

LARGO LEADER

Middle school teacher from Largo attended Space Academy

Program is part of initiative to promote STEM education in the classroom ... Page 11A.



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ENTERTAINMENT



'Percy Jackson' sequel opens

Based on the publishing phenomenon, "Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters" continues the young demigod's epic journey to fulfill his destiny.

The film joins "Elysium" and "We're the Millers" in local theaters this week. ... Page 1B.

LARGO



City awards 'Good Citizen' campers

Each year, directors of Largo's Recreation, Parks and Arts summer camp programs each select a camper to receive the Good Citizen Award, based on positive character traits. ... Page 3A.

POLICE BEAT



Vehicle fire spreads to home

Largo firefighters were called to the scene of a vehicle fire about 1:48 p.m. Wednesday, July 31, at Rancho Village Co-Op, 7100 Ulmerton Road in Largo. ... Page 5A.

PET CONNECTION

Cats sought for clinical trial

All Cats Hospital in Largo is participating in a clinical trial with 35 study sites in the United States and Canada, evaluating cats with kidney disease. ... Page 8A.

VIEWPOINTS

Debra Saunders

White House press conferences lack friction between camps. ... Page 10A.



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EMS changes moved forward

County commissioners agree to consultant's plan to contain costs

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Commissioners gave staff direction Aug. 1 to move forward with a consultant's plan that could help contain costs for emergency medical services.

Unlike many previous meetings on ways to balance the EMS fund, the room wasn't packed with fire chiefs, firefighters and paramedics opposed to a consultant's findings and recommendations. The Thursday morning meeting concluded in about an hour.

"This is a very important day," Commission Chair Ken Welch said at the beginning of the work session.

He said the work done by the consultant, Fitch and Associates, was a "good process" toward a "necessary discussion."

"That doesn't mean we'll agree on everything in the report, but it does give us enough information to make decisions."

He said the consultant's conclusion that Pinellas County had the finest EMS system in the United States – maybe the world – was good news. He also said it was time to move forward to "maintain the excellence of the system in an affordable way."

Robert Polk with Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue and president of the Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association, outlined the areas in which the association agreed with the Fitch report, which he described as the "most comprehensive set of data we've ever had."

He complimented Fitch for its "interesting use of the data," which consisted of EMS calls from the year 2011, and said the association also agreed with Fitch's conclusion that the county's system was one of the most sophisticated in the United States.

The association agrees with Fitch in its opinion that the plan proposed in a 2011 study by consultant

See EMS, page 4A



PCCTV screen shot by SUZETTE PORTER
Lt. Scott Sanford with Palm Harbor Fire Rescue tells Pinellas County Commissioners that he is glad Fitch and Associates proved that fire departments could provide transport service during an Aug. 1 work session.

Girl Scouts help turn plastic bags into mats for homeless

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – Six 11-year-old girls from troop No. 422 earned Girl Scout Bronze Awards by learning how to croquet plastic bags into sleeping mats for the homeless.

The award, the highest honor a troop of Girl Scout Juniors can achieve, is given after the girls each complete 20 hours of service. The girls worked with women at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Largo to learn how to cut the grocery bags into rings, tie the pieces into balls of plastic string and then croquet the strands into a soft sleeping mat.

"All of us made enough so somebody would be able to pick up the bag of the balls of yarn and be able to croquet the mat," explained Girl Scout Samantha West.

Samantha said she was able to croquet about a fourth of a mat on her own.

"I'm very slow at it. It took me probably 15 hours to do that," she said.

The girls divided the tasks, most taking on the task of cutting and stringing the bags together. The task was tedious, and the plastic often ripped. The girls discovered that Target bags made the strongest links.

In the end, the girls made enough balls of plastic "yarn" to make seven mats.

"It took us months," fellow Girl Scout Catherine Litchy said.

See PLASTIC MATS, page 4A



Above, Girl Scouts from Troop No. 422 earned a Bronze Award by working with a ministry at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Largo to croquet plastic bags into sleeping mats for homeless individuals the church serves. Posing with rolls of plastic "yarn" and a completed mat are, from left, Samantha West, Catherine Litchy, Autumn Hodrick and Sydney Chiles, at the church July 29. Members of the troop who participated but not pictured are Anna-Rose Brown and Alexa Berg. At right, Chiles demonstrates how the troop made the plastic "yarn" by linking loops of recycled grocery bags together. Women at St. Paul are currently croqueting the balls of plastic string that the Girl Scouts prepared.



Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

Commission sets tentative millage rates

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Commissioners set tentative millage rates for fiscal year 2013-14 during a morning work session July 30.

Commissioners confirmed that there would be no separate millage for a stabilization fund. They also confirmed there would be no increase in the emergency medical fund millage. Short falls will be taken from EMS reserves, leaving a balance of 22.9 percent.

Commissioner Norm Roche was absent. Proposed millage increases are as follows.

- General Fund – countywide – an increase of 0.2650 mills from 5.0105 to 5.2755
- Health Department – no change. Millage will remain at 0.0622
- EMS – no change. Millage will remain at 0.9158
- Municipal Services Taxing Unit – no change. Tax for unincorporated residents will remain at 2.0857
- Library co-op – an increase of 0.0563 from 0.4437 to 0.5000
- Pinellas Planning Council – an increase of 0.0035 from 0.0125 to 0.160
- Palm Harbor Recreation – no change. Millage will remain at 0.2500
- Palm Harbor Library – no change. Millage will remain at 0.2500
- Feather Sound Community Services – no change. Millage will remain at 0.5000
- East Lake Library Service – new taxing district. Tentative millage is 0.2500
- Millage rate changes are coming for four fire districts.
- Gandy will increase by 0.0375 mills from 2.2602 to 2.2977
- Pinellas Park will increase by 0.6488 from 2.3675 to 3.0165
- Safety Harbor will increase by 0.0487 from 2.7631 to 2.8118
- Highpoint will decrease by an estimated 2.6700 mills from 4.1916 to a number yet to be finalized

County staff prepared a chart showing the effect of
See MILLAGE RATES, page 4A

Labradoodle offers normal life for Sammy

Family is raising \$20,000 for a service dog that would guard the 6-year-old from deadly allergens

By JULIANA A. TORRES

PINELLAS PARK – At 6, Samantha can polish off books by herself. She tested in the top 1 percent of Pinellas County children her age.

But the little girl isn't able to go to school, because touching the table where another child was eating a peanut butter sandwich could kill her in a matter of minutes.

Her mother, Allison Feeley, said that Sammy was born with nothing wrong.

"I remember counting 10 fingers, 10 toes. She was just perfect," she said.

As an infant, Sammy would break out after her mother ate dairy or peanuts before nursing her. But it wasn't until Sammy was 6 months old that Allison realized something was severely wrong.

She had prepared a bottle of formula for her in an effort to give her some more nutrition. As soon as the bottle touched Sammy's mouth, she went into full anaphylactic shock: a full-body, severe allergic reaction.

"Her eyes were swollen shut; she had mucus everywhere. She was fading into unconsciousness. She had hives, head to toe. Her breathing was very shallow; she was completely unrespon-

Benefit to raise funds for Samantha's service dog

The family-friendly night out will include dinner, a raffle and bounce houses.

Sunday, Aug. 11, 5 to 7 p.m., Christ The King Lutheran Ministries, 11220 Oakhurst Road, Largo.

Angel for Sammy's ANAPHYLAXIS

sive," Allison said. "I thought we were going to lose her that night."

After intensive testing on Sammy, Allison learned that her daughter's allergy to milk was literally off the charts. If she ingests or touches or breathes in milk or peanuts, the resulting reaction could kill her.

At 6, Sammy has gone into anaphylactic shock

See SERVICE DOG, page 4A



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES
Samantha Feeley, 6, center, and her family hope to raise \$20,000 for a service dog that will sniff out deadly allergens, allowing her to safely navigate school, visit friends' homes and avoid anaphylactic shock. Pictured with her are, from left, her brother Warner, 10 months, her mother Allison Feeley and sisters Alexis, 4, and Evalynn, 2.

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Seven officers join Largo police

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – Seven new police officers joined the Largo Police Department Aug. 6, bringing the department's force of sworn officers to 137.

New Officers Colin Bolton, Norris Clay, John Soler Mattei, Earl Bowers, Scott Jennings, Bradley Rice and Doby Vidos swore their respective oaths of office

at the start of the Largo Commission meeting. The officers will begin serving the residents of Largo this weekend, said Deputy Chief Jeff Undestad.

As trainees, they have completed seven weeks of in-house training and about 14 hours of on-road training with their field training officers, Undestad explained.



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Pictured are new Largo officers, front row, from left, Colin Bolton, Norris Clay and John Soler Mattei; back row, Earl Bowers, Scott Jennings, Bradley Rice and Doby Vidos.

Woman celebrates her 101st birthday



Photo courtesy of ANITA CAFFERTY

Julia Schirentino, center, turned 101 on July 7 and celebrated the milestone at Palm Gardens of Pinellas in Largo, surrounded by family and friends. From left, Edna Crispano, who at 94 passed away July 31; Bonnie Parris; Kelly McCarthy; Ron Regan of Fun & Tunes, who gave a special concert in her honor; Anita Cafferty, Schirentino's niece and Joyce Runion, also of Fun & Tunes. Schirentino is the oldest resident of Palm Gardens, where she has lived since 2011. Schirentino moved to Tarpon Springs in the 1950s from New York City, where she used to make handmade ties. Clark Gable was one of her clients.

Community invited to join ombudsman program

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

The local council meets to discuss the program's current activities and give the public a chance to provide comments about long-term care facility issues on the third Thursdays at the Mary Grizzle Building, 11351 Ulmerton Road, Room 136, in Largo. The open session of these meetings begins at 1 p.m.

The next council meeting is Aug. 15. Concerned citizens and those interested in volunteering are welcome to attend.

The local council is seeking additional volunteers to identify, investigate and resolve residents' concerns. Special training and certification is provided.

Interested individuals who care about protecting the health, safety, welfare and rights of long-term care facility residents – who often have no one else to advocate for them – are encouraged to call 888-831-0404 or visit the program's website at ombudsman.myflorida.com.

City calendar

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 Sil-

ver Screen Thursday, Aug. 22, noon to 3 p.m., at the Largo Community Center.

Admission is free. Refreshments will be sold, and information about the movie will be distributed.

Center hosts weekly bridge

LARGO – The Largo Community Center hosts American Contract Bridge League-sanctioned games on Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$4 with membership or \$5 without one. All players are welcome. Drinks and snacks are included. For more information, call Joan Waff at 895-9073.

Largo Central Park

The Largo Central Park is at 101 Central Park Drive. Within the park is the Largo Public Library, at 120 Central Park Drive.

Library friends to host book sale

The Friends of Largo Public Library will host its annual Summer Book Sale on Saturday, Aug. 24, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in the Jenkins Room of the library.

All books are 50 cents each. Buy two and get one free. Proceeds will benefit the library. For more information, call the Largo Library Bookstore at 586-7392.

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.

Downtown merchants host sidewalk sale

LARGO – The Downtown Largo Merchants Association will host its next sidewalk sale Saturday, Aug. 10, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., on West Bay Drive, west of Seminole Boulevard.

The sale will extend from the Foundry at 198 W. Bay Drive, to Smokin' Rib Shack BBQ, at 600 W. Bay Drive. The association hosts a sidewalk sale second Saturdays.

For more information, call Tanya Pistillo at 465-8558.

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Military museum offers vehicle rides

LARGO – The Armed Forces History Museum will host Ride Through History, featuring military vehicle rides, Saturdays, Aug. 10 and 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 2050 34th Way N.

Along with the rides, visitors will witness World War II re-enactors from the 1st Infantry Division and enjoy free hot dogs. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 4 to 12.

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County approves land use change for Briarwood development

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Commissioners unanimously approved a request from the city of Largo Aug. 6 that allows reclassification of a 13.8-acre site located on Seminole Boulevard near the intersection of Ulmerton Road to Residential High.

The public hearing was a continuation from July 9 when commissioners delayed action to change the existing classification of Residential Estate and Residential Low Medium with Resort Facilities Overlay.

Commissioners wanted to make sure remaining residents of Briarwood Recreational Vehicle Park would have an affordable place to go. They asked the city of Largo to work with the property owner to provide additional assistance.

Attorney Ed Armstrong, representative for the property owner Dockside Investors who plan to build a 260-unit apartment complex at the site, said \$30,000 had been deposited in a fund to help pay relocation costs. The property owner also contracted for services from Community Services Foundation.

At the July 9 meeting, commissioners were told that about 50 adults were still living in the park, several testified about hardships that prevented them from moving. As of July 24, approximately 30 families were still

working on relocation plans, according to Tina Harper, Briarwood's property manager. Harper said four families were relocating Aug. 6 and two others planned to move this week.

In addition, she said Community Services Foundation had been meeting with residents about two times a week to assist them. The property owner has agreed to pay \$1,375 to those who would turn over the title to their RV to the property owner. Others could receive up to \$1,200 to help cover moving expenses.

"Some can't just drive off," she said. "All have different needs."

Commissioner Norm Roche talked about making sure four residents, who are registered sex offenders, found a place to move and didn't end up on the streets. Roche was assured that efforts were ongoing to help all the remaining residents.

Christine Allamanno, a lawyer with Gulcoast Legal Services, said \$30,000 might not be enough to help all the remaining residents, especially those with special needs. She said best estimates showed moving costs of \$1,200 to \$2,000. She also talked about a rumor that one park was discriminating against residents who were receiving her legal services.

"I'm still concerned about the lack of affordable units set aside in the new development," she said.

The property owner's agree-

ment with the city of Largo calls for the units to be rented at market rates.

Carol Stricklin, Community Development director of the city of Largo, also talked about the relocation efforts by the property owner and the city.

"In 30 days, we've accomplished a great deal," she said.

Stricklin said Largo had one more public hearing to get through – the second reading of an ordinance to amend the future land map. The rest of the approvals would be administrative, she said. She said the city would remain involved in the relocation process and would address outstanding concerns.

Commission Chair Ken Welch asked what would happen if the \$30,000 was not enough to help everyone. Stricklin said information was available about other relocation resources. She said the city would look at additional resources if necessary.

"The city of Largo asked for this and it is a significant improvement in their minds to the city," Commissioner Charlie Justice said. "It's up to them to make sure their residents are taken care of."

City awards good citizens



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Each year, directors of Largo's Recreation, Parks and Arts summer camp programs each select a camper to receive the Good Citizen Award, based on positive character traits they have observed over the first eight weeks of summer camp. The Good Citizen campers were honored at the city commission meeting Aug. 6. Pictured, from left, are Cool Kids I Director Ashley Friend, who selected camper Carmen Moscolina; Camp Funshine Director Brandon Mai, who selected camper Alex Sheffler; Cool Kids II camper Hannah Lawrence, who was selected by camp Director Janel Smith; Kid City camper A.J. Lemons, who was selected by Children's Program Specialist Jennifer Fawcett along with camper Tyler Brown, since Kid City is Largo's largest summer camp. Not pictured is camper Jacob Taylor, the Good Citizen from Naturemania Camp.

View the art of Ikebana

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

Enjoy arrangements by teachers and students of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana. The event is free, and refreshments will be served. Monique "Koreng" Noujaim will give a demonstration at 2 p.m., followed by one by Barbara "Koseki" Goss at 2:30 p.m.

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Pinellas returns to twice-a-week watering schedule

By SUZETTE PORTER

Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board voted July 30 to eliminate all water shortage orders effective Aug. 1. Residents are encouraged to maintain year-round conservation and adhere to local government schedules.

This summer's above-normal rainfall has brought significant improvement to aquifer and river levels. Major public water suppliers, such as Tampa Bay Water, now have enough water for meeting customer's needs.

The U.S. Drought Monitor report issued July 23 shows no signs of drought in any part of Florida. The outlook through October continues to show Florida as drought-free.

Customers of Pinellas County Utilities can now return to the twice-a-week watering, according to a schedule set on street addresses. Customers

using potable (drinking), well, lake or pond water can irrigate their lawns twice a week.

Addresses ending in an even number, 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, can water on Thursday and Sunday. Addresses ending in odd numbers, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, can water on Wednesday and Saturday. Addresses with mixed or no address can water on Tuesday and Friday. Properties that are two acres or more in size may water half the land on Thursday and Sunday and half on Wednesday and Saturday.

No watering is allowed between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Restrictions have been lifted on activities such as car washing, hand watering of plants, trees and shrubs, as well as pressure washing and operating fountains.

Irrigation of new lawns and landscaping must follow an 60-day establishment period.

Reclaimed water customers follow a different schedule with ad-

resses ending in even numbers allowed to irrigate on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Addresses ending in odd numbers can irrigate on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Addresses with mixed or no addresses can water on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Watering with reclaimed water is not recommended between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Residents should be aware that watering restrictions can change with little notice. Watering violations can result in a \$193 fine. Utilities customers can receive email notification of schedule changes. Make sure to update email addresses at www.pinellascounty.org/utilities. Click on the My eAccount button.

For more information, call 464-4000.

Residents who do not receive water from Pinellas County Utilities are encouraged to check with their provider about possible watering restrictions.

EMS, from page 1A

Mc Gunderson, one of the principals with Integral Performance Solutions, was in theory achievable, but not implementable. The county's system is not in such "disrepair to need such a move," he said.

The association agreed with Fitch that using Sunstar instead of fire department first responders for low-level emergency calls would not save money. He also agreed with the findings that a centralized system created efficiencies.

However, he said, "Surge capacity must be present" in the system to ensure response to disasters. He also pointed out that fire departments and districts contribute to the system by providing equipment and personnel that "doesn't cost the county a dime."

He said for the first time, in 2014, the firefighters' contracts for EMS would be less than the contract with Paramedics Plus, a private company that provides ambulance service under the county's Sunstar brand. He cautioned that any changes made to the system would be complex and time consuming.

"This report provides a positive framework for dialogue and potential savings and long-term savings enhancements," he said.

Lt. Scott Sanford with Palm Harbor Fire Rescue said he was glad that Fitch had demonstrated that a plan he co-authored with Capt. Jim Millican with Lealman Fire Rescue would work. The plan advocates ambulance transport by local fire departments instead of private ambulance service. However, he wasn't happy with the revisions made in the plan to address excessive workload, which Fitch said was a problem with the Sanford-Millican plan. Adding in units to balance workload made fire department transport too expensive to implement.

"It's somewhat of a relief to find closure on this," he said. "This is a life and death decision we're passing on to you."

Lealman Fire and Rescue Chief Rick Graham said the Fitch report

showed the county's system was "effective and efficient." He objected to the notion that the system had "excess" capacity as opposed to "reserve" capacity. Reserve capacity is required, he said. He gave the example of recent thunderstorms as proof of its need.

"It's the difference between life and death. It's safety," he said. Graham is not sure that the CARES plan recommended by Fitch is something that can be implemented immediately.

"It's a good platform," he said. The CARES plan calls for a reduction in EMS staff during nighttime hours.

John Klinefelter, president of the Clearwater Firefighter's Association, talked about problems with the IPS and Fitch study, saying neither had been fully vetted. He objected to the county's move on priority dispatch. He said the CARES plan, cutting 10 hours from midnight to 7 a.m., did not ensure enough firefighters were on duty to respond at all times.

"It's not just about medical, it's also about fire," he said. He said if the county did not fund personnel for those 10 hours, cities and fire districts would have to fund their own units. He said one-third of Clearwater's units were funded by the city now. He said if the county made cuts, they would have to do more with their advance life support engines, which could influence the level of service on Clearwater Beach.

"It's a huge cost shift to the cities and fire districts," he said. Thus far, municipalities and fire districts have been silent in terms of a formal response to Fitch's report and the CARES plan. Commissioner Chair Ken Welch said the response had been favorable in conversations with some fire chiefs.

