County commission approves millage rate

Residents protest increase in taxes ... **Page 5A.**

LARGO LEADER

'Dolphin Tale' shines limelight on area; film to open in theaters

Clearwater Aquarium's Winter the dolphin stars in movie **... Page 1B.**

Volume XXXIV, No. 10 www.TBNweekly.com September 22, 2011

INSIDE

LARGO

Video promotes transit alternatives

City officials are encouraging communities throughout the Tampa Bay area to be an active participant in promoting regional transportation initiatives.

The Pinellas Alternatives Analysis is a key step in developing an interconnected regional transit system in West Central Florida. The study findings will be a blueprint for transit service connecting major residential, employment and activity centers within Pinellas County as well as to Hillsborough County via the Howard Frankland Bridge.

The city has produced a YouTube video that citizens may use at their leisure to assist in promoting the community survey. The video link is http://youtu.be/a1iDWDxVwIE

COUNTY

Helping hands

Kristin Hill is one of two college interns who have led young teens this summer at Heritage Village. She and Timothy Suttle of St. Petersburg College have been instrumental in making this first season a success.

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VIEWPOINTS

Tom Germond

Columnist accused of being crotchety.

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City OKs increase in millage rate

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO – After getting a taste of a debate over the "wine and cheese crowd," city commissioners voted 5-2 Sept. 20 to support an increase of nearly .25 mills in the city's tax rate for the next fiscal year.

Commissioners gave their final approval to the adoption of the rolled-back rate, 4.55 mills, which is the figure necessary to generate the same revenue raised in the previous year.

Commissioners Curtis Homes and Mayor Pat Gerard snipped at each other over an exchange between them at the Sept. 8 budget discussion.

Holmes said that at the first budget meeting he was falsely accused of wanting to close the Largo Cultural Center.

"What I did say is I wanted it to be a break-even proposition," he said.

He called it ironic that the mayor stated that the people she hears from have nothing but praise for the cultural center and "I imagine that would be the case because these are the folks who are using the facility."

"Considering I do not socialize with the wine and cheese crowd, I hear the hardship stories, the complaints of their tax money being wasted," he said. "As I previously stated, I don't care if the cultural center has dancing chipmunk shows as long as the taxpayers aren't subsidizing it."

Later in the meeting Mayor Pat Gerard said she is not sure who the wine and cheese crowd is.

"I don't drink wine," she said.

Gerard said that working in social services she is in contact every day with people "who are hurting, who are homeless, who don't have food for their kids."

"I can tell you that the kinds of things that we are supporting in our budget, like art and the library, and the cultural center, and all the recreation programs, are exactly the kind of things that people need when they don't have any money to take the kids to the movie," she said.

Residents take part in activities they can afford, she said, such as using the new playground at Largo Central Park – "go ride on the little train for a donation they probably don't have, so they get on for free."

People should live in the unincorporated areas if they don't like the services offered by the city Gerard said.

The county doesn't have recreation programs, she said,

See CITY, page 4A

Cougars roll

Photos by JIM LAYFIELD

Largo's Juwan Brown, left, gets 16 yards and a touchdown against Countryside in a prep football game Sept. 16 at Largo. Countryside defeated Largo 28-18, improving to 3-0. Largo dropped to 1-2. Above, Largo's Raheem Harvey pulls in a 43-yard touchdown pass in front of Countryside's Mike Johnson (9) to score the first points for the Packers.

School board OKs small hike in millage rate

By MELINDA GREENE

LARGO – With little fanfare or dissension amongst themselves, Pinellas County School Board members voted on Sept. 13 unanimously to approve a $1.3 billion budget for 2011-12 as well as approve an 8.38 millage rate, a small increase over last year's rate.

With a reduction of nearly $50 million, just about every area of the school district's general fund, which accounts for nearly 63 percent of the day-to-day budget that funds teachers salaries, classroom materials, guidance, attendance and other services, has been trimmed, ranging anywhere from several hundred thousand to several million.

The board agreed to transfer $7.5 million from its capital outlay – the fund that pays for construction, remodeling and renovation projects of school buildings – into the operating budget to adjust for an anticipated $104 million revenue shortfall.

Emotional pleas, from teachers, aides and other support staff were the order of the evening as they described financial, personal and professional hardships resulting from cost-cutting measures such as reduction in pay, heavier workload, and having to shoulder more of the cost for health insurance.

That matter, however, is not decisive as further bargaining is expected between the board and the teachers' union during the next week.

Victoria Ferguson, a teacher at Walsingham Elementary, criticized the board's decision to terminate Superintendent Julie Janssen along with a tidy $250,000 severance package.

"You were all familiar with the contract you renewed and then you cancelled without cause, and you ruptured the budget," Ferguson said. "Although you did not consult us, the public, on this expensive decision you are asking all of us to share the budget that provides for basic working conditions."

"I believe we were all moved by your personal stories. It's tough. We heard you, and we will talk about your suggestions." said board member Linda Lerner. "There are no easy answers."

Several days after the hearing, Fred Matz, the school board chief financial officer, said in a phone interview that on Sept. 14, a tentative agreement regarding health insurance increases had been reached during a collective bargaining session.

Matz said the district will cover 80 percent of health insurance for school employees. Increases per pay period for all plans will amount to $5 or $10 depending on the plan selected. The changes take effect on Jan. 1.

During that session, the board also told the representatives that proposed furlough days are no longer on the table.

Last year's tax rate was 8.34 mills, equivalent to $8.34 for every $1,000 of assessed property value.

Guarding his turf

Photo by STEVEN PREVUZNAK

An American bald eagle peers out recently from a tree next to Lake Seminole. Florida is estimated to have the largest bald eagle population of the lower 48 states. During Florida's 2004 bald eagle survey, biologists identified 1,139 active breeding territories. Florida's nesting eagles currently produce about 1,500 chicks a year, and the state's breeding eagle population constitutes more than 80 percent of the entire bald eagle population within the southeastern United States.

Special program at Largo High helps bolster student morale

By AMANDA SEBASTIANO

LARGO – The 54 freshmen students in Largo High's International Baccalaureate Diploma Program are hitting the books as they work through the pre-IB phase of the program.

Along with St. Petersburg High and Palm Harbor High, LHS will be the third school in Pinellas County to offer the program. Among other honors courses, the ninth-graders will be taking an inquiry skills class where they will learn certain skills and tools that they will need throughout the program.

The IB program is a two-year process that starts the student's junior year. LHS isn't in the clear yet, however. They are in the early stages of the process of becoming IB certified.

"We first had to apply for the program," said Adam Lane, assistant principal and IB coordinator. "We're currently in what's called the candidate phase, which we will need to get out of before the students in the program now reach their junior year."

> "Students that graduate IB are usually able to start college as a sophomore."
>
> **– Adam Lane**
> **Assistant principal, Largo High**

The candidate portion of the certification process is like a chef prepping and teaching his cooking crew before they can get in the kitchen. An IB consultant meets with the teachers in the program, looks over their curriculum and gives them ideas about strategies for the classroom; they give the instructors a sense of what the expectations are of them and of the students.

See PROGRAM, page 4A

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Around Largo

City events

Largo Swing Dance Saturdays, Sept. 24, 7 to 11 p.m., Largo Community Center.

Description: "Come enjoy an evening of dancing and socializing. Every Saturday night, enjoy a free lesson from 7 to 8 p.m. and a DJ dance from 8 to 11 p.m. Our resident DJ is Savoy Swing. Don't miss out on our 5,400-square-foot sprung hardwood floor."

Admission is $7.

Visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131.

DJ Dancer1 Dance, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 7 to 11 p.m., Largo Community Center.

Description: "Come dance the night away in our 5,400-square-foot ballroom as our resident DJ, DJ Richard, plays the best dance songs throughout time. Nightly giveaways. No outside food or beverage allowed."

Admission is $7.

Call 518-3131.

Early Release Day Movies, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Largo Library, 120 Central Park Drive.

Description: Sept. 28 "Soul Surfer" (PG), 106 minutes."

Call 587-6715.

Think P.I.N.K., Sept. 24, 6:30 until 9:30 p.m., Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave.

Description: "During this girls only program we will play games, make crafts and build friendships while incorporating issues girls are facing today."

Fees are $10/$12.50.

Call 518-3016.

Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation presents the 15th annual Fundraiser Gala for The Largo Cultural Center, Sept. 24, 6 p.m., Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive.

Description: "The Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation (formerly Partners 'N Progress for the Arts) will present an evening of fabulous food, entertainment and dancing to benefit the Largo Cultural Center. Purchase tickets by calling the Box Office at 587-6793."

Admission is $100 per person.

Monthly Social Golf Tournament, Sept. 24, 10 a.m., Largo Golf Course, 12500 Vonn Road.

518-3024.

Description: "Join us once a month on a Saturday morning for our Largo Social Tournament. The format changes each month to add new and fun ways to play golf. Compete for prizes such as hole-in-one, straightest drive and closest to the pin. Entry fee is $40 and includes lunch, prizes and giveaways."

Fourth Saturday Car Show Series, Sept. 24, 5 to 7 p.m., Largo Community Center.

Description: "Come visit the Largo Community Center to see some of the area's finest cars. Each car entry is $10. The event is free to the public. Music, concessions and cars. Awards will be given nightly to best in show for each decade. For more information contact the Community Center at 518-3131."

The event is free.

Active Aging Week, Sept. 25 through Oct. 1., Largo Community Center.

Description: "Enjoy a week of free classes, seminars and demonstrations on Actively Aging. The community center has partnered with the International Council on Active Aging to offer free programs that pertain to staying active as you age. Stop by the community center for a listing of free classes."

Call 518-3131.

Free Genealogy/Family History Classes, September, Largo Library, 120 Central Park Drive

Description: "Classes this month include: Safeguarding Your Computer Data, Immigration Records and Ships Passenger Lists, Bounty Lands in Genealogy Research, Using Heritage Quest 'free' databases and several more. See a complete listing with details of classes and scheduled times at www.flpgs.org/classes.aspx."

Email Bob Bryan at BBryan84@gmail.com or call 595-4521.

Largo Square Dancing, Sept. 23 and 30, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m., Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road.

Description: "Are you interested in square dancing? Well, we have one of the best callers in the country right here at the Largo Community Center. Come dance the night away as our resident 'Caller' Allen Snell leads you around our floor. Refreshments available for purchase."

Admission is $5 at the door.

Call 518-3131.

On the wild side

Photo by JON O'HAIR

Coyotes arrived in Pinellas County in the 1970s, living in parks and wooded areas that surround many residential areas. This coyote was seen on Sept. 13 along Indian Rocks Road in Largo.

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Briefs

Five more chickens test positive for St. Louis encephalitis

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Mosquito Control says five more sentinel chickens have tested positive for St. Louis encephalitis, bringing the total to nine.

Two of the sentinel chickens confirmed as positive for St. Louis encephalitis were kept at the North County Maintenance Yard in Palm Harbor. Another was kept at Sawgrass Lake Park in St. Petersburg and three at Walsingham Park in Seminole. Two more resided at the Oldsmar Sewage Treatment Plant and one at the Keller Water Treatment Facility in Tarpon Springs.

Pinellas County Mosquito Control is aggressively treating the areas by conducting additional aerial and ground larviciding and is dispatching eight adulticide trucks five nights a week. Additional fogging is ongoing in these areas and throughout the county.

Residents are urged to be extra vigilant in protecting themselves against mosquitoes and in preventing mosquitoes in their yards by removing all standing water. Mosquitoes can breed in as little as one quarter inch of standing water, so even small areas such as bromeliads, bird baths and small containers can be breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

More information on controlling mosquitoes and a mosquito control request form can be found at the Pinellas County Mosquito Control website or residents can call Pinellas County Mosquito Control at 464-7503.

Pedestrian hit by pickup truck dies

SEMINOLE – A man was killed Sept. 14, about 10 p.m. when he was struck by a pickup truck at the intersection of Bay Pines Boulevard and 100th Way North in Seminole.

According to Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Major Accident Investigation Team deputies, witnesses stated Robert J. Longboat, 30, of Seminole was westbound on Bay Pines Boulevard in his 2003 Dodge Ram 1500 pick-up truck approaching 100th Way. At the same time, John Hugo, 65, was in the crosswalk at 100th Way crossing Bay Pines Boulevard. As Longboat entered the intersection, he struck Swenson who died at the scene.

No arrests have been made. The incident is still under investigation. Additional details will be released as information becomes available.

Stabbing victim dies at hospital

CLEARWATER – A man helping a neighbor was stabbed to death about 9:10 p.m. Sept. 14, at 522 McLennan St. in Clearwater.

Clearwater Police officers reported preliminary information about the incident on its Facebook page Sept. 14, saying only they had found a stabbing victim and a suspect was in custody.

A witness provided police with a description and tag number of the vehicle that left the scene. Officers conducted a traffic stop at the McDonald's on South Missouri Avenue.

The victim was transported by air ambulance to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries.

According to an update posted Thursday morning, the victim, Anthony Floyd, died of his injuries.

Police say Floyd was assisting a neighbor in removing unwanted guests, Michael Gattus and Liza Mastronardi.

During the "eviction" process, Floyd and Gattus fought. Mastronardi retrieved a knife from her backpack and gave it to Gattus. Gattus stabbed Floyd. Gattus was charged with first-degree murder and his girlfriend as an accessory.

Unemployment up slightly in Pinellas

TALLAHASSEE – The latest numbers from the state Agency for Workforce Innovation show some positive indicators.

AWI Director Cynthia R. Lorenzo said the increase of nearly 10,000 jobs statewide since July was a sign that the state's employers were gaining confidence and people were getting back to work.

But in Pinellas County, more were unemployed in August than the month before. The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Pinellas County in August was 10.7 percent – up slightly from 10.5 in July and down considerably from 12 percent reported in August 2010.

The not seasonally adjusted rate for the state of Florida was 10.9 percent, down from 11 percent in July and 12.1 percent in August 2010. The national rate was 9.1 percent, also a decline from 9.3 percent in July and 9.5 in August 2010.

The rate for the local Metropolitan Statistical Area of Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater continued the downward trend going from 11.1 percent in July to 11 percent in August. The MSA's unemployment was 12.4 percent in August of 2010.

The local MSA includes the counties of Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas.

The most positive news is, of the 13 of 22 metro areas in the state with over-the-year job gains in August, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater ranked No. 1 with an increase of 1.3 percent, or 14,800 jobs.

The local MSA ranked No. 14 in a list of 23. Palm Coast MSA was No. 1 with unemployment at 14.9 percent. Crestview-Ft. Walton Beach-Destin MSA ranked No. 23 with unemployment at 7.4 percent.

Pinellas continued to rank in the middle of the state's 67 counties and tied with Hillsborough for the No. 34 spot. Of the other counties in the local MSA, Hernando was at No. 4 with unemployment of 13.9 percent, and Pasco ranked No. 14 with unemployment at 12 percent.

Hendry County had the highest rate, 17.9 percent. Monroe County has the lowest, 6.7 percent.

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County hearings set on ordinances, district lines

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County commissioners are scheduled to take public comment Sept. 27 on several ordinances as well as proposed changes to district boundaries. Hearings begin at 6:30 p.m. and take place in the Fifth Floor Assembly Room of the Pinellas County Courthouse, 315 Court St. in Clearwater.

Redistricting

Every 10 years, after numbers are released by the U.S. Census Bureau, county governments are required to review commission district boundaries to make sure districts stay as equal in population as possible.

Pinellas County's population decreased in 2010 and shifted very little, officials say, meaning only minor changes are needed to keep the districts in proportion. County policy allows for a 3 percent deviation when determining district populations.

The Pinellas County Planning Department reviewed the population in each district to determine if numbers used in 2000 for each district remained within the 3 percent deviation. Minor changes to Districts 5 and 6 are recommended due to population shifts.

Pinellas County is governed by seven county commissioners. The three at-large commissioners are required to live in specific residence areas but are elected by voters countywide. Four commissioners are elected from single-member districts with only the voters within the specific district participating in the election.

Officials say the tentative redistricting plan would not change the three at-large district boundaries. They remain within the required population range of about 300,000.

Two changes are being recommended to the single-member districts to keep the population numbers equal, at about 230,000. The goal is not to divide communities, staff said.

One proposed change moves parts of the unincorporated Lealman community, currently located along the southern border of District 6, into District 7, where much of the rest of Lealman already exists. The other change moves the Bardmoor neighborhood, now in the southeast corner of District 5, into District 6.

District maps are available at www.pinellascounty.org/redistricting or by visiting the County Courthouse, Board Records Office on the fifth floor at 315 Court St. in Clearwater, or at the Pinellas County Planning Department, 600 Cleveland St., seventh floor, Clearwater.

The ordinances

County Administrator Bob LaSala proposes an ordinance change meant to avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts through added restrictions on former appointed county officers and employees.

Currently, county code limits how current and former employees can contact commissioners and puts a one-year limit on restrictions. LaSala recommends that additional restrictions be adopted "to help earn and maintain the public's trust in county government."

LaSala also proposes adoption of an ordinance to create countywide authority to operate, maintain, develop and control certain county properties of countywide importance regardless of where they are.

