

# VENICE Gondolier Sun

LOCAL NEWS COVER TO COVER AWARD-WINNING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

50 CENTS VOLUME 63 NUMBER 147

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY EDITION, APRIL 8-10, 2009

AN EDITION OF THE SUN

*You want me to touch that thing?*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRAN PALMERI

Dominic Mora, 3, comes to terms with a king snake after a little persuasion from Brian Pavlina, Sarasota County Conservation Lands Manager, at the Carlton Reserve Open House Saturday.



## Council hopeful irks VTL

BY GREG GILES  
NEWS EDITOR

Call it pre-election jockeying.

The Venice Taxpayers League called the police department to city hall Monday to remove Venice resident and city council hopeful Emilio Carlesimo from its monthly meeting in the community room. It didn't turn out as hoped. Police sided with Carlesimo, saying he had a right to be there.

Carlesimo's offense: taking pictures of League members during its meeting. He says he was doing it for possible use on his election Web site.

"I just went in and sat down, and took two pictures. Didn't say anything. They asked me to leave, saying I was disrupting their meeting," Carlesimo said. "They were the aggressors. (Venice Neighborhoods Coalition director) Tom Brener came over and stood right next to me and went on and on. I wasn't moving.

"I said, 'I am staying. If you touch me I will call the police. If you want me out, you will have to call the police.'"

Carlesimo said it was a public meeting held in a public building and he had a right to be there.



**Budway Brener Carlesimo Levine**

Taxpayer League Vice President Gary Budway, who chaired the meeting because president Herb Levine was away, attempted to call an executive session, but Carlesimo still wouldn't leave.

### Backup

Members Jon Preiksats and Ted Koszarski, vice president of the Venice Neighborhoods Coalition, went to City Manager Isaac Turner for help.

Brener asked the receptionist to call the police.

According to Budway, Turner called City Attorney Bob Anderson for advice. Turner and two police officers showed up to calm things down, informing Budway that Carlesimo had a right to be there and take pictures in a public building, and that a private organization couldn't hold an executive session on the premises.

"Turner came in with a cool

head and confirmed what I was saying," Carlesimo said. "You are not paying rent, it's a public building, and as a citizen I have the right to be there. They couldn't accept that."

"If you want the dummy to stay, that's his problem," Budway said, and asked Turner and the police to leave so he could resume the meeting.

"We talked about solar panels and the most oddball stuff thinking the guy would leave," Budway said. "He didn't leave."

Finally, Budway adjourned the meeting without getting to the main issue — who to back and how to promote its candidates in the upcoming council

Please see IRKS, 4A



**Turner**

## County offers prescription card

BY CAROL SAKOWITZ  
STAFF WRITER

A free prescription discount drug card program offering savings on more than 58,000 brand name and generic drugs is being promoted by Sarasota County for its residents.

Commission Chair Jon Thaxton and officials from Financial Marketing Concepts Inc., the Ponte Vedra Beach-based distributing company, launched the county program Monday. The pharmacy benefit manager is WellDyne RX in Lakeland.

Based upon company data, The Coast2Coast Rx Card is expected to save county residents an average of 35 percent on the retail cost of prescriptions. Martin Dettelbach, FMC chief marketing officer, said last year's average saving was 38 percent.

Insulin and diabetes supplies — including testing strips, lancets and alcohol swabs — are among items subject to discount if they are prescribed, Dettelbach said. Excluded from the program are Schedule I, II and III Drug Enforcement Administration-listed drugs such as Ritalin, OxyContin and Percocet, or

anabolic steroids.

Thaxton said the county looked at discount prescription programs for the past four years. He said that, considering the recent economic woes, the Coast2Coast program is beneficial to citizens and to the county.

Sarasota residents can obtain a discount card at county facilities and chain pharmacies such as CVS, Kmart, Medicine Shoppe, Publix, Sam's Club, Sweetbay, Target, Walgreen's, Walmart and Winn-Dixie. Some independent pharmacies also are in the program.



**Thaxton**

### 'Need state'

In all instances, there is no cost to the consumer for the card. There are no stipulations as to age, income or existing health coverage. However, the card cannot be used in conjunction with another prescription program.

Due to a gap in coverage, Medicare Part D participants may pay up to \$3,000 annually in out-of-pocket expenses. The card can help participants pay for prescriptions outside coverage.

County residents can download a discount prescription drug card by going to [www.coast2coastrx.com/sarasotafl](http://www.coast2coastrx.com/sarasotafl).

When commissioners unan-

Please see CARD, 4A

## No council meet for 'green' board

BY GREG GILES  
STAFF WRITER

Getting an audience with Venice City Council when you chair one of the city's advisory boards shouldn't be difficult. But one advisory board is having trouble doing just that.

The Environmental Task Force requested an hour to present the rationale for recommendations it made to the city's draft comprehensive plan last month, but it looks unlikely that will take place.

The recommendations were considered and set aside by council, which found them too detailed and without the kind of data analysis that would meet city or state requirements.

Mayor Ed Martin said at the time that council didn't have the expertise to evaluate many of the proposals, and even if it did, the city's comprehensive plan wasn't the proper vehicle to pursue the goals embodied in many of the recommendations.

In her request, Chair Laurel Schiller said the task force was assured it would have the opportunity to discuss its recommendations in a public meeting with council. Thus far she hasn't received a response from Martin.

The same assurance was given to the planning commission, but that was later changed at the mayor's behest



**Martin Ryan**

when it became clear that old policy battles were being reshaped.

"Our task force worked over many months last summer in extra workshop sessions to prepare our recommendations for you and the planning commission," Schiller wrote. "We appreciate your willingness to consider this request."

### Tit for tat

The request caught the attention of others, however, who sought the same opportunity.

John Ryan, president and CEO of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, e-mailed Martin requesting equal time for other boards.

"We understand and support that this decision is that of the Venice City Council. However, should such request be granted, I, on behalf of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, am requesting that the same opportunity be granted ... to the planning

Please see BOARD, 4A

Good morning,  
Gondolier Sun  
subscriber,  
MARY SZERBIN

### FRONT SECTION

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LET 'EM HAVE IT	7A
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AMERICAN PROFILE CLASSIFIEDS	
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### DEATHS

Doris Heusel	
Marion Zejmowicz	



## Florida Lottery

www.flalottery.com

CASH 3	PLAY 4	FANTASY 5
Apr. 6N.....297	Apr. 6N .....0616	Apr. 6.....12-18-20-29-33
Apr. 6D.....294	Apr. 6D .....9926	Apr. 5.....3-4-8-10-13
Apr. 5N.....264	Apr. 5N .....5634	Apr. 4.....4-7-10-18-34
Apr. 5D.....464	Apr. 5D .....0530	Apr. 3.....21-22-23-31-33
Apr. 4N.....424	Apr. 4N .....7593	Apr. 2.....28-30-33-34-36
Apr. 4D.....830	Apr. 4D .....3530	<b>Payoff for Apr. 6</b>
Apr. 3N.....161	Apr. 3N .....4278	0 5-digit winners: .....\$—
Apr. 3D.....702	Apr. 3D .....6724	268 4-digit winners:.....\$555
		8,441 3-digit winners:.....\$23
		2-digit winners.....Quick Pick ticket

MEGA MONEY	LOTTO
April 3 .....1-21-23-32 MegaBall .....3	Apr. 4.....8-16-31-37-45-48
Mar. 31.....6-10-20-38 MegaBall .....12	Apr. 1.....5-16-18-19-20-37
Drawings occur Tuesday, Friday evenings	Mar. 28.....2-6-25-31-37-50
<b>Payoff for Apr. 3</b>	<b>Payoff for Apr. 4</b>
1 4 of 4 + MB.....\$500,000	0 6-digit winners: .....\$—
9 4 of 4.....\$896.50	68 5-digit winners:.....\$5,797.50
51 3 of 4 + MB.....\$346.50	3,917 4-digit winners:.....\$81.50
1,140 3 of 4.....\$46	83,348 3-digit winners:.....\$5
1,508 2 of 4 + MB.....\$24	Drawings occur Wednesdays, Saturdays
	<b>Estimated jackpot: \$50 million</b>

POWERBALL
Apr. 4 .....14-21-50-57-58 Powerball.....7 Power play.....x3
Apr. 1 .....2-9-33-41-54 Powerball.....14 Power play.....x3
Drawings occur Wednesdays and Saturdays
<b>Estimated jackpot: \$143 million (\$79.4 million cash value)</b>

## BACK IN TIME

HARN FAMILY, CIRCA 1906



PHOTO COURTESY OF VENICE ARCHIVES

James Alonzo Harn, second from left, wife Mary Elizabeth Josephine Stephens Williams Harn, and twin sons Alonzo Harlee Harn, left, and James Yulee Harn, at their home on Lyons Bay in Nokomis. Catalog No. 0334. For more about this and other historical materials, visit Venice Archives and Area Historical Collection at 351 S. Nassau St., across from West Blalock Park. The mission of Venice Archives is to collect and preserve historical and archaeological material relating to Venice and the communities of Nokomis, Laurel and Osprey, whose histories have been interwoven from 1867 to the present. Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Call 486-2487 for more information.

## ABC-7 WEATHER

### VENICE OUTLOOK

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
70	78	83	83	82	83	83
47	52	61	68	67	66	67
			20%	20%		

Please remember to RECYCLE this newspaper.

### ABC-7 ALMANAC

Temperature	High	Low
Yesterday	66	56
Normal	80	58
Record	91	44
	(1965)	(1974)
Rainfall		0.00"
Yesterday		
	Actual	Average
Month	0.27"	0.48"
Year	3.77"	9.44"

### SUNRISE, SUNSET

Sunrise/set	
Tonight's sunset	7:51 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise	7:11 a.m.
Moonrise/set	
Moonrise	7:13 p.m.
Moonset	6:52 a.m.

### MARINE

**Cape Sable to Tarpon Springs:**  
(Sarasota and Charlotte Counties)  
NE winds at 6 to 12 knots.  
Seas 1 to 2 feet, light chop.

**Tarpon Springs to Apalachicola:**  
N winds at 6 to 12 knots.  
Seas 3 to 6 feet, moderate chop.

### VENICE TIDES

#### EASTERN STANDARD TIME

DATE	HIGH P.M.	HIGH A.M.	LOW P.M.	LOW A.M.
WED 8	11:53 a	12:10	7:00	6:14
THU 9	12:09	1:01	7:40	6:34
FRI 10	12:29	1:48	8:18	6:51
SAT 11	12:52	2:34	8:57	7:07
SUN 12	1:19	3:23	9:40	7:21

\*STRONG TIDE  
a—A.M. p—P.M.

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April 11, 9:00AM - 11:00AM Eggstravaganza Centennial Park

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**CITY NOTES**

COMPILED BY NEWS EDITOR GREG GILES

**Lang won't seek reimbursement**

According to an e-mail on the city's public server, Council Member Sue Lang doesn't intend to seek reimbursement for private attorney's fees related to the Sunshine lawsuit.

Council agreed last month to settle the suit out of court. All that remains is determining attorney fees.

According to Lang, City Attorney Bob Anderson requested meetings with the individual defendants to ascertain whether each would request reimbursement from the city.

"I had decided that I would not seek reimbursement of the legal fees I incurred at the outset of the lawsuit before the assignment of an attorney by the city's insurance carrier," Lang wrote. "Attorney Anderson wanted to confirm this because he had not received a request from me for reimbursement."

According to Lang, Anderson did receive three requests, presumably from Mayor Ed Martin and council members John Moore and John Simmonds.

**Settlement sought**

Attorneys for Discovery Village at Venice, a retirement community planned near Laurel Road, have requested a continuance of council's approval of a deal struck giving a developer increased density in return for lower height.

The continuance is for 60 days, giving attorneys for Discovery Village and the city of Venice time to hold a settlement conference. Discovery Village is seeking unspecified damages and reimbursement of costs in return for agreeing to withdraw a \$7.9 million claim for loss of value in the property and loss of income.

**Tree City USA designation**

The Venice Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recently recommended moving forward to seek Tree City USA designation.

There are more than 3,300 cities in the program, with 137 cities in Florida, including North Port. Criteria for receiving the designation include having a tree advisory board or department, a consultant who is a licensed arborist, a tree care ordinance, community forestry program and budget, and Arbor Day proclamation.

Chair Monty Andrews

*Ready and waiting*



SUN PHOTO BY BROOKY BROWN

Habitat for Humanity's newest Venice houses, at 424 and 440 Pelican Road, will be dedicated Saturday, April 11, at 9 a.m. To get there, take U.S. 41 to Alligator Drive, turn west on Alligator. Turn left on Tarpon Road, then right on Pelican Road.

said there are no costs involved, and requested that ex officio member Kit McKeon present the

proposal to council. The board also agreed to promote Park Appreciation Day in Venice to

coincide with Earth Day on April 22. The board will draft a resolution and development informa-

tional brochures to educate the public about the value of parks and promote underused parks.

**Venice man arrested on charge of DUI manslaughter in son's death**

STAFF REPORT

A Venice man has been charged with DUI manslaughter in a January wreck that killed his 22-year-old son, the Florida Highway Patrol reported.

Jackie Ray Clark Jr., 45, was arrested on the second-degree felony count without incident at his home

March 30. He was taken to the Sarasota County Jail, where he was released after posting \$50,000 bond.

Clark's son, Jackie Ray Clark III, 22, of North Port, was killed Jan. 2 when his father lost control of the Ford F-150 pickup he was driving north on Jacaranda Boulevard and it overturned, throwing them both from the truck. Clark III had been

riding in the front passenger seat. Neither man was wearing a seat belt, according to the FHP.

The wreck happened around 5 p.m. near the entrance to the Venice Walmart.

The FHP determined alcohol had been involved following an investigation, and a warrant was obtained for Clark Jr.'s arrest.

**Volunteers needed**

The *Gondolier Sun* and Venice MainStreet will honor local volunteers in a ceremony Tuesday, April 21, at 4:30 p.m. at the Gazebo downtown.

Send the names of the special volunteers in your club, group or organization to [bmudge@venicegondolier.com](mailto:bmudge@venicegondolier.com). We'll pick 24 at random to represent all volunteers as the backbone of our community in recognition of National Volunteer Week.

The deadline is Friday, April 10, at 5 p.m.

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**IRKS** from Page 1A

election in November. Two seats are open.

Budway said the league and the coalition, which share a number of members, will get together this week in a member's house to conclude the meeting. He wouldn't disclose the location.

**Infiltrator**

It's not the first time Carlesimo was asked to leave a league or coalition meeting for taking pictures.

Carlesimo employed a volunteer photographer to assist on at least two other occasions. At a previous VTL meeting, Levine chastised Carlesimo for bringing the photographer. Carlesimo said he has a series of souvenir photos of an angry Levine making obscene gestures toward him.

Brener asked Carlesimo to leave a Venice Neighborhoods Coalition meeting held at the Venice Public Library a few months ago for the

same reason.

Carlesimo said he plans to attend the next coalition meeting with his camera, saying it's a public meeting in a public building and that county library rules allow him access.

"They can't do what they do," Carlesimo said. "I really just want to listen. I know my presence stumps their meetings. That's not my purpose. My purpose is to go and listen to what they have to say, to understand their concerns. In my

campaign I will be able to say I went to all groups and listened. I'll put the photos up on the Web site showing I attended the meetings."

Budway called Carlesimo's actions "board infiltration."

"We figured enough is enough," he said.

He said Carlesimo was invited to join the coalition but Carlesimo said he couldn't agree with its philosophy and therefore wouldn't join. Ditto with the league.

"I do not understand

"My purpose is to go and listen to what they have to say, to understand their concerns."

— Venice resident  
**Emilio Carlesimo**

all the aggravation with the picture taking and insistence of sitting in on meetings where he is not a member," Budway said. [ggiles@venicegondolier.com](mailto:ggiles@venicegondolier.com)



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**BOARD** from Page 1A

commission and that an opportunity for input be also provided to the Economic Development Task Force," Ryan wrote.

"In the spirit of having open communications, if this opportunity is provided to one city task force, it would seem natural that the other city task forces (and) commissions be provided the same opportunity," said Paula Dumas, chair of the Economic Development Task Force. "(W)e will be ready to review the comp plan and provide input alongside the Environmental Task Force."

Martin settled the matter in an e-mail to Ryan on April 1.

"I spoke to council

suggesting that was not necessary as council had read and considered carefully the ETF recommendations, along with those of the planning commission and other boards or commissions, prior to arriving at its current positions," Martin wrote.

"I felt it would elongate the process, and essentially we would have various groups arguing their positions with the council as all would have to have additional opportunity.

"I have no objection to receiving a letter from the ETF or any other citizen or body."

Martin said council will hold a full-day workshop to review any unre-

**"I have no objection to receiving a letter from the ETF or any other citizen or body."**

— Mayor Ed Martin

solved issues in May and consider recommendations from staff and consultants regarding "changes that might be problematic."

There will be the usual time for members of the public to present their views in the regular council meeting, Martin wrote.

[ggiles@venicegondolier.com](mailto:ggiles@venicegondolier.com)

**CARD** from Page 1A

imously approved the contract with FMC at their Jan. 14 meeting, the original royalty to the county was 25 cents for the first 50,000 prescriptions filled monthly through the program and 50 cents for all prescriptions thereafter that month. FMC said Monday the royalty would be 50 cents for all prescriptions.

FMC has provided supplemental benefits to U.S. financial institutions for more than 20 years. Recently, it went to "need states" such as Florida, Pennsylvania and Cali-

fornia to offer its discount plan, according to Edward W. Rahn, FMC president.

There is a slim margin in earnings, Dettelbach

said, and the company counts on volume for profitability.

[csakowitz@sun-herald.com](mailto:csakowitz@sun-herald.com)

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**LEGAL NOTICES**

<p><b>19 NOTICE OF AUCTION</b></p> <p><b>NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION</b></p> <p>The following vehicle/vessel(s) will be auctioned for unpaid towing &amp; storage charges only, per FS 713.78. Vehicle @ Frank's Towing 6017 Pine Ridge Rd #339, Naples, FL.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1985 Buic Skylark 4D Mar 1G4XB69R8FW458884</li> <li>2. 1987 Chev Astro Van Vn Blu 1GCCM15E8HB191405</li> <li>3. 1979 Chev Van Vn Blu CGD2594114908</li> </ol> <p>On 4/23/2009 at 9:00 am at 171 S Jackson Rd Venice, FL PUBLISH: April 8, 2009</p>	<p><b>20 NOTICE TO CREDITORS</b></p> <p><b>DEATH IS BARRED.</b> The date of first publication of this notice is April 8, 2009.</p> <p><b>Personal Representative:</b> NANCY L. SKIDMORE 3611 78th Avenue East Sarasota, FL 34243-2888</p> <p><b>Attorney for Personal Representative:</b> Florida Bar No. 351301 H. GREG LEE, P.A. 2014 Fourth Street Sarasota, Florida 34237 Telephone: (941) 954-0067 Facsimile: (941) 365-1492 PUBLISH: April 8, 15, 2009</p> <p><b>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION</b></p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF MARGUERITE E. HICKS, Deceased, File No. 2009-CP-003412-NC Division: Probate</p> <p><b>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</b> The administration of the estate of MARGUERITE E. HICKS, deceased, whose date of death was DECEMBER 24, 2008, is pending in the Circuit Court for SARASOTA County, Florida, Probate Division; the address of which is PO Box 3079, Sarasota, FL 34230. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.</p> <p>All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.</p> <p><b>ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.</b> NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.</p>	<p><b>20 NOTICE TO CREDITORS</b></p> <p>The date of first publication is April 8, 2009.</p> <p><b>Personal Representative:</b> Shirley R. Falcone 203 Arlington Drive Cape Haze, Florida 33946</p> <p><b>Attorney for Personal Representative:</b> Mary Ann Floyd Attorney for Shirley R. Falcone Florida Bar No. 0115746 Diez &amp; Floyd, P.A. 737 South Indiana Avenue Englewood, Florida 34223 Telephone: (941)-474-5506 Fax: (941)-474-5507 PUBLISH: April 8, 15, 2009</p> <p><b>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION</b></p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF GLORIA J. HUNT a/k/a GLORIA JEAN HUNT, Deceased. File No. 2009-CP-4861-SC Division: Probate</p> <p><b>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</b> The administration of the estate of GLORIA J. HUNT a/k/a GLORIA JEAN HUNT, deceased, whose date of death was March 12, 2009, is pending in the Circuit Court for SARASOTA County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Box 3079, Sarasota, FL 34230-3079. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.</p> <p>All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.</p> <p><b>ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.</b> NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.</p>	<p><b>20 NOTICE TO CREDITORS</b></p> <p>ODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.</p> <p>The date of first publication of this Notice is April 1, 2009.</p> <p><b>Personal Representative:</b> Kim M. Greaves c/o 213 Harbor Drive North Venice, FL 34285</p> <p><b>Attorney for Personal Representative:</b> Donna-Nee M. Roden Florida Bar No. 771790 213 Harbor Drive North Venice, FL 34285 Telephone: (941)-486-8555</p> <p>PUBLISH: April 1, 8, 2009</p> <p><b>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION</b></p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF PETER PIDHORODECKY Deceased. File No. 2009-CP-004025-NC Division: Probate</p> <p><b>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</b> The administration of the Estate of PETER PIDHORODECKY, deceased, File No. 2009-CP-004025-NC is pending in the Circuit Court for SARASOTA County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Box 3079, Sarasota, FL 34230-3079. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.</p> <p>All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.</p> <p><b>ALL CLAIMS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.</b> THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE IS APRIL 1, 2009.</p> <p>Personal Representative:</p>	<p><b>20 NOTICE TO CREDITORS</b></p> <p>CAROLE I. PECK 629 Upper Grassy Hill Road Woodbury, CT 06798</p> <p><b>Attorney for Personal Representative:</b> Robert A. Dickinson FL Bar No. 161468 460 S. Indiana Ave. Englewood, FL 34223 (941) 474-7600 PUBLISH: APRIL 1, 8, 2009</p> <p><b>38 OTHER NOTICES</b></p> <p><b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b></p> <p>The District Board of Trustees of Manatee Community College announces a public meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 8:30 am to be held at Manatee Community College in the PDC Building 800, The Selby Room, 8000 South Tamiami Trail, Venice, Fl 34293</p> <p>Persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision at this meeting, they will need a record of the proceedings and for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.</p> <p>PUBLISH: April 8, 2009</p> <p><b>LEGAL NOTICE</b></p> <p>Comcast will be showing a free preview of HBO, HBO HD and HBO ON DEMAND from Sunday, May 10 – Tuesday, May 12, 2009, on Comcast Digital Cable's Sarasota, Venice, Venice South, Cape Haze and Port Charlotte channel lineups (Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte Counties). This preview contains TV-G, TV-PG, PG-13, TV-14, R and TV-MA rated programming.</p> <p>Comcast will also be showing a free preview of "The Tennis Channel" from Sunday, May 24 – Sunday, June 7, 2009, on Comcast Digital Cable's Sarasota, Venice, Venice South, Cape Haze and Port Charlotte channel lineups (Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte Counties).</p> <p>If you wish, you may use Parental Control to block these channels</p>	<p><b>38 OTHER NOTICES</b></p> <p><b>SECTION 106 PUBLIC NOTICE</b></p> <p>Verizon Wireless is proposing to construct a telecommunications tower located at 1765 S. Tamiami Tr. (US-41) in Venice, Sarasota County, FL at Latitude N27-04-09.4, Longitude W82-25-11.8. The tower is proposed to be a Stealth Flagless Flagpole tower design and 130' tall. Verizon Wireless seeks comments from all interested persons on the impact of the tower on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture, that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Specific information about the project, including the historic preservation reviews that Verizon Wireless is conducting pursuant to the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (47 C.F.R. Sections 1.1307(4)) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 C.F.R. Part 800) will be made available to interested persons who request the information from the contact below. All questions, comments, and correspondence should be directed to Virginia Janssen, Principal Archaeologist, Dynamic Environmental Associates, Inc., 3850 Lake Street, Suite C, Macon, GA 31204, Sec106@DynamicEnvironmental.com by 05/01/2009.</p> <p>PUBLISH: April 1, 8, 2009</p> <p><b>TO PLACE YOUR LEGAL NOTICE, CALL KATHI (941)-207-1011 <a href="mailto:kwals@venicegondolier.com">kwals@venicegondolier.com</a> (at the Venice Office) fax (941)-485-3036</b></p>
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# 'The Bridges' is still in play

BY GREG GILES  
NEWS EDITOR

When Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice announced its intention last month to create what could be the largest urban solar-energy project in the country, it raised eyebrows at Venice City Hall.

Was GCCFV abandoning its workforce housing project, called The Bridges, planned on land it purchased between Laurel Road and Border Road east of Interstate 75?

Would the solar field require all 175 acres of The Bridges project, or the entire 300-acre parcel GCCFV owns in Sarasota County, including 125 acres to the east? Would GCCFV need to apply for a different type of zoning designation on some or all of the property, and what would that be?

At a time when city council has been actively down-zoning nearly areas all around the city, The Bridges project sought, and was granted, more height and density and a different architectural style than council

was comfortable with. Had it not been for the affordable housing units GCCFV promised, the entire project might have had more difficulty getting approved. The project goal is lofty — create a village with multi-income housing in a mixed-use residential-commercial setting.

## 'All options'

With the economic downturn came new housing opportunities drastically changing — at least for the time being — the need for workforce housing. With the housing project now up in the air, council sent City Manager Isaac Turner on a fact-finding mission to ascertain the foundation's intentions.

The answers he received were summed up in the city's most recent newsletter: "This solar project does not replace the foundation's plans for creating workforce housing in that area."

"The Bridges project is still proceeding through the entitlement process," said GCCFV Marketing Director Greg Luberecki.

"We're exploring all options for the solar project. It's not clear whether all of the acreage or some of it will be needed.

"The goal is to create an impactful solar project that will catalyze economic development in the area and create jobs."

He said the foundation remains committed to "addressing and working with its partners" to provide workforce housing in the area.

The solar array is expected to produce at least 40 megawatts of electricity, which would provide power for about 11,200 people — roughly the population of The Bridges once it is built out.

"Gulf Coast Community Foundation's courageous board of directors envisions this opportunity as a catalyst for renewable energy technology and applications in Sarasota County and our surrounding region," said Teri A. Hansen, president and CEO of GCCFV.

ggiles@venicegondolier.com

# County 'preference' code needs work

BY CAROL SAKOWITZ  
STAFF WRITER

The Sarasota County procurement code, just revised Feb. 23 to specify that local businesses receive preference in bids and requests for proposals, may get yet another revision.

County commissioners unanimously agreed Tuesday to direct county staffers to recommend a revision to the procurement code that would include DeSoto County businesses as "local." They also directed staff to include Charlotte County's process regarding requests for proposals.

Sarasota's procurement code change was precipitated by Manatee County's newly adopted local preference ordinance. Manatee commissioners on March 17 approved wording that said businesses located for at least six months in DeSoto, Hardee or Hillsborough counties, and with at least one full-time employee at that location, could be termed local businesses.

The Feb. 23 local preference ordinance for Sarasota said only that any bidder or proposer determined to be a local business by either Manatee or Charlotte county also would be deemed a local business by Sarasota County. The Manatee ordinance, by extension, would make Hardee and Hillsborough businesses "local" under Sarasota's code.

Commissioner Nora Patterson, learning of Manatee's ordinance, said that because of the

wording of Sarasota's ordinance, its intent is not being achieved.

Commissioner Joseph Barbetta directed the board to Charlotte County's point system regarding RFPs. He said the process is about 10 years old and appears to be successful.

## On points

Kimberly A. Corbett, senior division manager for Charlotte County's purchasing division, said the point system assigns 15 points to businesses that have local offices located within the county for three years or more, 10 points to businesses located in the county from one to three years, and five points to businesses in the county from six months to one year. Points also are awarded for the percentage of employees who live within Charlotte.

Charlotte County does not consider businesses within Sarasota County "local" businesses.

DeSoto County does



Patterson Barbetta

not have a local preference ordinance. However, if there is a tie bid, a county official said, then the county commissioners will opt for the local business over the non-local business.

Because of the possible change in the code, the financial planning office asked commissioners to waive the new provisions in the procurement code and instead limit the application of local preference status to businesses that are defined as local businesses by applicable ordinance, and that are located within Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte and DeSoto counties.

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207-1200

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## Gallery fuses food with art



**ROGER BUTTON**  
BUSINESS COLUMNIST

Just opened is **Poor Artist's Cafe** in **O Gallery**, 240 W. Tampa Ave. in the Venice Centre Mall. Gallery owners **Joel and Nancy Oss** have fused food with art.

Photographer **Patrick Keigher** came up with the idea, which has quadrupled visitors to the gallery. A Chicagoan, he spent 40 years in California and Nevada operating his real estate company and opening a deli, catering for businesspeople. A part-time Florida resident for 20 years, he moved permanently to Venice a year ago, continuing his photography. In the gallery is a display of his photographs, mounted onto canvas.

