



Gasparilla Film Festival

For ten days, The Gasparilla Film Festival turned Tampa into Hollywood, you know, with all those film types hanging around...

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Fountain in the Park

Throughout history, fountains have served to fulfill both the practical and aesthetic needs of society. Public fountains were a social gathering point for people while they also collected water for drinking or bathing...

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Gasparilla Pirate Fest

For many, the Gasparilla Pirate Fest is an excuse to have a party during the middle of the day...

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Addicted to Golf at Fourteen

It was a quiet Sunday morning, as tranquil as the sport itself, on which the Florida State Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) golf tournament was held...

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WELCOME BACK, PHILLIES!

Phillies Meet The Rays Again 4 Months After the Fall Classic
by Wayne Cathel

CLEARWATER

The atmosphere was set for a rematch of the World Series in front of a record crowd of 10,270 at Bright House Field on Saturday afternoon. There was a brisk home-run wind blowing out to left and temperatures in the upper 70's. It only seems like yesterday (October) when these two teams met last for game number 5 in Philly in which the playing conditions were 30 degrees cooler than Saturday's

sun-basking afternoon. Slugger Ryan Howard smashed a two-run homer in Philadelphia's five-run 1st, as the Phillies again beat them, 12-5, in Grapefruit League play. John Mayberry, Miguel Cairo and Ronny Paulino also hit solo homers for the Phillies, Kyle Kendrick yielded a run on four hits in 2 2/3 innings on the mound to earn Philly's first win this spring after three previous losses.

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Slugger Ryan Howard smashes a two-run homer.
Photo by Wayne Cathel



John Nemeth and his band performing at the Sea Blues Festival
Photo by www.starznbarz.com

GOT BLUES?

by Heidi Lux

CLEARWATER

Since 2006, seafood and blues music fans have been drawn to Coachman Park by the annual Knology Sea Blues Festival. The festival is the perfect way to spend a weekend, chilling on the grass, indulging in seafood and listening to some of the best blues acts around.

This year's four-day extravaganza kicked off on Cleveland Street with blues fans braving the "cold weather" to enjoy a performance from Tampa local Julie Black, and a debut of her new song "Ever Since" off of her second album due out in April. Julie recently displayed her phenomenal voice at Clearwater's Pangea Café. "It was a warm environment and neat café," she said, and also mentioned how nice the owners are.

Friday night Malcolm & the House Rockers took the stage, followed by

Southside Johnny & The Ashbury Jukes. Fans danced in the park and enjoyed grouper sandwiches, a "sea in a sack" and even fried alligator. Saturday night featured John Nemeth, Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials and Jonny Lang. Sunday night finished up the extravaganza with performances from Kenny

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Performer Julie Black at the Sea Blues Festival
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

CLEARWATER LITTLE LEAGUE "OPENS" HEARTS IN COMMUNITY

by Heidi Lux

CLEARWATER

On Valentine's Day the Clearwater Little League held their opening ceremonies followed by the first game of the season. In celebration of opening day, Clearwater City Council members Carlen Petersen and John Doran, as well as Vice-Mayor George Cretekos were there at Jack Russell Memorial Stadium, showing their love for the young baseball enthusiasts decked out in brightly colored shirts of purple, blue, green, black and orange.

From the civic leaders, sports celebrities, business owners, friends, families and kids, the turn-out was itself inspiring, generating a genuine feeling of family and community. "There are many things wrong in America today, but baseball is not one of them," says John Murphy, on the board of the Clearwater Little League. "Watching kids and adults play not for the money, but for fun of the game is as close to heaven as I may ever come."

City of Clearwater Councilmember

Continued on page 2



Clearwater Community Volunteer Joanie Sigal adds merriment to the ceremonies.
Photo by Simaen Skolfield



Rays pitcher Mitch Talbot gave up five runs on six hits in three innings.
Photo by Wayne Cathel

Welcome Back, Phillies!

by Wayne Cathel

Continued from front page

Rays pitcher Mitch Talbot gave up five runs on six hits in three innings of work for Tampa.

Elliot Johnson launched a two-run shot and Ray Olmedo went 3-for-4 with two runs scored for the Rays. Rays newly acquired Pat Burrell, in his first game against his old club, was 1-for-2.



Clearwater Councilmembers John Doran, Carlen Petersen and George Cretekos ride with the "Mets" Little League team alongside the Executive Director of Clearwater Community Volunteers, Pam Ryan Anderson.
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

Clearwater Little League Opens Hearts in Community

by Heidi Lux

Continued from front page

Petersen — a previous “Little League Mom” of three — spoke from her heart and experience when she encouraged parents to continue their worthwhile investment of time in making it possible for their children to be part of little league. Sports and programs such as these bring the community together and instill long-lasting values.

The Little League Pledge is, “I trust in God, I love my country and will respect its laws. I will play fair and strive to win, but win or lose, I will always do my best”.

The Clearwater Community Volunteers (CCV) contributed train rides, face painting and fun clown activities to Clearwater Little League’s opening day. As well as bringing their trackless train, the CCV sponsored the Clearwater Little League AAA division team called the “Mets” (named after the New York Mets). “CCV is very happy to have been invited to sponsor and participate,” says Executive Director of CCV, Pam Ryan Anderson. “Our purpose is to help children and citizens of the community and we love any opportunity to do that.”

John Murphy added, “I welcome everyone to come be a part of our family at the Clearwater Little League. Bring your lounge chairs, your shades and sometimes your jackets and see why baseball is the best game to help you forget about your troubles for a little while.”

