

## LARGO LEADER

### Red Dragon Cartel to perform at Largo Cultural Center

Check out events this week: Al Stewart, Marc Cohn and a bluegrass festival ... Page 1B.



LARGO



Largo Fire Rescue honored Scott Tiffany, left, as Firefighter of the Year and Sandy Sanders as Fire Service Employee of the Year. For the police awards, see page 3A.

# City clears downtown financing

## Largo is one step closer to providing new incentives for businesses

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - The funding to allow new economic development incentives for Largo's downtown district passed through quickly March 18. The city now is one step closer to being the first in the Tampa Bay market to offer the "unique incentives," Economic Development Manager Teresa Brydon said.

A resolution allowing the incentives will be up for the commissioners' consideration April 1, she said. During that meeting, the city will appoint members to the

newly established community development advisory board.

Then the city will be able to accept applications for the new incentives, which are designed to encourage more infill housing, new mixed used development with office space and more jobs within the West Bay Drive Community Redevelopment District.

Brydon said staff picked up on those three measures specifically, after seeing how the cities of Fort Lauderdale and Delray Beach were able to promote growth within their redevelopment districts.

"It was obvious the success that they had with those," Brydon said. "You can just see over the course of the last five to seven years, the growth was been phenomenal in those markets."

The incentives tap into tax increment financing, generated through and within the redevelopment districts. The ordinance passed March 18 allows \$80,000 of the district's budget to be set aside for these incentives.

The process to create the new incentive programs

See DOWNTOWN, page 4A



### French Market attracts crowds

The success of the 12th annual French Market in Largo March 15 could be measured simply by the traffic jam around the location and the cars circling the parking lot, waiting for a spot to open.

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COUNTY

### County to answer budget questions

Pinellas County commissioners and the county administrator will answer budget questions Wednesday, April 9, 7 to 8 p.m., at Pinellas County's 2015 eTownHall public meeting.

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BUSINESS

### Culver's to open

Known for its famous ButterBurger and creamy frozen custard, Culver's will open its doors in Largo in June.

The restaurant, which serves fast casual food cooked-to-order, is located at 3500 East Bay Drive.

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SPORTS

### Football clinic set

The city of Largo's Athletics Division is hosting its free annual Youth Football Clinic for youth ages 8 to 17 Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Highland Recreation Complex. Participants will learn on-field skills and drills.

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VIEWPOINTS

### Bob Driver

With technology, we ain't seen nuthin' yet.

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### Teaching edible landscaping



Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

Jai McFall of Organic Living, right, explains the different seeding plants she offers to customer Delalle Alexander of Clearwater Beach March 14.

## Jai McFall is on a mission to promote healthy, nutrient-rich food gardens

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - The food from Jai McFall's garden, growing abundantly in front of her Largo store, doesn't look much like the produce offered in grocery stores.

The plants that do look familiar taste different, stronger. But that's a good thing, McFall said. The nutrients she feeds the plants keeps them from getting gobbled up by bugs. The produce tastes better and is better for you because they've been cared for properly.

"What we do is we build up soil and then we put minerals in it, because minerals are elements essential for life, and minerals are what gives food their flavor," she said.

McFall calls herself an edible landscaper. Her business, Organic Living, has been based at 13064 Indian Rocks Road in Largo since last July. Through it, she teaches people the benefits of organic food and, more importantly, how to grow it in difficult Florida soil.

From her own garden, McFall shows off easily recognized vegetables: eggplant, kale, tomatoes, cauliflower, Romaine lettuce and cayenne peppers. She explains why the arugula and oregano tastes so different and offers tastes of leaves: sorrell, Thai basil, tarragon, cilantro, Cuban oregano, fennel, tarragon, longevity spinach, Chinese chives, Okinawan spinach, Italian dandelion, bronze fennel, stevia and dill. Even the hibiscus and snapdragon flowers are edible.

And all the plants are growing and thriving, without any pesticides.

"Everything I sell is specific to Central Florida. It might not work in Miami, and it might not work up

See EDIBLE, page 4A



McFall shows off a cauliflower plant growing in the front yard of her Largo business.

## MPO prepares to merge with PPC

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - If all goes according to plan, the first meeting of the consolidated Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Pinellas Planning Council will take place in May.

Gov. Rick Scott signed the MPO's reappointment plan Feb. 13. At the March 12 meeting, the MPO discussed the steps needed to make the plan a reality.

The first step is to amend the in-

terlocal agreement between the Florida Department of Transportation, Pinellas County and municipal governments, and the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, followed by the appointment of 13 elected officials to serve on the unified board.

Currently 11 officials serve on the MPO board. One new appointment will represent the beach communities and the other will represent the cities of Seminole, Gulfport, South Pasadena, Belleair, Belleair Shores

and Gulfport. Members serving in the new board appointments would serve on a rotating basis.

The Barrier Islands Government Council will make the beach appointments. The interlocal agreement would establish the process.

MPO staff is working to get the item on member government agendas as quick as possible for approval of the amended interlocal

See MPO, page 4A

## Congress passes flood insurance bill

By SUZETTE PORTER

The U.S. Senate passed a bill, 72-22, Thursday evening that should help curb massive flood insurance rate hikes on Pinellas County property owners.

Sen. Bill Nelson said the legislation caps flood insurance rate increases to no more than 18 percent, while making FEMA responsible for finding ways to keep flood insurance affordable.

"It's not everything I wanted for homeowners, but it's a significant protection from unconscionable rate hikes," Nelson said in an email statement.

Nelson has been on the frontlines fighting to change the negative effects of reform for the National Flood Insurance Program. He was instrumental in getting the Senate to pass legislation in January to reverse some of the actions brought about by the implementation of Big-ger-Waters Flood Insurance Act of 2012. The House passed its own bill March 4.

Nelson said the bill passed by the Senate would have "gone further" than the House version passed March 13.

"But passage of the House bill Thursday was widely seen as the best course of action to give homeowners some form of immediate relief," he said.

Many property owners with subsidized policies from the National Flood Insurance Program have suffered rate increases of 25 percent since provisions of BW-12 went into effect. Homeowners are unable to sell their homes due to exorbitant rates new property owners would have to pay.

Gov. Rick Scott called the bill's passage a "victory for all Florida families who have been impacted by ongoing uncertainty and faced the possibility of paying devastating rate increases."

Now, it is up to President Barack Obama to sign the legislation into law.

Doug Izzo, who keeps up with government affairs for the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce, sent out an email summarizing the key features of House Bill 3370 shortly after it passed.

The bill restores grandfathering. It repeals the requirement for an automatic rate hike when a home is sold or when an insurance policy lapses. It limits annual rate increases to 18 percent. It gives refunds to policyholders who bought pre-FIRM homes after July 6, 2012 and charged higher premiums.

The bill ups funding for an affordability study from \$750,000 to \$3 million. It provides for long-term relief to NFIP by adding an annual surcharge of \$25 for residential policies and \$250 for commercial and secondary properties.

The bill does not contain relief for commercial properties or for owners of second homes. It does not charge the measure for automatic rate hikes on severe loss properties.

The legislation does delay rate increases triggered by

See BILL, page 4A



TBN GRAPHIC

A bill promising to bring relief to those facing high flood insurance premiums is waiting for President Barack Obama's signature.



Screenshot by SUZETTE PORTER

Ken Welch, Pinellas County commissioner, asks questions about law enforcement during a March 12 MPO discussion on the Pinellas Trail.

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### Police and fire give out annual awards



Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES  
Above, the Largo Police Department honored, from left, Volunteer of the Year Frank Leverone, service worker Generoso DeLillo as Civilian of the Year, and Nicholas Cusumano as Officer of the Year during the March 18 commission meeting. Not pictured is Sergeant John Sevos, who was named Supervisor of the Year. At right, during the same meeting, Largo Fire Rescue honored Scott Tiffany, left, as Firefighter of the Year and Sandy Sanders as Fire Service Employee of the Year.



### This week at the library—

#### Florida history presented at Largo library

LARGO – An enactment of three women entitled “Florida History Through Their Eyes” will be performed Monday, March 24, 6:30 p.m., in the Jerkins Room of the Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive. The presentation will feature three women authors, in character and costume, who each wrote a book that put Florida on the map. The authors are Harriet Beecher Stowe, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, and Marjory Stoneman Douglas. The enactment, presented by Betty Jean Steinsouer and sponsored by the Friends of Largo Library and the Florida Humanities Council, is free but patrons must have a ticket. Tickets are available at the library’s bookstore or circulation desk. Call Pat Bell at 585-3240.

#### Stuffed animal sleepover at the library

LARGO – Children are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animal for sleepover at the Largo Public Library Wednesday, March 26, 6 p.m., at 120 Central Park Drive. After a bedtime-themed storytime, children will tuck in their stuffed friends and wish them a good night. While they are all asleep in their beds at home, the animals will have the library to themselves. What will happen overnight? Only the animals know. The next day, Thursday, March 27, 4 p.m., the children will be invited back to watch a slideshow of the fun the animals had and create picture frames. This event is free. For more information, call 587-6715.

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# 12th annual French Market in Largo pulls record crowds

By BRIAN GOFF

LARGO – The success of the 12th annual French Market in Largo March 15 could be measured simply by the traffic jam around the location and the cars circling the parking lot, waiting for a spot to open up.

Julie Papalardo, who operates Julie's Cottage of Provence on Indian Rocks Road in the Anona district, organizes the market every year. She was well aware of the crowds this year.

"This is the biggest by far," she said. "The crowds have been great, they showed up early, and of course, it is a nice day for it."

Papalardo said the market couldn't get much bigger.

"We've maxed out the space," she said. "I'm concerned that when people drive by they might not come in because of all the traffic, but that's a good problem to have, isn't it?"

Papalardo said this year she attracted 35 vendors, the most in the 12-year history of the event. One of those vendors was Jenni Martin who sold art pieces. She takes part in the market every year.

"This is a great event," she said. "The organizers of this show are very professional, and they are always looking to add to it and improve it in any way they can."

Martin said besides being good for the vendors, the market also is good for the community.

"It is a big deal. Many of the same people come year after year," she said. "They get to know the sellers, and people stand around and chat. It is a good community event where people can get out and meet others. We'll definitely be back. We just love it here."

One of those people who come back year after year is Shelly Craddock of Seminole. She calls it an important event for the area.

"It is the only one around here," she said. "It is good for people like us who collect things for our house. We always manage to find something. We'll be back again for sure."

Craddock's husband Randy trailed behind carrying part of the day's booty: a globe.

"We have three of these now," he said. "I'm looking around here, and I notice it is getting bigger and bigger. All I can say is bring cash!"

Nearby, looking over some art, was Franchy Fenton. Visiting from Connecticut, she found the market because a friend knew about it. She was pleased.

"This is great. It is all about the community getting together," she said. "Look around you, it is only 10 a.m. on a Saturday morning, and people are all over the place. There are amazing artists here. I like what I see. There are so many things that are homemade; this is so eclectic."

Another shopper, Carmen Bender of St. Petersburg, is another one of those who come to the market every year. She likes what is different about it.

"They are so helpful here," she said. "There is always somebody asking you if they can help. They even help you bring your things to the car."

Bender also was pleased with the variety of things to see and buy.

"It is very unique here. There are so many things you can't buy in stores," she said. "There is a variety of jewelry and fresh flowers. It is all unique. I have come here many times and I'll be back again for sure."

Words like that are music to the ears of organizer Papalardo, looking again at the crowds of people arriving to browse and buy. She said of course she would do it again next year.

"As long as the people come and enjoy it, we'll keep doing it," she said.



Above, vendor Jenni Martin, right, helps customer Franchy Fenton choose some of her art at the French Market in Largo March 15. At left, Carmen Bender of St. Petersburg, left, shows off some of her purchases to market organizer Julie Papalardo.



Photos by BRIAN GOFF

## DOWNTOWN, from page 1A

began more than a year ago. Commissioners debated only one of the four incentives, one for businesses within specified industries that move to the district and create jobs that pay 115 percent of the county's annual average wage. Those who qualify could apply for a grant paid over five years and capped at \$10,000 per job or \$50,000 per year for all jobs created.

Under the proposed measure, grants also would be given for each new residential unit and

for the improvement or construction of a minimum of 15,000 square feet of office space.

The final incentive brings the district in line with the rest of the city, offering \$200 to cover the permitting and planning fees associated with the construction of new monument signs.

Since the city commissioners' first reading Oct. 1, the measures have been approved by Pinellas Planning Council as well as county commissioner.

Brydon said her team was excited to be able to offer those grants to businesses.

## Full time staff considered for park

Friends of Largo Nature Parks President Pat Edmond made a plea that commissioners begin funding at least one full-time staff person at McGough Nature Park.

"We could certainly use those additional hours," she said.

Mayor Pat Gerard echoed her request later in the meeting, explaining that the volunteers had proven themselves by stepping up to fill the gap in funding. "They've been amazing," she said.

City Manager Mac Craig said staff already was

looking into funding a full-time position within next year's budget.

"We will be bringing you a prioritized list of all the departments and what they want and what we think we can afford," he said. "We will include someone from parks in there."

### In other business, commissioners:

- passed the final reading of an ordinance prohibiting smoking in outdoor park structures
- honored police and fire annual awards recipients, see page 3A
- began the process of annexing 12 properties.

## EDIBLE, from page 1A

in Gainesville, but they're very specific to Central Florida," McFall said.

New customer, Delalle Alexander of Clearwater Beach, browsed from shelves of seedlings March 14, selecting new plants to grow. Her garden only began to thrive last month; she failed to grow anything last year. But McFall taught her how to grow a better garden. Her new tomatoes are still green, Alexander said.

"But they look happy," she said, explaining that she's also growing radishes, parsley and eggplant. "They all seem like they're happy plants. I haven't eaten any yet, other than the parsley."

Happy plants are what McFall is all about. She spends much of her days away from her garden, giving talks to various social groups, at preschools, senior centers, churches and doctors' offices.

"If anybody wants me to come talk about organics, I will do so, and I love it," she said, adding that she doesn't require a fee. "Because people need to know, and that's my purpose: to educate people."

## A broken system

People always ask McFall what she does to keep the bugs away. But there aren't any bugs in her garden. The reason is simple.

"Healthy plants don't get bugs," she said. Today's conventional fertilizers give plants three minerals: nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, ingredients that can be used to make bombs.

"We need 90 minerals in the soil to have healthy soil," McFall explained.

Without more minerals, the resulting plants are stressed and unhealthy.

"The first thing Mother Nature does is sends in the bugs: 'Take out those unhealthy plants!' Because we're supposed to get our minerals from our food," McFall said.

Scientifically, a healthy plant with no stress becomes a complex carbohydrate. A stressed plant – one growing in the wrong season with the wrong amount of water or sunlight and without proper nutrients – turns into a simple sugar. The bugs gravitate to simple sugars like candy, McFall said.

To combat the bugs, pesticides were developed. "So now we have weak and unhealthy plants covered with poison," McFall said. "So then Mother Nature sends in the molds, the mildews, the funguses, the diseases, the weeds. 'Take out those unhealthy plants!'"

Plants are supposed to develop their own probiotics and immunities, but pesticides kill those too, allowing unhealthy organisms to grow in their wake.

Of course, the pesticides themselves are bad for humans to consume. McFall points customers to



Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

Above, Organic Living is at 13064 Indian Rocks Road in Largo. At right, Jai McFall of Organic Living extracts the still-sweet center of a broccoli stem she picked after it had flowered.

the "Dirty Dozen," a list of the fruits and vegetables that are proven to contain the most pesticides, "47-67 toxins on every one of them," McFall said. Avoiding those toxins is the No. 1 reason to eat organic produce.

"A lot of people tell me, 'I can't afford to buy all organic.' And I tell them, 'You can't afford not to, because you're going to pay the farmer now or you're going to pay the doctor later.' And it's going to be less painful and less expensive to pay the farmer now," McFall said.

And if you know how, it's easiest to grow your own produce.

"When you grow your own, not only are you keeping the herbicides and pesticides out, but you're making sure that you're putting the minerals in that need to be in the soil to have healthy plants and to have healthy bodies," McFall said.

## Plant magic

McFall grew up on an organic farm in Michigan. In the 1960s, the family grew or raised all their own food: meats, fruits and vegetables.

"We canned, and every Saturday we baked whatever breads, pies, cookies, cakes we needed for the week, so we ate really, really good," McFall said.

She bought the 10 acres from her parents in 1986 and began her edible landscaping company. When she moved to Tampa in 2005, however, she discovered that her expertise didn't carry over exactly. Her first two gardens were miserable failures, she said.

When she moved to a tiny plot in Clearwater, she tried again, this time with lots more success. She grew herbs and vegetables and cultivated more than 40 fruit-bearing plants.

"When people would come and look at my gardens, they would walk around and go, 'You can't grow gardens like this in Florida. You must be using magic,'" McFall said.

Accordingly, the four plant food products Organic Living sells are called Magic Nos. 1 through 4, in order of importance.

The first provides the soil with 91 minerals, mined from ancient seabeds in Nevada. No. 2 provides the beneficial microorganisms the plants need to thrive.

"You create a living community with the microorganisms and the worms and the insects and the plants, and you don't get bugs, and you don't get disease," McFall said. "You get nutrient-dense, healthy plants."

