



Largo theatre group takes on new challenge

Eight O'Clock Theatre makes "daring move" with production of "Spring Awakening," which will run July 13-22 at Performing Arts Center ... Page 3B.

LARGO LEADER



balling all cooks!

We need your recipes
Do you have a secret family recipe you'd be willing to share with us? Is there one dish you cook that your family raves about? Submit your recipes to lmosby@TBNweekly.com for a chance to be featured on TBN's new food page each month.

LARGO Century of song to fill library halls

Enjoy barbershop vocal harmonies at the Largo Public Library on Monday, July 16, at 6:30 p.m. when the Florida Suncoast Chorus takes you on a journey through the most popular songs from the 1860s through the 1960s. The performance will include popular folk music from the 1800s, show tunes from the 1930s and '40s, old-time blues and gospel numbers, film music such as "Over the Rainbow," as well as songs from the pop music charts.

... Page 4A.

COUNTY New department eyes contractors

The newly created Pinellas County Contractor Licensing Department opened to the public July 2. The department, which assumes the operations of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board, will operate at 12600 Belcher Road, Suite 102, Largo, until later this month, when it will move to county-owned office space at the Young-Rainey Science, Technology and Research Center on Bryan Dairy Road in Largo.

... Page 7A.

COMMUNITY Society sheds light on city's history

The Treasure Island Historical Society is working to pay homage to its early settlers and let people explore its adventure-filled past by raising funds to open a storefront museum

... Page 12A.

VIEWPOINTS Tom Germond

He's crotchety and uncivil.
... Page 10A.



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Correction

In a story about candidates qualifying for the upcoming primary and general elections, it was incorrectly reported that Barb Haselden, who is running for Pinellas County commissioner representing District 6, is a Democrat. Haselden is a Republican.

LARGO CITY COMMISSION

City hits brakes on golf carts

Commissioners deny request to use them on city streets

By CHRIS GEORGE
Tampa Bay Newspapers

LARGO - Don't expect to see golf carts cruising down city streets anytime soon after city commissioners denied a request from members of a mobile home community to operate the vehicles on certain roadways.

In the fall of 2017, city administration received a request from members of the Palm Hill Mobile Home Park community to allow golf carts on city roadways for the areas located between Eighth Avenue Southwest and West Bay Drive and between Clearwater-Largo Road and Seminole Boulevard, Engineering

Services assistant director Rafal Cieslak said during a July 10 City Commission work session.

The city's Traffic and Transportation Committee, which is comprised of members from several departments, including police, fire, public works, community development, engineering services and recreation, parks and arts, recommended denying the request out of safety concerns.

City Commissioner John Carroll, a former Largo police chief, agreed with the committee.

"From my background, I'm opposed to the idea of putting golf carts on the street," he said.

Carroll said golf carts are suited

well for some areas, such as Dunedin, but Largo wasn't one of them, adding that he was concerned allowing them would only open the door to more requests elsewhere.

This is not the first time Carroll has expressed concerns about the carts on city streets. When he was police chief in 2012, Carroll advised against the move after a resident made a similar request.

Commissioner Curtis Holmes also cited safety concerns in deciding to deny the request from Palm Hill.

See GOLF CARTS, page 3A



Golf cart concerns

THE REQUEST

Members of the Palm Hill Mobile Home Park community seek to use golf carts on city roadways to get from Eighth Avenue Southwest to downtown Largo.

REASONS IT WAS DENIED

The city's Traffic and Transportation Committee cited safety concerns in urging the commission to deny the request. The committee said the existing roadway network doesn't provide safe areas for golf carts to cross. Also, all roadways in the city have speed limits higher than the maximum speed of a golf cart, 20 mph, which would cause issues between the carts and other cars.

SKY ZONE CLEARWATER/LARGO



Children and adults enjoy the foam block pit and air bags July 5 at the recently opened Sky Zone Clearwater/Largo in Largo. The more than 30,000-square-foot trampoline park features several activities, including a Warrior Course, walled trampoline dodgeball court, SkySlam court, Skyjousting, rock-climbing wall and more.

ADDING SOME BOUNCE TO LARGO'S STEP

New trampoline park aims to create high for children, adults

Story and photos by CHRIS GEORGE • Tampa Bay Newspapers

LARGO - Chris Fiore, co-owner of Sky Zone Clearwater/Largo, has a warning for parents before bringing their children to the new trampoline park: Your kids probably won't want to leave.

At least that has been his experience since Pinellas County's first Sky Zone opened on Memorial Day.

The Pennsylvania native says he's seen it firsthand, like when he gave a tour of the 30,000-square-foot facility to a father of three.

"I walked around with him and his three kids, and they wouldn't leave," Fiore said. "They were in the parking lot saying why can't we jump? He said, 'We'll come back I promise.' I was like, that guy probably just did something he shouldn't have."

Fiore, who owns the park off 66th Street in Largo with his father, Jim, said there are plenty of reasons Sky Zone makes kids feel that way.

See SKY ZONE, page 4A



PINELLAS SCHOOLS

Report: Grades on rise in Pinellas

Largo high, middle schools among those that improved

By SUZETTE PORTER
Tampa Bay Newspapers

LARGO - The Pinellas County School District recently announced that many of its schools had shown improvement in the 2018 school grades report released June 27 by the Florida Department of Education.

For the fourth consecutive year, the district maintained a B grade on a scale ranging from A-F and improved its overall score 22 points across the school grade categories, according to a press release. The district also showed improvement in eight of 11 categories, officials said.

In the press release, district officials said they were "especially proud of the overall performance of our high schools and middle schools, and is pleased that a vast majority of schools throughout the district earned an A, B or C."

"Our dedicated teachers and school leaders have worked diligently to improve academic achievement in all of our schools. I am encouraged by the progress we have achieved, particularly in our high schools. I am confident Pinellas will actualize the goal of becoming an A district, with every school earning an A or B," said Michael Grego, Pinellas County Schools superintendent.

According to school grade improvements highlighted by the district, 90 percent of all Pinellas schools earned an A, B or C and nearly half had an A or B. In addition, every Pinellas high school earned an A, B or C grade. Overall, the number of schools scoring an A increased from 32 to 36.

District officials pointed out that six schools improved to an A: Frontier Elementary, Oldsmar Elementary, Orange Grove Elementary, Palm Harbor Middle, Palm Harbor University High School and Southern Oak Elementary.

Six schools improved to a B: Clearwater High, Countryside High, Largo High, North Shore Elementary, Osceola Middle and Pinellas Park High School. Five schools improved to a C: Azalea Middle, Largo Middle, Maximo Elementary, Mildred Helms Elementary and John M. Sexton Elementary.

In addition, two schools improved by two letter grades: Southern Oak Elementary improved from a C to an A and Azalea Middle from an F to a C.

Four alternative education sites improved their rating, including Clearwater

See GRADES, page 4A

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Yet, according to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), only 1 out of 5 people who could benefit from a hearing aid actually wear one.

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GOLF CARTS,
from page 1A

which has nearly 1,100 residents, according to its website.
"These golf carts they're going to get on the sidewalk. It's inevitable," he said. "They're not going to be comfortable operating this slow-speed vehicle on the street itself, so they're going to hop up on the sidewalk. It will just happen."

Statutes and safety

In making its decision, Cieslak said the committee reviewed state law, compared low-speed vehicles to golf carts and looked at surrounding municipalities to see if they have policies that allow golf carts.

Robert Hatton, an engineer with the city, briefed the commission on Florida law, which states that golf carts are not allowed on state roads and are only allowed on county and city roads with posted speed

limits less than 35 mph if the commission adopts regulations, such as signage.

"Roads that have been designated for use by golf carts must have signs posted ... to let users know they can use their golf carts as well as drivers know that golf carts can be on the road and to be aware of their presence," Hatton said.

Cieslak said staff have yet to conduct an analysis on how much it would cost to install the signs. In Pinellas Park, for instance, the city installed about 550 signs in 2012 at a cost of just over \$12,000.

Also, carts can only be on the roads from sunrise to sunset and drivers must be age 14 or older.

Low-speed vehicles, which are similar to golf carts but have a maximum speed of 20 to 25 mph and added safety features, such as seat belts, headlights and turn signals, can operate on roadways with posted speed limits lower than 35 mph unless prohibited.

They also must be registered, insured and the operator must have a valid driver's license.

Carroll said if people want to drive the streets, they should consider purchasing one of the vehicles instead of a golf cart.

"If the people requesting this were to fix their own situation by buying low-speed vehicles instead of a golf cart, we wouldn't have to have this discussion," he said.

Since the city is divided by several major roadways and each street in the city has a speed limit higher than the maximum speed of a golf cart, which is 20 mph, the committee also said carts would cause traffic safety issues with other vehicles. Their use on brick streets also caused concerns for the committee.

"I think it's just a bad idea," Holmes said.

Chris George is editor of the Largo Leader. He can be reached at 727-397-5563, ext. 316, or by email at cgeorge@TBNweekly.com.



TBN FILE PHOTO

If the city of Largo did approve the use of golf carts on certain city streets, like Pinellas Park did in 2012, it would have to install signage to let operators know they can use their golf carts and drivers know that golf carts can be on the road and to be aware of their presence. In Pinellas Park, the city installed about 550 signs in 2012 at a cost of just over \$12,000.

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Southwest Pool events

Southwest Pool hosts practice, clinics for international water polo teams

LARGO – Southwest Pool, 13120 Vonn Road, is the practice site for the Union Americana de Natacion Junior Pan American Championships being held at the Clearwater Long Center, 1501 N. Belcher Road, Clearwater, through Sunday July 15.

Junior water polo teams have traveled from countries such as Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina and Peru and will practice at Southwest Pool when they are not participating in the championship games.

Also, in conjunction with the championship, a free splashball clinic for children ages 5-12 will be held at Southwest on Friday, July 13, from noon to 1 p.m.

For more information, visit usawaterpolo.org.

Southwest to host Flick-n-Float movies

LARGO – Bring your favorite float or chair to Southwest Pool on Friday, July 13, at 6:30 p.m. for the Flick-n-Float Family Movies.

Vendors will provide food and drinks available for purchase. Lifeguards will be on duty during the event.

The cost is \$5 per person.

For more information or a complete listing of movie titles, call 727-518-3126 or visit LargoPools.com.

Southwest Recreation Complex, which includes an aquatic complex, is at 13120 Vonn Road. Call 727-518-3125 for recreation or 727-518-3126 for the pool. Visit PlayLargo.com or LargoPools.com.

GRADES, from page 1A

Intermediate, Lealman Innovation Academy, Pinellas Gulf Coast Academy and Richard L. Sanders School.

However, not all the news was positive. Twenty-five schools lost at least one letter grade, according to a report released by the state. Four of those schools received an F, including Campbell Park Elementary, which went from a C to an F; Lakewood Elementary, D to F; Ponce De Leon Elementary, C to F; and Pinellas Virtual K-12, C to F.

An additional five schools declined two letter grades from an A to a C: Bear Creek Elementary, Curlew Creek Elementary, Leila Davis Elementary, Lakeview Fundamental Elementary and Lake St. George Elementary.

The Florida Department of Education calculates school grades annually based on up to 11 components, including student achievement and learning gains on statewide standardized

assessments and high school graduation rate.

Some highlights of performance of schools statewide include an increased number earning an A in 2018. According to a press release from Gov. Rick Scott, the state now has 1,027 schools with a grade of A, up from 987 in 2017 and 763 in 2016. The percentage of schools earning an A increased to 32 percent, up from 30 percent in 2016-17.

High schools had the largest increase in the percentage of schools improving their grade, with 26 percent (115 schools) moving up one or more letter grade.

The number of schools earning an F decreased by 23 percent (10 schools), from 43 schools in 2016-17 to 33 schools in 2017-18, and 96 percent of schools graded F in 2016-17 improved their grade in 2017-18 by one or more letter grade (23 of 24 schools).

For more information about school grades, visit www.fldoe.org/accountability/accountability-reporting/school-grades/.

Around Largo

ShredFest returns to recycling center July 21

LARGO – The city of Largo will hold a ShredFest event Saturday, July 21, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Starkey Road Recycling Center, 1551 Starkey Road.

The drive-through event allows residents to bring up to five boxes of documents for free and secure on-site shredding and recycling. There is no need to remove staples, paper clips or rubber bands.

The Starkey Road Recycling Center is also a 24-hour facility where residents can drop off their mixed recycling at no cost and pick up free, recycled mulch all year-round.

To learn more about ShredFest or other upcoming sustainability events, visit LargoRecycles.com or call 727-587-6760.

Largo Central Park

Largo Central Park is at 101 Central Park Drive. Within the park are the Central Park Performing Arts Center, 105 Central Park Drive; the Largo Feed Store, 295 Central Park Drive; and the Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive. To contact the library, call 727-587-6715.

Enjoy 100 years of popular songs at library

LARGO – Enjoy barbershop vocal harmonies at the Largo Public Library on Monday, July 16, at 6:30 p.m. when the Florida Suncoast Chorus takes you on a journey through the most popular songs from the 1860s through the 1960s.

The performance will include popular folk music from the 1800s, show tunes from the 1930s and '40s, old-time blues and gospel numbers, film music such as "Over the Rainbow," as well as songs from the pop music charts.

The performance will be held in Gallery 120, which will be showing "Florida's Got the Blues," an exhibit that explores the tradition of the blues in Florida and the many notable artists with deep roots in the state.

The event is free and no registration is necessary.

Library to host hurricane preparedness expo

LARGO – A free hurricane preparedness expo will be held Saturday, July 21, from 9 to 11 a.m., in the Jenkins Wing of the Largo Public Library.

Learn from Largo Fire Rescue how to be prepared before, during and after the storm with information including disaster kits and where to find shelter.

Meteorologist Mike Clay of Bay News 9 will open up the event, followed by preparedness tips from a panel that includes members of Largo Fire Rescue, Pinellas County Emergency Management, Largo Police Department, Pinellas County Animal Services and the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Business vendors also will be on hand to answer questions related to preparation, disaster restoration and property maintenance.

Register at Eventbrite.com.

For more information, call 727-587-6737.

Ukulele Society to hold workshop for kids

LARGO – The Tampa Bay Ukulele Society will hold a free ukulele workshop for kids ages 7-12 on July 23-27.

The classes will meet each day for 90 minutes and will begin with the ukulele basics.

Participants can borrow a ukulele or bring their own, and will get to show off their skills Friday, July 27, with a MUM-Fest (Making Ukulele Music Festival) for friends and family.

Register online at LargoPublicLibrary.org by clicking on Events or call 727-587-6715.

Ukulele society to hold monthly workshop

LARGO – A monthly ukulele workshop will be held at the Largo Public Library on the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Hosted by the Tampa Bay Ukulele Society, the workshop provides an introduction to the ukulele. A limited number of instruments will be supplied by the society, so participants are urged to bring their own if you have one.

For more information, call 727-587-6715, email libraryinfo@largo.com, or visit www.LargoPublicLibrary.org.

McGough Nature Park

McGough Nature Park is at 11901 146th St. N. and includes the Narrows Environmental Education Center. Visit largoparks.com or call 727-518-3047.

Center to host birds of prey show

LARGO – The Look Alive Bird Show will be presented Sunday, July 15, from 1 to 2 p.m., at the Narrows Environmental Education Center.

