IAC Offers Make Your Own Ornament Day

By Leigh Clifton

On Sunday afternoon, the Industrial Arts Center, (IAC), in the courtyard on Beach Blvd. in Gulfport offered a unique and special way to commemorate this Christmas; make your own Christmas ornament. Sponsored by the IAC, director Jackie Ballard, a master glass blower, showed over 60 participants how to make a hand-blown glass ornament for the tree.

The IAC building houses other arts mediums, including metal-smithing, glass fusion, found metal sculpture and lamp-work, but according to Jackie, the building, which opened four months ago,

Carley Bedillion, 7, blows through the hot glass rod to make her own Christmas ornament at the Industrial Arts Center in Gulfport on Saturday. Uncle Brian Bedillion helps hold the rod while Jackie Ballard shapes the ball of molten glass.

See Ornaments, page 13

22nd Street Youth Market

By Leigh Clifton

A gathering of brilliant young entrepreneurs, artists and musicians joined forces on Saturday afternoon to show off their wares at the 22nd Youth Market, organized by the 22nd Street Redevelopment Corp. According to manager Steve Graves, the Youth Market was implemented to give school-aged students a chance to make money for themselves for the holidays and to give organizations a chance to offer their fund raisers to the community.

Perkins Elementary 5th Graders, St. Petersburg High School’s Young Entrepreneur class, the Youth Art Corp, Boys and Girls Clubs, Great Explorations Children’s Museum, local artist Alex Blosser and artistic face painters Tyrell and Kiana Jordon all set up under tents in the Sweetbay Parking lot at Tangerine Plaza. The Perkins Elementary 5th graders sold Village Inn Pie coupons for Christmas gifts to raise money for their school, but in a bit of marketing genius, offered pieces of the fresh apple and cherry pies to tempt the public.

The St. Pete High’s Young Entrepreneurs were marketing “Devil Bags”; selling for $10.00 and filled with candy, using a real marketing plan and investing the monies raised in a stock.

See Art, page 43

Snow Holiday

By Cathy Salustri

Elijah Burgess, 4, spent his Friday evening frolicking in the snow at Gulfport’s snow holiday along Beach Boulevard. Burgess, who lives in Gulfport, got to throw his snowball at a reporter Friday evening, setting the stage for a career in politics or as a movie star later in life.

“We came out last year and it was a lot of fun, and we just love the snow,” his grandfather said as he watched Elijah perfect his snowball-making techniques.

See More Photos, page 34
Thank You, CERT Team!

The City of Gulfport would like to send a special “Thank You” to the CERT Team (Florida Community Emergency Response Team) for making the Holiday Celebration on Friday, December 5th a pleasurable and safe event this season. Many Gulfport families enjoyed the snow along with the assistance and dependability of the City of Gulfport CERT Team. CERT members lent a hand to children by guiding them onto home made sleds to which whisked them down the snow packed hill on Beach Blvd. Other CERT members kept busy by keeping a watchful eye as children and adults had experienced snow for the first time.

CERT volunteers who assisted in the Holiday Celebration event: Marge Grudzinski, Cathy Vaseliades, Blaise Harwitt, Linda Harwitt, Larry Shepherd, Janet Shepherd, Christine Brown and Lou Worthington. Also a thank you to Michael Worthington and Brian Vanslyke who kept the kids sliding! Florida CERT is trained in statewide education in disaster planning and preparedness. If you are interested in getting involved in the CERT Team, please call City of Gulfport Fire Lieutenant, Pete Huffman at 893-1059.

Holiday Events on You Tube Website

Visit the City of Gulfport You Tube website: http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport. If you have cable or DSL internet, you can also access streaming video from cable channel 615 from the City’s website at http://www.ci.gulfport.fl.us.

Check out the videos with recent events like the City of Gulfport Holiday Tree Lighting and the City of Gulfport Holiday Celebration. If you have family or friends who are out of town, state or the country, it’s a great way to keep in touch with Gulfport! Spread the word!

... City of Gulfport Holiday Decorations Contest!

Gulfport residents, are you ready to get in the holiday spirit and brighten up our City for the holiday season? Then it’s time to enter the City of Gulfport’s Holiday Decorations Contest. Stop by the Gulfport Recreation Center or City Hall to pick up an application to enter your home or business. “Santa and his Elves” will be judging on Friday evening, December 19. No one knows what time the big red sleigh will travel through the City of Gulfport, but please be ready by 6 p.m. Deadline to enter the contest is Noon, Friday, December 19. There are two theme categories: general and commercial. The general theme is for single/joint home only and the commercial theme is for single/joint business and professional locations, including home occupations. A plaque will be awarded to one winner of each theme category and be presented to them at the Gulfport’s City Council meeting (televised) Tuesday, January 6 at 7 p.m. It’s time to show off your fantastic holiday creation! Call 893-1068 for further information.

...
For the 33rd Year
Santa Claus
Will be at
Gulfport's Oldest Business!

Free Candy Canes

One Day Only, Friday, December 12th
2:00 to 5:00 PM at 5201 Gulfport Boulevard
Free Photo with Santa
For Every Child Accompanied by an Adult!

As we enter our 72nd Year of Service
To the Gulfport Community, everyone here at
Caldwell Realty is grateful for being #1
in real estate sales,
Year after year!
Please give us a call.
We're here to help!

Thank You!
321-1212

Merry Christmas
Gulfport!

Caldwell Realty has been my favorite real estate company for over 70 years!

Over 6,000 Gulfport Area Children have been given their free photograph with Santa by Caldwell Realty!
Free Movie - Theater on the Bay

The City of Gulfport’s next “Theater on the Bay” is the cartoon movie “Toy Story 2” Friday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Recreation Field (the corner of Shore Blvd. S. and 58th St. South). In this movie, Woody is stolen by a toy collector and Buzz and his friends promise to rescue him, but Woody just may want to stay at his new museum home.

Bundle up and bring your chairs, blankets, family and friends to join in the holiday spirit by the bay under the stars! The Teen Council will provide Concessions for purchase: Popcorn, Soda and Water. And best of all, the movie is free!

Help Family Resource Coalition/CMS

Dominics Pizza Italian Restaurant located at 2930 Beach Boulevard in Gulfport is hosting a fundraiser to benefit the Family Resource Coalition/CMS (Children’s Medical Services). Bring the kids to see Santa Claus on Friday and Saturday, December 12 and 13 and December 19 and 20 from 6-9 p.m. On Saturday, December 20, kids will receive a free ice cream cone. All proceeds go to the Family Resource Coalition/CMS.

Toys for Tots Collection Drive

Mikey The Realtor LC and Riki Ballersheff are working with Toys for Tots for the upcoming 2008 holiday season. Arrangements have been made for collection sites in Gulfport and The Grand Central District in St. Petersburg. Toys will be distributed by the Marine Toys for Tots to needy children in the area for the holiday area.

Locations are: Brenda Whitman State Farm Insurance, 5308 Gulfport Blvd., 345-1668, M-F 9-5 p.m. and Riccastro Hair, 2244 1st Ave. N., 479-4228. Drop off by appointment only!

Join Mikey the Realtor and Riki for a wine tasting on December 19 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Riccastro Hair Salon. Bring a toy for the children.
Senior Center Offers Gift Wrapping

The Gulfport Senior Center, 5501 27 Avenue S. is offering holiday gift wrapping from 10:30 a.m. to noon now through Christmas Eve. Donation of $1 each per package. All proceeds to benefit the Senior Center lunch program.

Storage House Partners with Toys for Tots

The Storage House in partnership with the Florida Self Storage Association, a statewide organization for the self-storage industry, is working with Toys for Tots for the upcoming holiday season. The Storage House is a collection site for dropping off new toys to be distributed by the Marine Toys for Tots to needy children in the area for the holiday season. Toys can be donated during business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday at 1219 49 Street S. in Gulfport. Items must be new, unwrapped and in their original packaging. Toy guns and weapons cannot be accepted.

The Storage House offers climate-controlled self-storage with 24/7 access at competitive prices and can be reached by calling Dick Timothy at 327-9598.

For information on how to contribute email theme at thestoragehouse@verizon.net or go to www.floridassa.org or www.toysfortots.org.

The Gulfport Labyrinth is Here

We are all on a path, exactly where we need to be. The Gulfport Labyrinth is a model of that path. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has only one path. The way in is the way out. A labyrinth is a right brain task. It involves intuition, creativity and imagery. Among lush gardens and artistic surroundings, you will delight in your experience. The labyrinth is approximately 1032 steps to the center and back out again and can be walked at any speed. Teachers - book now for field trips!

Located at 5001 20 Avenue S. Open seven days a week. Admission is free (donations appreciated). Hours are noon till sundown. Come over before or after the Art Walk in downtown Gulfport every first Friday and third Saturday. Hours on those days are noon till 10 p.m. A sitting and walking meditation workshop is held on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 12, and a yoga class in held on Sundays from 5-6 p.m. Also Full moon Ceremony on December 12, 8 p.m. till 11 p.m. Call 322-2899 for more details or visit www.gulfportlabyrinth.com.
Charity Gift Wrapping Benefits Rescued Cats

Holiday gift wrapping can be easy. Save Our Strays, Inc. volunteers will be wrapping presents at Borders Books and Music at Tyrone Mall for a whole week before Christmas. A great selection of wrapping paper is offered at no cost; wrapping talent is provided by the animal-loving volunteers. All donations benefit Save Our Strays, a no-kill, non-profit organization.

Gifts wrapping hours are Monday, December 15 through Thursday, December 18 from noon until 8 p.m. Volunteers will be on hand Friday, December 19 through Sunday, December 21 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Borders Books & Music is located outside Tyrone Mall at 6999 Tyrone Boulevard in St. Petersburg.

Save Our Strays, an all-volunteer organization, is dedicated to rehoming abandoned cats and kittens. For more information, check www.saveourstraysinc.com or call the Save Our Strays event coordinator at 871-0888.

Suncoast Sierra Club

The Suncoast Sierra Club and Defenders of Wildlife will hold a celebration of the season on Saturday, December 13 at 6 p.m. They will meet at the Defenders Office at 233 Third Street N. in St. Pete. From there they will walk or bike to tour the holiday lights in beautiful Northeast St. Pete. Then they will return to the Defenders’ office for a social including spirits, delectable edibles, and caroling. Suggested donation to Sierra Club’s education foundation is $15. Call Joyce for further information at 526-5065.

On Thursday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. they will hold a Potluck and Whacky Auction Christmas Party Fundraiser at Moccasin Lake Park in Clearwater. Visitors are welcome. Please bring a dish to share and an item to auction for our fundraiser. You will find everything from tents to teakettles, hiking boots to highchairs at this auction. Proceeds will be used for Sierra Club campaigns and educational activities. For information call Joyce at 526-5065.

Smart Shopping at Sophie’s Attic

Holiday clothes, jewelry, gifts, and decorations are waiting for you at Sophie’s Attic Thrift Shop, an outreach mission of First United Methodist Church - Gulfport. They are located near the corner of 28th Avenue S. and 53rd Street. Hours are Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. - noon.
Players Call For Directors

The Gulfport Community Players, in its continuing quest for talent and better plays, is inviting accomplished directors to submit the name of a play or plays (non-musical please!) that they would like to direct and why they think that play would be appropriate for Gulfport audiences. The plays are to be performed at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater, which is a venue theater with 172 seats, situated in a predominately retirement area. The plays submitted should appeal to their target audiences, and ideally, should not have been done too recently by other theater groups in the area. These plays will be considered for their 2009-2010 Season. Submit your names and reasons to: Gulfport Community Players, 4919 17th Avenue S., Gulfport, FL 33707.

The Players are also seeking all volunteer crews and directors to help them out with their upcoming productions. Contact Carol Polk at 321-4720 or email them at basia@mindspring.com.

Writing Workshop

Roslind Miller is offering a free workshop at St. Petersburg College West Branch Library, 68 Street N. and Ninth Avenue on the college campus. The workshop is ongoing every Saturday starting at 1 p.m. Topics include how to write from the heart, structure your stories, writing articles for money, motivation, finding time to write your story, how to publish your book and much more.

Roslind Miller a former college teacher at St. Pete College and University of Baltimore and author of five books, one of which was used at Eckerd College for a special course.

Town Shores Red Hatters

The Town Shores Red Hatters will hold a cookie exchange and cruise information meeting on December 14 from 1-3 p.m. at the clubhouse lounge. Come share your cookies and Betty will provide an update on requirements for the January cruise (1/22-1/26). Happy holidays!

Gather together in the spirit of the holiday
Pinellas Pioneer Settlement’s
Christmas Jamboree

Location: 2900 31st Street South, St. Pete
Date & Time: December 13, 2008 10am - 4pm
Admission: Free - our gift to the community

Shop for the holidays among experienced crafts people displaying old fashioned and modern items for sale.
Hear heavenly music throughout the day.
Smell hot apple cider and sugar cookies on the breeze that will lure you to our summer kitchen for samples.
Step back in time and see a Victorian Christmas at the exquisitely decorated historical Endicott House.
Win a decorated Christmas tree for your home.

For more information call
Ginger Platt at 893-7326
Crafters wanted.

BOYD HILL NATURE PRESERVE
CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG
The Pinellas Pioneer Settlement, Inc.
3130 31st Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712 727/866-6401
co-sponsored by the City of St. Petersburg

The workshop is ongoing every Saturday starting at 1 p.m. Topics include how to write from the heart, structure your stories, writing articles for money, motivation, finding time to write your story, how to publish your book and much more.

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Town Shores Red Hatters

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CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG
The Pinellas Pioneer Settlement, Inc.
3130 31st Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712 727/866-6401
co-sponsored by the City of St. Petersburg

Come join us for family fun
Travel on a hayride with Santa.
Dangle from an oak with Pathfinder Outdoor Education rope climbing.
(additional fee)
Play old time games like horseshoes, sack races, & bean bag toss.
Listen to live music by ‘New Horizons’ Band at Eckerd College’.

Gabber December 11 - December 17, 2008
Carols by Candlelight

By Lion Jim Minder

Our Gulfport Lions Club would like to invite you to join us on Friday, December 19 for our 2008 Carols by Candlelight from 7-9 p.m. We will be singing a wide variety of both religious as well as secular Christmas Carols at our local Lions Club Den located by the Gulfport Marina at 4630 Tifton Drive S. We have secured the services of Lions Past District Governor Norman Xanders to play our Christmas carols on his mechanical instruments. Many of you who have attended one of our many pancake breakfasts know how good he is. For those of you who have never heard Norman Xander’s music before, allow me to tell you that you are in for a treat.