Magic No. 3 was developed out of a specific desire to grow a plethora of tomatoes, as is easy to do in many northern areas. McFall discovered that tomatoes needed a lower pH and even more nutrients. So the third plant food is made out of bat guano, blood meal and worm castings.

Magic No. 4 is called biochar, a one-time application made from the Mayan technique of burning wood into charcoal and mixing it with organic compost.

McFall keeps an ongoing experiment to compare the difference between a plant grown with her plant

food and one without. The plant fed properly always thrives, grows bigger and produces more fruit, she said.

"That's why I teach people to grow their own, because they can. It's totally doable," McFall said. "There is work involved, there is money involved. There's an investment to make. At the same time, it's an investment in your future."

For her own future, McFall is looking to move into the property next to her storefront and from there grow even more gardens. She wants to clear the back of her current property, plant a food forest and run a co-op through which people can buy shares and pick up produce every week.

She said she thinks her message, her ongoing mission, is having an impact in the community. Organic Living's email list is more than 2,000 strong, and they're all regular customers, she said.

"I've had people tell me that I've changed their lives (and) their health," she said. "They keep coming back. And they bring people with them."

She finds her work "very rewarding" because she can say she is changing lives, one family at a time.

Organic Living hosts regular workshops on Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. Most are free. A schedule of upcoming workshops, along with more gardening information, is available at the business website, [www.organiclivingforall.com](http://www.organiclivingforall.com).

McFall also is available to give talks on organic gardening. Call 324-4435.

## MPO, from page 1A

agreement to be able to meet as the new board in May.

## Pinellas Trail safety

A good part of the March 12 meeting involved a discussion about safety on the Pinellas Trail. Members heard an overview of the Trail Security Task Force, a report on 2013 Trail incidents, Trail Rangers and an update on the use of surveillance cameras.

The Pinellas Trail Security Task Force is an MPO advisory committee comprised of law enforcement personnel and Pinellas County's Parks and Conservation Resources, Animal Services, Public Safety Services and Risk Management. Volunteer auxiliary rangers also are represented. The group meets quarterly to report incidents.

MPO members expressed a desire for more information about the areas where the 97 active rangers serve along the trail. Currently, the volunteers have no specific assignment.

Sarah Ward, MPO interim executive director, said the rangers are ambassadors along the Trail and other city parks.

"It is not their function to enforce," she said.

Ken Welch, Pinellas County commissioner, wanted to know who was responsible for safety. The answer:

Law enforcement is the responsibility of the local jurisdiction.

For example, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office takes care of areas of Trail in unincorporated Pinellas and within municipalities where it provides contract services. Municipal law enforcement is responsible for the Trail

within their boundaries.

Ward said the most recent incidence of crime on the Trail was in St. Petersburg. A teenager who robbed two people in February was arrested in Georgia March 6.

"We need a better way to monitor what is happening on the Trail," said Julie Ward Bujalski, Dunedin commissioner.

Wengay Newton, who serves on the St. Petersburg Council, asked if surveillance cameras purchased for use during the Republican National Convention could be used. He said he had never seen a volunteer ranger on the Trail, which "runs right behind my house."

He suggested that maybe more served in northern parts of the county, which Bujalski refuted.

"They're not in north county," she said.

"I'd like to know where they are at," Newton said.

Tarpon Springs Mayor David Archie said the Rangers weren't active in Tarpon Springs, although the city's police department takes a proactive approach to "lawlessness" where the Trail is inside its borders.

He suggested becoming more active in recruiting for more volunteer Rangers.

"We know 97 are out there, but where are they," he said. "One of the most important parts of utilization of that trail is safety," he said.



Screenshot by SUZETTE PORTER

Sarah Ward, MPO interim executive director, talks about the role of volunteer Pinellas Trail Rangers during the March 12 meeting.

Bujalski suggested that the MPO find out how many Rangers are needed. Once the need is established, work could progress on finding a way to fill the positions.

MPO Chair Karen Seel suggested that the MPO appoint members to serve on the Security Task Force. Bujalski, Newton and Councilmember Doreen Hock-DiPolito volunteered.

In other business, the MPO:

- Heard a report from Gary Tait on the Teen Driver's

## Safety Education Program.

- Head a report on the preliminary design and environmental process for replacement of the Dunedin Causeway Bridge. A presentation is scheduled to take place at a Dunedin Commission meeting in April.

- Approved the Congestion Management Process policies and procedures manual.
- Approved the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Goals, Objectives and Policies.
- Approved the draft Unified Planning Work Program
- Approved rescinding co-payment increases for the Transportation Disadvantage Program
- Discussed making an application for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant to complete the northern loop of the Pinellas Trail.

## BILL, from page 1A

sale of commercial or secondary properties the same as it does for residential property.

Pinellas has 50,000 subsidized NFIP policies, more than any other county in the nation.

On his first day in office, new District 13 Rep. David Jolly released a statement about the U.S. Senate passing the House proposal to reform the Biggert-Waters act.

"Pinellas County families deserve real, long-term solutions to give certainty and peace of mind to homeowners while doing more than simply delaying an unworkable law," Jolly said. "That's exactly what this flood insurance reform bill does. By reforming the flood insurance program, the House and Senate have taken major steps to cap premium increases, provide certainty to homeowners, ensure stability to local economies and place the flood insurance program on the path to sustainability. I applaud the Senate for quickly passing this legislation and helping provide desperately-needed relief for Florida's families and businesses."

## City calendar

### Community center to host free garage sale

LARGO – The Largo Senior Advisory Board is hosting their annual “Something Old, Something New” Garage Sale Saturday, March 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road.

More than 30 vendors will be selling old and new treasures in the sprawling air-conditioned ballroom. Stop by to find what you have always been looking for.

Call 518-3131 or visit LargoCommunityCenter.com.

### 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.

For more information, visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131.

### ‘Monsters University’ to play in the park

LARGO – Grab blankets and chairs and join the city of Largo for a showing of the movie “Monsters University” on the big screen Friday, March 28, dusk, at Largo Central Park.

Themed activities will be held an hour before each movie. On-site parking, concessions and a camp fire will be available. No alcohol permitted. This event is open to all ages.

Upcoming movie showings include “42” on April 11. Call 587-6751.

### Family History day returns to the library

LARGO – The Pinellas Genealogy Society is offering Family History Assistance Day Saturday, March 29, noon to 4 p.m., in the Jenkins Room on the first floor of the Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive.

Bring information about your family and receive free, one-on-one research assistance from a society consultant. Beginners are especially encouraged to attend and experience the process of tracing their genealogical history.

No appointment is necessary for this first-come, first-served event. The society will offer tours of the library’s outstanding Genealogy Center and classes.

For more information, contact Bob Bryan at 595-4521 or Bbryan84@gmail.com.

### Center gives tribute to Motown

LARGO – Sounds of Soul presents “A Tribute to Motown” Thursday, April 3, 1 to 3 p.m., at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road.

Flash back to a time when harmonies were hot and the dance moves were even hotter for this installment in the Bright Lights Concert Series. Cost is \$13.

For more information, visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131.

### Bluesman visits Largo

LARGO – The Largo Community Center’s Sun Down Music Series presents “A Bluesman Night” Friday, April 4, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at 400 Alt. Keene Road.

Enjoy the sounds of Mark David Russell, aka “The Bluesman” as the sun sets and the stars come out. The cost is \$5. A cash bar will be available.

For more information, visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131.

### 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 April 5-6. Rides are free, though donations are accepted.

### Pawfest returns

LARGO – The Kiwanis Club of Largo/Mid-Pinellas co-sponsors its eighth annual Pawfest Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive.

Bring your favorite pooch to participate in games, activities, lessons and demonstrations. Spoil him or her with the bounty of products offered by the many vendors specializing in pet-related products.

Enjoy a great family day while helping to raise funds that will be put to good use in the community. Admission is free.

For more information, call 587-6740, ext. 5014.

### Shred your documents

LARGO – The city of Largo invites residents to bring personal paper documents to be securely shredded in ProShred’s mobile shredding truck and recycled during a free event Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m. to noon, at the Starkey Road Recycling Center, 1551 Starkey Road.

Residents can bring up to five file boxes of paper per car to be

shredded. There is no need to remove staples, tape, paper clips or rubber bands.

For more information or directions to the event, visit LargoRecycles.com or call 587-6760.

### Pools hosts underwater egg hunt

LARGO – Children are invited to help the Easter Bunny collect hundreds of colorful eggs Saturday, April 12, noon to 3 p.m., at Southwest Pool, 13120 Vonn Road.

Retrieve the floating and sunken eggs to win prizes and goody bags.

The event is \$3 for those with a recreation card or \$5 without one. Parents must be in the water with children younger than 6 or those unable to tread water for 30 seconds. Call 518-3126.

### Mascots to visit Highland

LARGO – Surround yourself with some of your favorite local mascots during the Munchies with Mascots event Saturday, April 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave.

Enjoy the afternoon playing games and interacting with a variety of familiar faces. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. Don’t forget to bring your

camera and to preregister. The cost is \$6 in advance per child, or \$9 at door per child, and \$2 per adult. Call 518-3016.

### McGough celebrates two holidays

LARGO – The Spring Ecofest and Easter Egg Hunt at McGough Nature Park will be Saturday, April 12, 1 to 4 p.m., at 11901 146th St. N.

The nature park will host an Easter egg hunt at 3 p.m. for children, with a chance to meet the Easter Bunny. The event also will include Earth-Day themed activities for children – music, live

wildlife exhibits, recycling information and more.

Food, drinks and snacks will be available for purchase. The Easter egg hunt will cost \$5. Call 518-3047.

### Have lunch with Peter Cotton Tail

LARGO – Children ages 2 to 5 are invited to hop on over to Southwest Recreation Complex and meet Peter Cotton Tail Wednesday, April 16, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at 13120 Vonn Road.

The cost is \$5 in advance or \$8 the day of the event and includes

lunch, themed crafts, games and a story. Parent or caregiver participation is required.

Call 518-3125.

### Learn to eat for energy

LARGO – Certified health coach Damiane Handa will teach various wellness tips and advice in this Hands on Wellness workshop Saturday, April 12, 10 to 11:30 a.m., at Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave.

The cost is \$8 for resident members, \$10 for nonresident members or \$13 for guest. Call 518-3016.

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# Legislature considers reducing vehicle fees

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – The Florida House and Senate are considering legislation that would lower the cost of vehicle registrations beginning Sept. 1.

The Florida House Finance & Tax Subcommittee introduced a \$400 million motor vehicle fee reduction as part of a priority tax cut package March 13. The same day, the Senate Committee on Appropriations unanimously approved Senate Bill 156, Motor Vehicle License Taxes.

Senate Bill 156 reduces certain annual fees paid to register a motor vehicle to the amount paid

prior to 2009. Based on the latest estimates, the bill reduces fees by \$395 million, according to a Senate press release.

Annual vehicle registration fees went up in 2009, when state general revenue collections declined more than 22 percent from their high in 2005-2006.

According to a press release from the House, if the bill passes, registration costs would be reduced by \$25.05 for heavy weight vehicles, \$21.55 for middleweight vehicles, and \$18.55 for lightweight vehicles. The House proposal constitutes \$309 million in tax relief in fiscal year 2014-15, and \$395 million on an annual basis.

These reductions are part of the proposed \$500 million tax cut, which is the "largest tax and fee cut of its kind in over a decade," according to House officials.

## Pinellas County tax collector takes action

In a proactive effort, Tax Collector Diane Nelson announced March 12 that she is removing the two-year renewal option from motor vehicle renewal notices.

"If this bill passes, I want to give Pinellas County residents the opportunity to take advantage of

the savings it will offer," Nelson said in a press release. "I would be disheartened if someone missed out on the opportunity to save money because they were not informed of the pending legislation and potential savings."

In 2013, 9 percent of Pinellas County residents took advantage of the biennial registration. If this bill passes with a conservative estimate of \$12.50 in annual savings per registration, Pinellas County residents would save approximately \$500,000 by holding off on biennial renewals until the new rates are established, Nelson said.

Residents can still renew their registrations for two years. They need to write "two year renewal" on their registration renewal return card and double the amount to be paid. There is no cost advantage with two-year registration renewals, they are offered as a matter of convenience, Nelson said.

For more information, visit [www.taxcollect.com](http://www.taxcollect.com).

# County to answer budget questions at eTownHall

Pinellas County commissioners and the county administrator will answer budget questions Wednesday, April 9, 7 to 8 p.m., at Pinellas County's 2015 eTownHall public meeting.

Residents can interact with officials through a blog, Twitter and by watching live streaming video online. They can also watch on PCC-TV, listen in and ask questions by phone, or come to the meeting in person at St. Petersburg College, Seminole campus.

The commissioners and administrator will be available to meet with the public at SPC Seminole from 5:30 to 7 p.m. prior to the eTownHall.

This is the fifth year that Pinellas County has hosted an electronic budget meeting, which also includes a phone component.

Citizens unable to attend a meeting in the past have used the format to find out more about specific issues and learn about the decision making process when developing the budget.

During the eTownHall, residents can pose questions related to their own concerns about property taxes and the general fund, and find out about plans for the future. As county leaders work on a strategic direction for the future, citizens are asked to share their own vision for the community and of Pinellas County as a whole.

"This is the stage in the budget process where the commissioners want our residents involved and have their priorities discussed," said Tim Closterman, Pinellas County communications director. "By putting the public meeting online and allowing people the opportunity to answer questions through our blog or Twitter, all of our residents have the ability to be involved in shaping the future of the community."

There are five ways to participate in the eTownHall:

1. Be part of the live audience. The live event will be held at St. Petersburg College Seminole campus at 9200 113th St. N in Seminole. The commissioners and county administrator will be meeting with residents from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
2. Watch it live and blog on [www.pinellascounty.org/eTownHall](http://www.pinellascounty.org/eTownHall). The blog opens Wednesday, April 9, 9 a.m.
3. Tweet questions with #pinellasetown. Participate in an early discussion.
4. Call 888-409-5380 to listen and ask questions.
5. Watch on PCC-TV (Bright House Channel 622, WOW Channel 18 or Verizon Channel 44).

For more information, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/etownhall](http://www.pinellascounty.org/etownhall) or call 464-4600.

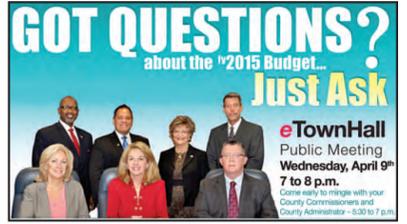


Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS. Pinellas County Commissioners are hosting the fifth annual Budget eTownHall meeting April 9.

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# David Jolly sworn in at U.S. House

By SUZETTE PORTER



David Jolly

Pinellas County residents living in District 13 have a voice in the U.S. House of Representatives again. Congressman David Jolly was officially sworn in as the newest member of the House the afternoon of March 13.

Jolly, 41, a Republican, defeated Democrat Alex Sink, 65, and Libertarian Marcus Overby, 27, in a special election March 11. Jolly received 48.44 percent of 184,045 votes cast. Sink received 46.55 percent and Overby with 4.84 percent, according to final unofficial results posted after the Canvassing Board met March 14.

Forty percent of registered voters within District 13, which includes all of Pinellas with the exception of a few precincts in north and south county, took part in the election.

Jolly released a transcript of his first speech made on the floor of the U.S. House.

He thanked his new colleagues and the people in District 13.

"And to the people of Florida's 13th Congressional District, I want to say thank you today for giving me a remarkable life opportunity: the opportunity to serve," Jolly said. "For my new colleagues, I simply want you to know two things about this new member.

"First, I believe in this institution: the people's House. I believe in all that is good and right about this institution; the opportunity that this institution has to make our nation better; to direct our nation down the right path; to solve problems for all of us and secure for every American for all of us the sacred blessings of liberty.

"The second thing I'd like you to know about this new congressman is I believe in civility. I had the wonderful opportunity to work for a man with whom you each served and left an indelible legacy in this House, one of civility.

"We are all elected to fight for our communities; to fight for our constituents. We are elected to fight for our convictions and for the causes we believe in. But, it is a fight for the future of our country. It is not a fight against each other.

"I know that we have had a nationally watched race. That race is now over. And now it is time for me as a member of Congress and of this body to

join with each of you to follow in the footsteps that you have taken in serving your community as I begin to serve mine. You have my commitment today to work with each and every one of you. I look forward to it."

Jolly will serve an eight-month term. He is completing the term left vacant when former Rep. C.W. "Bill" Young died Oct. 18. Young served the people of Pinellas County in the House for nearly 43 years.

According to the Florida Division of Elections, four candidates have already announced intentions to run for the District 13 seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in November.

Two Republicans, John-Michael Fleig of St. Pete Beach and Frederick Preston Thomson of Clearwater are listed "active" as are Democrat Donald Warren Hackett Jr. of Largo and independent Michael S. Levinson of St. Petersburg.

A primary election is scheduled for Aug. 26. The general election is on Nov. 4.

## About David Jolly

Jolly was born in Dunedin Oct. 31, 1972. He has lived at his home in Indian Shores since October 2005. He was divorced from his wife of 15 years in January. He worked for the late Bill Young as an adviser and general counsel until 2007.

