

## LARGO LEADER

### 'Pompeii' erupts on the big screen, along with '3 Days to Kill'

Also, Temptations and Four Tops to perform at Ruth Eckerd Hall this Friday ... Page 1B.



Volume XXXVI, No. 31

www.TBNweekly.com

February 20, 2014

#### COMMUNITY



### New officers join Largo's force

Additions to the Largo Police Department - from left, Ryan Freudenthal, Nicole Gulizia and Michael Petrow - swear into their new roles as officers Feb. 18. ... Page 4A.

#### LARGO

### City pool offers lifeguard classes

As local swimming pools look to hire for peak attendance, the Largo Recreation, Parks and Arts Department announces the beginning of two classes to help experienced swimmers with their employment goals at Southwest Pool. ... Page 3A.

#### BUSINESS

### Largo business ranks No. 1 on site

Salt N Pepper Bistro, at 1757 Clearwater-Largo Road, ranks as a No. 1 restaurant on TripAdvisor.com. ... Page 9A.



### Retired cop plays a bad guy in films

After retiring from his job as an undercover narcotics detective for the Sheriff's Office three years ago, Randall Speakman was uncertain what his next step would be. Speakman had always been interested in acting. After all, he had spent 27 years with the Sheriff's Office, where acting was an integral part of his job as an undercover detective. ... Page 10A.

#### VIEWPOINTS

### Tom Germond

A suitcase full of memories. ... Page 13A.



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## Largo considers downtown signs

Commissioners discuss ways to set apart businesses on West Bay, beyond

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - The owner of a recently closed business on West Bay Drive spoke up during the Largo commission meeting Feb. 18 to ask city leaders to define the downtown area.

Ahiskell Delgado - owner of Dolcini's Gelato, which until this weekend was located at 325 W. Bay Drive - said she only recently found out that her business was located in down-

town Largo.

"I never saw I sign that says, 'Welcome to Largo,' 'Welcome to downtown Largo.' Where is downtown Largo? I don't know," she said.

Other signs point to Largo Public Library, Central Park and City Hall, but nothing delineates where Largo's downtown businesses and restaurants begin, she said. As she mourned the loss of her own business, she wanted to speak out to help

other businesses in Largo's undefined downtown area.

"I hope we are the grain of corn that fell on the ground, that died (and) that will bring life for the rest of the people that are there," she said. "They need help. They need a lot of help. They cannot do it on their own."

The meeting included a public hearing to approve the Largo Mall Activity Center Special Area Plan, "designed to act as a catalyst for future

economic redevelopment," according to city documents. The designation, unanimously approved by commissioners, gives framework to the area around the Largo Mall, allowing for more intense mixed-use development compared to other parts of Ulmerton Road. Assistant Community Development Director Bob Klute said the designation would allow the mall's movie

See SIGNS, page 4A

### Dog Bone Run



Above, Joe and Candi Soltau encourage their 8-year-old Shih Tzu, Willie, to play in the fenced-in dog park within Bayhead Action Park Feb. 17. Below, Willie takes off at Candi Soltau's call.

## Largo adds a dog park at Bayhead

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - Bayhead Action Park now includes a fenced-in half-acre dog park, which will eventually include a fire hydrant drinking fountain, K9 agility items and a paw-shaped picnic table.

The park, dubbed Dog Bone Run, has been enclosed with a 4-foot fence. The other dog-friendly amenities should be installed in a month or less, said parks supervisor Greg Brown. While the gate has no latch yet, Brown said he's noticed nearby residents letting their dogs play in the open space already.

"People have gotten the picture," he said. "It's good to see there's a need there."

Joe and Candi Soltau walked their 8-year-old Shih Tzu through Bayhead to the dog park the evening of Feb. 17. Encouraging little Willie to exercise was important, they said, adding that they enjoyed the atmosphere of the park.

"The whole neighborhood uses it," said Joe Soltau. "It's pretty communal."

See DOG PARK, page 3A



## Officials eye medical marijuana

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - There's a chance Florida may join the list of 20 states that have legalized the use of medical marijuana.

A ballot question is scheduled to appear on the Nov. 4 ballot, asking voters to approve allowing physician-supervised use of cannabis. Bills filed in the House and Senate of the Florida Legislature Feb. 10, call for legalization of controlled use of medical marijuana.

Pinellas County Commission Norm Roche, who serves on the Public Safety Coordinating Council, brought the subject up during the Feb. 11 commission meeting. He said the coordinating council was looking at what county ordinances might be affected if medical marijuana was legalized.

"It's a very fascinating discussion," Roche said. Pinellas County Commissioner Ken Welch asked about the paraphernalia ordinance enacted when he was chair in 2006. Roche said it was among those being considered. He said the sheriff's office also was looking at what county laws legalization might affect.

Welch pointed out that if medical marijuana were legalized, an education campaign likely would be required to inform the public that not all marijuana use was legal.

#### Push for legalization

United for Care is the backer of the constitutional amendment to legalize medical marijuana. The Florida Division of Elections confirmed that enough signatures had been validated to put the measure on the November ballot and the state Supreme Court approved the ballot language in January.

The Florida Division of Elections reports that Pinellas County residents accounted for 76,787 of the 786,368 valid signatures favoring placing an amendment on the ballot.

According to the nonprofit lobbying organization Norml, the amendment would allow doctors to "recommend cannabis therapy" to their patients and authorize the Department of Health to register and regulate centers that produce and distribute marijuana for medical purposes. To pass, the amendment needs 60 percent approval by voters.

See MARIJUANA, page 7A

## Chamber president reflects over last 10 years

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - Tom Morrisette didn't really have an end date in mind when he started with what is now called the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce 10 years ago.

He didn't even have the job lined up when he moved to Tampa Bay in September 2003 with only his clothes, some dishes, pots and pans. Looking to escape the snow and try something different, he had accepted an offer for his condo in Massachusetts, sold almost everything and headed to Florida.

He signed a seven-month lease on an apartment in St. Petersburg. The offer on his condo had been much higher than what he originally had bought it for at an auction, so he had some funds to burn. Morrisette, then 42, had never been to the west coast of Florida, but had some friends in the area.

"I played hooky for a little, checking out the beach and exploring the area," he said. "I thought, if it doesn't pan out, I'll go back up north."

About a year and a half prior, he had been laid off from his relatively new job

as vice president of marketing for the Central Massachusetts Regional Tourism Council, a state agency that had suffered financially post-Sept. 11. After a month in Florida, he saw an ad in the newspaper for the job as president of what was then the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Chamber of Commerce and figured he could handle running a 400-member chamber.

By March, Morrisette was watching sunsets from a rented cottage on Bellear Beach and marveled that he had gone from no job in Massachusetts to a great job in a completely new state in only a year.

"It was a fun year, a year of change," he said.

Since then, Morrisette has guided the nonprofit organization through its transition as a regional chamber and through its own financial difficulties.

"We went through the greatest recession since the Great Depression and are still here holding our own, and back to where we were before the recession," he said. "We're fortunate in this area, in

See CHAMBER, page 4A



Tom Morrisette, pictured in his Largo office, celebrated his 10th anniversary as president of the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce last month.

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## 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.

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.**

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



### 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.

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.

### 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.

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.

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.

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!

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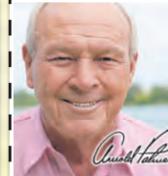
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## Around town

### 'War Stories,' car show coming to military museum

LARGO – Tickets are on sale for two events held at the Armed Forces History Museum: War Stories and Free Beer on Thursday, March 6 and the second annual Classic Car Show on Saturday, March 15.

The museum will be the hosting venue for GORUCK's War Stories and Free Beer, held in the museum's Officer Club Thursday, March 6, 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is a \$10 donation; space is limited.

GORUCK, a company that makes military-grade gear, has sponsored these presentations all over the country in an effort to give veterans the chance to share their wartime experience. The presentation of these personal stories is intended to bridge the gap between the military and the audience.

One of the guest speakers for the event will be Major Caesar Civitella, who served in World War II with the Office of Strategic Services, the predecessor to the CIA. He was one of the first to be recruited for the Army's newly formed Special Forces. Later, Civitella worked for the CIA and was awarded the Intelligence Medal of Merit.

His talk and presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Armed Forces History Museum as well as Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.goruck.com](http://www.goruck.com).

The Classic Car Show will return for its second year Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are discounted at \$15.

Guests can witness nearly 75 classic cars from the 1920s to 1990, and will receive a ballot to vote on their favorites. Trophies for first, second and third prizes will be awarded. Two food trucks will sell refreshments. Let's Roll Promotions and Q105 are sponsoring the event.

Tickets are available online at [www.armedforcesmuseum.com](http://www.armedforcesmuseum.com), by calling 539-8371 or in person at the museum, 2050 34th Way N. in Largo.



Photo courtesy of the ARMED FORCES HISTORY MUSEUM

The Armed Forces History Museum will host the second annual Classic Car Show on Saturday, March 15.

### Democratic club hosts luncheon, impersonator

LARGO – The Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas invites the public to a luncheon featuring impersonator Hudson Jones Saturday, Feb. 22, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at The Royal Palms of Largo, 200 Lake Ave. NE.

Jones impersonates John F. Kennedy so authentically, you will think the late president is in the room. The menu for the luncheon is cream of broccoli soup, chicken salad on bed of mixed greens, rolls and cheesecake for dessert.

Make a reservation with Kathy Murray by sending your check made out to DWCU for \$25 to Kathy Murray, 1011 Woodside Ave., Clearwater, FL 33756.

For information, call club president Victoria Najjar at 744-1101.

### DOG PARK, from page 1A

To help fund the new infrastructure, the dog park will include a bone-shaped plaza where owners can purchase a brick in honor of their canine friend.

Dog Bone Run, open to small dogs and well-behaved large dogs, is within Bayhead Action Park, 375 Seminole Blvd. Hours will be sunrise to sunset. Brown said he hopes to hold a grand opening in about a month.

For more information about the park, purchasing a paver and sponsorship levels, visit [LargoParks.com](http://LargoParks.com) or call the parks division at 586-7415.

### Center holds adults and senior prom

LARGO – The Largo Community Center invites area adults and seniors to "A Starry, Starry Night," the first adult and senior prom on Saturday, March 1, 7 p.m., at 400 Alt. Keene Road.

Enjoy a night filled with live music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres, desserts and prom photos. A king and queen of prom will be crowned. Bring back old memories while creating new ones at this semi-formal event.

Tickets are on sale now at the Largo Community Center and cost is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Imperial Palms Apartments, Pinecrest Place and The Barrington are sponsoring this event.

For more information, call 518-3131 or visit [PlayLargo.com](http://PlayLargo.com).

### Ride the train

LARGO – Ride miniature trains around Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive, on Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., during the first full weekend of the month.

The next train weekend is March 1-2. Rides are free, though donations are accepted. Visit [LargoEvents.com](http://LargoEvents.com).

### Foundation to host Art Hop and Taste Fest

LARGO – The Greater Largo Library Foundation will host the seventh annual Art Hop and Taste Fest, an evening of art, music, fine food and desserts, Saturday, March 8, 6 to 10 p.m., at the Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive.

The area's top professional artists, artisans and fine food purveyors will join with student artists and leading local businesses to support the Largo Public Library, the busiest and most popular library in Tampa Bay.

The Dennis McBride's artistic renderings of historic Pinellas County buildings will be the featured collection. Jace McTier will be the featured artist, and the featured rising star artist will be Lisa Bagley, an art teacher from Largo High School. Tampa jazz singer Lisa Casalino will be the night's musical entertainment.

The evening will include Stops on the Hop bus tour to local businesses, a silent auction and door prizes.

Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. To purchase tickets in advance, visit the foundation's website at [gllf.org](http://gllf.org) and click on "donate."

Artist and vendor tables are available for \$50. You also can purchase tickets at any of the Stops on the Art Hop, at the library or by calling the foundation at 586-7398.

The Art Hop and Taste Fest is the premier fundraising event of the Greater Largo Library Foundation, a nonprofit that cultivates funding resources and advocates for the library to enhance the community's educational and social enrichment. For more than 20 years, the foundation has raised and donated millions of dollars to support the library, including nearly \$2 million toward its construction, plus innovative communications equipment, custom shelving, signage, mobility carts, foreign language and large print collections, afterschool programs and appearances by outstanding authors.

For more information, contact Scott Thompson at 587-6679 or email [officegllf@yahoo.com](mailto:officegllf@yahoo.com) or [psthetics@yahoo.com](mailto:psthetics@yahoo.com).

### Red Hatters converge in Largo

LARGO – Hundreds of purple blouses and red hats are set to gather at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, for the

## Become a swimming instructor, lifeguard

LARGO – As local swimming pools look to hire for peak attendance, the Largo Recreation, Parks and Arts Department announces the beginning of two classes to help experienced swimmers with their employment goals at Southwest Pool, 13120 Vonn Road.

A **Water Safety Instructor** class is scheduled Saturdays, March 1-29, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A mandatory, prerequisite for the class is a swim stroke skill testing on Saturday, Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The cost of the classes is \$215 for residents and \$255 for non-residents. Certified trainers will instruct students in various methods of teaching at all levels of swimming using American Red Cross teaching techniques. Class includes two-year certification. Students will be provided with books and training materials.

The city's American Red Cross **Lifeguarding Class** will be held Monday through Friday, March 24-28, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The cost is \$195 for residents and \$225 for nonresidents. The American Red Cross books and materials costs are included.

This class is open to anyone 15 years of age and older who wish to begin a career in lifeguarding. Participants will be tested on the first day of class on their ability to complete the following: a 300 yard continuous swim, retrieval and a 10 pound brick swim from a depth of 7 to 10 feet of water.

This course teaches the skills necessary to become an American Red Cross certified lifeguard, which is widely accepted throughout the aquatic profession. Students who successfully complete the 40-hour course will receive certification in lifeguarding, CPR/AED for the professional rescuer and First Aid.

All individuals must have a city Recreation Card to participate in either class. These classes fill up fast so enroll today. For more information or to register, contact Southwest Pool at 518-3126 or visit [LargoPools.com](http://LargoPools.com).

annual Red Hat Tea Party Tuesday, March 11 or Wednesday, March 12, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Red Hatters will enjoy live music, dancing, door prizes, contests, vendor shopping and a lunch freshly prepared by the Largo Community Center. Mingle with other chapters, make new friends and wear your best red hat as the group plans to take lots of pictures to commemorate this ever-growing springtime event.

Cost for one day of the event is \$10 per person. Spaces are limited; pre-registration is required by Friday, March 7.

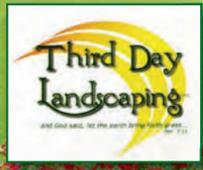
Purchase tickets by calling 587-6740, ext. 5004 or visiting the Largo Community Center.

### Chorus hosts dinner show

LARGO – Tickets are on sale for the Barbershop Chorus' annual Florida Suncoast Barbershop Chorus Show, held Sunday, March 23, at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road.

Dinner will be served at 2 p.m. Tickets for the dinner and show are \$14 and must be purchased by Wednesday, March 19, at the Largo Community Center. Tickets can be bought at the door for \$10, but do not include the meal.

Visit [LargoCommunityCenter.com](http://LargoCommunityCenter.com) or call 518-3131.



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Be Your Own Best Advocate.

Many seniors today live alone in their communities as their children live and work in other areas. Although the children may visit often, typically they are not present when it comes time for mom or dad's doctor's visits or other appointments they attend for their well being.

One of the most difficult things for patients, is knowing how to ask questions of a doctor. You owe it to yourself to ask these questions, especially when it comes to prescribed medications. Take a list of your current medications and vitamin intake along with you. It is important to review each drug recommended and learn of all the side effects that are a possibility. Because time is limited it is important to make a list of any questions you have pertaining to your health so you are sure to get your answers before walking out the door. Jot down the answers if you fear you may not remember them. Invite a friend or caregiver you trust to go along with you for support. This person does not need to speak for you but their presence may ensure that someone is caring for you. This relative or friend can help you remember the key points made by your doctor. If you're not sure you understand what is happening, ask questions until you feel comfortable.

It is important to know all of your options when diagnosed with a problem. If tests are recommended, be sure to ask what they entail so you are comfortable if you choose to go forward with them. Learn if there are side effects to these tests.

It is quite normal to feel worried about speaking frankly with your doctor, but your doctor will be able to be more sensitive to your needs if you inform him of your concerns.

He or she is there to help you with all of your medical concerns. It is important to be assertive and to gather all the knowledge you can regarding your health. Communicate openly in your effort to receive the right health care. Advocate with confidence for you!



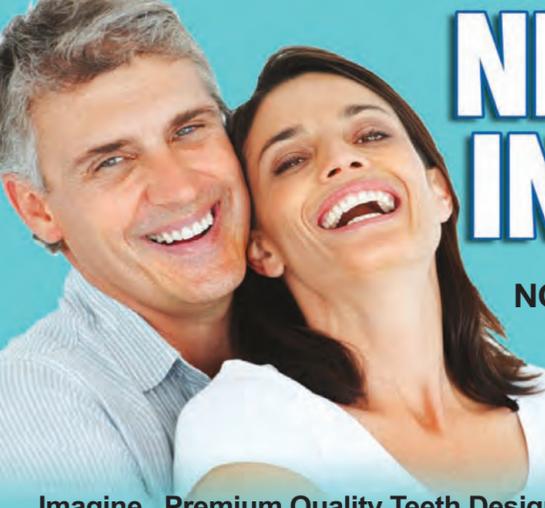
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# Residents asked to conserve water as utilities project concludes

By SUZETTE PORTER

Pinellas County asked residents to conserve water for 10 days, Feb. 18-28 while workers install a new meter at the Keller pump station located off Keystone Road in Tarpon Springs.

"It's a complex construction. Welders will be working around the clock," said Kevin Becotte, plant operations manager for the Department of Environment and Infrastructure's Water and Sewer Division.

The work is part of two major construction projects designed to help stabilize pressure and improve the quality of the county's drinking water supply. Pinellas County is collaborating with Tampa Bay Water. Plans for the work began in 2011.

The first project is replacement of the Keller pump station, which is more than 50 years old. The second is installation of a half-mile pipeline where water from Tampa Bay Water and Eldridge-Wilde wells will be blended before entering the county's system.

Currently, workers are installing a new meter on a 66-inch pipeline. To do the job, Utilities had to shut off the main pipeline. A temporary pipe is carrying the load, but it's a smaller diameter pipe, meaning it can't deliver as many gallons of water per day.

To make up the difference and keep the water flowing, the city of St. Petersburg will supplement the water coming from the Eldridge-Wilde wellfields and Tampa Bay Water's regional supply. The Eldridge-Wilde property, located in Pinellas but owned by Tampa Bay Water, has about 24 wells that pump into the water supply system.

Becotte doesn't anticipate any problems while the meter is being in-

stalled. Still, water conservation by the public would help ensure there was enough water for everyone over the 10 days.

He asked that people delay activities that would require large quantities of water, such as refilling swimming pools or pressure cleaning. People also are asked to refrain from lawn watering, car washing, installing new sod/landscaping and operating fountains. Becotte pointed out that conservation in daily use, such as not leaving the water running while brushing teeth, shaving, washing dishes and reducing shower time would be helpful.

"We expect to have enough volume to supply everybody," he said. "We'll be OK."

Utilities had scheduled to do the work two weeks ago, but due to faulty equipment – a valve that would not shut properly – installation of the new meter was delayed.

Becotte said the operation was "well planned." He described the collaborative effort between the county, Tampa Bay Water, the contractor and engineer throughout the construction process as "fantastic."

"The whole project will benefit Pinellas County," he said. "The new pump station is more efficient. It will use less electricity. The water quality will be better."

In addition, maintenance cost will be less for the station due to availability of parts.

"The old pump station is over 50 years old. We were fabricating replacement parts because they don't make them anymore," Becotte said.

Utilities has contingency plans in place just in case something goes wrong with the current project.



TBN graphic

Pinellas County Utilities is asking the public to conserve water through Feb. 28 while workers install a new meter at the Keller Pump Station in Tarpon Springs.

"But we want to let everyone know this is happening so they can help with conservation. We want to keep the public informed," he said. "We'll know if the project is successful if people say they didn't notice a difference at all."

# Plein Aire Cottage artists 'blend beautifully' on Indian Rocks Beach

By BRIAN GOFF

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – A familiar sight along Gulf Boulevard at any time during the year is the sight of three women with their canvas and easels; painting whatever is in their sight.

The three are old friends and they paint together constantly. They are the Plein Aire Cottage artists and are as much a part of Indian Rocks Beach as the beach itself.

Plein Aire is a genre of painting, which loosely means outside or in front of you or on location. And that is why the women are so often seen. There is no indoor studio work or painting from a photograph for them.

Two of the women, Mary Rose Holmes and Helen Tilston, live in Indian Rocks Beach. The third, Violetta Chandler, lives in Sarasota. Trips to IRB are frequent for her because the women paint almost exclusively in the community.

"It is the historic quality of Indian Rocks Beach that attracts us," said Holmes. "There are not many old style seaside towns left in Florida. IRB is real inclusive. We have 22 beach entrances, and everybody is invited to the beach. I think we've painted every one of the beach accesses."

That is where the name "cottage" comes from for this group. Near every beach access are cottages, which struck the eyes of the three women.

"We started painting together just around the time those cottages were being demolished," said Tilston. "We started painting them because people didn't want to lose them; they wanted to save the cottages. We didn't want to lose history."

Holmes, who was born in Sanford, recalls when the three of them began painting the cottages.

"Soon after we met we began painting in IRB," she said. "It was right around the time all the cottages were disappearing. I remember the Scruggs cottage. It was empty, ready to be demolished. The furniture was already sold and we began painting it to save it for prosperity and to show the beauty of the cottages."

It turns out they did more than just save the cottages for prosperity. They had a hand in actually saving them for real.

"Someone said to us you can't save the cottage by painting it, but people began to buy our paintings and go to Commission meetings," said Holmes. "The mayor actually wrote us a letter saying we turned a light on in IRB. Eventually the recession came and the developers ran out of money and many of the

cottages were saved."

The three women met 15 years ago at what was then the Gulf Coast Museum of Art in Largo.

"I was teaching at the museum, teaching oil painting and Mary Rose and Helen were my students," said Chandler, 48, the youngest of the three.

Tilston said she's "60ish," and Holmes, who said, "I'm the oldest but not the wisest," remember hitting it off right away.

