

Utility tax to be considered

Commissioners to discuss surface water utility during public hearing ... Page 6A.



'Star Trek Into Darkness' beams into theaters this week

J.J. Abrams directs the second film in the relaunched story of the Enterprise ... Page 1B.

LARGO LEADER

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LARGO



Chocolate spoils

Rotary Club of Largo officials presented a \$3,000 check for the city's summer camp program during the Largo Commission meeting May 8. The funds were proceeds from last year's Death by Chocolate - A Taste of the Holidays, which is held annually at the Largo Cultural Center. ... Page 2A.

POLICE BEAT

Alligator attacks fleeing suspect

A Pinellas Park man was attacked by an alligator while fleeing from Pinellas County Sheriff's deputies May 9. Bryan Zuniga, 20, fled during a routine traffic stop for failing to maintain a single lane near the 7100 block of 78th Avenue North. He was found a few hours later at a local hospital where he was being treated for multiple puncture wounds to his face, arm and armpit area. He told deputies that he was attacked by an alligator. ... Page 5A.

COUNTY

Survey: optimism is growing

In a recent Pinellas County citizen research survey, results showed a growing sense of optimism, positive sentiment and trust in county government. This is the third consecutive year that Pinellas County has conducted a statistically valid citizen survey, with the first year used to collect feedback on residents' priorities in the midst of budget reductions. ... Page 7A.

BUSINESS

St. Pete Beach named top beach

Parents Magazine has named St. Pete Beach its third best beach town in the United States. The magazine recently published its top 10 beach towns, which also includes Amelia Island, Fla. ... Page 9A.

VIEWPOINTS

Carl Hiaasen

Self-radicalized terrorists can be scarier than organized cells, columnist says. ... Page 11A.



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Largo considers tax exemptions

Commissions to implement program to help economic development

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - The city of Largo economic development staff will be developing an incentive program to encourage new and expanding businesses by exempting city property taxes, after commissioners voiced favor for the program May 14.

The program is in direct response to a 59 percent vote in favor of the idea on a citywide referendum in November. It would be designed to specifically encourage high-wage jobs.

Not many businesses would likely qualify. Economic

Development Manger Teresa Brydon explained to the commission during the workshop discussion.

"We don't see too many of these coming in front of us. These are going to be very unique situations," she said.

The program Brydon presented would require qualifying new businesses to develop 10 or more jobs within manufacturing or targeted industries, including clean-tech, life sciences, information technology, aviation/aerospace, homeland security, financial/professional services or corporate headquarters. If a business has 50 percent of sales outside the state of Florida

or is an office-type business, it would have to bring 50 or more new jobs in order to qualify.

Expanding businesses or businesses within a designated Brownfield area have different job creation requirements.

The average wages for those jobs would have to be higher than the county average. Should a business qualify, their real and tangible property taxes would be exempt in the year after the construction of the new building expansion is completed.

See EXEMPTIONS, page 4A

Parents, teens protest sale of synthetic drugs

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - A group of concerned parents and teenagers held brightly colored signs along Seminole Boulevard May 9 to warn of the dangerous products still sold in convenience stores all over Pinellas County.

Riley's Food Mart, where the group gathered, is just one of the places still selling synthetic drugs, said Missy Peterson, who organized the protest in front of the store with her husband, Jeff. The protesters say they have seen the sales continue despite the fact that the state of Florida has banned substances sometimes called bath salts or incense and packaged as Spice, K2 and dozens of other colorful product names designed to target teenagers and children.

"We wanted our community to know, here in Largo and in Pinellas County, that we don't want these convenient stores to sell synthetic drugs anymore to our teenage kids," Missy said.

The Petersons, who were interviewed by Tampa Bay Newspapers for a series about synthetic drugs last year, have struggled to deal with the effects of synthetic drugs in their family. Over the last two years, their now 16-year-old daughter, Jessie, has been in and out of four different long-term rehabilitation programs for her addiction to synthetic drugs.

But that evening, Jessie joined her parents in front of Riley's. She'd been off the products for five days and said she'd had enough.

"It means a lot for Jessie to be here today and to show that she doesn't want to smoke the synthetic pot anymore," Missy said. "We're very proud of her that she's standing next to us."

The Petersons said they held the protest in front of Riley's because they know "for a fact" that their daughter and her friends have bought synthetic drugs at the convenience store.



Above, young protesters, from left, Jessie Peterson, 16, her boyfriend Matt Christunas, 17, and Daniel Johnson, 21, said they have had personal experience with the dangers of synthetic drugs. At right, protesters hold signs in front of Riley's Food Mart in Largo May 9 to bring attention to continual sales of banned synthetic drugs, which they say take place at the convenience store and are harming local youth.

"Basically, if you live in this area, this is where you're going to come for it," Jessie explained. "This is known."

Law enforcement is doing what they can to stop the sale of illegal synthetic drugs, the Petersons said. But it was time for

See PROTEST, page 4A



Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

Sidewalk sale



Photo by BRIAN GOFF

Shoppers showed up early at the inaugural Downtown Largo Merchants Association sidewalk sale May 11. For updates from the association, visit www.facebook.com/DowntownLargo. For more photos, see page 8A.

Raises may be in budget for county employees

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - For the past few weeks, there have been hints that a pay raise might be coming next year for Pinellas County employees.

Commissioner Norm Roche brought the subject to the table May 7 with a proposal to use savings from changes to the Florida Retirement System that required employees to contribute 3 percent of their pay to their retirement to fund future pay raises.

Roche has advocated returning the money to employees ever since the state Legislature approved the change in contribution requirements. The commission elected to put the first partial year's savings of \$9 million into the Service Level Stabilization Account and \$13 million from the savings into the account the second year.

In a memo, Roche said that the "Legislature's change to the FRS contribution structure (3 percent) resulted in a reduction in county-wide labor costs of about \$13 million annually. This action impacted both the county commission employees under the administrator's direction, as well as the employees under the direction of our

See PAY RAISES, page 4A

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Lester Dailey brings Viva Florida 500 to life with 'God and Gold'

By BOB COSTIGAN

If you have ever been to Heritage Village you may have run into Lester Dailey. He and his wife Judy are both history buffs and can often be found volunteering at the H.C. Smith general store.

The 67-year-old Dailey is a semi-retired freelance journalist who lives in Largo and writes for Tampa Bay Newspapers.

Dailey said he first started working for the New York stock exchange in the 1960s before being drafted into the military. After serving his country, Lester used the GI bill to enroll in college, earning a doctorate in law. He found he didn't care for practicing law but he did like the probate side of it. Dailey said he then became a probate officer as well as a vice president in the banking industry.

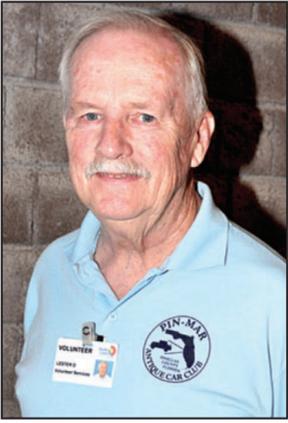
Dailey said he first became interested in history when, as a child, his parents gave him an 1854 dime and a neighbor gave him some old broken arrowheads he had found.

"I got fascinated with the objects and wondered about the people who used them," he said. Then while attending college in San Francisco, he visited the Fort Point National Historic site and soon found himself a historical interpretive ranger there.

After moving to Florida, Dailey's interest turned to early Florida history and the exploration of the "new world" by Spaniard Juan Ponce de Leon. He began collecting artifacts, mostly late 19th and early 20th century reproductions of 16th century Spanish items, since real artifacts are extremely hard to come by.

Seven years ago he put together a Ponce de Leon exhibit, which he has named "For God and Gold," which will now be on exhibit at Heritage Village. The title comes from the Spaniards' desire to convert the native people they encountered to Catholicism. The "gold" stemmed from their desire to discover riches to take back to Spain: gold, silver, diamonds and other valuable minerals.

The exhibit includes reproduction weapons, nautical items, clothing, religious items and other objects to tell the story of everyday life during the



Lester R. Dailey has a passion for history and enjoys volunteering at Heritage Village.

ocean crossing and the subsequent exploration and colonization of Florida.

"For God and Gold" has been displayed locally at such places as the Indian Rocks Beach Museum, Dunedin Historical Museum and the Armed Forces History Museum in Largo.

Dailey has a passion for history and enjoys volunteering at Heritage Village and sharing his knowledge with others. With antique arms and weaponry of particular interest to him, he said it has been a joy showing the exhibit.

Ellen Babb, Heritage Village Museum operations manager, said both Lester and Judy Dailey have a passion for history and have been long-time volunteers at the village, Judy since 2001 and Lester since 2006. Together they have put in more than 2,600 volunteer hours once or twice a week and whenever

else they are asked.

"They are very committed and really want the village to succeed on every level," said Babb.

Babb first became interested in Lester's "For God and Gold" exhibit after hearing rave reviews about it and made a special effort to see the exhibit while it was on display at the Armed Forces Military Museum.

"I thought it would be a great exhibit for Heritage Village," she said, and asked Dailey about displaying it. He readily agreed.

The "For God and Gold" exhibit will be a part of the Viva Florida 500 celebration at Heritage Village, Pinellas County's signature event that marks the 500th anniversary of Juan Ponce de León's arrival on Florida's east coast. The Sunday, May 19, event will run from noon to 4 p.m. in partnership with the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative.

Pinellas County volunteers can expect to make a difference in the life of their community, while exploring interests, sharing knowledge, assisting others and making friends.

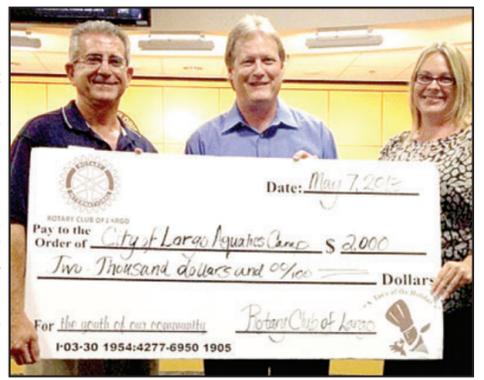
For more information, visit www.pinellascounty.org/volunteer, email volunteers@pinellascounty.org or call (727) 464-VIPS (8477).

This article was provided by Pinellas County Communications.

Chocolate spoils



Above, presenting a \$3,000 check for the city's summer camp program during the Largo Commission meeting May 8 are, from left, Rotary Club of Largo President Eric Coyner, board member and President-Elect Marie Etheridge and Krista Pincince, manager of the Highland Recreation Complex. Below, accepting a second check for \$2,000 for the city's Adaptive Aquatics Team from the club is Mark Abdo, left, the city's aquatics manager, who is pictured with Coyner and Etheridge. The funds were proceeds from last year's Death by Chocolate - A Taste of the Holidays, which is held annually on the first Friday of December at the Largo Cultural Center. This year's event will be held Friday, Dec. 6.



Photos courtesy of the ROTARY CLUB OF LARGO

Democratic club hosts gubernatorial candidate

LARGO - Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club will host former State Senator and Minority Leader Nan Rich, who has announced her candidacy for Florida gover-

nor, during the club's meeting May 20, 7 p.m., at Thirsty Marlin Grill, 351 West Bay Drive in Largo.

Rich has been an advocate for children, families, elders, the environment and fair elections. After a stint in the Florida House from 2000 to 2004, she was elected to the Senate and later served as leader of the Florida Senate Democratic Caucus from

2010 to 2012.

She will speak and take questions about her gubernatorial campaign. Discussion will be encouraged; and everyone, county-wide, is welcome.

Also speaking at this meeting will be Pinellas County Commissioner Janet Long, who will provide an update on commission issues and actions and will answer questions from the audience.

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City calendar

Largo Central Park

The Largo Central Park is at 101 Central Park Drive. Within the park is the Largo Public Library, at 120 Central Park Drive. For information about events, call 587-6740, ext. 5014 or visit LargoEvents.com

Library closing for upgrade

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.

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.

Community Center

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

Silver screen classics

LARGO - Enjoy an afternoon viewing a movie for free June 20, noon to 3 p.m., at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road.

Refreshments will be sold and information on the movie will be handed out. The event is sponsored by Imperial Palms Apartments.

Highland Rec Complex

Highland Recreation Complex is at 400 Highland Ave. Visit HighlandRecreation.com or call 518-3016.

Pre-opening sale

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, cash and carry sale Friday, May 3, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All items must be removed at the time of the sale. Call Joan Wheaton at 587-6727.

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.

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 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.

The Highland Family Aquatic Center will celebrate its grand reopening on June 8, noon to 4 p.m. Bring the family and enjoy the center's many features and slides. Splash's Snack Bar will be open. Expect door prizes and giveaways. The cost is \$12 or \$23 per group with a max of five people.

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.

A historic hotel



Photo courtesy of the LARGO AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Pictured in this 1916 photo is the Pinellas Hotel to the left, the Louis Johnson's well and water tower behind the hotel and the new brick Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Depot on the far right. The hotel, today called the Johnson Building, is the only one of these 1915 buildings still standing. The Johnson Building is on the National Register of Historic Buildings, the only one in Largo. The color was added to the photo after the fact.

Summer kick off

LARGO - The city of Largo invites the public to the Southwest Neighborhood Summer Kick Off June 9, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Southwest pool.

Come celebrate summer with friends and family. A hot dog lunch and bottled water will be available, while supplies last, as will floats, inner tubes and diving boards for recreational use. Door prizes will be given away.

The cost with a recreation ID is \$2 for city residents and \$3 for non-city residents or \$6 without one.

Enjoy underwater exploration with Discover Scuba. Scuba participants ages 17 and younger will require a parent signature.

Wing Fling

LARGO - Bring friends and family for a swim at Southwest Pool and enjoy the finest wings in the area for Wing Fling June 29, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A variety of restaurants have been invited to compete for the honor of becoming the Wing Fling Champion. Tickets are \$3 or \$5.

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Pinellas commissioners move to protect industrial land

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – The decision was unanimous, and Pinellas County Commissioners made it clear that preservation of industrial land was of paramount importance.

The commission, acting as the Countywide Planning Authority, was asked to make an amendment to the Future Land Use Plan May 7, for 34.6 acres located in Safety Harbor. The amendment would have changed the zoning designation from Industrial Limited, Residential/Office Limited, Residential Low, Residential Urban, Preservation and Water/Drainage Feature Overlay to Residential Medium, Residential/Office Limited and Water/Drainage Feature Overlay.

The southern 10-acres, currently zoned Industrial Limited, fronts State Road 590. It is occupied by the Firmenich citrus processing plant, which is relocating to Polk County. The rest of the property is unimproved and contains woods and some wetlands.

Approval of the rezoning, which was backed by the city of Safety Harbor, would have allowed redevelopment of the property and construction of a 246-unit apartment complex that would have fronted S.R. 590 and an office building that would have fronted McMullen Booth Road.

However, approval would have resulted in the loss of 15.8 acres of land that could be used by an industry to provide much-needed jobs in Pinellas.

The approval also would not add to the county's affordable housing inventory. The Richman Group of Florida had planned to build high-end apartments, with a one bedroom renting for \$1,000, a two bedroom for \$1,300 and a three bedroom for \$1,500.

Safety Harbor residents, who live in neighbor-

hoods adjacent to the proposed apartment complex, argued that the county had plenty of apartments, but not enough jobs. They also objected to the possibility of additional traffic on the road, despite studies that said traffic would be less, not more. They also didn't like the height of the buildings – three stories in the back – or the loss of the wooded area and the impact of an apartment complex on the scenic corridor of McMullen Booth Road. They said the apartment complex would negatively affect their property values. Nearly 300 signed a petition in opposition.

The Pinellas Planning Council voted to approve the amendment, 8-5, April 10, subject to a number of conditions. Mike Crawford, interim director of the Pinellas Planning Council, said the majority had conceded that the change to Residential Medium would provide a transition between high and low density uses and that the Office Limited designation fit within the countywide rules.

The loss of 15.8 acres of the remaining 38 acres of Industrial Limited was a concern; however, amendments to the Countywide Plan Map since 2005 have already significantly reduced the amount of property available for a potential employment district, Crawford said.

Commissioner Susan Latvala expressed "great concern with the loss of industrial property."

"If we keep chipping away at this, 10 years from now, we'll find we're a bedroom community," she said.

Mike Miedel, Economic Development director, said the case was "kind of a poster child" for what's going on, "nibbling away at industrial areas."

"This particular property is probably too far gone," he said.

He cautioned that objections from the neighbors would probably be heard if an industrial use was



Residents living near a proposed apartment development on McMullen Booth Road in Safety Harbor want to preserve the scenic corridor provided by this stretch of woods.

proposed, adding that while his department actively recruited clean, high-paying industries, such as information technology, other uses would be permitted in Industrial Limited, including warehouses that could employ only one of two people.

The real estate broker for the property has been trying to sell it for the past five years, Miedel said. It's been shown 24 times, but the size and use of the property as it exists is not suitable for anything other than citrus, he said.

Rezoning the property would increase its value, he admitted.

"Industrial is the cheapest land in the county," he said.

He said if the site was cleared, it could be more attractive to a potential buyer, due to its access to the airport and highways.

Scott Cullen, the property's broker, said he had marketed the property "broadly" since October of 2008 and had no offers for industrial use. Some had been interested in mixed uses, including big box retail, grocery and mixed use residential.

The commission suggested that bad economic times since 2008 could be a factor. The consensus was to wait for a larger conversation on industrial land and employment districts.

"It's not the right time to make this change," Commissioner Charlie Justice said.

Briefs

Animal Services to close for in-service day

LARGO – Pinellas County Animal Services will be closed on Tuesday, May 21, for in-service day. The facility will resume regular business hours on Wednesday, May 22.

Pinellas County Animal Services is located at 12450 Ulmerton Road in Largo. Normal hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the adoption center closing at 5:30 p.m. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and services include adoptions. Rabies vaccinations are administered on Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. The facility is closed all Pinellas County holidays.

