



## County's top artists to display their work at Dunedin festival

Event slated for Jan. 14-15 on Main Street downtown ... Page 1B.

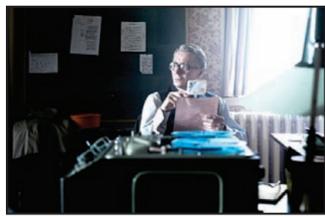


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January 12, 2012

### ENTERTAINMENT



### Movie review

While its drab realism and brooding protagonist don't fit Hollywood's current genre paradigm, "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" delivers a surprisingly forceful dramatic impact right down to its anti-climactic final frames.  
... Page 1B.

### LARGO

#### First top chef chili cookoff planned

The city's first top chef chili cookoff will be held Saturday, Jan. 21, 7 to 11 p.m. on First Avenue Southwest. Food trucks, restaurants and local chefs are welcome to sign up, said Jennifer Lantry, the owner of O'Shy's Irish Tap House. The event will feature two divisions: "Porch," which is for locals serving Crockpot style chili. First prize is \$150. "Street," which is the battle of restaurants and food trucks. First prize is \$400. Call Jennifer at 517-6821 for rules and to sign up. Deadline to sign up is Friday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m.

#### Military museum gets insignia pins

The Armed Forces Military Museum will obtain more than 20,000 military metal insignia pins from the World War I through Vietnam eras. Matt Woodside, director of exhibitions and collections, and Ashley Burk, curator of collections of the South Florida Museum, which is located in Bradenton, presented the collection to the Military Museum during a ceremony Jan. 5. The metal insignia pins were worn on garrison hats by enlisted service members and on the shoulder straps of officer's uniforms. Burk contacted Nadine Piazza, director of operations for the Military Museum, in late October to inquire if the museum would be interested in permanently housing the pins. After a visit to South Florida Museum and meeting with Burk, "it was determined AFMM would be a perfect museum to house the pins and South Florida Museum would turn over the collection for a permanent exhibit to AFMM," a news release said. The Armed Forces Military Museum opened in 2008 at 2050 34th Way N.

### PET CONNECTION

#### Speaking of Pets

Dr. Michael Rumore of Lake Seminole Animal Hospital describes an Alzheimer's-like condition that affects older pets, but often is ignored by owners.  
... Page 8A.



### Features

Business	13A
Classifieds	4-7B
Community	14A
County	3, 6-7, 9A
Entertainment	1, 3, 8B
Just for fun	2B
Outdoors	12A
Pet connection	8B
Police beat	5A
Schools	10A
Viewpoints	11A

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## City OK with garage sale signs

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO - City commissioners are opposed to adopting rules for garage sale signs, and that's fine with their staff. Commissioners told staff at a work session Jan. 10 not to prepare a city code amendment to regulate garage sale signs in the city. Some had expressed interest months ago about discussing some standards for garage sale signs. Commissioner Woody Brown said the proposed regulations seem to place more restrictions on garage sales than are currently allowed because they could only be held for a period of three consecutive days. He asked whether that was correct. Assistant Community Director Robert Klute said

garage sale signs are not addressed in the city code. "One way I guess we can interpret that is since they are not addressed, they are not permitted currently," he said. He said the city doesn't take action against signs unless officials get complaints, such as that they are in the public rights of way. Mayor Pat Gerard said she knows that people have their garage sale signs taken on the weekends and that's why the issue was raised in the first place. She said she was not sure "what we are looking for - probably not more regulations." Commissioner Gigi Arntzen said she "didn't understand this at all," raising concerns that the code amendment would only allow garage sale signs to be posted

from Friday at 8 a.m. through Monday at 8 a.m. "What if I want to have a garage sale on Thursday?" she said. The regulations also would have limited garage sales to three times per year per residence. City Manager Mac Craig said the commission should tell the commission what staff should do about garage sales "and we'll take care of it." "I didn't know we had a problem with it," he said. "I think having a garage sale is an American thing that people do on the weekends," Commissioner Robert Murray said. "My suggestion on this whole thing is we should leave everything the way it is ... Don't make any more rules. Just not enforce it on the weekends." "Nobody would like that better than us," Craig said.

### Upward bound



Shawn Dubois, Palm Harbor, above, demonstrates the maneuverability of his AJ Slick. A Foamy, right, flies upside down at a Largo Flying Club event. The Largo Flying Club, located at 901 Eighth Ave. is open seven days a week and visitors are welcome.



Photos by JIM LAYFIELD

## The prescription drug epidemic



### Sheriff: Combating drug abuse must be a priority

*Editor's note: This is the second segment of a three-part series on efforts to curtail prescription drug abuse in the county. The third and final part will be published next week.*

By SUZETTE PORTER

LARGO - The problem of prescription drug abuse is unlike any drug problem law enforcement has ever encountered. It is countywide and knows no boundaries. "It's the most serious public safety issue and concern that we face as a community," says Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri. Prescription drug abuse is a problem with no socio or economic boundaries. It affects people of all races and genders. Prescription drug abuse permeates our culture, Gualtieri said, and it adversely affects people's lives every day either directly or indirectly. Addiction to prescription drugs, primarily pain medications, is responsible for an increase in a variety of problems - mental health issues, domestic violence, thefts, burglaries, suicides and deaths. In 2010, Pinellas County was No. 1 in the state for the number of deaths due to an overdose from prescription drugs. The county



More than 1,000 pounds of unwanted medications are turned in by the public at 13 locations around Pinellas County during the four-hour Operation Medicine Cabinet Aug. 27.

Photo courtesy of PCSO

also is No. 1 in the number of babies born with an addiction to opiates. Gualtieri worked narcotics at the Sheriff's Office from 1984-1998. Back then, the big problem was cocaine and crack cocaine. It was a different situation with people making a conscious decision to use an illegal drug. Today, law enforcement is dealing with what Gualtieri describes as unintended addicts: People who are prescribed pain

medication by their doctor after an injury and become dependent before they realize what is happening to them. And, unlike cocaine addicts, who have to find a dealer or become part of the party crowd, access to prescription drugs is easy - all you have to do is go to the local pharmacy. People addicted to pain medications, who can no longer get prescriptions from their doctor,

See SHERIFF, page 4A

### Police take aim at addicts who 'doctor shop'

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO - The city has a detective assigned full time to prescription drug cases. "Certainly, we have seen the impact in Largo like any other community," said Largo police spokesman Lt. Mike Loux. About four years ago the detective, Bill Magnuson, came up with a system in investigations that Loux said has been effective. "He has a list of group names of pharmacies, where he will send this John Smith out to all these pharmacies and request whether or not they have filled prescriptions," Loux said. "If they have, they let him know that. That kind of gives him an indication that this person is filling multiple prescriptions for the same medications." Also, the process gives the detective an indication of which doctors are prescribing mass quantities of drugs. "Pill mills in Largo - we really don't have any. We have been pretty successful. I attribute some of that to the detective that's been enforcing that. That's his sole job to work prescriptions. He's done a really good job with that," Loux said. Pharmacies have been really responsive as far as replying to the detective's emails and sending the information out, Loux said. "The pharmacies generally in the area are pretty good about looking up fraudulent prescriptions. Absent of that though, the burden is not really on them. If somebody comes in with a valid prescription, they assume the checks and balances have already occurred at the doctor's office, because the state statute prohibits anybody from going to different doctors for the same ailment and obtaining prescriptions," Loux said. Loux also said that a state prescription drug-monitoring database, which allows physicians in Florida to have the ability to access the prescription drug history of patients in the state, is beneficial to law enforcement.

See POLICE, page 4A

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# Around Largo

City events



**Swing Dance**, Jan. 13, 8 p.m. until midnight, Largo Community Center.

Description: "Celebrating the 1st anniversary of the brand new Largo Community Center. Featuring the 10 o'clock Swing Band."

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Call 518-3131.

**Community Wide Garage Sale & Health/Wellness Expo**, Jan. 21, 8 a.m. until noon, Southwest Recreation Complex, 13120 Vonn Road.

Description: "Pack up everything and bring it to the garage sale at the Southwest Recreation Complex or come and browse the sale. At the same time there will be a health and wellness fair. Tables are still available for the garage sale. The health and wellness fair will include

give-a-ways, chair massages, ear and hearing scans and more." Call 518-3125.

**Zumbalicious Dance Party**, Jan. 21, 6 until 8:30 p.m., Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave. NE.

Description: "Come join us for an evening of Zumba dancing, healthy snacks, beauty and home vendors, and giveaways!"

Tickets are \$10 in advance/\$12 at the door. Call 518-3016.

**Monthly night hikes**, Jan. 21, 6:30 p.m. McGough Nature Park. Description: "Join us every third Saturday of the month for a guided walk through the woods, seeking out nocturnal animals such as raccoons, owls, opossums, bats and more. Flashlights are optional. Donations are kindly accepted."

Preregister by calling 518-3047.

**The Letterman**, Jan. 22, 7 p.m., Largo Cultural Center.

Description: "Come see one of the defining vocal groups of the '60s and members of The Vocal Group Hall of Fame. The letter sweaters may only make a brief appearance at each Lettermen performance, but The Lettermen harmony is non-stop. 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. For more information or to purchase tickets call 587-6793 or visit

LargoArts.com."

Tickets are \$48 VIP, \$43 advance, \$48 day of show, \$41 advance group (10+).

Call 587-6793.