Attendees will get a glimpse at the world of Florida's fabulous flighted hunters. The show details the amazing adaptations that raptors use to exploit the natural world for their gain. The show includes owls, hawks, falcons and Sarge, the center's own bald eagle and the star of the show.

Cost is \$3 a person.

Highland Recreation Complex

Highland Recreation Complex is at 400 Highland Ave. Visit HighlandRecreation.com or call 727-518-3016.

Highland to host glow-in-the-dark yoga

LARGO – Join instructor Lynn Winters-Hicks for a special glow-in-the-dark yoga class Thursday, July 12, 7 p.m. Glow sticks and glow in the dark body paint will be provided. Bring your own yoga mat or one can be provided.

Cost is \$20 for members and \$40 for nonmembers.

Pre-registration is required. Participants can register online or visit any of the city's three recreation facilities.

Class to teach kids how to become a mermaid

LARGO – Local children won't have to go to all the way to Weeki Wachee to learn how to become a mermaid because Highland Recreation Complex will host Mermaid 101 on Saturday, July 14, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Using swimmable mermaid tails, instructor Karen Tickner will teach kids age 6-13 mermaid swimming skills and underwater tricks. Participants will also receive an "Official Mermaid Certification."

The cost is \$59 for each child. For an additional cost, mermaids can take home their own tails.

The class is limited to eight participants, who must be able to float on their back, roll over on the surface, and can swim 25 yards unassisted and be comfortable in deep water.

Lifeguards will be on duty.

Teen nights take over Highland this summer

LARGO – This summer, teens will take over Highland Recreation with the new Summertime Half Nighter on Saturday, July 14, from 6 to midnight.

For \$30, teens will enjoy going to Xtreme Fun Center, Airheads and Liberty Lanes, transportation and a light snack provided. Kids are encouraged to bring extra money so they can make purchases throughout the night at each destination.

Teen Takeover Night will also return on Saturdays, June 30, July 21 and Aug. 25, for \$10 each.

A signed participation ID form is required at the first visit for Summertime Half Nighter and Teen Takeover Night. Pre-registration is required for Summertime Half Nighter and encouraged for Teen Takeover Night.

Glo-night to light up Highland pool

LARGO – The Highland Family Aquatic Center will host glo-night Friday, July 20, from 8:45 to 11:45 p.m.

The event will include lasers, black lights and LED lights as participants splash down slides. Each admission will receive a free Glo-necklace and lighted mohawk. Splash's Snack Bar will be open with \$1 hot dogs available. Door prizes and activities are planned.

Admission bracelets are on sale and limited to the first 250 sold at Highland Recreation Complex.



Photos by CHRIS GEORGE

Sky Zone Clearwater/Largo opened on Memorial Day at 13000 66th St. N. in Largo. The more than 30,000-square-foot trampoline park boasts several programs and activities, such as this rock-climbing wall.

SKY ZONE, from page 1A

Besides scores of connected trampolines, the Flores say their park offers activities that others don't, such as a walled trampoline dodgeball court, a Skyslam court that allows jumpers to dunk on rims of different heights, a foam zone where kids and adults can flip into a pool of huge foam squares, SkyJousting on pedestals over a foam pit, a rock-climbing wall above a pool of foam blocks and more.

General manager Gabrielle Garcia said a lot of trampoline parks just feature the trampolines, so what makes this park different are the extra activities, such as a Warrior Course based on the "American Ninja Warrior" TV show that includes a variety of obstacles.

"I think what we're seeing in our reviews is our ninja course is out of this world," she said.

Jumping on an opportunity

The Flores faced their own obstacles in transforming a former Super Thrift store that had been vacant for four years into Pinellas County's first Sky Zone.

Just over three years ago, Jim Fiore was nearing the end of his 34-year sales career at Xerox when he and Chris started to consider future ventures in Pennsylvania.

"We were looking into a number of different franchises," Jim said. "We were looking into like Subway and different places."

They were getting close to settling on Anytime Fitness when a friend of Chris' got a job at a Sky Zone and raved about it.

Jim had never heard of the franchise before, but he and Chris checked it out and were impressed with the potential.

All of the franchise locations were taken in Pennsylvania, so they broadened their search. Since the nearest Sky Zone is in Brandon, they believed Largo and Pinellas County was a prime opportunity and jumped on it three years ago.

The Flores found a location they liked next door to a new apartment complex, and Chris moved to Largo in March 2016.

"I moved down here thinking we were going to start the buildout two years ago," Chris said. It didn't happen. Negotiating the lease turned out to be a difficult – and lengthy – process.

It wasn't until December 2017 that it was settled and redevelopment of the massive facility could begin.

"We regretted everything," Jim said. "It was a big-dollar project."

Chris said it was a much bigger investment than they had planned on making, but once construction commenced, things just fell into place and they were finally able to open the doors at the end of May.

"The feelings were kind of lost really quick because it's so overwhelming," Chris said. "There was really no time to embrace it."

Safety first

Chris said he has learned a lot along the way, but the most important lesson has been how to keep children safe.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were an estimated 145,207 injuries as a result of trampolines in 2017. Also, a study published in the American Academy of Pediatrics showed that 6,932 trampoline park injuries led to emergency room visits in 2014.

The inherent risk is why anyone who jumps at the park must sign a liability waiver.

The Flores and Garcia, who was a program



Kids battle it out in Skyjousting over a foam pit at the recently opened Sky Zone Clearwater/Largo in Largo.



Upcoming events

FRIDAY, JULY 13

Lasers, music and blacklight transform the park into a jumping dance club for its first Glow Night.

Later that evening will be the park's first Lock-in, an overnight party featuring a dodgeball tournament, pillow fight, dance party, video games and more.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

Sky Zone will host the Taste of the Bay Battle dodgeball tournament, which will feature food from several local restaurants while teams of 10 battle for the championship.

director at a YMCA in Tampa, say they are aware of the reputation some trampoline parks have, which is why they and Sky Zone have placed extra emphasis on safety.

"Sky Zone came up with the national safety standards, so they are known for safety, but they are also the ones who wrote the book on it," Garcia said.

The first measure they take is separating all the jumpers by age and size. So, for instance, an 18-year-old and an 8-year-old can't jump in the same area.

"That was always the top complaint since we signed on three years ago – age, size separation – because parents always want to jump with their kids," Chris said. "But now we offer the rock climbing wall, we offer the basketball, the warrior course, so the parents can do

everything with their child on those, they just can't jump on the trampolines."

Also, they have strict rules about cameras and their 67 staff members watching each station, kids can't jump on the same square, run or triple jump, and there are procedures in place in case someone does get hurt.

"The safety is so unbelievably pushed that people don't even realize the amount of training that has to go into it," Garcia said.

More than just jumping

They say the safety standards mean they can cater to people of all ages, sizes and abilities, including kids with sensory issues.

On Thursday nights, Sky Zone dims the lights and turns the music down to provide a toned-down experience for those with special needs.

"You'll see that we have autistic kids playing dodgeball with regular mainstream kids and it's just so cool to see," Garcia said. "Every week we get more and more people."

The park offers a lot more, she said, including a pair of summer camps and plenty of special events.

On Friday, July 13, it will kick off its first Glow Night when lasers, music and blacklight transform the park into a jumping dance club.

Later that evening will be the park's first Lock-in, an overnight party featuring a dodgeball tournament, pillow fight, dance party, video games and more.

On Wednesday, July 18, Sky Zone will host the Taste of the Bay Battle dodgeball tournament, which will feature food from several local restaurants while teams of 10 battle for the championship.

Garcia added that they also host birthday parties, corporate events and fundraisers, such as the ones they are holding for athletic programs at Seminole and Pinellas Park high schools.

"We're like the you dream it and we'll make it come true," Garcia said. "We had a lady rent out the entire facility the other day for six kids."

Ticket prices begin at \$15.99 for 60 minutes of jumping, and monthly passes and promotions are also offered.

"We're always doing something to make it affordable for families," Jim Fiore said.

LARGO, from page 4A

Complex to celebrate anniversary

LARGO – Celebrate the five-year anniversary of Highland Recreation Complex with a day of fun by the pool Saturday, July 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Enjoy free hot dogs while supplies last. Splash's Snack Bar will be open.

Cost is \$6 for members and \$9 for nonmembers. Admission will be buy one get one free.

Highland hosts Itty Bitty Splashtime

LARGO – Itty Bitty Splashtime is back every Monday, Wednesday and Friday through Aug. 1 from 9:35 to 10:35 a.m. at the Highland Family Aquatic Center.

Parents can spend quality time with their preschool-aged children in a safe and playful aquatic environment. Enjoy the slides, sprays, zero depth pool area and more. Mom's clubs are welcome.

Cost is \$1.50 per person. Children that are not potty-trained must wear a plastic swim diaper under their bathing suit.

Extended parties will be held Fridays, July 13 and Aug. 3, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. for children ages 5 and under at the Aquatic Center.

Cost is \$2.50 per person.

Community Center

The Largo Community Center is at 400 Alt. Keene Road. Visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 727-518-3131.

Weekly events

- Bridge games: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 to 4 p.m. All players are welcome to join the American Contract Bridge League-sanctioned games. The cost is \$4 with membership or \$5, with snacks included. Call Joan Waff at 727-895-9073.

- Mahjong games: Thursdays, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Beginners are welcome. The cost is \$1.50 for members.

- Sunday Social Dance: Sundays, 6 to 10 p.m. Dress to impress and join about 150 singles and friends of all ages to dance to an extensive music library to fit every

taste. The cost is \$10.

Bimonthly events

- Karaoke party: First and third Fridays, 7 to 10 p.m. Using the big screen in Studio A, singers can choose from an extensive online library. Admission is \$5 per person and beer and wine will be available for purchase.

Monthly events

- Senior adult luncheon: Third Thursdays, noon to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and include lunch and a show. Tickets go on sale for Recreation Card holders on the first of the month prior to each show. Those without Recreation Cards can purchase tickets on the second of the month. On the day of the show, doors open at 11:45 a.m., lunch is served between noon and 1 p.m. and the show is from 1 to 2 p.m.

Group meetings

American Legion Post 119

LARGO – American Legion Post 119, at 130 First Ave. SW, will host several events that are open to the public.

Lunches featuring burgers and specials will be served Monday and Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., a steak hoagie special will be served. Lunch will not be served Thursday or Friday, but takeout orders are accepted by calling 727-584-2038.

Friday Night Dinners are served from 5 to 8 p.m., with music by Karaoke DJ Bill Johnson, 7 to 11 p.m. The cost is \$7.25 for shrimp or a four-piece chicken dinner or all-you-can-eat fried fish. It is served with rolls, French fries and coleslaw.

Saturday Night Dinners are served 5 to 8 p.m., with music by various artists weekly, 7 to 11 p.m. The cost is \$8.25 and includes bacon-wrapped filet mignon served with a salad, baked potato and rolls. Coffee is \$1.

Sons of the American Legion Post 119 sponsor "Wing Madness" every Monday night, 5 to 8 p.m.

Enjoy chicken wings served hot, mild, barbecue, butter and garlic and spicy barbecue for \$5 for six or \$8 for 12. French fries and onion rings are available. Bob Swenson provides music from 6 to 8 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the Special Olympics, Fisher House at Bay Pines, and American Legion National Child Welfare Foundation and National Emergency Fund.

VFW Post 10094

LARGO – VFW Post 10094, at 14450 Walsingham Road, offers several events each week that are open to the public.

Each Monday, Bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Hamburgers and hot dogs are served beforehand for \$3. On Tuesday afternoons, Trivia Time is held from 2 to 4 p.m. and darts are offered starting at 7 p.m. Each Thursday, dinner is served from 6 to 7 p.m. for \$6 to \$7. A different meal is served each week, and entertainers vary from week to week. Friday is Karaoke With Mollie, which begins at 6 p.m., with hot dogs and hamburgers offered from 6 to 7 p.m.

Live entertainment is on Friday, Saturday and Sundays inside and outside, weather permitting.

All are welcome, but you must have a current membership card to be served alcohol.

Proceeds benefit the Bill Young VA Hospital programs, the VFW National Home, Sea Cadet Youth activities and the Boy Scouts.

Largo Lions Club

LARGO – The Largo Lions Club meets on the first and third Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Tailgaters, 13847 Walsingham Road.

The club is a network of volunteers who serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding.

For more information, email info@largolionsclub.org

or visit largolionsclub.org.

Kiwanis Club of Largo/Mid-Pinellas

LARGO – The Kiwanis Club of Largo/Mid-Pinellas meets for dinner at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at The Suncoast Café, 1921 West Bay Drive.

Each meeting features a speaker and fellowship over a meal, where members plan service and fundraising projects. Kiwanis is a worldwide service organization founded in 1915 to serve the children of the world and at the local level. For more information, visit largokiwanis.snack.ws/ or call 727-536-0412.

Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club

LARGO – The Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at Acropolis Restaurant, 1170 Starkey Road.

Meetings have a featured speaker and generally candidates for local and state offices attend. The club serves the entire central Pinellas area. Food is available to purchase at the restaurant.

For more information, contact club president Mary Lou Ambrose at 727-433-4045 or visit largodemocrats.com.

Republican Club of Greater Largo

LARGO – The Republican Club of Greater Largo meets on the third Mondays, 6 p.m., at Alfano's Restaurant, 1702 Clearwater-Largo Road.

Meeting starts with dinner followed by a speaker. The Republican Club of Greater Largo serves the entire central Pinellas area, welcoming Republicans from Belleair Bluffs, the beaches, Feather Sound and Largo.

For more information, call club President Ed Hooper at 727-458-4751.

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Around Pinellas

Creative Pinellas announces call to artists for countywide community art project

Creative Pinellas, the county's Local Arts Agency, has released a Call to Artists for an ambitious community-driven public art project.

This opportunity is open to Pinellas County artists. It will focus on a singular artwork or grouped assemblage that will travel over a number of years to multiple locations throughout the county from the northernmost border of Tarpon Springs to St. Pete Beach and multiple destinations in between.

Locations for this project have already been identified in Downtown Oldsmar, Clearwater East Community Library at St. Petersburg College, Central Park Performing Arts Center, Pier 60 Park, Josiah Cephus Weaver Park, War Veterans Memorial Park, Weedon Island Preserve and the Lealman Community Center.

This effort is a countywide arts project, designed to bring art into residents' and visitors' daily lives through work that encourages interaction and is accessible to all. Its goal is to inspire residents' pride and interest in the community and highlight Pinellas County's place as a world-class tourism, arts and culture destination.

"We know that Pinellas is a county with huge potential for continually growing our arts scene," said Jessica McCormick, the public art project coordinator for Creative Pinellas. "We think this project can excite and unite the people of Pinellas with a shared community experience and foster a sense of pride for where we live. Plus, we get to give visitors yet another reason to visit and enjoy what this county has to offer."

This art project is funded from the BP settlement funds related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill with the support of the Pinellas County Commission.

Over the last six months, Creative Pinellas has been working with local municipal partners to identify which countywide locations could best serve this art project, as well as gathering Tampa Bay arts educators, artists, community builders, and business influencers to serve as a project panel that has helped to craft the Call to Artists and will act as stewards to continually push the project forward.