"Diners enjoy breakfast and lunch in the cafe located in the former military colonel's office," said Keigher.

The cafe is open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 486-1100.

### Walgreen's has moved

**Walgreen's** shuttered its store in Venice Village Shoppes across from the Walmart Supercenter last week as it opened the doors on its latest state-of-the-art store a short distance west across Jacaranda Boulevard. The stand-alone Walgreen's pharmacy at 4105 Pointe Plaza Boulevard is next to the Center of Surgical Excellence and Colonial Bank.

### Decadent desserts

The latest cake-decorating technology is one of the new innovations at **Publix Supermarket**, Jacaranda Commons Shopping Center, which opened last week. Bakers can reproduce a customer's photograph in full-color icing within a design, such as a Mickey Mouse face on a cake, using special food coloring vegetable dye on edible sugar paper.

"It is just one of our many decadent dessert services," said Publix spokesperson **Shannon Patten**.

### Special services

Former Venice driver license examiner **Cheryl Whitham** has created two new businesses and both are growing.

Home-based at Colonia Lane, Nokomis, **Aprons by CW** has developed from the success of **Iron This**. Whitham was working at her mom's Sunshine Express Cleaning when a client injured her back. She offered to do the

ironing and soon neighbors and friends seized the opportunity to employ her to do this chore. With free pickup and delivery in Venice, Nokomis and Osprey and turnaround in two days, the business is growing steadily.

Then, her mom took a trip to Key West and brought back an attractive apron, leading to Whitham's decision to design and hand-make boutique aprons.

"I custom design so no two are alike," she said. "They're pretty and functional."

Her top-quality, low-cost all-cotton boutique and bib aprons come in two fit-all sizes, for adults and children. Designs include college team logos, golf and nautical themes. Call 484-1690.

### Open Sundays

Sunday brunch is the new feature at **It's All Good Food**, 2045 South Tamiami Trail, across from Noah's Ark. In response to customer requests, owner **Ginsey Nehmer** is opening the restaurant on Sundays. Call 497-4600.

### Additional service

Introducing the Larson-Juhl custom framing service as an added benefit to customers are **Harvey and Chris Davis**, owners of **Abbacino Galleria**, 243 W. Venice Ave.

"We are happy to add this service for our clients to provide the same quality of framing as the artists we represent," said Harvey Davis. Call 485-7600.

### Plumbers move

**County Plumbing** has moved from 3956 South Tamiami Trail to Corporation Way on Venice Bypass. Call 493-2211.

### Gone

**Barrett's Quality Electric**, one of the larger companies in this area involved in the construction industry has closed and vacated its premises at 3490-A Technology Drive, Nokomis. Inquiries are referred to Lakeland-based Morgan Electric Co. Company president Monty Monahan did return telephone calls.

### Hot dog success

A "Hot Dogs for Habitat" fundraiser by **Venice Area Board of Realtors** added \$1,550 toward VABR's \$85,000 goal to build a local Habitat house. **Craig Sopotto**, store director of Venice **Albertson's**, subsidized the food and drinks for the event; the **Strayer Surveying and Mapping** crew cooked; and **Anthony Accardi** provided the music.

**Tony Moore** of **Gulf Side Mortgage Services** prepared the signs and Realtors **Gary Miller**, **Lore Little** and **Rory Dubin** managed the event.

*Editor's Note: Service and product information in this column should not be taken as an endorsement of the business.*

business@comcast.net

## Prime cut



PHOTO COURTESY OF VACC

The Yellow Submarine sandwich shop marks its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce.

## Real estate as I see it



**TIM PARADISO**  
REAL ESTATE COLUMNIST

encouraging for homeowners, home buyers and small businesses, creating a gigantic win-win-win situation for each.

The Federal Reserve's action to buy more mortgage-backed securities was the direct cause of the recent reduction of residential mortgage rates to a 52-year low (below 5 percent). If that isn't stimulating to you, I don't know what is.

Most homeowners can now modify or refinance their existing loan at a substantial saving. Home buyers can negotiate a new mortgage at unheard-of rates and terms that make it cheaper to buy than rent. The "rent or buy" pendulum has finally swung in favor of buying.

Small businesses will soon find easier and cheaper money available with government-subsidized terms and conditions. Federal Housing Administration and Veterans Affairs loans are still readily attainable for buyers who have low down payments and less-than-stellar credit scores.

Federal government stimulation continues unabated with the attractively modified American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, authorizing up to an \$8,000

income tax credit for first-time home buyers. Amazingly, this credit can be applied to your 2008 taxes on a 2009 home purchase, so if you have already paid \$8,000 or more for your 2008 income tax and you close on a house in 2009, the IRS could send you a check for \$8,000 — another home buyer windfall. This is a big deal.

If you need other incentives to confirm these "buy now in Venice, Fla." signals, consider the following factors:

1. Prices are more attractive than you might believe, in every market segment.
2. Housing inventory is beginning to be absorbed, reducing choices.
3. Well-priced property is selling faster now than at any time in the recent past.
4. Inexpensive mortgages are readily available locally from every lender.
5. Florida real estate movers and shakers are reporting optimistic selling signs.

The situation in Venice now has become "advantage buyer." Make your move.

*Tim Paradiso has held a real estate license since 1964 and has been a Venice resident since 1972.*

## BIZ BRIEFS

*Biz Briefs features notices of business-related events and meetings, new hires and promotions, new businesses and significant professional*

*awards, honors and achievements. Submissions should be e-mailed to bmudge@venicegondolier.com.*

### Chamber calendar

- Venice Area Young Professionals networking event, Thursday, April 9, 5:30 p.m., Left Coast Seafood Company, 750 North U.S. 41 Bypass; VAYP members and first-timers free, all others \$5.

- Wake Up! Venice, Wednesday, April 15, 7:45 a.m., Venice Art Center, 390 S. Nokomis Ave.

- Business After Five, Thursday, April 23, 5:30 p.m., Holiday House of Venice, 455 North U.S. 41 Bypass; \$5 members, \$10 nonmembers.

- Network Lunch, Monday, April 27, 11:45 a.m., Jacaranda West Country Club, 1901 Jacaranda Blvd.; RSVP required: cmyers@venicechamber.com.

### New to TideWell

TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care has welcomed Aida Matic as director of annual giving.

Before joining the TideWell team, Matic was development director of the Anna Maria Island Community Center for four years, where she was responsible for the annual giving plan and a \$4.8

million capital campaign. Matic has been a member of the Southwest Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals since 2004 and sat on the board since 2006.

Originally from Germany, Matic came to the United States in 1997, has lived in Florida since 2004 and became a U.S. citizen in 2006.

### Peters joins blood centers committee

Rhonda Peters, director of development for Sarasota-Suncoast Communities Blood Bank, has been appointed to serve on a newly created advisory committee for the Foundation of America's Blood Centers.

Peters joins four other members who work for blood banks across the United States. The committee will advise the foundation on its fundraising activities, development and oversee the implementation of fund development strategies and plan workshop and webinars for members of America's Blood Centers throughout the United States and Canada.

For more information about Suncoast Communities Blood Bank, visit [www.sccb.org](http://www.sccb.org). For more information about FABC, visit [www.americasblood.org](http://www.americasblood.org).

## One line, lots of waiting



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRUNO MOLLICA

Shoppers queue in anticipation of the opening of the new Publix in the Jacaranda Commons Shopping Center Thursday.

LET 'EM HAVE IT: WHAT COULD VENICE DO TO GET MORE PARKING DOWNTOWN? CALL 207-1111.

## Try religiously parking elsewhere

**No parking.** Our local post office is open 24/7 and there are hundreds of P.O. boxes used there, plus the people use the lobby for packages. We would appreciate it if you would not park in the post office lot when you are attending Mass. Many of us can't find a parking place when we do business there every day. Thank you.

**Not unexpected.** People who live near airports should expect noise. I worked around the aviation industry for years, and people who buy new houses close to airports always complain about noise and the smell. My advice? Buy your home somewhere else.

**Window SILL.** I want to say, enough with politics. We do have some sunshine to celebrate in our lives. I want to say thank you, thank you, thank you to Sarasota Institute for Lifelong Learning for bringing their wonderful music series to Venice. They're marvelous programs. So, thank you to SILL.

**History lesson.** The Sunshine Law suit actually began with the Venice election of November 2007. When people who are elected to positions of trust and responsibility abrogate their duty to all citizens and pursue a predetermined agenda, the results, as we have now seen, are catastrophic. A review of their actions may serve as a litany on how not to run a city. First, let's hold long council sessions. They forgot the old quote, "the mind can only absorb what the seat can endure." Then, dismiss those who are knowledgeable about things, such as the Airport Advisory Board; and also give lip service to planning commissions and basically tell them what they have presented is of little or no value. Then, disregard common sense and balloon a \$200,000 settlement into possibly more than 10 times that amount. And use pseudonyms in blogs to give apparent credibility to one's decisions — a classless act. In summary, those elected in November 2007 have acted in a totally irresponsible manner and are not worthy to hold office. Those who supported them are additionally responsible for this situation and should re-evaluate their priorities. This unnecessary debacle gives credence to the initiation of a petition to divide our city into districts with representation from each sector rather than having a small geographic area determine the future of our entire city and adjoining areas.

**On the rack.** Jennette Gates' comment concerning city council, "Council hears what they want to hear," also describes the board of Pinebrook South Homeowners Association — discussing issues in private, compiling election ballots in private and pursuing their personal agendas. In addition, they do the will of their minority clique. We appear to be becoming a subsidiary of the South Venice Yacht Club. We now have a kayak rack to accommodate 12 homeowners out of more than 570 homeowners.

**Attention getting.** Mary Kay Ruppel, you surely know how to write an article to get readers' attention. There will be lots of feedback from the liberal readers, which must be your aim. I'm surprised you called yourself an idiot, though.

**Shut out.** My call con-

cerns the Venice Archives. I see in the *Gondolier Sun* that it has a wonderful photography exhibit on display. Unfortunately, the hours only allow retirees to visit. Much of Venice's population works and is

unable to come to the Archives between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., whatever days it's open. I don't understand why the Archives can't find one evening or one Saturday morning during the lengthy run of

this exhibition to be open to the younger community, i.e. people who work. It's cruel, it excludes a large portion of the population; and I believe the Archives director may even be a full-time employee. I would think he could find an hour or two to welcome the rest of the

community to what sounds like a wonderful exhibition, which those of us who work are unable to see. Any help the *Gondolier Sun* can provide in accomplishing this would be appreciated.

**Round 2?** The Sunshine lawsuit has been

settled, but the documentation in that lawsuit is on file down at the courthouse. It is settled as far as the plaintiff Lorenzo is concerned, but what is to prevent another affected person, whether it be someone in Sarasota or a citizen here in Venice, refile the lawsuit?

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**Stores open Wednesday at 9am except: South Beach opens at 10 am; CityPlace opens at 11 am. Furniture Galleries open at 10 am.**

## OUR VIEW

# Want quality of life? Visit the trail

On any given Saturday morning, you are likely to find a group of parishioners of a Sarasota church out for a long bicycle ride south to Venice and back again on the Legacy Trail. This crew is among the crowd of neighbors, friends, families and individuals who regularly take their feet, skates and bikes to the 10.6-mile-long paved pathway for a little recreation in a quiet, uncluttered environment.

Sarasota County's Legacy Trail celebrated its one-year anniversary last month, and its legacy may be as a reminder of the days when local governments could devise ways to invest in an expensive project with no direct benefit other than its impact on the elusive concept of "quality of life."

Will the Legacy Trail spur the development of bicycle shops? Will it boost the sales of sneakers, athletic T-

shirts and dog leashes?

Probably not. Will Midwestern and New England bicycle clubs book a week in Sarasota County so they can cruise up and down the Legacy Trail?

Again, unlikely. But the long, flat ribbon of asphalt is another outdoor activity that year-round residents, part-timers and visitors can enjoy any time, free of charge. That's known as an amenity, something that adds to the value of any particular place. It may be hard to quantify, but it's real. It's something that makes people feel better about where they are, be it their home or where they're visiting.

Beaches, bays and boating remain Southwest Florida's primary draw, but other types of parks add to the mix, from softball fields and tennis

courts to nature trails and picnic tables.

According to John McCarthy, general manager of the Sarasota County Parks and Recreation Department, the Legacy Trail is far exceeding expectations. Trail "ambassadors" — citizens involved with the Friends of the Legacy Trail citizens group — counted more than 17,000 trail users in February. March figures are expected to be higher. (Usage drops as visitors leave and the weather heats up in the spring and summer.)

That's far from the 10,000 people who pack Siesta Beach on a sunny, warm March day, but it's still impressive.

If you've used the trail, you probably agree with McCarthy, who told us, "This is one of the best things the county has ever done."

It came with a cost — a big cost.

Sarasota and the Trust for Public Land spent \$11.75 million to buy the old CSX rail line. Another \$14.7 million went into ripping up tracks, paving and adding benches, landscaping and the like.

Two more trestles are to be built across Dona and Roberts bays, at a cost in the millions. Expected to be completed in late 2010, they will provide the final links to the Venetian Waterway Park trail system.

One noteworthy phenomenon is the social interaction on the trail. People enter at different neighborhoods of Venice, Laurel, Osprey and Sarasota. Others travel from elsewhere, park and unpack bikes for a ride. Most everyone who passes says, "Hello."

It's hard to quantify the value of a thousand hellos. But it's real, and makes this a better place to live.

# Good news



BOB VEDDER  
PUBLISHER

houses at 25 percent of their original price.

The surge is important to get more people working. I heard a nice story from Golda Radefeld, who has been in the business for a lot of years as head of Chelsea Title locally. She has been able to hire back two people she had had to layoff at the low point. This is a big sign of increased activity. I have heard other stories like that.

Anti-growth people should not be too concerned because all projections I have seen show Sarasota County growing slower than other neighboring Gulf Coast counties. The rate is figured at about 1 percent a year over the next several years. Areas like Naples are more like 2 percent.

I was at the Venice Area Board of Realtors picnic supporting Habitat for Humanity and the mood is certainly a lot more upbeat. It is a great time to buy a house to get a great deal, and a wonderful time to refinance.

\*\*\*\*\*

**By's Crack:** I really don't mind paying my taxes because it goes to a good cause — keeping me out of jail.

\*\*\*\*\*

Probably the area's biggest Easter egg hunt is downtown, put on by Venice MainStreet and the Lions Club. It is this Saturday, April 11, at 9 a.m. at the Gazebo.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Sarasota County Education Foundation puts on a wonderful event each year honoring the most-improved high school students. It really is a heart-warming event.

The foundation and its funders also give scholarships to those students at each of the high schools — except North Port. For several years North Port has been the only high school left out.

At first it was said that they could not find funding, but funding is a weak excuse as I am positive there is a funding source available. The chair of Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice is from North Port; maybe that is a possibility.

Last year, North Port High decided on its own to honor the students, but it is just not right not to be included in the countywide celebration. I

Please see VEDDER, 9A



## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

# Light up and let 41 traffic flow

**Editor:**

Dear Mr. Florida D.O.T. and whoever is responsible for the traffic control of that stretch of U.S. 41 from State Road 681 to Bird Bay. Now with that marvelous six-lane thoroughfare come traffic lights designed to control traffic entering and leaving at various points — exactly five intersections on U.S. 41 and one at the north end of the north bridge to the island of Venice (I say "island" with tongue in cheek).

It doesn't appear that much thought was given to the 24-hour operation of at least two of those lights — for instance, the light at the north end of the north bridge servicing two trailer parks and a restaurant, which should be changing upon demand and not on a regular schedule. After a certain point in the evening, those people have all gone beddy-bye, and the restaurant is closed.

There's another sore spot at Roberts Road — two trailer parks and a service station being served (and that's a four-way light).

What's the priority here? Certainly not the new six-lane U.S. 41. The traffic light should be demand-triggered, particularly late in the evening when all but the service station would be blowing zzzzs.

I think I speak for the majority of the year-round residents who have patiently put up with your bungling for three years. Give us some consideration.

Jack Aland  
Venice

## Yard sale supports oldest house

**Editor:**

On behalf of the directors and members of the newly organized Friends of the Lord-Higel House, we wish to convey our appreciation to all the persons who contributed their time and support to our very successful first fundraiser, a yard sale held on the grounds of the Lord-Higel House.

These proceeds will go toward the restoration of the oldest house in Venice to become a museum and education center depicting the pioneer era of Venice and the Venice area.

Jack and Judie Bauer  
Founding directors  
Venice

## New meaning to 'Show Me State'

**Editor:**

You quoted Theodore Roosevelt in your Fine Whines column. Let's take that further to include acts of Congress.

Most Americans are critical of the bailout, the IRS, illegal immigration

invasion, etc.; however, the Missouri Information Analysis Center recently distributed a document titled "The Modern Militia Movement" to all Missouri state troopers. It negatively characterized those in our country who believe in the Second Amendment, the 10th Amendment and third-party candidates and actually named Bob Barr and Chuck Baldwin, presidential candidate Congressman Ron Paul and Campaign for Liberty.

So if you have any bumper stickers or signs on your car while driving through Missouri, you won't know if you're being stopped by a state trooper for questioning or speeding. They didn't call it profiling — but I do.

A warning is included in this document that potential violence by militias or individuals may occur from those who argue that the federal government is not following the Constitution. We wouldn't be in this economic mess if it had followed the Constitution. The warning list goes on to include American citizens who are anti-abortion, anti-tax, anti-illegal immigration, anti-world government, anti-NAU, anti-United Nations, anti-Federal Reserve, etc.

After reading the entire document, I wonder where is my freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment.

I'm scared. This document is from an American government agency, not a Soviet government agency. Missouri state troopers should be given a copy of the Constitution as soon as possible and make it mandatory reading, followed by a test.

Kathy Bolam  
Venice

## Call while you still can

**Editor:**

First the brokerages, then banks, now the phone companies?

The brazen attempt by phone companies operating in Florida to fleece landline customers is breathtaking for the greed and disregard for consumers it exposes. Move over Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch and Citi Bank and make room for Verizon and AT&T.

But wait, the telecom industry has gone further than the banking and brokerage industries. Telecom has obtained support from a group funded by the pharmaceutical industry called "60 Plus," and you guessed it: This alleged consumer group is in favor of higher landline rates. Imagine, a consumer group that says "Take our money, please!"

Just so there is no confusion, AARP Florida, with 3 million members, is totally opposed to the

Please see LETTERS, 9A



VEDDER from Page 8A

know Michaels on East can only hold so many people, but there is a way to get this done. I hope someone makes this right.

Today's Ism: A crisis is when you can't say, "Let's just forget the whole thing."

I received a suggestion for the name change for MCC. Ron Grant sent in "North Port State College," since MCC's south campus officially is in North Port (although called the Venice campus).

Not a bad idea, since it is the second-biggest city geographically in the state and the largest by population in Sarasota County. I think Ron may have meant this a little tongue in cheek, though.

It's possible Venice

could make the record books.

The Brechner Center for Freedom of Information has kept track of the awards in Sunshine violation lawsuits. The cost to Venice in the current Sunshine lawsuit in Venice could be more than has been reported by all municipalities combined since the Brechner Center started keeping records in 1981.

In those 28 years the total of all attorneys' fees and court costs reported to the center is \$815,569.02. The largest single award was \$100,000, paid to the St. Pete Times by the city of St. Petersburg.

Someone once said any publicity is good publicity, but I'm not sure that is the case this time.

A nonprofit organization putting on a two-day event at the Venice Com-

munity Center paid well more than \$5,000 just to use it.

The people managing the center are great but the rates have escalated too much. It isn't as much the space cost as the extras, like chairs and tables. A couple of years ago this event cost just more than \$2,000.

It is great to see that Venice High School received second place in the Academic Olympics held recently. Honors school Pine View took first.

Bumper sticker: Mean people breed mean little people. (This was on a car at the high school, probably owned by a teacher that has lots of experience.)

Robert A. Vedder writes a weekly column in this paper.

LETTERS from Page 8A

phone company plan to price-gouge their landline customers.

The phone companies want to be free to raise their landline rates by up to 20 percent a year, free of any regulatory review of their rate increases for landlines.

AARP says there are millions of older Floridians who still want our landline connections, who can't absorb 20 percent annual increases in our bills and who don't want the quality of our connections to deteriorate.

The phone companies owe their decades-long loyal customers fair treatment.

Call (888) 222-4121 and tell your legislators you want them to stand up to the phone company money-grab.

Doug Heinlen AARP Florida State President Siesta Key

Things are looking up downtown

Editor:

As the snowbirds begin their return north, I would like to thank those who participated in our Downtowners program over the past season.

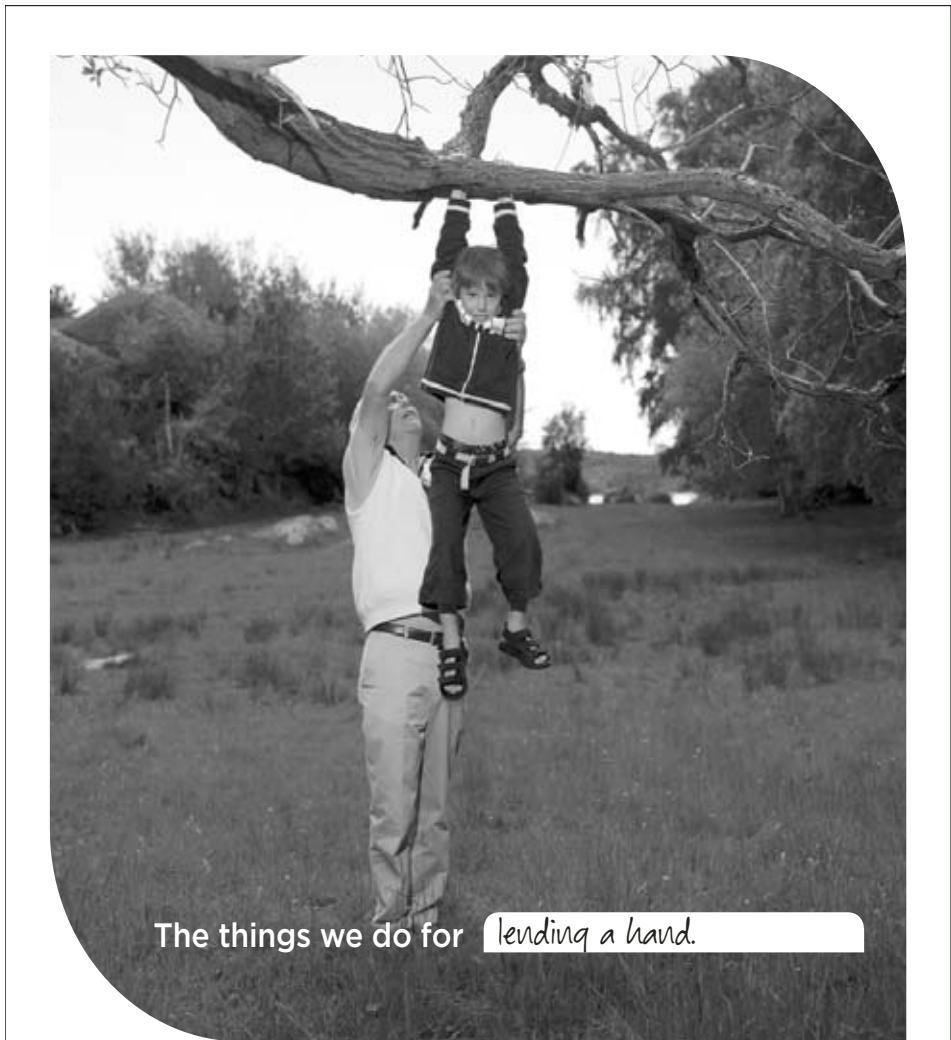
Sponsored by Venice MainStreet Inc., the Downtowners are ambassadors for Venice who dis-

tribute maps and coupons and answer tourists' questions about local businesses. You can find a Downtowners almost daily on our busy sidewalks.

Speaking of busy, our downtown seems to be holding its own in a slow economy. Signs of vitality are everywhere. New businesses seem to be appearing weekly. Check Miami Avenue — a new day spa will be opening soon and Cafe Mangiafoco will be moving to larger quarters. The present quarters already have a new renter.

These success stories reflect the support of caring citizens and the many visitors who love Venice.

Susie Zavodnyk Venice



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Table with 2 columns: Women's Colored Stone Rings - Final Markdowns and REG SALE. Lists various ring types and prices.

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Table with 2 columns: Pre-Owned Rolex Watches - Final Markdowns and REG SALE. Lists various Rolex watch models and prices.

Table with 2 columns: Diamond Earrings - Final Markdowns and REG SALE. Lists various earring styles and prices.

Table with 2 columns: Colored Stone Earrings - Final Markdowns and REG SALE. Lists various earring styles and prices.

Table with 2 columns: 3 Stone Rings - Final Markdowns and REG SALE. Lists various ring styles and prices.

Table with 2 columns: Loose & Mounted Diamond Solitaires - Final Markdowns and REG SALE. Lists various diamond solitaires and prices.

Table with 2 columns: Estate Pieces - Final Markdowns and REG SALE. Lists various estate jewelry items and prices.

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**MR. SHEEPSHEAD**  
COLUMNIST

## Trouts and reds in Lemon Bay

It's tough fishing, but well worth it. It's called wading.

Andy Schoener of South Venice and NY Richard of North Port have been catching trout and reds. I'm not talking about rat reds or undersized trout. The other day Schoener caught a 25-inch trout. He posted it on the www.campel.com forum.

He only uses artificials and Richard uses live shrimp most of the time. Needless to say, I'm not going to reveal where they fish in Lemon Bay and other parts of the intra-coastal.

The two also catch keeper and oversized reds on a regular basis. They work hard to catch these lunkers, which only proves that nothing is easy. They also catch an occasional snook.

I'm curious how this cold front is going to affect our local fishing. I suspect it will be slow for a day or two and then by Friday or Saturday it will pick back up.

Getting back to campel.com. It's a wonderful Web site loaded with helpful information and it is free. Mel has a fishing show on FL 970 AM every Saturday from 6 to 9 a.m. It's a strong station that comes in loud and clear in our area.

Well, fellow Sheepsheadites, the time has come to say goodbye until next Wednesday.

*Mr. Sheepshead is Dave Hack. Contact him at 486-1998, 321-8849 or mrsheepshead@verizon.net.*

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### The Oaks Club \$25,000 USTA Challenger begins April 12

The Oaks Club \$25,000 USTA Challenger presented by Bella Luna Services begins on Sunday, April 12 with the qualifying draw.

The main draw starts April 14 and continues through April 19 with 32 singles matches and 16 doubles matches.

This is the first USTA Pro Circuit event ever held at The Oaks Club in Osprey and is the third of seven consecutive women's clay court events that lead into the French Open.

Former top 40 player Shenay Perry of Coral Springs and American teenager Kimberly Coutts of Bradenton highlight the field.

Perry, 24, who was ranked No. 43 in 2006 and reached the third round of the French Open and fourth round at Wimbledon, is coming back from knee surgery that sidelined her. She is currently ranked No. 229.

Coutts, 19, who is ranked No. 272, is a former Easter Bowl champion and USTA Girls' 16s No. 1. This year she has advanced to the semifinals of the \$25,000 Laguna Nigel, Calif. as well as qualifying for the \$50,000 tournament in Clearwater.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.theoaksclub.com/ustaproevent or proscircuit.com.

### Rally for the Cure golf tournament on April 22

The Lake Venice Golf Club will be hosting the Rally for

Please see **BRIEFS, 11A**

# Sarasota Seminoles show growth in loss

BY PERRY D. PENTZ  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Sarasota Seminoles, one of the new minor league football teams in the Southern States Football League, got a chance to see how the season was progressing by playing the St. Petersburg Sharks on Saturday night at Letson Stadium in Venice.

On March 7, the Seminoles, composed of players from Venice, North Port and Sarasota, lost to the Sharks, 42-0.

But the Seminoles are a different team now.

"We've grown tremendously," said Sarasota coach Harry Reif. "Our offense really didn't click good tonight. You know with these guys sometimes it does and sometimes it doesn't. You don't get much practice time with them."

Former Venice High player and current Seminole linebacker Sal Mineo echoed those thoughts.

"We have grown quite a bit," Mineo said. "At first we were like the little giants but everybody is stepping up and working hard."

The Sharks scored all of their points in the first half including 20 points in the second quarter to rally them to a 26-7 win over the Seminoles.

The first half cost Sarasota.

The Sharks (4-4) scored first on a 44-yard reverse by Jeremy Lomack with 12:04 left in the first quarter. The Sharks, who don't have a kicker, missed the two-point conversion.

The Seminoles, who had seven turnovers, including five interceptions, fumbled on its carry but the defense held the Sharks out of the end zone.