According to a memo from County Attorney James Bennett, the county charter provides special powers regarding services and regulatory authority that have "traditionally been handled on a countywide basis." Examples given were the park system and animal control.

Bennett says by state constitution and the county's charter, a county ordinance would prevail over municipal ordinances when in conflict over services and regulations provided countywide.

In addition, Bennett says the charter allows the county to control development and operations at its facilities located in other municipalities, such as courthouses and jail.

Commissioners will consider passing an ordinance that formalizes their powers allowed by charter and specify the facilities the county "intends to exercise exclusive local regulatory authority and control."

Bennett also is asking the commission to amend its ordinance regulating firearms. In a memo, he said recent changes in state law voided several provisions in the county's code. The ordinance would repeal sections of the code that conflict with state law.

Lastly, Bennett is asking commissioners to consider changing an ordinance on prisoner gain time to ensure it complies with state law.

The complete agenda for the Sept. 27 meeting should be published on the county's website, www.pinellascounty.org, on Sept. 22.

Fundraiser benefits Pinellas PACE Center

By JULIANA A. TORRES

ST. PETERSBURG – Women carrying wine glasses browsed through tall racks of colorful and elaborate evening dresses Sept. 8 at the St. Petersburg Marriott.

The event was about more than great deals in a party-like atmosphere that featured a DJ, catered food, a silent auction, raffle and vendors selling jewelry, cosmetics, shoes, purses and makeup. The funds raised throughout the evening supported Pinellas PACE Center for Girls based in Pinellas Park, where 50 local girls and teenagers at-risk of jail and dropout receive the education, counseling and advocacy they need to turn their lives around.

"Every day I get to see miracles happen," center Executive Director Sally Zeh told the crowd.

Miracles like smiles on faces that were once sad and girls with contentious family lives talking to their parents in their "indoor voices," she said.

The fundraiser would help PACE pay for small things like breakfast, incentives and celebrations for the girls – "fun things that you'd want for your children and your grandchildren" – as well as enhanced academic and therapy services, Zeh explained.

The dresses sold at the event were donated by the community.

"I'm really having fun," said Barbara Williams, who drove in from Sarasota for the benefit and had already spent $200 on three dresses and two blouses. "I'm glad I came. I'll come again next year."

Nancy Greenberg of Clearwater brought 20 of her friends to the event.

"My birthday was technically yesterday, but today we're celebrating," she said with enthusiasm. "I think it's important to give back."

Among the major sponsors of the event were the Marriott, which donated the room, and Sun Country Cleaners, which dry-cleaned all the donated dresses.

For more information about the local PACE Center, visit www.pacecenter.org/pinellas.

First Bank businesswomen Barbara Kreuser, regional support specialist, left, and Anne Lee, Florida retail banking president, shop for dresses at the Love that Dress fundraising event, benefiting PACE Center for Girls Sept. 8. First Bank served as a drop-off point for dress donations.

Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

Model Kristina Keiffer shows off the fashion at the Love that Dress benefit Sept. 8 at the St. Petersburg Marriott, 126 Roosevelt Blvd. The event featured an array of colorful evening dresses, donated by the public and sold to raise funds for the Pinellas PACE Center for Girls, based in Pinellas Park.

Around Pinellas

Treasure Island passes millage increase to fund key projects

TREASURE ISLAND – City commissioners voted 4-1 to approve a .45 increase in the millage rate for fiscal 2012 during the first public hearing Sept. 7 on the city's proposed $22.3 million budget.

The proposed rate increase to 3.1368 mills would help give the city $431,125 more in property taxes over the current budget year despite a $43.1 million decrease in taxable property values.

It would increase property taxes about $90 on a home valued at $200,000 after exemptions.

The millage increase is necessary to fund two new bridges needed for the Isle of Capri and Isle of Palms, as well as renovations to the Central Beach Trail, according to city financial adviser Jeff Larson. Cost of the two bridges is estimated at $4 million and upgrades to the Trail at $1.5 million.

"This is quite an increase," said City Commissioner Alan Bildz. "I'm not going to support this."

City Manager Reid Silverboard explained that funding for the two projects would require a bond issue, as opposed to a tax-exempt loan from a bank. Initially, the thought was a bank note could be backed by the city's utility taxes but since those funds are being used to help pay for the daily operations of the city another funding mechanism became imperative, Larson said.

Silverboard said the city would go out for proposals on financing later this month and expects to have a bridge design firm lined up by December.

"Once they're on board, we'll move quickly," said Silverboard.

Work on the bridges is expected to begin in May.

Commissioner Phil Collins agreed that a millage increase made good sense and would help the city meet its needs.

"The city is looking at $43 million less in taxable revenue," Collins said. "This (millage increase) is actually 45 cents per $1,000 in home value. I don't think 45 cents is too much to pay considering our property values are down so much.

"To do anything else would be a penny wise and a pound foolish," Collins added.

"We've got to replace the bridges and we don't have the money to pay for it," said Commissioner Carol Coward. "This is the only way to do it."

Mayor Bob Minning pointed out that funds from the millage increase would not go into the general operating fund.

"It's specifically earmarked for the bridges and the Beach Trail," he said.

Still, Bildz didn't agree with the increase.

"Anything over .30 mills is too high in my opinion," Bildz said.

In other action, commissioners voted 4-1 on first reading to pass an ordinance adopting the fiscal 2012 budget. The budget is 4.59 percent, or $988,546, more in net appropriations than the current year's budget. Bildz was the lone dissenting vote.

– Bob McClure

RB budget passes first hearing

REDINGTON BEACH – The Redington Beach Town Commission passed the town's 2011-12 general operating budget of $979,751 at the first public hearing on Sept. 8. The second and final public hearing for the budget is on Sept. 22.

The tentative millage rate is 1.94, which is the same as the current rate. The proposed budget would go into effect Oct. 1.

The town has about a 10 percent decrease in its revenue, so the town pared down its budget by about the same amount. The decrease in revenue is mostly from lower property values.

"The town employees are really very good. That's the major factor in being able to streamline the budget," said finance chairman James Hoffman.

At the public hearing Commissioner Mark Deighton gave an overview of budgeted amounts in each of the town departments. The legislative budget had an 11 percent increase because of the voter-approved increase in compensation for the commission.

The legal budget went down 26 percent because of the new attorney billing just for service as needed instead of a set monthly retainer.

The finance department budget increased 8 percent due to an increase in the deputy town clerk's salary. Other city employees did not receive salary increases.

The Town Commission decided at its Sept. 6 meeting to increase the deputy clerk's salary to $44,000. The commission said it was based on merit and to bring the salary closer in line with what deputy clerks in area communities make.

– Melissa Lattman

IRB budget passes another hurdle

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – For the fourth year in a row, the millage rate in Indian Rocks Beach will be 2.0, if the proposed budget receives final approval from the City Commission later this month.

At their Sept. 7 meeting, commissioners unanimously approved the budget as presented by city staff. It must go through one more public hearing before final approval.

City Manager Chuck Coward told the commission that although the millage rate is the same as last year, revenue will actually be 1.9 percent less than a year ago. He said that is because of declining property values, which in turn means less money in property tax. In fact, he said the declining values are a troubling fact that the city is going to have to watch closely.

"They are down 38 percent from their highest point back in 2004," he said. "That's the bad news, but there is plenty of good news in this budget."

Coward pointed to the fact that the city is not in any debt and its millage rate is among the lowest of all 24 municipalities in Pinellas County.

It costs taxpayers just over $7.6 million to run the city for a year.

The final public meeting on the budget will be on Thursday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m.

– Brian Goff

CITY, from page 1A

among other services.

"People live in cities because we have these things," Gerard said.

Holmes asked to be recognized and Gerard asked if he "would like to throw some more insults at me." Holmes said he hadn't thrown any insults at her; Gerard disagreed.

Other commissioners discussed the difficulties they faced in balancing the budget.

Commissioner Harriet Crozier asked city budget manager Amy Davis what effect maintaining the current millage would have on the budget. Davis said the loss of revenue would amount to $650,000 in the general fund.

Crozier said the city officials through media publicity began reaching out in February to residents to encourage them to participate in budget discussions with staff. The city's Finance Advisory Board, made up of residents, also recommended that the commission adopt the rolled-back rate.

Each year, the budget process gets tougher and "each year more services go away," Crozier said.

For fiscal year 2013, city officials are already looking at cutting another $2.5 million, she said.

Commissioners slashed about $2 million in the budget for fiscal year 2012. The cuts include the equivalent of more than 23 full-time employees.

Commissioner Robert Murray supported the rolled-back rate, saying he's heard from a lot of constituents in his neighborhood.

"If I hear about it one more time about the library being closed on Sunday …" he said. "We're looking at cutting more services. I just have an issue with that."

Assets such as parks, Commissioner Woody Brown said, are important to residents and to maintain property values.

"If we disregard the value of life that people have come to appreciate and respect in the city of Largo, property values are not going to come back," he said, "regardless whether Largo remains a safe community. "

Several residents spoke, giving mixed opinions on the proposed millage increase.

Pat Edmond encouraged the commission to adopt the rollback rate.

She said her home in Connecticut was roughly the same square footage as she has in Largo.

"However, my taxes in Connecticut were three and a half times what I'm paying in Largo," she said.

She said that it is "amazingly stupid" there were no parks, cultural center and other amenities where she lived in Connecticut.

"I really didn't get that much for all that money," said Edmond, who is president of a volunteer organization that helps run the George C. McGough Nature Park.

"I don't think you are charging me enough," she said. "I'm 100 percent in favor of this rate."

Donna Norman said she talked to a lot of people who were not happy with the tax increase.

"The economy is bad and we have a hard time meeting our bills as it is," she said. "Now we are going to be asked to pay more?"

She said they feel strongly that there is always too much waste in government and it's up to the government to cut wasteful spending.

"When money gets tight, cut the nonessentials instead of taxing those of us who are having a hard time as it is," she said.

Commissioner Mary Black's motion to maintain the millage rate at 4.311 failed, 5-2, with Holmes and Black voting for it. Commissioners then voted 5-2 to support the rolled-back rate of 4.55 mills, with Black and Holmes dissenting.

Commissioners, continuing a discussion from the Sept. 8 budget hearing, decided to cut $75,000 from the proposed $150,000 subsidy for the Largo Golf Course. City officials are hoping to keep the fund balance at minimum level because commissioners are considering letting private enterprise lease or manage the course.

With Holmes and Black dissenting again, commissioners voted 5-2 to approve the $156.2 million budget.

PROGRAM, from page 1A

During this phase, LHS still has access to IB resources online so that the faculty can become more familiar with IB and prepare for the crossover from the candidate phase.

Lane estimates the school will wrap up the first phase within 18 months, and they have already started ticking on that clock, he said.

The teachers instructing the honors students are either IB-trained or are going through the training process now. All faculty must take a one-week course where they are trained about the program.

Students interested in getting into the program must first live in the Clearwater, Dixie Hollins, Largo, Pinellas Park or Seminole district zones near LHS, and must be able to fall into one of two categories or target groups. The first grouping is based on test scores and academic grades in previous grade levels. The student must score 375 or higher in the math and reading portions of the FCAT, have nothing lower than B grades in sixth and seventh grade courses and have at least one year of a foreign language among other criteria.

If a candidate doesn't meet some of the requirements, or any, for the first group, he/she may still have a chance. The second group is for those that feel they have the potential to excel in the program, but just maybe didn't score high enough on the FCAT or had a few grades that were just below par. These students must still meet the foreign language and math requirements stated in the guidelines for the program. Those admitted also will have to complete a certain amount of community service hours, are encouraged to join clubs or school sports teams and are required to write a 4,000-word research essay. After each community service event, the students must explain what they did and how it affected those they were helping.

After the committee sorts through the applicants and weeds out those who are not qualified, they will assign each child a random number. Using this lottery system, they are leaving little room for biases or discrimination, putting all students on an equal playing field. Ninety percent of those chosen will be from the first group, leaving only 10 percent left for the second.

Having this program will attach the magnet title to the school. Being a "magnet" means that LHS has programs that focus on specialized courses in certain areas, such as arts, communications, sciences or gifted studies.

So far the students are enjoying the program and the change of pace from their regular classes.

"I really think it's boosting morale throughout the school," Lane said. "When you have students doing so well and feeling proud of what they're doing, you see it spreading through the classrooms, hallways and even onto the field."

Several students have approached Lane about getting involved with advertising for the program to help recruit new students.

The ultimate goal for the school is to be able to issue IB diplomas to graduates with an LHS stamp on them.

"It looks great on their resumes for starters, and it says something to the college admissions departments because they understand what the students had to go through to get that diploma," Lane said. "Students that graduate IB are usually able to start college as a sophomore."

Right now there are 54 students in the program, but Lane hopes for that number to double in next year's freshmen class.

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County approves millage rates, budgets, fees

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County commissioners gave final approval to millage rates and budgets for fiscal year 2011-12 at a final public hearing Sept. 15.

The approval included increases in millage rates for emergency medical services and some fire districts.

Fee schedules also were approved with the exception of new fees proposed for the Building Review and Development Department. Parking fees for Fort De Soto and Fred Howard Park were approved.

Residents who attended Thursday night's meeting protested increases in taxes and fees. County Administrator Bob LaSala and Commissioner Chair Susan Latvala came under fire as residents questioned some of their decisions. Some residents also spoke in opposition to increased millage for Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, which is not the commission's responsibility.

Residents said too many people were hurting financially to be asked by their government to pay any increases in taxes.

Dan Tucker of Seminole said that although tax collections had decreased for county government, taxes owed by residents had not gone down. He joined others protesting the EMS millage rate increase of 46 percent.

Tucker said a recent study showed that for the average family of four, income had been reduced to 1997 levels. He said commissioners needed to reduce taxes to levels people could afford.

Rob Roberts said the county needed to do more with less – as most businesses were doing.

"If a business fails (runs out of money), it goes out of business," he said. "If government fails, it raises taxes. If the EMS system fails, you raise the taxes."

"Living within your means and doing more with less" was a common theme from the public.

Not all commissioners voted for the tax increases. Commissioner Norm Roche was the only one to vote against the total budget package, which includes all budgets and millage rates, saying there were too many parts that he was uncomfortable with or to which he was opposed or adamantly opposed. He also was the lone no vote on the countywide budget.

Commissions Nancy Bostock and Roche voted against the EMS millage rate increase and the EMS budget. Commissioner Karen Seel said this would be the last year she voted in favor of an increase in EMS taxes.

Roche tried half-heartedly to get commissioners to reconsider park fees. In the end they were approved, 4-3. Commissioners Neil Brickfield, Bostock and Roche voted no.

The public and the commissioners were alike in their thinking about new fees proposed for building review and development. No one seemed to buy LaSala's explanation of protection of the public drinking supply as reasons to impose inspections and fees for installation of dishwashers, garbage disposals and outdoor water spigots, especially replacement installations. Other new fees on the schedule also were questioned.

Commissioners agreed with the public that it was going too far to ask people to allow inspections and pay fees for tasks such as dishwasher replacements. Some commissioners said they had replaced dishwashers in the past and, as far as they knew, had not broken any rules by not paying fees or getting inspections.

Commissioner Neil Brickfield said that after looking at the list of proposed new fees, he could understand why some thought staff had just sat around looking for things to add fees to without real cause.

Commissioners talked briefly about steps the city of Clearwater was making to ease regulations and suggested that staff check the work being done.

Water, reclaimed water, sewer rate hikes on agenda

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County commissioners will consider proposed rate increases for retail and wholesale water and sewer rates, as well as increases for reclaimed water during a Sept. 27 public hearing.

Public hearings begin at 6:30 p.m. and take place in the Fifth Floor Assembly Room of the Pinellas County Courthouse, 315 Court St. in Clearwater.

"Increasing rates to our customers is never an easy decision: yet, it is a decision that is required to provide a long term, safe, reliable and environmentally sound water, sewer and reclaimed water system. Good stewardship of our resources is a high priority," reads a statement on the Utilities section of www.pinellascounty.org.

Utilities is proposing rate increases for water, reclaimed water and sewer for the next four years. If approved, the rates would go into effect Oct. 1 of each year from 2011 through 2014.

"This four-year approach provides indication of proactive financial management of utility systems desired by rating agencies, but does not preclude the Board of County Commissioners from making adjustments annually," officials said.

Retail water rates

If new rates are approved, the cost per 1,000 gallons for retail water users would remain the same, $4.78; however, the base rate would increase $1 each year from Oct. 1, 2012 through Oct. 1 2014. The current base rate is $3.35. It would go up to $4.35 on Oct. 1, 2012. At the end of four years, the base rate, unless commissioners make adjustments, would be $6.35.

Retail sewer rates

The bigger increase is proposed for retail sewer rates. Utilities wants to increase the cost per 1,000 gallons and base rate by 6 percent a year over the next four years. Currently, customers pay a volumetric rate (per 1,000 gallons) of $3.84. The base rate is $10.50. If rate increases are approved, by the end of four years, the volumetric rate would be $1 more, to $4.84, and the base rate would increase by $2.76.