We will be serving you complimentary punch as well as cakes, pies, cookies as well as pastry treats. Many of you will want to try Mabel’s infamous “Cheery crunch”. We will sing five sets of three Christmas carols. In between each set, we will be discussing memorable past Christmas events. I will start us out... After each following set, we want you to tell us about your own memorable Christmas events, so come prepared. It will be fun.

We at the Gulfport Lions Club want you to know about our services to help the visually impaired before this need presents itself so that when it arises, you know our help is available to you.

We look forward to you joining our Gulfport Lions Club for our 2008 Carols by Candlelight. Call me with any questions at 866-0316. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2009!

Silent Auction Luncheon

The public is invited to attend the Maximo Moorings Women’s Club Holiday Luncheon and Silent Auction on December 12 at the Pass-a-Grille Yacht Club. Bidding begins at 11:30 a.m. on a varied selection of gift certificates from massages to fine dining. View an array of items from artwork to teapots for holiday gifting. The Gibbs High School Choir will serenade us with seasonal song. Please call Sue Shoemaker at 215-9361 for reservations and more information.

Landscape Watercolor Class for Beginners

Margo Morris will offer her unique six-week course Landscape Watercolor Painting for Beginners” at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Drive S. in Gulfport. First class will be Tuesday, January 9 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Bring plain paper (8-1/2x11), a soft (3b) pencil and an eraser. Call 893-1068 for more information.
Mad Music’s Student Christmas Recital

Mad Music’s Music School announces their annual Student Christmas Recital on Saturday, December 13 at 2 p.m. Come hear students perform rock music, Christmas songs and more at this free event. Event is co-sponsored by Checkers Restaurant on Central Avenue just east of Pasadena Avenue and will be held in Checkers’ east parking lot. Bring a chair and join them for a fun time!

Free Drive-in Movie

St. Luke’s UMC, 4444 Fifth Avenue N. in St. Petersburg will show “Prince of Caspian” from the Chronicles of Narnia on Friday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your most comfortable blanket or lounge chair. Food and drink will be available for purchase or bring your own cooler. In the event of rain, the movie will be shown inside. Call 321-1335 for visit www.st-lukesumc.com.

Drop Off a Toy at Anderson Lumber

Anderson Lumber’s tenants will be displaying and selling crafts on December 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in their parking lot, 666 49 Street S. by the Pinellas Trail. There will also be a toy drop-off box for the YMCA’s “Neighbor to Neighbor” Christmas program.

New Scooter for Christmas!

Are You In Need of a Powerchair or Scooter?

Have You Had Your Current Chair For More Than 5 Years?

WE CAN HELP!

With Little or No Cost

CALL 727-321-6800

Pro Oxygen Plus

NoiseMakers’ Holiday Open House

Tuesday, December 16
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
5900 Central Ave. Ste. K
Punch & Cookies
Play guitars, drums and keyboards etc.
All Ages Welcome
You’re never too old to learn ...
Or too young to Rock!

www.noise-makers.org 727-345-7472
Places of Worship

Spread the Word about your Place
of Worship in this special section of the Gabber.
Open to all Religious Organizations, run ads
for just $18 weekly* and Press Releases are always Free!
Call 321-6965

Religious Services, Classes & Events Call 321-6965
for more information on placing your ad in this special section

Have Questions?
Get Answers!

Our Savior Lutheran Church
and School
Pastor Paul Burzlaff
301 58th St. South
St. Petersburg, FL. 33707
Traditional Service 8:00 AM
Contemporary Service 10:00 AM
Traditional Service 11:30 AM
Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship with us Sunday
mornings at 10 am
Get info now at kingofpeacemcc.com

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KING OF PEACE
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
727-323-5857 • 3150 5th Ave. N., St. Pete

Christmas Concert at
Lakewood United

Local composer A. Paul Johnson, in
conjunction with Lakewood United
Methodist Church will be presenting
his new original Christmas oratorio
“A Child for Our Time” on Friday,
December 19 at 7 p.m. and Saturday,
December 20 at 2 p.m. Free and all
are welcome. Several local church
choirs and a Sarasota based children’s
vocal group will be performing with
guest soloist Broadway star Ann
Morrison and will be accompanied
by the Lakewood praise band and
members of FloriMezzo. The church
is located at 5995 Dr. Martin Luther
King Street S. in St. Petersburg. Call
Carol Barker at 867-1744 or visit
www.apolloproject.net.

Seasonal Worship
at Pass-A-Grille Beach
Community Church
107 16th Avenue, St. Pete Beach

Chancel Choir Concert
Sunday, December 14
7:00pm, Reception to follow

Blue Christmas
Wednesday, December 17
7:00pm. Dedicated to the
memory of lost loved ones.

Christmas
Eve Worship
December 24
10:00am: Travelers Service
4:00pm Family Service
7:00pm Candlelight Service
11:00pm Candlelight Service

www.pagchurch.org

A Touch of God Ministries Church
Come experience the joy of the Lord!
Meeting at Dolphin Beach
Resort: Cypress Room
4900 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach
9:00 am Sunday
727-824-7741
Wed., Bible Study 7:00 pm
Children’s Sunday School

Unitarian Universalist
United Fellowship
5721 Central Ave.
Can there be a church without a creed? We
are a lay led Fellowship guided by truth
and reason. We invite you to discover
Unitarian Universalism with us.
Discussion - 10:15 AM
Program - 11:00 AM
www.uuunited.org
Worship

Musical at Pasadena Community Church

This year’s Christmas musical JOY! JOY! JOY! brings together over 70 friends and family of Pasadena Community Church. Creating the orchestra, adult and children’s choir, Direct Connection Praise Team, Pasadena Players Drama Ministry, dancers, and production team; these friends will bring to life the Christmas season through the story of Christ’s birth.

Interwoven throughout the fabric of the musical offering of JOY! JOY! JOY! you will have the wonderful opportunity to experience the dramatic presentation of The Christmas Station. These six short scenes tell the story, one we are accustomed to. The over-worked, over-stressed, overly-self-important businessman, Eddie, has forgotten the true meaning of Christmas. However, through a series of brief encounters at the train station with those making their way to their own Christmas destination, Eddie realizes that Christ, God’s gift to man, is truly a present worth making the journey for.

JOY! JOY! JOY! & The Christmas Station will run two nights, Friday, December 19 and Saturday, December 20 in the Sanctuary of Pasadena Community Church (Pasadena Avenue at Second Avenue S.) The doors will open at 7 p.m. for open seating with the musical beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

... 

Bahai’s of Gulfport

Join them for meditation, reflection and sharing for peace, rejuvenation and fellowship every Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. at 4914 29 Avenue S. in Gulfport. Free. All are welcome. Call 368-2819. Sponsored by Bahai’s of Gulfport.

... 

Find Paradise...
Paradise Lutheran Church
10255 Paradise Blvd, Treasure Isl. (Off T.I. Causeway)
360-5739
Worship Service Sunday, 10 am
Christmas Eve Service, Wed., Dec. 24 at 7:30 pm

Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ
You Are Always Welcome
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Nursery Available
Adult Sunday School 9:30 am
Bible Class
Wed 11am - 7pm (same topic)
6315 Central Ave.
727-347-1226
“Diversity our strength, God’s love our bond”

PASADENA COMMUNITY CHURCH

In the Sanctuary this Sunday:
9:00 am Direct Connection Contemporary
with Sign Language Interpretation
and 11:00 am Traditional

“Punching Holes in the Darkness”
John 1:1-9

10:00 am Classes for All Ages

227 - 70th Street S. (2nd Ave. S. at Pasadena Ave.) • St. Petersburg FL 33707
Phone 727-381-2499 www.pasadenacommunitychurch.org

GULFPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcomes You

Sunday Worship ......................... 10:30 a.m.
Terrific Tuesday ...................... 3:30-5:00 p.m.

5312 27th Ave. S. 321-8086

Gabber December 11 - December 17, 2008
A Letter To Santa
The Gabber will feature a letter to Santa each Thursday until Christmas.
Congratulations 9 year old Jacob Pulycki

Jacob will receive a $30 gift certificate to Toys-R-Us courtesy of the Gabber

Dear santa, this year I will not have a Christmas tree do you still deliver presents to people who don't have a Christmas tree? I want to get lots of toys and clothes and one game. I would like is Wii music. A DS, a Xbox-360. And more clothes. And by the way I have been really good for my mom and dad. They said that you are busy this year and I wanted to ask you if I could come and help Elf's make some toys. Well I am going to go for now I will see you soon and get some rest.

ps I got lots of cookies and milk for you.

Love,
Jacob
Pulycki
Ornaments, from front page was built primarily for glass blowing, with special ovens and cooling kilns that heat the glass particles to 2000 degrees, then cool it slowly so as not to crack the delicate glass.

Jackie and Brian Bedillion, who volunteers at the Center, showed the curious visitors how to load the lump of clear glass on the firing rod, turn the small ball of molten glass into the frit, small pieces of colored glass pieces that melt into the clear glass when heated to produce the beautiful colors. The design is then created by blowing thru the long hollow pole, which sends air to the bubble, expanding it to create the delicate round glass ornament. The rod is turned slowly so the colors intermingle. This is done several times as the glass cools and is reheated. The colors blend and swirl to make each piece unique and inimitable. After the ornament is an acceptable size, Jackie then showed the people how to make a hook or loop, of glass at the top of the ornament to hold the metal Christmas tree hook. The ornament is then cooled for 12 hours and is then ready to adorn the Christmas tree.

The Center charges $25.00, which includes the lesson and the finished ornament. Ballard says that there will be a few more times before Christmas to make an ornament, most notably the December 20th Arts Walk, from 6pm to 10 pm.

Brian’s nieces Savannah, 10 and Carly, 7, both took their turn at blowing the glass and created two really pretty ornaments. Jacob Stevens, 13, from Madeira Beach gave it a really good effort as well. All three really seemed to have fun, although according to Jacob, it was a bit of hard work. There were quite a few very red faces. But the kids all agreed the end result was worth it.

Ladies Designer and Upscale Fashions 1000's of NEW ARRIVALS including shoes 20% off WITH THIS AD Expires Dec. 24, 2008

First Night Needs Volunteers

First Night St. Petersburg is looking for energetic volunteers to help usher in 2009. The annual New Year’s Eve celebration is set to launch its countdown in downtown St. Petersburg on December 31st. Fireworks, musical stages, activity centers, indoor and outdoor performance spots all come alive to celebrate the arts in a festive joy filled experience for families and friends.

Volunteers share in the fun, assisting with activities, selling and checking buttons and providing information. Plus all volunteers receive a First Night T-shirt and button.

Call the First Night office at 823-8906 or email firstnightstpete@verizon.net to get an application.
Greetings from everyone at VFW Post #39. Our Post home is located at 2599 Central Avenue. We are in the heart of the Grand Central Art District. We are the oldest Post in the south chartered in 1919. We are coming up on our 90th anniversary. Our Post is in an amazing old building that has been the host of many historic activities.

This Thursday, December 11 the 90th Anniversary Committee will meet at 7 p.m. The Pride Committee will also be meeting at the same time. Saturday will be the blood drive from 8-11:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served. Donors will receive their breakfast free of charge. There will be a “Reefs Across America” ceremony at the VA cemetery at Bay Pines starting at noon. The Ladies Auxiliary Mixed Nuts will meet at 1 p.m. at Feola’s. Sunday come on down for food, fun and football. The members will be pulling names for the Christmas gift exchange. Monday the Post is not open. Tuesday through Friday we observe happy hour from 4-6 p.m. Come visit any time. Have a drink, chat with friendly folks, enjoy the game room or tour the Military Memorabilia Museum. Our wonderful bartenders await to welcome you. Have a great week, stay warm. Hug your family, smile at friends, wave at everyone. Thank a veteran and pray for those in peril. Hope to see you soon!

Play to Benefit Children’s Center

“A Christmas Carol” will be performed on Thursday, December 11 at 8 p.m. at St. Petersburg Little Theater, 4025 31 Street S. in St. Petersburg. Silent Auction and Wine & Cheese will precede the performance from 6-7:30 p.m. Individual tickets are $25, patron ticket is $50. All proceeds to benefit Happy Workers Children’s Center. Call 894-5337 for more information.

Sons of Italy Pasta Night

John Paul 1 Lodge will hold a pasta night every Monday from 4-8 p.m. featuring all-you-can-eat pasta with two meatballs, salad and coffee. Beer and wine available. The Lodge is located at 2500 34 Street S. in St. Petersburg. Take out available. Call 323-2691.

Gulfport Liquors

Encourages You to Shop Your Small Town American Merchants - Visit Gulfport -

Admiral Nelson Spiced Rum 1.75L $12.99 OR 3 for $37.00

Svedka or Smirnoff Vodka 1.75L $19.99 OR 3 for $54.00

RonDiaz Rum 1.75 L $12.99

Barefoot Wines 750ml $4.99

1.5 L $8.99

4918 Gulfport Blvd. So. (22nd Ave. So.) 327-4897 OPEN Mon. • Sat. 9 am - Midnight

Tea’s the Season

A Corner of England Festive Occasions

TeaRoom & Restaurant

Invitations for all Occasions

Wishes everyone a happy, peaceful & prosperous Holiday season

Come for a relaxing lunch with a fine new menu. Starting at $8.50 on legendary High Tea $17.99 per person + Afternoon tea $10.99 +

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The Salvation Army Expresses Thanks

The Salvation Army says thank you to the many people in South Pinellas County who generously stepped forward and donated much needed food to assist more than 1,169 families this Christmas Season. “About a week ago the need arose for more food to pack Christmas food bags and an appeal went out. The community stepped forward and made our need a reality,” said Major Holly Patterson. “Without this kind of generous support we would need to draw from our funds that we use all year to help people in need and we did not want to have to do that.”

With the increase in donated food they will now easily be able to meet the 45% increase for assistance as they serve more than 1,169 families and 2,868 children this season.

Thank you again for your generous support and have a Merry Christmas.

