

Priceless!

Priceless!

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www.jimwarren.com

TAMPA BAY INFORMER

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The Good News Newspaper



The Tiger's Back!

The clean thwack of metal hitting golf ball was heard all throughout Innisbrook Resort...

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Racer Paves "The Way to Happiness"

Greg Gorman, riding a 2008 Kawasaki ZX-10R prepared by Corsa Motorworks, was finally able to display his cornering skills at a track...

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Home Run For a Drug-Free World

The Drug Free World fundraising event was held at the Toronto Blue Jays vs. Detroit Tigers spring training game....

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FIRST 4TH FRIDAY EVENT in Downtown Clearwater

by Heidi Lux & Ana Livingston

DOWNTOWN CLEARWATER

The first 4th Friday in Downtown Clearwater was held, fittingly, on the fourth Friday of March. "March Madness" closed down Cleveland Street from East Avenue all the way down to Osceola.

The Clearwater Community Volunteers had their signature train giving rides up and down the street. It was the perfect evening for friends and families to come together and wander the streets while browsing the vendor tables, or to share an after-work-week drink while enjoying the free live music. Local downtown restaurants were open and many stores had booths. Intuition Salon sold jewelry and handbags, Pangea Café offered muffins and their signature Illy coffee, and Bella Pucci

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Spectators enjoy March Madness entertainment and refreshments at the inaugural 4th Friday Event in Downtown Clearwater
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

GINORMOUS EASTER EGG HUNT

The 17th Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 12th begins at 12:00 noon and goes to 2:00pm. The Hunt itself starts at 12:30 sharp!

by Heidi Lux

DOWNTOWN CLEARWATER

Easter Sunday is a time for families to come together. There's nothing better than a refreshing, spring afternoon spent in the park with the ones you love. This Easter, the Clearwater Community Volunteers (CCV) and the Church of Scientology will be holding their Annual Giant Easter Egg Hunt in Downtown Clearwater at Coachman Park for the 17th year in a row. When my editor asked me to write this story, my eyes widened as I enthusiastically rambled on about how much I had loved it as a child. These fond memories make me happy to think of all the children who will get to enjoy Easter as I did.

This event has long been a part of the Clearwater scene, perhaps long enough to be called a tradition. I remember my excitement as a little girl going to the Easter egg hunt; the thrill of finding a brightly-colored egg beneath a dull leaf, counting up the loot afterward. My childhood photo album has several pictures of me sitting on the Easter Bunny's lap; blonde hair in disarray, bearing a gap-toothed smile, fresh from a thrilling hunt.



The Clearwater Community Volunteers' train is coming to this year's Easter Egg Hunt held at Coachman Park.

There is nothing more pleasurable, as a child, than the simple joy of spending a day outdoors, the cool breeze contrasting with the warmth of the radiant sun as you run around in the fresh air, lost in the diversion of searching for those elusive candy-filled plastic eggs. That glimpse of baby blue or pastel pink fills you with the thrill of discovery; your face brightens with a smile at the prospect of the goodies that will be found inside.

Clearwater Community Volunteer's 17th Annual Giant Easter Egg Hunt will be held Easter Sunday, April 12th. The event begins at 12:00 noon; and goes to 2:00pm. The Hunt itself starts at 12:30 sharp! So, be on time

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Church of Scientology Announces Grand Opening of Fully Rebuilt Landmark Fort Harrison Religious Retreat

by Pat Harney

The Church of Scientology held the grand opening of the Fort Harrison, the second facility completed in just the last 18 months, to accommodate the influx of thousands of parishioners...

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Artists in Action's 2nd Anniversary

by Heidi Lux

On March 21st, Artists in Action International (AIAI) celebrated their anniversary in addition to having a Grand Opening of their new Mission: Beautification Gallery space...

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Marching for Human Rights

by Heidi Lux

On Saturday, March 7th, the cities of Clearwater, St. Petersburg and Tampa came together to proclaim Human Rights Walkathon Day...

Read more pg. 5

THE TIGER'S BACK!

by Heidi Lux & Wayne Cathel

ORLANDO

The clean thwack of metal hitting golf ball was heard all throughout Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club in Palm Harbor, as the Transitions Golf Tournament took place.

The event was kicked off with The Shelton Quarles Celebrity Pro-Am, which benefited the IMPACT Foundation Tournament. Celebrity sports stars like Ronde Barber and former Tampa Bay Ray Fred McGriff were seen displaying their athletic prowess while simultaneously getting out of their comfort zones.

The championship game itself started on the 18th of March, and continued during the week, finally winding to a close on the 22nd. Retief Goosen won the Championship, something he is familiar with. In 2003, he also won the Championship, making him the second player to win it twice. The first person to accomplish this, K.J. Choi, also competed this year. Goosen is from South Africa, and his victory makes this the fifth time in nine years that an international player has won.

All the proceeds from the Transitions Championship Golf Tournament benefits charities, and in the past 32 years of the championship over \$23 million dollars has been raised.

Tiger Woods was expected to show at the Transitions Championship, but instead played in the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard. Tiger Woods birdied the 72nd hole to beat Sean O'Hair by one stroke and claim his sixth Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard. Tiger Woods matched his largest comeback after 54 holes (5 strokes) with his victory on Sunday. Out of Tiger Woods' 66 career wins, he has now come from behind to win 19 times.



Tiger Woods gets out of a sandy situation. Photo by Wayne Cathel



Tiger's signature fist pump Photo by Wayne Cathel



Retief Goosen won the Transitions Championship Golf Tournament this year. Photo by Wayne Cathel



This marked Tiger's sixth Arnold Palmer victory. Photo by Wayne Cathel



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IT'S YOUR BODY. UNDERSTAND IT!™

By Shelley Jaffe



your body. Yes, your cells eat, but more on that another time. In other words, it determines how well your entire body breaks down and uses what you put in it. It is butterfly-shaped and located at the lower part of your throat just north of where your collar bones attach.

Next is the parathyroid. You have four of them. They are about the size of a grain of rice and they are located behind the thyroid. Their only job is to regulate calcium levels in your body. Other than their location, they don't have much to do with the thyroid.

Peter Gillham's philosophy has always been to educate people about their bodies and empower them to live long, healthy lives. Peter and I share this philosophy, and that is why we will be running monthly articles – to help educate and empower you, the reader.