How it breaks down

Utilities is proposing, beginning Oct. 1 of this year, that the volumetric sewer rate (per 1,000 gallons) go up to $4.07, and a base rate to $11.13. Oct. 1, 2012, the cost per 1,000 gallons would increase to $4.31 and the base rate to $11.80. In 2013, the volumetric cost would go up to $4.57, the base rate to $12.51. The final year, 2014, the volumetric rate would increase to $4.84 and the base rate to $13.26.

Reclaimed water rates

Reclaimed water users on funded systems also may see increases in their bills over the next four years. Utilities officials explain that a funded system is one where the distribution system – pipelines – were paid for by funds other than the availability charge. For example, the cost of some systems was paid for by a developer.

Customers on funded systems that do not pay an availability charge, would see an increase of $1 a year from 2011 to 2014, increasing the monthly user fee from $14 (current) to $18 in 2014. For users on a metered system, the cost per 1,000 gallons would go up from the current price of 64 cents to 72 cents on Oct. 1 of this year, to 80 cents in 2012, 88 cents in 2013 and to 96 cents per 1,000 gallons in 2014.

Reclaimed water customers on unfunded systems would see no increase in the availability charge of $7 a month; however, an increase of $1 a month would be imposed to the user fee over the next four years, increasing the cost from $8 to $12 by 2014. The user fee per 1,000 gallons increase would be the same as for users on funded systems – going from 64 cents to 96 cents by 2014.

Wholesale water and sewer rates

Wholesale water rates also would increase by 4 percent for years 2012 through 2015, if the rate changes are approved, potentially affecting customers in Pinellas Park, Clearwater, Safety Harbor, Oldsmar and Tarpon Springs.

Utilities also is proposing a 9 percent increase for wholesale sewer rates for the years 2012 through 2015, which could affect customers in Pinellas Park, Indian Rocks Beach, Redington Shores and North Redington Beach.

For more information, visit www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/rates-changes.htm.

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College intern trained to help teens at Heritage Village

By MARY BURRELL

The 21-year-old takes her place in the circle of the junior docents who are gathered outside at 9 a.m.

Clipboard and pen in hand, she checks off a list of duties, asking individuals if they have completed their tasks, and tells the teens which part of the village needs work this morning. It is the day after a heavy rain, and the grounds need to be swept up and dried up. A couple of latecomers come out of the back door and she directs each of them to different parts of the village.

Kristin Hill is one of two college interns who have led the young teens this summer. She and Timothy Suttle of St. Petersburg College have been instrumental in making this first season a success.

"It's great how they work together," said Paige Noel, who as the supervisor of the junior docents saw this internship as a way to save the popular program after budget cuts threatened to eliminate it. Having the interns step in as leaders worked well.

"Kristin's energy, youth and enthusiasm has been wonderful," said Noel. "She is able to communicate so well with (the junior docents) because she is someone close to their age."

The 12- to 17-year-old junior docents show up about a dozen at a time to work four hours at Heritage Village. That time is divided between chores and guided tours to outside groups.

For Hill, it was an easy fit. A lover of museums and history since she was young, she majors in cultural anthropology with a minor in public administration. She is entering her senior year at the University of West Florida in Pensacola. From there, she will likely start graduate studies, with an eye on working at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., or the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Pittsburgh, Pa.

At Heritage Village, Hill points to scorch marks on the McMullen-Coachman Log House, explaining that flames left their marks on the 1852 house in eight different fires. She shows the room where Mrs. Elizabeth McMullen, a midwife, delivered babies. She points to the breezeway where the dogs slept and the bathtub that was shared by the entire family, with the youngest having to use the dirtiest of the water to bathe last.

Helping hands
Outstanding volunteers

Awe over the historical pieces of furniture and the hardships of living in the past is shared by Hill, who demonstrates washing clothes by hand and hanging them up on a clothesline. Visitors to the village get to do these activities themselves at the hands-on living museum and Hill gets to see it all in action.

A native of Pinellas County, Hill's first exposure to museums was in school, on field trips to the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa and museums in downtown St. Petersburg. Her family's travels gave her opportunities to visit prestigious museums. With her love of history, she developed a keen interest in different cultures.

Still, Hill loved animals and planned on becoming a veterinarian. She attended the medical magnet school at Boca Ciega High School, which helped her realize that it wasn't for her and set her in the right direction.

During her school years, Hill was involved in sports, with soccer being her main sport, first as a recreational player and then as a mid-fielder and defender on club teams. She played varsity soccer for her high school. In middle school she played volleyball and basketball and golf in high school.

During the summer, she kept just as busy working for the city of Largo as a lifeguard and water safety instructor at the city's pool as well as Heritage Village. During the school year, she is a lifeguard at UWF.

As Hill returns to school, she will be joining her sister and roommate, Caitlin, who is 22 and a junior.

Hill said that she has liked working at Heritage Village, which is the kind of nonprofit facility she intends on building a career on – just smaller – and this summer internship fit right into her plans. It also helped Heritage Village continue a popular program and, as a Pinellas County government facility, be an example of the kind of volunteer program that the county feels it needs to help maintain the quality of life to which residents are accustomed.

Hill takes her role in the volunteer program at Heritage Village in stride, saying she just likes history and finds value in the preservation of local history. And she likes it.

"I think I will come back," she said, looking around at the historical village. When Noel of Heritage Village heard this, she smiled. "If she did come back my heart would jump for joy."

Pinellas County volunteers can expect to make a difference in the life of their community, while exploring interests, sharing knowledge, assisting others and making friends. For more information, visit www.pinellascounty.org/volunteer, email volunteers@pinellascounty.org or call 464-3945.

Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS

Kristin Hill of Largo demonstrates washing clothes by hand during a tour at Heritage Village. The summer intern was one of two volunteers who supervised the junior docents this summer.

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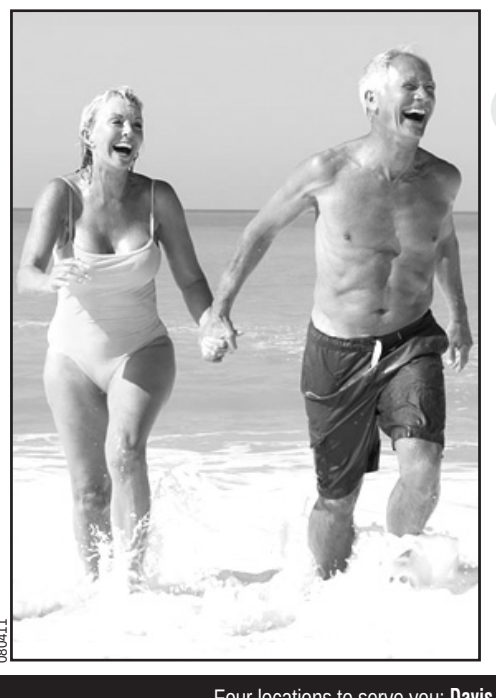

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Time to take advantage of availability of bait fish

Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

If it's been a couple of weeks since you've been out on the water, I wouldn't wait too much longer. Big changes are taking place: The bait is so thick right now from the grass flats to the beaches, the birds and the fish alike are taking advantage of a good bait spawn. The stage is set for another amazing fall season on our coast and I would expect some phenomenal fishing as we head into the up-coming new moon.

Spanish mackerel and ladyfish are loaded on the beach right now. On certain mornings this past week schools of mackerel could be seen whipping the water into a froth as they ravaged massive pods of juvenile threadfins and red clouds of tiny blood minnows. When these frenzies are encountered it doesn't really matter what bait or lure you cast into them – you're sure to get bit.

Plenty of perfect sized white bait can be cast-netted all along the beach swash channel. It's still a good idea to use a quarter inch mesh cast net. Some of these baits are still on the small side, but make excellent chummers.

Inshore, target schools of redfish on the low incoming tide. Edges of grass flats, over sandy bottom have been the preferred habitat for the redfish, even when the tide does come up. Deeper water fish may give up their location by creating muddy areas that can easily be spotted when the sun comes up. These redfish aren't up shallow like you might normally find them so don't overlook any activity. Look for yellow tail jacks to be mixed in and around the schools of reds, so if you're catching some decent sized jacks you're probably in the right area.

Trout are congregating in a bit deeper water somewhere in that 3- to 5-feet range. Look for those areas that have plenty of potholes. These areas are full of trout. Although they are mostly on the small side there are some keepers to be caught. The added bonus to this deeper water is that if you drift along with the wind you can cover a huge amount of water and catch a variety of species. This is an excellent time and place to take a kid fishing. Drift with a popping cork and live whitebait or even a soft plastic jig and you can catch trout, jacks, ladyfish and mackerel till your arms are tired.

Until next week – get bent!

Tyson Wallerstein can be reached at capt.tyson@hotmail.com. To get a fish photo in the paper, send the photo along with your name, when and where it was caught to editorial@tbnweekly.com or mail it to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772.

Scout project

Kyle Grimes' Eagle Scout project was to build a fire circle, a ring of bricks used to contain a campfire, at Largo Central Park. It will be used for a campfire program this winter. Grimes is with Troop 135.

Briefs

Orchid sale set

LARGO – There will be an Orchid Friends sale on Saturday, Oct. 22, 9 a.m. to noon, at 12350 Ridge Road.

The sale will feature a variety of blooming and non-blooming plants and supplies for sale. Advice on orchid care and culture will be offered.

Call Corinne Arnold at 475-0750.

Herb society to meet

CLEARWATER – The Florida Herb Society will meet Tuesday, Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m., at the Clearwater Garden Club, 405 Seminole St.

Jai Humbly, Master Gardener and founder of Organic Living, will speak about soil preparation for herbs.

The goal of the society is to educate members and the general public in the growing and preservation of herbs for use in culinary, medicinal and decorative purposes.

Refreshments and herbal swaps will begin at 6:30 p.m. Visitors are welcome. The first meeting is free. Cost to join is $25 a year.

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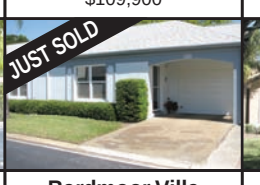

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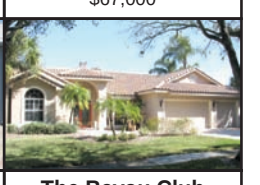
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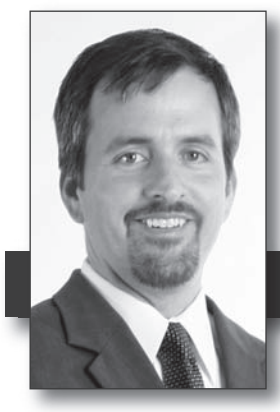
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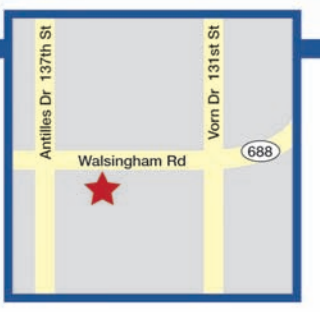

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EDITORIAL

Silly fees hurt city's image

Clearwater makes right move to abolish administrative fee

The Clearwater City Council made the right decision by abolishing its $10 parking dismissal fee.

Eight percent of people who received parking tickets seek dismissal, but until recently, even if they proved that they had already paid the parking fee, they had to pay a $10 fee to have it dismissed.

In the words of Councilman John Doran, it's a stupid fee.

Such policies give governments a black eye and send the message that they are desperate for revenue.

Assessing fines for parking violations is a reasonable policy; tacking on administrative fees isn't.

To their credit, city officials acknowledged that they sent the wrong message through the dismissal fees.

"A review of the complaints concerning the $10 dismissal fee includes accusations that the city is intentionally targeting visitors and knowingly operating a scam/racket," a parking department memo to the council said.

City officials say that $12,000 to $15,000 of the parking department's $5 million in annual revenue comes from dismissal fees. Such a small percentage of revenue is hardly worth the risk of jeopardizing the city's reputation.

The council voted at the Sept. 1 meeting to permanently abolish the dismissal fee.

Good riddance.

***

Speaking of parking issues, the city of Madeira Beach may get rid of parking meters at John's Pass Village and other municipal lots throughout the city, replacing them with pay stations.

Many people may not have change on hand to install in parking meters or know how long they will be at the areas where metered parking exists.

Though the units are expensive, more than at least $10,000 each, they offer convenience with multiple pay options and the ability to pay for time wanted.

They provide receipts and an added feature would allow users to add time from a remote location using a cell phone.

The cost of converting to pay stations would be substantial, more than $300,000, but the city could make the change in phases. Other cities have experienced good results with pay stations.

In the long run, pay stations will benefit Madeira Beach as well as residents and visitors who will use them.

And, yes, the city expects to derive more revenue from the pay stations, but not in the form of fines.

City officials should move forward with the conversion.

Crotchety? Me?

Tom Germond

I was tempted to entitle this column "Throw momma from the car."

A few weeks ago, as I was driving Mom somewhere, fundraising for charities came up in our conversation.

I told her youth organizations that ask for money for their leagues, trips to Europe, etc., outside the front of grocery stores, annoy me.

"Why don't they do some work – have a car wash? I'd pay top dollar for some kids to wax my car," I said.

My rant continued.

"Yea, I know, they're representing the community, they say. I'd love to go to Europe, too, take in a few pubs. I'd be a fine representative of the beer drinkers of Largo."

Mom kept peering out the window.

"Oh, you're just becoming a crotchety old man," she said.

I raised an eyebrow and looked at her out of the corner of my eye.

"Crotchety?"

That smacks of Jack Lemmon … Walter Matthau.

Grumpy, grouchy – set in my ways.

Hmmm. OK, I do get easily annoyed about some things. Such as teenagers who walk around showing the tops of their underwear. Who came up with that idea? Don't they realize the joke's on them? Back when we were kids, we used to sneak up behind people and pull their pants down.

And if we did that to a girl, I guess you could say she'd get crotchety – in a hurry.

Does being branded a crotchety old man imply that I'm narrow-minded? Maybe so.

A lady friend recently asked me if I wanted to go see a band, a rock legend, at one of our performing arts venues. As I recall, the name of the rock legend was something like "Back from the Dead."

"Why do I want to see them? I'm not about to fork out the equivalent of a car payment to listen to a band that couldn't sing 20 years ago," I said, slightly irritated.

Especially if they show their underwear.

My lady friend and I have issues.

I'm not alone. One of my favorite writers is the late, great Lewis Grizzard, a newspaper columnist from Moreland, Ga. The author of great books such as "Don't Bend Over in the Garden, Granny, You Know Them Taters Got Eyes," Grizzard also showed signs of being crotchety and narrow-minded.

He once wrote about the pitfalls of dating a younger woman.

"Do you know reggae?" she asked.

"Sure," Grizzard replied. "He plays outfield for the Yankees."

Movies make me crotchety, too. Too much fantasy: flying goblins, sexually challenged vampires, transgendered transformers and disfigured characters that look like space lepers. Whatever happened to good old-fashioned Martians and ray guns?

I tolerated "Star Wars," but had no interest in seeing the sequels. In fact, I barely remember the plot or the characters of the first film.

For months, one of my much younger co-workers had this strange object on her computer as a screen saver.

"What's that?" I asked her.

"That's R2-D2," she said.

"Who?"

"R2-D2 … you know, from Star Wars."

"Oh," I said. "I thought it was a Shop Vac."

Please – no more annoying space flicks or Halloween horror shows. You can't improve upon the "Wizard of Oz." Flying monkeys still give me heebie-jeebies.

But I also realize the error of my ways.

Love you, Mom. I'm going to start giving money to youth leagues, even if I have to raid *my* Europe fund.

And I mean it from the bottom of what's left of my aging crotchety ol' heart.

A dollar here, a dollar there for the kids – as long as they don't show me their underwear.

LETTERS

Social programs not the answer

Editor:

A while back I worked for the Haven of Religious Community Services, which provides services to domestic violence victims. I wish I didn't have to say this, but it was a textbook example of what Sen. Marco Rubio is talking about. Social programs are not the answer. Most of what I saw was people taking advantage of the system; very few worked. It makes you weak, having no work ethic. It was ridiculous. The accountability there was little, what more can I say?

Jeff Shelton
Largo

Maxims, aphorisms: true and false

Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

We base much of our lives on scraps of wisdom known as maxims or aphorisms. Some of them have value; many are nonsense, and should be disregarded.

Today, let's examine some of these pithy sayings.

"This, too, will pass." That's known as the kidney stone philosophy. It has some truth to it, in that most events – both good and bad – ultimately fade away. But not always. Ask anyone who has lost a child, or who has contracted AIDS.

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Then quit. There's no use being a damn fool about it." W.C. Fields gave that advice, and I've followed it all my life.

Another of his utterances that I heeded for many years: "You can judge a man by what he believes. And I believe I'll have another drink."

"When one door closes, another will open." That saying has sustained millions of people who have met misfortune. It occurs to me, however, that during an economic slump there seems to be fewer doors opening than there are in boom times.

"You're only as sick as your secrets." That little piece of rubbish is peddled by amateur therapists who want to peer into every cranny of a troubled person's mind. Truth is, our secrets are what form much of our character. Without them, we risk turning into human ciphers.

