

Interim administrator appointed

Mark Woodard takes leadership of county government ... Page 6A.

LARGO LEADER

Fun 'n Sun festival begins this weekend with Eddie Money

Also, get backstage of Eight O'Clock Theatre's 'Grease' with the Insider's Club ... Page 1B.



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LARGO



Get healthy and play 'Unplugged'

Largo was one of 37 communities recognized as a Healthy Weight Community Champion 2014, recognized in part for its Playing! Unplugged event Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive. ... Page 3A.

POLICE

Man arrested for battery against girl

Largo police arrested a 70-year-old man for sexual battery against a 13-year-old autistic girl April 14.



Ramiro Solano

A neighbor had seen an elderly man kissing the girl and reported it. Police interviewed Ramiro Alberto Solano at his Largo home and later at the police department, where he confessed "to everything," according to reports. ... Page 5A.

COUNTY

Sheriff to collect expired meds

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office will host the eleventh installment of Operation Medicine Cabinet Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Operation Medicine Cabinet is an opportunity for citizens to discard safely unused or expired prescription medications; and is a multi-agency effort aimed at addressing the problem of prescription drug abuse. ... Page 6A.

BUSINESS

Unemployment down slightly

Pinellas County's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March is down a full percentage point from March 2013, according to the reported released April 18.

Pinellas reported a rate of 6.3 percent in 2014 and 7.3 percent in 2013. ... Page 8A.

VIEWPOINTS

Carl Hiaasen

Florida leads the way in Medicare fraud prosecutions. ... Page 10A



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Pinellas parts ways with LaSala

Why the county agreed to terminate Administrator Bob LaSala's contract

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - The first clue that something was awry came from media reports about less-than-satisfactory results of an annual performance review.

Then Commission Chair Karen Seel removed the review of the Pinellas County's administrator from the April 15 meeting agenda and later replaced it.

Seel began by asking if a commissioner would make a motion to terminate Bob LaSala's contract without cause. She said the contract called for a 90-day notice provision. She said during those 90 days, LaSala would report to her or her designee for assigned duties.

Commissioner Ken Welch made the motion. Commis-

sioner Janet Long seconded it. The vote was unanimous, with Commissioner Norm Roche absent.

"It is with mixed emotions I leave my position as Pinellas County Administrator," LaSala said. "Please know that it has been an honor to serve this community."

He thanked the commission for "recognition of my financial management acumen, and I am particularly gratified that I leave Pinellas County in far better economic condition than when I arrived," he said.

"As you know, I am not one to shy away from our biggest, most important community issues," he continued. "And while I believe we have made progress on the very tough issues related to emergency medical services and health and community services, I recognize that

those incremental accomplishments have not been without controversy.

"That said, they are incredibly important matters to our community, and I wish you all the success in resolving them and moving forward positively as I hand the baton to your next leader. Of course, I will always be available to help you in any way I can."

Hired during a time of controversy

Perhaps the most-respected administrator in the county's recent history passed the baton to LaSala in 2008. Fred Marquis served Pinellas County as its

See ADMINISTRATOR, page 4A

The show to end all shows

Largo High prepares 'The Wizard of Oz,' a finale for the school and its retiring teachers

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - In Largo High School's 100th year - mere weeks before construction begins on the school's new buildings - the drama, band and choral departments will put on the most elaborate and ambitious musical production the tiny auditorium has ever seen.

"The Wizard of Oz" will run Friday and Saturday, May 2-3, 7:30 p.m., in the Largo High School Auditorium, 410 Missouri Ave.

The three directors of the school's fine arts program have been working together for more than 25 years. This year, two of them will retire: choir director William Renfroe and drama director Debra Wortock.

The timing was entirely coincidental, Wortock said. They had tossed around the idea of doing "The Wizard of Oz" for a while, before they realized the year would be a culmination of their careers and the school's 100-year history. They decided an iconic musical, with its own history and sentimentality, would be a fitting finale, said Wortock, who's been teaching for 40 years, most of them at Largo. She entered a deferred retirement program five years ago.

"I've enjoyed every single minute of it, but I definitely am ready. So it's a happy time," she said.

In the meantime, she, Renfroe and band director Christopher Benoit have their work cut out for them. Aside from the feat of planning and practicing all the musical numbers, the show will be a technical challenge with three backdrops, more moving sets than fit well in the tiny backstage area and ambitious special effects. A school orchestra of more than

See FINALE, page 4A



Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

Above, Largo High School students act out a scene from the upcoming show "The Wizard of Oz," May 2 and 3. From left, Bianca Rotondo will star as Dorothy during the Saturday night performance, Guillermo Caro plays the Scarecrow, stage manager Stephanie Middleton stands in as the Tin Man and Tyler Kubiak plays the Cowardly Lion. Below left, Emily Miloro tries on a new wig to help her stand out as Glinda the Good Witch with the help of Laura Velez, who plays the Wicked Witch of the West. Below, right, Drama teacher Debra Wortock, who will retire after this year, gives pointers during rehearsal April 17.



Demolition at Tri-City Plaza could begin this year

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - The redevelopment of Tri-City Plaza continues, though which stores will remain in the longstanding Largo shopping center is still unknown.

Kimco Realty Corporation has owned the plaza at 5110 E. Bay Drive since January 1993. The real estate company, based in New York, intended to update Tri-City Plaza's "tired" look for some time, said Paul Puma, president of Kimco's southern region.

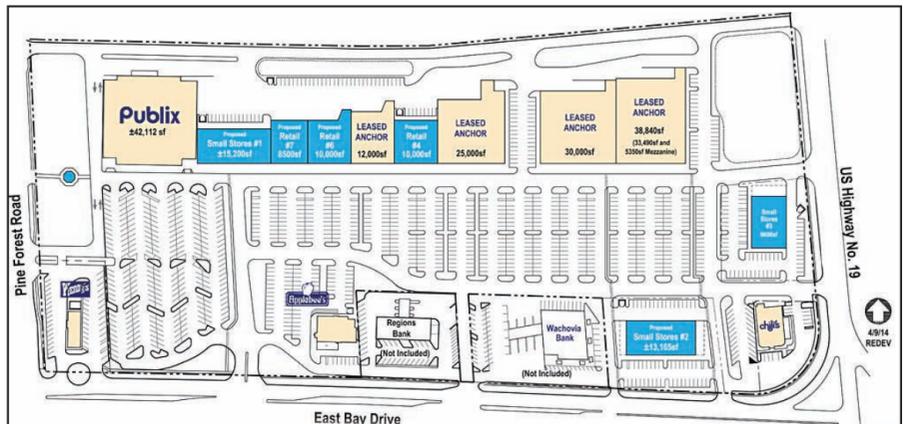
"It is a very important shopping center to us. The plans to redevelop this center have been in the works for years," Puma said. "We had to wait for all the dominoes to fall into place."

Demolition of vacant buildings will begin this year, contingent on the company receiving the proper permits, he explained.

"We're very excited. A lot of the center is going to be torn down," he said.

The planned redevelopment will essentially shift the locations of the buildings so that they are in line with the existing Publix along the northern side of the property. Currently, the sections of the plaza are cut off from

See TRI-CITY, page 4A



This map shows the planned layout of the redeveloped Tri-City Plaza. The yellow spaces marked "leased anchor" represent the four tenants who have signed leases with plaza owner, Kimco Realty Corporation, but are waiting for final permits before announcing their intentions.

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Largo is a Healthy Weight Community Champion

LARGO – Largo was one of 37 communities recognized as a Healthy Weight Community Champion 2014 by the state surgeon general. Representatives from the Department of Health in Pinellas County presented the award during Largo's commission meeting April 15. Local governments across Florida were invited to submit descriptions of their best practice policies designed to increase physical activity levels and improve nutrition.

"Florida's county and municipal governments play an important role in decreasing the prevalence of unhealthy weight in their jurisdictions," stated the Florida Department of Health's website on the program.

For its part, Largo was recognized for:

- Installing oversized sidewalks to promote walking, constructing two fitness zones along trails and maintaining an aggressive street tree planting program to provide shaded walking areas
- Offering healthy food and beverage options at parks and recreation centers
- Sponsoring Playing! Unplugged for children and families

In fact, the third annual Playing! Unplugged is this weekend: Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive.

Largo Recreation, Parks & Arts Department teamed up with local businesses and medical professionals to emphasize the importance of free play and creativity for youth. The free event will include more than eight play spaces to explore, build and create.

Children of all ages will be set free to play with cardboard boxes, fabric, buckets, ropes, and paintbrushes to name a few. Play space themes will include construction, adventure, slackline, archery, dance, art, a toddler/infant zone and more.

Families will enjoy live entertainment, healthy food vendors and train rides aboard Largo Central Railroad's miniature trains. The Boy Scouts of America will be assisting children with tree climbing and zip lining.

New this year, at noon, is a live presentation and reading by Randi Zuckerberg, founder and CEO of Zuckerberg Media and author of adult non-fiction book, *Dot Complicated* and children's picture book, *Dot*.

Limited parking will be available on site. Additional parking will be available at Largo Middle and Largo High School with crossing guards



Photo by JIM LAYFIELD

Ava Hillman, 6, of Dunedin tries out the zipline at the Playing! Unplugged event last year.

at the major intersections.

For more information about the event, visit Largo.com/unplugged or call 587-6740, ext. 5014. For more information about the statewide healthy weight program, visit www.healthiestweightflorida.com.

Upcoming events

Learn football skills in a free clinic

LARGO – 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, 400 Highland Ave. Participants will learn on-field skills and drills with Largo's Recreation staff and local youth football coaches. Food and drinks will be provided. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. A parent or guardian must sign a waiver. Call 587-6740, ext. 5046 or visit LargoSports.com.

Relay for Life returns

LARGO – The Largo Relay for Life teams will camp out in Largo Central Park to raise money and awareness in the fight against cancer Friday, May 2, 6 p.m. until Saturday, May 3, 6 a.m., at 101 Central Park Drive.

Relay for Life is an overnight event packed with activities and entertainment. Teams of people from all walks of life have fun while raising much-needed funds for cancer prevention and treatment.

For more information, call Rachel at 919-539-5771.

The mayor hosts golf fundraiser

LARGO – The city of Largo will hold its 16th annual Mayor's Golf Tournament, this year with the inaugural Mayor's FootGolf Tournament Saturday, May 3, 8 a.m., at Largo Golf Course, 12500 Vonn Road.

Proceeds from these tournaments support youth summer camp scholarships for the children of Largo. The cost is \$45 for golf and \$35 for FootGolf or \$60 for both. The golf tournament will be a scramble with two-person teams and will have a shotgun start at 8 a.m. The format of the FootGolf Tournament will be "play your own ball" with two-person teams and will have a 1 p.m. start. Call 518-3024.

Celebrate moms and health families

LARGO – The Sun Coast Osteopathic Foundation invites fun lovers of all ages to the Saturday in the Park with Mom and Sun Coast Family Health Fest Saturday, May 10, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive.

This free community event celebrates mothers and promotes healthy families. It will include live music, children's activities, entertainment and educational experiences. For more information, call 483-0661.

Highland Recreation awarded

LARGO – The city of Largo was named the recipient of the 2014 Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Future of the Region Award for the new state-of-the-art Highland Recreation Complex.

"Highland Rec adds a truly unique cultural, sports, and recreational venue to the region's offerings," according to the council.

The 40,000-square-foot building features PlayWorld, a three story indoor playground, ExerPlay, an active gaming room, indoor walking track, double gymnasium, fitness room and party rooms.

Highland Recreation Complex, at 400 Highland Ave., opened on June 2, 2013. Facility hours are Monday/Wednesday 6 a.m.-9 p.m., Tuesday/Thursday 7 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday 6 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Sunday 12:30-5 p.m.

Turtle Trot 5K is this weekend

LARGO – The 4th annual Turtle Trot 5K will be Saturday, April 26, 8 a.m., at McGough Nature Park, 11901 146th St. N.

Registration is \$18 in advance or \$30. The race, along paved roads and well-kept trails coursing through both McGough and Bonner Nature Parks, is a fundraiser for the Friends of Largo Nature Parks. To register or for more information, visit www.natureparkfriends.org. Call 518-3047.

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DENTAL EMERGENCY? CALL 7 DAYS A WEEK

FINALE, from page 1A

25 will accompany the actors. "It's the biggest pit orchestra we've ever had. It's more scenery than we've ever had. So we're so excited," Wortock said.

Tyler Kubiak, cast as the Cowardly Lion, also is technical director, lighting and scenic designer for the show. The senior said he would be sad about Wortock's departure if he wasn't leaving himself. Instead, he's focused on making sure he and Wortock "go out with a bang."

"This is the biggest thing we've ever done here," he said.

Kubiak, who with his brother performed a Critic's Choice duet musical at the Florida State Thespian Festival last month, is the president of the school's drama club and helped secure a \$2,500 sponsorship for the show from the Largo grill Abe's Place.

"It's our last year. We want to go big. We don't want to be able to do a Mickey Mouse show in a little theater. We want to do it real," Kubiak said.

"The Wizard of Oz" will use snow machines, industrial fog machines and bubble machines for special effects. In one scene, the Wicked Witch of the West will shoot fireballs out of her sleeve at the Scarecrow. In another, she'll melt into a platform on stage, surrounded by fog billowing up

around her.

The show has three stage managers to handle all the moving pieces.

"The technical week is going to be crazy. That's what I'm stressed for because that week, everything has to be coming to life, rotating and moving and action," Kubiak said. "It all comes together within like four days."

Traditionally, the school puts on a musical production every other year. But while the auditorium - which Wortock called "the oldest stage in the county" - is being gutted and renovated, that will be on hold.

Wortock said she thought the students are even more excited about the show than they were about "Beauty and the Beast" two years ago.

"I don't think we expected this to be as big of a show as it is," said Bianca Rotondo, who will play Dorothy in Saturday night's performance. "It's the show of like a lifetime. I'm so excited. It's going to be amazing."

Junior Jaime Brightbill will play Dorothy on Friday night.

"We have two because they're both beautiful," Wortock explained. "In high school ... why not be able to spread it out?"

Brightbill said the role of Dorothy is one she's always wanted.

"Every time you put me next to

Judy Garland, I look like her, which I think is kind of scary. I get that from everyone," she said. "When I've been in theater my whole life playing really small roles, finally being able to do a big one is really something different."

Singing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" during rehearsal has helped Brightbill with her own personal battles.

"That's why I love doing theater. When I'm up there and I'm being a different character, it makes me forget all the anxiety I've felt throughout the whole day," she said. "It makes you take their troubles instead of your own. And their troubles aren't real."

A passion for theater

Rotondo, who is a junior but attends St. Petersburg College full time, said Wortock has always been good at teaching her students how to be good people as well as good actors.

"I think she really knows what she's doing," she said. "She's done so many good things with this theater program."

Kubiak agreed. He sees her passion for directing when she arrives at 6 or 7 a.m. and doesn't leave the school until 8 p.m.

"I know she loves what she does, for sure, or she wouldn't put the hours in," he said.



Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

Largo High School's upcoming "The Wizard of Oz" includes a number of technical feats including on-stage snow, here employed to save the characters in this scene, from left, Dorothy played by Bianca Rotondo, the Scarecrow played by Guillermo Caro, the Tin Man played by Stephanie Middleton and the Cowardly Lion played by Tyler Kubiak.

When she doesn't have college classes, Rotondo sometimes will sit through all seven periods in the drama classroom, watching Wortock encourage students, who care about drama to varying degrees, to try new things. Brightbill said she too has watched a transformation in students who are taking drama only for the "easy A."

"You see them get on the stage, some of them crash and burn, but some of them, she gets them to

open up. You get to see a new side of people," Brightbill said.

Wortock said her classes are always mixed with honors, traditional and ExCEL magnet students in all grades. Two years ago, for example, she had the valedictorian, who played Belle in "Beauty and the Beast," in the same class with ninth grade beginning drama students.

"Sometimes that fosters a lot of energy," she said.

She will miss the thrill of directing.

"That will be my fondest memories ... It's just one of my favorite activities," she said. "Once you do it, it's something you fall in love with."

Wortock has taught at Largo High School since 1984, first as an honors English teacher then as its drama teacher. She taught at Largo back in the 1970s as well, but left to pursue an acting career. Along with auditioning and studying in New York City, Wortock performed in dinner theater productions - most notably "Chicago" at the former Showboat Dinner Theater in Largo and "Pal Joey" in Boca Raton.

In retirement, Wortock said she plans to pursue other interests - travel, sports and kayaking, to name a few - with her husband and spend more time with family.

The school has already selected its new drama teacher, though Wortock isn't allowed to say who it is.

"He has not announced it to his students," she said.

Until then, she's putting her all into this last, ambitious production.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," she said.

Tickets to "Wizard of Oz" are \$10. For reservations and more information, call 588-3758.



Above, Drama teacher Debra Wortock, who said the show is the school's most ambitious yet, watches her students perform during rehearsal April 17. At right, Emily Miloro as Glinda the Good Witch, center, lectures the Wicked Witch of the West, played by Laura Velez, left, as Dorothy, played by Jaime Brightbill, looks worried. The students practice their lines in front of the sets still to be completed by the show Friday and Saturday, May 2-3 in Largo High School auditorium, which will soon thereafter be gutted and renovated.



ADMINISTRATOR, from page 1A

administrator from 1979 to 2000. He returned in an interim capacity in 2007 after former administrator Steve Spratt resigned in the aftermath of a grand jury investigation of a land deal between former property appraiser Jim Smith and the county.

Marquis strongly endorsed LaSala for the job, in part due to his prior experience. LaSala worked as the county's chief assistant administrator and assistant administrator from 1979 to 1989.

He returned to Pinellas from California, where he managed cities for 10 years. He now has served counties and cities for more than 40 years, including more than 23 years in Florida. His governmental career started in New York and New Jersey.

During a meeting on Sept. 9, 2008, when the commission approved his initial contract, he vowed to provide a "proactive commitment to professional management."

"Being a good leader means you have to have followers," LaSala said.

At the time, Seel asked him to describe what he thought were some of the county's opportunities for improvement.

"I believe you don't have to be sick to get better," LaSala said.

He said while Pinellas was "pretty healthy," that condition "would be tested in the coming months in terms of resources." He said some of the continuing challenges would be setting priorities for services and the ability to respond to changes.

"My job for the next few months will be to do a lot of listening," he said.

After only two months on the job, LaSala told members of the Rotary Club of Seminole Lake that the county would be faced with major decisions about its EMS system and budget. He was right.

In the end, one of those issues garnered her praise, the second, the EMS controversy, may have helped cost him his job.

Falling review scores

In 2012, LaSala received a composite score of almost 81 percent on his annual review. His high score was for preparation and administering of the budget, 3.64 out of 4. His next highest grades were for integrity, getting 3.5 for his overall integrity and 3.57 for his personal integrity. His low score was 2.71 for facilitative leadership and facilitating county board effectiveness.

In 2013, his composite score was down to 74 percent, representing the highs and lows in seven cate-

gories. His high score was for organization, planning and management with an average rating of 3.29 out of 3.5. He scored 3.25 for strategic leadership, 3.17 for integrity, 3.02 for service delivery management, 2.83 for responsiveness, 2.70 for communication. His lowest score, 2.52, was for policy facilitation.

Welch, who was chair at the time, gave LaSala a low score - needs attention - in the area of facilitative leadership. And he marked needs attention to satisfactory on LaSala's mediation and negotiation skills. The rest of his evaluation showed good to excellent scores.

Commissioner Susan Latvala gave LaSala good or excellent scores in nearly every category. Commissioner John Morroni was the only commissioner to give the administrator a perfect score - excellent in every area.

Long mostly gave the administrator satisfactory scores. She circled needs attention in the areas of responsiveness advocacy, media relations and interpersonal communication. She marked good for budgeting, financial analysis, strategic planning and presentation skills.

