

Largo police place in state challenge

Department recognized for traffic safety efforts ... Page 3A.

LARGO LEADER

'The Wolverine,' and 'The To Do List' open in theaters this week

Also, check out local entertainment events including the Vans Warped Tour ... Page 1B.



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July 25, 2013

COUNTY



Sheriff explains challenges of job

Despite years of budget cuts, Sheriff Bob Gualtieri is able to point to some areas where the sheriff's office is starting to make a comeback. ... Page 4A.

CRIME BEAT

Largo man gets 42 years for murder

Larry Joe Jerry Jr. of Largo was sentenced to 42 years in prison July 11 for the murder committed on Nov. 30, 2010.



Larry Joe Jerry Jr.

The victim, Annie Marie Conyers, 25, of Clearwater was a passenger in a gold vehicle with three other females and a young child that fateful day in 2010. ... Page 6A.

BUSINESS

TBN wins 12 contest awards

Tampa Bay Newspapers won 12 awards in the Florida Press Association's Better Weekly Newspaper Contest, including five first place awards. ... Page 7A.

OUTDOORS



Dozing in a diamond field

Yes, dolphins have down time. No, they do not stop swimming. They just swim slower and more methodically. They have to stay vigilant, like people in a cash-strapped economy. ... Page 13A.

VIEWPOINTS

Debra Saunders

Hunger strikes and nutritional waterboarding. ... Page 10A.



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Fishing museum prepares to vacate

Museum's relationship with county ending in dispute over rent and repairs

By SUZETTE PORTER

LARGO - Summer fishing camps are ending, as is the landlord-tenant relationship between Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum and Pinellas County.

The center and museum will vacate the facilities inside the county's Pinewood Cultural Park, 12211 Walsingham Road in Largo, on Aug. 10.

Jim Simons, president of Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing Foundation, said there was really no choice due to the ongoing dispute with Pinellas County, the museum's landlord. The county filed a lawsuit against the nonprofit organization in May because of past due rent. Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing in turn filed a lawsuit against the county for lack of maintenance and repairs.

Simons said the rent wasn't paid because the county wasn't making necessary repairs, among other things. County Attorney Jim Bennett was closed-lipped on the matter.

"Both cases are ongoing so it would be inappropriate for me to comment on litigation other than

to say that both sides presently have pending motions," Bennett said in an email.

Simons said the only reason the fishing center and museum remained in the county's property as long as it did after the lawsuits were filed was to finish out the summer fishing camps. Approximately 100 kids took part in this year's camp, held at the center and the lake at Walsingham Park.

He expects to announce a new location soon. He's also making plans to store the center and museum's property until a new location is ready.

The Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum is the first location established by the First Fish Forever Foundation, a brainchild of Simons and his wife Jana. The goal is to "begin to positively impact a generation of children and our environment," according to a statement on the foundation's website, centerforfishing.org.

Simons said despite the dispute with the county, his mission remains unchanged, and he remains proud of the affect the fishing clubs have

See MUSEUM, page 4A



Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum is vacating the facilities inside Pinellas County's Pinewood Cultural Park, 12211 Walsingham Road in Largo, on Aug. 10.

Softball master

At 83, Ethel Lehmann of Largo is still changing the game of softball for seniors, locally and nationwide

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - Back in 1951, Ethel Lehmann promised her mother that she would stop playing softball.

"That was not a thing for a young woman to be doing, but I loved it so much, I did it anyway," she recalled. "But I made a promise I would stop at (age) 21."

In 1947, Lehmann had been named the Most Valuable Player of her softball team at Hicksville High School in Long Island, N.Y. She led the league in home runs and stolen bases.

She was very good at softball, but she kept her promise. She became a typist for a book publishing company. She had five children in as many years, and in 1974, she moved to Florida with her husband as he pursued a job offer.

In Florida, the softball bug caught up with her. Sixty-two years after she promised her mother she would quit softball, Lehmann - who now lives in Largo and has nine grandchildren - is still an active, competitive softball player.

"Thank God, I'm still alive to see that society has changed. They no longer look at a female and say that there's something wrong with her," she said.

This week, Lehmann and the woman's softball team she founded, Freedom Spirit of Florida, compete in the National Senior Games in Cleveland, Ohio, concluding July 27. The senior games, held every two years, features the more than 10,000 adults older than 50. Lehmann's team will compete in the 70-plus division, and she believes their chances of taking home gold are very good.



Ethel Lehmann, 83, of Largo was named as Humana Game Changer for the National Senior Games in Cleveland, Ohio, held July 24-27. She competes in the games with her 70+ softball team, Freedom Spirit of Florida.

"In fact, I know we'll do well," Lehmann said. "This softball team is really a very unique group of women that are mostly grandmas, and some are even great-grandmas."

In this year's games, Lehmann has been honored as Humana

Game Changer for serving as a role model to seniors. Since moving to Florida, she has broken barriers for her gender as well as age. When she was 47, she started playing in a ladies' league in

See MASTER, page 2A

Commission nixes new tax rate for stabilization fund

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - When Pinellas County Administrator Bob LaSala presented his balanced budget for fiscal year 2013-2014 during a regular commission meeting July 9, he proposed adding a new dedicated millage to fund a continuation of the service level stabilization account.

During the recession years, the commission made budget cuts over the amount needed for any given year to build a pot of money to be used when the economy began to improve to provide a "glide path" to a "softer landing" in future years.

Staff confirmed at a July 16 budget work session that \$10.7 million remains in that account. Most of the money was used to balance the current year budget. LaSala proposed retaining the \$10.7 million and adding to it with a new millage rate of 0.2154 to establish a service level continuation account.

The money would accumulate for use during the next recession, which he said is inevitable.

LaSala also proposed a millage rate increase for the general fund and emergency medical services fund. LaSala showed the impact of all three rate increases on a chart, using a single family home with a taxable value of \$100,000, after a homestead exemption of \$50,000. The total tax increase would be \$55.36 - \$26.50 for the general fund, \$7.32 for emergency medical services and \$21.54 for the service level continuation account.

The increase would bring in an additional \$14.1 million for

the general fund, \$3.6 million for EMS and \$11.5 million for the service level continuation account.

While the commission conceded that the service level continuation account was a good idea, no one supported funding it through a levy of additional taxes. Most said now is not the time to be placing an additional tax burden on residents.

"I have no desire to move forward" with the service level continuation account, said Commission Susan Latvala. She called it a "wise thing to do" but was concerned about the timing.

"I'm not supportive," she said. Commission Chair Ken Welch agreed.

"I also will not support it," he said. Instead, Welch suggested that it be funded by "pay as you go." He said if any extra money was available in the budget, the commission could then decide whether to fund a project or put the money into the account.

"The concept does make sense," he said. "We just need to do it, pay as you go."

Commissioner Karen Seel said she had mixed feelings. She said the state of Michigan uses such an account and it had turned out to be a "very wise move."

"Now's not the time," she added.

She agreed with Welch that the account could be a consideration if any excess money became available in the budget.

Commissioners also discussed the increase in millage

See TAX RATE, page 5A

Report sheds some light on proposed EMS solution

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County Commissioners were attentive and several asked questions July 19 during a work session on the final report from Fitch and Associates' operational analysis of emergency medical services and fire deployment and response.

Now they have a big decision to make. The commission will convene again Aug. 1 to talk about the report and try to find an affordable solution for countywide emergency medical services.

During the July 19 meeting, commissioners heard that Pinellas County has "one of the best EMS systems in America."

Jay Fitch said the county's system "rates at the top of the list in many categories." Per the contract, his company

did not consider anything that would lower the current level of service.

Fitch's team used financial and operational data from 2011 merging information from the county and Sunstar Paramedics, the provider for ambulances service, to "make a single unified model." The data was used to run a number of scenarios through a software application from the Optima Corporation.

Chris Callsen, Optima's chief operating officer, said the scenarios used data from about 155,000 911 calls and 44,000 inter-facility transports (non-emergency). He said using data over a year's time allowed them to gauge travel over beach roads in the summer months versus winter, during rush hour and other environmental conditions.

Callsen showed a map of Pinellas that

included EMS infrastructure, including fire stations, Sunstar's deployment locations and hospitals. They added vehicles and calls and ran simulations to establish a baseline.

"You have a very busy system," he said. Guillermo Fuentes presented most of the report on Fitch's behalf. He said the most important aspect of the report was understanding the data.

"We were interested in call volume per area versus who did it," he said.

Using the same data for each simulation, Fitch's team evaluated performance versus workload - the first unit that arrived on the scene to provide primary care versus total activity associated with a call, he explained.

Some scenarios were optimized to see if making changes, for example moving a

unit or a base, would make things better or worse, he said.

The cost model included only personnel costs to eliminate "what if" scenarios involving equipment and station locations, etc. He said over the year, fire and Sunstar personnel combined worked 1.2 million hours with personnel costs of \$112.8 million.

He reviewed the IPS model, which mirrors recommendations from a 2011 study by consultant Mic Gunderson, one of the principals with Integral Performance Solutions. Fuentes explained that the IPS model proposed to save money by reducing the amount of rescue units in the system and replacing them with other more expensive apparatus. He said taking away

See EMS, page 4A

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City calendar

Largo City Hall

The Largo City Hall is at 201 Highland Ave. Largo City Commission meetings are held on first and third Tuesdays, 6 p.m., in the commission chambers. Work sessions are held second Tuesdays, 6 p.m., in the community room. For more information, contact the city clerk's office at 587-6710, email dbruner@largo.com or visit www.Largo.com.

Schedule for 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. They are as follows:

- **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.

Charter review meetings open to the public

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 – scheduled until Jan. 28, 2014 – are open to the public. The committee is scheduled to request input from the public during the Nov. 20 meeting.

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.

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.

Call 586-7424 or visit www.LargoRecycles.com.

Highland Recreation Complex

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

Children invited to Itty-Bitty Splashtime

LARGO – Itty-Bitty Splashtime is back every Monday, Wednesday and Friday through Aug. 17, 9:35 to 10:35 a.m., at the Highland Family Aquatic Center.

The cost is \$1.50 per person.

Parents can spend quality time with their preschool-aged children in a safe and playful aquatic environment. Enjoy the slides, sprays, zero depth pool area and much more. Mom's clubs are welcome.

Children not potty-trained must wear a plastic swim diaper under their bathing suit. Call 518-3018 or visit LargoPools.com.

Les Mills class

LARGO – Les Mills Body Pump, the original barbell class, is offered at the new Highland Recreation Complex.

Body Pump is designed to sculpt, tone and strengthen your entire body, fast. Certified instructors will provide resistance workout training that focuses on low weight loads and high repetition movements to help burn fat, gain strength and quickly produce lean body muscle conditioning.

Celebrate summer's end

LARGO – The Highland Family Aquatic Center will host the Tidalwave Finale pool party for teenagers Monday, Aug. 12, 7 to 10 p.m., at 400 Highland Ave.

Admission is \$4 with a recreation card or \$5 without one.

Activities will include a water balloon fight, outdoor water games, an extra long swim session and dancing with the lifeguards all night. Door prizes will be given out, and Splash's Snack Bar will be open.

Lego Building

LARGO – Lego Building, for ages 5 to 12, will meet Saturday, Aug. 17, 10 to 11 a.m., at Southwest Recreation Complex.

Get hands-on experience while learning construction, programming and teamwork. Tickets are \$5 for residents, \$6.25 for nonresidents or \$9.25 without a recreation card

Largo Community Center

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

Free movie shown

LARGO – Imperial Palms Apartments will sponsor Movies of the Silver Screen Thursday, Aug. 22, noon to 3 p.m., at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road.

Admission is free. Refreshments will be sold.

MASTER, from page 1A

Clearwater, competing with 18- to 20-year-old players, not very much older than her five teenagers at home.

"I was the one walking in saying, 'Wow, what a great game we had! all dirty with my uniform on,'" Lehmann said with a laugh.

She briefly retired at 53, after a doctor scared her into believing she was at risk for breaking a leg or her back. But at 61, the urge to play came back. At the time, there was no senior women's team in Florida. So Lehmann joined a men's senior softball club in Clearwater. When she was 75, she became the first woman in history to join the historic Kids N' Kubs Senior Softball Club in St. Petersburg.

It was about 1990 that Lehmann first heard about the National Senior Games. For the first two games, she competed just in track and field – she usually competes in the 100-, 200-, 400-meter runs as well as the long jump, high jump and javelin throw.

But then she began recruiting track and field athletes for her first love: woman's softball.

The team she co-founded was first named Florida Spirit. Since the 1995 National Senior Games, the team has won two bronzes, three silvers and four golds – three of those were won in back-to-back years be-

tween 2001 and 2005.

The team plays on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Clearwater and includes players that live mostly in Pinellas County, some live in Florida only part time. Recently, the team competed in a Softball Players Association tournament in Pensacola, competing for the first time as a 75-plus team, but within the 70-plus division because there weren't other teams to compete against.

Freedom Spirit took home the gold in that tournament, not even needing the five extra runs they were allotted because of the age discrepancy in the first three games they played.

The love of the game keeps the group going as well as the knowledge that the softball contributes to the players' health, both mentally and physically, Lehmann said. The team, which will resume practicing in September, is already planning on attending the 2015 senior games in Minneapolis, Minn.

"When I was younger I never, never would have dreamed that I would be seeing all these different states," she said.

In the off years, Lehmann competes in the World Senior Games, where she's able to fit in track and field competitions to her schedule.

"I was born athletic," she admitted.

Lehmann said her five children haven't pursued sports as actively as she has. But four of her grandsons ran with her in the Tampa Bay Times

Turkey Trot 5K.

"I did tell them to go on ahead of me. But at least they all came out," she said.

She said she hopes that she can be a role model for them. She also hopes that she can inspire the current generation of "younger ball players," to not forget their love of softball once they're married and have kids.

"They can always go back to playing softball once they're seniors," she said.

Interviewed from a family member's home in New York – a week before the games were to begin in Ohio – Lehmann said she had just finished "running up and down a mountain."

"I'm going to be 84 in November, so I know my limitations," she said. "Today, I just didn't feel that peppy, so I only did two miles. But usually I can do three miles."

Lehmann said she is at the point where she has to take naps in the afternoon. But she continues to set fitness goals for herself, even when her softball team takes a summer break. She jogs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. When she's in Florida, she still practices with the Kids N' Kubs Senior Softball Club on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. She bowls on Fridays, wants to squeeze in an upper body workout with the Silver Sneakers program and "now and then, I swim."

"I just love sports, period," she said. "I used to run home from school at 3 o'clock, just so I could get in the last couple of innings of the New York Yankees, and Joe DiMaggio hardly ever disappointed me."

Lehmann said she's glad that sports have been claimed as a valid pursuit for girls. When she was little, "tomboy" was the nicest name she was called for her love of sports.

"Even track and field, that was for the boys. Baseball was for the boys – all those sports. To have a girl play, they always looked down on us," she said. "That's all changed. And I'm so happy to be alive to see the change."

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072513

Largo police place in state challenge

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - The Largo Police Department came home from the Florida Law Enforcement Liaison awards ceremony in Orlando July 19 with third and sixth place trophies.

The awards ceremony celebrated successful campaigns in traffic safety in 2012, marked by a decrease in motor vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities. Competing against other agencies of a similar size, Largo police placed third in the Florida DUI Challenge. In the Florida Motor Unit Challenge, Largo placed sixth out of the entire state.

The grant-funded program, sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, is designed to help agencies track and improve annual traffic safety statistics.

"It actually allows us to keep track of our data, and encourages us to do so, to increase traffic safety and reduce fatalities throughout the year," said Officer Anthony Citrano of the department's traffic safety unit.

Along with comparing the department with other agencies, the program gives Largo a benchmark or a baseline of its own statistics to try to improve each year. "Obviously, it's not a static situation," Citrano said, explaining that a particularly busy summer or even a large construction project can cause an unanticipated increase in traffic crashes.

"It's hard to gauge that," he said. "But we always try to reduce fatalities and increase traffic safety."

As a benefit of participating in the challenges, agencies also have access to traffic safety support materials, including social media resources, and participation in statewide public awareness campaigns like Click it or Ticket. Use of the materials allows the department to "not reinvent the wheel" when it comes to local public awareness efforts, Citrano explained.

To participate in the challenges, the Largo Police Department provides statistics to the program throughout the year. They also filed data for special traffic enforcement campaigns, usually associated with holidays that tend to be "synonymous with drinking and driving," such as Labor Day or Fourth of July, Citrano said. The data from all agencies are independently audited, with the results of the previous year released in July.

The Florida DUI Challenge is a yearlong initiative that awards agencies for dedicating resources to impaired driving enforcement, public awareness and training. In practice, the campaign tracks all traffic fatalities, but focuses on impaired driver crashes, Citrano said.

The Florida Motor Unit Challenge was a broader safety campaign, utilizing high visibility enforcement. The program compared changes in statistics in the enforcement of speed limits, red lights and seat belt laws.



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

In the Florida Department of Transportation's Florida Law Enforcement Liaison program, the Largo Police Department placed third in the Florida DUI Challenge and sixth in the Florida Motor Unit Challenge. The trophies were awarded during a ceremony at the Shingle Rosen Hotel in Orlando July 19.

"I think Largo Police is one of the few agencies, even though we've had our share of budget cuts, ... that has maintained a full awareness of traffic safety."

- Officer Anthony Citrano

In application, the day shift of Largo's traffic safety unit participated in the Motor Unit Challenge. The unit's DUI division works primarily at night and during special enforcement details.

In fact, one of the two DUI officers who was responsible for the recent third place was recently promoted.

"We're going to be looking into the possibility of filling that position," Citrano said.

Empty slots in specialized units are always harder to fill, he explained. Of the four day-shift slots assigned to the traffic safety unit, only three currently are filled.

"Over the course of time, we've never gotten rid of those slots even though they might be frozen," Citrano said. "I think Largo Police is one of the few agencies, even though we've had our share of budget cuts, ... that has maintained a full awareness of traffic safety."

