

LARGO LEADER

'The Adventures of Tintin' opens this weekend in theaters

Jamie Bell stars as a young reporter in family, action, adventure film ... **Page 2B.**



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ENTERTAINMENT



Tickets on sale for The Nutcracker

Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker 2011 will be performed Dec. 26-27, 7:30 p.m., at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets range from \$28.50 to \$88.50. Call 892-5767 or visit www.themahaffey.com. See the top five diversions. ... **Page 4B.**

Drug trafficker gets 12-year sentence

A man who police call a violent drug trafficker was sentenced to 12 years in federal prison Dec. 9 to be followed by three years of supervised release.

"This was a real win for us," said Largo Police Sgt. John Trebino, special operations unit, in an email.

For years, Trebino said, Thomas Beasley has been a large thorn in Pinellas County law enforcement's side.

Beasley had worked as a confidential informant in the past, so he was acutely aware of the way police operated and used that to his advantage, Trebino said.

Back in April of 2010, Special Operations was able to conduct a successful operation involving the sale of a fully automatic firearm by Beasley. Because of Beasley's history, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives agreed to take the case in the federal court system, Trebino said.

Largo police has been dealing with Beasley for years and getting him put away for any significant amount of time was proving difficult. Beasley was the subject of multiple tips received by Largo police and the Pinellas Sheriff's Office in reference to narcotics.

Beasley was convicted of possession of a firearm. He was sentenced as an armed career criminal.

"Our intelligence also indicated that he planned on shooting it out with police if we ever tried to arrest him. There is also at least one domestic battery victim here in Largo that is breathing a sigh of relief because of the sentence. Thomas has violated an injunction in place to protect this victim multiple times and her fear was palpable," Trebino said.

VIEWPOINT Carl Hiaasen

Legislators are pushing the panic button, columnist says. ... **Page 11A.**



All about mobility

Work continues on mass transit alternatives that affect Largo

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO - The latest draft of a mass transit plan shows a light rail line running through the heart of the city, but the process of getting the project off the ground is still in its infancy.

Scott Pringle, a project manager for Jacobs Engineering, gave an update to city commissioners Dec. 13 on a study for developing a regional transit system.

Basically, the rail line follows the CSX corridor between Clearwater and Largo, continues along East Bay Drive toward the Clearwater-St. Petersburg Airport, along Ulmerton Road, Roosevelt Boulevard and Interstate 275 with a connection to Pinellas Park and to downtown St. Petersburg. There is also a regional connection to Tampa across Howard Frankland Bridge.

Jacobs was speaking about a draft of the preferred local alternative in the Pinellas Alternatives Analysis, a study that is considered a key step in developing a regional transit system in West Central Florida.

"I'm really pleased that a good portion is coming right through Largo, and I think economically it will be a good thing for us," said city Commissioner Harriet Crozier, vice chair of the Project Advisory Committee, which endorsed the draft alternative.

She said that the plan pres-

ents development opportunities in Largo, noting that once a proposed transit station is built on Roosevelt Boulevard, "everything will grow around it."

The study started in August 2010 and officials are hoping to wrap it up in 2012. More than 67 different public outreach events have been conducted. A questionnaire to the public generated 1,200 respondents.

"One of the things we heard back from the public was a re-sounding support for an inter-

"I'm really pleased that a good portion is coming right through Largo, and I think economically it will be a good thing for us."

- Harriet Crozier, Largo city commissioner

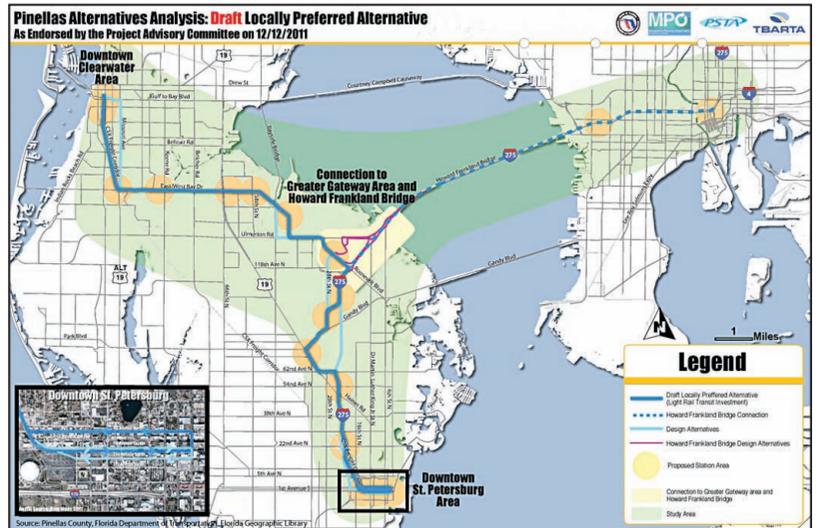
est in this rail technology or rail investment in Pinellas County," Pringle said.

Under consideration is a \$1.5 billion to \$1.7 billion project. The projected costs for the 24-mile corridor in Pinellas County is between \$61 million and \$71 million per mile, Pringle said.

"When we look at how we stack up against other cities across the country, we're really well aligned with what other jurisdictions and cities have experienced over the last decade," he said.

Phoenix implemented a light rail system at about \$85 million to \$95 million per mile, Pringle said.

Officials are considering a 50 percent local funding commit-



The map above shows a proposed light rail line, in blue, that was endorsed by the Project Advisory Committee on Dec. 12 as part of an analysis.

ment financed over 30 years, and looking for federal, state and public-private partnerships to pay the remaining balance of 50 percent on the project.

"We have been looking at the potential for a local funding source, a 1 percent sales tax, that could implement this type of project," he said.

Plans call for an expanded countywide bus service to support the rail project.

In addition to relieving traffic congestion, the project is expected to provide economic development benefits.

"When we look at light rail, it's forecasted we could possibly create up to 67,000 new jobs just by what we're investing in new technologies," Pringle said.

"For every \$1 spent on light rail, what we anticipate is a return of about two and a half dollars on that original investment," he said.

Pringle said analysis "is just one part in a very long federal process. So we're still really at the beginning of the process ..."

Crozier was optimistic about receiving federal government support.

"Once this is all finalized, and it goes to the federal government, the nice thing is our consultants have been going up to Atlanta to the federal government, who is saying 'I like what you are doing.'"

"They are kind of saying we have a good shot here." Commissioner Curtis Holmes

expressed reservations about the project.

He said that in the examples of the successful light rail projects Pringle pointed out, communities were "vertical. The Bay area is horizontal."

"That's been a big problem with mass transit here all along. You really don't have concentrations of people that you get in downtown St. Petersburg. You have it on the beaches, but this isn't going to the beaches," Holmes said.

Commissioner Woody Brown disagreed, saying that Atlanta is flat, with the exception of its downtown, and it has a rail

See MOBILITY, page 4A

Holiday glow

This year's display at Florida Botanical Gardens features more than 500,000 lights. The spectacle is open from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. through Jan. 1. Shown right is a hummingbird sipping from a flower. See the story about the gardens and other holiday light displays on page 1B.



Photo by TERRE PORTER

Employment prospects looking good for 2012

By SUZETTE PORTER

State officials are touting the news: November's unemployment rate was the lowest since May 2009.

A report released from the state Department of Economic Opportunity Dec. 16 shows Florida's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in November was 9.8 percent - down from 10.1 percent in October and 12.1 percent a year ago. The comparable national rate was 8.2 percent, down from 8.5 percent last month and 9.3 percent a year ago.

Pinellas County's unemployment rate remains unchanged from October, standing at 10 percent compared to 12.4 percent in November 2010. Unemployment in the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater statistical metropolitan area dropped from 10.4 percent in October to 10.3 percent in November and was 2.3 percent lower than the same month last year.

The local metro area, which includes Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas, continues to have the largest over-the-year job gains of 26,900 or 2.4 percent, despite Hernando County having the third highest un-

employment rate in the state of 13.1 percent. Pasco County is in 12th place out of 67 counties with 11.4 percent unemployment. Hillsborough County has the lowest rate in the local MSA of 9.8 percent, followed by Pinellas at 10 percent.

Results of a Manpower Employment Outlook Survey released Dec. 13 shows employers in the local MSA plan to hire at a "solid pace" in the first quarter of 2012.

See EMPLOYMENT, page 4A

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Briefs

City plans to relocate skate park

LARGO – Move it or lose it. That, in a roundabout way, describes the status of the skate park at the Highland Recreation Complex on Highland Avenue; so city commissioners have decided to move it to the Bayhead Complex, at 375 Seminole Blvd.

The proposed design of the Highland Recreation Complex shows the building directly over the existing skate park site.

However, the Highland Complex project budget includes \$150,000 for the relocation of the skate park. The skate park equipment is in good condition and is designed to be moved.

City commissioners evaluated three options for moving the park, including two at the Bayhead Complex property, just south of West Bay Drive and west of Seminole Boulevard. A third option would be to relocate the skate park to the northeast corner of the Southwest Recreation Complex, 13120 Vonn Road, in an area that is currently a shell parking lot.

Commissioners decided Dec. 13 to move the skate park to the north side of the basketball courts at the Bayhead Complex.

The city's Recreation, Parks and Arts Advisory Board recommended the location, saying it has high visibility, is located near Largo Middle and Largo High schools and is compatible with adjacent uses.

Loan approved for recreation complex project.

LARGO – City commissioners gave final approval Dec. 13 to obtain a loan of \$10 million to finance the design and construction of the Highland Recreation Complex project and to refinance existing debt.

The interest rate is projected to be about 1.71 percent for the loan. A second loan resolution will be presented to the City Commission in

January for \$10 million with a projected interest rate of 1.72 percent. "There is a \$10 million limit on bank-qualified borrowing in any calendar year," city Finance Director Kim Adams said.

At their meeting Dec. 6, commissioners agreed to award a proposal to Morgan Chase Bank for borrowing \$20 million, with \$17 million for the Highland Recreation Complex construction and \$3 million for a wastewater fund refinancing.

Construction is expected to begin in January on the 40,000-square-foot project.

City agrees to settle lawsuit

LARGO – City commissioners Dec. 13 authorized \$95,000 settlement for a lawsuit filed by a woman who alleges that she was fired from her city position in retaliation for using leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act.

Crystal Lynch, a fire inspector, filed suit in federal court against the city. She used FMLA leave on several occasions during her employment because of a medical condition and later because of side effects from her medications intended to control her medical condition, city officials said.

She had been absent on FMLA intermittent leave on two occasions immediately before the date on which she was fired. City officials denied her allegations and argued that Lynch had falsified her time records, which justified her termination.

Lynch alleges that the adjustments she made to her time card were mistakes she made while she was attempting to correct the leave designations for those days to show the leave as being covered by the FMLA. She denies intentionally falsifying her time records, city officials said.

The city was unsuccessful in moving to have the case dismissed.

Under direction of a U.S. district judge, both parties participated in mediation.

If Lynch were to prevail, the city would be liable for about \$235,000 in Lynch's back wages and attorney's fees. The city could also be liable for additional amounts. The total potential liability could come to \$440,000, city officials said.

City offers curbside tree recycling

LARGO – The City of Largo will offer a free Christmas tree and cardboard box recycling collection from Dec. 26 through Jan. 7.

This service is available only to current city garbage collection customers. Decoration-free trees should be placed by the curb on their recycling day during the special two-week post-holiday collection.

Trees should not be wrapped in a plastic bag for collection. Residents must remove ornaments, tinsel, lights, and tree stands, and place their decoration-free tree by the curb on their recycling day. Cardboard boxes should be flattened, free from packaging like foam, plastic wrap or paper, and placed underneath the city's curbside recycling bin. Residents who do not have a recycling bin or are unsure of their recycling day can call 587-6760 or visit LargoRecycles.com.

Residents who do not receive the city's garbage and recycling services should inquire with their waste collection company about this tree recycling service. Cardboard boxes can be accepted at two 24-hour recycling centers in Largo, 1550 Starkey Road, and at Tri-City Plaza behind Office Depot. Trees and brush are not accepted at these locations.

Christmas trees are biodegradable and compostable; their branches may be removed, chipped, and used as mulch in the garden.

Christmas trees should never be burned in a fireplace or wood stove. Pines, firs and other evergreens have a high content of flammable turpentine oils.

Around Largo



City events

Free genealogy/family history classes, January, Largo Library, 120 Central Park Drive.

Description: "More than 10 free classes this month including: Introduction to Genealogy, Using Maps in Genealogy, The 1940 census and how to use it, Tracing female ancestors, Organizing your files, and more. See the complete listing with details of classes and scheduled times at www.flpgs.org/classes.aspx. Email Bob Bryan at BBryan84@gmail.com or call at 595-4521.

Move It 2 Lose It, Jan. 3, 8 a.m. through Jan. 10, 8:30 p.m. Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave.; Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road; Southwest Recreation Complex, 13120 Vonn Road.

Description: "Buy your January monthly fitness pass and get February for 50 percent off. We also will have a wide variety of free fitness classes, healthy recipes and motivation for the New Year. The more you participate, the better prize you can win. Get your Play Pass to track your participation at the front desk. Start off the New Year on the right track by making the commitment to get healthy and fit. Ages 16 and up are welcome to participate. For a complete schedule of free

classes offered, visit the PlayLargo.com."

Call 518-3016

Tiny Tot Theme Parties, Jan. 5, 11 a.m. until noon, Southwest Recreation Complex.

Description: "Themed games, crafts and exciting activities especially prepared for preschool-aged children. This month's theme is 'Down on the Farm.' Parents are encouraged to stay and enjoy the experience. Preregistration is required."

The fee is \$5 per child.

Call 518-3125.

The Sauce Boss Bill Wharton, Jan. 6, 8 p.m., Largo Cultural Center.

Description: "Bill Wharton, The Sauce Boss, mixes his own spicy Florida Blues and hot sauce right into the gumbo on stage, and at the end of the show, everyone eats for free. Cabaret seating."

Tickets are \$23 in advance; \$28 day of show.

Call 587-6793.

Largo Square Dancing, Jan. 6, 13, 20 and 27, 7:30 p.m. until 9:45 p.m. Largo Community Center.

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.

Stages Productions, School House Rock, Jan. 7, 11 a.m., Largo Cultural Center.

Description: "The Emmy Award winning 1970s pop culture phenomenon comes to the musical stage! For more information or to purchase

tickets call 587-6793 or visit LargoArts.com."

Tickets are \$7.50, adult; \$6.50, children; \$6, schools; \$22 family 4 pack; season pass, \$15 for three shows; family 4 packs and season passes are available through the Box Office only.

Call 587-6793.

Train Weekend, Jan. 7 and 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive.

Description: "Ride the miniature trains of Largo Central Railroad on the first full weekend every month in sunny Largo Central Park. For a schedule of dates as well as pictures from this event, please go to the Special Events Train Weekend page. For more information visit LargoEvents.com."

Free; donations accepted.

Call 587-6740, ext. 5014.

Largo Swing Dance Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, and 28, 7 until 11 p.m., Largo Community Center.

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

The fee is \$7.

Call 518-3131.

Elvis Birthday Bash, celebrating the movies of Elvis Presley, Jan. 8, 2 p.m., Largo Cultural Center.

Description: "Back by popular demand! Celebrate the 'Kings' birthday with a number of talented Elvis tribute artists as they shake, rattle and roll and provide a wonderful nostalgic afternoon of entertainment and fun. Join us for complimentary birthday cake and photo opportunity after the show. For more information or to purchase tickets call 587-6793 or visit LargoArts.com."

Tickets are \$25 VIP, \$20 advance, \$25 day of show

Call 587-6793.

Sunday Matinee Music Series, Jan. 8, 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., Largo Community Center.

Description: "Enjoy an afternoon of live music and wonderful food. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased for \$12 in advance for the dinner and show. Get your tickets early, shows sell out quickly. Each month has a different show."

Tickets are \$12 in advance

Call 518-3131 for listing of shows.

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Just for kicks

Making the most of a day at the park



Photos by TOM GERMOND
Soccer players enjoy a crisp fall afternoon at Taylor Park. They were just playing for fun. Many people also came to the park Dec. 18 to jog, walk, fish, play Frisbee, golf or just relax in a pavilion.

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Around Pinellas

Redington Beach makes changes to Public Works

REDINGTON BEACH – The Town Commission approved some preliminary changes to its Public Works and Code Enforcement departments at its Dec. 6 meeting with the pending retirement within a few years of its longtime director.

Written work orders will now be tracked from the time a resident calls through resolution. The town offices will keep a daily report, which will then become part of a weekly report of code complaints and Public Works requests. The weekly reports will become a part of the commission's consent agenda.

"(The process will) let us know what's going on day to day and help us prepare for (Public Works Director and Code Enforcement Officer Mark Davis) retirement," said Vice Mayor Fred Steiermann.

The Public Works office hours will now match town office hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Davis also will attend commission meetings. The commission plans to formalize the changes into the town's policy and procedures at an upcoming meeting.

The town also plans to put its routine maintenance schedule into a calendar system. The town is considering outsourcing code enforcement and environmental reporting like other towns around them do, once Davis retires. Davis has worked for the town for more than 30 years.

In other action, the town decided not to renew its membership with the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association.

The town will continue to support the organization, which lobbies for beach nourishment, through its membership in the Barrier Islands Governmental Council. About \$500 of the town's membership to the BIG-C goes to the lobbying organization.

The town does not qualify for beach nourishment because of the lack of public parking along its beachfront.

The commission decided on this approach in an effort to save money because the town gets the indirect benefit of sand nourishment from neighboring towns qualifying for beach nourishment.

– Melissa Lattman

IRB considers cigarette butt crackdown

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – What began as a discussion to try to find ways to limit or ban smoking in public parks and on the beach, ended up with a likely crackdown on people who improperly dispose of their cigarette butts. If a proposed ordinance is passed at the next City Commission meeting in January, smokers could face a \$500 fine if they litter the beach with their cigarette butts.

Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin met with a number of citizens who want a smoke-free environment in the parks and beaches in IRB and she came away convinced that something had to be done. So in a special hour-long workshop Dec. 13, the commission heard a presentation from health professionals and an anti-smoking group as to the hazards of secondhand smoke in public places.

Lucy Gonzalez-Barr of the Florida Department of Health told the commission that cigarette butts left on the beach are a health hazard in that they contain 165 different forms of chemicals, and they do not disintegrate. In fact, she said the butts pose a hazard to wildlife, thus upsetting Florida's eco-system. She said on one clean-up day in California recently 230,000 cigarette butts were recovered from the sand. In addition she said secondhand smoke causes 50,000 deaths a year in the United States.

Deborah Shaffer of the Pinellas County Health Department echoed those sentiments and pointed out that 1 in 5 pieces of litter picked up on the beach is a cigarette butt. She said most butts are found within 10 feet of an ashtray. Like Gonzalez-Barr, Shaffer had statistics to support her claims. She said in the 2010 Intracoastal Waterway cleanup in Pinellas County, 205,000 cigarette butts were recovered; 13,000 cigar tips, 3,500 lighters and 5,700 empty packs – all smoking-related trash. She said in a recent survey on Treasure Island and Madeira Beach, 96 percent of those surveyed said they didn't like the idea that a child could pick up a cigarette butt while playing in the sand.

The third speaker in the group was Carolyn Smith of the Tobacco-Free Coalition in Pinellas County. She told the commissioners that several dozen towns and cities in Florida have passed some sort of resolution or ordinance limiting or banning smoking in parks or on beaches. She noted that the Florida legislature is considering two separate bills designed to toughen the laws against smoking in public places.

But, the anti-smoking push of the guest experts was slowed somewhat by the commissioners who appeared reluctant to pass any laws restricting smokers. Vice Mayor Phil Hanna moved the discussion to the litter aspect of smoking. He recounted a story of watching a woman smoking on the beach, then disposed of her butt in the sand despite a receptacle being just a few feet away. Commissioner Cookie Kennedy said she grew up in Indian Rocks Beach and never once had a smoker sit down next to her on the beach. Mayor R.B. Johnson wondered just how much the town should involve itself in matters of civility.

"People have accepted smoking as a right," Johnson said. "I'm trying to keep an open mind in the face of strong opinions on both sides."

Hamilton-Wollin continued the theme and noted that it is going to take a strong anti-litter ordinance to, "Eliminate those filthy, disgusting cigarette butts, and seagulls that still see them as food and die horrible deaths," she said. "We don't care if people smoke, we do care that little children pick up butts."

Several residents expressed concern over more rules aimed at curbing smoking. All professed to be non-smokers.

Resident David Martin said, "I'm getting tired of having my tax dollars used to pass more laws. What's next, banning hot dogs because the meat isn't healthy for you?"

Bruce Sobut chimed in, "We don't enforce the rules we have. Start enforcing what we have now."

Jo Nocera added, "I'm appalled at the amount of trash. Bring in a \$500 fine. We're just not all well behaved," she said.

That's just what the commissioners will consider. City Attorney Maura Kiefer was asked to draft an ordinance implementing a \$500

Volunteer spirit



The student volunteers at Southwest Recreational Center in Largo wanted Clearwater Beach to be a little cleaner for residents and tourists. The after-school students along with their group leader, Andre Jones, coordinated a beach cleanup on Dec. 10 as a way to give back to our community. From left are Amanda Michas, Julisa Garcia, Amy Hawthorne, Jeffrey Torres, Jones, Alex Deleon, Joe Bryan Caldero, and Joseph Torres. As part of the after-school program at Southwest, Andre encourages the students to be positive influences in the community and help out whenever they can. The students cleaned the Pier 60 area of Clearwater Beach for three hours and after their hard work they enjoyed the playground area with a game of flag football. The students were very excited about the volunteer project and will continue to look for ways to give back to the community.

fine for anyone caught littering with cigarette butts on the beach or in the parks. It will be dealt with at the next commission meeting on Jan. 10.

