

# County debates land sale

Commissioners divided selling on Cross Bar Ranch to Pasco County ... Page 8A.

# LARGO LEADER

## 'Hippiefest' bands come to Ruth Eckerd Hall this weekend

The lineup includes Ten Years After, Canned Heat, Rick Derringer, Pat Travers ... Page 1B.



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August 22, 2013

### ENTERTAINMENT



## 'City of Bones' opens in theaters

The film, based on the worldwide best-selling book series by author Cassandra Clare, opens in local theaters along with "The World's End" and "You're Next" this weekend. ... Page 8B.

### LARGO

## City to apply for firefighter grant

The city of Largo will be applying for a grant that could add as many as nine firefighters to its force, bringing the fire department staffing to levels not seen since before the recession. ... Page 4A.

### BUSINESS



## Chamber gives out Inspire Awards

The Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce shined the spotlight on five individuals at its fifth annual Inspire Awards Luncheon, held Aug. 13 at Largo Public Library. Nominations were submitted in honor of those who make a difference in the region. ... Page 7A.

### SCHOOLS



## Classes start back in Pinellas County

School is back in session, and now students at 58 Pinellas County schools can eat lunch for free - no matter what income-level their families are in. ... Page 11A.

### VIEWPOINTS

## Bob Driver

Random ramblings. ... Page 10A.



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# City reviews budget, tax increase

## Commissioners agree to 2.5 percent employee pay raise, overall budget

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - After reviewing the budget department by department Aug. 16, Largo commissioners tentatively agreed with staff's recommendation to include a 2.5 percent employee raise in a budget that accounts for a 5 percent increase in the property tax rate.

The tax rate and the budget for the 2013-14 year, which starts Oct. 1, must be approved by vote in two public hearings, scheduled Tuesday, Sept. 3 and Wednesday, Sept. 18, 6 p.m., at Largo City Hall, 201 Highland Ave. The work ses-

sion Aug. 16 allowed commissioners a chance to discuss details of the budget.

The 5 percent increase in the city's property rate is in response to the stagnation of property values. Though the city is projected to experience the first increase - at 1.45 percent - in the property values after five years of decreases, the extra revenue isn't enough to sustain growth. City administration is recommending the rate increase from 5.0 mills - or \$5 for every \$1,000 of taxable value - to 5.2 mills.

The budget also includes \$830,600 in total expenditure reductions. These reductions include a 1 percent increase in

employees' contribution to the police and fire pension plan as well as eliminating the empty positions of two groundskeepers, made up with the expansion of a grounds maintenance contract.

The proposed budget allows for 10 percent of the general fund to remain in a reserved balance.

If the commission were to choose not to increase the tax rate and if ongoing pension negotiations with police and fire unions don't result in a reduction of expenses, the city will

See BUDGET, page 4A

## 12.5" City thanks chief for 33 years of service

LARGO - The city of Largo celebrated the 33-year career of Chief John Carroll at a reception at Largo Public Library, Aug. 15.

Largo officials, his fellow police officers and representatives from other law enforcement agencies attended to wish Carroll well on the

next chapter of his life and thank him for his service.

Carroll will be retiring Sept. 7.

He and several of those who spoke hinted at his possible run at a Largo City Commission seat in an upcoming election.



Above, Largo Mayor Pat Gerard pays tribute to the chief, with whom she used to work as an employee at the police department. Below, Representing the Largo Fire Department interim Chief Shelby Willis, left, and Police Chief John Carroll's son, Lt. Shaun Carroll, presented the departing police chief with a commemorative firefighter's axe. "I thought Mac was giving me the axe," Carroll quipped, referring to City Manager Mac Craig.

Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES



# Sheriff reports on investigation of child's death

By SUZETTE PORTER

LARGO - A 5-year-old girl is dead, and now a woman has lost her job.

Elizabeth Holder died Jan. 19 at Mease Countryside Hospital in Safety Harbor. Pamela Wilson, a family support worker with Pinellas County Sheriff's Child Protection Investigations Division, was fired Aug. 13 for lying to investigators.

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri announced results of an administrative investigation Aug. 16 and the agency's review of policies and procedures surrounding the removal of children by the Child Protection Investigations Division and their timely health screenings.

Elizabeth was removed from her parent's care Jan. 11. She had been living in a mobile home at 2381 Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard in unincorporated Clearwater that Gualtieri described as "dirty and unfit to live in."

The Sheriff's Office got involved when Child Protection investigators were called to the home after the child was found wandering around the mobile home park unattended. Her mother was arrested for child neglect and transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Gualtieri said the mother was on non-prescribed prescription medications and unable to care for Elizabeth or her 2-year-old sister. The father, Corey Holder, came by the day of the arrest, but he too was on prescription medications and unable to take care of the children.

A decision was made to place the children in foster care. Eckerd Community Alternatives, who serves as the Community-Based Care Lead Agency for child welfare and foster care in Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties, was contacted to make arrangements for the two children.

Elizabeth and her sister were placed in foster care the evening of Jan. 11. At a hearing the next day, a judge ruled there was sufficient cause to remove the children from their home.

State law requires that a child removed from their home undergo a mandatory health screening within 72 hours. Gualtieri said on Jan. 1, a family support worker tried unsuccessfully to set an appointment for Elizabeth to receive a screening. Neither the health department nor a private provider who had treated the child in the past could see her that day. An appointment was set with the private provider on Jan. 22 - well beyond the 72 hours.

On Jan. 18, a week after the children were taken away from their parents, the foster parents took Elizabeth and her sister to a babysitter in Dunedin. The child went to bed about 9 p.m. and woke up about 8:30 a.m.

"She played, watched TV and she ate," Gualtieri said. "About 4 p.m., she began screaming and holding her head. She said it hurt and asked that it stop hurting. She went limp and went into cardiac arrest. 911 responded and she was transported to Mease Countryside Hospital where at about 5 p.m., she was

See INVESTIGATION, page 4A

# Coaching couples to build happy marriages

## Largo therapist takes a different approach to helping foster long-term marital harmony

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - Kalen Hammann's quest to discover how couples interact and build happy relationships began in his childhood.

Ironically, Hammann isn't the type of psychologist who makes a habit of delving deeply into his clients' past. But his parents' divorce, which happened when he was 4, had a profound impact on him.

"It never made any sense to me at all that two loving, well-meaning people couldn't make it," he explained. "I wanted to understand what goes on with people. I wanted to find ways to help people connect better with each other."

The pursuit drove him into the field of social psychology. He had earned a doctorate in the study from the University of Michigan and operated a private practice in Massachusetts for about 16 years, counseling couples and families. He had learned some things that were useful, he said, but it wasn't enough.

"Sometimes it was very helpful, but I didn't really feel like I knew what I was doing. Sometimes it wasn't as helpful as I'd liked it to be," Hammann said.

His career changed to working with business

executive teams, teaching skills like win-win negotiating, effective team leadership and empowering management. Though he was teaching others to build better relationships, the knowledge hadn't penetrated into his own marriage with his second wife, Kari, whom he wed in 1980.

"It was going along OK, like a lot of marriages ... Every so often we would have horrible fights, but mostly not," Hammann said.

He described the relationship as cordial, but with a problem at its foundation.

"We had gotten into living parallel lives," he said.

About a year ago, Hammann, who currently lives in Largo, stumbled onto the research of psychologist John Gottman. The result was a shift in thinking that not only promoted him to return to counseling couples, but has improved his own marriage.

"Since learning and applying what I now teach, we're connected again," Hammann said. "Our marriage has gotten a whole lot more satisfying."

Gottman's work focuses on developing habits practiced by couples who actively build long, satisfying relationships. Through observing married couples and tracking their long-term progress,

See COACH, page 4A



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Kalen and Kari Hammann of Largo enjoy a closer relationship because of techniques and habits that Kalen now teaches other married couples as a "relating coach."

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# Tickets on sale for casino fundraiser

LARGO - The Armed Forces History Museum will present its fifth annual Las Vegas Casino Night fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 5, 6 to 10 p.m., at 2050 34th Way N.

The event features a full dinner buffet from Orange Blossom Catering, as well as blackjack, roulette, craps, slot machines, poker, a Texas Hold 'em Tournament, silent auction, Chinese auction, prizes and more. This fundraiser benefits the museum's community outreach and youth education programs as well as the museum's mission to honorably preserve the history and memories of the military and its veterans.

Advance tickets are \$35 for casino and \$75 for the Texas Hold 'em Tournament. After Sept. 16, tickets are \$40 for casino and \$80 for the tournament.



Photo courtesy of the ARMED FORCES HISTORY MUSEUM  
Las Vegas Casino Night players surround the Texas Hold 'em Tournament table at the Armed Forces History Museum.

The event is part of the Maggi Tax Advisory and Veteran Solutions 2013 Special Event Series with co-sponsor Clearwater Toyota.

Purchase tickets online at [www.armedforcesmuseum.com](http://www.armedforcesmuseum.com), by calling 539-8371, or in person at the museum.

# Around town

## Kickball to benefit firefighters

LARGO - The Largo Firefighters are hosting a charity kickball tournament to raise funds for two of their own on Saturday, Aug. 24, 9 a.m., at Whitesell Softball Complex, 12555 119th St.

The event will benefit Largo Firefighters Curtis McClendon and Robert DiMarco, who both recently battled cancer.

Early registration is \$250 per team. Registration on the day of the tournament is \$300. Teams need a minimum of 10 players to play.

Raffle items will be accepted up to the day before the event. To register, contact Macho Liberti at 365-6386 or largofst@gmail.com.

The community also can donate to a joint fund for McClendon and DiMarco at any BB&T Bank.

## Woman's club invites members

LARGO - The Largo Woman's Club is having the first meeting of its 2013-2014 season on Tuesday, Sept. 3, 11:30 a.m., at the Royal Palm-200, Lake Ave.

The mission of the club is to promote charitable and civic progress of the city of Largo. Its members invite new residents and any fun and caring people to attend the meetings and business lunches, which include entertainment.

The club was founded to build sidewalks along Bay Drive. Its next project was building the Largo Public Library. The library and the Woman's Club will be 100 years old in 2015.

For more information, call Ellen at 584-8314 or Pat at 584-0297.

## Club hosts train show

LARGO - The Suncoast Model Railroad Club will host a train show Sept. 7 and 8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Minnreg Hall, 6340 126th Ave. N.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$1 for children; those 11 and younger are free. Food and snacks will be available. The show will feature more than 90 tables of train items in all scales. During the show,

the club will host free open house at 12355 62nd St. N. View a HO-scale railway.

For more information about the show and joining the club, visit [www.suncoastmrrc.com](http://www.suncoastmrrc.com).

## City offers free disposal of electronic, chemical waste

LARGO - The city of Largo will be collecting household and business electronic and chemical waste Sept. 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Largo Drop-off Recycling Center, 1551 Starkey Road.

Be responsible with your waste at the mobile collection, free to all Pinellas County residents. Commercial businesses are subject to minimal fees.

Call 586-7424.

## Park hosts air potato contest

LARGO - The city of Largo will be holding an Air Potato Picking Contest, aimed at removing the invasive vines from McGough Nature Park Sept. 21, 9 to 11:30 a.m., at 11901 146th St. N.

Help us protect our Largo nature parks from plants that choke out our native vegetation with this free contest. Prizes will be available for winners in various categories, including most potatoes, largest potato and ugliest potato.

Water and gloves will be provided but remember to wear closed-toed shoes. Call 518-3047.

## Citizens' Academy accepts applications

LARGO - Applications are now being accepted for the 2013 edition of the Citizens' Academy of Largo, a 12-week program on Mondays, 6 to 8:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 16.

The academy is designed to educate residents about the inner workings of their city government. Applications are available on the City's website, [www.Largo.com](http://www.Largo.com) and must be submitted by Sept. 6.

For more information, contact Largo City Clerk Diane Bruner at 587-6710 or [dbruner@largo.com](mailto:dbruner@largo.com).

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## 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 Silver Screen Thursday, Aug. 22, noon to 3 p.m., at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road.

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

#### Enjoy lunch with a show

LARGO – The Largo Community Center presents luncheon and a show Sept. 19, noon to 2 p.m., at 400 Alt. Keene Road.

The cost is \$12. Enjoy a scrumptious meal, dessert and entertainment. Purchase tickets in advance in the office one month prior to luncheon. No refunds or exchanges.

#### Center hosts Friday night films

LARGO – The Largo Community Center presents a Friday Night Film on Sept. 20, 7 to 9 p.m.

Enjoy an evening out watching some of your favorite Academy Award-winning films. All shows begin at 7 p.m. The movies are free; concessions are available.

#### Sign up for Daddy Daughter Date Night

LARGO – Tickets are on sale for the 36th Annual Daddy Daughter Date Night, themed "Bright Lights, Big City" Sept. 21, 5 to 8 p.m..

Visit the streets of New York City for an evening of daddy and daughter dancing, games, activities and more.

The cost is \$50 per couple, \$15 for each additional daughter. Dinner and dessert will be provided.

For more information, call 587-6740, ext. 5014 or visit LargoEvents.com.

#### Organizations looking for volunteers

LARGO – More than 20 different organizations, mostly health and

wellness organizations showcasing their products, are looking for a volunteer for the Total Wellness Fair on Sept. 26, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road.

The city is looking for seniors, volunteers or a director of volunteers to partner with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and Volunteer Corps Advisory Board. Call 518-3131.

#### Center hosts bridge games

LARGO – The Largo Community Center invites players to American Contract Bridge League-sanctioned games on Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m.

The cost is \$4 with membership or \$5. Drinks and snacks are included. Call Joan Waff at 895-9073.

### Highland Recreation Complex

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

#### City hosts scrapbooking weekend

LARGO – Join the Highland Recreation Center for the Crop Till You Drop weekend of scrapbooking, starting Friday, Sept. 13, 4 p.m., until Sunday, Sept. 15, 6 p.m.

The cost is \$100. The center will stay open for the event until 2 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, reopening at 8 a.m. Registration includes meals, snacks and drinks throughout the weekend.

#### Sign up for Mother Son Messy Madness

LARGO – Highland Recreation Complex will host Mother Son Messy Madness, a special night just for moms and sons, ages 5-13, on Saturday, Sept. 21, 6 to 8 p.m.

Come prepared to get messy and have fun as Moms and sons both partake in high-energy interactive messy games. Messy Madness will run in conjunction with the 36th Annual Daddy Daughter Date Night.

The cost is \$20 per couple and \$8 for each additional son. Dinner, dessert, messy games and a special gift are all included.

Spaces are limited. Register inside the Highland complex; the deadline is Sept. 14.

#### Increase fitness with Largo boot camps

LARGO – Tone muscles, build core strength, lose weight and increase overall fitness through weekly boot camps with certified instructors at Highland Recreation Complex and Largo Central Park, at 101 Central Park Drive.

Join instructor Kevin Scibbe for boot camp at the park on Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:15 a.m.

Boot Camp with Instructor Darrell Philip also is available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6 a.m. and 9 a.m., at the Highland complex.

Beginners are welcome to try out the cardio-focused exercises and drills both indoors and outdoors. Registration is now open.

### Southwest Recreation Complex

Southwest Recreation Complex, which includes an aquatic complex, is at 13120 Vonn Road. Call 518-3125 for recreation or 518-3126 for the pool. Visit PlayLargo.com or LargoPools.com.

#### Complex hosts garage sale, health and wellness expo

LARGO – The Southwest Recreation Complex will host a community-wide garage sale together with a health and wellness fair Saturday, Aug. 24, 8 a.m. to noon.

Admission is free. The event will feature Florida Blood Services Bloodmobile, free health screenings and giveaways. Vendors will be onsite to help answer health-related questions and hand out information on their services.

For more information, call Christina at 587-6740, ext. 5008.



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# City of Largo to apply for federal grant to fund more firefighters

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – The city of Largo will be applying for a grant that could add as many as nine firefighters to its force, bringing the fire department staffing to levels not seen since before the recession.

Largo commissioners agreed Aug. 20 that the fire department should apply for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's 2013 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response, or SAFER, grant program. For the nine additional firefighters, the city will ask for \$982,843 in grant funds to pay for salaries and benefits. Largo would have to fund \$88,000 for additional expenses, including equipment, uniforms and training.

In an attempt to make budget cuts, the fire department took a rescue crew from Station 39 out of service, acting Fire Chief Shelby Willis explained. The additional funds would restaff that rescue vehicle.

Despite hopes that all positions would be granted, Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Waters told commissioners that the city of Largo didn't have "a strong case to receive funding." The program designates only 15 percent of its funds to career fire departments and prioritizes the rehiring of laid-off firefighters. The program also considers the volume of calls for service, and Largo firefighters respond very quickly to calls compared to the national average, Waters said. Additionally, since the city of Largo reduced its force by eliminating empty positions rather than laying off firefighters, its application likely would receive the lowest level of priority.

If the city were selected for funding, there would be negotiations to establish a minimum staffing level that must be maintained during the two-year time period of the grant, Waters said. The Largo Fire Department also is unique in that it provides contractual services to the High

Point and Belleair Bluffs fire districts, adding more considerations in the negotiation process.

Mayor Pat Gerard voiced the concern that should the county's potential withdrawal of as much as \$1 million in EMS funding from the city coincide with a nonrenewal of the SAFER grant, the city could be losing "\$2 million worth of firefighters." She said she nonetheless was in favor of applying for the grant, despite that potential fallout.

"Let's not be surprised if, two years from now, we end up having to lay people off," she said.

## New parking standards

During the meeting, commissioners also approved the first reading of an amendment that would update the city's standards for off-street parking.

The city's current parking standards were fine when Largo was more of a suburban town at the turn of the century, 13 years ago, said Kelley Klepper of Kimley-Horn and Associates, the city's consultant for the project. But the city requires more of an urban outlook today, one that will promote the efficient use of land, eliminate excess parking and be more friendly to pedestrians and multimodal travel infrastructure – all objectives of the amendment to the Largo Comprehensive Development Code.

The updated code also simplifies the standards for site design. Developers will have to make sure that available parking for new projects falls within a range, determined by a general category of use for the property. Multi-family residences, for example, would have to provide at least one parking space per dwelling unit, but not more than 2.5 spaces per dwelling unit.

