

LARGO LEADER

'Despicable Me 2,' 'Lone Ranger' open in theaters this week

Also, check out musicals set for the upcoming season at Eight O'Clock Theatre ... Page 1B.



LARGO



Acting fire chief gets perfect score

In a surprise announcement July 2, the city of Largo honored acting Fire Chief Shelby Willis for completing the U.S. Fire Administration's Executive Fire Officer Program with a perfect score. ... Page 2A.

POLICE BEAT

Man arrested in child-grabbing case

John Randolph Jenkins, 48, was booked into the Pinellas County Jail at 5 p.m. the same day. His bond was set at \$25,000. Largo police say Jenkins is the man who grabbed the hand of a 10-year-old boy and made an inappropriate suggestion to him about 5:30 p.m. June 21 inside a restroom at Publix ... Page 5A.

COMMUNITY

Local boys make Eagle Scout

Eagle Scouts Rawlyn James Rogers and David Alexander Levy of Boy Scouts Troop 468 in Largo were recently presented with their Eagle Scout Certificates of Recognition for outstanding leadership and citizenship. ... Page 10A.

SCHOOLS

Student graduates from Yale

Jennifer Shelby of Largo graduated from Yale University with a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in sociology, magna cum laude, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's highest collegiate honor society. ... Page 13A.

VIEWPOINTS

Bob Driver

A salute to some Fourth of July notables. ... Page 12A



Three heroes recognized

City honors firefighter, bystanders for quick action in bar stabbing

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - Rebecca Schaefer, fresh out of physical therapy for stab wounds to her left arm, knew exactly how fortunate she was to be standing in front of the Largo Commission July 2.

The 32-year-old bartender thanked the city for orchestrating the reunion. Then she addressed the three men who leaped to her rescue when a disgruntled patron began stabbing her May 19.

"I'm so grateful to you guys," Schaefer said. "Without you guys there, I might just be a memory."

The city of Largo presented awards to Largo Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Rees, his brother Gordon Rees of Largo and new Clearwater resident Mike Arnold for their heroic efforts that Sunday night.

Schaefer said the gratitude and appreciation she felt went beyond words.

"You guys are my heroes. You'll always be in my heart. You gave me a second chance. You saved my life. Thank you," she said.

The three men were merely bystanders

at the Red Lion Pub when Schaefer was attacked.

"It happened so fast," Gordon Rees said.

His brother said they went to the Indian Rocks Beach establishment to play foosball, relax and hang out. They were on their way out the door, at around 11 p.m., when they heard screams and commotion behind them. Gordon Rees said he didn't think very much, but knew he had to try to get the knife away from the man who was stabbing the bartender several times.

"We didn't really see him. We just acted," Nick Rees said.

Meanwhile, Arnold said he watched the attack unfold in front of him from around the corner of the bar. He also rushed to help Schaefer. The first-time visitor of the bar had only moved to the area from Bradenton two weeks prior.

Arnold tried to take the knife from the man, and he was cut in the hand in the process. The brothers tried to restrain

See HEROES, page 4A



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES
Indian Rocks Beach bartender Rebecca Schaefer poses with the three men who rushed to her aid when a patron began stabbing her May 19, from left, Largo Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Rees, his brother Gordon Rees of Largo and Mike Arnold of Clearwater after the city honored the three for their heroism July 2.

Couple helps make fitness goals accessible

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - Personal trainers Jay and Sarah Sherinsky, each with a past of body insecurities, met in the middle of their respectful fitness journeys, just four months before they ended up married.

Sarah, who grew up in Largo, used to be anorexic, weighing only 100 pounds at her smallest. At her worst, she had to see a nutritionist and track her condition through blood work.

Jay was obese, 287 pounds and 50 percent body fat at his heaviest.

"I struggled," Jay explained. "I pursued fitness and then personal training and then got into physical competition."

The two met through a chance encounter at the gym where Jay worked in 2010 and bonded as they trained for bodybuilding competitions together. Their combined experience - and a matured perspective on health and fitness - eventually led them to open their own gyms and a desire to share their tried and true methods with others.

The Sherinskys, looking for more space to host group training and boot camps, opened their second Fitness Rx Studios at 4760 East Bay Drive in Largo on May 4. The first location at 9089 Fourth St. N. in St Petersburg opened in September.

The company's philosophy is one of equipping its clients to take charge of their own fitness. Sarah said she and her husband teach nutrition, how to work-out and "the why of everything."

"We want to help people as much as possible in the beginning and slowly let them start working on their own," she said. "It's about increasing your metabolism and not killing yourself with work-outs all the time."

Sarah said the couple wants to create a family-friendly environment, one that bodybuilders and those struggling with obesity alike find comfortable. And with her University of South Florida degree in psychology, Sarah often finds herself in the role of counselor. Body weight and image comes with a lot of emotional strings.

"You have to unconditionally love people," she said. "We want to be that gym that helps cheerleaders to people who can barely get off the sofa."

See FITNESS, page 4A



Jay and Sarah Sherinsky, pictured above, began training the cheerleading team at Indian Rocks Christian School June 28. At left, Sarah Sherinsky watches Claudia Campillo's form during a group workout July 2.

Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

Lightning more likely to kill males while fishing, camping and boating

By SUZETTE PORTER

Summer time storms can be deadly. Lightning is one of the biggest hazards, coming in second to flooding as the top weather-related killer.

Making the public aware of the danger was the goal of Lightning Safety Awareness Week, June 23-29.

"Summer is the peak season for one of the nation's deadliest weather phenomena - lightning," according to the National Weather Service. "Though lightning strikes peak in summer, people are struck year-round. In the United States, an average of 53 people are killed each year by lightning, and hundreds more are severely injured."

Florida tops the charts when it comes to deaths attributed to lightning with 468 occurring from 1959-2012. Texas ranks

See LIGHTNING, page 4A



Photo by WAYNE CATHEL
A huge bolt of lightning hits offshore Belleair Beach June 26. A Brandon woman died on Belleair Beach May 28 when she was struck by a bolt of lightning. The last week of June was especially stormy with many lightning strikes and reports of waterspouts and funnel clouds. More of the same is forecast for the coming weeks.

Teacher arrested for child abuse

LARGO - Largo police arrested a Largo High School teacher June 26 on one charge of child abuse.

According to the police report, on the second to the last day of school, May 30, a group of students was playing cards in Thomas E. Farmer's technical arts class. Farmer asked them to stop. He also reportedly told them if they did not put the cards away, he would let another student, who practices martial arts, "to physically make them," the report said.

The students did not put the cards away, and the student was allowed to choke one of the card-playing students "at the teacher's suggestion."

"The victim student was in distress

See ABUSE, page 4A



Thomas Farmer

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Acting fire chief achieves exclusive status, perfect score

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – In a surprise announcement July 2, the city of Largo honored acting Fire Chief Shelby Willis for completing the U.S. Fire Administration's Executive Fire Officer Program with a perfect score.

By successfully finishing the four-year program, Shelby joins a group of less than 3,500 graduates nationwide. She is Largo's third executive fire officer in its history to achieve the milestone.

"However, she is the first in the department and one of only 188 people in the world to receive a perfect 4.0 score," City Manager Mac Craig told the audience.

The National Fire Academy offers the four-year program to teach the country's senior officers how to transform fire and emergency organizations from reactive to proactive services through leadership development, prevention and risk reduction.

The program consists of four, two-week courses at the National Fire Academy in Maryland. At the end of each course, candidates must develop a thesis paper of applied research related to their organization. The applied research project must be completed within six months of the course.

Senior fire officials from across the country grade the resulting thesis papers. Only if her thesis is of sufficient quality can the candidate return for the next session at the academy in the following year.

Few candidates complete all four classes of the program. The topics are executive development, executive analysis of community, executive analysis of fire service operations and emergency management and executive leadership.

The program gives senior officers the "(e)nhanced executive-level knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to lead these transformations, conduct research, and engage in lifelong learning," according to the U.S. Fire Administration's website.

Craig presented Shelby with a plaque in recognition of her newfound status.

Shelby became acting fire chief upon the retirement of former Fire Chief Mike Wallace April 1, following an internal investigation of complaints regarding his leadership. The city has not announced the launch of a search for a permanent replacement. Willis is expected to be eligible for the position.



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Acting Fire Chief Shelby Willis receives a plaque in recognition of her completion of the Executive Fire Officer Program from Largo City Manager Mac Craig during the July 2 commission meeting. Few complete the national, four-year program, and only 188 have earned a perfect score as Willis has.

New engine joins Largo Fire Rescue's fleet

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – A 2013 Pierce Ultimate Configuration fire engine, destined for Station 41, was delivered to Largo recently.

Largo Fire Rescue's new engine, named E41, has the latest in technology and innovations in safety. It will be outfitted with tools, hoses, radios and a mobile computer before it goes into service, likely in about a week, said Asst. Chief Michael Handoga.

The engine will replace one of the five frontline engines currently in service throughout the city.

"The nicest thing is this standardizes our fleet," Handoga said. "They (the five engines) all are basically the same, which is a huge accomplishment."

The uniformity of the vehicle's design allows drivers from different stations to be able to operate any of the engines without extra training, as they will find all of the equipment in the same places, Handoga explained.

The city will have three reserve engines after the latest vehicle is put into service, with an older engine from Station 43 going into reserve status. Handoga said one of the reserve engines will likely get sold, mostly because the department doesn't have room to store all three.

The vehicle cost \$559,563 with additional equipment costing \$72,875, according to city documentation. Largo commissioners approved its purchase, following the recently updated fire vehicle replacement schedule, on Oct. 16.



Above, a brand new vehicle became Largo's fifth frontline engine this month. It will be assigned to Largo's Station 41, at 180 Fourth St. At left, a side view of the vehicle, to be named "E41," as indicated in the design on its side, shown below.



Photos courtesy of LARGO FIRE RESCUE

City calendar

Largo Central Park

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

Fourth of July

LARGO – Come see one of the best firework shows in Pinellas County at the city of Largo's free Fourth of July celebration on Thursday, July 4, 6 to 10 p.m., at Largo Central Park.

Enjoy a DJ, activities and food, with a fireworks display at about 9:15 p.m. Limited on-site parking will be available for \$5. Park and walk from Largo Middle School and Largo High School. Do not park in surrounding neighborhoods. No alcohol, coolers, pets, personal fireworks or sparklers will be permitted.

Train Weekend

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

The next train weekend is July 6-7. Rides are free, though donations are accepted. For more information, visit the "Train Weekend" link at www.LargoEvents.com.

Largo Community Center

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

Black Box presents show with a trivia twist

LARGO – Black Box Theater Productions presents "So You Think You're A Movie Buff" by the Gypsy Stage Repertory Company, July 19, 8 p.m., at the Largo Community Center.

The cost is \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Enjoy a night of fun and unique entertainment where scenes, monologues and iconic one-liners from famous films are performed live with a trivia twist.

Follow along and answer questions like name the movie, the actors, characters name, movie theme song and more. People with the most correct answers win prizes.

The show contains some adult content, dark humor and adult language. The show is not recommend for children 15 and younger.

Weekly events

- **Square dancing:** Fridays, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. Spend the evening dancing country-style to professional caller Allen Snell. The cost is \$6.
- **Swing dancing:** Saturdays, 7 to 11 p.m. Enjoy an evening of dancing and socializing on a 5,600-square-foot sprung hardwood floor. Free

See CALENDAR, page 3A

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Schedule for city budget approval set

LARGO - The city of Largo has selected three commission meetings to act as public hearings in the budget process for the 2013-14 fiscal year. Commission meetings are held at 6 p.m., at Largo City Hall, 201 Highland Ave. The hearing schedule is as follows:

- **July 16** - The commission will set the maximum millage rate for city of Largo property taxes in time for the Pinellas County Property Appraiser to mail out Truth in Millage, or TRIM, notices to residents. Commissioners could decide to decrease the tax rate after this date but cannot increase it. The commission also will officially approve the dates for budget public hearings, currently scheduled for September commission meetings.
- **Sept. 3** - During the proposed first public hearing of the budget, the commission will discuss and give initial approval of the city's budget and millage rate.
- **Sept. 18** - During the proposed second public hearing of the budget, the commission will discuss and give final approval of the city's budget and millage rate.

The commission also will meet Friday, Aug. 16, at 12:30 p.m. for a budget work session in which they will discuss the budget in greater detail with staff in preparation for the public hearings. The meeting is for discussion only; no votes or approvals will take place.

For more information, call the city's office of management and budget at 587-6727 or visit www.largo.com.

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For more information, call the city's office of management and budget at 587-6727 or visit www.largo.com.

City news

City charter committee begins review meetings

LARGO - A committee of Largo residents, appointed by the city commission, is currently reviewing the City Charter on the fourth Tuesdays, 6 p.m., at Largo City Hall, 201 Highland Ave. The meetings are open to the public. The charter serves as the constitution for the city of Largo and was last reviewed and updated in 2005. The committee will present a report of its findings and any recommended amendments to the commission, likely in February 2014. The City Commission then will adopt an ordinance to include proposed charter amendments on the November 2014 election ballot. Only those amendments approved by the voters will be incorporated into the charter. To review the existing charter, visit www.Largo.com.

For more information, contact the city clerk's office at 587-6710 or email dbruner@largo.com.

City seeks recycling volunteers

LARGO - Recycling advocates can help the community and the environment as a city of Largo Green Team volunteer. Volunteers ages 16 and up are sought to help with recycling recruitment and community education. The city is looking for individuals that are passionate about recycling and are willing to learn about the services provided to make recycling convenient and effective. Hours are flexible and can vary based on volunteer role. Students can earn applicable volunteer hours through this opportunity. For more information, call 586-7424 or visit www.LargoRecycles.com.

CALENDAR, from page 2A

lessons offered from 7 to 8 p.m., followed by a dance with music by DJ Savoy Swing. The cost is \$6 with a recreation card and \$7 without a recreation card.

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

Southwest 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 or LargoPools.com.

PlayLargo.com or LargoPools.com.

Float and watch a movie

LARGO - The summer brings Flick N Float Family Movies on Fridays, July 12, 19, and 26 at the Southwest pool. Themed games and activities begin at 7:30 p.m. with the movies beginning at dusk, at around 9 p.m. The cost is \$4 with a Largo recreation card and \$5 without one. Bring your favorite float or chair from home to watch the Friday night family movie. Free hot dogs, prize giveaways and food from a featured restaurant sponsor will be available while supplies last. Lifeguards will be on duty during the events.

Summer camp available for preschoolers

LARGO - Parents looking for a summer camp tailored to preschoolers' learning and developmental needs are invited to register for My First Camp, offered this summer, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, at Southwest Recreation Complex, 3120 Vonn Road. My First Camp with Ms. Kerry incorporates school-readiness curriculum that works on developing children's social and creative skills. Weekly themes include Let's Explore Nature, Exploring Insects, Camping, Safari and more.



Photo courtesy of the CITY OF LARGO
Preschoolers enjoy activities at My First Camp, held all summer at Largo's Southwest Recreation Complex.

Children can attend one week or the entire summer, but camps are filling fast, so register today. For more camp information and a list of weekly My First Camp themes, visit LargoCamps.com or call 518-3125.

Parks and Rec news

Prepare to rev your engines with two of Largo's camps

LARGO - Two of Largo Recreation's specialty camps - Transportation camp and Start Your Engines camp - will be held this month at the new Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave. Transportation camp - held July 22-26, 9 a.m. to noon and is open to children ages 6 to 9 - is all about planes, trains, automobiles, boats and machines. During this week, campers will learn about what drives all of these modes of transportation.

Tri-City cruisers will visit July 24 to show off some classic cars to the campers and on the last day, campers will meet at Largo Central Park to ride the Central Park Railways and learn about how the locomotives work. Get ready to race with Start Your Engines camp, offered July 29 to Aug. 2, 9 to 11 a.m. and open to ages 5 to 9. This camp is all about Hotwheels, box cars, matchbox cars, ramps and launchers. Showtime

Speedway will be onsite with mini cars and drivers on the last day of camp Friday, Aug. 2. For more information on all Largo summer camps, visit LargoCamps.com or call 518-3016.

Rec center hosts weekly soccer classes

LARGO - The Highland Recreation Complex, at 400 Highland Ave., will be hosting indoor soccer classes for ages 5 to 11 on Tuesdays during the month of July. The cost is \$24 with a recreation card or \$30 without one. The class for ages 5 to 7 will be held 6 to 6:45 p.m., and the class for ages 8 to 11 will be held 7 to 7:45 p.m. The class reinforces and applies the fundamentals of soccer including dribbling, passing and shooting with Pinellas Indoor Soccer Academy coaches. Skills and informal mini-scrimmages will be played with instruction as needed. For more information, call 587-6740, ext. 5046.

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Sheriff Bob Gualtieri says 'molly' newest drug threat

By BOB MCCLURE

ST. PETE BEACH – Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri told members of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council June 26 that his department has shifted gears in its ongoing efforts against illegal drugs.

After putting the brakes on the illegal sales of hydrocodone and oxycodone, Gualtieri said drug dealers are now flooding the streets with a substitute called "molly," a derivative of MDMA.

"It's a hallucinogenic that is selling for about \$900 an ounce," said Gualtieri. "Because we've cracked down on opium-based pharmaceuticals, we're seeing this drug molly on the streets. That's what people have migrated to."

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, molly is the powder or crystal form of MDMA. It is considered a Schedule 1 controlled substance, which DEA says means it has a high potential for addiction.

The drug can cause confusion, anxiety, depres-

sion, paranoia, involuntary teeth clenching, chills, sweating and blurred vision, DEA officials said.

Gualtieri said it is the latest example of a continuing problem in society, which is drug addiction in general.

"This is an addiction problem. The only way we as a society are really going to make a dent in this, I believe, is to put a lot of effort into prevention, education and treatment," Gualtieri said. "We can continue on the law enforcement side to do what we do. We're going to continue to do that and do it well. But all we're doing is squeezing the balloon because it's an addiction problem."

Another major issue in Pinellas, Gualtieri said, is the increased sexual exploitation of minors, especially young teenage girls who are being forced into prostitution.

"Some of this, I believe, is because we've clamped down on some of these people who are selling a lot of these pharmaceutical drugs," said Gualtieri. "They don't care how they're going to make money as long as they don't have to get a real job to do it. If

it means selling dope, if it means stealing stuff and selling it or finding these 14- and 15-year-old girls and making them prostitute themselves and making them give all their money to them, they don't care."

Gualtieri pointed to a recent arrest at a hotel at 54th Avenue North and Interstate 275.

"These were guys who were involved in drug dealing but they weren't dealing drugs," Gualtieri said. "They were dealing 15-year-old girls. These girls were seeing six or seven guys a day and if they weren't doing what they were supposed to be doing, they were beating the girls and threatening them. This is a big problem and we're seeing more of it."

To combat the problem, the sheriff's office is launching a special victims unit July 14 with five detectives and a sergeant who will focus on the issue.