Commissioner Charlie Justice scored LaSala as satisfactory to excellent in every category, with excellent marks for function/operational expertise, operational planning, initiative and risk taking, budgeting and integrity.

Seel gave the administrator the most points for satisfactory performance, marking excellent for his technological literacy only.

Roche found nothing excellent about LaSala's work in 2013, nor did he mark anything as needing attention, although he did create a new spot between needs attention, the bottom of the scale, and satisfactory, for several of his answers.

In 2014, LaSala's composite score fell to 70 percent. Seel marked needs attention, the lowest grade, on nearly every area except vision, presentation skills and media relations, which she marked as satisfactory. She marked good for technological literacy, budgeting and financial analysis.

Susan Latvala was more generous in her scores, giving LaSala an excellent or good in every category. She did remark under the vision category that LaSala "does an excellent job within the organization - not as well with community." She also said he needed "to practice presenting at a level that everyone can understand."

While Morroni did not give LaSala a perfect score, he gave him more excellent marks than other commissioners. He marked good for facilitative leadership, remarking that the outcome of the EMS debate would be an indicator. He also marked good

for mediation/negotiation, commenting, "Sometimes it doesn't come out as 'neutral' all the time." He also marked good for citizen service.

He thanked LaSala for his hard work and dedication.

"It seems we are finally tackling some tough issues with the support of the majority of the board," he wrote.

Justice scored LaSala as satisfactory, good or excellent in his responses. He included written comments stating that the "administrator has done an outstanding job maintaining the machinations of the county functions during a time of slow economic recovery and structural transition."

"There are some areas of concern; challenges that exist," he wrote. "The administrator needs to improve communication. Communication to the external communities that show respect for the validity of others' opinions; communication with staff that shows that change is made with purpose and intent and not for the sake of change; and communication with the Board to better align the goals and plans both short term and long term."

"Recent circumstances with the EMS issue, the strategic planning and the healthy communities discussions exposed areas in need of greater attention in order for greater successes."

Long scored LaSala between satisfactory and excellent and included comments on most pages. She said he could do a "better job of building partnerships and/or meeting with community groups in order to continue relationships the county has taken decades to develop."

"Bob has a stubborn streak that interferes with his good judgment," she wrote. "Bob must work on his demeanor during public meetings to ensure respect and civility toward our citizens, as well as the elected officials."

She praised him for his work in organizational planning and management.

"Bob does an outstanding job with strategic short and long range planning," she wrote. "His commitment and dedication to financial stability is outstanding."

Welch scored LaSala as satisfactory, good or excellent in every area except organizational integrity, which he marked between needs attention and satisfactory.

"I'm concerned with the loss of key personnel and the impact of personnel decisions on internal and external relationships and collaboration," Welch wrote. "I am also increasingly concerned with the number of ongoing conflicts and/or disputes with

key community partners ... collaboration with our partners is a priority."

He praised the administrator for his strategic planning, the county's website and the use of eTownHall meetings for citizen interaction.

"Budget and forecasting are excellent," he wrote. "Strategic planning implementation depends on collaboration, staff retention and communication."

Roche had little good to say about LaSala. His scores mirrored Seel's with most coming in somewhere between needs attention and satisfactory. He did mark good for function/operational expertise, and a spot between good and excellent for technological literacy.

Roche's typed comments were among the most scathing. He listed a number of problems with how the administrator has performed his job and his understanding of the county's citizens. He said LaSala "appears to favor a conspiratorial 'us versus them' environment, frustrates easily when questioned, often rejects and rebuts opposing or differing viewpoints and/or alternative approaches, and tends to dismiss or obfuscate rather than consider and incorporate."

He listed several issues, including downtown Palm Harbor, the Pinellas County Library Cooperative, EMS, fire services, indigent care contracts, animal services, stormwater and citizen interactions, as having been handled in a spirit of "divide and conquer rather than coalesce and achieve."

He also expressed concern about "a pattern of discarding the value of institutional experience and knowledge, in favor of outside hiring and promotion."

Seel said she would begin work immediately to appoint a designee for LaSala to report to and make plans for beginning a search for a new administrator. She did not share any additional information. Assistant County Administrator Mark Woodard served in the administrator's role during the Tuesday meeting.

The commission is expected to appoint an interim administrator at the April 22 work session.

Before leaving the April 15 meeting, LaSala said he was proud of the county's employees.

"This is a terrific group of employees who try to do their very best each and every day, and I sincerely thank them," he said. "Further, I would also be remiss if I did not personally acknowledge my executive staff, and I include those who have been reassigned as well. Each of those individuals brought very real talent and a true commitment to public service. I thank them as well."

"Again, it has been my privilege to serve as your administrator."

TRI-CITY, from page 1A

one another; the several parking lots that make up the center don't connect with each other.

"Today, it's kind of chopped up and a little difficult for the customers to navigate. And all of that, as part of the redevelopment, will be dramatically changed so that (there's) easier access, better visibility, easier parking and access from the parking field to the storefronts," Puma said.

Parking for the entire plaza will be shifted to a common parking area in front of the buildings, to be accessed from both East Bay Drive and U.S. 19. The line of buildings from Fat Cat Tavern to Office Depot at the eastern side of the property will be demolished, in lieu of the new construction along the northern end. Only a 96,000-square-foot building will be rebuilt next to the Chili's square U.S. 19.

The amount of tenants and store space available in the plaza will remain about the same.

"What we will be tearing down and the square footage we will be replacing it with are approximate," Puma said.

The AMC movie theater, which closed in January, is not coming back, nor is Kimco rebuilding another movie theater in the plaza.

Kimco does not own the Regions and Wachovia banks at the southern side of the plaza, closest to East Bay Drive. Therefore, those properties are not

part of the reconstruction, and along with the Chili's and Wendy's, will not change. Kimco does own the Applebee's restaurant, which will be torn down and reconstructed, according to plans submitted to the city of Largo. The Publix will remain in operation throughout the reconstruction process, but will get a facelift.

"As part of the redevelopment, their store will receive an exterior modification," Puma said. "I also believe that they are planning on updating the interior of the store."

Aside from the Publix, Kimco has the four largest retail spaces in the plaza already leased by tenants intending to be in business after redevelopment, but the companies were not ready to announce their intentions.

"We're not completely through the entire process of obtaining government approvals," Puma said.

Kimco first submitted their application with the city of Largo Aug. 29, 2013, according to city records.

The work of figuring out the best layout for the plaza and what retail tenants might value the redeveloped space as a future location began about a year ago, Puma said.

"All of that takes months of planning and many conversations with retailers to see who's interested and who's not and to understand what our cost will be and what rents we have to get to redo this



TBN Graphic

This map, courtesy of the Pinellas County Property Appraiser website, shows the current layout of the Tri-City Plaza with some of the businesses labeled. Tenants that will remain through the redevelopment include the Publix, which will get a facelift, Applebee's, which will be reconstructed, and Wendy's and Chili's, which are not part of the redevelopment. Kimco does not own the property for the Regions and Wachovia banks, east of Applebee's.

center," he explained.

The analysis to determine that the plaza would benefit from the update did not "take very long to recognize," Puma said.

"Largo's a very good community," he said. "We think that the quality of this development is going to be far better than what you see there today. We wouldn't be doing it if we thought otherwise."

Police beat

Man arrested for battery against girl

LARGO – Largo police arrested a 70-year-old man for sexual battery against a 13-year-old autistic girl April 14.

A neighbor had seen an elderly man kissing the girl and reported it, Largo police said. Officer Matthew Desjardins went to Largo Middle School to



Ramiro Solano

with the girl, who told him the man had touched her. Two detectives were called to help the investigation. The child told the police more and was brought in for a sexual assault victim examination.

Police interviewed the suspect – identified as Ramiro Alberto Solano, 70 – at his Largo home. He denied any involvement. But the child told the police more, and so the detectives brought Solano to the police department.

Once there, he confessed “to everything,” according to police. He also said that the behavior had been going on for more than two years, meaning the child had been younger than 12 at the start of the alleged sexual battery. The resulting sexual battery charge against him is a felony, given her age.

That evening, Solano was booked into the Pinellas County Jail, where he remains in lieu of a \$250,000 bond.

Largo man dies in single-vehicle crash

ST. PETERSBURG – A Largo man died at the scene of a one-vehicle crash about 9:25 a.m. Wednesday, April 16.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Jose Quinones, 35, was traveling southbound on I-275 when he exited onto the ramp to 118th Avenue. As he was traversing a right curve on the ramp, he lost control of his 2002 Ford Explorer and traveled onto the inside shoulder.

Troopers say he then overcorrected to the right, traveled back across the single-lane ramp and onto the grassy shoulder on the north side of the road. The vehicle overturned multiple times. Quinones, who was not wearing a seat belt, was ejected from the vehicle. He died at the scene.

His passenger, Melissa Lopez, 31, of Largo, was wearing a seat belt. She suffered serious injuries and was transported to Bayfront Medical Care.

Detectives seek burglary suspect

CLEARWATER – Detectives with Pinellas County Sheriff's Burglary & Pawn Unit are asking the public for help to locate a man wanted in connection with a burglary at a Clearwater air conditioning and heating business.

The burglary occurred “during the midnight hours” between Wednesday, April 9, and Thursday, April 10, at Cox Air Conditioning & Heating, 2198 Calumet St. in unincorporated, Clearwater, according to the sheriff's report.

Detectives said the suspect gained access to the property by cutting the chain link fence that surrounds the business. The suspect broke into two company vehicles stored inside of the fenced in area and then began to fill a 30-gallon rubber garbage can with air conditioning and heating related parts.

The suspect is described as a middle-aged white or Hispanic male with a thin build and short dark hair. He was last seen wearing a dark blue T-shirt, khaki cargo shorts and dark colored shoes.

Anyone with information on this robbery is asked to contact Detective Bergstrom of the Burglary & Pawn Unit at 727-582-6200 or to remain anonymous and be eligible for a reward to contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-873-TIPS or www.crimestopper-sopinellas.org.

Michigan man drowns during triathlon

TIERRA VERDE – A 64-year-old Michigan man died at a local hospital Saturday morning after he was pulled from the waters offshore Fort De Soto Park, 3500 Pinellas Bayway S., St. Petersburg.

According to the Pinellas County Sheriff's report, the victim, Donald Bautel, was participating in the “Escape for Fort De Soto” triathlon. Witnesses said that during the swimming portion, he appeared to be drowning. Swimmers in the area pulled him from the water, began CPR and called 911.

Deputies and emergency medical service personnel responded to the call for help about 8:16 a.m. April 19. Bautel was transported to a local hospital where he died. Deputies said the drowning appears to be accidental and may be health related.

Dunedin firefighters report sinkhole

DUNEDIN – A 10-foot by 10-foot hole about 10 feet deep opened up in the roadway at 1311 Powderpuff Drive in Dunedin Thursday afternoon.

The Dunedin Fire Department responded to the scene about 1:30 p.m. April 17 and reported that the hole did not seem to be increasing in size.

“No homes evacuated and no injuries,” firefighters said.

City crews investigated the underground storm drainage and sewer pipes in the area. Dunedin Firefighters reported at 3:45 p.m. that all underground pipes were checked and intact.

“Opening is now believed to be a sinkhole,” the report said. “City crews are going to fill in the hole shortly. No evacuations or injuries.”

Man, 24, charged in girlfriend's death

CLEARWATER – Alexander Richardson, 24, of Clearwater is charged in the shooting death of his girlfriend, 51-year-old Josephine Austria.

Richardson ran to a convenience store on April 19 to report the shooting, a Clearwater police report said. He had told someone at the residence, where they were

hosting a birthday party, that Austria was in the bathroom bleeding before he left the scene, 2368 Hillcreek Circle East shortly after 1 a.m. That person found the victim unresponsive and bleeding from the head. Richardson is charged with second-degree murder and use of a firearm under the influence of alcohol or a chemical substance. He is being held at the Pinellas County Jail without bail.



Alexander Richardson

Man pleads guilty in fatal crash

CLEARWATER – Christopher Weed, 29, of Clearwater, pled guilty in court on April 16 to leaving the scene of an accident that killed two bicyclists in September on the Memorial Causeway, according to a police report.

He was charged with leaving the scene of a crash that involved injury and leaving the scene of a crash involving death. Sentencing is set for next month.

www.TBNweekly.com

VIP Academy graduates



Photo courtesy of LARGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Graduates of Largo Police Department's 20th Volunteer in Policing, or VIP, Academy are, from left, Susana Montoya, Jim Isham, Haig Pakhchanian, Eric Romkey, Donna Nagel and Diana Wyman. The most recent VIP Academy met on Thursdays, beginning March 13 and concluding with graduation ceremony April 17. VIPs help the department with tasks that vary from administrative paperwork, to writing parking enforcement citations and directing traffic at crash scenes. For more information about becoming a Largo Police Department volunteer, call volunteer coordinator Dick Hageman at 587-6739.

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Pinellas appoints interim administrator

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Commissioners voted unanimously April 22 to waive the policy on voting at work sessions and approved the appointment of Mark S. Woodard as acting county administrator.

Commissioner John Morroni was absent. Woodard will take over the work of former county administrator Bob LaSala, who was terminated without cause on April 15.

"I'm glad he's there," said Commissioner Ken Welch. "He's fully qualified."

Woodard has worked for Pinellas County since 1988, most recently as an assistant county administrator. He began his stint at the county as a senior financial management analyst and then director of the Office of Management and Budget.

"I am gratified by the confidence shown to me by the Board of Commissioners," Woodard said in a press release. "I have always been proud to serve the citizens of this county, and I look forward to working with the commissioners, staff and citizens as we continue to strengthen our community and enhance the quality of life we enjoy here in Pinellas County."

Woodard had applied for the administrator's position during a search that led to LaSala's hiring after previous administrator Steve Spratt resigned. Woodard withdrew his application.

Commission Chair Karen Seel said she planned to have a full discussion on a search for LaSala's replacement on May 20.

"I want to talk now," Commissioner Janet Long said. "I want to let



Screenshot by SUZETTE PORTER

Acting Pinellas County Administrator Mark Woodard answers questions after his appointment at an April 22 work session.

the citizens know we're on top of this issue."

"I concur," said Commissioner Susan Latvala. "This can be a lengthy process or it can be a short process. There is no purpose in delaying it. Life will go on."

Seel said she preferred the search be done by Peggy Rowe, director of Human Resources instead of an outside recruiter.

"We need to decide what characteristics and traits we're looking for," she said, adding that an external search could take as long as a year.

"I don't have a whole lot of heartburn about not doing it today," Welch said. "I'm comfortable with Mark being here. We've stabilized the organization."

Latvala and Long said they would at least like to talk about how the commission would move forward with a search.

The consensus was to move the discussion to

May 6.

Seel requested permission to negotiate a contract with Woodard for his interim duties.

"I'm almost a 26-year employee," Woodard said. "I don't seek a contract."

He said he was committed to serving the board and would not be opposed to additional salary for the extra work.

"But I don't need a travel allowance of perks or extra benefits that average employees don't receive," he said.

The commission also will vote on a formal agreement with Woodard on May 6.

Briefs

Registration open for Passport Adventures

LARGO – Starting in June, Heritage Village, at 11909 125th St. N. in Largo, is offering a Passport Adventures program for children, ages 4 to 11.

The two-hour hands-on program is designed for summer camps, recreation, church and other groups. The sessions begin at 10 a.m., Wednesday through Friday, June 25 to Aug. 8. The cost of participation is \$3 per child. Adult supervision and pre-registration are required.

The groups will spend time in the old Florida piney woods, touring historical houses and partici-

pating in kid-friendly "EnterAction Stations." Children will explore, play and learn about daily life activities, games and stories of the past.

Following the class, registrants are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch and visit the gift shop. Dozent teen volunteers will host the tours. For more information or to register for the program, call 582-2125. Group size of 60 to 120 students is preferred, although smaller groups can be accommodated. For more information on EnterAction Stations, visit Heritage Village at www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

JWB welcomes new chief financial officer

ST. PETERSBURG – The Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County recently announced that Brian Jaruszewski has been named Chief Financial Officer. Jaruszewski officially began his employment on March 31.

In his role as CFO, Jaruszewski will plan, direct and supervise the work of the professional staff and administrative support personnel engaged in the activities of

Operation Medicine Cabinet set for April 26

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is set for its eleventh installment of Operation Medicine Cabinet Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is being held in conjunction with DEAs National Take Back Day.

Participating police departments include St. Petersburg, Pinellas Park, Clearwater and Kenneth City.

Operation Medicine Cabinet is an opportunity for citizens to discard safely unused or expired prescription medications; and is a multi-agency effort aimed at addressing the problem of prescription drug abuse and keeping a clean environment.

Operation Medicine Cabinet events began in May 2009 and have continued semi-annually. The OMC events, along with OMC's permanent drop-off containers within the community, have collected 18,111.5 pounds of medications to date.

Citizens are invited to stop by any one of the seven locations during the designated times to drop off their unused and expired prescription medications for safe collection and disposal – no questions asked.

Operation Medicine Cabinet is designed to educate the public and raise awareness about the problem of prescription drug abuse. The problem has reached epidemic proportions, with prescription drugs as the No. 1 abused drug in the United States, surpassing all other illicit drugs.

Please be aware that no biohazards or needles will be accepted and that the program is intended for private citizens of Pinellas County and not for commercial use.

South County Locations:

- St. Petersburg Police Department lobby, 1300 First Ave. N.
- St. Pete Beach Rec Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Drive
- Kenneth City Police Department, 600 58th St. N., Kenneth City

Mid County Locations:

- Pinellas Park Police Department, 7700 59th St. N., Pinellas Park
- Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Administration Building – front lot, 10750 Ulmerton Road, Largo

North County Locations:

- Westfield Countryside Mall (between LA Fitness & JC Penney's), 27001 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater
- Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, North District Station - front parking lot, 737 Loudon Ave., Dunedin.

As a reminder, drop off sites are not located inside the stores (Westfield) but in the parking lot area. Residents should look for a law enforcement presence at each of the selected drop-off sites.

Also, please be aware that the drop-off containers inside the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Central Station (Largo) and North District Station (Dunedin) will be temporarily closed during the countywide event.

For more information, call the sheriff's Public Information Office at 582-6221.

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New Port Richey Main Library
 Wednesday May 7, 2014 at 2 pm
 5939 Main Street, New Port Richey
 Located near City Hall

Arbor Oaks Assisted Living
 Thursday May 8, 2014 at 2 pm
 1701 68th Street North, St. Petersburg
 (Near Tyrone Mall behind Chili's)

Largo Library
 Friday May 9, 2014 at 2 pm
 120 Central Park Drive, Largo
 Jenkins Room
 (Just across from The Largo Cultural Arts Center)

South Shore Regional Library
 Wednesday May 14, 2014 at 2 pm
 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin, Florida.
 (Off 19th Ave. N.E.) (813-273-3652)

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Alzheimer's Disease: What Family Caregivers Need to Know
 SPONSOR: Sean W. Scott, Esq., Elder Law Attorney
 DATE: May 22, 2014 TIME: 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
 LUNCH: will be provided.
 PLACE: St Pete College, Library Conference Room
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 (across from Seminole Post Office)
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 REGISTRATION: For more information or to register, call (813) 974-4357

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Pinellas to pay back taxes to Pasco Alex Sink declines run for Congress

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Commissioners ordered staff to pay the back taxes owed to Pasco County on Cross Bar and Al Bar ranches during an April 15 meeting. They also approved a long-overdue contract with local hospitals for indigent health care.

It was a day for controversial issues, starting with a unanimous vote to fire the county administrator.

Then after regular business concluded during the afternoon portion of the meeting, Commissioner Norm Roche made two proposals about the county's ranch lands in Pasco County. First, he wanted an ordinance to require two public hearings and a supermajority vote of the commission to sell the ranches. Second, he wanted staff to pay the past-due taxes on the land.

