

LARGO LEADER

Eight O'Clock keeps the laughs going with 'Forbidden Broadway'

Lee Clarke Zumpe also reviews the summer's first blockbuster 'Iron Man 3' ... Page 1B.



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ENTERTAINMENT



Largo High tackles classic shows

The Largo High School drama department will present *The Best of Broadway* on Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m., in the auditorium at the school, 410 Missouri Ave.

The production will feature musical numbers from *Hairspray*, *Wicked*, *Les Misérables*, *Seussical*, *Chicago*, *Legally Blonde the Musical*, *Mamma Mia*, *Sweet Charity* and many other shows. ... Page 1B.

LARGO

Historical Society to meet May 13

The Largo Historical Society will host Robert "Bob" Delack, past president and lead historian for the society during its next meeting. ... Page 3A.

SCHOOL

Elks pick students of the month

The Largo Elks Lodge 2159 recently announced the students of the month for March, April and May. The winners are Steven Higginbotham and Alukika Vaishnav for the month of March; Kristjana Manco and Louis Diaz for April, and Marisa Corbett for May. ... Page 8A.



Cup winners

The Celtic FC Florida U13 girls soccer team went undefeated in four games to win the Sarasota Cup April 27-28. The tournament capped a strong season for the team that finished the year ranked No. 19 in the state. ... Page 15A.

VIEWPOINTS

Bob Driver

On the love of wristwatches. ... Page 12A.



Briarwood project moves forward

Developers promise to provide current residents relocation assistance

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - The residents of Briarwood Travel Villa pleaded for the Largo Commission to stop the development of a 260-unit apartment complex on the 14 acres they call home May 7 but were unsuccessful in stopping the progress of the project.

Residents of nearby neighborhoods have lodged their complaints about the complex, which is currently designed to include seven buildings up to four stories high. They have argued that the planned development at 2098 Seminole Boulevard doesn't fit in with the lower density residential neighborhoods and the increase in residents would cause extra traffic on the congested intersection of Ulmerton Road and Seminole Boulevard.

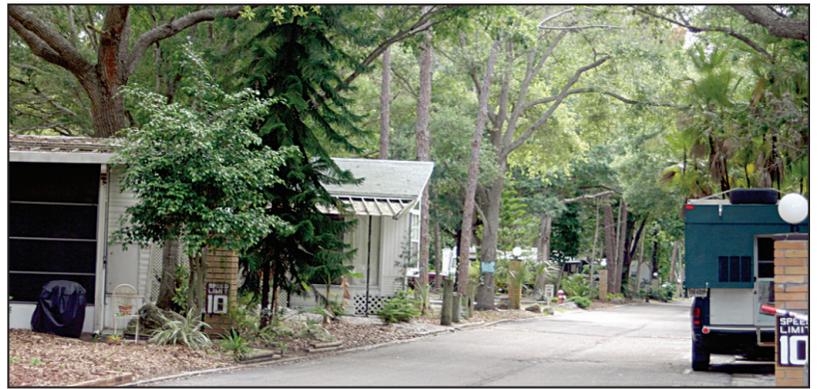
But until recently, the residents who would be displaced when construction on the complex begins have been absent from city meetings in which Largo commissioners have considered various aspects of the development that have needed their approval. That changed when Christine Allamanno, a lawyer for Gulfcoast Legal Services, reached out to the community and offered to represent their side.

"They had heard a lot of rumors but didn't understand what was happening, didn't understand their rights," she explained.

Although the property is classified as a camping ground, not a mobile home park, most of the tenants who rent their plot on a month-by-month basis describe themselves as permanent residents. Their RVs are older models, and many haven't seen the open road for a long time. Some have additions constructed to their otherwise mobile frame.

Moving the homes to another RV park won't be a simple task, Allamanno said. In her presentation representing several of the Briarwood residents present at the meeting, she asked Largo commissioners to require relocation assistance within the development agreement they were set to approve May 7.

See BRIARWOOD, page 4A



The owners of Briarwood Travel Villa, a Largo RV camping ground pictured above, are in negotiations to develop the property into a 260-unit apartment complex. At left, current tenants listen as a legal representative voices their objections to the Largo Commission May 7. Many are long-term residents, who would be displaced by the development.

Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

'What I love about Largo'

Community weighs in on values through city survey

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - Twelve-year-old Steven Iovino was one of several residents to share what he values about Largo with city staff in an outreach campaign designed to gather citizen input at the start of the 2013 budget process.

Steven won a \$250 Amazon gift card for his participation, claiming first place in the "What I Love About Largo" youth video contest. In his two and a half-minute video, the Largo native takes his viewers on a tour of his favorite places in Largo: the outdoor basketball court at Southwest Recreation Center, Largo Public Library and Largo Central Park.

"If you don't live in Largo, Fla., I suggest you come here. If I were you, I would," he said at the conclusion of the video.

Rhonda Iovino said her son enjoys filming and editing videos. He's put together videos for school and one in honor of his grandparent's anniversary and featuring all his cousins. Just mentioning the contest to Steven got him brainstorming what places in Largo he would film for his submission, Iovino said.

"He's just a really good storyteller," she said. "He really enjoys all the things he talks about."

Steven said was surprised to learn he had won and wants to spend his gift certificate on an Amazon Kindle Fire tablet.

Along with the contest, city staff within the office of management and budget polled the residents of business owners of Largo through an online survey and a series of workshops. The Community Values campaign, expanded after the success of last year's inaugural efforts, helps city involve the community in the budgetary process. This year, staff tried to identify why or how people feel about the values identified in last year's survey.

The online survey garnered 660 responses. While the survey did not capture a statically valid sample, the participants represent "a sample of area citizens



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Steven Iovino aims the camera used to film his winning entry in the 'What I Love About Largo' youth video contest. The contest was part of the city's 2013 Community Values survey.

who are likely to be concerned or care about issues affecting the local community," city staff explained in the publication outlining the survey results.

The affordability of the community ranked as the No. 1 reason why residents chose to live in Largo, with

See VALUES, page 4A

West Bay Drive businesses host sidewalk sale

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - The newly established Downtown Largo Merchants Association will host its first event this weekend: a sidewalk sale along West Bay Drive.

Businesses in the 200, 300 and 400 block of West Bay Drive will join the festivities on Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday, May 12, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., bringing their merchandise outside in front of their stores and under tents.

The event is designed to not only attract customers, but create a sense of community in Largo's downtown, said Tanya Pistillo, owner of the Wandering Star Gallery.

"All of downtown businesses are pretty much on board," she said.

Pistillo's gallery, new to West Bay Drive, was opened in part to promote visual art within the city of Largo. Pistillo, a native of Largo, has a passion for community and wanted to address the lack of cohesion among the downtown businesses that she saw as she tried to open the gallery.

The Downtown Largo Merchants Association - which started as a Facebook group on April 29 as the idea of a sidewalk sale began to take shape - is an expression of that objective for community.

Along with the gallery, businesses participating in the sidewalk sale are Largo Feed, Bloomtown Florist, Gulf Coast Po' Boys and Marcotte's Architectural Salvage, according to the Facebook page. PAO food truck will join the sale on Sunday.

Pistillo is still moving forward with her idea to bring monthly events to Ulmer Park, located on the south side of the West Bay Drive. The Loving Largo Community Events will be held on second Saturdays from September to May.

For more information and updates, visit the Downtown Largo Merchants Association's page at www.facebook.com/downtownlargo.

Friends celebrate Fort De Soto's 50th anniversary

By SUZETTE PORTER

TIERRA VERDE - An estimated crowd of 18,000 attended the dedication of Fort De Soto Park May 11, 1963.

The Friends of Fort De Soto Park are hoping for an equally good turnout at a 50th anniversary celebration with entertainment, activities and refreshments May 11, starting at 8 a.m. - rain or shine.

"The 50th anniversary is going to be a community event, with local nonprofit groups setting up booths and spreading information about their goals and projects," said Monica Craig, Friends of Fort De Soto Park youth adviser. "There will be arts and crafts and face painting for the kids, live music throughout the day, a sea oat planting in the morning, a water ski show, a barbecue, and Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Touch a Truck."

The schedule begins at 8 a.m. with the registration for a sea oat planting that continues to 9 a.m. behind the fort.

Craig said exact times for performers had not yet been set; however, the main events will start around 10:30 a.m. Performers have an hour for their shows, with a break between for taking down and set up of equipment.

One of the highlights will be the water ski show. Craig said the Cypress Gardens water ski team performed at the 1963 dedication, and the Tampa Bay Water Ski will be performing at the anniversary celebration. According to a post on the Friend's Facebook page, the water ski show will begin at about 10:30 a.m., right after the re-dedication ceremony.

After the ceremony, sea oat planting

See FORT DE SOTO, page 4A



Photo courtesy of FRIENDS OF FORT DE SOTO
Laura McKeeman, Miss Florida 2012, poses with a band of conquistadors to announce the May 11 re-dedication and anniversary celebration for Fort De Soto Park.

Features

Business	13A
Classifieds	5-7B
Community	9, 11A
County	4-6A
Entertainment	1-4, 8B
Faith & family	7A
Health	14A
Just for fun	2B
Largo	2-3A
Pet connection	10A
Police beat	5-6A
Schools	8A
Sports & recreation	15A
Viewpoints	12A

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City calendar

Largo Central Park

The Largo Central Park is at 101 Central Park Drive. Within the park are Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, the Largo Public Library, at 120 Central Park Drive, and the historic Largo Feed Store, at 295 Central Park Drive. For information about special events, call 587-6740, ext. 5014 or visit LargoEvents.com

Movies in the Park

LARGO – The city of Largo will show the movie "Mirror, Mirror" on an outdoor big screen May 10 at dusk in Largo Central Park. The event is free. Themed activities for the movie will start at 7 p.m. Onsite parking and concessions will be available. No alcohol permitted.

Train Weekend

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

The next train weekend is June 1-2. For more information, visit the "Train Weekend" link at www.LargoEvents.com.

Picnic in the Park

LARGO – The city of Largo will present an old-fashioned picnic Thursday, May 9, noon to 2 p.m., at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road. The cost is \$7.

Saturday In The Park With Mom

LARGO – The Sun Coast Osteopathic Foundation will host a free community event celebrating mothers and promoting healthy families called Saturday In The Park With Mom on Saturday, May 11, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive.

The event will feature a health and wellness fair and include live music, children's activities, entertainment and educational experiences for family members of all ages. Admission and parking are free. Food and beverages will be available.

Children are invited to take part in a "Rokkball" demonstration, a fun, high-energy baseball clinic for youth players. Fitness expert Car-

men Baxter will lead participants in warm-up exercises to get them ready to move in rhythm.

For music lovers, the main stage will host hours of non-stop entertainment, featuring Tampa Bay singers and songwriters Jim Lanier and local teen Nathalie Hernandez, who recently competed on NBC's "The Voice." Families also can enjoy off-stage performances by clowns, jugglers and magicians.

A special children's play area will feature inflatable jumpers, miniature train rides through the park and a commemorative photobooth picture. A \$5 donation will be accepted for the play area and a commemorative photograph.

For more information, call 483-0661 or visit www.SaturdayInTheParkWithMom.com

Library closing

LARGO – The Largo Public Library will be closed Monday, May 20 through Monday, May 27 for an upgrade of the check-out/check-in system, RFID tagging, and improved self-checkout technology.

The library will reopen on Tuesday, May 28. Call or visit the other libraries in the Pinellas County Cooperative while the Largo library is closed. To find member libraries, visit www.pplc.us.

Memorial Day Sunset Ceremony

LARGO – Join the city of Largo and the Memorial Day Planning Committee for a Memorial Day sunset ceremony Monday, May 27, 7 p.m., at the Largo Central Park Military Court of Honor, 101 Central Park Drive.

Honor those who have lost their lives while fighting for our country. The ceremony will include music, a keynote speaker and a time of remembrance through a wreath presentation. The event is free and open to the public.

Genealogy classes

LARGO – The Pinellas Genealogy Society offers a variety of free classes every month at Largo Public Library.

Topics in May include: How to use ancestry.com, immigration and ship's passenger lists, naturalization records, using newspapers in genealogy.

For a complete listing with details of classes and scheduled times, visit www.flpgs.org/classes.aspx. For more information, contact Bob Bryan at 595-4521 or email BBryan84@gmail.com.

Largo Community Center

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

Weekly events

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

• **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 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 or call 518-3016. During construction, the complex is accessible from Lake Avenue.

Sale at the Highland Recreation Complex

LARGO – In preparation of the new facility opening in June, the Highland Recreation Complex is selling off desks, filing cabinets, folding tables and chairs and more in a public sale Friday, May 3, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 400 Highland Ave.

This sale is cash and carry; all items must be removed at the time of the sale. For more information on the sale, please call Joan Wheaton at 587-6727.

Highland celebrates grand opening

LARGO – The city of Largo will celebrate the grand opening of the new Highland Recreation Complex on Sunday, June 2, noon to 5 p.m., at 400 Highland Ave.

The new 40,000-square-foot building facility features an indoor walking track, double gymnasium, indoor three story playground, indoor active gaming room, fitness room, party rooms and more.

The city invites residents of all ages to tour the facility. Refreshments

See CALENDAR, page 3A

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Art and Ale event comes to Largo May 11

LARGO – The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks will be holding its inaugural Art and Ale event on May 11, 6 to 10 p.m., to raise money for its educational projects.

The event will take place at The Center for Fishing at 12211 Walsingham Road, Largo, the former site of the Gulf Coast Art Museum. In addition to the sale of the artwork, food and entertainment will be provided, along with the sale of wines and craft beers from Largo's Barley Mow Brewing Company. Food will be prepared by Guppy's and wine supplied by the Wine Shop. Desserts will be prepared by Capo De Monte and musical entertainment provided by Martyn and Jim Martonio.

Featured artist Tom Saunders will be on hand to display his internationally sought after crystal micrographic art. His works, capturing the natural beauty of beer and wine crystals, smaller than the head of a pin, will be available for purchase, with proceeds benefiting the Todia Scholarship Fund.



The Indian Rocks Rotary Club presents Art & Ale May 11th, 6 to 10 p.m., at the Center for Fishing in Largo. From the left are Tom Busboom, president of the Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach; Bill Drugash, beer chairperson, the Rotary Club; and Michael Schulz, past president of the Rotary Club.

Historical Society to meet

LARGO – The Largo Historical Society will host Robert "Bob" Delack, past president and lead historian for the society during its next meeting on Monday, May 13, at the historic Largo Feed Store, 295 Central Park Drive.

The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper followed by Delack's presentation on the 500th anniversary of Florida. Nonmembers are welcome. Call Society President Don Forehand at 709-7382 to let him know you would like to attend the meeting or for more information about the society.

SilverSneakers program

LARGO – The SilverSneakers program – an innovative health, exercise, and wellness plan to help older adults live healthy, active lifestyles – is offered at Southwest Recreation Center and Pool. The programs gives members a daily fitness pass, 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.

Museum hosts several events this month

LARGO – The Armed Forces History Museum's 2013 special event series presented by Maggi Tax Advisory and Veteran Solutions continues with three events this month.

The museum's 2013 Special Event Series is presented in part by Clearwater Toyota.

Craft brews

The Red, White and Craft Brews Fest returns on Saturday, May 18, 5 to 9 p.m., at 2050 34th Way N. in Largo.

Tickets, priced at \$25, can be purchased at www.armedforcesmuseum.com, by calling 539-8371 or in person at the museum.

The success of last year's inaugural event prompted the museum to welcome it back again. This year, the event is being held during the Brewers Association's eighth annual American Craft Beer Week (May 13-19), a celebration of U.S. craft brewers across the country.

The Red, White and Craft Brews Fest features more than 75 craft and specialty beers and complimentary food, thanks to the Florida Restaurant Purchasing Group. Additionally, the first 300 guests will receive a free souvenir beer tasting cup.

Wine tasting

The 24th annual Abilities Wine Tasting and Silent Auction on Saturday, May 25 will feature an impressive array of wine, food and silent auction items.

VIP's will be admitted at 6 p.m. and general admission guests at 7 p.m.

The museum will be closed all day in preparation of the event.

Tickets are \$50 and \$100 for VIP until May 13, \$75 and \$150 for VIP until May 25 and \$85 and \$175 for VIP on the day of the event. Tickets are available at www.abilitiesfoundation.com or by calling 600-8911.

This event drew more than 900 guests last year.

Memorial Day Funfest

LARGO – The Armed Forces History Museum will host the Memorial Day Family FunFest on Monday, May 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 2050 34th Way N.