As for tougher measures against smoking in those public places that's been put off for the time being.

– Brian Goff

City hall site is focus for new fire station

BELLEAIR BLUFFS – With two properties on Indian Rocks Road having been rejected as possible Largo fire station sites, attention is now focused on the property behind Bluffs city hall. A feasibility study now under way will determine if the site is big enough and has the right amenities for a station, Mayor Chris Arbutine said. That study is due to be completed in January, said Largo Deputy Fire Chief Jim Warman.

The Bluffs property on Bayway Avenue is the only site now being considered for the station, Warman said. Having a fire station nearby does not please Wanda Rusinowski, who lives on Los Gatos across from the proposed site.

Rusinowski recommended the current Bluffs fire station on Indian Rocks Road be rebuilt.

Warman said the existing station is "quite restrictive" and not suitable for current needs.

Rusinowski said she is also concerned about the potential danger to children playing in or near the playground next to city hall if fire trucks are frequently traveling Bayway Avenue.

Many other residents are also opposed to the fire station, Rusinowski said, although none has shown up at city hall to protest.

Fire Commissioner Suzy Sofer told Rusinowski there was not even a deal on the property yet. A number of sites have been looked at and rejected so far, Sofer said.

Arbutine also assured Rusinowski that residents' concerns would be heard before the fire station becomes a reality.

"The citizens of Belleair Bluffs will have a voice," he said.

– Wayne Ayers

City adopts 'Clearwater Greenprint'

CLEARWATER – By a unanimous vote on Dec. 15, the City Council adopted an environmental plan that is voluntary for now but could be made mandatory in the future.

"Clearwater Greenprint, A Framework for a Competitive, Vibrant Green Future, is a community plan and vision that looks beyond municipal functions to identify a series of strategies that can be implemented by residents, businesses, the industrial sector and the municipal government," a staff memo read. "These strategies have the potential to reduce energy consumption, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions while reducing energy and other costs for residents and businesses, supporting a variety of housing choices for renters and owners of all ages, and improving the health and quality of life for the city's residents."

The program, which is funded through the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, promotes

education and awareness, green energy and buildings, nonpolluting transportation, better land use, water conservation, waste management, local food production, and green businesses and jobs.

"We really do have limited resources on this planet," Mayor Frank Hibbard said. "Whether you're a tree-hugger or not, less pollution is a good thing."

But conservative activist and former City Council candidate, Joe Paige, disagreed.

"Greenprint is a job killer," Paige told the council. "Economic suicide."

City OKs water run-off agreement

SEMINOLE – The boundaries of responsibility for cleaning up storm water run-off into Lake Seminole will be defined more closely in an interlocal agreement between the city and Pinellas County.

City councilors voted unanimously Dec. 13 to approve the agreement, which specifies joint control of pollutants in accordance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program.

City Manager Frank Edmunds explained that the city has been involved in NPDES issues for some time and federal regulations will require more governmental involvement in years to come.

Edmunds said all but one of the municipalities in Pinellas County is a co-holder for a discharge permit with Pinellas County and the Florida Department of Transportation.

"We've all come together to try to address the pollutant discharge into our waterways," said Edmunds. "This particular agreement points out each party and we will be responsible for our own discharge points."

Edmunds said because Seminole Boulevard is a FDOT roadway, catch basins that discharge into Lake Seminole would be the responsibility of the state.

"Whereas, a side street where we may have catch basins that gather up rain water and discharge it into a body of water, we will be responsible for the pollutants in those systems," Edmunds said. "The bad news is in the future it's going to be rather costly to do what is expected of us. But in order to have clean, clear waterways, it's our responsibility to make sure discharges meet federal standards."

An alum treatment facility is currently under construction by the county on the west side of Lake Seminole. Catch basins from the west side of the lake will drain into it before the water is reclaimed into the lake, Edmunds said.

In other action, councilors:

- Passed a resolution supporting the efforts of Pinellas County to provide a future EMS system "that is effective, efficient, provides equity to all service providers and is more accountable to the taxpayers of Pinellas County." Councilor Leslie Waters said the resolution is important. "I'm glad we put it together," she said. "It sends a message of our support for dual service (using Sunstar Paramedics for transportation and fire rescue personnel for first response).
- Approved the sale of beer and wine by a Seminole-based nonprofit group during the 2012 Pow Wow Festival.

– Bob McClure

EMPLOYMENT, from page 1A

"Among survey participants, the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla. MSA employment outlook is the fourth best in the nation," according to a release from the Manpower.

Eighteen percent of companies interviewed say they plan to hire more employees January through March of 2012. Six percent plan to reduce staff. The majority, 69 percent, plans to keep their current workforce levels. Seven percent were unsure of their hiring plans.

"Hiring activity is expected to increase during the first quarter of 2012 compared to Quarter 4 2011 when the Net Employment Outlook was 5 percent," said Manpower spokesperson Judy Leppla. "Employers expect significantly improved employment prospects compared with one year ago when the Net Employment Outlook was 2 percent."

The Net Employment Outlook for the first quarter of 2012 is 12 percent.

The Net Employment Outlook is calculated by taking the percentage of employers anticipating an increase in hiring activity and subtracting from this the percentage of employers expecting a decrease in hiring activity.

Job prospects seem best in construction, manufacturing-nondurable, wholesale/retail trade, financial activities, professional and business services, education and health services, leisure and hospitality, and government.

Employers in manufacturing-durable say they most likely will reduce staffing levels. Hiring in

transportation and utilities, information and other services probably will remain unchanged.

The employment outlook also is up nationwide. Manpower surveyed more than 18,000 employers in the United States. Fourteen percent of those interviewed expect to hire in the first quarter of 2012. Nine percent plan to reduce their workforce. Seventy percent will keep staffing levels as is. Seven percent were undecided.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott said Dec. 16 that 8,500 jobs were added statewide in November, bringing the total net new jobs for 2011 to more than 120,000. Department of Economic Opportunity officials say job growth for the past three months was the strongest since March 2007.

November was the 14th consecutive month of positive annual job growth, the DEO said. Trade, transportation and utilities added the most jobs, followed by private education, health services, and leisure and hospitality.

"We are continuing to move Florida in the right direction by streamlining government, eliminating burdensome regulations, identifying economic development opportunities and prioritizing education," Scott said. "I am hopeful that we will see Florida's unemployment rate continue to decline as jobs grow and more Floridians find work."

Manpower's survey shows that Florida's employers plan to hire at a "healthy pace" January through March 2012, the survey shows. Seventeen percent say they will hire employees. Six percent say employees will be let go. Seventy percent will maintain current staffing levels.

"The Quarter 1 2012 survey results show more

kicking themselves."

Pringle said Phoenix, which recently built a rail system, is "decentralized" and doesn't have a strong downtown area.

"They have a lot of activities centers, but they are spread out," he said.

Officials projected 26,000 riders per day for that system, he said.

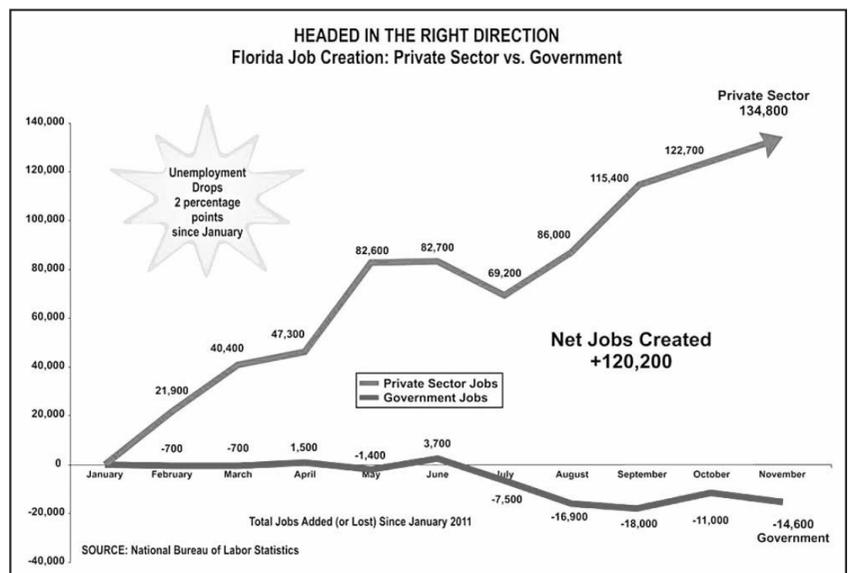
"Opening day far exceeded their forecasts," he said. "They are mov-

ing 39,000 people per day."

Regarding Atlanta, Holmes said the population of Atlanta has a much larger population than the Tampa Bay area.

"So you have a greater concentration of people there," he said.

The next Project Advisory Committee meeting is Monday, Jan. 30, 3 to 5 p.m., at Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, 3201 Scherer Drive, St. Petersburg.



This chart from the National Bureau of Labor Statistics shows private sector jobs are growing while government hiring continues at a downward trend.

optimistic hiring plans compared to Quarter 4 2011 when the Net Employment Outlook was 4 percent," said Manpower spokesperson Michael

Doyle. "Compared to one year ago when the Net Employment Outlook was 5 percent, employers are more confident about their staffing plans."

MOBILITY, from page 1A

service provided by the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority. "In the late '90s, shortly after the Olympics happened in Atlanta the ridership, really changed from people who have to use public transit to people who desire to use public transit ... There's areas that kind of opted out of MARTA when they first came, and now they are really

Contract for Madeira Beach city manager finalized

By WAYNE AYERS

MADEIRA BEACH - The city's fourth attempt to hire a new manager has been successful.

Final negotiations with Shane Crawford, currently deputy administrator of Walworth County, Wis., were held by telephone at a special commission meeting on Dec. 7, with Crawford agreeing to begin work on Jan. 16.

Crawford will be paid \$117,000 a year, the same as he is making on his current job. His salary will be somewhat more than the \$100,000 offered to Scott Sundermeier, the last candidate the commission had sought to hire. Former City Manager W.D. Higginbotham was paid \$92,000 a year.

With Crawford filling the dual position of city manager/public works director, the city will be saving \$65,000 compared to the combined salaries paid Higginbotham and former public works director Michael Maxemow (\$90,000).

Mayor Travis Palladeno said in an interview following Crawford's hire that he felt the new city manager was worth the wait, and added the bringing in of an outside recruiter paid off.

Crawford was hired with the assistance of recruiter Colin Baenziger and Associates, a service that cost the city an additional \$20,000. The previous candidates were located by commission members and then-Human Resources Manager Deborah Cline.

Palladeno said he spent a day with Crawford recently, showing him around Madeira Beach and talking over issues facing the city.

"I found his excitement for the city, and his fresh ideas for making government more effective, to be outstanding," Palladeno said. He praised Crawford for offering approaches "that will make us more efficient and save the city money."

Palladeno said he views Crawford as a leader with qualities similar to city attorney Thomas Trask.

"He will tell us what we need to hear, not what we want to hear," Palladeno said.

Crawford's first priorities when he begins work in January will be evaluating the city employees and getting major infrastructure projects under way, he said.

"We need to know where everybody is going to fit

in the plan to take Madeira Beach to the next level, and to get started with our street resurfacing, stormwater and other capital improvement projects," Palladeno said.

The new manager is due to play a much larger than usual role in shaping city government. The finance director, community services director, human resources manager, city clerk, and fire chief have left in recent months. Various combinations of jobs have been mentioned. Crawford will have the opportunity to make a number of personnel and job classification decisions not normally available to incoming city managers.

City Clerk Ginger Stilton was hired several months ago, and Palladeno indicated the new finance director will be Wayne Shirley, who has been assisting the city with financial issues. The other positions remain open.

The opportunities also come with challenges. In turning down the city manager position in August, Sundermeier cited "the significant challenges and scope of work the position will require. That is, essentially rebuilding the professional infrastructure of the organization, managing needs and priorities

of the commission and community, working closely with the commission to establish positive direction, rebuilding employee morale, and directing the public works department."

Though the current City Commission appears enthusiastic and supportive of Crawford's hiring, a move to possibly recall two city commissioners was recently announced by a group of citizens. The chairman of the group seeking the recall claims "all the good people have left" the city administration and "taxes may have to be raised because of bad decisions."

Crawford, according to the recruiter, sees the Madeira Beach job as an opportunity "to tackle new and exciting challenges."

"(Crawford) realizes much is expected and that he will have a very small staff but that is what excites him. He feels some structural change will be necessary and some streamlining will need to take place, but he is ready to do that," an associate of the recruiting firm said in evaluating Crawford.

Palladeno said the city is "getting on the right track, going in the right direction," and Crawford is "the perfect leader to take us there."

Police beat

Twenty-five arrested at sobriety checkpoints

Pinellas County sheriff's deputies arrested 25 at two sobriety checkpoints Dec. 16 and 17.

Eleven were arrested at the first checkpoint set up between 8 and 11 p.m. at Berea Baptist Church, 370 Alt. U.S. 19 in Palm Harbor. A total of 690 vehicles passed through the checkpoint with 230 drivers diverted for assessment. The average intrusion time for non-impaired drivers diverted for assessment was 1 minute and 42 seconds.

Six were arrested for DUI, three for possession of marijuana, one for battery on a law enforcement officer, one for driving with a suspended/revoked license and one for failing to obey a lawful command. Ten citations were issued, and seven vehicles were impounded.

What: In an effort to reduce DUI related injuries and save lives this holiday season, Pinellas County deputies conducted DUI checkpoints at two locations over the weekend. Results at each of the locations are listed below:

Fourteen were arrested at a second sobriety checkpoint set up between 12:30 and 3:30 a.m. at Kmart, 26996 U.S. 19 N. in Clearwater. A total of 239 vehicles passed through the checkpoint with 79 drivers diverted for assessment. The average intrusion time for non-impaired drivers diverted for assessment was 1 minute and 46 seconds.

Four were arrested for DUI, two for not having a valid driver's license, three for misdemeanor possession of marijuana, two for possession of drug paraphernalia, one for habitual driving on a suspended license, one for felony in violation of probation and five for felony possession of a controlled substance. Fourteen citations were issued, and eight vehicles were impounded.

The goal of the sobriety checkpoints was to raise awareness that will help reduce injuries and save lives this holiday season; as well as enforce the sheriff's office zero-tolerance for drinking or consumption of drugs and driving.

Three arrested for burglary, firearms theft

CLEARWATER - Two juveniles and one adult were arrested at a Clearwater home about 5 p.m. Dec. 16 in connection with a residential burglary in Manatee County and theft of firearms.

Tory Foster, 17, of Seminole was arrested on a warrant out of Manatee County and unrelated charges of dealing with stolen property and posses-

sion of a controlled substance. Codey Harper, 18, also of Seminole and Jacob McClamma, 17, of Clearwater, were arrested for grand theft firearm. Foster and McClamma were taken to the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center and Foster was booked into the Pinellas County Jail.

According to the report from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, the investigation began following a Dec. 12 residential burglary in Manatee County. On Dec. 17, deputies received information that a suspect involved in the burglary might be at a private home in Clearwater.

Deputies responded to McClamma's Clearwater home, located Foster and arrested him without incident.

Detectives from the Burglary and Pawn Unit responded, and as they interviewed the suspect and other witnesses, they received additional information that led them to locate various firearms, seven handguns and one rifle, in the home. McClamma and Harper were identified as additional suspects. McClamma was arrested, but Harper attempted to flee and was tracked and apprehended by a K-9 unit.

According to the jail report, Harper faces additional charges including resisting an officer without violence, three counts violation of parole for burglary and violation of parole possession of marijuana.

Detectives say they are still working on sorting out the details and the involvement of the suspects in this case. The investigation continues.

Man dies from injuries in Oldsmar crash

OLDSMAR - Pinellas County Sheriff's Office announced Dec. 16 that a man injured in a two-car crash on Tampa Road in Oldsmar Dec. 11 has died. Joshua J. Williams, 30, died at 2:14 p.m. Dec. 15 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa.

According to the report from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Williams' girlfriend Raina Brown, 29, was waiting in a line of traffic headed eastbound on Tampa Road just west of the intersection with Forest Lakes Boulevard about 8:30 a.m. Dec. 11 when she was rear-ended by a car driven by Akaterina Sines, 41.

Williams and their 3-month-old son, who was in a child safety seat, were riding in the back seat of Brown's vehicle. Williams suffered "very serious injuries." The child also was treated for injuries, but his outcome is reportedly favorable. The infant's mother, Brown, was not injured. Sines suffered

minor bruising, and her three children ages 7 to 12, were not injured.

Preliminarily, deputies say that alcohol and excessive speed appear not to be factors in this crash. The investigation continues. No charges have been filed yet.

Child left two hours inside unlocked car

PINELLAS PARK - Pinellas Park police found a 22-month-old child left for almost two hours inside an unlocked car the afternoon of Dec. 15, according to a department press release.

Officers were called to 8800 49th St. at around 1:55 p.m. The female toddler was inside a 2004 Jeep that had its windows rolled up. Police were able to get into the unlocked car. The child was not in distress and appeared unharmed, the department reported.

The child's mother, Heather Chapman, 33, of Tampa was inside of an office in the complex taking

a job-training class. The child, officers discovered, had been left in the vehicle at around noon so Chapman could attend the class. She was unattended for almost two hours.

Chapman was arrested for child abuse and taken to the Pinellas County Jail. The Department of Children and Family Services took the child into custody.

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Briefs

County offices to close for the holidays

Pinellas County government offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day.

The courts of the Sixth Judicial Circuit (Pinellas and Pasco) will not be in session Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 2, except for first-appearance advisory hearings and emergency situations.

Animal Services will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 2, with the outside animal drop-off area remaining open.

The Solid Waste Administration Building and HEC3 will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 2. The scalehouse/landfill will be open normal hours (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.) on both Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 2.

Heritage Village will be closed Sunday and Monday, Dec. 25 and Dec. 26, and will be open Wednesday, Dec. 28 to Saturday, Dec. 31. It will be closed Sunday and Monday, Jan. 1 and Jan. 2, and will be open on Wednesday, Jan. 4. Regular hours of operation are Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Florida Botanical Gardens will be closed Sunday, Dec. 25 during the day, and will be open for Holiday Lights in the Gardens from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. It will be open on Sunday, Jan. 1.

The Environmental Education Center at Brooker Creek Preserve and the Cultural and Natural History Center at Weedon Island Preserve will be closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Dec. 24 to 26, and Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Dec. 31 to Jan. 2. Regular hours of operation at the centers are Thursday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All county regional parks and preserves, with the exception of Fort De Soto Park, will be closed on Sunday, Dec. 25. No shelter reservations for any park can be made for Dec. 25.

Belleair, Park Boulevard and War Veterans' Memorial Park boat ramps and all county beach accesses will remain open.

For more information on Pinellas County services and programs, visit www.pinellascounty.org

The Pinellas County Health Department will be closed from Friday, Dec. 23, through Monday, Dec. 26, in observance of the Christmas holiday. All centers will reopen on Tuesday, Dec. 27.

The normal holiday closing would have been on Dec. 26 only, but a

directive from Gov. Rick Scott Dec. 16, extended the holiday time off to the Friday before Christmas Day also.

For information about the Pinellas County Health Department, visit www.PinellasHealth.com.

County offers Teens Behind the Scenes

CLEARWATER – Teens Behind the Scenes is a new program that takes an exclusive look at the inner workings of Pinellas County government. Once a month from January to April, teens will go behind the scenes to experience first-hand what goes into keeping the county running.

Presented by the county's Youth Advisory Committee, Teens Behind the Scenes was created by students for students and is modeled after the popular Pinellas Citizens University. The sessions will meet the fourth Wednesday of the month from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the site of the featured department.

Program Line-Up

- Survivor ... Public Works, Jan. 25. Take a trip to the public works building and explore traffic control, engineering and more.
- Law & Order, Feb. 22. Investigate the roles of law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys and the judge.
- Most Wanted!, March 21. Take a tour of the Pinellas County Jail. Learn about intake, maximum security, and direct supervision. (Parental release required to participate.)
- 911 - 101, April 18. Get an up-close look at the Pinellas County EMS system and get the chance to participate in a first responders' demonstration.
- Awards Night, April 24, 6 p.m. Teens will appear on PCC-TV with county commissioners to receive their certificate.

This free program is open to high school students who are at least 14 years old. The registration deadline for each session is two weeks before the program date. Class size is limited.

To register, go to www.pinellascounty.org/yac. For more information, call 582-2656.

The Pinellas County Youth Advisory Committee is comprised of high school students who provide input and assistance to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners. Membership is open to high school students who reside in Pinellas County.

For more information on Pinellas County services and programs, visit www.pinellascounty.org.

MPO elects officers to serve in 2012

CLEARWATER – The Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization elected officers for 2012 Dec. 14.

Dunedin Mayor Dave Eggers will serve as chair, Pinellas County Commissioner Karen Seel will serve as vice-chair, and St. Petersburg Councilman Jeff Danner will be secretary/treasurer.

The MPO meets the second Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. Offices are located at 600 Cleveland St., Suite 750, Clearwater. Call 464-8200 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/mpo.

Mail ballots going out for Jan. 31 elections

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark announced Dec. 13 that ballot mailings for the Jan. 31 Republican Presidential Preference Primary are tentatively scheduled for Pinellas County voters registered with the Republican Party and for voters residing in Clearwater, Kenneth City, Safety Harbor, St. Pete Beach and Tarpon Springs:

- Dec. 16 – Mailed nearly 1,000 ballots to absent military and overseas voters requested to date. State law requires ballots for absent military and overseas voters to be mailed at least 45 days prior to an election.
- Jan. 3 – Mail approximately 108,000 domestic ballots requested to date. State law now requires domestic ballots to be mailed beginning between the 35th and 28th days prior to an election.

The deadline to register to vote in the Jan. 31 election is Jan. 2. Early voting is scheduled for Jan. 21-28.

