‘Micro-Mobility’: The Future is Now
By Laura Mulrooney

From left, Freebee Director of Economic Development John Janusz (inside car), Freebee co-founder Jason Spiegl, The Don CeSar’s Director of Sales and Marketing Todd Gehrke, St. Pete Beach Mayor Al Johnson, Freebee driver Richard Kitson, and Freebee Operation Manager Christopher Walker welcome the micro-mobility partnership shuttle service Freebee on the Beach, St. Pete Beach Edition. St. Pete Beach revealed their “fun, free, and on-demand” two electric-vehicle fleet Thursday afternoon, January 23.

Beth-El Art Festival at 47 Years and Counting
By Laura Mulrooney

Eva Avenue, Gainesville, stands in front of a self-portrait by St. Petersburg artist Carrie Kilgore. “I like that she has so playfully and with some restraint and with well-placed pieces of all of the elements made this visual rich with meaning,” Avenue explained. “She does portraits, she does other people, but I find it extra interesting to look at a self-portrait. I think any artist that does a self-portrait puts a little extra magic into it.”

This past weekend, January 25 through 27, Art Festival Beth-El hosted their 47th annual invitational, judged, indoor and outdoor exhibit and sales of original artwork from artists all over the country at 400 Pasadena Ave S.
Best Seat in the House Chair-ity Auction

The Second Annual "Best Seat in the House Chair-ity Auction, with a View," a fundraising auction benefiting the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation, happens Saturday, March 21 on the stage at the Village Courtyard in Gulfport. Ten amazing local artists are putting their one-of-a-kind spins on 10 Adirondack chairs, to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. And this year, they’ve added six additional artists who are transforming six vintage windows into beautiful works of art that will be auctioned along with the chairs.

The chairs and windows will be on display at the Third Saturday Artwalk on February 15, the First Friday Artwalk on March 6 and at Scout Hall during the Flamingo Tour of Homes on March 7. The windows will then be on display at the Gulfport Public Library, and the chairs on display at Gulfport businesses, from March 8 through 21.

Phillip Bailey will be making a return as the auctioneer, and to kick off the excitement, DJ Daniel Hodge will be playing music at 5 p.m.

Meet ReadOut Featured Authors

Gulfport Public Library will host a wine and cheese meet and greet event with the 22 authors who will be participating in ReadOut on Friday, January 31 at 7 p.m. There will be author introductions, a preview of the Nia and Ness performance at the Hickman on Saturday Night February 1, and Sheree Greer, keynote speaker and workshop leader will also introduce herself, so come out and give them a warm Gulfport welcome.

You can also join the authors for Saturday night dinner, a no-host buffet event at Peninsula Inn. Pre-registration for Saturday night dinner is required. Go to GulfportReadOut2020@bpt.me for a complete schedule and to register.

St. Vincent's Church Spring Craft Fair

St. Vincent’s Episcopal Church will host their Spring Craft Fair on Saturday, March 7, from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m. at their Parish Hall at 5441 9th Ave. N.

Their talented crafters will be offering a variety of jewelry, paintings, cards and more. And surprises too! Lunch and snacks will be available for purchase.

Game Night at the Senior Center

Come out to the Senior Center and join the fun every second Monday of the month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Join an evening of games, food, prizes and fun! Bring your favorite game and some friends or show up, learn how to play a new game and make new friends! Sponsored by UHC.

Must be a registered Gulfport Senior Center member. For more information call 727-893-5657.

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Tech Time at Gulfport Library

Need a little help with your laptop, smart phone or tablet? Make an appointment to see a reference librarian for a 30-minute session of individualized tech instruction Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. They’ll help you started on the basics of using the internet, email, word processing and social media. Call 727-893-1073 to sign up.

Sacred Lands Music and a Meal Night

Sacred Lands monthly “Music and a Meal Night” will be the third Friday, February 21. You can enjoy live music at one of the most unique scenic and historical sites in our county. Sacred Lands is a waterfront botanical garden with live peacocks. Come enjoy food and live music in the air conditioned greenhouse building. Their featured artist will be folk troubadour Doug Spears, who will perform at 7:30 p.m. There is a $15 admission. A healthy homemade meal is available for purchase separately for $8. Gates open at 7 p.m.

For directions and parking info call 727-367-3592 or 727-347-0354. For more information about Sacred Lands’ other events and tours check sacredlandspresrvationandeducation.com.

Polish American Club Donut Dance

The St. Petersburg Polish American Club presents its second annual Paczki-Polish Donut Dance on Sunday, February 23, at the club at 1343 Beach Dr. S.E.

A Polish platter dinner will be served from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at a cost of $10. Dancing to the music of the Polka Generations Band will be from 3 to 6 p.m. on their large wooden dance floor.

Admission is $8 in advance and $10 at the door and everyone receives a Polish doughnut.

You can purchase presale tickets at the club or by sending a check and picking the tickets up at the door. For more information contact Ken Jakubowski at 727-360-4939 or kmjak@verizon.net.

Fraud Prevention Forum at Hickman Theater

The U.S. Attorney’s Office and the City of Gulfport would like to invite the community to attend a Fraud Prevention Forum on Wednesday, February 5 at 2 p.m., at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Ave. S.

This course is a collaborative speaker series featuring the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Gulfport Police Department, IRS Criminal Investigation and FBI. It is designed to inform community of concerns of fraud and scam prevention.

Limited seating is available, please RSVP at usaofmstraining.org/reventionForum. For questions or more information, please contact Joseph Smith, Community Outreach Specialist, U.S. Attorney’s Office at 813-301-3061 or Joseph.Smith4@usdoj.gov.
Dog Park Closing for Maintenance

The City of Gulfport Dog Park will be closed starting Monday, February 3 and scheduled to re-open Monday, February 17. During this time the Parks Department will be re-sodding.

For questions, please contact Parks and Facilities Superintendent Tim Connor at 727-893-1092.

Gulfport Library Grown-Up Movie Series

Gulfport Public Library Grown-Up Film Series is intended to allow adults to enjoy more challenging and complex films in a quiet atmosphere (so they request that no children attend).

On Saturday, February 8 at 1 p.m., they will show a thrilling horror movie in which a new bride spends her wedding night running for her life after her new in-laws insist she play a terrifying game. Stars Samara Weaving, Adam Brody, Andie McDowell and John Ralston. It is rated R.

If anyone has any questions about this title or titles for upcoming months, please contact the library at 727-893-1074.

Come Have Coffee with a Gulfport Cop

Come visit Jax In & Out Neighborhood Cafe while smelling fresh brewed coffee along with casual conversation. This event is hosted by Community Resource Officer Zack Mills. The chat and coffee will occur on Saturday, February 8 from 10 a.m. to noon at 4928 Gulfport Blvd. S. As always during Coffee with a Cop, there is plenty of socializing and meeting old and new friends.

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Gulf Beaches Historical Museum

Built in 1917, the museum was the first church on the Barrier Islands, becoming the museum in 1993.

Come visit this unique museum and learn the legacy of the islands colorful heritage. View post cards from years past, hundreds of photos showing the growth progression of the beach communities, memorabilia of two island schools, church artifacts, and much more!

FREE ADMISSION • ACCESSIBLE
Voter Registration Drive at Senior Center

The Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections will be available at the Gulfport Senior Center, 5501 27th Ave. S., on Friday, February 4 from 10 a.m. till noon. For more information, call 727-464-8683 or VotePinellas.com

Register Now for Gulfport ReadOut!

Twenty-three authors from around the country will descend on Gulfport the weekend of January 31 to February 2 for Gulfport ReadOut 2020: A Festival of Lesbian Literature. The weekend is packed with events which include multiple panels of author readings, a keynote speech and writer’s workshop with Sheree Greer, a wine and cheese Meet-and-Greet, panel discussions and entertainment with renowned performance duo Nia & Ness.

ReadOut will once again kick off with an afternoon of romance authors reading from their works. This year’s group include award-winning author Erin Zak (a Tampa bay local) along with Becky Harmon, Riley Scott, Maggie Robbins, Lynn Carr, Erin Ellen Levy and Tina Michelle. Afternoon tea will also be provided to all attendees.

Tickets to see Nia & Ness are available at the Beach Bazaar or at niaandness.brownpapertickets.com.