The Clearwater Little League is made possible by its dedicated volunteers and sponsors who work together to create a safe, fun atmosphere for kids and families to enjoy the All-American sport of baseball.

Local business owner Sean Cordner of



Vice Mayor George Cretekos gives a high-five.
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

Clearwater Towing not only manages a team but also sponsors the AAA team “Tampa Bay Rays”. He has been involved with Clearwater Little League since 2005. “Little League is a great way to keep kids active, involved and out of trouble,” says Sean. “It’s a sport that the kids can start young and continue to take it on up into their teens onto a higher level—for me it gets me out of work and as a father I can spend quality time with the kids.”

Although the economics of the sport continue to be a task at hand for local Little Leagues around the world, the activities of its volunteers and sponsors make it the most widely-recognized and affordable option for more than 2.6 million children (ages 5 to 18) who wish to play organized baseball or softball.

The Clearwater Little League holds their games at the Sid Lickton Complex located at 714 N. Saturn Avenue, Clearwater. For their full season schedule, please visit their website at www.clearwaterlittleleague.com.

To see more photos of the Clearwater Little League opening ceremonies, visit www.tampabayinformer.com

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ADDICTED TO GOLF AT FOURTEEN

by Heidi Lux

CLEARWATER

It was a quiet Sunday morning, as tranquil as the sport itself, on which the Florida State Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) golf tournament was held. Floridian youth from within a 100-mile radius of the Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Club on McMullen-Booth Road came to compete in the tournament.

In a white golf cart sat one young participant next to his father. He clutched his golf club as he waited for his turn, round face full of youthful enthusiasm and zest for the game. “That’s Mason Fox,” a man said. “He’s one of the best fourteen-year olds in the state. But don’t tell him that, it’ll go straight to his head.”

Mason Fox has been competitive for three years, “But I’ve been playing my whole life,” he says. His father adds, “He had a golf ball in his baby crib in the hospital.” Mason wants to be a professional golfer when he grows up, which is only four years from now. “I’m addicted to it,” Mason says. For him, golf teaches honesty, integrity and good sportsmanship, and the competitive aspect of it is helping him improve his game. Apparently it’s paying off since he won the state AAU golf championship last summer and will play in the national tournament this June in Kingsport, Tennessee.

Finally, his name was called: “From Sarasota, Florida: Mason Fox.” He stuck his tee in the ground, held his club perpendicular to the grass and concentrated. He took a few practice swings, each with an agile follow-through. The ball was then hit with a thwack and disappeared into the



14-year-old Mason Fox tees off at the Florida State AAU Golf Tournament.
Photo by Ian Phoenix

horizon, accompanied by the requisite polite clapping of a golf tournament crowd before he headed off down the course. Mason Fox came in first for his age group that day.

The AAU provides ambitious young golfers like Mason Fox with “a quality, comprehensive golf program with age being the one criterion for competition.” The program offers instruction, camps and clinics and holds state and regional events. A Mason Fox-like skill is not necessary for children to participate. The program gives young golf enthusiasts “quality instruction, affordable tournaments and teaches valuable life skills such as self-discipline, courtesy and fair play that will last a lifetime”.

For more info, visit www.ChampionsGT.com



Mason Fox and his father
Photo by Ian Phoenix

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Editor
Angela LeMay



In the past I have warned you about foreign lottery scams that continue to involve the transmission of thousands of e-mails sent and received

daily across the country. As the name implies, the mailings promise a chance to win a foreign lottery, and sometimes falsely serve as a notification that the targeted victim has already won. A processing fee or “buy-in” for these lotteries is required from the “winner” supposedly for the purchase of “lucky lottery numbers” that would be theirs for a period of 3-12 months. In many cases the appealing offer sounds legitimate to the victim, except they are never paid after sending in their money. Some victims have later told detectives that they were afraid to stop responding to the mailings for fear of learning that the numbers would later become winners.

Another common scam involves an offer to make big profits in exchange for helping to move large sums of money out of a foreign country. This type of scam is commonly known as the “Nigerian Scam” and it has been around for years. The scam is well known to law

Experts believe the Nigerian Scam is still successful because the initial e-mail is polite and normally appears to have been sent by a government official, a business person or a person who has recently suffered through the death of a loved one. A response to the e-mail will oftentimes result in official-looking documents being mailed to the victim which support the premise of the scam. Typically, the purpose of these documents is to convince the victim to send fees in the form of cash or a money order along with bank account information to an address outside of the United States. After the "fees" or funds have been sent the victim is generally notified

I cannot stress strongly enough that you should never respond to an offer like the ones described in this article. In fact, even if you send no money, by simply responding you are almost certain to receive additional mailings. One local victim received more than 120 mailings in a 60-day period after cautiously responding to an e-mail offer of this nature. My best advice is to delete e-mail offers like the ones described and to shred similar offers received through the mail.

If you would like additional information about advanced fee scams or Internet fraud, please contact the Sheriff's Office Economic Crimes Unit at (727) 582-6200.



23 February 2009, Tampa Bay – Mayor Iorio of Tampa and Mayor Baker of St. Petersburg proclaim March 7th, 2009 as Human Rights Walkathon Day. The third annual Human Rights Walkathon will take place in North Straub Park, on the bay shore of St. Petersburg.

