

Jury convicts would-be terrorist

Sami Osmakac of Pinellas Park faces life in prison ... Page 6A.

LARGO LEADER

'Think Like a Man Too,' 'Jersey Boys' hit theaters this weekend

Also, Andy Grammer, Brian Regan and an appraisal fair come to Tampa Bay ... Page 1B.



Volume XXXVI, No. 48

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LARGO



Two arrested in Feb. 20 shooting

Michael Schmidt, 22, of Seminole was angry that John Black, 36, of Largo peeked over the wall at his girlfriend while she was tanning Feb. 19.

Detectives have reportedly linked Schmidt to a shooting that happened the next day. But it wasn't Black who was shot. And Schmidt wasn't the one with the gun.

... Page 4A.

BUSINESS

Tech Data's Tracy Veillette honored

Girls Inc. of Pinellas honored Tech Data Vice President and U.S. Controller Tracy Veillette as 2014 STEM Woman of the Year.



Tracy Veillette

The annual event brings awareness to the community of the need for STEM - science, technology, engineering and math - education for girls while honoring a local role model.

... Page 7A.

SCHOOLS

New principals named for schools

Several new principals have been appointed at the recommendation of Superintendent Michael Grego.

Among those is Shannon Brennan, now principal of Mildred Helms Elementary School, where she was assistant principal.

... Page 11A.

COMMUNITY

Pinellas Heights is a 'silver' building

Pinellas County Housing Authority's new Pinellas Heights senior community has received the silver award from the National Green Building Standard.

... Page 14A.

VIEWPOINTS

Tom Germond

Retire and do what?
... Page 12A.



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City preps 8 charter amendments

Largo commissioners discuss suggested changes for the Nov. 4 ballot

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - Along with considering candidates for five seats on the Largo Commission, voters also will be considering several changes to the city charter Nov. 4.

The changes will be outlined in at least eight questions on the ballot. The process for updating the charter began with a citizen charter review committee, appointed by the commission to meet on a monthly basis starting April 2013.

In April of this year, the committee members presented their recommendations, which were drafted into amendments and ballot language for approval June 18.

So far, the commission will ask Largo voters to consider the following substantive changes to the charter:

- If commissioners should receive salary increases at the same percentage as city management employees, unless commissioners opt out by resolution
- If a majority vote should be required

before commissioners can conduct an investigation into city business or a city employee

- If a referendum would be required to approve a lease of city-owned property for more than 10 years instead of five years, as is now the threshold

- If the city manager should have the authority to execute grant applications and agreements that do not require commission approval

- If the commission can make changes in

fund appropriations by resolution instead of city ordinance

- If the planning board should have decision-making authority as currently specified by ordinance

- If the city would prohibit employee discrimination based on age or national origin

The first question on the ballot will ask voters to consider a number of clarifications, updates or corrections to clerical

See AMENDMENTS, page 3A

Operation: Light Them Up

Largo police pass out lights to bicyclists to enforce safety

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - At 5:30 a.m., Officer Kurt Iskra of Largo Police Department's traffic enforcement unit is on the lookout for bicyclists who are hard to see under the dark of night.

With a flashlight, he'll "pull over" those who aren't using the proper equipment as they bike to work, a bus stop, home after the night shift or to school.

"If people don't have bike lights, then we stop them," Iskra explained.

Bicyclists riding without white headlights and red taillights between sunset and sunrise are in violation of state law. Largo police can issue a citation, which levies a \$15 fine. But for first violation, they'll give the bicyclists a warning and the proper equipment.

"We'll give them a set of bike lights and a set of batteries," Iskra said.

The Florida Department of Transportation provides the lights to Largo Police Department as well as other law enforcement agencies in the area. The program is an effort to save lives, first and foremost, said Sgt. George Edmiston, head of Largo's traffic enforcement unit.

"The Tampa Bay area has grown to the top fatal area for bicyclists," he said.

The Tampa office of the state department wants the LED lights used as enforcement tool, Edmiston said. He calls Largo's local effort "Operation: Light Them Up."

"Our goal is to get every bike on the roadway lit up," he said.

Rather than waiting until they are stopped, Edmiston encourages residents to ask for

See LIGHTS, page 4A



Above, as the sun rises, Officer Kurt Iskra of Largo Police Department's traffic enforcement unit watches the intersection of Missouri Avenue and Bay Drive June 17, on the lookout for bicyclists without head and taillights. On the hood of his truck are the lights the department is giving out to those whose bike is not properly equipped. At left, Iskra gives a box of lights and a written warning to a bicyclist on East Bay Drive.

Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

Pinellas to fix Veteran Services

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County Commissioners promised veterans Feb. 5, 2013, that staff would solve all the problems caused by a reorganization of its Health and Human Services Department.

The intent of reorganization had been to make it easier for veterans to receive service by providing more locations while saving the county money through shared administrative and support staff. Local veterans insisted that the plan wasn't working. They attended commission meetings for months prior to that February meeting, voicing their problems.

Staff kept telling commissioners that it was all a misunderstanding and that everything would be fine once the plan was fully implemented. But, the veterans refused to be deferred. They filled the commission's assembly room Jan. 29, 2013, accompanied by representatives from the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs.

At the end of that meeting, commissioners finally conceded that the problem likely could be traced to taking budget cuts too far.

During the meeting, former Health and Human Services director Gwendolyn Warren, who lost her job about the same time the commission fired former County Administrator Bob LaSala in April, explained that the changes were made to ensure her department was operating at maximum efficiency in providing core services.

Veterans Services and resources devoted to providing services to homeless veterans had been combined to improve efficiency. The office that had historically served veterans seeking assistance in filing claims was closed and moved into a nearby office that served all Health and Human Services clients.

However, by law, a certified Veterans Services officer must assist veterans

See VETERANS, page 4A

County squashes water rumors

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County Commissioners are concerned about an email going around warning citizens that the drinking water "is endangered."

The email is perhaps another sign of the growing disagreement between commissioners over a possible sale of county-owned land in Pasco County. The commission continued to squabble over water rights and future needs at a June 10 budget work session.

The latest source of contention is an email with the subject "drinking water alert" from Seminole resident Tom Rask, who is running for the District 6 seat on the county commission in the upcoming election. The body of Rask's message includes the headline, "ALEKT - Your Drinking Water Is Endangered!"

It goes on to say, "With no notice and no public input, Pinellas County is now seeking to sell our drinking water source. The drinking water wells are located on 12,500 acres in Pasco County and were acquired for good reason during the so-called 'water wars' in decades past. Commissioner Janet Long recently and suddenly changed her mind on this critical issue and joined Commissioners Ken Welch, Susan Latvala and Charlie Justice in seeking to sell our land."

See WATER, page 4A

Fire Operations 101



Photo courtesy of MACHO LIBERTI

U.S. congressional candidate Lucas Overby, center, carries a hose into the smoke-filled and heated fire simulator followed by state representative candidate Chris Latvala during the fifth annual Fire Operations 101 training June 14. More than 100 civilians and public officials from Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties traveled to St. Petersburg College's Fire and Public Safety Training Center in Clearwater to learn about fire operations up close. One participant drove up from Cape Coral. About 80 suited up in firefighter gear to participate in training simulations. Along with SPC, Pinellas Fire Chiefs' Association and the locals affiliates of the International Association of Fire Fighters hosted the event. Paul Davis Restoration sponsored breakfast and lunch.

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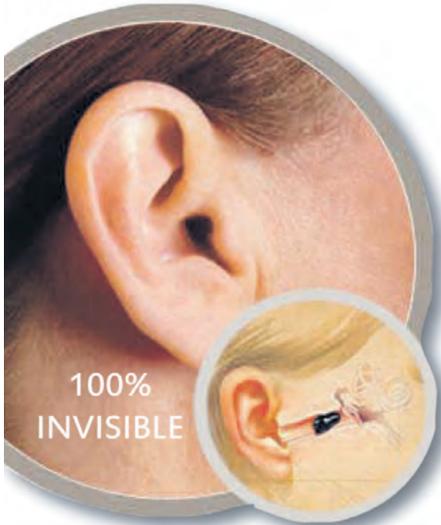
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City calendar

Southwest Rec

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

Food trucks come to Southwest

LARGO - Food truck vendors will converge on Southwest Pool for Food Truck Family Fridays, June 20 and July 11, 7 to 9 p.m.

Find out what all the hype is about. Enjoy an array of food along with a swim in the pool with fun, games, rafts and music.

Entry is \$3 for residents, \$4 for nonresidents or \$6 guests. Prices for foods vary per truck vendor.

Tennis social held

LARGO - The Southwest Tennis Center will host a tennis social for ages 16 and older Friday, July 11, 5 to 8 p.m.

The cost is \$5. Call 518-3125.

Search for treasures

LARGO - Search for treasures all over the aquatic facility during Splash's Treasure Hunt Saturday, July 26, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Southwest Pool.

The cost is \$3 for residents and \$5 for nonresidents. Hunts will be divided by age group: 2 to 4 years old, 5 to 7 years old, 8 to 10 years old and 11 to 12 years old.

Hot dogs will be free while supplies last. Door prizes will be offered. Come aboard the pirate ship, but beware of the plank!

Reserve a Community Garage Sale table

LARGO - Tables at Southwest Recreation Complex's Community Garage Sale are now on sale.

Tables cost \$9 each and are limited to two per person. The

complex will do all the advertising, setup, and clean up for the event, scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 23, 8 to noon.

Community Center

The Largo Community Center is at 400 Alt. Keene Road. Visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131.

Meditation class offered

LARGO - The Parbawatiya Center will teach classes on meditation on Mondays, 6 to 7:15 p.m., through July 21, at the Largo Community Center.

Reduce your stress and gain peace of mind by learning to meditate. All levels are welcome.

The suggested donation for the class is \$10. The Parbawatiya Kadampa Buddhist Center is a nonprofit organization based in Safety Harbor.

For more information, call Maria Erickson at 813-431-7372 or visit MeditationInTampaBay.org.

Weekly events

• **Ballroom dancing:** Thursdays, 6:45 to 9 p.m. Carol Baker will lead a lesson from 7 to 8 p.m., followed by open dancing. The cost is \$8.

• **Square dancing:** Fridays, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. Spend the evening dancing country-style to professional caller Allen Snell. The cost is \$6.

• **Swing dancing:** Saturdays, 7 to 11 p.m. Enjoy an evening of dancing and socializing on a 5,600-square-foot sprung hardwood floor. Free lessons offered from 7 to 8 p.m., followed by a dance with music by DJ Savoy Swing. The cost is \$6 with a recreation card and \$7 without a card.

Highland Rec

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

Toddlers to enjoy an Itty Bitty Pool Party

LARGO - The Highland Family Aquatic Center will host an Itty Bitty Pool Party Friday, June 20 and July 18, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

The cost is \$2.50. Enjoy companionship of other parents and caregivers while children play together in a safe aquatic environment or at surrounding activities.

Children who are not potty-trained must wear a vinyl swim diaper under their bathing suit. Vinyl reusable diapers are available for \$3 at the facility.

Teens invited to open basketball

LARGO - Highland Recreation Complex will host Teen Basketball Night Saturday, June 21 and July 19, 7 to 11 p.m.

The cost is \$5 resident and \$6.25 nonresidents with a recreation ID or \$9.25 without one. Enjoy four hours of open play with games and prizes. Concessions will be available. Re-entry is not allowed.

Tidalwave

Tuesdays returns

LARGO - The Highland Family Aquatic Center will host Teen Tidalwave Tuesdays through July, 7 to 9 p.m.

The cost is \$3 and open to middle and high school youth. Splash's Snack Bar will be open.

For more information, visit LargoPools.com.

Come out for Midnight Madness

LARGO - The city of Largo will

Suited up



Photo courtesy of MACHO LIBERTI
From left, Largo Commissioner Jamie Robinson, state representative candidate Chris Latvala, Belleair Bluffs Commissioner Suzy Sofer and Largo firefighter and county commission candidate Macho Liberti pose at the fifth annual Fire Operations 101 training in Clearwater June 14.

host 12 hours of fun and recreation at Midnight Madness starting Friday, July 11, 8 p.m., until Saturday, July 12, 8 a.m., at Highland Recreation Complex.

The cost is \$50. Children will be supervised while they play sports, make crafts, play games and enjoy time with their friends.

Glo at Highland pool

LARGO - Join Highland Recreation Complex for Glo Night Friday, July 18, 8:45 to 11:45 p.m., at the aquatic center.

Bring the whole family for black lights, disco lights and strobe lights as you splash your way down the slides. Dance with the lifeguards to the DJ's music. The first 100 people will receive free Glo necklaces.

Entry is \$5 for residents and \$8 for nonresidents. Splash's Snack bar will be open and free hot dogs will be available. Door prizes and activities are planned.

Join the Zumba Bash

LARGO - Dance your heart out with the Summer-Loving Zumba Bash Saturday, July 26, 6 to 8 p.m., at Highland complex.

The cost is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. The event includes favorite songs, guest instructors, free healthy snacks and raffle prizes.

Central Park

The Largo Central Park is at 101 Central Park Drive. Within the park are the Largo Public Library, at 120 Central Park Drive and Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive.

'Last Vegas' to play in Central Park

LARGO - Grab blankets and chairs and join the city for a showing of the movie "Last Vegas" on the big screen Friday, June

20, 7 p.m., at Largo Central Park. Onsite parking, concessions and a campfire will be available. No alcohol permitted.

The next movie will be "Chocolat" on July 18, 7 p.m. For more information, call 587-6751.

Celebrate July 4th

LARGO - Celebrate Independence Day end enjoy one of the best fireworks shows in Pinellas County at Largo Central Park, Friday, July 4, 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Entry is free. Enjoy a DJ, activities and food starting at 6 p.m. Fireworks will take place about 9 p.m. For the safety of everyone, no alcohol, coolers, pets or personal fireworks - not even sparklers - will be permitted.

Limited on-site parking will be available for \$5. Attendees can park for free at Largo Middle School and Largo High School. Call 587-6740, ext. 5014.

AMENDMENTS, from page 1A

errors. The corrected sections include one that designates a vice mayor's appointment to one year, another that allows a commissioner to be appointed to fill a sudden mayoral vacancy and one that allows the cost of copies of the budget to be set by ordinance.

Commissioners agreed with the ballot language so far, but Mayor Pat Gerard questioned why one of her recommendations, which had the support of the commission, wasn't included.

Currently, the charter gives the mayor the power to appoint residents to the city's various boards "at the advice and the consent of the commission." The task of reviewing applications for board appointments and recruiting residents to serve has proved arduous, Gerard said.

"This was a bad idea to begin with," she said. In drafting the ballot questions, City Attorney Alan Zimmet had left the language as is, reasoning that the charter did not prohibit the mayor from delegating her appointment power to other commissioners. Gerard had thought the language would be removed entirely, allowing

the appointment process to be defined by legislative policy outside of the charter.

The commission agreed with Gerard, asking Zimmet to make the slight change to the charter as part of the first question on the November ballot.

"Between now and the election, we have to come up with a better policy," Gerard said.

The commission tabled approval of the charter amendments and the corresponding ballot questions until after Zimmet writes new language regarding appointments. The first reading of the ordinance to approve both will be Tuesday, June 24; the second will be Tuesday, July 15.

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Largo Kiwanis provide spotlight for RCS

LARGO – Christi Snyder, volunteer coordinator for RCS, talked about the need for volunteers at the nonprofit's food bank this summer during the dinner meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Largo/Mid-Pinellas June 12.

RCS, or Religious Community Services, is a nonprofit agency serving the people of Pinellas County with basic needs through four distinct, yet interwoven programs since 1967.

The RCS Food Bank is the largest distributor of food to people in need living in Pinellas County, serving about 25,000 people each month. RCS Grace House helps families facing homelessness by providing up to eight weeks of apartment-style emergency shelter. The Haven of RCS offers an emergency safe house, safety planning, group support and more to victims of domestic violence. The RCS Thrift Store provides revenue to RCS through sales to the public of used items: clothing, household items, furniture and more.

Due to the increase in people needing food this summer, RCS needs more volunteers to help distribute and stock at the food bank. If you want to help, contact Snyder 584-3528, ext. 407 or christi.snyder@RCSpinellas.org.

During the meeting June 12, the Kiwanis also gave a parting gift and certificate to Johanna Anderson for her help as the faculty advisor



Johanna Anderson, right, receives a parting gift and certificate June 12 for her help as the faculty advisor for the Largo High School Key Club, a Kiwanis-sponsored youth program. Also pictured is Dr. Regina Bennett, a youth advisor who has worked with the Key Club since 1990.

LIGHTS, from page 1A

the lights at the front desk of the department, at 201 Highland Ave. Officers will install the free lights on any bicycles without them.

Iskra said he's seen more and more bicycles sporting the proper equipment.

"The department's given out quite a few lights, so there's a lot of people that actually have them, which is a good thing," he said.

And by now, most bicyclists know why they're being stopped. Being able to offer them the lights for free mitigates the stop, he added.

"Some people don't have the money to buy them," he said.

Others claim to have had lights, but say they were stolen after leaving their bikes chained to poles or at bus stops.

"If you leave them on there, people are going to take everything that's not tied down. It's unfortunate, but it happens," Iskra said.

Jesse Quinn of Largo was stopped along East Bay Drive June 17 for not having lights on his bicycle, which he said he's riding until he could get his driver's license back. The bi-



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES
A resident, riding a bike without lights installed, waits for Officer Kurt Iskra of Largo Police Department's traffic enforcement unit to write up a warning.

cycle "does the job" but isn't his favorite mode of transportation, he said.

"It's a nightmare, especially in the summer-time," Quinn explained.

He was headed to an interview for a second

job at a landscaping company that was hiring, he explained, as he waited for Iskra to write him a warning. He said he knew he should have had lights on his bike.

"I tried to wait as long as I could till it got a little light out," he said.

Iskra headed to the intersection of Missouri Avenue and Bay Drive after giving Quinn the new lights. There isn't much time between the start of Iskra's shift and sunrise. At 7 a.m., he usually meets up with two other officers in his division to see if there has been any specific traffic complaints they can address: speeding in a specific neighborhood, frequent disregard of a stop sign or motorists running a red light at a particular intersection. The traffic unit has a proactive approach to addressing issues on Largo's roads and more flexibility than the patrol division, which often is reacting to calls for service.

"We get to do more on our own than actually being assigned to where to go," Iskra said.

For more information about the bicycle light program or the traffic unit, call Edmiston at 586-7473.

VETERANS, from page 1A

looking to apply for services available to them and those needing to file claims. During the reorganization, two VSO positions along with a senior VSO position became vacant.

Mike Pendergrast, executive director of Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, explained to commissioners Jan. 29, 2013, why Warren's plan was flawed. He said VSOs had to be trained professionals. They are required to undergo annual training and provide 1,000 hours of support each year. They are required to keep up with new rules and laws that govern the claims process.

He showed a significant decline in claims processed by the county's Veterans Services Department during the last four months of 2012 – coinciding with the time the veterans began coming to commission meetings with their complaints.

