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Gulf Coast-South

A Winter Visitor Publication
March/April 2011



Spring Training pg 8

Discover Micanopy

pg 14

Dolphin Tale pg 16



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Canadian Snowbird Association Hosts Successful Extravaganza in Lakeland

The Canadian Snowbird Association once again hosted a successful "Extravaganza" in Lakeland this winter. The two-day event staged Jan. 25-26 at Lakeland Center drew Canadian, American and other Snowbirds from around the region. Attendees were treated to a variety of entertainment, educational seminars and opportunity to browse dozens of vendor booths.

Snow BIRDSNAPS

CANADIAN SNOWBIRD EXTRAVAGANZA





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Snowbirds Gulf Coast Magazine
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Gulf Coast-South *Snow* BIRDS

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ON THE COVER

Kathy and Ralph Duval of Dudley, Mass., have worked spring training in Sarasota for a decade. The couple are excited about the renovations to Ed Smith Stadium, home for a second year to the Baltimore Orioles page 8



Publisher: Karen Harrell
Publisher@SnowbirdsGulfCoast.com

Art Director: Renee Culpepper
Renee@SnowbirdsGulfCoast.com

Writers and Contributors: B.C. Manion, Jahna Jacobson, Julie Branaman, Michelle Harrell, Frank Kaiser, Lorraine Shank

Cover photo: Julie Branaman

Website: Donna Ball. Distribution: Asaph Graham

Contact: 850-291-1266 or publisher@snowbirdsgulfcoast.com

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Welcome!

The sweet sounds of Spring are welcome – even if you've spend the winter months in central Florida's mild climate.

The birds start singing, people get out their lawn equipment, bikes are dusted off and beachgoers don their shorts and bikinis.

But in Florida, the true sign of the season is when the boys report for professional baseball's spring training.

Known as the Grapefruit League, spring training gives fans a chance to stretch out in Florida's warm sun and get up close and personal with players they might view only from the bleeder seats in their home stadiums.

This month's cover couple, Kathy and Ralph Duval have perhaps the most enviable jobs of all for retirees – they work for the Baltimore Orioles during the month of March.

The Duvals have spent the past decade in Sarasota greeting fans at Ed Smith Stadium but they are most excited this year as the venue got a \$31.2 million facelift in the offseason. For your convenience we are providing the month-long spring training calendar for all the Grapefruit League teams.

Also in this edition is a story on Micanopy, a town that time seemingly has forgotten. You might feel a sense of déjà vu if you take a side trip as several high profile movies have been filmed there including Doc Holliday, The Yearling, Miracle at Clemon's Pond and Cross Creek.

And, speaking of movies filmed in the state, you might want to visit the Clearwater Aquarium this spring before the scheduled fall release of Dolphin Tale. The movie is based on the true story of Winter, a dolphin who lost her tale in a crab trap and was fitted with a prosthetic device. Winter was successfully rehabbed and lives at the Clearwater Aquarium. The film stars Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd, Harry Connick, Jr., and features local actor Jimmy Fitzpatrick. The film is sure to appeal to moviegoers of all ages!

This winter we visited the Canadian Snowbirds Association's Extravaganza in Lakeland. More than 30,000 visitors enjoyed the two-day event and a few are featured in our Snaps page.

This past year my husband and I made a visit to the fabulous World War II Museum in New Orleans. Neither of us grew up with a World War II vet in our families and we found the museum fascinating. Don't miss the Solomon Victory Theater 4D experience where war planes seem to be heading straight toward you and the seats rumble with the sounds of the engines.

Looking for great seafood? Sarasota's landmark restaurant, Barnacle Bill's, is not-to-miss and as always, our Suddenly Senior columnist Frank Kaiser gives us the last word.

We are proud to mark the end of our second season with the south edition of Snowbirds Gulf Coast. Be sure to look for our Facebook page: Snowbirds Gulf Coast and "Like" us so you can keep up with us and the stories of the Gulf Coast.

This year, more than ever, the visitors who made the Gulf Coast their winter home are warmly appreciated. We hope you return again next season – and bring along some friends.

As always...we are glad you are here!

All the Best,

Karen Harrell

850-291-1266 or publisher@snowbirdsgulfcoast.com

Let the Journey Begin...

MASTERWORKS

Elgar's Enigma Variations

Guest conductor Alexander Mickelthwate is joined by Principal Second Violinist Sarah Shellman for Thomas Adès' *Violin Concerto* with its devilishly difficult high melodic lines on a program with Haydn's *Symphony No. 59* and Elgar's beloved *Enigma Variations*.

Mar 25 & 27

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Hot! A Night at the Copa

In a musical tribute to New York's famed hot spot, The Copacabana, Grammy Award-winning arranger Victor Vanacore leads the orchestra in a night of sizzling Latin dance rhythms...cha cha, tango, salsa, samba, mambo, merengue and more.

Apr 8 - 10

Sponsored by: 

MASTERWORKS

Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3

Lilya Zilberstein performs Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 3* on a program with the melancholic beauty of Sibelius' *Symphony No. 7* and his melodic-rich tone poem *En Saga*. Stefan Sanderling conducts.

Apr 15 - 17

Sponsored by: Dr. Robert Wharton

Tickets start at \$20!

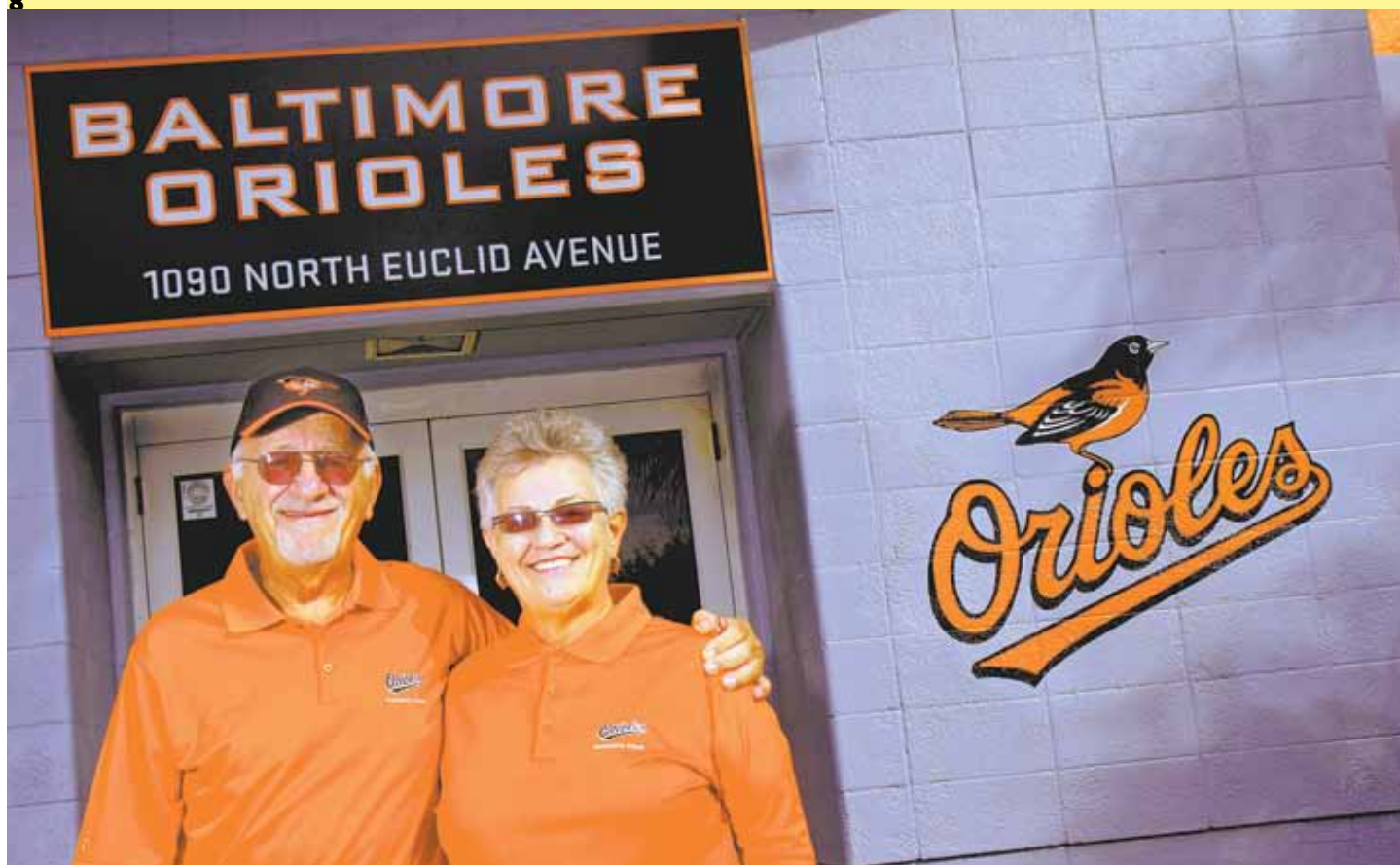
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Snowbirds Avid Baseball Fans

By Karen Harrell

If you attend a Baltimore Orioles' spring training game, chances are you'll see Kathy and Ralph Duval hard at work.

The longtime retired couple, who hail from Dudley, Mass., have been a fixture at the recently renovated Ed Smith Stadium in Sarasota, Fla., for 10 years.

They worked with the Cincinnati Reds organization for eight seasons and this is their second year with the Orioles, who relocated from Fort Lauderdale.

Staying busy is a way of life for the couple who marked their 50th wedding anniversary this past summer by taking their four children, spouses and 11 grandchildren on a cruise.

But March is dedicated to baseball.