Florida has closed primaries; only voters registered with a political party may vote in that party's primary. There is no Democratic presidential preference primary, because there is only one nominee, President Barack Obama. All registered voters residing in Clearwater, Kenneth City, Safety Harbor, St. Pete Beach and Tarpon Springs may vote in their nonpartisan municipal elections on Jan. 31.

Additional mail ballot requests will be fulfilled daily as received. To request a mail ballot, visit www.voteinpinellas.com, call 464-8683 or email absentee@voteinpinellas.com.

Daily ballot requests and ballot mailing updates are posted to the Supervisor of Elections website, www.voteinpinellas.com, under the Current Elections tab, once mailings begin.

Local FHP troops get new leader

TAMPA – Florida Highway Patrol Director Col. David Brierton promoted Michael Thomas to rank of major and assigned him to lead field operations in the Tampa Bay area, effective Dec. 16.

Troop C comprises seven counties, including Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Pasco, Hernando, Sumter and Citrus.

"Throughout his career, Major Thomas has served the residents and visitors of our state with great dedication and exhibited excellent leadership capabilities," Brierton said. "I have full confidence in his abilities to lead the troop that enforces the laws related to highway safety and security in the Tampa Bay area."

Thomas began his FHP career in 1987 as a member of the 79th recruit class. He has served in Broward County as a K-9 officer, in Marion County as a district lieutenant and in his current assignment as district captain in Orange and Osceola counties.

Thomas is a U.S. Navy veteran and holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from Barry University in Fort Lauderdale. He is also a recent graduate of the Leadership in Police Organizations Program, which the U.S. Military Academy and the International Association of Chiefs of Police developed.



Maj. Michael Thomas

DHSMV warns customers about deceptive websites

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles issued a warning to its customers about deceptive websites that lure people into paying a fee to access DHSMV's online motorist services.

The official-looking websites require their customers to pay a surcharge for their assistance. DHSMV does not require a surcharge for any of its websites – www.GoRenew.com and www.flhsmv.gov and others. The Department posts fees on www.flhsmv.gov.

The way the scheme works is quite simple: the owners or creators of the misleading websites have paid a fee to search engine companies to ensure their links are at the top of the webpage when Internet users search for DHSMV's online services website, www.GoRenew.com. When customers go to the websites, they are asked for a name, contact information and credit card information, and then are charged just to get to DHSMV's websites.

"To say the websites are misleading is an understatement," said DHSMV Executive Director Julie Jones. "They provide small disclaimers that state they are not affiliated with the Department and then proceed to charge customers anywhere from \$25 to \$50. It is an unbelievable racket."

DHSMV officials say they are disappointed and disgusted that any entity would attempt such a scheme. However, the websites add a disclaimer that they are not affiliated with the Department or government of any kind, so what they are doing technically is legal.

"The Department wants to arm our customers with information about these illusive websites so they are not duped into paying unnecessary fees of any kind," Jones added. "The websites are legal, but unethical."

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' core mission is the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV, visit www.flhsmv.gov.

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Americans expected to travel more this holiday season

By SUZETTE PORTER

Those planning holiday trips should expect the roadways to be busier than last year.

AAA predicts travel volume for the 2011 winter holiday season will be the second highest in the past 10 years. Nearly 92 million Americans are expected to travel more than 50 miles between Dec. 23 and Jan. 2 – a 1.4 percent increase over 2010. Nearly 4.8 million Floridians are expected to take trips – a 1.2 percent increase over last year.

AAA's projections are based on economic forecasting and research by IHS Global Insight, a Boston-based economic research and consulting firm, which teamed with AAA in 2009 to analyze travel trends during the major holidays.

"AAA is happy to learn so many Americans plan to travel this holiday season, contributing to the second-highest year-end holiday travel volume in the past decade. This year's travel forecast is second to the 2006-07 holiday

season when more than 93.6 million Americans traveled," said Brent Hubele, vice president, AAA Travel, the Auto Club Group. "This represents healthy growth following the 1.3 percent increase in 2010 holiday travel and is a notable milestone in the travel industry's recovery."

The automobile continues to be the preferred mode of travel with 91 percent expected to travel the nation's roadways this season – a 2.1 percent increase over last year. If AAA's predictions come true, 2011's automobile travel numbers will be the second highest in the past decade.

Neither gas prices nor the economy seem to be a big factor in travel plans this year with almost three in five surveyed by AAA saying that the economy has no impact on their plans or that their personal economic situation has improved.

Gas prices nationwide are only about 25 cents higher than last year, according to AAA's Fuel Gauge Report. The U.S. Energy Information Administration re-

ported Dec. 14 that the national average gasoline price has fallen in 12 of the last 14 weeks.

The average price for a gallon of unleaded in the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater metropolitan area was \$3.20 Dec. 18, about 26 cents higher than last year. The average for the state was slightly higher at \$3.28, 28 cents higher than last year. The average price nationwide was \$3.24.

The airlines can expect fewer passengers on their planes for the holidays. AAA's projects 10 percent fewer travelers will fly this holiday season. It is the seventh lowest number of air travelers in the past 10 years.

According to AAA's Leisure Travel Index, year-end holiday airfares are expected to be 21 percent higher than last year with an average lowest round-trip rate of \$210 for the top 40 U.S. air routes.

Travelers planning to stay in hotels along the way, or when they reach their final destination, will pay about \$1 more per night at mid-range hotels. Those choos-

ing more modest-priced rooms can expect a 4 percent increase, \$92 a night compared to \$88 last year.

Good news is that car rental prices are the lowest they've been in five years, averaging about \$40 a day, a 21 percent decrease.

Travelers are staying closer to home this year with the average trip at 726 miles, compared to 1,052 last year. Travelers also are planning to spend about 3 percent more with an average trip cost of \$718. Most of the expenses are expected to come from transportation and fuel, followed by shopping, food and beverages, accommodations, entertainment and recreation.

AAA offers some travel tips to help everyone have an enjoyable and safe year-end holiday season:

- Plan ahead. Use a travel-planning tool to help identify the best driving routes, rest stops, and shop the latest gas prices. Continuously monitor weather conditions along your route and be prepared with contingency plans.

- Arrive early. Airports will be crowded and security steps may be intensified so allow additional time at your departure airport. For domestic flights, arrive at least two hours prior to your departure and arrive at least three hours early for international flights. Busier airports may require even earlier arrival times. Monitor weather conditions closely, and before leaving home, visit your airline's website for updates about the status of your flight.

- Avoid the three Deadly D's of Driving:

- Drunk or Drugged Driving. Remember that impairment begins with the first sip of alcohol. A designated driver should be alcohol-free, not merely the person in your party who has consumed the least amount of alcohol. Many medications have side effects that cause impairment, so read medication labels thorough-

ly.

- Drowsy Driving. Get seven to nine hours of sleep before driving. Take a break every 100 miles or two hours. Do not drive during hours when you routinely sleep. If you feel tired while driving, pull over to a safe location and take a 20- to 30-minute nap.

- Distracted Driving. It is the driver's responsibility to keep eyes, mind and body fully focused on the task of driving. Assign a passenger to be the designated texter, talker, and navigator. If traveling alone, pull over to a safe location to use your cell phone or adjust your navigation device, then proceed on your trip distraction free. Child and pet passengers can be distractions to drivers, so allow another adult passenger to interact with these family members.

For more information, visit AAA.com.

Agencies make holidays bright for families

By SUZETTE PORTER

Employees at Pinellas County governmental agencies have been working overtime lately, making sure that local children and families have something special for Christmas.

For nearly two decades, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has spearheaded a Christmas Sharing Project, using money raised during the annual Ride & Run with the Stars and other donations.

This year nearly 100 deputies and agency members "shopped for Santa," purchasing as many items as they could with the \$25,000 raised at this year's Ride & Run. The goal is to fill the wish lists of almost 500 children and their families who qualified to participate in the Christmas Sharing program.

Employees of the sheriff's office submit the names of children and families, who are screened to determine their level of need. Most wish lists include basic needs – underwear, socks, jackets or school clothes. Deputies also purchase toys and other gifts to help make the holidays brighter for good little boys and girls.

Deputies get help from two local businesses, including Bechtel Financial and AMSCOT. This year, the Bechtel family is donating almost 80 bicycles and AMSCOT is providing the helmets. Deputies loaded their cruisers with gifts Dec. 15 and personally delivered the gifts to area families. Sheriff Bob Gualtieri sends his appreciation to all the community partners who donated to this year's event.

Pinellas County's employees have been giving back to the community for 25 years now with their holiday bicycle drive, which is a "team project," according to the county's Communications Department. Employees donate money throughout the year for the bicycle fund.

On Dec. 16, employees loaded 56 new bicycles, which had been on display in the Courthouse lobby, for delivery to the Department of Health and Human Services in Clearwater and St. Petersburg.

County social workers will distribute the bikes to eligible families who received benefits from the county's Health and Human Services Department this past year. County employees also donated items to fulfill wish lists offered to eligible clients of Health and Human Services. The wish lists included personal products, household goods and linens.

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority employees also are doing their part to spread holiday cheer this season.

Boxes and bags filled with toys have been flowing into PSTA's administrative offices over the past several weeks thanks to the generosity of the agency's employees, according to Bob Lasher, manager of community relations.

PSTA employees have collaborated with Lutheran Services of Florida and Eckerd Youth Alternatives for the past several years to supply toys to needy children.

"We have a longstanding tradition of collecting gifts for the needy during the holidays. With so many people struggling with the economy, we weren't sure it would be appropriate to ask for donations this year," said PSTA director of Transportation and Gift Drive coordinator Denise Skinner. "However, before we could even make a decision, our staff asked us if they could hold a gift drive for the needy. As far as I'm concerned, their generosity and kindness are the perfect embodiment of the holiday spirit."

PSTA asked their partners for a list of children and their holiday wish lists. PSTA staff was so responsive that organizers had to ask for more names and wish lists because the initial group

was taken so quickly, Lasher said. As of Dec. 15, employees had fulfilled the lists of more than 50 children – and employees were still bringing in gifts.

PSTA employees loaded up a special holiday express, aka a hybrid SmartBus, on Dec. 16, to

deliver the gifts to Lutheran Services in Largo. Staff from Lutheran Services and Eckerd Youth Alternatives will finish the project, making sure the gifts arrive to the children in time to make this year's holidays something to remember.

Safeguard homes before trips

TAMPA – Millions of Americans will leave their home in the coming weeks to spend the holiday with friends and family. Burglars look forward to this time of year as much as anyone else, since they know more homes will be vacant than any other time of the year.

"Without realizing it, many families leave their home vulnerable to burglaries when they leave for their holiday vacations," said Angie LaPlant, AAA insurance spokesperson, the Auto Club Group. "Homeowners should take every precaution possible to ensure their home looks lived-in while they are away and make an inventory of any big ticket items in case a theft occurs and they need to file an insurance claim. If anyone has questions about what is and isn't covered in the event of a home burglary, it's recommended they contact their insurance agent."

A standard homeowner's insurance policy typically covers furniture, electronics, sports equipment, and other personal items if they are stolen. Most companies provide coverage up to 70 percent of the amount of insurance carried on the structure of a home. For example, someone with \$100,000 worth of insurance on the structure of their home would have between \$50,000 to \$70,000 worth of coverage for their belongings. It's important to note that jewelry, fine art, firearms, and other high-value items may have limited amounts of coverage.

Tips to protect your home from burglars this holiday season:

- Make your house look lived-in while on vacation. Put timers on a few lights at various times and set one up to a talk-radio station to make it seem as

though people are in the house.

- Make sure to stop your newspaper and/or mail so it doesn't pile up. Ask a neighbor to pick up your mail and newspapers so they don't pile up in your front yard.

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Tampa Bay Downs sets holiday schedule

OLDSMAR - Thoroughbred racing fans looking for a respite from the holiday whirlwind have two more opportunities to enjoy live racing at Tampa Bay Downs before a four-day break to allow horsemen and racing officials time to celebrate the season.

Live racing also will be offered Thursday, Dec. 22 and Friday, Dec. 23, then resume Dec. 28-31.

When January rolls around, Tampa Bay Downs will race five days a week from Wednesday through Sunday, with the exception of a pair of dark Thursdays - Jan. 5 and Jan. 12.

During the holiday season, the Downs will remain open every day except Dec. 25 for simulcast wagering from tracks across the country. In addition, TBD offers exciting no-limit card games and tournaments in its Silks Poker Room and golf fun and top-notch instruction at the Downs golf practice facility.

Honda Grand Prix tickets go on sale

ST. PETERSBURG - Tickets to the 2012 Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, scheduled March 23-25, have gone on sale.

Tickets for the event range in price from \$20 to \$125. Paddock passes also are available starting at \$40 for an adult single day pass. Reduced rate tickets are offered to juniors, ages 12 and under, in certain ticket categories.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.gpstpete.com or by phone at 877-283-5385.

Three-day reserved tickets purchased before Dec. 31 will receive a free weekend IZOD IndyCar Series Paddock Pass, a \$65 value.

The event will mark the start of the 2012 IZOD IndyCar Series season for the second year in a row, ushering in the global debut of the new IndyCar chassis and

the much-anticipated return of competition among engine manufacturers.

The marquee race will continue to be the IZOD IndyCar Series and will mark the eighth year of racing on the streets of St. Petersburg. The event will serve as home race to a number of Florida residents including Ryan Hunter-Reay, Tony Kanaan and Helio Castroneves, who is the only two-time winner in St. Petersburg.

Other drivers to compete include former winners Dario Franchitti, Will Power, Ryan Briscoe and Graham Rahal, along with fierce competitors Marco Andretti and Scott Dixon, among others.

"This season, our event will have the privilege of experiencing yet again a number of historic firsts for IndyCar racing," said Tim Ramsberger, vice president and general manager of the Honda Grand Prix. "In 2012, we will see a lot more competition, and the competition starts right here in St. Petersburg."

The 2012 Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg also will hold a special tribute for the late Dan Wheldon, who was a local resident and won the event's inaugural race in 2005. Organizers have established a committee consisting of city, IndyCar, race officials and other stakeholders to determine memorial plans and will announce details in the new year.

The new IndyCar chassis, designed by Dallara Automobili, will make its first appearance of the season during the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. In honor of Dan Wheldon and his efforts in testing the car during the 2011 season, the new chassis will be labeled 'DW12'. The 2012 season also will showcase three engine manufacturers, creating room for more competition than ever before. Honda, the sole engine supplier of the series since 2006, will be joined by Chevrolet and Lotus to provide turbocharged V-6 engines to competing teams, a move

from last year's V-8 engine.

In addition to world-class racing, the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg will keep race fans entertained with interactive activities in the Brighthouse Speed Zone, live music, exhibits, great food concessions and beer gardens, and much more.

The Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg is run on a 1.8-mile, 14-turn waterfront circuit that includes a combination of adjacent downtown streets circling Pioneer Park, the Progress Energy Center for the Arts, the Salvador Dali Museum and extending onto the runways at Albert Whitted Airport.

Weedon to host Wee-Time

ST. PETERSBURG - Wee-Time at Weedon will be presented Thursdays, Dec. 22, Jan. 12, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

This free program is designed to introduce preschool children to the wonders of the natural and cultural world. Every second and fourth Thursday of each month, children are treated to a variety of stories and hands-on activities that connect them to their environment.

Preregistration is required. To register, call 582-2100 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

For information, call 453-6500.

Weedon to host guided hikes

ST. PETERSBURG - Guided hikes will be offered Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 9 to 11 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

Attendees will learn about the ecosystems and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve while going along on this free guided hike. Participants should bring water and a snack. A hat and closed-toe shoes also are recommended. The hike is best for ages 6 and older.

Preregistration is required. Call 453-6500 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Great Weedon Bird Quest set

ST. PETERSBURG - The Great Weedon Bird Quest will be Friday, Jan. 13, 8 to 10 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

Guests will learn to identify marks and behaviors of the island birds while taking advantage of this free guided hike. Binoculars will be available.

Advance registration is required. Call 453-6500 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Trout season is approaching

Although we're still just over a week away for the 2012 opening of speckled trout for our region, many anglers have been reporting excellent catch and release action for trout throughout the entire region.

In the northern part of the region, Dunedin/St. Joseph's Sound is prime trout habitat. The many spoil islands that line the main channel are full of trout this time of year. The water is clean and the bottom is diverse, laden with grass, hard-bottom and rocks. Drift fishing around these islands is an effective way to cover water and find the schools of fish. Soft-plastic jigs are easy to fish and work as good as live bait for the trout. Using a quarter ounce jig-head will help you get your jig down quick. The color is up to you; I prefer dark colors for



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

the most part, but I know plenty of people who fish with white and other bright colors.

In the southern part of the region spoil islands give way to lush grass, peppered with potholes that make great ambush stations for trout. Fort De Soto Park is a great place for boaters and nonboaters alike to enjoy the expansive grass flats. Cast live or artificial shrimp in any of the sand holes and you're likely to get bit.

East winds have made it possible to fish the beach for silver trout and flounder. Target near-

shore artificial reefs and jetties for flounder that are lying on the bottom waiting to pounce a live shrimp or white bait rigged on a drop-shot. Silver trout are schooled up along the beach, the schools can be found as close as the swim buoy's and as far out as a half-a-mile or so. Look for diving birds to help narrow the search for the trout. If there are no birds around you can simply drift with the wind and tide as you cast soft plastic jigs.

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.

Cheerleaders win competitions



Photo courtesy of RANA BECKER

The Pinellas Park Thunderbirds JV Pee Wee Cheerleaders won first places in all four of the cheer competitions they participated in this year, including the Best of the Bay Youth Recreation Cheerleading Championship held at the Florida State Fairgrounds on Oct. 23, the Gulf Coast Cheer Classic on Oct. 30, the Cheer Champions Express Florida Invitational at the Tampa Convention Center on Nov. 6 and the Suncoast Youth Football Conference cheer competition at Osceola High School on Nov. 20. The T-birds' peewee group is for ages 11-12.

Brooker to present Book Time

TARPON SPRINGS - Book Time at Brooker will be offered Thursdays, Dec. 22, 29, Jan. 5, 12, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

Designed for children ages 3 to 5, this free program connects attendees to the wonders of the natural world. In addition to hearing a great story, children will participate in a craft, game or other hands-on activity related to the story that is read. Space is limited. Preregistration is required. Call 582-2100 or visit www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

Brooker to host guided hike

TARPON SPRINGS - A guided hike will be offered Saturday, Jan. 7, 9 to 10:30 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

Attendees will take a walk through time on a guided hike. Participants will have an opportu-

nity to look at how the land has changed over time and discuss the ecological footprints left by those changes. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must, and water and a hat are recommended. All ages are welcomed, although children 5 and younger may find this hike challenging.

Preregistration is required. Visit www.brookercreekpreserve.org or call 453-6800.

Brooker to host bird hike

TARPON SPRINGS - The Birds of Brooker hike will be offered Saturday, Jan. 14, 8 to 10:30 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

Attendees will hike to observe and collect data on the fall migratory songbirds flocking to the preserve. Closed-toe shoes, water and a hat are recommended. Attendees also may bring binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras. The free hike is best suited for adults.

Advance registration is required. Call 453-6800 or visit www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

Fort De Soto to offer guided walk

TIERRA VERDE - A free, guided nature walk will be offered Saturday, Dec. 31, 10 to 11 a.m., at Fort De Soto Park, 3500 Pinellas Bayway S.

Guests will enjoy the beauty of Fort De Soto Park with a one-hour nature walk great for the entire family. A guided walk on the beach trail is planned.

To register and for tour information and meeting locations, call 552-1862.

Garden club to meet

BELLEAIR BEACH - The Belleair Beach Island Garden Club will meet Wednesday, Jan. 18, 10:30 a.m., at the Belleair Beach Community Center, 444 Causeway Blvd.

Rita Taylor of Briarwood Farms will present the program All About Herbs. The event will include a salad luncheon. Cost is \$5 for guests. For reservations, call Ruth Manning at 517-8209 or email ruthmanning@hotmail.com.

Obituaries



Nancy J. (Burk) PRESTON

Nancy J. Burk Preston, 71, passed away Wednesday, December 7, 2011, at Kootenai Medical Center in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. Originally from Reading, Pa., she was the widow of Samuel L. Preston, Jr. They were married for 38 years until his death in 1999. Nancy was the oldest daughter of Emma and Benjamin Burk. She worked as a nurse at Reading Hospital for 30 years until her retirement. Nancy is survived by her two sons, Michael R. and Scott S.; her sister, Kathy (Burk) Phillips and her two grandchildren, Alice M. Floyd-Preston and Leo M. Floyd-Preston. Services were held at Yates Funeral Home in Hayden, Idaho on Saturday, December 10th. Yates Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of final arrangements.

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Biz notes

Island Audiology to open

MADEIRA BEACH – Island Audiology LLC, will open its doors Monday, Jan. 9, 9 a.m., at 13999 Gulf Blvd., Suite C-4.

The staff of Island Audiology wants the center to be community resource for both patients and physicians with hearing healthcare needs and to provide solutions to the communication challenges of the hearing impaired through expert diagnosis and treatment.

Dr. Heidi Roberts, resident audiologist and owner of Island Audiology, received her doctorate degree from the University of South Florida. She is a fellow of both the American Academy of Audiology and the Academy of Doctors of Audiology.

Engarde Catering collects gifts

BELLEAIR BLUFFS – Engarde Catering and Gourmet Services, at 432 Indian Rocks Road, recently sponsored a gift benefit for Community Pride whose mission is to provide quality child develop-

ment and supportive services to low income, at risk and homeless children and families while encouraging healthy family practices.

Customers visiting Engarde were encouraged to pick a tag off the Christmas tree, which indicated the child's wish. Through their generous donations, many children will get their wish this Christmas season.