**Largo Lions Club Presents "Women Fully Clothed,"** Jan. 23, 2 and 7 p.m., Largo Cultural Center.

Description: "Astute and hilarious, this show features four of Canada's most celebrated and talented comedians, Robin Duke, Jayne Eastwood, Kathryn Greenwood, and Teresa Pavlinek, where they tackle 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 - and maybe at them a little bit too. For more information or to purchase tickets call 587-6793 or visit LargoArts.com."

Tickets are \$22 reserved seats, \$19 group (10+); \$68 series.

**Touch-a-Truck and Florida Clown Day**, Jan. 28, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., Largo Central Park.

Description: "Bring the whole family out from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to climb, honk and play around in every vehicle you can imagine, including fire trucks, dump trucks, motorcycles, buses, military vehicles, a Bayflight helicopter, 18 wheeler, and more. Kids of all ages will enjoy inflatables, train rides along Largo Central Railroad, Rocketship Car rides around the block, and a delicious food court in the middle of the park. In conjunction with Touch-a-Truck, Florida Clown Day, brought to you by the Uptown Clown Alley, will feature over 100 clowns from all across the state of Florida. These clowns are sure to entertain friends and family with balloon animals, face painting, goofy tricks and lots of laughs. All ages are welcome to attend this free event. Limited on-site parking is available and free event shuttles will be offered from Largo High School. Individuals may park and walk from Largo Middle School. For more information, call 587-6740, ext. 5014 or visit LargoEvents.com."

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# Bellevue Biltmore demolition permit application filed

By BRIAN GOFF

BELLEAIR - "The building is now functionally obsolete." Those are the words written to summarize an application to demolish the Bellevue Biltmore Hotel, and now the process has begun.

On Jan. 6, the owners of the Bellevue Biltmore filed papers with town of Belleair seeking permission to demolish the historic structure. The filing of the request was not unexpected, but it still faces several hurdles.

The application indicates the owners intend to demolish the main hotel and the surrounding cottages, but intend to save the original entrance to the hotel, which will eventually be turned into a museum lauding the history of the resort. Contained in it will be a replica of the Ice Cream Parlor, which was a popular stopping point for guests and visitors alike.

Earlier estimates of how long it will take before final approval is either given or rejected has been at least one year, and that time line remains.

First of all town staff must review the application to make sure it is complete and there are no unanswered questions. That is likely to take at least 30 days.

Then the application must go to the town's Historic Preservation Board for consideration. There must be open meetings in a quasi-judicial setting, so everyone can have a say in a place where the truth must prevail.

After that, the Town Commission will get to make the final ruling to either approve or deny the permit application, that will be March at the earliest, officials say.

On Jan. 6, the owners of the Bellevue Biltmore filed papers with town of Belleair seeking permission to demolish the historic structure. The filing of the request was not unexpected, but it still faces several hurdles.

But it doesn't end there. Consideration must also be given to any proposed development on the site once the hotel is demolished. That, too, is a process which includes staff review, a stop at the Planning and Zoning Board and finally to the commission. More months of review are involved in that.

Matt Cummings, the managing member of the Biltmore's ownership group, has indicated they will have a proposal for the future of the property in the next 30 to 60 days.

"In order to make this profitable we are going to have to build more than 83 townhouses on the site," he said. "There is a possibility we may propose the building of some condos on the site as well, although that isn't something we're enamored with. But we know for sure there will be more than 83 townhouses."

In fact the document filed in support of the demolition application, uses 120 town homes as an example to support future tax calculation. Cummings says 120 is, "not hard and fast by any means."

The four-page supporting document outlines what Cummings has been saying all along about the future of the Biltmore. It quotes noted hoteliers saying that the Biltmore just isn't feasible. It also uses comparisons with other grand old hotels in Florida, including the Vinoy and the Don CeSar. In each case the document states that the original owners lost millions after their renovations and ended up selling for pennies on the dollar.

It also quotes Andrew Tod of GF Management, the consulting company hired by Legg Mason, the asset management firm that owned the resort several years ago as saying, "There is no way the hotel, renovated at that enormous cost, in that small town could possibly survive even in good economic times."

Getting the demolition permit is not going to go without opposition. Already at town commission meeting residents have spoken out against the demolition and the Save the Biltmore Preservationists group has launched an email campaign to get those opposed out in force at the Jan. 17 commission meeting.

But while the matter of the Biltmore is on the agenda on the 17th, Town Manager Micah Maxwell said that meeting is for commissioners to discuss the process that will lead to a decision on the demolition application. No decision will be made or even discussed until the application follows the process which will be outlined that evening, a process, as has been said, which will take at least a year. The owners estimate the cost of the demolition will be \$1.5 million.

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Tuesday, Jan 17	Wednesday, Jan 18

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## The prescription drug epidemic

# Doctors speak out on pill mills, raise concerns about regulations

By TOM GERMOND

Medical professionals and their associations in Florida recognize the need to shut down pill mills and take action against unscrupulous doctors, but they also have concerns about laws and regulations that prohibit the use of prescription drugs when there is a legitimate need for them.

"Everyone is very cognizant of the problem," said Anissa Raiford, executive director of the Pinellas County Medical Association. "It's beyond an epidemic."

Of the 2,800 licensed physicians in Pinellas County, less than 1 percent operate pill mills, she said.

"I don't want them in Pinellas County," she said. "If I get wind of them doing anything, I call [the Sheriff's Office]."

Doctors have spoken to county commissioners in favor of a county moratorium on new pain clinics, but they also have ex-

pressed concerns about actions that will make it difficult for people with legitimate needs to get help.

Some of the regulations pertaining to the doctor's abilities to prescribe certain drugs are "just absolutely insane," Raiford said.

She said she was familiar with a case that involved a 70-year-old woman who had been prescribed drugs for 20 years to help treat her restless legs syndrome. The woman was recently told she couldn't get the drug anymore.

Another case involved a woman who suffered from severe migraine headaches to the point that they were incapacitating her.

"And your doctor is saying he's not going to treat that?" Raiford said.

The Florida Medical Association has been an advocate of legislation and other efforts to crack down on pill mills, according to information on the association's website.

"The Florida Medical Association is appalled by the unscrupu-

lous and deadly 'pill mill' clinics, the vast majority of which are not owned by physicians. We are also saddened by and extremely concerned about the growing number of tragic deaths that continue to occur as a result of these clinics," said James B. Dolan, who was then the Florida Medical Association's president, in 2010.

He took issue with any perception that the doctors aren't policing their profession.

"To suggest that Florida's physicians are not doing enough to police their own not only misses the mark; it is blatantly untrue. Unlike the Florida Bar, the FMA does not have the authority to penalize or otherwise discipline physicians. That authority rests with the Board of Medicine," Dolan said.

"We look forward to continuing to work with the Florida Legislature and the Department of Health to assist local governments as they shut these clinics down, once and for all," he said.

SHERIFF, from page 1A

actually have several ways to get their fix, Gualtieri said. They can go to a pill mill. They can go doctor shopping. They can use fraudulent or forged prescriptions.

"And if all else fails, they can steal," he said.

### Supply and demand

Gualtieri said pill mills are nothing more than a place where drug dealers in white coats set up shop and sell prescriptions for 250 to 300 pills at a time. It's a profitable business for the clinics and drug dealers.

Drug dealers purchase fake MRIs and use them to obtain prescriptions from pill mills or via doctor shopping. Then they sell the pills for a huge profit. Generic oxycodone sells for \$1 a pill at the local pharmacy. The street price is \$17 a pill and upwards to \$30 a pill in other states, such as Kentucky.

Some dealers even hire runners, Gualtieri said. Runners are people recruited to help get prescriptions. Dealers drive their runners to a doctor's office where they each get a prescription for 250 pills or so. Then they go to a pharmacy, which in some cases may be located across the street from the doctor. Some of these pharmacies may even be in cahoots with the pill mill, Gualtieri said. The runners are paid money or a portion of the pills. The dealer ends up with thousands of pills to sell on the streets.

People traveling to Pinellas from other states to buy pills add to the problem, Gualtieri said, and it causes a big crime issue. He said out-of-town guests looking for pills check into a motel for two to three days and then visit doctors and clinics to get as many pills as they can to take back home to sell for \$30 each.

"It's big business," he said.

Gualtieri said it is difficult to shut down pill mills because law enforcement has to prove that the doctor is operating outside the standard of care and are not practicing medicine at all.

"You can't prosecute bad doctors without proving they committed a crime and that's hard to prove," he said.

He said another doctor has to review the cases to determine if medications were prescribed without a medical reason. It is difficult to get a doctor to testify against another doctor.

Gualtieri said sometimes even when a doctor questions another doctor's methods that doesn't prove they did anything wrong. It could just be a difference of opinion and not something criminal.

He said the same goes for pharmacies, which must adhere to Health Department regulations.

It's a matter of proving pharmacists knew they were filling a fraudulent prescription, which Gualtieri said is next to impossible.

Doctor shopping is another method used to get pills. Gualtieri said people go to a legitimate doctor, tell them their complaints, and get a prescrip-

tion for pain medication. Three days later, they go to another doctor and don't talk about the first. Some people have been known to go to as many as four different doctors within five days' time.

Others participate in the buying and selling of fraudulent prescriptions, which they take to a legitimate pharmacy to have filled. And if that doesn't work, they resort to theft and burglary.

"It's the perfect storm," Gualtieri said. "It has to be a priority from an enforcement standpoint."

### Working on the problem

The Sheriff's Office launched a Narcotics Strategic Diversion Unit in 2009. Diversion refers to legal prescription medicine that is redirected for illegal purposes.

"We saw the problem here (at the Sheriff's Office) before everyone knew there was a problem," Gualtieri said.