Gualtieri said the county has also seen a spike in hardcore child pornography cases and his department is assigning two detectives to an Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force dedicated to just that.

"I believe we've had it in the community," Gualtieri said. "We're seeing more of it, we're aware of it more but we've got to push that back. That is a real threat right now to the kids of Pinellas County."

On other points, the sheriff said:

A vehicle maintenance facility will be the first building to open at the new Sheriff's Operations Center on Ulmerton Road. It is targeted for Sept. 14. The remainder of the \$80 million campus will open in March.

The Sheriff's Operation Center, which consists of a new sheriff's administration building and public safety campus, will consolidate emergency communications into one site. The county's 911 emergency system and the Sheriff's Office communication system will be merged. Other police communication departments, such as Largo and Clearwater, may follow.

Over the last four years, the sheriff's budget has been cut \$108 million, which has resulted in a 28 percent reduction in staff. Over that same time span, crime in Pinellas has been reduced 21 percent.

Briefs

Most fireworks illegal in Pinellas

Independence Day celebrations can be full of flare without fireworks at home. In fact, in Pinellas County the retail sale or purchase of fireworks that project into the air or explode is prohibited.

Pinellas County Public Safety Services urges residents to enjoy fireworks displays that are conducted by trained professionals. It's fun, safe and economical.

Sparklers remain legal, but parents are reminded they can be dangerous, reaching temperatures of up to 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. Only those over 12 years of age should handle sparklers of any type. Many young people are burned by sparklers every year so adult supervision is necessary at all times. Officials urge citizens to use extreme caution and follow basic safety recommendations:

- Read all cautions and warnings.
- Use sparklers only outdoors.
- Use sparklers as intended – do not try to alter or combine them.
- Do not mix fireworks and alcohol.
- Never pick up fireworks that may be left over after the display, as they may still be active.

Hurricane preparedness continues

Residents have been busy the past few months finding their homes' evacuation level, stocking survival kits and preparing important papers. But have all of the finer points in those survival plans been considered?

With Tropical Storm Andrea serving as a wakeup call, and storm activity traditionally light in July, it is the perfect month to tie up the loose

ends for hurricane plans. Some items frequently overlooked include:

• Pet preparation

Should an evacuation be ordered, many pet owners will risk everything because they haven't made arrangements for their pets. Create a plan that includes food, medications, identification and anything else a pet will need, and decide now on a pet-friendly shelter such as at a friend's home or at a hotel that welcomes pets.

• The car needs a kit

Residents may have their homes prepared, but what about their cars? Jumper cables, a flashlight, a first aid kit, a small tool kit and some extra nonperishable food and water may mean the difference between getting to an evacuation destination safely and being stuck on the road.

• Need a lift?

Residents who are mobility impaired and have no other transportation option can register for special needs evacuation assistance. Should an evacuation order be issued, the local fire department will make arrangements to pick up the registered person and transport him or her to a special needs shelter. Residents who believe they may qualify can call their local fire department for more information.

• What about medications?

Since pharmacies may be closed after a storm affects an area, it's critical that residents get enough prescription medication and over-the-counter medications to last a minimum of two weeks. Florida Statute 252.358 and 462.0275 require all insurers and managed-care organizations to suspend refill-too-soon restrictions when a patient seeks a refill in a county under a hurricane warning or in a state of emergency

• Renters need a plan, too

While an apartment may be in a non-evacuation zone, what are the owner's or property manager's plans to secure the facility in the event of a hurricane? Now is the time to check out the plans.

For more information on hurricane preparedness, call Emergency Management at 464-3800 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency and join Pinellas County Emergency Management on Twitter at www.twitter.com/pinellasem.

Residents encouraged to conserve reclaimed water

During the past several months, storage levels of reclaimed water declined to the point of exhausting the water in storage and potentially damaging pump equipment.

Due to the reduced availability of reclaimed water, Pinellas County reclaimed water will continue to be unavailable on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays while the system is shutdown for maintenance and storage level recovery.

Customers are encouraged to continue limiting their reclaimed water use to help with this resource recovery initiative.

As the return of seasonal rainfall helps stabilize reclaimed water supplies, the reclaimed water system's capacity will be re-evaluated. This shutdown schedule is anticipated to remain in effect until storage levels recover, at which time the reclaimed water system will be returned to full operation.

For more details, call customer service at 464-4000 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/utilities.

FITNESS, from page 1A

Recently, Jay and Sarah had an opportunity to give back to the community in a way that hits close to Sarah's heart. On June 28, the couple began training the cheerleading team at Indian Rocks Christian School, Sarah's alma mater.

"I'm mostly excited about this because I get to teach these girls proper nutrition and exercise so early on," she said. "I can teach them. We don't have to eat salads all the time. You're training like athletes; you need to eat like athletes."

In more ways than one, Sarah's journey has come full circle through working with the cheerleading team. She didn't participate in sports herself during her three years at Indian Rocks Christian School, but was one of the only girls in a weightlifting class her senior year. The concept intrigued her, especially when she found pictures of female bodybuilding competitors.

"I thought it was impossible to get there – there's no way the human body can get that tight and hard and crisp-looking," she said.

But the interest followed her into her college years, when she began hiring trainers to help her tone her body. None of them were

giving her the results she wanted.

"They weren't educating me enough to understand the science behind bodybuilding," she said.

She met Jay during her sophomore year. Their courtship started casually, as he helped her balance fulltime school, a fulltime job and her new competition ambitions.

Sarah told Jay he was crazy when he first admitted that he loved her, while cooking tilapia for her one day. But Jay said he had known when Sarah first walked into the Gold's Gym, looking for someone to measure her body fat, that he had met his wife.

The couple didn't really date, but moved from best friends to marriage very quickly.

"He told me he was going to marry me, and I still thought he was crazy," Sarah remembered.

In three months, Jay had helped Sarah make the journey to the stage for a figure competition. Four weeks later, they were married.

Fitness Rx Studios is in part an answer to Sarah's initial frustrations with trainers and the industry that doesn't pay them enough to be invested in their client's progress, she said.

"There are not many gyms where you walk in and they're

happy to see you and know you by name," she said.

The Sherinskys say their program is as unique as it is comprehensive.

"I can take anyone that's willing to apply what we teach them and get them results. It doesn't matter who you are. Any age, any condition," Jay said.

Their programs are designed to be affordable as well, offering guidance for clients to do much of their work on their own.

"If you want to train more hands on, if you have that much money, well, then that's fine. But if you don't, well, you can still get the same results. You just have to push yourself," Sarah explained. "And I teach you how to push yourself, and you have check-ins so you're accountable to me."

In general, both find their career – and their new business venture – rewarding as well as incredibly challenging.

"When you get people to their goals, that's the more rewarding thing," Jay said. "I'd be doing this for free if I didn't have to make a living. I love it that much: getting people to their goals."

Both have given up competing in bodybuilding competitions while they work to get their business off the ground. Jay, who has about a decade of bodybuilding

experience under his belt, hasn't competed in 18 months. Sarah qualified for nationals last year and isn't sure if she'll make it back to competing within the two-year time frame she's allotted to go pro.

"In order to go pro, you have to be on top of it, even a bit selfish. You can't do that when you have two businesses," she said. "That's hard for us to give up because it's what we do for a living."

Between the two gyms, a house and two cars, the couple has a lot of bills every month, Sarah said.

"There's nothing more stressful than this. Everything is on our shoulders," she said.

Sarah – married at 21 to a husband eight years her senior – said she had to grow up quickly in just a few years to manage all the new responsibilities.

But both say the experience is worth it. Sarah says some of the feedback she gets from her clients, who express shock they've been able to transform their bodies so profoundly, is the lift to the spirit she needs to tackle the tougher aspects of running a business.

"I about cry when they tell me certain things," she said.

For more information about Fitness Rx Studios, visit www.fitnessrxstudiosllc.com or call 563-6827.



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES
Sarah Sherinsky of Fitness Rx Studios in Largo and St. Petersburg, directs Indian Rocks Christian School cheerleaders through a training exercise July 2.

HEROES, from page 1A

the man, who reportedly punched Gordon. Nick was stabbed in the right forearm.

Finally, Gordon Rees and Arnold were able to disarm the man and hold him down until deputies arrived.

James Klingbeil, 50, was later charged with attempted murder and two counts of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. He remains in jail awaiting trial, unable to meet the \$140,000 bond.

Nick Rees received eight stitches in his arm and was able to return to work a few days later. Arnold, a mechanic, is still healing from the injury to his dominant hand.

"I know your lives have not been made any easier for this, and I'm sorry for that," Schaefer told the three July 2. "I've thought about all the different ways it could have gone down that night, and I'm just so glad it played out exactly the way it did."

Schaefer said she encountered Klingbeil while she was working the night before the attack. He had left with a girl and came back with scratches, she said.

"It was just odd, so I didn't want him to be there anymore," she explained.

The intoxicated man was asked to leave. Schaefer, who's worked as a bartender for about 10 years and at Red Lion for five, said he gave her "attitude." But it wasn't anything she hadn't seen before. She didn't think anything of it.

On the night of the attack, Schaefer wasn't scheduled to work, but had stopped by the Red Lion to socialize. Klingbeil came back and was again refused service. He left, but according to Sheriff's Office reports at the time, he walked along Gulf Boulevard purchased a fillet knife at a convenience store within a few blocks.

When he came back, his verbal attacks focused on Schaefer, who said she didn't engage him. When he was again asked to leave, he pulled out the knife and attacked Schaefer.

"(He) was looking to kill someone," she said.

Schaefer's injuries required more than 100 stitches, she said. The damage was focused on her left arm, which is unfortunate, given that she's left-handed. Recovery has put her out of work.

"My life went from crazy busy to a standstill," she said, adding that she is looking forward to things returning to normal.

"I'm doing better," she said.

Friends and family of the heroes and victim alike packed the Largo commission chambers July 2. The city presented Nick Rees, one of their own employees, with a National Medal of Honor for Valor. Gordon Rees and Arnold received awards for Meritorious Service.

All three were cheered in standing ovations.

"It's been overwhelming," Nick Rees admitted, as the crowd surrounded the group in the lobby of city hall after the awards, expressing thanks and taking pictures. "I'm so grateful for everyone to be recognized and for Rebecca to be OK."

"People often wait far too long to head to safety when a storm is approaching, and that puts them in a dangerous and potentially deadly situation," he said.

Before the death on Belleair Beach, the last recorded lightning fatality in Pinellas County was a 16-year-old boy who was struck while out on Treasure Island Beach with his mother in 2007. Reports said he was on his way to a safe location when the lightning bolt struck.

Males are more likely victims

Jensenius also pointed out that 82 percent of the victims killed by lightning were male, and 90 percent of those deaths were in the fishing and sports categories. Females had fewer deaths than males in every category with the most killed while boating or doing routine activities.

Jensenius offers several reasons why males are killed more often, including that they may not be aware of all the dangers associated with lightning. He also said males are more likely to be in vulnerable situations and may be unwilling to be inconvenienced by the threat of lightning. Other explanations include more males being in situations that make it more difficult to get to a safe place quickly or that men don't react fast enough to the threat of lightning.

"In short, because of their behavior, males are at a higher risk of being struck and consequently are struck and killed by lightning more often than females."

NOAA and NWS are focusing on males and people who enjoy leisure activities this year to get the word out that many lightning deaths are preventable. In 2001, officials reached out to golfing communities and

ABUSE, from page 1A

while being choked," the report said. "Instead of stopping the altercation, the teacher instructed the victim to 'tap out.' The victim passed out, fell and hit his head."

When class ended, Thomas allegedly told the students to help the victim onto a school bus.

The bus driver and other students called the student resource officer about 2 p.m., who found a "disoriented student in need of medical attention," the report said.

The 14-year-old student was transported to All Children's Hospital with head injuries. The victim has since recovered from the injuries, police said.

After the resource officer's investigation, charges of child abuse were sent to the State Attorney's Office where probable cause for the arrest of the teacher was supported.

Farmer, 44, of Largo was arrested at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 26, and transported to the Pinellas County Jail. He was released on a \$10,000 surety bond just before 2:30 p.m. Farmer resigned his position with the Pinellas County School District effective June 7.

Police said battery charges are being filed against the 16-year-old male student who choked the victim.

LIGHTNING, from page 1A

No. 2 for the same period with 215 deaths. Tampa Bay is in the top three areas in the state for the number of lightning strikes that occur each year.

Eight people have died from lightning thus far in 2013, including a 51-year-old Brandon woman who was struck by lightning while walking on Belleair Beach May 28. Two more people have died from lightning in Florida this year – a 57-year-old male fishing from a boat in Lake Okeechobee June 8 and a 35-year-old male climbing down scaffolding in Naples June 26.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released a study June 24 that showed 64 percent of lightning deaths since 2006 occurred while people were participating in leisure activities. John Jensenius, a lightning safety specialist with the National Weather Service, conducted the study and examined demographic information for 238 deaths from lightning over the past seven years.

Jensenius found that of the 152 deaths association with leisure activities, fishing was No. 1 with 26 deaths. Camping came in second with 15 deaths and boating was next with 14 deaths. Twelve died while playing soccer and eight were golfing. The other 77 people struck by lightning were either spending time on the beach, swimming, walking, running, riding a recreational vehicle, picnicking or relaxing in their yard. Twelve people died while mowing the lawn.

Jensenius said the larger number of deaths from people who were fishing, camping and boating is likely due to the time it takes to get to a safe place.

Police beat

Man arrested in child-grabbing case

PINELLAS PARK – Pinellas Park police arrested a St. Petersburg man just before 1:30 p.m. Friday, June 28. He was charged with false imprisonment of a child, dealing in stolen property and false verification of ownership.

John Randolph Jenkins, 48, was booked into the Pinellas County Jail at 5 p.m. the same day. His bond was set at \$25,000.

Largo police say Jenkins is the man who grabbed the hand of a 10-year-old boy and made an inappropriate suggestion to him about 5:30 p.m. June 21 inside a restroom at Publix, 3825 East Bay Drive. The child got out of the restroom safely and walked away.

Photos of the suspect were posted on Largo Police Department's Facebook page June 25 when police asked for the public's help to identify the suspect.



John Jenkins

employee for Lauren Manor, 7450 35th St. N., when an unknown suspect outside of building 800 attacked him. The suspect struck McPherson over the head with a blunt object, robbed him and fled the scene. McPherson was critically injured in the attack and has only recently been discharged from the hospital.

Pinellas Park Police Department is seeking the public's assistance in solving this case.

"It is our hope that given the fact the attack took place during daylight hours, in a populated residential neighborhood, someone may have information that could lead investigators to the suspect," police said in a Facebook post.

Anyone with information that could assist investigators is asked to contact the Criminal Investigation Section of the Pinellas Park Police Department at 541-0758. Those wishing to remain anonymous are asked to contact Crime Stoppers of Pinellas County at 1-800-873-TIPS (8477) or via the Web at www.crimestoppersofpinellas.org.

There is currently a \$5,000 reward being offered in this case.

PCSO investigates fire at Clearwater home

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Sheriff's arson detectives are investigating a fire at a private residence in unincorporated Clearwater.

According to the sheriff's report, deputies responded to the fire at 2114 Cypress Point Drive N. at 6:40 a.m. Thursday, June 27. The fire was located in the garage area. The cause is still undetermined.

Michael Branin, 60, the homeowner, was treated for smoke inhalation at the scene.

The investigation continues.

Coast Guard rescues five people

ST. PETERSBURG — Five people and one dog were rescued by Coast Guard crewmembers after their 24-foot boat became disabled three miles west of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge June 25.

Seatow contacted Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg watchstanders at 8:50 p.m., stating the people aboard the vessel were disabled due to a fuel pump

Sheriff promotes 10 to sergeant

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri hosted a promotions ceremony June 25 at the Inmate Healthcare Facility at the Pinellas County Jail on 49th Street in Clearwater.

Gualtieri presented 10 new sergeants with their credentials and badges. The new sergeants and their assignments are:

- Nicole Baker, human resources
- Kelly Bush, patrol
- Matthew Christie, patrol
- Dennis Dotson, patrol
- Dennis Garvey, crimes against children
- Matthew Hilliard, patrol

- Michael Hughey, patrol
- Clint McKnight, patrol
- Michael Paniagua, patrol
- Carl Vitro, Patrol

Swearing-in ceremony

LARGO – Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri gave the oath of office to 41 new deputies during a swearing-in ceremony June 28 at the Extension Building, 12520 Ulmerton Road in Largo.

Thirty-six of the new deputies are assigned to patrol duties and five to detention and corrections.



Ten new sergeants at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office pose for a photo after a promotions ceremony June 25. Front row, from left, are Dennis Garvey, Nicole Baker, Matthew Hilliard, Kelly Bush, Matthew Christie, Michael Hughey and Sheriff Bob Gualtieri; back row, Carl Vitro, Micheal Paniagua, Clinton McKnight and Dennis Dotson.



This photo appeared on Largo Police Department's Facebook page June 25 in connection with an incident involving a 10-year-old boy in the restroom at Publix June 21.

Police seek public's help to solve case

PINELLAS PARK – Detectives were out at Lauren Manor Condominiums the afternoon of June 27, speaking with residents and asking for the public's assistance in solving the April 15 robbery of Donald McPherson.

McPherson, 63, was working as a maintenance

issue and were in need of assistance.

A 45-foot response boat and boat crew from Coast Guard Station Cortez arrived on scene, transferred all five people and the dog over to the response boat, took the disabled boat in tow and transported them back to the sector due to inclement weather coming through the area.

No injuries were reported.

"The Coast Guard highly recommends boaters check weather before heading out on the water," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Omar Arrieta, a search and rescue watchstander at the sector. "Weather can be unpredictable and can take a turn for the worst while on the water."

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County looks to third party to settle dispute with FOG plant

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Commissioners agree it is time to ask for help from an impartial third party expert to resolve a continuing dispute between a fat, oil and grease processing plant, its neighbors and county staff.

County Attorney Jim Bennett updated the commission June 18 on the status of problems related to Reliable Septic and M&D Grease Disposal located at 6660 90th Ave. in unincorporated Pinellas Park. Despite the owner's work to eliminate offensive odors coming from the facility, complaints continue. Fines of \$500 a day for confirmed violations are accumulating. The owner is refusing to pay. And he is accusing the county of trying to put him out of business.

After testimony and some moments of heated discussion, Commission Susan Latvala said, "I find it awkward for us to make a decision when we don't have the information."

She suggested asking for a third party review. "I want to hear from someone without a vested interest," she said.

Odor complaints have come in since Reliable changed its operations to dispose of its liquid waste after it is processed on site instead of taking it to a county facility. Reliable Septic, who operates the FOG facility under the name M&D Grease Disposal, submitted an application for an industrial pretreatment permit July 10, 2010 to allow discharge of wastewater into the Pinellas Park collection system for final treatment by a Pinellas County wastewater treatment facility. The initial permit was for one year. The permit was renewed for a three-year term on Aug. 1, 2011.