Pasco County recently approached the county about purchasing one or both ranches. The majority of the commission voted against selling. County Attorney Jim Bennett said an ordinance could be written to provide requirements similar to those in place for selling of regional parks. The consensus of the commission was against moving forward.

However, all were in favor of taking care of the tax issue.

Pinellas County stopped paying taxes on the land in Pasco in 2012, after commissioners were advised they didn't have to pay. Pasco County sold tax certificates on some of the land in 2012. Pasco now is threatening to issue tax certificates for 2013 taxes. If the tax certificates aren't redeemed the land could be sold at auction.

"I want that resolved, yesterday," said Commissioner Susan Latvala, in response to the more than \$113,000 in past-due taxes and penalties. "This needs to be resolved."

"We got into this mess because we received info that we didn't owe the taxes," Commissioner Janet Long said.

The consensus was to pay what is owed to redeem the 2012 tax certificates and negotiate with Pasco County for the 2013 bill.

"We don't want to complicate things with more certificates sold," Bennett said. "Let's clean it up. Buy the certificates and then work it out."

Commission Chair Karen Seel said she would like to have a discussion on assigning contracts for management of Cross Bar and Al Bar ranches to Pasco County.

"The money we paid them would be the tax bill," she said.

Pasco County recently approached the county about purchasing one or both ranches. The majority of the commission voted against selling.

Hospital contract approved

A dispute between the county and local hospitals

over a new funding formula delayed approval of a contract for indigent health care for more than six months. Commissioners unanimously approved a renegotiated agreement using the former funding agreement April 15.

The commission approved a "master health program" agreement for an amount not to exceed \$3.39 million Aug. 6, 2013. After the approval, Health and Community Services personnel were asked to review the funding formula, prior to executing the individual contracts.

Not all hospitals were happy with the results due to a disagreement on the number of indigent patients being treated. The hospitals count was higher than that of county staff. Contracts were not executed. Care was being provided only in life-and-death cases.

Commissioners recently agreed to an increase in funding by \$390,000 to cover the additional care and ensure access to care by clients enrolled in the county's health program. They also agreed to revert to the former funding formula. The new contract began Oct. 1, 2013 and continues through Sept. 30, 2014.

The additional funding restores the funding level for Bayfront HMA Medical Center LLC and increases funding for Baycare Health Systems Inc. by \$390,000.

Bayfront HMA will receive up to \$1.41 million, the same as in fiscal year 2013. Baycare will receive up to \$1.73 million, a decrease of \$390,000 from FY 2013, and Florida Hospital North Pinellas will receive up to \$30,000, a decrease of \$97,500 from last year.

Funding for the contracts will come from the Health Program Trust Fund accounts and money appropriated to the Department of Health and Community Services.

In other business, the commission:

- Listened to a request for funding of a proposed Tampa Bay Advanced Manufacturing Skills Initiative program, using a proven German training-apprenticeship model. State legislators are considering a funding request of \$1.2 million. If initial funding is approved, the organization needs another \$200,000 from two counties in the Tampa Bay area for two subsequent years.

- Received notice that the county attorney's office is defending against a lawsuit filed by John and Monica Reyner, who allege that the county's stormwater system is polluting Lake Sylvia, a privately owned lake in Seminole.

The lake's owners have spent about 30 years trying to get the county to assist in cleaning up the pollution caused by runoff. The Reyners are asking the court to make the county stop the runoff and pollution, and remove the alleged pollution in the lake. They are seeking damages in excess of \$15,000 plus attorney's fee and court cost.

By SUZETTE PORTER

Alex Sink announced April 15 that she is not running for the District 13 Congressional seat in the 2014 election.



Alex Sink

"I want to thank every voter, volunteer and donor for standing beside me these past months – we can all be proud of the strong campaign we ran," Sink said in a post on her Facebook page. "While I will not seek election in 2014, I will continue our dialogue here so that we

can continue to work together to find new ways to continue to find common ground, to promote problem solving and find commonsense solutions to our most pressing problems."

Sink, 65, represented the Democrats against Republican David Jolly, 41, during a special election on March 11 to pick a replacement to fill the seat left vacant when longtime U.S. Rep. C.W. Bill Young died Oct. 18, 2013. Jolly won with 48 percent of the vote. Sink brought in 46 percent.

"... I look forward to continuing to do good. I remain totally convinced that a Democrat can and will win this congressional seat in the fall, and I look forward to helping the Democratic nominee," Sink said.

BRIEFS, from page 6A

years of progressively-responsible public sector experience in the areas of finance, IT systems, and government contracting.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Brian join our team," said Dr. Marcie Biddleman, executive director of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County. "His extensive background and experience navigating the intricacies of government finance are impressive. Moreover, his track record of accountability and transparency coupled with his commitment to staff development are a good match for our organization."

Tax Collector joins Lauren's Kids

CLEARWATER – Employees at the Pinellas County Tax Collector's Office are teaming up with Lauren's Kids in April to raise awareness and help prevent childhood sexual abuse.

Lauren's Kids educates adults and children about sexual abuse topics through in-school curriculum, a 24-hour Crisis Hotline and speaking engagements around the country. Their mission is to prevent sexual abuse through awareness and education, and to help survivors heal with guidance and support.

There are more than 42 million survivors of sexual

abuse in America. One in three girls are sexually abused before the age of 18 and one in five boys are sexually abused before the age of 18. One in five children are solicited sexually while on the Internet before the age of 18. Thirty percent of sexual abuse is never reported.

Children are safer when parents and caregivers take the time to teach preventative tactics to their children and become educated about the warning signs of abuse.

"It is of the utmost importance to protect our children and Lauren's Kids is giving a voice to an issue that can be difficult to discuss," said Pinellas County Tax Collector Diane Nelson.

For more on Lauren's Kids visit laurenskids.org. Show support by getting a Lauren's Kids specialty license plate at all Pinellas County Tax Collector offices. Sexual abuse is a crime, and it's important to seek professional help and call law enforcement.



Lauren's Kids specialty license plates are available at Pinellas County Tax Collector's offices.

Register now for Fair Housing Symposium

CLEARWATER – Registration is underway for the 11th annual Fair Housing Symposium, presented by the Tampa Bay Fair Housing Consortium, on Friday, April 25, 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Pinellas Realtors Organization auditorium, 4590 Ulmertown Road.

The event, co-sponsored by the Pinellas County Office of Human Rights, gives fair housing information. Featured speakers include Wesley Aleshire, a national fair housing trainer; Steve Tomkowiak, a former judicial clerk with the U.S. District Court in

Michigan's Eastern District; and Max Lapertosa, a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice. Among the topics covered will be lending discrimination, domestic violence and rights and responsibilities related to assistance animals.

Advance registration is \$30. Cost is \$35 at the door. Visit www.gtar.org to register online and for more information about the Symposium. Check-in begins at 8 a.m. If special accommodations are required, registrants can call Mark Esparza at 464-4801 or email mesparza@co.pinellas.fl.us.



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Pinellas unemployment down slightly as state numbers inch up

By SUZETTE PORTER

Pinellas County's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March is down a full percentage point from March 2013, according to the reported released April 18 by Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Pinellas reported a rate of 6.3 percent in 2014 and 7.3 percent in 2013. The county's unemployment rate also is down slightly from February with a reported 6.4 percent. The report also reveals a growing labor force, up 10,446 from March 2013 and up 3,499 from February 2014.

The unemployment rate for the local metropolitan statistical area declined, going from 6.6 percent in February to 6.5 percent in March – a full percent

lower than March 2013. The MSA's labor force increased 31,773 over the year and 11,145 from February.

The local MSA includes Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties.

In 2013, the local MSA led the state in over-the-year job growth. Thus far, in 2014, it has come in third behind Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford with 33,300 new jobs, Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall with 32,900 jobs, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater reported 30,000 new jobs.

The Tampa Bay MSA was first in online job demand with 41,076 job openings, according to a press release from the governor's office.

Pinellas County tied with Palm Beach, Volusia, Hillsborough and Gilchrist counties for the No. 31

rank by unemployment rate. Flagler County was No. 1 with the highest unemployment, 9.3 percent. Monroe and Walton counties had the lowest with 3.8 percent.

Hernando County, which is included in the local MSA, reported the fourth highest rate, 8.5 percent. Pasco County ranked No. 17 with 7.2 percent unemployment.

The March report wasn't as good for the state. The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went up from 6.3 percent in February to 6.4 percent in March. Still, unemployment is down a full percentage point from March 2013 when the state reported a rate of 7.4 percent.

The national unemployment not seasonally adjusted rate dropped from 7.0 percent in February to

6.8 percent in March. The rate reported in March 2013 was 7.6 percent.

The industry that gained the most jobs in the state thus far this year is professional and business services with an increase of 48,000. Trade, transportation and utilities came in second with 47,500 jobs, followed by leisure and hospitality with 42,100 jobs and construction with 41,000 new jobs. Government reported the fewest new jobs, only 300.

In the Tampa Bay region, professional and business services also led the way in job growth with 9,000 new jobs, followed by trade, transportation and utilities, which added 6,400 jobs; manufacturing with 4,100 jobs; and education and health services with 4,100 jobs.

Briefcase

Salon West named to Salon Today 200

LARGO – Salon West of Largo Inc., owned by Mike and Laura Peters, recently was named to the Salon Today 200 by Salon Today magazine.

The magazine's 17th annual Salon Today 200 issue profiled the selected salons in its January 2014 edition. The 200 salons were selected for their best business practices from applications submitted by Salon Today readers, who represent the 25,000 top-producing salons and spas in the country.

The magazine honored applicants in 11 different best practice categories, including Advanced Education, Compensation & Benefits, Customer Service, Environmental Sustainability, Philanthropy, Planned Profitability, Recruitment & Training, Retail & Merchandising, Retention & Referral Programs, Technology and Growth. Salon West of Largo Inc. was honored in the following category: Growth.

"Our editors recognize that strong business leadership requires the mastery of a number of different best business practices," said Stacey Soble in a press release. Soble is editor-in-chief of Salon Today. "The salons named to the Salon Today 200 for 2014 not only proved they excel in one or more of these areas, they also have created rewarding environments for their staff members and standout experiences for their clients. Their willingness to share their success offers our readers important business benchmarks and inspirational sales-building ideas."

Island Vape Shop opens

CLEARWATER – Island Vape Shop recently opened at 61 Baymont St., Clearwater Beach.

Owned by Andrew Nawoichik, Island Vape shop sells e-cig products and personal vaporizers. Customers can come in to taste, buy and set up their E-Cigs. Island Vape Shop also has a lounge area with tables and chairs.

Nawoichik started selling E-Cigs in November 2012 as an online retailer. Headquartered on Clearwater Beach, the company boasts an online store and now the brick-and-mortar location.

"Vaping" is the act of inhaling vaporized flavored liquids using an atomizer, a battery tube, a lithium ion battery, and a drip tip, all assembled in a handheld cylinder designed to be similar to the shape of a cigarette.

Quality Hotel Beach Resort wins award

CLEARWATER – The Quality Hotel Beach Resort of Clearwater Beach was recently announced as a recipient of a 2014 Gold Hospitality Award from one of the world's largest hotel companies, Choice Hotels International Inc., franchisor of the Quality Hotel brand.

"The Quality Hotel Beach Resort's commitment to excellence and outstanding guest service has earned it this well-deserved recognition as one of the best hotels among the Quality brand," said Stephen P. Joyce in a press release. Joyce is president and chief executive officer for Choice Hotels International. "We here at

Choice Hotels are very proud to award this distinguished honor to the Quality Hotel Beach Resort."

Stahl appointed as VP

Scott Fleming, president of BT Wealth Advisors and managing director of Wealth Management for the Bank of Tampa, recently announced the appointment of Greg Stahl as vice president and wealth advisor for BT Wealth Advisors.



Greg Stahl

Stahl brings to BT Wealth Advisors an accomplished background of nearly 10 years of investment advisory and wealth management experience, all of which has been spent in Tampa Bay. He was previously employed by SunTrust Investment Services as a vice president and financial advisor.

Stahl is a graduate of Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Dillard's, REH to host fashion show

CLEARWATER – Ruth Eckerd Hall will present the fifth annual fundraising fashion show Friday, May 2, 8:30 a.m., in front of Dillard's indoor mall entrance on the lower level at Westfield Countryside Mall, 27001 U.S. 19 N.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the educational programs at the Marcia P. Hoffman School of the Arts. Tickets are \$35, which includes breakfast and the fashion show. VIP tickets also are available for \$75 and include VIP seating, breakfast, fashion show and a \$25 Dillard's gift certificate valid only May 2.

The morning will begin with breakfast, followed by a fashion show that will feature the latest trends of the season and will be hosted by comedian Tim Wilkins. Then, attendees may spend the day receiving personalized beauty consultations, makeovers, selected gifts with purchase, cosmetic samples and much more. Ruth Eckerd Hall will host an opportunity drawing for a \$1,000 Dillard's shopping spree.

For information and to purchase tickets, call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhal.com.

Tampa Bay Times wins 2014 Pulitzer Prize

ST. PETERSBURG – The Tampa Bay Times recently won journalism's most prestigious award, the Pulitzer Prize, for local reporting.

The 2014 Pulitzer Prize in Local Reporting was awarded to Will Hobson and Michael LaForgia for their exposure of the unsafe housing conditions provided to the homeless by the Hillsborough County's Homeless Recovery program. Their work, which also exposed the problems in the management of the program, led to significant reform of the county's program.

This is the 10th Pulitzer Prize for the Times and the first in local reporting category.

"We have won a Pulitzer for investigative reporting in Pasco County and last year for an editorial campaign that had a huge political impact in Pinellas County. This year's Pulitzer shows the breadth and depth of the Times' commitment to journalistic excellence in all of Tampa Bay," said Times Editor Neil Brown.

This is the fourth Pulitzer Prize since 2009 and the second under the new banner, Tampa Bay Times. In 2012, the Times changed the name of the paper from the St. Petersburg Times to better reflect

See BRIEF CASE, page 9A

STATE GOVERNMENTS STEP UP ENFORCEMENT ON ARCHAIC PROPERTY SEIZURE LAW

The State of Florida is looking to boost escheatment revenue by claiming abandonment due to inactivity. What It Is and Why You Should Care...

Largo, FL. – Based on the Unclaimed Property Laws in Florida, your stocks, bonds, mutual fund accounts, bank accounts, as well as physical property stored in safe deposit boxes are subject to "Escheatment" (transfer of property to the state).

Thousands of Floridians may be negatively impacted by this aggressive, unwarranted, medieval law and your personal property could be transferred to the states Unclaimed Property Division in accordance with applicable abandoned property laws. To make matters worse, seized assets are required to be liquidated and proceeds are deposited into the State School Fund until the owner comes forward to claim them. Imagine the unintended tax consequences and irreparable damage this would cause. Our greedy politicians will stop at nothing

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BRIEF CASE, from page 8A

the community it already had been serving. The Times is the only Florida newspaper to win a 2014 Pulitzer Prize.

CSF to host workshops

The Community Service Foundation will host its free first-time homebuyers workshop Tuesdays, May 6 and 13, 6 to 9 p.m., at the Sunshine Center, 330 Fifth St. N., St. Petersburg.

The two-part workshop is designed to help first-time homebuyers go through the process of purchasing a home and qualifying for down payment and closing costs assistance. Participants must attend both sessions to earn a certificate.

The foundation also will host its free, two-part financial fitness workshop Wednesdays, May 14 and 21, at Pinellas County Housing Authority, 11479 Ulmerton Road, Largo.

The workshop is designed for people who want to live better on less and/or to save to buy a home. Participants must attend both sessions to earn a certificate.

For more information or to register, call 446-3532 or visit www.csfhome.org.

PostcardMania named a top workplace

CLEARWATER – PostcardMania, a Clearwater-based marketing company, recently was selected for the second year in a row as a Tampa Bay Times Top Workplaces Workplace Achiever.

Top Workplace findings are based solely on employee feedback via a third-party employee survey.

Survey results were based on a number of internal factors, including: open workplace communication, upper management transparency, successful execution of planned strategies to improve workplace conditions and more.

"I am so thrilled that PostcardMania is a Tampa Bay Top Workplace for the second year in a row," said Joy Gendusa in a press release. Gendusa is CEO and founder of PostcardMania. "It's so important to know that, as a business owner, you're doing a good job at making your staff feel valued and appreciated."

PostcardMania came in at No. 14 in the Medium Business category (150-499 employees) and leapt up 11 spaces from last year's ranking at No. 25.

HomeBanc N.A. named top workplace

HomeBanc N.A. recently was selected as one of the Tampa Bay Times Top Workplaces for the second year in a row.

HomeBanc was ranked as the No. 1 bank to work for out of 50 companies in the small business category.

"Receiving the Top Workplaces recognition from

the Tampa Bay Times for a second year in a row validates our continued efforts to build HomeBanc's recognition as a Great Place to Work and a Great Place to Bank in our communities," said Jerry Campbell in a press release. Campbell is chairman, president and CEO of HomeBanc N.A. "We will continue to follow a set of values which include the simple golden rule of treating people as you would like to be treated, including our employees and our customers."

In addition to being named as a Top Workplace, HomeBanc N.A. has received a 5 Star Superior rating from BauerFinancial Inc.; was named the top bank to work for on Florida Trend magazine's Best Companies to Work for in Florida list for the second year in a row; and was named the No. 2 bank headquartered in Florida for 7(a) SBA lending by the Small Business Administration.

Seminole Pinch-A-Penny employees recognized

SEMINOLE – Seminole Pinch-A-Penny recently awarded three employees for their combined service totaling more than 50 years of experience in the pool and spa (hot tub) industry.

The experts – Tom Acheson, general manager; Chuck Sanders, assistant manager; and "DJ" Johnson, field service technician – attend continuing education courses on equipment maintenance and the latest innovations in pool and spa pumps, filters, cleaners, heaters, automation, and salt systems to the chemistry of pool and spa care.

"In the 12 years I've worked for Pinch-a-Penny, I'd say I've serviced about 10,000 pools," Johnson said in a press release. He also is certified by Dimension One Spas.

"We've seen just about everything," said Acheson. "Whether it comes in the store for a free water test or repair service; or out in the field with DJ, we're here to help. If it's something we don't have, we can special order it or provide a referral. Everybody's pool is different. It's a science and an art."

Sanders is now tasked with a new division for this entity, as he will be overseeing pool-cleaning operations.

"There's always a different element to contend with on each homeowner's pool," Sanders said. "We hope to make every pool an enjoyable place for everyone to spend time in their own backyards."

Seminole Pinch-A-Penny, owned by long-time Seminole residents Tricia and Don Nuckols, is a local franchise of the Clearwater-based company boasting an entire network of stores in Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

Anthony Little joins Clear Track

CLEARWATER – Clear Track Recording Studios recently announced that award-winning, multi-platinum songwriter and record producer Anthony Little will join the studio as executive director, responsible

Schooner Hotel changes ownership

MADEIRA BEACH – The Schooner Hotel, 14500 Gulf Blvd., was sold April 11 for \$2 million by FCP II of Fort Worth, Texas to Selenski Rentals LLC of Madeira Beach.

The new owner is Brian Selenski who also owns the Beach Suites Resort next door. According to a press release, the two properties will be combined.

The Schooner currently has 17 rooms with space for two more. The Beach Suites Resorts features 13 suites.

The Schooner and the Beach Suites were recently renovated with new tile floors, granite counters, flat screen TVs, new furniture and artwork.

The Schooner and Beach Suites are among the last remaining old school Florida hotels in Madeira Beach after the Surf's Inn was demolished to make way for new luxury condos.



Photo by BOB McCLURE

The Schooner Hotel, 14500 Gulf Blvd., Madeira Beach, was sold for \$2 million on April 11.

The real estate agents who handled the Schooner sale were Pat Calhoun from Smith and Associates and Brad Selenski of the K Company.

for all studio operations.

