SEMINOLE BEACON

Volume XXXII, No. 10 | www.TBNweekly.com | July 8, 2010

Kerry Beggs, left, and Amy Hartman recently organized Chase Your Dreams, a youth mentoring program. See page 10.

Community

BP claims center opens in Clearwater

A center to handle damage claims related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill has opened in Clearwater.

... Page 4.

Business

Green market set at mall

A local promoter is planning to open a produce market at the Seminole Mall in August.

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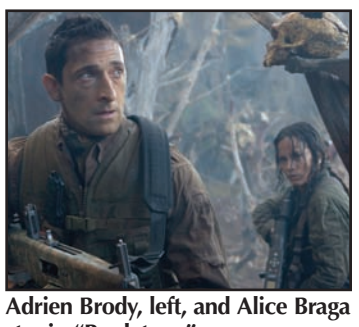
Entertainment

New movies open

A number of new movies open this week in the area, including the comedy "Despicable Me."

... Page 14.



Adrien Brody, left, and Alice Braga star in "Predators."

County

SWFWMD eases water restrictions

Above-average rainfall has resulted in enough improvements in aquifer and river levels so that the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Governing Board voted to let modified Phase II shortage restrictions to expire.

... Page 3.

Sports

PAL plans football camp

The Pinellas County Police Athletic League plans a youth football camp July 12-16 at the Seminole Youth Athletic Association complex.

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Bob McClure

Columnist Bob McClure recalls the antics of a baseball icon. ... Page 7.

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Forum on oil spill planned at SPC

The event will feature a pair of panel discussions focusing on Tampa Bay

By BOB McCLURE

SEMINOLE – St. Petersburg College plans a free informational forum titled the "Impact of the Oil Crisis in the Gulf on Tampa Bay" Wednesday, July 14, 6 to 8:30 p.m., in the Digitorium on the SPC Seminole campus.

The event will feature two panel discussions.

The first panel, moderated by former Exxon oil executive Dan Berard of Seminole, is titled "Current Reality – The Oil Spill and Tampa Bay."

D.T. Minich, executive director of Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater, and Keith Overton, senior vice president and chief operating officer of the Tradewinds Resorts International, will conduct a discussion on the impact to tourism and the economy; Laurie MacDonald, Florida program director for the Defenders of Wildlife, will talk about the impoact to wildlife; and David Sorrick, vice president of Power Generation Florida at Progress Energy, will talk about the impact to infrastructure.

The discussion, which will be held on the SPC Seminole campus, will feature a lineup of well-known experts in their respective fields.

The second panel discussion will revolve around response and will be moderated by Susan Glickman of Belleair Beach, a consultant to the National Resources Defense Council, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and the Clean Energy Group.

One discussion will center around the topic of what will bring the oil spill here. Robert Weisberg, a faculty member in the University of South Florida's College of Marine Science, will facilitate.

A second discussion topic will be on contingency plans, led by U.S. Coast Guard Cmdr. Sheryl Dickinson and Chris Hart, a member of Florida Gov. Charlie Crist's Gulf Oil Spill Economic Recovery Task Force.

Closing comments will be presented by State Sen. Dennis Jones, R-Treasure Island, and State Rep. Janet Long, D-Seminole.

The forum will be carried live via a stream on the SPC website at mms://media.spcollege.edu/oil-crisis.

Heads up

Photo by JIM LAYFIELD

A pair of river otters thrive in the west canal of the Largo Nature Preserve. Otters are active day and night, hunting in streams, rivers and ponds for fish, crayfish and turtles.

Former SPB mayor opposes Amendment 4

By BOB McCLURE

ST. PETE BEACH – The former mayor of St. Pete Beach told members of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council June 30 that voters only need to look at his city for a reason not to vote for Amendment 4 in the November election.

The proposed amendment to the Florida Constitution, often referred to as Florida Hometown Democracy, is called by supporters a measure that will give people a say on growth issues.

Those against it, including former St. Pete Beach Mayor Ward Friszolowski, say it's a disaster waiting to happen.

Proponents say it's a measure that will allow residents to take back the decision-making process from government leaders on issues of growth management from leaders they say are influenced too much by lobbyists and special interests.

The amendment is modeled after a 2006 charter amendment in St. Pete Beach that requires a referendum on any changes to the city's comprehensive plan.

If Amendment 4 passes, a vote would be necessary on any issues involving land use regulations across the state.

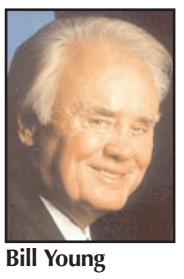
It would also be very expensive because waiting for the next regularly-scheduled municipal election would be an inefficient process, it would also jeopardize a city's comprehensive plan.

Due to state regulations, Friszolowski said, special elections are necessary so city comprehensive plans are not held in noncompliance (by state officials).

See AMENDMENT, page 4

Young introduces oil spill legislation

Congressman C.W. Bill Young, R-Indian Shores, introduced the SAFEGUARDS Act (Secure All Facilities to Effectively Guard the United States Against and Respond to Dangerous Spills) July 1 to provide common sense solutions to prevent oil spill disasters and improve the federal response in the event of another one.



Bill Young

This legislation was drafted following a series of meetings with incident commanders, including the Coast Guard both at the national level and in the Saint Petersburg Command, as well as other federal, state and local emergency responders.

"The SAFEGUARDS Act addresses some of the systematic breakdowns which led to the BP Deepwater Horizon catastrophe," Young said.

In a statement upon introducing the bill in the House, Young outlined its main points:

"First, this legislation will ensure that National Environmental Policy Act requirements are not ignored again as they were in the case of the permits issued for Deepwater Horizon, by prohibiting any categorical waivers of NEPA, and by extending the time period regulatory agencies have to review oil exploration proposals. Regulatory agencies currently have only 30 days to review extensive and intricate drilling proposals. My bill will give regulatory agencies up to 150 days to ensure exploration plans are properly reviewed.

"Second, it will prevent the situation with Deepwater Horizon where the company was allowed to begin drilling without a prepared response plan in the event of a failure

See YOUNG, page 4

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PSTA schedules public meetings on changes

Due to budget shortfalls, the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority is proposing to increase fares and eliminate some bus service effective Oct. 3.

PSTA will hold a series of workshops and public hearings to gather public comment regarding the proposed changes. The proposal is available on www.PSTA.net and also will be available at the hearings. With advance notice, this information will be available in proper format for the hearing and visually impaired.

Written comments are welcome and will be read into the record upon request. Address to: Fare and Service Public Hearing, 3201 Scherer Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33716 or send via e-mail to public-hearing@psta.net. All correspondence should include name and address for the official record.

The schedule for the workshops are:

- Monday, July 12, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Clearwater City Hall, Room 222, 112 S. Osceola Ave., Clearwater.
- Tuesday, July 13, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., St. Petersburg College, 244 Second Ave. N., Room DC210, St. Petersburg.

Public Hearings are public meetings that give residents the opportunity to make a statement on the official record. Opinions will be considered by the board when it makes a final decision. Public hearings do not include question and answer sessions. The schedule for hearings are:

- Tuesday, July 20, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Clearwater City Hall, Room 222, 112 S. Osceola Ave., Clearwater.
- Tuesday, July 20, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Sunshine Center, 330 Fifth St. N., St. Petersburg.
- Wednesday, July 28, 9 a.m., as part of the regular board meeting, PSTA headquarters, 3201 Scherer Drive, St. Petersburg.

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority is the public transit provider for Pinellas County carrying nearly 13 million riders a year along nearly 40 bus and trolley routes with a fleet of 205 vehicles.

To learn more about the services offered by PSTA, or for schedule and fare information, passengers should call the PSTA InfoLine at 540-1900, or visit www.PSTA.net.

New hours at Animal Services

Pinellas County Animal Services is now open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, with the adoption center closing at 4:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Animal Services is open for lost and found pets only, from 9 a.m. to noon. The adoption center is closed on Saturdays. The facility is also closed on Sundays and holidays.

The public is invited to view the animals up for adoption during shelter hours – no appointment is necessary. The outside animal drop-off is open on days that the shelter is closed to the public.

The change in hours is being implemented to adjust to changes in the department. Dr. Welch Agnew, former director of Animal Services, retired June 1.

Dr. Dewayne Taylor has assumed the role as director and will oversee the mission of Animal Services but will be the only veterinarian on staff.

The Pinellas County Animal Services shelter and adoption center is located at 12450 Ulmerton Road in Largo.

Call 582-2600 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices.

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Watering restrictions ease for some area residents

By SUZETTE PORTER

Above-average rainfall this winter resulted in enough improvements in aquifer and river levels so that the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Governing Board voted June 29 to let modified Phase II shortage restrictions to expire.

According to a press release, local governments now have the option of returning to the water district's twice-per-week, year-round water conservation methods beginning July 1.

Terrie Grace, who is in charge of enforcement of Pinellas County Utilities water restrictions, said Pinellas County will continue the once-a-week watering restrictions for residents who use potable (drinking) water for irrigation. However, easing of restrictions allow residents who use wells, lakes or ponds to return to a twice-a-week schedule.

Grace said the schedule for people using potable water will remain the same as it has been since December 2001. People who use reclaimed water also should continue to conserve as much as possible.

However, people who water using wells, lakes or ponds now must follow SWFWMD's water rules, which allow for watering twice a week, Grace said.

As of July 1, addresses with even numbers can water on Thursday and Saturday and odd numbers can water on Wednesday and Saturday. Residents with a mixed or no address can water on Tuesday and Friday.

Another bonus for users of nonpotable water sources is that they can water between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. People who use potable water must continue to water only before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m.

Variations in the rules still apply for properties of more than 2 acres, as well as for new plantings and other special circumstances.

A complete schedule of watering restrictions is available at www.Pinellascounty.org, or call the Utilities Department at 464-4000.

Grace said residents who put in new plantings can water every day for 30 days, during the establishment period. After the first 30 days, they can water three days a week: even-numbered addresses on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and odd-numbered addresses may water on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

She said people who put in new plantings should hand-water unless the plantings make up 50 percent of an irrigation zone. She advised people to call customer service to let them know that they have new plants so conservation enforcement officers would be aware of their special needs.

"It's hard to tell whether plants are new or established at 2 a.m.," Grace said.

While Utilities does not recommend the use of timers on irrigation (sprinkler) systems, Grace said people who do use timers should make sure to make adjustments to meet the new rules.

She also said during the rainy season with frequent storms and lightning people should make sure their timers remain at the proper settings.

"Many of them revert to the factory defaults if they lose power," she said.

Residents who receive their water from sources other than Pinellas County Utilities should call the number on their water bill to check to see if their watering schedules have changed.

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Lending a hand

Photo courtesy of ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Youth from the FISH Camp at St. John's Episcopal Church in Clearwater visited Lake Seminole Park last week to spread mulch. Due to budget cuts, Pinellas County is unable to maintain parks like it has in the past.

AMENDMENT, from page 1

He said special elections cost about $20,000 each in St. Pete Beach.

Meanwhile, St. Pete Beach has spent around $750,000 on legal issues surrounding its fight against Hometown Democracy and related court challenges.

"This has done economic damage to our community and has not created wiser management," Friszolowski said. "It has created a lot of problems in St. Pete Beach and I would hate to see it implemented across the state."

Friszolowski said St. Pete Beach adopted its comprehensive plan in 1989 and in time it was apparent the plan favored condominiums over hotels.

After 22 public hearings on the topic, the city developed amendments to its comprehensive plan in 2005 that were later challenged by a political action committee called Citizens for Responsible Growth. CRG filed four petitions to amend the city's charter. One of the four petitions concerned the Hometown Democracy concept, which state courts upheld on appeal after an initial city victory.

Another political action committee called Save Our Little Village went to court and got the CRG challenge reversed but CRG came back with yet another challenge. This time the courts ruled that St. Pete Beach voters should decide.

In November 2009, city residents passed a measure 57 percent to 43 percent saying a referendum could only be used to decide land-use issues of height, density, intensity or use.

It was a semi-victory for the city.

Still, the lawsuits continue and the city continues to spend money to fight them.

"We're the worst nightmare for what can happen with Amendment 4," said Friszolowski. "They (Amendment 4 proponents) are trying to distance themselves from St. Pete Beach on this issue now because they know it doesn't work."

For additional information on both sides of the proposal visit www.floridahometowndemocracy.com and www.Florida2010.org.

In other matters:

• Pinellas County officials unveiled yellow flags that will be used in a new Pedestrian Flag Program at 39 crosswalks on Gulf Boulevard from Walsingham Road south to the Bayway.

The Florida Department of Transportation launched the program that features reflective flags for pedestrians to wave as they cross Gulf Boulevard. The flags, which will be in a container at cross walks, are to be deposited in another container once pedestrians are safely across the street.

As flags disappear or are taken by souvenir hunters, they will be replaced. The county has 5,000 flags ready for use.

The $6 million state program was recently approved by the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

• Andy Squires, assistant director of Pinellas County Emergency Management, said the schedule for beach renourishment at Treasure Island has been moved up. "The state will not allow us to move forward on renourishment if there's oil on the beach," Squires said. "The (Army Corps of Engineers) is concerned about it." Work is expected to begin in late July at John's Pass and go south from that point to Upham Beach. Contract terms call for the project to be complete in 150 days.

• Indian Shores Mayor Jim Lawrence said a June 10 meeting with Pinellas County Commissioners went well concerning the allocation of $35 in Penny for Pinellas funds to beach communities for Gulf Boulevard beautification. "To my happiness, of the five commissioners there that day, four suggested going back to the original agreement (allocating $35 million to beach communities). Theoretically, the first payment should be coming around the first part of October." The funds will be allocated over five years. Clearwater will receive a total of $6.7 million, Belleair Beach, $2.9 million; Indian Rocks Beach, $4.1 million; Indian Shores, $4 million; Redington Shores, $1.7 million; North Redington Beach, $1.2 million; Redington Beach, $1.6 million; Madeira Beach, $3.3 million; Treasure Island, $3.8 million; and St. Pete Beach, $5.7 million. Most communities intend to use the money for putting utilities underground.

BP claims center is busy

Fishermen, boat captains and others affected by the oil spill all have many sad stories to tell

By ALEXANDRA CALDWELL

CLEARWATER – Fishermen came who can't sell their fish, who are pushed out of waters they used to fish, and who are seeing anomalies in the ecosystem that they have never seen in their decades of fishing. Charter boat captains came who are losing their boats and business from so many people canceling reservations out of fear. Restaurant owners, hotel owners, vacation rental landlords. More than 150 people with claims flocked to Clearwater's new BP claims center in just the first three and a half days since it opened.

Before the Clearwater claims office opened on June 28, the nearest claims offices were in Naples and Apalachicola. But with more than 1,800 claims filed in Central Florida alone since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill began, the company felt there was a need for an office in the area, said Chuck Newton, office manager of the Clearwater claims office.

"We're here in a visible location so that you can come in and have face-to-face contact with someone and develop a relationship with that person so they can answer questions for you and help process your claim," Newton said. "It's just frustrating to deal with an 800 number. You talk to a different person each time and you feel like you're telling the same story over and over again."

People should first get a claim number by calling 1-800-440-0858 or visiting www.bp.com/claims. After people get a number then they may either wait for a claim adjuster to contact them or they may visit a claim office in person. If all their documentation is in order, then the process of getting their first check could be as short as 15 minutes to an hour, Newton said. Other people may have to return with more supporting documents. The office first began issuing checks on July 1.

