

didn't take off with.

rick inside the club, a 6-month-old boy, car, Elias said. She the baby out of the was sweaty and had to be said.

ked her not to call told him to go out a change of clothes, a bottle. When he ice again asked her

0 minutes with the said, she figured wrong and had her the Hillsborough Office. Meantime, ow she had to keep

again about the n ignored her, she ok off the baby's ed him again, and again. A friend of aby a bottle. The

ing out," she said, what is going on," ran broke down, her his plan. He the baby at the said.

saying, "I need in the baby for a Elias said. "I'll guys are so nice. ate it."

he had taken the idparents' house looking for the ked whether he id stay with Eli- two."

ed of alcohol, his and he was un- id in a report. went to his car, paraphernalia in the report said, th a possession ala charge.

s after her man- ies showed up ock. rient Road Jail '00.

baby in here d. "I am preg- I knew some-

in can be 7629 or com.

### School District Sets Graduation Dates

**TAMPA** — Nearly 11,000 high school students from 29 public schools will graduate in ceremonies scheduled for late May and early June.

The Hillsborough County School District has scheduled graduations for traditional public high schools, magnet schools, career centers and charter schools. Most will take place at the University of South Florida Sun Dome or the State Fairgrounds Expo Hall.

Dates are as follows:

May 28 — East Bay and Spoto at the fairgrounds; Freedom and Middleton at USF; Waters Career Center at the school's Tampa location.

May 29 — Jefferson, Newsome and Plant City at the fairgrounds; Alonzo, Bloomingdale and Hillsborough at USF.

May 30 — Durant, Plant and Robinson at the fairgrounds; Gaither, King and Wharton at USF; South County Career Center at the school's Ruskin location.

June 2 — Blake and Brandon at the fairgrounds; Armwood and Chamberlain at USF.

June 3 — Lennard and Tampa Bay Technical School at the fairgrounds; Leto and Sickles at USF.

June 4 — Gary Adult High School and Riverview at the fairgrounds; Pepin Academy at TPepin's Hospitality Centre in Tampa.

Courtesy Calms Pastor

### Tax Collector's Office Wins Sterling Award

**TAMPA** — County Tax Collector Doug Belden's office has become the first Hillsborough government agency to win the Governor's Sterling Award, which rewards efficient management and customer focus.

Belden said his office has been trying for three years to win the

### This Business Makes Dreams Come True

**TOWN N COUNTRY** — Tucked away in a nondescript strip mall, a fairytale wonderland known as The Event Factory has been fulfilling the dreams of those celebrating birthdays and weddings for 10 years.

The 50,000-square-foot facility, at 7565 W. Hillsborough Ave. is surrounded by fast-food eateries, a Big Lots and TJ Maxx. Still, the floral decor by the entrance teases to what guests will see once they enter.

Inside, they are greeted by a statue of a knight on a horse. To the left are a bridal salon and offices. To the right, past a gazebo gate and castle doors, a path leads to the Enchanted Forest, where numerous trees are decorated with white lights and flowers. Beyond the forest is the Secret Garden,

where weddings take place, and then the Celestial Swan Ballroom, decorated with chandeliers and thrones for the guests of honor.

The Event Factory's crowning jewel is the Castle Ballroom — much larger than the Swan ballroom. It features a Castle Courtyard and the Castle Chapel. Couples have their ceremony in the chapel, and guests have their cocktail hour in the courtyard before heading into the ballroom, which can accommodate 550.

With The Event Factory, most everything is included in the package price: the catering, the flowers and decor, the photographer, the videographer and the disc jockey. Only things such as the attire, alcohol and cake are separate.

Angela Delgado

award. His is the first tax collector's office to win the award in Florida.

Belden said his office submitted a 50-page application to the Florida Sterling Council. Among the achievements Belden listed were 97 percent of customers who listed the service at tax collector branch offices as good or excellent; an employee satisfaction rating of 89 percent; decreased branch customer wait time of less than 15 minutes and processing 97 percent of property tax payments the same day they are received by mail.

"You can't succeed as a Sterling Award winner without the participation and buy-in of all your employees," Belden said.

### Gospel Sing Carries On Florida Opry Tradition

**PLANT CITY** — The sun may have set on the Florida Opry last year, but one remnant of the rollicking monthly

dose of country music will return Friday with the 10th Old Fashion Gospel Sing.

The show, to be held at First Baptist Church of Plant City at 503 N. Palmer St., is scheduled from 7 to 10 p.m.

The Royal City Family, Spirit Song, The Faithful Men and Never Fade will perform. Advance tickets are available for a \$10 donation. They can be purchased by calling (813) 752-4094 or the church office at (813) 752-4104.

Jan Hollingsworth

### Free Clinic Volunteers Get Lawsuit Immunity

**BRANDON** — Volunteer health care providers at the Brandon Outreach Clinic can treat the community's working poor without worrying about malpractice lawsuits, a move that clinic operators hope encourages

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