

# HOMETOWN PASCO

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## High Fives

Division 11 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary covers the West Coast waters from Hudson to Madeira Beach and has many functions, including teaching boating safety, going on patrols on the water, helping boaters in distress and mainly keeping people safe on the water.

**Sarah Hanlon**, staff officer of public affairs, reported that **Karen Miller**, coxswain of the Coast Guard Auxiliary boat *The Broad on the Bow*, was on a routine safety and training patrol with her crew May 9. They were on patrol in the harbor near the entrance to the Causeway Channel. They noticed an egret floating, which is uncharacteristic behavior as egrets are wading birds.

The crew brought the bird on board in a net and crew member **Dr. Ed Kasper** began attending to the bird, which was so ill that it did not respond to human contact. A call was made to the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary. A telephone number was supplied for a Seabird rescuer.

**Larry O'Brien**, Flotilla Staff Officer, and his wife **Barbara O'Brien**, rescue birds for the sanctuary, and met *The Broad on the Bow* vessel at the south dock at Station Sand Key. Dr. Kasper and crew members took turns keeping the egret safe and warm, wrapped up in a towel so as to avoid further injury to the bird.

O'Brien brought the bird to the sanctuary for professional care. It is now being fed a diet rich in nutrients and, when it is well enough, it will be returned to its native habitat. The Coast Guard Auxiliary radio rooms and boaters are encouraged to keep the sanctuary's telephone number, (727) 391-6211, in their reference log.

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Exalted Ruler **Wayne Getz**, chairman of Aripeka Elks Lodge 2520 Hudson and the Central District, held the Central District's Elks Hoop Shoot recently at Hudson High School, assisted by many Elks and ladies of the Elks.

Following the competition, the contestants and their families returned to the lodge for presentation of trophies and lunch. Approximately 75 attended.

This is an annual event held throughout Florida. All first-place winners are to compete at the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla.

The winner in the 8- to 9-year-old boys was **Ameer Ford**, representing Aripeka Elks Lodge 2520. Winner in the 10- to 11-year-old boys was **Joshua Humpries**, representing Lodge 2520. In the 8- to 9-year-old girls, the first place winner was **Sarah Finn**, representing Aripeka Elks Lodge 2520, and in the 12- to 13-year-old girls the first place winner was **Laura Harris**, representing Kissimmee Elks Lodge 1873.

Continuing the ongoing donations from the Aripeka Elks Lodge 2520 Hudson bingo charities account, \$250 was presented to Faces of Courage, an organization that assists children and families facing cancer.

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Presidential Service Awards were presented to students of the Marchman Technical Education Center. Vet-assisting seniors were honored in December at the Pasco County Commissioners meeting in New Port Richey.

Gold Awards for 250 hours of service were presented to **Sara Hale** and **John Faulkner**. The Silver Award for 175 hours of service went to **Rabeka Briggs**. Bronze Awards for 100 hours were presented to **Mariah Alexander**, **Felicia Finlay**, **Frank Grey**, **Stephanie Kindberg**, **Jenna Krempa**, **Katarina Krusic**, **Cayce Lay**, **Brittany Malcolm**, **Adam McDaniel**, **Steve Meece**, **Devon Pharo**, **Aimee Smith**, **Samantha Stahl** and **Noel Van Scriver**.