He is vice president at Clearwater-based Boston Financial Group, CEO at Olympus Foundation Management, and owner of Three Bridges Advisors, a lobbyist firm, Three Bridges Law and 1924 Communications.

He graduated from Pasco High School in 1990 and received a bachelor of arts degree in history from Emory College in Atlanta, Ga., in 1994 and Juris Doctor Cum Laude from George Mason University of Law in Arlington, Va., in 2001.

Jolly serves on the Tampa Bay Veterans Alliance Board of Advisors, Stetson Law School Elder Law Board of Advisors, Jessie's Law Board of Directors, Town of Indian Shores Board of Adjustment, Florida Federal Contractors Association Board of Directors and previously served on the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast Board of Advisors.

For more information or to contact Congressman Jolly, visit [jolly.house.gov](http://jolly.house.gov).

## Vacancies open on county's HFA Board

CLEARWATER – Resumes and applications are being accepted for two four-year appointments to the board of directors of the Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County.

The mission of the authority is to assure that financing for affordable housing remains available to count residents through the issuance of single and multi-family bonds and programs that support the housing needs of the community.

Monthly meetings are usually the first Wednesday at 3 p.m. Board positions are unpaid, voluntary positions. This is a working board and the Authority is seeking members who can dedicate the time to attend monthly meetings on a consistent basis.

Visit [www.pinellascounty.org/boards/Housing\\_Finance\\_Authority.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/boards/Housing_Finance_Authority.htm).

The board of the authority consists of five members. The board represents expertise in the fields of banking, construction, real estate, lower-income communities and affordable housing development.

The Housing Finance Authority Board is seeking applicants with a proven track record for manage-

ment oversight of real estate and affordable housing development activities. Applicants with multifaceted work experiences are strongly desired. Applicants must be registered to vote in Pinellas County.

One of the vacancies is open to candidates with extensive experience in residential real estate development encompassing a range of development including the renovation of existing residential buildings to the purchase of land for residential development. The second vacancy is open to candidates with a background in affordable housing development.

Resumes must be received no later than the close of business on Monday, March 24, and must indicate in which opening the applicant is interested. The vacancies will remain open until qualified candidates are identified. Email resumes to [kdriver@pinellashfa.com](mailto:kdriver@pinellashfa.com) or mail to: Kathryn Driver, Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County, 2605 Enterprise Road E., Suite 230, Clearwater, FL 33759. For more information, call 727-223-6418.

An application is available at [www.pinellascounty.org/boards/pdf/app-hfa.pdf](http://www.pinellascounty.org/boards/pdf/app-hfa.pdf).

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## 10th Annual Ballpark Bash – April 17

It's the perfect setting for an employee or family outing! The 10th Annual "Chamber Ballpark Bash" will take place on Thursday, April 17 beginning at 6 p.m. at Bright House Networks Field, 601 Old Coachman Road, Clearwater. It will be held at the park's Hot Corner Cafe and feature a game between the Threshers and Lakeland Flying Tigers. Tickets cost \$17.50 a person

which includes an all-you-can-eat menu featuring hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, peanuts, chips, ice cream sandwiches, soft drinks, bottled water and \$2 draft beers. Tickets/wristbands can only be purchased in advance at the Chamber's 151 3rd Street NW office. Sorry, no sales at the park. For more information, call 727-584-2321.

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 62 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.

## A perfect time to join the Chamber!

The Chamber is excited to announce its 2014 World Cup Membership Championship – a soccer-themed membership campaign – running now through April 10. A wide array of business incentives will be provided to companies that join during this time, including hotel stays, legal services, bowling parties, printing and more.

For those supporting the campaign as recruiters, a "Training Drill Session/Happy Hour" will take place on Thursday, March 20 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Liberty Bowling Lanes, 11401 Starkey Road, Largo. Participants will learn specialized sales tips on how to close the deal. Guest presenter is business coach Ron Stein of Fast Path Marketing and author of the Rapid Impact Marketing and Selling Playbook.

On Tuesday, April 8, the "Final Days" competition starts



with a Pep Rally from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Hampton Inn & Suites-Largo, 100 West Bay Drive, Largo. The Championship Finals follow on Wednesday, April 9 and Thursday, April 10 at the Chamber.

To become a Chamber member and receive the special campaign incentives, call 727-584-2321 by April 10. Existing members wanting to be

part of a campaign team or wishing to donate a prize for recruiters, please contact Kathy Pabst Robshaw, Membership Development Director at 584-2321 or email [Kathy@CentralChamber.biz](mailto:Kathy@CentralChamber.biz).

Special thanks to the 2014 World Cup Membership Championship sponsors BB&T, Chris' Carpet Service & Water Restoration, Big T Printing and WOW!

### Supporting Business & Community

The Chamber salutes 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).

- A&B Insurance and Financial**
- Alexander Spine Center**
- ASC Incorporated**
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Pinellas County**
- Caddy Vision Network**
- DEX Imaging Incorporated - TRUSTEE**
- Grow Financial Federal Credit Union**
- gWiz Personal Technology Services**
- Holiday Inn Express and Suites - TRUSTEE**
- Indian Rocks Christian School**
- It's Your Day**
- Largo Coin & Currency**
- Largo Mall**
- MedExpress Urgent Care**
- Neighborly Care Network**
- Phillies Florida LLC/ Clearwater Threshers**
- Regions Bank - Downtown Clearwater - TRUSTEE**
- Southeastern College**
- The Heart & Vascular Institute of Florida**
- Value Properties of Central Florida, Inc.**
- Verizon Cellular Sales**
- Winding Lane Homes**
- WOW! - TRUSTEE**
- Zhone Technologies**



Chamber members Melody Hunter-Realtor, Marilyn Browne of Career Source Pinellas, Scott Lake of RS Williams & Associates, Bob Gaynor of SCORE, Randy Koser of T&R Sales, Diana Robertson of All About Scrubs and Erin Mussori of World Pay celebrate the grand opening ribbon-cutting for WalMart Neighborhood Market on Ulmerton Road.



Ron Freitas of the new Wal-Mart at 2677 Roosevelt Boulevard presents Chamber president Tom Morrisette with a check to benefit the Chamber's Education Fund.



The Chamber honors recent Students of the Month: PTEC's Jeremy Angulo and Deborah Howard and Largo High School's Justyce Brady and Haley Fergusson. Laurie Bunce of Central Business Telephones presents the students with their awards. Central Services is sponsor of the Chamber's Student of the Month program.



Congratulations to Kimberly Platt on the ribbon-cutting for Charlie Tulum's Taco Shack at 707 1/2 First Avenue SW - it was a delicious event!



Mr. Rooter is now in the Tampa Bay Area and the Chamber celebrated a ribbon-cutting with them. Give them a call at (727) 431-5026.



Congratulations to Thomas Rossewey on Massage & Wellness's ribbon-cutting at 121 1st Street NW.

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BB&T Bank was one of the presenting sponsors of the Chamber's recent Business After Hours Expo at Largo Cultural Center and was represented by Sandy Wassen – Market leader of the Missouri Avenue branch, Chip Falk – Senior Vice President and Market President, Christine Williams-Mancini – Vice President and Market Leader of the East Bay Drive branch and Julie Bennett – Market Leader of the Belleair Bluffs branch. Christine Williams-Mancini is co-chairman of the Chamber's Ambassador Committee. Aaron's on Ulmerton, Largo Medical Center and HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital were also presenting sponsors of the event.

## Chamber Ambassador of the Month

Congratulations to Ambassador of the Month Jerry Hotho of gWiz Personal Technology Services, a company that specializes in taking the mystery out of high tech. gWiz is the IT resource for small businesses, home offices and individuals, leading them through the ever-changing maze of computers, tablets and networks. Services include diagnosis, repair, virus/malware removal, installation, training and purchasing guidance. For more information, contact Jerry at (813) 334-0598.

The Ambassadors are a dynamic team of business representatives who meet and contact Chamber members to



Jerry Hotho

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

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## Briefcase

### Culver's to open in Largo

LARGO – Known for its famous ButterBurger and creamy frozen custard, Culver's will open its doors in Largo in June.

The restaurant, which serves fast casual food cooked-to-order, is located at 3500 East Bay Drive.

Craig Culver, co-founder and CEO, of the restaurant chain, his wife, Lea, and franchise owners, Parrish and Alicia Sandefur, along with representatives from Largo Chamber of Commerce, Commissioner Michael Smith and local city dignitaries, were on hand to break ground for the new restaurant on March 17.

"Culver's was founded on the idea that every guest who visits Culver's leaves happy," said Parrish Sandefur. "We invite everyone in Largo to come experience Culver's hospitality for themselves."

When completed, the restaurant will have dine-in seating, a drive-thru window, take-out service and patio seating.

### Local Primerica expands

LARGO – Laurie E. Oates and Kevin A. Ley, regional vice presidents with Primerica Inc., recently expanded and relocated the business to 801 West Bay Drive, Suites 311 and 312, Largo.

Primerica is an independent financial services marketing company.

"Our goal is to help ordinary families prepare and execute sound financial decisions for their future," said Ley and Oates in a press release. "We have already shown many local families how to do just that, and with our expansion we are prepared to continue to grow locally by providing people with sound financial products, as well as a great business opportunity as a Primerica Representative."

### Escot hosts GPN meeting

LARGO – The Global Passenger Network Association met March 17-18 at the central facilities of the Escot Bus Lines, Largo.

Global Passenger Network is an association of the

best motor coach companies in the world promoting the use of motor coach service through the joint efforts of member companies and various alliances in the major markets throughout the world. GPN started in 2006 building on an existing alliance involving the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Italy and has expanded to 30 countries teaming together its resources with a focus on best practices, technology, marketing and business development.

Key members of the alliance meet in the spring and fall of each year. This year, Escot Bus Lines hosted the meeting at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater. During this meeting, GPN members from the United States and Canada were joined by members from France, Germany, Turkey, Denmark, Russia, Spain, Belgium along with other European representatives.

"This is the second opportunity the United States has been able to host the meeting since 2006 and we are honored to be able to show our guests our community and state," Brian Scott, president of Escot Bus Lines, stated in a press release.

The meeting opened Sunday evening with a reception hosted by the Clearwater Convention and Visitors Bureau. On Monday and Tuesday, according to Scott, the work began "with attention to international marketing, technology and the sharing of business opportunities." Further areas of discussion focused on changes to the bylaws, which will further define the GPN strategy as they continue to grow and expand its countries members.

### Personal trainers to begin 12-week challenge

ST. PETERSBURG – Fitness Rx Studios is beginning a new 12-week transformational challenge starting April 20.

"We had done this in the past and completely changed people's lives," said Sarah Sherinsky, who runs the company with her husband, Jay. "Two men in particular had chronic conditions due to being overweight and today are extremely fit." Anyone can enter the challenge. The Sherinskys

will guide clients to work out in their own gyms. Participants who make the most progress in their fitness goals will be awarded first, second and third prizes, including a Clearwater Beach vacation.

For more details, call 563-6827. Visit [www.FitNessRxStudiosLLC.com](http://www.FitNessRxStudiosLLC.com).

### Curves hosts annual food drive

SEMINOLE – Curves International Inc., a chain of fitness centers for women, recently announced that the 2014 Curves Food Drive would run through March 23 at participating Curves Clubs.

This year, Curves is inviting both nonmembers and members to take part in the food drive by bringing in a bag of nonperishable food or a monetary contribution of at least \$30 to be donated to a local community food bank. All new members who make a food or monetary donation will receive a \$0 service fee when joining Curves as either a Fitness or Curves Complete member. Some restrictions apply.

"Once again we are honored to offer the Curves Food Drive as a unique way for the community to come together and feed the needs of local food banks while simultaneously feeding the need for women's health and fitness," said Marina Szang of Curves of Seminole. "This year, donations will benefit Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Matthew Conference."

For information, visit [Curves.com](http://Curves.com) or Curves of Seminole at 8992 Seminole Blvd. or call 320-9737.

### BBA meets for networking

BELLEAIR BLUFFS – The Creative Design Team – located at 231 N. Indian Rocks Road, Belleair Bluffs – recently hosted the monthly networking mingle of the Bluffs Business Association at the Belleair Bluffs Community Center.

The Creative Design Team is celebrating its 25th year in business.

The next meeting will be hosted by Debbie Jetter.



Members of the Bluffs Business Association meet at the Belleair Bluffs Community Center.

owner of The Country Porch, 13862 Walsingham Road, Largo. The meeting will take place Thursday, April 10, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Any business, regardless of location, is welcome to attend and bring a guest. Refreshments are provided. The mission of the Bluffs Business Association is to promote and improve the business environment and stimulate a vibrant local economy.

For information, call Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797.

### Black Palm moves to historic location

ST. PETERSBURG – The Black Palm recently changed locations, moving to 1700 Park St. N. in St. Petersburg.

Formerly in Pass-A-Grille, The Black Palm routinely could not accommodate the number of customers who came to enjoy the atmosphere, live music and food. Now open in its new location, the restaurant can host more than double the number of patrons who visited at Pass-A-Grille.

"We love feeding people," said Lui Arango in a press release. Arango started in the restaurant business as a dishwasher when he was only 14 years old. "It's our pleasure to come to work every night

See BRIEF CASE, page 10A

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**Hampton Inn Tampa Veterans Expwy (Airport North)**  
5628 W. Waters Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33634  
Thursday, March 20: 2 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

**Florida Blue**  
201 N. West Shore Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33609  
Friday, March 21: 10 a.m.  
Saturday, March 22: 2 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 26: 6 p.m.  
Friday, March 28: 10 a.m.  
Saturday, March 29: 2 p.m.

**Florida Blue at The Shoppes at Park Place**  
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Pinellas Park, FL 33781  
Saturday, March 22: 12 p.m.  
Monday, March 24: 6 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 26: 6 p.m.  
Saturday, March 29: 10 a.m.

**Florida Blue at Carrollwood Commons**  
15030 N. Dale Mabry Hwy.  
Tampa, FL 33618  
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Wednesday, March 26: 6 p.m.

032014L

# Holiday Inn Harbourside to expand

By BRIAN GOFF

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – It might take some weeks yet but soon there will be a lazy river flowing through part of Indian Rocks Beach. That is what all the construction is about on the Holiday Inn Harbourside property.



Photo by BRIAN GOFF

The ground is cleared behind the Holiday Inn for a 100-room expansion.

The lazy river will be part of a new water park being built on the land. There is plenty of work that will be done according to Joe Lawlor, the hotel's general manager.

"We're laying the foundation right now," he said. "Soon you will see them assembling the large water slide and then the lazy river will run through the area. It will probably take a few more weeks."

Lawlor said the hotel brass has been considering adding the water park for some time.

"It just seemed like the right time to do it," he said. "We think there will be a demand for it. Several hotels in Florida have built water parks and we have clients now that are pretty excited about it."

Lawlor, who has been the general manager of the hotel for the past 20 years, said the total cost of the project hasn't been determined yet.

"The final aspects of the job are still being finalized," he said.

The addition of the water park is welcome news to IRB officials. City Manager Gregg Mims said it will help both the city, in terms of taxes, and the local businesses.

"It is all good for the restaurants and gift shops," he said. "It will help businesses throughout the entire city and especially those in the Narrows Business District. There are multiple businesses that will benefit."

The news doesn't stop there however. The owner of the Holiday Inn, Jeff Keierleber, who is based out of Wisconsin and has a home on Clearwater Beach, seems ready to move forward with the long-awaited expansion of the hotel itself. For some time plans have called for the addition of 100 new rooms to be built alongside the new water park in a building separate from the main structure. Lawlor said the prep work is nearly finished.

"The last of the pilings for the new structure are nearly all in," he said. "We wanted to get the pilings done because of the building of the water park it seemed like the smart thing to do. The building is in the planning stages but no date has been set to break ground."

The new rooms could be configured as separate rooms or suites.

Lawlor said once the expansion is finished there will be new jobs created at the hotel, although he didn't know how many.

Mims said the final permits for the expansion should be issued shortly. In the meantime he said the expansion will greatly benefit the city.

"There will be more lodging taxes and an increase in the ad valorem taxes," he said. "The plan for the expansion was approved many, many years ago but sat idle because of the economy. All the plans have been approved and the hotel structure will be permitted any day now."

While Lawlor couldn't say when the groundbreaking will take place for the hotel expansion, he was able to pinpoint the completion date of the new water park.

"I would say some time in July based on the current schedule that is in place," he said.

# Restaurant foundation gives \$1,000 grant to Big Brothers Big Sisters

LARGO – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County, part of the nation's oldest and largest mentoring organization, announced it has been selected to receive a \$1,000 grant as part of the Restaurant Community Grants program from the Darden Restaurants Foundation.

The foundation is the charitable arm of Darden Restaurants. The grants program, now in its third year, empowers each restaurant in the Darden family of brands to help award a \$1,000 grant to support local community programs.

The donation will enable Big Brothers Big Sister's match more at-risk youth with mentors to promote academic achievement, build greater self-confidence and reduce involvement with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Darden's Red Lobster, Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, Bahama Breeze, Seasons 52, The Capital Grille, Eddie V's and Yard House brands participated in the program. Nonprofits receiving grants support one of Darden's three key focus areas: education, preservation of natural resources and hunger relief.

