be distinguished from plain dirt because they turn red when placed on a wet paper towel or tissue. The red is the digested blood meal the flea has taken from a pet or a person. Even if you never see a flea, seeing flea dirt means fleas have been present recently.

Years ago, we were stuck with sprays and dips to remove fleas,

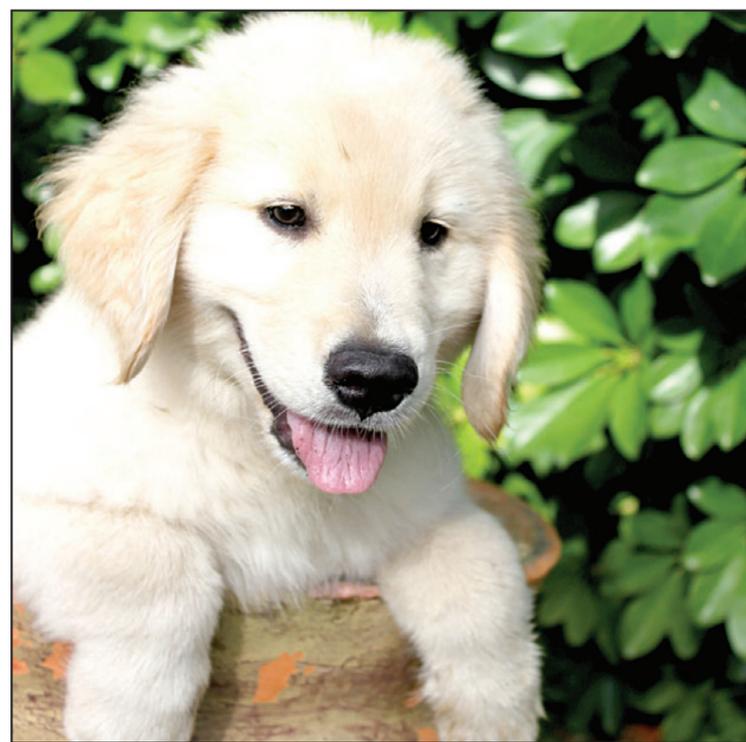
which were a temporary help at best. Sprays for the house and yard still help, but you should use sprays that contain an IGR, or insect growth regulator. IGR prevent flea eggs from hatching and the pupae from maturing and are much more effective than adult-flea killing sprays.

Modern flea medications for pets, either topical or oral, have been a huge help. Many pet owners have reported some of the "older" topical medications (such as Advantage, Frontline, or the Frontline generics like Pet Armor Plus) as being less effective than in past years. Fortunately, there are many other choices available. It does seem that different things work for different people, so talk to your veterinarian about your options.

We all love sending winter pictures of us at the beach, or dressed in shorts, up to our northern friends and relatives, who are grumbling bundling up and shoveling snow. Unfortunately, the blessing of warm winters comes with several costs, and winter fleas are one of the irritating ones for our four legged friends. Be vigilant; Tampa Bay never gets too cold for fleas.

Michael J. Rumore, DVM, is the owner of Lake Seminole Animal Hospital in Largo and a former SPCA Tampa Bay board member.

**Pet Photo Contest Sponsored by Largo Feed 210 West Bay Dr, Largo, FL • 727-581-8743 & Park Feed 5775 Park Blvd. Pinellas Park • 727-546-7503**



Meet Cooper, the February Pet of the Month winner. Cooper is a beautiful purebred golden retriever who belongs to Carol Ghiotto of Largo. Born June 2, 2012, he is now 7 months old, but he still has adorable baby pictures. Here, he was about 2 months old. Cooper walks every morning with his best buddies – two black labs. He loves to meet people and other dogs. He is a constant source of entertainment for his people, especially because when he wags his tail, his entire body wiggles. It is so cute, that his family has nicknamed him "Wiggle-butt boy." As winner of Pet of the Month, Cooper and his family have won a \$25 gift certificate to either Largo Feed or Park Feed in Pinellas Park. For your chance to win, send your pet photos to [AlexandraLundahl@TBNweekly.com](mailto:AlexandraLundahl@TBNweekly.com).

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# PCSO awards crossing guards

DUNEDIN – Pinellas County Sheriff's Office School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day was Feb. 1 at Elk's Lodge 1525, 1240 San Christopher Drive.

Nearly 60 school crossing guards were honored as Sheriff Bob Gualtieri presented length of service and perfect attendance certificates. Florida Department of Transportation badges were given to those who recently completed their initial FDOT certification.

The PCSO School Crossing Guard Program has 131 crossing guards covering 188 school crossing posts for 36 elementary schools, nine middle schools and one high school in the unincorporated area as well as in the contract cities of Dunedin, Safety Harbor, Oldsmar, Seminole and Madeira Beach.

The School Crossing Guard Program began in 1972 as a vol-



Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, back row, second from left, joins school crossing guards celebrating their 10, 15, and 20 years of service during an appreciation event Feb. 1 at Elk's Lodge 1525 in Dunedin.

unteer program. Through the years, the program has grown to meet and adhere to FDOT standards. Each school crossing guard attends a mandatory six-

hour classroom training session and two-hours of field training, followed up with three days of field training at the guard's assigned post.

# Around Pinellas

## Barkus Parade set

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – JD's Restaurant and Lounge, 125 Gulf Blvd., will host its third annual Barkus Parade on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m. People and their dogs are invited to be in the parade, dressing both human and canine in fun costumes. There will be prizes for the best dressed dog and best dressed owner.

Food and drink specials will be available, and there will be live music all day. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the whole day. Donations will be accepted for the SPCA. Call 595-1320.

## Rotary Club sponsors poke run

PINELLAS PARK – The Rotary Club of Central Pinellas is sponsoring a poker run on Saturday, Feb. 23, 11:30 a.m., at Quaker Steak & Lube, 10400 49th St. N.

The event will help rebuild a playground area for the High Point Family Neighborhood Center in Clearwater and support the Rotary's ongoing effort to eliminate polio worldwide through Polio Plus.

The route will begin at Jim's Harley-Davidson run through D. Cajun Road House, Screwie Louie's south beach, Screwie Louie's Porpoise Pub, Sports Bar and Grill at Bay Pines, ending at Quaker Steak & Lube with a party. The event at Quaker Steak will be emceed by Radical Randy, courtesy of Quaker Steak, and feature a live band, silent auction, random prizes for participants; food and drinks are available for purchase.

All are welcome to join the final party even if you didn't participate in the run. The party begins at 3 p.m. Local philanthropist Fran Haasch and her law firm donated

a big screen TV that will be raffled off on the day of the event. Visit [www.pinellassoundrotaryclub.com](http://www.pinellassoundrotaryclub.com).

## Youth dancers in championships

CLEARWATER – The JOOI Optimist Youth Ballroom Dance and Adventure Club is set to attend the United States Ballroom Dance Championships in L.A., Calif., in April. The qualifying events were held recently in Baton Rouge, La.



Photo courtesy of TERRY PENDLETON

and Greensboro, N.C. The Sunset Point Optimist Club sponsors this talented group of young dancers that have been supporting community events for several years.

The JOOI also perform with the Treasure Coast Chapter of the USA with the Bridge the Generation Gap Through Dance, where the youth dance with seniors.

The club welcomes new kids who enjoy ballroom dancing, biking, and camping. Contact 391-7643 for details.

# PSTA sets single day ridership record

ST. PETERSBURG – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority leaders got a pleasant surprise when they calculated the agency's daily ridership information from Friday, Feb. 1, 2013: 50,791 boardings, representing the highest-ever number of rides taken in a single day of service.

"Our highest ridership usually comes during Spring Break," says PSTA Chair and St. Petersburg City Councilman Jeff Danner. "So to see this record set this early in the year is proof positive that the demand for transit in Pinellas County is skyrocketing. It also underscores the need for improved transit service in our region as demand now exceeds capacity on numerous routes."

Although there is no way of knowing exactly why there were so many riders on the system Feb. 1, agency officials are optimistic that it's a sign of an improving economy and the start of a record-setting tourist season. They also acknowledge that fuel prices are again on the rise, which is a reliable trigger for ridership increases.

Historically, PSTA carries more riders in the month of March than any other time in the year, so leaders are eager to see what kind of records will be set once Spring Break is in full swing.

For more information, visit [www.PSTA.net](http://www.PSTA.net) or call the PSTA InfoLine at 540-1900. Real Time Bus Information is available at [RidePSTA.net](http://RidePSTA.net).

## Blitz Build mania



Photo by JIM LAYFIELD

Volunteers raise roof trusses as they build two homes in seven days for two low-income families during the Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas's fifth annual Blitz Build event Jan. 8 at the Stevens Creek subdivision in Clearwater.