Everyone waiting for service at the office on July 1 had a story to tell. Scott Daggett, a commercial fisherman who lives in St. Petersburg and fishes out of Madeira Beach, said he has been affected by the spill because he used to lay his lines in areas that are now covered in oil. He said due west from about Tarpon Springs north, outside of 35 fathoms, where it is legal for him to fish, is now all closed off due to oil, which makes it harder for him to work.

"That closed area, I can't fish in, so now you have all of us shifting further south and we're all jammed in one area and fishing the same area, and it can only take so much," Daggett said. "Because you have all these boats now. I traditionally fish northwest of John's Pass, and now I fish southwest because it's the only place to go because it's all closed where I usually fish. So now I migrate south and we all get bunched together."

Daggett said that in a perfect world, he wishes the entire oil problem would just go away, but in the meantime, he was at the claims office to try to get compensated for his lost profits. The public is scared of eating fish from the gulf, so people aren't buying and the fish price is way down, he said. But that's not even his biggest fear.

"(My biggest fear is) how much it's going to kill," Daggett said. "Because you're putting that disbursement on it, making it sink, but to me, that's hiding the problem. And once it starts rolling across the bottom, you see those tar balls coming in, once that touches something down there, it's dead. Sponge, coral. And the fish that we fish for are all on the bottom. It's not surface fish. It's all on the bottom. It's going to be years before you know the extent of the damage."

He added that he has fished his entire life, and now the fishermen are seeing things that they have never seen before. A friend of his caught a yellow finned tuna in 160 feet of water, which is not where they are supposed to live. He said he has never heard of that happening in all 23 years of him fishing.

"And last trip ... the porpoises, they were running. I've never seen them like this before. They were just running and running," Daggett said. "You can see how things are changing. Like surface fish where you usually don't see them – you see them out in deeper water. The way we all see it, they're having a harder time breathing and they're just running. They're running from the oil. And to me, who knows where that oil is really at when it's below the surface. I've seen sailfish in like 130 feet of water, and I've never seen that before. And I saw so many porpoises last trip, they were just running. They were cruising. A lot of times they'll harass us, like when we're throwing back the little fish, but they were just running away. More than I've ever seen in my life. Pods of 30 and 40 just cruising all day long."

He said he is no marine biologist, but the ecosystems are all screwed up with deepwater fish in surface waters and surfacewater fish in deep waters.

"It's not their kind of habitat. It's like, 'Can't breathe, gotta go,'" Daggett said.

Fisherman "Fisher" Price of Tarpon Springs was at the claims office because he has had a hard time selling the fish he's catching. The fish prices have dropped out, he said, and nobody wants to eat fish from the Gulf of Mexico, and he is having a hard time paying bills.

"Most of our fish houses sell to restaurants, so people from out of town are coming in and they call the restaurants and ask, 'Where's your fish coming from?' And when they say it's local, they say, 'Well, we're not going to eat that,'" Price said. "So the restaurants start buying less, our fish house starts buying less, and now we can't sell our fish."

Price said he has tried calling BP and Deepwater Horizon to sign his boat up as a vessel of opportunity, but he hasn't had luck with getting calls back.

Ken Lenard of Tampa works with Faybyrd Charters, and he said the economy had already made it hard enough to get customers, and now the oil spill has wiped out the business that they did have. He sails out of Clearwater, but now his would-be clients are scared and don't want to feel like they are wasting the little money that they have. The waters where Lenard takes his clients are not yet affected by the oil, but that does not fix the perception people have.

"I tell them that I'm eating the fish I'm catching and I haven't fallen over," Lenard said. "People are just scared. Money is tight and they don't want to dish out good money to go sit on the water all day and not be able to eat what they catch."

In the long-term, however, Lenard said he is scared and that the entire area is in big trouble. He said everyone hears about what is happening on the surface of the water, but what about what is happening with the undertows, and where is that taking the oil? And, like Daggett, he has seen big changes in the fish ecosystems.

"All the big fish and everything are moving in for cleaner, fresher water," Lenard said.

See CLAIMS, page 24

YOUNG, from page 1

of the blowout preventer. My legislation requires that there must be a full-scale response plan in place and that the oil spill response plan must account for a true worst case scenario, including the uncontrolled discharge of oil resulting from the failure of a blowout preventer or other containment devices.

"Third, my legislation addresses the federal chain of command for emergency response and containment efforts. While the Coast Guard is ultimately responsible for leading the government's response to an oil spill in America's coastal waters, they are not required to approve oil spill response plans submitted by oil rigs. Instead, each rig is required to submit their spill response plans to the Minerals Management Service, an agency we learned has had many well-documented issues with administering rig safety standards. The Coast Guard must be involved at all levels of the planning and permitting stage to ensure a fully coordinated response effort. If the Coast Guard has to clean up the spills, they should have the authority to review and certify the clean up plans ahead of time. The SAFEGUARDS Act will make this a requirement for all current and future oil rigs, as well as to establish the Commandant of the Coast Guard as the National Incident Commander to oversee the federal government's response to large oil spills in coastal waters.

"Finally, my legislation addresses inadequacies in federal response efforts highlighted by the current spill. The framework of the National Contingency Plan, which is the federal government response plan for all oil spills, has not been updated since 1994. The SAFEGUARDS Act will require the response plan to be updated at least every five years. Further, this bill will require the EPA to begin monitoring water quality within 48 hours after an oil spill is discovered.

It is important for the public to have accurate information about how our water, our wildlife and our beaches are being affected as quickly as possible."

Young has asked the chairmen of the committees drafting comprehensive oil spill legislation to include his common sense solutions in any final package they bring before the House later this summer.

Young has a long history of responding to threats to the environment caused by oil spills and offshore oil exploration. As a Florida state senator, he drafted landmark legislation in 1970 to set in place emergency response plans for oil spills in the waterways surrounding Florida.

This was in response to the February 1970 oil spill from the tanker Delian Appolon, which spilled 20,000 gallons of crude oil into Tampa Bay.

Young's law, enacted later that year, was challenged all the way to the United States Supreme Court, where it was upheld in a unanimous decision.

It was also Young in 1983 who offered an amendment to an appropriations bill creating the first buffer zone to protect Florida's west coast from offshore oil drilling.

He had to defend his provision year after year in annual appropriations bills until he was able to help negotiate a more permanent protection of Florida's coastline in 2006.

That law now provides a 234 mile buffer zone of protection for Pinellas County's beaches.

Pinellas Charter Review Commission stirs controversy

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County's municipalities can rest easy. The Charter Review Commission will not be recommending any major changes.

In particular, it will not recommend that the state Legislature pass a special act to allow voters to authorize the repeal and replacement of the current charter.

Representatives from the county's cities turned out for public hearings on June 14 and June 28 to express their concerns about any repeal and replacement of the county's charter, fearing possible elimination of the dual vote provision.

Pinellas County's charter requires that charter changes be approved by county voters as well as by voters in municipalities that would be affected. Municipal leaders said any change to that system would threaten their home rule.

They voiced opposition to what they described as a divisive measure. They asked the CRC to remember the legal battle that occurred when the previous CRC proposed a change to the dual vote rule.

Clearwater Mayor Frank Hibbard said June 28 that he and others were concerned about the repeal and replace recommendation and the potential for a battle between the cities. He said he didn't think the county's charter needed a major revamp.

"Our (county) charter is fine," he said.

Hibbard and others said in light of today's challenges, all local governments needed to work together to find solutions. He cited current budgetary problems and the oil spill as common problems that needed a unified solution.

"We need to keep our eye on the ball," he said.

Most speakers, including mayors, city council members and chamber representatives from large and small municipalities, echoed much of what Hibbard said. Some spoke of pressure from county leaders and the addition of the recommendation at "such a late date."

CRC members disputed the claim that county leaders had influenced their decision or that the recommendation was last minute.

County Commissioner Ken Welch said after hearing concerns during the June 14 public hearing, he asked the CRC attorney, Susan Churuti, to amend the language in the recommendation to make it clear that there was no intent to remove the dual vote.

"There seems to be some assumption that the CRC is going after the dual vote," he said.

He said the intent had been to make changes to allow the county to make decisions that concerned its charter without having to go to the state for approval.

"No city has to do that," he said.

Several of the CRC members who are not elected officials said they did not understand the city's need for a dual vote or the threat to home rule. They said the purpose of the recommendation was to make it possible for a future CRC to put the matter of repealing and replacing the charter on the ballot without having to go to the state for approval.

Gerald Figurski, who is a CRC member representing the public-at-large, said he was concerned that all the discussion centered on what the county can do or what the cities can do, but no talk about the people.

CRC member Deborah Kynes, also representing the public-at-large, said repeal and replace should not be divisive.

She said the recommendation is only to authorize future CRC's to look at the possibility of repealing and replacing the charter at a time when it no longer meets the needs of the people.

Ed Hooper, CRC member representing the Pinellas Legislative Delegation, said he doubted that the matter would even be considered by the Legislature, especially with so many pressing matters on the state's agenda.

The CRC voted against the amendments put forth by Welch before voting against the recommendation as a whole.

Two other recommendations received unanimous approval. The first concerns revisions to the county's policy on lobbyist registration and reporting.

The second is a recommendation for changes to the operation of future charter review commissions, including dates of appointment, time allowed to complete the work, frequency of reviews, requirements for public hearings and length of service.

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Editorial
Tough choices

Trying to cope with decreased revenues spurred by the difficult economic times, Clearwater Police Chief Tony Holloway has come up with ways to cut $2.2 million from his proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

The chief has recommended eliminating the equivalent of 26.9 full-time jobs, mostly through attrition and not filling vacant positions.

Such a substantial reduction may raise eyebrows among constituents, but City Council members and the chief have little choice then to take drastic action with the continued decrease in property values, more than 43 percent over the past three years countywide.

Other possible action includes sharing vehicles, ending the take-home car program for officers and changing the work schedule. Certainly, the proposed cuts will be unpopular and may even cause some morale problems within the rank and file.

But the city, like many other local governments facing financial woes, has to make tough choices, especially if council members don't raise the city's millage rate.

Council members remain opposed to having the sheriff take over the city's law enforcement services. However, they are receptive to combining the two agencies' communications centers. City officials should aggressively pursue that option and other proposals to eliminate the duplication of services.

Time shall tell what the impact of the proposed cuts will have on service. Certainly, with what's on the table, city officials can make a solid case that they are getting by with less.

***

Largo officials, partnering with the state and county, are being aggressive to bring new businesses to the city.

They recently agreed to allocate $22,000 as an incentive to bring a business to Largo that is expected to create 55 new positions with an average wage of $57,897 over a three-year period.

Through the program, the state's contribution is $176,000 and the county's is $22,000.

The move is a sound investment because the company will bring in an estimated $31,000 annually in tangible personal property revenue from the capital investment of $7.3 million in its first three years of operation.

Businesses that participate in the tax credit program must show documentation that they have created the jobs required and have made their state tax payments.

Luring new business to an area, particularly during a sputtering economy, is difficult. The $22,000 is a sound investment in a program that in Largo – and elsewhere – has produced results.

Remembering a character

Bob McClure

It's interesting how time changes perception.

Not too many years ago, I religiously looked forward to Major League Baseball's annual All-Star Game in a similar fashion to Christmas or a summer vacation.

But as we get closer to next week's MLB All-Star Game in Anaheim, I look through the lists of participating players and I just can't get as excited as I once did.

Don't get me wrong. The players of today are probably the best athletes ever to walk onto a field. But charisma? Non-existent.

Pro athletes today are more like businessmen. And, quite frankly, they should be. With the salaries they command, each player is almost a mini version of a Fortune 1000 company. Unfortunately, their personalities reflect it.

Not too long ago, ball players were more free spirits. They were characters, for lack of a better term in a family newspaper.

Back in my previous life as a newspaper sports writer, I was fortunate to rub elbows with one of those guys. He was a somewhat quirky young man who you might remember.

Mark "The Bird" Fidrych, the son of a Massachusetts school administrator, picked up his nickname due to his uncanny resemblance to the "Big Bird" character on the Sesame Street television show.

Two years after Fidrych was drafted in the 10th round by the Detroit Tigers, he took Major League Baseball by storm in 1976. His zany antics and talking to the ball between pitches quickly gained the attention of national media folks. The Bird Watch began.

Fidrych was as entertaining as he was effective on the mound.

It wasn't unlike him to toss back a ball to a home plate umpire because it had too many hits in it. And it wasn't unlike The Bird to pat down the mound by hand before facing a hitter or to talk to himself regularly on the mound.

Meantime, his crisp fastball and cutter accounted for a 19-9 record and a 2.34 ERA that first year. He was named American League Rookie of the Year and finished second in the AL Cy Young voting.

Life was good for Fidrych, but as fate would have it, that was it. After 1976, he won only 10 more games due to injuries.

I had an opportunity to cross paths with The Bird in Lakeland in 1974. The Bird was a nice kid.

He was one year removed from high school and was already a crowd pleaser around the Florida State League.

I remember him asking me once after a game that was rained out in Tampa whether it rained year-round in Florida. When I told him no, he seemed perplexed that it always seemed to happen when he was scheduled to pitch. He walked away blowing a huge bubble from a wad of Bazooka chewing gum.

In addition to his spontaneous humor, which often surprised him, Fidrych was a very good pinball player. On his off days it wasn't unusual to find him in a certain Lakeland watering hole playing the latest game. And it wasn't unusual for Detroit television crews to follow him around town.

In a sense, Fidrych had no privacy but he didn't care. He was a happy-go-lucky kind of guy that said things unrehearsed from the heart.

Among his more famous one-liners:

• "When you're a winner, you're always happy, but if you're happy as a loser, you'll always be a loser."

• "Sometimes, I get lazy and let the dishes stack up, but they don't stack too high. I've only got four dishes."

There were many more. But the open, down-to-earth attitude he brought to baseball for a short time was a breath of fresh air.

Unfortunately, Fidrych died in a farming accident last year in Massachusetts. But there will always be those memories of 1976 that put so many smiles on the faces of baseball fans across America.

Interviews and interviewers

Driver's Seat

Bob Driver

"Coach Miffkin, talk about your outfielders."

That comment is what often passes for hard-nosed interviewing in today's news media. It is a softball question, one that puts little pressure on the interviewee.

It's a lazy Larry King question – no teeth in it. Reporters or talk show hosts who specialize in softball queries are usually popular with public figures, especially politicians, who do not want to be crowded into a conversation that has sharp edges to it.

In contrast, a truly professional interviewer would ask, "Coach, how do you justify keeping Overholt in center field when Swanstucker has faster legs and a stronger arm?" A pointed, specific query like that one can elicit genuine information, rather than the free-wheeling rambles most athletes, mayors and movie stars are allowed to get away with.

Another lazy-boy interviewing technique is the "How much" or "how important" question. "Mr. President, how important is it that we stick to the troop exit schedule in Afghanistan?" A vague, open-ended query like that is not really a question. It's an invitation to three minutes of useless yadda-yadda. Such questions deserve only a sarcastic answer such as "seven" or "quite."

Even less worthy of a civil response is the blowhard interviewer who needs three hundred words to frame his/her question. Brevity is the soul of wit, and the same thing goes for good interviewing. As far as I know, no one has written the definitive book on how to conduct news interviews. Every interview – its participants, topics, objectives, setting – is different. Although some people may regard interviewing as a learned skill, it might also be viewed as an art form.