"At Creative Pinellas, we are excited to work with our county and municipal partners to bring this exciting project to life," said Barbara St. Clair, executive director of Creative Pinellas. "The artwork will be the product of a truly local effort, employing Pinellas County artists to deliver a unique public art project to the residents and visitors of Pinellas County. This project will focus on supporting artists who live and work in Pinellas County, and will deliver a unique public artwork. The project also will

help highlight the amazing depth of talent we have in the artists who call Pinellas County home, and we're pleased to be able to provide this high quality-commission opportunity."

The Call to Artists will be open until 11:59 p.m. Aug. 17. To view the Call to Artists, and to learn about the project and its goal of a connected Pinellas County, visit creativepinellas.org/communityart.

Two Sunstar Paramedics employees honored

LARGO – Two Sunstar Paramedics employees, Damian Gonzales and Joshua Daly, have received the American Ambulance Association's Stars of Life award, which recognizes ambulance service professionals for outstanding service and dedication.

Gonzales and Daly were among 100 emergency service personnel recognized during the Stars of Life Celebration in Washington on June 11-13.

"Damian and Joshua show tremendous leadership in their respective roles," said John Peterson, chief operating officer of Sunstar Paramedics. "We're very fortunate to have them on our team, and we're pleased they've been recognized for their hard work and commitment to the EMS profession."

Gonzales is a clinical services coordinator at Largo-based Sunstar Paramedics. He performs clinical data analysis and manages the field training officer program and clinical education for the new emergency medical technicians and paramedics.

He was honored for increasing Sunstar Paramedics' use of data analysis to improve patient satisfaction and engagement and other service areas. He recently initiated the FTO report card, which provides clinician-centered data and feedback to ambulance crews.

The report card is sent to employees to help show them a clear path for improvement in clinical excellence and a higher quality of patient care.

Daly, a paramedic and alternate supervisor, was recognized for his leadership and dedication to the advancement of the EMS profession. He has held several key positions at Sunstar Paramedics, including FTO, continuing medical education instructor and safety officer. Throughout his career, he has mentored employees and served as a role model to senior professionals, as well as an inspiration to EMTs and paramedics just beginning their careers.



Gonzales



Daly

Wall Springs Park tower opens

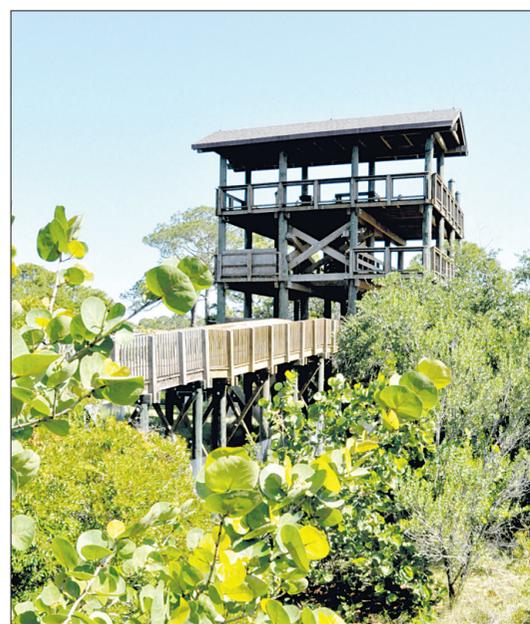


Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY

Visitors to Wall Springs Park, 3725 De Soto Blvd. in Palm Harbor, are once again able to enjoy the park's observation tower. Reconstruction of the tower is complete after the original structure was destroyed by a fire in 2013. Park visitors also have access to the structure's Americans with Disabilities Act accessible ramp, boardwalk and tower. In the upcoming weeks, park visitors may notice further renovations near the structure, including final finishes on the tower, new tree planting and fence installations in the park near the tower. A suspected arson fire destroyed the original observation tower in September 2013.



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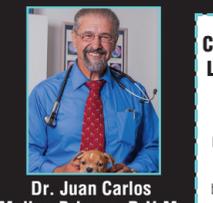
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CONSTRUCTION, HOME IMPROVEMENT

New Contractor Licensing Department opens in Largo

LARGO - The newly created Pinellas County Contractor Licensing Department opened to the public July 2 following a change in state law.

Under the direction of new director Glenn Wardell, the department will continue work with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and the county's Consumer Protection Department to fight unlicensed contracting.

The department will operate at 12600 Belcher Road, Suite 102, Largo, until later this month, when it will move to county-owned office space at the Young-Rainey Science, Technology and Research (STAR) Center on Bryan Dairy Road in Largo.

The Contractor Licensing Department assumes the operations function of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board, a formerly independent body that was created by special act of the Florida Legislature in 1973. The PCCLB regulates the county's construction and home

improvement industry through uniform contractors licensing, code adoption and code interpretation.

In 2018, the Legislature amended a state law to revise the composition of the PCCLB and the terms of its board members. In addition, the PCCLB's operations and staff became an operating department under the County Administrator.

The Contractor Licensing Department is responsible for day-to-day administration, records maintenance and contractor license investigations in the county. It supports the PCCLB, a dependent agency to the County Commission that will continue to be funded through licensing fees, fines and citations and does not rely on property taxes.

On June 19, the commission appointed 11 members to the PCCLB, which has been reduced in size from 21 members to 15. An application process to fill the remaining positions will be held in the near future.

Relief in sight for property owners who suffered hurricane damage

While most Pinellas homeowners weathered the storms, some are still recovering from the damage left behind by the 2016 and 2017 hurricane seasons. For those property owners who weren't so fortunate, relief is in sight.

Thanks to a new Florida law, homesteaded residential property owners who suffered hurricane damage from Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew or Irma can now apply for a one-time property tax refund.

To apply, visit www.pcpao.org, select the "Forms/Change of Address" tab, and select Application for Abatement of Taxes. Print and sign the form and submit it to your county Property Appraiser via email, fax, or in person by March 1, 2019.

You must also submit proof your property was unlivable, such as utility bills, insurance information, or building permit applications.

To qualify, your property must

have been uninhabitable for a minimum of 30 days in 2016 or 2017 due to one of the three named storms (Hermine, Matthew or Irma). The refund amount is based on the number of days the property was uninhabitable as well as the property's value, as determined by the Property Appraiser, on January 1 of both the storm year and the following year.

After submitting the application, the Property Appraiser will review your case and notify you and the Tax Collector if you qualify for a refund. Refunds will be issued after you pay your 2019 property tax bill, which is payable from Nov. 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020.

"We are grateful that the Governor and Florida Legislature sided with homeowners to make this property tax abatement program a reality," said Mike Twitty, Pinellas County Property Appraiser.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Penny approval advances projects

By SUZETTE PORTER
Tampa Bay Newspapers

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County commissioners listened to a lengthy update June 14 on the Capital Improvement Program as well as reports on projects recently completed or in the works.

County staff maintains a six-year CIP that is updated during the annual budget process for the next fiscal year. The first year of the CIP must be balanced and funds to pay for projects must be legally appropriated, explained Jackie Trainer with the Office of Management and Budget. The rest of the years in the program, in this case years two-six, reflect a financial and production plan for the future needs.

Trainer started with an overview for FY 19 CIP to be paid for from Enterprise Funds, including \$22.5 million for the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport, \$14.5 million for the Water Department, \$39.1 million for Sewer and \$33.4 million for Solid Waste.

She then talked about \$222.1 million in projects to be paid for with Governmental Funds, which include \$160.3 million in infrastructure sales surtax, aka Penny for Pinellas; \$19.3 million in grant money; \$17.5 million in Local Option Fuel Tax; \$19.1 million in Tourist Development Tax revenue; and \$5.9 million from other revenues and fees.

A breakdown of "where the funding goes" shows \$92.9 million for transportation, \$34 million for public safety, \$32.6 million for general government services, \$31.5 million for physical environment, \$28.1 million for culture and recreation, \$2.3 million for human services and \$725,000 for economic environment.

Trainer said voter approval of Penny IV for FY 2020-2030 took the uncertainty out of the ability to fund projects in the CIP after FY 2019, allowing staff to advance proposed Penny IV critical projects so they can be started sooner.

She said requests had come in to begin preliminary design of 26 new Penny funded projects at a cost of \$4.4 million. The plan is to do the design work in FY 2019 so the projects will be "shovel ready" in FY 2020, said County Administrator Mark Woodard.

Requests for full funding for new Penny projects also are coming in and include \$3 million for the Affordable Housing Land Assembly Fund, \$2.2 million for Taylor Lake Seawall Replacement, \$900,000 for Lakeshore Estates Phase 2 roadway and drainage, \$1.8 million for sidewalks on 42nd Avenue North, \$983,000 for an HVAC for the Lealman Community Campus, \$1.6 million for replacement of dog kennels at Animal Services, \$10 million to replace radio equipment shelters, \$4.5 million to replace the EMS

Ridgecrest radio tower and equipment shelter and \$3 million for the Redington rescue station.

Requests for new Penny funded projects, including the preliminary design, total \$32.2 million.

Woodard said some of the projects could be completed in one year, such as replacement of the dog kennels at Animal Services, and some projects would take several years.

Trainer also reviewed several CIP projects to be funded from Transportation Trust Fund reserves at a cost of \$17 million during FY 2019 and FY 2020. These projects include LED street light replacement at \$1.25 million, sidewalks at \$3.5 million, roadway resurfacing at \$5.5 million, bridge rehabilitation at \$1.5 million, Belleair Road Complete Street design at \$250,000, safety improvements at \$1 million, and \$4.3 million in Intelligent Transportation System and Advanced Traffic Management System projects, which would be funded by the 9th cent fuel tax.

Woodard told commissioners about what he called a "structural imbalance" in the Transportation Trust Fund due to less revenue coming in from the gas tax. He said revenue coming into the fund remains flat while the cost of expenditures is going up.

He said Penny revenue could be used for capital expenses but not operations and maintenance.

Additional money will be needed to pay for expenses in the future, he said, adding that the Commission could consider an additional gas tax levy.

Aubrey Phillips, who takes care of OMB's Strategic Performance Management, updated commissioners on staff's plan to use a "portfolio approach" for CIP projects. She said using portfolio management for capital projects would help prioritize and manage development to provide the best value to the county.

Using the portfolio approach, projects with multiple benefits would move to the top of the list. The plan calls for starting to use the new method in FY 2019 with full implementation in FY 2020.

Woodard said it would be important to communicate the reason for the new method to the public and make sure that some don't feel neglected when their project doesn't make it to the top of the list.

An example of a portfolio approach on a roadway project would take into consideration not only the roadway itself but additional needs such as drainage and sidewalks. The plan is to do all the work at one time so areas aren't impacted more than once by construction.

For more information about the CIP, visit www.pinellascounty.org/budget/18budget/cip/ciplisting.htm.

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Police Beat

Pinellas Park police arrest suspect in hit, run

PINELLAS PARK - Pinellas Park police arrested a 31-year-old Land O'Lakes man July 9 in connection with a June 29 hit-and-run crash that injured a bicyclist.

Police say that Kenneth James Robert Stivers turned himself in at the Pinellas Park Police Department on July 9. Stivers was accompanied by his attorney and did not provide a statement.

He was booked into the county jail on one count of leaving the scene of a crash resulting in injury. Bond was set at \$5,000. He was released on a surety bond at 12:52 a.m. July 10.

Stivers is accused of driving the Chevrolet Silverado pickup that struck Duncan Craver, 20, of St. Petersburg, who was attempting to cross U.S. 19 from east to west on his bicycle. Craver had successfully crossed the northbound lanes and was stopped in the median between the northbound and southbound lanes when the truck hit him.

Police say Craver was crossing against the traffic control device. Witnesses told police that as the truck was traveling south in the median lane through the intersection it drifted out of the lane for unknown reasons and struck Craver, and then briefly jumped up on to the median before regaining control and continuing south on U.S. 19 fleeing the scene.

Craver was transported to a local hospital for treatment of his non-life-threatening injuries. A witness to the crash was able to capture an image of the pickup truck on a dash camera after the truck is seen striking Craver, which was released to the media.

Police say they received a large amount of tips in this case and the majority were useful in identifying the suspect in this case.



Photo courtesy of PINELLAS PARK POLICE

A photo taken by a witness June 29 shows a Chevrolet Silverado pickup striking a bicyclist and then fleeing the scene.

unresponsive and not breathing.

Godinez and Minamyner began administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation while Hansen called for paramedics. Hansen also assisted with back blows when Mikos became responsive coughing and choking on seawater.

Mikos was transported to Largo Medical Center with life-threatening injuries.

Witnesses told deputies that Mikos was by himself on the beach when he walked about 25 feet out into the water and disappeared. An unidentified person noticed that Mikos had not resurfaced and started yelling for help.

Deputies say the incident appears to be accidental in nature.

Dunedin man accused of threatening family

DUNEDIN - A 71-year-old Dunedin man will receive a mental health evaluation as deputies say they plan to Baker Act him after he threatened his family with a gun, shot the family dog and pointed a gun at a deputy about 5:58 p.m. July 4.

Pinellas County Sheriff's deputies responded to a residence on Suemar Road in Dunedin on a report of arguing and gunshots heard. When deputies arrived, they could hear a male yelling inside the residence.

Deputies set a perimeter around the home and made contact with Barbara Wheeler, 68, and Ryan Wheeler, 32, who both exited the home at the request of deputies.

Deputies then found out that Barbara Wheeler's husband, David Wheeler, had shot and killed the family dog and was still inside the home armed with a handgun.

Deputies say prior to shooting the dog, David Wheeler made threats to kill his wife and pointed a .45 caliber handgun at her. David's son, Ryan Wheeler, tried to intervene and David threatened Ryan with the handgun and threatened to shoot himself.

Deputies were trying to establish communication with David, when he was spotted pointing a handgun through the front window of the residence at a deputy who was on perimeter.

Deputies spent over an hour trying to convince David to exit the residence peacefully with no success. Then, at about 3:35 a.m. July 5, David voluntarily exited his residence and he was taken into custody without incident. He was transported to the Pinellas County Jail and charged with two counts of aggravated assault (domestic), one count of animal cruelty, and one count of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer.

Deputies seized numerous handguns, rifles and shotguns from Wheeler's home.

Former Md. deputy accused of sexual misconduct on a child dies in county jail

CLEARWATER - A 49-year-old Oldsmar man charged July 1 with one count of sexual battery on a child less than 12-years-old was found dead at the Pinellas County Jail July 5 from what detectives say was an apparent suicide.

Detention staff found Christopher Wayne Stufft unresponsive in his housing area about 8:29 a.m. He had a ligature around his neck made from items readily available to him in his cell, according to a press release.

Medical staff at the jail performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation and paramedics were called. Stufft was pronounced dead at 8:47 a.m. Detectives say he died from what appears to be self-inflicted injuries.

Detectives with the Crimes Against Children Unit began an investigation after a 10-year-old child told her mother that Stufft had sexually battered her.

Detectives say Stufft was in a short-term dating relationship with the mother of the female victim. On the night of the incident, Stufft invited the mother and the 10-year-old child over to his residence in Oldsmar for movies. The victim had reportedly fallen asleep on the couch next to her mother and Stufft.

Investigators say the mother went outside to the back porch to smoke a cigarette. While the mother was outside, Stufft reportedly vaginally penetrated the victim with his finger underneath her clothing and took photographs of the victim's vaginal area with his cell phone.