The commission directed staff to begin conversations with all interested parties as soon as possible to begin work toward implementing any possible cost savings from Fitch's plan. While the consensus was

to push ahead sooner rather than later, commissioners realize it could take two to three years. Meanwhile, millage rates may have to be increased to pay for costs.

The commission agreed that "boundaries" of the discussion should center on the CARES plan, reduction of staffing for 10 hours between midnight and 7 a.m., addressing excess capacity, long-term financial sustainability and protecting the level of service.

Commissioners also asked for a status report on phase 3 priority dispatch. The commission had voted to implement phase 3 on June 1. Phase 3 calls for Sunstar to respond to low-level emergency calls instead of fire department first responders.

The Fitch report recommends the opposite approach - response by fire personnel instead of the private ambulance provider. County Administrator Bob LaSala said the decision would be up to the EMS medical director and Medical Control Board, but staff supports Fitch's recommendation. He said that Phase 3 was not in effect at this time.

Welch asked if the medical control board was still planning to move ahead with eliminating response to certain calls, such as hiccups. Bruce Moeller, director of Public Safety Services, said that plan was still undecided.

Commissioner Susan Latvala commented on the results of the Fitch study.

"We're now in a better place. There's more consensus in the community," she said. "We need a system that will sustain us in the future while maintaining the most clinically sophisticated system that we have and addressing excess capacity."

Commissioner Karen Seel, along with other commissioners, thanked Sanford and Millican for their contribution toward solving the EMS issue.

"But we still have a long-term sustainability issue. That's still the elephant in the room," she said.

PLASTIC MATS, from page 1A

The resulting mat, made of about 365 plastic bags, is a soft and strong cushion against the hard ground. Catherine said the project was fulfilling, "just knowing that it was going to help people."

"It's something you don't really do every day," Sydney Chiles added. "You have fun together and while you're having fun you do a really good thing for the world."

Identifying their community was the first step in the project, said troop co-leader Melanie Litchy. Samantha pointed out that their project introduced the troop to new people in the community.

"You're giving them something to sleep on at night, and it's much better than the ground. And you're also recycling," Samantha said.

Maggie Corrigan of St. Paul United Methodist Church worked with the girls, giving them the large croquet hooks needed for the project and showing them how to complete the task. The church members, after learning the skill from another church, began sleeping mat ministry in February. The mats are given out to people that need them through the church's Open Arms ministry, she said.

When she met with the girls July 29, Corrigan brought a completed mat, so the girls could see the end result of their hard work.

"I thought that it was important for the girls to see the mats," she said.

Corrigan and other members of the church worked on the mats on their own time, like the girls did.

"I would hazard a guess that I probably put 10 hours into a mat," she said. "It's kind of hard to tell because you can't stay at it very long because it's hard on the hands."

She also brought the giant bag of rolled up plastic yarn the girls donated to the ministry.

"I just made a dent in that big bag of bags," Litchy said the girls were a bit disappointed that they weren't able to complete a mat themselves, though Sydney and Samantha are still working on their partial mats at home.

"I think each girl truly felt like they made a difference, that what they did was really going to help someone," she said. "That's what it's about."

The troop had trouble initially picking out a project.

"They wanted to help so many people and so many different things that narrowing it down was difficult for them," Litchy said.

The troop was at first inspired to help animals before Litchy proposed the sleeping mat project. The girls were all excited about the idea and unanimously agreed to pursue it.

Even a few months after the project was completed, Litchy said she still hears the girls talk about it, as well as talking about their next service project to earn the more prestigious Girl Scouts Silver Award.

"They're really making the connection in how the project worked," she said.

Other members of the troop who helped with the project are Autumn Hodrick, Alexa Berg and Anna-Rose Brown.



Top left, Girl Scout Samantha West demonstrates how Troop No. 422 crocheted the strings of grocery bags into soft beginnings of sleeping mats for the homeless population. Top right, Maggie Corrigan of St. Paul United Methodist Church sits next to a completed mat. Corrigan is currently crocheting the balls of plastic string that the Girl Scouts prepared through their Bronze Award project.



Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

MILLAGE RATES, from page 1A

millage changes on the average single-family residence. A home with an assessed value of \$99,967 would be taxed an additional \$26.49 for general fund millage and 35 cents for the Pinellas Planning Council.

Residents living in a single-family home with an assessed value of \$191,018 in East Lake will save \$47.75 on library taxes. Residents living in a single-family home with an assessed value in the Gandy Fire District will pay \$1.87 more in taxes. Taxpayers in a home with an assessed value of \$104,176 in Highpoint Fire District will save \$92.81. Homeowners of a residence with an assessed value of \$115,305 in Pinellas Park Fire District will pay \$34.98 more, and owners of a single-family home with an assessed value of \$131,949 in Safety Harbor Fire District will pay \$5.62 in additional taxes for fiscal year 2014.

Commissioner Karen Seel pointed out that the fig-

ures did not include the 3.4 percent increase in property values countywide. Staff said the numbers were representational of the changes, not exact numbers.

Staff offered estimates of tax increases for the county's portion of the tax bill for some municipalities, including:

- \$20.66 for a home with an assessed value of \$76,945 in St. Petersburg
- \$27.07 for a home with an assessed value of \$100,835 in Clearwater
- \$17.63 for a home with an assessed value of \$65,660 in Largo
- \$26.96 for a home with an assessed value of \$100,428 in Tarpon Springs
- \$25.31 for a home with an assessed value of \$94,256 in Dunedin

The assessed values are the average for the municipality. The total includes millage for the general fund, EMS, Health Department and Pinellas Planning Council.

County Administrator Bob LaSala pointed out

that the figures did not include the school board, municipal millage or any others not levied by Pinellas County.

Tentative millage rates will be reflected on the Truth in Millage notices to be sent from the Property Appraiser's Office on Aug. 19. The rates can be lowered, but cannot be increased.

Commissioners will continue to take public comment on next year's budget and millage rates at two hearings in September. The first is on Sept. 5. The budget and millage rates will be approved at the second hearing on Sept. 17.

For more information, visit www.pinellascounty.org/budget/14budget/budget/fy2014.html.

Social action funding

Commissioners also discussed a plan to change the way nonprofit organizations that provide food and shelter to the needy are funded. The consensus was to restore the money for that funding to the

budget for the coming year and take the difference from the stabilization fund.

Commissioners agreed that it was better to implement changes in fiscal year 2015 to give organizations time to prepare. Gwendolyn Warren, director of health and human services, is working on a plan that would ensure that the county's money is not used to pay administrative costs or duplicative services.

"This needs time to phase in and not just pull the rug out (from under)," said Commissioner John Morroni. "We just need to say that this is the last year."

Warren agreed that care should be taken. "We have a need and it's significant," she said. "The problem is the way we distribute the funds."

Commission Chair Ken Welch agreed that the process should be simplified and transitioned into the future.

"But I'm all for having this in the budget recurring every year," Welch said. "It's a community partnership that people understand."

SERVICE DOG, from page 1A

29 times. Once, the whey protein from a protein shake went airborne, and Sammy had to be rushed to the emergency room.

"What people don't understand is it's not just allergies," Allison said. "It's a disease that will kill her ... an invisible illness, unless she has a reaction."

Since Sammy's diagnosis, her mother and three younger siblings are limited to where they can go. They're often confined to their apartment in Pinellas Park. They've learned the hard way that places that were safe once might later cause a reaction in Sammy. If she wants to play with friends, they have to come to her house. She's never been able to attend daycare or kindergarten. Her mother prepares all her meals.

"I have to read every single thing that goes into her mouth. I need to know exactly what's on every surface. I need to know exactly what's on every table, chair, door handle, anything. Otherwise it could kill her," Allison said. "How do you tell a 6-year-old she can't go to the park?"

The constant vigilance, never knowing what might kill her daughter, is like living a nightmare, she said. But a dog named Angel, currently being trained in Colorado, could help Sammy live a normal life as a kid.

Angel Service Dogs is a nonprofit organization that began unintentionally, said its founder, Sherry Mers. She and her husband have a daughter, now 12, who also suffers from severe anaphylactic reactions to peanuts.

"We suddenly had to look at the world as a place that could kill our kid," she explained. "Our circle of friends started getting smaller because we weren't going out to meet people; we weren't going to amusement parks or the mall."

Mers was watching late-night TV, waiting for her husband who was deployed overseas to call, when a documentary came on about custom agent dogs



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Samantha Feeley, 6, hugs her doll, Savannah, in her Pinellas Park home. Her mother, Allison, wants to bring home a service dog that will help Samantha avoid allergens that could kill her so she can lead a normal life.

that sniff out illegal fruits and vegetables.

"I thought, 'If a dog can find a pineapple, why can't a dog find a peanut?'" Mers said.

After much research and working with a dozen

trainers, a dog named Rock'O was able to keep Riley from deadly traces of peanuts. Word of the family's success spread, and suddenly other parents wanted to know how they could train a dog like Rock'O.

Now, more than 60 children have been paired with a dog that is trained to guard them from whatever substances are harmful to them. Some of the children have an additional medical issue or special need that makes the dog necessary. Others are extreme cases like Sammy.

"For kids that need this, there's really nothing else out there that can help them," Mers said.

The dogs cost \$32,000 to train. The organization asks the families they partner with to raise \$20,000, which also covers the cost of flying them to Colorado Springs to attend a two-week class that will teach them how to work with the dog.

The organization receives applications for their specially trained dogs almost daily, but can only train dogs so fast, Mers said. Currently, the organization tries to train 10 dogs for each training class, held about three times a year.

The Feeley family has until Sept. 15 to meet their goal in order to be able to attend the class in October. A 2-year-old Australian labradoodle named Angel who has been selected for Sammy almost has the scent of peanuts down and next will train to alert for dairy, Allison said.

"I'm so excited," she said. "(Sammy) wants to be able to go to dance class. She wants to be able to go to school. She just can't."

Mers has been in communication with the family over the phone almost daily, she said. Angel, who was not intentionally named after the organization, can change Sammy's life, allowing her to go to school and be a normal kid.

"We know that a dog like Angel can totally open that up to her without the fear of touching and eating something that's going to cause her to go into an anaphylactic shock," Mers said.

Sammy's anaphylaxis not only affects her mobili-

ty, but also that of her two younger sisters and baby brother, who also are limited to where they can play and eat.

As a single mom, it's hard for Allison to stay strong for her daughter. She tries to remain calm when Sammy has a reaction so her daughter doesn't get scared, she said.

"But it kills me, absolutely kills me, to have to stick her with an EpiPen and hope that the EpiPen works," she said.

After a trip to the emergency room, once her daughter is stable and another family member has arrived, Allison said she often goes outside and just breaks down.

"You're staring death in the face and that's your child," Allison said. "I'm thankful every time she wakes up in the morning, because that's another day I can spend with her. Because who knows?"

Mers said she loves her job because she is able to make the lives of children, like Sammy, better.

"Plus it's a cute little dog that's going to be a good companion for her," she said.

She also gets to see the fundraising efforts rally a community.

"There's not a lot of things in this world where you get to truly help improve someone's life," Mers said. "This is a situation where we come together as a society and help these kids live a life that they would never dream to live."

The family has already raised about \$14,000, most of which was raised in the last week.

A benefit, complete with dinner and family-friendly activities, will be held on Sunday, Aug. 11, 5 to 7 p.m., at Christ The King Lutheran Ministries, 11220 Oakhurst Road in Largo.

To follow updates on the family's fundraising efforts, visit www.facebook.com/ServiceDogforSammy. To donate, visit angelservicedogs.com/fundraiser/campaign/angel-samantha.

Contributions go directly to Angel Service Dogs, a 501(c)3 nonprofit; all donations are tax-deductible.

Crime beat

Trio charged in jail contraband case

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Sheriff's Office reported Aug. 1 that three men had been charged after a "fishing expedition" led to arrests in connection with introducing contraband into a county detention facility.

The incident took place at the central division of the Pinellas County Jail, 14400 49th St. N.

According to the sheriff's report, at least two inmates and one civilian concocted a scheme where the inmates would lower a nylon rope from the sixth floor recreation yard of the detention facility to a subject waiting outside on the ground. The subject outside would in turn tie contraband to the rope so the inmates could pull it up through a rain drainage hole on the top floor. Members of the detention investigations unit recently received a tip from other inmates this activity may be occurring.

After a failed attempt to bring in contraband Monday, July 29, the detention investigations unit discovered a grocery-sized bag hanging from the fourth floor of the facility. Inside the bag was approximately 29 grams of marijuana (valued at about \$1,500 in the jail), tobacco products, lighters and other items.

Inmate Mark Matthew "Red" Keating, 44, of St. Petersburg was charged with introducing contraband into the jail. He is being held without bond on a warrant from Palm Beach in connection with two



Eric Scott Snook Mark Matthew "Red" Keating Phillip William Henderson

burglary charges. He is also charged with grand theft and armed robbery in Pinellas County.

Inmate Phillip William Henderson, 38, of St. Petersburg also had introducing contraband into a detention facility added to his list of charges that include petit theft, grand theft and retail theft.

The man on the outside, Eric Scott Snook, 41, of Pinellas Park also was charged with introducing and possession of contraband into a detention facility. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Measures have been taken to prevent this activity from occurring in the future, according to a media release from the sheriff's office. A 6-foot chain link fence was erected in the courtyard where Snook tied the contraband to the rope. Other measures to deter this activity are being discussed. As the investigation continues, additional charges and arrests are possible.

Pinellas Park cops ID homicide victim

PINELLAS PARK – Pinellas Park police identified the man whose body was found July 30 after a stand-off with SWAT at a residence on 63rd Street North.

Police also released further details about the incident that began about 7:30 p.m. as a disturbance between the deceased and a female. According to the police report, after the domestic disturbance, the female left and then returned with three male relatives.

The deceased, Paul Adjutor Doyon Jr., 43, of Pinellas Park, reportedly brought a handgun outside to confront the three males. During a physical fight between the four, a shot was fired from the gun, but no one was hit.

Doyon then attempted to go back inside the house, but he was locked out by one of the visiting males. Doyon went around to the back of the home and entered through a broken glass window. The male who had locked the front door, exited and Doyon remained inside.

Police responded to a call received at 7:15 p.m. Witness reports indicated that Doyon was inside the house with a firearm. The SWAT team was activated

at 7:33 p.m. Several calls were made to Doyon's home phone with no answer.

Police then used a bullhorn, but Doyon didn't answer. A SWAT phone was deployed into the house and activated, but no one answered. Blood was detected on the floor by a surveillance camera, deployed inside the house. When the camera located Doyon, he was not moving.

The SWAT team then entered the house. Medics were called in, and Doyon was declared dead at the scene. No one else was inside the house. Doyon's body was taken to the medical examiner's office. Preliminary cause of death is loss of blood due to lacerations. He did not have a gunshot wound.

Police said the case is an active homicide investigation. Everyone involved in the initial disturbance and physical fight has been identified. Police are attempting to sort out the details of what occurred prior to police arrival and if there will be any criminal charges to be filed against any of the participants in the disturbance and fight.

Doyon was a self-employed fisherman.

Vehicle fire in carport spreads to home

LARGO – Largo firefighters were called to the scene of a vehicle fire about 1:48 p.m. Wednesday, July 31, at Rancho Village Co-Op, 7100 Ulmerton Road in Largo.

According to an eyewitness report, the vehicle was parked inside a connected carport and the fire spread to an adjacent manufactured home.

Largo firefighters aided by the Pinellas Park Fire Department, Sunstar paramedics and Largo police, quickly extinguished the blaze, minimizing the damage to the home.

The occupant of the home appeared to be uninjured, according to a witness.



Photo by STEVEN HIRSCHFIELD
Largo firefighters work to put out a vehicle fire July 31 inside a carport at Rancho Village Co-Op, 7100 Ulmerton Road in Largo.

Crash reports

Two injured in two-vehicle crash

SEMINOLE – Sunstar paramedics delivered two people to area hospitals Aug. 1 after a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Seminole Boulevard and 119th Avenue in Seminole.

A crash report from Florida Highway Patrol indicates that the incident occurred just after 9 p.m., when a 2000 Nissan Sentra collided with a 1995 Nissan pickup truck.

The Sentra was east in the driveway access of Winn Dixie Supermarket, 11900 Seminole Blvd., attempting to cross Seminole Boulevard onto 119th Avenue North. The Nissan was traveling northbound on Seminole Boulevard in the middle lane approaching 119th Avenue.

The Sentra failed to yield the right of way and the front end of the Nissan crashed into the right side of the Sentra. The driver, John Richard Walsh Dietrich, 23, of Seminole was cited for failure to yield at sidewalk from alley, building, private road or drive.

According to an eyewitness report, Seminole Fire Rescue was first on scene and extricated one of the injured, who was trapped inside a vehicle. One of two passengers in the Sentra, Ryan Laprova, 23, of Largo was transported to Bayfront Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries. The driver of the Nissan, Helen Marie Roop, 30, was transported to Largo Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries.

Largo Fire Rescue and Pinellas County Sheriff's Office also assisted on scene.



Photo by STEVEN HIRSCHFIELD
Firefighter/paramedics from Seminole and Largo remove a passenger trapped inside a vehicle after an Aug. 1 crash on Seminole Boulevard.

Bicyclist airlifted to medical center

CLEARWATER – A bicyclist was airlifted to Bayfront Medical Center with critical injuries after being hit by a car about 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2.

According to a report from the Florida Highway Patrol, Gerald Mullen, 48, of Clearwater was riding his bicycle southbound on McMullen Booth Road crossing in the marked crosswalk for Union Street. Brian Wolstein, 50, was driving his 2009 Porsche eastbound in the right turn lane of Union Street west of McMullen Booth Road.

Wolstein failed to stop for the red light at the intersection prior to turning right onto McMullen Booth Road. He didn't see Mullen and struck him. Charges are pending.

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Industry updates

Chamber to host Inspire Awards luncheon

LARGO – The Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce will present its fifth annual Inspire Awards luncheon on Tuesday, Aug. 13, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., at the Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive, Largo. The Inspire Awards, presented by the chamber's Women in Business Council, celebrates individuals in Central Pinellas who have had a positive impact on the lives of others through their leadership in the workplace and/or involvement in the community. Dozens of nominations were accepted with five winners selected to be honored this year. Sponsors of the event include DEX Imaging, Creative Sign Designs, Dr. K's Med Spa, Greater Largo Library Foundation, Largo Medical Center and Peace Wealth Management Inc. The cost to attend is \$20 for chamber members and \$25 for guests. The registration deadline is Friday, Aug. 9. To register, call 584-2321 or email events@centralchamber.biz.

Burger King opens in Tyrone Square Mall

ST. PETERSBURG – Quality Dining, the new operator of 54 Tampa Bay area Burger King Restaurants, recently opened its newest restaurant at Tyrone Square Mall, 2263 Tyrone Square. The new restaurant is inside the mall's food court. The restaurant's hours of operation will be consistent with the mall hours. "This unit is the second Tampa Bay area Burger King to open this year," said Daniel B. Fitzpatrick in a press release. Fitzpatrick is chairman and CEO of Quality Dining Inc. "On behalf of our management team we are proud to join the other outstanding merchants of Tyrone Square Mall. The mall is a growing and great destination for shoppers. We look forward to being the perfect complement to our guests shopping experience."

Comprehensive Spine Institute relocates

CLEARWATER – Comprehensive Spine Institute, the office of spine surgeon Dr. Ashraf Ragab, recently announced that it is opening a new office at 1988 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd. in Clearwater to better meet the needs of consumers experiencing back pain. Previously housed in the Bardmoor Outpatient Center in Largo, Comprehensive Spine Institute is one of the fastest growing businesses

in the category, according to a press release. The new 15,000-square-foot office will allow Comprehensive Spine Institute to grow the practice to include an on-site surgery center, physical therapy, and sports medicine. "The opening of the Comprehensive Spine Institute's new Clearwater office is an important step toward realizing our goals of providing a complete spine care experience and carefully upgrading and managing the reputation of the industry," said Ragab.