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## TUESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY PM SERVICE

ARRIVE AT CASINO 5:00 – 5:30PM, DEPART 10:00PM

AAA AUTO CLUB SOUTH Palm Harbor 32050 US 19 N. 3:40PM	BUFFALO WILD WINGS Clearwater Drew & US 19 4:10PM	MCDONALD'S Largo 2675 Roosevelt Blvd. Just East of US 19 4:20PM	LARGO MALL By Albertsons Corner of Ulmerton Rd. & Alt. 19 3:30PM	SEMINOLE MALL By Kmart 113 <sup>rd</sup> St. & Park Blvd. 3:45PM	WALMART Pinellas Park 8001 US 19 N. (Park North of gas station.) 4:15PM	TARGET GATEWAY MALL St. Petersburg 9 <sup>th</sup> St. & 83 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. 4:30PM
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# Largo runner signs with university

LARGO – Hannah Palm, a senior at Keswick Christian School, has decided to continue her academic and running career at Charleston Southern University, a Division I school in Charleston, S.C.

Despite an untimely stress fracture in her foot during her senior year of cross-country, Palm signed her scholarship papers on National Signing Day Feb. 6.

Palm began running at age 7, competing in youth triathlons. She was a member of the Seminole Landsharks, a local youth triathlon team. Throughout high school at Keswick, she has been a top cross-country and track athlete.



Photo courtesy of DAVID PALM  
Hannah Palm, a runner and Keswick Christian School student, signs with Charleston Southern University.

# Fishing improves with rising temperatures

The fishing this past week was a definite improvement from what we've seen so far this month. Rising water temperatures and good tidal flow are to thank for the good trout fishing that many anglers experienced all week.

From Fort De Soto to Tarpon Springs trout fishing is like it should be right now. Drift fishing 3 to 6 foot grass flats can locate schools of trout ranging in size from 13 to 16 inches. The cleaner the water you can find the better. You'll fair best at finding the schools of fish. Using soft plastics rigged on either quarter or eighth of an ounce jig heads will allow you to cover the water necessary to locate the schools.

If you're specifically targeting large trout you may want to position yourself a bit shallower. We were able to catch quite a few trout over 20 inches fishing in the same depth of water that we usually target redfish in, anywhere from 1 to 3 feet. Fan cast shallow running twitch baits like the Mirr-o-Lure Mirro-



**Fish Tales**  
Capt. Tyson Wellerstein

dine along pothole edges and areas where sandy shorelines extend into the water and are then met with grass. This distinct line offers a perfect ambush point for big trout.

Redfish numbers are on the rise and it seems that the most logical looking areas are holding some numbers of reds if not a small school. Clean water was hard to come by last weekend with all the wind. Most no-motor zone flats were too exposed and dirty to fish. However, lee-side shorelines did offer some cleaner water and a few redfish. Targeting long docks with plenty of grass around them proved to be a good pattern. Live select shrimp under a small float casted close to the dock will let you know pretty quickly if there's any redfish around.

Until next week, get bent!  
Tyson Wellerstein can be reached at [capt.tyson@hotmail.com](mailto:capt.tyson@hotmail.com).

## Briefs

### Players honored for commitments

SAFETY HARBOR – The Chargers Soccer Club U-18 and U-17 Boys USSF Development

Academy teams and the U-18 Girls Clearwater Elite team have 20 players who on Feb. 6 were recognized for their commitments to play college soccer next sea-

son. More than 75 Chargers have moved on to play college soccer in the past four years alone.

The 20 Chargers are as follows:  
U-17/18 Boys:

- Jesse Caron of Palm Harbor University signed for Boston University.
- Drew Corcoran of Freedom High is undecided, attending either Erskine or Wofford.
- Nicholas Day of Countryside High is undecided.
- Derek Gebhard of Steinbrenner High will play for Florida Gulf Coast University.
- Jeffrey George of Countryside High will play for East Tennessee State University.
- Bakie Goodman of Pine View School is enrolled early at Georgetown University.
- David Gray of East Lake High will play for Liberty University.
- David Kuckkahn of Countryside High will play for Rollins College.
- Scott Levene of New Canaan in Connecticut will play for the University of Connecticut.
- Hunter Loyden of St. Petersburg High will play for Georgia Southern University.
- Cameron Thomas of Countryside High is currently training in

Germany, and will play for the University of South Florida.

### U-18 Girls:

- Annie Barrett of Bloomingdale High will play for Mercer University.
- Amber Coca of Bloomingdale High will play for Wagner College.
- Brittany Coca of Bloomingdale High will play for Belmont University.
- Dougie Dingess of Ensworth High in Tennessee will play for Furman University.
- Kristy Legoas of East Lake High will play for Florida Southern College.
- Morgan Lorenti of Palm Harbor University High will play for the University of Tampa.
- Melinda Lukas of N. Fort Myer High will play for Georgia Southern University.
- Ruth Seleznick of Robinson High will play for Rice University.
- Karina White of East Lake High will play for Palm Beach Atlantic.

by the Hot Rod Hornets and complimentary food and drinks will be available.

Visit [www.belleairrec.com](http://www.belleairrec.com) or call 518-3728.

### Gulf grouper season closed

Several species of grouper, including black, red, yellowfin, scamp, yellowmouth, rock hind and red hind is closed to recreational harvest through March 31 in Gulf of Mexico state and federal waters, excluding state waters of Monroe County.

Gag grouper has a separate season from other Gulf of Mexico grouper and is currently closed to harvest. A proposed 2013 gag grouper season in state waters will be discussed at the February Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission meeting in Orlando.

The upcoming two-month recreational harvest closure that started Feb. 1 was put in place to help rebuild the gag grouper fishery. Gag grouper spawn during the February and March closure, so limiting the harvest of other grouper helps reduce the number of gag grouper that are caught unintentionally and die after being released.

More information regarding grouper fishing regulations, including the current grouper closure in Atlantic and Monroe County waters, is available online at [MyFWC.com/Fishing](http://MyFWC.com/Fishing). Visit [MyFWC.com/Commission](http://MyFWC.com/Commission) to

learn more about the February Commission meeting.

### FWC, DEP increase service in state parks

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 state forests and parks.

"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," said Col. Jim Brown, director of the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement.

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.

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.

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# Dolphins use yacht to escape complicated relationship history

One Florida winter day, a trio of dolphins was scattered from shore to shore across a broad bay, separately together in the absorbing pursuit of lunch. But they were about to redefine the notion of scatter.

Two were bull buddies, Scrapefin and Hi W Ski, looking roughed up from a recent skirmish with other dolphins. They've become good buddies in the last couple of years after both spent a solitary phase. They were in the company of pretty Ms. Slightwin, a young adult they've known for all of her nine years but who recently blossomed into the attractive girl next door.

Hi W Ski found a fish. Grabbing it, he went vertical at the water surface and then sunk backwards to swallow it with a flourish in a common dolphin attention-getting gesture.

With her characteristic animation around bulls, Slightwin pursued her own fish some distance away. She wrapped her long slim body around it in a pinwheel, which launched glassy circles out in all directions.

Their schoolmate Scrapefin suddenly charged a great distance away to the south, the probable reason for which surfaced several minutes hence.

We spent many minutes with each dolphin, snapping pictures for the record. After a while, we spied two new dolphin dorsal fins way in the distance. Bull buddies DD2 and BB were heading north, cutting through the trio's fishing grounds like Super bowl MVPs sauntering through a rookie workout.

The maritime MVPs didn't seem to change their travel plans, but their presence seemed to change the trio's plans because the latter, so recently focused on feeding, quite literally launched into an entirely new behavior.

As bulls BB and DD2 ambled north, a yacht chugging south into the trio's vicinity presented a convenient and timely alternative. The trio sprinted over to it, leapt into its path, and surfed it for a quarter mile southward, rapidly and resolutely making good their escape from bulls BB and DD2 receding in the distance to the north.

Granted, it could've been just coincidence that this particular trio of dolphins suddenly used a convenient yacht to surf off in one direction as that particular pair of bulls headed off in the other direction.

But probably not. These five dolphins have a lot of history, and it's



Photo by ANN WEAVER

**Local bottlenose bulls Scrapefin and DD2 are the most conspicuous rivals among the dolphins outside your doorstep. DD2 does not like Scrapefin and here snaps at his heels while Scrapefin leaps to avoid him.**

more likely that surfing away was a logical and revealing revelation about their relationships, which like all relationships are based on the present but also the past.

Bottlenose dolphins are the most intelligent of animals and have complex relationships that last decades to prove it. That's plenty of time to forgive and forget, or so it would seem.

First, there was a girl involved, Slightwin, who for the moment swam with Scrapefin and Hi W Ski. Dolphin bulls are not above a little kidnapping, and BB had courted Slightwin heavily in a previous tryst. That alone would've been reason enough for the trio to surf away at speed.

Moreover, BB's devoted bull buddy DD2 was at his side, and these two out-rank the other two bulls. Plus, Scrapefin and Hi W Ski showed clear signs of recent battle, and perhaps prudently took the safer speedy get-away rather than embark in another battle.

Ah, but not all bull battles are about a babe. If there's one relation-

ship among the dolphins out there that seethes with conspicuous tension, it's DD2 and Scrapefin. DD2 does not like Scrapefin. He spent much of the summer of 2006 harassing Scrapefin every chance he got. And on the occasions when they're swimming in the same group, Scrapefin is jumpy and evasive.

Take the episode in the gloom of that January day in 2011 that Dolphin Watch reported as the Salt Water Bowl, an organized melee that resembled scrimmaging dolphins. There were seven dolphins in that "game," five of them the same as in this story (plus two more bulls).