"With eight grandsons, you have to love baseball," Kathy said. "We watched it all the time and we enjoy it. We were at a (Reds) game and enjoyed it so much we thought we should just work here."

They then found someone who worked with the organization and today Kathy can most likely be found at the ticket booth while Ralph is an usher.

The couple is excited about the renovations and improvements to Ed Smith Stadium.

"It looks like a coliseum from the outside. So nice," Kathy said. "I can't wait to get inside and see it for myself."

Included among the stadium improvements are a new façade with an old-time ballpark feel. Fans can expect

new seating, renovated restrooms, shaded areas and more food vendors.

Ralph's bout with prostate cancer sparked the couple's decision to enter early retirement 16 years ago when he was 58 and Kathy just 52. They decided to live their dream of getting away from Massachusetts' cold, snowy and icy winters. They first moved to Zephyrhills for five years before settling into an Over-55 community in Sarasota.

"Sarasota has everything we want – the arts, great dining, beach and sports," Kathy said. "And, the sun always shines - even behind the clouds. Up north it's a little depressing, gray and gloomy. I still like to hang my clothes outside and when you get up in the morning and the sun is shining, what is better?"

Kathy was a stay-at-home mom before entering the workforce as a Human Resource director once the children were grown. Ralph retired as a metalurgist. Careful planning and budgeting allowed them to retire early – a feat many today may never realize.

"Never live beyond your means because you can't always have everything you want," Kathy advises.

The couple give back by serving as disaster volunteers with the American Red Cross.

Their Over-55 community and its residents serve as an extended family. Neighbors routinely check in on each other and numerous activities are offered. Late spring and summer the couple will be traveling to see family and spend time in the family home before returning back to Sarasota and their winter nest – and baseball.



If you go

Baltimore Orioles Spring Training

Ed Smith Stadium: Addition of a second-floor facade, featuring new concession areas and bathrooms, a wrap-around apron that will address frequent complaints about a lack of shade, new seating and a berm and picnic area beyond the left-field wall.

Details: 941-954-4101 or baltimore.orioles.mlb.com

Spring Training in Florida

Team Info

Atlanta Braves

Disney's Wide World of Sports® Complex
Lake Buena Vista,
FL 32830
(407) 939-GAME

New York Yankees

Steinbrenner Field
One Steinbrenner Drive
Tampa, FL 33614
(813) 879-2244

Baltimore Orioles

Ed Smith Stadium
2700 12th Street
Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 954-4101

Philadelphia Phillies

Bright House Field
601 N. Old Coachman Road
Clearwater, FL 33765
(727) 442-8496

Boston Red Sox

City of Palms Park
2201 Edison Ave
Fort Myers, FL 33901
(877) 733-7699

Pittsburgh Pirates

McKechnie Field
17th Ave. West and 9th St.
Bradenton, FL
941-748-4610

Detroit Tigers

Joker Marchant Stadium
2125 North Lake Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33805
(813) 287-8844, (407) 839-3900

St. Louis Cardinals

Roger Dean Stadium
4751 Main Street
Jupiter, FL 33458
Ticket Info: (561) 775-1818

Florida Marlins

Roger Dean Stadium
4751 Main Street
Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 775-1818

Toronto Blue Jays

Florida Auto Exchange Stadium
373 Douglas Avenue
Dunedin, FL 34698
(727) 733-0429

Houston Astros

Osceola County Stadium
1000 Bill Beck Blvd.
Kissimmee, FL 34744
(321) 697-3200

Tampa Bay Rays

Charlotte Sports Park
2300 El Jobean Road
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(727) 825-3154

Minnesota Twins

Hammond Stadium at Lee County Sports Complex
14100 Six Mile Cypress Parkway
Ft. Myers, FL 33912
(800) 33-TWINS

Washington Nationals

Space Coast Stadium
5800 Stadium Way
Melbourne, FL 32940
(321) 633-4487

New York Mets

Digital Domain Stadium
525 NW Peacock Blvd.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
(561) 871-2115

Grapefruit League 2011 Master Schedule

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Feb 24 FSU at PHI | | | | Feb 25 FSC at DET SC-MAN at PIT | | Feb 26 BC at BOS NE at BOS* ATL at NYM PHI at NYY PIT at TB DET at TOR | |
| Feb 27 NYM at ATL TOR at DET MIA at FLA BOS at MIN* MICH at NYM NYY at PHI TB at PIT | | Feb 28 HOU at ATL MIN at BOS NYY at DET WAS at NYM BAL at PIT FLA at STL PIT at TB PHI at TOR | | March 1 TB at BAL TOR at DET STL at FLA WAS at HOU BOS at MIN DET at PHI NYY at PIT NYM at WAS | | March 2 ATL at BOS HOU at DET HOU at NYY BAL at PHI MIN at PIT NYM at STL TB at TOR FLA at WAS | |
| March 3 DET at ATL MIN at BAL PHI at BOS FLA at HOU STL at NYM WAS at STL NYY at TB PIT at TOR | | March 4 TOR at ATL BAL at DET NYM at FLA STL at HOU TB at MIN BOS at NYY* PHI at PIT ATL at WAS | | March 5 NYM at ATL BOS at BAL FLA at BOS STL at HOU WAS at NYY PIT at PHI HOU at STL MIN at TB DET at TOR | | March 6 PHI at DET STL at FLA NYY at HOU BAL at MIN BOS at NYM TB at PHI TOR at PIT ATL at WAS | |
| March 7 NYY at BAL* BAL at BOS ATL at FLA STL at MIN DET at NYM PHI at NYY TB at PIT HOU at WAS | | March 8 NYY at ATL HOU at BOS FLA at DET NYM at HOU PIT at MIN WAS at NYM BAL at PHI BOS at STL TOR at TB | | March 9 STL at ATL MIN at BAL BAL at BOS* PHI at DET WAS at FLA HOU at NYM PIT at NYY* TOR at TB | | March 10 STL at ATL DET at FLA* NYM at FLA WAS at HOU* TOR at MIN HOU at PHI BAL at PIT* BOS at TB NYM at WAS | |
| March 11 PHI at BAL BOS at HOU BOS at MIN FLA at NYM ATL at NYY DET at STL PIT at TB NYY at TOR HOU at WAS* | | March 12 NYM at ATL FLA at BOS TOR at DET BAL at HOU TB at PHI PHI at PIT MIN at STL PIT at TOR NYY at WAS | | March 13 HOU at ATL DET at BAL HOU at DET WAS at FLA PHI at MIN STL at NYM MIN at NYY BOS at PIT TB at TOR | | March 14 PIT at BAL NYY at BOS* PHI at HOU FLA at MIN ATL at STL DET at WAS | |
| March 15 HOU at BAL BOS at DET WAS at NYM* ATL at STL FLA at TB PHI at TOR | | March 16 BOS at ATL STL at DET TB at FLA WAS at HOU NYM at MIN BAL at NYY* TOR at PIT | | March 17 WAS at ATL* NYM at BOS MIN at DET TB at NYY* TOR at PHI BAL at PIT FLA at STL | | March 18 MIN at BAL* DET at BOS HOU at FLA ATL at NYM PIT at PHI BOS at TB* NYY at TOR STL at WAS | |
| March 19 NYM at ATL PHI at BAL ATL at DET STL at HOU TB at MIN WAS at NYM TOR at NYY BOS at PIT FLA at STL | | March 20 HOU at ATL STL at BOS NYM at FLA PIT at HOU NYY at PHI BAL at TB MIN at TOR DET at WAS | | March 21 DET at HOU ATL at NYM BOS at PHI MIN at PIT WAS at STL NYY at TB* | | March 22 NYY at BAL TB at BOS* NYM at DET MIN at FLA PHI at TOR HOU at WAS | |
| March 23 FLA at ATL BAL at MIN* TOR at NYY* HOU at PIT NYM at STL PHI at TB | | March 24 PIT at BAL* WAS at DET* BOS at FLA TB at HOU STL at NYM MIN at PHI ATL at TOR | | March 25 DET at ATL* TOR at BOS* NYM at FLA BAL at MIN HOU at NYY* ATL at PHI PIT at TB STL at WAS* | | March 26 MIN at BOS* PHI at DET STL at FLA WAS at HOU ATL at NYM PIT at NYY TOR at PHI BAL at TB | |
| March 27 PHI at ATL BOS at BAL FLA at WAS DET at HOU NYY at MIN TB at PIT NYM at STL BAL at TOR | | March 28 WAS at ATL* DET at BAL PIT at MIN FLA at NYM TB at NYY* HOU at PHI FLA at STL BOS at TOR | | March 29 MIN at ATL* (Turner Field) TOR at BAL TB at BOS STL at FLA HOU at OKC* (Oklahoma City) DET at NYY PIT at PHI* (Citizens Bank Park) NYM at WAS | | March 30 MIN at ATL (Turner Field) BOS at HOU* (Minute Maid Park) FLA at NYM PIT at PHI (Citizens Bank Park) STL at SPC (Springfield) TOR at TB (Tropicana Field) | |
| March 31 BOS at HOU (Minute Maid Park) | | April 1 | | April 2 | | | |

This is a tentative schedule, subject to change.
To receive spring-training news and schedule
updates via email, please sign up for the
Spring Training Online email newsletter at
FloridaGrapeFruitLeague.com

ATL = Atlanta Braves
BAL = Baltimore Orioles
BC = Boston College
BOS = Boston Red Sox
DET = Detroit Tigers
FLA = Florida Marlins
FSC = Florida Southern College

FSU = Florida State University
HOU = Houston Astros
MIA = University of Miami
MICH = University of Michigan
MIN = Minnesota Twins
NE = Northeastern

NED = Netherlands National
Team
NYM = New York Mets
NYY = New York Yankees
OKC = Oklahoma City RedHawks
PHI = Philadelphia Phillies
PIT = Pittsburgh Pirates

SC-MAN = State College of
Florida Manatee - Sarasota
SPC = Springfield Cardinals
STL = St. Louis Cardinals
TB = Tampa Bay Rays
TOR = Toronto Blue Jays
WAS = Washington Nationals

Source: FloridaGrapeFruitLeague.com

'Special Catch' at Sarasota's Barnacle Bill's

When traveling, I like to dine at locally owned restaurants, if possible.