Ann Tarter, FDVA director of benefits and assistance, told commissioners that she had met with Warren, who had continued to defend her plan to allow non-veterans to assist veterans, which was contrary to state and federal law. She explained that after the county filled its vacant positions, it would take six months for the new hires to complete training and start doing to job.

County staff's action plan presented Feb. 5, 2013, was supposedly designed to fix the problem. Help would be provided until Pinellas could fill its vacant position and get trained staff.

Hillsborough County offered to provide assistance by providing a VSO three days a week. FDVA agreed to provide an additional VSO,

and a retired VSO agreed to volunteer 20 hours a week to help fill the void and clear the backlog.

At the end of the meeting, then Commissioner Chair Ken Welch said, "There was clearly a communication issue. We need to eliminate the backlog and make sure the same problems don't happen again."

Several veterans attended a June 10 budget work session to let commissioners know the county's Veterans Services Department was experiencing problems again. According to the Rev. Bob Swick, a Marine Corps veteran and chairman of the Tampa Bay Veterans Alliance, the county is down to 3.5 VSO positions, which is not nearly enough to serve the 95,000 veterans who call Pinellas home. He said the county needed at least nine. Warren's goal had been to provide five positions.

"We're back to where we were a few months ago," Swick said.

He suggested asking Hillsborough County and the state to provide assistance again. He asked the commission to schedule a public meeting on the issue.

"It's in your power to show that this county does, in fact, care for its veterans or not," Swick said.

Commissioner Chair Karen Seel said Interim County Administrator Mark Woodard and Assistant Administrator Bruce Moeller were working on the issue.

"I don't think that we well-served our veterans in the last 24 months," Woodard said.

He said the commission had directed staff to do "all we can" to solve the problem. He said working with Moeller and Lynda Leedy, new director of Health and Community Services, a new action plan

Two arrested in Feb. 20 shooting in Largo

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – Michael Schmidt, 22, of Seminole was angry that John Black, 36, of Largo peeked over the wall at his girlfriend while she was tanning Feb. 19.

The next day, Black's girlfriend, Kristen Gannon, 41, was shot in the leg. Largo Police Department detectives have reportedly linked that shooting back to Schmidt, whom they arrested for conspiracy to commit murder and attempted homicide June 17.

But Schmidt wasn't the one with the gun, they said. Instead, Justin Dahlstrom, 20, of Clearwater had been hired to shoot Black. He shot Gannon instead.

Through their subsequent investigation, Largo detectives obtained a warrant for attempted homicide on Dahlstrom. The Sheriff's Office arrested him May 24.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office investigated the voyeurism reported Feb. 19 at the L.A. Tan at 10390 Seminole Blvd. Black and the victim, Schmidt's girlfriend, were customers that day, explained agency spokeswoman Cristen Rensel.

The victim saw Black looking at her and asked, "What are you doing?" Rensel said.

Deputies reported on the accusation but didn't arrest Black, instead letting the State Attorney's Office decide whether or not to prosecute Black.

That wasn't good enough for Schmidt. Pretending to be a deputy investigating the L.A. Tan case, he called Black's ex-wife and asked for contact information for Black. She gave him a phone number, Rensel said. Then she called the Sheriff's Office and reported the incident.

Meanwhile, Schmidt made several calls to the same person the night of Feb. 19, according to Schmidt's cellphone records. Largo detectives were able to trace those calls to a 24-year-old man named Frank Robinson.

Schmidt tried to pay Robinson to shoot Black, detectives reported. Robinson wouldn't do it. But he agreed to make the offer to Dahlstrom, police said.

Largo detectives said they were able to confirm that Schmidt met with Dahlstrom prior to the shooting. They also reported that he gave Dahlstrom the firearm that was used in the shooting.

Dahlstrom agreed to shoot Black for money, they said.

At around 5:30 a.m. Feb. 20, a man showed up at the door of the Fountains of Largo apartment, 13125 Wilcox Road, where Black and Gannon lived. The suspect, later identified as Dahlstrom, spoke with Gannon. Then he shot her in the leg. Gannon was taken to the hospital for the non-fatal wound.

Moments before the shooting, at 5:25 a.m., deputies arrested Schmidt for impersonating a law enforcement officer, a felony. Largo detectives later interviewed Schmidt about the shooting, but he denied any involvement.

Then, with the help of the Pinellas State Attorney's Office, Largo police obtained a warrant for conspiracy to commit murder for Schmidt June 17. The Largo police arrested him without incident the same day.

Detective Brendan Arlington was the lead investigator on the case for Largo Police Department.



Michael Schmidt



Justin Dahlstrom

WATER, from page 1A

"Some have claimed we don't need this 12,500 acre water source because we have an agreement with the regional water authority (Tampa Bay Water). However, the 24-year water war between Florida, Georgia and Alabama shows that water agreements are not worth the paper they are written on. This 24-year war continues to this day."

Back to the beginning

Compared to more inland areas of the state, the small coastal peninsula that makes up Pinellas County has limitations on quantity and quality of its drinking water supply. Due to its geography, the county is dependent on outside sources.

In 1970, wellfields located in Hillsborough and Pasco produced nearly 47 percent of the county's drinking water and by 1977, the dependency on outside sources had grown to nearly 53 percent.

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

To help satisfy Pinellas County's needs, the Utilities Department purchased Crossbar Ranch in 1976. The ranch includes about 8,000 acres of land in central Pasco County located east of U.S. 41 and north of State Road 52. Seventeen active wellhead sites are located on 6.41 acres of the property. The wells began producing in 1980.

Al-Bar Ranch and its 4,100 acres adjoining Crossbar was added to Utilities' land portfolio in 1990. Utilities paid \$11.1 million for both parcels.

The county sold the wells and water rights on Crossbar in the mid-1990s as part of a deal that created Tampa Bay Water. Pinellas also sold Tampa Bay Water its wellfields on the Eldridge Wilde property in 1998. In return, the Utilities Department received \$140 million.

Tampa Bay Water became a reality in 1998. The nonprofit utility supplies wholesale drinking water to Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties, as well as the cities of New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa. The utility uses a mix of groundwater, surface water and seawater to supply the governments.

As part of a 40-year agreement, Pinellas County cannot produce its own drinking water unless Tampa Bay Water fails to meet the long-term needs of the six member governments. The agreement also states that if for some reason Tampa Bay Water would cease to exist, which some officials say is highly unlikely, its assets would be divided among its members with each getting a portion of each asset.

Today's water war

Pinellas County had been poised to sell the property to a state-run program called Florida Forever in 2008. The ranches were added to Florida Forever's acquisition list, but the recession and lack of funds put an end to the sale.

Pasco County approached the county about buying the land in 2013, using Penny for Pasco funds dedicated to improving that county's environmental lands. On Aug. 13, 2013, county commissioners talked about Pasco County's offer.

Commissioners Janet Long, Norm Roche and Karen Seel, who was vice-chair at the time, were opposed to selling the land. Commission Chair Ken Welch spoke in favor of the sale as did Commissioner Susan Latvala, chairwoman of Tampa Bay Water, who has been a longtime proponent of selling the land. Commissioner John Morroni was absent.

After a lengthy discussion, Long suggested that the commission visit the ranches before making a final decision, which they did.

Pasco County made another bid for the ranches during the Jan. 28 regular commission meeting. The consensus was not to sell, but no official vote was taken. Selling the land came back before the commission Feb. 4 and after another lengthy discussion, the majority agreed it wasn't the time to sell the land.

Latvala and Welch continued to support the sale. Commissioner Charlie Justice wanted to know what it was worth. He advocated asking Pasco County to pay for an appraisal. Long, Roche, Morroni and Seel strongly opposed giving up the property.

The matter came back to the table during budget talks held off-camera in the commissioner's conference room May 22. According to Roche, who is spearheading a call to action against the sale, Latvala suggested selling the land as a way to raise money to pay for the larger-than-expected budget requests coming in from constitutional officers.

Long changed sides at that meeting, Roche said, creating a majority willing to breathe life back into a



Screenshots by SUZETTE PORTER
Left, Pinellas County Commission Vice-chair Susan Latvala, who also is chair of Tampa Bay Water, favors selling Crossbar and Al Bar ranches to Pasco County. Right, Commissioner Norm Roche favors keeping the land to preserve Pinellas County's ability to produce its own water into the future.

potential sale. As of June 14, minutes from that meeting had not been posted on the Clerk of the Court's website.

Seel pointed out during the June 10 work session that even though the meeting took place outside of the commission assembly room, where it is streamed live on PCCTV, it was still open to the public. She said a reporter from the Tribune had attended.

Roche began a public campaign against the potential sale almost immediately. He called a press conference, which also was attended by Morroni, on May 27. Some commissioners believe that Rask's email can be traced to Roche's campaign to preserve county ownership of the land.

"People are in a panic about our water supply," Long said.

County Attorney Jim Bennett said he is preparing a memo that explains how Tampa Bay Water's assets, which include wellfields and water rights on the Pasco County land, would be divided should the utility cease to exist.

Most likely, owning the land won't give Pinellas a better chance of getting those wellfields or water rights, he said. Even if it did, the county would need a permit from Southwest Florida Water Management District to pump more water than is currently allowed to have enough to supply the need.

Latvala said the county is "very lucky to have what we have" because we had a commission that "many years ago looked to the future when we had no water within our borders to find a way to partner for our future and form Tampa Bay Water."

Roche said his campaign to keep the land had nothing to do with Tampa Bay Water.

"I want Pinellas County to remain self-sufficient for generations to come," he said.

"I can't believe we would want those wells," Latvala said. "We would want part of the resources to sustain us. We would want to own part of the desalination plant, reservoir or surface water plant. They are more sustainable than the wellfields."

Seel said the controversy was generating many questions from the public.

"No fault implied or intended, but we voted at a work session by consensus," Seel said.

She prefers that the matter be placed on a regular agenda, "so we can walk through this together so all are clear and the information is disclosed."

Commissioner Ken Welch agreed that "technical-ly" Seel was right.

"It is not usually our way of working," he said.

Still, he criticized Roche's calling of a press conference.

"I'm disappointed in that," he said.

He also expressed concern about Rask's email that says drinking water is endangered.

"That's scary to our citizens," he said.

Latvala agreed.

"The conversation is scary, such a lack of understanding," she said.

"This has nothing to do with Tampa Bay Water," Roche repeated. "It's about our future needs."

Morroni said selling the land had been voted on in the past when the matter was on the agenda.

"We voted not to sell," he said.

Now, guidance is given (to staff) to ask Pasco to get an appraisal, which is opposite to the vote given, he added.

"It's mainly a fact-finding mission," Long said, who insists more information is needed before another vote is taken.

She also suggested that the commission ask county Communications to "write an article" explaining everything to the public.

Welch said part of the information needed is what the land is worth. Interim County Administrator Mark Woodard said talking to Pasco County was on his to-do list.

"I have not talked to them," he said. "I believe they are working on it."

Seel agreed to add the matter to a regular meeting agenda as soon as information about the appraisal is available.

Police beat

Man arrested after attempted abduction

LARGO – Largo police arrested a homeless man who reportedly tried to abduct a 5-year-old child near Lake Villa Park June 12.

James Allan Angell, 51, of Largo was charged with felony battery. According to witnesses, Angell jumped out of a wooded lot and wrapped his arms around the child. The mother screamed the child's name, causing Angell to flee.

Officer John Rice later found Angell and took him into custody. Detectives interviewed Angell, and he was charged with battery. Angell, though homeless, is known to stay at 704 Fourth Ave. NW., near Lake Villa Park, police reported.

"I am very thankful this didn't turn into something more serious; it had the potential to," Chief Jeff Undestad wrote in an email about the case. "Help keep an eye on our little ones!"



James Allan Angell

Teenagers arrested for robbery of homeless man

LARGO – Two Largo boys, ages 14 and 17, were arrested for beating up a homeless man and stealing \$25 from him June 12, according to the Largo Police Department.

Three juveniles followed the man from the Circle K at 1499 Belcher Road to a bench where he was resting, police reported. They confronted him, beat him up and took his money before fleeing.

The homeless man took his time getting off the ground. He headed back to the Circle K to clean up. While he was in the bathroom, the teenagers entered the convenience store to buy some items. They were confronted by the homeless man and fled.

Another patron of the Circle K recognized and stopped them.

The juveniles were arrested for strong-arm robbery, reportedly confessing to police officers who responded to calls at 11:53 p.m.

Man arrested for cooking meth on Gandy Beach

ST. PETERSBURG – Pinellas County Sheriff's deputies arrested a St. Petersburg man just before 10:30 p.m. Saturday, June 14, on Gandy Beach for possession of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of listed chemicals.

According to the sheriff's report, deputies noticed a "suspicious vehicle," a dark colored Chevy Silverado, parked along the tree line of Gandy Beach. When the deputies made contact with the sole occupant, Charles J. Tapp, 24, they discovered several needles inside the truck.

Deputies also observed Tapp placing items into a bag located in the back seat of the truck. Deputies also saw items indicating the vehicle was possibly being used to cook methamphetamine. Deputies called for assistance of narcotics detectives.

Police investigate drive-by shooting

LARGO – Largo police responded to a drive-by shooting at a home near Nursery Road and Lake Way at around 2:36 a.m. June 13.

Three shots rang out as the vehicle drove by the home the first time, according to the report. The victims then came outside the home as the vehicle returned, and a suspect pointed his or her finger at the victims.

No one was injured. Two of the shots struck vehicles in the driveway. No suspects were identified.

"Thankfully no one was injured during the shooting," commented Chief Jeff Undestad in an email.

Man convicted in child porn case

By JULIANA A. TORRES

TAMPA – A federal jury convicted a Largo man of viewing online child pornography June 12.

Eric Thomas, 37, faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. His sentencing hearing is scheduled for Sept. 18.

On July 21, 2012, Thomas' wife, who later divorced him, called Largo Police Department to report that she found child pornography websites on their shared computer. Largo detectives Nathan Dix and Corey Monaghan – now with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement – were assigned to the FBI's Child Exploitation Task Force and both worked on the case.

According to the testimony and evidence presented at trial, a forensic review revealed that more than 850 images of child pornography had been deleted from the computer. Thomas had taken considerable steps to conceal his activities by removing the Internet history and the child pornography files from his computer, according to a press release from the U.S. Attorney of the Middle District of Florida.

The case was problematic because Thomas no longer possessed the pornography, but "had viewed it thousands of times online," Largo Sgt. Randall Chaney stated in a city email.

Thomas was indicted on the charge of access-



Eric Thomas

ing child pornography with intent to view on Sept. 30, 2013. His trial began June 9 and lasted four days.

The prosecution's evidence included Monaghan's re-constructed Web pages of what Thomas had viewed, testimony from Thomas' ex-wife as well as forensically determined patterns of computer use that showed Thomas had accessed multiple child pornography sites, Chaney stated.

The FBI and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigated the case along with the Largo police, who also interviewed Thomas' minor child. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jennifer L. Peresie and Josephine W. Thomas prosecuted the case.

Following the trial, the United States Marshals Service took Thomas into custody pending his sentencing.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who sexually exploit children and to identify and rescue victims.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

Tapp was arrested for possession of methamphetamine, a controlled substance, and unlawful possession of pseudoephedrine and hydrochloric gas. During an interview, the suspect reportedly ad-

mitted to actively manufacturing methamphetamine.

He was transported to the Pinellas County Jail without further incident. Bond was set at \$12,000.

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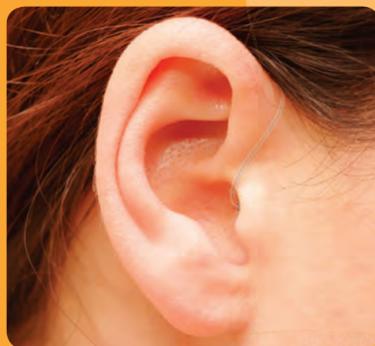


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School resource deputy receives honor

LARGO – Pinellas County Sheriff's Office School Resource Deputy Kurt Frazho received the 2014 Pinellas County School Resource Deputy of the Year honor at a ceremony during the June 10 school board meeting.

Frazho started his career with the Sheriff's Office in January of 2006. He has been a school resource deputy at East Lake High School for the past four years.

Below is an excerpt from Frazho's nomination letter to the school board:

"Over the past four years, Deputy Kurt Frazho has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to duty and performance as a school resource officer assigned to East Lake High School. Deputy Frazho is a man to be respected. Not because he carries a badge, but because he respects the badge he carries. There are three words within the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics that are representative of the way in which Kurt Frazho conducts his job and himself. These words are integrity, courage and duty.

"Duty is a moral or legal obligation or responsibility. Deputy Frazho has sworn an oath to serve and protect the citizens of Pinellas County and most importantly the students and staff at East Lake High. He is a consummate team player and this is witnessed in his strong ability and willingness to assist others. To ensure a safe learning environment, he works closely with administrators, often putting his own work aside to do so.

"Deputy Frazho should be commended for his outstanding service and exceptional display of investigative expertise."



From left are Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, Pinellas County School Associate Superintendent Michael Bessett and School Resource Officer of the Year Kurt Frazho.

Photo courtesy PCSO

JWB launches weekend summer feeding program

CLEARWATER – The Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County will launch a summer feeding program to provide weekend meals for "food-insecure" children across Pinellas County, starting June 20.

A recent study by Feeding America found that more than 20 percent of U.S. children are "food-insecure," meaning they have insufficient access to nutritionally adequate food. In Pinellas County, that number rises to nearly 24 percent. During the school year, approximately 45,000 students in Pinellas County are eligible for free and reduced lunch.

JWB has partnered with Pinellas County Schools Food Services to distribute 6,000 meals on Thursdays and Fridays at nine of the "highest needs" Summer Bridge elementary schools: Campbell Park, Fairmount Park, Lakewood, Melrose, New Heights, High Point, Belleair, Sandy Lane and Tarpon Springs.

In addition, distribution of meals will be coordinated by the Public

Defender's Office of the 6th Judicial Circuit at the Pinellas County Housing Authority's Rainbow Village in Largo. Locations were chosen as they are located within the five geographical areas of need as identified by the Pinellas County Government and JWB via the Economic Impact of Poverty Study.

JWB has committed \$103,000 to the Summer Feeding Program, to ensure that more than 35,000 weekend meals can be distributed to food-insecure children across the county over the summer. The meals, provided by GA Food Services Inc., cost approximately \$3 each. They are pre-packaged with a variety of shelf-sustainable foods, such as a juice box, milk, apple sauce, crackers and an easy-open protein option such as chili, beef stew or spaghetti and meatballs.

For more information visit www.JWBPinellas.org or follow JWB on Facebook or Twitter.

Jury convicts would-be terrorist

By JULIANA A. TORRES



Sami Osmakac

TAMPA – A federal jury found would-be terrorist Sami Osmakac of Pinellas Park guilty of attempted use of weapons of mass destruction June 10.

Osmakac, 27, faces the maximum penalty of life in prison. He was also convicted of possession of a fully automatic firearm, which was not registered to him.