Discounted tickets are available at just \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 4 to 12. Tickets may be purchased at www.armedforcesmuseum.com, by calling 539-8371 or at the museum.

This annual family favorite event will feature rock wall climbing, bungee jumping, a bounce house, military vehicle rides, WW II re-enactors from the First Infantry Division, arts and crafts, face painting, military dress-up photo opportunities, museum tours, music and food.

CALENDAR, from page 2A

will be available for purchase. The complex will open for business on Monday, June 3 with facility classes and programs beginning on June 10. Call 518-6720.

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.

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.

Southwest Rec 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.

Aqua Zumba Classes

LARGO – The Largo Aquatics Division now offers Aqua Zumba, a high-energy water exercise class, on Wednesday evenings, 6:15 p.m., at the Southwest pool.

Zumba is a Latin-inspired cardio dance workout with music that conditions and tones the body. Adding water resistance to Zumba allows individuals to receive a more intense cardio-based workout in a low-impact environment.

Instructor Angelique Renaud will lead the class in 4 feet of water, so no swimming skills are required. However, participants should be comfortable in waist-deep water and must be at least 12 years old. As with any exercise program, check with your doctor before starting.

Aqua Zumba is a drop-in class; no preregistration required or punch cards accepted. Classes are \$5 per person for Largo residents, \$6.25 for nonresidents or \$9.25 for guests. Visit LargoPools.com.

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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Staff proposes stormwater fee for unincorporated areas

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Commissioners spent much of the afternoon April 30 talking about surface water management and ways to pay for it.

Kelli Levy, watershed manager for the Department of Infrastructure and Environment, took commissioners through a timeline of actions and recommendations for funding a comprehensive program.

Commissioners agreed to place an item on the May 7 agenda on advertising a public hearing for an ordinance to create a surface water utility to fund improvements in unincorporated areas of the county.

Levy talked about many of the problems staff was dealing with, including a lack of updated information and a master water drainage plan that addressed water quality – a problem County Administrator Bob LaSala said was in part due to the need for a committed way to pay for stormwater needs.

In May 2011, staff presented the commission with information during a workshop that focused on local conditions, flooding and flood control, water quality impacts, regulatory forecast and funding options.

On Dec. 6, 2011, staff began work on a comprehensive surface water management initiative that focused on prevention with a holistic approach. Staff began an inventory of stormwater assets, their condition and a connectivity analysis. They also began talks with local municipalities “to see what we could do together,” Levy said.

Levy said staff was using the information to better make decisions and create a measurable comprehensive plan that included flood protection, preservation and enhancement of water quality, and protection for the natural environment and enhanced ecological diversity.

The plan needs the cooperation and involvement of all the county's municipalities, its residents and its communities to “protect and promote our region's unique natural resources,” Levy said.

Levy said the strategic direction included improving the efficiency of operations, increasing partnerships and encouraging a high performing workforce.

“We have hundreds of exceptionally knowledgeable staff whose skills could be lifted up,” she said.

She talked about the many issues involved.

“The challenges are very complex,” she said. “There's no one fix. But if we do nothing, it will get more difficult.”

The challenges include an aging infrastructure, information gaps, poor water quality, increasing regulations, flooding and erosion, budgetary problems, resource issues, limited public outreach and develop history.

Levy said the county could meet the challenges.

“It will be a very deliberate process using very good data and planning and it will take time to get there,” she said.

BRIARWOOD, from page 1A

“I'm heartsick about the fact that the park may have to go away for yet another set of McApartments. But if it does, let's allow these people who pay their rent, who pay their bills, who live quietly, who help their neighbors to leave with some dignity and with some respect,” she said.

Resident David Nemeth said his trailer has a Florida room attached to it. To move it, he said he'd lose that room, have to take up the tile flooring and remove an interior wall.

“That's if it could be raised up on two wheels and towed off. So we'd have to halfway destroy our home just to move it out there,” he explained. “We bought that unit from the previous management at the park, knowing that it is not a moveable trailer.”

Jonathan Damonte of Largo-based Docksiders Investors, the current owners of the property, explained the RV park was bought out of foreclosure from an absentee owner who didn't prevent previous tenants from making their home more permanent. Damonte and his partners said they were committed to helping the residents relocate on a case-by-case basis, even though state law didn't require them to make such arrangements for camping grounds.

“We have brought in two different haulers. They're of the opinion that all the trailers can be moved,” he said.

Many of the residents said they were appreciative of the work the current ownership has done to fix up the property, kick out poor tenants and improve their living conditions. But they disagreed with the estimation that all their homes could be moved.

The affordability of the park also is a factor. The new apartment complex will be priced at market rates. Many residents who spoke claimed that Briarwood was the cheapest space they could rent, though the current property managers argued that some nearby locations were, in fact, cheaper.

“We are losing affordable housing. We are gaining market-rate housing,” Allamanno said.

For some, Briarwood represents their escape from homelessness, wrought after years of struggle. Nemeth said when he moved to Briarwood seven years ago, he was living in a van and a tent before he was able to buy his current trailer.



Christine Allamanno

VALUES, from page 1A

the ease of access to the Tampa Bay region coming in second. Schools and proximity to family and friends ranked as the bottom two reasons.

At least 75 percent of respondents felt Largo met their needs in values such as safety and security, affordability access to services and entertainment and community amenities. Respondents were less eager to say Largo met their needs as far as employment opportunities and schools, with those categories earning only 41 and 36 percent positive responses. Eighteen percent said Largo did not provide a sense of belonging to the community.

Largo's park system continually earned a top-rated response, rating high in attractiveness, resident participation and a top reason why residents love Largo.

Transportation was by far the top public safety challenge, with the majority of the respondents identifying it as the biggest problem about crime, drugs or the police department's level of service.

The city also asked how service reductions have affected residents. Respondents named the library hour reduction as the service that most affected them, with parks and recreation and police level of

FORT DE SOTO, from page 1A

begins with kayakers and paddlers moving to the north tip of the island.

Another highlight will be special guest Laura McKeeman, Miss Florida 2012. Gloria Brody, Miss Florida 1962, was the special guest at the park's dedication in 1963.

Entertainers include Lightning Jack Steel Drum Band, D'Band, The Wall Bangers, Big Moon Rocket, T Foxx, Mary Crom & Richard Wall, Voice of Perkins and Perkins Beat, from Perkins Elementary. Other events include a martial arts self-defense demonstration and a stand up paddleboard exhibition.

Celebration events are free, including the barbecue, Craig said. Donations are requested. Visitors will need to pay the state toll. County Commissioners voted unanimously May 7 to waive the \$5 parking fee on May 11 only.

The history

Publicity photos for the dedication celebrations – then and now – featured conquistadors to commemorate some of the area's earliest visitors. According to Pinellas County's historic guide about Fort De Soto, on April 15, 1528, Spanish explorer Panfilo de Narvaez and his band of conquistadors visited the west coast of Florida, landing somewhere between St. Pete Beach and Clearwater. On May 30, 1529 the park's namesake, Hernando De Soto came to Tampa Bay, where he and his conquistadors began

their explorations of the southeastern United States.

Fast forward to February 1849, when Army engineers began a survey of what is now known as Mullet Key and eventually recommended the use of Egmont and Mullet keys as part of a defense of the nation's coastline.

The first fortifications were built on Mullet and Egmont keys in 1898 during the Spanish-American War and a time of conflict in the Caribbean during which Cuba won its independence. A military post was built on Mullet Key in November 1898, and the next year, work began on the mortar battery.

The Army named its holdings on Mullet Key Fort De Soto on April 4, 1900. The facility was officially a sub-post of Egmont Key's Fort Dade. Additional batteries were constructed as the Army worked to fortify its coastal holdings. In time, the fort became an independent installation with 125 troops – about half as many as Fort Dade.

Between 1900 and 1906, 29 post buildings were constructed. Today, a historic tour takes visitors along the original brick road built in 1898. They can follow a shell path to a sidewalk that leads past the sites of the original buildings, including the quartermaster storehouse, bakery and civilian quarters. The tour continues on to officers' row to the guardhouse, noncommissioned officers' quarters and former hospital building and more.

Visitors can view the last four 12-inch M 1890-MI mortars remaining in North America. The ruins of Battery Bigelow, which collapsed into the Gulf of Mexico,

also are visible. The Quartermaster Storehouse Museum was reconstructed from a 1905 Army building.

The last U.S. Coast Artillery troops left Fort De Soto in 1907. Less than 30 were assigned to the fort during World War I. On May 25, 1923, forts Dade and De Soto were abandoned. In 1926, the facilities and land were part of a sale of surplus military property. But, no one was willing to pay the Army's purchase price.

Pinellas County purchased a 271-acre tract on Mullet Key on Sept. 29, 1938. But, the possession was short-lived, as the War Department decided to turn the area into a bombing range in 1940. The land became a sub-post to MacDill Field in June 1941.

Mullet Key was sold back to Pinellas County for \$26,495 on Aug. 11, 1948. The purchase included the original 271 acres plus another 613 acres. The park became a reality with a dedication ceremony on May 11, 1963. The remaining Fort De Soto batteries were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

Today's Fort De Soto

Today, Fort De Soto attracts more than history buffs with 3 million annual visitors. The park has been named as one of America's best beaches and one of the 20 most beautiful beaches in the world.

Fort De Soto Park is comprised of five interconnected islands, or keys, with 1,136 acres of parkland and beaches. Visitors can enjoy picnic areas, campgrounds, fishing piers, swimming beaches



Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY DEI
A healthy pond is less expensive to maintain and works better to keep the county's water quality high.

“We need to do something about this,” he said.

He asked staff to continue working with the cities on a countywide approach.

“This is a countywide problem, not just in the unincorporated areas,” he said.

Levy said the cities seemed agreeable to working together, but the question remains, “how to get there.”

Morroni also asked staff to continue work toward solving the problem of the county's use of private ponds as part of the stormwater system. Other commissioners concurred.

The discussion then turned to the amount of a fee.

“I think we should implement a fee that does the job,” said Commissioner Susan Latvala. “There's so much pressure on general revenue and we have needs for the General Fund and spending on other priorities.”

LaSala said staff would do the calculations to see what the fee would need to be to raise another \$6 million.

The majority agreed that for the future a countywide plan with all municipalities working together would be the best solution.

“I agree its time,” said Commissioner Norm Roche. “It's part of our role under the charter to consolidate the system and include those ponds. I don't want to just do something. I want to do the right thing.”

PSTA schedules public hearing for CIP

ST. PETERSBURG – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority scheduled a public hearing on Wednesday, May 15, 10:30 a.m., at PSTA Headquarters, 3201 Scherer Drive, St. Petersburg, to gather input about the proposed capital improvement program

The program will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration and Florida Department of Transportation. The proposed CIP includes:

- Section 5307 – Federal Urbanized Area Formula Grant

PSTA will submit two grant applications to FTA for fiscal year 2013 Section 5307 funding. The proposed CIP for the initial application (\$5,791,444) will include preventive maintenance (tire lease, bus parts, and shop labor), support vehicles, computer hardware and software, passenger amenities, support equipment, rehab/renovation

of facilities, transit studies, employee education/training, project administration, and contingency. The second application (\$6,083,569) will include additional expenses for preventive maintenance and the purchase of replacement buses.

- Section 5339 – Federal Bus and Bus Facilities

PSTA will submit two grant applications to FTA for FY 2013 Section 5339 funding. The proposed CIP for the initial application (\$669,427) and the second application (\$703,194) will be used for the purchase of replacement buses.

- Section 5310 – Federal Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

All interested parties within Pinellas County are hereby advised that PSTA is applying to FDOT for FY 2013 Section 5310

capital grant funding under MAP-21, in the amount of \$116,325 for the provision of Mobility Management Administration that will benefit the enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities in the PSTA service area within Pinellas County.

If approved and no changes are made, the proposal becomes the final capital improvement program for FY 2013 and serves as the formal funding request.

Email comments by May 10 to publichearing@psta.net, or mail to PSTA Capital Improvement Program Public Hearing, 3201 Scherer Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33716. For the official record, please include your name and address on all correspondence.

If you need a sign language interpreter, large print material, or other ADA accommodations to participate, please call the Info-Line or email rbigelow@psta.net by May 10.

“It's not much to some people, but it's everything we have,” he said. His fellow resident, Kevin Scott, came from a similar situation, and later called the commissioners' decision to approve the developer's agreement “irresponsible.”

“I'm not rich. I used to be homeless. That's why I feel very blessed to be here,” he said. “I worked hard to get here. I don't want to go back on that road for a mere money grab.”

Scott said he wouldn't find the natural beauty that Briarwood Travel Villa offers anywhere else.

“There's so much nature in that little spot, it's unbelievable,” he said.

Mayor Pat Gerard asked if the promised relocation assistance could be added into the development agreement up for adoption. City Attorney Alan Zimmet said the city had never required such a clause and doubted that such a stipulation could be enforced, given the variation in individual circumstances.

Zimmet added that the current owner had a right to develop the land to a lesser density without a developer's agreement.

The agreement, as approved, allows abutting property owners and residents – including those who live in the Coastal Ridge and Palm Hill neigh-

borhoods – to have more input in how the complex will be designed. The developers have agreed to a setback of 50 feet from the property line for a three-story building and 75 feet from the property line for a four-story building. They also have submitted a preliminary environmental study addressing the wetlands on the property, some of which will be set aside.

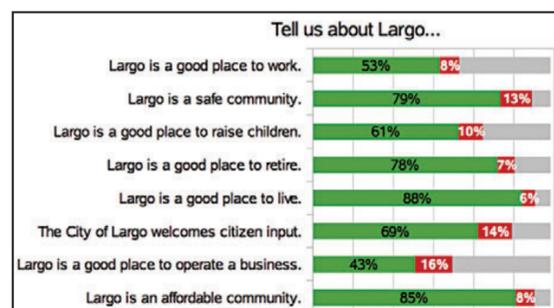
Commissioners said they had no good reason to not approve the development agreement but encouraged the property owners to work with the residents.

“We are not uncaring about your plight,” Gerard told the residents.

Allamanno emphasized that the fight for the Briarwood RV park wasn't over yet. The development needs to gain other approvals before the project can begin construction. Most immediately, the development will go before the Pinellas County Commission. Allamanno also will be exploring other legal avenues apart from protesting the development to governmental boards.

One positive did come out of the Largo meeting, she said.

“I am encouraged by the fact that people are starting to talk about what is going to happen to the people who live there,” she said. “This is only the beginning.”



Graph courtesy of the CITY OF LARGO
In this graph, the green bar represents survey participants who agreed with the statements listed at the left. The red bar identifies the percentage of those who disagreed, with the remaining percentage stating no opinion.

Police beat

Police: Child thrown against wall, killed

LARGO – A 27-year-old Largo man was arrested and charged with first-degree murder for the death of a 2-year-old.

The child's mother and her live-in boyfriend, Joel Adrian Cruz, brought Anahie Fernandez, 2, to All Children's Hospital at around 3 p.m. May 5. Anahie suffered from severe blunt trauma injuries to her chest cavity. She had no independent brain function.

Largo Police Department detectives were called to the St. Petersburg hospital to investigate. The couple lived together in an apartment at 5130 Foxbridge Circle in Largo.

Both Mora and Cruz were interviewed, and Cruz admitted to throwing the child against a chair and a wall, police reported. He was arrested and charged with first-degree murder and aggravated child abuse.

The medical examiners office will determine the specific cause of death. The investigation is ongoing.



Joel Cruz

Man arrested for sexual battery of child

LARGO – Pinellas County Sheriff's detectives assigned to the crimes against children unit arrested a Largo man April 29 for sexual battery on a child under age 12 and lewd and lascivious molestation.

According to the Sheriff's report, the victim is a male under the age of 12 who is known to the suspect. The crime occurred on more than one occasion with the first incident occurring in early April at a private residence in Largo.

According to detectives, the victim disclosed to his mother that he had been touched by the suspect in a sexual manner. The child was taken to a local hospital for evaluation and the Sheriff's Office was contacted to make a report.

Detectives made contact with the suspect, identified as Robert Marion Green, 59, on Monday, April 29. Green reportedly admitted to the allegations. He was arrested and transported to the Pinellas County Jail without further incident. Bond was set at \$150,000.

Detectives suspect that there may be other victims and anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Jason Stibbard with the crimes against children unit at 582-6200 or to remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward, contact Crime Stoppers at 800-873-TIPS.



Robert Green

The theft occurred via a PayPal account, through the falsification of payroll records and through the inappropriate use of a company-issued credit card.