Jewsbury appointed FAC president

CLEARWATER – Tom Jewsbury, deputy airport director of facilities and operations at St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport, was recently elected president of the Florida Airports Council at the organization's 44th annual conference in Orlando. More than 700 industry professionals attended the conference. The FAC is the largest airport-specific organization in Florida and the largest state aviation organization in the United States. It represents all 19 state commercial service and 76 Florida general aviation airports. The FAC is an association of publicly-owned and operated airports, airport professionals, and experts in the fields of airport design, development, and improvement, as well as aviation trades that support the airport industry in Florida. "Tom has received a great honor to be recognized by his colleagues as a leader of Florida aviation and to serve the aviation community as President of the FAC in the coming year," said Noah Lagos in a press release. Lagos is St. Pete-Clearwater International airport director and a former FAC president. Jewsbury will serve a one-year term beginning on Oct. 1, 2013. He previously served as an FAC board member and on the executive board as vice president.

Wild Birds Unlimited store to open

SAFETY HARBOR – Local entrepreneur Carl Albritton, owner of the new Wild Birds Unlimited store in the Safety Harbor/Clearwater area, turned a 20-year hobby into a business opportunity. Albritton's store will be opening in mid-August. For two decades, the 56-year-old has nurtured a passion for bird watching which all started

in 1987 during a trip to his parent's house in Belleville, Ill. For 32 years, he worked for AT&T, but when he retired last year, he decided it was the perfect opportunity to open a business and introduce others to a hobby that he cares about dearly. Wild Birds Unlimited is a franchise system of backyard bird feeding and nature specialty stores. The stores specialize in bringing people and nature together with bird feeding and nature products, expert advice and educational events. The company is expanding in the Tampa area, and the new Clearwater location will feature a new look as the company rebrands their new locations to enhance the customer experience, according to a press release. Wild Birds Unlimited Clearwater differs from the other franchise locations in that it:

- Will be the southernmost location in North America
- Is built on seven acres of land to enhance the wild life factor and will include bird feeding stations and nesting boxes around the property
- Will feature a new look as the company rebrands their newest locations to enhance the customer experience.

Bouchard Insurance makes Top 100 list

CLEARWATER – Bouchard Insurance was recently named one of Florida's Best Companies to Work For by "Florida Trend" magazine. The fifth annual statewide Best Companies list appears in the August issue of "Florida Trend" magazine and on FloridaTrend.com. The list recognizes 100 companies in small, medium, and large company categories. Bouchard ranked 22nd in the Mid-sized Companies category. "We are honored to have been selected again this year, and we owe our thanks to our employees for helping us create an award-winning culture," said Keith Mercier in a press release. Mercier is a regional sales manager. Companies that chose to participate underwent an evaluation of their workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems and demographics. The process also included a survey to measure employee satisfaction. The combined scores determined the top companies and the final ranking. Best Companies Group managed the registration, survey and analysis and determined the final rankings. Bouchard Insurance is headquartered in Clearwater with offices in Fort Myers, Kissimmee, Maitland and Sarasota.

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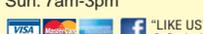
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Coast Guard Auxiliary's military memorial wall gets first bricks

By BOB McCLURE

MADEIRA BEACH – A longtime vision for Marcel Traficante is coming to fruition on the south wall of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary building in Madeira Beach.

Nearly two years since he got the idea to build a memorial wall to honor members of the U.S. military, a total of 47 memorial bricks have been attached to the wall next to an attractive, colorful mural.

His goal is to fill the wall to capacity with about 360 more bricks, which are actually individual tiles.

"I think it's our responsibility to remember those who have decided to unselfishly serve our great country," said Traficante, the division vice commander of Auxiliary Flotilla 11-3. "This is an opportunity to honor a family member or anyone who has served in the military."

The concept came about after two of Traficante's friends were killed in Afghanistan.

"Their wives were afraid their children would grow up not knowing who their father was," said Traficante. "We have memorials in Washington but really nothing out there nearby."

In February 2012, Traficante went to work. He advertised on Craig's List for an artist to paint the mural and found Belinda Davis of St. Petersburg. She began work on the mural about

four months later and a year ago it was dedicated at the Auxiliary headquarters, located at 299 Boca Ciega Drive.

"After we got the mural finished, I thought why not do memorial bricks to honor current and past military members?" Traficante said. "We wanted to make sure the bricks were made in the U.S. and that was tough."

After a little more searching, he found Miami-based Bricks 'R Us, which not only sells the bricks but also does laser engraving.

The Auxiliary sells two sizes – a 4-inch by 8-inch brick for \$59 and an 8-inch square brick for \$79. Proceeds help to support public

safety programs at the Auxiliary.

Both de Miranda and Traficante stressed that bricks can be purchased by anyone, military or civilian, for anyone who has served in the U.S. military, past or present.

One family, the Allaire family of Madeira Beach, purchased three bricks – for World War II U.S. Navy veteran Richard Allaire, U.S. Army Iraq veteran Patrick Allaire and his son Matthew, who is currently serving with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan.

They were among the initial 47 bricks to go up that took a little longer than originally anticipated.

"We discovered we needed to stucco the wall so the bricks

would adhere better and then we had to seal them to protect them from the weather," said Traficante. "We weren't anticipating (the extra cost), but we wanted it done right."

The Auxiliary spent \$1,300 for the stucco work and \$400 for the sealant. More bricks will soon be added to the wall.

Amenities planned for the wall include a battlefield marker encased in plexi-glass, landscaping, lighting that will allow 24/7 viewing of the wall and two benches facing the wall, compliments of the city of Madeira Beach.

For information on buying a brick, call 391-5185 or 482-6204.



Photo by BOB McCLURE
Marcel Traficante, division vice commander for U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-3, and public affairs officer Suzie de Miranda stand in front of the Auxiliary's military memorial wall.

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Pets, owners compete in expo



Photos by JAY RICHMOND
At left, Jacob Weedo, 2, of Clearwater poses with his puppy at the Humane Society of Pinellas' Pet Expo, held at Minnreg Hall in Largo, Aug. 3. The event featured a 2014 calendar model search as well as vendors, adoptable animals, a vaccine and microchip clinic, a splash zone for pets, and an ask-a-trainer session. Above, the judges of the 2014 Calendar Model Search, from left, Miss Florida USA 2010 Tiffany Ubele, Elizabeth Olson of Palm Harbor and Bay News 9 reporter Anne Imanuel pose with the winners Beatrice, Bindi and Lilly.

Largo-area cats sought for clinical trial

LARGO – A veterinary clinical trial with 35 study sites in the United States and Canada is currently evaluating cats with kidney disease to determine if they also have hypertension (high blood pressure). All Cats Hospital in Largo is among the veterinary practices participating.

Kidney disease and hypertension often occur together, especially in older cats. Hypertension is a dangerous condition and is difficult to diagnose because there are no visible clinical signs in cats.

As in humans, if left untreated, hypertension in cats can lead to serious consequences, including blindness, heart disease, bleeding in the brain, seizures, worsening of kidney disease, and even death. There are currently no treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration for hypertension associated with kidney disease in cats, so veterinarians must treat this condition with off-label drugs. This

clinical trial is evaluating a new, investigational liquid medication for feline hypertension, which will be submitted for FDA review.

This large FDA-regulated clinical trial will likely screen thousands of cats to help provide important evidence-based research that may lead to new insights, treatments, and improvements in patient health. If feline hypertension is diagnosed and treated early, then irreversible organ damage may be prevented.

"Hypertension is a serious problem that is frequently associated with kidney disease in cats, but most cat owners are unaware that their cat could be at risk," said Dr. Deborah Edwards in a press release. Edwards is a veterinarian and the participating investigator at All Cats Hospital. "We most commonly see hypertension in older cats. This is an important study because unfortunately, we don't have any FDA-approved medications to treat it in cats."

This veterinary clinical trial offers free study-related medical care for participating pets, which can be very beneficial during tough economic times. For qualified cats, this trial provides some of the most advanced veterinary care available, including diagnostics and on-going medical evaluations that are conducted by trained veterinarians, many of

whom specialize in feline medicine.

To qualify for the study, cats must:

- Be at least 1 year old
- Be diagnosed with kidney disease
- Have high blood pressure (need not be diagnosed before being screened for the study)
- Be without severe signs of hypertension (blindness, retinal detachment, nervous system signs)
- Be well enough to participate for up to six months (participation time depends on many factors, but may be from two weeks to six months)
- Not have any other severe uncontrolled diseases
- Meet all other study requirements (which will be explained by the investigator when the cat is evaluated)

Cats that meet all the criteria for the study receive free study-related medical evaluations and diagnostic tests. If enrolled in the study, cats will receive study medication or placebo, and required monthly exams at no cost. In addition to free study-specific care, owners of enrolled cats also are eligible to receive compensation for their time, and to have funds credited to their account at their referring family veterinarian.

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Pets of the week



Einstein

Einstein is a 1-year-old male, gray tuxedo kitty with white on his face, chest and the tips of his toes. Just look at that perfect gray circle on his chin. This handsome boy is very sweet, friendly and laid back. He is neutered and current on all his vaccinations. To meet this dashing young boy, come to the Clearwater PetSmart on Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard and U.S. 19 or call Pat with Second Chance for Strays at 535-9154 or visit www.secondchanceforstrays.com



Diamond

Diamond is a calm Labrador/retriever mix girl who seems to always be deep in thought. At only 4 years old, she seems like she has seen a lot and has an old soul. Diamond would love to live her life with someone who is also peaceful and thoughtful. If that sounds like you, adopt Diamond at the Humane Society of Pinellas at 3040 S.R. 590, Clearwater. Call 797-7722 or visit www.humanesocietyofpinellas.org.



Splice

Splice is a 3-month-old female tortoiseshell kitten. She is a shy girl, but once she knows you, she loves to crawl up into your lap and purr. She is spayed, microchipped and vaccinated. To learn more about Splice and other adoptable animals, contact Pet Pal Animal Shelter at 328-7738 or visit the shelter at 405 22nd Ave. N., S. St. Petersburg. Visit www.petpalanimalshelter.com.



Pebbles

Pebbles is a 5-month-old, 24-pound female Boston terrier/beagle mix. She is a cutie pie who would love to curl up on the couch with her human and watch episodes of The Flintstones. Pebbles is spayed, vaccinated and microchipped. Visit Pet Pal Animal Shelter at 405 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg. Call 328-7738 or visit www.petpalanimalshelter.com.



Ollie and Stan

What an exotic looking pair these brothers are. Ollie and Stan are only 8 months old and were recently returned due to a family health issue. They are quite entertaining as full-of-energy playmates. Stan is a talker, while Ollie is the mischievous one. When it is bedtime, they are great cuddlers. The brothers have been neutered and are current on their shots and have been microchipped. To meet and fall in love with these beauties, call Save Our Strays at 481-5262. Visit www.saveourstraysinc.com to see other great cats.

What is parvo? Vet discusses this disease

I can still remember the first case of parvo virus that I ever saw. Unfortunately, it was only a necropsy sample of a dog's small intestine to take back to the University of Florida for evaluation for parvo. I was working in Branford Florida as a veterinary technician the year before I started veterinary school in 1980, and dogs were dying of a new disease in the area and we needed help in solving the dilemma.



Speaking of Pets
Dr. Wade Matthews, DVM

a cure for some time before the outbreak, and the next year, the veterinary profession had a new weapon to fight parvo. It was like night and day difference when we were able to vaccinate puppies for this disease. When the disease first started, no pets had any immunity to it so very few actually lived to pass on the antibodies on to their young. Now with the aid of vaccines, female dogs have antibodies to the disease and can pass them on through their colostrum, which is in the first 24 to 48 hours that the puppies nurse.

Why is Parvo so bad in dogs?

Pets need to have a certain amount of hydration for the body to work properly. They get water, electrolytes, minerals, carbohydrate, fat and protein from whatever they eat and drink. The bowel has billions of "villi" that form the lining of the bowel and that is where water and nutrients are absorbed. The parvo virus actually enters the villi to replicate, and this process causes the villi to die very quickly. With other viral diseases, the same thing happens, but the reason parvo is so severe is that it kills the whole villi and not just part of it. It leaves the bowel unable to digest or absorb almost anything. Even if the pet eats or drinks something, it passes right through the bowel undigested and unabsorbed. The villi will regenerate, but it takes many days for that to happen, so the pet is at major

risk of dying during that time.

What can I do to protect my pet?

When you buy a puppy, make sure that the mother was vaccinated before she was bred. This will help protect the puppy when it is very young. As they grow, they need to develop their own antibodies to protect them. Puppies should be vaccinated at least twice, and the second vaccine needs to be at 16 weeks of age or older. Our standard puppy vaccine schedule is to vaccinate them for parvo at 6 weeks, 9 weeks, 12 weeks and 16 weeks to do everything possible for them not to get this life threatening disease.

Dr. Wade Matthews graduated from The University of Florida in 1984 and has practiced at The Animal Hospital of Dunedin for 28 years.

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One stylish pup

Meet Gizmo, who is August's Pet of the Month winner. Gizmo is a Chorkie, which is a Yorkshire terrier and Chihuahua mix. He was born in a small town in the heart of Texas, near Austin, and was the runt of the litter. Karla Moreno's family of Clearwater fell in love with him, and soon Gizmo entered their home and their hearts. He is a big cheese lover – but only the expensive kind and adores sunbathing in the morning. He is very sweet and loving and loves to cuddle, sleep on pillows and going to the beach. Although always playful, sometimes he thinks he is a guard dog, barking very loudly at things. He is definitely tiny but mighty, and his family lovingly calls him their little sugar cube. As our pet photo winner, Gizmo and his family win a \$25 gift certificate to either Largo Feed or Park Feed in Pinellas Park. Send your pet photos to Alexandra Lundahl at alundahl@TBNweekly.com.

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Get rid of daily press briefings at the White House

A former Obama White House press aide is calling for an end to the White House's daily press briefings. "The daily briefing has become a worthless chore for reporters, an embarrassing nuisance to administration staff, and a source of added friction between the two camps," Reid Cherlin wrote in New Republic. "It's time to do the humane, obvious thing and get rid of it altogether."



Debra Saunders

Amen to that. My complaints about the briefings are different from Cherlin's. I don't think there's enough friction between the camps. As I watched Monday's briefing on streaming video, I spied a number of journalists looking at or typing on their phones. The press corps and White House spokesman seem like an old married couple; one knows what the other is going to say before the other says it.

The press corps doesn't come off well in many exchanges. President Barack Obama met for lunch with Hillary Clinton. America wants to know: What was on the menu? Spokesman Josh Earnest was ready with an answer: grilled chicken, pasta jambalaya and salad.

There's this awful trend in journalism that, in the rush not to be late, produces stories that preview what is going to happen. Then when, say, a speech is over, it's already old news, and so no one covers it.

So at the briefings, reporters ask: What will the president say? Then there's the inevitable answer: "I don't want to get ahead of the president's speech tomorrow."

Your average American would want to know why an administration does what it does, yet your average journalist wants to know when. In its first interview with the president since 2010, The New York Times asked the president when he would announce his decision on the Keystone pipeline and when he would name a successor to Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke.

When reporters stray from the usual routine, it doesn't do much good. On Monday, CBS News correspondent Major Garrett tried to get a yes or no answer as to whether the administration thinks the Egyptian military is responsible for the violence that has left so many dead.

Garrett's tactic enabled Earnest to engage in a typical press secretary dodge - referring to other officials' cryptic statements. Another handy tool: telling reporters to talk to another press secretary in a different department.

It cannot be good for reporters to just sit there as press secretaries spin and drill the same old talking points without saying anything revealing. As Cherlin wrote, if there were a Hippocratic oath for press secretaries at daily briefings, it would begin: "First, make no news."

No problem there; the beat reporters know the rules, including what not to ask. After George Zimmerman and his family received death threats, Gabe Finger, a high-school intern at The Daily Caller, asked press secretary Jay Carney whether the president planned on taking any action to protect the Zimmermans or were they "on their own."

Carney answered that he was not aware of any threats - another favorite dodge in this White House. Then he hit the intern for making a "ridiculous statement." You see, Finger asked a question that a conservative might ask. And to this White House, with this press corps, that is utterly ridiculous.

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

LETTERS

Invest in residents' safety

Editor:

I have lived on Indian Rocks Beach for three and a half years and consider it paradise. The people, the nightlife, and of course the beach are splendid. One bothersome issue however is the lack of crosswalks at the beach accesses and for years I have heard that something will be done about it. Now it's too late.

One of my neighbors was recently hit by a vehicle while walking across Gulf Boulevard and has been seriously injured. I wonder if there is a quota on how many accidents have to happen before the city can invest in a few gallons of paint and make it safe for pedestrians to cross? It is too late for my neighbor but hopefully our local officials can see this as the one too many lives endangered by a lack of safety for pedestrians on Gulf Boulevard.

I have seen many close calls with children and their parents lugging stuff back from the beach and no safe place to cross. One resident seriously injured is one too many. Can we please make the investment in safety for our residents and especially our children?

Jimmy Suvoy
Indian Rocks Beach

Restaurant couponers, beware

Editor:

My husband and I had a very bad experience with a local restaurant when we tried to use our \$25 coupon. We were told that they were out of lobster tails and fillet mignon at 4:45 p.m. on a Monday, July 29. We had to order a minimum of \$37.50 in order to use the coupon. My husband ordered a special at the restaurant, which was not covered by the coupon so the entire \$37.50 was for me to order. Wow, have you tried to order that much without that steak or a lobster tail? This was our 52nd anniversary so needless to say, we walked out and won't ever go back. I do think that this restaurant pulled a fast one on us. Only wish that we could name it and give all the folks a heads-up on how they treat their customers.

Linda Simon
Largo

A charity worthy of support

Editor:

Here in Pinellas County we have the Religious Community Services, which is not well known but has been in existence for the past 40 years and serves thousands of people every year.

The RCS is comprised of a thrift store on East Bay Drive, which helps finance the RCS Food Bank on Druid Avenue, the Grace House, which provides housing for homeless families, and the Haven of RCS and its outreach ministries for battered women and their children.

This is a charity most worthy of community support with less than 9 percent for administrative costs.

Rev. Timothy Nehals,
Board of directors of RCS
Palm Harbor

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.

On the many uses of small talk

One of the most practiced conversational art forms is small talk. Sooner or later we must all engage in it, whether we want to or not.

Mrs. Havisham is waiting for her bus. Her neighbor, Mr. Flark, whom she barely knows, approaches and stands beside her. Neither of them really wants to chat, but neither wants to appear standoffish. What is the compromise solution? Small talk.

"Lovely morning, isn't it?"
"Oh, yes. Although some rain is predicted."
"Ah, yes. But we can use it."

Weather is probably the most common topic in doing small talk. That's because everyone is subject to it. The same thing goes for sex, although that sex small talk is trickier, and is usually confined to persons who know each other well.

Another area that small talkers are wise to avoid is religion. "Mr. Partridge, I've been reading that your church is trying to attract Guatemalan atheists into the fold. Are you crazy?" Such a remark usually ends the small talk, and may lead to gunfire.

Health issues can lend themselves to small talk. Again, discretion must be exercised. To use "My hemorrhoids are killing me!" as an opening line pretty well dooms the conversation from the very start.

Chitchat is an alternative form of small talk. Chitchat exchanges usually go on longer than small talk. Also, chitchat is more common among women. No self-respecting man would say, "Charlie and I were just chitchating. Or just chatting."

The No. 1 small-talk topic for men is sports. The opening line is usually, "How 'bout them Rays?" Better-educated men say, "How 'bout those Rays?" The British say, "Have you noticed the superlative perform-



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

ance of the Kent-Sheffield cricketers recently? Smashing, wouldn't you say, old boy?"