Human Rights are the rights that we all have simply because we are human. These rights were set forth and proclaimed in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. These rights include the right to an education, the end of modern day slavery and no racial or religious discrimination in addition to 27 other rights.

“Our purpose is to teach human rights to people of all ages. Through education we can end war, slavery, discrimination and intolerance”, says Linda Drazkowski, Chairman of the Human Rights Walkathon.

The Walkathon partners include Community Tampa Bay, the Tampa Bay Academy of Hope, the Florida

Coalition against Human Trafficking
and Youth for Human Rights.

On March 7th, registration will begin at 9am and the walk around Straub Park begins at 10am. Participants do 1/4 mile laps around the park and can do as many laps as they want in an hour. There will be a prize for the participant who completes the most laps.

Speakers and entertainment follow from 11am to 12 noon. Speakers are Mr. James Evans of the Academy of Hope, Ms. Stacie Blake, Executive Director of Community Tampa Bay, Dr. Mary Shuttleworth, founder of Youth for Human Rights and Mrs. Anna Rodriguez, founder of the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking. There will be entertainment by the Dundu Dole Urban African Ballet and a performance by the Alumni Singers as well as an incredible display of Chinese acrobatics.

People are encouraged to register online to participate in this free event at: www.humanrightswalkathon.org



Side effects: it's a medicated world we live in, and we've learned that there are always side effects associated with medications. One of the side effects you can control is the amount that ends up in Florida's waterways. Pinellas County Utilities reminds citizens that medication, prescription as well as over-the-counter, should never be poured down the drain or flushed in the toilet.

Pinellas County Utilities routinely tests for microbiological and radiological contaminants, inorganic contaminants such as arsenic and other substances in our drinking water, but your help is needed to reduce the level of pharmaceutical waste being introduced into wastewater systems. Wastewater treatment systems, including septic tanks, are not designed to remove pharmaceuticals and research has shown that these substances can harm our aquatic environments. We can reduce that risk by properly disposing of unwanted medications.

- Contact your physician or pharmacy to see if they have a take-back program.
- Packaging—Keep the medication in the original container to help identify the contents if they are accidentally ingested.
- Privacy—Mark out the patient’s name and prescription number.
- Treating—“Treat” pills by adding water or soda to dissolve them. For liquids, add something inedible such as cat litter or dirt.
- Sealing—Close the lid and secure with duct or packing tape. Place the bottle(s) inside an opaque (non-transparent) container such as a coffee can or plastic laundry bottle. Tape that container closed.
- Hiding—Hide the container in the trash. Do not place in a recycle bin.

The proper disposal of medication: it's one of those times in life where we are rewarded for reducing risk. More information can be found online in Pinellas County Utilities' A to Z Guide at: www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/getridofit

WHY DO TEENAGERS REBEL?

by Cheri Hall



"How would you like to be pulled and hauled and ordered about and restrained from doing whatever you wanted to do? You'd resent it. The only reason a child 'doesn't' resent it is because he's small. You'd half murder somebody who treated you, an adult, with the orders, contradiction and disrespect given to the average child. The child doesn't strike back because he isn't big enough. He gets your floor muddy, interrupts your nap, destroys the peace of the home instead. If he had equality with you in the matter of rights, he'd not ask this 'revenge.' This 'revenge' is standard child behavior."

There comes a time in most parents' lives when they run up against a formidable wall called The Teenager. Opposed to anything that might be considered rules, most teens go through a period of utter rebellion. Why?

The usual scenario goes something like this: One is born into a family who has the best intentions for him and his future. However, he didn't come with an Owner's Manual. So his parents usually just go by the example of how they were raised. Yikes.

From an early age, he is carried around from place to place. He can't talk yet, so he's never consulted on whether or not he wants to go to Grandma's house. Everyone is much bigger than he is. And that's a little scary, since he is completely dependent upon these giants! When he finally starts talking, no one really listens. He's "just a kid", after all.

Then he's forced to do a job that no one asked him if he wanted to do (school). This "job" goes on for about 10 years when one day he wakes up and his body is bigger. He can communicate. He has a pretty good idea of who he is. And HE decides that he's going to do what HE wants to do for a change. It's as simple as that. But what would have happened had he been given some choices before he arrived at this point? What would have happened if his willingness had been consulted or his opinion sought? A very different picture, to be sure.

Educator and Humanitarian, L. Ron Hubbard, has this to say about the rearing of children:

How does one handle the child, then? The same way you would treat an adult: with respect, consideration and admiration. It may be hard to break old habits, but it can be done.

Try a few of these techniques at home if your child is being defiant:

1. Apologize. For a time when you treated your child with disrespect or didn't consult their willingness to do something. Take back harsh words. Tell them you were wrong. But you have to mean it.
2. Admire. Find something to admire about your child. Openly do so. And let them know that you love them—no matter what.
3. Adventure. Do something fun together and let your child decide what it will be (not a movie, please, but something with some interaction!).

In this modern-day world filled with electronic stimulation and less human contact, children need more understanding from their parents. With a gentle and caring attitude, even the most robust of rebels will once more become the loving children they indeed are. It may take time. But parents are the most patient people in the world. Give yourself some acknowledgement, too.