SeatsandChairs.com purchases stadium and theater seats from multiple vendors and resells the items for a profit. According to its website, the home office is in Michigan. Melvin worked from her home on 129th Street N. in Seminole.

Detectives began investigating the case in March 2012 and determined that Melvin had created a fictitious PayPal account with a business name that closely resembled the name of one of the company's legitimate long-time vendors. The fictitious account was linked to the Melvin's bank account.

The suspect sent multiple invoices from the fictitious PayPal account to her employer and then paid the invoices from her employer's bank account through her employer's PayPal account to her PayPal account. Detectives said over time, \$98,602 from the PayPal account was deposited in Melvin's bank account and used for personal gain.

As part of her job, Melvin provided an offsite payroll company with employee work hours. She reportedly added fraudulent "stipend" amounts to her own compensation and received a total of \$5,600 between April and December of 2012. Melvin also used a company issued credit card to make a payment of \$838 to a company in Venice to cover costs of a horse show in which she participated.

Melvin's charges include violation of probation from a previous felony charge of grand theft of over \$100,000. Detectives said she wrote three checks totaling \$4,010 from the bank account, where a total of \$105,040 in stolen money was deposited, to make monthly restitution payments for the 2008 crime handled by the Pinellas Park Police Department.

She was booked into the Pinellas County Jail where she is being held without bond for violation of probation. Bond for the new grand theft charge was set at \$50,000.



Kristina Melvin

Sheriff's Office asks for help to ID burglar

LARGO – Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is asking for the public's help to identify a man wanted in connection with burglaries in Dunedin and Indian Rocks Beach.

The suspect is described as a white male in his early 20s. He is about 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighs approximately 200 pounds. He was driving a newer model Nissan 350 Z convertible, silver or gray in color.

He is wanted in connection with a Feb. 19 burglary at a home at 2693 Bellhurst Drive in Dunedin and a same day burglary of a car at 355 12th Ave. in Indian Rocks Beach.

Detectives later discovered that credit cards taken during the burglaries were used at several locations in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties.

Anyone with information regarding the suspect's identity is asked to contact Detective Jason Loftus of the burglary and pawn unit at 582-6200. Or to remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward, contact Crime Stoppers of Pinellas at 1-800-873-TIPS (8477) or www.crimestoppersofpinellas.org.



Photo courtesy of PCSO

A suspect wanted in connection with burglaries in Dunedin and Indian Rocks Beach is shown in this surveillance photo. The Nissan 350 Z convertible is seen parked at the curb.

Suspect sought for burglary of ice cream show

PALM HARBOR – Pinellas County Sheriff's detectives assigned to the burglary and pawn unit are seeking the public's assistance in locating a suspect wanted in connection with the April 21 burglary of Strachan's Homemade Ice Cream, 105 Alt. U.S. 19.

According to detectives, at approximately 12:54 a.m., the suspect was seen smashing the front glass door of the business.

The suspect is described as a middle aged, white male, approximately 5 foot to 6 foot tall with a medium build. He was last seen wearing a hat, long sleeved shirt or sweatshirt, jeans and sneakers. The suspect appears to have dark hair and a mustache.

Anyone with information on this burglary is asked to contact Detective Smithies of the burglary and pawn unit at 582-6200, or to remain anonymous and be eligible for a reward contact Crime Stoppers at 1800-873-TIPS or www.crimestoppersofpinellas.org.



Photo courtesy of PCSO

The man in this surveillance photograph is wanted in connection with the April 21 burglary of Strachan's Homemade Ice Cream in Palm Harbor.

Grand theft lands woman in jail again

SEMINOLE – Detectives assigned to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office economic crimes unit arrested a Seminole woman May 1 after she allegedly embezzled more than \$100,000 from her employer.

According to detectives, while employed as an office manager and bookkeeper by seatsandchairs.com, Kristina E. Melvin, 45, took money from her employer's corporate bank account through fraudulent means.

Man arrested for sexual battery of minor

ST. PETERSBURG – A St. Petersburg man was arrested April 29 and charged with four counts of sexual battery on a minor.

According to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, William Eric Donald, 49, sexually battered a female victim under the age of 16 on four separate occasions between the dates of Feb. 22 and April 25 at a location in unincorporated St. Petersburg. The suspect and victim are known to each other.

As the child slept, the suspect would approach the victim and have unconsensual sexual intercourse with her. The victim later reported the inappropriate activity to a family member and friend.

When detectives spoke with Donald about the matter, he reportedly admitted to the allegations. He is currently being held at the Pinellas County Jail. Bond was set at \$400,000 – \$100,000 per charge.



William Donald

Deputies respond to near drowning

ST. PETE BEACH – A 13-year-old girl was conscious and breathing

See POLICE BEAT, page 6A

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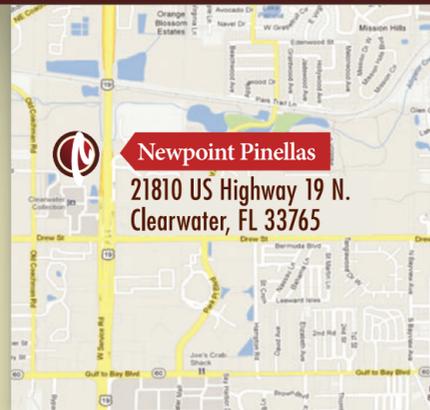
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Indian Rocks Beach cyclist helps fight polio worldwide

By BRIAN GOFF

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – Bruce Sobut has just finished a 167-mile bicycle ride across Florida. For that effort he will collect more than \$4,000 from various sponsors to help fight polio in countries where it still exists.

A 167-mile bike ride is no small feat; neither is raising thousands of dollars for a cause. You might think Sobut, 55, of Indian Rocks Beach, has been doing this for years but in fact he's relatively new to the world of long distance cycling and to the realization that polio still exists in some countries of the world.

First came the cycling. Two years ago a fellow member of the IRB Rotary club, Michael Schulz, drummed up support among club members to enter the annual ALS ride for a Cure. At the time Schulz's mother had just been diagnosed with the disease. Sobut got involved to help his friend.

"When Michael's mother was diagnosed, Michael wanted to get riding," he said. "It was a 63-mile ride and it was a major task. That's how I got back to a longer distance type of riding. Actually I've been riding bikes my whole life, even when I was a kid so you might say I've been an on and off cyclist for a long time."

Since that first 63-mile ride two years ago Sobut hasn't stopped. "After the 63-mile ride I decided I wanted to do a 100-mile ride," he said. "That led to my first Cross-Florida ride last year, April 1, 2012. It is an all-day ride and you have to bring everything with you, food and drink and so on. With just over 20 miles left to go my knee gave out and I had to stop. But I had done 140 miles so I wasn't discouraged."

After that Sobut entered several 100-mile events including what is known as the Horrible Hundred in Clermont.

"They call it that because it includes a Category 5 hill which you have to climb," he said. "That was my first experience with such a climb, but it wasn't so bad, there are worse ones out there."

It was searching for rides and races that caused Sobut to stumble onto the fight against polio, which is a cause embraced by Rotary International.

"I was looking through the Rotarian Magazine when I came across an article about a ride in Arizona set up specifically to raise money for fighting polio," he said. "They had neat riding shirts and I thought I'd



Photo by BRIAN GOFF

Indian Rocks Beach Rotarian Bruce Sobut, wearing his favorite Rotary International bike shirt, has just completed a cross-Florida bike ride to raise money to eradicate polio in the world.

like to get one so I sent away for a shirt. Then I noticed that ride raised \$375,000 so when I got my shirt I decided to ride for polio."

Sobut went to the IRB Rotary club and quickly raised \$600 for the cause. Then he went to a Rotary Foundation Dinner and raised another \$800.

"It was then I thought, wow, I'm onto something here," he said. "As assistant governor of my Rotary District I was then able to visit all the clubs and I raised some more money for my second Cross-Florida ride. By the time all the money is collected it should be in the neighborhood of \$4,500."

So on April 1st of this year Sobut set out on his second Cross-Florida Ride. It started in Cocoa Beach and ended in Weeki Wachee. There was no stopping him this time; he completed the entire 167-mile trek in 10 hours and 32 minutes.

"I'd try to stop every hour or so. I had two water bottles so they had to be filled and you need to keep taking in calories so I'd have a power bar each time I stopped," he said. "I'd eat lots of grapes along the ride as well; they are easy to eat while you are cycling."

It isn't quite true to say there was no stopping him this time. A motorist nearly did him in as he was getting close to the finish.

"I was cycling through San Antonio and some guy in a car cut me off as he was making a turn and sent me right off the road, he rode me right off into the dirt."

The story of Sobut's exploits on his bicycle is impressive to his old friend Michael Schulz, who got him involved in the first place.

"I've seen his fitness change since we started the ride," he said. "He's much stronger than anyone else in the group; he has taken off with it."

Schulz, whose mother died last year of ALS, said watching Sobut has given him the motivation to get back into riding.

"I cut back quite a bit since my mom passed but I do have plans to start over again," he said. "It is great exercise. We used to go every Sunday morning and I want to get back into that routine again."

Schulz says he hopes to be able to join Sobut on the Cross-Florida ride next year.

The fight against polio is as much responsible for Sobut's cycling as is the fitness aspect of it. One can hear the dedication in his voice as he talks about polio and how close the world is to eradicating it altogether.

"It costs 60 cents to immunize a child," he said. "I did the math and with the money I raised 6,700 kids will get the vaccine. We're getting very close to eliminating polio in the world. Last year there were only 18 cases diagnosed in only three countries; Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. One of those vaccines could be the one, the last one that immunizes the last child and stop the spread of polio, stop the existence of polio."

Sobut said that is the message he brings to the Rotary clubs as he tries to raise more money for the cause. That the dollar you donate might buy the last vaccine that will ever be needed. He said that is a humbling thought.

"That is what is so exciting," he said. "You could be saving a child's life. It makes you realize that what you are doing on a bicycle is pretty insignificant by comparison."

POLICE BEAT, from page 5A

when Pinellas County Sheriff's deputies arrived on the scene of a reported drowning just before 2:30 p.m. May 5 on the beach near Alden Resort, 5900 Gulf Blvd.

Asia S. Pinkney of Marietta, Ga., was transported by ambulance to All Children's Hospital as a precautionary measure for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. Deputies said they found the girl near the water's edge with her sister, Natajah S. Pinkney, 15. The two girls had been swimming in the Gulf and became exhausted due to the waves and current. Asia started to go under when she was pulled ashore by an unidentified Good Samaritan and by her sister. A second unidentified Good Samaritan was also assisting the victim on shore.

Her mother, Latresh Pinkney, 32, and other family

members had been just north of the location when the incident occurred. The Pinkney family is visiting Florida from Georgia.

Man arrested for molesting child

DUNEDIN – A Dunedin man was arrested April 30 for two counts of lewd and lascivious molestation of a child in Palm Harbor.

According to a report from detectives with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office crimes against children unit, an investigation began March 21 after a 14-year-old female told her parents that Zachary Watton, 21, had touched her inappropriately from the time she was age 4 to 12 – a



Zachary Watton

period of about eight years.

Watton voluntarily came to the Sheriff's Administration Building in Largo for an interview April 30. During the interview, he reportedly admitted to the crime.

He was transported to the Pinellas County Jail without further incident. No bond was set. The investigation continues.

Pileup closes U.S. 19

PALM HARBOR – Northbound lanes of U.S. 19 in Palm Harbor were closed for about two hours May 1 due to a four-car pileup that occurred about 1 p.m.

Axious A. Kazouris, 30, of Tarpon Springs suffered serious injuries. The other drivers involved were not injured.

At the time of the incident, Kazouris was traveling southbound in a 1995 Honda in the inside lane of U.S. 19 approaching Nebraska Avenue. Jessica R.

Adams, 26, of Clearwater, was traveling in a 2006 Nissan Frontier northbound in the inside lane on U.S. 19 north of Nebraska Avenue.

Pene T. Eva, 51, of Hudson was driving a 2000 Stem truck northbound in the right center lane of U.S. 19 north of Nebraska Avenue. Thomas W. Atkins, 52, of Clearwater was driving a 2003 Dodge Ram 2500 northbound in the right lane of U.S. 19 north of Nebraska Avenue.

Kazouris started the chain of events when he attempted to make a left turn on the grassy median to drive eastbound across the northbound lanes of U.S. 19. Kazouris traveled into Adams path, causing Adams to hit the right rear side of Kazouris' Honda.

The Honda then rotated clockwise and collided with the front of Eva's truck before colliding with the front of Atkins' truck.

Charges are pending.

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Industry manufacturers' schedules worth tracking down in genealogy research

Two months ago I started a discussion on non-population census schedules.

Those are census sheets filled out in addition to the enumeration of the population that we are most familiar with. Last month I went into some detail about one example of a non-population schedule: the Agricultural Schedule. This month I will continue the discussion with the Industry/Manufacturers Schedule.



Genealogy exposed
Peter Summers

From 1850 to 1870, it was called the "Industrial Schedule." For the 1880 census the name was changed to the "Manufacturer's Schedule." To be included in the schedule a business had to be in the manufacturing, mining, fishery, mercantile, commercial, or trading business and have an annual gross product of at least \$500. In 1880, supplemental schedules were added for specific industries, such as boot and shoemaking, lumber and saw mills, flour and gristmills.

Although earlier censuses collected some information about businesses (1810 and 1820), it wasn't until 1850 that data collection became serious in terms of business coverage and amount of data collected. Schedules were completed for years after 1880, but they were destroyed. Those elements combine to make the 1850-1880 schedules a valuable resource to researchers.

The information recorded on the schedules covered the 365 days preceding the effective date of the census, which was the first of June for the census years from 1850 to 1880. As with any government data collection effort, the information requested both changed and grew over the years. So it is worthwhile if you find an ancestor in one schedule, to search for him in another ... you will possibly find different information.

The schedules of 1850 and 1860, in addition to naming the manufacturer, reported such things as the value of the various raw materials used, the type of machinery present, the type of power used to drive that machinery, the value of the product produced annually, the number of employees, and the average cost of male and female workers. In 1870 child and adult labor were differentiated on the form.

An example of what you can find comes from the 1860 Industrial Schedule from Ontonagon, Mich. There we find that Richard Whalen,

a fisherman, has \$125 of materials, employs two males at \$50 a month. The annual output of the business is 200 white fish and trout valued at \$1,200. And from the 1850 schedule for New York we see the Brooks Brothers Clothiers with \$120,000 of raw material, employing 500 males (at an average monthly expense of \$6,000) and 1,000 females (at an average monthly expense of \$4,400), and producing \$500,000 worth of clothing for the year.

In addition to reaping an understanding of the professional lives of your ancestors through the information provided on Industrial Schedules, they can reveal other interesting things. For instance, farmers often conducted manufacturing businesses on the side in addition to the farm ... such as tanning and barrel making. In this case they can be found to be recorded on the usual population schedule, the farm schedule, and the industrial schedule as well.

Probably the easiest access to manufacturing schedules is online through Ancestry.com (remember, although Ancestry is a subscription service, it is free if you use it at your public library). The offerings at Ancestry contain non-population schedules from 1850-1880 for the states of California, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Washington Territory.

If Ancestry does not have what you are looking for, do not overlook www.cyndislist.com or even a general Internet search. The LDS site (www.familysearch.org) has some of the schedules on microfilm that you can order through your local LDS Family History Center.

The National Archives is the principal repository for non-population schedules, but they are not digitized, so a visit would be necessary to see them. Some originals of the schedules were transferred to state archives or university libraries. The National Archives website (www.archives.gov) will give specific information about the disposition of the census documents.

As you can see, it can be a bit of a hunt to track down Industry/Manufacturers Schedules, but it also can be well worth the effort.

Gardner-Scarpello

Suzette Marie Gardner of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Cosmo Damion Scarpello of Largo, were married on April 6, 2013, in Kincheloe, Mich.

Pipe carrier and cultural teacher Cecil Pavlat performed a Native American ceremony with the brides' family in attendance. A similar beach ceremony is planned for May with the groom's family.

The wedding party included Jan Aube, maid of honor; Dan Erickson, best man; and Gabrielle Erickson and Alyssa McCord, ring carriers. Debra Gardner and Jennifer Erickson did readings. The couple resides in Largo.



Mr. and Mrs. Cosmo Damion Scarpello

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

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Elks students of the month announced

LARGO – The Largo Elks Lodge 2159 recently announced the students of the month for March, April and May. The winners are Steven Higginbotham and Alukika Vaishnav for the month of March; Kristjana Manco and Louis Diaz for April, and Marisa Corbitt for May.