Scrapefin hung on the sidelines until his buddy Hi W Ski showed up, whereupon they all disappeared under a fountain of froth of their own making. Scrapefin shot out of it like a rocket or a football player doing an end-around - or a low-ranking bull avoiding harassment.

That might have been two years ago, but the giant bottlenose brain nicely equips Scrapefin to remember every episode in his long and tumultuous history with rival DD2.

Now, suddenly, here was his rival just as Scrapefin got the girl! On the other hand, little lady Slightwin has plenty of memories of her months with DD2 and his hardly-bashful buddy BB (Dolphin Watch's Slightwin dresses up for the Bowery Boys). Maybe it was she who led the charge to the passing yacht to make good her escape.

The third dolphin in the trio had his reasons too. Had not Hi W Ski been a best bull buddy with DD2 until BB replaced him? That was some years ago, but not too many years for that fertile dolphin memory. Maybe it was he who led the charge to the passing yacht to make good his escape.

When Dolphin Watch first suggested in the 2006 story Like dolphins, like gorillas, like us, that dolphins might not just surf passing boats for the fun of it but might actually use them as water taxis, I thought I was just floating a facetious fantasy. Now I'm not so sure.

*Dr. Weaver studies wild dolphins under federal permit 16299, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Send her an email at daz-zled@tampabay.rr.com or visit her website www.dolphinstore.com. NOAA advises anyone who sees a stranded dolphin in the Gulf of Mexico to call 877-942-5343 or 877-433-8299.*

## Preserve to offer exciting programs this year

TARPON SPRINGS - The popular Saturday hikes continue at Brooker Creek Preserve in 2013.

On Saturday, Feb. 16, volunteer guides will lead groups to see how the land has changed over time and the ecological footprints left by those changes. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat are recommended on these 90-minute, 0.75-mile walks at 9 a.m.

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, a local natural resources agent will lead a 90-minute forestry hike along two miles of boardwalks and natural trails. It will be helpful to bring binoculars and cameras on this hike, which begins at 10 a.m. Questions can also be researched in the resource room upon return to the education center.

On Saturday, Feb. 23, from 8:30 to 10 a.m., learn how to find that perfect photo. A brief classroom session conducted by local photographers and master naturalists Karl and Kathleen Nichter will highlight the seasonal features that help participants capture the natural beauty of the preserve. Then hike the boardwalk and trails. Recommended for adults and children older than age 12.

Also on Saturday, Feb. 23, trained volunteer guides will conduct a special, extended 2.8- to 4-mile walk from 9 to 11:30 a.m. to look at changes made by time. Water, a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen along with sturdy closed-toe shoes are recommended. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult; those younger than 10 may find this hike challenging.

help. Get up close and personal with live amphibians. Beginning at 10:30 a.m., this presentation is appropriate for the whole family.

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., an Extension specialist will lead a fun after-school adventure designed by 4-H toward understanding the wonders of the natural world. There will be an opportunity to sign-up and become a Brooker Creek Explorer and continue the fun adventures throughout the year. Please register each member of the family, as space and supplies are limited.

The ongoing exhibit, Windows to Our Wildest Place, continues every Thursday through Saturday during regular center hours at Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center. This hands-on, educational exhibit helps visitors understand how natural Florida has changed over time and the ecological footprints left by those changes.

As a winter special, Brooker Creek Environmental Education Center will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays in February, March and April, in addition to Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Brooker Creek Preserve protects more than 8,700 acres of natural ecosystems and is located at 3940 Keystone Road in Tarpon Springs. To learn more, call 453-6800. To register for programs and events visit [www.brookercreekpreserve.org](http://www.brookercreekpreserve.org).

### Gyotaku class set

LARGO - A Gyotaku fish rubbing art class will be presented Saturday, Feb. 23, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing's Marine Institute, 12211 Walsingham Road.

Gyotaku is a traditional form of Japanese fish printing or rubbing, originally used by Japanese fishermen in the early 1800s to accurately record their catches. It has since been recognized as a form of fine art. Greg Aragon, the instructor for the Gyotaku class, began to master this form of art 30 years ago. Learn his techniques and secrets in this unique art method. Cost is \$75. To register, visit [www.centerforfishing.org/marine-institute](http://www.centerforfishing.org/marine-institute). Call 365-4660.

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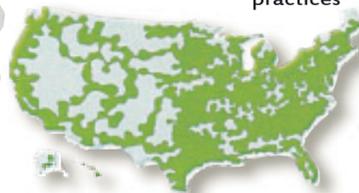
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# Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County



- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

Leader  
Section B  
February 14, 2013  
Visit [www.TBNweekly.com](http://www.TBNweekly.com)

## Top diversions

• **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](http://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.

• **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.

• **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](http://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.

• **Johnny Winter**, Sunday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$39.50. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.atthecap.com](http://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.



Photo courtesy of CIRQUE ZUMA ZUMA

Contortionists from South Africa are among the featured performers showcased in Cirque Zuma Zuma, coming to the Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center Feb. 15.

## Blues & seafood

Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Coco Montoya headline annual Sea-Blues Festival

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

General admission is free. There is limited reserved seating available for purchase. Visit [www.clearwaterseablues.com](http://www.clearwaterseablues.com).

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 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.

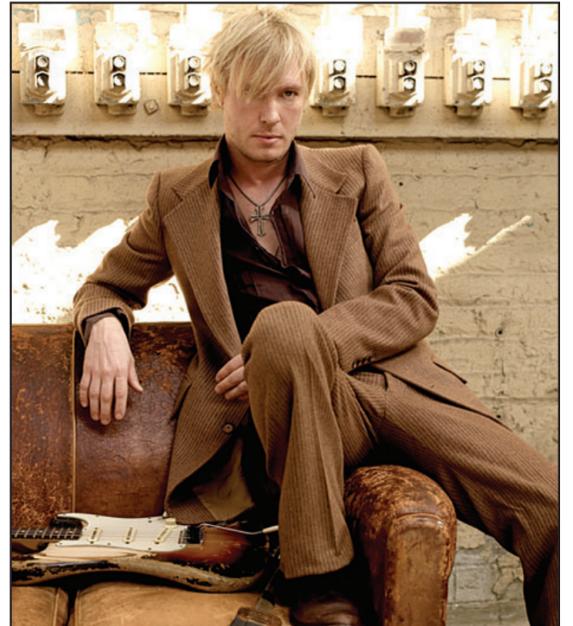
### Headliners

Born in 1977, since the mid 1990s **Kenny Wayne Shepherd** has been selling millions of albums, charting singles in the Top

See **BLUES**, page 4B



Photo courtesy of THE LEE BOYS



Above, Kenny Wayne Shepherd is a headliner at the Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival Feb. 16-17. At left, The Lee Boys also will perform in the festival.

Photo by MARK SELIGER/SACKS & CO.

## Alan Parsons

Rock Symphony Concert series welcomes Alan Parsons Live Project

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

CLEARWATER – Alan Parsons Live Project returns to the Tampa Bay area Friday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater.

Part of the Rock Symphony Concert series, tickets start at \$49. For tickets, call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com).

Back for the first time since 2006 with a Rock Symphony and Laser Light Spectacular, Parsons is lauded as the sound engineer for Pink Floyd's "Dark Side Of The Moon." His genius and skill brought him to the attention of the music world and he has gone on to enjoy success as a producer, songwriter and performer.

Working as assistant engineer at Abbey Road Studios, Parsons first emerged in the industry working on the Beatles' LP "Abbey Road." He went on to engineer projects for Paul McCartney, The Hollies and Pink Floyd.

Then, in 1975, Parsons partnered with singer Eric Woolfson to create The Alan Parsons Project.

### All in the family

According to the artist's website, Parsons was born into a family with longstanding connections to the entertainment industry.

His family tree includes Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, his great grandfather. Tree was a well-known English actor and theater manager. Tree founded the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in 1904. His wife, actress Helen Maud Holt, often joined him on the stage and also assisted him with theater management.

Tree's daughter, Viola, followed in her father's footsteps becoming an actress, singer, playwright and author. She appeared often with her father's company at His Majesty's Theatre. Later she appeared in opera, variety, straight theater and film.

She married Alan Leonard Romaine Parsons with whom she had several children, including Alan Parsons' father, Denys Parsons, who worked in the field of scientific research and invention before becoming a film-maker and, later, the press officer for the British Library. Denys was an accomplished pianist and flautist as well as the author of many books.

Parsons' mother also was an actress, as well as a professional folk singer and harpist. Other relatives in the entertainment business include the late Oliver Reed, film actor, and David Tree, film and stage actor.

See **PARSONS**, page 8B



Photo courtesy of RUTH ECKERD HALL

Alan Parsons plays Ruth Eckerd Hall Feb. 15 as part of the venue's Rock Symphony Concert series.



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# Looking ahead

## Largo

• **Jane Monheit**, Thursday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$34.50. Call 587-6793. Monheit has firmly established as one of the post-millennial jazz world's foremost vocalists. She has been a featured performer in the nationally televised "Christmas at the White House" and has appeared on numerous television shows including "David Lettermen," "The View," "The Today Show" and "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

• **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](http://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 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.