So, you have a brain. It's your computer. You are the operator sitting there entering commands into the computer. But what about all of the things you body does without you constantly telling it to do so? Simple, the computer is programmed to do a number of things automatically so you only enter a command once, and it keeps doing it over and over. Many of these commands are carried out by the endocrine system, so this is where we are going to begin.

When most people think of hormones they think of the things that drive you crazy in your teens and for many their entire lives. But that's really giving these guys a bad rap and doesn't really tell you what they are all about. These little guys are the messengers. Different hormones carry different messages all over the body.

The endocrine system consists of different glands. Glands produce and release things, both inside and outside the body. Each gland in the endocrine system has a different job. The "master" is the pituitary gland. It is the size of a pea and has several key jobs. It helps to control nervous function, controls the rest of the endocrine system and controls a few things directly having to do with childbirth and milk production. It's definitely the boss.

Then you have the thyroid which regulates the metabolism of every single cell in

Then there are the adrenal glands. These guys do more than most people know. They are located on top of your kidneys, which are located just under the last few ribs in your back, or just slightly below in some people. They control adrenaline, but they also produce other hormones necessary for fluid and electrolyte (salt) balance in the body, as well as making sex hormones.

Now we get into the pancreas, another misunderstood gland. Though it is true that the pancreas produces insulin which helps to regulate the blood sugar levels, it also helps to regulate salt balances as well as regulating water absorption and secretion in the intestines. And one other little known fact: over 90 percent of pancreatic cells are devoted to the production of digestive enzymes. That's right. Your pancreas is responsible for a lot of your digestion.

The thymus is located in the upper middle part of your chest. Its job is to produce a hormone called thymosin which plays an important role in your body's immune system.

Healthy endocrine function requires proper nutrition. Shelley Jaffe is a Certified Nutritional Consultant and the Executive Director of Peter Gillham's Nutrition Center in Downtown Clearwater.

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Call the store and mention this article to receive a free introductory nutritional consultation. We welcome your comments and questions.

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"To improve the community by raising awareness and responsibility and providing solutions to community issues.

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Our advertisers help fund our purpose, and in turn, our marketing department is continuously expanding our circulation and increasing the exposure of our advertisers, resulting in expansion of their businesses."



Editor
Angela LeMay



FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF JIM COATS

Besides being late for work or for other appointments while reporting these crimes, all the burglary victims had something else in common – they had all left their cars unlocked.

Over the past few years I have recommended locking up valuables to prevent theft. Unfortunately, many people do not to take advantage of one of the most effective methods available for preventing auto burglary when they leave their car unlocked. The most effective way to protect your valuables is to properly secure them.

Statistics show that in 2007 Pinellas County deputies investigated nearly 1,700 vehicle burglaries. Of those

cases more than 62% involved an open window or unlocked vehicle. In an additional 26% of reported burglaries the victim was unsure if the vehicle had been locked. Last year there were 2,464 reported vehicle burglaries of which more than 66% were open or unlocked, and an additional 16% of victims were unsure if the vehicle had been locked. Locking your car doors and closing windows completely is arguably one of the most effective forms of crime prevention.

We cannot afford to have our hard-earned money and property stolen by thieves searching for an easy target like an unlocked home or car. There are also other potential

losses when victimized in this manner, including lost wages for court appearances and replacement costs for any items stolen.

By taking a few minutes to protect yourself and your belongings by locking doors and windows, you may prevent a crime and avoid becoming another burglary statistic. By doing so you are once again helping us in "Leading The Way For A Safer Pinellas."

If you would like other suggestions regarding ways that you can protect yourself and your property please contact the Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit at (727) 582-5611.

SUCCESS WITH DEEP TISSUE LASER

by Dr. Dale Cooper



HEALTH

I wanted to share with everyone a few exciting real life successes from our patients who have used the new DEEP TISSUE LASER.

These cases are typical everyday. There is absolutely no reason to go on suffering from unwanted pain and disabilities. LiteCure is truly remarkable and gets fast results (sometimes less than 5 treatments). The best part is it's affordable on any budget at just \$50 a treatment. If you want to know how and if laser can end your pain, call us at (727) 446-1141 and schedule an appointment today. We are conveniently located in the heart of downtown Clearwater with good parking.

GRADE III SPRAIN

"On Tuesday night I sprained my left foot/ankle tremendously, to a point that I could not move it. It was very painful, immediately swollen and I could barely sleep because of the pain. I saw Dr. Cooper the next morning and besides having my body completely adjusted he

suggested that I have laser on my foot. My foot at that point was very swollen and black and blue colored. From a past experience as a 12-year old I had to wear a cast for 14 days for the same injury. I thought that it would take 10-14 days at least to heal. Well, the next day after the laser I woke up not only could I move my foot, but it was like it was almost back to normal. I immediately called the office and came in for another treatment. And did I mention it also took care of the pain? I am truly amazed and I am so incredibly grateful for this tremendous help and success. I also want to thank everyone at the office for all the help, support and care.

"Thank you from a very happy patient." - EJ

TENDONITIS (Tennis Elbow)

"I had bad tendonitis - tennis elbow - in both elbows. It was so bad that for more than a year, I could barely hold a golf club. I got tons of massages, which helped it to a point, but I had to wear special elbow wraps in order to be able to play golf. It was really bad! Plus, I could not exercise with weights as the elbows were just hurting too much and that was killing my urge to exercise.

"I had 3 treatments with Dr Cooper's new laser treatment and this condition has cleared up 100%! I no longer have fixed attention on how bad my elbows feel!

"I would recommend this treatment to anyone!" - PC

BURSITIS

"I recently had a problem with my left shoulder and was in

extreme pain. I got a shot in the shoulder which only calmed the pain. I then received a series of laser treatments from Dr. Dale Cooper. I experienced more relief from these treatments and the shoulder became rehabilitated and has not bothered me since, which was a few months ago. I found the laser treatment results to be quite dramatic as it handled the shoulder so swiftly. I can recommend this treatment with no reservation." - MJ

INFLAMMATION

"Two days ago I came to see Dr. Cooper due to a lot of pain I had in the left leg and right arm. The pain was so strong that I had to walk with a cane. Dr. Cooper did an adjustment then recommended the laser. The laser helped a lot. I woke up today rested since I was able to sleep well and I am now walking without the cane.