"I took classes at the Museum of Art and when I first saw Violetta I thought she was our model for the night, but it turned out she was the teacher," said Tilston. "Mary Rose was taking classes, too. There were 20 in the class but we seemed to click from the beginning and Violetta liked us too."

Both Chandler and Holmes started painting at a young age. Chandler, who was born in the town of Tirseol in the former Soviet Union, was the youngest to begin.

"I have been painting since I was 4 years old," she said. "My father taught me. I'm a fifth generation artist; my grandfather was a mural painter."

Holmes has a similar story.

"I was taking art classes at 6 years old," she said. "My grandmother painted beach scenes on the East Coast. I can remember painting my father fishing."

Tilston has a different story, which did not begin with painting but with color.

"I grew up in Ireland and when I was 19 I left home and travelled around a lot," she said. "I got a job in knitwear. I always worked with color. As a child I designed hats that I learned from my grandmother. I worked with color and did interior design at school."

Then about 30 years ago Tilston said she began to take an interest in art.

"I saw a painting that I liked and I bought it over time. When I made the last installment the artist came to meet me and convinced me to take up painting, which I did and I've painted ever since."

Since the three women got together they have established a niche for which they have become somewhat famous in the art community. They paint "triptychs," a style whereby they see a scene they like, then each takes a third of that scene and paints it separately from the others. Then the three panels are put together to form one scene.

"We're the only ones who do it this way," said Tilston. "We recently did eight triptychs for an art show. We understand that we're the only artists that do this, sometimes husbands and wives do it, but no one else like us."



Photo by BRIAN GOFF

Plein Aire Cottage artists, from left, Mary Rose Holmes, Helen Tilston and Violetta Chandler paint on Gulf Boulevard.

"We started doing them in 2009 and were the only group of artists that did them together in the world. They got us on the map," said Holmes. "Monet is our hero, we love impressionism, and we blend beautifully."

The women all said they have a similar style to their work but said they are different, too.

"We're impressionistic painters," said Tilston. "Painting is like handwriting; each is a little different. People who know us can tell which of us did what painting."

In IRB the Cottage artists are known for more than their art. Their love of their community is evident in their work.

"We've lived here for over 20 years now," said Tilston. "We fell in love with the place when we first came here, it has a heart, we've always felt that. No one else has the same community, people here seem to care and give back."

The Plein Aire Cottage artists are among those who give back. Holmes said that is important.

"We try to do that as much as we can," she said.

"We support the library and the museum with the calendar that we produce every year. We support Action 2000 by giving them a painting to auction off every year and we give some money to charities, always in IRB."

None of that would have been possible if three painters hadn't met and struck it off 15 years ago. They have remained friends, close friends, ever since.

"We are friends, very much so," said Chandler. "We have traveled internationally, we've gone to Europe together and we get along very well."

"I enjoy those women," said Tilston. "We've become very good friends, just the energy and the friendship. We travel well together and can't ask for anything more."

"We're really good friends, we have good chemistry, we're not competitive, we buy each other's paintings," said Holmes. "It happened from the very first, we laugh together, we travel together we have the best times. What an artist needs is praise, praise and more praise and we do that for each other."

## New officers



By JULIANA A. TORRES

New additions to the Largo Police Department – from left, Ryan Freudenthal, Nicole Gulizia and Michael Petrow – swear into their new roles as officers during the Largo Commission meeting Feb. 18. A fourth, John Soler-Mattei, did not attend the ceremony due to the recent death of his father.

CHAMBER, from page 1A

central Pinellas, that we have a very diversified economy."

The strategic planning to steer the chamber in a new direction began in 2006, transitioning to the new name that linked it to that vibrant central area in 2010. The Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce currently has a membership of 465 companies and boasts a 82 to 83 percent membership retention, higher than the state industry norm. Morrisette would like to see that increase to 85 percent retention by the end of the year. To him, that's the number that counts, as an indicator that the organization is providing a return on investment for the businesses it serves.

The regionalization process is still in progress, he said. The chamber has always attracted businesses outside the boundaries of Largo, even as far as Tampa.

"This kind of locked it up more and said, 'This is who we are,'" Morrisette explained. "Some people think like government, that we have a fence ... That's not the nature of any organization, especially chambers of commerce."

Businesses go where they can do more business, he said. The chamber has to evolve with the businesses it supports.

"Our money comes from businesses that say, 'We support what the chamber is doing; this is a great way for us to enhance our customer base, and we want to be a part of what they're all about,'" Morrisette said. "If we're not providing the services and the programs and the opportunities, they're not going to sign that check."

Small businesses especially have to see an obvi-

ous return on investment in order to justify the expense of membership, he said. For a chamber that's only run by Morrisette, two full-time and one part-time employees and its great volunteer base, the organization offers a lot of useful programming, Morrisette said. Other chambers have mimicked some of those programs, including the women in business council and the chamber's leads groups.

Each of the four leads groups meet twice a month, either for lunch or breakfast, at Fat Cat Tavern, Alfano's Restaurant, Village Inn and Proino Breakfast Club, respectively. Members pay an extra fee to be part of the group, as its sole banker or Realtor, for example. The groups develop relationships and share referrals among themselves.

"Some of them have been really big referrals that have turned into business," Morrisette said.

For chamber campaigns, like the upcoming membership drive, the members pit themselves against the other lead groups, Morrisette explained.

"It's, 'We're not going to let Fat Cat take us! We're going to make sure we get more members than Fat Cat did.' It's become this camaraderie within the groups and competition among the groups," he said. "It's really fun. I'm enjoying it a lot."

Morrisette hopes that the membership campaign will pave the way for a fifth leads group. The problem will be scheduling yet another regular meeting on the chamber's busy calendar.

"It's scary how much we're doing," he admitted. "Every day, we've got something going on."

The chamber has seen more and more involvement in events like its business happy hours, he said. When he first started working at the chamber, businesses were enamored with the novelty of social media.

SIGNS, from page 1A

theater to expand into extra floors.

But special area plan – and there are more than one in Largo – doesn't help the downtown areas. Toward the end of the meeting, Commissioner Harriet Crozier said that Delgado had brought up a good point about signs.

"She's right. There is nothing," she commented.

The city has redevelopment districts designated for the area West Bay Drive and Clearwater-Largo Road, but they don't include any plans for new signs. Crozier recalled that the city had removed a clock tower in the area. A new clock tower at the start of West Bay Drive could welcome drivers to Largo, she said, asking the community development department to come up with a plan.

"I think we should have something in the budget," she said. "We should say something."

Commissioner Jamie Robinson agreed. As the manager of the Largo Feed & Garden

Supply at 210 W. Bay Drive – a business that has been around before the city of Largo was founded – Robinson said he saw the confusion firsthand.

"As soon as I say 'downtown Largo,' it's like telling them we're at Mars. They don't have any idea where that's at," he said. "If there's anything we can do to promote that area, like we're doing with all the rest of these areas, I would appreciate that."

Commissioner Woody Brown said his own children would personally miss Dolcini's. While admitting a bias as both a business owner and resident of downtown, he said that people in that area feel as though the city has moved out of the area, withdrawing city-sponsored events like the Saturday market and Friday night music from the area.

"We've been talking a lot about redeveloping downtown, while pulling our services out of downtown. I'd like to, as the economy turns around, pay attention to that area that's been a little bit neglected," he said.

Community development staff was charged with coming up with a plan to highlight the downtown area.

chamber might play in the region into the future.

"We have to redefine where we are and where we're going," he said.

The central Pinellas area isn't completely defined by tourism like the beaches are, he said. Rather it's already home to several vibrant medical, manufacturing and technology companies that most residents, who aren't earning the good wages those jobs provide, aren't aware of.

"How do we tell their success stories?" he asked. "We have to promote ourselves in a way that sets us up for the next 10 to 20 years."

The goal of the chamber has to be defining the area as a niche market that will attract more businesses offering high-paying jobs in emerging technologies.

Part of that future outlook will be joining the conversation about the future of transit in Pinellas County. The chamber and its economic development committee will be hosting forums for the community to discuss those questions, specifically about Greenlight Pinellas and the proposed 1-cent sales tax that will pay for it. Improved transit is vital to the success of the region, Morrisette said.

"Our alternative is to cover Pinellas County in asphalt," he said.

Morrisette credits his success to his staff: Cindy Paquin, the communications and events director who has been with the chamber almost as long as he has; Kathy Pabst Robshaw, the membership development director and Cathy Bosko, member services and sales consultant.

For more about the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce, visit its offices at 151 Third St. NW. in Largo, its website at [www.centralchamber.biz](http://www.centralchamber.biz) or call 584-2321.

## Police beat

### Operation Safe Surrender set for Feb. 22

Individuals with non-violent, misdemeanor warrants can turn themselves in during Operation Safe Surrender Saturday, Feb. 22, and have their warrants resolved in a safe environment, as well as receive favorable considerations from the court.

Come to the Suncoast Safety Council, 455 31st St. N., St. Petersburg, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The project is comprised of representatives from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, St. Petersburg Police Department, Pinellas/Pasco State Attorney and Public Defender's Office, Clerk of Courts, and the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court.

Operation Safe Surrender is not an amnesty program, but does offer favorable considerations from the court, often in the form of reduced fines, probation requirements or a new court date as an alternative to incarceration.

The program allows wanted individuals to take responsibility for their actions, stop running from the law and clear their outstanding warrants. Individuals should arrive with a valid photo ID. No weapons or children are allowed.

For more information, call Sgt. Bryan Bingham at 727-582-6149.

### Man stabbed in botched drug deal

PALM HARBOR – A Holiday man was arrested for attempted murder in the second degree Feb. 14 after reportedly stabbing a man who sold him fake cocaine.

According to a report from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, James Jennings, 18, was charged with attempted murder in connection with the incident that occurred about 1:40 a.m. at an apartment in Palm Harbor.

Deputies responded to a call about an individual being stabbed and rendered aid to Francisco Antonio Caraffa, 20, who had been stabbed multiple times. Bayflight arrived at the scene a short time later and took Caraffa to a local hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

During the course of the investigation, deputies learned that Jennings had sold Caraffa fake narcotics (cocaine) prior to the altercation. At Caraffa's residence later in the evening, he confronted Jennings about the quality of his drugs. The confrontation escalated and eventually turned physical.

During the brief skirmish, Caraffa thought he had only been punched, then noticed "an exorbitant amount of blood on his clothing," deputies said. "It turned out he had been stabbed multiple times by Jennings."

A PCSO K-9 Unit tracked Jennings not far from the original scene and took him into custody without incident. Upon questioning, Jennings admitted to the confrontation but denied stabbing Caraffa. Jennings is being held at the Pinellas County Jail without bond.



James Jennings

### Man attempts to rob his own place of employment

CLEARWATER – Clearwater police detectives didn't have to look far to find the man who tried to rob a Radio Shack at U.S. 19 and Sunset Point road on Feb. 12. It turned out that the suspect, Andre Trevor Puskas, 20, works there, and he showed up for his shift a little more than six hours after the robbery attempt.

During the robbery, the suspect wore a ski mask and used pepper spray on an employee. He also tried to shoot her with a stun gun but ended up shooting himself in the hand.

"He didn't plan this very well, nor was he prepared for the unknowns," said John Brown, a Clearwater police robbery detective.

Puskas of Clearwater allegedly entered the store a little after 9:30 a.m. and showed the victim that he had a stun gun tucked in his waistband. She dropped to the floor, but when she moved, he sprayed her in the eyes with pepper spray. She got up and ran out the front door to an adjacent business. She reported that she felt the stun gun pressed against her back as she tried to get away, but it apparently misfired and got the suspect's hand instead.

Puskas tried to get out the back door, but it was locked and he didn't have the key for it. So he, too, had to run out of the front door and ran around to the rear of the store, where he dumped his navy blue ski mask in the dumpster there. The store employee thought that it was strange that the suspect never said a word to her, almost like he did not want her to hear his voice. She also took note of his large physical description, which was 6 feet 2 inches tall and 280 pounds.

Detectives had a hunch they would find their man later when 4 p.m. rolled around. The suspect was a few minutes late because of rain that day, but he still showed up for his shift.

"He walked in like nothing happened," Detective Brown said.

Police say Puskas later admitted to detectives that he tried to rob the store, where he has worked since October. He said he needed the money to pay for car insurance and his cell phone bill. The stun gun and pepper spray were also recovered in his car.

He was charged with attempted armed robbery with a weapon and was being held at the Pinellas County Jail in lieu of \$150,000 bond.



Andre Trevor Puskas

## Community service honored



Photo courtesy of DETACHMENT 54

James "Doc" Szatkowski, a member of Detachment 54 of the Largo/Clearwater unit of the Marine Corps League, was recently given a certificate by the Madeira Beach Post 273 of the American Legion to recognize his outstanding community service. Detachment 54 member James Conrad also was honored with a certificate but was unable to attend the ceremony. From left are Sharon Bradley, an official with Post 273; American Legion members Sharon Abbotts and Kate Gabehart; and Szatkowski.

control of his vehicle and struck a pedestrian sign and then overturned. The truck crashed into the driver's side door of Cook's Saturn.

Both drivers suffered injuries that required their transport to area hospitals. Pinellas Park police were notified Feb. 11 that Cook had died as the result of his injuries.

The continuing investigation was upgraded to a traffic fatality. Anyone with information about the crash is asked to call Officer Creedon at 727-541-0758.

### Scam alert

CLEARWATER – The Clearwater Police Department have issued a scam warning. If one's home phone or cellphone rings with a call from area codes 268, 809, 284, or 876, then it is likely a scam, unless one knows someone from Antigua, Jamaica or some other Caribbean island.

Sometimes the caller leaves a message, saying that he or she has won a prize and that they want you to call them back. Other times it rings just once and the caller hangs up, the report said.

The overseas area codes can be used as pay-per-call numbers, similar to 900 numbers. Consumers who have returned the calls have been reported being charged a \$19.95 connection fee and an additional \$9 per minute.

Anyone who receives such a call is asked to call the fraud hotline at 562-4424.

### Tarpon Springs man charged with child abuse

TARPON SPRINGS – Detectives assigned to the Crimes Against Children Unit have arrested a Tarpon Springs man Feb. 12 for child abuse after he allegedly caused two fractures to a child's right leg because he was angry and frustrated over financial issues.

According to a report from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Joshua Clifford Spencer, 22, was arrested about 3:30 p.m. at the Sheriff's Administration Building in Largo. The crime occurred at a private residence in north Pinellas.

Crimes Against Children detectives began investigating the crime after a female relative of the child reported that Spencer might have hurt the 14-month-old female. The relative also reported that the suspect had also battered her.

Spencer was first arrested on the evening of Feb. 10 for domestic battery and transported to the Pinellas County Jail. He was released on bond on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 8 p.m. Through further investigation into the child abuse allegations, detectives learned the child's right leg had been fractured in two locations. The relative told deputies that the suspect was angry and frustrated over financial issues and that the two had had an argument about the matter.

The unnamed relative told detectives that she had left the child in Spencer's care Feb. 10 and when she returned Spencer told her that something was wrong with the baby's leg. The two transported the child to the hospital for treatment.

Detectives continued their investigation and Spencer responded to the Sheriff's Administration Building for an interview Feb. 12. He initially told detectives that he'd fallen while holding the baby and that the baby's leg had become caught underneath him.

Detectives said he then admitted to handling the child in a rough manner while changing her diaper, causing the fractures to the leg. He was arrested for aggravated child abuse and transported to the Pinellas County Jail without further incident.



Joshua Clifford Spencer

### Pedestrians struck by vehicle

CLEARWATER – Clearwater police reported that a vehicle at Belcher Road and Drew Street struck two pedestrians on Feb. 13.

They were taken to St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa. A 21-year-old man was more seriously injured, and a trauma alert was declared for him, according to a report. The other person hit was a 52-year-old woman.

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### Submit tips to Crime Stoppers

To report information about a crime anonymously and be eligible for an award, call Crime Stoppers of Pinellas County at 800-873-TIPS (8477) or submit a tip online at [www.crimestop.persopinellas.org](http://www.crimestop.persopinellas.org).

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# Pinellas commissioners amend procurement policies

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County Commissioners said yes to amendments to the purchasing code Feb. 11 that change approval authority and eliminate the commissioners' approval of vendor rankings.

The amendments were the result of work by the Contract Administration Review Team, which has been meeting since December 2012. CART was given several goals, including improving the efficiencies in the contract administration process while maintaining internal controls and accountability for staff and the parties that contract with the county, according to a staff report.

"The deliverables supporting his effort include establishing enterprise contract administration guiding principles; revising ordinances, policies and procedures to increase efficiencies; creating a contract administration manual; and establishing staff training program," the report said.

Assistant County Attorney Dennis Long and Pur-

chasing Director Joe Lauro provided CART's recommendations to the commission Oct. 29, 2013. After receiving the commission's input, some recommendations were modified.

A Feb. 11 public hearing was scheduled to discuss the final recommendations and approve the amendments.

One amendment gives the county administrator the authority to approve change orders not exceeding 10 percent of the amount awarded by the commission or \$250,000, whichever is less. Staff said the modification would "greatly expedite contract closeouts and provide improved efficiency to many contract change orders that now require Board approval."

The amendment also updated language to reflect current business process. It also eliminates the requirement that all contracts/instruments be filed with the Clerk of the Court. The county is working on an electronic contracts repository and automated agenda process. Contracts will continue to be filed



Screenshot by SUZETTE PORTER  
Pinellas County Commission Chair Karen Seel explains why she could not support one of the amendments that changes approval authority. Seel recalled issues with construction on U.S. 19 and the problems caused with project extensions.

with the Clerk's office until the electronics repository is established.

CART also revised most of the code governing bidder suspension and debarment "so that non-performing firms" could be penalized for poor performance in a "more expedient and effective manner," staff said.

"Suspensions shall be based on documented contracting issues, such as breach of contract, vendor misrepresentation, criminal offense, fraud and conviction of a public entity crime," the report said.

Long, who was attending his last commission meeting in an official capacity before his retirement, said CART had identified more serious code violations when considering reasons for a suspension. He also said the action had to relate to the vendor's business, not a personal violation. He gave an example of someone being cited for a lawn watering violation, which he said would not count.

Code outlining the vendor's protest procedure was clarified to remove sections "open to interpretation." Code governing the competitive sealed bidding process now clarifies that the county administrator can reject all bids or portions of bids. Another amendment adds "advisory board members" to the section of code on lobbying.

Current code does not require the commission to

approve rankings of firms or authorize staff to negotiate on contracts before final approval; however, historically, rankings have come to the commission as part of the process.

Staff said obtaining approval on the ranking of firms "conservatively adds four to six weeks to the contracting process." CART recommended eliminating commission approval except for operating agreement for the Waste to Energy Plant, Emergency Medical Services Transport and other contracts "as necessary and required." The commission agreed.

CART also recommended revising several "long-standing procedures," which were not part of the code, but "have a direct impact" on the contracting process. Changes were made to the contract review process and master contract "boilerplates."

CART will continue its work and provide future recommendations as needed to improve the contracting process.

Commissioner Norm Roche questioned how the commission would track the process of contracts in the system. Commissioner Janet Long also wanted to be informed, especially on contract extensions, so commissioners could respond to complaints from the public.

County Administrator Bob LaSala said a quarterly report could be prepared.

"This releases some of authority of the board," Roche said. "I just want to be able to monitor."

Commission Chair Karen Seel thanked Attorney Long for his service.

"You're a brilliant lawyer with a wicked sense of humor," she said.

In other business, the commission:

- Unanimously approved a minor plan change for Largo's West Bay Drive Community Redevelopment Plan Special Area Plan. The change allows the city to include language to provide economic and non-economic incentives for development and job creation.

- Scheduled a public hearing on March 18 on Business Technology funds for the Justice Consolidated Case Management System project.

- Adjourned to the conference room and away from the television cameras to discuss board, council and committee appointments, as well as Vision Tourism 2025.

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## Around Pinellas

### Property Appraiser's division relocates

CLEARWATER – The Tangible Personal Property Division of the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's office has relocated from the Supervisor of Elections building in the Starkey Lakes Corporate Center, to their Main Branch office on the second floor of the Pinellas County Courthouse, 315 Court St.

Non-Tangible Personal Property personnel (real estate only) will remain co-located in the Tax Collector's Starkey Lakes location at 13025 Starkey Road, Largo.

Office hours are 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. All department phone numbers will remain the same.

Many Property Appraiser services are available online at [www.pcpao.org](http://www.pcpao.org). Customers also may call the office at 727-464-3207 for assistance. Branch offices are located at 29269 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater, 464-8780; and 1800 66th St. N., St. Petersburg, 582-7610.

### Archibald Park reopens with a new look

MADEIRA BEACH – After being closed since last July to complete nearly a million dollars in renovations, Archibald Park is back. The city's prime gulf-front park reopened Feb. 14.

The new look features upgrades to the lighting, restrooms, decking and parking lots and additional windows for the Snack Shack cabin. A dramatic highlight is a row of date palms illuminated with turtle friendly lights that will change with the nesting season.

City Manager Shane Crawford announced the park's opening at the Feb. 11 City Commission meeting.

"We've had nothing but compliments on the park," he said.

One park attraction that beachgoers will have to do without for a while is the Snack Shack. The popular eatery serves up beach food and beverages, and will have a redone interior when it opens for business in 45 to 60 days. Plans for the Snack Shack include breakfast, lunch and dinner operations, and acoustic entertainment in the evening. United Park Services will run the Snack Shack as well as the beach and cabana chair rental at Archibald Park. The company also manages concessions at Fort De Soto Park and Manatee Beach Park on Anna Maria Island.

Email news to Largo Leader Editor Juliana Torres at [jtorres@TBNweekly.com](mailto:jtorres@TBNweekly.com) or send notices to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772. For more details, call 397-5563, ext. 324.

### MARIJUANA, from page 1A

House Bill 859 and Senate Bill 962 also would allow the use of medical marijuana in Florida.

The Senate Bill, titled the Cathy Jordan Medical Cannabis Act, which failed in 2013, is named after a Manatee County woman suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease. Jordan has used marijuana for medicinal purposes for more than a decade.

Authorities raided her home Feb. 15, 2013 and seized marijuana plants being grown by her husband. The couple argued that the plants were used to treat her medical condition. Eventually, the Manatee County State Attorney's Office dropped charges against the couple.

Tampa Senator Jeff Clemens took up the cause, filing a bill in 2013 and 2014. Clemens bill calls for the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to regulate the industry and be responsible for licensing and permitting of dispensaries and farms.