With 25 years in the industry, and an accomplished musician in his own right, Little will bring his experience in business management and artist development to Clear Track Recording Studios. His passion and enthusiasm for every element of the music recording business will go into his commitment to Clear Track's future expansion in the Tampa Bay area and beyond.

"We are excited to have Anthony join our team here at Clear Track and look forward to a great year under his creative direction," said Mike Johnson in a press release. Johnson is owner and chief engineer of Clear Track.

"I think what I do best is help artists navigate through the land mines of the industry to create a space where they can discover their highest potential," said Little. "Clear Track Recording Studios is a great collaborative place for the entire creative process, especially with their dedicated engineers and talented producers. We are passionate about working with artists at every level to bring their unique sound to the marketplace."

Decker Ross welcomes Tempesta

CLEARWATER – Designer Marci Tempesta recently joined Decker Ross Interiors of Clearwater.

Tempesta joined the Decker Ross design team after graduating with her master's degree in interior design from Florida State University's CIDA accredited interior design program. Before attaining her degree, she graduated Cum Laude with a bachelor's

degree from Florida State University. During her education, she received various honors for her design work which was showcased in gallery shows for the Interior Design Department.

Originally from Massachusetts, Tempesta relocated to Florida with her family, where she attended high school and college and now calls the Tampa Bay area home.

"Marci has extensive knowledge of a wide variety of design styles, and with her attention to detail, she has established herself as a valuable addition to our versatile design staff," said owner Suzan Decker Ross, ASID, in a press release.

Dayton joins First Home Bank

SEMINOLE – Steve Dayton recently joined the First Home Bank mortgage lending team at the Seminole office.

Dayton has been a successful mortgage professional in Pinellas County for more than 18 years. For the last six years, he has worked in the community bank environment matching borrowers with the best possible programs to meet their needs. Dayton earned a bachelor's degree in finance at the University of South Florida.



Steve Dayton

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Be your own best advocate

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

One of the most difficult things for patients, is knowing how to ask questions of a doctor. You owe it to yourself to ask these questions, especially when it comes to prescribed medications. Take a list of your current medications and vitamin intake along with you. It is important to review each drug recommended and learn of all the side effects that are a possibility. Because time is limited it is important to make a list of any questions you have pertaining to your health so you are sure to get your answers before walking out the door. Jot down the answers if you fear you may not remember them.

Invite a friend or caregiver you trust to go on doctor visits along with you for support. This person does not need to speak for you but their presence may ensure that someone is caring for you. This relative or friend can help you remember the key points made by your doctor. If you're not sure you understand what is happening, ask questions until you feel comfortable.

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

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

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

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LETTERS

So much for one man, one vote

Editor:

As a nation we find ourselves blessed with an abundance of that element that has eluded mankind since civilization first emerged. I refer here to security from those who would harm us. With the vast expanse of the great oceans separating us from potential enemies, our shores seem inviolable. On and below the seas, in the air and even in space we have created a seemingly impenetrable umbrella of protection. Combined with our unparalleled ability to retaliate, in kind, only the foolish would consider engaging us militarily. In spite of this shield, we continue focusing our attention outwardly when searching for danger, when it should be apparent the imminent threat to America lies from within.

I refer here to the fact many of those freedoms and rights we cherished in the past are today merely an illusion. The prime and most significant example of this is the belief the citizens of this nation elect those who will represent them in congress, and that it is these same citizens those elected intend to serve. In reality from the moment our representatives step off the plane and onto the tarmac in Washington, and in most cases long before, they and their vote have already been co-opted by those with the financial wherewithal to pay the asking price for their allegiance. In truth, their election was not a result of conscious support from the electorate, it came about because of the vast sums of money funneled into their campaigns by the ultra wealthy, and anyone naive enough to think these people didn't expect a return on their investment would do well to seek permanent residency in Fantasy Land.

As if this was not bad enough, it is about to get worse. Three recent decisions by the conservative led John Roberts Court have seen to that. Consider the ramifications of their rulings regarding the intrusion of money into politics. I refer specifically to the decisions that ruled in effect, Corporations are people, PACs could not be limited in political spending and now their most recent ruling, that individuals could not be limited in what they donate to campaigns. That the court feels money is entitled to a vote is a given.

Sadly, no one from the right is on record questioning these decisions. It gives one reason to speculate as to the attitude of conservatives had the court ruled that in future elections each eligible voter would be entitled to one vote for every \$1 of their net worth. While on the surface this proposal may seem farfetched this is exactly what the court has implied as a result of the three decisions they rendered.

The court's willingness to ignore the corrupting influence of money in politics has opened the floodgates. This will eventually result in the destruction of the system that for so long assured we would remain a Democratic Republic. That is, if this hasn't already occurred. America was founded on the premise of one man, one vote. The court's recent decisions in effect sell to the highest bidder the right to disenfranchise the average citizen from that promise. This conclusion is based on the fact the wealthiest citizens, those who now hold a virtual stranglehold on our government by virtue of their financial advantage, will most certainly put an end to the dreams of the authors of the American Constitution, the dream of government of the people, by the people and for the people, a premise we cherished since the moment we were founded.

Robert Shaw
Madeira Beach

Saunders ignores facts on Obamacare

Re: Obamacare: Just magical thinking, April 10

Editor:

Once again, TBN newspapers show their true colors: anything to discredit a black man in the White House!

Had the TBN done its due diligence as responsible journalists, you would have discovered that this article by Debra Saunders ignores the facts and the truth regarding the Affordable Care Act. Worse, the article goes on to distort the realities of both the ACA and healthcare in the U.S.A., the most expensive for-profit healthcare system in the world!

Any attempt to right the wrongs of the U.S. healthcare debacle results in floods of money to create lies and distorted opinions from the insurance industry, the healthcare industry, and ultra-right politicians, whose siren songs lure the gullible.

Here is one link, out of a host of links, that afford responsible journalists with the facts and the truth: www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2014/mar/18/john-boehner/john-boehner-says-more-people-are-uninsured-obama.

Mike MacDonald
Clearwater

Editor's note: Tampa Bay Newspapers strives to print columns from conservative as well as liberal journalists on its Viewpoints pages. The columnists' opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Light rail: An inexpensive way to go

Editor:

Although I am sorry to see that planned transportation improvements, if approved by voters in November, will increase the sales tax, hurting some folks, they also will help them by providing inexpensive rides to distant jobs. When I was entering high school in 1944, I lived on the west side of Cleveland, Ohio.

I chose to attend an all boys Catholic High School on the far east side of Cleveland.

No problem: I took a bus to downtown and then light rail to the school area. Many years later, I returned to Cleveland, having retired from the U.S. Marine Corps (1968). My job required much air travel. Fortunately, I could drive to the light rail station a few blocks from my home, leave the car there without charge and speed to the airport. I travel for pleasure now, but have a friend to ride with me to Tampa Airport and take my car home to avoid large parking fees. I take the shuttle home, but light rail would be preferred.

Bob McEwen,
Indian Shores

Missed opportunity on bridge work

Editor:

Two articles in the Beach Beacon struck a nerve with me this week.

1. Park Boulevard bridge repairs delayed
Last October the county announced the bridge would be closed in June 2014.

Wouldn't all these documented delays in the article had been in the process already at the time they announced the anticipated closure? The Project Engineer is just now finalizing a contract and getting it out for bids? Seems like that would have been almost completed when they announced the initial closure dates.

The real issue is now it appears the bridge will be closed as schools resume in the fall so school buses will need to be re-routed and northern tourists, part-time residents return for the winter adding additional traffic. Seems like an opportunity missed here to complete the repairs when the least amount of impact to the community would have been realized.

2. Residents urged to use sidewalks
The captain makes a good point but where this accident occurred at Spitzer Park at the intersection of 176th Avenue East and 176th Terrace Drive E, there are no sidewalks. The only sidewalk in the area is on 175th Avenue East

To flip a full size Cadillac in a residential area, speed had to be the issue, hopefully more patrols will remedy that.

Using sidewalks is always the recommended. But I hope the captain and the Indian Shores Police Department recognizes the more important issue in this accident was excessive speed and speeding in general in our residential neighborhoods.

Dale Carnell
Redington Beach

Getting hooked on magazines



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

Is there a medically-recognized ailment known as magazine addiction? If not, perhaps there should be. Victims of this ailment can be easily recognized, usually by the postal workers who must lug the magazines to the addressee's doorstep and try to somehow fit the periodicals into the mailbox.

Magazine addiction has several causes, although an average addict may not manifest every symptom. Loneliness and a sense of isolation can be a trigger. If I feel disconnected to the human race, the arrival of a dozen or more magazines each month can make me feel plugged in to the world. If Sally flunked out of high school and is tired of hearing her better-educated neighbors talk about high-falutin' topics such as Vladimir Putin and the federal reserve, she may succumb to the notion that compulsive reading of many magazines will elevate her into membership in Mensa. Good luck with that, Sally.

If you randomly examine, say, 20 different magazines, you'll be struck by a disillusioning fact: only a few will have much worthwhile content. Many - if not most - publications are nothing more than advertising vehicles. The publishers don't really want to inform or educate you and me. They want us to rush out and buy the mostly unnecessary products they advertise.

To help create or feed our addiction, many publishers lower their yearly subscription rates to basement levels. Each week I receive magazine offers so low in price I almost feel guilty not to subscribe. For 10 bucks or less I can get a year's worth of "The Duck Hunter's Gazette" or the beautifully illustrated "Slim Butt," telling women (and men, I suppose) 80 ways to make their fannies ap-

pear slender. The publishers don't survive on the money we send them for our subscriptions; they get most of their profits from advertising. And that depends on how high they can boost their circulation.

When it comes to spying on the habits of Americans, the CIA and National Security Agency are pikers compared to the publishing Mafia. Although a magazine may assure you that it will not give out your address, don't believe it. Let's say that in January you subscribe to "Mortuary Monthly." Within weeks you'll be getting subscription offers from "Modern Gravestones" and "Funeral Wear." Soon will come notices from "Cremation World" magazine.

A year ago I made the mistake of subscribing to a publication of the Harvard medical school. Today I'm on the subscription target list for the Mayo Clinic, the Hebrew Colonic Digest, Prevention magazine, Fitness, Women's Health, Men's Health, Diet Tips for Astronauts and a new book, "How I Survived a Month of Lithuanian Cuisine." If I followed all the advice in these publications, I'd be the healthiest man in my psychiatric ward.

Some magazines can be worth subscribing to just for the gifts they offer. I have a closet half-filled with jackets, duffel bags and overnight cases, all of them bearing the logos of the publications I signed up for.



Fla.: A mecca for Medicare tricksters

After being sued by the Wall Street Journal, the government finally released its Medicare reimbursement data last week. It included the less-than-stunning revelation that 28 of the 100 doctors who received the largest payments in 2012 were from Florida.

No other state came close. And no physician in the country billed Medicare for bigger bucks than Dr. Salomon E. Melgen, a West Palm Beach ophthalmologist who operates several clinics and is tight with a powerful Democratic senator.

Melgen got almost \$21 million from Medicare in 2012. (No, you don't need your vision checked - \$20,827,341 is the actual number, for one year.)

Records show Melgen filed claims for 894 patients and 92,000 procedures, meaning Medicare paid him approximately \$11,700 for every eyeball that was eyeballed by him and his staff.

Even in Florida, the mecca for Medicare tricksters, Melgen's billing habits drew notice. The government had already forced him to give back \$8.9 million from 2007 and 2008, alleging he overbilled for injectable Lucentis, an expensive medication that combats macular degeneration.

The disorder is common in the elderly, and nationwide the treatment costs Medicare \$1 billion a year. In 2012, Melgen reported administering more than 37,000 doses of Lucentis in South Florida.

Currently he's under investigation for possible fraud, and twice FBI agents have swarmed his offices in search of evidence. His attorney says he's done nothing wrong, and has taken action to recover the nearly \$9 million that Melgen repaid the agency in charge of Medicare and Medicaid.

The doctor has an important ally in Sen. Robert Menendez, the New Jersey Democrat, who has traveled on Melgen's private jet and



Carl Hiaasen

hung out at his posh spread in the Dominican Republic.

When Melgen first got in trouble, Menendez called the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to defend his pal's prolific billing. Another time the senator argued in favor of a company owned by Melgen in a dispute over a seaport contract in the Dominican Republic.

For his part, the doctor donated \$700,000 to a Democratic political action committee that gave \$582,000 to Menendez's re-election efforts. So far, Melgen's friendship with Menendez has failed to deflect the FBI's interest.

Second on the national scoreboard of Medicare's top billers is Dr. Asad Qamar, an Ocala cardiologist who was paid \$18.2 million in 2012. He told the New York Times that his charges are fair, and that the sum is so large partly because he works in an outpatient facility for which the government pays added fees.

Like Melgen, Qamar is an enthusiastic donor to Democrats, including President Obama. He gave more than \$100,000 to the Democratic National Committee, and distributed other contributions to congressional candidates in five states, including Florida.

After federal auditors began examining Qamar's bills, the doctor hired lobbyists to contact more than a dozen U.S. lawmakers, seeking relief from the scrutiny. "The auditors put an astronomical burden on us, in terms of manpower," he told the Times.

An astronomic burden caused by astronomical billing.

Any physician who rakes in \$18 million from Medicare in 12 months deserves special attention, because such a massive volume of medical claims definitely isn't business as usual.

In fact, according to a Times analysis, only about 2 percent of doctors collected almost 25 percent of the country's Medicare payouts in 2012. Expanding that graph, just 25 percent of doctors accounted for 75 percent of Medicare's total spending, which reached \$77 billion that year.

It's hardly a shocker that Florida leads the way. No place in the nation hosts more Medicare fraud prosecutions, a grim distinction.

The good news is that the conviction rate is high; the bad news is that we could quadruple the number of prosecutors, and they'd still be overworked.

Meanwhile, soaring Medicare costs cut deeper and deeper into federal tax revenues. The program is so huge that it practically defies effective auditing, but certainly a much better job of that could be done.

Publicizing the payment database is a start. Some medical practices are more complex than others, and the numbers only tell part of the story for each physician on the list.

However, it's more than a statistical blip when two doctors collect a total of \$39 million, more than hundreds of other practitioners in those same specialties added together.

California, which has twice the population of Florida, had only 10 doctors in the top 100 Medicare billers, compared to our stellar 28.

It's not that Florida has more sick and elderly people than California, because we don't. We just happen to attract more opportunists.

Carl Hiaasen is a columnist for the Miami Herald. Readers may write to him at: 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132.

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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.

Fashion, fun, and helping the community

By ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

BELLEAIR – Plenty of laughter and chatter filled the Belleair Country Club at the 43rd annual Daisy Fashion Show and Luncheon on April 17.

More than 200 women from the GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club enjoyed a fashion show by Patchington and drawings for stunning prizes. But six organizations walked away with the biggest prizes of the afternoon – \$1,000 grants to benefit each of the nonprofits.

The GFWC works all year to help charities and worthy nonprofit organizations, but one of the biggest things it does is to raise money for and award the Daisy Grants. This year, the recipients were The Haven of RCS, Suncoast Voices for Children, the Homeless Emergency Project, the College Fund of Pinellas, Pinellas County Historical Society with Heritage Village, and Kimberly Home Pregnancy Resource Center.

"We volunteer physically at different things like the food bank and Meals on Wheels and the libraries, but then we raise money with this fashion show that we give out to the community," said Mary Jane Robbins, vice president of membership for the GFWC. "It's a good way to give back to the community."

The club meets the third Tuesday of the month, September through May at the Clearwater Main Library, 100 N. Osceola Ave. Coffee time is 10 to 10:30 a.m., with the meeting starting at 10:30 a.m. For more information, email Robbins at mjrobbins44@mail.com or contact@clearwatercwc.org.

The Haven

Erica Weidemann, program director for The Haven, accepted the grant for the organization and said she is extremely grateful to the GFWC club for the grant.

"It's terrific," Weidemann said. "What we're going to do is purchase new mattresses for the emergency safe house so when women and children come stay with us at the emergency safe house, they can rest more comfortably on newer mattresses."

Weidemann said the group is hoping to purchase about 100 mattresses, replacing the more worn ones they currently have. The Haven has 36 beds total, so these 100 beds would allow them to have plenty in reserve.

The Haven provides free and confidential services to survivors of domestic violence, helping more than 5,000 people each year.

People can donate by check or cash by calling the outreach number at 441-2029 for details. The group is also always in need of volunteers.



Suncoast Voices for Children

Another \$1,000 grant was awarded to the Suncoast Voices for Children, which was accepted by Carol Conaway, the organization's president, and Rita Becchetti, one of its board members who wrote the grant.

The organization is housed with the Child Protective Investigators with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office in Largo, and they help serve kids in foster care. These children have been abused, neglected or abandoned, she said, and they also help in prevention to avoid other children from getting into such a situation. A lot of times when children have to be taken from their parents, there will be a relative who will want to take them. However, often a grandma or other relative might not have anywhere for the children to sleep. Therefore, Suncoast Voices for Children helps to provide bunk beds for these families.

"It's very important that these children, if at all possible, can keep together as a unit," Conaway said.

The Daisy Grant will be used for these various types of beds, Conaway said, though the organization helps in other ways as well, such as tutoring. Last year, she added, the organization spent \$40,000 on beds alone. Additionally, it also helps foster kids with individual needs such as summer camp fees, music lessons, athletic equipment and other needs.

The organization's board of 16 people is all volunteer, and it only has two paid employees who work a combined total of 28 hours a week. Therefore, all donations and grants go directly to the kids, Conaway said. The group always needs volunteers and donations. To help, call Conaway at 430-3707 or email info@suncoastchildren.org.



Photos by ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

At left, Kay Estock shows off fashions from Patchington at the GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club Daisy Fashion Show April 17. Above, Audrey Scheidenhelm, first vice president of the College Fund of Pinellas accepts a \$1,000 Daisy Grant from Club President JoAnne Roby, left, and Margo Tarr Boyington, chairwoman of the GFWC.

Homeless Emergency Project

The Homeless Emergency Project, located in Clearwater, also received a \$1,000 grant, which was accepted by Ashley Chango, director of marketing for the nonprofit.

"We're very grateful, Chango said. "We're going to use it to fund our family emergency housing. So we'll split the grant into two \$500 gifts to help families with move-in costs."

HEP serves more than 1,500 people each year, with a capacity of about 400 people each night for emergency housing, Chango said. HEP first provides for people's immediate needs of shelter, food, clothing and a medical assessment. Then it can go further; some people need dental care, others need help with job skills or mental health or addiction services.

To information on how to donate or volunteer, call 442-9041, email ashleyc@thep.org, or donate online at thep.org. Tours usually are possible Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but weekend exceptions can be made for larger groups, she said. People can call 442-9041.

The College Fund of Pinellas

The College Fund of Pinellas also received a grant, which was accepted by Audrey Scheidenhelm, first vice president. This is the nonprofit's fourth time winning a Daisy Grant, and Scheidenhelm said she was thrilled about that. The grant will provide one college scholarship to a local student.

"It makes a great deal of difference," Scheidenhelm said. "This way we have one more child who can get a scholarship."

The grant ceremony came on another special

See GRANTS, page 13A

Name needed for sculpture

LARGO – A long-awaited water fountain sculpture will be formally dedicated at Florida Botanical Gardens during the annual Diggin' the Arts on Sunday, May 4.

At that time, the piece will remain nameless, but it will not be "untitled." A contest is being held to name the sculpture, with the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation offering prizes of a one-night stay at the DoubleTree Beach Resort in North Redington Beach and a one-year Garden Family membership to the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation to the person whose title is chosen.

Suggestions must be submitted by Friday, May 9. Recommended names should be emailed to flbgfoundation@gmail.com. Submissions must include the proposed title of the piece and the full name, phone number and email address of the entrant.

The sculpture was borne of a love for the gardens and a vision of elevating the gardens' experience with artwork. Former Foundation president Chuck Scaffidi conceived the idea of featuring a stunning piece of art in the small pond outside of the Wedding Garden.