Stefanec's raises funds for Alstott Foundation

BELLEAIR BLUFFS – Throughout the month of December, everyone who got a haircut at Stefanec's South Barber Shop, 772 Indian Rocks Road N., was included in a drawing to win one of six footballs autographed by Mike Alstott.

Six winners, including Jayson Asbury, were drawn on Dec. 15 when Alstott visited the shop.

Stefanec's donated \$1 from every haircut to the Mike Alstott Family Foundation. To make a donation, go to www.mikealstottfamilyfoundation.org

Networking clubs follow the 'leads'

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

The upcoming schedule is as follows:

- Friday, Dec. 23 – BNI Referral Masters, 7 a.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call Bill Mantooth at 639-6690 or visit www.bnireferralmasters.com.
- Friday, Dec. 23 – Network Professionals of St. Pete, 7:30 a.m. For information and meeting location, call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.
- Friday, Dec. 23 – Professional Leads Network, Upper Pinellas Chapter, 8 a.m., at Daddy's Grill, 3682 Tampa Road, Oldsmar. Visit www.pro-leads.net.
- Friday, Dec. 23 – Professional Leads Network, Bay Area Executives Chapter, 11:45 a.m., at Tum Rub Thai, 32716 U.S. 19 N., Palm Harbor. Visit www.pro-leads.net.
- Monday, Dec. 26 – Network Professionals Inc., 7:30 a.m., at Perkins Restaurant, 8841 Park Blvd. N., Largo. Call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.
- Monday, Dec. 26 – Professional Leads Network, St. Petersburg Chapter, 7:45 a.m., at

Ricky P's, 6521 Fourth St. N., St. Petersburg. Visit www.pro-leads.net.

- Monday, Dec. 26 – Ready Set Grow Group, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., at Hometown Family Restaurant, 10395 Seminole Blvd., Largo. Call Jamie Limbaugh at 831-2450 or email jamil@freenetworkinginternational.com.
- Monday, Dec. 26 – Free Networking International, Clearwater Two Cups Connect Group, 2:30 to 4 p.m., at Bay Coast Coffee Market, 2525 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Clearwater. Call Wayne Porter at 642-6173, email waynep@freenetworkinginternational.com or visit twocupsonnect.com.
- Tuesday, Dec. 27 – Professional Leads Network, First Watch Chapter, 7:30 a.m., First Watch, 2569 Village Drive, Clearwater. Visit www.pro-leads.net.
- Tuesday, Dec. 27 – The Board, Network Professionals, 7:30 a.m., at Panera Bread, Bardmoor Shopping Center, corner of Bryan Dairy and Starkey roads, Largo. Call 742-6343.
- Tuesday, Dec. 27 – Business Network International, Winners Circle, 7:30 to 9 a.m., Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Call Dave Proffitt at 230-9240.
- Tuesday, Dec. 27 – Network Professionals Inc., Seminole Chapter, 7:30 a.m., Perkins Family Restaurant, 8841 Park

Blvd., Largo. Call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.

- Tuesday, Dec. 27 – Yacht Club Breakfast, sponsored by Creative Business Connections, 7:30 a.m., St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call Darrell Baker, area director, at 586-4999 or visit www.cbnet.biz.
- Tuesday, Dec. 27 – Network Professionals of St. Pete, 7:30 a.m. For information and meeting location, call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.
- Tuesday, Dec. 27 – Free Networking International, Bayside Group, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Bay Pines Sports Bar, 9685 Bay Pines Blvd., St. Petersburg. Call Janet Landt at 455-7510, email jplady1@hotmail.com or visit www.freenetworkinginternational.com.



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Briefs

Laser cataract procedures offered

LARGO – John M. Michaleos, M.D., of St. Michael's Eye and Laser Institute recently announced the practice now offers the latest advancement in cataract surgery, the LenSx laser for the treatment of cataracts.

St. Michael's Eye and Laser Institute is the first practice in central Florida to offer the procedure. The LenSx laser is an advanced, precision-based technology that operates with unmatched accuracy and computer control, allowing the surgeon to customize the Lifestyle Lens cataract procedure to each patient's unique vision needs.

Guided by the operating surgeon, the LenSx Custom Cataract System uses two new technologies that together create controlled accuracy. With optical coherence tomography, the surgeon is able to view the eye's 3-D anatomy. OCT enables the surgeon to program and perform a comprehensive, computer-controlled surgical procedure.

Morton Plant Mease to host health fair

CLEARWATER – Morton Plant Mease will host a health and wellness fair Wednesday, Jan.

18, 1 to 3 p.m., at the Aging Well Center at the Long Center, 1501 N. Belcher Road.

The fair will include free health screenings, refreshments, giveaways and wellness information.

Health information on breast health, diabetes, heart disease, lung cancer, orthopedics, stroke, memory disorders, sports medicine, weight loss and more will be offered. Free health screenings will include blood pressure, body mass index, prostate cancer, pulmonary function, skin cancer, sleep disorders and vision and glaucoma.

To preregister, call 253-4252 or visit www.mpmhealth.com.

Largo Medical receives award

LARGO – Largo Medical Center recently received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines Stroke Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award.

The award recognizes Largo Medical Center's commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of stroke care by ensuring that stroke patients receive treatment according to nationally accepted standards and recommendations.

To receive the award, Largo Medical Center achieved at least

12 consecutive months of 85 percent or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines Stroke Quality Achievement indicators and achieved at least 75 percent or higher compliance with six of 10 quality measures during that same period of time, which are reporting initiatives to measure quality of care.

These measures include aggressive use of medications, such as tPA, antithrombotics, anticoagulation therapy, DVT prophylaxis, cholesterol reducing drugs and smoking cessation, all aimed at reducing death and disability and improving the lives of stroke patients.

"With a stroke, time lost is brain lost, and the Get With The Guidelines Stroke Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award demonstrates that our staff is committed to providing care that has been shown in the scientific literature to quickly and efficiently treat stroke patients with evidence-based protocols," said Ann Skilton, R.N., in a press release. Skilton is director of intensive and progressive care at Largo Medical Center.

"Largo Medical Center is to be commended for its commitment to implementing standards of care and protocols for treating stroke patients," said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., chair of the Get With The Guidelines National Steering Committee and director of the TeleStroke and Acute Stroke Services at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. "The full implementation of acute care and secondary prevention recommendations and guidelines is a critical step in saving the lives and improving outcomes of stroke patients."

"The time is right for Largo Medical Center to be focused on improving the quality of stroke care by implementing Get With The Guidelines-Stroke. The number of acute ischemic stroke patients eligible for treatment is expected to grow over the next decade due to increasing stroke incidence and a large aging population," said Connie Boudreaux, R.N., chief nursing officer, at Largo Medical Center.

Women's Wellness Day planned

CLEARWATER – Morton Plant Mease will host Women's Well-

Leave the jolliness up to Santa

This Christmas leave the status of "big and jolly" up to good old St. Nick. Celebrate this Christmas with active fun and good-for-you food. Skip the calorie laden treats for a delicious crudité (sounds fancy!), or engage in some fun activities to shake up your holiday traditions. Besides, no one likes being mistaken for the big guy.

Jingle Bell Rock – What a bright time, it's the right time to rock the night away. Spend Christmas rocking with your family by playing some Christmas-inspired games. It's even possible to incorporate some active fun while ripping open the presents under the Christmas tree.

When wrapping your holiday gifts use your normal wrapping paper, but in between layers of the paper include a small card with some exercise instructions on it for each person who takes off a wrapper (i.e. hop on one leg for three minutes, then run up and down the stairs). The anticipation will put an even bigger smile on your loved ones' faces when they reach their gift.

Dear Santa – Use the holiday spirit to encourage yourself and loved ones to stay fit and healthy all year long. Top your Christmas wish list with that gym membership to the local YMCA, or sign up for classes at a local recreational center. Recreational center classes are a great opportunity to try a new activity at a low cost – kick some butt with Tae Kwon Do or groove into health with Zumba.

Lighten Up the Christmas Cookies – Take the Christmas season as the opportunity to add some new recipes to your family cookbook. Santa will appreciate the lighter Christmas treats; after all he has a lot of cookies to eat on Christmas Eve. Try making Chewy chocolate brownies with only 2 grams of fat, or whip up a pumpkin pie with only 193 calories per slice. Delish.com offers

For your health

recipes that provide healthier versions of all your favorite pies, cakes, and more.

Miracle on the Court – Christmas Day brings an additional celebration this year – the end of the NBA lockout.

Celebrate the start of the basketball season with some holiday cheer. Elves versus reindeers in a neighborhood pick-up game!

Dinner Delights – After the gift giving ends, the real holiday cheer begins at the dinner table. For some Christmas dinnertime classics, substitutions just won't do. This is when portion control comes into play. Rather than taking a giant scoop of mashed potatoes, cut that portion in half and save yourself the extra calories. Remember, make sure your plate is packed with a variety of colors. This will ensure you're getting your key nutrients. Enjoy!

Looking for more ways to incorporate active fun and feel good foods into your holiday season? Santa has given Pinellas County the gift of the season – FindTheFunNow.com.

Find the Fun Now is part of the Communities Putting Prevention to Work program being funded by the CDC in Pinellas County and 49 other communities across the U.S. to address the nation's two leading causes of death and chronic disease: obesity and tobacco.

The obesity prevention campaign is built around a web-based application that helps area residents find active fun and healthy food options. FindTheFunNow.com includes a database of hundreds of local activities as well information about local farmers' markets and other places to find fresh produce.

Don't leave Christmas looking like jolly ole' Santa and his belly, find some fun now!

This article was provided by the Pinellas County Health Department.



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ness Day: New Year, New You, on Saturday, Jan. 21, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Check-Powell Wellness Center, 455 Pinellas St.

The day will be dedicated to women's health and will feature free health screenings, life-coaching tips, chair massages and health presentations.

The event schedule follows:

- 8 to 9:15 a.m. – Registration and free health screenings, including body mass index and blood pressure

- 9:15 to 10 a.m. – For Your Mind: Set a New Year's Resolution and Stick to It, presented by Elizabeth Nelson, M.A., certified life coach

- 10:15 to 11 a.m. – For Your Body: Make Getting Fit, Fit Into Your Life, presented by Jean-Marie Scordino, M. Ed. ACSM, certified personal trainer

- 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – For Your Body: Get Informed at Lunch with the Doctors with Barbara Bourland, M.D., radiologist (women's breast health); Vanessa Lucarella, M.D., cardiologist (women's heart care);

Michelle Zetoony, D.O., pulmonologist (sleep disorders and women); and Kathleen Allen, M.D., surgical oncologist (breast cancer prevention and treatments)

- 12:45 to 1:30 p.m. – For Your Spirit: Empower the New You, Julia Balzer Riley, R.N., M.N., AHN-BC, REACE

- 1:45 to 2:30 p.m. – For Your Spirit: Breathe and Meditate Your Way to Change with Chair Yoga, Marcia Albanese, RN, MPH, HN-BC, yoga teacher

To preregister for the event, call 940-2776.

Largo blood donor center closing

ST. PETERSBURG – Florida Blood Services' Largo Donor Center, located at 11401 Belcher Road, will close permanently at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 22. The Baxter Healthcare facility, which has generously sponsored this location for 14 years, is moving their staff and facilities out of this building.

"Over these many years, we have had a great family of donors visit us regularly at this center," said Jackie Frawley, center charge.

"We will miss them, but hope they will come and donate at these other two donor center locations where we will be relocating our staff to," said Frawley.

They are:
 • Clearwater Donor Center, 1680 South Missouri Ave., south of Belleair, by Office Depot. Call 582-9500.
 • Tyrone Donor Center, 1700 66th St. N., at 18th Avenue North. Call 384-4145.

Florida Blood Services is a nonprofit, community-based provider for the blood needs of patients at 46 hospitals in Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk counties, through the generosity of volunteer blood donors. Almost 1,000 donations are required daily, due to the high quality of medical care in Tampa Bay that serves the most critically ill patients throughout West Central Florida.

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EDITORIAL

Those nasty cigarette butts

IRB takes right approach through proposed ordinance

So you finally get a chance to relax on the beach. You put up your umbrella, plop down in your lounge chair and put your toes on ... a cigarette butt.

Yuk. That's reason enough for the Indian Rocks Beach City Commission to adopt an ordinance calling for fines imposed on people who improperly dispose of their cigarette butts at IRB beaches and parks.

Not surprisingly, the proposal is controversial because some residents don't want more laws on the books and have to pay to enforce them. The argument can be made that such measures smack of Big Brother.

But those arguments don't measure up to those for a smoke-free environment.

A Florida Department of Health official told city commissioners that cigarette butts left on the beach are health hazards because they contain 165 different forms of chemicals that don't disintegrate, posing a hazard to wildlife. In one clean-up day in California, 230,000 cigarette butts were recovered from the sand. Secondhand smoke causes 50,000 deaths a year in the United States.

A Pinellas County Health Department official said in the 2010 Intra-coastal Waterway in Pinellas County, 205,000 cigarette butts were recovered, 13,000 cigar tips, 3,500 lighters and 5,700 empty packs.

Several municipalities in Florida have passed laws or resolutions limiting or banning smoking on the beaches. Similar laws have been adopted in jurisdictions all across the country.

In New York City, effective May 23, 2011, smoking was banned in all parks, boardwalks, beaches, recreation centers, swimming pools and pedestrian plazas.

Numerous governments and businesses are cracking down on smoking in public places and have established smoke-free hiring policies, hoping to reduce health insurance costs.

City Attorney Maura Kiefer has been asked to draft an ordinance establishing a \$500 fine for anyone caught discarding cigarette butts on the city's beaches or in the parks.

The City Commission should adopt the ordinance at its Jan. 10 meeting and then launch a public awareness campaign about the law before they begin to enforce it. Of course, signage is needed at the places affected by the law.

Most visitors to the beach will adjust to the new restrictions, just as patrons of restaurants and other establishments where smoking is banned - around the world.

LETTERS

Keep the money in Florida

Editor:

I read Carl Hiaasen's article on gambling in Florida. As I understand, Disney is against gambling. With that understood, what about their pricing - \$85 for adults, \$79 for kids. I am a native and to see the money going to Vegas, Biloxi, Atlantic City, and the islands is a shame. These are people who live here going elsewhere to gamble. What's wrong with keeping the monies here in our own state?

Nancy Mendel
Pinellas Park

Health hazard

Editor:

There can be no doubt that second hand smoke and improperly discarded butts are a health hazard to humans and wildlife.

Not sure what "eminent domain" has to do with this issue; no one is suggesting banning smoking on private property.

Just keep your smoke to yourself; I don't need to breathe it on my beach.

Carl Muller
Indian Rocks Beach

This is madness, period

Editor:

They say insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. In Pinellas County we do things different and we still get bad results.

Face it now or you will be paying big time, everyone except the 1 percent. If we don't change this ridiculous and costly way of living - the time for new county government is here, period.

The concept is so simple and efficient. That's why no elected official or government agency will do it. We have to, soon, like next election. If I read or hear another council or commission or committee, etc. say we have hired an outside source to help us ... Help us? See above statement. What have all the past and recent investments in our best interests do us. Uh ... Oh ... more expenses, wasted money and a heck of a broken down economy. Consolidate this county before it's totally bankrupt and beyond repair.

If you need pictures, diagrams, graphs, charts, etc. My consulting fee is free. We have all paid already more than enough for this madness.

Al Neuman
Largo

What do you think?

Please type letters to the editor (or print legibly) and include your name, town of residence, phone number and signature and mail to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772. Emails should include town of residence and telephone and be sent to tgermond@TBNweekly.com. We will not print the letter writer's phone number.

Here are some more guidelines for letters:

- Letters are printed on a first-come, first-served basis. They may be edited to correct grammar, spelling and factual errors. They also may be edited for clarity.
- Please keep letters to editor to 500 words. Longer letters may be cut due to space limitations.
- Letters should address issues or current events. Please refrain from making unsubstantiated allegations. The newspaper will not print letters that contain slanderous or racial statements.
- Please do not use profanity.
- We do not publish poetry or songs in letters to the editor.
- Each writer may submit one letter per month.
- We can't return letters to the editor.

How to contribute

All press releases are published on a space available basis. They are subject to editing for grammar, length and general newspaper style.

We are not able to predict exactly the issue it will be printed - or even guarantee that it will be used.

The deadline for all copy is Friday, noon, preceding publication date. The newspapers are published Thursdays. For upcoming events, please send in your announcement two weeks in advance, if possible.

All submissions can be dropped off at the office or mailed to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772, emailed to editorial@TBNweekly.com or faxed to 397-5900.

Questions? Call 397-5563 or send an email.

Please include a contact name and number on all submissions.

NFL opens its arms to all religions

Feb. 15, 2012 - NEW YORK, N.Y. - The National Football League today announced a new, open-religion policy for all its games, beginning in September 2012.

NFL spokesman Roscoe Belasco said that when the new season begins, players who belong to any major or minor religion will be permitted to express their devoutness as they wish during each game, provided that such expression does not impede the game or result in on-the-field violence between the players.

The surprise NFL move came after recent controversy over the actions of Denver Bronco quarterback Tim Tebow, who occasionally kneels in prayer during Bronco games. While many fellow Christians have praised Tebow for demonstrating his religious feeling in public, other observers have said that religion has no place in the NFL, whose primary goal is achieving huge profits for team owners and players. A recent Time magazine headline asked, "Does Jesus belong in the huddle?" Because of Tebow's athletic success and his religious zeal, many people have imitated his kneeling in prayer. It is called "tebowing."

Tebow has also received notoriety for being (by his own admission) a virgin. Although no research has been undertaken up to now, it is believed that very few talented football players retain their virginity past age 16, because of the availability of high school and college women who lust after muscular, energetic athletes who can run faster than most young women. By remaining a virgin at age 24, Tebow violates NFL norms. The NFL does not like its players to violate norms, especially the one that says, "Thou shalt not be gay, which is even worse than being a virgin."

Getting back to the religion issue: Belasco said the NFL chose to adopt an open-religion policy in order to head off any further arguments about the appropriateness of religious acts on the NFL gridirons. "We're declaring a



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

laissez-faire attitude toward God, Jehovah, Allah, Buddha, Vishnu, and all other cosmic entities," Belasco said. "It's come one, come all."

He stressed that the new policy will be entirely voluntary. No one will be pressured to show his religious inclinations, but everyone will be free to do so.

Some NFL fans are suggesting that Christian-oriented songs such as "Amazing Grace" or "How Great Thou Art" may now be substituted for the national anthem at the beginning of each football game.

"This is unlikely," said one fan. "Hell, we can barely find singers who know all the words to 'The Star-Spangled Banner,' let alone the lyrics of hymns."

Belasco predicted that the various faiths will choose their own individual methods of expression during NFL games. For instance, Roman Catholic players will be permitted to cross themselves or wear rosaries around their necks. Jewish players will be allowed to glue yarmulkes (a cloth skullcap) on top of their helmets.

For Muslims, special secluded areas near the end zones would be set aside for prayer rugs and attendant prayers. Buddhist players would require a small space for the storage and use of prayer wheels. During time-outs, Hindu players may routinely chant mantras.

What about atheists? Will they be encouraged to practice their beliefs during NFL games? Belasco said, "We talked at length

about that. We finally concluded that most atheists do not hold traditional religious beliefs, so it's unlikely they will want any special favors from the NFL. In fact, we're hoping that atheist players will remain anonymous, to avoid getting roughed up by Southern Baptists who regard atheists as devil-worshippers."

Most NFL games take place on Sunday, which in olden times was regarded as a sacred day of rest. Belasco was asked how many Christian football players would refuse to take part in Sunday games. He said, "Very few. Most of them are screened out while they're still in college, and those who make it to the NFL draft are quickly identified and eliminated as potential troublemakers. Given the choice of Christ or Sunday football, almost every player will choose football. They know that religion will be around forever, but peak playing years can disappear overnight."

Despite the NFL's new open-religion policy, the league has no plans to allow players to paint their faces with Biblical verse references, such as John 3:16. This practice was tolerated for a time, but was banned after players began confusing the Bible verses with the quarterback's signal-calling and the time remaining on the game clock.

Tebow has led the Broncos to several dramatic fourth-quarter victories this fall, giving rise to comments about his being a miracle-worker in league with God. Others dismiss the likelihood of divine assistance, pointing out that Tebow's versatility (he runs the football as well as he passes it), his athleticism, courage and unpredictable movements on the field are formidable assets even without God's help. Whoever and whatever he may be, Tebow lights up the field.

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



Why some legislators are in a panic

An absolutely true news item: Having passed a law allowing gun owners to bring their weapons inside the state Capitol building, the Florida Senate has hastily installed panic buttons on the office phone of every senator and staff member.

This is an open letter from concerned members of the Florida House of Representatives to the Sergeant at Arms:

We couldn't help but notice that our colleagues in the Senate were provided with enhanced security measures as a result of our controversial - but patriotic! - decision to allow licensed owners of concealed weapons to carry their loaded guns through the corridors of the Capitol.

As everybody knows, the legislation wasn't our idea. It was written by lobbyists for the National Rifle Association, a fine organization that isn't nearly as crazed and paranoid as some people make it out to be. Also, the NRA contributes generously to most of our political campaigns, which is why we blindly do whatever it tells us to do.

Up until a few months ago, law-enforcement officers asked all pistol-packing constituents to leave their weapons in a lock box before entering the Capitol. That system worked pretty darn well, in our humble opinion, but then we learned of the NRA's desire to further broaden the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans.

So we went ahead and passed this new law that prevents local governments from regulating firearms, except in a few places where the state specifically says guns don't belong - hospitals, schools and courthouses.

We'd be fibbing if we said every single member of the House actually read this bill and comprehended all its ramifications. Basically, we took the NRA's word that it was no biggie. Ever since Oct. 1, anybody with a concealed-weapons permit can bring their fa-



Carl Hiaasen

vorite pistol to beaches, parks, even public libraries. Most legislators weren't too worried because, seriously, who the heck still goes to a library? Not us!