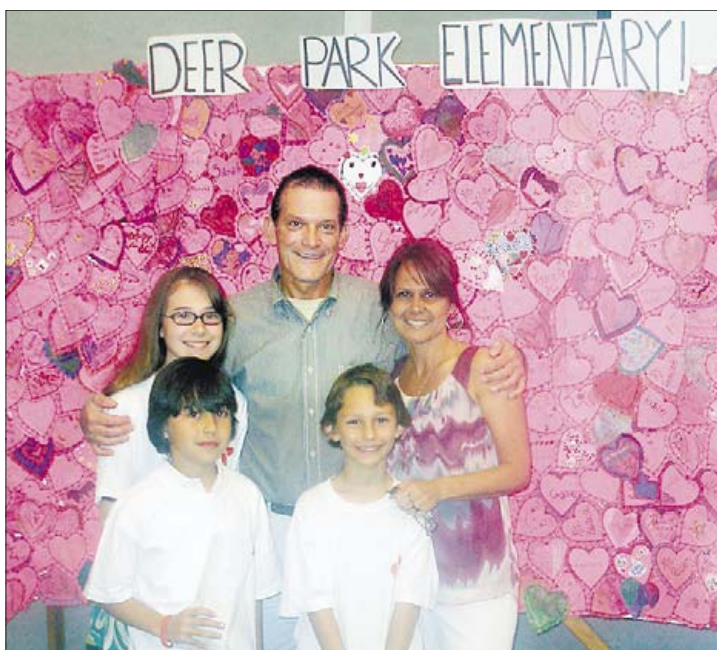
CRAIG MCCART | Special to the Times

**ANGELS COME TO AID OF SERTOMA:** A check for \$3,500 was presented on April 17 to **Craig McCart**, executive director of the Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation. Pictured is part of the group of more than 60 members of the Diva Angels Inc. Pasco Chapter, who presented the check to McCart, center, with Angels' director **Mary Ann Aguiar**, left, and assistant director **Tara Londergan**, right. The funds were presented at the Angels' regular monthly meeting and were raised from tickets sales, drawings and silent auctions from the Angels' cookout, held in March at Reddy's Retreat on Lake Tarpon. All the Angels rode that day to raise funds to be used for the Children's Hearing Help Fund, which provides hearing aids and hearing-related services to children in Pasco County.



DIANE BLANKENSHIP | Special to the Times

**DAYSRING MATH TEAM ROCKS!** Students of Dayspring Academy in Port Richey participated in the annual Pasco County Math Competition April 1 at Rasmussen College in Holiday. Dayspring Academy entered three teams in the pre-algebra category. Pictured are the first-place winners in the seventh-grade team competition: **Luke Calleja**, left, **David Graniero** and **Amanda Blankenship**. For individual placement, Calleja took first place, Blankenship took second place and Graniero took third place. The competition consisted of 17 schools with more than 50 students competing in the pre-algebra category. The students received their individual awards and certificates during a school assembly on May 8. Also, the math department was presented with an award for the students' accomplishments. Dayspring Academy's math department teachers are **Laura Davis**, **Colleen Hooker** and **Jordan Mor**.



AMY GALL | Special to the Times

**PINK HEARTS ALL AROUND:** St. Joseph's Children's Hospital hosted the Fourth Annual Heart-to-Heart Reunion on April 11 at the Hospital's Medical Arts Building in Tampa. The reunion brought together 80 pediatric heart surgery patients. Pictured from Deer Park Elementary School in New Port Richey are students **Cassidy McKenna**, left, **C.J. McKenna** and **Zachary Wilson**. In back are Principal **John Shafchuk**, left, and secretary **Virginia McKenna**. During the event, the young patients and their families enjoyed food, games and entertainment. Tampa Bay Lightning defenseman **Paul Ranger** and **Tino Martinez**, former Yankees player and current special instructor, also attended. The reunion raised \$1,000 and a poster was created with more than 100 heart-shaped notes of encouragement.



SARA RUDD | Special to the Times

**WOMEN OF THE YEAR:** The members of the International Women's Friendship Network, Beta Sigma Phi, held their annual Founder's Day Dinner on May 1. **Sara Rudd**, president of the Pasco County's Omicron chapter, announced the winner of the Beta Sigma Phi Woman of the Year from each chapter. Pictured are from left: **Rosemary Cleary**, Preceptor Eta Sigma; **Alice Burke**, Laureate Gamma Epsilon; **Donna Stanley**, Alpha Alpha Iota; **Rudd**, Omicron Kappa; **Karen Davis**, Xi Lambda Delta; and **Ketty Gonzales**, Laureate Zeta Nu. Also honored with a master's degree for years of service were **Karen Davis**, 37 years; **Diane Burns**, 27 years; **Jeanne Beltz**, 38 years; **Elizabeth Briggs**, 32 years; and **Ruby Preston**, 56 years. Beta Sigma Phi supports the Salvation Army Domestic Violence Program, hospice and the Red Apple Adult Training Center.