Or as a weapon. Macho interviewers such as Bill O'Reilly specialize in putting guests on the hot seat, peppering them with tough questions and then interrupting them before they've had a chance to complete an answer. Rudeness and embarrassment are part of the deal.

Over the years, "Sixty Minutes" interviews have been some of the best. Mike Wallace & Co. are famous for making their interviewees squirm, but they've done it in a civilized fashion.

If interviewers are ever assembled in a Hall of Fame, Barbara Walters will surely be one of the first inductees. Although she is famous for lobbing softballs at her subjects, she is also credited with prying out admissions and confessions that other interviewers would fail to obtain.

Possibly the best-informed of today's big-time interviewers is Charlie Rose. Before he talks to an author, he will have read the author's latest book. Same with film stars, directors and screenwriters. Charlie (or someone on his staff) will have done extensive research on the interviewee and his/her history well before the show begins. Unfortunately, Rose has a strong tendency to bracket his questions with mini-monologues about the subject at hand. I don't know if this is a way of showing off his knowledge or just Charlie's method of channeling the interview into paths he believes are most pertinent and useful.

If Tavis Smiley is not already regarded as one of our best interviewers, he should be. He's a serious man (please don't ask me to define that term), and his interviews gravitate toward many of society's pressing issues. He also has a sense of humor. His sudden belly laughs can brighten up an otherwise solemn dialogue with his nightly guest.

Watching Rose and Smiley late at night is a pleasant way to steer clear of David Letterman and the other alleged wits who have lowered the interviewing standards set many years ago by Johnny Carson, Dick Cavett and Steve Allen. Their custom was to book guests who possessed functioning brains and could utter several meaningful sentences in a row without collapsing. Instead of trying to upstage their guests, these talk show hosts gave them sufficient time and attention to speak sensible English rather than the cheap wise-cracks we hear today on the Leno, Letterman and Kimmel shows.

But I guess quick-and-dirty interviews are what many of today's TV watchers prefer. The classic examples of superficial, nearly useless interviews are the ones given during or after athletic contests. Each network has at least one attractive, young and usually blonde female reporter who stations herself on the sidelines awaiting her thirty seconds of camera time. At halftime or as the game ends, the reporter rushes up to a prominent player, shoves a microphone at him and asks, "Rocky, how did you feel when you kicked that field goal?" Rocky, who is near exhaustion and can barely remember his own name, mumbles, "Well, we saw the oppatoonitee, y'know, and we came here to play physical." Which pretty well gives us, the viewers, about as much information as we're willing or able to handle at the moment.

Send Bob Driver an e-mail at tralee71@comcast.net .

Readers' forum

Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of Tampa Bay Newspapers.

Credits officials for beach protection

Editor:

I have been following the battle of the Panhandle beachfront owners with great interest. Something which was front and center when our county, DEP and municipalities successfully got sand in the '80s and '90s was amazingly absent in the recent news coverage: U.S. Supreme Court decisions as early as 1842. At that time it was established law that all land over which navigable waters flow belongs to the state. It was confirmed in 1845 and probably many times since.

The erosion control line, formerly the average line crossed by tidal flow, became that border in the eyes of jurists. Thanks to folks such as Mike Sole, now director of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Rep. Bill Young, state Sen. Dennis Jones and fine supporting county commissioners and locally elected officials, we got our public beach protection as do our neighbors on the Panhandle.

Bob McEwen
Indian Shores

See FORUM, page 7

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‘ Flat-out wrong’

Tom Germond

Here’s hoping the backlash against anonymous blogging on news media websites continues.

At least two esteemed journalists have recently assailed the practice, Miami Herald columnist Leonard Pitts and Rem Reider, the American Journalism Review’s editor.

Pitts doesn’t mince words about his position on the issue. To wit:

Anonymous online forums “have become havens for a level crudity, bigotry, meanness and plain nastiness that shocks the tattered remnants of our propriety.”

Agreed. Respectable newspapers require letters to the editor to be signed by their authors. Editors believe that writers should be held responsible for their comments whether they’re attacking a coach, the president or a slick oil company.

Can’t count how many times I’ve discarded an unsigned letter. I recall that even as I was just beginning my career as editor of a community college newspaper, a cheerleader asked me to publish an anonymous letter from her complaining about the lack of attendance at the college’s basketball games. I told her I couldn’t publish the letter unless she signed it. She refused.

For the media to prohibit the use of anonymous comments in print but allow them to run on websites merely because it’s trendy just sets a double standard.

Reider wrote in a recent column the anonymous forums on websites is “flat-out wrong.”

“... when they (news outlets) embraced the freewheeling world of the Internet, new organizations switched gears,” Reider wrote in the Journal’s summer edition. “Want to take some shots while wearing a cloak of confidentiality? No problem.”

Bravo. I can’t think of any compelling reason to allow anonymous blogging. Journalists also shy away from allowing anonymous sources to voice their opinions in routine news stories. Again, its all about accountability. Allowing unnamed sources free rein to criticize anything or anybody they want is just a waste of space and only raises questions, such as, is the source an authority on the issue discussed? Does he or she have a vendetta?

More from Pitts: “As any student of Sociology 101 can tell you, when people don't have to account for what they say or do, they will often say and do things that would shock their better selves.”

A couple of years ago, I attended a seminar on the future of the Internet. The presenter encouraged editors and publishers to interact with readers through blogging. She said court rulings have provided protection to the media from libel suits spurred by bloggers’ false allegations or other defamatory comments.

I don’t buy it. In time, I believe the high courts will uphold damages awarded against news outlets stemming from blogging. Plaintiffs seeking relief in court against anonymous blogging is a growing trend.

But why would a newspapers invite such trouble? No newspaper – or any business for that matter – wants a lawsuit hanging over its head, especially if it can be easily avoided. And I can assure you, we have better things to do at Tampa Bay Newspapers than try to ensure that each blog we post is not libelous.

I enjoy letters to the editor, pro or con, on any topic. Over the years, I’ve printed numerous letters from writers who berate government officials, religious figures or beliefs, political parties – you name it. Some of the letters have made me squirm and have outraged readers, but newspapers have an obligation to provide a forum to their readers.

However, we don’t have an mandate, obligation or need to allow anonymous posts on our websites or in print; I see no distinction between the two, either.

I don’t like anonymous blogging on any website, especially if it is mean-spirited, slimy or irresponsible.

Not sure exactly what character flaw best fits the people who must communicate in this matter, but I’ll give it a shot: It’s called cowardice.

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FLORIDA BLOOD SERVICES

FORUM, from page 6

Louder is better?

Re: *Bob Driver’s column, June 10.*

Editor:

Bob Driver lambasted today’s popular music with inaudible lyrics clashing with blasting instruments that words are lost in the band’s shrillness.

Apparently, louder is better in today’s rock/heavy metal, ear-splitting racket – much of which emanates not only from concerts and radio stations but from vehicles that sounds as if they are about to explode.

Most of us have been trapped in this situation at the traffic light next to those inconsiderate music lovers and the pounding vibrations even with their windows up. We have an idiot in our neighborhood who can be heard a block away and as he passes our house, one can discern the boom box beat while the walls vibrate!

High time for Seminole and Pinellas County to enact a strict noise ordinance, and at the same time, give these people a mandatory hearing test along with a stiff fine.

I’m one of Bob Driver’s mossbacks (as he says) from the ’40s and ’50s.

Art Bailey
Seminole

What do you think?

We are proud to offer a forum to our readers. Please type letters to the editor (or print legibly) and include your name, town of residence, phone number and signature and mail to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772. E-mails should include town of residence and telephone and be sent to tgermond@TBNweekly.com. We will not print the letter writer’s phone number.

Here are some more guidelines for letters:

- Letters are printed on a first-come, first-served basis. They may be edited to correct grammar, spelling and factual errors. They also may be edited for clarity.
- Please keep letters to editor to 500 words. Longer letters may be cut due to space limitations.
- Letters should address issues or current events. Please refrain from making unsubstantiated allegations. The newspaper will not print letters that contain slanderous or racial statements.
- Please do not use profanity.
- We do not publish poetry or songs in letters to the editor.
- Each writer may submit one letter per month.
- We can’t return letters to the editor.
- Please allow two weeks from the time you submitted your letter for it to be published before inquiring as to its status.
- We won’t print anonymous letters.
- We won’t print letters that are submitted merely to promote a business.

About the cartoonist

Dan Smith is a freelance cartoonist who lives in Largo. If you would like to comment on his work, e-mail Smith at dsmith8@tampabay.rr.com.

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Oil spill could cause problems for Progress Energy

By BOB McCLURE

ST. PETE BEACH – Residents of west central Florida will not experience any power interruptions should the Deepwater Horizon oil spill force Progress Energy to shut down any of its units for cleaning.

Speaking before the Barrier Islands Governmental Council on June 30, Vincent Dolan, president and chief executive officer of Progress Energy Florida, said oil residue from the spill is the company's primary concern because Gulf water is used to cool the generators at plants in Crystal River and Tarpon Springs.

"That (contaminated water) is our concern," said Dolan. "Fortunately, the spill doesn't appear to be a threat to the west coast of Florida."

Should it become necessary, he said the company has booms ready for use.

"If it (oil) gets into our cooling system, it would be like oil getting in your car radiator," Dolan said. "We'd have to shut down and clean those units."

He said the shut downs would not have any impact on power supplies to any Florida Power customers.

On another note, Dolan said Progress Energy's current base rate would remain stable through 2012. He said fuel costs would be the variable but the forecast is those prices will remain stable.

Dolan said plans for the company's newest nuclear plant in southern Levy County, about eight miles north of the current Crystal River nuclear plant, are delayed but still on course.

"We're looking a little farther out in time," he said. "We've run into about a two-year delay (due to issues with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission). Plans are to move ahead in 2012 and get a license, which will be good for 20 years."

Dolan said the cost of a new nuclear plant is about $600 million and Progress Energy has collected about $200 million from its customer base.

Plans originally called for clearing and construction to begin this year with a 2016 completion date.

Nuclear generation accounts for about 34 percent of the electricity Progress Energy produces.

In addition to Crystal River, the company operates nuclear plants in Southport, N.C.; New Hill, N.C.; and Hartsville, S.C.

In the meantime, natural gas will continue as the fuel of choice due to its lower cost and cleaner emissions.

"It (natural gas) is generally affordable right now," Dolan said. "But if natural gas prices go up again, you're going to see energy costs rise."

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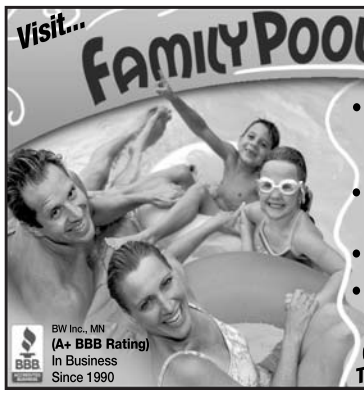
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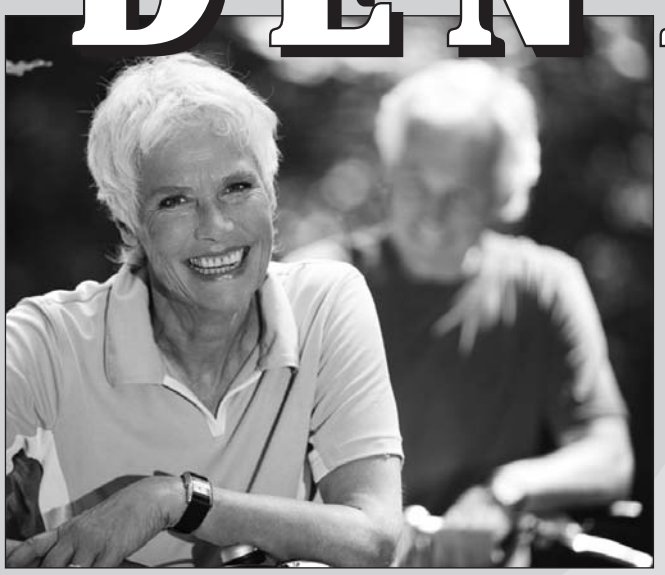
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Here and there

Sunsets on Trail returns

TREASURE ISLAND – The city of Treasure Island will host its next Saturday Sunsets on the Trail event on July 17.

Saturday Sunsets on the Trail is a sunset celebration that takes place along Treasure Island's gulf-front beach trail behind the Bilmar Beach Resort on the first and third Saturdays of June, July and August and the first Saturday in September

The free family event features artisans, crafters, street performers and live musical entertainment, weather permitting, from 4 to 9 p.m.

Parking is available on the beach for a fee of $10 per vehicle.

Additional information and applications can be located on the city's Web site at www.mytreasureisland.org

For additional information contact the Treasure Island Recreation Department at 547-4575, ext. 237 or e-mail recreation@mytreasureisland.org.

Jung Shem Tae Kwon Do

MADEIRA BEACH – Enrollment is under way for a jung shem tae kwon do class at the Madeira Beach Recreation Center.

The class meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Classes are taught by Brad Fountain, under the direction of grandmaster Felix Lopez Jr. Call 430-9090.

Softball registration under way

MADEIRA BEACH – Registration is currently under way for the city of Madeira Beach adult men's and coed softball leagues.

The season begins in August. Cost is $350 per team with a resident sponsor and $400 without. Call Colin Shaw at 392-0665.

Kickball signups start

MADEIRA BEACH – Registration is under way for the city of Madeira Beach adult men's and coed kickball leagues.

The season begins in late July. Cost is $150 per team.

Call Colin Shaw at 392-0665.

Beaches Chamber plans Sizzlin Summer Bash

ST. PETE BEACH – The Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce plans its annual Sizzlin Summer Bash Saturday, July 24, 6 to 10 p.m., at the St. Pete Beach Recreation Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Drive.

The festivities include live and silent auction, raffles, hors d'oeuvres, dancing, live music, beer and wine.

The event is $20 for members and $25 for nonmembers. R.S.V.P. to RSVP@TampaBayBeaches.com or call 360-6957.

Zumba class

TREASURE ISLAND – The Treasure Island Recreation Department is offering zumba classes at the City Hall auditorium, 120 108th Ave.

Classes are Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The fee is $6 per class or $25 for five classes.

For additional information please call instructor, Sue McRee at 459-0257.

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consumer business guide

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Photo by BOB McCLURE

Kerry Beggs, left, and Amy Hartman recently organized Chase Your Dreams. A fundraiser for the youth mentoring program is set Friday, July 16, at the Seminole Mall.

Fundraiser set for youth program

By BOB McCLURE

SEMINOLE – A fundraiser for a new program to provide guidance to youths is planned Friday, July 16, at the Seminole Mall.

Seminole Family Fun Day, which will run from 4 to 8 p.m. inside the mall, is a fundraiser to benefit the nonprofit Chase Your Dreams program, which was recently organized by Kerry Beggs, owner of Coastline Title of Pinellas; and Realtor Amy Hartman of Largo.

Chase Your Dreams is named in memory of 9-year-old Chase Brubaker of Seminole, who died April 1 after being struck by a bus while riding a bicycle near Fort Wilderness at Walt Disney World.

Hartman is a sister-in-law of Brubaker and Beggs is a close friend of Hartman.