Cheri Hall has been an educator for over 30 years and the Executive Director of the Mojave Academy for the past 10 years. Cheri's love of children and dedication to helping them learn is an ongoing source of inspiration to those around her and to many in the educational field.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers on their float
Photo by Ian Phoenix



The Mystic Krewe of the Nautilus tosses beads to the cheering crowd.
Photo by Ian Phoenix

GASPARILLA PIRATE FEST

by Heidi Lux

For many, the Gasparilla Pirate Fest is an excuse to have a party during the middle of the day. Approximately 500,000 people flock to Bayshore Boulevard in South Tampa to watch grown men dress up like pirates and toss plastic beads from brightly-colored floats, all while they indulge in more fun than they could possibly remember.

Even if someone has never been to the annual celebration of Tampa Bay's pirate history, they know it means two things: beads and booze. But what most people don't know about Gasparilla is, it's all done in the name of a good cause. Every "krewe" (organization) involved in the parade, benefits a charity. For example, The Krewe of Shamrock, the Thieves of San Lorenzo and the Krewe of Agustina de Aragon all benefit the Shriner's Children's Hospital.

The Mystic Krewe of the Nautilus is one of Gasparilla's newer krewes, having been around for only five years. The krewe benefits both the Children's Cancer Center and the Florida Aquarium, and holds several events throughout the year to raise money for these causes, all in addition to their participation in the annual Gasparilla parade.

"This is our social time where we get our name and word out," says Minesh Patel, the founder and president of the krewe. Nautilus member Jim Lee keeps the significance of the event in the forefront of his mind. "I like the fact

it's not just doing parade. It combines a lot of interests. It isn't just hey, let's go party. We do something and then our reward is a party."

The Krewe members dress up as submariners, in costumes authentic to the time period, and their float is decorated to look like the Nautilus from 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, complete with a red giant squid squeezing the life out of the vessel. Unlike the Nautilus of fiction, the squid blares the music of Nelly and Jason Mraz at revelers busying themselves with mingling, drinking beers and eating buffet tacos while they wait for the parade to begin.

Throughout the year, the Krewe is involved in three coastal clean-ups and holds their annual "Quest for Hope: The Ultimate Tampa Bay Scavenger Challenge" in May which raises money to provide educational programs at the Aquarium as well as summer camp programs for the Children's Cancer Center. "It's a lot of fun and games," says Tracy Mills, "but it's a big production," adds Matt Cherry. A big production, but a rewarding one.

Gasparilla began in 1904, to commemorate the attack of Spanish pirate Jose Gaspar on the city of Tampa. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, whose name is homage to the area's rich and interesting pirate history, had a float to celebrate this tradition as well.



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Pam Ryan Anderson

ATTENTION: First-Time Home Buyers!

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 authorizes a tax credit of up to \$8,000 for qualified first-time homebuyers that purchase a home between January 1, 2009 and December 1, 2009 and that they will occupy as their main or primary residence.

Even though this tax credit only counts for a primary residence, it may be a single family home such as a townhome, condominium, villa, manufactured home and even houseboats.

A first-time home buyer is defined as anyone that has not owned a home for three years prior to the current purchase of a home. This means that if a married couple would like to qualify for this program, that neither of them could have owned a home for three years.

Depending also on your income, the tax credit is equal to 10% of the purchase price up to a maximum of \$8,000. There are income limitations that apply and can lower or eliminate the tax credit, depending on how much money the buyer makes.

It is very easy to claim the tax credit; you simply claim it on your federal income tax return!

For more information about the tax credit, you can go to this website:

www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com

For more information about how to start the process of buying your home, call me today. I'd love to be able to help you find your new home!

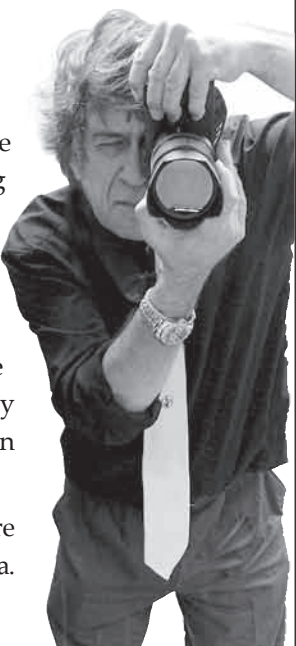
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Simaen Skolfield Staff Photographer

With a passion for the arts, Simaen Skolfield has won the prestigious Grammy Award with his keen ears for capturing the realism of music and sound. In photography, he brings his uncanny skills to the visual world by framing life in its fullest senses. In photographic moments of all kinds; weddings to family, to portraits, Simaen possesses certain, rare abilities with which to capture our private world. As Simaen puts it, "I want to capture the full beauty of every special moment so our lives will be cherished again and again, the world over."

Mr. Skolfield is an independent professional digital-image-capture photographer, 'writing with light', at home here in Clearwater, Florida.

You can contact him at 727-557-6407



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CRISIS BUSTER TIPS

For Business Owners and Sales Professionals

by Patrick Valtin

How to negotiate your way through rough times if your life depends on selling something – Part One

1. DISAGREE

“Honest disagreement is often a good sign of progress.” – Mahatma Gandhi

You will find that people who continue to do well during challenging times are not luckier or stronger or even smarter. They are mostly more persistent and they refuse to lose. In other words, they disagree. The best examples are patients who were affected by some “incurable” cancer and yet recovered – against all medical expectations. The only common denominator that could be found in these people was exactly that: they disagreed with giving up!

You can make your own future and you can win the battles of life to the degree that you have the guts to disagree. So remember this principle: When trouble arises, it is just a test of your ability and willingness to make things go right. Just disagree!