Any deviation from the established ranges could be submitted for city staff review. Since projects that fall within the more flexible ranges

wouldn't require additional approval, the new standards are projected to cut down on the workload for city staff.

## Historic preservation

Largo staff will begin preparing an ordinance that would delay the demolition of structures over a certain age, potentially saving historic or architecturally significant buildings.

Currently, the city has no protections for such buildings. City commissioners unanimously agreed to staff's plan to create such a protection, after ensuring that the measure wouldn't create extra burdens on property owners wanting to make renovations or repairs.

After drafting a demolition review ordinance, the city would apply for a Small Matching Grant from Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources in 2014 to help fund a professional historic site survey of properties within the city.

The finalized ordinance, to be approved by the commission, would reference all historically significant buildings identified in the survey.

## In other business on Aug. 20, commissioners:

- approved the first reading for a property tax exemption incentive program for new or expanding businesses that create high-wage jobs, a measure that has been in the works since Largo voters approved a referendum allowing the program in November 2012.
- gave City Manager Mac Craig positive feedback in his annual review.
- approved the interlocal agreement for the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, which gives the city of Largo representation on the cooperative's board for the first time.
- authorized a three-year lease of 48 golf carts and two utility vehicles for the Largo Golf Course at the annual cost of \$44,064.

## BUDGET, from page 1A

have to cut an additional \$825,000 from the budget, and the general fund reserve balance would decrease to 9 percent, far below the city's target for it.

Initially, city administration suggested a 2 percent tax increase for city employees, but that proposal was increased during the work session.

"Many of the competing employers around here are granting (pay) increases of 2 and 3 percent," explained Assistant City Manager Harry Schubert. "Because of the good fortune of having no increase of premium for the health insurance and some other things that have gone on with the budget, we think it's responsible at this time to ask for a 2.5 percent for all of our employees."

The 2.5 percent increase to which the commission tentatively agreed will be offered in negotiations with the city's three unions.

The city also will be able to budget money for one of three police officers positions currently unfunded and will add an administrative position with the Information Technology department.

The IT department has been overwhelmed, currently behind 18 to 20 months in backlogged projects, said its director, Harold Schomaker.

"We're at the point where we can't efficiently support that infrastructure," he said, emphasizing the need for the commission to grant the additional position. "If not,

we may have to ask to postpone some of these projects till next year."

The commissioners disagreed on one point – whether the 2.5 percent pay raise would extend to their own salaries. Commissioner Michael Smith suggested that the elected officials forgo the increase in the coming year, as a way of showing solidarity with city employees.

"I totally disagree," Mayor Pat Gerard said. "Before they stopped getting raises, we stopped taking raises, so I think we've shown our solidarity with the employees. We're showing it this year, by trying to squeeze out another 0.5 percent (pay raise). We serve the city as well as anyone does."

Largo commissioners made \$13,126 this year. A vote will have to be taken during the public hearing to resolve the issue. Also within the commissioners' own budget is \$10,000 set aside to fund nonprofit organizations of their choice. Last year, the fund went to the Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board. This year, some of their requested money can be met within the city's housing program, with only \$6,000 needed from the commissioners' fund, leaving an extra \$4,000 to dole out.

Office of management and budget administrator Amy Davis also presented the city's goals for the future, which include increasing the reserve balance to 15 percent of the general fund and increasing the staff of the public safety and IT departments.

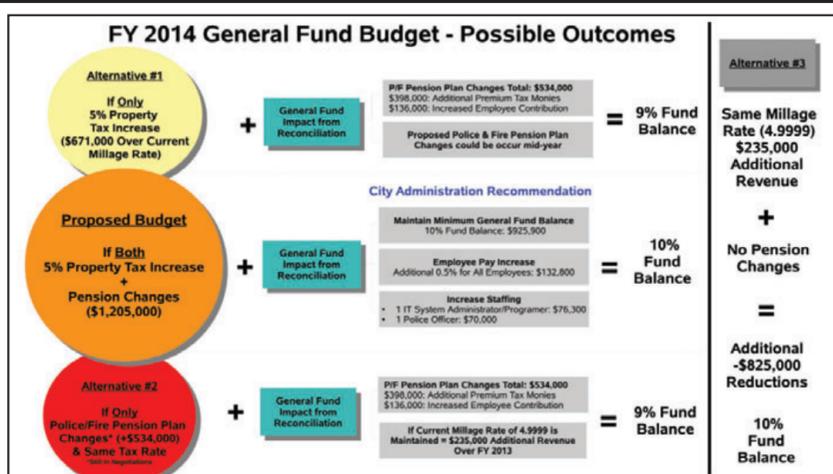


Chart courtesy of the CITY OF LARGO

This chart compares city administration's proposed budget, which includes a revision to the pension fund and a 5 percent increase in the property tax rate, and its effect on the city reserve fund, compared to three other alternatives. If the City Commission decides to maintain the current tax rate and there are no changes to the pension, the city will have to cut an additional \$825,000 from the budget, as outlined in "Alternative #3."

## INVESTIGATION, from page 1A

pronounced dead."

The medical examiner found no sign of trauma, Gualtieri said. The cause of death was endocardial fibrosis with a contributory condition of tonsillitis. Endocardial fibrosis is marked by a thickening of the lining of the heart chambers and is an uncommon cause of heart failure in infants and children.

## Subsequent investigation

After Elizabeth's death, Gualtieri ordered a review of procedures and an investigation by Internal Affairs, which interviewed three Child Protection Investigations employees: Supervisor Sarah Pierce, Investigator Brett Edwards and Wilson.

The investigation concluded that none of the three was personally responsible for Elizabeth not receiving her health screening within 72 hours.

"It was a problem with procedure, it's a system problem, not any one individual's fault," Gualtieri said.

He made it clear that Wilson lost her job not because of the failure of the child to receive the health screening but because she lied.

"It was not because of what she did or did not do with the 72-hour health screening," he said. "During the investigation Pam Wilson lied and I'm not going to tolerate people lying to our Internal Affairs investigators or lying period as an employee of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and especially to these subsequent matters."

"This is not the first time. In fact it is the second time in the course of her 30-year career here at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office that Pam Wilson has had a substantiated complaint of being untruthful."

Wilson began working for PCSO July 25, 1983. The prior complaint involved being untruthful about the unauthorized use of an agency issued vehicle that was stopped by law enforcement in Tampa.

In the case of Elizabeth Holder, Wilson gave a variety of substantiated and unsubstantiated reasons why she didn't do her job properly, including having

a migraine headache, working a partial shift, working overtime, having another case, not knowing procedure and others.

The state requires documentation about children who are removed from the home to be entered into a state-run computer system within 24 hours.

"She didn't do it and during the investigation lied several times about why she did not do it," Gualtieri said. "I'm not going to tolerate it. Pam was terminated because of untruthfulness, not because she didn't set an appointment (for the health screening)."

## Problems with the system

Gualtieri said the review of procedures and protocols showed a variety of problems.

"Unfortunately this is not the first time we had not ensured that the 72-hour health screening was completed," he said. "In fact, the investigation revealed this happened many times."

In 2012, PCSO investigated more than 11,000 cases of abandonment, abuse and neglect allegations. Gualtieri said every year for the past several years, investigators had looked into more than 11,000 allegations.

"The numbers are up this year and we're on track to investigate between 14,000 and 15,000 allegations of abuse, abandonment and neglect," he said.

Of the 11,000 cases in 2012, 884 resulted in children being removed from the home. In 238 cases, it was not possible to tell if the health screening was done or not. The sheriff explained that the Family Support System is the state's computer system that Child Protection employees are required to use to document their actions.

"There's no field to enter the data to indicate whether the screening was done or not done," he said.

Employees used the notes section, which is not searchable by the computer.

"We had to manually search and by hand review every one of the 884 cases in 2012 to review these cases, and digging into them we were unable to tell whether they (health screenings) were done or not," Gualtieri said. "They might have been done. They

might have been timely, or they might not have been timely or it might not have been done at all. I can't tell you."

He said of the 664 cases, it was confirmed that the screenings complied with law 279 times or in 43 percent of cases, another 198 were not done in a timely basis and 169 were not required to have a screening, for reasons including becoming a part of the foster care system at birth or while in the hospital. Of the 477 screenings that were done, 58 percent were one within 72 hours and 41 percent were not.

A number of reasons and factors contributed to the problem, he said. One cause is the ambiguity of the language in the contract between PCSO and Eckerd that says the health screening must be initiated within 72 hours, not completed. Eckerd's agreement with the state says Eckerd must do the screenings.

"Let me make it clear, this is not Eckerd's responsibility. Under the law, it says it has to be done but it does not say who has to do it," Gualtieri said.

He said because PCSO contracts with Eckerd for services it is ultimately the sheriff's responsibility.

"At the end of the day, it falls on us period. It doesn't fall on anyone else," he said.

Another problem was getting immediate access to health care providers for appointments. He said the employee who made an appointment for Elizabeth with a health care provider who had seen the child in the past was a good thing. A preference within the system is for the kids to be evaluated by someone who has familiarity with the kid, he said. But the delay in the appointment past 72 hours did not comply with the law.

"So when you start putting it all together, it is a series of things that contributed to it (the health screening not being done)," he said.

## Fixes to the system

Child Protection Investigations employees now have purchasing cards to use to pay for health screenings. The children can be taken to a walk in clinic, emergency room or any other health care

## COACH, from page 1A

Gottman learned to pinpoint behaviors that were consistent in relationships that eventually ended in divorce, to the point where he could predict the couple's fate with a high degree of accuracy.

"And that caught my attention," Hammann said.

Gottman postulates that strong predictors of divorce include the existence of contempt and criticism of a partner's personality. How a couple handled conflict and differences determined their long-term fate. Happy couples were gentle with each other by framing a request for change in a positive light instead of harsh words. They also took responsibility rather than acting defensively.

Using this perspective, Hammann now sees himself as what he calls "a relating coach," instead of a therapist or a counselor.

"I'm not just teaching communication skills. I'm not just helping people deal with the emotional burdens of their past," he said. "I think a lot of reasons couples are unhappy is not because of some longstanding pain from their relationship with their mother or their father, but because they don't have the habits of doing the things that will work."

Now, Hammann helps develop positive habits, just like a coach helping somebody learn to swim. His practice, based out of his home in Largo, is a departure from how he described his methods in the 1960s, when he was a "hippie therapist."

"I figured, if you get all of the harshness and conflict out of the relationship, then health will naturally emerge," he said. "I thought my job was to be a super problem solver. People would bring me their problems, and I would solve them and then they would go off and be happy."

But building a relationship means developing the capacity to be more effective together, he said. Graceful ways to handle conflict are not difficult to understand; they're just not patterns of behaviors that most people are used to.

"Most don't have models for that unless we happen to be children of a really happy marriage, where people invented it on their own," Hammann said.

Just as important as dealing with conflict is actively building friendship and doing things that build a positive atmosphere, he said. That involves asking open-ended questions that help people "map their partners' internal world" and expressing fondness and appreciation of each other.

"When Kari started saying 'thank you' for taking out the garbage, it felt really good. And when I would thank her for cooking a really good

dinner or for something she was doing in her job, that felt good to her," Hammann said. "It's not rocket science, but it makes a huge difference."

The difference comes out in little ways that leave a huge impression. Hammann reflected on a specific moment in which his wife stopped him as he was rushing out the door, just to say "I love you."

"The level of warmth and love her voice and in her eyes, that's new," he said. "That would not have happened three years ago."

Underneath the surface of many conflicts and misunderstandings is the sentiment that the other partner must not care on some level, Hammann said. However, most people don't express such vulnerability and if they do, their partner usually only knows how to respond with a defensive, "Of course I do!"

"Partners don't think of saying, 'What is it that gave you that impression? Because of course I do (care), and I want you to know it. In what language could I express that to you?' That's not the way people talk," Hammann said. "But it's one of the things that I help people learn how to do."

Hammann said he isn't specially trained to deal with bigger problems that might be plaguing a couple, anything from addictions to serious past abuse. If deep emotional pain comes up, it can be dealt with, but it's not the focus.

In fact, for most couples, developing a happy, satisfying relationship is not as hard as the culture makes it seem, Hammann said.

"When you get married, what you're doing is choosing the set of perpetual problems that you'll be living with for the next 10, 20, 30 years," he said.

Happy couples understand that and are much more relaxed about tackling those issues by looking for ways to operate together, despite their differences, he said. They develop little ways to connect and keep at it, like tending a garden.

"A lot of what the happy couples do, a lot, are the things that almost all couples do when they're dating. You know you don't know the person, so you're interested," he said. "After people have been married for a year, two years, three years, they stop asking questions like that because they think they know each other."

One of Hammann's own clients summed it up nicely, he said. The woman and her husband live in Pass-A-Grille and often make an effort to watch the sunset. Thinking you know your partner after many years is like concluding that since you've seen sunsets before and know for a fact that the sun descends beyond the horizon every day, that there's no reason to watch them anymore. But you couldn't be more wrong, she said.



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Kari and Kalen Hammann practice daily habits designed to foster a closer relationship, "like tending a garden," Kalen said.

"If you really watch, if you're really there, the sunset is different every single day. If you're really present, your partner is different every single day," Hammann said. "It's tremendously satisfying for both people if you keep exploring that, if you keep discovering each other."

For more about John Gottman and the Gottman Institute, visit [www.gottman.com](http://www.gottman.com). Hammann, trained and certified in Gottman Method Therapy, hosts periodic local workshops as well as one-on-one couple counseling. Call him at 733-2178.

# Officer struck by hit-and-run suspect's vehicle

CLEARWATER – A Clearwater police officer was injured on Aug. 16 when a woman drove her car at the officer during a traffic stop, according to Clearwater police.

Officer Darcy Hunt was being treated for non-life-threatening injuries at Morton Plant Hospital after the incident. She was later released from the hospital after being treated.

The incident began at 12:51 p.m. at Lakeview Road and Highland Avenue when a hit-and-run crash occurred and was reported to the Largo Police Department. A driver called police and stayed on the phone as he was following the suspect vehicle, which was identified as a 2003 silver Saturn Vue, according to Clearwater police.

The vehicle was then involved in a second hit-and-run crash in the Chevron parking lot at 1285 S. Highland Ave. in Clearwater, the report said. Officer Hunt and Cpl. Steve Squillante spotted the vehicle on Court Street and Hillcrest Avenue and initiated a traffic stop in the parking lot of 1408 Court St. According to the report, the suspect stopped in the lot but then quickly put the vehicle in reverse, aimed her car at the two officers and accelerated, hitting Hunt in the leg. Hunt and Squillante feared for their lives and fired upon the vehicle, which then fled north on Hillcrest.

The suspect drove her car over a short wall, blowing out all four tires in the process and continued to drive north on Hillcrest. When the car became disabled, she jumped out of the car and tried to run but was soon apprehended, just a few blocks from where the officer was struck, the police report said.



Nicole Syphers is the suspect in a hit-and-run incident that included driving over a Clearwater police officer.



Photo courtesy of the CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT. The suspect in two hit-and-run crashes and who drove at police officers drove on four blown-out tires before she was apprehended a few blocks away from the officers.

Nicole Syphers, 22, of Clearwater was charged with aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer, aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, leaving the scene of an accident with property damage, reckless driving, fleeing and eluding, and driving while license is suspended or revoked.

Officer Hunt has been with the Clearwater Police Department since July 2005 and Cpl. Squillante has been with the department since February 1995. Both were placed on routine paid administrative leave, pending a review of the incident.

Police note that the injuries to the suspect's face as appears in her mug shot picture are due to a recent domestic violence incident that occurred prior to events on Aug. 16.

# Man jailed for sexual activity with minor

LARGO – Pinellas County Sheriff's detectives arrested a Largo man Aug. 14 and charged him with lewd and lascivious battery on a 14-year-old female after detectives said he engaged her in sexual activity multiple times over a period of nearly a year.

According to a sheriff's report, the crime occurred at a private residence in unincorporated Largo from about Feb. 23, 2012 to Jan. 26.

According to detectives, the victim disclosed to an adult that the suspect had engaged her in sexual activity. The adult in turn reported it to the Sheriff's Office on June 5, and the crimes against children unit began its investigation.

The suspect and the victim became acquainted through social media, specifically Facebook. Through their investigation, detectives determined that Arnulfo Elias, 21, engaged the victim in sexual activity 20 to 30 times.

Elias was interviewed at the Sheriff's Administration Building on the evening of Aug. 14. He reportedly admitted to the crime. Elias was transported to the Pinellas County Jail. Bond was set at \$10,000. He is also being held for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.



Arnulfo Elias

# PCSO investigating fatality crash in Dunedin

DUNEDIN – Pinellas County Sheriff's deputies assigned to the Major Accident Investigation Team are investigating a fatal crash involving a Jeep Cherokee and a Honda scooter.

The crash occurred on State Road 580 near Belcher Road in Dunedin at about 10:38 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 18. According to deputies,

See CRASH, page 9A

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### Chamber Annual Meeting on Tap

The Chamber's 61st Annual Meeting and Awards Breakfast will be held on Friday, Sept. 20, at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort. It begins with registration and a coffee reception at 7:30 a.m. followed by breakfast and the program from 8 to 9:30 a.m.

The event will feature a review of the Chamber's ongoing regionalization and growth efforts and announcement of its "Member Value Proposition" plans for the upcoming year. Award presentations will include the organization's prestigious Citizen of the Year, Small Business Leader, Chamber Member of the Year and Silver Hammer for new construction projects. It also will include a salute to outgoing Chamber directors and recognition of its new leadership.

Regions Bank and Diagnostic Clinic are presenting sponsors. Cost of the meeting is \$40 a person with tables of eight available for \$320. Advance registration and payment is required by calling the Chamber at 584-2321.



From left, Chamber members Jon Skilton of Radical Resurface Restoration, Adeib Iqniyes of AIO Wireless, Kris Hartland of PEACE Wealth Management, David Walker of Schiller University, Ava Lawrence of Dunkin Donuts - Missouri Avenue, Marilyn Browne of WorkNet Pinellas, Chamber Membership Director Kathy Pabst Robshaw and Dana Scott of Peacock's Design & Consign enjoy networking at a recent Chamber President's Luncheon at The Palms of Largo.