## Clearwater

• **"Move Over Mrs. Markham,"** by Ray Cooney and John Chapman, 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](http://www.earlybirddinnertheatre.com).

• **"Almost, Maine,"** a Valentine's dinner show, Thursday, Feb. 14, 6 p.m., at Showcase Arts Foundation Theater, 2664 Enterprise Road, Suite B1, Clearwater. Cost is \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Cost includes dinner and show. Call 348-6682. Sponsored by Virtual Creatives, the dinner show will offer a fun and quirky night of love and fantasy under the northern lights of Maine. On a cold, clear, moonless night in the middle of winter, all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, Almost's residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. Hearts are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend - almost - in this delightful midwinter night's dream. Seating is limited and reservations are strongly suggested. Visit [www.showcaseartsfoundation.org](http://www.showcaseartsfoundation.org).

• **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.rutheckerdhal.com](http://www.rutheckerdhal.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

See LOOKING AHEAD, page 4B

## BLUES, from page 1B

10, shining a light on the rich blues of the past and forging ahead with his own modern twist on a classic sound.

At age 7, he met the iconic Stevie Ray Vaughan. He shared the stage with New Orleans legend Bryan Lee at 13. As an adult, he continues to create genre-defining blues-infused rock n' roll.

The Louisiana born axeman and songsmith came to prominence in his early 20s when he wrote and recorded "Blue on Black" for the album "Trouble Is ..." The song was No. 1 on the Rock Charts for 17 consecutive weeks.

"Trouble Is ..." was actually a follow-up to Shepherd's debut album, "Ledbetter Heights," released in 1995. Released when he was 17 years old, the album was an immediate hit, selling more than 500,000 copies by early 1996. "Ledbetter Heights" spent 20 weeks topping Billboard's blues chart.

According to the artist's website, Shepherd's most recent album - "How I Go," released in 2011 - pairs his deeply soulful and impassioned takes on classic material like Bessie Smith's "Backwater Blues," Albert King's "Oh, Pretty Woman" and "The Beatles 'Yer Blues'" with some of the strongest original writing and co-writing of his career thus far.

"At this point, most people who know about me know I can play guitar," Shepherd says on his website. "As far as my approach to guitar on this record, it's not about showing people how much I can play. It's about really choosing the right notes and playing them at the right times so that every note penetrates people, and they feel it inside and it's not just some fleeting thing that just goes right by them."

According to his bio at Ruf Records, **Coco Montoya's** explosive guitar playing and soul-driven voice have propelled him to the upper reaches of the blues-rock world.

Over the course of his 30-year career, the guitarist and vocalist has forged his reputation through years of hard work and constant touring.

From his early days as a drummer to his current status as one of the top-drawing guitarists and vocalists on the blues-rock scene, Montoya plays with an emotional intensity few string benders possess. Mentored by legendary bluesman Albert Collins, he plays left-handed and up side down in the style of Albert King and Jimi Hendrix.

Montoya got his start following a chance meeting in the mid-1970s with Collins, who offered Montoya a gig as his drummer. Collins is said to have taken an immediate liking to Montoya, becoming his mentor and teaching his new protégé secrets of the Collins "icy hot" style of blues guitar.

"Albert was very much a father," said Montoya in a press release promoting his most recent album. "The gifts I've received from him were soul, compassion, faith in myself, faith in the music, and how to continue on. Albert taught me blues about playing from your heart. It's a music that you can't chart. If your heart's there, it's real. That's what keeps the blues going. Fads come and go, but the blues always stays."

Five years went by before John Mayall happened to catch Montoya at a jam session. Mayall was reportedly impressed and invited Montoya to join his band, John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers. That job lasted a decade.

In 1993, Montoya stepped out on his own as a bandleader. He has a number of solo albums to his credit, including his most recent, "I Want It All Back," released in 2010. "I Want It All Back," Montoya's seventh solo album, was produced by Keb' Mo' and Jeff Paris, who also play on the entire album.

## Event information

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.



Photo courtesy of TRAMPLED UNDER FOOT  
**Trampled Under Foot is scheduled to perform Feb. 17 at this year's Clearwater Sea-Blues Festival.**

## Crossword

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- Across**
- Clip
  - "Ashes to ashes, \_\_\_ ..."
  - Center
  - Elders' teachings
  - "What's gotten \_\_\_ you?"
  - "Farewell, mon ami"
  - Letter opener
  - Flax fabric
  - "Comprendre?"
  - "Yes, \_\_\_"
  - Fair-haired
  - Witchcraft
  - Box
  - "To \_\_\_ is human ..."
  - Blacken
  - Dust remover
  - A whining complaint
  - "Saturday Night Fever" music
  - "... there is no \_\_\_ angel but Love": Shake-speare
  - Complimentary close
  - Exec's note
  - Andrea Bocelli, for one
  - Tried
  - "\_\_\_ we having fun yet?"
  - "\_\_\_ on Down the Road"
  - Campaigner, for short
  - Bond, for one
  - Small red beetle with black spots
  - Tart
  - "Your majesty"
  - A pint, maybe
  - Argus-eyed
  - Upset the equilibrium
  - Domestic animal skin disease causing loss of hair
  - Cooking fat
  - Bad day for Caesar
  - "Come in!"
  - \_\_\_-bodied
  - Harp's cousin

- Down**
- Category
  - Isuzu compact SUV
  - Command
  - The "p" in m.p.g.
  - Confusion
  - Take back, in a way
  - Check
  - "For shame!"
  - Male duck with green head and neck
  - Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"
  - Plates, bowls, cups and saucers (2 wds)
  - Lentil, e.g.
  - Air, musically
  - File
  - Car accessory
  - Quartet member
  - Microcrystalline form of silica
  - Smokejumper's need
  - #1 spot
  - "Well done!"
  - \_\_\_ carotene
  - "... happily \_\_\_ after"
  - Facial outline
  - Go downhill, maybe
  - Suggest
  - Existing independently
  - Come in again
  - Example
  - "\_\_\_ calls?"
  - Fill up
  - Actionable words
  - Toss back and forth
  - Gastric woe
  - "Silly" birds
  - Flimsy, as an excuse
  - Brio
  - Give the cold shoulder
  - Cable network
  - Afflict

## Sudoku

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

## Sudoku answers from last week

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

## Crossword answers from last week

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104
105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117
118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130
131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143
144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156
157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169
170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182
183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195
196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208
209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221
222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234
235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247
248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260
261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273
274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286
287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299
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313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325
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339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351
352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364
365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377
378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390
391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403
404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416
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430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442
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469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481
482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494
495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507
508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520
521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533
534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546
547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559
560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572
573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585
586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598
599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611
612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624
625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637
638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650
651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663
664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676
677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689
690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702
703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715
716</												

# Opening this weekend

'Safe Haven' features Duhamel, Hough; Willis reprises iconic role in 'A Good Day to Die Hard'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

## 'Safe Haven'

Genre: Drama  
 Cast: Josh Duhamel, Julianne Hough, Mimi Kirkland, David Lyons and Cobie Smulders  
 Director: Lasse Hallström  
 Rated: PG-13

A mysterious young woman arrives in a small North Carolina town and reluctantly finds new love with a lonely widower in "Safe Haven," a deeply moving romantic thriller from Nicholas Sparks, the best-selling author whose novels inspired the beloved films "The Notebook" and "Dear John."

Katie Feldman (Julianne Hough) arrives in the tiny coastal town of Southport, N.C., looking to make a new, quiet life for herself. She rents a rundown cabin and takes a job waiting on tables in the local café, hoping to keep a low profile. But despite the almost impenetrable emotional walls she has built to protect herself, she is drawn in by the genuine warmth and caring of the tight-knit community, especially the town's grocery-store owner, Alex (Josh Duhamel), and his two young children.

As Katie gradually learns to trust again, Alex and his little brood teach her to experience the joys of love once more. But nothing is as simple as it seems and her newfound happiness is threatened by the terrifying secrets that still haunt her. When a mysterious stranger arrives in town asking questions about Katie, her past threatens to reclaim her. Although every instinct tells her to run, Katie decides to do whatever she must to protect her new life, as she rediscovers the meaning of sacrifice and commitment in a gripping and suspenseful story of hope, survival, and the power of true love.

## 'A Good Day to Die Hard'

Genre: Action and adventure  
 Cast: Bruce Willis, Jai Courtney, Sebastian Koch, Yulia Snigir, Cole Hauser, Amaury Nolasco, Megalyn Echikunwoke and Anne Vyalitsyna  
 Director: John Moore  
 Rated: R

Bruce Willis reprises his iconic role as police detective John McClane in "A Good Day to Die Hard," set against the backdrop of deadly corruption and political vendetta in Russia.

McClane arrives in Moscow to track down his estranged son, Jack, (Jai Courtney), and is stunned to discover he's working undercover to protect a government whistleblower, Komarov. With their own necks on the line, the McClanes are forced to overcome their differences in order to get Komarov to safety and thwart a potentially disastrous crime in the most desolate place on Earth - Chernobyl.

When McClane learns the truth about his son's profession, he calls him the "007 of Plainfield, New Jersey." But it's a long way from Plainfield to Moscow, and John and Jack are about to have a family reunion they will never forget.