A frightening side of small talk is when you meet someone who obviously wants to do more than make idle, inane comments. This sometimes occurs when the airline pilot has developed food poisoning and the plane you're on will be 80 minutes late taking off. How do you thwart a determined would-be gabber, when you're hopelessly trapped alongside him or her? Here are a few lines that usually bring a halt to unwanted small talk:

"I have a knife in my pocket. It will stay there as long as you stay silent and don't move."

"Are you washed in the blood of the lamb?"
"The spirit of L. Ron Hubbard shall never die!"

Another method of avoiding small talk is to speak in a foreign language, preferably one you've just made up. On one occasion, a wedding reception, I was placed next to a woman who began to regale me about her grandchildren. I replied, "Da novia meskup fa rangoo per ellingstork." From that point we just sat quietly and enjoyed our duck l'orange.

At other times you may welcome small talk. To encourage a person to open up, just ask leading questions. "Have you ever been divorced? Please tell me about it. Whose fault was it? Your spouse was a real dork, right?"

Art shows are the toughest places to make small talk with complete strangers, especially if you know very little about art. When that happens, you should gossip about the net worth of the guy hosting the show, and how he made his bundle. "Were you aware that his first wife was a bisexual niece of Picasso who stole six of his paintings and cashed them in?"

I live in a condominium complex, most of whose residents own a dog or a cat. These pets provide an excellent entry point for small talk.

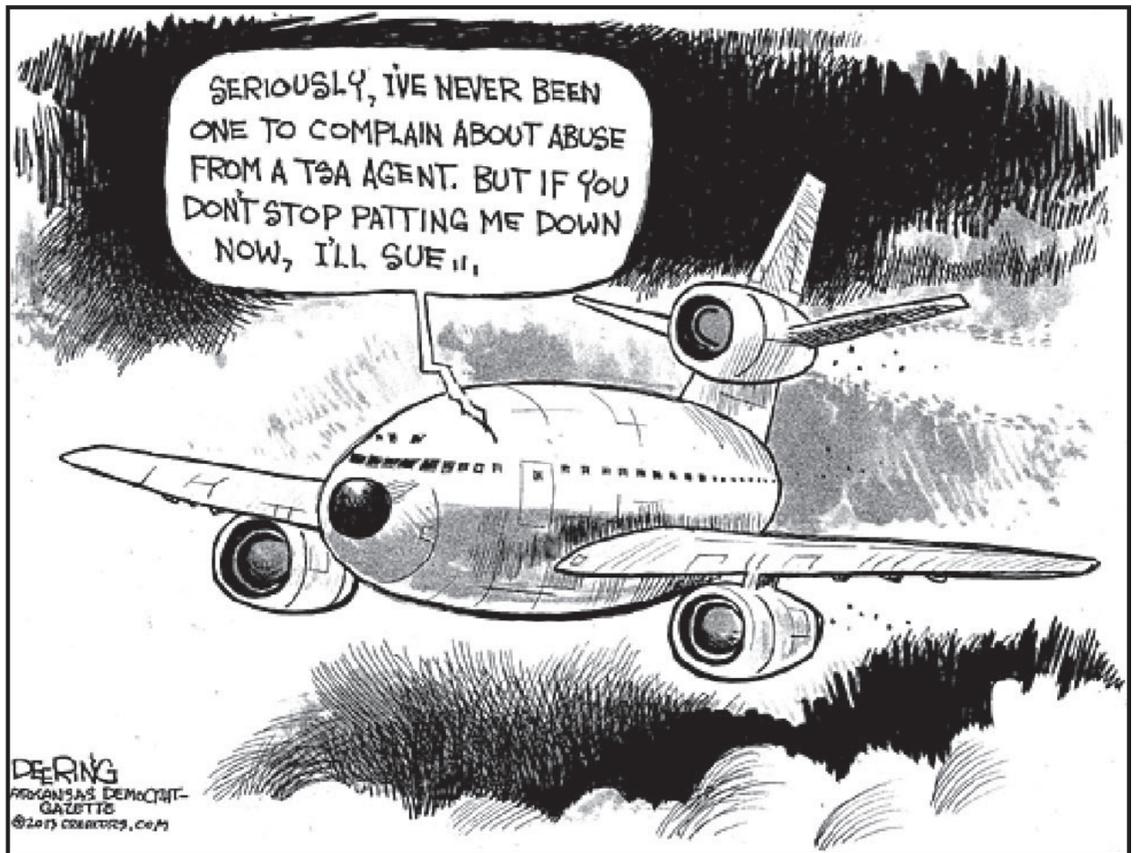
"That's a magnificent Great Dane you have, sir. Where did you buy his saddle?"
"What a pretty kitty, m'am. What is her name?" "It's a boy. His name is Cedric." And so on.

I know the names of more pets than I do their owners. A lady on the 4th floor has a tiny dog, a female, called Fenway. The lady is a Boston Red Sox fan. Their home field is Fenway Park. That's how it goes with small talk. If you pay attention you can compile a huge amount of information.

At parties, a useful tool in escaping from a boring small-talk session is to carry a kitchen timer in your pocket. Set it in advance so that the beeper goes off after five minutes. When that happens, just smile and say, "Sorry, but it's time for my dialysis." Then walk away.

Better yet, ask a friend to come to your rescue when you give him/her a high sign, such as tugging your ear. When you signal, the friend rushes up excitedly and says to you, "Spielberg's office just called. He wants to talk about that script you sent him. You'd better ring him back right away."

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



Wrong playing field for town meeting

More sunshine, please

I wonder if I should bring beer or a dessert to Belleair Shore meetings?

The town of Belleair Shore commission decided to hold a workshop meeting on July 22 at Commissioner Robert E. Schmidt Jr.'s home.

Such meetings, at the very least, violate the spirit of the state's Sunshine Law, which requires meetings of public boards to be open to the public.

According to a 2008 state attorney general's opinion, public boards or commissions "are advised to avoid holding meetings at places where the public and the press are effectively excluded."

I'm not sure that everybody, including some town residents, would feel comfortable walking into a home where a government meeting is held, even if there was a sign on the door that said, "Y'all come on in!"

The attorney general's opinion was in response to a question about whether the Village of Highland Park, located south of Lake Wales, would violate the Sunshine Law by meeting in a private home.

The attorney writing the opinion said he was "not aware that this office has directly addressed the matter of a public meeting being held in a private home," but suggested that the concerns expressed would apply to any space in which the Village of Highland Park chooses to hold its public meetings.

I know it's hard sometimes for Belleair Shore, population 87, to make meeting arrangements, and even get quorums among its board members. However, if the town's government fails to hold its commission meetings in places that are easily recognizable as public facilities, then the government may leave the



Tom Germond

impression that it is indifferent to the public's right to know, which is a cornerstone of a free society.

Even if baseball star Ryan Howard offered to open his mansion to the public for a commission meeting, I'd cry foul.

Getting there

For those motorists who travel frequently through the intersection of Seminole Boulevard and Ulmerton Road and want to know what's up with the construction work, here's an update.

According to Florida Department of Transportation spokeswoman Kristen Carson, the section of the road work from 119th Street to the Seminole Bypass Canal is on schedule and expected to be finished in the fall.

"... the contractor is on time, however, we have had a pretty wet summer so we will continue to grant weather days as necessary," Carson said.

The right sections of Seminole Boulevard and Ridge Road are currently being widened and are having new curbs and gutters installed. The left roadway for 101st Street needs to be widened and have new curbs and gutters installed still. There is still remaining median work that needs to be done. Resurfacing and final striping also remains, she said.

Another phase of the project, from the

Seminole Bypass Canal to El Centro/Ranchero Boulevard, is expected to be completed in the summer of 2015.

Remembering Matthew

Slightly over a year ago, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Sittton of Largo died of wounds he suffered while encountering an enemy explosive device in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

In a show of strong support, hundreds or more of area residents lined Ulmerton Road and other streets Aug. 10, 2012, as the soldier was brought in a mortocade to a Belleair Bluffs funeral home.



Matthew Sittton

Sittton, a paratrooper, was an outstanding soldier having been awarded a Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Achievement Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal. His training included Airborne School, Long Range Reconnaissance Course, U.S. Army Ranger Course, U.S. Army Sniper School, Warrior's Leader Course and Advanced Leader's Course.

When he died Aug. 2, 2012, Sittton was on his second combat deployment to Afghanistan.

I wish his family well and hope that he remains in the thoughts and prayers of the community as when we honor the men and women in the Armed Forces who put their lives on the line for our country.

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

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Teacher from Largo attended Space Academy

LARGO – A teacher who lives in Largo joined middle school teachers from around the world on a learning adventure of a lifetime during the Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy program this summer.

Megan Higbee, who has taught at Academy of Holy Names in Tampa for seven years, participated in the simulated astronaut training and professional development program at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. The five-day program, which started June 14, included 45 hours of professional development as well as an intensive educator curriculum focused on space science and exploration.

As part of the simulated astronaut training, each teacher participated in a high-performance jet simulation, a scenario-based space mission, land and water survival training and interactive flight dynamics programs.

Higbee feels that her teaching excels from experience and hopes to bring back the knowledge from Space Academy to the classroom this year, according to a press release about the academy.

Only about one-third of eighth-graders have the skills to perform even basic mathematic computations. Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy, created in partnership with the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in 2004, is designed to address these trends in science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, education by providing teachers with new technical skills and teaching techniques that help motivate students not only in the United States but around the world.

"Inspiring students begins with inspiring teachers," said Tom Buckmaster, president of Honeywell Hometown Solutions. "HE@SA gives teachers an engaging and unforgettable learning experience that heightens their ability to become even more effective educators."

Since the program's inception, more than 1,755 teachers have attended this unique and innovative program. In the last 10 years, Honeywell has awarded 210 scholarships to teachers from 27 countries and 42 states.

As a leading technology and manufacturing corporation, Honeywell understands the importance of STEM education and its impact on the global economy. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 15 of the 20 fastest growing occupations over the next 18 months require significant mathematics or science preparation.

"Honeywell is a world-class leader when it comes to educating teachers in STEM education and they're proving it again," noted Dr. Deborah Barnhart, CEO and executive director of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. "These teachers, in turn, inspire tens of thousands of students around the world."



Photo courtesy of HONEYWELL
Middle school teacher Megan Higbee of Largo tries out the gravity chair at the Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy program in June.

Around Largo

Church to host children's health fair

LARGO – The 13th annual Back-to-School Health and Safety Fair will be Saturday, Aug. 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 455 Missouri Ave., Largo.

The fair will offer free school physicals, vision and hearing screenings for elementary- through high-school-aged children. No sports physicals will be offered. Free haircuts will be available. Children must register by noon the day of the fair.

Community physicians will provide the free physicals, along with the Clearwater Free Clinic. Last year, volunteer doctors and nurses provided more than 129 physicals, and volunteer stylists gave children a fresh start for school with a free haircut.

Community providers and after-school programs will offer information and registration. Largo Fire Rescue will be on hand as well as Largo police with their K-9 unit. Florida Blood Services mobile van will receive donations of blood and plasma.

There will be clowns, face painting, demonstrations, healthy snacks, a drawing for two new bicycles and other giveaways, along with school supplies for each school-aged attendee while supplies last.

For more information, call 585-9969 or visit www.poplargo.org.

Head Start program accepting applications

LARGO – Lutheran Services Florida Head Start and Early Head Start is accepting applications for the upcoming school year starting Aug. 19 at 2210 Tall Pines Drive, Suite 220, in Largo.

The Early Head Start program is for children who are 12 to 35 months old by Sept. 1. Head Start is for children 3 to 4 years old. Head Start also serves children with special needs or disabilities.

The program is a federally funded, income-eligible program that encompasses health, nutrition, education, mental health, disabilities, parent and male involvement as well as family and community engagement, all of which support strong healthy children and families. Head Start is a voluntary prekindergarten provider.

The following items are needed at time of application:

- A birth certificate and proof of guardianship or custody, if applicable
- Proof of residency in Pinellas County
- Proof of income for the past 52 weeks or previous calendar year – i.e. pay stubs, W-2 or 1040 forms or a statement from employer
- Documentation of child's disability, if applicable
- A picture ID of parent

For more information, call 547-5979 or visit www.lsfnet.org.

School prep

Clubs partner for back-to-school drive

With support from Staples, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast kicks off the back-to-school season with an in-store call for school supplies or monetary donations to prepare kids and families in the Pinellas community for academic success in the 2013-14 school year.

"While an alarming number of Pinellas youth fail to graduate from high school each year, the truth is that many kids are falling behind in school, and life, before they even get started," said Nita Smith, president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast. "Kids need basic school supplies, and through the Supply Drive, these donations will help us provide the needed supplies for back-to-school to keep kids on track for academic success and a great future."

From now until Sept. 21, the community can help Boys & Girls Clubs put thousands of school supplies in the hands of Boys & Girls Clubs members by donating money or supplies in local Staples stores' collection bins.

The National Supply Drive is part of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Tools for Back-to-School initiative, a national back-to-school campaign designed to raise awareness about the need for community-based Boys & Girls Clubs that support academic success for youth during critical out-of-school hours.

Visit www.greatfutures.org/backtoschool.

Youth committee hosts open house

CLEARWATER – Students who serve on the Pinellas County Youth Advisory Committee invite high school students who live in the county to attend an open house Wednesday, Aug. 21, 3 p.m., in the fifth floor Commissioners Conference Room at the courthouse, 315 Court St.

The open house will provide teens with information on the advisory committee and ways they can participate in local government. Refreshments will be served.

The Youth Advisory Committee, established in 2001, was developed as a vehicle for young people to provide input and assistance to the Pinellas County Commissioners. The committee assists the commission by helping to identify the needs of young people locally, to organize youth-based activities that benefit the local community, to suggest services needed by young people within Pinellas County and to become active participants, with their adult counterparts, in county programs.

Youth Advisory Committee members coordinate the Teens Behind the Scenes program that gives high school students a look at several county facilities to see how services are provided. Other projects, including community service, will be planned for this school year.

To RSVP for the open house, or for more information on the Youth Advisory Committee, call 582-2656 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/yac.

said David McNichols in a press release. McNichols is president of WellCare of Florida, and a member of Metropolitan Ministries' board of directors. "Through our collaboration with Metropolitan Ministries, we are able to provide basic tools children need to not only succeed in school, but to succeed in life."

WellCare and Metropolitan Ministries have engaged in a public-private collaboration since 2008. The partnership has leveraged the organizations' unique resources and expertise to address the needs of underserved residents in Tampa Bay.

"Metropolitan Ministries strives to be known for our compassion and innovation in helping struggling families and individuals achieve their highest potential for self-sufficiency," said Tim Marks, president of Metropolitan Ministries. "With the support of companies like WellCare, we are able to provide assistance to the community in times of need and help change people's lives for the better."

Metropolitan Ministries distributes the collected school supplies through its community partners. To learn about the eligibility requirements to receive a free backpack and school supplies, parents or guardians should call their child's school or Taking it to the Street Ministries at 546-5767. To organize a collection drive, contact Metropolitan Ministries at 813-209-1271 or visit www.metromin.org.

Bank hosts back-to-school supply drive

ST. PETERSBURG – Synovus Bank of Florida recognizes that there are thousands of children in the communities it serves that are in need of school supplies for the coming year.

Each of the bank's 21 branches is actively involved in collecting much needed supplies for schools in their market area. Donations will be accepted through Aug. 30. Each Synovus Bank branch selected the individual school or organization they are supporting this year and have the school's "wish list" to help provide exactly what is needed.

"Our team members are committed to the communities we serve and this is just another way we can demonstrate our support," said Dominic A. DiMaio in a press release. DiMaio is president and CEO of Synovus Bank of Florida. "We are most grateful to our customers and team members for their generosity in helping ease the burden of school expenses for many parents in our local communities."

To make a contribution, visit one of the following Synovus Bank branch locations:

- Downtown office, 333 Third Ave. N., St. Petersburg
- 49th Street office, 5801 49th St. N., St. Petersburg
- Roosevelt office, 12450 Roosevelt Blvd. N., St. Petersburg

- St. Pete Beach office, 6500 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach
 - Palm Harbor office, 32845 U.S. 19, Palm Harbor
 - Bryan Dairy office, 7490 Bryan Dairy Road, Largo
 - Oldsmar office, 4018 Tampa Road, Oldsmar
 - Gulf to Bay office, 1680 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Clearwater
- For more information, visit www.synovusbankfl.com.

Hungry Howie's raises funds for backpacks

Hungry Howie's is partnering with Blessings in a Backpack and local radio stations to raise \$24,000 by Aug. 16 to feed 100 underprivileged children in Tampa Bay for three years.

According to Blessings in a Backpack, there are more than 20 million children in the United States at risk of hunger. Providing access to nutritious food results in improved health, positive behavior, increased school attendance and higher academic achievement.

The Blessings in a Backpack program feeds elementary school children on the federal Free and Reduced Price Meal Program with a backpack of food to take home for 38 weekends during the school year. The program was named Charity of the Year in 2012 by People Magazine's Help Feed a Child Campaign.

"Blessings in a Backpack feeds the future of America and the value to our community is long lasting," said Jennifer Hearn in a press release. Hearn is president of Hungry Howie's Pizza Inc., which was founded in 1973 and is celebrating its 40th anniversary. "Many of these children go home to households with little food, and we are proud to help families with hunger relief and to give back to our community."

Backpack deliveries coincide with back-to-school time in August for Tampa Bay area schools. To contribute to Blessings in a Backpack, visit www.blessingsinabackpack.org.

"We're thankful that Hungry Howie's is sponsoring this effort, and we're excited at the opportunity to inform the Tampa Bay community about who we are and what we do," said Nikki

Grizzle, National Director of Marketing & Public Relations for Blessings in a Backpack. "There are many children to feed in Tampa Bay, a lot more than people realize."

WellCare employees donate supplies

As part of Metropolitan Ministries' annual Backpacks of Hope collection drive, employees of WellCare Health Plans Inc. recently donated more than 3,000 school supplies that will help approximately 200 local students during the new school year.

On July 27, a team of WellCare volunteers joined Metropolitan Ministries' staff to prepare the backpacks and landscape the nonprofit's Tampa campus.

"WellCare has made a commitment to serving our communities and helping Floridians in need,"

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<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Beautifully updated pool home! Split bedroom plan with 2 master suites and a gourmet kitchen in the heart of the home. Newer windows, newer roof and newer A/C as well. Lovely paver patio and pool area in fenced backyard.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">Ashleigh Masi RE/MAX All Star Realty</p>	
St. Petersburg	\$38,000
2BR/2BA	
SOLD	
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Spacious end unit with inside full size laundry, large screened balcony, community pool, recreation center and tennis courts.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">Caroleanne Vorac Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates</p>	
Redington Beach	\$510,000
5BR/4BA	
SOLD	
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Boater's dream property! Over 1 acre lot, water views & outdoor living area. Spacious home is ready for your TLC and customization. Features 2 master suites w/private baths. Dining room overlooking the pool. Separate family room and 2 fireplaces.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">Sandy Hartmann Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates</p>	
Pinellas Park	\$51,940
2BR/1BA	
SOLD	
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Great corner unit villa located in the highly sought after community of Bonnie Bay. Updated kitchen and bath. Ceramic tile floors in kitchen and carpeting in the bedrooms. Relax on your screened porch. Plenty of storage here! Conveniently located to beaches, shopping, dining and more!</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">Delores Wilson Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates</p>	

Dolphins use underwater 'roads' to guide their travels

In the tropical temperatures of midsummer Florida, Tommy Bahama probably comes to mind more readily than does Robert Frost. Yet it is the cool wisdom of the latter's famous poem, "The Road Not Taken," that wistfully frames something marvelous and mysterious that the dolphins do at sea: use roads.



Dolphin Watch
Ann Weaver

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth.

A vivid example of dolphins using something like sunken streets occurred recently. Capt. John Heidemann and I watched 11 bottlenose dolphins trekking along one of their watery roads alone or in pairs.

That there are roads at sea at all is startling. Dolphin Watch reported this in 2006 as Do as I Do behavior, wherein one or more dolphin groups take the same course across a waterway as a dolphin group that preceded it.