Happy 10th Anniversary to Gulf Coast Consulting! Company owners Robert Pergolizzi and Sean Cashen take part in a Chamber ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate their milestone. www.gulfcoastconsultinginc.com.



From left, Sean Mullaney of Roosterfish Grill, Jennifer Reynolds of One Hour Air and Heat, Chamber Chairman Debra Jones of Regions Bank, and Fred H. Hurley of Roosterfish Grill enjoy the Chamber's July B2B Happy Hour event at Roosterfish Grill, 776 Missouri Avenue, Largo.

### 10th Annual Chamber Cup Golf Tourney

Who will take home the Chamber Cup this year?

The outcome will be decided at the 10th Annual Chamber Cup Classic Golf Tournament presented by Clearwater Toyota on Friday, Oct. 18. It takes place, rain or shine, at The Bayou Club, 979 Bayou Club Blvd, Largo. Registration is at 10:30 a.m. with lunch at 11 a.m. and a noon shotgun start.

Cost is \$110 a golfer or \$400 a foursome until August 31 and \$125 a golfer and \$500 a foursome September 1 until sellout. A variety of sponsorship packages are also available for greater business recognition.

To register individually or as a team, or to learn more about the many event sponsorship opportunities available, contact the Chamber at 727-584-2321 or email tom@CentralChamber.biz

### Chamber Ambassador of the Month

Congratulations to Chamber Ambassador of the Month Scott Lake of R.S. Williams & Associates, a full service financial planning firm specializing in investment and retirement income planning. Scott applies a risk management focus while working toward meeting his clients' long-term goals.



### Chamber Honors People Who Inspire

The Chamber recently honored several individuals for making a difference in people's lives with its 5th Annual Inspire Awards ceremony. It was presented by the organization's Women in Business Council and the Greater Largo Library Foundation.

This year's Inspire recipients are George Garcia of YMCA of the Suncoast, Danny Lehan of Village Inn on Walsingham, Jennifer Reynolds of One Hour Air & Heating, Gail Friedman-Barrett of New Life Solutions and Susan Rolston of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

**Jennifer Reynolds**, Sales Manager at Largo's One Hour Air Conditioning & Heating, was presented the honor for her "Jenergy" and the ease and grace in which she manages her family, work and the many organizations she represents.

**George Garcia**, an employee of the YMCA for 20 years and executive director of the YMCA of Suncoast High

Point Branch since 2005, advocates for low-income minority families' needs, wants and wishes. In his words, "I have seen the power of inclusion and how faith can work." He is also certified facilitator of a new YMCA-USA program called Salsa, Sabor Y Salud - a healthy lifestyle program catered to the needs of Hispanic and Latino families. The program is designed to raise awareness of the importance of good nutrition and increased levels of physical activity, along with encouraging a healthy lifestyle for the entire family.

**Susan Rolston** has spent her career adding potential to the lives of children, first in the Pinellas County School District and now as the chief executive officer of Big Brothers Big Sisters serving Pinellas, Citrus and Hernando Counties. Her work with mentoring programs has seen the number of children being served increase from 400 in 2001 to more than 1,400 today. She has also mastered

the art of the nonprofit sector, balancing the demands of multiple funders and upgrading archaic systems while building the competencies of staff to increase the impact of the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring movement.

**Gail Friedman-Barrett** left a long, successful career in the corporate world in 1995 to join New Life Solutions as director of Special Events and to build the nonprofit's fundraising efforts. New Life's two major annual events Walk for Life and Annual Gala and Auction have raised \$10.2 million under Gail's leadership. She also donates her time and travels around the world supporting humanitarian causes. She served as a volunteer in the Israeli Defense Force and led Women's Support Groups in Eastern Europe. And she travels with her husband Al's organization, "Threads of Hope," which provides sewing training and equipment to widows and orphans of the Maasi tribe in Kenya.

**Danny Lehan**, owner of the Village Inn on Walsingham Road in Largo, began his career as a bus boy there. During the recession, he re-opened the restaurant, which had been closed for a few years. There was a line of people wanting to work for him, a testament to his reputation and ability to manage people. His imagination and creativity are evident in the support he provides several local organizations. He has served on advisory boards for the city, been president of Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation, participates in Rotary Club fundraising and has donated innumerable pies and gift cards for just about any worthwhile cause.

Inspire Award sponsors included Largo Medical Center, DEX Imaging, PEACE Wealth Management, Dr. K's Med Spa Wellness and Rejuvenation and Creative Sign Designs. Tammy Robicenti of Largo Medical Center was emcee of the event held at the Largo Public Library.



Chamber Directors and Ambassadors celebrate a ribbon-cutting for new business and new Chamber member Radical Surface Restoration. www.radicalsrfacerestoration.com

### Finley's Irish Pub to host B2B Happy Hour

The Chamber will hold a B2B Happy Hour on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Finley's Irish Pub & Eatery, 13477 S. Belcher Road, Largo.

The B2B Happy Hour is an informal event allowing Chamber members and guests to exchange business cards and become ac-

quainted. Attendees who provide a door prize are offered a 60 second inferocommercial to spotlight their business.

Cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for guests. Advance registration is strongly recommended. To register, call the Chamber at 584-2321 or email events@CentralChamber.biz.



Congratulations to this year's Inspire Award Winners, from left, George Garcia of YMCA of the Suncoast, Danny Lehan of Village Inn on Walsingham, Jennifer Reynolds of One Hour Air & Heating, Gail Friedman-Barrett of New Life Solutions and Susan Rolston of Big Brothers Big Sisters. The winners are pictured with those who nominated them for the award.

### Leads Network Teams Deliver!

Develop new business leads! Join more than 75 business leaders already engaged in one or more of the four Chamber Leads Network Groups. Members meet twice a month to share business leads and build business contacts. The success of the program is participation so regular meeting attendance is required.

Participants must be Chamber members, provide an annual enrollment fee and cover the cost of meals. Call the Chamber at 584-2321 for an application and to learn if your business is eligible to become a team player.

### Free SCORE Business Counseling

The Chamber hosts business counseling services provided by SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) at its offices by appointment every first and third Thursday monthly. SCORE counselors represent working and retired business executives who volunteer their life-time experience providing assistance for people looking to start a business and for owners/managers of existing businesses. There is no cost involved. Counseling appointments can be made only by calling 584-2321.



Hair Cuttery at Largo Mall celebrates its grand opening with a Chamber ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the occasion.

### Supporting Business & Community

We salute the following businesses and organizations that joined or renewed their association with the Chamber during the past month. For a complete listing of Preferred Chamber Businesses, stop by the office for a free copy of the 2013 Central Pinellas Business & Community Go-To Guide or visit the Chamber website at www.CentralChamber.biz.

- Achieving Performance Success
- Aio Wireless, Area Code Wireless LLC
- Angelo's Recycled Materials
- APG Electric, Inc.
- Bayou/Bardmoor LLC
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- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Business & Family Insurers, Inc.
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- Chris' Carpet Service & Water Restoration
- Christian International School of Healthcare Professions
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- The Columns At Allen's Creek
- Fast Signs
- FL State Senator Jack Latvala
- Grade Power Learning
- Holiday Inn Harbourside
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- Life Support Systems, Inc
- New Life Solutions
- One Resource Center, LLC
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- Pinecrest Place Retirement Community
- PTEC
- PrimeNet Direct Marketing Solutions
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# Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce names Inspire Award winners

LARGO – The Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce shined the spotlight on five individuals at its fifth annual Inspire Awards Luncheon, held Aug. 13 at Largo Public Library.

Many nominations were submitted in honor of those who make a difference in the region. Of these nominations, five were selected for this year's awards.

This year's Inspire Award winners are as follows:

- Jennifer Reynolds, marketing manager of One Hour Heating & Air Conditioning, was nominated by Sue DeRenzo, a dispatcher for the company. Her nomination letter stated, "Jennifer's zest for life inspires everyone around her."

- George Garcia, executive director of the YMCA of the Suncoast's High Point branch, was nominated by Sherri Joyer of the organization. Joyer wrote, "George's advocacy for those in need has renewed the lives of many in our region."

- Susan Rolston, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters serving Pinellas County, was nominated by Melissa

Santell, marketing and communications coordinator of the nonprofit. Santell wrote, "Susan's lifelong support of the young is creating a brighter future."

- Gail Friedman-Barrett of New Life Solutions, was nominated by Sol Pitchon and Mary Molina, both from the ministry. Her nomination letter stated, "Gail's faith and philanthropic service has benefited the global community."

- Danny Lehan, franchise owner of the Village Inn on Walsingham Road, was nominated by Sue Osborne, director of business development at Pinecrest Place retirement community. The nomination letter stated, "Danny's business vision and community support has been a driving force to success."

Chamber's Women In Business Council presented the fifth annual Inspire Awards, sponsored by PEACE Wealth Management, Dr. K's Med Spa Wellness and Rejuvenation, Creative Sign Designs, DEX Imaging, Largo Medical Center and Greater Largo Library Foundation. Florist Fire provided the arrangements.



Photo courtesy of the CENTRAL PINELLAS CHAMBER

The Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business Council named five winners of the Inspire Award Aug. 13, selected from several nominations. Pictured, from left, are Sherri Joyer of YMCA of the Suncoast, who nominated George Garcia, executive director of the High Point branch; Sue Osborne of Pinecrest Place retirement community, who nominated Danny Lehan franchise owner of the Village Inn on Walsingham Road; Jennifer Reynolds, marketing manager of One Hour Air Condition and Heat, who was nominated by Sue DeRenzo of the company; Gail Friedman-Barrett, director of special events for New Life Solutions, who was nominated by Sol Pitchon and Mary Molina, and Melissa Santell, who nominated Susan Rolston, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County.

## Bay Area Young Professionals to host forum Aug. 27

CLEARWATER – The Bay Area Young Professionals will host the Excellence in Leadership Forum Tuesday, Aug. 27, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., in the Margaret Heye Great Room at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road.

All young professionals ages 21 to 40 from the Tampa Bay area are invited to attend. The forum will offer a chance to explore new business opportunities and step outside the box. Attendees may expand

their connections and meet some of the area's finest not-for-profit organizations and local businesses.

The forum will feature keynote speaker Ed Droste, co-founder of Hooters. Brooke Bennett, three-time Olympic Gold Medalist and sports broadcaster, will serve as master of ceremonies.

There is no admission charge for those who pre-register. To register, visit [www.bayareayps.com/leadership](http://www.bayareayps.com/leadership). Cost is \$5 at the door.

## Proino opens



A recent ribbon-cutting ceremony marks the opening of Proino Breakfast Club at 201 West Bay Drive in downtown Largo.

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# County commission divided on sale of land to Pasco County

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County has many good traits that appeal to residents and visitors alike, but it does not have a plentiful source of drinking water. It never has.

Compared to more inland areas of the state, the small coastal peninsula wedged between the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay has limitations on quantity and quality of its drinking water supply. Due to its geography, the county is dependent on outside sources.

In 1970, well fields located in Hillsborough and Pasco produced 46.6 percent of Pinellas' drinking water and by 1977, the dependency on outside sources had grown to 52.6 percent.

So-called "water wars" were common between Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties and even private landowners. Unregulated pumping of groundwater from the Florida Aquifer resulted in the death of cypress trees, loss of wetlands, ponds, lakes and other water bodies dependent on ground water, as local governments struggled to provide adequate supplies of drinking water to support the region's fast-growing population.

To help satisfy Pinellas County's needs, in 1975, the Utilities Department purchased Crossbar Ranch, about 8,000 acres of land in central Pasco County located east of U.S. 41 and north of State Road 52. Seventeen active well-head sites are located on 6.41 acres of the property. The wells began producing in 1980.

Al-Bar Ranch and its 4,100 acres adjoining Crossbar were added to Utilities' land portfolio in

1990. The combined 12,400 acres of land is valued not only for its water wells, but it also generated \$6.2 million from sale of pine straw and pine timber over the past 10 years. The land is a preserve for a variety of endangered species.

Pinellas County Commissioners discussed the possibility of selling the ranches to Pasco County to add to its environmental land holdings during an Aug. 13 work session. Commissioners Janet Long, Norm Roche and Commission Vice-chair Karen Seel are opposed to selling the land at this time. Commission Chair Ken Welch spoke in favor of the sale as did Commissioner Susan Latvala, longtime proponent of selling the land to Pasco. Commissioner John Morroni was absent.

Before the discussion, County Administrator Bob LaSala talked about what went on between Pinellas and Pasco counties and the state in 2008. Pinellas County had been poised to sell the property to Florida Forever to help fulfill the state-run program's goals of preserving the sites rare species, protecting, restoring and maintaining the quality of land and water in the state, and increasing the acreage of the groundwater-recharge area.

"The Crossbar/Al-Bar Ranch has a very high value as a water-recharge area," according to a 2008 report from Forever Florida.

The ranches were added to Florida Forever's acquisition list, but the recession and lack of funds put an end to the sale. According to media reports in 2008, Pinellas County wanted to sell the land to pay for a new Utilities plant.

The county reasoned that the



Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS  
This education center built by Pinellas County at a cost of \$1.3 million opened Dec. 9, 1993 at Cross Bar Ranch. Currently it is used primarily by Pasco County schoolchildren.

need for the land and its water resources were no longer needed thanks to Tampa Bay Water, a nonprofit utility that now supplies wholesale drinking water to Hillsborough County, Pasco County, Pinellas County, New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa.

Pinellas County sold the wells and its water rights on the ranches in the mid-1990s as part of the deal that created Tampa Bay Water, which was established in 1998.

Latvala is confident that Tampa Bay Water will supply Pinellas County's future water needs. She prefers spending the county's available funds on land preserves within Pinellas County - not on land in another county.

According to a 2012 audit by the Clerk of the Courts Inspector General, over the 12-years prior, the ranches had a net loss of more than \$1.9 million. The county also spent more than \$1.3

million to build an educational center, which Latvala said is primarily used by Pasco County schoolchildren, and \$114,487 for two buses, which officials had planned to use for "safari" tours of the property.

Pinellas County paid \$11 million for the ranches. About half the land is used for conservation and preservation of endangered wildlife. The other half contains the well fields, as well as land set aside for timber and pine straw production and cattle operations and other activities. The four homes on the property are used by private contractors who provide land management and security services.

Timber harvesting began in 2011 and was expected to bring in about \$3.1 million over 10 years of time. Proceeds go to the property owner - Pinellas County Utilities. Any revenue after expenses from the pine straw operations also goes to Utilities. Some

officials believe the ranches can pay their expenses now that timber harvesting has begun.

David Scott, executive director of the Department of Environment and Infrastructure, said last year. Utilities made \$343,000 profit on pine timber alone. Seel said although revenue has been breakeven or no profit in the past, the potential for profit exists for at least the next seven years.

In 2012, Pasco County valued the land at \$58 million. In 2008, media reports show that the land was assessed at \$176 million.

Seel doesn't believe selling county property while the market is still depressed is the right thing to do. Seel voted against the sale of other county-owned property in recent years. She would like to wait until closer to 2017 to decide the fate of Cross Bar and Al-Bar. In 2017, a 35-year contract with the property manager expires.

Commissioner Norm Roche also is opposed to selling the land. He doesn't think it is a wise idea to count on Tampa Bay Water to take care of Pinellas County's needs forever. He believes it would be smarter to hang on to the land just in case.

"The property is our lifeline. It's our water," he said. "It's prudent for our future - 30 years from now - to preserve our option for future generations."

LaSala reminded Roche that Pinellas County no longer owns the wells or water rights on the property. He did admit that if something happened and Tampa Bay Water was dissolved, Pinellas County "in all likelihood" would have first claim to the wells.

"Thirty years from now that property could be very, very valuable," Seel said.

She suggested looking at an agreement with Pasco County to give first right of refusal to buy the land at market rate should Pinellas ever consider selling.

"That should ease their concern of what we would do with it, if Tampa Bay Water ever went away, to protect our interests," she said.

Latvala argued that the state was moving toward creation of regional water supplies, moving away from pumping of ground water in favor of alternative water supplies.

"There is no justification for keeping the land," she said.

She said Pinellas County's ownership of the ranches is a "burden under their saddle," and the hard feelings between the two counties since the water wars had "bothered her" the whole time she's been in office.

"We've spent a lot of money, making a pristine habitat, a scrub jay habitat," Latvala said. "We've done a remarkable job. But our citizens have no use for it. It's too far away. It doesn't serve a purpose for our citizens."

Commissioner Janet Long wasn't keen on selling the property. She wanted to know why more people from Pinellas didn't visit the land. She asked why Pinellas County schoolchildren didn't use it the same as Pasco County's did.

"Land is one thing in the world we don't have anymore," Long said.

She said that due to economic conditions, it did not make good financial sense to sell the land. She wants to look for ways to promote its use.

"A lot of people today don't know much about it," she said. "It would be a mistake to sell it."

Richard Gehring, Pasco County's Planning and Growth Management administrator, explained Pasco's reasons for wanting to buy the land.

"It is our intent to add it to the framework of our land management," he said.

Money is available from the Penny for Pasco funds, which start in 2015.

He said owning the ranches would allow Pasco to form "critical linkages for wildlife to move through the system."

"We want it to stay rural and agricultural," he said, adding that plans involved a trail system and camping.

Pasco County is aiming for a 50-50 mix of urban and preservation for 500,000 acres. He said

See LAND, page 9A

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### Uplifting event



Photo by WAYNE CATHEL

A Largo Fire Department's aerial ladder truck douses kids with water at Gracie's Big Splash VII Aug. 16 at the Dimmett Community Center. The annual event helps raise money for the Gracie G. Purdy Foundation to benefit families whose children are diagnosed with terminal or catastrophic illnesses.

### LAND, from page 8A

the county was now trying to assemble the land it needed to reach that goal.

Commissioner Charlie Justice asked to see a better analysis of costs and revenue potential. He requested information on how money from sale of the land could be spent, since the property owner is Utilities not Pinellas County government.

"Pasco's goal is laudable. If the situation was reversed, we would probably seek something similar," he said.

Welch also pointed out the home rule issue.

"If another county owned a chunk of Pinellas, we would be trying to get it," he said, agreeing with others that now might not be the right time to sell.

"But I'm open to continue the discussion," he said.