Traffic safety initiatives are "self-initiated activities" that often take a back seat to the department's response to emergencies and 911 calls, Citrano explained. That's especially true when the police department is already grappling with minimum staffing.

Citrano - in his 14th year of law enforcement and sixth with the department - has worked in both the DUI and day-shift sides of Largo's traffic safety unit. An added benefit of placing in the Florida Law Enforcement Liaison challenges is an increased awareness among Largo residents that the department's enforcement efforts - often associated with negativity in the immediacy of receiving a traffic citation - are having a positive, long-term effect.

"The public doesn't get to see what we do a lot of times," Citrano said. "I wouldn't have a job if people drove responsibly and didn't have any crashes."

Around town

'Stuff the Bus' to help Pinellas students

LARGO - This year's Stuff the Bus campaign, designed to collect back-to-school supplies for children in need, will be held Aug. 2, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., at Largo Mall, at 10500 Ulmerton Road.

A Pinellas County school bus will be stationed in the parking lot to collect the donations. The event is part of the second annual Back to School Supply Drive, a partnership of the Pinellas Education Foundation, Pinellas County Council of PTAs and Franklin Templeton Investments.

Needed supplies include: gender-neutral backpacks, pens and pencils, spiral-bound notebooks and composition books, loose-leaf notebook paper, one-inch binders, crayons and colored pencils, pocket folders, rulers and erasers.

In Pinellas County, more than 2,000 children live in foster care, one in five children live in poverty, and more than 3,000 children are homeless. In addition, 52 percent of all students in Pinellas qualify for free or reduced lunch.

Along with Franklin Templeton, companies who will be donating items or providing other assistance include Med Express, BIC Advertising & Promotional Products and ClearChannel Outdoor.

Largo offers one-week golf or tennis camps

LARGO - The city of Largo is offering one-week golf and tennis camps this summer.

Largo Golf Course hosts golf camps for youth of all ages through the week of Aug. 12. Each camp is two hours a day for five days and includes a skills challenge at the end of each session along with entry into the end of summer tournament. Golf camp is offered at the Largo Golf Course located at 12500 Vonn Road. Call the Golf Pro Shop at 518-2034.

Largo Recreation offers both beginner and intermediate clinics available for youth of all ages the Southwest Tennis Academy, at 13120 Vonn Road. Call Southwest Recreation Complex at 518-3125.

For more information, visit LargoCamps.com.

Women's strength training classes offered

LARGO - Highland Recreation Complex will offer Women on Weights, a women's only, small group personal training class, on Tuesdays, Aug. 6 to 27, 6:30 p.m., in the fitness room of the complex, 400 Highland Ave.

Taught by certified personal trainer, Donna Corwin-Schwar, participants will learn how to use the fitness machines, weights and other fitness equipment effectively to strengthen their entire body. The cost is \$65 for residents and \$81.25 for nonresidents. Space is limited to six participants. Visit HighlandRecreation.com or call 518-3016.

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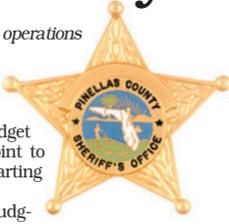
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Pinellas County Sheriff explains challenges of the job

This is part three of a five part series on operations at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

By SUZETTE PORTER



CLEARWATER – Despite years of budget cuts, Sheriff Bob Gualtieri is able to point to some areas where the sheriff's office is starting to make a comeback.

Gualtieri told commissioners during budget discussions last year that he was very concerned about the spike in hold times from 2010 to 2011, especially for armed emergencies, which went up from 43 seconds to 57 seconds. Gualtieri reported June 5 that the trend was starting to reverse. Call time went down in 2012 to 53 seconds, which he said is a move in the right direction.

Response times also are getting better, he said. Response times for an armed emergency increased from 3 minutes 46 seconds in 2010 to 4 minutes, eight seconds in 2011. In 2012, time was down slightly to 4 minutes, 5 seconds.

Gualtieri thanked commissioners for passing an ordinance requiring registration of alarms and establishing penalties for those who have an excessive number of false alarms. A 33 percent reduction in false alarms was reported from 2008 to 2012. Policy requires two deputies to respond to an alarm, so responding to many false alarms can put an unnecessary burden on the labor force.

Gualtieri brought up another "big problem," providing assistance for the Florida Highway Patrol. During 2012, the sheriff's office assisted FHP 1,468 times, an average of 122 times a month. Each assist required an average of 2.3 people. The average time spent by deputies on an FHP assist was almost an hour and a half.

Gualtieri said FHP is understaffed. The agency has inadequate resources and not enough troopers, he said. City police work wrecks inside their municipalities. Crashes that occur in unincorporated areas are the responsibility of FHP – not the sheriff's office.

The public is often frustrated when a deputy "comes across an accident, pushes the car out of the intersection, and then says FHP will come," Gualtieri said.

He said some sheriff's officers refuse to work any crashes, putting more pressure on FHP to do its job. Gualtieri doesn't take such a hard-line approach. He said people don't understand the distinction between local, county and state police.

"Local citizens don't understand that when they see a deputy pass by as they wait two hours for FHP," he said.

Gualtieri said FHP wants to do the right thing, "but you can't take blood from a rock."

Commissioners agreed to add funding for FHP to its list of concerns to take to the local Legislative Delegation.

The sheriff's office has an investigative unit for traffic crashes responsible to assist with investigations, direct traffic, assist with disabled vehicles and for parking enforcement.

The unit is made up of four civilian investigator positions that have no arrest authority. They do not carry firearms. The cost for the current year is \$154,623 for personnel and equipment.

Domestic violence also puts a strain on the labor pool. Domestic violence calls are "very dangerous calls for us," Gualtieri said. On average, PCSO receives 506 calls a month, or 17 a day, within the service area. Two deputies are required to respond to domestic violence calls.

Burglaries are another problem. Deputies responded to 5,540 residential, commercial and automobile burglaries in 2012, an average of 14 robberies a month. Gualtieri explained that a robbery involves the use of violence or force where a burglary is a non-violent action.

He showed a chart of the "staggering number" of mental health related calls. In 2012, PCSO responded to an average of six Baker Acts a day, which require two deputies as a minimum and sometimes more. Those calls can tie a deputy up for hours, he said.

The Baker Act, more formally known as the Florida Mental Health Act

of 1971, allows for involuntary examination of an individual who might have a mental illness and could be a threat to themselves or others.

Other mental health calls include suicide and suicide attempts. PCSO responded to 57 suicides in 2012 and 45 suicide attempts.

Gualtieri used a chart to show the correlation between the number of deputies available to respond to an incident and the need to use force.

"Having a command presence (more deputies on the scene) makes a big difference," he said.

He said of the different methods of force, deputies use hands 85 percent of the time, an electronic control device (Taser) 33 percent, pepper spray 3 percent and firearms are involved 2 percent of the time.

"This concerns me," he said – the inadequate level of staffing. "One deputy to one subject or three versus one, there's not a fight."

He played a video of an officer-involved shooting that happened at Seminole Boulevard and 113th Street, explaining the deputies' actions to keep everyone safe. The suspect was killed.

"A lot goes into being a cop," he said. "Officer safety is a must."

Special units

PCSO has a canine unit with teams of specially trained deputies and their command dogs. The teams respond to calls that have a high level of response priority. They also support VIP and dignitary visits and assist local, state and federal agencies during any threat. Crowd control and public relations are on the duty list.

"Canine stays busy, responding to calls day and night," he said.

There are 12 canine deputies and 12 dogs in the unit. A sergeant supervises the teams and a corporal assigned as unit trainer. The unit has two teams of five deputies each. All the dogs are German shepherds that work for five to eight years before retirement. After retirement, they go live with their handler, Gualtieri said.

"It's sad. A lot don't live long after they stop working," he said.

The flight unit is vital to officer safety and works hand-in-hand with the canine unit. PCSO's flight unit is the only airborne support in the county, Gualtieri said. The unit provides services to the sheriff's office and other county law enforcement agencies, including assistance with pursuits, violent crimes, disasters and search and rescue.

Most of the equipment is old. The newest helicopter was built in 2006 and the other two are more than 20 years old. Gualtieri is in the process of selling all but one of PCSO's airplanes. One sold at auction June 4. Gualtieri plans to keep the 1979 Piper Chieftain.

He said selling the aged equipment would save \$10,000 a year on maintenance costs and another \$100,000 in hanger storage.

Gualtieri has reestablished the DUI and traffic enforcement unit after it was shutdown in 2009 due to budget cuts. Six deputies and one sergeant staff the unit. On top of its primary job, the unit also assists with patrol-based operations.

Since 2009, DUI arrests have gone down.

"We'll get them back up with this unit," Gualtieri said. "Now we have people out there to catch them."

The major accident investigation team is responsible for investigating collisions that involve serious bodily injuries or fatalities within the cities the Sheriff's Office contracts to do law enforcement. The team also investigates injury crashes involving PCSO vehicles.

The team has 25 members, including a Treasure Island Police officer. The work on the team is in addition to members' regular patrol duties. Team members are on call for two weeks at a time and off call for four weeks.

The marine unit promotes boating safety and enforces state, federal and local laws within the maritime jurisdiction. The environmental lands unit, funded by the county commission, provides for the safety of individuals and animals on environmental sensitive lands and wildlife preserves.

A sergeant supervises the marine unit and environmental lands unit. Three deputies are assigned to the marine unit and two to environmental lands. All marine unit deputies are required to have a valid U.S. Coast Guard boat captain's license.



Marine and flight units are important to the Sheriff's Office ability to fight crime.

There are 16 vessels in the marine unit's fleet, ranging from shallow water to large sea vessels. Gualtieri said no vessels had been purchased since 2007 and 44 percent of the fleet are older than 10 years. Most are stowed in Treasure Island.

The cities of Clearwater, Gulfport and Treasure Island each have one vessel for use in law enforcement activities, but none of the cities have a dedicated personnel assigned to marine duties. St. Petersburg has three vessels and four personal watercraft used by its full-time marine unit.

PCSO's special weapons and tactics team (SWAT) provides support during high-risk operations, including hostage situations, workplace violence, barricaded subjects and apprehension of dangerous fugitives. The team is available to assist countywide.

Team members attend a 40-hour SWAT school annually and train 16 hours every month. Two teams of 12 include snipers, chemical technicians, robot operators, technical operators and others remain on call at all times.

The negotiator response team is available for situations that may or may not require SWAT. There are two teams of five members and one alternate on call to respond to crisis situations and assist SWAT with serving of high-risk warrants. Team members receive specialized training and train together as a group for eight hours a month.

The dive team, aka underwater search and recovery team, provide support for law enforcement activities. The duty is on top of their regular responsibilities. Team members search for drowning victims and evidence that may have been thrown into the water. Gualtieri said most of their work is evidence recovery, "finding a gun thrown into a pond."

A sergeant supervises the nine-member team. Each member is a certified public safety diver that goes through an 80-hour course from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. They attend 12 in-service training events annually. They are trained in salvage, search patterns and techniques using metal detectors and other equipment.

The Sheriff's Citizen Patrol is "very helpful," Gualtieri said. A sergeant and corporal provide supervision to the 33 active participants who have the use of six patrol vans. In 2012, the patrol volunteers put in 10,662 hours. They receive no compensation and are required to complete the Sheriff's Citizens Patrol Academy.

The citizen patrol take on duties such as transporting found property, traffic direction, investigation of minor crashes, parking citations and warnings, assist with disable vehicles and house checks.

The special incident management unit develops operational plans for large-scale events and responds to disasters. Incidents include natural or manmade disasters, protection of dignitaries, regional mutual aid and joint law enforcement activities.

Gualtieri is currently in the process of reinstating the reserve deputy program that was phased out in 2005.

"A lot of recently retired law enforcement officers are interested," Gualtieri said. "They will help in a variety of ways."

He said 2005 was "such a different era with no money issues."

"We had a lot more people and we didn't need it (reserve deputy program)," he said. "Now we need it. I believe it will be an asset to us."

MUSEUM, from page 1A

on local youth. About 4,000 kids are a member of Simon's fishing clubs.

"It's not just about fishing. It's about life and spending time with adults," he said.

He admitted that the problems with the landlord had been "a huge distraction for the past year and a half."

"I did this (opened the facility) to be a good thing for Tampa Bay," said Simons, who is a 45-year resident of Pinellas and former president of the World Billfish Series.

Problems started early

The public became aware of the landlord-tenant dispute when Pinellas County Commissioners voted 5-2 April 9 to sue for back rent and breach of lease. Commissioners Karen Seel and Norm Roche voted no. Simons said Seel was the only commissioner to show willingness to work things out. Her motion to seek mediation first was defeated 4-3. Simons also said Seel was the only commissioner to attend the county's centennial celebration at the fishing center Sept. 15, 2012.

Simons said he wished Seel had been successful in convincing the commission to go for mediation.

"I'd much rather sit at the table than go to court," he said.

County Administrator Bob LaSala said at the April 9 meeting that the county would be willing to go to mediation if past due rent was paid first. Simons said he had agreed to pay part of the costs of mediation. He has a letter dated March 19 that he said was sent to the county, agreeing to deposit \$5,000 with a mediator to "cover our anticipated share of the costs."

Simons said he was surprised at the outcome of that meeting.

"They didn't tell the truth," he said.

Simons admitted that he had stopped paying rent to get the county's attention about problems. The five-year lease makes the tenant responsible for the interior. The landlord is responsible for the exterior, landscaping and pest control.

From the beginning, there were problems, Simons said. One of the buildings, planned to house a culinary institute and TV studio, couldn't be used due to its condition. The air-conditioning unit ran all the time, running up the electric bill. It took months before repairs were made. The lawn went un-mowed for seven months, although county records show it was mowed, he said. Then there were the cracks on the exterior of the building and peeling paint on the ironwork.

"We stopped paying in August. They said pay and we'll handle it," Simons said. "We paid September, then withheld October and November after nothing was done."

Simons said in a meeting with LaSala, he was told to pay December's rent as a show of good faith and the county would handle the issues.

"They didn't," he said.

The tenant stopped paying rent. The county's lawsuit says past due rent totals \$39,827.49.

Simons provided a copy of a survey report dated Feb. 7, 2012, from Tech Management Inc., located in Palm Harbor. The "limited condition" survey was done Jan. 25, 2012 on studio two classroom building to address "significant cracking" of the exterior masonry wall. Driggers Engineering Services Inc. did the work.

Driggers reported that the problems were likely caused by very loose sands

with organic material and concentration of roots close to the bottom of existing foundations. The report noted that root mats are "very compressible and can be responsible for long-term settlement associated with decomposition."

The "observed structure distress" could be the result of long-term compression and decomposition of organic matter or could be "simply the result of poor compaction at the time of fill placement, or both," the report concluded.

Driggers recommended underpinning to correct structural deficiencies and cosmetic fixes in areas where settlement was minor. The report also referred to a structural engineering inspection underway that would help determine the "structural integrity of the bearing walls or other key structural elements."

The report only addresses one of the five-building complex.

Simons said while he was aware of some cracking and the need for painting in exterior areas, he did not know about the Driggers report when he signed the lease.

"We knew nothing about that prior to moving in," he said.

He said the final straw came about a year ago when a concrete beam fell in the main gallery.

"We asked the county, what does this mean," he said. "They were not handling the problems. We were not paying rent."

Conditions are continuing to deteriorate, he said. Chunks of concrete are falling from the ceiling. The metal roof appears to be pulling out.

Simons admits he is disappointed.

"We tried. We tried hard," he said. "We worked for months and now to see it all taken away this way without everything fully understood. It's hard."

"But, the kids are safe. The clubs will continue."

Rocky history for facility

In 1994, the Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, an offshoot of the "arts section" of the Clearwater Women's Club, had outgrown its location on donated land in the city of Belleair. It became a partner with Pinellas County and a new, 45,000-square-foot museum campus facility was constructed within the 186-acre Florida Botanical Gardens adjacent to Heritage Village.

Groundbreaking for the new five-building, \$6 million facility was Nov. 26, 1997. The name was changed to Gulf Coast Museum of Art in 1998. Construction was done in phases with the final building being completed in 2001. The project was partially funded by a charitable donation from the estate of "founding benefactor" Mrs. Georgine Shillard-Smith.

The building design, by Thompson and Rose Architects of Cambridge, Mass., received rave reviews due to the incorporation of natural light in the galleries and "thoughtful response to the landscape," according to an account of the times found on the Gulf Coast Museum of Art's website.

For years, the Gulf Coast Museum of Art welcomed more than 75,000 visitors each year and its art collections grew to more than 400 objects that include paintings, glass, mixed media, ceramics, metalwork and outdoor sculpture.

But success was short lived. The board of trustees said in August 2009 that the current location "does not lend itself to a viable and vibrant future." The board decided to cease operations effective Jan. 30 and work with Pinellas County to secure a future location "bet-

ter suited for the vision and mission" of Gulf Coast Museum of Art.

At first, the county seemed agreeable to paying the museum's \$4 million asking price, according to reports, but due to the downturn of the economy and subsequent recession, there was no money to spare. The county reportedly refused to let the museum sublet the space or sell to another buyer.

In the end, the county took possession when the museum could no longer uphold its obligations. The museum dispersed its collection to other museums and galleries.

Two years later, in January of 2011, the county began looking for a tenant for a 30,300-square-foot facility, including "exhibit areas, studios, classrooms, a climate-controlled storage vault, an auditorium, executive suite, administrative offices and adjacent areas perfect for sculpture gardens. Natural lighting, enhanced by skylights and graceful, arching ceilings, creates an open-air ambience throughout the facility and aids in the appreciation of the natural beauty of the site's 2,833 acres," according to the advertisement.

More than a year passed, when finally, in April 2012, a new tenant – the Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing and Interactive Museum – reopened the doors of the five-building facility.

Simons said he had been excited when plans came together to open the fishing center and museum. He said he hoped it would make Pinewood Cultural Park vibrant again, as it had been with the Gulfcoast Museum of Art was there.