"Beginning September 2011, a series of enforcement actions based on pre-treatment process failures and permit compliance issues (that continue to this day)" were documented in a timeline Bennett presented to commissioners. His report said staff was preparing a consent order for "M&D's failure to supply an adequate sample point for M&D's wastewater discharge. Accurate sampling protocol goes to the heart of the industrial pretreatment program's ability to protect the county's wastewater treatment facilities."

Bennett said some reports remain unfiled and some fines unpaid.

Since the FOG plant began operation, 110 complaints of odor were received and 59 were verified by a county air quality inspector. During the 90 days

prior to the June 18 report, 11 complaints were received and six were verified.

The county attorney's office recently sent a draft consent order to M&D's attorney. Bennett said M&D wants county staff to say the facility "had no odor" and "is incapable of emitting odors" and "it does not and will not produce objectionable odors," which is something staff cannot do.

The county's water quality staff also received a recent complaint from a neighbor about runoff coming from the property entering a stormwater drainage ditch. Samples of the water showed levels of fecal coliform and enteric bacteria that the testing laboratory characterized as "too numerous to count" and "off-scale high."

Bennett said staff was preparing a notice of violation advising M&D of the finding and violation of a county ordinance that prohibits discharges into stormwater systems. Additional violations would result in fines, Bennett's report said.

Neighbors opposed the commission's decision to rezone the property from C-2 to C-3 Jan. 29 after county staff issued a permit to the facility that could not operate in C-2 zoning.

Commissioners John Morroni, Karen Seel and Norm Roche voted against the rezoning. The Local Planning Agency voted 5-0 to deny the rezoning without prejudice to allow Reliable Septic to revise its site plan and then reapply for rezoning.

At the Jan. 29 meeting Latvala made the motion to approve, saying approving the zoning would allow staff to work out a development agreement to make sure controls were put into place as fast as possible to address odor, water quality and other complaints.

Bennett told the commission back in January that approving a zoning change without a developer's agreement was "novel," but agreed that the commission could make it a condition on the zoning.

Michael Albert, president of Reliable Septic, and his attorney Kevin S. Hennessy with Lewis-Longman & Walker P.A., told the commission work to resolve all the issues could be completed quickly.

Albert told commissioners that control measures could be put into place within, "days, weeks, a month."

According to Bennett's June 18 update, a site plan application was filed "soon thereafter." It was approved on May 17 with a final approval on June 6. His report said a previous court case related to the zoning and site plan would be dismissed.

Hennessy told county commissioner's June 18



Screen capture from PCTV Attorney Kevin Hennessy tells Pinellas County Commissioners June 18 that his client has worked hard to eliminate odors coming from a fat, oil and grease processing plant located in unincorporated Pinellas Park.

that all operations had been moved indoors and scrubbers and filters were operational. He said steps had been taken to remove odors from outside the building.

However, Ted Legakis, who owns a neighboring business, complained that M&D had not paid its fines.

"The odors are stronger now," he said. He said he had visited the county's other FOG facilities, one operated for the county and one operated by a private company, and "they smelled," despite spending millions of dollars to control odors. He implied that M&D's more modest investment in odor control was insufficient.

He said the operation should be located on a larger piece of land to provide a better buffer between it and the neighborhood. M&D's FOG plant is located on 0.4 acres.

Hennessy said his client had done his "due diligence" and worked hard to resolve the matter. He said the odor concerns were addressed quickly and all sources of odor identified by county staff had been eliminated. Everything has been moved inside the facility and nothing is vented to the outside.

"Certain people are upset about the rezoning decision and have the support of (county) staff," he said.

He said his client refused to sign a consent order because of the problem of misrepresentation. County staff revealed June 18 that the meter

used to measure M&D's wastewater entering Pinellas Park's wastewater system was clogged and inoperable. Hennessy said Pinellas Park did not want to spend the money to replace the meter because the city had been told the county was going to shut the facility down.

Commissioner Charlie Justice asked Hennessy why he thought the county was "in cahoots to put his client out of business." Hennessy avoided the question. Justice pushed for more information, and said Hennessy was making a "pretty strong allegation."

"It wouldn't be the first time county staff misused authority," Hennessy said.

Commissioner Chair Ken Welch pointed out that county staff had been receiving complaints from numerous people for quite some time.

"I'm particularly concerned about the allegations," County Administrator Bob LaSala said. Hennessy gave one recent example naming one county employee who allegedly verified an odor complaint when an unnamed person on a neighboring property stated there had been no odors that day. He also said a meter designed to measure odors had recorded zero at the time of the incident.

The accusations continued when Albert spoke to the commission. He accused county staff of deleting emails and other actions.

"I believe staff is trying to shut me down," he said. "I've heard from Pinellas Park, DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) and the health department that the county wants us shut down."

He said the county began looking for someone to run a FOG plant not long after he received his permit. Next, he said the county issued a non-court ordered cease and desist order. In addition, county staff had come to his property "yelling we were illegally dumping in front of two customers who left and never came back."

He said it was "awfully peculiar" that the county asked for bids for someone to run a FOG plant about the same time he began his operation.

"A county FOG plant was not a matter of consideration in January," Welch said.

He said the commission approved the rezoning "out of faith" that the odor issue would be resolved in a matter of weeks.

"We took the heat," he said. "I'm not saying it's you," Albert replied.

Welch said the problem was that six months after

See PLANT, page 7A

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Governor vetoes Police Council bill

By SUZETTE PORTER

TALLAHASSEE – Florida Gov. Rick Scott announced June 28 that he had vetoed a bill that would have allowed the Pinellas Police Standards Council to up its court cost fee assessment.

According to Scott's letter, if House Bill 1411 was approved, the council could have increased its current \$2 court cost fee assessment on all traffic citations written in the county to \$3.

Pinellas Police Standards Council is a nonprofit organization of volunteers, which include the state attorney, sheriff, local police chiefs, that recommend countywide police standards. According to its website, www.policestandards.org, the state Legislature created the council in 1972, "to conduct research, coordinate policy between agencies, and make recommendations to the legislative delegation for specifically improving the quality of law enforcement in Pinellas County, Florida."

In 1975, the Legislature approved the council's request to provide a Police Applicant Screening Service, which administers standardized tests and screening procedures and conducts background investigations to law enforcement offer candidates.

"PASS was the first regional assessment center for law enforcement applicants in Florida, substantially reducing duplication of effort while establish-

ing a better pool of candidates available to all participating agencies," according to the council's website. "The Legislature has since expanded the services of PASS to allow screening of other public safety applicants, such as communications workers, firefighters and paramedics."

The \$2 court cost fee pays for PASS. If Scott had signed House Bill 1411, \$3 per traffic citation would have gone to PASS.

The governor explained the reason for his veto in a letter, writing that Pinellas is one of only four counties that use a separately funded governmental entity for background screening and testing for law enforcement applicants.

"Sheriff and police departments in other counties routinely conduct background screening and testing without the need for an additional layer of government and funding," Scott wrote.

In addition, the governor said that two of the county's largest public safety organizations rarely use PASS and instead do their own background checks.

"But the cost of the council is still borne on all people living and traveling throughout the county," Scott writes. "Raising the council's court cost fee is an additional burden on those living and traveling through Pinellas County and will further exacerbate duplication of services."

Planting for the future



Photo by BOB McCLURE

A group of volunteers plants sea oats June 29 at Archibald Park in Madeira Beach. From left are Heather and Ben Hetrick of Redington Beach, and Donna Rose of Madeira Beach. They were among many groups of volunteers along the beaches who planted sea oats as a method of insurance for the future. Sea oats help to form sand dunes, which act as added protection for coastal communities when flooding occurs.

Help needed to break the mosquito cycle

With all the recent rains, mosquitoes are again on the wing in Pinellas County. Pinellas County Mosquito Control technicians are aggressively treating known breeding areas by ground and by air, as well as responding to calls from citizens.

Technicians have noted that many homes they've inspected have items or areas that contain standing water – the ideal breeding condition for mosquitoes, which is contributing to the mosquito problem.

Pinellas County Mosquito Control asks all citizens to do their part to reduce the mosquito population. Remember that mosquitoes only need a quarter to half inch of standing water for the larvae to survive. Some simple suggestions are:

- Empty water from any item that can hold water
- Flush birdbaths and wading pools weekly
- Flush ornamental bromeliads or treat with BTI, a biological larvicide available at home stores

- Clean roof gutters, which can become clogged
- Change the water in outdoor pet dishes regularly
- Keep pools and spas chlorinated and filtered
- Stock ornamental ponds with mosquito-eating fish
- Cover rain barrels with screening
- Take steps to eliminate standing water under houses, near plumbing drains, under air conditioner drip areas, around septic tanks and heat pumps

Protect your skin from mosquito bites when outdoors. When outdoors, wear mosquito repellent (products containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus), or long-sleeves and pants.

The threat of virus, although minimal, is present throughout the year, and precautions should be taken during outdoor activities. No virus has been detected in the County's sentinel chickens this year.

For more information, visit www.pinellascounty.org/PublicWorks/Div_Highway-Mosquito.htm.

PLANT, from page 6A

the rezoning complaints were continuing.

"These allegations are not helping," Welch said.

Albert said he was continuing to make improvements to eliminate odors. He said purchasing the meter to monitor the odors was an attempt "to move in the right way."

He suggested that complaints received recently were coming from a small number of neighbors who were opposed to the plant regardless of the changes made in the way it operates.

"Now people are saying there is

no odor that used to complain," he said.

Peter Hessling, director of the county's Air Quality division, confirmed that there had been a decrease in the number of complaints. He said M&D had been fined for three separate odor incidents. As of June 18, fines totaled \$5,000.

Hennessy said he didn't believe staff had taken the proper steps to verify recent odor complaints.

"If it was from a year ago, we would probably write you a check," he said. "But today, no."

"We just want the odor to go away ... do whatever is necessary

to make it go away," LaSala said.

Commissioner Norm Roche and Justice questioned the quality of equipment M&D was using for odor control. Bennett reminded the commission that odor wasn't the only issue.

"I'd like to see this resolved. If not, we'll have to go in another direction," Welch said.

Hennessy agreed with the commission that it was time to seek a third party expert.

"That's an excellent idea," he said. "I can suggest some people."

"It needs to happen quickly," Welch said. "We need to keep working toward a resolution."

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Medical district continues to grow, connect members

By JULIANA A. TORRES

PINELLAS PARK – A group of business professionals gathered for Pinellas Park Medical District's monthly Member Mixer June 26.

The event, held at the Pinellas Park Cheddar's, fulfilled one of the district's primary roles to the medical industry businesses along Park Boulevard and 66th Street: networking.

"I do lots and lots of networking. Gads of it," said independent insurance agent Helen Fitzell between conversations with other district members. "It's my life."

Fitzell is not alone in the growing network of Pinellas Park business people working to promote and expand the concentration of healthcare and medical-related businesses in the T-shaped district. Since its inception in August of last year, the medical district has grown to about 207 participants, with more participating in mixers and meetings every month, said Lan Pratt, chair of the district's board of directors.

"The medical district is very dynamic, because it really has a big arena of different types of businesses – from surgeons to cancer facilities to community health centers. And then we have our support services as well," Pratt explained.

The district is focused on self-promotion currently.

"Right now, we're focusing on getting out there and meeting members and talking to them about what they feel is most important," Pratt said.

In March, the district announced that National Strategies Public Relations, a Tampa-based company of which Pratt is a part, would head its marketing efforts. Brochures and packets to offer to physician offices and healthcare-related businesses have been put together to help spread the word. A membership committee was formed to help develop participation. Fourteen volunteers meet with members and potential members to "build on that collaboration," Pratt said.

"We're just really seeing the synergy with everybody beginning to grow," she said.



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Networking at the Pinellas Park Medical District Member Mixer June 26 are newcomers to the district, from left, Dwayne Pate, pharmacy manager for the Neighborhood Walmart opening at 7500 66th St. July 17; Barbara Lally with Tampa General Hospital and Jay Kerrick, store manager for the Neighborhood Walmart.

Additional promotional efforts include an increased presence on social media, a monthly e-newsletter, highlighting one of the district members with a press release and participation in Pinellas Park's Country in the Park in March, which Pratt said was a great success. The district, partnered with the city of Pinellas Park, was allotted a whole section of the business promotional space.

"That was a really big hit and that brought a lot of awareness," Pratt said.

The district is a part of the Pinellas Park/Gateway Chamber of Commerce. Business participants must be a member of the chamber and then pay a \$100 fee to join the medical district itself. The extra fee goes directly back into promotional efforts for the district.

"We're just really seeing the synergy with everybody beginning to grow," Pratt said. "Everybody that's working with medical district is a volunteer."

Business membership has its privileges. The district hosts monthly workshops to provide its members with information on relevant topics.

"We're bringing in speakers that really speak to what healthcare providers and industries would like to know," Pratt said. "There (are) a lot of things happening out there. Just trying to keep up with all the regulations, it's very confusing, and a lot of people don't have time for that."

Past speakers have discussed the economics of healthcare and how to deal with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA. This month's workshop will cover electronic medical records. Bringing the topics to the district's "backyard" increases accessibility of the information to its members, Pratt said.

The district also helps organize local community events. Most recently, it hosted a spaghetti lunch to raise funds for the family of Eric Kaganis, the 25-year-old killed in a forklift accident June 25 at USP Structural Connectors in Pinellas Park.

"Our hearts immediately were affected when we heard the news about this tragic accident. We couldn't help but come together in support," Pratt stated in a press release.

On Aug. 10, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the district will support the Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society's back-to-school health fair, in which it will offer free school and sports physicals for the new year.

See DISTRICT, page 9A

Business updates

'Legal Elite' featured in Florida Trend report

ST. PETERSBURG – The state's top lawyers are recognized in the 2013 edition of "Florida Trend's" "Florida Legal Elite."

The list of 1,228 honorees includes attorneys in private practice as well as top government and nonprofit attorneys.

The magazine's 250,000 readers are executives who rely on the legal community for a multitude of corporate assignments, said Publisher Andrews Corty.

"When we first published 'Florida Legal Elite' in 2004, our goal was

to provide a valuable resource for our readers. Over the past 10 years, I've heard many accolades about the program. Florida Legal Elite is a guide to selecting a trusted legal partner to handle delicate business concerns," Corty said.

To compile the list, "Florida Trend" invited all actively practicing Florida lawyers to name the attorneys that they hold in highest regard as professional lawyers with whom they have personally worked and would recommend to others. The entire 'Legal Elite' report can be viewed by practice areas and region at www.FloridaTrend.com/LegalElite.

First Home Bank names vice president

SEMINOLE – Denise Unley has been appointed to vice president/commercial loan officer of First Home Bank.

Unley had most recently been vice president/portfolio manager at Synovus Bank. A long time Pinellas County resident, she began her banking career some 30 years ago and has served in a number of audit, compliance, and credit manager roles.

She will be based in the Seminole Office.



Denise Unley

New café coming to Gulfport

GULFPORT – Construction is underway for a new takeout café, deli and market on Beach Boulevard in Gulfport called Mangia Gourmet. Located at 2930 Beach Blvd., Mangia Gourmet will feature a newly renovated courtyard area.

Patrons will be able to enjoy a meal, listen to music, attend lectures and demonstrations or just socialize.

Mangia Gourmet's packaging is either re-cycled or biodegradable. For further information on Mangia Gourmet, contact Jill Johnson at 321-6264 or via email at mangiagirls@yahoo.com.

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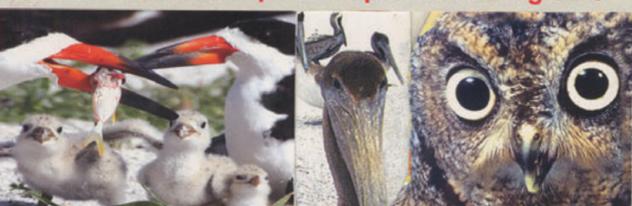


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The road to happiness, in our personal life journey, is paved with pebbles. If you have children, you no doubt had lots of ideas about how you would raise them long before they became a part of your family. You probably felt you would be dedicated and committed to doing a good job. Most people take parenthood seriously and give it their all. And then life happens and we realize that our best-laid plans are much more difficult than we imagined.

Our little "bundles" bring us a mixture of joy and delight and worry and guilt, laced with exhaustion and frustration. We deal with diapers, messes and lots of "nos," and before you know it, there's running and tattling and fighting. There are always new problems that change, but they never end. And you know there's no turning back.

No matter what happens, you do your best and devote yourself to giving your kids your love, time, energy and money. You give them the right food, clothes, toys, doctors and a "taxi" service. You might have even saved enough for college.

Even with the very best of efforts, some parents find that their kids aren't doing as well as they

hoped. Perhaps they have poor grades, resist authority, exhibit immature behavior, isolate or are withdrawn. Many parents wonder, after they have done so much and tried so hard, how their child can have these types of problems. Quite naturally we begin to wonder what we can do to control their fates and keep them on the path to success and happiness. In your quiet moments you lose confidence, but no matter what, you keep dreaming of what your child can be.

We have enough evidence today to know that high self-esteem is the crucial element needed for kids to have a super positive outlook on life. High self-esteem gives children a boost of inner confidence, a sense of purpose and involvement, the ability to have meaningful constructive relationships with others, success at school and work, and most of all – happiness.

If your child has high self-esteem, it means he likes himself. It presents itself as a quiet sense of



Wishing You Well

Dina Meitner

self-respect and a feeling of self-worth. When he has it, it means he's happy to be who he is. With high self-esteem he knows he has value and he doesn't waste his energy trying to impress anyone.

The way your kid feels about himself directly influences the kinds of friends he will hang out with, how he will get along in relationships and what kind of mate he will choose. It affects his productivity level, creativity, integrity, stability and if he's going to be a leader or a follower.

The framework of high self-esteem is built on your child feeling both "lovable" and "worthy." You may love your child and feel he is worthwhile, but there is a difference between being loved and feeling loved. While many parents are sure they love their child and think he's worthwhile, a lot of times kids don't get that message.

Jump-start your child's self-esteem early by teaching him that he can trust you. Show him that

he can feel secure, accepted and cherished because you are a reliable parent who will always be there for him. When he knows this, he will have the courage to take risks, grow, and explore the world, knowing that if he has problems, he has your supportive relationship to come back to. When you catch your kid doing something good, acknowledge and praise the behaviors you want to see repeated. Learn to correct rather than criticize. Correcting teaches a child that there is no shame, and they can learn from their mistakes. A child learns his basic goodness through the eyes of a parent. When your child sees you with a loving expression on your face they feel lovable and worthy. If they feel you are listening to them, they feel important. Tell your kids that you love them unconditionally, just the way they are.

If you learn these and other valuable parenting skills, you will be on your way to empowering your children with the self-esteem they need to travel on a much less bumpy road to success and happiness.

A staff member at the Bay Pines VA Hospital from 2006-2013, Dina Meitner, LCSW, is currently in private practice at 2081 Indian Rocks Road.