Latvala said Tampa Bay Water paid \$140 million for the water rights on the property.

"The return on our investment is done," she said.

Pasco County wants to protect the land from future development and believes owning the property is the only way to stop a future Pinellas County Commission that "just sees dollar signs" from developing it or selling the land to a developer, she said.

"The No. 1 issue in the future

globally is going to be water," Seel said. "That's why we need to keep this land in an abundance of caution."

Seel pointed out that \$80 million of the amount had gone to put in new water pipelines to accommodate the type of disinfectant Tampa Bay Water uses. She said nothing prevented Pinellas from collaborating with Pasco to protect home rule using an inter-local agreement or contract.

Roche agreed that an agreement giving Pasco first rights to buy the land if Pinellas decided to sell it in the future was a good compromise. He said perhaps Pasco could partner with Pinellas when the land management contracts come up for bid in 2017.

"I'm not opposed to having a conversation with the Pasco County Commission," Long said.

Long suggested a field trip to visit Cross Bar and Al-Bar ranches, as well as all the preserves located in Pinellas. She said if Latvala was correct and budget cuts were doing harm to the county's preserves, perhaps budget adjustments were needed.

"Globally water is becoming our most precious resource," Long said.

"Water is important," Latvala said. "Tampa Bay Water solved that. We don't have to worry about our future."

### CRASH, from page 5A

at the time of the crash, Rashied Jones, 39, was driving a Jeep Cherokee east in the center lane of SR 580 approaching Belcher Road. Gordon Haboush, 55, of Dunedin was driving a Honda scooter northbound on Belcher Road approaching SR 580. Haboush continued driving between stopped vehicles as he approached the intersection. He then traveled between the curb-through lane and right-turn-only lane, pulling into the path of the Jeep.

The Jeep struck the scooter and the driver of the scooter was trapped under the Jeep. Haboush was pronounced dead at the scene. He was not wearing a helmet. Jones was not injured.

SR 580 was closed to eastbound traffic for about four hours during the investigation.

### Three injured in crash

PALM HARBOR - An 82-year-old man was ticketed

for an improper left turn after an injury crash in Palm Harbor about 4:22 p.m. Aug. 18 on County Road 1 at Wexford Drive in Palm Harbor.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, at the time of the incident, Donald William Hutwelker of Palm Harbor and passenger, Velma Louise McShane, 85, of Palm Harbor were traveling in a 2004 Chevy Venture south on CR-1. Anthony John Riolo, 22, of Palm Harbor was traveling north on CR-1 on a 2006 Suzuki motorcycle.

Hutwelker turned left on Wexford Drive and traveled into the path of the motorcycle, causing the motorcycle to collide with the passenger side of the Chevy. Riolo was thrown from his motorcycle and ended up trapped inside the Chevy until he was removed by emergency crews.

All three suffered critical injuries. Hutwelker and McShane were taken to St. Joseph's Hospital and Riolo was transported to Bayfront Medical Center.

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# No place in high school sports for any kind of PEDs

In recent weeks, events in Major League Baseball, the NFL and elsewhere have given us a vivid reminder that performance-enhancing drugs are pervasive in the sports world. Quite simply, they are a problem that must be dealt with.



**As I See It**  
Roger Dearing

The Florida High School Athletic Association has recognized this problem for some time, and has policies that prohibit the use of performance-enhancing drugs. But if anyone else wondered if concern is really necessary, their doubts should have been erased with news accounts indicating that the Biogenesis scandal wasn't limited to just professional and collegiate athletes. South Florida high school athletes have also been implicated among the clinic's possible customers, and there is no reason to believe the problem is limited to that clinic or that part of the state.

Under existing FHSAA sportsmanship bylaws and policies, student-athletes can be suspended from competing if they have used PEDs, until medical evidence proves they are clean. But now, in light of everything happening in the sports world, I have grown concerned that the existing policies may not be enough.

We must be sure our policies and procedures – which are in place, after all, to protect the well-being of our student-athletes and the integrity of the games they play – truly deter ambitious and misguided athletes, coaches and even parents who think it's okay to cheat in order to tilt the playing field to their own advantage. This win-at-all-costs mentality is not what high school sports are supposed to be about.

That is why I asked FHSAA's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee to conduct a top-to-bottom review of existing policies to make sure they do everything possible to discourage, detect and penalize the use of performance-enhancing drugs and human growth hormone by high school student-athletes. The 16 members of this committee include physicians, professors, physical therapists, athletic trainers and coaches – experts who understand sports and young athletes, and can bring an incredible amount of expertise to this important task.

The FHSAA's overriding priority is the safety, well-being and constructive development of young student-athletes, whose bodies and character are still forming. Performance-enhancing drugs undermine every aspect of this goal, and so it is imperative that our student-athletes adhere to a zero tolerance policy toward these inherently unfair and dangerous substances.

We must draw a line in the sand against performing-enhancing drugs and the inappropriate use of human growth hormone. School districts cannot tolerate coaches who encourage or look the other way when athletes use PEDs. These coaches cannot be allowed to keep their jobs or have anything to do with young athletes.

This is about more than safeguarding fair play – it's about saving lives.

I'm proud of the FHSAA's history as a leader in protecting the safety of our young student-athletes. In the last several years alone we became one of the first states to establish strict policies to address concussions and problems caused by extreme heat and inadequate hydration.

Now a careful review of PED policies will lead to the best approach to keeping these banned substances out of our high schools. This is another important step to protect our student-athletes.

The overwhelming majority of high school student-athletes will never compete at the collegiate level, and just a tiny percentage will ever have a shot at making a living playing the games they love.

We need to do everything we can to foster that love, to keep the games fun, and to protect these young men and women from harm. Performance-enhancing drugs simply have no place in high school sports.

Roger Dearing is executive director of the Florida High School Athletic Association, based in Gainesville. He is a former coach, athletic director and Manatee County School Superintendent.

## LETTERS

### Free preschool for 4 year olds

Editor:

Attention Florida residents, if you are the parent of a 4-year-old child, or a 3 year old who will be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2013, your child is eligible for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program. It is a state of Florida funded program open to all Florida resident 4 year olds regardless of family income. This program was voted in by residents and is funded by our taxpayers. The program has high standards that are maintained by routine inspections from the trained staff members of the Early Learning Coalition.

The VPK program gives your child a solid foundation on which to enter kindergarten. The expectations placed on kindergartners in today's world make it almost impossible for a child to be successful in kindergarten if they have not completed the VPK. The program is designed to be a prerequisite to kindergarten, offering the child experiences to grow in math, print knowledge, phonological awareness, and oral language and vocabulary skills. The child also builds social skills and valuable classroom experiences to enhance their growth.

Parents may visit the website at [vpkpinellas.net](http://vpkpinellas.net) to pick their desired school location and to sign their child up for this awesome opportunity. This may be done online or by calling the number listed on the website to schedule an appointment. When the process is complete you are given a certificate to turn in to the school of your choice. They offer a list of schools to choose from on the website. The parent has the option of visiting any of the schools listed to find the best fit for their child.

Parents, don't let this opportunity slip by you, take advantage of it and let your child reap the benefits of this incredible fun and exciting FREE adventure. The website again is [vpkpinellas.net](http://vpkpinellas.net). Hope to see you and your child in one of our programs soon!

**Krystal Gibbs,**  
director and VPK teacher at Wilhelm's School  
Clearwater

## What do you think?

We are proud to offer a forum to our readers. Please type letters to the editor (or print legibly) and include your name, town of residence, phone number and signature and mail to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772. Emails should include town of residence and telephone and be sent to [tgermond@TBNweekly.com](mailto: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.
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- Please allow two weeks from the time you submitted your letter for it to be published before inquiring as to its status.
- We won't print anonymous letters.
- We won't print letters that are submitted merely to promote a business.
- Thank you letters are accepted.
- We can't return letters to the editor.

# Random stuff I've noticed lately

Have you become aware of some of the following things showing up in our passing parade?

**MORE BRITISH ON THE SCENE.** It's hard to turn on the TV or radio these days without hearing a British accent. It seems that half the foreign correspondents are British. When CNN or NBC News cuts to a reporter stationed in Syria or China, chances are the reporter will have a British accent. Or it could be Australian, Welsh or Scottish. Does the UK generate an over-supply of journalists, or what? In most cases, they usually speak a better quality of English than Americans do. Which is only proper, since the English invented the language in the first place.

**THE DECLINE OF "DECIMATE."** Speaking of language, have you noticed how the term "to decimate" has been downgraded to mean "annihilate" or "utterly destroy"? Not too long ago, when correct English was honored and sometimes even practiced, decimate meant "to execute one out of every 10 rebellious soldiers." That's how the ancient Romans often put down uprisings. Today, newscasters and other arbiters of public taste speak blithely of floods that "decimate" entire towns and populations. By drowning every tenth victim, we presume.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CNN AND FOX NEWS.** These two companies battle each other to see who's on top of the national news game. Officially they both promise to bring fair and balanced coverage of news. Fox is often accused of leaning too far to the right. Conservatives paint CNN as a tool of the Establishment and even (horrors!) of the Obama administration. I enjoy flipping back and forth between these news agencies, just to see what their non-political differences seem to be.



**Driver's Seat**  
Bob Driver

Both organizations tend to employ 20-ish, glib blonde women who chatter on about Mideast revolutions and Hungarian politics as if they actually knew where Cairo and Budapest are (and perhaps they do.) The faces of CNN's Wolf Blitzer and Anderson Cooper seem more familiar to me than the Fox News anchors do, but that doesn't mean they do a better job. I keep hoping that CNN will get rid of that prissy Englishman Piers Morgan, who gives the impression of stumbling over his lips as he spits out his commentary.

As a rule CNN's people appear more polished and informed than Fox's presenters. I feel guilty for letting appearance carry weight in forming my judgments. But then I remind myself that, in television news, good looks and slick delivery count for just as much as content and accuracy do. Sad, but true.

**JUDGE JUDY DEFENDS OUR LANGUAGE.** Earlier this year I wrote a column criticizing Judge Judy for her high-handed treatment of the contestants who appear before her. In an email from her husband, I caught unshirted hell for my remarks. I still would not want to face her in a courtroom showdown, but I'm mellowing in my attitude toward Judge Judy because of her impatience with plaintiffs/defendants whose speech habits are about two steps up from those of cave dwellers. The judge insists on "yes" as a response, not "yeah." And she

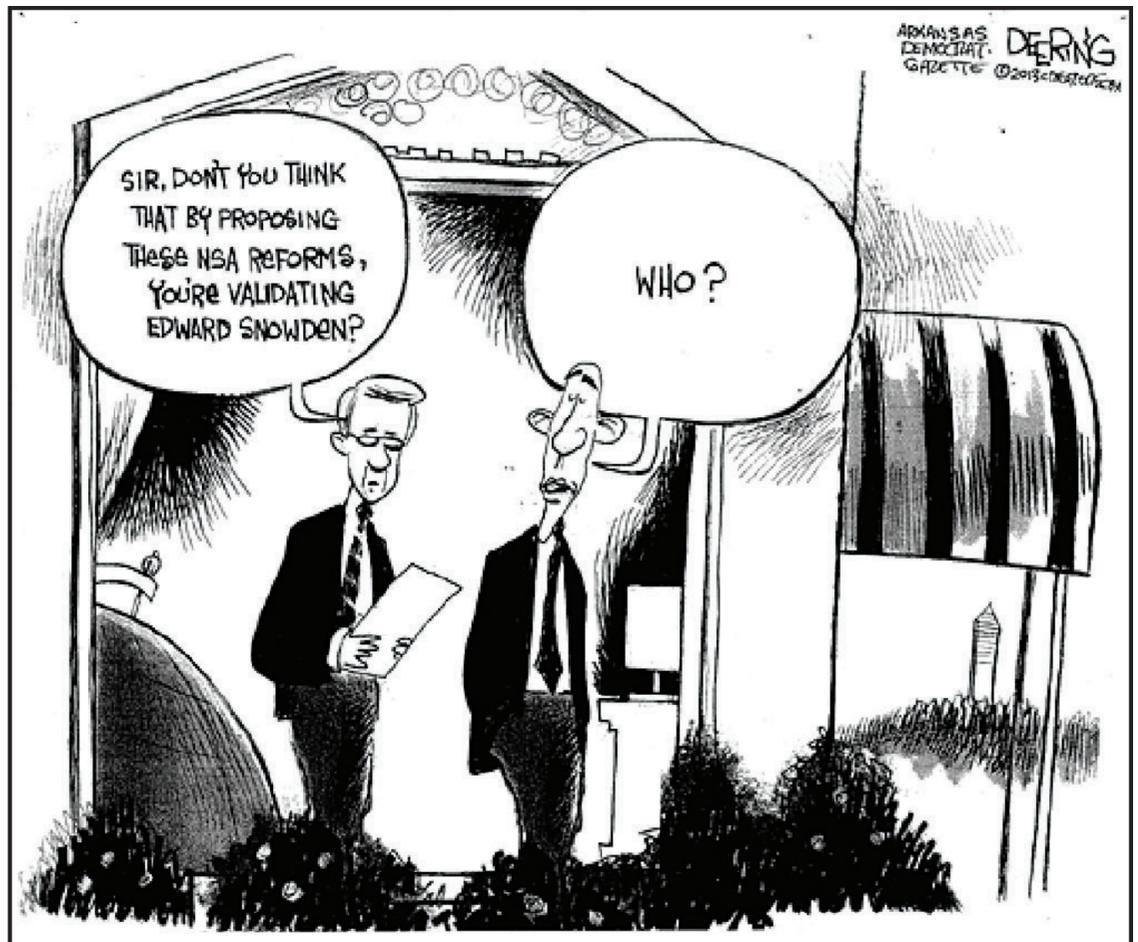
cracks down on the ubiquitous use of the useless filler word "basically" by persons giving testimony. Go get 'em, Your Honor. What this country needs is more grammar Nazis.

**WHEN A MAJOR CRIME OR DISASTER OCCURS** and the police chief or mayor promptly holds a televised press conference, have you noticed how the official usually puts enormous stress on how quickly the first responders arrived at the scene? It's as if the agency-in-charge is in a national competition to see who comes to the rescue the quickest. We all admire and respect the cops and firefighters who race toward danger, but do we really care whether they got to the scene within three minutes of the first alarm, rather than two and a half? The only explanation I can think of is that in many emergencies there may be a discontented watchdog standing by, timing the rescuers for possible legal or political reasons.

**IT'S GETTING HARDER TO SURF THE WEB.** Or so it seems to me. Not long ago, you could type in "Latest news," click a key and be flooded with news headlines. Today you're liable to get eight spam-type secondary websites saying "Asia news," or "Join our newshound chat room" before you finally fight your way through to useful content. You want lean-and-mean surfing, and instead you get embroidery.

**DONALD TRUMP CONTINUES TO INSPIRE** all of us with his consistency of behavior and attitudes. Other public figures may waffle, flip-flop, revise and take new positions, but the Donald holds steady and unchanged as one of the biggest jerks ever to appear on our national scene.

Bob Driver is a former columnist for the Clearwater Sun. Send him an email at [tralee71@comcast.net](mailto:tralee71@comcast.net).



# Federal lawmaker, regulate thyself

"Washington is an island surrounded by reality," Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, likes to say.

In an effort to inject some reality into the Beltway, Grassley introduced an amendment to the Affordable Care Act to require that members of Congress and their staff get their health care from the new Obamacare exchanges. "Congress should live under the laws it creates. That includes Obamacare," Grassley explained.

Enter Washington reality: The rules don't apply to the governing class.

Congress eventually passed the Grassley amendment, and it was included in the bill President Barack Obama signed, but that doesn't mean Washington insiders can't get around it.

There are two things for the political class not to like in the Grassley amendment.

To start, the 11,000 or so members and Capitol Hill staffers now enjoy Cadillac coverage as participants in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. The Grassley provision is supposed to make that go away and force those individuals to buy their own coverage through the less prestigious Obamacare health insurance exchanges.

But also, the government – read: taxpayers – picks up more than 70 percent of the premiums. There was no language in the final Grassley provision to continue the federal subsidy.

Supporters have been able to sell Obamacare coverage as affordable because the



Debra Saunders

government subsidizes premiums for some middle-income workers. Senators and representatives make \$174,000, and their well-compensated staffers can make more than members. Thus, the Grassley amendment represents a pay cut for Hill aides.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi predicted the pay cut would cause savvy Capitol Hill staffers to stampede toward the private sector. Politico reported that both Republicans and Democrats were looking for a way around the law to prevent what wags had dubbed the coming Beltway "brain drain."

After Obama reportedly told Democrats behind closed doors that he would help, the Office of Personnel Management announced a proposed rule to save Congress from its own law.

So the government would continue to pay its employer contribution of premiums. On the one hand, that seems fair. Who wants to get a pay cut and a second-tier health package? On the other hand, this is another example of Washington's taking care of its own in order to prop up a health care plan that

costs taxpayers money by discouraging employers from hiring full-time workers.

In Congress, members cannot lose, but the public can.

Worse, the Office of Personnel Management didn't stop there. Its new proposed rule also would allow each member of Congress to "determine whether an employed individual meets the statutory definition" of "congressional staff." The OPM's rationale was that there is "no existing statutory or regulatory definition of the term 'official office.'" As if "official office" is an exotic cipher.

What do we pay these people for if they can't figure out what an official office is?

As a result of that brilliant maneuver, senators and congressmen will be able to exempt their staffers if they so choose. Capitol Hill, it turns out, is one colossal golden-domed exemption.

In pushing his amendment in 2010, Grassley rightly argued: "It's only fair and logical that administration leaders and congressional staff, who fought so hard to overhaul America's health care system, experience it for themselves. If the reforms are as good as promised, then they'll know it firsthand. If there are problems, public officials will be in a position to really understand the problems, as they should."

But there's this ugly reality on Obamacare Island: The rules do not apply to the people who make them.

Email Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@schronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@schronicle.com).