After a busy day doing business in Sarasota I returned to my airport hotel tired and I hoped to find a decent place to eat.

But I was not alone on this trip. My 26-year-old nephew wanted seafood. Too tired to contemplate a trip to nearby beaches where seafood places are numerous, I asked our helpful front desk clerk if there was a good seafood restaurant nearby.

Her face lit up and she proudly proclaimed, "Barnacle Bill's!"

And the best part?

It was just around the corner.

Located off the Tamiami Trail, the main drag in the region, Barnacle Bill's North is located in a non-descript suburban location with a lighthouse façade serving as a landmark. There is a second restaurant on Main Street in downtown Sarasota.

The north restaurant location recently was updated with new flooring, tables, chairs and equipment, lighter-colored décor and renovated restrooms.

It was easy to find and parking was plentiful when we arrived at 7:30 p.m. It seems the Early Bird Specials crowd had already arrived en masse and left. But a scattering of patrons in the dining room and a crowd at the bar made for a festive atmosphere.

The first thing you notice upon arrival is posters and other information on the source for the restaurant's famous Alaskan King Crab – boats from Dutch Harbor, Alaska, made famous in the popular reality show, *The Deadliest Catch*.

Owners Bill and Ken Davis are selective when purchasing seafood and they are proud to announce that to their patrons.

My nephew was hungry and not surprisingly chose the Seafood Platter, which featured generous portions of golden brown shrimp, scallops, fish and a crab cake served with side dishes of dirty rice and steamed vegetables at \$21.95.

I had eaten a late lunch and went for something lighter and one of my seafood favorite dishes – the Crab Cakes – this time served in a sandwich for \$9.95.

What I've discovered is that not all crab cakes are made the same. Some restaurants are overly generous with breading and less so with crab.

Not so with Barnacle Bill's. My crab cake was generous both in size and the crab was tasty and discernable. The sandwich was dressed with lettuce and tomato, with a pickle and French fries for side items.

After much contemplation, we decided to order one of the restaurant's homemade desserts – the Key West-style key lime pie. Tart with a light crust and paired with a fresh cup of coffee, it was the perfect end to a good meal.

Not surprisingly, the Early Bird Specials are popular with local winter visitors who often dine earlier and are on a budget. The specials are offered from 4-5:30 p.m. at just \$11.95, featuring many items from the regular menu served in smaller portions. Happy hour also runs from noon to 6 p.m.

If you go

What: Barnacle Bill's North
5050 N Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL

Details: 941-355-7700 or www.barnaclebillsseafood.com



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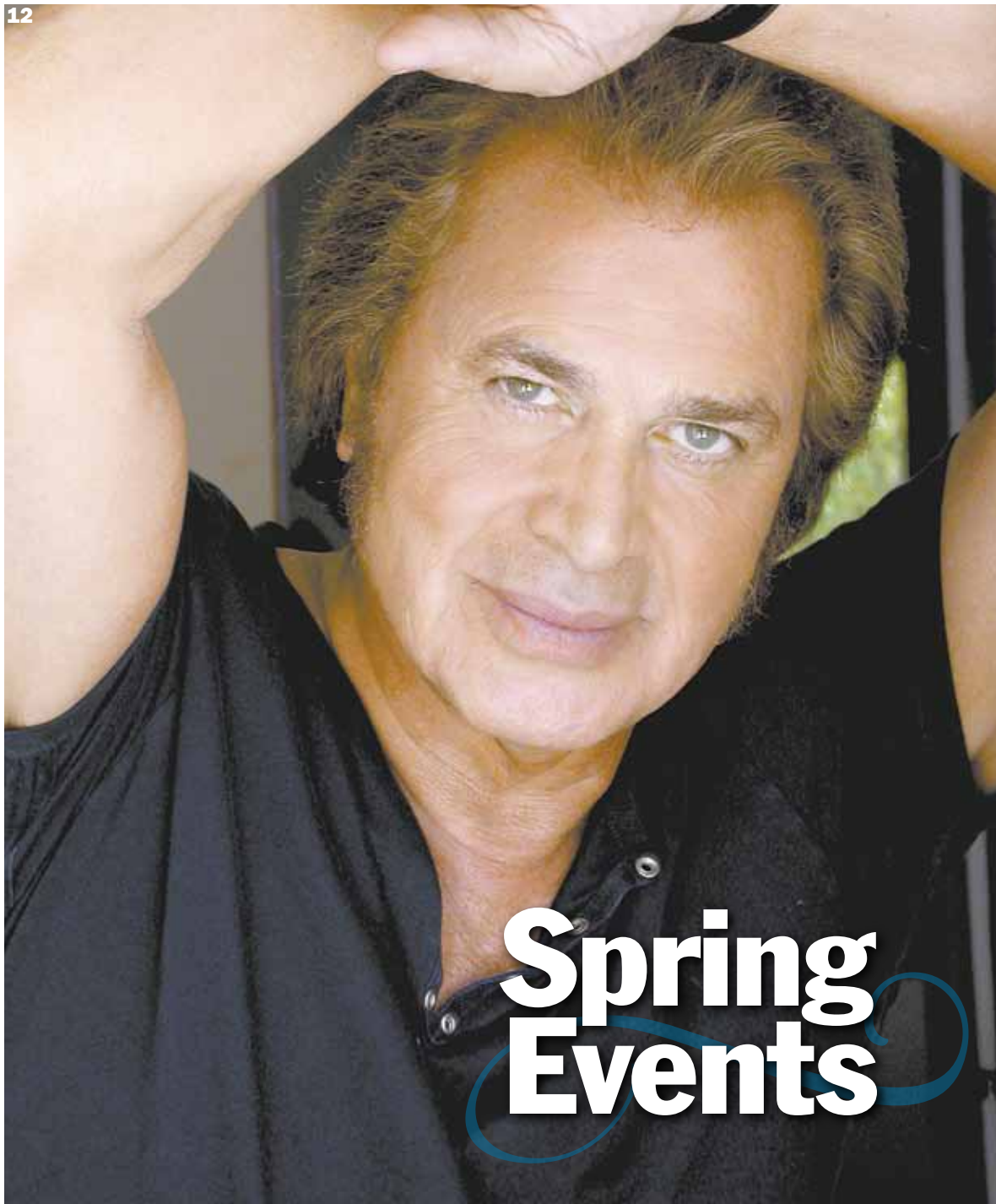
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Spring Events

3/26-27 Engelbert Humperdinck, The Grammy and Golden Globe winning "King of Romance" brings his sultry voice to two area performance halls including the Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater on March 26 and Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in Sarasota on March 27. For more than four decades, Humperdinck has shared a legacy of love with fans of every age, on every continent.

Throughout March and April

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, George and Martha, an aging history professor and his razor-tongued wife, invite a younger couple for late night drinks. American Stage Theatre Company at Raymond James Theater, 163 Third St. N., St. Petersburg, 727-823-7529

Jersey Boys, This is the story of how four blue-collar kids became The Four Seasons. Frankie Valli, Bob Gaudio, Tommy De Vito and Nick Massi wrote their own songs, invented their own sounds and sold over 175 million records worldwide. Carol Morsani Hall at David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N MacInnes Place, Tampa, 813-229-7827

FRIDAYS

Art on the House, Admission to the Museum will now be "on the house" for visitors on Fridays, from 4 to 8 p.m., Tampa Museum of Art, 120 Gasparilla Plaza, Tampa, 813 274-8130, <http://www.tampamuseum.org/>

3/1,3-5,9,11,13

St. Petersburg International Baseball, Baseball fans won't want to miss this 13-game spring series that includes some of the world's best baseball teams paired against some of America's Major League Baseball franchises and college squads. Progress Energy Park/Al Lang Field, 180 Second Ave. SE, St. Petersburg, 727-551-3000

3/1

An Evening with Lucille Ball: "Thank You for Asking" The evening recreates the comic genius and the magic behind the "Queen of Comedy" the whole world loved—from "Ricardo" to Mame—but, more importantly, it's an evening with the REAL Lucy, as you've never seen her before. Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, 941-953-3368, www.vanwezel.org

3/1-2,4-6

West Side Story, Mesmerizing audiences for more than 50 years, this groundbreaking musical is as exciting and timely as ever. Carol Morsani Hall at David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N MacInnes Place, Tampa, 813-229-7827

3/3-13

Florida Strawberry Festival, "Taste The Flavor Of Fun!" at the 76th Annual Florida Strawberry Festival. 303 N. Lemon St, Plant City, 813-754-1996, www.flstrawberryfestival.com.