It is hard to get used to the idea of undersea roads. From a boat, estuarine waters appear to be molded only by the visible shoreline. Yet, underwater paths appear to be as obvious to dolphins as paths through cornfields to Nebraska teenagers, mountain foliage to Utah moose, or thick reeds to African elephants.

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim
Because it was grassy and wanted wear,
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.

The dolphin road we watched, a little grassy and just as fair, certainly was in want of wear. It stretches across a boxy bay that was more popular with dolphins years ago than it is today.

X and her yearling Xanion were the first to appear. Like this stretch of road, X is a periodic visitor. Her yearling announced their presence by bouncing and blurring around the boat. X may have called him back, for he abruptly returned to her side. They let us amble along as they flowed to the north shoreline and headed west.

About to head north ourselves to continue our survey, we glimpsed dolphins behind us. We headed back to see Forest and her 2-year-old Meadow. Done with the morning's hunting lesson, they literally rambled along the same route that X and Xanion had taken.

Again about to head north to continue our survey, we again glimpsed dolphins behind us. In a nautical déjà vu, we retraced the route yet again. Face and her yearling Facet took the same path as the two pairs before them. En route, Face demonstrated how dolphins sometimes encounter food that entices them to stop, spin and scare up a snack like an idly munching hiker.

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way
I doubted if I should ever come back.

As Face and Facet got to the north shoreline and headed west as X and Forest had done, the dorsal fin of a single dolphin flashed in the distance behind us. J's unmistakable fin showed that she had taken a side road to the north shoreline. We saw no sign of her newborn, which should have been four days old. J headed west like the three pairs before her, but unlike them vanished at speed.

Ready to head north to continue our survey, we scanned the waters behind us. A fourth pair appeared in the distance where we first found X. Hei-



Photo by ANN WEAVER

To us, the sea is a watery expanse as unchanging as a desert. To dolphins, the underwater world may be a maze of well-trodden streets.

demann retraced our steps once again. Valiant fell in step with us, swimming with protracted strokes that moved her forward gradually. Thus lingering, she waited for the small fin darting off the path to eventually catch up: her calf Vidalia. Back on the path, they ambled to the north shoreline and headed west.

We had spent over an hour tracing the same watery route to watch four mother-calf pairs and one mom. But it wasn't over.

Unbelievably, a fifth pair of dolphins appeared behind us. It was difficult to catch up to them, for they were propelled by the vigor of youth. They veered off the path to surf a passing yacht. Only then did teen Juno and Pastel reveal themselves by slowing and strolling with X, Face and their baby boys.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

If tomorrow a behaviorist can say, that at two roads of low and high, a dolphin paused to ponder his way, regretting his choice some distant day, I too shall be telling this with a sigh.

Dr. Weaver studies wild dolphins under federal permit 16299, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Send her an email at annstats54@gmail.com or visit her website www.goodnaturestatistics.com. NOAA advises anyone who sees a stranded dolphin in the Gulf of Mexico to call 877-942-5343 or 877-433-8299.

Steamed about lawn diseases? Know how to combat summer attacks

Chinch bugs may be the best known lawn pest, but there are diseases that are pests too.

Humid, sticky, muggy and wet - welcome to the dog days of summer in Florida. Whereas we like to hide out in the air conditioning during the summer, lawn diseases are having a field day out in the wet, hot weather. High temperatures and lots of rain and moisture are the perfect combination for fungus to thrive and infect our lawns.

St. Augustinegrass is susceptible to three major fungal attacks during this time of year, namely gray leaf spot disease, Phythium root rot and take-all root rot.

Gray Leaf Spot can slow growth, thin established lawns and kill large areas of the lawn during hot, humid and wet weather usually from May through September. The easiest way to spot the disease is to look for an oblong leaf blemish that has a dark edge with a center that is a gray color. Only watering in the early morning hours just before sunrise can reduce disease occurrence. The longer the leaf blades stay wet the more likely they are to become infected. If we are getting rain every few days then there is probably no need to apply more water.

It is important to minimize stress and avoid excessive flushes of lush rapid growth during the rainy season. Applying Atrazine to the grass is stressful, so timing is important. Once temperatures get above 85 degrees avoid applying this herbicide. Consider spot-treating problem areas and make sure the grass is being mowed at the proper height.

Phythium root rot can appear any time of year, but it is always associated with wet soil conditions. Excessive watering, abundant rainfall or poor drainage conditions can all promote this disease. Since the

Growing Wise

Jane Morse



roots are affected, the symptoms on the leaves are due to what is happening to the root system. There is a general decline in lawn quality. Small or large areas become yellow, light green, or brown in color and become thin. The lawn will seldom die from this root rot. Roots will appear thin with few root hairs and will be discolored, but not black and rotted.

To prevent the disease, improve drainage and reduce watering the lawn, especially before periods of high rainfall. Avoid watering schedules that keep the soil wet. During periods of high rainfall mow grass at the proper height and mow frequently enough to only remove one-third of the leaf blade per mowing. Apply a fertilizer that has an equal amount of nitrogen and potassium.

Take-all root rot is naturally present on the roots of warm-season grasses. The trigger for disease development is high rainfall and stressed grass. The disease is normally seen during the summer and early fall months, especially during periods of prolonged rainfall. Since this is a root disease, the early symptoms can only be seen on the roots. If the grass is only slightly stressed you may never see the above ground symptoms of this disease. Irregular, yellow or light green patches ranging in diameter from a few inches to a few feet will be the first above ground symptoms. Once you do see above ground symptoms on the grass, the roots have been under attack for two -three weeks or longer and they will be thin and off-white in color with isolated black lesions. As the disease progresses the roots will become short, black and rotted. The grass stolons or rhizomes (runners) may have black lesions and may even begin to rot. Entire plants will die and can lead to large dead patches. This disease can easily be mistaken for chinch bug damage, so the first step in any pest management program is to identify the pest (weed, insect or disease).

Once above ground symptoms are seen this disease is very hard to control, so prevention is the key. The grass must be mowed at the correct height and mowed frequently enough so that only one-third of the



Photo courtesy of the PINELLAS COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

Serious damage to turf grass can be caused by root rot.

leaf blade is removed each time it is mowed. Scalping is very stressful because it damages the growing point. Apply equal amounts of slow-release nitrogen and potassium. Avoid nitrate-nitrogen products. Micronutrients should be applied as a foliar (leaf) feeding and they should all be in the sulfate form. If the root system is badly damaged the roots will not be able to get their nutrients from the soil so frequent foliar feeding of all nutrients (N, P, K and micronutrients) in small amounts will be necessary. Remember to follow local and county ordinances. Avoid using herbicides on St. Augustinegrass as this is a stressor. Learn how to manage the turfgrass to limit weeds so herbicide usage can be reduced or eliminated.

Most fungal problems can be avoided by using good cultural practices (proper watering, fertilizing and mowing). When disease problems do arise it is best to hire a professional.

For more information see this site: hort.ufl.edu/yourfloridalawn/ or visit your local Pinellas County Extension Service. We are located at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, next to the Florida Botanical Gardens and are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To speak with a horticulturist, you can call 582-2110 on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. You also can visit our website at www.pinellascountyextension.org.
Jane Morse is a UF/IFAS extension agent.

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Great Bay Scallop Search set for Aug. 24

TIERRA VERDE – Tampa Bay Watch is recruiting volunteer boats to participate in the 20th annual Great Bay Scallop Search, set for Saturday, Aug. 24.

The event is a resource-monitoring program where community volunteers snorkel to search for scallops in select areas within Boca Ciega and Lower Tampa bays. The event has been conducted annually since 1993 with the goal to monitor and document the health and status of the bay scallop population. Tampa Bay Watch will coordinate 45 volunteer boaters with more than 180 participants to search selected sites for the elusive bay scallops.

Volunteers with shallow draft boats are still needed for the event. For information, visit tampabaywatch.org.

"We can witness the health of the bay by tracking the number of scallops found each year," said Peter Clark in a press release. Clark is president of Tampa Bay Watch. "Every year we hope the number of scallops found increases, which means that water quality and habitat are also improving in our estuary."

Some years, volunteers find many scallops and other years they don't. Factors that may affect the scallop population include red tide, high rainfall and storms. An all time event high of 674 scallops were found in 2009.

Bay scallops, disappeared from Tampa Bay in the early 1960s when the bay water was highly polluted from dredging operations and industrial and municipal wastes. Tampa Bay's water quality and seagrass beds have since improved to levels that will once again support the bay scallop population. In fact, a 2013 research study data by Southwest Florida Water Management District's Surface Water Improvement and Management Program states Tampa Bay now supports 34,642 acres of seagrass beds, the largest amount of seagrass measured since the 1950s.

Reservations are required for the Great Bay Scallop Search. Registered scallop searchers will meet Saturday, Aug. 24, 9 a.m., at the eastern side of the boat ramp at Fort De Soto County Park, in Tierra Verde. There, they will receive survey equipment and instructions for the monitoring event. At each site, a weighted transect line 50 meters in length is laid along seagrass beds. Snorkelers count scallops along each side of the transect line, within one meter of each side, creating a 100-square-meter survey area.

This year the Sea World Busch Gardens Conservation Fund and the Tampa Bay Estuary Program sponsor the scallop search.

Bay scallops – or *Argopecten irradians* – are secretive bivalves in the same family as clams and oysters. They may reach a shell size of 3 inches and spend their short 12- to 18-month life span hiding in seagrasses of waters like Tampa Bay. Scallops are filter feeders, therefore they are highly sensitive to changes in water quality and can be used to measure an ecosystem's health and signal changes in water quality. Adult bay scallops can pump as much as 15.5 quarts of water per hour improving water quality resulting in long term growth of seagrass beds. Although bay scallops are edible, it is illegal to harvest scallops in Tampa Bay in order for restoration efforts to be successful.

Tampa Bay Watch is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) stewardship program dedicated exclusively to the charitable and scientific purpose of protecting and restoring the marine and wetland environments of the Tampa Bay estuary encompassing over 400 square miles of open water and 2,300 square miles of highly-developed watershed. Tampa Bay Watch involves more than 10,000 youth and adult volunteers each year in hands on habitat restoration projects.

For information on upcoming events, becoming a volunteer or member, call 867-8166 or visit www.tampabaywatch.org.

Guarding a perch



Photo by JIM LAYFIELD

A squirrel lays claim to a backyard bird feeder in Largo Aug. 4 and dares birds to just try to take it back.

Briefs

Extension to host garden tours

LARGO – Free 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.

Attendees will have a chance to explore the vegetable garden and compost demonstration areas at Pinellas County Extension/Florida Botanical Gardens to learn more about growing their own food. Visitors will see an eye-catching array of culinary, medicinal and aromatic herbs, trees and flowers in the garden and wander the paths between the Egyptian, Mediterranean, Asian and beverage plantings to learn how the featured plants can be used in your 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. Little-known fruits that are not usually considered by the home gardener such as jackfruit, carambola, Buddha's hand and pomegranate also will be discussed. The gardens boast a di-

versity of plantings such as a wide variety of ground covers, bromeliads, palms and power-line friendly trees that can be used in landscapes.

The 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.

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.

Agent to discuss vegetable gardens

ST. PETERSBURG – A program on preparing for fall vegetable gardens will be presented Friday, Aug. 9, 10 to 11:30 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

The free program is designed for those who want to grow vegetables or are thinking about gardening in

a school or community garden. Pinellas County Urban Horticulture Extension agent Theresa Badurek will present this introduction to setting up a vegetable garden in Pinellas County. Attendees will learn about site selection and layout, great veggies and varieties for the area, and more.

The program is recommended for adults. Advance registration is required. Call 582-2109 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Shade-loving plant program set

ST. PETERSBURG – A program on shade-loving plants will be presented Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2 to 3 p.m., at the Garden Club of St. Petersburg, 500 Sunset Drive S.

Pam Brown, Pinellas County Extension agent emeritus, will help residents by discussing shade-loving plants. The free pro-

gram is recommended for adults.

Advance registration is required. Call 582-2501 or visit www.eventbrite.com/event/5260371914/eorg.

Library to host native plant program

PALM HARBOR – A program on using native plants for the shade they provide will be presented in

two sessions on Thursday, Aug. 8, 2 to 3:30 p.m. and again from 6:15 to 8 p.m., at Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave.

Many struggle with planting in shade and plant selection becomes even more challenging when selecting native plants in

the shade. In this class Bruce Turley, owner of Wilcox Nursery, will talk about the native landscape plants that are best suited for shade in Pinellas County.

To register, visit www.eventbrite.com/event/7242407235/eorg or call 582-2603.

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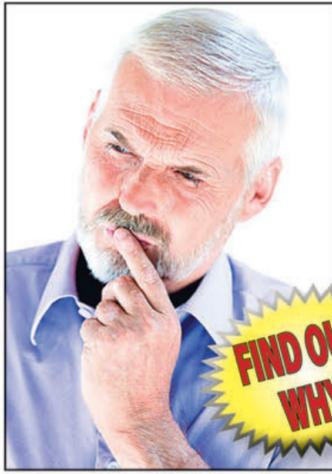


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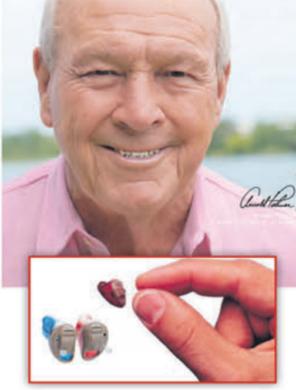
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Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County



- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

Leader
Section B
August 8, 2013

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Top five diversions

• **"Men Are Dogs,"** by Joe Simonelli, Aug. 9-25, at West Coast Players Theatre, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Performances will be Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org. Dr. Cecelia Monahan has a serious problem. As a therapist who runs a support group for single and divorced women, she must listen to a number of relationship problems from her unusual cadre of patients as well as dealing with the unsolicited advice of her live-in mother on subjects ranging from dating to cooking recipes. The doctor, however, is not above using some unorthodox methods of her own such as hiring out-of-work actors to role-play with her patients. It is only when Cecelia meets the new substitute package deliveryman that the doctor must learn to practice what she preaches. David Middleton will direct the play.

• **Adam Ant,** Friday, Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$25. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhal.com. After a string of sold-out shows in the United States and the United Kingdom in 2012, Grammy-nominated pop icon Adam Ant and his band The Good, The Mad & The Lovely Posse are launching a sonic assault with his largest North American tour in 18 years to support his new album "Adam Ant is the Blueblack Hussar in Marrying the Gunner's Daughter." In concert, fans can expect all of the hits including "Goody Two Shoes," "Stand and Deliver," "Prince Charming," "Ant Music," "Strip" and "Wonderful" as well as deep cuts from Adam's early days and selections from the new album.

• **Leftover Cuties,** Friday, Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m., in Jaeb Theater at the David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 North W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Tickets start at \$23. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org. From the opening theme of Showtime's "The Big C" to the infectiously happy "Big Smile" that propelled this Summer's Olympic Samsung Galaxy S III commercial, Leftover Cuties are a band many heard but may not know yet. Securing "Game Called Life" as the theme for "The Big C" helped put Leftover Cuties on the map, but whether it's the artful placement of "Through It All" on the hot FX series "Justified," or their cover of "When You're Smiling" that is now leading the way on a worldwide Hyundai campaign, the Cuties sound is starting to catch fire thanks to their irresistible combination of sultry vocals, pop-perfect songwriting and old-school musicianship. The band's new album, "The Spark & The Fire," was released July 23.

• **"Art,"** by Yasmina Reza, presented by American Stage Theatre, Aug. 9 through Sept. 8; previews Aug. 7-8, at the Raymond James Theatre, 163 Third St. N., St. Petersburg. Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$59 depending on the date and time of the performance. 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. However, during August, American Stage Theatre will have two productions running. For an updated schedule of performances, visit www.americanstage.org. How much would you pay for a white painting? Would it matter who the painter was? Would it be art? One of Marc's best friends, Serge, has just bought a very expensive painting. This intelligent and witty Tony Award-winning play by Yasmina Reza asks the question, "What does our taste in art say

See TOP FIVE, page 8B



Photo by EDWARD FIELDING/CHROME PR
Adam Ant performs Aug. 9 at the Palladium in St. Petersburg.

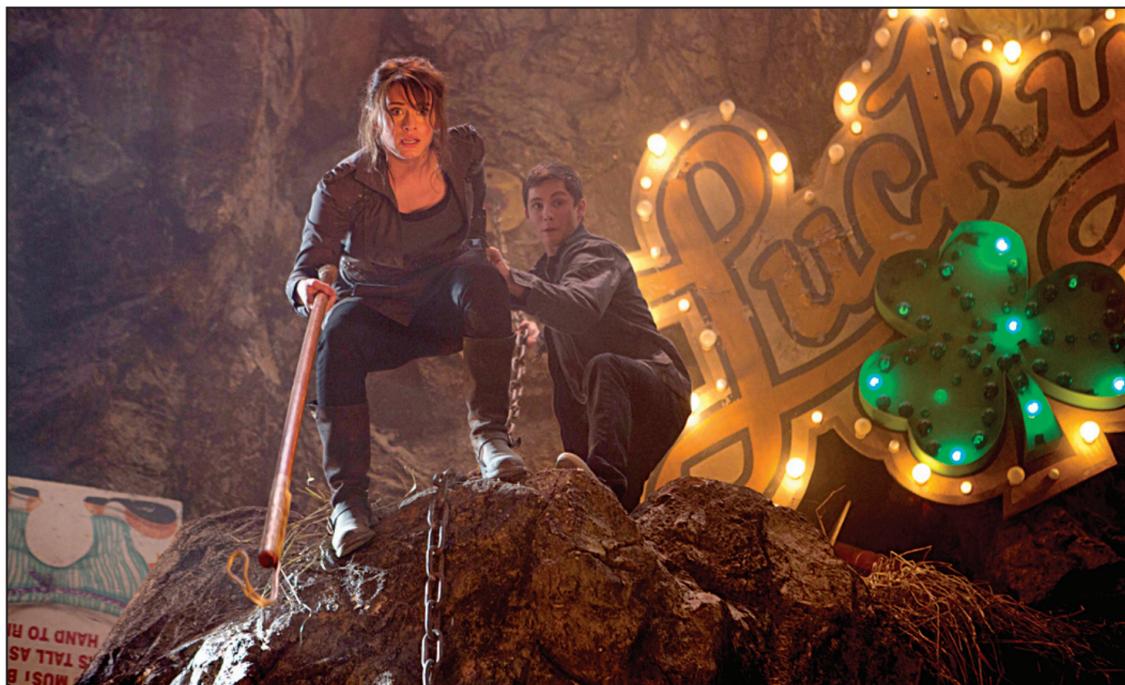


Photo by MURRAY CLOSE/TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX
Clarisse (Leven Rambin), left, and Percy (Logan Lerman) navigate the myriad dangers of a closed amusement park that's now home to some fearsome foes in "Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters."

Opening this week

'Elysium' pits Damon against Foster; Lerman reprises as 'Percy Jackson'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters'

Genre: Adventure and fantasy
Cast: Logan Lerman, Brandon T. Jackson, Alexandra Daddario, Douglas Smith, Mary Birdsong, Yvette Nicole Brown, Missi Pyle, Nathan Fillion, Anthony Head, Paloma Kwiatkowski, Leven Rambin, Stanley Tucci, Robert Maillet and Zoe Aggeliki
Director: Thor Freudenthal
Rated: PG

Based on the publishing phenomenon, "Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters" continues the young demigod's epic journey to fulfill his destiny.

To save their world, Percy and his friends must find the fabled and magical Golden Fleece. Embarking on a treacherous odyssey into the uncharted waters of the Sea of Monsters (known to humans as the Bermuda Triangle), they battle terrifying creatures, an army of zombies, and the ultimate Evil.