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**Accounting Manager:** Andrea Marcarelli  
[tbriandy@yahoo.com](mailto:tbriandy@yahoo.com)

**Advertising Director:** Jay Rey  
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**Classified Advertising Manager:** Wendy Edwards  
[wedwards@tbnweekly.com](mailto:wedwards@tbnweekly.com)

**Executive Editor:** Tom Germond  
[tgermond@tbnweekly.com](mailto:tgermond@tbnweekly.com)

**Production Manager:** David Brown  
[production@tbnweekly.com](mailto:production@tbnweekly.com)

**Internet Services Manager:** Suzette Porter  
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**Beach Beacon:** Bob McClure  
[bmcclure@tbnweekly.com](mailto:bmcclure@tbnweekly.com)

**Belleair/Beach Bee:** Tom Germond  
[tgermond@tbnweekly.com](mailto:tgermond@tbnweekly.com)

**Clearwater Beacon:** Alexandra Lundahl  
[alundahl@tbnweekly.com](mailto:alundahl@tbnweekly.com)

**Dunedin Beacon:** Tom Germond  
[tgermond@tbnweekly.com](mailto:tgermond@tbnweekly.com)

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[jttores@tbnweekly.com](mailto:jttores@tbnweekly.com)

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**General Editorial**  
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# Students can eat for free at 58 schools

By ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

CLEARWATER - School is back in session, and now students at 58 Pinellas County schools can eat lunch for free - no matter what income-level their families are in.

Pinellas County Schools has been chosen for a federal pilot program called the Community Eligibility Option where schools that have at least 40 percent of low-income families qualify for free lunch for the entire student body.

"It's designed by the USDA in Washington (D.C.)," said Art Dunham, director of food services for Pinellas County Schools. "It's in test mode at the moment and is part of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, and Florida just got permission to be part of the pilot. And the folks in Tallahassee asked different districts if they would like to participate in it, and I thought it was a wonderful opportunity to provide meals to students easily."

Even students at schools other than the 58 chosen for the pilot program can benefit because a new district initiative beginning this year will allow the students at these schools who qualify for reduced-price lunches to receive lunch for free. However, families of these students will still have to submit applications for free/reduced priced lunches, whereas there is no longer any required paperwork at the 58 CEO schools.

"(The program) focuses on communities that are hard-hit economically," Dunham said. "They evaluate the students in each school, and they cross-check the services that are provided by the state to these families such as food stamps, welfare benefits, insurance benefits, Clothes to Kids benefits, Medicaid benefits. Anything that a social service program would be providing to families, and when those benefits are tallied and the community as a whole has 40 percent of the student body receiving these benefits, the state is deeming that it's a community that's eligible for free lunch."

One of the many great things about this program, Dunham said, is that it takes away the perceived stigma that many kids felt by receiving a free or reduced-price lunch. Now, everyone in those schools are on the same level and all they have to do is eat.

"That should increase the number of kids fed," Dunham said. "Some of the students who in the past qualified for these benefits wouldn't come to us because they didn't want to be identified in any way by their peers that they were needy. This takes that stigma away from that. So if the parent is making \$100,000 and can afford lunch and (his or her kids) happen to go to this particular school, the child gets free lunch. There's no more reduced-price meal and there's no more paid lunch."

In reality, there was no way for kids to tell who ate lunch for free and whose parents paid for it, but there was a perception that it was geared toward the free students, Dunham said, which reduced participation.

The school benefits from the new program, too, Dunham said, because there is no more paperwork to fill out by the parents and for staff to deal with at the beginning of the schoolwork regarding lunch. Furthermore, each school will submit to the federal government the percentages from last year of how many students received free lunch, how many had the reduced-price plan and how many had paid lunch, and the government will reimburse the school for each category.

According to the Food Research and Action Center, this program "allows for a healthier student body and a healthier school meal budget."

Last school year, Pinellas County started offering free breakfast to all students, said Melanie Marquez Parra, public information officer for PCS. Now, kids at the 58 schools with the Community Eligibility Option have the opportunity to eat two free meals a day at school.

"It's another opportunity to make sure as many students as possible have complete, nutritious meals so they can be successful in school," Marquez Parra said.

Dunham added that the free breakfast program was quite successful in many ways.

"We had free breakfast for everyone, and we've seen many, many students enjoying having breakfast together who might never have talked to each other before this," Dunham said.

Last year, Pinellas County Schools fed 69,000 students each day for lunch out of a total student body of 105,000, and this year Dunham hopes to feed an additional 17,000 students daily.

Proper nutrition is crucial for learning, he said.

"It's incredibly important," Dunham said. "Students can't learn when they're hungry. There are tests all over the nation that show that a student who is well-fed is happier. If he or she is happier, they tend to learn better and FCAT grades go way up."

Having healthier students will benefit the community as a whole, he said, because students will get better grades, will be able to get into better colleges, lead productive lives giving back to the community and also be free of some diet-related diseases. Also, with more kids eating school-provided lunches, they will often be eating healthier food than they otherwise would have.

"We're trying to provide the students with more fruits and vegetables and whole grain items with reduced or limited sugars," Dunham said. "Fats and sugars contribute immensely to obesity and heart disease and diabetes. And our menus contain no added sugars - only natural sugars, and we're using whole grain products, so we should be able to reduce some of the obesity that's been a problem in America and have healthier students."

## The following schools will offer free lunch to all students in 2013-14

- Azalea Middle
- Bardmoor Elementary
- Bay Point Middle
- Bayside High
- Bear Creek Elementary
- Belcher Elementary
- Belleair Elementary
- Blanton Elementary
- Boca Ciega High
- Calvin Hunsinger
- Campbell Park Elementary
- Clearwater Intermediate
- Cross Bayou Elementary
- Dixie Hollins High
- Douglas Jamerson Elementary
- Dunedin Elementary
- Eisenhower Elementary
- Fairmount Park Elementary
- Frontier Elementary
- Fuguitt Elementary
- Gibbs High
- Gulfport Elementary
- High Point Elementary
- John Hopkins Middle
- Lakewood Elementary
- Largo Middle
- Lealman Avenue Elementary
- Lealman Intermediate
- Lynch Elementary
- Maximo Elementary
- Meadowlawn Middle
- Melrose Elementary
- Mildred Helms Elementary
- Mt. Vernon Elementary
- New Heights Elementary
- Nina Harris Exceptional
- North Shore Elementary
- Northwest Elementary
- Pinellas Central Elementary
- Pinellas Park Elementary
- Pinellas Park Middle
- Pinellas Secondary
- Ponce de Leon Elementary
- Rawlings Elementary
- Richard L. Sanders Exceptional
- Ridgecrest Elementary
- Sandy Lane Elementary
- Sexton Elementary
- Seventy-Fourth Street Elementary
- Skycrest Elementary
- Skyview Elementary
- Southern Oak Elementary
- Starkey Elementary
- Tarpon Springs Elementary
- Tyrone Middle
- Walsingham Elementary
- Westgate Elementary
- Woodlawn Elementary

# Back to school

## Classes started Aug. 19 in Pinellas County

By SUZETTE PORTER

Students throughout Pinellas returned to classes Monday morning, as law enforcement agencies urged motorists to use caution when traveling near schools and crosswalks.

School start times range between 7:35 a.m. and 8:35 a.m. The school day ends between 1:35 and 4 p.m. School crossing guards will be present at 186 school crossing posts, from as early as 6:20 a.m. to as late as 5 p.m.

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office advises that students walking or biking to school become familiar with where their crossing guards are located and understand they are able to approach the guards for assistance if needed.

Deputies recommend that parents teach children best practices when it comes to crossing the roads. Children should be taught to watch for cars, turn lane traffic and make eye contact with drivers. Children riding their bikes should always wear a helmet.

Brad Dykens, public education officer with Seminole Police Department, said early morning hours are the most dangerous for school children with the congestion of workday commuters and limited issues of the early morning/dawn hours.

"Please be extra vigilant," Dykens said. Clearwater police ask that motorists obey school speed zones and keep an eye out for school buses that have stopped to pick up or drop off students. PCSO deputies remind motorists that vehicles are required to come to a full stop when approaching any school bus displaying a stop signal. Motorists must remain stopped. Vehicles are prohibited from passing the bus until the stop signal has been withdrawn.

Deputies will have extra patrols on the streets near school zones to ensure students are safe during their first week back. Drivers are asked to add a few extra minutes to their morning and afternoon commute and to exercise caution.

Units from Seminole's Fire Rescue will be setting up outside local elementary and middle schools and will promote safe driving and awareness. Fire Rescue vehicles also will be parked along roadways with emergency lights on and crews will be waving safety message signs.



Photo courtesy of PCSO

School crossing guards are on duty this week as students return to classes.

Pinellas County School District is the seventh largest in the state and 26th largest in the nation. Nearly 104,000 students prekindergarten through 12th grade are enrolled, plus another 20,000 attending adult education and technical education classes.

The district's headquarters is at 310 Fourth St. SW., Largo. Call 588-6000 or visit [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org) for more information.

## Nominations accepted for Girl Scouts' Women of Distinction

The Girl Scouts of West Central Florida announces an open call for nominations for its Women of Distinction recognition.

Nominations also are being accepted for the Woman of Promise Award, which recognizes a deserving young woman under the age of 35. Nominations will be accepted through Wednesday, Sept. 11. Applications can be downloaded from the council's website at [www.gswcf.org](http://www.gswcf.org).

Those selected as honorees are women who have achieved success in their chosen fields and whose accomplishments make them positive role models who inspire girls to achieve their own goals and dreams. They exemplify the Girl Scout Promise and Law through ethical leadership and a commitment to making a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens through community service.

The 2014 Women of Distinction and the Woman of Promise will be honored at the 13th annual Women of Distinction luncheon on March 18, 2014, at A La Carte Event Pavilion in Tampa. The luncheon benefits nearly 21,000 girls served by Girl Scouts of West Central Florida.

To be considered, Women of Distinction and Woman of Promise nominees must live within Girl Scouts of West Central Florida's geographic boundaries, including Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sumter counties.

Nominees must agree to attend the luncheon in person on March 18

to accept the award. Women are not required to have been or currently be a Girl Scout to be nominated.

The Women of Distinction and Woman of Promise Selection Committee will review the nominations received on or before Sept. 11 and will select four Women of Distinction honorees and one Woman of Promise honoree, with all honorees being announced in late September.

For more information, contact Terri Costello, development manager, at 800-881-4475, ext. 1688 or [tcostello@gswcf.org](mailto:tcostello@gswcf.org).

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## What's Selling in Pinellas County

<b>Bellevue</b>	<b>\$699,000</b>
5BR/5.5BA/Pool	
<p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>Like new home with unobstructed golf course vistas encompassing 5,127 Sq. Ft. Outdoor living area with covered pavillion, pool &amp; spa, grilling area. Gourmond's kitchen, movie theatre, game room with wet bar, downstairs den and much more!</p> <p><b>Rafal Wazio</b> Sand Key Realty</p>	
<b>St. Petersburg</b>	<b>\$177,000</b>
3BR/2BA/2CG	
<p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>Bay Pines Lake Community. Open floor plan including a handicap modified master bedroom &amp; bath. Light &amp; bright kitchen with breakfast bar, laundry room and open living room &amp; dining area. Enclosed patio, pool and plenty of sitting area.</p> <p><b>Sandy Hartmann</b> Realty Executives - Adamo &amp; Associates</p>	
<b>St. Petersburg</b>	<b>\$147,500</b>
3BR/2BA/Pool	
<p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>Updated kitchen and appliances. Ceramic tile throughout. French doors lead from Master Bedroom to deck &amp; pool area. Detached shed/playroom has electric &amp; A/C. Can be used as in-law area, office or workshop.</p> <p><b>Victor Adamo</b> Realty Executives - Adamo &amp; Associates</p>	
<b>Pinellas Park</b>	<b>\$92,500</b>
2BR/2BA/1CG	
<p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>Mainlands home with 1,348 Sq. Ft. of living area. Large master bedroom and bath w/shower plus 2 walk-in closets. Home has very open floor plan and tiled Florida room.</p> <p><b>Caroleanne Vorac</b> Realty Executives - Adamo &amp; Associates</p>	

## Hollidays celebrate 50 years

Beverly and Ronald Holliday Sr. recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Ronald is a retired printer currently employed part time in the Pro Shop at Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Center in Clearwater. Beverly recently retired from CCS Medical in Clearwater. The couple

resides in Pinellas Park. To celebrate the occasion, the couple renewed their wedding vows in Medford, N.J. Following the ceremony, their son Ronald Holliday Jr. invited family and friends for dinner at Charley's Other Brother in Easthampton, N.J.



Pictured are, front row, from left, Julia, Robby, Joey and John Holliday; back row, Lora Holliday, with grandparents Ronald and Beverly Holliday. Five of seven of the Hollidays' grandchildren are pictured. Missing is Danielle and Michael Holliday.

## Cespedes-Valencia

Vanessa Cespedes and Cristian Valencia will be married in fall of 2014. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Cesar Alberto and Patricia Cespedes of Seminole. The groom-to-be is the son of Jaime and Maria Elena of Tampa.



Cristian Valencia and Vanessa Cespedes

## Faith briefs

### Christian Fellowship Church of Largo

LARGO – A contemporary service is now being offered Sundays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at Christian Fellowship Church of Largo, 900 Starkey Road. This service is designed to reach young adults and young families by offering upbeat music and expository preaching of the Word. All ages are welcome. The church also presents a traditional service at 11 a.m. For information, call 581-1742.

### Hope Presbyterian Church

CLEARWATER – Sunday school for all ages will return to its fall schedule in the coming weeks at Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher Road. Classes for 3-year-olds through 12th grade are set to begin on Rally Day, Sunday, Sept. 8, 9 a.m. Children and youth will enjoy a Bible-based curriculum designed to meet their age appropriate needs and have fun along the way. While the children are learning about Jesus, Hope adults are also learning through one of two Bible Classes: Wired Word or Bible Baffle. Visitors and newcomers are welcome. For information, call 531-3200 or visit www.HopeFamily.com.

### Oakhurst United Methodist Church

SEMINOLE – A GriefShare program will be presented Wednesdays, Sept. 4 through Nov. 27, at Oakhurst United Methodist Church, 13400 Park Blvd. The church will offer two sessions: The morning session will meet 10:30 to noon and the evening session will meet 6 to 7:30 p.m. The GriefShare program consists of several components, such as video, workbook, discussion, support and encouragement. The program will last for 13 weeks and each session is self-contained, featuring a new topic each week. The program is designed to help participants "travel the journey from mourning to joy." For information and to register, call 391-4769.

### Faith Presbyterian Church

SEMINOLE – Free preschool for children 4 years old is offered at Faith Presbyterian Preschool, 11501 Walker Ave. The state funded VPK program is free for all 4-year-olds born on or before Sept. 1 of the school year and who reside in Florida. All children, regardless of parent income, are eligible for this program. The VPK program goal is to better prepare a preschooler for kindergarten especially in the area of early literacy. A school licensed for the VPK program must have qualified instructors, age appropriate curricula with a strong emphasis on early literacy skills, and a manageable class size. VPK Provider Profiles of schools offering the program are available through the Early Learning Coalition. Visit www.elcpinellas.net/parent-vpk.php. To register, visit www.elcpinellas.net/vpk-register.php. Parents also may call ELC at 400-4411.

### Sacred Heart Parish Center

PINELLAS PARK – The fall session of free English classes for speakers of other languages will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 3, at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 7951 46th Way N. The classes will be presented Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m., in the parish center. Emphasis is on speaking,

reading, writing and comprehension from beginning learners to those who wish to improve their skills. Everyone is welcome. For information, call 541-4447.

### Faith Presbyterian Church

SEMINOLE – A six-week Bible study will begin Wednesday, Aug. 21, at Faith Presbyterian Church, 11501 Walker Ave. The program "Made to Crave," by author Lysa Terkerurst, explores the missing link between women's desire to be healthy and the spiritual empowerment necessary to make it happen. The Bible study will take place Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Kris Hartland, Kadi Tubbs and Kristen Beiler will lead the study. Childcare is available. For information, call 391-0596.

### Chabad of Clearwater

CLEARWATER – Chabad of Clearwater will present High Holiday services at Holiday Inn Express, 2580 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd. Just a few weeks before Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year and one of the holiest days on the Jewish calendar, there are still many Jews who have no plans to attend synagogue services. Some of these Jews are not affiliated with a synagogue; others will be traveling on business; and a sizable percentage simply don't feel comfortable in a synagogue setting. Another alarming issue, particularly in light of today's flailing economy, is that many cannot afford the cost of services, which these days can run a whopping thousand dollars or more for a family of five.

Whatever the case is, many of these would-be worshippers are feeling the pangs associated with being left out of the holiest days of the Jewish calendar. Chabad of Clearwater, the local branch of the largest Jewish outreach organization in the world, has presented its own High Holiday services option, providing free Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services in a warm and inclusive setting. Chabad's services are "user-friendly," making it enjoyable and meaningful for both the beginner and the advanced. Song, commentary, and the use of English-Hebrew prayer books, enable those of all levels to become active participants in the services.

Chabad of Clearwater will be presenting Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services this year at the Holiday Inn Express in Clearwater. The ballroom space will enable congregants to have more comfortable and spacious seating. Following is a schedule of High Holiday services:

- Rosh Hashanah – Wednesday, Sept. 4: evening services, 7:30 p.m.
- Rosh Hashanah – Thursday, Sept. 5: morning services, 9:30 a.m.; youth program, 10:30 a.m.; shofar sounding, 11:30 a.m.; mincha and tashlich service, 7 p.m.; evening services, 8:15 p.m.
- Rosh Hashanah – Friday, Sept. 6: morning services, 9:30 a.m.; youth program, 10 a.m.; shofar sounding, 11:30 a.m.
- Yom Kippur – Friday, Sept. 13: Kol Nidrei services, 7:30 p.m.
- Yom Kippur – Saturday, Sept. 14: morning services, 9:30 a.m.; Yizkor memorial service, noon; Mincha and Neila closing services, 6 p.m.; final shofar blowing, 8:10 p.m.; gala break-the-fast buffet, 8:15 p.m.

There is no cost but donations are appreciated. To reserve a space, visit www.JewishClearwater.com, email JewishClearwater@gmail.com or call 265-2770.

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# Torrid and tepid: how dolphins handle the heat of summer

Having grown up in Tarpon Springs, my office mate of many years sometimes reminisced about the summer nights of his youth. No one had air conditioning back then. All the windows in the house stayed open.