All events take place at the Gulfport Public Library (apart from Saturday night entertainment at the Hickman Theater). Register and check out the full schedule at gulfportreadout2020.brownpapertickets.com.

Registration for the free events is not required but is helpful for planning and catering purposes (a generous grant from the Florida Humanities Council will enable organizers to provide free food at several of the events).

There will be a writing workshop titled “You Are the Protagonist. Using Your Experiences to Create Compelling Fiction and Nonfiction” led by Dr. Sheree Greer at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 2. Thanks to a grant from the Florida Humanities the workshop is free. Please register at gulfportreadout@gmail.com.

Preview the Pink Flamingo Tour Homes

Catch a sneak peek of and learn the history of the houses to be featured during the upcoming 15th Annual Flamingo Tour of Homes. The Gulfport Historical Society will present this information at their monthly porch party on Friday, February 21 at the Gulfport History Museum, 5801 28th Ave. S. Museum doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation starts at 7 p.m. Well-behaved children and pets are welcome to attend. BYOB; society members have exclusive access to wine and beer.

The porch party will feature a presentation about several historic homes on the tour. The Gulfport Merchants Chamber, the Pink Flamingo Home Tour sponsor, will sell tickets before and after the presentation.

For further information, and to register for the porch party preview, visit gulfporthistoricalociety.org. Registration is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. Community members with homes on this year’s tour are especially encouraged to attend.

Historical research on the Flamingo Tour homes was conducted by volunteers John Avery, Lynn Taylor and Melissa Zoda.

Pass-a-Grille Shuffleboard Club

The Pass-a-Grille Shuffleboard Club seeks players. No experience necessary. They play January through March on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Call 727-460-6317 or 727 367-6937 for more information.
Take the Gabber on Vacation...

Send a picture of you and your Gabber on vacation, with a brief description and your name, to News@theGabber.com.

Town Shores residents Frank Bonnevie, Margie Schulman, Tom and Martha D’Angelo in Cozumel last fall. “The Gabber, the first thing to pack for any vacation!”

Pre-School Storytime Moves to Tuesdays

Through April 28, the Gulfport Library’s preschool storytime will be held on Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. Join them for stories, songs, movement, making new friends and a craft! Open to 3- to 5-year-olds and a caregiver. For more information 727-893-1074 or email library.programs@mygulfport.us

Pancake Breakfast at PAG Church

The Men’s Ministry of Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church will host the Dave Cramer Memorial Pre-Lenten Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 22 from 8 to 10 a.m. The very popular “all-you-can-eat menu” consists of pancakes, sausage, orange juice, fruit and coffee and tea. The centuries-old tradition of eating pancakes and like meals has its roots in the need to eliminate perishable such as eggs and milk from the family larder prior to the beginning of Lent.

Tickets are $6 per person and can be purchased at the door or prior to the breakfast at the church office. The church is located at 107 16th Ave., St. Pete Beach.

For information on this and other church activities, please call the church office at 727-360-5508 or visitpagchurch.org

A New Year at Sophie’s Attic

Happy New Year from Sophie’s Attic! They’re starting off the new year with a whole new batch of freshly laundered clothing. People are moving and housecleaning and that means tons of new items in the shop. Lots of nice new (to you) clothing available. They also have three racks of half-price clothing. And they haven’t forgotten the men. There’s a rack just for you.

Sophie’s Attic is a mission outreach of First United Methodist Church of Gulfport. You will find them on 53rd St. near 28th Ave. S. They are open Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. till noon. They’ll be waiting for you.
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Thomas Mixa, MD, Orthopedic Surgeon
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Thomas Prebish, DO, General Surgeon
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 • 12:00 Noon
Join our General Surgeon and Wound Care Specialist, Dr. Thomas Prebish, for an interesting and interactive discussion regarding problematic wounds. Attend this seminar and ask the doctor all your questions about wounds!

Palms of Pasadena’s Heart Failure Clinic
Heather Harpe, APRN-C, Outpatient Heart Failure Clinic at Palms of Pasadena Hospital
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 • 12:00 Noon
The Outpatient Heart Failure Clinic at Palms of Pasadena Hospital assists in the immediate care provided to heart failure patients. The goal of the clinic is to help bridge the gap between hospital discharge and the patient being seen for a follow-up appointment with their primary care physician or cardiologist. Join Heather Harpe, Board-Certified Nurse Practitioner, to learn more about the clinic.

Palms of Pasadena Hospital, Professional Building, Boca Ciega Room 1609 Pasadena Ave. South, St. Petersburg

Call 1-855-245-8328 for an appointment or reservations. Space is limited so please reserve early. For a physician referral please call 1-855-245-8328.

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Gulfport Peace, Love & Pride 2020

Come out to the Gulfport Casino and Beach on Sunday, February 16, from noon until sundown, to see many of your favorite Tampa Bay acts on the same stage for the Gulfport Peace, Love & Pride Festival 2020.

Great live music, vendors and the beach. What else do you need for a fabulous pride celebration? Only a handful of spaces are left for last-minute registration for vendors and sponsors. Pricing is available for profit and non-profit businesses. This year’s festival is a benefit for ProjectFREE.

The main sponsor for the festival is ProSisters Radio, along with the City of Gulfport. Other generous sponsors that have signed on include Compassionate Care Clinics and the Gabber. Metro Inclusive Health will offer free rapid HIV and Hep C testing, and prevention education resources, at its mobile testing center at the event.

There will be a cash bar inside and other refreshments outside near the stage. Attendees will have an opportunity to shop for pride merchandise for themselves and their fur babies. Many of Tampa Bay’s top non-profit groups will also be on hand to educate attendees about their services.

Starting off the event at noon will be a walk-on performance by the infamous Gulfport Gecko Amalgamated Marching Band and a powerful lineup of guest speakers. Gulfport’s own Solar Flair rock band will kick off this fantastic live music lineup.

The lineup will be showcasing some of Gulfport’s local favorites: the Gulfport Troubadours with Mike Thomas and special appearances from Ron Clausnitzer and Jay Kiernan (Art House Goons); award-winning singer-songwriter Colleen Clark and Bluesmama Lynn DiVenuti.

The festival music lineup will wind up with powerhouse headliner Tony da band Rock & Soul Revival featuring, the soulful songbird, Julie Van Loan-Bivetto.

For information or to volunteer, call festival headquarters at 727-289-9365.

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GEMS Getaways in February

On Tuesday, February 4, GEMs will visit Pinellas County South Cross Water Reclamation Facility: This tour and presentation will emphasize the importance of resource recovery from wastewater, describing the facility as a “factory” that produces reclaimed water, fertilizer and energy. Afterwards, they will stop by BJ’s Brewhouse for lunch. $6 for GEMS members/$10 for non-GEMS members. Price include round-trip transportation. Meals are paid for separately.

On Thursday, February 13, they will visit the International Independent Showmen’s Museum. Learn the history of traveling carnivals, circuses, fairs and see this great collection of carny memorabilia and antique rides. Lunch will be at AJ’s on the River. $25 for GEMS members/$30 for non-GEMS Members. Price includes round-trip transportation, parking, and admission. Meals are paid for separately.

On Thursday, February 20, the Out to Lunch Bunch will head to Café Cibo. Café Cibo delivers an experience in classic Italian dishes and dining. There is something refreshing about this Italian neighborhood joint, come find out for yourself. $4 for GEMS members/$8 for non-GEMS member. Price includes round-trip transportation. Meals are paid for separately.

On Tuesday, February 25, they will visit Pinellas County South Cross Water Reclamation Facility: This tour and presentation will emphasize the importance of resource recovery from wastewater, describing the facility as a “factory” that produces reclaimed water, fertilizer and energy. Afterwards, they will stop by BJ’s Brewhouse for lunch. $6 for GEMS members/$10 for non-GEMS members. Price include round-trip transportation. Meals are paid for separately.

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5412 Central Avenue
327-8855
Freebee, from front page

Early Thursday afternoon, January 23, St. Pete Beach held their official reveal of a two-electric-vehicle fleet of a “fun, free, and on-demand” shuttle service, called “Freebee on the Beach.”

Freebee on the Beach is St. Pete Beach’s leap into the world of “micro-mobility.” According to the American Library Association, “micro-mobility is a broad term for a growing category of transportation vehicles that provide an alternative to traditional transportation (cars, trains, buses) in cities and communities.”