Beaches didn't seem like a problem area, either. Everybody's wearing bathing suits, so where would you even conceal a weapon? If some guy's got a .357 sticking out of his Speedo, little kids should have enough common sense not to mess with his sand castle. Right?

Then we come to find out that the new law also allows loaded handguns inside government buildings such as school board headquarters, city halls, county halls and even the venerable state Capitol here in Tallahassee, where the undersigned happened to work. Bearing in mind that citizens occasionally get angry at their politicians, and also bearing in mind that even a normally sober firearms owner can have a bad day, the NRA kindly allowed us to bar gun toters from the legislative chambers and committee rooms, where we conduct the important business of selling out to special interests.

However, the law doesn't prevent armed voters from freely walking the hallways of the Capitol, or visiting the offices of the undersigned. Consequently, we were intrigued by media reports about the so-called panic buttons that have been given to members of the Senate, even to the Democrats who voted against the darn law. Not that we have an inferiority complex, but we who serve in the House are curious to know why our phones weren't also equipped with emergency devices.

It's true that there are only 40 state senators while there are 120 representatives. And it's also true that Florida is in a severe budget crisis, and that government needs to shave expenses wherever possible.

But, seriously, how much money can these stupid little gizmos possibly cost? Don't we have any pull at Radio Shack?

After consulting the House leadership, we've decided to take the high road and assume that the absence of panic buttons isn't a snub, but rather the result of clerical oversight or perhaps assembly-line problems at the panic-button factory in Taiwan. This temporary disparity in the level of safety precautions doesn't mean that the life of a House member is somehow less valued than that of a senator. In truth, all of us in the legislative branch stand equal in the eyes of those who are seeking to buy our favor.

Therefore, as Sergeant at Arms, you are hereby instructed to promptly obtain and install the proper quantity of panic buttons in the offices of the House of Representatives. Said buttons should be connected to an emergency command center, and should ring at an ear-splitting pitch when activated by the user.

Upon hearing such an alarm, Capitol police should assume that a House member is facing a gun-wielding Floridian who is disgruntled, deranged or possibly both. At this point, Second Amendment concerns should be set aside and all diligent efforts should be aimed at stopping this nut job by whatever means necessary (and we're not talking about Tasering his butt, OK?).

Also, we wish to formally inquire about the availability of body armor. Does it come with pockets?

Carl Hiaasen is a columnist for the Miami Herald. Readers may write to him at: 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132.

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Publisher/President: Dan Autrey
dautrey@tbnweekly.com

Accounting Manager: Andrea Marcarelli
webmaster@tbnweekly.com

Retail Advertising Manager: Jay Rey
jrey@tbnweekly.com

Classified Advertising Manager: Shelly Fournier
sfournier@tbnweekly.com

Executive Editor: Tom Germond
tgermond@tbnweekly.com

Production Manager: David Brown
production@tbnweekly.com

Internet Services Manager: Suzette Porter
webmaster@tbnweekly.com

Seminole/Beach Beacon: Bob McClure
bmccclure@tbnweekly.com

Largo Leader/Dunedin Beacon: Tom Germond
tgermond@tbnweekly.com

Belleair/Beach Bee: Chary Southmayd
csouthmayd@tbnweekly.com

9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772

727-397-5563 • Fax: 727-397-5900 • www.TBNweekly.com

Clearwater Beacon: Alexandra Lundahl
alundahl@tbnweekly.com

Pinellas Park Beacon: Juliana A. Torres
jtorres@tbnweekly.com

General Editorial
editorial@tbnweekly.com

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



Holiday Services

Following is a listing of some holiday services scheduled at places of worship throughout Pinellas County.

Call 446-7718 or visit www.stpaulsclearwater.org.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
 CLEARWATER – Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 3200 McMullen Booth Road.
 Christmas Eve services, on Saturday, Dec. 24, will include a Christmas pageant and Eucharist, 5 p.m.; and candlelight mass, 11 p.m.
 On Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25, a Christmas Eucharist will be presented at 10 a.m.
 Call 796-5514 or visit www.holytrinityclw.org.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish Catholic Church
 CLEARWATER – St. Catherine of Siena Parish Catholic Church, 1955 S. Belcher Road.
 Christmas Eve services, on Saturday, Dec. 24, will include a children's mass, at 4 and 6 p.m.; a midnight string quartet, from 11:15 to midnight; and a midnight mass.
 Christmas Day masses, on Sunday, Dec. 25, will be presented at 7, 9 and 11 a.m.
 Call 531-7721 or visit www.scosparish.org.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 CLEARWATER – St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 407 S. Saturn Ave.
 On Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, a candlelight service will be presented at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. The service will feature musicians such as the Pinellas String Quartet and members of the Tampa Bay Symphony.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan
 CLEARWATER – The Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan, 2165 NE Coachman Road.
 On Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, the church will present "O Come Let Us Adore Him," a family liturgy. The choral prelude will be at 7 p.m. followed by the Eucharist at 7:30 p.m.
 On Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25, the church will present liturgy at 8 a.m.
 Call 461-1717.

St. John's Episcopal Church
 CLEARWATER – St. John's Episcopal Church, 1676 S. Belcher Road.
 Christmas Eve services, on Saturday, Dec. 24, will include a family Eucharist, 5 p.m.; Ye Olde Victorian Christmas, 9 p.m.; and candlelight choral Eucharist, 10 p.m.
 On Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25, the holy Eucharist with carols will be presented at 10 a.m.
 Call 531-6020 or visit www.stjohnsclearwater.org.

First United Methodist Church
 CLEARWATER – First United Methodist Church, 411 Turner St.
 Christmas Eve services, on Saturday, Dec. 24, will be presented at 5:30 p.m. and will include chancel choir, tower ringers, children's choir, Crosswind Praise Team and candle lighting.
 The Christmas Day service, on Sunday, Dec. 25, will be presented at 10:30 a.m.
 Call 446-5955 or visit www.fumc-clw.com.

New Thought Center for Creative Living
 CLEARWATER – New Thought Center for Creative Living, Unity Peace Cottage, 2465 Nursery Road.
 The center will conduct a burning bowl service on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 7 to 8 p.m.
 The Burning Bowl ceremony is a symbolic letting go of ideas and attitudes that are no longer constructive. Participants write what they want to release on a card and then literally burn it.
 Call the Rev. Marla Sanderson at 475-8991.

Union Street United Methodist Church
 CLEARWATER – Union Street United Methodist Church, 1625 Union St.
 On Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, a candlelight family worship service will be presented at 5:30 p.m.
 The Christmas Day service will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:15 a.m. and will include a blessing of the toys. Attendees may bring a favorite toy to be blessed.
 Call 442-9300.

Faith United Church of Christ
 DUNEDIN – Faith United Church of Christ, 1650 Pinehurst Road.
 The Christmas Eve service will be presented Saturday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m. Refreshments will follow the service.
 Call 539-7737.

Calvary Episcopal Church
 INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – Calvary Episcopal Church, 1615 First St.
 Christmas Eve services, on Saturday, Dec. 24, will include a

See SERVICES, page 13A



St. John's Episcopal Church
 1676 S. Belcher Road, (south of Belleair Rd.)
 Clearwater (727) 531-6020 • www.stjohnsclearwater.org

Christmas Eve
 5pm-Family Eucharist
 9pm-Ye Olde Victorian Christmas
 10pm-Candlelight Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day
 10am-Holy Eucharist with Carols



CHAPEL ON THE HILL
 United Church of Christ
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 7pm & 11pm "Lessons and Carols"

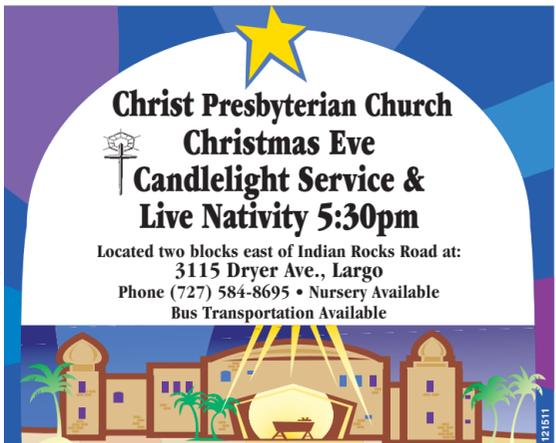
Please Join Us For Our
 Hallelujah Chorus Sing Along

12601 Park Blvd. in Seminole
 727-391-2919 www.coth.org



Holy Spirit Ecumenical Catholic Church
Because it's not about rules, it's about relationships!

Sunday Mass, 10:30am
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Mass, 8pm
Come, share our joy!
 6152 126th Avenue (Oaklefe Center), Largo
 727.232.3918 HolySpiritECC.org



Christ Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service &
Live Nativity 5:30pm

Located two blocks east of Indian Rocks Road at:
 3115 Dryer Ave., Largo
 Phone (727) 584-8695 • Nursery Available
 Bus Transportation Available



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
Good Samaritan
 "O Come Let Us Adore Him"

Christmas Eve
Family Liturgy
 7:00 p.m. Choral Prelude
 7:30 p.m. Eucharist

Christmas Day
Liturgy
 8:00 a.m.

WWW.GOODSAMARITAN-SWFLA.ORG
 2165 N.E. Coachman Road • Clearwater
 727-461-1717



St. Dunstan's Anglican Church
 403 First Ave. SW, Largo
 727-581-1435 • www.stdunstansfl.com

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve., Dec. 24, 2011

3:30pm	Christmas Carols
4:00pm	Holy Communion
7:30pm	Christmas Carols
8:00pm	Holy Communion
10:30pm	Christmas Carols
11:00pm	Holy Communion

Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2011

10:15am	Holy Communion
---------	----------------

New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2012

7:30am	Holy Communion
10:15am	Holy Communion



Join us this Christmas
at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

A Night in Bethlehem Sat. Dec. 17th and Sun. Dec. 18th
 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Stroll through the ancient city of Bethlehem while you enjoy storytellers, music, crafts and more. Plus you can interact with a weary Mary and Joseph and greet baby Jesus. *Please Join us... All are welcome! *Childcare available*

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 Festival Eucharist - Saturday, Dec. 24th

5:00pm **Worship** with Children's Choir and Youth Bells
 7:10pm **Pre-Service Music**
 7:30pm **Worship** with Choir, Pipe Organ, Bells, Brass and Timpani
**Childcare available at 5:00 and 7:30 Services*

9:40pm **Pre-Service Music**
 10:00pm **Worship** with Choir, Pipe Organ, Bells, Brass and Timpani

Christmas Day Service
 Sunday, Dec. 25th - 10:00am **Childcare available.*

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 455 Missouri Avenue (across from Largo High School)
 727-585-9969 † www.poplargo.org



St. Catherine of Siena Parish
 Catholic Church
 1955 South Belcher Road, Clearwater
 531-7721 + www.scosparish.org

Saturday, December 24, 2011
Christmas Eve Vigil
 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Children's Mass)
 11:15 p.m. to Midnight String Quartet
 12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass

Sunday, December 25, 2011
Christmas Day Masses
 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

O Come, Let Us Adore Him!



"JOIN US CHRISTMAS EVE"
 for
 Carols, Candles
 &
 Communion

ALL ARE WELCOME

6:00pm
FREEDOM SQUARE
 (Roskamp Auditorium)
 7800 Liberty Lane
 Seminole Florida

visit our website:
c2church.com

The True Meaning of Christmas is
Still Good News Today!



"God has Chosen to be With Us Where We Are!"
and that's why the Episcopal Church Welcomes You....
"wherever you are, whoever you are, and just as you are!"

Share the Lasting Gift of Good News this Christmas at
Calvary Episcopal Church
 1615 1st St. Indian Rocks Beach (727) 595.2374 www.calvaryirb.org
(directly behind Guppy's Restaurant)

Christmas Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist.

Christmas Eve:
 5 pm Especially for Children & Families
 7 pm "Traditional" – Old English "Rite I"
 9 pm "Candlelight Mass"

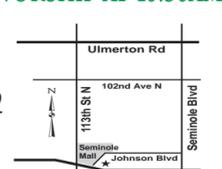
Christmas Day:
 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist of Christmas Day

Come Join Us at
Seminole First Baptist Church
Saturday, December 24
 in the Worship Center

Christmas
Eve
Candlelight
Service
 at 6:00 PM

CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:30AM

11045 Park Boulevard
 Seminole, Florida 33772
 (727) 392-7729



Church of the Isles
 (United Church of Christ)

Christmas Eve Services

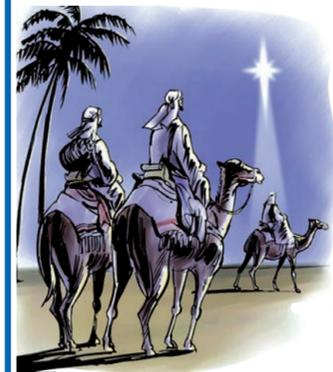
5pm
 Family Service

7pm
 Carols &
 Candlelight

11pm
 Communion &
 Candlelight

Rev. James D. Rapp, Pastor

200 24th Avenue • Indian Rocks Beach
 595-1038
www.churchoftheisles.org



SERVICES, from page 12A

service especially for children and families, 5 p.m.; a traditional, old English service, 7 p.m.; and a candlelight mass, 9 p.m.

Christmas Day services, on Sunday, Dec. 25, will be a Holy Eucharist, at 8 and 10 a.m. Call 595-2374.

Christ Presbyterian Church

LARGO – Christ Presbyterian Church, 3115 Dryer Ave. A candlelight service with live Nativity will be presented on Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m. Call 584-8695.

Holy Spirit Ecumenical Catholic Church

LARGO – Holy Spirit Ecumenical Catholic Church, 6152 126th Ave. Candlelight mass will be presented on Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, 8 p.m. On Christmas Day, Dec. 25, Sunday mass will be presented at 10:30 a.m. Call 232-3918 or visit holyspiritcecc.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

LARGO – Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 455 Missouri Ave. Christmas Eve services, on Saturday, Dec. 24, will include worship with children's choir and youth bells, 5 p.m.; and worship with pre-service music beginning at 7:10 p.m. and at 9:40 p.m. Child care will be available at the 5 and 7:10 services.

The Christmas Day service will be presented Sunday, Dec. 25, 10 a.m. Childcare will be available. Call 585-9969 or visit www.poplargo.org.

St. Justin Martyr Roman Catholic Church

LARGO – St. Justin Martyr Roman Catholic Church, 10851 Ridge Road. Christmas Eve services, on Saturday, Dec. 24, will include a mass, 4:30 p.m.; a family mass, 6:30 p.m.; and a candlelight mass, 10 p.m.

Mass on Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25, will be 10 a.m. Call 397-3312 or visit www.stjustinmartyr.net.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

LARGO – St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 10888 126th Ave. A Christmas Eve service will be presented Saturday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m. The Christmas Day service will be presented Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:15 a.m. The New Year's Day service will be presented Sunday, Jan. 1. Call 586-6968 or visit www.episcopalswfl.org.

St. Patrick Catholic Church

LARGO – St. Patrick Catholic Church, 1507 Trotter Road, Largo. Christmas Eve services, on Saturday, Dec. 24, will include a mass at 4:30 p.m.; and a midnight mass.

Christmas Day services, on Sunday, Dec. 25, will include mass at 7:30, 9 and 11 a.m.

On New Year's Eve, Saturday, Dec. 31, there will be a mass at 4:30 p.m. and a vigil.

New Year's Day services, on Sunday, Jan. 1, will include mass at 7:30, 9 and 11 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. Call 584-2318.

Beth-El Shalom – New Port Richey

NEW PORT RICHEY – Beth-El Shalom Messianic Congregation, 6209 Congress St.

A Chanukah Celebration will be presented on the fifth night of Chanukah, Saturday, Dec. 24, 5 p.m. The event will include the lighting a gigantic 10-foot menorah, potato latkes, Chanukah songs, dancing and games.

All are welcome and admission is free. Call 375-7502 or visit www.Jewishheritage.net.

Palm Harbor United Methodist Church

PALM HARBOR – Palm Harbor United Methodist Church, 1551 Belcher Road.

Christmas Eve services, on Saturday, Dec. 24, will include family worship, 4 p.m.; candlelight service, 7 p.m.; and candlelight and Communion service, 11 p.m. Call 785-7487.

New Journey Fellowship

PINELLAS PARK – New Journey Fellowship, 4090 78th Ave. Christmas Eve services, on Saturday, Dec. 24, will be presented at 5 and 6:30 p.m. Cookies, coffee and hot chocolate will be served in the café before and after the services.

On Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25, free breakfast will be served at 10:15 a.m. in the café. The service will be presented at 11 a.m. Call 344-1063 or visit newjourneyfellowship.com.

Good Samaritan Church

PINELLAS PARK – Good Samaritan Church, 6085 Park Blvd. The Christmas Eve service will be presented Saturday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m., and will be an intergenerational service with drama, scripture, carols and candlelight Communion.

Christmas Day services, on Sunday, Dec. 25, will include a light holiday breakfast, 9 a.m.; and worship and song, 9:30 a.m. Visit www.goodsam-church.org.

Beth-El Shalom – St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG – Beth-El Shalom Messianic Congregation, 1701 29th Ave. N.

A Chanukah Celebration will be presented on the fourth night of Chanukah, Friday, Dec. 23, 7 p.m. The event will include the lighting a gigantic 10-foot menorah, potato latkes, Chanukah songs, dancing and games.

All are welcome and admission is free. Call 345-7777 or visit www.Jewishheritage.net.

Temple of the Living God

ST. PETERSBURG – Temple of the Living God Metaphysical Community Church, 1950 Second Ave. N.

On Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, the church will present "Kings in Judaea, 7 p.m.

The Christmas Day service will be Sunday, Dec. 25, 11 a.m. Call 822-3157.

Christ the King Presbyterian Church

SEMINOLE – Christ the King Presbyterian Church, 5400 Seminole Blvd.

On Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, the church will present a Festival of Lessons and Carols, 6 p.m.

On Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25, worship will be at 9:25 a.m. Call 394-0787.

Connect2Christ Church

SEMINOLE – Connect2Christ Church, in Freedom Square Roskamp Auditorium, 7800 Liberty Lane.

Carols, candles and Communion will be offered Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. Visit c2church.com.

Seminole First Baptist Church

SEMINOLE – Seminole First Baptist Church, 11045 Park Blvd. A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be presented Saturday,

Dec. 24, 6 p.m.

A Christmas morning service will be presented Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m.

Call 392-7729.

St. Anne of Grace Episcopal Church

SEMINOLE – St. Anne of Grace Episcopal Church, 6650 113th St. N.

Christmas Eve services, on Saturday, Dec. 24, will include a family service at 6:30 p.m. with Eucharist, Christmas pageant and praise band; Christmas carols at 9:30 p.m.; and Rite II service with Eucharist, incense and soloist at 10 p.m.

On Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25, there will be a Rite I Eucharist service at 9 a.m.

Call 392-4483 or visit www.stanneofgrace.com.

Faith Presbyterian Church

SEMINOLE – Faith Presbyterian Church, 11501 Walker Ave.

Christmas Eve services, on Saturday, Dec. 24, will include a service especially for families with younger children, 4 p.m.; a service with chancel choir, 8 p.m.; and candles, carols and communion, 11 p.m.

Call 391-0596.

The Octagon Arts Center at Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater

CLEARWATER – Festivals of Light will be presented Thursday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m., at the Octagon Arts Center at Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, 2470 Nursery Road.

The event will "celebrate Festivals of Light from across the world – Diwali, Bodhi Day, Hanukkah, Solstice, Christmas, and Kwanzaa."

This program is part of a series of monthly gatherings called Festival Ruah: A Multicultural Spirit Experience. Ruah means "spirit" or "wind" in Hebrew. Festival Ruah is a celebration of the spirit as it is manifest in creation across cultures, traditions and faiths.

This event will be an improvisational and devotion-filled evening of song, sonnet and celebration. Drawing from the rich traditions of jazz, global fusion, and sacred chant, and following the tradition of the great Duke Ellington and his famed Jazz Vespers services in New York's historic Harlem, these programs will weave an experience of joy, faith, spirituality and community.

Fred Johnson, long-time resident artist and ambassador for arts and the heart in Tampa Bay, serves as artistic director and host for the festival series and describes it as "Jazzing the Spirit."

This family-friendly experience is meant to inspire all to feel the power and wonder of being together celebrating the many gifts of the holiday season. Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the evening celebration.

The event is free and open to the public. Childcare will be provided.

Call Abhi Janamanchi at 531-7704 or email abhij@uuclearwater.org; or email Fred Johnson at quietcallings@gmail.com.

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Please support your genealogy society

About once a year in this column I write something about supporting your genealogy society. I usually do it around this time, too. That is because it is typically at the end of each year that societies scramble to encourage their members to renew their dues for another year. Take it from me, a society president who takes membership renewals as a personal challenge - this can be a dicey time.

Although membership renewals are in the forefront of a president's mind, they are not as prominent in the minds of the members. From their point of view there are holidays to prepare for, food to fix, travel arrangements to make, gifts to buy and wrap, in-laws to worry about, and ...well, you get the idea. Members don't necessarily want their society memberships to lapse; they just have a lot of other stuff on their minds. So I want to remind you here and now: renew that membership.

Membership renewal is not a subject to be taken lightly. There is a lot riding on the retention of

members. Programs and projects and classes and seminars and research collections are but a few of the things that societies undertake which are driven by an active and faithful membership. If travel is on your mind at this time of year, getting future program speakers is on the minds of your society leadership. If cooking turkey and ham is consuming your time right now, scheduling classes is consuming your society planners.