2. IGNORE THE BAD NEWS

“The news media are, for the most part, the bringers of bad news... and it’s not entirely the media’s fault. Bad news gets higher ratings and sells more papers than good news.” – Peter McWilliams, author of “Life 101”

We are being overwhelmed by bad news every day. The merchants of chaos are making money by scaring the hell out of us. Don’t fall into the trap! Bad news brings bad news. One smart way to end the crisis for you is to focus on GOOD news. When was the last time you got some?

Try this: Once a day, Google those exact words, “good news”, and find some. Good news will pump up your morale and thus your willingness to fight. Commit yourself to the following principle (or therapy): “Good news once a day will keep the trouble away!”

3. SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

“To ease another’s heartache is to forget one’s own.” – Abraham Lincoln

You know what your customers are mainly lacking? It is not money...it is confidence in the future. If you want your customers to buy from you now, you must first help them improve their confidence in their ability to make things go right.

So, make this a golden rule: every time you talk to a prospect or a customer, start by giving them some good news on any subject. Get them to recognize you as a source of good news and you will be surprised at the results! And also share good news with everybody who might affect your life. Sharing good news is the next best therapy for staying upbeat and willing to fight!

4. BE YOUR CUSTOMERS’ BEST ADVISOR

“One customer, well taken care of, could be more valuable than \$10,000 worth of advertising.” – Jim Rohn, author of “7 Strategies for Wealth & Happiness”

You have knowledge about your customers’ business that is very valuable. Giving good advice which can help them solve some of their problems will make you stronger and will make your customer even more confident that you are not just interested

in them for their money but you truly and genuinely care for them!

The caring factor is the most important one in selling. Ask yourself what you can do to increase your customers’ confidence and do something about it every day. When you care, you earn the most precious gift you can from a worthy customer: Trust! In difficult times, one must abide more than ever by the following principle: In order to receive one must be willing to give!

5. EXPAND YOUR HORIZON

“When written in Chinese, the word ‘crisis’ is composed of two characters. One represents danger and the other represents opportunity.” – John F. Kennedy

You have an unlimited source of power. Some call it “brain power”. Others call it “inner power”. I call it “creative power.” In times of crisis and economic unrest, most people introvert into their own problems. They tend to forget that challenging times always bring forth the best ideas and technologies. So start putting more attention on opportunities until you create some. Use your “creative power” to discover new solutions to your customers’ problems, to propose new services, to sell new products and/or to sell new ideas to people around you.

Creativity is the ultimate solution to challenges. Think of solutions, whatever you are facing. No one can resolve a problem by being stuck in the problem. Follow this great principle: Get out of the mental box and expand your horizon.

6. INVEST IN THE MOST PROFITABLE ASSET: YOU

“When a person is competent, nothing can shake his pride. The world can yell. But it doesn’t shake him.” – L. Ron Hubbard

Do you want 1,000% return on your investment? Well, invest in yourself. Build yourself up; find a way to be more competent

and more knowledgeable – about your job, your business and even about life! There is no stronger feeling than the feeling of competence. You can’t count on anyone else to help you beat challenging times, but developing more skills will develop your certainty and your confidence.

So many people have wasted their money in “promising” financial investments. They forgot that the only guaranteed investment they can ever make is in themselves. You can’t lose by increasing your ability to do what you are doing for a living. Rough times offer the best opportunity to augment your qualifications and become stronger. Your customers will always appreciate your expertise in some field that can help them. This principle will be your best ally!

Mr. Patrick V. Valtin is an international sales & Marketing consultant. He has traveled to more than 30 countries over the last 22 years and has trained more than 75,000 people in the areas of Sales, Marketing, Human Resources Development, Organization and Leadership. His customers and seminar attendees have come from all industries – from growing businesses to multinational corporations. He is the founder of U-Man Belgium, the biggest consulting company in Europe specialized in the Hubbard Management Technology™.



He is also the founder of M2-TEC USA, INC. – a Management Consulting & Training Company established in Clearwater, Florida. He recently created CrisisBuster.com, an organization dedicated to help professionals of all fields grow stronger in the current economic crisis.

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SLOW COOKIN’... THAT’S THE TICKET

by Heidi Lux



Jill and Ajay Gutterman in front of their new restaurant.
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

“His BBQ. It’s that good” is Jill Gutterman’s immediate response when asked why she and husband Ajay decided to open up their restaurant “Smokin’ Out”. “We found that we had a good product and we wanted to give it a shot,” adds Ajay, humbly. “We were tired of working for other people. It was kind of a shot in the dark and it worked.”

Since their grand opening in December, business has been going well for them. “Lunches are really good,” says Jill. “Lunches are usually full. We fill up the place” adds Ajay. “Our lunch special is the pork sandwich or the chicken sandwich. It’s a sandwich, chips and a drink for \$5.49. We offer that through the week. It’s cheap, it’s inexpensive, and it’s fast, friendly service.” Their goal is to get you in and out at lunch while giving you a good meal.

“We’re very happy with [the location].” Smokin’ Out is on Ft. Harrison, across the street from

the Courthouse. “We know it’s going to be a little tough getting started just like any other business, but once you get established you get the clientele coming in, it’ll take us up hill from there.” The Ft. Harrison location is the couple’s second Smokin’ Out. The original restaurant in Holiday is now run by new management, but still offers the same quality product.