Industry news

Largo Medical receives award

LARGO – Largo Medical Center recently earned another quality achievement award.

It is one of two hospitals in Pinellas County to receive the American Heart Association's 2013 Mission: Lifeline Silver Receiving Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment and success in implementing an exceptional standard of care for heart attack patients in our community.

"Largo Medical Center is dedicated to making our cardiac unit among the best in the country, and it is Mission: Lifeline that is helping us accomplish that by making it easier for our professionals to improve the outcomes of our cardiac patients," said Anthony Degina in a press release. Degina is Largo Medical Center's chief executive officer. "I continue to be so extremely proud of our team as it shows its dedication to quality care time after time."

Each year in the United States, nearly 300,000 people have a STEMI, or ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction, the most severe form of heart attack. A STEMI occurs when a blood clot completely blocks an artery to the heart. To prevent death, it's critical to immediately restore blood flow, either by surgically opening the blocked vessel or by giving clot-busting medication.

Hospitals involved in Mission: Lifeline are part of a system that makes sure STEMI patients get the right care they need, as quickly as possible. Mission: Lifeline focuses on improving the system of care for these patients and at the same time improving care for all heart attack patients.

Sunstar Paramedics earns accreditation

LARGO – Ambulance/EMS service provider East Texas Medical Center Regional Healthcare System Emergency Medical Services recently announced

that the Commission of Accreditation of Ambulance Services has individually accredited all five of the company's divisions.

This includes Pinellas County's branch, Sunstar Paramedics.

ETMC EMS is the operator of five wholly owned Paramedics Plus divisions in major metropolitan areas nationwide, and serves as the 911-service provider in each of the five locations.

"It is unusual for such a large provider to be able to accomplish this across their system," said Ron Schwartz in a press release. Schwartz is vice president of ETMC EMS. "I want to commend our administrative staff for the hard work and dedication that these accreditations signify. CAAS's stringent standards reflect our company's goals and philosophies."

CAAS is an independent commission that established a comprehensive series of standards for the ambulance service industry. CAAS accreditation signifies that an EMS service has met the "gold standard" determined by the ambulance industry to be essential in a modern emergency medical services provider. These standards often exceed those established by state or local regulation. The CAAS standards are designed to increase operational efficiency and clinical quality, while decreasing risk and liability to the organization.

In addition to the CAAS accreditations, Sunstar's operations dispatch center is ACE accredited by the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch. Also, the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport System accredits the Pinellas County Paramedics Plus operation, Sunstar, for its critical care transport services.

"We are thrilled to hear that we renewed our accreditations with CASS," said Mark Postma, COO with Sunstar Paramedics. "These accreditations are important to us, as they signify our level of standards for EMS services."

Smile for a Lifetime gains Pinellas chapter

SEMINOLE – Dr. Ernest McDowell, of McDowell Orthodontics, recently announced his newly founded Pinellas County chapter of Smile for a Lifetime as a way to give back to the community and invest in the future of under-served children.

Through this nonprofit organization, McDowell provides scholarships for orthodontic treatment to 8 to 10 local children each year on a completely pro bono basis.

At Smile for a Lifetime Foundation, the mission is to create self-confidence, inspire hope, and change the lives of children in our community in a dramatic way. The gift of a smile can do all this for a deserving, underserved individual who, in turn, can use this gift to better themselves and the community. The foundation will award one set of braces per month to individuals that could not otherwise afford orthodontic treatment. McDowell has recruited a local board of directors to help inform our community on the benefits of Smile for a Lifetime and to help determine the recipients.

Visit www.mcdowellorthodontics.com.

Concussion program set

CLEARWATER – Sports medicine physician Ted Farrar, M.D., will host a free presentation on preventing and managing a concussion in active youth and adults on Wednesday, July 10, 6 p.m., at the Aging Well Center at the Long Center, 1501 N. Belcher Road.

Topics will include early/same-day signs and symptoms, when to seek additional help, treatments and Florida law regarding student athletes.

Farrar helps oversee a concussion prevention and management program that has been used to provide baseline testing student athletes in Pinellas County. The program features ImPACT – Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing. Across Pinellas County, BayCare has screened nearly 3,000 student athletes.

Visit www.mpmhealth.com.

Fall Prevention Coalition to meet

TRINITY – The Pinellas Pasco Fall Prevention Coalition will meet Thursday, July 11, 8:45 a.m., at Medical Center of Trinity, 9330 State Road 54, Trinity.

The guest speaker will be Susanne Gammon R.N., M.A., CPHQ, CPHRM. Call 723-7532.

DISTRICT, from page 8A

The event, which the medical district also supported last year, will be held at a major partner with the district, the St. Petersburg College Caruth Education Center, 7200 66th St. N. in Pinellas Park. Last year's event assisted 200 families, Pratt said.

"It was such a great turnout, and there was a lot of collaboration there," she added.

Participants in the mixer June 26 agreed that the district was an easy way to connect to relevant members of the business community.

"I'm just new in the area, just getting to know the district. I love it. It's great, a great group of people,"

said Julie Maahs of Cool Trader Pro. "It's connected me with the business entrepreneurs in the area. That's what we're looking for."

In the end, the purpose of the district is to connect and unify the Pinellas Park medical community.

"You can even come right to Pinellas Park – and surrounding areas for the associate members – and really have top-notch healthcare providers in the area that can support them," Pratt said.

For more information, visit www.pinellas-parkchamber.com/pages/MedicalDistrictHome or call 544-4777.

For updates, visit www.facebook.com/PinellasParkMedicalDistrict.

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Local boys make Eagle Scout rank

LARGO – Eagle Scouts Rawlyn James Rogers and David Alexander Levy of Boy Scouts Troop 468 in Largo were recently presented with their Eagle Scout Certificates of Recognition for outstanding leadership and citizenship from the Sons of the American Revolution, Florida Society, Clearwater Chapter. SAR Compatriot Art Hays presented the certificates at a ceremony on June 24 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Largo.

For Rogers' Eagle Scout project, the 17-year-old designed, planned and provided leadership to volunteers for the building and installation of a bookcase at the Church of Ascension Day School in Belleair. He also supplied the children with books for the bookcase. He has been involved in scouting for eight years and has earned 34 merit badges and camped out a total of 108 nights. He is a recent graduate of Dunedin High where he was the Cadet Commanding Officer of the Naval Jr. ROTC Unit. He was actively engaged with the unit in orienteering, the drill team, the academic team and the Color Guard. He has enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he plans to become an information technology specialist. He leaves for basic training in August. He is the



From left, Eagle Scouts Rawlyn Rogers, David Levy and SAR Compatriot Art Hays. Hays presented the teens with their Eagle Scout certificates.

son of Rawlyn and RoAnn Rogers of Belleair.

For Levy's Eagle Scout project, the 16-year-old designed, planned and provided leadership to volunteers for the building and installation of a fence at the Clearwater Airpark for the Civil

Air Patrol, of which he is a member. He has been involved in scouting for five years and has earned 37 merit badges, camped out a total of 45 days and has hiked more than 50 miles on the Appalachian Trail. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow and

will be starting his senior year at Osceola High, where he is involved in running cross-country. He is the son of Ron and Carol Levy of Clearwater.

Of every 100 boys who join scouting, fewer than five will attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

Photo courtesy of ROSE KING

Pets of the week



Zola

Meet Zola, an energetic Plott hound mix who is looking for a play pal. Zola is a 10-month-old puppy who thinks other dogs are great. She is looking for a home with older children who don't mind playing tug-of-war with her favorite squeaky toys. Her adoption fee is \$160, which includes her spay surgery, vaccinations, microchip, Pinellas County license and free 30 days of pet insurance. Adopt her before July 7 and get a free SPCA collar and leash. Visit her today at 9099 130th Ave. N., Largo. Visit www.spcatampabay.org.



Carolee

Carolee is a 1-year-old female calico. She is a gorgeous, sweet, "movie star" kitty. Her personality matches her beautiful, multi-colored coat, and she is waiting to be the star of your home. She loves attention and cuddling. She is spayed and up-to-date on her shots. To meet her, call Pat with Second Chance for Strays at www.secondchanceforstrays.com.



Thunder

If you like love, affection and attention, then Thunder is the kitten for you. He is a blue/gray and white striped tabby who is 4 months old. Thunder is incredibly sweet and is the happiest with his human enjoying the human touch and waiting for his belly to be rubbed. He is a true delight. Thunder will make the perfect household companion because he is laid back and will acclimate in any environment. He gets along well with kids, other cats and dogs. He is vaccinated, tested for FeLV and FIV, spayed and microchipped. Contact All 'Bout Cats, Inc. at 712-7773 or www.allboutcats.org.

Program seeks volunteers to protect elders' rights

Florida's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is seeking volunteers to join its corps of dedicated advocates who protect the rights of elders residing in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family care homes.

Volunteers identify, investigate and resolve residents' concerns. Special training and certification is provided.

Anyone interested in helping protect the health, safety, welfare and rights of long-term care facility residents – who often have no one else to advocate for them – are encouraged to call 888-831-0404

or visit the program's website at ombudsman.myflorida.com.

The program's Mid and South Pinellas council meets to discuss current activities and give the public a chance to provide comments about long-term care facility issues on the third Thursdays at the Mary Grizzle Building, 11351 Ulmerton Road, Room 136, in Largo.

The next council meeting is July 18, and the open session of these meetings begins at 1 p.m. Concerned citizens and those interested in volunteering are welcome to attend.

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Paw prints

Pet first aid, CPR class set

CLEARWATER – For those wanting to know what to do in case their pet has a medical emergency, a class will be presented Saturday, July 13, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Humane Society of Pinellas, 3040 State Road 590.

Attendees will learn Snout2Tail assessment, including pet first aid, CPR, rescue breathing and bleeding protocols. Julie Smith, a certified PetTech first aid instructor, teaches the class.

Cost is \$40 a person, which includes an instructional book. Registration is required. To register, visit HumaneSocietyofPinellas.org.

Kitten and mama cat adoption special set

Kittens grow playing with their mother and develop a unique bond. Save Our Strays has several kitten/mother cat families and is offering a special summer adoption rate: Adopt a kitten and get its mother for half-off the adoption fee.

Families include Sadie, a 1-year-old tortoiseshell cat with her 3-month-old kittens, plus Domino, who is a 1.5-year-old tuxedo cat who has beautiful kittens. All Save Our Strays cats have been spayed or neutered, are current with vaccinations and microchipped. To meet these feline families, call a volunteer at 545-1116 for a south county location or 481-5262 for a north county location. Visit www.saveourstraysinc.com.

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The new realities of protecting children

Recently, headlines about the missing 8-year-old little girl who was abducted from a Jacksonville Walmart June 21 have been all over social media and the news. My heart sank when I saw the report that it was a registered sex offender who was accused of killing the little girl.



Mom 2 Mom
Kadi Hendricks
Tubbs

Usually, I don't let my two little girls - who are 7 and 8 - watch the news because of stories like this, but I did show them a picture of the little girl so they could see that she was their age. I decided this time I needed to talk to them about this issue a little more.

In the past, I mainly focused on them staying close to me when out and not talking to strangers. I didn't want to scare my kids, but felt I needed to take the "stranger danger" talk a little further. It's sad to think that one bad thing can change not only a child's life, but impact the whole family.

I remember several times in my life where incidents could have turned bad, but ended up just being scary.

One time when I was in third grade and my sister was in first grade, we were walking home from school and a man on a bike exposed himself to us. We really didn't know what was going on, but luckily, my mom was waiting at the corner for us and could see a man talking to us. He rode off after we said, "There's our mom."

That man we picked out of a lineup, and he was arrested. I don't remember too much more than that.

Another time, I was at what used to be called Pinellas Park Mall with my mom and siblings. We were looking at shoes and my little sister, who was 8 years old at the time, walked around the corner for a minute to look at the toys. In just a few minutes, a man picked her up from behind and started taking her out of the store. She screamed and kicked and the guy let her go. The mall was locked down, but they never did catch the guy.

How our lives could have been changed. I thank God these incidents were just that and not life changing.

As a parent, I am always looking out for my kids. I probably am a lit-

tle too cautious, but if I'm not, who else will be?

We have to protect our kids, and when they are young we have to warn them that there are bad people out there. Most kids think everyone is nice and that's how sexual predators and sexual offenders seem to operate.

Be careful this summer with your kids especially when you send them to camps. Make sure they know what's appropriate and what's not. When you go to the mall or stores keep your eye on your kids.

Young kids aren't the only ones that need to be cautious. A close friend of mine was on her way home for Thanksgiving break when she was in college when she was abducted by a man with a gun as she stopped at the post office to get her mail. Luckily, she was able to get away after a few days of being held hostage in his home. But the incident changed her life, even though the man was caught and put behind bars.

I tell you these stories because they are true and can happen to any family. I know we have to let our kids grow up and have freedom to experience things on their own. But the question is when and at what expense?

It's a dilemma I know I face these days. Years ago, you could let your children walk home from school, go play at the neighbor's or ride their bike to the local store. It's not that simple these days. The world is different and we are raising our children in a different world.

Make sure you talk to your kids, and listen when they talk to you. It's important because protecting our children is our job as parents.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement has a website which you can use to look up sexual predators and offenders in your neighborhood or around your schools. You also can sign up for alerts and be notified by email if someone moves within a certain area around you. Visit offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/homepage.do.

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

Coopwoods celebrate 60th anniversary

Francis Marion Coopwood Jr., and Ruth Alice Aiken were married July 4, 1953 in Ackerman, Miss. The couple lived and worked in Clarksdale, Miss., before moving to Indian Rocks Beach in 1997, and then to Largo in 2006. Marion served in the U.S. Air Force toward the end of World War II. He is a retired accountant and also enjoyed fishing. Ruth is a retired secretary. They are members of Anona United Methodist Church in Largo.

The Coopwoods have three daughters: Jackie Coopwood of Indian Rocks Beach, Janis Aiken of Largo and Julie Carpenter of Jackson, Miss. They also have one granddaughter, Lindsey Singleton, and two great-granddaughters, Samantha and Tracy.



Marion and Ruth Coopwood

Faith briefs

All Saints' Episcopal Church

TARPON SPRINGS - The Rev. Wayne F. Farrell, 54, recently was elected Rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church, Tarpon Springs.

The parish, organized in 1892, is one of the oldest churches in the Diocese of Southwest Florida and the Tampa Bay region.

"I am pleased and honored to be called as Rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Tarpon Springs," said Farrell, a lifelong Episcopalian and native of Sarasota, in a press release.

Farrell, whose call was approved this week by Bishop Dabney T. Smith, will be formally installed this fall as only the fourth rector of the parish, which is notable for still worshipping in its original Florida car-

penter Gothic church building. Throughout its history, All Saints' has been closely linked to the history and economic development of Tarpon Springs; one of the founding members of the parish was responsible for bringing the sponging industry to Tarpon Springs and also founded the Tarpon Springs Sponge Exchange.

Hope Presbyterian Church

CLEARWATER - Adult Sunday School classes continue to meet over the summer in Hambley Hall at Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher Road.

The classes meet at 9 a.m. Two different groups are currently in ses-

sion, including Wired Word or Bible Baffle. Attendees also may attend worship following class at 10:15 a.m.

For information, call 531-3200 or visit www.HopeFamily.com.

Church collects items for veterans

SEMINOLE - The Service Committee of Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church will be collecting various items for the veterans of Bay Pines Hospital and also homeless veterans in accordance with its Christmas in July celebration.

Deadline for donations is Sunday, July 14. For more information, call the church at 391-5509 or Linda Mowry, committee chair, at 546-4908.

Military accomplishments

Amber J. Carnazza

LARGO - Air Force Airman Amber J. Carnazza recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Carnazza earned distinction as an honor graduate. She is the daughter of Kim Carnazza and granddaughter of Caren Lorenzo, both of Largo. The airman is a 2011 graduate of Largo High School.



Amber J. Carnazza

of responsibilities in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and continued Theater Security Cooperation efforts.

RuebertInno R. Bantigue

PINELLAS PARK - Air Force Airman RuebertInno R. Bantigue recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Bantigue is the son of Teresita Bantigue of Pinellas Park.



RuebertInno R. Bantigue

Simone O. Barnes

ST. PETERSBURG - Army Pfc. Simone O. Barnes recently graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Barnes is the daughter of

Shonda Aires, and granddaughter of Mildred Young, both of St. Petersburg. She is a 2012 graduate of Dixie M. Hollins High School.

William Cook

PINELLAS PARK - Air Force Airman William Cook recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Cook is the son of William Cook of Pinellas Park. He is a 2011 graduate of Osceola High School.



William Cook

Travis M. Macon

CLEARWATER - Army Pfc. Travis M. Macon recently graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Macon is the son of Wanda Macon of Seffner, and Thomas Macon of Clearwater. He is a 2012 graduate of Armwood High School, Seffner.

Joseph Krug

ST. PETERSBURG - Navy Seaman Joseph Krug recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Krug is the son of Gail and Joseph Krug of St. Petersburg. He is a 2008 graduate of Osceola High School of Seminole. He is a 2012 graduate of St. Petersburg College with an associate's degree.

Frederick McClimans V

ST. PETERSBURG - Frederick McClimans V has accepted an appointment to the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn.

McClimans is the son of Fred and Pam McClimans of Flower Mound, Texas, and formally of Safety Harbor. He also is the grandson of Fred and Lucaria McClimans of St. Petersburg.

McClimans is a graduate of Flower Mound High School where he excelled in academics and athletics. He will pursue a mechanical engineering degree with intentions of continuing on to Flight School to become a Coast Guard Pilot.

Jason B. Heintl

ST. PETERSBURG - Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Jason B. Heintl recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Heintl is the son of John Heintl of St. Petersburg, and Carmela Heintl of Spring Hill. He is a 2003 graduate of St. Petersburg High School. He earned an associate degree in 2012 from St. Petersburg College.



Jason B. Heintl

Erin B. Myers

SEMINOLE - Navy Airman Erin B. Myers along with other Sailors assigned to the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) recently marched in the 65th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade in Bremerton, Wash.

Myers is the daughter of Penny L. Myers of Seminole. She is a 2008 graduate of Central Dauphin High School of Harrisburg, Pa., and joined the Navy in April 2012.

Myers and more than 300 fellow Stennis Sailors participated in the parade to honor military members for their patriotic service. The parade was organized by the Bremerton Chamber of Commerce and Bremerton Kiwanis Club and included more than 143 groups ranging from active-duty military, veterans, state and local officials, community leaders and local students.