Steven Higginbotham

Higginbotham, the son of Doug Higginbotham and Nina DeFrancesco, is a senior in the ExCEL Magnet Program at Largo High School.

He has been a member of the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, Rho Kappa National History Honor Society and a member of the tennis team for four years. He has had straight A's on his report card since third grade.

Outside of school he participated on the Relay for Life team, plays sweeper for the Celtic FC Florida soccer team and has been involved with various fundraisers for the American Cancer Society and to help the needy in his community.



Steven Higginbotham

Alukika Vaishnav

Vaishnav, the daughter of Pradeep and Paul Vaishnav of Largo, has a 3.75 GPA.

She has been a member of the track team, the National Honors Society, Key Club, EXCEL Board of Students advisers and the National English Honors Society.

Some of her hobbies include volunteering at the Spooktacular at Largo Central Park, helping out patients at the Comprehensive Healthcare of Clearwater and volunteering to help second graders at Ponce de Leon Elementary School.

Kristjana Manco

Manco, the daughter of Arben and Marjeta Manco of Largo, is a senior at Largo High School.

She is involved in band, jazz ensemble and Relay for Life, has won a French Student Award and acts as a Primary Girls State delegate, senior class president. She is ranked No. 3 out of 307 in her class.

Manco also works as a lifeguard/water instructor at North Greenwood Recreation Center while being a member of the Varsity Girls swim team. She speaks fluent Albanian, basic French, plays guitar, trombone, helps at the Rays concession stand for the Band of Gold and packs and distributes food to families in need.



Alukika Vaishnav



Kristjana Manco

Louis Diaz

Diaz, the son of Antonio and Carmen Diaz of Largo, is a senior at Largo High School.

He has received honors for American History and Spanish Honor Society, where he served as the president this year.

Diaz is a math tutor for fifth graders, helped pack bags of food for families at the RCS Food Bank, participated in the Relay for Life and helped with the Death by Chocolate fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Largo. He also is employed part time as an apprentice/machinist.



Louis Diaz

Marisa Corbitt

Corbitt, the daughter of Vince and Ronnice Corbitt of Largo, is in the ExCEL Magnet Program at Largo High School involved in the following classes: physics, English, American government, English, biology, anatomy/physiology and economics.

Her activities included JV cheerleading, Solid Gold Dancers, Band, Interact Club International Thespian Society and Senior Council, where she is secretary. Corbitt has volunteered at the RCS Food Bank, Florida Blood Services, Relay for Life, SPCA, International Community of Christian Churches and Drama Thespian Competitions. She does clerical work at the Land Precision Corp. in Clearwater and is a private nanny for a 5-year-old.



Marisa Corbitt

Nursing school awards high school scholarship

LEALMAN – In an effort to stay true to its mission of ensuring accessible and affordable Christian education, Christian International School of Healthcare Professions awarded its first \$6,000 scholarship April 30.

Incoming high school student Sierra Ojeda was selected to receive the scholarship based in part on her exemplary record of service to others, academic performance, character and integrity. She will be attending Northside Christian School, at 7777 62nd Ave. N., for the 2013 school year.

Joseph Murray, director of relationships at Christian Interna-

tional, presented the tuition scholarship check to Northside Christian School during the middle school awards program in the gymnasium April 30.

Christian International School of Healthcare Professions, at 300 East Bay Drive in Largo, is a post-secondary school that offers practical nursing diploma programs and registered nursing associate degree programs. They are currently enrolling for summer and fall classes.

The school's new tuition scholarship program will award up to \$6,000 per year to a specially selected Christian high school student.



Photo courtesy of CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS

From left, Marvin Ojeda with his daughter and scholarship recipient, Sierra Ojeda, pose with the \$6,000 check along with Dr. Don James, head of school at Christian International; Gina Burkett, principal Northside Christian School, and Joseph Murray, director of relationships at Christian International. The awards ceremony was held April 30 at Northside Christian School, where Sierra Ojeda will begin high school next year.

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Viva Florida 500; events scheduled at Heritage Village

LARGO – This year, communities all over Florida are recognizing the significance of the 500th anniversary of Juan Ponce de León's arrival on Florida's east coast, as well as Florida's rich heritage and diverse cultural history.



Heritage Village is marking the milestone by housing a special exhibit that runs through the end of the year. Created by Lester Dailey, the exhibit "For God and Gold" features reproduction weapons, nautical items, clothing, camp gear, religious items and other objects depicting everyday life during the ocean crossing and the subsequent exploration and colonization of Spanish Florida.

As part of this statewide commemoration, the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Heritage Village and the Pinellas County Historical Society will host a family-friendly event on Sunday, May 19, from noon to 4 p.m. at Heritage Village. A time capsule dedication is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. and family crafts, live music, storytelling and food vendors will be featured throughout the day.

The event coincides with a Speaking of History lecture on Spanish first contact and pre-Columbian

settlements in Pinellas County. Jim Schnur and Elizabeth Southard will present the lecture Early Footprints in the Sand: Pre-Columbian Settlements along the Pinellas Peninsula and the Legacies of First Contact at 2 p.m. in the Pinellas Room.

During the lecture, visitors will learn about the Manasota, Weedon Island and Safety Harbor cultures that lived along Florida's west coast before the arrival of the first Europeans. They will discover how the arrival of Spanish conquistadors,

such as Juan Ponce de León who first visited and claimed La Florida as part of the Spanish realm 500 years ago, affected the pre-Columbian settlements.

As part of this program, participants will see an assortment of shell and stone tools, as well as pottery remnants, discovered along area shorelines. These items, now part of a collection at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, provide evidence of cultures that called Pinellas home more than 500 years ago.

Schnur served as the Pinellas County Historical Society's official historian of the Pinellas centennial of independence from Hillsborough County.



Photos courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS
"For God and Gold" features reproduction weapons, nautical items, clothing, camp gear, religious items and other objects.

Archivist and librarian at USF St. Petersburg, Schnur has taught college courses in Florida history since 1996. All author royalties from his newest book, Historical Pinellas: A Centennial History, benefit the Pinellas County Historical Society's efforts at Heritage Village.

Southard, a December 2012 graduate of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, participated

in many anthropology labs and site visits. She is involved in cataloging the pre-Columbian artifacts at the library and plans to continue her studies in graduate school.

Heritage Village is located at 11909 125th St. N. in Largo.

For more information about Heritage Village, visit www.pinellascounty.org/heritage, or call 582-2123.

Around town

Heritage Village hosts third historical writing workshop

LARGO - Award-winning author Angela T. Pisaturo continues to host workshops at Heritage Village, at 11909 125th St. N., Largo, on the topic of writing history into a novel. The third workshop is on Friday, May 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This workshop will explain how to construct a novel, to use pyramid theory to create rising and falling action and to successfully create conflict and cliffhangers to move the story along.

Each three-hour workshop in the series will be unique. Historical writing workshops for the remainder of the year are scheduled Friday, July 12, and Friday, Sept. 13. Each workshop is \$15 per person; \$13 for Pinellas County Historical Society members.

Call 582-2233 to register or for more information.

Clearwater breaks ground on reverse osmosis plant

CLEARWATER – The city of Clearwater has broken ground on its second reverse osmosis water treatment plant at 21133 U.S. 19. The new water plant will treat up to 6.25 million gallons of brackish – slightly salty – water per day using state-of-the-art technology to produce additional potable water for Clearwater customers. This \$34 million project includes three major components: the brackish water reverse-osmosis plant, a brackish wellfield with raw water piping, and a concrete disposal well. Two storage tanks will be built as part of the project. Construction is anticipated to begin in June and completed in December 2014.

Reverse osmosis is a water treatment process that purifies water by removing dissolved particles, minerals and ions. This project will enable the city to in-

crease its water production and to provide high quality drinking water at an affordable price.

"For decades to come, this new water plant will serve the needs of the city's water customers by providing them with a high quality of drinking water," said Tracy Mercer, public utilities director. "We appreciate the support of our citizens and customers."

Clearwater Public Utilities currently produces an average of 5.9 million gallons per day of its own water and purchases about 5 MGD from Pinellas County Utilities. Once the new plant is online, it is anticipated that Clearwater will produce nearly all of the water that city residents and businesses consume.

Local SHINE wins state award

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs' SHINE program recently honored volunteers in Pinellas and Pasco Counties with the Planning and Service Area

of the Year award. This is the first time that the same area has won it in back-to-back years.

SHINE volunteers in this area completed 13,500 client contacts between Oct. 1, 2011 and Sept. 30, 2012, and of these contacts, nearly 40 percent were completed in assistance to clients with low incomes for savings on their Medicare costs. Volunteers also spent nearly 7,500 hours with their clients during that timeframe.

"The SHINE volunteers in Pasco and Pinellas counties are dedicated to serving Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers in their communities," said SHINE Statewide Director, Anne Rogers. "Together they have worked hard to educate beneficiaries, easing their way through the complexities of Medicare and helping to improve the lives of their clients."

SHINE is funded by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and provides free, unbiased education and counseling for Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers.

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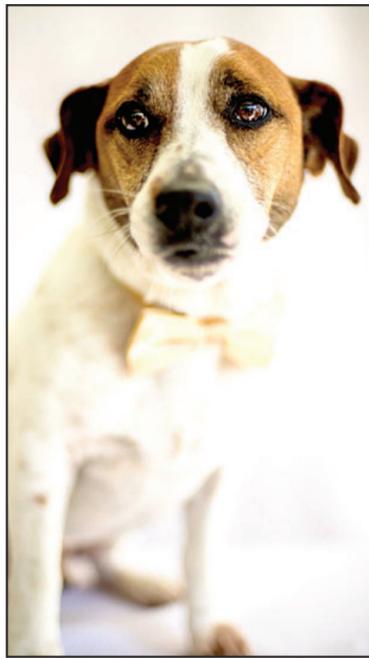
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Pets of the month



Vinny
Check out this lucky dog. Vinny is a 4-year-old Jack Russell Terrier with an interesting story to tell. One day, Vinny found himself lost with no family. As he was wandering the streets, a kind stranger picked him up and drove the lucky guy to the SPCA of Tampa Bay. Now he has a second chance and is anxiously awaiting his new family to come pick him out. His adoption fee is \$160, which includes his neuter surgery, shots, microchip and free 30 days of pet insurance. Meet him at 9099 130th Ave. N., Largo. Visit www.spcatampabay.org.



Bartlet
Bartlet is 3 years old and has cute habits – he may hide if he is unsure, but he will peek out at you and quickly decide that you are a friend. With his special facial markings and playful alertness, he will be sure to put a smile on your face. Bartlet is waiting for you to give him second chance and be your lovable goofball. Come meet him at the Humane Society of Pinellas, 3040 S.R. 590, Clearwater. Call 797-7722 or visit www.humanesocietyofpinellas.org.



Louisa
Louisa is a 1.5-year-old female kitty. She is mostly white with patches of gray tabby that make her a beautifully unique kitty. Louisa is a very sweet, gentle little girl who was abandoned by her owners. Second Chance for Strays rescued her so she can find the loving family that she deserves. She is spayed and current on her vaccinations. Visit her at the Clearwater Petsmart Adoption Center on U.S. 19 and Gulf to Bay Boulevard. Call Pat at 535-9154 or visit www.secondchanceforstrays.com.

So if you put the needle there ... it's gonna help?

As our pets enjoy longer lives, we as pet owners and veterinarians are constantly looking for additional tools to improve the quality and quantity of their lives. One such tool is veterinary acupuncture.

Speaking of Pets
Gregory Todd, D.V.M., C.V.A.



Veterinary acupuncture is an increasingly popular treatment option for pets. Presently, in the U.S. there are more than 4,000 veterinarians who have received training in this modality. Acupuncture is a traditional therapy used for both people and animals for centuries. Veterinary acupuncture text books date back more than 2000 years and acupuncture therapy has been used in species such as dogs, cats, horses, cows, pigs, and birds. It has even been used in elephants. Acupuncture uses the principles of Traditional Chinese Medicine. In TCVM, there is a saying, "Inspect the exterior to examine the interior." Basically, this means to assess information from a history, examination of the body, the patient's tongue and pulse to arrive at a diagnosis. From the diagnosis, a treatment plan is made and implemented.

Acupuncture is one of the safest forms of medical treatment in the world. It uses the body's own communications systems, the nervous, glandular, and circulatory systems, to help correct acute and chronic diseases with little or no side effects. Acupuncture is an extremely powerful tool, as is conventional medicine. When acupuncture is integrated with conventional medicine, surgery, herbal therapies, proper diet and exercise, many diseases, which do not respond to drugs, surgery or acupuncture alone, can get better.

results?
Most patients show improvement within three to five treatments.

How many treatments are needed?

The number of treatments required can vary based on the condition being treated. Some chronic conditions can require chronic treatment. Most times, after eight treatments, the treatments will either be stopped or spread out in intervals of eight to 12 weeks.

So, in summary, acupuncture is a safe, effective, relatively painless, and readily available therapy for a wide variety of medical conditions. Please don't hesitate to call regarding questions or for more information. Please check the following websites: www.ahofd.com, www.TCVM.com, www.IVAS.org, and www.AAVA.org.

How many needles do you use?

The average acupuncture treatment consists of between 1 and 30 needles. These may be placed in virtually all portions of the body. The treatments are performed with mom and dad right in the exam room.

Does it hurt?

While acupuncture is not painful, there can occasionally be a sensation associated with the needle insertion, but it really does not feel like a needle stick. Acupuncture needles are very small in diameter and do not have a cutting edge. This allows them to be inserted with less sensation than the average injection needle.

Dr. Gregory Todd, DVM, CVA, is a veterinarian at the Animal Hospital of Dunedin, 1355 Pinehurst Road. He was the recipient of the Col. Edward T. Imparato Award in 2003, which is given to "a person who exudes a strong human/animal bond." He got his BS degree and DVM at the University of Florida, and his CVA at the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society.

Let's take a look at some answers to frequent questions regarding acupuncture.

What can acupuncture be used to treat?

Why not just use drugs?

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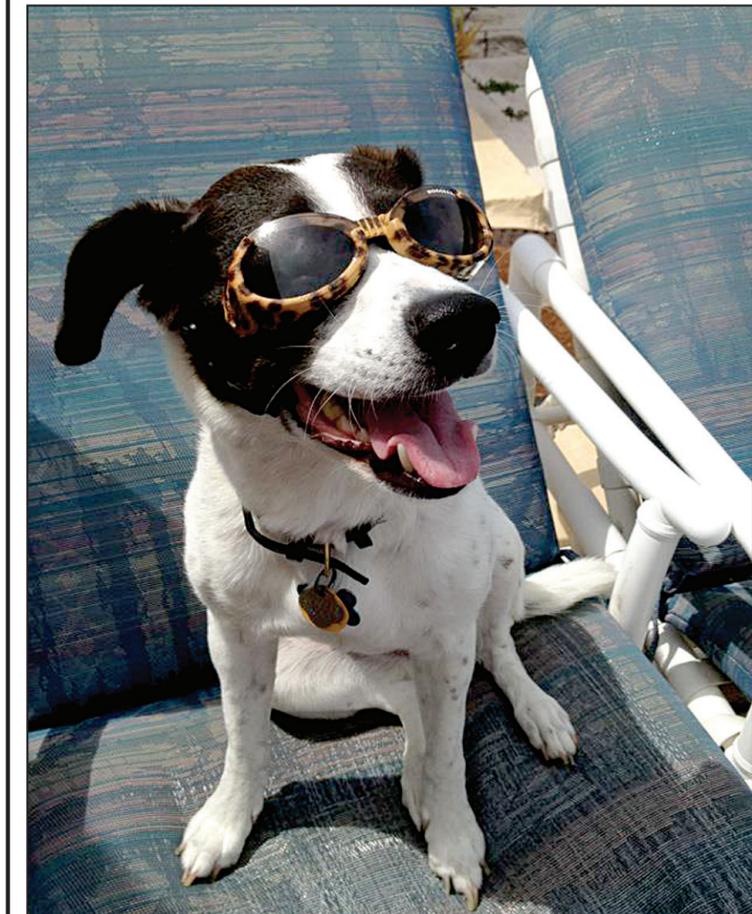
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Cool as a cucumber

Little Puppy, a 5-year-old rat terrier mix is the May pet of the month. Her humans are Allen and Pepir Jernigan of Seminole. About five years ago, Little Puppy was found wandering the streets near First Choice Equestrian Center, and from there, the Jernigans brought her home. Already having a Great Pyrenees and a boarder collie/lab mix, this little girl became known as "Little Puppy." The couple thought they were just going to foster her until they found a permanent home, so they never gave her a name. However, one day Allen was home sick for three days while Pepir was out of town, and Little Puppy stayed on the couch with him and followed him around the house like a great nurse. After that, she had his heart. Little Puppy is one cool dog who bounces off the fence chasing squirrels and lizards, and her favorite thing to do during the day is lay out in her lounge chair and oversee her backyard kingdom. At night, she cuddles under the covers at her humans' legs. She loves life and everybody in it and her great attitude makes everyone smile. Every morning, she cleans the other dogs' ears, eyes and mouths then waits for Pepir as she gets ready for the day and then waits by the refrigerator for her morning carrot. That's a lot of work, so then she goes back to bed for a nap. She has won a \$25 gift certificate to Largo Feed and Garden Supply in either Largo or Pinellas Park. Send your pet photos to Alexandra Lundahl at alundahl@TBNweekly.com.