SCIATIC NEURALGIA

"Thank you Dr. Cooper!" - IL
"I came to see Dr. Cooper with an excruciating, terrible, unbearable pain in my left leg. Before I came to see him I almost fainted due to the pain. Dr. Cooper used the laser treatment to heal the nerve of the leg. It is amazing how after 10 minutes of using it my body started to heal. I felt great relief. The treatment kept on working throughout the night and my body was feeling warm. I woke up this morning and the pain was gone. I'm able to walk and I don't feel the pain.

"Thank you Dr. Cooper!!!!!!!"

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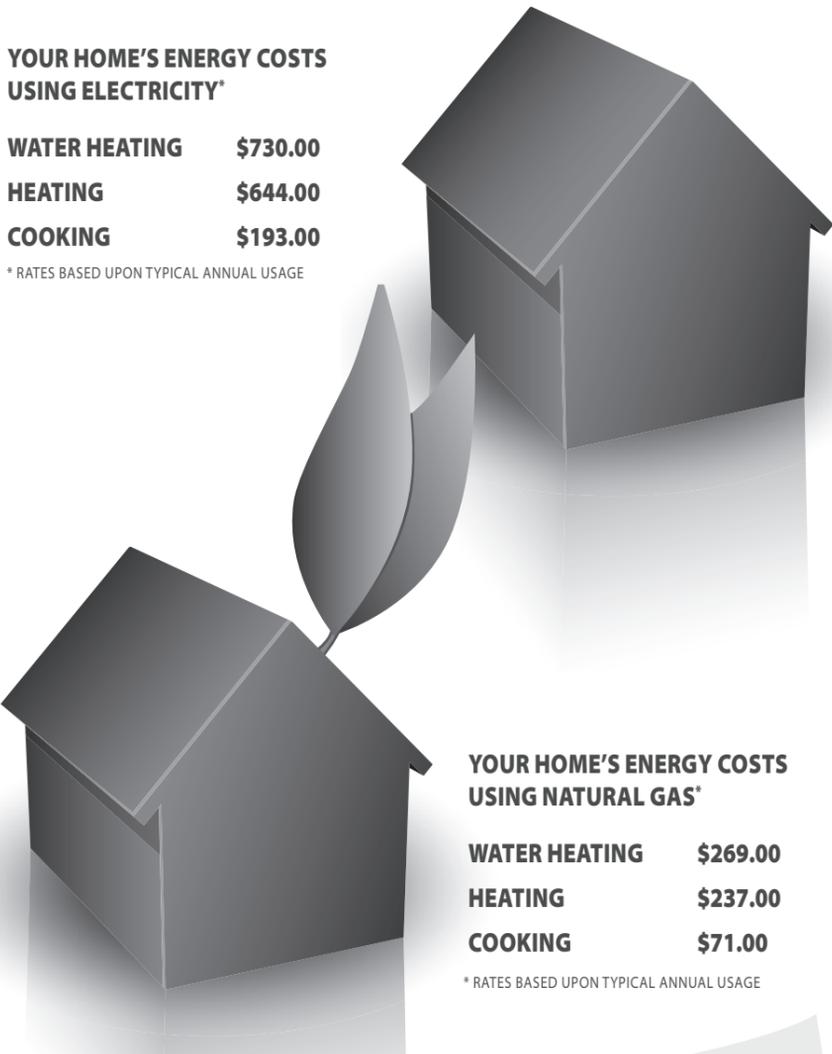
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WHY DO THE BEST RACE HORSES COME FROM KENTUCKY?

by Desiree Lotz



You will probably find that the people who live in Wisconsin are more relaxed and easy-going than those from other parts of the country. So, if you're jumpy or nervous, you need calcium - and magnesium to balance it. Interesting, isn't it?

Next time you see your kids - or anyone else for that matter - running around like a jumpy, nervous, race horse, know that they're getting too much phosphorus from things such as soda pop, candy, cereals, fast foods - to name a few - and they need calcium to balance out.

Of course, phosphorus is an important part of your diet too and your body needs it but modern foods can have far too much in relation to calcium, and your body wants balance. Balance it up with a correctly-balanced calcium and magnesium formula and feel your nerves calm right down.

So, why do the best race horses come from Kentucky? Because the soil is deficient in calcium!

The best way to get your calcium and magnesium is, of course, in your food but we all know that is nearly impossible nowadays so we made Instant CalMag-C to compensate for this. It has been formulated with these two minerals in the correct balance: two parts calcium gluconate to one part magnesium carbonate, along with vitamin C to create the correct pH your body needs to absorb it speedily without having to digest or break it down.

Order yours today by calling (727) 441-2820 or visit www.CalMag-C.com.

HEALTH

You wouldn't want to raise race horses in Wisconsin because the soil there is high in calcium, which makes them way too relaxed. Cattle raised in Wisconsin are big, easy-going and relaxed. In contrast, breeders in Kentucky don't raise contented cattle but race horses - nervous, jumpy, raring-to-go race horses. That's because the soil is high in phosphorus and low in calcium, which results in wound-up, chomping-at-the-bit, high energy horses. They can't relax and that's what you want in a race horse.

Possibly the breeders don't even know what it is that makes them such good race horses, but they breed 'em there in Kentucky because it works. If they took that same horse to Wisconsin, he would be too calm - wouldn't be much of a race horse! That's because he would be getting too much calcium.



REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Pam Ryan Anderson

GOOD NEWS FOR REAL ESTATE SALES

For the last few months, I've been experiencing quite a different real estate market than the prior 18 months. Buyers are back, and THAT makes all the difference in the world. In the last three months, I've got almost as many properties under contract already as I sold for the entire year in 2008!

This is the very best time to buy - prices are as low as they are probably going to go, and interest rates are also very low. The selection is amazing, and I really think this is an opportunity to jump on.

Sure, it takes persistence and decent credit, but that is what I'd expect after the nightmare the banks have been experiencing recently. Too many lenders made money too easy to get, and that is one of the problems that caused the debacle we've all been witnessing. Now we're all going to suffer for that. However, please do not believe the rumors being spread that it is impossible to get financing, that just isn't true at all. In fact, Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Loans are more popular than they've been in decades, allowing the seller to help the buyer with up to 6% of the price in costs to close, and a 3% down payment that can come from anywhere. It's even possible to add money for repairs onto an FHA

loan, which means that even homes needing repair can be purchased with an FHA loan.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary, Shaun Donovan just released a statement in mid-March that suggests the housing market is improving. Home prices started to stabilize in February for the first time in six months.