Beggs has lined up about 24 vendors to participate in the fundraiser, which will feature food, music, games for kids, face painting and prizes.

"We want to make sure (Brubaker's) name lives on," said Beggs. "He was 9 years old and just full of life."

"Chase always wanted to help charities," said Hartman. "We want Chase's life and memory to live on forever."

The Chase Your Dreams program is geared for kids ages 15 to 18 and "will be more than your standard guidance counselor's test," said Beggs.

She said it's designed to help youth discover their true passion and place in life by providing assessment, intern programs and skills necessary to achieve their dreams.

Former Pinellas County Schools teacher Sean Martin has been hired to run the program.

Chase Your Dreams will offer youths assessment, interviewing, internships and mentoring.

"It's designed to help them find out what they're passionate about, mentor them and help them become what they want," said Beggs. "Eventually, we would like to expand it to include anyone who has been through a tragedy."

Beggs said the initial group would consist of 10 youths. The services provided will be free.

For more information, call 897-5037 or e-mail chaseyourdreamstoday@gmail.com.

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24/7 LOCAL NEWS
www.TBNweekly.com

Around Seminole

Library to celebrate 50th anniversary

SEMINOLE – Seminole Community Library, 9200 113th St., plans a public party Saturday, July 10, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Plans call for a disc jockey outside, 50-cent hot dogs and sodas, a Hula-Hoop contest, entertainment by the Bucket Band, juggler Daniel Brown and a number of door prizes.

Pat Bartell, administrative services director at the library, will make an entertaining library history presentation.

Author Tim Dorsey also will be on hand for a book signing. For more information, call 394-6905.

New social club forms

SEMINOLE – A new social club for women 45 years and older has been formed.

The club plans to attend museums, art shows, plays, concerts and more on a monthly basis.

The club meets Tuesday, July 20, 7:30 p.m., at 8884 111th St.

Call Maggie Carroll at 374-2171 to get a list of upcoming events.

Class set for hearing impaired

SEMINOLE – The Deaf and Hearing Connection, 7821 Seminole Blvd., will host an upcoming class called Living With Hearing Loss.

The class offers communications strategies and tips on how to repair communication breakdowns for people adjusting to hearing loss.

The class will be taught by a licensed mental health counselor.

Cost of the class is $25. Scholarships are available. Call Holliday Lisowski at 399-9983.

Civic honor

Helen Garzieri of Seminole, center, owner of the Boulevard Bistro restaurant, was recently honored as the Rotary Club of Seminole Lake as a business person who exemplifies the ideals of Rotary but who is not a Rotarian. She received a certificate of appreciation and a $100 honorarium to be donated to the charity of her choice. From left are Rotarian Roger Wilson, Garzieri and club president Glenn Stamm.

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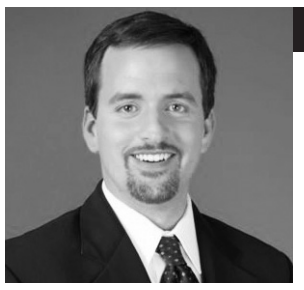

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Looking ahead

Clearwater

• **"The Kitchen Witches,"** by Caroline Smith, July 15 through Sept. 5, at Early Bird Dinner Theatre, presented at the Italian-American Club, 200 S. McMullen-Booth Road. Seating for performances Thursday through Sunday is 4 p.m. Seating for matinees Thursday and Saturday is 11 a.m. Admission is $29.90 a person. Call 446-5898 or visit www.earlybirddinnertheatre.com.

• **Marc Cohn**, Friday, July 16, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets start at $39. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. In the years that preceded the release of his new Decca album "Join the Parade," Cohn passed through several life-changing events. These events are what enabled him to reconnect with his songwriting muse, and they are in large part, what make "Join the Parade" an artistic, insightful and soulful statement. Despite his time away from the recording studio, the acclaimed singer/songwriter, winner of the 1991 Grammy Award for Best New Artist, has continued to perform live and his audiences have remained steadfast. He endured the pain of divorce, but in 2002 he married news anchor Elizabeth Vargas. He struggled with writer's block and sought to break through it with a month-long tour in the summer of 2005. The gigs went great until the night of Aug. 7, 2005. That's when Cohn was shot in the head during a random attempted carjacking after a concert in Denver. Even though the bullet was lodged near his left temple, Cohn never lost consciousness and walked out of the hospital the next day. Three weeks later, while recovering at home in New York from post-traumatic stress disorder, Cohn watched the city of New Orleans destroyed by flooding in the aftermath of Hurri-cane Katrina. Out of all this, and all that came before, comes "Join the Parade," a recording that is being called Cohn's most accomplished and compelling album to date. Cohn has translated some of his most complex and private emotions into lyrical song-poetry and then set those words to music of remarkable depth, toughness, and complexity. In doing so, Cohn has created a work that is certain to touch a universal chord of memory and feeling.

• **Crowded House,** Wednesday, July 28, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen-Booth Road. Tickets range from $29.50 to $69.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. In support of the planned mid-June record release of "Intriguer," multi-platinum recording artist Crowded House tour through Florida for the first time in more than 10 years. Formed in 1985, the Kiwi-Aussie rock group was masterminded by New Zealander, creative force and founding member Neil Finn. Their debut album contained the singles "Don't Dream It's Over" and "Something So Strong" which catapulted them into the international spotlight. Subsequent singles also performed well, charting in the upper reaches of several charts around the world.

• **Robert Plant and the Band of Joy**, Friday, July 30, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen-Booth Road. Tickets range from $49.50 to $99.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. The 12-city North American summer tour will be followed by further dates in the fall as Plant previews material from a new album. The album, set for release on Rounder in late summer or early fall, will feature a diverse group of musicians such as Patty Griffin, vocals; Darrell Scott, multi instrumentalist/vocals; Byron House, bass/vocals; Marco Giovino, drums and percussion/vocals; and co-producer Buddy Miller, guitar/vocals. The tour will feature Plant and the Band of Joy – the same musicians who also appear and play on the album.

• **Cyndi Lauper,** Wednesday, Aug. 4, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen-Booth Road. Tickets range from $39.50 to $69.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Lauper burst onto the world stage as the quintessential girl who wants to have fun. After more than 20 years and global record sales in excess of 25 million, she has proven that she has the heart and soul to keep her legion of fans compelled by her every creative move. With her first album "She's So Unusual," Lauper won a Grammy Award for Best New Artist and became the first female artist in history to have five top-10 singles from a debut album, including "Girls Just Want To Have Fun," "When You Were Mine," "Time After Time," "Money Changes Everything" and "She Bop." Along the way, she has continually won accolades as a singer, musician, actress and writer. She has been nominated for 13 Grammy Awards, two Emmy Awards, two American Music Awards, seven American Video Awards and 18 MTV Awards.

Dunedin

• **Swing Dance**, Monday, July 19, 7 to 11 p.m., at the Dr. William E. Hale Senior Activity Center, 330 Douglas Ave. Hosted by East Coast Swing Dance, the event will feature music from the 1940s and 1950s. A group lesson will be offered at 7 p.m. The social dance segment will run 8 to 11 p.m. Cost is $7 a person. All ages are welcome. Call 298-3299.

• **Author event**, Sunday, July 31, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Dunedin Public Library, 223 Douglas Ave. This end-of-the-summer luncheon will feature Cynthia Barnett, author of "Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S." Luncheon tickets cost $5. The program is free. Call 298-3080.

Largo

• "**Nunsense,"** an Eight O'Clock Theatre production, July 9-18, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are $26 for adults and $16 for students age 19 and younger with identification. Call 587-6793 or visit www.eightoclocktheatre.us. "Nunsense" will be directed by Ron Zietz with choreography by James Grenelle and musical direction by Emi Stefanov.

• **Beach Bag Movies**, Thursday, July 8, 12:30 p.m., at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive. The featured movie will be "Beach Blanket Bingo." Attendees may bring their own lunch. Popcorn and soda will be provided. Call 587-6715.

• **Sunset Sounds**, Friday, July 9, 7 to 9 p.m., at Ulmer Park, 301 West Bay Drive. Featured artist The Haoles will perform. The free concert series reveals the diversity of local musicians. Attendees can eat dinner at an area

See LOOKING AHEAD, page 13

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LOOKING AHEAD, from page 12

restaurant or bring a picnic and dine under the trees while enjoying live music performed in the gazebo. Visit www.largoevents.com.

• **Beach Bag Movies**, Thursday, July 15, 12:30 p.m., at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive. The featured movie will be "10." Attendees may bring their own lunch. Popcorn and soda will be provided. Call 587-6715.

• **Dive Into Summer Family Movies**, Wednesday, July 21, 6 p.m., at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive. The featured movie will be "Shark Tale." Popcorn and soda will be provided. Call 587-6715.

• **Beach Bag Movies**, Thursday, July 22, 12:30 p.m., at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive. The featured movie will be "The Count of Monte Cristo." Attendees may bring their own lunch. Popcorn and soda will be provided. Call 587-6715.

• **The Fixx**, Wednesday, July 28, 7:30 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are $25 in advance or $30 at the show. Part of the Largo Cultural Center Summer Concert Series, the concert will showcase the English new wave band The Fixx. The band is best known for their song "One Thing Leads to Another," from their most successful album "Reach the Beach" in 1983. Other hits include "Red Skies," "Stand or Fall" and "Saved by Zero."

• **Beach Bag Movies**, Thursday, July 29, 12:30 p.m., at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive. The featured movie will be "Pirates of the Caribbean." Attendees may bring their own lunch. Popcorn and soda will be provided. Call 587-6715.

• **The Original Kiss Army**, Friday, July 30, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are $25 in advance or $30 at the show. Part of the Largo Cultural Center Summer Concert Series, the concert will showcase the Original Kiss Army, a tribute band who has been dedicated to providing KISS fans with the most authentic re-creation of the band's classic era. Visit www.thekissarmy tribute.com.

• **ZOSO**, Friday, Aug. 6, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are $25 in advance or $30 at the show. Part of the Largo Cultural Center Summer Concert Series, the concert will showcase ZOSO, the ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience. Visit www.zosoontour.net.

• **Sunset Sounds**, Friday, Aug. 13, 7 to 9 p.m., at Ulmer Park, 301 West Bay Drive. Featured artist Rocky Ruckman's Strange Puppets will perform. The free concert series reveals the diversity of local musicians. Attendees can eat dinner at an area restaurant or bring a picnic and dine under the trees while enjoying live music performed in the gazebo. Visit www.largoevents.com.

• An acoustic evening with **Terry Sylvester and John Ford Coley**, Saturday, Aug. 21, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are $25 in advance or $30 at the show. Part of the Largo Cultural Center Summer Concert Series, the concert will showcase Sylvester, formerly of The Hollies, and Coley, formerly of England Dan and John Ford Coley. Visit www.terrysylvester.com and www.johnfordcoley.com.

• **The 10th annual I Like it HOT Festival and BBQ**, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 28-29, at the Minnreg Hall, 6340 126th Ave. N. Hours will be Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is $5 for adults. Kids 12 and younger will be admitted free. Attendees will have an opportunity to sample and purchase hot and fiery foods and sauces along with a large variety of hot pepper plants. The event will feature a pepper eating contest, amateur hot sauce and salsa competitions. Call 423-8433, e-mail ilikeithotfestival@hotmail.com or visit www.ilikeithotfestival.com.

• **Sunset Sounds**, Friday, Sept. 10, 7 to 9 p.m., at Ulmer Park, 301 West Bay Drive. Featured artist Geezer and the Time Train Band will perform. The free concert series reveals the diversity of local musicians. Attendees can eat dinner at an area restaurant or bring a picnic and dine under the trees while enjoying live music performed in the gazebo. Visit www.largoevents.com.

• **Sunset Sounds**, Friday, Oct. 8, 7 to 9 p.m., at Ulmer Park, 301 West Bay Drive. Featured artist Tim Mullally will perform. The free concert series reveals the diversity of local musicians. Attendees can eat dinner at an area restaurant or bring a picnic.

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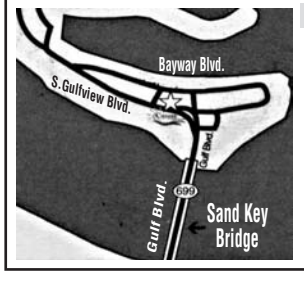

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Opening this week

Carell plans a lunar theft in 'Despicable Me' while Brody becomes the prey of 'Predators'

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

A number of new movie releases will hit theaters this week, including the following films opening in wide release:

'Despicable Me'

Genre: Comedy, family and animated

Cast: Steve Carell, Jason Segel, Kristen Wiig, Will Arnett and Danny McBride

Director: Chris Renaud and Pierre Coffin

Rated: PG

In a happy suburban neighborhood surrounded by white picket fences and flowering rose bushes sits a black house with a dead lawn.

Unbeknownst to the neighbors, hidden deep beneath this home is a vast secret hideout. Surrounded by an army of mischievous little minions, Gru (Steve Carell) is planning the biggest heist in the history of the world. He is going to steal the moon.

Gru delights in all things wicked. Armed with his arsenal of shrink rays, freeze rays and battle-ready vehicles for land and air, he vanquishes all who stand in his way.

That is, until the day he encounters the immense will of three little orphaned girls who look at him and see something that no one else has ever seen: a potential Dad.

'Predators'

Genre: Action and science fiction

Cast: Adrien Brody, Alice Braga, Louis Ozawa Changchien, Danny Trejo, Topher Grace, Laurence Fishburne and Walton Goggins

Director: Nimrod Antal

Rated: R

Robert Rodriguez presents a bold new chapter in the Predator universe, "Predators," shot on location under Rodriguez's creative auspices at the filmmaker's Austin-based Troublemaker Studios and directed by Nimrod Antal.

The film stars Adrien Brody as Royce, a mercenary who reluctantly leads a group of elite warriors who come to realize they've been brought together on an alien planet ... as prey. With the exception of a disgraced physician, they are all cold-blooded killers – mercenaries, Yakuza, convicts, death squad members – human predators that are now being systemically hunted and eliminated by a new breed of alien Predators.

The following will open in limited release. It may be several weeks before these films appear in local movie theaters.

See OPENING, page 15

Photo courtesy of UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND ILLUMINATION ENTERTAINMENT

Gru (Steve Carell) tells his minions about their new mission to steal the moon in Universal Pictures and Illumination Entertainment's inaugural 3-D CGI feature, "Despicable Me." The film tells the story of one of the world's greatest villain who meets his match with three little girls.

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OPENING, from page 14

'The Kids Are All Right'

Genre: Drama

Cast: Julianne Moore, Annette Bening, Mark Ruffalo, Mia Wasikowska and Josh Hutcherson

Director: Lisa Cholodenko

Rated: R

The most talked-about movie at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival, and the winner of the Teddy Award for Best Feature Film at the 2010 Berlin International Film Festival, "The Kids Are All Right" combines comedic surprise with poignant emotional truth in a funny, vibrant, and richly drawn portrait of a modern family.

Nic (Annette Bening) and Jules (Julianne Moore) are married and share a cozy suburban Southern California home with their teenage children, Joni and Laser (Mia Wasikowska and Josh Hutcherson). Nic and Jules - or, when referred to jointly by Joni, "Moms" - gave birth to and raised their children, and built a family life for the four of them. As Joni prepares to leave for college, 15-year-old Laser presses her for a big favor. He wants Joni, now 18, to help him find their biological father; the two teenagers were conceived by artificial insemination.