For information on how to adopt, donate or volunteer, join Pinellas County Animal Services on Facebook. To learn more about the shelter, visit www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices, or call 582-2600. The lost or found pets hotline is 582-2604.

PSTA riders set another record

ST. PETERSBURG – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority bus riders resumed their record streak last month by taking more rides than in any other April in PSTA history. The mark is a 4 percent improvement over April 2012 and the fifth highest monthly total ever.

"The fact that we set a new record even as gasoline prices were dropping and spring break was coming to end, is further proof of the growing demand for public transit in Pinellas County," said PSTA CEO Brad Miller.

Agency leaders said there are several reliable factors that can affect ridership such as fuel prices. With those costs dropping recently, they credit job growth and continued record tourism for the new high.

PSTA officials are wrapping up their extensive Pinellas Community Bus Plan, and preliminary results are due in a few months. The agen-

cy has also introduced a new comprehensive resource for transit information in the Tampa Bay area, called Greenlight Pinellas.

Greenlight Pinellas is a multi-faceted program featuring educational outreach, community involvement and a web-based clearinghouse for Pinellas County's transportation plans. The program's website, www.GreenlightPinellas.org, will feature detailed information on everything PSTA and its partner agencies plan to implement if voters approve a one-cent transportation sales tax referendum in November of 2014.

Greenlight Pinellas will also detail everything the agency will do to address dwindling funding, such as implementing significant cuts in bus service, should the measure be voted down.

"It's critical that Pinellas County residents know exactly what we plan to do, in detail, before they are asked to decide," said PSTA spokesperson Bob Lasher. "The goal is to be as concise, transparent, and thorough as possible."

To learn more about PSTA, visit www.PSTA.net.

Radio show highlights expo for homebuyers

There's No Place Like Home, the radio show sponsored by the Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County, will focus on the HOPE (Home Ownership for People Everywhere) Expo, coming to the Raymond James Financial Center on Saturday, June 8, 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The expo offers a vast amount of information on home ownership, as well as a daylong HomeBuyer Workshop. More information is available at www.hopeexpo.org.

No Place Like Home features different issues each month. It airs the first Thursday of each month from 10:05 to 10:35 a.m. on WRXB 1590 AM. The show also can be watched on PCC-TV (Bright House 622, Knology 18 and Verizon 44), YouTube, or viewed online at [\[lascounty.org/community/hfa/Media.htm\]\(http://lascounty.org/community/hfa/Media.htm\).](http://www.pinell-</p>
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Questions or comments about the show may be emailed to HousingFinanceAuthority@pinellascounty.org. Past shows can be found on YouTube at www.youtube.com/pccvt1.

Health Department seeking volunteers

Volunteers don't get paid, but the benefits are great, starting with feeling good about helping those in need. For medical doctors, dentists and other health professionals who give their time and skills to the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, there are other benefits, too.

Those who donate as little as an hour of their time a month can earn CEUs and apply the hours they give to their license renewal fees. Hours are flexible and locations can include health departments from Tarpon Springs to St. Petersburg, community clinics or the volunteer's own practice.

Volunteers are covered by sovereign immunity that protects them from malpractice while they are donating their time and health skills.

Many retired doctors and dentists find that becoming a health department volunteer is a great way to help others while maintaining a flexible schedule.

Dentists and hygienists are invited to help staff Saturday dental clinics for uninsured adults or to volunteer at their offices during the week. Medical doctors of all specialties are especially needed at all locations.

For information about volunteering, call 820-4125 or email Volunteer_CHD52@doh.state.fl.us.

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

EXEMPTIONS, from page 1A

Brydon suggested that the commission not limit the dollar amounts to be granted to businesses per fiscal year, given the fact that there may be some years where two or more businesses qualify and some years where no businesses come forward. She also asked that the West Bay Drive redevelopment district be exempted from the program, as it will have its own unique incentives to offer businesses moving to the area.

Commissioner Woody Brown suggested the city give clear direction on the requirements to any new businesses that might qualify, so that they aren't surprised to not receive the incentive when their construction is completed. He also suggested the city create specific parameters of qualification for different levels of exemption, instead of the city arbitrarily granting 25, 50, 75 or 100 percent of the property tax exemption over a varying number of years.

"I don't necessarily agree with coming to the commission on each individual basis and saying, 'You know what, we're going to give this company 100 percent for 10 years but this one over here 75 percent for five years because ... this company is just happier or something,'

he said. "I'd prefer to set it up and get emotion out of it."

Brydon agreed to come up with a list of standards for different levels of exemption and agreed that those parameters should remain clear.

"That makes more sense for the business too so they have some idea what to expect when it comes to this," Mayor Pat Gerard said.

Robert Murray was the only commissioner to speak out against the program entirely, arguing that it would negatively impact the city's property tax revenue in the future.

"Due to the fact that it's an ad valorem tax, I certainly don't support it," he said. "The impact on the general fund is going to be a little bit more each and every year."

"At some point we need to make up that revenue," he added. Commissioner Curtis Holmes said he supported the idea because the city still benefited better employment and revenue from other fees.

"Are we going to lose a company to Pinellas Park because they're offering something that we're not offering?" he asked.

Gerard agreed that the incentive helped Largo get "a leg up on our local competition" over nearby cities.

"We're not affecting our current tax base, just capital investment and the future tax base," Brown argued. "If this brings development to

Largo, for a short period of time, it will stall the tax base, but 10 years out, they'll be paying their taxes just like everybody else."

Brown said that bringing jobs to Largo residents also was a factor in his decision.

Murray disagreed, arguing that employers look for a skilled labor force and transportation infrastructure when deciding where to move or build a company.

"A lot of these incentives lead to short-term gains where corporations come in and then as soon as the market changes, they're out. There's not that long-term commitment to the community," he said.

But with the support of the majority of the commission for the program, Brydon said she would develop parameters to present during an upcoming commission meeting.

Correction

The story "Nursing school awards high school scholarship," which ran in the May 9 edition of the *Largo Leader*, incorrectly identified Don James. He is head of Northside Christian School.

PROTEST, from page 1A

residents to make their voices and their presence felt directly by the businesses they hold responsible for the sales.

"All they're doing is poisoning our kids. And they don't seem to care and understand what it does to a family and to a community as a whole," Missy said.

It's not that hard to get the synthetic drugs at Riley's, her daughter explained. You have to come at a certain time and buy the products from a specific employee who keeps the product behind the counter. He'll charge you extra so he can pocket the profits and he's "sketchy about cops," Jessie said.

But he'll sell it to anyone, she added. Her boyfriend, 17-year-old Matt Christunas, agreed. His mother, Judy Christunas, said she came to the store with her son last weekend.

"As I was shopping, he went to the counter and bought some," she said.

"It's as easy as that," Matt said.

Inside the store, manager Qazi Haque said Riley's used to sell synthetic drugs, but stopped once they were declared illegal.

"I told the owner, I don't want to get into trouble because I work here," Haque said. "We just work here for a little amount of money. We don't know about the law that much."

The laws and regulations regarding synthetic drugs got confusing, he said, but the owner didn't open Riley's "to sell illegal stuff."

Synthetic drugs, often packaged with labels that state "not for human consumption," used to be legal in Florida and everywhere else. Starting in January 2011, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi declared certain chemical compounds illegal in emergency rulings. State legislation has followed, though law enforcement has said that manufacturers continually tweak the products to keep them "legal."

Recently, on April 15, Gov. Rick Scott signed a law that banned 27 synthetic drugs, in addition to those already outlawed.

Haque said that he didn't think the different products should be illegal, but didn't have any personal experience with them.

Abdul Qulam, owner of Riley's Food Mart, said he didn't mind the protest in front of his store. As a father himself, he understood parents' concern for

keeping children safe.

"I can say that I used to sell incense when it was named 'incense.' But then they started calling it 'drugs,'" he explained. "We stopped selling that a long time ago."

Qulam, a Largo resident who owns two other local convenience stores, said he built Riley's Food Mart up from a vacant storefront and wanted it to be a positive part of the community. He addressed the teenagers' accusations that a specific employee was selling them the synthetic drugs with doubt.

"My employees shouldn't have anything like that without my consent," he said. "I don't think they sell anything like that."

Jessie and Matt both said they've had seizures after smoking synthetic drugs. The products can make you feel weak, like it's hard to lift your arms and legs, Jessie said.

"It all started off with the first one: Red Magic," Jessie said. "And then it went from that on to all these different new ones."

Seeing herself on the news, as her parent's cried out against synthetic drugs, was Jessie's wakeup call, she said. Withdrawal has caused her to cough

jobs we need to fill," he said.

Assistant County Administrator Mark Woodard said it wasn't possible to take the money already allocated to the stabilization account and use it for another purpose, including employee raises, without starting over with the budget process.

He said FRS savings had already been used to balance the budget for at least the next two years. Without it, there would be disruptions to service, he said.

"That money has allowed us to fill the gap (budget)," he said. Woodard said the budget forecast "assumes from FY (fiscal year) 2014 and beyond a 3 percent salary and 1 percent increase to benefits."

Commissioner Karen Seel pointed out that the survey showed only a 2.3 percent difference when considering government positions.

"But we don't just compete with governments," LaSala said. "I understand," Seel said. "I think we should fund (pay raises) within the personnel budget and leave FRS in place. I don't want to start playing a shell game. I don't want to do this (implement Roche's plan)."

"Our employees have sacrificed a lot," Welch said. "This is the first year we've been able to address it. It's not worth an accounting reclassification just to make a statement. The general fund is still in a deficit of \$30 million."

"There's no rational reason to do this," Commissioner Susan Latvala said. "The law changed and employees now contribute to their retirement fund. This is just smoke and mirrors in my opinion. The process with the personnel board is very appropriate. I see no reason to confuse people."

County attorney's review

County attorney Jim Bennett received a glowing review May 7, receiving a score of 87 percent overall – 348.7 points out of a possible 400.

Bennett scored the highest for integrity, 3.71, followed by 3.64 for leadership and 3.62 for staff effectiveness. He received a 3.54 for his work providing routine legal services, 3.5 for his organizational, planning and management skills, and he got a 3.44 for major legal work. His lowest score, 3.18 came in the area of communication.

In individual reviews, the majority of commissioners market either good or excellent. Commissioner gave Bennett a perfect score – all excellent marks, adding a plus to a few categories as a bonus. His only satisfactory marks came from the newest commissioners Janet Long and Charlie Justice, who both said the scores were given because they had not been on the commission long enough to be able to judge.

"If I put down satisfactory, that not just OK, it means I don't have the history to do a proper assessment," Justice said. "It means steady as you go, not middling."

Commissioner Karen Seel thanked Bennett for his service.

"Jim is a consistent steady hand on the helm," she said. Bennett thanked the commission for the good review.

"On behalf of me and my staff, I appreciate the support," he said.

Bennett's good review was not rewarded by any additional compensation. A pay raise may be coming when the commission approves the budget for fiscal year 2014 in September. The next budget year begins Oct. 1.



Jim Bennett

www.tbnweekly.com

Police beat

Seminole man charged with child abuse

SEMINOLE - A Seminole man was arrested May 10 and charged with aggravated child abuse of a 6-month-old female.

According to the Pinellas County sheriff's report, Ryan Nathaniel Anderson, 33, lifted the child in a jerking manner by the arm resulting in multiple fractures of her arm. The 6-month-old victim was in Anderson's care at a private residence in Seminole at the time of the incident. The injuries were discovered when the child was taken for a medical evaluation.

During an interview with detectives May 10, Anderson reportedly admitted to the allegations. Anderson was transported to the Pinellas County Jail without incident. Bond was set at \$25,000.



Ryan Anderson

Teens arrested for restaurant robbery

OLDSMAR - Two teens were arrested May 8 in connection with the May 6 armed robbery of Boton Sushi restaurant, 300 E. State St. According to the Pinellas County Sheriff's report, detectives were able to identify and develop probable cause for the arrest of Kevon Williams, 16, of Clearwater, and Jordan Freemon, 17, of Oldsmar.

Detectives said the two entered the Boton Sushi restaurant about 8 p.m., and each held a gun to the owners' heads (a male and a female) and initially demanded money from the register. The male victim ultimately handed one of the suspects the tip jar - the suspect dropped the jar but then picked up an undisclosed amount of cash and a lottery ticket that was contained in the jar - off the floor.

Williams and Freemon then fled in a vehicle driven by Jabari O. Wade, 18, of Clearwater. Wade was arrested during a traffic stop May 6 in the 1100 block of Lasalle Street in Clearwater. A witness provided a description of the vehicle and was able to provide investigators with a tag number.

Detectives said that Williams fled from the vehicle at the time of the stop on Wade. Freemon had exited the vehicle earlier in the evening.

Deputies connected Wade to the crime as the getaway driver for the robbery and arrested him as principal to armed robbery for his involve-



Jabari Wade

ment as an accessory after the fact. He was released from the Pinellas County Jail on \$5,000 surety bond May 9.

Clearwater Police arrested Williams on a separate unrelated warrant; and on the Sheriff's Office armed robbery case. Deputies arrested Freemon for armed robbery.

The two were transported to the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center.

Fleeing suspect attacked by alligator

PINELLAS PARK - A Pinellas Park man was attacked by an alligator while fleeing from Pinellas County Sheriff's deputies about 2:47 a.m. May 9.

According to the sheriff's report, Bryan Zuniga, 20, fled during a routine traffic stop for failing to maintain a single lane near the 7100 block of 78th Avenue North. Zuniga stopped his vehicle and then jumped out the passenger side door. He broke a vinyl fence by kicking the fence line to make a hole for him to escape.

He was found a few hours later at a local hospital where he was being treated for multiple puncture wounds to his face, arm and armpit area. He told deputies that he was attacked by an alligator near a water treatment plant between Westchester Boulevard and 71st Street North in unincorporated St. Petersburg.

He was arrested at 12:30 p.m. and charged with breaking or injuring fences, fleeing and eluding a police officer, driving with a suspended or revoked driver's license and resisting an officer without violence. He was released from the Pinellas County Jail May 11 on bonds totaling \$2,300.



Bryan Zuniga

Sheriff's Office looking for bank robber

PALM HARBOR - Pinellas County sheriff's detectives are asking for the public's help to identify a man wanted in connection with the May 6 robbery of BB&T Bank, 35098 U.S. 19 N. in Palm Harbor.

According to the sheriff's report, a white male suspect entered the bank about 1:13 p.m. He approached the teller and placed a black colored backpack on the counter and demanded that the clerk fill it with money.

As the teller was putting money in the backpack, the suspect lifted his shirt and displayed a black colored handgun he had on his waistband. As the suspect was leaving the location, he dropped a small aerosol can labeled "Warning-Chlorine." The suspect fled the bank, leaving the can behind.

The suspect was seen arriving in the area of the bank on a motorcycle shortly before the robbery. After leaving the bank, he was last seen headed southbound on U.S. 19, then turning westbound on Nebraska Avenue.

The suspect is described as a white male, between 5 foot 10 inches and 6 foot tall, weighing about 190 pounds. He was wearing blue jeans with a light blue short-sleeved shirt over a long-sleeved black shirt. He wore a motorcycle helmet with the shield pulled down covering his face. He also wore "Mechanix Wear gloves."

View the robbery at youtu.be/RFnrV9A6SiI.

Anyone with information regarding the suspect's identity is asked to call Detective Keith Johnson of the robbery/homicide unit at 727-582-6200. Or to remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward, call Crime Stoppers of Pinellas at 1-800-873-TIPS (8477) or www.crimestoppersofpinellas.org.



An armed robber wearing a motorcycle helmet demands money from a teller about 1:13 p.m. May 6 at BB&T Bank in Palm Harbor.

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Surface water utility tax on June 18 agenda

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Commissioners approved advertising a June 18 public hearing May 7 on creation of a surface water utility and setting an appropriate fee for residents in unincorporated areas.

Commissioners favored June 18 over June 4 to “provide full access to the public.” Public hearings begin at 6 p.m. on the second meeting of the month rather than 9:30 a.m., the time for the first Tuesday meeting.

Commissioners are up against a July 1 deadline to make a decision in time to get a new tax on the property appraiser’s truth in millage statement, which goes out in August.

Creation of a surface water utility and a tax would give the county a dedicated revenue source to pay for an assortment of needs from flooding to improving water quality standards. The commission has been talking about the issue for at least the last two years. Staff has been working on a comprehensive report that details the need.

County Attorney Jim Bennett said whatever fee the commissioners agree to on June 18 could be lowered before final approval in September, but it cannot go higher.

“The initial assessment can go down, but it can’t go up,” he said. Commissioner Norm Roche said he would not support a surface water utility tax “not from lack of understanding or that it’s not a problem or that it is another tax.”

“There are other, better options available,” he said. Roche favors looking at a countywide approach.

Commissioner John Morroni talked about concerns with potential double taxation for residents who live in the Pinellas Park Water Management District. Morroni will not be able to attend the June 18 meeting. He said he would leave a written statement and list of questions with the county administrator to be presented on his behalf.

Commission Chair Ken Welch, who was absent from the April 30 work session on the matter, voiced concern over the proposed \$10.50



When it rains, the water flows off lawns and driveways into local roadways causing flooding and problems with water pollution. A new surface water utility tax would help county officials combat these problems.

fee. He said he would like to see calculations using \$8.50 – the amount he pays to the city of St. Petersburg.

County Administrator Bob LaSala said other commissioners at the work session had asked staff to calculate a higher fee to provide a better level of service.

“They asked for more, not less,” LaSala said. “I would like to see \$8.50,” Welch replied.

“We can do that,” LaSala said, adding that less money still would help the county pay for maintenance, but not fund projects.

Keeping garbage dry important to operations

As the Tampa Bay region enters the rainy season, citizens are being urged to take precautions to keep garbage dry once it’s been set out for collection.

Pinellas County operates one of the largest waste-to-energy facilities in the country where garbage is burned and converted to electricity. For the garbage to burn efficiently, it needs to be free of moisture from the intermittent rainfall that is part of the Florida weather pattern. Increased moisture in the garbage not only causes operational difficulties but can also lead to increased air emissions.