"Promoting educational success through one-to-one

mentoring relationships will ensure the youth of today become the caregivers, leaders and entrepreneurs of tomorrow," said Susan Rolston, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County. "We are proud to partner with a foundation that truly realizes the impact of our mission in the community we share."

Gene Lee, Darden's president and chief operating officer, said the grants program enables the company's restaurant teams "to make a difference right in their own backyard."

"We strive to make a positive impact in all the communities our restaurants serve," he said. "Our employees are incredibly passionate about getting directly involved in their local communities."

Currently, more than 175 children are waiting to be matched with a mentor at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas. Funds received through this grant will open the door to provide more opportunities to enrich the lives of children locally and expand their perspectives on what they believe to be possible.

For more information about the Darden Foundation, visit [www.dardenfoundation.com](http://www.dardenfoundation.com). For more information on Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County please visit [www.bbbspc.org](http://www.bbbspc.org).

## BRIEF CASE, from page 9A

and see people enjoying themselves and what we prepare for them."

The Park Street site has a notorious past. The Spanish Caribbean building was built in 1924 by developer Walter Fuller, also the designer. Originally called the Gangplank, it was one of St. Petersburg's first nightclubs. Gangster Al Capone was one of its owners. During prohibition, the nightclub was conveniently located near the water to facilitate deliveries via boat from local bootleggers.

## New BNI chapter forming

CLEARWATER – BNI, a networking organization specializing in the exchange of qualified business referrals among members, is opening a new chapter in Clearwater.

Business professionals are invited to attend a

kick-off breakfast meeting on Thursday, April 3, 7:30 to 9 a.m., at the Clarion Inn & Suites on U.S. 19.

For information and to be added to the guest list, call Catherine Price at 813-244-4931.

## Travel agent relocates

CLEARWATER – Nancy Salisbury, formally of Advantage Cruises and Tours, recently moved to Expedite Cruise Ship Centers on State Road 580 in Clearwater.

Salisbury is still a travel counselor. "We offer the best prices with no added fees for additional services," Salisbury said in a press release. "We help you with everything from cruises to land and take care of everything you will need to get on board."

Visit [www.nancysalisbury.cruiseshipcenters.com](http://www.nancysalisbury.cruiseshipcenters.com) or call 781-2277, ext. 225.

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# One vote decides Indian Shores election

By SUZETTE PORTER

INDIAN SHORES – After machine and manual recounts, only one vote separates two candidates vying for a seat on the Indian Shores Council during the March 11 municipal election.

According to the unofficial results posted on the Supervisor of Elections website election night, Michael "Mike" Petrucci defeated Diantha Schear by only two votes. Petrucci received 315 votes, 32.81 percent. Diantha Schear brought in 313 votes, 32.60 percent. A third candidate, Patrick Soranno garnered 332 votes, 34.62 percent. Soranno will fill one of two open slots.



Photo courtesy of THE TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES  
From left, Diantha Schear, Mayor Jim Lawrence, Mike Petrucci, and Patrick Soranno pose for a photo on Election Day. Petrucci edged Schear by one vote. Soranno won the other seat. The results won't be official until March 21.

Voters were asked to choose two of three new names as replacements for retiring Indian Shores Councilors Carole Irelan and Steve Sutch. Nearly 51 percent of the town's 1,190 registered voters took part in the election.

Pinellas County Elections Administrator Nancy Whitlock said state law requires a machine recount when a candidate is defeated by less than 0.5 percent. In races, with a difference of a 0.25 percent a manual recount is required.

The Elections Office announced March 12 that the Canvassing Board would conduct a machine recount and a manual recount for the town of Indian Shores. Results of those counts done March 14 showed a difference of only one vote with Petrucci still in the lead, 315 to 314.

Petrucci and Soranno will be sworn in at 6 p.m. March 25, according to Indian Shores Deputy Clerk Elaine Jackson.

Whitlock explained the machine recount process Friday afternoon. The ballots are processed on the same-type machine used the night of the election. Ballots that were scanned using a precinct scanner are processed again, recounted, using a precinct scanner. Mail ballots are processed a second time using a high-speed M650 scanner.

The Canvassing Board manually checks ballots that are "out stacked," which happens with blanks or, in the case of Indian Shores where two votes were allowed, ballots with votes for more than two, an "over-vote," and ballots with less votes than allowed. The Canvassing Board found 336 under-votes during the manual recount.

The Canvassing Board also canvassed provisional and write-in votes and certified unofficial results, which will be certified March 21, after the 10-day period for overseas ballots has passed. Whitlock said no overseas ballots are expected for the Indian Shores election.

For more election information, visit [votepinellas.com](http://votepinellas.com).

## Around town

### Rotary sponsors annual pancake breakfast

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – The Rotary Club of IRB will sponsor its annual Pancake Breakfast to kick off the city's Beauty and the Beach event.

The breakfast will be held Saturday, April 5, at the Calvary Episcopal Church's Parish Hall (south end of the church building), 1615 First St. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased at the door or by contacting Rotarian David Kline at 418-1673 any time.

The all-you-can eat breakfast will be served from 7:30 to 11 a.m. and will include pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee.

Proceeds from the pancake breakfast will be donated to support the Beach Community Food Pantry. The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach has been a long time major supporter of the pantry.

The pantry relies on donations to provide assistance to the needy in the community. People can help BCFP throughout the year by donating canned goods, paper products, fresh fruit and vegetables. Monetary donations also are gladly accepted as actual food donations cover less than 50 percent of the pantry needs. The pantry operates out of Calvary Episcopal Church on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon.

### Michael Reagan to speak

CLEARWATER – Michael Reagan, conservative columnist and eldest son of former President Ronald Reagan, will be the keynote speaker at the Pinellas Republicans' annual Lincoln Day Dinner, Wednesday, March 26, 6 p.m., at the Carillon Hilton, 950 Carillon Drive.

Local radio personality, Jack Harris, will emcee the event, which is hosted by the Pinellas County Republican Executive Committee. Table sponsorships are available, and tickets cost \$150. Call 539-6009.

### UPARC luncheon set

CLEARWATER – The UPARC Foundation Champion of Hope Luncheon featuring Gene Chizik, a former head football coach of Auburn University, will be Thursday, April 24, noon, at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road.

To RSVP, call 797-8712. Chizik is the author of "All In: What it Takes to be the Best." A book signing with Chizik will take place before the luncheon with a \$150 contribution to the UPARC Foundation.

The luncheon will feature the Champion of Hope Award presentation, honoring those who exemplify the passion, integrity and community commitment of Dr. William E. Hale, UPARC Foundation founder.

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According to the most recent Alzheimer Disease Facts and Figures, one out of eight older Americans has Alzheimer's, therefore it is likely you have a loved one or close friend touched by this disease. The more you learn to better understand this disease will help in how you communicate with your loved ones. As tempting as it might be to say, "Mom/Dad, you just said that," this is not helpful. If his/her statement seems to beg for a response, just say, "Oh, OK, Mom/Dad," or "Thanks for telling me," in a positive way, and move onto something else. When you remind him/her they are repeating themselves, what you're really doing is lowering their self-esteem. It is best not to make a person with Alzheimer's disease feel impaired or ashamed. Try to respond in a positive manner, directing conversation to focus on a memory topic they are still familiar with, thereby supporting their self worth.

Caring for a person with dementia is stressful. Seeking the help of support groups, and finding a responsible caregiver who can give you a break when needed is important. It is one thing to finally realize someone close to you has Alzheimer's. It's a completely different thing to accept that fact.

Diane Genovese – Owner

Comfort Keepers provides our caregivers with extensive, hands-on training, which includes preparing them to care for those with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Comfort Keepers in-home care services are available in all of Pinellas County. Loved ones who need special Alzheimer's care can benefit from Comfort Keepers' services because the caregivers are trained to address the needs of people from early onset to late stages of dementia and Alzheimer's.

The unique Interactive Caregiving system Comfort Keepers integrates, allows each caregiver to develop a real and personal relationship with each senior. It's meaningful, honest and helps to develop trust, companionship and a feeling of safety between the caregiver and the elderly loved one.

Consider Comfort Keepers Alzheimer's care services for any loved ones or friends who are in need of extra care around the home, visits in assisted living or to provide respite care relief, knowing they are truly cared for.

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**Humane Society extends hours**

CLEARWATER – The Humane Society of Pinellas, at 3040 State Road 590, is extending evening adoption hours through October.

The new hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. HSP is closed on Wednesdays and holidays. Visit [HumaneSocietyofPinellas.org](http://HumaneSocietyofPinellas.org).

**Looking for a home**



**Lenny**

Lenny is an active adult boy who needs to mingle with his family. A very affectionate and typical "teenager," Lenny follows his foster mom from room to room during the day. He spends the evening on the couch with his family. He does not, however, want to share his family with other cats. At playtime, he is serious about his toys. Check him in action by visiting YouTube and search "SOS kitties" or "Leapin Lenny Cat." With his foster family leaving soon, he needs a permanent home that will give him lots of love and attention. He is up to date with his shots and is microchipped. To meet this black-and-tan tabby, call Save Our Strays at 481-5262 or visit [www.saveourstraysinc.com](http://www.saveourstraysinc.com).



**Nilla**

Nilla is a 2-year-old female Chihuahua. This adorable dog does well with other dogs her size and loves to curl up in laps. However, she would prefer a home without small children. For more information, call 328-7738 or visit her at the Pet Pal Animal Shelter at 405 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg. Visit [www.petpalanimalshelter.com](http://www.petpalanimalshelter.com) or like them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/petpalanimalshelter](http://www.facebook.com/petpalanimalshelter).

**Paw prints**

**Animal Services needs foster care families**

LARGO – Pinellas County Animal Services is seeking volunteers to join its foster care team, as part of an effort to save pets that need time away from the shelter.

The program requires a foster application and approval. All foster care parents are required to complete the volunteer orientation class and foster training. The next training session will be presented Thursday, March 20, at the Pinellas County Animal Services shelter, 12450 Ulmerton Road.

Volunteer orientation class will begin at 2 p.m., and foster training immediately follows at 4 p.m.

Some of the animals that will benefit from the program include puppies and kittens too young for adoption, those recovering from surgery or illness, senior pets that need to be out of a shelter environment, dogs that have been on the adoption list for an extended period, and pets requiring socialization skills that can only be learned in a home environment.

Volunteers interested in becoming a foster parent will work directly with the adoption coordinator and the medical staff.

The foster care training will provide potential foster parents with basic animal cleaning and feeding tips, information on feline upper respiratory infection and the shelter's emergency procedures.

To be part of the foster care team, participants must possess:

- Concern for the welfare of the animals and compassion to special needs animals

- Commitment to follow all foster policies and directives as required by the adoption coordinator
- A valid driver's license and vehicle to transport foster animals to and from shelter
- Willingness to attend a foster meeting every six months at the shelter

In 2013, Pinellas County Animal Services fostered 1,096 animals that needed additional time and care.

To register, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices/volunteer.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices/volunteer.htm), complete the Volunteer Application and select Animal Foster Care/Rescue under the Animal Care box.

Visit [www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices](http://www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices) or call 582-2600.

**Animal Services offers specials**

LARGO – St. Patrick's Day adoption specials are being offered through March at Pinellas County Animal Services, 12450 Ulmerton Road.

As part of the St. Patrick's Day specials, the adoption fee will be \$25 for large dogs and cats and \$75 for puppies and small breeds during normal shelter adoption hours. The fee includes medical checkup, spaying/neutering, vaccinations, internal and external parasite control and micro-chipping. The required Pinellas County license also is provided.

Normal hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the adoption center closing at 5:30 p.m. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and services include adoptions. Rabies vaccinations are administered on Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. The facility is closed on all Pinellas County holidays.

For information, call 582-2600 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices](http://www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices). The lost or found pets hotline is 582-2604.

**Shelter hosts pet food bank**

Pinellas County Animal Services, at 12450 Ulmerton Road in Largo, is currently hosting a pet food bank open to Pinellas County residents.

The food bank is open Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. The shelter is providing cat and dog food free of charge to those in need.

Normal hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the adoption center closing at 5:30 p.m. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and services include adoptions. For information on how to adopt, donate or volunteer, call 582-2600 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices](http://www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices).

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## LETTERS

## Leave local issues to local people

Re: "Awaken the sleeping Biltmore beauty," letter by Deborah Repsold, Feb. 27.

## Editor:

I never cease to be amazed by our Midwestern and northern visitors who come to our state and tell us how to do things. To applaud commissioners you can't vote for. To attack Belleair Country Club members who are residents. And to say you are victims? Huh? You don't live here, don't vote here. But you demand to have a say.

Have you looked at the Belleview Biltmore building, read the numerous articles and editorials written about the building? It seems logical to most that the building is beyond repair. Yet you presume to tell the good people of Belleair that they are wrong. That their elected officials are wrong. Amazing. You basically have as much right to have a say in any issue in Florida as I would have in Chicago. None. You are not a resident. You are a visitor.

"Bring Belleair back to being synonymous with the home of the Belleair Biltmore." Is that really what you think? Don't you think the residents of Belleair and the members of the Belleair Country Club have a more vested interest in what happens in their community than a seasonal visitor from Chicago?

The condescending tone of your letter is what frustrates those of us who call Florida our home. Full time. We grow tired of being told how we don't do the things the right way in Florida. I am sure that Chicago has many issues of its own that you can take a stand on. Leave local issues to local people and their representatives.

Oh well. It will be getting warm in Chicago soon. Enjoy your summer. I am sure Belleair will survive just fine without your input.

## John Brandt

Treasure Island

## A better solution: Preserve the Biltmore

## Editor:

This letter is intended to convey some observations regarding recent events in the process of determining the fate of the property now occupied by the Belleview Biltmore Hotel.

The controversial RM10 proposal that was introduced for consideration by the Town Commission a few weeks ago was offered originally to protect the Town from being overbuilt. It would limit residential construction to 10 units per acre. However, potential developers of the hotel property seized upon the height provision in RM10 as the necessary authority to build 80 feet high condominium buildings – 40 feet above the tree canopy – to provide a view of the water and justify the high end prices required to make the project profitable.

So, in the end, the choice for the town is relatively simple: a restored hotel or twin tower, to accommodate about 130 condominiums reaching at least 40 feet above the tree line, shattering forever the park-like atmosphere of the RPD.

The addition of another 160 housing units – the developer plans to build about 130 condominiums and 32 townhouses – can only further depress property values in Belleair, certainly in the RPD, and probably in the rest of the town through a domino effect. As the Town's population ages, residents will look for opportunities to downsize in the new development, vacating single-family homes, and creating another downward pressure on residential property prices. Adding more residential units to an already depressed market can only have a negative impact on real property values.

With a fully restored hotel, no one gets hurt, and the park-like atmosphere of the RPD would remain intact.

Regarding the current condition of the hotel, none of us should be considered blameless. As residents and taxpayers, we should have been more insistent that the town aggressively enforce the specific requirement of the town's Comprehensive Plan "... to preserve the Belleview Biltmore Hotel." As our elected representatives, commission members should have been more mindful of that obligation. In any event, our combined neglect and the present condition of the hotel should not be used as an excuse to avoid the town's duty to preserve the hotel. That obligation is undiminished and ongoing.

In the last month, I have knocked on the doors or rung the doorbells of close to 300 Belleair residences and spoken with more than 100 residents.

Only two openly opposed the restoration of the hotel. Some made no definitive comment; but a clear majority expressed their support for restoring the Biltmore. One of those residents spoke with a particular passion as she described her frustration, exasperation, impatience and anger about the loss of income to the town since the Hotel closed, the new fees that have resulted and her general dissatisfaction with the lack of definitive action regarding the future of the property. However, her last comment was a familiar one: "I hope they find a way to save it."

I have not heard a single resident of Belleair express a preference for two high-rise condominium towers stretching well above the tree line on the highest point in the town over a restored, historic Belleview Biltmore Hotel.

## Jim Betts

Belleair

## Don't print propoganda about marijuana

## Editor:

I opened your paper to find an article that was quite disturbing to me regarding a Letter to the Editor on "why marijuana should not be legalized." I would first like to state that it is poor judgment on your organization to post such outright lies and incorrect information from a viewpoint of a reader. Every item that was covered had incorrect data or what I call lies. The data released is nothing more than unsubstantiated fear tactics used by prohibitionists to scare children. The proven facts are that cannabis used as medicine works. If your paper is unable to research the articles and publish facts you might as well just close your doors now because no one will trust the information you print. Please be mindful of this the next time you choose to publish propoganda instead of facts.

## Tom Shirra

St. Petersburg

## Jumping the gun on fire station

## Editor:

It was with great regret that I read the article "Bluffs' hopes high for fire station" in the Feb. 27 Belleair Bee. I thought this issue was long dead.

How can anyone who went through the debacle of the Bluffs firefighter pension payout battle, which cost Bluffs' taxpayers and the town plenty, have the audacity to propose a \$3 million fire station when the current arrangement is working just fine.

The thing that is most irritating about this proposal is that the people living adjacent to the site have not been considered. Placing a fire station in the midst of an inherently residential neighborhood makes no sense to me or anyone I have spoken to. Perhaps it would be wise to call a meeting of area residents to see how they feel about the constant noise of sirens at very close range and the plummeting property values this will cause. I'd be willing to bet that no one who is proposing this facility lives within hearing range. It would be wise to see what the people who will be most affected by this proposal think before jumping the gun on this one.