Against her better judgment, Joni honors her brother's request and manages to make contact with "bio-dad" Paul (Mark Ruffalo), an easygoing restaurateur. The kids find themselves drawn to the confirmed bachelor's footloose style – especially in contrast to Nic, a principled doctor who has long established their house rules.

'[REC] 2'

Genre: Foreign, horror and thriller

Cast: Manuela Velasco, Ferran Terraza, Ariel Casas, David Vert and Alejandro Casaseca

Director: Jaume Balagueró and Paco Plaza

Rated: R

The highly anticipated sequel to one of the scariest films of all time, "[REC] 2" picks up 15 minutes from where the original film left off, taking the audience back into the quarantined apartment building where a terrifying virus has run rampant, turning the occupants into mindlessly violent, raging beasts.

A heavily armed SWAT team and a mysterious government official are sent in to assess and attempt to neutralize the situation. What they find inside lies beyond the scope of medical science.

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Military news

James Leffler

SEMINOLE – Army Reserve Pvt. James Leffler recently graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

Leffler is a 1999 graduate of Osceola High School.

Chaz Fernandez

LARGO – Air Force Airman Chaz Fernandez recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Fernandez is the son of Vaughna Tokarz of Largo, and William Fernandez of New Port Richey.

The airman graduated in 2008 from Pinellas Park High School.

Mitchell Downs

ST. PETERSBURG – Air Force Airman Mitchell Downs recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Downs is the son of Anettia Wright and nephew of Lavette Tellis, both of St. Petersburg.

Downs is a 2009 graduate of Northeast High School.

Anthony Cook

LARGO – Army Pvt. Anthony Cook recently graduated from the Infantryman One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

Cook is the son of Angela Longgood of Largo and a 2005 graduate of Largo High School.

Michael Byrd

LARGO – Army Pvt. Michael Byrd recently graduated from the Infantryman One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

Byrd is the son of George and Leah Byrd of Largo and a 2009 graduate of Seminole High School.

Kerry Tromba

PALM HARBOR – Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Kerry Tromba recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Tromba is the daughter of Raymond and Patricia Tromba of Palm Harbor. She graduated in 2005 from Clearwater Central Catholic High School and received an associate degree in 2008 from St. Petersburg College.

Kevin Fischer

PALM HARBOR – Army Pvt. Kevin Fischer recently graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

Fischer is the son of Rhonda Thompson of Palm Harbor.

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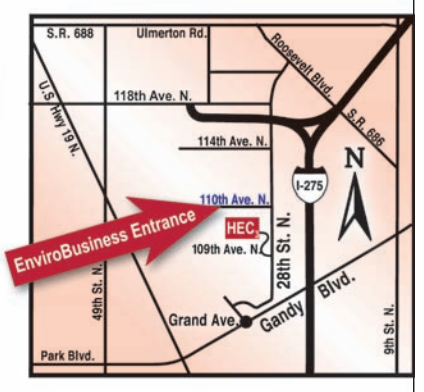

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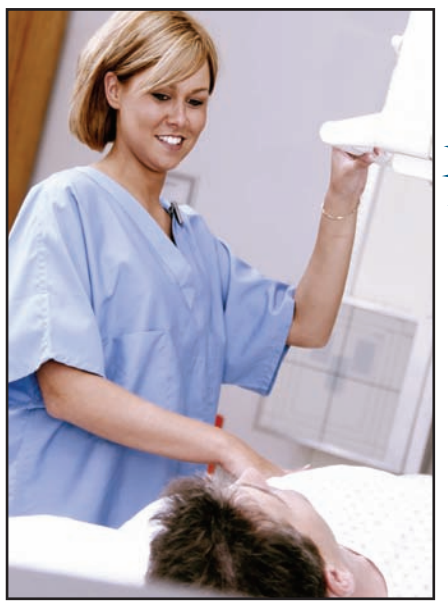

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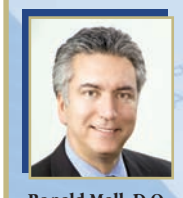
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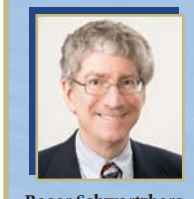
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Updated split plan w/remodeled kitchen, granite counters. Large great room, plus formal living & a Florida room. Inground pool. Corner, fenced lot. Tour# 2160736 $199,900

CORNER LOT
3BR/2BA/2CG PASADENA FOREST
Charming on corner lot w/xtra parking for RV/Boat. Features orig pine floors, large family room & eat-in kitchen. Close to the beach & trail. Tour# 2222775 $179,900

SHORT SALE
3BR/2BA/2CG LAKE PEARL
Split plan w/screened patio.Needs TLC and cosmetic updates.Good neighborhood. Close to Lake Seminole and Bardmoor shopping center. $139,900

REDUCED
2BR/2.5BA/1CP BARDMOOR
End unit. Updated kitchen & baths. Newer windows/doors, tile flrs, plantation shutters. Good floor plan w/bonus den/office & charming patio. All ages. Pets Ok. $135,000

VILLA
1BR/1BA/1CG BARDMOOR
Updated kitchen & bath. Tile floors throughout. Newer windows. Open floor plan plus large screened porch. 55+, Pool, Pets OK Tour#1911290 $59,900

2BR/2BA/1CP FIVE TOWNS – FORDHAM
Well maintained & furnished 3rd floor unit. Active community offers many amenities incl. heated pool. Walking distance to shopping & banks. 55+, No Pets. Tour #2201395 $55,000

SHORT SALE
CONTRACT PENDING
3BR/2BA/2CG LAKESIDE EST.
Split plan features vaulted ceilings, screened patio & fireplace. Open kitchen w/newer SS appliances & snack bar. Many updates. Master bath is a stunner! Tour# 2078140 $249,900

1BR/1BA SEMINOLE GARDENS
Updated, furnished. Light & bright 2nd floor unit w/water view. Plus an enclosed Florida room that could easily be set up for guests. 55+. Pets & Leasing OK. $39,900

POOL
4BR/3BA/2CG CENTURY OAKS
Rutenberg, El Dorado, split plan. Remodeled kitchen, newer roof & A/C. Screen enclosed pool, covered patio & oversized lot. Deed restricted. Good schools. Tour# 2201276 $299,000

FOR MORE PHOTOS & INFO ON THESE HOMES VISIT WWW.VISUALTOUR.COM

Networking groups

Networking groups, also known as leads groups, meet on a regular basis at various locations in the area. Some groups charge a fee to attend, and most require reservations. Persons considering attending any group for the first time are encouraged to make contact in advance.

The upcoming schedule is as follows:

• Thursday, July 8 – Network Professionals Inc. Networking Leads Club, 7:30 a.m., RG's Restaurant, 1565 S. Highland Ave., Clearwater. Call Liz at 424-8995.

• Thursday, July 8 – Seminole Business Masters, 7:30 a.m., Mama's Kitchen, 5885 Seminole Blvd., Seminole. Call Judy Miller at 798-4332.

• Thursday, July 8 – Network Professionals Inc. Networking Leads Club, 7:30 a.m., Panera Bread in the Bardmoor Shopping Center on the corner of Bryan Dairy and Starkey roads, Largo. Call Barbara at 573-1935, ext. 402.

• Thursday, July 8 – Executive Business Network, 7:30 a.m., Perkins Family Restaurant, 8841 Park Blvd. N., Largo. For reservations, call Mike Moore at 586-1111 or visit www.execbusnet.com.

• Thursday, July 8 – BNI Grand Slam Network Exchange, 7:30 a.m., Heritage Holiday Inn, 234 Third Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Visit www.bni.com.

• Thursday, July 8 – Network Professionals of St. Pete, 7:30 a.m. For more information and meeting location, call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.

• Thursday, July 8 – Professional Leads Network, Patriots Chapter, 8 a.m., Boris Family Restaurant, 11411 Ulmerton Road, Largo. Visit www.proleads.net.

• Thursday, July 8 – Gulf Beaches Power Lunch Group, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Sports Bar and Grill, 9685 Bay Pines Blvd., Seminole. Call Sandy Schell at 415-4772 or Julie Corcoran at 902-1185.

• Thursday, July 8 – Network Professionals of St. Pete, 11:30 a.m. For more information and meeting location, call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.

• Friday, July 9 – BNI Referral Masters, 7 a.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call Bill Mantooth at 639-6690 or visit www.bnireferralmasters.com.

• Friday, July 9 – Network Professionals of St. Pete, 7:30 a.m. For more information and meeting location, call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.

• Friday, July 9 – Professional Leads Network, Upper Pinellas Chapter, 8 a.m., at Daddy's Grill, 3682 Tampa Road, Oldsmar. Visit www.pro-leads.net.

• Friday, July 9 – Professional Leads Network, Bay Area Executives Chapter, 11:45 a.m., at Tum Rub Thai, 32716 U.S. 19 N., Palm Harbor. Visit www.proleads.net.

• Monday, July 12 – Network Professionals Inc., 7:30 a.m., at Perkins Restaurant, 8841 Park Blvd. N., Largo. Call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.

• Monday, July 12 – Professional Leads Network, St. Petersburg Chapter, 7:45 a.m., at Ricky P's, 6521 Fourth St. N., St. Petersburg. Visit www.proleads.net.

• Monday, July 12 – Ready Set Grow Group, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., at Hometown Family Restaurant, 10395 Seminole Blvd., Largo. Call Jamie Limbaugh at 831-2450 or e-mail jamieL@freenetworkinginternational.com.

• Monday, July 12 – Free Networking International, Clearwater Two Cups Connect Group, 2:30 to 4 p.m., at Bay Coast Coffee Market, 2525 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Clearwater. Call Wayne Porter at 642-6173, e-mail waynep@freenetworkinginternational.com or visit twocupsconnect.com.

• Tuesday, July 13 – Professional Leads Network, First Watch Chapter, 7:30 a.m., First Watch, 2569 Village Drive, Clearwater. Visit www.proleads.net.

• Tuesday, July 13 – The Board, Network Professionals, 7:30 a.m., at Panera Bread, Bardmoor Shopping Center, corner of Bryan Dairy and Starkey roads, Largo. Call 742-6343.

• Tuesday, July 13 – Business Network International, Winners Circle, 7:30 to 9 a.m., Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Call Dave Proffitt at 230-9240.

• Tuesday, July 13 – Network Professionals Inc., Seminole Chapter, 7:30 a.m., Perkins Family Restaurant, 8841 Park Blvd., Largo. Call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.

• Tuesday, July 13 – Yacht Club Breakfast, sponsored by Creative Business Connections, 7:30 a.m., St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call Darrell Baker, area director, at 586-4999 or visit www.cbcnet.biz.

• Tuesday, July 13 – Network Professionals of St. Pete, 7:30 a.m. For more information and meeting location, call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.

• Tuesday, July 13 – Business Ladies Advancing Business, a women's networking group, 9:30 to 11 a.m., at iSpa Health Studio, 9225 Ulmerton Road, No. 306, Largo. BLAB Largo is led by Holly Furlong, Kae Yauchler and Addie Romanowski. Call 599-4999, e-mail aromanowski@jhnetwork.com or visit www.BlabNetwork.com.

• Tuesday, July 13 – Business Ladies Advancing Business, 9:30 to 11 a.m., at A Therapy Above, 1590 Seminole Blvd., Largo. Call Addie Romanowski at 599-4999.

• Tuesday, July 13 – Free Networking International, Seminole Group, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., at Palace of the Orient, 10425 Park Blvd., Seminole. Call David Doerges at 542-8686, e-mail david@freenetworkinginternational.com or visit www.freenetworkinginternational.com.

• Tuesday, July 13 – Network Professionals Inc., St. Pete Lunch Chapter, 11:45 a.m., Red Lobster, 2773 66th St. N., St. Petersburg. Call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.

• Tuesday, July 13 – Network Professionals Inc., ICOT Lunch Chapter, 11:45 a.m., at Tucson's Southwest Grill, 13563 Icot Blvd., Clearwater. Call Eddie Montoya at 813-477-3533.

• Tuesday, July 13 – Tri-City Network Professionals, 11:45 a.m., at Applebee's Restaurant, 5110 East Bay Drive, Clearwater. First visit is free. Call 492-7921.

• Wednesday, July 14 – Business Network International, Financial Freedom, 7:30 a.m., at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park. Call Sean Moore at 455-4768 or visit www.BNIFinancialFreedom.com.

• Wednesday, July 14 – Network Professionals Inc., East Lake Breakfast Chapter, 7:30 a.m., at Daddy's Grill, 3682 Tampa Road, Oldsmar. Call Jenny Stone at 776-2829.

• Wednesday, July 14 – Local Business Network Seminole, 7:30 a.m., Perkins Family Restaurant, 8841 Park Blvd. N., Largo. Call 804-6359.

• Wednesday, July 14 – Women in Business, 7:30 a.m., Acropol Family Restaurant, 1170 Starkey Road, Largo. Call Mende at 251-3955.

• Wednesday, July 14 – BNI Wealth Builders, 7:30 a.m., Palm Harbor Community Center Parks and Drew Valk Recreation, 1500 16th St., Palm Harbor. Visit www.bni.com.

Biz notes

Veterans aid seminar set

SEMINOLE – Brookdale Living plans a free seminar on veterans aid and assistance Thursday, July 15, 2 p.m., at The Inn at Lake Seminole Square, 8333 Seminole Blvd.

Veterans service officer Michael Hill will present the program.

R.S.V.P. to Mary Beth Watson at 391-0500, ext. 1215.

Seminole Chamber plans luncheon

SEMINOLE – Power networking will be the theme for the next Seminole Chamber of Commerce luncheon Thursday, July 15, 11:30 a.m., at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

The event is open to members and nonmembers.

Admission is $15 per person. To R.S.V.P., call 392-3245.

Fresh market set at Seminole Mall

SEMINOLE – A local promoter is planning to open a green market at the Seminole Mall in August.

Scott Meehan, organizer of the Taste of Seminole, hopes to stage weekly events inside the mall that will feature the sale of fresh produce and entertainment.

The first event is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 7-8. Others will follow Thursday through Sunday.

Sign of the Dolphin plans sale

MADEIRA BEACH – Sign of the Dolphin, 652 Madeira Beach Causeway, recently secured 15,000 square feet of the former Bealls department store next door to utilize for the store's 14th annual July clearance event.

Sign of the Dolphin boasts an extensive inventory including tropical home furniture, wall art and sculpture and art glass.

The clearance event will run July 12-31.

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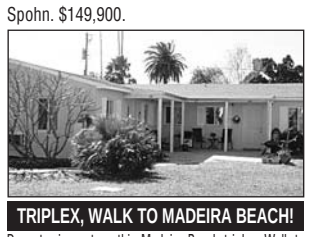
2BR/1.5BA – Berkshire (MLS#7440655) – $52,000
2BR/2BA – Tiffany (MLS#7456564) – $134,900
2BR/2BA – Tiffany (MLS#7336828) – $139,900
Large NW St. Pete 55+ complex with pools, clubhouses, tennis, fitness center, social activities & more. Bremer.

FEELS LIKE A HOUSE!
Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath corner unit. Privacy in delightful garden look. New A/C and newly painted. Move-in ready. Close to shopping and the beaches. MLS7420735. Spohn. $149,900.