His sentencing hearing is scheduled for Oct. 7.

"The jury's verdict in this case represents another victory in our fight against terrorism, which remains our top priority," said U.S. Attorney A. Lee Bentley, III.

The Muslim community in Pinellas Park was credited to bringing Osmakac's extremist views to the attention of law enforcement, leading to his eventual arrest Jan. 7, 2012.

"Our success here is due in part to assistance from the Muslim community," Bentley stated.

Osmakac is a naturalized citizen who was born in Yugoslavia. He had been scheming to do "something terrifying," according to his arrest affidavit at the time.

According to testimony and evidence presented at his trial, he intended to use a car bomb, grenades and a suicide explosive on two targets: MacDinton's Irish Pub in the South Howard area of Tampa and the Hard Rock Casino in Tampa. Prior to settling on those targets, Osmakac made plans to attack the Operations Center of Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office in Ybor City, a military base and all the bridges across Tampa Bay, according to his arrest affidavit.

What Osmakac didn't know was that he was explaining his plans to an FBI undercover agent and an FBI informant, who had reported him when Osmakac attempted to buy Al Qaeda flags. Osmakac's ambitious plans for destroying multiple targets were thwarted by not having enough recruits to back his cause, he told the undercover agent.

On Jan. 7, 2012, Osmakac met the agent at a Tampa hotel. The undercover agent delivered the weapons he had promised Osmakac: grenades, an AK-47, ammunition, an explosive belt, a pistol and a bomb. Osmakac didn't know that none of them worked, and law enforcement was monitoring him closely.

Before he left, Osmakac asked the informant to film him. Holding a pistol and displaying the AK-47, he told the camera that he sought vengeance and explained that Muslim blood was more valuable than the blood of those who don't believe in Islam.

He parked a getaway car at the intersection of South Howard Avenue and West Swann Avenue in south Tampa, blocks from MacDinton's Irish Pub. In the parking lot of the hotel, he "armed" the device he thought was a bomb. However, he was stopped and arrested.

Osmakac was indicted on Feb. 2, 2012. Assistant U.S. Attorney Sara C. Sweeney and Trial Attorney Clement McGovern from the Department of Justice prosecuted the case.

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Free HOPE Expo educates homebuyers

ST. PETERSBURG – In recognition of National Homeownership Month, Pinellas County is participating in the annual Homeownership for People Everywhere Expo, Saturday, June 28, from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Raymond James Financial Center, 880 Carillon Parkway, Tower 4, in St. Petersburg.

This year's event will feature more than 25 exhibitors, including lenders, Realtors, home inspectors, credit counselors and down payment assistance programs.

Attendees can register for a daylong homebuyer's workshop, which is being offered in English and Spanish. The workshop provides a comprehensive overview of the home buying process. Those who complete the workshop will receive a certificate that satisfies requirements for affordable housing loans and down payment assistance programs.

Seating for the workshop is limited and registration is required. Visit www.hopeexpo.org or by call 446-3532 for English or 446-6222 for the Spanish seminar.

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Tech Data's Tracy Veillette honored as STEM Woman of the Year

By TIFFANY RAZZANO



Tracy Veillette

PINELLAS PARK – Girls Inc. of Pinellas honored Tech Data Vice President and U.S. Contoller Tracy Veillette as 2014 STEM Woman of the Year at its STEM luncheon on May 30 at Feather Sound Country Club.

The annual event brings awareness to the community of the need for STEM – science, technology, engineering and math – education for girls while honoring a local role model with a distinguished STEM career and dedication to paving the way for young women of tomorrow.

Veillette grew up in Tampa before moving to Greensboro, North Carolina, with her family, where she graduated from high school in 1985.

As a young girl, she was always drawn to math. "I think I liked that it was more black and white versus things more creative," she said. "I liked that this is the way things work and there's an answer, a right answer."

And her father taught her that she could do anything she wanted and wasn't bound by gender stereotypes. She fished; she hunted; she mowed the lawn.

"My dad, he was good," Veillette said. "He made it so that I didn't know I was a girl and wasn't supposed to do certain things ... I didn't just do girly things. He helped me have confidence."

After high school, she headed to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she initially majored in math. But she eventually followed in her father's footsteps and majored in business, later earning a master's in accounting from UNC.

In the late 1980s, she was one of few women studying these disciplines.

"It wasn't exactly encouraged to be a math major unless you were going to teach elementary school," she said. "That was all that was encouraged. But I wanted to do more than that."

During college, she interned at IBM, and once she graduated she moved back to Tampa, where her parents had relocated.

"I always wanted to come back to Tampa," she said. "It's a more diverse city than Greensboro."

Veillette took a job in public accounting as an audit manager at Price Waterhouse Coopers, where she worked for eight years before moving over to Tech Data.

"It was very different from what I was used to doing," she said. "Public accounting is a public service that has higher margin business and low volume. Then I came to Tech Data where there's a low margin, high volume, and it's very fast paced."

She started out as director of vendor accounting at Tech Data in 1998. She worked closely with vendors, building relationships with them.

"It really broadened my accounting side by introducing me to the business side in addition to accounting," she said. "You can't be a good controller without understanding the business side."

She became U.S. controller for the company in 2000. Eventually, Veillette was also named vice president as her role expanded. She is responsible for overseeing all U.S. accounting, controlling and financial analysis.

She's also committed to assisting organizations that cater to women and children.

"Part of what I try to do is give back, especially to women's things," she said.

Tech Data recently started its first employee research group, Ladies of Tech Data. Veillette was elected chairman of the organization and mentors a number of female employees at the company.

She currently serves on the boards of the American Society of Women Accountants (ASWA) and American Woman's Society of CPAs (AWSCPA). Additionally, she is a community leader serving on the boards of the Children's Dream Fund and YMCA.

Florida condo laws – Q and A

This article was provided by Peter Hofstra of the law firm of DeLoach & Hofstra, 8640 Seminole Blvd., Seminole.



Peter Hofstra

Q: My condominium is located in Seminole. Our association is professionally managed and the offices of our manager are located in Tarpon Springs. Is it permissible for the official records of the association to be maintained by the manager at its offices in Tarpon Springs?

A: Section 718.111(12)(b) of the Florida Statutes provides that the official records of the association must be maintained within the State of Florida for at least seven (7) years. The records of the association must be made available to a unit owner within forty-five (45) miles of the condominium property or within the county in which the condominium property is located. The association may comply with the statutory provision by offering the option of making the official records available to a unit owner electronically via the Internet or by allowing the records to be viewed in electronic format on a computer screen and printed upon request.

Q: My association recently adopted an amendment, which restricts unit leases to a term of no less than nine months. Is this permissible?

A: I must assume that the adoption of the amendment was procedurally correct. Unless you specifically consented to the amendment, the amendment does not apply to you. However, at such time as you

sell your unit, your buyer will be subject to the amendment. Section 718.110(13) of the Florida Statutes provides that an amendment prohibiting unit owners from renting their units or altering the duration of the rental term or specifying or

limiting the number of times unit owners are entitled to rent their units during a specified period applies only to unit owners who consent to the amendment and unit owners who acquire title to their units after the effective date of the amendment. As stated earlier, unless you consented to the amendment, same does not apply to you. If you fail to vote or voted "no," the amendment does not apply to you.

Q: I recently rented my unit. The board of directors has now advised me that I am not entitled to use the swimming pool. Is this correct?

A: When a unit is leased, the tenant has all of the use rights in the association property and those common elements otherwise readily available for use generally by unit owners. The unit owner does not have such rights except as a guest of the tenant. However, the tenant can waive the use rights and allow the unit owner to continue to enjoy the use rights. Unfortunately for you, the board of directors is correct in its interpretation of the Condominium Act. It is highly unlikely that you would be able to lease your unit and have your tenant waive his rights to use the recreational and other commonly used facilities of the condominium.

Clearwater Beach Chamber announces awards

CLEARWATER – The Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce recently held its 19th Annual Awards Banquet.

The winners are as follows:

- Large business of the year – Publix Supermarket, Island Es-

- tates; Louie Stravropoulos
- Small business of the year – The Segway Adventures
- Volunteer of the year – Trisha Rodriguez with The Tropics Boat Tours
- Tourism of the year – Lisa

- Chandler with Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival
- Citizen of the year – Lt. David Dalton of the Clearwater Police Department
- Nonprofit of the year – Clearwater Marine Aquarium



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The Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce mission is to assist its member businesses be successful through innovative programs and services; strengthen partnerships between business and local, state and federal governments; create, inspire and facilitate community leadership; and foster a business climate that promotes integrity and excellence.

Throughout its 62 year history, the Chamber has provided the necessary tools and resources to help businesses succeed. This includes networking leads groups, government advocacy and economic development initiatives in addition to programs and events focused on professional development.

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

Chamber Awards Scholarships at LHS

The Central Pinellas Chamber's Education Foundation Scholarships were recently presented at Largo High School. Each year the foundation provides two \$1,000 awards to graduating seniors. The award winners were selected from Largo High School Students of the Month recognized by the Chamber throughout the year.

The first recipient, Maggie Kivett, is the daughter of Tara Kivett. Maggie will attend the University of Florida beginning this summer to study pharmacy on the pre-med track. Maggie participated in numerous extracurricular activities including serving as student government president and captain of the swim team. She was a part of the ExCel Board of Student Advisors, National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, FCA, Senior Council and Key Club. Maggie was recognized by the Chamber as Student of the Month in May, 2014.

The second recipient, Darbie Napieralski, is the daughter of Kimberly Napieralski. Darbie has been accepted by the University of South Florida and Florida Gulf Coast University and is interested in athletic training, occupational therapy and physical therapy programs.



Joshua Wolfenden, Largo High School Assistant Principal/ExCEL Magnet Coordinator (left) and Laurie Bunce of Central Business Telephones (right) congratulate the Chamber's 2014 Largo High School \$1000 Scholarship recipients Darbie Napieralski and Maggie Kivett.

Darbie played varsity basketball and softball all of the four years of her career at Largo High School. She also played two years of varsity volleyball. She was on the ExCEL Board of Student Advisors and participated in the National Honor Society, Rho Kappa and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Darbie was recognized by the Chamber as Student of the Month in November, 2013.

"We had an impressive group of applicants for these two scholarships," said Laurie Bunce,

chairman of the Scholarship Selection Committee. "It was very difficult to narrow our choices to two. We believe that Maggie and Darbie exemplify the spirit and commitment required to succeed. We look forward to following their progress and sharing in their success."

Other selection committee members included Chris Johnson of Piper Fire Protection, Melody Hunter of Charles Rutenberg Realty, Richard Russo of Tutor Doctor and Rick Donohue of Hampton Inn & Suites-Largo.

Supporting Business & Community

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

- Apparel World II, Inc.
- Belleair Asset Management, Incorporated
- Belleair Towers
- Bender Chiropractic Center
- ConMed Corporation
- Custom Mobility, MITS
- Escot Bus Lines, LLC
- Fleet Street Remarketing, LLC
- Freedom Square Life Care Retirement Community
- gWiz Personal Technology Services
- Hurd Hawkins Meyers and Radosevich, P.A.
- Jack Rice Insurance, LLC
- Malvern Group Cartridge Services, Incorporated
- McGill Plumbing
- Merle Norman/Headlines Salon
- Panera Bread - Belleair Bluffs
- Panera Bread - Largo Mall
- Professionals In Networking
- Prino Breakfast Club, Incorporated
- Ranchero Village, Incorporated
- Redefined Living
- Roosterfish Grill
- Summerside Inn
- Suncoast Hospice
- Synovus Bank
- Tampa Bay Oncology Center, John H. West MD
- Transworld Business Advisors
- Westshore Financial Group, Incorporated/Nate Cocco
- YMCA of the Suncoast



Congratulations to owner Sue Swenson and manager Sarah Kreef on the grand opening ribbon-cutting event for The Barbershop - A Hair Salon for Men located at 8874 Ulmerton Road in Largo, 33774.

Free Business & Community Guides Available

The Chamber's new 2014-2015 Business & Community Go-To Guide are available free of charge, one per customer, at its 151 3rd Street N.W., Largo offices.

The full color publication features alphabetical and categorical listings of the organization's Preferred Central Pinellas Business-

es. Special sections are included with information about regional recreation, shopping, health care and education resources.

Bulk copies of 25 or more are available at \$2 per guide. It's a great presentation resource for realtors and sales account representatives. Call the Chamber at 584-2321.



Chamber members enjoyed the recent ribbon-cutting at NuTech Hearing, 3690 East Bay Drive, #1, Largo, FL 33771.

Chamber Ambassador of the Month



Congratulations to May Ambassador of the Month - Neil Allen of A2Z Printing & Graphics. A2Z helps businesses save money on all types of printed materials and with local marketing strategies such as direct mailing and GPS tracked door flyer distribution. Neil can be reached at 727-531-6464 (office) or 727-422-6888 (cell). The Ambassadors are a dynamic team of business representatives who meet and contact Chamber members to educate and involve them about the organization's many activities. They also provide membership feedback and participate as greeters at Chamber events.

A Call for Chamber Community Award Nominations

The Central Pinellas Chamber has begun accepting nominations for its esteemed **Citizen of the Year** and **Mac Norcross Small Business Person of the Year** awards. These celebrated presentations will take place at the chamber's 62nd Annual Meeting on September 25 at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort.

Citizen of the Year nominees must be living individuals who have focused attention and di-

rected efforts in the Central Pinellas region that have brought acclaim or public notice; have outstanding achievement in community service; and have performed volunteer (un-compensated) services to the community. Offices/chairmanships of national, state and local civic and non-profit organizations will be considered.

Mac Norcross Small Business Person of the Year nomi-

nees must own a locally operated independent or franchised business with 50 or less fulltime employees and be an active member of the Chamber. A commitment to the community, as

demonstrated by contributions of personal time and/or resources, and a proven commitment to local entrepreneurship/small business must also be demonstrated.

Nomination deadline is Friday, August 22. For nomination forms and full criteria, visit the Chamber website www.CentralChamber.biz or email tom@largo-chamber.com.

Chamber Awards Luncheon Aims to Inspire

The Chamber's 6th Annual Women Inspire Awards Luncheon takes place on Tuesday, Aug. 12 from 11:45 am to 1:15 p.m. at the Largo Public Library, Jenkins Family Wing, 120 Central Park Drive, Largo.

The Inspire Awards celebrate individuals in Central Pinellas

who have had a positive impact on the lives of others through their leadership in the workplace and/or involvement in the community. Greater Largo Library Foundation, Largo Medical Center, DEX Imaging, PureLife Medi-spa, Med-Express Urgent Care, T-Mobile

and the law firm Perenich, Caulfield, Avril & Noyes, PA are sponsors.

Cost of the luncheon is \$20 for Chamber members and \$25 for guests. To register, call the Chamber at 727-584-2321 or email events@centralchamber.biz.

Everest University to host Chamber Coffee An'Networking Event

The Chamber will hold a Coffee An'Networking business leads program on Wednesday, July 30 at Everest University-

Pinellas, 1199 East Bay Drive, Largo. The event is free for Chamber members and \$10 for non-members. It will feature a

coffee reception meet and greet and a networking exercise. gWiz Personal Technology Service, Paradise Air Inc. and Louis

Haskel CPA are sponsors. Call the Chamber at 727-584-2321 to register or email events@centralchamber.biz.

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Briefcase

Victoria Galleria opens

LARGO - Victoria Galleria recently opened at 13042 Indian Rocks Road in Largo. Nili De-Paz and Sheila Merrill have been collecting treasures for years and now they want to share them with others. The store features an unusual selection of antiques, up-cycled and handmade items including furniture, china, artwork, lighting fixtures and a variety of cultural artifacts from Africa, Mexico and Spain. Store hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

A/C company launches website

CLEARWATER - Curtis L. Gavel A/C & Heating recently launched the website www.coolzum.com as an informational portal that features educational resources on things like property value benefits from air conditioning repairs, emergency A/C service and indoor air quality, and many other helpful design tips.

Development of other community minded features for www.coolzum.com are already underway and new user awareness guides from expert design consultants are already being added on how to beautify property regardless of budget, how-tos on maintenance and repair, to what everybody should know about the latest remodeling materials and design before starting any home, commercial, or industrial improvement project.

"Our goal is to educate the community on how to get the best results for all their property improvement projects at any budget," said Curtis Gavel of Curtis L. Gavel A/C & Heating in a press release. "Our website's informative and professional article sections are there to help everybody - not just our Curtis L. Gavel A/C & Heating customers. The depth of knowledge and resources at www.coolzum.com is 100 percent unbiased, concise, and free to all."

Steel City Brewhouse opens

ST. PETERSBURG - Steel City Brewhouse hosted its official grand opening on June 13 at 10400 Roosevelt Blvd. N., across from the St. Pete-Clearwater Airport.

Known for its "Made in the USA" American craft and domestic beer and wine, Steel City Brewhouse is named for the area its owners hail from, McKeesport, just outside of Pittsburgh.

Steel City Brewhouse still has solid roots in the Northeast. Built on the ideals and hard work learned through multiple generations of families

that worked in the steel mills back in the 1930s, Steel City Brewhouse invites those who work hard every day to unwind, relax and be amongst friends and "family" - the Steel City Brewhouse family.

"We are an everybody bar that serves our family's homemade favorites," said co-owner Lynn in a press release. "We welcome any fan of any team as we are a team here with many different home towns. We have the NFL Sunday Ticket and MLB Extra Innings from DirecTV playing on many TVs."

For information, visit www.steelcitybrewhouse.com.

Amerilife to host dinner program

PALM HARBOR - Amerilife & Health Services of Clearwater will sponsor a free retirement dining event for seniors on Wednesday, June 25, 6:30 p.m., at Outback Steakhouse, 31988 U.S. 19 N.

The event is free for those age 55 and older. Seating is limited. To register, call 797-7788.

This complimentary dining event is by reservation only. It is designed for those concerned about how future taxes and inflation will affect retirement and interested in learning how to safely grow retirement in this new economy.

Topics will include:

- How to avoid outliving your money
- How to attempt to avoid losses during huge market corrections
- How insurance options may help you take advantage of your Social Security
- Discover how changing times may create new opportunities with guarantees

Amerilife & Health Services of Clearwater also will sponsor a dining event on Monday, June 30, 6:30 p.m., at Outback Steakhouse.

The event is free for those age 55 and older. Seating is limited. To register, call 797-7788.

At this workshop, attendees will learn about Medicare strategies that will maximize their lifetime benefits. Topics will include:

- Freedom of Choice - Know that you do have choices and what they are
- Understanding Medicare Part A and Part B - What does each cover? When do you qualify?
- Original Medicare - What it does and does not cover.
- Medicare supplement plans - Do you need one? What's available?
- Take the confusion out of Medicare.