So, he met with local law enforcement agencies - St. Petersburg, Largo, Clearwater and others - and asked them to join the diversion unit. He used to have only two detectives working on the problem; now has about 17 people. He said the unit also works with Pasco and Hillsborough counties when needed.

The diversion unit provides proactive enforcement twice a month at specific locations in the county and again once a month countywide. Gualtieri said the operations target the consumers as well as the dealers.

He said targeting consumers of the drugs helps provide a deterrent and allows law enforcement a chance to encourage them to get help.

Pinellas County commissioners established a moratorium on new pain clinics in May 2010. The ordinance also requires clinics to register with the county and pay a fee, among other requirements.

Commissioners revised the pain management ordinance in November 2011, changing the language to include high prescribing clinics - those that write more than 34 prescriptions a day for specified classes of narcotics. Gualtieri said clinics had been circumventing the law by changing their name from a pain management clinic to a weight loss clinic or something else.

The moratorium is helping with enforcement simply because it prevents new clinics from opening. And it makes it easier to shut down pill mills that haven't followed the county's rules.

But, it also adds to what Gualtieri describes as the balloon effect.

He said if law enforcement cracks down on one method people use to get their pills, they just find another way. If law enforcement cracks down on pill mills and doctor shopping, the use of fraudulent prescriptions goes up. If they crack down on the doctor shopping and prescription fraud, there's an increase in theft and burglary.



Bob Gualtieri.



Photo courtesy of PCSO

This new drop-off box set up in the lobby of the Sheriff's Administration Building in Largo and a similar one at the North District Station in Dunedin are available from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week for citizens to drop off unused and expired prescription drugs and animal medications.

### More help needed to solve the problem

Gualtieri encourages the public to help by being aware and looking for signs of illegal activities to "help them out." People who see activities that may be an indicator of illegal prescription drug use should call the Sheriff's Office at 582-6200.

Prescription drug addiction affects people of all ages from teenagers to senior citizens in their 80s. Gualtieri said when these addicts "get the craving" they're willing to do whatever it takes to get their medicine, which is a big problem for law enforcement.

"These people come from all walks of life. It's not just a certain element in the community," he said.

Kids are especially vulnerable. In the past when teenagers began to experiment with wine and beer and then illegal drugs, they had to make a choice to make that clandestine buy. Today, they just go to the medicine cabinet in their own home. There may be no organized drug buy involved, he said.

Operation Medicine Cabinet aims at preventing easy access to drugs in the home. Oftentimes, people are prescribed pain medications and they don't take them all. They then sit in their medicine cabinet, providing easy access to children or other people who might come into the home.

POLICE, from page 1A

"Absolutely," Loux said, noting that law enforcement had no repository of information before the prescription drug-monitoring program went live Oct. 17.

"If you think about it, if you have people running around shopping from different doctor to different doctor, and nobody is talking to each other, how difficult that is," he said. "We were known as one of the states to come to. We captured people who have traveled down from Ohio in groups just to hit Florida because we had no repository of information which to query these people from," Loux said.

Despite getting cooperation from doctors and pharmacies, there will still be the "10 percent fringe" operating illegally, Loux said.

"It will just come down to good old-fashioned police work in getting them," Loux said.

Magnuson said though the problems of prescription drugs have been on the news, the average person doesn't recognize the extent of the problem.

"It's an epidemic," Magnuson said. "I see it too much. Four years ago, I had no idea (of the magnitude)," he said.

Magnuson said he makes about 75 arrests a year involving a mixture of cases, such as addicts who are doctor shopping to get the drugs themselves and those who are obtaining drugs to resell them. He also has assistance from other investigators.

"No way I can do it all," he said.

Prescription drug abuse affects many segments of the populations.

"The big thing is with pills nowadays. Its effects are not like crack cocaine or heroin where you could typically segment that to a certain part of the population," Loux said. "With pills and the abuse of prescription medications, it kind of runs the gamut from young to old and the whole economic spectrum. It's everywhere."

Other local law enforcement agencies reported numerous sad stories about prescription drug abuse. Among other resources, they say, the state's drug monitoring program will be an effective tool in helping police combat the program.

### Pinellas Park

PINELLAS PARK - Undercover Detective Barry Touart has had a front row seat to prescription drug trafficking in Pinellas Park.

And it ain't pretty.

"They're hiding these pills in places that you will not believe," he said. "That to me was a shock: there's no shame. There's no self-value. They let everything go so bad; it's sad."

Touart is fairly new as a detective, having joined the Pinellas Park Police Department three years ago. As a member of the vice and narcotics unit, Touart investigates prostitution, gambling, alcohol and any sort of drug. But these days, the unit tends to focus on prescription drugs.

"For us, it could be a full time job. You could just make any one of our jobs nothing but pills," Touart said. "I don't know why or how it got so bad. The

drug itself must be great (to) being so powerful and so possessive of them."

And it's not just the narcotics unit that is involved in combating the problem. The entire department is dealing with its effects, said Sgt. Tony Motley, who works with the criminal investigations unit, dealing with crimes against property and against people.

Part of the problem is the accessibility of prescription drugs, a problem confounded by the fact that it's so easy to "doctor shop" in Florida and obtain more prescription drugs than a patient should need, Touart said.

"Anybody with normal back problems can probably go in there and get them. It's just a matter of seeing the right doctor," he said.

As a rule, prescription drugs are expensive. So addicts sometimes get what are called "sponsors," someone who will front the \$400 price tag for a bottle of pills, Touart said. In exchange for doctor shopping and filling the prescriptions at different pharmacies across the tri-county area, the addict gets to keep half of the pills for himself. The sponsor sells the other half at \$20 to \$30 a piece.

After working his beat for several years, Touart said he knows which doctors are "shady," just by recognizing the names that come up over and over, associated with too many patients caught with too many pills. By now, he has their cellphone numbers.

In trying to track down the medical doctors involved in the illegal distribution of pills, Touart has noticed some trends. Most are very transient, moving their practices around often. Many were trained out of the country, but some received their medical doctorates at Florida universities.

"It just depends when they get a taste of the money, when they get the 70 grand, allegedly, that they clear a month, that's a lot of money," Touart said.

"There's so much money involved, they're willing to put their doctor's licenses on the line," department spokesman Capt. Sandy Forseth added.

But in general, it's very difficult to dole out any consequences to the doctors behind alleged pill mills. Back in April, Dr. Jacinta Gillis - whose practice, the Dollar Medical Clinic, had a location in Pinellas Park - was arrested in Lee County for racketeering, trafficking oxycodone and money laundering. But her arrest involved a two-year investigation the cooperation of the Pinellas and Lee county sheriff's offices, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Office of Attorney General Statewide Prosecutors Office Tampa Bureau and the Department of Health and Drug Enforcement Administration.

"It's really hard to take a doctor's license from them, and they know that," Touart said.

Sometimes, the police get accolades for their work. On Nov. 23, Pinellas Park police descended on a Lealman neighborhood to arrest a woman who had been dealing oxycodone in Pinellas Park. Touart, as an undercover detective, had his face covered for the arrest and, as usual, hoped to nab the suspect quickly and leave without too many

waves.

They found their target, Michelle Homick, at her home with a box of oxycodone in her hand. As Touart cuffed her and loaded her in his car, he witnessed a strange reaction from the neighborhood.

"I looked outside and literally, the people were coming out, holding their babies, clapping," he said.

"Hey! Hey, they finally got her, come outside!" the neighbors hollered to one another. "That's good! There's one more down the street you need to get."

"I honestly couldn't get over it. At first, I thought they were coming out to scream or get combative with us. Because that's usually what we get: 'Get out of here, pigs!'" Touart said. "I didn't expect a crowd, much less a cheering crowd."

- Julia A. Torres

### Clearwater

CLEARWATER - They could be 80-somethings who fell and broke a hip. They could be 60-somethings who just had surgery. They could be 40-somethings who suffered nerve damage in an accident. They could be 20-somethings who were injured in a car crash. So often it starts off with legitimate pain. But prescription drug addiction can happen to anyone at any age, said Lt. George Koder of Special Investigations at the Clearwater Police Department. And it's a big problem.

"It can affect all ages, so it's something that really needs to be addressed," Koder said. "The addictive side of these pills is harming a lot of people. And because they are legally issued from a doctor, people think it's going to be safe. And they're getting a lot of pills. I just saw an article in the AARP magazine talk about preventing over prescribing pain pills for older adults. You have a knee replacement, a car accident, and a doctor prescribes you something and all of a sudden you don't realize it and you want more of it."

Some of the most problematic drugs the Clearwater Police Department is seeing are oxycodone, hydrocodone, Valium, methadone and others, Koder said. Because these pills can be obtained legally with a prescription, many people feel they are not dangerous, he said. Therefore, a lot of people who would never dream of doing crack, heroin, or maybe even marijuana, can still end up addicted to pain pills.

"You have people who start off as a good person, and then they get addicted, and you hear the stories of young women who get addicted (to pills) and then they turn to prostitution and live from hotel room to hotel room and sleeping with anyone just to get their next fix," Koder said. "And unfortunately, you see that a lot more than you might think. The Hollywood version of prostitution, that's not what we see. We see people who are living in terrible conditions, they're addicted to drugs, and they prostitute themselves to support their habit. And you look at the progression of their faces in their arrest records or their driver's licenses, and they age. A girl who's in her 20s will look like she's in her 50s in five years. It's really sad."