"No pain, no gain." I'm told such advice is valid for body-builders, who must tear down muscle tissue to allow it to rebuild into even a larger mass. And that hurts. But I don't think pain or great stress is an automatic prerequisite for all other forms of improvement. Think of being taught how to dance, by an attractive partner. Any pain there?

"Use it or lose it." What a load. Dear Abby often used that in her advice columns, trying to encourage people to resume romantic relationships after a bust-up. She implied that your erotic apparatus will fall off or dry up unless it's kept on the firing line. Abby was wrong. Anyone who's had to undergo celibacy for a time can testify that when the good times resume, the equipment is ready and waiting. And there's seldom any rust on it.

> "There is time for everything." So said Thomas Alva Edison, who was never a mother with six small children squalling for her attention.

"Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing." – Helen Keller.

"If you ain't busy living, you're busy dying."– Bob Dylan.

These examples of all-or-nothing philosophy ignore the fact that most people go along quite well at 30 to 50 mph. We don't have to be busting a monumental gut or striving for the Olympics in order to enjoy life and find it meaningful. For every person who'd choose daring adventure, ten would opt for solid, predictable comfort.

"The measure of a man is what he does with power." Quite true. Or how he treats waitresses.

"That which does not kill you makes you stronger." The German nut job Nietzsche foisted that blob of horse puckey on the waiting world, and it has been gobbled up by millions. Except for people who were maimed while serving in Vietnam and Mideast wars, or survived Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or went through a few years of chemotherapy. Folks like that may not be dead, but they're seldom stronger.

"Cynicism isn't smarter, it's only safer." Marvelous. Right on target.

"Don't look back. Someone may be gaining on you." Pitcher Satchel Paige said that. Few ball players ever gained on him, however.

"There is time for everything." So said Thomas Alva Edison, who was never a mother with six small children squalling for her attention.

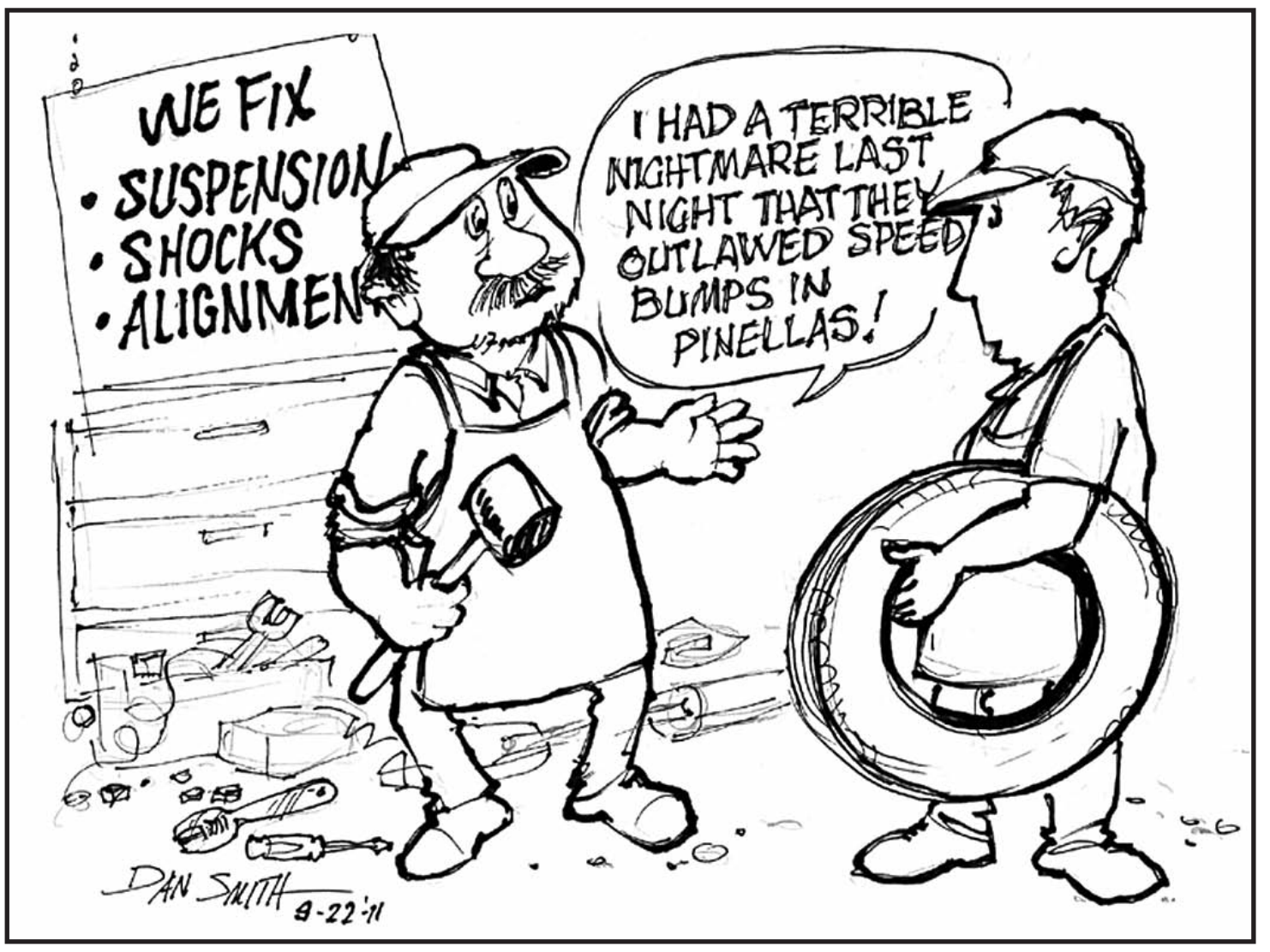
"You got to have a dream. If you don't have a dream, how you gonna have a dream come true?" Bloody Mary sang that lovely line from a great song in a superb musical, "South Pacific." Words to live by, through thick and thin.

"Cheaters never prosper." Hedge fund managers and mortgage brokers throughout the land double over with laughter each time someone breaks out that idealistic adage. The sad truth is that cheaters often have a leg up on all other contestants.

"Never say more than is necessary." British playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1816) is the source of that quotation, which has been ignored by politicians, columnists and almost everyone else you can name, ever since.

"Life is like a game of cards. The hand that is dealt you represents determinism; the way you play it is free will." A great deal of wisdom in that statement, but it can drive you crazy if you review some of the stupid moves you've freely made, especially after four martinis and Charlene's fingers caressing your cheek.

Bob Driver was a longtime columnist and editorial page editor for the Clearwater Sun. Send Driver an e-mail at tralee71@comcast.net.



Wake up and smell the politics

Mary Sanchez

Can a coffee kingpin give American politics the jolt it needs to snap out of its tea party hangover?

Don't hold your breath. But Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz has made a valiant attempt, by way of an appeal he sent out by blast email and published in full-page ads in both The New York Times and USA Today.

"I love our country. I am a beneficiary of the promise of America," wrote the Brooklyn-born, self-made industry leader. "I am frustrated by our political leaders' steadfast refusal to recognize that, for every day they perpetuate partisan conflict and put ideology over country, America and Americans suffer from the combined effects of paralysis and uncertainty."

He continued, listing the concerns that are troubling many average Americans these days: They're unemployed or underemployed — or afraid of becoming so. Consumers are not spending money. Small businesses can't get credit. And Congress and the White House don't seem to get it.

Schultz also called on other American business leaders to join him in withholding political contributions until Congress and the president get their act together, play nice and enact a "transparent, comprehensive, bipartisan debt-and-deficit package … that honestly, and fairly, sets America on a path to long-term financial health and security."

Oh, I know, President Obama tried to sound demanding in his nationally televised speech on jobs Thursday. He raised his voice authoritatively while delivering lines that Howard Schultz would cheer. He said that Americans can't wait while Republicans trounce every jobs proposal. House Speaker John Boehner barely lifted a sleepy eyelid.

I don't want to be too hard on Schultz. He seems like a mensch. When it comes to messaging around social conscience, few companies do it as well as Starbucks. It has been adept at letting its customers know that the part-time barista serving up your skinny macchiato of fair-trade coffee beans is covered by a generous health care plan. But he's out of his league. It's hard to see what holding back his money and a bit of that of a few rich friends will accomplish.

Washington is a business; its clientele are actually people like Schultz, who have multinational corporations to look after. He may be aware that the U.S. Supreme Court granted CEOs even more political power with its landmark Citizens United decision in 2010. Political action committees, lobbyists and the new "527" advocacy groups, which are able to draw unlimited contributions, are what props up our political class. Congressional committee chairmanships are given to the most proficient fundraisers. If he's withholding his money from that business, good for him. But he's not going to reform it anytime soon, not the way he's going about it.

You don't fix a broken political system by refusing to engage with it — especially right now, when the critical flaw is a certain asymmetry between the parties. In 2008, the electorate chose an eloquent candidate for president who conjured a future of hope and change and bipartisan cooperation. The reality, once he took office, turned out to be different. Trying to remain aloof from the partisan fray doesn't produce the best results in the actual game of politics.

Barack Obama's presidency has not been a total failure. But he has bitterly disappointed many of his erstwhile admirers for the simple reason that he seems unwilling or unable to stand up for some basic Democratic principles. During the debt-limit debate, it was left to Warren Buffett, one of the wealthiest men in the country, to take to the op-ed page of the New York Times to beg Congress to raise taxes on rich people like himself. Obama has surrendered the bully pulpit to the better organized, better disciplined — and better at politics — Republican Party.

And it's going to take more than sharing an artfully prepared latte to change things.

(Mary Sanchez is an opinion-page columnist for The Kansas City Star. Readers may write to her at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or via email at msanchez@kcstar.com.)

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Circulation: L. Shiflett
Phone: 727-397-5563

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Research relationships can take on added intensity

"It's not you, it's me," I said to her. "I'm just not able right now to make this work. It would be better for both of us if I could explore other relationships."

I couldn't tell if she was disappointed or not ... whether she was hurt or not. Certainly bringing hurt was not my intent. But the relationship, such as it was, had run its course. Something had to change. I had to move on.

I admit that I've watched "When Harry Met Sally" enough times to know that I could be making a mistake. She could be the right one, and I was just too blind to see it. But right now it was time to move on, remaining "friends," and keeping open the possibility of a renewed and hopefully successful relationship in the future. Farewell ... it's not your fault; it's mine that brings us to this parting.

As you may guess, I'm not reliving my first high school breakup (it was much messier than that), or one of my failed college relationships (some of which ended exactly like that), or saying goodbye to a lover when love simply no longer existed. I'm carrying on this conversation (one sided at that) with a dead person ... one I had been researching for months ... one who I believed fit somewhere in my family tree. But it was as difficult to disengage from building that relationship as it was any of those earlier, failed relationships (well, almost).

Genealogy exposed

Peter Summers

It strikes me how much like a love-relationship our research relationships with potential ancestors can become. Consider these parallels: I think about the person constantly; I find that I am happy when I am learning about him/her; I delight in telling anyone who will listen about him/her; it pains me when the relationship is not successful; I resist letting him/her go even when I know better; I find myself thinking about him/her even after we part company; and I continue to hold a shred of hope that we will find our way to each other at some future time.

There truly can be an emotional connection between the researcher and the research subject. Why else would the above conditions exist? Because of that, "breaking up" with a potential ancestor must be accomplished as carefully as it was with that old college sweetheart. In fact, it probably should be done even more carefully. In the case of the sweetheart, we are tempted to destroy all evidence of the relationship. You know, burning pictures, throwing out pieces of clothing, etc. The hurt can be too great to want to be reminded about him/her by the existence of those things. But we shouldn't do that with the "failed" ancestor.

It is altogether possible that something will happen in the future to breathe new life into that relationship. All those documents you have collected, all those notes about research avenues that did not lead anywhere, all those sources you dutifully recorded ... they all should be kept.

This is where the parallel between the college sweetheart and the ancestor diverges. We actually may hope never to run into the old flame again, but we sincerely hope to cross paths with that potential ancestor again. In fact, the possibility of doing so is probably greater in the latter case than it is in the former. And if we do, all that research material will be invaluable.

I have a special section of my research files that I devote to those failed attempts at forging relationships. And, yes, I even find myself at times wistfully pawing through them, reliving the experiences, bittersweet as they are. As I do this, I imagine the spirits of Harry and Sally looking down on me ... and they are smiling.

Peter Summers is an amateur genealogist who has been working on his family history since 1972. He is currently the president of the Pinellas Genealogy Society.

Briefs

Fall book sale slated

LARGO – The Friends of the Largo Library will hold its fall book sale Saturday, Sept. 24, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in the Jenkins Room of the library. All books are 50 cents each. Buy two and get one free.

Proceeds will benefit the library, located at 120 Central Park Drive.

Call the Largo Library bookstore at 586-7392.

Inaugural Strides for Education walk planned

LARGO – The Pinellas Education Foundation's Doorways/Take Stock in Children program will present its inaugural "Strides For Education 5k" Walk/Run at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19, at Eagle Lake Park.

The statewide effort to raise college funds for Florida's low-income and at-risk youth also will take place simultaneously in 13 other Florida counties.

"Doorways/Take Stock in Children's Strides For Education 5K is the perfect way to involve the local community in our efforts and help raise funding for our scholars who desire to earn a postsecondary education," said John Dosher, Pinellas Education Foundation board member and vice president at Bright House Networks, in a press release. "Our goal is to continue growing our program each year so that we may support even more students along the path to success."

The event is open to individuals, families, companies and local organizations and will feature family-friendly activities, giveaways, and much more.

Registration is $35 per person, with proceeds to benefit Doorways/Take Stock in Children, a Pinellas Education Foundation program with a 19-year history of helping economically challenged students break the cycle of poverty by providing scholarships, mentors and hope. Doorways/Take Stock in Children of Pinellas County serves more than 1,300 students in grades 6-12 and 1,500 high school graduates that are pursuing their college degree.

The Pinellas Education Foundation is seeking participants, volunteers and sponsors for this statewide effort. As an official Strides For Education 5K Walk/Run sponsor or participant, supporters can join several companies and individuals who support the mission of Doorways/Take Stock in Children and help students achieve their college dreams. Current sponsors include: Casper's, McDonald's, Sweetbay Supermarkets, AT&T, Astro Skate, Seminole Lanes and Suncoast Auto Builder's Inc.

Take Stock in Children aims to have a few thousand participants statewide as a part of this first-ever fundraising effort. With rising tuition costs and significant increases of other college-related expenses, children throughout Florida are struggling more than ever to achieve their dreams of a college education. The mission of the Pinellas Education Foundation is to enhance and improve educational opportunities in Pinellas County Schools.

To learn how to support Doorways/Take Stock in Children of Pinellas County's Strides For Education 5K Walk/Run as a race participant, volunteer or sponsor, call 588-4816 or visit give.takestock inchildren.org/Pinellas or www.pinellaseducation.org.

Job well done

Photo courtesy of MICHELLE SIMONEAU

Frank Correa, right, historian at The Armed Forces Military Museum in Largo, congratulates U.S. Navy Admiral William McRaven on a job well done with Operation Neptune Spear, the special operations raid that led to the death of Osama Bin Laden.