Open containers of garbage sitting out in the rain are a detriment to efficient waste processing down the line. Rainwater in garbage also increases the weight of the load and can result in increased disposal fees. If the rainwater leaks out of the garbage can or collection truck, it can cause stormwater pollution.

The solution to this problem is very simple. Citizens are asked to “put a lid on it” by keeping the lid closed on garbage containers that are stored outside. Some haulers use automated collection containers with built-in lids that should be kept closed all the time. For those with other types of collection, it is important to make sure the garbage is either in a lidded container or in a securely closed garbage bag. Putting a lid on it also helps keep pests and animals out of the garbage and reduces litter.

Keeping the lid closed on garbage containers helps the waste-to-energy facility operate more efficiently and reduce potential environmental impacts associated with open containers and wet waste.

For more information on Pinellas County services and programs, visit www.pinellascounty.org.

CSF to host seminar

LARGO – The Community Service Foundation will host a free, two-part household budgeting seminar on Thursdays, June 6 and 13, 6 to 9 p.m., at Pinellas County Housing Authority, 11479 Ulmerton Road.

The seminar is designed for people who want to live better on less and/or to save to buy a home. Participants must attend both sessions for certificate.

For information or to register, call 461-0618, ext. 3; or visit www.csfhome.org.

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Consider this, armed men and women enter the home of an innocent man, they bind him in chains, kidnap him, imprison him, enslave him, abuse and torture him.

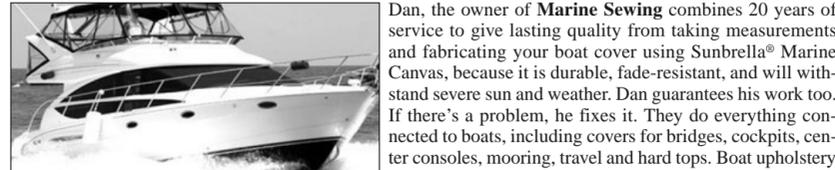


After suffering acts of war Paul is rebuilding his life and providing you with luxury car service. They cause the destruction of his home and business. His children are stolen in the night; a one-year-old little girl taken from her crib, and three-year-old little boy removed from his bed. They are forced into a life of poverty, hopelessness, despair, and fatherlessness. Witnessing the forceful and violent destruction of his family. He was brought before a mock court, accused and convicted of a pretend violent felony offense, then sent to a violent prison where his life was put in harm's way. The crimes and atrocities committed against this family go unpunished. The criminals who committed these evil acts put on uniforms, guns, badges and parade around as heroes, while this innocent family still suffers the lasting effects of the wickedness perpetrated against them. Paul R. Conley is a steward and Ambassador of peace for the Nation of Zion, through faith in Jesus Christ our King The Son of GOD. Paul is an advocate for truth and justice he is the owner of Hurricane Chauffeur New West Coast Chauffeur LLC. of Largo. Paul Conley's, West Coast Limo luxury car service includes a 10 passenger stretch limo service \$65/hour ... pick up and drop off special price available. Sedan service to Tampa airport is \$45. Local car service \$2.50/mile, two mile minimum. Why call a cab when you can 517RIDE for less. 24/7 service @ 727-517-7433(RIDE). "No stone shall be left unturned." "There is nothing hidden that shall not be revealed." Thank you for supporting your locally owned Christian business.

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TUESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY PM SERVICE ARRIVE AT CASINO 5:00 – 5:30PM, DEPART 10:00PM

AAA AUTO CLUB SOUTH Palm Harbor 32050 US 19 N. 3:40PM	BUFFALO WILD WINGS Clearwater Drew & US 19 4:10PM	MCDONALD'S Largo 2675 Roosevelt Blvd. Just East of US 19 4:20PM	LARGO MALL By Albertsons Corner of Ulmerton Rd. & Alt. 19 3:30PM	AAA AUTO CLUB SOUTH Seminole 9200 Seminole Blvd. 3:45PM	WALMART Pinellas Park 8001 US 19 N. (Park North of gas station.) 4:15PM	TARGET GATEWAY MALL St. Petersburg 9th St. & 83rd Ave. 4:30PM
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Survey: residents' optimism is growing

In a recent Pinellas County citizen research survey, results showed a growing sense of optimism, positive sentiment and trust in county government.

This is the third consecutive year that Pinellas County has conducted a statistically valid citizen survey, with the first year used to collect feedback on residents' priorities in the midst of budget reductions.

Last year, as the Board of County Commissioners continued to move forward and plan for the future, residents were asked what they most value in the community. This year's survey builds on that initiative as the commission continues to set the direction for the county and define the elements that citizens envision as enhancements to their overall quality of life.

"This survey is a valuable tool as we collect feedback from citizens to better gauge their values," said County Administrator Bob LaSala. "This ties into our Quality of Pinellas Communities initiative which seeks to enhance our communities by making decisions based on the overall vision of what quality of life means to residents and our strategic planning process that we're continually engaged in."

To collect this year's results, HCP & Associates conducted 200 telephone interviews in each of the county's regions: north, mid, south and beaches. The calls were made from Feb. 4 to Feb. 24.

Responses indicated an increased level of optimism. A majority of residents expressed trust and confidence in Pinellas County government, a rate that exceeds national Gallup Poll responses. When asked about their expectations in 10 different areas of county services, half or more of those interviewed said Pinellas County is exceeding or meeting their

expectations, with park maintenance receiving the highest scores, followed closely by law enforcement.

A majority of citizens said they would definitely recommend Pinellas County as a place to live, work, raise children and retire. Very few said they plan to move away within the next year. One in five of those interviewed said the quality of life improved in the last year, an increase from last year, and more than one-third expect the quality of life to improve in the next five years, which is also up from last year.

According to the results, challenges facing the county continue to include the economy, traffic/congestion and crime.

Once the telephone survey was completed, an online survey was posted on the Pinellas County website and remained open for five days, Feb. 25 to March 1. There were 707 respondents. The online survey is not considered statistically valid but results closely mirrored the results of the phone survey with a majority of residents recommending the county as a good place to live, work, raise children and retire, and the outlook on quality of life more positive than last year.

Close to seven in 10 respondents of the online survey reported having a great deal or fair amount of confidence in how the county handles issues. Park maintenance again topped satisfaction ratings in meeting expectation for specific services. Law enforcement and animal control received high ratings as well.

Those areas of greatest concern were mass transit options, vacant home upkeep and road/sidewalk repairs.

The surveys are posted online at www.pinellascounty.org/budget.

Around town

New foster parents sought

Eckerd Community Alternatives is looking for new families willing to open their hearts and home to foster a child.

Imagine being taken away from your home, not knowing where you will go, leaving behind your favorite things. Now, imagine this through the eyes of a child.

There are more than 3,500 dependent children in Pinellas and Pasco counties due to child abuse, neglect or abandonment. Many of these children will need to live in a temporary foster home, but Eckerd Community Alternatives cannot meet the growing need without the help of the community.

Foster parents need to be at least 21 years old, have appropriate housing and be able to pass a background screening. You can be single or married, have a family of your own or be an "empty-nester."

Applicants will need to complete a home study and 30 hours of special training. You must have adequate space and be able to provide for your family now. Although you will receive financial assistance to help care for the child, you cannot rely on this to pay your bills.

For more information on becoming a foster parent, call the Eckerd Recruitment Line at 866-233-0790.

Construction affects U.S. 19, Enterprise road

CLEARWATER - The traffic signal at U.S. 19 and Enterprise Road was removed May 8.

A concrete barrier has been built in the median of U.S. 19.

Left turns from Enterprise Road onto U.S. 19 will no longer be permitted.

Motorists also will not be able to cross over U.S. 19 at Enterprise Road. Westbound Enterprise traffic wanting to go south on U.S. 19 will turn right onto U.S. 19 north to Countryside Boulevard where they will make a U-turn on U.S. 19 to rejoin southbound U.S. 19.

This is consistent with other interchanges along U.S. 19 in Pinellas County. Construction on U.S. 19 between Sunset Point Road and Countryside Boulevard began in July 2012.

The cost of the project is \$17.2 million, and the estimated completion date is summer 2015.

The contractor is Russell Engineering.

County names EMS Professionals of the Year

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County Commissioners named this year's Emergency Medical Services Professionals of the Year at their regular meeting May 7.

The awards are given each year in May in honor of EMS Week, locally commemorating the EMS professionals working for Pinellas County's emergency medical services system. The theme of this year's celebration is, one mission - one team.

This year's Paramedic of the Year is Sunstar Operations Supervisor Shawn Tatham, a 23-year EMS veteran.

"It's not one person that makes the call, it's a team effort," says Tatham. "I'm very proud of the other agencies that I work with and very happy to be part of the system."

Firefighter/EMT Jim Metevia was named Emergency Medical Technician of the Year. Metevia is an 11-year veteran with St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue.

Metevia normally works out of St. Petersburg Station Six, where supervisors rate him "an unquestionable example of the standards of St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue."

Pinellas County 911 Telecommunicator Alexandra Dolce was named Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the Year. Recently, Dolce was instrumental in assisting with the delivery of a baby over the phone while first responders were in transit.

"I can't tell you how lucky I was to have had you answer the phone," wrote the newborn's dad in a follow up thank you letter. "I don't know how things would have turned out if it weren't for your calm voice guiding me through."

The award recipients each received a plaque and a cash award from the Pinellas Federal Credit Union.

A special video profiling the award winners is available at www.youtube.com/pccvt1.



Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS
Accepting their awards at the May 7 Pinellas County Commission meeting are, from left, Gina Signor, vice president/administration Pinellas Federal Credit Union; Evelyn Molina, president/CEO Pinellas Federal Credit Union; Paramedic of the Year Shawn Tatham; EMT of the Year Jim Metevia; EMD of the Year Alexandra Dolce and Bruce Moeller, director, Pinellas County Public Safety Services.

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Tampa Bay NEWSPAPERS
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CRABBY BILL'S Seafood Restaurant

Downtown Largo businesses take sales to the sidewalk



Above, Missy Donald, left, serves Seminole residents Megan and Anne Milanese at the Downtown Largo Merchants Association sidewalk sale May 11. Top right, Largo residents Marie Tomasello, left, and Carol Strickland, right, get help from Sarah Evans of Tumble and Drift at sidewalk sale. Below right, Tanya Pistillo, organizer of the Downtown Largo Merchants Association sidewalk sale talks to merchant Ron Strickland about the event. Below, Largo artists Brian Sherk and Lynne Parrish discuss the finer points of his work.



Photos by BRIAN GOFF

Business updates

Company hosts grand opening, shredding party

LARGO – PEACE Wealth Management, Inc., Trust Business Systems and Fiduciary Funding, LLC will be celebrating their move to Largo with a grand opening and shredding party on Friday, May 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at White Dove Professional Center, 13201 Walsingham Road.

The public is invited to drop off their outdated documents or records that need to be shredded and take a tour of the new offices. They also can enjoy some shredded pork, shredded beef and other refreshments.

All documents will be shredded on site by a reputable and secure document shredding truck. Prizes will be given for the oldest document, most documents and the person who brings the most friends.

A ribbon cutting ceremony with the Largo City Commission and the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce will be held at 10 a.m.

For ideas of documents and records to keep, visit the company's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/peacewealth.

Hype Group announces agreement with Flippers

ST. PETERSBURG – Hype Group LLC, a full-service marketing and advertising agency based in St. Petersburg, recently announced an agreement to serve as the agency of record for Watch These Franchises Grow!, the Tampa Bay area franchisee of the Flippers Pizzeria brand.

The expanding restaurant franchise features fresh ingredients and specialty brick-oven pizzas.

"We are thrilled to be named agency of record for Watch These Franchises Grow!", said Brooke Boyd in a press release. Boyd is president of Hype Group. "Their passion for the brand and brand consistency make them a perfect fit for our team of passionate, creative professionals."

Hype Group has been tasked to provide creative design, marketing strategy and consultation, public relations, social media, media and campaign planning and market research for the current and soon-opening locations throughout Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. With the success of currently operating locations and the ambition to expand, Flippers Pizzeria is becoming established in the Tampa Bay area. Orlando is the business' city of origin.

Seaside Gallery opens

REDINGTON SHORES – Seaside Gallery recently opened its doors at 11831 Gulf Blvd., Suite BB, Redington Shores.

Seaside Gallery features a variety of coastal art and home decor items to help create the perfect beach home or cottage look. The gallery's inventory continues to grow and its owners look forward to working with clients to find just the right item for their home.

Hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Shapardo's opens

ST. PETE BEACH – Shapardo's Ristorante & Pizzeria, a fourth generation Italian restaurant business established in 1972 in Illinois, recently opened its doors at 4599 Gulf Blvd.

Shapardo's celebrated its grand opening May 9 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony conducted by the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce.

"Shapardo's takes pride in the quality of product using only the finest and freshest ingredients," said Ron Shapardo in a press release.

Clegg acquires Florida Insurance Partners

CLEARWATER – Clegg Insurance Group, a Florida-based insurance agency headquartered in the Tampa Bay area, recently acquired Florida Insurance Partners.

The acquisition means customers who have relied upon Florida Insurance Partners for their insurance needs will now benefit from being a part of the Clegg Insurance umbrella.

"We're excited about this acquisition, not only because it nearly doubles the size of our business, but it increases the range of options for present and future clients to have access to," said Ryan Clegg in a press release. Clegg is founder and president of Clegg Insurance Group.

Clegg Insurance Group serves customers throughout the southeastern United States.

Until this acquisition, Clegg Insurance Group has grown entirely from the ground up by providing local businesses, families and individuals with exceptional customer service.

"Though a name people are used to is changing, our effort to exceed

See BUSINESS, page 9A

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Largo Leader – Belleair Bee	Line Ads: Friday, May 24th @ Noon
Clearwater Beacon:	
Thursday, May 23rd @ 5pm	Editorial Press Releases
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Local destination magazine unveiled

CLEARWATER – Visit St. Pete/Clearwater has announced the publication of *Gulf to Bay*, the area's first destination magazine for visitors and locals.

It has 100 color pages in this glossy publication and was produced in partnership with the *Tampa Bay Times* and is the largest format magazine of any destination in Florida. This replaces the area's traditional visitor's guide and follows the latest industry trends.

"This idea is to make the main printed product a beautiful piece that readers will covet, one that embodies the beauty, depth and sophistication of the destination while driving them either online or to the companion piece for further details," said David Downing, VSPC deputy director. "This is what the magazine industry in general is doing, and *Gulf to Bay* is a reflection of that change."

Other new features of the new destination magazine include the following:

- Social media/online integration – Helping integrate online content with print sophistication is a five-page spread of the destination as seen through Instagram, and at the end is a blurb inviting visitors to share their shots on Instagram or Twitter, using @VSP or #Americas-BestBeaches. Also, instead of listing multiple Web links in each story or directing readers to scan a long list of QR codes, readers are directed to pertinent online companion content via specialized URLs at the end of each article.

- 2013 "Best Of" lists – Readers will find a series of lists throughout the publication announcing the winners of the Best of St. Pete/Clearwater annual online poll. More than 20 categories are sprinkled throughout the publication, noted by a purple VSPC logo, distinguishing them as favorites.

- Increased distribution – With a print circulation of 275,000 and an unprecedented distribution schedule, *Gulf to Bay* will be the most widely circulated promotional collateral the destination has ever produced.

- Accommodations and attractions listings insert – Published simultaneously with the magazine is *Gulf to Bay: Accommodations & Attractions*, a 12-page companion piece with a smaller trim size that provides comprehensive listings and contact information for area accommodations, attractions, activities, marinas, golf courses and more.

- Available in digital or hard copy – Visitors who want a digital-only version of the magazine can view it in its entirety in the online version. Hard copies can be ordered online and will be shipped for free to locations in the U.S. and Canada.

BUSINESS, from page 8A

our customers' expectations and deliver exceptional service will remain our number one priority," Clegg said.

Florida Insurance Partners was founded in 2008 and primarily served customers throughout central Florida. This is the first acquisition for Clegg Insurance Group.

Fifth Third feeds local families

Fifth Third Bank Tampa Bay recently wrapped up its month-long Fifth Third Feeding Families campaign, reaching its goal of helping to feed more than 5,300 Tampa Bay-area families in need. More than 11,500 pounds of nonperishable food items were delivered to Metropolitan Ministries – a faith-based nonprofit that provides support to hungry children and families in the four-county Tampa Bay region.

In an effort to continue giving back to the community, dozens of Fifth Third employees and their families volunteered, sorting food items at Metropolitan Ministries in Hillsborough County, as well as serving meals to families in need at Safe Harbor in Pinellas County and at Metropolitan Ministries' Holiday location in Pasco County.

"This is the fourth year we have partnered with Metropolitan Ministries on the annual food drive," said Brian Lamb in a press release. Lamb is president and CEO of Fifth Third Bank Tampa Bay. "Our team is committed to improving the lives of our customers and the well-being of the communities we serve, and I couldn't be more proud to be a part of a group that cares so much about

the Tampa Bay region."

Fifth Third banking centers throughout the bank's 12-state footprint also celebrated Fifth Third Day, an annual celebration on May 3, by providing more than 550,000 meals to fight hunger. For more than 20 years, the bank has used its holiday to recognize the contribution of its employees, thank its customers and support communities where it operates.

Blowfish Bar & Grill opens

ST. PETERSBURG – Blowfish Bar & Grill officially opened its doors May 10 at 8305 Bay Pines Blvd. – only days after patrons of the new restaurant were treated to an unexpected performance.

Earlier in the week, Darius Rucker jumped on stage and began to perform. Rucker belted out some of his new songs from his latest solo albums mixed with a few Hootie & the Blowfish favorites. Blowfish Bar & Grill is owned by one of Rucker's band mates from Hootie & the Blowfish.

"I am honored that Darius made time in his busy tour schedule to stop and play a few songs here at Blowfish," said Dean Felber in a press release.

Felber is a founding member of the band Hootie & the Blowfish and has recently moved to St. Petersburg from Charleston, S.C. to open Blowfish Bar & Grill with his long time friend, Mike Vitale, a successful nightclub owner in Charleston.