Detectives say the victim discreetly told her mother of the incident. The mother and the child left Stufft's residence and returned home to call deputies. Detectives interviewed Stufft at his residence about 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 1. Stufft reportedly admitted to having the mother of the victim and her child over to his residence to watch movies, but he denied inappropriately touching the victim.

Stufft was arrested at about 2:49 p.m. July 1, and he was transported to the Pinellas County Jail without further incident. Bail was set at \$150,000.

Detectives confirmed Stufft was a former deputy for the Charles County Sheriff's Office in Maryland from 2004 to 2009. His criminal history shows no other arrests.



Stufft

Sheriff's Office warns of new phone scam

PINELLAS COUNTY Sheriff's Office detectives are encouraging the public to be on alert to a recent phone scam occurring in Pinellas County. The suspect is reportedly calling residents and identifying himself as Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Sean Jowell.

According to detectives, the suspect identifies himself and informs the resident that they have an outstanding warrant for missing jury duty. The suspect tells the resident that if they don't turn themselves in at the Sheriff's Office, or pay the fines, they will be arrested at their residence.

The suspect instructs the resident to go to the nearest convenience store to purchase pre-paid debit or gift cards. The suspect instructs the resident to provide the numbers on the back of the card and claims that the warrant will be purged from the system once the money is paid.

They also tell the resident if they do not remain on the phone continuously while the resident obtains the cash and purchases the gift cards they will be marked as "non-compliant" and arrested shortly after terminating the phone call.

The scammer has been reported to leave a voicemail on the resident's phone stating if they did not return the phone call immediately, they would be marked as "non-compliant" and arrested shortly thereafter.

Detectives say the suspect is also "spoofing" his phone number causing the caller ID to show that the suspect is calling from the Sheriff's Office non-emergency phone line 727-582-6200. There have been multiple incidents where Pinellas County residents have been targeted using this scam.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office says it will never call residents requesting money over the telephone. Detectives advise residents to not give personal information or account information over the phone, and call the Sheriff's Office to report suspicious activity.

If anyone has information on this scam or has become a victim they are asked to call the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office at 727-582-6200.

Police seek info on bank robbery suspect

TARPON SPRINGS - Tarpon Springs police is seeking information about a suspect involved in the June 30 robbery of Chase Bank, 41206 U.S. 19, Tarpon Springs.

Police say a man entered the bank about 10:15 a.m. and told the teller he had a gun and demanded money. He handed the teller a black duffel type bag and ordered the teller to place the cash inside.

The man was given an undisclosed amount of currency and he then immediately left the bank.

Police believe the man left the scene on foot as no suspect vehicle was observed departing the area. No bank employees were injured during this incident and the suspect stated that he possessed a gun but did not produce one and only implied that he was armed.

Police say the suspect was wearing a dark blue navy suit, with white dress shirt and tie. He also was wearing a gray-colored cabbie, or newsboy, type cap and prescription-type eyeglasses.

He was described as a black male, 20-30 years of age, between 5 feet 11 inches and 6 feet 2 inches tall, with a thin build.

Anyone with information can call the Tarpon Springs police detective squad at 727-938-2849.

- Compiled by SUZETTE PORTER

Safety Harbor man dies after motorcycle crash

SAFETY HARBOR - A 54-year-old Safety Harbor man died at a Tampa hospital July 7 from injuries suffered in a motorcycle crash in Safety Harbor.

Pinellas County Sheriff's deputies say Robert M. Dobraski was driving a 2006 Harley-Davidson motorcycle eastbound on Third Street North in Safety Harbor about 2:50 a.m. July 7 when he struck a legally parked vehicle in front of a house at 1078 Third St. N.

Dobraski was flown to St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa where he died about 9:57 a.m. Deputies say he was not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

Deputies assigned the Sheriff's Major Accident Investigation Team say they later found out that Clearwater police had been trying to locate Dobraski prior to the crash in Safety Harbor because he had crashed his motorcycle in Clearwater earlier that morning.

Witnesses told Clearwater police that Dobraski was driving his motorcycle on Sunset Point Road when he struck the median and crashed near Lawson Road in Clearwater. Dobraski got back on his motorcycle and drove off toward Safety Harbor.

Investigators say speed and impairment appear to be factors in the crash.

Good Samaritans help save man from drowning

NORTH REDINGTON BEACH - A Pinellas County Sheriff's deputy assisted two good Samaritans who pulled a Tampa man out of the water about 1:49 p.m. July 5 along the beach behind 17250 Gulf Blvd., North Redington Beach.

Deputy Dustin Hansen, 32, was conducting beach patrol when he observed two people dragging an unresponsive man from the water toward the beach. He then assisted Leticia Godinez, 66, of Tampa, an off duty registered nurse, and Christopher Minamyner, 34, of Satellite Beach pull the man onto shore.

The victim later identified as Daniel M. Mikos, 63, of Tampa was

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Pets of the week

Danni

Orange female kittens are rare. Sisters Danni and Samantha are beautiful, laid back and adorable. Meet these 3-month-old kitties and their brother – all completely vetted and microchipped – by calling Save Our Strays at 727-545-1116. To view other cats, visit saveourstraysinc.com.



Willy

This handsome man had three siblings tag along with him. They've been enjoying their play groups together at the shelter but will be perfectly happy in a home by themselves or with other dogs. Willy is a 4-year-old black-mouth cur mix. His adoption price is \$85. For information, call 727-797-7722 or visit www.humanesocietyofpinellas.org.



Scooter

Curled up, all comfy and cozy, sweet Scooter is waiting for someone to snuggle with him. The tenderhearted 10-year-old Chihuahua entered into the care of Canine Estates after his owner passed. He is a nifty 9 pounds of adorable. He arrived with dental disease, ear infections and severe dermatitis, but is responding well to treatment and now hopes to find a forever home. Email director@canineestates.com or call 727-412-0558.



Blossom

Blossom is a beautiful medium hair cat with an equally beautiful personality. She loves to play with toys and revels in human attention. This sweet 1 1/2-year-old domestic medium hair is spayed, vaccinated, microchipped, and her adoption fee is \$40. Pet Pal Animal Shelter is at 405 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg. Call 727-328-7738 or visit Petpalanimalshelter.com.



Daisy

Daisy loves walks, treats, and bicycles built for two. She is a laid back 5-year-old hound mix who can't wait to have her own family to love. Daisy walks well on a leash and enjoys the company of other dogs her size. She is spayed, vaccinated and microchipped and her adoption fee is \$200. Pet Pal Animal Shelter is at 405 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg. Call 727-328-7738 or visit Petpalanimalshelter.com.



Heidi

Heidi is thought to be 6 years old. She is a 14-pound Schnauzer. She is current on her shots, microchipped, spayed and being treated for heartworm disease. She is shy, lovely and likes humans. Because of her heartworm disease, VIP Rescue is accepting applications from loving dedicated pet parents living within an hour drive of Heidi's vet in Palm Harbor. She must get to her time- and date-sensitive scheduled appointments. There will be about four of them, depending on the later appointments and testing outcome. To submit an application, visit viprescue.org.



Raven

Raven is a 1-year-old, 14-pound Scottie mix. Having arrived at VIP Rescue terrified of humans, Raven's foster mom has discovered he can be a snuggle buddy. He has had all his shots, is neutered and microchipped and is on heartworm prevention. Raven is looking for someone with love and patience. To submit an application, visit viprescue.org.



Frankie Jones

All caramel and cream, 3-year-old Frankie is as sweet as his coat. The energetic 8-pound Chiweenie (Chihuahua/Dachshund mix) came to Canine Estates from the Humane Society of Pinellas County. He may be cautious when meeting new people but quickly warms up to them. He needs a patient and loving home without small children to fully educate him and keep him mentally stimulated and physically satisfied forever. Email director@canineestates.com or call 727-412-0558.



Heat stroke is no joke

Spring and summer bring elevated outside temperatures that can be life threatening to ourselves and to our pets. Every year hundreds of pets die because they are left in parked cars, tethered outside without shade and water, or exercised in hot, humid weather. Heat stroke is a serious threat in Florida.

Brachycephalic (short nosed) breeds (Pug, Boston Terrier, Bulldog, Pekingese, and Lhasa Apso) can be more susceptible to heat stroke because panting in these breeds is less effective in decreasing body temperature compared to others. Young dogs that overexert themselves and older dogs with pre-existing diseases are also vulnerable. Dogs have sweat glands only on their feet so sweating will not cool them like it does for us.

A normal temperature in a dog or cat is around 101.5 F plus or minus 1-2 degrees. It is considered an emergency when a dog or cat's

Speaking of Pets

Kim Donovan, D.V.M.



temperature rises above 105 F. Extremely elevated body temperatures can cause multi-systemic organ failure leading to death.

Symptoms of heat stroke include restlessness, panting, excessive drooling, unsteadiness, bright red gums, muscle tremors, seizures, difficulty breathing, increased heart rate, bloody vomit or feces, shock, cardiac arrest, and/or behavior changes.

If your pet is showing these

signs, remove your pet from the heat source. It would make perfect sense to use ice cold water to decrease core body temperature; however, emerging a dog that is suffering from heat stroke in an ice cold bath could cause serious complications. This may cause constriction of the blood vessels in the skin that will trap heat inside the body. Tap water (room temperature or slightly cool) is recommended in order to cool a heat stroke victim. The goal is to decrease the body temperature to about 103 F. If your dog has heat stroke, it is important that you do not leave him/her unattended for at least 24 hours. Take your pet to a veterinarian immediately to be monitored for serious complications. Some of the symptoms noted above may not occur until later in the day.

Leaving pets in a car to run a quick errand can be deadly as temperatures in a parked car may increase by 40 F within one hour.

Even on a relatively cool day (70 F) dogs have perished when left in a parked car. Cracking a window will not make a difference even if the car is parked in the shade.

Walk your pets in the early morning or late evening when it is cooler. Don't leave them outside for extended periods of time. Also, you do need to worry about their feet as the hot cement and sand can burn their pads. If it is hot to the touch to your foot then it is hot for their feet as well.

If you love your pet enough to take them with you, then love them enough to never leave them in a car with the ignition off.

Kim Donovan, D.V.M., is an associate veterinarian and medical director at Oakhurst Veterinary Hospital in Seminole with 21 years of experience and a special interest in feline medicine.



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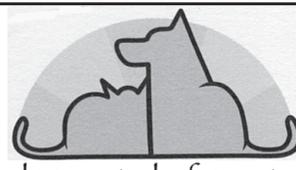
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LETTERS

Thanks to mayor for stand on move

Editor:
Thanks to Mayor Cretokos for standing up to City Council on the move to the new location on Cleveland Street.

I don't know what the Council is thinking but accessibility to their offices by the citizens has been ignored. I am handicapped and on several occasions have had to go to City Hall on personal business. Parking for anyone is a breeze especially the handicapped. Just where is anyone, especially the handicapped, supposed to park to get to our elected officials?

This supposed savings of \$50,000 per year is nothing but pocket change to Clearwater's budget. Have they considered the increased cost of moving the meeting to the library? Here again, what about handicapped access? And will the library be open on meeting days, which will make parking even worse.

For years now there has been talk of replacing City Hall with a commercial building. For what? First it was the building was 50 years old and needed replacement. I guess more than half the homes in Clearwater need to be torn down because they are over 50 years old. To me the City Hall and its location are ideal. To me the Hall is the best looking building in downtown Clearwater and does not need replacement. If Council members don't like the building then don't run for re-election.

John Blechschmidt
Clearwater

Tides' closing ruffles snowbird's feathers

Editor:
With respect to the closing of the Tides golf course: The reasons given are a bunch of nonsense. I am a December-March snowbird in Madeira Beach and play at the Tides at least twice a week with 8-16 friends. We usually have to wait for even larger groups (up to 80 players) to finish their outing before we can start. There never seem to be any open tee times. In fact the Tides is noted for being one of the more crowded courses in the area. The claim that there is "no support from the golfing community" is simply not true. The new carts last year were much appreciated, but they aren't of much use if there is no golf course. I hope the responsible Seminole officials will take a close look at what the truth is behind the closing.

Barry Thomas
Athens, Ohio

Proud of Trump

Re: "A madman wielding a wrecking ball," Bob Driver's column, June 28

Editor:
Really? Your first four paragraphs I agree with, 100 percent. What I think is nonsense and silly, you actually made me laugh, with your opinion on midterms predicting the survival of our political system!

LOL Bob, and to go on like you did and to end your bit with the children crying and the vision they hold on each of us, and it would Bob, if it were all true. Do you not realize each day felons of us citizens are arrested for violations and their children pulled? Sadly, most those bringing the children are doing so to advance their chances. You don't believe in securing our boarder; I do. And plenty of the Trump supporters do. I am so proud of Trump and what he is doing. Facts are facts and this president will be considered one of the best ever perhaps. Be negative and knock the president. That's not a band wagon I care to show my children, grand kids. To me Bob, that's really sad and not very American!

Bob Davis
Clearwater

Bicyclists should use paths on bridge's roadway

Editor:
I have written before about picking up glass on the Belleair Beach Causeway walkway, and now I have to write about me having to be picked up off of the walkway. I was taking my morning walk recently about 7:30 on a Sunday and heading back down toward the beach when a man walking towards me moved over to my side of the walkway. As I moved to my left to let him pass, I was slammed in the back of my leg by a bicyclist. Neither the man walking toward me nor the man on the bike ever said a word to warn me although after the fact the walking man said he should have told me he was coming. The bike and bicyclist both landed on me and left his tire tracks on the back of my leg.

After both men pulled me up and took off, I called my husband to come pick me up. I ended up having to get X-rays and had a severe sprain of the ankle. I have always tried to be courteous of bicyclists on the road and don't understand two things. #1. Why was he riding on the walkway when there is a marked bicycle path on the roadway? #2. Why didn't he warn me he was coming at a fast speed behind me? This unfortunate accident hasn't stopped me from walking the causeway but I'm enjoying the beautiful scenery less due to looking behind me more.

Patsy Sullivan
Indian Rocks Beach

Charity, respect for laws begins at home

Editor:
As the heat rises in political rhetoric about the borders, such as separated families, an image without truth clouds the hearts and minds of the nation's conversation. What is the truth? Parental irresponsibility, children being used as pawns and human trafficking come to mind. We are a nation of laws.

Another truth focuses upon the homelessness and hunger our own American children are experiencing. In 2014, NBC News reported that one in 30 American children or about 2.5 million are homeless. Charity and respect for our laws both begin at the home. Let us not forget it.

Sheila Griffin
Clearwater

Theft victim heartbroken

To the person who stole my raccoon statue:
You entered a senior citizen park.
I am an old senior citizen. I do not know how long I will live. But you stole my raccoon statue that is over 25 years old, a special gift from my late husband. It is not worth a lot of money but it is worth a lot in my heart. I am heartbroken that you stole it.

Why did you steal from an old person? The police department was notified of the theft.

Please return my statue, and I won't press charges against you.
A Largo mobile home park resident.

Editor's note: In a rare exception to TBN's policy, the name of the writer of this letter will not be disclosed in our publications.

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- Here are some more guidelines for letters:
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 - Thank you letters are accepted.

'If I Were a Rich Man' ... some thoughts

In the 1964 musical "Fiddler on the Roof," the main character, Tevye, told his village friends what he (a milkman) would do "if I were a rich man." Many of us have toyed with that fantasy; then we've gone back to the reality of our bank accounts.