Freebee on the Beach has been fine-tuning their business model over the last eight years, launching in Miami’s South Beach back in 2012, explained Freebee’s Director of Economic Development John Janusz. They currently have 90 vehicles under their title, all electric, but customized for the area they service.

The service initially launched on St. Pete Beach on December 16. Since then daily ridership has increased from 30 passengers to over 100 daily riders.

Residents seem to enjoy the service, according to Chris Core, Pass-a-Grille resident. “Well, not just I, but everybody I know in Pass-a-Grille loves Freebee. It’s better service, it’s friendly, it’s fun and it doesn’t pollute. It’s a quiet form of transportation that gives us better service than what we had with the big busses at a cheaper cost,” said Core. “It’s a lot more of the spirit of the area. They make me smile every time I look at them.”

According to Core, the buses provided prior to Freebee by Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) were underutilized and a nuisance to the streets and environment of St. Pete Beach.

“They were so loud and then would just sit and idle by the water for long periods of time because they didn’t have any riders,” said Core. “Those large buses damaged the roads the city spent so much money to repair and were a safety hazard to bicyclists too.”

As of December 16, 2019, PSTA busses no longer travel south of The Don CeSar hotel at the entrance to Pass-a-Grille.

St. Pete Beach’s Freebee vehicles resemble 6- to 10-passenger golf carts. One is ADA accessible. To utilize this service, patrons need to download the Freebee application onto their cellular phones. The app has a beehive-type design and is easily navigable.

The “fun, free, and on-demand” shuttle service runs within pre-designated boundaries of St. Pete Beach and takes its customers door-to-door, Monday to Sunday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The service is 100% funded by marketing campaigns and drivers are strictly encouraged to decline gratuities. If ADA assistance is required, patrons are encouraged to contact the driver via the telephone number provided in the app.

More information can be found at ridefreebee.com or via the “Freebee” app.

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**Music at Gulfport Beach Pavilion #6**

**Monday, 1 to 4 p.m.**
Music Lovers Karaoke with Mary Phillips

**Tuesdays, 1 to 3:30 p.m.**
Karaoke with Melody Tunes with Len and Arlene
The Magiktones Band with Karen and Tom

**Wednesday, 1 to 3:30 p.m.**
Karaoke with Mike Furman

**Thursday, 1 to 3 p.m.**
Rick Davis Live

**Friday, 1 to 3:30 p.m.**
(1st & 3rd)
Bruce Daniels - Jazz Flute (2nd & 4th)
Dancing and Listening with Geno and Harry

**Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m.**
(1st & 3rd)
Maliblues Duo (2nd & 4th)
Mark’s Beach Party

**Sunday, 1 to 3:30 p.m.**
Accordionsist Bill

*All activities are weather permitting.
Call 727-893-1068 for more information.*
Midwinter Message and Special Invitation from the Gulfport Food Forest

By Crea Egan, Gulfport Non-Profit Eat Be Grow

On the wheel of time that measures and divides our year into seasons, this coming Sunday, February 2 will be the midway point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. That means the sun’s power is felt in the longer days and the warmth that causes seeds to germinate and sprout. And so the earliest beginnings of spring occur!

Another sign of spring is the red breasted robin. Last year, in our food forest, I was tickled pink to discover not only robins but a group of three thrush hopping from low branches to the ground searching for insects. They are the truest first song birds of spring. I shed tears of joy for our baby food forest when I discovered they appear only in forests that have a mature under story. As a mother of the food forest I felt a true sense of relief that we made it and the birds were letting us know they approved!

What this time of year could mean for Gulfport gardeners is lots, yet it can be as simple as beginning to plant warm season crops like beans, pigeon peas, peppers and squash. I personally see this time as the stirring and quickening of the seeds, I make a seed inventory and and broadcast old seeds into an area of the forest I call the mystery garden, come what may.

In the Gulfport Food Forest in the Clymer Park Greenway, our midwinter plant allies are Spanish needles, broad leaf mustard green, loquat leaf, elderberry flower and rosemary. Stay tuned as our food forest herbalist Jeannette Hess and renowned teacher Bob Linde tell us more about plant medicine this year.

Other midwinter news is that 2020 marks the sixth year I have anonymously created a temporary walking scale labyrinth, usually made out of Spanish moss and pine straw in the southernmost block of the Gulfport Food Forest. I find making and walking the labyrinth to be a powerful and traditional way to honor the coming of spring and put my new year’s vision intentionally into gear. As an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness and the womb of creation with its imagery of the circle combined with a spiral forming a meandering but purposeful path, there is no way to get lost – only one way in and one way out, as is with life. I find this to be encouraging. The labyrinth represents a journey to our own center and back again out into the world. Just like winter represents the cycle of compost and death and spring represents rebirth and renewal. For these and more reasons, labyrinths have long been used throughout time and cultures as a meditation and prayer tool.

This year it is my honor to invite anyone who wants to learn about labyrinths to join me rain or shine on Sunday, February 2 at 10 a.m. in the center block of Clymer Park, near the sculpture made by Tom Pitzen that looks like a green and white orchid woman. If you are so inclined, bring pine straw, Spanish moss, bird seed, flower petals, natural tidings and potted herbs and flowers to plant in the food forest.

Please note this labyrinth will mark the spot for a weekly dynamic and seated meditation meetup group to begin. Time and days will be announced, along with a monthly community art and craft play shop that will explore making tools for meditation and accouterments for plant medicine making and magic that relate to each month of the year.

The first class on Sunday, February 2, at 4 p.m., will be making clay finger labyrinths. Call 727-560-0608 now to reserve your space. See artfulearthscapes.com and eatbegrow.com for more information.

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Suncoast Scandinavian Club

The Suncoast Scandinavian Club will meet on Friday, February 7, at Banquet Masters, 13355 49th St. N. Doors open at 11:45 a.m. The meeting with sit-down lunch ($17 per person) starts promptly at 12:15 p.m.

February’s meeting welcomes Stephanie Moffett, who will speak on Norse Mythology. RSVP required to Cherstin Peterson at 732-546-7756.

Talk With The Doc: Medical Marijuana

Join MedWell and industry professionals alike for a monthly educational series focused on the use of medical cannabis to relieve chronic pain and illness, and many other ailments that many suffer from on a day to day basis.

Join Talk with the Doc on Wednesday, February 12 at 2 p.m. at Gulfport Senior Center, 5501 27th Ave. S.

For more information, call the Event line at 727-893-5657.

The Miracle Is You: a Path to Healing

The Gulfport Senior Center, 5501 27th Ave. S., invites you to attend this presentation on Monday, February 10 at 2:30 p.m. One can find healing by many methods. Barbara and Noa will present ways to enable you to get in touch with your natural given wonders. You will explore physical, emotional and spiritual ways to heal. Meditation, sound healing and slow body movements will open new possibilities for you.

For more information, please call the Event Line at 727-893-5657.

Theater Opening Art Reception and Exhibit

Everyone is invited to a free Opening Art Reception and Exhibit featuring the works of Jila Davoodi at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Ave. S. at 6 p.m. on Friday, February 7. The exhibit will remain on display through the month of February. For more information, call 727-893-1118.

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If you could, what would you tell your younger self?

Donna Low, Ann Arbor, MI: “Try to understand my older sister better.”

Karen McCleary, Pinellas Park: “To enjoy every day as it comes.”

Karen Knorr, Portland, OR: “Vacation more!”

Alana Benito and Tigger, Safety Harbor: “Don’t care about what others think.”

Bob Kenney, Jackson, MI: “I wish I knew then what I know now. There are so many things you learn when you get older. When you’re young you’re dumb and full of... well, you know.”

Dr. Edward Foley, D.C. & Darlene Foley

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Save Our Strays

Meet Jax, a most handsome orange tabby-and-white 1-year-old. He and his sister, Skippy, came back to SOS after their human passed away recently; we hope to adopt them as a pair. Jax is very outgoing and playful and will be a great addition to a family. Call 727-463-0694 or 727-545-1116 to fall in love with Jax and Skippy. Other felines are featured at saveourstraysinc.com

Italian Lessons at the Senior Center

The Italian-American Society is offering a new series of Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Italian language lessons at the Gulfport Senior Center, 5501 27th Ave. S.