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Looking for a home

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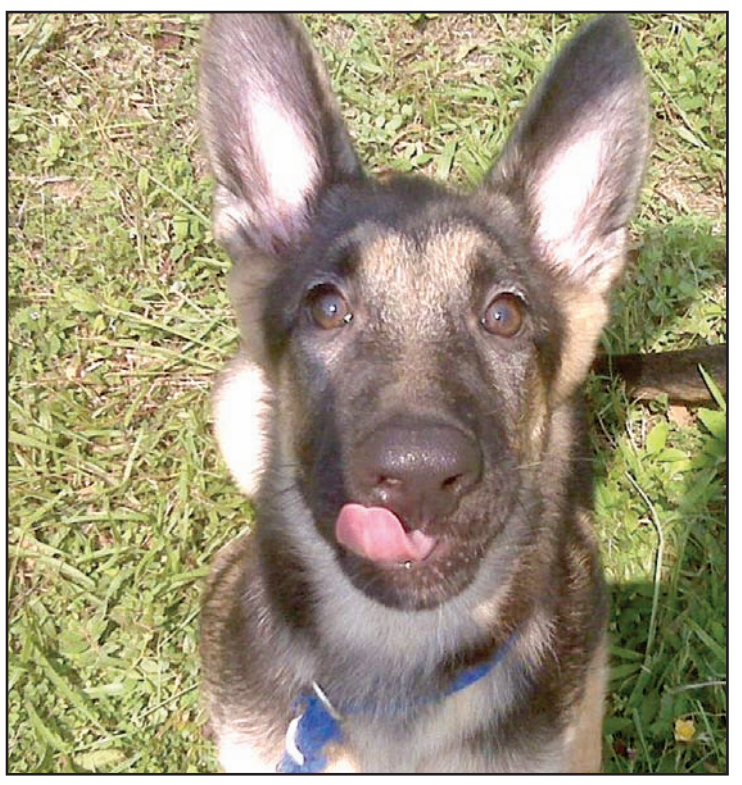

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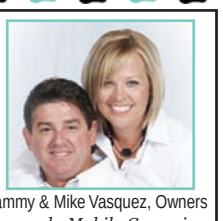

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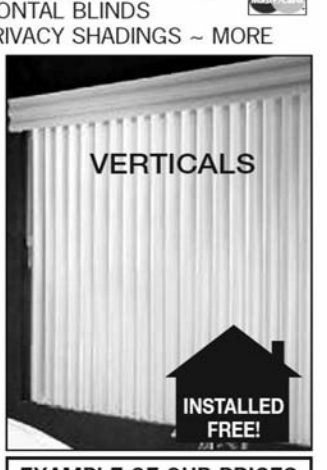

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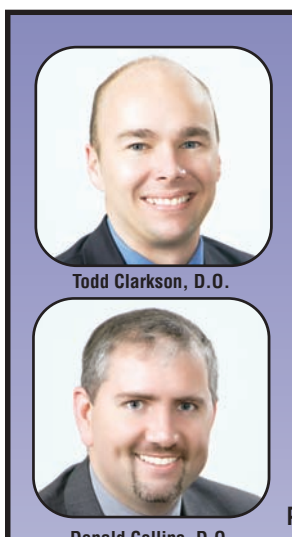

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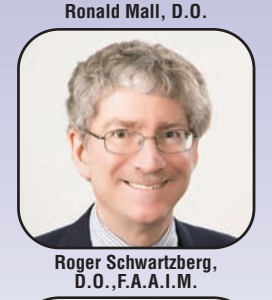

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Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County

- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

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Looking ahead

Clearwater

• **Long-form Improv from The Third Thought**, Thursdays, through Sept. 29, 8 p.m., at Coconut's Comedy Club at Jack's Junkfood Joint, 2950 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd. This one-of-a-kind comedy show is presented by long-form improv group The Third Thought. This show is completely made up on the spot – never seen before and never to be seen again. Tickets are $5 at the door. Visit thethirdthought.tumblr.com.

• **"Leading Ladies,"** by Ken Ludwig, presented by Early Bird Dinner Theatre, through Oct. 30, at the Italian-American Club, 200 S. McMullen Booth Road. Seating for performances is Thursday through Sunday, 4 p.m. Seating for matinees is Thursday and Saturday, 11 a.m. Cost is $29.90 a person. For reservations, call 446-5898. Visit www.earlybirddinnertheatre.com. Set in the 1950s, two English actors, Jack and Leo, find their careers in a rut. They are currently performing "Scenes from Shakespeare" on the Moose Lodge circuit in the Amish country of Pennsylvania when they hear that an old lady in York, Penn., is about to die and leave her fortune to her two long lost English nephews. Jack and Leo resolve to pass themselves off as her beloved relatives and get the cash.

• **"42nd Street,"** with music by Harry Warren, lyrics by Al Dubin and book by Mark Bramble and Michael Stewart; presented by Francis Wilson Playhouse, through Oct. 2, at the playhouse, 302 Seminole St. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are $26 for adults and $13 for students. Call 446-1360 or visit www.franciswilsonplayhouse.org. Winner of the 1980 Tony Award for Best Musical and for the 2005 Best Revival, the show is based on the classic 1932 Warner Brothers film and features a score of hits such as "We're In The Money," "About a Quarter to Nine" and "You're Getting to Be a Habit With Me."

• **Bogus Pomp,** Saturday, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 the day of the show. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Formed in 1994, Bogus Pomp plays a variety of Frank Zappa's more difficult arrangements including jazz, rock and orchestral. They have performed several highly acclaimed shows with The Florida Orchestra and have been a featured artist in the annual Zappanale Festival in Germany. Their Zappaween shows in St. Petersburg are a favorite Halloween event each year.

• **"Victor Victoria,"** Tuesday, Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Admission is $6. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Part of the Capitol Classic Film Series, this 1982 musical stars Julie Andrews in her Best Actress Oscar nominated role as trained soprano Victoria Grant. Grant is having trouble making ends meet in 1934 Paris. Cabaret singer Carole "Toddy" Todd (Robert Preston) has just been fired from his job and comes up with a plan to make him and Victoria rich. Toddy has Victoria take on the alter ego of Polish Count Victor Grazinski, a male singer who impersonates females. Toddy plays the role of Victor's manager and surprisingly Victor lands a gig at the city's best nightclub, catching the eye of Chicago gangster King Marchan. The film also stars James Garner and Lesley Ann Warren who captured a Best Supporting Oscar nomination.

• **Enter the Haggis**, Thursday, Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets range from $20 to $25. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. With three albums over the past five years, Enter The Haggis has found itself at the center of a grassroots success story teetering on the brink of mainstream success. From headlining Celtic festivals to selling out multiple nights at rock venues, ETH has blazed the path touring throughout North America. The band has made appearances on television shows such as "Live with Regis and Kelly," "A&E Breakfast with the Arts" and "Out of Ireland."

• **Joe Jonas and Jay Sean,** Saturday, Oct. 1, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road. Tickets range from $38 to $48. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Jonas and Sean, pop music superstars and multi-platinum-selling recording artists, will stop at Ruth Eckerd Hall during their 19-city tour bringing both artists' dance and R&B infused music to an intimate setting. Jonas will be touring to support the release of his forthcoming Hollywood Records' solo debut album, "FastLife," in stores

See LOOKING AHEAD, page 3B

Photo by JON FARMER

Phoebe (Austin Highsmith) joins Winter in the water in Alcon Entertainment's family adventure "Dolphin Tale," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

'Dolphin Tale' hype swells in area

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

CLEARWATER – Was that Morgan Freeman watching the sun sink beneath the distant Gulf of Mexico horizon on Clearwater Beach?

Could be – for those who missed it, Freeman and other "Dolphin Tale" stars were in town recently for the film's official press junket, hosted by the Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort. The marketing event attracted throngs of print and television journalists from near and far ... and was scrupulously secured by hotel event management, so that autograph-hounds and celebrity-seekers had little chance of rubbing elbows with the Hollywood elite.

But wait: There's another event that promises to bring a taste of the glitz and glamour of a red-carpet premiere to Clearwater.

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium held a 3-D screening of "Dolphin Tale" on Sept. 21, at Ruth Eckerd Hall.

The event was sponsored by Bright House Networks and featured supporting cast, production crew members and local celebrities – along with the possibility of "lead talent."

To facilitate this special screening, the CMA arranged to install a 3-D system with its 3-D partner, American High Def. American High Def has provided 3-D set-up for major events, including the Grammys and the world premiere of the highest grossing movie of all time, "Avatar."

This special screening will benefit CMA and the Challenged Athletes Foundation.

"Dolphin Tale," a Warner Bros. and Alcon Entertainment film, was inspired by the true story of Winter the Dolphin, who lost her tail in a crab trap and learned to swim again using a prosthetic tail. Her ability to overcome a life-threatening injury, coupled with her amazing personality, has inspired people from around the world to overcome their own life challenges. This family-friendly film will bring her story and CMA's mission of marine life rescue, rehabilitation and release to the big screen.

The film opens in theaters nationwide on Friday, Sept. 23.

About the film

At the heart of "Dolphin Tale" is the story of Winter, a brave dolphin, and of the compassionate people who banded together to save her life.

In the film, a young dolphin is caught in a crab trap, severely damaging her tail. She is rescued and transported to the Clearwater Marine Hospital, where she is named Winter. But her fight for survival has just begun: Losing her tail may cost Winter her life.

The efforts of a dedicated marine biologist, a brilliant prosthetics doctor and young boy with unwavering devotion combine to bring about a groundbreaking miracle which could ultimately help thousands of people around the world.

The film stars Harry Connick Jr. as Clay Haskett, who runs the Clearwater Marine Hospital; Ashley Judd as Lorraine Nelson, a single mother; Nathan Gamble as her son, Sawyer, who frees Winter from the trap and forms a unique connection with the dolphin; Cozi Zuehlsdorff as Hazel, Clay's daughter, who befriends Sawyer; Kris Kristofferson as Clay's father, Reed; and Morgan Freeman as Cameron McCarthy, who takes on the seemingly impossible task of crafting a prosthetic tail for Winter.

Of course, the real star of the movie is Winter, who plays herself in "Dolphin Tale." Winter has been a resident of CMA since 2006 when the 3-month-old dolphin found herself wrapped tightly in a crab trap line and was unable to escape. She was rescued from Mosquito Lagoon (near Cape Canaveral) and transported to the CMA to begin her long rehabilitation – as well as her journey to stardom.

Filming 'Dolphin Tale'

"Dolphin Tale" was filmed on location in Florida, including Winter's home at the CMA. While it is based on Winter's story, as with most Hollywood films, the film is an amalgam of fact and fiction.

"Researching the true story, Richard Ingber and I saw how many elements would translate cinematically but felt we needed to anchor it in the emotional context of the dolphin's relationships with people," said Noam Dromi, screenwriter, in production notes. "Who better to exemplify that than a young boy? Seeing Winter through the eyes of children gives us that sense of wonder."

The director of the film, Charles Martin Smith, can be credited for making the call to allow Winter to play herself in "Dolphin Tale."

"When we were prepping, there was the obvious question of how to depict Winter," Smith said. "Because of the distinctive side-to-side wiggle that she developed to swim, which is also integral to the story, the
best solution was to use the real Winter." Smith pointed out that his decision also meant filming on location at CMA, called Clearwater Marine Hospital in the movie. "The results were above and beyond our expectations."

Before Winter could make her film debut, the production needed the cooperation of her real-life "family" at the CMA.

"I had many conversations with Charles and the producers because, first and foremost, I had to protect Winter," said David Yates, CEO of

See DOLPHIN TALE, page 2B

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DOLPHIN TALE, from page 1B

the aquarium. "We wanted it to be a positive experience for her."

Yates also had to set ground rules for the filmmakers.

"They also had to understand who we are and what we're about because they were pretty much going to be dropping into the middle of our operations, and we had to make sure we didn't, in any way, put any of our animals at risk," Yates explained in the production notes. "From day one, they all said, 'This is your call; whatever you say is how it's going to be done.' It turned out to be a fantastic partnership."

While filming was still under way last November, Yates discussed the process on the aquarium's news blog.

"The filming process has gone incredibly well, as we have had perfect weather," Yates said. "The four major stars have all been at CMA on various days. The big star, Winter, has out-performed them all."

Freeman echoes those sentiments in the production notes.

"I was looking forward to getting to work with Winter," Freeman said. "I know she's the real star of the movie, so I just tried to ingratiate myself."

Benefits from 'Dolphin Tale'

"When you see the movie," Yates said in the CMA news blog, "Look closely as there are quite a few CMA staff and volunteers scattered throughout it."

In fact, at least one aquarium staff member has already turned up on the big screen, even before the film's official theatrical release.

An in-theater trailer for "Dolphin Tale" began airing in theaters nationwide in June. The promo features Abby Stone, senior marine mammal trainer at CMA. Stone had a nonspeaking role in "Dolphin Tale."

The in-theater promo, 2:30 minutes in length, was shown prior to several summer family movies, including "Kung Fu Panda 2."

Because "Dolphin Tale" was filmed on location in Pinellas and the aquarium is featured so prominently in the story, there is hope that the Tampa Bay area will see continuing benefits from the publicity once the film hits theaters.

The economic impact has already been significant. Revenue was generated while the film was in production.

"The St. Pete/Clearwater area has benefited hugely from 'Dolphin Tale,' said Jennifer Parramore, the St. Petersburg-Clearwater film commissioner, in an email interview. "While filming, Alcon Entertainment spent in the area of $16 million in direct production dollars on location. Then, some 200 crew and cast also spent money while they were here for three months. That's dollars not spent by the production company."

Bottlenose Productions Inc. rented Clearwater's Harborview Center for four months, giving it a base where it could build and store props for "Dolphin Tale."

"The size and proximity of the Harborview Center to the primary production area – in and around the Clearwater Marine Aquarium – make the Harborview Center important to the success of the filming ...," a staff memo to the City Council said. "The movie production will provide significant economic benefit and international tourism exposure to the city of Clearwater and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium as a result of the production within the city and the resultant film distribution."

In addition to financial benefits, the publicity is invaluable, Parramore said.

"Local, national and international news media reporters and entertainment reporters have done stories on the film, the dolphin and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium."

Visit St. Pete/Clearwater, the destination marketing organization for Pinellas County, has several things it's doing to take advantage of the attention the movie is garnering, Parramore explained.

"It's sponsoring a New York and a London media conference next week to talk about the CMA and the Clearwater/Pinellas County destination," she said. "CMA director David Yates will be in London doing a whirlwind of interviews about the film and Winter. A full-page ad is running in USA Today's national edition promoting the area, which will be timed to the film opening."

Parramore's organization, the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Film Commission, also has capitalized on the release of "Dolphin Tale." The commission has run two ads and plans on further advertising specifically targeting the filmmaking market.

"We are promoting the fact that 'Dolphin Tale' was shot here, and all the filming went supremely well, with the implication that any film will have a productive experience in the St. Pete/Clearwater area," Parramore said. "Film commission ads will run in 'The Location Guide' which targets European and international production professionals, and one in 'Inside Sundance,' the magazine produced by the Sundance Institute, distributed at the festival and year-round to its students."

According to Parramore, county and CMA staff fully anticipate a big uptick in the number of visitors who come to Clearwater as a direct result of the film.

"There is an entire sub-specialty in the tourism research business about film-induced tourism," she said. "There is every reason to believe that visitors will come for many years to see the aquarium."

That exposure has already led to record-breaking attendance increases at the aquarium.

According to a press release from the aquarium, five years ago, CMA's July attendance was only 9,302, but with the arrival of Winter and a new management team, CMA's attendance numbers began to consistently increase. In July 2009, CMA reached 23,583 attendees.

This July, as trailers ran in theatres and "Dolphin Tale" promotions began ramping up around the country, 32,453 visitors passed through the CMA to see Winter.

Frank Dame, COO of the CMA, spoke to the Clearwater Beach Rotary Club on Sept. 1, saying the upcoming year promises to be an exciting one for the aquarium.

According to Dame, audiences who have seen trailers and teasers are already flocking to the aquarium to see Winter the dolphin.

Dame reassured the Rotary Club that the publicity hasn't changed the CMA's mission. The aquarium's stated goal is to restore and preserve the marine environment. It accomplishes that objective through leadership in education, research, and the rescue rehabilitation and release of marine life.

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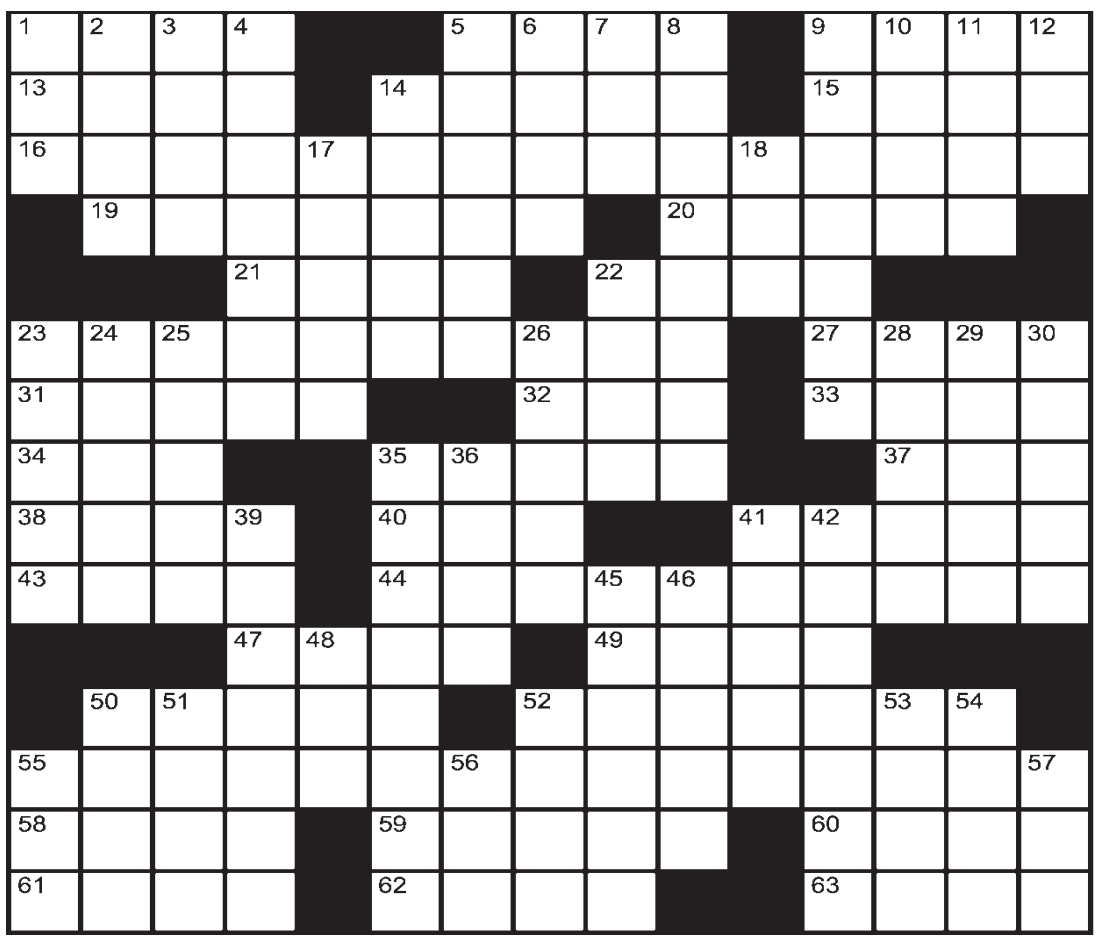