St. Pete Beach named third best beach town

ST. PETE BEACH – Parents Magazine has named St. Pete Beach its third best beach town in the United States.

The magazine recently published its top 10 beach towns, which also includes Amelia Island, Fla.

Hilton Head Island, S.C. tops the list, followed by Coronado, Calif., and St. Pete Beach.

Falmouth, Mass. ranks fourth, followed by Cape May, N.J., and Amelia Island.

Rounding out the top 10 are Kitty Hawk, N.C.; Kamuela, Hawaii (The Big Island); Gulf Shores, Ala.; and Rehoboth Beach, Del.

In a press release, the magazine says it has designated family vacation hotspots that deliver all the ingredients for a magical stay – pristine ocean, beach safety, and a boatload of inland fun.

As a bonus, the magazine's 10 best beach towns are affordable – no hotel room starts at a higher price than \$289 per night, and several come in below \$200.

"Successful family vacations are about finding a balance," said Dana Points, editor-in-chief of Parents. "If you find a spot that has something for everyone, you know you've struck gold. This year, our picks have it all: beautiful beaches, great dining, activities for all ages and interests, and all without breaking the bank."



Photo by JIM LAYFIELD

More than 400 people participated in the 2 1/2 mile beach walk to benefit the Make A Wish Foundation May 11 on St. Pete Beach. Parents Magazine recently named St. Pete Beach the third best beach town.

Parents compared the nation's beaches using the Natural Resources Defense Council's water quality reports, focusing on low rates of water contamination and beach closings, and narrowed down its list to the top 100 beaches based on water quality. After ensuring water safety by

eliminating any beaches without lifeguards on-duty, Parents reviewed the number of public restrooms, changing areas and beachside amusements like nature activities and playgrounds.

Those towns without an extensive list of inland activities for families were omitted. The editors

culled the site's accommodations to provide a range of wallet-friendly lodging and entertainment options for families.

For more information and to view an exclusive video of the 2013 Parents 10 Best Beach Towns, visit Parents.com/fun/vacation/10-best-beach-towns.

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When school's out, what do working moms do with their kids?

This will be my first summer where I need to figure out what I am going to do with my two daughters, ages 7 and 8, while I am working. I have been a stay-at-home mom since my girls were born, but recently I started back working part time. I haven't had to worry about them while they've been in school, but in just a few weeks they will be out of school, and I will have to find someone to watch them or a camp to put them in.



Mom 2 Mom
Kadi Hendricks
Tubbs

As I started thinking about my situation for the summer, I thought about the moms that are out there who work full time. I can only imagine how hard it must be to have all the responsibilities of being a mom while working. I am having trouble with working just part time and trying to fit everything in I do as a mom.

I am very fortunate that I have a boss who allows me to work around my kids' schedule, and I can work from home part of the time. I also have lots of family in town to help with my kids if I get in a bind and need someone to pick them up from school or watch them for a few hours. I know that isn't what most working moms have, so I am grateful for all the support.

As a mom, at least for me, I want to be with my kids and be involved in what they are doing. I have had to miss a few things at school this year because of work. My kids understand, but I did have them tell me: "You use to go to this event, and I miss you when you aren't there."

It breaks my heart when they say that, but I know they will get over it. I am there for big events like chorus concerts and awards ceremonies. I hope I can continue to be there for those types of events. My kids are my priority, but as we all know, we must have

money to pay the bills.

I feel for the moms out there that can't make it to their kids' school events or other activities. I know most moms want to be there, but not every boss or every job has the flexibility to be able to do it. I really don't know how single parents do it. It must be so hard.

So what do parents do with children during the summer while we are working? I found the best option for most is summer camps. The nice thing is there are so many camps out there to choose from. Camps are not too expensive, usually less than hiring a babysitter.

For me, safety is the most important part of any camp as well as knowing who is facilitating the camps. I am not going to allow my kids to go with just anyone. Once again, I am very fortunate that my sister has a studio locally and has camps that my kids can go to. The only problem is her camps aren't every week throughout the summer. The camps are one week a month, so I have to find something the other three weeks of the month.

One of the weeks they will go to vacation Bible school at our church. I usually try and help out with it, but this year I won't be able to volunteer because of work. Still, the kids can go to that camp for a week. Our church also offers another weeklong camp for cheerleading, so my kids may go to that.

As for the other weeks, I will probably have to hire a babysitter or see if my parents can help out. The whole idea of working is so you make money and aren't spending it all on someone else watching your kids while you work. Like most of you, I'm sure I'll figure it out before

Kadi's picks

The following local camps are my favorites! I have either participated in these organizations' camps as a little girl or my kids enjoyed them.

- **Ruth Eckerd Hall** offers summer programming in arts drama, music and dance. Call 712-2706.
- **St. Pete College, College for Kids** emphasizes science, art and math. Call 341-3000.
- **Bowling camps** are offered at Seminole Lanes (Call 392-2271) and Sunrise Lanes (Call 522-2174).
- **Korisma School of Personal Charm** teaches poise and etiquette, confidence building and acting. Call 394-7827.
- **Seminole Lake Country Club Tennis** offers sports, tennis, golf, swimming, bowling and fitness camps. Call 394-1733.

the summer begins.

Check out the different options for camps - with themes including martial arts, sports, science, art, drama, music and dance - to find the best fit for your family. Most churches offer vacation Bible school during the summer too. Some are free and others cost a nominal fee.

For more information about local camps, visit my blog at Mom2MomFamilyFun.blogspot.com.

Kadi Hendricks Tubbs, mother of two girls ages 7 and 8, lives in Seminole.

Faith briefs

Hope Presbyterian Church

CLEARWATER - The next monthly crafting party will be Sunday, May 19, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Hope Presbyterian Church, in Hambley Hall, 1698 S. Belcher Road.

Attendees will enjoy creating crafts to decorate their home. Anyone can do it and help will be provided along the way. To RSVP, email office@hopefamily.com, or go to Get Crafty Tampa Bay on Facebook. There will be a fee to cover supplies. The deadline to make reservations is Friday, May 17, 5 p.m.

This group generally meets third Sundays.

Michael's Room to be dedicated

LARGO - The dedication of Michael's Room, a Kid Power special event, will take place Sunday, May 19, 10 a.m., at The Center for Spiritual Living Florida Suncoast, 6152 126th Ave., Suite 501.

The center's Kid Power program, dedicated to teaching children the positive spiritual principals of the Science of Mind, was made possible by a generous gift from Andrew Hano and Vicki Hano as a memorial to their son Michael. Because of the gift, the center was able to remodel

its space to provide a children's classroom and activity area, which will be named Michael's Room.

The center will dedicate the room and celebrate Michael's life during its morning service May 19.

For information, call 538-0900 or visit CSLGulfcoast.org.

St. Dunstan's Anglican Church

LARGO - St. Dunstan's Anglican Church, at 2790 Sunny Breeze Ave., recently welcomed the Rev. James W. Derbyshire as its new rector.

His wife, Dr. Elizabeth Derbyshire, in their relocation from Maryland to Florida, accompanies Derbyshire. Derbyshire was officially installed at a ceremony presided over by the Rt. Rev. Juan Alberto Morales, Bishop of the Diocese of Quincy - a member diocese of the Anglican

Church in North America. The ACNA is the North American branch of the 85-million member strong Anglican Communion active in 165 countries on six continents, uniting some 100,000 Anglicans in nearly 1,000 congregations across the United States and Canada into a single Church.

Derbyshire will lead the parish in expanding its local community service projects and foreign missions. St. Dunstan's builds its outreach and all activities on solid biblical teachings.

Derbyshire, a native of Wayne, N.J., was ordained July 25, 2002 in the Diocese of Quincy of the ACNA. Prior to ordination, he worked as a program manager developing business units for the aerospace industry in the Netherlands and Saudi Arabia. Before that, he served his country as a Navy pilot during and after the Vietnam conflict, totaling 11 years of military service.

Military updates

Tyler W. Rutherford

SEMINOLE - Marine Corps Pvt. Tyler W. Rutherford recently earned the title of United States Marine after graduating from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Rutherford is the son of Barbara E. and Tracey L. Rutherford of Seminole. He is a 2011 graduate of Seminole High School.

Ryan J. Carlson

DUNEDIN - Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan J. Carlson recently graduated from the U.S. Navy's Nuclear Power School at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Goose Creek, S.C.

Carlson has served in the military for one year. He is the son of

Patricia Carlson of New Port Richey, and Kirk Carlson of Mount Sterling, Ill. The petty officer third class is a 2008 graduate of Dunedin High School.

Nuclear Power School is a rigorous six-month course that trains officers and enlisted students in the science and engineering fundamental to the design, operation, and maintenance of naval nuclear propulsion plants.

Graduates next undergo additional instruction at a prototype training unit before serving as a Surface Warfare Officer aboard a nuclear-powered surface ship or as an Electronics Technician aboard a nuclear-powered submarine.

Cory S. Shafer

ST. PETERSBURG - Air Force Airman Cory S. Shafer recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Shafer is the son of Rick Shafer of St. Petersburg. He is a 2011 graduate of Riverview High School.



Cory S. Shafer

Goodnow is the son of Virginia Wistner of Clearwater. He is a 2012 graduate of Dunedin High School.

Brian K. Howard

PINELLAS PARK - Army Pvt. Brian K. Howard recently graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Howard is the son of Wesley and Kathleen Howard of Pinellas Park. He is a 2008 graduate of Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School, Ill.

Justin K. Adams

CLEARWATER - Army Pvt. Justin K. Adams recently graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Adams is the son of Janet Mercer of Clearwater. He is a 2012 graduate of Mavericks High School, Clearwater.

Raydon L. Brown

ST. PETERSBURG - Army Reserve Pfc. Raydon L. Brown recently graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Brown is the son of Regina Brown of St. Petersburg. He is a 2011 graduate of Lighthouse Preparatory Christian School, Bradenton.

Jacob A. Clink

LARGO - Army Pvt. Jacob A. Clink recently graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Clink is the son of David Clink of Largo. He is a 2012 graduate of Pinellas Park High School.

Shawn R. Reynolds
MADEIRA BEACH - Army Pvt. Shawn R. Reynolds recently graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Reynolds is the son of Bonnie Olsen of Madeira Beach. He is also the son of Clark Reynolds and stepson of Marti Reynolds, both of Brook Park, Minn. He is a 2012 graduate of Mora High School, Minn.

Kyle P. Goodnow

CLEARWATER - Army Pfc. Kyle P. Goodnow recently graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

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Coast Guard open house set
CLEARWATER - The Coast Guard Station Sand Key will host a National Safe Boating Week open house on Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the station, 1375 Gulf Blvd.
People can explore the various Coast Guard response boats and learn how they are dispatched for missions such as search and rescue, environmental response and law enforcement. Towing and flare demonstrations will be done from the water. Education booths will have information on boating classes, vessel safety checks, life jackets, training for kids, federal and state requirements for boaters and their boats, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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What's Selling in Pinellas County

Clearwater **\$100,000**
3BR/2.5BA

SOLD

Clean and move in ready townhouse with pond view. This two story unit features vaulted ceilings, a wood burning fireplace and an open layout. The master suite offers a private balcony with pond view, dual closets and full bath. Other highlights include an enclosed patio and community pool.

Mary "K" Kottich
Century 21 Top Sales

Largo **\$290,000**
4BR/3BA/2CG

SOLD

The split floor plan includes, formal dining room, eating area in the kitchen and living room, patio and pool area. The fourth bedroom can be used as an office or craft room. Screened enclosed patio is great for entertaining. The large, fully fenced yard is well maintained. Located near Largo Golf Course.

Sandy Hartmann
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

St. Petersburg **\$134,000**
2BR/1BA

SOLD

Lake Pasadena! Over \$40,000+ in recent (2010) upgrades. Both the kitchen & bath were completely rebuilt from the studs up to the ceiling w/all new fixtures, wiring, plumbing & more. Corian counters & custom Kraftmaid cabinets in kitchen. A/C & all duct work new.

Robyn Gunn
Premier Sotheby's International Realty

Seminole **\$160,000**
2BR/2BA/1CP

SOLD

Great short sale opportunity! Immaculate, like new condo in gated community of Monterey at Lake Seminole. Use den as 3rd bedroom. Very spacious layout.

Caroleanne Vorac
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

051613

LETTERS

Cuban embargo – an ineffective joke

Editor:

Thanks for the article by attorney Castillo on Cuba policy. He convincingly argues that the embargo "has long been a joke," but then surprisingly advocates continuing this ineffective "joke."

It might help to look at the way the East Germans got rid of communist oppression. The people, particularly young people, gradually lost their fear of the police state and took to the streets. Many Germans, east and west, have told me the reason people gained courage enough to demonstrate, was the simple fact that East Berlin was usually packed with western visitors. I myself talked with many people – they were careful but always asked questions. And they reached a point where they simply refused to put up with continued tyranny.

In all likelihood the last thing the odious Castro brothers would like to see is a Havana packed with outspoken American tourists, and it seems silly to argue that tourist dollars would prolong the dictatorship. Does anyone seriously believe that the Cuban police state will outlive the elderly Castros?

Bob Anderson
Largo

Red light camera legislation provides due process

Editor:

The people of the state of Florida have won a victory in the Red Light Camera legislation that was introduced by state Senator Jeff Brandes and passed into law during the 2013 legislative session.

The bill cured many of the defects that existed in the previous Red Light Camera law. Among many of the positive changes in the legislation is the ability of drivers to challenge a red light camera violation using an administrative proceeding. Previously, citizens had no right to due process unless a Uniform Traffic Citation was issued with a higher fine rate of \$264. All drivers who receive this violation now have a reasonable process to follow and local hearing officers are used to conduct the hearings. The hearing officers are restricted from imposing excessive fines, which are now capped at \$250.

Under the new system, a person receiving a Red Light Camera Notice of Violation can pay the violation at the rate of \$158, furnish an affidavit, or request a hearing within 60 days to avoid receiving a traffic citation. The Notice of Violation contains information that directs citizens to a website which provides information on their right to request a hearing as well as a standardized form to fill out and submit. Registered owners of vehicles can file an affidavit, which names the person who had care, custody and control of the car at the time of the violation. That person is then duly notified and they may either pay the violation or request a hearing. Rental car companies would file such affidavits and the person renting the car who received the violation would have ample opportunity to pay at the \$158 rate or request a hearing.

Senator Brandes' fix to the Red Light Camera law will avoid the frustration experienced by citizens who attempted to take care of Red Light Camera violations and were faced with impediments. Clerks of court were put in the precarious situation of having to provide answers to citizens when there were no satisfactory answers. Now, citizens have a streamlined process outside of the complexities of the court system to take care of these matters directly with the cities. It provides a mechanism for rental car drivers to be afforded due process of law and be given the opportunity to pay at the reduced rate.

The tremendous benefit from this legislative fix in the law will be realized by citizens, cities, courts and clerks of court. Now citizens can rest assured that the process has been fixed and that Red Light Camera violations can be handled in a fair and equitable manner.

Ken Burke
Clerk of the circuit court and comptroller
Pinellas County

Keep dogs off the beaches

Editor:

Why do we allow dogs to run amuck on the same public beaches where we bathe and lay on the sand? I see dogs on Clearwater Beach running loose and defecating and urinating where we all have to walk bare footed and lay on the sand.

As we all know too well from past E. coli outbreaks in Europe and the United States, E. coli is found in the feces of animals. Dogs should not be allowed on the same public beaches as beach goers. Most dog owners on the beach don't care for other people's rights or safety anyways and they certainly don't pick up after their dogs. Once the poop is out, so is the E. coli. It's not if, but when. This is just an accident waiting to happen. The mess we have now is neither acceptable, responsible, nor safe.

Michael Maribona
Clearwater

A vast pool of inexpensive labor

Editor:

In any dialogue involving the issue of undocumented workers there is one important element generally omitted from the discussion. It is conspicuous by its absence since it is vital to the argument and must be considered in any search for resolution.

I refer to the fact the vast majority of these people here today came in response to a tacit invitation extended to them by the U.S. government. It was after all our elected officials at every level who were complicit in assuring that those agencies responsible for policing illegal immigration failed to enforce existing laws, steps that would have discouraged illegal entry. It is no secret those officials acted in response to pressure from American agricultural, manufacturing and service industries who were interested in exploiting this vast pool of inexpensive labor.

Had government refused to cave in to the pressure from them this would never have become a problem in the first place. Even now, if we begin enforcing just those laws and regulations already on the books, it would be the Mexican government who would be rushing to finish the wall on our southern border. They would be responding to the threat of a mass exodus to Mexico by those who would no longer find work in America, dumping the social problem back in the lap of the Mexican government. On the surface this would appear to be at most good news. However, over the long term we would find it would create more problems than it would resolve.

As we seek resolution to this critical problem we would do well to consider that over time many of those whose fate we are discussing have been indispensable to their employers. At the same time, especially in the agricultural sector, without this pool of inexpensive labor most crops would never reach the market, and those that did would become far too expensive for the consumers. Even worse, over a relatively short period of time much of the agricultural products we depend upon would start to come from Mexico and Central America since this is where the pool of inexpensive labor would have relocated. Bare in mind we are not merely discussing the future of these undocumented workers; we are discussing our own future as well.

Robert and Barbara A. Shaw
Madeira Beach

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.

What TV might one day become

Last night while watching TV I dozed off and had a marvelous dream.

The time was 10 years from now. During that period the American people had risen and forced the television industry to reform itself. Let me list some of the changes that had taken place.

THE TV QUALITY INSTITUTE. In my dream, the TVQI was a non-governmental body headquartered in Chicago. It served as a clearinghouse for almost all information having to do with TV broadcasts in the USA. It issued weekly (and sometimes daily) bulletins telling the nation what was going on in TV, and why, and who. It spoke to all major aspects of TV – programming, advertising, language, and personnel.

The Institute had virtually no legal powers. Its clout derived from the opinions and responses of the TV viewers, i.e., you and me. Membership in the TVQI was highly prized. Earning TVQI Seals of Approval was the goal of every American TV station owner with a brain in his/her head.