February also showed the largest gain in home sales since 2003, rising 5.1%. Unfortunately more than 45% of those properties were either pre-foreclosure, or bank-owned, but the fact that properties are being purchased is some of the best news we could have in real estate.

If you consider low prices, low interest rates, and that first time homebuyers are eligible for up to an \$8,000 tax credit this year, I personally haven't seen a better time to be a home buyer!

Please feel free to call me to see if you can qualify to take advantage of these low prices and interest rates!

Pam Ryan Anderson
Real Estate Broker
Ryan Realty
(727) 442-2822

Simaen Skolfield Staff Photographer

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

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

You can contact him at 727-557-6407





CRISIS BUSTER TIPS

THE ART OF "PULL SELLING" PART 1

Three Secrets that can Help You Boost Your Income...With Your Customers' Blessing!

by Patrick Valtin

and responsibility are vital – no matter the customer's attitude or manners toward you. In periods of crisis and uncertainty, the customer is craving for a relationship of care, trust and dedication.

Do you know what people instantly respond to, especially in our uncertain times? Your willingness to help, your desire to understand! Rest assured: you don't need to transform yourself into a psychoanalyst; you just need to put more attention on what he is telling you and much less on what you want to say!

There are a lot of wrong opinions about the wonderful passion that is selling. If you look at the old definition of the word, you will realize that it had originally ONE meaning: to help. Then about 1,000 B.C. that definition was modified and its new meaning became "to cheat" or "to betray".

Now is the perfect time to revive the original definition of selling.

My purpose in this article is to share with you the results of 20 years of observation, work and experience in the field of salesmanship. I had a chance to evaluate and train more than 45,000 sales professionals in 27 countries. The areas of expertise of these people extended from computer systems to industrial equipment or consumer products to chiropractic medicine. Observing and working with these people led me to progressively detect the attitude and behaviors of those who were much more successful than others. I was very interested to find out if one could define a routine "pattern" or "technique" used by top sales people in their approach. What are these

top professionals doing that others are not? What tricks or what magic are they using that makes the customer or patient want to buy from them?

My conclusion was that selling had nothing to do with "special techniques" or any magic. The fact that "one needs to be born a salesperson" in order to succeed also proved very wrong in my own observations and evaluations. What follows is just a snapshot of these observations. See how it can apply to you?

1. Selling does not start with your technical skills or your best arguments.

In today's market conditions the customer does not buy what he needs, he buys what he wants. Sure he needs a good reason to buy. You know one thing: he could find the same product or service in many other places. But why would he buy from you? Desire is much stronger than need in a marketplace where the power of choice becomes more and more your biggest barrier to a close; what you sell can always be found in another store or practice, and may be cheaper.

So your challenge is to find out what can trigger an impulse or a strong, unbearable desire to make the buying decision IN YOUR FAVOR. Your success in selling your product or service depends on your ability to make the customer want to buy from you and not from a [cheaper] competitor.

The first thing he buys has nothing to do with quality or warranty or even price. First he buys TRUST. He buys confidence about your ability and desire to help him resolve a problem, some challenge or

some desire. If he does not trust you and does not feel confident with what you say, he will go find what he is looking for elsewhere. Therefore the challenge is to demonstrate, early in the call, that you care more for him and for his sake (his health, his body condition, his comfort, his financial condition, etc.) than you care for his money. How do you show that you care? By showing your talent? No.

Continued...See the next issue of the Tampa Bay Informer for Part 2 of this article!

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

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

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In a previous article, Patrick Valtin provided useful tips on how business owners should deal with the economic crisis. In this article he shares very powerful principles on successful salesmanship. What attitude is right, if your life depends on selling something? What selling skills are vital if you want to succeed in difficult times?

In the first part of this in-depth article, Patrick Valtin presents vital principles of selling in over-competitive, saturated markets. Recognized as an international expert in sales strategies, Patrick has trained over 45,000 sales professionals and executives on the subject of salesmanship. Here, he presents what customers consider most important in their relationship with you, the sales pro, and how you can pull them into wanting your product...without pushing!

You think your first mission is to sell your product or to lead your potential customer to make a buying decision, based on your logical arguments? Think again. The customer who decides to listen to you is hoping to believe one thing: you should be able to handle his problem or challenge better than anybody else! You might not realize it fully, but your role



People from all walks of life march for a common cause – Human Rights for all!
Photo by David Ziff



Dr. Mary Shuttleworth, founder of Youth for Human Rights International
Photo by Ian Phoenix



The Dundu Dole Urban African Ballet at the Human Rights Walkathon
Photo by Ian Phoenix

MARCHING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

by Heidi Lux

ST. PETERSBURG

On Saturday, March 7th, the cities of Clearwater, St. Petersburg and Tampa came together to proclaim Human Rights Walkathon Day. Human rights are "the rights you have simply because you are human", regardless of race, religion or gender. Everyone is entitled to them simply because they are human beings.

In honor of basic human rights, such as, "the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association," and "the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community," people from many diverse groups, backgrounds and religions all unite in the common and greater goal of championing for universal rights and fighting against the loss of them. The group Youth for Human Rights International passed out DVDs explaining the 30 human rights as set forth in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A member of the Baha'i faith encouraged people to contact their congressmen to stand up for the Baha'i as they are being held captive in Iran

for no other reason than the fact they belong to the Baha'i faith.

On December 10th, 1948, the United Nations declared the thirty human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "They are the foundation of building goodwill between people," says Linda Drazkowski, the founder and chairman of the Walkathon. She founded the Walkathon because, "This is my planet. I want a species that treats each other with tolerance and respect." The Walkathon itself began promptly at 9am. Each step taken around North Straub Park in downtown St. Petersburg was a stride towards a world in which "men and women...have the right to marry and to found a family," and "no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

The entertainment included performances from The Dundu Dole Urban African Ballet, The Alumni Singers and The Emyreal Chinese Acrobats. Additionally, there were speeches by Anna I. Rodriguez, the founder and director of the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking,

Dr. Mary Shuttleworth, the founder of Youth for Human Rights International and gregarious former Tampa Bay Buccaneer, James M. Evans, the founder and Executive Director of The Academy of Hope.