Pain pill addiction often starts with a regular pre-

scription, and it causes relief for real pain, and it makes a person feel good, Koder said. But then the doctor wants them to come off of the drug, and too often the person can't, he said.

"They find a means to get more drugs," Koder said. "So the addiction is just like crack and cocaine."

Clearwater started seeing prescription drug abuse take off in the 2000s, Koder said, and it has impacted the city with an increase of overdose deaths and a lot more prescription drugs on the street. The body gets used to having the drugs in its system, so it starts craving the pills.

Police are excited that the Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program is now live so it can be more apparent if people are doctor shopping.

"I think that the prescription monitoring plan will really make a difference," Koder said. "The doctors can use it, and they monitor what is going on with their patients, and the increased enforcement of pill mills. And if people from out of state know they can't get pills in Florida, then they won't come here, and that will reduce the prescription drug problems."

However, Koder realizes that even if the ease of obtaining prescription drugs goes down, that does not reduce the number of people who are addicted, and they will have to find another way to satisfy that addiction. Certainly the best way to deal with that would be through rehab or finding other ways to overcome the addiction, but he knows many could turn to other methods. He wonders if illicit drug use will start rising as there is a crackdown on prescription drugs and they become more difficult to get. But whatever happens, Koder's narcotics team will be on the streets battling the problem.

- Alexandra Lundahl

### Treasure Island

TREASURE ISLAND - Police in Treasure Island aren't immune from investigations involving prescription drugs.

For a city with less than 8,000 residents, only one drug store and one licensed physician, the numbers are a bit staggering.

According to Treasure Island Police Detective Trent Taylor, his office investigates two to three deaths per month related to drug overdoses and most of those cases are tied to illegal prescription drugs.

Taylor blames the abuse of oxycodone, hydrocodone and other morphine derivatives on over-prescribing by doctors.

"It (oxycodone) is supposed to be used for life-threatening injuries," Taylor said. "Some doctors prescribe it for a tweak in a knee. It's irresponsible. We need more laws to hold doctors accountable."

Taylor said the state needs higher standards from medical boards regarding doctors, as well as better education and awareness for the public.

"You can become addicted to this stuff as early as three days," he said. "Some people can't control themselves."

- Bob McClure

## Police beat

### Robbery suspect gets more charges

LARGO – A Largo man arrested for robbery Dec. 30 now has an additional charge of introducing contraband into a county detention facility.

According to a post on the Largo Police Department's new Facebook page, Jesse T. Carlisle, 29, attempted to conceal 46 Oxycodone, 30mg pills on his person when he was being booked into the Pinellas County Jail on robbery charges.



Jesse T. Carlisle

Police report that Carlisle approached a 68-year-old female Dec. 30 in the parking lot of Publix, 12022 Indian Rocks Road and demanded her purse. It was about 7:30 p.m. and the woman was pushing her grocery cart from the store to her car.

The woman refused to give up her purse, so Carlisle forcibly pulled it from the cart and fled the area. He then returned about an hour later and attempted to access the victim's bank account with her stolen debit card. He also returned to Publix the next day and used the victim's stolen Publix gift card to buy food for himself.

Largo police were able to identify, locate and arrest Carlisle on Jan. 5. Officers noted that Carlisle had been booked into the county jail 15 days prior to the robbery for failure to appear for carrying a concealed weapon.

Carlisle remains in jail on charges of fraudulent use of a credit card, strong-arm robbery and introduction and possession of contraband in a county detention facility. Bond was set at \$17,000.

### Largo PD requests public's help

LARGO – The Largo Police Department is asking for help from the community to find a subject caught on video Dec. 28 stealing catalytic converters from vehicles parked at Rogers Business Park, 2101 Starkey Road, Largo.

A compact sedan, possibly a Lincoln LS, appeared on the video, police said in a post on the department Facebook page. Although the vehicle looks to be white in the video, police believe the color is actually red.

A similar vehicle with two black male suspects was observed stealing a vehicle's catalytic converter from the ACE Hardware at 1015 West Bay Drive about 3:45 p.m. Dec. 29. Any person with knowledge or insight into these crimes is asked to contact the Largo Police Department at 586-7325.



Photo courtesy LARGO POLICE  
This vehicle is believed to have been used by suspects stealing catalytic converters from Roger Business Park on Starkey Road. Largo police say although the car appears white in the video, it may actually be red in color.

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Briefs

**Transit eTownHall scheduled on Jan. 18**

Three ways to join: online, telephone or Pinellas County television. Phones will be ringing and bloggers will be blogging across Pinellas County on Wednesday, Jan. 18, as the Pinellas Transit Alternatives Analysis Team, in partnership with Pinellas County, reaches out to the public in the final phase of its transit study to discuss the future of Pinellas County's transit.

This virtual, telephone, and televised event also will focus on the recommendation for a transit project connecting St. Petersburg to the Greater Gateway area and Clearwater, with a regional connection across Tampa Bay to Hillsborough County.

The plans are the initial results of a large-scale transit study and public outreach effort conducted by the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority and the Florida Department of Transportation.

Between 7 and 8 p.m., this live, interactive online blog-video-and-telephone communication will bring together people from around the county and give them the opportunity to ask questions, provide their opinions or make comments about the project recommendation. This event will feature members of the Pinellas Alternatives Analysis Project Advisory Committee answering transportation questions live. The panel includes:

- Bob Clifford, TBARTA executive director, moderator
- Jeff Danner, St. Petersburg council member, TBARTA board member, and PSTA board chair
- Frank Hibbard, Clearwater mayor and TBARTA board member
- Sarah Ward, Pinellas County MPO interim executive director

Citizens can participate in the eTownHall event online at [www.pinellascounty.org/etownhall](http://www.pinellascounty.org/etownhall). Email reminders will be sent to those who log onto the website and sign on early. The event also will be broadcast

live on PCC-TV (Bright House Networks Channel 622, Knology Channel 18 or Verizon Channel 44).

In addition to joining online or watching on TV, a random sample of 40,000 residents will be called and invited to participate by telephone. Interested citizens who do not receive a call but wish to join the telephone portion may call toll-free, 888-886-6603, conference code 17686#.

The panel will answer as many questions as possible during the hour-long program. Questions may be submitted via the online blog, scheduled to open at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, on the phone during the event, or through Twitter by including the #pinellastransit in the message before or during the event.

The conference room at the Pinellas County Communications Department will be open to the public during the live event as well. It is located at 333 Chestnut St. in Clearwater.

For more information on the event, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/eTownHall](http://www.pinellascounty.org/eTownHall) or call 464-4600.

For more information on the Pinellas Transit Alternatives Analysis, visit the project website at [www.PinellasOnTrack.com](http://www.PinellasOnTrack.com).

The Pinellas Alternatives Analysis is a study identifying transit options to connect major residential, employment, and activity centers in Pinellas County - Clearwater, Largo, Greater Gateway, Pinellas Park and St. Petersburg - and to Hillsborough County. The study recommendation also referred to as the Draft Locally Preferred Alternative includes light rail from St. Petersburg to Greater Gateway and Clearwater, as well as significant countywide enhancements to the existing PSTA bus system that will connect outlying neighborhoods, including those in northern Pinellas County, to the proposed light rail service.

This is the fourth eTownHall that the Pinellas Alternative Analysis Team will conduct with Pinellas County.

**Elections office mails 115,258 ballots**

Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark announced Jan. 3 that 115,258 ballots were mailed to domestic voters for the Jan. 31 Presidential Preference Primary and municipal elections.

In addition, 917 ballots have been mailed to absent military and overseas voters or picked up in elections offices.

The 116,175 ballots included 94,641 to Republican voters and 21,534 to minor party/no-party affiliation voters who are only eligible to vote in municipal elections.

Currently, the total number of ballot requests for the 2012 elections is 227,777, which is 38 percent of the 600,674 registered voters.

"Voters have embraced the convenience of voting by mail. Fifty-nine percent of our voters used mail ballots in the 2010 Primary and 51 percent in the 2010 General. The numbers were much higher in recent municipal elections, and we feel this positive trend will continue," Clark said.

Knowing that almost 127,000 mail ballot requests on file would expire after the 2010 General Election because of a change in state law, Clark revised ballot return envelopes for that election so Pinellas voters could renew requests by checking a box on the envelope. As a result, 87,276 voters chose to renew their requests for mail ballots.

Only the Republican Party is having a presidential primary. Florida is a "closed primary" state. Only registered Republicans are eligible to vote for the Republican presidential nominee.

Five municipalities also will have elections on Jan. 31. All registered voters in Clearwater, Kenneth City, Safety Harbor, Tarpon Springs, and St. Pete Beach Districts 1 and 3 may vote in their respective non-partisan municipal elections.

A new law requires that the first domestic ballots be mailed between

See BRIEFS, page 7A

**Largo's Biggest Loser Challenge Planned**

LARGO - Want to take part in a community project and lose those unwanted holiday pounds as a result?

The weight-loss challenge "Largo's Biggest Loser" is now registering participants for the challenge starting January 17 at Nutrizone, 13819 Walsingham Road, Largo.

There will be cash prizes awarded to first, second and third place finishers drawn from the \$39 entry fee. The fee also covers 12 weeks of personal coaching and free nutritional information. Over 150 people have lost 1,200 pounds in previous challenges, according to organizers. To register and learn more details, call John at 610-842-3041.