Learning a language can be fun and also useful for travel! Classes are at 6 and 7 p.m. every Thursday.

A self-assessment tool for knowing your proficiency level is available at onlineitalianclub.com/free_italian_exercises/italian_level_test.

Nan Colton as Georgia O’Keeffe

Nan Colton returns to Gulfport as Georgia O’Keeffe on Friday, February 21, at 7 p.m., at the Catherine Hickman Theater. This is Colton’s third show at the Hickman to benefit the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation.

Colton calls the show “It Takes Time to See,” exploring Georgia O’Keeffe’s personal mystique. In an era in Western culture when women were just beginning to recast the possibilities of their sex, O’Keeffe lived her life not confined to the conventional pattern of mother and submissive wife. O’Keeffe’s way of living and expressing what she saw was out of the ordinary. She is known to have stated: “If only people were trees... I might like them better.”

Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door. They are available at GulfportSeniorFoundation.org or at the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Blvd S.

Colton is a playwright, director, storyteller, actress and performing teaching artist who has performed and lectured professionally on stages internationally.

The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation is a nonprofit organization that raises and distributes funds to support and enhance the health and wellness, educational, social and recreational programs and services of the Gulfport Senior Center. Learn more at GulfportSeniorFoundation.org or contact Foundation Office Manager Jerryanne Hindman at 727-893-1244 or mpscfoundation@tampabay.rr.com...

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Gabber January 30 - February 5, 2020
Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge Installs 2020 Officers

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 held its 70th Annual Installation of Lodge Officers on Saturday, January 4 at the Masonic Temple. The Installation of the 2020 Lodge Officers was open to members and public alike. The new lodge officers for 2020 are Patrick Lynch, Worshipful Master; Mark Sawa-Szostak, Senior Warden; Steve Johnson, Junior Warden; David Webster, Treasurer; Joe Sosa, Senior Deacon; Bobby Burkett, Junior Deacon; Craig Hunter, Senior Steward; Zach Zukowski, Junior Steward; Donald Harriott, Chaplain; Howard Feldman, Marshal; Tim Delaney, Tyler and Jim Frobe, Musician.

Freemasonry is open to men ages 18 and older and offers an opportunity to be proactive in the community as well as to be a part of a fraternity that dates back hundreds of years. Those interested in more information about Freemasonry can visit the lodge website at gulfbeachlodge.org.

Iris Paper Folded Valentines for Adults

If you’re 18 and older, join your neighbors on Wednesday, February 5 at 1 p.m. for Gulfport Library’s monthly adult craft. Learn the art of Iris Paper Folding while creating beautiful personalized valentines! Registration required, please call 727-893-1074 or email library.programs@mygulfport.us to sign up.

Gulfport Votes 100% Gets Underway

Calling all Gulfportians who want to be part of Gulfport Votes 100%, a non-partisan, meaningful and fun way to engage the community in voting. Come to a planning session on Monday, February 3, from 5:30 to 7 at Sumitra Espresso Lounge, 2838 Beach Blvd S. Check out Gulfport Votes 100% on Facebook for more.

This neighbor-to-neighbor effort encourages people to exercise their civic rights. Gulfport will be showing what can happen when everyone votes. They’re doing it Gulfport-style with musical and social events including a party in November.

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Mike Brandenburg

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Solution on Page 12

Veterans Coffee Connection

Veterans, you are invited to our new monthly event. Join fellow veterans at the Gulfport Senior Center, 5501 27th Ave. S., on Friday, February 14 at 10 a.m. Join Empath Health for coffee, support, friendship and an opportunity to learn about available community resources.

For more information, call the Event line at 727-893-5657.

AARP Income Tax Assistance Available

This very popular and free program to assist taxpayers with filing their federal tax returns will return for this season. Starting February 3, volunteers will be at the Gulfport Public Library on Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Taxpayers must bring Social Security cards for all persons listed on their tax returns, a picture ID, and all pertinent records such as W2s, 1099s, other income and credits and a copy of last year’s return if available. Free electronic filing is available at all sites. For more information call 727-893-1073.

St. Pete Pride Presents Taste of Pride

St. Pete Pride will present Taste of Pride at the historical St. Pete Coliseum on Saturday, March 7, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Taste of Pride gathers the best Tampa Bay restaurants, bars and breweries under one roof. Guests will be able to enjoy sizable tastings from 10 establishments while supporting the LGBTQ+ community. Guests will have the chance to vote for their favorite tasting and the winner will receive a $1,000 donation to an organization of their choice as part of the St. Pete Pride Community Grants Program.

Tickets are limited and $40 each. Tickets include entrance to the event, a voucher to enjoy 10 delicious tastings from the best of Tampa Bay, two voting tokens for you and access to a cash bar featuring Tito’s Vodka.

For more information, visit info@stpetepride.com or call 727-342-0084.
In a marine fire that occurred on Saturday evening July 20, 2019 as a result of a lightning strike during a powerful thunderstorm, the “Katy Did” sailboat that was at anchorage just off the shore of Gulfport in Boca Ciega Bay caught fire, burned and sank with no loss of life. It was undergoing renovation prior to acquiring insurance in August, said owner Dawn Traver. The vessel was single-mast, 41-foot fiberglass Islander with a center cockpit and a design by Robert H. Perry, she said. It was powered by a diesel engine. On Sunday morning January 26, the bulk of the vessel was dragged from the bay by TSI Disaster Recovery, which is under contract by Pinellas County to remove derelict vessels, said Gulfport Marina Director Denis Frain. After the legal paperwork process has been completed, these types of vessels are usually brought to the Bay Pines boat ramp for removal, which is located about 12 miles away, he said. In a cooperative agreement with the county for logistical reasons, the City of Gulfport authorized its removal behind the nearby Lions Club at 4630 Tifton Drive South “where there’s a sand area,” said Frain. The firm then “hand raked the whole area like they were never there. This case was unique because it did burn, was underwater and in pieces.” Related Gabber coverage: thegabber.com/lightning-strike-causes-sailboat-fire.

Two tractors hooked together with a chain, left, were needed to bring the bulk of the “Katy Did” ashore behind the Gulfport Lions Club on Sunday, January 26.
StoryCorps Comes to Tell Gulfport Library's Tales
By Debbie Wolfe

StoryCorps staff members visited the Gulfport Public Library January 28 to 30 with their professional audio recording equipment to capture the stories of 30 local people as part of a national award the facility received in 2019 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. In groups of two for up to 40 minutes, participants talked about how the library has influenced their lives. One of the interviews may be condensed and featured on National Public Radio, said Library Director David Mather. All of the interviews will become a part of the StoryCorps online archives. Pictured from left on Tuesday, January 28 are StoryCorps National Facilitator Dawn Cole, Phyllis Rosenblum and Phyllis Plotnick both of Gulfport. Related Gabber coverage: thegabber.com/gulfport-library-wins-a-national-award-grant.
EXPOSING STROKE through early detection

Health conditions like heart disease, stroke, cancer, abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) and many others usually show no symptoms until it’s too late. That’s why it’s important to detect them early.

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Gabber January 30 - February 5, 2020
Beta Sigma Phi
January Happenings

The Service Committee chaired by Joyce Powell will visit Dolphin's View Health and Rehab on Friday, February 7 at 2 p.m. to distribute Valentine goodies to the residents. Sugar-free cookies are given to each of the residents each month.

The Annual Sweetheart Luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 15 at the Holiday Inn Harbourside on Indian Rocks. The theme is "Dreams of Excellence" and will be a very elegant event. All chapter sweethearts will be honored at the event. Registration is at 11 a.m. with lunch at noon.

Sunshine City Council’s Ways and Means committee hosted a Rags to Riches Bunco Game Night on Saturday, January 25 at the Magnolia Club House, Five Towns. There were members from each of the chapters and quite a few guests who enjoyed an evening of fun and refreshments.

Gamma Omega Master’s Executive Board will meet on Tuesday, February 4 at 7 p.m. at the home of Val Rankin. Gamma Omega Master will hold their Valentine meeting on Wednesday, February 12 at the home of Sharon Ingram. At this meeting, Paula Roberts, Chapter Sweetheart, will be honored and members will exchange Valentine Beta Buddy gifts. The program will be presented by Val Rankin.