Stennis recently returned from an eight-month deployment to the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet areas

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What's Selling in Pinellas County

Indian Shores 2BR/2BA \$435,000



SOLD
This South corner condo has high wood beamed ceilings throughout this unit. Wood floors in main living area and two balconies with ceramic tile. Stone fireplace in living room adds to ambiance. Newer pocket sliding glass doors extend this unit right up to the sand.
Cyndee Haydon & David Gardella
Premier Sotheby's International Realty

Seminole 3BR/2BA/2CG \$142,000



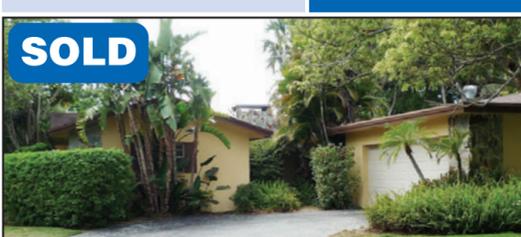
SOLD
Highly sought after Williamsdale Square! Split plan offers 3BR/2BA, dining room, & large Florida room. Master BR has a private bath w/separate entry to garage. New roof in 2010 and some newer windows. Non-evacuation and non-flood area.
Sandy Hartmann
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

St. Petersburg 1BR/1BA/1CP \$92,000



SOLD
3rd Floor, fully furnished "Turn Key" unit. Remarkable views of Boca Ciega Bay Intracoastal Waterway, Lagoon and plush well maintained grounds.
Caroleanne Vorac
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

Seminole 3BR \$315,000



SOLD
Wonderful 3 BDRM Pool Home in Seminole! Updates to include newer kitchen, bathrooms and tile flooring. Large inground pool on a corner lot. Seminole schools and walking distance to the beach! Sold in less than a month for \$315,000.
Rich Rippetoe
Coldwell Banker Sun Vista

LETTERS

Feral cat lovers: uninformed and irresponsible

Editor:

To Pinellas County supervisors and true animal lovers everywhere: I would like to introduce you to one of my three housecats. His name is Ziggy; he was adopted by my daughter while in high school and became my ward upon her departure to college. Ziggy was a loving fun and happy cat.

He regularly walked with us to visit the neighbors. If we went inside, he did, too. He loved dogs, brazenly meeting strange dogs whose owners held the leash. He became everyone's friend.

Ziggy was constantly making friends of any animal or human that would be his friend. There were those that wanted Ziggy's and his two sister's territory.

Feral, mean and wild, they attacked relentlessly. At my own back door they attacked and even challenged me, a human. Ziggy was a big, strong cat and would defend himself, his sisters and our property. He never lost – except his life.

Ziggy recently lost weight quickly. He became lethargic and couldn't even come to sit on a lap or his pillow on our bed. We took him to the vet office and had tests run. He had a viral form of feline leukemia. This disease was given to him by a feral cat, fed by a well-meaning human with little understanding of the facts. It is a form for which there is neither inoculation nor cure. Ziggy was buried with his best friend Boomerang, our cattle show dog that died.

Why would I tell you this story? It is because there are hundreds of feral cats in our neighborhood. And many who feed them illegally. I have called and reported them. They are usually warned and that is all. They even understand the law – after it being explained to them that they can feed the cats but not leave food out for them. I have talked to those that feed them. They tell me of the "catch-neuter-release" program. However, those same people that tout it only feed all feral cats and do not catch or neuter them. They regularly feed mothers with kittens and do not capture or neuter even though they say that is the program they are on. We have kittens in our sewers, in our garages and carports, and in sheds; they are raised under hedges and in woods nearby, even in my own yard!

Why don't these people actually capture and neuter them? Because they don't want to pay for it or be responsible for the tests against disease that must be performed before release to assure the safety of all animals and people around them.

Meet Sophie, Ziggy's sister. She has been attacked at least 15 times in three months by feral cats on my property. Sophie is flighty and nervous all the time now. She is afraid to be alone on our property. Her sister Sonia (a domesticated adopted feral cat) tries to protect her but usually Sophie has already been scratched and hurt before Sonia arrives and chases the vicious intruder away. These attacks usually happen within a few feet of our back door. At times the intruder will not leave, even when I challenge the intruder. These feral animals are vicious to pets, period. I have captured at least eight of these vicious feral animals in the last couple of months. The last attack was so vicious that I got out my rifle to end it. The intruder left as I approached with the rifle. Yes, I would have fired the rifle aiming to kill in order to protect my property and pets. I will use lethal force to protect my property and pets as allowed under Florida law if it ever comes to it.

How many hundreds or even thousands of household pets have to die in this county from these diseased feral felines? When will we see a system that actually eradicates and ends this entire problem? A problem that was caused by well meaning "cat lovers" who were irresponsible and uninformed?

Thank you for your time and effort in reading this review of facts and considerations before making any change to the current laws and for working for the people of this county rather than a small fervent group that is generally uninformed and wrong in their thought process.

Dirk Jeanis
Clearwater

Rude officials need wake-up calls.

Re: "Parents upset over park incident," by Brian Goff, Belleair Bee, June 27

Editor:

I would like to first say that I agree with the parents. I have lived in Indian Rocks Beach for three years now. I have had several encounters with local law enforcement and most, not all, of them have what I like to call "The Barney Fife Syndrome." A small town cop with a nasty attitude and a control problem that picks on the "locals" because there is nothing better to do. In other words, those of us who attempt to help the local cops.

I am a nurse of 30 years. I have encountered every kind of personality from the sweetest granny to prison inmates who have committed murder. No matter what your job, no matter what you do, respect is earned. That goes for cops and city officials, too. You don't get my respect because you have a badge or a title. And please do not try to instill fear in me with your big, bad look and voice. Seriously? I think that because policemen and women and city officials have to assume some kind of authoritative persona to get the job done, they morph into this higher than mighty power that has a free ticket to talk to everyone like a guilty little child.

I pay taxes. I work. I take care of people. I don't commit crimes. I am a grown adult. I raised good kids. I call the police and report things I believe are suspicious. I respect the profession because they do not get paid enough to risk life. I have assisted the local police in trying to keep IRB safe. Never once did I hear a thank you. They are so condescending and thankless. Sometimes, police officers become jaded and adopt the "justice system mentality" – everyone is guilty until proven innocent. I hope these attitude issues are truly investigated but I don't hold much faith in that. Rarely do you truly see the police throw one of their own under the bus.

In the nursing field, we have a term called P.R.N. It means "as needed."

For example, if my patient has a headache he can have Tylenol P.R.N. for pain. I think that the average citizen should be able to administer a small dose of cattle prod P.R.N. to unnecessarily rude officials. A mini-prod – just a little zapp – nothing life threatening – just a little wake up call, if you will. And once you are awake, I will have your full attention to ask you: Did your mother ever teach you manners? How to treat your customers? You get my respect when you earn it. And I expect nothing less from you.

I am from Kentucky. We are nice there. We look out for and help one another. We appreciate a smile and a helping hand. It's a shame that rarely happens with the leaders and cops of IRB. And, just for the record, who do these city officials and representatives think pay their paychecks.

Elizabeth Royse
Indian Rocks Beach

Relocate dolphin statue

Editor:

The recent addition of the dolphins statue to the Pier 60 Park begs the question: Why wasn't this done sooner? However, the statue is too small and transparent to be noticed where it sits today, since it's made from a steel wire mesh. About the only thing that can and should be done for the statue now is to elevate it by placing it on a pedestal and moving it to the roundabout where it would command the center of attention there. Also, a larger bronze statue would have looked much better there instead. You'd think someone there at City Hall would have thought of this beforehand?

Michael Maribona
Clearwater

What do you think?

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

Here are some more guidelines for letters:

- Letters are printed on a first-come, first-served basis. They may be edited to correct grammar, spelling and factual errors. They also may be edited for clarity.
- Please keep letters to editor to 500 words. Longer letters may be cut due to space limitations.

Some Independence Day salutes



Driver's Seat

Bob Driver

This week as we tip our hats to Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Tom Paine, Woody Guthrie and other worthies, I'd like to salute a few persons and things that might not otherwise make the Top Ten list of July 4 notables.

WOMEN WHO PRODUCE HOMEMADE POTATO SALAD. If you've ever labored for several messy, tension-wracked days to come up with your version of the perfect holiday potato salad, you'll know why I think so highly of you. Throughout America this week we will scarf down millions of hot dogs, hamburgers and other undistinguished, easily forgotten July 4 menu items. But standing close behind the picnic tables will be women (and some male cooks, too) who have knocked themselves out to set forth a quality of potato salad whose flavor and texture deserve a 21-gun salute. These women will be hoping for only one thing: a single word or two of praise from anyone who has sampled the potato salad and found it superlative. If you know anyone who fits this description, please clip this column and give it to her (or him) with my compliments.

THE OLD GUY COLOR GUARDS. These are the men, usually 50-plus in age and overweight, who on every July 4 come forward and volunteer to serve as color guards in the town parade. They put on their American Legion or VFW hats, spend maybe half an hour rehearsing close order drill commands, and then step out, with their rifles at the ready and Old Glory held high, and lead the town band down Main Street. They may not stay quite in step with the music, but they are by God proud of their flag and country, both the way it used to be and the way it is today. I love those old guys. I would rather watch

them march than see a West Point drill team.

BRIEF SPEAKERS. Most July 4 ceremonies have one or more featured speakers. The best ones are those men and women who talk for five or six minutes and then step down. Abe Lincoln did that at Gettysburg, and our nation has honored him ever since. You'd think more speakers would take the hint. I'd die happy if one day I could be in the audience on July 4 and the guest speaker simply recited his own special recipe for potato salad.

SINGERS WHO RESPECT OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM by rendering it straight, without any extraneous jazz, jive, warbles, quavers or other stylistic trimmings. I don't care if the performer is world famous for rock, rap, country-western, disco or opera. The Star-Spangled Banner doesn't need or deserve vocal embroidery. The soprano Lucy Monroe knew that. I grew up listening to her sing at the New York's World Fair and at New York Yankee games. She sang the national anthem in public an estimated 5,000 times, but she refused to do it when she visited our troops overseas in wartime. Her explanation: "They're living it."

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA. Independence Day would go on even if Sousa – The March King – had not been born, but the music would surely be less exciting. His musical career was

sort of an accident. As a young man, he wanted to join a circus band. His father, horrified, ushered him into the Marine Corps, which quickly made use of young Sousa's musical talents. Besides "Stars and Stripes Forever" and other memorable marches, Sousa composed several operas and three novels. He also became known as the father of American trapshooting. Quite a guy, deserving of our salute on July 4 and throughout the year.

CITIZENS WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH U.S. HISTORY and who love our country both for overcoming its defects as well as for its glories. By all rights, the U.S. shouldn't have made it this far. Anyone who studies our Revolution knows that at several points the rebellion against Great Britain was a hair's breadth from foundering. We drafted a constitution that legitimized slavery, and paid for those actions years later with a civil war whose polarizing effects are still being felt. We opened the doors of freedom to millions of foreign immigrants, even as we systematically cheated and deprived our own Native Americans of their rights and their lands. During two world wars our fighting men and women helped to defeat wrongful aggression, but in other conflicts we have clearly been on the wrong side.

My point in this partial litany is this: for the past 237 years America has been a land of high aims and heartbreaking fallibility, of heroes and scoundrels alike. But somehow we have made it work, and have made it endure. So this week, as we render our salutes, let's not forget to salute ourselves.

Bob Driver is a former columnist and editorial page editor for the Clearwater Sun. His email address is tralec71@comcast.net.



Spy, whistle-blower, hero – and celebrity

By SUZANNE FIELDS

Editor's note: Debra J. Saunders is off. The following column is by Suzanne Fields.

"Bling Ring" is a hot new movie about celebrity in our time, all flash and bang, set in Hollywood to rework the mangled cliché that almost anybody can get 15 minutes of fame if they're light enough to float, perverse, and (if female) pretty and skinny enough. There's a need to know the right labels, ZIP codes, trends and fashions, and you have to know how to appeal to ignorant adolescents who think they know more than they do. (That's quite a long list.)

The movie is about five high school students who actually burglarized a string of homes of the rich and famous in Tinseltown. Paris Hilton, one of the burgled, appears in a cameo role and felt good enough about it to let the moviemakers use her house as a set. The camera found her many closets stuffed with couture dresses, designer pocketbooks and Louboutin shoes. The rooms were littered with prominently placed pillows on sofas and chairs decorated with life-size photographs of her face. If she doesn't get an Oscar nomination for supporting actress, maybe she can get one for best-set decoration.

Fame is fickle, and the gods of celebrity take it away as quickly as they confer it. Edward Snowden, the uber-celebrity of the moment, seems about to be exiled from his celebrity to suffer in a friendless and alien land reserved for the loneliness of the long-distance leaker. "Bling Ring" illustrates the observation of Clive James, in his television documentary about fame in the 20th century, that "when the century started, famous people were still required, as of old, to do something first and then get famous for it later. As the century progressed, people who became

From the intersection of politics and culture, the scene of endless traffic jams, we see the sloppy self-righteousness of political celebrity writ large.

famous for what they did got more famous just for being famous."

In the 21st century, social media updates ambitions of fame with high tech displays of the grand and gossamer. The young burglars in "Bling Ring" not only planned their exploits on the Internet, assisted with facts from Google and GPS house maps, but also exposed themselves with their loot in photographic boasts on Facebook. After they were found guilty and on the way to prison, hundreds of fans wanted to be Facebook "friends."

Behind the tinsel surfaces, a theme emerges in the movie version of amoral youth, untutored, unmoored and inexperienced in anything beyond flash, flesh and filigree, and we are their static spectators. There's no irony or judgment; spectacle takes precedence over action, character, diction or thought. Aristotle would not approve.

"Bling Ring" coincides with the release of another movie, "This is the End," a satire of young famous male stars who play themselves at the very moment the apocalypse arrives; they watch the newly dead ascend to heaven or sink into the fiery furnace. The movie suggests the end of narcissistic male movies like this one, and perhaps the end of the hyperbolic doom-and-gloom preaching about the end of the world as we know it –

like global warming, although that may be giving Al Gore too much credit.

Both films testify to the growing urge to demolish today's celebrity, exposing the depth of the shallows of the popular culture. One of the guilty burglar-girls, schooled in the jargon of the new age, says her crimes have been a "huge learning experience" and she's sure they will help her "grow" into the leader for good works in the world. She tells Vanity Fair, in the article on which "Bling Ring" was based, that she "identifies" with Angelina Jolie, "even stronger, pushing even harder for the universe and for peace and for the health of out planet." She wants to do something that people will notice: "I want to lead a huge charity organization."

From the intersection of politics and culture, the scene of endless traffic jams, we see the sloppy self-righteousness of political celebrity writ large. We see Edward Snowden, a 30-year-old technology geek clever with computers crowned as a champion of derring-do, admired for breaking his oath and revealing national security secrets. An online petition seeking a pardon for his crimes went to the White House with more than a hundred thousand names on it. Thousands in a poll said they consider him a national "hero."

"We've made treason cool," New York Post columnist Ralph Peters tells "Fox & Friends." "He wants to be the national security Kim Kardashian." A celebrity's celebrity, you might say. One tweeter (or is that twitterer?) parodying Snowden's ambivalent voice as traitor, spy and hero, concludes, "I am in dire need of attention, that's for sure." That sounds about right.

Fields began writing a twice-weekly column for The Washington Times in 1984 and has been nationally syndicated since 1988. Write to Suzanne Fields at: suzannefields2000@gmail.com.

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Largo High student graduates from Yale

LARGO – Jennifer Shelby of Largo graduated at Yale University's 312th commencement ceremony May 20.

Shelby graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in sociology, magna cum laude, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's highest collegiate honor society.

While at Yale University, Shelby led the school's largest undergraduate volunteer service organization, Community Health Educators, mobilizing more than 150 student volunteers to create and teach the only comprehensive health education curriculum provided in 13 New Haven public schools. In addition to community service, Shelby wrote and performed as a member of Yale's oldest sketch comedy troupe, The Fifth Humour.

Shelby also won fellowships that allowed her to volunteer at a children's cancer hospital in Cairo, Egypt; study abroad at the University of Cambridge, England and pursue original research in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Shelby's senior thesis on the medical regulation of the birth control pill in the 1960s won the Mildred Priest Frank Memorial Prize, the top award in Yale's Sociology Department.

Shelby has accepted a position as assistant director of admissions at the Yale Undergraduate Admissions Office in New Haven, Conn., beginning in August.

The 2009 Largo High School salutatorian, Shelby is the daughter of Martin and Carrie Shelby of Largo.



Jennifer Shelby

College news

Student makes university dean's list

LARGO – Claire Csenge of Largo was named to the Dean's List at Fairfield University for the spring 2013 semester.

Student must attain a grade-point average of 3.5 of a possible 4.0.

SPC students to receive nursing scholarships

SEMINOLE – The Kiwanis Club of Seminole will award two St. Petersburg College students, Lacie Belcastro and Marissa Pitts, \$3,000 Colonel Mildred Imogene Butler Nursing Scholarships at 7:15 a.m. on Tuesday, June 25, at the club's meeting.

Belcastro, a Seminole resident, is a freshman in college and intends to enter the nursing program at St. Petersburg College. She is the co-leader of the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida and holds a 4.0 grade-point average. When she graduates, Belcastro wants to work as a pediatric nurse.

Pitts, a St. Petersburg resident, has already received her associate's degree and is enrolled in SPC's nursing program. She volunteers with Love Thy Neighbor, a nonprofit organization that helps medical patients who can't afford routine maintenance of their home. She holds a 3.3 grade-point average and is a member of the National Student Nurse Association. After she graduates, she wants to work as a nurse in home healthcare.

Area residents graduate from Eckerd College

ST. PETERSBURG – Residents from Clearwater, Seminole and Safety Harbor graduated from Eckerd College on May 21.

Residents of Clearwater who graduated are: Kiva Alvarez, with a bachelor's in business management; Niya Case, with a bachelor's in business management and a minor in human development; Kelly Coston, with a bachelor's in communication and minors in journalism and management; Ann Debs, with a bachelor's in English with high honors; Sarah Entreken, with a bachelor's in East Asian studies and a minor in Japanese; Timothy Mathews, with a bachelor's in American culture and society; Kimberly Paczynski, with a bachelor's in American studies with high honors; and Lindsay Starling with a Bachelor's in human development.

Residents of Seminole who graduated are Byron Barnett, with a bachelor's in business management; and Laura Littlefield, with a bachelor's in communication and a minor in psychology.

Caroline Campbell, a resident of Safety Harbor, graduated with a bachelor's in communication and a minor in creative writing.

SPC competition receives \$5,000 grant

SEMINOLE – The St. Petersburg College Seminole Campus' Business Plan and Elevator Pitch Competition has been selected to receive the Silverberg Endowment Grant of \$5,000. The competition allows for SPC students to hone their entrepreneurial talents and practice their presentation skills.

The participants vie for \$10,000 as they pitch their business concepts in front of a panel of judges and a live audience. To prepare for the competition, students attend classes in the College of Business Entrepreneurship program where they learn how to make business plans. The students also receive advice from college faculty, staff and business people from the community. The Elevator Pitch Competition will be held in April 2014 at the SPC Seminole Campus.