Lately I've been thinking of what I might do if, in a miracle, I'd be granted (A) unlimited funds to spend as I chose to, and (B) another hundred years to live. After studying recent predictions on how the world is going, I came up with a few ideas on how I might wisely use my vast wealth.

(1) My first thought would involve real estate. I would buy coastal properties and acreage at least five miles inland and 60 feet above sea level. That move should protect me from the flooding that will almost certainly occur during the next century or so, especially in Florida. I have wondered if and when coastline homeowners from Pensacola to Miami to Jacksonville will be trapped in a sudden sellers' market. Perhaps that trend has already begun.

I'd also invest in properties situated safely distant from any river, creek, pond or lake. Weather experts have said the frog-strangling deluges of recent years may continue to descend on waterways and, in a few short hours, wash away homes, businesses and entire towns.

(2) However, I would plow billions of my dollars into water - its preservation, production, purification and desalination. Our nation's water resources are already in danger from population growth, droughts, pollution, and Flint, Michigan, style mismanagement. As I write this, other countries - notably Iran and South Africa - are



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

in big trouble because of existing or oncoming water shortages. The scientists and financiers who can solve humankind's water problems will be swimming in unimaginable wealth.

(3) What will it take to reduce the number of gun-related deaths in the USA, especially in our schools and colleges? Ban all weapons? Tighten the laws of gun use and purchase? Very unlikely. The gun lobby already controls a large percentage of lawmakers in Washington and state capitals. That is not likely to change in years to come.

So, what can we do? One possibility (although a sad one): make body armor a standard item of clothing, especially for school children, who seem to be a favorite target of demented shooters. Bullet-resistant vests will not be an easy item to sell to the public, but such garments can substantially reduce the target zones presented by potential victims. As body armor research and development grow, investors in this commercial area will seldom end up collecting welfare.

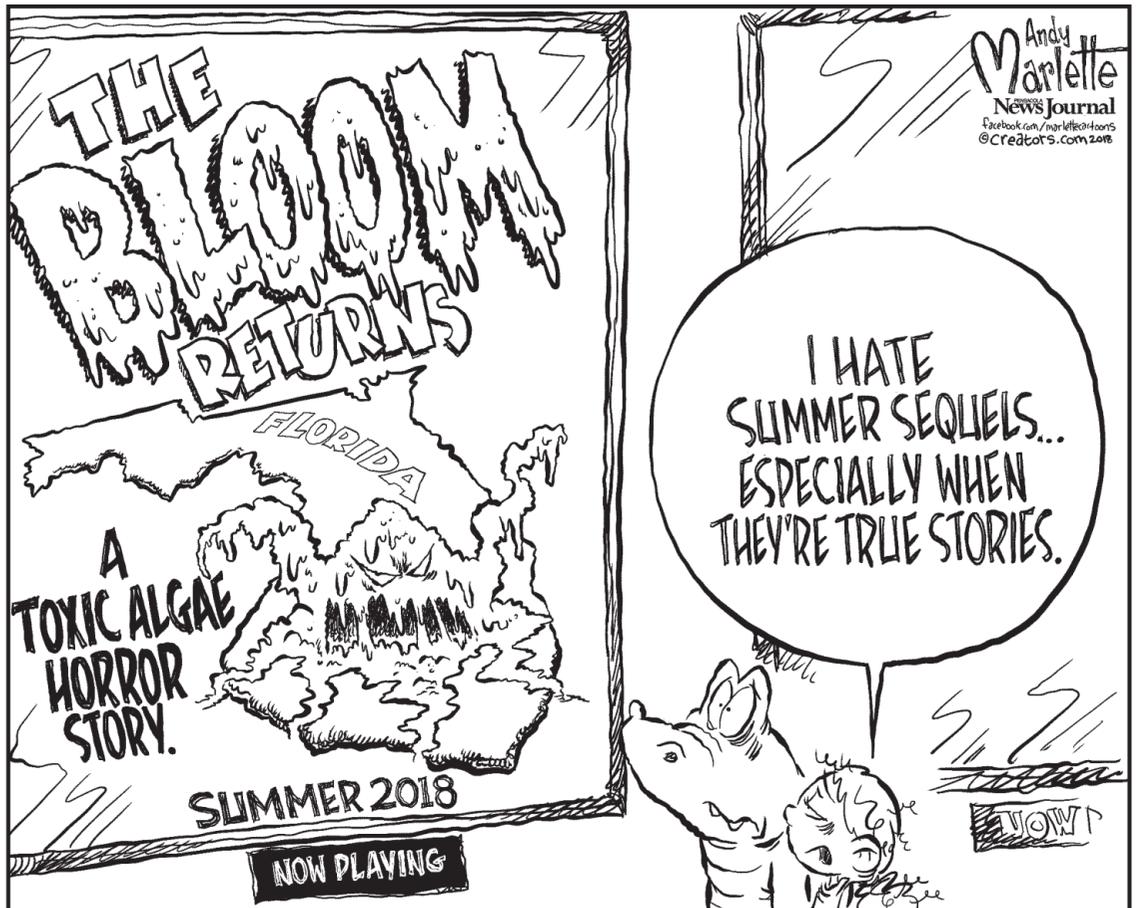
(4) I'm not sure if or when the USA will achieve just and manageable immigration policies. Today immigration - especially involving refugees trying to escape the hellholes in their

home countries - has become a political football that will not shrink in size soon. One thing seems likely: America is not going to slam our doors and completely shut out people who want to come here to live. If you or I don't like the sound of foreign languages in our midst, we'd better not venture past our front doors. So, let's learn to deal with it. As the Stoics like to say, "Id est quod id est." It is what it is.

If I had unlimited dollars to spend as I saw fit, I would establish a thousand language centers throughout our land. Their purpose would be to teach spoken and written English to every newcomer. I'd also have classes to teach any of 50 foreign languages and dialects to those of us who grow up speaking English. Would all of this completely halt the conflict, misunderstanding and mistrust that now dominate immigration debate? Probably not. But it would help. And from the sound of things, we're going to need all the help we can get.

Real estate, water, bullet-proof vests and language training. I grant you, that's not a very impressive or creative list of suggestions on how to financially cope with the tsunamis of problems coming our way in the next century or so. But as the 4-foot-tall man said when as he married the 8-foot tall woman, "You've got to start somewhere."

Bob Driver's email address is tralee71@comcast.net.



Crotchety Tom is waaay beyond help

All this talk about civility is making me crotchety.

It's hard to be civil when I get numerous daily reminders that I'm a senior - 64 years old in case you want to know.

If I get one more phone call from the Medusas of Medicare trying to sell me their snake oil, I swear I'll ... I'll ... Not sure what I'll do since I can't reach into the telephone and apply my stapler to their slimy forked tongues.

And here comes that darn earworm again: "When I get older losing my hair, many years from now ... when I'm 64."

Cursing at the callers seem to cause the opposite of the intended effect because the more I swear at the Medusas, the more they breed. I can't sign up for Medicare until September and yet I'm deluged daily with their calls.

I'm spending hours trying to interpret all the nuances of Medicare's Part A, B, C, etc. Tempted to go to Part S: "Screw it." I'll just sign up for the same plan a buddy has and hope Medicare doesn't leave me destitute - or drive me nuts.

Seek help? I date a psychologist, and she knows I'm waaay beyond help. And I think she's getting the earworm, too.

"When I get older losing my hair ... will you be calling me crotchety?"

That's more like it.
How do I embrace civility when we are surrounded by mayhem?

Take driving, I like road trips, but I hate traffic.

Frequently, I run with the wildebeests on I-4, on my way to Central Florida, where my girlfriend lives.

If you think I'm a few clowns short of a circus now, you should hear me by the time I reach her place.

"That \$\$%\$% intersection at I-27 was backed up for miles. You'd think by all the



Tom Germond

\$\$\$% traffic congestion in the area, the theme parks were offering free admission and close encounters with wildlife - which would be safer than traveling on I-4."

As I was sandwiched among the wildebeests in that area a couple of Saturdays ago, I noticed that a vehicle was weaving from lane to lane.

What the \$\$%\$% is wrong with that guy? I muttered to myself. How am I supposed to act civil when I'm flirting with death every time I make the trek across the state? And now Gov. Scott finally comes around to getting on board mass transit; a high-speed rail is proposed that would link Tampa and Orlando. Better late than never, I guess.

Transit opponents need not worry. If ridership is flat, maybe the trains can be put to good use transporting accident victims to the hospitals - or the morgues.

Yeah, I know. I'm cynical as well as crotchety. And as I write, my cell phone is ringing again. Ain't answering it.

In fact, in this day and age, with all the concerns about scams and identity theft, I think that making cold calls to individuals is not a good strategy for acquiring customers - especially to those of us who are "getting older, losing my hair," to quote Paul McCartney singing the Beatles' "When I'm 64."

Shoo, you darn earworms.
I doubt Sir McCartney gets calls from solicitors. Bet he doesn't have to run with wildebeests, either.

Civility is overrated.

Here's what also makes me uncivil:

- New and improved products, such as razor blades. Why does corporate America keep trying to build a better mousetrap? Makes me uncivil enough to lacerate myself every time I shave.

- Computers. Would love to buy one that has all the programs I need installed. Buying a new laptop these days is like buying a car without wheels. And I hope it will be easier to sign up for Medicare than installing software.

- Endless strings of commercials between television programs - especially movies. I'd rather shave than listen to them.

- Lobbies or waiting rooms in some medical and other professional offices. The magazines and other reading material in these places are often ancient. I get uncivil and crotchety if I have to watch daytime television or stare at a terrarium or a framed college degree while I'm waiting for somebody to poke or probe me.

Such moments invite earworms, too.

So I bring my own magazines, sometimes National Geographic, and leave them for others once I'm summoned to the world beyond the waiting rooms. Yeah, I know, if I'd buy something more sophisticated than a flip phone to play with, I'd have something to do and be less prone to suffering from earworms.

Once I'm through battling the Medusas of Medicare, this crotchety, uncivil cheapskate might warm up to the idea of buying a magic box, aka a smartphone.

When I'm 65.

Tom Germond is executive editor of Tampa Bay Newspapers. He can be reached at 727-397-5563, ext. 330, or by an email at tgermond@TBNweekly.com.

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Publisher/President: Dan Autrey
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Accounting Manager: Andrea Marcarelli
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Executive Editor: Tom Germond
tgermond@TBNweekly.com

Production Manager: David Brown
production@TBNweekly.com

Online editor: Suzette Porter
webmaster@TBNweekly.com

Beach Beacon: Tom Germond
tgermond@TBNweekly.com

Belleair/Beach Bee: Tom Germond
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Clearwater Beacon: Logan Mosby
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Palm Harbor Beacon: Tom Germond
tgermond@TBNweekly.com

Seminole Beacon: Tiffany Razzano
trazzano@TBNweekly.com

Entertainment Editor: Lee Zumpe
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Largo apartment complex to first in county to earn breastfeeding award

LARGO – The Waterchase Apartments in Largo is the first apartment complex in Pinellas County to earn the Bronze Level Breastfeeding Friendly Employer award.

The Florida Breastfeeding Coalition, a chapter of the United States Breastfeeding Committee, recognized the apartment complex for having a breastfeeding policy that provides employees a private lactation room, flexibility in their schedules to allow for pumping breaks, resources and help, if needed.

The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County assisted the complex by providing education and support through the Florida Healthy Babies Initiative, a collaborative statewide project that focuses on health equity when it comes to breastfeeding, safe sleep and improved access to resources.

Kathleen Smith, Waterchase community manager and mother of two, wanted to create a friendly environment for other employees in a dedicated area at the complex.

"Being a new mom, and having to leave your newborn to come back to work is so very stressful. My hope is, by creating a private, comfortable environment for employees to pump breastmilk when they need to, it will be one less thing for them to worry about," said Smith.

Chelsi Wiley, Waterchase employee and new mom to a son born on July 2, was the key motivation behind the apartment complex's new policy. Wiley is happy to work for a company that supports breastfeeding moms and hopes the days of hiding in a public restroom or breakroom to breastfeed or pump are over.

"I hope that this will push more employers to think about their soon-to-be mothers and implement a better and more comfortable policy for breastfeeding moms," said Wiley.

Thanks to a collaboration with DOH-Pinellas, the Tampa Bay Breastfeeding Task Force-Pinellas Chapter and the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County, the FHB Initiative in Pinellas has helped nine employers receive designation as a "Breastfeeding Friendly Employer" including seven new child care centers in Pinellas.

For information about the Florida Healthy Babies Initiative in Pinellas, visit pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wellness-programs/healthy-babies/index.html or call Samantha Staley at 727-824-6900, ext. 4632.

For information about DOH-Pinellas, visit www.PinellasHealth.com.

Community Center to host forum on Parkinson's

LARGO – Parkinson's specialists will present a free forum on Parkinson's Saturday, July 28, 9 a.m. to noon, at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo.

Dr. Heather Herrema, D.O., a board-certified Movement Disorder Specialist at Central Neurology in St. Petersburg, will be speaking on living well with Parkinson's. Dr. London Butterfield, a psychologist with St. Anthony's Hospital BayCare Medical Group, will speak on how to keep the mind as sharp as possible.

The free event is hosted by Neuro Challenge Foundation for Parkinson's. Advance registration is required. To register, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/pinellas-county-distinguished-speakers-event-tickets-47354495571 or call Cindy Underwood at 941-266-5833.

Healthy living event to support those with autism

SEMINOLE – Earth to Autism will partner with Smart Healthy Living to provide wellness information geared for people with disabilities Saturday, July 21, noon to 5 p.m., at Seminole United Methodist Church, 5400 Seminole Blvd., Seminole.

The wellness conference, titled "Foundation for Healthy Living," is a special event to support families affected by disabilities. Scheduled to speak are Sara Im, author of "How I Survived the Killing Fields: A Story of Hope, Love and Determination" and owner of Smart Healthy Living; Nicole Dennison, holistic health expert and author; Jen Moyer, VOXX Socks representative and fall prevention expert; Arielle Giordano, author and movement

Faith & Family News

'Babylon' Vacation Bible School program set

LARGO – "Babylon," a free Bible adventure, will be presented Monday through Friday, July 16-20, 9:30 a.m. to noon, at Suncoast Community Church, 12855 110th Ave., Largo.

The Vacation Bible School program is designed for children age 2, out of diapers, through those entering seventh grade. Kids will learn all about Daniel, who had "courage in captivity," through stories, games, crafts, snacks, music, and skits.

To register, call 727-595-1739 or email suncoastchurchoffice@gmail.com.

Indoor rummage sale slated for July 14

SEMINOLE – The Christmas in July Indoor Rummage Sale will take place Saturday, July 14, 9 a.m. to noon, at Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church, 8505 113th St., Seminole.

The rummage sale will be presented inside Smead Hall. For information, call 727-391-5509.

Seminole church to celebrate new sanctuary

SEMINOLE – The community is invited to help celebrate and rededicate the new sanctuary Sunday, July 15, 10 a.m., at Seminole United Methodist Church, 5400 Seminole Blvd., Seminole.

Sunday school will be presented prior to the celebration at 9 a.m. Fellowship will follow at 11 a.m.

For information, call 727-391-9781.