Beta Sigma Phi is a social and cultural women’s organization. Sunshine City Council has eight chapters of various degrees and members of all ages. Some chapters meet once a month year round while others meet from September to May twice a month. For more information contact First Vice President, Joyce Powell at 727-393-8547

Health and Wellness Expo at Gulfport Casino

The Gulfport Health & Wellness Expo returns to the Gulfport Casino on Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m.

This free informative event features health and wellness screenings, information about medical products and services, and vendor samples. You’ll be able to find out about insurance providers, legal professionals, financial advisors, senior living communities and more.

You can also drop off out-of-date prescriptions, enter to win door prizes, and enjoy demonstrations of classes available at the Senior Center.

Parking is limited! Beach parking is likely to be unavailable so visitors are encouraged to park in outlying lots at the Senior Center, Catherine Hickman Theater, Rec Center, and Wood Ibis Park, where they can hop on a free shuttle to the Casino. A free GEMS vehicle will also be circling between Town Shores and the Casino throughout the event.

The Health & Wellness Expo is sponsored by the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation to support the Gulfport Senior Center.

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The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation is a nonprofit organization that raises and distributes funds to support and enhance the health and wellness, educational, social and recreational programs and services of the Gulfport Senior Center. Learn more at GulfportSeniorFoundation.org or contact Foundation Office Manager Jerryanne Hindman at 727-893-1244 or mpscfoundation@tampabay.rr.com.

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Engine 17 on the Scene
By Debbie Wolfe

On Friday, January 24 at 7:34 a.m., the Gulfport Fire Department received a call that a man may be on a sailboat having a drug reaction, said Fire Chief James Marenkovic. When first responders in Engine 17 arrived at the Casino, 5500 Shore Blvd., they found the man walking down the street with two dogs. Paramedics at the scene examined him. In another incident on Saturday, January 25 at 10:18 a.m., firefighters were called to the scene of a dryer fire at Soapy’s Coin Laundromat, 1435 49th Street S. “Some clothes caught on fire in the dryer,” said Marenkovic. “Engine 17 was on scene first with heavy smoke showing and they put it out with water. The fire was contained to the gas dryer and out at 10:26 a.m.” First responders from the St. Petersburg and South Pasadena fire departments assisted.
Gulfport Little League Back for a New Season

Gulfport Little League is launching the 2020 Spring Season. Youth, parents and all residents are invited to participate as six to eight teams are planned, and there are lots of ways to help both on and off the field.

This league is chartered to serve girls and boys from 5 to 14 years old who reside in Gulfport and south St. Petersburg. Competition is organized into four skill levels versus teams from around Pinellas County.

The league is the beneficiary of over 50 years of youth baseball tradition in Gulfport. Based on last year's success, the City of Gulfport granted a three-year lease of the city's ballfields to the league, and local financial support is growing.

The potential for the league requires community support through sponsors, coaches, new board members and adult volunteers. Interested sponsors and volunteers can call Sponsor Coordinator Bruce Donath at 617-974-1368. More information can be found at gulfportlittleleague.net, or contact the board at gulfportlittleleague18@gmail.com or 727-656-6957.

15th Annual Pink Flamingo Home Tour

Ever wonder why some Gulfport homeowners don’t need flood insurance? Discover some of the houses on “The Bluff” during Gulfport’s 15th annual Pink Flamingo Home Tour, Saturday, March 7 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The tour begins at the registration area at Scout Hall, 5315 28th Ave. S. and takes in the area east of Beach Blvd. to 49th St., and the south side of Gulfport Blvd. to the water. It’s so close to the waterfront district there will be plenty of time to take a lunch break or shop in the historic downtown. Trolleys will be circulating throughout the tour so there’s no need to drive house to house. In fact, the homes are close enough for walking or biking. Parking is limited! They encourage visitors to park in Gulfport’s many outlying lots: Senior Center, Catherine Hickman Theater, Rec Center, Wood Ibis Park, and beach parking. From any of those you can easily hitch a ride to Scout Hall and then hop back on for the tour.

Tickets are only $20 at the Gulfport Welcome Center, 3101 Beach Blvd. S. (cash or check only) and Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Blvd. S. (cash, check, credit card). They can be purchased online at pinkflamingohometour.com/buy-tickets. Tickets will also be available at the registration area day of the tour for $25.

The Pink Flamingo Home Tour is a fundraiser for the Gulfport Merchants Chamber. Visit pinkflamingohometour.com or facebook.com/events/438505943537219/. For more information contact Caron Schwartz, 303-641-5489 or msschwartz4@live.com or April Thanos, 206-501-7836, amthanos@hotmail.com.
“For a local show, we have really incredible work from all around the country,” said Associate Chair of Art Festival Beth-El Abby Sterensis. “It varies in price; down in the boutique we have work as inexpensive as $15 to $20, up to our most expensive piece this year, which is $28,000. There’s a little bit of something for everybody: there’s sculpture, there’s glass, ceramic, jewelry, there’s photography. There’s literally something for everyone here.”

The Beth-El congregation doesn’t just host this show to expose the community to emerging or well-established artists. They host the event for the common good. According to Sterensis, the main purpose of the event is to adhere to a Jewish mandate, Tikun Olam. The phrase means to “repair the world, to do things greater than yourself, to do things to help,” explained Sterensis. “Most of the money we raise goes to our social justice programming and the rest to our youth program.”

Art Festival Beth-El is also completely run by volunteers. “During the course of the year, including set up and break down, last year we engaged 250 volunteers. Beyond being a good fundraiser, we like to call it a ‘friend-raiser,’” said Sterensis. “It’s a positive thing for the community and a nice way to bring people into a synagogue if they’ve never been. The art aestival is not a religious thing. We don’t show Jewish art. It’s not a temple show, it’s an art show in a synagogue.”

Unbeknownst to those around them, Leori Bolivar and Sandra Casey were total strangers just a few minutes before posing for a photo in front of artist Greg Turco’s digital art piece “Chi-Line.” Turco’s rendition of Chicago’s skyline brought Chicago natives together for an enthusiastic conversation. “I’m born and raised in Chicago and I love the city skyline and the city,” explained Bolivar. “This reminds me of home and resonates with me.” Casey followed Bolivar’s lead. “It represents home” she said. “I was born and raised there as well. I just like all the skyline, the coloring and I like how the buildings and riverfront are depicted.”

Below, Maryann Spearman was caught admiring artist Kyle Pearce’s metal sculpture “Dancer,” Sunday afternoon at the 47th Annual Art Festival Beth-El. When asked what drew her to this piece she responded, “I really like the human body. It’s got a lot of curves and I think this piece is a good replication of the female body. It’s actually something I would buy.”
St. Anthony's Auxiliary Luncheon

The St. Anthony’s Hospital Auxiliary will host their annual Luncheon and Card Party on Wednesday, March 4, from 11 a.m. till 2:30 p.m. in the auditorium lower level at St. Anthony’s Hospital, 1200 7th Ave. N.

A donation of $20 per person includes social, lunch, beverages and desserts. Enjoy an afternoon of cards, games, dominoes, share the wealth and other gift opportunities. If you have a favorite card game, gather three of your friends and have some fun. Reservations must be completed by February 19, no tickets will be sold at the door.

For reservations or information, please contact Marilyn Waltz, co-chair, at marilynwaltz41@aol.com or call 727-528-2731.

2Cool Art Show at the Gulfport Casino

The 9th Annual 2Cool Art Show comes to the historic Gulfport Casino on Saturday and Sunday, February 1 and 2, showcasing the artwork of over 30 of the area’s top artists in this boutique art exhibition. This juried fine art and fine craft show.

The selected artists will show and sell a variety of handcrafted visual and functional works in paint, wood, ceramics, photography, metal, glass, digital, mixed media and jewelry.

The Gulfport Casino is located at 5500 Shore Blvd. Show hours are 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. and show admission and parking are free. Patrons can also utilize Gulfport’s free trolley service that will allow you to park and ride to the show and downtown Gulfport.

This juried fine art and fine craft show is sponsored by PAVA, the Professional Association of Visual Artists, the City of Gulfport and the Gulfport Downtown Merchant Association. PAVA is a non-profit organization run by volunteer artists to serve local artisans and support the arts community in the Tampa Bay Area. It provides exhibition, education and grant opportunities for its members and supports local art centers through scholarships for art instruction.