3/3

Kenny Rogers, Kenny "the Gambler" Roger still knows when to hold them and when to fold them. But don't walk away without catching his hits Lucille, Lady, Through the Years and We've Got Tonight. Plant City Strawberry Festival Grounds, 303 N Lemon Street, Plant City, 813-752-9194

Barrage, This high-octane string group features an international, multi-talented cast performing an eclectic mix of music, song and dance featuring violinists, vocalists, a bass player, drummer and guitarist. Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, 941-953-3368, www.vanwezel.org

Sounds of Nature, Two resident ensembles of the Sarasota Orchestra, the Sarasota String Quartet and the Sarasota Wind Quintet. South Florida Museum, 201 Tenth St. W. Bradenton, 941-746-4131, www.southfloridamuseum.org

3/4-6

Florida Orchestra Pops: Opera Goes Pops, It's a pops parade of some of the best-loved opera hits that everybody knows from commercials, cartoons and favorite films, such as Rossini's Barber of Seville, Bizet's Carmen, Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, Puccini's La Boheme and Verdi's Force of Destiny, David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N MacInnes Place, Tampa, 727-892-3337

3/4-5

One Night With Elvis, If you are looking for music from the past and sounds like it's coming from Elvis... this is the show for you! Sarasota Classic Car Museum 5500 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, 941-355-6228, www.SarasotaCarMuseum.org

3/4-3/20

BYE BYE BIRDIE, Life is about to change for one lucky girl in Sweet Apple, Ohio. Super-star heart throb Conrad Birdie is going into the Army. But before he does, he's coming to Ohio to bestow "One Last Kiss" upon Kim MacAfee., Largo Cultural Center, 105 3rd Street Southeast, Largo, 727-587-6751, www.largoarts.com

BYE BYE BIRDIE

3/5

Dukes of Dixieland, The DUKES of Dixieland blow traditional jazz and Dixieland into the 21st Century. Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, 941-953-3368, www.vanwezel.org

Gasparilla Festival of the Arts, The festival, in its 41st year, features works by top-rated artists in the country. FREE, Curtis Hixon Park, 600 N Ashley Drive, Tampa, 813-876-1747, www.gasparilla-arts.com/index.htm

A Night in the Islands, A night under the stars, on the historic sponge docks features live Greek music, Greek dancing and instructions, free lessons in tavli (Greek backgammon), dining and more. Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks 20 Dodecanese Blvd., Tarpon Springs, 727-942-5605

3/6,11,15,19

La bohème, Is there anything more wonderful than young love in Paris? Or more heartbreaking? Puccini's beautiful score has made this poignant tragedy the most performed opera in the world. Sarasota Opera House, 61 N. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, 941-366-8450, www.sarasotaopera.org

3/6

Sinatra Sings Sinatra, The songs of Sinatra need to be sung and Frank Jr. has inherited that honor. Frank Sinatra, Jr., in song and style, pays homage to his father, the singer and the music that defines the Sinatra legend. Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, 941-953-3368, www.vanwezel.org

Trace Adkins, The self-avowed "roughneck" has hit No. 1 on the country music charts with No Thinkin' Thing, Ladies Love Country Boys and You're Gonna Miss This, Plant City Strawberry Festival Grounds, 303 N Lemon Street, Plant City, 813-752-9194

Travis Tritt and the Charlie Daniels Band, Busch Gardens Bands, Brew and BBQ, 3605 Bougainvillea Ave., Tampa, 888-800-5447

The Judds, Naomi and Wynonna Judd say their 2011 tour will be their last, so don't miss this chance to catch hits like Mama He's Crazy, Love is Alive and Change of Heart. Plant City Strawberry Festival Grounds, 303 N Lemon Street, Plant City, 813-752-9194

3/7

Clint Black. Plant City Strawberry Festival Grounds, 303 N Lemon Street, Plant City, 813-752-9194

3/9

think + drink (science) – The Science of Brewing. In celebration of St. Patrick's Day will be cooking up a batch of home-brewed beer. South Florida Museum, 201 Tenth St. W., Bradenton, 941-746-4131, www.southfloridamuseum.org

Tanya Tucker, has come a long way since she recorded Delta Dawn at age 13. Expect a show full of hits, including What's Your Mama's Name, Lizzie and the Rainman and Strong Enough to Bend. Plant City Strawberry Festival Grounds, 303 N Lemon Street, Plant City, 813-752-9194

3/10

George Jones, The "greatest living country singer" has been cranking out hits for years, including Tender Years, She Thinks I Still Care and The Grand Tour. Plant City Strawberry Festival Grounds, 303 N Lemon Street, Plant City, 813-752-9194

Frank Sinatra Jr. Sinatra Sings Sinatra, An evening dedicated to the memory and music of Ol' Blue Eyes as only his beloved son can provide! The Lakeland Center, 701 West Lime St, Lakeland, 863-834-8111, www.thelakelandcenter.com

3/11

Johnny Mathis, One of America's most beloved crooners, the legendary Johnny Mathis will perform his catalog of classics from the past five decades. Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, 941-953-3368, www.vanwezel.org

3/11-13

Cajun/Zydeco Crawfish Festival: Featuring Geno Delafosse and French Rockin' Boogie, A mudbug lover's delight. The festival also has a fabulous wooden dance floor so you can two-step to live music. Vinoy Park, 501 Fifth Ave. NE, St. Petersburg, 813-986-7978, www.cajunconnection.org/

3/12

Downtown Artwalk, St. Petersburg Downtown Arts Association gallery tour, with guest artists, gallery openings and special art related events. Participating galleries offer extended hours. Downtown St. Petersburg, Various locations from 30th Street to the Pier, St. Petersburg, 727-323-2787, www.stpetearts.org/

3/13

Lady Antebellum, Lady Antebellum isn't a she, it's a trio. An award-winning country trio from Nashville to be precise. Plant City Strawberry Festival Grounds, 303 N Lemon Street, Plant City, 813-752-9194

3/14

Mickey Finn and Cathy Reilly, Mickey Finn, piano wizard, and Cathy Reilly, the first lady inducted into the National Banjo Hall of Fame. Largo Cultural Center, 105 3rd Street Southeast, Largo, 727-587-6751, www.largoarts.com/

3/15-16

Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra presents "You'll Get a Kick Out of Cole", Honoring one of the greatest of the Great American Songbook writers, Cole Porter. Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, 941-953-3368, www.vanwezel.org

3/16-17

Longboat Key Exhibit, The finest of art plus health and wellness practitioners -- Free admission and free parking. What a great way to spend two days! Joan Durante Park, Longboat Key, 5550 Gulf of Mexico Dr, Longboat Key, 508-737-0998, www.communityaffair.com

3/17

Natalie Cole, Eight-time Grammy winner, Natalie Cole is returning to the Van Wezel with songs from her 2009 album, Still Unforgettable, Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, 941-953-3368, www.vanwezel.org

Four Celtic Voices with Special Guests from McGinley Academy of Irish Dance, Four wonderfully talented entertainers perform an all-live mix of Celtic traditional music such as Danny Boy and Molly Malone. Largo Cultural Center, 105 3rd Street Southeast, Largo, 727-587-6751, www.largoarts.com/

**3/18-20**

Chalk Walk Festival, More than 45 local and professional artists will create artwork in 10-by-10 sidewalk squares. There will also be food vendors and live entertainment. Old Hyde Park Village, 1622 W Snow Ave., Tampa, 813-221-2787

3/19

Sarasota Springfest 2011, Mouth-watering food, live entertainment, displays and exhibits, health screenings, Business Expo, youth demonstrations and children's activities. Admission and parking are free of charge! Palmer Ranch at the corner of Sawyer Loop and Northridge Road, off Clark Rd, Sarasota, 941-922-3866, www.sarasotaspringfest.com

60's Time Warp, Let us transport you back in time to Manatee County's settlement period - the 1860s - then "warp" forward to the groovy 1960s. This National Historic Site will feature living history presenters, heritage crafts, local legends, food, and music from both eras. Enter our contest for best 1860s or 1960s costume! Manatee Village Historical Park, 1404 Manatee Ave East, Bradenton, 941-749-7165, www.realizebradenton.com/index.php/shout-the-60s

Kenny Chesney, One of the biggest names in country music with more than 30 top ten singles, 25 awards and 13 albums to back him up. Raymond James Stadium 4201 N Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa, 813-350-6500

3/20

Jazz at the Glenridge, Glenridge Performing Arts Center. 7333 Scotland Way, Sarasota, 941-552-5325, gpactix.com

3/23

Richard Nader's Doo Wop Celebration! Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, 941-953-3368, www.vanwezel.org

3/24

Rodney Carrington, a multit talented comedian, actor, and writer who has recorded eight major record label comedy albums selling over two million copies, The Lakeland Center, 701 West Lime St, Lakeland, 863-834-8111, www.thelakelandcenter.com

3/25

Three Dog Night, With 21 consecutive top 40 hits and 50 million records sold, the hits of legendary music icons Three Dog Night continue to weave through the fabric of pop culture. Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, 941-953-3368, www.vanwezel.org

3/26

I Can Hear Music! A song and dance tribute to some of the greatest hits when vinyl and AM radio ruled our world. Largo Cultural Center, 105 3rd Street Southeast, Largo, 727-587-6751, www.largoarts.com/

3/29

Grease, Take a trip to a simpler time of poodle skirts, drive-ins, and T-birds. Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, 941-953-3368, www.vanwezel.org

4/2

A Night in the Islands, A night under the stars, on the historic sponge docks features live Greek music, Greek dancing and instructions, free lessons in tavlí (Greek backgammon), dining and more. Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks. 20 Dodecanese Blvd., Tarpon Springs, 727-942-5605

4/4

Life and Times of Johnny Cash. Largo Cultural Center, 105 3rd Street Southeast, Largo, 727-587-6751, www.largoarts.com/

4/6

Viagara Falls, This laugh out loud comedy is a rare treat! The story involves two widowers who are long time friends, a buxom call girl, and the wonders of a little blue pill. The action takes place in the apartment of Charley on his 77th birthday, in Sunnyside, Long Island, NY. Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, 941-953-3368, www.vanwezel.org

4/8-10

H&R Train Show, The 60th installment of H&R Trains' well known judged layout competition, with exhibits of every scale of model railroading. H&R Trains, 6901 U.S. Highway 19 N, Pinellas Park.