More than two years ago, he started working with the Foundation's Art-in-the-Garden committee chair Melinda Vargas and board member Erhan Ozey. He and Vargas went on a quest to find the appropriate artist and design and a call-to-artists resulted in the appointment of local artists Owen Pach and Jonathan Schork.

The artists will be present as the sculpture is dedicated to Scaffidi at the Foundation's Diggin' the Arts at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 4. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Florida Botanical Gardens and is free to the public. This event brings a wide variety of museums and cultural organizations to the gardens for a fun day of art projects, Plein air competition and an instrument petting zoo.

The Florida Botanical Gardens is located at 12520 Ulmerton Road in Largo, with an alternate entrance at 12211 Walsingham Road. The gardens remain open from 7 a.m. until dusk every day, with free admission during daylight hours. For more information, visit www.flbg.org or call 582-2100.



Photo courtesy of FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION
A water foundation sculpture graces a small pond in Florida Botanical Gardens. The sculpture will be dedicated at the Diggin' the Arts Sunday, May 4.

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Royal Palms of Largo, Country Day School meet for book discussion

LARGO – The book club at Royal Palms of Largo and fifth-graders at Country Day School in Largo met April 17 for intergenerational book discussion on "Tuck Everlasting" by Natalie Babbitt.

Janice Levine's fifth grade class and the Royal Palms' book club, organized by life enrichment coordinator Kathy Nordlinger, all read the book, which explores life and death within a fantasy setting. The students participated in several classroom activities to expand their enjoyment of the book and understanding of the literature.

Then on April 17, the Royal Palms residents visited the Country Day School to join in a lively discussion

between the two generations. Together, they tackled topics such as the book's theme, conflicts and story resolution as it relates to each of the generations. They also discussed life as a 10 to 11 year old today versus growing up in the 1930s and 1940s. Both groups enjoyed learning from the other and hearing opinions from the different generations' perspectives.

The Country Day School is an internationally recognized pre-kindergarten through eighth grade private school. Visit www.countrydaylargo.com.

Royal Palms of Largo is an active, independent senior residence. For more information, call Kathy Nordlinger at 585-8003.



Photo courtesy of the ROYAL PALMS OF LARGO

Members of the Royal Palms of Largo book club and Janice Levine's fifth grade class at Country Day School in Largo met to discuss "Tuck Everlasting" April 17.

Student leaders



Photo courtesy of DR. JAMES OLLIVER

A group of student government leaders from Largo High School visited with the St. Petersburg College Seminole campus Student Government Association's executive council to share common interests and explore potential collaborative activities on April 10. Pictured from left are Matthew Eyer, Chelsea Bhagwandin, Dajana Milosevic, Alissa Hawk, Elisha Myers, Oishiela Moitra, Shane Stockings, Maggie Kivett and sponsor Kelly Holder.

Rotary Club presents art and ale event

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – The Rotary Club of IRB presents its second annual "Art and Ale" event, sponsored by BarProducts.com and the Pinellas Education Foundation, Saturday, May 10, 6 to 10 p.m., at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 11220 Oakhurst Road, Largo.

Being auctioned are original 5 inch by 7 inch works of art that have been donated by local area artists, including Beach Art Center, Dunedin Fine Arts Center, Pinellas Park Art Society, University of Tampa Department of Art, FSU Department of Art and others.

This year's featured artist, Pamela Miles, will be on hand to display, discuss and sell her award-winning art. The art will be offered as a dollar auction. Visit the Art and Ale website, www.artandale.org.

The auction portion of the event will close at 7:15 p.m. The remainder of the evening will allow everyone to socialize and gloat over their winnings.

The evening also will feature craft beer, wine, food and live entertainment. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance from any Rotarian or at the door. Advance ticket purchases will qualify for a special, secondary art auction.

All event proceeds will benefit the John J. Todia, III Scholarship Fund, established to recognize and honor Todia's work, dedication and spirit. Todia was a past president of the Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach and was instrumental in establishing programs to support Art and Music in local schools.

For more information, visit the website or contact Paul J. Burns at 595-4540.

School notes

Parish named to FHSAA All-State Team

LARGO – Christopher Parish, Indian Rocks Christian School 2014 valedictorian and incumbent Rhodes College freshman, recently was chosen as a member of the Florida High School Athletic Association's Academic All-State Team.

This honor recognizes not just athletic accomplishments but also academic and community achievements. This award is given each year to 12 female and 12 male athletes from all over Florida.

"These exceptional individuals represent the very best of what it means to be a student-athlete," said Roger Dearing in a press release. Dearing is FHSAA executive director. "More important

than developing outstanding athletes is our goal to develop outstanding citizens, and we are proud to recognize those who have what it takes to be leaders in their communities for many years to come."

Biblical play production set

CLEARWATER – "David King David," a Biblical stage play, will be presented Saturday, May 10, 2 and 7:30 p.m., in the James B. White Performing Arts Theater on the campus of Clearwater Central Catholic High School, 2750 Haines Bayshore Road, Clearwater.

The production will feature national recording artist Dolly Roberts of the Florida Orchestra playing the 23rd Psalm on her harp as well as Pastor Konrad McCree singing The 23rd Psalm.

The cast will include Pastor Tammi Robinson, Rokki James, Daniel Burns, Prentice Green, Jason Cooper, Steven Brodnick and Arion Miller. Tickets start at \$10. Visit www.vallianoointed.com.

Eckerd College junior wins scholarship

ST. PETERSBURG – An Eckerd College junior with a double major in marine science and biochemistry has been awarded a Barry Goldwater Scholarship, the most prestigious undergraduate award given in the sciences.

Colleen O'Brien, of Chardon, Ohio, is one of six Florida college students awarded a Goldwater Scholarship, created by Congress in 1986 in honor of the late Sen. Barry Goldwater to encourage students to pursue research careers in science, engineering and math.

Eckerd College students have been awarded 14 Goldwater Scholarships and four honorable mentions in the past 24 years. The scholarships cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year.

O'Brien has gained valuable research experience during her time at Eckerd. She was part of the Eckerd Marine Science Freshman Research Program, studying the genetic structure of Chain pipefish and Dusky pipefish populations in Florida, with Professor William Szelistowski. She spent last summer as a National Science Foundation intern at Western Washington University's Shannon Point Marine Center researching the influence of eel-

grass metabolism on the carbonate chemistry in an estuary. She will spend this summer in Beaufort, N.C., studying how salt marshes respond to sea level rise as part of the NOAA Hollings Program. A member of the Ford

Apprentice Scholar Program, O'Brien will work with Eckerd Professor Koty Sharp on a research project using advanced microscopy and next-generation sequencing to investigate the bacterial composition of diseased octocorals.

After she graduates next year, O'Brien plans to pursue graduate work in oceanography and hopes to conduct research in marine biochemistry.

Students selected for Boys/Girls State

CLEARWATER – Calvary Christian High School recently announced three of its students have been selected to attend Boys State and Girls State, a program founded by the American Legion in 1935.

This summer, juniors Keely Durbak, Josh Hancock and Carter Dvornik will attend the weeklong program in Tallahassee, where they will learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State and Girls State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs.

Visit www.legion.org/boysnation/stateabout.



Keely Durbak



Carter Dvornik



Josh Hancock

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Mom shares can-do attitude for making a difference

Recently, my husband commented that I seem to be able to get things done at our daughters' school and in the community that most people wouldn't know they could do. I thought about what he said and decided that maybe I could share a little inspiration about how to make a difference. It's all too often we see things and complain, but don't take action to try and do something about it.



Mom 2 Mom
Kadi Hendricks
Tubbs

Like most of you, I am your every day citizen. I try to be active in my kids' school and in the community. I volunteer at the school and am on the PTA. I am also involved in the chamber of commerce for my work and recently have taken part in the city's citizen academy. I want our schools and community to be a great place to live, work and play for my family and me.

My instinct is when I see something that I think can be improved or needs to be fixed, I call whoever is in charge and try to get something done. Maybe it's the reporter in me or because I worked for city government and know basically how things work. I know that, usually, I can at least get a response.

I'll give you a few examples. When I moved to my house several years ago, there weren't sidewalks on one of the main roads that I would take my kids for a wagon ride. It was very dangerous because part of the road had sidewalks and part of it didn't. I decided to take some pictures and write our city officials about why I thought there needed to be sidewalks. The city looked at what I showed them and said they had money in their sidewalk improvement fund and put in the sidewalks. I was delighted.

Recently there was a lot of rain water on the fields where my daughters play their softball games and they were covered with mosquitoes. After playing two games and having the kids eaten by mosquitoes, I looked up mosquito control and emailed them about the problem. The officials emailed me back and had the fields sprayed within a day. Thank you, mosquito control!

Another example is my girls' school. Like most schools in Pinellas County, there are lots of portables that are used as classrooms. Last year, my daughter, who was in third grade at the time, lost almost a month of learning because her class was in a portable. When it rains, the kids are doubled up with classes in the regular buildings. When this happens, teachers can't teach and the children aren't learning. It's a big problem especially when your school goes down a letter grade because of lower test scores. I was able to bring this to the attention of our school superintendent at an education forum and now school officials are looking into this.

I think sometimes we just need to take action and find out whom to ask so we can get things done. A lot of times people don't know there's a problem unless we bring it to their attention.

Don't be afraid to call your city, county and school officials to help you. I am not saying that every time I try and do something, it gets done. There are times when things don't get done. To me it's important to at least try, so you can feel at least you've done your part.

Kadi Hendricks Tubbs, mother of two girls ages 8 and 9, lives in Seminole. Visit her blog at Mom2MomFamilyFun.blogspot.com.

GRANTS, from page 11A

day for the College Fund, as it was also celebrating its 50th anniversary. In that time, the nonprofit has awarded scholarships to nearly 1,000 students who have gone to school in 39 states at 128 different colleges.

The students who receive scholarships all have a financial need for help, they are all U.S. citizens, many are the first in their families to go to college, and they must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average. The scholarships are renewable for up to four years of college, and they are connected with a mentor from the organization who follows them throughout their college experience.

"We really care," Scheindenhelm said. "Of course our \$1,000 won't make or break them, but it pays for books. In today's world, a college education is so important. And many of these children come back to our community. We have a doctor at Largo Medical and a teacher at Largo High."

The organization is made up of all volunteers, and all funds raised and donated go directly to students. The board pays any overhead costs. The group helps about 40 students each year.

To donate, mail a check payable to College Fund of Pinellas County to The College Fund of Pinellas County, Inc., P.O. Box 673, Clearwater, FL 33757. The group also can use volunteers or a certified public accountant to provide a pro bono annual audit of the fund's finances, email info@collegefundpinellas.org.

The Pinellas County Historical Society

Betty Crammes, volunteer program coordinator with Heritage Village, accepted the grant for her organization.

"We're very excited," Crammes said. "It's nice to be supported by the community."

The grant will buy six new display barrels for Heritage Village and allow for the purchase of items needed to keep the "Enter-Action" educational exhibit functional and available for local school children. More than 6,000 students visited Heritage Village in 2013, as well as 200,000 other visitors.

"As a teacher, you realize that it's very hard to teach a child history out of a textbook," Crammes said. "But if you can get them involved in a hands-on activity, it helps bring it to life and build a lifelong journey of learning history that enriches your life and helps them make better decisions for the future."

Grants and donations are critical to Heritage Village, as it has only three full-time employees, and all the rest are volunteers. Grants like this are critical to the continuation of the program, she said.

Heritage Village is free and open to the public Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4

Spanish-American War and genealogy

The Spanish-American war, while not being one of the largest conflicts we have engaged in, still has research value for genealogists. It is interesting from a historical point of view, and it is valuable from a genealogical point because of the records that were created on the soldiers and Sailors who served.



Genealogy exposed
Peter Summers

There were approximately 300,000 men under arms during this conflict, and all but about 30,000 of them were volunteers. There were only two major wars that saw fewer men under arms: the Revolutionary War with about 220,000 and the War of 1812 with about 280,000. During the major wars after that, there were millions of men under arms. The Spanish American war was also one of our shortest wars – in fact it was the shortest, lasting from 21 April to 12 August 1898, until the First Gulf War. It was a war that saw conflict in two oceans, the Caribbean and Pacific, and it was a war where naval action was the deciding factor, although there were some significant land battles that have become part of our national folklore, most notably the assault at San Juan Hill.

Opinion was divided in this country as to whether we should go to war at all, a condition typical of all of our wars as a matter of fact. Some saw it as overt colonialism on our part, others saw it as humanitarian by going to the aid of an oppressed Cuban population, and others saw it as a strategic necessity to protect our interests in the Caribbean Basin and Central America. But whatever the point of view, a couple of incendiary events, including the sinking of the battleship Maine in Havana Harbor, moved the country to war.

The Spanish American war thrust Florida into the national limelight. Florida was home to a rather significant Cuban population, which lobbied strongly for American intervention in Cuba's quest to free itself from Spanish control. It also was the primary embarkation point for action in the Caribbean. One of the more significant units, the Rough Riders, left from the port of Tampa.

The fighting started most notably with the naval battle of Manila Bay, and ended with the land battle for the city of Manila a couple of months later. In this first battle of the war, Admiral Dewey defeated the Spanish Fleet in the Pacific, and his quote at the beginning of the battle, "you may fire when ready, Gridley" became part of American folklore. At the battle of Santiago de Cuba, less than one month after Dewey's victory in the Pacific, the United States defeated Spain's Caribbean Fleet. With the Spanish fleet essentially out of the war, land battles were fought from the Philippines to Cuba, one of the most notable being the battle of San Juan Hill which saw the Rough Riders in action, and which illuminated the reputation of Teddy Roosevelt.

As a result of the conflict, Puerto Rico and Guam, two Spanish Colonies in the Pacific, were ceded to the United States; we took possession of the Philippines for which we compensated Spain with 20 million dollars, and we temporarily administered Cuba. Because of this, for better or worse, the United States emerged from the war as a colonial power with more international influence than it previously enjoyed.

The two principle types of records that were created during the conflict were consolidated service records and pension application files. The National Archives holds those records and you can order them online from nara.gov. The Pinellas Genealogy Society has a class that will guide you through that ordering process.

Ancestry.com has some record sets, of course, and there are some free online sites that provide rosters and other information relative to specific units. Among them are:

- www.militaryindexes.com. This is a list of online military records and indexes. It covers more conflicts than just the Spanish American War.
- www.spanamwar.com/genealogy3roster.htm. Here you will find a comprehensive list of sites listing veterans by state and by unit.
- www.accessgenealogy.com/military/spanish/index.htm.
- This site provides some unit rosters, general history, burials by state, and more. It is a good overall site.

The print collection in the Genealogy Center of the Largo Public Library has at least seven books dealing with the war, to include titles such as "Index to Old War Pension Files 1815-1926," "Connecticut Volunteers Who Served in the Spanish-American War 1898-1899," "New York in the Spanish American War," and "Complete Muster-Out Rolls of the Illinois Volunteers: Spanish American War 1898-1899." Some classes presented at the library by the Pinellas Genealogy Society that can help with researching this topic deal with ordering records from the National Archives, understanding military records in general, and one focuses specifically on the Spanish American War. You can see the current list of classes at www.flpgs.org/classes.aspx.

Fascinating because of its historical value, or appealing because of its family history value, the Spanish American War is worth your research time.

Peter Summers is an amateur genealogist who has been working on his family history since 1972. He is past president of the Pinellas Genealogy Society.

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Free breakfast to help Start Something Big

ST. PETERSBURG - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County will host a free fundraising breakfast Tuesday, May 6, 8 a.m., at St. Petersburg Marriott Clearwater, 12600 Roosevelt Blvd.

Learn about the mission and impact of the local nonprofit organization during this event, called Start Something Big Breakfast. Reservations are required before Thursday, May 1. Contact Angie Croft at AngieC@bbbspc.org or 518-8860, ext. 231.

Hope Presbyterian Church

CLEARWATER - Hope Presbyterian Church will follow up its Easter carnival with its inaugural Spring Fling, set for Saturday, May 3, 5 to 8 p.m., at 1698 S. Belcher Road.

The event will feature food trucks, craft vendors, face painting, bouncy houses, games, cotton candy, concessions, treats, games, music and a dubstepping street performance.

Parking and admission are free. Call 531-3200 or visit www.hopefamily.com.

grants are critical," Kelly said.

The Kimberly Home always needs baby items, such as clothing, furniture and household items. These can be donated to

the Kimberly Home Thrift Shoppe at 1601 Clearwater-Largo Road, Clearwater. To volunteer or for more information, email thriftshoppe@kimberlyhome.org.

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Better fishing expected through the weekend

With a tough week of weather behind us, we are all looking forward to better fishing conditions that should be in store for us this week and through the weekend.

With water temperatures still hanging below 70 degrees it's safe to think that the best fishing of the season is still ahead.



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

Light winds should clean our nearshore waters up for this weekend's fishing. Kingfish remain high on the list of target species. When conditions have been right for kingfish, the majority of the fish have been somewhere in the 3 to 5 mile range. Purely speculation at this point especially considering the amount of wind we had last weekend, but it would probably be a good idea to start in these depths. Blue runners, large pilchards and threadfin herring have been the ticket for these 10 to 20 pound fish. The larger fish will most likely be found out deeper, say 80 feet and out, or shallower in spots like the shipping channel.

Inshore, redfish remain the one constant. Improving new moon tides will give anglers the opportunity to target these fish at both the high

and low tidal stages. Entry points along the outer edges of the flats are potential low tide hotspots. Lightly weighted soft plastic jigs in darker colors have been working well in this scenario. When the tide peaks later in the morning, it's time to start working those oyster mounds for pockets of fish. Corcking a live shrimp and casting it around the edges of the oyster mound is one of my favorite ways to fish.

Periods of stable weather have allowed for the bait to congregate around many of the local bridges at night. Working the shadow lines with a fast sinking cast net has yielded a variety of bait that can be used both inshore and offshore. Pilchards, the preferred live bait for trout, redfish and snook have been a bit scarce thus far this spring. Being resourceful however and utilizing what bait is available can still produce good catches of quality fish.

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

Caterpillar gathering



Photo by JIM LAYFIELD

Tussock moth caterpillars crawl along a chain link fence under oak trees on the property of Walsingham Elementary School in Largo, April 13. According to the University of Florida Entomology and Nematology Department, tussock moth caterpillars emerge from eggs most often laid in shade trees, especially oaks, the previous spring by adult moths. It is not uncommon for them to fall out of trees onto unsuspecting people below. They also may hang from a silk string to reach the ground. After two to four weeks of growth, the caterpillars spin their cocoons. They emerge from the pupal stage as adult moths about two weeks later. The male moths fly to the flightless females to mate, and the females lay their eggs on the cocoons recently vacated. The cycle repeats the following spring when the caterpillars emerge from the eggs.

Mayors update county on Gulf Boulevard projects

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - Clearwater Mayor George Cretekos and Redington Beach Mayor Nick Simons presented Pinellas County Commissioners with an overview of what's going on with the Gulf Boulevard beautification project April 15.

The county signed an interlocal agreement with the Barrier Islands Government Council on July 10, 2012 for Penny for Pinellas funding to pay for undergrounding of utilities, streetscape enhancements and pedestrian safety improvements.

Plans called for creating a uniform corridor for all 11 beach communities through common amenities and streetscaping. The project focuses on elimination of "visual blight" caused by overhead utilities, development of an "attractive roadway experience" to encourage tourism and economic development, and pedestrian safety improvements.

"Unfortunately, it has taken an awful long time," Cretekos said. "We started talking about this in 2000 - 14 years ago."

In 2007, officials found that initial plans approved in 2001 were not feasible, he said. They weren't economically possible, so they had to be changed. The project also was delayed due to the economic downturn that resulted in less money coming in to the Penny for Pinellas fund.