Dr. Mary Shuttleworth, who founded the Youth for Human Rights International, an organization which educates the youth on their basic human rights, says many people lose their human rights simply because they are uninformed on what they are, or they are not taking responsibility for their human rights. This responsibility is the hub that holds the wheel of human rights together. "No responsibility, no human rights. It's that simple." She began her work in human rights because she saw discrimination and lack of human rights while growing up in apartheid South Africa. "That's not the way to go. That's not the way to peace."

James Evans, who walked nine laps that sunny day stated, "...Each of those laps represented someone who was being trafficked," he says. "Human beings – their lives have meaning. When we take that away from someone it says they're worthless." But he is optimistic of living in a better world. "We never give up in America. We keep fighting."

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Todd Rundgren's performance following the 4th Friday event
Photo by Simaen Skolfield



The Clearwater High School Tornadoes
Photo by Simaen Skolfield



The Clearwater Threshers mascot, "Phinley" on the CCV train
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

FIRST 4TH FRIDAY EVENT IN DOWNTOWN CLEARWATER

Continued from front page

Grooming Salon took the opportunity to advertise their new change of location.

The Strand and Water's Edge condos both had booths, in case someone fell so in love with Downtown they didn't want to leave. Misty Sanders, from the newly-opened Planet Cafe, was thrilled that the event gave them the chance to serve food to folks who came to March Madness. "We get to promote. People don't know us yet. People keep walking by and asking what's over here, so now we get to tell them we have a restaurant inside. It's a beautiful night. Everyone is walking outside. It should be exciting."

Fitting with the sports theme that night, the Clearwater Downtown Partnership (CDP), honored the Clearwater High School basketball team and their coach,

Allen Carden. The Tornadoes made it all the way to the state championship this year. "It was one of the greatest seasons I've ever played. These kids have so much potential, and the coach, one of the best I've ever played for," says Malcolm Grigley, a senior who's thinking of going to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University next year. "It's the greatest thing in the world...I loved it."

In addition to the free live music by both The Greg Billings Band and The Invasion Band, who both performed on a makeshift stage set up next to Dunkin Donuts, Ruth Eckerd Hall closed the block between Ft. Harrison and Osceola, just outside of their new Capitol Theatre, and set up the Todd Rundgren concert.

Todd, with his distinct silver and black hair, belied his years by putting on an energizing sold-out concert that thrilled his fans, some of whom traveled quite a distance to see him. The open-air venue added to his well-crafted, rebellious style of music, and he was quick to joke when playing some of his older tunes, "If you

thought THAT was old, let's get crinkly!" Todd also heartily thanked his fans for coming out in droves, particularly during the current economy. All in all, it was a concert that ignited downtown, and as he stated himself (with a hint of sarcasm), "Good thing nobody lives around here, cause they ain't sleeping tonight!"

Ruth Eckerd Hall plans on continuing their concert series for every 4th Friday, so music lovers will be drawn to the district for the jams, and stay for the good food and good times. As Robert Freedman, President and CEO of Ruth Eckerd Hall stated, "We want to revitalize downtown by bringing more businesses as that's what a community is all about. A lot of people haven't been downtown in years - this is a great reintroduction to how alive downtown Clearwater is."

The concept of 4th Friday was put forward by the Clearwater Downtown Partnership, a non-profit group made up of "property owners, developers, concerned citizens and civic groups" from the area who are working together "to name, fund and

implement projects that will assist the public and private sectors in averting blight and creating a downtown district that becomes a regional destination." They pitched the idea to the city, which took to it right away, and tested it last December with the "Miracle on Cleveland Street," where the same downtown blocks were closed to traffic and snow was even imported from Gainesville. The test run was successful, bringing over 2,000 people downtown to enjoy the festivities, and so "4th Friday" was born.

4th Fridays, in addition to being a good time for all, will benefit a different non-profit group each month. The first organization to receive the profits from beer sales and tips was the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. There will be a rotation of several non-profit groups, including both the Aquarium and the CDP. The organizations chosen were all groups with an interest in the downtown region.

4th Fridays will continue to be held on the fourth Friday of every month downtown on Cleveland Street, and each month will have a different theme.

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RACER PAVES "THE WAY TO HAPPINESS"

JUPITER, FL

Greg Gorman, riding a 2008 Kawasaki ZX-10R prepared by Corsa Motorworks, was finally able to display his cornering skills at a track that has connected turns, not just hairpin turns leading to straights. He was able to run lap times that were only 2.5 to 3 seconds slower than the best lap times of the event. The Way to Happiness Racing Team finished in the top ten of all four races it entered and had a best ever finish of 4th place.



Photo by Chrissy Bruce

The Saturday night GTO race found Greg starting from 5th of 5 rows and last into turn 1. He finished a provisional 6th. The race results are provisional due to a protest and subsequent appeal due to an incident at the start in turn 1.

"I didn't want a better start there. Too many guys going into too tight a turn. It was a real mess and I'm glad no one went down. So I just put my head down and went for it after turn 1. I was turning lap times in the low 1:20's and just kept passing people. The lap times were coming surprisingly easy and I kept moving forward and just missed out on passing Robert Dougherty for 5th. Riding under the lights is very cool. I can't wait to do it again."

The Sunday morning Unlimited SuperSport race saw Greg get his best ever expert finish: 4th. "That's just awesome! Thanks to the new clutch put in by Corsa Motorworks, I got a decent start from the back row

and was 5th in turn 1. After a quick pass to 4th I tried to gain on the top 3 but that wasn't happening. I had a gap back to 5th so I slowed down and brought it home safe."

Greg also finished 6th and 9th in Unlimited Superbike and Unlimited GP, respectively.