TIGHTLY REGULATED ADVERTISING. No TV commercial break could run longer than four minutes. Total commercial time (including station promotional ads) was limited to eight minutes per half hour. The remaining 22 minutes was devoted to program content. No single commercial could be shown for more than 21 consecutive days. Stations were required to display a commercial digital countdown window that appeared each time a commercial was shown. In this way, a viewer could tell how much time remained before the commercial ended, thus permitting a viewer to stand up, stretch, visit the bathroom or get a snack without missing any program content.

COMMERCIAL CREATIVITY RANKINGS. Every TV commercial was given a 0-10 ranking by viewers, according to the commercial's



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

degree of truthfulness, humor, imagination, clarity of message and good taste. The viewers served as the sole judges; they transmitted their feelings to the TVQI via email, Twitter or special transmitters attached to each TV set. Rankings were published by TVQI each week, thus allowing TV stations and commercial sponsors to know which ads were well liked and which were found to be contemptible. Each viewer was given a unique I.D. name and number, similar to an email address. Viewers were urged to boycott products and services offered by companies that violated TVQI advertising and programming standards.

RANKING OF TV STATIONS AND NETWORKS. Each month the TVQI published a listing of the best and worst TV stations, based on their adherence to the standards approved by the nation's viewers. This ranking allowed viewers to choose the level of programming they wanted to see, even before they switched on their TV sets. If a viewer preferred high-quality programs, he/she could easily find them. If viewers wished to watch garbage, this too was available. However, over time the putrid programming (and the stations that broadcast it) tended to lose advertisers, thus eliminating the junk programs.

FINANCING OF THE TVQI'S OPERATION came from voluntary \$10 annual contributions by millions of viewers. The Institute refused any support by corporations, governments or foundations. TVQI directors

and staff workers were limited to one-year terms of employment, to guarantee that personal bias and favoritism were virtually eliminated from the Institute's policies.

In my dream, the results of TV reform were almost entirely beneficial. Perhaps the biggest improvement was to loosen the greedy partnership of the advertising industry, the sponsors and the TV stations. Before the reform took place (i.e., right now in 2013) all three entities were primarily devoted to one thing: profit. There were exceptions to that, but not many. The common daily fare of most TV watchers was sitcoms, laugh tracks, pseudo-courtrooms, overly detailed weather reports, police dramas, endlessly-repeated news items and – above all – commercial interruptions featuring dogs, children, low humor and insipid sales pitches. TV reform changed much of that, so that viewers were much less imprisoned by the advertising industry and the constant pursuit of higher ratings by TV stations and networks.

All the changes were achieved without government meddling, and despite the outraged efforts of Big Business to shut down the TVQI on grounds of illegal product boycotts and violations of the First Amendment. TV reform was not a perfect solution to the ills of television. But it shifted most of TV's power from the hands of Big Money into the living rooms of American viewers, where it belonged.

I awoke from my beautiful dream, only to see on my TV screen an overweight used car dealer shouting at me to "Come on down!" for the sixteenth time that week. But as my dream fades I can still hope that, if enough people care, the TVQI or something like it can one day take form.

Bob Driver is a former columnist and editorial page editor of the Clearwater Sun. He responds to all emails sent to him at tralec71@comcast.net.



It's too easy to become a terrorist

Authorities say that the two brothers who allegedly bombed the Boston Marathon were probably 'self-radicalized.'

The media have embraced this catchy term, partly because of the assurance it seems to offer: Don't worry, folks – Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev weren't recruited and deployed by al-Qaida or any other terrorist group; they hatched their own plot with no tactical help from abroad.

That might well be true, but little comfort can be taken from it.

Some of the most notorious acts of political violence in our history were carried out by pissed-off loners or impromptu zealots who belonged to no organized cabal.

By modern definition, Lee Harvey Oswald was self-radicalized. So was Sirhan Sirhan. Ditto for hermit Ted Kaczynski, the Unabomber.

And who was more self-radicalized than Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, the creeps who blew up the federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995?

Everyone who sets out to create blood-soaked headlines finds a way to rationalize it. Murder in the name of God, Allah or patriotism is the oldest excuse in the book.

Once caught, the killers seldom admit they did it just for a sick thrill. OK, I'm a loser and my life is crap, so I decided to do something really outrageous.

Self-radicalized terrorists can be scarier than organized cells, because the cells are easier to track and their agendas are less opaque. They wave their hatreds like a flag.

In Boston, the older Tsarnaev brother and apparent mastermind of the bombings was loving life until three years ago. According to interviews with friends and family, Tamerlan's dream had been to become a professional



Carl Hiaasen

boxer and earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic team.

He wore flamboyant white fur and snake-skins, and trash-talked his opponents in the ring. He was a good fighter, too, twice the Golden Gloves champ of New England.

Then the rules changed. Tamerlan wasn't allowed to box in the Tournament of Champions because of his immigration status – he was a legal permanent resident, not a full U.S. citizen.

Disappointed, he quit boxing. He didn't work a regular job. His wife, a healthcare aide, paid the family's rent. The Tsarnaevs also received food stamps and welfare payments.

Tamerlan tried community college but soon dropped out. He grew a beard and became increasingly interested in Islam, the religion of his Chechen and Dagestani heritage.

Last year he went back to Dagestan for six months without his wife and daughter, a trip being scrutinized by the FBI and Russian authorities. So far, though, Tamerlan hasn't been connected to any terror group that has targeted America.

His path to Boylston Street, as presented in law enforcement's scenario, is at once amateurish and harrowing: Older brother returns to the States and enlists his impressionable younger brother, a pot-smoking college student with good grades, plenty of friends and

no known hostility against this country.

Together, the two of them assemble bombs from an Internet recipe using kitchen pressure cookers, fireworks, nails, ball bearings and remote control mechanisms from toy racecars. Then they go to the marathon, place the devices in the crowd and stupidly hang around to watch the detonations.

A professional operation it was not. The brothers had no idea there were video cameras all over the place. No disguises, no get-away plan, no fake passports, no money, no plane tickets, no car (Dzhokhar's was in a repair shop).

This, we are told, is the new face of terror. Spontaneous and rudimentary.

A disgruntled young athlete, his career stymied, violently attacks the country that he'd once hoped to represent in the Olympics. Maybe Tamerlan Tsarnaev had been 'self-radicalized' into an Islamic fanatic.

Or maybe he was just furious because a lack of U.S. citizenship papers had kept him out of the biggest boxing match of his life. Maybe it was that simple.

Tamerlan is dead, and Dzhokhar might or might not reveal the motive for the bombing. Clearly, though, it wasn't the act of two crazy persons.

Cold and twisted? Obviously. But not crazy. Even more sobering is the ease with which the brothers put their plan in motion. These days, anybody with a laptop and a grudge can arrange a massacre on a shoestring budget.

You don't need fake IDs. You don't need special training. You don't even need to be very smart.

All you need is the one dark impulse.

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

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Bigs and Littles treated to a racing day

LARGO - Ten selected "Bigs" volunteers and their "Littles" received the VIP Honda Grand Prix experience during Big Brothers Big Sisters Pinellas Day At The Track April 23.

The event kicked off with a lunch sponsored by PDQ in St. Petersburg heading to the track.

Upon their arrival, Littles were not only blown away by the extreme speeds of racecars, but by the educational lesson behind the wheel. Matches were granted access into the Rahal Letterman Lanigan garage to learn about racing logistics like tire wear and fuel consumption, followed by an afternoon with IndyCar driver, Graham Rahal.

"It was a terrific outing. The PDQ lunch was very nice and was a great place to meet some of the participants and organizers of Honda Grand Prix. The input from my Little, David, was that the best part was meeting the Indy driver, Graham Rahal, and getting an autographed hat," said Mike Cunneen, a Big Brother



Two Bigs and Littles got a chance to meet IndyCar driver, Graham Rahal, pictured center, during the Big Brothers Big Sisters Pinellas Day At The Track April 23.

from Citrus County. "Seeing the race operation up close was a special opportunity. Thanks again for the VIP encounter."

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County would like to

thank Reaco Group's charity division, Racers For A Cause; including Daniel Reagan of Indian Shores and Erik MacPherson of St. Petersburg, with the participation of Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing and Laken Kurtz, head runner of Graham Rahal Foundation.

For more information about Racers For A Cause, visit www.racersforacause.com.

Jetties put anglers in the right spot for good catches

After a brief drop in the water temperature early last week our inshore waters once again are pushing 80 degrees. The rise in the temperatures will undoubtedly slow the bite on the shallow flats. Anglers looking to target the coveted big three (redfish, trout and snook) should now begin to focus their attention on deeper areas that offer a stronger current flow. Jetty rocks are among the more obvious choices fitting the description, but sand points near the passes will often have a deep curve nearby that will offer a staging area for all three species. Also, check rocky areas around bridges. Most of these spots will fish better on one tide or another, but typically the prime spot will be a small bend on the up-current side of the point.



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wellerstein

Jetty fishing often gets good this time of year. A versatile angler can hope to hook into trout, redfish, snook, pompano, flounder, small grouper; you get the picture. These spots attract fish as well as fishermen. Hitting these spots early will give you the best chance for consistent hook-ups. Standard practice would be to start out free-lining live pilchards right against the rocks. Depending on how that's going it's always a good idea to have at least one person fishing closer to the bottom and just away from the rocks. Typically this can be achieved by adding a small split-shot to the leader. Keeping a heavier rod out the back with larger bait will give you a shot at hooking a tarpon or some other big predator.

Kingfish are still in the area and with projected light winds over the weekend it should be a good opportunity to get in some late season kingfishing before the water gets too warm and sends the fish to the north. Depths of 40 to 50 feet have been consistent for good numbers of kings ranging in size from 10 to 20 pounds. Slow trolling live blue runners around bait pods has been the key. Those wanting to target red grouper can expect to find a few fish in this same depth, but will most likely do better a little further out in 80 to 100 foot.

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

See synchronized swimming at Southwest

LARGO - Suncoast Water Works will present a synchronized swimming show entitled Synchro Under the Big Top June 1, 6 p.m., at Southwest pool, 13120 Vonn Road.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, students and seniors.

Last year, more than 400 people attended the water show to watch athletes ages 5 to 18

perform routines. A free synchronized swimming try-it clinic for children will begin at 5 p.m. and includes free tickets to the show for participants.

The team and local businesses also are sponsoring dinner and a silent auction to help the athletes raise funds for travel to the national competition in California.

The Suncoast Water Works teams practice for statewide and national competitions at Southwest pool. Last year, the team of 16 to 18 year olds ranked fourth at nationals out of more than 150 teams. Suncoast Water Works is a nonprofit organization founded in 1985.

For more information and tickets, call 669-4115 or email roblc1@aol.com.

Sports briefs

Soccer organization announces tryouts

LARGO - Celtic FC Florida will hold tryouts for the 2013-2014 competitive and academy soccer season Tuesday, May 28 through Sunday, June 2 at the Seminole Junior Warhawks Soccer Complex, 11500 125th St.

Times vary and depend on the age group of participants. The organization is looking for younger

boys and girls for its competitive development program up to under-17 boys and under-19 girls divisions. Rain dates are June 3 and 4, if necessary.

For more details and a complete schedule visit celticfl.net.

Boating safety course set

CLEARWATER - The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-1 Clearwater is offering

an About Boating Safety course on Saturday and Sunday, May 18 and 19, 8 a.m., at the Clearwater Police Department, 645 Pierce St. Cost for materials is \$35.

Topics include boating emergencies, know your boat, getting underway, navigating, operating your boat safely, and legal requirements. All graduates receive a Florida State Certification Card. To register, call 469-8895 or visit fso-pe@a0701101.uscgaux.info.

Seminole Chiefs registration underway

SEMINOLE - Registration has started for the Seminole Chiefs Football and Cheerleading fall season. Upcoming registration dates include Saturdays, June 8, and July 6 and 13, 10 a.m. to noon and Wednesday, May 22, June 19, and July 10 and 17, 6 to 8 p.m. Registration will take place at the Chiefs' office, 12100 90th Ave.

Cost is \$185 for the first child and \$135 for each additional child. Parents must pay at least \$55 per child at the time of registration.

For more information, visit www.seminolechiefs.org

'Tri If You Dare' Kids Triathlon set

SEMINOLE - The Seminole Recreation Department will hold its ninth annual "Tri If You Dare" Kids Triathlon on Sunday, June 30, starting at 7:15 a.m., at the Holland G. Mangum Recreation Complex, 9100 113th St. N.

Ages 5 and 6 run 1/4 mile, bike one mile and swim 25 yards. Ages 7 to 10 run 1/2 mile, bike 2 miles and swim 100 yards. Ages 11 to 15 run 1 mile, bike 4 miles and

swim 150 yards. Entry fee is \$35. For more information, contact Jim Sheets at 687-6948 or visit www.myseminole.com/tri.htm.

SYAA hosts summer soccer camps

SEMINOLE - The Seminole Youth Athletic Association hosts several camps at the SYAA Sports Complex, 12100 90th Ave., this summer.

The Challenger British Soccer Camp takes place Monday, June 17, through Friday, June 21.

British coaches fly over to the United States to coach these camps. Camp programs include a free ball and shirt.

Cost for mini two-hour camps, 9 to 11 a.m., for ages 3 through 5 is \$100; half-day camps, 9 a.m. to noon, are available for players ages 6 through 14 for \$130; and full-day camps, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., are available for players 6 through 14 for \$180.

The TetraBrazil Soccer Camp takes place Monday, July 8 through Friday, July 12.

The camp brings Brazilian coaches to America to teach the sport. Each camper will receive a free ball, shirt and TetraBrazil game jersey. Half-day camp, 9 a.m. to noon, for ages 6 through 14 costs \$148; and full-day camps, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., for ages 6 through 14, cost \$199.

For more information, visit www.syaa-soccer.com

Registration open for co-ed flag football

SEMINOLE - Registration is under way for Seminole Youth Co-ed Flag Football at Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th St. N.

Seminole Recreation is teaming up with NFL Flag Football this season, which runs Friday, June 7 through Wednesday, Aug. 7. Age groups are: 6-8, 9-12, and 13-15.

Cost is \$50 for Recreation Center members and \$75 for non-members. Mandatory player evaluations will be held Thursday, May 30, 6 to 9 p.m.

Call Kacy Little or Keith Tickner at 391-8345.

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Dolphin watcher wonders: What in the water was Q thinking?

True to form, local dolphins have shifted gears. A week ago they liberally dotted the waterscape at twice their normal numbers for this time of year.

This week they're back down to the standard seasonal average of a dozen dolphins per survey. Nonetheless, they're up to their old tricks, or at least that's true for the incorrigible mother dolphin Q in cahoots with her 5-year-old calf Qball. A recent episode with them makes you wonder what attracts the attention of that fertile dolphin mind.

It was a superlative spring morning at sea, made even better because we saw Q and Qball three times. Usually, each of the dolphins we encounter on a survey of the study area that we monitor under federal permit is seen only once; those we encounter more than once are called re-sights. Dolphins that trust you are as curious as children, so whether or not re-sights are due to chance is often called into question.

Many of these questions come from Q. She is the most frequent re-sight. And because her re-sight behavior consists of appearing but flowing away fluidly upon our approach, she is Dolphin Watch's "favorite flirt."

Dozing, the winds had left the seas to reclaim their smooth shimmering surface. Across a resultant field of diamonds, Q and Qball were fishing up breakfast at a great distance from each other. When Qball finally squirted across the blue bay to join her mom, they wandered side by side amid the diamonds with no obvious destination until it was time for us to leave them behind to continue our survey.

Past a second field of diamonds north of Q and Qball, we encountered the unlikely pair of female Front Slash and bulky bull Xiphos.



Dolphin Watch
Ann Weaver



Photo by ANN WEAVER

When the seas are quiet, dolphins seem to be quiet too, like PC popping his head out of the water as if having a long look around. But that's often just an illusion.

Fairly unceremoniously for a male dolphin escorting a lady, Xiphos caught a ride on a passing yacht also heading north, vanishing into its frothy wake as it slid by. Front Slash vanished as well, and may have caught a ride. If so, it didn't last.

Retracing our route, we passed the second field of diamonds again and again saw widely scattered dolphins fishing up breakfast. At sea, time keeps secrets. So it took much motoring round and round - which

was hardly taxing on sparkling seas under baby blue skies - to determine that the busy bodies were Front Slash, Q and Qball. Re-sights!

It was as if they'd left separate food kiosks at the mall food court, Front Slash from the north and the mother-calf pair from the south, and came together at the one in between.

Resuming our route, we were going past the first diamond field where we'd initially seen Q and Qball when two travelers cruised past us without stopping. They strolled a precise five feet apart, a distance we associate with traveling bulls. Presently, one of the bulls (PC) pulled a posture that often presages the arrival of new dolphins: He stopped, floated on the surface, arched his back up but his face and tail down, and then pulled his head up and back out of the water as if having a long look around. We scanned the surrounding waters for newcomers.

Sure enough, a trio of dolphins materialized but swung well past the bulls without pause. Once again (grumbled the captain), they scattered across the glittering waters of the first field of diamonds just like Q and Qball had done earlier. Again, it took time (sponsored by our relentless fuel bill) to finally reveal that the newcomers weren't newcomers at all but were instead repeat re-sights: Front Slash, Q and Qball a third time! What's more, the babes and the bulls had completely ignored each other!

It's all a guessing game until the secrets of the sea are told, for field biology above all requires patience. But if these and subsequent sightings that unruffled day have predictive value, the bulls and babes who slid past one another without pause may reflect that the ladies are awaiting the delivery of new John's Pass dolphins. If so, that's great. Most of our dolphin deliveries from the last two years need replacing.

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

Florida starts alligator permitting process

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has more than 5,000 permits available to participate in the 11-week alligator season, which runs Aug. 15 to Nov. 1.

The application process is conducted in three phases. It begins by submitting a no-cost application at any tax collector's office, license agent or at License.MyFWC.com.