Shop Locally this Season

The holidays are rapidly approaching. Gulfport merchants pride themselves on the unique goods and services they provide. There are no chains in Gulfport, only independent business owners. Unlike most beach communities there are no parking meters to hinder accessibility. So, this year forgo the malls; the chains and the meters and support your neighbors and shop locally. Support Main Street Gulfport this season!

Life After Menopause...

A Message for Women,

For many women, menopause is just the beginning of the aging process. In fact, up to 40% of post-menopausal women experience feminine dryness, burning, irritation and pain and / or bleeding with intimate activity.

Meridien Research is testing an investigational oral drug to determine if it safely and effectively treats these symptoms.

If you are between the ages of 40 and 80, are post-menopausal and are experiencing these symptoms, you may be eligible to participate in this research study. Qualified participants will receive all study-related care and study drug at no charge.

To find out more about how you may be able to participate in this research study, call: 727-34-STUDY

727-347-8839
4751 66th Street North
St Petersburg, Florida 33709
Gigi C. Lefebvre, M.D.
www.newstudyinfo.com
Beta Sigma Phi

Laureate Epsilon Theta members celebrated the holiday at their regular meeting on Wednesday, December 10 at the home of Joyce Keller. Members provided the refreshments with a variety of sweets and non-sweets, which were enjoyed by all. Members exchanged gifts and gathered for the annual chapter picture.

Members and guests will gather at the home of Sharon and Roger Ingram on Saturday, December 13 for the Couples Social. The meal will be prepared by the hostesses Sharon Ingram and Val Rankin. There will be an exchange of Christmas ornaments among the women and the men will exchange a variety of surprise gifts.

On Saturday, December 6, Sunshine City Council’s annual Christmas Brunch was held at the Bilmar Beach Resort on Treasure Island. Members and guests including the children/grandchildren of members, enjoyed a delicious brunch. A visit from “Poinsettia Patty” proved exciting for all the children as she distributed gifts to each of them.

The Northside Christian School Chamber Singers, under the direction of Nathan Farrell, provided a very entertaining program of holiday songs. The students were very talented and put everyone into the holiday spirit. Virginia Clarihew of St. Giles Food Pantry was presented with many boxes of food items for the pantry. This is a wonderful way for the chapter members to gather and begin the season.

The Meet and Greet Rush will be held on Saturday, January 17 at the Lake Rich Mobile Home Club House from 2-4 p.m.

For more information, please contact Sharon Ingram at 321-2849.

... Tour Barbara Gilberg Habitat

By Natalie Leggette

Join me for a tour of the park on December 22 at 10 a.m. and learn about plants for birds. Anyone who has a group can contact me to tour the park. Please come and visit the park, sit still on a bench and watch and listen. Many different birds visit the park. Please remember no dogs are allowed in this park due to the birds feeding on the ground. Call me at 384-0701.

...
Events at American Legion Post 125

By George Brierley, Commander

Our blood drive netted 26 pints of blood, thanks to everyone who donated.

Sunday breakfast is back, cooked to order, for only $3.50. It is served from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

New Year's Eve tickets are now on sale for $25 per person. Cost includes dinner of pork chops, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable, roll, butter and dessert; party favors; champagne at midnight and breakfast at 12:30 a.m. Our terrific Southern Knights Band will be entertaining you. A seating chart is located in the lobby. If you would like to join in the festivities, but do not want dinner, you can join us after 7 p.m. and pay $15 which will include party favors, champagne and breakfast.

The Auxiliary is holding a food drive to help support the St. Petersburg Free Clinic Food Bank. The food drive will run until December 14. Needed items include peanut butter, jelly, canned meats, canned vegetables, boxed pasta, etc. Please leave donations in the poinsettia wrapped box located in the Post lobby.

Friday, December 12, dinner will be baked or battered haddock, fries, cole slaw, roll and butter for $7.75. The second entrée will be beef tips and noodles, green beans, roll and butter for $6.50.

Saturday, December 13, the Color Guard will be grilling steaks with baked potato, salad, roll, butter and dessert for $7.75. All dinners are served from 5 to 7 p.m.

The Southern Knights Band is here every Friday and Saturday night from 7 to 11 p.m. This is the best band around and I know you will enjoy dancing and listening to their great music.

Mondays and Fridays, Marlin will be playing and singing in the lounge from 3 to 6 p.m. Come in and listen to some good entertainment.

Lunches are served on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m. Lunches are not served on Mondays or Saturdays.

Tuesdays and Thursdays come in and sing with Ron's karaoke at 7 p.m. Darts are played every Saturday at 8 p.m. Play pool for free on Saturdays until 5 p.m.

Bingo is played every Wednesday starting at 6 p.m. Fourteen $50 games are played, plus two progressive cover-all games for $250. The kitchen is open during bingo where you can order hamburgers, hot dogs, fries, onion rings, etc. Join us for an evening of fun, games and good food.

The Auxiliary is collecting donations for troops in Iraq. Items needed include candy, personal hygiene items, batteries, snacks, dry food items, etc. A collection box is provided at the post. For more information call Shirley at 510-1919. Let’s show them our support!

We are located at 6440 Fifth Avenue S. in St. Petersburg. The phone number is 347-6085.

Become a Guardian ad Litem

Our community desperately needs child advocates for children who are abused, neglected or abandoned in Pinellas County. Pasadena Community Church is hosting an information meeting on Wednesday, December 17 from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in rooms 3A-C in their Life Enrichment Center (227 70 Street S.). Come find out how you can change the life forever of just one child in as little time as four to six hours per month. For further information, contact Barbara Posey at 381-2499.

6440 - 5th Ave. So.
347-6085
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
DINNER - PORK CHOP WITH STUFFING, MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY, VEGETABLE, ROLL, BUTTER & DESSERT
5:30 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
DANCING TO SOUTHERN KNIGHTS BAND
7:30 P.M. TO 1:00 A.M.
PARTY FAVORS & CHAMPAGNE,
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Gabber December 11 - December 17, 2008
Kato Needs Your Help

Kato, a sweet American Bulldog, was hit by a hit and run driver and needs surgery totaling $2,300. He is the heart of our family and we simply can’t afford the cost. He will lose his leg if surgery is not done. Please help keep this family together. An account has been set up at Regions Bank under the name of Kato Martinez. Please send donations to 3463 22nd Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33713.

Weekly Sudoku Solution

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

By Leigh Clifton

What was the best or most unusual Christmas present you ever got or gave?

Precious Barr, Gulfport: “I just got the good news that I don’t have Cancer. I was diagnosed as having Cancer but they had to get a cell extraction to confirm it. My family and I had to wait four weeks for the test results. The test came back and confirmed a pre-cancerous condition that was totally treatable with a minor procedure. I was counting my blessings with my family; I had had the same diagnosis two years ago and kind of resigned myself to it. I just let it go and let it out of my mind and never went back for the confirmation. Then, my doctor insisted that I get a cell extraction test. I had already decided that I must be sick so I just gave it to God to handle because I just couldn’t handle it myself. I let the stress go and just put it in God’s hands. So this is the best Christmas present my family and I have ever gotten and we are truly grateful. We feel really blessed!”

Bistra Wos, Gulfport: “The best present I ever got and still get every year is a poem from my son. He always writes me something beautiful every year and I often will frame them. What’s even more remarkable is that we come here from Germany in 2000, and he couldn’t speak a word of English. He had to go to ESL classes and learned everything so fast, it was amazing! Now he is in Baypoint Middle School, a magnet school and he has been entering writing competitions and doing very well. I think he should write for Hallmark Cards, he’s so sentimental. He always makes a point of giving me a special poem for Christmas; it’s so much better to get something that has a special meaning rather than getting a gift no one will use. It’s such a waste of money. And this is so much more special, it makes me very proud of him!”

Chris Jones, Gulfport: “The best give I am getting and receiving this Christmas is one you can’t really see or touch. But it’s really important to my life; my boyfriend Dan and I have both given up drinking. It doesn’t sound much like a gift, but it really is for both of us. We were together but we both drank too much and it wasn’t a good thing. We both decided that if we wanted to stay together, it was time for a change. Drinking did nothing but bad things to our relationship, there were legal issues and it was just a bad scene. When we both decided to stop, our relationship got a lot better. He’s been sober a year this month and I will have been sober a year in January. We both agree that this is probably the best gift we could give one another. So we’re very thankful this Christmas, and a whole lot happier together!”

Lou Gonzalez, Gulfport: “One of the most unusual gifts I ever gave for Christmas was to an old girlfriend. I had been over to her house and noticed that she was vacuuming with this old shop vac thing, with a really short hose. She had to bend over the thing and she looked so uncomfortable, and it really didn’t work well at all. So for Christmas, I bought her a real vacuum, which she still has to this day. She still talks about it! But of course, we’re not together anymore. I mean, if you just kept getting presents like that from your boyfriend, would you stick around?”

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Gabber December 11 - December 17, 2008
Residents can help Gulfport Seniors

Dear Editor: With Thanksgiving behind us and the holidays and a New Year knocking at our door, many of us are thinking about those less fortunate and how we can help. I invite you to consider making a donation to the The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation, Inc.

The Foundation’s mission is to support and enhance all programs, events, and activities right here in Gulfport at our Senior Center. We are a registered 501 c 3 charitable non-profit organization, served by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Many of the services and activities at the Senior Center are either not able to be funded by the City, or are under funded. The Foundation was created to help fill these funding gaps.

We invite you to make a real difference at the local level in your gift giving this season. For a City our size, we are fortunate to have such a healthy, safe, caring environment for seniors. Over the next 20 years, our needs will continue to grow as we reach out to another group - the Baby Boomers! I’m sure some of you are reading the Gabber today.

Please consider sending a check to the Foundation this holiday season. Be it to honor a loved one, or to show you care about quality of life here in Gulfport, your gift tells us you recognize and value the important role seniors play in our community at large. For your convenience, you may also donate online through our website at: www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org.

Thank you in advance for helping us to improve the overall health and welfare of seniors here in the City of Gulfport. If every Gulfport resident and City employee would contribute just $1, it would go a long way in helping us reach our fundraising goals to help us purchase additional pieces of professional exercising equipment for the Senior Center.

Please make your tax-deductible check out to: The Gulfport Multipurpose Sr. Center Foundation, 5501 - 27th Ave. S., Gulfport, FL 33707.

Happy Holidays!

Jane D. Ogilvie, President
The Gulfport Multipurpose Sr. Center Foundation, Inc.

Donate Winter Gear for Homeless

In anticipation of cooler nights ahead of us this holiday season The Salvation Army is receiving requests earlier than ever for winter clothing and blankets from the homeless population it serves in St. Petersburg.

“We are asking the community to step forward and donate blankets, coats, hats and gloves as they have done in the past.” states Major George Patterson, St. Petersburg Area Commander.

The Salvation Army’s Downtown Corps, a one-of-its-kind Homeless Day Center in St. Petersburg, sees between 180 and 200 homeless guests each day. Coffee, conversation, material assistance and spiritual and emotional care are among the services provided every day at the center. It is here that blankets and coats and winter apparel are handed out as well.

All winter clothing donations can be dropped off at the Downtown Corps located at 1400 Fourth Street S. in St. Petersburg. Monetary donations can also be mailed to the Salvation Army Downtown Corps at the same address. For more information please call 550-8080, ext. 222.

Gulfport Chamber Seeking Volunteers

Interested in helping with events or even taking a shift in the office? The Gulfport Chamber of Commerce is seeking individuals who love Gulfport. For more information please call 344-3711.

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Gabber December 11 - December 17, 2008
Christmas for Children and Veterans

The Legion Family of Post #305 would like to invite you to support our children and veterans this Christmas. We are located at 6999 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach. Food and music are available for your enjoyment. Members and guests are welcome.

Saturday, December 13, the Legion Family will attend a ceremony at Bay Pines Hospital. It is to recognize Veterans with remembrance wreaths for the holidays with the creation of Wreaths Across America. Everyone is welcome.

The Auxiliary is sponsoring a Flea Market Sunday, December 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will accept donations for our tables the week before. You can drop your goods at the legion. There will be lots of Christmas stuff as well as everything else you can imagine. If you wish to have your own table, call us at 367-1596 and leave a message for someone from the Auxiliary to call you. It is a $10 donation for a space. Shoppers are most welcome. Your donations will go to help an Army National Guard family in need of our help.

Unit #305 is also holding our annual Children’s Christmas Party Saturday, December 20 at 11 a.m. This party is for the children from our local elementary school whose parents need some help this year. We have a tree at the legion with stars for each of these children and their Christmas wishes for this year. Many of them are in need of coats. If you are able to help please stop in and donate for a child’s present.

Sunday is sports day. Join them for NASCAR, baseball, football, or other major sports events. Don’t miss Bill’s famous wings. They have beer specials and door prizes too.

Fried or broiled fish is the fare for Friday night with Bob and Pegs who play for your dancing and listening pleasure.

For a Saturday night of fun, dancing, food and entertainment, we have music by Geno and 8 oz. filet mignon dinners with salad and baked potato for $10.

For further details on all activities, please call the Legion at 367-1596 or they now have a web site at www.post305.org. Check it frequently for any updates on meetings and events.

...
Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

In our last article, we briefly discussed three ways to give legal authority to another person. This week, let’s take a look at how these legal transfers of control and decision-making work.

Guardianship

This is a legal process in which the court places an individual or agency in control of someone else’s affairs. Since establishing a guardianship requires action by the Court system, it can be expensive and cumbersome. In addition, guardianship reduces an individual’s legal rights to those of a minor.

Conservatorship

This is a type of guardianship that applies only to a person’s property and not his or her personal matters. As such, its scope is less restrictive, and the individual involved retains many of his or her legal rights.

Durable Power of Attorney

By establishing a power of attorney, you authorize someone else to act in your behalf. You can give very limited powers, such as authorizing someone to sell property for you, or very broad powers, such as paying bills, making investment decisions, or making all decisions for you.

A durable power of attorney remains in force even if the person who establishes it becomes incompetent. While a power of attorney is generally established to ensure that your affairs will be handled for you, it must be durable to be effective in the event of your incapacity. Any power of attorney, including a durable one, becomes null and void when either the person granting it or the person to whom it is granted dies.

You should be sure to specify exactly what functions are to be covered by the durable power of attorney. For example, medical decisions, investment choices and property care can be named specifically.

Of course, a durable power of attorney should be given only to someone you trust implicitly to act in your best interest. You should consult an attorney for the specific requirement of a durable power of attorney.

by Robert J. Myers, Esq.