The facilitator from Amerilife and Health Services is a local licensed representative whose business focuses on helping clients best position their retire-

BBA meets



Photo by GARY FUSTINO

The most recent Bluffs Business Association monthly networking mingle was hosted by C1 Bank at 525 N. Indian Rocks Road, Belleair Bluffs. The next mingle will be hosted by Liza Campa-Flanagan Thursday, Aug. 14, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at her Raymond James office, 645 N. Indian Rocks Road, Belleair Bluffs. Any business, regardless of location, is welcome to attend and bring a guest. For information, visit bluffsbusinessassociation.com or call Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797.

ment assets to safely grow savings and income, and avoid costly mistakes that can reduce retirement as-

sets. There is no cost or obligation to attend and no specific products will be sold.

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- Coordinate installation of new equipment such as hand rails, tub benches, etc.
- Pick up any durable medical equipment (walkers, rails, shower benches, wheel-chairs, etc.)
- Help organize all accumulated mail

- Have fresh linens ready for first night home in comfort of their own bed
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- Comfort Keeper will pick up all prescriptions prior to client returning home
- Assist with proper handling of receipts and insurance records
- Help client get resettled and reorganized in home
- Communicate to family all pertinent information upon returning home

Follow-up and Communication:

- Work with client to reorient them to home
- Recognize danger zones and help to modify or eliminate situation (laundry downstairs, uneven flooring, rugs etc.)
- Encourage and support activities and exercises left by therapy and assist client in incorporating them into daily routine
- Comfort Keeper will notify appropriate family members of client's return home and keep them apprised of status
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Congratulations to graduating seniors

As the 2013-14 school year ends, I want to take a moment to congratulate the thousands of graduating seniors, commend them on their innumerable accomplishments and wish them well as they enter the next phase of their lives.



Michael Grego

I also want to thank all of those who have guided and supported them, and all of our students, this past year. Parents, teachers, coaches, extended family members, support staff and our community partners all play such a pivotal role in the success of our students, and I offer my heartfelt appreciation for all that you do.

Our community has so much to celebrate as the school year comes to a close. This past year, Pinellas County Schools was named an Advanced Placement District of the Year for increasing access to AP coursework and raising the pass rate percentage. We were also honored nationally as a model district by the Ford Foundation for its Ford Next Generation Learning Academies of Pinellas five-year plan. I am particularly thrilled about the significant gains that so many of our students showed this past year on their reading, writing and mathematics scores on various standardized tests. We are truly raising expectations and our students are showing they are up to the challenge.

This year, we gained traction on a number of new initiatives focused on boosting student achievement. This summer, for the second year, we are continuing our Summer Bridge extended learning programs throughout the district. These summer programs, including a new Algebra boot camp for middle school students, are designed to mitigate summer learning loss to better position students to start next school year at or above grade level. This past year, we also instituted programs that facilitated additional time for instruction in reading, math and science, and provided a wealth of digital resources for students to support their learning outside of the classroom. In addition, we have greatly increased the number of STEM Academies at our schools in an effort to better prepare students for the global demands of the 21st century.

We are aggressively confronting achievement gaps with the district's new Bridging the Gap plan. The initiative, which aligns with the district's Strategic Plan, has five key goals aimed at raising achievement levels, increasing graduation rates and improving student engagement for African American students throughout the district.

To further support student achievement, we have launched "Pinellas Pathways to Graduation," which helps students successfully complete the requirements for earning a high school diploma, and assists them with planning for their future.

While we have made many gains this year, there is still much work to do. In the coming months, I will share with you some of the projects and programs we are diligently working on to help us as we continue to strive for 100 percent student success.

I hope all of our students find time to relax this summer and spend time with family and friends. I also hope that families will help provide students with educationally enriching activities this summer. Research shows that students lose knowledge over extended breaks, so it is of vital importance that they flex those brain muscles over the summer. Please encourage the children in your lives to read a little each and every day this summer. The benefits will be evident as we prepare to begin the 2014-15 school year in just a few short months.

Have a safe and restful summer!

Michael Grego is superintendent of Pinellas County Schools.

Kershaw named to spring dean's list

LARGO – Andrew Kershaw from Largo recently was named to the University of Delaware's dean's list for the 2014 spring semester.

To meet eligibility requirements for the dean's list, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.33 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

Governor signs college affordability bill

TALLAHASSEE – Gov. Rick Scott recently signed into law House Bill 851, a bill sponsored by Sen. Jack Latvala that will reduce the cost of a four-year Florida University Plan for newborn children by nearly \$20,000.

Among several sweeping changes, the bill provides a reduction in the future cost of Florida's state universities, allowing the Florida Prepaid College Board to better predict tuition and fee costs covered by the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program.

Before passage of the bill, the cost of a Florida Prepaid Contract for a university had grown to more than \$50,000 for a four-year newborn plan, pricing many families out of their dream of saving enough money so that their children can get a higher education.

"Providing greater access to a college education is one of the most fundamental ways we can ensure economic growth and a better quality of life for the people in our state," Latvala said in a press release.

Latvala said he considered this bill a top priority during the 2014 Legislative Session.

"This bill will make higher education in Florida more affordable for everyone so that their dreams of success can become a reality," he added.

The Florida Prepaid Board estimates that the lump sum price of the four-Year Florida University Plan for a newborn will drop from the current price of \$54,000 to \$35,000 or less. Those with current Florida Prepaid plans will also see a reduction in the cost of their plans, with about 50,000 existing plans receiving refunds or payment reductions because of the new law. According to the board, eligible account holders with Florida Prepaid can expect to be notified in September about their specific refund or payment reduction.

For more information about the impact of HB 851 on the Florida Prepaid College Program, visit www.myfloridaprepaid.com/need-help/lower-prices.

Health department offering school immunizations

June is a good time to plan ahead for the next school year, especially for families with children entering school for the first time, starting middle school or moving on to college.

Avoid the back-to-school rush now by making sure your child's immunizations are updated before Pinellas County schools are back in session on Monday, Aug. 18. Parents are encouraged to schedule immunizations at a health provider's office or any Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County health department listed below:

- Tarpon Springs, 301 S. Disston Ave., 942-5457
- Clearwater, 310 N. Myrtle Ave., 469-5800
- Mid-County, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo, 524-4410
- Pinellas Park, 6350 76th Ave. N., 547-7780
- St. Petersburg, 205 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St., N., 824-6900

no cost for babies, children and young people through the age of 18. Hours are weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Families do not need to make an appointment.

For a list of required immunizations for daycare entry, visit www.pinellashealth.com/ImmuShotsTravel.asp.

For school immunization requirements, visit www.pcsb.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2721&Itemid=1303 Visit www.PinellasHealth.com.

Briefs

Lombard graduates from Boston College

BELLEAIR BLUFFS – Zoe Lombard of Belleair Bluffs recently graduated from Boston College with a bachelor's degree from the University's College of Arts & Sciences.

Lombard majored in biology. Commencement was May 19 in Alumni Stadium on the Boston College campus in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. There were more than 4,000 undergraduate and graduate degree recipients in the Boston College Class of 2014.

The 2014 Commencement speaker was U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, a graduate of Boston College Law School and a decorated Vietnam War veteran who served in the U.S. Senate for 28 years before becoming America's top diplomat in 2013. Kerry received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the ceremonies.

Kirkwood makes dean's list

SEMINOLE – Jenna Michelle Kirkwood, a resident of Seminole, has been recognized among more than 1,800 students from Valdosta State University who made the spring 2014 dean's list.

Students who achieve a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher on nine or more semester hours with an institutional GPA of 3.00 or higher are recognized by being placed on the dean's list. Developmental Studies, transients and graduate students are not eligible for dean's list status.

Hoofnagle makes dean's list

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – Wheaton College student James Hoofnagle of Indian Rocks Beach was named to the dean's list for the spring 2014 semester.

Dean's list honors are earned at Wheaton by undergraduate students who carry 12 or more credit hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or higher on the 4.0 scale. Wheaton College is in Wheaton, Illinois.

Mical makes dean's list at UNL

CLEARWATER – Magdalena Zofia Mical of Clearwater was named to the spring semester dean's list by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Mical is a sophomore on an advertising and public relations major. Qualification for the dean's list varies among the eight undergraduate colleges and the honor roll for undeclared students.

Mayfield graduates from Hofstra University

SEMINOLE – Taylor Mayfield of Seminole graduated from Hofstra University in May 2014, earning a bachelor's degree in English.

Hofstra University is a nationally ranked private university just 25 miles from New York City and all its cultural, recreational and professional opportunities.

Alexander earns second academic honors

SEMINOLE – Meagan C. Alexander of Seminole has been named to second honors on the Clark University dean's list.

This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the spring 2014 semester. To be eligible for first honors, students must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, of a maximum of 4.3.

Founded in 1887 in Worcester, Massachusetts, Clark University is a small, liberal arts-based research university.

Ritacco named to Hamilton College dean's list

CLEARWATER – Alison N. Ritacco recently was named to the dean's list at Hamilton College for the 2014 spring semester.

Ritacco is the daughter of Audrey and Rick Ritacco of Clearwater. To be named to the dean's list, a student must have carried throughout the semester a course load of four or more graded credits with an average of 3.5 or above. Ritacco, a May graduate, majored in art and comparative literature at Hamilton.

Columba Bush announces scholarship winners

TARPON SPRINGS – Former First Lady Columba Bush and the Foundation for Excellence in Education recently announced the 2014 Arts for Life! scholarship winners.

Kaia DeLany, a student at Tarpon Springs High School, was among the recipients.

These winners were selected from over 600 outstanding applicants from 47 counties across Florida. Students in public, magnet, charter, virtual, and private schools as well as home education programs vied for the prestigious award. This year's scholarship winners were selected by a committee of respected experts in one of the scholarship's five disciplines: creative writing, dance, drama, music and visual art.

"Each year I enjoy meeting the wonderful students and their family members," said Bush in a press release. "I am proud to support these young artists as they continue their creative pursuits. Their vision and passion for the arts is so inspiring."

Bouwens graduates from Utica

PALM HARBOR – Elaine Borlaza Bouwens recently graduated from Utica College in Utica, New York.

Bouwens earned a Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Brown Ogilvie earns degree

SAFETY HARBOR – Tara Brown Ogilvie of Safety Harbor is a recent graduate of Northern Illinois University.

Brown Ogilvie graduated with a master's degree from the College of Education.

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LETTERS

New folks, minds and ideas needed in Seminole

Editor:

Thanks to Tiffany Razzano and the Seminole Beacon for the interesting and illuminating article "Investigation underway." It is refreshing when the free press brings light to such matters as this. Instead of feeding us the usual company line as so many lesser reporters are inclined to do. Our free press was conceived with the notion that it be ever vigilant of government and expose these scandals.

This administration has had more than its share of scandals. It is said that most members of the City Council are puppets for the administration. Mere bobble-heads that simply advance the agenda given to them. Rarely oppose any agenda item and vigorously defend the status quo. My friends we as citizens seek an honest and open local government, but the question is are we getting what we paid for. Historically folks step down during a scandal for good reason. We are told this city manager will do so soon. Why now? With the city in poor shape given the demise of our local mall, and a proposed new park project in disarray. He should take this mayor, Leslie Waters, and Bob Matthews with him. Matthews is the longest sitting councilor, who hired this manager, and supporter of the status quo.

So, many thanks to Councilor Plantamura and Clerk Benoit for bringing this matter to light. This November as seats come up for election, let us bring in some new folks, with fresh minds and new ideas, and let us move our city forward. And move away from the status quo, which has been the case for way too long now.

Tom Christy
Seminole

Save a historic treasure

Editor:

There has been in the past a lot of misinformation regarding the hotel.

It has been stated that the hotel is "too far gone to save" and this is wrong. Several high level, certified architects have evaluated the hotel and find that the "bones" are solid. It was built with the type of pine that eventually turns to stone. It has also been in print over and over that the RPD, folks who live on the property, fully support demolition and condo replacement. This is also not true. The board has expressed its views, not ours. I think it is noteworthy that two residents of the property have joined in the second lawsuit to save the hotel and many of the folks living here, as we do, feel the same way.

There is a website to donate to the saving of the hotel and we would urge all those in favor of saving historic treasures, for the next generation to enjoy, to visit the website, <http://igg.me/at/friendsofthebelleviewbiltmorelegalfund/x/6500159>.

Karmen & T.C. Hayes
Belleair

Wrong direction on IRB intersection

Re: 'Work on busy IRB intersection may begin December,' Belleair Bee, June 11

Editor:

A couple of thoughts on the recent article about improvements to Gulf Boulevard and the issue of cigarette butts on the beach. Taking out the turning lane on Walsingham Boulevard leading into Gulf is an awful idea. This will back up traffic for no reason. Can we not install a light like some of the intersections on East/West Bay that restrict turning when a pedestrian pushes the crosswalk button? This would fall into the common sense category for a solution - much unlike the solution that completely changes the entire intersection and does not allow turning on red.

Let's not create unnecessary traffic backup when there is another solution that is both cheaper and more efficient for everyone. Secondly, on the issue of cigarette butts on IRB, I don't see how charging for parking would be a solution to the cigarette-butt problem. These things are completely unrelated. I believe a solution would be to restrict smoking on the beach altogether. I agree that the cigarette butts are a problem but there is no way police officers will be able to regulate this. They will be able to watch for people smoking. I also am tired of smelling the smoke that inevitably blows our way. Thank you.

Brooke Litton
Belleair Beach

Legal immigrants welcome, not illegal aliens

Re: 'Group calls for driver's licenses for everyone,' June 13

Editor:

This is in response to the article on people requesting that "undocumented immigrants" be able to receive a driver's license.

I have no problem with immigrants having a license; they are here legally. An "undocumented immigrant" is another word for an illegal alien, and I do have a problem with them having a license. First of all, they are not here legally - so why should they have paperwork that would recognize them as such?

Our streets will not be safer because they have a license; many people who have legal licensure are bad drivers. The fact that an illegal alien is worried about being deported if pulled over while driving illegally is not a reason to give them a license. My 26-year-old son was killed by a drunk-driving illegal alien. He had been arrested 23 times and never deported. I guess the authorities didn't want to do the paperwork either. Most of his prior arrests were for assault and battery but one was for giving a false driver's license to a police officer. Yes, you guessed it. He then continued to drive and, because he wasn't deported, he went out and got drunk and proceeded to hit my son's car, a VW Jetta, at 90 mph with his friend's F150 pickup truck (another illegal alien). Obviously they were not insured, not that it would bring my son back. If you begin by breaking the law you will continue to do so.

We might also consider that the next move would be to allow them to vote in our elections because they now have a legal ID, a driver's license, and an address. One thing will lead to another and the state of Florida will now have a huge mess at the polls.

If you wish to live in the United States you are always welcome but come here as a legal immigrant, not an illegal alien. It needs to be done the proper way. I personally am very tired of changing rules and lowering our standards so that others will be happy. The tail has to stop wagging the dog. The law is the law; begin as you wish to continue. If you start out on the correct foot then you will have your proper documentation and there will be no problem. There is no such thing as an "undocumented immigrant." You are either an immigrant or an illegal alien, without documentation. Hence, no driver's license.

Juli Finger
Seminole

What do you think?

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

Here are some more guidelines for letters:

- Letters are printed on a first-come, first-served basis. They may be edited to correct grammar, spelling and factual errors. They also may be edited for clarity.
- Please keep letters to editor to 500 words. Longer letters may be cut due to space limitations.
- Letters should address issues or current events. Please refrain from making unsubstantiated allegations. The newspaper will not print letters that contain slanderous or racial statements.
- Please do not use profanity.
- We do not publish poetry or songs in letters to the editor.
- Each writer may submit one letter per month.
- We can't return letters to the editor.
- We strive to run letters within a week from the time they are submitted that may not always be possible because of space limitations and the volume of letters we receive.
- Effective with the Aug. 24, 2014 primary, we will not publish letters on candidates within three weeks of the election, unless the letter is in rebuttal to another letter.
- Tampa Bay Newspapers strives to adhere to the guidelines, but editors may make exceptions.

Major TV outlets for news events

It's almost impossible for anyone to keep complete track of national and world news. But it's still fun to stick one's toes into the swirling stream and watch the major events and trends passing by. For an hour or so each day I sit with my TV, remote in hand, and tap into a half-dozen news outlets.

A capsule opportunity to review the day's top news stories comes at 6:30 p.m., when CBS, ABC and NBC air what they believe are the biggies. Often their judgments coincide. As I click from one channel to the next I find that all three networks tend to agree on which event rates top coverage. Viewers should keep in mind that a primary concern of news networks is ratings, i.e., which story will pull in the most viewers. If Russia declared war on China, that event might play second fiddle to Tom Cruise's decision to renounce Scientology and become a Mormon. During the day, I tend to boot up CNN more often than other news networks. You can't go wrong with an outfit whose chief anchor is named Wolf Blitzer. (I wish I had a glamorous first name like Wolf. Or Rock.) As I recall, Wolf hit the big time when western forces overwhelmed Kuwait. Today he shares the CNN limelight with Anderson Cooper, Jake Tapper, Gloria Borger, Dana Bash, Barbara Starr, Candy Crowley and other journalists who strike me as reliably middle of the road.

A few weeks ago CNN did us all a big favor by removing a stuffy Brit anchor named Piers Morgan. I apologize to you if my comments in this column are more judgmental and subjective than they might otherwise be. Journalists should be measured mostly by their professional performance; the fact remains that TV news presentation has a show-biz element that can't be ignored. Another muddy-



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

ing factor is that, when an anchor pronounces the news, we don't know whether he/she is an experienced newscaster or simply a mouthpiece uttering words skillfully written off-camera by a bona fide news pro.

Holding down the right corner of the TV news picture is Fox News, whose daily reports are dominated by one obvious fact: most of their people are really ticked off at that Muslim-Kenyan in the White House, and they won't be happy until he's blamed for everything from the 1929 stock market crash to the 1883 eruption of Krakatau. A daily Fox highlight is an afternoon talk show called The Five, in which a quintet of lesser-known lightweights laugh at their own jokes and trade thoughts on politics and the passing parade.

If Fox is biased toward the conservative viewpoint, it's no more unbalanced in its outlook than MSNBC, which leans far to the left. It's fun to watch the excitable Chris Matthews' thought processes get ahead of his tongue's ability to express them. It's also a pleasure to see the veteran Andrea Mitchell at work. She sets forth the news without tipping toward either the left or right. One of the few African-Americans you'll see in a prominent slot giving the news is MSNBC's Joy Reid. Each night the knowledgeable and opinionated Rachel Maddow attempts to utter a greater

number of words-per-hour than she did the night before. She often succeeds.