“The pulled pork and the ribs are the biggest sellers for us. Those are our specialty,” says Jill. “We do barbeque. We do a grouper sandwich and we do Black Angus cheeseburgers. We also smoke fish and we make our own beef jerky. We make fish spread. We’ve got quite a line-up of products here.”

“We don’t sauce the meat. It’s all cooked slow over oak. Very tender, very moist,” adds Ajay, who gets up at 4 in the morning to start the barbeque. “Barbeque so good you won’t want sauce. That’s our motto. It’s usually a good sign if good barbeque doesn’t need a lot of sauce on it.”

And what makes it so good? Ajay says, “Slow cooking. That’s the ticket. You can’t speed it up, you can’t rush it. It’s got to come. Slow procedure, low temperature, over wood. That’s been the key to our good barbeque.” “And the rest is a secret,” adds Jill.

So stop on by and dine with Jill and Ajay, and tell them the Tampa Bay Informer sent you.

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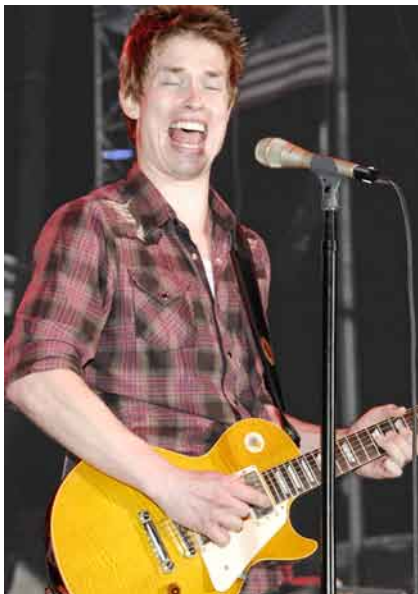
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Lil' Ed
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Jonny Lang
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

Got Blues?

by Heidi Lux

Continued from front page

Neal, Marcia Cross and Elvin Bishop.

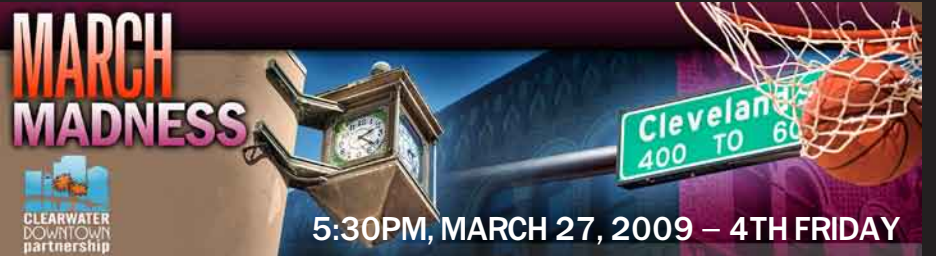
Bryan Morris, the drummer for Elvin Bishop, loves getting to play at festivals like this. "Oh man. It's the best", he said. "When you get out there and see all the fans, that's what makes you feel good." But of course, the blues is in his blood. His father was a

blues musician who played for Ray Charles.

The Sea Blues Festival unveiled the new baseball-themed art banners hanging in Downtown Clearwater in addition to welcoming the Phillies to Clearwater for their 63rd spring training in this town. The banners, which can be seen on Cleveland Street, feature 7 designs from 6 artists and will be up during spring training.



Blues fans at Coachman Park
Photo by Simaen Skolfield



The Clearwater Downtown Partnership is proud to announce its first of many 4th Friday concert events on Cleveland Street. Mark your calendars for Friday, March 27th.

We are closing down Cleveland Street in the 600 Block and will provide you with a premier entertainment, art, food, wine and beer extravaganza. (The entertainment act is going to be big... stay tuned – you will be blown away!) Come downtown, join in the fun and see

your friends and neighbors celebrating the rebirth of downtown as Ruth Eckerd Hall presents its inaugural show at the Capitol Theater.

March Madness enthusiasts can enjoy big screen TV's on Cleveland so they won't miss any of the third round action. Watch our website, www.clwdp.org for upcoming announcements about this event. Thanks for your continued support in making downtown Clearwater, Tampa Bay's New Destination.



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Join the Iron Girl Team for the sixth annual Aflac Iron Girl 10K and 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, April 4, 2009. The longest-standing event in the Aflac Iron Girl National Women's Event Series leads participants along a waterfront course in Clearwater, FL, one of the world's top beach destinations. A challenging, yet fun and scenic course, this event is perfect for seasoned and first-time athletes alike.

The Aflac Iron Girl Series offers a memorable race experience unlike any other. With a mission of empowering women toward a healthy lifestyle, Iron Girl provides you with the tools and support you need to accomplish your goals.

Whether this will be your first event or one of many on your calendar, the goal is the same — to reach the finish line! Regardless of if you are celebrating a first place finish or are our last participant to complete the event, Aflac Iron Girl events create a community to help you enjoy the journey, from start to finish.

The Aflac Iron Girl Clearwater 10K and 5K Run/Walk experience provides women with a competitive platform and amenities such as:

- Personalized race bibs (featuring each participant's first name)
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- A Mother/Daughter Category

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- Aflac Iron Girl plush duck
- Post-race giveaways
- Reusable athlete goodie bags, part of Iron Girl's "Green" initiative

Fundraising efforts will benefit the world's largest pediatric cancer research network, the Children's Oncology Group.

Register today at www.IronGirl.com.