"We marketed as a museum open to the public in a park-like setting," he said. "I just don't know what happened."

EMS, from page 1A

the rescues and their personnel degraded performance due to a lack in reserve capacity.

"IPS does not have the capacity to give you what you have today," he said.

He said fire departments are designed to have excess capacity to be able to respond to a multitude of different calls and still be able to respond to a major incident. IPS's proposal reduces crew costs "dramatically," he said, but it does not allow sufficient capacity for the system.

"Fire departments must have excess capacity," Fuentes said, "which was one big problem with IPS."

The Fitch team does not advocate implementing the IPS plan.

Next up was results of scenarios using the Sanford-Millican plan, proposed by local firefighters. Fuentes said the plan did prove it was possible to use local fire departments for ambulance transport at a cost-competitive price; however, the workload was too high, which meant personnel would be asked to perform without sufficient downtime in between calls.

The Fitch team created more scenarios, using a model they referred to as SM-2, adding units to reduce workloads. SM-2 proved to be more expensive than the current model. However, Fuentes said it might be possible to get expenses down using SM-2.

"SM-2 could work," he said.

A system using SM-1 or SM-2 would work best allowing fire department transport of emergency and nonemergency calls to help "normalize the workload," he said. Emergency transport requires the closest unit to respond, but inter-facility transports do not. Similar equipment could be used for rescue and ambulance service.

He said Pinellas has a high-level system.

"Very few have this number of paramedics," he said, making the cost of labor a bigger factor than cost of equipment.

He explained that transport was the bigger part of profit available in an EMS system and inter-facility transport was the most profitable.

"You know they can pay before you go," he said. "With 911 you have to go and then find out if they can pay after."

The commission specifically requested that Fitch run scenarios of a hybrid system, a mix of fire department transport and a for-profit pri-

vate ambulance service. Fuentes said there was a concern that a hybrid system, commonly referred to as a "substitution model" could possibly fragment an already efficient centralized system.

He said it would require commissioners to consider public safety versus EMS transport.

"It's not a fair comparison," he said. "Public safety was created for another purpose."

He said it would be difficult for fire departments to reduce costs to compete with Sunstar. He said there was a significant personnel cost difference between Sunstar and local fire departments. He also commented that Sunstar had the "highest performance in the county."

He said a hybrid model would require the private ambulance provider to take calls only if the fire department could not, introducing public safety and idle time into ambulance service.

"Sunstar would have to sit and wait," he said. "They might transport and they might not."

He said a hybrid system was not cost effective.

Fuentes said other areas used fire department transport out of necessity when service by multiple ambulance companies was not performing well, so firefighters stepped in to do it. But it cost more. Pinellas County already has a good model with local leaders taking steps to create a seamless system.

"You already have a good non-fragmented system," he said.

He cautioned against taking the continuity from the system by "chopping up the county." He said the challenge was maintaining the public safety organization compared to the transport organization.

But there is a way to maintain performance and contain costs, Fuentes said.

Fitch suggests use of a system referred to as CARES – Community-wide Alignment of Resources for Efficiency and Service.

When running the scenarios, Fuentes said it became apparent that the system needed more resources in the daytime versus at night. The CARES proposal considers what resources are needed, regardless of whether they are provided by the private ambulance provider, county or municipal provider.

"We didn't look at who pays for what," Fuentes said.

He said CARES allows a unique opportunity to provide high performance advanced life support first response and "accountable" care.

"Transport may not be the driving force into the future," he said.

Fitch recommends response to low priority 911 calls by first responders only – not the ambulance provider.

"They may never need an ambulance to begin with or some just need transport but are not an emergency," Fuentes said.

Pinellas County recently implemented phase 3 of its 911-dispatch system that calls for Sunstar to respond to low priority calls. First responders (fire departments) are notified as a courtesy but are not expected to respond.

"Your system actually performs better when first responders make alpha calls," Fuentes said. "If Sunstar does alpha it is not as efficient as a fire department and it does not reduce the costs of the fire department" which need to maintain staffing levels.

He said not only was it not efficient to switch to a private provider to respond to low priority calls, but using fire department response allows them to fulfill their mission of serving their community and providing a better response to the population.

Fuentes summarized the results. He said the current system is good, except for costs.

"You are outperforming your own objectives," he said. "You have a clinically excellence system."

IPS's plan offers the highest cost saving – \$16.3 million – but it adds 12 seconds to response time and reduces surge capacity, meaning there might not be enough resources to respond to a major incident.

SM-1 saves \$1.2 million but the workload is too high, causing safety concerns. SM-2 adds \$8.9 million in costs.

Cares would save the system \$6.3 million by reducing available resources only at night and using first responders for low-priority calls instead of Sunstar. Response time would increase by only three seconds.

Fuentes said it would take about 24 months to implement CARES, allowing time for retirement cycles and renegotiation of contracts.

"Pinellas has taken care of itself for almost 25 years," he said. "This is a unique community with almost every control factor in place."

Fuentes said Pinellas should be proud of its reserve capacity and that it does not have to rely on other counties in times of emergencies.

"It's a question of what you can afford and what you can do and sleep at night," he said.

Pinellas County's unemployment jumps to 7.1

By SUZETTE PORTER

Pinellas County's unemployment continues to rise. June's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up to 7.1 percent compared to 6.7 percent in May, according to a report released July 19 by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

The state's not seasonally adjusted rate also is up, going from 7 percent last month to 7.4 percent in June. The national rate increased from 7.3 percent to 7.8 percent.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates were steady with Florida coming in at 7.1 percent in May and June and the national rate steady at 7.6 percent. The DEO does not provide seasonally adjusted rates at the county level as part of its report. Officials adjust unemployment rates by season to reflect current conditions. For example, many who work in education are unemployed through the summer months, causing the rate to rise temporarily. Reporting seasonally adjusted numbers removes temporary conditions.

Despite Pinellas' rising unemployment numbers, the labor force is growing, going from 451,731 in May to 451,935 in June. However, fewer have jobs with the number of unemployed going from 30,458 to 31,876.

Still, compared to last year, the numbers are better. The unemployment rate is down, the labor force is up and more people have jobs. Pinellas County reported an 8.8 percent unemployment rate in June 2012. Out of a labor force of 443,399, 38,925 were unemployed.

The Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area also experienced a jump in the unemployment rate, going from 6.9 percent in May to 7.2 percent in June. The local MSA includes Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties.

The labor force grew slightly, up from 1,354,528 in May to 1,355,509 in June, but the number of unemployed increased from 93,629 to 98,244 in June. In June 2012, the local MSA had a labor force of 1,332,422 and 121,803 were out of work. The unemployment rate was 9.1 percent.

Hernando County still has the highest unemployment rate in the MSA at 8.9 percent, followed by Pasco County with 7.9 percent. Hillsborough has the lowest with 7 percent.

The local MSA continues to lead the way toward over-the-year job growth with an increase of 33,000 new jobs. Gov. Rick Scott announced June 18 that Bristol-Myers Squibb plans to locate a center in Hillsborough County, creating 579 life science jobs in Tampa. The facility is expected to open in January 2014. Another 325 jobs are expected to be added at the site by 2017.

Statewide, there are 127,200 more jobs available now than a year ago. June was the 35th consecutive month of positive job growth. The industry gaining the most jobs was trade, transportation and utilities with 40,700 jobs, followed by education and health services with 23,300 jobs, and leisure and hospitality with 23,100 jobs.

Manufacturing showed the biggest decline in jobs with a loss of 3,300, followed by total government with a loss of 700 jobs.

Down and dirty



Photo by SARA BORGER

Cameron Perrott of Belleair goes all out for the Belleair Parks & Recreation Department in the 13th Annual Teen Extreme Mudwars last week at Spa Beach Park in St. Pete. Competing in eight arenas of games, including obstacle course, joust pit, belly bumpers, dodge ball, tug of war, and extreme football, the Belleair Teens placed third overall out of 32 teams.

TAX RATE, from page 1A

for EMS. Commissioner Janet Long is not happy about continuing to raise millage rates to pay for expenses. Commissioner John Morroni asked if it were possible to take the money from reserves.

LaSala said the budget included a reserve balance "a tad more than 25 percent." The fund had carried a 30 percent reserve, but commissioners reduced it to below 25 percent for the current fiscal year. He said 25 percent was not an "adopted mandate."

"You're free to set it (reserve amount) as you like," he said.

The reserve amount for other funds is 15 percent.

Morroni suggested lowering the EMS reserve to 20 percent.

LaSala advised caution with lowering the reserves due to the problem of revenue collection if a major catastrophe were to occur, which would result in a slow response in insurance companies and individuals paying their am-

balance bills. He said at 25 percent, reserves could pay for three months of expected expenses.

Morroni asked if it would be possible to fund some of the budget shortfall from reserves and decrease the proposed rate increase.

"It would still increase - just reduce the pain," he said.

Latvala suggested waiting to make any decisions until after a meeting to go over a report from a consultant on changes to the EMS system.

"I want to wait and have that conversation first," she said.

The commission also agreed that a list of one-time funding requests of just over \$6 million not included in LaSala's budget proposal would come from reserves.

Another budget information session is scheduled on July 30. Commissioners will need to make a decision about tentative millage rates at that time to provide the information to the property appraiser to add to the Truth in Millage Notices, which will be mailed Aug. 19.

The commission can lower the millage after tentative rates are advertised, but they cannot be raised.

The commission also approved allocating \$650,000 from MSTU funds to start work on paving roads in unincorporated areas. Commissioner Karen Seel spearheaded the effort. Staff was asked to work on a plan that would make the best use of the funds and report back to the board.

Seel and other commissioners believe that paved roads are a quality of life issue. Paved roads with curbs also can be important to controlling drainage of surface water.

David Scott, director of the department of environment and infrastructure, said staff was currently working on updating county maps to show locations of unpaved roads to help determine the ones that should be paved first.

"We'll place a priority on how many times we've attacked pot holes on a certain street," he said.

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2330 Nebraska Avenue, Palm Harbor
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New Port Richey Main Library
Wednesday, August 7, 2013 at 2 pm
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Located near City Hall

Arbor Oaks Assisted Living
Thursday, August 9, 2013 at 2 pm
1701 68th Street North, St. Petersburg
(Near Tyrone Mall behind Chili's)

South Shore Regional Library
Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at 2 pm
15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin
(Off 19th Ave. N.E.) (813-273-3652)

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Man sentenced for 42 years for 2010 murder

LARGO – Larry Joe Jerry Jr. of Largo was sentenced to 42 years in prison July 11 for the murder committed on Nov. 30, 2010.

The victim, Annie Marie Conyers, 25, of Clearwater was a passenger in a gold vehicle with three other females and a young child that fateful day in 2010. At around 10:24 a.m., they pulled into the Rainbow Food Mart at 2575 East Bay Drive, according to Largo police.

As three of the women got out of the vehicle, Jerry drove his 2011 black Ford Edge into the parking lot. He fired several rounds at them.

The driver of the gold vehicle drove away with the child. Another woman ran toward the entrance of the food mart. One of the bullets struck Conyers in her lower torso. She was flown to Bayfront Hospital where she later died that afternoon.

For the next 36 hours, the Largo Police Department and other agen-



Larry Joe Jerry Jr.

cies searched tirelessly to locate Jerry. Crime Stoppers of Pinellas offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to his arrest.

On December 2, 2010, Jerry turned himself in at the Pinellas County Jail.

In addition to the two previous outstanding warrants for felony fleeing and eluding and felony driving with a license suspended or revoked, Jerry was charged with capital murder and four counts of attempted murder.

Jerry's trial was scheduled for July 15, according to Pinellas County court records. However, Jerry pleaded guilty to the state-amended charge of second-degree murder on July 11. The crime, committed with a firearm, carries a minimum sentence of 25 years. Jerry was sentenced to 42 years.

As of July 23, he was still in Pinellas County Jail, awaiting transport to the state prison.

House fire contained to attic

CLEARWATER – Quick action by about two dozen Clearwater Fire & Rescue personnel kept a suspected lightning fire contained to the attic of a home Wednesday, July 17.

The call came in from 820 Woodside Drive at 4:20 p.m. as a strong round of thunderstorms swept in from the east, pummeling the Clearwater area with heavy rain, high winds and frequent lightning. A severe thunderstorm warning was in effect for the area at the time of the blaze.

Firefighters arrived seven minutes later. The two people inside the house when the fire erupted got out safely, and no injuries were reported.

Firefighters had to saw open a portion of the attic on the south side of the house. The fire appeared to be smoldering in the attic, which was used as a storage area.



Clearwater firefighters saw open a portion of the attic on the south side of the house on Woodside Drive after responding to a possible lightning fire July 17.

Crime beat

Police arrest murder suspects

PINELLAS PARK – Two people are in the Pinellas County Jail charged with first-degree murder in connection with the July 12 shooting death of Gerald Francis Way II in Pinellas Park.

Pinellas Park police announced that Richard Boykins, 34, of St. Petersburg was located and arrested July 18 by members of the St. Petersburg Police Department Intelligence Unit and the United States Marshalls Office for unrelated charges. On July 19, Pinellas Park police Detective R. Hunt connected Boykins to the murder of Gerald Way as the shooter. Boykins is being held without bond on a variety of charges.

On July 15, Pinellas Park police detectives arrested Mariah Jordan Bell, 22, of St. Petersburg. Police determined that Bell was instrumental in plotting and facilitating the crime. Bell also was the get-away driver of the late model Ford Expedition used in the commission of the crime. She is being held without bond.

Way was in front of a residence on 69th Avenue North about 12:53 a.m. July 12 talking with several subjects when he was shot by an occupant of a vehicle, Pinellas Park police said. Way suffered a single gunshot wound to the abdomen and was transported to Northside Hospital. He was later transported to Bayfront Medical Center where he died.



Richard Boykins



Mariah Bell

Inmate murdered at Pinellas jail

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Sheriff's detectives are investigating a homicide at the Pinellas County Jail.

Scott Alexander Greenberg, 27, of St. Petersburg was charged with first-degree murder in connection with the death of his cellmate Kelly Damon Harding, 48, a transient.

According to the sheriff's report, detention deputies responded to a call of a man down in the south division of the jail about 12:58 a.m. Sunday, July 21. Harding was unconscious on the floor of his cell. He was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Detectives assigned to the robbery/homicide unit

said the emergency room physician found wet toilet paper down Harding's throat and his injuries were consistent with strangulation. Based on interviews and statements made by the suspect to other inmates, detectives determined that the suspect was Greenberg, Harding's cellmate.

Greenberg is confined in a single isolation cell at the jail. His bond was set at \$500,000.



Scott Greenberg



Kelly Harding

Public's help sought in old murder case

CLEARWATER – Ten years ago on July 19, Petra Martin and her

2-year-old son were stabbed to death in their Clearwater home.

Martin was described as a hard working, nice, honest woman who took good care of her son, Uriel. He had survived a bout with cancer and had just completed a round of chemotherapy. Their bodies were found at their home at 400 S. San Remo Ave.

Clearwater police now believe they know who killed the mother and son but have been unable to locate them. Gilberto Juarez-Hernandez was named in two first-degree murder warrants in October 2012 after a bloody fingerprint identified him as the suspect, the police report said. Police think he may be in the Des Moines, Iowa area. He has family and friends there.

Juarez-Hernandez is now 33 years old. In a 1999 booking in Iowa, he was described as being 5'8" tall and weighing about 150 pounds. He had brown hair and brown eyes, scars on his back, left hand and one on his left fingers. Clearwater police ask that anyone with information to call the tip line at 562-4422.

Crash report

Two injured in single-vehicle crash

SEMINOLE – Two St. Petersburg women were injured July 19 in a single car crash on Seminole Boulevard near the road merger with Bay Pines Boulevard North in Seminole.

It was raining when emergency personnel from Seminole and Madeira Beach arrived on scene just after 6 p.m., according to photographer Steven Hirschfeld. A heavily damaged 2013 Chevy Camaro ZL1 was found next to the roadway next to the large support structure holding up the large highway signs over the roadway.

Two women were trapped inside. Rescuers used the "rapid extrication technique" to remove the driver, Heidi Shute, 36, who suffered life-threatening injuries. She was taken by ambulance to a local hospital.

The passenger, Velina McBriayer, 45, also was removed from the vehicle and taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Pinellas County Sheriff's major accident investigation team reported that at the time of the crash Shute was traveling from the Tom Stuart Causeway eastbound on Seminole Boulevard toward the merger with Bay Pines Boulevard when she lost control of the Camaro. The car left the roadway and the passenger's side struck a roadway identifier pole.

No other vehicles were involved. The Sheriff's Office said it was unknown if weather conditions or alcohol are factors in the crash.



Photo by STEVEN HIRSCHFELD

First responders from Seminole and Madeira Beach remove a woman trapped inside a 2013 Chevy Camaro ZL1 after a July 19 crash on Seminole Boulevard.

Motorcycle crashes into deputy's cruiser

SEMINOLE – A Pinellas Park man was charged with DUI after crashing into a Pinellas County deputy's marked Chevy Impala about 12:15 a.m. Sunday, July 21, at the intersection of Seminole and Park boulevards in Seminole.

According to the report from the sheriff's office, Robert Gold, 56, was driving his 2007 Harley-Davidson southbound on Seminole Boulevard when he came to a stop in the left turn lane. Deputy Brian Overton was traveling northbound on Park Boulevard, entering the intersection when the Harley-Davidson began to turn left, striking the front fender of the deputy's patrol car.

Overton was not injured in the crash. Gold was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. After Gold left the hospital, deputies conducted a field sobriety test. Gold was arrested for DUI and transported to the Pinellas County Jail without further incident. He was released on \$1,000 surety bond.