It is now 25 years since "Die Hard" exploded into theaters, launch-



Josh Duhamel and Mimi Kirkland star in Relativity Media's "Safe Haven."

Photo courtesy of SAFE HAVEN PRODUCTIONS

ing a new cinematic hero, John McClane, and changing the paradigm of action movies. Identifiable and relatable, McClane is an ordinary man forced by circumstances to attempt an extraordinary task. That is what separates him from the comic book heroes of most action movies, and has made McClane one of the most popular characters in film history.

## 'Beautiful Creatures'

Genre: Drama  
 Cast: Alden Ehrenreich, Alice Englert, Jeremy Irons, Viola Davis, Emmy Rossum, Thomas Mann and Emma Thompson  
 Director: Richard LaGravenese  
 Rated: PG-13

Ethan Wate (Alden Ehrenreich), 17, has had the same recurring dream for months.

A mysterious young girl is waiting for him on a Civil War battlefield. Ethan desperately wants to be with her, but there is an unknown danger - and each time a lightning bolt cracks like a gunshot, killing Ethan before he ever reaches the girl.

The danger of this strange dream world, however, is preferable to Ethan's waking existence in Gatlin, S.C., a small, conservative Southern town that hasn't caught up to the 21st century, where nothing ever changes and nothing ever happens. Trapped at home with a father who has completely withdrawn since the sudden death of Ethan's mother, Ethan yearns for a life he can only read about in books.

But Ethan's mundane world is shaken up with the arrival of Lena Duchannes (Alice Englert), the beautiful and enigmatic niece of Macon Ravenwood (Jeremy Irons), the reclusive owner of gothic Ravenwood Manor. Ethan finds himself immediately drawn to Lena, even though destruction seems to inexplicably follow her and it becomes apparent that she is a Caster, with powers beyond her control. The town, led by

conservative Mrs. Lincoln (Emma Thompson), wants her banished. Even Gatlin's all-knowing librarian, Amma (Viola Davis), is afraid history may repeat itself - a history of family secrets and a curse that

See OPENING, page 4B



Photo by FRANK MASI/MSPSP & TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX  
 Jack McClane (Jai Courtney), left, and his dad John McClane (Bruce Willis) prepare for battle - old-school style in "A Good Day to Die Hard."

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LOOKING AHEAD, from page 2B

Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$25. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.atthecap.com](http://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.

• **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.rutheckerdhal.com](http://www.rutheckerdhal.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.

**Pinellas Park**

• **"Love Times Five,"** by Dennis Jones, through Feb. 24, at Venue Ensemble Theatre, presented at Venue Actors Studio, 9125 U.S. 19 N., Pinellas Park. Call 822-6194. 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.

• **Love is in the Air**, 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.

**St. Petersburg**

• **"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](http://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](http://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.

OPENING, from page 3B

looms for Lena as she approaches her 16th birthday. It is that time when a Caster is chosen by the forces of either the Light or the Dark.

But Lena's fate may already be sealed by the curse that draws both her and Ethan into a tangled web of spells and peril from which there may be no escape.



Photo by JOHN BRAMLEY

Jeremy Irons stars as Macon Ravenwood and Alice Englert as Lena Duchannes in Alcon Entertainment's supernatural love story "Beautiful Creatures," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

**'Escape from Planet Earth'**

Genre: Animation, comedy, family and science fiction  
Cast: Jane Lynch, Craig Robinson, George Lopez, Sofia Vergara, Steve Zahn, Chris Parnell, Jonath Morgan Heit, James Corden, Brendan Fraser, Rob Corrdry, Jessica Alba, Sarah Jessica Parker and William Shatner  
Director: Cal Brunker  
Rated: PG

This 3D animated family comedy catapults moviegoers to planet Baab where admired astronaut Scorch Supernova (Brendan Fraser) is a national hero to the blue alien population.

A master of daring rescues, Scorch pulls off astonishing feats with the quiet aid of his nerdy, by-the-rules brother, Gary (Rob Corrdry), head of mission control at BASA. When BASA's no-nonsense chief Lena (Jessica Alba) informs the brothers of an SOS from a notoriously dangerous planet, Scorch rejects Gary's warnings and bounds off for yet another exciting mission.

But when Scorch finds himself caught in a fiendish trap set by the evil Shanker (William Shatner) it's up to scrawny, risk-averse Gary to do the real rescuing. As the interplanetary stakes rise to new heights, Gary is left to save his brother, his planet, his beloved wife Kira (Sarah Jessica Parker) and their adventure hungry son Kip.

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

**'Like Someone in Love'**

Genre: Romance  
Cast: Ryo Kase, Rin Takahashi, Denden  
Director: Abbas Kiarostami  
Not rated

An old man and a young woman meet in Tokyo. She knows nothing about him, he thinks he knows her. He welcomes her into his home, she offers him her body. But the web that is woven between them in the space of 24 hours bears no relation to the circumstances of their encounter.

**'No'**

Genre: Drama  
Cast: Gael Garcia Bernal, Alfredo Castro, Antonia Zegers, Marcial Tagle, Néstor Cantillana, Jaime Vadell and Pascal Montero  
Director: Pablo Larraín  
Rated: R

In 1988, Chilean military dictator Augusto Pinochet, due to international pressure, is forced to call a plebiscite on his presidency. The country will vote YES or NO to Pinochet extending his rule for another eight years. Opposition leaders for the NO persuade a brash young advertising executive, Rene Saavedra (Gael Garcia Bernal), to spearhead their campaign. Against all odds, with scant resources and under scrutiny by the despot's minions, Saavedra and his team devise an audacious plan to win the election and set Chile free.

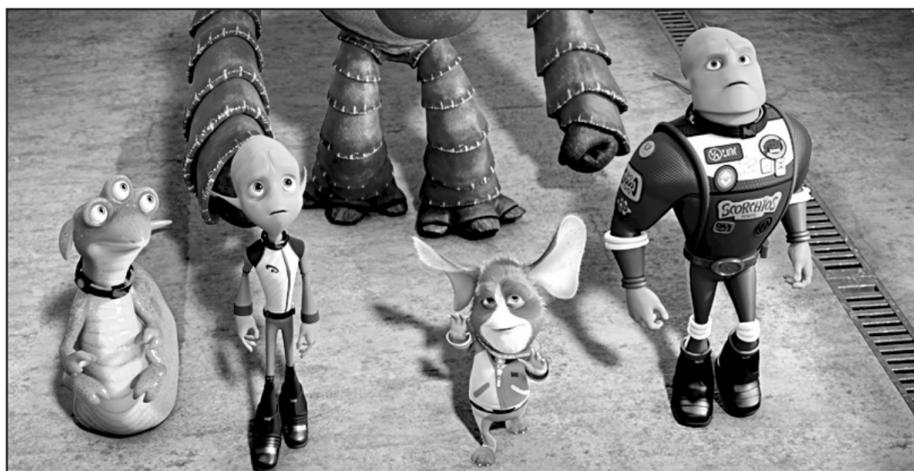


Photo courtesy of THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

At left, from left, Thurman (George Lopez), Gary Supernova (Rob Corrdry), Doc (Craig Robinson), and Scorch Supernova (Brendan Fraser) join forces in "Escape from Planet Earth." Below, Gael Garcia Bernal stars as René Saavedra in "No."