Schools notes

Duke Energy donates to math education

ST. PETERSBURG – Duke Energy contributed \$127,230 to USF St. Petersburg to support SunBay Digital Mathematics, a program that collaborates with SRI International and Pinellas County Schools to research new ways of teaching middle school math.

The gift will go toward middle school teachers who are seeking certification to teach digital-enhanced mathematics education. The certification is a five-course graduate program that increases teachers' depth of knowledge in math concepts and the use of technology.

Seminole student awarded National Merit scholarship

SEMINOLE – Joseph Sinibaldi, a Seminole High School senior, was awarded the National Merit Citizen Eco-Drive Scholarship from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Sinibaldi intends to study to become an electrical engineer.

To enter the competition, high school students must take the Preliminary S.A.T., be recognized by his or her school's principal, demonstrate academic excellence and be involved in extracurricular activities.

Saint Paul's School announces new interim head of school

CLEARWATER – Nancy Wood was announced as new interim head of school at Saint Paul's School on June 30. Her term will last for one year.

Wood has worked as an educator and administrator in public and private schools in California, Florida, Georgia and Pennsylvania. She served on the board of the Florida Council of Independent Schools from 1992 to 1996 as well as the Florida Kindergarten Council from 1997 to 2007. Wood also led accreditation teams for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education from the University of Missouri as well as a master of arts in teaching in Reading from Jacksonville University.

At the end of her term, a permanent head of school will take over Wood's position.

Local resident wins scholarship from Kohl's

CLEARWATER – Makayla Curtin, a resident of Clearwater, was one of 107 students from Florida who was recognized with a Kohl's Cares Scholarship on June 26 for exceptional volunteerism.

Each student won a \$50 gift card to Kohl's and qualifies for a chance to receive a \$1,000 scholarship for higher education, which Kohl's will award in July. Of the 200 regional winners, 10 national winners will receive \$10,000 in scholarships, and Kohl's will donate \$1,000 to a charity on each national winner's behalf.

A list of all of the winners is available at act.org/kohls/winners.html.

Students honored at Cipriani's Wall Street

ST. PETERSBURG – Students from the Northeast High School Academy of Finance were honored on May 6 at Cipriani's Wall Street in New York at the National Academy Foundation's annual benefit as members of NAF's elite list of Distinguished Academies and as role models for education reform.

To be designated "Distinguished Academy," the NAF chooses individuals who have given fidelity to an educational model that prepares students for success in college and careers.

NAF academies focus on one of five career themes: finance, hospitality and tourism, information technology, engineering and health sciences. More than 6,400 business professionals volunteer in classrooms, act as mentors, engage students in paid internships and serve on local advisory boards.

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FOLLOW US

Donnie Abraham to host celebrity golf tournament

By STACEY MARQUIS

CLEARWATER – The public will have the opportunity to play golf with several former Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Saturday, July 13, all for a good cause.

To raise money for the Clearwater High School football team, former Buccaneer cornerback and newly appointed Head Coach Donnie Abraham organized the Clearwater Football Celebrity Golf Tournament, which will take place at 7 a.m. at the Bardmoor Golf and Tennis Club, 8001 Cumberland Road, Largo.

Abraham worked in conjunction with the Tornado Touchdown Booster Club to plan the event. Amanda Wood, president of the club, said the group supplements what the Pinellas County School Board doesn't cover, such as Gatorade and meals before the football games.

Abraham said hosting a golf tournament made sense because he and a lot of people in Florida enjoy playing golf.

The tournament will feature other former Buccaneers and coaches who will play with participants; Abraham said he is hoping Ronde Barber will confirm.

"I talked to a bunch of guys and I'm still trying to get them confirmed," he said. "I do have 10 or so players who said they will be committed."

Abraham said he would like to garner between \$5,000 and \$15,000 to pay for new equipment for the football team, such as uniforms, shoulder pads, helmets and end zone cameras.

Kyminda Lehman, an organizer for the event, said if there is money left over from the tournament it will go toward a new football stadium.

"The stadium itself was condemned by the county early this year because of methane gas leaks under the stadium ... We're trying to replace the field itself," she said. "That's going to depend on how much money we raise. All of our money typically goes right to the team as far as equipment and workout gear. However, if we get lucky and raise

lots of money and have lots of good sponsors, we're going to use the money to fund the stadium rebuild."

Abraham hopes to consistently raise \$15,000 from the tournament each year, but for now, he's happy the event is being implemented in general.

"Just us being able to put on the event is already a success," he said.

Since he became the new head coach for Clearwater High School, Abraham said he visited the campus every day and interacted with the students.

"I'm more familiar with the campus now," he said. "I've been there every day, trying to get things turned around. I go to the lunches every day. I interact and mingle with the guys. If I get an email about a student, I go check on them and talk with the teacher. I've been very involved and plan on continuing being involved."

He said the football program at Clearwater High School has been down in the past two years, but that he is looking forward to a new beginning.

Abraham is no stranger to coaching. He was the head coach at Gibbs High School from 2009 to 2011. He was the defensive backs coach for the Tampa Bay Storm from 2010 to 2012 and for East Lake High School from 2010 to 2011 before becoming head coach at Clearwater.

He said coming to Clearwater is similar to how it was when he came to Gibbs in 2009.

"Both situations to me were very similar, where I'm coming in and building the strong foundation," he said.

When it comes to his plans for the team, Abraham said he wants to put a strong focus on academics.

"We have to make sure the players understand that it's called 'student athlete' for a reason," he said. "The first plan is to make sure the kids are taught properly and that there's a structure and a plan ... I want our team's G.P.A. to go up and focus on that as well as things on

the football field."

A higher grade-point average, like a 2.8, will allow for more college recruiters to look at the players, he said.

"The higher you can get your G.P.A. up, the more schools will come for you," Abraham said. "The plan is to make sure we jump on our academics and at the same time build the foundation. This is a long-term goal for me, a long-term situation for me."

Abraham said he hopes members of the community will be patient during the football team's transition.

"Hopefully everybody will come out and support us (at the tournament)," he said. "We're trying to make changes in Clearwater. ... There are going to be setbacks whenever there is change. We hope we can get this going in the right direction."

Registration will take place at 7 a.m. and the shotgun start is at 8 a.m. Bidding for the silent auction will begin at 7 a.m. and will close once the golfers have started.

Prizes for the silent auction are items such as autographed sports memorabilia, vacation getaways, a weekend with a new Cadillac, a Pandora bracelet with a football charm, free dealership oil changes, gift cards, golf swing lessons, spa and salon packages and rounds of golf at various courses.

The level of sponsorship will determine celebrity golf groupings and the time the application was turned in. Highly sought after celebrities will go to the highest bidder, and biddings will take place one week before the event. Once the tiered list of celebrities is finalized, it will be emailed to those who entered, along with instructions on how to bid for celebrities.

To purchase tickets, visit shop.clearwatertomadofootball.com. Tickets are \$125 per individual and \$400 for a foursome team. The tickets include the 18-hole greens fee, cart fees, lunch and a goodie bag.

For more information about tickets and the tournament, call Amanda Wood at 656-9226 or Kyminda Lehman at 403-4516.

Here's hoping that the weather gets back on track

Let's just hope that this weekend's weather is a little better than last weekend.

If you were one of the few to make it out, you were most likely dodging thundershowers while trying to hide from the wind – nerve racking at best.

When we get these onshore wind flows like we had last weekend you really need to be on the lookout for storms all day versus the typical afternoon storms that we see this time of year. As Floridians it's very easy to become overly comfortable with pending storms.

With any luck the weather will get back on track and this new moon will offer a repeat at some of the solid fishing that was occurring around the last full moon. With an abundance of bait holding on some of the deep grass near the passes, look for a fast action bite with trout, ladyfish and Spanish mackerel. Target the strong part of the tide



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wellerstein

whether it's the incoming or the outgoing with a variety of artificial lures and/or live pilchards.

Live chumming will get the fish into a frenzy and no doubt help to put a few more fish in the boat. Free-line baits on a long shank hook with a 30 or 40 pound fluorocarbon leader.

Gag grouper season opened earlier this week and most if any haven't been out due to weather to bring any of those much sought after filets back home for the table. It looks as if that's all going to change with some nice weather on tap for the weekend. Depths as shallow as 20 feet are holding gags right now; however look for greater concentrations of fish to be found in the 50- to 80-foot range. Live pinfish are the key to luring the big fish out from under the ledge or away from the reef.

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

Morton Plant, Threshers unite against breast cancer

CLEARWATER – The Clearwater Threshers' baseball diamond soon will be a girl's best friend when the team joins forces with Morton Plant Mease for the eighth annual Pitch for Pink event to strike out breast cancer.

The event is scheduled for Friday, July 12, at Bright House Field, 601 N. Old Coachman Road.

Activities include a post-game concert featuring '80s stars Tone Loc and Rob Base, a breast cancer survivors' lap, a silent auction, a car giveaway from Dimmitt Chevrolet, and a baseball game with the Clearwater Threshers, Class A affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies, taking on the Port Charlotte Stone Crabs, Class A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays.

The event schedule is as follows:
• 5:30 p.m. – Gates open; first 1,000 women through the gates receive a commemorative Pitch for Pink tote bag

• 6 p.m. – Breast cancer survivors' lap

• 6:30 p.m. – Clearwater Threshers vs. Port Charlotte Stone Crabs
A post-game concert with Tone Loc (Funky Cold Medina, Wild Thing) and Rob Base (It Takes Two, Joy and Pain) will get everyone up and dancing.

A special part of the night is when breast cancer survivors are invited to take a lap around the bases before the game. Players from both teams, along with the fans, cheer on the survivors, offering support and recognizing their strength as they battle breast cancer.

The pink jerseys worn by the players and pink bats will be autographed and auctioned off in the silent auction with several other donated items from local businesses and individuals. Dimmitt Chevrolet will offer a chance to win a pink Chevy Camaro. Attendees have an opportunity to win prizes with pink balloons, and pink baseballs also will be available for sale.

Tickets start at \$5. Call 467-4457 or visit www.threshersbaseball.com.

Send sports news, photos and information about leagues and teams to Largo Leader Editor Juliana Torres at Tampa Bay Newspapers. Email jtorres@TBNweekly.com or call 397-5563, ext. 324.

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Coalition receives grant

CLEARWATER – The Rays Baseball Foundation awarded the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County a \$5,000 community fund grant to support the Coalition's Ready to Read program.

Ready to Read fosters early literacy by distributing books, involving parents and coordinating activities with early educators. The Rays Baseball Foundation awarded \$100,000 to 17 different organizations in the Tampa Bay area in 2013.

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Decals celebrate Florida's 500-year anniversary

New manatee and sea turtle decals from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission give people another chance to celebrate the 500-year anniversary of Juan Ponce de Leon's arrival on Florida shores and support conservation of these iconic Florida species.

Manatees and sea turtles were among the native wildlife seen by Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon and his crew in 1513, when he named the peninsula La Florida, land of the flowers. Ponce de Leon also designated a cluster of islands 70 miles west of Key West as Las Tortugas, because of sea turtles nesting there. As with other Florida beaches, the islands of Dry Tortugas National Park still have loggerhead, leatherback, green and hawksbill turtles coming back year after year to lay their eggs.

Today, the manatee is the state's designated marine mammal and the loggerhead sea turtle is the state's saltwater reptile.

"The abundance of wildlife that Ponce De Leon and his crew witnessed when arriving on Florida shores 500 years ago still exists today, thanks to people who support conservation of species such as manatees and sea turtles," said Carol Knox, FWC's imperiled species section leader. "People who voluntarily donate \$5 for a manatee or sea turtle decal increase the chances that these species will be around another 500 years."

The latest editions of the manatee and sea turtle decals went on sale July 1. Floridians can donate \$5 to receive a decal when they are registering a vehicle or vessel, or renewing a registration, through the mail or in person at county tax collectors' offices across the state. The sale of decals helps support the FWC's manatee and sea turtle research, rescue, rehabilitation, management and education efforts.

Manatee and sea turtle decals also can be ordered online at www.myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/manatee/decals.

Purchasing the "Save the Manatee" and "Helping Sea Turtles Survive" specialty Florida license plates also supports conservation of the species.

More information on Viva Florida 500 history and events can be found at www.vivaflorida.org.

Information on the history and culture of Dry Tortugas National Park is at www.nps.gov/drto/historyculture/places.htm.

Whitewater



Photo by JIM LAYFIELD

Due to the heavy rainfall throughout the evening of June 30 and into the next day, water flooded over the roadway that crosses the west canal into Largo Central Park Nature Preserve the morning of July 1, creating temporary whitewater rapids.

Enjoy a safe day on the water

By KATIE PURCELL

With more than 12,000 square miles of water, 2,000 miles of beautiful tidal shoreline and 12,000 miles of fishable rivers, streams and canals, Florida is a boating paradise.

As the weather heats up and kids get out of school, many people will be taking to the waters to cool off and relax.

That's where the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission comes in. In addition to patrolling all of Florida's waterways, FWC staff promotes access to them by developing and maintaining boat ramps. The goal is for everyone to be able to enjoy the water safely.

Each year, FWC officers rescue around 1,000 people, many of them on the water.

Earlier this year, in Escambia County, two people were left hanging onto the Bob Sikes Bridge after their boat began to take on water and sink. Fortunately, two FWC officers responded and brought them safely to shore.

However, not everyone is so lucky.

In 2012, there were over 700 boating accidents, and 55 people tragically lost their lives as a result. FWC officers do everything they can to keep people safe, but there are also measures that boaters should take to protect themselves.

Remain alert, wear a life jacket at all times and designate a sober boat operator. These three simple actions can mean the difference between a fun day on the water and a tragic one.

There are many comfortable life jackets on the market today, including compact styles that au-

tomatically inflate if you hit the water. Having it stored in a bin is legal for adults, but you will be much more likely to stay afloat if you're always wearing it.

Some popular waterways can get crowded at times. Ensuring that your boat operator pays close attention to the surroundings, including signage, other boats and animals, and hasn't had any alcohol are absolutely necessary to be safe.

Recently, FWC officers in Duval County received a complaint of an impaired boater. When they located him, he had three children onboard and was unable to dock his boat. The officers used a rope and pulled his boat to the dock. After sobriety tests and a check of his blood-alcohol level, he was arrested for BUI and taken off the water before he could injure himself or others.

If you see someone operating dangerously, putting himself or others in harm's way - say something!

The FWC's Wildlife Alert hotline, 1-888-404-FWCC (3922), is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can report fish and wildlife law violations as well as dangerous boaters. Helping the FWC is another way to stay safe and enjoy your day on the water.

Also, if you encounter any FWC officers, remember it is their job to keep people safe, and they have many ways to do that. They may put on a boating safety course for students, be called to rescue someone or in some instances, have to issue a citation.

If you are out on the water, you may be stopped briefly so they can check your vessel registration and safety equipment or inspect

your fishing licenses and catch. FWC officers are trained to handle public interactions with respect and humility. But you can help ensure a positive experience and even reduce the number of times you are stopped.

If an FWC officer spots a boat without the proper registration, it is likely that the officer will stop it. Operating recklessly is another sure way to be stopped. Also, having all of your safety gear onboard and easily accessible not only helps in case of emergency, but it makes checks go more quickly as well.

Let's work together to protect this paradise and enjoy it safely!

For more information on boating access or boating safety, visit MyFWC.com/Boating.

Editorial note: "Protecting Paradise" by Katie Purcell, Division of Law Enforcement community relations coordinator, provides a glimpse into the world of an FWC officer. Finding lost hikers, checking boaters for safety gear and teaching children about fishing and hunting are just some of the contributions they make. It will feature different topics to help communicate with the public and foster the shared passion and teamwork that are vital to protecting Florida's people and beautiful natural resources for years to come.

Briefs

McGough to host night hikes

LARGO - Night hikes will be presented Saturdays, July 20 and Aug. 17, 6:30 p.m., at George C. McGough Nature Park, 11901 146th N. St.

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

Garden club to host craft events

ST. PETERSBURG - The Creative Crafts of the Garden Club of St. Petersburg will present two craft activities in July at the Garden Center, 500 Sunset Drive S. Activities include the following:

- Stamped T-shirts - Monday, July 8, 11 a.m. Participants should bring their own T-shirt to be stamped.
- Cork coasters - Monday, July 15, 11 a.m. The cost of materials for members is \$3.50; for nonmembers, cost is \$4. Attendees take home what they craft. The public is welcome. For information, call 381-8920.

Gardening class set

PALM HARBOR - The UF/IFAS Pinellas County Master Gardeners will sponsor a gardening class on Thursday, July 11, 2 and 6:15 p.m., at Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave.

Sandy Huff, UF/IFAS Pinellas County Master Gardener, will present the class Easy Yard Maintenance for the Lazy Gardener.

Huff will be presenting a short, informative program on which plants are considered an invasive species. These invasives often push native species out of the bio structure.

The class is free but registration is requested. To register, call 582-2603 or visit pce-lawncandgarden.eventbrite.com.

Stingray season is here

CLEARWATER - The Clearwater Beach Patrol has

seen an increase in stingray injuries recently and is advising beachgoers to do the "stingray shuffle" when entering the water. When there is a high stingray advisory, purple flags are flown at the beach to warn visitors and the beach patrol stated the flags are being flown as needed.

If a beachgoer makes contact with a stingray, the beach patrol advises to contact a lifeguard or to go to the fire station at 534 Mandalay Avenue. Call 462-6963 for more information.

Book club to meet

TARPON SPRINGS - The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve will host Brooker Creek Book Club Saturday, July 6, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

The free program is geared toward adults. The book list includes novels by Florida authors, past and present, with archeology, biography, politics and history storylines. The book selection for discussion is "Star Island" by Carl Hiaasen.

The club meets first Saturdays. Advance registration is required. Seating is limited. Call 453-6500.

Weedon to host guided hikes

ST. PETERSBURG - Guided hikes will be offered Saturday, July 13, 9 to 11 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

Attendees will learn about the ecosystems and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve while going along on this free guided hike. Participants should bring water and a snack. A hat and closed-toe shoes also are recommended. The hike is best for ages 6 and older.

Preregistration is required. Call 453-6500 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

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DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR HEARING AIDS COME FROM?



HEARING LOSS The Hidden Dangers To The Brain When Hearing Loss Is Left Untreated

The consequences of an untreated hearing loss are real. Since we collect sound with our ears and process the sound in our brain, over time and without hearing assistance, we can lose the ability to understand the spoken word. This documented process is called "auditory deprivation."

According to Teri James Bellis, PhD, in her landmark book on Auditory Processing Disorder, When the Brain Can't Hear, "As sound travels through an imperfect auditory pathway, words spoken to the afflicted listener may become jumbled, distorting original meaning and rendering the words unintelligible." When you think about a conversation with all the sounds, the inflections and tempo changes, it makes communication extremely complicated. When a hearing loss has been present and untreated, the ability to follow the conversation can become extremely difficult. Without receiving the appropriate stimuli, the brain stops processing sounds like background noise and can no longer filter speech clearly. You may answer a question incorrectly, withdraw, smile and pretend you understood the conversation. This can be particularly troublesome when you are visiting the doctor, and important information is being relayed. In some cases, people have been "misdiagnosed" with Alzheimer's disease because they were unable to follow the conversation.