During the Phase I application period, alligator permits are issued by random drawing. Phase I ends May 12, and applicants are limited to being drawn for only one permit.

If selected, applicants have until June 3 to pay the cost of the permit. Otherwise, the permit will be placed back into the system, with the other remaining permits, to be sold in Phase II on a first-come, first-served basis beginning June 7 and continuing through June 12. Those who received a permit in Phase I and paid for it cannot apply during Phase II.

Any permits remaining after June 12 will be issued during Phase III on a first-come, first-served basis beginning June 14 until all are sold. Anyone can apply during Phase III - despite having already bought a permit in Phase I or Phase II.

Alligator trapping licenses and two hide-validation tags costs \$272 for Florida residents and \$1,022 for nonresidents. If you happen to buy an additional permit during Phase III, it will cost \$62, regardless of whether you are a resident or not. No other hunting license or permits are required to participate in the hunts.

Each permit enables hunters to take two alligators from whichever county or body of water awarded during a specific harvest period. To purchase a permit, hunters must be at least 18 years old by opening day, Aug. 15.

Alligator trapping "agent" licenses are available for \$52. This license entitles folks to take alligators, but only when with a licensed person.

For more information, visit MyFWC.com/Alligator and click on "Statewide Alligator Harvest Program."

Briefs

Orchid society to meet

LARGO - The Florida West Coast Orchid Society will meet Thursday, June 13, at Pinellas County Cooperative Extension, Botanical Gardens, 12175 125th St. N.

The meeting will feature an educational class at 7 p.m. followed by a speaker at 7:30 p.m. There will be an orchid sale, raffle and refreshments. Visitors are welcome. Admission and parking are free. Call 550-7993.

McGough to host night hikes

LARGO - Night hikes will be presented on the following months on Saturdays, May 18, June 15, July 20 and Aug. 17, 6:30 p.m., at George C. McGough Nature Park, 11901 146th N. St.

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

Garden Club holds plant sale

CLEARWATER - The Clearwater Garden Club plant sale will be held Saturday, May 18. The club is located at 405 Seminole St. Doors open at 8 a.m. and close at 1 p.m.

Coffee and pastries will be available at the bake sale table. A botanical plant section and garden related vendors also will be featured.

Donations may be dropped off Friday, May 17, 10 a.m. until late evening. Anyone with plants and garden whimsy items to sell are welcome to set up a table for a small fee. Donated plants are welcome.

Volunteers are needed to help with the sale. Contact Cathy Foley at 443-7032 for more information or to volunteer that day.

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Pet connection



Bandit

Bandit is a 10-year-old Australian cattle dog who is highly trained. He was found as a stray by a police officer that brought him to safety. He weighs 73 pounds and knows many commands. He is also good with other animals. Bring this article to Pinellas County Animal Services and adopt him for only \$25. He is vaccinated, neutered and microchipped. Visit him at 12450 Ulmerton Rd., Largo, call 582-2600 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices/petfind.htm.



Kiki and Zeta

Kiki and Zeta are gorgeous 7-month-old sisters that romp, play and sleep together. Calico kitties are usually females. The word calico refers to the coloration of a white cat with orange and black patches on its coat. In the folklore of many countries, these cats were believed to bring good luck. With beautiful, shiny coats, these girls have been spayed, are current on their shots and microchipped. Call a Save Our Strays volunteer at 481-5262. Visit www.saveourstraysinc.com.



Sophie

This sweet girl is Sophie. She is a 9-year-old shorthair beauty. Scratch her chin and she'll purr for hours, and she even enjoys belly rubs. She would love to find a home with older children, but other feline friends would be fine with her, too. Her adoption fee is \$35, which includes her spay surgery, vaccines, license, microchip and 30 days of pet insurance. Come meet this silly kitty today. Visit 9099 130th Ave. N., Largo or www.spca.tampabay.org.

Paw prints

Humane Society hosts contest

CLEARWATER - In honor of Be Kind to Animals Week, the Humane Society of Pinellas is hosting a photography contest for kids.

The contest will run through May 31 and is open to all children between the ages of 6 and 16.

Children and teens can enter by submitting a photo they took of a pet being treated kindly - or is just happy. There will be two age groups: 6 to 11 years and 11 to 16 years. Prizes will be awarded in each age group and the winner will be featured in various publications including HSP's social media and 2014 Celebration of Companionship Calendar.

To enter, email the photo to Megan@HumanePinellas.org or hand-deliver or mail it to HSP, 3040 State Road 590, Clearwater, FL 33759.

Photos will be judged by fellow photography enthusiasts and will be based on photo quality and creativity.

"We are pleased to offer this contest," said Megan Kempshall in a press release. Kempshall is education outreach specialist. "It gives children the opportunity to show us, through pictures, their relationships with their pets and animals. We believe strongly in the benefits of pet ownership and this program helps celebrate this important relationship."

For information, visit HumaneSocietyofPinellas.org or call Megan Kempshall at 797-7722, ext. 230.

Save Our Strays hosts social for volunteers

CLEARWATER - Save Our Strays, - a nonprofit, no-kill organization dedicated to finding homes for cats and kittens - will host a social for its volunteers and those who may be interested in volunteering. The social is set for Saturday, May 19, 3 to 5 p.m., at Panera Bread, 2285 Ulmerton Road. Come and visit with fellow cat lovers and learn how SOS is promoting spay and neuter programs. Guests are invited to learn about various volunteer opportunities. Call 871-0888.

Obituaries

Raymond C. FOSTER, Jr.



64, of Belleair, Fla. passed away on April 17, 2013. He was preceded in death by his father, Raymond C. Foster, Sr.; mother, Doris M. Foster and young son, Gregory Foster. Raymond is survived by his daughter, Jessica and son, Carter; his loving friend, partner and companion, Margarita Chavarria of Belleair; his brothers, Dale and Gary, and his sister, Judy Roch. Raymond was a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army as a Medical Specialist with the 43rd Surgical Hospital (MA) in South Korea. He will be laid to rest on May 25, 2013 at 1:15 p.m. at the VA National Cemetery at Bay Pines in St. Petersburg, Fla.

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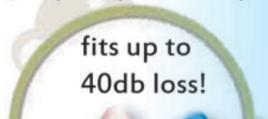
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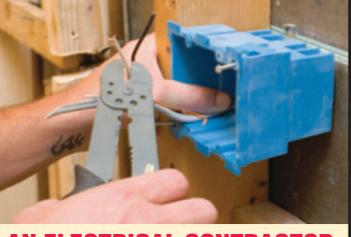


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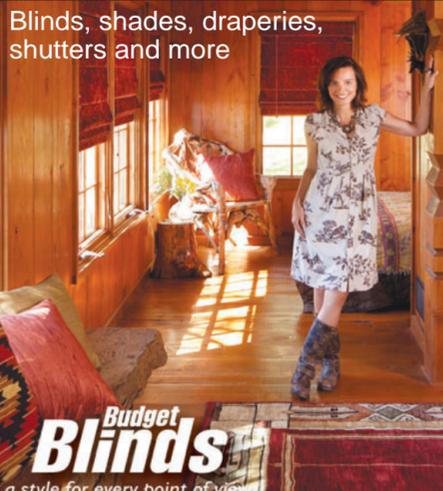
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Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County



- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

Leader
Section B
May 16, 2013

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Top five diversions

• **Disney On Ice: Rockin' Ever After;** May 16-19, at Tampa Bay Times Forum, 401 Channelside Drive, Tampa. Performances are Thursday and Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m., 3 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 and 5 p.m. Tickets start at \$16. Call 800-745-3000 or visit www.tampabaytimesforum.com. This all-new live production will showcase a cast of world-class skaters bringing favorite moments from Disney•Pixar's "Brave," "Tangled," "The Little Mermaid" and "Beauty and the Beast" to life in a musical showcase. Attendees will jam to a Scottish jig as a group of royal contenders from the latest Disney•Pixar film, "Brave," competes to win the heart of adventurous, sharp-shooting Merida, making her on-ice debut.

• **The Florida Orchestra: Beethoven's Symphony No. 7;** Friday, May 17, 8 p.m., at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa; Saturday, May 18, 8 p.m., at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg; and Sunday, May 19, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$15. Call 892-3337 or visit www.floridaorchestra.org. Principal flute Clay Ellerbrook brings to life the wonderfully joyous, playful and tuneful melodies of Liebermann's Concerto for Flute and Orchestra on this concert with Mendelssohn's The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave) and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. Tito Munoz conducts.

• **"American Idiot,"** May 17-19, in Carol Morsani Hall, at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Performances are Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 and 6:30 p.m. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org. Direct from Broadway, the smash-hit musical "American Idiot" tells the story of three lifelong friends, forced to choose between their dreams and the safety of suburbia. Based on Green Day's Grammy Award-winning multi-platinum album and featuring the hits "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," "21 Guns," "Wake Me Up When September Ends," "Holiday" and the blockbuster title track, "American Idiot" boldly takes the American musical where it's never gone before. The production features direction by Michael Mayer, choreography by Steven Hoggett and orchestrations and arrangements by Tom Kitt. "American Idiot" contains adult content and strong language.

• **"SINGSation - What Karaoke Should Be,"** Friday, May 17, 7 to 11 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$16.50. The event will feature cabaret seating. Presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, this is an event for all musical theater lovers. Whether you want to come out to hear some great singing or sing on stage, this is the night to do it. The event is described as "one big cast party where you can join old friends and make new ones." Proceeds from the show will benefit Eight O'Clock Theatre's tech department. There will be a cash bar and food will be available for purchase.

• **Sound Lives and Moves,** presented by The Studio Dance Company, Sunday, May 19, 2 p.m., at The Mahaffey, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$16. Call 892-5798 or visit www.themahaffey.com. S.L.A.M showcases the talent of dancers at The Studio Dance Company. The show will feature amazing performances in hip-hop, ballet, contemporary modern, lyrical, jazz and break dancing. Attendees will experience dance at its finest. S.L.A.M also will feature performances and choreography from its ballet partner the Sarasota Ballet.



Photo by THOMAS BRUCE STUDIO/THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA
Principal Flute Clay Ellerbrook plays the melodies of Liebermann's Concerto for Flute and Orchestra as part of the program as The Florida Orchestra performs at venues around the Tampa Bay area this weekend.



Photo by ZADE ROSENTHAL/PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Chris Pine, left, stars as Kirk and Zachary Quinto as Spock in "Star Trek Into Darkness," from Paramount Pictures and Skydance Productions.

Opening this weekend

J.J. Abrams' 'Star Trek Into Darkness' beams into movie theaters

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'Star Trek Into Darkness'

Genre: Science fiction
Cast: Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana, Karl Urban, John Cho, Bruce Greenwood, Simon Pegg, Anton Yelchin, Benedict Cumberbatch, Alice Eve and Peter Weller
Director: J.J. Abrams
Rated: PG-13

In Summer 2013, director J.J. Abrams will deliver an explosive action thriller that takes Star Trek Into Darkness.

In the wake of a shocking act of terror from within their own organization, the crew of The Enterprise is called back home to Earth. In defiance of regulations and with a personal score to settle, Captain Kirk leads his crew on a manhunt to capture an unstoppable force of destruction and bring those responsible to justice.

As our heroes are propelled into an epic chess game of life and death, love will be challenged, friendships will be torn apart, and sacrifices must be made for the only family Kirk has left: his crew.

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

'Augustine'

Genre: Biography and drama
Cast: Vincent Lindon, Soko and Chiara Mastroianni
Director: Alice Winocour
Not rated

"Augustine" is an examination of the real case story and unusual relationship between Dr. Jean-Martin Charcot, the pioneering 19th century French neurologist - whom Sigmund Freud studied under - and Augustine, his star teenage patient.

In Belle Epoque Paris, 19-year-old kitchen maid Augustine suffers an inexplicable seizure that leaves her partially paralyzed and is shipped off to an all-female psychiatric hospital specializing in the then-fashionable ailment of "hysteria." Augustine captures the attention of renowned neurologist Dr. Charcot (Vincent Lindon) after she



Photo courtesy of MUSIC BOX FILMS

Vincent Lindon stars as Dr. Jean-Martin Charcot in "Augustine," from Music Box Films.

has another attack that appears to give her intense physical pleasure. Intrigued, he begins using her as his principal subject, hypnotizing her in front of his fellow doctors. As Augustine displays her spectacular fits in lecture halls, the lines between doctor and patient become blurred, radically impacting the course of both of their lives.

Based on a true story, this darkly sensual romantic drama chronicles one woman's sexual awakening against the backdrop of neo-Victorian psychology and social repression.

See **OPENING**, page 4B

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Looking ahead

Largo

• **"Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits,"** created and written by Gerard Alessandrini, through May 19, presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25.50 for adults and \$12.50 for children 19 and younger. Call 587-6793.

• **"SINGsation - What Karaoke Should Be,"** Friday, May 17, 7 to 11 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$16.50. The event will feature cabaret seating. Presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, this is an event for all musical theater lovers. Whether you want to come out to hear some great singing or sing on stage, this is the night to do it. The event is described as "one big cast party where you can join old friends and make new ones." Proceeds from the show will benefit Eight O'Clock Theatre's tech department. There will be a cash bar and food will be available for purchase.

• **"The Swashbuckling Adventures of Alex Jones,"** with book, music and lyrics by Jason Tucker, July 12-21, presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25.50 for adults and \$12.50 for children 19 and younger. Call 587-6793.

Clearwater

• **"Pippin,"** by Stephen Schwartz and Roger Hirson, through May 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.

• **"Ain't Retirement Grand,"** by Gil Perloth, May 24-26, at West Coast Players Theatre, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Tickets are \$20.

Performances are Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org. The lighthearted show pokes fun at retirement in Florida. The songs and patter cover the full range of topics that concern the over-55s: wills, doctors, pets, early-bird specials and "getting up off the couch occasionally." The show stars Mike Arnold, Bob Hines, Susan Taylor and Nancy Wright. Daniel Harris directs.

• **"The Rascals: Once Upon a Dream,"** Thursday, May 30, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$55. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. A hybrid of a rock 'n' roll concert and a Broadway show, "The Rascals: Once Upon a Dream" marks the first time The Rascals, America's classic blue-eyed soul band, have played together since 1970. Original band members Felix Cavaliere (keyboard and vocals), Eddie Brigati (vocals), Dino Danelli (drums) and Gene Cornish (guitar) will present a complete concert performance including songs that captured the spirit of America in the 1960s such as their smash hits "Good Lovin'," "Lonely Too Long," "It's a Beautiful Morning," "How Can I Be Sure" and "Groovin'." The production also will feature the history of the iconic group told through archival footage, narration, and dramatic film segments viewed on the latest LED screen technology. "The Rascals: Once Upon a Dream" made its debut at the Capitol Theatre in Port Chester, N.Y. Originally scheduled to play three performances in December 2012, an additional three shows had to be added to accommodate the demand for this unique concert experience.

• **Bright House Networks' Clearwater Blast Friday,** featuring The Fixx, Friday, May 31, 5:30 p.m., on the 500 block of the Cleveland Street district. The free monthly street festival and outdoor concert will feature a performance by The Fixx. The event will feature a variety of vendors, as well as food, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages. The street fair begins at 5:30 pm with entertainment outside until 10 p.m. Not 60 seconds into "Beautiful Friction" and it is clear: the haunting

guitar of Jamie West-Oram, expressive synth of Rupert Greenall, pounding bass of Dan K. Brown, steady beat of Adam Woods and unforgettable vocals of Cy Currin add up to the undeniable sound that could only be The Fixx. "Beautiful Friction," the band's tenth studio album, finds The Fixx sharper than ever. Never at a loss for what to say, Cy Currin and company have the same thought-provoking intensity fueling their lyrics and performances as ever. Fired up and hopeful as always, the band continues to take us on a journey, which started in 1982 with the release of "Shattered Room." After seminal hits such as "One Thing Leads to Another," "Red Skies," "Saved by Zero" and "Stand or Fall," The Fixx has always been very conscious of making sure it had something to say. A limited number of VIP tickets are available in the Budweiser Platinum VIP section priced at \$30. The Budweiser Platinum VIP package includes a general admission ticket in the reserved seating section directly in front of the stage, two free Bud Light Platinum beers and a free slice of pepperoni or cheese pizza from Tony's Pizzeria. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com.

• **The Indigo Girls,** Saturday, June 1, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. For information about or to purchase tickets for upcoming performances, call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Tickets start at \$39. The Grammy-winning folk duo the Indigo Girls, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers, will bring their national symphony tour to Ruth Eckerd Hall June 1 with a 36-piece symphony orchestra. With 14 albums to their credit and a career that spans decades, the iconic duo continues to challenge themselves creatively, adding to a body of work that contains such hits and fan favorites as "Galileo" and "Love of Our Lives." For this tour, they've brought in musical arrangers Sean O'Loughlin and Stephen Barber to write orchestral charts for a selection of songs spanning their career, from the 1980s through their most recent release, "Beauty Queen Sister," on IG Recordings/Vanguard. For Ray and Saliers, who've been performing together for more than two decades, this is a chance to hear their music performed in a new way and to bring something special to their fans. The Indigo Girls first performed with an orchestra back in 2001, doing a series of shows with the Atlanta Ballet called "Shed Your Skin," which included a set of songs choreographed with a live band, an orchestra and dancers. While each show will be different, each performance will last roughly two hours with the orchestra, an intermission, and then Ray and Saliers will perform one or two songs without the orchestra as an encore.

• **"The Boys in the Band,"** by Mart Crowley, June 7-23, at the West Coast Players Theatre, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Performances are Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org.

• **Scooby-Doo Live! Musical Mysteries,** Saturday, June 8, 2 and 5 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$16. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. The much-loved Scooby-Doo and the Mystery Inc. gang will take center stage in this all-new family musical presented by Warner Bros. Consumer Products and Life Like Touring. Featuring everyone's favorite characters from one of television's longest-running animated series, the show will thrill Clearwater audiences at Ruth Eckerd Hall with an exciting new production in which Scooby-Doo and the Mystery Inc. gang have been called upon to help solve an epic mystery. A trouble-making ghost is haunting a local theater and Shaggy, Fred, Daphne, Velma and Scooby-Doo are on their way in the Mystery Machine to crack the case. With crazy ghosts, perplexing puzzles, and an abundance of Scooby Snacks, it's Scooby-Doo and friends at their best, travelling across the country, solving mysteries wherever they go.