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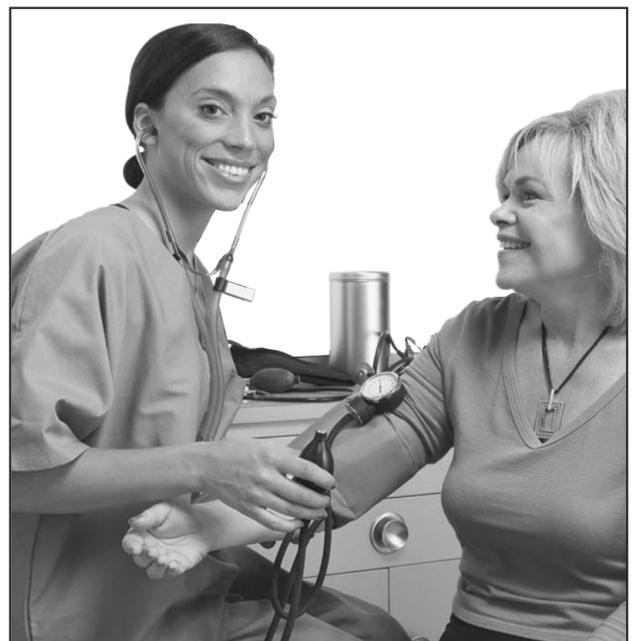


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**BRIEFS, from page 6A**

35 and 28 days prior to an election. "Since the new mailing schedule started right after Christmas, we chose to mail Jan. 3, after the holiday mail and travel," Clark said.

To request a mail ballot, visit [www.voteinellas.com](http://www.voteinellas.com), call 464-VOTE (8683), or email [absentee@voteinellas.com](mailto:absentee@voteinellas.com). Requests are processed daily. To view daily updates of ballots requested and mailed, visit [www.voteinellas.com](http://www.voteinellas.com).

Domestic voters are civilian voters residing in the United States and active-duty military voters residing in Pinellas County. Absent military and overseas voters include all active-duty military, their spouses and dependents, currently absent from their voting precincts; and civilians who are U.S. citizens residing outside the United States.

**Tax collector seeks re-election**

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County Tax Collector Diane Nelson announced Jan. 5 that she would seek another term.

Nelson, Pinellas' first female tax collector, was elected in 2000, after a 30-year public service career as a Tax Collector employee. She was re-elected in 2004 and 2008.

"I am excited about having another opportunity to serve the citizens of Pinellas County as their tax collector," Nelson said. "The past 11 years have been extremely rewarding, and I am proud of what my staff and I have been able to accomplish, particularly when it comes to serving the public. But I believe there is more work for me to do, with a number of important issues on the horizon."

In the past four years, the tax collector's office achieved a 98 percent customer satisfaction rating, established Pinellas County's first online tax certificate sale, developed an online payment system for tourist development

taxes, and reduced the office operating budget by close to 30 percent.

Nelson was selected in September by her fellow tax collectors to serve as second vice-president of the Florida Tax Collectors Association and is scheduled to become president of the organization in 2013.

In 2010 and 2011, she served as chair of FTCA's Driver License Committee, helping the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles develop a plan for Tax Collectors statewide to take over driver license services. Under her leadership, the Pinellas County Tax Collector's Office began issuing driver licenses in 2001 and today issues the majority of licenses in Pinellas County.

**Commission meetings begin earlier this year**

CLEARWATER - Afternoon meetings of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners will now begin one hour earlier at 2 p.m. Public hearings will now begin a half hour earlier at 6 p.m.

Those wishing to speak on any subject, other than scheduled agenda items, may do so during the Citizens to be Heard portion of the afternoon meeting now beginning at 2 p.m. Comments related to public hearing or regular agenda items will be heard when those items come before the commission.

Morning sessions of board meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Board meetings are scheduled twice a month usually, but not always, on the first and third Tuesdays.

The following is a list of January board meetings and work sessions. The following meetings will take place in the fifth floor assembly room of the Pinellas County Courthouse, 315 Court St. in downtown Clearwater.

• Tuesday, Jan. 17, 11 a.m. Work Session

Discussion of Community Development federal and state grants and departmental opera-

tions.

• Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2 p.m. Regular Board Meeting / 6 p.m. Public Hearings

Presentations and awards, citizens to be heard and agenda items. Public hearing items will be heard in the evening portion of this meeting.

• Thursday, Jan. 26, 9:30 a.m. Work Session

Discussion of Code Enforcement overview and Health and Human Services overview.

The meetings can be viewed live at [www.pinellascounty.org/tv](http://www.pinellascounty.org/tv) or on PCC-TV on Bright House Networks Channel 622, Knology Channel 18 or Verizon Channel 44. Agendas and corresponding documentation are available online at [www.pinellascounty.org/agendas.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/agendas.htm).

**Deadline nears for property tax savings**

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County Property Appraiser Pam Dubov reminds permanent residents of Pinellas County that they may qualify for one or more property tax exemptions, which may result in hundreds of dollars in property tax savings. But, they must apply before the March 1 deadline.

Florida offers several types of property tax benefits for qualified residents:

- Homestead Exemption for a primary residence
  - Low Income Senior Exemption
  - Widow/Widower Exemption
  - Disability Exemptions and Exemptions for Blind Persons
  - Exemptions for Veterans with a Service Connected Disability (or for his or her surviving spouse)
  - Discount for combat wounded Florida Veterans over age 65 who entered the service while a Florida resident.
  - An additional property tax exemption for certain employed members of the United States military.
- Each exemption has its own set of qualifications. To find out if you qualify, or for additional in-

formation, call the Personal Exemptions Division at 464-3294, or visit the Pinellas County Property Appraiser website at [pcpao.org](http://pcpao.org).

Some important facts to remember:

- The homestead exemption automatically renews each year, but not all of the exemptions do.
- If you purchased a property that had a homestead exemption at the time of purchase, that exemption will be removed on Dec. 31, and you will need to apply for your own.
- The deadline to file for a personal exemption for 2012 is Thursday, March 1.
- Regular office hours are 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Property owners also may apply online from the website at [www.pcpao.org](http://www.pcpao.org).

**PSTA hosts contest to win iPad 2**

ST. PETERSBURG - Winning a new iPad 2 could be as easy as point and click thanks to the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority's new RidePSTA photograph contest.

The contest is open to all ages and is being held to promote the launch of the agency's new RidePSTA blog.

"We've implemented the blog to give our riders and the community greater access to PSTA services and staff as well as providing a fun new venue for feedback and discussion regarding our service and transportation issues in general," said PSTA Director of Marketing Janet Recca. "It's a fun way to encourage people to learn about and ride on PSTA."

Along with a hot new iPad 2, a \$250 Visa gift card will be awarded for second place and a \$100 Visa gift card will go to the third place winner. For a chance to win, you just have to grab a camera and snap some pictures that show why PSTA is important to you and submit them to the agency by Jan. 15.

Entries can be submitted by

email to [ride@psta.net](mailto:ride@psta.net) or by mail to: PSTA Community Photo Contest, 3201 Scherer Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33716 (photos will not be returned). Entries should include your name, address, phone number, email and how often you ride.

The winning entries will be chosen by a panel of experts and will be announced Feb. 1. Participants are asked to abide by the following guidelines:

- Photos should only be taken in public areas.
- Do not take photos of people without their permission.
- Photography must not interfere with passenger safety or movement at any time.
- Photos must be original content.
- Photos must be at least 200 DPI at 10 inches and in one of the following formats: JPEG, TIFF, PNG, GIF or BMP.
- Photos should not in any way reference any illegal activity, violence, sex, alcohol, tobacco or drug use.
- All entries submitted could be used by PSTA in future marketing campaigns.
- A photo release form is required and can be obtained at [www.psta.net](http://www.psta.net).
- Tripods are not permitted on buses.
- PSTA employees and their families are not eligible to enter.

**Smartphone App available for voters**

Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark announces "Voters-on-the-Go," a new Smartphone application now available for Pinellas County voters to access election information using their Smartphones.

"Voters who visit [VotePinellas.com](http://VotePinellas.com) on their Smartphone browsers will automatically view a mobile version of our website that is more conducive to the small screen and easier to navigate," Clark said. "Voters will have key election information at their fingertips." The mobile site provides links

to the following voter services:

- What is My Registration Status?
- Request a Mail/Absentee Ballot
- Where Do I Vote?
- What is My Ballot Status?

The voter also can access the full Supervisor of Elections website with one touch.

"All voters can vote by mail. Now they can use their Smartphones to request a ballot, check to see when it is mailed and when we receive their voted ballot," Clark said. "With the Presidential Preference Primary and five municipal elections right around the corner, the Voters-on-the-Go application is very timely."

The application will be operational year-round, and all services also are available through the Supervisor of Elections website at [www.voteinellas.com](http://www.voteinellas.com) or by calling 464-VOTE (8683).

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**Looking for a home**



**Hamlet**

This handsome boy is Hamlet, a 4-month-old tuxedo kitty. Hamlet's favorite past times include jumping, climbing and playing with his sister, Maddy. He also loves to soak up the sun on windowsills. Hamlet is neutered, current on vaccinations and microchipped. He will make a great addition to any home. To meet Hamlet or any of his pet pals, visit Pet Pal Animal Shelter at 405 22nd St. S. Call 328-7738.



**Addie**

Addie is a 10-month-old dog that was flown in to the Suncoast Animal League from South Carolina as part of a life saving Pilots N Paws rescue in September 2011. Addie is an attentive, active dog that loves people, and most dogs and cats. She likes going for walks, car rides and playing. If you have a dog at home, we recommend introducing it to Addie before adoption. Call the Suncoast Animal League at 786-1330.