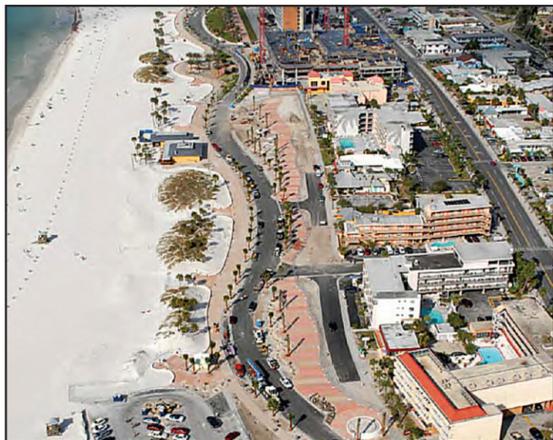
Finally, in 2012, all parties agreed to a new funding formula that split \$35 million between the municipalities over time. The money would be doled out at \$3.5 million a year during fiscal years 2013 to 2016. Additional money would be allocated at a rate of \$7 million a year during fiscal years 2017 to 2019. Shares would be determined by how much area each city has of Gulf Boulevard frontage.

The BIG-C was given the responsibility for determining if a project is eligible for funding and verifying that the work was done as approved. The cities are responsible for project design, implementation and ongoing maintenance. Cities can apply for reimbursement of costs up to the amount of their share for work done after March 13, 2007.

Cretekos is the current BIG-C president. Simons heads up the BIG-C committee in charge of project approvals.

Cretekos said some of the smaller cities are waiting to begin projects until the amount of their share grows to a larger sum.

"Small communities with low budgets don't have the money to pay for projects and then apply for reimbursements," he said. "Plans are for them to accumulate enough money to do the work."



Photos courtesy of BIG-C

Above, this is an aerial view of the city of Clearwater's Beach Walk project on Clearwater Beach, which qualified for reimbursement from the Gulf Boulevard beautification project funds. At left, pedestrian lanes along Gulf Boulevard in Indian Shores improve safety for residents and guest. The lanes are one of several amenities paid for with funding from the beautification project.

He showed several slides of work done since money became available. He said Clearwater had been reimbursed \$6.7 million for work done on its Beach Walk project on Clearwater Beach. Indian Shores received \$4 million to help pay for a new city hall, bike lanes and moving of utility poles along Gulf Boulevard. The city installed a new bus shelter and new aesthetically pleasing trashcan covers were added. Redington Beach also used beautification money to pay for moving utility lines underground.

Simons assured commissioners that all \$35 million would be spent according to approved project plans. He estimated that more "substantial projects" would begin in year four of the allocations.

"Smaller communities can't wait for reimbursements, they don't have the money," he said, echoing Cretekos earlier statements.

He said Treasure Island was in the planning stage for a \$3 million project that the city would fund and then request reimbursement.

Commissioner John Morroni brought up the subject of recent pedestrian deaths along Gulf Boulevard. He wanted assurances that projects were focusing on pedestrian safety.

The mayors asked if it were possible to allocate additional money sooner than scheduled.

"We would appreciate it," Cretekos said. "It doesn't hurt to ask," said Commissioner Ken Welch.



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Diversions

Events • Movies • Classifieds

Largo Leader, Section B, April 24, 2014 • Visit www.TBNweekly.com

The Insider's Club offers a glimpse behind the curtain

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

House to half - go.

As the cue is uttered, the house lights dim and eager audience members turn their attention to the stage. The show is about to begin.

House out and electrics 2 - go.

The house lights and preset lights are now extinguished and the theater is dark. Anticipation mounts.

Fly 1 - go.

The curtain opens, and - like magic - a story unfolds.

Making that kind of magic happen involves a virtual army of dedicated individuals and weeks of planning. The audience usually only sees the most evident contingent of that resourceful company: the actors who take the stage. Behind the scenes is a crew of equally inspired and imaginative people who together form the production staff.

The Insider's Club - a special VIP experience - is designed for those interested in getting a glimpse at what happens behind the curtain. The event will be presented Friday, May 2, in conjunction with the premiere of Eight O'Clock Theatre's production of "Grease," at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo.

Insider's Club tickets are \$75. Proceeds will benefit the Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation and its programs at the Largo Cultural Center. Space is limited. To purchase tickets, call 587-6793 or visit the box office.

The ticket includes admission to

the 8 p.m. performance of "Grease" as well as a pre-show cocktail party in the elegant Parkview room, hors d'oeuvres courtesy of Engarde Catering, a swag bag filled with Oscar-worthy treats, a backstage tour of the Largo Cultural Center and a post-performance question-and-answer session with the director and stars of the show.

John Toppe, current president of the Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation, explained how the special fundraising event came to be.

"The idea of the Insider's Club is to build a cadre of supporters who might become donors to the Largo Cultural Center and to the Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation," Toppe said in an interview.

The foundation's most visible fundraising event is its annual gala, a black-tie event that features a catered dinner, silent and live auctions, dancing and a show. Last year's affair was themed "Once Upon a Time" and many attendees arrived dressed as favorite fairy tale characters.

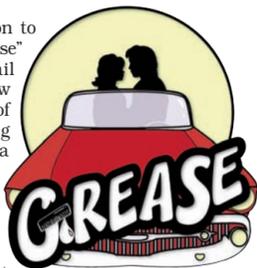
For the Insider's Club, the foundation wanted to do something innovative. According to Toppe, organizers wanted to give the VIPs something really special.

"To give them honored treatment, to give them a special experience and to build support for the theatrical and educational activities we do at the cultural center," Toppe said. "It's an important part of the business of building friends and building relationships within the community - particularly within the business community."

With any luck, the Insider's Club won't be a once-upon-a-time opportunity.

"Our goal is to make the Insider's Club a continuous activity, not just simply a once-a-year event," Toppe said. "Our intention is to start with this upcoming show, repeat it again prior to 'Hair' and do it next year prior to opening nights - or some

See CURTAIN, page 3B



Fun 'n Sun

Clearwater celebrates 61st festival with music, laughs and draughts

CLEARWATER - The city's 61st Fun 'n Sun Celebration will run April 25 through May 4 and will feature a variety of events, including concerts sponsored by WQYK and Q105, Blast Friday and a comedy and beer-tasting event.

The festival gives residents and visitors a chance to celebrate the area's gorgeous spring weather and beautiful surroundings while enjoying live entertainment and good old-fashioned fun. The annual event features a variety of events for all to enjoy, with a focus on showcasing Clearwater's attractions.

Fun 'n Sun started in 1954 as a way to keep snowbirds in Clearwater just a little longer and has blossomed into one of the Tampa Bay area's most eclectic and exciting celebrations. Drawing more than 50,000 visitors each year, Fun 'n Sun Clearwater features music, parties, shows and activities that encompass the entire community, from the sugar sand beaches to downtown to the city's parks. For information and a complete schedule of events, visit www.funnsunclearwater.com.

Blast Friday

The 61st Fun 'n Sun Celebration will kick off on the streets of downtown Clearwater with Blast Friday, Friday, April 25.

Blast Friday is downtown Clearwater's free, family-friendly street festival. Bright House Networks is the sponsor of the monthly event that features a variety of vendors, food, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages, starting at 5:30 p.m. on the 400 block of the Cleveland Street District. The fun continues until 10 p.m.

Entertainment will feature a performance by Mark Farner with Stormbringer. For information, call 791-7400 or visit www.blastfriday-clearwater.com.

Q105 concert

This year's first Fun 'n Sun Celebration concert will be presented Saturday, April 26, at Coachman Park, 301 Drew St., Clearwater. Gates will open at 1 p.m.

Sponsored by the city of Clearwater and Q105, the lineup will feature a number of pop-rock legends. General admission tickets cost \$10 in advance and \$15 the day of the event. Weekend packages and VIP ticketing also is available. Visit funnsunclearwater.com or call 1-800-514-ETIX, ext. 1.

Following is the day's performance schedule:

- 1:30 p.m. - Kirk McEwen Band
- 3 p.m. - Orleans
- 4:45 p.m. - Atlanta Rhythm Section
- 6:35 p.m. - The Romantics
- 8:25 p.m. - Eddie Money

The schedule is subject to change.

Headliner Eddie Money continues to delight new and old fans alike at venues throughout the country.

After signing a recording contract with Columbia Records, Money burst onto the scene with his eponymous debut album in 1977. Fans immediately fell in love with Money's sound, and the album, which went double platinum, featured hits like "Baby Hold On" and "Two Tickets to Paradise." Money followed the success of his debut album with a stream of Top 40 hits, as well as some of the era's most creative videos for songs like "Think I'm in Love" and "Shakin.'" In 1986, Money released "Can't Hold Back," which featured the classic, Grammy-Nominated duet with Ronnie Spector, "Take Me Home Tonight." The song reached No. 4 on the Billboard Hot 100. The album went platinum and also featured the hit "I Wanna Go Back."

The Romantics formed in 1977 and are known for having created some of the most influential and beloved rock and roll of all time.

Boasting a Detroit sound, The Romantics favored short hair, short songs and red leather suits. The band's self-titled debut album, released in 1980, featured the hit single "What I Like About You."

Orleans is best known as the '70s pop-rock band that authored iconic hits such as "Still the One," "Dance With Me" and "Love Takes Time." Now entering their 41st year of live performances, Orleans has produced a body of work spanning 16 albums and several DVDs.

For more than 30 years, members of The Atlanta Rhythm Section have entertained audiences all over the world with their hits. The members of Atlanta Rhythm Section originally came together as a session band at Studio One, an Atlanta area studio recording artists like

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Photo courtesy of EDDIE MONEY
Above, Eddie Money headlines a Fun 'n Sun Celebration concert on April 26 at Coachman Park. Below, Rodney Atkins headlines the concert April 27.

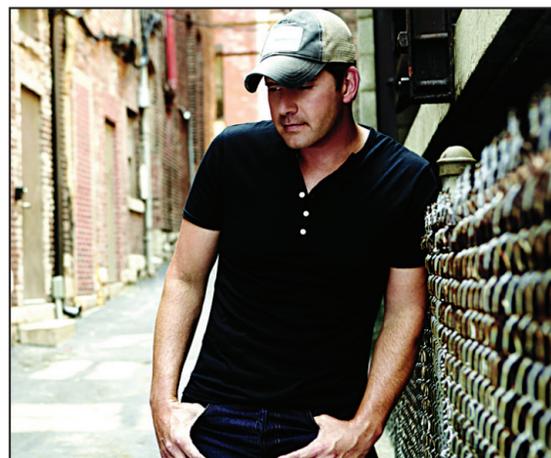


Photo courtesy of WME ENTERTAINMENT

Lynyrd Skynyrd, Al Kooper, Dickey Betts and .38 Special. The band released 15 albums and was paired with contemporaries Lynyrd Skynyrd as the successors to the Allman Brothers - carrying the mantle of Southern Rock in the late 70s. Performing songs that were more musically diverse and having hits that had a softer, pop flavor, they had a sound all their own.

With multiple gold and platinum albums to their credit, the band had top hits such as "So Into You," "Imaginary Lover," "Doraville," "I'm Not Gonna Let It Bother Me Tonight," "Champagne Jam," "Angel," "Do It Or Die" and "Spooky."

Since 1986 Kirk McEwen has been fronting his own band and opening for the likes of The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Cinderella and Sister Hazel. McEwen has shared stages with Candlebox, Blue Oyster Cult and Bad Company.

Concertgoers may bring lawn chairs and blankets as well as one sealed bottle of water per person.

Not permitted at the concert are pets (except assistance animals), grills or open flames, glass containers or bottles, coolers, food or drinks, unauthorized vendors, tents, canopies, umbrellas, audio/video recording devices, throwing objects (footballs, Frisbees, etc.), inline skating and skateboards, littering and personal fireworks.

WQYK concert

The Sun Toyota Fun 'n Sun Celebration concert will be Sunday, April 27, at Coachman Park, 301 Drew St., Clearwater. Gates open at noon.

The concert will feature performances by top-notch country music recording artists. General admission tickets cost \$10 in advance and

See FESTIVAL, page 4B

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“(Sandy Hartmann & Associates) did a wonderful job of keeping us informed. Thanks!” - Spencer Bowen

Looking Ahead

Largo

• **"Grease,"** with book, music and lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey; presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, May 2-11, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25.50 for adults and \$12.50 for children 19 and younger with identification. A city of Largo handling charge of \$3.50 will be added to each ticket. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Here is Rydell High's senior class of 1959: duck-tailed, hot-rodding "Burger Palace Boys" and their gum-snapping, hip-shaking "Pink Ladies" in bobby socks and pedal pushers, evoking the look and sound of the 1950s in this rollicking musical. Head "greaser" Danny Zuko and new (good) girl Sandy Dumbrowski try to relive the high romance of their "Summer Nights" as the rest of the gang sings and dances its way through such songs as "Greased Lightnin'," "We Go Together," "There Are Worse Things I Could Do" and "You're the One That I Want" recalling the music of Buddy Holly, Little Richard and Elvis Presley that became the soundtrack of a generation. An eight-year run on Broadway and two subsequent revivals place "Grease" among the world's most popular musicals. This production will feature James Grenelle as director and choreographer.

Clearwater

• **Rob Thomas,** Friday, April 25, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$65. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Thomas is one of the most distinctive vocalists and accomplished songwriters in contemporary music, garnering a string of accolades, both for his work as lead singer and primary composer with Matchbox Twenty as well as for solo work and collaborations with other artists. In 2004, the Songwriters Hall of Fame presented Thomas with its first ever "Starlight Award," created to recognize a songwriter in the early years of his or her career that has already made a lasting impact. He has won numerous BMI and ASCAP

Awards and has earned the Songwriter of the Year crown from both Billboard magazine and BMI, two years in a row. Thomas is best known for his chart-topping hits such as "Lonely No More" and "This is How a Heart Breaks" and Matchbox Twenty hits like "Push," "3AM," "If You're Gone" and "Bent." Thomas also earned three Grammy Awards for "Smooth," his smash collaboration with Santana.

• **Megan Hilty,** Saturday, April 26, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Hilty is the star of NBC-TV's musical drama "Smash" as Ivy Lynn. Hilty was recently signed to Sony Music and her new album, "It Happens All The Time," was released in March. She made her Broadway debut as Glinda in "Wicked" and went on to perform the role in both the national tour and in Los Angeles. She was previously seen as Lorelei Lee, the diamond-loving blonde in the Encores! production of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," to which she earned rave reviews. She can also be heard alongside Placido Domingo on the opera star's duet album. After receiving critical acclaim for her portrayal of Doralee Rhodes in Broadway's "9 to 5: The Musical," Hilty was honored with nominations for Lead Actress in a Musical at the Drama Desk Awards, Outer Critics Circle Awards, and the Drama League Awards, among others.

• **"Anything Goes,"** Thursday through Saturday, April 24-26, 7:30 p.m., at Clearwater High School, 540 S. Hercules Ave., Clearwater. General admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. For information, call Joy Roche at 298-1620, ext. 2125, or email rochej@pcsb.org.

• **Suncoast Symphony Orchestra Concert,** Friday, April 25, 7:30 p.m., at North Bay Community Church, 3170 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Donations will be accepted. The theme of the concert will be movie music. Call 686-2094.

• **Boz Scaggs,** Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$85. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. A casual listen to the Boz Scaggs discography makes one thing obvious: The artist is both a musical seeker and a man

of sizable talent as a singer, songwriter and guitarist. His explorations in blues and R&B, rock and jazz have produced lasting work and a career that has brought with it acclaim, a loyal following and an enduring respect among musicians. Scaggs, a Grammy Award-winning rock legend, has released 21 albums, two of them gold and three of them platinum.

• **Santana,** Tuesday, April 29, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$89. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Delivered with a level of passion and soul equal to the legendary sonic charge of his guitar, the sound of Carlos Santana is one of the world's best-known musical signatures. For more than four decades – from Santana's earliest days as a groundbreaking Afro-Latin-blues-rock fusion outfit in San Francisco – Carlos has been the visionary force behind artistry that transcends musical genres and generational, cultural and geographical boundaries. For more than 40 years and almost as many albums later, Santana has sold more than 100 million records and reached more than 100 million fans at concerts worldwide. To date, Santana has won 10 Grammy Awards, including a record-tying nine for a single project, 1999's "Supernatural" (including Album of the Year and Record of the Year for "Smooth"). In 1998, the group was ushered into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, whose website notes, "Guitarist Carlos Santana is one of rock's true virtuosos and guiding lights." Santana's last album, "Shape Shifter" (2012) was the first for his new label, Starfaith Records and debuted at No. 16 on the Billboard Top 200.

• **The Mavericks,** Wednesday, April 30, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$45. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Nearly 20 years after their first major label release, a Grammy and numerous industry awards, The Mavericks are back. The country-steeped garage band with a Cuban American lead singer that emerged from Miami in 1989 has reunited after an eight-year hiatus. Time has a way of melting when you're busy living life and two decades have passed since their polyrhythmic brand of post-modern country has given the world "All You Ever Do Is Bring Me Down," "Here Comes The Rain" and "Dance The Night Away." Their new album, "In Time," which was released last year, continues to receive rave reviews.

Pinellas Park

• **Sunsation Show Chorus: Singin' the Blues for You;** Sunday, April 27, 3 p.m., at Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave., Pinellas Park. Tickets are \$15. Call 530-7190 or visit www.sun-sationshowchorus.com.

Tarpon Springs

• **"The 39 Steps,"** adapted by Patrick Barlow From the novel by John Buchan and the movie of Alfred Hitchcock, directed by Rick Hite; April 25 through May 4, at Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center, 324 Pine St. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Call 942-5605 or visit TarponArts.org.

St. Petersburg

• **"Chicago,"** April 23-26, 7:30 p.m., at Shorecrest Preparatory School, 5101 First St. NE, St. Petersburg. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students. Known for producing Broadway, movie and television stars, Shorecrest Preparatory School in St. Petersburg will showcase its newest cast of Broadway hopefuls in an exciting production of "Chicago" at the school's Janet Root Theatre. The longest running American musical in Broadway history, "Chicago" is the ultimate tale of murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery and treachery – all set to show-stopping songs and dance moves originally created by famed choreographer Bob Fosse. Totally unique to the show, and the local arts community, is the use of spectacular human flying sequences created by Flying by Foy, the leading theatrical flying service used in Broadway shows, Las Vegas reviews and television productions. The flying sequences are made possible by businessman and philanthropist Bill Edwards.

• **"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,"** Thursday through Saturday, April 24-26, at Northeast High School, 5500 16th St. N., St Petersburg. Performances will be 7 p.m. There will be one matinee on Saturday, April 26, 2 p.m. The Drama Department at Northeast High School will present its adaptation and production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," a fun and endearing six time Tony Award-winning musical. The story follows six kids in the throes of puberty who are overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves. With its enormously appealing cast of lovable misfits, nerds, neurotics and eccentrics, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is a hilarious tale of overachievers' anguish, which chronicles the experience of adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime. This quirky yet charming show even includes audience spellers, guaranteeing a different show every time. Tickets are \$7 for students and \$10 for adults. Proceeds will benefit the students of Northeast High School's drama program. For information, call Jessica Mansis at 434-8970.