**Dolphin Watch**  
Ann Weaver

He once described a clammy routine: rousing in the steamy darkness groggily to flip over his pillow, whose bottom side was fractionally cooler than its topside.

Though a Midwestern suburbanite myself, months of fieldwork in Mexico saw me sleeping outside in a desert that peaked at 120 degrees F. during the day. Luckily, that desert bordered the sea, and that sea had islands, from whose beaches we would scoop out little body-sized trenches for settling into at sunset, watching until stars gave way to dreams. Though the breeze was as steady as the surf, I too had my share of pillow flipping.

To my knowledge, pillow flipping does not have a counterpart out at sea. How do our local dolphins handle the heat? Granted, their insulating coats of blubber become thinner during the summer than the winter, but never disappear entirely.

Moreover, dolphins have high metabolic rates that fuel their ceaseless swimming and keep them cozy; in other words, dolphin bodies generate a lot of internal heat.

One possible mechanism for handling seas that are some 85 degrees might be a simple mechanical one: slow down. That is what their behavior currently suggests, anyway. Their movements have grown almost tepid, swimming without ceasing as always more languidly than briskly of late.

Is it just the dolphins we have seen or is rushing around August seas just not worth the heat it generates?

This line of thinking began with a recent mother-child reunion between a weaned teen and her mother. FM and her current calf Fennel



Photo by ANN WEAVER

On livelier occasions, or cooler seas, Fennel plays a game of catch with a mangrove seedpod called a horsetail.

were in the company of a small adult, which turned out to be AM. FM had AM in 2005.

In the years since usurper Fennel made his appearance in 2009, AM has reunited with her mom FM and brother Fennel more often than is typical for this behavior. Although AM's mother-child reunions are

more frequent, they are as characteristically fleeting.

AM spent most of her time submerged, surfacing periodically for air. In the meantime, FM and Fennel tread back and forth over a short stretch of water so slowly and methodically that it nearly hypnotized Capt. John Heidemann and me.

Wiping off the ennu of their languor with our sweat, the next dolphin encounter was another example of torpid behavior. The sharp eyes of Capt. Heidemann spied tiny dark forms on the surface way in the distance. Deep in a side bay off the beaten track, two mother-calf pairs and a pair of bulls proceeded to take "island time" to a new level.

Courtney and her calf Cutlass oozed down a short finger, followed by the still-languid FM and Fennel. Big bulls N and Riptab followed indolently. The bulls' lingering surfaces gave us a good look at the parallel slashes across their rounded melons.

I was startled to see those slashes, called toothrakes, glaring under the August sun. This is because both N and Riptab had each been grabbed by the head by some very sharp teeth six months ago in March. Would you believe that some toothrakes are visible for over 8 months?

Courtney seemed to be the only dolphin with a mission in mind, albeit an unhurried one, and the others more or less followed her lead. She and Cutlass left the finger without haste and headed west. FM and Fennel wandered after them eventually, using the same patent lack of energy that had distinguished them earlier.

The bulls left the finger too but headed east instead of west. We watched them until they were dots in the distance and turned our attention to the moms and calves. They headed down the long wide waterway all the way to the end where it loops like a letter J. There they dispersed languorously and embarked on underwater searches.

Bulls N and Riptab returned and rejoined the ladies by and by. Judging from their swim speed, it may well have taken them to swim to the main road and back again!

Rather than search the seas slowly like the others, the big bulls swam among them indolently, pacing each other perfectly. Calves Fennel and Cutlass took a brief stab at active play, but the episode died as quickly as a firework. Much later, they all slowly wandered out again.

I wish I had a livelier tale for you, but those poor little dolphins act like sleep walkers.

*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.*

## Beat the heat – try fishing at sunrise or sunset

Extreme heat has made it tough at times to find actively feeding fish. Sunrise and sunset are your best shot for finding a good bite.

Targeting deep grass flats near the passes for trout and mackerel was one of the bright spots this past week. Live chumming with small pilchards that were cast-netted along a bridge shadow line in the pre-dawn hours was responsible for getting the fish into a frenzy. Using a number one long shank hook will allow these tiny baits to swim naturally and not get sucked to the bottom. Also, using a weighted float will help to get the bait out to the target zone.

Redfishing has been decent over the past week with the new moon tides spurring on the good bite. As sunset approaches the huge outgoing tide will begin to bottom out at a lower than normal tidal stage. It's these super low tides combined with fading light conditions that give the redfish an added level of confidence to root the bottom for shrimp and crabs.

Scanning the water's surface for tails easily spots this behavior. Best baits for this scenario would be weedless jerk baits or my per-



**Fish Tales**  
Capt. Tyson Wellerstein

sonal favorite, the top-water plug. There's just something about that tantalizing side-to-side motion that the reds can't refuse. Not to mention they'll often push a wake from several yards away as they make their approach toward your bait, a sight that always makes your adrenaline pump.

Tarpon fishing has been hot one day and cold the next. Days that offer slick calm mornings give you the best opportunity to spot rolling fish. Tampa bay bridges and river mouths are consistent spots to check as well as many deep canals and fingers along the Intracoastal Waterway. Cast D.O.A. Bait Busters to rolling fish or if their reluctant to feed try fishing whole shad, ladyfish or mullet on the bottom.

Pompano fishing has been consistent along Tampa Bay bridges as well as the Tierra Verde Bridge and the Meisner Bridge. Bounce Crazy jigs rigged with a teaser fly along the bottom behind the down-current side of bridge pilings at sunrise for best results.

Until next week, get bent!  
Tyson Wallerstein can be reached at [capt.tyson@hotmail.com](mailto:capt.tyson@hotmail.com).

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Socialization is critical for all people, regardless of age. But seniors can be more prone to a state of loneliness if there is little contact with others. Most seniors have spent a good portion of their lives, raising children and/or in the workforce. Once the children build lives of their own or possibly plans for retirement are near, socialization decreases, especially if the seniors are losing some of their independence such as driving.

An active social lifestyle is more important than ever in helping seniors maintain a sharp mind that will help keep them connected to the world around them and increase their feelings of happiness. Helping others is one of the best ways to feel better about you and at the same time continue to stay socially involved. Seniors who stay connected have less depression.

Volunteering in the local community is also a great way for seniors to stay active, involved and will enhance the feeling of belonging. There truly is a need for volunteers in various organizations. The skills and talents of seniors in our society are valuable and needed. Volunteering in a local hospital is very rewarding. Escorting patients, assisting with clerical tasks, staffing the gift shop or greeting visitors is just a few examples of possibilities.

If you have a parent or loved one whom you care for, acting as an advocate can be an intimidating task. But there are ways to remain positive, and proactive with your aging parents. The key is to be attentive, understanding, and involved with your parents as they age. Your positive attitude and your efforts to understand their feelings is a wonderful way to say "thank you" for all they have done for you over the years. If your parent is spending a lot of time alone and finding difficulty in completing tasks, call Comfort Keepers to learn about the companionship we provide along with assistance with meals, errands, walks, grooming and other daily tasks.

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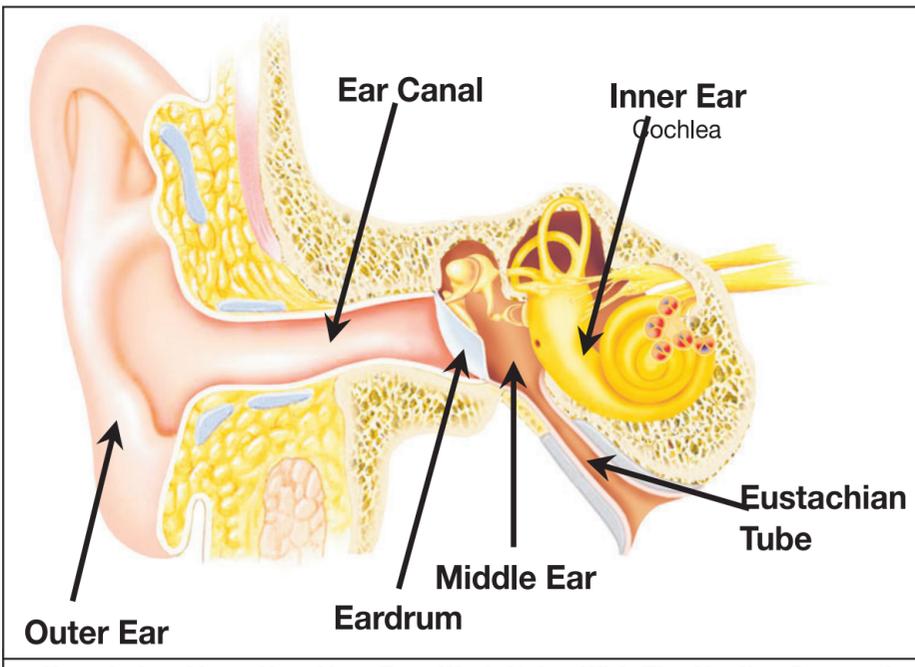
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 When sound waves reach the ear, they are gathered by the funnel-shaped outer ear and channeled into the middle ear. Sometimes hearing loss can be easily and quickly corrected by clearing blockage that can occur from wax build up.
- The Middle Ear**  
 Years of using q-tips to clean your ears can embed layers of wax so tightly that it affects your ability to hear clearly. That's why the first part of your ear exam will be with an otoscope to determine if there is any blockage that can open up your ear canal and allow you to enjoy the beauty of unmuted sound again.
- The Inner Ear**  
 At the entrance to the middle ear, sound waves hit the eardrum. A damaged eardrum can not only be painful, but it can muffle natural sounds and make it extremely difficult to hear clearly. If you're experiencing hearing loss, it's important to find out if it is a correctable condition involving the middle ear.
- The Inner Ear**  
 Sound vibrations travel through the middle ear and into the fluid filled inner ear where they are converted into signals that are sent to your brain. Damage to the inner ear can lead to deafness, so it's vital to make sure your inner ear is functioning properly.



**Knowledge About How Your Ears Work Helps With The Healing Process!**  
It's important that you have a basic understanding of how your ears work. The healing starts when you first acknowledge that you have a hearing problem. The next step is to get your ears examined so you will know the cause and the degree (mild to profound) of your condition.

Problems with the inner ear often require surgery or medication. If the damage is irreparable, you'll want to ask about the new cochlea implants that can help restore your ability to hear again.

There is also new scientific and medical research with stem cell transplants that can regrow damaged inner ear hair follicles (known as *cilia*) that send electronic signals to your brain allowing you to translate sounds into language. Researchers at Stanford University say that they are 5-10 years away from a breakthrough that could possibly correct human deafness.

**How Hearing Is Tested**  
To evaluate your hearing a specialist will perform a series of hearing tests. These tests are often performed by using a combination of electronic equipment and headphones.

**What Hearing Tests Show**  
Hearing tests can determine whether a hearing impairment exists and what the cause may be. Your

hearing examination will also let you know the degree of hearing loss you are experiencing, from mild to profound, and what technologies are available to help correct your hearing loss.

The results of your hearing exam will provide you with the road map to what you should do next to regain and restore your ability to hear clearly again.

## Why Do People Delay Addressing Hearing Loss?

In America, the average person with hearing loss delays dealing with it for 5 to 7 years. The big question is, "Why do people wait so long before confronting the obvious problems that come with an inability to hear clearly?"

**Accepting & Correcting Your Hearing Loss**  
Researchers estimate that over 30 million people in the United States suffer from hearing loss, but almost 75% avoid scheduling a hearing test to determine the cause and how to remedy this condition. As the baby boomer generation ages, more people are going to experience hearing loss.



**Thomas Edison Suffered From Hearing Loss!**  
One of the most famous people with hearing loss in history is the inventor Thomas Edison (1847-1931), who is credited with inventing the phonograph, light bulb, and movie camera. What many people are not aware of is that Edison became technically deaf in his early teens. It could have been from a childhood illness or the result of a "boxing" of his ears by a train conductor.

Most hearing losses don't require expensive hearing aids to help you with sounds you were missing, including those lost consonants, without introducing additional, distracting noises. Personalized programming adjustments ensure your hearing aid is set to your specific loss and unique needs.

**No One Will Know**  
It is true that hearing aids of past years did have a stigma attached to them. They were large and bulky, and usually they were visible to anyone who walked by. But just as the internal technology has changed, so have the external characteristics of digital hearing aids. New models are virtually invisible when worn making your Audibel hearing aid far less noticeable than your hearing loss. With advanced digital technology and miniaturization, nobody else has to know that you're wearing a hearing device.

Many people with hearing loss do not take the steps needed to correct the problem. The first step starts with getting a hearing exam when you first notice you are experiencing symptoms. A hearing test can determine the cause of your hearing loss, and which state-of-the-art hearing devices can improve your quality of life. There is often a period of denial or hesitation that must be overcome before the appointment for the hearing test is made.

At first it may seem like you only have very mild hearing loss, if any, because you can hear someone talking to you, or you can hear the TV, radio, or a movie, you just can't catch every word. Or you may have trouble following conversations, but you always come up with a reason why it's too noisy, people are speaking too fast, or there are too many people talking at once.

and hear more clearly immediately, improving your overall quality of life.

Purchasing a hearing aid is not a decision made lightly. It's important that the person you are working with listens to you and works together with you to address your specific hearing needs. You need to be able to trust their guidance in choosing a solution to match your lifestyle.

In addition, hearing aids technology has an exciting future. Even now you can have your hearing aid connected to different external devices, such as an MP3 player, a cell phone, radio, or your TV. As microchips continue to get smaller, the amount of data processing power continues to increase at astronomical rates, allowing for hearing aids to be made smaller while continuing to improve sound quality. If you checked out hearing aids five years ago, you should take a look at the new models - you might be surprised at how far things have come and how easily hearing loss may be corrected.

The truth is that when you have early, mild hearing loss, you will start to have trouble hearing certain higher frequency sounds. Consonant sounds are in the higher range and are the first to go. While you may hear voices, you may find yourself mistaking similar-sounding words, like, "rent" and "sent" or "time" and "lime".

If you believe you have mild hearing loss, begin by getting a hearing exam. You can use the results of the hearing test to rule out or fix any correctable conditions, and then you can assess if any of the new and advanced hearing technologies can help you hear more clearly.

After your hearing test you will be able to make a more educated decision about what your options are to prevent further hearing loss

**Advances In Hearing Care!**  
A hearing specialist with Audibel Hearing Centers will be available to answer all your questions and discuss the latest advances in hearing care. Even with the new technology, your brain still needs time to readjust to hearing sounds it may not have been hearing for years. You will be amazed at your own ability to reconnect with your life with the help of this advanced technology.

In addition, technology is constantly changing. A hearing test can now determine if you have even very mild hearing loss, and the new generation of digital hearing aids has nearly eliminated the problems of feedback, and extraneous noise that was bothersome with earlier models.

Hearing loss can affect people of all ages. If you were in the military, law enforcement, or simply exposed to the loud noises of machinery in a factory, you could have developed hearing loss at an early age. Don't be embarrassed by your inability to hear clearly - take action now and get a hearing test to find out what you can do to enhance your ability to hear clearly and prevent continued deterioration.

Start by having a hearing test and then take steps to decide if you feel comfortable with the new technologies. Think about it - how much time and energy are you spending apologizing because you misheard something, or asking someone to speak louder or to repeat themselves? Having a hearing test and wearing a hearing device can alleviate many problems caused by hearing loss - and that is priceless!

20 Locations in the Tampa Bay Area - [www.floridahearing.com](http://www.floridahearing.com)

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# Diversions

Events • Movies • Classifieds

Largo Leader, Section B, August 22, 2013 • Visit [www.TBNweekly.com](http://www.TBNweekly.com)



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## Top five diversions

• **Steve Arvey**, Friday, Aug. 23, 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](http://www.mypalladium.org). The veteran bluesman will bring his unique take on blues history with his show "Mississippi to Chicago." The show traces the history of the blues from home-made instruments to full tilt Chicago Blues bands. It's a musical travelogue attendees can dance to. Arvey learned from early blues legends Homesick James and Honey Boy Edwards as well as the Chicago blues masters Jimmy Rodgers, JR. Wells, Hubert Sumlin, Big Smokey Smothers, and a long list of other artists. The blues guitarist will be paying tribute to them all at this concert. Arvey will be performing with a full-band and backup. Band members include Josh Nelms on guitar, Otis T. Sugarbear on bass, Aaron Fowler and Steve Camilleri on drums and Tony Smith on harmonica.

• **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.rutheckerdhal.com](http://www.rutheckerdhal.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 duo 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.



Bela Fleck performs Aug. 23 at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater.

• **Sasha Tuck**, Friday, Aug. 23, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the Mary Alice McClendon Conservatory at the Museum of Fine Arts, 255 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg. The performance is part of the sixth annual Dinner and Jazz Series at the MFA. Admission is \$5 for museum members and their guests and \$10 for non-members. This includes admission to the exhibitions in the Hazel Hough Wing. The MFA Café will be open for dinner and a "beer and wine" cash bar will be available. Table reservations are strongly recommended. Call 822-1032 or 896-2667, ext. 258. The Museum Store will be open until 8 p.m. For series information, call 896-2667 or visit [www.fine-arts.org](http://www.fine-arts.org). This versatile vocalist, composer, and arranger has performed at more than 100 venues and festivals, including the Morton H. Myerson Symphony Center in Dallas. She has been influenced by greats like Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday and holds a master's degree in jazz studies from the University of North Texas.

• **Kevin James**, Saturday, Aug. 24, 8 p.m., at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$52.50. Call 893-7832 or visit [www.themahaffey.com](http://www.themahaffey.com). James, comedian and star of the hit movies "Paul Blart, Mall Cop," "Zookeeper" and "Grown Ups," is known to fans as Doug Heffernan, the lead character of the sitcom "The King of Queens." James created the show in 1998. It garnered him a 2006 Emmy nomination for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series and ran for nine seasons on CBS. Today, it continues to air daily in syndication across the country and around the world. James started his career as a stand-up on the Long Island comedy scene and was discovered at the 1996 Montreal Comedy Festival. He brought his stand-up act to television in "Sweat the Small Stuff," a one-hour special for Comedy Central in 2001. His big break on the big screen came in 2005 starring opposite Will Smith in " Hitch." In 2012, he starred in "Here Comes the Boom," a comedy about a high school biology teacher who becomes a mixed martial arts

See TOP FIVE, page 4B



Above, Pat Travers joins the Hippiestour for the first time this summer, performing Aug. 24 at Ruth Eckerd Hall. Also performing are Ten Years After, top left, and Canned Heat, bottom left.