Sarasota (3-6 overall, 2-6 SSFL) then drove down the field for its only points on the strength of Martae Taylor, a North Port



SUN PHOTO BY JUSTIN FENNELL

**Sarasota Seminoles defensive back Adrian Platt, a former Venice High player, nearly intercepts a pass as St. Petersburg Sharks wide receiver Mike Butler reaches for the ball in their Southern States Football League game on Saturday at Letson Stadium in Venice. The Sharks won, 26-7.**

High graduate.

Taylor was a bright spot for the Seminoles' offense by finishing with 101 yards on 21 carries.

"Martae always looks good," Reif said. "He is a small college running back. We are trying to make a highlight film for him and get him in a small college some place. He is a horse. That guy he ran over down (at the goal line) was unbelievable."

On the scoring drive, Taylor had six carries for 34 yards. He covered the final 17 yards on a burst up the middle and running over a tackler at the 2-yard line for the TD with 4:50 left. James Priddy, a North Port High graduate, kicked the PAT to give Sarasota a 7-6 lead.

In the second quarter, the Sharks scored on two straight possessions on offense and

one from their defense.

Quarterback Joshua McKinnon, who went 10-of-26 for 172 yards, used his powerful arm to connect with Mike Butler on a 15-yard scoring strike with 14:01 left in the second quarter to give the Sharks the lead for good.

The Sharks then drove 77 yards on seven carries to pad their lead as McKinnon hit a wide open Butler for a 32-yard TD pass with 4:04 left. A two-point pass conversion gave St. Petersburg a 20-7 lead.

Sarasota quarterback Aaron Tate, a Venice High graduate, was constantly being harassed by the Sharks defense, who stepped in front of a pass for an interception and returned it 70 yards for the final TD with 1:04 left in the first half.

"I was getting wally wopped every play," Tate said.

The Seminoles made a defensive switch at halftime and limited the Sharks to 99 total yards and no points.

"We dropped the safety back," Reif said. "We changed our defense because everything they were doing was going 40 yards down the field. We lost a lot of containment which hurt us but having that other guy in there made him at least throw over us."

"We have progressed as a team," said Sarasota's Norvell Robinson, a Riverview High graduate. "We play team ball. We let them score 26 in the first half and came together in the second half and we showed them we were able to contain them."

In the third quarter, the Seminoles drove down to the Sharks' 3-yard line but one fourth-and-goal, Tate's pass was intercepted in the end zone.

Sarasota also reached the 9-yard line but a fumble ended the scoring attempt.

In the fourth quarter, Sarasota's Matt

Please see **SEMINOLES, 11A**

# After Monday's win, Venice falls to Cougars

BY PERRY D. PENTZ  
SPORTS EDITOR

The roller coaster play of the Venice High baseball team continued in the first two days of the 24th annual Sarasota Baseball Classic on Monday and Tuesday in Sarasota.

On Monday, Venice junior Joe Iorio pitched a two-hitter as the Indians knocked off one of the best teams in the state, Orlando Bishop Moore, 5-1, at the Ed Smith Complex.

The Indians followed the win up by imploding against Cardinal Mooney as the Cougars scored seven runs in the fifth inning en route to a 10-3 victory in the quarterfinals at Sarasota High's Ronald K. Drews Field.

"We battled for a long time but fell apart," Venice coach Craig Faulkner said. "We just can't bounce back from that when you play a good team. Cardinal Mooney is a good club. We wanted to win the tournament. It will be interesting to see what we come back with tomorrow."

Venice (7-12) plays Riverview at 1 p.m. Wednesday in the consolation bracket at Ronald K. Drews Field.

### Cardinal Mooney 10, Venice 3

Venice trailed 3-0 as Cardinal Mooney (18-3) scored three runs in the third inning.

The Indians tied it with two runs in the fourth inning on an RBI double by James Browning off Cardinal Mooney right-hander Tommy Goodman and RBI single by Mike Geers, who went 3-for-3 at the plate.

Venice tied the score in the top of the fifth as Rex Ingerich, who walked, stole second and advanced to third on an error, scored on a balk.

The Indians then reverted to their old habits of walks, errors and hit batter in the bottom of



SUN PHOTO BY JUSTIN FENNELL

**Venice second baseman Matt Donnellan prepares to tag Cardinal Mooney's Ryan Christie, who is attempting to steal. Christie was called out on the play.**

the fifth inning.

The Cougars sent 11 batters to the plate. A walk started the inning then an error on a potential double play ball got it rolling for Mooney. Ryan Hueler, who went 3-for-4 with three RBI, knocked in a run with a single. An errant throw by the catcher trying to get Hueler stealing second base cost one run. Two walks loaded the bases. A two-run single by Ryan Christie gave Mooney a 7-3 lead. A hit batter loaded the bases again as Goodman's single brought in two more runs. A sacrifice fly ended the scoring for the Cougars.

"We are struggling to make the plays we need to make," Faulkner said. "They are not routine all the time but they are plays that good high school teams make. We had an opportunity when they scored all the runs to turn a double play. That is the play you have to make. They are too good of hitters to give them extra outs. We need to be more consistent."

For Venice, Matt Tellor went 2-for-2.

### Venice 5, Bishop Moore 1

Iorio was masterful using his

change-up in keeping the Hornets off-balance as the Indians took advantage of sloppy play to score five unearned runs in the fourth inning.

Iorio (2-1) allowed singles in the third and fourth innings and finished with seven strikeouts and two walks.

"Today it was my change-up," Iorio said. "All year I haven't been using my change-up much. Lately I've been working on it. Today I threw a lot of change-ups for strikes that they were popping up or out in front."

"Joe pitched real well," Faulkner said. "Only his second time starting. He was really strong with his off-speed pitches. It was nice. He commanded his change-up and kept them off balance."

The Hornets (15-3) scored their only unearned run on an errant throw by the catcher for a 1-0 lead in the third inning.

"I was a little nervous (about their record) but when I get on the mound I'm all business," Iorio said. "I don't let it get to me."

Venice had trouble hitting Bishop Moore left-hander Jimmy Hodgskins especially

the first time through the line-up as the junior struck out eight of the first nine hitters including seven straight.

Hodgskins (5-1) finished with 13 strikeouts and one walk.

The Indians broke through in the fourth inning as freshman Rex Ingerich led off with a double down the left-field line.

Iorio laid down a bunt for a hit as the fielder though Ingerich was going to third base but he didn't. Browning bunted back to Hodgskins on the mound. His throw was high to first for an error to load the bases. After a strikeout, Brent Krauss' grounder went under the second baseman's glove scoring Ingerich and Iorio.

Geers followed with a RBI single into right field to score Browning. Atamanchuk gave Venice a 5-1 lead with a double over the left fielder's head to score Krauss and Geers.

"He (Faulkner) told us to shorten up," Iorio said. "Go up there with a two-strike approach and be short to the ball just put it in play and get

Please see **FALLS, 11A**

## GOLF RESULTS

### MYAKKA PINES GOLF CLUB

**Feb. 11**  
**New Englanders:** Lou Chiasson, Ed Quinlan, Jerry Casper +8; Bill Riley, Tom Heilman, Jim MacKay +5; Dick Machas, Bill Allen, Tom Murphy -1.  
**Feb. 13**  
**Men's Shootout Quota**

**Points:** Bob Banz, Ed Flormann, Dick Crowell +24; Dick Dore, Joe Rueger, Bill Mangrue +17; Don Hawk, Jack Wilding, Jim Delwiette +16.  
**Feb. 16**  
**Men's Day Ind. Low Net:** Dick Marker, Bob Hale 66 (tied); Joe Vukovich, Bob White, Peter

Please see **GOLF, 11A**

## SPORTS CALENDAR

COMING UP	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>BASE</b> - Venice vs. Riverview in Sarasota Baseball Classic (At Ed Smith Complex), 1 p.m.	<b>BASE</b> - Venice in Sarasota Baseball Classic, 4 p.m.	<b>SOFT</b> - Venice vs. Harmony in Sebastian River Tournament, 5 p.m. <b>SOFT</b> - Venice vs. University in Sebastian River Tournament, 9 p.m.	<b>BWL</b> - Venice in Class 2A-Section 7 Qualifier (At Venice High), 10:30 a.m. <b>SOFT</b> - Venice in Sebastian River Tournament, TBA <b>FB</b> - Sarasota Seminoles at Tri City Piranhas in Largo, 7:05 p.m.
	<b>BASE</b> - Baseball, <b>SOFT</b> - Softball, <b>TRK</b> - Track and field, <b>BWL</b> - Boys weightlifting, <b>GTEN</b> - Girls tennis, <b>BTEN</b> - Boys tennis, <b>FB</b> - Football			



Doris C. Heusel

Doris C. Heusel, M.Ed., B.S.N., RN, passed away on Saturday, April 4, 2009, in Pembroke Pines, Fla.

She was born in New York on March 30, 1916. Miss Heusel spent approximately 34 years in the field of psychiatry. She was a graduate of the McLean Hospital School of Nursing, and had a B.S.N. from Boston College and a M.Ed. from Northeastern University.



Heusel

ing people," and that is what she did in her work and in her life. She made a positive impact on many people's lives.

She was an excellent swimmer, loved bowling, played bingo, enjoyed fishing and was an avid reader. After she retired to Venice, she tried golfing, found a passion for the game and became one of the founders of

dents to give their c o m - m e n t a d d r e s s .

She was a true believer in "people helping people," and that is what she did in her work and in her life. She made a positive impact on many people's lives.

She was an excellent swimmer, loved bowling, played bingo, enjoyed fishing and was an avid reader. After she retired to Venice, she tried golfing, found a passion for the game and became one of the founders of

the Venice East Golf Association. She even had a hole in one.

She is survived by her sister, Barbara Western; and her niece, Pam "Chickie" Slauter, both living in Florida.

Services: A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, at Farley Funeral Home, Venice Chapel. Burial will follow at Venice Memorial Gardens. To send condolences, visit www.farleyfuneralhome.com.

Contributions: In lieu of flowers, make a donation to your favorite charity in Doris's name.

Marion W. L. Zejmowicz

Marion W. Lister

Zejmowicz, 92, of Venice, Fla., passed away on Thursday, April 2, 2009.

She was born in 1917, the daughter of Frank D. and Mathilda Keller Lister. Paul Zejmowicz, her dearly beloved husband of more than 60 years, preceded her death in 2008.

Marion was a graduate of Frances Shimer Junior College in Mount Carroll, Ill. Upon graduation, she was a public school teacher for six years. She then had a long and rewarding career for 27 years at John Deere's headquarters in Moline, Ill. At this job she was the first woman to hold a draftsman position and later was pro-

moted to a design position in the real estate division.

She and Paul also developed land. They planted numerous trees and built homes of fine craftsmanship, which are memorialized in the beautiful Blue Spruce Park subdivision in Cardova, Ill.

They retired and moved to Venice in 1982, where Marion became deeply involved in local political issues, including serving as a member and director of the Venice Taxpayers League.

She was a member of Grace United Methodist Church of Venice. Marion was an ardent lover of nature and a passion-

ate advocate of environmental conservation. She was a gifted artist, producing many lovely watercolor and pencil illustrations throughout her life.

She will be greatly missed by many loving family and friends whose lives she influenced greatly.

Services: Services and burial will be private. Online condolences, remembrances and tributes may be sent to the family c/o Laurie Lister, ListerL@earthlink.net.

Contributions: Memorial donations may be sent to the National Audubon Society, 225 Varick St., Seventh Floor, New York, NY 10014.

POLICE BEAT

Venice Police Department arrests

Pamela Yelverton, 50, 900 block Groveland Ave., Venice. Charge: petit theft. Bond: \$120.

Daniel Joseph Deberard, 48, 500 block Crocus Road, Venice. Charge: possession of a controlled substance (xanax). Bond: \$1,000.

Arash Justin Young, 20, 600 block Bayshore Road, Nokomis. Charges: possession of a controlled substance (xanax), possession of a drug without a valid prescription, DUI, no motor vehicle registration. Bond:

\$1,740.

Jason Michael Anger, 32, 500 block Beatrice St., Venice. Charge: domestic battery. Bond: none.

Sarasota County Sheriff's Office arrests

Joseph Kevin Magrini, 27, 100 block Coral Road, Venice. Charge: violation of probation (sale, manufacture or deliver drugs). Bond: \$1,000.

Andrew James Meyer, 28, 2200 block Woodmere Road, Venice. Charge: violation of probation (trespass in occupied structure

or conveyance after warn- ing). Bond: \$2,000.

Shawn Patrick Rooney, 21, 1400 block Lemon Bay Drive, Venice. Charge: violation of probation (criminal mischief more than \$1,000). Bond: \$2,500.

John Robert Ranagan, 35, 600 block Briarwood Road, Venice. Charge: domestic battery. Bond: \$2,500.

Emiliano Morales, 56, 1000 block Elaine St., Venice. Charge: aggravated assault with intent to commit a felony. Bond: \$5,000.

Michael Raymond, 35, 300 block Peppertree Road, Venice. Charge: contempt (nonpayment of child support). Bond: \$15,070.

Jason Riley King, 21, 600 block Briarwood

Road, Venice. Charge: domestic battery. Bond: \$5,000.

Robert Wayne Briggs Jr., 45, 100 block Golf Club Lane, Venice. Charge: DUI. Bond: \$500.

Rebecca Decker, 33, 700 block Ponderosa Road, Venice. Charge: DUI .15 or higher or having a passenger under 18 years of age. Bond: \$1,000.

William Edmund

O'Brien, 64, 800 block St. Clair Circle, Venice. Charge: DUI with previous conviction, DUI .15 or higher or having a passenger under 18 years of age. Bond: \$2,500.

Moises P. Manders, 21, 100 block Kenwood Ave., Nokomis. Charge: violation of probation (lewd and lascivious against child under 12). Bond: none.

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## Excitement builds for Passover celebration

BY AUDREY BLACKWELL  
STAFF WRITER

There is an air of excitement in the Jewish community. Its members have been busy cleaning and baking, preparing for the annual eight-day Passover celebration that begins at sundown on this day, April 8, and lasts until April 16.

The cleaning has to do with ridding the house of "chametz," or anything made of leavened bread or that would have come in contact with it. Baking is a main event that has to do with baking matzah — unleavened bread.

Making the matzah is a long-held tradition that emulates the process the Israelites followed when leaving Egypt. Once they were freed, there was no time to bake bread in an oven for the journey, so they put the matzah on their shoulders and it baked in the sun as they walked, said Rabbi Sholom Schmerling, director of the Chabad Jewish Center.

"The matzah has to be baked in 18 minutes, because after that time it starts to rise and is considered leavened bread. It is not right for Passover," he said.

### Passover Seder

Passover (Pesah) celebrates the freeing of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. In honor of their exodus, led by Moses, Passover dinners (Seders) are being held at both Jewish centers in Venice — Jewish Center of Venice and Chabad Jewish Center of Venice & North Port — and also in individual homes.

The Passover is the "festival of our liberation," Schmerling said. "Every year, we are obligated to celebrate the exodus of Egypt, which is the 15th of Nissan (Jewish calendar) and translates to April 8 this year. It goes from the exodus to the splitting of the sea."

He added that Passover is a time to celebrate the birth of the nation of the Jewish people.

According to Rabbi Ann White, director of the Jewish Center, the Passover meal serves to tell the story of the exodus by following the Haggadah, which sets



Blake Billington and Kenny Campbell are kneading dough.

Kenny Campbell rolls matzah at the Model Matzah Bakery, held at the Chabad Jewish Center a couple of weeks before Passover. Hebrew school children and their parents and friends learned how to make the unleavened bread from scratch.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

the order of the Seder.

"At the meal, we read from a Haggadah, which means 'telling,'" White said. She quoted a portion of the Haggadah: "You shall tell your children on that day saying it is because of what the Lord did for me when I went free out of Egypt. For the Lord redeemed not only our ancestors; He redeemed us with them."

The rituals, including the "telling" and the process of the feast, are a modern-day application of the message. "We are commanded to remember the past, in order to understand the present and anticipate the future," said White. "It teaches us that no matter how dire the situation, we must never lose hope. We are all slaves to something, and the escape from slavery from Egypt symbolizes our freedom from our own tight places or narrow straits."

Schmerling said that on Passover, "we celebrate the miracle of freedom from slavery. Every year that energy of freedom occurs on the same date, and we tap into that energy."

He gave the example that eating matzah "is not just that 4,000 years ago our forefathers ate it, but we are tapping into the same energy of freedom that God gives us every year."

"We are experiencing our own personal Egypt. We're enslaved in our personal problems or habits. So when we are celebrating Passover rituals (wine, matzah), we are freeing ourselves from our personal enslavement," he said.

Please see **PASSOVER, 2B**

## Passover tambourines

BY AUDREY BLACKWELL  
STAFF WRITER

About 20 members of the Women's Circle at the Chabad Jewish Center made Tambourines of Rebellion a couple of weeks before Passover.

The invitation to join the event said that decorating a tambourine would help women to experience Passover through the eyes of Miriam, the sister of Moses.

Rivka Schmerling, wife of Rabbi Sholom Schmerling, said that ancient Jewish women carried the tambourines to celebrate the miracle of the liberation of the Jewish people from the slavery of Egypt.

"The men were deep in the labor of being enslaved, but the women were able to keep the faith strong," Rivka Schmerling said. She added, "Miriam was a leader of women, and it was women who kept the faith strong and encouraged the families

and husbands."

Why did the women carry tambourines into the desert, with all that they had to pack and take on their hurried journey out of captivity? They could not even take time to bake bread; they could only let the unleavened matzah bake in the sun for 18 minutes on their shoulders during their escape.

"They were prepared," Schmerling said. "They brought the tambourines along in anticipation of a great miracle that would happen. That is my message. Women have to keep their husbands and families strong. They have to tap into their inner strength."

She said the women were not worried about the matzah baking in the desert. They trusted God and knew he would take care of them. But they wanted to have something to thank him with, so they took the tambourines as part of their luggage.

The rebellion was against the depression of slavery.

"The tambourine was a symbol of the faith they had kept."

ablackwell@venicegondolier.com

Tambourines of Rebellion were crafted at the Chabad Jewish Center on March 24 by members of the Women's Circle.

SUN PHOTO BY  
AUDREY BLACKWELL



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## Venice man survived B-17 crash, German POW camp during WWII



It was supposed to be a "milk run." The crew of "Angel in Di-Skies," a B-17 flying as part of the 8th Air Force out of Framlington, England, during World War II, had been sent on a low-level mission to knock out a railroad bridge near Jussy, France.

Former Staff Sgt. Leon Peragallo of Venice, a ball turret gunner in the belly of the four-engine bomber, remembers the Aug. 2, 1944, mission. It

was the crew's 16th combat flight over German-occupied Europe.

"As we approached the target, one engine went out. We took a hit from flak and another engine went out," the 84-year-old local man recalled. "We dropped our bombs and made a direct hit on the bridge." Problem was, their bomber was losing altitude fast, even though the 10-man crew jettisoned everything to lighten the plane. Lt. Clay Perry, flying the doomed B-17, had no alternative but to ditch it in the sea.

"At that point I remember thinking, 'this is it, the end for me.' We hit the water and were immediately up to our armpits in water," Peragallo said.

The crew scrambled

### COMMENDATIONS

Staff Sgt. Leon Peragallo was a ball turret gunner aboard a B-17 bomber and a member of the 568th Bomb Squadron in the 390th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, stationed in Framlington, England, during World War II. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Prisoner of War Medal and three Air Medals.

into two life rafts and spent the next 24 hours bobbing around in the North Sea before a couple of Dutch fishing boats came to their rescue. Unfortunately a German patrol boat stopped the fishermen and forced the bomber crew to come with them.

After being interrogated and threatened by German guards, Peragallo and the rest of the enlisted men aboard the plane wound up in Stalag Luft IV near Gross Tychow, Poland. For the next 10 months he survived in a Luftwaffe POW camp.

With Russian forces closing in from the east, the Germans decided to go on the road with the prisoners. Thus began a 500-mile, 52-day odyssey, the prisoners fighting starvation and cold



COURTESY PHOTO

Leon Peragallo, a B-17 bomber ball turret gunner, is standing third from left in this World War II-era photo.

as they walked through Poland and Germany during the final months of World War II.

"A few days later the British 3rd Army was approaching Lubec, Germany. We could hear their guns," Peragallo said. "British tanks came charging through the streets. The German guard gave me his pistol and bayonet as the British took over."

A week later the ex-ergeant and a group of former POWs were taken to a British air base near Hamburg, Germany. They took a flight on a bomber back to

England.

"Royal Air Force girls greeted each of us as they escorted us off the plane. I hadn't seen such pretty women in years," Peragallo said.

"I was taken to a hospital in Manchester, England."

Two weeks later he had recuperated sufficiently to be released from the hospital. He was sent on to Glasgow, Scotland, to board the Queen Mary for the voyage home.

"There were thousands of GIs aboard. Chow lines and eating was continued around

the clock. Five days later we arrived in New York City with the Statue of Liberty in sight and thousands of GIs happy and yelling.

Surely a great event — happiness and victory. Hard to believe we were finally back in the good old U.S.A.!"

Peragallo and his wife, Frances, retired to Venice in 1995.

*If you have a war story or a friend or neighbor has one, e-mail Don Moore at donmoore39@gmail.com or call him at 941-426-2120.*



SUN PHOTO BY DON MOORE

Leon Peragallo of Venice looks at a story he wrote about his adventures as a ball turret gunner on a B-17 "Flying Fortress" in World War II.

### PASSOVER from Page 1B

Bennett Gross, a member of the Jewish Center of Venice and a Venice Gondolier Sun columnist, said that Passover is the most celebrated Jewish holiday and is home centered.

"Families all have Seders. They can be done at temples, but they mainly are done at home," he said.

"Passover brings families together for the Seder."

Bringing families together and preparing for the celebration adds an air of excitement to this Jewish holiday that culminates with the eating of the Seder and telling the story of the Passover — a story of liberation and hope.

ablackwell@venicegondolier.com

## School district gets a day waiver

FROM SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Florida Department of Education has approved a request for a waiver from the Sarasota County Schools allowing the schools to be in session for 179 days this school year rather than the 180 days usually required for a school district to receive full state funding.

The district submitted the request because schools were closed Aug. 19, 2008, in anticipation of Hurricane Fay. The waiver was granted based on the district's assurance it will provide the 900 hours of instruction required by state law in 179 days.

Had the waiver not been granted, school would have been required to remain open through June 1. With the waiver, the last day of school will be May 29, as originally scheduled.

**Venice Gondolier Sun** Take the Time to enjoy our area. Find necessary sources in your dedicated local paper.

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Has joined the practice of **Doctors Davis & Beyer, Dental Health Professionals.** Dr. Aygen graduated with honors from Michigan State University & is a graduate of the University of Florida College of Dentistry.  
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**VENUE** from Page 3B

**Poetry open reading**

**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Where:** Sanddollar Bookstore, 272 Miami Ave., Venice  
**Call:** 480-1030  
**Link:** www.poetsrule.com

**Jewelry classes**

**Time:** 6-8 p.m.  
**Where:** ErlenBach Studio, 207 Nokomis Ave., Venice  
**Call:** 227-4335

**Venice-Nokomis Rotary Club**

**Time:** noon-1 p.m.  
**Where:** Grace United Methodist Church, 400 E. Field Ave., Venice  
**Call:** 493-0390  
**Link:** www.venicenokomisrotary.org

**Tin Can Sailors meet**

**Time:** 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
**Where:** American Legion Post 159, 1770 E. Venice Ave., Venice  
**Call:** 497-1050, Bob Schwartz

**Nature walk**

**Time:** 9-11 a.m.  
**Where:** North Jetty Beach Park, meet at the beach end of the parking lot on Casey Key. Bring water and comfortable shoes.  
**Call:** Bud Doyle, 488-4158

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10**

**Big Daddy & Little Mama perform at DAV**

**Time:** 6-9 p.m.  
**Where:** Disabled American Veterans, 600 East Colonia Lane, Nokomis  
**Notes:** Open to the public.  
**Call:** 488-4500

**Venice Nokomis Federated Republican Women's Club**

**Time:** 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Pelican Pointe Golf & Country Club, 499 Derbyshire Lane, Venice  
**Cost:** \$16  
**Call:** 966-1806

**Employment success class**

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.-noon  
**Where:** Women's Resource Center, 701 Center Road, Venice  
**Cost:** \$5 member; \$8 nonmember  
**Call:** 485-9724  
**Link:** www.thewomensresourcecenter.org

**Career counseling**

**Time:** 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**Where:** Women's Resource Center, 701 Center Road, Venice

**Notes:** Career adviser Ania Morris offers one-on-one appointments to help with employment resources.  
**Cost:** \$5 members; \$8 nonmembers  
**Call:** 485-9724  
**Link:** www.thewomensresourcecenter.org



**Train Depot tours**

**Time:** 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
**Where:** Historic Train Depot, Seaboard Avenue, Venice  
**Notes:** For tours of 10 or more, call Jerry at 496-9474. The Red Caboose is only open on Wednesdays for tours.  
**Call:** 412-0151, leave a message.

**French Club meets**

**Time:** 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
**Where:** Venice Public Library, 300 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice  
**Notes:** basic knowledge of French required  
**Call:** 485-3985

**Venice Lions Club's Mane Event fashion show**

**RSVP:** April 10  
**Date:** April 17  
**Time:** 11:30 a.m.  
**Where:** Pelican Pointe Golf & Country Club, 499 Derbyshire Drive, Venice  
**Notes:** Featured clothing will be from La Casa Del Quetzal. All proceeds will benefit the Paws for Patriots fund, which provides guide dogs to blind veterans. Reservations can be mailed to: Venice Lions Club, 1289 Jacaranda Blvd., Venice, FL 34292.  
**Cost:** \$30 each, \$225 for a table of eight  
**Call:** 460-9212

**Food distribution**

**Time:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**Where:** Habitat ReStore, 1400 Ogden Road, Venice

**Computer questions**

**Time:** 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Jacaranda Public Library, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice  
**Call:** 861-1270

**Club food**

**Time:** Lunch 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; dinner 4-7:30 p.m.; music 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge, 1021 Discovery Way, Nokomis  
**Call:** 486-1854

**Time:** 5-8 p.m.

**Where:** Eagles Aerie No. 3482, 621 East Colonia Lane, Nokomis  
**Call:** 484-4470

**Time:** 4:30-6:45 p.m.

**Where:** VFW Post No. 8118, 832 Venice Ave., Venice  
**Call:** 486-8551

**American Legion dinner-dance**

**Time:** 5-8 p.m.  
**Where:** American Legion, 1770 E. Venice Ave., Venice  
**Call:** 488-1157

**Square dancing**

**Time:** 3-5 p.m.  
**Where:** Woodmere Park, 3951 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice  
**Cost:** \$5  
**Call:** 828-0481  
**E-mail:** redbates@juno.com

**Writers group**

**Time:** 3-5 p.m.  
**Where:** Hypnosis Venice, 537 E. Venice Ave., Venice  
**Notes:** Writing support, reading works in progress, publishing advice and critiquing, led by Theresa Foley.  
**Call:** 445-4322 or 525-4770  
**Link:** www.hypnosisvenice.com

**Tapperclass class**

**Time:** 3-4:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Starz Choice Dance Academy, 348 S. Seaboard Ave., Venice  
**Notes:** intermediate tap  
**Call:** 408-0019

**Sunset sing-along**

**Time:** One hour before sunset  
**Where:** Venice Beach, near lifeguard station  
**Notes:** Bring a chair  
**Call:** 493-0775  
**Link:** www.newlifevenicefl.org

**Teen beginning guitar class**

**Time:** 4-5 p.m.  
**Where:** Nokomis Community Center, 234 East Nippino Trail, Nokomis  
**Notes:** Bring an acoustic guitar, pencil and spiral notebook.  
**Cost:** \$3 per class; \$15 for five weeks  
**Call:** 861-5000

**Sign language coffee chat**

**Time:** 7-9 p.m.  
**Where:** Books-A-Million, 4230 South Tamiami Trail, Venice

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# Dad miffed that fiance failed to ask for his daughter's hand



**DEAR ABBY**  
COLUMNIST

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a divorced father of three who has worked hard at staying part of my children's lives, contributing financial and emotional support through college. I have since remarried and have a good relationship with all three, who are now on their own, working and leading normal, healthy and productive lives.

"Amanda," my 24-year-

old daughter, has recently become engaged. Despite my giving her a "heads up" about wanting a courtesy call from her fiance, "Larry," at some point, I got nothing. Apparently, she told him it wasn't necessary. So much for who will wear the pants in their family.

Without being a jerk, I mentioned something to Larry — half in jest — when they called to give me their good news. Knowing that I may have been slightly offended, I can't believe he didn't call me a few days later with an explanation or an apology. When I later mentioned to Amanda that I was disappointed, she and her sister insisted that the custom is outdated.