So you have to forgive your society officers if they bombard you during the holiday season with reminders about membership dues. In spite of the other demands on our time, it does not take long to put that check in the mail. And that short bit of time so taken goes a long way to ensuring the continued level of activity from your society that you expect after the holidays when life has returned to its normal level of activity. You see, your society does not take a break. If anything, society leadership, because of their responsibilities to their members, have to manage not only their



Genealogy exposed
Peter Summers

own holiday chaos, but also have to keep their society responsibilities fully in mind - the planning does not stop, the programs do not stop, and certainly the concern about a paid up membership to continue operations and services does not stop.

So again ... take a minute ... pay those dues now. Consider it a holiday gift to both your society and to yourself.

And speaking of holiday gifts to yourself. If you are not a member of a society, this holiday would be a great time to join one. A simple Internet search on "genealogy societies near XXX" (you fill in the town or county) should get you connected. Societies pretty much universally now have websites that will give you all the information about what they have to offer that you could ask for.

If you are wondering why you

should join a society, or for that matter, why you should get involved with genealogy in the first place, consider this: Aside from the obvious answer of learning about your ancestors, the study of genealogy incorporates so many other activities that you have to get excited about it. For instance, when you study genealogy you get involved in reading, libraries, antiquing, mysteries, family lore, scrapbooking, history, travel, writing, learning, and helping others. What is there not to like? My list is only a partial one, and the best part is that whatever the payoff to you in pursuing your genealogy, associating with a society will intensify it.

So whether you are an old hand or new to the hobby, there are a host of reasons to support your genealogy society. What I am asking is that you do it now.

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.

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Health Department reminds about dangers of rabies

The Pinellas County Health Department and Pinellas County Animal Services are reminding county residents that a bite, scratch or contact with the paws or saliva of an infected animal can transmit rabies.

This disease is nearly always fatal, but can be prevented if an exposed person is treated early

with a vaccine regimen. Pinellas children and adults who handled a bat recently were given a series of vaccines as a precaution.

Bats, raccoons and coyotes are frequent carriers of rabies and should never be touched by anyone other than trained handlers.

Prevention is the best protection from rabies. To control the spread of rabies, follow these

Pawprints

guidelines:

- Keep your pets' rabies vaccinations current to protect them from contact with wild animals that may be carriers. Your pet's vet or Pinellas County Animal Services can provide the vaccinations.
- Never feed, pet or interact with wildlife or strays.
- Do not leave food outdoors for pets or wildlife.
- Report animal bites or scratches to Animal Services.
- Keep pets at home in a fenced yard or on a leash. If a stray or wild animal bites your pet, seek veterinary assistance for your pet immediately.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home. Do not try to nurse sick animals to health. Call Pinellas County Animal Services, (727) 582-2600, or an animal rescue agency for assistance.

Feline adopters needed

LARGO - SPCA Tampa Bay is bringing back its free adult cat (1 year old or older) adoption special this holiday season.

Adopters pay only a \$10 microchip fee. Kittens are adopt-one-get-one for the regular \$45 fee.

Typically by December there are fewer felines awaiting new homes at the shelter. Kitten season has expanded this year due to warmer weather. Changing economic factors have left more owners with fewer options. Whatever the reasons, more than 150 cats and kittens are seeking a second chance at life.

To see some cats currently in need of new homes, visit www.SPCATampaBay.org

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Focus 2012 Panelists

- **Susan MacManus, Ph.D.**, Distinguished University Professor of Public Administration and Political Science in the Department of Government and International Affairs at the University of South Florida and Political Analyst on WFLA-TV8 in Tampa.
- **Sean Snaith, Ph.D.**, Director of the University of Central Florida's Institute for Economic Competitiveness and a nationally recognized economist in the field of business and economic forecasting. He has served as a consultant for governments and multi-national corporations such as Compaq, Dell and IBM.
- **Geary A. Havran**, President of NDH Medical in St. Petersburg, a major medical device manufacturer, and past chairman of the Florida Medical Manufacturers' Consortium. The medical manufacturing industry employs more than 37,000 people in Florida at an average wage of \$50,000 a year.
- **Heather Kenyon**, President and CEO, Tampa Bay Technology Forum, a non-profit membership association that's mission is to transform this region into a world-class center for technology entrepreneurship, business innovation and educational excellence.

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Leader
Section B
December 22, 2011
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Botanical Gardens bring holiday glow to Pinellas

By SUZETTE PORTER

LARGO – The parking lot on the Walsingham entrance was full Sunday night, as a steady stream of people made their way along the pathway toward the lights in the distance.

Closer to the entry a ribbon of lights along the walk beckoned the crowd toward the lure of the multi-colored, twinkling glow rising from the ground to the sky.

As of Dec. 13, 19 days after the opening of this year's Holiday Lights in the Gardens, 20,376 people had enjoyed one of Pinellas County's most exciting seasonal attractions.

"And the season's just getting started," said Chuck Scaffidi, Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation president and volunteer coordinator at the county's Extension Services.

Scaffidi also is co-chair of the lights team and along with fellow co-chair Erhan Ozey, foundation treasurer, leads a group of five who are the creators of the nightly show.

Florida Botanical Gardens is located at 12520 Ulmerton Road in Largo inside Pinewood Cultural Park. It's sandwiched between Ulmerton and Walsingham roads with entrances on both sides. Visitors can enjoy more than 30 acres of cultivated gardens and 90 acres of natural areas, lovingly maintained by foundation volunteers year-round.

But, during the holidays, the gardens come to light, transforming into a fairyland of color and shapes. This year's display includes more than 500,000 LED lights winding along paths, outlining shrubs and walls and climbing tree trunks and branches.

The spectacle is open from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. through Jan. 1. A donation of \$2 pays for the show and helps volunteers maintain the gardens through-

out the year. Children under 12 are admitted free. "You can't find a better bargain," Scaffidi said. "You don't have to pay to get into the park or for parking."

Residents and visitors seem to agree as parents and children, some in strollers, mingled with teenagers and seniors. Compliments were heard often as people moved from area to area of special displays.

The lights team meets weekly throughout the year to design the display and work begins in October to prepare for the Nov. 25 opening. For the second year, the foundation hired Luminous Décor from Miami to install the lights and displays.

"It's a lot of work," Scaffidi said. "They bring in a lift to get to the areas up high in the trees."

Florida Botanical Gardens opened in December 2000. Back then, Pinellas County had money to fund a team of horticulturalists and staff members headed by director Judy Yates. Lighting the gardens was the brainchild of one of Yates' horticulturalist, Brenan Bryant, who formerly worked at the Chicago Botanical Gardens.

Bryant managed the light display in those first years, Scaffidi said, and Pinellas County government hosted the show. Then in 2008, the county cut funding to the gardens and there wasn't enough staff or money to put on the annual show.

That's when the foundation took over. This is the fourth year, volunteers have run the show, and not only have they maintained what they inherited, they've made it better.

The nonprofit organization converted all the incandescent bulbs to LEDs, even replacing the incandescent lights with LEDs on existing frameworks of owls, turtles, butterflies, ladybugs and the other special wildlife displays that inhabit the gardens for the holidays.



Photos by TERRE PORTER

A lighted bridge serves as the entryway for visitors coming in from the parking lot off Ulmerton Road in Largo. Admission is a \$2 donation.

Scaffidi said donations more than pay for operations. Last year, the nonprofit organization brought in 50 percent more than it spent, allowing Scaffidi's team to make a few new purchases, as well as pay for maintenance of the existing display. Although the energy-efficient LED lights last much longer than incandescent lights, they don't last forever. And there's damage to deal with, such as squirrels chewing the wires.

Some of the new things people will see this year include a display of lighted flamingos, which is a favorite spot for people to take pictures. A new family of deer is tucked in along the pathway and trio of waterfowl are tucked into the foliage beside a bridge. New butterflies join the trio that has been part of the display since 2001, creating an official butterfly display.

The crowd on Dec. 11 seemed to like the new touches, with lots of words of praise for the new and the old. Many took time from photo taking in the gazebo of the Wedding Garden to rave over the recently completed mosaic, Aquatic Reflections, which also was created by volunteers.

Another improvement to this year's event is the security team that the foundation hired to help with traffic management on the Ulmerton entrance on the weekends. A park ranger also is on the foundation's payroll. A cleaning crew on contract with the county is paid to come in each night and help with the cleanup.

More than 200 people volunteer their time to make the show a success. Teams of two work the entryway tables at the three entrances each night, welcoming the visitors and collecting donations. One volunteer serves as the nightly supervisor.

Scaffidi and Ozey work as floaters, stepping in to do whatever needs done. Another volunteer sets up the audio for the nightly performances.

All the performers also are volunteers recruited by volunteer Barbara Goss. Visitors can enjoy music by church choirs, bluegrass bands and other entertainers, including crowd favorite 18-year-old juggler USF student Dan Brown.

"Kids love him," Scaffidi said. The kids love Santa, too, who takes up residence in the wedding garden each night.

Another popular item is the blue star necklaces with the FBGF's logo sold by volunteers. Of the 5,000 purchased to sell at the event, 3,000 have already been sold. Proceeds go to the foundation and help maintain the gardens year-round.

The foundation can always use more volunteers. Anyone who wants to get involved is welcome to attend a meeting to document, review this year's event, and talk about ways to improve it. The meeting is Jan. 11, 9 a.m., in the conference room of the Extension building also located in Pinewood Cultural Park. For more information, call Scaffidi at 582-2117 or email cscaffidi@co.pinellas.fl.us.

Meanwhile, Scaffidi encourages everyone to come out and enjoy the display. Weekends are most popular times, and Scaffidi's favorite nights.

"I love people and the crowds," he said. Weeknights are less crowded for those who want a quieter walk though. However, Scaffidi said more people were showing up even mid-week, as it gets closer to Christmas.

See HOLIDAY GLOW, page 10B



People point to the little things as they walk the paths, such as this little family of deer tucked into some trees.

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Paul Masson Brandy 750 ML \$9.99	Seagram's Gin 1.75 LTR \$18.99	Tanqueray 1.75 LTR \$29.99	New Amsterdam Gin 1.75 LTR \$18.99	Bailey's 1.75 LTR \$16.99	Jagermeister 1.75 LTR \$18.99	Kahlua 1.75 LTR \$28.99	Grand Marnier 1.75 LTR \$32.99	Hennessy 1.75 LTR \$28.99	Stock 84 Brandy 1.75 LTR \$18.99	St Remy Brandy 1.75 LTR \$20.99	Remy VSOP 1.75 LTR \$31.99	St Brendon 1.75 LTR \$9.99	Romana Samyuca 1.75 LTR \$18.99	Southern Comfort 1.75 LTR \$19.99	Rumplemintz 1.75 LTR \$13.99
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Merry Christmas!

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Opening this weekend

Spielberg helms 'Tintin'; Craig stars in 'Girl with the Dragon Tattoo'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'The Adventures of Tintin'

Genre: Family, action and adventure
 Cast: Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis, Daniel Craig, Simon Pegg and Nick Frost
 Director: Steven Spielberg
 Rated: PG
 "The Adventures of Tintin" stars Jamie Bell as Tintin, a young reporter whose relentless pursuit of a good story thrusts him into a world of high adventure.
 Daniel Craig stars as the nefarious Red Rackham.
 Based on the series of books "The Adventures of Tintin" by Hergé, the film is produced by Steven Spielberg, Peter Jackson and Kathleen Kennedy.

'The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo'

Genre: Drama and thriller
 Cast: Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara, Stellan Skarsgård, Elodie Yung and Christopher Plummer
 Director: David Fincher
 Rated: R
 A journalist-turned-detective and his female associate get tangled up in the underworld when he is hired to write the saga of a powerful family.
 "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" is the first film in Columbia Pictures' and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures' three-picture adaptation of Stieg Larsson's literary blockbuster "The Millennium Trilogy." Directed

by David Fincher and starring Daniel Craig and Rooney Mara, the film is based on the first novel in the trilogy, which altogether have sold 65 million copies in 46 countries and become a worldwide phenomenon. The screenplay is by Steven Zaillian.

'Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol'

Genre: Action, adventure and thriller
 Cast: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Paula Patton and Ving Rhames
 Director: Brad Bird
 Rated: PG-13
 Blamed for the terrorist bombing of the Kremlin, IMF operative Ethan Hunt is disavowed along with the rest of the agency when the president initiates Ghost Protocol.
 Left without any resources or backup, Ethan must find a way to clear his agency's name and prevent another attack. To complicate matters further, Ethan is forced to embark on this mission with a team of fellow IMF fugitives whose personal motives he does not fully know.

'We Bought a Zoo'

Genre: Drama
 Cast: Matt Damon, Thomas Haden Church, Scarlett Johansson, Angus MacFadyen and John Michael Higgins
 Director: Cameron Crowe
 Rated: PG
 This holiday season, acclaimed filmmaker Cameron Crowe directs an amazing and true story about a single dad who decides his family needs a fresh start, so he and his two children move to the most unlikely of places: a zoo.
 With the help of an eclectic staff, and with many misadventures



Photo courtesy of WETA DIGITAL LTD.
 Captain Haddock, voiced by Andy Serkis, and Tintin, voiced by Jamie Bell, embark on a quest in "The Adventures of Tintin," from Paramount Pictures and Columbia Pictures in association with Hemisphere Media Capital.

along the way, the family works to return the dilapidated zoo to its former wonder and glory.

'The Darkest Hour'

Genre: Thriller, science fiction and action
 Cast: Emile Hirsch, Max Minghella, Olivia Thirlby, Joel Kinnaman and Rachael Taylor
 Director: Chris Gorak
 Rated: PG-13
 This film opens Dec. 25.
 "The Darkest Hour" is the story of five young people who find themselves stranded in Moscow, fighting to survive in the wake of a devastating alien attack.
 The 3-D thriller highlights the classic beauty of Moscow alongside mind-blowing special effects.

'War Horse'

Genre: Action, adventure and drama
 Cast: Emily Watson, Peter Mullan, David Thewlis, Benedict Cumberbatch, Niels Aresrup, David Kross, Tom Hiddleston and Jeremy Irvine
 Director: Steven Spielberg
 Rated: PG-13
 This film opens Dec. 25.
 DreamWorks Pictures' "War Horse," director Steven Spielberg's epic adventure, is a tale of loyalty, hope and tenacity set against a sweeping canvas of rural England and Europe during the First World War.
 "War Horse" begins with the remarkable friendship between a horse named Joey and a young man called Albert, who tames and trains him. When they are forcefully parted, the film follows the extraordinary journey of the horse as he moves through the war, changing and inspiring the lives of all those he meets – British cavalry, German soldiers, and a French farmer and his granddaughter – before the story reaches its emotional climax in the heart of No Man's Land.

The First World War is experienced through the journey of this horse – an odyssey of joy and sorrow, passionate friendship and high adventure. "War Horse" is one of the great stories of friendship and war – a successful book, it was turned into a hugely successful international theatrical hit that is currently on Broadway. It now comes to screen in an epic adaptation by one of the great directors in film history.

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

'In the Land of Blood and Honey'

Genre: Drama and romance
 Cast: Rade Serbedzija, Goran Kostic and Zana Marjanovic
 Director: Angelina Jolie
 Rated: R
 "In the Land of Blood and Honey" is an upcoming film marking the directorial debut of actress Angelina Jolie.
 It is a love story set during the Bosnian War. The film was shot in October 2010 using local actors. It was also shot in two versions – one in English, the other in the Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian language known as BCS.
 This bold new film illustrates the consequences of the lack of political will to intervene in a society stricken with conflict. It features a completely local cast, most of whom were children of the war.

'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close'

Genre: Drama
 Cast: Thomas Horn, Tom Hanks, John Goodman, Viola Davis and Jeffrey Wright
 Director: Stephen Daldry
 Rated: PG-13
 This film opens Dec. 25.
 Adapted from the acclaimed bestseller by Jonathan Safran Foer, "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close" is a story that unfolds from inside the young mind of Oskar Schell, an inventive 11-year-old New Yorker whose discovery of a key in his deceased father's belongings sets him off on an urgent search across the city for the lock it will open.
 A year after his father died in the World Trade Center on what Oskar calls "The Worst Day," he is determined to keep his vital connection to the man who playfully cajoled him into confronting his wildest fears. Now, as Oskar crosses the five New York boroughs in quest of the missing lock – encountering an eclectic assortment of people who are each survivors in their own way – he begins to uncover unseen links to the father he misses, to the mother who seems so far away from him and to the whole noisy, dangerous, discombobulating world around him.

For more movie news including what's playing at local theaters, trailers and an opportunity to purchase tickets online, visit www.TBNweekly.com. Click on the "Movie News & Reviews" link on the left-side menu.

Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	
14					15							16			
17					18							19			
20						21						22			
23					24			25			26				
		27					28	29					30	31	
					32							33			
34	35	36	37		38				39	40		41			
42					43			44				45			
46					47	48						49	50		
			51									52		53	54
55	56				57		58	59				60			
61					62							63			
64					65							66			
67					68							69			

Across

- "Not only that..."
- Anatomical cavities
- Bit of a draft
- Cost of living?
- Bad blood
- Victorian, for one
- Rude
- Little bird
- Wavelike design
- "___ does it!"
- "___ on Down the Road"
- Temper, as metal
- Iranian money
- Welfare work (2 wds)
- Container weight
- Chest material
- All there
- Camelot, to Arthur
- Arid
- Nuclear weapon (2 wds)
- Escape, in a way
- Rubella (2 wds)
- "Ditto" (2 wds)
- Kind of seat
- Bandy words
- Come together
- Nobleman
- Moray, e.g.
- Egg-laying subclass of Mammalia
- "Silent" prez
- Accumulation in the blood of nitrogenous waste products
- Crude group? (acronym)
- "Don't give up!"
- Actor Depardieu
- Medical advice, often

Down

- ___ donna
- Sprite flavor

3. Frees

- Dorm room staple
- ___ Tuesday (Mardi Gras)
- "Don't bet ___!" (2 wds)
- Hyperbolic sine, abbrev.
- Maybelline mishaps
- Mame, for one
- "C___ la vie!"
- Reserved (2 wds)
- Western blue flag, e.g.
- Cracker spread
- Change, chemically
- Little people
- Pinocchio, at times
- Parenthesis, essentially
- "___ we having fun yet?"
- Car dealer's offering
- "Wheels"
- "... ___ he drove out of sight"
- Decline
- "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" librettist Burrows
- Usually
- Eurasian wheat
- Grassland
- Bungle, with "up"
- Dracula, at times
- Newbie, of sorts
- "Enough already!" (2 wds)
- Excessive complainer
- Bewitch
- Mexican shawl
- Carries
- Legislate
- The Amish, e.g.
- Brandy flavor
- "Brave New World" drug
- Ado
- Kind of shot
- "Awesome!"

Sudoku

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

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

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

Crossword answers

from last week

K	N	O	B	E	D	O	V	P	H	A	S	E				
N	A	Z	I	S	O	R	E	O	A	T	E	R				
O	O	C	R	C	O	A	T	E	S	N	E	E	R			
W	I	N	O	T	U	R	O	I	N	E	S					
R	E	B	I	D	S											
		A	G	O		T	E	N		M	A	L	I			
S	W	A	T	H		B	I	D	E	S		T	I	P		
L	I	G	H	T		N	I	N	G	S	T	R	I	K	E	
F	A	L	L		S	E	D	G	E		T	A	K	E	N	
P	I	C	O	N		W	E	E		F	A	N	I	C	I	
N	C	O	W		S	E		A	M	E	N	D	E	S		
				G	A	L		E	N	D	A	R	Y	E	A	R
P	E	C	K	S		D	I	A	Z		D	I	V	E		
T	A	G	U	E		A	C	M	E		F	A	C	I	D	
S	C	R	I	Y		M	E	S		S	Y	E	N	S		

Horoscopes

December 22, 2011

Capricorn

December 22 – January 19
 The gift giving gets out of control, but who cares, Capricorn. Go with the flow and have fun. Dinner plans get even better with the arrival of unexpected guests.

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18
 Family members go all out to make this week special for you. Your presence is the only thanks needed, Aquarius. A colleague achieves the impossible. Congratulate them.

Pisces

February 19 – March 20
 Cash flows increase considerably, giving you the funds you need to finish a project at home. Go ahead, Pisces, and bring in a pro. You won't regret it.

Aries

March 21 – April 19
 Out with the old and in with the new, Aries. There is no time like the present to clear away the clutter and learn how to do more with less.

Taurus

April 20 – May 20
 Your calendar begins to open up, and that's fine by you, Taurus. You had more than your fair share of fun, and now it's time to get back down to business.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21
 Hold on to your hat, Gemini. A blast from the past returns with surprises in tow for everyone. Mark the occasion with plenty of food and fun.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22
 One celebration ends and another one begins. Play your cards right, Cancer, and you may have something worthwhile to celebrate. A relative needs your help.

Leo

July 23 – August 22
 You're inching closer to your dream, but you're not there yet. Don't give up, Leo. Plunge ahead and use every resource to make it happen. A memo sends a message.

Virgo

August 23 – September 22
 At last, you complete your to-do list and get ahead in several other areas of your life. Do something fun to celebrate, Virgo. Go dancing or see a movie.

Libra

September 23 – October 22
 The calm settles in after the storm. Take time out to smell the roses, Libra. A project at work wraps up just in time for another one to begin.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 21
 Startling revelations at a holiday function put everyone on edge. It's up to you to work your magic and get the party back on track, Scorpio.

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21
 A slip-up gets your heart pounding, but lucky for you, Sagittarius, few notice it or take you seriously. A junk find has serious hidden potential.

Leen

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Top five diversions

• **Holiday Lights in the Gardens**, nightly, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., through Jan. 1, at Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. Visitors to the Holiday Lights in the Gardens can delight in more than 500,000 twinkling LED lights. From the bridge to the walkways to the Wedding Garden and tropical palms, shimmering lights will guide visitors through a Floridian wonderland. They also can see the completed mosaic titled Aquatic Reflections in the Wedding Garden. Sponsored by the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, the celebration is free to children under 12, with a suggested donation of \$2 per adult. Donations from last year's event made this year's event possible. For information, call 582-2247 or visit www.fdbg.org.