Man drives truck into Tampa Bay

TIERRA VERDE – A Tierra Verde man was charged with DUI property damage and careless driving July 15 after driving his 2010 Toyota Tacoma off the Tierra Verde Marine Resort and into Tampa Bay.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Richard Newhouse, 46, was traveling northbound on State Road 679 south of Madonna Avenue just before 6 p.m., when he lost control of his vehicle when he attempted to make a U-turn.

He drove his truck off the roadway, across a grass shoulder and collided with a chain link fence. The truck continued through the fence and landed in Tampa Bay. Newhouse was arrested for driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.256. In Florida, the Blood Alcohol Content limit is set at 0.08 for drivers older than 21 years.

Newhouse was booked into the Pinellas County Jail. Bond was set at \$500.

Motorcyclist dies at scene of crash

PALM HARBOR – A Palm Harbor man died at the scene of a crash about 5:50 p.m. July 15 on Belcher Road at Hawk Avenue.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Joshua Edgar Lane, 28, was driving his motorcycle behind Allison E. Kahn-Bens, 60, of Tarpon Springs and approached the 2007 Ford SUV at a high rate of speed. Troopers said Lane attempted to reduce speed but still collided with the rear of the SUV. Lane died at the scene. Kahn-Bens received minor injuries. No charges were filed.

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Business updates

Christmas in July set

SEMINOLE - Christmas cheer will come early this year with Simply Events' 2013 Christmas in July, set for Saturday and Sunday, July 27-28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Seminole Recreation, 9100 113th St. N.

More than 50 unique vendors will be on site with everything from jewelry to handmade gifts to homemade décor. Shoppers can beat the heat and get a jump on holiday shopping by allowing us to be a one-stop Christmas shop. They will include holiday pictures, 10 a.m. to noon; and a winter snow party, 1 to 3 p.m.

The event will also help All About Cats with food donations and monetary donations. All About Cats helps place homeless felines in much needed homes and help take care of several displaced cats.

The Find opens

SEMINOLE - The Find recently opened at 7976 Seminole Blvd.

According to Gail Weil, owner of The Find, the consignment store features female fashions, including teen, young adult and adult. Shoppers also will find home décor.



From left, Hope Weil, Gail Weil and Ruby Pagan await shoppers at The Find, a consignment store recently opened at 7976 Seminole Blvd.

Seaside Gallery to host ribbon-cutting

REDINGTON SHORES - Seaside Gallery will celebrate its grand opening with a free ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday, July 25, 5:15 p.m., at 18131 Gulf Blvd.

The event will help celebrate the recent opening of this new gallery. Seaside Gallery features art and home décor. Complimentary wine and cheese will be served during the event. There also will be drawings for raffle prizes.

For information, call 510-7195.

Hooters' wing-eating championship set

CLEARWATER - Hooters will crown the next Worldwide Wing-Eating Champion at its wing-eating championship finale on Thursday, July 25, 7 p.m., at the Original Hooters, 2800 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd.

The world's top professionally ranked eaters will unite in a grueling 10-minute, all-you-can eat contest of Hooters world famous chicken wings to win cash prizes and the coveted title of Hooters Worldwide Wing-Eating Champion. According to a press release, a saucy battle will ensue as reigning wing-eating champ Joey

Tampa Bay Newspapers wins 12 awards

Tampa Bay Newspapers won 12 awards in the Florida Press Association's 2012 Better Weekly Newspaper Contest, including five first-place awards.

"I'm proud of our strong showing in this highly competitive contest," Tampa Bay Newspapers' Executive Editor Tom Germond said. "Knowing that journalism professors, who judge the contest, recognize our photos, stories and other work through the awards is a reflection of all our employees' hard work and dedication. They are committed to producing great community newspapers."

A total of 1,641 entries were submitted in the contest. Sixty-four newspapers competed for first, second and third place awards.

This year marks the first time in Tampa Bay Newspapers' history that the company has won five first-place awards in the contest.

Awards presented to TBN are:

- First place: Front page makeup, Seminole Beach-Beacon, Bob McClure.
- First place: Faith and family reporting, Clearwater Beacon, Alexandra Lundahl, "Kids find their forever homes on Adoption Day."
- First place: Faith and family reporting, Belleair Bee, Alexandra

Lundahl, "Military moms."

- First place: Special issue, section or supplement, Belleair Bee, staff, "Summer Lifesyles."
- First place: Feature photo, Largo Leader, Tom Germond, "Rooftop Dining."
- Second place: Sports feature story, Clearwater Beacon, Brian Goff, "Clearwater little brother makes it big."
- Second place: Special issue, section or supplement, Belleair Bee, staff, "Just 4 Women."
- Second place: Feature story, non-profile, Clearwater Beacon, Alexandra Lundahl, "New facility for homeless vets of current wars."
- Third place: Breaking news story, Pinellas Park Beacon, Juliana A. Torres, "Plots for terror in Tampa."
- Third place: Outdoor and recreation, Pinellas Park Beacon, Juliana A. Torres, "Fab 50: Middle age women tackle 13.1 miles."
- Third place: Spot news photo, Bob McClure, "Oops."
- Third place: Humorous column, Belleair Bee, Tom Germond, "Two scales are better than one."

The awards were presented July 18 at the JW Marriot Grand Lakes hotel in Orlando.

Chesnutt attempts to defend his wing-eating champion title against two up-and-coming female competitive eaters, Miki Sudo and Michelle Lesco.

Festivities will begin at 6 p.m. and the contest will begin at 7 p.m. For information about Hooters, visit www.Hooters.com.

Chill's Bar to open

ST. PETE BEACH - Steam & Chill Restaurant, the 2012 Tampa Bay Beaches Medium Business of the Year, recently expanded to include a full bar and lounge.

Chill Restaurant & Bar is a family-owned and operated eatery open 7 days a week serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. The restaurant will celebrate its newest addition with a complimentary toast and tapas on Wednesday, July 31, 5:30 p.m. There will be an open house from 5 to 7 p.m., at 7410 Gulf Blvd.

Airport traffic increases

CLEARWATER - St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport recently posted two consecutive months with more than 27 per-

cent increases in passengers from the prior year.

In June, PIE served 94,566 passengers, a 27 percent increase over June 2012, and the busiest June since 2004. For the first six months of 2013, PIE served

530,141 passengers, an increase of 13 percent over 2012 passengers from January through June.

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Gardening can help the homeless

In 2008, a 9-year-old student named Katie Stagliano was given a tiny cabbage seedling by her teacher so that she could grow a cabbage at home. With a lot of love and a great deal of care, she grew that seed into a 40-pound cabbage – enormous by any standard. She decided to donate her super cabbage to her local soup kitchen where it helped to feed more than 275 people.



Inspiring Change

Chad Herman

remembered Katie. Those unused plots could be used to produce fresh vegetables for people who have no food. Imagine: if one cabbage could feed 275 people, five plots – the number that were vacant when I was walking by – of cabbages could feed thousands.

Today, Katie is 14, a high school student, and the proud owner of a company called Katie's Krops (www.katieskrops.com) that donates thousands of pounds of fresh produce from numerous gardens to organizations that help people in need.

When I read this story, I was amazed: first by the gargantuan-sized cabbage Katie grew and second by the fact that these fruits and vegetables could feed so many people. Plus, this wasn't just donated food; these were fresh, organic veggies straight out of the garden. You can't get much better food than that.

My amazement waned with time, and I forgot about Katie's Krops until I was wandering through a wonderful park that the locals call "Turtle Park" but is actually named George C. McGough Nature Park. At the end of the beautiful, scenic nature trail that winds through the majestic woodlands, scrub brush, pine trees and the Intracoastal Waterway, you end up at a park where the young and young-at-heart can play.

Right across from this play park is a fenced piece of land divided up into rectangular plots. There's a brightly decorated rain barrel, tools and a menagerie of fresh vegetables and foliage. This is the McGough Community Garden.

The thing that was the most interesting was that many of the plots were not being used. Suddenly, I

remembered Katie. Those unused plots could be used to produce fresh vegetables for people who have no food. Imagine: if one cabbage could feed 275 people, five plots – the number that were vacant when I was walking by – of cabbages could feed thousands.

If you're interested in gardening, want to help feed the hungry and just generally want to help the world become a better place, these community gardens are just the place to start.

To find out more about McGough's vegetable garden, visit bit.ly/11atLzA.

If you don't live in Largo, with a quick Google search, you will find that there are multiple community gardens in your area. In fact, Clearwater, Dunedin, and St. Petersburg all have their own community garden clubs. Or build a garden yourself in your own backyard.

Once you have the veggies, then what? Go out and find soup kitchens and food banks that are looking for food donations. Pinellas Hope, formerly known as Tent City, in Pinellas Park, St. Vincent de Paul, RCS (Religious Community Services) Food Bank in Clearwater, and FEAST in Palm Harbor are just a few places that are happy to accept fresh vegetable and fruit donations. Whether you're growing them in your backyard or in a community garden, your veggies can feed hundreds if not thousands. All you have to do is feed your gardening hobby.

Chad Herman, a Largo resident, is a motivational speaker dedicated to inspiring his audiences toward social change, ending violence and affirming others' ability to create a better future. Visit his website at www.motivatingforpositivechange.com.

Rainfall fills surface water sources

CLEARWATER – Tampa Bay Water has transitioned from a Phase 3 to a Phase 2 water shortage status due to the increased production from the Tampa Bay Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant.

The Phase 2 status is designated under the agency's modified Water Shortage Mitigation Plan. This is the final water shortage status update for this dry season.

June and early July rainfall created adequate river flow in the Alafia River and Tampa Bypass Canal, providing enough water for the surface water treatment plant to now produce about 80 million gallons per day. The increase in surface water supplies offsets about half of groundwater supplies and all water supplied by the Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination Plant. The Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination Plant will remain offline for at least the rest of the summer.

The regional reservoir remains offline while its interior liner is reconstructed until late summer 2014. Without this source of supply, Tampa Bay Water's water shortage phases are highly dependent on river flow and can change when dry periods return and surface water flows decline.

The function of the agency's Water Shortage Plan is to identify when changes in water supply conditions and/or rain patterns occur. Tampa Bay Water expects conditions to continue to improve throughout the summer, which could move Tampa Bay Water out of any water shortage phase by mid-September.

Regional water facts in June 2013:

- Rainfall totals in June averaged about 12.42

inches, which is about 5.61 inches above normal. Heaviest rainfall was experienced in a swath across Pasco County and parts of northern Hillsborough County between 14 and 19 inches, with the lowest rainfall occurring in central Pasco and southern Hillsborough counties between 6 and 9 inches. However, rainfall amounts were generally consistent across the entire region with about 11-14 inches.

- Hillsborough River was 205 percent of the mean monthly flow of June and the Alafia River was 107 percent of normal.

- It is predicted that both rainfall and temperatures will be above normal from July to September, with early July rainfall patterns following this prediction.

- Regional water demands averaged about 223 million gallons per day, about a 20 mgd drop from May 2013 demand.

- Tampa Bay Water remains well below its permitted groundwater pumping limits.

Regional watering restrictions are set by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and remain in a Phase 3 shortage until July 31. For information on water restrictions and to find out residential watering days, please visit www.tampabaywater.org/WaterSmarter.

Tampa Bay Water provides wholesale water to the public utility systems of Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties, as well as the cities of New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa. To learn more about Tampa Bay Water, please visit www.tampabaywater.org.

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Helping children

Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Pinellas County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association recently received 32 brand new pillows with bright pillowcases handmade by local sewing groups. Colleen Comey, board secretary, shown far left, recently partnered with Suncoast Voices for Children members, also shown, and donated pillows and homemade pillowcases to the organization so that child protection investigators could give them to children who are entering foster care. Every child that receives a new bed also will receive a new pillow.

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Looking for a home



Echo

Echo is a 4.5-year-old male domestic shorthair cat. He is a calm boy who does well with other cats. He is neutered, microchipped and vaccinated. To learn more about Echo and more adoptable animals, call the Pet Pal Animal Shelter at 328-7738, visit 405 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg, or visit www.petpalanimalshelter.com or [facebook.com/petpalanimalshelter](https://www.facebook.com/petpalanimalshelter).



Rossie

Meet Rossie, an exquisite grey tabby with gorgeous gold eyes. DD is his twin sister. This one-year-old pair was adopted together as kittens and recently returned. Since the twins have always been together and are great buddies, Save Our Strays offers the pair for a special adoption donation of \$50. Rossie and DD offer lots of love to the family that adopts them. They truly deserve a second chance. The siblings have been spayed and neutered, are current on their vaccinations and are microchipped. They are in their original foster home in north Pinellas County. To meet them, call a SOS volunteer at 481-5262 or visit www.saveourstraysinc.com.



Kollan

Kollan is a 5-month-old male brown tabby kitten. He has an adorable brown colored nose, white feet and a few tabby colored toes. Kollan is very affectionate and love to cuddle with people. He loves attention and playtime. He is very bonded with his twin brother, Koltan, and it would be great if they could be adopted together. They are neutered and current on their vaccinations. Meet Kollan at the Clearwater PetSmart on Gulf to Bay Boulevard and U.S. 19. Call Pat at Second Chance for Strays at 535-9154 or visit www.secondchanceforstrays.com.

Paw prints

HSP in first place for \$100K Challenge

CLEARWATER – The official results are in for June, and the Humane Society of Pinellas is in first place in its division in the 2013 ASPCA Rachael Ray \$100K Challenge. HSP saved 153 more lives this June than last year, putting the shelter in 11th place overall – and beating out 38 other shelters across the nation, many of which are significantly larger than HSP. HSP is eligible to receive \$5,000 in grant funds for winning their division, but the shelter won't receive the money if they don't increase total adoptions over last year by at least 300 by the end of August. Now is the time to adopt. To keep up to date with the Pick Me! Project, HSP's efforts in the \$100K Challenge, visit HumaneSocietyofPinellas.org/100K.

HSP, Petco to host Pet Expo

LARGO – The Humane Society of Pinellas and Petco Foundation will present the Pet Expo of Pinellas Saturday, Aug. 3, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Minnreg Hall, 6340 126th Ave. The expo will feature doggie-related activities including vaccines and microchips, a doggie splash zone, and adoptable pets. Friendly, vaccinated, leashed pets are welcome – but not required. Activities will include:

- Pick Me! Project pet adoptions to support HSP's efforts in the ASPCA Rachael Ray \$100K Challenge
- MASH station providing low cost pet vaccines and microchips
- Pet fashion show, with the winner to be featured in HSP's 2014 calendar
- Doggie splash zone
- Concessions
- Pet-related vendors and products
- Mascots
- Flash mob

 Vendors and sponsors are still being accepted. For information, call Twila Cole at 797-7722, ext. 222 or email Twila@HumanePinellas.org.

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Call it nutritional waterboarding

Hunger strikes aren't really hunger strikes anymore. "Hunger strikes are a long known form of non-violent protest aimed at bringing attention to a cause, rather than an attempt of suicide."



Debra Saunders

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., explained in a letter to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. Feinstein wants the military to curb the force-feeding of hunger-striking detainees at Guantanamo Bay. Force-feeding – to keep detainees alive – is the new waterboarding.

According to the Department of Defense, 80 of the prison's 166 detainees are participating in a hunger strike to protest their indefinite detention; 46 are being force-fed with gastric tubes inserted through the nose.

This is what I don't understand: If modern hunger strikes are designed to generate publicity and not to starve the participants, then why does Feinstein protest when the military keeps the prisoners alive?

The so-called human rights lobby argues that force-feeding hunger strikers is a violation of human rights. U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler agrees. She recently denied detainee Jihad Dhiab's petition to stop the practice on the grounds that the court lacked jurisdiction, even as she asserted that "force-feeding is a painful, humiliating and degrading process."

In essence, the human rights lobby has manufactured a human rights abuse – call it nutritional waterboarding.

Likewise, American Medical Association President Jeremy A. Lazarus, in an ethics paper, calls force-feeding "an inhumane and degrading intervention that falls within the prohibition of torture."

He wrote, "Every competent patient has the right to refuse medical intervention, including life-sustaining interventions." Yet in a June paper, he noted that some hunger strikers "may make less-than-voluntary decisions, feeling pressured by circumstance or other detainees." Others may be counting on medics to intervene.

So the doctors group, which won't let doctors participate in executions – in keeping with the dictum, "First, do no harm" – is telling doctors not to force-feed detainees who may want them to.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Rosemary Collyer denied a similar petition on jurisdictional grounds but came down opposite Kessler on the force-feeding issue. "Under the Eighth Amendment," Collyer wrote, "inmates have a right to adequate food, clothing, shelter and medical care." The military is responsible for detainees' safety.

Even Feinstein seems to agree. In a recent letter to President Barack Obama, Feinstein and Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., urged the president to stop "large-scale force-feedings" but allow "medically necessary" feedings under looser guidelines. They also urged Obama to close Gitmo permanently.

Department of Defense spokesman Lt. Col. Todd Breausseale told me that a growing number of hunger strikers are choosing liquid supplements over a nose hose. "For reasons that are unclear to us," he added, some choose what their lawyers call torture.

In essence, the human rights lobby has manufactured a human rights abuse – call it nutritional waterboarding – where detainees are compelling medical personnel to force-feed them. Or else.

"I've always been puzzled by the emotional atmospherics of hunger strikes, in which people are using other people's morality as a weapon against them," Walter Olson of the blog "Overlawyered" told me. "If the captors were as ruthless and demonic as Islamist ideology would hold, they wouldn't actually care about what is happening to a starving prisoner."

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

LETTERS

Site of new library questioned

Editor:

After reading an article in June 28's edition of the Clearwater Beacon about building a new library adjacent to the Countryside Recreation Center on Sabal Springs Drive, I have serious concerns.

Does everyone realize that Sabal Springs Drive is only a two-lane road that snakes back into the Countryside Recreation area? The recreation building that houses a police station has many activities for children and seniors. Parking may be a real problem. Silver Sneakers, a fitness program, has its sessions there and in the summer the senior bridge card games had to be canceled because of the increase in children's activities.

There is a playground for young children that is ideal for families and basketball courts for youth to play in a park-like setting. There is a lake by condos there and it is quiet and peaceful.