2/1 ON HISTORICAL BRICK STREETS!
Block home with total of 1,218 sq. ft. of living area. Screened, enclosed front porch. Original hardwood floors under carpet, freshly painted inside, country kitchen off dining area and good size bedrooms. Breezeway with laundry hookups leads to converted garage now workshop/storage/hobby room. Good size yard with alley access. Centrally located between downtown and the beaches. MLS7441184. Clark. $80,000.



TRIPLEX, WALK TO MADEIRA BEACH!
Do not miss out on this Madeira Beach triplex. Walk to Madeira Beach on the Gulf of Mexico and only minutes from Historic John's Pass boardwalk. Numerous upgrades inside and out. Nice corner lot with large backyard. Separate utilities. Please call for more information. MLS7452016. Sorah. $239,000.

3/2 IN NICE QUIET NEGHBORHOOD, CENTRAL LOCATION!
Beautiful. New tiled floors in living areas, nice neutral carpeting in all 3 bedrooms. Home features a nicely updated kitchen, large living room and large master bedroom. Large storage utility room. Home sits on a large corner lot and is close to schools, rec. center, shopping, beaches, I-275 & much, much more. MLS7457895. Osborne & Manley. $132,400.

SPACIOUS HOME IN MOVE-IN CONDITION!
Desirable area, great price for 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1 car garage with a fenced backyard. New master bathroom, extra large tile throughout. NO FLOOD ZONE. Move-in ready. MLS7469897. Jarnberg. $182,000.

LOVELY LARGO HOME!
A country home feeling is offered by this cute 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home on almost 1/4 acre. Home offers a wood-burning fireplace, hot tub, gazebo and large storage shed/workshop, Lots of room for boat parking. No rear neighbors. Located within minutes to beaches, restaurants, shopping and more. Home is being sold as a short sale. Don't miss this one! MLS7469456. McEntire. $199,900.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD!
Fabulous 55+ community has it all! Top (3rd) floor 2BR/2BA, furnished and in move-in condition! Open floor plan, large kitchen, large pantry and breakfast room/family room. Newer rear windows and neutral Berber carpet throughout, upgraded baths and tons of closet space! Steps up to the beautiful recreation center and heated pool. Complex has tennis, shuffleboard, lawn bowling and two golf courses (18 & 9 hole) that are free to residents! This one is turn key and priced to sell quickly! MLS7469710. Cover & Dudinsky. $59,900.

CHARMING CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW!
Beautifully remodeled and immaculate. Home features front porch with decorative mosaic floor, brick, wood-burning fireplace, refinished hardwood floors, crown molding, 8" baseboards, newer appliances, cabinets and countertops. Inside utility room with separate room next to kitchen that could be an extra large walk-in pantry. Detached 2 car garage with lavatory and sink. Patio porch and huge yard with koi pond. A/C, windows and rood replaced within last 6 years. Minutes to downtown and the Interstate. Priced well below a March 2010 appraisal. MLS7469974. Schroeder. $164,900.

ATTENTION INVESTORS!
4-year-old Gulf-front condo/hotel complex. This unit already has excellent rental history. 2BR/2BA unit completely furnished with balcony overlooking the Gulf. Heated pool, spa, kiddie pool, workout room and tiki bar on the beach. Use for vacations and let it pay for itself. MLS7470216. Brown. $375,000.

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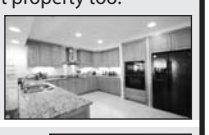
Sea Club of Indian Shores * 2BR/2BA across the street from the Gulf * Spacious open floor plan with large covered patio overlooking the pool * $234,000 * Great investment property too!

Scopello Custom Condos in Indian Rocks Beach * Short sale at $399K * Over 1,700 sq. ft. with 2BR/2BA * Built in 2005 with all the upgrades. Terrific Buy!



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A Century of Charm • 10900 Oakhurst Rd. • Largo
OPEN HOUSE • Sunday, July 11 • 1-4pm

Situated on 1/2 acre this 4BR/4BA, 2 story home plus a 1BR/1BA garage apt. has been updated. The dramatic great room has soaring ceilings and the original Florida stone fireplace. The country kitchen is enhanced by a breakfast nook that leads out to the wrap-a-round porch. 2BR's downstairs and 2BR's plus a study is located upstairs.
REDUCED TO $489,000

2286 King's Point Drive • Carlton Estates
OPEN HOUSE • Sunday, July 11 • 1-4pm

This home is situated on 1/2 acre of open waterfront and has 4 bedrooms plus study, 4 full baths, formal living and dining rooms, family room, kitchen with adjoining breakfast room, Florida room and large utility room. The pool overlooks the waterfront.

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Send community news to editorial@TBNweekly.com

Briefly

PAL soccer camp set

SEMINOLE – The Pinellas County Police Athletic League plans a youth soccer camp July 12-16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Seminole High School.

The camp is open to ages 8 to 14, beginner to advanced levels. Cost is $100.

For more information, go to www.pinellascountypal.com. Complete the registration form online.

Participants should bring lunch, cleats, shin guards, shorts and T-shirt and sunscreen to the camp.

The camp is limited to 25 participants.

PAL football camp slated

SEMINOLE – The Pinellas County Police Athletic League plans a youth football camp July 12-16, 8 a.m. to noon, at the Seminole Youth Athletic Association complex.

The camp is open to ages 8 to 14, beginner through advanced levels. Cost is $100.

To register, go to www.pinellascountypal.com.

Call Mike Perlin, 656-6040.

Olsen plans baseball camps

SEMINOLE – Seminole High School baseball coach Greg Olsen and his staff have organized a series of baseball camps that will be held this summer at the high school.

Camp dates for the Seminole Baseball Academy are July 12-15, July 19-22 and July 26-29.

The camps meet Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Each camp is limited to 30 players.

"The purpose of our camp is to make every individual a better ball player," said Olsen. "We successfully accomplish this by building on strengths as well as recognizing and improving areas of weakness. Players also grow in sportsmanship, leadership, and citizenship skills."

For more information or to register, contact Olsen at 515-6830.

AC Milan soccer camp set

SEMINOLE – Gulf Coast United Soccer Club will host central Florida's only official AC Milan Junior Soccer Camp, July 12-16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Seminole Junior Warhawks complex.

Two trainers from Milan will facilitate the camp. Players ages 7 to 17 are eligible to participate. All experience levels are welcome.

Register through www.GCUnited.com. Late registration will be July 10-11 at the Holiday Inn Harbourside, Indian Rocks Beach, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information contact GCU at info@gcunited.com or Kristen Baroni at 595-7063.

CCC offers sports camps

CLEARWATER – Clearwater Central Catholic High School will offer summer sports camps for students in grades 5 through 12. To register, visit www.ccchs.org or call 531-1449.

The following camps, ages and costs are:

• Girls basketball – grades 5-8, through July 28, Mondays and Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Cost is $100.

• Girls basketball – grades 9-12, through July 29, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. Cost is $100.

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Roundup

Threshers game to benefit Methodist Cooperative Ministries

CLEARWATER – The Clearwater Threshers and United Methodist Cooperative Ministries/Suncoast of Clearwater are teaming up to benefit the local community in a Florida State League game at Bright House Networks Field Saturday, July 10 when the Threshers play host to the Daytona Cubs at 6:30 p.m.

A $5 portion of each $16 ticket will go to UMCM's work to fight hunger, teach literacy, and help the homeless.

The $16 ticket includes all the hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chips, popcorn, peanuts, ice cream sandwiches, sodas and bottled water the ticket holder can eat or drink from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Hot Corner Café. There also will be post game fireworks.

For tickets visit thresherbaseball.com or call 712-4408 and mention UMCM. Tickets are also available at the UMCM office, 1625 Union St., Clearwater.

For information, call 442-6881, ext. 5.

United Methodist Cooperative Ministries/Suncoast is a nonprofit organization that provides a wide variety of nonsectarian social service programs in five Gulf Coast counties to more than 15,000 individuals and families needing help with basic social, educational, and economic needs.

SYAA soccer camp slated

SEMINOLE – The Seminole Youth Athletic Association plans a Challenger British soccer camp for boys and girls ages 3-16 the week of July 12-16 at the SYAA complex.

The camp meets half days for $115 from 9 a.m. to noon, amd full days, 9 to 4 p.m., for $164.

Registration includes a free shirt and ball.

Register at www.challengersports.com or call Sherri McCarthy at 235-3378.

SYAA is located at 12100 90th Ave. N., Seminole.

Soccer group plans car wash

SEMINOLE – The Osceola Youth Soccer Association plans a car wash Sunday, July 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Steak 'n Shake, 4480 Park St.

Other car washes will be held at the same site July 25 and Aug. 1

Osceola is a nonprofit organization offering recreation, academy, and club teams the opportunity to learn soccer skills and play in games. Over 300 kids ages 5 to 19 participate in the league.

Tides WGA results

SEMINOLE – Results of The Tides Women's Golf Association's front or back event June 22 at the Tides Golf Club:

Kathy Davis, 35; Judy McNamee and Beverly Papalla, 38; Karen Galinowski, 38.5; Joyce Cooney, 39; and Nancy Briner, 42.

The association plays Tuesday mornings in 9- and 18-hole leagues.

For more information, call Judy at 392-3576.

The deadline for all editorial submissions is noon Friday, preceding the next publication. Though stories and photos are welcome, they are printed on a space-available basis. E-mail us at editorial@TBNWeekly.com

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Cosmetic Surgery Practice Opens In Clearwater

Dr. Marni Mentis of Iconique Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Center held her Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting on Thursday night, June 24th, with 75 people in attendance. The Clearwater Chamber of Commerce graciously welcomed the doctor to the community along with several local physicians and business owners.

Dr. Mentis and her staff gave away prizes consisting of Latisse, Botox Injections, Skin Care Products and $500 off an elective surgical procedure.

Dr. Mentis opened her brand new offices in April in the Powell Professional Building at 401 Corbett Street, Suite 310, Clearwater and sees patients from 8am-5pm every Monday through Friday.

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Storm season emerges

A fast moving storm last week reminded us that we are in an active time of the year; these storms can be a thousand plus miles away and still affect our weather.

Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

Before our typical summer weather pattern was disrupted, we had calm beach conditions all week providing some fantastic tarpon fishing just before this last full moon.

Tarpon fishing should get good again this week, as long as the beaches stay nice and calm. Many of the fish will be migrating back north through the area along all of our beaches.

A large population of fish also will push their way up inside of Tampa Bay, these fish become more stationary rather than migratory, as they'll often find an area with some depth and a good concentration of bait and stay there for a few weeks. Target these fish with sinking plugs like the D.O.A. Bait Buster. For the beach fish, anchor up along their course of travel and fish with corked live baits such as big pilchards or Pumpkinseed's.

Flounder fishing has improved in our area quite a bit over the past couple of years. Last fall we saw a good push of flounder inshore along the deep pothole laden grass flats as well as many structure areas along the beaches.

So far this summer looks pretty good as well; plenty of good sized flounder ranging from 14 to 20 inches can be targeted along pass jetties and near-shore reefs. A live pilchard fished on a drop-shot rig will allow you to drag your bait along the edge of the reef or jetty without snagging up.

Trout are still hot throughout the bay; grass flats around Tierra Verde and the Clearwater/Dunedin area's are full of trout.

Drift fishing while casting soft plastic jigs among the many potholes will provide all the action you need.

Also, there has been lots of trout along the beaches near the passes. Many times while snook fishing lately along the sand shoals, we've hooked into some gator sized trout.

Until next week – get bent!

Tyson Wallerstein can be reached at capt.tyson@hotmail.com.

Grouper hitting hard

John DeCaprio of Belleair proudly displays a grouper he caught 15 miles out in the Gulf of Mexico recently using sardines for bait and braided line. The fish were hitting hard. "As soon as we dropped the line, we were hit," DeCaprio said.

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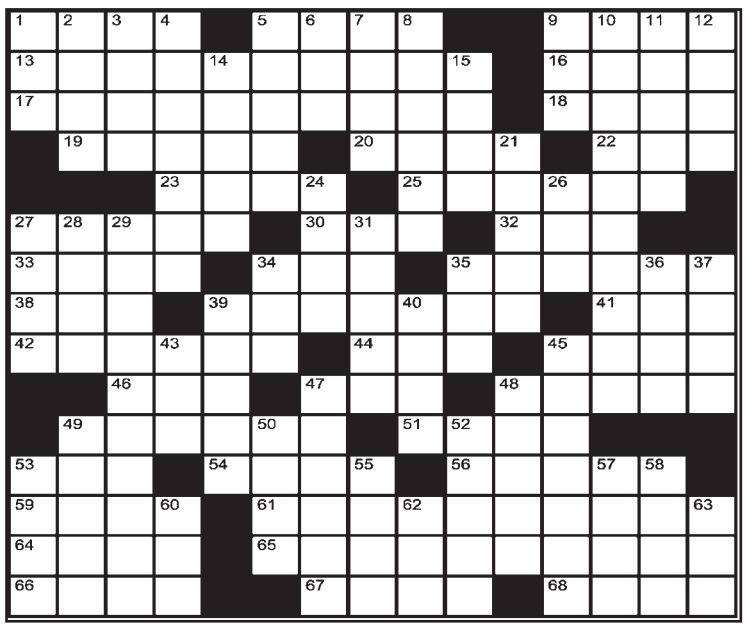
Crossword



Across

1. One-liner, e.g.
5. "My ___!"
9. New newts
13. Reviewing
16. Overabundance
17. Long-distance message transmission
18. Battering wind
19. Camelot, to Arthur
20. Achy
22. Animation
23. Not yet final, at law
25. Proceed with bobbing
27. Character
30. "___ not!"
32. Ring bearer, maybe
33. It may get into a jamb
34. Aged
35. Home of Southern Utah University football
38. Matterhorn, e.g.
39. Suspended
41. #13
42. Breakfast cereal
44. Ceiling
45. Boris Godunov, for one
46. Grassland
47. Antiquity, in antiquity
48. Out of date
49. Tea party necessity
51. Cleaning implement
53. "48___"
54. Barbra's "A Star Is Born" costar
56. West African trade language
59. Brewer's equipment
61. Rebel
64. ___ podrida
65. Islamic leaders' dominions
66. Send to the canvas
67. Arcing shots
68. Acquire

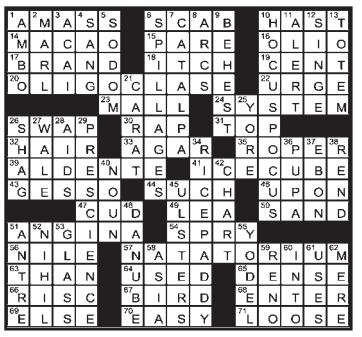
Down

1. Boeing 747, e.g.
2. "Your turn"
3. Bucks
4. Former first lady
5. Injures
6. In-flight info, for short
7. Saws with the grain
8. Listening to Muzak, maybe
9. ___ roll
10. Without taste
11. Garden bulb
12. Check
14. Hybrid fruit
15. Greek sandwich
21. Bumper sticker word
24. Doing nothing
26. Anita Brookner's "Hotel du ___"
27. ___ cheese
28. Sweet-smelling balsam
29. "___ Devoted to You"
31. Tennyson poem
34. ___-Wan Kenobi
35. Armageddon
36. Nestling hawk
37. Arid
39. "Wellaway!"
40. Boosts
43. Caribbean, e.g.
45. Flat
47. Larger than life
48. Take illegally
49. Start of a refrain
50. Type of acid
52. Thrashes
53. Catch
55. Aria, e.g.
57. Fill
58. Fishing, perhaps
60. Chinese "way"
62. Bird's beak
63. Cooking meas.