• **"A Christmas Carol: A New Musical,"** with book and lyrics by Keith Ferguson and music by Bruce Greer; presented by freeFall Theatre Company, through Dec. 30, at freeFall, 6099 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Performances are Thursday, 7 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. There is no show scheduled for Christmas Day. Ticket prices vary according to performance date and time. Call 498-5205 or visit www.freefalltheatre.com. This enchanting new musical adaptation of the Dickens classic is destined to become a Tampa Bay area holiday tradition. With a soaring and inspirational score, and faithful incarnations of all of the memorable characters, Dickens' ghost story leaps from the page and delights with stunning theatricality, lush scenery and costumes, and surprising special effects.

• **Straight No Chaser**, Friday, Dec. 23, 8 p.m., at The David A Straz Jr. Center, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Tickets start at \$29.50. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org. If the phrase "male a cappella group" conjures up an image of students in blue blazers, ties, and khakis singing traditional college songs on ivied campuses ... think again. Straight No Chaser are neither strait-laced nor straight-faced, but neither are they vaudeville-style kitsch. They are reinventing the idea of a cappella on the modern pop landscape. On the road, Straight No Chaser has built a reputation as an

unforgettable live act. Following their popular Christmas show last year, Straight No Chaser returns to Carol Morsani Hall with an all new show.

• **Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker 2011**, Dec. 26-27, 7:30 p.m., at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets range from \$28.50 to \$88.50. Call 892-5767 or visit www.themahaffey.com. Moscow Ballet is celebrating its 19th annual tour, visiting more than 60 cities across North America in 2011 with top award-winning dancers. These impeccably trained Russian dancers perform the Great Russian Nutcracker, the beloved Christmas story, with amazing leaps, spins, and lunges. Set to Tchaikovsky's famous score, this production features lavish costumes, charming larger-than-life Russian puppets and nine fanciful backdrops, that are hand-painted and embellished with 3-D effects.

• **The Moscow Classical Ballet 2011 Nutcracker Tour**, Dec. 27-28, at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Performances are Tuesday, 7 p.m.; and Wednesday, 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$25 to \$59. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerhdhall.com. Tchaikovsky masterfully transformed E.T.A. Hoffmann's "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," a classic coming-of-age tale, into "The Nutcracker," one of the most beloved ballets and a treasured holiday tradition. Live music, the talent and grace of the dancers, and stunning costumes bring this story to life. This production draws its inspiration from the original choreography presented in St. Petersburg, Russia more than 100 years ago. The Moscow Classical Ballet came into existence as the Young Ballet, the USSR State Choreographic Company, in 1966. It was established by the USSR Ministry of Culture as a ballet troupe whose role was to tour the Soviet Union and foreign countries performing Russian classical ballet in its traditional form. The company, under the artistic direction of Igor Moiseyev, gave its first performance in 1968. Its repertoire consisted of excerpts from classical ballets and choreographic miniatures produced by such choreographers as Vinogradov, Goleizovsky, Messerer and Moiseyev himself.



Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker comes to the Mahaffey Theater Dec. 26-27.

LOOKING AHEAD, from page 3B

Orchestra. This symphonic rock spectacular includes top hits such as "Lady," "Babe," "Come Sail Away," "Too Much Time On My Hands," "Grand Illusion," "Renegade," "Blue Collar Man," "Suite Madame Blue" and "Rockin' The Paradise." DeYoung wrote and sang lead on seven of the band's eight top ten hits. With one of the most recognizable voices in the music world today, in addition to being a legendary singer, he also is recognized as a songwriter, keyboardist, composer and record producer with a career spanning over 40 years. DeYoung's rock band members include Suzanne DeYoung on vocals, Tom Sharpe on drums, August Zadra on lead guitar and vocals, Jimmy Leahey on lead guitar and vocals, John Blasucci on keyboards and Craig Carter on bass and vocals.

• **The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas**, with music and lyrics by Carol Hall and book by Larry L. King and Peter Masterson; presented by Francis Wilson Playhouse, Feb. 23 through March 11, 2012, 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.franciswilson-playhouse.org. Winner of three Tony Awards and four Drama Desk Awards in 1978, the show tells the true story of the Chicken Ranch, a Texas brothel caught in the middle of a television crusader's campaign. Filled with colorful characters, the production contains adult situations and language.

• **Roger McGuinn**, Thursday, March 17, 2012, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets range from \$39 to \$49. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. McGuinn, a Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, was already a veteran of the New York and Los Angeles music scene when he co-founded the group that would become the Byrds with Gene Clark and David Crosby in 1964. Their songs, "Mr. Tambourine Man" and "Turn! Turn! Turn! (For Everything There Is a Season)" went to No. 1 on the music charts in 1965 and spoke to an entire generation. "Eight Miles High" also is a guitar-line classic. McGuinn disbanded the Byrds in 1973 to pursue his dream of a solo career. He made five solo albums on Columbia Records. Arista records released "Back From Rio" in 1991, a rock album that included his friends, Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers, Elvis Costello, Chris Hillman, David Crosby, Michael Penn and John Jorgensen.

• **"What is Susan's Secret,"** by Michael and Susan Parker, presented by Early Bird Dinner Theatre, March 1 through April 22, 2012, 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. The Cider Mill Inn, a rustic and somewhat run down country guest

house is run by an elderly couple, Michael and Susan Edwards. While they are endearing characters, they are in fact con artists. With a complicated check-in form, they manage to get various tradesmen to sign work contracts for improvements needed at the inn.

• **Imagination Movers**, Saturday, March 3, 1:30 and 4:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road. Tickets range from \$25 to \$35. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerhdhall.com. The Imagination Movers' 2012 Rock-O-Matic Tour will make an exclusive stop in Clearwater at Ruth Eckerd Hall. Rich, Scott, Dave and Smitty - of the Emmy-winning Disney Channel TV series "Imagination Movers" - will be bringing their high-octane rock concert and it's an event the whole family can enjoy. The Imagination Movers were the highest-rated and most popular live family act of 2011. The key to the Movers' appeal is they combine danceable power pop songs with extremely catchy choruses and a knack for inspiring audience participation. Throw in a heaping helping of onstage silliness and you've got a recipe for a live musical event that will truly engage the littlest of kids along with their older siblings, parents and grandparents. It doesn't hurt that they pepper their live shows with musical references to their many inspirations, including U2, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Jack Johnson, the Beastie Boys and all sorts of classic and modern rockers. On the Rock-O-Matic tour, the guys will be playing all their favorite songs from their TV series as well as debuting new material from their brand-new "Rock-O-Matic" CD/DVD.

Dunedin

• **The Greatest Holiday Show on Earth**, through Dec. 23, at Dunedin Fine Art Center, 1143 Michigan Blvd. On a yearly basis, DFAC curators look to put together the best art, with a gift-giving perspective in mind. The result is a collection of works from around the country that any of your friends or relatives would be delighted to find under their tree. This festive holiday show features work by more than 100 artists such as Brooke Allison, Rocky and Kathleen Bridges, Nancy Cervenka, Elizabeth Coachman, Brngt Hokanson and Trefny Dix, Lisa Ward Landsman, Susan Maxon, Melissa Miller Nece, Steve Pawloski, Stacy Perry, Wendy Thurlow, Markissia Toulaitos, Aimee Trachtenberg, Glenn Woods, Gail Wynne & Kreg Yingst. Also on display are a dozen exceptionally decorated themed trees and a selection of hard-to-find gifts. Tradition has it, for this exhibit only, that purchases can go home with buyers. Gallery and gift shop hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. Call 298-3322 or visit www.dfac.org.

• **Annual All-Media Members Awards Art Show**, Jan. 2-31, at Stirling Art Studio and Gallery, 730 Broadway, second floor. The show is presented by The Exhibiting Society of Artists. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, noon to 3 p.m. Call 474-3386.

• **Artists' reception**, Friday, Jan. 13, 5:30 to 8 p.m., at Stirling Art Studio and Gallery, 730 Broadway, second floor. The reception, for TESA's annual All-Media Members Awards Art Show, will coincide with Dunedin's Second Friday Wine and Art event. The reception will feature entertainment and refreshments. The public is welcome to attend. Call 474-3386.

• **Downtown Dunedin Art Festival**, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 14-15, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Main Street in downtown Dunedin. Presented by Howard Alan Events, the show is free and open to the public. The country's top artists will converge upon Main Street in Downtown Dunedin for a celebration of the arts. These talented artists, selected among hundreds of applicants, will be displaying their finest work including their newest creations. Attendees will have the opportunity to stroll through isles of unique, handmade art representing a broad range of artistic mediums.

Largo

• **Saturday Afternoon Movie**, Saturday, Dec. 31, 2 p.m., at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive. The feature film will be "The Jungle Book." Call 587-6715.

• **Bill "The Sauce Boss"** Wharton, Friday, Jan. 6, 8 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are \$23 in advance and \$28 the day of the show. Call 587-6793.

Wharton is known both for his smokin' blues and his spicy gumbo. The Sauce Boss mixes his own Florida blues and hot sauce right into the gumbo on stage, and at the end of the show, everyone eats for free.

• **Saturday Afternoon Movie**, Saturday, Jan. 7, 2 p.m., at Largo

Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive. The feature film will be "Toy Story 2." Call 587-6715.

• **Sunday Matinee Music Program Series**, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012, at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road. The featured entertainment will be The Knockouts presented by Tony Belmont. 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 LargoCommuntyCenter.com.

• **Elvis Birthday Bash**, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit www.largoarts.com. Back by popular demand, attendees will celebrate the King's birthday with a number of talented Elvis tribute artists as they shake, rattle and roll and provide a wonderful nostalgic afternoon of entertainment and fun. The show also will feature a complimentary birthday cake and photo opportunity.

• **Monday Matinee**, Monday, Jan. 9, 12:30 p.m., at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive. The feature film will be "Body Heat." Call 587-6715.

• **Saturday Afternoon Movie**, Saturday, Jan. 14, 2 p.m., at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive. The feature film will be "Toy Story 3." Call 587-6715.

• **The Nowhere Band**, Saturday, Jan. 14, 8 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit www.largoarts.com. Covering the full spectrum of The Beatles' long and varied career, The Nowhere Band creates an unparalleled, entirely live reproduction of '60s Beatles performances, blending period costumes and authentic instruments with modern lighting and an abundantly talented quartet to create an experience any true Beatles fan simply can't afford to miss.

• **A Night on the Town with the Rat Pack**, Friday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are \$32 in advance and \$37 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit www.largoarts.com. This tribute to Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and Dean Martin will give attendees an opportunity to relive the swing, swagger and sophisticated fun of those "ring-a-ding-ding" days. The Rat Pack Trio has perfected the voices, the mannerisms and the banter that kept crowds enthralled until the "wee hours of the morning" back in the '60s. For today's theater-going audiences, they're hip, cool as so very NOW. Appealing equally to folks who remember them from back in the day and to younger audiences who love the music of the era as sung by Michael Bubl  and the "booze and broads" glamour and imagery of the era from TV's award-winning "Mad Men." This top-notch tribute show has played to standing ovations at theaters across the country, selling out at Feinstein's at the Regency on Park Avenue in New York City and making it to the semi-finals of NBC hit show "American's Got Talent."

• **Saturday Afternoon Movie**, Saturday, Jan. 21, 2 p.m., at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive. The feature film will be "Winnie the Pooh." Call 587-6715.

• **The Lettermen**, Sunday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are \$43 in advance and \$48 the day of the show. Call 587-6793. One of the defining vocal groups of the '60s and members of The Vocal Group Hall of Fame, The Lettermen harmony is nonstop. From their first hit in 1961, "The Way You Look Tonight," to "Goin' Out of My Head," "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You," "Hurt So Bad," the sound is undeniably Lettermen.

• **Monday Matinee**, Monday, Jan. 23, 12:30 p.m., at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive. The feature film will be "Apollo 13." Call 587-6715.

• **Women Fully Clothed**, Monday, Jan. 23, 2 and 7 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are \$22. Call 587-6793. Part of the Largo Lions Spotlight Series, this show features four of Canada's most celebrated and talented comedienne, Robin Duke, Jayne Eastwood, Kathryn Greenwood and Teresa Pavlinek. The group tackles all sorts of topics from mother/daughter relationships to career responsibilities and the environment. These ladies' stories and songs are guaranteed to have both men and women alike laughing with them. All proceeds from these events go directly to Lions volunteer projects, such as sight conservation, eye operation and glasses.

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Just for laughs

Comedy legends bring laughs to Tampa Bay area

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

Thanks to the steady stream of stand-up comics due to hit Tampa Bay area venues, there will be plenty to laugh about in the coming months.

Jackie Mason returns to the Tampa Bay area with a performance Saturday, Jan. 7, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater.

Tickets are \$45. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com.

Once in a generation, a performer emerges who is so extraordinary, so brilliant, that he or she become the standard to whom all others are compared. Mason is such a performer, and is widely regarded as one of the greatest stand-up comics of all time. Now more popular than ever, Mason combines pungent political satire, insightful observations on the foibles of modern life and impeccable timing to create material that leaves audiences laughing until they cry and critics raving show after show.

Greg Proops, improv master, will appear Friday, Feb. 10, 9 p.m., at The Club at Treasure Island, 400 Treasure Island Causeway.

Tickets are \$35 plus service charge. Call 367-4511 or visit theclubti.com.

Proops is best known for his participation in the television show "Whose Line Is It Anyway." He also has appeared on "Drew Carey's Green Screen Show" and "Drew Carey's Improv-A-Ganza."

He has established himself as a lightning-witted comedic sharpshooter.

In addition to improv, Proops also has lent his voice to a number of films and television shows such as Tim Burton's "The Nightmare before Christmas," "Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace," "Bob the Builder" and Nickelodeon's "True Jackson, VP."

Described as unpredictable and utterly unorthodox, Proops will bring his show off his improv skills in the club's intimate setting for one night only.

Rodney Carrington will perform Thursday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater.

Tickets range from \$33 to \$53. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com.

A multitiered comedian, actor, and writer, Carrington has recorded eight major record label comedy albums selling over two million copies. Two of these albums have been certified gold by the RIAA. He also starred in his own TV sitcom, "Rodney," which ran for two seasons on ABC. He co-wrote and co-starred with Toby Keith in the feature film "Beer for My Horses." According to Pollstar, Rodney was the fourth highest grossing touring comedian in 2009. He regularly performs to sold out crowds across the United States and Canada.

John Leguizamo will bring his Ghetto Klown show to the area Thursday, March 8, 7:30 p.m., in Carol Morsani Hall at The David A Straz Jr. Center.

Tickets start at \$32.50. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org.

Leguizamo conceived of and performs Ghetto Klown, the next chapter in his popular personal and professional story. It is his fifth one-man play, his third on Broadway, and follows in the uninhibited tradition of his Mambo Mouth, Spic-O-Rama, Freak, and Sexaholix...a Love Story. In Leguizamo's trademark style, the piece explodes with energy, heating up the stage with vivid accounts of the colorful characters that have populated his life. He takes audiences from his adolescent memories in Queens to the early days of his acting career and on to the sets of major motion pictures and his roles opposite some of Hollywood's biggest stars.

Leguizamo has been recognized with an Emmy Award as well as an Obie Award.

"Ghetto Klown is all the things I say to my thera-

pist and my manager, but would never want the general public to know," Leguizamo says in a press release promoting the show. "It's cheaper than a lawsuit and I get to take a bow at the end. It's like Wikileaks but with no international manhunt. Yet."

Bob Newhart will make a stop in Pinellas on Sunday, March 18, 2 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater.

Tickets range from \$35.50 to \$70. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com.

Newhart's career has spanned two successful television shows and 14 feature films. He has sold millions of albums worldwide and still performs to sell-out crowds all over the country. Fans flock to Newhart's live performances to hear such standards as "The Driving Instructor," "Sir Walter Raleigh" and "The Submarine Commander." These timeless classics are enjoyed by young and old alike in sold-out concert halls across America.

Joining Newhart will be accomplished film and stage actor, recording artist, radio personality and author Deana Martin, who carries on the legacy of her famous Rat Pack father, Dean Martin.

Capitol Theatre

- Howie Mandel, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m.
 - Jackie Mason, Saturday, Jan. 7, 8 p.m.
 - Christine Lavin, Sunday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
- Capitol Theatre is at 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com.

The Club at Treasure Island

- Greg Proops, Friday, Feb. 10, 9 p.m.
- The Club at Treasure Island is at 400 Treasure Island Causeway, Treasure Island. Call 367-4511 or visit www.theclubti.com.

The Mahaffey

- Colin Quinn, Friday, Jan. 13, 8 p.m.
 - Ron White: Moral Compas Tour, Friday, Jan. 27, 7:30 and 10:30 p.m.
 - Penn & Teller, Friday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m.
 - Jay Mohr, Thursday, March 15, 8 p.m.
- The Mahaffey is at 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Call 892-5767 or visit www.themahaffey.com.

Ruth Eckerd Hall

- Jim Stafford, Sunday, Jan. 8, 1 p.m.
 - Tim Conway and Friends, Saturday, Jan. 21, 1 p.m.
 - Rodney Carrington, Thursday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m.
 - Vicki Lawrence and Mama, Sunday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m.
 - Bob Newhart and Deana Martin, Sunday, March 18, 2 p.m.
 - Martin Short, Thursday, March 29, 8 p.m.
- Ruth Eckerd Hall is at 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com.

Straz Center for the Performing Arts

- The Irish Comedy Tour, Friday, Feb. 3, 8 p.m., in the Jaeb Theater
 - The Royal Comedy Tour, Sunday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m., in Carol Morsani Hall
 - John Leguizamo, Thursday, March 8, 7:30 p.m., in Carol Morsani Hall
- The David A Straz Jr. Center - formerly the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center - is at 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org.

Side Splitters Comedy Club

- Spanky Brown, Jan. 5-8. Show times vary.



Photo courtesy of WILLIAM MORRIS ENDEAVOR ENTERTAINMENT LLC.

Rodney Carrington performs Feb. 16 at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater.

- Jimmy Shubert, Jan. 12-15. Show times vary.
 - Dom Irrera, Jan. 20-21. Show times vary.
 - Brad Williams, Jan. 26-29. Show times vary.
 - Frankie Paul, Feb. 2-5. Show times vary.
 - Larry Miller, Feb. 17-18. Show times vary.
- Side Splitters Comedy Club is at 12938 N. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa. Call 813-960-1197 or visit www.sidesplitterscomedy.com.

Snappers Grill and Comedy Club

- Danny Johnson, Jan. 6-7. Show times vary.
 - Ron Feingold, Jan. 13-14. Show times vary.
 - Michael Winslow, Jan. 20-21. Show times vary.
 - Rich Vos, Jan. 27-28. Show times vary.
- Snappers Grill and Comedy Club is at 36657 U.S. 19 N., Palm Harbor. Call 938-2027 or visit www.snappersgrille.com.

Tampa Improv

- Kevin Hart, Jan. 5-7. Show times vary.
- Alex Scott, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 8 p.m.

- Gary Valentine, Jan. 12-15. Show times vary.
 - Big Sean Larkins, Sunday, Jan. 15, 9:30 p.m.
 - Arles Spears, Jan. 19-22. Show times vary.
 - Carlos Alazraqui, Jan. 26-28. Show times vary.
 - Adam Ferrara, Feb. 1-4. Show times vary.
 - Pete Correale, Feb. 9-12. Show times vary.
 - Dean Edwards, Feb. 16-19. Show times vary.
- Tampa Improv is at 1600 E. Eighth Ave., No. C112, Tampa. Call 813-864-4000 or visit www.improvttampa.com.

Tampa Theatre

- John Pinette, Saturday, Jan. 14, 8 p.m.
- Tampa Theatre is at 711 N. Franklin St., Tampa. Call 813-274-8982 or visit www.tampatheatre.org.

Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center

- Suzanne Ruley, Friday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m.
- The center is at 324 Pine St., Tarpon Springs. Call 942-5605 or visit www.tarponarts.org.



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SEA TOWERS, STUDIO, 55+. \$550/Annual. Includes Water, Cable, WiFi. Totally Updated. (727)831-2762. (Amenities) www.seatowerscondos.com.

SEMINOLE GARDENS 2BR/1BA, 55+. \$695/Month. Annual. Porch, Water View, Pool, Whirlpool, Clubhouse. Walk to shopping. No Pets. Sandy. (727)512-2543, (727)399-3999.

160. Unfurnished Condos

1BR/1BA, LARGO, POOL, Great neighborhood. Spacious 650SF. Renovated. New kitchen, Granite tops. Walk-in closets. Free rent until Jan. \$675/month. (727)424-2945.

2BR/2BA W/LOFT, 1,600SF. Fireplace, Gated, Carport, Tennis. W/S/G, Basic Cable, Pest Control Included. Close To I.R.B. \$1,200/Mo. (727)710-2093.

CLEARWATER, 55+ 1BR/1BA, 1st Floor, W/S/T Included. No Pets. Pool, Clubhouse. Price Negotiable. \$500. (727)733-6669

IMPERIAL POINT: 1BR/1BA (102nd Avenue & Hamlin Blvd.) Adjacent to Clubhouse and Inland Waterway. Full enclosed porch. No Animals, No Smokers. Long Term. \$750/Month. Includes water and cable (727)481-7680.

LAKE SEMINOLE, 2BR/2BA, 1,100sf. Dock, New A/C, W/D, Carport, Pool. Waters edge, ground floor. Magnificent View! \$1,000/Mo. (727)286-8555.

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SEMINOLE GARDENS 1BR/1BA, 704SF. 2nd Floor, Not a 55+, Lake View, Sunroom, Furnished. Yearly rental \$550/Month. Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp. (727)397-2534

SEMINOLE, 2BR/2BA, W/D, Dishwasher. Fans Throughout. Close To Everything! \$775/Mo. \$500 Security. No Pets. (727)319-8351.