## Hippiest 2013

Blues-rock legends join forces for annual Hippiest event at REH

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

CLEARWATER - Feeling nostalgic for a taste of counterculture? Do the terms "flower power," "free love," "far out" and "Summer of Love" bring back a flood of memories?

For one evening, step back in time four decades to when the hippie subculture flourished. Hippiest 2013 will be presented Saturday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road.

Tickets start at \$45. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhal.com](http://www.rutheckerdhal.com).

Ruth Eckerd Hall has been hosting the annual Hippiest event since 2008. Past lineups have included artists such as Eric Burdon and the Animals, Badfinger, Jack Bruce of Cream, Mountain and Traffic's Dave Mason.

This year, Hippiest will showcase five iconic blues-rock artists. The evening will feature performances by such well-known artists as Ten Years After, Edgar Winter Band, Canned Heat, Rick Derringer and Pat Travers. What better way to cure the summertime blues than with a sizzling rock 'n' blues festival?

All inspired to pick up their instruments due to their love for rock and blues, these five

artists hit the road this summer beginning with a show July 27 at The Cannery Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The event also will feature a Hippiest marketplace. Concessionaires will be selling beads, tie-dyes and other reminders of Woodstock, San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district and the youth movement that introduced a whole new outlook to life. The marketplace will open at 5 p.m.

### Ten Years After

In 1967, four young musicians from Nottinghamshire, England, formed the band Ten Years After. Founding members included Leo Lyons, Ric Lee, Chick Churchill and Alvin Lee.

Ten Years After became one of the biggest names in music and one of the most explosive quartets on the world stage. Their now legendary encore, "I'm Going Home," performed at Woodstock in August 1969, was captured on film and exposed their jazz, blues, rock amalgam to a large audience, who were blown away by the intensity of the band's performance when the Academy Award winning documentary was released.

The band released nine albums between

1967 and 1974, including "Ten Years After," "Undead," "Stonedhenge," "Ssssh," "Cricklewood Green," "Watt," "A Space in Time," "Rock & Roll Music to the World" and "Positive Vibrations." The song "Love Like a Man" off the 1970 album "Cricklewood Green" reached No. 10 on the UK charts. In 1971, the band had a Top 40 hit with "I'd Love To Change The World."

After Alvin Lee left the band for a solo career, Ten Years After ceased recording and touring for many years. A chance opportunity in early 2002 for the other three original members of Ten Years After (bassist Leo Lyons, drummer Ric Lee and keyboardist Chick Churchill) to work together again gave them an insight into the intense, re-awakened interest in the band. In 2003, vocalist/guitarist Joe Gooch joined the line-up and the band soon released a studio album titled "Now," which was followed by a live effort in 2005.

Today, the members of Ten Years After are eager to re-create the music, energy and excitement they've been known for over the

See HIPPIEST, page 4B

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NEW LISTING

# Looking Ahead

## Largo

• **"Maybe Baby, It's You,"** by Charlie Sharian and Shari Simpson: 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://largoarts.com). Jazz clarinetist and Benny Goodman alumnus Ken Peplowski is featured with the highly acclaimed Capitol Center Jazz Orchestra in celebrating the 75th anniversary of Benny Goodman's historical 1938 Carnegie Hall concert. This historic and revolutionary performance claimed a new place for jazz on the American cultural scene and has come to be seen as the most important jazz concert in history. This incredible evening of music will feature numerous classics from Goodman's historic 1938 performance, including "Don't Be That Way," "Memories of You" and the iconic "Sing, Sing, Sing."

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

2008 and 2010 touring with Ringo Starr and His All Starr Band.

• **Fifth annual Las Vegas Casino Night,** Saturday, Oct. 5, 6 to 10 p.m., at the Armed Forces History Museum, 2050 34th Way N., Largo. Tickets for the fundraiser are \$35 for casino and \$75 for the Texas Hold 'em Tournament if purchased before Sept. 16. Tickets after Sept. 16 will be \$40 for casino and \$80 for the tournament. Call 539-8371 or visit [www.armedforcesmuseum.com](http://www.armedforcesmuseum.com). The event will feature a full dinner buffet from Orange Blossom Catering, as well as blackjack, roulette, craps, slot machines, poker, a Texas Hold 'em Tournament, silent auction, Chinese auction, prizes and more. This fundraiser benefits the museum's community outreach and youth education programs as well as the museum's mission to honorably preserve the history and memories of the military and its veterans.

• **"Little Shop of Horrors,"** by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken; Oct. 10 through Nov. 3, at New Stage Theatre, inside Country Day World School, 11650 131st St. N., Largo. For performance times and ticket information, call 813-817-2585 or visit [newstagelargo.org](http://newstagelargo.org). A down-and out skid row floral assistant becomes an overnight sensation when he discovers an exotic plant with a mysterious craving for fresh blood. Soon "Audrey II" grows into an ill-tempered, foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore who offers him fame and fortune in exchange for feeding its growing appetite, finally revealing itself to be an alien creature poised for global domination.

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

## Clearwater

• **"Men Are Dogs,"** by Joe Simonelli, through Aug. 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](http://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.

• **"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](http://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.rutheckerdhal.com](http://www.rutheckerdhal.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.

## Gulfport

• **Geckfest,** Saturday, Aug. 31, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., on Beach Boulevard South in Gulfport. This year's theme will be "Saturday Night Gecko" showcasing the 1970s. The annual Geckfest features live music, local artists and crafters, a kids' area, street performers, parade and costume contest. Visit [www.geckfest.com](http://www.geckfest.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.

## St. Petersburg

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

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

• **Stolen Idols,** Friday, Aug. 30, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the Mary Alice McClendon Conservatory at the Museum of Fine Arts, 255 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg. The performance is part of the sixth annual Dinner and Jazz Series at the MFA. Admission is \$5 for museum members and their guests and \$10 for nonmembers. This includes admission to the exhibitions in the Hazel Hough Wing. The MFA Café will be open for dinner and a "beer and wine" cash bar will be available. Table reservations are strongly recommended. Call 822-1032 or 896-2667, ext. 258. The Museum Store will be open until 8 p.m. For series information, call 896-2667 or visit [www.fine-arts.org](http://www.fine-arts.org). The tropical mood jazz of Stolen Idols will take you to gorgeous beaches, South Sea Islands, and Far East gardens - all in one night.

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

See LOOKING AHEAD, page 4B

## 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			

### Across

- Refuse
- South African village
- "How \_\_\_ Mehta Got Kissed, Got Wild, and Got a Life" (Kaavya Viswanathan novel in the news)
- Before the due date
- Hip bones
- Catch, in a way
- Skin swelling from insect bite
- Not yet final, at law
- "\_\_\_ and the King of Siam"
- Governments controlled by the wealthy
- Expel from law practice
- Traction aid
- Occupancies
- Fruit drupes, as on blackberries
- Endured
- Caroled
- Lacks, briefly
- Handle roughly
- Blender button
- Mrs. Bush
- From the U.S. to England
- Basket material
- Extreme stupidity
- Having a 3D effect
- Beer buy
- Abstruse
- Care for
- "Tosca" tune
- Bell the cat
- Vineyard fruit
- Cleave
- Coaster
- Calyx part

### Down

- Drops on blades
- "Go team!"

- Bauxite, e.g.
- \_\_\_ in the middle (2 wds)
- Course of study outline (pl.)
- Effort
- Assortment
- Reduced instruction set computer (acronym)
- Au \_\_\_
- Cassandra, e.g.
- Racehorses
- Breathing problem
- Minimal
- Aldorf is its capital
- Battery contents
- "Buenos \_\_\_"
- Ancient Andean
- Climb
- Ivan and Nicholas
- Baffled (2 wds)
- Fair-sized musical group
- Bunk
- Barbarian
- Beauty treatment for nails
- Mercury, for one
- Gout-causing \_\_\_ acid
- Delicate
- Reduce, as expenses
- Cargos
- Coordinates (2 wds)
- Look at printed material a second time
- Back talk
- Academy Award
- Gawk
- "What are the \_\_\_?"
- Close, as an envelope
- Wrap in a shroud
- Kind of column (hyphenated)
- 50 Cent piece
- Marienbad, for one
- Moray, e.g.

## Sudoku

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

## Sudoku answers from last week

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

## Crossword answers from last week

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

## Horoscopes

### August 22, 2013

## Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

You've got a take-charge personality, and an authority will look to you to use it on an upcoming project. Do not disappoint them, Capricorn.

## Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

Your appetite for information is insatiable. Lucky for you, Aquarius, a coworker whets it considerably. A mission in organization starts with a bang and ends with a whimper.

## Pisces

February 19 - March 20

Tiny steps now will lead to big strides later, Pisces, so move with care. Approach the project as a process and learn to delegate at each phase.

## Aries

March 21 - April 19

Humility is key to settling a family feud. There is no room at the table for arrogance, so squelch it every chance you get, Aries. A meeting provides finality.

## Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Prayers are answered, and life looks rosier than it has in some time. Bask in the moment, Taurus, and take a leap forward. A friend keeps a promise.

## Gemini

May 21 - June 21

Whispers are just that—whispers. The truth will come out by week's end. Give it some time to settle in, Gemini. A phone message is returned.

## Cancer

June 22 - July 22

A new face is a dead-ringer for someone from your past. Don't be fooled, Cancer. There is no comparison between the two, as you will soon discover.

## Leo

July 23 - August 22

Lucky Leo. You've got the magic touch, and the world knows it. Soon you'll have more on your plate than you have time for. Take help where you can get it.

## Virgo

August 23 - September 22

Lots of love is ontap this week, Virgo. You're the hit of the party everywhere you go. A faceoff at home inspires you to make a few changes.

## Libra

September 23 - October 22

Triumph over tragedy, Libra. Every cloud has a silver lining, even the one hanging over you. You will soon find the good in it and turn it around.

## Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

You're tested this week, and you pass with flying colors. Share your insight with a friend who's stumbling, Scorpio. A party invite arrives by mail.

## Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

The scale tips in your favor. Go, Sagittarius, go! A friend down on their luck receives a helping hand. A cleanup task proves more challenging than thought.

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Movie review

'Europa Report' relies on science to depict unsettling interplanetary mission

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

It turns out "Elysium" isn't the only smart science fiction thriller making the rounds this summer – but chances are, it will be the only one playing local theaters.

"Europa Report" is a unique documentary-style film that follows a near-future mission to Jupiter's moon Europa. The crew is tasked with determining whether or not alien life may exist in oceans beneath the icy surface of the moon. The majority of the film is presented in the ever-popular found-footage format along with a few invented interviews and clips of fictitious news conferences – tidy and innovative fabrications to lend credibility to the overall narrative.

Six astronauts are selected by Europa Ventures, a privately funded space exploration company, to make the journey to Jupiter's moon. The film opens with a brief montage of footage captured by various stationary cameras on board the ship Europa One leading up to a failure in the communication system. Dr. Samantha Unger, portrayed by Embeth Davidtz, explains that the images presented were the final ones received from the spacecraft. Facing the camera as if filming an interview for a real documentary, Unger then says "For 16 long months, I've been asked the simple but loaded question: What happened?" She begins to answer, but becomes too emotional to continue.

Then the audience is informed, via an on-screen message, that "With thousands of hours of recently declassified footage, Europa Ventures can now complete their story." So begins this brilliantly-crafted, speculative faux exposé of a future manned mission searching for life elsewhere in the solar system.

Ecuadorian filmmaker Sebastián Cordero employs the found-footage format to tell this tale. This cinematic method that came into vogue – especially for genre films – following the release of "The Blair Witch Project" in 1999 has its roots in even earlier low budget movies such as "Cannibal Holocaust" and "84C MoPic." A flood of found-footage films – such as the "Paranormal Activity" franchise, "REC," "The Last Exorcism" and "Grave Encounters" – have diminished the effectiveness of the moviemaking approach due to proliferation and misapplication.

Cordero's "Europa Report" commendably avoids the many pitfalls of the format by relying on shipboard cameras to reveal the major plot points. There's no clichéd shaky camera work, no exaggerated close-ups (aside from a handful of helmet cam sequences) and no panicky victims not quite terrified enough to drop the camera and run. And while most found-footage films suffer from a shortage of compelling characters, the director manages to successfully deliver six psychologically and emotionally well-rounded astronauts – individuals the audience is able to empathize with on some level.

Chinese actor Daniel Wu, for instance, portrays the mission



Above, Karolina Wydra stars as Katya and Christian Camargo as Daniel in "Europa Report," a Magnet Release. Pictured to top right is another scene from the film.

commander. A well-established actor, director and producer, Wu played a small role in "The Man with the Iron Fists" and appeared in Stephen Fung's popular martial arts films "Tai Chi Zero" and "Tai Chi Hero." Xu is fittingly solemn and assertive and seems to have a practical working relationship with his crew.

Swedish actor Michael Nyqvist portrays Andrei, the Russian astronaut. Internationally, Nyqvist is best known for playing Mikael Blomkvist, the lead character in Stieg Larsson's Millennium series. In "Europa Report," Nyqvist's character is initially set up to be the weakest link – Andrei appears to be buckling under the pressure of the lengthy voyage. Nyqvist's subtle man-on-the-edge performance is superbly low-key and adds to the tension as the story unfolds.

South African actor Sharlto Copley plays James. Copley happens to be in this summer's most provocative science fiction action flick, "Elysium," playing a heavy-handed thug named Kruger. Compare Copley's sensitive portrayal of affable family-man James in "Europa Report" to the psychotic mercenary he plays in "Elysium," and this actor's wealth of talent is evident. James makes several recordings for his son, offering simplistic observations about the mission that would – if delivered any other way – seem artificial.

The distinguished cast also includes Romanian actress Anamaria Marinca as Rosa, Polish-American actress Karolina Wydra as Katya and Christian Camargo as Daniel.

The film suffers slightly from one technical miscalculation: Cordero chose to present some of the narrative in nonlinear progression. The director may have felt that revealing certain events out of chronological order might add to the suspense. Unfortunately, it jumbles the storyline marginally and it undermines the idea that this is supposed to simulate a documentary.

Some critics have compared "Europa Report" to Stanley Kubrick's 1968 film "2001: A Space Odyssey." While Cordero's movie may not rival the cinematic achievement of Kubrick's classic, the analogy is accurate: Both films explore the physical and psychological demands of protracted space missions and both films utilize hard science. Accord-

ing to production notes, the filmmakers consulted with NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory, SpaceX and other leaders in the scientific community to show audiences what a mission to Europa would actually look like, from ship design and mission planning to the surface of Europa itself.

That attention to detail – and realism – pays off. Most recent science fiction epics have shunned science in favor of flashy effects, attention-grabbing CGI and disproportionately extended action sequences. Populating these films, qualified scientists have been replaced by everyman protagonists baffled by the events they face. "Europa Report" features delightfully brainy astronauts, coping with claustrophobia, isolation, monotony and, eventually, far more serious challenges to their survival.

It's worth pointing out, too, that after a year of planning and pre-production, Cordero managed to shoot the film in less than 20 days on a relatively small budget. By sheer coincidence, on Nov. 16, 2011 – the first day of principal photography – NASA announced that it had uncovered tantalizing new evidence of liquid water lakes just beneath Europa's icy surface.

The appeal of "Europa Report" depends a lot upon the audience. Those who view it expecting to find the sci-fi horror elements of "Alien" will be disappointed. Those looking for a Hollywood-style big-budget sci-fi epic will be similarly frustrated. Those seeking an intelligent, unsettlingly honest depiction of prospective 21st century interplanetary spaceflight will find the film compelling and entertaining.

"Europa Report" will undoubtedly be remembered as a small-budget masterpiece of intelligent science fiction.

"Europa Report" was released theatrically Aug. 2 to a select few markets, such as Chicago, New York City, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle. To date, the closest it's come to screening in the Tampa Bay area is a run at Midtown Art Cinemas in Atlanta, Ga. Don't despair: "Europa Report" is currently available for rental viewing on Bright House On Demand, iTunes and Amazon Instant Video.



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# Dunedin, Stirling celebrate sister city relationship during anniversary

By TOM GERMOND

DUNEDIN - The 700th anniversary of pivotal battle in Scottish history coincides with the 50th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Dunedin and Stirling, Scotland, and both communities plan celebrations next year.

Among the events will be a tour of Stirling and other areas of Scotland presented by the Dunedin Historical Museum.

In the battle of Bannockburn, fought in June 1314, king of the Scots Robert the Bruce defeated a much larger English Army under Edward II, eventually leading to independence for the Scots from the British. Items from the battle will be sent to the Dunedin Historical Museum as part of a relics exchange.

Andy Chiodo, a marketing and advertising specialist, is helping to promote the anniversary events.

It's a remarkable opportunity for us to have a great celebration over there," said Chiodo.

"We are trying to get as many people as possible, civic organizations, schools, the city, excited about it and doing things that can contribute to the whole festivities," Chiodo said.

The Tale of Two Sister Cities Tour will be held from June 24 to July 3, 2014, and includes Stirling sightseeing and a visit to Stirling Castle, which was captured from England in 1297 by William Wallace and again in 1314 by Robert the Bruce. Tour participants will participate in the opening of the Dunedin Exhibition at the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum. Provost Mike Robbins will host the celebration.

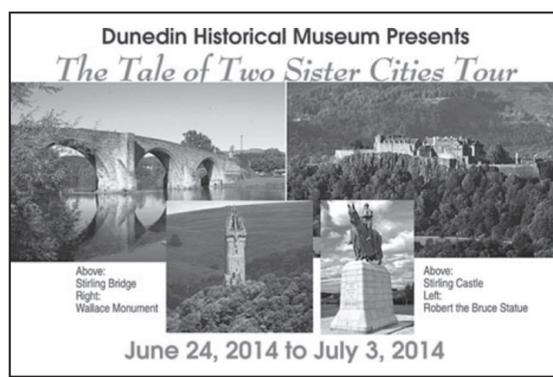
"We are going to host a gala at Stirling Castle," he said. "So it's kind of an exciting opportunity."