The present location of Countryside Library is ideal. It's on a main thoroughfare, S.R. 580, and exits onto Countryside Boulevard, another main thoroughfare. There is ample parking.

Wouldn't it be more practical and maybe less costly to renovate the present library, like Dunedin did years ago? Would the city fathers look into this before it's started?

Margaret Mann
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 700 words. Longer letters may be cut due to space limitations.
- Letters should address issues or current events. Please refrain from making unsubstantiated allegations. The newspaper will not print letters that contain slanderous or racial statements.
- Please do not use profanity.
- We do not publish poetry or songs in letters to the editor.
- Each writer may submit one letter per month.
- We can't return letters to the editor.
- Please allow two weeks from the time you submitted your letter for it to be published before inquiring as to its status.
- We won't print anonymous letters.
- We won't print letters that are submitted merely to promote a business.
- Thank you letters are accepted.

About the cartoonist

John Deering is chief editorial cartoonist for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, the state's largest newspaper. Winner of the National Press Foundation's 1997 Berryman Award, Deering also gained top honors in the 1994 national John Fischetti Cartoon Competition and was the seven-time winner of the Arkansas Press Association's Best Editorial Cartoonist award. Born in 1956 in Little Rock, Deering has been drawing since his childhood fascination with science fiction and dinosaurs. He and his wife, Kathy, have a daughter and two sons, and live in Little Rock. He still draws dinosaurs.

The Z-M story must never die!

This morning (July 16) – three days after the Z-M (Zimmerman-Martin) verdict was handed down – a voice spoke to me: "Driver, you are stupid. The biggest news story of the year, if not all eternity, is unfolding before your eyes, and you have barely mentioned it in your columns. What's wrong with you? Are you sleeping? On drugs?"

The voice is right. I am surely the only journalist, and perhaps one of the few Americans, who has not spoken out about the Z-M trial and verdict. So I apologize. I herewith jump on the media bandwagon, and will give you my thoughts about Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Martin, and some of the related or unrelated matters that strike my mind.

I've made inquiries to several reliable news sources. Here is what I've learned:

THE NEWS MEDIA CONSPIRACY. Four days before the verdict was announced, all the nation's major news media reached a secret agreement whose main point is this: "We have already stirred up the American public to an insatiable frenzy that demands unceasing media chatter about the Zimmerman-Martin case. This has caused our ratings (and our profits) to skyrocket. Be it resolved, then, for at least the next two years, we will milk this story to the very last drop, no matter what the trial verdict is." During the planning of the conspiracy, one or two editors raised the possibility that extending the Z-M controversy might trigger race riots. To which a CNN executive replied, "We do not want violence to break out. Violence only means that we'd have to print more editions and extend our broadcasting schedules. We'd hate that, wouldn't we?" Wink, wink.

THE QUEST FOR NEW ANGLES TO BE EXPLORED. Most news outlets have begun awarding bonuses to anyone who can come



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

up with aspects of the Z-M case that have not yet been investigated. Examples of such angles include: What did Trayvon Martin mean when, in his fifth-grade geography class, he asked the teacher, "Could you please explain why the Mercator projection makes Greenland look so huge on a map, when it really isn't?" Or why Zimmerman once expressed admiration for the TV actress Mariska Hargitay, who portrays Detective Olivia Benson on "Law and Order – Special Victims Unit". Only by digging into such vital aspects of Martin and Zimmerman's lives, as well as the opinions of their dentists and landlords, can we keep this story going.

ZIMMERMAN'S JAILHOUSE DIET. Few details have been revealed about why George Zimmerman was allowed (or persuaded) to gain so much weight during his incarceration. At the time of his arrest, Zimmerman looked slim and athletic. By the date the trial began, his cheeks bulged like those of a chipmunk. Could prosecutors have conspired to have Zimmerman put on 20 or more pounds, and thereby possibly alienate one or two jurors who harbored an anti-obesity bias?

THE HIDDEN ATTORNEYS AMONG US. Before the trial and in the uproar immediately following the verdict, we learned that thousands – perhaps millions – of Americans possess an unsuspected, detailed knowledge

of the law, especially as it applies to murky murder trials in small towns in Florida. As one Facebook writer put it, "Where the hell did all those people suddenly get their law degrees?"

SHOULD THE JURORS BE PROSECUTED? Once the public's lust for blood (anybody's often will do) is aroused, the handing down of a simple guilty or not-guilty verdict is like taking away a chunk of raw meat from a hungry wolf. To quote the esteemed TV barrister Nancy Grace, "Someone must be punished!" Even as I write these words, indications are that one or more jurors may be planning book deals about the trial. If these books reveal that strict jury protocols were not followed during deliberations, might not this be grounds for a mistrial ruling, and the launching of civil suits against the offending jurors? If, for example, Juror X took a bathroom break just as the other five jurors were discussing a vital point, such as whether the presiding judge misstated Section 437 Paragraph B of the Florida statutes pertaining to involuntary manslaughter, wouldn't that have skewed pertinent remarks after Juror X returned from the bathroom? If so, shouldn't the jurors be fined, imprisoned or hanged, dadgummit!?

I'm sorry, I withdraw that last remark. It was excessive. It's just so easy for raw emotion to take over when I'm writing about what the national media have decided is the single most important news event in the past 50 years. But at least I spoke out, even if belatedly. The only important thing is that all of us – ordinary citizens and media alike – keep the Z-M story alive for many months to come.

Bob Driver is a former columnist for the Clearwater Sun. His email address is tralee71@comcast.net.



Good news? We print plenty of it

Over the years I've often heard that newspapers are too negative and depressing – that they never print any good news.

Conjures up a tongue-in-cheek remark from an editor of mine in the 1980s: "I want blood, I want guts and I want above the fold."

But if you read newspapers enough, you realize that we print a lot of good news, above the fold and in other places in the paper. What follows are some of those types of stories that we've printed this year.

- Diana Flory of Seminole is raising funds, talking to doctors, and making several trips to St. Lucia to help an 11-year-old get treatment for a degenerative eye disease.
- Through community support, Myra Bowen of the Belleair area had a kidney transplant, after waiting for four years and going through dialysis three times a week. She got \$7,000 from people she didn't know.
- Donna Valery and Nancy Ayers, volunteers for Indian Rocks Historical Museum, put over 40 hours of work into the Indian Rocks Historical Museum for the past three months. The museum opened June 29, after extensive renovations, and it's something that the entire area should be proud of.
- Largo firefighter/paramedic Nick Rees, his brother Gordon Rees of Largo, Clearwater resident Mike Arnold put themselves into harm's way when an Indian Rocks Beach bartender was stabbed repeatedly May 19 several times. Gordon Rees and Arnold disarmed the man and held him until police came. Nick and Arnold were stabbed in the process.
- For their efforts the Largo City Commission July 2 honored the three for their heroism.



Tom Germond

They were cheered in standing ovations. It could have been worse, but the bartender, in her words, is OK, and grateful that the three men came to her rescue.

• For 20 years the good people of Lake Park Estates in Lake Seminole Village have staged a Christmas light display. Some motorists donate \$5 to \$10. Through Christmas Eve 2012, they raised \$583,000 for Suncoast Hospice.

• Area resident Richard Sheldon has given 72 gallons of blood. In addition he has played Santa Claus during the holidays until his recent retirement. On numerous occasions we have published stories and photos on multiple gallon blood donors, many who have given 100 or more gallons.

• Eagle Scouts James Rogers and David Alexander Levy of Boy Scouts Troop 486 in Largo were recently presented with Eagle Scout certificates of recognition for outstanding leadership and citizenship from the Sons of the American Revolution. They are among legions of Eagle Scouts who have provided service to their communities and have made headlines in our papers over the years.

• Philip and Elizabeth Leccardones celebrated their 72nd anniversary Nov. 25, 2012.

The local couple has 11 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

So for those people who are offended by a column on our Viewpoints page or our coverage of President Obama's visit to Seminole and say our paper is going straight to the litter box, dumpster or bird cage, I suggest they look a little further at the paper – see what else we have to offer.

Good news about our local military personnel, where the men and women are stationed, what operations they have performed. Stories that appear weekly about big events, such as jazz festivals, concerts, church fairs, arts and crafts shows, food drives, pet parades, classic car exhibits and fashion shows.

The schools – graduation ceremonies, scholarship winners, students of the month. We're glad that readers take the time to email us news about students and their schools.

There's more, much more.

As I look back on my career, the ups and downs, the privilege, fun and sometimes heartache of covering news – from serial rapists, to watermelon seed spitting contests, to political scandals, to people suffering from diseases, to devastating hurricanes and tornadoes, to a case of the stolen police chief's car – I get a lot of satisfaction knowing that newspapers help many people.

Forgive my navel gazing here and please keep reading us and reaching out to us.

Whether you love us or hate us, we are doing some things right.

Tom Germond is executive editor of Tampa Bay Newspapers. Send him an email at tgermond@TBNweekly.com

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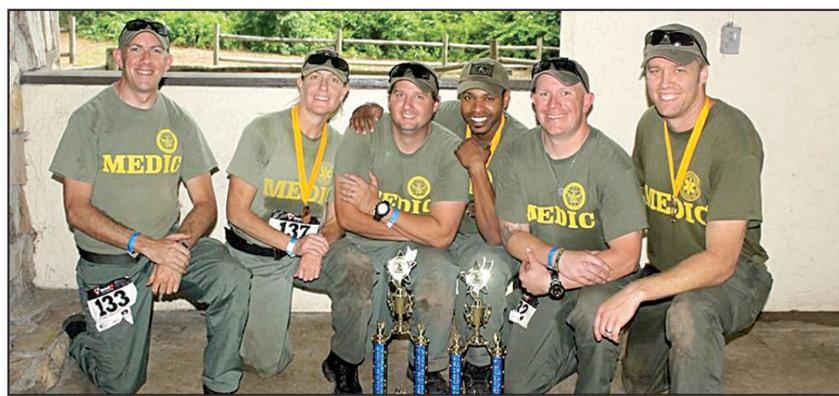
Sunstar paramedics compete in 'intubation rodeo'

LARGO – Members of the Sunstar Paramedics SWAT team took three of the top four places in a competition called the "Intubation Rodeo," held recently at Nature Coast EMS in Inverness.

In the event, EMS professionals were required to establish an airway in accident-victim simulation manikins by inserting a flexible plastic tube into the trachea (windpipe). It is important for EMS professionals to be skilled at emergency intubation, as it is commonly performed in the field.

Josh Schuster, Chris Jennings and Joe Herzhauser took second, third and fourth places at the inaugural event at Whispering Pines Park, which had more than 30 emergency agencies participating.

Each participant dealt with 25 emergency scenarios - a helicopter crash, SWAT officer shot, someone trapped upside-down in a tight space, a baby stuck in a well, an icy water rescue and more. They were given three minutes or less to assess the situation and intubate the accident victim, or establish an airway, at each challenge site.



Sunstar SWAT team members, from left, Andrew Lusher, Jennifer Leondike, Josh Schuster, Chris Jennings, Chris Eisenhardt, and Joseph Herzhauser pose for a photo with their awards from the Intubation Rodeo where they took three of the top four places.

was sponsored by Nature Coast EMS and drew participants from as far away as Miami and the Florida Panhandle.

With breakthroughs in modern technology, intubation has been de-emphasized because of other airway adjuncts available. Nevertheless, it is still a crucial skill that EMS professionals must

possess. Stronger EMS skills in the field equate to a higher chance of survival for the patient.

"Over the past several years, intubation has been a skill that's been lost by paramedics," said Ron Bray, Nature Coast EMS lead paramedic instructor. "With this event, those who participate regain their skills in a fun way.

By doing it 25 times, they walk away with a skill set they probably didn't come in with."

Sunstar is the 911 ambulance transport service for all Pinellas County residents, employing 500-plus local residents, and responding to around 500 calls a day.

For more information, visit SunstarEMS.com.

Industry updates

Hurricane blood drives set

OneBlood will host a number of hurricane preparedness blood drives Saturday through Monday, July 27-29 at locations across Pinellas.

OneBlood must keep local hospitals stocked with life-supporting blood at all times. Maintaining a safe and adequate inventory of blood requires the participation of volunteer blood donors. With the help of donors, the community can be prepared to meet patient needs before, during and after any tropical storm or hurricane.

"We appreciate that the following community partners are sponsoring hurricane preparedness blood drives with OneBlood on the dates and times listed below," a press release from OneBlood reads. "Eligible and prospective blood donors are urged to share their power by donating blood on the bloodmobile at any of these locations."

Locations hosting blood drives include the following:

- Select Lowe's Stores - Saturday, July 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donors will receive a free \$10 Lowe's gift card. For participating locations, visit www.oneblood.org/promotions/202391-Hurricane-Preparedness-with-Lowes.stml
- Select Publix Super Markets - Sunday, July 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donors will receive a free \$10 Publix gift card. For participating locations, visit www.oneblood.org/promotions/202398-Hurricane-Preparedness-with-Publix.stml
- Select RaceTrac Stores - Monday, July 29, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Donors will receive a free \$10 RaceTrac gift card. For participating locations, visit www.oneblood.org/promotions/202390-Hurricane-Preparedness-at-Racetrac.stml

For a list of all promotional blood drive locations, visit www.oneblood.org/promotions.

Lifesaving donors also will receive a wellness checkup, including cholesterol screening, and a coupon for \$5 off two entrees from Outback Steakhouse. In addition, all donors who give blood twice between now and Sept. 30 will receive a voucher for a free steak dinner courtesy of Outback Steakhouse and be entered into a drawing to win Outback for a Year.

For further details and rules, visit www.oneblood.org/outback.

Bay Pines VA recognized

SEMINOLE – The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System has been recognized as a leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality in the Healthcare Equality Index 2013, an annual survey conducted by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the country's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organization.

The healthcare system earned top marks for its commitment to equitable, inclusive care for LGBT patients and their families, who can face significant challenges in securing adequate healthcare.

"The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System is committed to serving all the men and women who served our nation with honor and distinction," said Suzanne M. Klinker in a press release. Klinker is director of Bay Pines VAHCS. "Our participation in the 2013 national HEI survey demonstrates our commitment to health care equity for all Veterans and we are honored to be recognized as a national leader."

The Bay Pines VAHCS was one of a select group of 464 healthcare facilities nationwide to be named Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality. Facilities awarded this title meet key criteria for equitable care, including non-discrimination policies for LGBT patients and employees, a guarantee of equal visitation for same-sex partners and parents, and LGBT health education for key staff members.

Majeed receives award

ST. PETERSBURG – The Foundation Fighting Blindness, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to finding treatments and cures for vision-robbing retinal diseases, recently recognized St. Petersburg resident Kamal Majeed with its Outstanding New Trustee Award.

The annual honor acknowledges notable contributions and sustained commitment to the foundation's mission during the first three years of trusteeship.

Majeed became a foundation trustee in 2010 and has worked to raise research funds and awareness within the Tampa Bay community. He has co-chaired the Tampa/St. Petersburg Dining in the Dark for the last three years, engaging top community leaders and philanthropists. Over the past four years, when Majeed has been involved with Dining in the Dark, the event has raised more than half a million dollars. President and CEO of Tampa-based NexTech Systems, Majeed is motivated in the fight against blindness because his late mother experienced vision loss later in life, and his mother-in-law is now losing her sight to age-related macular degeneration.

"Without inspiring trustee leaders like Kamal Majeed, the Foundation Fighting Blindness would not be in the position we are today-actually restoring vision in human clinical trials," said Bill Schmidt in a press release. Schmidt is CEO of the Foundation Fighting Blindness. "We are truly grateful for his ongoing drive to make a difference for the more than 10 million Americans living with retinal diseases."

"I'm truly honored to receive this award from the Foundation Fighting Blindness," said Majeed. "Their mission and cause to stop these vision-robbing eye diseases is so important as I have experienced first hand the impact the loss of sight can have on an individual and their family. Being able to raise awareness and funds is one way I can take action in helping others who are affected by retinal eye diseases."

Bon Secours recognized

ST. PETERSBURG – Bon Secours St. Petersburg Health System recently was honored with the LeadingAge Florida Quality First Award at the 50th annual LeadingAge Florida Convention &

Exposition in Orlando.

The health system was recognized among other LeadingAge Florida members for its commitment to ensuring an extraordinary experience of care as particularly outlined by LeadingAge Florida's 10 Elements of Quality. Over the past year, as an integral focus of its efforts to transform its health delivery, Bon Secours St. Petersburg has sought to enhance the potential of its staff in the delivery of skilled nursing and rehabilitation, assisted living, and home care services to seniors in the Tampa Bay area.

"In light of advanced medical practice and health reform's increasing shift to treat patients' conditions in the lowest cost settings of care, healthcare providers are experiencing an influx in the heightened acuity of patients across the continuum," said Karen Reich in a press release. Reich is CEO of Bon Secours St. Petersburg. "For instance, patients who were previously admitted to the hospital for days to undergo a hip replacement, are now being discharged overnight to inpatient rehabs, skilled nursing facilities, and even home. The delivery and coordination of exceptional care requires a workforce that is exceedingly proficient, apt to serve, and all-round extraordinary."

As Bon Secours St. Petersburg forges alliances externally to bridge the full continuum of care, the organization has also sought to drive continuous quality improvement in its own post-acute services by enhancing the en-

agement of its workforce – especially through the development of the nursing staff's clinical acumen. To accomplish this end, the organization developed a robust education plan to address the increasing acuity level of patients.

Using a competency-based model developed in coordination with its area hospitals but within the regulated scope of services for each entity, Bon Secours St. Petersburg strives to better define expectations and assess performance for its nursing staff. In 2012, in order to facilitate the work associated with the delivery of staff education, the organization created a full-time RN Clinical Education Coordinator to organize curriculum, coordinate its delivery, and assess outcomes. The oversight for this position is provided by Jane Woolley, the organization's Director of Quality & Risk, who holds a doctorate in education from Columbia University and who also serves as a licensed continuing education provider.