Larry is 30; he's no kid. I haven't found one dad

yet who didn't get "the call" from a daughter's intended. Do I need to let go of this, or am I justified in speaking further to Larry about it? The wedding is getting closer, and I am ... **DISMAYED IN ROSWELL, GA.**

**DEAR DISMAYED:** For everyone's sake, it would be better if you cooled off and stopped the advice gathering. While I agree that the formality of asking for a woman's hand (or whatever) may be outdated, particularly if a daughter is self-supporting and out on her own, it is still a gesture of respect. It would have been nice if she had held your feelings in higher regard, but perhaps she didn't feel her fiance would pass muster.

I don't know how

many dads to whom you have confided this story, but for all concerned, it might be less embarrassing if you stopped and accepted the fact that, as much as you might like to protect your daughter, the gesture was unwelcome.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a college-educated mother of three wonderful, well-adjusted children. The decision that I would not work was one that my husband and I made with the understanding that we would have to forgo a lot of luxuries because we wouldn't have a second income. It has been worth it, and we have no regrets.

I would never dream of asking a working mother to give me money so I could buy something I can't afford.

So why, then, do so many working moms have no compunction about asking me for my time? The requests are endless — running their child's forgotten homework to school, picking up their kids from activities, doing their share at school functions, letting their dogs out, etc. Please tell me what to say to these nervy women. — **BUSY WITH MY OWN IN TENNESSEE**

**DEAR BUSY:** The working women who ask these favors may not appreciate the fact that being a stay-at-home mother is also a full-time job. If their requests make you feel encroached upon, all you have to say is that you can't do it because you have a "previous commitment." (You do not

have to say that the commitment is to your own children.)

However, before you start turning down these other mothers in a wholesale fashion, allow me to remind you that the way to have friends is to be one. And the time to be a friend is when someone needs one. You don't have to be a pushover — but don't isolate yourself, either.

**CONFIDENTIAL TO MY JEWISH READERS:** A happy Passover, everyone!

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

## LIBRARY BRIEFS

**Jacaranda Library**  
4143 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice, FL 34293  
861-5000

### Chess at the Library

Call it a knight, call it a horse. We just call it a good time playing chess. Meets on Sunday, April 12, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

### Preschool Storytime

On Monday, April 13, 10 to 10:45 a.m., Preschool Storytime is offered. It's a program for children ages 3 to 5 years old. Storytime includes stories, songs, finger-plays, guests and craft activities. Registration is not necessary, but please observe age requirements.

### Baby Rhyme and Sign Time

This program, which meets Tuesday, April 14, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., is geared toward babies from newborn to 24 months. The 45-minute program will include nursery rhymes, songs, baby sign language, a

book and play time. Space is limited. Older siblings are welcome.

### Junior Bridge Club

Children in fourth and fifth grade are invited to a 10-week series of free and fun-filled classes to learn how to play bridge. The Jacaranda Junior Bridge Club meets Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Activity Room. Register at the youth desk.

### Forty Carrots: Partners in Play

On Wednesday, April 8, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 to 11:45 a.m., children, birth to age 5, and their caregivers have the opportunity to enjoy

meaningful playtime together, experience new activities, join in circle-time fun, spend time with other families, and get valuable parenting information. Space is limited to 12 families. You must register at the youth desk the day of the program.

### Euchre Night

Want a rousing game of cards? Here's your place, Wednesday, April 8, 5:30 to 7:45 p.m.

### Video Lecture Series

On Thursday, April 9, 2 to 3 p.m., the lectures are from "The Chamber Music of Mozart." "Not Just a Pretty Face" and

"Blowin' in the Winds" will be shown.

### Hurricanes vs. Trees

On Thursday, April 9, 10 to 11 a.m., find out why trees fall and how to minimize the damage.

### Toddler Tale Time

On Friday, April 10, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 to 11:30 a.m., toddlers ages 1-3 and their parent, grandparent or caregiver, are invited to join in for stories, rhymes, songs and playtime. Please observe age requirements.

### Ask Jack

The program on Friday, April 10, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., is geared

toward the intermediate computer user.

If you have a general idea of how to make a computer work, but you

have one or two pesky questions, here is your opportunity to get some useful answers and learn more about computers.

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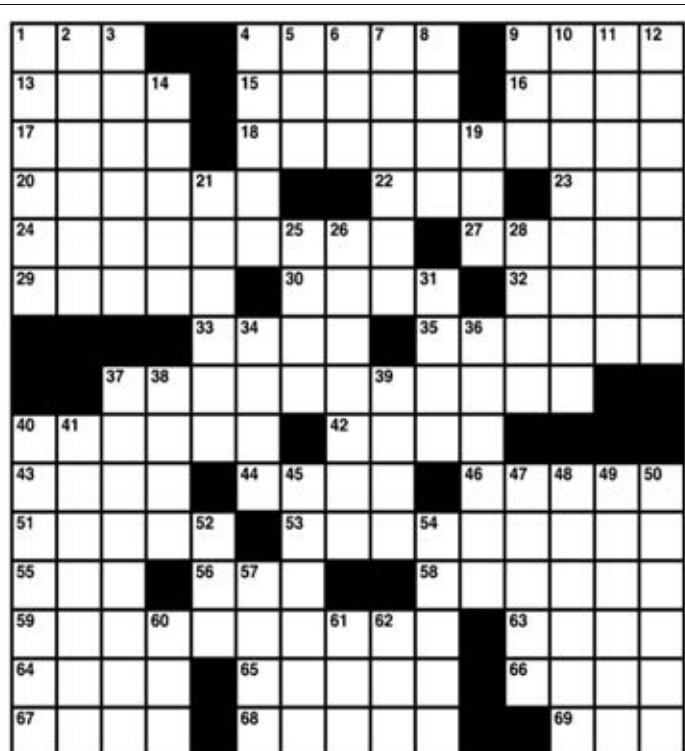
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- Summon the genie
  - Stacy who played Mike Hammer
  - Fischer man?
  - Greek goddess of discord
  - Parcel out
  - Pentathlon event
  - Almanac tidbit
  - "Show me" state?
  - Anxious feeling
  - Car loan letters
  - Lunched or brunched
  - Empire state?
  - Painful areas
  - City near Düsseldorf
  - Bringing up the rear
  - A unicycle has one
  - Optimist's credo
  - "Men in Black" extras
  - Volunteer state?
  - Broadway opening?
  - Cork sources
  - Oodles
  - With 6-Down, it's "bitter" in England
  - Francisco's farewell
  - Leading the pack
  - Beehive state?
  - Not working
  - Instrument sometimes made from koa wood
  - Campaign contest
  - Granite state?
  - Chairlift predecessor, at many resorts
  - Netizen, e.g.
  - East Asian capital
  - Trig ratio
  - "Sneaked" look
  - Turns (off)
  - Media mogul Turner
- DOWN**
- Scow load



By Patrick Jordan

Please see CROSS, 9B

- First planet discovered using a telescope
- Weightlifter's pride
- Casey who provided Shaggy's voice in TV's "Scooby-Doo"
- Bugling grazer
- See 44-Across
- Common HMO requirements
- URL starter
- Push-up muscle
- They're abuzz with activity
- Gene Autry film
- Luthor and Brainiac, to Superman
- Unsettling look
- Treasury Dept. arm
- Declining from old age
- Jai \_\_\_
- Sicilian pastry
- Elevator man
- Gas holder
- Movie excerpt
- "Gil Blas" novelist
- Was released

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- Not \_\_\_ many words
- One who may converse in Erse
- Failed to meet as planned
- Befuddle
- "The Story of \_\_\_": 1975
- Isabelle Adjani film
- Collection agency concerns
- "It won't be long"
- Gas rating
- Get riled
- Dartboard setting
- Pastoral poems
- Sleeping Beauty awakener
- Scriptural ship
- Debtor's pledge
- Disapproving word

# GOREN BRIDGE

**Q 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:**  
♠ 9 6 ♥ Q J 10 9 7 3 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ 10 3

Partner opens the bidding with an artificial game force of two clubs. What do you respond?

**A -** When partner makes a demand bid your first duty is to describe your strength (or weakness). When you have only 3 points you cannot make a positive response even with a fair six-card major. Respond two diamonds.

**Q 2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:**  
♠ K 8 7 4 ♥ Q J 10 6 5 3 ♦ 6 ♣ 9 4

Partner opens the bidding with a weak two diamonds. What action do you take?

**A -** There is a good chance that two diamonds is not the best contract, but there is nothing you can do about it! Pass. Your best chance is that the opponents get to play in one of your suits.

**Q 3 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠ Q 8 7 4 2 ♥ 7 ♦ Q 9 8 3 ♣ 7 5 4

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

**A -** If you were sure that partner held some spade length, you might scrape up the courage to bid one spade. However, if partner is short in spades, where do you think you have a safe landing spot with only four points, a ratty five-card major and a singleton heart? Pass, before the bloodbath begins.

**Q 4 - Vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠ 8 ♥ 10 8 7 6 2 ♦ A K 6 3 ♣ A 8 5

The bidding has proceeded:  
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH  
1♣ ?

What action do you take?

**A -** If you are among those who enter the auction with your pitiable heart holding, remind us to steer clear of your table. If you overcalled, you ended up in three hearts making two overtricks. Partner held:  
♠ J 6 4 ♥ K J 5 4 3 ♦ Q 9 7 5 ♣ 5

You were worried about your suit; partner was worried about your strength.

**Q 5 - Vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠ 8 ♥ 10 8 7 6 2 ♦ A K 6 3 ♣ A 8 5

The bidding has proceeded:  
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH  
1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass  
2♣ ?

What action do you take?

**A -** Had you passed in the problem above, this is how the auction would have continued. Now you can make a takeout double and partner has an easy jump to four hearts. Bridge is such a simple game if we don't complicate it!

**Q 6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:**  
♠ A K J 7 3 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ 8 4 ♣ A K 5

The bidding has proceeded:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
1♠ Pass 2♣ Pass  
?

What do you bid now?

**A -** You have excellent support for partner's suit and you have already shown spades, and partner knows you have five of them. Bid three clubs. Switch your hearts and clubs around, and we would venture two no trump, with two spades as our second choice.

*(Tannah Hirsch welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Media Services Inc., 2225 Kenmore Ave., Suite 114, Buffalo, NY. 14207. E-mail responses may be sent to gorenbridge@aol.com.)*

# The Los Angeles Times

# SUDOKU

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

Complete the grid so each row, column and box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk).

Please see SUDOKU, 9B

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## Stress less, sleep more with simple remedies



**SUZY COHEN, R.PH.**  
**DEAR PHARMACIST**

**Q:** I read chapter 8 of your book "The 24-Hour Pharmacist" and want to take 5-HTP to help me sleep. You suggest taking it at "dinner" and this has caused a disagreement in our household. I think "dinner" is the evening meal, but my wife says "dinner" is the noon meal where she grew

up. What time should I take 5-HTP and also, what other supplements can help me sleep? —R.M., Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**A:** Your question hit a nerve with me because I serve lunch around noon, but this is my husband Sam's first meal (because he skips breakfast), so he refers to our lunch as "breakfast." It's very annoying, so I empathize with you. When I say "dinner" I mean the evening meal, not lunch, breakfast or brunch.

5-HTP causes drowsiness within an hour or two. But evening dosing isn't right for everyone because 5-HTP creates energy before it causes drowsiness. Think of a

roller coaster — you have to go uphill before you coast downward.

My advice is to try taking 5-HTP around dinnertime, and if it keeps you awake during the wee hours (i.e. you get up to mow the lawn, vacuum, and pay bills), then come over to my house. ;-) Seriously, if this happens to you, then take the supplement at tea time (or even earlier at lunch) and this should allow you to enjoy the temporary lift in energy before the lull to la la land.

Why does it do that? Because 5-HTP undergoes a chemical reaction in the body to form serotonin, a "happy" brain

chemical, and serotonin is stimulating. Think of those popular antidepressants like Prozac, Zoloft and Paxil that increase serotonin levels. Eventually, the serotonin breaks down to another chemical called melatonin, a powerful sleep hormone that your brain normally produces when night falls. The melatonin is what makes you fall asleep. How long is the roller coaster ride between 5-HTP and melatonin? It differs for everyone, but one thing's for sure. Your body needs other nutrients to make these glorious changes, some of which include zinc, B5, B6, magnesium, methionine

and others. Eating fruits and veggies and taking a high-quality multivitamin help you convert the 5-HTP to its important relatives.

Can 5-HTP replace Ambien, Lunesta or Sonata? No, I don't think so, because those prescription drugs push levels of a chemical called GABA, not melatonin. A better substitute for these types of sleeping pills is GABA supplements. Please ask your doctor first. You can buy GABA at any health food store and online. At low dosages, GABA may relieve anxiety, panic attacks and irritability. In larger doses GABA induces sleep. I like

GABA because it can improve memory and protect the brain. Besides, you can take it at midnight — as a snack — to help you stay asleep longer.

### Did you know?

The herb uva ursi has been used to treat chronic urinary tract infections, cystitis and problems of the kidney.

*This information is not intended to treat, cure or diagnose your condition. Suzy Cohen is the author of "The 24-Hour Pharmacist" and "Drug Muggers." For more information, visit [www.DearPharmacist.com](http://www.DearPharmacist.com).*

### WELL-BEING BRIEFS

#### COPD group

COPD education and support group, 3 p.m., second Thursday of the month (April 9) in the cafeteria at Englewood Community Hospital, 700 Medical Blvd. Call 473-3119.

#### Bereavement group

The Bereavement Support

Group meets 3-4 p.m., the second and fourth Thursdays of the month in the Administrative Conference Room at Englewood Community Hospital, 700 Medical Blvd. Call 697-0783.

#### Alzheimer's group

Monthly Alzheimer's Support Group, 1 p.m., second

Monday of the month (April 13), Clare Bridge of Venice, 1200 Avenida del Circo. Call 485-8885.

#### PAST

Parents of Addicts Sharing Time is a support and advocacy group that meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in

the conference room at Jacaranda Public Library, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd. Call Maria Ludlam at 492-3424 or e-mail [past.venice.fl@gmail.com](mailto:past.venice.fl@gmail.com).

#### Osteoporosis

Osteoporosis Support Group, noon, second Monday of the month (April 13) in

Englewood Community Hospital's Suncoast Auditorium, 700 Medical Blvd. RSVP to 475-3558.

#### Sign language coffee

**Time:** 7-9 p.m.  
**Where:** Books-A-Million, 4230 South Tamiami Trail, Venice

Please see **WELL-BEING, 9B**

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P.S. Whiplash is a soft-tissue injury that may include the intervertebral joints, discs, ligaments, cervical muscles, and nerve roots

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## VMS students partner with historical society



PHOTO COURTESY OF VENICE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Glenn Stephens, left; Janice Stephens; Sue Chapman, Venice Area Historical Society president; Betty Intagliata, video project coordinator; Barbara Woody, Venice Middle School teacher; Jennifer Johnson, seventh-grader; and Dr. Karin Schmidt, VMS principal, at the annual meeting of the VAHS at Pelican Pointe Golf & Country Club.

### FROM VENICE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Venice Middle School partnered with the Venice Area Historical Society during the 2008-09 school year to conduct interviews at the VMS video studio of descendants of pioneer families of the Venice, Nokomis, Laurel and Osprey areas.

The historical society contacted the families to be interviewed and provided mentors for stu-

dents in Barbara Woody's seventh-grade social studies class.

Descendants being interviewed are from the following pioneer families: Knight, Blackburn, Wrede, Stephens, Curry, Harn and Higel.

Students are editing the video. The finished video will be shown to the public at the May 26 meeting of the historical society at 7 p.m. at Village On The Isle in the Mark Manor Building.

Glenn Stephens, a descendant of Wilson Elihu Stephens, was interviewed by Jennifer Johnson, a seventh-grader at Venice Middle School, at the annual meeting of Venice Area Historical Society.

Wilson E. Stephens headed up a pioneer family that came to Venice in 1897 and purchased 50 acres of land where today's Venice Bypass and Substation Road are located.

## Finding unity



SUN PHOTO BY AUDREY BLACKWELL

Students from all grade levels at Venice High School attended Unity Day in the school's media center April 2. This is the second year for the event established as a program of Community of Caring and the Because It Matters initiative, said Elisha Jennings, Community of Caring lead teacher. "We are bringing together students from all different peer groups to break down walls," she said. "The students talk about issues of diversity, such as race, ethnicity, stereotyping, prejudice and religion in a safe environment. We want to create an environment of acceptance at Venice High School."

## Information nights set

### FROM SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Public high schools throughout the county are hosting Student-Parent Information Nights in April.

The events are designed to help next year's freshmen learn about the school they will attend in 2009-10.

Eighth-grade students can explore their district's high school and learn about course options.

The SPIN events are:

- Booker High: Monday, April 13, 6:30 p.m., Visual and Performing Arts Theatre
- Suncoast Polytechnical High: Tuesday, April 14, 6 p.m., cafeteria
- Sarasota High: Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 p.m., auditorium
- Venice High: Tuesday, April 14, 6 p.m., auditorium
- North Port High: Wednesday, April 29, 7 p.m., Performing Arts Center

Riverview High School held its event on April 2. SPIN events last at least one hour. Some information is presented more than once, but students and parents are encouraged to arrive at the starting time.

The 2009-10 school year begins Monday, Aug. 24, in the Sarasota County Public School District.

Information about the high schools is on the Web at [www.sarasotacountyschools.net](http://www.sarasotacountyschools.net).

### PROM DRESSES NEEDED

If anyone wants to donate an evening gown to the Venice High Prom Boutique, you may drop it off at Venetian Cleaners, 439 Tamiami Trail South in Venice.

## Essay contest on tap

### STAFF REPORT

Venetian Cleaners is holding an essay contest for junior and senior students at Venice High School.

The contest requires a 500-word-or-less essay that uses correct spelling and grammar on one of three topics:

1. The most influential person in your academic life? Discuss.
2. Is college the right choice for every student?
3. How do you expect college to change the rest of your life?

Enter by April 10. Mail to or drop off at Venetian Cleaners, Attention Kat Dills, 439 Tamiami Trail South, Venice.

The first place grand prize is a prom package valued at over \$500.

Other prizes include: \$100 gift certificate to Crow's Nest; \$150 free tuxedo rental; \$85 gift certificate to James Griffith Salon; \$50 off at Brad's limo; a \$50 Island Photographics photo session; free corsage and boutonniere from Garden of Eden; and 10 percent off prom dresses at the Barefoot Contessa.

If any young woman picks a dress from Venice High Prom Boutique, Venetian Cleaners will press it for free.

For more information, call 234-6345.

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Manatee Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA, 30033-4097, or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of MCC. An equal access/equal opportunity institution.

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**WELL-BEING** from Page 7B

**Notes:** Open to all those who are learning or wish to practice their sign language skill. Meets the second Friday of each month.

**Crohn's support**

A monthly Crohn's Disease support group meets at 7 p.m. the third Wednesday (April 15) in the Englewood Community Hospital, Suncoast Auditorium, 700 Medical Blvd. Call 815-3669.

**Cancer support**

Cancer is Not Contagious Support Group, 10:30 a.m., third Thursday of the month (April 16), Englewood Community Hospital, cafeteria, 700 Medical Blvd. Also meeting at this time is the Support for People with Oral and Head and Neck Cancer Group. Call Joe at 474-0099.

**Parkinson's support**

The Parkinson's Support Group meets at 10 a.m. the third Friday of the month (April 17) in the Englewood Community Hospital Suncoast Auditorium, 700 Medical Blvd. Call 473-3919.

**Ostomy Support Group**

Venice Ostomy Support Group's next meeting is at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at Venice HealthPark, Jacaranda Boulevard and Center Road, Suite 1283.

**Medicare help**

Associated Medicare Patients Inc., an independent, non-profit corporation of volunteers, helps those on Medicare navigate the cumbersome health insurance system. AMP is free and serves Sarasota, Englewood and Venice. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays. AMP is on the second floor of the Pat Buster Building at the Senior Friendship Centers, 2350 Scenic Drive, Venice. AMP is always looking to train new counselors. For more information, call 584-0051.

**Co-Dependents Anonymous**

Co-Dependents Anonymous has meetings for women only from noon-1 p.m. Thursdays through the end of April at Venice Bible Church, 2395 W. Shamrock Blvd. (west of U.S. 41), Venice. Call Dorothy, 486-5367.

**Naranon group**

Thursday Naranon Family Group, a support group for families who have someone

with a drug addiction, 7-8 p.m., St. Mark's Church, 513 Nassau St. S., in Venice (behind Venice Regional Medical Center). This group is for the family, not the addict. The program is based on the 12 steps of AA and Alanon.

**Line dancing classes**

Line dancing classes with Jackie Wheeler, intermediate class, 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays; beginner class, 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Fee: \$4 per class. Call 493-2776.

**Wellness Community**

Events are free for cancer patients and a caregiver. Call 921-5539.

- Support groups, 10-11:30 a.m. Mondays at Jacaranda Trace, 3600 William Penn Way.
- Adaptive yoga classes, noon-1:30 p.m. Mondays at Jacaranda Trace, 3600 William Penn Way.
- Qigong exercise classes, 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays at Jacaranda Trace, 3600 William Penn Way.
- Small-group discussion, For Men Only, 2-3 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at 3900 Clark Road, Building P-3, Sarasota. This is a drop-in, casual meeting open to male cancer patients at all stages of treatment for prostate cancer.

**Zumba dance, yoga classes**

Zumba dance fitness class, 6:15-7:15 p.m. Tuesdays, and beginners yoga class, 6:15-7:15 p.m. Wednesdays, at the Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave. E-mail Mary Lynn Szerbin at mlszerbin@aol.com or call 685-8445 to reserve a spot.

**StrollerFit classes**

**Time:** 9:15-10:15 a.m. Wednesdays  
**Where:** Venice Train Depot, park grounds, 300 E. Venice Ave.  
**Notes:** StrollerFit blends exercise, child development and group dynamics into a 50-minute exercise experience. Connect with friends while losing that extra baby fat.  
**Call:** 861-5000

**Screenings**

Free blood pressure and blood sugar tests by Home Health Services of Venice, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Thursdays at Venice HealthPark, 1201 Jacaranda Blvd. Call 485-7711.

**Meditation**

Meditation and Eckhart Tolle's "A New Earth," 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Mellow Run, 1270 Thoreau Circle, Venice. Call 445-7134 to pre-register.

**Acupuncture**

Acupuncture physician Dr. Lucy Han holds free seminars, noon-1 p.m. Wednesdays at 389 Commercial Court, Suite B. RSVP to 486-1555.

**Insurance advice**

Health Insurance Advice for Seniors visits the Senior Friendship Centers, 9-11 a.m. Thursdays at 2350 Scenic Drive. Call 584-0075.

**Caregiver Time Out**

A free weekly caregiver support group meets 1:15-3 p.m. Fridays at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 508 Riviera St. Led by a professional facilitator, Caregiver Time Out offers group support, community resources and activities provided for loved ones during the session. Registration required. Call Pamela at 366-2224.



SUN FILE PHOTO

**Couples Helping Couples**

An anonymous 12-step program for all couples looking to improve their relationships, 7:30-9 p.m. Fridays at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2705 North Tamiami Trail, Nokomis. Twelve-step experience not necessary. Couples work on such things as commitment, communication, conflict resolution — anything that impedes a healthy and happy relationship. Free. (A donation to cover rent is appreciated but is not necessary.) Call 474-5315 or 492-9547 or visit www.recovering-couples.org for more information.

**Goodwill Good Neighbor Friendship Fitness Walking Group**

6:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays at Goodwill Good Neighbor Center — Rialto, 652 South Tamiami Trail on the island. Friendly faces meet to share friendship and support as we walk. Water is provided. A morning group is also available. Call Eva at 408-7442.

**Walkabout group**

The Saturday Morning Walkabout group meets at 8 a.m. Saturdays at Volunteer Park, behind the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice. Each Saturday a dif-

ferent 2 1/2-mile route is selected. Mileage is recorded and incentive awards are presented for various total miles walked. Bring your pets, too. New walkers welcome.

**Bicycling**

Join bicyclists from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Volunteer Park, behind the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, for a leisurely 10-mile ride on the Venetian Waterway Park. All levels of experience welcome. Call 468-8124.

**Co-Dependents Anonymous**

A women-only Co-Dependents Anonymous group, 10-11 a.m. Thursdays, Unity of Sarasota, 3023 Procter Road, Sarasota. Newcomers welcome. Call 306-1825 or visit www.coda.org.

**Nar-Anon**

A support group for those who have loved ones affected by drug addiction meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays in the lounge at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 508 Riviera St. Call Ray at 497-6879.

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Suncoast Auditorium of Englewood Community Hospital, 700 Medical Blvd. Call 426-7655.

**Al-Anon**

Al-Anon and Alateen family meetings take place several times a week at area locations. Call 426-7655 or visit southfloridaal-anon.org.

- St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 508 Riviera St., 7 p.m. Mondays
- Let Go & Let God AFG, Venice Presbyterian Church, 111 E. Firenze St., 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays
- Freedom AFG, Church of the Nazarene, 1535 E. Venice Ave. (children welcome), 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays
- Wednesday Step Study, Grace United Methodist Church, 400 E. Field Ave., 7 p.m. Wednesdays
- Steps & Growth, The Church of Christ, 4301 State Road 776, 10 a.m. Thursdays
- Peace Pipe, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 790 South Tamiami Trail, Room 101, 7 p.m. Thursdays
- On the island, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 790 South Tamiami Trail, 8 p.m. Thursdays
- Step in the Right Direction, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 508 Riviera St., 7 p.m. Fridays
- Saturday Night Live,

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 790 South Tamiami Trail, 7 p.m. Saturdays

- Keep it Simple Sunday, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 790 South Tamiami Trail, 7 p.m. Sundays

**Yoga with Elin**

**Time:** 8 and 9 a.m.; 6:45 p.m. Mondays  
**Where:** Venice Beach, near the pavilion  
**Notes:** Free yoga on Venice Beach  
**Call:** 408-9642

**Yoga with Elin**

**Time:** 8 and 9 a.m. Tuesdays  
**Where:** Venice Beach, near the pavilion  
**Notes:** Free yoga on Venice Beach  
**Call:** 408-9642



**Yoga with Elin**

**Time:** 6:45 p.m. Wednesdays  
**Where:** Venice Beach, near the pavilion  
**Notes:** Free yoga on Venice Beach  
**Call:** 408-9642

**Yoga with Elin**

**Time:** 8 and 9 a.m. Thursdays  
**Where:** Venice Beach, near the pavilion  
**Notes:** Free yoga on Venice Beach  
**Call:** 408-9642

**Yoga with Elin**

**Time:** 8, 9 and 9:30 a.m. (advanced) Saturdays  
**Where:** Venice Beach, near the pavilion  
**Notes:** Free yoga on Venice Beach  
**Call:** 408-9642

**Yoga for everyone**

**Time:** 6:15 p.m. Wednesdays  
**Where:** Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave.  
**Cost:** \$8, discounts available  
**Call:** 408-8205

**SEND US YOUR EVENT**

To submit an event for the Venice Gondolier Sun's Well-Being Briefs, send an e-mail with the time, date, location and other information to Kurt Ludke at kludke@venicegondolier.com.

**CROSS** from Page 6B



**SUDOKU** from Page 6B

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

*Women's Plus ~ Sizes*  
**Diva** clothier  
 Sizes: 1x - 4x  
 New for Spring

- Seersucker Groups
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743 Shamrock Blvd. - Venice, FL  
 Same plaza as Nick's Café  
 1-1/2 Miles from Tamiami Trl.  
 492-9100 ~ Wed. - Sat.: 10-5 PM

Orthopaedic Services at Venice Regional Medical Center



**This is not your dad's KNEE SURGERY**

Orthopaedic surgery has changed dramatically, and at Venice Regional Medical Center we are right on the cutting edge. Gone are the days of big incisions, long hospital stays and months of painful rehab. Now, you can reap the benefits of our surgeons' expertise in the latest, most sophisticated small incision techniques—which result in minimal discomfort and get you back to your favorite activities in a snap. Plus, you'll appreciate being treated like the healthy person you are in our dedicated orthopaedic unit with private rooms and internet access, which makes it feel more like a hotel than a hospital. So when your knee, hip or shoulder goes, don't look back: call the experts who are already practicing tomorrow's orthopaedic surgery.

- Partial knee replacement
- Partial hip replacement
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- Anterior hip surgery
- Elbow replacements
- Hand surgery
- Foot and ankle surgery

Call our physician referral service at 483-7600 for more information about our orthopaedic surgeons.



540 The Rialto ■ Venice, FL 34285  
 941.485.7711 ■ veniceregional.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN MATYUS

**ENGAGEMENT**  
**Matyus-Ehrlich**

The engagement of Susan Matyus, of Grayslake, Ill., and Mark Ehrlich, of Chicago, Ill., has been announced.