Backyard Concert with Peter Suarez

On Saturday, February 1, Enroy Foundation, Inc. presents an evening of entertaining acoustic music with musician/singer/songwriter/yarn-spinner Peter Suarez and friends.

Music begins at 7 p.m., with socializing at 6:30 p.m.

They’ll perform an eclectic program of original and other tunes.

A suggested donation for this event will go entirely to the artists. For more information email enroy@yahoo.com or call 727-290-6445. Presented by Enroy Foundation, Inc., a Florida non-profit organization committed to the visual and performing arts.

Hip Hop Dance Classes for Kids

Hip Hop Dance classes for ages 8 to 16 are now at the Gulfport Recreation Center. Classes are on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. All instructors are level 2 background screened. Please contact Lisa Walker at 727-742-2594 for more information.

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Gabber January 30 - February 5, 2020
ARIES (March 21-April 19). To be charming usually requires a keen focus on others, though not always. You’ll exude the charm that comes from being completely immersed in a pursuit. You will not rest until this is solved. Your drive will be admired, though you cannot help it either way. This is what’s happening now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Perhaps what everyone else is doing makes sense or is the best available option. But conformity is tricky. It only rewards those who truly don’t care or don’t see another way. If the conforming choice rubs you the wrong way, just stop. It never matters how many people agree with you if you don’t agree with yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your automatic response is to do everything in your power to make the people around you feel comfortable. However, this week it’s often simply unnecessary. Find peace and comfort within yourself. Without doing a single extra thing, you’ll model serenity and they will find it for themselves through your example.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Did you know that some asteroids have their own moon? Some asteroids have two moons. As for your own project, small though it may be, it will have the support of one or two people who orbit adoringly around you this week. They see the merit in what you’re trying to do, and they are drawn in by your charisma.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You’re versed in the vagaries of frustration and have been moved more than once to behaviors that baffle you. There’s virtue here. You’re only frustrated because you dare to learn new things. Calm down, step back, choose one specific, small, hopeful action. Eventually, you will get good at this, if you simply keep at it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A habit of thinking and talking positively about yourself may seem like a tip from a course called Effective Human Behavior 101, and yet it’s amazing how few have mastered the skill. It’s worth working on this week. If you can catch your unhelpful thoughts and turn them around, then you’ll be 20% more effective.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The jobs of yesterday are being done by supercomputers and robots. The work of tomorrow hasn’t even been thought of yet. You’ll embrace the moment, giving anything and everything you think is useful, which includes a human touch, emotional intelligence and a poetic heart. It’s a good moment to be alive.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). To care too much, talk too loud, invest big emotions where small ones would have done just fine -- how embarrassing! Also, this is the best stuff of life, a proof of passion and humanity. This messiness can be pretty rare, so when it happens, overtakes you or you it, it’s something to appreciate. Don’t put it down.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Because you are perceptive about your loved ones, you know the different tones in which they speak and what each sound means. Even more keenly, you know the silences, each being distinct and so easy for you to read. Intimacy like this isn’t necessarily easy, though it’s among your greatest treasures.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are checkpoints, stations in which it’s appropriate and helpful to chart your progress. The rest of the time, don’t compare, not even against yourself. Put all your energy into finding your groove in the moment. When fully engaged in what feels good to you, you’ll be at your competitive best.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Not everything worth seeing is also worth going to see. The journey may be time-consuming, expensive, inconvenient and possibly uncomfortable. But truly, you’re drawn there for a reason. There’s something about it not to be missed. Go. You’ll only find out what that is after you commit to doing this.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Some people are just easier to listen to. Maybe they’ve practiced the art of storytelling or have a naturally compelling way of getting things across. Anyway, it will be important to listen carefully to the ones who don’t have that. How they need to be understood! Give the gift of a conscientious interaction.
Crossword Puzzle Solution on Page 12

ACROSS
1 March follower
5 Sersete
10 The Art of Fugue composer
14 Sinner's dish
15 Marta, in Casablanca
16 Repeat
17 Builder's beam
18 Fail Safe director
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20 Panama hat
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24 Empty-nest word
25 Singer Mitchell
26 Book cover
29 Lacquered
33 Sounds of disgust
34 Suffering
36 Skirt feature
37 Links position
38 "Alone: 1926 song
39 Court return
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44 At Hit hit
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6 Jeweler's glass
7 Marie Wilson role
8 Sweater neck
9 Energy measure
10 Li Peng's capital
11 Ranch unit
12 Elegant
13 Greeter
14 Diner order
15 Spanish queen
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19 Indifferent
20 Bread anagram
21 Bridge maven
22 Kick out
23 Wagnerian hero
24 Moon-colored
25 Together
26 Actor Mary
27 Inlet
28 Elad like Batman
29 Trick
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33 Mohawk's kin
34 Window frame part
35 Author Ludwig
36 Tankard filler
37 125 Crossword Puzzle Solution on Page 12

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Connecting with Clients is Key at Infinity Massage
By Debbie Wolfe

“Our level of compassion, understanding and care” is what makes Infinity Massage unique said Christian Beach, owner and licensed massage therapist. “We don’t do it because it’s a job, we do it because it’s a passion.”

Beach and co-owner Duncan Alexander, who is also a licensed massage therapist, had a formal ribbon cutting at their new Gulfport-based business on Saturday, January 25 at 5702 Gulfport Blvd S., Suite 6.

“We followed our hearts, as cliché as that sounds, and ended up going to massage school together,” said Alexander.

The business will focus on connecting with and treating clients of all ages who are experiencing trauma and oncology issues, said Alexander.

Methods offered will include neuromuscular therapy, deep tissue, Thai massage, paraffin wax treatments and four-hand massage where both therapists work in synergistic unison on one client.

Pictured in the waiting room of the new business are Beach, center front row, cutting the ribbon while Alexander, center back row, cheers him on. Members of the Gulfport Merchants Chamber, friends and colleagues of the owners are also pictured. Infinity Massage is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., by appointment. Saturday and in-home appointments are also available, as needed. For more information and to schedule a therapy session, visit infinitymassagetherapy.com or call 727-560-3485.
Zaiya ArtiZen Market is Official
By Laura Mulrooney

Thursday evening, January 23, friends, family, fellow merchants and residents joined Jill Rice, center, at her official ribbon cutting of Zaiya ArtiZen Market, at 3119 Beach Blvd. S.

“Every morning when I wake up, I am grateful to have found Gulfport,” said Rice. “This is a magical city and all of ya’ll are magical people. This is a dream come true.”

Zaiya, a combination of her grandchildren’s names, Aiyume, Zai and Aiya, “is a place where women are empowered to transform their own dreams into reality. It is an energetic space of community, support, and encouragement. It is a magical place of connection, fun and spiritual alchemy,” wrote Rice on her Facebook page.

The boutique is a space that hosts 10 different artists all with unique products. Shoppers will find a delightful range of goods such as tie dye clothing and silk scarves, photography, jewelry, ceramic sculptures, whimsical art from natural objects, natural soaps, CBD cream and essential oils.

Gulfport Merchant Chamber’s President Barbara Banno, right of Rice, felt especially sentimental that evening. “It feels like I’m passing the torch,” she said. Banno wished Rice the same amount of happiness and prosperity the location brought to her as owner of Stella’s restaurant.

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New Glam Palace Opens on 49th Street South
By Laura Mulrooney

Studio 49 Salon and Spa hosted their grand opening Monday evening, January 27 at 2309 49th Street S. Previously Longhouse Yoga studio, the building stood vacant for a year. Owner and stylist Jennifer Gallo-Lee says she dedicated an immense amount of time to creating the perfect domain for beauty and relaxation.

“It was a lot of hard work, it was tough,” explained Gallo-Lee. “We painted, ripped up flooring and redid the lighting. It was pretty bad when we found it.”

Gallo-Lee moved to Florida from New York last year and quickly jumped head first into Gulfport’s welcoming community. “I fell in love with the community, it reminds me of a small town in a big county,” said Gallo-Lee. “I love it here, I’m really happy to be here.”

Gallo-Lee shares her space with four other beauty and relaxation specialists. In back, from left, are Anastasia Davis, therapeutic massage; Bobbi Redman, paramedical esthetician; Josie Huffman, nail and lash specialist; and Angela Kraft, stylist and potions master.