### Opponents

Opponents of legalizing medical marijuana, including state Attorney General Bondi and Gov. Rick Scott, argue that marijuana is illegal according to federal law. Bondi filed a motion with the state Supreme Court in January trying to keep the constitutional amendment off the ballot. She argued that the ballot title and summary was misleading. The Supreme Court subse-



## Medical Marijuana

### Florida's turn to decide

TBN Graphic

Pinellas County officials are keeping an eye on the marijuana issue.

quently approved the ballot title, "Use of Marijuana for Certain Medical Conditions," and the summary, which says, "Allows the medical use of marijuana for individuals with debilitating diseases as determined by a licensed Florida physician. Allows caregivers to assist patients' medical use of marijuana. The Department of Health shall register and regulate centers that produce and distribute marijuana for medical purposes and shall issue identification cards to patients and caregivers. Applies only to Florida law. Does not authorize violations of federal law or any nonmedical use, possession or

production of marijuana."

### Proponents

United for Care says on its website that marijuana is currently "legal as medicine" in 20 states and the District of Columbia. Information on the homepage states that marijuana "has been shown to be an effective treatment for the symptoms and side effects associated with HIV/AIDS, cancer, hepatitis C, PTSD, MS and other neuromuscular disorders, glaucoma, and chronic pain. The American College of Physicians, American Public Health Association, American

Nurses Association, and many other associations and organizations support the availability of medicinal marijuana."

The Witch's Brew Café and Pub, 1219 Florida Ave. in Palm Harbor, is offering a monthly educational series on the subject of "Hemp and Cannabis" starting Tuesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. The eight-month series scheduled on second and fourth Tuesdays continues through October. For more information, call 483-9210 or email [info@thewitchsbrew.com](mailto:info@thewitchsbrew.com).

For more information on the medical marijuana amendment, go to [www.UnitedForCare.org](http://www.UnitedForCare.org).

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## Chamber Ambassador of the Month

Congratulations to January Ambassador of the Month Neil Allen of A2Z Printing & Graphics. A2Z helps businesses save money on all types of printed materials and with local marketing strategies such as direct mailing and GPS tracked door flyer distribution. Neil can be reached at 727-531-6464 (office) or 727-422-6888 (cell).



Neil Allen contact Chamber members to educate and involve them about the organization's many activities. They also provide membership feedback and participate as greeters at Chamber events.

The Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce represents more than 460 businesses and organizations. Its mission is to assist its members to be successful through innovative programs and services; strengthen partnerships between the business community and local, state and federal government; create, inspire and facilitate community leadership; and foster a business climate that promotes integrity and excellence.

For the past 61 years, this volunteer-driven association has been empowering business by providing the necessary tools and resources to help them succeed. This includes networking leads groups, government advocacy and economic development initiatives in addition to programs and events focused on professional development.

Most importantly, the Chamber consists of people who realize they can accomplish collectively what they cannot individually. **If a Return on Involvement (ROI) is your approach to business and life in general, then you'd be a welcome addition to the Chamber family.** To become a "Preferred Central Pinellas Business" please visit [www.CentralChamber.biz](http://www.CentralChamber.biz) or call us at 727-584-2321.

## Best Use of Technology topic of B2B Luncheon

"Connecting You to the World Through the Efficiency of Today's Technology" is the topic of the Chamber's B2B Luncheon on Wednesday, March 19. It takes place from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Palms of Largo Royal Palms Theater, 200 Lake Avenue NE, Largo.

Brent Seyler, CEO of DelPhi Communications, Inc. of Duluth, Georgia, is the guest presenter. He will discuss the use of technology to enhance client

and future-client interactions; best practices, goals & objectives for online presence; how to meet and/or exceed those goals online; and social media - how it helps or hurts.

Seyler's company specializes in web site development and design, creative marketing and communications strategic planning, as well as building client brand awareness. He and his team service more than 100 clients within various indus-

tries. In recent years, he has been a presenter for many chambers of commerce and chamber of commerce executive conferences across the country.

Spotlight Sponsors of the event are RX Care Pharmacy, Trust Business Systems and Vernon Promotions. Cost to attend is \$20 a person for Chamber members, \$25 for non-members. Call the Chamber at 584-2321 to register, or email [events@CentralChamber.biz](mailto:events@CentralChamber.biz).

## 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 Central Pinellas Business & Community Go-To Guide or visit the Chamber website at [www.CentralChamber.biz](http://www.CentralChamber.biz).

- 3 Oaks Café
- Aaron's Sales & Lease
- Acropol Family Restaurant
- Alfano's Restaurant
- Badcock Home Furniture & More
- Bailey Property Management Corporation
- Bay Dermatology & Cosmetic Surgery, PA
- Bayada Home Health Care
- Bayside Court Apartments
- Belleair Village Motel
- Bonham Dental Arts
- Boulevard Apartments
- Brown Insurance Services
- Brown Insurance Services - TRUSTEE
- City Of Largo
- Cornerstone Community Bank
- DITEK- Diversified Technology Group
- Hammerhead's ACE Hardware
- Heron House
- Indian Rocks ALF
- Infinium Medical, Incorporated
- Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns
- Largo High School
- Lincolnshire Estates
- Mederi Caretenders
- Metro Self Storage - 66th Street
- Minuteman Press, Largo
- Moss Feaster Serenity Gardens - TRUSTEE
- New Stage Theatre and Conservatory
- Okey Ryan Associates
- Optical Factory & Showroom
- Proxiy Electronic Commerce
- Rotary Club of Largo
- Rx Care Pharmacy
- Salon Studio 400
- Sheraton Sand Key Resort
- St. Pete College - Corporate Training
- Sugar Creek Development Corporation
- Tech Data - TRUSTEE
- The Barbershop A Hair Salon for Men
- The Bluffs c/o Bruce Strumpf, Incorporated.
- The Burbine Law Firm, P.A.
- Wealth Builders
- WorkNet Pinellas

## Have your voice heard! Largo Community Values Campaign

The City of Largo is inviting business owners and residents to get involved in the government's decision making and prioritizing process to help leaders plan for Largo's long-term future.

There are two ways to participate - attend a Community Conversation or take an online survey. There are three Community Conversations scheduled - Friday, Feb. 21 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the Village Inn Restaurant, 13105 Walsingham Road;

Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alternate Keene Road; and Tuesday, March 4 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Suncoast Hospice Community Room, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd.

For those unable to attend a workshop, there is a short online survey available with a deadline of March 1. To complete it or to register for a Community Conversation program, please visit [www.largo.com/values](http://www.largo.com/values).

## Barley Mow Brewing Company to host B2B Happy Hour

The Chamber will hold a B2B Happy Hour on Thursday, March 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Barley Mow Brewing Company, 518 West Bay Drive, Largo. Charlie Tulum's of 70 First Ave. SW, Largo will cater the event with its food truck on site.

The B2B Happy Hour is an informal program providing the opportunity for Chamber members and guests to exchange business cards and become acquainted. Attendees who provide a door prize of \$15 or more in value are provided a 60 second

infomercial 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](mailto:events@CentralChamber.biz).



Members of the Chamber's Economic Development Committee got a recent land and sea tour of Port Tampa Bay. Among those who took in the sites were Glenn Fisher of Modern Business Associates, John Thorington of Port Tampa Bay, Mike Schweiger of Target Commercial Real Estate, Tom Morrisette of the Chamber, Mea McManus of Donald McManus & Company, CPAs, Marilyn Browne of WorkNet Pinellas and Jim England of England Brothers Construction.

## Leads Group Business Referrals Continue to Rise

If you're a Chamber business member looking to expand your customer base, consider joining a Leads Group. Already, more than 75 business people are engaged in one or more of the four Groups

now operating. Members meet twice a month to share business referrals and build business contacts.

The success of the program is participation so regular meeting

attendance is required. Cost to enroll is \$100 for all of 2014 and the price of meals. Call the Chamber at 727-584-2321 for an application to learn if your business is eligible to become a team player.

## Tom Morrisette is celebrating 10 years as president of the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce.

A Chamber professional for over 25 years, he was the Communications Manager at the Worcester Area Chamber of Commerce from 1986 to 2000, a 4,300 business member organization in Massachusetts. He holds a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Rhode Island and

was a reporter at several New England newspapers and radio stations prior to entering the Chamber of Commerce profession.

"Tom Morrisette has helped change this Chamber of Commerce dramatically," said Laurie Bunce of Centratel Business Telephones - the only Chamber mem-

ber to serve as Chairman of the Board two times, in 2006 and 2010.

Through his active involvement on several boards and associations, Morrisette helped to position the Chamber as a top tier organization within the region. These include his role as director

and executive committee member of the Florida Association of Chamber Professionals (FACP), a former member of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority's Finance Advisory Task Force and as a Business Partner with the Decentralized Decision-Making Program of the Pinellas Education Foundation.



Tom Morrisette

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Approximately 200 Chamber members took part in our annual Focus on 2014: A Tampa Bay Economic Forecast event, with speakers Philip K. Porter from USF, Ed Peachey of WorkNet Pinellas/Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance, Carl Patten of Florida Blue and Alex Glenn, President of Duke Energy Florida. Chamber Chairman of the Board Dr. Jim Rivenbark of Diagnostic Clinic emceed the event.



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# Attorney General settles with Pinellas-based business

TALLAHASSEE - Attorney General Pam Bondi announced Feb. 14 that claim forms had been mailed to more than 17,000 Florida consumers who were allegedly billed for unauthorized charges on their telephone bills by DADATA Inc., a Pinellas County-based company, and its client companies.

In December, Bondi announced a settlement with DADATA Inc. and others resolving allegations that they charged customers' telephone bills for voicemail, e-fax and other services without the customers' consent. The agreement requires the companies to refund all charges billed since July 1, 2009 to eligible Florida customers who did not consent to the service for which they were charged.

Refunds may total approximately \$2.3 million de-

pending on the number of claims made. Individual refund checks are estimated to average \$134, and they may be as high as \$700. Claim forms must be submitted by April 12.

Additionally, claim forms may be printed out for mailing, or the form may be completed and submitted online. Customers who previously received some credit or a refund may be eligible to file a claim for additional money. An independent claims administrator is handling the process.

The claims website is <https://attorneygeneral-phonerefund.com>, and the toll-free number is 866-483-0379.

For more information, consumers can call 1-866-966-7226 or visit [MyFloridaLegal.com](http://MyFloridaLegal.com).

## Briefcase

### Sweet Madness opens

SEMINOLE - Sweet Madness, a new bakery, recently opened its doors at 8668 Park Blvd., Suite A. The bakery offers daily specials.

### Orangetheory Fitness opens

CLEARWATER - Orangetheory Fitness recently opened its newest location near Countryside Mall at 25853 U.S. 19 N. The new location is the eighth studio the company has in southwest Florida.

"We are excited to be a part of the Orangetheory Fitness Tampa Bay family," said Deann Venuti in a press release. Venuti is co-owner of the Clearwater location. "We have seen such tremendous results with our workout and we are excited that Clearwater can now get in the Orange. A portion of each membership joined the opening evening will be given to the Children's Cancer Center."

Currently, Tampa Bay has the largest number of

See BRIEFCASE, page 10A

# Site ranks Salt N Pepper Bistro No. 1

LARGO - Salt N Pepper Bistro, at 1757 Clearwater-Largo Road, ranks as the No. 1 restaurant out of 557 in the Clearwater area on TripAdvisory.com.

The family-owned French restaurant is open for dinner Tuesday through Thursday, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Friday to Saturday, 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. A sign on the restaurant's door while it was closed for the holidays incorrectly stated that it was out of business. The restaurant owners filed a complaint with the Largo Police Department in regards to the false sign.

Chef Jean Claude Lepretre serves meat, seafood and fresh pasta dishes as well as savory or sweet crepes. All meals are made on-site with fresh ingredients. The restaurant also serves a selection of imported Paulaner beer and a large variety of wine by the glass or bottle.



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Bistro owner and chef Jean Claude Lepretre presents a chocolate strawberry banana crepe, one of many crepes offered at Salt N Pepper Bistro.

Reservations at this intimate and moderately priced restaurant are encouraged. Call 585-3500.

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# Retired undercover detective teams up with local filmmakers to make horror movies

By TIFFANY RAZZANO

After retiring from his job as an undercover narcotics detective for the Sheriff's Office three years ago, Randall Speakman was uncertain what his next step would be.

Then, his mother succumbed to cancer. Not long after that, his brother died from a heart attack.

"I would wake up and feel like I had no purpose," Speakman said.

But things slowly got better. He bought the London Bus Pub with his friend and business partner, Brad Doran. He also began making horror movies, including last summer's "House Guest," with a pair of local filmmaker brothers, Brian and Jake Jalbert, and found he had a knack for playing the bad guy.

"It saved me," Speakman said. "Between the Bus and meeting Brian and doing movies, I think it's the main reason I'm still here."

Speakman and Doran met while hanging out at the Angry Pepper. Speakman was considering a move to Bradenton at the time, but the two would talk about what it would be like if they opened up their own bar.

When the longtime owners of the London Bus Pub put the business up for sale, Doran and Speakman jumped at the chance to buy it. "That business has been there over 41 years," Doran said. "Its roots go that far back in the community."

The community was their primary motivation for buying the restaurant - they wanted to give back, Speakman said. He rattled down the list of charities and causes that have benefitted from fundraisers they've organized: breast cancer awareness and research, pitbull rescue efforts, The Wounded Warrior Project, No Child Goes Hungry.

The pair also wanted to create a friendly atmosphere, a second home. "It's a 'Cheers' atmosphere," Speakman said. "Hey, how you doing? Everybody knows each other's name."

Then a chance encounter with Brian at a local Subway fast food restaurant led him in a different direction.

Speakman overheard Brian talking with friends about shooting a movie. Intrigued, Speakman stopped to chat.

The Jalbert brothers, Boca Ciega High School graduates, filmed weddings through their company Iyrus Entertainment by day, and

made action and horror movies in their free time.

Speakman had always been interested in acting. After all, he had spent 27 years with the Sheriff's Office, where acting was an integral part of his job as an undercover detective.

He expressed an interest in working on one of Brian's films and the two exchanged contact information.

Their first project together was a short film, "Love Struck."

This is when they realized Speakman had a knack for playing the bad guy. He took on the role of a seedy pawn shop owner who was running drugs on the side.

"He was a bad dude," said Speakman, who added that roles like that come naturally to him because of his background. "As an undercover cop, all I did was work with bad guys."

They entered the film into the 2012 Action Film Challenge. Speakman was named Best Villain and Brian won the award for Best Actor.

Next came the thriller "House Guest," which premiered at Muvico in Ybor City last July. In "House Guest," a group of friends gather at one of their homes only to realize a murderer terrorizing their city is one of the guests.

Speakman joined the brothers as co-executive producer and funded the \$3,000 needed for the budget.

They also brought in Alex Vincent, the child star of the "Child's Play" movies. Not only did Vincent star in the film, but he wrote the script as well. Brian met Vincent, who lives in New Port Richey, after publishing an ad on Craigslist seeking local scriptwriters.

"He's such a down-to-earth guy," Brian said. "He wrote it, and I thought it would be cool to get him to star in it as well."

The movie can be rented on Vimeo On Demand at vimeo.com/on-demand/houseguest/74246288 and DVDs can be purchased online.

Now they're hard at work on their next projects, "In Your Image" and "10 Seconds to Run."

"10 Seconds to Run" is about a group of white trash neckbeats that toy with their victims by giving them a 10-second head-start before hunting them down. Filming will begin in October.

"In Your Image," based on a dream Speakman had, is about two twin brothers adopted out to two different families - one very loving and sup-



Photo courtesy of BRIAN JALBERT

"Child's Play" actor Alex Vincent, right, scripted and starred in the film "House Guest." The film was shot in Seminole and in Vincent's New Port Richey home. The movie featured London Bus Pub owner Randall Speakman and was produced by Brian and Jake Jalbert. Vincent is pictured with his co-star Maylin Morera.

portive, the other abusive. Each brother takes a very different path in life, and, not knowing the other exists, encounter each other later in life.

"I dream in vivid detail," Speakman said.

"It's crazy," Brian said. "He made a dream come true."

They passed Speakman's notes from the dream on to local scriptwriter Jim Duncan who formatted it and fixed it up. Now they're trying to grab the attention of a big name actor to star in it. Daniel Baldwin and Ice T are two actors who have asked them to make an offer, Brian said.

He also reached out to Kevin Spacey, but he received a polite email telling him that Spacey's compensation would be greater than the film's entire budget of \$5,000.

"Just the fact that he got back to us is pretty cool, though," Speakman said.

For more information, visit [www.houseguestfilms.com](http://www.houseguestfilms.com), [www.facebook.com/10secondstorunmovie](http://www.facebook.com/10secondstorunmovie) and [iyrusentertainment.com](http://iyrusentertainment.com).

## BRIEF CASE, from page 9A

open studios. The Orangetheory Fitness franchise will expand to more than 200 locations by mid-2014, with several more in Tampa Bay.

### Grand Central District welcomes Necessaries

ST. PETERSBURG - A global women's gallery with a charitable mission recently opened in the Grand Central District.

Necessaries Gallery & Boutique, at 2057 Central Ave., specializes in clothing, jewelry, art and home decor. Each item in the store is hand-made by a woman and for every purchase made, a percentage is donated to help women in the villages of Tibet, Istanbul, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nepal, as well as the local community.

"Our mission is to empower women artisans," says owner Dyan Lena Demidio in a press release. "By helping one another, we are ultimately helping keep families strong, and that's truly what this store is about."

### Aungst earns award

CLEARWATER - Brian J. Aungst Jr., Esq. of Macfarlane Ferguson & McMullen, recently was selected as the recipient of the Economic Advancement Business of the Year Award by the Clearwater Chamber of Commerce for his work related to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

Aungst was lead counsel for the aquarium in its effort to build a new state-of-the-art aquarium in downtown Clearwater. A graduate of the University of Florida Levin College of Law, Aungst was also selected as a Florida Super Lawyer - Rising Star for 2013 and 2014. His practice includes an array of private and public sector clients with a focus on civil litigation and land use.

### Lucke graduates from Fastsigns program

CLEARWATER - Amy Lucke, visual communications expert from Fastsigns of Clearwater, recently completed an extensive three-day sales boot camp training program at the Fastsigns corporate headquarters in Dallas.

"This month, 19 sales professionals from different Fastsigns locations across the country attended our vigorous sales boot camp training," said Jim Howe in a press release. Howe is vice president of franchise support at Fastsigns International Inc. "With over 540 locations worldwide, our goal is to build sales leaders across the Fastsigns network. As we expand, we continue to offer our centers the effective training they need to stay ahead in their markets and serve customers with the best products and services possible."

The Fastsigns sales boot camp covers the essential skills and effective techniques needed throughout the entire sales process. The course includes classroom instruction, live exercises and in-depth coaching

### Trunk show



Barbara Cianfrone, left, and Renee Giovannoni of 432 West Side display the Anne Marie Chagnon collection during the annual trunk show at The Plaza 100, Indian Rocks Road in Belleair Bluffs.

from the Fastsigns training team.

"After spending three exciting days at the sales boot camp and networking with fellow Fastsigns peers, I'm excited to get out there and execute what I have learned," said Lucke. "At Fastsigns of Clearwater, we're more than ready to provide our clients with the cutting-edge visual communications they need to get their message across and stand out. Whether it's digital signs, vehicle graphics, menu boards, tradeshow displays and more, we can provide it."

### Galloway opens Fish Window franchise

CLEARWATER - Fish Window Cleaning recently announced the opening of a new franchise at 755 Main St., Suite A, Dunedin.

The new business provides services for commercial and residential customers in Belleair, Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Clearwater, Clearwater Beach, Crystal Beach, Dunedin, Largo, Oldsmar, Palm Harbor, and Safety Harbor.

This Fish Window Cleaning location is owned by Dan Galloway. Prior to joining the company, Galloway had extensive experience in financial services, information technology, and sales, preceded by more than 13 years of leadership roles in the U.S. Air Force.

"Our franchise owners get to draw on Fish's 35 years of knowledge and experience," said Nathan Merrick in a press release. Merrick is vice president of franchise development. "Fish offers proven methods, training, a nationally recognizable business name, and uniformity. Dan's vast business experience partnered with his passion and enthusiasm is sure to make his business successful."

To prepare for the new business, Galloway completed multiple weeks of training in the Clearwater area and at Fish Window Cleaning headquarters in St. Louis, Mo. He is currently hiring and accepting applications.

"I am committed to providing quality service and 100 percent satisfaction that Fish customers have come to expect," said Galloway. "I look forward to meeting my residential and commercial neighbors and becoming the top, reliable provider for window cleaning needs."

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# February is American Heart Month

American Heart Month in February serves as an annual reminder to take stock of your heart health.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Protection, heart disease, stroke and chronic lower respiratory disease are among the five major causes of death in the United States. While heredity may affect one's risk for these diseases, health behaviors such as smoking, obesity, alcohol abuse and lack of physical activity play a large role in your risk of developing heart disease, diabetes and other chronic diseases.

The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County offers these tips to improve your quality of life:

- If you use tobacco products, quit. Tobacco use is the single largest cause of preventable premature death in the nation. The DOH-Pinellas Tobacco Prevention Program offers information and resources that include the Florida Quitline's services. Call 877-U-CAN-NOW (822-6669) for information.
- Move more, sit less. If you are carrying too many pounds, even a modest weight loss can have a positive impact on your overall health.

Healthy weight can also impact your energy levels, sleep habits, self-esteem, psychological health and health care costs. The Florida Department of Health's Healthiest Weight initiative provides resources to help you be more active.

- Choose healthy meal options. Healthy eating is important for all age levels. Starting with breastfeeding for infants, a lifetime of choosing nutrient-dense food and beverages will contribute to lowering risk factors for many chronic diseases and conditions. For information on menus, meal plans and healthy eating on a budget visit [www.choosemyplate.gov](http://www.choosemyplate.gov), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's nutrition site.
  - Track your numbers. Visit your health provider to manage chronic conditions and to keep track of your blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol numbers. Follow the American Cancer Society's schedule for cancer screenings for early detection of killers such as prostate cancer, breast cancer and colorectal cancer.
- For information about DOH-Pinellas and links to the resources mentioned here, visit [www.PinellasHealth.com](http://www.PinellasHealth.com).

## Measuring success – a question with endless possibilities

How do you measure success? Is it the car you drive, the house or neighborhood you live in? Maybe the degree you hold or the career path you chose? For others, maybe a club status or choosing the "right" life partner, fulfilling a dream? This question I believe has endless possibilities. For each and everyone of us most definitely a different answer. You see, it is all a matter of perspective. What one views as success may be very, very different for another. It is truly whatever you put your whole heart into.