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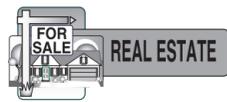
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(#133050 &amp; 249025). (C)</p> <p><b>ADOPTION</b> Give your baby a loving, financially secure family. Living expenses paid. Call Attorney Charlotte Danciu, 28 years experience. (800)395-6449. <a href="http://www.adoption-surrogacy.com">www.adoption-surrogacy.com</a>. FL Bar #307084. (C)</p> <p><b>ADOPTION: 866-633-0397</b> Unplanned Pregnancy? Provide your baby with a loving, financially secure family. Living/Medical/Counseling expenses paid. Social worker on staff. Call compassionate attorney, Lauren Feingold. (FL Bar #0958107) 24/7. (C)</p> <p><b>AIRLINES ARE HIRING</b> Train for hands-on Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified. Housing available. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance. (866)634-6283. (C)</p> <p><b>AIRLINES ARE HIRING</b> Train for hands-on Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified. Housing available. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance. Call (866)314-3769. 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Call National Aviation Academy. FAA Approved. Classes starting soon! (800)659-2080. <a href="http://www.NAA.edu">www.NAA.edu</a>. (C)</p> <p><b>BANKRUPTCY AUCTION</b> Waterfront Condo Development, Crystal River, FL; February 26, 11AM. <a href="http://Tranzon.com/DG647">Tranzon.com/DG647</a>. 10% PB, Case #6:10-bk-07720-KSJ. Tranzon Driggers, FL Lic. RE/BKR #AU707 &amp; AB3145. (F)</p> <p><b>CASH FOR CARS!</b> We buy ANY Car, Truck or Van! Running or Not. Get a FREE Top Dollar INSTANT Offer NOW! (800)558-1097. We're Local! (C)</p>	<p><b>CASH FOR CARS: ALL CARS &amp; Trucks Wanted.</b> Running or Not! Top Dollar Paid. We Come to You! Any Make/Model. Call for Instant Offer: (800)871-9638. (C)</p> <p><b>CONDO AUCTION Overlooking Destin, FL harbor.</b> Luxurious 2,420+/-SF furnished unit in East Pass Towers with guaranteed owner financing. March 1, 1PM. See website for detail, terms, virtual tour: <a href="http://glauctions.com">glauctions.com</a>. Granger, Thagard &amp; Associates, Inc. (205)326-0833. G.W. Thagard, Business AB2100, Broker BK3009116, Auctioneer AU2846. (F)</p> <p><b>DIABETIC TEST STRIPS</b> wanted. Get the Most Cash, up to \$27/box! Shipping Paid! Must be Sealed &amp; Unexpired. Tony (813)528-1480 <a href="mailto:tonyteststrips@hotmail.com">tonyteststrips@hotmail.com</a>. (C)</p> <p><b>DIRECTV FOR \$29.99/MO.</b> for 24 months. Over 140 channels. Free HD-DVR Upgrade! Free NFL Sunday Ticket with Choice Package! Call Today for details: (866)981-8287. (C)</p> <p><b>DISH NETWORK, STARTING AT \$19.99/mo.</b> + 30 Premium Movie Channels FREE for 3 Months! Save &amp; ask about Same Day Installation. (888)418-8787. (C)</p> <p><b>DISH NETWORK, Starting at \$19.99/month</b> (for 12 months) &amp; High Speed Internet starting at \$14.95/month (where available). SAVE! Ask about SAME DAY installation! CALL NOW! (888)685-4144. (F)</p> <p><b>DRIVER - \$0.01 INCREASE PER MILE after 6 and 12 months.</b> \$0.3/mile quarterly bonus. Daily or Weekly pay. 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(C)</p> <p><b>FINISH YOUR H.S. DIPLOMA</b> from home! Start today! Nationally accredited. Only \$399. EZ Pay. Established 1999. BBB accredited. (877)661-0678 <a href="http://www.diplomaathome.com">www.diplomaathome.com</a>. (C)</p> <p><b>HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA</b> From Home, 6-8 Weeks. Accredited. Get a Diploma! Get a Job! Free Brochure. (800)264-8330. Benjamin Franklin High School. <a href="http://www.diplomafromhome.com">www.diplomafromhome.com</a> (C)</p>	<p><b>"I LOVE MY RV" Sale</b> 6 Days Only, Feb. 12-17. Motor Homes, Trailers, 5th Wheels, Van Campers. Bring your Trade, Title and Payment Book! SAVE BIG NOW! RV World, Inc. of Nokomis, 2110 U.S. 41, Nokomis, FL. I-75 Exit 195. (800)262-2182. Visit <a href="http://www.rvworldinc.com">www.rvworldinc.com</a>. (F)</p> <p><b>Driver Trainees Needed NOW!</b> Become a driver for Werner Enterprises. Earn \$800 per week! Local CDL Training. Call (877)214-3624. 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CONSIDERING ADOPTION?</b> Talk with a caring adoption expert. You choose from families nationwide. Living expenses paid. Call 24/7. Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. (866)413-6298. FL Lic. #100013125. (C)</p> <p><b>PROFLOWERS - Enjoy 60% off</b> Tender Hugs and Kisses with Chocolates for your Valentine! Site price: \$49.99, you pay just \$19.99. Plus take 20% off other gifts over \$29! Call (888)730-0215 or visit <a href="http://www.proflowers.com/Brilliant">www.proflowers.com/Brilliant</a>. (C)</p> <p><b>ROTARY MEMBERS are a</b> worldwide network of inspired individuals who improve communities. For more information visit: <a href="http://www.rotary.org">www.rotary.org</a>. This message provided by PaperChain and your local community partner. (C)</p> <p><b>SHARI'S BERRIES</b> Delight all of your valentines with our freshly-dipped strawberries, decadent truffles and hand-crafted sweets! SAVE 20% on qualifying gifts over \$29! 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**OPEN HOUSE! SAT & SUN, 1-4** **Seminole Executive Home** 13900 Danielle Court Walk to Beach, 2100 heated SF. This house has it all! Pool, Jacuzzi, fireplace, cul de sac. Vaulted ceilings, recessed lighting. \$349,900. P. Mackenzie, Rutenberg. (727)391-9630

**TYRONE, ON BIKE TRAIL.** Excellent Shape, Block, 2BR/1BA w/Huge Mother-In-Law Unit. \$160,000. Approved For Short Sale. Must See. 7101 8th Ave. N. (727)776-5233.

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## 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.

## 15. Beach Property

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

## 20. Condo Sales

**FIVE TOWNS, 55+.** ST. PETE. 1BR/1BA, Furnished/ Unfurnished. 660SF, Newer AC, Appliances. Screened Balcony. Covered Parking. Pets Allowed. As is, \$25,900. (727)458-9383.

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

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

**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.

**On 5th Hole, Seminole Lake CC** 3BR/2.5BA, 2-story, 1,845 SF, 100% custom remodeled in 2012. \$193,300. (727)258-4172.

**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, CLS, (727)459-2598.

**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.

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**2BR/2BA 1,056 sq. ft.** 2nd Floor, Elevator, 55+, Sunroom, Just Listed \$42,900

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## 35. Mobile Home Sales

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**LARGO, 2BR/1.5BA, 55+** Close to beach/ shopping. Clean, large screened porch. Low lot fee. \$3,200 OBO (727)512-4747

**LARGO, FULLY FURNISHED,** 55+, 1BR, Heated pool, near Trail. Low lot fee. \$3,000 includes EVERYTHING, dishes, towels, etc. All you need is your tooth-brush! OBO. (727)386-5536

**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.

**SEMINOLE, FURNISHED,** 2BR/1BA/Carport, Double-wide, enclosed porch. Central A/C. Appliances. Utility room w/W/D. Lot rent includes water, garbage, lawn. Lakefront, 55+ park. No pets. \$4,500. (727)519-5810.

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**SEMINOLE, BARDMOOR, Large** 2BR/2BA, beautifully upgraded interior. Pool, balcony, carport, near golf & tennis. \$1,000/ month. Future Home Realty. Dennis Smith. (727) 542-8164

**ST. PETE TENNIS & YACHT** Club, 2BR/2BA, Waterview, Updates, Gated, \$1,450/Month. Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

**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.

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**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

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

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

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## 160. Unfurnished Condos

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**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!

## 170. Furn. Apartments

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

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**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

**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)584-6283.

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

**DOWNTOWN CLEARWATER,** 1BR. Close To Bus Terminal. \$475/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.

**LOCATED NEAR MIDWAY** Shopping Center and Assembly of God Church. 2BR Duplex. 1/Year Lease. \$675/Month includes Water/Sewer. (352)799-3501.

**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!

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

## 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



**ACROSS FROM THE BEACH!** We have MORE Amenities, Fun Activities & include more Services. Spacious, Clean 1, 2 & 3 bdrm Condos Starting at \$945 Call us today and start your move home to Gull Harbor! 55+ www.gullharborcondos.com 17105 Gulf Blvd., NRB 727-392-0753

**INDIAN SHORES, 1BR,** Balcony Bungalow In Quaint Beach Area. W/S/G. Pictures Available. 19211 Whispering Pines Dr. \$840/Mo. Annual. Tom, (813)294-3400.

**TREASURE ISLAND, 1BR/2BA** On the Beach/ Pool. \$800 + security. All Utilities, including cable. No pets. Available Immediately! (727)367-2727.

**DIRECTLY ON BEACH** Sand Key overlooking the Gulf. Spectacular, 2BR/2BA Unfurnished 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.

**SAND KEY EXCEPTIONAL** Condominium Residence With Commanding Waterviews From Every Room. Large, 2,172SF, 2BR/2BA, Unfurnished. \$1,945/Monthly. (727)595-6565.

**TREASURE ISLAND 2BR/2BA,** Condo, Furnished/ Unfurnished, Adults, No Pets, Pool, Dock. Fantastic Water Views, One Block to Beach. 1/Year Lease. (763)458-7401.

## 190. Waterfront Rentals

**Tara Cay, Seminole, Beautifully** Remodeled 2BR/2.5BA/1CG Townhome w/superb views of the Intracoastal waterway. New carpet, tile, paint. Bright & airy end unit. Next to heated pool, boat dock. \$1,450/month, annual lease. (727)421-3503.