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Congressman Bilirakis seeks tougher standards on student visas

By BOB McCLURE

PALM HARBOR – Congressman Gus Bilirakis, R-Tarpon Springs, expressed the need for additional safeguards and background checks on foreign students applying for United States visas during a speaking engagement May 1 in Palm Harbor.

Addressing a community forum at Palm Harbor Library, Bilirakis said there is a strong need to screen students more closely to prevent potential terrorists from entering the country.

"This student visa program is broken," he said. "This guy from Saudi Arabia they questioned the other day came over on a student visa. The 9/11 bombers, the Christmas bomber, they came over on a student visa."

"What we're doing (now) is rubber stamping these applications, which is dangerous," said Bilirakis. "There's nothing wrong with kids coming over here for the right reasons. But there are about 1- to 2-percent that are not safe

and they're not being screened."

With that in mind, Bilirakis sponsored House Bill 640, also known as the Student Visa Security Improvement Act, which was filed Feb. 13 and is currently in committee.

If passed, the bill would require the secretary of Homeland Security to strengthen student visa background checks and improve the monitoring of foreign students in the United States.

"This is a risk issue, a safety issue," Bilirakis said. "So I've been working on that and placing visa security units around the world in high risk areas."

On another front, Bilirakis, a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and vice chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, said he has secured a new bed tower for the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, replacing the current facility that was built in 1971.

"The federal government decided to give us money for a new parking garage and a second



Photo by BOB McCLURE

Congressman Gus Bilirakis speaks during a community forum May 1 at the Palm Harbor Library.

story to the polytrauma unit," said Bilirakis. "Then they gave us money to refurbish the bed tower. We said fine but with that money we can build a new bed tower and give back \$500 million to the Treasury over 10 years. Finally, after a lot of pressure (the Veterans Administration) agreed."

On the topic of gun control, Bilirakis reiterated his support for

the Second Amendment, noting that the mental health of certain gun owners "is the big problem."

He said any new legislation requiring background checks of gun buyers would duplicate current laws on the books.

"I want to solve the problem any way we possibly can," said Bilirakis. "We need to take away guns from people that are mentally ill. I don't want to take guns away from law-abiding citizens. We need to solve the problem, not pass legislation that's not going to solve the issue. Once you put (new laws) on the books, they're not reversible."

On the topic of immigration, Bilirakis said he "has a problem" with the Obama Administration's immigration proposal that would provide existing legal immigrants with a "path to citizenship."

"I think we need to secure our

borders first," Bilirakis said.

When asked if anything can be done to break the gridlock in Congress, Bilirakis said relationships are the key.

"If you remember, things got done when Ronald Reagan was president," he said. "Relationships that existed then are lacking now. We need leadership in the House and the Senate. Until we see that, you're not going to see too much change."

Bilirakis said he "crosses the aisle" constantly. "That's how we get things done," he said.

Paw prints

Puppy Love event to benefit Pet Pal

ST. PETERSBURG – Pet Pal Animal Shelter will host the 11th annual Puppy Love Benefit on Saturday, May 11, 6 to 10 p.m., at the Hilton at Bayfront, 333 First St. S.

The event is the organization's largest fundraiser of the year. The theme of this year's Puppy Love, "All They Need Is Love," speaks for all of the innocent animals that have been given a second chance at life, solely because of the existence of this no-kill shelter. Sponsors, donors, supporters, volunteers and staff will come together for an evening including dinner, dancing, silent auction, live auction, raffle and prizes. Entertainment will include DJ Decible Nation and a dinner serenade by jazz singer Deborah Lee.

The Puppy Love Benefit is open to the public with advance ticket purchase. Tickets are available to purchase online, by mail, or by phone. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. All proceeds raised from Puppy Love will directly benefit Pet Pal Animal Shelter's emergency medical fund.

For information about the event, visit www.petpalanimalshelter.com/events/puppylove.

For information about Pet Pal Animal Shelter, call 328-7738.

Trivia Night to benefit SPCA

LARGO – Trivia Night at the Shelter will be presented Saturday, May 11, 8 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N.

Cost is \$25 for a team of five.

Tables comprised of five people will compete for fun prizes and the coveted title of SPCA Tampa Bay's Smartest Animal Lovers. All proceeds raised will go to medicine, food, and supplies for the organization's homeless animals. Tables will compete in three rounds, 10 questions each, with one bonus question at the end of rounds 1 and 2, and final bets at the end of round 3.

Categories will include animal pop culture, animals in sports history and dogs, dogs, dogs. One beverage (beer, wine or soda) is included for each registrant – registrants will be able to purchase more for a \$2 cash donation.

For information, call 388-0452.

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PINELLAS PARK – Stop Pet Overpopulation Together is offering a special spay and neuter program for those on food stamps and Medicaid this summer.

The program will run from May through August and will offer a savings of \$10 to \$20 off SPOT's low cost services. A current rabies vaccine is required for surgery, and it can be given the day of surgery for \$15. A \$25 deposit is needed to schedule surgery and proof of Medicaid or food stamp card is needed the day of surgery.

To make an appointment, call 329-8657. SPOT's clinic is at 4403 62nd Ave. Visit www.SPOTusa.org.

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Good intentions, negligence yield the Texas blast

A few years ago I was back in my home state of Texas visiting relatives. I drove I-35 between Fort Worth and Waco, a road I had traveled, oh, maybe 10,000 times, when I spotted a sign advertising kolaches at the exit for the town of West.

I pulled off at that exit and 20 minutes later drove away happy. Kolaches, you must know, are Czech pastries with jellied fruit filling, sort of like a Danish only thicker. But they also come in a variety with a link sausage baked into the roll. To live in Central Texas is to clamor for kolaches.



Florida Voices
Cary McMullen

We know about these things because of our fellow Texans whose Czech ancestors settled in the towns around Waco and Bryan – Dime Box, Old Dime Box, Caldwell and West.

Those little towns don't have much, but what they do have are bakeries or mom-and-pop roadside stores whose owners still make kolaches. We thought nothing of driving 20 miles over farm-to-market roads to bring home white pasteboard boxes filled with fresh pastries.

The land around West is black clay prairie – open, mostly cleared of post oaks, rolling country ideal for growing cotton and sorghum.

I don't know West, but I'm sure it's like hundreds of other small towns in that region, a place where life is dominated by the concerns of agriculture – weather, commodity prices, fuel prices – and by rural institutions – school, church and small businesses. Fertilizer plants are not uncommon around there.

The Republicans who largely have run Texas since 1995 ought to point that finger right at themselves. This is a party that abhors government oversight and figures that little operations like West Fertilizer are much better off if they're left alone.

By one news account, last week's explosion at the West Fertilizer Company plant that killed at least 14 people and leveled buildings for a mile in all directions destroyed an elementary school and maybe irreparably damaged the middle and high schools as well. It's not hard to imagine that the folks in West are thanking God that the fire at that plant didn't start in the middle of the day, when kids would have been in those classrooms. Perhaps that's one of the miracles to be contemplated in the aftermath of the disaster.

Armchair theologians – as well as reporters who haven't set foot in a church since the day they were confirmed – asked the tired, old question, "Where was God in West, Texas, when the plant exploded?" One possible answer is that God was cursing the state and federal agencies that had not properly inspected that plant, by one news account, since 1985.

The explosion appears to be due to the deadly conjunction of good intentions and negligence.

The Huffington Post reported that the current owner of the plant is a local farmer, described as a good man who had bought it several years ago to keep it open for the benefit of farms in the area. The plant manager had been in charge for decades, and it's easy to imagine that the owner simply turned the operation over to the manager, who kept running the plant as he always had.

Missing in action were any inspectors who might have questioned whether the tons of ammonium nitrate in the plant were properly stored.

At least since 1995, when Timothy McVeigh used that same substance to kill 168 people in Oklahoma City, you'd think some federal and state agencies would have redoubled their efforts to check fertilizer plants, but a place like West tends to get overlooked, in more ways than one. Until something like this happens anyway, and then government officials begin looking for the nearest place to point a finger.

The Republicans who largely have run Texas since 1995 ought to point that finger right at themselves. This is a party that abhors government oversight and figures that little operations like West Fertilizer are much better off if they're left alone. It was, and we see the result.

Inspections might well have shuttered that plant, and the farming community would have been inconvenienced, but it would have survived.

Recently, 14 people didn't, and West, Texas, may never recover. If I ever again am fortunate enough to get my hands on a Central Texas kolache, I expect it to taste just a little bitter.

Cary McMullen is a journalist and editor who lives in Lakeland. He can be reached at cmcmullen@floridavoices.com.
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LETTERS

Countryside is not what it used to be

Editor:

In past years Countryside was considered a beautiful place to live. There were rules to keep people from littering their yards with excessive vehicles, boats, trailers and the like. You were proud to live here. As of late I keep seeing more and more boats in the yards, vehicles parked all along the streets and yards that no longer have anyone to care for them. It has become a less desirable area. In one yard down the street from us there are two boats, trailers and three trucks that park in the front yard. This is not what people want to live next to especially if they own their house. It's a shame that they are allowed to devalue other people's property. Countryside is not what it used to be; now it's an embarrassment in some areas.

Lynn Wharran
Clearwater

What do you think?

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

Here are some more guidelines for letters:

- Letters are printed on a first-come, first-served basis. They may be edited to correct grammar, spelling and factual errors. They also may be edited for clarity.
- Please keep letters to editor to 500 words. Longer letters may be cut due to space limitations.
- Letters should address issues or current events. Please refrain from making unsubstantiated allegations. The newspaper will not print letters that contain slanderous or racial statements.
- Please do not use profanity.
- We do not publish poetry or songs in letters to the editor.
- Each writer may submit one letter per month.
- We can't return letters to the editor.
- Please allow two weeks from the time you submitted your letter for it to be published before inquiring as to its status.
- We won't print anonymous letters.
- We won't print letters that are submitted merely to promote a business.
- Thank you letters are accepted.

The lure of luxury wristwatches

A character flaw that has marked me as a permanent member of the unwashed classes is my inability to appreciate expensive wristwatches. All my life I have seen the advertisements for watches that cost \$5,000, \$50,000 or even more. My reaction is always one word: "Why?"



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

Materialistic lust is a part of the personal makeup of most people, including me. I have coveted Maserati cars, penthouse apartments, suits by Brioni and personal investment packages totaling 40,000 shares of Apple stock. But when the envy gods were doling out the stuff that I would one day long for, they skipped the "wristwatch" notch on my ticket.

The history of timekeeping stretches back thousands of years. Humans have employed sunlight, water, candles, incense, sand, pendulums and quartz to keep track of time. The events of chronology are so exciting I refuse to write about many of them for fear of causing heart attacks among readers. But let's risk looking at a few factoids.

The first wristwatch was produced in 1868 by a Swiss firm, Patek-Philippe. It was referred to as a lady's bracelet, or wristlet. For decades no self-respecting male would dare to wear one. Men kept pocket watches, or none at all.

That attitude changed in World War I, when military units needed to coordinate their attacks. Soldiers could ill afford the time needed to dig into their pants pockets to make sure Company 416 went over the top at exactly the same moment as its adjacent fighting units. Wristwatches filled the bill, and were here to stay.

With the passing of years, the cost of owning a wristwatch went down and the accuracy of even low-priced watches improved. It became important for the average man or

woman to know exactly what time it was. Otherwise he/she might miss the morning train, bus or plane, or tune in too late for the Arthur Godfrey show. Many a love affair was called off because one of the parties was 10 minutes late for lunch at the Waldorf.

Jewelers loved wristwatches (and still do) because of their serving as a centerpiece for diamonds, rubies and other bling things that cost much more than the watch itself. Eventually a wristwatch became a status symbol for both men and women, a way to say "I'm a better bloke than you are. Gunga Din, and my new Rolex proves it."

The widespread worship of the Rolex has always puzzled me. A Rolex is expensive, sturdy and keeps good time. But the watch itself and the wristband that comes with it are not especially sleek or attractive. Still, for a certain layer of society, owning a Rolex (or even a Rolex knockoff) is the cat's meow.

Competition among watchmakers can involve several different yardsticks. The Vacheron Constantine Company likes to boast that it's the oldest watchmaker in the world – founded in 1755 on an island in Lake Geneva. This obviously will thrill the fibers of wristwatch snobs who live by the slogan "If it's old, it's got to be good."

Other companies pitch their products to celebrity worshippers. Nicole Kidman wears the Omega Ladymatic watch. The Breitling company says its watches are for travelers,

such as a renowned tennis player named Federer.

Other buyers will insist that their watch must have a maximum number of dials on its face and pushbuttons on its rim. One dial will count the seconds; another will show the minutes; a third will tell you which day of the week you're in. Owners of such a watch are sometimes subject to a visual impairment known as Eyeball Spin, resulting from the owner's trying to read all the available dials at once.

Visibility of the watch's moving parts is an important come-on for some luxury buyers. Instead of bothering with an excessive number of dials relating to time, the watchmaker provides a crystal-clear watch face through which the owner can view the itsy-bitsy, teeny-weensy cogwheels and levers doing their work.

An added thousand bucks or so can buy you a watch that is super-accurate, down to one-sixth of a second. That's the promise of the Jaeger Le Coultre folks. However, once you strap such a watch on your wrist and start bragging that you own the most accurate watch on earth, you risk someone asking you, "Who says so? What earthly institute sets the exact time for the world to conform to?" Correct answers to that question do exist. Maybe you'd better bone up on them before you go shopping for a watch.

I own a Casio watch that cost maybe \$50. It keeps excellent time, but it requires sunlight. It operates on radio waves, and twice a year, when daylight saving time jumps, the watch re-sets itself or forces me to consult the instruction book. That's as fancy a watch as I want to own, even if I were Bill Gates.

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



Stop supporting Castro brothers

In the dying days of their failed communist revolution, Cuba's Castro brothers, "President" Raul and dictator emeritus Fidel, have added a very useful Washington lobbyist to their roster of U.S. based propagandists.

She is Congresswoman Kathy Castor, a left-wing member of the Democratic Party from Tampa who, since 2007, represents the Tampa and St. Petersburg metropolitan areas. She believes that since 1959 the Castro brothers have merely conducted "an amazing experiment in communism that did not work" on the island.

For some time now, Castor, a 46-year-old lawyer, has been advocating on behalf of the termination of the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba, the No. 1 priority of the Castros. Of course, the embargo has long been a joke, with Cuba buying food and medicine directly from the U.S., and other goods indirectly through multiple corporations based in Panama and other opaque corporate havens.

Not only does Castor want the embargo to end, she also is advocating on behalf of other urgent Castro goals: remove Cuba from the list of countries that sponsor terrorism, increase commerce between Cuba and the U.S., and remove restrictions that keep American tourists from traveling freely to Cuba to spend Yankee dollars there.

Castor, however, does not call for Cuba to



Florida Voices
Angel Castillo Jr.

do anything at all in return for all the financial concessions that she wants the American taxpayers to generously lavish on the octogenarian oppressors of the Cuban people.

While she may not be required legally to register as a lobbyist for Cuba under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, Castor has certainly been acting like one, urging President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry, among others, to make life easier for the Castros.

She also has been working hand in glove with several notorious pro-Castro U.S. propaganda organizations to promote the agenda of the Cuban government in this country. These include the Center for Democracy in the Americas, the Center for International Policy, and the Alliance for Responsible Cuba Policy Foundation.