According to world renowned otolaryngologist, Dr. John Shea Jr., of the famed Shea Ear Clinic, "If a person is hard of hearing and they don't get amplification, they are not hearing and they lose the ability to understand." Once familiar sounds, like the hum of a refrigerator, slowly fade and become unrecognizable noise competing with spoken words.

Dr. Shea went on to say, "When presented with amplification, or hearing aids, speech understanding becomes clearer. However, it is a continual process of improvement. Stimulating the brain with sound may help to overcome the auditory deprivation process, and getting help early is critical to a long term success."

Now, the goal is to do everything we can to maintain the speech recognition you have. You need to wear the best hearing aids you can afford, full time in both ears to hear correctly. Hearing aids solve the problems people have with communication, and they help to preserve and protect the brains ability to recognize speech.

Hearing loss ranks number three behind hypertension and arthritis. Often called the invisible disability, hearing loss happens slowly over time and may go unnoticed for years. According to an article in Post Graduate Medicine, by Drs. Shohet and Bent, "Loss of hearing is a national health problem with significant physical and psychological repercussions. Although there is no cure for certain forms of hearing loss, many patients can be helped, especially when the problem is recognized early." Wearing amplification (hearing aids) has been proven to help preserve the remaining hearing and speech clarity.

If you think you may have hearing loss, the most important first step is to have your hearing tested. Your results will identify which frequencies or pitches you do or do not hear. and, if you do have a hearing loss, getting help has never been easier and with today's advanced technology - you will get clear, crisp, more natural sound.

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Leader
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Largo in the spotlight

Five musicals to come to Eight O'Clock Theatre

LARGO - Eight O'Clock Theatre will present another exciting series of musicals for its 2013-14 season.

Since 1982, Eight O'Clock Theatre has entertained theatergoers in the Tampa Bay area with live performances, bringing Broadway, Off-Broadway and original productions to the stage for local audiences. The theater first presented its productions in the Largo Community Center. Since 1996, productions have been presented in the Tonne Playhouse at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo.

Winner of Best of the Bay from Tampa Bay Magazine, Eight O'Clock Theatre recently announced its 2013-14 performance season.

"All five shows offer a glimpse of the talent we are fortunate to have here in the Tampa Bay area," the brochure explains. "We honor the tradition of combining those top-notch performers with the finest backstage technicians and behind-the-scenes stars to ensure a quality show from beginning to end."

Eight O'Clock Theatre's 2013-14 season features the following productions:

- **"South Pacific,"** with book by Oscar Hammerstein II and Joshua Logan, music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II; Sept. 6-22, 2013. Set on a tropical island during World War II, the musical tells the sweeping romantic story of two couples and how their happiness is threatened by the realities of war and by their own prejudices. Considered by many the finest musical ever written, the score's songs include such classics as "Some Enchanted Evening," "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair," "Younger Than Springtime," "Bali Ha'i," "There is Nothin' Like A Dame," "This Nearly Was Mine" and "A Wonderful Guy." Its portrayal of Americans stationed in an alien culture in wartime is as relevant today as when it first thrilled audiences in 1949. The original Broadway production won 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Score and Best Libretto. The 2008 Broadway revival won seven Tonys including Best Musical Revival. The production will be directed by Linda Weir with Amy Phillips as music director and James Grenelle as choreographer.

- **"La Cage aux Folles,"** with book by Harvey Fierstein and music and lyrics by Jerry Herman; Nov. 1-17, 2013. After 20 years of un-wedded bliss Georges and Albin, two men partnered for better or worse get a bit of both when Georges' son (fathered during a one-night fling) announces his impending marriage to the daughter of a bigoted, right-wing politician. Further complicating the situation is the family business: Albin and Georges run a drag nightclub in St. Tropez, where Albin is the star performer Zaza. Georges reluctantly agrees to masquerade as straight when he meets the family of the bride-to-be. But Albin has other plans, with hilarious results. This production will be directed by Michael Newton-Brown with Emi Stefanov as music director and James Grenelle as choreographer.

- **"Thoroughly Modern Millie,"** with book by Richard Morris and Dick Scanlan, music by Jeanine Tesori and lyrics by Dick Scanlan; Feb. 28 through March 16, 2014. This fast-paced, energetic musical comedy is set in the roaring 1920s when bobbing your hair and rolling your stockings was considered daring. Millie even colors her lips! Taking place in New York City in 1922, Millie Dillmount has just moved to the city in search of a new life for herself. It's a New York full of intrigue and jazz - a time when women were entering the workforce and the rules of love and social behavior were changing forever. Filled with frisky flappers, dashing leading men and a dragon-lady of a villainess audiences will love to hate, "Thoroughly Modern Millie" is a perfectly

See MUSICALS, page 2B



Johnny Depp, left, stars as Tonto and Arnie Hammer as John Reid in "The Lone Ranger."

Photo courtesy of WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

Opening this week

Minions return in 'Despicable Me 2' and Verbinski helms 'Lone Ranger'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'Despicable Me 2'

Genre: Adventure, animation and comedy
Cast: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Miranda Cosgrove, Russell Brand, Steve Coogan, Ken Jeong and Benjamin Bratt
Director: Chris Renaud and Pierre Coffin
Rated: PG

Universal Pictures and Illumination Entertainment's worldwide blockbuster "Despicable Me" delighted audiences around the globe in 2010, grossing more than \$540 million and becoming the 10th-biggest animated motion picture in U.S. history.

In Summer 2013, get ready for more minion madness in "Despicable Me 2." Chris Meledandri and his acclaimed filmmaking team create an all-new comedy animated adventure featuring the return of Gru (Steve Carell), the girls, the unpredictably hilarious minions ... and a host of new and outrageously funny characters.

'The Lone Ranger'

Genre: Action and adventure
Cast: Johnny Depp, Arnie Hammer, Tom Wilkinson, William Fichtner, Barry Pepper, James Badge Dale, Ruth Wilson and Helena Bonham Carter
Director: Gore Verbinski
Rated: PG-13

From producer Jerry Bruckheimer and director Gore Verbinski, the filmmaking team behind the blockbuster "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise, comes Disney/Jerry Bruckheimer Films' "The Lone Ranger," a thrilling adventure infused with action and humor, in which the famed masked hero is brought to life through new eyes.

Native American warrior Tonto (Johnny Depp) recounts the untold tales that transformed John Reid (Arnie Hammer), a man of the law, into a legend of justice - taking the audience on a runaway train of epic surprises and humorous friction as the two unlikely heroes must learn to work together and fight against greed and corruption.



Photo courtesy of UNIVERSAL PICTURES/ILLUMINATION ENTERTAINMENT
The unpredictably hilarious Minions are back in "Despicable Me 2," summer 2013's much-anticipated follow-up to Universal Pictures and Illumination Entertainment's blockbuster comedy adventure "Despicable Me."

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

'Hammer of the Gods'

Genre: Action and adventure
Cast: Charlie Bewley, Elliot Cowan, Clive Standen, Guy Flanagan

See OPENING, page 4B

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| | | |
|--|---|---|
| NEW LISTING Pride of Ownership shows in this Canterbury Chase pool home! Floor plan offers 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dining area, living room and family room. The fenced backyard is great for entertaining. \$215,000 | Seminole estate perfectly situated on 2.5 private acres. The 6,500 sq ft home was meticulously crafted in 2010 with exceptional attention to detail. There is also a 6,000 sq ft, 2 story equestrian stable with custom steel & teak stall system & RV/Boat garage. \$2,750,000 | This must see Seminole home has parking for all your toys and hobbies! There are plenty of parking areas with a 2 car carport, double driveway and room to park a boat or trailer. Plus, there is a secure bonus room to park motorcycles. \$150,000 |
| NEW LISTING Great St. Pete home with a versatile floor plan! Floor plan offers 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dining room, Florida room & screen enclosed porch. The bonus room would be great as a 3rd bedroom or in-law suite since it has a bathroom & separate entrance. \$130,000 | <p>"Sandy Reynolds and Linda Schulkamp are so professional and went above and beyond. (Sandy Hartmann & Associates) were a pleasure and made every step of selling our home easy."</p> <p>— KathyAnn Scheer</p> | NEW LISTING This immaculate Clearwater home is a must see! Floor plan features 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dining area, living room and bonus room. The bonus room would be great as an office or playroom. There is also a pool and one car garage. \$173,000 |
| This wonderful Seminole townhouse features 3 levels of functional living space and screen enclosed balconies to enjoy the water & nature views. The community has several boat slips that can be used by residents for day docking. \$175,000 | Plenty of room for everyone! This extra large property features a spacious main house and an adjoining guest home or pool house that would be great for in-laws or roommates. Plus, there is a one car garage. \$299,900 | This is an amazing opportunity to build a once in a life time custom estate. Property is an extremely rare 4 acre lot on Park St. Plus, there is a private marina with a covered boat port, tie poles for large yachts and a private beach. \$3,900,000 |

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Top five diversions

• **One Acts Weekend 2013**, July 5-7, at West Coast Players, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Performances will be Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 a person. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org. The plays selected for this year's festival are "Family Business," by Kay Poirer, Kailua, Hawaii; "Madam Tanya," by Gloria G. Murray, Deer Park, N.Y.; "How About Cannons," by David Vazdauskas, Brunswick, Maine; "Why Is This So Hard To Write?" by Victor Carr, Largo; "Romantically Challenged," by Philip Schene, Tampa; "Yiddish Land," by Ellen Davis Sullivan, Andover, Mass.; "The Baptism," by Bob Meyers, Seminole; "When Irish Eyes Are Flirting," by Joe Starzyk, Troy, N.Y.; "Happily Ever After," by Amber Karlins, Riverview; and "Drancy Station," by CC Berg, Dunedin.

• **The Madeira Beach Craft Festival**, Saturday and Sunday, July 6-7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Madeira Way between Gulf Boulevard and 150th Avenue, Madeira Beach. American Craft Endeavors will present this show which will have Madeira Way lined with fine crafters from all areas displaying their works for sale. Attendees may browse and purchase a wide variety of ceramics, jewelry, stained glass and metal works. Admission is free. Visit www.artfestival.com.

• The fourth annual **Dunedin Orange Festival**, Saturday, July 6, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., at Edgewater Park, 51 Main St., Dunedin. The annual event will feature plenty of fun and games as well as entertainment. Planned activities include the Mojo Cook-off, music, food, silent auction and programs specially designed for kids and a fun zone. Activities that may be of particular interest to younger visitors include Honeymoon Island's Nature Center Canopy; Dunedin Library Canopy, where visitors can learn and look at books regarding Dunedin's history and its connection to the citrus industry; and Dunedin's Historical Museum display, featuring items showcasing the citrus industry and its impact on Dunedin. The Dunedin Orange Bonnet Silent Auction will feature more than 25 hats from local merchants. This year's entertainment lineup will include performances by John Tucker, Jack, Josie, & Friends; Time

Bandits; 6 Volt Rodeo and Julie Black. The event headliner, Julie Black, makes frequent appearances at Florida festivals.

• **Alabama**, Saturday, July 6, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$69. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. After 40 years of making music, selling millions of records and performing for fans all over the world, Alabama has announced a brand new tour to celebrate their very first concert at The Bowery in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The Back to the Bowery Tour will be launched in South Carolina and is set to run throughout the year, making stops along the way in Alabama, Canada, Connecticut, Georgia, Miami, New York and more. The Back to the Bowery tour marks the first time Alabama has announced an extensive run since 2002. To commemorate this special occasion, they have chosen to perform in smaller, more intimate rooms in an effort to create special up-close-and-personal memories for their fans.

• **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.rutheckerdhall.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.

View the art of ikebana

LARGO - The Royal Palms Multigenerational Community will present "Scarlet Sunset on Palms," an ikebana exhibition, Saturday, Aug. 24, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 200 Lake Ave. in Largo.

Enjoy arrangements by teachers and students of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana, founded in 1927 by Sofu Teshigahara in Tokyo, Japan. He taught that ikebana, the art of arranging flowers, can be achieved anywhere, anytime, by anyone.

The event is free, and refreshments will be served. Be prepared for an afternoon of beautiful flowers designed for cool summer artistic enrichment.

Monique "Koreng" Noujaim will give a demonstration at 2 p.m., followed by a demonstration by Barbara "Koseki" Goss at 2:30 p.m.

MUSICALS, from page 1B

constructed evening of madcap merriment. Linda Weir with Amy Phillips as choreographer will direct this production.

• **"Grease,"** with book, music and lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey; May 2-11, 2014. Here comes Rydell High's senior class of 1959. The duck-tailed, hot-rodding "Burger Palace Boys" and their gum-snapping, hip-shaking "Pink Ladies" in bobby socks and pedal pushers, will evoke the look and sound of the 1950s in this rollicking musical. Head "greaser" Danny Zuko and new (good) girl Sandy Dumbrowski try to relive the high romance of their "Summer Nights" as the rest of the gang sings and dances its way through such songs as "Greased Lightnin'," "We Go Together," "There Are Worse Things I Could Do," and "You're the One That I Want," recalling the music of Buddy Holly, Little Richard and Elvis Presley that became the soundtrack of a generation. An eight-year run on Broadway and two subsequent revivals place "Grease" among the world's most popular musicals. This production will be directed and choreographed by James Grenelle.

• **"Hair,"** with book and lyrics by James Rado and Gerome Ragni, and music by Galt MacDermot; July 11-20, 2014. "Hair" - the Broadway musical live on stage, is at once both a joyous celebration of youth and a poignant journey through a tumultuous 1960s America. This exuberant musical about a group of teenagers searching for truth, peace and love in a Vietnam War era America has struck a resonant chord with audiences of all ages. "Hair" features a long list of chart topping hit songs, including "Aquarius," "Let the Sun Shine In," "Good Morning, Starshine" and "Easy To Be Hard." The themes and struggles in "Hair," although from another era, seem vital and relevant to the times we live in today. This production will be directed by Michael Newton-Brown with James Grenelle as choreographer.

Ticket information

Season ticket submissions are on sale now. A five-show season subscription costs \$125.90. A three-show season subscription - including "La Cage aux Folles," "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and "Grease" - costs \$75.55.

Single show tickets will go on sale July 15. Cost is \$25.50 for adults and \$12.50 for students age 19 and younger.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Prices and schedule are subject to change.

For information, call 587-6793 or visit www.eightclocktheatre.com.

New musical set for EOT stage

While browsing Eight O'Clock Theatre's 2013-14 season schedule, don't forget the current season still has one production before the curtains fall.

"Lost at Sea - The Swashbuckling Adventures of Alex Jones" runs July 12-21 at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances will be Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m.

This brand new musical revolves around Alex, a regular 12-year-old girl living a regular 12-year-old life ... until she sees something that changes her life forever. In a flash, Alex is thrown into a pirate adventure full of sword fights and mayhem. As fantasy becomes reality, Alex's splintered family gets caught in the middle.

"Lost at Sea - The Swashbuckling Adventures of Alex Jones" is a new musical written by Pinellas County natives Jason Tucker and Amanda Elend. Seminole High graduate Brent DiRoma stars as Captain Blood. DiRoma toured the country with Tony Award-winning shows, "Avenue Q" and "Jersey Boys." Other cast members include Maggie Musco as Alex Jones, Ashton Sarlo as Kevin Jones, Francesca Guanciale Jay as Deb Jones, Lauren Crandall as Simone, Christina Capehart as Sheila Shanks, Rand Smith as Jean Pinot, Nick Abounader as Max, Cranstan Cumberbatch as Zale, Jonathan Pouliot as Stefan, Ben Taylor as Dr. Medicus, Joe Southall as Gordon, Kyle Hill as Cook, Thomas Jay as Jack and Stu Stanford as Pete.

Tucker will direct with Emi Stefanov as music director and Amy Phillips as choreographer.

For information, call 587-6793 or visit www.eightclocktheatre.com.

Online calendar of events

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

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Crossword

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
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| 61 | | | | | | | 62 | | | | | | | |
| | 63 | | | | | | 64 | | | | | | | |

Across

- Son or daughter by marriage
10. Laboring engine sound
14. Retired with benefits
15. Print made with aluminum plate
17. Intended to regulate monopolies
18. Blend
19. Toni Morrison's "___ Baby"
20. Beanery sign
21. Iris part
22. Wading birds, such as herons or storks
24. Without concern
26. "Smart" ones
28. Atoll protector
29. 20-20, e.g.
30. Landlocked African country
32. Tropical fish with thick lips
35. Morgue, for one
36. "T" problem
37. Watergate, e.g.
41. Skyscraper, e.g.
45. Apprentice
46. Beach bird
48. Twangy, as a voice
49. Spacecraft protective covering (2 wds)
53. Fizzy drink
54. Specks in the sea
55. Competed
57. Back muscle, familiarly
58. Backgammon piece
59. Be naughty
61. Parsonage
62. Elevation instrument
63. Merlin, e.g.
64. Furniture refinishers

Down

- Like some relationships
- Defensible
- Competitors
- Telekinesis, e.g.
- Commend
- Romanian round dance
- Within the womb (2 wds)
- Rent payer
- "Silent Spring" subject (abbrev.)
- County ___, Ireland
- Conceals
- Maximums
- Camouflage ___ suit
- Some daisies
- ___ Hitchcock
- Disdain
- Drops on blades
- Fastener
- Moors
- Not "fer"
- Chesterfields, e.g.
- Separation into factions
- Ridges transitioning from a gentle slope to a cliff
- Marine rock-clinger
- "Fantasy Island" prop
- Joins the military
- Cut off
- Dead body
- Beetles
- Bad-mouth
- Perfect, e.g.
- Animal in a roundup
- Ledger entry
- Audition tape
- Fold, spindle or mutilate
- "___ Town Too" (1981 hit)

Sudoku

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

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

Sudoku answers

from last week

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

Crossword answers

from last week

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Horoscopes

July 4, 2013

Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

Give it a rest, Capricorn. Things did not go as expected, but that's no reason to harp on it. What's done is done, and a new project is headed your way.

Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

Live long and live well, Aquarius. The impetus for a healthier lifestyle is there. A marked improvement in finances relieves a major source of stress.

Pisces

February 19 - March 20

Poor Pisces. An idea falls flat, and you're back to the drawing board. Relax—a more viable idea will soon emerge. An addition breathes new life into an old room.

Aries

March 21 - April 19

The work pace picks up. Keep your nose to the grindstone. Aries, but don't shut the world out. Take time out to mingle, or your focus will suffer.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Destiny is calling. Don't deny it, Taurus. It's your turn to shine. A youngster's plea is urgent. Get a move on. News from home makes your heart skip a beat.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21

The guesswork is over, Gemini, and it's time to get real. What will it take to implement your idea? Without the answer to that question, you won't get far.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22

Financial proposals arrive by the dozen, but only a few have potential. Do your homework to ensure you come out on top. Cancer. An email provides an answer.