## Lori Spence

Belleair Bluffs

## Community comes together at Pow Wow

Thank you to all the Seminole city employees, city volunteers, school, business, church and civic groups and Sheriff deputies for a safe, successful and special "family friendly" 2014 Seminole Pow Wow Festival and Parade.

Our community coming together, our citizens, parents, grandparents, kids, and friends were all having good wholesome fun. Hundreds of people marching, walking, running, waving, twirling, strutting and riding along the one mile parade route; enjoying the midway carnival ride, games and food; cheering teams participating in the fire-truck pull; listening to varied types of entertainment; watching a fireworks spectacular that concluded a crystal clear and sunny weekend. All these, in my opinion, were some of the many indications of a likeable, livable and loveable city that I am very happy to call home.

## Leslie Waters

Mayor  
City of Seminole

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## Brace for the super-connected house

We keep hearing about apps. This is short for "applications," which is a synonym for "useful tools." Many apps belong to smart phones. These apps do everything from summoning the rescue squad to performing brain surgery. A global positioning app can identify the location of every hardware store in Lafayette, La., was inducted (bad joke) into the hardware industry.

One of the app-happy things coming down the pipeline is the super-connected house. This will be a home in which humans are necessary only to press a remote device containing 138 buttons. Each button will trigger a different app that will perform a useful chore. Such as turning on the TV to CNN so that we can keep close track of whether Justin Bieber has been arrested in the Ukraine for drinking grappa with a Crimean transvestite.

Minor connected-home apps have been available for years. They include TV remotes, light bulbs that switch on at dusk, garage doors triggered by your car's headlights and electric food cookers that turn off as soon as the pot roast resembles a chunk of granite. For decades, pre-set bedside alarm clocks have awakened us to the music of Brahms or Mick Jagger. And so on.

But if recent technology reports are correct, we ain't seen nuthin' yet. Before long Mr. and Mrs. Erg and their teen-age twins will leave the house each morning confident that their home is fully connected and therefore protected. Every two hours the back door will open and let Osgood the Great Dane into the back yard. A recorded voice will summon him to come back in. When the postperson arrives with the mail, a camera inside the mailbox will scan each item and transmit its nature and importance to the adult Ergs. If a stranger approaches the house, another camera will take his/her picture and send it to the local police station. There, a computer will plug the mug shot into an international photo file to reveal if the stranger is a member of the



## Driver's Seat

Bob Driver

The super-connected house may make George Orwell's "Big Brother" scenarios seem like Mardi Gras. In exchange for relieving us of our bothersome daily chores, technology may create tailor-made prisons out of our own homes.

dreaded Hamster Cartel that kidnaps infant hamsters and sells them to perverts in Arkansas.

Incoming landline phone calls will be relayed immediately to all four Ergs as voice mail for their cellphones. Every room in the Erg house is equipped with a thermostat, a smoke alarm, a camera and an electric motion sensor. If a mouse, rat or cockroach is detected anywhere in the house, the varmint is tracked to its home base and destroyed by infrared radioactive drones piloted by atomic bug-zappers.

Before you and I install any of these new devices in our super-connected homes, we should think about the end result they may produce. It is this: a race of humans who seldom think, move, worry, decide or breathe on their own. Thanks to technology, everything

## Some advice on traveling to Oz

Editor's note: Paul Thomas is a Largo retiree who recently visited his brother and family in Australia.

As an Anglo-American and a linguist, I have been long aware of the gulf that separates English English from American English, but I was totally unprepared for the chasm separating those two English forms from Australian (Oz) English (strine) as revealed by my recent seven-week stint in the antipodes.

I am an American (Seppo = septic tank = Yank), which in itself is OK in Oz, but I sound like a Brit (Pom), which is not! I learned more "strine" for idiot than I care to remember or indeed recall in a family magazine, but "dronzo," "nong," "raw prawn," "drop-kick," and "but-toned up the pack" are just a few.

Maybe I should not have answered, "Sorry, I didn't realize it was still a requirement" to the Oz immigration officer's question, "Do you have a criminal record?"

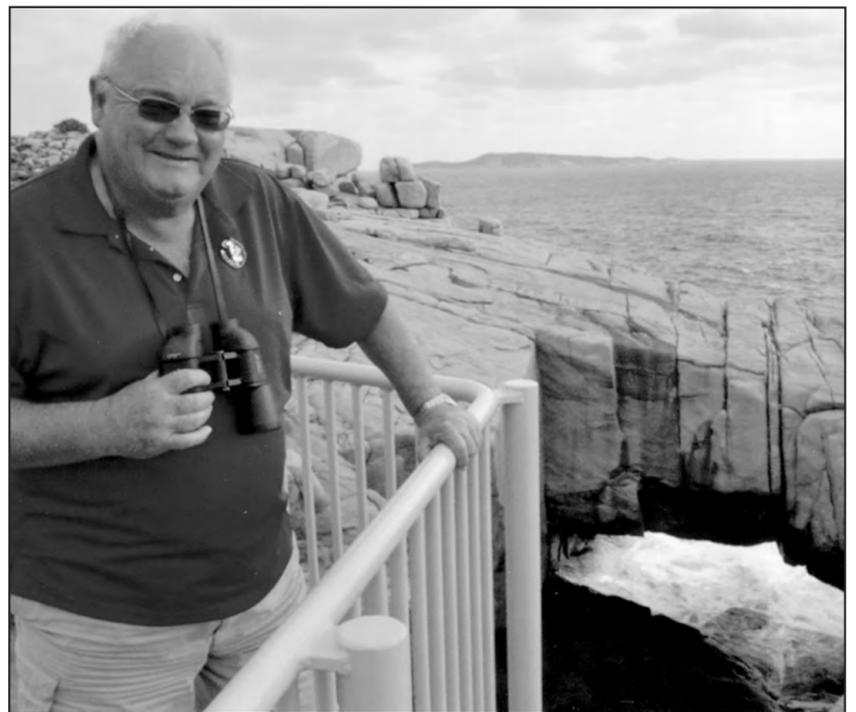
My delightful niece invited me to a 3D something party. "Beware," she said, "of the two people there."

One was her best friend, a real "drink-on-a-stick," (beauty), but a terrible "two-pot screamer," (easy drunk), resulting in the inevitable "Technicolor yawn" (throwing up) and its resultant "pavement pizza," no translation necessary.

The other was her who had a tendency to wear "budgie smuglers" (brief swimming trunks to pool parties).

My brother and I took a trip into the black stump (boonies) to the gold-mining town of Kalgoorlie. There, in a bar, I met an "ocker," almost untranslatable, but a cross between a redneck, miner and hobo. He was watching Lady Gaga on TV, and it struck me that the two more extremes of the human spectrum could hardly be imagined.

Yes, he had been a miner of his youth, and he had worked "flat-out like a lizard drinking" (very hard) all his life.



Largo resident Paul Thomas enjoys a "bonzer" trip to western Australia.

Photo courtesy of PAUL THOMAS

Although he was always "ready as a drover's dog" for hard work, it was sometimes hard to come by – "scarcer than rocking-horse manure." So he was often forced to go "walkabout" (travel, not necessarily walking) and had "waltzed his Matilda (rambled) as far as Queensland and New South Wales, including all over northern territories and South Australia.

"It was generally OK, but he didn't care for "banana benders" (Queenslanders) who he regarded as "useful as a chocolate kettle."

In the good old days, you could hitch a ride on the planes, which flew from mining camp to mining camp, transporting equipment and miners, usually a Fokker F-27. But the worst words a rambling ocker could hear was that

here was no room: "Sorry, ocker, the Fokker's Chokker." He was relieved and couldn't bring himself to leave Kalgoorlie, so he would stay until he cashed in his "superannuation," (i.e., until he passed on).

Strine possesses some terminology that can be well adopted by other forms of English. For example, I read the headline: "14-year-old hoon arrested in Joondalup; father also charged." A hoon is a person, usually young, who performs any dangerous maneuver with a car, including wheelies, speeding, road racing, use of horn, etc.

Another headline: "Secretary dobs on boss over call-girl rorts" revealed the use of "dob in," meaning to inform on, but usually in a positive way as in a whistle

blower and "rort" a commonly used term for misuse of fraud or other forms of cheating.

So if you intend to go to Oz, be prepared to strine. Be nice to the Qantas "trolley dolly," (flight attendant) and the Woolworth's "check out chick." Get your "Aussie salute" (brushing away flies motion) ready. Perth, in western Australia, is a great place to live – 10 million flies can't be wrong.

Get ready to use diminutives and abbreviations. "Stubbie" = bottle of beer, "tinnie" = can of beer, "Barbie" = barbecue, etc. Call all redheads "blute," brush up on the only two regular greetings "G'day," and "She'll be all right, cobber," and your trip will be "bonzer" and "shape up a beaut."

## What do you think?

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

Here are some more guidelines for letters:

- Letters are printed on a first-come, first-served basis. They may be edited to correct grammar, spelling and factual errors. They

also may be edited for clarity.

- Please keep letters to editor to 500 words. Longer letters may be cut due to space limitations.

- Letters should address issues or current events. Please refrain from making unsubstantiated allegations. The newspaper will not print letters that contain slanderous or racial statements.

- Please do not use profanity.
- We do not publish poetry or songs in letters to the editor.

- Each writer may submit one letter per

month.

- We can't return letters to the editor.
- Please allow two weeks from the time you submitted your letter for it to be published before inquiring as to its status.
- We won't print anonymous letters.
- We won't print letters that are submitted merely to promote a business.
- Thank you letters are accepted.
- Effective with the Aug. 24 2014 primary, we will not publish letters on candidates within three weeks of the election, unless the letter is in rebuttal to another letter.

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## Military updates

### David DeSantis

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

DeSantis is the son of Paula Groudin of Clearwater and Robert DeSantis of Largo.

He is a 2013 graduate of Clearwater High School.



David DeSantis

### Graham Spalding

TARPON SPRINGS - Air Force Airman Graham Spalding recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Spalding is the son of Julia and Gregg Spalding of Tarpon Springs. He is a 2013 graduate of East Lake High School.



Graham Spalding

### Colton Henroid

DUNEDIN - Navy Seaman Recruit Colton Henroid recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Henroid is the son of Marilyn Richards of Dunedin. He is a 2012 graduate of Dunedin High School.

### Andrew Swindasz

ST. PETERSBURG - Army Pvt. Andrew W. Swindasz recently graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

Swindasz is the son of Paul Swindasz of St. Petersburg. He is a 2011 graduate of Boca Ciega High School.

## Worship calendar

### First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks

LARGO - LifeWay Christian Resources is slated to simulcast Bible teacher and best-selling author Priscilla Shirer live from New Orleans, La., on April 5.

First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks is serving as a host location for the Pinellas County area.

The Priscilla Shirer Live Simulcast will kick off Saturday, April 5, 9:30 a.m. and will continue through 5:30 p.m., at First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks, 12685 Ulmerton Road.

Tickets are \$25 covering one full day of music and worship, sessions led by Priscilla Shirer, childcare, lunch and opportunities for fellowship with other women from the community. Women may purchase tickets at Charis Christian Books and Gifts, which is located on property at the First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks.

Priscilla Shirer Live, sponsored by Nashville-based publishing company LifeWay Christian Resources, will feature Shirer's dynamic storytelling and passionate Bible teaching.

The event, which also features a unique prayer time, both challenges and encourages women to grow deeply in their faith.

Shirer has authored a number of published Bible studies, books, and devotionals specifically for women. Shirer's organization, Going Beyond Ministries, is based out of Dallas.

Recording artist Anthony Evans, who also happens to be Priscilla's younger brother, is slated to lead worship for the event. Evans was recently featured on NBC's reality show "The Voice."

For information, call 593-8745 or visit indianrocks.org.

### Temple B'nai Israel

LARGO - After a year of public fundraising and creative development, Temple B'nai Israel will break ground on the first major renovation and expansion program in the history of the Belcher Road campus on Sunday, April 13, noon. The ceremonies will be held in the temple's courtyard, rain or shine.

For more than 60 years, Temple B'nai Israel has been dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of the Jewish community. As one of the oldest congregations in Pinellas County, Temple B'nai Israel has been blessed to see multiple generations of families worship together under one roof. Groundbreaking for this \$3.5 million project marks the beginning of the construction phase of the comprehensive campaign.

## Timm-Detweiler



Kelly Timm and Richard Travis Detweiler were married on March 13 at Powell Crosley Estate, Sarasota.

The bride is the daughter of Mary and Doug Timm of Palm Harbor. The groom is the son of Susan and Edwin Detweiler of Apollo Beach.

The wedding party included Katy Timm, maid of honor; Edwin "Boomer" Detweiler, best man; Michelle Leverone, Missy LeRay, Yvette Wasoba and Heidi Ortiz, bridesmaids; and Jeff Pecs, Chris Pecs, James Derzypolski and Casey O'Hara, groomsmen.

A reception followed the ceremony at Powell Crosley Estate. The couple is spending their honeymoon in the Florida Keys. They reside in Apollo Beach.

"The goal of the campaign at Temple B'nai Israel is to renew the physical plant that will allow us to continue to thrive as a vibrant synagogue for many decades to come," said Bruce Levine in a press release. Levine is co-chair of the Preserving Our Future campaign. "When finally completed, the campus will have a restored sanctuary, new chapel, expanded offices, and several remodeled common areas."

Levine went on to say that when the project is complete, Temple B'nai Israel will have ensured that "what was here for each of us, will also be here for the young families that will follow after us."

The groundbreaking is a major celebration for the temple and is open to the entire community. To attend, notify the temple office at 531-5829 no later than April 6.

### Send us your news, photos

The Largo Leader publishes news and photographs about people and groups.

Send information to Largo Leader Editor Juliana Torres at [jtortres@TBNweekly.com](mailto:jtortres@TBNweekly.com) or by mail at Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772. For more information, call 397-5563, ext. 324.

## Scout Sunday



Photo courtesy of PASTOR BOB WIERENGA

Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church held its annual Scout Sunday service on March 9. Pictured are Scouts and leaders from Daisy Troop 1210, Cadette Troop 612, Senior Troop 787, and Junior Troop 116 with Rhonda Alvarez, Jamie Limbaugh, Vice Mayor Thomas Barnhorn and Pastor Bob Wierenga. Limbaugh presented a \$100 check to the Scouts on behalf of the Seminole chapter of B.N.I. Success Masters, a group of business leaders. Barnhorn gave official greetings from the City of Seminole. Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church began hosting Scout troops in the 1960s.

## "There's a New Owl In Town!"

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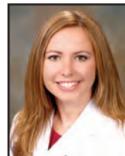
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# School notes

## Foundation hosts Career Education Breakfast

LARGO – The Pinellas Education Foundation hosted the 2014 Career Education Breakfast March 19 at the Achieva Conference Center in the Gus A. Stavros Institute.

The keynote speakers were Kyle and Danny Mastronardo. These entrepreneurs and founders of Nardo's Natural, a family-owned organic skincare line, appeared on ABC's "Shark Tank." They shared their inspiring story.

The event also featured Academies of Pinellas Awards, Frances Stavros Career Champion Award, Career Educator Award and \$10,000 Next Generation Entrepreneur Grant Award.

During the breakfast reception, a showcase of student skills and programs from the Academies of Pinellas programs was displayed in Finance Park and Enterprise Village. Featured programs included:

- Boca Ciega – Center for Wellness and Medical Programs
- Dixie Hollins – Culinary Arts
- Lakewood – Robotics
- Osceola Fundamental – Culinary Arts
- Pinellas Park – First Responders

In addition, the 2014 finalists for the Next Generation Entrepreneurs program presented ideas and innovations during the breakfast reception. The finalists are:

- Tristan Jackson, Kevin Corkan and Zach Sollman from Palm Harbor University High School who developed Smart Screens.
- Connor Mackin from Country side High School who developed Trixie Treats, natural healthy treats for dogs.
- Jason Wilkinson, Shea Akerman and Jason Williams from East Lake High School who developed a Universal Soldering Attachment.

## Rossi earns honor at Brenau University

CLEARWATER – Kathleen Rossi of Clearwater, a member of the Brenau University Golden Tigers Swim Team, recently ranked No. 4 in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Women's Swimming and Diving Coaches' Poll.

The Golden Tigers finished second at the Appalachian Swimming Conference Championship recording a total of six conference records, 14 first place finishes and two individual records.

Rossi is a sophomore majoring in fashion design at Brenau.

## DFAC summer camp registration underway

DUNEDIN – The Dunedin Fine Art Center's Summer Art Academy will run from June 9 through Aug. 15, at the center, 1143 Michigan Blvd.

The Summer Art Academy provides exciting camp experiences for children 4.5 to 14 years old. Weekly themes provide different experiences for each camp. The offerings will include:

- Mini-Masters – Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon or 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for ages 4.5 to 5.
- Sizzlin' Summer / Visual Art – Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for ages 6 to 10.
- Mural Madness – Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for ages 8 to 12.
- Arts in Motion – Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for ages 8 to 12.
- Art Squad – Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for ages 11 to 14.

"More is better," said Todd Still, director of youth education at the Dunedin Fine Art Center. This year the camp will offer programs for teens as well as separate Arts in Motion and Mural Madness Camps. "We're trying to offer the breadth of programs that parents are looking for."