Robert J. Myers is managing attorney of the Estate and Trust Division of Maney & Gordon, P.A., located at 1135 Pasadena Ave. So., Ste. 140, St. Petersburg, FL. The telephone number is 727-347-5131. Mr. Myers welcomes calls regarding this article and other related legal topics. This column outlines general legal principles and is not intended to give you legal advice. If you have a specific question about the law, please consult an attorney.

Shop SPCA Holiday Sale Weekends

Avoid hectic holiday shopping at your local mall for ‘Black Friday’ and come purchase purrfect gifts for your four-legged friends at the SPCA’s new Edward D. Foreman Adoption Center and Pet Boutique on ‘Bark’ Friday. The Holiday Pet Present Sale will be held every weekend after Thanksgiving and through December during normal hours of operation, Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 12-5 p.m. located in the SPCA adoption office and pet supply store. Items will be discounted from 20%-50%.

“Our prices are comparable if not less than many of the larger retail pet stores and all of the proceeds go to the animals at the SPCA,” said Connie Brooks, the SPCA Director of Operations. Drop by the SPCA Tampa Bay in Largo, 9099 130 Avenue N. to pick up some gifts for Rover and drop off a much needed donation for the SPCA’s adoptable pets. For more information or to donate visit SPCATampaBay.org.

U.S. Census Jobs Available

The U.S. Census Bureau is now hiring for the 2010 census. Jobs available are census takers, crew leaders, crew leader assistants, recruiting assistant and clerks. Earn competitive weekly pay, work flexible hours, paid training. For more information, call 1-866-861-2010.
Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1 Together
5 Entrance or exit
9 Poetic weather
14 Rural plot
15 "I'm poor
Yorick"
16 Houston pro
17 Cash alternative
19 Pedro's pal
20 Type of takeover
21 Malady
23 Siangy gems
24 Fifi's friend
25 Glue
28 Barnos & Noblo, e.g.
33 Pro
34 Door friend
35 Canyon returns
36 Physique
39 Causes for gesundheits
40 Amuse
41 Yoyo and Kettle
42 High note
43 Attic, maybe
45 Impudent
47 Big chill
48 Author Rand
49 Secretarial pool?
53 Tightens
57 Antelope
58 Curbuff
enforcement
60 Pound part
61 Feed the kitty
62 Irish exclamation
63 Type of campaign
64 Require
65 Wipe out

DOWN
1 Cantata maestro
2 ___ Rios,
Jamaica
3 Very, to 24
Across
4 Confused
5 Monroe's last
co-star
6 Soap ingredient
7 Lao-Tzu's way
8 Aeut
9 Fuse
10 Draw
11 Tennis bad boy
12 Tilly and Ryan
13 Love god
18 Fourth-down
option
22 Compares
24 All right, to Glenn
25 Night lights
26 Credo
27 Former pupa
28 Journalist Nellie
29 Common word
30 Seats
31 Lurches
32 Lengthy theme
34 Come forth
37 Apply before
feathers
38 Rosebay
39 Uncle or Spade
41 Curly's tormentor
44 Beat
45 Make agree, briefly
46 Ship hold
48 Intended
49 Corporations' VIPs
50 Astringent
51 Ruin
52 Peruvians once
53 Dove's place
54 Lifesaver
55 Light tan
56 Card game
59 Bill

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The St. Petersburg Little Theatre (SPLT) opened their version of Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* last weekend to enthusiastic audiences, and with good reason. The show, well-written as a novella 165 years ago and now a winter favorite throughout the country, only benefits from director David Middleton’s adaptation.

Milton O’Neal readily transforms into Ebenezer Scrooge, although I often felt like I was watching Michael Caine play Scrooge, such is O’Neal’s resemblance to Caine. The only problem—and this may not be one for those with more compassion than I—is that sometimes O’Neal plays Scrooge with such earnest sincerity that I found myself saying to myself, “You know, he’s right, why are the poor people Scrooge’s responsibility?”

It is not possible to mention the good performances put forth by the other 36 members of the cast, but the children—especially the two playing Ignorance and Want, Tommy Billard and Kalysta Gregory, respectively—do an amazing job.

Walter Raine also commands attention as the Ghost of Christmas Present, although costume designer Lorrie Lykins’ decision to dress a six-foot-something man with a full grey beard in a red Santa robe and a jingling walking stick didn’t make Raine appear in any way diminutive, either.

The only complaint about the costumes—and it’s a small one—is that they’re too beautiful for a group of poor peasants. Of course, the play deals with ghosts appearing in mirrors and taking Scrooge through time and space, so I’m thinking reality isn’t top priority here.

In its 84th season, SPLT enjoys the benefits of its own theatre complete with scene shop on site, and the rich sets for *Carol* add to the mid-19th century feel of the show. The tableau of the set as the curtains part garnered quick and enthusiastic applause from the house, a credit to designer Michael DuMouchel.

Watching a show where the set designer and lighting designer manage to achieve scenic effects by working together makes the show much more enjoyable, a credit to both DuMouchel and lighting designer Frank Hale.

Middleton added carolers onstage opposite the scene changes, pulling focus from the business of moving set pieces and injecting bits of comedy into what can turn into an otherwise emotionally intense show. In doing this he kept the show lively and well-paced so the two hours fly by before you realize it.

A few things that could stand improvement, though, have little to do with the show and more to do with the theatre company. I abhor sitting through a plea for money during the curtain speech, and I’m tired of every theatre reaching its hand out for something before I can enjoy a play. Right now SPLT wants to raise $55,000 for new seats, and while the sample seat in the lobby looks nice, I didn’t see anything wrong with the ones in the playhouse. If they want new seats, that’s fine, but please don’t make the audience sit through your prerecorded plea for money when they’ve just given you $20 for a ticket. Theatre companies, pay attention: if I weren’t reviewing the show this alone would tempt me to stay at home and watch a movie. I can’t be the only one who feels this way.

The other thing that seriously detracted from the performance was the sound system. I understand that SPLT recently paid a goodly sum to improve their sound system, but echoes abounded Sunday afternoon and it, unfortunately, seriously compromised the well-directed and carefully crafted performances.

In summary, the St. Petersburg Little Theatre stages a lovely show not entirely without problems but also not entirely without merit and the majority of theatergoers will not be disappointed in this Christmas tradition. If you go you’ll see a lovely, traditional Christmas show that have you in the Christmas spirit by the end of the night.

*A Christmas Carol* runs through December 21. The show starts at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings and at 2 p.m. on Sundays. For more information visit www.splt.org or call (727) 866-1973.
Gulfport Senior Center Daily Menu
Meals are available at the Gulfport Senior Center. 5501 27th Avenue So., in Gulfport

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. PLEASE CALL JAY AT NEIGHBORLY CARE NETWORK AT 344-2111

Monday, DECEMBER 15
Swedish Meatballs in Brown Gravy
Potatoes Au Gratin
Neapolitan Spinach
Whole Wheat Bread/Margarine
Fruit in Season
Low Fat Milk

Tuesday, DECEMBER 16
Sliced Turkey w/Turkey Gravy
Whipped Sweet Potatoes
Garden Peas
Whole Wheat Bread/Margarine
Mixed Fruit Cup
Low Fat Milk

Wednesday, DECEMBER 17
Broccoli Rice & Cheese Casserole
Green Beans
Carrot Cuts
Whole Wheat Bread/Margarine
Low Fat Milk
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Thursday, DECEMBER 18
BBQ Chicken Breast Patty
Mashed Potatoes
Corn w/Diced Tomatoes
Whole Grain Bread/Margarine
Peach Cup
Low Fat Milk

Friday, DECEMBER 19
Beef Stroganoff Casserole
Broccoli
Three Bean Medley
Whole Wheat Bread/Margarine
Chocolate Pudding
Low Fat Milk

SPCA Pet of the Week

From playing to napping, Aris is full of love and fun. You wouldn’t guess that Aris is five years old based on her small size and her big energy level. Aris is from a large family and is good with children and with some dogs. Unfortunately, that family is moving and now Aris is also looking for a new place to call home. If you are looking for a first cat or an additional pet, come see Aris in person, you won’t be disappointed. Meet her at the SPCA Tampa Bay 9099 130th Avenue N. in Largo or call 586-3591. Check out Aris’ feline friends at www.SPCATampaBay.org during Feline Navidad!

Adopt a Retired Racer

This week’s greyhound is Sammie, a dark brindle female, described by her foster family as a sweet loving girl who loves to give kisses. Sammie also loves to play with toys and gather them up again. She rides well in the car and gets along with medium-size dogs but not small dogs or cats, but horses are okay. If you would like to meet Sammie, or any of our other greyhounds, please contact Greyhound Pets of America at 595-7852 or visit our website: greyhoundpets.com or come see us at the Tyrone PetSmart on most Sundays from noon to 2 p.m. Call first if you want to meet a specific dog.

A Christmas Carol
Thursday, December 11, 2008
St. Petersburg Little Theatre
6 - 7:30 PM Silent Auction and Wine & Cheese | 8 PM - Play Reservations are required. Please RSVP by December 4th.
$25 for Individual Ticket - or - $50 for a Patron Ticket
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Gabber December 11 - December 17, 2008
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What was once a hopping scene is now a ghost town -- cue the wind whistling through the boards and coyotes howling in the distance. There’s a strange peace in this change, and you like it. You can now get a proper perspective on all that has happened and choose to be a part of the new scene, or not.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You belong to a group that accepts and promotes you to an intoxicating degree. Things are so cozy there that while in the company of these folks you feel immune to the troubles that preoccupy the rest of the world. That’s why it’s so important this week to provide some kindness to those on the outside.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have the courage to see problems in a new light and move through them. Ernest Hemmingway said, “Life breaks everyone, but some are strong in the broken places.” You are in that category, and you prove it this week by succeeding at and even enjoying the exact thing that once caused you so much pain.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Being one with the universe isn’t all bliss and pretty colors. It hurts sometimes. Your famous compassion once again has you losing yourself temporarily as you take on the pleasure and pain of those around you. It’s all worth it to you because the more your spirit expands the better you enjoy this lifetime of yours.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People have been telling you “no” since you were learning to crawl. You’ve heard it so many times now that it no longer bothers you. It’s a necessary function in getting to “yes.” And the “yes!” you hear on Thursday is glorious indeed. Sagittarius and Pisces are mischievous contributors to your merrymaking.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are so powerful this week that you can reverse an insidious cycle of negativity that has gone on long enough. Make it your sole intent to improve the problem. Small steps will get you there. Find ways to feel just a tiny bit better about things than you did before. See what’s good and then look for what’s great.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have used your influence for good. Through your persistent uplifting attention, the beings around you are growing and thriving. Oh, joy! Do be sure to focus some of that goodwill on yourself without seeing your acts of rejuvenation as some kind of indulgence. Recharge without rules Thursday and Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You get stronger this week by eliminating confusion. You think you must choose between a few different options, and you’re not sure which to take. The reality is that none of those options may be right for you. Watch and wait. When you’re sure, that’s when you should move and not a moment before.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're being practical because you know it will inspire trust in the people you need and want to trust you. Privately you might think you can get away with taking more risks, but you're willing to err on the side of caution if it makes a loved one happy, which it most certainly will. On Saturday you can let down your hair a bit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You experience a renewed sense of ador and ambition, and this affects everyone around you. You can even change the opinions and manner of people who have proved in the past to be downright mean. Sneers will be reduced to blushes. Your positive contribution helps to raise the vibration of the planet.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're excellent on the fly, adept at spontaneity. And yet, if you have the chance to practice for an upcoming event, it's a worthwhile use of energy. Planning ahead may not affect the outcome of what happens except in one crucial way -- you'll feel better. Knowing you're prepared, you'll relax and be confident.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Miracles will happen. These are not like magic tricks that are pulled off as a result of hours of practice at the art of distraction and manipulation. These are brilliant twists of fate that come about suddenly and naturally as a result of your doing the best you can and the universe responding to that effort.

This Week’s Birthdays: Now through January you’ll be juggling a lot of different activities and making progress with a few. Then in February one giant endeavor takes your focus and you make quick headway. You could even find yourself with a new title in March. Creative financing helps you overcome blocks and do so in a way that’s more fun than if you had followed your original plan. A relationship gives you raucous days and romantic nights in June and beyond. Family bonds through travel in July.

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NARFE Chapter 1140

The Gulf Beaches Chapter 1140 of the National Association of Active & Retired Federal Employees will meet on Wednesday, December 17 at 11:30 a.m. The buffet luncheon will be held in the Key West Dining Room of The Fountains at Boca Ciega Bay, 1255 Pasadena Avenue, South Pasadena.

The theme of the entertainment is a Hawaiian Christmas Holiday with holiday music, Hawaiian dancers and fun for all. The cost of the luncheon is $5.

For reservations call 368-8569 or 446-1619 as soon as possible but no later than Monday, December 15. All members not wishing the luncheon are welcome.

Shop Thrift, Boutique and Gift Shop

Did you know Pasadena Community Church has three stores in one location (Pasadena Avenue and Second Avenue)? Come see their large assortment of Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations and gifts plus many other items for sale. Thrift and Boutique are open 9-12 Wednesday and Saturday. Gift store is open 10-2 on Wednesday only.

Red Hot Beach Nuts

The Red Hot Beach Nuts (a charter member of the Red Hatters Society) had their Christmas party at the Belleview Biltmore with 30 members attending. They took the tour, exchanged gifts and shared good food with good friends. A good time was had by all. They want to wish all of you a happy and safe holiday.

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RECREATION WEBSITE- www.ci.gulfport.fl.us and follow the links: City Departments, Leisure services, Rec. Center.

REMINDERS & UPCOMING EVENTS
Tomlinson Skate Park Sticker-Purchase New Sticker-All skaters will need to purchase new Skate Park stickers. Annual cost $5 res./$10 non-res. Consent forms are available at the Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Blvd. S., Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.–8 p.m. Skaters ages 17 and under must be accompanied by a parent and show proof of residency for registration.

ACTIVITIES
Adult Basketball: Thurs.-5 p.m. Annual reg. $2 res/$20 non-res.

PROGRAMS
School Year Child Care Program-Grades K-5, (up to age 14 in in-service days). Annual reg. $15 res/$100 non-res. Monthly rates are $133 res/$266 non-res. Extended care available for an additional cost.