Castor was a keynote speaker last month at a two-day Tampa conference titled "Rapportment With Cuba: Good for Tampa,

Good for Florida, Good for America," during which she vigorously called for an immediate end to all U.S. economic sanctions against Cuba.

Among those participating with Castor at the conference were Castro diplomats Llanio Gonzalez Lopez, general counselor of Cuba in the U.S., and Wamel Lores Mora, counselor and first secretary, both with the Cuban Interests Section in Washington.

Last week, while Beyonce and Jay-Z were happily traipsing through tourist Havana as part of an "educational exchange trip," Castor arrived in Cuba for a four-day "fact finding mission" ostensibly aimed at creating "business jobs in the Tampa area."

No sooner did Castor return to Tampa than she hurried to meet with the local news media, including the editorial board of the Tampa Tribune newspaper, to preach about ending the embargo. After listening to Castor, the Tribune dutifully published an editorial calling for an end to the embargo.

Let's hope all those rich Cuban tourists jam Tampa Bay's hotels and beaches real soon and help create thousands of good business jobs there.

Angel Castillo Jr., a former reporter and editor for the New York Times and The Miami Herald, practices employment law in Miami. He can be reached at acastillo@floridavoices.com
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Business updates

Square 1 Burgers opens on Tyrone

ST. PETERSBURG – The owners of Bella's Italian Café in South Tampa opened Square 1 Burgers and Bar, at 3442 Tyrone Blvd.

The 171-seat eatery is what owners Bill Shumate, Joanie Corneil and Ray Leich call a burger restaurant, featuring 21 burgers with 100 percent Angus beef, 17 appetizers with the chain's tasty "Sooner" sauce, a variety of soups and salads, milk shakes and desserts. There's also a full-service bar featuring a wide selection of specialty drinks and craft beers.

The Tyrone restaurant is the chain's sixth since opening in 2006. Others are in Tampa, Brandon, Sarasota and Fort Myers.

The restaurant name dates back to Shumate's early days when he operated a burger joint called Across The Street, which was across the street from the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla. In recent years, Shumate said he wanted to get back into the burger business and "get back to square one."

Visit www.square1burgers.com.

Cooters to celebrate anniversary

CLEARWATER – Cooters will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a two-day tent party on Friday and Saturday, May 17-18, at 423 Poinsettia Ave.

Hours will be Friday, 4 p.m. to midnight; and Saturday, noon to 11 p.m. The event will feature live music, food and drink specials, kids' activities, hourly prizes and a raffle for a 50-inch flat-screen television. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit The Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Headlining the musical entertainment will be The Caribbean Chillers on Friday, and Tony Wylie and The Islands Band on Saturday.

Special menus will feature a clam bake on Friday and a Southern style shrimp boil on Saturday. Cooters full menu also will be available. There is no cover charge. Valet parking will be available.

Call 462-2668 or visit www.cooters.com.

LaGrand wins caregiver award

CLEARWATER – EasyLiving Inc., a Pinellas County home health care agency, recently announced Donna LaGrand had been selected as the recipient of its first Inspirational Caregiver award.

This award is part of the company's unique iCaRewards program, a set of initiatives designed to reward and recognize home caregivers. To be selected as a finalist for this award, the caregivers must demonstrate a good work ethic, compassion and high quality caregiving skills including great communication.

In April, EasyLiving named five deserving finalists for the home caregiver award, including Sequoia Copeland, DeAngela Holloway, Donna LaGrand, Janet Scali and John Verel.

LaGrand was chosen as April's Inspirational Caregiver of the Month. She has worked with EasyLiving since 2006 and demonstrates an excellent work ethic.

"I always give 100 percent and do the best job I can, with no exceptions or excuses," LaGrand said in a press release.

EasyLiving will be selecting an Inspirational Caregiver each month from five finalists. Each finalist receives a \$25 gift card and the winner receives \$100.

Chamber to host Beach Games

TREASURE ISLAND – The Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce will host its sixth annual Spirit of Hospitality: Beach Games on Sunday, May 19, 1 to 4 p.m., at the Bilm Beach Resort, 10650 Gulf Blvd.

In celebration of National Tourism Week, the TBBCoC will bring chamber members together for a day of fun in the sun and some friendly, healthy competition. Games will include a sand sculpture contest, water balloon toss, the dolphin relay race and – new this year – the silly spin relay.

Upon conclusion of the games, there will be a pizza party. The winning team will be awarded the Spirit of Hospitality Cup.

Teams of 10 may register for

\$200, which includes their logo on the T-shirt and banner. Individuals may register for \$15 and join a team of their fellow chamber members. All registrants will receive a T-shirt and enjoy a pizza party.

For more information or to register, call Amanda Page at 360-6957 or email RSVP@tampabaybeaches.com.

Corey Fresh Market returns this weekend

ST. PETE BEACH – The Corey Fresh Market will be open Sunday, May 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in downtown St. Pete Beach.

About 40 local vendors will be on hand to sell produce, plants, local specialty foods and arts/crafts. Florida Blood Services will be conducting a blood drive.

Corey Avenue is located just off Gulf Boulevard in downtown St. Pete Beach. Admission and parking are free.

For more information, call 498-8778 or visit www.coreyave.com.

Sweet Caroline's to open in Palm Harbor

PALM HARBOR – Sweet Caroline's Bakery, now in its fourth year, recently announced the opening of Sweet Caroline's Café, adjacent to current location at 3347 Tampa Road.

A grand opening celebration and open house will take place Wednesday, May 22, 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the bakery and café. The event will feature entertainment as well as an opportunity to sample a variety of treats.

For more information, visit www.sweetcarolinesbakery.com.

Chocolate Sunday set

CLEARWATER – Chocolate Sunday will be presented Sunday, May 26, at the Sea Dog Brewery, 26200 U.S. 19.

"We outgrew Ruth Eckerd Hall last year," said Steve Fiske in a press release. Fiske is founder and producer of Chocolate Sunday. "This year's festival will once again attract chocoholics from all over the local Tampa Bay area. Last year over 1,700 chocolate lovers attended."

This year the North Pinellas

Regional Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring the event.

Chocolate Sunday provides chocolate purveyors, restaurant owners, bakers and a group of select vendors a promotional opportunity for the public to sample their wares. The public will be able to see, smell, touch, taste and ask questions about new products and come face to face with managers, owners, bakers and chefs, who are interested in the value of community outreach.

Sponsors include the North Pinellas Regional Chamber of Commerce, Sea Dog Brewery, Tarpon Turtle, Tampa Bay Woman Newspaper, Tampa Bay Magazine, WFAN Radio, PRP Wines, Orange Bee Monetary Systems, COSTCO, Village Inn Restaurants and UVETS.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and may be purchased at the Sea Dog Brewery. Tickets are \$25 at the door the day of the event, if available. For information, call 877-438-9286 or email fanpub13@hotmail.com.

Tampa Bay Times continues growth

Continuing an established trend of circulation growth in Hillsborough and Central Pasco counties, the Tampa Bay Times gained subscribers in those areas and clearly held its lead among Florida newspapers.

The Times' circulation growth in Hillsborough and Central Pasco counties comes from home delivery, which is very desirable to advertisers. The Times added more than 19,800 home delivery subscribers daily and nearly 13,000 Sunday home delivery subscribers in the past six months ending in March, compared to the same time period last year.

"We continue to invest in our journalism and in Tampa Bay," said Joe DeLuca in a press release. DeLuca is Times vice president and Tampa publisher. "Our readers recognize this and see it reflected in the quality of the content that we deliver to them every day. That's why in this latest cir-

Bouchard-Clearwater named top agency

CLEARWATER – Auto-Owners Insurance recently announced Bouchard-Clearwater, of Clearwater has been named one of the top 10 growth agencies for the company in the Lakeland Region for 2012.

The agency was recognized at a luncheon meeting in Lakeland, and at a reception with all regional associates, where they and other recipients were presented with a plaque commemorating their accomplishment. Bouchard-Clearwater has represented Auto-Owners since 1965.

Rod Rupp, executive vice president of auto-owners, thanked the agency for its support and its business, stating, "Their growth and support only help to make the entire community stronger and more secure," said Rod Rupp in a press release. Rupp is executive vice president of Auto-Owners. "We are grateful they choose to do business with us."



Taking part in the recent Auto-Owners luncheon meeting in Lakeland are, from left, Greg Shell, regional vice president of Auto-Owners; Kristie Pauly, division manager of Bouchard-Clearwater; and Rod Rupp, executive vice president of Auto-Owners.

ulation report we have continued and sustained growth in our local paid readership. That translates to a quality audience that gets measurable results for our advertisers."

With a total Sunday circulation of 402,422, the Times is Florida's leading newspaper and remains the only Florida newspaper ranked among the country's top 25 newspapers, according to a recent semiannual report of newspaper circulation.

Daily circulation increased about 14 percent, in response to an emphasis on seven-day subscriptions and the free daily, *tbt**,

now included as an edition of the Times. Sunday circulation declined 7 percent market wide because of the reduction of the coupon frenzy.

Separately, a report released by an independent research firm confirmed that the Times grew Sunday readership by 12,000 readers, up 1 percent over last year. A survey of newspaper readers by the Scarborough firm showed the Sunday Times' audience has grown 9 percent, or by 83,600 readers, over the past five years.

The Times now reaches 42 percent of all Tampa Bay adults Sunday, according to the report.

Realty welcomes new agents

Prudential Tropical Realty recently announced the addition of three sales executives to the firm. They are:

• **Robert "Bob" McCaffery** has joined the firm's Countryside office. He has more than 25 years of sales experience and has earned numerous awards for outstanding sales production throughout his career. He is originally from Detroit, Mich., and earned a bachelor's degree in forensic science.

• **Christian "Chris" R. Hornsleth II** joins the East Lake office. Originally from Weston, Conn., he has been a Tampa Bay area resident since 1976. His extensive sales background spans more than 30 years. He is currently an active volunteer at the Suncoast Animal League in Palm Harbor.

• **David Phaneuf** joins the Northeast St. Petersburg office. He recently entered the field of real estate. In his spare time he raises service animals for the disabled.

Realty Executives name top agent

SEMINOLE – Realty Executives Adamo recently named its top closing agent for March. Tom Cato was top closing single agent for the month of March. Cato closed seven transactions in one month with more than \$1.2 million in sales.

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Hearing loss the third most common health problem in U.S.

Although hearing problems are commonly associated with the normal aging process, more than half of all hearing-impaired Hearing loss currently affects more than 36 million American persons younger than 65. With the increased use of personal music players (MP3s) and earbuds, the number of Americans experiencing hearing loss at a younger age is growing.

On average, most Americans consider hearing loss a condition that is simply associated with aging, and don't know how to recognize the condition or who is qualified to diagnose and treat the condition. In an effort to raise public awareness for the growing number of Americans suffering from hearing loss, the Better Hearing Institute in conjunction

For your health

with Bob Evans Hearing Center is celebrating Better Hearing Month this May.

As part of Better Hearing Month, Bob Evans Hearing Center is encouraging consumers to be more aware of their hearing health. "Hearing loss can be caused by exposure to loud noises; ear infections, trauma, or ear disease; harm to the inner ear and ear drum; illness or certain medications; and deterioration due to normal aging process," explains Bob Evans.

While hearing loss is common, it doesn't need to hold you back. According to the Better Hearing Institute, nine out of 10 hearing aid wearers report improvements in their quality of life. Like other high-tech devices, hearing aids have advanced significantly in just the past

several years. Today's hearing aids come in a range of styles - from small and discreet behind-the-ear styles, all the way to invisible. They also feature directional technology that zeroes in on companions' voices while suppressing other noise around the wearer.

"People often don't get hearing aids until someone close like a family member or friend pushes them to it. What better time than during Better Hearing Month for people to find out if they have a hearing loss? And if they do, help them seek professional help."

Bob Evans Hearing Center provides a variety of hearing care services including evaluations, video ear inspections, and aural rehabilitation. For more information or to set up an appointment with Bob Evans Hearing Center, call 393-3775.

Industry updates

Largo Medical Center earns accreditation

LARGO - Largo Medical Center recently earned a three-year accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities International.

CARF is an independent, non-profit organization focused on advancing the quality of services used to meet the patient's rehabilitative needs for the best possible outcomes.

"This remarkable achievement shows that the staff at our hospital

is dedicated and committed to improving the quality of the lives of our patients each and every day," said Anthony Degina in a press release. Degina is CEO of Largo Medical Center.

Improving that quality can be by helping a patient with a functional decline in performing activities of daily living, adapting to a disability, or rehabilitating a patient following an acute disease episode, for home and community services or for any other health and human service.

"Our staff earned the accreditation thanks to these services that we provide and through the documentation we commit to helping us establish a recognized pattern of excellence," said Tom Rowe, director of inpatient rehabilitation at Largo Medical Center.

CARF is a family of organizations currently accrediting close to 50,000 programs and services at more than 22,000 locations worldwide. More than 6,500 CARF-accredited service providers serve more than 8 million people of all ages annually.

• Allan Weiss, M.D., a neurologist who is medical director for St. Anthony's Stroke program, will speak on management of stroke

Registration is limited. To register, call 940-2781 or visit StAnthonys.com/StrokeFair. Complimentary valet parking will be available.

Frodeno, Kaye win St. Anthony's triathlon

ST. PETERSBURG - Two first-time winners were recently crowned champions of the 30th anniversary St. Anthony's Triathlon.

Jan Frodeno and Alicia Kaye crossed the finish line on their way to topping one of the largest and best pro fields in the race's history.

Frodeno, 32, is no stranger to winning, having come in sixth place in the 2012 London Olympics and winning a gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"I was nervous about coming here, especially when it came to the run because that's not my strong card," Frodeno of Germany said. "The other guys kept the pressure on."

Keeping Frodeno on his toes was Ivan Vasiliev of Russia, who came in second place, and Hunter Kemper of Colorado Springs, Colo., who placed third.

Kaye, 30, said that she felt strong throughout the day, but the women also kept the pressure on and she never had a huge lead.

"The gap did not change much throughout the race," Kaye of Clermont, said. "I can't describe how it feels; it's so emotional to win this race."

Following Kaye were Nicky Samuels of New Zealand in second and Emma Moffatt of Australia in third, who was running her first St. Anthony's Triathlon and her first 5150.

Also participating in his first Olympic-distance triathlon was

St. Anthony's to host stroke prevention fair

ST. PETERSBURG - In recognition of National Stroke Awareness Month in May, St. Anthony's Hospital will host a free community stroke prevention fair Friday, May 17, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the hospital's auditorium, 1200 Seventh Ave. N.

During the stroke prevention fair, free health screenings will include blood glucose and blood pressure, body mass index and cholesterol. Fasting is suggested for the blood glucose and cholesterol screenings. Clinicians will be on hand to review results with participants.

St. Anthony's Hospital physicians will present a series of stroke-related seminars and there will be an ask-the-dietitian session on the role diet plays in preventing stroke. Wellness demonstrations will include healthy cooking, Sign Chi-Do and chair exercise. Doors will open at 9 a.m. Healthy snacks and lunch will be provided.

Lectures will be presented from noon to 1 p.m. and will include the following programs:

- John Gross, M.D. family and sports medicine, will present hypertension management and stroke
- An ask-a-dietitian session will focus on the role diet plays in preventing stroke

Health Department offers services for uninsured women

Early detection is the key to the successful diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer and cervical cancer, but women who have no insurance and are too young for Medicare often cannot afford to get these lifesaving screenings. In Florida, there's a state resource that can provide these screenings at no cost for those who qualify.

Women between the ages of 50 and 64 who cannot afford mammograms and cervical cancer screenings can apply to receive these tests at no cost through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program at the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County.

The program provides no-cost breast and cervical cancer screening exams to women in that age group who are low income, uninsured or have insurance that doesn't cover these screenings.

Women may call 824-6917 to see if they qualify for the program. An application can be mailed or it may be downloaded at www.PinellasHealth.com. Click on the BCCEDP's link on the left menu bar for the application, more information and a notice of privacy practices.

Women who qualify will be notified of their first appointment by BCCEDP staff. Program clients can receive screenings at no cost for a full year once they qualify.

Women need to have their first cervical cancer screening at the age of 21 regardless of sexual activity. These tests should be repeated every three to five years if results are normal. A health-care professional should perform breast exams for adult women once a year. After the age of 40, a yearly mammogram is recommended.

For information about the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, visit www.PinellasHealth.com.