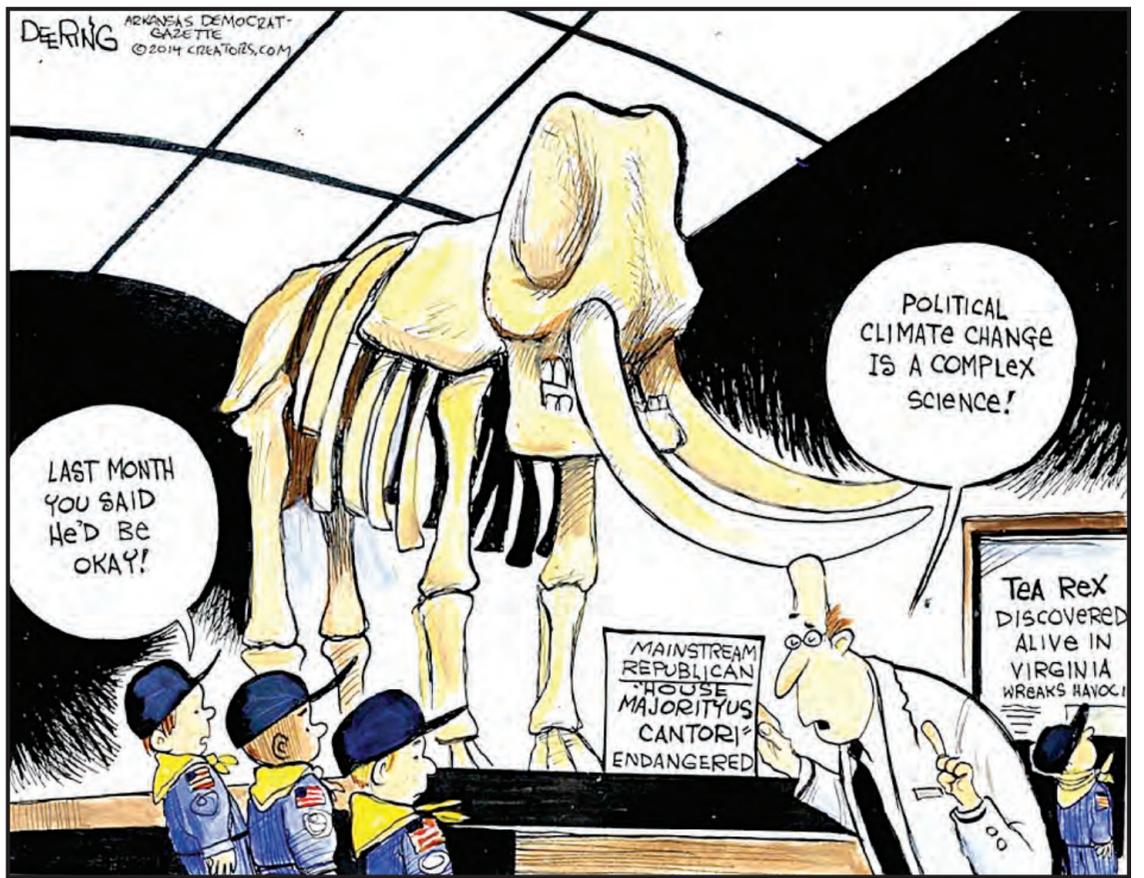
I've only recently discovered Al Jazeera America, but I like what I see. I'm a fan of straightforward, unemotional reporting, and AJA seems to give that. People in oil-rich Qatar own it. Should we therefore expect to see Islamic viewpoints creep into the news reports? If so, I haven't yet detected them. AJA has about 70 bureaus throughout the globe. One of their chief assets is Ray Suarez, formerly a first-class news reporter with PBS.

The daily PBS New Hour will never win a Pulitzer for dramatic presentation of news, but it will leave you with a sense of grasping each day's significant happenings. In PBS's early history, Robert MacNeil and Jim Lehrer set a tone of thoughtful, dispassionate discussion of news events. Judy Woodruff, Gwen Ifill and Margaret Warner have carried on that tradition.

Over at the British Broadcasting Company, Catty Cay and her colleagues render the news in the most calm and collected manner imaginable. Some anchors and newscasters are obviously intent on selling their own personalities, as well as the daily news. At BBC, that's not the case. Their staffers don't much care whether or not their viewers love them. It's the news that matters, not the charm ratings.

Speaking of charm, it's gratifying to see that many, if not most, of the persons delivering the news today are women. There may still be a glass ceiling for women in today's newsgathering, but if so it seems to be cracking.

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



When and if I retire, I'm going to...

When and if I retire, I certainly plan to smell the roses - if there is something left of my dysfunctional sinuses.

That said, I don't have a clue on how I'll spend my retirement, besides cursing at the obnoxious talking heads on Fox News, MSNBC and the other purveyors of misinformation.

Throwing the TV Brick, a soft foam sports souvenir, at the television doesn't seem to work against the commentators. Nor the Tampa Bay Rays. If the Rays are not going to put their bats to good use, they should send me one. I might need it to smash my television one day.

Back to the roses. I have some hobbies, such as waging chemical warfare on dust mites, but even my favorite pastimes sometimes lead me down the trail of monotony. Evening beach combing is a great diversion, but déjà vu too often leaves its calling card.

Recently, I saw some sea gulls fighting over a potato chip. They appeared to be the same birds I saw on a previous outing. And I could swear the great blue heron I passed on Redington Shores hasn't moved 10 feet in two weeks. Lazy beggar.

And who are those little kids who keep leaving holes in the sand for me to trip over when I jog? Along those lines, I wonder how many wedding photos I've appeared in taken on Redington Shores? It's kind of hard to run around a ceremony on the beach, especially when you're dodging holes in the sand.

Thought about doing more volunteer work when I retire. Guess I'll have the time, but I'm not so sure how I can help. Remember, I'm the guy who wrote a column with the headline "Help needed to change a light bulb."

I'll have more time to give blood and get free movie passes, providing that eating butter-



Tom Germond

laden theater popcorn doesn't knock me out of the blood donor pool. Love the stuff, but one kernel is lethal enough to kill a Redington Shores heron. Note to PETA: I've never fed movie popcorn to a Redington Shores heron

I have some hobbies, such as waging chemical warfare on dust mites, but even my favorite pastimes sometimes lead me down the trail of monotony.

nor kids who leave holes on the beach.

When and if I retire, I guess I'll continue to serve on my condominium board despite threats from unit owners to hang me. That's reason number one hundred why I'm pushing the board to get rid of all our oak trees.

When and if I retire, there's always sports to fall back on. Enjoy going to UF college football and basketball games, but I'm too cheap to get a good seat and always seem to end up in the Bob Uecker section. I'm also too cheap to buy binoculars. And stadium popcorn is not nearly as good as the theater's.

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Speaking of being expensive, air fare might keep me grounded. Always planned on traveling abroad when I retire, but after talking to a neighbor, I might have to pack a tent to afford overseas travel.

My neighbor is leaving soon for a Rhine River cruise trip. Her round-trip air fare to and from Amsterdam is \$1,700. Ouch. I'm going to have to give up more than just movie popcorn to afford that. Just as well. See one cathedral and you've seen them all.

Gazing at the grim faces of bishops staring at me in paintings give me the willies.

So much for Europe. Guess I'll "do the Florida thing" when I retire: travel locally and support the state's economy. Don't need a passport for that, either. At least not yet.

When and if I retire, I won't try to write a book. Writing it is only half the battle; marketing it is the coup de grace. In an ideal world, after you spend thousands of hours writing, rewriting and proofreading your book, you send it to a newspaper editor, who reviews it in a newspaper article and publicizes your book-signing event.

In the real world, the editor who gets the book usually puts it aside and it ends up in the bottom drawer of a file cabinet in the bowels of the newsroom. If you're lucky, your book could be used as a bookend on a newsroom shelf where somebody might see it and donate it to the friends of the library.

Guess I need retirement counseling. Must broaden my horizons.

Filling holes in the beach sand is for the birds.

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

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Mom reflects on her father's influence

As we celebrated Father's Day this past weekend, I was reminded how fortunate and blessed I am to still have my dad in my life and to have had him by my side growing up.



Mom 2 Mom
Kadi Hendricks Tubbs

I have so many fond memories that I will cherish forever. My dad is someone who has always been there for me and someone I can always count on.

I recently read an interesting statistic that was sad when it comes today's kids and their dads. According to the 2011 Census, one in three, or 24 million, American children are growing up in homes without their biological father.

Even back when I was growing up, a lot of my friends didn't have their biological dad in their lives. There were various reasons. In elementary school, my best friend's dad died when she was in first grade. In middle school, my good friend's dad was serving in the military and was deployed most of the time. A close friend in high school didn't see her dad because he travelled nine months out of the year for work. One of my best friends is still searching for her father.

A question I always wonder is: why am I so blessed to have had my dad in my life when others don't have their dads? When you think about it, we don't get to choose our parents. They are chosen for us.

My dad has always played a big role in my life. He was always there for me and helped me become the person and parent I am today. He has always been supportive in everything I wanted to do. Even when I

wasn't the best athlete or singer, my dad would always encourage me. My dad worked hard to make sure our family was provided for. We always had a roof over our heads and food on the table. My dad always told me how proud he was of me and that he loved me.

It's interesting that I see those same qualities in my husband with our two girls. He gives them encouragement in everything they do. He tells them every day how much he loves them and how proud he is to be their dad. Ever since our children were babies, he has told them they can do and be anything they want to be.

According to studies by Dr. David Popenoe, a father has a direct impact and brings positive benefits to his children. Kids with dads who take an active role in their life tend to get better grades in school and have better psychological wellbeing and social behavior.

It's important to have that male influence for a child. Sometimes that male influence is another male father figure like a grandpa or uncle. These father figures are important too. Studies back up that having these father figures cut back on physiological and behavior problems.

Thank you to all the men out there that are either fathers or taking on that role and making a difference in your child's life.

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

Faith briefs

Unclub Ministries Inc.

LARGO – The Rev. Gary Hunt, who has been the middle school pastor at the First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks since 1987, has retired from church work in order to bring his ministry to the community. Unclub Ministries Inc., a Christian non-profit organization dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of middle school students, recently opened a temporary office at 11604 Seminole Blvd., in Largo.

In a press release, Hunt says he and his team of dedicated volunteers are looking for a permanent building in which to house a ministry that will offer an after school program, Friday night activities, regular Bible studies and special events. And everything, Hunt says, will be designed for middle-schoolers.

He knows the age group. As a youth minister, he has spent 39 years working with students in sixth through eighth grades. He and his wife have even written a book, "Surviving the Tweenage Years." Though society has changed over the past 39 years, Hunt says that middle school kids still wrestle with the same basic issues.

"The middle school years are the years in which kids begin to pull away from their parents and

establish their own identity," said Hunt in a press release. "They are no longer children, but they're not ready to be completely independent, either. We believe it's crucial for kids to be surrounded by trustworthy adults who will teach them, guide them, and care about them while having fun with them. We believe it's a sin to bore a kid."

Unclub Ministries operates under the supervision of a seven-member board of directors, all of whom are local residents who care deeply about the students of Pinellas County. The group is kicking off the school year with

an "Unclub Retreat" at Camp Kulaqua, located near High Springs, Florida. The three-day retreat will be held Aug. 10-12 and transportation to and from camp will be provided.

For information about Unclub Ministries' needs and programs, visit www.unclubministries.org.

Sylvan Abbey United Methodist Church

CLEARWATER – A cooking camp will be presented Saturdays, July 12 and 19, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Sylvan Abbey United Methodist Church, 2817 Sunset Point Road.

Cost of the camp, for ages 5 to 12, is \$20. Space is limited. For reservations, call 796-3057.

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Science of Happiness workshop presented

CLEARWATER – Introduction to the Science of Happiness is a new three-hour workshop presented by the New Thought Center for Creative Living at the Unity Church of Clearwater Peace Cottage, 2465 Nursery Road.

The workshop will be presented Saturday, June 28, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"We eventually learn that we can't change the world, but we can change ourselves," said Gregg Sanderson in a press release. Sanderson will lead the workshop. "We will share methods for people to use that can virtually eliminate stress and alter their unpleasant emotional reactions before they can make complete fools of themselves."

Sanderson has worked with and taught the Science of Happiness throughout the United States and Canada since 1974 and offers a full money-back guarantee. Fee for the workshop is \$35 in advance and \$45 at the door. Attendance is limited to 20 participants.

For reservations and further information, call 475-8991 or email gregg@newthoughtctr.org.

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Library cooperative names executive director

The board of directors of the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative recently announced the selection of a new executive director of PPLC.

Cheryl Morales began her tenure as executive director on June 9.

Morales comes to PPLC from American Samoa where she was the Territorial Librarian where she created a dynamic public library system. After 15 years in Samoa, Morales wanted to move back to Florida, where she has family.

Morales has been an active member of every community where she worked, involving herself in building community partnerships from animal and child welfare to the preservation of essential records.

The PPLC serves Pinellas County residents in member cities and the unincorporated county. The coopera-

tive office provides coordination of activities and funding as well as marketing services for the member libraries. Member libraries include the Clearwater Public Library System, Dunedin Library, East Lake Community Library, Gulf Beaches Library, Gulfport Library, Largo Library, Oldsmar Library, Palm Harbor Library, Barbara S. Ponce Public Library, Pinellas Talking Book Library, Safety Harbor Library, St. Petersburg Library System, St. Pete Beach Library, Seminole Community Library and Tarpon Springs Library.

Each member library provides access to information, materials and programs for the enrichment of individual and community life.

For a listing of services offered through the PPLC, visit www.pplc.us or pick up a free monthly newsletter available in member libraries.



Cheryl Morales

Pinellas Heights receives silver building award

LARGO – Pinellas County Housing Authority's new Pinellas Heights senior community has received the silver award from the National Green Building Standard, or NGBS.

The NGBS certification provides independent, third-party verification that an apartment building is designed and built to achieve high "green" performance in six key areas: site design, resource efficiency, water efficiency, energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality and building operation and maintenance.

"This accomplishment is one more step taken toward meeting PCHA's strategic goal of implementing green initiatives," said Debbie Johnson, executive director for PCHA. "Accreditation is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of our developer partner, Norstar Development USA, LP."

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County, Pinellas County Community De-

velopment, city of Largo, Norstar Development USA, LP, RBC Capital Markets, JP Morgan Chase and the Pinellas County Housing Authority provided funding for the \$24 million development. The Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta also provided a \$1 million Affordable Housing Program grant to the project.

"Congratulations to all PCHA Pinellas Heights partners on successfully completing a beautiful, energy-efficient, and sustainable housing community for low-income seniors" said PCHA's board Chairman Joseph Triolo.

The Pinellas County Housing Authority is a HUD-designated high performing agency. As the largest housing authority in Pinellas County, PCHA owns and operates more than 1,000 units of non-subsidized affordable rentals, in addition to federally-subsidized rentals and rental subsidies, providing housing opportunities for more than 8,000 county individuals. For more information, visit www.pinellashousing.com

PSTA begins service to Lennox Court Apartments

CLEARWATER – Leaders and staff from Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority joined residents and officials from Lennox Properties June 11 to celebrate new bus service to the Lennox Court Apartments in Clearwater.

Last fall, PSTA's Route 78 was detoured from its normal routing along Betty Lane. Once detoured to Kings Highway, ridership along

the detour jumped by more than 180 percent. In light of the increased ridership, along with numerous requests to make the routing permanent, PSTA officials were eager to comply and celebrated the successful change with a ceremonial ribbon cutting.

"Today is more than just celebrating increased ridership, it's about being responsible to our

community and riders," PSTA CEO Brad Miller said in a press release. "We work extremely hard to listen to our customers and continually improve our service, so when we saw and heard how happy residents in this neighborhood were with the temporary routing, we knew we had to make it permanent."

"One of the things we strive to provide to our county is improved transportation options," said

Clearwater City Council Member and PSTA Vice-Chair Bill Jonson. "I look at the need to own a second car as one of the highest tax costs on many of our families, because they don't have transportation options other than driving. But when you look at a route like this, the second most productive in the system, and see people using it to get to work, school and other services they need, it's clear that we have to find a way to fund

Largo Marine vet wins state award

LARGO – William "Doc" Bauer of Largo and a member of Detachment 54, the Clearwater/Largo unit of the Marine Corps League, was recognized at a June 7 award ceremony in Orlando as the winner of the league's Jim Spears Award.

The award, named for a noted Marine author, is given in the annual, statewide Department of Florida News Article Competition. The competition judges writing and editing know-how as well as the ability to keep the public informed as to the league's mission, organization, philanthropy, patriotism and ceremonial excellence. Bauer won the category for detachments with 101 or more active members.

"Doc is one of those few good men who is dedicated to publicizing as well as doing the things he writes about," said Jaime Perez, Detachment 54's commandant.



William "Doc" Bauer

operations, so buses run later than only 7:20 in the evening – and that's what the Greenlight Pinellas Plan is all about."

Clearwater Vice-Mayor Doreen Hock-DiPolito agreed and pointed out how the Greenlight Pinellas Plan is gaining popularity from younger generations.

"In fact, just last night, the Clearwater Young Professionals had an amazing turnout of their membership in support of the Greenlight Pinellas initiative," she said. "Plus, we see older generations embracing transit as well by taking advantage of new and expanded services like the North County Connectors and Jolley Trolley."

PSTA Leaders, along with a

host of municipalities and business groups, say that ridership successes like the one celebrated June 11 will become frequent and countywide when the Greenlight Pinellas is approved by voters next fall.

The Greenlight Pinellas initiative will be on the Nov. 4 ballot and will offer voters the chance to eliminate their transit property tax and instead fund improved public transportation with a 1 percent sales tax (not applied to groceries, medical items and limited to the first \$5,000 of any purchase). Details of the plan and more can all be found at www.greenlightpinellas.com.

To learn more about PSTA, visit www.psta.net.

What's Selling in Pinellas County

New Port Richey **\$155,000**
3BR/2BA/2CG



SOLD
Well kept home in gated community. Many upgrades including Corian countertops in kitchen and bath, solid wood cabinetry, tile throughout, California closet in master, hurricane shutters, water softener and much more

Jeff Queen
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

Seminole **\$40,000**
1BR/1BA/1CP



SOLD
Single story condo with tile flooring, large outer patio, and much more.

Caroleanne Vorac
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

Seminole **\$220,000**
3BR/2BA/2CG



SOLD
Over 2,000 Sq. Ft. Living room and dining room combo has pecan natural flooring. Nice open kitchen that has been freshly painted. Huge family room/game room, perfect for entertaining.

Team Heart and Soul
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

Seminole **\$182,000**
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Wheeler joins Coast Guard



Sean Wheeler has enlisted in the United States Coast Guard. Wheeler previously served as a volunteer member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-3 at Madeira Beach. He has lived in Seminole since birth, is a graduate of Seminole High School and the son of Dennis and Penny Wheeler. He is shown being sworn into the auxiliary.

Military updates

Cooper Rekstis
SEMINOLE – Navy Seaman Recruit Cooper Rekstis recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois. Rekstis is the son of Joni and stepson of Jim Valliere of Seminole. He is a 2010 graduate of Seminole High School.

Ty Barker
BELLEAIR BLUFFS – Air Force Airman 1st Class Ty Barker recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Hill is the son of Jason Hill of Oldsmar. He is a 2010 graduate of James W. Mitchell High School, Trinity.

Barker is the son of Craig and stepson of Sylvia Barker of Parish, New York; and of Bridgette and stepson of William Reber of Belleair Bluffs. He is a 2013 graduate of Largo High School.