**Haley**

Haley is a big brindle boxer tipping the scales at 86 pounds. This 1-year-old girl is playful and very well behaved. Her prior owners were not allowed to have a large dog where they lived, so they had to give her up. She was raised around small children. Her heart is as big as she is, and some lucky family is going to have a great New Year with their new pet. Bring this article with you to Pinellas County Animal Services and Haley can be adopted for the low fee of \$25. Animal Services is at 12450 Ulmerton Road in Largo. Call 582-2600.



**Lady**

This lovely 2-year-old beauty is Lady. She is sweet and talkative with a bit of cattitude. Lady has definite diva potential. One look and you can picture her curled up on a velvet pillow. For more information about adopting Lady, call Friends of Strays at 522-6566 or stop by the adoption center at 2911 47th Ave. N. in St. Petersburg. Visit www.friendsofstrays.com.

**CDS: the dog and cat Alzheimer's disease**

Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome is a disease many pet owners accidentally ignore. The symptoms begin subtly, and progress slowly. Often people mistake this disease for "just getting old" and miss the opportunity to manage this serious problem.

Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome, or CDS, is a form of dementia in older dogs and cats similar to Alzheimer's disease in people. Early symptoms seem like frustrating behavioral problems, and often include a loss of house-training or litter-box training, nighttime restlessness and noisiness, and a decreased reaction to stimuli. Many pet owners confuse the early stages of this disease with a hearing loss, since their pets seem less reactive to noises. They mistake the house-training problems to "being old" or just spite.

As the disease progresses, the sleep-wake cycle becomes more disturbed, with some pets sleeping most of the day and being awake, often barking, yowling and whining, during the night. They may forget their normal routine, expecting meals at random times and then not eating at meal times. Some pets become exceptionally clingy with their owners, while others become more with-



**Speaking of Pets**

Michael J. Rumore, DVM

drawn and distant. These symptoms are not specific only for CDS. Nighttime vocalization in cats also occurs with a hyperthyroidism, caused by benign thyroid tumors. Problems with blood pressure or other brain disease can mimic the symptoms of CDS as well. The end stage of CDS is disheartening; pets may become lost in their own house. One of the classic symptoms in dogs is to go

to the wrong door, staring at a closet thinking it leads outside, or looking at the hinge side of a door and expecting it to open. Some pets will get "trapped" in corners or behind furniture, and will not be able to figure out how to back up and get out. Affected dogs and cats may lose the ability to recognize their owners or housemates, and maybe become scared of these "strangers."

The cause of this brain mal-

function is similar, but not exactly, like a human with Alzheimer's. A protein known as beta-amyloid builds up in the brain and prevents the neurons, or brain cells, from communicating properly. Neurotransmitters, which are the chemical signals these neurons use to communicate, are lessened as well. The exact causes of these changes is not known.

There are several different ways to manage and treat CDS. High levels of powerful antioxidants have been shown to reverse some of the symptoms. Hill's Science Diet has developed a food called B/D (Brain Diet) that helps as well. The FDA has approved Anipryl (selegiline) to treat CDS in dogs, and some other drugs may help as well. As with people with dementia, environmental enrichment and "exercising" the brain also may be of use.

Cognitive dysfunction can be a truly disheartening disease. No pet owner wants to see their four-legged friend fade away into confusion and dementia. Early intervention can help, but pet owners should watch for the symptoms, and not just assume their pets are "getting old."

Dr. Michael Rumore is the owner of Lake Seminole Animal Hospital.



**Waiting for Santa paws**

Prince is a 10-year-old golden retriever that was adopted from the SPCA after a car hit him nine years ago and his owners never claimed him. His owner, Kim Hastings, said, "I don't know how anyone could leave him, as he is the most gentle, loving Prince. He already had his name and it suits him perfectly." As our January photo winner, Prince receives a \$25 gift certificate from Classy Canines Mobile Pet Salon. The February photo winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Largo Feed. Send your pet photos to csouthmayd@TBNweekly.com.

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# Volunteer finds a place in her heart for animals

By MARY SAUL

The reception area at the adoption center is hectic and noisy – the usual – when Judy Elliott, a volunteer for Pinellas County Animal Services, hurriedly walks in on a Monday afternoon.

"This is like my second job," Judy said. "I'm here every day after work. My heart is here."

When her daughter married and moved to St. Petersburg, Elliott found herself as an empty nester and she tried to think about what she might do with her time. Her son-in-law was a volunteer dog walker in college, and Elliott decided to follow in his footsteps. "I just started walking dogs over here," she said.

An Animal Services volunteer for nearly two years, her passion is evident and her face lights up as she talks about what she does at the adoption center. Her primary role is volunteer rescue coordinator – she works with the county's partners to get more animals adopted.

When a dog or cat comes in that she thinks a pet rescue organization might be interested in helping get adopted, Elliott contacts them to see if they can make arrangements to move the pet to their care, where they may have a greater chance of finding a new home. Last year, she logged 1,500 miles on her car transferring pets to other shelters and rescue groups. She has driven them as

far away as the Panhandle.

"We've got to get these guys in and out. It's not good that they are sitting here," she said. She is usually able to move the animals within a week. Her goal is to get the animals adopted out before the shelter becomes overcrowded.

Referring to Animal Services staff and volunteers she says that getting animals adopted is a priority. "They try," she said. "They really try" to find the pets homes. It is a challenge because at the county shelter, no animal is turned away. The county government shelter puts healthy pets up for adoption and works with other animal rescue groups to find new homes for the unwanted pets. But it euthanizes animals that are not adoptable: if they are aggressive, too sick or too old.

"Too old" is one standard that Elliott is trying to change, as the manager of the Senior to Senior program. Senior cats and dogs are brought to meet-and-greets in senior communities in the hope that senior humans will adopt senior pets.

A part-time assistance for a three-CPA firm, Elliott lives in Largo with her husband of 31 years and has a daughter who lives with her husband in St. Petersburg. Volunteering for a pet shelter is not something that Elliott could have predicted. "I didn't even have an animal growing up. I didn't even know I liked animals," she said. Then her family got a dog



Volunteer Judy Elliott of Largo holds one of the senior dogs that she hopes will be adopted as part of the Senior to Senior program she coordinates for Pinellas County Animal Services.

a few years ago.

"I didn't know the first thing about cats and dogs," said Elliott. "They just open a place in your heart."

Pinellas County volunteers can expect to make a difference in the life of their community, while exploring interests, sharing knowledge, assisting others and making friends. For more information, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/volunteer](http://www.pinellascounty.org/volunteer), email [volunteers@pinellascounty.org](mailto:volunteers@pinellascounty.org) or call 464-VIPS (8477).

This article was provided by Pinellas County Communications.

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That may sound like an obvious title for an article all about myself. But I seriously think it is an important question. I know some folks who choose their medical care by looking for the most appealing ad in the yellow pages. I suggest a little more research, especially when you are looking for a health-centered or cosmetic dentist.

In selecting your dentist be direct. Ask the doctor to discuss training and credentials with you. Don't be intimidated. This is really important, especially with cosmetic dentistry because it is not a board-certified specialty. That means that any dentist can call him or herself a cosmetic dentist with no more than a basic dental school education.

Carl T. Panzarella, DDS There is something to say for years of experience and training. The new technologies, coupled with experience and skill allow for your visits, procedures and dental care to be as comfortable as possible by keeping the practice current at all levels of patient care.

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I grew up in Baltimore and graduated from the University of Maryland Dental School in 1981. My wife Kathy, an RN at Morton Plant, and I moved to Florida shortly afterwards. We have four children. Our oldest son is a pilot in the U.S. Navy. Second son is a site manager in New York City with an international construction corporation. The third is studying Architecture. All are University of Florida grads. Our daughter is a high school student.

I have done extensive training in cosmetic and neuromuscular dentistry at the world-renowned Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies. In addition to this training, I have studied with the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine and orthodontics at the United States Dental Institute.

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# Elks Club names students of the month for Dec.

The Largo Elks Lodge 2159 has announced its December Students of the Month from Largo High School. They are Jeffrey Benoit, son of Christopher and Linda Benoit of Clearwater, and Lauren Morris, daughter of Ian and Sharon Morris of Largo.



Jeffrey Benoit



Lauren Morris

Benoit will graduate from Largo High with more than a 4.5 grade-point average in the spring. He has received top student achievement awards in computing for College and Careers, in world history, in trigonometry and analytic geometry, and in Physics 1. For the past three years, he was selected to be a member of the prestigious Florida Music Educators Association All State Choir as well as the All State Men's Chorus and the All State Reading Chorus. He also participates in the Largo High School Madrigal Singers, the School Concert Choir, the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, the School's Academic Team, and the St. Paul United Methodist Church Youth Praise Band. He also volunteers at the Largo Public Library and at Largo Mid-

dle School. He works as the sound and light technician for events held in the gymnasium at Largo High School.

Morris also will graduate from Largo High with more than a 4.5 grade-point average in the spring. She has been class leader in leadership class, junior class secretary, National Art Honor Society secretary, National Spanish Honor Society treasurer, senior class secretary, and a member of the Key Club, Junior Class Council, and the Senior Class Council. She also was a student volunteer with the Pinellas County Art Exhibition, a student science fair judge at Ponce de Leon Elementary School, and a student teacher for Junior Achievement at Frontier Elementary. She also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, the Indian Rocks Beach Cleanup Team and city of Seminole Parks Department. Panera Bread named her employee of the month in August. She also was the only female and the only senior golfer representing Largo High School at the 2011 Pinellas County Girls Golf District match.