Studio 49 Salon and Spa can be reached at 727-800-6655 and via Facebook. Walk-ins are always welcomed along with well-behaved pups.
B-4 You Know It, You’ll Be Shouting BINGO!

By Laura Mulrooney

From left, June Foley, Sandy Durham, Natalie Concannon and Judy Wiernasz get their game on at the American Legion Post 305 on St. Pete Beach on Thursday, January 23.

Foley and Durham have been playing bingo at Post 305 for the past 20 years. One thing all four ladies agree on is that bingo night is a fun night out with friends.

“Post 305 is alive and well,” said the Post’s Financial Officer Tom DeYampert. “We have community support; our membership is growing and we want people to come in and join us. This is a veteran’s organization for veterans’ purposes. We also support the community – everything we do here focuses on veterans and the community.” All are invited to play bingo at Post 305, 6999 Gulf Blvd, St. Pete Beach every Thursday evening. The balls start dropping at 7 p.m.

Babytime at Gulfport Library

If you have little ones under 2 years old, please come to the Gulfport Library for Babytime on Fridays at 10 a.m. They will sing songs, read books, enjoy lap bounce rhymes and meet other caregivers with infants and young toddlers. Older siblings are also welcome. Call 727-893-1074 for additional information.

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Gulfport’s Get Rescued Returns

The 16th Annual Gulfport’s Get Rescued event will bring hundreds of adoptable animals, vendors, activities and a Bark-B-Que to the streets of Gulfport for a full day of fur and fun on Saturday, February 22, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The event has grown to become the largest animal rescue event in Florida with rescue groups travelling from throughout the state to participate. The event is free, family friendly, and of course, pet friendly.

The event raises money and awareness, but they hope you want to choose a new fur baby of your own to raise! There will be independent vendors selling animal-related products, crafts and artwork.

Bring your own critter companion and join thousands of other visitors in downtown Gulfport to participate in one of the area’s most beloved traditions. All well-behaved people (and their surely polite pets) are welcome. Convenient complimentary parking will be available all around the area.

Visitors and attendees are encouraged to bring donations of unopened dog and cat food, cat litter and pet supplies. The drive-by drop-off location on the day of the event will be conveniently located at the historic Gulfport Casino at 5500 Shore Blvd. Supporters can also make donations online or check Facebook.com/GetRescued for donation locations throughout the Tampa Bay Area.

For more information on Gulfport’s Get Rescued, visit facebook.com/GetRescued or VisitGulfportFlorida.com or contact Suzanne King at 727-322-5217 orl SuzFest@gmail.com.

...
Places of Worship

St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church
Join Us For SUNDAY SERVICE
9:30 am
Wednesday Healing Eucharist - 12 pm
Thrift & Gift Shop
Tue, Wed, Thu 10am - 2pm
Fri 10am – 5pm • Sat 10am – 4pm
Proceeds benefit Food Pantry
Food Pantry is Open
1st & 3rd Sundays: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
3747 34th St S • St. Petersburg, FL 33711
727-867-7015

Are You a UU Without Knowing It?
If you don’t want to be told what to believe, visit us Sunday to share a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
Discussion - 10:15 am
Program - 11:00 am
Unitarian Universalist
United Fellowship
5721 Central Ave • uuunited.org

First United Methodist Church of Gulfport
Sundays:
Sunday School ............. 10:00am
Traditional Service ......... 11:00am
Thrift Store Hours
Friday/Saturday 9am-Noon
28th Ave S & 53rd St
321-3620
www.gulfportumc.org

ST. ALBAN’S CHURCH
AN EPISCOPAL CONGREGATION
330 85th Avenue • St. Pete Beach
(Blind Pass Road at 85th Avenue)
Sundays 10:00am Holy Eucharist
Wednesdays 10:00am
Holy Eucharist
with Prayers for Healing
In Peace Chapel near office
727-360-8406 • StAlbansBeach@gmail.com

Beth-El Shalom
Messianic Congregation
17th Street & 29th Ave N
St. Petersburg
345-7777
JewishHeritage.net
Worship Service
Friday 7pm

Our Mission: To Live by Faith
and Be Known by Love
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5313 27th Ave S • 727-321-8086
GulfportPC@tampabay.rr.com
Gpctil.com • Find us on Facebook
Join us Christmas Eve at 7:00pm
Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:30am
Come, explore and deepen faith with a welcoming, inclusive congregation.

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CONFESSION
Saturday 3-4pm
FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
9:00am-4pm
SUNDAY MASSES
Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm
Sunday: 8:00am
9:00am
(Spanish) 11:00am
DAILY MASSES
Mon-Fri 8am
Saturday 9am
www.MostHolyName.org

Paradise Lutheran Church
10255 Paradise Blvd • Treasure Island
727-360-5739
Paradisefi.uth102@gmail.com
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10am & 12pm
Steppers
Friday 7:30 pm
Handicap Accessible

Pasadena Community Church
9am Contemporary Service
11am Traditional Service
See You Sunday!
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Gabber January 30 - February 5, 2020
Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

This week, let’s take a look at how legal transfers of control and decision-making work.

**Guardianship**

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

**Conservatorship**

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

**Durable Power of Attorney**

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

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

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

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

Mr. Myers is the owner of Akerson Law Offices at 535 49th St. N. The phone number is 727-347-5131. Mr. Myers welcomes calls regarding this article and other related legal topics. This column outlines general legal principles. If you have specific questions about the law, please consult an attorney.
IS STEM CELL THERAPY RIGHT FOR YOU?

Monday, February 3 • 2:00pm–3:00pm

You’ve probably heard about stem cells in the news and its potential to combat illness and injury. If you’re wondering if stem cell therapy might benefit you or a loved one, Tami Horner, MD, has the answers. Join us at The Fountains at Boca Ciega Bay for light refreshments and to learn what stem cells are and how they’re being used to effectively treat a variety of ailments from this American Academy of Anti-Aging, Regenerative and Functional Medicine board certified expert.

Please RSVP to 727-381-5411 by January 31.

VIEWS, VALUE & VIBE: STUDIOS STARTING AT $1,695 PER MONTH

With incredible views, beautiful residences with wide-ranging options and exceptional programming and entertainment, The Fountains is surely the best waterfront value in St. Petersburg. Come live your retirement to the fullest at our carefree, resort-like community.

Call 727-381-5411 today to join us for a complimentary lunch and tour.
Annual Gulfport Fine Arts Festival

The Gulfport Merchants Chamber is proud to present the Fifth Annual Gulfport Fine Arts Festival on Saturday and Sunday, February 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day. The festival is held in Gulfport’s scenic waterfront Veteran’s Park (5350 31st Ave. S.). The event is a juried “boutique” show, focusing solely on fine art and fine craft, with an award for Best in Show. There is no charge for admission. The event is open to all and is family and pet friendly.

Over 45 artists are expected to participate in the event, offering work for display and sale. The festival is Gulfport’s only two-day outdoor art event, intended to highlight not only the work of local and regional fine artists but also work from artists not previously represented in the area. A wide range of artistic media will be featured including ceramics, fiber, glass, metal, mixed media, wood, acrylics, collage, assemblages, drawing, leather, oils, pastels, photography, stone, watercolors, fine jewelry and sculptural art.

The festival builds on Gulfport’s reputation as an arts destination.

The event venue, Veteran’s Park, is a scenic location overlooking Boca Ciega Bay. It is adjacent to Gulfport’s Shore and Beach Boulevards, the hub of Gulfport’s vibrant Waterfront District with a collection of all-independent restaurants, pubs, shops, art studios and galleries. Parking in the area is convenient and free. A free trolley will also offer visitors round-trip transportation from remote parking locations.

The Gulfport Fine Arts Festival is co-sponsored by the Gulfport Merchants Chamber and the City of Gulfport. Visit Gulfport Fine Arts Festival on Facebook, or contact Brenda McMahan by email to brendamcmahonceramics@gmail.com For more information about Gulfport and other events in the area, go to VisitGulfportFlorida.com.

•••

Gulfport Art Exhibit and Reception

Come to the Gulfport Senior Center, 5501 27th Ave. S., on Friday, February 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. The public is invited to meet the artists and view a selection of the art they created during the 2019 instructional year and enjoy light refreshments throughout the reception.