Across

1. Thanksgiving dish
5. Campus military org.
9. Speed
13. "Don't bet ___!" (2 wd)
14. Calyx part
15. "God's Little ___"
16. Indisposed (3 wd)
19. Idiot
20. The real ___
21. Denials
22. Homebuilder's strip
23. Sneeze response
27. "Desire Under the ___"
31. Cartoon art
32. Schuss, e.g.
33. Dirty
34. Calif. airport (acronym)
35. Beasts of burden
37. ___ cross
38. "Hamlet" has five
40. ___ constrictor
41. Football's ___ Bowl
43. Eye affliction
44. Wall alcoves where light enters (2 wd)
47. At no time, poetically
49. Bit
50. Solicits money while performing music
52. On fire
55. Mugshots (2 wd)
58. Pepsi, e.g.
59. Representative
60. Bad marks
61. Any group derived from a simple aromatic ring
62. Erupt
63. "___ we forget"

Down

1. "___ rang?"
2. "___ and the King of Siam"
3. Calf-length skirt
4. Chest protector
5. Discuss again
6. Kind of column
7. Spotted, to Tweety
8. Ornamental climbing plants
9. Tennis ___ (pl.)
10. Bounce back, in a way
11. Deuce topper
12. "___ Town Too" (1981 hit)
14. Charger
17. French wine region
18. Appear
22. Go for
23. Balls
24. Legislate
25. A mile a minute
26. English exam finale, often
28. Kind of ticket
29. Cat's cry
30. Disparaging remarks
35. Convent superiors
36. Fly high
39. Voluptuous
41. Fairy tale figure
42. Fleet's commander
45. Roll about in mud
46. "Enchanted April" setting
48. Barely get, with "out"
50. Crude dude
51. Hideous
52. Preferred above others
53. "Good going!"
54. Patrilineal clan
55. ___ Victor (acronym)
56. Former measure of U.S. economy (acronym)
57. Undertake, with "out"

Sudoku

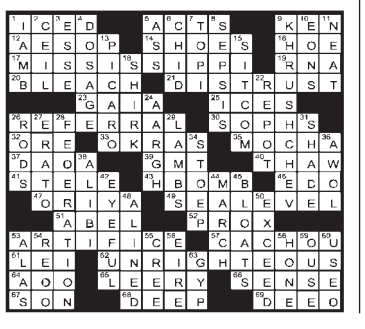
	2		8		1			
		8		2	9		7	5
				3		9	8	
7	5	4						
			6	8	4			
						4	9	3
	1	5		6				
6	9		2	4		8		
			1		5		2	

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.

Sudoku answers from last week

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

Crossword answers from last week



Horoscopes

September 22, 2011

Capricorn

December 22 – January 19

You're so close to getting to the root of a problem. Keep digging, Capricorn. A colleague makes an offer you can't refuse. Phone calls make life interesting.

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18

Free spirit you may be, but you're going to have to rein it in this week. Add to the conversation only if you have something worth adding. Otherwise, stay mum, Aquarius.

Pisces

February 19 – March 20

It's win-win situation for all, Pisces, so stop dawdling and get moving. An auto issue grows steadily worse. Find a fresh face to fix it.

Aries

March 21 – April 19

Good times ahead, Aries, as family get together for a little party in your honor. Turns out you made a difference after all. A furry friend receives a clean bill of health.

Taurus

April 20 – May 20

Come off it, Taurus. You know you want to go, so go. The dilemma that's making you hesitate will still be there when you return, but this time, you'll have the answer.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21

You've got the magic touch this week, Gemini, and everything you do is golden. A youngster sets off a comical chain of events. Don't bother trying to keep a straight face.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22

Wish no more, Cancer. The one thing you've been hoping for finally happens. Days spent slaving over a hot stove do not disappoint when the palates of the pickiest are pleased.

Leo

July 23 – August 22

Bow out, Leo. You've reached the end of the line, and now it's time to make a graceful exit. Don't stay more than your due. Your performance will not measure up.

Virgo

August 23 – September 22

A little get-together ends in a surprising reveal. Take some time to let it all soak in before you make any moves, Virgo. A letter finally arrives.

Libra

September 23 – October 22

Tsk-tsk, Libra. You gave it shot, but it didn't work out, and now it's time you paid the piper. Stop dawdling and get it over with. It won't be as bad as you think.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 21

It's all in the details, Scorpio. Don't overlook anything in your review. Check every fact and figure and release the information only when ready.

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21

No news is good news, right? Not necessarily, Sagittarius. Better check in with an old pal and see what's going on. A bill is less than expected.

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LOOKING AHEAD, from page 1B

on Oct. 11. The album's lead single, "See No More," was released in June and earned rave reviews from both Billboard and Entertainment Weekly. Sean is the international superstar behind songs such as "Down," featuring Lil' Wayne, and "Do You Remember," chart-topping hits from his U.S. debut album "All or Nothing."

• **"The Fly,"** Tuesday, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Admission is $6. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Part of the Capitol Classic Film Series, "The Fly" will kick off a month of classic Halloween inspired films. This 1958 version of "The Fly" follows scientist Andre Delambre as he becomes obsessed with his latest creation, a matter transformer. He decides to use himself as a human test subject and things go drastically wrong. During the transference, his atoms become merged with a fly that was trapped in the transporter. Eventually, Andre's wife, Helene discovers his secret and must make a decision whether to let him continue to live as part fly or to do the unthinkable. The film stars David Hedison, Patricia Owens and horror film cult icon Vincent Price who is best known for this distinctive voice.

• **Lindsey Buckingham**, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets range from $29 to $79. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Buckingham, the iconic Fleetwood Mac guitarist and male vocalist, will release his sixth solo album, "Seeds We Sow," on Sept. 6. In support of the new album, Buckingham plans a 31-city North American tour. The album is the first self-release for the Grammy winner, producer and Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame member. From the album's first single "In Our Own Time," to the soft melodic pop/rock tinge of "End Of Time" and the album's most rocking track, "One Take," to the touching "When She Comes Down" and the almost lullaby-esque hushed tones of the gorgeous closing number, "She Smiles Sweetly," the album showcases Buckingham's full arsenal of skills. Buckingham is best known for his work as guitarist, male vocalist and songwriter for Fleetwood Mac, a band that has sold more than 100 million albums worldwide, won countless awards, sold out venues around the world, and helped define the sound of rock for the last three decades. Buckingham was the predominant musical force behind such Mac albums as "Rumours" and the innovative "Tusk," and has created a critically acclaimed body of solo work that yielded the hits, "Trouble," "Go Insane" and "Holiday Road." After moving to Los Angeles in 1973 with then girlfriend Stevie Nicks, the two were signed to Polydor Records and released the now cult favorite Buckingham Nicks album. The two joined Fleetwood Mac on New Year's Eve of 1974 and the band's self-titled album was released in 1975. The album was a hit, however, it did not compare to the success of 1977's "Rumors," led by the Buckingham-written single "Go Your Own Way," which has gone on to become one of the best selling albums of all time. 1979's critically acclaimed double-album, "Tusk," famously cost the band more than a million dollars to record and was followed by 1982's "Mirage" and 1987's "Tango in the Night," also huge commercial successes for the band. Buckingham's first solo album, 1981's "Law and Order," produced the hit single "Trouble." Buckingham's subsequent solo albums, 1984's "Go Insane," 1992's "Out of the Cradle," 2006's "Under the Skin" and 2008's "Live at the Bass Performance Hall" and "Gift of Screws" have all earned critical acclaim. Buckingham was recently honored with ASCAP's Golden Note Award, and also has received The Les Paul Award.

• **The Script**, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road. Tickets range from $38 to $43. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Hot off the heels of a notable No. 3 debut for their recent studio album, "Science & Faith," the Irish rockers known as The Script kicked off a 31-city headlining tour Aug. 30 in Minneapolis, Minn. The tour makes a stop at Ruth Eckerd Hall Oct. 5. "For The First Time," the hit single off "Science & Faith," debuted on the Irish Singles Chart at No. 1. It peaked at No. 4 on the UK Singles Chart and at No. 12 on the Australian ARIA Singles Chart. In the United States, the single reached No. 4 on the Billboard Adult Pop Songs Chart and No. 23 on the Billboard Hot 100. The album debuted at No. 1 in Ireland and the UK. Written and produced by The Script frontman Danny O'Donoghue and guitarist Mark Sheehan, "Science & Faith" was recorded in both London and Los Angeles and showcases emotion-packed songs that contain fluid melodies, haunting hooks and O'Donoghue's soulful vocals.

Dunedin

• **Starlight Concerts**, Friday, Sept. 23, 7 to 9 p.m., at Highlander Park's Sindoon Stage, 1920 Pinehurst Road. Presented by the City of Dunedin Parks and Recreation Department, the featured performer will be Late Night Brass playing horn-band classics. Admission is free. Attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic and blanket and enjoy the music under the stars. Concessions will be available. Call 812-4530.

• **Starlight Concerts**, Friday, Sept. 30, 7 to 9 p.m., at Highlander Park's Sindoon Stage, 1920 Pinehurst Road. Presented by the City of Dunedin Parks and Recreation Department, the featured performer will be Pocket Change playing the hits of Motown, R&B and funk. Admission is free. Attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic and blanket and enjoy the music under the stars. Concessions will be available. Call 812-4530.

• **48th annual Art Harvest**, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 5-6, at Highlander Park, 1920 Pinehurst Road. Presented by the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin, the event will feature more than 200 artists from around the country, including this year's featured artist Herbert Scott Davis. Davis was born in Tampa in 1961 and grew up in Ybor City. Davis' pastels have a level of uniqueness that is not often seen in the art world today. Created only with overlapping line work, they expose the simple nuances of the human figure in glowing tones of flowing color. His acrylic paintings are rich with texture and color that invite the viewer to reach out and touch the artwork. Admission is free. Parking is $5 at Highlander Park and $3 at the nearby Dunedin High School. There will be food and beverage vendors on site, as well as a children's tent with art projects provided for supervised children. All proceeds from this event are reinvested into the community and have helped fund notable projects such as the Dunedin Fine Arts Center, UPARC Foundation, The Rick Pitino High Point Center, and the F.U.N. Bus, which has provided field trip transportation for over 50,000 area public school children. For information, call 738-5523.

Indian Rocks Beach

• **The Professional Association of Visual Artists annual Members' Exhibit**, through Oct. 28, at the Beach Art Center, 1515 Bay Palm Blvd. PAVA is an artist-run organization. It is composed of artists from throughout the state of Florida and has been in existence for more than 23 years, providing educational programs and exhibition opportunities for its members. Artworks featured in the show will include painting, pastel, drawing, printmaking, photography, ceramics, jewelry and sculpture. For information about PAVA, visit www.pava-artists.org. For information about the Beach Art Center, call 596-4331.

Largo

• **Fourth Saturday Car Show Series**, sponsored by Imperial Palms Apartments, Saturday, Sept. 24, 5 to 7 p.m., at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road. Attendees will have an opportunity to see some of the area's most impressive hot rods and classic cars at the car show. Cars of all ages are welcome. Entry fee is $10 a car and prizes for best in show will be awarded for each decade. The Clear Water BlueGrass Revue will perform. Spectator entry is free. All ages are welcome. Call 518-3131 or visit LargoCommunityCenter.com.

• **Janet's Planet**, Saturday, Oct. 1, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Janet's Planet: An Out Of This World Adventure will explore the wonders of science. What is a light year? Why does ice melt? Find out all this and more when Janet Ivey travels at the "speed of thought" and delivers information about health, science and history on this planet. Ivey, a nine-time Emmy Award winner, is a nationally televised advocate for educating young scientists, astronauts and engineers, is committed to enriching the lives of children through education and programming. She created this educational live show to enhance the S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) curriculum being presented in schools. She has recently won the esteemed Gracie Allen Award for "Exploring Microgravity," a new program she produced with Space Florida. Tickets are $7.50 for adults and $6.50 for children. Call 587-6793 or visit LargoArts.com.

• **Sunday Matinee Music Program Series**, Sunday, Oct. 9, at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road. The featured entertainment will be Oktoberfest with Das Deutschmeister Blas Band. Each show in the series will feature a meal, live entertainment and dancing. Dinner is served at 3:30 p.m. Entertainment starts at 4 p.m. Dancing follows the entertainment from 6 to 10 p.m. A cash bar is available. Advance tickets are $12 for dinner and show; $18 for dinner, show and dance; or $8 for the dance only. Dinner tickets must be purchased by the Wednesday prior to the show. Call 518-3131 or visit LargoCommunity Center.com.

• **"Mister Roberts,"** by Thomas Heggen and Joshua Logan, presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, Nov. 4-13, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are $20 for adults and $12 for students age 19 and younger with identification. Call 587-6793 or visit www.eightoclocktheatre.com. One of the more enduring plays to emerge from the World War II era, "Mister Roberts" shows, with a light touch, a side of war that is often forgotten – not the excitement or the heroism of battle, but the boredom of the men assigned to less glamorous work, where one's enemies are as often as not the officers who hold power over them, rather than the soldiers or sailors of the opposing forces.

• **Sunday Matinee Music Program Series**, Sunday, Nov. 13, at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road. The featured entertainment will be Country Jamboree with Clear Water Bluegrass Revue. Each show in the series will feature a meal, live entertainment and dancing. Dinner is served at 3:30 p.m. Entertainment starts at 4 p.m. Dancing follows the entertainment from 6 to 10 p.m. A cash bar is available. Advance tickets are $12 for dinner and show; $18 for dinner, show and dance; or $8 for the dance only. Dinner tickets must be purchased by the Wednesday prior to the show. Call 518-3131 or visit LargoCommunityCenter.com.

• **Peace Frog**, Saturday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are $24 in advance and $29 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Peace Frog, the ultimate Doors tribute band, recreates the primal, poetic atmosphere of a vintage Doors concert. The band also will celebrate the first anniversary of Morrison's pardon requested by Governor Charlie Crist. Crist suggested the possibility of a posthumous pardon for Morrison, which was approved unanimously by the state clemency board on Dec. 9, 2010.

• **Sunday Matinee Music Program Series**, Sunday, Dec. 11, at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road. The featured entertainment will be a Holiday Show with the Florida Suncoast Barbershop Chorus. Each show in the series will feature a meal, live entertainment and dancing. Dinner is served at 3:30 p.m. Entertainment starts at 4 p.m. Dancing follows the entertainment from 6 to 10 p.m. A cash bar is available. Advance tickets are $12 for dinner and show; $18 for dinner, show and dance; or $8 for the dance only. Dinner tickets must be purchased by the Wednesday prior to the show. Call 518-3131 or visit LargoCommunityCenter.com.

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SEMINOLE, LONG BAYOU, Totally Renovated 2BR/2BA, Resort Style Living! 2nd Floor. 55+, Gated community. Many amenities. $875/Month. (727)385-7718.

SEMINOLE: 2BR/2BA, POOL 2nd Floor, W/D, $850/Month, W/S/G & Cable Included. Call Colleen, (727)397-9146, After 4:30PM.

SHIPWATCH: Nice Selection Of 2BR/2BA Units. Walk To Beach! Starting At $1,200. Nonsmoking, No Pets. Shipwatch Rlty, Inc. **www.ShipWatchRealty.com** (727)596-6508.

SPACIOUS 2BR/2BA CONDO w/Loft. Near Indian Rocks Beach. Many Amenities. Exceptional Condo Living!! $1,200/month. (727)710-2093.

SUMMER SPECIALS!!! Luxury 2BR, 1,000SF, Screened Porch, **FREE** On-site Laundry, Near Largo Med, Pets OK. From $825/Month. W/S/G/Cable Incl. (727)421-2627. RussellPropertyManagement.com

165.Villa Rentals

CONDOS & VILLAS FOR RENT: 1BR/1BA Villa, 4355 84th Ave. N. Pinellas Pk. $665/mo. 1BR/1BA Villa, 5200 Springwood Blvd. Pinellas Pk. $595/mo. 2BR/2BA Condo, 121 Loblolly Ct. Oldsmar, $795/mo. Pool, Yard, Pets. (727)688-1678 www.villa-rentals.webs.com

LARGO 2BR/2BA, NEWLY Remodeled 2/Car Driveway, W/D, Enclosed Florida Room, Extra Storage. $950/Month, First, Last, Security, Background Check. (727)397-9971.