Brennan Hill
OLDSMAR – Air Force Airman Brennan Hill recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Hill is the son of Jason Hill of Oldsmar. He is a 2010 graduate of James W. Mitchell High School, Trinity.

Upcoming events

CSF to host workshop
LARGO – The Community Service Foundation will host a free, two-part first-time homebuyers workshop on Tuesdays, July 8 and 15, 6 to 9 p.m., at Pinellas County Housing Authority, 11479 Ulmerton Road.

The 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.

For information or to register, call 461-0618, ext. 3, or visit www.csfhome.org.

MOAA to meet
ST. PETERSBURG – The St. Petersburg chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will meet for lunch Friday, June 20, at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park. Social hour will start at 11 a.m., followed by lunch and a short program. Military Officers that are retired, active duty or former officers and their spouses or widows are invited to attend. For reservations, call Pauline Edwards at 360-2936.

Pets of the week



Amber

Amber is a pretty tabby/tortoiseshell mix. She is very friendly and affectionate and has a calm personality. she loves to talk with her humans. She gets along with other cats but prefers mature kitties to hang out with. She is well behaved and is waiting for someone to give her a loving home. Visit her at Petsmart on Gulf to Bay Boulevard and U.S. 19 in Clearwater or call Pat with second Chance for Strays at 535-9154. Amber is spayed and up to date with all her vaccinations. Visit www.secondchanceforstrays.com.



Beatrice

Beautiful Beatrice is a 2-year-old American bulldog who loves taking baths. She is a large dog who would love to go home to her forever family. Bring this article to Animal Services of Pinellas and adopt her for only \$25. She is up spayed and up to date on vaccinations and is waiting for you at 12450 Ulmerton Road., Largo. Call 582-2600 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices.



Samantha

Samantha is part Maine coon cat with exquisite classic tabby markings. Just 1 year old, this beauty is quite social, residing in a foster home with other cats, a dog and children. One of her kittens, Abe, a 3-month-old black-and-white kitty, is her companion, too. Samantha has been tested for feline diseases, is current on her vaccines, is microchipped and is ready for an attentive family looking for a great cat. To meet Samantha and Abe, call a Save Our Strays volunteer at 545-1116. Visit www.saveourstraysinc.com.



Rosie

Rosie is a lovely, playful, 1-year-old pit bull mix. She wandered into her last home as a stray, but was not able to stay in her new home. Rosie is an energetic little girl who would do well as a part of an active family that won't mind spending time playing and exercising with her outdoors. Family members ages 10 and older would be best for this sweet dog. Her adoption fee is \$30, which includes her spay surgery, microchip, vaccinations and free 30 days of pet insurance. Meet her at SPCA Tampa Bay at 9099 130th Ave. N., Largo or visit www.spcatampabay.org.

Paw prints

SPCA Tampa Bay Pet Wellness Clinic opens

LARGO – SPCA Tampa Bay recently opened a pet wellness clinic at its Largo facility, 9099 130th Ave. N.

The clinic's services for the pet-owning public include microchips, vaccines, heartworm tests, deworming and heartworm/flea preventatives. Clinic hours are Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to noon.

"Introducing more accessible pet wellness care at our Largo facility is a valuable step that meets an immediate need in our community and supports our future vision," said Martha Boden, SPCA CEO, in a press release.

SPCA Tampa Bay board and staff are continuing to move forward with plans for a full-service veterinary and high-volume spay/neuter clinic in St. Petersburg. For a list of services, visit www.SPCATampabay.org. To schedule an appointment, email Wellness@SPCATampabay.org or call 437-0260.

SOS offering reduced adoption rates

June is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month, nationally promoted each year. Save Our Strays is celebrating the event by offering a specially reduced adoption fee of \$35 for all cats 2 years of age and older. These adult cats are spayed/neutered, current on vaccines and county license and are microchipped. Many of these mature felines, which offer great companionship, are lap cats.

Save Our Strays is a nonprofit, no-kill organization dedicated to rehoming cats and kittens. For information, call 481-5262 or 545-1116. Visit www.saveourstraysinc.com.

County Animal Services offers June specials

LARGO – June is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month. As part of the Adopt a Shelter Cat Month special, \$5 rabies vaccinations with the purchase of a license will be available on Thursdays, 1 to 4 p.m., at Pinellas County Animal Services, 12450 Ulmerton Road.

The adoption fee in June for cats will be reduced to \$25 and adopters can get two cats for the price of one during normal shelter adoption hours. The fee includes medical checkup, spaying/neutering, vaccinations, internal and external parasite control, heartworm testing and feline leukemia testing and micro chipping. The required Pinellas County license is also provided.

Call 582-2600 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices.

Humane Society to host summer programs

CLEARWATER – Several kids' camps will be offered this summer by

the Humane Society of Pinellas, 3040 State Road 590.

Following is a list of schedule camp options:

- **Animal Explorer Camp** – June 23-27, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This camp is for kids entering seventh or eighth grade. Animal Explorer Camp is designed to teach children how to align their choices with their values. Each day children will be presented with a question that will help guide the activities. Camp will be filled with presentations with local professionals, crafts and activities that will help children realize their values and animal interaction. Campers will work with the animals to learn about compassion, empathy and enrichment.
- **Animal Career Camp** – July 7-11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For youth entering ninth or 10th grade. Animal Career Camp is designed to teach youth about different animal related careers. Activities, demonstrations and presentations will fill each day and allow youth to learn more about different animal careers. Campers will be assigned an animal for the week and will use what they learn to help that animal be adopted.

Registration is \$140 per camper and includes a snack each day, goodie bag and T-shirt. To register, visit HumaneSocietyofPinellas.org, email Lucy Monette at Lucy@HumanePinellas.org or call 797-7722, ext. 238.

Humane Society seeks calendar contest entries

CLEARWATER – The Humane Society of Pinellas is accepting submissions for its 2015 Calendar Contest through July 1, 2014.

The contest is sponsored by Rogan & Associates Financial Planners. To submit a pet photo, visit mulabula.com/humanepinellas/ or text a picture to HSP@mulabula.com. Once the photo has been submitted, submitters can ask friends to vote. Votes cost \$1 each. While every pet's picture will be in the calendar, only contestants with the top-voted pictures will be featured.

Monthly sponsors also are sought. Cost is \$250. For information, call Tiffany at 797-7722 or email Tiffany@HumanePinellas.org.

SPOT celebrates fifth anniversary

PINELLAS PARK – Stop Pet Overpopulation Together is celebrating its fifth anniversary during the month of June with a Neuter-a-thon: \$25 for male cats and \$50 for male dogs under 40 pounds.

Pets need to be at least 3 pounds or 3 months old for surgery. On Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9 a.m. and noon, the clinic will offer \$20 microchips and \$5 nail trims.

SPOT's Spay and Neuter clinic has done more than 20,000 spay and neuter surgeries and has helped another 30,000 pets with low cost vaccines in the past five years. By offering these services, it enables pet

owners to afford keeping their pets instead of surrendering them to the shelters as well as preventing accidental and unwanted litters. Pet overpopulation is the No. 1 killer of pets in America. There are too many pets and not enough homes. Cats start reproducing as early as 4 months and dogs as early as 6 months. The humane solution is to spay and neuter them to prevent the litters, before they start.

To schedule a surgery appointment, call 329-8657. Surgeries are offered Monday through Thursday. Vaccine clinic is available on Monday and Wednesday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The microchip clinic is offered on Tuesday and Thursday between 9 a.m. and noon.

The SPOT Spay & Neuter clinic is at 4403 62nd Ave.

Obituaries

Robert Carey "Jake" JACOBUS Jr.

Robert Carey Jacobus, Jr. "Jake," of Tallahassee, Fla. and formerly of Largo and St. Petersburg, Fla., died at his home on Sunday, June 8, 2014 after a long illness. He was 79. He served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves for 26 years and enjoyed his yearly reunion with his 3rd Army Rifle Team. He worked for GTE in Pinellas County for 30 years. Jake is survived by his wife, Patricia Jacobus; his sister, Lucy Bean; 7 children; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren, and his beloved cat. There will be a graveside service at Roselawn Cemetery, Tallahassee, Thursday, June 19, 2014, at 11:00 a.m.

Dennis SINGLETON

Dennis Singleton, 64, of Pinellas Park, Fla., passed away June 4, 2014 of cancer. A graduate of Fairview High School, Dayton, Ohio, Dennis proudly served as a Police Officer for the Union, Ohio Police Department, the Treasure Island, Fla. Police Department, and as a Community Service Officer for St. Pete Beach, Fla. Active in his community, Dennis enjoyed memberships in both the Blue Knight's Motorcycle Club and the Tampa Bay Aquarium Society. He is survived by Karol McFadden-Singleton, his wife of 45 years; sons, Tracey and Adam Singleton and daughter-in-law, Malena and grandson, Nikolai D. Singleton, all of Pinellas Park. A memorial service will be held inviting all those who got to know Dennis in his 32 years of community service and dedication to police work. Please join us Sunday, June 29, 2014 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the St. Pete Beach City Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr., St. Pete Beach, FL 33701.

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Longoria, Rays team up with credit union for summer reading program

ST. PETERSBURG - Evan Longoria and the Rays Baseball Foundation have teamed up with the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation for this year's "Reading with the Rays - Read Your Way to the Ballpark" program.

This summer, the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation, Longoria and the Rays Baseball Foundation will host the seventh season of Reading with the Rays, an incentive-based reading program that encourages kids to avoid summer learning loss by reading 24 hours during the summer months. Participating libraries track kids' progress and award prizes for reaching certain goals, including a free ticket to a Rays game.

Reading with the Rays is made possible with the help of the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education and public library systems in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Citrus, Polk, Pasco, Hernando, Sarasota and Charlotte counties.

"Reading with the Rays has grown to become a pillar of our community outreach efforts," Rays Senior Vice President Mark Fernandez said. "We are

proud to be joined by our partners at Suncoast Credit Union in delivering this program to more children than ever and significantly impacting reading development over the summer months throughout our region."

Kids can pick up their Reading with the Rays game card at a participating library to begin reading around the bases anytime on or after June 8.

"Reading with the Rays compliments our mission of supporting educational initiatives for children in the local community," said Mary Tlachac, executive director of Suncoast Credit Union Foundation. "Reading is a wise investment of time and because there are many benefits to establishing reading habits at an early age, we believe this program will encourage and excite children to read beyond the school year."

Longoria, the program's spokesman, will make surprise visits to local libraries in the weeks following the kick-off.

For more information about the program, visit raysbaseball.com/reading.

Return of the east wind should improve local fishing conditions

Finally, we can say goodbye to that annoying onshore wind and welcome back our normal east wind flow.

Sloppy seas and thunderstorms moving in off the Gulf left few options this past week.

Tarpon were pretty much off the hit list all together and along with it went some pretty good near shore trout fishing. However, redfish and snook remained targetable, and at certain parts of the tides the fishing has been really good.

Working the higher portion of the incoming tide along mangrove shorelines in many of the no-motor zone areas, we were successful at targeting upper slot redfish with many over slot fish mixed in the entire full moon phase.

Summer high tides will have the redfish pushing well under the trees as soon as the water gets high enough. Casting cut pinfish up in tight to the bushes is a productive way to lure the big fish out for a snack.

Snook are staged up in the passes especially on the strong tides. Targeting beach shoals and cuts with free-lined or lightly weighted grass grunts or butterfish has accounted for some boss snook lately. Just let your baits rest down-tide on the sandy



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

roll-offs and wait for the big fish to swim by and grab it.

Weekend boat traffic all but shut this pattern down last weekend so you may want to target your snook first thing in the morning regardless of the tide. As long as it's moving you have a chance at catching fish.

Tarpon are back on the list this week. East winds will present the right conditions for spotting and setting up on migratory schools as they travel along area beaches. The schools will generally be moving north and often pretty fast, so anchoring in a travel lane is a great option. Live pinfish, pumpkinseeds and big pilchards will all work.

Trouth fishing has really gotten good as of late, near-shore structures including artificial reefs and jetties are potential hot spots. Free-line or lightly weight live pilchards along the rocks and it shouldn't take long to know whether they are there or not.

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.

Top pick signs



Photo courtesy of TAMPA BAY RAYS/SKIP MILOS

Tampa Bay Rays first-round draft pick Casey Gillaspie signs his first pro contract with Rays scouting director R.J. Harrison, right. Gillaspie, a 21-year-old first baseman out of Wichita State, was the third college hitter taken by the Rays with their first overall selection, joining third baseman Richie Shaffer (Clemson, 2012) and third baseman Evan Longoria (Long Beach State, 2006). In 59 games this season, the switch-hitter batted .389 (82-for-211) with 15 home runs, 50 RBI, a .520 on-base percentage and .682 slugging percentage.

Briefs

5K series set in St. Pete Beach

ST. PETE BEACH - The St. Pete Road Runners 5K Beach Series is set over the next two months on the beach behind the Post Card Inn. Dates of the events are Fridays June 27, July 25 and Aug. 22., at 7 p.m. To register, visit www.active.com.

Christian Chamber plans golf tourney

CLEARWATER - The Christian Chamber of Commerce Tampa Bay Inc. announces its Inaugural Golf Tournament on July 18 at the Feather Sound Country Club in Clearwater.

The cost is \$95 per golfer or \$360 for a foursome. Registration begins at 7 a.m. Shotgun starts at 8:30 a.m. Entry fee includes a summer paradise membership, green fees, cart fee, range balls, breakfast, lunch, on course special events and prizes.

A silent and live auction will be at the event too. All proceeds go to benefit the Chamber of Commerce, which is a nonprofit operation. More information about the event and registration can be found

online at www.c3tb.org/annual-golf-tournament.

The Christian Chamber of Commerce was established to unify the Tampa Bay business communities to "glorify the Lord by relationship-building, rescouring, discipleship, and ministry," a press release said.

Senior billiards league forming

PALM HARBOR - A new daytime billiards league is forming at Stroker's Billiard Hall, 30901 U.S. 19 N., beginning Thursday, July 10.

Local residents Bob Miller and Demenic DeBlasi are starting Silver Stokers, a program open to men and women ages 55 and older. Hours are noon to 4 p.m. every Thursday.

Play will begin with individual competition and advance to team play when enough players begin to participate. It will be an 8-ball tournament with double-elimination under BCA rules.

A yearly membership in Silver Stokers is \$5. The weekly playing fee will be \$5. All funds will be funneled back to the players. Contact Miller at 754-4094 or DeBlasi at 462-2645.

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Top five diversions

• **"Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead,"** a comedy by Bert V. Royal, presented by West Coast Players, through June 22, at West Coast Players Theatre, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org.

• **Andy Grammer**, Friday, June 20, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$25. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Known for his vibrant pop/rock/soul mix and free-flowing vocal delivery, the acclaimed singer, songwriter and musician emerged as one of the biggest success stories in the music business in 2012. Grammer performed on Jimmy Kimmel Live, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (three times) and Good Morning America. He shared the stage with Taylor Swift, Train and Colbie Caillat. He's the first male pop star, since John Mayer in 2002, to reach the Top 10 at Adult Pop Radio on his first two singles, "Keep Your Head Up" and "Fine By Me." "Keep Your Head Up" is certified platinum and received the BMI award as one of 2012's Top 50 most performed songs across all formats. "Fine By Me" is certified gold and his third single peaked at No. 15 on the U.S. Adult Top 40 chart.

• **Brian Regan**, Friday, June 20, 8 p.m., in the Carol Morsani Hall, at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Tickets start at \$45. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org. Favorite funnyman Brian Regan returns to riff on life's big collection of little crises. His side-splitting stand up skyrocketed his career from his first appearance on "Late Night with David Letterman" and has kept him a comedy darling for two decades and counting.

• **Pinellas County Historical Society Antique Appraisal Fair**, Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at

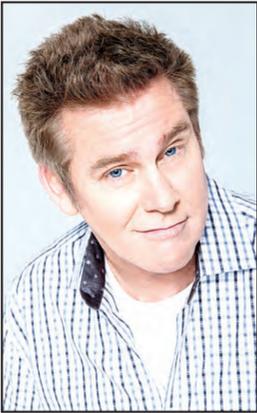


Photo by J. METELLUS/
THE STRAZ CENTER

The Straz Center welcomes Brian Regan June 20.

See TOP FIVE, page 4B



Photo courtesy of SCREEN GEMS/SONY PICTURES
From left, Sonia (LaLa Anthony), Mya (Meagan Good), Lauren (Taraji P. Henson), Candace (Regina Hall), Kristen (Gabrielle Union) and Tish (Wendi McLendon-Covey) arrive at Planet Hollywood's Gallery Nightclub for a fun girls night out in Las Vegas to celebrate Candace's wedding weekend in Screen Gems' "Think Like a Man Too."

Opening this weekend

'Think Like a Man Too' hits theaters; Eastwood directs 'Jersey Boys'

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

'Think Like a Man Too'

Genre: Comedy
Cast: Adam Brody, Michael Ealy, Jerry Ferrara, Meagan Good, Regina Hall, Dennis Haysbert, Taraji P. Henson, Terrence J, Jennifer Lewis, Romany Malco, Wendi McLendon-Covey, Gary Owen, Gabrielle Union, David Walton and Kevin Hart
Director: Tim Story
Rated: PG-13

In the highly anticipated sequel, which was inspired by Steve Harvey's best-selling book "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man," all the couples are back for a wedding in Las Vegas.

But plans for a romantic weekend go awry when their various misadventures get them into some compromising situations that threaten to derail the big event.

'Jersey Boys'

Genre: Musical
Cast: John Lloyd Young, Erich Bergen, Vincent Piazza, Michael Lomenda and Christopher Walken
Director: Clint Eastwood
Rated: R
From director Clint Eastwood



Photo by KEITH BERNSTEIN/WARNER BROS.

Christopher Walken, left, stars as Gyp DeCarlo and John Lloyd Young as Frankie Valli in Warner Bros. Pictures' musical "Jersey Boys," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

comes the big-screen version of the Tony Award-winning musical "Jersey Boys."

The film tells the story of four young men from the wrong side of the tracks in New Jersey who came together to form the iconic

1960s rock group The Four Seasons. The story of their trials and triumphs are accompanied by the songs that influenced a generation, including "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like a Man," "Dawn," "Rag Doll," "Bye

Bye Baby," "Who Loves You," and many more.

These classic hits are now being embraced by a new generation of fans through the stage

See OPENING, page 8B

LCC announces 2014-15 Children's Education Series

LARGO - The 2014-15 Children's Educational Series, sponsored by the Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation, is filled with educational messages and fun for the whole family.