'Elysium'

Genre: Action
Cast: Matt Damon, Jodie Foster, Sharlto Copley, Alice Braga, Diego Luna, William Fichtner and Wagner Moura
Director: Neill Blomkamp
Rated: R

In the year 2154, two classes of people exist: the very wealthy, who live on a pristine manmade space station called Elysium, and the rest, who live on an overpopulated, ruined planet.

The people of Earth are desperate to escape the crime and poverty that is now rampant throughout the land. The only man with the chance to bring equality to these worlds is Max (Matt Damon), an ordinary guy in desperate need to get to Elysium. With his life hanging in

See OPENING, page 4B



Photo by STEPHANIE BLOMKAMP/COLUMBIA TRISTAR
Matt Damon stars in Columbia Pictures' "Elysium."

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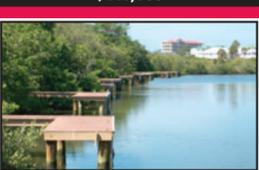
<p>SOLD</p>  <p>MOVE IN READY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newly remodeled manufactured home 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Light and Bright Beautiful lake view <p>\$55,000 with share</p>	<p>TURN KEY READY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2BR/2BA manufactured home Screened lanai New laminate flooring and carpet Corner lot - rent or buy <p>\$15,900 \$12,900</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1994 Jacobson manufactured home Front windowed Florida room Beautifully screened in double wide carport Pet friendly <p>\$16,900</p>
 <p>BEAUTIFUL 3/2 SPLIT PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1998 Jacobson Pet friendly Private backyard Many updates, kitchen & master bath <p>\$64,900 with share</p>	 <p>2/2 MANUFACTURED HOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New laminate flooring Side by Side refrigerator <p>\$12,900 to own or annual rental</p>	 <p>2/2 MANUFACTURED HOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enclosed Florida room Well equipped kitchen Large size home <p>\$15,900 to own or annual rental</p>
<p>RENTED</p>  <p>2/2 MANUFACTURED HOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newer A/C, New Paint Newer Roof Double wide carport Across from clubhouse and pool <p>\$5,000 to own or annual rental</p>	<p>JOIN OUR REALTOR TEAM!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EARN WHILE YOU LEARN THE MARKET IS "BRIGHT" TOP COMMISSIONS VERSATILE BUSINESS <p>EMAIL or CALL 727-433-2904 SAMMYE.SANDS@ISLANDSUN.COM</p>	

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 <p>Charming St. Pete home on a great lot! NEW ROOF JUNE 2013 on the house and garage. This light & bright floor plan features 2 bedrooms including a master bedroom with a private half bath.</p> <p>\$123,500</p>	 <p>This home is perfectly situated on this large lot to take advantage of the entire property. On each side of the house, there is room to park RVs, boats and trailers. The backyard is great for entertaining with a pool.</p> <p>\$159,900</p>	 <p>Seminole estate perfectly situated on 2.5 private acres. The 6,500 sq. ft. home was meticulously crafted in 2010 with exceptional attention to detail. There is also a 6,000 Sq. Ft., 2 story equestrian stable with custom steel & teak stall system & RV/boat garage.</p> <p>\$2,750,000</p>	
 <p>Plenty of room for everyone! The 3,700 Sq. Ft. floor plan features 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, living room and family room with double sided fireplace. This functional split floor plan has the master bedroom and 2nd bedroom on the main living level.</p> <p>\$449,900</p>	<p>"The Best Team in Town" - B. de Bruijn</p>		 <p>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.</p> <p>\$700,000</p>
 <p>This wonderful Seminole townhouse features 3 levels of functional living space and screen enclosed balconies to enjoy the water and nature views. The community also has several boat slips that can be used by residents for day docking.</p> <p>\$175,000</p>	 <p>Plenty of room for everyone! This extra large property features a spacious main house and an adjoining guest home or pool house that would be great for in-laws or roommates. The main home features 4 bedrooms & 3 bathrooms.</p> <p>\$299,900</p>	 <p>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.</p> <p>\$125,000</p>	

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Looking Ahead

Largo

• **"Maybe Baby, It's You,"** by Charlie Sharian and Shari Simpson: Aug. 15 through Sept. 1, at New Stage Theatre, inside Country Day World School, 11650 131st St. N., Largo. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Call 813-817-2585 or visit newstagelargo.org. "Maybe Baby, It's You" boasts a comedic night about the search for that most elusive of entities, the soul mate. Performed by local talents Chris Jackson and Alison Burns, the production covers ground from the first kiss to the not-so-golden age of marriage. The show promises to be a heart-felt night mixed with high energy as these two actors transform into 26 characters throughout the evening.

• **"South Pacific,"** with book by Oscar Hammerstein II and Joshua Logan, music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II; presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, Sept. 6-22, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25.50 for adults and \$12.50 for children 19 and younger with identification. A city of Largo handling charge of \$3.50 will be added to each ticket. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Set on a tropical island during World War II, the musical tells the sweeping romantic story of two couples and how their happiness is threatened by the realities of war and by their own prejudices. Considered by many the finest musical ever written, the score's songs include such classics as "Some Enchanted Evening," "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair," "Younger Than Springtime," "Bali Hai," "There is Nothin' Like A Dame," "This Nearly Was Mine" and "A Wonderful Guy." Its portrayal of Americans stationed in an alien culture in wartime is as relevant today as when it first thrilled audiences in 1949. The original Broadway production won 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Score and Best Libretto. The 2008 Broadway revival won seven Tonys including Best Musical Revival. This production will be directed by Linda Weir and will feature

Amy Phillips as music director and James Grenelle as choreographer.

• **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."

Clearwater

• **Chick Corea and Bela Fleck,** Friday, Aug. 23, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$45. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. The show is a new date for the March 24 concert, which was canceled. Tickets for the originally scheduled date of March 24 will be honored. The Grammy-winning duet will combine Corea and Fleck's most recognizable tunes with the music from their Latin Grammy-winning album "The Enchantment." With a mix of jazz and pop standards, crossing a myriad of genres including

jazz, bluegrass, rock, flamenco and gospel, this will be a casual, intimate evening with two legends from different musical worlds.

• **"Seven Brides for Seven Brothers,"** with book by Lawrence Kasha and David Landay, music by Gene de Paul, Al Kasha, Joel Hirschhorn, and lyrics by Johnny Mercer, Al Kasha and Joel Hirschhorn; Sept. 5-22, at Francis Wilson Playhouse, 302 Seminole St., Clearwater. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$26 for adults and \$13 for students. Call 446-1360 or visit www.franciswilsonplayhouse.org. Goin' courtin' has never been as much fun as in this rip-roaring stage production. It tells the story of Millie, married and living in the Oregon wilderness in 1850, who plans to civilize and marry off her six rowdy brothers-in-law.

• **Joe Satriani,** Wednesday, Sept. 11, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$38. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Satriani is currently touring in support of "Unstoppable Momentum." Joining Satriani on the road are veteran band mate Mike Keneally on keyboards, a new rhythm section featuring bassist Bryan Beller and drummer Marco Minnemann. Satriani is ready to celebrate the recent release of "Unstoppable Momentum," his fourteenth studio album. The Epic Records release hit radio stations earlier this year and highlights the first single "A Door Into Summer," while the video for "A Door Into Summer" premiered exclusively on Rollingstone.com.

• **Steely Dan,** Saturday, Sept. 14, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$79. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Legendary jazz-rock icons Walter Becker and Donald Fagen have announced that Steely Dan will hit the road again in 2013, taking their Mood Swings: 8 Miles To Pancake Day Tour to more than four dozen stops throughout North America. The tour includes a stop at Ruth Eckerd Hall on Sept. 14. Concertgoers can expect an evening of the same high level of musical excellence that garnered raves from fans and critics alike. Onstage, Donald and Walter will be joined by eight brilliant supporting musicians, now appearing as The Bipolar Allstars, featuring Keith Carlock on drums, Freddie Washington on bass, Jim Beard on keyboards, and Jon Herington on guitar, along with The Borderline Brats – three sublime, soulful songbirds. Together, they will treat audiences to selections from The Dan's extraordinary four-decade catalog, rich with infectious tunes, bodacious harmonies, irresistible grooves, and sleek, subversive lyrics, punctuated by blazing solo work and rich ensembles. As always with the adventurous Fagen and Becker, a few surprises may be in store as well.

• **"Wedding Secrets,"** a comedy by Joe Starzyk presented by West Coast Players, Sept. 20 through Oct. 6, at West Coast Players Theatre, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org. Bill and Susan are a young couple who meet, have a whirlwind courtship and marry. However, their families have never met the respective spouses, so the couple allows the families to believe they have only become engaged. Once the families gather, everyone else's secrets come to life: money problems, medical problems, divorces, teenage rebellion, horrible dating choices and a strange relative living in the basement. This comedy deals with change and family dramas.

Madeira Beach

• **Mad Beach Bike Fest,** Sunday, Aug. 18, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., along Madeira Way, Madeira Beach. Presented by Monthly Madness on Mad Beach and BIKERSCAP, the inaugural Mad Beach Bike Fest will feature bike enthusiasts showing off their classic, antique, new and customized motorcycles from all eras. Food vendors will be on hand and other will be selling bike-related gear. Proceeds will benefit BIKERSCAP, a 501(c)3 organization. The organization provides much needed complete home computer systems to disadvantaged children. Activities will include chance drawings, a bikini bike wash and 10 class people's choice awards. There is no admission charge for this biker-friendly event. For information, call 322-5217 or visit SIKPromotions.com.

Pinellas Park

• **Regal Railways Train Show,** Saturday, Aug. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Knights of Columbus Hall, 7177 58th St. N., Pinellas Park. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children 11 and younger. The show will feature plenty of vendors with various train items from N to G Scale models. There is usually a small train layout on display for the children to watch as well as videos playing of trains. For information, call 244-1341.

Safety Harbor

• **Heart & Soul Cinema,** Sunday, Aug. 18, 1:30 p.m., at Safety Harbor Public Library, 101 Second St. N., Safety Harbor. The free screening will feature the 2005 romance "Prime," starring Meryl Streep, Uma Thurman, Bryan Greenberg and Madhur Jaffrey. This character-driven comedy set in New York City tells the story of Rafi, a 37-year-old career woman from Manhattan who meets Dave, a talented 23-year-old painter from Brooklyn. Dave is totally in love with Rafi, but matters are complicated when she discovers he is the son of her psychoanalyst. The MPAA rating for this film is PG-13. Call 724-1525, ext. 4112.

Tampa

• **First Responders Tribute Concert,** Friday, Aug. 9, 7 to 11 p.m., at Hard Rock Café, 5223 N. Orient Road, Tampa. Visit www.seminolehardrocktampa.com. All first responders get in free with their badge, and the first 500 get a commemorative T-shirt. Mike "Cowhead" Calta of The Cowhead Show on 102.5 The Bone will emcee the benefit concert as well as perform with his band Pitbull Toddler. Scream Machine will also perform. The event is restricted to 21 and older. Cost is a suggested donation of \$10. There will also be a silent auction featuring rockin' items such as guitars signed by Sum 41 and Gavin DeGraw. All funds raised benefit first responder charities including the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office's Lynn Sowers Memorial Foundation and Hillsborough Firefighters Benevolent Relief Fund. Scream Machine was formed in 2010 with members Jay Hajj (vocals), Craig Johnston (guitar/vocals), Dave Wrenn (drums), and Brad Keith (bass). The band plays '80s, '90s and current hard-rocking hits. Formed out of the popular Cowhead Show in 2008, Pitbull Toddler has kicked in the door of the Tampa music scene with their combination of blues/metal driven originals and popular covers. The members, Cowhead (bass), Galvin (drums), John Brennan (guitar/vocals), Pete Larios (guitar) and Josh Maloney (vocals), have been performing for nearly a decade in separate projects throughout the area. It was not until Pitbull Toddler, however, that the five reached the potential, the decibel levels and high enough temperatures.

Gulfport

• **Third Saturday Art Walk,** Saturday, Aug. 17, 6 to 10 p.m., in the waterfront district on Beach Boulevard, Gulfport. Attendees will have an opportunity to meet and purchase the works of talented independent artisans, craftsmen, authors and entertainers. The monthly event stretches over a half-mile up and down scenic Beach Boulevard. Live musicians including the New Horizons Band and the Double M Band appear at venues throughout the waterfront district. While browsing the art and craft booths, visitors also will find Gulfport's unique shops, boutiques and galleries and may enjoy dinner at one of more than a dozen fine restaurants within the area. For information, call 322-5217 or visit www.gulfportma.com.

Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15			16				
17				18				19				
20				21					22			
		23		24				25	26			
27	28					29	30					
31			32		33			34		35	36	37
38			39					40				
41					42					43		
			44		45			46	47			
48	49	50					51					
52				53	54	55			56		57	58
59				60					61			
62					63				64			
65					66				67			

Across

- Dried coconut meat
- Alliance that includes Ukr.
- "Beat it!"
- Bailiwicks
- "___ to Billie Joe"
- Fragrant resin
- Type of insect reproduction
- Buttonhole, e.g.
- Burning
- Assistant
- Kama ___
- Bread maker
- Log cutter
- Grand Canyon transport
- Aloof
- ___-guided
- Raised to the third power
- Obvious (hyphenated)
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (acronym)
- Drunk, in slang
- "___ Ng" (They Might Be Giants song)
- Affirm
- Adjusted
- ___ fly
- Alleviated
- Bookbinding leather
- Blatant
- Steals
- Government income (2 wds)
- .01 of rupee
- Dumfries denial
- American symbol
- Artist Max
- Armageddon
- Big Bertha's birthplace

Down

- Beans
- Face-to-face exam
- Court enclosed by columns
- House rodent genus
- ___ Wednesday
- Kind of line
- "American ___"
- ___ lily
- Clinton, e.g.: Abbr.
- Leave (2 wds)
- Gum
- Organic compound containing CONH2 radical
- Moliere comedy, with "The"
- Swab target
- The America's Cup trophy, e.g.
- Gifts
- Amusement park features
- Galileo's birthplace
- Frosts, as a cake
- Contradict
- ___-Altaic languages
- Advance, slangily
- Embarkments
- Coastal raptor
- Pair
- Color retention
- Cancel
- Long, long time
- Lover of Dido, in myth
- Balderdash
- Navigational aid
- Dine at home (2 wds)
- Blew it
- Barn topper
- Brio
- Stubborn beast
- Caught in the act
- Backstabber
- Certain intersection

Horoscopes

August 8, 2013

Capricorn

December 22 – January 19

Truly, Capricorn. You work hard and deserve to be rewarded. Step up and take the credit. A buddy's riveting tale keeps everyone in stitches.

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18

Goodness, Aquarius. You took a real beating, but it ended well. Grab a bite to eat and take a little time for yourself to recharge. You're going to need it.

Pisces

February 19 – March 20

Eureka, Pisces! The item you've been searching for is finally yours this week. Enjoy. A design project nears completion. Rally the troops and finish with a flourish.

Aries

March 21 – April 19

A coworker's bossiness becomes a bit much. Do your best to keep your cool, Aries. They may be in the lead now, but it won't last forever.

Taurus

April 20 – May 20

Green is in, Taurus. Jump on the bandwagon, and you'll see a difference in your bottom line. A mistake is rectified, and amends are made.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21

A crisis in faith comes to an end with the help of a good friend. Show your appreciation by paying it forward, Gemini. An announcement brings happiness all around.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22

Ready to make your great escape, Cancer? You better be. An invite is coming, and it is not one you want to turn down. A youngster poses a question.

Leo

July 23 – August 22

Joy, joy, joy, Leo. You have much to be thankful for each and every day this week. The journey to a new you begins, and it starts with changes to your fitness routine.

Virgo

August 23 – September 22

Say too much, Virgo, and prepare for some backlash. Mum is the word this week. Keep your opinions to yourself and guard all confidences. Someone is watching.

Libra

September 23 – October 22

Save it, Libra. Your loved one is not ready to listen. Give them some space, and eventually, they will come around. A proposal requires a leap of faith.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 21

No, yes, maybe. Make up your mind, Scorpio. Your indecisiveness is testing the patience of those around you and impeding the progress of a project.

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21

Forgive and forget, Sagittarius. A loved one truly regrets what they have done. Accept their apologies and move on to a matter of more importance.

Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers

from last week

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

Crossword answers

from last week

S	C	A	L	A	T	A	C	T	S	D	U	T
H	A	L	O	N	W	O	R	E	T	I	T	C
O	P	I	N	E	T	A	M	I	R	S	I	R
O	S	T	E	N	S	I	B	L	E	P	L	O
T	O	T	A	L	D	E	E	D	S			
S	T	E	P	H	V	E	T	E	R	A	N	S
T	H	E	R	O	I	D	E	N	S	E	S	T
A	R	E	O	L	E	S	C	A	T	H	E	S
T	O	D	E	R	S	E	L	T	E	R	N	A
T	O	P	O	R	G	R	A	T	I	C	A	L
A	M	O	S	P	L	A	N	E	A	N	G	L
T	A	R	T	A	L	I	N	E	H	I	R	E
A	N	T	I	A	D	O	S	O	S	I	E	R
R	I	S	C	I	N	E	S	T	O	I	N	K

Leftover Cuties, of 'The Big C' fame, to play at the Straz Center

TAMPA - Though the band's name may not be immediately familiar to most people, the music of Leftover Cuties has found its way into the public's collective consciousness.

Tampa Bay area residents will have an opportunity to see Leftover Cuties live in concert when the band takes the stage Friday, Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m., in Jaeb Theater at the David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacLanes Place, Tampa.

Tickets start at \$23. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org.

From the opening theme of Showtime's "The Big C" to the infectiously happy "Big Smile" that propelled this summer's Olympic Samsung Galaxy S III commercial, Leftover Cuties are a band millions have heard - but it's entirely possible that many may not know who is behind the music.

Securing "Game Called Life" as the theme for "The Big C" helped put Leftover Cuties on the map, but whether it's the artful placement of "Through It All" on the hot FX series "Justified," or their cover of "When You're Smiling" that is now leading the way on a worldwide Hyundai campaign, the Cuties sound is starting to catch fire thanks to their irresistible combination of sultry vocals, pop-perfect songwriting and old-school musicianship.

According to the band's biography provided by Girlie Action - a media, marketing and management company - Leftover Cuties embodied all of the good things in life on their debut album "Places To Go" - things such as "Love songs, California sunsets and the ukulele."

The album was produced by Tony Berg and features 11 "breezy, sophisticated songs evoke a magic-hour stroll on the beach with a special someone."

Their sound is difficult to describe. To call Leftover Cuties retro or throwback would be too easy, yet, their music fits beside Billie Holiday. At the same time, it's remarkably current in its sex appeal, its sophistication and its confidence. The Cuties' music - plied with upright bass, accordion, the brushed drums and ukulele - is not slavishly old-

timey, but honors its forebears in an appropriate and appealing way. There is a faithfulness to melody combined with sharp playing and stylized, confident, character-laden singing.

According to Girlie Action, when Leftover Cuties chanteuse Shirli McAllen steps up to the microphone, she commands attention because she's got something to say - not to mention a beguiling way of saying it. Her voice is sultry and aching with longing, yet in control.

When McAllen first moved to Los Angeles from her native Israel (where she served in the army), she was still finding her way musically.

"I grew up listening to Israeli music, '90s smooth rock and singer songwriters," McAllen says in the Girlie Action bio.

After a couple of years trying to make her mark in the city's crowded singer-songwriter scene - a lot of good writers and singers, but not a lot of memorable personalities - she struck up a friendship with multi-instrumentalist and Cuties' bass player Austin Nicholens.

"One day, Austin walks in with a ukulele," McAllen says. "I thought it was a toy. He started playing and I started singing the lyrics. We wrote 'Game Called Life' in about five minutes."

With a newly defined musical direction, the duo dubbed themselves Leftover Cuties. Stuart Johnson (drums), and Mike Bolger (keys, horns, and accordion) came on board to flesh out the sound, and the band was off and running.