To date, the success of the education program can be demonstrated through Bon Secours Maria Manor's attainment of the Florida Gold Seal in 2013, as well as it and Bon Secours St. Petersburg Home Care's Joint Commission re-accreditation surveys in 2012.

"While health reform casts a cloud of uncertainty over the present state of healthcare operations nationally," said Emily Morgan, Bon Secours St. Petersburg's Board Quality Chair, "I am certain of Bon Secours St. Petersburg's ability to thrive and endure."

Visit the Largo Leader every day at www.TBNweekly.com

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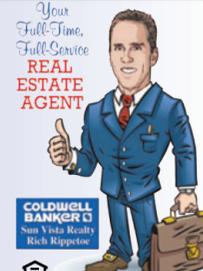


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Healthy events

Back to school dental day set for Aug. 2

When Pinellas schools reopen on Aug. 19, students between the ages of 4 and 18 can return to the classroom with a big smile, courtesy of the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County's Back to School dental event Friday, Aug. 2.

Three DOH-Pinellas dental offices will offer exams and X-rays at no cost to families that day. Children and teens must be new patients accompanied by a parent or guardian. For information, call your nearest location. These three dental clinics will open at 8 a.m. Appointments will be first come, first served.

- DOH-Pinellas in Clearwater, 310 N. Myrtle Ave., 469-5800
- DOH-Pinellas in Mid-County, 8751 Ulmerton Road, 524-4410
- DOH-Pinellas in St. Petersburg, 205 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N., 824-6975

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

July 31 is Heatstroke Prevention Day

A child dies from heatstroke every 10 days from being left alone in an unattended vehicle. In fact, heatstroke is the leading cause of a non-crash vehicle fatality for children 14 and younger.

On Wednesday, July 31, Pinellas County Public Safety Services is joining a national effort to raise awareness about this preventable tragedy with a Social Media Conversation Day.

On this day, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is asking the public to share safety messages through Facebook

and Twitter using the hashtag #heatstroke.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- A child's body absorbs more heat on a hot day than does an adult's body.
- High body temperatures can cause permanent injury or even death in children.
- Ten minutes is all the time it takes for a car to reach deadly temperatures.
- In 52 percent of cases, children are "forgotten" by their caregiver.
- In 29 percent of cases, children enter the vehicle on their own.
- Caregivers are urged to never leave a child alone in a car.

More information about National Heatstroke Prevention Day can be found at www.nhtsa.gov/safety/hyperthermia and www.safercar.gov/parents/heatstroke.htm.

Ostomy group to meet

ST. PETERSBURG – The United Ostomy Association's local support group will meet Sunday, July 28, 2 p.m., at St. Anthony's Hospital, 1200 Seventh Ave. N.

Attendees have the opportunity to get needed information and education that will help them find the tools they need to get back to an active life. It is also the place where to share triumphs and knowledge with those who are now facing the life-saving surgery.

The July meeting will feature a speaker from Genarix who will present an ostomy bingo game.

The group meets last Sundays. Refreshments are served. There is no cost to attend. Anyone is invited who is either an ostomate or a health professional or family or friend.

Call Bill Schmidt at 657-0998 or Leslee Hall at 418-0820.

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Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

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Caroleanne Vorac
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

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Rich Rippetoe
Coldwell Banker Sun Vista Realty

After a slow start, baitfish on the rise

There's no question that this has been a slow baitfish season thus far. Capturing enough live bait, namely pilchards, can make a huge difference in whether or not you have a successful day on the water. Pilchards, otherwise known as whitebait, can be angler's biggest asset when targeting a variety of both inshore and offshore gamefish. Fortunately for us, it appears we now may be on the verge of a major change. Masses of juvenile pilchards have flooded our bays and beaches; these tiny baits will grow quickly and soon they'll be big enough to tempt most any gamefish.

These smaller baits can be used in a couple of situations: mackerel, bluefish and ladyfish numbers have increased with the arrival of the fry bait and can often be seen busting through the pods of bait. Using



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wellerstein

a quarter inch mesh cast net will allow you to net the baits without getting a bunch hung up in the net. Anchor up in the area that the bait is the thickest and toss out handfuls of freebees. This should bring the fish right behind the boat. Use a number two long-shank hook to prevent cutoffs and a weighted float to help cast the baits out.

Mangrove snapper love tiny pilchards. Although we haven't seen the numbers of snapper near shore like we had a few years ago, it shouldn't be long before their numbers increase with the arrival of the bait. There is, however, plenty of snapper further offshore.

Many of the artificial reefs in 40 to 50 feet of water are loaded with snapper this time of year and the pipeline is another spot that always has snapper. Taking a bunch of iced down pilchards to these areas can make for awesome snapper fishing. Use fresh chum blocks and deploy a steady stream of pilchards and it won't be long before the snapper will get into your chum-slick.

Use number two live bait hooks and usually no more than a quarter ounce egg sinker and lower your baitfish right down the chum slick. *Tyson Wellerstein can be reached at capt.tyson@hotmail.com. To get a fish photo in the paper, send the photo along with your name, when and where it was caught to editorial@TBNweekly.com or mail it to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772.*

Nature briefs

McGough to host night hike

LARGO - A night hike will be presented Saturday, Aug. 17, 6:30 p.m., at George C. McGough Nature Park, 11901 146th N. St. This will be a free interpretative nature hike through McGough's habitats. Call 518-3047.

Brooker to host guided hike

TARPON SPRINGS - A guided hike will be offered Saturday, July 27, 9 to 10:30 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

Attendees will take a walk through time on a guided hike. Participants will have an opportunity to look at how the land has changed over time and discuss the ecological footprints left by those changes.

Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must, and water and a hat are recommended. All ages are welcome, although children 5 and younger may find this hike challenging.

Preregistration is required. Visit www.brookercreekpreserve.org or call 453-6800.

Spiny lobster season to open Aug. 6

The 2013 recreational and commercial spiny lobster seasons will open Aug. 6 and continue through March 31.

A two-day recreational season was held July 24-25. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, commercial fishermen can begin putting their traps in the water Aug. 1, and recreational and commercial fishermen may harvest spiny lobsters starting Aug. 6.

Spiny lobsters must have a carapace length greater than 3 inches to be taken during the open seasons. Divers must possess a measuring device and lobsters must be in the water while they are measured.

Harvest of egg-bearing females is prohibited. Spiny lobsters must remain in whole condition until it is brought to shore. Harvesters cannot use any device that might puncture, penetrate or crush the shell of the lobster.

Lobster harvest is prohibited in Everglades National Park, Dry Tortugas National Park, Biscayne Bay/Card Sound Spiny Lobster Sanctuary, certain areas in Pennekamp Park, and no-take areas in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

During the Aug. 6 to March 31 regular season, the daily recreational bag and on-the-water possession limit is six spiny lobsters per person.

While diving, spiny lobster harvesters may encounter nonnative, invasive lionfish. FWC encourages people to remove lionfish to limit negative impacts to native fish and wildlife. There is no bag limit for the nonnative, invasive lionfish.

Divers must have a recreational saltwater fishing license and a spiny lobster permit to recreationally harvest spiny lobsters unless they are exempt from recreational license requirements.

Information about these licenses and permits is available online at MyFWC.com/License.

The FWC advises to be safe when diving or snorkeling for spiny lobster and when boating around other divers. Be sure to stay within 300 feet of a properly displayed divers-down flag (red with a white diagonal stripe) when in open water and within 100 feet of a properly displayed divers-down flag if on a river, inlet or navigation channel.

Boat operators must slow to idle speed when traveling within 300 feet of a divers-down flag in open water or 100 feet of one on a river, inlet or navigational channel. Divers-down flags displayed on vessels must be at least 20 inches by 24 inches, and a stiffener is required to keep the flag unfurled. The flag must be displayed from the highest point of the vessel and must be visible from all directions. When divers are out of the water, the flag must not be displayed. Dive flags carried on floats must be at least 12 inches by 12 inches.

More information on divers-down flag requirements is available online at MyFWC.com/Boating by clicking on "Boating Regulations."

Additional information on recreational spiny lobster fishing, including how to measure spiny lobster, is available online at MyFWC.com/Fishing by clicking on "Saltwater," "Recreational Regulations" and "Lobster."

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Dolphins dozing in a diamond field; on their sleeping patterns

Do you believe that summer is half way over? So many people lately have exclaimed with disbelief how the end of summer is just around the corner. Time goes by so fast.



Dolphin Watch
Ann Weaver

I have often wondered if time seems accelerated because many of us have stopped indulging in down time. Actually, down time is not an indulgence. Anyone who has pets or works with the animal kingdom knows that down time is essential.

Do dolphins have down time? If so, do they stop swimming?

Yes, dolphins have down time. No, they do not stop swimming. They just swim slower and more methodically. They have to stay vigilant, like people in a cash-strapped economy.

Recently, four separate little groups of bottlenose dolphins oozed northward, scattered across a broad bay through prancing particles of light from the setting sun. The four groups stretched out in the general shape of a baseball diamond, except that they were hundreds of yards apart. Each expressed its own version of and reasons for down time.

At home plate, bulls BB and DD2 swam rhythmically side by side. The reason for their down time may be habit. Sunset is often their time to catch a few winks.

Their position at home plate was a good vantage for sleepily monitoring the three little groups ahead of them. Their snooze swim was likely sprinkled with the drowsy murmurs from the group over at third base. The bull Lax, newly back in town after

months away, swam with local ladies DD1 and Split while Forest and her little calf Meadow meandered drowsily alongside.

A possible reason for the big bulls somnolence was the pair of white tooth marks on either side of his head, testifying that even a 500-plus pound bottlenose dolphin bull can be grabbed by the head by a shark. Clearly, this was a shark with attitude. One would hope that such attitudes are rare out there.

Nearby, local lady DD1 swam sleepily. Her reason was the great weight she carried, a near-term fetus. She rose to breathe systematically but heavily, barely clearing her split dorsal fin at the water's surface.

Cross the way on first base, another little four-some strolled somewhat more alertly. Front Slash's four-day-old newborn practiced jerky breathing surfaces. It was tucked safely between its mother, sluggish from her recent birth efforts, and local ladies J and Student, who took turns flanking the mom and new babe.

Way out ahead at second base, the final group of dolphins popped up periodically amid particles of prancing light. Though Lax could have easily called to FM and her schoolmates, he chose to leave his sleepy companions and swim all the way over to her, as if their exchange needed touch rather than sound. FM came out of her spot in the diamond field and met him. They touched noses briefly, mysteriously. Then Lax turned and swam all the way back to his waiting schoolmates.



Photo by ANN WEAVER

Dolphins sleep by resting half of their brain at a time, and in this unusual manner may actually sleep up to eight hours a day.

They all receded from view along with the dimming light, a few final flashes of light dancing here and there across the darkening seas.

There! That little bit of down time did not hurt, did it.

Dr. Weaver studies wild dolphins under federal

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

Gardening briefs

Orchid society to meet

LARGO – The Florida West Coast Orchid Society will meet Thursday, Aug. 8, 7 p.m., at Pinellas County Extension Center, 12520 Ulmerton Road.

At 7 p.m., Linda Lowe will present a class on the genus Neofinetia from Japan. At 7:30 p.m., Roy Takunaga of H&R Nurseries of Hawaii will discuss the Dendrobium species and hybrids.

The society meets second Thursdays. Meetings include an orchid sale, bloom table and education class.

For information, call 581-3987 or visit www.fwcoc.org.

Vegetable garden introduction set

LARGO – Theresa Badurek, Pinellas County Urban Horticulture Extension agent, will present an introduction to setting up a vegetable garden Friday, Aug. 2, 10 to 11:30 a.m., at Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road.

Attendees will learn about site selection and layout, great veggies and varieties for the area. The free class is recommended for adults. Advance registration is required. Call 582-2109 or visit www.eventbrite.com/event/7261975765/eorg.

Program to cover vegetable garden set-up

ST. PETERSBURG – Theresa Badurek, Pinellas County Urban Horticulture Extension agent, will present an introduction to setting up a vegetable garden in Pinellas County on Friday, Aug. 9, 10 to 11:30 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

Learn about site selection and layout, great veggies and varieties for the area. The free class is recommended for adults. Advance registration is required. Call 582-2109 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Extension to host garden tours

LARGO – Vegetable, herb and tropical fruit garden tours will be offered Thursday, Aug. 15, 9 to 11 a.m., at Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road.

Guests will have an opportunity to explore the vegetable garden and compost demonstration areas at Pinellas County Extension/Florida Botanical Gardens to learn more about growing food. The tour features an eye-catching array of culinary, medicinal and aromatic herbs, trees and flowers in the garden. Attendees may wander the paths between the Egyptian, Mediterranean, Asian and Beverage plantings to learn how the featured plants can be used in the home. Guests also will discover the tropical fruits that do well in the Florida climate including many varieties of bananas, figs, papayas, mangoes, avocados, sugar cane and

citrus. The free tours are limited to groups of four to 16 people.

Advance registration is required. Call 582-2501 or visit www.eventbrite.com/event/6241882639/eorg.

Wildflower Garden Club to meet

TARPON SPRINGS – The Wildflower Garden Club will meet Saturday, Aug. 31, 8 to 10 p.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center, 3940 Keystone Road.

Call 453-6800 or visit www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

Nice catch



Photo courtesy of SANDI WEIKEL

Robby Wendel, right, and friend Spencer McEleny, both of Seminole, display a 120-pound tarpon Wendel caught June 26 off Sarasota. Wendel will be a senior at Indian Rocks Christian School this fall.

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Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County



- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

Leader
Section B
July 25, 2013

Visit www.TBNweekly.com

Top five diversions

• **"Lucky Stiff,"** July 25 through Aug. 5, at Francis Wilson Playhouse, 302 Seminole St., Clearwater. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$13 for students with identification. Call 446-1360 or visit FrancisWilsonPlayhouse.org. Harry Witherspoon will inherit six million dollars if he can successfully go on holiday to Monte Carlo for a week with a strange guest, his dearly departed Uncle Anthony. Using a wheelchair and costumes, Harry must convince everyone that Uncle is alive and well and having the vacation of a lifetime. If he doesn't pull it off, all the money goes to the Universal Dogs Home of Brooklyn - and if there is one thing in life that Harry hates, it's dogs! Following Harry's every move is Annabel Glick, a pretty yet aloof representative from the Universal Dog Home. Hot on their trail are Vinnie and Rita, a brother and sister team on the run from the Mafia, intent in recovering the body plus the millions of dollars of stolen diamonds it conceals. "Lucky Stiff" is a murder mystery farce that propels a mild-mannered English shoe clerk into a lunatic mix of a murdered Atlantic City croupier, his near-sighted jilted mistress, her hen-pecked brother and several hundred (off-stage) dogs.

• **Vans Warped Tour.** Friday, July 26, 11 a.m., Vinoy Park, 500 Bay Shore Drive, St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$42.50. Visit www.vanswarpedtour.com. This summer's diverse tour lineup will feature Sleeping With Sirens, We Came As Romans, Motion City Soundtrack, The Wonder Years, Bring Me The Horizon, Reel Big Fish, Crown The Empire, The Story So Far and many more. In addition, festivalgoers will experience an expanded Acoustic Basement, which features established and up-and-coming acoustic artists, such as William Beckett, Allison Weiss and The American Scene.

• **The Monkees,** Sunday, July 28, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. The group's summer tour, A Midsummer's Night With The Monkees, follows the 2012 fall tour to the Tampa Bay area as a follow-up to the 2012 fall tour featuring Michael Nesmith, Micky Dolenz, and Peter Tork. The show will encompass a full multimedia evening of music, rare films and one-of-a-kind photographs culled from the archives. Backed by the same stellar crew of musicians from their 2012 run, Nesmith, Dolenz and Tork will also perform an unaccompanied set as a trio. This foray into tracks from their 1967 homespun No. 1 long player, "Headquarters," is sure to be among the highlights of the upcoming dates. The trio's set list will feature a selection of their classic hits such as "Last Train To Clarksville," "I'm A Believer," "Pleasant Valley Sunday" and "(I'm Not Your) Steppin' Stone," deep cuts from their first five platinum albums - including some performed for the first time since the 1960s - and fan favorites from the soundtrack to their cult film classic "Head" and their Emmy-award winning television series.

• **Gumbi Ortiz and New Groove City,** Friday, July 26, 8 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 the day of the show. Call 822-3590 or visit www.mypalladium.org. Ortiz

See TOP FIVE, page 2B



Photo by GENE SMIRNOV/BLACK LODGE PUBLICITY
August Burns Red joins the Vans Warped Tour July 26 at Vinoy Park.



Photo by BEN ROTHSTEIN

Logan (Hugh Jackman) fights his greatest battle in "The Wolverine."

Opening this weekend

Jackman reprises role as 'The Wolverine,' faces samurai and Yakuza

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'The Wolverine'

Genre: Action and adventure
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Will Yun Lee, Svetlana Khodchenkova, Hiroyuki Sanada, Hal Yamanouchi, Tao Okamoto, Rila Fukushima and Brian Tee

Director: James Mangold
Rated: PG-13

The most iconic character in the X-Men universe embarks upon an epic journey in modern-day Japan in "The Wolverine."

Inspired by the celebrated Marvel comic book arc, Logan (Hugh Jackman), the century-old mutant known to the world as Wolverine, is lured to a Japan he hasn't seen since World War II - and into a shadowy realm of Yakuza and Samurai.

Suddenly finding himself on the run with a mysterious, beautiful heiress and confronted for the first time with the prospect of true mortality, Logan will be pushed to the physical and emotional edge - further than he's ever been. On a perilous journey to rediscover the hero inside,



Photo by BONNIE OSBORNE

Aubrey Plaza, left, stars as Brandy and Rachel Bilson as Amber in CBS Films' "The To Do List."