Rebranding its summer camp programs as the Summer Art Academy, DFAC sought to reflect the quality of instruction that happens

## Young artist



Photo courtesy of ROSE BENOIT

Desiree Benoit, who lives in unincorporated Seminole and attends Largo's Fuguitt Elementary School, received an award from the Clearwater Arts Alliance during its March is Youth Art Month K-8 Art Exhibition.

each week, with certified art instructors in most of the classrooms.

"Though we still refer to each week as a camp, parents agreed that the term 'academy' better reflects how our offerings differ from many camps in the area," said Still.

George Ann Bissett, the executive director of DFAC, feels the camps are growing because of the positive experience the children are having. "Studies show that children who study art, end up doing better in all of their studies," Bissett said. "So that makes our programs pretty popular with parents, too."

Scholarships and after-care and lunch are available. Special March pricing is available through March 31 and early registration discounts end with an open house, set for Friday, April 25, 6 to 8 p.m.

For information, call 298-3322 or visit [www.dfac.org](http://www.dfac.org).

## Clearwater HS to stage 'Nonsense'

CLEARWATER – Clearwater High School Performing Arts Department will present two encore performances of "Nonsense" on Thursday and Friday, March 20-21, 7:30 p.m., in the auditorium at the school at 540 S. Hercules Ave.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. These will be encore performances of the department's production of "Nonsense," the musical which was selected to be performed at the state thespian festival at the Straz Center recently. Nearly 50 shows competed for the honor to perform and only eight were chosen. The performance was the school's 10th appearance on the main stage.

The Performing Arts Department also will present "Anything Goes" Thursday through Saturday, April 24-26, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adult and \$10 for students.

For information, visit [www.clearwaterhighdrama.com](http://www.clearwaterhighdrama.com).

# Eckerd College announces upcoming events

ST. PETERSBURG – Eckerd College offers a variety of activities and programs as a service to the community.

All events are presented on the Eckerd College campus, 4200 54th Ave. S. All programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise stated. Programs and events are subject to change.

For information, call 864-7979, email [events@eckerd.edu](mailto:events@eckerd.edu) or visit [www.eckerd.edu](http://www.eckerd.edu).

Following is a list of upcoming activities and programs:

- EC-SAR 28th annual marine yard sale – Saturday, March 22, 9 a.m. to noon, on the waterfront at Eckerd College. Used boats, including a large selection of power and sailboats and motors, will be sold at discounted rates, as well as all types of accessories and electronics. Other highlights will include a raffle for a variety of items, and refreshments for sale. All sales are final with no previews. All proceeds support the EC-SAR program.

- Because of Science, I Have to Be an Atheist and Other Fallacies of Our Age – Tuesday, April 1, 7:30 p.m., in Fox Hall. Professor Philip Clayton, of Claremont School of Theology, will lead an interactive conversation on science and the spiritual journey. Author of numerous books and articles on science, philosophy and religion, Clayton seeks the intersections of ethics, faith, and the most significant issues facing pluralistic society.

- First Eckerd Humanities Symposium – Friday, April 4, 1 to 5 p.m., in Sheen Auditorium and Lobby. This will be a showcase and celebration of new and recently published student and faculty research in the Humanities, including ongoing film and web-based digital humanities projects.

- Caliban's Heirs: Caribbean Writers and Shakespeare's "The Tempest" – Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m., in Fox Hall. Eckerd Literature Professor Jared Stark will explore how modern Caribbean writers adopt Caliban, Prospero's slave in Shakespeare's "The Tempest," and transform him into a figure of resistance and freedom.

- Modern Day Slavery in Florida's Fields – Wednesday, April 16, 7 to 9 p.m., in Miller Auditorium. Former farm workers will discuss the realities farm work. This panel will focus on the harmful impacts of pesticide use on the environment and the dangerous health issues caused by pesticide exposure. Former farm workers will share compelling stories of their personal experiences, and farm worker advocates will elaborate on how pesticide exposure, immigration status, low wages, systemic injustices, and workplace conditions are affecting the workers.

- The impact of drugs and alcohol on health, society and culture – Tuesday, April 22, 6 to 8 p.m., in Fox Hall. Eckerd's staff and faculty will present an open forum to discuss the impact of drugs and alcohol on individuals as well as on society as a whole.

- Oxfam America Hunger Banquet – Thursday, April 24, 6 to 7:30 p.m., in Fox Hall. The Oxfam America Hunger Banquet is where your seat and your meal are determined by the luck of the draw. Just as in real life, some of us are born into relative prosperity and others into poverty. One in seven people go hungry. But hunger is not about too many people and too little food. Our rich and bountiful planet produces enough food to feed everyone on earth. Hunger is about power. Its roots lie in inequalities in access to resources. The results are illiteracy, poverty, war and the inability of families to grow or buy food. Few experiences bring to life these inequalities more powerfully than an Oxfam America Hunger Banquet.

Visit [www.TBNweekly.com](http://www.TBNweekly.com)

## Culinary winner



Photo courtesy of RHONDA IOVINO

Above, Emily Harris, a senior at Osceola Fundamental High School won second place in the statewide ProStart competition for edible centerpieces. After graduating in May, she plans to go to Johnson and Wales in Miami. At right, Harris describes her contest submission as "a bouquet of flowers made out of vegetables. The vase is a butternut squash and there is a garnish of sprouts and carrot flowers."



Photo by HAILEY PERDUE

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# Dolphins show how close is far

Here is a little fable. Imagine walking down the street from one end of your block to the other one. You saunter leisurely. No traffic hampers your stroll. The entire street is visible.

There is another person all the way at the other end of the block. The two of you walk toward each other deliberately but unhurriedly. You eye the other person as you stroll, watching them grow as if out of the distance. The other person does the same to you.

The two of you finally get to the middle but bizarrely, do not meet. Instead, you go to the left side of the street. The other person goes to the right side of the street. From this safe but baffling distance, the two of you walk in a wide circle. Then you head into a nearby house while the other person wheels around and heads back in the direction from which he came.

Finally, pretend that the rest of us see this roundabout reunion only as a silent film. What should we make of it? What is the maritime counterpart?

Along a particularly narrow stretch of the salty snaky river of sea we call the Intracoastal Waterway, two groups of dolphins headed toward each other. They were both nursery groups, so-called because they only included moms and kids from a quarter mile away.

They have no idea that their narrow waterway was born of the same two forces that dictate their fortunes today, nature and mankind. Nature fashioned the barrier island that isolated the ICW from the Gulf of Mexico eons ago. But mankind started "fixing" it a hundred years ago. I have heard humanity called the naked ape. But I think a better nickname is the restless ape.

One nursery group was mother-calf pair Valiant and her little boy Vidalia. They were heading north. A quarter mile up the way, another nursery was heading south. It was a quartet of two female friends and another mother-calf pair, Front Slash and her tiny Fairuz.

Fairuz, which means turquoise in Arabic, was born last summer. Now it is entering the intoxicating phase we call Baby's First Spring. At 9 months old, baby dolphins are deemed old enough (by mother) to play with a range of other dolphins, not just mom's close associates. Sea school goes "viral" and such babies make the seas sparkle even more by their great enthusiastic animation.

Capt. John Heidemann and I have studied the adults in these groups for 10 years. One of the many curiosities of that effort is something we might describe as the Cashier Effect.

Consider how the cashier at your local grocery store sees the store's clientele. She or he undoubtedly recognizes regular customers by face, maybe even by name. Yet those same customers do not know each other. This can be hard for the cashier to grasp: "What do you mean, they do not know each other?"

Between trying to get pictures of Fairuz, dashing around like any kid trying to get someone to play with it, I felt waves of the Cashier Effect. The two groups approached each other steadily but then did not really meet up. Instead, as in the above fable, they circled each other about 40 feet apart. Then Valiant and Vidalia went into a nearby cove to hunt.

The quartet reversed course and headed by from whence they came. What was this about? Why had they bothered? Maybe the real question is, why did they come that close together only to never touch?



**Dolphin Watch**  
Ann Weaver



Photo by ANN WEAVER

**Caught mid-chomp swallowing a fish, 3-year-old bottlenose dolphin Vidalia demonstrates his fledgling fish handling abilities. Dolphin calves like Vidalia that are injured as young calves stay closer to their moms longer and as a result postpone some of their lessons at sea school. But this picture shows that Vidalia is developmentally on schedule.**

When we first saw the dolphins, they were ahead in the distance. Both groups knew we were coming because the sound of our engine precedes us. It is as effective as an identifier as you phoning the person at the other end of the block and saying your name.

The dolphins can make trade communications - without the cell phone - by sending their signature whistles into the gloom to announce their presence and identity. Whatever else they may be communicating remains debatable.

But dolphins can vocalize to one another at distances far greater than the quarter mile between the nursery groups today. Unfortunately, we do not know if they were trading vocalizations (because the necessary sound-tracking equipment to hear dolphins when your boat engine is running is very expensive).

But let us assume that they were communicating. Let us say they were calling back and forth until they came close enough to see each other in the gloom of estuary waters. But no closer. Why did they not approach and join into a single group, even for a moment? The calves did not play together. The moms did not swim side by side as companionable dolphins do. They simply came close for a moment and then continued on their separate ways.

There are plenty of people living near you who use the same resources that you use. But you do not know them. They do not know you. Ever think about how universal that is?

Dr. 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.goodnaturedstatistics.com](http://www.goodnaturedstatistics.com). NOAA advises anyone who sees a stranded dolphin in the Gulf of Mexico to call 877-942-5343 or 877-433-8299.

# Start before dawn to catch bait

Full moon tides and a couple of days of postcard perfect weather resulted in some memorable days fishing by the end of last week.

Schools of redfish were grouped up tight on the low tides, and sea trout fed well on the high outgoing tides. Spanish mackerel and kingfish numbers are on the rise as we start to see more and more bait make its way into the area, and bonus fish like cobia and triple tail are becoming targetable when the weather is right.

As early week stormy conditions fade back to beautiful days, it's likely we won't see the same spring setbacks this week as we've seen with the past two cold fronts. Mid- to upper- 70-degree temperatures with a lot of sunshine should fast-track the bait right into our area. Whether you like to catch and fish with fresh bait or prefer using artificial lures, there is no doubt that when there's plenty of bait around the fish just feed better.

If you're looking for a baitwell full of pilchards, you might be disappointed. However, there are enough of them around to make the effort. Pre-dawn starts are a must. Working bridge shadow lines in the dark will give you a chance at all kinds of fresh bait including pilchards, threadfins, ladyfish and shad. All are great baits this time of year. Although the live bait will account for some great fish right now, numbers still lie with the fresh cut bait.

Chunks of ladyfish and cut threadfins have been working excellent for the reds and accounting for enough gator trout to think you could easily just fish cut bait. Low tides will have the fish sitting out on the edges of grass flats. Find the entry point and you'll be in the fish. Work a top-water plug first thing in the morning and you will most likely find that entry point.

Spoil islands are still producing good trout fishing. Afternoon high outgoing tides this week will be good. As the light begins to fade you can expect big trout to get hungry. Free-line or cork live pilchards or grass grunts on the tide swept corner of the islands and you could be fishing for a trout of a life time.

We had multiple fish over 26 inches this past week. These big females are the spawning stock for our trout rich fishery and a healthy release is encouraged.

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.



**Fish Tales**  
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

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# Sea turtle nesting season begins

More sea turtles nest on Florida's sandy beaches than on any other U.S. coastline. Biologists at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission hope the 2014 nesting season that started March 1 will be as successful as others in recent years.

Beginning this month, leatherback sea turtles emerge onto beaches to lay their eggs along Florida's Atlantic coast, from Broward to Brevard counties. A few months later, people in other coastal counties also may notice loggerhead and green sea turtle "crawls," the distinctive line of tracks they leave behind in the sand.

Three species of sea turtles nest in abundance on Florida beaches: leatherbacks, loggerheads and greens. Loggerheads are the most abundant, and approximately 90 percent of all nests for this species in the southeastern United States occur in Florida. Sea turtle biologists were surprised and pleased in 2013 when a record number of more than 36,000 green sea turtle nests were counted in Florida.

"The great news is that so many sea turtles nest on Florida beaches - more than anywhere else in the United States," said Dr. Robbin Trindell, who is responsible for sea turtle management at the FWC. "Florida had a record number of loggerhead nests in 2012, followed by a record number of green turtle nests in 2013."

Typically, sea turtle nesting season runs from March through the end of October, but nesting continued well beyond that in 2013. Green turtles generally nest later than the other sea turtle species in Florida. FWC biologists would not be surprised if nesting season extends later into the fall again this year, and they caution beachgoers that marked nests on the beach may hatch well past the official end of nesting season in October.

"The actions that people take are critical to maintaining Florida's success with sea turtles," Trindell said. "Remove chairs, canopies, boats and other items from the beach at night, because they block the movement of turtles and hatchlings. Don't forget to turn off or shield lights on the beach, to prevent hatchlings from getting confused and going toward land instead of the salt water where they belong."

In Florida, volunteers, who assist the FWC's researchers, document sea turtle landings on the beach. About 2,500 FWC-permitted volunteers regularly patrol more than 800 miles of sandy shoreline to identify, mark and protect sea turtle nests. They collect nesting data and also share their knowledge with beachgoers on how to help conserve sea turtles.

Support Florida's sea turtles by purchasing the "Helping Sea Turtles Survive" license tag at [BuyaPlate.com](http://BuyaPlate.com). Tag funds are spent on sea turtle research, rescue and conservation efforts. People also can donate \$5 and receive an FWC sea turtle decal.

Learn more about sea turtles at [MyFWC.com/SeaTurtle](http://MyFWC.com/SeaTurtle).

## Club announces March programs

ST. PETERSBURG - The Garden Club of St. Petersburg plans a number of programs in April.

The following events will be presented at the Garden Club of St. Petersburg, 500 Sunset Drive S.

- Creative crafts program - Monday, April 7, 10 a.m. Attendees will learn how to create a shell collage for the bath or home. Cost of materials is \$4.50.
- Floral design program - Tuesday, April 8, 10 a.m. Members of the Flower Arranging Circle will exhibit fabulous new finds to be used in floral designs as attendees learn how trash-to-treasure items can be useful.

- Horticulture seminar - Thursday, April 10, 10 a.m. Speaker Jene Van Butsel of Jene's Tropical Fruit Trees will present a program on growing

tropical citrus and fruit trees. For information, call 381-8920 or visit [www.gardenclubstpetersburg.org](http://www.gardenclubstpetersburg.org).



Photo courtesy of FWC

**More sea turtles nest on Florida's sandy beaches than on any other U.S. coastline. The 2014 nesting season started March 1.**

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**Sandy Hartmann**  
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# Diversions

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## Top five diversions

• **Battlefield Band**, Friday, March 21, 8 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$20. Call 822-3590 or visit [www.mypalladium.org](http://www.mypalladium.org). Scotland's world-renowned Battlefield Band infuses traditional and original Celtic music with history, energy, and power. With lyrics that are both ancient and as current as the morning news, the band has been performing on the international scene for more than three decades, inspired by their rich heritage of Celtic music and fired by the strength of the modern Scottish cultural scene. Band members Mike Katz, Alasdair White, Sean O'Donnell, Ewen Henderson pioneered the integration of bagpipes with fiddle, keyboards, guitar and voice, to create a sound that is unique, timeless, and full of passion and joy. The band mixes old songs and tunes with new self-penned material, playing them on a unique blend of ancient and modern instruments: bagpipes, synthesizers, fiddles, guitars, cittern, bass, whistles, and bouzouki.

• **Marc Cohn**, Friday, March 21, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$45. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.atthecap.com](http://www.atthecap.com). A well-known folk rock, singer-songwriter and musician, Cohn combines the precision of a brilliant tunesmith with the passion of a great soul man. He's a natural storyteller, balancing the exuberant with the poignant, and able to distill universal truth out of his often romantic, drawn-from-life tales. His career took off in 1990 with the recording of his critically acclaimed, self-titled debut disc, which yielded such classics as Grammy Award-winning "Walking In Memphis," "Silver Thunderbird" and "True Companion." Emily Kopp will open the show.

• **George Thorogood And The Destroyers**, Friday, March 21, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$29.50. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhal.com](http://www.rutheckerdhal.com). Thorogood is celebrating 40 years of performing hard-driving rock and roll this year. Ever since their first gig at Lane Hall on the campus of The University of Delaware in 1973, the band has traveled the world with its brand of "Booze and Boogie Rock." A mainstay on classic rock radio with hits like "One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer," "Move It On Over," "Who Do You Love," "Bad To The Bone," "I Drink Alone," "Get A Haircut" and "You Talk Too Much," the band has kept up a grinding pace performing for a loyal fan base the world over and, after 40 years, there is no sign of slowing down. Thorogood and the band are busy working on a new album to be released early next year. They will once again join forces with Nashville producer Tom Hambridge, who worked with the band on the critically acclaimed record "2120 South Michigan Avenue," a tribute to the Chicago blues label Chess Records. This time the project will consist entirely of original material - songs that demonstrate the broad reach of Thorogood's songwriting, with some titles going back to the beginning of his recording career.