The tour also features a visit to the William Wallace Monument & Bannockburn Heritage Center, where visitors will learn about "Braveheart," Wallace's struggle for Scottish independence.

Other destinations include the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, where golf originated, a whisky distillery, Loch Lomond, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Another option will be for travelers to take the Queen Mary from New York to England and arrive in Scotland by rail - "a once in a lifetime opportunity," Chiodo said.

For more information on the Tale of Two Sister Cities Tour, call Mary Kolb at 733-3498 or George Nigro at 686-6750.

More announcements about the sister cities' anniversary are expected between now and the tour dates.



A flier shows some of the destinations on upcoming Two Sister Cities Tour.

## LOOKING AHEAD, from page 2B

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

• **Maze featuring Frankie Beverly**, Sunday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m., at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$49.50. Call 893-7832 or visit TheMahaffey.com. Maze, a soul/quiet storm band established in the early 1970s, will perform. Formerly known as The Butlers and later Raw Soul with the multi-talented Frankie Beverly as songwriter, record producer, arranger, singer, keyboardist and guitarist, the band became Maze after an introduction to Marvin Gaye, who featured them as an opening act. The 1976 release of their first album, "Maze Featuring Frankie Beverly," yielded a string of hit

singles that included "Lady of Magic" and "Workin' Together." The late '70s and early '80s brought best-selling albums, "Golden Time of Day," "Inspiration" and "Joy and Pain" with chart-topping singles, "Traveling Man," "Feel that You're Feeling," "Joy and Pain," "Look in Your Eyes" and "Southern Girl." Three of the songs on their next album, "Live in New Orleans," landed on the United States R&B chart, "Running Away," "Before I Let Go" and "We Need to Live," establishing their reputation and popularity in both America and the United Kingdom. The release of "Silky Soul" in 1989, plus "Back to Basics" in 1993, attained gold disc status.

• **Artie Lange**, Saturday, Sept. 28, 8 p.m., at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$32.50. Call 893-7832 or visit TheMahaffey.com. Lange is a comedian, actor, writer, producer, entrepreneur and radio personality who finds humor observing life and telling stories. He is currently hosting "The Artie Lange Show," broadcast locally on WHPT-FM, 102.5 The Bone. The Fox News Radio show is an offshoot of The Nick and Artie Show that he launched with comedian Nick DiPaolo in 2011. Before that, Lange was a popular regular on "The Howard Stern Show" for nine years. His memoir, "Too Fat to Fish," became a New York Times best seller. Lange gained a reputation as a class clown in school and performed his first stand-up routine when 19. He got his start in the comedy clubs of New York City where he helped create Live on Tape, the popular sketch comedy group, and wrote and performed with troupes such as Midnight Madness and The Improvables. His

breakout work with "Live on Tape" landed him his debut television role as one of the original series regulars on Fox's "Mad TV."

• **India.Arie**, Saturday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$45. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. In support of her latest album, "SongVersetion," India.Arie makes a stop at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College. Sometimes you have to step back to move forward. Coming to that realization, let alone taking that crucial first step, can be a daunting endeavor. Now on the other side of a self-imposed four-year hiatus, India.Arie returns with the most illuminating album of her career. Born in Denver and having relocated to Atlanta as a teen, India.Arie went from singing under a tree in the park to the Grammy Awards stage in five years, earning seven nominations for her 2001 double-platinum debut Acoustic Soul, which features her first hit single, "Video." That was followed in 2002 by the platinum-selling "Voyage to India," 2006's gold-certified "Testimony: Vol. 1, Life & Relationship," and its 2009 sequel "Testimony: Vol. 2, Love & Politics." "SongVersetion" reunites the Grammy-winning singer/songwriter/producer with longtime writing partner/co-producer Shannon Sanders. Recorded in Atlanta and Los Angeles, India.Arie's fifth studio album features additional production from singer/songwriter David Ryan Harris and songwriter Michael Ruff. The result is a compelling snapshot of her hard-won breakthrough to simultaneous personal and artistic growth.

## TOP FIVE, from page 1B

fighter to raise money for his beleaguered school. "Grown Ups 2" hit theaters this summer. James appeared in the sequel alongside Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Salma Hayek, David Spade, Maya Rudolph and Maria Bello. The comedian-actor's versatility is also heard on the big screen: His voice has been featured in animated films such as "Barnyard" (2006), "Monster House" (2006) and "Hotel Transylvania" (2012).

• **Hippiefest 2013**, Saturday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$45. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Ruth Eckerd Hall has been hosting the annual Hippiefest event since 2008. This year, Hippiefest will showcase five iconic blues-rock artists. The evening will feature performances by Ten Years After, Edgar Winter Band, Canned Heat, Rick Derringer and Pat Travers. See the story starting on page 1B for more details.

## HIPPIEFEST, from page 1B

past several decades.

"All the members of Ten Years After are enthusiastic about reuniting with Edgar, Rick and especially Canned Heat again," said Ric Lee in a press release issued by tour promoter Albright Entertainment Group. "Original members Chick Churchill, Leo Lyons and I first performed alongside Canned Heat at the legendary Fillmore Ballroom on our first tour of the United States

in 1968 and have remained good friends ever since. We are also excited to tour the U.S. as we pay tribute to band-mate Alvin Lee, while igniting a new wave of youthful excitement and appealing long-term fans."

Alvin Lee passed away earlier this year from unforeseen complications following a routine surgical procedure.

### Edgar Winter Band

From his critically acclaimed debut release, "Entrance," Winter has demonstrated his unique style and ability to cross the genre lines and do the unexpected.

Spawning the No. 1 hit "Frankenstein" and the ever-popular "Free Ride," Winter's album "They Only Come Out at Night" was released in 1973, peaked at the No. 3 position on the Billboard Hot 200 and stayed on the charts for an impressive 80 weeks. It was certified gold in April 1973 and double platinum in November 1986.

Winter invented the keyboard body strap early in his career, an innovation that allows him the free-



Edgar Winter performs Aug. 24 as part of this year's Hippiefest lineup at Ruth Eckerd Hall.

dom to move around on stage during his multi-instrument high-energy performances. He was also the first artist to feature a synthesizer as the main instrument in a song. "Frankenstein" revolutionized rock and roll and opened up a whole new world of possibilities with experimentation and sound.

Winter's music has been featured in several major national television and radio and advertising campaigns. In addition, his music can be heard in no

fewer than 15 film and television projects.

"This is Edgar Winter, and we will be rockin' the blues again this year ...," Winter said in a press release. "For those of you who saw us last year, we will be doing a new and very different show."

Winter is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the release of "Frankenstein" and "Free Ride" on the album "They Only Come Out at Night."

"We intend to celebrate the occasion by playing some of the songs from that album I haven't done in years, like 'We All Had A Real Good Time,' 'Hangin' Around' and 'Undercover Man,'" Winter said. "We are very excited, this one's going to be a blast! It means the world to me to be playing the music I love, and see you all out there having a good time. So we look forward to seeing you at one of the shows, and get ready to rock and roll!"

### Canned Heat

"We are all looking forward to a great tour with our longtime friends of Ten Years After and Edgar Winter," said Skip Taylor, Canned Heat's longtime manager. "It should be as much fun for us as for the audience."

Canned Heat joins the popular summer tour for the first time. Two blues historians and avid record collectors founded the band in 1966.

Alan "Blind Owl" Wilson and Bob "The Bear" Hite drew on their encyclopedic knowledge of all phases of the genre and focused on recording updated versions of obscure old blues recordings. Applying this bold approach, the band attained two worldwide hits, "On The Road Again" in 1968 and "Going Up The Country" in 1969. These two songs were inspired interpretations of 1920s blues recordings by Floyd Jones and Henry Thomas.

Canned Heat earned international attention with memorable performances at the 1967 Monterey Pop Festival and at the original Woodstock Festival in 1969.

Canned Heat's unique blend of modern electric blues, rock and boogie has earned them a loyal following and influenced many aspiring guitarists and bands during the past four decades.

### Rick Derringer

It's doubtful that anyone will be sitting in their seats when Rick Derringer breaks into his well-

known rock anthem, "Rock and Roll, Hoochie Koo."

The song continues to be a staple on rock radio and was featured in several movies including "The Spirit of '76," "Rush," "Stag," "What a Girl Wants" and the cult classic, "Dazed and Confused."

Years before his success as a solo artist, Derringer had a band at the age of 17 called The McCoys. The McCoys scored a No.1 hit in 1965 with the song "Hang on Sloopy." The song would eventually be knocked out of the top spot by The Beatles' "Yesterday." In 1966, Derringer found himself leading The McCoys as they opened for The Rolling Stones on their U.S. tour.

Throughout the '70s and '80s, Derringer appeared on numerous albums with artists such as Alice Cooper, Richie Havens, Todd Rundgren, Steely Dan, Cyndi Lauper, Barbra Streisand and Kiss.

Beginning in 1993, Derringer recorded four blues CDs, starting with "Back To the Blues" and followed by "Electra Blues," "Blues Deluxe" and "Jackhammer Blues," released in 2000.

### Pat Travers

Canadian rock guitarist Pat Travers released his critically acclaimed debut album in 1976. The album featuring his own brand of high quality '70s guitar rock and roll.

Over the next several years, Travers released a string of strong hard rock albums, such as "Makin' Magic" (1977), "Putting It Straight" (1977), "Heat in the Street" (1978) and "Crash and Burn" (1980). He and his band supported Rush on their Drive til You Die tour in support of "A Farewell to Kings."

"Crash and Burn" featured the blues-rock hit single "Snortin' Whiskey" which has become one of Travers' signature songs.

Travers kept busy over the following decades, delivering melodic '80s rock, blues throughout most of the '90s, and a series of noted performances with various power trios since 2000. As he entered his fifth decade in the music industry, Travers has returned to the trademark Pat Travers Band sound.

"I am so excited to be part of a tour that has some of my favorite artists on it playing some of the best music ever written and performed," Travers said in a press release.

For more information about this year's Hippiefest, call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com.

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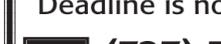
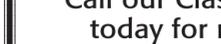
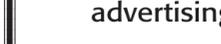
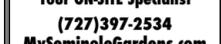
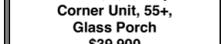
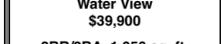
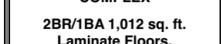
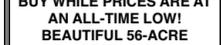
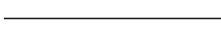
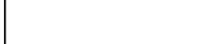
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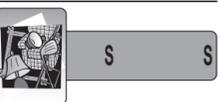


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**NEWSPAPERS**

# Cassandra Clare's 'City of Bones' hits the big screen this weekend

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

## 'The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones'

Genre: Fantasy  
 Cast: Lily Collins, Jamie Campbell Bower, Robert Sheehan, Kevin Zegers, Lena Headey, Kevin Durand, Aidan Turner, Jemima West, Godfrey Gao, CCH Pounder, Jared Harris and Jonathan Rhys Meyers  
 Director: Harald Zwart  
 Rated: PG-13

Set in contemporary New York City, a seemingly ordinary teenager, Clary Fray (Lily Collins), discovers she is the descendant of a line of Shadowhunters, a secret cadre of young half-angel warriors locked in an ancient battle to protect our world from demons.

After the disappearance of her mother (Lena Headey), Clary must join forces with a group of Shadowhunters, who introduce her to a dangerous alternate New York called Downworld, filled with demons, warlocks, vampires, werewolves and other deadly creatures. The film is based on the worldwide bestselling book series by author Cassandra Clare.

## 'The World's End'

Genre: Comedy  
 Cast: Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, Martin Freeman, Paddy Considine, Eddie Marsan and Rosamund Pike  
 Director: Edgar Wright  
 Rated: R

The tale of *The World's End* begins on June 22nd, 1990. In their suburban U.K. town of Newton Haven, five boys in the prime of their teenage youth celebrate the end of school by attempting an epic pub crawl together. Despite their enthusiasm and the downing of a slew of pints of beer, they fall short of seeing their quest through, to the last pub on their list, *The World's End*.

Twenty-odd years later, "the five musketeers" have each left their hometown and are now husbands, fathers, men with careers - with the flashing-red-light exception of their voluble onetime ringleader, Gary King (Simon

Pegg), who is now a 40-year-old man trapped at the cigarette end of his teens. The irrepressible Gary, keenly aware of his estrangement from his onetime closest friend Andy (Nick Frost), becomes hell-bent on trying "The Golden Mile" drinking marathon again. He convinces Andy, Steven (Paddy Considine), Oliver (Martin Freeman), and Peter (Eddie Marsan) to stage an encore, and one Friday afternoon they are all reunited. Gary is in his element: the mandate is one night, five guys, twelve pubs - imbibing at least one pint apiece at each establishment. Arriving in Newton Haven, they re-encounter Oliver's sister Sam (Rosamund Pike), for whom Gary and Steven each still carry a torch.

As the gang attempts along the way to reconcile their past and present, an increasingly insane and dangerous series of encounters with old haunts and acquaintances makes them realize that the real struggle is for the future, not just theirs but humankind's. Reaching *The World's End* is the least of their worries.

## 'You're Next'

Genre: Horror  
 Cast: Sharni Vinson, AJ Bowen, Nick Tucci, Wendy Glenn, Joe Swanberg, Rob Moran, Barbara Crampton, Margaret Laney, Amy Seimetz, Ti West, Larry Fessenden, Lane Hughes, L.C. Holt, Simon Barrett and Calvin Reeder  
 Director: Adam Wingard  
 Rated: R

One of the smartest and most terrifying films in years, "You're Next" reinvents the genre by putting a fresh twist on home-invasion horror.

When a gang of masked, ax-wielding murderers descend upon the Davison family reunion, the hapless victims seem trapped ... until an unlikely guest of the family proves to be the most talented killer of all.

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

## 'Devil's Pass'

Genre: Thriller  
 Cast: Holly Gross, Matt Stokoe, Luke Albright, Ryan Hawley,

Gemma Atkinson and Richard Reid  
 Director: Renny Harlin  
 Not rated

Fact: In February of 1959, nine Russian hikers ventured into a remote area of the Ural Mountains in Russia.

Fact: Two weeks later, all nine were found dead.

Fact: What happened to them is a mystery that has baffled investigators and researchers for decades. It has become known as the Dyatlov Pass Incident.

Rumors have attributed their deaths to everything from alien encounters and government conspiracies to supernatural causes. To date, no one has been able to adequately explain what drove nine experienced hikers from their tents so frantically that they ripped through the material from the inside; or how their bodies came to be exposed to such dangerous amounts of radiation that it was still detected weeks later.

Present Day: Five ambitious American college students are issued a grant to return to the site of the original events in the belief that they can uncover and document the truth of what happened at Dyatlov's Pass. But what they find is more shocking than anything they could have imagined.

## 'Drinking Buddies'

Genre: Comedy  
 Cast: Olivia Wilde, Jake Johnson, Anna Kendrick and Ron Livingston  
 Director: Joe Swanberg  
 Rated: R

Kate (Olivia Wilde) and Luke (Jake Johnson) work together at a craft brewery.

They have one of those friendships that feels like it could be something more. But Kate is with Chris (Ron Livingston), and Luke is with Jill (Anna Kendrick). And Jill wants to know if Luke is ready to talk about marriage. The answer to that question becomes crystal clear when Luke and Kate unexpectedly find themselves alone for a weekend.

## 'The Frozen Ground'

Genre: Drama and thriller  
 Cast: Nicolas Cage, John Cusack, Vanessa Hudgens and Siu-Lung Leung  
 Director: Scott Walker  
 Rated: R



Above, Jace (Jamie Campbell Bower) and Clary (Lily Collins) gaze through a bookcase in Screen Gems' fantasy-action "The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones." Below, From left, Nick Frost stars as Andy, Eddie Marsan as Peter, Simon Pegg as Gary, Paddy Considine as Steven and Martin Freeman as Oliver in Edgar Wright's new comedy "The World's End," a Focus Features release.



"The Frozen Ground" is based on the incredible true story that follows Alaskan State Trooper Jack Halcombe (Nicolas Cage) as he sets out to end the murderous rampage of Robert Hansen (John Cusack), a serial killer who has gone unnoticed for 13 years.

As the bodies of street girls start to pile up in Anchorage, fear strikes a chord with the public. Risking his life, Halcombe goes on a personal manhunt to find the killer before the next body surfaces. When a 17-year-old es-

capee (Vanessa Hudgens) reveals key information about the case, Halcombe is finally on the trail of the killer. But will he catch him in time to save the next victim?

## 'The Grandmaster'

Genre: Action  
 Cast: Zhang Ziyi, Tony Leung, Hye-kyo Song, Chen Chang, Yuen Woo-ping, Shun Lau and Siu-Lung Leung  
 Director: Wong Kar Wai  
 Rated: PG-13  
 Directed by acclaimed film-

maker Wong Kar Wai, "The Grandmaster" is an epic action feature inspired by the life and times of the legendary kung fu master, Ip Man.

The story spans the tumultuous Republican era that followed the fall of China's last dynasty, a time of chaos, division and war that also was the golden age of Chinese martial arts. Filmed in a range of stunning locations that include the snow-swept landscapes of Northeast China and the subtropical South, "The Grandmaster" features virtuoso performances by some of the greatest stars of contemporary Asian cinema, including Tony Leung and Ziyi Zhang.

## 'Una Noche'

Genre: Drama  
 Cast: Daniel Arrechaga, Anailin de la Rúa de la Torre, Javier Núñez Florián, María Adelaida and Méndez Bonet  
 Director: Lucy Mulloy  
 Not rated

Trapped in the nervous desperation of Havana, Raul dreams of escaping to Miami.

When accused of assault, his only option is to flee. He begs his best friend, Elio, to abandon everything and help him reach the forbidden land 90 miles across the ocean. Elio's commitment is tested when he is torn between helping Raul escape and protecting his twin sister, Lila. Brimming with the nervous energy of Havana's restless youth in the crumbling sun-bleached capital, "Una Noche" follows one sweltering day, full of hope and fraught with tension, that burns to a shocking climax.

For more movie news, visit [www.TBNweekly.com](http://www.TBNweekly.com). Click on the "Movie News & Reviews" link on the left-side menu.

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