Teen Night-Teens, age’s middle school to 17. Mon., Wed. & Fri. 6-9 p.m. Annual reg. $2 res/$20 non-res.

Tot Time Program-Children ages 3-5 year olds. Class times are from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Annual reg. $15 res/ $100 non-res. Monthly rates for the 2-day program are $33 res./$66 non-res, the 3-day program are $55 res./$110 non-res and the 5-day program are $88 res./$176 non-res.

CLASSES
Basic Drawing-Thurs.: 1:30-2:30 p.m. Starts November 6th. The fee is $15 per class. Please call the instructor Doug at 643-2554 or John at 893-1079 with questions. You will need to bring a pencil and paper to class.

Beginners Watercolor with Margaret starts Jan. 6th.Wed., 10 a.m. – Noon. In 6 lessons Margaret will take you from blank paper to wonderful creations. Cost is $60 for entire course. Call Margaret at 347-1859 for more info.

Fencing- Wed., 4:30-5:30 p.m. for ages 8-15 and 5:30-6:30 p.m. for ages 16-70 are welcome. Cost is $5 per one-hour session. Call Jim Campolli at 813-855-3112 for more info.

Gymnastics – Fri., 5:30-6:15 p.m. for ages 5-12. Cost is $25 per month. Call Barbara at 804-9400 for more info.

Karate-Mon. & Fri., 6:30-8 p.m. (Beginners), advanced students stay until 8:30 p.m. Cost is $35 per month. Nia-Thurs., 10am. Your first class is free. Fees are: monthly $32, drop in $10 a class, or a 8 class pass for $56. Call 727-729-9410 for more information or online at www.NiaStPete.com

Stretch & Tone returns on its new day, TUE. Jan. 6th. Thurs., 9-10 a.m. Cost is $3 per class. Bring your own weights and mat.

Tai Chi & Health Recovery-Senior Tai Chi & Health Recovery -Tues., 9-10:15 a.m.

Advanced Beginners - Thurs., 10-11 a.m.

Donations accepted. Call Marge at 345-6708 for more info.

Tennis-Tues.: 4:30-5p.m. (ages 6+), 5-6 p.m. (children 8-16) and adults from 6-7 p.m. at Chase Park, 28th Ave. & 53rd Street So. Gulfport. Cost is $10 per session. Private lessons available. Call Jack at 430-0690 for more info.

Watercolor- Thurs., 6:30- 8:45 p.m. Ongoing classes $45 a month or $13 per class. Call Patsi at 501-3559 for more information and supply list.

Yoga-Thurs.: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Blend strength, flexibility, balance and relaxation. All fitness levels are welcome. Bring a mat and water. $35 per month, $10 for a drop in. Please call Maureen at 381-2166 for more info.

THE LIBRARY WILL CLOSE AT 5:00 PM ON DECEMBER 24 & DECEMBER 31, AND WILL BE CLOSED ALL DAY THURSDAY & FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25th & 26th FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

WHAT’S HAPPENING @ THE LIBRARY?

PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS:
Testing for 2010 Census Workers: Mon., December 15, and at 2:00 pm. This year the Gulfport Library will be a Census 2010 employment testing site for qualified applicants. To schedule testing, or for more information on Census jobs, call 1-866-861-2010.

Socrates Café: These monthly discussion groups were inspired by the book The Six Questions of Socrates. Author Christopher Phillips traveled the world to lead informal groups, engaging people in the manner of the ancient Greek philosopher, for whom “the questions are more important than the answers.” Thursday, December 11 at 10:00 am.

Suncoast Computer Users: Thurs., December 11 at 6:00 pm. FMI, call 727-343-2688.

Scrapbookers Club for Teens & Adults: Bring your pictures, books and questions, and prepare to have a great time! Make beautiful pages of memories for yourself and your family. Some supplies available, but you furnish your own 12x12 scrapbook album. FMI, contact Kay Boatwright 893-1074. Saturday, December 13 at 1:00 pm.

Craft Club for All Ages: Saturdays, December 13 and December 20 at 2:00 pm. Presented by Pat Brinkley.


Happy Holidays! Join us December 20 as Gladys Varga returns with an all-new performance of multicultural holiday stories for kids of all ages! Saturday, December 20, at 3:00 pm in the Library’s Edna Sandor Atrium.

Genealogy Discussion Group: This is not a formal class, just an opportunity to meet and share experiences and information with others interested in delving into their family history. Saturday, December 27 at 1:00 pm. FMI, call Kay Boatwright at the Library, 893-1074.

Gulfport Creative Short Story Writers: Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am.

One-On-One Computer Instruction: By appointment only--contact Alex Hooks at the Reference Desk, or call 893-1073.
Senior Center 5501 27th Ave.

Thank you, Senior Center Friends-
Egret Cove Center for several ice cream socials, floral gifts; Egret Cove Staff for food pantry support; Gulfport Florist for monthly flower donations for our Reassurance clients as well as floral door prizes for our Reassurance Luncheon; Gulfport Women's Club for two Publix Gift Cards for a free drawing for USDA Food recipients; Humana, Inc. for supplying pies for our Thanksgiving Dinner Party; Town Shores Jamison Building for food pantry support; Members of the Senior Center Foundation for donations that enhance Senior Center activities and programs; Foundation Board Members for ongoing interest/support of the Senior Center; Volunteers for helping with the daily activities/special events. Thanks to all of you for making our Senior Center so special.

Phone Distribution for Hearing Impaired-Tues. Dec. 16, 9:30-11:30am. Call 399-9983 for eligibility criteria. No cost to qualifying persons.

Stocking Stuffers-World's Finest Chocolate candy bars will be available at the Senior Center starting Thurs. Dec. 18 for $1.00 per bar. Proceeds will benefit the Senior Center Foundation. What a wonderful way to support the Senior Center and treat yourself or a friend!

Holiday Dinner Party-Sorry, no more tickets for our Holiday Dinner Party on Tues. Dec. 23 at 11:30am.

Radio City Music Hall Rockettes at Christmas (Video)-This is a holiday show you won't want to miss! First come, first serve in the Hickman Theater on Tues. Dec. 23 at 1pm. Free.

New: Elder Law Clinic-Volunteer attorneys will assist clients with wills, living wills, powers of attorney, and health care surrogates on the 3rd Friday of every month from 9:30-11:30am. Must be 60 years of age or older, must reside in Southern Pinellas County with household income generally within 185% of federal poverty guidelines (asset limits and citizenship or permanent residency status may apply). Call the Senior Center now for an appointment.

Special Presentations-Must Call to Reserve-
Fri. Dec. 12, 11am by Walgreens: How to Save on Prescriptions (Lunch included)
Thurs. Dec. 18, 10am by Norma Robinson: The Benefits of Aquatic Exercise
Mon. Jan. 12, 2pm by CVS: Cost Effectiveness of Generic Medicine (Bring Meds for a cost effective assessment)

Part-time Employment-If you would like to be considered for part-time employment as a 2009 census taker, please call to reserve space to take a short test on Mon. Dec. 22 at 2pm. Pay: $10/hr plus transportation costs reimbursed. Must be 18 yrs./up. Bring Driver’s license or other ID and Social Security card.

Treadmills & Recumbent Cycle-Treadmills and one recumbent cycle are available for registered Senior Center members. Must provide medical release form from your doctor. Forms available at Center.

Italian Language/Dance Classes - Beginners, Advanced and Conversational classes meet at 6pm every Thursday. Advanced and Conversational Italian Languages continue at 7pm. Italian folk dance (Italian Style) offered at 8pm (6 3rd Thurs.) Newcomers welcome.


Diabetic Support Group-meets every Monday at 10am except the 2nd & 4th Monday.

Health Insurance Questions?-SHINE Counselor Sarah Peel can help you with your Medicare, Medicaid questions or billing problems and help you select an appropriate Medicare Part D plan. Call now for a one-on-one appointment.

AARP Driver Safety Program-Every first and second Tuesdays, 12:30-4:30pm. Fee:$14 (42 discount for AARP members) Must attend both classes. Call Jim at (727) 367-4038 to register or visit www.aarp.org/drive.

Support Groups
Support for Hearing Impaired – 1st & 3rd Mondays at 2pm
Support for Visually Impaired – every 2nd and 4th Mon. at 2pm
Support for Caregivers– every Wed. at 2pm

Cards & Games
Beginning Bridge Class – Every Tues. at 1:30; Wed. at 6:30pm
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Bingo- Every Fri. at 1pm
Euchre – Every Fri. at 6:30pm
Game Day – Every Mon. at 1pm

USDA Food -Every 2nd Thurs. 9am-noon for qualifying Gulfport residents. Proof of income and address required for new clients.

Movie in Hickman Theater - Garden State, Mon. Dec. 29, 1pm.

Quilting Club – Every Tues. at 10am.

Writers Group – Every Fri. at 10am

Yoga – every Wed. at 1:30pm. Bring mat/blanket.

Visual Drawing/Painting-Every 2nd & 4th Friday from 3-4:30pm starting Jan. 9. Free. Instructor Oliver Norden is a painter, sculptor, musician and multi-talented artist with a wealth of experience in the arts. Class size is limited. Call now to make your reservation.


Gabber December 11 - December 17, 2008

City Sponsored Activities in the Community

Thank you, Senior Center Friends-
Egret Cove Center for several ice cream socials, floral gifts; Egret Cove Staff for food pantry support; Gulfport Florist for monthly flower donations for our Reassurance clients as well as floral door prizes for our Reassurance Luncheon; Gulfport Women’s Club for two Publix Gift Cards for a free drawing for USDA Food recipients; Humana, Inc. for supplying pies for our Thanksgiving Dinner Party; Town Shores Jamison Building for food pantry support; Members of the Senior Center Foundation for donations that enhance Senior Center activities and programs; Foundation Board Members for ongoing interest/support of the Senior Center; Volunteers for helping with the daily activities/special events. Thanks to all of you for making our Senior Center so special.

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Gabber December 11 - December 17, 2008
BYRD, GERALDINE PHYLLIS, 78, of South Pasadena, passed away Dec 1. She is predeceased by her husband, Donald. Survived by sisters, Joanne, Norma Jean (Bob) and June; children, Donna, Jenny and Tom (Shirley); grandchildren, Melissa (Matt), Kathy- lynn (James), Jennifer (Stephen) and Justin (Casey); great-grandchildren, Savannah, Karah, Alyssa, Brittni, Autumn and Mercedes; and great- great-granddaughter, Giana. Memorial service Saturday, Dec. 6, at 3 p.m. at National Cremation Society, 4945 East Bay Drive, Clearwater, FL.

FARE, JOSEPH, 74, of Gulfport, died December 7, 2008. He was born June 18, 1934 in Chicago, IL and came to Gulfport, FL in 2001 to retire. He was a retired teamster and member of the Armed Forces for two years. He was an avid sports lover and loved boating. Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Sharron; daughter Jill Green of Oak Forest, IL; son Joseph Fare (Kim) of Midlothian, IL; granddaughter Kristina Green of Oak Forest, IL; sister Evelyn Casey of Redington Beach, FL. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Joseph’s name to Hospice of the Florida Suncoast. Services will be private. ALife Tribute - Gulfport.

HUNT, JAMES J. “JIM”, 61, of Gulfport, passed away on Mon., Nov. 24th at Morton Plant Hospital after a long battle with several illnesses. Jim’s greatest loves were his music, his best pal, dog Lucky, and his love of watching pro wrestling. He is sur- vived by sisters Sandy Birchfield of St. Petersburg and Debby Faurote of Crystal River. He also leaves behind numerous family members and friends who loved him and will miss him dearly. A private memorial will be held at a later date.

KARNELA, ARLINE P., 91, a long time resident of Town Shores of Gulfport and a member of Most Holy Name Catholic Church passed away on Nov. 18. She is survived by many loving friends.


Local Obituaries

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Korean War Veterans Association

If you served in Korea during the Korean War up to the present, you are eligible for membership in the KWVA. They also welcome anyone who wishes to volunteer their time, energy and service. They meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at VFW Post 4364, 5772 62 Street N. in St. Petersburg. Call Clarence Dadswell, President at 525-6496.

They will participate in the annual Pinellas Park Christmas parade on December 13. On December 18 at 5 p.m. they will host their annual dinner at VFW Post 4364 for residents of Bay Pines VA Medical Center.

KWVA Chapter 14 is dedicated to preserving the historical contributions of our military who have served and sacrificed in the Korean theater from 1950 to the present. They participate in numerous charitable contributions to the memory of our veterans such as the creation and dedication of the beautiful and inspiring granite Korean War memorial at Freedom Lake Park in Pinellas Park. In addition to parades, they serve as honor guards for military funerals including those veterans without families or friends; folding flags to be later used at funerals; serving as color guards for Tropicana Field and other events, rendering support to members in need and participation in other patriotic and charitable endeavors. They also participate in a number of youth oriented events and sponsor youth scholarships. Of course there is always time for a number of enjoyable events such as outings, dinners, get togethers, etc.

Their meetings reflect a relaxed yet formal format which concludes with sharing coffee, tea, sandwiches and pastries while engaged in pleasant conversation and socialization with members and guests.

If you are a veteran of the Korean theater from 1950 to the present, come and join their group of friendly members.

Gulfport Goes Green!

The Gulfport Merchants Association is adding a new monthly event every fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Beach Blvd. The theme and vendors will be health, wellness, natural products and going green.

If you are interested in being a vendor on December 27 (this first one is free to participate) contact Leslie Gilchrist at 439-1485. Download vendor forms from www.gulfportma.com.

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Gabber December 11 - December 17, 2008
Tracy Purcell Memorial

By Leigh Clifton

Last Friday night the Peninsula Inn in Gulfport was filled with blues and overflowing with love as more than 200 family members and friends gathered to honor the memory of legendary bluesman Tracy Purcell. Known as the Saltwater Bluesman, Purcell passed away in April at the age of 83, but has left many reminders of his legend behind in his six children. Paul, the oldest, is the front-man and founder of the Rockin’ Chair Blues Band. Conger, the middle son, is a musician with his church in South Carolina and Mark, the youngest, is a professional drummer who is now Executive Chef at a Five Star restaurant in New Hampshire. All five of Conger’s children are also actively involved with music as well, showing those blues apples don’t fall far from that C-augmented fourth chord. The other three children, all girls, are also involved with music in some way. Sons Paul, Conger and Mark all joined local musicians Sterling MaGee, Wendy of the Soul Shakers, T.C. Carr and others onstage to pay tribute to the man with the gravelly voice and debonair good looks. A pictorial tribute was placed on one side of the Inn’s patio and many of the guests got to see Tracy in all his glory; as a young piano man in New York city, standing beside his beautiful wife, pictures from his Scouts and Raiders days as well as photos of several bands he used to perform with. His legendary hat was placed on top and an empty beer stein was placed in front.