"The tire was just wearing out. This track has a lot of grip and it's tearing up the medium compound tires. We're running the same tire we ran last night and it's just tearing under acceleration and running out of grip, mid-corner. I still ran good lap times but I just couldn't push it any more. I know I can close the lap time gap to the leaders and will do just that at the next race at Jennings." The Way to Happiness Racing Team is sponsored by The Waterin' Trough Dance and Saloon, Dunlop Race Tire Services and Corsa Motorworks. Find out more at www.twthtracing.org

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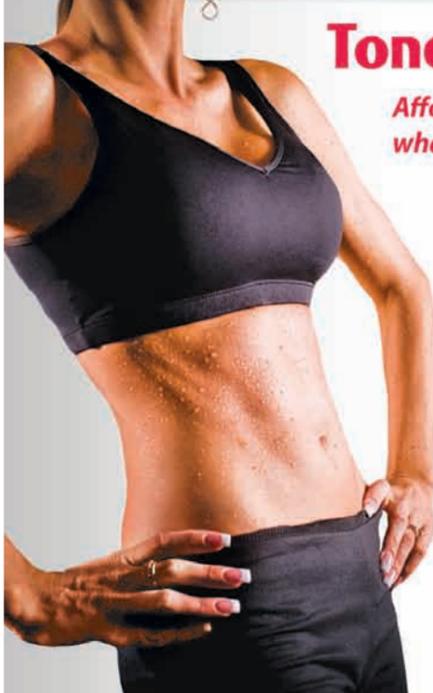
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A previous year's Easter Egg Hunt and activities held at Coachman Park, sponsored by the Clearwater Community Volunteers and the Church of Scientology.

GINORMOUS EASTER EGG HUNT

Continued from front page

as not to miss the over fifteen thousand Easter eggs that are gathered by hundreds of children within minutes. And, remember to bring your Easter basket. The hunt will be divided into three categories by age, so that the under three year-old will have the same advantage in finding hidden eggs as the four to six year-olds, as well as ages seven and up. Golden eggs will be hidden around the park. Each child who finds a golden egg will be able to claim a stuffed Easter bunny waiting for them at Bunny Central.

In addition to children gathering eggs, and the coveted *golden* eggs, families will be able to enjoy a petting zoo, pony rides, balloons, face painting, entertainment and much, much more. One can even enter the chance drawing to win the huge Easter Basket! Admission is FREE and open to everyone, however there will be a small fee for food and some attractions. This year's festivities will include something



they didn't have when I was a kid: the CCV train. It's a trackless choo-choo train which will also be available for rides for both kids and grown-ups.

Clearwater Community Volunteers was established in 1994 by parishioners of the Church of Scientology with the purpose of helping to create a better community for all citizens of the City of Clearwater and Pinellas County. CCV has raised money, food and toys for family and children's charities such as the Boys & Girls Club, Everybody's Tabernacle's Homeless Emergency Project, the Red Cross, the victims of Katrina, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Northern Florida® and Winter Wonderland. CCV also adopted a platoon in Iraq of 28 men and sent them more than 50 packages of necessities and goodies before they returned stateside. CCV gets its inspiration from a quote by L Ron Hubbard, "On the

day when we can fully trust each other, there will be peace on Earth."

To find out more about CCV's events, visit www.clearwatercommunityvolunteers.org.

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Station Square Park, 612 Cleveland St.

Saturday, April 25

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Harborview Center, 300 Cleveland St.

Friday, May 1

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Coachman Park, 301 Drew St.

Saturday, May 2

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Sunday, May 3

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Coachman Park, 301 Drew St.

For more information, call (727) 562-4700.

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ARTISTS IN ACTION'S 2ND ANNIVERSARY

by Heidi Lux



(left to right) Vice-Mayor George Cretekos, AIAI President Jack Potter and Executive Director Pat Luefan
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

DOWNTOWN CLEARWATER

On March 21st, Artists in Action International (AIAI) celebrated their anniversary in addition to having a Grand Opening of their new Mission: Beautification Gallery space located conveniently downtown at 400 Cleveland Street.

The Mission: Beautification Gallery provides an opportunity for local artists to be seen. A few people I talked to had this as their first showing of artwork. Like Andrejas Lazdins, who found out about AIAI through Craigslist. He attended The International Academy of Design and Technology and does photography and graffiti art, but this is his first time displaying his artwork.

Mel Pomerantz has been drawing his whole life, but at 83, this is the first time his work was shown. "I figured, it's time. Get them out, because everybody's told me how great they are." He hopes that taking the few pieces he had in his house and presenting them would stimulate him, and it has.

Among the speakers that evening were Jack Potter, Founder and President of Artists In Action, and the Vice-Mayor of Clearwater, George Cretekos, who referred to the gallery as "another jewel in our crown." Awards were presented to the most active and enthusiastic volunteers, and the partygoers were entertained by the rocking jams of Honkably Blues.

Jack Potter's reason for founding the group is that he saw it needed to be done, and took the initiative to put the group there. The group's purpose is to help artists become more professional, profitable and prolific.

Jack wants to help with the renaissance of Clearwater and make the gallery a destination point where people can go to get many different varieties of art. Jack himself is an artist as well and had four pieces of his digital art on display.

Dawn Shannon from Intuition Salon and Spa got on board with the Mission: Beautification project when she was approached by her friend, Pat Luefan. "I like the idea that you can create the downtown that you want," she says. She was instrumental in getting the artwork displayed in the vacant Cleveland Street windows, then joined Artists in Action and got that group involved with the gallery. Dawn believes that the presence of art can



A crowd gathers around Robert Schoeller's piece, "Wave I"
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

have a positive effect on the environment. Within three months of the gallery's opening, the stores in the city block around it pressure-washed and upgraded their facades and the library and city hall started carrying local art. The city also added sculptures downtown on Cleveland Street.

Throughout the night, people were buzzing about how much they loved the larger space. The new gallery is planned to host more events, classes and seminars, including Poetry by Candlelight the first Friday of every month. Anyone who has ever written a poem is invited to come and receive non-critical feedback from a receptive audience. Updates on events and more information are available on their website, www.artistsinactionint.org. The Mission: Beautification Gallery is open on Fridays from 6-10pm, Saturdays from 10-4, and by appointment.

HOME RUN FOR A DRUG-FREE WORLD

by Heidi Lux

DUNEDIN

The Drug Free World fundraising event was held at the Toronto Blue Jays vs. Detroit Tigers spring training game. About 3,000 "Truth About Drugs" booklets were handed out to the game attendees, and 40 children signed up to be Drug Free Marshals. They were brought out to the field at 12:30, just before the game began, and pledged to not do drugs.