Logan will be forced to grapple not only with powerful foes, mutant and human alike, but with the ghosts of his own haunted past, as well. As The Wolverine crosses his adamantium claws with Samurai swords, striking out through a maze of love, betrayal and honor, he will truly come to know the price of a life without end.

'The To Do List'

Genre: Comedy

Cast: Aubrey Plaza, Johnny Simmons, Bill Hader, Alia Shawkat, Sarah Steele, Rachel Bilson, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Donald Glover, Scott Porter, Andy Samberg, Connie Britton and Clark Gregg

Director: Maggie Carey
Rated: R

In order to shed her uptight image before college, valedictorian Brandy Klark creates a "to do list" of all the "activities" she missed out on in high school.

Quickly realizing that she's way out of her depth, Brandy solicits her two best friends, her older sister and her burnt-out

See OPENING, page 3B

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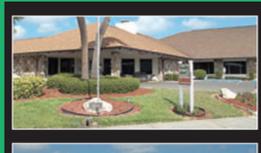
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Pride of Ownership shows in this Canterbury Chase home! Floor plan features 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dining area, living room and family room. The fenced backyard is great for entertaining with a beautiful pool, covered patio & a sitting deck.

\$215,000



Immaculate move in ready Seminole home! Split floor plan features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dining area, screen enclosed patio and bonus room that would be great as an office or playroom. Plus, there is a large 1 car garage.

\$175,000



This must see Seminole home has room 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.

\$147,000



Build your waterfront dream home on this gorgeous Madeira Beach lot. Plus, there is a boat dock and lift already installed. This ideal location is walking distance to the beach and close to restaurants & entertainment.

\$295,000



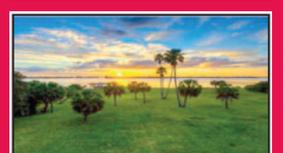
Enjoy the water views from this lovely condo. Floor plan features 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a great room and an enclosed patio to enjoy the boats and water view. Plus, there is a 1 car carport.

\$125,000



Old world charm combined with Bardmoor prestige makes this custom home a must see! The spacious floor plan features 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, a formal dining room, formal living room with a fireplace and gourmet style kitchen.

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Looking Ahead

Largo

• **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.

• **Benny Goodman's 75th Anniversary Tribute**, presented by the Capitol Center Jazz Orchestra; Wednesday, Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$29.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Jazz clarinetist and Benny Goodman alumnus Ken Peplowski is featured with the highly acclaimed Capitol Center Jazz Orchestra in celebrating the 75th anniversary of Benny Goodman's historical 1938 Carnegie Hall concert. This historic and revolutionary performance claimed a new place for jazz on the American cultural scene and has come to be seen as the most important jazz concert in history. This incredible evening of music will feature numerous classics from Goodman's historic 1938 performance, including "Don't Be That Way," "Memories of You" and the iconic "Sing, Sing, Sing."

• **Gary Wright**, Friday, Oct. 4, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$34.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Wright's hit song "Dream Weaver" has been featured in many movies including the "Wayne's World" feature film, "The People vs. Larry Flynt" and "Toy Story 3." Wright has continued to have success on the Billboard charts with "Really Wanna Know You" in 1981 and in 1986, he contributed the song "Hold On to Your Vision" on the soundtrack of Sylvester Stallone's movie "Cobra." "Better By You, Better Than Me," a song written by Wright, was also covered by Judas Priest on their 1978 album "Stained Class." Wright has continued to produce and cre-

ate records through the decades and you may have seen him recently in 2008 and 2010 touring with Ringo Starr and His All Starr Band.

St. Petersburg

• **"Good Egg,"** by Dorothy Fortenberry, presented by A Simple Theatre Company; through July 28, at the Bininger Theatre on the Eckerd College campus, 4200 54th Ave. S., St. Petersburg. Performances will be Thursdays through Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. General admission is \$25. Call 242-4691 or visit www.asimpletheatre.org. A Simple Theatre Company is St. Petersburg's newest professional theater. The company will present Fortenberry's play, "Good Egg." Responsible Meg has always taken care of her bipolar younger brother Matt. But when she decides to get pregnant and have her embryos screened for bipolar disorder, is she taking the idea of "being responsible" too far? "Good Egg" is a funny and surprising play about bioethics, siblings, and the limits of unconditional love. The production will be directed by artistic director, Gavin Hawk, and will star Meg Heimstead and Christopher Jackson.

• **"My Name is Asher Lev,"** by Aaron Posner, adapted from the novel by Chaim Potok; presented by American Stage Theatre, through Aug. 25, 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.

• **Dan McMillon and the High Octane Quintet**, Friday, July 26, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the Mary Alice McClendon Conservatory at the Museum of Fine Arts, 255 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg. The performance is part of the sixth annual Dinner and Jazz Series at the MFA. Admission is \$5 for museum members and their guests and \$10 for nonmembers. This includes admission to the exhibitions in the Hazel Hough Wing. The MFA Café will be open for dinner and a "beer

and wine" cash bar will be available. Table reservations are strongly recommended. Call 822-1032 or 896-2667, ext. 258. The Museum Store will be open until 8 p.m. For series information, call 896-2667 or visit www.fine-arts.org. A star of the Seabreeze jazz label, McMillon leads these musicians who always live up to the name "High Octane." His Jazz Orchestra recorded the Grammy-nominated CD "Got the Spirit in Tampa."

• **"Compass,"** Saturday, July 27, 8 p.m., at The Studio@620, 620 First Ave. S., St. Petersburg. Admission is \$10. Call 895-6620 or visit www.studio620.org. Part of the Spec Performance Series, "Compass" is an evening of short performing artworks in progress served up in bite-sized 7-10 minute pieces. "Compass" artists include NewGrounds choreographer Melissa Torres, jazz musician James Crumbly, and Spec artistic director Erin Tracy. The program also features the world premiere of the dance film "The Enormity of Two" and "Beauty Image," a dance piece from Spec artistic director Tina Tidwell.

• **Mayhem Festival**, Wednesday, July 31, noon, at Live Nation Amphitheater, 4802 U.S. 301 N., Tampa. Tickets start at \$32.50. Call 813-740-2446 or visit www.livenation.com. This year's lineup will feature performances by Rob Zombie, Five Finger Death Punch, Mastodon, Amon Amarth, Machine Head, Children Of Bodom, Behemoth, Job For A Cowboy, Emmure, Born Of Osiris, Motionless In White, Butcher Babies, Battlecross, Huntress, Thrown Into Exile and City In The Sea.

Palm Harbor

• **Summertime Blues**, Friday, July 26, 6 to 9 p.m., at Larisa Jewelers, 30569 U.S. 19 N., Palm Harbor. The event will feature a unique selection of fine art, glass and metal works, photography, jewelry and gifts handcrafted by local artisans. There will be wine, a raffle and hors d'oeuvres. Live music will be provided by Mark Hanson. Raffle ticket proceeds will benefit Pinellas County youth through FEAST's summer meal program.

Tarpon Springs

• **"Fiddler on the Roof,"** presented by the Gilbert & Sullivan Players; July 26-28, at Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center, 324 Pine St., Tarpon Springs. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays 2 p.m. Tickets are \$24 for adults and \$20 for members and students. Call 942-5605 or visit www.tarponarts.org. The production is directed by Jamie Bierchen with musical direction by Constantine Gramme and choreography by Jane Russell Geddings. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, "Fiddler on the Roof" has touched audiences around the world with its humor, warmth and honesty. The universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness. With wonderful songs, such as "Matchmaker," "If I Were a Rich Man," and "Sunrise, Sunset," the story of Tevye and his family in Czarist Russia has been a universal favorite among theater audiences since the show won 10 Tony Awards for the original production.

Tampa

• **"The Lonesome West,"** by Martin McDonagh, presented by Job-site Theater, 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.jobsitetheater.org. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 4 p.m. Tickets are \$28.

Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15				16					
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Across

- ___ Bell
- Radar image
- Hoist with a tangle
- Dwarf buffalo
- Ancestry
- ___ tube
- Causing personal collapse (2 wds)
- Antiquity, in antiquity
- "Cast Away" setting
- Enlarge, as a hole
- Antagonist
- Horrify
- ___ and cheese
- Some hospital procedures
- ___ few rounds (2 wds)
- Bouquets
- ___-Wan Kenobi
- Al dente
- Respiratory disease in both lungs (2 wds)
- ___ fruit
- Bleed
- Bog
- Certain digital watch face, for short
- Lab tube
- All ___
- Stereo knob
- Unified
- Be itinerant
- Alpine transport (hyphenated)
- ___ Appia
- Playful allure
- "Death, Be Not Proud" poet
- Cashmere, e.g.
- ___ vera
- Plumber's snake
- Aardvark fare
- Antarctic explorer

Down

- Electric dart shooter
- Administer extreme unctio to
- Ignoring (2 wds)
- Big galoot
- Sanctified
- Strong, fine cotton threads
- Reciprocal cohesion
- The "p" in m.p.g.
- Arm muscles
- Available (2 wds)
- In a matter-of-fact manner
- Clinton, e.g.: Abbr.
- .000001 joule
- Cheerless
- Radioactive element
- Poets' feet
- Large-eyed lemur
- Priests of the East
- ___ Vigoda, actor
- Mature
- "Gotcha"
- South American cranelike bird
- Golfers' warnings
- Nipper
- Grass cutters
- Person involved in the printing process
- Additionally (2 wds)
- Carried
- Transports with a truck or cart
- Golfer's accessory
- Alleviated
- Federal agency for safe food (acronym)
- "Skip to My ___"
- Air letters?
- Apprehend

Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers from last week

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

Crossword answers from last week

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69
70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83
84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97
98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111
112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125

Horoscopes

July 25, 2013

Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

Uh-oh, Capricorn. You get caught in the crossfire at work, and you must act fast to retain your neutrality. The quest for the right piece at home begins.

Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

The writing is on the wall, Aquarius. Don't dismiss it. Dreams change, and new goals must be set. Travel plans shape up with the assistance of a pro.

Pisces

February 19 - March 20

Relax, Pisces. You've got the market cornered, and the accolades will all be yours. An addition to the team at work brings new energy to a project.

Aries

March 21 - April 19

Hush, Aries. Actions speak louder than words. Summer activities abound, and your schedule is soon packed. A date with a loved one adds to the fun.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

A foray into the unknown uncovers a passion. Explore it, Taurus. It could lead to bigger and better things. A health crisis passes. Celebrate with a mini vacation.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21

A young one's wish is granted, and they have you to thank. Way to go, Gemini! A train wreck at home comes to a screeching halt with the arrival of guests.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22

Keep at it, Cancer. The process may be painstakingly slow, but it will yield big dividends fast. A personal relationship grows deeper with an admission.

Leo

July 23 - August 22

Prepare to be challenged this week, Leo. Stay true to your convictions. A financial mistake is rectified, and your checking account balance improves considerably.

Virgo

August 23 - September 22

Drat, Virgo. Clutter takes hold at home and impedes progress. Take steps to rein it in before it gets out of control and infiltrates other areas of your life.

Libra

September 23 - October 22

Caution, Libra. What one says is not necessarily what one means. Ask all the right questions before you make a decision. A fitness goal is reached.

Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

Temperatures heat up, and summer fun is on tap all week long. A group of friends gather together for a cause. Don't miss out, Scorpio.

Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

Security measures at home lack. Take the initiative to tidy things up, Sagittarius. The behavior of some people is astounding. Don't let it hold you back.

TOP FIVE, from page 1B

is known around the world for his exciting conga performance and knowledge of rhythm and percussion. For the past 20 years, Ortiz has been an integral part of superstar guitarist Al DiMeola's band. Ortiz is also a teacher, session player and leader of the New Groove City, formerly known as the "Latino Projekt." During the last 10 years, the New Groove

City has grown from a revolving base of young musicians who have learned from and played with Ortiz, into a full-blown band that records and performs hardcore timba and authentic Cuban salsa. The band released two successful albums, and has toured throughout Florida and the southeast. For the first time, New Groove City, graces the stage of the Palladium's intimate, award-winning listening room, the Side Door.

• **Betty Fox Band**, Saturday, July 27, 8 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the show. Call 822-3590 or visit www.mypalladium.org. With an extensive background in gospel and a lifelong passion for soul music, Fox has burst onto the Florida music scene in a whirlwind of controlled yet unabashed passion and has taken the hearts of anyone wise enough to lend her their ear. This fiery songstress has been gifted with a powerhouse voice that begs the question "What kind of life must this old soul have lived?" Fox has carefully selected Matt Walker on guitar, Benjamin Sudano on bass, and Sam Farmer on drums. The band has opened for Mavis Staples, The Legendary J.C.'s, Selwyn Birchwood, Roosevelt Collier of The Lee Boys, Damon Fowler, Lucky Peterson, Shaun Murphy, Bill Wharton and Marcia Ball.

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OPENING from page 1B

boss for their help and advice. But even with the guidance of those closest to her, Brandy can't foresee that emotions are not easily kept to the margins.

Featuring the hottest cast of the summer including Aubrey Plaza, Johnny Simmons, Bill Hader, Alia Shawkat, Sarah Steele, Scott Porter, Rachel Bilson, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Andy Samberg, Donald Glover, with Connie Britton and Clark Gregg, "The To Do List" is a comedy set in 1993 about a Type A girl, her to do list, and all of the outrageous lessons she awkwardly learns over the summer between high school and college.

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

'Apartment 1303 3D'

Genre: Horror
Cast: Mischa Barton, Rebecca De Mornay, Julianne Michelle and Corey Sevier
Director: Michael Taverna
Rated: R

Having grown up under the controlling grip of her fame-hungry mother, Janet Slate jumps at the opportunity to move into what looks to be a great high-rise apartment in downtown Detroit.

While the neighbors seem a bit strange and the building superintendent a lowlife, Janet unpacks her things and celebrates her new freedom, only to wake in the morning with a mean headache and strange bruises on her neck. Determined not to return to her Mother's home, Janet stays in the apartment in spite of numerous chilling encounters, until one night her boyfriend Mark finds her in the middle of the street, fallen from the balcony thirteen stories above.

Deemed a suicide by investigators, Lara, Janet's older sister, knows better and is determined to reveal the truth behind her baby sister's death. What Lara finds is far more frightening and unexplainable than she had fathomed possible.

'Blue Jasmine'

Genre: Comedy and drama
Cast: Alec Baldwin, Cate Blanchett, Bobby Cannavale,



Cate Blanchett stars as Jasmine in "Blue Jasmine," from Gravier Productions/Sony Pictures Classics.

Louis C.K., Andrew Dice Clay, Sally Hawkins, Peter Sarsgaard and Michael Stuhlbarg
Director: Woody Allen
Rated: PG-13

After everything in her life falls to pieces, including her marriage to wealthy businessman Hal (Alec Baldwin), elegant New York socialite Jasmine (Cate Blanchett) moves into her sister Ginger's (Sally Hawkins) modest apartment in San Francisco to try to pull herself back together again.

Jasmine arrives in San Francisco in a fragile mental state, her head reeling from the cocktail of anti-depressants she's on. While still able to project her aristocratic bearing, Jasmine is emotionally precarious and lacks any practical ability to support herself. She disapproves of Ginger's boyfriend Chili (Bobby Cannavale), who she considers another "loser" like Ginger's ex-husband Augie (Andrew Dice Clay). Ginger, recognizing but not fully understanding her sister's psychological instability, suggests that she pursue interior design, a career she correctly intuitively that Jasmine won't feel is beneath her. In the meantime, Jasmine begrudgingly accepts work as the receptionist in a dentist's office, where she attracts the unwanted attentions of her boss, Dr. Flicker (Michael Stuhlbarg). Feeling that her sister might be right about her poor taste in men,

Ginger starts seeing Al (Louis C.K.), a sound engineer whom she considers as a step up from Chili. Jasmine sees a potential lifeline when she meets Dwight (Peter Sarsgaard), a diplomat who is quickly smitten with her beauty, sophistication and style.

Jasmine's flaw is that she derives her worth from the way she's perceived by others, while she herself is blind to what is going around her. Delicately portrayed by a regal Cate Blanchett, Jasmine earns our compassion because she is the unwitting instrument of her own downfall. Woody Allen's new drama "Blue Jasmine" is about the dire consequences that can result when people avert their eyes from reality and the truth they don't want to see.

'The Time Being'

Genre: Mystery and thriller
Cast: Wes Bentley, Frank Langella, Sarah Paulson, Ahna O'Reilly, Corey Stoll and Gina Gallego
Director: Nenad Cicin-Sain
Not rated

Daniel (Wes Bentley) is a struggling young artist whose ambitions have pushed his marriage to the brink.

When a reclusive millionaire named Warner (Frank Langella) purchases one of his pieces, he hopes for additional commissions

from a new benefactor. Instead, Warner offers him a series of increasingly bizarre surveillance assignments. As Daniel starts to unravel the secrets behind the requests, he must determine if Warner is out to further his career or ruin his life.

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

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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Music scene

Concert schedule features Toni Braxton, Jonas Brothers and Whitesnake

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

Tampa Bay area venues, both large and small, will welcome a diverse selection of musical artists in the coming weeks.

Hippiefest hit the road this summer for a string of dates across America, including a stop here in Pinellas on Saturday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater.

The traveling show features five well-known players who were initially inspired to pick up their instruments due to their love for rock and blues. Performing will be Ten Years After, Edgar Winter, Canned Heat, Rick Derringer and Pat Travers.

Even before the live music begins, attendees can get into the spirit of the event by visiting the Hippiefest marketplace. The marketplace will open at 5 p.m. and will offer an opportunity to purchase beads, tie dyes and other iconic reminders of Woodstock, San Francisco and a generation that brought a whole new outlook to life.

Reserved tickets start at \$45. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com.

On the same day, geckos will hit the dance floor at **Gecko Ball 2013: Gecko Night Fever**, set for Saturday, Aug. 24, 6 to 11 p.m., at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom, 5500 Shore Blvd. S., Gulfport.

Tickets are \$30 and are available at Beach Bazaar, Domain Home Accessories, Couture'd and online at www.gulfportma.com.