The night was filled with blues and celebration, commemorating a life lived with music, love and laughter. Tracy Purcell was truly a class act; his influence will be heard around this area and beyond for years to come. Show ‘em in Heaven, Tracy, how to really play the blues….

YMCA Seeking Donations

Since 1990, the YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg has organized the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Christmas Program, which provides a traditional Christmas to 450 local families including more than 1,000 children.

Each year the residents of the St. Petersburg community step up to the challenge of helping their neighbors during the holiday season. Although many have contributed this year, the YMCA is still in need of both toys and family sponsorships in order to meet the needs of the families and children that have been adopted.

A sponsorship of $100 ensures that a family will receive all of the aspects of a traditional Christmas including a tree, decorations, bible, holiday meal, and toys. The toys are being collected through toy boxes that are placed at businesses throughout the area and new, unwrapped toys for children ages toddler through twelve are needed.

Toys and donations can be given at the Jim and Heather Gills YMCA located at 3200 First Avenue S. or for more information on how you can help your neighbor please call 895-9622 or visit www.stpeteymca.org.

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321-6965

Joy Joy Joy
Christmas Musical for the Entire Family!
Friday, December 19th
& Saturday, December 20th
7:30 pm
Doors open at 7:00 pm
Free admission

Pasadena Community Church
227 - 70th Street S. (2nd Ave. S. at Pasadena Ave.) • St. Petersburg FL 33707
Phone 727-381-2499 www.pasadenacommunitychurch.org

Gabber December 11 - December 17, 2008

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History & Cookies

Elizabeth Brown-Worthington brought some peanut butter cookies and pretzel reindeer that she helped make to the Gulfport Historical Society's Christmas Party Tuesday evening. Elizabeth's mother, Christine Brown, volunteers her time with the Gulfport Historical Society. She and Elizabeth's father, Lou Worthington, also attended the event.

The Gulfport Historical Society operates the Gulfport Historical Museum at 5301 28th Avenue South. The museum is open Monday through Friday from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and in Saturdays from 10 a.m. until noon. Admission is free.

Please Patronize Our Advertisers
Gulfport’s Downtown Holiday Celebration

Even Florida kids learn real fast how to throw a snowball at the First Friday Arts Walk and Snow Fest.

Above: Ella Dunham, 4, of Gulfport shows off her ski gloves at the Gulfport snow mountain on Friday evening.

Left: Nine year old Megan O’Reilly, daughter of acting City Manager Jim O’Reilly gets doodles in her hair from First Friday Arts Walk vendor De’s Doodle Doos.

Photos by Leigh Clifton

Gabber December 11 - December 17, 2008
32nd Annual Christmas Light Display
The Oakdale Christmas Display located at 2719 Oakdale Street S. in St. Petersburg is up and running. The display blanketing nearly 1/2 acre features hundreds of moving and animated items, lots of inflatable and lit up figures and displays, a walking yard tour that includes an 18-train HO scale model RR and a dazzling fiber optic forest. For the kids there are hands-on games and bubble machines. Oakdale is off of Fourth Street just south of 22nd Avenue S. Operates daily from 6-10 p.m. Free. Visit christmasdisplay.org.

Shop St. Vincent’s Thrift Shop
St. Vincent’s Episcopal Church Thrift Shop has new hours: open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are decked out for the holidays. Visit our Christmas boutique. All clothing is half-price on Thursdays during November and December. The shop is located at 5124 Gulfport Boulevard.

Polish American Society
The Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Drive (next to the Coast Guard commissary) is open for dancing and dinner from September through May. Dancing is from 4-7 p.m. Members are $5, guests are $7. Call 894-9908 or visit www.polishsociety.org.

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ALL MAKES OF CHINA
COMPLETE OR PARTIAL SETS
ALSO BUYING:
• FLATWARE
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Saturday 9-2
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Lowest Prices in Pinellas County

Mention this ad for Discount

Zoned CG
For Small Business

Many Sizes Available
City of Gulfport’s 2008 Holiday Decorations Contest Application Form

The thought behind the Holiday Decorations Contest is to brighten up our City during the Holiday Season!

Name__________________________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________________
Phone___________________________ Date_____________________________

I would like to participate in the Holiday Decorations Contest and will abide by the rules of the contest.

I DO or DO NOT wish my name and address to be in any publication.

Circle one theme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>General</th>
<th>Commercial</th>
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<td>Single or Joint</td>
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The General Theme is for single/joint home only. The Commercial Theme is for single/joint business and professional locations, including home occupations. A plaque will be awarded to one winner of each theme. Only one plaque will be awarded for “joint” home or business participants.

Judging will be on Friday, December 19, 2008. All participants MUST be prepared by 6 p.m. A judging schedule will not be announced.

Please return this application to: Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Blvd. S. Call 893-1068 for more information.

Contest Rules
1. All entrants must be City of Gulfport residents or businesses.
2. Each participant shall select one theme and so indicate above.
3. Businesses are urged to participate.
4. Applications MUST be submitted for participation and received by NOON, Friday, Dec. 19th. Judging will be done after 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19th. The judges’ route schedule will not be announced.
5. Plaques will be awarded to the winner of each theme. Winners will be announced in the Dec. 25th edition of the Gabber. Winners will be recognized and presented their plaques at the Gulfport City Council meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 6th located at 2401 53rd St. S.
**Design Public Art for Tennis Center**

Artists are invited to submit applications for exterior public art for the St. Petersburg Tennis Center at Bartlett Park. The center is both a historic landmark in the sports history of St. Petersburg and a vibrant, active sports facility that serves children and adults.

A new clubhouse with a wrap-around covered porch/viewing area will be built on the site of the original WPA-era clubhouse. The motto of the tennis center is Proud of Our Past Dedicated to Our Future.

The Project Committee seeks art that will relate to the tennis mission of the facility, and is appealing to young people. Art may also help to interpret the history of the tennis center, particularly its “Walk of Champions” on the wrap-around porch which will display the names of over 50 tennis players who have played matches at the center throughout its history. Art must withstand the Florida humidity, salt air, hurricane force winds, strong UV and unsupervised, frequent contact with children.

For more information including architectural drawings and complete instructions on how to apply, go to www.stpete.org/callforartists.

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**Audition for “On Golden Pond”**

St. Petersburg Little Theatre, 4025 31 Street S. will hold auditions for “On Golden Pond” on January 5 and 6. They are seeking one man to play 80, one woman to play 70, one woman to play 40s, two men to play 40s and one boy to play 13. Production dates are March 13-29, nine performances Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Call 866-2059 or visit www.splt.org.

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**Stroke Series II**

**Join Us For a Stroke Prevention Clinic**

**Speaker:**

Barbara Rowland, RN (ED)

Stroke Coordinator, Palms of Pasadena Hospital

**Date:**

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

**Time:**

12 Noon

*A light lunch will be served.*

**Program begins at 12:30**

**Location:**

Palms of Pasadena Professional Building
Boca Ciega Room

Call for reservations – 1-800-667-4576.

Space is limited.
Ten Pin Lanes Wins Best of Lights Contest

The South Pasadena Beautification Committee selected Ten Pin Lanes as the winner of the Best of Lights Contest for 2008.

Public Works Commissioner Bruce Howry presented Barbara Stealy, owner of Ten Pin Lanes, with a framed certificate at the South Pasadena Regular Commission meeting on December 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. A sign showing that Ten Pin Lanes is the Best of Lights winner will be placed in front of their business property.

The bowling alley was built in 1950 before South Pasadena became a city. Barbara Stealy is the third owner (bought the business in 1976) and a partner with her parents until they retired in 1983. Debbie Fox, Assistant Manager, decided with the economic downside they needed a pick up at the business. Employees volunteered their time on a Saturday to decorate the bowling center for the holidays.

Christmas Musical at Park Place Wesleyan

Park Place Wesleyan Church, 4400 70 Avenue N. in Pinellas Park will present their 27th annual Christmas Musical Production entitled “Tonight, Heaven Touches Earth” on December 14 at 6 p.m., December 15, 17, 19 and 22 at 7 p.m. and December 21 at 4 p.m. Events features the living Christmas tree with hundreds of thousands of lights. Free. Nursery provided. Call 526-3674 or visit www.ppwc.org.

Celtic Healing Service

One of Good Samaritan Church’s traditions that highlight the Advent season is the annual “Celtic Healing Service of Deep Peace” on Tuesday, December 16, at 6 p.m. The service begins with “Soup for the Soul” which is a simple meal of soup and bread followed by singing of carols. The participants then move to the sanctuary where there is prayer, scripture, music, silence, communion open to all and anointing with oil. This is a service for all believers who feel the need to take an hour out of the seasonal hustle and bustle to pause and listen to God. Good Samaritan Church, 6085 Park Boulevard in Pinellas Park, invites you to this very meaningful gathering. For a complete schedule of Advent and Christmas services with the 2008 theme “Finding God in Uncertain Times” visit www.goodsam-church.org.

Gator Wash

Home of the 4 Minute Wash
2 Minutes To Drop Off
2 Minutes To Pickup

6400 5th Ave. South
(Convenient to Stetson, Gulfport, South Pasadena & Central Ave.)
345-3914

WASH, DRY, FOLD
80¢/Pound
(12 pound minimum)

Free Wireless Internet

Shaner’s LAND & SEA MARKET

Your family owned and operated neighborhood market
“Come Taste the Difference”

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St. Pete Beach, FL. 33706
8AM to 7PM
7 Days A Week
This N’ That in South Pasadena
By Sibylle Stajich

Fire Department

The month of November was a very busy one: a total of 244 calls, 39 for Fire and 205 for EMS.

Community Band

Come to the Pasadena Community Church on Thursday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m. and enjoy their free concert “Holiday Spectacular”.

Christmas Party

On Friday, December 5 everyone was ready for the Christmas holiday festival at City Hall. About 50 chairs were lined up in front of the grassy slope in front of City Hall where a tall fir tree was standing. Soon all the seats were taken and around 6:30 Mayor Holmes (decked out in a Santa hat) announced that the festivities were about to begin and asked all to sing a chorus of Jingle Bells and Silent Night which he accompanied on his harmonica. Then all counted to 3 and the tree lit up beautifully. The mayor said that Santa was coming before long and soon sirens could be heard and the fire engine came rolling along bringing Santa. Everyone then strolled into the festively lit City Hall where tables had been set up with nuts, nibbles and cup cakes and people could take coffee or eggnog. All small visitors received presents from Santa under a tree in the foyer. The mayor introduced Lisa Fultz who is the founder of the dance group and she asked several groups of children of all ages to come and perform dance routines. They were all members of the Special Kids Dance & Performing Arts ensemble and all are children and young adults with special needs who are provided instruction in dance and performing arts to help improve fitness, health, balance, self-confidence and social skills. Lilly Alcott is the organizer of these children who were also instrumental in creating 15 gingerbread houses that were on display. Lively music accompanied all events and the large audience of parents, friends and visitors left filled with holiday spirit.

Qualifying for March 10 So. Pasadena Seats

Qualifying for the City of South Pasadena March 10, 2009 election of two Commission seats will begin at 12:00 noon on November 25, 2008 and end at 12:00 noon on December 15, 2008. An informational meeting for candidates will be held on Monday, November 17, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall, 7047 Sunset Drive South.

For further information, contact the City Clerk’s office at 347-4171.

•••
In just 96 weeks, Gulfport will celebrate the centennial of its incorporation, October 12, 1910. We’ll be reminding you every week with an interesting old photograph from the collection of the Historical Museum. See if you can identify the people, places, and above all the decade of each picture as it comes along. To make it a little bit of a challenge, we won’t publish the correct caption until the following week.

**LAST WEEK’S ANSWER:**

Last week’s picture was an early view of the first casino, just after it was built in 1906. It was at the end of a long pier, far enough out into the water to allow for boats to dock and pick up passengers from the trolley, which ran right along the pier beside the building.

Everybody went tarpon fishing in old-time Gulfport, but who are these two ladies and when did they make their catches? Answer next week.

**Think you know the answer?**

Send us an email with your answer, name and phone number to News@theGabber.com

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**Exciting upcoming Trips!**

**Biloxi, Mississippi—1/26/09 — 5 DAY**
7 meals, with 3 nts. at Beau Rivage, see New Orleans, French Quarter, Tallahassee...
$499*/$679

**Key West - 2/23/09 — 3 DAY**
2 nites at Fairfield Inn & Suites in Key West with hot & cold deluxe continental breakfast included, Historic Tours of America Trolley service...
$369*/$589

**New Orleans—3/9/09—5 DAY**
Isla of Capri, 2 nts. in N.O. Drury Inn next to French Quarter & next to Harrah’s, N.O. City tour, meal at French cooking school, one night Tallahassee...
$499*/$639

**Meet Me In Memphis—3/31/09—6 DAY**
Guided city tour, tour of famous Sun Studios, visit National Civil Rights Museum, Tour of Graceland, meals include Neely’s Barbeque and King’s Palace...
$799*/$999

**Lots of Great Daytrips too! - Call for a listing!**

*indicates price twin per person, Some tours include insurance Call for details

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**Join us for a Fun Travel Club meeting!!!**

**Two Times & Locations:**

**Tue, Dec 16th, 1:30PM** at the Piccadilly Cafeteria—Winn Dixie shopping center US 19 & 22nd Ave N—OR—

**Wed Dec 17th, 9:30AM** at Lake Seminole Square Condos—8333 Seminole Blvd

Come and Join the crowd for:

- An entertaining presentation on upcoming trips and attractions
- Guest Speakers
- Fun Games & entertainment
- Snacks & Bingo (at Lake Seminole Square)
- No Reservation Necessary
VITA Needs Volunteers

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program is currently recruiting volunteers. VITA is a national program designed to assist low- and moderate-income workers by providing free tax preparation and ensuring eligible recipients receive all the tax credits to which they are entitled, including EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit). Volunteers are needed throughout Pinellas County.