The American and Canadian national anthems were sung by twelve year-old Sally Gatz from Delphi Academy in Clearwater. There were contests and prizes, including an essay contest in which children were asked to show in a creative way how they would teach someone not to do drugs. The winners, Lindsay Patrick and Alexis Young, both from Washburn Academy, were presented with



Photo by Jesse Chalupsky

autographed Aaron Hill bobbleheads.

This is the second year the Drug Free World fundraiser has been held and the proceeds go to projects such as anti-drug education for youth in detention centers. For more information go to www.drugfreeworld.org.



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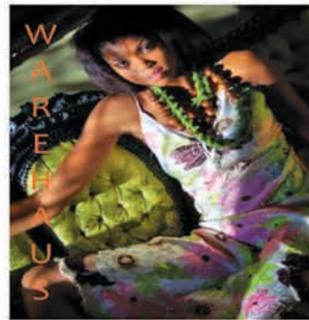
The Pinellas Living Green Expo is a FREE, educational event focusing on resource conservation solutions. Join us at the Harborview Center in downtown Clearwater. Participants will learn how to save money, save natural resources, and protect our environment for future generations through Info Sessions and a variety of exhibits.

The Pinellas Living Green Expo is a FREE, fun-filled family event that helps residents make informed decisions and take action to lead more healthy and sustainable lives with less impact on the environment. This two-day event will provide information, ideas, resources, products and motivation to live more sustainably.

www.PinellasLivingGreenExpo.org



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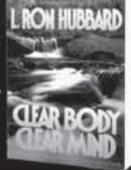
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Three works will be selected for public display in the median of the city's downtown main street and will be on exhibition from August 2009 to July 2010. Artists must provide their own insurance for transportation and installation of their works and may provide artwork insurance for the duration of the exhibition, if desired.

Applications must be received by 5pm, Friday, May 1st. Applications and sample contracts are available at www.clearwaterartsfoundation.org/publicart.asp

For further information, call Clearwater Cultural Affairs at (727)562-4837 or e-mail Christopher.Hubbard@myclearwater.com

City of Clearwater website:
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The Presidential Suite of the newly renovated Fort Harrison Hotel

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY ANNOUNCES THE GRAND OPENING OF FULLY REBUILT LANDMARK FORT HARRISON RELIGIOUS RETREAT

by Pat Harney

DOWNTOWN CLEARWATER

In connection with the Church's rapid international growth and the continuing expansion of its spiritual headquarters in Florida, the Church of Scientology held the grand opening of the Fort Harrison, the second facility completed in just the last 18 months, to accommodate the influx of thousands of parishioners to the Church's spiritual headquarters and religious retreat.

As part of its continuing expansion, on March the 21st and 22nd, 2009, the Church of Scientology Flag Service Organization Religious Retreat held an Open House of the fully rebuilt Clearwater landmark Fort Harrison.

Given its age, over three quarters of a century, and the desire to see the Fort Harrison stand even grander through the next century, beginning in April 2008, the building was stripped virtually bare and rebuilt from its core. This included installation of new state-of-the-art systems, as well as fully modernized professional kitchens to service the retreat's three restaurants. Particular care was taken to make the work and the final product environmentally-friendly. This included using recycled "blue jean" insulation, low emission air conditioning and generators, as well as energy-efficient lighting, electrical and air conditioning.

Despite all the modernization, the Fort Harrison still bears its hallmark historical touches, including the replication of the lobby's original black wrought iron work and gold-leafed moldings. The resurfacing of the entire exterior with added architectural detailing makes the hotel even more beautiful than its legendary beginning in 1926, when she was known as "the Aristocrat of Southern Florida Hotels."

General Contractor Nova Hotel Renovation and Construction, hired over 350 local workers to complete the building. 30,000 feet of plumbing, 17,000 feet of air conditioning

ducts and pipes and 66 miles of electrical wiring were used.

Completed in just eleven months, the Fort Harrison opening represents the next phase in the creation of an ideal religious retreat for the Church of Scientology. This expansion enables the Church of Scientology to provide better service to the tens of thousands of Scientologists who annually travel to Flag from over 60 nations to participate in the highest levels of Scientology training and counseling. Additionally, in keeping with the Church of Scientology's history of service to the community and the heritage of the Fort Harrison itself, the re-built Grand Auditorium and historic Crystal Ballroom will be available for use by community organizations and other non-profits organizations. Open houses and other events will make the facility available to the local community at large.

Acquired in 1975, the Fort Harrison was the Church's first building in Clearwater and marked the beginning of Flag as the spiritual headquarters of the Scientology religion. Since that time, the religious retreat has rapidly expanded into over 40 buildings, totaling 2 million square feet of facilities to service the rapidly growing numbers of Scientologists traveling to Flag for advanced religious services.

This opening marks the end of the second phase of the Church's ongoing Clearwater expansion. Phase One was the January 2008 opening of the newly renovated 172,000 square foot Oak Cove. With the Fort Harrison now complete, the Church has begun the final phase of its expansion program, the completion of its new 360,000 square foot Church building.

This Church building will provide the necessary facilities to make all Scientology services available in one building, both for the burgeoning community of Clearwater Scientologists as well as the dynamic and expanding congregation of Scientologists traveling to Flag from around the world.



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GASPARILLA FILM FESTIVAL CLOSING EVENT

by Heidi Lux



Chad Moore (left) and Eric Odum (right)
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

TAMPA

The Gasparilla International Film Festival came and went, leaving a very exhausted but pleased Eric Odum at the end of the after party at the Old Firehouse in Tampa. When I first spied the man who helped found the GIFF at the opening night party, he was the festival's President. When we were actually able to sit down to an interview at the closing night party, he had turned his crown over to Chad Moore.

Eric Odum spoke passionately about his love of film, a love he developed when he lived in Brazil and was made to watch a Pedro Almodóvar film. He watched it over and over until he not only learned Spanish, but developed an appreciation of artistic cinema. His purpose in co-founding the GIFF was to fill the gap left by the absence of art house cinema in Tampa, to give local filmmakers a chance for exposure and bring to the Tampa Bay Area the films audiences wouldn't otherwise get a chance to see, like *Il Divo*, the controversial biopic based on former Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Local talent the Guzzo brothers won the Best Florida Production award for *Charlie Wall*, a documentary about Tampa's first crime lord. During the early 1900s, *Charlie Wall* "had a stake in almost every

gambling parlor, whorehouse and drug deal in the city." Paul and Peter Guzzo have been making films locally for quite awhile, but believe it or not, this is their first local film festival. The next film they would like to do is a feature about the crime in old Tampa Bay—sort of like a *Gangs of New York* set in Ybor.