• **Happy Together Tour,** Friday, June 14, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$40. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. This year's Happy Together Tour lineup will include The Turtles, featuring Flo & Eddie; Chuck Negron, formerly of Three Dog Night; Gary Puckett & The Union Gap; Mark Lindsay, former lead singer of Paul Revere & The Raiders; and Gary Lewis & The Playboys. The Happy Together Marketplace also will be presented in the Grand Concourse prior to the start of the show, opening at 5:30 p.m. "Happy Together," by The Turtles, hit No. 1 on the charts in 1967, displacing The Beatles' "Penny Lane." The song remains a staple on classic rock radio to this day. Although their biggest hit and signature song, it's just one of their nine Top 40 hits, which include such popular songs as "She'd Rather Be With Me," "Elenore," "You Showed Me" and "It Ain't Me Babe." In 1968, far ahead of their time, they released one of music's first concept albums, "The Turtles Present the Battle of the Bands," on which they pretended to be 11 different bands with different names, each providing a song in a different genre. The album - which showcased their incredible range of vocal talent - spawned the hits "Elenore" and "You Showed Me." The Turtles featuring Flo & Eddie will perform along with other classic artists at this year's Happy Together Tour.

• **USA Dance,** Monday, May 20, 7 to 10:15 p.m., at Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Blvd., Gulfport. Admission is \$7 and includes a dance workshop, professional and amateur exhibitions, dance hosts and snacks. For information, call 397-5754.

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

Pinellas Park

• **The Matinee Opera Players,** Sunday, May 26, 3 p.m., at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Parking is free and cash donations will be accepted. The Matinee Opera Players, under the direction of Mario Laurenti, will be performing. The talented group of singers will perform musical favorites from well-known movies as well as outstanding selections of opera arias, including the last act of "La Traviata." Also featured will be two guest singers: soprano Yelena Levinson and tenor Dino DiLiberti. Lewenson made her operatic debut as Snow Maiden in "Snow Maiden" by Rimsky-Korsakov with Exprompt Opera Theater in Moscow, Russia. She

See LOOKING AHEAD, page 8B

Crossword

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

- Across**
- Goat-like antelope of central Eurasia
 - Drink, esp. cats and dogs (2 wds)
 - Cooking meats
 - For all to hear
 - Corpulent
 - Cast
 - Moving toward an axis
 - Ashes holder
 - Article of faith
 - Mixologists
 - First day of the new moon in ancient Rome
 - A branch of mathematics
 - Ancient meeting places
 - Rock similar to granite
 - Handle clumsily
 - Accept (2 wds)
 - Rhodes of Rhodesia
 - Reduced instruction set computer (acronym)
 - Couch
 - "Iliad" city
 - Enter
 - Donnybrook
 - "Yadda, yadda, yadda," abbrev.
 - Eye parts: Var.
 - Occurring before WWI
 - Ancient galleys having two banks of oars
 - Spicy North African sauce
 - Come to light
 - Forced labor camp
 - Convened
 - Containing a mathematical power base
 - Absorbed, as a cost
 - Inclined
 - Wombs
 - ___ Zeppelin
 - Pool contents?
 - Starlings known for mimicking human speech

- Down**
- Amniotic ___
 - A pint, maybe
 - Carbonium, e.g.
 - Rainspout
 - Kind of gland
 - Runs
 - "Not on ___!" ("No way!") (2 wds)
 - Darling
 - Functional
 - Living in oceanic waters
 - Wingnuts
 - More likely
 - A contour feather of a bird
 - "You don't say!"
 - Change, as a clock
 - Bay of Naples isle
 - "Encore!"
 - Depressed (hyphenated)
 - One year's record
 - Bestows
 - Era
 - Bits
 - Spandex trademark
 - Medical treatments to restore health
 - Native of Katmandu
 - Delay (2 wds)
 - A mistake in printed matter
 - Indicate
 - Fourscore
 - Fundamental
 - About to explode
 - Smarts
 - Battering wind
 - Bath tub liquid?
 - Crew
 - Bank offering, for short
 - Alliance that includes Ukr.

Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers

from last week

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

Horoscopes

May 16, 2013

Capricorn

December 22 - January 19
Mementos from an event long ago inspire you to make some changes. Start off small, Capricorn. A proposal receives rave reviews. Treat yourself.

Aquarius

January 20 - February 18
Life moves at a frantic pace at home. Make sure you eat right and work out to keep up the momentum, Aquarius. A new do provides a lift.

Pisces

February 19 - March 20
Ignorance is bliss, Pisces. Don't ask for more information than needed. All will be revealed in good time. A change in schedule has everyone scrambling at the office.

Aries

March 21 - April 19
Business relationships blossom, and the to-do list grows. Assemble your team with care, Aries. The wrong skill set could impede progress indefinitely.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20
Glory be, Taurus. Your home is THE place to be this week, as old friends and new drop by. Enjoy! You'll be engaged in business affairs soon enough.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21
Business plans take shape, and you're put in charge of a project. Proceed with caution and prepare for some bumps along the way, Gemini.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22
Beggars can't be choosy, Cancer. Take what you can get. A memo offers much more than information. Read between the lines for the answers you seek.

Leo

July 23 - August 22
Feel like something's missing from your life, Leo? You're right, and you won't have to look far to figure out what it is. A surplus budget is reason to celebrate.

Virgo

August 23 - September 22
You're stoked! After months of waiting, you finally receive the response you were hoping for. Go, Virgo, go! A friend makes a silly request.

Libra

September 23 - October 22
Normalcy returns at home, and life is good. The only glitch is a meddlesome guest. Do your best to overlook their behavior, Libra. They mean well.

Scorpio

October 23 - November 21
The melodramatic behavior of a youngster makes you rethink home improvement plans. Perhaps it's time for an even bigger change, Scorpio.

Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21
Time for a better brother, Sagittarius. You've gotten too close to the situation to be impartial. A vacation might be in order. Go someplace new.

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Martin, Brickell to perform

Duo joins Steep Canyon Rangers to play songs from new Rounder album 'Love Has Come For You'

ST. PETERSBURG — It's true: Steve and Edie are touring.

No, not Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gormé — Steve Martin and Edie Brickell.

Martin and Brickell will take the stage with The Steep Canyon Rangers Thursday, May 23, 7:30 p.m., at The Mahaffey, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg.

Tickets start at \$59.50. Call 892-5798 or visit www.themahaffey.com.

Martin and Brickell will be performing songs from their newly released album of Americana roots music, "Love Has Come For You," along with other music created with the esteemed bluegrass combo Steep Canyon Rangers.

This Steve and Edie collaboration of banjo playing and folksy, bluesy vocals presents traditional storytelling with modern touches. Martin, Brickell and the Rangers will deliver an intimate evening of eloquent, thoughtful songwriting and entertaining and playful banjo picking.

'Love Has Come For You'

Martin and Brickell's inaugural duo effort "Love Has Come For You" was released by Rounder Records in April.

The remarkable new collaboration offers 13 eloquently rootsy compositions that combine Martin's inventive five-string banjo work with Brickell's distinctive vocals and vivid, detail-rich lyrics. "Love Has Come For You" is a substantial departure, as well as a creative milestone, for both artists.

"This is the kind of music that I've always wanted to make, but I never knew how until now," Brickell said in a Rounder Records press release introducing the album. "I just fell in love with all of these songs, because they all represent something that's true."

The album features deeply evocative songs such as "When You Get to Asheville," "Sarah Jane and the Iron Mountain Baby," "Remember Me This Way," "Fighter," as well as the haunting title track. Each tune offers playful, resonant character studies, conveying a wealth of imagery, emotion and musical ideas within spacious, mostly acoustic arrangements and irresistibly accessible tunes.

"The banjo can be so evocative when it's used sparingly, and that was in the back of my mind as we were writing," said Martin in the press release. "It's the way I've longed to play and hear the banjo, rather than it being present at every moment. In these songs, the point is to tell the story and get out."

Produced by studio legend Peter Asher, "Love Has Come For You" features notable players such as rising-star bassist Esperanza Spalding, veteran studio guitarist Waddy Wachtel and Nickel Creek alumni Sara and Sean Watkins. The album also features the esteemed bluegrass combo the Steep Canyon Rangers with whom Martin recorded his latest Grammy nominated album "Rare Bird Alert." Martin has toured extensively with The Steep Canyon Rangers.

Steve Martin

Martin is currently in the fifth decade of a uniquely varied and accomplished career in which he's excelled as a comedian, actor, author and playwright and as a Grammy-winning, boundary-pushing bluegrass banjoist and composer.

Although he's been playing banjo since he was 17, and music has always been a part of his act, for the first several decades of his career Martin was primarily known as a stand-up comedian and actor. In the late 1960s, he landed a job writing for the comedy and variety show "Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour." This led to writing jobs at other programs, such as "The Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour" and "The Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour."

His first appearance before the cameras came on "The Steve Allen Show" in 1969.

In the 1970s, Martin made recurring appearances as a stand-up comedian on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson," "The Gong Show" and "The Muppet Show." He appeared so frequently on "Saturday Night Live" he was often mistaken for a regular cast member.

Later in the '70s, Martin expanded his horizons, appearing in several films, such as "Another Fine Mess," "The Muppet Movie" and "Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band." In 1979, he starred in "The Jerk," a film he co-wrote. In 1981, he starred in "Pennies from Heaven," which earned him a nomination for a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor.

In 2001, Martin played banjo on Earl Scruggs' "Foggy Mountain Breakdown," foreshadowing another change in career direction. Martin's debut musical album "The Crow: New Songs for the Five-String Banjo" was released in 2009. It won a Grammy for Best Bluegrass Album.

Edie Brickell

Since bursting onto the national scene in the late 1980s fronting the New Bohemians, Brickell has carved out an iconoclastic solo career that's solidified her reputation as a uniquely compelling singer and a songwriter of rare insight.

In 1988, Edie Brickell & New Bohemians released the album "Shooting Rubberbands at the Stars," the band's debut album. It reached No. 4 on the Billboard 200 chart and including the single "What I Am."

The band followed up with "Ghost of a Dog" in 1990, which spawned the single "Mama Help Me."

At the same time, Brickell embarked on a solo career, releasing the albums "Picture Perfect Morning" (1994) and "Volcano" (2003). She played a folk singer in the 1989 film "Born on the Fourth of July"

Brickell reunited with her New Bohemians in 2006 to release the album "Stranger Things."

Despite the fact that Martin and Brickell lived on opposite coasts, their working relationship quickly blossomed after Martin shared some of his music with her.



Image courtesy of CONCORD MUSIC GROUP/ROUNDER RECORDS "Love Has Come For You" is the new album by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell from Rounder Records.

"I played it for her, and she walked around the room and hummed some lyrics, which she later recorded and sent to me," Martin said. "I realized that Edie's approach is that she works best when she goes away and does it herself, and that became the blueprint for how we worked together."

Work on their new partnership progressed, with the two writing separately and exchanging digital files via email.

"Steve worked really fast, and every time I turned around there was a new banjo melody coming at me, which was very exciting," Brickell said. "The music inspired the lyrics, and the stories came straight out of Steve's melodies. I would sing along to the melody, and the lyrics would come all at once. Then I'd pull out my iPhone and record it. With most of the songs, it was so easy; I'd just hear the tune and there were all these images and pictures, and all you had to do was pull the lyrics out of the air."

"I think that the goal of any collaboration should be to come up with something that each individual wouldn't have come up with on their own, and I think that we've done that here," said Martin.

have come a long way in a relatively short time.

The started in the industry with promising beginnings as a band of college friends at UNC-Chapel Hill in 2000. A few years later, they were named the International Bluegrass Music Association's Emerging Artist in 2006. Then, in 2011, the same organization recognized them as Entertainers of the Year with Steve Martin.

According to Rounder Records, The Steep Canyon Rangers have played before more people, over the past three years, than any other bluegrass band. They have played major festivals such as Bonnaroo, New Orleans Jazz Fest, and Merle Fest. They performed at the White House for the Fourth of July celebration in 2011.

It's a safe bet, though that The Steep Canyon Rangers have just begun to make their mark in the world of great acoustic music. Whether they're on the road with Steve Martin, playing a jam band festival on their own, or opening the ears of traditional bluegrass fans to new sounds and to songs with a new sensibility, the band continues to find new fans by playing their own brand of bluegrass music in their own way.



Photo courtesy of MARK SELIGER Steve Martin and Edie Brickell perform May 23 at The Mahaffey in St. Petersburg.

7:30 p.m., in the Bayview Room of the Mahaffey Theater.

- The buffet will include:
- Stuffed roma chicken with sun-dried tomato, fresh mozzarella, basil, and served with a roasted tomato coulis
 - Sliced smoky maple glazed pork loin
 - Mixed field greens, topped with sliced pear and dried cranberry salad with gorgonzola and champagne vinaigrette
 - Roasted vegetables with balsamic reduction
 - Rosemary potatoes

- Fresh baked steakhouse yeast rolls with butter
 - Vanilla bean cupcakes with salted caramel drizzle
 - Coffee, water or soda
 - One glass of house wine or draft beer
- A cash bar also will be available.

The buffet costs \$29.95 a person. Due to limited seating, advance purchase is suggested. Attendees must have a concert ticket.

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The Steep Canyon Rangers

The Steep Canyon Rangers

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Museum of Fine Arts appoints curator of contemporary art

ST. PETERSBURG - Katherine Pill recently joined the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg as its first assistant curator of art after 1950.

The Hazel and William Hough Curatorial Endowment Fund, established in 2012, have made this historic step possible. The Houghs are longtime MFA supporters and collectors of contemporary art. The Hazel Hough Wing is named in honor of Mrs. Hough, a museum trustee.

According to a press release from the museum, Pill brings ideal experience and education to this new position and arrives at an optimum moment in the life of the museum. The MFA has increasingly received donations of and acquired works created after 1950 and up to the present day. Pill has not only curated numerous exhibitions of modern and contemporary art in a variety of media, but has also taken a very active role as an educator and writer. She has designed and conducted many programs to enhance audience understanding and enjoyment of

contemporary work. Pills first exhibition at the MFA will be Color Acting: Abstraction Since 1950, primarily drawn from the collection. The exhibit will run July 6 through Sept. 22. Also intent on adding new media to the museum's holdings, she proposed Michael Bell-Smith's Waves Clock (2012) for the Collectors Choice event on April 19. Generated by a unique software program, the projected work depicts bright blue waves crashing towards shore, with a generic white analog clock, keeping real time, meandering slowly across the scene.

These images each address the cycle of time, both natural and mechanical, but are visually disjointed to an almost comical degree. It is difficult to focus on either one without being distracted by the other - a fitting reflection on our media-saturated times. Once again, the Houghs have stepped forward with funds to acquire Waves Clock, with the aim of installing it in the glass conservatory.

Pill holds her bachelor's de-

gree with a double-major in art history, with honors, and English literature from McGill University in Montreal. She then completed a three-year dual master's degree in art history, theory and criticism and arts administration and policy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

"We now have a curator who will focus on contemporary art," said Kent Lydecker in a press release. Lydecker is MFA director. "Katherine will collaborate closely with Hazel and William Hough chief curator Jennifer Hardin, organize exhibitions, strengthen our collection, and build relationships with artists locally, nationally, and, in our global age, internationally. We could not have taken this historic step without the generous donation, friendship, and leadership of Hazel and William Hough."

While in graduate school, Pill served as communications director and then administrative director of the two Student Union Galleries, which presented six exhibitions each semester. In addi-

tion to those responsibilities, she enhanced a lively schedule of workshops, panel discussions, and artist talks and helped curate booths at Art Chicago and NEXT: The Invitational Exhibition of Emerging Art. She also organized and participated in a panel discussion on student-run art spaces at NEXT's "Talk Shop" in 2010.

"I am thrilled to step into this newly created position devoted to growing the MFA's modern and contemporary art programming," said Pill. "It is a passion of mine to support the work of contemporary artists and to communicate their work to a larger public. Contemporary art can be intimidating, and I feel it is the responsibility of a curator to provide context and multiple points of entry to challenging concepts and artworks."

The Museum of Fine Art is at 255 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg. The museum boasts a world-class collection, with works by Monet, Gauguin, Renoir, Morisot, Cézanne, Rodin, O'Keeffe, and many others.



Photo by THOMAS U. GESSLER
Katherine Pill the MFA's first assistant curator of contemporary art, stands next to Enrico Donati's "Angkor Wat" (1963), a mixed-media work in the collection she admires.

OPENING, from page 1B

'Black Rock'

Genre: Thriller
Cast: Kate Bosworth, Lake Bell and Katie Aselton

Director: Katie Aselton
Rated: R
Three young women - Sarah (Kate Bosworth), Abby (Katie Aselton) and Lou (Lake Bell) - get together for a private campout at one of the iconic settings of their childhood, an empty island off the coast of Maine, to renew their bond of sisterhood.

They quickly learn, though, that the island is anything but empty, when they encounter three recently returned servicemen, who have come to the island to hunt. A misunderstanding quickly turns to tragedy, and the three women soon find themselves the targets of the hunt. What started as a simple getaway to recall old

times is now a race for survival as three ordinary women must find extraordinary strength in order to beat the odds against violence and the elements.

'33 Postcards'

Genre: Drama and musical
Cast: Guy Pearce, Zhu Lin, Claudia Karvan, Elaine Jin, Rhys Muldoon and Lincoln Lewis
Director: Pauline Chan
Not rated
For 10 years Chinese orphan Mei Mei (Zhu Lin) has been supported by donations from her Australian sponsor Dean Randall (Guy Pearce) - who sends her postcards that describe his idyllic family life. At 16, when the orphanage

choir tours Australia, Mei Mei discovers the shocking truth - Randall, who she thought was the perfect father figure, is actually a convict in prison for manslaughter.