By investing a few hours each week from late January to mid-April, 2009 as a greeter/screener or tax preparer, you will help families and individuals achieve greater economic security and improve the local economy. Free tax preparation and tax credits boost the standard of living for thousands of local children and families while bringing millions of EITC dollars into your community.

Volunteers need to have an interest in serving the public and proficient computer skills. Free training is provided to those willing to volunteer. Upon completion of training, tax preparers will receive IRS certification.

VITA is offered in Pinellas County through a partnership between the Wealth Building Coalition/Pinellas Prosperity Campaign and the Internal Revenue Service. Since implementation in 1969, thousands of volunteers throughout the country have provided free tax assistance and prepared millions of U.S. federal tax returns in VITA. Call 328-0618.

Learn to Read Better

The Literacy Council of St. Petersburg can help. Call 521-1117 or visit stpetereads.com.

...
Following are some of the calls that 
Gulfport Police responded to during the 
past week.

**Friday 11/28**
- Narcotics/Drugs- 4600 Blk 29th Ave. S.
- Suspicious Circumstances- 1000 Blk 60th St. S.
- Burglary- 5300 Blk 8th Ave. S.
- Burglary- 5200 Blk 19th Ave. S.
- Noise Complaint- 5000 Blk Newton Ave. S.
- Threatening Bodily Harm- 1400 Blk 58th St. S.
- Accident with Injuries- 5300 Blk 15th Ave. S.
- Theft- 5900 Blk Shore Blvd. So.
- Burglary- 3000 Blk Dupont St.

**Saturday 11/29**
- Domestic Battery- 1500 Blk 54th St. S.
- Suspicious Person- 1300 Blk 58th St. S.
- Drunk Driver- 5400 Blk 29th Ave. S.
- Noise Complaint- 6200 Blk 11th Ave. S.
- Noise Complaint- 2900 Blk 50th St. S.
- Domestic Verbal- 1400 Blk Freemont St. S.
- Harassing/Threat/Obscene Calls- Location Withheld.

**Monday 12/1**
- Animal Complaint- 5400 Blk Tangerine Ave. S.
- Theft- 1000 Blk 54th St. S.
- Robbery- 2500 Blk 56th St. S.
- Theft- 5200 Blk 26th Ave. S.
- Suspicious Circumstances- 3000 Blk 50th St. S.

**Tuesday 12/2**
- Trespasser- 1000 Blk 60th St. S.
- Criminal Mischief- 5300 Blk 29th Ave. S.
- Hit & Run- 5600 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
- Narcotics/Drugs- 900 Blk 58th St. S.
- Suspicious Person- 2300 Blk 53rd St. S.
- Animal Complaint- 5900 Blk Tangerine Ave. S.
- Traffic Stop-Failed To Stop- 4900 Blk 11th Ave. S.
- Burglary- 1800 Blk 52nd St. S.
- Criminal Mischief- Veterans Park.
- Trouble with Individual- 2800 Blk Upton St. S.
- Theft- 5100 Blk Newton Ave. S.
- Suspicious Circumstances- 6100 Blk Pasadena Pt. Blvd. S.
- Wednesday 12/3
- Trouble with Individual- 1700 Blk 51st St. S.
- Violation of Court Order- 5000 Blk 27th Ave. S.
- Suspicious Vehicle- 4900 Blk 9th Ave. S.
- Animal Complaint- 1800 Blk 51st St. S.
- Trouble with Individual- 1800 Blk 53rd St. S.
- Arrest on Warrant- 5700 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
- Trouble with Individual- 2500 Blk 57th St. S.
- Stolen Vehicle- 5100 Blk 16th Ave. S.
- Thursday 12/4
- Battery- 5100 Blk 14th Ave. S.
- Trouble with Individual- 900 Blk 58th St. S.
- Domestic Battery- 2700 Blk 57th St. S.
- DUI Investigation- 2500 Blk 49th St. S.
- Trouble with Individual- 5400 Blk 9th Ave. S.
- Trouble with Individual- 1000 Blk 9th Ave. S.
- Soliciting- 1600 Blk 58th St. S.
- Trouble with Individual- 5300 Blk 17th Ave. S.
- Animal Complaint- 1400 Blk 54th St. S.
- Theft- 5600 Blk 14th Ave. S.

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**Crime Awareness Meeting**

There will be no December Crime Awareness meeting due to scheduling difficulties. We wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and want to share a few safety tips because with the current economy, more and more desperation is out there. 1) Be aware of your surroundings when you are out shopping! This is a prime time for criminals to take advantage. 2) Don’t leave valuables and gifts in your vehicle for all to see - and to tempt someone to take advantage. 3) Park in lit areas if you will be coming back to your car after dark. There will be more tips and reminders in the weeks to come. For more information or questions, contact Jeri Reed at 327-3509 or by email at jsrtraining@aol.com. Happy Holidays!
Art, from front page

market like setting complete with student stock holders. St. Pete High teacher Joyce Lindstrom, who helped develop the marketing plan stresses that this type of knowledge can help take the students into the real world of finance and company skills.

The Youth Arts Corp, an organization founded in 1996, by therapist Mary Ann Assif, began as an alternative for artistic kids who needed a place to hang out. Using art as a therapy tool, Assif soon realized that focusing on after school education and job training was one of the most effective ways of reaching a youth base in underserved neighborhoods.

“There was a great pool of talented kids who want to learn but had no educational or artistic opportunities, so we funded the program to actually pay the students a stipend, based on their participation and skill level. The classes are free and the kids are apprenticed to local artists in their preferred field and must meet deliverables; produce ideas and products that are required by the teaching artist. It’s very structured but gives the kids great incentive to excel.”

Programs offered are video, film, quilting, painting and drawing, fiber arts, theatre and photography. Many students, after finishing their residency, return to the Corp to teach, thus are spreading the knowledge to a youth client base that normally might not have an option to learn. Student participant Martina Clarke, 17, has been with the program for five years and teaches there as well. 18 year old video producer and photographer Ibin Rogers started with the program at 15 and now has a St. Pete Times documentary to his credit as well as several commercials and marketing programs for a Florida Craftsman Museum doll maker. Tasmond Johnson, 19, is a freelance artist and created the display fliers and Akeem, 19, is a painter who transforms the canvases of shoes, hats and t-shirts into an elevated art form of multi-colored expression.

Another participating artist in the Youth Market is Alex Blosser, a junior at East Lake High, who works in and designs things in, of all things, computer paper. His designs are conceptualized in his mind before he ever makes one fold in the pieces of paper that eventually become dragons, small rolling creatures, spiders, bugs and the like. He then paints them and sells them on his MySpace page, ABLizards@msn.com and hopes to branch out onto eBay soon. One of his pieces, a seven pound paper dragon, will be on display at a local arts show. He has even designed a working gauntlet, made out of paper that is totally viable, with moveable fingers and joints.

Brother and sister artists Tyrell and Kiana Jordon are face painters who enjoy that talent from their artist father Homer Jordon and mother Alice.

The Youth Market will be held quarterly, according to Manager Graves and they are always looking for more student participants, so any youth connected organizations or clubs that are involved in fundraising or student artists should contact Steve Graves at 727-455-5130 for more information.

Donate Your Old Cell Phones

Donate your old cell phones to the Senior Safety Phone Project which provides seniors in Pinellas and Pasco counties with free emergency cell phones. The Area Agency on Aging of Pasco – Pinellas collects donated cell phones, tests and charges the phones, and then distributes them to seniors in the community. For a full list of the donation and distribution sites call 1-800-963-5337.

...
Every child has a wish list... send your

**Letters to Santa**

c/o The Gabber

All letters sent to Santa at the Gabber will immediately be forwarded to the North Pole. A letter will be printed in the Gabber each week from December 1st through December 25th. The author of each letter will receive a

**$30 gift certificate to Toys-R-Us**

One letter per child. Winners will be determined by the Gabber Staff. All letters must include: name, age, and return address and phone number. Please include a non-returnable photo.

Send to: Santa at the Gabber
1419 49th Street S.
Gulfport, FL 33707
Maximo Resource Center

The Maximo Resource Center, 4815 34 Street S. has information for you. The Center provides free blood pressure screenings performed by an R.N. on Wednesdays from 12 noon to 3 p.m., free bicycle registration, free CLUB for select automobiles, free cell phones for 911 use only, information and referral materials on many city programs, job listings with the City of St. Petersburg, brochures and phone numbers of various city and other local agencies and programs, lists and free shipment of items needed by members of our Armed Forces overseas.

The Resource Center has a number of the area newsletters and neighborhood newspapers available at no charge, as well as a collection of paperback and hardback books for 25 cents each.

The Resource Center opens at 9 a.m. Monday through Friday and is staffed entirely by volunteers. If you would like to serve as a volunteer or would like more information, please call Betty Watson or John Hall at the Resource Center at 866-7177.

... Fine Dining Every Thursday

The Sons of Italy opens its Fall season in October with a fine dining night every Thursday from 4-8 p.m. The menu changes weekly, but offers three entree choices each week, and includes salad and dessert, all for $9. Reservations accepted, call 776-1255. The Sons of Italy Lodge is located at 2500 34 Street S. next to Kentucky Fried Chicken. Look for the flotilla of Italian flags; you can’t miss it!

...
State Required Safe Boating Classes

Do not become a victim, statistic or the subject of a search and rescue. Be prepared for unforeseen, challenging and potentially dangerous events on the water:

Always have plenty of fuel and remember the 1/3rd Rule: Use only 1/3rd out, 1/3rd back and you should never run out of gas.

Start out with a charged battery and back-up when possible.

Always file a Float Plan with someone who cares and cancel it when you get back.

Do not go out in bad weather or when it is threatening. Keep a weather eye and go home before you need to do so.

Always have the required U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) equipment in good working order and not outdated:

USCG approved life jackets for each passenger that fit properly and wear them, appropriate fire extinguishers that work, visual distress signals (flares, etc.), navigation lights that work properly, an appropriate anchor with sufficient line and a marine VHF radio that works.

Always appoint a lookout to help watch for other boats, crab traps, shallow water, etc.

Always carry sufficient water/gator aid to prevent dehydration, hypothermia, and sunscreen to prevent burn.

Do not boat under the influence.

Drive safely and carefully at a reasonable speed based on the conditions at the time.

Learn or enhance your Boating Skills and Seamanship at the U.S.C.G. Auxiliary, Flotilla 72 each Tuesday night, 7:30-9:30 p.m., 1300 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg. Call 898-1324 for information. Completion satisfies the state of Florida boater safety ID requirements.

50 Plus Softball

The Woodlawn Senior League Softball Team is looking for players 50 and over to play on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Play begins 9 a.m. at Woodlawn Recreational Complex at the corner of 16th Street N. and 13th Avenue N. They play four teams of slow pitch softball. Any skill level from beginner to experienced players are welcome. League play is between December and April 1st. For further information, contact Jerry Thornton at 403-1765 (cell) or 527-2743 (home).
St. Pete Road Runners
FIT2RUN Race Series

St. Pete Road Runners (SPRR) announces the FIT2RUN Racing Series (“the Series”) with a total purse of $1,000 in prizes. The Series will consist of six Tampa Bay area races beginning in December and ending in March 2009. The Series has been designed to appeal to competitive and casual runners. SPRR is using the age-grading system to make the outcome as fair as possible and provide each member regardless of age with an equal chance of winning. They are also offering participation awards so each member has an opportunity to receive a prize.

Visit www.sprr.org for more information or call Eric Sager at 341-0737 about the series or Ben Fudge at 360-9213 about SPRR.

Support Our Troops

The City of South Pasadena in conjunction with the City of St. Pete Beach is collecting much needed items for our troops serving overseas. The City is collecting toiletries, stationary and snack items. For a complete list, please visit our website at www.ci.south-pasadena.fl.us.

Donations may be dropped off Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at City Hall 7047 Sunset Drive South - 2nd floor, South Pasadena. Names and addresses of soldiers serving overseas will be gladly accepted for care packages. Deadline for donations is January 2, 2009.

For more information call City Hall at 347-4171.

Pregnancy & Family Resource Center

Pregnant? Worried? We can help! Free pregnancy testing & pregnancy/parenting support for women & teens.
Monday & Thursday 1pm-4pm, 1000 55th St. So., Gulfport
(727) 328-9119
Confidential Walk-ins welcome or call for appointment.

Your ad will jump out using color!

Call today! 727-321-6965

PROBECK CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

Serving the Gulfport Community for 23 Years!

DR. ROBERT V. PROBECK  DR. DAVID T. HOBBES
Chiropractic Physician  Chiropractic Physician
384-2611  384-6025

5627 Gulfport Blvd. Gulfport

A Family Practice for Family Wellness.
Specializing In:
• Auto Accidents
• Sports Injuries
Most Insurance Accepted: Medicare Provider

GIVE GIFTS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The handcrafted paper on special Aveda boxed gift sets helps sustain Nepali families and forests—making a difference for their communities. And with Aveda gift cards, you can give products and services that make a difference for hair, skin and body.

Give Aveda: call 727.343.6200 today.
Find other Aveda locations at 800.328.0849 or aveda.com.

Gabber December 11 - December 17, 2008
Craft Art Comes Downtown

By Cathy Salustri

“I come to this exact booth every year and do it, like, 15 times! Next, I’m going to do a purse” Jessie Green said as she added the last few touches to her hand-dyed silk pillowcase.

At artist Marlene Glickman’s booth, Jessie and others used hand-dyed silk with instant setting dye and made their own art using Glickman’s tabletop techniques. Glickman, who lives in Clearwater, uses her hand-dyed silk in collages. She also teaches workshops and lectures about her medium.

This weekend, Jessie and scores of others had the chance to participate in creating art of their own as well as viewing the work of over 100 fine artists at the annual CraftArt show in downtown St. Petersburg.

CraftArt 2008, hosted by the Florida Craftsmen, showcases fine craft artists and lets the public see Florida Craftsmen art. Florida Craftsmen, a nonprofit group of artists, started over a half-century ago and represents several thousand fine artists around the state. They maintain a headquarters in St. Petersburg; for more information visit www.floridacraftsmen.net.

Gulfport Safe Boating Program

Plan to attend the Boating Skills and Seamanship program offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 7-16 Gulfport. The program will be held in the building on Clam Bayou Park Point located east of the Gulfport Municipal Marina. This program is continuous every Tuesday from 7-9:30 p.m. every week. Start any Tuesday and 13 weeks later you will complete the program. A certificate of completion will be issued to those participants successfully completing the program.