She is the daughter of Gerald and Jeree Matyus, of Venice, Fla., and Grayslake. He is the son of Marilyn Ehrlich and the late Howard Ehrlich, of Chicago.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Northern Illinois University-DeKalb, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in journal-

ism/communications. She is a member of Sigma Sigma Sorority. She graduated from Valparaiso University of Law and is an assistant Cook County public defender.

In 2006, she was a candidate for Cook County circuit judge. She is a past vice president of the Gold Coast Neighbors community group and a member of the North Dearborn Association.

The bridegroom-to-

be graduated from the University of Chicago Lab School and attended the United States Military Academy at West Point.

He attended Michigan State University and graduated from Loyola University School of Law.

After working at a large law firm, he is currently in private practice. He is also a pilot.

A fall wedding is planned. The couple will reside in Chicago.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSEMARIE ROMANSKI

**50TH ANNIVERSARY**  
**Romanski**

Rosemarie and Eugene Romanski celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 4.

They were married in Lincoln Park, Mich., April 4, 1959.

Mrs. Romanski is the former Rosemarie Chedrick, of New Stanton, Penn., and was the 18th child of a coal miner. She worked as a secretary

at Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn, Mich., until she married Gene.

Mr. Romanski worked as a mechanical design engineer at Ford Motor Co.

He retired after 31 years and then began working at Nielsen Media Research in Nokomis, Fla.

The couple are the

parents of three children: Martin E. Romanski, D.C. (Erene Romanski, D.C.), of Venice; Kimberley Kuspa (Joseph), of Southgate, Mich.; and Christopher Romanski (Patricia Strycharz), of Englewood, Fla.

They have six grandchildren: Adele, Rachel, Sonjai Rose, Gregory, Matthew and Zoey.

**ACADEMIC HONORS**

**Erin Conn**, daughter of Venice residents Garth and Barta Conn, graduated with a Master of Science degree in May 2008, and a doctorate degree in December 2008, from Ithaca College's School of Health Sciences and Human Performance.

**Kelly McElroy**, Venice, was named to the fall 2008 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Students who completed 12 or more credits per semester and earned a grade point average of 3.4 or higher made the list.

**MILITARY NEWS**

**Coast Guard Seaman Apprentice Michael R. Ball**, son of Lisa L. Ball, of Venice, Fla., recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J.

During the eight-week training program, Ball completed a rigorous training curriculum consisting of academics and practical instruction

on water safety and survival, military customs and courtesies, seamanship skills, first aid, firefighting and marksmanship. A major emphasis is also placed on physical fitness, health and wellness.

Ball and other recruits also received instruction on the Coast Guard's core values — honor, respect and devotion to duty —

and how to apply them in their military performance and personal conduct.

Ball will join 36,000 other men and women who comprise the Coast Guard's force.

Men and women train together from the first day in the Coast Guard, just as they do aboard ships and shore units throughout the

world.

To reinforce the team concept, Ball and other recruits were trained in preventing sexual harassment, drug and alcohol awareness, civil rights training, and the basics of the work-life balance, as well as total quality management.

Ball is a 2005 graduate of Crystal River High School, Crystal River, Fla.

**Volunteer drivers needed for cancer patients**

The American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery Program needs volunteers who are willing to drive cancer patients to and from their cancer treatments.

Volunteer drivers are needed to ensure that all patients are getting the care they desperately need to get back on the Road to Recovery.

Training is provided to

those who want to volunteer their time, ensuring an easy and stress-free service for patients and volunteers.

Requirements for volunteering include having a good driving record, a valid driver license and a vehicle in good working condition.

For more information, call Marion at 745-1214, ext. 5803.

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Dental Implants, Your Second Chance  
**FREE & INFORMATIVE**  
Dental Implant Discussion  
**Arthur I. Acker, DMD**  
Director of Implant Educators  
Wednesday, April 8th  
5:00 PM  
R.S.V.P For You and a Friend  
**941-484-3885**  
*Gondola Park*  
a unique dental experience  
200 Capri Isles Blvd., Venice  
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Arthur I. Acker, DMD Nicole R. Lehninger, DMD

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Since 1997  
Hair-Stroke Eyebrows!  
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Hair Integration Systems & Extensions  
**(941) 468-0378**  
Englewood - By Appointment

**You Don't Have To Spend Thousands Of Dollars For Cataract Surgery That Reduces Your Dependence On Eyeglasses**  
Your eye doctor for a lifetime.  
**Mark Johnson MD, FACS**  
Board Certified Ophthalmologist  
The Human Art of Medicine  
811 Ridgewood Ave. • Venice  
**480-0600**

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More wrinkles in the face... less wrinkles in the transaction!  
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For Your Real Estate Needs Call Direct: **941-223-4905**  
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E-mail: [maryannfahey@wheeler-homes.com](mailto:maryannfahey@wheeler-homes.com)  
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31 Years of real estate experience. "A PROVEN PROFESSIONAL"

**Paying Cash for ALL Gold, Silver, Coins, Paper Money & Collectables**  
**Classic Creations**  
in diamonds & gold  
Duke Family Owned & Operated Since 1981  
1846 Tamiami Tr. S.  
**497-6331**  
1/2 mile south of Shamrock. West side Of US 41, Venice Terms: Cash, Check\* (\*2 forms of ID required)  
OPEN MON. THRU FRI. 10 TO 5 SATURDAY 10 TO 4  
WINNER

**SUN., APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> THRU SAT., APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2009**  
**SEARS HOMETOWN STORES GREAT SPRING SALE**  
**CRAFTSMAN**  
**TEST DRIVE TRACTORS**  
**SAVE ON ALL CRAFTSMAN® POWER LAWN & GARDEN OUTDOOR STORAGE & KENMORE GAS GRILLS**  
USE YOUR SEARS CARD AND CHOOSE NO PAYMENTS, NO INTEREST UNTIL MAY 2010\* OR  
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Friendly Service at Your Local Sears Hometown Store.  
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# Holy Week Services

Celebrate at the church of your choice

He is not here: for **He is risen**, as He said.  
Come, see the place where the Lord lay.  
Matthew 28:6



**Celebrate Easter**

Maunder Thursday 7pm  
Good Friday 7pm  
Easter Sunday 8am & 10am

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**

2705 Tamiami Trl. N.  
Nokomis  
941-966-4442

Rev. Sarah Brown

**Venice-Nokomis**  
United Methodist Church

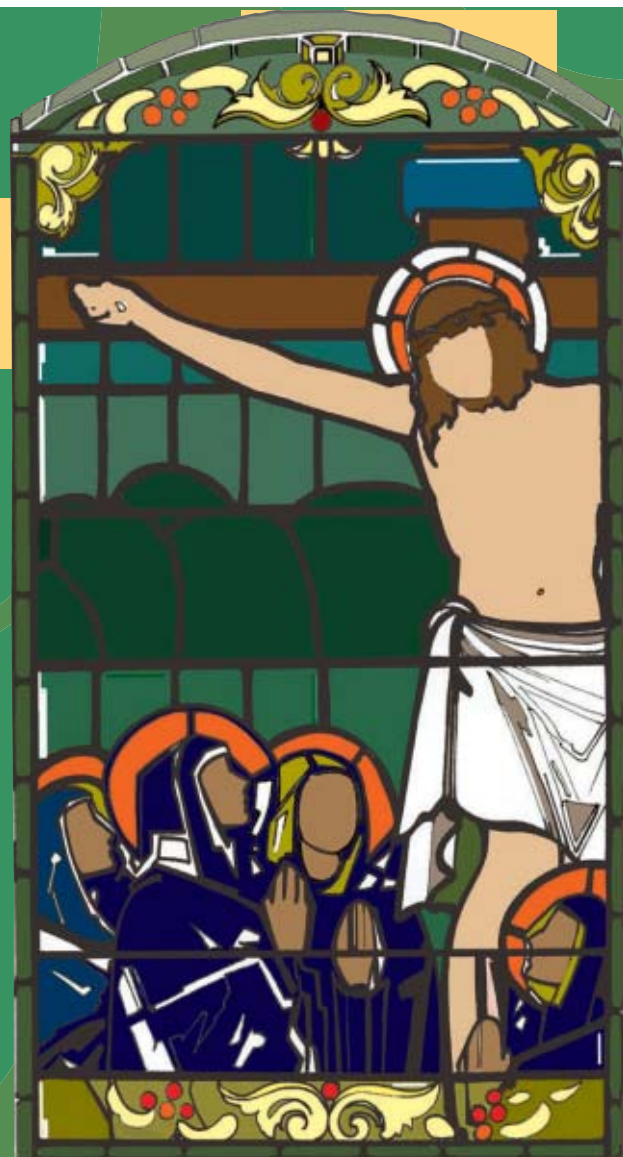
Sunday Worship:  
9:15 AM & 11:00 AM  
Interpretation for the Deaf  
Children's Puppet Church:  
9:15 AM  
Adult & Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM  
Youth Fellowship - Monday 5:30 PM

208 Palm Avenue, Nokomis  
Phone 488-4137  
(West of US 41,  
4 blks. South of Albee Road)  
[www.vnumc.net](http://www.vnumc.net)  
vnumc@verizon.net  
Rev. Jim McWhinnie, Pastor

**EASTER WORSHIP TIMES**  
SUNRISE SERVICE-7:00 am-SOUTH JETTY

CLASSIC 8:30AM	CONTEMPORARY 10:40AM
-------------------	-------------------------

**FIRST BAPTIST VENICE**  
312 W. MIAMI AVE  
485-1314



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

April 9th  
Maunder Thursday 6pm

April 10th  
Good Friday 12 Noon

April 11th  
Holy Saturday Vigil 7pm

April 12th  
Easter Sunday 7am & 10am

1115 Center Road,  
Venice 941-497-7286

**BEHOLD**  
The Easter Miracle!

Easter Sunday  
8:30 & 11 am

Maunder Thursday: 7 pm  
Good Friday: 7 pm  
Holy Saturday: 5 pm

There's a place for you here!  
**Emmanuel Lutheran Church-ELCA**  
790 Tamiami Trl. S,  
Venice - On the Island!

You're Invited

**CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**HOLY WEEK**

Maunder Thursday - Last Supper 7pm  
Good Friday Service 12pm Prayer Till 3pm  
Easter Sunday Celebration 8am, 9:15am & 10:45am

Parking shuttle provided • 493-7504  
1475 Center Road, Venice  
[www.cumc.info](http://www.cumc.info)

**Easter Sunday WORSHIP**

**LAKESIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

2401 S. Tamiami Trail  
(Across from So. Cty. Admin. Bldg.)

**EASTER**

8:00 AM Traditional • 9:15 AM Contemporary  
10:30 AM Traditional  
Easter Breakfast 7-10:30 AM

Join us in worship

Maunder Thursday:  
7:30pm - Special Service  
(Lord's Supper will be observed)

Easter Sunday:  
7:00am - Sunrise Service  
(Followed by breakfast)  
9:30am - Resurrection  
Worship Service

**Auburn Road Presbyterian Church**

Gathering to worship,  
living in His grace

Rev. Dwight L. Dolby, Pastor  
642 N. Auburn Rd. • 485-3551  
[www.arpc.org](http://www.arpc.org)

Come celebrate the Risen Savior with us at

**Venice Bible Church**

Good Friday Service  
April 10th at 8:00 p.m.  
Service of meditation, drama and communion

Sunrise Service  
April 12th at 8:00 a.m.  
Manasota Beach Pavilion

Sunday Morning Celebration Services  
April 12th at 9:00 & 10:40 a.m.

(941) 493-2788  
2395 W. Shamrock Dr.  
Venice, FL 34293  
[www.venicebiblechurch.com](http://www.venicebiblechurch.com)

**Sunrise Service**

Nokomis Beach  
Sunday  
April 12, 7 am

First Baptist Church  
In The Pines

727 Shore Rd.  
Nokomis  
(941) 485-5074

Pastor  
Walter M. Reynolds

Holy Week at  
**Trinity Presbyterian Church**

Maunder Thursday Tenebrae Service  
Holy Communion & Drama—7pm

Good Friday Worship—1:30 to 3pm

Easter Sunrise Service—6:30am

Easter Celebration Worship—8:30 & 10:30am

4365 State Rd 776 Venice 941.493.0018 [www.TrinityPC.org](http://www.TrinityPC.org)

**GRACE**  
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor Tony Plummer  
[www.gbcbf.com](http://www.gbcbf.com)

Good Friday Service  
April 10 - 6 & 7:30 pm  
(nursery service provided for 7:30 service)

Easter Resurrection Service  
April 12 - 8:30 & 10:30 am  
(10 AM refreshments)

Venice YMCA - Back Bldg. - 701 Center Rd - (941) 497-4576

**Celebrate Easter Holy Week**

Maunder Thursday,  
April 9th - 6 p.m.  
The Shadows of Suffering  
Easter Sunday,  
April 12th - 10:30 a.m.  
Mini-Musical by the Choir with  
Scripture and Commentary

**Reformed Community Church**  
1600 Banyan Drive, Venice, FL  
941-493-3075

**Prince Of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Join us for Easter Services  
Maunder Thursday 6pm  
Good Friday 6pm  
Easter Breakfast Sun 8:30am  
Easter Sunday Workshop 10am

2222 Englewood Rd. • Englewood • 474-0776 Pastor Paul J. Werner  
(1 mile south of Manasota Beach Rd.)

**New Life COMMUNITY CENTER**  
home of New Life Assembly of God

"A family of believers with a strong emphasis on charismatic worship and the gospel"

5800 Tamiami Trail S., Venice  
Call 493-0775 or visit [www.newlifevenicefl.org](http://www.newlifevenicefl.org)

Good Friday, April 10  
Special Gospel sing at Venice Beach at 6:30 pm  
Celebration of the Resurrection - Sunday April 12  
Sunrise Service at 6:45 am  
Worship Service at 10:30 am

**VENICE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

620 Shamrock Blvd.  
941 493-6741  
[www.veniceucc.org](http://www.veniceucc.org)

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
10 am

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE  
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

**VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

PALM SUNDAY SERVICES—8:00, 9:30 & 11 AM

MAUENDER THURSDAY SERVICE—7:30 PM  
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**EASTER FESTIVAL—Saturday, April 11**  
9:30—11:30 am. (Ages 4—5th grade) Crafts, Games, Egg Hunt, Story of Jesus' resurrection.

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES**  
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM  
Instrumentalists, Choirs and Special Music  
Children's Church 9:30 & 11 AM

111 E. Firenze Ave. 488-2258  
2 blocks south of Venice Regional Medical Center on The Rialto  
[www.venicepresbyterian.org](http://www.venicepresbyterian.org)

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
508 Riviera St. - Venice 488.7714  
(2 blocks behind Venice Regional Medical Center)

Please join us for one of our Easter services as we celebrate God's Greatest Gift

Maunder Thursday - April 9  
7:30 p.m. - Holy Communion  
Congregational Foot Washing

Holy Saturday - April 11  
Holy Communion Easter Vigil  
7:30 p.m. (no 5 p.m. Service)  
Bring a Bell!

Good Friday - April 10  
12 to 1:15 p.m. - Holy Communion  
Service begins at noon.

Easter Sunday - April 12  
Holy Communion & Music  
8:00, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.  
Nursery 9 to 10:45 a.m.

The Rev. Christopher Gray, Rector  
[www.stmarksvenice.org](http://www.stmarksvenice.org)

The V. Rev. James Puryear, Assoc. Rector

**South Venice Baptist Church**

Be Our Guest for Easter!

Palm Sunday 4/5 10:45 a.m.  
Easter Concert by Adult Choir  
Maunder Thursday 4/9 7:00 p.m.  
Lord's Supper to Prepare for Easter  
**Resurrection Day!**  
Sunrise Service 4/12 6:45 a.m.  
At Rambler's Rest Campground  
Easter Worship 4/12 10:45 a.m.

Joyous songs and a biblical message of hope  
Nursery and Children's Church Available

3167 Englewood Drive  
US 41 and E. Baffin Drive  
493-0022

April 12th  
Venice Area Easter Celebration  
10:00am

Fantastic Giveaways!

**VENICE RISING 09**

Venice Community Center  
326 S. Nokomis Ave.

Over 50 local businesses have donated prizes!  
Visit [www.veniceassembly.com](http://www.veniceassembly.com) for a list of sponsors.

10,000 Easter Egg Hunt After Service  
Dramatic Illustrated Message Nursery and Kids Service

Hosted by **VENICE ASSEMBLY** 941.497.5683



SUN PHOTOS BY MARTY DOVER

Eleven of the 12 recipients of the Venice Golf & Country Club Community Foundation awards are shown with the co-chairs of the event: Carolyn Eagen, back row left, Carolyn Stephens, Jaye Williams, Mike Gippert, Mary Jane Schneiderhahn, Cara Herman, Marla Doss, George Charette and Jean Clearwater; Polly Girouard, front left, co-chair, Joyce Scott, Kacia Zuill and Cindy Wood, chair.



Cara Herman smiles after receiving a grant of \$2,000 for the Venice Theatre's Troupe In a Trunk program, which takes the theater experience to students in local schools.

## Venetians' generosity knows no bounds



MARTY DOVER  
SOCIAL COLUMNIST

There was a roomful of happy faces March 20 when the Venice Golf & Country Club Community Foundation awarded more than \$30,000 in grants to 12 local not-for-profit agencies representing health, education, social, environmental and cultural needs of the region.

Eleven of the 12 recipients attended the awards luncheon, co-chaired by **Cindy**

**Wood and Polly Girouard**, at the VGCC clubhouse. Foundation President **Steve Willner** praised the members' dedication and hard work to raise the money that will help so many people in need.

**Mike Gippert**, who accepted \$3,000 for the South County Food Pantry, said, "The Venice area is so giving. There has been an increase in donations as there's been an increase in need." In its four years of existence, the foundation has donated \$120,000 to local causes.

**Linda Sinkoff**, who is on the VGCC Master Association board of directors, said, "It's important to us for people to know we are a friendly and welcoming community, and one that cares."

### Celebrity waiters earn tips for Beacon House

How much would you pay to hear Marilyn Monroe sing

"Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" or watch Lance Armstrong eat an entire cake?

Guests at the 11th Annual Celebrity Waiters Dinner March 21 at the Venice Yacht Club paid plenty because it benefitted the Mental Health Community Centers local Beacon House.

Marilyn was actually **Lisa VanUllen** and Lance was **David Fawks**, two of the brave celebrity waiters who were willing to do almost anything to get donations. They sold raffle tickets, served drinks and even held tableware hostage for \$33,142 in tips alone.

Beacon House Executive Director **Carolyn Eagen** said the net donations from this event totaled more than \$42,500, considerably more than in the past, despite today's difficult economy.

"These donations are even more important this year

because we know that government funding will be reduced," she said.

Beacon House provides assistance and support to adults dealing with mental illness or disability.

"Our people are vulnerable and have a lot of barriers to living a productive lifestyle. We keep them out of emergency rooms and help them stay on a healthy track," she said. "It's a beacon of hope."

Eagen thanked event sponsor **Joseph and Diane Dombrowski** and the other sponsors, event chair **Susan Munoz**, the committee members, the celebrity waiters and the very patient staff of the yacht club. The generosity of the people of Venice and the dedication of its volunteers to this cause is truly overwhelming.

For more information about Beacon House, call 496-4934.

**George Charette** holds a \$3,000 check for the Medical Engineering Volunteers who provide accessibility and mobility assistance to individuals in need.



**Steve Willner**, president of the VGCC Community Foundation, thanks the grant recipients for the good they do in the community and the foundation members for raising more than \$30,000 for this year's grants.



**Tracy O'Connell**, left, **Donna Brasch** and **Pam Lutz** are checking out the silent auction items at the 11th Annual Celebrity Waiters Dinner at the Venice Yacht Club March 21 benefitting Beacon House. They are sisters, born and raised in Venice, contributing to a good cause.



Kathy Leavitt, left, and John McLarnan of the celebrity waiters committee pose with event Chair Susan Munoz (Farrah Fawcett).



Carolyn Eagen, executive director of Beacon House, stands with Dorothy Iverson, who donated \$10,000 during the evening, and Peter Mason, a friend of the family.



Co-chair Polly Girouard presents a \$2,220 grant to Marla Doss for the Community Haven for Adults and Children with Disabilities. The grant will be used for computers to help prepare teens for today's work force.



Tad Kosanovich sings an Irish song for a \$1,000 donation as co-emcee Don Hay adjusts the microphone. Kosanovich won the Tarnished Spoon award for garnering the most tips of all the waiters.



Pamela Gallagher (Ginger of "Gilligan's Island") sits on the piano to sing "Unforgettable" while State Sen. Nancy Detert feeds her the words.



David Fawks (Lance Armstrong) was paid by Chris Cortman to eat an entire cake before the end of the evening. He did it with encouragement from Lisa VanUllen (Marilyn Monroe).



Celebrity waiter Richard Buonpane (W.C. Fields) sells raffle tickets to Sonja Correa at the Celebrity Waiters Dinner to benefit Beacon House.



Beacon House Executive Director Carolyn Eagen, left, presents a plaque to event chair Susan Munoz as event sponsors Diane and Joseph Dombrowski look on.



Erne Romanski (Mae West) cuddles up to Don Hay (Sen. Duwayne W. Belfrey from the State of Confusion), who was co-emcee with Bob Vedder for the event.

**Sue Chapman**, president of the Venice Area Historical Society, promotes the VAHS, Triangle Inn and Friends of the Lord-Higel House March 7 at a booth in the Kiwanis Business Expo at the Venice Community Center. These organizations are vital to the preservation of Venice's rich history, and they welcome new members.



**Jon Arge**, left, assists artist **Mary Erickson** at her booth in the Downtown Art Classic in March. Erickson can often be seen painting her plein air works in the Venice area. She divides her time between Venice and Marshville, N.C. Arge, a native Venetian and also an artist, now resides in Atlanta.



**B.J. Carson**, the local artist whose mural depicting the history of Venice decorates the *Gondolier Sun's* print shop wall, displays some of her smaller works at the Downtown Art Classic in March on Venice Avenue.