4/9-10, 15-17

Coast-2-Coast: Hitsville, USA, From Malt Shops and Motown to California and Maui, this high energy group spans this country's greatest music of the '50s, '60s and early '70s. Glenridge Performing Arts Center, 7333 Scotland Way, Sarasota, 941-552-5325, gpactix.com

4/15

The Rodgers and Hammerstein Songbook, Throughout the night, the cast will sing and dance unforgettable tunes from Carousel, The King and I, Oklahoma, The Sound of Music, and more. Largo Cultural Center, 105 3rd Street Southeast, Largo, 727-587-6751, www.largoarts.com/

4/16

2nd Annual BBQ Bash, benefitting the Suncoast Foundation for Handicapped Children. Live Bluegrass & Country Music. Cooking Demonstrations & Folk Dancing at the Pub. \$10,000 BBQ Cook Off Contest; Chili Cook-Off Contest, Venice Airport Festival Grounds, Airport Avenue W, Venice, 941 525-2553, www.suncoastbbqbash.com

60's Night with the Marauders, Dress in your 60s attire and win great prizes. Enjoy 60s-themed music and in-game contests throughout the evening. Stay for a free post-game 60s concert by Yesterdayze. McKechnie Field, 1611 9th Street W, Bradenton, 877-893-2827, www.realizebradenton.com/index.php/shout-the-60s

Jimmy Buffett, The Margaritaville singer brings his laid-back, island feel to Tampa. 1-800-ASK-GARY Amphitheatre, 4802 U.S. 301 N, Tampa, 813-740-2446

4/16-17

Mainsail Arts Festival, The 36th annual juried fine art and craft exhibit along the St. Petersburg waterfront. Also, live entertainment, children's activity tent and food vendors. Vinoy Park, 501 Fifth Ave. NE, St. Petersburg, 727-893-7039, www.mainsailartsfestival.org/

4/29

Tim McGraw, The country superstar, who currently stars with Gwyneth Paltrow in Country Strong, is joined by up-and-coming country musicians Luke Bryan and the Band Perry. 1-800-ASK-GARY Amphitheatre, 4802 U.S. 301 N, Tampa, 813-740-2446

Micanopy

The Town that Time Forgot

by **Lorraine Shank**

How often can you enter a world of contented people, genuinely pleased to meet you?

A place where friendly dogs wander the streets or opt to nap in the middle of a sidewalk. A place where cats ignore you but nonetheless accept a gentle stroke or a verbal compliment.

No question about it. The moment you leave the highway and turn onto Chokolka Boulevard, park your car, step out and look around, you're hooked.

It's called love at first sight. And you're not alone in this newfound love.

Moviemakers through the years have discovered the tiny town of Micanopy (which covers approximately one square mile) as the perfect spot to film movies that appeal to all age groups.

Four successful movies using Micanopy as a background include Doc Holliday, with Michael J. Fox, Cross Creek, Miracle at Clemon's Pond and The Yearling.

The "Old Florida" town is the perfect blending of town and nature, reflecting a way of life lived more than a century ago. The historic brick buildings stand tall and proud among ancient oak trees laced with Spanish moss. Gardens of flowers and shrubs of every color and type imaginable ramble throughout the town, adorning yards, fences, buildings and trees.

Micanopy is the first distinct United States town in Florida with settlement that began after Spain ceded the Florida Territory in 1821. Historic Micanopy, as many residents call their town, was incorporated in 1889 and described as "a settlement of 600 people with schools, churches, hotels, stores, a grist mill and a cotton mill."

More than 100 years later little has changed, except for the explosion in population now numbering 650. Somehow Micanopy has managed to escape growth and industry, and kept its environment and rural way of life. And that's because the residents like it that way!

Micanopy, pronounced Mick ah no pee, with the accent on the 'no' boasts 38 brick and wood buildings that are on the National Register of Historic Places. These structures line Chokolka Boulevard, Micanopy's main street. All are filled with thriving businesses as diverse as a field of wild flowers - with eye-catching names such as Coffee & Cream, Dakota Mercantile and Delectable Collectables.

What began as a rural area, perfect in weather and soil for growing citrus trees, Micanopy, in order to survive after the frosts of the 1990s, became a tourist town. All along Chokolka Boulevard antique shops, galleries, boutiques, book stores and restaurants thrive.

Sharon Conchiglio, owner of the Dakota Mercantile has managed her shop for over 14 years. She offers "an assortment of goods for gracious living." Many of her items are imported from France including scented soaps, jewelry, and charming baby clothes.

Monica Fowler of Delectable Collectables has owned her store for 30 plus years. She specializes in antique cameos, assorted collectables and jewelry, old and new. Fowler, as most shopkeepers in the town, always has her best friend with her - a big black cat, a mix of Maine Coon, Calico, and black and white tuxedo, named Abigail.

Maplewood Farms & Bake Shop is one of the newer stores, specializing in organic foods, homemade breads freshly baked in a brick oven each Saturday and Sunday, and a variety of eclectic items not found in the other stores. Guests are invited to sit on the front porch to enjoy a cup of organic coffee and a healthy, tasty pastry, while listening to Bluegrass music.

The Herlong Mansion Historic Inn & Gardens, dating back to 1845 is another listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Featured in National Geographic Magazine's "Must Stay Places You Will Love," the Herlong Mansion has garnered rave reviews, describing it as "Florida's Most Elegant Bed & Breakfast."

Shady Oak Studio teaches stained glass crafting "to guide you through a world of color and beauty limited only to your imagination." The Studio is also a showplace for visitors looking for that special gift, unique, personal, and extraordinary.

Although Micanopy has several restaurants in the area, only two are on the Boulevard: the Old Florida Café, and Coffee & Cream. Both offer soup, sandwiches, salads and desserts.

A "must visit" is the Micanopy Museum where a volunteer docent Jim Healy gives information about his hometown, be it serious, humorous, historic, or all three combined. Healy will tell you that Micanopy is located halfway between St. Augustine on the east coast and Cedar Key on the west coast. He smiles as he repeats the "legend of the lost lake." It seems that "once upon a time" a lake existed on the southeast part of town. One morning, the good citizens awoke to another day of swimming and fishing when, to their shock the lake was gone. Some people still scratch their heads wondering how and when and IF. Supposedly some homes still have piers heading toward the water!

Displays abound in the museum sharing information on Chief Micanopy of the Seminole Nation, after whom the town was named. The Civil War, turpentine and citrus industry exhibits are displayed. Clothes, tools, appliances and farm equipment of the early settlers show a life of hard work, setbacks, and a will to survive and move forward for the next generation.

For those looking for something a little different to discover and take advantage of while in Micanopy, a side trip to nearby Payne's Prairie Preserve State Park is minutes away. Heavy with greenery, the park is filled with all the natural beauty found in north central Florida. And "up the road apiece" is the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings State Park where the visitor can take a tour through the "old Cracker-style" house where Rawlings lived for over 20 years. On the screened-in porch is the typewriter where she wrote her Pulitzer Prize winning novel, The Yearling.

Micanopy is well worth your time for a day, a weekend or longer. A rare find in today's hectic world, it is a place to experience peace and tranquility, with a touch of adventure. If your wish is to take a step back in time - **this is IT.**



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- Entry into a **\$250 drawing** at **1:30PM & 2PM**, **\$500 drawing** at **2:30PM**, and a **Bonus \$1,000 drawing** at **3PM!** (All prizes paid in SlotPlay)

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Dolphin Tale



By B.C. Manion

“Dolphin Tale,” an upcoming major motion picture centers on Winter, a real-life dolphin who was caught in a crab trap near Cape Canaveral and was unable to escape.

The three-month-old dolphin was rescued from that trap in Mosquito Lagoon and transported to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, where she continued her fight for survival.

Winter lost her tail, but was fitted with a prosthetic device and was successfully rehabilitated. She now swims happily at the aquarium, where people from all over the globe come to visit her.

Winter’s real-life story and a fictional story wrapped around it, are combined in the 3D movie which just finished filming in Clearwater.

Alcon Entertainment is producing the film that is expected to be released by Warner Bros. this fall.

The duo of Alcon Entertainment and Warner Bros. in recent years brought moviegoers “The Blind Side,” starring Sandra Bullock and The Book of Eli, starring Denzel Washington.

“Dolphin Tale” stars Harry Connick, Jr., Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd, Kris Kristofferson and last, but, of course, not least, Winter.

Connick plays the director of the center that rescues and rehabilitates Winter. Ashley



Judd plays the mother of Sawyer (Nathan Gamble) who befriends Winter and rallies others to help the dolphin. Freeman is a doctor from the Veterans Administration who creates a prosthetic tail for Winter. Kristofferson plays Connick’s dad and lives with him and Connick’s daughter on a houseboat at the marine hospital, according to various online and newspaper reports.

Much of the filming for the movie was done at Clearwater Marine Aquarium, which began talking with Alcon Entertainment about a movie deal back in Spring of 2007, according to a blog posted on the aquarium’s website by the center’s CEO David Yates.

Besides featuring the friendship between a boy and a dolphin, the film explores other themes – including courage – and the inspiring effect that Winter has on people who have been fitted with artificial limbs, according to published reports.



Floridian lands role in Dolphin Tale

By B.C. Manion

When Jim Fitzpatrick, of Seminole, heard that a major motion picture about the friendship between a boy and an injured dolphin was being filmed at nearby Clearwater Marine Aquarium, he wanted in.