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Laura Morelli

If an education and awesome career path is your heart, then go for it all the way. If there is a dream you've been dreaming, then work hard to make that dream a reality! Every bit of it is good but let's not forget that sometimes success is overlooked as well. Most often when we speak of success it is material possessions and fame. However, success can very much be a volunteer who gives of their time to those in need but no one ever hears about. It can be a mother or father who gave up their own dreams to invest in their children. A single parent who stayed and worked several jobs to make sure their family did not go without. The person who gives beyond their means to help another.

My conclusion is the heart determines the success of a person. I do not believe success can or should be measured by things. Success is an inside job. If you give your very best to your passion, your mission, your life's work, then you are successful. Do not let anyone or anything tell you otherwise. Be your SUCCESS today!

*This article was provided by Laura Morelli, an orthopedic specialist at The Florida Knee and Orthopedic Centers, 1660 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd. in Clearwater.*

## Health news

### Health fair set at Largo location

LARGO – A New You Health Fair will be presented Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Spinal Correction Centers, 515 Missouri Ave. N. The event will include food, health-oriented vendors, raffles, games, car wash and blood bus. For information, call 265-5830.

### Fusion HealthCare names vice president

CLEARWATER – Fusion HealthCare recently announced that Donna Ackery has joined the company as vice president of client services. Ackery most recently served as the vice president of operations for MedBridge/Keystone Home Health in Clearwater, and has been working with the healthcare industry for more than 20 years in Pinellas County. "We are very excited to welcome Donna aboard," said Toni Sexton, CEO of Fusion HealthCare. "Her natural enthusiasm, passion and level of expertise is a perfect fit for our organization." Fusion HealthCare is licensed in 27 counties on the West Coast of Florida with a geographic territory stretching from Gainesville to Naples.

### Caregiver support program offered

ST. PETERSBURG – InspiredLiving at Ivy Ridge will host its caregiver support group program for community members Wednesday, March 19, 3 to 5 p.m., at 7179 40th Ave. N.

InspiredLiving at Ivy Ridge hosts the monthly program, presented in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association. Light refreshments will be provided. Caregivers are welcome to bring their loved one, but are asked to RSVP.

"Our monthly support groups were launched in January to make life easier for caregivers with a loved one at home," said A.J. Cipperly, director of programming at InspiredLiving at Ivy Ridge. "Highly trained and qualified staff from InspiredLiving at Ivy Ridge will lead the group in partnership with our friends from the Alzheimer's Association."

According to Terry Myers, executive director, this and other free educational offerings are part of InspiredLiving at Ivy Ridge's mission in the community.

"We believe it is our responsibility to provide community members with information, education, support and resources that enable them to understand better Alzheimer's disease and cope with the many challenges it can create," said Myers. "The monthly support group meetings are one more way we can share knowledge and create support that will ease the burden on area caregivers and their families."

For more information or to register, call 490-3233 or email [Terry.Myers@IvyRidgeLiving.com](mailto:Terry.Myers@IvyRidgeLiving.com).

### CrossFit Rebels offer free workout

CLEARWATER – CrossFit Rebels will host its monthly free community workout Saturday, March 1, 10 a.m., at 2077 Sunnydale Blvd. Commit2B: Strong is designed to promote family fitness in a fun and challenging environment. The workout is tailored and scalable to all levels of fitness.

Families with children ages 4 and older and of all fitness levels will be educated and coached on proper movement form, and will work

through a fun, team-oriented workout that will stimulate interest in and compliance with health and fitness. Call 253-4971.

### National Blood Supply impacted by weather

The harsh winter weather is making blood collection difficult in parts of the country and OneBlood, the local blood center, has been called in to help out.

OneBlood has already shipped blood products to various parts of the country impacted by the arctic blast and continues to be called upon to send additional shipments. Local donors are urged to donate as soon as possible to help ensure the local supply remains strong so the blood center can continue to send blood for patients in areas impacted by the relentless winter storms.

While all blood types are needed, people with Rh negative type blood are in the highest demand. In addition, platelet and plasma donors also are greatly needed. January is National Blood Donor Month and the perfect time to thank blood donors for saving lives, to encourage others to follow in their footsteps and to shine the spotlight on how blood donors can target the power of their blood type to save more lives.

There are eight different blood types and each one holds a unique power to save lives. OneBlood's Target Your Type program gives donors the ability to learn the power of their blood type and how to donate the specific components of their blood that are most needed by area hospitals.

Generally healthy people age 16 or older who weigh at least 110 pounds can donate blood. To learn more about the importance of blood donation and how donors can target the power of their blood type, visit [www.oneblood.org](http://www.oneblood.org).

### New technology helps locate lung cancer

Two BayCare hospitals – Morton Plant and St. Anthony's – are using GPS-like technology to help locate and biopsy lung tumors potentially leading to improved diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer.

Called Electromagnetic Navigation Bronchoscopy, the procedure helps physicians navigate the lungs by combining GPS-like technology with a catheter-based system to access lesions on the lung that can be hard to reach.

"ENB extends the reach of the bronchoscope to regions deep within the lung," said John Masson, M.D., in a press release. Masson is a Morton Plant Hospital pulmonologist. "We can then find smaller lung lesions located deep in the lung for diagnostic testing and potential treatment without making an incision in the chest."

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# Clearwater students named finalists in PSA video contest

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Division of Emergency Management announced the finalists for the 2014 Severe Weather Awareness Week Video PSA Contest.

Three finalists were selected for middle school and high school divisions, including Emma McPhilly and Skyler Negron from Oak Grove Middle School in Clearwater. The title of their PSA video is Safety Kits.

FDEM is encouraging the public to play a role in this year's 2014 Severe Weather Awareness Week Video PSA contest. Through Feb. 28, Floridians will be able to vote for their favorite video PSA. To vote, go to the Kids Get A Plan Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/KidsGetAPlan](http://www.facebook.com/KidsGetAPlan). The six finalist videos are available under the "video" section. Floridians can vote for their favorite by "liking" the video on the page.

"Severe weather can occur at any time in Florida. Severe Weather Awareness Week is an opportunity for the Division to remind Floridians to be prepared," said FDEM Director Bryan W. Koon. "I want to thank every student who submitted entries to this year's contest. I look forward to seeing the winners as selected by the public."

The 2014 Severe Weather Awareness Week campaign works to promote preparedness among all Floridians for all types of hazards. Each of the finalists will receive a prize and winning submissions from each category will be professionally reproduced and incorporated into the Division's 2014 public education campaign.

To learn more about Severe Weather Awareness Week in Florida, and to Get A Plan, visit [www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org).

## School notes

### Outstanding school volunteers announced

In conjunction with Florida School Volunteer Month, Pinellas County Schools recently announced the 2013-14 Outstanding School Volunteers.

Pinellas County School Board members will honor the Outstanding School Volunteers at the Feb. 25 board meeting.

The 15 Outstanding School Volunteers represent nearly 24,000 volunteers who partner with Pinellas County Schools to promote academic achievement and who have donated approximately 400,000 hours of volunteer service so far this school year.

The Outstanding School Volunteers and overall category winners will be honored at a special celebration breakfast on April 24 at Feather Sound Country Club in Clearwater.

"Our schools benefit from a dedicated cadre of volunteers who selflessly give their time and energy to support education in Pinellas County," said Superintendent Dr. Michael A. Grego. "These meaningful contributions are helping our students realize their full potential."

At the celebration breakfast, an overall winner in the youth, adult and senior categories will be announced and those individuals will participate in the state Department of Education outstanding volunteer program at the end of the school year. The 15 outstanding volunteers are:

**Area I**  
• Youth: Amber Nichole Sonderman – Sunset Hills Elementary

tary Schools

• Adult: Deborah Williams – James B. Sanderlin PK8 IB World School

• Senior: Dr. Walter Olson – Sunset Hills Elementary School

**Area II**  
• Youth: Hannah Blevins – Gulfport Elementary School

• Adult: Jana Mir Lake St. George Elementary School

• Senior: Margaret Melton – Curlew Creek Elementary School

**Area III**  
• Youth: Megan Trout – Nina Harris Exceptional Student Education Center

• Adult: Debi Fiegle – Curtis Fundamental Elementary School

• Senior: Larisa Komarow – Seminole High School

**Area IV**  
• Youth: Michael Atanasio – Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School

• Adult: Brian Wilkes – Clearwater High School

• Senior: Linda Jordan Mize – John M. Sexton Elementary School

**Workforce Development**  
• Youth: Sydney Ann Reitz – Gus A. Stavros Institute

• Adult: Michael Laskey – Palm Harbor Community School

• Senior: Gretchen Alice Ackerson – Gus A. Stavros Institute

For information, call Michelle Roberge at 588-5050 or email [robergem@pcsb.org](mailto:robergem@pcsb.org).

### Kershaw named to dean's list

LARGO – Andrew Kershaw of Largo recently was named to the University of Delaware's dean's list for the 2013 fall semester.

### CCC students place first at science fair

CLEARWATER – Clearwater Central Catholic High School juniors Samantha Rubin and Kristi Bears recently won first place in the Pinellas County Science Fair.

Samantha and Kristi will represent Pinellas County at the state competition in April with their project "Fixing the Fertilizer Filth." The project examines the effect of fertilizer runoff on the growth and development of the eastern oyster.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Kristi has qualified for the state competition and the third for Samantha.

### Student gets diploma

PINELLAS PARK – Regan Stoehr of Pinellas Park is one of nearly 400 graduates who received a diploma at Harding University's commencement exercises Dec. 14.

Stoehr received a master's degree in management and business ethics.

## Learning the ropes



Photo courtesy of BOB WAGENSEIL

The after school sailing program at Calvary Episcopal Church is now in full swing. Partnering with Indian Rocks Family Sailing, the church has a long history of making its waterfront property a very special place for kids and adults to learn the basics of sailing, and enjoy the natural beauty of coastal Pinellas County. Shown are young sailors and their parents from the after school sailing class.

## Schools to benefit from race announced

LARGO – Gulf Coast Giving has announced school beneficiaries of its 2014 Upgrade 2 Success 5K and 1-mile Family Fun Doggie Walk/Run, scheduled for Saturday, April 5.

Carwise Middle School, Cypress Woods Elementary School, Bay Vista Fundamental School, Calvary Christian High School and Indian Rocks Christian School were selected by the community-at-large through online links and a social media-voting contest.

The race Upgrade 2 Success serves as a platform to spread Gulf Coast Giving's cyberbullying awareness, prevention and intervention efforts. Proceeds from the race will purchase much needed IT and computer equipment for the schools.

The chip-timed race will take place Saturday, April 5, beginning at 9 a.m., at Walsingham Park in Largo. Registration for the race is open to the public at [www.gulfcoastgiving.org/run](http://www.gulfcoastgiving.org/run).

Participants will receive T-shirts, swag bags and

finisher medals for all children. They will compete for first-, second- and third-place medals in all age groups as well as medals for overall male and female winners.

The event will include a silent auction, a raffle, giveaways, music, food, a visit from the Easter Bunny, arts and crafts for children, an Easter egg hunt and an inaugural 1-mile family fun doggie walk/run.

Gulf Coast Giving provides support for nonprofits and schools within the community in an effort to improve the community and allow everyone to keep pace in a modern world. Gulf Coast Giving also raises cyberbullying awareness, prevention, and intervention efforts all over Tampa Bay.

For sponsorship opportunities contact Jessica Moody-Shafer at [Jessica@gulfcoastgiving.org](mailto:Jessica@gulfcoastgiving.org) or 595-5240, ext. 1205.

For information, visit [www.GulfCoastGiving.org](http://www.GulfCoastGiving.org).

## Inventors & Inventions



Photo courtesy of SALLY BURKS

Gifted Learners at Bauder Elementary have been studying "Inventors & Inventions" this school year. They have been learning about how inventors have used both simple and complex ideas and turned them into inventions to solve a problem or make life easier. Pictured is Bauder's third-grade gifted class. Sally Burks, the gifted program teacher, transformed her classroom into a theater, with a theater curtain as a backdrop and served popcorn during presentations. First-grade through fifth-grade students researched and dressed up as the inventor of their choice, made models of the invention and presented it. Some of their favorite inventions presented included the popsicle (child inventor), ear muffs (child inventor), the Barbie doll, roller skates, the violin, the piano, the saxophone, the submarine, the ferris wheel, the Slinky, the traffic signal, and the disposable diaper. Burks also enjoyed dressing up and acting as a different inventor each day.

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# Must we legislate calls on airlines?

I have found the issue that can bring America together. Republicans and Democrats, urban hipsters and country folk, corporate scions and infrequent fliers – they all seem to agree: The federal government must not allow mobile phone use on planes.



Debra Saunders

If the Federal Communications Commission allows airlines with properly equipped planes to open the cellphone gates on commercial flights, even Washington agrees there will be revolts in the friendly skies.

On Tuesday, by a bipartisan voice vote, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed a bill, the Prohibiting In-Flight Voice Communications on Mobile Wireless Devices Act, to the House floor.

Chairman Bill Shuster, a Republican from Pennsylvania and the bill's author, argues that at 30,000 feet, fellow passengers do not have the option of walking away from obnoxious loudmouths. Ergo, the Department of Transportation must ban voice calls on planes. Shuster, however, does favor regulations to allow passengers to use their phones and tablets to text, send emails and work online. He's got a catchy slogan: "Tap, don't talk."

Me, I feel sorry for the poor chumps at the FCC. Since 1991, the FCC has banned cellphone use on planes, lest the signals interfere with wireless networks on the ground. With the advent of technology that can prevent interference, the FCC revisited the rule. In October, the FCC ruled that passengers may leave their phones on (in airplane mode) and personal electronic devices during takeoff and landing – because its mission is to regulate technology, not passenger behavior.

Kudos, the public should cheer. Finally, a regulatory agency that doesn't want to overreach its authority. Shuster himself noted that it is the responsibility of the Department of Transportation, not the FCC, to make rules in the name of airline safety.

Unconcerned with jurisdictional matters, however, the public has flooded the FCC with protests. According to The Associated Press, 48 percent of Americans (78 percent of frequent fliers) oppose allowing passengers to talk on their phones.

I get it. As airlines try to make flights cheaper – a good thing – seats are closer together and service lacks even the oh-so-modest frills of yore. When flying is a chore, passengers get grumpy. It's no fun even just riding public transportation next to a bigmouth, and city bus rides don't last six hours like a cross-country flight. The flying public fears "air rage" incidents.

That said, Americans are overreacting. The FCC conducted a study of countries that allowed cellphone use on planes in 2012; none of the 11 authorities that responded reported "any cases of air rage or flight attendant interference." Most countries reported low usage and short calls, and if there were complaints, they were about the cost or interruption of service.

Remember when U.S. airlines installed those pricey middle-seat phones? There were no mutinies in the sky.

If the FCC allows voice calls, my guess is that U.S. airlines will prohibit or strictly limit usage. Delta and Southwest have announced their intent to just say no. Legal departments, litigious consumers and flight attendant unions should take care of the rest.

I know world travelers who pay big bucks to visit countries that offer hole-in-the-floor plumbing and bus rides with barnyard animals and who nonetheless are terrified at the prospect of flying on a U.S. airline on which other passengers can make cellphone calls.

Truly, we live in a golden age. Americans' idea of hardship is flying safely over the entire country in six hours, with access to movies, music and their choice of news. But oh, the horrors, someone else being able to make a phone call? For this, Congress will act.

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

## LETTERS

### Marijuana has medical benefits

Editor:

I was surprised by what I read in letters "Why marijuana should not be legalized" in the Feb. 13 issue. The writer should have used "I believe" or "I feel or think" rather than provide information as facts. I do not know where the writer obtained the sources for the information but not all corroborate the science of marijuana. Smoking marijuana can be a danger to health. I base my findings on information from the National Institute of Health website, but it says nothing about DNA changes. The site also says "when used heavily" some of the adverse effects occur.

Now to the other critique of the article. Does the writer differentiate recreational vs. medicinal use? There are certain people who would benefit from marijuana use especially those suffering from terminal illness and from chronic pain. The writer makes no mention of the benefits. It is my understanding that the present proposal that will be on the ballot is for medical use only. Possibly some cases would occur where people would abuse marijuana but for those, who suffer from the aforementioned conditions, marijuana should be a treatment.

David Robinson  
St. Petersburg

### Save, restore the Biltmore

Editor:

The recent town hall meeting was as lively as ever when the subject was the Belleview Biltmore Hotel.

Since the Town Commission agreed to stay the zoning for another 6 months, the priority becomes to find a buyer who will restore the hotel. Restoration is possible, so let's put that item on the shelf. What's next?

Even some of the naysayers said they would be agreeable for restoration if the buyers had the money, and the credentials for marketing and managing the hotel after its restoration.

Until now, the town has passively waited for people to come forward with their ideas; hopes are raised and then dashed, because they can't raise the money. Recently, the Wall Street Journal reported the growth of boutique hotels (10 to 100 rooms). See article here: [online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424127887324326504578465240387040304](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424127887324326504578465240387040304). The major hotel chains also are involved in time-share and/or condotels. Check out Clearwater Beach. It's time to think about what to put in the box. The Belleview Biltmore would be a great collection of all three under one roof.

In order to make this happen, somebody on the Belleair Board of Commissioners needs to take the initiative. I would recommend Commissioner Fowler. His position on saving the hotel is unambiguous. If he or other commissioners do not think that their position is adequate enough to get the attention of top officers in the big three (Marriott, Hilton or Sheraton), then ask for assistance from the governor and his office.

When the next town meeting includes the Biltmore, and this is done, it's a safe bet that there will be fewer Preservationists "teed off."

Ken Keating  
Belleair

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**The deadline to submit letters pertaining to the March 11 election is Feb. 21.**

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.

# The super rich versus the rest of us

I keep hearing about the war between the richest 1 percent of Americans and the other 99 percent of people. Tom Perkins, a Silicon Valley billionaire, recently published a letter in the Wall Street Journal. In it he compared today's vilification of America's moguls with the Nazi persecution of Jews. He may have overstated his concern, but I think he's correct in assuming that today's War on the Wealthy does exist.

I don't know much about economics, but I'm able to ask questions. Following are a few that strike my mind on a Tuesday unshaven morning with a cup of coffee beside me and another 10-degree F. New England air mass hovering outside my window.

How would or will I know when I reach the super-rich level? Has someone defined exactly how much wealth a person must have before he/she can be hated by the rest of us? We'd better find out, because one day there may come a knock on the door. An ominous voice will say, "The latest figures are in. They show that you have crossed the line into SRT – super-rich territory. Prepare to face the consequences."

And what will they be? For openers, I hope both the rich and the poor will avoid violence. The rough stuff seldom helps either side. And it would be unfair to the rich guys. As a rule poor folks have more guns and know how to shoot straighter than billionaires who spend their spare time on yachts ordering their hired skippers to "Bring her a few points to starboard, Kowalski." On the other hand, we all know who usually wins when the rich face the non-rich in legal proceedings involving armed assault.

If "super-rich" is not clearly defined, how will the poor know precisely who our enemies are?



Driver's Seat  
Bob Driver

What if we select someone as a target of attack, and then later discover he/she was NOT really super-rich but merely "comfortable" or "well off"?

When the economic wars break out in earnest, what will some of the weapons be, on both sides? Exorbitant taxes on the wealthy immediately come to mind. But that will require action by Congress and state legislatures. Many of them are already controlled by the rich and powerful of both parties, and that's not likely to change.

Economic boycotts may become a more effective weapon. Let's say that the Sigafoos Corporation, which makes most of the world's oatmeal, is owned by a man worth \$300 billion who pays his workers next to nothing. One day on the Internet, the Citizens Boycott Center sends out this message to every American: "Stop buying Sigafoos Oatmeal!" Within a few months, the Sigafoos Corporation has vanished. However, many other companies – frightened by the Sigafoos boycott – will have suddenly increased their workers' wages, and are now run by CEO's whose salaries may not exceed 100 times what their janitors earn.

Would such a tactic work in real life? I don't know. It's easy to concoct solutions on paper. Besides, it's been pointed out that as Tom Perkins (above) climbed the slippery plutocracy pole, he created 275,000 jobs and generated

more than \$90 billion for persons other than himself.

The Robin Hood theory of income distribution, if put into effect, would surely please those persons who received money taken from the coffers of the super-rich. But would the mathematics hold up over the long run? If, overnight, almost all of the 1-percenters' financial holdings were re-distributed to families earning, say, less than \$20,000 a year, would that really solve our nation's inequality problems?

Today's rich vs. not-rich conflict is by no means history's first example of economic imbalance. In the 40 years following the Civil War, titans such as Carnegie and Rockefeller ruled our country and ushered in the age of conspicuous consumption. Teddy Roosevelt and his trust-busters brought a peaceful end to that vulgar splurge. In contrast, France in 1789 and Russia in 1917 witnessed bloody and terrifying rearrangements of the economic order. Could such upheavals ever take place in the USA?

I certainly hope not. But even the faint possibility of such events should act as a spur for our government and individual citizens to seek and find an end to this dissension. I doubt if most Americans favor the random, wholesale ransacking of the ultra-rich's bank accounts. What fair-minded men and women desire is to return to the time when hard work, perseverance, some degree of talent and a level playing field assured contenders at least a 50-50 chance of achieving pay dirt and some kind of hoped-for dream. Did such an era ever really exist? Could we ever get back to it? Stay tuned.

Bob Driver is a former columnist for the Clearwater Sun. His email address is [tralee71@comcast.net](mailto:tralee71@comcast.net).

# Voilà! A suitcase full of memories

The best yard sale I've ever had was in the snow.

In case you didn't know, in skiing terminology, a yard sale is defined as the act of a skier losing his balance and, due to the laws of centrifugal force and gravity, unintentionally falling down, causing his or her cap, sunglasses, gloves, skis and other personal belongings to scatter on the snow or beneath it.

I'm an expert at this. In 1992, my yard sale in the Alps in northern Italy was so spectacular that I somehow managed to lose my lift pass in the snow. Consequently, instinct took over, and I engaged in the longest Après-ski ever undertaken by an ugly American abroad while my friends enjoyed most of that afternoon on the slopes.

That incident came to mind recently when I was thinking about selling my ski apparel, which is tucked away in a suitcase in my closet. Haven't skied since 2003, in deference to the toll that acts of jockdom have taken on my body – two knee surgeries and two foot surgeries. Put an end to my days of racquetball, too.