The 2014-15 Children's Educational Series schedule includes the following performances:

- "School House Rock" - Saturday, Nov. 8
- "Santa's Holiday Revue" - Saturday, Dec. 20
- "Charlotte's Web" - Saturday, Jan. 17
- "Let's Go Science!" - Saturday, Feb. 7
- "Tom Sawyer" - Saturday, March 7
- "Cinderella" - Saturday, April 11
- "Breakin' Backwards" by Soul Street Dance Company - Friday, May 8
- "Breakin' Back to Summer" by Soul Street Dance Company - Saturday, May 9

Tickets for the series will go on sale Thursday, June 19, 10 a.m. Tickets will be sold through the Largo Cultural Center box office, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets also are available by phone and online. Call 587-6793 or visit LargoArts.com. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and \$6.50 for children. Series subscriptions also are available for \$5 a ticket with the purchase of three shows or more.

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Looking ahead

Largo

• **Candlelight Cabaret Concert**, Wednesday, July 2, 8 p.m., at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo. Cost is \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Call 518-3131. The show will feature some cool jazz at this New York club inspired concert series. A cash bar will be available. Visit LargoCommunityCenter.com.

• **Train Weekend**, Saturday and Sunday, July 5-6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive, Largo. Call 587-6740, ext. 5014. Attendees will have an opportunity to ride the miniature trains of Largo Central Railroad on the first full weekend every month in sunny Largo Central Park. There is no cost but donations are accepted. Visit largoparks.com.

• **"Hair,"** with book and lyrics by James Rado and Gerome Ragni, and music by Galt MacDermot; presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, July 11-20, 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 largoparks.com. "Hair" – the Broadway musical live on stage – is at once both a joyous celebration of youth and a poignant journey through a tumultuous 1960s America. This exuberant musical about a group of teenagers searching for truth, peace and love in a Vietnam War era America has struck a resonant chord with audiences of all ages. "Hair" features a long list of chart-topping hit songs such as "Aquarius," "Let the Sun Shine In," "Good Morning," "Starshine" and "Easy To Be Hard." The themes and struggles in "Hair," although from another era, seem vital and relevant to modern times. This performance contains strong language, adult content and nudity and is recommended for mature audiences. This production will feature Michael Newton-Brown as director and James Grenelle as choreographer.

• **Jessy J**, Wednesday, July 16, 7:30 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$16.50. Call 587-6793. Jessy J and her band will perform songs from her latest No. 1 Billboard Charting Jazz Album as well as many other hits. Jessy J was recently featured on the cover of Jazzy Magazine and on the cover of Saxophone Journal Magazine and Latina Style Magazine. Her song "Tequila Moon" hit the No. 1 spot on the Billboard Jazz chart and received the Contemporary Jazz Song of the Year as well as an award from Billboard Magazine. Her song "Tropical Rain," from her 2009 release, reached the top of the Groove Jazz Music chart and she soon followed with the #1 spot on the Smooth Jazz Top 20 Countdown, as well as the Billboard Jazz charts. All this success has resulted in Jessy J being named Radio and Records Debut Artist of the Year.

Clearwater

• **"Cookin' with Gus,"** by Jim Brochu, through July 13, at Early Bird Dinner Theatre, 13355 49th St. N., Clearwater. Evening performances are presented Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with seating at 4 p.m. Matinees are presented Thursdays and Saturdays, with seating at 11 a.m. Cost is \$29.90 which includes dinner and show. Gussie Richardson is a famous food columnist and cookbook author. Her agent comes to tell her she's been offered her own daily network television show. She wants to do it, but her husband Walter is dead set against it and Gussie discovers she has stage fright and can't open her mouth in front of a camera. Everybody tries to help her get over it ... Walter through hypnotism, Bernie her agent by threats; and even wacky Gypsy Carmen from next door casts spells. Just when she thinks she's cured, the taping turns into a comic nightmare concluding in an all out food fight that almost ends the show and her marriage.

• **Dave Koz Summer Horns**, Friday, June 27, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eck-

erd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$35. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhal.com. When acclaimed saxophonists Dave Koz, Mindi Abair, Gerald Albright and Richard Elliot hit the road together last summer in support of their CD, "Dave Koz and Friends Summer Horns," they looked at it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. But the four artists had such a blast on the tour that they are happily obliging fans' requests for a return of the Summer Horns. The foursome received a Grammy nomination for Best Pop Instrumental Album, "Dave Koz and Friends Summer Horns" Released last summer, the album was produced by Paul Brown (Al Jarreau, George Benson, June Tabor) and spent five weeks at No. 1 on Billboard's Current Contemporary Jazz Albums chart. The collection includes fresh takes on classic songs by Sly & the Family Stone, Tower of Power, Earth Wind & Fire, Chicago, Blood Sweat & Tears and other brassy juggernauts of the 1960s and 70s. The album's first single, a rendition of Lennon and McCartney's "Got To Get You Into My Life," spent seven weeks at No. 1 on Billboard's Smooth Jazz chart and was nominated for a Soul Train award. "I Got You (I Feel Good)," the follow-up single, was hailed by the San Jose Mercury News as a "funk-filled fun fest" and hit No. 1 on the Mediabase Smooth A/C chart.

Gulfport

• **USA Dance**, Monday, June 30, 7 to 10:15 p.m., at Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Blvd., Gulfport. Admission is \$7 and includes a dance workshop, professional and amateur exhibitions, dance hosts and snacks. For information, call 397-5754.

Madeira Beach

• **Mad Beach Fourth Friday Flip Flop Nights Beach Paw-TY and Food Truck Rally**, Friday, June 27, 5 to 10 p.m., at 15004 Madeira Way, Madeira Beach. The free event will feature music, food truck rally, beer garden, unique vendors, and exciting contests. This month's party will celebrate four-legged friends with several doggie contests and animal friendly vendors.

Safety Harbor

• **"Berthe Morisot: First Impressions,"** performed by Nan Colton of Solo Productions Inc.; Thursday, June 19, 6:30 p.m., at Safety Harbor Public Library, 101 Second St. N., Safety Harbor. Call 724-1525, ext. 4112. Colton portrays Berthe Morisot and her life as a female artist influenced by Monet, Renoir, and Manet. Colton is a storyteller, writer, playwright, and professional actress who performs passionate, live biographical portraits of remarkable women, and unforgettable tales of fact and fiction. She has performed and lectured professionally on stages throughout South Africa, Great Britain, and the United States. For the past 18 years, Colton has been the performing artist in residence at the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, and has researched, produced and performed over 37 different original scripted presentations.

St. Petersburg

• **The Sounds of Soul**, Saturday, June 28, 7 p.m., at The Magnolia Center at Five Towns, 7950 58th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Advance tickets are \$10 a person. Tickets are \$15 a person at the door. Call 423-9825. The Sounds of Soul will share the hits of Motown with audiences. This exciting, high-energy group unleashes superior vocals and slick dance moves powered by pure soul. The group is composed of six seasoned performers who have excelled as outstanding singers, dancers, and song writers. Each member has shared the national recording spotlight driven by the power of Capital Records, Big Apple Records, and R & S Records to name but a few. For information, call Gerry Cachia at 423-9825 or visit thesoundsofsoul.com.

• **The Marly Music Series featuring Emily Albrink**, soprano, Sunday, June 29, 2 p.m., in the Marly Room at the Museum of Fine Arts, 255 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg. Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$10 for students 22 and younger with current ID. Visit www.fine-arts.org. Admission to the entire museum is included in the ticket price. For information, call 896-2667. Albrink appeared in Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro with the Washington National Opera. She has been hailed by the New York Times as "delightful and vocally strong and versatile." Albrink has collaborated with such distinguished conductors and composers as James Levine, Plácido Domingo, Robert Spano, Marin Alsop, Jake Heggie, and John Musto. She has a wealth of roles to her credit in such operas as Bizet's Carmen, Mozart's Così fan tutte and The Magic Flute, and Benjamin Britten's Peter Grimes. She sang Evvy in the U.S. premiere of Tod Machover's Death and the Powers with the American Repertory Theater and the Chicago Opera Theater. The Los Angeles Times has called Mr. Machover "America's most wired composer." His innovative work featured singers as robots and a cyborg.

Tampa

• **Katy Perry**, Monday, June 30, 7 p.m., at Tampa Bay Times Forum, 401 Channelside Drive, Tampa. Tickets start at \$26.25. Call 813-301-2500 or visit www.tampabaytimesforum.com. Perry will visit Tampa Bay while on the the North American leg of her highly anticipated Prismatic World Tour. The 46-city tour is presented by Goldenvoice, a division of AEG Live. Perry is touring in support of "Prism," which debuted at No. 1 on The Billboard 200. The platinum album has given Perry her biggest-ever single with "Roar," while "Dark Horse" just became her lucky 13th Top Ten hit on The Billboard Hot 100. The state-of-the-art stage, specifically designed by Perry for the Prismatic World Tour, will allow her to get closer to her fans than ever before. The one-of-a-kind set design will provide concert-goers with a truly magical experience from every angle in the arena. The 11-time Grammy nominated singer cemented her status as a best-selling superstar with the global success of her second studio album, "Teenage Dream," which debuted at No. 1 in eight countries and spent over two years on Billboard's Top 200 album sales chart. She became the only female artist to have five No. 1 singles from one album on the Billboard Hot 100 chart – "California Gurls," "Teenage Dream," "Firework," "E.T." and "Last Friday Night."

Crossword

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

Across

- Losses caused by wear or decay
- "To your health!"
- Praise
- Repair a building's front
- Type of mathematician
- Horse handler
- "Sesame Street" watcher
- Arise
- ___ deferens
- Drive
- About
- "Act your ___!"
- Feeble
- "I" problem
- Long, long time
- The "p" in m.p.g.
- Coxcomb
- Most pale
- Aspersions
- Anything
- "Take that!" (2 wds)
- Bubkes
- "___ to Billie Joe"
- Artificial bait
- Couple
- Jail, slang
- Adaptable truck, for short
- Astute
- Balderdash
- Bank offering, for short
- Domineered
- "The Three Faces of ___"
- Breath freshener
- Infuriating
- Striking effects
- S. American boa
- Boil
- Advanced hour

Down

- Card
- Common solvent
- Two-wheeler
- Indian drum
- A pint, maybe
- Box office take
- Swelling
- Calm
- Predictive
- Change, as a clock
- "How ___ Has the Banshee Cried" (Thomas Moore poem)
- Save and put to further use
- Cooling-off periods (2 wds)
- Most curt
- Get back
- Blueprint
- M-1, for one
- Building housing judicial courts
- Order between "ready" and "fire"
- From the 1930s
- Serf
- "___ Cried" (1962 hit)
- Water channels with valve or gate
- Run faster than
- Goo
- Mineral silicate of iron and magnesium
- Relies
- "... ___ he drove out of sight"
- Big test
- Salem's home
- A deadly sin
- Bird's contour feather
- "Dang!"
- Pillbox, e.g.
- Trick taker, often
- Neon, e.g.

Sudoku

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

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

Sudoku answers

from last week

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

Crossword answers

from last week

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

Horoscopes

June 19, 2014

Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

Think big, Capricorn. There is no other way to go. A last-ditch effort to save a project works, and the responsibilities multiply. Rally the team.

Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

Your idea is sound but rough. Work out all of the kinks before you present it, Aquarius. A monetary mistake is rectified in your favor.

Pisces

February 19 - March 20

The pressure is on this week. Relax, Pisces. All will go well as long as you continue to be diligent and willing to learn. A loved one is honored.

Aries

March 21 - April 19

The kindness of strangers is the highlight of the week. Pay it forward, Aries. A project proves more challenging than thought. Look to a mentor for guidance.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Aim high, Taurus. There is nothing you can't accomplish. A directive is clear as mud. Ask for clarification before you proceed. A find is a diamond in the rough.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21

No more beating around the bush, Gemini. Give it to them straight. It may not be what they want to hear, but it will do them good. A special date nears.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22

Appreciate a relationship for what it is, Cancer – a study in contrast. A friend's pride could be their undoing. Warn them before it is too late.

Leo

July 23 - August 22

Good, old dependable Leo. People rely on you far too much. Perhaps it's time to shake things up a bit. A new routine is just the start of many changes to come.

Virgo

August 23 - September 22

Get ready for a bumpy ride, Virgo. There will be many highs and lows, but persistence will pay off in the end. Organization is sorely lacking at home.

Libra

September 23 - October 22

Adventure awaits, Libra. Get ready to take a walk on the wild side. A series of phone calls at work sets off a flurry of activity. A game ends in victory.

Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

What a week, Scorpio. A home improvement project finally gets off the ground, a shopping trip uncovers a real gem and a loved one makes a decision.

Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

Surly Sagittarius. Stop looking a gift horse in the mouth before you get seriously bitten. A change in heart on the part of a friend is for the better.

Award-winning filmmakers focus on documentaries, commercial projects

By TIFFANY RAZZANO

PINELLAS PARK – When Yvonne and Hank Charneskey formed VonHenry Productions in 2006 to film events for others, on a contract basis, they certainly weren't thinking they'd become award-winning documentary filmmakers.

But less than a decade later, the Clearwater couple's first feature-length documentary, "Go Mickey Go," was named Best Documentary Feature at the Los Angeles International Underground Film Festival, and they're hard at work on their next two documentary projects. And this is all while tending to the day-to-day needs of their business.

After about a year of shooting wedding videos, VonHenry Productions morphed into VonHenry Media, Yvonne said.

"I'm not 22 anymore and I can't stand on my feet for 12 hours at a time," she said.

Besides, the gigs were monotonous, Hank said. "It's the same script over and over."

So they tweaked the name of their company and shifted their focus toward commercial projects and marketing content for businesses.

"We call it DICE," Yvonne said. "Documentaries, industrial films, commercial projects and educational training films."

While that list handily sums up what services they offer, it's constantly evolving. No two projects are alike, and their schedule and workload changes day to day.

They've done everything from filming a DVD series for a local church to creating commercials for a variety of businesses – attorneys, Realtors, lawyers, nearby resorts. They've provided contract services to local media outlets, including Bright House and Patch news sites. The couple also



makes short video book trailers for authors, trains media and marketing professionals so they can create their own video materials, and recently have begun to offer whiteboard explainer videos to clients.

"We try to keep up with the trends," Yvonne said. "We have a lot to offer in this economy. You have to be able to do that."

Then two years ago, Mickey Wright's management company approached VonHenry about making a full documentary film about Wright, a female racecar driver from Clearwater who got her start at 45. The result was "Go Mickey Go."

The creative couple realized making this documentary would be the next step for them, after years of filming "mini documentaries" for commercial projects

and news outlets, Hank said. "So we were learning to tell documentary stories in two or three minutes," he said. "It was just a matter of building them up and building them up."

In addition to taking Best Documentary Feature at the L.A. International Underground Film Festival, it was accepted into three other festivals, including the upcoming Ritz Theatre Film Festival in Winter Haven on June 21.

They never expected to win

awards with it, Hank said. "We would have just been thrilled if it got in somewhere."

Their latest project, "Horses and Heroes," is in post-production. It's "99.9 percent" done, Yvonne said.

The film provides a behind-the-scenes look at Sarasota's War Horse Farm. The farm's colorful performing troupe, New Riders of the Golden Age train horses and the knights who ride them into battle at Medieval and Renais-



Photos courtesy of VONHENRY MEDIA

Above, Yvonne and Hank Charneskey are the minds behind VonHenry Media. At left, a scene from VonHenry Media's "Horses and Heroes," a documentary that provides a behind-the-scenes look at Sarasota's War Horse Farm.

sance festival re-enactments throughout the country.

The couple was introduced to the entertainers several years ago while shooting a video for Patch. They were immediately drawn to their story.

"These people were so in character when we met them and I was so impressed," Yvonne said. "They were in character even behind the scenes and I really felt like I was in medieval times. They had this integrity and chivalrous way, and they treated their horses really, really well. That impressed me more than anything."

They've also finished filming B-roll footage for their next film, tentatively titled "Matriarchal Chants: Your Life, Your Chance."

This film features the empowering storytelling programs for

girls and women offered by Fran Powers at Tampa's Powerstories Theatre.

"I'm so enthralled by what she does," Yvonne said. While filming her speaking at a workshop for women in the corporate world, "it hit me that she was a really good storyteller and that this was a story worth telling."

Hank said that the way Powerstories transforms young girls is amazing.

"A lot of these girls come in shy, very unsure of themselves and they learn leadership skills through song and dance," he said. "And they learn not only how to be a leader, but when to step back and follow, and when they need to be in the spotlight."

VonHenry Media is a member of the Pinellas Park/Gateway Chamber of Commerce. Hank now sits on the board, and in January, their company was named the 2013 Small Business of the Year by the chamber.

"It's really one of the best chambers I've ever seen," Yvonne said. "They give back so much."

So VonHenry gives back to the chamber as much as it can. It's even filmed videos about the chamber itself and the formation of the Pinellas Park Medical District.

"It's a beautiful piece," she said. "It really gives the medical district a soul."

For more information, visit www.vonhenry.com.

Armed Forces History Museum sets summer events

LARGO – The Armed Forces History Museum will sponsor two special events this summer.

For special events tickets, visit armedforcesmuseum.com or call 539-8371. The museum is at 2050 34th Way N., Largo.

Upcoming special events include the following:

• **Ride Through History** – Back by popular demand, Ride Through History will return for four dates this summer. Ride Through History will be offered Saturdays, July 12 and 26; and Aug. 9 and 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 4 to 12. Ride Through History takes guests back in time with WWII re-enactors from the 1st Infantry Division conducting presentations and drills, as well as military vehicle rides, museum tours, free hot dogs, and 10 percent off of all museum store merchandise.

• **Snoozapalooza: A Night at the Museum** – For the very first time the Armed Forces History Museum will be producing a sleepover. This after-hours event will begin on Friday, Aug. 1 with registration between 6:30 and 7 p.m. The event will end on Saturday, Aug. 2 at 8 a.m. Children and their adult companions can experience a night of adventure featuring movies and popcorn, WWII re-enactors, make your own sundaes, a scavenger hunt in the dark, Virtual Voyager simulator rides, arts and crafts activities, and a hot breakfast cooked and served by the Marine Corps League's Morris F. Dixon Jr. Det. 54. Children must be between the ages of 6 and 12, must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is 21 or older, and must have an adult child ratio of 1:3. Everyone is asked to bring a sleeping bag, pillow, blanket and flashlight. Tickets are \$65 for adults and children. Tickets for groups of 10 or more are discounted to \$55 each by calling the museum's group sales department at 539-8371, ext. 107. Please note that guests must register and pay no later than July 26 as space is limited.

For information, visit www.armedforcesmuseum.com.



From left, Herb Graves, Kelly Bailey and Sam Kuecker from Sarasota's War Horse Farm in a still from VonHenry Media's "Horses and Heroes."

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Afternoon	\$8.00 \$8.56	\$12.00 \$12.84 with tax
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Capitol Theatre welcomes singer-songwriter Andy Grammer June 20

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

CLEARWATER – Singer-songwriter Andy Grammer comes to Pinellas Friday, June 20, 8 p.m., with a show at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater.

Tickets start at \$25. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Known for his vibrant pop/rock/soul mix and free-flowing vocal delivery, the acclaimed singer, songwriter and musician emerged as one of the biggest success stories in the music business in 2012. His lead single, "Back Home," from his forthcoming second studio album was released earlier this year. The album will be released at the end of the summer.