SEMINOLE: Deerwood Gardens. 2BR/2BA, 2nd Floor, Vaulted Ceiling, Patio /Balcony, Covered Parking, W/D, Pool, Clubhouse. \$800/Month. (727)397-5571.

TERRIFIC 2BR/1BA, GROUND Floor, 845SF. Belleair Bluffs, \$650/Mo. W/S/T included. Buffington Properties, (727)518-8700.

TOWNHOMES OF LAKE Seminole. 2BR/2BA, Carport, Enclosed Porch, Washer, Dryer, Pool, Cable. 3 Miles To Beach. Pet Ok. \$885/Mo. (727)398-7383.

BELLE OAK VILLAS, 2BR/2BA, Cul-de-sac. All appliances, rear screened porch, pool, Available Mid-January. \$875/Month. (727)585-5569

2BR/2BA/2C, On Intracoastal Waterway. Dock, Pool, Tennis, Screened Room, Patio, W/D. \$2,000/Month. Seasonal. Mostly Furnished or not. Small Dog OK. (941)349-4835 or (941)586-3233.

170. Furn. Apartments

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 & Efficiencys. Fully Equipped. Weekly. No Pets. Includes Utilities. (727)397-4130.

175. Unfurn. Apartments

BELLEAIR BLUFFS Deluxe 1-2BRs, 1st-2nd Floor. New Carpet. Overlooking Pool & Courtyard. One block from Intracoastal & Shopping. 2942 West Bay Dr. (727)483-4853.

BELLEAIR BLUFFS 1BR/1BA Private parking. Walk to Belleair Shopping. \$560/Month. Includes water. No Pets. (727)584-2813.

BELLEAIR BLUFFS 2BR/2BA, \$750/Mo. 1BR/1BA, \$625/Mo. Clean, Quiet, Updated. Cat OK. Includes W/S/G, Cable. (727)455-2260.

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DOWNTOWN CLEARWATER, Unfurnished, 1BR, \$475/Mo. Close To Bus Terminal. Call Bob, (727)515-0994

DUNEDIN: GREAT DOWNTOWN Area! Studio/ Efficiency, \$155/Wk. Nice Rooms From \$75/Wkly. 326 Honey Street West. Call (727)586-2412 or Click www.586-2412.com

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

175. Unfurn. Apartments

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185. Beach Rentals

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH. Cozy, Clean, Furnished Cottages. 1-2BRs, starting at \$315/week. (Call for Winter Rates.) Steps to Gulf Beach. Pet Friendly. (727)595-8013. www.UncleMillsCottages.com.

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190. Waterfront Rentals

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REDINGTON BEACH, 3BR/2BA/2CG, Tile, Wood Floors. Dock, Hot Tub, Lanai, Pets Allowed. \$2,500/Mo. Annual (727)455-3858.

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- Professional Services Directory

195. Seasonal Rentals

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210. M.H. Rentals

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225. Duplex-Triplex Rental

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265. Commercial Rentals

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245. Room For Rent

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360. Legal Service

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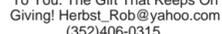
370. Instructions-Tutors

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485. Help Wanted

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485. Help Wanted

485. Help Wanted

485. Help Wanted

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485. Help Wanted

505. Part-time Help

St. Petersburg Times
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520. Sales Help

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505. Part-time Help

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Classified Line Ads: Friday, Dec. 23rd, Noon
Editorial Copy: Thursday, Dec. 22, 5 p.m.

January 5, 2012 Paper:
Retail & Classified Display Ads: Thursday, Dec. 29, 5 p.m.
Classified Line Ads: Friday, Dec. 30, Noon
Editorial Copy: Thursday, Dec. 29, 5 p.m.

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\$20,000 Compensation. Healthy, Nonsmoking Females, 21-39, Height/Weight Proportionate, Gave Birth w/No Complications, No Criminal Background. Confidential. (941)741-4994. openarmsconsultants.com. (C)

SWIM SPA LOADED! BRAND
new with Warranty, 3 Pumps, LED lighting, Ozone Deluxe Cover, maintenance-free cabinet. Retail for \$18,900, Sacrifice \$8,995. Can deliver. Call (727)851-3217. (C)

TYPE II DIABETES? USED
ACTOS? Actos May Cause Serious Health Concerns Including Cancer. Call for Free Consultation. Dennis A. Lopez, Atty., Tampa (888)320-5399. (C)

WANTED: YOUR UNEXPIRED
Diabetes Test Strips. We buy any kind/brand. Pay up to \$22/box. Shipping paid. Hablamos Espanol. Call (800)267-9895 or visit: www.SellDiabetestrips.com. (C)

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for a hands-on Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA-approved program. Financial aid if qualified. Job placement assistance. Call AIM (866)854-6156. (N)

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ABE'S INTEGRITY MOVING
BBB (A Rated). Referral Based. Honest, Affordable, Reliable. IM1462. www.abesmoving.com (727)446-6683.

Painting

A PLUS BURKE PAINTING LLC
Attitude is everything... When quality counts. (727)397-2284 Interior / Exterior Residential / Commercial Lic. #C-4641

A. BOYD FARMER PAINTING.
Family Business, 30+ Yrs. Residential & Commercial. NO JOB TOO SMALL! 2 Coats Paint, Power Wash & Prep Work. Quality Guaranteed. Sr. Discount. #C-8626. (727)458-3650.

TONY RICKARDS PAINTING INC
Interior, Exterior. Pressure Cleaning; Pool Decks, Driveways, Roofs. Free Estimates. Insured. #C-3923. (727)595-9177.

INTERIOR, \$35+ PER ROOM
Exterior, Pressure Cleaning, Textures, Drywall Repair. Dobraski Bros. C-5352. (727)458-3477.

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WINTER SPECIAL!! 2,000 Exterior SF for \$1,300. Wash, prep, seal & 2 coats paint. Quality Guaranteed! #C5593. (727)542-9547.

SAME DAY SERVICE
Payless Painting Services. Interior, Exterior, Light Handyman Work. See Pictures & Prices. www.paylesspainting1.com C-8369. (727)470-5876.

ROB'S PEST CONTROL
Roaches? Ants? Fleas? Serving Pinellas since 1979. Call Now! (727)392-2847 Cell (727)687-1730

TURNER WALL & CEILING, INC.
Wall & Ceiling Repairs. Water Damage, A/C Holes, Plastering, Drywall Repairs And Texturing. #C-5129 (727)391-3569.

ANDY'S STUCCO & Plastering.
Small Plaster/ Stucco Jobs, Patch Work. Lic#C-6903. Insured. Free Estimates. (727)524-8140, (727)434-4386.

FAUCETS TO WATER HEATERS
No Job Too Small. Sewer And Drain Cleaning. Serving Pinellas 26 Years. #RF0049545. Ricks Plumbing, Inc. (727)397-7809, (727)595-9611.

James McDaniel Plumbing
Full Service Master Plumber. No Overtime Or Hidden Cost! Water Heater Repair/ Replace. Sewer & Drain Line Cleaning, Faucet Repairs. Lic/Ins. CFC1427191 (727)584-3046.

VALCO PLUMBING, INC.
*Discount on drain cleaning. *Up-front pricing. *Faucets to water heaters. No job too small. RF11067030. Call (727)596-9500.

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TOILET REBUILDS \$88! Most toilets. Also Offering WATER HEATER SPECIALS. (727)804-2615. CFC1426953

HOWE ROOFING. NEW ROOFS,
Re-roofing, Flat Roofs, Repairs. Serving Pinellas City. 30+ Years! #RC0031425. (727)584-6387.

KURT DOMBROSKI ROOFING
Contractor Inc. All Types Of Roofing, Flat Roof Specialist. Comm/Res. CCC-1326322. (727)423-3614.

HENDRICK ROOFING, INC.
Leak Specialist All Types of Roofs • All Work Guaranteed Family Owned & Operated • No Subcontractors Over 40 Years Experience in Pinellas For Your Free Estimate Call 531-1025 Tile • Metal • Shingle • Flat Roofs 12706

Our Classified Dept. is currently running great advertising specials in:
REAL ESTATE SALES
REAL ESTATE RENTALS
HELP WANTED
ARTICLES FOR SALE
AUTO & BOAT SALES
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
Call our Classified advisers today for more details. Deadline is noon on Mondays. (727) 397-5563

Tampa Bay NEWSPAPERS
BEACON • LEADER • BEE

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Plumbing

DRAINS CLEANED \$79.95!
Sewer Lines \$109.95. No Extra Charges! www.DynoRooter.net (727)443-5728, (813)221-6010

GLEN MYERS PLUMBING
No job too small!! Lic. #I-CFC057544. All Work Done "By Glen" (\$20.00 OFF WITH THIS AD) Call (727) 443-6318 or www.glenmyersplumbing.com.

METCALFE PLUMBING
Full Service. 30-Years' Exper. Free Estimates. Senior Discounts. License #C-10193. RF11067406. (727)641-2876.

PETE'S CERT. PLUMBING
Repairs & Irrigation. Owner operated. Low Rates. Free estimates. 10% OFF W/AD! I-CFC021491. Insured. Visa/MC. (727)487-3645.

BLUE BAYOU POOL SERVICE
Services as low as \$60/mo. Third month FREE! Free Estimates. (727)954-0323.

KRYSTAL KLEAR POOL SVC.
Firefighter Owned/ Operated Since 1997. Licensed, Affordable, Reliable. Most Pools Starting @ \$60/Month. 50% OFF First Month w/Ad. (727)517-6664.

LIVING WATER POOL SERVICE
Weekly Service Or Chemical Check Only, Includes Chemicals. Family Owned. (727)204-1387.

A XTREME Pressure Cleaning
Lic/Ins. We Clean Anything!!! Big/ Small Jobs, LOW PRICES! Free Estimates. (727)585-2886.

RITE WAY PRESSURE WASHING
WE CLEAN EVERYTHING FROM Top To Bottom! Residential & Commercial. Licensed. Insured. (727)776-0888. RiteWayPressureCleaning.com

LOWEST PRICES ON ALL
Phases of Remodeling, Roofing, and Room Additions. Wiggins Construction. CGC1505594. (727)410-7323.

Old Time Roofing
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Re-Roofs, New Roofs, Repairs. All Roof Types. Licensed & Insured. (727)793-4915 FL Lic#-CCC1326623

HOWE ROOFING. NEW ROOFS,
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KURT DOMBROSKI ROOFING
Contractor Inc. All Types Of Roofing, Flat Roof Specialist. Comm/Res. CCC-1326322. (727)423-3614.

Roofing

HOLIDAY GLOW, from page 1B

He's pleased with the work the foundation has done in the past few years and enjoys hearing the compliments from visitors.

"This is our fourth year and we finally got good enough to do some good things," Scaffidi said. "We've got the wow factor."

Other area light displays

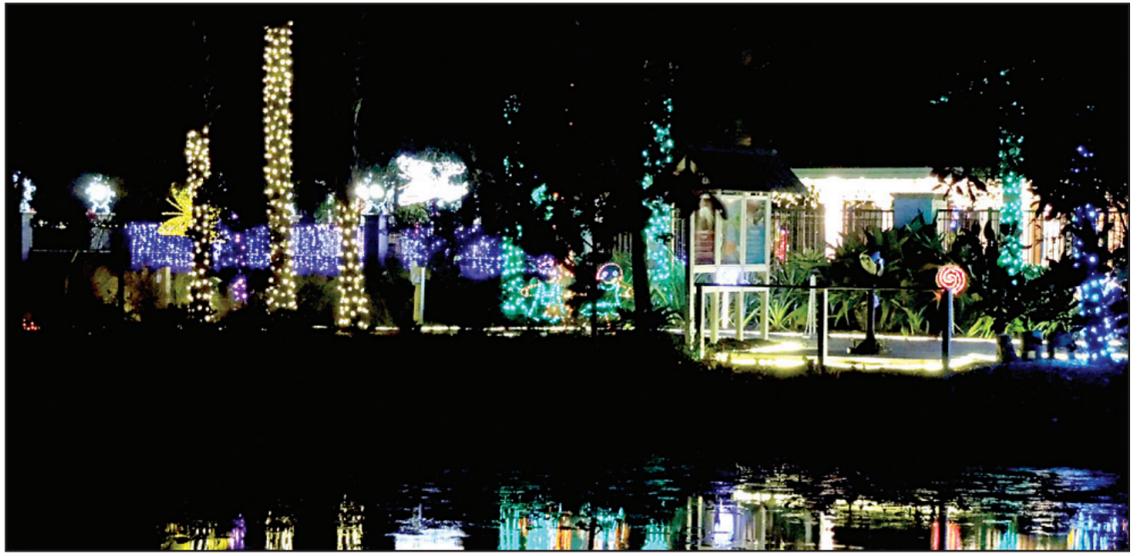
• The 18th annual Light of Lake Park, benefitting Suncoast Hospice continues through Dec. 31 in the Seminole communities of Lake Park Estates, Wiker, Lake-side Estates and Lake Seminole Village between County Road 296 (Bryan Dairy Road) and Lake Seminole. Viewing is free, but donations are encouraged with 100 percent of proceeds going directly to the programs and services of Suncoast Hospice. Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 6 to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 6 to 11 p.m. Christmas and New

Year's Eve, 6 to 11 p.m.

The event involves a 3-mile span of lights and decorations the public can drive through and give donations along the route.

For information, call Bryn Warner at 727-586-4432 or visit lightsofthelakepark.com.

• Hailed as one of the top three Christmas Lights displays in the United States, the 35th annual Oakdale Christmas Light Display continues through Jan. 3, 6 to 10 p.m., at 2719 Oakdale St. S. in St. Petersburg. Take a walking yard tour through a half-acre of displays comprised of about 400,000 lights. The exhibit includes an 18-train HO scale model railroad, moving and animated items, and inflatable and lighted figures and displays. Take I-275 to exit 22 (old exit 9), which is 175E. Turn right on Fourth Street, heading south. Go 1 mile, crossing over 22nd Avenue South. Next street on the left is Oakdale. Go two blocks and park or look. For more information, visit www.ChristmasDisplay.org.



Lights reflecting off the water are a welcoming site for visitors coming in from the Walsingham entrance. The gardens are open from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Photo by TERRE PORTER

Holiday Dining



Country Harvest Christmas Day Specials Open 7am-6pm

Includes:
Our Famous Christmas Family Feast
 Turkey, Ham, and includes appetizer.
Adults \$18.99 Children 12 & Under \$13.99

Prime Rib of Beef Feast
 16oz. Certified Angus Prime Rib of Beef
Adults \$19.99 Children 12 & Under \$14.99

Your Choice
 Pan Fried Strip Pangasius • Roast Loin of Pork
 Roast Turkey • Baked Virginia Ham
Adults \$13.99 • Children \$8.99

First we start everyone with our stuffed mushroom appetizer, a bowl of Turkey Rice soup. Then real mashed potatoes & gravy (except the ham dinner), yams, sweet corn, sage stuffing, cranberry sauce, rolls & muffins. Finally a choice of one dessert (Pumpkin, Pecan or Apple Pie, Rice Pudding or Custard Bread Pudding).

Home of the \$5.99 Sirloin Steak and Eggs
 7oz. 100% certified Angus beef, includes 3x1 eggs any style, home fries or grits & toast. Served 6am-2pm, 7 days a week!

Country Harvest Restaurant
 Reservations Suggested 466-0241 Walk-ins Welcome
 1285-A South Missouri Ave., Clearwater

Party like a Parrothead
New Year's Party

Key West Style Party ... Come dressed like a parrothead and receive a **FREE** Margarita or Land Shark.
\$2.50 Land Shark Lager & \$3 Margaritaville Margaritas all night!

Featuring our Key West Buffet - **Music by Espree de Kor 8pm-1am**
 Prime Rib, Pasta Station, Crab Legs **FREE Champagne toast & Party Favors for all!**
 Shrimp & Much More!
\$28.95
 (Kids 5-12 \$16.95) **NO COVER CHARGE**

Reservations Accepted but not required
 727.595.8356
 401 Second Street, Indian Rocks Beach
 Just off Gulf Boulevard
 In the Holiday Inn Harbourside

NEW YEAR'S DAY 2012 Open at 4:00 pm
 Roast Loin of Pork
 Apricot - Chipotle - Mustard Glaze
 Dried Fruit - Herb & Nut Dressing
 Candied Sweet Potatoes
 Fluffy Mashed Potatoes
 Fresh Vegetables
 Choice of soup or salad
 Warm Bread & Butter
 18.9

...and a traditional bit of Luck for the New Year...
 a taste of Black Eyed Peas!

NEW YEAR'S EVE
 Open 4:00 pm
 Steak and Lobster
 with Fluffy Mashed Potatoes
 Fresh Vegetable, Choice of Soup or Salad
 Warm Bread & Butter
\$25.90

Spoto's GRILL 131
 13079 Park Boulevard • Seminole
 727-393-1703 • grill131.com
 Your Restaurant For Over 40 Years!

Holiday Dinners to GO!
 Roast Turkey Sliced w/Mashed Potatoes & Green Beans
Serves 10 - \$63.99
 Roast Pork Sliced w/Yellow Rice & Black Beans
Serves 10 - \$66.34
 Pineapple Ham Sliced
5 Lbs. - \$23.99

Now Taking Orders! Pick Up by 2pm on 12/24, Christmas Eve

LA TERESITA RESTAURANT
CUBAN FOOD
 Our Goal is to Share in Our Family's Authentic Cuban & Spanish Cooking Traditions with Your Family

7101 66th St. N., Pinellas Park
727-546-5785
 Closing Christmas Eve, 12/24, 2pm & Reopen Sun., 12/26 at 8am
 Open Mon.- Fri., 11am-10pm
 Sat., 8am-9pm • Sun., 8am-9pm

Party from 8pm to 1am
 including tax and gratuity
 rooms available from \$179/night

Happy New Year
 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31st

Entertainment
 with midnight champagne toast
 OPEN BAR
 MUSIC by SUN COAST BAND
 featuring top forty hits
 ASSORTED PARTY FAVORS

New Year's Eve - Grand Ballroom
A Special Dinner

Butternut Squash Bisque - Cinnamon Cream, Serrano Ham
 Holiday Salad - Field Greens, Balsamic Syrup, Grilled Watermelon Vinaigrette
 Twin Tournedos - Twin 5 Oz. Tournedos, Zinfandel Demi, Cipollini Onion, Chimichurri, Fresh Asparagus, Candied Baby Carrots
 New Year's Eve Chocolate Decadence

For Reservations, Call 727.595.1611
www.sheratonsandkey.com/newyears

Sheraton Sand Key RESORT
 CLEARWATER BEACH

New Year's Eve 2011

Wine Cellar Restaurant and Fine Catering

Lobster, Shrimp, Crabmeat & Scallops
 Seafood Gumbo "New Orleans"
 Assorted Field Greens & Watercress
 Intermezzo of Lemon Sorbet

Choice of:
 8oz Filet Mignon
 Prime Wisconsin Veal Chop
 Fresh Baked Chilean Sea Bass
 Lobster Tail stuffed Chicken Breast "au Grand Marnier"

Desserts
 Chocolate Genache Torte
 With Fresh Berries and a Raspberry Coulis
 Orange Mousse Martini
 Aus Grand Marnier

Midnight Madness Package
 Seating after 8:30pm. Includes priority seating adjacent to the live music, dinner, party favors, a champagne toast and traditional midnight buffet.
\$60.00 plus tax & tip.

Open Seating
 4:00pm-10:00pm.
 Dinner Only from Menu Above.
\$40.00 plus tax & tip.

Dinner & Dance Package
 Seating after 8:30pm. Includes dinner with our house band, Rick Bankemper & Jackie V. Plus party favors, a champagne toast and traditional midnight buffet
\$100.00 plus tax & tip.

17307 Gulf Boulevard,
 N. Redington Beach
727-393-3491

SIN CITY NEW YEARS EVE BASH
 SHEPHARD'S BEACH RESORT
 WHAT HAPPENS AT SHEPHARD'S, STAYS AT SHEPHARD'S

TWO GREAT BANDS! TWO AWESOME DJS! THREE HUGE PARTIES!
 Party starts at 9pm. Doors open at 8:45pm. Food available for purchase until 2:00am.
 CHOOSE FROM THESE GREAT PARTY PACKAGES:

ACE OF HEARTS PARTY PACKAGE
 Advance Tickets \$69/person* thru Christmas. After Christmas and at the door \$79/person* (limited availability, reservations required)

- OPEN PREMIUM BAR ALL NIGHT (9pm - 2am)
- 2 GREAT BANDS, 2 DJS, 3 HUGE PARTYS
- LAS VEGAS STYLE GAMING TABLES (for entertainment only)
- CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT
- PARTY FAVORS

ACE OF SPADES DINNER PACKAGE
 Advance Tickets \$110/person* thru Christmas. After Christmas \$120/person* (limited availability, reservations required)

- INCLUDES ACES OF HEARTS PARTY PACKAGE
- RESERVED TABLE
- SEAFOOD & PRIME RIB BUFFET
- ENDLESS GLASS OF WINE WITH DINNER
- SOFT BEVERAGES

ACE OF DIAMONDS VIP PACKAGE
 \$500 for up to 4 people. Limited availability, reservations required.

- INCLUDES ACES OF HEARTS PARTY PACKAGE
- RESERVED SEATING IN WAVE NIGHTCLUB
- BOTTLE SERVICE & CHOICE OF LIQUOR BOTTLE OR MOET CHAMPAGNE
- ADMISSION FOR UP TO 4 PEOPLE (Additional \$100/person)

FOR ACE OF DIAMONDS PACKAGE EMAIL RAY@SHEPHARDS.COM
 ALL PARTIES 21+ ONLY!
www.shephards.com | 727-442-5107 | 619 S. Gulfview Blvd. | Clearwater Beach