There was a large turnout at the park's opening.
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

FOUNTAIN IN THE PARK

Station Square Park Opens in Downtown Clearwater

By Heidi Lux

DOWNTOWN CLEARWATER

Throughout history, fountains have served to fulfill both the practical and aesthetic needs of society. Public fountains were a social gathering point for people while they also collected water for drinking or bathing. Today, in many great cities, fountains still symbolize artistic and social ideas. It is therefore only fitting that part of the City of Clearwater's Revitalization Project included an invigorating fountain as the entrance point to Station Square Park.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony of the recently completed Station Square Park on Cleveland Street honors more than just the park's opening. It signifies the end of the downtown streetscape plan and the beginning of new life in downtown. "It is a project we can all be proud of," says George Tsitaki, the Project Manager for Station Square.

At 10am on February 26th, Vice-Mayor George Cretekos announced to a group of eager citizens, "This is going to be our park." The park will draw people to downtown, where citizens can meet up with each other, have lunch or relax and enjoy

Clearwater's year-round nice weather. Station Square Park is located next to the Station Square Condominiums, another new development providing the downtown businesses with opportunity for growth. The park is distinguished by an elegant fountain out front and stately black gates demarcating the park property. Inside those gates is mounted a grand black clock and picnic tables with attractive green umbrellas.

The downtown Clearwater streetscape plan is just one phase of the City of Clearwater's effort to provide an environment where private business can grow and thrive. Vice-Mayor Cretekos stresses the importance of making sure the city is people-friendly and somewhere Clearwater residents and visitors feel safe and secure. The next phase of the revitalization of Clearwater will extend beyond the East Gateway.



Vice-mayor George Cretekos was present at the ribbon cutting.
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

Apparently, the city's efforts downtown are paying off; immediately after the opening, the portion of the crowd who did not stop to enjoy coffee and doughnuts compliments of Dunkin Donuts, crossed the street for the grand re-opening of Peter Gillham's Nutrition Center, another vital local business that will surely benefit from Downtown Clearwater's recently finished makeover.

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Emmy Award winner Armand Assante
Photo by Simaen Skolfield



The event was packed full of actors, filmmakers, VIPs and movie lovers
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

CUPCAKES, RED CARPET AND ARMAND ASSANTE

What More Could a Girl Want?

by Heidi Lux

TAMPA

For ten days, The Gasparilla Film Festival turned Tampa into Hollywood, with all those film types hanging around. For a second it felt as if the Superbowl was back in town; having the nervous feeling that you'll turn around and bump into Matt Dillon.

Emmy Award winner Armand Assante was honored at the festival with the Career Achievement Award, and was a very pleasant gentleman. We sat down for an interview and ended up chatting endlessly about our acting training and techniques. His advice for young actors was, "If you chose to act, act, and don't look back."

In a full-length dress reminiscent of a cloud, Gasparilla Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Terry Moore floated by. In her 80s, she still managed to radiate that vintage sophistication and beauty. She had been married to Howard Hughes, and I wanted to go up to her and verify a few Old Hollywood rumors, but I was whisked off to another interview.

I ran into fellow "Tischie" (an NYU alum), Todd Weisman, and we gossiped about a professor we had both learned so much from, but not before I congratulated him on getting his film "Improv Island" into the festival. It's a documentary about Cubans able to improvise in the face of the US embargo.

Tracie Donahue, housewife turned documentary filmmaker, was motivated to create her flick "Secrets to Love" when her own marriage turned sour. She said to herself, "I didn't do it right, but knew one really can have a fabulous marriage, and it really can be great." I was inspired at how she managed to take a negative and turn it into a positive.

Even the barista at the coffee shop outside the Tampa Theatre was in "the industry." I was waiting for my latte when I started chatting with Stu McLaughlin. The film that he made with buddy Gabriel Gomez, "Todo Sigue Igual", was in the festival, but he wasn't. Literally able to see the theatre from the window, Stu had to make mochas while being taunted by the sight of shiny limos arriving. "You know, its fine. I have my lanyard," he said, conceding that even though he missed opening night, he'd

at least be able to make his screening at Channelside.

I slipped my pinching heels off in the car, stuffed from the cupcake! Cupcake treats and a night of red carpets and glamour. Then I wondered, "Why does the Gasparilla Film Festival have to come but once a year?" I sighed; at least there's the Sunscreen Film Festival in April to hold me over.

About the Gasparilla International Film Festival: The Gasparilla International Film Festival, one of Florida's largest independent film festivals, is operated by the Tampa Film Institute, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to advancing film education and community involvement in film in the Tampa Bay area. The film festival made its debut in 2007 and has become one of Tampa Bay's most anticipated film events, hosting close to 10,000 participants. The event attracts a variety of film and media-related professionals in addition to film lovers looking to network and learn more about film.

To learn more about the festival, please visit www.gasparillafilmfestival.com or call 813-514-9962.



The red carpet at the historic Tampa Theatre
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

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ECO-FRIENDLY “ADORNABLE” BOUTIQUE

by Heidi Lux

Nestled in a cozy shop on Laura Street, just next door to Intuition Salon and Spa, lies the WareHaus Boutique. It is positively one of the most “adornable” new boutiques to crop up recently in Downtown Clearwater. Offering “treasured objects and wearable art”, the store specializes in unique vintage pieces and locally-designed clothing, jewelry, handbags and scarves. Browsing the store one is sure to find one-of-a-kind pieces, hand made with care.