Crossword

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Across

- Woven fabric
- Kind of column (hyphenated)
- Certain print
- Apple spray
- Chimney channel
- Deck out
- Norse god of mischief
- Container weight
- Vineyard fruit
- Secondary circumstance resulting from another
- Snake
- Devines for water
- Female sheep
- Attack, with "into"
- Amigo
- Beach, basically
- Over and over again
- Rainbow
- Batman and Robin, e.g.
- Broadcast
- One who replies
- Bungle, with "up"
- Adaptable truck, for short
- Amount of work
- Morgue, for one
- Native American dwellings
- Thick, twilled cotton fabrics, e.g. corduroy
- Unique, esp. antiques
- "Lohengrin," e.g.
- Caper
- Den denizen
- Ornamental loop
- "___ bitten, twice shy"
- Enrich, in a way
- About 1.3 cubic yards
- Equal
- Prize since 1949

Down

- Dylan Thomas's home
- Run off to the chapel
- Muslim begging monk
- Made a mistake (2 wds)
- More frequently
- Factory
- 100 cents, since 2002
- Adjudge
- ___, 1999 Tom Cruise film
- Cupid's projectile
- To come about
- Bug
- Artist's asset
- Cut down with an ex
- Cut, maybe
- Overhangs
- Coasters
- Ejected from the mouth (archaic)
- Long, long time
- Pompous walk
- Sharp, rugged mountain ridge
- Part of an eyeglass frame
- Icelandic epic
- Train schedule
- Bear
- Barely beat, with "out"
- Semi driver
- "It's no ___!"
- Mistake
- Madcap comedy
- Construction girder (hyphenated)
- Auto option
- Square
- Alka-Seltzer sound
- Channel
- Harvest goddess
- Barbecue site

Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers

from last week

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

Crossword answers

from last week

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

Horoscopes

April 24, 2014

Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

The green-eyed monster is lurking about. Don't give in to it, Capricorn. You will have your time in the sun, sooner than you think.

Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

Go green and save green, Aquarius. Implement the three Rs, and you'll have cash to spare. An assignment is no walk in the park. Watch your step.

Pisces

February 19 - March 20

Yes! Yes! Yes, you can, Pisces! Cast aside your fears and move forward with confidence, and that which you seek will be yours.

Aries

March 21 - April 19

Uh-uh, Aries. You've tiptoed around a loved one long enough. Tell them how you really feel. Only then will real change come about. The hunt begins for a piece.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Time out, Taurus. You're at your wit's end, and people are starting to notice. Take a breather. A run-in with a foe-now-friend results in big business.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21

There is too little to go on, Gemini. Leave the detective work to someone more experienced. An office function goes better than expected.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22

Understaffing leads to headaches. Efficiency will help, but it is not the answer by any means, Cancer. Combine efficiency with volunteerism, and you have a winner.

Leo

July 23 - August 22

A crisis comes to a screeching halt, and it's time once again to live, love and laugh. Be grateful, Leo. A financial endeavor brings in the cash.

Virgo

August 23 - September 22

Your work ethic is to be commended, Virgo. Now, if only you knew how to have fun. You do, and you will, when a blast from the past hops in for a visit.

Libra

September 23 - October 22

Congratulations, Libra. You ace the test, and your skills are in demand. A senior extends a helping hand with a green cause near and dear to your heart.

Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

Expectations are running high at the office, and you do not disappoint, Scorpio. Tempers flare at home. Work to keep the situation in check.

Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

Personal victories are hard to come by these days, Sagittarius. When one comes, celebrate. A report receives glowing reviews. Look to it for direction.

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040314

Opening this weekend

'The Other Woman' features ensemble cast; Walker, RZA star in 'Brick Mansions'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'The Other Woman'

Genre: Comedy
 Cast: Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Kate Upton, Taylor Kinney and Nicki Minaj
 Director: Nick Cassavetes
 Rated: PG-13
 After discovering her boyfriend is married, a woman (Cameron Diaz) tries to get her ruined life back on track. But when she accidentally meets the wife he's been cheating on (Leslie Mann), she realizes they have much in common, and her sworn enemy becomes her greatest friend. When yet another affair is discovered (Kate Upton), all three women team up to plot mutual revenge on their cheating, lying, three-timing boyfriend.



Above, from left, Amber (Kate Upton), Carly (Cameron Diaz) and Kate (Leslie Mann) toast their friendship in "The Other Woman." At right, David Belle, left, and Paul Walker star in Relativity Media's "Brick Mansions."



Photo by PHILIPPE BOSSE/RELATIVITY MEDIA

'Brick Mansions'

Genre: Action
 Cast: Paul Walker, David Belle, RZA, Gouchy Boy, Catalina Denis and Carlo Rota
 Director: Camille Delamarre
 Rated: PG-13
 In a dystopian Detroit, abandoned homes from better times house the city's most dangerous criminals.

These are the grim, apocalyptic housing projects known as Brick Mansions. Unable to control the rampant crime, the authorities have walled Brick Mansions in, supposedly to protect the rest of the city from its lawless, violent, degenerate inhabitants.

In Brick Mansions, only the strong survive. In this dog-eat-dog society, the ruthless, urbane, and deadly drug kingpin Tremaine, played by RZA, is at the top of the food chain. Undercover cop Damien Collier, played by Paul Walker, is determined to bring Tremaine to justice for killing his father years prior.

For Damien, every day is a fight against corruption and although it isn't apparent at first, he finds an unlikely ally in one of the last good souls of Brick Mansions, Lino, played by David Belle. A vigilante in his own right, Lino battles every day to live an honest life.

Upon first meeting, their differences get the better of them and the thought of being allies seems nearly impossible. But when Tremaine kidnaps Lino's girlfriend, it sets in motion a chain of adrenaline-spiking events forcing the two to work together. Damien reluctantly accepts the help of the fearless, acrobatic ex-convict, and together attempt to stop a sinister plot to devastate the entire city. In the process, they learn that they have more in common than they initially realized. A grudging respect for one another leads to friendship as they begin to realize that what happens inside and outside of Brick Mansions is not what it seems.

'The Quiet Ones'

Genre: Supernatural horror
 Cast: Jared Harris, Sam Claflin, Erin Richards, Rory Fleck-Byrne and Olivia Cooke
 Director: John Pogue
 Rated: PG-13

Tucked away in an estate outside of London, Professor Coupland along with a team of university students conduct an "experiment" on Jane Harper, a young girl who harbors unspeakable secrets. What dark forces they uncover are more terrifying than any of them expected. Inspired by true events, the

film stars Jared Harris, Sam Claflin, Olivia Cooke and is directed by John Pogue from a screenplay by Craig Rosenberg and Oren Moverman and John Pogue, and based on a screenplay by Tom de Ville.

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

'For No Good Reason'

Genre: Documentary
 Cast: Ralph Steadman and Johnny Depp
 Director: Charlie Paul
 Rated: R

Ralph Steadman is the last of the original Gonzo visionaries. Made over the course of 15 years, "For No Good Reason" explores the connection between life and art through the eyes of seminal British artist. Insightful, humorous, and visually stunning, this is a study in honesty, friendship and the ambition that drives an artist.

Ralph's rise to prominence began in the early 1970s during the fallout from the love and hope that had swept the western world during the 1960s. This legendary time for music, literature, art and philosophy was the catalyst, along with his developing relationship with writer Hunter S. Thompson, for Ralph to express and chart the wreckage that followed; a large-scale disintegration of a demoralized counter-culture. His art gained recognition in the press and popular-culture publications, both in the U.K. and U.S., for its bold comment on his fiercely heart-felt politics.

The film is a richly creative, visual feast about the power and importance of art to achieve Steadman's aim "I learnt to draw...to try to change the world". Director Charlie Paul spent 15 years meticulously amassing the footage and creating the remarkable animations for the film to match the same anarchic energy, anger and free spirit of Steadman's pictures.

Through Johnny Depp's lead in this intimate portrait, we are able to reach to the heart of what make this artist tick, his friendships and fallings out, his love for art and his passion for civil liberties.

"For No Good Reason" is riot of stories and images as we take a trip through the wild and dark days of Steadman's time with 'Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas' writer Hunter S. Thompson, the Rumble

in the Jungle; gun fights with literary giant William S. Burroughs and his fiercely heart-felt politics.

This is an inventive, energetic, occasionally harrowing, but inspiring and uplifting film with contributions from Terry Gilliam, Richard E. Grant and music from Slash, All American Rejects, Jason Mraz, James Blake, Ed Harcourt and Crystal Castles, all For No Good Reason.

'The German Doctor'

Genre: Drama and thriller
 Cast: Alex Brendemühl, Natalia Oreiro, Diego Peretti, Elena Roger, Guillermo Pfenning, Alan Daicz and Florencia Bado
 Director: Lucia Puenzo
 Rated: PG-13

Patagonia, 1960. A German doctor (Alex Brendemühl) meets an Argentinean family and follows them on a long desert road to a small town where the family will be starting a new life.

Eva (Natalia Oreiro), Enzo (Diego Peretti) and their three children welcome the doctor into their home and entrust their young daughter, Lilith (Florencia Bado), to his care, not knowing that they are harboring one of the most dangerous criminals in the world. At the same time, Israeli agents are desperately looking to bring the German doctor to justice.

Based on filmmaker Lucia Puenzo's fifth novel, the story follows Josef Mengele, the "Angel of Death," a German SS officer and a physician at the Auschwitz concentration camp, in the years he spent "hiding", along with many other Nazi's, in South America following his escape from Germany. Mengele was considered to be one of WWII's most heinous Nazi war criminals.

'Locke'

Genre: Action and drama
 Cast: Tom Hardy, Ruth Wilson, Andrew Scott, Olivia Colman, Tom Holland, Ben Daniels, Danny Webb, Alice Lowe, Bill Milner, Lee Ross, Silas Carson and Kirsty Dillon
 Director: Steven Knight
 Rated: R

Ivan Locke (Hardy) has worked diligently to craft the life he has envisioned, dedicating himself to the job that he loves and the family he adores. On the eve of the biggest challenge of his career,

CURTAIN, from page 1B

important night, probably opening nights - of each of our Eight O'Clock Theatre shows."

Going forward, Toppe explained that the foundation seeks to give the Insider's Club patrons a special reason for being members and being supporters of SPAF and supporters of its programs. He suggested that next year, Insider's Club members might do something with the children's camps and summer programs when the kids present their end-of-camp theatrical performances.

"We really do want this to become a permanent part of SPAF and something that happens maybe quarterly that is for insiders only and more than just a behind the scenes peep," Toppe said. He predicts that as the program evolves, Insider's Club members will have an opportunity to gain insights into the production process and "in-depth knowledge about shows we're presenting (such as) the technology and technique of presenting shows, and maybe some of the theory and ideas behind selecting a season and creating memorable experi-

ences for all of our guests and creating educational opportunities for the children of our community."

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FESTIVAL, from page 1B

\$15 the day of the event. Weekend packages and VIP ticketing also is available. Visit funnunclearwater.com or call 1-800-514-ETIX, ext. 1.

Following is the day's performance schedule:

- 12:45 p.m. – John King
- 1:40 p.m. – Blackjack Billy
- 2:40 p.m. – Natalie Stovall & The Drive
- 3:40 p.m. – LoCash Cowboys
- 4:55 p.m. – Swon Brothers
- 6 p.m. – Cole Swindell
- 7:15 p.m. – Rodney Atkins

The schedule is subject to change. Rodney Atkins's well-known singles, "If You're Going Through Hell (Before the Devil Even Knows)" and "Watching You," spent weeks at the top of the country music chart and were ranked as the top country songs of 2006 and 2007. Atkin's platinum album, "If You're Going Through Hell" also produced two more No. 1 singles.

Atkins has received six nominations from the Academy of Country Music and two from the Country Music Association, winning Top New Male Vocalist from the former in 2006.

Cole Swindell's career began with his well-known single "Chillin' It." Swindell released his self-titled debut album in February of 2014 and has been opening for Luke Bryan on his That's My Kind of Party 2014 Tour.

The Swon Brothers (Zach and Colton) first hit the national radar charming fans with their incredible sibling harmonies and fun-loving personalities as finalists on Team Blake in Season 4 of NBC's "The Voice." Newly signed to the Arista Nashville record label, the brothers returned to "The Voice" in December of 2013 to perform "Later On," the first taste of the Muskegee, Okla., natives' upcoming album, helmed by producer Mark Bright.

LoCash Cowboys, the compellingly charismatic duo comprised of Chris Lucas and Preston Brush, have been winning over fans in droves these past seven years with their high energy and over-the-top live performances.

Lucas and Brush co-wrote, with Jaren Johnston, Keith Urban's multi-week No. 1 hit "You Gonna Fly," which catapulted to the top of the Country radio charts in a rapid 19-week ascent. With Chris Janson and Danny Myrick, LoCash Cowboys also co-wrote Tim McGraw's hit "Truck Yeah."

Natalie Stovall boasts breathtaking vocals and larger-than-life stage presence. Her band's turbo-charged, take-no-prisoners live shows match her energy.

Natalie Stovall and The Drive are realizing their dream each day as they perform for fans around the world and finish up their debut record, set to release in 2014.

Stovall has been playing professionally since she

was 10, and performed everywhere from the White House to the Oprah Winfrey Show. Her musical influences might span from the high-energy shows of Shania Twain and Garth Brooks to legends like Michael Jackson and Aerosmith, but make no mistake, her country roots run deep.

Blackjack Billy is an American country rock group based in Nashville. They describe their music as "Redneck Rock." Their debut single, "The Booze Cruise" was independently released in March 2013.

With plenty of ambition, raw talent and business savvy, John King catapulted himself from a little mountain town in Georgia's Habersham County into the spotlight opening for award-winning artists, playing over 150 dates per year, prior to having a booking agent.

King took a serious interest in guitar when he realized that he could figure out how to play his favorite songs, but then went on to modify them.

His dedication and tenacity paid off in opening slots for nationally recognized, award-winning artists; a feat that is virtually unheard of without a booking agent. In 2013, Black River Entertainment signed John King to their artist roster, along with "Dancing with the Stars" champion and acclaimed singer/songwriter Kellie Pickler and country music superstar Craig Morgan.

Concertgoers may bring lawn chairs and blankets as well as one sealed bottle of water per person.

Not permitted at the concert are pets (except assistance animals), grills or open flames, glass containers or bottles, coolers, food or drinks, unauthorized vendors, tents, canopies, umbrellas, audio/video recording devices, throwing objects (footballs, Frisbees, etc.), inline skating and skateboards, littering and personal fireworks.

Concerts at REH, Capitol Theatre

Included in the Fun 'n Sun Celebration schedule of events are two performances by living legends.

Boz Scaggs will perform Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$85. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com.

A casual listen to the Boz Scaggs discography makes one thing obvious: The artist is both a musical seeker and a man of sizable talent as a singer, songwriter and guitarist. His explorations in blues and R&B, rock and jazz have produced lasting work and a career that has brought with it acclaim, a loyal following and an enduring respect among musicians.

Scaggs, a Grammy Award-winning rock legend, has released 21 albums, two of them gold and three of them platinum. In addition to touring extensively with his own band, Scaggs continues to work with Donald Fagen and Michael McDonald as The Dukes of September, most recently playing a 47-city tour to rave reviews, performing their own material along

with R&B and soul classics.

Santana will take the stage Tuesday, April 29, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$89. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com.

Delivered with a level of passion and soul equal to the legendary sonic charge of his guitar, the sound of Carlos Santana is one of the world's best-known musical signatures. For more than four decades – from Santana's earliest days as a groundbreaking Afro-Latin-blues-rock fusion outfit in San Francisco – Carlos has been the visionary force behind artistry that transcends musical genres and generational, cultural and geographical boundaries. For more than 40 years and almost as many albums later, Santana has sold more than 100 million records and reached more than 100 million fans at concerts worldwide. To date, Santana has won 10 Grammy Awards, including a record-tying nine for a single project, 1999's "Supernatural" (including Album of the Year and Record of the Year for "Smooth").

In 1998, the group was ushered into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, whose website notes, "Guitarist Carlos Santana is one of rock's true virtuosos and guiding lights." Santana's last album, "Shape Shifter" (2012) was the first for his new label, Starfaith Records and debuted at No. 16 on the Billboard Top 200.

Health expo

The Fun 'n Sun Clearwater Health Expo will be presented Wednesday, April 30, at Bright House Field, 601 Old Coachman Road.

The event will be presented prior to and during the Clearwater Threshers Minor League Baseball Game. Attendees will have an opportunity to participate in a Wellness Walk – a one-mile walk around Bright House Field – at 11 a.m. BayCare will offer health screenings and exhibits from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 1 p.m., the Clearwater Threshers take on the Brevard County Manatees.

Tickets are \$5. Call 467-4457. The city of Clearwater and Clearwater Threshers also will host Home Run Happy Hour from 5 to 9 p.m., at Frenchy's Tiki Bar at Bright House Field.

Happy hour specials will include: \$3 wines, wells, and bottles; \$4 calls, \$2 drafts and \$1 PBR cans. A portion of the proceeds will benefit charities of Phillips Florida. Food will be provided by Abe's Place Tap & Grill.

A Home Run Derby will be presented from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Registration is limited. Email Doug Kemp at dkemp@threshersbaseball.com or call 712-4316.

Drive-in movie

This year's Fun 'n Sun Celebration will include a nostalgic drive-in movie event on Friday, May 2, at the Joe DiMaggio parking lot, 2450 Drew St., Clearwater.

The movie will begin at 8:15 p.m. Admission is a suggested \$5 donation per car to benefit the volunteer group.

Moviefgoers will watch "Frozen" projected on a four-story-tall inflatable movie screen. Audio can be heard through FM radio. There also will be a seating area with speakers available.

The movie is set in the kingdom of Arendelle. Arendelle is cast into eternal winter by the powerful Snow Queen Elsa (voice of Idina Menzel). Elsa's sprightly sister Anna (Kristen Bell) teams up with a rough-hewn mountaineer named Kristoff (Jonathan Groff) and his trusty reindeer Sven to break the icy spell. Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee co-directed this Walt Disney Animation Studios production based on Hans Christian Andersen's beloved fairy tale "The Snow Queen."

Laughs and Draughts

Laughs & Draughts will pair comedy with beer tasting on Saturday, May 3, at Coachman Park, 301 Drew St., Clearwater.

Headlining the event will be Shawn Wayans. The lineup also will feature Julian McCullough and Boomer Nichols.

Gates will open at 6 p.m. The beer tasting will run 6 to 8 p.m. The comedy show will be presented from 8:30 to 10:15 p.m.

This event is for adults age 21 and older. Guests will be required to present identification at the gate.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the show. Ticket price includes four beer tasting tickets and general admission to the comedy show. Additional beer tasting tickets will be sold at the event – one for \$2, three for \$5 and 15 for \$20. One ticket is good for a beer sample, and three are needed for a full beer.

In partnership with Cigar City Brewing Company, a few of the many selections that will be available to taste will be Cigar City Maduro, Cigar City Jai Alai, Cigar City Helles, Cigar City Florida Cracker and many more.

Visit www.funnunclearwater.com.

Fireworks finale

The end of this year's celebration will feature the Fun 'n Sun Fireworks Finale on Sunday, May 4, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Pier 60 on Clearwater Beach.

The finale will be part of Clearwater's Sunsets at Pier 60 nightly sunset celebration. The free family event features artisans, crafters, street performers and musical entertainment, weather permitting. Sunset Cinema also will be screening a movie, beginning at dusk. The fireworks show will take place during the intermission.

Attendees may bring a blanket or low-sitting lawn chair. Popcorn and soft drinks will be available.

For information, visit www.sunsetsatpier60.com.



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Every Day Outside

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Stephonie 1-5pm • Act III 6-10pm

Saturday, April 26
Jelvis 1-5pm • Act III 6-10pm

Sunday, April 27
Ricky Jackson 1-5pm
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CONSIDER ADOPTION - It's a Wonderful Choice! Choose your family. Living, Medical, Counseling Expenses Paid. Call Florida Attorney, Ellen Kaplan. (877)341-1309. (FBN0875228) (C)

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ARE YOU PREGNANT?
A childless, young married couple (in our 30s) seeks to adopt. Hands-on mom/dedicated dad. Financial security. Expenses paid. Call Maria & John, (888)988-5028. (Rep. by Adam Sklar, FL Bar #0150789). (C)

ARE YOU PREGNANT?
A childless, young married couple (in our 30s) seeks to adopt. Hands-on mom/dedicated dad. Financial security. Expenses paid. Call Maria & John, (888)988-5028. (Rep. by Adam Sklar, FL Bar #0150789). (C)

MISS SUNSHINE POP STAR MUSIC PAGEANT
Hey Girls! Here's Your Chance. Win \$5,000 Cash, a Recording Contract, and Many More Prizes! 18+ Only. Call (904)246-8222. CypressRecords.com. (F)

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* If you have not owned a home in the last 3 years

10. Waterfront Sales

SHIPWATCH: 2BR/2BA, TOTALLY Redone, Chef's Kitchen, Wrap Balcony, Upgrades Galore. \$235,000. Shipwatch Realty, www.ShipwatchRealty.com (727)596-6508.