However, nostalgia's powerful grip may be deluding me. Could Yard Sale Germond return to the slopes?

For about 10 years I took several trips to Europe with a group called Adventures on Skis. It all started in 1991 while I was an editor for the Osceola News-Gazette in Kissimmee.

A co-worker, Ellen Johnston, invited me to go on a free trip to Chamonix, France. One of the people who had signed up for the trip canceled within a few days before leaving. Though she couldn't get a refund, she was allowed to transfer her reservations for the hotels and flights to another traveler.

Since I was one of the few people she knew who had a passport, Ellen called me and asked if I would like to go on the trip with her husband, Bill, and her and other members of the group.

I had to be at her house, which was about 30 minutes away, in an hour. I hesitated because I'd never been on skis in my life, had little winter clothing and had a heavy workload that week.

But my boss said, "What's keeping you from going? You're single, and it's free."

Co-workers practically pushed me out the door. I ran into the bank to get my passport out of my safe deposit box. Then I went home and threw things into the suitcase. Made it to Ellen's house in about an hour. They only asked that I give the woman who had to cancel her trip some small compensation.

From a pay phone at a restaurant on the road, I called my dad, who told my mother, "Tommy just babbled something about being on his way to France."

Two days later I'm taking ski



Photo by TOM GERMOND

The Italian Alps. Somewhere out there lies a ski lift pass belonging to Tom Germond.

lessons from a female ski instructor, who I nicknamed "Bulldog." She barked at me all day: "Snow plow! Snow plow! Snow plow! Voilà, better."

Later during the lesson, as I was musing over whether the assorted bruises to my ego and my body were worth the aggravation, Bulldog gave me some hope. "You come back tomorrow. I think you're starting to get your balance. No?"

Ellen and Bill had other plans. "Go with us instead. We'll take you to a bunny slope," Ellen said.

Like hell. There are no bunny slopes in the Alps. I started the morning out by crashing into the ground after leaving the lift. Spent most of the day in the snow of a glacier looking up at little French kids skiing over me.

But I survived and swore over several glasses of beer that I would return to Chamonix the following year and become something other than an icon for comic relief on the slopes.

A year later, I was still crossing skis and performing yard sales, much to delight of other group members.

"There goes Germond again, bowling for skiers," Bill said.



Tom Germond

"Come on, Tom, we need to get down the mountain sometime today," Ellen said.

In Kitzbuhel, Austria, in 1993, the lack of snow further impeded my abilities to improve but I didn't look as wobbly as members of some Swedish ski team who were joined arm in arm while they sang the lyrics to "Hey Jude" for what seemed to be hours at some crazy Austrians' beerhouse later that evening.

By 1997, I think I was "starting to get my balance." Took a downhill 37-mile ski trip to France via northern Italy's system of torturous lifts that might have been built by Caesar's army. We were told to bring our passports, leading me to wonder who was going to check them. Nobody – unless you wanted to eat or drink something at an alpine restaurant.

Never tried night skiing. However, in 2001 after the crazy Austrians plied us with alcohol and yodeling for a couple of hours, we

were tempted to try night sledding. Then the crazy Austrians told us the trail was the darkened road on which we drove to get to the restaurant. We declined. Safety is not in the crazy Austrians' vocabulary.

By then, I think even the bulldog French ski instructor would acknowledge that I had approached the intermediate level on the ski slopes. I could get down the hill.

Voilà! I was happy. Recently, as I sifted through the contents of my suitcase, including a ski bib, trail maps, long underwear, headbands, goggles, and, for some reason, a bottle opener, those memories of great trips came rushing back. Reminiscing is a priceless pleasure.

I'm eternally grateful to Ellen, Bill and their extended family for introducing me to skiing and taking me on some great trips abroad.

Can't part with my ski apparel – at least not yet. It will remain in my suitcase in my cluttered closet.

Right next to my racquetball bag.

Tom Germond is executive editor of Tampa Bay Newspapers. Send him an email at [tgermond@TBNweekly.com](mailto:tgermond@TBNweekly.com).

## Tampa Bay NEWSPAPERS

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**Publisher/President:** Dan Autrey  
[dautrey@TBNweekly.com](mailto:dautrey@TBNweekly.com)

**Accounting Manager:** Andrea Marcarelli  
[accounting@TBNweekly.com](mailto:accounting@TBNweekly.com)

**Advertising Director:** Jay Rey  
[jrey@TBNweekly.com](mailto:jrey@TBNweekly.com)

**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  
[webmaster@TBNweekly.com](mailto:webmaster@TBNweekly.com)

**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)

**Largo Leader:** Juliana A. Torres  
[jtorres@TBNweekly.com](mailto:jtorres@TBNweekly.com)

9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772

727-397-5563 • Fax: 727-397-5900 • [www.TBNweekly.com](http://www.TBNweekly.com)

**Palm Harbor/East Lake Beacon:** Bob McClure  
[bmcclure@TBNweekly.com](mailto:bmcclure@TBNweekly.com)

**Pinellas Park Beacon:** Tiffany Razzano  
[ttrazzano@TBNweekly.com](mailto:ttrazzano@TBNweekly.com)

**Seminole Beacon:** Tiffany Razzano  
[ttrazzano@TBNweekly.com](mailto:ttrazzano@TBNweekly.com)

**Tarpon Springs Beacon:** Kate Feldman  
[kfeldman@TBNweekly.com](mailto:kfeldman@TBNweekly.com)

**General Editorial:**  
[editorial@TBNweekly.com](mailto:editorial@TBNweekly.com)

**Circulation:** L. Shifflett  
Phone: 727-397-5563



# Sunset 5K race brings nostalgia to participants

By BRIAN GOFF

BELLEAIR – There is something about Belleair and the annual Sunset 5K race that brings runners back year after year. For Larry Smart, 44, of Tampa it could be because he wins the race more often than not.

Smart first entered the race two years ago and finished first overall. If the race is getting better with age, then so is Smart. Back then he won the race with a time of 16:52. His personal best at the time was 16:30 so he was disappointed with his winning time. He blamed it on the heat; the temperature at race time in 2012 was well over 70 degrees.

On Feb. 15 the race time temperature was barely 60 degrees and it showed. Smart won again, this time with a time of 16:25 and once again he credited the weather with the result.

"It was a nice cool evening, great for running," he said. "The course is great but there is a little incline toward the end that sort of takes it out of you. However I'm happy with the way things



Photo by BRIAN GOFF

The runners in Belleair's annual 5K race leave to begin the race.

turned out."

Smart also was happy with the entire event and he perhaps was able to answer some of the questions as to why runners keep coming back to Belleair.

"It really has to do with the course mostly," he said. "This is a beautiful area, it is a very pleasant run and of course the after-party is the best one around."

Smart missed last year's race because he was out of town but says he intends to come back again next year if he can.

The first place women's finisher in the race was Kristen Tenaglia of Seminole. She finished with a time of 17:51.

"That wasn't bad, I've done better but it was pretty good," she said. "I haven't raced for a while but I had another girl pushing me all the way."

Tenaglia, who has entered the Sunset 5K three or four other times, echoed Smart's comments about why she keeps coming back.

"Belleair is a beautiful city," she said. "It is a good course with love-

ly scenery and a great party afterwards. It makes for a fun race."

Tenaglia, 25, said she used the Sunset 5K as a warm up for the Gasparilla Race in Tampa, which is coming up Feb. 22. She also warms up by running more than 10 miles every day.

Belleair's newly appointed director of special events, Danielle Felten, said she was pleased with the whole event.

"I was a little worried that something might go wrong," she said. "But everything went as planned and when something did need a little tweaking the people assigned to the task did their jobs perfectly."

The now renowned after-party takes place on the sports field adjacent to the Dimmitt Community Center. All those who paid the entry fee for the race get to attend the all-you-can eat, all-you-can drink free party. It is likely every one of the 1,000 runners registered would list the party as a main reason why they attend.

Felten said already plans are underway for next year's Sunset 5K, which will be the 13th annual.

## Win at the buzzer

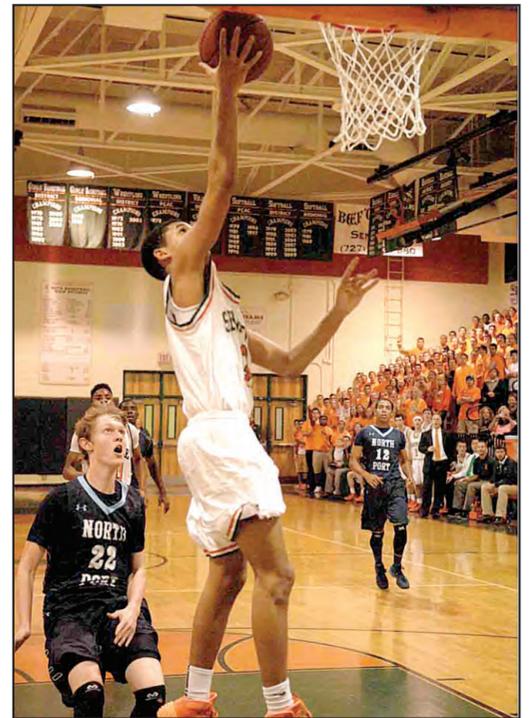


Photo by JIM LAYFIELD

Seminole's Marco Behori lays up for a shot for two points as North Port's Brian Thatcher watches in a Class 7A regional quarterfinal high school basketball game Feb. 13 at Seminole High School. The Warhawks started slow, falling behind 11-0, but took a 21-19 lead into the locker room at the half. Seminole built a 12-point lead in the third quarter, but North Port wasn't finished playing yet. With 30 seconds left in the game North Port's Malek Barber hit a three-pointer to tie the game at 57-57. It looked as though the Bobcat's may mount a comeback, but Frain hit a three-pointer with just over three seconds left on the clock to give Seminole the win 60-57.

## Briefs

### AFIRE receives grant from Phillies

CLEARWATER – The Philadelphia Phillies have awarded a grant for \$7,500 to AFIRE, Serving Persons with Developmental and Intellectual Abilities.

The money will be used to provide scholarships to adult day training classes and to enhance the AFIRE summer camp.

AFIRE was the only Pinellas recipient during a dinner in the Diamond Club of the Citizens Bank Ball Park in Philadelphia recently. All other recipients were from the Philadelphia area. Many principal Phillies participated in this charitable event, such as team president, David Montgomery, and a majority owner, Bill Giles. The Phillies gave out \$350,000 in grants during the event.

The Clearwater Threshers nominated AFIRE for the grant. The Threshers donate their time to play baseball with the students of AFIRE's LifeSkills classes, and it was the Threshers' community relations manager, Amanda Koch, who decided to nominate AFIRE for the grant.

AFIRE is managed by volunteers and operates with donations and fundraisers. This grant will enable AFIRE to serve more people in the county and accomplish its mission of enhancing the lives of this population.

### Register for Iron Girl

CLEARWATER – Registration is open for the Iron Girl 5K and half marathon race, set for Sunday, April 13, starting and finishing at Coachman Park, 301 Drew St. The half marathon begins at 7 a.m.

and the 5K begins at 7:30 a.m.

Cost of registration for this women's-only event is \$40 through Sunday, April 6, and includes a women's-sized T-shirt, personalized bib number, finisher's medal, and more. In order to have a personalized bib number, participants must register by

Sunday, March 23. Cost of registry at packet pick-up locations and at the expo will be \$50.

There is also an option for 5K mother/daughter two-person teams. Cost is \$80 until Sunday, April 6, or \$100 at packet pick-up locations and the expo.

Runners must be at least 14 years old to participate in the half marathon. There is a four-hour cutoff time for the half marathon and one must be able to maintain an 18:18-minute per mile pace or faster for the half marathon. The 5K runners and walkers must finish in 75 minutes or less.

Milestone Jewelry will present a special piece of Iron Girl jewelry to the top three finishers in each age group and top three mother/daughter teams. Strollers, inline skates, rollerblades, bicycles and dogs are not allowed on either race course at any time.

There will be a post-race catered breakfast café, professional timing and giveaways. Visit [www.irongirl.com](http://www.irongirl.com).



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**Caroleanne Vorac**  
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

**Seminole** **\$265,000**

3BR/2BA/2CG

**SOLD**



Seminole pool home. Beautiful views of screened pool and large yard. Home features formal living and dining rooms, and a 2 car garage. Family room features a wood burning fireplace, while overlooking the screened lanai and pool.

**Laura Harrison**  
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

**Largo** **\$108,000**

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Located just minutes to the beach and beautiful Belleair. Home has a oversized bonus room 14x9! Kitchen is open with attractive updates. Bathroom updates are gorgeous. Lots of storage in the garage. Pretty landscaping with mature trees. Newer roof, near church and school.

**Heather Pourchot**  
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

**Seminole** **\$235,000**

3BR/2BA/2CG

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Move in ready pool home. Kitchen has a breakfast bar and a new stove and fridge. New carpet in 2 of the bedrooms and fresh paint throughout. Family rooms leads out to the fully fenced backyard with a pool, covered patio and tropical landscaping. Convenient to Walsingham Park, Pinellas Trail & St. Pete College.

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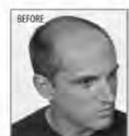
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# Why winter waters burst with cool energy

It is wonderful to live in Florida this time of year and listen to the weather reports about the rest of the country. But we too have our winters.

We can only go boating about half the time during the winter months as during the summer months. Curiously, our local dolphins seem to have a similar schedule.

If you are boating along our local stretch of Intracoastal Waterway this month, you might see local bottlenose dolphins. Then again, you might not. On average, they are here about half as often in the winter as they are in the summer. That average arises from the combination of great sightings and poor sightings.

You can see as many dolphins on some winter days as you would see on steamy summer days. On other winter days, you might not see any dolphins.

The primary reason is that bottlenose dolphins show a type of mini-migration almost regardless of the habitat in which they live. Their migrations are modest: They tend to move between different bodies of water in summer and in winter.

Those who spend their summers in large bodies of water migrate into small bodies of water for the winter, and vice versa. Locally, the dolphins that inhabit the Intracoastal Waterway during the summer tend to inhabit the Gulf of Mexico during the winter.

Likewise, dolphins that we do not see in the Intracoastal Waterway all summer reappear during the winter. These strident individualists are dolphin teens.

Dolphin teens are the product of a small but critical maritime assembly line that produces a handful of treasured teens each year. It starts in the summer when some of the females that belong to the John's Pass dolphin community give birth.

Their previous calf must "fledge" in the process called weaning but has the option of leaving home right away or taking its time. Some leave as soon as the new sibling is born.



**Dolphin Watch**  
Ann Weaver

Ousted older calves that take their time usually do not stay in the same social group as their mom and new sibling but stay in their vicinity, often just a bay away. Less often, the older calf continues to swim with its mom and new sibling in the same group. It varies by individual. On average, calves take two to four months to begin appearing with age-mates.

Thus, most have made the jump by Christmas. That is why the dolphins you find in winter waters are particularly likely to be small intense gatherings of sleek gray individuals that are bigger than calves but smaller than adults.

They are easily recognized by their signature spouts of energy, at one moment gushing around a boat in a bid to surf its wake and the next bursting with bright curiosity about whatever is happening 50 yards away. Because of their restlessness, it is hard to get a close look at them. If you could, you would see that, like Qball's picture, they have clean coats and few scars. This will change steadily for most of the males.

This year, the little local assembly line only produced one treasured teen, Qball, although there were five calves born to local moms. One of the moms, Sharkey, was a first-time mom this year. She did not have a previous calf that turned into a teen when she gave birth to young Echo.

The other four moms had previous calves. One of the moms, Stick, had Savannah in 2011. He was a lively sturdy kid that showed some striking adult behaviors. But he disappeared in 2012, as did most of the other calves that were born in 2011. We have no explanation for this dark outcome, only disturbing ideas.

That left three older calves to turn into teens. Two were little boys Juno and Fugazi. Like other young males we know, they did not wait for their moms to give birth again, instead striking out together on their own last year.

Interestingly, even though they weaned without the impetus of a new baby sibling, we found them in the general vicinity of their moms



Photo by ANN WEAVER

Qball whizzes in and out of the water on a recent winter day like a person at a BBQ poking their head out the kitchen window to take in the action on the patio. Local dolphins get lively in winter waters as if they can afford to generate extra heat.

J and Front Slash for many months. It was perhaps a maritime counterpart to moving out of your parents' house but moving into the room over their garage.

That left one more: Qball. May she experience only the best adventures of dolphin adulthood.

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

## Garden clippings

### African Violet Society to meet

LARGO - The Pinellas African Violet Society will meet Monday, March 3, 7 p.m., at Cypress Palms, 400 Lake Ave. NE.

Several growers will take questions and answer them from their own knowledge and experience. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions as well as any plants they might want answers about.

The meetings are open to anyone who has an interest in growing African violets. Parking is free. Refreshments will be served and there will be a raffle.

For information, call 813-920-7270.

### Garden tours set

LARGO - Vegetable, herb and tropical fruit garden tour will be offered Thursday, Feb. 20, at 9 a.m., at Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road.

Attendees will explore the vegetable garden and compost demonstration areas and learn how to grow food in home gardens. The tour features an array of culinary, medicinal and aromatic herbs, trees and flowers in the enclosed herb garden. Guests will wander the brick paths between the Egyptian, Mediterranean, Asian and beverage plantings and learn how the featured plants can be in homes.

Also included will be a selection of tropical fruits that do well in the Florida climate including many varieties of bananas, figs, papayas, mangoes, avocados, sugar cane and citrus. Attendees will learn

about little-known fruits not usually considered by the home gardener including Jackfruit, Carambola, Buddha's Hand and Pomegranate.

The tour offers a diversity of plantings including a wide variety of ground covers, bromeliads, palms and power-line friendly trees that can be used in home landscape. Tours are limited to groups of four to 16 people and are recommended for adults. Visit [bit.ly/1KT000T](http://bit.ly/1KT000T).

### Bromeliad group to meet

PINELLAS PARK - The Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society will meet Tuesday, March 4, 7 p.m., at Good Samaritan Church, 6085 Park Blvd.

Admission is free. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn about ins and outs of growing and propagating bromeliads. Bromeliads will be available for sale and by raffle. Call 439-7787.

### Wildflower Garden Club to meet

TARPON SPRINGS - The Wildflower Garden Club will meet Saturday, Feb. 22, 9 to 11 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center, 3940 Keystone Road.

The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve will be getting their gardening hands dirty in the preserve's wildflower garden. Attendees should bring garden gloves and a hat. Morning snacks are usually provided. Participation is free but registration is required. Call 453-6800 or visit [www.brookercreekpreserve.org](http://www.brookercreekpreserve.org).

### Society plans estuaries program

LARGO - The Pinellas Chapter Florida Native Plant Society will sponsor the free program Investigating Florida's Estuaries on Wednesday, March 5, 7 to 9 p.m., at Pinellas Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road.

Brian Lane, UF Florida Master Naturalist Program Instructor, will discuss this fascinating ecosystem that is important to seafood lovers, manatee watchers and native plant enthusiasts alike. For information, call 867-9149.

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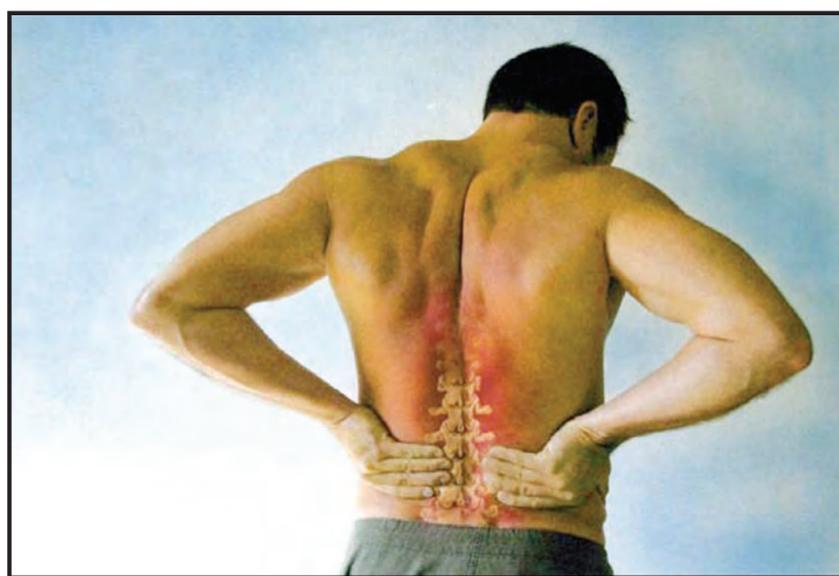
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## Clinical Trial For Lumbar Spinal Stenosis

About 1.2 million U.S. adults suffer from lumbar spinal stenosis, a condition in which the spinal canal narrows putting pressure on the spinal cord and nerves, causing back and leg pain. Conventional surgery for this condition involves the permanent fusion of spine bones and joints, stabilizing the spine. Although effective, fusion may eliminate the natural range of motion between these bones, possibly leading to further spine degeneration.

Largo Medical Center is participating in a clinical trial that may redefine the surgery for lumbar spinal stenosis. The study focuses on a new concept in spine surgery called facet joint replacement. The clinical trial is evaluating the safety and effectiveness of an investigational device called the ACADIA® Facet Replacement System. Scott Webb, DO, Orthopedic Spine Surgeon, is part of a select group throughout the U.S. taking part in this landmark study.

The study is open to both male and female patients between the ages of 21 and 85 who have been diagnosed with lumbar spinal stenosis and have had at least 6 months of conservative care; injections, medication, physical therapy, etc. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call Rose A. Bingham RN, CCRC, Clinical Research Coordinator at the Florida Spine Institute at 727-724-5673, or email [rbingham@floridaspineinstitute.com](mailto:rbingham@floridaspineinstitute.com)

# Warmer weather should get the fish biting Squadron to host seminars

Beautiful weather all week just might be an indication of spring. It's still a bit early to think we're out of this current weather pattern, but even one skip in the cold front rotation has to be taken as a good sign. While the rest of the country couldn't even imagine getting some fishing in over this past weekend we were fortunate enough to get a break in the weather.



**Fish Tales**  
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

With water temperatures still holding around 60 degrees, fishing still much remains a hit or miss affair. Inshore, redfish have been a reliable target on this recent full moon phase. Afternoon high tides have proven to be best, as the water has had plenty of time to warm throughout the morning hours. Mullet schools that seem nonexistent on the lower water have been coming together on the higher tides. Drifting through the schools of mullet while fan casting scented soft-plastic jigs has been producing quality sized redfish as well as the occasional big trout.