Randall never imagined he would ever meet Mei Mei and wants nothing to do with her. His donations were just an attempt to dull the guilt of his past crimes. But undeterred by his reluctance and recognizing his loneliness, Mei Mei slips away from the choir every day to visit Randall in prison.

In order to make money to stay in Australia, Mei Mei naively becomes entangled with Randall's crooked associates. To save Mei Mei from his fate, Randall must make an impossible sacrifice. But by making it - he might not be just saving Mei Mei - he might be saving them both.

'Francis Ha'

Genre: Comedy
Cast: Greta Gerwig and Mickey Sumner
Director: Noah Baumbach
Rated: R
Frances (Greta Gerwig) lives in New York, but she doesn't really have an apartment. Frances is an apprentice for a dance company, but she's not really a dancer. Frances has a best friend named Sophie, but they aren't really speaking anymore. Frances throws herself headlong into her dreams, even as their possible reality dwindles. Frances



Photo courtesy of PINE DISTRICT LLC/IFC FILMS
Greta Gerwig dances in front of a fountain in the film "Francis Ha."

wants so much more than she has, but lives her life with unaccountable joy and lightness. "Frances Ha" is a modern comic fable in which Noah Baumbach explores New York, friendship, class, ambition, failure, and redemption.

'The Occupants'

Genre: Thriller
Cast: Michael Rady and Toby Huss
Director: Todd Alcott
Not rated
Lucy has a new husband, a new home and a new baby, but

old ghosts won't let her be. She has dedicated her life to helping families "break the cycle" of abuse, so when she and her husband Wade see the echoes of a violent family tragedy in their home, Lucy tries to help the tortured souls break free of their torment and move on. She finds, however, that these ghosts don't want her help - they want to lead Lucy and her family to their doom.

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LARGO 2BR/1BA, FIREPLACE All Utilities Included. \$950/Month, First/Last. (727)586-2419, (727)586-1566.

LARGO: 3BR/1BA, W/D Hook-up, Fenced Yard. \$875/Month. Annual Lease. Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

155. Furnished Condos

DAN'S ISLAND, SAND KEY, 2BR/2BA Penthouse, \$2,500/Month Annual. W/D, All Amenities. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton (727)644-0400.

LARGO: PENTHOUSE GREENS, 2BR/2BA, W/D. \$795/Month. Annual. Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

MADIERA BEACH/SEMINOLE Condo For Rent 2BR/2BA 55+ Community, Fully Furnished \$1000/mo (203)982-8339

SEMINOLE GARDENS 1BR/1BA, 874SF, 55+, Fully Furnished. \$600/Month-Yearly. Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp. (727)397-2534

ST. PETE BEACH Furnished 1BR/1BA Condo. Water View, Large Sunroom, 2 Heated Pools, Clubhouse, 3 mos. minimum. \$1200 incl. Electric, No Dogs. Available Now! (727)403-9684

LAKE SEMINOLE, Waterfront/ Dock 2BR/2BA, W/D, Carport, New A/C and Furniture, Pool. \$1,300/Month. (727)954-6640.

160. Unfurnished Condos

BARDMOOR CONDO 55+ Golfing Community, 2BR/2BA, Garage, Corner Unit, Annual Lease, Renovated. (727)202-7360

DELUXE 1BR, SEMINOLE Gardens, 55+. 1st Floor. Very Clean With Many Updates. Florida Room With Great Views. \$750/Mo. Annual. (727)954-4795.

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160. Unfurnished Condos

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SEMINOLE, INTRACOASTAL 2BR/2BA. FREE Cable. Pool, Petless, Non-smoking. 1-month Free Rent. \$1,100/Month, First/Last/Security. (727)596-9656.

SEMINOLE: Deerwood Gardens. 2BR/2BA, 2nd Floor, Vaulted Ceiling, Patio, Balcony, Covered Parking, W/D, Pool, Clubhouse. \$850/Month. Available 6/1/13 (727)397-5571.

170. Furn. Apartments

CLEARWATER: STUDIOS Starting at \$179/Week. No security. No credit check. Free WiFi access. Pets OK. MOVE IN TODAY!! (727)445-7134. precisionpropertymanagement.net

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

175. Unfurn. Apartments

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

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

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185. Beach Rentals

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185. Beach Rentals

SAND KEY: DAN'S ISLAND Furnished, 2BR/2BA Condo. Beautiful Intracoastal View! \$1,800/Month, Annual. (404)723-5690.

190. Waterfront Rentals

BELLEAIR BEACH 3BR/3BA ON The Intracoastal. Huge Yard, Pool and Dock area, Annual Lease. Vangie (727)501-3268, Pappas Realty & Mgmt

PASS-A-GRILLE, 1BR/1BA Spectacular waterfront! Fully furnished. \$1,500/ month w/ix month lease. Available immediately! First/last. (321)948-3887

195. Seasonal Rentals

SAND KEY Clearwater Beach. Furnished, Large 1BR or 2BR Condo, Pool, Seasonal/ Annual. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton (727)644-0400.

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

200. Vacation Rentals

CLEARWATER BEACH/ BELLEAIR BEACH 2700 Gulf Blvd. Gulf Front 1BR/1BA, 2nd Floor, Corner, Overlooks Pool. Beautifully Furnished. King & Pull Out Couch. Weekly/ Monthly Flat Rate, \$700/ \$2,500. After 4/7/13. Call Mark, (727)449-9292 (Office).

210. M.H. Rentals

CLEARWATER DREAM! 45+ Furnished. 1,600+SF, Gazebo, 1/4-Acre Lot. Vaulted Ceilings, Walk-In Closets, Sunroom. MUST SEE NOW! Earn Partial Rent! (352)279-2469.

245. Room For Rent

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265. Commercial Rentals

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300. Notices

MUSICIANS WANTED! All Types To Perform In Contemporary Worship Service At Church By The Sea, (727)397-5600 spwmusic@yahoo.com

301. Clinical Study

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAVE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS?
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355. Adoption

ARE YOU PREGNANT? A Childless, Married Couple, (in our 30s) seeks to adopt. Will be hands on Mom and devoted Dad. Financially secure. Expenses paid. Nicole & Frank. 1(888)969-6134. FL BAR #150789.

360. Legal Service

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370. Instructions-Tutors

ENGLISH BY TELEPHONE

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(727)786-1608

400. Health & Fitness

10-Day Celebrity Weight Loss Program. Lose 5-15lbs in 10 Days! Learn The Secrets That Models, Actors, Athletes Use. Eat Green - Get Lean! Call Mike (727)238-3495

435. Adult Care & Service

HOMEMAKER/ COMPANION I will provide Light Housekeeping, Meal Preparation, Help with Personal Care, Drive You to Appointments/ Shopping, I'm Honest, Dependable. Have Excellent Driving Record, Reasonable Rates. (727)225-9255.



485. Help Wanted

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485. Help Wanted

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485. Help Wanted

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

505. Part-time Help

CAREGIVER WANTED FOR Petite Lady, Must Be Able To Lift. Light Housekeeping. Nonsmoker. References. (727)536-5173.

P-T RENTAL AGENT OR REAL ESTATE ASSISTANT Must Have Complete Knowledge of MLS & Beach Areas. Must Rotate Weekends. Executive Preferred Properties. Indian Rocks Beach Office. Send Resume To Liz@ClearwaterBeachFL.com Or Call (727)461-6000.

535. Business Opportun.

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605. Gift Ideas

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610. Computer Equipment

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655. Musical Instruments

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740. Tools & Machines

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885. Autos Wanted

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910. Boat Slips

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915. Boat & Marine Svc.

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505. Part-time Help

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510. Home Care Help

CAREGIVERS FOR ELDERLY, Non-Medical. Immediate P-T Openings in Pinellas County. Clear Criminal Background, FL Driver's License & Experience A Must. Call (727)392-4243.

515. Hospitality Help

LINE COOK
 Doubletree Beach Resort/ Restaurant. Apply At: 17120 Gulf Blvd. North Redington Beach (727)393-2813.

565. Loans & Mortgages

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585. Auctions

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640. Furniture

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525. Medical Help

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810. Auto Sales

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505. Part-time Help

505. Part-time Help

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LOOKING AHEAD, from page 2B

has been a critically acclaimed favorite artist with Exprompt Opera Theater for four seasons where she won a nomination for prestigious Golden Mask Award. She was a soloist with Raanana Symphonette orchestra in Raanana, Israel, performing the Concert for Coloratura Soprano and Orchestra by Reinhold Gliere as well as a solo recital of opera arias. She has sung the Queen of the Night in concert with Northern Westchester Symphony Orchestra. Recently she appeared as Olympia in Les Contes d'Hoffmann with Martina Arroyo foundation at Marian Anderson Theater in New York. DiLiberti is well known in the Tampa Bay area where he has performed for many cultural events and operatic workshops during the 48 years he has resided in Clearwater. He was born in Italy and has returned often to perform in concert, most recently he was invited as the guest singer at the annual Luciano Pavarotti Memorial Concert in Modena, Italy. For information, call Laurenti at 547-0396.

St. Petersburg

• **"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,"** by Rachel Sheinkin and William Finn, American Stage Theatre's 28th annual American Stage in the Park, through May 26. The production will be staged at Demens Landing Park, on the corner of First Avenue North and Bayside Boulevard Southeast in downtown St. Petersburg. For ticket information and performance times, call 823-PLAY (7529) or visit www.americanstage.org.

• **"John & Jen,"** by Tom Greenwald and Andrew Lipka, through May 26, at freeFall Theatre, 6099 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call 498-5205 or visit www.freefalltheatre.com. Performances are Thursday, 7 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$37 for adults and \$34 for students, seniors and military members. There is a \$7 surcharge for premium seating.

• **Sacred Lands Music and a Meal Night,** Friday, May 17, 7 p.m., at Sacred Lands, 1700 Park St. N., St. Petersburg. Cost is \$10. Call 432-9271. Attendees will enjoy music and a homemade meal. Entertainment will be provided by Gypsy Wind, one of Florida's premiere acoustic newgrass, swing and gypsy jazz ensembles. Like gypsies traveling on the wind, this versatile band's sound carries its listeners across borders and through time. They will deliver a musical journey from the Kentucky bluegrass of Bill Monroe to the gypsy swing of Django Reinhardt and the Cosmic American Music of Gram Parsons. Sacred Lands is one of the most unique waterfront botanical gardens in the county with rich Native American history.

• **Sound Lives and Moves,** presented by The Studio Dance Company, Sunday, May 19, 2 p.m., at The Mahaffey, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$16. Call 892-5798 or visit www.themahaffey.com. S.L.A.M showcases the talent of dancers

at The Studio Dance Company. The show will feature amazing performances in hip-hop, ballet, contemporary modern, lyrical, jazz and break dancing. Attendees will experience dance at its finest. S.L.A.M also will feature performances and choreography from its ballet partner the Sarasota Ballet.

• **"7 Homeless Mammoths Wander New England,"** by Madeleine George, presented by American Stage Theatre, May 31 through June 30; previews May 29-30, at the Raymond James Theatre, 163 Third St. N., St. Petersburg. Call 823-PLAY (7529) or visit www.americanstage.org. Generally, main stage performances are Wednesday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Saturday and Sunday, 3 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$59 depending on the date and time of the performance.

• **Jake Shimabukuro,** Monday, June 10, 7:30 p.m., at The Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$40. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerd.com. Shimabukuro, a ukulele wizard, brings his latest tour to the Palladium. In his early career, Shimabukuro has already redefined a heretofore under-the-radar instrument, been declared a musical "hero" by Rolling Stone, won accolades from the disparate likes of Eddie Vedder, Perez Hilton and Dr. Sanjay Gupta, wowed audiences on TV, earned comparisons to Jimi Hendrix and Miles Davis, and even played in front of the Queen of England. With his new record "Grand Ukulele," Shimabukuro's star may burn even brighter. An ambitious follow-up to 2011's "Peace, Love, Ukulele," the Hawaiian musician's new record finds him collaborating with legendary producer/engineer Alan Parsons, best known for his work on Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon," The Beatles' "Abbey Road" and his own highly successful solo project. While still highlighting Shimabukuro's musical dexterity on the uke, "Grand Ukulele" also shows off new sides to the musician. Highlights from the album include originals such as "Island Fever Blues," a beautiful and traditional Hawaiian song titled "Akaka Falls," and a number of wonderful reinterpretations including Sting's "Fields of Gold" and, most prominently, Adele's "Rolling in the Deep."

• **An Afternoon in Havana,** Sunday, June 23, 2 to 6 p.m., at St. Petersburg's historic Coliseum, 535 Fourth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. The Buena Vista Social Club, along with three of television's most notable dance pros and newly crowned international dance champions, will present a celebration of Cuban culture and Latin dancing. Tickets start at \$70. Visit www.ticketmaster.com. A portion of the proceeds benefits the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance. Hosted by Mary Murphy of "So You Think You Can Dance" fame, and Tony Dovolani and Maksim Chmerkovskiy from "Dancing with the Stars," the Latin music and dancing showcase will feature performances by some of the world's best Latin, Salsa, and Mambo dancers, along with their television counterparts. Showgirls from Havana's Cabaret Tropicana will also entertain. Guests are invited to

practice dance steps during the concert, sample authentic Cuban food and drink, including the mojito, or enjoy a cigar in the outdoor cigar lounge.

• **Jay and Silent Bob,** Saturday, July 6, 7:30 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$25. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerd.com. Jay and Silent Bob are back. Kevin Smith and Jason Mewes are hitting the road with their new animated film, "Jay & Silent Bob's Super Groovy Cartoon Movie," which blazes across America in a series of one-night-only shows. The legendary best buds from Jersey are back to dispense weed and wisdom in cartoon form and audiences will have the opportunity to watch the new movie and stick around for a rip-roaring Q&A afterwards. Produced by Mewes and directed by first-time filmmaker Steve Stark, "Jay & Silent Bob's Super Groovy Cartoon Movie" features the voice talents of Eliza Dushku, Tara Strong, Ralph Garman, Neil Gaiman, Ben Gleib, Jon Lovitz and the podcast stars of Smith's SModcast Network. When they can no longer stomach the ever-growing weed of suburban crime, Jay and Silent Bob take on the mantles of costumed avengers Bluntman and Chronic, smashing super-villains they accidentally create.

• **"Spring Awakening,"** with book and lyrics by Steven Sater, music by Duncan Sheik; based on the play by Frank Wedekind; July 19 through Aug. 18, at freeFall Theatre, 6099 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call 498-5205 or visit www.freefalltheatre.com. Performances are Thursday, 7 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$37 for adults and \$34 for students, seniors and military members. There is a \$7 surcharge for premium seating.

• **"My Name is Asher Lev,"** by Aaron Posner, adapted from the novel by Chaim Potok; presented by American Stage Theatre, July 19 through Aug. 25; previews July 17-18, at the Raymond James Theatre, 163 Third St. N., St. Petersburg. Call 823-PLAY (7529) or visit www.americanstage.org. Generally, main stage performances are Wednesday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Saturday and Sunday, 3 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$59 depending on the date and time of the performance.

• **"Art,"** by Yasmina Reza, presented by American Stage Theatre, Aug. 9 through Sept. 8; previews Aug. 7-8, at the Raymond James Theatre, 163 Third St. N., St. Petersburg. Call 823-PLAY (7529) or visit www.americanstage.org. Generally, main stage performances are Wednesday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Saturday and Sunday, 3 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$59 depending on the date and time of the performance.

• **Engelbert Humperdinck,** Wednesday, Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m., at The Mahaffey, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$39. Call 893-7832 or visit www.themahaffey.com. Born Arnold George Dorsey, Humperdinck was known on stage as "Gerry Dorsey" and took the name Engelbert Humperdinck, a 19th century German composer of operas, on the suggestion of his manager in the mid-1960s. It was Humperdinck, not Elvis, that made famous the sideburns and flamboyant leather jumpsuits. His 1967 signature tune, "Release Me (And Let Me Love Again)" from his debut album was a No. 1 hit in 11 countries and appeared on the

British charts for 56 weeks, preventing the Beatles' double A-side release, "Penny Lane" and "Strawberry Fields Forever," from reaching the top position. It was his voice, a legend in the music industry for the last 40 years, that has endeared him to global audiences of all ages including royalty, presidents and heads of states. Humperdinck has released more than 80 albums of ballads earning 63 Gold, 24 Platinum record awards, four Grammy nominations and a Golden Globe for "Entertainer of the Year" in 1988. During his concert tour, Humperdinck will debut a virtual duet with Elton John and other selections from his upcoming "Duets" CD along with iconic songs from his vast catalogue, such as "Release Me," "Spanish Eyes," "There Goes My Everything," "The Last Waltz," "Am I that Easy to Forget," "A Man without Love," "Quando, Quando, Quando," "Ten Guitars" and "After the Lovin'."

Tampa

• **"American Idiot,"** May 17-19, in Carol Morsani Hall, at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Performances are Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 and 6:30 p.m. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org. Direct from Broadway, the smash-hit musical "American Idiot" tells the story of three lifelong friends, forced to choose between their dreams and the safety of suburbia. Based on Green Day's Grammy Award-winning multi-platinum album and featuring the hits "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," "21 Guns," "Wake Me Up When September Ends," "Holiday" and the blockbuster title track, "American Idiot" boldly takes the American musical where it's never gone before. The production features direction by Michael Mayer, choreography by Steven Hoggett and orchestrations and arrangements by Tom Kitt. "American Idiot" contains adult content and strong language.

• **"Behind the Gates,"** by Wendy Graf, presented by Jobsite Theater, through May 26, at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.jobstheater.org. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 4 p.m. Tickets are \$28.

• **"The Lonesome West,"** by Martin McDonagh, presented by Jobsite Theater, July 10 through Aug. 4, at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.jobstheater.org. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 4 p.m. Tickets are \$28.

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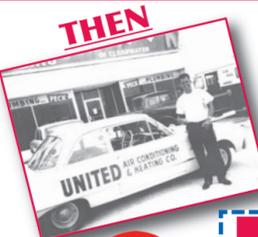
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