## Job shadowing



Trae Hanie, a senior at Largo High School, learned the finer points of "gator wrestling" as part of his career shadowing experience. Hanie's shadowing at Gatorland, located in the Kissimmee area, could lead to occupations in environmental science, wildlife preservation or tourism. Hanie lives in Largo.



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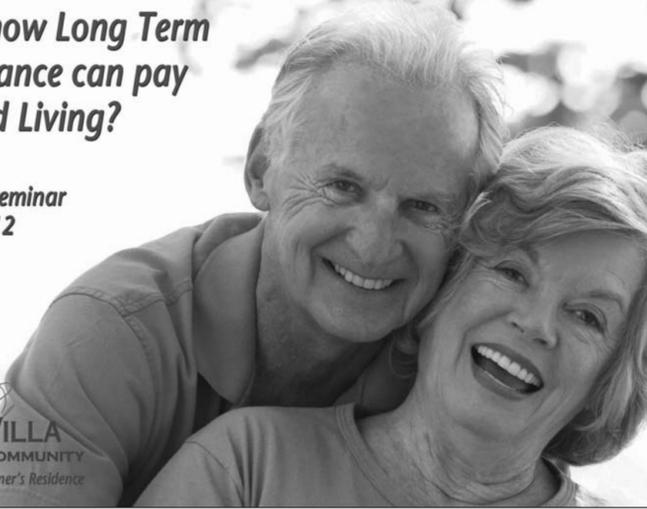


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**As I See It**  
David Brandon

I believe the YMCA of the Suncoast – a leading nonprofit that strengthens community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility – offers this support and more, and during its annual new year campaign is encouraging community members in Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, and Pinellas counties to join the Y.

"At the Y, you're not only part of an organization, but part of a community and a cause that benefits you and your neighbors," says G. Scott Goyer, president and CEO of the YMCA of the Suncoast. "Here, a membership means more – it's an opportunity to feel good while being part of a cause that helps make positive changes in people's lives."

The YMCA of the Suncoast's 10 Y locations offer a variety of programs to the community, with something for everyone, including health and fitness classes like yoga, Zumba, cycling, and strength training that nurture your spirit, mind, and body; youth sports like basketball, soccer, and flag football that build skill while building confidence; art programs like karate and taekwon do to jewelry making and dance lessons that foster creativity and expression; aquatics programs with swim lessons for all ages, water exercise, and swim and dive teams that teach people to overcome fear and accomplish lifelong skills and safety; and senior programs like SilverSneakers wellness classes and social outings that build relationships and camaraderie while maintaining health.

Last year, our Y helped 84,000 individuals and adults experience something special. From our LiveSTRONG at the YMCA program where cancer survivors have the opportunity to take free classes that support them in their return to wellness; to our Teen Leaders programs where hundreds of teens learn leadership and responsibility through Youth and Government programs, and education through international YMCA partnerships that teach teens about the world around them and how they can make a difference.

To learn more about how you can support the YMCA of the Suncoast charity and get involved, contact the Y at 727-467-9622 or info@suncoastymca.org or visit ymcasuncoast.org for more information. I invite everyone to join our cause to strengthen community in 2012!

David Brandon is board chair of YMCA of the Suncoast, which has 12 locations in the Tampa Bay area. Visit ymcasuncoast.org for more information.

## LETTERS

### Obama – an impractical idealist

**Editor:**

In 2008 the American people thought they were electing a young forward looking president who would lead us to a prosperous future. Unfortunately, President Obama has become an impractical idealist. i.e.: he has refused to apologize to millions of taxpayers for bailing out many European countries.

Under these circumstances the problem is Europe's collective government that is in shambles. If President Obama's administration continues to mint European socialist policies abroad, the U.S. will fall to pieces also. Moreover, still today, President Obama refuses to learn from his mistakes.

He seems to like stimulus bills because he gets to use big government to allocate massive sums of money to their favorite projects. This list is endless. We can only hope that our upcoming election delivers us a leader who will embrace Reagan economic policies.

Joan Atkins  
Palm Harbor

### A great leap backward

**Editor:**

So ... we've taken a substantial step backward, again. Now, about a half million local residents will return to those thrilling days of yesteryear, as in the early 1950s, as we eliminate the fluoridation of our water.

Great idea! Why not eliminate polio vaccines too? They came along about the same time, and are just as dangerous as fluoride. For that matter, let's eliminate jet aircraft, microwave ovens, open-heart surgery, computers, color TV, and interstate highways! They're all part of that same, crazy era that produced our current sad state of affairs. Heck: let's go back to believing that the solar system revolves around the earth ... the flat earth.

Nothing is much more cute than children with bad teeth, and 70 years of preventing that doesn't mean much to people with no credentials to make decisions like this. I don't mind being part of this great leap backward: it's pretty thrilling to bring back a debate settled 60 years ago. Sure, we'll be the subject of derision by people who are high school graduates, but they ain't tellin' us what to do! A dedicated person doesn't need to think about a decision like this: just shout slogans and stonewall scientific evidence! One dunce with good volume can defeat two rational people any time. Look at our Congress, for instance.

But, my congratulations to the dunces: they've come up with a plan that is profoundly embarrassing, backward and stupid. Why not put hamsters in charge of making decisions about our health? They'll work for Hartz Mountain pellets and fresh cedar shavings, and make decisions that are just as intelligent as our commissioners have. We wouldn't have to be embarrassed about their decisions, because they're just dull-witted rodents: the hamsters, I mean.

Bill Dixon  
Pinellas Park

## 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.
- We will not publish letters on candidates for office that are submitted within two weeks of the election pertaining to the seats for which they are running.
- We will not print letters that are submitted to promote a business.
- We will print thank you letters.

# Coping with the tests of character

As we go through life we inevitably meet circumstances that push us to the outer limits of our self-control and good nature. How we grapple with these episodes will determine such things as whether we stay out of prison, avoid getting our jaws broken, circumvent a doomed marriage, or merely seize a home computer, rip its connections from the wall and then hurl the computer with such manic force that it breaks through the brick and plaster and lands in an adjoining bedroom closet, mangling one-third of your wardrobe.

I was faced with such a test of character this morning. I'm fed up with my computer. It's not doing right. It has not been doing very well for a couple of years, ever since I entrusted its upkeep to a local alleged repair shop that promised to clear out all of my digital debris and make the computer run as smooth as a baby's keister newly dipped in a bowl of lanolin.

The repair shop lied. They took a couple of hundred bucks from me and left me with a computer shot through with more neuroses than Freud, Jung and Adler ever juggled. Somehow I worked around these glitches, or cleared them up myself. I also added to them by not performing some of the recommended chores, such as defragging the system every 16 minutes and adding the updates that showed up on my screen eight times a week.

Persons near and dear to me have grown hoarse urging me, in loving tones, "Buy a new computer, you dolt. The one you own was used by Eisenhower when he planned the Normandy invasion." That's not quite true, but almost. I'm sure 2012 will bring me a new computer. A laptop, even, although I dread learning to type on a flat keyboard with no slant to it.

This morning I opened up my computer, intending to finish a column I began a few



**Driver's Seat**  
Bob Driver

**To move on to other tests of character: Is there anything more irritating or disappointing than to lose 10 or 15 pounds and not have anyone notice it?**

days ago in Gulfport. Now I'm back home in New England, where the overnight temperature was 15. If that wasn't bad enough, I began the day listening to Michelle Bachman's whining as she dropped out of the political race. The final blow was dealt me by my crippled computer, forcing me to scrap my original column and begin a new one. But my initial rage has subsided. I have passed the test of my character. Big deal.

Should we be proud of ourselves each time we overcome anger, jealousy, ego and other deadly sins? Sure, let's go ahead. Let's pat ourselves on the back and enjoy the feeling. But let's not kid ourselves that we're somehow superior. We're not. All we need to do is remember the times when we faced tests of character and flunked them, big time.

Americans today experience many tests of character. One of the worst is the political primary season. How should we endure it? A common solution, practiced by millions, is to ignore it. You think that's impossible? Not at all. I know people who ignored most

of the 20th century without half trying. Today we need only stop watching TV and reading newspapers to blot out most political news.