Sudoku answers from last week

8	4	2	6	7	9	3	5	1
3	9	5	8	4	1	6	7	2
1	6	7	3	5	2	8	4	9
6	5	3	2	9	4	7	1	8
7	1	8	5	6	3	9	2	4
9	2	4	1	8	7	5	3	6
5	3	9	4	2	6	1	8	7
2	7	1	9	3	8	4	6	5
4	8	6	7	1	5	2	9	3

Crossword answers from last week



Horoscopes

July 8, 2010

Capricorn

December 22 – January 19

Your message is loud and clear, but unfortunately, a friend just does not get it. Leave it be, Capricorn. You have a more pressing matter to contend with.

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18

When the boss is away, the mice will play. Avoid participating, Aquarius, or you just might get caught. A loved one's erratic behavior is a call for help.

Pisces

February 19 – March 20

Listen to your inner voice, and it will lead you to a new endeavor. A mix-up in communication causes quite the commotion at work. Laugh it off, Pisces.

Aries

March 21 – April 19

Many changes are in store, and for the best results, you should let everyone in on the matter, Aries. The more prepared they are, the better they will receive what's coming.

Taurus

April 20 – May 20

What a pity, Taurus. Your loss is someone else's gain. Chalk it up to inexperience and learn from your mistake. A special occasion requires thinking outside of the box.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21

Looking to shine? This is your week. Gemini. You can do no wrong. A new face comes into the fold. Enjoy the start of what will be a beautiful friendship.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22

Feeling like the world is against you? Not anymore, Cancer. The tide is turning in your favor. A summer pastime fills the weekend with family, food and fun.

Leo

July 23 – August 22

Unlike some of your friends, you do not have money to burn, and there's no use in pretending you do. Be honest, Leo, and your friends will respect you for it.

Virgo

August 23 – September 22

A torrid affair comes to an abrupt end. Be a sounding board, not a punching bag, Virgo. A coworker is feeling left out. Do your best to bring them into the fold.

Libra

September 23 – October 22

Get ready to party, Libra. Your social life is about to take off. A computer issue makes the completion of a report difficult. Grin and bear it.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 21

Some things are better left unsaid. Divulge only what is necessary, Scorpio, and leave your audience to read between the lines. An e-mail raises an important question.

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21

You've been burning the candle at both ends, and it is starting to show. Give up one or the other, or pare down your schedule considerably, Sagittarius.

Sudoku

		6	7	1				2
					2		3	7
		9	3	5	4	8		
2						7		
	9			2			4	
		8						1
		3	6	9	5	1		
6	8		4					
9				8	7	3		

Place a Number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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CLAIMS, from page 4

"You can go out there catching mahi-mahi in 30 feet of water off of Pinellas Reef. And that's unheard of. Blackfin tuna and stuff, you go out, and in 60 feet of water there's not telling what you'll catch. So as far as that, fishing is good right now if you can find people who want to go. But we're in long-term trouble. I mean, it's gotta be killing off all the bait fish, killing off all the bottom life, and eventually we're going to pay for it. I mean, I'm surprised they haven't been talking about any big fish kills yet."

Douglas Irving of Belleair is a paleontologist who actually worked last fall on the Deepwater Horizon rig that sunk. He was at the center filing a claim for business interruption because ever since the spill, he hasn't been able to go on the oil rigs where he would do his research.

"We were looking at one-celled fossils as the cuttings were coming up from the oil site," Irving said. "It's a tool to determine whether they're close to the oil-bearing shale or whether they've passed the layer of oil-bearing shale. That's where the fossils are located."

Ever since the spill, Irving said he has been playing a lot of tennis, as he has not been able to work. He was hoping to get money from BP as some relief for his lost income. He worries about the long-term and if the owners of the rigs will pull their leases and send them to other countries, taking away all the employment that goes with them.

Dave Katamay of Treasure Island is a fishing charter boat captain of Reel Legend Charters, sailing out of John's Pass and Panama City. He runs a 55-foot Hattaris and takes up to six people at a time out fishing. He used to make $4,000 a trip, charging $250 an hour, but now he's had to drop his prices down to about $100 an hour, and last month alone he said he had $15,000 in cancellations.

"The bank's going to take my boat because I can't afford it because everyone keeps canceling," Katamay said. "I made $198,000 last year, and this year I'm up to $42,000, and I documented it all. And I'm losing all my s----. They are going to shut my phone off, take my boat."

Katamay flipped through his schedule book for the next week or two. An all-day $3,000-trip. Canceled. A $1,200-trip for the Fourth of July. Canceled. A $2,500-trip with possibly an extra $1,000. Canceled. A $3,500-trip, an $800-trip, another $3,500-trip. All canceled.

The previous day, before the Clearwater office began issuing checks, Katamay said he drove to Naples to pick up his first $5,000 check to try to save his boat.

"I drove 350 miles to get the check so it would be in my hand," Katamay said. "I deposited it in the bank, and I'm giving them the $5,000, the bank is calling me up saying, 'Where's the boat at?' I'm saying, 'I can't divulge that because you're going to take that $5,000 I'm going to give you and then take the boat anyway and I'll lose that $5,000 because I still owe probably $13,000 total, not $5,000.' So I'm not going to give them a nickel until I can pay them off."

Katamay said he has been so stressed out over the whole situation that it has made him sick. He is going to visit a doctor to try to get help, but the situation is dire. He claims he has lost more than $100,000 so far this year. He has about $200,000 of equity in his boat, but he owes about another $200,000. The bank wanted the boat back about a week ago, but he's trying to work with them. He says he has a serious buyer, and he doesn't want to give up. He wants to sell his boat and get a smaller boat. A 46-footer. He doesn't need the big 55-footer anymore, anyway, he said, since he can't go out as far now that the oil is all over the Gulf.

"My credit score is gone," Katamay said. "I can't pay my bills. I have a whopping – you don't even want to know now. They look at it and say, 'Oh god, I'm sorry.' Now my whole world is upside down."

Rocco Scalone of Largo is a fishing boat captain and retired commercial fisherman. He wasn't seeking a claim at the office, but he wanted to know what was being done about the problem. He spent six years in the U.S. Coast Guard and started commercial fishing in 1986, he said. Every six to eight months he would clean up wrecks, bring them offshore and sink them to start growing ecosystems so he and future fishermen could fish on them.

"The ones between Apalachicola and here out to about 120 feet of water and the other shore wrecks, I don't know if they're getting coated in oil yet, but I know the offshore wrecks have gotten whacked," Scalone said. "The offshore wrecks in 400 feet of water or deeper that we placed out there years ago, those are gone. They're full of oil."

Scalone sunk more than 30 wrecks over the years. He cleaned them all out, scrubbed out all the oil and made sure there were only biodegradable materials and fiberglass – no oils, resin, cleaners or anything harmful. He'd sink them and then they started ecosystems. Algae begins to grow, then little fish move in, then bigger and bigger fish. Every six months he would go out and check on his wrecks. After six months, he would begin catching bait fish. After another six months, he would catch red groupers, navy black groupers, and the like. Finally, after another six months, he'd start catching amberjacks and snapper.

"Fish are getting killed down there," Scalone said. "I'm upset about what I've done over my lifetime to protect the ocean and make it a viable fishery for the next generation of fishermen. That's what these wrecks did."

Scalone is angry because all his life he followed the Coast Guard's zero tolerance rule when it comes to leaking oil.

"What's happened now is that (BP has) ruined an entire industry," Scalone said. "I feel sorry for these guys (active fishermen.) I'm since retired, but in my lifetime, I've never spilled more than a gallon total. I made sure my bilges are clean. My wrecks were cleaned up, pressure washed out, all the oil out of the engines, steering lines came out, there was nothing. Because that's an ecosystem. Things would live there."

How to file a claim

- Call 1-800-440-0858 or visit www.bp.com/claims
- After you are given a claim number, keep this number. You may now either visit a claim center or wait for a claim adjuster to contact you.
- If you go to a claim center, bring documentation to support your claim, a photo ID, and your social security card if you have one.
- The Clearwater BP claims office is at 2551 Drew St., Ste. 301. It is open seven days a week.

What can I file claims for?

People can file claims for damages resulting from the oil spill and for necessary response costs. People should only file one claim – if they have multiple types of damages, file all of them together with the same claim number. Types of losses include the following:

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- Subsistence loss
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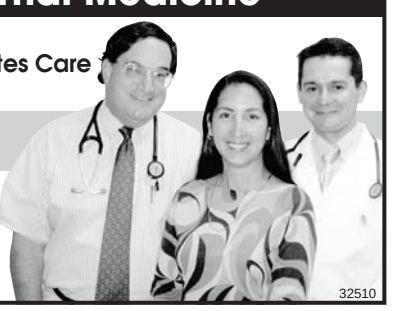
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Health briefs

Morton Plant lab gets re-accreditation

CLEARWATER – The Morton Plant Hospital echocardiography laboratory recently received a full three year re-accreditation from the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories.

The ICAEL, a nonprofit organization, was established with the support of the American Society of Echocardiography, the American College of Cardiology and the Society of Pediatric Echocardiography to provide a peer review mechanism to encourage and recognize the provision of quality echocardiographic diagnostic evaluations by a process of voluntary accreditation.

Morton Plant was granted accreditation after participating in the voluntary process. Accreditation status signifies that the hospital's echocardiography laboratory has been reviewed by an independent agency which recognizes the laboratory's commitment to quality testing for the diagnosis of heart disease. Morton Plant's laboratory is one of a growing number of echocardiography laboratories to be recognized for its commitment to high quality patient care and its provision of quality diagnostic testing.

Clearwater Cardiovascular accredited

CLEARWATER – Clearwater Cardiovascular and Interventional Consultants, Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Laboratory, recently was granted accreditation in the areas of Coronary Calcium Scoring, Cardiovascular CTA and Other CTA by the ICACTL.

The laboratory is one of the first 500 CT laboratories in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico to be so recognized for its commitment to high quality patient care and its provision of quality diagnostic testing.

Participation in the accreditation process is voluntary, indicating a facility's willingness to meet ICACTL's nationally recognized, intersocietal standards for the performance of quality CT procedures.

Laboratories applying for accreditation are required to document detailed information about all operational and technical components and submit protocols and case studies for review by a panel of experts.

Computed Tomography (CT) is a highly regarded diagnostic imaging tool due to its ability to detect minute differences in tissue as well as its multiplanar reformatted imaging capabilities.

Support groups to meet

LARGO – The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet Thursday, July 15, 11 a.m., at Cypress Palms, 400 Lake Ave. NE.

The guest speaker will be Sandra Sunter from Suncoast Hospice-Topic. She will deal with the difficult feelings and the joys of caregiving. A light lunch will be served.

To R.S.V.P., call 437-1639.

The Parkinson's Support Group will meet Tuesday, July 20, noon, at Cypress Palms.

Roni Hellwig will serve as facilitator. A light lunch will be served. To R.S.V.P., call 437-1639.

The Fibromyalgia Support Group will meet Saturday, July 17, 11 a.m., at Imperial Palms Apartments, East Clubhouse, 1300 Imperial Palm Drive.

To R.S.V.P., call Nancy Cohen at 437-1639.

Diabetes group to meet

ST. PETERSBURG – The Diabetes Peer Support Group meets second Wednesdays, 6 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center Suncoast, 5023 Central Ave.

Defeat Diabetes Foundation, in partnership with JCC Suncoast, offers regular peer support group meetings.

Peer support is an opportunity to learn more about managing the disease and living a healthier lifestyle with other people who share your same concerns and experiences.

Each meeting is hosted by Andrew P. Mandell, a senior citizen who is an insulin-dependent diabetic and executive director of the foundation.

Church news

Christmas in July slated

SEMINOLE – Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church plans its annual Christmas in July service Sunday, July 18, 9:30 a.m.

Each year the church chooses a cause to support during its Christmas in July celebration. This year the patients housed at the Domiciliary at the Bay Pines Veterans' Hospital have been selected.

Donations of kits of personal care items such as shampoo, soap and deodorant, or tote bags of beach towels, sunscreen and water bottles will be collected and delivered to the domiciliary.

The community is invited to participate in this collection by either bringing kits to the sanctuary before the service or dropping them off at the church office prior to July 18.

Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church is located at 8505 113th St.

For more information, visit www.lakeseminolepc.org or call 391-5509.

North Bay Community Church

CLEARWATER – A Vacation Bible School program will be presented July 12-16, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at North Bay Community Church, 3170 McMullen-Booth Road.

The program is designed for ages 6 to 12. Call 796-0071 or 733-4141.

The church also is seeking craft vendors to participate in the Craft and Fun Festival set for Saturday, Nov. 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Reservations for inside booths are available for $30 to $35. An outside booth will cost $20. Call 796-0071 or e-mail jwalters12@tampabay.rr.com.

Suncoast Community Church

LARGO – A free Vacation Bible School program will be offered July 12-16, 9:30 a.m. to noon, at Suncoast Community Church, 12855 110th Ave. N.

Operation Space: A Close Encounter With God's Word will happen each morning, Kids age 2 (no longer in diapers) through 12 (completed sixth grade) can "blast off" into the Bible, with music, crafts, games and snacks while they complete B.A.S.I.C. training as "space cadets."

Call 595-1739 or visit welcometosuncoast.com.

Good Samaritan Church

PINELLAS PARK – A puppet workshop will be presented Saturday, July 17, 1 to 3 p.m., at Good Samaritan Church, 6085 Park Blvd.

Children of all ages and church groups interested in puppet ministry are welcome. There is no preregistration or fee. Harry Miller, director of the Good Sam puppet ministry for the past four years, will lead the workshop. He was formerly a professional puppeteer in the Chicago and Detroit areas. Participants will make their own puppets and use them in a presentation.

The puppet ministry will present the message Sunday, July 18, at the 10:30 worship service at the church.

All are welcome to this intergenerational event. Call 544-8558 or visit www.goodsamchurch.org.

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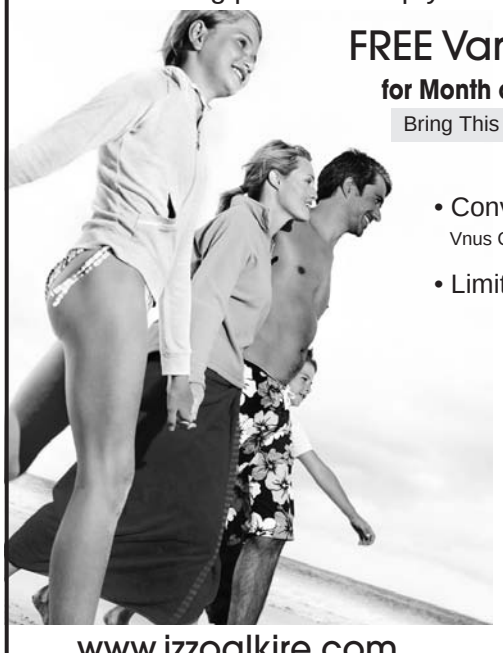

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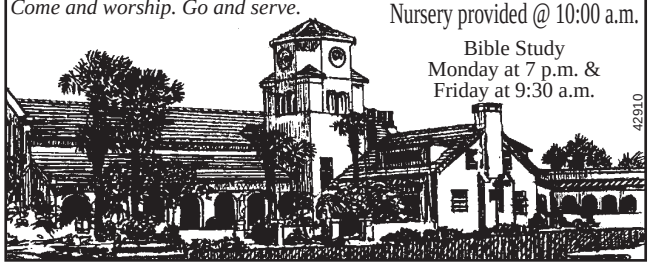

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REAL ESTATE

1. House Sales

BEAUTIFUL BELLEAIR, 4-5BR/3.5BA, 3,800SF, new granite countertops, 2 fireplaces, Mint condition. $779,000. Prudential Tropical, Lenore Sabala, (727)692-3211.