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

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

**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.

**WAREHOUSE - COMMERCIAL** SMALL BUSINESS, 2,000 SQUARE FEET WITH BATH & OFFICE, 20 FOOT GARAGE DOOR. JUST OFF BRYAN DAIRY RD. CALL (727)667-1647

## Classifieds Index

- 1-130 Real Estate Sales
- 135-290 Rentals
- 300 Notices
- 302 Tickets
- 305 Fun Things To Do
- 310 Good Things To Eat
- 315 Personals
- 320 Religious Personals
- 340 Happy Ads
- 345 Lost & Found
- 355 Adoption
- 360 Legal Services
- 370 Instructions/Tutors
- 375 Career Training
- 385 Beauty Services
- 390 Counseling
- 400 Health & Fitness
- 410 Massage Therapy
- 420 Babysitting
- 425 Child Care
- 430 Wheelchair & Sr. Transport
- 435 Adult Care & Services
- 455 Travel Services
- 470 Entertainment
- 485-530 Help/Work Wanted
- 535 Business Opportunity
- 545-582 Financial & Insurance Services
- 585 Auctions
- 590 Antiques & Collectibles
- 597 Coins & Stamps
- 599 Rental Equipment
- 600-750 Merchandise to Buy/Sell
- 755-805 Campers/RVs/Trailers
- 810-885 Automotive
- 890-915 Boats & Marine
- 970-980 Estate, Garage, Yard, Moving Sales
- Professional Services Directory

## 190. Waterfront Rentals

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

## 195. Seasonal Rentals

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

505. Part-time Help

**Greystoke, General Clerical:**  
Monday-Friday, Part time  
12-15hrs. per week flexible.  
\$9.50/Hr. Basic Office/ Computer  
Skills, Clean Background.  
E-mail Resume To:  
greystokeconsulting@gmail.com

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Experienced Customer Service  
Rep. Experienced With Flood &  
Citizens. Personable! M-F, 8:30-5  
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monica.hughes.by9@statefarm.com  
(727)585-4915

510. Home Care Help

**NURSE AIDE, PART TIME**  
Mornings/ Evenings, Monday-Sat-  
urday, Reliable, Seminole. Call  
after 1:00PM, (727)397-1996.

515. Hospitality Help

**P/T HOUSEKEEPERS, Servers**  
Doubletree Beach Resort/  
Restaurant. Apply At: 17120 Gulf  
Blvd. North Redington Beach  
(727)393-2813.

525. Medical Help

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

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In Our Professional Service  
Section. Call 397-5563

525. Medical Help

**PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT**  
We are looking for experienced, dependable CNAs/HHAs  
to help our clients in Pinellas and Pasco counties.  
**We offer:**  
• Competitive Pay  
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• Flexible Schedules  
• Mileage Reimbursement  
• Employer Paid Life Insurance  
• Company Banking Benefits

**Our Services Include:**  
• Companionship  
• Bathing and personal care  
• Light Housekeeping  
• Meal preparation  
• Shopping, Dinners and more

**Phone (727) 448-0900**  
We have cases available today!  
www.easylivingfl.com  
HHA299992282

505. Part-time Help



**Wondering How To Pay Off All Of Those Bills?**  
We are looking for men and women to deliver FREE  
community newspapers in Pinellas County. Must be  
available either Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.  
Experience preferred but will train the right person. This  
is a supplemental income. Applicant must have good  
transportation; preferably a van, large car, SUV or  
pickup truck. For more information, please contact Mr.  
Shifflett at 727-530-5521.

505. Part-time Help

**Future Organizer/Leadership Position**  
for a Move Management and Organizing Company  
Redefined Living is looking for a team member who wants a  
position that offers the following:  
• The ability to be self-reliant  
• The ability to put your home organizing skills to work  
• The ability to help others get rid of "clutter"  
• The opportunity to work with seniors  
• Flexibility in your schedule  
• A physically challenging work environment  
• An opportunity to be a part of a small team  
• Satisfaction in creating a home  
• The opportunity to see instant results in a work process  
• The opportunity to work in a new place each day  
• The ability to advance  
• The opportunity to work with a small company  
• The ability to work at a fast pace  
Our jobs are predominantly Monday through Friday, but some  
Saturdays are required. Jobs begin at 8:00 a.m. each morning.  
Apply in person only at 1115 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite A-5,  
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Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
No phone calls. Please visit our website at:  
www.RedefinedLiving.com

525. Medical Help

**C.N.A.s & H.H.A.s**  
Part-Time/Full-Time  
Needed In The...  
Largo, Seminole Areas

Private Duty, In-Home-Care  
Flexible hours/days/nights  
Competitive pay

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**530. Jobs & Work Wanted**

**RESPONSIBLE FEMALE**  
Needs Work. Organize/ clean your  
home, garage, yard. Cope with  
property maintenance issues.  
Walk/bathe animals. Energetic FT  
student available days. Excellent  
references. Serious inquiries only.  
(813)240-7580 Marie

525. Medical Help

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399-2042  
Include: Name, Address  
and Phone Number  
We Accept

**525. Medical Help**

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**585. Auctions**

**COME ONE COME ALL  
THE PUBLIC CAR AUCTION**  
BRING YOUR CAR  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9TH, 1:00PM, PREVIEW 10:00AM  
EVERY 2ND AND 4TH SATURDAY  
(727)599-3020  
www.thepubliccarauuction.com  
4481 122nd Ave. N, Clearwater AU#243

505. Part-time Help

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CASH STIMULUS PLAN!**

Need to pay off credit card bills? Sending teens off to college?  
Want to add to your savings? Need extra spending money?

**Earn \$800 to \$1,500 per month as an  
independent distributor for the Tampa Bay Times.**  
Must be 18 years of age or older with valid Florida driver's license, proof of insurance and dependable vehicle.  
**Call 866-498-4637 or visit tampabay.com/distributor**

**Tampa Bay Times**  
tampabay.com

505. Part-time Help

**Join a team that's growing.**

Discover the many benefits of becoming a distributor for Florida's largest and best newspaper.

- Profit potential \$800-\$1,500 monthly
- Early morning hours, have the rest of your day free
- Delivery areas available in your neighborhood
- Access to low cost accident insurance and prescription drug card

**Paid Weekly**

**Tampa Bay Times**  
tampabay.com

To apply, visit [tampabay.com/distributor](http://tampabay.com/distributor)  
or call toll-free 866-498-4637 to learn more.

535. Business Opportun.

**Tampa Bay Times**  
Home Delivery  
Independent Distributor  
Opportunities  
\$800-\$1,500 per month profit  
potential, paid weekly.  
Early morning hours.  
Be your own boss!  
Areas now available:

\* Seminole - Largo - Kenneth City  
\* St. Petersburg - Tierra Verde  
\* Madeira Bch. - Indian Rks. Bch.  
\* Clearwater - Palm Harbor -  
Tarpon Springs  
Must be at least 18  
Valid driver's license.  
Reliable vehicle and  
car insurance.  
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565. Loans & Mortgages

**REAL ESTATE LOANS**  
No age, job or credit qualifications.  
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Universal, 150CC. Must have driver's  
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600. Merchandise

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mink coat, white & silver w/ fox  
collar, size 6-12. \$450. Brigitta  
(727)517-8123

585. Auctions

**585. Auctions**

**COME ONE COME ALL  
THE PUBLIC CAR AUCTION**  
BRING YOUR CAR  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9TH, 1:00PM, PREVIEW 10:00AM  
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- Delivery areas available in your neighborhood
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**LAWNMOWERS FOR SALE. (6).  
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**QUAD-CORE PC**  
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Radeon HD5450. Graphics card in  
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1-Year Warranty. ONLY \$349!!  
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**FREE TO FURREVER HOME**  
Approx. 6-wk. old blk/wh male kit-  
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**A BRAND NEW Queen Mattress.**  
\$79. New In Plastic. Must Sell!  
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A PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET.

\$125. Brand New, Queen set.  
Priced to move! (727)400-6189.

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Queen Bedroom Set; Headboard,  
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Suite, 8 Piece with armoire and  
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**585. Auctions**

640. Furniture

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Warranty. 6 piece, 800-count  
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700 Count St. Clearwater  
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Buying quality film photo equip-  
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**BE MY VALENTINE!**  
CKC Chiyorkie, 3 months old, 5  
pounds, adorable, fluffy, silky  
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**2004 27' WILDCAT, 5TH WHEEL**  
Excellent Condition, Upgraded  
A/C & Refrigerator. Many Extras,  
One Slide, One Owner, \$12,000.  
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**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.

'74, TR6, 84K ORIGINAL MILES,

Minor Rust Repaired, Runs and  
Looks Nice. \$6,900. Perfect Beach  
Car. (727)678-6334.

885. Autos Wanted

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We Buy CLEAN QUALITY  
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NOBODY PAYS MORE!  
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NO JUNK!

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CAR CASH**  
Serving Pinellas County  
for over 35 years  
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AUTOMOTIVE RECYCLING

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NOW CALL THE BEST!**

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Friday, 9-Noon, Saturday, 9-2.  
**Estate Sale - Entire Contents**  
See Current Sale Photos  
[InterBayEstateSales.com](http://InterBayEstateSales.com)

SEMINOLE, SATURDAY,

8AM-4PM, SUNDAY 8AM-Noon.  
Entire contents of home.  
Absolutely No Early Birds. 13118  
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975. Garage & Yard Sales

**GARAGE/BAKE SALE:**  
Saturday, 8am. Vacation Village  
Clubhouse, 6900 Ulmerton Rd.  
Coffee, Muffins; Lunch @ Noon.

**FAMILY SALE! FRI. & SAT.**  
8am-4pm. Dishes, Clothing,  
PartyLite, Jewelry, Household.  
8850 Lynnwood Dr, Seminole.

975. Garage & Yard Sales

**GARDEN CLUB  
of St Petersburg  
Flea Market & Plant Sale**  
Thursday-February 21st 5pm-7pm  
Wine & Cheese Preview Night  
\$5 - Preview Night Only  
Friday-February 22nd 9am-3pm  
Saturday-February 23rd 9am-1pm  
Corner of Park Street & 5th Avenue South,  
St. Petersburg, FL 33707  
**Hidden Treasures Something For Everyone**  
Jewelry, Antiques, Collectibles, Clothing,  
Household Items , Plants  
Refreshments will be available for sale, Friday & Saturday  
Net proceeds support club projects including scholarships.