Fitzpatrick, no stranger to movie sets, predicts that “Dolphin Tale” will become a true family classic.

“This is one of those relationship-type family films that will leave an indelible impression on everyone who sees it,” Fitzpatrick said. “I really believe that this movie is going to touch a lot of people’s hearts.”

Fitzpatrick also thinks the film has all of the elements to make it a huge box-office success: the stars, the team making the film, the story and the 3-D format.

Alcon Entertainment shot much of the movie at the aquarium, but it also converted a big empty department store for a sound stage, Fitzpatrick said.

It also built a houseboat where some characters in the movie lived and a huge water tank – which is where Winter, the dolphin now resides. Winter, a dolphin who lost her tail in a crab trap, is at the center of the story.

Fitzpatrick plays the role of Max, an ex-marine who is the uncle of Sawyer (Nathan Gamble), a young outcast boy who befriends Winter.

The boy and the dolphin were good for each other, Fitzpatrick said.

“They were each other’s support system. They became each other’s family.”

Fitzpatrick’s character shares many scenes with Ashley Judd, who played the role of Sawyer’s single mom.

Working with Judd was a pleasure, Fitzpatrick said.

He described her as a “total professional.

“She comes absolutely prepared and ready to work,” he said. At the same time, she is “accessible and sweet.”

Fitzpatrick’s work on the movie began on Sept. 23 and lasted until Dec. 14.

It was not exactly glamorous.

“The very first day it was 97 degrees and the humidity, it felt like it was about 80 percent,” Fitzpatrick said.

“November got really cold,” he said, estimating it was in the high 20s on the coldest day on the set. There was a scene where he had to wear a summer shirt and shorts. “It was freezing,” Fitzpatrick said.

Many work days lasted 12 hours, beginning around 6 or 6:30 in the morning.

There also were some technical challenges that needed to be worked out, since the movie was filmed in 3D.

Throughout the filming, the director and crew maintained a standard of excellence, Fitzgerald said.

“They were such perfectionists when it came to the script, to the actors, to the scenes,” Fitzpatrick said. They brought out the best in everyone, he added.

When the actors saw a short sizzle reel, they were jazzed by the quality of the film and its emotional impact.

“It’s extremely touching,” the actor said.

Fitzpatrick is no stranger to movies.

He first fell in love with them when he was just 5 years old.

He recalls the moment as if it were yesterday.

He had gone with his family to see “The Sound of Music” at Tampa Theatre in downtown Tampa. “I was totally enamored with the size and scope of the movie,” he said.

He was in his first school play when he was 13 and since has gone on to play a multitude of roles in movies and television shows. He now owns an independent film company.

Working on the “Dolphin Tale” was a fabulous experience, Fitzpatrick said.

“Everyone who was working this film brought their heart and soul to work.”



If You Go

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday; and, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

Admission: \$14.95 for adults; \$10.95 for seniors and \$9.95 for kids Where: 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, FL 33767

For more information, call (727) 441-1790 or visit www.SeeWinter.com

Visit Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Florida’s winter residents looking for a few bragging rights may want to drop by the Clearwater Marine Aquarium before heading home this year.

The aquarium was the setting for much of the filming of “Dolphin Tale,” a major motion picture about a young boy who befriends a dolphin who has lost her tail in a crab trap and is fitted with a prosthetic flipper.

By visiting the aquarium now, winter residents will miss the rush that the aquarium staff expects when the 3D movie by Alcon Entertainment is distributed by Warner Bros. this fall.

The story of Winter, who was named after the season when she was rescued, already has captivated audiences through coverage by the Today Show, The Bonnie Hunt Show, Animal Planet, Reader’s Digest, USA Today, TIME magazine and countless other publications and television programs.

Such exposure already has motivated people from all over the globe to visit Winter, and when the movie spreads the dolphin’s story to even more people – the aquarium expects to see even bigger crowds. It is even planning to add more parking to accommodate the increased traffic.

Krista Rosado, spokeswoman for the Clearwater Aquarium puts it like this: “We are expecting our attendance to rise dramatically. We expect to be very busy.” She thinks the movie will have broad appeal.

“The movie is based on Winter’s real story and the inspiration she provides to people who face difficulties, and for that reason the movie is touching,” Rosado said.

Alcon Entertainment and Warner Bros. are the same duo that was behind “The Blindside,” a critically acclaimed blockbuster that starred Sandra Bullock, who captured an Oscar for her performance.

“Dolphin Tale” also stars some heavyweights. Its cast includes Morgan Freeman, Harry Connick Jr., Ashley Judd, Kris Kristofferson and Nathan Gamble, the boy who befriends the injured dolphin.

Visitors to the aquarium will be able to see the 80,000-gallon tank built for the movie, which has become Winter’s home. They also will be able to see a rustic, Old-Florida houseboat – complete with a crow’s nest on top. The houseboat was also made for the movie but has become a permanent fixture at the aquarium. (Visitors are not allowed to board it at this point, but are expected to be able to in the future.)

Being able to see those things are just a few of the aquarium’s high points.

There also are dolphin shows, an otter exhibit, a turtle exhibit, shark feedings, a shipwreck alley, touch tanks and a stingray beach where visitors can touch and feed the rays.

The aquarium has a round theater where visitors can see how it does its rescue, rehabilitation and release work in a movie that include’s Winter’s story. There also are guided kayak and sea life safari boat tours available for additional charges.

The aquarium was closed to the public from mid-September to mid-December to accommodate filming of “Dolphin Tale.” But even during that time, the aquarium’s mission of caring for marine life carried on.

“We actually admitted oil-spill turtles during this time, so animal care was definitely not affected,” Rosado said.

Road Trip

If You Go

The National World War II Museum
945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
(Main Entrance on Andrew Higgins Drive)
Details: (504) 528-1944 or info@nationalww2museum.org
Lodging: Try the Loews News Orleans, 504) 595-3300 or www.loewshotels.com.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Open seven days a week, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed Mardi Gras Day, Thanksgiving Day,
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day



WWII Museum



The elderly man comes through the glass doors into the National World War II Museum with assistance from his family members.

A man in a dark blue blazer bounds down the steps to greet him.

He sticks out his hand.

“Sir, thank you for your service. Welcome to the National World War II Museum.”

That’s the welcome every World War II – and any other veteran – receives when they enter the museum, located in downtown New Orleans.

The three-story building houses exhibits from an era often called “The Greatest Generation.”

The museum is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and, of course, Mardi Gras Day.

Which brings up an interesting question?

Why New Orleans?

The city is home to the LCVP, or Higgins boat, the landing craft that brought thousands of U.S. soldiers to shore in every major amphibious assault of WWII. Andrew Jackson Higgins and the 30,000 Louisiana workers of Higgins Industries designed, built, and tested 20,000 Higgins boats in Southeastern Louisiana during the war. Dwight Eisenhower once claimed that Higgins was “the man who won the war for us.”

One of the Higgins boat is prominently displayed in the Main Gallery.

The late Dr. Stephen Ambrose was the founder of the museum. He spent decades researching and writing about WWII, Eisenhower and D-Day. As he collected more than

2,000 oral histories from D-Day veterans, he realized that the United States had no museum to honor these men and women.

On the ground floor, some kiosks are manned by “real soldiers,” who offer their experiences about the war equipment. One talks about a WWII jeep, while another offers insight on a howitzer.

The exhibitions blend personal accounts, artifacts, documents, photographs and film footage to tell the stories of the amphibious landings that made victory in World War II possible. It ranges from the beaches of Normandy to the sands of Iwo Jima.

Some can spend a few hours, while others could spend an entire day at the museum.

At the end of the war, there were 16 million veterans and now they are just under 2 million still alive. The museum is trying to collect oral histories of veterans, as well as artifacts. Check out the website at www.nationalww2museum.org for much more information.

Another part of the museum is across the street. It includes the Victory Theater, which shows “Beyond All Boundaries.” It is an impressive 4-D experience, featuring Tom Hanks as the narrator and the voices of several well-known actors.

It is a sensory experience with a 120-foot screen and special effects theatre seats, which allow visitors to share in the sounds and feelings of the story.

The Stage Door Canteen offers a pre-show dinner or brunch, followed by “Let Freedom Swing,” a set of music from the 1940s among a musical production of singers and dancers. The shows are Friday and Saturday evenings



with a Sunday matinee.

And the American Sector by Chef John Besh is a restaurant that offers classic American cuisine. Check for times and reservations.

All WW II veterans who visit are encouraged to sign the Roll of Honor. Documentary films are shown daily in the Malcolm Forbes Theater on the half-hour from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Museum welcome guides are available in French, Spanish, German and Braille.

The museum offers lectures and tours for all ages, including school classes. The museum has a store and coffee shop.