Hosted by the Gulfport Merchant Association, the event will feature a dinner buffet, live disco DJ, dancing, live and silent auctions and a costume contest.

Gecko Night Fever is just the beginning of Gulfport's annual celebration. The big party starts one week later: The 13th annual **Geckofest** will be Saturday, Aug. 31, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., on Beach Boulevard in Gulfport.

The festival will feature live music on two stages as well as street performers, artisans, craftsmen, food vendors, a parade and a costume contest. The day will culminate with Gulfport's famous Street Dance, beginning at 8 p.m. and featuring The Urban Gypsies.

For information, visit www.geckofest.com.

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

Jannus Live

• Tribal Seeds, Sunday, Aug. 25, 8 p.m.
Jannus Live is at 16 Second St. N., St. Petersburg. Call 565-0550 or visit www.jannuslive.com.

The Local 662

• High Five Go, Thursday, Aug. 15, 8 p.m.
• Darling Parade, Tuesday, Aug. 20, 7 p.m.
• Low Gravity, Friday, Aug. 23, 8 p.m.
The Local 662 is at 662 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call 258-4829.

The Mahaffey

• Toni Braxton, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of THE STRAZ CENTER

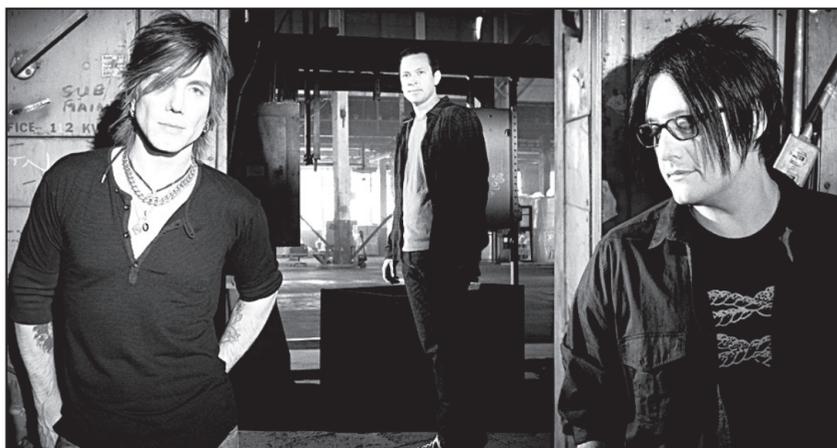


Photo courtesy of WME ENTERTAINMENT

The Mahaffey is at 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Call 892-5767 or visit www.themahaffey.com.

Mid Florida Credit Union Amphitheatre

• Jonas Brothers, Saturday, Aug. 3, 7 p.m.
• Matchbox Twenty and Goo Goo Dolls, Sunday, Aug. 4
• Backstreet Boys, Friday, Aug. 23, 7 p.m.
• Blake Shelton, Friday, Aug. 30, 7:30 p.m.
The Amphitheatre is at the Florida State Fairgrounds, 4802 U.S. 301 N., Tampa. Call 813-740-2446 or visit www.live.nation.com.

The Palladium at St. Petersburg College

• Heffner & Heffner, Friday, Aug. 2, 8 p.m.
• Damon Fowler, Saturday, Aug. 3, 8 p.m.
• Adam Ant and The Good, The Mad and The Lovely Posse; Friday, Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m.
• Backtrack Blues Band, Saturday, Aug. 10, 8 p.m.
The Palladium at St. Petersburg College is at 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Call 822-3590 or visit www.mypalladium.org.

Ruth Eckerd Hall

• Whitesnake, Thursday, Aug. 1, 8 p.m.

• Chick Corea and Bela Fleck, Friday, Aug. 23, 8 p.m.
• Hippiefest 2013, Saturday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m.
Ruth Eckerd Hall is at 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com.

Skipper's Smokehouse

• Legendary JCs with Soul Equators, Friday, Aug. 2, 8 p.m.
• Halcyon, Saturday, Aug. 3, 8 p.m.
Skipper's Smokehouse is at 910 Skipper Road, Tampa. Call 813-971-0666 or visit www.skipperssmokehouse.com.



Photo courtesy of THE MAHAFFEY THEATER

Above, the Mahaffey Theater welcomes Toni Braxton Aug. 28. Below, Ruth Eckerd Hall welcomes Chick Corea Aug. 23. Bottom left, on Aug. 4, The Goo Goo Dolls take the stage at Mid Florida Credit Union Amphitheatre at the Florida State Fairgrounds. At left, Leftover Cuties perform Aug. 9 at the Straz Center in Tampa.



Photo courtesy of RUTH ECKERD HALL

State Theatre

• Frank Lini, Friday, Aug. 2, 10 p.m.
• Straight Line Stitch, Sunday, Aug. 18, 7 p.m.
• Big Country, Friday, Aug. 30, 8 p.m.
State Theatre is at 687 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call 895-3045 or visit www.statetheatreconcerts.com.

The Straz Center for the Performing Arts

• Leftover Cuties, Friday, Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m.
• Tony Lucca, Saturday, Aug. 10, 7:30 p.m.

The David A Straz Jr. Center – formerly the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center – is at 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org.

Tampa Bay Times Forum

• Justin Bieber, Thursday, Aug. 8, 7 p.m.
• Bruno Mars, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay Times Forum is at 401 Channelside Drive, Tampa. Call 813-301-2500 or visit www.tampabaytimesforum.com.
For more music and concert information, visit TBNweekly.com.

Art center names new executive director

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – Jo Ann Marianne has been appointed executive director of the Beach Art Center.

Marianne comes to the Beach Art Center with a background in nonprofit management from her former roles including chief operating officer with Ironbound Community Corp. and as a board of director for various community-based nonprofits in New Jersey. Prior to this she held marketing and sales leadership roles with a Fortune 500 company.

In a press release, Lynda Hamlett, president of the board of directors, said, "We see great potential for growth at the Beach Art Center with the appointment of Ms. Marianne. Along with a broad workplace experience she brings energy, enthusiasm and a determination to expand the profile of the art center in the Pinellas County community."

In other news, the Beach Art Center has announced its fall class of



Jo Ann Marianne

offerings, which will include drawing and sketching, oil and acrylic painting, pastels, watercolor, water media, pottery classes in hand building and wheel throwing and our most recent additions, Ikebana, scrap-booking, sewing and photography.

Instructors hold classes for beginners through advanced students for adults and children.

For additional information or to request a fall course schedule, call 596-4331, email to arts1515@gmail.com or visit www.beachartcenter.org.

Founded by George King and incorporated in 1978, the mission of the Beach Art Center, a nonprofit organization is to offer creative educational experiences in the visual arts that stimulate awareness and appreciation of the arts through changing exhibitions, lectures, studio classes and workshops that can strengthen interpretive ability and interactive creativity for both children and adults.

Largo in the spotlight

• **Ambrosia**, Sunday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$29.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Ambrosia, five-time Grammy nominee in 1970s and early 1980s, had five Top 40 hit singles including "Biggest Part of Me," "How Much I Feel" and "You're the Only Woman." Opening the show will be Twinkle Schasle and her band. Twinkle is an international singer-songwriter who released her first debut album, "Haunted By Real Life," through Warner Brothers and was produced by songwriter Patrick Leonard. The album garnered much attention on the pop and jazz charts. Her music video, "Can't Get Love With Money" was featured on VH1 where she was a guest VJ on the Top 21 countdown.

• **"Freckleface Strawberry,"** presented by Stages Productions, Saturday, Nov. 9, 11 a.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and \$6.50 for children. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Based on the beloved New York Times best-selling book by celebrated actress Julianne Moore, "Freckleface Strawberry" teaches kids to learn and love the skin they are in. In this beloved story, Freckleface Strawberry will do anything to get rid of her freckles – from scrubbing them with soap, to caking on makeup, and even wearing a ski mask to school. With the help of her loveable schoolmates, Freckleface learns that everyone is different – and that's what makes everyone special.

• **Roger McGuinn**, Friday, Nov. 22, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Cen-

ter, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$29.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. McGuinn, one of the founding members of The Byrds, is known as an innovator for merging folk and rock music in the 1960s. Prior to forming The Byrds, Roger toured and performed folk music with the Limelitters, Chad Mitchell Trio and Bobby Darin as a guitarist and banjo player. His music has been a staple on the music charts as well as many movie soundtracks. Some hits singles include "Turn! Turn! Turn!," "Eight Miles High" and "Mr. Tambourine Man."

• **Diane Schuur**, Sunday, Nov. 24, 7 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$34.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Schuur is a two-time Grammy winner for Best Jazz Vocal Performance – Female and has a total of five Grammy nominations to her name. She has performed at some of the world's most prestigious venues including the Carnegie Hall and the White House. She has also toured the world performing with greats such as Quincy Jones, Stan Getz, B.B. King, Dizzy Gillespie, Maynard Ferguson, Ray Charles, Joe Williams and Stevie Wonder.

• **Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats**, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2 and 7 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$24.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. The Golden Dragon Acrobats represent the best of a time honored tradition that began more than 25 centuries ago. This amazing group combines award-winning acrobatics, traditional dance, spectacular costumes, ancient and

Anniversary gala to raise funds

LARGO – The Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation will present the 17th anniversary gala to benefit the Largo Cultural Center Sept. 28, 6 p.m., at 105 Central Park Drive.

The black-tie event, themed "Once upon a time," will include a silent and live auction, dinner and a signature live show in the theater.

The Largo Cultural Center, with financial assistance from Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation, provides experiences that cut across cultural, social, racial, educational and economic barriers. The center's resident theater company, Eight O'Clock Theatre, has grown to be one of the most prestigious amateur troupes in Tampa Bay.

The foundation also helps fund the center's Children's Series and awards need-based scholarships for theater camp experiences to area youth.

Tickets are \$125.
For more information, call 587-6793 or visit www.suncoastarts.org/Gala.html.

contemporary music and theatrical techniques to present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty.

• **A Russian Christmas performed by the State Choir of Russia**, Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$29.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Celebrate the holiday season with this unique cultural experience. This company of 45 singers was founded from the merger of the USSR State Chamber Choir and State Symphony Orchestra of the USSR. Music critics have praised this spectacular group and rave of the flawless vocal technique and crystal-clear, precise intonation.

• **Victor Wooten** with special guest Stu Hamm, Friday, Jan. 3, 8 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$29.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Five-time Grammy award winner, Wooten is known for his solo recordings, tours and as a member of the Grammy-winning super group, Bela Fleck & The Flecktones. He has won most every major award given to a bass guitarist. Wooten was voted Bassist of the Year by Bass Player Magazine three times and is the only person to have won the award more than once. Hamm has firmly established himself as one of the most influential electric bassists of the past half-century. Hamm helped to reshape the contemporary concept of the bass guitar as an unaccompanied instrument with the utilization of polyphonic, two-handed tapping, slapping and popping techniques, chords, and harmonics.

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If you ever watch television, at some point you've probably seen Michael Hollander, president of Weather Tite Windows, appearing as his alter ego "Weather Tite Mike" in one of his company's commercials. At the end of the company's most recent TV spot, Weather Tite Mike looks directly at the camera and says, "And don't forget to bring me cookies!" This "cookies" line may sound a bit out of context within the advertisement. What exactly do cookies have to do with windows, anyway? "Nothing," says Michael. "I just like cookies." Since the commercials began airing,

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Michael has noticed that customers of Weather Tite Windows have not only seen and heard his simple request, they've listened as well. "People go out of their way now to bring me all sorts of cookies," Michael says. "We've started a virtual cookie epidemic, and love it!" Randomly asking people for cookies is quite unconventional, but that seems to be the trend with Weather Tite Windows. "We like to do things a little different here," says Michael. Founded in 1991, Weather Tite Windows is a local, family-owned and operated business that continues its mission to bring customized, energy-efficient windows and doors to homes and high-rise condominiums. The window replacement company offers no money down and no interest financing for up to five years. "This type of financing option is almost unheard of in our industry," Michael adds.

Many people think they need to replace all of their windows at once. In an effort to help people who can't afford to upgrade every window in their entire home, Weather Tite Windows offers clients a four-year "price freeze" on all remaining windows and doors so that customers can upgrade them at a later date without worrying about a price increase. "The program has enabled many people to upgrade immediately who have never thought they would be able to afford energy-efficient Weather Tite windows and doors." For more information, please visit their website at www.weathertitewindows.com or call 727-280-6029 for a free in-home consultation. Weather Tite Windows welcomes everyone to visit their new showroom located at 2119 W. Columbus Drive in Tampa. Just don't forget to bring Weather Tite Mike cookies.

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Ruth Eckerd Hall receives \$1 million gift

CLEARWATER – Zev Buffman, Ruth Eckerd Hall Inc. president and CEO, recently announced that the Capitol Theatre in downtown Clearwater received a \$1 million gift from longtime member and Clearwater resident Geri Trautlein in honor of her husband Ray Trautlein.

"I am honored to accept this gift from Geri on behalf of the Capitol Theatre," said Buffman in a press release. "Her commitment to Ruth Eckerd Hall and especially the Capitol Theatre cannot be measured and her love for Ray to honor him this way is very special. We cannot thank her enough for her commitment to the Capitol and Clearwater."

In recognition of their generosity, two main areas of the all-new theatre will be named in their honor: The Ray and Geri Trautlein Main Lobby and the Ray and Geri Trautlein VIP Lounge.

A longtime resident of Clearwater, Ray often thought of purchasing what is now commonly known as The Lokey Building (owned by Pat Lokey), which is located at the corner of Cleveland Street and Osceola Avenue. After passing through a few owners, the building was purchased in 2009 by the city of Clearwater as part of the Capitol Theatre renovation. This area will be the lobby on the first floor and the VIP Lounge on the second floor of the all-new Capitol Theatre.

But the story doesn't end there. At one time Geri worked at the Pat Lokey store. Known for showcasing the latest fashions, Geri often modeled the new arrivals during lunch at Bob Heilman's Beachcomber Restaurant on Clearwater Beach. Geri also sat on the board for the Royalty Theatre (as it was called for a time) and was a member of Ladies of Royalty, donating her time along with other women in the area. In 1983, she also performed in a local production of "Sweet Charity" at the Capitol Theatre.

"Ray and I have lived here more than 40 years and I still make Clearwater my home," said Geri. "We always felt a connection with the theater and that corner building. Now, Ray's legacy will continue on that corner we love so much."

The renovated Capitol Theatre is expected to reopen in December 2013.

REH receives grant

Since the inception of the performing arts center 30 years ago, Ruth Eckerd Hall has been honored to receive the support of Duke Energy (and previously Progress Energy) in the amount of nearly \$2 million in grants.

Ruth Eckerd Hall recently announced that support continues with a \$100,000 grant from Duke Energy. The grant will be used to underwrite performances on the Ruth Eckerd Hall main stage for the upcoming 2013-14 season.

Potter stars in freeFall's production 'Spring Awakening'

ST. PETERSBURG – While many theaters in the Tampa Bay area are offering smaller plays during the summer months, freeFall continues its summer tradition of presenting a new and daring staging of a classic Broadway musical.

Last summer's "Cabaret" still holds the record of being one of freeFall's biggest hits. This summer, freeFall hopes to repeat the same success with the multiple Tony Award winning rock musical that took Broadway by storm in 2007. "Spring Awakening" opened July 19. Performances will continue through Aug. 18 at freeFall, 6099 Central Ave.

Performances are Thursdays, 7 p.m.; and Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. Matinees are Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$32 for adults. Call 498-5205 or visit www.freefalltheatre.com.

St. Petersburg's own Rachel Potter – who appeared in Broadway's "The Addams Family," "Wicked" and "Evita" – joins Chase Peacock – featured in Broadway's "American Idiot" – and Lucas Wells – who performed on the national tour of "Spring Awakening." Potter, Peacock and Wells lead the cast of 13 talented musical theater actors in freeFall's eagerly awaited production of "Spring Awakening. The production of the recent Broadway hit is staged in the round.

The groundbreaking musical will take to the stage as the finale of freeFall's season. This daring evening of musical theater draws stunning parallels between the youth of the late 19th century (when the original play was written) and the youth of today. Fearlessly employing anachronism and a dynamic expressionistic style, freeFall's bold take on this modern classic is directed by Eric Davis, freeFall's artistic director.

This show contains adult language and situations and is intended for mature audiences only.

"Spring Awakening," which has book and lyrics by Steven Sater



Photo courtesy of BWL PHOTOGRAPHY/FREEFALL
Starring in freeFall's production of "Spring Awakening" are, from left, Rachel Potter, Chase Peacock and Lucas Wells.

and music by Duncan Sheik, is based on the play by Frank Wedekind. The freeFall production features musical direction by Michael Raabe and choreography by Megan Morgan.

The design team includes scenic designer Eric Davis, costume designer Scott Daniel, lighting designer Mike Wood, sound designer Kyle Eassey and prop designer Allison Davis. Daniel LeMien is production stage manager and Susan Haldeman is assistant stage manager.

These performances will include humorist and author David Sedaris, comedian Larry the Cable Guy, Celtic Thunder, Buddy Guy and Jonny Lang, John Ringling's Circus Nutcracker with the Sarasota Ballet, the Moscow City Symphony and Russian Philharmonic making its U.S. debut, and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. In addition, Ruth Eckerd Hall will present Broadway performances including the Florida premiere of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's production of "The Wizard of Oz," "Million Dollar Quartet" and "Elf The Musical."

"Ruth Eckerd Hall is overwhelmed with gratitude for the continued support from Duke Energy," said Buffman. "We are able to present the very best in live entertainment to the entire Tampa Bay community because of the generosity and support of our good friends at Duke Energy."

"Ruth Eckerd Hall is an important cultural venue serving Pinellas County and the Tampa Bay region," said Melissa Seixas, Duke Energy community relations manager. "We are proud of our partnership with Ruth Eckerd Hall and excited about the main stage performances already scheduled this season."

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