In 2010, that sweet tune written on a napkin in five minutes was tabbed as the theme song for the acclaimed Showtime series "The Big C" starring Laura Linney. The band's fan base swelled exponentially.

'The Spark & The Fire'

Now the band has a new album to promote. "The Spark & The Fire" was released July 23.

"The title of the album stands for that yearning to hold on to the beginning of things," says McAllen on the band's website, www.leftovercuties.com. "The

part where everything feels new and pure, where there's excitement and promise of great things to come."

The Los Angeles-based noir-pop quartet Leftover Cuties released their sophomore full-length album as well as their first single, "One Heart," a powerhouse track filled with handclaps and stomping percussion. The band also released a video for "One Heart." The Barcelona-filmed video features a brassy jazz-pop orchestra lead by McAllen in a prohibition-era mansion.

This time around, the band has created a 12-track journey that swings easily from smoke-filled Bourbon Street speakeasies to quiet island getaways. McAllen's silky voice provides the hook as the band's sound pulls listeners in with upright bass, accordion, piano, brass, brushed drums, and the trademark ukulele.

Like many second albums, the creation of "The Spark & the Fire" proved to be a difficult process.

"I think we all came into it with big expectations, and we put a lot of pressure on ourselves, McAllen says. "Sometimes that can get in the way, but we managed to rise above and make something we're



Photo by JOE GALL/GIRLIE ACTION

The Leftover Cuties perform Aug. 9 at the Straz Center in Tampa.

really proud of."

Leftover Cuties are supporting the new album with a full U.S. tour. The band has performed alongside Shelby Lynne, Alabama Shakes, Saint Motel, the Be Good Tanyas and many more.



Photo courtesy of GIRLIE ACTION

The Leftover Cuties are touring in support of their new album, "The Spark & The Fire."

West Coast Players to audition for 'Wedding Secrets'

CLEARWATER - Tom Costello will host auditions for the West Coast Players' production of the comedy "Wedding Secrets," by Joe Starzyk, on Sunday and Monday, Aug. 11-12, 7 p.m., at the theater, 21905 U.S. 19 N.

Donna Donnelly will be co-directing and Cathy Winchester will be stage manager. Auditions will be cold readings from the script. Costello is looking for six men and eight women as follows:

- Betty (45-60) - Mother of the groom to be. She is going through menopause and is not particularly happy about her son's upcoming marriage. He is her pride and joy.

- Robert (45-60) - Father of the groom-to-be. He is a successful businessman who has difficulty showing physical affection. Lately that has been intensified, as his business is failing and so is his sexual prowess.

- Joan (45-60) - Mother of the bride-to-be. She loves her kids, though she is having issues with her youngest daughter. She and her husband had been growing distant and now are getting divorced.

- Dan (45-60) - Father of the bride-to-be. He loves his kids and though they aren't communicating, he loves his wife. He doesn't want a divorce, but doesn't know how to stop the process.

- Grace (40-55) - Joan's out of control sister. She is a larger than life figure, who jumps from one bad relationship to another.

- Bill (20s) - The groom. He loves Susan. He loves his mother. Therein lies the dilemma. He is a momma's boy and doesn't know how to deal with the two women in his life.

- Susan (20s) - The bride. She loves Bill. She could do without his mother. She wants to make a good impression, but quickly realizes that Betty will have none of it.

- Samantha (16) - Susan's angst ridden teenage sister. She struggles against her mother in a very age appropriate way. She is anxious to garner negative attention.

- Jake (17) - The kindly but dumb boy next door. He is however very charming and this quickly attracts the interest of Samantha. Jake is in over his head with Sam.

- Joey (40-55) - The groom's uncle. He is a man of multiple personas and ironically the conscience of the play.

- Sally (any age) - The maid. She isn't particularly fond of Betty and will take whatever advantage she can.

- Hooker 1 - The more aggressive and street savvy of the two Hookers.

- Hooker 2 - The more sexually dressed, but less intelligent of the Hookers.

- Millie - The male caterer. Production dates for the comedy "Wedding Secrets are Sept. 20 through Oct. 6.

- Visit www.wcplayers.org.

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Online calendars
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.

OPENING, from page 1B

the balance, he reluctantly takes on a dangerous mission – one that pits him against Elysium's Secretary Delacourt (Jodie Foster) and her hard-line forces – but if he succeeds, he could save not only his own life, but millions of people on Earth as well.

'We're the Millers'

Genre: Action and comedy
Cast: Jennifer Aniston, Jason Sudeikis, Emma Roberts, Nick Offerman, Kathryn Hahn, Will Poulter and Ed Helms

Director: Rawson Marshall Thurber
Rated: R
From New Line Cinema comes the action comedy "We're the Millers," starring Jennifer Aniston and Jason Sudeikis.

David Burke (Sudeikis) is a small-time pot dealer whose clientele includes chefs and soccer moms, but no kids – after all, he has his scruples. So what could go wrong? Plenty.

Preferring to keep a low profile for obvious reasons, he learns the hard way that no good deed goes unpunished when he tries to help out some local teens and winds up getting jumped by a trio of gutter punks. Stealing his stash and his cash, they leave him in major debt to his supplier, Brad (Ed Helms). In order to wipe the slate clean – and maintain a clean bill of health – David must now become a big-time drug smuggler by bringing Brad's latest shipment in from Mexico. Twisting the arms of his neighbors, cynical stripper Rose (Aniston) and wannabe customer Kenny (Will Poulter), and the tatted, streetwise teen Casey (Emma Roberts), he devises a foolproof plan. One fake wife, two pretend kids and a huge, shiny RV later, the "Millers" are headed south of the border for a Fourth of July weekend that is sure to end with a bang.

'Disney's Planes'

Genre: Animation, adventure and family
Cast: Dane Cook, Stacy Keach, Brad Garrett, Teri Hatcher, Cedric the Entertainer, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, John Cleese, Carlos Alazraqui, Priyanka Chopra, Gabriel Iglesias, Roger Craig Smith, Colin Cowherd, Simbad, Oliver Kalkofe and Brent Musburger

Director: Klay Hall
Rated: PG
"Disney's Planes" is an action-packed 3D animated comedy featuring Dusty, a plane with dreams of competing as a high-flying air racer.

But Dusty's not exactly built for racing – and he happens to be afraid of heights. So he turns to a seasoned naval aviator who helps Dusty qualify to take on the defending champ of the race circuit. Dusty's courage is put to the ultimate test as he aims to reach heights he never dreamed possible, giving a spellbound world the inspiration to soar.

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

'In a World'

Genre: Comedy
Cast: Lake Bell, Michaela Watkins, Demetri Martin, Rob Corddry, Michaela Watkins, Ken Marino, Fred Melamed and Tig Notaro

Director: Lake Bell
Rated: R
Underachieving voice coach Carol Solomon (Bell) not only lives in the house of her egotistical father, Sam Sotto (Melamed), but also in the massive shadow he casts as the undisputed king of the vicious, male-dominated world of movie-trailer voice-overs. When Sam kicks her out to make room for his girlfriend Jamie (Holden), Carol lands



Photo by MICHAEL TACKETT/WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT
Jason Sudeikis stars as David Clark and Jennifer Aniston as Rose O'Reilly in New Line Cinema's action comedy "We're the Millers," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

her first voice-over gig with the help of charming sound engineer Louis (Martin), beating out industry bad boy Gustav Warner (Marino) for the job. Proving it's no fluke, she soon lines up two more projects in quick succession.

At an industry party, Carol has a one-night stand with the seductive Gustav, neither realizing who the other is. It's only later that Gustav learns Carol is the "thief" who "stole" the V.O. job from him and vows to make her pay. Soon afterwards, Sam discovers Carol is in the running to become the official voice of a blockbuster, female-centered movie "quadrilogy." Threatened by his own daughter's rising star, Sam tries to discourage her while secretly pushing his reps to land him the gig instead.

As romantic sparks begin to fly between her and Louis, and with her budding career and sense of self on the line, Carol finds herself facing a momentous decision: Whether to give in to her father's bullying or go all out for the job and finally begin living life on her own terms.

'Prince Avalanche'

Genre: Comedy and drama
Cast: Paul Rudd, Emile Hirsch, Lance LeGault, Joyce Payne, Gina Grande and Lynn Shelton
Director: David Gordon Green

Rated: R
Driven by striking performances from Rudd and Hirsch, "Prince Avalanche" is an offbeat comedy about two men painting traffic lines on a desolate country highway that's been ravaged by wildfire.

Against this dramatic setting, beautifully shot by Tim Orr, the men bicker and joke with each other, eventually developing an unlikely friendship. Funny, meditative and at times surreal, "Prince Avalanche" features a moving score by Explosions in the Sky and David Wingo, and was loosely adapted from an Icelandic film called "Either Way."

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www.TBNweekly.com

To Place An Ad Call (727) 397-5563 Fax (727) 399-2042
or order your ad online 24/7 @ TBNweekly.com
Deadlines: Display, Friday-5 p.m. • Line Ads, Monday-Noon

REAL ESTATE

1. House Sales

SEMINOLE 4BR/2BA/2CG
Quiet cul-de-sac, Pool, Updated roof, A/C. Non-evacuation zone. Close to Beach. "High and Dry." \$249,900. (727)393-0721
www.forsalebyowner.com/23954519

BELLEAIR BLUFFS BEAUTY!
Spacious 3BR/3BA tastefully renovated. Close to Causeway boat launch, beaches, restaurants & shopping. Make offer! Call Tricia, (727)595-0423.
Davis Suncoast Realty

"NACHA" ORDINARY HOMES



Largo 3BR/2BA/2CG NICE POOL!
Near Indian Rocks Beach! New Kitchen w/ Granite Countertop Bamboo Floors \$199,000
Dorita Mayeux RE/MAX ACR Elite 727-421-9600

BEAUTIFUL DEEDED
Canterbury Chase, 3BR/2BA/2CG, Inside Utility, Pampered 2,000SF, Large Porch, 1/3 Acre Lot. By Owner \$279,000. 11911 72nd Avenue, Seminole. (727)397-2212.

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, 1-4.
12271 103rd Ave, Seminole. Desirable 3BR/2BA/2CG, Pool. Beautiful Country Setting w/Huge Yard. \$249,900. Anne Martello, Realty Executives, (727)463-1804.

15. Beach Property

CLEARWATER BEACH
Updated and Roomy, 1BR/1.5BA Condo at Continental Towers, 675 S. Gulfview Blvd. \$189,000. John Doran Realty (727)447-9579

20. Condo Sales

SHIPWATCH: 2BR/2BA
With Many Updates & View of Intracoastal & Gulf. Won't Last Long! \$199,900. Call For Private Showing. Shipwatch Realty, www.ShipwatchRealty.com (727)596-6508.

SEMINOLE GARDENS BUY WHILE PRICES ARE AT AN ALL-TIME LOW!
BEAUTIFUL 56-ACRE COMPLEX

2BR/1BA 1,012 sq. ft. Laminate Floors, Water View \$39,900

2BR/2BA, 1,056 sq. ft. Corner Unit, 55+, Glass Porch \$39,900

Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp. Cassius L. Peacock, Realtor Your ON-SITE Specialist (727)397-2534 MySeminoleGardens.com

OAKS OF SEMINOLE 2BR/2BA, first floor/corner unit. Eat-in kitchen, inside laundry, many updates, VERY clean. \$93,000 FSBO. Buyers ONLY call (727)644-4504 for appointment.

EXCLUSIVE SAND KEY GULF CONDO
1480 Gulf Blvd, Clearwater 2BR/2BA, Directly on Beach. New Kitchen From Ceiling to Floor. New Appliances, Italian Style Kitchen Backsplash, New Doors, Floor Coverings, Parquet Entry Way, Water Heater, Baths - All Completely Redone. 1,440SF, 40ft Balcony with Great Gulf and Intracoastal Water Views, Heated Pool, Gated Community, Upscale Remodeled Throughout. Saturday by Appointment. (727)595-6341. Open House Sunday's 1:00-005PM.

35. Mobile Home Sales

SEMINOLE. CLEAN? QUIET? CONVENIENT? EASY TO OWN? YES! Several Homes To Choose From. Starting At \$1,000. Background Check Required, \$60. Call Now! (727)393-0151

TWELVE OAKS MHP
Great Deals On Prewound Mobile Homes. Priced To Sell! Located In The Heart of Beautiful Seminole. Close To Beaches & Shopping. All Residents 55+. No Pets. No Rentals. Call Mon-Fri, 9AM-4PM. (727)391-6268.

Affordable 55+ Living GLENWOOD ESTATES: 5 Star, Land Owned. All 2-3BR/2BA/2CP, Furnished \$175/Mo. Maint. 12501 Ulmerton Rd., Largo. Brochures Available At Clubhouse. #5 - 2/2/2, Lake View, \$65,888. #8 - 2/2/2 Lake View, New A/C & Laminate Floors, \$89,888. #25 - Lg 2/2/2, \$89,888. #85 - 2/2/2, \$65,888. On Premises Saturdays 9-4 For Viewing Call IMapp Realty Group John Doles, 727-510-3331

95. Property Mgmt.



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-8777. The Toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

100. R.E. Wanted

First Time Homebuyer Program*
Low Interest Rate Mortgage
Down Payment Assistance Available
Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County
1-800-806-5154
www.pinellascounty.org/community/hfa
Programs available in Pinellas, Polk and Pasco counties.
* If you have not owned a home in the last 3 years

130. Cemetery Lots

SACRIFICE 1 CEMETERY PLOT
Veterans Section, Memorial Park Cemetery, Division R, Section 2, Block 30, Lot 22. \$2,500 OBO. (727)584-8926.



145. Unfurnished Houses

NEAR BAY PINES VA & Madeira Beach, 3BR/2BA/1CG, Includes Trash Service & Cable. Pets OK. \$1,150/Mo. +\$1,150 Security. (727)393-1628.

13203 Dorchester, Seminole
Near Schools. 3BR/2BA/2CG, Family Room, New A/C, Ceramic Floors, Fenced Yard. \$1,500/Month +Security. (727)515-5481.

CLEARWATER, 1BR Bungalow.
616 1/2 Phoenix Ave. Completely Fenced, Private Yard. \$495/Mo. +\$495 Deposit. (727)253-0523.

155. Furnished Condos

SEMINOLE GARDENS 1BR/1BA, 874SF, 55+, Recently Updated. 6750/Month-Yearly. Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp.(727)397-2534

155. Furnished Condos

LONG BAYOU, SEMINOLE 1BR/1BA, with Den, 55+, Covered Carport, Completely Furnished, \$700/Month, No Pets. Guetzlaff Realty (727)204-0829

SEA TOWERS, 55+. 1BR/1BA
Beautiful Water View, Cozy, Nifty. Gated Community, Pools. \$750/Mo. Annual. (727)519-3724.

160. Unfurnished Condos

INDIAN ROCKS, INTRACOASTAL 2BR/2BA. FREE Cable. Pool, Petless, Non-smoking. \$1,100/Month. 2 Minutes to I.R.B. (305)354-6830.

SEMINOLE 5/Minutes From Beach. For sale or rent. Refurbished 1BR/1BA, One Story, 55+, Pool, Rec. Room. No Pets \$35,900 or Rent \$675/Month. (727)515-5871.

BARDMOOR, 1BR/1BA CONDO \$895/Month Guetzlaff Realty (727)204-0829

LARGO, 1BR/1BA/Carport
Ground floor. Free cable, petless, one mile from beach. Pool. Recently updated. \$700/mo. annual. (727)593-2329

IMPERIAL POINT: 1BR CONDO
Glass Lanai, Close to Pool and Activities. \$725/Month
Maureen Stilwell, Charles Rutenberg Realty (727)458-2246 (727)596-2965

165. Villa Rentals

SHANGRI-LA VILLAS, 55+, 1BR/1BA, Pool/Clubhouse, Walk to all stores, NO Pets/Smoking. Security required. \$550/Month (727)518-2939

170. Furnished Apts.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
for OEF/OIF Veterans. No Pets Space is limited. Contact Michelle Patrick (727)442-9041, Ext. 161. michellep@ethep.org

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

175. Unfurnished Apts.

BELLEAIR BLUFFS
Deluxe 1-2BRs, 1st-2nd Floor. Overlooking Non-smoking Center Courtyard w/Beautiful Pool. Great Location 1 Block From Shopping & Intracoastal. 2942 West Bay Dr. Res. Mgr. #1 (727)483-4853.

LARGO AUTUMN CHASE 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartment Homes Starting From \$575 One Month Free with a 14-Month Lease. Minutes From Beach (727)586-1473

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

INDIAN SHORES SMALL 1/BR 1/Person. Includes E/W/S, Beach Access. 19235 Whispering Pines Drive. \$700/Month. (727)599-5814, (727)623-4443. Owner/ Agent.

BELLEAIR BLUFFS, 2BR/2BA 1,200SF, near beach, restaurants. C/H/A, carport, laundry, petless. \$850/month +security. (727)595-0212

You Can Fax Your Ad: 399-2042
Include: Name, Address and Phone Number We Accept
VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

300. Notices

185. Beach Rentals

MADEIRA BEACH EFFICIENCY
w/Kitchen, Furnished, Phone, Cable, Laundry, Pool. Across From Beach. No Pets. From \$280/Week, FL Residents. 14711 Gulf Blvd. (727)394-0751.

FURNISHED/ UNFURNISHED 1-5 Bedrooms
Condos, Houses, Duplexes Weekly/ Monthly/ Annual Bob Schmidt, (727)580-9797 Tropical Isles Realty, Inc. (727)593-0744, (800)655-0744.

FIRST MONTH FREE!
Indian Rocks Beach, Beautiful Condo, 1BR/1BA, Hardwood Floors, Stainless Appliances, W/D, Granite. \$975/Mo. First/Last/Sec. Annual. (727)596-4056.

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

190. Waterfront Rentals

ISLAND ESTATES 2BR/2BA
Condo, Fantastic Water Views, Many Amenities. \$1,400/Month, Annual Rental Vangie (727)501-3268, Pappas Realty & Mgmt (727)398-1200.

TREASURE ISLAND: 1BR/1BA
Updated Condo. Unfurnished. \$800/Month, Boat Slip Available Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

SAND KEY: 3BR/2BA CONDO
\$2,700/Mo. Waterfront, Unfurnished, Balcony, W/D, 2,100SF, Parking, Pool. Annual. Call (727)686-2554

195. Seasonal Rentals

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

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

225. Duplex/Triplex Rentals

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

CLEARWATER: EAST OF
Bayside Bridge, Unfurnished, 1BR/1BA/1CG. No Pets. \$750/Month. 1st/Last/Security. Annual. Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

245. Room For Rent

SAFE, CLEAN, QUIET.
Fully Furnished. Utilities, Cable Included. Deposit, References, ID Required. From \$150/Week. (727)547-1199.

SEMINOLE, Heartbreak House
Quiet, Furnished, Share House, Pool, B Cable, W/D, All Included. Military, Friendly UN A-OK. Price Negotiable. B.G.C. (727)331-3935.

Roomate Wanted Redington Beach
Unfurnished. Smoker, non-drinker OK. Must have job/car. \$450/mo. (727)253-2317

SEMINOLE, OFF PARK BLVD
Nicely furnished, w/private bath, microwave, small refrigerator, cable. \$130/week + security. (727)398-0763

265. Commercial Rentals

OFFICE BUILDING, 2,000SF,
First Floor, Centrally Located, Ideal For Medical/ Legal Offices. Parking, Sec. System, Signage. 5444 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park. (727)345-1136, (727)214-8534.

STORAGE GARAGES, 12'X23
and 23'X23' Boat, Trailer, RV Storage. Office/ Warehouse Combo. 1784 N Hercules Ave, Clearwater. (727)422-4995.

OFFICE & RETAIL SPACE
From \$441 Per Month. Ample Parking. Madeira Beach. (727)641-6465.