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Sandy Hartmann
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

Clearwater **\$179,900**

3BR/2B

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Great family floor plan with downstairs master bedroom, walk-in closet, volume ceilings with skylights and open floor plan. Also features inside laundry room, eat-in kitchen and cozy private porch in back. New carpeting and roof replaced in 2011. Close to shopping, restaurants and movie theaters.

Susan Daddono
Premier Sotheby's International Realty

St. Petersburg **\$85,000**

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Nice Water Views of Intracoastal from the 8th Floor 1 BD/1 BA-fully furnished. This Beautiful and well maintained "turnkey" unit has lots to offer.

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Seminole **\$325,000**

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Tremendous Seminole 3 Bedroom pool home with rustic charm and located in the Harbor View subdivision. Walking distance to the beach! Almost 2,000 sq. ft. with custom pool, spillover spa and gas fireplace! Split bedrooms, fireplace and large tree lot. Seminole schools.

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former Pittsburgh Steelers player and spring 2011 "Dancing With The Stars" champion Hines Ward.

"I'm really tired, but all in all, it felt good," Ward said after he crossed the finish line.

With the race being less than two weeks after the bombings in Boston, those events were not far from the athletes mind.

"We're all part of an endurance family," said Kemper. "Events like Boston shouldn't stop anyone from going out and living their dream. We're here today as a celebration of sport and lifestyle."

Kaye raced with the words, "Boston Strong" marked on her leg in honor of her mother-in-law who has completed 25 Boston Marathons.

A windy morning resulted in the swim course being altered for amateur athletes to ensure the safety of swimmers.

"I thought the water would be a lot calmer," said Samuels, one of the pros who swam the full course. "I got a little confused out there, but I loved it because I love waves."

The professional field with more than 90 athletes featured Olympians and World Champions representing a variety of distances from the sport including Ironman and 70.3 racing, to the non-drafting Olympics distance and the ITU.

The first event of the 2013 global 5150 Triathlon Series, St. Anthony's is an international-distance race (1.5K swim, 40K bike and 10K run) offering athletes coveted points toward 5150 U.S. Championship qualification. It is the largest international distance triathlon series in the world and the first non-drafting international race series of its kind, offering a competitive platform for professional and age-group athletes.

Known for its scenic course along the downtown St. Petersburg waterfront, St. Anthony's Triathlon attracts a field of approximately 3,500 individuals and 125 relay teams from 44 states and 23 countries.

Heart Association honors Bay Pines

SEMINOLE - The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System recently received the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines-Heart Failure Silver Quality Achievement Award.

The recognition signifies that Bay Pines VAHCS has reached an aggressive goal of treating heart failure patients according to the guidelines of care recommended by the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology.

Following the treatment guidelines can improve the quality of care for heart failure patients, save lives and ultimately, reduce healthcare costs by lowering the recurrence of heart attacks. Heart failure patients are started on aggressive risk-reduction therapies if needed, including cholesterol-lowering drugs, beta-blockers, ACE inhibitors, aspirin, diuretics and anticoagulants while in the hospital.

Before discharge, patients also receive education on managing their heart failure and overall health, including lifestyle modifications and followup care. Hospitals must adhere to these measures at a set level for a designated period of time to be eligible for the achievement awards.

For more information, visit www.baypines.va.gov or www.facebook.com/VABayPines.

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Time to take on tarpon; migration underway

Tarpon are beginning their migration through our area. For those who love the pursuit of the silver king it's been the better part of eight months since your last opportunity to attempt to fool the beast.



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wellerstein

can be well over 50 boats concentrated in an area of a couple of hundred yards. It's busy.

There is a ton of fish and the opportunity to hook a bunch of fish is reality. However, that doesn't mean that it's easy fishing.

Those that do it properly are the ones that get rewarded.

The key is to find the lane that the fish are holding and line up for a drift. Free-line or lightly weight pass crabs or threadfins through the area.

All area bridges, not just the Skyway, are excellent tarpon holding spots and often provide good shots at fish that are usually willing to eat. Typically, the fish that are feeding will stage up behind pilings in current eddies as baits are swept around the pilings they are intercepted by waiting tarpon. Anchor your boat between pilings so that you can cast up-current and allow your bait to be swept around. Free-lined threadfins are often your best bet.

Until next week - get bet!

Tyson Wallerstein can be reached at capt.tyson@hotmail.com. To get a fish photo in the paper, send the photo along with your name, when and where it was caught to editorial@TBNweekly.com or mail it to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772.

For some the thrill is in the hunt, a well-trained eye will pick up on the subtle rolls or daisy chain tailers, slick spots and other dead give aways alerting anglers of their presence.

Picking up on these signs far enough away from the boat will allow you to make a stealthy approach and a calculated set up. This is the way of the beach angler; many variables occur on this playing field; wind is most critical. Too much chop and your only option is to anchor and keep fresh baits in travel lanes.

This is an effective way to fish under any conditions, especially if you do not have a trolling motor. Too much boat traffic will make fish spooky and tough to get to eat, so go early, as pre-dawn setups usually result in the best shots of the day.

It's no secret that big numbers of fish congregate in deep channels, especially Egmont and Boca Grande, when conditions are right.

The passes are absolutely lights out. Forget any ideas of solitude on a strong outgoing tide. There

Cup winners



Photo courtesy of INGA MYERS

The Celtic FC Florida U13 girls soccer team went undefeated in four games to win the Sarasota Cup April 27-28. The tournament capped a strong season for the team that finished the year ranked No. 19 in the state. In front, from left, are Kieley Buckowski, Jessie Hayes and Anna Marie Gomes. In the middle row are Elena Doyle, Sophie Wagner, Sarah Coco, Julia Doyle and Lauren Gramlich. In the back row are coach George Gomes, Isabel Garcia, Isabela Rodriguez, Emma Tumarkin, Emma Schechter, Meg Wintermeier, Mia Bjarkman, Angela Grimberg and assistant coach Rich Rodriguez. Celtic FC Florida is based in Walsingham Park in Largo.

Soccer camps offered

LARGO - Celtic FC Florida will host a summer school through Celtic FC International Development Academy for ages 5 to 15, July 8 to 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Seminole Junior Warhawks Soccer Complex, 11450 125th St. N. in Largo.

The soccer camp will be staffed by Celtic Football Club coaches and emphasize skill development and offer player feedback and advice, skill testing as well as small-sided games.

The cost is \$274, or \$249 if booked before May 31.

Two field players and one goalkeeper will be specially selected from development academies to attend a week of training in Scotland with Celtic Football Club.

For more information or to book a spot in the camp, visit www.celticfl.net.

Gardening briefs

Garden tours set

LARGO - Vegetable, herb and tropical fruit garden tours will be conducted Thursdays, May 9 and May 23, 9 a.m. to noon, at Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road.

Attendees will learn about growing food and marvel at the eye-catching array of culinary, medicinal and aromatic herbs, trees and flowers.

Guests will wander the brick paths between the Egyptian, Mediterranean, Asian and beverage plantings while learning how the plants can be used in the home. Visitors also will discover the tropical fruits that do well in the Florida climate and view a diversity of plantings, including ground cover and trees that can be used when designing landscapes.

Tours are limited to adult groups of four to 10 people. Advance registration is required.

Call 582-2109 or visit www.eventbrite.com/event/5280496106/eorg.

Extension to host orchid, epiphytes workshop

LARGO - A free workshop on the orchids and epiphytes of Brooker Creek Preserve will be presented Saturday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at Pinellas County Extension Services, 12520 Ulmerton Road.

Naturalist James Stevenson will explore the fascinating world of orchids and "air plants" found on Pinellas County's largest nature preserve. This class will introduce participants to identification skills and the importance of conservation.

Advance registration is required.

Call 582-2100 or visit www.eventbrite.com/event/5221946984.eorg.

Rain-harvesting workshop set

OLDSMAR - A free rain-harvesting workshop will be presented Saturday, May 11, 2 to 3 p.m., at Oldsmar Public Library, 400 St. Petersburg Drive E.

Attendees will learn how to save rainwater in a recycled plastic barrel. The collected water may be used for plant beds, potted plants and vegetable and herb gardens. Participants will learn how to make and set up a rain barrel. A rain barrel will be given away at the class as a door prize.

To register, call 582-2108 or visit oldsmarclass.eventbrite.com.

Violet society to meet

SEFFNER - The Tampa African Violet Society will meet Friday, May 17, 10 a.m., in the public meeting room at the Seffner-Mango Library, 410 N. Kingsway Road.

Award-winning grower Mina Menish will present a program detailing "everything you need to know to grow award winning show plants." There will be a plant raffle and growing tips will be offered. Visitors are welcome. Admission and parking are free.

For information, call Jim Boyer at 871-2014 or email jasb39@gmail.com.

Memorable catch



Photo courtesy of FRED CASTELL

Fred Castell of Seminole displays an 8-pound sea bass he caught April 13 five miles off John's Pass.

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Obituaries

R. Dewey PETERS
95, of Seminole, Fla., died April 26, 2013, at home. Born in Adams, New York, he retired from General Electric in 1980. Survivors include his sons, Don, of Thomasville, N.C. and Kevin, of Clearwater, Fla.; and daughters, Linda Peters of Seminole, Karen Kinman of Everett, Wash., and Kathy Curran of Cary, N.C.; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held May 11, 2013, 2:00 p.m., at Gulf Coast Church, 13301 Walsingham Road, Largo, Fla.

In Loving Memory

Elizabeth "Betty" Eckley CAPONE
"Mom," "Mom-Mom." We think of you everyday. The little whisper in our ear tells us to always do what's right, no matter what.
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Until we meet again, we love you.
Beth, Karen, Trudi, Buzzy, and our beloved brother, Frankie-Boy

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Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County



- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

Leader
Section B
May 9, 2013

Visit www.TBNweekly.com

Featured in Largo

No Broadway show is too big for parody

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

From "Annie" to "Hairspray," "Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits" spoofs some of Broadway's biggest productions and renowned performers.

Helmed by director and choreographer James Grenelle, Eight O'Clock Theatre's current production delivers a perfect pageant of parody. The show runs through May 19 at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25.50 for adults and \$12.50 for students 19 and younger. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com.

Eight O'Clock Theatre gets into the act of spoofing Broadway with this long-running Off-Broadway satirical musical revue. Conceived of and written by Gerard Alessandrini, the show's history goes back 30 years. Alessandrini's original version opened at a dinner club in New York City in 1982 and ran for more than

See FORBIDDEN, page 4B



Photo courtesy of EIGHT O'CLOCK THEATRE

Jonathan Pouliot, left, and Joey Sarlo perform "Rent: Rant/Seasons of Hype" in Eight O'Clock Theatre's production of "Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits," running through May 19 at Largo Cultural Center.

Largo High School tackles classic shows

LARGO - The Largo High School drama department will present The Best of Broadway on Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m., in the auditorium at the school, 410 Missouri Ave.

The production will feature musical numbers from Hairspray, Wicked, Les Misérables, Seussical, Chicago, Legally Blonde the Musical, Mamma Mia, Sweet Charity and many other shows.

Tickets are \$5 and will be sold at the door.

More than 50 students will be performing. The production stars Emily Tanner, Marisa Corbitt, Tyler Kubiak, Stephanie Middleton, Landon McFee, Kristine Bui, Heidi Froberg, Bianca Rotondo, Taylor Ivy, Elisa Duka, Emily Miloro, Michael Haddad and Laura Velez.

"Theatre arts is my passion and the students are an inspiration and a joy to behold," said theater director Debbie Wortock.

The production features the work of three student choreographers: sophomore Landon McFee of Tutterton Dance Academy, junior Heidi Froberg from Magic Dance Club and sophomore Kristine Bui from Phillipines Performing Arts Company.

"I love the opportunity to take beautiful things from my head

See LARGO HIGH, page 8B



Photos courtesy of MARVEL STUDIOS/WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

Robert Downey Jr. stars as Tony Stark/Iron Man in Marvel Studios' "Iron Man 3."

Movie review

Unexpected twists, solid performances reinforce 'Iron Man 3'

By now, this role should be second nature to Robert Downey Jr. "Iron Man 3" - this summer's first blockbuster - marks Downey's fourth feature film appearance portraying the dour yet snarky Tony Stark and his formidable but dysfunctional alter ego Iron Man. Honestly, it's a role he was born to own. One might even be tempted to think that Stark's character development might have borrowed elements of Downey's own personal life - but that's impossible, since Iron Man has been around longer than the actor. Downey was born in 1965 ... Iron Man first appeared in "Tales of Suspense," issue 39, in 1963.

Like its predecessors, "Iron Man 3" is bursting its rivets with spectacular, over-the-top action sequences seemingly lifted straight from comic book pages. It has depth of story, compelling conflict, well-developed characters, unexpected twists and perfect pacing. At its core, though, is Stark, still struggling with all those internal conflicts that make him such an interesting hero.

The film opens with a flashback sequence set in 1999. Stark is shown prior to the events that led him to create Iron Man. He interacts with scientist Maya Hansen, an inventor working on an experimental regenerative treatment, as well as scientist Aldrich Killian, who is hoping Hansen will take a place in his company, Advanced Idea Mechanics.

Flash forward to present day. A terrorist known as the Mandarin has masterminded a string of bombings and is threatening further attacks. Stark Industries security chief Happy Hogan is injured in an attack, causing Stark to publically state that he's going after the Mandarin. Not long after, Stark's home is destroyed and he is presumed dead. Stark goes on to piece together the puzzle and discover the Mandarin's true identity and intentions. As with all good blockbusters, tension mounts as Stark fights his way through minor skirmishes on his way to a jaw-dropping smackdown - and this film's final battle qualifies as epic.

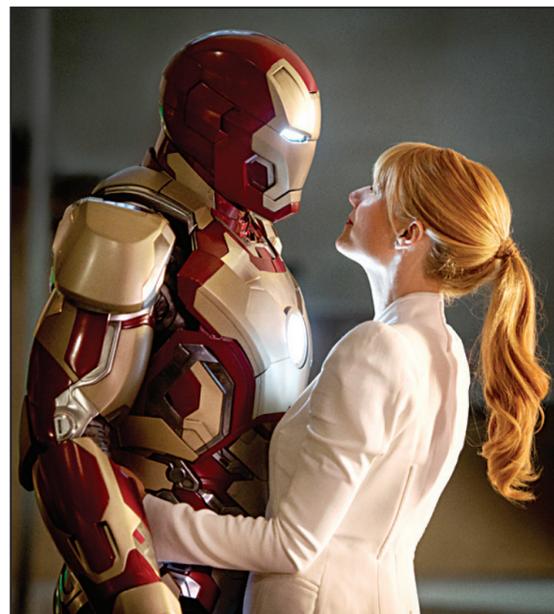
Downey's impeccable performance is key to the film's success.

Stark is a complex character, arrogant and smug one moment, self-loathing and doubtful the next. In the comic book, his emotional imperfections were perhaps best showcased in the nine-issue "Demon in a Bottle" story that played out in 1979. On screen, the character echoes some of these insecurities: regret over his company's involvement with weapons manufacturing, cynicism at a world in chaos, reservations about his role as a hero.



Reel Time

Lee Clark Zumpe



Gwyneth Paltrow stars as Pepper Potts in Marvel Studios' "Iron Man 3."

In "Iron Man 3," a new dimension is added to Stark's emotional baggage: He is suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder stemming from the climactic battle depicted in last summer's mega-hit "Marvel's The Avengers." Downey delivers convincing anxiety attacks, although the PTSD angle seems forced. Considering the character survived long-term captivity at the hands of brutal terrorists in a previous film, the source of his apprehension in this film seems to pale in comparison. It's a minor flaw in an otherwise effective script.

There are plenty of other fine performances to praise in "Iron Man 3." Ben Kingsley is superb in a role that takes an unexpected turn and

See REEL TIME, page 4B

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This week's top five diversions

• **"Pippin,"** by Stephen Schwartz and Roger Hirson, May 9-26, at Francis Wilson Playhouse, 302 Seminole St., Clearwater. Call 446-1360 or visit www.franciswilsonplayhouse.org. Performances are generally Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets for nonmusicals are \$21 for adults, \$11 for students. Tickets for musicals are \$26 for adults, \$13 for students.

• **Pinellas Youth Symphony: Final Chamber Ensembles;** Friday, May 10, 7:30 p.m., in Murray Studio at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for

students and children. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerd.com. The concert will feature the string, woodwind and brass chamber ensembles. The ensembles are under direction from professional musicians from The Florida Orchestra.