Leo

July 23 - August 22

An abrupt change in plans at work kicks the rumor mill into high gear. Pay it no heed, Leo. Time will tell fact from fiction. A phone call teases fun.

Virgo

August 23 - September 22

Roses are red, violets are blue and someone is in love with you-know-who. The hunt for an heirloom begins. Start with the unexpected, Virgo.

Libra

September 23 - October 22

Get ready for some fun, Libra, as many opportunities are ahead. A bump in pay helps out with a purchase. An old friend reveals a secret.

Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

Sweet, Scorpio! The extra hours you put in on a project pay off, and the results are astounding. A health crisis is abated with some dietary changes.

Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

Time for a new plan of attack, Sagittarius. You've been spinning your wheels for far too long. A coworker makes you an offer you can't refuse.

KC & Sunshine Band to play at Tropicana Field after Rays game

ST. PETERSBURG – KC & The Sunshine Band has been added to the acts performing at Tropicana Field this summer as part of the Tampa Bay Rays' 2013 Summer Concert Series.

The band is scheduled to perform at the conclusion of the Rays-Astros game on Saturday, July 13 at 4:10 p.m.

All postgame concerts are free with the purchase of that day's game ticket. In addition to their game tickets, fans can watch various acts from the field by purchasing field access wristbands, available at raysbaseball.com/concerts.

So far this summer, Kenny Loggins, Martina McBride, and the Imagination Movers have all appeared on stage at Tropicana Field. The remaining acts scheduled to perform are the Felice Brothers, June 29 vs. Detroit; Carly Rae Jepsen, July 14 vs.

Houston; OneRepublic, Aug. 17 vs. Toronto; and Victoria Justice, Aug. 18 vs. Toronto.

Harry "KC" Wayne Casey started KC & The Sunshine Band out of a Miami record store in 1973. Forty years later, his "Sunshine Sound" still gets audiences worldwide out of their seats and dancing.

The band's brass-oriented disco flavor was developed through KC's exposure to pop, reggae and Latin music and served as the backbone to their iconic hits – "Get Down Tonight," "That's the Way (I Like it)," and "Shake Your Booty."

With over 30 albums to the band's name, their music has long survived the disco era, selling over 100 million albums, and is featured on more than 200 motion picture soundtracks. Even with the band's songs played in arenas worldwide, KC has

never forgotten his roots. He is proud to have never moved farther than 10 miles away from his hometown of Hialeah, saying, "Why move from an area that not only do I love, but owe so much to?"

Nearly four decades after first gaining notoriety, KC & The Sunshine Band is still going strong and continues to perform its enduring music in venues around the country.

Single game tickets for Rays 2013 regular season home games are available at all Ticketmaster outlets, the Rays Tampa Store at 400 N. Tampa St.; and the Gate 1 Tropicana Field Box Office, as well as over the phone at 888-FAN-RAYS and 1-800-745-3000, or online at raysbaseball.com.

This marks the sixth season of the Rays Summer Concert Series, produced by Ruth Eckerd Hall on the Road.

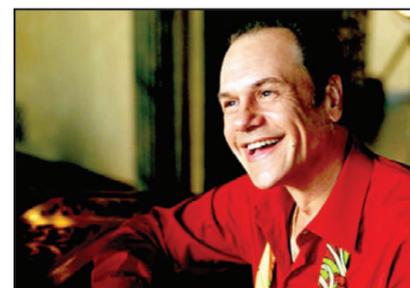


Photo courtesy of TAMPA BAY RAYS
Harry "KC" Wayne Casey started KC & the Sunshine Band in a Miami record store in 1973.

Dunedin Orange Festival celebrates connection to the citrus industry

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

The fourth annual Dunedin Orange Festival will be Saturday, July 6, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., at Edgewater Park, 51 Main St., Dunedin.

The annual event will feature plenty of fun and games as well as entertainment. Planned activities include the Mojo Cook-off, music, food, silent auction and programs specially designed for kids and a fun zone.

Among the activities that may be of particular interest to younger visitors are the following:

- Honeymoon Island's Nature Center Canopy
- Dunedin Library Canopy, where visitors can learn and look at books regarding Dunedin's history and its connection to the citrus industry
- Dunedin's Historical Museum display, featuring items showcasing the citrus industry and its impact on Dunedin.
- The Dunedin Orange Bonnet Silent Auction will feature more than 25 hats from local merchants. Attendees may bid on their favorite bonnet, all designed and made by downtown merchants. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Dunedin Historical Museum.

This year's Mojo Cook-off will



Photo by PAULA SHOWEN

Julie Black headlines this year's Dunedin Orange Festival July 6.

kick off at 11:30 a.m. Guests will have an opportunity to sample delicious Mojo pork dishes and vote on their favorite dish for a \$10 donation. Defending the title will be Sea Sea Riders. Challengers include Dunedin Brewery, Flanagan's Irish Pub, Kelly's, Serendipity Café, The Living Room, Smokehouse, Marguerite's and Café Alfresco.

The winner of the contest will be announced at 3 p.m.

This year's festival will boast a new component: Orange Fest After Dark.

Beginning at 4 p.m. and running until 10 p.m., Orange Fest After Dark will showcase live music in the park with local vendors. Attendees can bring a blanket for sunset viewing – and dance the night away.

This year's entertainment lineup, provided by organizer Steve Spathelf, includes the following:

- 10 to 11:30 a.m. – KJ
- 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – John Tucker, DJ
- 2:30 to 4 p.m. – Jack, Josie, & Friends
- 4 to 5:30 p.m. – Time Bandits

- 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – 6 Volt Rodeo
- 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. – Julie Black

The event headliner, Julie Black, makes frequent appearances at Florida festivals. The critically acclaimed songwriter released her debut CD "Call Me Angel for Blues" in 2007. Black songs inspire with stories of life and love. Her sultry, powerful vocals weave potent tales within sumptuous melodies and rhythms.

As Black's fan base continues to grow, she performs often at major music festivals, concert halls and select venues. Her passionate live performances are intensified by the superb musicianship of her world-class band which features Dave Eichenberger on guitar, Michael

Johnn on keys, Father Bill Spicuglia on bass and Frankie Timpanelli on drums.

Another side of Dunedin's history

Pinellas residents are well aware of Dunedin's proud Scottish roots.

The city showcases its Scottish heritage at two annual events: The Dunedin Highland Games and the Dunedin Celtic Festival. It also celebrates its background with the annual Military Tattoo, an exhibition of marching bands, bagpipe bands, brass bands, highland dancers and more.

But there is another side of Dunedin's history. Like much of Pinellas, the land in and around Dunedin once was covered with seemingly endless orange groves.

Several years ago, Dunedin resident and artist Steven Spathelf decided to remind people that Dunedin's history is tied to those orange groves – to growing citrus trees and packing crates filled with oranges bound for markets around Florida and elsewhere. The citrus industry was important to Dunedin from the late 1800s through the middle of the 20th century.

The Skinner and Douglas families were huge names in this industry.

As an artist, Spathelf particularly found himself drawn to the beautifully designed labels that were made to go on each side of the fruit crates. The Skinner and Douglas families of Dunedin had many such labels designed.

See FESTIVAL, page 4B

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Looking Ahead

Clearwater

• **Kathy Griffin**, Saturday, July 13, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$52.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Griffin - two-time Emmy winner, New York Times bestselling author, five-time Grammy nominee, Broadway darling, 2009's GLAAD Vanguard recipient and 2011 Trevor Project Life Award honoree - returns to Ruth Eckerd Hall. This will be Kathy's eighth appearance at Ruth Eckerd Hall, making audiences laugh for years discussing Hollywood gossip and celebrity blunders.

Largo

• **"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.

• **"So You Think You're a Movie Buff?"**, Friday, July 19, 8 p.m., at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo. Black Box Theatre and the Gypsy Stage Repertory will present "So You Think You're a Movie Buff?" The event will offer a "night of fun and unique entertainment where scenes, monologues and iconic one-liners from famous films are performed live with a trivia twist," according to a press release. Attendees may follow along and answer questions and/or name the movie, the actors, character names, movie theme song and more. Tickets

are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Prizes will be awarded. Call 518-3131 or visit LargoCommunityCenter.com.

• **Colin Hay**, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$34.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Best known as the lead singer for the platinum selling Australian band "Men At Work" and his 11 solo albums, Colin Hay is happy to announce his 2013 "Finding My Dance" World Tour coming to the Largo Cultural Center. The Largo performance is one of only three dates scheduled for Florida in 2013.

St. Petersburg

• **"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.

• **George Lopez**, Friday, July 19, 8 p.m., at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$46. Call 893-7832 or visit themahaffey.com. Lopez, whose career spans standup comedy, sitcom television, film and late-night TV, is one of the premier comedic talents in the entertainment industry who is praised by both audiences and critics alike. After several years of performing standup, Lopez, in 2002, co-created, wrote,

produced and starred in Warner Bros. Television's groundbreaking hit situation comedy, "George Lopez," which ran for six seasons on ABC. Today the show remains a hit with viewers in syndication on both broadcast stations and cable's Nick at Nite, ranking as one of the top-rated shows on the network and among the top five comedies and top 20 weekly programs in syndication. Lopez debuted his acclaimed comedy concert, "Why You Crying?" on Showtime in 2004, filmed two HBO Comedy Specials: the first in 2007, "America's Mexican" and in 2009, "Tall, Dark and Chicano." He earned a Grammy nomination in 2004 and 2006 for Best Comedy Album. His autobiography, "Why You Crying?" made the New York Times Bestseller Top 20 list.

• **"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.

Tampa

• **"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.jobsiteheater.org. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 4 p.m. Tickets are \$28.



Photo courtesy of MAGNET RELEASING

Charlie Bewley and Alexandra Dowling in "Hammer of the Gods," a Magnet Release.

OPENING, from page 1B

and Michael Jibson
Director: Farren Blackburn
Rated: R

Set in Viking Britain in A.D. 871, "Hammer of the Gods" is a visceral, intense tale set in a world whose only language is violence. A young Viking warrior, Steinar (Charlie Bewley), is sent by his father the king on a quest to find his estranged brother, who was banished from the kingdom many years before. Steinar's epic journey across terrifyingly hostile territory gradually sees him emerge as the man his father wants him to be - the ruthless and unforgiving successor to his throne.

'This Way, Way Back'

Genre: Comedy and drama
Cast: Steve Carell, Toni Collette, Allison Janney, AnnaSophia Robb, Sam Rockwell, Maya Rudolph and Liam James, Amanda Peet and Rob Corddry
Director: Nat Faxon and Jim Rash
Rated: PG-13

"The Way, Way Back" is the funny and poignant coming of age story of 14-year-old Duncan's (Liam James) summer vacation with his mother, Pam (Toni Collette), her overbearing boyfriend, Trent (Steve Carell), and his daughter, Steph (Zoe Levin). Having a rough time fitting in, the introverted Duncan finds an unexpected friend in gregarious Owen (Sam Rockwell), manager of the Water Wizz water park. Through his funny, clandestine friendship with Owen, Duncan slowly opens up to and begins to finally find his place in the world - all during a summer he will never forget.

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



Photo courtesy of FOX SEARCHLIGHT

AnnaSophia Robb stars as Susanna and Liam James as Duncan in "The Way, Way Back."

FESTIVAL, from page 3B

Visitors to the Dunedin Historical Museum can view some of these vintage labels.

Spathelf has admired, collected and has been inspired by the de-

signs of these vintage fruit crate labels for years. In 2009, Spathelf and fellow resident Marsha Goins got up early one morning, stealthily invaded the downtown area and secretly painted a series of "loose" oranges around the district in an attempt to remind city residents about the importance of citrus.

The reaction was overwhelmingly positive and the scheme quickly led local merchants to create a festival revolving around

the concept. With the help of the Dunedin Historical Museum and the Dunedin Chamber of Commerce, the Dunedin Orange Festival was born.

The inaugural event was presented July 3, 2010.

The Dunedin Orange Festival serves as a fundraiser for the Dunedin Historical Society and The Dunedin Chamber Foundation. The fourth annual Orange Festival proceeds will help enable the Dunedin Historical Museum

to follow its mission to educate and preserve the community's rich cultural heritage.

Funds are used to maintain educational programming such as museum exhibits, traveling exhibits to local schools and community centers and create exciting projects for summer camp students. These programs directly serve and benefit the students and community of Dunedin.

For information, visit duned.inorangefestival.com.

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Views. Large 2BR/2BA, Dining
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345. Lost & Found

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Call (727)581-8119 anytime.

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ing 6/24, vicinity of Oakhurst Rd.
and Bellewood, Seminole. Owner
heartbroken, REWARD. Call
(727)460-3551, anytime.

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down to Indian Rocks Beach
Bridge. Missing since 6/5/13.
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Plus for the next four weeks, homeowners who purchase WeatherTite windows will get a special price of buy two windows and get one window free! As a bonus, receive a FREE fiberglass entry door, with minimum purchase.

Mr. Hollander emphasized the program is effective immediately – and he will be able to arrange low monthly payments to suit the budgetary needs of every homeowner. This very special program features the finest tilt-in window manufactured today.

These offers are available with 100% financing, no interest and no prepayment penalty.

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Madeira Beach welcomes new juried craft festival this summer

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

MADEIRA BEACH – American Craft Endeavors, producer of many high-end juried craft fairs throughout South Florida, will return to Madeira Beach with another superior show.

The Madeira Beach Craft Festival will debut Saturday and Sunday, July 6-7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Madeira Way between Gulf Boulevard and 150th Avenue.

Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

This will be a juried outdoor craft showcase featuring a wide variety of original crafts, all handmade in America. Attendees will find unique and affordable gift items at prices set to suit all budgets – ranging from as little as \$3 to \$3,000.

The participating crafters are hand-selected from hundreds of applicants. As with all American Craft Endeavors festivals, the crafters will be on site for the duration of festival, offering shoppers an opportunity to meet them and learn a little bit about their passion for creativity.

As for what kinds of crafts shoppers can expect to find: American Craft Endeavors always boasts a variety of craft media at its festivals. Attendees will likely find folk art, pottery, personalized gifts, handmade clothing, basket weaving, beaded utensils, candles, cork assemblage, fabric design, fiber quilts, fused wax and glass, hair accessories, handbags and accessories, handmade cards, leather, mosaic, wood, painted wood, plaster craft and stained glass.

The festival also will include a Green Market component, with vendors offering exotic plants and orchids, body products and gourmet spices, jams, dips and spreads.

The Madeira Beach Craft Festival joins the Madeira Beach Thanksgiving Weekend Craft Festival as the second annual American Craft Endeavors show. The other event debuted last November with great success. According to American Craft Endeavors, this summer show will once again transform Madeira Way into an outdoor craft showcase featuring the work of the finest crafters in the country.

According to American Craft Endeavors, a portion of the proceeds from the Madeira Beach Craft Festival will benefit the city's 9/11 Memorial at Causeway Park.

"Volunteers will be selling T-shirts and accepting donations as well as sharing information about the memorial," said AnaBelle Dweck, publicist for American Craft Endeavors, in a recent email. "The proceeds from the festival should cover the cost of the memorial plaque."

Gail Small will be one of the participating crafters at the inaugural show.

Small is a regular at American Craft Endeavors festivals. Before breaking into the craft scene, she had a very different career.

"After holding senior management positions in Fortune 500 companies for over 20 years and obtaining a MBA, I now have the opportunity to start my own small business," Small says in her artist biography. "The prospect of operating a successful green recycling business is very rewarding."

Small created Last Call Glass. The mission of Last Call Glass is to recycle and reclaim beautiful glass bottles.

"The natural beauty and colors of glass gives us the inspiration to create unique and amazing products that are fun and fashionable," Small says. "They are not put into a kiln and melted, thus creating a very natural authentic look."

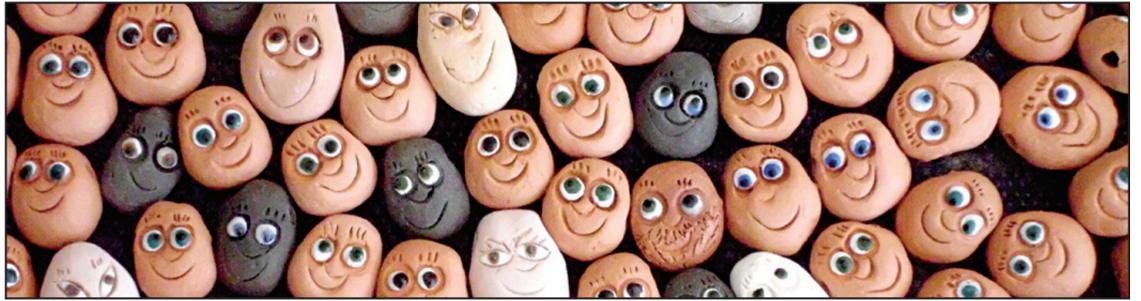
Small creates a variety of eye-catching jewelry products from the reclaimed glass bottles.

The talented crafter Walter Catts will be displaying his creations at the festival. Catts hails from Palmetto where he has his own carpentry



Photos courtesy of AMERICAN CRAFT ENDEAVORS

Above, Walter Catts makes creative Florida-style furniture from reclaimed shutters. At right, Gail Small uses recycled glass bottles to make artistic jewelry products. Below, Paula Knudsen makes Frumples. Catts, Small and Knudsen will be displaying their creations at the Madeira Beach Craft Festival July 6-7.



shop, Catts Carpentry Inc. There, he creates beautiful furniture utilizing old shutters.

"Our furniture is reminiscent of true coastal cottage décor," Catts says on his Facebook page. "Each piece is handcrafted; sturdy construction, built to last."

His pieces are perfect for any Florida home or any home by the water. Paula Knudsen is another crafter scheduled to take part in the festival. Knudsen makes Frumples.

"Frumples are a dream come true," she writes on her website, www.frumples.com. "I am a potter and worked in a studio with three to eight other potters for years." The studio did not have a pugmill – a machine that remixes scraps into usable clay – so Knudsen kept all the scraps in zip-lock bags.

"I had the Frumple dream and my sister said make something and I used all the scraps to make little faces – all different colors just like people," Knudsen writes. She then printed and laminated her original

poems, putting them on little cards. "I put out bowls of Frumples and the cards and people could pick a Frumple to go with the title of the card they liked ..."

American Craft Endeavors

American Craft Endeavors produces some of the nation's most exciting high-end juried craft shows in many of Florida's vibrant downtown areas and popular tourist destinations including the Siesta Fiesta Craft Festival in Sarasota and the Downtown Sarasota Craft Festivals in Sarasota. The group's founders personally select unique, culture rich cities for their show locations providing a complete outdoor experience unmatched by other festivals. All crafters are hand-selected from hundreds of applicants in order to ensure a superior event featuring diverse art media and the highest quality of original handmade crafts.

For information on other upcoming shows, visit www.artfestival.com.

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