Church to host wellness conference

SEMINOLE – The Foundation for Healthy Living will host the Spirit, Soul & Body Wellness Conference Saturday, July 21, noon to 5 p.m., in the fellowship hall at Seminole United Methodist Church, 5400 Seminole Blvd., Seminole.

The event is designed to support families affected by disabilities. There will be guest speakers and dynamic wellness professionals inspiring the audience with valuable information.

Topics will include:

- What is Earth to Autism?
- Find hope in the midst of adversity
- Healthy nutrition that nourishes and energizes
- Cell-signaling – wellness science breakthrough
- Aging backwards

There will be door prizes, refreshments and health screenings.

Tickets are \$20. Visit www.SmartLivingEvents.com. All proceeds from ticket sales will benefit Earth to Autism, a non-profit organization.



Photo SUBMITTED

Pictured are, from left, Waterchase employees Kathleen Smith, Kelsey Lawrence and Chelsi Wiley. The Waterchase Apartments in Largo is the first apartment complex in Pinellas County to earn the Bronze Level Breastfeeding Friendly Employer award.

expert; Sandra Read, cellular health advocate; and Leanne Scalli, founder of Earth to Autism.

The speakers will discuss the mission of Earth of Autism, finding hope in the middle of adversity, healthy nutrition that nourishes and energizes, cell signaling, and Essentrics and aging backwards. In addition, the event will include a panel discussion on self-care, social support of family and friends, and incorporating faith for difficult times. The panel discussion will be presented by Evelyn Mann, Linda Arroyo, Mary Jane Cronin and Taveesha Guyton.

Besides the speakers, the event will have a health fair with vendors, door prizes, refreshments and health screenings. Tickets cost \$12 per person for groups, \$20 for single tickets. To purchase tickets, visit smartlivingevents.com.

To sponsor the event or be a vendor, call Im at 727-512-3017 or email healthyteam2@gmail.com. To donate to Earth to Autism, call Scalli at 845-527-1491 or visit earth2autism.org.

All proceeds from the event will be donated to Earth to Autism.

Institute to host sleep, nutrition programs

CLEARWATER – A presentation on sleep and metabolism will be presented Tuesday, July 17, 10 a.m., at the Aging & Wellness Institute, 300 S. Duncan Ave., No. 188, Clearwater.

The program will be presented by sleep expert Dr. Michelle Zetoony, D.O., of DO Sleep Solutions Inc. Zetoony will discuss the role of sleep in one's metabolism, weight, mental and physical wellness and overall quality of life. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

AWI also will present a program on the nutritional aspects of aging well on Tuesday, July 24, 10 a.m. Attendees will have an opportunity to explore tips and ideas centered on components of nutrition and lifestyle. Registered dietitian nutritionist April Newman will present the program. The class is free and open to the community.

The Aging & Wellness Institute is a nonprofit 501(c)3 public charity based in Clearwater.

Founded in 2015, the mission of the organization is to provide nutrition, exercise, and yoga programs to adults age 60 and older in an effort to help them live a longer life, a healthier life, and a pain-free life. Founded on the principles of more than 25 years of research by local physician and founder John P. Barrett, AWI is committed to improving the health outcomes of older adults.

For information, call 727-461-4054 or visit awilife.org.

Peace Concert Series continues July 22

CLEARWATER – The Peace Concert Series will host a summer piano concert Sunday, July 22, 2 p.m., at Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, 110 S. Fort Harrison Ave., Clearwater.

The concert will feature rising stars in the world of piano performance. The program is presented as part of the Ambassador Series of the Rebecca Penneys International Piano Festival. To learn more about the entire festival and other programs offered around the bay area, visit www.rebeccapennyspianofestival.org.

Performing will be several talented young performers who come from all over the world and are in Tampa Bay because they were selected to receive special training at the renowned Rebecca Penneys International Piano Festival at USF. Concertgoers will hear some of these rising young stars.

Tickets are not required and seating is first come, first served. An offering will be taken with a \$5 to \$10 minimum suggested. Doors will open at 1 p.m.

After the concert, there will be a light reception in the fellowship hall.

For information, visit www.peacememorial.org or call 727-446 3001.

Homeless Ministry meets monthly

SEMINOLE – The Homeless Ministry meets second Saturdays, 9 a.m., at the fellowship hall at Seminole United Methodist Church, 5400 Seminole Blvd., Seminole.

In service to those suffering in the community, the group makes sandwiches to be distributed in St. Petersburg. Needed goods include peanut butter, jelly, bread, small fruit (oranges, apples), bottled water and brown paper bags.

Church to host 'Denying Gravity' presentation

PALM HARBOR – Senior Actors Guild & Education Services will present "Denying Gravity" Saturday, Sept. 1, 2 p.m., in the fellowship hall at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 1555 Windmill Pointe Road, Palm Harbor.

In this free play, Claire finds herself in an unexpected situation caused by a misstep. At first, she's annoyed, even somewhat amused to be in this predicament until her good nature is stretched thin by Mother Nature and her law of gravity.

The play is performed by SAGES members with real-life EMS first responders from the East Lake Fire Rescue Department in cameo roles. The fire chief will take the stage to share important information. Seating is limited.

To RSVP, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/denying-gravity-a-unique-theater-experience-for-older-adults-tickets-44353298911.

For information about SAGES, visit www.senioractorsguild.com.

School News

Pinellas Education Foundation names leader

LARGO – The Pinellas Education Foundation recently announced that Doug Bishop, CEO of Bouchard Insurance, has been appointed chairman of the Pinellas Education Foundation for a two-year term as of July 1.

Bishop's leadership and creative capabilities have proven valuable in branding Bouchard Insurance as the premier insurance agency in the Southeast. A Pinellas County native, Bishop graduated from Tarpon Springs High School in 1989.

He joined Bouchard in 1997 as a Commercial Lines sales executive after graduating from Florida State University. Before becoming CEO, he held several key positions in the organization: Workers' Compensation Division manager, Sarasota Division manager, and vice president of Sales. He is the third CEO for Bouchard Insurance since its inception in 1948.

Bishop has been a member of the Pinellas Education Foundation's Board of Directors since 2013. He has served in leadership roles on the Board including treasurer and vice chair.

Bishop replaces Gary Regoli, president of Achieva Credit Union, who will remain on the Board of Directors.



Bishop

Learn about judicial candidates at SPC forum

CLEARWATER – The Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions at St. Petersburg College will help voters get to know candidates for seats on the 6th Judicial Circuit bench at a candidate forum on July 25.

The forum, co-sponsored by the Tampa Bay Times, will be from 6-8:15 p.m. at the Clearwater campus of SPC, 2465 Drew St., Clearwater. Advance registration is requested at www.solutions.spcollege.edu/events/judicial-candidates-forum-2.

Judicial races are among the least-noticed aspects of the primary election campaign, yet the outcomes of those races are among the most important. The obscurity occurs because the Judicial Canon imposes strict limits on the way candidates can raise campaign funds and what they can say on the campaign trail.

There are 11 candidates seeking one of the five contested seats on the 6th Circuit bench, which serves Pinellas and Pasco counties. Other incumbent judges whose terms expire this year are unopposed and thus automatically re-elected. Circuit Court judges serve six-year terms with no term limits. To qualify, candidates must be a member of the Florida Bar and have lived in Florida for at least five years.

By law, judicial races are non-partisan, to prevent politics from tainting the impartiality of the courts. So, candidates bear no party labels, and they are forbidden to make predictions or promises about issues that could arise once they are on the bench.

A panel led by retired Judge Irene Sullivan and St. Petersburg College Dean Susan Demers will question the candidates, within the limitations cited above.

The forum will be split into two parts: Groups 4 and 9 comprised of five candidates will be questioned from 6 to 7:10 p.m., and Groups 36, 40 and 45 comprised of six candidates from 7:15-8:10 p.m.

The public is encouraged to attend to learn more about the background and qualifications of those seeking to sit on the Circuit Court bench. Register at www.solutions.spcollege.edu/events/judicial-candidates-forum-2.

USF designated as 'preeminent' university

TAMPA – The University of South Florida can officially stand side by side with the University of Florida and Florida State University as the best universities in the state.

The Florida Board of Governors voted unanimously June 28 to formally designate USF as a "Preeminent State Research University," recognizing the institution's high performance and strong trajectory toward national excellence.

Preeminence represents the culmination of USF's many years of careful strategic planning, focused allocation of resources and determination of thousands of students, faculty and staff, according to a press release.

The designation comes with millions of dollars in additional funding, carries prestige that will benefit USF in many key areas, including new student and faculty recruitment, and will enhance the economic development of the Tampa Bay region.

The Florida Preeminence program, written into state law in 2013, rewards high-achieving universities based on 12 metrics, including graduation rates, student retention rates, research expenditures and the number of patents awarded. To earn preeminence, a university must meet or exceed at least 11 of the 12 benchmarks.

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TREASURE ISLAND

Group seeks home for history

Historical Society raising funds in bid to open museum, exhibit city's story

By MARK SCHANTZ
TBN Correspondent

TREASURE ISLAND – Each year countless visitors flock to Treasure Island to enjoy miles of beautiful beaches, trendy bars, popular restaurants, shops catering to tourists and variety of motels and hotels.

Few think of the hearty settlers, pirates, fishermen, explorers and land developers who braved stifling heat without air conditioning, hordes of mosquitoes and the potential for disease to carve a beach city from this barrier island of 840 acres in the early and mid-1900s.

Many visitors and residents do not realize the city got its name as a result of a clever marketing hoax concocted by a friend of its first hotelier. Many do not know the city might never have been incorporated if it were not for the need to acquire funding to build the Treasure Island Causeway Bridge or that its main popular beach area is actually owned by St. Petersburg.

The Treasure Island Historical Society is working to change all that, pay homage to its early settlers and let people explore its adventure-filled past.

Historical Society President Carol Coward said the society hopes to raise enough funds to open a storefront museum, where artifacts, hundreds of photos, and numerous newspaper clippings can be displayed.

She added they also want to recognize those who have had a significant role in helping the city grow and prosper.

The latest version of the Historical Society, formed in May 2005, currently has its memorabilia in storage, with some photos on display in various tourist shops around the city. The society has also produced DVDs containing interviews with residents whose families lived on the island for generations.

Coward said a few years ago the Historical Society was offered a cottage to set up an exhibition hall but didn't have the funds or location to relocate the building. So, they had to let the opportunity slip through their fingers.

The city has not asked the Historical Society if it is willing to be part of a proposed new City Hall municipal complex. She said she understands municipal facilities are cramped for space and the city is busy with other issues.

She noted if given a chance there is a lot of history to tell and display.

For example, few know that prior to becoming a city in 1955, the barrier island now known as Treasure Island was comprised of four separate incorporated towns; Sunset Beach, Boca Ciega, Treasure Island and Sunshine Beach.

Before developers were on the



Photos courtesy of the TREASURE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
An antique postcard, above, depicts the Treasure Island Causeway. The Treasure Island Historical Society is working to pay homage to its early settlers and let people explore its adventure-filled past by raising enough funds to open a museum to display artifacts, numerous newspaper clippings and hundreds of photos, such as the 1960s tourism promotional photo at right.



scene, early settlers of the barrier islands were fishermen and turtle hunters, who lived in shacks or on boats. The only way to get to the island was by boat.

According to historical society records one of the earliest settlers was a man named Tom Sawyer, a fisherman who homesteaded in the Sunset Beach-Boca Ciega area.

The first Treasure Island land owner was Thomas F. Pierce, who purchased Treasure Island from the state for \$1.25 per acre in 1908.

Later, real estate developer Walter Fuller purchased Treasure Island for \$800 and formed a development company.

In her book called "The Treasure Island Story," Bonnie L. Williams, former Historical Society president and longtime former city clerk, said the town got its name as a result of a hotel guest looking to attract investors to the area.

In 1915, Whitey Harrell built the city's first hotel called Coney Island, on the east side of Gulf Boulevard, then called Surf Avenue and 100 Street. It was three stories high and could accommodate 25 guests, with a beach bathhouse across the street.

In 1918, one of Harrell's guests, real estate developer Bill McAdoo, sought to purchase a large piece of property on what is now known as St. Pete Beach. To attract interest of investors, he and a few friends concocted a hoax and announced they dug up a treasure chest near

the Coney Island hotel; publicity about the treasure find spread and the area became known as "that Treasure Island."

Coward said, in addition, few people realize that the beach access area at 112th and Gulf Boulevard actually belongs to the city of St. Petersburg. It was as part of a land swap deal to build the Causeway Bridge, which was eventually constructed in 1939.

In 1937, the city of Treasure Island had to be formed to receive federal funding to build the bridge from St. Petersburg to Treasure Island. In summer of 1938, 20 residents approved a city bond issue referendum to pay for the 1.8-mile bridge which cost a little more than \$1 million.

It wasn't until several years later, on May 3, 1955, the towns of Sunset Beach, Sunshine Beach and Boca Ciega agreed to merge into the city of Treasure Island.

"They decided to form onto one city to provide all the services that could support the area's growth," Coward said.

According to Williams' book, the city grew during the 1940s. Gulf Boulevard was a two-lane brick road.

"Fishing was good and mosquitoes were bad," Williams noted. "Mosquitoes were so bad that door and window screens were painted with motor oil and kerosene."

In 1952, Williams' book recalls,

the city hired its first police chief, Eugene Marshall, to patrol a town with 34 residents, a bottle club, one motel and a few bars.

Until 1955, he was a police force of one, with no radio system or officers to back him up. If someone had an emergency they would call the chief's home and give a message to his wife. She would call a service station and clubs along the beach to turn on their lights, as signal for Marshall to go home and get a message from his wife. Williams wrote the system worked so well the maximum response time was 10 minutes.

By 1955, the police department had eight officers, two police cruisers and a radio dispatch system. The fire department was also established at that time with volunteers who paid \$1 a month. They returned the dollar to the city to pay for insurance.

Coward said the Historical Society has a few chairs from the old Penguin Restaurant, which was owned by the city's first female commissioner, Clara Girard, who was elected in 1964. The restaurant, which was a popular fine dining establishment, was destroyed during a storm.

Coward said someday the chairs will be part of an exhibit of memorabilia and photographs.

She said Treasure Island's history has been one that is more "of a residential than tourist town, with every beach city being unique."

Warm waters make for difficult fishing

Hot air temperatures for a couple of weeks now have warmed our inshore waters to a balmy 85 degrees, and mid-day temperatures on the shallow flats can be close to 90 degrees. These warm temperatures can make for some pretty tough fishing.

Targeting deep water flats and structure in and around the passes will definitely put you in position to catch more fish. Trout and mackerel can be found just inside the passes hanging on grass edges that have good concentrations of bait. Productive areas can often be located by the presence of diving pelicans and dipping terns, newly hatched sardine and threadfin fry is the cause for all the commotion. Most of this bait is too small to be cast-netted and used for bait. Your better option would be the use of small artificial lures, soft plastic or buck tail jigs in white or silver should do the trick.

The many spoils islands that dot the Intracoastal Waterway are excellent places to find redfish and trout year-round but are especially good when the water gets as warm as it is. Their close proximity to deep water provides good current flow with water that might be a degree or two colder.