(left to right) Eric Odum, Paul Guzzo and Peter Guzzo
Photo by Simaen Skolfield

The Gasparilla International Film Festival doesn't receive much support at a governmental level, rather, it is made possible thanks to its generous sponsors and volunteers. "Our volunteers have been extraordinary," says Chad Moore. He thanks the sponsors for stepping up and making the festival happen, especially in the current economic climate. Events like this are good for the economy of Tampa Bay. They attract people from all over the country who then spend money here. They also nurture local talent, who will then go out and produce and generate revenue and reputation for the area.

Chad Moore, the new president, also seemed exhausted and enthused—if these conflicting emotions can even coexist. He will continue to bring into the Tampa Bay Area quality films that people want to see. "Good films that are good for you," he says. "Part of our mission is to support local filmmaking," says Chad. And if the new president is anything like the old, the GIFF will help Tampa to continue to grow as a thriving town for the arts.

THE WATER OF CLEARWATER IS OFFICIALLY CLEAR!

by Heidi Lux

CLEARWATER

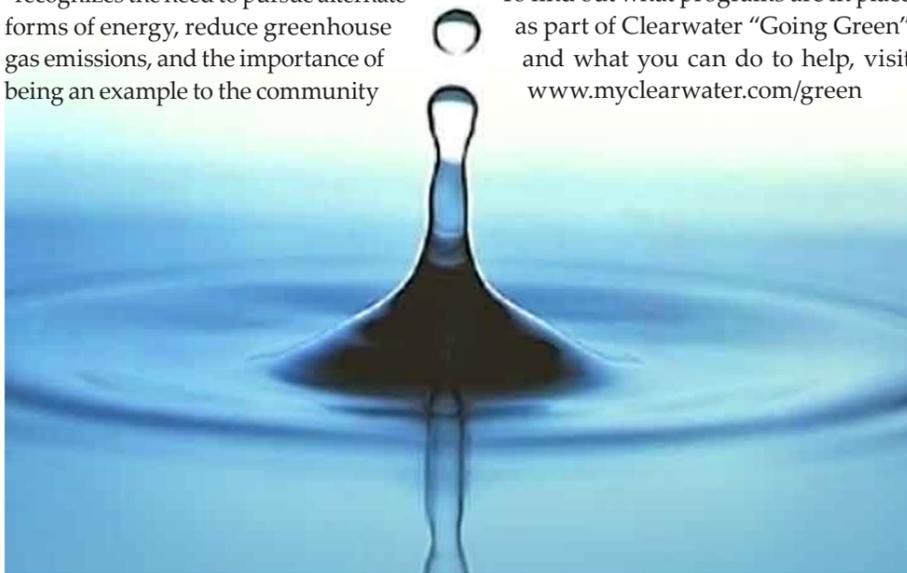
All three of Clearwater's Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facilities have received the George W. Burke, Jr. Safety Award from the Water Environment Federation. This is an award given to public wastewater treatment facilities to honor outstanding safety leaders in the industry. Jan Willis, a City of Clearwater Industrial Pretreatment Technician received the award for Industrial Pretreatment Operator of the Year in Florida's Region IV. The Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facilities take in raw sewage and then treat it, turning it into reclaimed water. This water is then used for irrigation, thus reducing the need to irrigate with drinking water.

The Mayor's Green City Action Accord "recognizes the need to pursue alternate forms of energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the importance of being an example to the community

by making their own government operations more sustainable." This agreement has been made with over 740 mayors across the entire country. Clearwater itself has been taking strides to be more environmentally-friendly. In 2007, Mayor Hibbard signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, a pact that intends to "meet or beat specific environmental benchmarks, by using educational campaigns, adopting 'Green Building' policies and overall energy management."

The improvement in the environmental quality of Clearwater will no doubt preserve and add to the city's natural beauty. Not only will Clearwater be a great place to "live, work, and play," it will also be a great place to breathe!

To find out what programs are in place as part of Clearwater "Going Green" and what you can do to help, visit www.myclearwater.com/green



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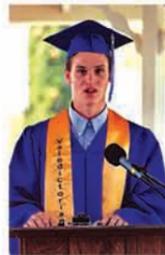
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TAMPA BAY CITIZENS STRUT THEIR MUTTS

by Heidi Lux

HONEYMOON ISLAND

The 17th annual Mutt Strut, sponsored by Gulf Coast Dog Magazine, was held on Honeymoon Island on Saturday, March 14th.

Dog enthusiasts were able to spend time in the company of like-minded folk for the whole day. "There's actually a French bulldog meet-up group, and this was one of their suggested things to come to," says Beth Chenoweth, owner of Newton, a 4½ year-old adorable French bulldog. "I thought it would be fun to get him out and socialize with other dogs." Beth and Newton found the event to be both fun and informative, thanks to the wide variety of information available. "We're working on figuring out what food's best for him, so it's helped out, finding different food and different vets."

The event included dog games and a dog walk around Honeymoon Island. Flashy, ornamented accessories for your canine were available to purchase, along with an ample amount of other products catered to Man's Best Friend. Pure Vita, a holistic pet food company provided samples of organic dog food as well as Nature's Select, which sells "human grade" dog food. Dogs available for adoption were walking around, like Sugar, a one year old pit/terrier mix.

Information on how to properly take care



Jump, "Lassie," jump!
Photo by Ian Phoenix

of your pet was available at booths such as the Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid Florida. They take in abandoned and abused Golden Retrievers, get them rehabilitated and help them find new homes. Debbie McGhehry from the organization says that most people do not do proper research on the breed of dog they own. They see a pint-sized pooch in movies like "Air Bud" and don't realize the puppy will grow into a full-sized retriever. Their booth offered brochures with proper care for goldies, with some of that information translatable to all breeds of dogs.

Upcoming local events for pooches include "Bark at the Ball Park" on April 19th, where pet owners are able to bring their dog to a Clearwater Threshers baseball game.