• **Al Stewart**, Saturday, March 22, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$29. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.atthecap.com](http://www.atthecap.com). Like the fine wines that are his hobby, Al Stewart's gifts as a singer and songwriter have matured and ripened over the course of his musical career, stretching from the early '60s to the present and beyond. He is best known for "Year of the Cat" which was released in 1976 and spawned two Top 20 hits, the title song and "On the Border" which became a million-selling record. As he nears the 20-album mark, Stewart remains a distinctively literate and vivid storyteller, time traveling and teleporting himself and his listeners from World War I battlefields to '60s bedrooms, from ships to airplanes to ice floes, from the specific to the mysterious.

• **Fourth annual bluegrass festival**, Saturday, March 22, 2:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Kolb Park, on Bay Palm Boulevard between 15th & 16th avenues off of Gulf Boulevard, Indian Rocks Beach. Cricket, WMNF's 88.5 FM's radio show host, of the Saturday morning bluegrass show will be on hand. The festival will feature four live musical acts, including Skyway Bluegrass, The Cotton Eyed Does, Mountain Memories and Gator Grass. Food and beverages will be available for sale. Coolers will not be permitted. Attendees may bring a lawn chair. There is no cost but a \$5 donation is suggested. Music is sponsored by Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty and the festival is co-sponsored with the city of Indian Rocks Beach.



Jake E. Lee's Red Dragon Cartel visits Largo Cultural Center March 28.

Photo courtesy of PFA MEDIA

## Red Dragon Cartel

### Largo Cultural Center welcomes Jake E. Lee's new band

LARGO - Former Ozzy Osbourne guitarist Jake E. Lee will bring his new band, Red Dragon Cartel, to Pinellas for a performance Friday, March 28, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets start at \$24.50. Call 587-6793 or visit [largoarts.com](http://largoarts.com).

Jake E. Lee performed with Ozzy Osbourne on the legendary albums "Bark At The Moon" and "The Ultimate Sin." He then joined former Black Sabbath singer Ray Gillen to form the band Badlands.

Lee is now playing with a new band - Red Dragon Cartel. The Largo Cultural Center performance will feature selections from Lee's long career in music, including classic Ozzy Osbourne and Badlands songs as well as material from Red Dragon Cartel's new album.

#### Jake E. Lee

According to a biography provided by Bigg Time Entertainment, Jake E. Lee entered the world as Jakey Lou Williams. He was born and

raised in West Virginia, but, with his father in the military, the family was constantly on the move.

They eventually settled in San Diego, Calif. There, Lee and his sister took to the California culture and lifestyle. His mother saw his musical talent and convinced him to learn classical piano at an early age. It was Lee's sister, however, who would introduce him to rock and roll. She let Lee listen to her favorite heavy metal and hard rock albums, exposing him to Jimi Hendrix, Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin.

The appeal was such that Lee soon switched to guitar as his instrument of choice.

Lee founded his first band - Teaser - while still in high school. Playing the Southern California scene, he quickly attracted attention. In the coming years, he would play for Ratt and Rough Cutt and became

See RED DRAGON, page 8B

## Early Bird stages 'Bad Year For Tomatoes'

CLEARWATER - "A Bad Year For Tomatoes," by John Patrick, will run through May 4, at Early Bird Dinner Theatre, 13355 49th St. N.

Evening performances are presented Thursday through Sunday, with seating at 4 p.m. Matinees are presented Thursdays and Saturdays, with seating at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$29.70 for the show and buffet. For reservations, call 446-5898 or visit [www.earlybirddinnertheatre.com](http://www.earlybirddinnertheatre.com).

This hilarious comedy deals with the misfortunes of a famous television actress who seeks to "get away from it all" in a small New England town. Fed up with the pressures and demands of her act-

ing career, the famous Myra Marlowe leases a house in New England to write her autobiography. Dealing with her nosy neighbors turns out to be more difficult than she imagined so she invents a mad homicidal sister who is kept locked in an upstairs room. The ruse works well until the local handyman develops an affection for sister Sadie and complications ensue.

The Early Bird ensemble is led by artistic director Toby Manion, who also is acting in this zany comedy. Other stars are Barbara Anthony, Jeff Smith, Charles W. Wilcox, Deb Birchler and newcomers to Early Bird, Dana Kovar, Peter J. Konowicz, and Carmilina Alford.



Photo courtesy of EARLY BIRD DINNER THEATRE  
Pictured is the cast of Early Bird Dinner Theatre's production of "A Bad Year For Tomatoes."

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# Looking Ahead

## Largo

• **Annual Florida Suncoast Barbershop Chorus Show**, Sunday, March 23, at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo. Dinner will be served at 2 p.m. followed by entertainment at 2:30 p.m. Tickets for the meal and show are \$14 in advance. Tickets for the show only may be purchased at the door for \$10. Visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131. The show will feature a meal and a performance by the Florida Suncoast Barbershop Chorus.

• **"Beautiful Broadway,"** presented by the Suncoast Singers, Saturday, March 29, 4 p.m., at Honeywell Minnreg, 6340 126th Ave., Largo. Tickets are \$16. Call 581-1000. The Suncoast Singers of Florida will present the second concert series of its 34th concert season. This concert will be a choral presentation of some of favorite Broadway music from composers like Andrew Lloyd Webber, Lerner and Loewe and songs from "Camelot," "Annie," "Lion King," "Les Misérables" and "Phantom of the Opera." Beverages, popcorn and other snacks will be available for purchase. Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. Visit www.suncoastsingersfl.com.

## Clearwater

• **"Boeing, Boeing,"** a comedy by Marc Camoletti, through March 23, at West Coast Players, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org. This 1960s French farce adapted for the English-speaking stage features self-styled Parisian lothario Bernard, who has Italian, German, and American fiancées, each a beautiful airline hostess with frequent "layovers." He keeps "one up, one down and one pending" until unexpected schedule changes bring all three to Paris and Bernard's apartment at the same time. Rand Smith directs this West Coast Players production.

• **Vince Gill with Amy Grant**, Saturday, March 22, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$45. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhal.com. On tour in sup-

port of his latest album release, "Bakersfield," Gill – a Grammy Award winner and Country Music Hall of Fame inductee – will return to Clearwater for his 10th appearance at Ruth Eckerd Hall. Gill has sold more than 26 million albums. His latest release, "Bakersfield," a collaborative tribute 10-song set with Paul Franklin, honoring the city's two biggest musical figures, Merle Haggard and Buck Owens, debuted in the top five on the Billboard country charts earlier this month. Gill has earned 18 CMA Awards, including Entertainer of the Year in 1993 and 1994. He is tied with George Strait for having won the most CMA Male Vocalist Awards and is currently second only to Brooks and Dunn for accumulating the most CMA Awards in history. Gill is a member of the Grand Ole Opry, and has received 20 Grammy Awards to date, the most of any male country artist. An avid golfer, he helped create the annual Vince Gill Pro-Celebrity Invitational Golf Tournament in 1993 in order to help support junior golf programs throughout Tennessee. Besides being known for his talent as a performer, musician and songwriter, Gill is regarded as one of Country Music's best-known humanitarians, participating in hundreds of charitable events throughout his career. He will appear with special guest, Amy Grant.

• **The Florida Orchestra: Bartok's Piano Concerto No. 1;** Sunday, March 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. Stefan Sanderling returns to conduct this concert featuring Markus Groh performing Bartok's Piano Concerto No. 1, a virtual musical roller coaster ride of excitement ... all on a night with Sibelius' Symphony No. 4 and a world premiere by Tampa Bay composer David Rogers.

• **Psychedelic Furs**, Tuesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$35. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Much of today's alternative rock pays homage to The Psychedelic Furs. Led by vocalist and songwriter Richard Butler and his bass-wielding brother Tim, the Furs won over

fans and critics alike by combining poetic lyrics, innovative rhythms and melodies driven by an aggressive, punk desperation. Through it all, the band scored major hits with "Love My Way," "Pretty In Pink," "Heaven," "The Ghost In You" and "Heartbreak Beat." In all, the group has released seven studio albums and spawned several compilations, a boxed set and a live concert DVD.

• **Moody Blues**, Tuesday, March 25, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$65. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhal.com. The legendary band is still rocking in 2013 with original members Justin Hayward, John Lodge and Graeme Edge. The band is touring in support of the recent release of "Timeless Flight," a definitive, career-spanning collection. "Timeless Flight" was released in both a 17-disc and four-CD configuration. The lavish 17-disc set is housed in an LP-sized hardbound slipcase and includes 11 CDs of digitally re-mastered album tracks, previously unreleased mixes and outtakes and complete concert recordings. The four-CD boxed anthology culls audio highlights from the larger collection, including standout album tracks, singles and B-sides, previously unreleased mixes, and concert and radio performances. The band has released 24 albums in a career spanning nearly five decades. They have sold more than 70 million albums, earning 18 platinum discs and all manner of awards including Playboy "Group of the Year," the "Golden Ticket" award for selling the most tickets at Madison Square Garden and an Ivor Novello for Outstanding Contribution to British Music.

## Pinellas Park

• **"Wally's Café,"** by Sam Bobrick and Ron Clark, through March 30, at Venue Theatre, 9125 U.S. 19 N., Pinellas Park. Tickets are \$20. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2:30 p.m. For reservations, call 822-6194 or visit venuewebsite.wix.com/venuevenue. A feel-good comedy about love, struggle and friendship, "Wally's Café" follows Wally and Louise who have just opened a roadside diner near Las Vegas in 1940. Their only customer is a star-struck Midwestern girl hitchhiking her way to Hollywood. Four decades later, despite years of struggle, their hopes, dreams and friendship still survive. "Wally's Café" stars Mary Kay Cyrus, Cory McBride and Mark William Myers. The play is directed by Frank Kronyak and David Middleton. The Actors Fund is the designated benefit organization for this production. The Actors Fund is a nationwide human services organization that helps all professionals in performing arts and entertainment serving as a safety net providing programs and services for those who are in need, crisis, or transition.

## Seminole

• **"Beautiful Broadway,"** presented by the Suncoast Singers, Saturday, March 22, 5 p.m., in the Faith Center at Faith Presbyterian Church, 11501 Walker Ave., Seminole. Tickets are \$26 each for dinner and concert, \$24 each for a table of eight and \$16 each for the concert only. Call 453-9061. The Suncoast Singers of Florida will present the second concert series of its 34th concert season. This concert will be a choral presentation of some of favorite Broadway music from composers like Andrew Lloyd Webber, Lerner and Loewe and songs from "Camelot," "Annie," "Lion King," "Les Misérables" and "Phantom of the Opera." For information, call 453-9061 before March 17 to reserve dinner and concert tickets. Concert only tickets may be purchased up until the day of the show. Visit www.suncoastsingersfl.com.

## St. Petersburg

• **Cormac McCarthy**, Friday, March 21, 7:30 p.m., at The Studio@620, 620 First Ave. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. Call 895-6620 or visit www.studio620.org. New England's premiere singer-songwriter, McCarthy continues to grow as an artist and it's evident on the new CD "Collateral." He is a fine guitarist and singer who is often very funny.

• **The Florida Orchestra: Bartok's Piano Concerto No. 1;** Saturday, March 22, 8 p.m., at The Mahaffey, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$15. Call 892-5767 or visit www.themahaffey.com.

• **"The Odd Couple,"** by Neil Simon, presented by Gypsy Stage Repertory, March 22-23, at the Metro Center of St. Pete, 3251 Third Ave. N., No. 125, St. Petersburg. Performances are Saturday, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the LGBT Youth Group. Call 321-3854. 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.

• **Jazz Songbirds**, Sunday, March 23, 3 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$18. Call 822-3590 or visit www.mypalladium.org. The show will feature a performance by Valerie Gillespie, Karen Benji and Denise Moore. This group of stellar jazz artists returns to the intimate Side Door to pay tribute to the great women of jazz by performing from their repertoire. The performance also celebrates Women's History Month.

• **Red Green: How to Do Everything Tour;** Wednesday, March 26, 7 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$49.50. Call 822-3590 or visit www.mypalladium.org. After a successful run of 139 shows throughout Canada and the United States on his "Wit and Wisdom Tour," Red Green, Canada's foremost handyman, is back in theatres across North America in 2014 with a brand new show – How To Do Everything. Famous for his bits on duct tape, Possum Lodge, and his own unique style of humor and wisdom, Green became a well-loved humorist over fifteen seasons of his popular TV shows. An evening with Green is always filled with advice and laughter.

## Crossword

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

### Across

- Chip dip
- Consumes
- Call used to incite hunting dogs
- All thumbs
- Altitude
- Star in Orion
- Military flare with parachute (2 wds)
- Starbucks order
- For all to see
- Kind of network
- Go bad
- Disinfectant brand
- Anthology
- Carpentry tool
- Dweeb
- Distort
- Honoree's spot
- \_\_\_ and Crofts, soft rock duo
- Delight
- Moorehead of "Bewitched"
- \_\_\_ Earp, lawman
- Boy
- Boat race
- Browning's Ben Ezra, e.g.
- Salvers
- Festive celebration
- One-celled aquatic protozoa (var. spelling)
- Divine inspiration
- Ancestry
- In a manner without warmth of feeling
- Burned with little smoke and no flame
- Column base
- Bridge positions
- "\_\_\_ Doubtfire"
- Atlas enlargement

### Down

- Femme fatale
- Biscotti flavoring
- Playing a practical joke (hyphenated)
- \_\_\_ Glacier in Glacier National Park
- If nothing else (2 wds)
- Amerada \_\_\_ (Fortune 500 company)
- Low female singing voices
- Caribbean, e.g.
- Fastening with a hinged metal plate and a bolt
- Anglo-Saxon prince
- Bank claim
- Hang loose
- The "O" in S.R.O.
- Indy 500 sound
- Decreases in speed
- Tulip tree
- Latitude
- Study of the motion of projectiles
- Product of protein metabolism
- Coaster
- Jewish month
- "Minimum" amount
- Beam
- Car safety device
- A flat place?
- Wisps of hair
- Capital of Georgia, Russia
- Spoonful, say
- Guiding light
- Having more wisdom and calm judgment
- Gown fabric
- Heretofore (2 wds)
- \_\_\_ line (major axis of an elliptical orbit)
- One of The Three Bears
- "Aeneid" figure
- Revenuers
- Branch

## Sudoku

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

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

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

## Crossword answers

from last week

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

## Horoscopes

### March 20, 2014

## Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

Alarms go off. Trust your instincts, Capricorn. Not everyone has your best interest at heart. There is more involved in an offer at work than it seems.

## Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

Slow down, Aquarius. You've been taking on more than your fair share for far too long. Pull back and take time out to smell the roses. A loved one shares a secret.

## Pisces

February 19 - March 20

Money may be tight, but creativity is not. There is a lot to do for little. Think outside of the box, Pisces, and keep your plans on track.

## Aries

March 21 - April 19

Run, Aries, run. If something seems off, it probably is. A change in scenery helps an old friend heal. Invite them over for a little celebration.

## Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Yikes, Taurus. You played a little too hard, and it almost cost you. Time to switch tactics and take a gentler approach. You won't believe what transpires.

## Gemini

May 21 - June 21

Love blossoms in spite of the odds, and you make it all happen, Gemini. Give yourself a pat on the back. The bidding begins for a cherished piece.

## Cancer

June 22 - July 22

Warmer temperatures lead to a little spring cleaning and the end of a mystery. Stash what you uncover in a safe place, Cancer. A diva makes far too many demands.

## Leo

July 23 - August 22

Boredom sets in at home, and it's up to you, Leo, to rev things up. Turn your attention outside for ideas. A analysis concludes and the results are incredible.

## Virgo

August 23 - September 22

Perfection does not exist, so why are you insisting on it, Virgo? Focus on all that has been done well rather than the bit that hasn't, and progress will be made.

## Libra

September 23 - October 22

Remember, Libra. What goes around comes around. Be careful how you proceed. A friend suffers a financial setback, but it is only temporary.

## Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

Alas, Scorpio. You held out hope to the very end, but it wasn't meant to be. Don't worry about it. Another opportunity will arise. A romance heats up.

## Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

Uh-oh, Sagittarius. The truth finally comes out, and not everyone is pleased. You can't make everyone happy, now can you? A book inspires.

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Opening this weekend

'Muppets Most Wanted' hits theaters; Woodley stars in 'Divergent'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

**'Muppets Most Wanted'**

Genre: Comedy and family  
 Cast: Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear, Gonzo, Animal, Ricky Gervais, Ty Burrell and Tina Fey  
 Director: James Bobin  
 Rated: PG  
 Disney's "Muppets Most Wanted" takes the entire Muppets gang on a global tour, selling out grand theaters in some of Europe's most exciting destinations, including Berlin, Madrid, Dublin and London.

But mayhem follows the Muppets overseas, as they find themselves unwittingly entangled in an international crime caper headed by Constantine – the World's Number One Criminal and a dead ringer for Kermit the Frog – and his dastardly sidekick Dominic, aka Number Two, portrayed by Ricky Gervais. The film stars Ty Burrell as Interpol agent Jean Pierre Napoleon, and Tina Fey as Nadya, a feisty prison guard.



Photo courtesy of WALT DISNEY PICTURES  
 At left, Shailene Woodley stars in "Divergent." Above, the Muppets appear in "Muppets Most Wanted."