• **The Florida Orchestra: The Music of the Doors;** Friday, May 10, 8 p.m., at The Mahaffey, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$35. Call 892-3337 or visit www.floridaorchestra.org. Presented as part of TFO's Rock Series, The Music of the Doors will salute the raw energy, edgy lyrics and often wild stage presence of this groundbreaking

group. The lead singer of the rock band Zebra, Randy Jackson, is the featured vocal soloist with The Florida Orchestra. The show will feature 21 hits by The Doors such as "Touch Me," "Riders on the Storm," "Roadhouse Blues" and "Light My Fire." Brent Havens will serve as guest conductor.

• **Una Voce: "Something Wonderful,"** Friday, May 10, 8 p.m., at The Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets are \$20. Call 822-3590 or visit www.mypalladium.org. Una Voce, the Florida Men's Chorus, will present "Something Wonderful: The Music of Rogers and Hammerstein," a celebration of the collaborative works of two American masters of song that span two decades. Una Voce will perform thrilling classics from "Oklahoma!," "Carousel," "South Pacific," "The King and I" and "The Sound of Music."

• **"Giselle,"** Sunday, May 12, 3 p.m., at The Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for seniors, students and children. Call 822-3590 or visit www.mypalladium.org. Presented by St. Petersburg Ballet Company, "Giselle" was first choreographed in 1841. Act I is set in a German village and tells the story of Giselle, a young peasant girl who falls in love with Albrecht, a Prince disguised as a peasant. Albrecht, who is already engaged to a duchess, pretends to be in love with Giselle. When Giselle realizes the deception she goes mad and dies of a broken heart. Act II takes place in the forest where Wilis roam from dusk to dawn. Wilis are spirits of young girls who died before they were married and they keep all men away from the forest by dancing them to death. The Queen of the Wilis, Myrtha, commands Giselle to rise from her grave and to dance Albrecht to death. Giselle loves Albrecht and forgives him for deceiving her by keeping him alive until the sun rises.

Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14				15							16			
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59					60							61		
62					63							64		

Across

- Ceiling
- Uttered in a grating voice
- "Roots," e.g.
- Basic unit of money in Romania
- Imprison
- "Ah, me!"
- Anglican clergyman
- Clooney character on "ER"
- Autumn tool
- Grace word
- Audition tape
- God, with "the"
- On the other side of
- Curt
- Appear
- A way to catch fish (variant spelling)
- Mainstay
- Anger (pl.)
- Railway coach where meals are served (2 wds)
- Allocate, with "out"
- "Jane Eyre" author
- Ancient Andean
- Gabriel, for one
- Arguments
- Increase, with "up"
- Day play
- Alliance acronym
- Derby prize
- N.Y. neighbor
- Maple genus
- Blouse with buttons down the front
- K follower
- High officer in the Ottoman Empire
- "___ any drop to drink": Coleridge
- "-zoic" things
- Bookstore section
- "Don't give up!"

Down

- Bordeaux product
- Freshen
- Wrinkle or irregular fold
- Free from, with "of"
- Amorphous creature
- Like some talk
- Brownish purple
- "Aeneid" figure
- Animal shelters
- Scornful and mocking
- Burn treatment (2 wds)
- Device for measuring the volume of fuel, e.g. propane (2 wds)
- Classifies
- Half a matched set
- Home, informally
- Table part
- The Kennedys, e.g.
- Camping gear
- Checks
- Halo, e.g.
- Hired vehicle (3 wds)
- And so forth
- Harbor or town with shop facilities
- Makeup, e.g.
- Call by the wrong identifying term
- 12-point type
- Consecrate
- Muscle that stretches or tightens a body part
- Guard
- Excellence
- Daisylike bloom
- Common party request (abbrev.)
- Its quarter says "Birthplace of Aviation Pioneers"
- King or queen, e.g.
- Crooked

Horoscopes

May 9, 2013

Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

Budget cuts do not have to be painful. Capricorn. Get your thinking cap on and look for some creative compromises. A friend's suggestion is not as crazy as it seems.

Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

Relax, Aquarius. You are not to blame for the poor results. What you did was up to par, and everyone knows it. Romantic gestures set the stage for a great weekend.

Pisces

February 19 - March 20

People hang on your every word this week. Use it to your advantage, Pisces. A friend makes the find of a lifetime. Celebrate with a night on the town.

Aries

March 21 - April 19

Not a chance, Aries. Sure, there have been many twists and turns, but now is not the time to give up. The end is within sight. A deadline is extended.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Momentous markdowns! Money to burn! Why shouldn't you go shopping, Taurus? Because you have someone more important to focus on.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21

Grovel, Gemini. No, it's not fun, but if you want to add to your collection, it's what you are going to have to do. A financial mistake is rectified in your favor.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22

Take the leap, Cancer. There is absolutely nothing standing in your way. A change in policy at work calls for a new outlook and a new wardrobe.

Leo

July 23 - August 22

Watch it, Leo. Veer off course in any way, and recovery could be long and difficult. A phone message clues you in to the root of a young one's problems.

Virgo

August 23 - September 22

Uh-uh-uh, Virgo. There's no time for deliberation. Wing it, and what happens next will surprise you. The tension lifts at home with a few words of wisdom.

Libra

September 23 - October 22

Come on, Libra. You know what needs to be done. Stop dawdling and get a move on. Crass comments at the office lead to debate. Steer clear of the chaos.

Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

Hmm, Scorpio. If the offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Coworkers make light of a new set of rules. Don't follow suit. An email piques your curiosity.

Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

What goes around comes around. Remember that, Sagittarius, at an upcoming event. A young one's expectations are low, too low in fact. Do your best to change that.



Photo courtesy of THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA
Vocalist Randy Jackson joins The Florida Orchestra for The Music of the Doors May 10 at The Mahaffey.

Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers from last week

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

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

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

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Opening this weekend

'The Great Gatsby' opens with Maguire, DiCaprio; Robinson, Washington star in 'Peeples'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'The Great Gatsby'

Genre: Drama
Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire, Carey Mulligan, Joel Edgerton, Isla Fisher, Jason Clarke and Amitabh Bachchan
Director: Baz Luhrmann
Rated: PG-13

"The Great Gatsby" follows would-be writer Nick Carraway as he leaves the Midwest and comes to New York City in the spring of 1922, an era of loosening morals, glittering jazz, bootleg kings, and skyrocketing stocks.

Chasing his own American Dream, Nick lands next door to a mysterious, party-giving millionaire, Jay Gatsby, and across the bay from his cousin, Daisy, and her philandering, blue-blooded husband, Tom Buchanan. It is thus that Nick is drawn into the captivating world of the super rich, their illusions, loves and deceptions.

As Nick bears witness, within and without of the world he inhabits, he pens a tale of impossible love, incorruptible dreams and high-octane tragedy, and holds a mirror to our own modern times and struggles.

'Peeples'

Genre: Comedy
Cast: Craig Robinson, Kerry Washington, David Alan Grier, S. Epatha Merkerson, Tyler Williams, Melvin Van Peebles and Diahann Carroll
Director: Tina Gordon Chism
Rated: PG-13

Sparks fly when Wade Walker (Craig Robinson) crashes the preppy Peeples annual reunion in the Hamptons to ask for their precious daughter Grace's (Kerry Washington) hand in marriage.

Wade might be a fish-out-of-water among this seemingly perfect East Coast clan, but he's not about to let himself flounder. In-

stead, in a wild weekend of fun, dysfunction and hilarious surprises, Wade is about to discover there's room for all kinds of Peeples in this family, no matter their differences.

Writer and first-time director Tina Gordon Chism joins forces with Tyler Perry to present a laugh-out-loud look at the family ties that freak us out ... but bind us together with love.

For more movie news, visit www.TBNweekly.com. Click on the "Movie News & Reviews" link on the left-side menu.

'Java Heat'

Genre: Action, crime and drama
Cast: Kellan Lutz, Ario Bayu and Mickey Rourke
Director: Conor Allyn
Rated: R

Kellan Lutz and Academy Award nominee and Golden Globe winner Mickey Rourke star in "Java Heat," an exotic cross-cultural action thriller about a reckless American who teams up with a Muslim cop to stop a terrorist mastermind.

At a time when relations between the West and Islam are dangerously tense, Java Heat opens amidst the aftermath of a terrorist attack in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim nation. Java Heat centers on Jake (Lutz), a reckless American tough guy who becomes embroiled in the turmoil ensuing the attacks, which killed the country's much beloved Sultana.

Jake is bent on vengeance but quickly finds the world a more complicated place than he can solve with violence alone. Lost among labyrinths of religious, political and cultural havoc, Jake must ally with cerebral Muslim detective Hashim (rising Indonesian star Ario Bayu), who handles Jake more like a suspect than a partner.

The uneasy friendship leads to a treacherous man-hunt for the attack's real instigator, a new



Photo courtesy of WARNER BROS. PICTURES

breed of klepto-terrorist (Rourke), who is even more twisted and terrifying than the Jihadist terrorists he hides behind.

Above, Tobey Maguire, left, stars as Nick Carraway and Leonardo DiCaprio as Jay Gatsby in Warner Bros. Pictures' and Village Roadshow Pictures' drama "The Great Gatsby." Below, from left, Kerry Washington stars as Grace Peeples, Craig Robinson as Wade Walker and David Alan Grier as Virgil Peeples in "Peeples."

'Sightseers'

Genre: Comedy and drama
Cast: Steve Oram, Alice Lowe, Roger Michael, Tony Way and Monica Dolan
Director: Ben Wheatley
Not rated

Chris (Steve Oram) wants to show Tina (Alice Lowe) his world and he wants to do it his way - on a journey through the British Isles in his beloved Abbey Oxford Caravan.

Tina's led a sheltered life and there are things that Chris needs her to see - the Crich Tramway Museum, the Ribbleshead Viaduct, the Keswick Pencil Museum and the rolling countryside that accompanies

See OPENING, page 4B



Photo by NICOLE RIVELLI

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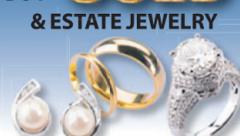
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FORBIDDEN, from page 1B

2,300 performances. Since then, Alessandrini has rewritten the show a dozen times, each time introducing parodies of newer shows to keep the selection fresh.

Done in cabaret revue style, the show lampoons some of Broadway's greatest musical legends. The satire is generally affectionate and consistently hilarious. For "Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits," the primary targets are easy to anticipate: "Annie," "Hair-spray," "West Side Story," "Chicago" and "Wicked" are among the shows that are lovingly mocked.

Grenelle has acquired a marvelous cast. Starring in EOT's "Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits" are Sadra Bostick, Amy Dobbert, Jonathan Pouliot and Joey Sarlo.

Bostick appeared in EOT's 2012 production of "Funny Girl," headlining as Fanny Brice. That performance earned her a STAR Award for Favorite Actress in a Musical. Here, she shines as she skewers Bebe Neuwirth in "Chicago" with the number "Glossy Fosse," sung to the tune of "Razzle Dazzle." Later, she spoofs Idina Menzel's larger-than-life turn as Elphaba in "Wicked" with "Defying Subtlety."

Pouliot surprises the audience with a brilliantly overdone "Something Overindulgent" and later returns in a second act highlight, the wonderfully executed "Cameron Mackintosh: My Souvenir Things."

Sarlo nimbly leads the cast in the Sondheim send-up "Into the Words." Later, he deftly depicts the vocally challenged Michael Crawford in "The Phantom of Opera," singing "Mucus of the Night."

And then there's Dobbert. Honestly, she got several choice caricature numbers in this production - and she excels in every one. Her impression of Carol Channing is uproarious

and her rendition of Ms. Minnelli in "Liza One-Note" is terrific. One of the highlights of the show is a short number called "Annie: Tomorrow" in which Dobbert portrays washed-up star of Annie.

The cast comes together for several numbers, the most appealing - and topical considering the recent film - being the "Les Mis" medley at the end of the first act. In fact, "Les Mis" proves to be such a magnificent target; the show goes after it again in the second act.

Emi Stefanov, music director, earns high praise, too - she is on stage for the duration of the show, along with her grand piano. Not only does she play beautifully, she gets to interact with the cast from time to time.

"Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits" is unapologetically cheeky but never derisive. It mocks and mimics but it offers gentle, comedic parody. Grenelle, in his notes, says that he is "thrilled to be working with four extremely talented performers who can stand on their own individually but can wow an audience as a foursome." More importantly, they can do precisely what "Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits" is designed to do: Make the audience laugh.

OPENING, from page 3B

these wonders in his life.

But it doesn't take long for the dream to fade. Litterbugs, noisy teenagers and pre-booked caravan sites, not to mention Tina's meddling mother, soon conspire to shatter Chris's dreams and send him, and anyone who rubs him up the wrong way, over a very jagged edge...

'Stories We Tell'

Genre: Documentary
Director: Sarah Polley
Rated: PG-13
"Stories We Tell" is an inspired, genre-twisting film by Oscar-nominated director Sarah Polley, and produced by Anita Lee for the NFB.

Her playful investigation into the elusive truth buried within the contradictions of a family of storytellers paints a profound portrait of a complicated and deeply loving family.

'Venus and Serena'

Genre: Sports documentary
Cast: Venus Williams, Serena Williams, Chris Rock, John McEnroe and Billy Jean King

Director: Maiken Baird and Michelle Major
Rated: PG-13

"Venus and Serena" takes an unfiltered look into the remarkable lives of the greatest sister-act professional tennis has ever seen.

In a sport where they were not welcomed, the indomitable Williams sisters faced the opposition with grace and courage not only breaking new ground for female and African American athletes everywhere, but dominating the women's game for over a decade. The film tells the inspiring story of how these two women, against all odds, but with the help of visionary parents, made it to the top.

"Venus and Serena" also explores the struggle of these two aging superstars during the 2011 tennis season as they battle life and career-threatening health problems.

In "Venus and Serena" we gain unprecedented access into the sisters' lives - both in the spotlight and behind closed doors - and we watch as they draw their greatest strengths from one another to overcome countless adversities.

REEL TIME, from page 1B

deviates from the canon. It should be mentioned that some diehard Iron Man fans may find this unanticipated spin blasphemous - but Kingsley really makes it work.

Don Cheadle could have used more screen time as James Rhodes/Iron Patriot - he's really underutilized, here, but stands out in that he never allows his character to be eclipsed by Stark. Those who watch closely may notice that there are scenes with Cheadle and Downey that evoke classic 1980s buddy-cop flicks. It's likely that's no accident, since the script was written by Shane Black, who worked on two "Lethal Weapon" films as well as "The Last Boy Scout" and "Last Action Hero."

Gwyneth Paltrow, dependable as always, reprises her role as Pepper Potts. Jon Favreau's Happy Hogan is perfectly-timed comic relief. Guy Pearce portrays Aldrich Killian. It's impossible to describe Pearce's performance in detail without revealing spoilers: Suffice it to say that he was the right man for the job.

Iron Man is like an old friend, now - sort of like Indiana Jones was throughout the 1980s. To some extent, viewers know what to expect from the character. Still, "Iron Man 3" does offer its share of transformations and surprising twists. It moves the Marvel Cinematic Universe forward, advancing the all-encompassing storyline that will play out in future films.

Most of all, "Iron Man 3" sets the standard for this summer's blockbusters: edgy heroes, reprehensible villains, blissfully overindulgent action and innovative stories. It's the kind of film that begs to be seen again - and that hasn't happened since, well, "Marvel's The Avengers."

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Serena, front, and Venus Williams appear in "Venus and Serena," a Magnolia Pictures release.

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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

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LARGO HIGH, from page 1B

and give them music, a stage, and a spotlight," Frobergm said. McFee agreed. "Choreographing these exciting dance numbers gives me a chance to bring my art to life," he said. Bui said she confronted the challenge of choreography technique, style, and imagination. Tyler Kubiak, a veteran of Francis Wilson and Largo Cultural Productions and a junior at Largo High School, was the technical director for the show. "The lights and sound of a production are like the bones in a body; without them, no show could stand," he said.

For more information, call Deborah Wortock at 588-3758 or wortockd@pcsb.org.



Students at Largo High School will perform musical numbers from several Broadway shows May 16.

Photo courtesy of DEBBIE WORTOCK

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9am-9pm
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- Lobster Eggs Benedict
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- Cheese Blintz
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- Carved Prime Rib of Beef
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- Snow Crab legs
- Roast Duck w/ Thai red curry
- Beer battered coconut chicken, jasmine rice w/oriental dipping glaze
- Mint scented grilled pork tenderloin w/apricot fig chutney
- Fennel roasted Atlantic salmon w/mushroom sambuca sauce
- Garlic and Truffle Honey Glazed Chicken w/Coarse Grain Mustard Sauce
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