Cost for materials is $40 per person. Successful completion of this program could increase boating pleasure and in many cases qualify you for a discount on your boating insurance.

Please call 321-4455 or Kevin at 822-7232 for more information.

We Need Tutors at Lakewood Elementary

By Joanie Clarkin

Do you have one hour per week? We are in need of tutors and mentors to help our children to enhance our student academic and personal growth through inquiry and investigation. Lakewood Elementary is the leading medical science and wellness community recognized for academic excellence, inclusiveness, and student and faculty well-being.

We would love for you to join our team. Please call Joanie Clarkin at 434-3459.
Canoe Country: Water, Family, and Fun

By Cathy Salustri

I have a five-year-old Dagger Blackwater 10.5 that I love more than a person should love a kayak. It’s not expensive, it’s not fancy, and it’s certainly not in great shape, but when I get the urge to see baby green herons, I throw my Dagger on my car and within 30 minutes I’m padding through a mangrove tunnel in Clam Bayou. When the mood strikes, I launch my Dagger from the Fort DeSoto boat ramp and paddle alongside dolphin as I wait for the green flash. It’s kind of an all-purpose kayak, really. In it I’ve paddled the emerald waters of the Florida Keys and the black waters of the Hillsborough River. I’ve watched dolphin and alligators not ten feet off my bow, the former with awe and the latter with a lot of faith in my ability to paddle quickly.

I got lucky when I selected my kayak because I didn’t buy it from Canoe Country but from a long-gone outfitter in north Pinellas, and while they were very nice they didn’t have as much knowledge (or as many lines of boats) as Canoe Country. I’d kayaked enough to know basically what I wanted, so I bought a kayak that’s worked out well for me.

But what if you have no clue what you want? What if you’ve never even sat in a kayak before and you don’t know if you want a sit-on-top or a sit-inside (or, really, what the difference is?)

Then you need to go to Canoe Country. Michael and Donna, their son Scott, his cousin Jeremy and long-time family friend Tyler jointly run this 20-year-old family business, and every one of them knows paddlesports inside and out.

“We’re different from a box store, where you might get a guy from the tennis department selling kayaks. We custom-rig our boats to our customer’s needs,” Scott says.

Want to rig a kayak for fishing? Michael does that every day. Want a kayak that you can put your dog in with you? Donna has some suggestions.

How about a kayak with a window in the bottom? Tyler can help. Do you know whether you want a sit-inside or sit-on-top? Scott will help you figure it out. Do you need a paddle? Let Jeremy explain your options.

If you’re like me and you’ve kayaked enough to know what you want, or if you’ve owned a kayak before and you’re looking to upgrade, you’ll like the selection at Canoe Country—not to mention the bevy of extras that you can get to outfit your boat.

I ended up there most recently because I needed a way to get my Dagger to the beach without scratching the paint completely off my car. Jeremy installed the racks in about 15 minutes and they ended up costing a lot less than the dealership-installed racks.

If you’re in the market for a kayak, this weekend Canoe Country’s having a truckload sale. You can get canoes for $520, kayaks for $340 and you’ll also be able to get paddles and life vests on sale as well. If you buy a kayak, canoe, or Geehooe (a square-sterned canoe that can have a trolling motor, and perfect for a lot of fishermen), they’ll deliver it to Gulfport or the beaches for free.

There’s unfortunately not enough space to tell you about everything they sell, so I’ll hit the highlights: Dagger, Wilderness, Old Town, Mad River Canoe, Life Is Good, and a host of boats and paddlesport-related gear. You can get a 24-hour rental for $30, a fishing kayak starting at $350 or a $3000 kayak if you so desire.

“It doesn’t matter if you want to spend $300 or $3000,” Scott says “Everyone gets treated the same. We kind of have a niche for everybody.”

“We specialize in the average Joe,” Jeremy agrees.

Canoe Country Outfitters
(727) 545-4554
(800) 330-1550
6493 54th Avenue North
www.CanoCountryFL.com
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed Wednesdays
There’s No Business Like Show Business
(a call for Volunteers for Gulfport Community Players)

By Carol Polk

Thank God for the improvements and the many strong commitments over the 28 years of our theater group.

“Let’s make a play, Mickey!” Was the bright idea greeting me one dull day in 1980 as I walked into the Hickman office of Real Estate which existed on the East corner of Beach Blvd. and Shore Dr. opposite the Casino. There sat Cathy & Mary Hickman and Judy Ryerson. Soon the office was alive with creative ideas of theater. “Dora The Dishwasher, or The Maid who Cleaned Up” was not so soon produced, none-the-less, welcomed and a hit in our town. Entering stage left and to the joy and relief of Keith Hickman, came one of our most committed, Dean Dobbs, working arduously as a member and continuing as an actor for years. Van Sullivan also joined in with his building skills and dedication. There were and are so many dedicated members behind the scenes, they would be too numerous to mention here but are greatly appreciated. However, because I can’t help myself, just to mention a few volunteers from the past, some still working with us; Directors Jim Cartwright, Vern and Karen Troutner; House Mother Cathy Culler and her “Team Supreme” for ticket sales and hospitality; Miki and Don Vaughn as building supers, bar tenders, set builders and what ever else was/is needed; now including Jim DeVeney. Remembering Tom Smerz building sets in his driveway when we were without a rehearsal hall. A big applause and hug for our marvelous back stage managers Donna Naughton and Jovanna Hill. This cannot stop without mentioning some grand performers like Karen Troutner, Carol Valdes, Tom Guy, Mary Orzech and of course Judy Ryerson; also for artistic design along with her Play Reading committee, pulling us away from the melodrama and light comedies into the world of arts in theater, Helen Paramore. I can’t leave this without a mention of the all the endless hours of work in advertising, Posters and Programs produced by Bill Rucker, Preston and Carolyn Brock, including the hours spent by Frank Hale as Director and Audio/ Light designer. Today we are blest with our own music man, Gil Pelloth, and Marjorie Grudzinski jumping in at a moments notice, like a best friend.

The glue through out all the years, remaining dedicated to this day, is the lady who has worn many hats, Judy Ryerson. Early in the game she has executed a phenomenal range of talent from building sets, sewing, acting, selling advertisements, then jumping out and selling tickets. More than once as the Community Players dwindled to the point of disintegration it was Judy Ryerson who pulled the glue out of her pocket and held “The Players” together. Through the years I often thought if we were ever to get a building of our own, a fitting name would be “Ryerson Hall”, a name that also rings as loud of Gulfport’s theatrical history as Catherine Hickman does.

Today, thanks to the leadership of Eileen Navaro and the board members; and Dawn Fisher, our Arch Angel and the many other financial angels listed on our Entry Wall we have our home, the “Back Door Theater”. Our greatest thanks is always to the dedicated; and most important part of our Gulfport Community Theater, our patrons!!

Today we are calling you who would like to join us as we renew our core of volunteers. All areas of theater arts including lights and sound are welcome, we’ll do the training. Call me ASAP ...Carol Polk at 321-4720. Come join us, we would love to have you.

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Your Free Time Can Help a Parent

The Parent Aide Program of Help A Child, Inc. has several parents who would really benefit from a mentor and role model for better parenting. Volunteers will be trained to help a parent understand how important what they say and how they say it is to the self esteem of their child, how to discover more about their children and to look for their value, how to appropriately handle misbehavior and much more.

Call Pat Measel at 544-3900, ext. 169 or visit www.HelpAChild.org for more information.

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Help for Women in Transition

The Resource Center for Women (RCW) helps women in transition achieve emotional strength, self-sufficiency and economic stability. RCW offers free training programs to women in the areas of personal growth, career development, basic money management and parenting. In addition, RCW offers a monthly computer orientation class, a free computer lab and a women’s support group.

Classes are held in St. Petersburg at the Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Avenue S., 893-7134. Registration is required for all classes. Visit www.resourcecenterforwomen.org for more information or call 586-1110.

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**Friday, Dec 12, 2008 10-12pm**
Enoch Davis Center
1111 Eighteen Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

**You are invited! Call for Reservations**
(813) 464-5004
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Deadline: Tuesday 5pm - Monday 3pm if proof is required
(727) 321-6965 fax (727) 327-7830

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Below, please find some of the specialized services offered in Gulfport. For more information or to place an ad, please contact the Gulfport Service Guide.

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50% OFF FIRST CLEAN IF QUALITY MATTERS

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MAINTENANCE CLEANING
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We clean windows, furniture, tile & grout. Floors stripped & waxed
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521-4163 Licensed & Insured


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Gulfport Technology Center
Daydreamers Internet Cafe
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3037 Beach Boulevard
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30 Years Experience
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Computer running slow? Crashing or Locking up?
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Affordable Computer Services
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Some services offered may require a construction competency license. To verify the license of a person or firm, call the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at 536-4729. All major work will require a permit from your local Building Department.
We Also Offer...

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Carpets Steam Cleaned

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Polk County
863-802-3888

Hillsborough County
813-221-9888

Pinellas County
727-943-7771

Toll Free 888-596-6266

$69.95
2 Room Min. up to 750 sq. feet

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5 Rooms only

$199.95
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WE ALSO OFFER...

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All upholstery call for details

$29.95 Air Duct Cleaning

Vent $15 each. Return $15 Each.

10 Vents, 1 Return & Main Duct Additional

Who's House Specialty. Includes up to 10

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Most Furniture Moved

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Gabber December 11 - December 17, 2008
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Let me help you during the holiday rush! Make holiday decorating simple this year. I can come to your home and help with your Christmas items or I can purchase them for you. No job is too small. Quality service at reasonable prices! Call Rasa’s Interiors, 727-365-0443.

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Over 10 years in area. Steady local client base. Turn-key operation with established manager if needed over 13 years experience in the industry. Existing low rent lease with possible renewal if wanted, in a prime location. Leaving the area to move closer to my family.

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1989 Carver Montego
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Immaculate! 25.5 ft. All Records $16,500

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1437 56TH ST. S.- Fri./Sat./Sun. 8-? New & Used, Clothing, Toys, Books, DVDs, Tent, Tillers & More!

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PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN (Never Known to Fail) - Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me into my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3) times. Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3) times. Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you.

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GULFPORT ART DISTRICT- 1BR includes Cable, Water, Internet, Carport, Freshly Painted, Quiet Brick Street. $650/Mo. & Deposit. 727-776-5544. After 5p.m.
FOR RENT

1 Bed Apt. 5877 Fairfield Ave. S. $550/mo. +dep.
3 Bed House 4743 21st Ave. S. $950/mo. +dep.
2 Bed House 4443 16th Ave. S. $800/mo. +dep.
3 Bed House 126 17th Ave. S. $1100/mo. +dep.
3 Bed House 2651 2nd Ave. S. $1000/mo. +dep.

SECTION 8 HUD WELCOME
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GULFPORT ART DISTRICT

2BR/1BA Blocks from Water, Gorgeous Tropical Yard, CH/A, Ready for New Year’s Tenant. $895/Mo. Call Tim, 727-698-3506.

Bay Island:

Lexington Bldg: #403 New on market $125,000, or long term lease. Furnished. Balcony.
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Real Estate for Rent


NICE LARGE 1BR APT- Screened-In Porch, Fenced-In Yard. 1 Block from Gulfport Art District/Waterfront. $885/Mo. & Utilities. Available January 1st. 1st, Last & Deposit Required. 727-776-9787.

Furnished Rentals

VACATION RENTALS- Isla Del Sol Club Baha, 2/2, Fantastic Waterview, Beautifully Furnished, Fitness Center. Priced Depending on Length of Rental. shellrealty@aol.com. 727-867-5536.


GULFPORT ART DISTRICT


STUDIO APT. - Overlooks, Park and Tennis Courts. Large Bath with Tub. Conveniently located. All Utilities Included. Credit Check Required. 727-688-7622.

ST. PETE BEACH - 1BR, Water Included, Excellent Condition, Near Busline. $595/Mo. Also Available: Large Efficiency, $555/Mo. Janet Shapiro, 727-345-7036.


WATERFRONT STUDIO CONDO

Fantastic View, CH/A, New Paint. No Pets, Adult. Excellent Location, Close to Maximo Marina. $765/Mo. Includes Cable TV. 727-865-9707.

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5106 15th Ave. S.
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79,900

6020 Shore Dr. S.
Town Shores Windsor 908
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TOWN SHORES 1BR DELUXE - Fairfax Building, Wonderful Water View in a Great Building. $139,000, 727-420-4214.

2BR MOBILE HOME - Pasadena Park, St. Pete, 55+, Resident Owned, $30,000 w/Furniture, $90/Mo. Fee, 727-302-9184, 847-323-4747.

TOWN SHORES - Balcony+Gorgeous Views+Clothes Dryer. Buckingham 7th Floor, 2/2, Hardwood, Mirrors, Covered Parking, $238,900. FREE Recorded Description (and Fax on Demand Flyer) 1-800-861-6865 x 9400. Don Taylor, REALTY EXECUTIVES, 727-458-7828.


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Eton #203, 1br/1bth deluxe, some updates, move in condition, curb parking, One of the lowest priced in Town Shores
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Embassy #312, Lrg Corner Unit (2210 sq. ft) Gorgeous south westerly views. 2br/2bth, new paint, tile, updated
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Hurricane shutters, Corian counter tops, new mirrored glass doors, new shower, sinks and toilet. Carport included,......
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Embassy #612, Lrg Corner Unit (2210 sq. ft) Fabulous wide open water views, 2br/2.5bths, Large open floor plan
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Embassy #409, 1 Br/1.5bth, open water views, beautifully furnished, dog friendly 20lbs min., Hurricane shutters.
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Embassy #702, 2br/2bth, open water views, split plan (master bed on wrt) next dr to clubhouse & pool. Dog
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Spectacular Deal! 1BR/1BA Ground floor corner unit. Priced well below market and a must see! $25,000 in upgrades on this unit. Furniture is negotiable. On the canal with buy and gulf access. Great sailboat water. Not a short sale, but just look at the price! G5225 $139,900

Breathtaking View! Huge living room, formal dining room all new kitchen, new appliances, new bath & more. French doors lead to balcony, where you can watch the sunsets. Large 1 bedroom. Completely furnished and ready to go. G5145 $70,000

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