LARGO: 397 Valencia Blvd. $125,500. 2BR/2BA/1CG, screened patio, W/D, new A/C. (407)782-2833

PRE-FORECLOSURE!! Largo, 3BR/2BA/2CG, In-ground Pool, Many Updates, Minutes To Beach. $149,900. Tim O'Neil, Plumlee Gulf Bch. Rlty. (727)687-2232.

TREASURE ISLAND, ISLE of Capri, 3BR/2.5BA/2CG, 2,200sf, bonus room, new kitchen, granite countertops, newer A/C, roof, water heater, $349,900. (727)709-7318.

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5. R.E. Sales

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The Toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

10. Waterfront Sales

ISLAND ESTATES. 668 Snug Island. 5BR/3BA/2CG, two story home, pool, boat house. SunStar Real Estate, Rosalyn Carlton, (727)644-0400.

NEAR CLEARWATER PASS 15 Minutes To Gulf. 4BR/2BA, Pool, Spa, Boat Lift & Davits. Short Sale! **$299,999.** Martian R.E., Inc. (727)595-5774.

15. Beach Property

DIRECT BEACH-FRONT HOME 2 bedroom, 2 bath, on the sand, $825,000

3 BEDROOM TOWNHOME 1,928 sq. ft., 2 car garage, furnished, Intracoastal view, $229,900

Beach Place One Real Estate (727)593-3000 (800)487-8959

CLEARWATER BEACH: Beachfront home, next to public access. 750 ElDorado Ave. $1,200,000. John Doran Realty, (727)461-9142.

20. Condo Sales

SEMINOLE: SHADOW Lakes 2BR/2BA. Ground floor, near shopping and SPC-Seminole. $89,500. John Doran Realty, (727)461-9142.

SEMINOLE GARDENS! Sales & Rentals Robert G. Castles, PA, Broker **(727)595-8229 www.seminolegarden.com**

20. Condo Sales

SEMINOLE GARDENS Non-Evacuation Zone Sales & Rentals

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Ridge Seminole Management Corp. Lynn Evans, Realtor (727)397-2534 myseminolegardens.com

DOWNTOWN CLEARWATER Triplex. Three 1BR/1BA units, ground floor, W/D. Owner financing available. SunStar Real Estate, Rosalyn Carlton, (727)644-0400.

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35. Mobile Home Sales

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LARGO: 55+, 2BR/2BA Doublewide, Furnished or Unfurnished, washer/ dryer, pool, clubhouse, $14,000. Will rent. (727)518-2976.

70. Duplex Sales

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100. R.E. Wanted

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105. Lots & Acreage

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125. Out of State

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VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN CABIN Galax area. Brand new! Great views, private, fishing in stocked trout stream! Two acres, $159,500. Call owner: 1(866)275-0442.

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135. Rentals

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140. Furnished Houses

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145. Unfurn. Houses

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KESWICK: 10275 53RD AVE. 2BR/1BA/1CP, Office, Pool, Fenced Yard, W/D. $995/Mo. +First, Last, Security. scottandjodie07@yahoo.com (727)363-6511

LARGO: 3BR/1BA, Updated Interior, Fenced Yard. $850/Month. Annual Lease. Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

155. Furn. Condos

NEWER 2BR/2BA, GOLF Course Condo, Beautiful furnishings. Outstanding view of fairway and lake, across from pool. Everything you want. Screened porch, W/D, much more! (727)585-8544.

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160. Unfurn. Condos

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LAKEVIEW OF LARGO, 2BR/1.5BA, Ground Floor, New Carpet, Fresh Paint, New Kitchen Appliances, 55+ Community, $800/Mo. Shipwatch Realty, Inc. (727)596-6508. **www.ShipWatchRealty.com**

LARGO: 1975 WEST BAY 2BR/2BA, Screened Porch. Ground-floor, Corner Unit. Minutes To Beaches. $875/Month. (727)560-7429.

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170. Furn. Apartments

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SEMINOLE. 8423 SEMINOLE Blvd. 1BR/BA. $795/month, 2BR/1BA $945/month +Deposit. NICE! 2BR Includes W/D hook-up. Both include Super Cable. No pets, No smoking. (727)584-4707

175. Unfurn. Apts.

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SEMINOLE GARDENS, 55+. Standard, Unfurn., $600/Mo. 1BR Deluxe, 2BR/1BA, Unfurn., $695/Mo. Robert G. Castles, P.A., Broker. (727)595-8229.

1BR/1BA, QUIET, SHADY. Walk to Shopping. Largo Garden Apartments, 817 2nd Avenue N.W., Largo. (727)501-9508.

BELLEAIR BLUFFS Colonial Bluffs Apts. 1&2BRs. Nice, Quiet, 40-unit building. Walk to Intracoastal, Shopping. Overlooking Beautiful Pool & Courtyard. 2942 West Bay Dr. (727)501-5959.

135. Rentals

135. Rentals

Annual Rentals

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185. Beach Rentals

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185. Beach Rentals

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REDINGTON SHORES 2BR/1BA Duplex, C/H/A, Newly Remodeled, Walk To Beach. $750/Month +Deposit. W/S/G Incl. (727)393-6490.

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TREASURE ISLAND Isle of Palms, 1BR/1BA, Covered parking. Fenced Yard. $650/month. W/S/G Included. Section 8 OK (727)501-5469.

190. Waterfront Rentals

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195. Seasonal Rentals

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185. Beach Rentals

185. Beach Rentals

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2/2 Capri Gardens Waterfront Condo, Small Pet OK	$875
2/2 Paradise Island Tower, Tile Floors, W/D, Pool	$900
2/1 Waterfront Townhouse, Small Pet OK, Carport	$1,100
3/2 Waterfront Apt., Pool, Dock, Small Pet OK	$1,295
2/2 Key Capri Furnished, Nicely Updated Condo	$1,350
2/2 Treasure Island Waterfront Condo, Fireplace, Pool	$1,400
2/2 Waterfront Townhouse, Fireplace, Smll Pet OK, Pool	$1,400
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210. M.H. Rentals

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225. Duplex Rental

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LOOK
who's reading the classifieds!

185. Beach Rentals

225. Duplex Rental

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245. Room For Rent

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355. Adoption

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505. Part-time Help

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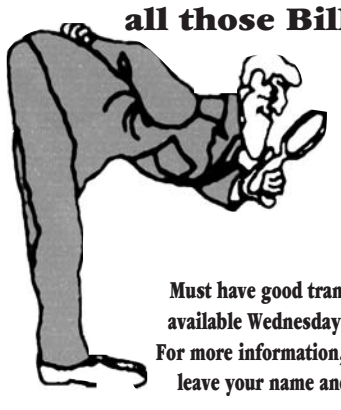

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585. Auctions

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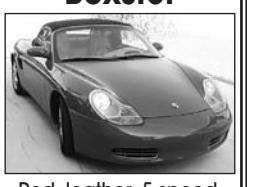

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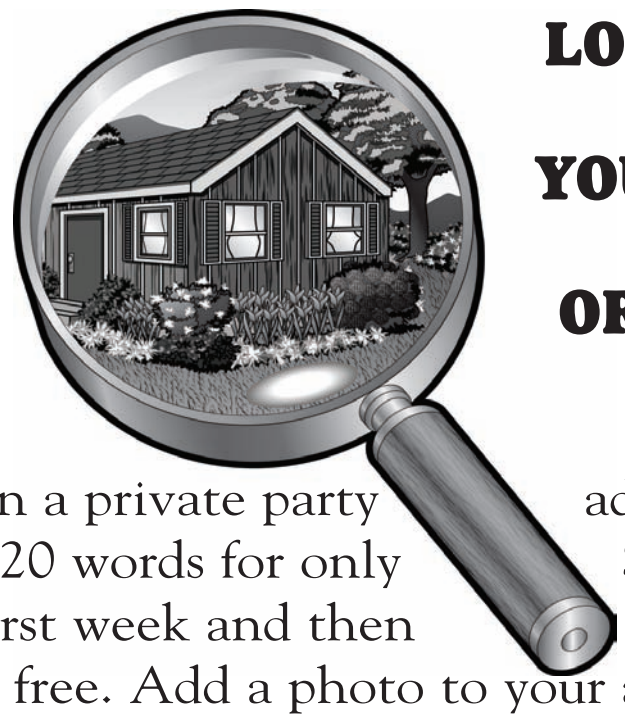

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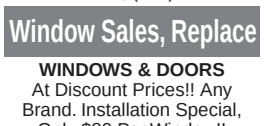

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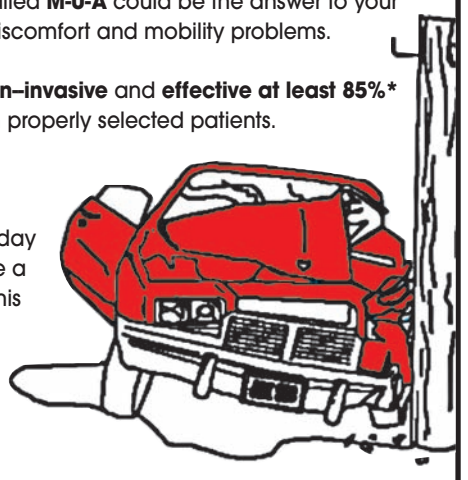

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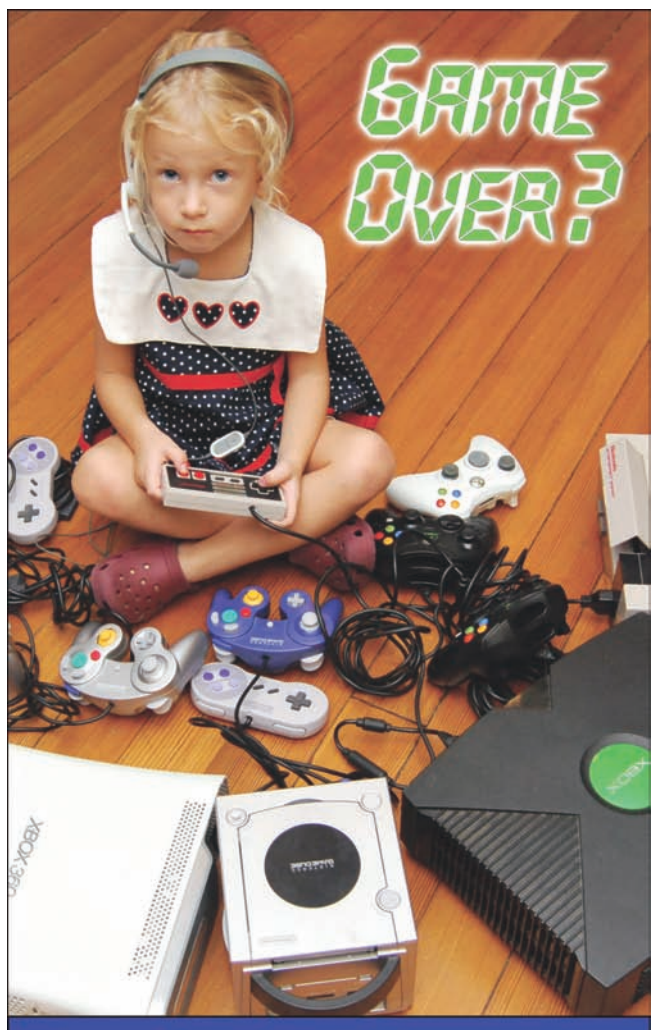

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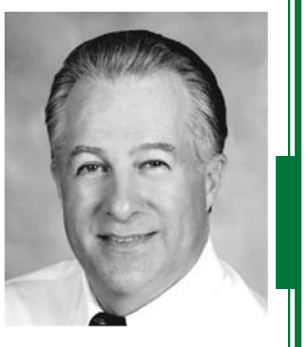

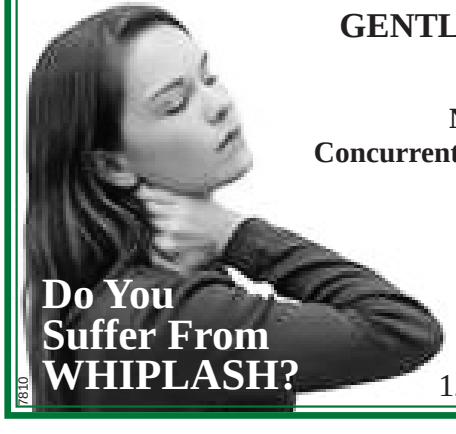

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CARPET TILE WOOD LAMINATE VINYL

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*With credit approval for qualifying purchases made on the Flooring America Credit Card at participating stores. Interest will be charged to your account if you make a late payment. As of January 1, 2010, **APR** for purchases up to **27.99%**; Penalty **APR 29.99%**. Minimum **INTEREST CHARGE: $2.00**. The minimum monthly payment for this promotional balance during the promotional period is the promotional balance on the last day of the billing cycle the purchase is posted to your account divided by the number of months of the promotional period, then rounded up to the next higher dollar. See card agreement for details including when the penalty rate applies. Offer is only valid for consumer accounts in good standing; is subject to change without notice; see store associate for details. Offer expires 7/31/10. May not be combined with any other credit promotion offer.

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**Discount applies to materials only; cushion, labor and installation charges are additional. Prior orders exempt. Next day installation available on select products only. See store for details on all offers and warranties. Offer expires 7/24/10. Participating stores only. Unless otherwise stated, all prices are for materials only. Not all merchandise in all stores. Photos are representational only. Actual merchandise may not exactly match photos shown. Although we make every effort to insure that our advertising is accurate, we cannot be held liable for typographical errors or misprints. FAME-24151.

†Abbreviated Rules. No Purchase Necessary. To enter and/or for complete rules, go online beginning 7/1/10 at 12:00:00 AM (ET) through 7/31/10 at 11:59:59 PM (ET) to www.flooringamerica.com. Alternatively, you may enter by hand printing on a 3"x5" piece of paper, your complete name, address (including country), daytime telephone number, date of birth, and email address, and send in an envelope with sufficient postage affixed to: **$5,000 Visa Gift Card Giveaway**, PO Box 5861, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-5861. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. Open to legal residents of the fifty (50) United States, District of Columbia, and Canada (excluding Quebec) who are 18 years of age or older; or the age of majority or older in their state/province of primary residence at the time of entry. Subject to complete Official Rules. Void where prohibited. Sponsor: ®CCA Global Partners, Inc. 670 North Commercial Street, Manchester NH 03101 ®CCA Global Partners, Inc. Gift card is issued by Citibank pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Card can be used at any merchants that accept Visa debit cards.