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

INTRACOASTAL COMMUNITY

Beautifully Updated Turn Key 2BR/2BA With One Car Detached Garage. \$200,000. Tim O'Neil, Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty, (727)687-2232.

MADIRA BEACH SEA TOWERS Bright Breezy Corner Unit, Condo, 2BR/2BA, Active 55+ Lifestyle. 4th Floor, Lovely Open Water Views. Owner (727)319-0563

INTRACOASTAL COMMUNITY

Beautifully Remodeled 1BR/1BA, Steps From Pool & Waterfront, \$79,900. Tim O'Neil, Plumlee Gulf Beach Realty, (727)687-2232.

15. Beach Property

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SAND KEY DAN'S ISLAND 2BR/2BA, RENOVATED 1,880SF, W/D, All Amenities. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton (727)644-0400.

20. Condo Sales

SEMINOLE GARDENS! Remodeled 1BR Standard. 2BR/1BA Land Owned. Sales & Rentals, Robert G. Castles, PA. Broker. (727)319-8229 www.seminolegarden.com

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20. Condo Sales

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35. Mobile Home Sales

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#18 - 2/2/2, Beautiful Lake Front, 2007 Jacobsen, \$179,888.

#28 - 2/2/2, \$62,500

#127 - 2/2/2, Furnished, Near Pool & Clubhouse, \$74,888.

#204 - 2/2/2, Furnished, \$70,000

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95. Property Mgmt.

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The Toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

130. Cemetery Lots

Serenity Gardens Indian Rocks Road, Largo. 2 Lots Side-By-Side. \$2,500 Each OBO (727)348-6302

SYLVAN ABBEY, GARDEN OF Reflections, 2 Side-By-Side, Eye Level Mausoleums By Chapel Pond & Rock Garden, \$14,500 For Both. (314)724-8370.

RENTALS

135. Rentals

LARGO, CORNER UNIT CONDO 2BR/2BA, Great Location. All Amenities, No Pets/ Smoking. \$850/Per Month. Year Lease Plus Deposit. (727)481-8891

145. Unfurnished Houses

SEMINOLE 2BR/1BA/1CG Recently Updated, Fenced Yard, Quiet Neighborhood, \$925/Month. No Dogs. 10964 84th Ave N. (727)831-2762. By Appointment.

CLEARWATER HIGHLAND & NURSERY 2BR/1BA, Florida Room, Washer/Dryer, Renovated Bathroom. Large Yard, Includes Lawn Service. NO PETS. \$950/Month +Security. (727)687-2171

155. Furnished Condos

SEMINOLE GARDENS 1BR/1BA, 608SF, 55+, Laminate Floors, Water View. \$675/Month-Yearly. Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp. (727)397-2534

SEA TOWERS, 55+, 2BR/2BA Corner Unit, Full-Time, Partially Furnished, Cute & Clean. \$950. (847)639-5969.

SEMINOLE, LONG BAYOU 1BR/1BA, 55+, Nicely Furnished, Newly Updated, Gated Community. Resort Style Living. \$850/Month. (727)385-7718.

LARGO, SINGLE LEVEL CONDO 2BR/2BA Off Ulmerton/ Seminole Rd. 1 Year Lease \$850 + Internet and Electric (315)269-3258, (315)269-3260 Leave Message, References Required.

160. Unfurnished Condos

VENDOME VILLAGE 55+ Beautifully Remodeled 2BR/2BA, Villa with Bonus Room and GARAGE. No Smoking/ Pets. \$925/Month Annual. (727)391-3551, (727)798-3431.

BELLEAIR, LUXURY 2BR/2BA, 1,500SF, Directly On Intracoastal. Spectacular Setting w/Gated 24 Hr. Security, Pool, Covered Parking, W/D, No Pets, Nonsmoking. \$1,575/Mo. Annual. Will Guarantee No Increase At Renewal. (727)420-1397.

SEMINOLE, 2BR/2BA VILLA Excellent Condition. Utilities Included except Electric, Covered Parking. \$925/Month. Call (727)420-0055.

ACROSS FROM BAY PINES 1BR/1BA, 55+, Recently Updated, Pool, Workout Room, Clubhouse. \$550/Month. (319)621-8904.

BEAUTIFUL SEMINOLE GARDENS 1BR/1BA, Totally Renovated, 55+, 1st Floor, Handicap Accessible, Water view, Park Like Setting, \$675, \$300 Security 1/2 off May's Rent (727)470-1370

170. Furnished Apts.

CLEARWATER STUDIO Starting at \$189/Week. No security. No Credit Check. Free WIFI access. Pets OK. MOVE IN TODAY!! (727)445-7134. precisionpropertymanagement.net

SEMINOLE GARDENS DELUXE 1BR, Laminated floors, New Windows, Overlooks Canal, Near Pool. Small Pet OK. 6 Month-Year Lease. \$800-900. (727)398-9986

175. Unfurnished Apts.

AFFORDABLE LARGO 1BR \$160/Wkly. Dunedin Condo, \$95/Wkly. Free Water, Electric. Won't Last! Call Or Click www.586-2412.com

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

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

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

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

INDIAN SHORES 1BR C/H/A, Includes E/W/S, Beach Access. 19235 Whispering Pines Drive. \$1,000/Month. (727)599-5814, (727)623-4443. Owner/ Agent.

175. Unfurnished Apts.

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Spacious Apts, Screened-In Lanai, Monthly Calendar Full Of Activities, Transportation, Beautiful Grounds & Much More!

Waived Application Fee When You Mention This Ad.

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185. Beach Rentals

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH WEEKLY RENTALS Cozy, Clean, Furnished Cottages. 1-2BRs rates starting at \$329/week +tax. Steps to Gulf Beach. Pet Friendly. (727)595-3000. www.SunshineCozyCottages.com

FURNISHED/UNFURNISHED

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

190. Waterfront Rentals

MADIRA BEACH CONDO 55+, 2BR/2BA. Annual Lease Only. No Pets. Non-Smoking. \$1,400/Mo. (727)391-6407.

TREASURE ISLAND, 2BR/2BA Waterfront Condo, Vaulted Ceilings. Minimum 1/Year Lease. Unfurnished. No Pets. \$1,200/Month. (727)386-2802.

195. Seasonal Rentals

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

210. Mobile Hm. Rentals

AFFORDABLE - ADORABLE One and Two-Bedroom mobiles from \$135/Week. 28/Week Lease Includes W/S/T/L. Call now. Gulf Breeze MHP (727)474-1074.

245. Room For Rent

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

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265. Commercial Rentals

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

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OFFICE WAREHOUSE 800/1,000/2,000/4,000/SF Available. 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park, Ron (727)560-3558

MISCELLANEOUS

315. Personals

MET YOU AT THE 7-ELEVEN On Gulf Blvd. IRB. Interested in getting to know you. ORANGE TENNIS SHOES! mcginnesh@aol.com

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- Professional Services Directory

AT YOUR SERVICE

355. Adoption

PREGNANT? Thinking about Adoption? Choose the Perfect Family For Your Baby Benefits may include: Free Apartment Free Medical Care Free Counseling Experienced Adoption Entity (727)421-2514 FL BAR #0967841

435. Adult Care & Svcs.

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470. Entertainment

50's DOO-WOP EVENTS Stroll Down Memory Lane To The Hop! Senior Adults, Reunions, Sock-hop Dances, Any Occasion. fabulousthirtiesparties.com (727)348-7532 garye123_99@yahoo.com

EMPLOYMENT

485. Help Wanted

EARN \$1000s From Home? Be careful of Work-At-Home Schemes. • Hidden costs can add up • Requirements may be unrealistic. Learn how you can avoid Work-At-Home Scams. Call: Federal Trade Comm. 1-877-FTC-HELP. A message from Tampa Bay Newspapers and the FTC.

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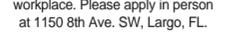
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485. Help Wanted

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TWO POSITIONS: BOUTIQUE SALES PERSON,

Ticket Sales for Dolphin Cruise. Call for information (727)455-3247. Tarpon.

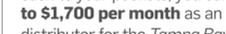
485. Help Wanted

485. Help Wanted

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505. Part-Time Help

505. Part-Time Help

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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. Shifflett at 727-530-5521.

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522. Careers



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535. Business Opportunities

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5175 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater

655. Musical Instruments

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With 88 Keys And Bench.
\$400 For Quick Sale.
(716)435-3578

660. Wanted to Buy

DIABETIC TEST STRIPS WANTED
"Top Dollar Paid!"
Any Type, Any Brand, We Come To You!
Call Bob, (727)204-0478.

820. Truck Sales

TOYOTA 2000 TACOMA
Regular Cab, 2WD, 155K Miles, \$5,488. Superior Auto, 7290 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park. www.727Cars.com (727)545-8777

NISSAN 2005 FRONTIER
Gray, 41,000 Miles, All Power, Double Cab, Engine & Body Clean As A Whistle. Asking \$12,995. (727)667-1381.

885. Autos Wanted

Got a Car You Wanna Sell

The Good, The Bad The Ugly

Call Now 727-400-1910

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With or without title. Any condition, make, year or model. We pay up to \$20,000. Free Towing. (813)516-0847, (727)495-3516.

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970. Estate Sales

5601 110TH WAY, OFF 54TH AVENUE N, SEMINOLE 33772
Thursday 1:00-5:00PM, Friday-Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM. Another Great Sale! EncoreEventsPlus.com

975. Garage-Yard Sales

St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church. The Newly Expanded Famous Thrift Shop! Every Wed. & Sat. 9AM-2PM. 10851 Ridge Road, Seminole. (727)397-3312.

525. Medical Help

CNAs, HHAs NEEDED FOR
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If you are looking to make some extra cash, the Times is looking for you. We are searching for independent distributors to sell and deliver our newspapers to stores and news racks during early morning hours. Must be able to pass background and credit check. We currently have business opportunities in Pinellas County. If you're interested in managing your own business we invite you to contact us to learn more.

Tampa Bay Times
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One Left! Born 1/25/14, Male, CKC/APRI Registered. \$350.
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827. Auto Repair

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830. Van & SUV Sales

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Local resident to perform during Biggest Beach Party Ever

By TOM GERMOND

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – A local resident will perform in a band that will play “hard-charging, uptempo” blues during the Biggest Beach Party Ever, Saturday, April 26, 4 to 10 p.m.

Chris Dawson looks forward to singing and playing the harmonica with the band El Tree-O.

From the Chicago area, where he played at various clubs, Dawson has lived in Indian Rocks Beach since 2009. He also lived in Indian Rocks Beach from 1975 to 1982.

Dawson said El Tree-O performs weekly at Mahuffer’s Bar in Indian Shores.

“I have gone there and played a few times, and long story short, we put together an hour show,” Dawson said.

Besides El Tree-O, Discount Loans brings continuous music by two other local bands to the Beach Party stage. Southern Jam will perform first before headliners. The Surfin’ Raccoons, musicians who have played many local area clubs for 15 years, takes the stage.

Surfin’ Raccoons is a band that was formed mainly by Mike Riley and Sam Reynolds at a party at the Cinder Block in Saint Petersburg in 1985. They play manly ‘60’s and ‘70’s rock and blues.

The event will be held on the beach just behind the Indian Rocks Beach County Park, 1700 Gulf Blvd. Admission is free and food is for sale from local vendors: Crabby Bill’s, Pajano’s, Red Lion Pub, Slyce

Pizza Bar, Sombra Coffee and Brain Freeze Treats. Wine, sponsored by 18 on the Rocks, is also available for purchase as well as beer, courtesy of Crabby Bill’s.

“There’s something for everyone. There’s a lot going on,” Dawson said. “They always put on a good show. The music is good. The vendors are good. It’s neighbors being neighborly,” he said.

Dawson, 57, said he has been playing the harmonica for 45 years. His father was a professional musician, a Dixieland jazz trombonist.

“I sang first with him when I was 6 years old on his stage,” Dawson said.

Dawson is a longtime HOA member and volunteer and husband of HOA board member, Lisa Dawson.

No coolers or dogs allowed. Raffle tickets to win a paddleboard from Watersports West will be sold at the event.

Century 21 Beggins, which has sponsored the Biggest Beach Party Ever in past years, teamed up with Paramount Title to support it again this year.

Chad Morris, Discount Loans.com Owner/Partner said, “The caliber of local musical talent on the beaches is unbelievable and we never miss a chance to support it.”

This year’s media sponsor is Tampa Bay Newspapers/Beach Bee.

The Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association, a nonprofit organization, donates proceeds from its events to support local community projects and worthwhile causes. Visit IRBhome.com.



Photo by NANCY IZOR

Chris Dawson, an IRB resident, will perform with El Tree-O at the Biggest Beach Party Ever.

Five artists featured at guild show

By LUBA ROBINSON

TREASURE ISLAND – The Treasure Island Art Guild’s Winter/Spring Art Show features five local artists through May 21 at the Treasure Island Community Center.

They include Danee Kinzel, Bruce Kotchey, Stan Krupa, Helen Mullins and Patricia Trahey.

Kinzel, a Florida native, uses pastels and a passion for “typical Florida landscapes” in her works of art. “The Rivers’ Edge” pulls the viewer to a place that transcends reality. “Standing Water” and “Golden Afternoon” match swaying palms against delicate cumulous skies. The state of Maine embraces “Springtime in Gorman Park.”

Emerging from the “joy of challenges” while working with a variety of media and subject matter, Kotchey, with a masterful application of colored pencils shows a vibrant “Stone Walled.” Pen and ink exhibits a striking “Snowcat.” A flowing “Season Change” and contemporary “Star Cluster” are fine examples of mixed media.

Krupa, an eclectic artists who is “always in love with life” dazzles viewers with a sampling of acrylic and collage abstracts. “Snowbirds” and “Construction” achieve balance in color, texture, and form. A stunning “Sunset” celebrates day’s end and linear forms in “Quiet Vision” successfully suggest a placid, collected pace.

Art lovers can experience the skilled artistry of Mullins as she tells her stories in oils with a keen sensitivity to contrasting tones and composition in “Gulfport Garage,” “Gulfport Market Day” and a 1920’s era H.C. Smith grocery store in “Heritage Village.” An encore of her lush palette gives us a stoic “Pelican” waiting for leftovers from a neighboring bait house.

Accomplished oil painter Trahey, is inspired to “put the viewer in a place of pure joy” with vivid hues, as seen in blues legend “Me and Lucille, BB King” and “After the Dance,” a striking portrait, posed to pull your gaze into a sense of wonderment. Experience a unique “Sunset on the Gulf” through a



Featured in Treasure Island Art Guild’s Art Show is “Heritage Village” by Helen Mullins, above, and “After the Dance” by Patricia Trahey, below.



glass of wine. An endearing moment in “My Buddy” permeates the senses.

The Treasure Island Community center is located on 106th Avenue, east of Gulf Boulevard. Call 547-4575 for hours of operation.

Upcoming events

Venue to host auditions

PINELLAS PARK – Venue Theatre will host auditions Sunday, April 27, 6 p.m., at 9125 U.S. 19 N.

The theater will be auditioning for its upcoming summer season productions of “The Cemetery Club” and “The Gin Game.” Men and women who can portray age 55 and older are sought. Cast breakdowns for each production are listed below.

“The Cemetery Club,” by Ivan Menchell, will run May 30 through June 15 and will be directed by Rob Sakoff. Three Jewish widows meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husband’s graves. Ida is sweet tempered and ready to begin a new life. Lucille is a feisty embodiment of the girl who just wants to have fun. Doris is priggish and judgmental. Sam is a charming, regular guy. Mildred is attractive, with a pleasant demeanor.

“The Gin Game,” by D.L. Coburn, will run June 27 through July 13. Roles include Fonsia, a prim, self-righteous lady; and Weller, who is kindly, but with a bit of an edge. All actors are paid a stipend.

For information, call Frank Kronyak at 563-6009.

Two groups partner to sponsor Ribfest

ST. PETERSBURG – The Northeast Exchange Club, producer of Ribfest, has agreed in terms with a joint venture entity formed by Big City Events LLC and OBCIDIO, LLC to be the exclusive sponsorship and activation agent for its annual Ribfest event.

The 2014 Ribfest is scheduled for Nov. 14-16, at the Vinoy Park in downtown St. Petersburg.

As the exclusive sponsorship agent, Big City Events and Event Live will procure new sponsors, renew existing sponsors, develop creative sponsor benefits, and fulfill those benefits.

“Gone are the days where you can just put a sponsor logo on an event poster. Big City Events has developed expertise in onsite brand activation at events and festivals that will yield the highest ROI for sponsors,” said Monica Varner in a press release. Varner is a partner at Big City Events.

EVENT Live, the official mobile app for Ribfest was first deployed at last year’s event allowing organizers to have a direct line of communication with attendees, while helping sponsors like Mike’s Hard Lemonade interact in real-time with the crowd. Currently, EVENT Live is the only event-based app on the market that offers brands non-static interactive advertising options including contest, polls and surveys through a live social stream.

“With Big City Events joining the team we can now combine interactive mobile advertising, on-site activation and traditional advertising options to both current and potential sponsors,” said Ryan Waier, CEO of EVENT Live. “This unique and highly effective advertising package for Ribfest 2014 is something other festivals in the country currently can’t offer their sponsors, so we couldn’t be more excited about this groundbreaking opportunity.”

“We are very excited to be joining forces with Big City Events and EVENT Live to grow and enhance our corporate sponsorships and also to continue to enhance the experience for our guests each year at Ribfest,” said David Hood, vice president of marketing for Ribfest.

Ribfest draws more than 40,000 attendees throughout the weekend and attracts major regional and national brands to activate at the event.

Holocaust Museum to host Yom HaShoah Commemoration

ST. PETERSBURG – The Florida Holocaust Museum, in partnership with the Pinellas County Board of Rabbis, will host a Yom HaShoah Commemoration on Sunday, April 27, 2 p.m., at the museum, 55 Fifth St. S.

There is no charge to attend the commemorative service and admission to the museum will be free to the public all day Sunday.

Known more commonly outside of Israel as Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah honors the memory of more than 6 million Jews who perished during the Holocaust. The full name of the day is Yom HaShoah Ve-Hagevurah or “day of the Remembrance of the Holocaust and the Heroism” as it also marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

Stanlee Stahl, executive vice president of the New York-based Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, will be the guest speaker at this year’s commemoration. The JFR’s mission is to preserve the memory and legacy of non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust while also providing financial support to dozens of those heroes who now find themselves in need of assistance. The JFR has provided assistance to as many as 1,750 individuals around the world.

Holocaust survivors will close the ceremony with a candlelight vigil to honor the memory and efforts of those who died and suffered during the Holocaust as well as those who risked their lives in the face of evil.

The exhibition “To Save a Single Life ... Rescuers of Jews During the Holocaust” also will be on display on the museum’s second floor from April 26 through June 30.

Genocide and Human Rights Awareness Month is an annual initiative of the Florida Holocaust Museum in its fifth year. The goal of GHRAM is to build public awareness about the current genocide in Darfur and past genocides including the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide, the Rwandan genocide as well as other human rights violations. GHRAM is presented in memory of Stephen Feinstein who was a guest curator for the Florida Holocaust Museum for 10 years and founding director of the University of Minnesota’s Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

For a complete schedule, visit www.flholocaustmuseum.org/ghram.aspx.

For more information on GHRAM and these programs, call 820-0100.

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