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<p><b>LAWN CARE</b></p> <p><b>KUSTOM KURBING</b></p> <p><b>Curbing starting at \$2.00 a ft.</b></p> <p>Some restrictions apply</p> <p>"Welcome Back Snowbirds"</p> <p><b>941-624-0188</b></p>	<p><b>LAWN CARE</b></p> <p><b>3 MONTHS FREE!</b></p> <p>O'Neill's Lawn Service</p> <p>Serving Venice &amp; Nokomis</p> <p><b>941-488-9500</b></p>	<p><b>LAWN CARE</b></p> <p><b>DIAMOND PRO LAWN SERVICES INC.</b></p> <p><b>(941) 587-2837</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Service Mowing</li> <li>• Planting / Mulching</li> <li>• Hedge / Palm Trimming</li> <li>• No Contracts Necessary</li> <li>• 17 Yrs. Experience</li> </ul> <p><b>\$10 OFF Monthly Mowing Services</b> with mention of this ad!</p>	<p><b>LAWN CARE</b></p> <p>Before Heading North Consider D/CUT</p> <p>The Snowbird Grass Specialist</p> <p>Cut, Edge &amp; Trim</p> <p>NP, PC &amp; PG</p> <p>Call Dave @ <b>(941) 624-2822</b></p> <p>Lic/Ins</p>	<p><b>LAWN &amp; LANDSCAPE</b></p> <p><b>WRIGHT &amp; SON LANDSCAPING, INC.</b></p> <p>Now Accepting New Accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venice • Mowing</li> <li>• North Port • Mulch</li> <li>• Pt. • Stone</li> <li>• Charlotte • Design</li> <li>• Englewood • Installation</li> <li>• Rotonda • Trees</li> <li>• Gulf Cove • Shrubs</li> <li>• S.G.C. • Lawns</li> </ul> <p>Locally Owned &amp; Operated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Equipment</li> <li>• Great Work Ethic</li> <li>• Satisfied Customers</li> </ul> <p><b>FREE ESTIMATES.</b></p> <p><b>941-426-7844</b></p> <p>Lic. Ins.</p>	<p><b>LAWN &amp; LANDSCAPE</b></p> <p><b>3G's Lawncare and Landscaping</b></p> <p>Satisfaction Guaranteed!</p> <p>Full Lawn and Garden Maintenance</p> <p>*FREE MONTH FOR NEW REGULAR MAINTENANCE CUSTOMERS*</p> <p>Tree Trimming, Fertilizing, Mulching &amp; Clean Up's</p> <p><b>941-650-5329</b></p> <p>Lic. &amp; Ins.</p>	<p><b>LAWN &amp; LANDSCAPE</b></p> <p><b>Hoop's Lawn &amp; Landscaping Service</b></p> <p>"A Cut Above The Rest" By the Cut or Monthly Best Service &amp; Prices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property Management</li> <li>• Pressure Washing</li> <li>• Handyman</li> <li>• Mowing/Trimming</li> <li>• Planting/Weeding</li> </ul> <p><b>258-8175</b></p> <p>Lic/Ins Res/Com</p>	<p><b>LAWN MAINTENANCE</b></p> <p><b>Daniel Hazeltine's Lawn Maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial &amp; Residential</li> <li>• Temporary or Long Term Service</li> </ul> <p><b>(941) 624-4799</b></p>
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<p><b>MOVERS</b></p> <p><b>ROB'S ON THE MOVE, INC.</b></p> <p>Moving &amp; Delivery</p> <p>Honest, Reliable, Courteous, Very Low Rates</p> <p>15 yrs. Experience Lic. &amp; Ins.</p> <p><b>941-237-1823</b></p> <p>FL Mover Reg. No. IM1647</p>	<p><b>PAINTING</b></p> <p><b>Larry's Painting And Wallpaper</b></p> <p><b>(941) 228-6747</b></p> <p>FREE ESTIMATES</p> <p>No Job Too Small Northeast</p> <p>Workmanship and Reasonable Prices</p> <p>Fully Licensed and Insured</p>	<p><b>PAINTING</b></p> <p><b>"BEST PRICE FOR QUALITY JOB"</b></p> <p>Residential/Commercial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Construction</li> <li>• Custom Home/Repaints</li> <li>• Interior Exterior</li> <li>• Pressure Washing</li> </ul> <p>Lic/Insured Free Estimates</p> <p><b>15% DISCOUNT</b></p> <p><b>941-815-8184</b></p> <p>Lic# AAA00101254</p>	<p><b>PAINTING</b></p> <p><b>WHITE PAINTING</b></p> <p>Interior/Exterior Pressure Washing</p> <p><b>FREE ESTIMATES LIC/INSURED</b></p> <p>SR. DISCOUNTS!!</p> <p><b>941-539-2095</b></p>	<p><b>PAINTING</b></p> <p><b>Sweeney's Painting Inc.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Pressure Cleaning * Tile Roofs</li> <li>* New Construction * Custom Homes</li> </ul> <p>Professional Quality Since 1985 Committed to Excellence</p> <p><b>10% OFF</b> with coupon</p> <p><b>Brian Sweeney</b> Residential</p> <p><b>941-916-1024</b></p> <p>Lic./Ins.</p>	<p><b>PAINTING</b></p> <p>Interior/Exterior <b>CUSTOM PAINTING</b></p> <p>Reasonable Rates Interior is My Specialty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pressure Cleaning</li> <li>• Concrete Staining</li> <li>• Any surface, any color</li> </ul> <p><b>JAMES D. ROOT</b></p> <p><b>488-3112</b></p> <p>Local Owner/Operator Since 1984 Venice Area Only Licensed &amp; Insured</p>
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<p><b>PAINTING</b></p> <p><b>UPRIGHT PAINTING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interior &amp; Exterior</li> <li>• Minor Wood Repair</li> </ul> <p>Reduced Summer Rates!</p> <p><b>FREE ESTIMATES</b></p> <p>CALL <b>941-286-1590</b></p>	<p><b>PAINTING</b></p> <p><b>A &amp; M Quality Painting</b></p> <p>Interior &amp; Exterior Specialists</p> <p>Also Pressure Washing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free Estimates</li> <li>• Full Insured and Licensed</li> <li>• 25 Yrs. Experience</li> </ul> <p><b>697-8620</b></p>	<p><b>PAINTING</b></p> <p><b>Alexander's Painting Etc.</b></p> <p>25 year Pro Interior/Ext Drive/Garage/Deck Pressure Wash/Repair Remove/Install Pre-Rent/Sale Spec. Free Est, Ref, Lic, Ins.</p> <p><b>941-496-9131</b> or <b>941-223-0941</b></p>	<p><b>PAINTING</b></p> <p><b>ABC PRESSURE CLEANING AND PAINTING</b></p> <p>Mobile home roof coating.</p> <p>SPECIALIZING IN Mobile Home Repair. Serving Venice &amp; North Port for 30 years. Free estimates.</p> <p>Call Randy Gonyer @ <b>(941) 492-9053</b></p> <p>Lic. &amp; Insured</p>	<p><b>PLUMBING</b></p> <p><b>"Retired but not tired"</b></p> <p>Faucets, Sinks, Stools, Garbage Disposals, Pressure Tanks, Water Softeners/Filters Etc.</p> <p>Most Anything, Just Ask</p> <p>Ross Master Plumber</p> <p>RF11067393</p> <p>1-941-204-4286</p> <p>rwhandyman@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>PLUMBING</b></p> <p><b>Steve Fox Plumbing, LLC</b></p> <p><b>941-235-1321</b> <b>941-380-0147</b></p> <p>RESIDENTIAL SERVICE</p> <p>Lic#RF11067271</p>
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<p><b>PLUMBING</b></p> <p><b>ProTek Plumbing &amp; Drain Specialists</b></p> <p>DO YOU HAVE SLOW DRAINS???</p> <p>"WE OFFER COMPLETE ROOTER SERVICES"</p> <p>"ALL YOUR PLUMBING REPAIR NEEDS"</p> <p>Licence# CFC057933</p> <p><b>\$25 OFF WITH THIS AD</b></p> <p><b>475-3949</b> or <b>575-7324</b></p>	<p><b>PLUMBING/LEAK DETECTION</b></p> <p><b>FULL SERVICE PLUMBING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slab &amp; Wall Leaks</li> <li>• Repipes</li> <li>• Replace &amp; Repairs</li> <li>• Backflow</li> <li>• Remodels</li> </ul> <p>One Call Does It All</p> <p><b>423-3058</b></p> <p>State Certified Master Plumber Precision Plumbing and Leak Detection Lic. &amp; Ins. CFC1427378</p>	<p>An Occupational License may be required by the city and/or county.</p> <p>Please call for the appropriate Occupational Licensing Bureau to verify.</p>	<p><b>POOL DECKS</b></p> <p>Enhance The Look &amp; Value Of Your Investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pool deck renovations</li> <li>• Driveway designs</li> <li>• Garage floors</li> <li>• Patio's</li> <li>• and more</li> <li>• Licensed &amp; Insured</li> <li>• Sr. Discounts</li> </ul> <p><b>Quality Decks</b></p> <p><b>941-375-1103</b></p>	<p><b>PRESSURE CLEANING</b></p> <p><b>KELLY'S AFFORDABLE PRESSURE CLEANING &amp; DETAILING</b></p> <p>Quality Work at a Reasonable Rate! Lic. &amp; Insured</p> <p><b>Driveways Roofs Exteriors Pool Decks • Cages</b></p> <p><b>941-237-1822</b></p>
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<p><b>POOLS</b></p> <p><b>B&amp;L Concrete Services</b></p> <p>Specializing in Complete Pool Packages</p> <p><b>MARCH SPECIAL</b></p> <p>Complete Pool Pkg. starting at <b>\$18,500</b></p> <p>Resurfacing <b>10% OFF</b> With This Ad Expires 3/31/09</p> <p><b>941-815-3014</b></p> <p>Lic#RP252555094</p>	<p><b>PRESSURE CLEANING</b></p> <p><b>Jenkins Home Improvement</b></p> <p>Pressure Washing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driveways</li> <li>• Pool Decks &amp; Cages</li> <li>• Soffit &amp; Fascia</li> <li>• Repairs</li> <li>• Painting</li> </ul> <p>Owner-Operated</p> <p><b>941-497-2728</b></p> <p>Lic/Ins</p>	<p><b>PRESSURE CLEANING</b></p> <p><b>VENICE PRESSURE CLEANING</b></p> <p>"TILE ROOF SPECIALISTS"</p> <p>"Also House Painting &amp; Roof Coating"</p> <p><b>497-2493</b></p> <p>Same Cleaning Since 1984 Associations Welcome! Lic./Insured Free Est.</p>	<p><b>PRESSURE CLEANING</b></p> <p><b>Bailey's</b></p> <p>PRESSURE CLEANING Exterior/Interior Painting Soffit, Fascia &amp; Siding Repair</p> <p>NEVER CLEAN INSIDE OF GUTTERS AGAIN! GUTTER REPAIR</p> <p>Lifetime Venice Resident</p> <p><b>941-497-1736</b></p> <p>Licensed &amp; Insured in Sarasota, North Port and Charlotte County CHAMBER MEMBER</p>	<p><b>REFRIGERATION</b></p> <p><b>SAME DAY SERVICE!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refrigeration Repair</li> <li>• Servicing All Makes &amp; Models</li> <li>• Residential &amp; Commercial</li> </ul> <p>Ven., Engl. &amp; N. Port</p> <p><b>941-488-8590</b></p> <p>Punta Gorda &amp; Pt. Charlotte</p> <p><b>941-626-8903</b></p> <p>Lic./Ins.</p>	<p><b>RESCREENING</b></p> <p><b>ENGLEWOOD RESCREENING</b></p> <p><b>Lanais - Entryways</b></p> <p>Specializing in Smaller Jobs Rescreening &amp; Handyman 15 Years Exp.</p> <p>Servicing Rotonda, Cape Haze &amp; Englewood areas.</p> <p><b>941-697-3613</b></p>
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<p><b>RESCREENING</b></p> <p><b>Affordable Screening</b></p> <p>Rescreen and Repairs Pool Cages, Lanais, Entryways, Vinyl Sliders, Vinyl Sliders and Stickers</p> <p><b>FREE ESTIMATES ALL WORK GUARANTEED</b></p> <p><b>941-474-1200</b> <b>941-697-5900</b></p>	<p><b>RESCREENING</b></p> <p><b>Randy Haskett Screening</b></p> <p>Licensed &amp; Full Insured 25 yrs. of experience</p> <p>SPECIALIZING IN RESCREENING POOL CAGES &amp; LANAIS</p> <p>Also Repairs, Entryways, Garage, Sliders</p> <p>No Job Too Small</p> <p><b>809-1171</b></p>	<p><b>RESCREENING</b></p> <p><b>E &amp; F Rescreens</b></p> <p>Family Owned &amp; Operated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pool cages</li> <li>• Lanais</li> <li>• Entryways</li> <li>• Garage Sliders</li> </ul> <p>Honest, Dependable, Quality Service References Available.</p> <p><b>FREE ESTIMATES</b> Licensed &amp; Insured.</p> <p><b>941-915-7793</b> or <b>493-4570</b></p>	<p><b>RESCREENING</b></p> <p><b>RON BUDA'S RESCREENING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Custom Entries</li> <li>• Cages</li> <li>• Lanais</li> <li>• Garage Sliders Installed</li> </ul> <p>Serving Rotonda &amp; Englewood (Since 1986) (Lic./Ins.)</p> <p><b>941-697-6234</b></p>	<p><b>ROOFING</b></p> <p>Re-Roofing &amp; Repair Specialists</p> <p><b>LEONARD'S ROOFING, INC.</b></p> <p>Authorized GAF Professional Roofing Specialist</p> <p>Family owned and operated since 1969</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shingle</li> <li>• Tile</li> <li>• Built-up</li> <li>• Single Ply</li> <li>• Metal</li> <li>• Full Carpentry Service Available</li> </ul> <p><b>Reagan Leonard 488-7478</b></p> <p>Lic.# RC 0066574</p>	<p><b>ROOFING</b></p> <p><b>SAMMONS</b></p> <p>Let us replace your roof with metal or shingles!</p> <p>Licensed/Insured #AAA002394 / RC0027340</p> <p>In Business Since 1975</p> <p>Call Malcom Sammons Sr.</p> <p><b>941-769-0520</b></p>
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Check the inside pages for over 100 more services.

## BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

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# Let's Go!

**Visani presents  
Gary Valentine**

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rolls out the fun  
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to sing Mozart mass  
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Former 'American Idol'  
contestant to sing at  
Stone Crabs opener  
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## Kim Cool

Let's Go!  
Features Editor  
kcool@venicegondolier.com

### Eggsactly what do you want for Easter?

If you do not plan to fly to Washington to roll eggs on the White House lawn, how about two days of eggstra fun in Venice.

With planning, you should be able to do it all. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, bring your own basket and head to 351 Orange Road in Venice for an Easter egg hunt. While there enjoy a free lunch and a show performed by illusionist Gerard Tricario. For information, call 941-232-8028. At 1 p.m. that day, head to Challenger Park off Olivia Road in South Venice for another hunt, face painting, crafts, snacks, raffles and photos with the Easter bunny. Leave a donation for the park and take home lots of smiles.

Sunday, be at the Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., on the island, by 10 a.m. for a 10,000-egg hunt for three age groups, giveaways at neighboring Blalock Park on Nassau Street, music, an Easter Sunday message and prize drawings. Prizes, which are being donated by local businesses, include oil changes, grocery vouchers, hair cuts and other items. Prize drawing tickets are available at the Venice Assembly of God, 695 Center Road. Donations are accepted at dsalentne@verizon.net or by phone at 941-484-2244.

For information, call 941-497-5683.

After the morning event, enjoy an Easter Sunday brunch buffet at the American Legion No-Vel Post 159, 1770 E. Venice Ave.. The cost is \$12 per person and reservations are requested.

Call 941-485-4748.

Wear your best bonnet and have a most happy Easter.

# Check It Out

## 'LEADING LADIES'

(Through April 19)  
Venice Theatre  
140 W. Tampa Ave, Venice.  
941-488-1115.

## 'THE WINTER'S TALE'

(Through May 16)  
Asolo Repertory Theatre  
Mertz Theatre  
5555 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.  
800-361-8388 or www.asolo.org.

## 'MURDERERS'

(Through May 23)  
Asolo Repertory Theatre  
Mertz Theatre  
5555 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.  
800-361-8388 or www.asolo.org.

## 'THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE'

(Through May 24)  
Asolo Repertory Theatre  
Mertz Theatre  
5555 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.  
800-361-8388 or www.asolo.org.

## 'LAUGHIN MATTERS '09'

(Through June 6)  
Florida Studio Theatre  
The Goldstein Cabaret  
1241 North Palm Ave., Sarasota.  
941-366-9000.

## 'WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOLFF?'

April 9 - April 26.  
Venice Theatre  
140 W. Tampa Ave, Venice.  
941-488-1115.

## 98ROCKFEST

**Disturbed, Staind, Chevelle, Static X, Saliva and Duff McKagan's Loaded**

April 10.  
St. Pete Times Forum  
401 Channelside Drive, Tampa.  
813-287-8844 or  
www.ticketmaster.com.

## 'STOMP'

April 10 - April 11.  
The Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall  
777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.  
941-953-3368.

## 'YANNI VOICES'

7:30 p.m. April 11.  
St. Pete Times Forum  
401 Channelside Drive, Tampa.  
813-287-8844 or www.ticketmaster.com.

## DARYL HALL AND JOHN OATES

8 p.m. April 14.  
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall  
13350 Edison Parkway, Fort Myers.  
239-481-4849 or www.bbmannpah.com.

## GARY VALENTINE

April 15 - 18.  
Visani  
2400 Kings Highway, Port Charlotte.  
941-629-9191.

## NORTH PORT CONCERT BAND

'FAR AND AWAY'  
April 16.  
North Port Performing Arts Center  
6400 Price Blvd., North Port.  
941-426-8479.

## 'THE WEDDING SINGER'

April 16 - June 6.  
Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre  
1380 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers.  
239-278-4422.

## TOM JONES

7:30 p.m. April 16.  
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall  
13350 Edison Parkway, Fort Myers.  
239-481-4849 or www.bbmannpah.com.

## 'BOB THE BUILDER LIVE!'

4 p.m., 7 p.m. April 17.  
Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall  
777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.  
800-826-9303 or www.vanwezel.org.

## 'LEGENDS RETURN'

8 p.m. April 17 - April 18  
The Cultural Center Theatre  
2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte.  
941-380-2507.

## PUNTA GORDA BLOCK PARTY

Featuring Confederate Railroad  
April 18.  
Downtown Punta Gorda.

## 'FIDDLER ON THE ROOF'

April 21-26.  
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall  
13350 Edison Parkway, Fort Myers.  
239-481-4849 or  
www.bbmannpah.com.

## FLEETWOOD MAC

8 p.m. April 22.  
St. Pete Times Forum  
401 Channelside Drive, Tampa.  
813-287-8844 or  
www.ticketmaster.com.

## CHRIS BOTTI

8 p.m. April 23.  
Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall  
777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.  
800-826-9303 or www.vanwezel.org.

## JIMMY BUFFETT AND THE CORAL REEFER BAND

April 25.  
Ford Amphitheatre  
Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa.  
www.livenation.com.

## 'THE WIZARD OF OZ'

April 25 - April 26.  
The Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall  
777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.  
941-953-3368.

## NICKELBACK with Seether and Saving Abel

April 26.  
Ford Amphitheatre  
Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa.  
www.livenation.com.

## Marie Merchant

Entertainment Editor

mmerchant@sun-herald.com



### 'Guiding Light' to extinguish

I haven't been home during the day in years to know what the Bauer, Spaulding and Lewis families are up to these days, but when a news brief recently passed my desk I was saddened to learn that the light will be extinguished on daytime soap opera, "Guiding Light."

The show began in 1937 on radio and continued on to set a record for longest-running television drama, which is listed in the "Guinness Book of World Records."

The show will end it's 72-year run Sept. 18.

I remember coming home from school or keeping cool during summer break in Massachusetts, with drapes drawn and fans running, with my mother and grandmother.

The three of us would follow the story and the drama of Reva and Josh, Beth and Phillip, Alan, Billie, Olivia, Rick and all the other Springfield residents.

Guiding Light: Your television light may be extinguished, but the memories shine on.

## LET'S GO! INFO

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Let's Go! Web site:  
www.sun-herald.com/letsgo

Please submit information at least two weeks before the event.  
To send items for the calendar, please include the time, location, cost of tickets and where to get them, and a number to call for more information.

For the complete calendar:

[www.http://www.sunnewspapers.net/specialPublications/letsGo.aspx](http://www.sunnewspapers.net/specialPublications/letsGo.aspx)

Let's Go! features events from Fort Myers to Tampa.

Let's Go! is distributed to Charlotte, DeSoto and Sarasota counties.



## Gary Valentine at Visani

By **MARIE MERCHANT**  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Gary Valentine, most noted for his work as cousin Danny on the sitcom "King of Queens" brings his outrageous, high-energy comedy to the stage of Visani April 15 - 18.

"It's the best live show," explained Valentine in a recent telephone interview. "I kinda of walk the line between reality and what is he doing? It's hard to explain but you'll understand it and you'll get it. It's not so far above your head. It's clever-stupid."

Valentine, brother of actor Kevin James,

**LET'S GO!**

**What:** Gary Valentine  
**When:** 8 p.m. April 15 - 17  
7:30 p.m., 10 p.m. April 18.  
**Where:** Visani  
2400 Kings Highway,  
Port Charlotte.  
**Info:** 941-629-9191.

recalled working on the set of "King of Queens," "It was fun, like a family. It was great working with Kevin. All in all it's great to work with someone so close to you."

Before television stardom, Valentine was doing stand up for 20 years. "Some people see my show don't even know I'm cousin Danny, others think 'wow.'"

"I've always done stand up. I put my time in, believe me, before TV came along — 10 years before TV came along."

Valentine also has appeared on the big screen in "Stuck on You," "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry" and most recently in "Paul Blart: Mall Cop."

Valentine is active in raising awareness and funds for the Foundation Fighting Blindness. His sister, having a rare eye disease, Retinitis Pigmentosa brings the charity close to home. "They're making headway, but not enough."

Valentine has just

completed seven episodes of a new TV sitcom called "Dusty Peacock."

"I really love TV — the sitcom. Kevin's producing it with Rock Reuben. Valentine explained: "I play Dusty and I play this bad Criss angel daredevil dude and none of my stunts work. I have this girlfriend who doesn't believe in me. I'm delusional that I'm good. My hair is this mohawk thing. We shot the pilot and we're waiting to see where we're going to bring it."

Showtimes at Visani are 8 p.m. April 15-17 and 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. April 18.

Tickets are \$15.



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Gary Valentine performs at 8 p.m. April 15 - 17 and 7:30 p.m., 10 p.m. April 18 at Visani, 2400 Kings Highway, Port Charlotte. For reservation, call 941-629-9191.**

You must be at least 23 or 18 and older with a parent.

Visani is located at 2400

Kings Highway, Port Charlotte.

For reservations, call 941-629-9191.

### CALENDAR EXTRAS

#### Coconut Races are coming

Punta Gorda invites you to running of the 2009 Punta Gorda International Coconut Races held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Saturday** at Laishley Park, 100 E. Retta Esplanade. Enjoy the Coconut Cream Pie-Eating Contest, Nutty Mutties' Easter Bonnet Parade, Coconut Cook-Off and the suspense of who will win the People's Choice Nut Award in the Coconut Decorating Contest. For more information on sponsorship, call 941-575-9099.

#### Benefit car show

There will be a benefit car show at Muscle Car City Museum, 3811 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda from 10 am. to 2 p.m. **Saturday** to benefit The Salvation Army. Open to all stock, sports,

modifieds, hot rods, street rods, rat rods, retros, race cars, trucks and motorcycles of any year.

Music by Herman and the Cruisers.

Food and beverages available.

Tax deductible receipt for minimum donation of \$10 or more to each driver upon entry. All funds go directly to the Salvation Army and stay in Charlotte county.

Senior Salvation Army officers will personally greet each car owner upon arrival. Rick Treworgy will donate a large portion of all museum entry fees when tripies are awarded.

#### Punta Gorda Block Party

The 23rd annual Punta Gorda Block Party will be held on **April 18** The gates open at 11 a.m.,

with music on the four stages beginning at 2 p.m. and running until 10 p.m. The Block Party will be in the area north of Olympia between U.S. 41 north and U.S. 41 south. The main act this year is Confederate Railroad. Sullivan Street will be set

aside for the children, and will have a variety of games and entertainment lasting until dark. There will be numerous vendors for food and drinks and Budweiser beer trailers. Age verification bracelets must be obtained and cups purchased at the

trailer ticket booths. Traffic on Taylor Street, Sullivan Street and West Marion Avenue in this

area will be closed off to traffic beginning at 6 p.m. Friday and all day Saturday.



**Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**\$36.00** + TAXES  
Come aboard and take a scenic cruise from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the historic Caloosahatchee River to Cape Coral, en route passing the Edison Home, Ford Estate and other points of interest while observing Florida wildlife. While on board enjoy a delightful All-You-Care-To-Eat Easter Buffet. On the way back, join us in our sing along, dancing to live music or just sightseeing on our open 3rd deck.

**Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**12:00noon - 2:30pm**  
**MOTHER'S DAY BUFFET CRUISE**  
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Sunday Buffet Cruise.....	Sunday 12:30PM to 3PM.....	<b>\$27.50</b> + tax
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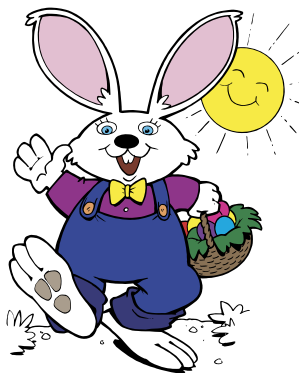
## Easter events:

- Salty Paws in Fishermen's Village will present an "Easter Bone Hunt" beginning at 11 a.m. **Saturday** at 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda. Salty Paws "Easter Bone Hunt" is being held to benefit Ears Animal Rescue Sanctuary in Englewood. Let your dog hunt for bones and take part in contests for the Best Easter Outfit and most rabbit like ears. Prizes will be awarded. There is a \$5 per person preregistration donation or \$8 per person on the day of event. Call 941-575-7599 for details or visit the Web site at [www.SaltyPaws.com](http://www.SaltyPaws.com).

- Fishermen's Village will offer pictures with the Easter Bunny from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Saturday**. Bring your camera and capture the smiles. Author Robert Macomber will be at Hooked on Books from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Saturday** for a book signing event. Fishermen's Village is located at 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda.

## Easter egg hunts:

- The 45th Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Charlotte Sports Park from 9 a.m. to noon **Saturday**. This event is open to children ages 1-10. Peter Cottontail will make a special appearance so make sure you bring the camera. Four lucky winners will walk away with the Golden Egg! Charlotte Sports Park is located at 2300 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte. For



more information, call 941-625-7529.

## Kiwanis egg hunt

The Early Bird Kiwanis will hold its annual "Egg-Normous" Easter egg hunt **Saturday** on the football field at the George Mullen Activity Center, off Sumter Boulevard in North Port.

The egg hunt will begin at 9:30 a.m. sharp and will be divided into groups by age — 2 and under, 3-4 years old, 5-6 years old and 7-8 years old. Following the egg hunt at 10 a.m., there will be a free children's show.

All are invited.

- Atwater Community Church, 5290 Atwater Drive, North Port: 10:30 a.m. **Saturday**, preceded by a pancake breakfast at 9 a.m. 941-426-3232.

- Church of the Good Shepherd 401 W. Henry St., Punta Gorda: Promptly at 10 a.m. **Saturday**. Public invited; event held rain or shine. Special prize to those who find the "Golden Egg" in each age group. Refreshments and cookies will be served to all following the hunt. Children should bring an Easter basket for egg

collection; and a fresh flower or two for the cross, to be displayed at Easter Sunday services. The Easter Bunny will make a surprise appearance. 941-639-2757.

- Community Life Center, 19048 Edgewater Drive, Port Charlotte: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **Saturday**. Bounce houses, games, food, and an age-appropriate egg hunt. Spiral hams to be given away to the first 50 families at the event, plus five more during the event. 941-629-0999.

- Deep Creek Community Church is sponsoring an Easter Eggstravaganza at Deep Creek Elementary School, 26900 Harborview Road: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Saturday**, for children age 2 through fifth-grade, and their parents. Includes a 25,000-egg hunt, inflatables, pony rides, face painting, live music and animals and food. Everything is free. 941-235-REAL (7325), 941-456-0903, or [www.deepcreekcommunitychurch.com](http://www.deepcreekcommunitychurch.com).

- El Jobean Community League, El Jobean Community Center, 14344 Jamison Way: 10 a.m. **Saturday**. For children ages 1 to 12. Refreshments offered and prizes given to

participants. Donations of cookies are needed. 941-629-3640 or e-mail Randy Spence at [prspence@comcast.net](mailto:prspence@comcast.net).

- Englewood United Methodist Church, 700 E. Dearborn St.: 10 a.m.-noon **Saturday**. Craft activities and entertainment, 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.; hunt, 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., by age groups: 0-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-11; praise service and lunch (served by youth as a fundraiser), 11:30 a.m. to noon. Patty Tuff, 941-474-5588, ext. 261, or [patty@englewoodumc.net](mailto:patty@englewoodumc.net).
- First United Methodist Church, 507 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda. 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Saturday**. Open to children ages 2 through fifth grade. Includes fun, goodies and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Parents must remain on the premises and with their children. Preregister at 941-276-5407. [www.puntagorda.methodist.com](http://www.puntagorda.methodist.com).
- Gulf Cove United Methodist Church, 1100 McCall Road (State Road 776): 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Saturday**. For children from birth through age 12. Before hunt, time of singing and praise. After hunt, baskets will be given to winners. FROGS

and Unfazed Youth Groups will serve hot dogs and refreshments. 941-697-1747.

- New Hope Christian Fellowship, at Liberty Elementary School, 370 Atwater St., Port Charlotte: 8:30 a.m. **Sunday**. Age groups 1-4, 5-8 and 9+. Prizes include: Leap Pad Learning Games, stuffed animals, videos and books. All prizes awarded during the 9:30 a.m. church service.
- Peace River Wesleyan Church, 25180 Harborview Road, Charlotte Harbor: 10 a.m. **Saturday**. Children divided into three age groups, hunting in different areas of 5 acres. Special prizes awarded.

- Sun Flea Market & Kidstar 18505 Paulson Drive, Port Charlotte: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. **Sunday**. For children ages 1 to 12. Event includes egg hunt with candy, prizes and pictures available with the Easter Bunny from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on **Saturday-Sunday**. Free; open to the public.

- Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, 21075 Quesada Ave.: Easter Egg-sperience from 10 a.m. to noon **Saturday**; free for toddlers to fifth-graders. Features games, popcorn, lemonade, crafts, door prizes, the Easter Bunny and an egg hunt. Barbara, 941-625-4356.

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April 8-9, 2009

## 'Leading Ladies' rolls out the fun

**By KIM COOL**

FEATURES EDITOR

Venice Theatre offers up another night of zaniness with "Leading Ladies," which runs through April 19 at America's third best community theater.

No matter how you measure, Venice Theatre always makes the best of the best lists.

This time it is for its laugh-out-loud production of "Leading Ladies," featuring Matt Erickson as Leo/Maxine and Eric Schneider as Jack/Stephanie, with Heather O'Dea as Meg, Paul Mullen as the Rev. Duncan Wooley, David Boza as Doc Myers, Jeremy Heideman as Butch Myers, Alexis Janssen as Audrey and Lynne Buhle as Florence, who is near death and wants to see her beloved relatives Max and Stevie once more before she dies.

When down-on-their-luck English actors hear that Max and Stevie are from England, they

assume that if they pretend to be Max and Stevie, they might inherit some of Florence's money when she dies.

When they learn that Max is Maxine and Stevie is Stephanie, there is some shuffling of plans and a serious look through their wardrobe case, which leans to costumes worn in such Shakespearean plays as "MacBeth." In true "show must go on" fashion, Leo and Jack raise their voices, lower their hemlines and end up falling in love — not with each other — even as the Rev. Wooley tries to convince his fiance Meg and others that the two "women" are frauds.

Erickson is in his glory in this role. In or out of drag he gets to use every trick in the book to drive the zany storyline along its circuitous and very silly path.

Mullen, as the somewhat prissy and also penurious and domineering minister, also wrings everything he can from

his role.

Heideman earns several giggles and guffaws for his depiction of somewhat that takes stagefright over the top, with both his "Mississippi" schtick and his chin jutting.

Janssen, who is making her VT debut with this show, turned in a great performance, which included a Marlon Brando impersonation and roller skating.

Schneider was a lovely Stephanie and wonderfully nervous Jack.

Boza and Buhle were the ribbon wrapped this delightful package, which was so well directed by Dan Higgs.

One of the best bits in the entire show may have been Higg's bonus round before the curtain call. That is all I will say. You have to see it.

Venice Theatre is at 140 W. Tampa Ave., on the island, in downtown Venice. Tickets are \$24 per person. Visit [www.venicestage.com](http://www.venicestage.com) or call 941-488-1115.

### Holocaust Museum of SWFL boxcar arrives in Fort Myers

Southwest Florida Museum of History will host the Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida's boxcar through Tuesday.

After a four-year international search, the Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida acquired an authentic World War II boxcar. This 10-ton freight

boxcar came to the museum from the Port of Rotterdam, Netherlands on May 16, 2007 and has undergone careful restoration. A rare artifact, this boxcar is an invaluable and mobile educational tool to support the museum's mission of "promoting tolerance and understanding by teaching the history and lessons of the Holocaust."

The boxcar will be on display at Southwest

Florida Museum of History to enhance visitor understanding of the Holocaust. A panel display about deportation during the Holocaust, as well as genocides in other locations, will accompany the boxcar.

The Southwest Florida Museum of History is located at 2031 Jackson Street (formerly 2300 Peck St.), Fort Myers.

For more information, call 239-321-7430.



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<b>Fri., April 17:</b>	Billy Rice Band	6:00 – 9:00 pm
<b>Sat., April 18:</b>	The Cryin Shames	10:00 am
	Max McCann Group	11:05 am
	Impulse	12:15 pm
	S.O. Chorus	1:45 pm
	Sol Caribe	2:15 pm
	Koko Ray & The Soul Providers	3:45 pm
<b>Sun., April 19:</b>	Fishing Presentation	5:15 pm
	The Ignighters	6:15 – 9:00 pm
<b>Sun., April 19:</b>	Manatee Cloggers	11:15 am
	Gumbo Boogie Band	12:30 pm
	Gashouse Gorillas	2:00 – 5:00 pm

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## Newer play featured in oldest theater

PROVIDED BY THE FSU/ASOLO CONSERVATORY OF ACTOR TRAINING

Second year students in the FSU/Asolo Conservatory of Actor Training will be featured in "Three Postcards" by Craig Lucas with music and lyrics by Craig Cornelia.

Opening April 15, "Three Postcards" is an offbeat and uniquely imaginative musical play about three women who meet for dinner in a trendy Greenwich Village restaurant.

Sharing memories, daydreams and fantasies, their conversation begins to reveal unspoken truths beneath their cheerful facades.

"This is a wonderfully odd musical by one of our most innovative and exciting playwrights," said Greg Leaming, artistic director of the Asolo Conservatory, and director of this production.

"Craig Cornelia's music is gorgeous, and the very simple story of three women meeting for dinner is made dense, complex and very exciting by some truly innovative writing," Leaming said. "This is a great work that will charm Sarasota audiences."

Cornelia's work has been a staple of cabaret performers since the late '70s. He is best known for his collaboration with Stephen Schwartz, for whose production of "Working" he contributed a number of songs.