This art exhibit will be available for the entire month of February. For more information, please call 727-893-5657.

•••

Sailing Non-Profit Soothe Our Souls

Soothe Our Souls (SOS) is a newly formed unique non-profit currently operated from Dolphin Landing, 4737 Gulf Blvd. on St. Pete Beach.

SOS provides complimentary sailing excursions on the first Sunday of each month for seriously health-challenged persons and their support group. SOS is committed to providing a respite from troubling health concerns, celebrating life and helping individuals navigate their journey to wellbeing.

Reservations are required. Phone 727-360-7411 with questions or visit SootheOurSouls.org for more information.

•••

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NEW ADDRESS
Local Crime Watch
A sampling of police reports from Jan. 16 to Jan. 25 in Gulfport and South Pasadena.
Source: Pinellas County Crime Viewer and Gulfport Police Department.

Gulfport

1/16 – Warrant arrest in the 5000 block of Tangerine Avenue South. Officers were dispatched to assist with an unconscious female. It was determined she was having a medical episode and was transported to Palms of Pasadena Hospital. The officers were able to identify her by using a fingerprint scanner. A records check revealed the woman had an outstanding warrant issued by Polk County.

1/16 – Warrant arrest in the 5100 block of Newton Avenue South. A female with an outstanding warrant for violation of the conditions of her release for a driving under the influence charge was located at a residence. Brandi Dehart was arrested and transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

1/17 – Water rescue in Boca Ciega Bay. Sergeant Kellington and Officer Carter responded to a water rescue. They located three people in the water who had fallen from their sailing vessel when it tipped over in the water. They were transported to the shore where the Gulfport Fire Department was waiting to render aid.

1/18 – Stolen vehicle in the 1700 block of 53rd Street South. An officer with the St Petersburg Police Department requested that a Gulfport Police Department officer make contact with a resident about a car that was involved in a hit-and-run in their city where the driver fled the scene on foot. The resident was not aware her car had been stolen from her driveway during the night.

1/19 – Theft in the 3100 block of 49th Street South. A passenger in an Uber was on his way home. When they arrived at the intersection there was a Jeep blocking the road and the driver wouldn’t move the vehicle. The victim and the driver of the Jeep got into a physical altercation and in the process the victim’s phone fell out of his pocket. The suspect picked up the phone and fled the scene in his Jeep.

1/20 – Criminal mischief in the 5300 block of 31st Avenue South. A resident reported that sometime overnight someone climbed onto his porch and broke a piece of latticework, a wooden box and a flowerpot.

1/21 – Hit-and-run crash in the 4900 block of 31st Avenue South. A resident reported that sometime in the last four days someone in the complex backed into her vehicle in the parking lot and caused minor damage. Officer Pope was able to locate the suspect the next day and cited her for improper backing.

1/19 – Burglary to a vehicle in the 5500 block of 21st Avenue South. Officers responded to the report of a person who was observed by neighbors attempting to gain entry to an unlocked vehicle. Officers were not able to locate the suspect.

1/22 – Fleeing to elude and additional charges in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard South. Officers were notified of a male in the area carrying a firearm and attempting to sell narcotics. They attempted to stop Donald Dugray as he was riding a bicycle at night without proper lighting. Dugray fled from officers on his bicycle before eventually crashing. Dugray’s handgun fell onto the ground then he picked up the firearm and fled on foot. While he was running, Dugray threw the firearm onto a roof before attempting to carjack an undercover Gulfport Police Officer. Dugray was taken into custody and charged with the following charges: Fleeing to elude, carrying a concealed firearm, tampering with physical evidence, attempted carjacking, resisting an officer with violence, and an outstanding felony warrant from Brevard County for violation of probation for burglary and grand theft. Dugray was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

1/22 through 1/25 – The marine unit was in operation for approximately nine hours this week. Sergeant Kellington and Officer Carter assisted with a water rescue. Sergeant Woodman participated in a multijurisdictional meeting and tabletop exercises to prepare for participation in the annual Gasparilla event.

Battery

1/23, 4 a.m., 2900 block of 59th Street S

Burglary – vehicle

1/20, 7:03 p.m., 5500 block of 21st Avenue S

1/23, 3:17 a.m., 700 block of Gray Street S

1/24, 5 p.m., 2600 block of 49th Street S

1/24, midnight, 700 block of Gray Street S

1/25, 7 p.m., 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard S

Kidnapping/false imprisonment

1/16, 3:16 a.m., 5200 block of 18th Avenue S

Theft – petit

1/22, 11:34 a.m., 1000 block of Pasadena Avenue S

South Pasadena

Battery

1/25, 5:01 p.m., 1800 block of Shore Drive S...
Service Guide

Deadline: Tuesday 5pm (Monday 3pm for display ads requiring proof)

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RESIDENTIAL CLEANERS NEEDED - A Cleaning Services LLC. At Least 2 Years Experience. We Pay Per Hour for the Day Not Just per Job. Need Reliable Transportation to Office. Based in St. Pete Beach. Background Check Required. $150, Bonus after 90 Days. Please Text or Call, 727-656-2907.

PLACE YOUR AD HERE! Starting at $17 per issue. Call 727-321-6965.

Classified Advertising@thegabby.com 727-321-6965

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Furniture/Appiances
ELECTRIC TWIN BED - $500 OBO. Like New. 727-723-4217.

General


SEEKING DANCE PARTNER- 51 yr. old, Retired MD, rhythmically-challenged & previously told I’d never learn to dance, is slowly proving skeptics wrong. Seeking woman dance partner for ongoing biweekly basic Bachata & Swing dance classes (paid by me) @DancePassion Studio (6626 Central Ave. 33707) plus frequent weekly practice sessions. Must have patience, unbridled joyfulness & perhaps steel-toed shoes. Helping me hear the musical beat - highly desirable! Contact Stuart at J.eml@cox.com.

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5 Condo Flea Market

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- Art • Household Goods

BAKE SALE!
- Coffee & Doughnuts Available

Saturday, February 1st • 9am-noon
1888 Shore Drive • So. Pasadena
(across from Palms Hospital)


Card of Thanks
POWERFUL PRAYER TO HOLY SPIRIT - Holy Spirit, you who solves all problems, who lights all roads so that I can attain my goal, you who give me the divine gifts to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things and confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with you, in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. 4 GB & PSH

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Some services offered may require a construction competency license. To verify the license of a person or firm, call the

PINELLAS COUNTY CONSTRUCTION LICENSING BOARD at 727-582-3100. All major work will require a permit from your local Building Department.
CITY OF GULFPORT
PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Gulfport Public Notices

CITY OF GULFPORT MEETINGS
City Clerk’s Office
February 2020

February 4, 2020  City Council Meeting
6:00 pm

February 5, 2020  Planning & Zoning Board
NO MEETING

February 11, 2020  Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
8:00 am - Senior Center - 5501 27th Ave S

February 11, 2020  Teen Council
5:00 pm - Recreation Center - 5730 Shore Blvd S

February 12, 2020  Board of Adjustment
NO MEETING

February 17, 2020  City Hall Closed
Presidents’ Day Holiday

February 18, 2020  City Council Meeting
6:00 pm

All meetings are open to the public and are held in the City Hall, City Council Chambers, 2401 53rd Street South, unless otherwise noted. Meetings may occasionally be added, cancelled, or rescheduled after this list is published. Please check the city’s website MyGulfport.us for updated information.

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ASSET MANAGEMENT
REAL ESTATE
Laura Holt
Realtor
516-810-4338

FOR RENT OR SALE  • Open Water, 5980 Shore Blvd. Town Shores, Diplomat, Gulfport. Upgraded, Corner, 2210 sq. ft. Condo. Living, Dining, Family, Florida Rooms. New Applian-
ces, Windows & Shutters. Pool and Clubhouse. $1900/Mo. or $409,000, 727-887-7022.

2/2/2 WATERFRONT HOME 1461 Sea Gull Dr. S, 33707, 2282 Heated Sq. Ft., New Ce-
ramic Tile Throughout, Pool, Dock w/Boat Lift. David Hunter w/CRR. 727-244-0988. Same
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Mosaic Funk

Curtis Whitman

Linda McAdams