OFFICE/ STORAGE COMBO
\$375/Month. 11'x30' Storage/ Work \$175-\$275/Month. Large Open Fenced Lot \$300/Month. 220 13th St. SW, Largo. (727)584-6283.

300. Notices

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MISCELLANEOUS

301. Clinical Study

IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME (IBS)
Are Diarrhea and Abdominal Discomfort putting a cramp in your lifestyle? Diarrhea, abdominal discomfort and bloating may be signs of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). If you have IBS, you may be eligible for a research study enrolling now. If you qualify for this study, you may receive at no cost: Investigational medication for IBS; study related care from a local doctor; compensation for time and travel. Contact Joann at: Florida Center for Gastroenterology (727) 544-1600 or email clinicalstudies@tampabaygi.com for more information. 8250 Bryan Dairy Road, Suite 200, Largo

315. Personals

NYDIA FLORES
Contact Mr. Valdes (787)672-4191. Related to Community Inheritance.

345. Lost & Found

FOUND: BOAT COVER
Floating in Intracoastal. Call to identify. (727)409-5906.

LOST CAT: BLACK & GOLD
1-year old tiger. Missing since mid-July, vicinity of Old Coachman and Farrier Trail/Wetherington, Clwr. Answers to Goldie or Goldman. Clipped ear, declawed. (727)712-8810.



355. Adoption

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

360. Legal Service

Bankruptcy, Foreclosures & Litigation. Free Consultation. Largo.
Colgan Law Firm (727)531-DEBT (3328)

DIVORCE, CUSTODY BANKRUPTCY, EVICTIONS (727)768-2283 OR (813)675-4876

435. Adult Care & Svcs.

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

CAREGIVER/ CNA: RELIABLE
Home Health Care. 28 years experience. Excellent local references. (727)434-1324

CNA WILL TAKE CARE OF
Your loved one with Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Doctor Appointments, Light Cooking, Laundry, Errands. 4-5 days. Call (727)678-6740. Largo



545. Financial Services

MARKET LINKED CDs
FDIC Insured Up To \$250,000. Earn Up To 8.5%. Call For Current Rates. Tom (727)902-1174.

BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT! CLASSIFIEDS

300. Notices

NOW HIRING!

APPOINTMENT SETTERS/ TELEMARKETERS
Must Be Reliable, Fast Paced. People Needed For Setting Travel Club Appointments. Weekly Pay \$8-\$10 Per Hour Or Commission 26-35 Hrs/ Wk. Apply In Person; Sun-Thurs, 9-5. (727)393-6000 Ext. 0. American Travel, 9466 Seminole Blvd.

CLEARWATER INSURANCE AGENCY
Looking for Licensed Experienced CSR Producer. Salary plus Benefits. (727)797-8121.

COOKS/ BAKERS
Pinecrest Place Retirement community in Largo has several openings in our kitchen for experienced cooks. Positions responsible for preparation of food in safe/sanitary manner; must be able to respond to community issues that may occur in the dining room; responsible for cleaning food service equipment, kitchen & food storage areas. Be able to prepare food in a timely manner at specified meal times. Contribute to menu recipe changes. Multiple positions FT & PT baking experience required. Varied hours including weekends/holidays. Safe Food handling training a plus. Excellent pay/benefits. Please complete an application at 1150 8th Ave. SW; Largo, or fax resume to Margaret.Kristall@brookdaleliving.com 727-581-8409 or e-mail to Margaret.Kristall@brookdaleliving.com Drug free workplace; State fingerprinting/ background checking required. EOE.

PART TIME, RETAIL SALES
John's Pass. Experience. Nonsmoking Environment. Sand Key, Weekends Only CUPS Store, (479)381-8038.

ROOFERS, EXPERIENCED
w/shingles. Must have hand tools, local references. Business located in Largo. (727)330-7820.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Busy Condo Office, Experience Required. Full-Time With Benefits & Good Pay. Please Fax Resume To: (727)864-2073.

505. Part-Time Help

CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS GOLF COURSE P-T POSITIONS
Golf Shop Operator: Retail/ Cash Handling, Register Experience, Deposits. Golf Course Attendant: Manual Outdoor Labor. Both Positions Need To Have Customer Service Experience And Both Have Irregular Hours That Include Weekends And Holidays. For More Details Please See Website www.CTSFL.us Or Call (727)938-3711.

ASK ABOUT OUR EYE STOPPER LOGOS



HANSON CLEANERS
Now Hiring Counter Help. Will train the right person. (727)455-5222

RESIDENT AIDES.
Pinecrest Place, a premier retirement community, is seeking aides to provide daily care to our AL & Memory Care residents. We are looking for enthusiastic, energetic and caring people to become a part of our team. Part-time, various shifts. Must be available to work weekends and holidays. Candidates can apply in person at 1150 8th Ave. SW, Largo, FL.

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505. Part-Time Help

P/T RECREATION LEADER
City of Gulfport.
Immediate position available for Tot Time & VPK. Experience in child care with knowledge of licensing requirements and VPK. Min Req: HS Diploma, Part 1 30-hour Introductory Child Care Training, Part 2 10-hour Preschool Appropriate Practices and Early Literacy, CDA or equivalent preferred. Entry \$10.25/hr. Background, fingerprints, drug screening and physical will be conducted. Open until filled. Submit applications to City Hall, 2401-53rd St. S., Gulfport, FL, 33707. EOE

P/T RECREATION LEADER
City of Gulfport.
Immediate evening position available for the Teen Night Program. Education/experience preferred in education, physical education or related field. Knowledge of recreational activities including games, arts & crafts and sports. Min. Req: HS Diploma from an accredited high school and must be 18+ years of age. Entry \$10.25/hr. Background, drug screening and physical will be conducted. Position open until filled. Submit applications to City Hall, 2401-53rd St. S., Gulfport, FL, 33707. EOE

FRONT DESK
Reservations, Clerical Duties For Beach Resort. 24-32 Hours Per Week. Resort Experience Preferred, Computer Skills Mandatory, Team Player. Send Resume To: SunHost@tampabay.rr.com

525. Medical Help

PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT
We are looking for experienced, dependable CNAs/HHAs to help our clients in Pinellas and Pasco counties.

- We offer:**
- Competitive Pay
 - Paid Trainings
 - Flexible Schedules
 - Mileage Reimbursement
 - Employer Paid Life Insurance
 - Company Banking Benefits
- Our Services Include:**
- Companionship
 - Bathing and personal care
 - Light Housekeeping
 - Meal preparation
 - Shopping, Dinners and more

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



515. Hospitality Help

ASST. FOOD & BEVERAGE
Manager, Food Server And Housekeeper. Doubletree Beach Resort/ Restaurant.
Apply At: 17120 Gulf Blvd.

525. Medical Help

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

CNAs & HHAs NEEDED.
All days and hours. Live-in and Weekend availability a PLUS!
Call Griswold Home Care.
(727)547-7000

NOW HIRING CNAs/HHAs
Great Cases
All Hours
Experience Required
COMPETITIVE PAY

Bayshore HOME CARE
Voted Top Workplaces in Tampa Bay
(727) 586-0044

CLASSIFIED
Information Is At YOUR DISPOSAL

525. Medical Help

535. Business Opportunities

Cost-Effective Statewide Advertising

Place Your Ad Of 25 Words or Less In More Than 100 Newspapers Across Florida For Only \$475/week.

You Can Reach Over 5 Million Readers Through Our Network Of Daily & Weekly Florida Newspapers.

Contact Tampa Bay Newspapers Classified Dept.
(727) 397-5563

AUCTIONS

585. Auctions
GRANNYS AUCTION(AB1769)
Buying & Consigning. Free Antique Appraisals Tuesday's 12-4. Furniture, jewelry, paintings, sculpture, pottery, glass, military, sterling, gold, etc.
(727)572-1567
5175 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater

590. Antiques-Collectibles
www.mytampabayantiques.com
Antique Galleries Of St. Pete Anniversary Sale August 16-18

MERCHANDISE

600. Merchandise

LAWNMOWERS FOR SALE, (6). TRADES ACCEPTED!
4 Self-propelled, 2 Push. My Hobby. Reconditioned. \$65-\$135. Save Hundreds. Also Other Equipment. (727)391-6937.

600. Merchandise

ROYAL PALMS & BISMARCK
25-35' each. Five total. Call owner for pricing. OBO. (727) 512-4861 or (727)421-9757

ADULT TRICYCLE, 24" WHEELS
Rear Basket, Orange Flag, Rear-View Mirror, Bell, Wide Saddle. \$60. (727)512-9439.

630. Absolutely Free

FREE FENCE WOOD,
Pretreated, various sizes, 4x4's also. You pick up. Seminole area. (727)393-9687.

640. Furniture

NEW QUEEN PILLOW TOP
Mattress Set Still In Original Plastic, \$150. Call or Text (727)537-6343.

WHITE LEATHER NATUCCI
couch, loveseat, club chair & ottoman, \$650. Nice, wood armoire w/TV insert and storage, \$200. Honey oak dining room table and 4 chairs, \$175. (727)238-8868 or (727)249-8228

ARMOIRE, MAPLE COLOR,
4 Drawers; 2 Inside Cabinet, 2 Below. Asking \$75. (727)251-2511.

700. Pets & Animals

PUPPIES: Scottish Terrier,
AKC, 9 Months, Female, Spayed, \$650. Male Malpoo, 9 Weeks Old, \$350. (727)551-1710

715. Medical Eqpt.-Supply

PRIDE LEGEND 3 WHEEL
Scooter. New Batteries. \$350. (727)586-5833.

GO GO TRAVEL SCOOTER
3/Years Old. Merit Scooter, Heavy Duty, Lights. \$500 Each. (727)581-0319.

AUTOMOTIVE

810. Auto Sales

1999 MERCURY COUGAR
black w/black leather interior, ice cold air, great stereo, good condition, 98,000 miles, \$2,200 OBO. (727) 238-8868 or (727) 249-8228.

1994 FORD TAURUS
Station wagon. Senior owned. \$2,200. Largo. Must see! (727)259-3890

820. Truck Sales

DODGE 2006 DAKOTA QUAD CAB SLT
Matching Fiberglass Bed Topper, Tow Package, Showroom Clean. 50,000 Miles. \$14,900 OBO. (727)871-0075.

830. Van & SUV Sales

DODGE 2013 GRAND CARAVAN
Wheelchair Van With 10' Lowered Floor, Ramp & Tie Downs. For More Info Please Call Ben At (727)644-6101.

845. Golf Carts

Ameri-Carts.com
727-533-6836
15% OFF ANY ACCESSORY/PART
EXPIRES 8/30/13
New & Used Golf Carts & LSV's Sales, Service, Parts, Batteries, Customization, Rentals & Accessories
8340 Ulmerton Road, Suite 230 Largo, Florida 33771

885. Autos Wanted

THINKING ABOUT SELLING OR TRADING?
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Ruth Eckerd Hall announces Adults at Leisure Series

CLEARWATER – Ruth Eckerd Hall recently announced its Adults at Leisure Series for the 2013-14 season.

The lineup will include returning favorites such as Steve Lippia, Blue Suede Shoes (The One and Only Double Elvis Birthday Bash) starring Mike Albert and Scot Bruce, and the Big E Band, and The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra.

In addition, the series will feature performances by the legendary superstar Mitzi Gaynor, five-time Grammy winner B.J. Thomas and one of America's most beloved entertainers, Tony Orlando. Due to overwhelming demand, Ruth Eckerd Hall will present two performances of Neil Berg's 106 Years of Broadway.

The Adults at Leisure Series will be presented at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets will go on sale Friday, Aug. 16, noon. Call 791-7400 or visit www.ruth-eckerdhall.com.

Following is a summary of the 2013-14 season of Ruth Eckerd Hall's Adults at Leisure Series:

- Nebraska Theatre Caravan presents "A Christmas Carol" – Monday, Dec. 23, 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$35. A cherished tradition, this is the longest-running production of "A Christmas Carol" in the United States. In this beloved Dickens classic, ghosts of Christmases past, present and future guide Scrooge on a journey of redemption as he discovers the spirit of Christmas and a new life filled with joy and love.

- Steve Lippia in "Simply Swingin' with Sinatra & Friends" – Thursday, Jan. 9, 2014, 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$18. Steve Lippia, one of the most prominent interpreters of standards and swing music, returns to Ruth Eckerd Hall with his swinging, hot big band behind him! His youthful vitality lends itself perfectly to this brisk, exhilarating production.

- Blue Suede Shoes: The One and Only Double Elvis Birthday Bash – Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014, 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$18. The show will feature Scot Bruce and Mike Albert. Back by popular demand, the top two "Elvises" return with one phenomenal show. Bruce stars as the young Elvis and Albert as the Las Vegas Elvis. Along with the Big "E" Band, the performers offer a rockin' birthday party celebration of America's first rock 'n' roll icon.

- In The Mood – Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014, 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$18. In The Mood returns for one afternoon celebrating the



Above, Dallas Brass performs Feb. 19 as part of Ruth Eckerd Hall's Adults at Leisure Series. At right, The Irish Rovers take the stage Feb. 11.

big band rhythms and intimate ballads of the Swing Era. Much more than a concert, the retro 1940s musical revue features singers and dancers with a sensational big band orchestra. The music and arrangements of America's "greatest generation" are as authentic as it gets.

- Tony Orlando with special guests The Bronx Wanderers – Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014, 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$35. No entertainer can move and excite an audience like Tony Orlando. He is one of America's most endearing and enduring stars. Orlando brings a warmth and exhilarating energy that electrifies an audience and like a painter, he is an artist who steps onto a stage as if it were a blank canvas. Each show he weaves colorful emotions set to music touching the deepest part of a person's heart. He has sold millions of records, including five No. 1 "Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree," "Knock Three Times," "Candida," "My Sweet Gypsy Rose" and "He Don't Love You (Like I Love You)." Opening the show will be special guests The Bronx Wanderers. Every great song had a champion who believed in its glory, heard its potential, and suddenly transformed a few notes into something immediately unforgettable and magical. These are the champions that the Bronx Wanderers bring to life.

- The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra – Monday, Jan. 27, 2014 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$18. More than 60 years since the public first embraced the successful Miller Sound, both the legend and the music live on. The Glenn Miller Orchestra, featuring music director Nick Hilscher and The Moonlight Serenaders is the most sought-after big band in the world today for both concert and dance engagements. Still considered the greatest band of all time with 31 Top 10 hits – such as "Tuxedo Junction," "In the Mood," "Pennsylvania 6-5000," "Moonlight Serenade" and "Chattanooga Choo Choo" – its unique sound is loved by almost anybody that cares for dance music.

- Ethel Merman's Broadway starring Rita McKenzie – Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014, 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$18. Rita McKenzie recreates her uncanny, award-winning Off-Broadway portrayal of Ethel Merman, the Queen of the Broadway Musical, in this international smash hit. Attendees will relive amazing tunes such as "I Got Rhythm," "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Everything's Coming Up Roses" and 20 more of Broadway's all-time greatest songs. McKenzie weaves Merman's bigger-than-life story with her signature tunes in an absolute must-see show.

- The Irish Rovers: Farewell – Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014, 1 p.m.

Tickets start at \$18. For those who have been waiting to see this iconic band, wait no longer: This is the beginning of "The Long Goodbye." The Irish Rovers return with songs that have captivated and delighted audiences since 1963 with favorites such as "Wasn't That A Party," "Black Velvet Band," "Orange and the Green," "Drunken Sailor" and their signature song "The Unicorn."

- Dallas Brass – Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014, 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$18. Since its founding in 1983 by Michael Levine, the Dallas Brass has become one of America's foremost musical ensembles. The group has established a unique blend of traditional brass instruments with a full complement of drums and percussion, which creates a performing entity of extraordinary range and musical challenges. The Dallas Brass repertoire includes classical masterpieces, Dixieland, swing, Broadway, Hollywood and patriotic music.

- B.J. Thomas – Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014, 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$18. A true American institution whose iconic pop, country and gospel hits defined their respective generations and now transcend them, B.J. Thomas has found a unique way to celebrate an incredible half a century in music with his new album "The Living Room Sessions" featuring duets with Vince Gill, Lyle



Photo courtesy of THE ROOTS AGENCY

Lovett, Richard Marx, Keb Mo and Steve Tyrell. A five-time Grammy and Oscar winner; and two-time Dove Award winner who has sold more than 70 million records, B.J. Thomas has ranked in Billboard's Top 50 most played artist over the past five decades with his signature hits "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on my Head," "Hooked On A Feeling" and "(Hey, Won't You Play) Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song."

- Mitzi Gaynor – Sunday, March 2, 2014, 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$35. Legendary musical star Mitzi Gaynor will light up the stage in an intimate and glittering celebration of laughs, love and music spanning her career. The Emmy-winning and Golden Globe nominated star of blockbuster musicals including "South Pacific" and "There's No Business Like Show Business" will present a one-woman tour-de-force of side-splitting stories, moving reminiscences, stunning video footage and a cavalcade of songs from her film, television and nightclub work.

- Dublin's Irish Cabaret with Andy Cooney and Noel Ginnity – Thursday, March 6, 2014, 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$18. The show will offer an exhilarating and distinctive blend of Irish music, song, laughter and dance in an afternoon designed to please the entire family. Andy Cooney, Irish America's favorite son, returns to team up with Noel V. Ginnity for Dublin's Irish Cabaret. With his outstanding voice and dynamic stage presence, Cooney is a favorite among American and Irish

audiences. Ginnity has long been recognized as Ireland's greatest comedian, with an endless supply of funny stories, many based on uniquely Irish characters.

- The Not So Newlywed Game Live! with Bob Eubanks – Sunday, March 16, 2014, 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$18. Hosted by Bob Eubanks, the live Not So Newlywed Game features four married couples who will be chosen at random to play a half-hour version of the game for a chance to win prizes. Eubanks will also narrate hilarious clips from his television career.

- Neil Berg's 106 Years of Broadway – Monday, March 17, 2014, 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$18. Once again, Berg brings audiences an all-new musical revue with five Broadway stars and a great New York band, re-creating magical moments from the best that Broadway has offered over the past hundred years.

- The Diamonds in concert – Thursday, March 27, 2014, 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$18. In 1957, The Diamonds released their first hit single, "Little Darlin'" and to date it has sold approximately 20 million copies. They have three gold records – "Silhouettes," "The Stroll" and "Little Darlin'" – and have songs on the "American Graffiti" and "Happy Days" soundtracks. The Diamonds have been inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame and the Doo-Wop Hall of Fame and continue to expand their audience around the world.

For information on the Adults at Leisure Series, call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com.

Sunsation Show Chorus seeks singers for new seasons

PINELLAS PARK – Now beginning its 10th season, Sunshine Show Chorus continues to offer first-rate entertainment singing tight harmonies of Broadway melodies, pop standards and fun classics.

The versatile chorus is seeking new members. Previous choral experience is helpful.

Starting Aug. 20, the group meets Tuesdays, 6:45 p.m., at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave.

Three two-hour shows are performed each season. The season runs November to April. In addition, a number of shows are performed at various senior homes and clubhouses throughout Pinellas County.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, call Ron at 321-8093. Visit www.sunsationshowchorus.com.

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TOP FIVE, from page 1B

about who we are as individuals?" When Serge, a novice art collector, asks his two friends to view his newly acquired work of art, this "priceless" piece tests their 15-year friendship and causes them to validate their self-worth. This production contains mature subject matter and language.

- **Backtrack Blues Band**, Saturday, Aug. 10, 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. The five-piece Backtrack Blues Band, with their upbeat, electric blues sound reminiscent of the early Chicago blues scene, has been performing original blues music since 1980, and has performed with blues legends Stevie Ray Vaughan, B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Greg Allman, Koko Taylor, Johnny Winter, John Lee Hooker, and Robert Cray. Sonny Charles supplies great amplified harmonica and vocals. Spider Ingram (lead/slide guitar, vocals), Little Johnny Walter (rhythm guitar), Joe Bencomo (drums), and Vinnie Seplesky (bass).

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