**ROCK ON:** The Progressive Air/Carrier Chasco Fiesta Boat Parade was held on March 28 despite gusty winds up to 25 knots. Pictured is the \$2,500 Grand Prize winner for Best Overall Boat, the **Elton John & Friends Red Piano** in **Pink Cadillac**, with lead singer **Benoit Parent** as **Elton John**. This boat was presented by the Clearwater-Tarpon Springs R.V. Campground and it also won the special Battle of the Bands. Other first place winners of \$300 each included **Yellow Submarine**, from the Meadow Lane Surgery Center in the profit division; **Wizard of Oz**, from the Rotary Club of Trinity in the non-profit division; **Tribute to Music Artists**, by Lakes, Berge & Berryhills in the family/individual category. New Port Richey Mayor **Scott McPherson** and **Chad Brock**, grand marshal and master of ceremonies, were thanked for their contributions. Tampa Bay Buccaneers player **Michael Clayton** and super fan **Big Nasty** presented New Port Richey police Chief **Martin Rickus** with a signed team jersey and an appreciation award. Both signed autographs for fans. The theme for this 87th annual Chasco Boat Parade was Musical Madness.



BRENT SIMON | Special to the Times



JOSEPH BOTZ | Special to the Times

**Erinn Botz**, a senior at River Ridge High School in New Port Richey, was presented the Ruth Eckerd Hall Vocal Scholarship on Feb. 9. Botz, left, is pictured with Tony award-winning actor **Bernadette Peters**, who presented the scholarship to Botz after her concert at Ruth Eckerd Hall that evening. Botz has been a vocal student at the Marcia P. Hoffman Performing Arts Institute at Ruth Eckerd Hall for the past seven years. Upon graduating high school, she will be attending the New World School of the Arts in Miami, majoring in musical theatre.

**NEW EAGLE SCOUT:** **Ryan Anthony Harris**, right, of Venture Crew 46 made Eagle Scout on April 13, and the County Commission will bestow his resolution on June 23. Harris, 18, is the son of **Adrian** and **Laryssa Kaechele** and is a senior at River Ridge High School in New Port Richey. He is the first Eagle Scout for Crew 46 Boy Scout Troop sponsored by St. Mark's Presbyterian Church in Hudson, where he held the position of president. He earned 21 merit badges including Citizenship in the Community, Family Life, Fish and Wildlife Management and Personal Fitness. He participated in projects with his troop that included Special Olympics, Peer Meditation and Tutoring, Knights on Patrol, Lifeguard and Luther Springs Clean-Up Day. For his Eagle Scout project, Harris planned and led the construction of 12 birdhouses for the Alclote River Park in Holiday. He used all recycled materials as eco-friendly as possible, and construction was assisted by his fellow crew members and his family. The project took 301 hours to complete.



REGIS LIMA | Special to the Times

**WINNING TAEKWONDO TEAM:** Team Lima from Regis Lima Martial Arts School of Port Richey and Spring Hill participated April 25 in the Florida Taekwondo Championship competition in Kissimmee. Team members pictured, from left, in front row: **Joelian Mislav**, who took two bronze medals; **Kate Towne**, bronze; **Amanda Lobianco**, bronze; **Nicholas Kallergis**, gold; and **Dylan Fawcett**, gold and silver; in back row: **Alex Munoz**, silver; **Justin Rockwell**, bronze and silver; **Jacob Rockwell**; **Angelica Martello**, bronze; and **Master Regis Lima**. Team members not available for photo: **D.J. Johnson**, two bronze; **Lewis Munger**, gold; **Nathan Johnson**, gold; **Rickey Cheeks**, bronze and silver; **Starlite Connolly**, gold and silver; **Traci Czynnik**, gold; and **Trey Johnson**, bronze. The team qualified for the national competition June 29 to July 4 in Ft. Lauderdale.

## We need your news!

Hometown Pasco publishes Sundays in the Pasco Times with the good news from our community, our friends and families. Tell us about your organization's charity event or how you took your first trip to Europe. Tell us when a member of your family gets a promotion in the military or sends news from abroad. Or, send a few lines thanking someone for a job well done. We know it's hard, but please keep it to 100 words or so. We'd love to have pictures, too. Send photos in JPEG format as an attachment. You can contact Hometown West Pasco news coordinator **Diana Forgiione** at [dforgione@sptimes.com](mailto:dforgione@sptimes.com), or at 869-6243, 869-6233 (fax), or 11321 U.S. 19, Port Richey, FL 34668.