For more consistent trout action, target spoil islands throughout the northern part of our region. Free-lining select shrimp on the hard part of the incoming tide typically on the north side of the islands has been producing steady action for trout ranging in size from 16 to 20 inches with plenty of larger fish mixed in.

Offshore we've seen a big influx of mangrove snapper on during this recent full moon. Targeting ledges and artificial reefs in 30 to 50 feet

water will put you in the right spot. Sending down a chum basket full of frozen shrimp will draw in a variety of fish when the current is moving. Fish with a live shrimp and a lightweight, on the same sized rod you would use for redfish.

Tyson Wallerstein can be reached at [capt.tyson@hotmail.com](mailto:capt.tyson@hotmail.com). To get a fish photo in the paper, send the photo along with your name, when and where it was caught to [editorial@TBNweekly.com](mailto:editorial@TBNweekly.com) or mail it to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772.

## USCG Auxiliary to host boating safety class

GULFPORT – About Boating Safety will be presented Saturday, March 8, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at USCG Auxiliary Training Center, 3120 Miriam St. S.

Cost is \$40 per student, which includes all books and materials. There will be a one-hour lunch break and breaks between chapters. Upon completion of the course students will receive a certificate, a wallet-sized card from the USCG Auxiliary and a "bobber card" from the state of Florida.

For reservations or questions, call 399-7986.

ST. PETERSBURG – The St. Petersburg Sail & Power Squadron will present Skipper Saver: Partners in Command Wednesday, Feb. 26, 6:45 to 9 p.m., at the St. Petersburg Sailing Center, 250 Second Ave. SE, Demens Landing.

This seminar will provide the first mate with the knowledge to bring the boat and skipper back to port safely should the skipper fall overboard or become disabled.

Each student will receive the full student guide with copies of the presentation written for the seminar.

Instruction is free. Cost for materials is \$35 per family. The squadron also will present Using GPS on Wednesday, March 19, 7 to 9 p.m., at the center.

This seminar will cover the principals of waypoint navigation and will show attendees how to relate the GPS to their charts. The seminar also shows you how to operate the GPS – what the buttons do, what the screens show and how to access the functions.

Participants also will get some tips for choosing a GPS. Materials include the waterproof Captain's Quick Guide to Using GPS.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their handheld devices. Instruction is free.

Cost for materials is \$35 per family. Space is limited in each seminar. Preregistration is required. Visit [www.boating-stpete.org](http://www.boating-stpete.org).

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ALZ TALK will be a day of imaginative topics and discussions presented by the best and brightest in the areas of research, treatment and care for people and families suffering from Alzheimer's and other related diseases. Dynamic 20 minute talks focused on stories of personal and professional insight and revelation with the purpose to eliminate the fear of the unknown and to provide a light to guide the viewer on their journey.

A \$10.00 ticket includes continental breakfast, lunch and our presentation of a panel of expert speakers in the field of Alzheimer's and Dementia. Off site adult day care provided for your loved one by a licensed day program on a first-come, first-served basis. A portion of the proceeds of all ticket sales will be donated to charity.

Go to: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/alz-talks-tickets-10418264309> to purchase tickets. Tickets will be available the day of event at the door for \$15.00. Space is limited.

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# Diversions

Events • Movies • Classifieds

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## Top five diversions

• **Temptations and Four Tops**, Friday, Feb. 21, 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). For more than 50 years, The Temptations have prospered, propelling popular music with a series of smash hits and sold-out performances throughout the world. Thanks to their fine-tuned choreography, and even finer harmonies, The Temptations became the first act on Motown to win a Grammy Award and are one of the most successful acts to record for the label. During the group's five-decade career, they've charted numerous No. 1 hits including "My Girl," "Ain't Too Proud To Beg," "Get Ready," "Just My Imagination" and "Papa Was A Rolling Stone," among many others. The Four Tops have been thrilling audiences with their infectious blend of pure vocal power and sweet harmonies since 1954. The Four Tops became one of Motown's most consistent hit makers with songs like "Baby, I Need Your Loving," "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch)," "Reach Out (I'll Be There)," "Ain't No Woman (Like the One I've Got)," and many more well-known hits.

• **LIADO's 11th San Gennaro Festa**, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 22-23, at the Safety Harbor Marina, 110 Veterans Memorial Lane, Safety Harbor. LIADO, the Italian-American Women of Today, organize the San Gennaro Festa, a bustling street fair, each year to celebrate and share their Italian heritage. The event will feature zeppolis and cannolis, bocce courts, cannoli and meatball eating contests, a genealogy booth and a pizzelle making demonstration. There also will be children's crafts and games as well as live Italian music and entertainment. Entertainment will include performances by Joey Dee and the Starlighters, Marty Bialow with a tribute to Sinatra, Kenny Galiano and the Saints, Ken Silkie "Da Vinci Brothers Comedy Opera," "The Saints," Dino Di Liberti, Annette and Don Meritt, St. Pete Tarantella Dancers, Jeannette Assalti, Lisa Dellarossa, Ron and The Classics, Matthew Romeo and Andy Stefano. Admission is \$5 for adults. Children 11 and younger are free. Proceeds will benefit Children's Cancer Center, Children's Cancer Research Group USF, Autism Speaks, Paul B. Stephens Exceptional Students Center, Byrd Alzheimer's Institute, Alzheimer's Association. Visit [www.sangennarofesta.com](http://www.sangennarofesta.com).

• **Tommy Emmanuel**, Saturday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.atthecap.com](http://www.atthecap.com). Long one of Australia's most respected and best-loved musicians, his award-winning career now spans five decades and multiple genres including jazz, rock, blues and country. He is known for his distinctive "finger style" playing, using all 10 fingers – a technique he was inspired to try after hearing his hero, the legendary Chet Atkins, play in the early 1960s.

• **Celtic Woman: The Emerald Tour**; Saturday, Feb. 22, 3 and 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$54.75. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhal.com](http://www.rutheckerdhal.com). Global music phenomenon, Celtic Woman, will bring The Emerald Tour to the Tampa Bay area. The all-new stage production will celebrate Ireland and the Emerald Isles' spellbinding Celtic heritage through an extraordinary presentation of traditional Irish anthems, pop standards and original music by Emmy-nominated music producer, David Downes. The Emerald Tour will showcase inspiring performances of timeless



Photo courtesy of PARADIGM TALENT AGENCY  
Tommy Emmanuel plays Feb. 22 at Capitol Theatre.

See TOP FIVE, page 3B



Kit Harington plays Milo and Emily Browning plays Cassia in TriStar Pictures' "Pompeii."

Photo by CAITLIN CRONENBERG

## Opening this weekend

'Pompeii' erupts on the big screen; Costner stars in '3 Days to Kill'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

### 'Pompeii'

Genre: Action, adventure and drama  
Cast: Kit Harington, Carrie-Anne Moss, Emily Browning, Adewale Akinuoye-Agbaje, Paz Vega, Jessica Lucas, Jared Harris, Kiefer Sutherland

Director: Paul W.S. Anderson

Rated: PG-13

Set in 79 A.D., "Pompeii" tells the epic story of Milo (Kit Harington), a slave turned invincible gladiator who finds himself in a race against time to save his true love Cassia (Emily Browning), the beautiful daughter of a wealthy merchant who has been unwillingly betrothed to a corrupt Roman Senator.

As Mount Vesuvius erupts in a torrent of blazing lava, Milo must fight his way out of the arena in order to save his beloved as the once magnificent Pompeii crumbles around him.

### '3 Days to Kill'

Genre: Action and thriller

Cast: Kevin Costner, Amber Heard, Hailee Steinfeld and Connie Nielsen

Director: McG

Rated: PG-13

In this heart pounding action-thriller, Kevin Costner is a dangerous international spy, who is determined to give up his high stakes life to finally build a closer relationship with his estranged wife and daughter, whom he's previously kept at arm's length to keep out of danger.

First, he must complete one last mission – even if it means juggling the two toughest assignments yet: hunting down the world's most ruthless terrorist and looking after his teenage daughter for the first time in 10 years, while his wife is out of town.



Kevin Costner and Connie Nielsen star in "3 Days to Kill."

Photo by JULIAN TORRES

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

### 'Barefoot'

Genre: Drama and romance

Cast: Evan Rachel Wood, Scott Speedman and J.K. Simmons

See OPENING, page 3B

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# Looking Ahead

## Largo

• **"Shipwrecked! An Entertainment - The Amazing Adventure of Louis de Rougemont (as Told by Himself),"** by Donald Margulies, through March 2, 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). The adventurous Louis de Rougemont invites audiences to hear his amazing story of bravery, survival and celebrity that left 19th century England spellbound. Dare to be whisked away in a story of the high seas, populated by exotic islanders, flying wombats, giant sea turtles and a monstrous man-eating octopus. "Shipwrecked" examines how far we're willing to blur the line between fact and fiction in order to leave our mark on the world.

• **"The Odd Couple,"** by Neil Simon, presented by Gypsy Stage Repertory, March 15-16, at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo. Performances are Saturday, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Call 518-3131. This classic comedy opens as a group of the guys assemble for cards in the apartment of divorced Oscar Madison. If the mess is any indication, it's no wonder that his wife left him. Late to arrive is Felix Unger who has just been separated from his wife. Fastidious, depressed and tense, Felix seems suicidal, but as the action unfolds Oscar becomes the one with murder on his mind when the clean-freak and the slob ultimately decide to room together with hilarious results as "The Odd Couple" is born. Neil Simon's witty dialogue, vibrant characters, timely themes and hilarious one-liners have made him a true legend of American stage comedy. "The Odd Couple" is one of his funniest and most popular plays. The iconic characters of Oscar and Felix have become mainstays of popular culture; more surprisingly, it's touching insights about friendship remain equally moving, nearly 50 years after its Broadway debut. For information, call 813-922-8778 or visit [www.gypsystage.com](http://www.gypsystage.com).

• **"Thoroughly Modern Millie,"** with book by Richard Morris and

Dick Scanlan, music by Jeanine Tesori and lyrics by Dick Scanlan; presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, Feb. 28 through March 16, 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). "Thoroughly Modern Millie" is a fast-paced, energetic musical comedy set in the roaring '20s. Taking place in New York City in 1922, Millie Dillmount has just moved to the city in search of a new life for herself. It's a New York full of intrigue and jazz - a time when women were entering the workforce and the rules of love and social behavior were changing forever. Filled with frisky flappers, dashing leading men and a dragon-lady of a villainess audiences will love to hate, "Thoroughly Modern Millie" is a perfectly constructed evening of madcap merriment. The production will feature Linda Weir as director and Amy Phillips as choreographer.

## Clearwater

• **Trisha Yearwood**, Thursday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$49.50. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhal.com](http://www.rutheckerdhal.com). One of the highest-selling female artists in country music history, a New York Times best-selling cookbook author and now a Food Network star, Yearwood has a habit of surpassing expectations. Since her 1991 debut, the three-time Grammy winner has recorded 12 albums and achieved a hit-list of nine No. 1 hits and 20 Top Ten hits under her belt including "She's in Love With the Boy," "Walkaway Joe" and "How Do I Live." In an unexpected twist, Yearwood turned her favorite hobby into a family project with a cookbook series that combines Yearwood family anecdotes and recipes. In 2008, she released "Georgia Cooking in an Oklahoma Kitchen" and in 2010 "Home Cooking with Trisha Yearwood," both of which debuted on The New York Times bestseller list. The success of the books led to

her Food Network show, "Trisha's Southern Kitchen," which debuted in April 2012, won a 2013 Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Culinary Program and is now in its fourth season. In addition to her three Grammy Awards, the Grand Ole Opry member has won three Country Music Awards and two Academy of Country Music Awards.

• **Edwin McCain**, Thursday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$35. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.atthecap.com](http://www.atthecap.com). For the guy who always dreamed of a life on the road, McCain's massive pop hits "I'll Be" and "I Could Not Ask For More" were like pulling into glamorous, exciting towns along his never-ending tour. They were life changing and sent him off with incredible memories and nifty souvenirs but were always just a part of the journey, not the destination. By the time his vocals kick in, it's clear that this is no ordinary troubadour on the club circuit. This is the voice that is romance incarnate, has launched a thousand marriages and stirred up Southern soul for more than 20 years.

• **Suncoast Symphony Orchestra**, Series II Concert, Friday, Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m., at North Bay Community Church, 3170 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. The program will feature works by Reed, Shostakovich and Rimsky-Korsakov. Donations are welcome. Visit [www.suncoastsymphony.org](http://www.suncoastsymphony.org).

• **Dave Mason's Traffic Jam**, Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$49. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.atthecap.com](http://www.atthecap.com). Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, songwriter and legendary guitarist Dave Mason has been making music since the age of 18 when he teamed up with fellow England native Steve Winwood to form the band Traffic. Since then he has penned dozens of hits such as "Feelin' Alright" and "We Just Disagree." He has been linked with numerous other members of rock and roll elite, including Eric Clapton, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Fleetwood Mac, The Rolling Stones, Graham Nash, Stephen Stills, Rita Coolidge, Leon Russell, Ron Wood and Mama Cass Elliot. Mason has been performing to sold-out audiences for years and has sold millions of recordings worldwide.

• **The Florida Orchestra: Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini**; Sunday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$15. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhal.com](http://www.rutheckerdhal.com). Singled out for his "disarming elegance and charisma" as a performer by Le Monde de la Musique, Andrew von Oeyen performs Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini in a concert with Michael Daugherty's salute to Superman with his Red Cape Tango and Schumann's Symphony No. 2, evolving from moody and dark to its brilliant finale. Daniel Hege conducts.

• **Women of Ireland**, Sunday, Feb. 23, 3 and 6 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$35. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.atthecap.com](http://www.atthecap.com). The next generation of Ireland's world champion dancers and some of Ireland's finest female performers bring Irish and Celtic music when they return to the Capitol Theatre. This energetic, compelling and innovative concert production shares Irish music, song and dance, and a wealth of Irish talent.

• **Lang Lang**, Monday, Feb. 24, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$35. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhal.com](http://www.rutheckerdhal.com). Heralded as the "hottest artist on the classical music planet" by The New York Times, Lang Lang has played sold-out concerts in every major city in the world and is the first Chinese pianist to be engaged by the Vienna, Berlin and New York Philharmonic orchestras. Time magazine named Lang Lang in the "Time 100," citing him as a symbol of the youth of China and its future. Lang Lang is cultural ambassador for Shenzhen and Shenyang. And if the Chinese passion for piano isn't solely due to him, he has played no small part as a role model - a phenomenon coined by The Today Show as "the Lang Lang effect." Steinway Pianos for the first time named a model after a single artist when they introduced "The Lang Lang Piano" to China, specially designed for education.

• **Julio Iglesias**, Tuesday, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$49.50. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhal.com](http://www.rutheckerdhal.com). Iglesias, the Latin music icon and Grammy winner, has sold more than 300 million copies of his 80 albums released worldwide, including original versions in various languages, compilations and live albums, which make him the Latin artist who has sold the most albums in history. In the 45 years of his unstoppable career, Iglesias has received 2,600 Platinum and Gold records and has performed more than 5,000 concerts in 600 cities around the world and more than 60 million people have seen him perform live. Iglesias has sung duets with famous artists such as Frank Sinatra, Stevie Wonder, Willie Nelson, Diana Ross, Dolly Parton, Art Garfunkel, Paul Anka, Charles Aznavour, Sting and The Beach Boys.

• **Southside Johnny**, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m., at the Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$39. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.atthecap.com](http://www.atthecap.com). Southside (so nicknamed because of Johnny's bent towards the blues sounds of the southside of Chicago) and his band, eventually called the Asbury Jukes, worked on growing their reputation as a dynamic live band through the late '60s and early '70s. The band delivers the exuberant rhythm and blues feel that is the Jukes' trademark, the driving sound of the legendary Jukes horn section and a guitar-orientated rock and roll feel - all with the joy of making music that has defined them for more than three decades solidifying a place in rock 'n' roll history. Bruce Springsteen, Steve Van Zandt, Garry Tallent and Jon Bon Jovi have all played with the Jukes.

• **B.J. Thomas**, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhal.com](http://www.rutheckerdhal.com). Tickets start at \$18. A true American institution whose iconic pop, country and gospel hits defined their respective generations and now transcend them, B.J. Thomas has found a unique way to celebrate an incredible half a century in music with his new album "The Living Room Sessions" featuring duets with Vince Gill, Lyle Lovett, Richard Marx, Keb Mo and Steve Tyrell. A five-time Grammy and Oscar winner; and two-time Dove Award winner who has sold more than 70 million records, B.J. Thomas has ranked in Billboard's Top 50 most played artist over the past five decades with his signature hits "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on my Head," "Hooked On A Feeling" and "Hey, Won't You Play Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song." This show is part of Ruth Eckerd Hall's Adults at Leisure Series.

## Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14
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- Across**
- Political leader
  - Type of memory chip, abbrev.
  - Dissolute person
  - Automatic transmission setting
  - Traveling from place to place
  - Interlaced
  - Bon \_\_\_
  - Grimace
  - Life \_\_\_, candy
  - Brook
  - Track event
  - "Fiddler on the Roof" setting
  - Bridge and Rummy, e.g.
  - Car dealer's offering
  - Supports a particular faction (2 wds)
  - \_\_\_bodied
  - Blender button
  - Face-to-face exam
  - Same side players
  - Biscotti flavoring
  - Assail
  - Piled high
  - Empathize
  - Lime-deficient soil fertilizer
  - Cuban cigar
  - Jaywalking, e.g. (hyphenated)
  - Come together
  - Change, as the Constitution
  - Art depicting natural scenery
  - Because
  - Expressions of regret
  - Fizzle, with "out"
  - Tennis boundaries

- Not much (2 wds)
- Big \_\_\_ Conference
- Recluse
- Boardwalk diversion
- Cat sound
- "Green Gables" girl
- After expenses
- Anthony \_\_\_, "ER" actor
- Temporary
- Split
- Blatant
- Department store department
- Bender
- Likeness
- "Land \_\_\_"
- Bed board
- Daughter of Zeus
- Samoa's basic monetary unit
- Addition symbol
- Student getting one-on-one help
- Big bore
- "\_\_\_ on Down the Road"
- Coaster
- Ziti, e.g.
- Wander aimlessly
- Deodorant type
- Take care of
- Asian shrub yielding flaxlike fiber
- Javelin, e.g.
- One channel sound transmissions
- Door fastener
- Auto parts giant
- Acquire
- Fencing sword
- Amount to make do with
- Family dog, for short
- Computer-generated image (acronym)

- Down**
- Big loser's nickname?
  - Josip Broz, familiarly

## Sudoku

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

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

## Sudoku answers

from last week

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

## Crossword answers

from last week

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

## Horoscopes

### February 20, 2014

#### Capricorn

**December 22 - January 19**  
Privacy is at a premium this week. Savor any moments you have to yourself, Capricorn. The race to finish a home improvement project begins.

#### Aquarius

**January 20 - February 18**  
Whoa, Aquarius. Enthusiasm can be contagious, but it can also be overwhelming. Temper yours until you learn more about the people involved.

#### Pisces

**February 19 - March 20**  
Watch it, Pisces. Play your cards right, and you will have nothing to worry about. Make a misstep, and there will be consequences. A pal returns a favor.

#### Aries

**March 21 - April 19**  
You're simply amazing, Aries. There is no other way to describe you this week. You know just what to say and do to make everything right.

#### Taurus

**April 20 - May 20**  
Old newspaper clippings remind you of simpler times and inspire you to pare down. Start with that room that everyone has forgotten, Taurus.

#### Gemini

**May 21 - June 21**  
Networking has never been your forte, but if you want to succeed, you are going to have to expand your contact list. Look to a mentor to help, Gemini.

#### Cancer

**June 22 - July 22**  
Shop 'til you drop. That's your motto this week, Cancer. You have many purchases to make for an upcoming event. Look to a savvy senior for help.

#### Leo

**July 23 - August 22**  
You're in top form this week, Leo. Everything you touch is golden. A clash in opinions at work kicks the rumor mill into high gear. Keep your nose to the grindstone.

#### Virgo

**August 23 - September 22**  
Game on, Virgo. The competition is heating up, and all eyes are on you to take the lead. A blast from the past drops by with an uncanny request.

#### Libra

**September 23 - October 22**  
Some risks are worth taking, Libra. Cast aside your fears and go for it. A cooking mishap leads to a new tradition. The debate at work continues.

#### Scorpio

**October 23 - November 21**  
Watch it, Scorpio. You're skating on thin ice with a loved one. Give them some space to sort things out. A windfall makes a trip possible.

#### Sagittarius

**November 22 - December 21**  
Uh-uh-uh, Sagittarius. Sometimes it is best to wing it. Stop thinking about what you should do and just do it. A deadline creeps ever so close.

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A&E

**Theater workshop set**

ST. PETERSBURG – St. Petersburg City Theatre will present a children's theater workshop beginning Saturday, Feb. 22, at 4025 31st St. S. Awesome New York Adventure, Part II, will run Feb. 22 through May 31. Cost is \$300. The class will meet Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The workshop will re-create Pizazz Song & Dance Troupe's yearly New York City trip. Weekly classes will include acting, singing, dancing, costuming, Broadway show tunes from "Matilda," "Newsies," and "Stomp." Classes will culminate in a live performance on stage, set for Saturday, May 31. Call Corey Meles at 515-5456 or Gidget Cross at 515-5380.

**DFAC to host 'IT Weekend'**

DUNEDIN – The Dunedin Fine Art Center is referring to its upcoming fringe art festival as the "IT Weekend," a "super-fecta of events," which will include Contain It!, Trashy Treasures, Eat It! and Brew It! The grouping of events runs for just one evening and one day: Friday and Saturday, Feb. 21-22, at Dunedin Fine Art Center, 1143 Michigan Blvd. The fun will kick off Friday, Feb. 21, 6 p.m., with "another legendary DFAC party," according to a press release. The event will feature craft brews, live music by Nancy RayGuns and, of course, all of that incredible food. Contain It!, a multi-media installation fair, showcases the work of artists who have reworked the interior of PODS to reflect their unique take on the space.

**OPENING, from page 1B**

Director: Andrew Fleming  
 Rated: PG-13  
 The "black sheep" son (Scott Speedman) of a wealthy family meets a free-spirited woman (Evan Rachel Wood) who has lived her entire life in isolation. To convince his family that he has finally straightened out his life, he takes her home for his brother's wedding where an improbable romance blooms, as she impresses everyone with her genuine, simple charms.