Grammer logged his 10,000 hours of practice on the streets of Los Angeles. With his car battery-powered amplifier and acoustic guitar in tow, Grammer managed to sing his way from the streets to the center of the music industry.

From hustling street performer on Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade to Platinum-selling recording artist, it hasn't been that long since Grammer was discovered by Steve Greenberg and signed to S-Curve Records. With his 2011 self-titled debut album, Grammer became the first male pop star to reach the Top 10 at Adult Pop Radio on his first two singles since John Mayer in 2002. Those two singles – "Keep Your Head Up" and "Fine By Me" – were certified Platinum and Gold, respectively, selling more than 1.5 million downloads combined.

According to Grammer's biography provided by the Mitch Schneider Organization, what followed over the next few years is an amazing success story.

The singer-songwriter has gone on to sell more than 100,000 albums, play sold-out venues nationwide, perform onstage with Taylor Swift, Train, and Colbie Caillat, appear on an array of national TV shows, receive major song placements in film and TV, receive two BMI Pop Music Awards, grace the cover of national touring trade magazine Pollstar and present at their annual awards show, among many other accomplishments.

While hard at work on his highly anticipated sophomore album titled "Magazines or Novels," due out Aug. 5 on S-Curve Records, Grammer released "Back Home," a gleefully anthemic track that illustrates his knack for writing infectious, relatable songs and his soaring voice. It also showcases the musician's growth since his last full-length release. On the new album, Grammer reinforces his place among elite male pop artists through honest reflections of the impressive ride he's been on during the past couple of years.

"I want this song to take as many people as possible back to a place, person or thing that reminds them of home: great friends, family, Dunkin' Donuts, Pizza, Slurpees, beach trips, guy dance party, girl dance party, bathroom selfies – you name it," Grammer said in a press release promoting the release of the single. "Writing 'Back Home' made me think of what a crazy and unbelievable journey I've had the last three years. When I was on the road, home was a state of mind. When strangers sang my songs back to me – that made me feel like I was at home. But when I started writing my second album, I actually got to return back to my home ... my lady, my other lady (my dog), my family, and friends. I played pick-up basketball games with old friends and just hung out – all of it inspired this song."

The singer-songwriter is the son of a Grammy-nominated children's performer Red Grammer. In his youth, he often joined his dad on stage to sing, promoting his fierce ambition to succeed. His father instilled his work ethic and taught him to respect his audience.

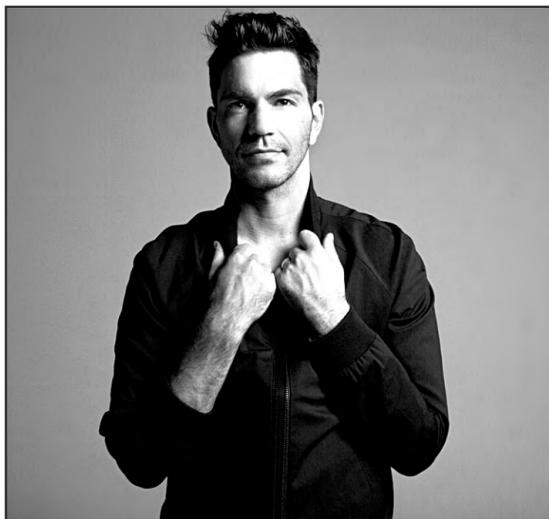


Photo courtesy of MITCH SCHNEIDER ORGANIZATION

From street performer to sold-out headlining tours, Andy Grammer brings his Back Home Summer Tour to the Tampa Bay area June 20 with one show at Clearwater's Capitol Theatre.

"I saw what it took to cultivate an artistic career," Grammer said. By ninth grade, Grammer taught himself to write songs on his dad's guitar, with a first group, Out of the Blue, which played his first original composition, "Doorstep," at a battle of the bands contest.

Hearing the 1998 Grammy-winning album "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" proved to be a watershed moment for Grammer. In his artist biography, he said it "shifted things inside of me and I loved it." Grammer also lists Jack Johnson, John Mayer, Common and Coldplay among his musical influences on his mix of hip-hop, acoustic singer/songwriters and piano rock.

His self-titled S-Curve Records debut was the product of intensive,

deliberate practice and a personable performance style that involved entertaining on the streets of Santa Monica with his car battery-powered amplifier and acoustic guitar.

Songs from the upbeat "Keep Your Head Up" and the breezy "Fine by Me," to the jubilant horns of "The Pocket" and the emotional "Miss Me," found Grammer creating pop songs with both heartfelt, relatable lyrics and instantly hummable hooks.

His new album, "Magazines or Novels," will be released Tuesday, Aug. 5, on S-Curve Records.

"While I was writing this album I kept seeing magazine and newspaper stands with their constantly changing covers and headlines and thinking how they come and go so fast," Grammer said. "I had to write about 100 songs to get 13 I felt had something grounded and timeless about it. I don't know if I achieved my goal but I hope I was able to create songs that were timeless and not something that would come and go off the newsstands. I hope this collection of songs can have the staying power in someone's life like a favorite novel or book."

Grammer explained that his background singing on the streets helped him hone his performance style, and clued him in on audience expectations. The success of his debut album brought him to places he had dreamed of, but never expected to visit.

Grammer hit the road June 10 for a national headlining tour. "I'm super excited to hit the road," Grammer said in a press release. "I've had the new music in my head for a while now and I'm really looking forward to sharing it with bigger audiences. I feel like the new music is a little bit louder and a little bit softer, it's going to take the show to the next level. Plus I've been home way too long and I need to get back out on the road and hang with everybody."

Grammer's 28-date Back Home Summer Tour, featuring opening acts Andrew Ripp, Kate Voegelé and Brendan James, gets underway June 10 in Phoenix, and includes a June 16 date at the Hollywood Bowl, where he will perform on a bill which includes Ed Sheeran, Demi Lovato and Colbie Caillat, and a show at New York's Irving Plaza on June 26 following his first nationally televised morning show performance of "Back Home" on "Good Morning America" that morning.

"I appreciate the opportunity to get in and move things around in people," he says. "The best gigs take place when you can see the whole room has moved somewhere together."

On June 20 at Capitol Theatre in Clearwater, the singer-songwriter will be taking Tampa Bay area audiences "Back Home," a place where Grammer still lives in his heart, even when he's far from there.

Beer Olympics set for June 21

DUNEDIN – The Rotary Club of Dunedin Waterside Beer Olympics will be held Saturday, June 21, 6 to 10 p.m., at the Boxcar Café & Gift Shop, 349 Main St.

"Grab two to five friends and compete in events like cornhole, flip cup, beer pong, etc. or simply enjoy the show as the crazies compete," a Rotary press release said.

Five drinks are included with the purchase of a wristband. Prizes awarded for first, second and third place teams.

Preregistration will be open until June 21 at noon, and wristbands are available now at \$5 off the door price.

Participants are asked to show up at 6 p.m. to make sure the club can get all teams registered on time. The games begin at 7 p.m.

This year's theme is jock/cheerleader; "the cheesier the better."

Volunteers are needed and are asked to show up by 5:30 p.m. at

the Boxcar. Volunteers must be at least 21 years old. Duties include checking in participants, refereeing games, setup and cleanup of games. Volunteers will receive two free beers at the bar they are working at during the event.

Women's blog collective to host reading

ST. PETERSBURG – Join the women of The Gloria Sirens blog collective for a reading and discussion Sunday, June 29, 7 p.m., at The Studio@620, 620 First Ave. S.

Readers for the event include Lisa Lanser Rose, Suzannah Gilman, Tiffany Razzano, Gianna Russo, Gloria Munoz and Heather Jones.

TheGloriaSirens.com is building a virtual auditorium where creative women are encouraged, even goaded, to sing their riskiest songs and dare give full throat to their unspeakable truths.

For more information, email wordierthanhou@gmail.com.

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TOP FIVE, from page 1B

Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N., Largo. Attendees may have one item appraised for \$5 or three items appraised for \$12. Organized by the Pinellas County Historical Society, the appraisal fair presents noted Tampa Bay area antique experts who can examine and appraise items. During the fair, appraisers will offer a broad spectrum of antique information. In addition, specialists will cover Oriental rugs, Victorian jewelry, rare and vintage books, guns and armor, collectable glass including Depression glass, musical stringed instruments and pre-1950 dolls. Gems and stones experts and a clock specialist will help with appraisals. Proceeds will benefit Heritage Village. For information, call 582-2123. Heritage Village, operated by Pinellas County government, is a 21-acre living history museum located adjacent to Pinellas County Extension Service and the Florida Botanical Gardens. For information or a calendar of events, call 582-2233.

• **Classic Albums Live: Van Halen;** Saturday, June 21, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$28. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Classic Albums Live performs Van Halen note for note, cut for cut. Every sound is faithfully recreated by the world's best musicians. Van Halen's lush background vocals, the canon like drums, the chaos of David Lee Roth and the sonic virtuosity of Eddie Van Halen's guitar all come to life on stage performing hits such as "Jump," "Panama," "Hot For Teacher" and more. The second set promises even more fun as the eight-piece band digs deep in the Van Halen catalog. Anything but a cover band, like a symphony orchestra performing the works of Mozart, Classic Albums Live forgoes the gimmickry of costumes and impersonations, putting the music first. These world-class musicians tackle iconic music, concentrating solely on re-creating it as you remember it from the original recording. Every sound from the album is re-created live on stage by world-class musicians assembled for each presentation.

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265. Commercial Rentals

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MISCELLANEOUS

320. Religious Personals
Thank You Saint Jude.
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485. Help Wanted

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Must Have Good Working Knowledge of Metal Roofing and be able to Provide Florida References. **Please Call (727)791-7078**, If Not Available Please Leave Message. West Coast Roofing & Contracting, Inc.

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515. Hospitality Help

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FULL-TIME CONCIERGE,
Public Area Cleaner & Room Cleaner. Doubletree Beach Resort/ Restaurant. Apply At: 17120 Gulf Blvd, North Redington Beach, (727)393-2813.

PART-TIME & FULL-TIME POSITIONS
Breakfast Cook, Prep Cook, Doubletree Beach Resort/ Restaurant. Apply At: 17120 Gulf Blvd, North Redington Beach, (727)393-2813.

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505. Part-Time Help

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522. Careers



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535. Business Opportunities

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Local theaters to screen 'Sharknado' and Monty Python reunion

In the coming weeks, Fathom Events will present several special screenings at select area theaters.

The first will feature a contemporary cult classic dissected by the stars of RiffTrax.

Just when you thought "Sharknado" – a movie about mega-cyclones sucking up sharks from the ocean and hurling them onto land – couldn't get any more absurd, the RiffTrax folks have blown those expectations right out of the water and created a perfect storm of hilarious.

The sidesplitting RiffTrax crew – Michael J. Nelson, Kevin Murphy and Bill Corbett best known for the groundbreaking "Mystery Science Theater 3000" – is set for what may be their most epic event ever as they take on the Syfy instant cult classic "Sharknado."

Presented by Fathom Events, RiffTrax, The Asylum, IGN and Syfy, "RiffTrax Live: Sharknado" will be broadcast live from the historic State Theater in Minneapolis to select movie theaters nationwide on Thursday, July 10, 8 p.m. EST.

There also will be a second showing on Tuesday, July 15, 7:30 p.m. local time.

Tickets for "RiffTrax Live: Sharknado" are available at participating theater box offices and online at www.FathomEvents.com. The event will be presented in nearly 650 select movie theaters around the country through Fathom's Digital Broadcast Network.

Following is a list of participating Tampa Bay area theaters:

- Regency 20 with IMAX, Brandon
- Woodland Square 20 with IMAX, Oldsmar
- Park Place Stadium 16 with RPX, Pinellas Park
- Citrus Stadium Park Mall 20, Tampa

"Sharknado" premiered on Syfy on July 11, 2013, becoming an immediate worldwide sensation, generating nearly 5,000 tweets a minute and quickly amassing nearly 400,000 social mentions. In August, Fathom Events and The Asylum held a raucous midnight showing in more than 200 theaters nationwide. Fans should also keep an eye out for "Sharknado 2: The Second One," which will premiere Wednesday July 30 on Syfy.

Produced by The Asylum, "Sharknado" is the story of beachside bar regulars including owner Fin (Ian Ziering, "Beverly Hills 90210"), bartender Nova (Casie Scerbo, "Make It Or Break It") and local drunk George (John Heard, "Home Alone") as they team up with Fin's ex-wife April (Tara Reid, "Scrubs") to investigate the ecological nightmare that has sharks swimming through the streets of Los Angeles and falling from the skies.

"We're excited to have landed the big fish that is Sharknado. For a long time we've wanted to do a shark based movie as well as a tornado based film so we think combining the two will be twice as thrilling for our audience," said Michael J. Nelson, RiffTrax creator and former host of the Emmy-nominated, Peabody Award-winning "Mystery Science Theater 3000."

"We have had tremendous success separately with both 'Sharknado' and RiffTrax. Putting the two of them together is a marriage made in apocalyptic, flying-shark heaven," said Dan Diamond, senior vice president of Fathom Events. "Fans are going to be figuratively, and probably literally, rolling on the floor laughing."



Photo courtesy of RIFFTRAX

From left, RiffTrax hosts Bill Corbett, Kevin Murphy and Michael J. Nelson plan to poke fun at the Syfy Channel film "Sharknado" on July 10. The event will be broadcast live to select theaters across the country.

But wait – there's more.

Fathom Events and Picturehouse Entertainment will present true British comedy legends on July 20, 23 and 24, including an exclusive live showing.

For the first time in more than three decades, Monty Python comedy legends John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin will reunite on stage for a special, historic trip down memory lane. "Monty Python Live (mostly)" will be broadcast live to cinemas on Sunday, July 20 at 2:30 p.m. EST. There will be additional showings on Wednesday, July 23 and Thursday, July 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for "Monty Python Live (mostly)" are available at participating theater box offices and online at www.FathomEvents.com. The event will be presented in more than 420 select movie theaters in the United States through Fathom's Digital Broadcast Network. For a complete list of theater locations and prices, visit the Fathom Events website. Theaters and participants are subject to change.

Following is a list of participating Tampa Bay area theaters:

- Regency 20 with IMAX, Brandon
- Woodland Square 20 with IMAX, Oldsmar
- Park Place Stadium 16 with RPX, Pinellas Park
- Citrus Stadium Park Mall 20, Tampa

In July, fans from around the world will have the opportunity to join one of the most anticipated live events of the year, and bid farewell on this final curtain call of the Pythons live from London's O2 Arena performance.



Photo courtesy of NCM FATHOM EVENTS

On July 20, Monty Python legends – including, from left, John Cleese, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin and Terry Gilliam – reunite for the first time in three decades for a historic trip down memory lane. The event will be broadcast to select theaters across the United States.

"What could be finer at the end of a long life in comedy, than a chance to reunite with old pals and say goodbye to all our fans in one final mad musical show," said Eric Idle in a press release from Fathom Events. "We are very excited that not only do we get the chance to screw up on stage, we get a chance to screw up live in cinemas too."

Monty Python rightfully holds a place among the world's finest comedians, influencing generations and revolutionizing comedy on their way to greatness. Monty Python first hit U.K. TV screens with "Monty Python's Flying Circus," which saw 45 episodes broadcast over four BBC series between 1969 and 1974. The Pythons were an instant success and became the face of British comedy. They went on to achieve overwhelming international acclaim with the huge success of films such as "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" in 1975, "Life of Brian" in 1979 and their final film, "The Meaning of Life" in 1983.

"Monty Python fans won't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see this iconic comedy troupe in their only onstage reunion," said Dan Diamond, senior vice president of Fathom Events. "The Python's will be at their finest, leaving fans in movie theaters rolling in the aisles as they relive some of the greatest moments in comedy history."

"We're delighted to be working with Fathom to bring this very special event to audiences throughout the United States," said Marc Allenby, director of distribution at Picturehouse Entertainment.

For information and a complete list of participating theaters for each of these events, visit www.fathomevents.com.

OPENING, from page 1B

musical, which has been running on Broadway for more than eight years and has also enjoyed successful tours around the globe.

Starring in the film, John Lloyd Young reprises his Tony Award-winning portrayal of the legendary lead singer of The Four Seasons, Frankie Valli. Erich Bergen stars as Bob Gaudio, who wrote or co-wrote all of the group's biggest hits. Michael Lomenda and Vincent Piazza star respectively as Nick Massi and Tommy DeVito, two original members of The Four Seasons. Oscar winner Christopher Walken stars as mobster Gyp DeCarlo.

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

'The Rover'

Genre: Thriller
Cast: Guy Pearce, Robert Pattinson, Scoot Mc-

Nairy, Susan Prior, Gillian Jones, Anthony Hayes and David Field

Director: David Michôd

Rated: R

Ten years after a collapse of the western economic system, Australia's mineral resources have drawn the desperate and dangerous to its shores.

With society in decline, the rule of law has disintegrated and life is cheap. Eric (Guy Pearce) is a cold and angry drifter who has left everything and everyone behind. When his car – his last possession – is stolen by a gang of desperate desert hustlers, Eric embarks on a ruthless mission to track them down. Along the way, he is forced into an unlikely relationship with Rey (Robert Pattinson), the naive and injured younger brother of gang member Henry (Scoot McNairy) who has left Rey behind in the bloody aftermath of the gang's most recent robbery.

'The Signal'

Genre: Thriller

Cast: Brenton Thwaites, Olivia Cooke, Beau Knapp and Laurence Fishburne

Director: William Eubank

Rated: PG-14

Three college students on a road trip across the Southwest experience a detour: The tracking of a computer genius who has already hacked into MIT and exposed security faults.

The trio find themselves drawn to an eerily isolated area. Suddenly everything goes dark. When one of the students, Nic (Brenton Thwaites), regains consciousness, he is in a waking nightmare.

'The Last Sentence'

Genre: Drama

Cast: Jesper Christensen, Ulla Skoog, Pernilla August and Bjorn Granath

Director: Jan Troell

Not rated

Oscar-nominated director Jan Troell, one of Sweden's most acclaimed filmmakers, directs the biopic

"The Last Sentence." Set against the backdrop of WWII, "The Last Sentence" is based on the life of crusading journalist Torgny Segerstedt, editor-in-chief of one of Sweden's leading newspapers, highlighting his one-man battle against Nazism and his country's policy of appeasement to Hitler.

With Sweden caught between Nazi Germany and Stalin's Russia, the country's elites chose a policy of neutrality and compliance, with few daring to speak up against the evil around them. Among those who did, nobody was as loud and as uncompromising as Segerstedt (Jesper Christensen), one of the most prominent Swedish journalists of the 20th century. In the eyes of many of his countrymen, his pen was far more dangerous than the Nazi sword. Amidst the political turmoil of the era, Segerstedt's own personal life took a dramatic and scandalous turn as he entered into a very public affair with Maja Forssman, the Jewish wife of his close friend, the newspaper's publisher. Maja Forssman is played by Pernilla August.

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