170. Furn. Apartments

CLEARWATER, 1BR. Easy Access To Beaches, Shopping. Rent Immediately. Winter Months, $900/Mo. Annual, $600/Mo. (727)678-6725.

FACING EVICTION? Move in today! Studio apts. starting @$185/week. Open 24/7. No credit check. No security deposit. Free local phone calls. Pets okay. (727)446-6560.

MADEIRA BEACH: 1BRs & Efficiencies. Fully Equipped. Weekly. No Pets. Includes Utilities. (727)397-4130.

SEMINOLE LAKE AREA. On Busline/ Shopping/ Trail. 1BR/1BA. All Utilities +Cable Included. $220/wk. Call (727)647-2274.

175. Unfurn. Apartments

SEMINOLE GARDENS, 55+. 1BR Deluxe, Furnished, Corner. No Pets. Nonsmokers Only. Robert G. Castles, P.A., Broker. (727)595-8229 www.SeminoleGarden.com

Apartments for Seniors 063011
(New Building)
Applications Available at
St. Giles Manor II
7650 58th Street N Pinellas Park, FL 33781
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ❑ 1 BR Apartments
- ❑ Rent based on income
- ❑ Must be at least 62 years of age

(727) 623-9886
TTY - 800-955-8771

1, 2 & 3 BEDROOMS Small Property. Screened Pool, Laundry. Starts at $575/Mo. Credit Check Req. 6570 66th Ave. N. (727)526-2683.

BELLEAIR BLUFFS Deluxe 1&2BRs. Overlooking Pool and Courtyard. One block from Intracoastal & Shopping. 2942 West Bay Dr. (727)483-4853.

BELLEAIR BLUFFS 2BR/1BA Triplex Apartment, quiet cul-de-sac, non-smoking, covered carport. $775+ neg. month. (727)742-1531.

BELLEAIR BLUFFS: 2BR/1BA, Clean & Quiet, Inside Laundry, Carport. Cats OK. $700/Month, Includes W/S/G. (727)455-2260.

1BR/1BA & 2BR/1-1.5BA. Pool, Laundry Room. Starting At $575/Mo. Credit Check Required 5290 70th Ave. N. (727)526-2683.

CLEARWATER: STUDIOS Starting at $179/Week. No security, No credit check. Free WiFi access. Pets OK. MOVE IN TODAY!! (727)445-7134.

INDIAN SHORES: 1BR APTS. 19235 Whispering Pines Drive. $650/mo. & $950/mo. includes Electric, Garbage, Water, Lawn Service. Annual. Owner/ Agent, (727)328-2957, (727)599-5814.

LARGO: VERY CLOSE TO Transportation, Shopping, Hospital. Move-in Special! 1BR/1BA, $600/month, 2BR/1BA, $650/month, 2BR/2BA, $700/month. (727)280-5005.

SEMINOLE GARDENS: DELUXE 1BR, 1,012sf. Immaculate, new AC, appliances, 13'x22.6" BR. Walk-in closet, large screened porch, $675/month. 55+. (727)743-3589.

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Too busy to call in to our office? Can't visit in person?
Order your classified ad online, 24/7, quickly and easily. Visit www.TBNweekly.com, click on "Place A Classified," complete & submit the form. A representative from the classified dept. will follow up with you during regular office hours to confirm your order and obtain payment information.
ADS WILL NOT BE PLACED WITHOUT CONFIRMATION AND PAYMENT DETAILS FROM YOU.

12607

175. Unfurn. Apartments

IMPERIAL PALMS APARTMENTS A Senior Rental Community 55+ Community

CALL TO HEAR ABOUT OUR SPECIALS OR CALL TO SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY
1 & 2 Bedroom Apts.
Small pets welcome
727-585-3723
Next door to Largo's Brand New Community Center

032411

LARGO, EFFICIENCY, 152 3RD St. NW, $140/Wk. Dunedin Room, $75/Wk. Call (727)586-2412 or Click www.586-2412.com

LARGO: 4TH AVE. NW: Cozy, 1BR/1BA, $495/Mo. +1st/ Last/ Security. Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

LARGO: SMALL 1BR, $425; Large 1BR, $550. Includes water. Nice neighborhood, Petless, Year's lease, credit check. (727)584-6952.

8423 SEMINOLE BLVD. 1BR/1BA, $720/month, Includes super cable, requires deposit. (727)584-4707, (727)392-0248.

S.W. LARGO: LG. 1BR/1BA, $500/Month. 2BR/1BA, $520/Month. Quiet. Laundry on Premises. Petless. $400 security. Yearly lease. (727)595-2228. Last Month FREE!

185. Beach Rentals

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH Cozy, Clean, Furnished Cottages. 1-2BRs, starting at $315/week. (ASK ABOUT FALL SPECIALS!) Steps to Gulf Beach. Pet Friendly. www.UncleMiltsCottages.com. (727)595-8013.

A MADEIRA BEACH GEM! Walk To Beach. Clean, quiet 1BR/1BA. Tile. Large yard. From $550/month. (727)397-1800 ext. 261 kkohan@tampabay.rr.com. www.SunCoastHome.com.

FURNISHED/ UNFURNISHED 1-5 Bedrooms Condos, Houses, Duplexes Weekly/ Monthly/ Annual Bob Schmidt, (727)580-9797 Tropical Isles Realty, Inc. (727)593-0744, (800)655-0744

I.R.B. 2BR/1BA, Steps to Beach. Ground Floor, Corner, Balcony, Tiled. Park in front of your door. Next To Park. Pet Okay. $995/Mo. (727)488-1111.

REDINGTON BEACH, 3BR/2BA Furnished, Direct beach view, pool, Pets OK, $2,350/month,. Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

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Tampa Bay NEWSPAPERS
(727) 397-5563
TBNweekly.com

175. Unfurn. Apartments

The Pinellas County Housing Authority (PCHA) is accepting applications for Norton Apartments. These units will be available to those whose incomes are at or below 50% of the area median income. Tenant rent shall be determined based on 30% of your monthly income per the current Section 8 Guidelines.

The current guidelines require that applicant's income does not exceed the current income guidelines, which is total family income dependent on the number in household of:

1 person- $19,800	2 person - $22,600	3 person - $25,450	4 person - $28,250
5 person- $30,550	6 person - $32,800	7 person - $35,050	8 person - $37,300

Norton Apartments will open its waiting lists for their 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom units and will close the waiting list for each unit size once 50 applications are received. Applications will be available **only** on September 26, 2011 beginning at **10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.** EST online at www.pin-cha.org or by picking one up at the following locations and times:

Location	Address	Time
Dunedin Public Library	223 Douglas Avenue, Dunedin, FL 34698	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Largo Public Library	120 Central Park Dr, Largo, FL 33771	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

All applications must be sent **via U.S. MAIL ONLY** and postmarked by September 30, 2011, and mailed to Pinellas County Housing Authority, ATTN: Norton Apartments Waitlist, 11479 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33778. No telephone calls, walk-ins, or dropoff applications will be accepted. Any application that is not fully and accurately completed shall be void. Only one application per household will be considered throughout the entire process. Any household that submits more than one application will be void. Applicants will be notified via mail of their placement on the waiting list.

Handicapped and/or disabled applicants Head of Household ONLY: If you are unable to pick up an application at one of the locations above you may call 727-443-7684 ext. 3161 beginning September 21, 2011 through September 25, 2011 to request an application to be mailed to you. Applications must be postmarked by September 30, 2011.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

092211

185. Beach Rentals

GULF VIEWS ON SAND KEY, 2BR/2BA, Newly Remodeled. Assigned Parking. Large Balcony. $1,500/Month, Annual. Niki, (727)644-4684.

SEMINOLE 2BR/2BA, POOL, W/D. Cable Included. Balcony, Great Water View. New Interior. Quiet. Elevators. $1,000/Mo. (727)439-4739.

TREASURE ISLAND, 105 110th Ave. 2BR On Water, Dock, Laundry, From $950/Mo. Walk To Beach. Credit Check. Pets OK. (727)367-9474.

195. Seasonal Rentals

SAND KEY, CLEARWATER BCH Furnished 2BR/2BA Condos Available 1-12 Months. Florida Dreams RE Sales & Rentals, Inc. (727)595-5774.

SEMINOLE: 1BR CONDO, 1ST Floor. Great Location! Furnished. Remodeled, 55+. Heated Pools. Nonsmoking. (412)708-4734, (412)233-3151.

200. Vacation Rentals

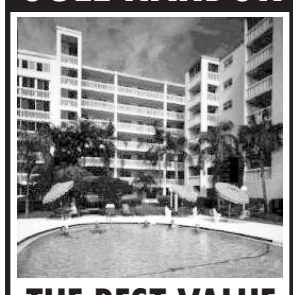
CLEARWATER BEACH Fully furnished 1BR & 2BR condo units. One-month minimum. No smoking/ pets. JOHN DORAN REALTY. (727)461-9142.

210. M.H. Rentals

BLUE SKIES M.H.P. LARGO. Mobile Homes For Rent. Move-In Special, $199. One Bedroom. Call (727)657-2104, (813)789-8331.

185. Beach Rentals

GULL HARBOR



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We have MORE: Amenities, Fun Activities & include more Services.
Spacious, Clean 1, 2 & 3 bdrm Condos Starting at $900
Call us today and start your move home to Gull Harbor! 55+
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727-392-0753

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190. Waterfront Rentals

1BR/1BA CONDO, Unfurnished, Treasure Island, Palms, Boat Slip, Updated. $875/month, Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

2/3BR BEACH-FRONT CONDOS Redington Shrs. Fantastic Views! 1,250-2,000SF. Furn. /Unfurn. Heated Pool. Pets OK. $1,375/month. (727)424-2945.

225. Duplex-Triplex Rental

2BR/1BA UPDATED, C/H/A, W/D hook-up, 3920 7th Ave. N. St. Petersburg. Owner/agent. $800/month. (727)328-2957, (727)599-5814.

CENTRALLY LOCATED IN Largo. 2BR/1BA w/utility hook-ups, new appliances, tiled throughout, $700/month. (727)596-2338.

245. Room For Rent

NICE AREA OFF PARK BLVD. Furn., Private Bath, Refrigerator, Microwave, Cable. On Bus Line. $150/Wk. +Sec. (727)398-0763.

ROOMS AVAILABLE IN Private Homes From $400-$500/Month. Applications & Criminal Background Checks Required. Contact: Home Share Pinellas. www.homeshareprogram.org (727)945-1528

SAFE, CLEAN, QUIET. Fully Furnished. Utilities, Cable Included. Deposit, References, ID Required. From $135/Week. (727)547-1199.

SEMINOLE: LIVE IN $500,000 Home. Cable, Refrigerator, W/D, Microwave, $120/week or $450/month. Background check, 2 references, $125 security. (727)595-0727.

ST. PETERSBURG BEACH Mature adult preferred. Private entrance and bath. $500/Month includes utilities, cable. (727)394-8877.

255. Accom. To Share

5-MINUTE WALK TO IRB. Main bus route. Close to everything. Private entrance, new carpet, own bath/ shower. Access to laundry room and main common area, $675/month. (727)595-4750.

265. Commercial Rentals

EXECUTIVE OFFICE AND TWO Efficiency Offices. 5 Star Location, West Bay Drive, Belleair Bluffs. (727)518-6551.

IDEAL OFFICE SPACE Directly On Gulf Blvd., NRB. 650 SF, **IMMACULATELY CLEAN!!!** (727)386-4433, (727)776-1494.

LEASE/ RENTAL IDEAL FOR SMALL BUSINESS 2 units, each w/office, bath & reception area. 2,000SF Warehouse. **Both:** Bryan Dairy Road 10830 Canal St. (727) 667-1647.

OFFICE & RETAIL SPACE From $385 - $630 Per Month. Ample Parking. Madeira Beach. (727)641-6465.

345. Lost & Found

LOST CAT: LONG-HAIRED White Male in the vicinity of 12th Street, Belleair Beach. Reward. (303)748-8824.

LOST DOG: FEMALE, WHITE Maltese-Poodle mix. Very friendly, answers to "Chloe." Missing 9/18, vicinity of 83rd St. and Flamevine, Seminole. Heartbroken child. Reward. (727)519-3992.

185. Beach Rentals

ANNUAL RENTALS

ST. PETE BEACH
1/1 Andulusian condo, tile floors, balcony, walk to beach $700

TREASURE ISLAND
3/3 Waterfront apartment, pool, fishing dock, 1 block to beach $1,250
2/2 Capri Harbor townhouse, 1,800 sq. ft., garage, pool, small pet . . .$1,400
2/2 Luxury waterfront townhouse, 2 pools, large balcony $1,700

MADEIRA BEACH
1/1 Waterfront apartment, tile floors, pool $750

WE NEED YOUR RENTAL!!!
For the BEST property management along the beaches, call us today!
MATTHEW WORKMAN
727-367-1223
SANDCASTLE REALTY INC. 201 108th Ave., Treasure Island
(727) 367-1223 or 800-226-8182
www.sandcastlerealtyinc.com

91511

175. Unfurn. Apartments

175. Unfurn. Apartments

175. Unfurn. Apartments

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360. Legal Service

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19-Years' Exp. In Bankruptcy, Over 17,000 Cases As A Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Trustee. Night & Weekend Appointments Available. I Will Come To You. Attorney Traci Stevenson. (727)397-4838. tstevenson@tampabay.rr.com

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370. Instructions-Tutors

SPANISH TUTOR
Master's Degree in Spanish (813)415-9540

TUTOR: READING AND MATH, Grades K-6. Experienced Teacher w/Masters Degree. Flexible Rates And Schedule. (727)504-9865.

375. Career Training

AVIATION MAINTENANCE. GRADUATE IN 14 MONTHS. FINANCIAL AID IF QUALIFIED. NATIONAL AVIATION ACADEMY (800)659-2080, NAA.EDU

SELL YOUR HOME IN THE CLASSIFIEDS. SPECIAL BY-OWNER RATES. CALL 397-5563 TODAY!

375. Career Training

DOG LOVERS!
Interested In A New Career? Professional Groomers Are In High Demand! Enroll Now!! Placement Services For Qualified Graduates.
Bring Your Own Dog!!!! Learn To Groom Your Own Dog Like A Pro. Look for our next Workshop. Also Weekly Seminars & Lectures. For More Information academyofanimalarts.com **(727)517-9546**
DOG GROOMING SPECIALS!! Small Dogs: $20! **SALON, (727)596-CLIP (2547)**

435. Adult Care & Service

CAREGIVER/ CNA: RELIABLE Home Health Care. 28-Years' Experience. Excellent Local References. (727)420-2919.

I'M AVAILABLE FOR companion service. Mondays & Wednesdays, 10AM-1PM. Excellent driving record. $12/hour. (727)595-8081.

KEEP YOUR LOVED ONE OUT OF A NURSING HOME! Hourly/ Live-In Assistance. B.B.B. LIC#5969. (727)424-1979.

485. Help Wanted

485. Help Wanted

SALES REPS NEEDED NOW! Start Earning Immediately. For More Info Visit: ExtendedCommerce.com

HAIRSTYLIST, MASSAGE THERAPIST, NAIL TECHNICIAN NEEDED! Booth rental or commission. TWO LOCATIONS. (727)399-8491 THE SPA AT SALON DU SOLEIL www.salondusoleilspa.com

INSIDE SALES
America II of St. Pete, a global independent distributor of electronic components, seeks extraordinary inside reps that are looking for a true sales career. Must be highly motivated, have a burning desire to succeed, and able to build strong relationships. Sales experience is not necessary; willing to train. We have select openings for English speaking, as well as German, French and Italian speaking reps. Position is base + uncapped commission. For a complete description & to apply, go to www.americaii.com or email resume to jobs@americaii.com EOE/DFWP

LOOKING FOR A RELIABLE, trustworthy, multi-tasker to work in our Seminole, FL office. Some job responsibilities are insurance verification, preparing charts, answering multi-phone lines, checking patients in and out. We are open until 6pm or 7pm some nights Monday- Friday. Please e-mail your resume to tammyalex09@aol.com

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Great Cases
All Hours
Experience Required
COMPETITIVE PAY
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P/T F/T OPENINGS
Professional courier company. Must have a dependable vehicle. Local deliveries only. Weekends a must. Also must be able to lift 25 lbs and be physically fit. For application, Call Melanie, (727)235-9289.

485. Help Wanted

EARN $1000s From Home? Be careful of Work-At-Home Schemes.
- Hidden costs can add up
- Requirements may be unrealistic.

Learn how you can avoid Work-At- Home Scams. Call: Federal Trade Comm. 1-877-FTC-HELP.
A message from Tampa Bay Newspapers and the FTC.
62807

505. Part-time Help

St. Petersburg Times
BECOME A HOME Delivery independent distributor for the ST. PETERSBURG TIMES See ad in Business Opportunity section Or go to: tampabay.com/contractor

525. Medical Help

CNAs, HHAs NEEDED FOR Pinellas County Area. Choose Your Hours. $10-$13.50 Per Hour. (727)822-3034

535. Business Opportun.

AVON, EARN 40% Why Not You? Why Not Today? Join Now!! $10 Start-Up Fee. (727)215-6339

St. Petersburg Times
BECOME A HOME Delivery independent distributor for the ST. PETERSBURG TIMES Earn average of $600 - $1,200 per month, for a few early morning hours and be your own boss! Qualifications: Must be at least 18, valid drivers license, reliable vehicle and car insurance. Contracts are 7 days/week 365 days/year For details go to: **tampabay.com/distributor** or call 1-866-498-4637.