Snowbirding good for Health

**Did you know that being a Snowbird
is good for your health?
We've come up with a dozen ways
spending the winter along Florida's Gulf Coast
can help improve your overall health.**



1. **Sunshine** – Getting a daily dose of Vitamin D is tough in areas where the sun is absent for months at a time. Florida is known as the Sunshine State and most areas average more than 300 sunny days per year. Florida's natural sun also helps ward off Seasonal Affective Disorder common in many areas that see only gray skies in the winter.
2. **Falls and Back Pain** - Snow and ice can create treacherous conditions for many seniors who often never fully recover from a serious fall. Shoveling snow can often result in back pain that can linger the rest of your life.
3. **Camaraderie**. Many Snowbirds find new friendships and sense of belonging at the hundreds of Over 55 communities scattered throughout the Gulf Coast. Many offer dozens of daily activities and residents become "family" watching out for each other.
4. **Recreation**. Mild temperatures, plentiful parks, golf courses, tennis courts, aquatic facilities and walking paths provide seniors opportunities to stay active in months they are often house-bound in the winter "at home."
5. **Entertainment**. Venues throughout the state book targeted entertainment in the winter months with seniors in mind. Outdoor venues often offer free entertainment and arts lovers will enjoy ballet, opera, symphony, first-rate galleries and more.
6. **Medical Resources**. Florida's large senior population draws some of the nation's top specialists to treat age-related diseases and conditions. Winter visitors and retirees often have better access to top-notch health care than in their home states and provinces.
7. **Professional and College Sports**. Baseball, America's pastime is alive and well in the state of Florida. Each spring more than a dozen professional baseball teams train in the state. There is also professional football and hockey and dozens of college programs to follow in all divisions.
8. **Cruises**. The introduction of dozens of new cruise ships over the past decade have resulted in competitive pricing. Many seniors are taking advantage of last-minute deals and early booking options for substantial discounts to visit places they never dreamed they would see.
9. **Family and Friends**. Chances are you'll see more visiting family and friends when you spend the winter months in Florida. This may be a good or a bad thing depending on the volume of visitors. To fully enjoy the company, develop a strategy for meals, entertainment, etc., so your visitors can enjoy their stay – and you can enjoy them!
10. **Safe Driving**. Snow and ice often make driving hazardous but necessary. Florida sees a huge influx of traffic in the winter but seniors who strategize when to get on the road and avoid rush hour and school traffic can minimize the danger. Avoid nighttime driving and make sure you have a designated driver when consuming alcohol. Also, read warning labels on prescription drugs. Many warn not to drive and you could end up getting a costly ticket for driving under the influence.
11. **Lifelong Learning**. Want to learn to use an e-reader, hobby, craft or take a non-credit class in areas you are interested in such as history? Area colleges and universities, senior centers, community centers, churches and more offer a wide assortment of classes. Keeping your mind sharp helps your overall sense of well being.
12. **Volunteer**. The ability to successfully get around in the winter results in opportunities for you to volunteer. Organizations depend on the knowledge, expertise and willingness to help that many seniors bring with them to the state. Staying engaged is a key component to overall health.



Caught Reading

**Business owners - Looking to reach this "Hard to Reach Market?"
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Contact Karen Harrell at 850-291-1266 or Publisher@SnowbirdsGulfCoast.com



If You Go



Mississippi Gulf Coast Gaming and Attractions

The Mississippi Gulf Coast is alive and thriving nearly six years after Hurricane Katrina caused widespread devastation.

Led by economy-driving gaming industry, there are now more than 12,000 rooms available on the coast – many brand new hotels and condominiums.

Eleven casinos offer 24-hour gaming, headliner entertainment, top-tier dining, spas, shopping promenades, golf courses and other amenities that draw visitors year-round making the area the Las Vegas of the south.

During the winter season, the Mississippi Gulf Coast often draws Snowbirds from across the Gulf Coast and nearby Florida for fun.

Many gather in groups aboard charter buses while others take advantage of discount airline packages that often offer hotel deals and other incentives.

But, the Mississippi Gulf Coast boasts more attractions than gaming. The area is rich in history and culture.

There are a number of boat and fishing tours including the Biloxi Shrimp Trip Sunset Cruise which reopened in February.

A choice of some choice of 20 golf courses, many of them created by the top course designers in the world – Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Davis Love III, Mark McCumber, and Tom Fazio.

Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home has reopened after a \$4 million restoration and the Library and Hayes Pavilions have been replicated. Construction on the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library will continue through 2010 with an opening scheduled in 2011. The beautifully restored Beauvoir house dominates the sprawling complex that includes a gift shop, historic cemetery, the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier and the magnificent view of the Mississippi Sound. Beauvoir truly lives up to her name – French for beautiful view or beautiful to see!

The Walter Anderson Museum of Art features original works of art by the Anderson family and rotating exhibits by regional and national artists. The Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art features Ohr-iginal art by George Ohr, the self proclaimed "Mad Potter" of Biloxi. Both the Walter Anderson Museum of Art and the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art are affiliated with the Smithsonian Museum.

The Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum will be built on Highway 90 beside the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art and across from the Schooner Pier Complex. Phase one of the Museum, opening December 2011, will be a 17,000 sq ft exhibit hall that will feature the Nydia, a 30-foot gaff-rigged cabin sloop.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Casinos

Beau Rivage Resort & Casino
875 Beach Blvd., Biloxi,
1-888-567-6667. www.beaurivage.com

Boomtown Casino
676 Bayview Ave, Biloxi
228-435-7000, www.boomtownbiloxi.com

Grand Casino Biloxi
280 Beach Blvd., Biloxi.
1-800-WIN-2-WIN/1-800-HARRAHS
www.harrahs.com/casinos/grand-biloxi

Hard Rock Hotel and Casino
777 Beach Blvd., Biloxi
228-374-ROCK, www.hardrockbiloxi.com

Hollywood Casino
Bay St. Louis
1-866-758-2591, www.hollywoodcasinobs.com

IP Hotel & Casino
850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi.
1-888-WIN AT IP, www.ipbiloxi.com

Island View Casino Resort
3300 W Beach Blvd., Gulfport.
1-877-774-8439, www.islandviewcasino.com

The Isle of Capri Casino Resort
151 Beach Blvd., Biloxi
1-800-THE-ISLE or 1-800-843-4753
<http://biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com/>

Palace Casino Resort
158 Howard Avenue, Biloxi
1-800-PALACE-9 (800-725-2239)
www.palacecasinoresort.com

Silver Slipper Casino
Located on the beach in Hancock County.
1-866-S-SLIPPER www.silverslipper-ms.com

Treasure Bay Casino and Hotel
1980 Beach Blvd., Biloxi
1-800-747-2839, www.treasurebay.com



Pet Savvy

Puppy Love

By Michelle Harrell

By Michelle Harrell

I now know the full meaning of the term, “being followed around like a puppy.”

It’s been four years since I’ve had this much energy in the house. Life and daily routines have changed dramatically with the addition of Apollo, my new 10 month old poodle.

Introducing a new dog into the pack is also a special process. I firmly believe in letting the dogs “work it out” for themselves. Just like in the wild, they must choose their own order, boundaries and limits.

One key to maintaining the peace while the new doggies adjust is to engage them all in play, together. This gives everyone some attention and helps to invite the new baby in. There might be a little jealousy at first but with a little time and patience, they’ll most likely give in.

Another helpful tip to a balanced home with a new puppy is to have lots of toys and things to chew on hand. Unless you’re just not fond of your favorite black dress shoes that is. And yes, I had to be reminded of this one the hard way.

Puppies are constantly on the move and quickly bored so will search out new things to occupy their time. I’ve taken this opportunity to teach Apollo some easy new tricks, disguised as play. So far, he’s walking on his hind legs, hoping over some small props, jumping through a big and a very tiny hoop and learning the weave poles. However, just like with toddlers, their mind is like a sponge and their attention span is like a gnat.

Keeping the sessions short, and giving a treat very quickly after each command is completed, helps to keep them engaged.

Being prepared for the new puppy whether it be with plenty of toys, lots of play or training. One thing is for sure, Puppy time is a short lived and exciting time. Don’t forget to savor every moment, even the early morning “wake up now mama” kisses at 5 am. They grow up so fast.

Happy trails and tails.....

Michelle Harrell travels to special events around the country with her kid-friendly “Michelle’s Magical Poodles” act. She also performs as a Living Statue. If you see her at a local event in your home state this year stop by, snap a photo and say hello. **Her website is www.statueviva.com. You can also find her schedule on Facebook under Michelle’s Magical Poodles. Be sure to “Like” her page!**



Attention: Canadian Snowbirds

**Will you flip a coin
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a hospital in Florida?**

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Where Pets Go



Pet Resources

BRADENTON

Happy Trails Canine Park

is located on 51st

St. West at G.T. Bray Park

about half way between Manatee Avenue and Cortez Rd.

De Soto National Memorial

is located at the northern terminus of 75th Street North West in Bradenton, Florida

OCALA

Millennium Dog Park

Located at 2573 SE 32nd Ave, Ocala, FL

SARASOTA

Red Bug Slough Preserve

Located at 5200 Beneva Road in Sarasota. This 72-acre wildlife refuge is dog friendly, but dogs MUST BE leashed.

Sarasota Paw Park

Located at 4570 17th Street, east of Beneva Road, west of Honore Avenue.

Lakeview Park

Located at 7150 Lago Street.

Bird Key Park

Located on the John Ringling Causeway, on the way to St. Armands Circle, just east of the bridge. The kind reader who informed us about this dog-friendly beach says it’s Sarasota’s only beach allowing dogs and cats!

Oscar Scherer State Park

Located at 1843 South Tamiami Trail in Osprey, just south of Blackburn Point Road.

Sun Circle Park

Located in the city’s Indian Beach Sapphire Shores neighborhood

Woodmere Park

Located on Jacaranda Boulevard, 2 blocks north of U. S. 41

Ken Thompson Park

Located at 1700 Ken Thompson Parkway, on City Island by Mote Marine Laboratory.

Bay Front Park

Located at U. S. 41 & Ringling in the Marina Jack area

Gillespie Park

Located at 710 N. Osprey, Downtown at Gillespie and N. Osprey

Arlington Park

Located at 2650 Waldemere Street pets are allowed on trail area only and must be on leashes.