WareHaus Boutique was founded by Renee Cornish and Geri Aranjo in November of 2008, as a place for local artists and designers to display and sell their wares. “My purpose behind it was to provide a real artists’ outlet. There are so many artists and fashion designers around and we know it’s hard to really get out there and have that first step up,” says Renee.

Both Renee and Geri design jewelry themselves, and Renee designs clothes that are also sold in the boutique. Local designers found at WareHaus Boutique include La Samara Studios, K Style Studios, Pinki B Handbags

and Gimena Holstein. Artist Deborah Murray has some of her paintings hanging on the wall for sale, and she even painted the colorful floors of the shop.

Both Geri and Renee see the importance of providing environmentally-friendly products. “We’re both big into eco-friendly things, so we’ll have merchandise like the totes, which are popular for grocery shopping,” says Renee. “We really want to provide aesthetics and also be nice to our little planet.” All of their packaging is recycled, and a lot of their designers use recycled materials. The store provides complimentary gift wrapping and in keeping within the environmentally-friendly theme, the ladies add dried flowers to spruce up the packages.

The store also holds regular trunk shows and “meet the artist” events. Future events and some of the WareHaus Boutique’s original designs can be found on their website at www.WareHausBoutique.com.

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Lunchtime Pilates	Wednesday	12:00 pm-1:00 pm	\$7/class
Jazzercise	Monday-Thursday and Saturday	5:45 pm-6:45 pm 8:30 am-9:30 am	\$32/month
Yoga	Thursday	7:30 pm-9:00 pm	\$4/class

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Digital Photography classes will begin March 9th at Belleair Recreation Center, 918 Osceola Rd. Belleair, FL. Participants will learn the basics of digital photography and learn how to take better pictures and email images.

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This advertisement is distributed as part of the American Lung Association’s *Faces of Influenza* educational initiative. For more information, please visit www.facesofinfluenza.org.

Kristi Yamaguchi, mother, Olympic Gold Medalist and most recent winner of “Dancing with the Stars”

Pari Miller, mother of Grace, who lives with a rare genetic disorder making her susceptible to respiratory infections

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30 Years of Dedication to Downtown Clearwater
by Bo Walker



Clearwater's City Councilmen and Chamber of Commerce staff cut ribbon with store manager. (left to right) George Mesmer, Doug Linder, George Cretekos, Shelley Jaffe, Paul Gibson, John Doran, Kathleen Peters and Chuck Warrington (of Clearwater Gas) Photo by Ian Phoenix

CLEARWATER

Thirty years ago, Peter Gillham opened up his first nutrition center in downtown Clearwater in the old Gray Moss Inn. Downtown has gone through many changes since that time and so has Peter Gillham's store. The location might have changed (alas, the Gray Moss is no more) but the same dedication to the community persists yet today. Recently, the company held a Grand Opening for the newly-created PG's Café which brings an Organic Juice Bar to the downtown area for the first time.

The hottest new place to go in downtown is PG's Café! This natural and organic juice bar features freshly-made juices and smoothies with only top quality organic ingredients. There are also build-it-yourself salads where customers can take advantage of organic produce and toppings to make the healthy yet tasteful meal of their choice. I am told that the homemade dressings are completely yummy.

And no matter your preference in coffee (regular, decaf or flavored) they are brewed – fresh, hot and of course, organic! Ever had an Italian Soda or a New York Egg Cream? You can partake of these freshly made drinks in PG's Café, too!

Under the direction of store manager Shelley Jaffe, Peter Gillham's Nutrition Center has undergone a major transformation and renovation to make it more customer-friendly and accessible. Customers are raving about how light and welcoming the shop is as well as the friendly and courteous service.

In addition to the complete line of Gillham's Natural Vitality line of supplements, there are products from a variety of

other suppliers ranging from vitamins to foods and sundries. A fresh selection of organic produce is also for sale. Any products that are carried in the store go through a rigorous selective process for quality and origin, according to Ms. Jaffe.

For example, the coffee is not only organic but "fairly-traded", meaning that the growers are paid higher than fair trade and are inspected to make sure they are paying their employees a fair wage. The company will spend upwards of \$800,000 a year on community services for the workers and the farms. This all aligns with the philosophy of the store: to provide customers with the best quality products that are also ethically made.

Not only are the products that are sold at Peter Gillham's natural and organic, even the bags that are used are biodegradable. They are made of corn, not plastic, so they can fully break down and not pollute the environment.

Art from local artists adorn the walls and soon musicians and poets will perform their respective arts in the café area.

Whether you want a healthy lunch or a quick pick-me-up, PG's Café is the place to go. And while you are there you can choose from a complete selection of natural vitamins and supplements for a healthier you.



Vice-Mayor George Cretekos buys organic coffee while store manager Shelley describes the eco-friendly bags used. Photo by Ian Phoenix

Calling All Poets

Artists in Action International is now accepting submissions for the Little Book of Cleveland Street Poetry Volume II. Volume II will be released at the 2nd annual downtown Clearwater Poetry Walk, which will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009.

Guidelines:

1. Poems must relate to Cleveland Street, downtown Clearwater past or present, or life on the Florida Gulf Coast.
2. Poem length limit is 36 lines (not including title line).
3. Deadline for submissions is March 15, 2009.
4. Include name, address, phone and/or email address, permission to publish, and a brief bio.

Email your poems to alan@tenwildhorses.com

Payment for publication is two complimentary copies.

For more information, contact Alan Graham at alan@tenwildhorses.com

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