565. Loans & Mortgages

ACCESS REVERSE MORTGAGE All FHA-Insured HECM Reverse Mortgages. Pinellas Based. Award-winning customer service. Lowest available fixed and adjustable rates. Highest available loan proceeds. #MBR656. (727)388-4453.

LOOK *who's reading the classifieds!*

585. Auctions

091511

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AUCTIONEERS • LIQUIDATORS • APPRAISERS

Public Auction
Live & Online
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Inspect: 09/26, 10am to 4pm
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15% BP Onsite, 18% BP Online
$100 ref. cash dep.
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590. Antiques-Collectibles

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600. Merchandise

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FREEZER, 5 CU. FT., $60; Deep sea fishing rods & reels, $35 each. (727)596-8899.

GENERATOR: Walsi-Tecumseh Heavy Duty, 7500 Watt, 120-240 Volt. New In Box w/Op. Manual. $1,300 OBO. (727)422-5416.

GOLD CURVED FLOOR LAMP, (Heavy base) for playing cards/ games, 3 light settings, 7ft. (727)546-5336.

LAWNMOWERS FOR SALE, (6). TRADES ACCEPTED! 4 Self-propelled, 2 Push. My Hobby. Reconditioned. $65-$135. Save Hundreds. Also Other Equipment. (727)391-6937.

SNACK MACHINE 1-20 ITEM 1-8 select soda $250 each, both $450. Also 1 snack/soda combo $525. Great money makers for mobile park, apartment building or office. (727)422-2875.

615. Appliance Sales

LIKE NEW WHITE APPLIANCES, Maytag 27cf side-by-side refrigerator, ice/ water in door, adjustable shelves, new filter $800. G.E. microwave 6/months old, top of the line $400. Kenmore Ultra wash dishwasher 7/months old $500. G.E. self-cleaning convection oven w/cooktop $500. (727)515-8392.

635. Bargain Corner

CRAFTSMAN BLOWER, RAKE, Edger/ Trimmer, Weed Eater, Toro Trimmer. **$5 EACH.** (727)585-0992.

TV STAND W/THREE SMOKED- glass shelves, holds up to 42" flat-screen TV, $75 OBO. (727)595-4025.

640. Furniture

BRAND NEW QUEEN SIZE Matt/Box, New In Plastic, $150. Must Sell! Can Deliver. (727)667-8288.

BRAND NEW SOFA/ LOVESEAT 3 Different Colors To Choose From! $495. New In Plastic. (727)667-8288

DINING TABLE, 6 CHAIRS w/Cloth Seats & Matching Hutch. Blonde Oak, Good Condition. $500. (727)584-8153.

Zebra Twin Mattress Set, $99, New Pillow-Top Queen Set, $259. Warranty. Six-piece, 800-count sheets, $20, all sizes! Designer Shop. (727)687-0213.

655. Musical Instruments

LOWREY GENIE 98 ORGAN $325, O.B.O. Excellent condition and recently tuned. (727)399-1216, (727)204-1839.

660. Want to Buy

WANTED: CLEAN FILL DIRT AT our Largo home. (727)459-4220.

WE BUY HOT TUBS! Up To $1,000 Cash Paid! Running Or Not! (727)394-8036

700. Pets & Animals

LOST: COCKATIEL, GRAY WITH yellow head, 9/2/11, vicinity of 110th Ave. and 61st St. in Pinellas Park. Answers to "Sarge." 30-year family pet. Reward. Call (727)560-0803.

705. Nursery & Garden

WANTED: CLEAN FILL DIRT AT our Largo home. (727)459-4220.

755. RV Sales

JAYCO, 2005 TRAILER. Jayfeather. Weighs only 4,000 lbs. Tow w/SUV. 1 slider, full bed/bath, kitchen. Great condition. $8,900. (727)543-0960.

810. Auto Sales

CORVETTE 1980, RARE Survivor! 1 of 3,226 with a 305 Engine, Automatic Transmission. Under 20,000 miles. Black on Black. Metal T-top. $13,500, or make offer. (727)804-8807.

FORD 2001 WINDSTAR VAN SE Sport, seats 7, clean, A/C, new brakes. $3,300. (727)535-3635, (727)657-0840.

PT CRUISER 2008, Cherry Red, 24,000 miles, automatic, power steering/ windows, very clean, $10,500. (727)596-8656.

830. Van & SUV Sales

DODGE 2005 GRAND CARAVAN SXT, Wheelchair Conversion Van, Lowered Floor. Blue, 64,350 Miles. $21,995. (727)642-6461.

885. Autos Wanted

THINKING ABOUT SELLING OR TRADING? I Will Pay More Than Trade-In On Good, Clean, Low-Mileage Vehicles. Harold Corey, Auto Broker **(727)595-9393**

GOT A CAR YOU WANNA SELL? THE GOOD, THE BAD OR THE UGLY! CALL NOW: 727 906-6723 112510

LOOK NO FURTHER! Top $$$ Paid For Junk Cars & Vans. Call (727)804-5164.

WE BUY CARS 4 CASH Any Condition. No Title & Liens OK. (813)410-9067 or (727)565-9320

$ WE PAY MORE $** Cash/Cashier Checks Today For Clean Cars, Trucks, Van's & SUV's. No Junk **$$$ Call 727-798-2921 $$$ 2311

CLASSIFIED *Information Is At* **YOUR DISPOSAL**

885. Autos Wanted

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YOU'VE CALLED THE REST NOW CALL THE BEST!
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MON. - SUN. 9AM - 9PM
WE PAY $400 TO $6,000 CASH!
FREE TOW 24/7
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL
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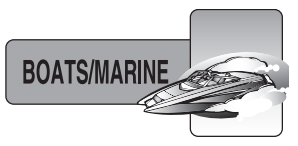

890. Boats, PWC Sales

BASS BOAT 17' WITH TRAILER. Needs Work, $400 As Is. (727)667-1647

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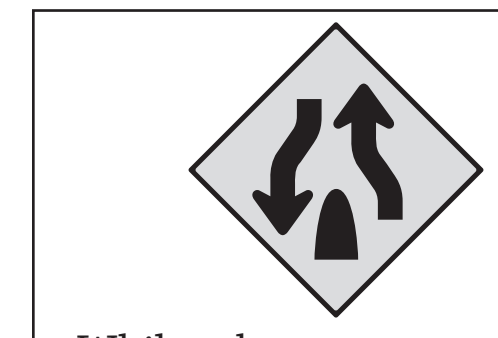

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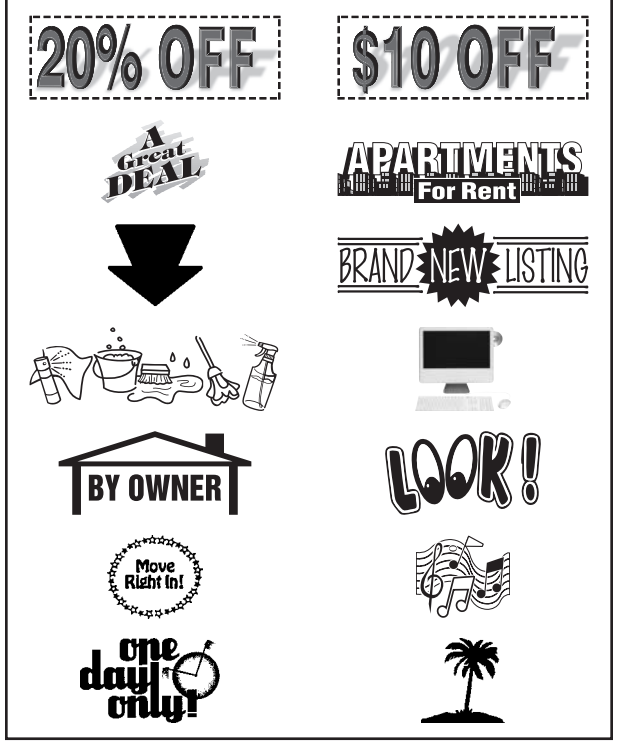

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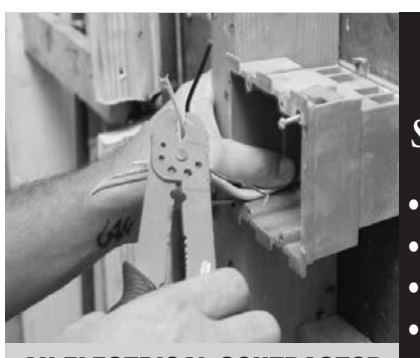
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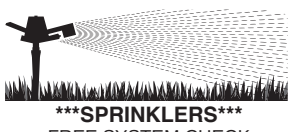

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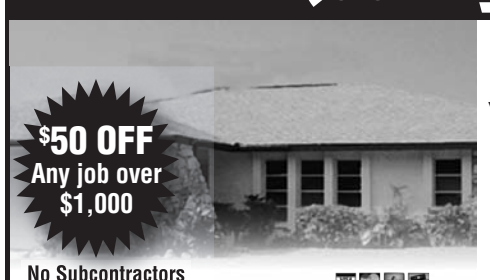

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Opening this weekend

‘Dolphin Tale’ swims into theaters; Statham and De Niro partner for ‘Killer Elite’

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

‘Abduction’

Genre: Action, adventure, drama and thriller

Cast: Taylor Lautner, Lily Collins, Alfred Molina, Sigourney Weaver and Jason Isaacs

Director: John Singleton

Rated: PG-13

For as long as he can remember, Nathan Harper (Taylor Lautner) has had the uneasy feeling that he’s living someone else’s life.

When he stumbles upon an image of himself as a little boy on a missing persons website, all of Nathan’s darkest fears come true: he realizes his parents are not his own and his life is a lie, carefully fabricated to hide something more mysterious and dangerous than he could have ever imagined.

Just as he begins to piece together his true identity, Nathan is targeted by a team of trained killers, forcing him on the run with the only person he can trust, his neighbor, Karen (Lily Collins). Every second counts as Nathan and Karen race to evade an army of assassins and federal operatives. But as his opponents close in, Nathan realizes that the only way he’ll survive – and solve the mystery of his elusive biological father – is to stop running and take matters into his own hands.

‘Dolphin Tale’

Genre: Drama and family

Cast: Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd, Kris Kristofferson, Harry Connick Jr., Nathan Gamble, Austin Stowell, Austin Highsmith and Kurt Yeager

Director: Charles Martin Smith

Rated: PG

Swimming free, a young dolphin is caught in a crab trap, severely damaging her tail.

She is rescued and transported to the Clearwater Marine Hospital, where she is named Winter. But her fight for survival has just begun.

Losing her tail may cost Winter her life. It will take the expertise of a dedicated marine biologist, the ingenuity of a brilliant prosthetics doctor, and the unwavering devotion of a young boy to bring about a groundbreaking miracle – a miracle that might not only save Winter but could also help thousands of people around the world.

“Dolphin Tale” is a heartwarming, fun adventure about the healing bonds of family, both human and animal.

‘Killer Elite’

Genre: Action, adventure and thriller

Cast: Jason Statham, Clive Owen, Robert De Niro, Yvonne Strahovski and Dominic Purcell

Director: Gary McKendry

Rated: R

An ex-special ops agent is lured out of retirement to rescue his mentor.

To make the rescue, he must complete a near-impossible mission of killing three tough-as-nails assassins with a cunning leader.

‘Moneyball’

Genre: Drama, sports and biopic

Cast: Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill, Robin Wright, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Chris Pratt, Kathryn Morris, Tammy Blanchard and Glenn Morshower

Director: Bennett Miller

Rated: PG-13

Columbia Pictures’ “Moneyball” is based on the true story of Billy Beane (Brad Pitt) – once a would-be baseball superstar who, stung by the failure to live up to expectations on the field, turned his fiercely competitive nature to management.

Heading into the 2002 season, Billy faces a dismal situation: his small-market Oakland A’s have lost their star players (again) to big market clubs (and their enormous salaries) and he is left to rebuild his team and compete with a third of their payroll. Driven to win, Billy takes on the system by challenging the fundamental tenants of the game. He looks outside of baseball, to the dismissed theories of Bill James, and hires Peter Brand (Jonah Hill), a brainy, number-crunching, Yale-educated economist. Together they take on conventional wisdom with a willingness to reexamine everything and armed with computer driven statistical analysis long ignored by the baseball establishment.

They reach imagination-defying conclusions and go after players overlooked and dismissed by the rest of baseball for being too odd, too old, too injured or too much trouble, but who all have key skills that are universally undervalued. As Billy and Peter forge forward, their new methods and roster of misfits rile the old guard, the media, the fans, and their own field manager (Philip Seymour Hoffman), who refuses to cooperate. Ultimately this experiment will lead not only to a change in the way the game is played, but to an outcome that would leave Billy with a new understanding that transcends the game and delivers him to a new place.

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

‘A Bird of the Air’

Genre: Comedy, drama and romance

Cast: Rachel Nichols, Jackson Hurst, Rocco Sisto, Matte Osian and Buck Henry

Director: Margaret Whitton

Not rated

“A Bird of the Air,” a new comic romance based on Joe Coomer’s highly acclaimed novel “The Loop,” stars Rachel Nichols and Jackson Hurst.

Coomer’s 1992 novel tells the story of Lyman (Hurst), a lovable loner whose job patrolling highways at night, aiding stranded motorists and injured animals, keeps him at a distance from other people. When an extremely rare and highly talkative parrot flies into his home one day, Lyman needs to figure out where the bird comes from and tries to decode its often cryptic and highly literary utterances. Enlisting the aid of Fiona (Nichols), a sexy librarian who is as interested in Lyman’s secrets as she is in the bird’s, the pair set off on a search that doesn’t always lead them where they think they’re going, but which gradually leads them to one another.

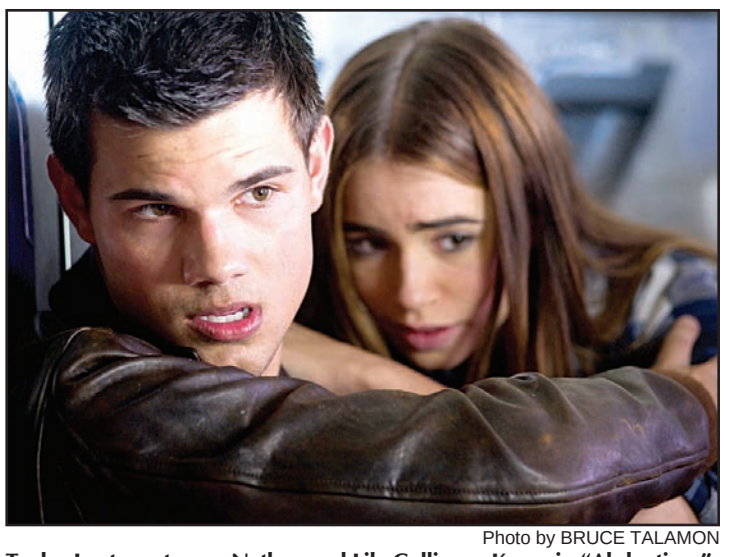

Photo by BRUCE TALAMON

Taylor Lautner stars as Nathan and Lily Collins as Karen in “Abduction.”

‘Machine Gun Preacher’

Genre: Action, adventure, drama and biopic

Cast: Gerard Butler, Michelle Monaghan, Michael Shannon, Madeline Carroll and Kathy Baker

Director: Marc Forster

Rated: R

“Machine Gun Preacher” tells the inspirational true story of Sam Childers, a former drug-dealing criminal who undergoes an astonishing transformation and finds his unexpected calling as the savior of hundreds of kidnapped and orphaned children in war-torn Sudan.

Gerard Butler stars as Childers, the impassioned founder of the Angels of East Africa rescue organization in director Marc Forster’s moving story of violence and redemption.

When ex-biker-gang member Sam Childers (Butler) makes the life-changing decision to go to East Africa to help repair homes destroyed by civil war, he is outraged by the unspeakable horrors faced by the region’s vulnerable populace, especially the children. Ignoring the warnings of more experienced aide workers, Sam breaks ground for an orphanage where it’s most needed – in the middle of territory controlled by the brutal Lord’s Resistance Army, a renegade militia that forces children to become soldiers before they even reach their teens.

But for Sam, it is not enough to shelter the LRA’s intended victims. Determined to save as many as possible, he leads armed missions deep into enemy territory to retrieve kidnapped children, restoring peace to their lives – and eventually his own. An explosive, real-life tale of a man who has rescued over a thousand orphans from starvation, disease and enslavement, “Machine Gun Preacher” also stars Michelle Monaghan, Kathy Baker, Madeline Carroll, Michael Shannon and Souleymane Sy Savane.

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