Deep bridges with good current are good places to find snook, gag grouper, black drum and flounder. Targeting the first couple of hours of the tide change with a variety of baits can be very productive. The snook and grouper love big pinfish and grunts, be sure to drop them



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

down on some heavy tackle at least 50-pound test with an even heavier leader. For the flounder try fishing a small grunt or pilchard on a 1-ounce knocker rig.

Offshore the gag grouper bite has been slow overall especially in the shallower depths. Those able to get out deeper stand a better chance. Anglers fishing in 80 to 110 feet of water have been able to do reasonably well with both red and gag grouper.

The mangrove snapper bite remains good in just about any depth with the average size of fish increasing the deeper you go. A chumming combination of fresh cut scaled sardines and frozen chum blocks will entice the fish to come up off the bottom where the larger fish can be targeted. Make sure to bring a couple of chum blocks; they tend to burn up quickly with the warm water temperatures.

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.

Outdoor News

FWC to support lionfish exhibits

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has announced the opening of a Lionfish Educational Exhibit Program that offers public facilities the opportunity to apply for financial assistance in creating educational exhibit displays about the lionfish invasion. The goal of the program is to increase awareness and ensure consistent, accurate messaging.

Facilities with existing lionfish educational exhibits or an interest in creating one are encouraged to apply. Approved applicants may be eligible for up to \$2,499 in assistance for the creation of educational displays about lionfish.

To learn more and apply for the program, visit MyFWC.com/Lionfish. Applications will be accepted until March 29.

Decals support manatees, sea turtles

Florida's waters and beaches are not only popular with people, but are also key habitats for manatees and sea turtles. More of these iconic species live here than in any other state. The manatee and sea turtle decals, created by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, are a fun way for people to support the research, rescue and management efforts that conserve these species.

Every July, the commission introduces new manatee and sea turtle decals that are available with a \$5 donation. The waterproof decals are designed to look good on a vehicle's bumper or the side of a boat. Get them when registering or re-registering a vehicle or boat at local tax collector's offices across the state.

Over 6,000 manatees swim in the state's coastal waters, rivers and freshwater springs, and about 20,000 sea turtles nest each year on Florida's Atlantic and Gulf coast beaches. The decals help fund manatee and sea turtle conservation efforts. For example, when someone calls the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) to report an injured, entangled or sick manatee or sea turtle, FWC staff works with partners to respond and rescue the animal.

To learn more about how to help conserve manatees and sea turtles, visit MyFWC.com/Manatee and MyFWC.com/SeaTurtle.

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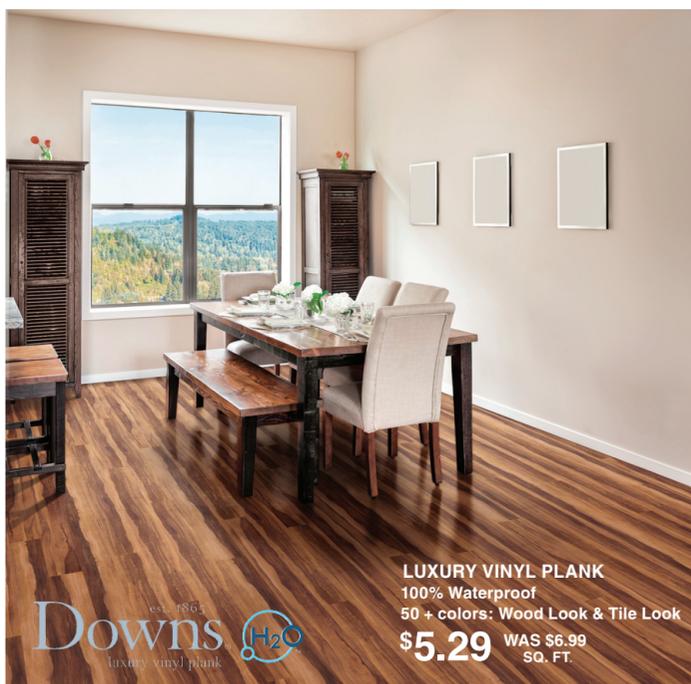
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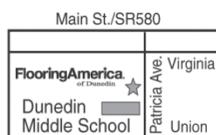
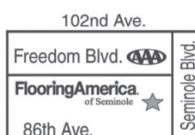
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Top five diversions

• **"Spring Awakening,"** July 13-22, presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, at Central Park Performing Arts Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$28.50 for adults, \$13.50 for students age 22 and younger. Call 727-587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. The winner of Eight Tony Awards including Best Musical as well as a Grammy Award, "Spring Awakening" explores the journey from adolescence to adulthood with a poignancy and passion that is illuminating and unforgettable. The landmark musical is an electrifying fusion of morality, sexuality and rock and roll that is exhilarating audiences across the nation like no other musical in years. Set against the backdrop of late-19th century Germany when adults held all the cards, "Spring Awakening" deals with the complexities of adolescence without understanding what it means ... and the consequences. This show contains strong adult language, sexual content and situations, and references to suicide and death.

• **"Bad Jews,"** by Joshua Harmon; presented by American Stage Theatre, running July 11 through Aug. 5, at Raymond James Theatre, 163 Third St. N., St. Petersburg. Ticket prices vary by performance. For information and tickets, call 727-823-7529 or visit Americanstage.org. The night after their grandfather's funeral, three cousins engage in a verbal battle. In one corner is Daphna, a "Real Jew" who is volatile, self-assured and unbending. In the other corner, her equally stubborn cousin Liam, a secular and entitled young man, with his "shiksa" girlfriend, Melody, in tow. Stuck in the middle is Liam's brother, Jonah, who tries to stay out of the fray as a vicious and hilarious brawl over family, faith, and legacy ensues in this biting comedy. This production contains adult language.



Photo by JOEY CLAY STUDIO

Starring in "Bad Jews" are, from left, Kate Berg, Jackson Goldberg, Matt Acquard and Jenny Lester.

• **"Chicago,"** Friday, July 13, at 7 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Presented as part of a series celebrating Broadway musical movies, general admission tickets to the film screening are \$5. Call 727-791-7400 or visit www.attheatrecap.com. Murderesses Velma Kelly - a chanteuse and tease who killed her husband and sister after finding them in bed together - and Roxie Hart - who killed her boyfriend when she discovered he wasn't going to make her a star - find themselves on death row together and fight for the fame that will keep them from the gallows in 1920s Chicago.

• **The Greatest Love of All: The Whitney Houston Show;** Saturday, July 14, 8 p.m., at The Mahaffey, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$32.50. Call 727-893-7832 or visit www.themahaffey.com. Audiences will be stunned by the breathtaking vocals of Belinda Davids, a RiSA chart-topping artist in her home country of South Africa. The two-hour production offers a journey through Houston's greatest hits including "I Will Always Love You," "I Wanna Dance With Somebody," "How Will I Know," "One Moment in Time," "I Have Nothing," "Run to You," "Didn't We Almost Have It All," "Greatest Love of All," "I'm Every Woman," "Queen of the Night," "Exhale (Shoop Shoop)" and "Million Dollar Bill."

• **Sam Smith,** Friday, July 13, 8 p.m., at Amalie Arena, 401 Channelside Drive, Tampa. Tickets start at \$26.75. Call 800-745-3000 or visit ticketmaster.com for tickets. For venue information, visit www.amaliearena.com. "The Thrill of It All," Smith's sophomore album, was released in November 2017 via Capitol Records. "Too Good at Goodbyes," the first single from the album, was released in September 2017. It topped the UK Singles Chart and reached the top five on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100. Smith followed the first single with "One Last Song" and "Pray."



Photo courtesy of SONY PICTURES ANIMATION

From left, Dracula (Adam Sandler), Griffin the Invisible Man (David Spade), Murray (Keegan-Michael Key), Eunice (Fran Drescher) and Frank (Kevin James) take a luxury cruise in Sony Pictures Animation's "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation."

Opening this weekend

'Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation' reunites Drac's Pack; Johnson, Campbell star in 'Skyscraper'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE
Tampa Bay Newspapers

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

'Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation'

Genre: Animation and family
Cast: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez, Kevin James, Fran Drescher, Steve Buscemi, Molly Shannon, David Spade, Keegan-Michael Key and Mel Brooks
Director: Genndy Tartakovsky
Rated: PG

In Sony Pictures Animation's "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation," audiences will join their favorite monster family as they embark on a vacation on a luxury monster cruise ship so Drac can take a summer vacation from providing everyone else's vacation at the hotel.

It's smooth sailing for Drac's Pack as the monsters indulge in all of the shipboard fun the cruise has to offer, from monster volleyball to exotic excursions, and catching up on their moon tans. But the dream vacation turns into a nightmare when Mavis realizes Drac has fallen for the mysterious captain of the ship, Ericka, who hides a dangerous secret that could destroy all of monsterkind.

'Skyscraper'

Genre: Thriller, action and adventure
Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Neve Campbell, Chin Han, Noah Taylor, Roland Moller, Byron Mann, Pablo Schreiber and Hannah Quinlivan
Director: Rawson Marshall Thurber
Rated: PG-13

Global superstar Dwayne Johnson leads the cast of Legendary's Skyscraper as former FBI Hostage Rescue Team leader and U.S. war veteran Will Sawyer, who now assesses security for skyscrapers.

On assignment in China he finds the tallest, safest building in the world, The Pearl, suddenly ablaze - and he's been framed for it. A wanted man on the run, Will must find those responsible, clear his name and somehow rescue his family who is trapped inside the building ... above the fire line.



Photo by KIMBERLEY FRENCH/UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Neve Campbell stars as Dr. Sarah Sawyer and Dwayne Johnson as Will Sawyer in Legendary's "Skyscraper."

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

'5th Passenger'

Genre: Thriller and science fiction
Cast: Doug Jones, Tim Russ, Marina Sirtis, Armin Shimerman and Morgan Lariah
Director: Scott Baker
Not rated

The year: 2151. After the Yellowstone Volcano erupts throwing the Earth into chaos and class struggle, a pregnant officer, Miller, and her crew

See OPENING, page 2B

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Amalie to welcome Smashing Pumpkins

TAMPA – The Smashing Pumpkins – featuring original members Billy Corgan, Jimmy Chamberlin and James Iha – are touring for the first time since 2000. The Shiny and Oh So Bright Tour will include a performance Wednesday, July 25, 7 p.m., at Amalie Arena, 401 Channelside Drive, Tampa.

Tickets start at \$29. Call 800-745-3000 or visit livenation.com for tickets. For venue information, visit www.amaliearena.com.

The Grammy Award-winning, acclaimed alternative rock pioneers hit the road July 12 for a 36-city tour produced by Live Nation.

“Some 30 years ago, as The Smashing Pumpkins, James Iha and I began a musical journey in the cramped rear bedroom of my father’s house,” Corgan said in a press release promoting the tour. “And so it’s magic to me that we’re able to coalesce once more around the incredible Jimmy Chamberlin, to celebrate those songs we’ve made together.”

The monumental tour, which coincides with the 30th anniversary of the band’s formation, will highlight music from the group’s



The Smashing Pumpkins play Amalie Arena July 25.

Photo by OLIVIA BEE/BB GUN PRESS

inception through 2000, and will exclusively feature material from their groundbreaking debut “Gish” through “Siamese Dream,” “Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness,” “Adore,” and “Machina.” Longtime Smashing Pumpkins guitarist Jeff Schroeder will also take part, as the band moves to a three-guitar lineup to better emulate the signature

tones and textures of their albums.

“This show and staging will be unlike any we’ve ever done and will feature a set unlike any we’ve ever played,” said Corgan. “For if this is a chance at a new beginning, we plan on ushering it in with a real bang.”

Formed in Chicago, Illinois, in 1988, The Smashing Pumpkins

released their heralded debut album “Gish” in 1991 and found mainstream success with 1993’s multi-platinum “Siamese Dream” and 1995’s multi-platinum “Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness.” With nine studio albums and over 30 million albums sold to date, the band remains an influential force in alternative rock.

A&E news

Gulfport Art and Gallery Walk set

GULFPORT – The next Gulfport Art and Gallery Walk will take place Saturday, July 21, 6 to 10 p.m., on Beach Boulevard in downtown Gulfport.

Attendees will have an opportunity to shop for local art along Beach Boulevard, visit a gallery and catch a live band one of the independently owned restaurants. Entertainment will include performances.

The Gulfport Art and Gallery Walk event, produced by the nonprofit Gulfport Merchants Association, is presented first Fridays and third Saturdays, rain or shine, all year-round. The event is home to dozens of artisans and craftsmen each month.

There is never an admission fee for visitors and complimentary parking is available nearby with courtesy trolley rides available to and from off-site parking areas. Gulfport events are always pet- and family-friendly.

For information, visit www.visitgulfportflorida.com or call 727-322-5217.

Audition for ‘Squabbles’ production set

TARPON SPRINGS – Tarpon Arts will host auditions for “Squabbles” Sunday and Monday, July 29-30, 7 p.m., at the Tarpon Springs Cultural Center, 101 S. Pinellas Ave., Tarpon Springs.

Those auditioning should arrive early to fill out an audition form. “Squabbles,” a mad house comedy by Marshall Karp, will run Oct. 12-21. Cast requirements include Jerry Sloan, 38; Abe Dreyfus, 72; Hector Lopez, any age; Alice Sloan, 35; Mildred Sloan, 66; Sol Wasserman, 70; and Mrs. Fisher, 55.

Abe lives with Jerry and Alice, but of course, it’s not easy, all living together in the same apartment. But that’s the easy part, because Alice’s mother calls and tells them her house has burned down and she has no place to live. Mildred moves in, then the yelling, screaming, and uncontrolled madness begins. It’s wild and fun, but, surprise, everything does work out for the best for everyone. Ages are as described in the script, but could be adjusted based on the available auditionees.

For information, email director Rick Kastel at rickkastel@gmail.com or call 727-804-8804.

Stirling Art Studios presents exhibits

DUNEDIN – The photographs of Kelly Marley and Paul Clifford are currently on display at Stirling Art Studios & Gallery, 730 Broadway, Dunedin.

An opening reception will take place Friday, July 13, 5:30 to 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The exhibit will continue through July 31.

“The Iconic and The Unique,” Marley’s work, represents a photographic journey around the world.

“From the Real to the Surreal,” Clifford’s work, represents a unique photographic perspective.

Studio hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, call 727-466-8791 or visit Stirlingartstudios.com.

OPENING, from page 1B

struggle to survive in an escape pod with limited resources as they try to reach a new home planet.

Running low on air, the team must work together when a vicious alien boards their ship and hunts them down, determined to become the dominant species. But the key to survival may be the secret that is buried deep within Miller’s own mind.

‘Don’t Worry, He Won’t Get Far on Foot’

Genre: Drama and biography
Cast: Joaquin Phoenix, Rooney Mara, Jonah Hill, Jack Black, Carrie Brownstein, Beth Ditto and Kim Gordon
Director: Gus Van Sant
Rated: R

After nearly dying in a car accident, the last thing Oregon slacker John Callahan intends to do is give up alcohol.

Encouraged by his girlfriend and a charismatic sponsor, Callahan reluctantly enters a treatment program and discovers that he has a knack for drawing. The budding artist soon finds himself with a new lease on life when his edgy and irreverent newspaper cartoons gain a national and devoted following.