Lucas is one of America's most important playwrights. He received a Tony Award nomination



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FSU/ASOLO CONSERVATORY FOR ACTOR TRAINING

**Bethany Weise, Hannah Goalstone and Alexandra Guyker in FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training's production of "Three Postcards."**

for the musical "Light in the Piazza." His work has been produced on and off Broadway and around the world for the past three decades, and includes "Marry Me A Little," "Prelude To A Kiss," "Reckless, The Dying Gaul," "Blue Window," and the screen adaptations of "Prelude To A Kiss," "Reckless," and "The Dying Gaul," as well as the original screenplay for "Longtime Companion."

The FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training is a three-year graduate program culminating in a master of fine arts degree. For more than 30 years, tens of thousands of actors from across the continent have auditioned for admission. A maximum of 12 students are admitted each year. In their second year, the students perform in the Cook Theatre, a 161-seat space designed to create an intimate experience for the audience and actors. Third-year students are seen performing in exciting and significant

roles with professional actors on the Asolo Repertory Theatre mainstage. For information about the FSU/Asolo Conservatory's current season, visit [www.asolo.org](http://www.asolo.org).

"Three Postcards" runs April 15-May 3 at the Historic Asolo Theater at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, 5401 Bayshore Road, Sarasota. Productions are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m.; and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$27 evenings; \$23 matinees. Student advance tickets are half-price; Student Rush is \$5. Pay What You Can Tuesdays are April 14 and 21. Guests are invited to pay whatever they feel comfortable paying for their tickets. These special tickets are available on day of performance only. There is a \$3 Historic Asolo Theater surcharge for all tickets. Tickets must be purchased at the Asolo Repertory Theatre box office at the FSU Center for Performing Arts.

Call 941-351-8000.

### Scholarships available

For the 21st year, The Charlotte Players community theatre is making the John B. Lund Performing Arts/Theatre Scholarships available to high school seniors who live in Charlotte County and plan to pursue a degree in theatre arts.

John Lund was a long time favorite artistic director and friend of the Charlotte Players whose memory is

honored with these scholarships

The applications for scholarship must be received by the Charlotte Players by May 1.

Applicants will then be scheduled to complete an interview/audition with the selection committee. For the audition portion, acting students will present two contrasting monologues, musical theatre students one monologue and 32 bars of a song and technical students

a portfolio presentation of their work. The audition portion of the interview process is limited to five minutes.

Applications are available from Wendy Schmidt at Charlotte High School, Mary Jo Holleran at Lemon Bay, Debra Tate at Port Charlotte, David Stone at Community Christian School and Lem Andrews at Booker High School, or may be requested from the Charlotte Players Office, 941-255-1022.

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# Pensacola celebrating 450th birthday

By **MELISSA NELSON**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PENSACOLA — Long overlooked in favor of hot spots like Orlando and Miami, Pensacola hopes a yearlong 450th birthday bash will lure visitors to this city on the western edge of Florida's Panhandle.

Festivals, parades, battle reenactments, art exhibits and other events will commemorate Spanish explorer Don Tristan de Luna's 1559 arrival at Pensacola Bay.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain set the tone with a royal visit Feb. 19, touring the city of 60,000 and visiting Pensacola Naval Air Station, home of the world-famous U.S. Navy's Blue Angels aerial demonstration team.

Sometimes derided as the gateway to Florida's "Redneck Riviera," — the stretch of Panhandle beaches and kitsch attractions long favored by Southern tourists — many native Pensacolans would rather play up the city's history. Leaders dubbed Pensacola "The City of Five Flags" in the 1950s to recognize the Spanish, French, British, Confederate and American flags that have flown here.

St. Augustine, founded in 1565, bills itself as "The Nation's Oldest City," and has been continuously occupied since its establishment on Florida's Atlantic coast. Pensacola is known as the first settlement, because historians believe de Luna's failed 1559 attempt to colonize here was the first European settlement in the United States. A hurricane sank eight of de Luna's 11

ships and the settlement collapsed in 1561 — the Spanish didn't return until the late 1600s, more than a century later.

"Pensacola has got a tremendous amount of history through all periods. There was the Spanish defeat of the British here in 1781. Andrew Jackson came here in 1821. We had a lot of Civil War action here. In 1913, the airplane came and this place became The Cradle of Naval Aviation," said local historic preservationist J. Earle Bowden, 80, and a former editor of the Pensacola News Journal.

Hurting Pensacola's efforts to promote itself has been the difficulty in getting there. Pensacola Regional Airport now has six airlines offering service to Atlanta, Dallas, Charlotte, N.C., Houston, Memphis, Orlando and Tampa. But unlike other Florida tourists attractions, the city has never been an easy trip for visitors beyond the South.

"St. Augustine had a railroad and quality hotels back a long time ago. We had no such blessings. We didn't have a good hotel until 1910," said John Appleyard, 86, a Pensacola author and historian.

And even when tourists arrive, it isn't easy to see all the sites. The remnants of the Spanish Fort Barrancas are on Pensacola Naval Air Station and tourists must pass through base security gates to tour them.

Because the base is home to the Navy's Blue Angels and the National Museum of Naval Aviation, it has become very tourist friendly in recent decades.

Fort Pickens was built by

the U.S. government between 1829 and 1834 on the tip of Santa Rosa Island and part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore. The fort was occupied by federal forces throughout the Civil War, despite threats from Southern forces. Pickens exchanged cannon fire with Confederate-held Fort Barrancas on the Pensacola mainland.

Pickens's most famous resident was the Apache leader Geronimo, who was held prisoner there in the 1880s.

Modern visitors once could drive the 14-mile round trip out to Pickens, but hurricanes washed the road away in 2004. Since then, it has been accessible only by boat, on foot or on bike with long portions of pushing the bike along the sandy beach. Park officials plan to have the road reopened to cars for the summer tourist season.

Fort Barrancas is an easier visit at Pensacola Naval Air Station. It sits near the National Museum of Naval Aviation, which includes historic aircraft, a restaurants that was an officer's club moved from the Philippines and an IMAX theater. The air station is itself a historic site — it was the Navy's first air station and has trained thousands of pilots since World War I.

In 1992, archaeologists began salvaging parts of a Spanish galleon from de Luna's doomed fleet in Pensacola Bay. Artifacts from the shipwreck, the oldest ever found in Florida waters, are on display at the T.T. Wentworth Jr. Florida State

Museum in downtown Pensacola.

Fifty years ago, Appleyard dreamed of creating a tourist village like Virginia's Colonial Williamsburg on Pensacola Beach. A small village was constructed for the 400th birthday, actors wore period costumes and Spanish artisans displayed crafts, but enthusiasm for the project faded after a few years and the village was abandoned.

Since then, the state has established the small Historic Pensacola Village, a collection of museums, restored buildings and archaeological sites in downtown Pensacola. The Wentworth sits atop the remains of another colonial fort where Andrew Jackson accepted title to Florida for the United States from Spain in 1821.

Appleyard hopes the 450th birthday will be an opportunity to develop a permanent national interest in Pensacola's history.

"There hasn't been an organized plan for getting people to make a historical tour of Pensacola before," said Appleyard, who has produced a series of television, print and radio spots that detail the area's history.

Among the 2009 special events are an April wine festival; a May commemoration of the 1781 Battle of Pensacola; a June visit by the four-masted topsail Spanish Royal Navy schooner Juan Sebastian de Elcano; the 60th annual Fiesta of Five Flags celebration in June; and events recreating and commemorating de

Luna's landing in August.

"For a small town, we have a whole lot sprit. We love parades and we love to dress up for the parades — Spanish conquistadors, hippies, clowns, anything, people here just love to dress up and have a parade," said Laura Lee, 29, and a volunteer on the committee organizing the birthday celebration.

Lee says anytime is a good time to pay the city a birthday visit, but says those wanting to avoid the heat and crowds might consider coming in the spring or fall.

"Our big tourist season kicks off Memorial Day weekend, but come early. With our schedule, it's not

just one event, we've got something really funny pretty much every weekend."

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# What if you go to Fort Myers?

By **KIM COOL**

FEATURES EDITOR

For everyone who ever wondered about crop circles or the Dead Sea Scrolls or the Mayan Calendar or how or why Stonehenge was built, the Southwest Florida Museum of History may be the museum to visit.

Recently opened there is a Forbidden History Exhibit, based on the question that often arises when people see Stonehenge, Mayan pyramids or crop circles — What if?

How are crop circles made? Do the patterns have hidden meanings? Who lifted those giant stones into place at Stonehenge?

While not the smallest history museum in the world, the SWFM may seem to many visitors an unlikely place to tackle so many big questions.

It turns out to be a great place. With its smaller rooms and many nooks and crannies, the museum has plenty of wall space on which to display photos of the famous places around the world and even on Mars that have inspired the question. The museum also has adequate floor space for the display of 50 “exact replica artifacts.” Replicas include the Art of the Covenant, the Mayan calendar, Dead Sea Scroll and two direct imprints from actual Cuneiform tablets in the collection of the British Museum. The tablets describe the construction of Noah's Ark.

So involved and complex was the set up that the exhibit opened a week later than planned. The museum had help from Origins Museum the International Institute in El Paso and its curator, Marty Martin.

Back on display is part of the the Roswell exhibit shown at the museum in 2004 to the delight of many museum visitors. If anything begs the question “What If?” Roswell, NM and the many mysterious sightings there, might be the place. The Roswell exhibit includes objects in a case plus mounted photos and is conveniently located just inside and to the left as one enters the What If? display. The Ark replica is just beyond, luring one to follow the twists and turns of this little gem of a museum and also, possibly, to come to some conclusions in regard to the question — What if?

Two skull replicas in the exhibit were discussed in “The Legend of the Skulls,” on the Smithsonian television channel. The skulls are the Mitchell-Hedges Skull and the Rose Quartz skull. Both have detachable mandibles and were found in Central America, one in Belize and one in the area of Honduras. On the TV show, 13 skulls were mentioned, dating back thousands of years. According to information found in several places online, the ruby crystal skull inspired the



SUN PHOTOS BY KIM COOL

**The Sydney and Berne Davis Art Center began life as a federal building in downtown Fort Myers and also served for a time as a post office.**

film, “Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull.”

The Forbidden History exhibit will remain on display through June 20.

Always on display outside the museum is an old Pullman train car that harkens back to the days when the museum building was the Atlantic Coastline Railroad depot.

## Walk the walk

In conjunction with a visit to the What If? show, take a walking tour of downtown Fort Myers. Tours depart at 10 a.m. from the museum each Wednesday and Saturday through the end of April.

Richard Meier was the docent the day I joined about 30 people interested in learning more about Fort Myers, its history, its people and its historic buildings such as the old Arcade Theatre, which is now the home of the Florida repertory Theatre.

Meier told us about the various brick pat-



**Details like those above are found on many of the older buildings along First and other streets in the historic Riverfront District of Fort Myers.**

terns used to decorate the old buildings and even about the multiple tenants in some of the buildings, most notably the old federal building/post office/art center, which seems to be a work in progress. New letters identify the building as the Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center. It is on First Street. Also of interest and located in front of that building are two



**Only the ADA ramps are not original to this old Florida Cracker house at the Southwest Florida Museum of History in Fort Myers.**

## LET'S GO!

**What:** The SWFL Museum of History  
**Address:** 2031 Jackson Street (formerly 2300 Peck St.), Fort Myers, next to the Lee County Library System  
**Phone:** 239-321-7430

**Web site:** [www.swflmuseumofhistory.com](http://www.swflmuseumofhistory.com)

**Admission:** \$9.50 per person for adults, \$8.50 for seniors 65 and older and \$5 for students with ID. Members and children 3 and under are free. Have your ticket stamped to get a summer discount at the nearby Imaginarium Museum on the same day from April 13 through Sept. 30. A combo ticket is \$15 for adults for both museums, \$13 for seniors for both and \$7.50 for students for entry to both museums.

black metal cylindrical canisters decorated from top to bottom with cut-out letters, which allow light to shine through and cast shadows of words on the building facade at night. Native American words are the them of the canister to the right facing the building. The other canister is decorated in the Latin words for the many plants grown by the late Fort Myers' resident Thomas Alva Edison in his search for rubber.

As we wandered through the historic river district which abuts the Caloosahatchee River, Meier told us which

streets did not exist in the early days and actually would have been underwater.

Meier also pointed out a magnificent tile mural in what is today known as the Starbucks Courtyard. It depicts the Civil War era and black history of Fort Myers.

Tickets for the walking tour are \$5 per person, which includes a \$5 discount coupon that can be applied to museum entrance.

For information on the museum, its Forbidden History exhibit, and/or the walking tours, visit [www.swflmuseumofhistory.com](http://www.swflmuseumofhistory.com) or call 239-321-7430.

## 'Observe and Report' should cease, desist

By **CHRISTY LEMIRE**  
AP MOVIE CRITIC

The most charitable thing we can say about the otherwise insufferable "Observe and Report" is that it shows Seth Rogen has some range.

He's not just the self-deprecating cutup, the stoner teddy bear we've come to know and love in movies like "Knocked Up," "Superbad" and "Pineapple Express." Apparently, he also has some pent-up rage in him, which he unleashes in spectacularly wild fashion as the head of security at a suburban

shopping center.

(Don't call him a mall cop, although the superficial similarities to the PG-rated Paul Blart are unmistakable.

Like Blart, Rogen's Ronnie Barnhardt takes his job far too seriously, but he's forced to spring into actual action when a flasher starts antagonizing the shoppers — and, more importantly, blond bimbo Brandi (Anna Faris), the cosmetics clerk for whom he's long lusted. But there's little about Ronnie that makes you root for him to succeed personally or

professionally; writer-director Jody Hill has created yet another singularly unlikable character, as he did in his debut last summer, "The Foot Fist Way."

Hill's script is just as erratic: a series of hit-and-miss non sequiturs in which his characters mostly humiliate and injure themselves and others. It's not terribly offensive (though women may be put off by the way Ronnie's date with Brandi ends); it's more like an onslaught, one that seems to drag on.

A sequence in which Ronnie and fellow security guard Dennis (a lisping Michael Pena) get high and cause mayhem in the mall after hours is a prime example: It comes out of nowhere, does nothing to further the plot and disappears just as quickly.

Ray Liotta, as the police detective assigned to investigate the crimes, is one-note in his disdain of Ronnie's ineptitude. Similarly, Faris' comic charms go to waste: She's back in that ditz persona she's perfected, but there's no sweetness within the

character, just bland self-adsorption.

Hill's longtime friend McBride makes a brief appearance here, too, in one of the movie's many out-of-place moments. Come to think of it, "Observe and Report" is like a mall itself in many ways: it has a bunch of random stuff under one roof, and you can only hang out in it for so long without growing depressed about the future of humanity.

"Observe and Report," is rated R for pervasive language, graphic nudity,

### FILMS AT A GLANCE

Movie	Rating	Grade
<b>12 Rounds</b>	(PG-13)	B+
<b>Adventureland</b>	(R)	B+
<b>Dragonball Evolution</b>	(PG)	NEW
<b>Duplicity</b>	(PG-13)	B+
<b>Fast &amp; Furious</b>	(PG-13)	C
<b>Hannah Montana</b>	(G)	NEW
<b>The Haunting in Conn.</b>	(PG-13)	C
<b>I Love You, Man</b>	(R)	B+
<b>Knowing</b>	(PG-13)	B-
<b>Monsters vs. Aliens</b>	(PG)	B+
<b>Observe and Report</b>	(R)	NEW
<b>Paul Blart: Mall Cop</b>	(PG)	C+
<b>Race to Witch Mountain</b>	(PG)	B+
<b>The Reader</b>	(R)	B
<b>Sunshine Cleaning</b>	(R)	B
<b>Taken</b>	(PG-13)	B-
<b>Watchmen</b>	(R)	A-

drug use, sexual content and violence. Running time: 86 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

### **12 Rounds (PG-13) B+**

When New Orleans cop Danny Baxter (John Cena) prevents a brilliant thief from successfully carrying out his latest heist, the thief's girlfriend is accidentally killed. Hungry for revenge, the criminal mastermind breaks out of prison and kidnaps Danny's fiancée. To save her, Danny must successfully navigate his way through an elaborate series of tasks and puzzles, or else watch the love of his life die. 1 hr. 48 mins.

### **Adventureland (R) B+**

It's the summer of 1987, and James Brennan (Jesse Eisenberg), an uptight recent college grad, can't wait to embark on his dream tour of Europe. But when his parents (Wendie Malick and Jack Gilpin) announce they can no longer subsidize his trip, James has little choice but to take a lowly job at a local amusement park. Lucky for James, what should have been his worst summer ever turns into quite an adventure as he discovers love in the most unlikely place with his captivating co-worker Em (Kristen Stewart), and learns to loosen up. 1 hr. 46 mins.

### **Dragonball Evolution (PG) NEW**

Goku and a handful of friends battle for the Earth against the deadly forces of the Saiyans, who are sweeping across the universe, leaving

a path of destruction. Goku and his friends' best chance for survival rests with the Namekian DragonBalls, which provide them the power to summon a mighty dragon. 1 hr. 40 mins.

### **Duplicity (PG-13) B+**

CIA officer Claire Stenwick (Roberts) and MI6 agent Ray Koval (Owen) have left the world of government intelligence to cash in on the highly profitable cold war raging between two rival multinational corporations. Their mission? Secure the formula for a product that will bring a fortune to the company that patents it first.

### **Fast & Furious (PG-13) C**

Heading back to the streets where it all began, two men reunite two women to blast muscle, tuner and exotic cars across Los Angeles and floor through the Mexican desert. When a crime brings them back to L.A., fugitive ex-con Dom Toretto reignites his feud with agent Brian O'Connor. But as they are forced to confront a shared enemy, Dom and Brian must give in to an uncertain new trust if they hope to outmaneuver him. And from convoy heists to precision tunnel crawls across international lines, two men will find the best way to get revenge: push the limits of what's possible behind the wheel. 1 hr. 39 mins.

### **The Haunting in Connecticut (PG-13) C**

Based on a chilling true story, Lionsgate's *The Haunting in Connecticut* charts one family's terrifying, real-life encounter with the dark forces of the supernatural. When the Campbell family moves to upstate Connecticut, they soon learn that their charming Victorian home has a disturbing history: not only was the house a transformed funeral parlor where inconceivable acts occurred, but the owner's clairvoyant son Jonah served as a demonic messenger, providing a gateway for spiritual entities to crossover. Now unspeakable terror awaits, when Jonah, the boy who communicated with the powerful dark forces of the supernatural, returns to unleash a new kind of horror on the innocent and unsuspecting family. 1 hr. 32 mins.

### **Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) NEW**

Director Peter Chelsom takes the Disney Channel phenom to the big screen in a feature film extravaganza. Miley Stewart (Miley Cyrus) struggles to juggle school, friends and her secret pop-star persona; when Hannah Montana's soaring popularity threatens to take over her life — she just might let it. So her father (Billy Ray Cyrus) takes the teen home to Crowley Corners, Tenn., for a dose of

reality, kicking off an adventure filled with the kind of fun, laughter and romance even Hannah Montana couldn't imagine. 1 hr. 32 mins.

### **I Love You, Man (R) B+**

As his wedding day approaches, Peter Klaven (Paul Rudd) realizes he has no one to act as his best man. Through a series of "man-dates," he finds Sydney Fife (Jason Segel), and the pair become instant friends. But as Peter's "bro-mance" with Sydney grows stronger, it threatens his relationship with his fiancée (Rashida Jones), forcing Peter to make a choice.

### **Knowing (PG-13) B-**

Nicolas Cage stars in *Knowing* a gripping action-thriller of global proportions about a professor who stumbles on terrifying predictions about the future—and sets out to prevent them from coming true.

### **Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) B+**

A ragtag group of monsters defends Earth.

### **Observe and Report (R) NEW**

As head of security at the Forest Ridge Mall, Ronnie Barnhardt (Seth Rogen) takes his job very seriously, enforcing mall rules with an iron fist. When a flasher strikes Forest Ridge, Ronnie sees a chance to display his

unappreciated cop skills and bring the felon to justice, and, at the same time, impress his dream girl (Anna Faris) and win a coveted spot at the police academy.

### **Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) C+**

A security officer (Kevin James) confronts bad guys at a suburban New Jersey mall. 1 hr. 27 mins.

### **Race to Witch Mountain (PG) B+**

For years, stories have circulated about a secret place in the middle of the Nevada desert, known for unexplained phenomena and strange sightings. It is called Witch Mountain, and when a Las Vegas cab driver (Dwayne Johnson) finds two teens with supernatural powers in his cab, he suddenly finds himself in the middle of an adventure he can't explain. When they discover that the only chance to save the world lies in unraveling the secrets of Witch Mountain, the race begins, as the government, mobsters and even extraterrestrials try to stop them.

### **The Reader (R) B**

When he falls ill on his way home from school, 15 year-old Michael Berg is rescued by Hanna, a woman twice his age. The two begin an unexpected and

passionate affair only for Hanna to suddenly and inexplicably disappear. Eight years later she meets his former lover again, under very different circumstances. 2 hrs. 2 mins.

### **Sunshine Cleaning (R) B**

A single mom and her slacker sister find an unexpected way to turn their lives around in the off-beat dramatic comedy *Sunshine Cleaning*. 1 hr. 42 mins.

### **Taken (PG-13) B-**

Former government operative Bryan Mills (Liam Neeson) begins the longest 96-hours of his life — and the hunt for the fearsome organization that has taken his daughter Kim (Maggie Grace). 1 hr. 33 mins.

### **Watchmen (R) A-**

Set in an alternate universe circa 1985, the film's world is an unstable one where a nuclear war is imminent between America and Russia. Superheroes have been forced to go into retirement due to the government's Keene Act, but the death of The Comedian (Jeffrey Dean Morgan), an ex-hero commando, perks the interest of one of the country's last remaining superheroes, Rorschach (Jackie Earle Haley). 2 hrs. 43 mins.

Check out the classified section daily in the *Sun* or Saturday's *Venice Gondolier* for a complete list of movie theaters and times.

**TOWN CENTER 16**, Port Charlotte Town Center, Port Charlotte. 941-623-0111.

**FRANK THEATERS GALLERIA 12**, Galleria Plaza, Tamiami Trail, Venice. 941-408-0011.

**MERCHANTS CROSSING**, U.S. 41, N. Fort Myers. 888-262-4386.

**AMC SARASOTA 12**, 8201 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. 941-922-3130.

**HOLLYWOOD 20**, 1993 Main St., Sarasota. 941-954-5768.

#### Grade:

A: Excellent B: Good

C: Average D: Fair

— Synopses and grades provided by Sun wire services.

#### Ratings:

• G - Movie suitable for all ages.

• PG - Parental guidance suggested - May not be suitable for small children.

• PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned - May not be suitable for children under 13.

• R - Restricted - Contains mature themes. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.

• NC-17 - No children under 17 admitted.

CHECK LISTINGS ONLINE:  
[www.sunnewspapers.net/entertainment/movies.aspx](http://www.sunnewspapers.net/entertainment/movies.aspx)

## CALENDAR EXTRAS

### Guided nature hikes offered

The Charlotte County Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department and the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center invite the public for guided nature hikes at Charlotte County's Environmental Parks: 9 a.m. **Saturday - Sunday** at Tippecanoe Environmental Park, behind the Charlotte Sports Park, 2300 El Jobean Road (S.R. 776), Port Charlotte. Group meets in the open field southwest of the stadium; 8:30 a.m. April 8 at Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park, on U.S. 41 South just north of Zemel Road, Punta Gorda. Group meets in the parking lot.

For more information, call 941-743-1200.

### Jazz concert

The Charlotte County Jazz Society will hold a concert 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. **April 13** at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County Theater, 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte. The concert will be a doubleheader featuring the Jack Brokensha Quartet and Paulette Pepper & Fine Thyme, from Clearwater. Tickets cost \$15 each and are available by phone at 941-625-4175. For more information on the Jazz Society, call 766-9422.

### Earth Day celebration

The Yoga Sanctuary will celebrate Earth Day with a free outdoor yoga class 5:30 p.m. **April 22** at

Lashley Park, 100 E. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda. Everyone is welcome, no experience is necessary. All donations collected will go directly to the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. For more information, contact 941-505-9642 or [info@theyogasanctuary.biz](mailto:info@theyogasanctuary.biz).

### Senior Fun Fest!

The 13th annual Senior Fun Fest! will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **April 22** at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County.

This free event features over 75 "Senior Friendly" exhibitors. Take this opportunity to visit exhibitors with information, on health and wellness, senior lifestyles, travel and attractions, home improvements and senior services.

There will be live entertainment all day. Sock Hop with Denise Looney "The D. J. with a Twist" singing and spinning your favorite tunes. Entertaining as well is Fritzy "the one man circus" with juggling, unicycling, globe walking, Charlie Chaplin imitation, four legged walk-a-bout and Fritzy's general mayhem.

Activities of the day include: Free bingo games for prizes, Antique & Classic Car Show by Veteran Motor Car Club of America, SWF Chapter and free health screenings.

The free health screenings include: Bone Density by Area Agency on Aging of SW FL, Spinal Screening by Coastal Chiropractic, heart murmurs and carotid

blockage by Dr. Thomas Kartis, Jr., cholesterol and blood sugar by Hauter Medical Supply, vision by Eye Center of Florida, videography by Hearing Center of Charlotte, vision screening for cataracts and glaucoma by Community Eye Center and blood pressure by AllPRO Home Health and more.

There are lots of chances to win with \$1,000s in prizes and plenty of give-a-ways.

Plus there will be coffee, snacks, and a senior-friendly lunch will be available from the Cafe.

Admission and Parking are free.

The Cultural Center of Charlotte County is located at 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte.

For more information, call 941-625-4175.

### Special theater workshop

How would you create the sound of boiling water? Footsteps in the snow, breaking eggs, or crickets? For the last four years, Englewood's Lemon Bay Historical Society has co-sponsored the live radio drama productions of John MacKay's OnStage Theatre at the historic Green St. Church. The plays have been

enhanced by the extraordinary noises generated by sound engineer Paula MacKay. She will present a special program from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. **April 28** on how It's done. The program will

be held at the church, 416 Green St. in Englewood and is open to everyone. For more information visit the Web site at <http://lemonbayhistory.com>.

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## Gloria Musicae to sing Mozart mass

By **KIM COOL**  
FEATURES EDITOR

Tickets are likely to be scarce for Gloria Musicae's 30th anniversary gala concert.

About a year ago I was able to witness a rehearsal of this area's all-professional chamber vocal ensemble. Even in rehearsal, the classically trained singers led by Dr. Elwood Smith, its artistic director, are a joy to behold and especially to hear. One can only imagine that for the anniversary concert on Monday, these professionals will be phenomenal.

To match the occasion, Smith selected Mozart's long unfinished Great Mass in C minor as the program's highlight — with a 20-minute addition. The addition, by Mozart scholar and Harvard Professor Robert Levin, is said to reconstruct the missing final movements. Levin, who is the artistic director of the Sarasota Chamber Music Festival, worked from notes and sketches left by the great Austrian composer himself.

Mozart never completed the mass, which he



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLORIA MUSICAE

**Gloria Musicae will present its 30th anniversary concert at the Sarasota Opera House at 7:30 p.m. Monday.**

wrote to be performed on the first anniversary of his own marriage.

Sarasota Opera House, which reopened last year after a \$20 million renovation and restoration project, was selected as the venue for this historic concert which will feature the Southeastern premiere performance of the work with Levin's ending.

Adding to the performance will be special soloists flown in from

New York City, singers from the Sarasota Opera and members of the Sarasota Orchestra.

Following the 7:30 p.m. concert, there will be a gala champagne reception where all ticket holders may meet the performers.

About Gloria Musicae

Gloria Musicae was founded in 1979 and was the first professional chorus in the Southeast. Its first conductor was George Bledsoe. Singers

audition to become part of the group and are paid for their work. The group generally performs premiers "of little-known works of value in order to broaden the public's knowledge and appreciation of the richness of the choral art," publicist Mary Catherine Coolidge said in a release announcing the concert. The Latin translation of the ensemble's name, Gloria Musicae, is "for the glory of music." Singing

music from Bach to Broadway, the group performs work spanning four centuries and includes church music, folk songs, madrigals, jazz and songs from Broadway shows.

The group has sung in Austria, Canada and Italy in addition to other venues in Florida.

The Sarasota Opera House is at 61 N. Pineapple Ave., in downtown Sarasota. Tickets are being sold at the box office of the Historic Asolo Theater, located in the Visitor Center of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, 5401 Bay Shore Road and not at the opera house. Call the Historic Asolo box office at 941-360-7399 or visit [www.ringling.org](http://www.ringling.org).

To learn more about Gloria Musicae, visit its Web site at [www.gloriamusicae.com](http://www.gloriamusicae.com).

### CALENDAR EXTRAS

#### 'Through the Decades'

The North Port Chorale, directed by Pat Prentzel, will present its spring concert, "Through the Decades," at 7 p.m. May 2 in the North Port Performing Arts Center, 6400 W. Price Blvd., North Port. Accompanist is Sharon

Sutherland.