**'Elaine Stritch: Shoot Me'**

Genre: Documentary  
 Cast: Elaine Stritch  
 Director: Chiemi Karasawa  
 Not rated  
 Now in her late 80s, Broadway legend Elaine Stritch remains as ferociously funny as ever. In this bold, hilarious and poignant portrait, the uncompromising Tony and Emmy Award-winner is revealed both on and off stage. Candid reflections about her life are punctuated with words from friends – including James Gandolfini, Tina Fey, John Turturro, Hal Prince, George C. Wolfe, Nathan Lane and Cherry Jones – and archival footage that showcases some of the great moments from her career. Whether dominating the stage, tormenting Alec Baldwin on the set of "30 Rock," or sharing her struggles with aging, diabetes and alcoholism, "Elaine Stritch: Shoot Me" reaches beyond the icon's brassy exterior and reveals an inspiring portrait of a complex woman and artist.

**'In Secret'**

Genre: Romance and thriller  
 Cast: Elizabeth Olsen, Tom Felton, Jessica Lange, Oscar Isaac, Shirley Henderson, John Kavanagh, Mackenzie Crook and Matt Lucas  
 Director: Charlie Stratton  
 Rated: R  
 "In Secret" is a tale of obsessive love turned to crime and revenge in the lower depths of 1860s Paris. Therese (Elizabeth Olsen) is a ravishing but sexually repressed young woman trapped into a loveless marriage to her sickly cousin Camille (Tom Felton) by her domineering aunt Madame Raquin (Jessica Lange). Now, Therese must spend her days as a virtual shut-in, confined behind the counter of a small shop by day and watching Madame play dominos in the evening. But when she meets her husband's alluring childhood friend, Laurent (Oscar Isaac), everything changes. What begins as a thrillingly illicit, clandestine affair will unravel into a shocking set of tragic circumstances for everyone.

**'Highway'**

Genre: Drama  
 Cast: Randeep Hooda and Alia Bhatt  
 Director: Imtiaz Ali  
 A city girl – young, full of life – is on the highway at night, with her fiancé. They are to get married in four days. Suddenly, her life is swung away from the exultation of marriage to the harsh brutality of abduction. Her life will never be the same again. The same night, the gang is in panic. The girl is a big industrialist's

**TOP FIVE, from page 1B**

music with the unforgettable, angelic voices of Celtic Woman.  
 • **Jim Breuer**, Sunday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$29. Call 822-3590 or visit [www.mypalladium.org](http://www.mypalladium.org). Breuer is one of the most recognizable comedians in the business, best known for charismatic stage antics, dead-on impressions and family-friendly stand-up. He was a cast member on "Saturday Night Live" for four years and co-starred in the 1998 comedy "Half Baked" with Dave Chappelle. Breuer knew he wanted to be a stand-up comic since his high school days and, after spending several years working across the country, settled in as a regular on the New York comedy club circuit. He quickly landed a gig on the Uptown Comedy Club nationally syndicated show and later appeared on ABC's "Home Improvement" with Tim Allen.

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"The idea is to have someone step inside each POD and feel transported into the artist's imagination," said George Ann Bissett, DFAC's executive director. This year's presentation is being curated by Christine Renc-Carter. Featured container artists will include Nicole Abbett, Paula "Pollyzoom" Allen, Nathan Beard, Theo Georgiou, Moses Hensley, Shane Hoffman along with three students, Barbara Hubbard along with two students, Wes Roos, Kumpa Tawornprom and Eric Voorhis. There also will be a special installation by last year's people's choice winner, Vicky Block. Trashy Treasures is considered the Tampa Bay area's most loved art garage sale. People donate art works that they've perhaps grown tired of, and art supplies they no longer need to DFAC. The center then offers a select group for sale by silent auction for the event Friday evening, and then prices the rest of it to sell on a first-come first-served garage sale basis on Saturday, Feb. 22. "The addition of Eat It! a few years ago made the event a tasty triple-header," said Ken Hannon, DFAC's associate executive director. Food trucks for this year's Eat It! will include DFAC's own Stephen Decaire's temporary Palm Cafe on Wheels, George Tinney BBQ and more. This year, DFAC – never being an organization to rest on their laurels for too long – is adding a craft beer component to the festivities. They're calling Brew It! Admission to the Friday night party is \$5 while the exhibition will be open free to the public, Saturday, Feb. 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, call 298-DFAC or visit [www.dfac.org](http://www.dfac.org).

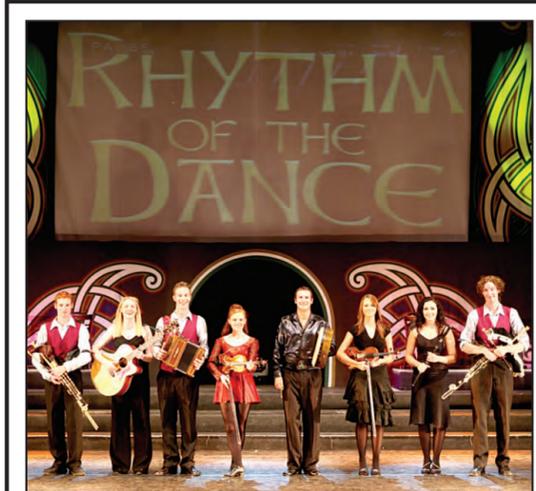


Photo courtesy of NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY OF IRELAND  
 The National Dance Company of Ireland brings its production Rhythm of the Dance to Tarpon Springs Feb. 26.

**TSPAC to host Rhythm of the Dance**

TARPON SPRINGS – The National Dance Company of Ireland will present Rhythm of the Dance on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m., at Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center, 324 Pine St. Reserved seating is \$35 for adults and \$33 for members and students. Call 942-5605 or visit [TarponArts.org](http://TarponArts.org). Rhythm of the Dance is internationally rated as one of the most popular and successful Irish dance shows on tour. Critics, audiences, and millions of fans around the world have hailed the live stage production of Rhythm Of The Dance show as a must-see production. With a wonderful, gifted young cast of dancers, musicians and three Irish tenors, featuring performances from the entire troupe, the production is in the midst of its 11th year of touring in the United States. Over the years, they troupe has played to more than 5 million fans in 33 countries. This two-hour dance and music extravaganza contains a wealth of talent derived from all areas of Irish life. The show is an inspiring epic, reliving the journey of the Irish Celts throughout history. Using the traditional and modern arts of dance and music, this richly costumed show connects the contemporary with the ancient.

But as the days pass by, the scenery changes, the light changes, the sun sets and rises and the air changes, she feels that she has changed as well. Gradually, a strange bond begins to develop between the victim and the oppressor. It is in this captivity that she, for the first time, feels free. She does not want to go back but she also doesn't want to reach where he is taking her. She wishes this journey to never end.

For more movie news including what's playing at local theaters and trailers, visit [www.TBNweekly.com](http://www.TBNweekly.com). Click on the "Movie News & Reviews" link on the left-side menu.



Photo courtesy of IFC FILMS  
 Broadway legend Elaine Stritch is the focus of the documentary "Elaine Stritch: Shoot Me."

daughter. His links in the corridors of power make ransom out of the question. They are doomed. But the leader of this group is adamant. For him sending her back is not an option. He will do whatever it takes to see this through.

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# American Stage Theatre Company announces 2014-15 season

ST. PETERSBURG – American Stage Theatre Company recently announced its 2014-15 season for its six main stage productions, the 30th anniversary of American Stage in the Park and a bonus production that will be a Florida premiere.

American Stage offers an unforgettable theatrical journey with one Florida premiere, four area premieres, two Tony Award-winning plays, two musicals, its eighth installment of the August Wilson's Century Cycle, a Neil Simon classic and a farce by Lewis Black.

"This year I was interested in stories that provided social bridges to experiences and inside stories far from our own," said Todd Olson in a press release. Olson is artistic director at American Stage.

The season will open with "The Chosen," written by the creators of last year's hit "My Name is Asher Lev," and is followed by "Nureyev's Eyes," a bonus production and a Florida premiere produced in conjunction with "Rudolf

Nureyev by James Wyeth: Images of the Dancer" from the Brandywine River Museum at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg.

During the holidays, American Stage will present Neil Simon's "Laughter on the 23rd Floor." Kicking off the new year will be the eighth installment in the August Wilson's Century Cycle, "Radio Golf," followed by the hilarious musical comedy "Gutenberg! The Musical!" starring Matthew McGee and Chris Crawford.

In celebration of the 30th anniversary with American Stage in the Park, the company will take to the outdoors with the Tony and Grammy Award-winning musical and Pulitzer finalist "In the Heights." The summer of 2015 will see the play that won the Tony for Best Play, "Red," and the regional premiere of comedian Lewis Black's farce "One Slight Hitch."

American Stage Theatre Company presents its main stage productions in the Raymond James Theatre, 163 Third St. N., St. Petersburg.

To purchase tickets or main stage subscription packages, call 823-7529 or visit [www.americanstage.org](http://www.americanstage.org).

Following is a summary of the 2014-15 season at American Stage Theatre.

• **"The Chosen,"** adapted by Aaron Posner and Chaim Potok from the novel by Chaim Potok; previews Sept. 3-4; runs Sept. 5-28. It is 1944 set in Brooklyn, and two Jewish boys grow up five blocks and a world apart. A standing-room-only hit wherever it has played, this award-winning adaptation (from the award-winning novel) is by the same creators of last year's hit "My Name is Asher Lev." The play begins when Reuven and Danny play a heated game of baseball between rival yeshivas ... until one is badly hurt. As their unique friendship grows, they learn important lessons about their fathers, their community, and themselves.

• **"Nureyev's Eyes,"** by David Rush; previews Oct. 15-16; runs Oct. 17-26. The play will be produced in conjunction with "Rudolf Nureyev by James Wyeth: Images of the Dancer" from the Brandywine River Museum at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg. An inside story about two masters – an American painter and a Russian ballet dancer – and how they created a now famous set of paintings. During the 1970s, the American painter Jamie Wyeth (son of Andrew) did a series of studies and paintings of Rudolf Nureyev, the legendary ballet dancer who defected from Russia and revitalized western ballet. Written with the express permission and support of Jamie Wyeth, this brand new play by David Rush imagines what their

electric encounters may have been like, what secrets were revealed about the world of painting and international dance, and how their relationship evolved ... changing each of them.

• **"Laughter on the 23rd Floor,"** by Neil Simon; previews Nov. 19-20; runs Nov. 21 through Dec. 14. Get an inside look at the writers room with Mel Brooks, Sid Caesar, Neil Simon, Carl Reiner, Larry Gelbart, and other legends of early TV. Inspired by Neil Simon's youthful experience as a staff writer on Sid Caesar's "Your Show of Shows," the show features all the attendant comic drama as the harried writing staff frantically scrambles to top each other with gags while competing for the attention of star madman.

• **"Radio Golf,"** by August Wilson; previews Jan. 21-22; runs Jan. 23 through Feb. 22, 2015. The production will be the eighth installment in American Stage Theatre's August Wilson Century Cycle. Harmond Wilks is a real estate developer poised to become Pittsburgh's first African-American Mayor. He is also on the verge of clinching a lucrative land deal: if the government declares the Hill District as "blighted" – including Aunt Esther's house on 1839 Wylie – a lot of federal money will be made available to Harmond and his partners. But as he steps into political prominence, his plans collide with his past, and August Wilson's 10th play shows how, in the rush to progress, the past is never too far behind.

• **"Gutenberg! The Musical!,"** by Scott Brown and Anthony

King; starring Matthew McGee and Chris Crawford; previews March 11-12; runs March 13 through April 5, 2015. In this two-man musical spoof, a pair of aspiring playwrights perform a backers' audition for their new project – a big, splashy musical about printing press inventor Johann Gutenberg. With an unending supply of enthusiasm, Bud and Doug sing all the songs and play all the parts in their cross historical epic, with the hope that one of the producers in attendance will give them a Broadway contract – fulfilling their ill-advised dreams.

• **"In the Heights,"** with music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda and book by Pulitzer-winner Quiara Alegria Hudes; previews April 22-23; runs April 24 through May 17, 2015. "In the Heights" is Broadway's Tony Award-winning Best Musical about chasing dreams and finding a true home. This exhilarating musical tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood – a place where the coffee from the corner coffee shop is light and sweet, the windows are always open and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. It's a community on the brink of change, full of hopes and dreams where the biggest struggles can be deciding which traditions you take with you, and which ones you leave behind. With a gripping story and incredible music and dance, "In the Heights" is a groundbreaking 21st century musical and the next chapter in the classic American story.

• **"Red,"** by John Logan; previews May 27-28; runs May 29 through June 21, 2015. Master abstract expressionist Mark Rothko has just landed the biggest commission in the history of modern art, a series of murals for New York's famed Four Seasons Restaurant. In the two fascinating years that follow, Rothko works feverishly with his young assistant in his studio on the Bowery. But when the student gains the confidence to challenge the master, Rothko faces the agonizing possibility that his crowning achievement could also become his undoing. Raw and provocative, RED is the inside story of an artist's ambition and vulnerability as he tries to create a definitive work for an extraordinary setting.

• **"One Slight Hitch,"** by Lewis Black; previews July 8-9; runs July 10 through Aug. 2, 2015. It's Courtney's wedding day, and her mom, Delia, is making sure that everything is perfect. The groom is perfect, the dress is perfect, and the decorations (assuming they arrive) will be perfect. Then, like in any good farce, the doorbell rings ... and all hell breaks loose. So much for perfect.

American Stage Theatre Company is a not-for-profit professional theater founded in 1977. The company's mission is to create the most satisfying live theatre in the Tampa Bay area, accessible to all members of the community. Their vision is to preserve the greatest human stories from our past, while creating the most defining stories and storytelling of our time.

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## Author Craig Pittman to discuss book, 'The Scent of Scandal'

TARPON SPRINGS – A Lunch and Learn event will feature journalist and author Craig Pittman on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 11:30 a.m., at the Heritage Museum, 100 Beekman Lane.

Pittman, author of "The Scent of Scandal," will discuss his work. Cost is \$17 for adults and \$15 for members and students. Cost includes gourmet-boxed lunch, soft drink and the talk.

Attendees will learn the story of Pittman's true tell-all thriller "The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal and the World's Most

Beautiful Orchid."

After its Peruvian discovery in 2002, Phragmipedium kovachii became the most rare and most sought-after orchid in the world. Prices soared to \$10,000 on the black market. When one showed up at the Selby Botanical Gardens, this rare lady's slipper orchid led to search warrants, a grand jury investigation, criminal charges, and headlines around the country.

Pittman, an investigative journalist, unraveled this tangled web and exposed an obsession with beauty, profit and fame that led some people to ignore everything – even the law.

Pittman is a native Floridian. Born in Pensacola, he graduated

from Troy State University in Alabama, where his muckraking work for the student paper prompted an agitated dean to label him "the most destructive force on campus."

Since then he has covered a variety of newspaper beats and quite a few natural disasters, including hurricanes and wildfires. Since 1998, he has covered environmental issues for Florida's largest newspaper, the Tampa Bay Times.

He has won the Waldo Proffitt Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism in Florida four times, and twice won the top investigative reporting award from the Society of Environmen-

tal Journalists. Stories he has written for Sarasota magazine have won three first-place Charlie Awards from the Florida Magazine Association.

He's the co-author, with Matthew Waite, of "Paving Paradise: Florida's Vanishing Wetlands and the Failure of No Net Loss" (2009) and the author of "Manatee Insanity: Inside the War Over Florida's Most Famous Endangered Species" (2010), both published by the University Press of Florida.

His third non-fiction book, "The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal, and the World's Most Beautiful Orchid," was released in 2012.

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Mon. 3/7  
Breakfast 8-11:30  
Corned Beef @ Noon  
Eddie Coffee Band 1-5

**LUNCH BASKETS**  
\$6.75  
And Under!  
Noon-4pm  
Call ahead and take your lunch to the beach!

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT EVERY DAY**  
INSIDE & OUTSIDE

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February 20	February 21	February 22
Act III Motown 6-10pm	Jelvis 1-5pm	Kathy & Paul 6-10pm

**Sat. - Feb. 22 @ 2pm**  
4th Annual  
Barkus Pet Costume Parade  
with Music by Don & Suzy  
Bring a lawnchair

125 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach  
727-595-1320 [www.jdsrestaurant.com](http://www.jdsrestaurant.com)

# FLORIDA STATEWIDE NETWORK ADS

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<p><b>SURROGATE MOTHER NEEDED</b></p> <p>Please help us have our baby! Generous Compensation Paid. Call Attorney Charlotte Danciu, (800)395-5449. FL Bar #307084. <a href="http://www.adoption-surrogacy.com">www.adoption-surrogacy.com</a> (C)</p>	<p><b>KILL ROACHES &amp; PALMETTO BUGS!</b></p> <p>Buy Harris Roach Tablets. Eliminate Bugs. Guaranteed. No Mess, Odorless, Long Lasting. Available at Ace Hardware, The Home Depot, and Homedepot.com. (C)</p>	<p><b>WESTERN CAROLINA REAL ESTATE</b></p> <p>Offering unbelievable deals on homes and land in the beautiful NC mountains. Call for free brochures, foreclosures and area info. (800)924-2635. (C)</p>	<p><b>HOMEJOY</b></p> <p>Professional Cleaning. \$20/hr. Affordable. Convenient. Trusted. Book online in 2 minutes! For 1 HOUR FREE for new customers, go to <a href="http://www.homejoy.com/SFL">www.homejoy.com/SFL</a> or call: 1-855-728-4569. (C)</p>	<p><b>MEDICAL BILLING TRAINEES NEEDED!</b></p> <p>Become a Medical Office Assistant ASAP! No Experience Needed! Online training gets you ready! (888)374-7294. (C)</p>	<p><b>NURSING CAREERS BEGIN HERE</b></p> <p>Get trained in months, not years. Small classes, no waiting list. Financial aid for qualified students. Apply now at Centura Institute Orlando. (888)220-3219. (C)</p>	<p><b>Spectacular Blue Ridge Mountain View.</b> 1+acre, only \$14,900! Gorgeous corner parcel in prime N. Georgia location with spectacular Blue Ridge Mountain view. Next to U.S. National Forest. Paved roads, municipal water &amp; underground power. Mid restrictions, RV-friendly. Call &amp; ask about our FREE overnight stay with tour. Excellent low-rate financing. Call (866)952-5303, x169. (F)</p>
<p><b>ADOPTION</b></p> <p><b>GIVE YOUR BABY THE BEST IN LIFE!</b> Many Kind, Loving, Educated &amp; Financially Secure Couples Waiting. Living &amp; Medical Expenses Paid. Counseling &amp; Transportation Provided. Former Birth Moms on Staff! <b>FLORIDA ADOPTION LAW GROUP, P.A.</b> Jodi Sue Rutstein, M.S.W., J.D. Mary Ann Scherer, R.N., J.D. (800)852-0041. Confidential 24/7. (#133050 &amp; 249025). (C)</p>	<p><b>CASH FOR CARS: ALL CARS</b></p> <p>Bugs Wanted, Running or Not! Top Dollar Paid. We Come to You! Any Make/Model. Call for Instant Offer. (800)871-9638. (C)</p>	<p><b>AIRLINE CAREERS begin here!</b></p> <p>Become an Aviation Maintenance Tech. FAA-approved training. Financial aid if qualified. Housing available. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance. (866)314-6283. (C)</p>	<p><b>YOU CAN BECOME an expert in HVAC</b> installation and repair. Pinnacle Career Institute. Online HVAC education in as little as 12 months. Call us today: (877)651-3961 or HVAC-Online-Education.com. (F)</p>	<p><b>PREGNANT???</b></p> <p>1-888-ADOPTION (236-7846) Choose a loving family for your baby. Living &amp; medical expenses paid. <a href="http://americanadoptions.com">americanadoptions.com</a> Lic. #100024191 American Adoptions of Florida (C)</p>	<p><b>TIMESHARE OPC POSITIONS</b></p> <p>Hilton Head Island. East Coast's #1 island destination! Housing to experienced OPCs! Over 25,000 produced in past 3 years! Call JIM (843)247-1941 or DON (843)683-9595. (C)</p>	<p><b>ATTENTION VIAGRA USERS</b></p> <p>Help improve your stamina, drive and endurance with EverGene. 100% natural. Call for FREE bottle. No Prescription Needed! (866)273-9007. (C)</p>
<p><b>ADOPTION</b></p> <p>Give your baby a loving, financially secure family. Living expenses paid. Call Attorney Charlotte Danciu, 28 years experience. (800)395-5449. <a href="http://www.adoption-surrogacy.com">www.adoption-surrogacy.com</a> FL Bar #307084 (C)</p>	<p><b>EVERY BABY DESERVES</b></p> <p>a healthy start. Join more than a million people walking and raising money to support the March of Dimes. The walk starts at <a href="http://marchforbabies.org">marchforbabies.org</a>. (C)</p>	<p><b>MOBILE HOME ROOF SPECIALIST</b></p> <p>Free Inspections. Lic./Ins.# CC1327406. All Florida Weatherproofing &amp; Construction. (877)572-1019. (C)</p>	<p><b>BECOME A CNA! (30-HRS)</b></p> <p>No HS/GED Required! On-Site Testing. Job Assistance. Also HHA, CPR, PCT, PHLEBOTOMY/EKG Dade/Broward – (954)921-9577 Palm Beach – (561)840-8804 Saint Lucie – (772)882-4218 <a href="http://www.fastCNA.com">www.fastCNA.com</a> (C)</p>	<p><b>ACTORS/MOVIE</b></p> <p>Extras needed immediately for upcoming roles. \$150-\$300 per day depending on job requirements. No experience. All looks needed. (800)561-1762. X-A-104, for casting times/locations. (C)</p>	<p><b>REMODELED RENTALS</b></p> <p>MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD &amp; PALM BEACH COUNTIES. 1-5 BEDROOM APARTMENTS AVAILABLE NOW! Section-8 Accepted. Call Now for Low Pricing. (305)600-5450 (C)</p>	<p><b>GEORGIA LAND SALE</b></p> <p>129 Acres, \$1,750/Ac. Farm/pasture land, great homesite with excellent road frontage. Other tracts available. <a href="http://www.treesandfarms.com">www.treesandfarms.com</a>. (478)987-9700 William Long Agency. (C)</p>
<p><b>CASH FOR CARS!</b></p> <p>We buy ANY Car, Truck or Van! Running or Not. Get a FREE Top Dollar INSTANT Offer NOW! (800)558-1097. We're Local! (C)</p>	<p><b>AT&amp;T U-Verse for just \$29/mo!</b></p> <p>BUNDLE &amp; SAVE with AT&amp;T Internet+Phone+TV and get a FREE pre-paid Visa Card! (Select plans). HURRY! CALL NOW! (800)327-5381. (C)</p>	<p><b>NOW HIRING OTR CDLA Drivers</b></p> <p>New Pay Package and \$2,500 Sign-on Bonus! Mostly 5-10 days out, full benefits, achievable bonuses. Call (888)978-3791 or apply at <a href="http://www.hey.net">www.hey.net</a>. (F)</p>	<p><b>\$2,000 Moves You In!</b></p> <p>No credit necessary - owner financing his many Florida homes. If you are handy, call (352)414-1862 or visit: <a href="http://investmentpropertiesondemand.com">investmentpropertiesondemand.com</a> (C)</p>	<p><b>KILL BED BUGS AND THEIR EGGS!</b></p> <p>Buy a Harris Bed Bug Kit. Complete Room Treatment Solution. Odorless, Non-Staining. BUY ONLINE ONLY, <a href="http://homedepot.com">homedepot.com</a>. (NOT IN STORES).</p>	<p><b>Property Damage Claims</b></p> <p>No Fee, If No Recovery! Roof Leaks, Kitchen Damage, Tile Damage, Mold &amp; All Other Claims Attorney Charles D. Barnard (954)561-5880 (954)295-3861 (C)</p>	<p><b>PONTOONS</b></p> <p>(30) 2014 In Stock. Selling/Service Honda-Mercury-Yamaha-Suzuki Motors. Free Delivery in Florida. 26 Years in Business. Astor Marine, 24535 State Rd. 40, Astor, FL 32102. (952)759-3635. (C)</p>
<p><b>AIRLINE CAREERS begin here!</b></p> <p>Get FAA approved Aviation Maintenance Technician training. Housing and Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance (877)741-9260. <a href="http://www.FixJets.com">www.FixJets.com</a>. (F)</p>	<p><b>DO YOU TAKE CIALIS/VIAGRA?</b></p> <p>There's an Herbal Alternative that's Safe/Effective. VigorCare For Men, the perfect alternative to other products, with similar results. 60 Pills/\$99.00 plus S&amp;H. (888)886-1041. <a href="http://www.herbalremedieslive.com">www.herbalremedieslive.com</a>. (C)</p>	<p><b>A FUN-LOVING MARRIED COUPLE</b></p> <p>Seeks to adopt. Stay-at-home mom &amp; devoted dad. Financial security. Expenses paid. Let's help each other. Call/text Paula &amp; Adam. (800)790-5260. FL Bar #0150789. (C)</p>	<p><b>DROWNING IN DEBT?</b></p> <p>Business, personal loans. New or consolidated credit available. Bad credit OK. Call Century Financial. (800)931-1942. (C)</p>	<p><b>Liberation by American Standard</b></p> <p>Walk-In Bath. Don't Struggle Getting Out of a Normal Bath. Stay in your home longer, safely, independently. Liberation Walk-In Baths commemorated by the Antrhis Foundation. Best Lifetime Warranty in the industry. Hydrotherapy, Chroma therapy, Aromatherapy, no extra cost. Installation included! Get \$1,000 Off. Call today! (866)583-1432. (F)</p>	<p><b>ABSOLUTE AUCTION</b></p> <p>Ponce de Leon, FL. 11+/- acres, 21,000+/-SF of improvements near U.S. Hwy. 90, offered in 7 parcels. February 27th, 1:00PM. <a href="http://gtauctions.com">gtauctions.com</a>, (205)326-0833, Granger, Thagard &amp; Associates, Inc. G.W. Thagard AU2846, AB2100, BK3009116. (F)</p>	<p><b>NEW LOG HOME*</b></p> <p>on 10+ acres only \$89,900. 3BR, 2BA log home with direct river access. Convenient to downtown Jacksonville, x19. Financing. Call (877)525-3033. *C"nstructed weather-tight log shell home. EHO. (F)</p>