‘Eighth Grade’

Genre: Comedy
Cast: Josh Hamilton, Emily Robinson, Elsie Fisher and Missy Yager
Director: Bo Burnham
Rated: R

Kayla, a 13-year-old, endures the tidal wave of contemporary suburban adolescence as she makes her way through the last week of middle school – the end of her thus far disastrous eighth grade year – before she begins high school.

‘Puzzle’

Genre: Drama
Cast: Kelly Macdonald, Austin Abrams, Mandela Bellamy and Myrna Cabello
Director: Marc Turtletaub
Rated: R

“Puzzle” is a closely observed portrait of Agnes, who has reached her early 40s without ever venturing far from home, family or the tight-knit immigrant community in which she was raised by her widowed father.

That begins to change in a quietly dramatic fashion when Agnes receives a jigsaw puzzle as a birthday gift and experiences the heady thrill

of not only doing something she enjoys, but being very, very good at it.

After years of concerning herself exclusively with the needs and wants of her husband Louie and sons Ziggy and Gabe, Agnes has found something that she wants to do. Stepping out of her domestic bubble to pursue her new hobby, Agnes meets Robert, a wealthy, reclusive inventor who immediately recognizes her talent and recruits her as his partner for an upcoming world jigsaw tournament. Each day she spends out in the world, puzzling and conversing with Robert, takes Agnes further along on the road to a new understanding of herself and her strengths.

With that understanding come new insights and an assertiveness that finds her speaking out on her own behalf and pushing back against the assumptions and routines that have until now defined her role in her family. Ultimately, Agnes will decide for herself what comes next.

‘7 Splinters in Time’

Genre: Thriller and science fiction
Cast: Edoardo Ballerini, Al Sapienza, Lynn Cohen, Laurence Fox, Greg Berrick and Emmanuelle Chriqui
Director: Gabriel Judet-Weinshel
Not rated

A detective investigates a murder, only to find that the victim is ... himself.

Soon, he discovers multiple versions of himself, not all of them friendly.

‘Shock and Awe’

Genre: Drama
Cast: Woody Harrelson, James Marsden, Rob Reiner, Milla Jovovich, Jessica Biel, Tommy Lee Jones and Richard Schiff
Director: Rob Reiner
Rated: R

In 2003, the White House administration made a case for the invasion of Iraq.

The facts didn’t add up, and only one team of journalists got the story right. “Shock and Awe” is the true story of these journalists, and what it is like to hunt for the truth when the stakes are life, death, and American democracy.

For more movie news, visit www.TBNweekly.com. Lee Clark Zumpe is TBN entertainment editor. He can be reached at 727-397-5563, ext. 341, or by email at lzumpe@TBNweekly.com.

Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14				15			
16				17					18			
19				20				21				
		22					23			24		
25	26	27		28			29			30		
31			32		33		34				35	
36				37		38			39		40	
	41				42			43		44		
		45					46		47		48	
49	50		51			52			53			
54		55			56					57	58	59
60					61					62		
63					64				65			
66					67				68			

- Across**
- Begetter
 - Arrived extinct
 - Lacking the power to hear
 - Epic
 - Aboriginal Japanese
 - Jar used for cooking
 - British nobleman
 - Smart
 - Israeli stateswoman
 - Outer space matter that reaches the ground
 - Instrument
 - Infections
 - Holiday (informal)
 - Spanish be
 - Not even
 - Chewie’s friend Solo
 - Garments
 - Geological times
 - Music City
 - Cubes
 - Important Chinese principle
 - Closes tightly
 - Forms a boundary
 - Knife
 - Plants of the lily family
 - A turn around the track
 - Midway between northeast and east
 - Type of degree
 - Midway between north and northwest
 - Profession
 - Musical note patterns
 - Deeply cuts
 - Muharraq Island town
 - Emaciation
 - Weaver bird
 - One point east of northeast
 - Scherzer and Kershaw are two
 - Rice dish
 - Nasdaq code
 - Danish krone
 - Enzyme

- Down**
- Carpe —
 - Wings
 - Loose soil
 - Earnhardt and Jarrett are two
 - 3 feet
 - Fasts
 - Erstwhile
 - Diving seabird
 - Houses
 - Ancient Greek City
 - Type of skirt
 - Greek village
 - Estranges
 - Scottish island
 - Express delight
 - Cosmopolitan city
 - Letter of Hebrew alphabet
 - Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
 - Flow
 - Shoal-forming fishes
 - Footwear parts
 - Schedule of events
 - Songs to one’s sweetheart
 - Test for high schoolers
 - Enthusiasm
 - Streets have them
 - One point east of due south
 - Cut the grass
 - Rattling breaths
 - For each
 - Marketing term
 - One who challenges
 - Sword
 - Polio vaccine developer
 - Film version of “Waterloo Bridge”
 - Want
 - Rhythmic pattern in Indian music
 - Young hawk
 - Harmless
 - Small amount
 - Palladium

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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

Crossword answers from last week

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

Horoscopes

July 12, 2018

Aries

March 21 – April 19

Aries, your head is in the stars and your feet are on the ground, but this outlook is working for you. Just do not live in fantasy land too long.

Taurus

April 20 – May 20

Taurus, just when you thought a relationship had gone as far as it could go, things start to change this week. Plenty of excitement is coming your way.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21

You might get word of something exciting or new coming your way, Gemini. A chance to socialize with others or even a job opportunity may be on the horizon. Keep an eye out.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22

This is a week for having fun and letting loose, Cancer. These may be things you haven’t done in some time and you can certainly use a break from the norm.

Leo

July 23 – August 22

You may be reticent to go back to work, especially if you are coming off of an extended vacation, Leo. But putting off the inevitable will only make the transition tougher.

Virgo

August 23 – September 22

Virgo, there may be some buzz surrounding your social life this week if you are game for taking chances. It may be time to pursue a burgeoning friendship.

Libra

September 23 – October 22

Are you ready for a well-calculated risk, Libra? If so, then a startup venture, sizable investment or converting a hobby into a career could be the way to go.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 21

You can’t lie to yourself, Scorpio, so own up to anything that needs improving. Take some time for some serious self-reflection and devise a plan to fix things.

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21

Love and support are all around you this week, Sagittarius. This support couldn’t come soon enough. Some extra support will help you overcome an obstacle.

Capricorn

December 22 – January 20

Capricorn, there is strength in numbers. If you can rally together a team, you can accomplish much of your to-do list for the week in half of the time.

Aquarius

January 21 – February 18

Thoughts about how you can work less but earn more may have been swirling through your mind, Aquarius. Write down your plan and determine how to make it happen.

Pisces

February 19 – March 20

Truth may be stranger than fiction this week, Pisces. Before you believe that something is false, gather all the facts.

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'Spring Awakening'

Eight O'Clock Theatre to bring 'something spectacular' to the stage with summer musical production

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE
Tampa Bay Newspapers

LARGO - It's been 10 weeks since Eight O'Clock Theatre announced it would be auditioning for its summer production of "Spring Awakening."

During that time, Jason Tucker, the show's director and choreographer; and Justin Havard, music director, have planned, practiced and prepared with the cast and crew, working tirelessly to bring this rock musical to the stage. "Spring Awakening" will run July 13-22 at Central Park Performing Arts Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo.

Performances will be Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$28.50 for adults, \$13.50 for students age 22 and younger. Call 727-587-6793 or visit largoarts.com.

According to Sarah Dawson Roehm, public relations director at the theater, the audition turnout surprised everyone.

"We believe that this show is a huge step for our local community, as evidenced by the 87 people that showed up to auditions," she said. "This show is obviously something that the young people in our area are quite passionate about."

The winner of eight Tony Awards - including Best Musical - as well as a Grammy Award, "Spring Awakening" explores the journey from adolescence to adulthood with a poignancy and passion that is illuminating and unforgettable. The show features music by Duncan Sheik and a book and lyrics by Steven Sater. It is based on the 1891 German play "Spring Awakening" by Frank Wedekind.

The landmark musical is a fusion of morality, sexuality and rock and roll. Set against the backdrop of late-19th century Germany when adults held all the cards, the play's characters navigate teenage self-discovery and coming of age anxiety in a powerful celebration of youth and rebellion. This show contains strong adult language, sexual content and situations, and references to suicide and death.

Because of the content, Roehm believes it is important that Eight O'Clock Theatre expand its reach.

"A lot of our regular audience may be wary of it because of the topics and content, so we really want to open up to a whole new demographic," she said.

The audition notice indicated that Eight O'Clock Theatre was thinking outside the box with this summer production. Tucker and Havard advertised that they were "looking for a diverse group of smart, energetic, and adventurous young people to fill these roles."

Havard has a special appreciation for "Spring Awakening."

"I saw it on Broadway with the original cast in 2007, and I remember it affecting me deeply," the music director said. "I didn't know the show going in, and I was stunned by how vividly it brought back memories of my own adolescence: the confusion, the

frustration, the shame, and the excitement."

Havard explained how audiences relate to the characters in the show.

"I think it can be such a lonely time for anyone, because you just don't realize how universal all these feelings are," he said. "The fear that you're a freak, or that you're not supposed to feel these things, and just not knowing what the heck is going on with your body. When you add repression into the mix, it just makes it so much worse, which is shown really clearly in the play."

According to Havard, "Spring Awakening" is an important show for any theater at any time because of its message.

"We as adults often dismiss teenagers as overly emotional and 'angsty,' but we forget how difficult that transition can be for them," he explained. "They are neither children nor adults, and they are desperately looking for someone to show them the way, and to be taken seriously. The play shows how harmful it can be when these pleas go unanswered, or worse, when they are dismissed as something shameful."

For Havard, one of the highlights of bringing this show to the stage has been working with Duncan Sheik's folk-rock score.

"The first time the girls sang the group version of 'Mama Who Bore Me,' we all just burst into cheers afterwards," Havard said. "It's such a cool song with lots of interesting harmony, but the first time made us realize what a special cast this is."

Another highlight of this production: seeing it actualized.

"Watching Jason Tucker create the staging for the show has been inspiring," he said. "I've seen many different productions of this musical, so I didn't necessarily expect to see a lot of new things during the process, and I couldn't have been more wrong. Jason is such a creative storyteller, and his staging is so fresh and thought-provoking."

Christina Capehart serves as assistant director of "Spring Awakening."

Like Havard, Capehart saw the original cast of "Spring Awakening" in New York.

"I immediately fell deeply in love with the story that was being told in such a visually interesting and new style," she said. "It was such an eye-opening experience about what theater could be."

Capehart said she had never seen anything like it.

"Since then, I have always wanted to be a part of a production that creates an energizing impact on the audience the way seeing 'Spring Awakening' did for me."

Capehart has appeared in many productions at Eight O'Clock Theatre, but this show marks her first experience on the creative side of a production.

"Getting the opportunity to work alongside Jason Tucker has been tremendously educational," she said. "I could not have asked for a more tenured or skillful mentor.



Photos courtesy of EIGHT O'CLOCK THEATRE
The cast and crew of Eight O'Clock Theatre's summer production "Spring Awakening" have been rehearsing for the show's opening night, set for July 13. The show runs through July 22 at Central Park Performing Arts Center.

Being able to watch the relationships in the cast has been one of the most enjoyable experiences."

According to Capehart, Eight O'Clock has one of the very best facilities around as well as an extremely capable staff. As such, EOT is especially qualified to present productions such as "Spring Awakening" in a way that preserves the original integrity of the show.

"Spring Awakening" will expose our audiences to the possibility of theater and allow them to have an authentic experience in a way they might not have before," Capehart explained. "It is absolutely a daring move that I believe our audiences will find rewarding."

The production's subject matter has brought cast and crew closer together.

"The production deals with some very heavy topics and our cast has become so supportive and intrinsic understanding of one another," Capehart said. "It creates magic on stage - it's beautiful. Truly this production feels like kismet on all

sides. It is really something spectacular."

The director of the production applauds Eight O'Clock Theatre for taking on a show like "Spring Awakening."

"EOT has always done a good job of mixing the modern with the classic and the profound with the silly, so it's not surprising," Tucker explained. "But this is a particular moment in our culture when 'Spring Awakening's' story of repression, forced ignorance, and the struggle to connect make it incredibly relevant."

Tucker said he believes that audiences who see the show at Central Park Performing Arts Center in Largo will love these characters and be thrilled with the actors portraying them.

For Tucker, the most exciting thing about creating this production was working with what he describes as a "truly special group of 15 young, local performers." Cast members range in age from 16 to

20, with one 29-year-old thrown in for good measure.

"To a person, they are smart, thoughtful, engaged, and powerful," Tucker said. "I looked forward to every rehearsal because I knew I was about to create with these talented actors. I hope someday I'm lucky enough to get a cast like this again - but I doubt it..."

"Spring Awakening" opens Friday, July 13, 8 p.m., at Central Park Performing Arts Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. The show runs through July 22, giving audiences a limited number of opportunities to experience Eight O'Clock Theatre's production. For information, call 727-587-6793 or visit largoarts.com.

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 Brookdale Pinecrest is seeking CNA's and HHA's to work in Personalized Living within our upscale retirement community. The position requires candidates to assist residents with daily living activities based on their individualized plan of care. Job duties could include; escorting residents to doctor appointments, provide medicine reminders, dog walking, etc. Must be able to communicate effectively with residents, visitors and members of health care team; possess excellent customer service skills and have a desire to care for our residents. Multiple positions available; PT various hours; including weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CNA license or 75 hour HHA certification. HHA's must have Certified CPR Training. Position requires Level I and Level II background checks; EOE; drug-free workplace. Please apply in person to 1150 8th Ave SW, Largo, FL 33770.

BROOKDALE PINECREST SENIOR LIVING SOLUTIONS SERVERS
 Brookdale Pinecrest is looking for "mature" candidates to work in our upscale Independent Living, Assisted Living and Memory Care dining rooms. Candidates must be able to provide quick, efficient and pleasant delivery of food to our residents and guests, while ensuring all quality standards of food service are being met. Multiple positions available; PT various hours; including weekends and holidays. Position requires Level I and Level II background checks; EOE; drug-free workplace. Please apply in person to 1150 8th Avenue SW, Largo FL 33770.

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 Apply in person at SunHost Resorts/Beach Place Condos 12901 Gulf Lane, Madeira Beach

BUS DRIVER (Variable Hours)
 Operates passenger bus & trolley
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RESIDENT AIDES (RAs) \$250 SIGN-ON BONUS
 Brookdale's Lake Seminole Square is seeking Resident Aides to work in our Assisted Living department within our upscale retirement community. **ALL SHIFTS AVAILABLE**, must be able to communicate effectively, possess excellent customer service skills and have a desire to care for our residents. Position requires Level II Background Check, DFWP.
Please Apply in Person
 8333 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772

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LPNs \$500 SIGN-ON BONUS
 Brookdale's Lake Seminole Square is seeking LPNs to work in our Assisted Living department within our upscale retirement community. Must be able to communicate effectively, possess excellent customer service skills and have a desire to care for our residents. **Full-time 11PM-7AM shift and PRN position for all shifts available.** Position requires Level II Background Check, Drug Free Workplace.
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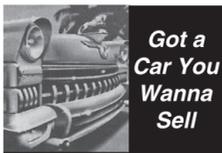
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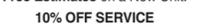
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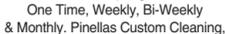
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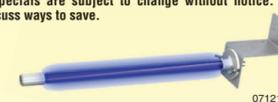


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