The Choraliers, a smaller select vocal group from membership of the Chorale, also directed by Ms. Prentzel, will also sing.

The Chorale is offering a reduced rate of \$8 each for groups of 15 or more from area retirement facilities. Tickets are \$10 at the box office, located at the North

Port High School, 6440 W. Price Blvd., open daily from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., or by calling 941-426-8479 or 800-406-7722.

#### Spring Picnic

The Irish American Club will have its Spring Picnic from noon to 4 p.m. May 3 at Harbour Heights Park,

27420 Voyageur Drive. Jim McCarthy and Dave Buescher will supply the live Irish music. Tickets cost \$10 per person and are limited to 100 people. The public and new members are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 941-629-5140, 941-204-2088 or 941-743-7163.

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## CALENDAR EXTRAS

### 'Art in the Parks' photography contest

Sarasota County Parks and Recreation invites local shutterbugs to submit entries in its first "Art in the Parks" photography contest. Photographers should depict the best and most beautiful in any of the county's local parks. The deadline for submissions is **April 15**.

Winners will be announced April 25 and notified by phone. Winning submissions will be displayed in various Sarasota County locations and may be featured in county publications or on the county Web site at [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net).

Images will be accepted from amateur photographers in two age divisions: Youth (under 18) and Adult. Submissions may be made in one of two categories: "People in the Parks" and "Nature." Submissions must be digital files of at least 300 dpi in .jpg format and can be e-mailed to Sarasota County Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator Jonathan Poyner at [jpoyner@scgov.net](mailto:jpoyner@scgov.net).

Please include the photographer's name, address, phone number, age division and caption stating the photograph's location. Contestants may enter more than once, but each individual entry may include no more than two photos. The "Art in the Parks" photography contest is sponsored by Dick Peterson Photography, LeBlanc Studios and Rockett Art and Photography.

For more information

and complete contest rules, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

### 'American Idol' runner-up to perform in Sarasota

Sysha Mercado, the 2008 "American Idol" runner-up from Sarasota, will perform at the 14th annual "Giving Hunger the Blues" **April 19** on Hillview Street in Southside Village, Sarasota.

The event, from noon to 8 p.m., is a family entertainment and charity event to raise money and awareness for hunger in our community.

There will be live bands on two stages including one stage exclusively for youth bands, dance and martial arts demos, games and activities for children and food and beverages. Band include Not From Here, My Friend Scott (a Tom Petty tribute band), Anthony J and The Automatics, Fogt's All Stars, The Boneshakers and Carnival of Crue (a Motley Crue tribute band).

All proceeds benefit All Faiths Food Bank and the PAL Sailor Circus

Tickets are \$5 for adults; children admitted free. Tickets will be available on site to purchase food and beverages.

"Giving Hunger The Blues" has grown each year and raised more than \$700,000. Local musicians, bands, performers and artists donate their talents and time every year.

For more information, go to

[www.givinghungertheblues.org](http://www.givinghungertheblues.org) or call 941-366-5555.

### 'Far and Away'

The North Port Concert Band will present its final concert of the 2008-09 season on **April 16** at the North Port Performing Arts Center 6400 Price Blvd., North Port.

With the theme Far and Away, the concert will feature selections associated with favorite vacation spots throughout the world.

Musical selections composed by Ralph Vaughn Williams, J.S. Back, Percy Granger, Eddie Haywood, Edvard Grieg, Alexander Borodin and others will fill the concert hall with familiar melodies from many different countries and areas as the band wishes you a musical bon voyage!

Tickets can be reserved by calling the box office at 941-426-8479. or 866-406-7722 between 10 a.m. and

2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### 'Wedding Singer' benefit

Lemon Bay High School presents an encore performance of "The Wedding Singer," at 7 p.m. **April 18** at the school, 2201 Placida Road, Englewood.

Proceeds go to sending theater students to the State Thespian Festival in Tampa later this month. Tickets for dinner, show and reception are \$50.

A buffet dinner will be served at 6 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets for show and reception are \$25. The 7 p.m. show will be followed by a dessert wedding reception for everyone in the lobby of the auditorium.

For tickets, call the school box office at 941-473-0952.

### 'Grande Romanza'

A special "Pops" concert

featuring the tenor and soprano duo of Stefano and Nina Tanchietti, better known as "Grande Romanza," will close the Venice Symphony's season. Alfred Gershfeld will be the guest conductor and he has selected music from "Show Boat" and "My Fair Lady" as well as "Phantom of the Opera" and "Cats."

The concert will open with the "Festive Overture" by Dmitri Shostakovich.

Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. **April 24** and 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. **April 25**.

The concert will be held at Church of the Nazarene, 1535 E. Venice Ave. in Venice. All seats

reserved. Call the Symphony office at 941-488-1010 for tickets.

### Mother's Day show

Turning Leaf Productions will celebrate Mother's Day with a performance by Ida Zecco in "Estro-Gin & Tonic." The show will be held at 7 p.m. **May 2** at the Cultural Center Theater, 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte. "Estro-Gin & Tonic" is a blend of comedy and dramatic storytelling. The material has "adult humor." Tickets cost \$15 each and are available April 13 at 941-204-0258 or online at [www.turningleafproductions.net](http://www.turningleafproductions.net).

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Saturday, live music.  
• **Englewood Eagles #3885**  
250 Old Englewood Road,  
Englewood.  
941-474-9802.  
6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Friday,  
Sonny & Sable of Yesterday.  
6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Saturday,  
Sonny & Sable of Yesterday.  
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Quiet Fire.  
• **Englewood Elks #2378**  
401 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood.  
941-474-1404.  
6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Thursday, live music.  
6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Friday, live music.  
6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Wednesday,  
karaoke.  
• **Englewood's on Dearborn**  
362 W. Dearborn St., Englewood.  
6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Thursday,  
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• **New Blue Lagoon**  
2000 Oyster Creek Drive, Englewood.  
941-473-7796.  
6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Friday, Tommy  
Cee & Judy Love.  
6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Saturday,  
Unforgettable.  
6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Monday, Tribute  
to Johnny Cash by Kieth Coleman  
Dinner Theater.  
• **Rotonda Elks**  
303 Rotonda Blvd. East. Rotonda W.  
941-697-2710.  
7:30 p.m. Thursday, bingo.  
7:30 p.m. Friday, E Z Street.

## NORTH PORT

• **Riverside Lounge at Budget Inn**  
14000 Tamiami Trail, North Port.  
941-429-1534.  
9 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. Friday-Saturday,  
karaoke with J.R. & Janet.  
Sunday, poker.  
7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Tuesday, poker.  
9 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. Wednesday,  
ladies night/karaoke with  
J.R. & Janet.  
• **VFW Post 8203**  
4860 Trott Circle, North Port.  
941-426-6865.  
7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Friday, Saturday,  
karaoke.

## PORT CHARLOTTE

• **American Legion Post 110**  
3152 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte.  
941-629-7446.  
6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Thursday,  
karaoke with Billy G.  
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Friday, Alex.  
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Saturday,  
Les Pearsall.  
6 p.m. Tuesday, bingo.

• **Deep Creek Elks**  
1133 Capricorn Blvd., Deep Creek.  
941-764-6825.  
Thursday, Elks Care Share Scholar-  
ship Fundraiser. Bunny races at 4  
p.m. Music by Dave Baron at 6 p.m.  
Food and drink specials. A portion of  
all proceeds to go help support Elks  
Scholarship Fund.  
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Friday, dinner with  
music by Dave Baron.  
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Saturday,  
dinner with music by Blue Bayou.  
• **Joe Cracker**  
1020 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte.  
941-258-3444.  
7:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Friday,  
Double Effects.  
7:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Saturday, Impulse.  
• **MS Rascal's Loony Bin**  
1182 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.  
www.loonybinpub.com.  
941-255-5999.  
9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Friday, live music.  
9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Saturday, live music.  
4:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Monday,  
Oldies with Walter.  
9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Tuesday,  
open mike with Crazy George.  
9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday,  
DJ Philly Billy.  
• **Port Charlotte Elks #2153**  
20225 Kenilworth Blvd.,  
off Veterans Blvd., Port Charlotte.  
941-627-9811.  
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Friday,  
Dinner and dance with Harmony.  
Friday, karaoke with Billy G.  
• **Portside**  
3636 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.  
941-629-3055.  
9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Thursday,  
Ladies night with DJ T.  
9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Saturday, '80s Night  
with video games, pricing and  
DJT with '80s music.  
9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Tuesday,  
Country Night with DJ T.  
• **Q's Sports Bar and Grill**  
4030 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.  
941-764-6969.  
8 p.m. Thursday, Texas Hold 'em  
Poker, APA 8 Ball Pool League  
10:30 p.m. Thursday, \$100 First  
Place Open 8 Ball Tournament.  
8 p.m. Friday, Texas Hold 'em Poker,  
9 Ball Pool Tournament.  
4 p.m., 8 p.m. Saturday, Texas Hold  
'em Poker, 8 Ball Pool Tournament.  
1 p.m., 8 p.m. Sunday, Texas Hold  
'em Poker.  
8 p.m. Monday, Texas Hold 'em Poker,  
APA 9 Ball League.  
8 p.m. Tuesday, Texas Hold 'em Poker,  
Q's In-House 9 Ball Pool League.  
1 p.m., 8 p.m. Wednesday, Texas  
Hold 'em Poker, 8 APA 8 Ball Pool  
League.  
• **Sports City**  
4660 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.  
941-627-6264.  
7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Thursday, Riding High.  
8 p.m. - midnight Friday, Radio Rage.  
8 p.m. - midnight Saturday,  
Adrenalin Junkies.  
5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Sunday, Sammy J.  
& The Guys.  
7:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Monday,  
Fakahatchee.  
6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Tuesday, P  
arrotheads.  
7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Wednesday,  
Chiki Monkey.

• **Sun Flea Market**  
18505 Paulson Drive, Port Charlotte.  
941-255-3532.  
Noon - 3 p.m. Friday, Tim Goodman.  
Noon - 3 p.m. Saturday,  
Paul Ferguson.  
Noon - 3 p.m. Sunday, Alex Keller.  
• **Visani featuring The Comedy Zone**  
2400 Kings Highway, Port Charlotte.  
941-629-9191.  
8 p.m. Thursday - Friday, live comedy  
with DS & Paul Strickland.  
7:30 p.m., 10 p.m. Saturday, live  
comedy with DS & Paul Strickland.  
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Tuesday, Al Holland.  
8 p.m. Wednesday, live comedy  
with Gary Valentine.

## PUNTA GORDA

• **Cafe Ruelle**  
117 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda.  
941-575-3553.  
5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Thursday, live music.  
7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Friday, live music.  
7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Saturday, live music.  
• **Captain's Table Lounge**  
1200 W. Retta Esplanage  
(Fishermen's Village), Punta Gorda  
941-637-1177.  
7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Friday - Saturday,  
The Bob hanson Trio.  
• **Danny's Deep Creek Pub**  
24901 Sandhill Blvd. Unit 14,  
Punta Gorda.  
941-764-0640.

7:30 p.m. Thursday, karaoke with Stephanie.  
7:30 p.m. Friday, Paul Strowe.  
11 p.m. Saturday, Wii Dutch Bowling  
Tournament.  
3 p.m. Sunday, Nascar Bowling League.  
4 p.m. Sunday, free poker.  
7 p.m. Monday, Danny's Pure  
Poker Showdown.  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Thursday, Friday, Wii Bowling all day.  
7 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,  
Friday, Saturday, free poker.  
1 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, free poker.  
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Bingo.  
• **Dean's South of the Border**  
130 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda.  
941-575-6100.  
7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Saturday, No Wake.  
8 p.m. - midnight Wednesday, Kapo Kings.  
• **Fishermen's Village**  
1200 W. Retta Esplanade,  
Punta Gorda.  
941-639-8721.  
5 p.m. - 9 p.m. Friday,  
Sean & Ramsi "Montage."  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, Salty  
Paws Easter Bone Hunt.  
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Book  
signing with Robert Macomber  
at Hooked on Books.  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, Have your  
picture taken with the Easter Bunny.  
5 p.m. - 9 p.m. Saturday, Jamband.  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Monday,  
Open Mic Night.

• **Mooseheads**  
318 Tamiami Trail #111  
Corner of U.S. 41 North and Virginia,  
Punta Gorda.  
941-505-0404.  
8 p.m. Thursday, open mic night.  
9 p.m. Friday - Saturday, live music.  
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Texas  
Hold 'em Poker.  
• **The Perfect Caper**  
121 E. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda.  
941-505-9009.  
7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Thursday - Saturday,  
live jazz in the lounge by Trio "Taste."  
• **Slip-Not Lounge**  
1601 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda.  
941-639-7677.  
7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Thursday,  
Two Can Jam.  
7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Thursday,  
karaoke by M & M inside.  
8 p.m. - midnight Friday, Triple Shot.  
8 p.m. - midnight Saturday,  
Anything Goes.  
7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Wednesday,  
Tim & Rosanne.

• **The Tavern Bar and Grill**  
126 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda.  
941-639-7655.  
9 p.m. - 2 a.m. Friday, DJ Dance Party.  
9 p.m. - 2 a.m. Saturday, Pro DJs DJ  
Ron Dance Party. Oldies  
through today.

## VENICE/NOKOMIS

• **Club 455**  
455 U.S. 41 Bypass N., Venice.  
941-412-1455.  
6 p.m. Friday, Saturday,  
Texas Hold 'em poker.  
8 p.m. - midnight Friday,  
Marc Anthony Roman.  
9 p.m. - midnight Saturday, karaoke.  
Noon - 2 p.m. Sunday,  
Sophisticated Swing.  
5 p.m. - 9 p.m. Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, piano bar with Bill Cerrera.  
8 p.m. - 10 p.m. Tuesday,  
Comedy night.

## NIGHTWATCH | P14

## CAPT. TERRY'S WORLD FAMOUS MYAKKA RIVER TOURS 941-255-0400

Come Enjoy Live Entertainment...

**Fri. 04/10** - Skunk Monkey 12-4  
- Karaoke 5-9  
**Sat. 04/11** - Sawyers 12-4  
- A Moment In Time 5-9

*Covering Classic favorites by Frank Sinatra & Bobby Darin*

**Sun. 04/12** - Closed. Happy Easter!!!  
**Mon. 04/13** - Dual Sax Ron & The Hornets 5-9  
**Tues. 04/14** - Dulcimers 12-2  
- Laurie Colvin 5:30-8:30  
**Wed. 04/15** - Chakulla 12-3  
- Banjo's w/Greg Allen & Friends 5-9  
**Thurs. 04/16** - Gulf Coast Banjo Society 11-1:30  
- Big Daddy & Little Mama 5-9  
**Fri. 04/17** - Skunk Monkey 12-4  
- Bruce Nye The Elvis Guy 6-9

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Bay Restaurant.  
Noon-3:00, \$5  
and 4-6, \$6

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Excluding Easter Serving 3-6. Happy Hour 3-6 Daily

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Marker #9A Lemon Bay

## Romance of Italy is recreated at Mamma Nunzia

The romance of Italy is recreated in the arched booth alcoves, striped awnings, wrought iron chandeliers, hanging plants, and murals at Mamma Nunzia. Heavy wooden pedestal tables and chairs and booths upholstered in a wine bottle pattern complete the picture. Italian music in the background contributes to the atmosphere.

From the list of Insalata e Zuppa we chose to share the Fresh Antipasto Salad (\$8.95) more than enough for two. The crisp spring greens made a bed for



letsgo@sun-herald.com

slices of prosciutto, cappicola, pepperoni, and provolone as well as lots of exotic Kalamata olives. A small dish of herbed dressing accompanied the antipasto.

All entrees are served with the choice of soup or salad.

He had the Sechuan Chicken soup which, though chock full of vegetables and chicken,

was really neither Chinese nor Italian. She enjoyed her salad.

The Vitello Scaloppine Marsala (\$18.95) was his choice for the entrée, and he found the veal to be fork tender though more stewed than sautéed, and the sauce rather bland.

The Petto di Pollo Milano (\$17.95) caught her eye with the promise of chicken lightly sautéed in a garlic sauce and garnished with fresh mushrooms and shallots. She was looking forward to a more intense flavor than the dish offered, but

the chicken was well cooked and the portion substantial.

Our dessert choices were the two made in-house: Tiramisu and Caramel Custard.

He savored the Tiramisu, a large square of layered lady fingers, coffee liqueur, and mascarpone cheese surrounded by real whipped cream rosettes.

The Caramel Custard did not disappoint her with its firm, but creamy, vanilla custard and caramel sauce and more of the decadent whipped cream.

For a real bargain we

### Mamma Nunzia Ristorante and Lounge

Address: 1975 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda.

Telephone number: 941-575-7575.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily for lunch; 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily for dinner.

Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express accepted.

Atmosphere.....	Price: .....	\$\$\$ - \$\$\$
Value for Money:.....	Healthy choices:.....	Yes
Service: .....	Kids Menu: .....	Yes
	Full Bar.....	Full bar
	Dress: .....	Casual
	Entertainment: .....	Yes
		6:30 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday.

\$ - \$1-\$10; \$\$ - \$11-\$15  
 \$\$\$-\$16-\$20; \$\$\$\$-Over \$20 per person.  
 Four forks - Excellent • Three forks - Very Good  
 • Two forks - Good • One fork - Fair

noted that an "Early Bird" is served daily from 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Choices at \$6.95 that range from liver to linguini and the \$9.95 menu includes shrimp and salmon.

The menu characterizes

Mamma Nunzia Ristorante as the place "where every dish is prepared with love," and we found that the Italian soul was indeed evident in the portion size, the décor, and the friendly service.

## CALENDAR EXTRA

### Women Riders event

May has been declared "Women Riders Month" by Harley-Davidson Motor Company, making May 1 International Female Ride Day. Black Widow Harley-Davidson/Buell encourages women to "fulfill their dreams" with its first "No Boys Allowed" Poker Run beginning with registrations at 2 p.m. May 2. Women riders with experience are encouraged to bring other women

non-riders as passengers. The ladies are set to ride out of the dealership at 3 p.m. At each stop along the way there will be free games and drawings for various prizes. Stops will include Beaver's Sports Pub, Calico Jacks and Wally's Pour House. A coed party will be held at 5 p.m. at City Limits Grill, 1059 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte. Men can purchase their poker hand for \$1. Music will be provided by Jamband. The women riders will arrive at

6 p.m. There will be drawings and prizes for all.

For more information, call 941-883-8000.

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### NIGHTWATCH, FROM PAGE 13

#### Honolua Island Grill

222 Airport Ave., Venice.  
 941-483-3553.

7:30 p.m. Friday, Koko Ray & The Soul Providers.

7 p.m. Saturday, BobLynn Brothers.  
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Tuesday, Jimi Banks.

#### The Office Pub

1195 U.S. 41 Bypass South, Venice.  
 941-445-5973.

8 p.m. - midnight Friday,  
 3 Songs & Smoke Band.

9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Saturday, karaoke  
 with Deb & Jim/karaoke contest.

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday, Wii bowling.

#### Saltwater Cafe

1071 N. Tamiami Trail, Nokomis.  
 941-488-3775.

8 p.m. - 11 p.m. Wednesday, ladies  
 night with Sam Domicolo.

7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Friday, Gary Leshner.

7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Saturday,  
 DooWop Denny.

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Sunday  
 Brunch, Gary Leshner.

6 p.m. Sunday, Gary Leshner.

Caribbean Island Night.

#### DEADLINE:

Nightwatch is a free, weekly listing of entertainment at area nightclubs and restaurants. To include your club or restaurant on the list, fax the information to 941-629-2085 or e-mail letsgo@sun-herald.com by 10 a.m. each MONDAY prior to publication.

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**Easter Weekend Celebration**

**Friday, April 10th**  
 Double Effects - Live Entertainment 8pm - 12pm

**Saturday, April 11th**  
 Vine Street - Live Entertainment 8pm - 12pm

**Sunday, April 12th**  
 Ham Steak w/ Mango - Pineapple Salsa \$9.95  
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### Menu

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#### Dinner

Wednesdays "Early Bird Dining" 4:30 to 7:30pm. Thursdays "Cozy Spring Specials" 5 to 8:30pm. Fridays 5 to 8:30pm, with Bruce Heacock on the Piano.

#### Happy Hour

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday from 4 to 6pm. And at the Courtside Cafe Friday Apr. 3, 17; May 1, 15 from 5 to 7pm with Karaoke.

#### Sunday Brunch

Offered Buffet Style from 11am to 2pm @ \$9.95.

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[www.heron-creek.com/dining](http://www.heron-creek.com/dining)

Dinner Reservations Suggested (941) 240-5100

## Florida museums are feeling the economic crunch

By **LISA ORKIN EMMANUE**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MIAMI — Florida's art museums are not immune to the recession.

Art institutions statewide are feeling the economic downturn in many ways as government funding dries up, donors give less and endowments lose significant value.

Experts say some institutions may not survive, changing the state's cultural landscape.

"You are going to see some institutions that don't make it through this or merge," said Malinda Horton, Florida Association of Museums executive director. "I don't think it will be vast loss, but I think we may lose some."

As part of efforts to cut spending, museums have had to layoff staff and even reduce programming.

At The Cummer Museum of Art &

Gardens in Jacksonville, officials slashed six full-time positions, along with some part-time employees. Some educational programs were also cut, including one where curators would teach art at hospitals and long-term care facilities. Curators will also use the museum's own collection for exhibits and cut back on hosting traveling shows.

"We were really working from a worst-case scenario, trying not to be too rosy about it," said Hope McMath, the museum's interim director.

Attendance and membership at the museum are strong, but state and city funding have declined and its endowments are down about 30 percent.

McMath says four hours a week were trimmed off the museum's weekly hours as well.

"We are trying to cut the things where our general visitor doesn't

feel it," she said. "We consider a lot of the things that had to go as just being on hiatus."

Terence Riley, Miami Art Museum director, said the museums budget was slashed 25 percent after private donations began slowing in 2008. Changes included staff reductions and wage and hiring freezes.

"All these are regrettable," Riley said.

A new museum will be built to house the institution and Riley hopes to have groundbreaking before the end of the year. Riley says the funding for it is secure and doesn't anticipate going over budget.

At The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, it's a waiting game.

Chip Willis, the museum's chief operating officer, says it gets 46 percent of its budget from state funds. Museum officials are waiting to see how

much money they will get this year, but meanwhile they are being conservative.

"Obviously the economy is effecting things. There is no doubt about that," Willis said. "I really don't know what the future is going to bring ... We've got to just wait and see. And wait and see what the funding is from the state."

Willis said attendance

is up, but endowments are down. Several positions have also not been filled. The admission fee for an adult to enter all venues at the museum was increased by \$1 starting this month to \$20.

Todd Smith, executive director of the Tampa Museum of Art, says in late 2007 the institution moved into a temporary location until a new

building opens next year. The museum reduced its major programming and focused primarily on raising money for the new building and on outreach programs.

"Overall it seems like an extremely cautious time and with directors looking at understanding what the core principles of the organization are and how those need to be maintained," he said.

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Friday & Saturday 4pm to 10pm • Sunday 12pm - 6pm  
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### CALENDAR EXTRA

#### Child safety day

The 2009 Charlotte County "Child Advocacy Day" will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 2 at Fraternal Order of the Eagles 3296, 23111 Harborview Road, Charlotte Harbor. This event promotes the safety and well being of the children through volunteers and

donations made throughout the community. Activities by the Sheriff's Department include: Photo ID and finger printing, bike safety information, fire and home safety information, gun safety information with free gun locks passed out to parents. The fire department will have a fire engine and ambulance on

site as well. Charlotte County Parks and Recreation and Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts will discuss their programs as well. Entertainment will be provided by Get R Done Bob and Buck with children's karaoke. A free healthy lunch will be provided for every child.

For more information, call 941-626-9387.



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Wed. 8th PM - Reator Appreciation Night  
Every Friday - Big "M" VIPs - WIN \$1000 (ash Sat. 10th PM - Caribbean Night  
Wed. 29th PM - Chamber of Commerce Member Night  
\*Please call for all promotion details or view our Monthly Calendar online @ www.bigmcasino.com  
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# Former 'American Idol' contestant to sing at Stone Crabs opener

PROVIDED BY THE  
CHARLOTTE STONE CRABS

The Charlotte Stone Crabs are bringing even more excitement to opening day on Thursday: Recording artist and former 'American Idol' contestant Antonella Barba will sing the national anthem for the team's inaugural game.

Barba was a semi-finalist in the sixth season of the mega-hit television show, making it all the



PHOTO PROVIDED

**'American Idol' season six semi-finalist, Antonella Barba, will sing "Star-Spangled Banner" followed by first pitch at 7:35 p.m. Thursday.**

way to the Top 16.

Since her time on 'American Idol,' she has



made numerous television appearances and currently has a reality show in development.

Due to the Opening Day festivities, the scheduled game time has

changed from 7:05 p.m. to 7:35 p.m., but gates will still open at 6 p.m.

With the updated start time, fans will have more time to tour the newly-renovated Charlotte Sports Park and enjoy the Opening Day activities.

General admission grass berm tickets are still available for the team's first-ever game at only \$5 per ticket, which fans can purchase at the Charlotte Sports Park box

office, on the phone at 941-206-HITS or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

In addition to the team's debut, opening day will also feature an appearance by Cal Ripken, Jr., giveaways and many other festivities.

The Stone Crabs recently announced their Inaugural Season Promotional Schedule, and both detailed promotional and game schedules can be

found at [www.stonecrabsbaseball.com](http://www.stonecrabsbaseball.com). All home games will start at 7:05 p.m. with the exception of Sunday games at 5:35 p.m. and opening night at 7:35 p.m.

Gates open one hour prior to the listed start time.

For more information on season seat packages or single-game tickets, please call 941-206-HITS (4487) or visit [www.stonecrabsbaseball.com](http://www.stonecrabsbaseball.com).

# Golden Apple coats current offering with color and style

By **KIM COOL**

FEATURES EDITOR

Kyle Turoff's direction mixed with the entertaining choreography of Dewayne Barrett and a multi-talented cast make the current Golden Apple production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" a winner. Newly opened at the Sarasota dinner theater, "Joseph" is right up there with that 38-year-old theater's all-time best shows.

In the role of the narrator, Heather Kopp delivers the biblical story of the 12 sons of Jacob (Robert Ennis Turoff) with style and a voice that suits the role while also blending well with that of Craig Weiskerger as Joseph in such songs as "Close Every Door" and "Any Dream Will Do." Kopp's part is huge. She makes the most of it, contributing so much to this colorful and most

entertaining production.

Turoff adds zaniness in his multiple roles as Jacob, Potiphar and an ancient Egyptian keyboardist. The Apple founder and producer has nearly as many talents as Joseph's coat has colors.

This may be a biblical story but with book and music by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, "Joseph" is so much more. The Egyptian keyboard player (Turoff), a pharaoh/Elvis impersonator (Barrett) and a calypso number featuring Zepulon (Charles Mckenzie) that seems to have been inspired by the Harry Belafonte rendition of "Matilde," are just some of several musical highlights. "Joseph" entertains while also delivering its feel-good message.

Joseph's 11 brothers are played by Roy Johns (Reuben), Jared E. Walker (Simeon), Berry

Ayers (Levi), Keone Dent (Naphthali), Matthew Mello (Issachar), J. Paul Wargo (Asher), Mike Calijan (Dan), Charles McKenzie (Zepulon), Toph McRae (Gad), Benjamin (Jonathan Hall) and Kirk V. Hughes (Judah). A slimmer Ayers showed off his improved acrobatic and dancing skills while also shining in the "One More Angel in Heaven" number. Hall, who performed many shows at Venice Theatre as a youngster, keeps getting better and better, especially as a dancer.

Playing multiple roles are Wargo (Baker), Dent (Butler) and Samantha Barrett (Potiphar's wife). Samantha Barrett also was featured in the ensemble with Sarah Farnam, Pamela McKenna, Geena M. Ravella, Casey Shea, Erin Weinberger and Garie Jean Williams.

Musical conductor/pianist John Visser, Don Sturrock on



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**The cast of the Sarasota Golden Apple Dinner Theatre production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."**

keyboards, Tom Suta and John Januszewski on Percussion provided a great orchestral background. Michael Newton Brown designed the convertible set and Dee Richards came up with an array of costumes as colorful as that "amazing" coat.

The Golden Apple Dinner Theatre is at 61 N. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota. "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" continues through May 31. Opening next is "Li'l Abner, which will run from June 2 through July 26. All shows include a buffet

lunch, supper or dinner depending on show time. Prices range from \$35-\$45 per person. The theater is dark on Monday. For performance times and reservations, call toll-free 800-652-0920 or 941-366-5454 or visit [www.thegoldenapple.com](http://www.thegoldenapple.com).