**'Divergent'**

Genre: Action and adventure  
 Cast: Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Ashley Judd, Jai Courtney, Ray Stevenson, Zoë Kravitz, Miles Teller, Tony Goldwyn, Ansel Elgort, Maggie Q, Mekhi Phifer and Kate Winslet  
 Director: Neil Burger  
 Rated: PG-13

In a future world where people are divided into distinct factions based on their personalities, Tris Prior is warned she is Divergent and will never fit into any one group.

When she discovers a conspiracy to destroy all Divergents, she must find out what makes being Divergent so dangerous before it's too late.



Photo by JAAP BUITENDIJK/SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT

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

**'Anita'**

Genre: Documentary  
 Cast: Anita Hill  
 Director: Freida Mock  
 Not rated

An entire country watched transfixed as a poised, beautiful African-American woman in a blue dress sat before a Senate committee of 14 white men and with a clear, unwavering voice recounted the repeated acts of sexual harassment she had endured while working with U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas. That October day in 1991 Anita Hill, a bookish law professor from Oklahoma, was thrust onto the world stage and instantly became a celebrated, hated, venerated, and divisive figure.

Anita Hill's graphic testimony was a turning point for gender equality in the U.S. and ignited a political firestorm about sexual misconduct and power in the workplace that resonates still today. She has become an American icon, empowering millions of women and men around the world to stand up for equality and justice.

Against a backdrop of sex, politics, and race, "Anita" reveals the intimate story of a woman who spoke truth to power. Directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Freida Mock, the film is both a celebration of Anita Hill's legacy and a rare glimpse into her private life with friends and family, many of whom were by her side that fateful day 22 years ago. Anita Hill courageously speaks openly and intimately for the first time about her experiences that led her to testify before the Senate and the obstacles she faced in

simply telling the truth. She also candidly discusses what happened to her life and work in the 22 years since.

**'Blood Ties'**

Genre: Crime and thriller  
 Cast: Clive Owen, Billy Crudup, Austin Williams, Mila Kunis, Marion Cotillard, Zoe Saldana and James Caan  
 Director: Guillaume Canet  
 Rated: R

It is New York, 1974, and 50-year-old Chris has just been released on good behavior after several years in prison following a gangland murder.

Waiting for him reluctantly outside the prison gates is his younger brother, Frank, a cop with a bright future. Chris and Frank have always been different, and their father, Leon, who has raised them alone, seems strangely to prefer Chris – this, despite all his troubles.

Yet blood ties are the ones that bind. Frank, hoping that his brother has changed, is willing to give him a chance; he shares his home, finds him a job, and helps him reconnect with his children and his ex-wife, Monica. But Chris' past quickly catches up to him, and his descent back into a life of crime becomes inevitable. For Frank, this descent proves to be the last in a long line of betrayals, and after his brother's latest transgressions, he banishes him from his life. But it's already too late; the brothers' destiny will be bound, forever.

**'The French Minister'**

Genre: Comedy

Cast: Thierry Lhermitte, Raphaël Personnaz, Niels Arestrup and Julie Gayet  
 Director: Bertrand Tavernier  
 Not rated

Alexandre Taillard de Vorms is tall and impressive, a man with style, attractive to women. He also happens to be the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the land of enlightenment: France. With his silver mane and tanned, athletic body, he stalks the world stage, from the floor of the United Nations in New York to the powder keg of Oubanga. There, he calls on the powerful and invokes the mighty to bring peace, to calm the trigger-happy, and to cement his aura of Nobel Peace Prize winner-in-waiting.

Alexandre Taillard de Vorms is a force to be reckoned with, waging his own war backed up by the holy trinity of diplomatic concepts: legitimacy, lucidity and efficacy. He takes on American neo-cons, corrupt Russians and money-grabbing Chinese. Perhaps the world doesn't deserve France's magnanimousness, but his art would be wasted if just restricted to home turf. Enter the young Arthur Vlamineck, graduate of the elite National School of Administration, who is hired as head of "language" at the foreign ministry. In other words, he is to write the minister's speeches. But he also has to learn to deal with the sensibilities of the boss and his entourage, and find his way

between the private secretary and the special advisors who stalk the corridors of the Quai d'Orsay – the ministry's home – where stress, ambition and dirty dealing are the daily currency. But just as he thinks he can influence the fate of the world, everything seems threatened by the inertia of the technocrats.

**'Jodorowsky's Dune'**

Genre: Documentary  
 Director: Frank Pavich  
 Rated: PG-13

In 1975, Chilean director Alejandro Jodorowsky began work on his most ambitious project yet. Starring his own 12-year-old son Brontis alongside Orson Welles, Mick Jagger, David Carradine and Salvador Dali, featuring music by Pink Floyd and art by some of the most provocative talents of the era, including HR Giger and Jean "Moebius" Giraud, Jodorowsky's adaptation of Frank Herbert's classic sci-fi novel "Dune" was poised to change cinema forever.

For two years, Jodo and his team of "spiritual warriors" worked night and day on the massive task of creating the fabulous world of "Dune," generating more than 3,000 storyboards, numerous paintings, incredible costumes, and an outrageous, moving and powerful script.

In the words of Jodorowsky's producer, Michel Seydoux, "It should have been enough. "But it wasn't."

Through interviews with legends and luminaries including HR Giger, Gary Kurtz and Nicolas Winding Refn, and an intimate and honest conversation with Jodorowsky filmed over the course of three years, director Pavich's film – featuring never-before-seen realizations of Jodo's mind-blowing psychedelic space opera (animated by Emmy Award nominated Syd Garon) – finally unearths the full saga of "The Greatest Movie Never Made."

**'Maladies'**

Genre: Comedy and drama  
 Cast: James Franco, Catherine Keener, Fallon Goodson, David Strathairn and Alan Cumming  
 Director: Carter  
 Not rated

A daring new film from internationally acclaimed multimedia artist Carter, "Maladies" charts the struggles of an unstable former soap opera star (James Franco) in 1960s New York as he tries to restart his floundering

creative career.

Hoping to find clarity and new purpose as a writer, he holes up with his eccentric sister (Fallon Goodson) at the seaside home of their best friend (Catherine Keener). But as he disappears further into his own mind, reality begins to slip through his grasp. Featuring an award-winning ensemble, including David Strathairn and Alan Cumming, "Maladies" is a heartfelt but defiantly unconventional exploration of the creative mind.

**'Nymphomaniac: Volume 1'**

Genre: Drama  
 Cast: Charlotte Gainsbourg, Stellan Skarsgård, Stacy Martin, Shia LaBeouf, Christian Slater, Uma Thurman, Sophie Kennedy Clark, Connie Nielsen and Udo Kier  
 Director: Lars von Trier  
 Not rated

"Nymphomaniac: Volume 1" is the story of Joe (Charlotte Gainsbourg), a self-diagnosed nymphomaniac who is discovered badly beaten in an alley by an older bachelor, Seligman (Stellan Skarsgård), who takes her into his home.

As he tends to her wounds, she recounts the erotic story of her adolescence and young-adulthood (portrayed in flashback by newcomer Stacy Martin). The film also stars Shia LaBeouf, Christian Slater, Uma

Thurman, Sophie Kennedy Clark and Connie Nielsen.

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Storage/ Workshop. Various Sizes. Large Open Fenced Lot. 220 13th St. SW, Largo. Near Diagnostic Clinic. (727)584-6283.

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**LOOKING FOR ASHEENA GREEN**  
For Service Of Divorce Papers. Asheena, If You See This Ad Please Contact Me At huberttramey@yahoo.com. If Any One Knows Where She Is, Please Contact Me At The Above Address.

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**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 1(888)969-6134. FL BAR #150789

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**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 &amp

485. Help Wanted

**LEGACY VACATION CLUB** is looking for a dynamic experienced Front Desk Agent/ Activities Coordinator to deliver outstanding guest service and activities to create a pleasurable vacation experience for our guests Part-Time, Fridays & Saturdays. Apply in person: Legacy Vacation Club, 19607 Gulf Blvd, Indian Shores, FL 33785

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505. Part-Time Help

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Company, Seminole, Mon/Wed/Fri, Daytime Hours. Must Have Prior Office Experience. Duties Include Answering Phones, Staff Recruitment, Learning Scheduling Software, and More. Must Possess Excellent Customer Service Skills and Computer Skills.  
Apply in Person at 9190 Oakhurst Road, Ste. 3, Seminole, FL 33776 or Fax Resume to (727)216-8792. Drug Free Workplace; EOE

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We are looking for men and women to deliver FREE community newspapers in Pinellas County. Must be available either Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Experience preferred but will train the right person. This is a supplemental income. Applicant must have good transportation; preferably a van, large car, SUV or pickup truck. For more information, please contact Mr. Shiflett at 727-530-5521.

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515. Hospitality Help

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**CONTROLLER**  
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**PART-TIME & FULL-TIME POSITIONS**  
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522. Careers

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600. Merchandise

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810. Auto Sales

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910. Boat Slips

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**LARGO 2236 VICTORY AVE** Variety Of Items, New And Used. Thursday And Friday, 8am-2pm.

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# The art scene

## Guild to host competition

ST. PETERSBURG - The Florida Suncoast Opera Guild Inc., along with co-sponsor St. Petersburg Opera Company, will present the 34th annual College and Young Professional Opera Competition of Florida on Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Opera Central, 2145 First Ave. S.

The event will present 30 aspiring opera singers competing for cash prizes raised by the Florida Suncoast Opera Guild. The public is invited to come and listen to auditions throughout the day free of charge.

Adjudicators are Sherrill Milnes, noted Met opera singer and founder of V.O.I.C. Experience; David Cangelosi, internationally acclaimed tenor; Karl Hesser, arts administrator, director, performer and experienced adjudicator.

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

## Art XChange set

PINELLAS PARK - The Pinellas Park Art Society will host its second annual Art XChange on Saturday, March 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Park Station, 5851 Park Blvd.

Items such as easels, print racks, stools, lamps, paint, paper, pencils, chalk, pastels, oils, watercolors, acrylics, canvases, crayons, charcoal, palettes, brushes, brush holders, craft supplies, photography equipment, sculpting material and tools, picture frames, mats, mat board, mat cutters, art totes, books - literally anything pertaining to art, new or gently used, will be offered for sale at flea market prices.

This year, in addition to art-related items, the sale also will feature "White Elephant stuff."

Proceeds will benefit the society's scholarship fund.

For information, call Linda Smith at 687-6966 or email [hl.smith2@verizon.net](mailto:hl.smith2@verizon.net).

## Creative Pinellas to host Beach Feast micro-funding event

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH - Creative Pinellas will host its Beach FEAST micro-funding event Thursday, March 27, at the Beach Art Center, 1515 Bay Palm Blvd.

All FEAST proceeds will directly benefit Pinellas County artists. Artists vying for funds at this event include Robin Borland, Chad Mize, Tiffany Razzano with Wordier Than Thou and Ryan Swanson with The Urban Conga. Independent artist Thaddeus Root of St. Petersburg selected them from a pool of applicants.

Borland is seeking support for her workshop series that provides art therapy to veterans, while Mize hopes to create collaborative public art murals. Razzano aims to publish the second volume of her Wordier Than Thou literature magazine, featuring works by local authors. Swanson wants to bring The Urban Conga's musical Color Code Bench to Pinellas County.

Beach FEAST is one in a series of Creative Pinel-

las programs that present a new way of thinking about incubating the area's arts community. These programs are designed to increase the number of great arts projects in Pinellas County, and promote the area as a destination for artistic exhibition and experimentation.

By making well-directed cultural investments, FEAST is positioned to create a large impact with small-dollar funding.

Tickets are \$20 and include tokens that allow you to vote on how the money raised that evening is distributed. Additional tokens to vote also are available to purchase. Guppy's on the Beach Grill & Bar will provide food.

Tickets and tokens can be purchased at [www.creativepinellas.org/feast](http://www.creativepinellas.org/feast). Space is limited.

## Museum hosts photography exhibit

ST. PETERSBURG - The birth of photography turned the camera into a notebook of history - especially when it came to battlefields and those in uniform.

The St. Petersburg Museum of History is bringing that notebook of American military history to St. Petersburg with the opening of *The American Soldier - A Photographic Tribute*. The exhibit opened March 18 and will run through July 13.

The *American Soldier* is a dramatic exhibition of 116 wall-to-wall photographs capturing the essence of American soldiering for more than 150 years. The exhibition guides visitors through the Civil War, Spanish American War, Boxer Rebellion, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan, and the streets of Baghdad.

The exhibition captures the emotions of danger, frustration, humor, camaraderie, death and victory that American soldiers encountered in this odyssey through history.

Arriving from the LBJ Presidential Library and Museum in Texas, space for the exhibit was an initial challenge, but the museum underwent interior renovations adding exhibit space to accommodate *The American Soldier* and enhance the guest experience.

"The arrival of this amazing exhibit is a major coup for St. Petersburg and the Museum of History," said Rui Farias in a press release. Farias is executive director at the museum. "It compelled us to be creative and in the process, the redesign and remodeling of our interior exhibit space is energetic and inviting. This exhibit gives the Museum of History the opportunity to re-create itself as a cultural center. Our goal is to use art, photographs and artifacts to teach history."

Cyma Rubin is the curator and producer of *The American Soldier*, as well as the curator of the highly successful exhibition, *Capture the Moment - The Pulitzer Prize Photographs*.

The St. Petersburg Museum of History is at 335 Second Ave. NE. Museum hours for the exhibit are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

## Hoppin' event



Photos by JAY RICHMOND

At left, local artists Peter Smith and Lucy Monette of Safety Harbor, enjoy the good vibes and great beer at the fourth annual Dunedin Beerfest, celebrating American Craft Beer Week, March 8 at Edgewater Park. Below, hundreds of people flocked to the event featuring live music, food, adoptable dogs and plenty of craft beer. Above, Brianna Aysh, a volunteer at Dunedin Doggie Rescue from Tarpon Springs, holds Isabelle as she gets plenty of love from Adam and Katie Carnes of Palm Harbor.



## RED DRAGON, from page 1B

a member of Ronnie James Dio's band.

The tragic death of guitarist Randy Rhoads left a vacancy in Ozzy Osbourne's band.

According to Big Time Entertainment, Osbourne asked Jake to audition for his band. Jake knew that Rhoads' shoes were hard to fill, but he believed he was able to handle the challenge. Osbourne auditioned around 500 other guitarists from around the world, but it was Lee who eventually got the spot.

For the next four years, Lee recorded, wrote and toured with Osbourne. They released "Bark at the Moon," which eventually went multi-platinum, and quickly quieted critics who said Rhoads could never be replaced. The "Ultimate Sin" album followed, which was another huge success for Osbourne.

Osbourne and Lee split in the midst of Osbourne's well-documented drug and alcohol periods. Although the official story is that Osbourne fired Lee, Big Time Entertainment states that the two remain good friends.

Following his departure from Osbourne's band,

Lee took a sabbatical to spend time with his family. He turned down a number of job offers. Then, one day, he received a proposition he could not ignore. Ray Gillen, another former Black Sabbath lead singer, approached him with the idea of forming a blues-based metal band. Lee agreed, and the two soon recruited bassist Greg Chaisson and drummer Eric Singer.

They called the band Badlands.

Badlands' self-titled debut album was released in 1989. It featured a mix of blues and hard rock, powered by hard-driving guitar riffs. The album earned critical acclaim as well as impressive sales. The band toured worldwide to support the album, and followed it up with "Voodoo Highway."

Health issues forced Gillen to leave the band and Lee also soon departed.

For many years after Badlands, Lee largely remained out of the spotlight. In 1996, he released an instrumental album, "A Fine Pink Mist," and in 2005 he released a blues album, "Retraced."

Working with Kevin Churko and Ron Mancuso in Las Vegas, Lee's new band Red Dragon Cartel has

recorded its eponymous first album for release on Frontiers Records. In addition to Lee's guitar work, the band features Darren Smith on lead vocals, Jonus Fairley on drums, Ron Mancuso on bass.

The album also features guest appearances from Robin Zander of Cheap Trick, Maria Brink from In This Moment and other all-star musicians.

## Eddie Trunk book signing

The Largo Cultural Center will host its first book signing on Friday, March 28, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The event will feature Eddie Trunk, author of the newly released "Eddie Trunk's Essential Hard Rock & Heavy Metal Vol. 2." Trunk's special appearance is part of the Jake E. Lee's Red Dragon Cartel show at the Largo Cultural Center. Trunk also will emcee for the show. The book signing event is open to ticket holders to the concert.

Trunk is a 30-year music industry veteran who has built a reputation for being one of the most respected personalities in the worlds of hard rock and heavy metal. He hosts "Eddie Trunk Live," a weekly live music, talk and interview show on SiriusXM satellite radio Channel 39, which is branded "Trunk Nation" during his program. He is currently host and co-producer of the hit series "That Metal Show," the longest-running program in the history of VH1 Classic. "That Metal Show" is seen around the world.

Trunk has recently turned his attention to writing. In 2010, he released his first book "Eddie Trunk's Essential Hard Rock & Heavy Metal." The book was very well received by critics and fans alike. Last year, he finished work on the sequel, "Eddie Trunk's Essential Hard Rock & Heavy Metal Vol. 2," which was released in late 2013.

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