975. Garage & Yard Sales

**32ND ANNUAL BEAR & DOLL  
Show & Sale.** Sponsored By  
St. Petersburg Doll Club, Feb. 16,  
9am-3pm. Honeywell Minnreg  
Bldg, 6340 126th Ave. N, Largo.  
Appraisals & Repairs.

BAZAAR

**ATTIC TREASURE SALE!**  
Saturday, 8:30AM-1PM. Sugar  
Creek MHP Clubhouse, 10265  
Ulmerton Rd, Largo. (Behind Pier  
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Lunch and Bake Sale!

CHAPEL TREASURES!

An Unusual Thrift Shop Full Of  
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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

PARK-WIDE SALE

**SAT., FEB. 16TH, 8AM-12PM,**  
Majestic Park (Clubhouse), 8300  
Seminole Blvd. Hundreds of CD's,  
Cassettes, DVD's and old 78 and  
33 Records. Big, Big Sale,  
Everybody Come!

SHANGRI LA APARTMENTS

250 Rosery Road. N.W. Largo,  
Saturday, February 16th  
8am-2pm. Good used furniture.  
Food and drinks available!

NEW  
LOCATION

**ST. DUNSTAN'S CHURCH  
FLEA MARKET &  
CRAFT VENDORS**  
2790 Sunny Breeze Avenue,  
Largo, 33770, (off Trotter Road).  
Saturday, February 16th,  
9:00am-2:00pm.

ST. JUSTIN MARTYR

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Expanded Famous Thrift Shop!  
Every Wed. & Sat. 9AM-2PM.  
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(727)397-3312.

ASK ABOUT  
OUR  
EYE STOPPER  
LOGOS

**ASK ABOUT  
OUR  
EYE STOPPER  
LOGOS**

975. Garage & Yard Sales

**TILE CONTRACTOR  
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Will do small, in-home repairs.  
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Call Bob Cotrone: 727-423-3754

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**\$2,950 | \$3,400 | \$3,800**

Includes Air Handler Unit, Condenser & Honeywell Digital Thermostat.  
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**\$50 OFF** Professional  
Duct Cleaning  
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**NADCA CERTIFIED TECHNICIAN**

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ONLY **\$59.95**  
Includes 1lb Freon

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# Artists, crafters mingle with shoppers at Dunedin Craft Festival

DUNEDIN - The 21st annual Downtown Dunedin Craft Festival will showcase the work of the country's leading crafters on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 16-17 along Main Street in downtown Dunedin.

A wide variety of unique and affordable crafts will be on display and available for sale with prices ranging from as little as \$3 to \$3,000.

Dunedin has a decidedly small town image, but it packs the punch of a bustling city with 37,000 residents. It's clear why Howard Alan Events and American Craft Endeavors - organizers of this annual event - chose Dunedin. One of the oldest towns on the Florida's West Coast, it has a wooded and subtropical setting with almost four miles of picturesque waterfront, a relaxed lifestyle and activities for all likes and ages, making Dunedin a truly delightful place to live or visit.

Attendees will have an opportunity to meet some of the country's finest artists and crafters with products all handmade in America. Ceramic planters, functional pottery, hair accessories, handmade one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces and an expansive Green Market will offer something for every taste and budget.

To ensure an exceptional event with quality affordable original crafts, all of the local and national crafters have been hand-selected from hundreds of applicants by American Craft Endeavors, a producer of craft fairs throughout the country. All of the crafters will be on site for the duration of the festival available to discuss their art and inspiration.

For more information, visit [www.artfestival.com](http://www.artfestival.com), email [info@artfestival.com](mailto:info@artfestival.com) or call 954-472-3755.

Among the crafters scheduled to participate in this year's festival are Zack Marks and Katherine Weisinger.

Marks, a fine jewelry crafter, maintains sustainable practices by getting his silver from Hoover and Strong, which provides 100 percent recycled material. Zack's father has been a full-time professional silversmith and jewelry artisan since the late 1960s and he has been apprenticing under him for more than 10 years. He also has gleaned much of his skills from his two uncles and aunt who are also silversmiths and jewelry artisans that apprenticed under his father.

Weisinger uses real flowers and leaves in her jewelry. They are protected from fading by enriching the original color. Each petal and leaf is delicately hand-painted using lacquer, 24-karat gold and sterling silver for results that are simply stunning.

- Howard Alan Events will host additional shows in the coming months in the Tampa Bay area, including:
- 21st annual Downtown Dunedin Craft Festival, Dunedin - Feb. 16-17
  - 25th anniversary Downtown Sarasota Festival of the Arts, Sarasota - Feb. 16-17
  - 24th annual Hyde Park Village Art Fair, Tampa - March 23-24
  - 11th annual Downtown Sarasota Art and Craft Festival, Sarasota - March 23-24
  - 10th annual St. Pete Beach Corey Area Craft Festival, St. Pete Beach - April 6-7
  - 35th annual Siesta Fiesta, Sarasota - April 13-14
- For information, visit [www.artfestival.com](http://www.artfestival.com).



Photos courtesy of AMERICAN CRAFT ENDEAVORS  
At left, Zack Marks creates stunningly beautiful pieces of jewelry such as this one. Marks will take part in the annual Downtown Dunedin Craft Festival Feb. 16-17. Above, also participating in the festival is Katherine Weisinger, a jewelry crafter who uses real flowers and leaves in her creations.

PARSONS, from page 1B

### Abbey Road Studios

Alan Parsons landed a job at Abbey Road Studios when he was 19. His adventure in the world of sound recording began there, working as an assistant engineer on the last two albums by The Beatles.

Qualifying as a fully-fledged recording engineer, Parsons went on to work with Paul McCartney and The Hollies among many others. Still, it was his contribution as engineer on Pink Floyd's classic "Dark Side of the Moon" that really earned him industry attention. He soon found himself producing singles such as Pilot's "Magic," John Miles' "Highfly" and "Music," and Steve Harley's "Make Me Smile (Come Up and See Me)." Parsons also produced the hugely successful "Year of the Cat" album with Al Stewart and two albums with American progressive rock band Ambrosia.

### Alan Parsons Project

In 1975, Parsons met Eric Woolfson. Woolfson became his manager and the two joined forces to establish The Alan Parsons Project. The APP's debut album, "Tales of Mystery and Imagination," offered musical interpretations of works by Edgar Allan Poe. The album paved the way for a signing to Clive Davis' newly

launched Arista label and, in turn, a string of hit albums including "I Robot" (1977), "Pyramid" (1978), "The Turn of a Friendly Card" (1980), "Eye in the Sky" (1982), "Ammonia Avenue" (1984), "Vulture Culture" (1985), "Stereotomy" (1986) and "Gaudi" (1987).

Since the breakup of the band, Parsons has released a string of solo albums including "Try Anything Once," 1993; "On Air," 1986; "The Time Machine," 1999; and "A Valid Path," 2004.

Though APP recorded 10 albums between 1975 and 1987, Parsons and his entourage never played any concerts. Only after the release of his first solo album did he feel compelled to start touring.

"The new creative team convinced me I belonged on the stage," Parsons said in a 2006 interview with Tampa Bay Newspapers.

The decision was - at least in part - driven by business. Parsons said what prompted him to start playing concerts was "the need to give the album we had at the time - 'Try Anything Once' - the best chance at commercial success."

Fans savored the opportunity to hear both new material and works from Parsons' vast APP catalog. The avid enthusiasm of his audiences still surprises him.

"It never ceases to amaze me, people keep coming back," Parsons said.

He said he enjoys visiting and performing at new places. Though touring seems like a second career for a man who spent so much of

his time in the recording studio, Parsons clearly enjoys the interaction with the fans.

"It's something you don't get in the studio," he said.

### Next in the series

The Rock Symphony Concert series will continue with a performance by Supertramp's Roger Hodgson on Friday, March 22, 8 p.m.

Tickets start at \$49. For tickets, call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com).

The legend is back on a worldwide tour that is selling out everywhere and his signature voice is stronger than ever.

Gifted composer, lyricist and legendary voice of Supertramp, which he co-founded, Roger Hodgson is known for setting beautiful, introspective lyrics to upbeat melodies. "Breakfast in America," "Give a Little Bit" and "Dreamer" are among his most recognizable hit songs.

Hodgson's discography with Supertramp includes the studio albums "Supertramp," 1970; "Indelibly Stamped," 1971; "Crime of the Century," 1974; "Crisis? What Crisis?," 1975; "Even in the Quietest Moments..." 1977; "Breakfast in America," 1979; and "Famous Last Words," 1982. After leaving Supertramp, Hodgson released his first solo album, "In the Eye of the Storm," in 1984. The album generated the hit "Had a Dream (Sleeping with the Enemy)." Hodgson's other solo efforts include the albums "Hai Hai," 1987; and "Open the Door," 2000.

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