TAMPA BAY AREA -

OFFICIAL DOG PARKS WITH BEACHES

Ft. DeSoto Dog Park, 3500 Pinellas

Bayway S., Tierra Verde FL 33715

Davis Island Dog, 1002 Severn Rd., (near Peter O. Knight Airport), Tampa FL

PARKS WITH WATER ACCESS

Bicentennial Park, Tom Stuart Causeway, Madeira Beach, Florida

Abercrombie Park, 3800 Park St. N., St. Petersburg, Florida **Honeymoon Island Pet Beach**, 1 Causeway Dr., Dunedin, Florida

OFFICIAL DOG PARKS WITHOUT BEACHES

Walter Fuller Park, 7901 30th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, Florida

Chase Dog Park, Bounded by 28 and 27 Ave. S. and 53rd and 54th St. S., Gulfport FL

Boca Ciega Millenium Park, 12410 74th Ave. N., Seminole FL

North Shore Dog Park often called “Vinoy Dog Park”, 901 North Shore Dr. N.E., St. Petersburg, Florida

Freedom Lake Park 9990 46th St. N., Pinellas Park, Florida

Walsingham Park 12615 102nd Ave. N., Largo, Florida

Sand Key Park and Paw Playground 1060 Gulf Blvd., Clearwater, Florida 3767

Crest Lake Park, 201 Glenwood Ave., Clearwater, Florida 33755

Happy Tails Dog Park 3051 Garrison Rd., in the Louis A. Vanech Recreational Complex, Dunedin, Florida

Lake Vista Park 1401 62nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg, Florida

GOOD PARKS FOR DOG-WALKING AND PEOPLE-WALKING

War Veterans’ Memorial Park at Bay Pines 9600 Bay Pines Blvd. N., St. Petersburg, Florida

Abercrombie Park, 3800 Park St. N., St. Petersburg, Florida

Walter Fuller Park 7901 30th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, Florida

Crescent Lake Park 1320 5th St. N., St. Petersburg, Florida

Pinellas Trail and Seminole City Hall Park 7464 Ridge Rd., Seminole, Florida

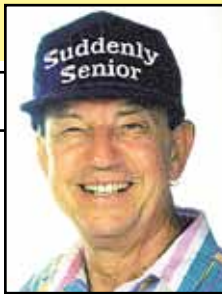
Lake Seminole Park 10015 Park Blvd. N., Seminole, Florida

Taylor Reservoir Park and Pinellas Trail, 1100 8th Ave. SW, Largo, Florida

Walsingham Park 12615 102nd Ave. N., Largo, Florida

SUDDENLY SENIOR™

By Frank Kaiser



Boomers Fear of Seniorsdom Scary

Do you remember what they called geezers before they called them seniors? I don't. You don't either, I'll bet.

You and I were never going to get old enough to care. Fifty years ago, I remember thinking the then-popular euphemism for elders—Golden Agers—was a crock. Golden, my butt!

The words geezers, codgers, and duffers were around then, too. But like "old farts," those handles never gained traction. Let's face it, how many seniors do you know who would step up and demand the "Old fart discount, please."

Then, suddenly, and without warning, we were old farts ourselves. The phrase Golden Agers had morphed to Senior Citizens and finally to seniors, and when the time came, we accepted that rubric with aplomb.

I bring this to your attention, as it seems that aging boomers don't like to be called "seniors." According to the Second 50 Years Marketing Group, 50-something whippersnappers assert that the word "senior" isn't good enough for them.

Poor things. Couldn't you just sit down and weep for these woeful whippersnappers? After years of worshipping at the altar of youth, to receive out of the blue that "Welcome to AARP" letter must seriously freak out the best of them.

Of course, marketers are alarmed. If they can't call these new seniors "seniors," what can they call them? Think about it. What else works with _____ Discount, _____ Living Guide, and Free Stuff for _____?

Searching for a new euphemism to please ripening Boomers, focus groups were asked to react to a list of terms that might describe them. Here are the names the groups found least and most appealing:

Least Appealing, Older Boomers, Elders, Older People, Third Agers, Third Actors, Retired People, Senior Citizens, Most Appealing, The Experienced, Advisers, Coaches, Wise Ones, Masters, Seasoned Citizens.

Seems to me that marketers should take a cue from the acknowledged masters of flimflam: Washington politicians.

Never calling a spade a spade, these New Orwellians call a bill that cuts funds for the aged a "Mature Enrichment Program" and one limiting Medicare benefits, "The Saving Senior Independence from Government Act."

You've got to admire the utter lack of conscience involved here. These folks are good!

In a world where bald is "follically-challenged" and crippled is "differently-abled," it should be a cinch for the unscrupulous to come up with a good hoodwink for aging Boomers.

WHAT ABOUT JALOS? BYS?

Instead of "Coaches" or "Advisers," how about "Sages?" That's a word with muscle.

Or, to borrow from the government's extensive use of acronyms, try JALOs, for those "Just A Little Older."

How about calling our newest seniors NQYs, for "Not Quite Young." Even goofier is BYs, for "Be Wise" or "Beyond Youth" or possibly "Born Yesterday."

Actually, the big question is: Are they worthy of joining the best time of our lives?

Where the aging Boomers see wrinkles, we see character. Where they think old, we think experienced. And where they fear loss, we cherish reinvention. Seniors find friends in place of things, faith in place of fear, laughter in place of whining.

Are these concepts too difficult for snotnose Boomers to comprehend?

To be truly deserving of the privilege of growing old—worthy to be called seniors—Boomers must appreciate that they are entering an age where they'll finally learn the true meaning of courage, beauty, and wonder. And the limitless power of love and forgiveness, faith and gratitude. Understand that, and it won't matter a whit what people call you.

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850.916.8400

ANDREWS SPINE CENTER GOT ME BACK ON COURSE.

I'm an avid golfer, so when back pain interfered with my game, I made an appointment with the Andrews Spine Center. They promptly diagnosed and treated the cause of my back pain. The Andrews Institute team worked with me to improve my golf swing and avoid future problems. Today, I feel great and my golf game is better than ever!

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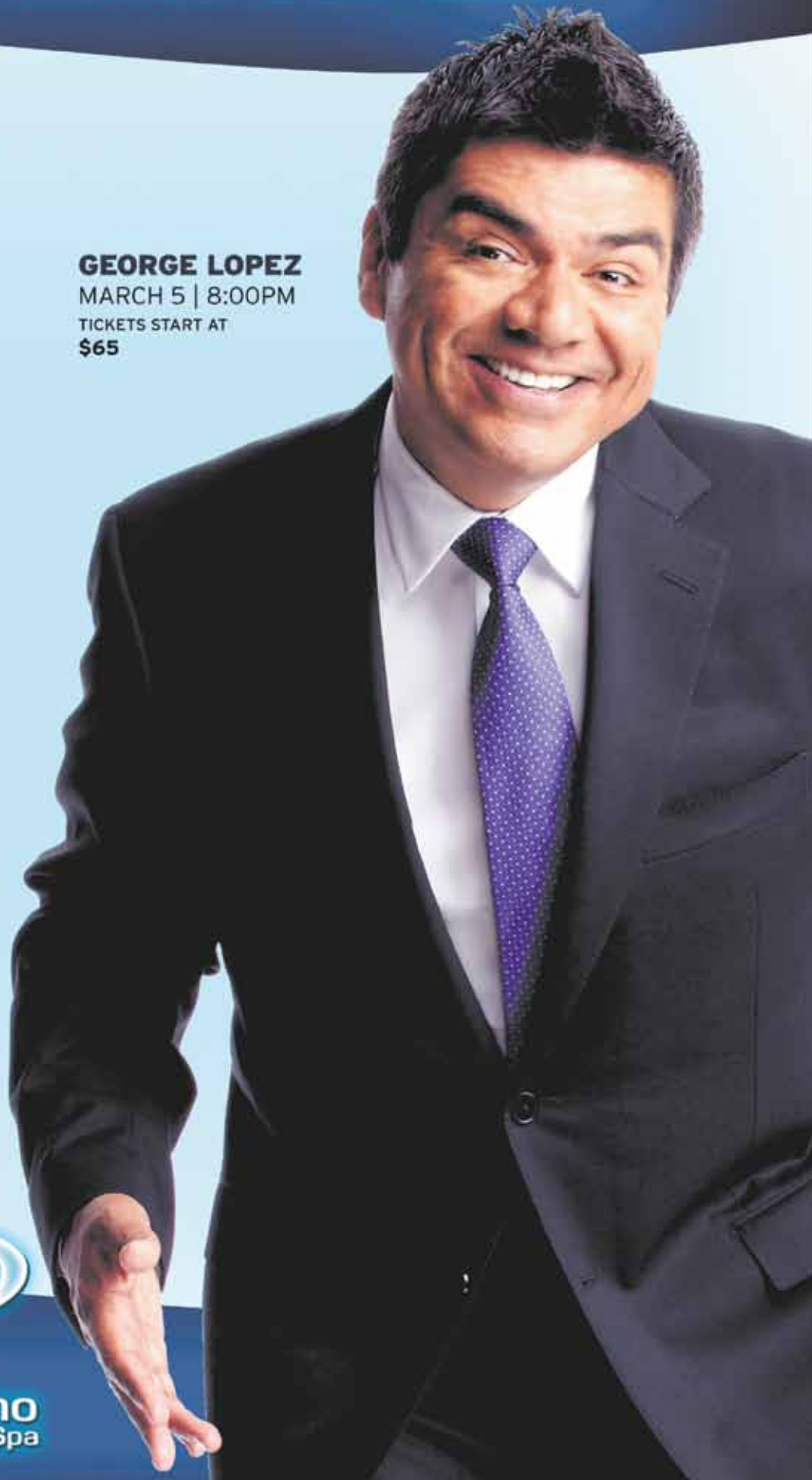
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