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### 1. House Sales

**ST. PETE BEACH 2BR/2BA**  
 Too Cute For Words. For Photos and More Information Visit: www.7623gulflvhd.com. \$179,000. Jared Salzman, Century 21/Jim White & Associates. (727)515-3462

### UPSCALE HOMES

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**OPEN SUNDAY 1PM-4PM**  
 Seminole, Old Oakhurst, NO FLOOD 4BR/3BA/3CG, +Bonus Room Pool/Spa. Updated Kristie Baxter, (727)743-4728

**WIMAUMA VALENCIA LAKES**  
 55+ Gated Community Immaculate 3/2/2 2011 Construction Full Recreational Facilities \$274,900. Jennifer, Smith & Associates Realtors (708)334-0759

**INDIAN ROCKS BEACH 2BR/1BA/1CG**  
 Tiled, New Roof & Pavers, Waterfront, Deep Water, Open Canal, Dock w/Electric Davits. \$379,900. Florida Dreams Real Estate, (727)504-9490.

**BEAUTIFUL SEMINOLE**  
 Home, 4BR/2BA/2CG, 2,100SF, Ranch, CHA, Patio/Deck, Breakfast/ Snack Bar, Large Sunroom, Great Room & Living Room. \$197,900. (727)768-3412

**5. R.E. Sales**

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Low Interest Rate Mortgage Down Payment Assistance Available

Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County

1-800-806-5154 www.pinellascounty.org/community/hfa

USE YOUR TAX MONEY FOR A DOWN PAYMENT Recently Foreclosed, Special Financing Available, Any Credit, Any Income. 2BR/1.5BA, 460SF, located at, 3681 67th Ave. N, Pinellas Park, \$24,900. Visit www.roselandco.com/C32. Drive by then call (866)814-9569.

**GARY COE, REALTOR**  
 Coldwell Banker Residential 6825 Stoneshow Circle #1102, \$123,900.

**2BR/2BA Golf Course Condo,** 8207 Bardmoor Place #104B, \$169,900.

**2BR/2BA S. Pasadena Waterfront Condo,** 7600 Sun Island Dr. #204, \$179,000.

**2BR/2BA Golf Course Condo,** 8201 Bardmoor Place #202, \$199,900.

**3BR/2BA Largo Pool Home,** 8302 Wrens Way, \$239,000. GaryCoeHomeSales.com Call Gary For Viewing! (727)224-8424

### 10. Waterfront Sales

**MAGNIFICENT VIEW TAMPA BAY!**  
 Duplex Home, Block, Beach Drive SE. Both 2BR/1BA/2CG. Only \$299,000. Must Sell! Owner Holds \$99K Mortgage. (727)623-9532.

### 20. Condo Sales

**MADEIRA BEACH**  
 Sea Towers, Gated Community, Waterfront, High Floor, 1BR/1BA, Carport, Newly Updated A/C, Water Heater. (727)546-0215, (727)512-3520.

**ESTATE SALE 2BR/2BA**  
 Condo 1,400SF, Gated Community. Asking \$162,500. Call Denise Taylor or Susan Gaddis, Coastal Properties Group International, for details. (727)233-4222.

**ULTIMAR I, 3BR/2.5BA/1CG**  
 FOR SALE BY OWNER Extensive Wrap Balcony, Direct Gulf SW Corner, 1,942SF, Pristine, \$775,000. (727)277-4988. Diane Warder, RE Agent. Co-Brokers Welcome.

**CLEARWATER WATERFRONT**  
 55+, 3BR/2BA, Penthouse. Picturesque Views, Pool, Covered Parking. John Noell, Holland Associates, (727)434-1673. \$329,800, MLS U7607713

### 20. Condo Sales

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Upscale Remodeled Throughout, Large & Spacious, 2BR/2BA, 1,440 Sq. Ft., 40 Ft. Balcony, New Kitchen From Ceiling To Floor, Granite Countertops Throughout

**OPEN HOUSE**  
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**NORTH ST PETE 1BR/1BA**  
 Plus Florida Room, Buy Owner FIRST FLOOR Condo, 55+ Porches Low Maintenance fees Mid \$30,000's. (727)490-5161

**CONDO "BELLA VISTA ON LAKE SEMINOLE"**  
 2BR/2BA, 1,018 SQ FT UPDATED! HARDWOOD FLOORS LARGE DOGS ALLOWED 2 SCREENED PORCHES GREAT PRICE! \$71,900 LYNN EVANS, Realtor (727)542-4243 Lynn.Evans@Live.com WWW.FWESTCOASTREALTOR.COM BHHS Florida Properties Group

**SEMINOLE VILLA STYLE CONDO**  
 1BR/1BA/CP. Vaulted Ceilings, WD, Screen Porch, Large, Patio, Backs to Woods, Any Age, Pets OK. \$79,900 Owner/Realtor (727)542-1475

**LARGO VILLA CONDO**  
 55+ Spacious, updated 2BR/2BA On Executive Golf Course. Furnished or Unfurnished. 80's (727)559-0932

**LONG BAYOU 2BD/1BA**  
 1st Floor Condo In Gated Community. Club House With Heated/Cooled Pool. 55+up. Mid \$60's. 727.692-4510 OR 352.424.0154

**THE GARDENS - OFF PARK BLVD**  
 Large 1BR/1BA Totally Redone, Large Laundry Room, New Wood Floors Bedroom, Bath W/Tile Shower And Stone Bowl Sink, Custom Electric Fireplace, Tile Floors in Bath, Kitchen and Dining Room. \$65,000 (727)735-5010

**SEMINOLE GARDENS NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY WHILE THE PRICES ARE STILL LOW!**  
 BEAUTIFUL 56-ACRE COMPLEX

**1BR/1BA 704 sq. ft. Nicely Furnished Turn Key Unit \$24,900**

**2BR/1BA 874 sq. ft. Water View, Furnished Pet Building! \$45,900**

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**FIVE TOWNS/ ST PETE, 55+**  
 2BR/2BA, 1,100SF, \$74,500 Updated, 2nd Floor Screened Balcony Overlooking Pool & Pond. 15 Minutes from Pool To Beach. (727)397-5007.

**LAKEVIEW OF LARGO SOUTH**  
 2 Bedroom, W/D, Sunny Lanai, Owner Says "Bring Offers" \$74,900

**Call to See, Maureen Stilwell, Rutenberg Realty (727)596-2965 or Jean Rowe (727)773-0356**

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### 95. Property Mgmt.

### EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-668-9777. The Toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

**100. R.E. Wanted**  
**LOOKING TO BUY HOMES!**  
 Any Condition, Cash Money, Speedy Closing. Facing Foreclosure Okay. Ask For Glenn, (727)565-7184

**130. Cemetery Lots**  
 Would You Like To Be Buried With Your Pets? You can at CURLEW HILLS Pet Cemetery, Niche Bench #8 For Sale. Paid \$55,000, Asking \$4,000. (727)733-7609.

### RENTALS

**145. Unfurnished Houses**  
**LARGO 2BR/1BA**  
 W/D, Fenced, First/Last + Security. No Pets/Smokers. \$700/Month Annual, +Utilities. References (727)754-2422.

**CLEARWATER 2BR/1BA**  
 South Hillcrest near Durd. Super Area. Spacious, W/D Hook-up, \$750/Month, \$500 Deposit, (727)581-5221.

**SEMINOLE GARDENS**  
 1BR/1BA, 874SF, 55+, Laminate Floors, Many Updates. \$550/Month-Yearly. Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp. (727)397-2534

**GREAT RENTAL!**  
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**160. Unfurnished Condos**  
**NEW ATLANTIS CLUB 2BR/1BA**  
 First Floor, New Carpeting, Freshly Painted, Walk To Shopping, No Pets. \$750/Mo. Shipwatch Realty, (727)596-6508. www.ShipwatchRealty.com

**SEMINOLE, LONG BAYOU,**  
 Renovated Modern Condo. 1BR/1BA, Florida Room W/Murphy Bed, 800SF, 2nd Floor. 55+, Gated community. Many amenities. Resort Style Living! \$750/Month. (727)385-7718.

**CLEARWATER TOWNHOUSE**  
 202 Brigadoun Drive, 3BR/3BA, Walking Trail & Pool, \$950/Mo. (727)393-0523.

**ST PETE TENNIS & YACHT**  
 Club, 2BR/2BA, Waterview, Updates, Gated, \$1,500/Month. Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

**GOLF COURSE CONDO**  
 Overlooking Water! 3BR/2BA/1CG, LR, DR, 1,900SF, \$1,400/Mo. Annual. Call Rick, (727)639-8035.

**SEMINOLE - BEACHWAY**  
 2BR/2BA, Modern, Split Plan, New Carpet, Screened Balcony, Pool, Gym, Gated. \$995/Mo. (727)452-1350.

**165. Villa Rentals**  
**BELLE OAK VILLAS, 2BR/2BA,**  
 1,036 SF, Vaulted Ceiling With Skylight, Community Pools. \$850/Mo. +Deposit. (727)585-5569.

**PALM HARBOR VILLA**  
 1BR/1BA Carport Pool & Clubhouse Water & Cable Included \$800 Month (843)957-7012

**175. Unfurnished Apts.**  
**DOWNTOWN DUNEDIN**  
 1BR Apt, \$210/Wkly, Free Utilities. Nice! Call Or Click www.586-2412.com

**SEMINOLE GARDENS, 55+.**  
 1BR Deluxe & 2BR/2BA. No Pets. Nonsmokers Only. Robert G. Castles, P.A. Broker. (727)319-8229 www.SeminoleGarden.com

**BELLEAIR BLUFFS**  
 Deluxe 1-2BRs, 1st-2nd Floor. Overlooking Nonsmoking Center Courtyard W/Beautiful Pool. Great Location 1 Block From Shopping & Intracoastal. 2942 West Bay Dr. Call For Info: (727)510-9085

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

**LARGO VERY CLOSE TO**  
 Transportation, Shopping, Hospital. 1BR/1BA, \$650/month, 2BR/1BA, \$700/month, 2BR/2BA, \$750/month. (727)280-5005.

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

### 175. Unfurnished Apts.

**INDIAN SHORES 1/BR**  
 C/H/A. Includes E/W/S, Beach Access. 19235 Whispering Pines Drive. \$1,200/Month. (727)599-5814, (727)623-4443. Owner/ Agent.

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**190. Waterfront Rentals**  
**SUNSET BEACH**  
 1BR/1BA Waterfront Condo On Intracoastal. Laundry Room, Dock, Patio, BBQ Area. One Block To Beach. \$800/Mo. Annual. (727)224-8884.

**SAND KEY DAN'S ISLAND**  
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**195. Seasonal Rentals**  
**SAND KEY, CLEARWATER BCH**  
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### 265. Commercial Rentals

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### MISCELLANEOUS

**345. Lost & Found**  
**LOST GOLD PRESCRIPTION GLASSES**  
 On Belleair Beach sometime Saturday 2/08/2014. Between 11AM-2PM. Morgan Park. (727)595-2882

**AT YOUR SERVICE**

**355. Adoption**  
**ARE YOU PREGNANT?**  
 A Childless, Married Couple, (in our 30s) seeks to adopt. Will be hands on Mom and devoted Dad. Financially secure. Expenses paid. Nicole & Frank. Call/ Text (1888)969-6134. FL BAR #150789

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**600. Merchandise**

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**625. TV-Electronics Sales**

**VIZIO 55" SMART TV**  
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**630. Absolutely Free**

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**640. Furniture**

**CHALK PAINT AND VINTAGE FURNISHINGS**  
For sale at Casa Bella Vintage, 9401 Bay Pines Blvd, located inside Park Street Antiques.

**660. Wanted to Buy**

**DIABETIC TEST STRIPS**  
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**660. Wanted to Buy**

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**810. Auto Sales**

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**970. Estate Sales**

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**970. Estate Sales**

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**975. Garage-Yard Sales**

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**SATURDAY 2/22, 8AM-7**  
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**HUGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE**  
8367 Parkwood Blvd, Seminole 33777, 8-3pm Friday 2/21 and Saturday 2/22

**WOODS AT LAKE SEMINOLE Neighborhood Garage Sale**  
Saturday, February 22 8am - 3pm Starkey Road to 102nd Avenue N. or 106th Avenue N. at the Palm Garden Rehab Center

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**HOLIDAY VILLAGE MHP**  
6580 Seminole Blvd, Lot #422 Seminole, Friday, 8am-1pm. Saturday, Bag Day, 8am-Noon Bake Sale.

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Long Bayou Condominiums, 9777 62nd Terrace N. (Off 66th Ave N), St. Petersburg, Saturday, 02/22/14, 8am-Noon.

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Saturday-February 22nd 9am-1pm  
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# Dave Mason brings Traffic Jam to Capitol Theatre

CLEARWATER – Audiences will have an opportunity to take a journey back to the greatest days of rock with Dave Mason's sight and sound experience, Traffic Jam.

Dave Mason's Traffic Jam will take a detour into the Tampa Bay area Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater.

Tickets start at \$49. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.attheatrecap.com](http://www.attheatrecap.com).

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, songwriter and legendary guitarist has been making music since the age of 18 when he teamed up with fellow British native Steve Winwood to form the band Traffic. Since then he has penned dozens of hits such as "Feelin' Alright" and "We Just Disagree." He has been linked with numerous other members of rock and roll elite, in-

cluding Eric Clapton, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Fleetwood Mac, The Rolling Stones, Graham Nash, Stephen Stills, Rita Coolidge, Leon Russell, Ron Wood and Mama Cass Elliot. Mason has been performing to sold-out audiences for years and has sold millions of recordings worldwide.

Mason's solo studio albums include "Alone Together" (1970), "Dave Mason & Cass Elliot" (1971), "Headkeeper" (1972), "It's Like You Never Left" (1973), "Dave Mason" (1974), "Split Coconut" (1975), "Let It Flow" (1977), "Mariposa De Oro" (1978), "Old Crest on a New Wave" (1980), "Two Hearts" (1987), "Some Assembly Required" (1987) and "26 Letters – 12 Notes" (2008).

Prior to his solo career, Mason's involvement with Traffic resulted in the studio albums

"Mr. Fantasy" (1967), "Traffic" (1968) and "Last Exit" (1969), as well as the live album "Welcome to the Canteen" (1971).

In 2014, Mason is on the road with an exciting new project billed as Dave Mason's Traffic Jam. The tour kicked off Jan. 3 in Atlantic City, N.J., and will continue through the rest of the year.

The "Traffic Jam" concert will feature hits and deep album cuts from 1967's "Mr. Fantasy" and 1968's "Traffic" albums and additional Traffic jams plus new material and classic Dave Mason music.

According to a press release from the Mitch Schneider Organization, the artist's publicist, Mason plans to release a new EP titled "Futures Past" in 2014. The EP will feature new versions of his classic songs plus new material that he has written and performed

on tour over the last few years. The EP will be available online at [www.davemasonmusic.com](http://www.davemasonmusic.com) and at Mason's live shows.

Renowned for such Traffic hits as "Feelin' Alright" and "Hole In My Shoe," plus his solo signature tracks "We Just Disagree" and "Only You Know and I Know," Mason is excited to perform the music of Traffic.

"I think that it is important to keep alive the legacy of four young men from the heartland of England and their contribution to contemporary music," Mason said in a press release. "And Traffic Jam – aside from the obvious material – will hopefully grow into the basis for other artists to participate. Keep the spirit alive."

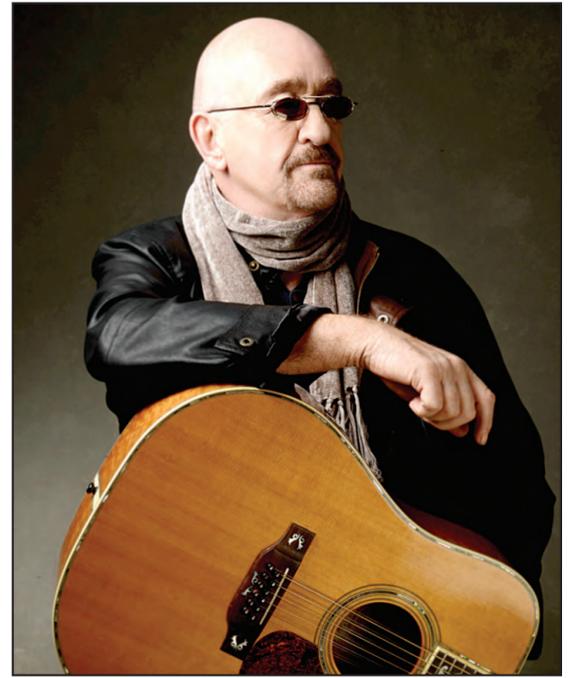


Photo by CHRIS JENSEN/MITCH SCHNEIDER ORGANIZATION  
Dave Mason, a Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame inductee, songwriter and legendary guitarist, has been making music since the age of 18.

### Online calendar of events

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

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**HAIR** July 11-20

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**Celebrate Our 14th Anniversary on Monday, February 24th!**  
**FREE Beverage all Day Long**  
Also includes Wells and House Wines  
Offer good on 2/24/14 only. Free drink with meal purchase. One per customer.

- Outdoor Patio
- Take-Out
- Catering & Big Parties
- 3 Flat Screen TVs

EARLY BIRD SPECIALS

Mon.-Fri. 2pm-5pm

\$6.95

- Gift Cards Available
- All served with potato and vegetable, soup or salad & dessert

Monday-Car, VISA, DISCOVER, AMERICAN EXPRESS

**Sunday Karaoke 5pm-8:30pm • Offering Daily Specials • FREE WiFi**

788 N. Missouri Ave. • Largo • 727-584-7330

[LargoFamilyRestaurant.com](http://LargoFamilyRestaurant.com)

## Big Jim's Famous Philly Steaks & Beer, Together at Last...

- Over 50 Domestic, Craft & Micro Brews:
- Guinness
- Cigar City
- Goose Island
- Tampa Bay Brewing Co.
- Rapp Brewing Co.
- Florida Ave Ales & Many More!

- Catch All of Your Favorite NFL & College Football Games on Our HDTVs!

Philly's Favorite Philly!

Famous for Philly Cheesesteaks!

16 Specialty Pizzas!

Hand-Tossed NY Style Pizza!

**Ask About Big Jim's Catering!**

1/4 Mile West of Starkey  
9220 Ulmerton Rd, Largo  
Open 7 Days a Week  
11am 'til Late

Dine In | Carry-Out  
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Call Ahead for Fast Take-Out!

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