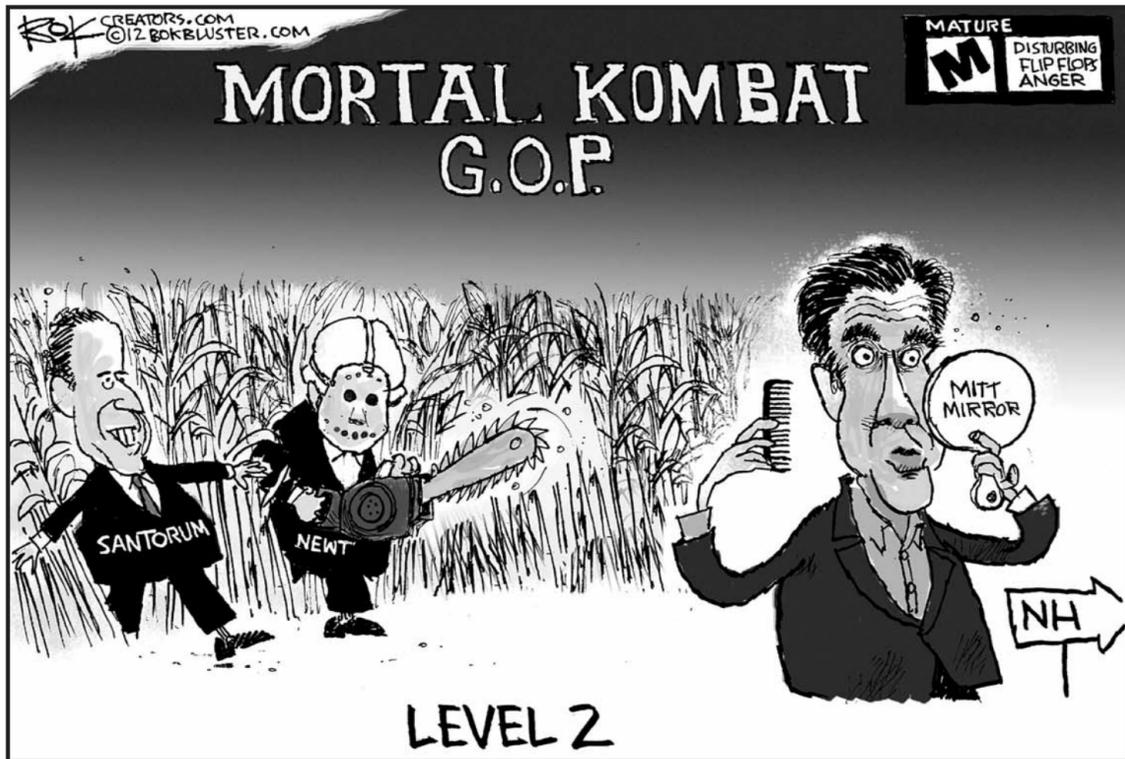
Another group chooses to be entertained by the current candidates. I've heard of a parlor game called, "Rank the liars." The contest consists of counting the greatest number of lies told by any one candidate in any debate or TV appearance. A reverse of this game asks observers to identify the candidate who, while speaking for two minutes or more, does NOT tell a single untruth.

If it were possible, pro-Obama Americans would wish for the GOP primaries to go on forever. As the Republican candidates libel, slander and insult one another, Obama supporters are recording each comment for use next summer and fall as Election Day nears. Democrats won't have to think of negative stuff to use against the GOP candidate; they'll just play back what his fellow Republicans said about him during the primaries.

To move on to other tests of character: Is there anything more irritating or disappointing than to lose 10 or 15 pounds and not have anyone notice it? You suffer for weeks, depriving yourself of salt, fat, sugar, pasta and alcohol. You begin to admire yourself in the mirror; your old clothes begin to fit you again. You look like a million bucks, and then ... nothing. Your spouse, children and friends don't say a word. They ignore your achievement like the dunces they are.

How do you respond? A shotgun is useful, but unwise. A six-day binge on Breyer's butter pecan is allowed. Or you can simply not say a word, and continue your diet until you collapse and die. That will teach them.

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



# Time to get Americans working

2011 will be remembered as the year Americans woke up to the harm that growing disparities in wealth and income have done to our society and our economy.

For decades, the rich have claimed a far larger share of the nation's bounty than the rest of us, and now we see the consequences. Americans have funded their consumption – not just of widescreen TVs and vacations but also of homes, educations and health care – by taking on more and more debt. In 2008, the bottom fell out for a lot of households, and things haven't improved much since.

The challenge of the coming year, 2012, is to begin doing something constructive to reverse the trend of inequality. This isn't a call for "class warfare," but rather an alarm to the middle class that it needs to look after its own interests.

Occupy Wall Street certainly deserves credit for ingraining the concept of the top "1 percent" into public debate. The very richest Americans have accumulated wealth and income at staggering rates in recent decades, as the fortunes of the middle and lower classes have stagnated or dropped. The cleavage between the rich and the rest of us hasn't been greater since before the Great Depression.

In recent weeks, there has also been a fresh onslaught of data about the wealth of the Congress. The median net worth of all U.S. representatives and senators is \$513,000 – a figure that doesn't include home equity or other real estate holdings, and thus is certainly a low estimate. Compare that to the median U.S. household wealth of an estimated \$100,000, as reported by Roll Call – a figure that, when adjusted for inflation, has declined in recent years.

What can we do to restore the earning power and build the wealth of average American? Well, 2012 being an election year, we can



Mary Sanchez

begin by rejecting incumbents and candidates who don't seem to understand what things are like for the common man and woman. A typical case is Newt Gingrich, who opined that the poor don't know how to work. Apparently, he's never seen a single working mother multi-task.

So much of the national debate about our dismal economy amounts to thoughtless moralizing. The unemployed are lazy. The poor don't want to improve themselves. Those who complain about inequality are just envious. This kind of rhetoric appeals to many voters, but there are signs that more are seeing through it.

More insidious are the discredited economic doctrines that live on, zombie-like, in Congress and in polite circles in Washington, which have had the effect of obstructing useful government action. A prime example: the notion that raising taxes on the rich, even moderately and for the purpose of shrinking budget deficits, will stifle the economy. To make the point, Republicans take care to refer to the rich as "job creators."

The point needs to be made that the greatest job creators are not the rich but the American consumer. You, me and everybody else from the poorest to the topmost of the 99 percent. We create jobs by demanding goods and services – and we can't do it without income.

The economic policy we need now can be summed up in three words: Get Americans working.

Americans are a resilient, hard-working,

forward-focused group. However, the private sector is not creating jobs in meaningful numbers. The public sector has been shrinking, thanks to revenue shortfalls and tea party resistance in Congress and state legislatures.

What we need more of right now is federal spending on infrastructure and other worthwhile investments – the "stimulus" that conservatives like to mock. The fact is that the costs of federal borrowing are at historical lows, and the "deficit crisis" that so many point to in horror was largely created by the tax cuts (and wars) of the past decade and the recession. (If you aren't making income and spending it, you aren't generating tax revenue.)

We also need to do more to prepare our workforce. Far more than during previous generations, successful workers will need advanced skills in math, science, engineering and technology. And this shift is occurring as college tuition costs have skyrocketed compared to wages.

That suggests some areas for Congress to focus in 2012: student loan relief, incentives for students to enter the sciences and for start-up investment in technology fields. Meanwhile, we need tax reform to close loopholes and to increase relative tax rates on the very rich.

The point is not to denounce the rich. In any capitalistic society, inequality will always exist. The challenge of 2012 and beyond will be to restore opportunity to a greater swath of Americans so more people, at all economic levels, prosper.

That would make for a happy new year, indeed.

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

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**Publisher/President:** Dan Autrey  
dautrey@tbnweekly.com

**Accounting Manager:** Andrea Marcarelli  
tbnandy@yahoo.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  
tbnmaster@tbnweekly.com

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

**Large 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  
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# Dolphins show new focus on feeding first

Now that we've eaten our way through the holidays, it's comforting to know they're doing the same thing at sea.

Winter compels animals that do not sleep through it to eat as much as possible to accumulate sufficient reserves to survive to spring. Although winter waited until January this year, the dolphins have been slowly turning their attention to feeding first; anything else has become secondary.

This Christmas season, the dolphins played out their ancient ritual on seas of utter bliss. Without winds, the sea became a mirror. Without clouds, the early morning light was soft to the touch. When it chanced to dance across tiny mounds of water (barely tugged into being by the silk of dolphin skin gliding past), it pierced the scene with the dazzle of diamonds winking at the sun.

On such a stage, here was the eating scene.

Small groups of dolphins scattered across a broad L-shaped waterway north of a delicate green and white bridge, aware of but independent of each other like



## Dolphin Watch

Ann Weaver

Christmas Eve shoppers. Two of the groups were each composed of two bulls and a babe. Big bulls Ouch and Fishlips focused on feeding around Q. In an adjacent bay, bulls N and Riptab focused on feeding around Face.

Both bull-babe groups also showed the same pattern: The individual dolphins alternated between dispersing from the others to hunt alone and returning to mingle with them briefly. Their dispersing and converging had the look of humans at a party in a room dotted with hors d'oeuvre-covered tables, among which each person wandered freely but periodically checked back in with friends.

Just as lingering over one hors d'oeuvre-covered table can attract other partygoers, the dolphins sometimes joined a dolphin that had just found food. A hunting dolphin would suddenly acceler-

ate just under the mirrored surface, creating a wavelet off the front of its rounded head, and then spin to encircle a fish. That's when the other dolphins sped over to check it out.

Why did they converge like that? One explanation was simple: The dolphins sped over because food had been found there. Were they all that hungry? Another explanation was complex: The dolphins sped over to potentially share the food.

At one point near the boat, Q spun around a fish sandwich. But the fish was quicker and it took a couple of more splashy lunges for Q to secure her snack. She bobbed vertically with it at the surface, jaw clapped to reposition it for swallowing, and eyed the camera quite frankly as she did.

The dolphins don't have to pay any attention to us; eying us is unnecessary. Eying us was as if Q was asking, "Hey, did ya catch that?"

Yes, Q, we caught that. We're still watching you fish. (Do it again!)

The next question is how much they were eying each other (not

unlike some human Christmas parties). The dolphins' focus on feeding was obvious. But the behaviors they used were also obvious. Did they use them to attract attention to themselves?

Both the bulls and the babes repeatedly used two conspicuously "showy" aerial behaviors that created big noisy splashes. In an arched dive, a dolphin rears up out of the water, tucks tightly and flips forward as if in a somersault, diving nearly where it surfaced. In a skimming dive, dolphins leap through the water, creating a rooster tail that springs off to either side of its body.

I thought it was interesting that none of the other dolphins found it necessary to use those showy behaviors that blissful morning.

Was all that showy athleticism really necessary to get breakfast or were the dolphins displaying for each other too?

Speaking of displays, something that was definitely and unfortunately displayed in those aerial behaviors was the bulk of each dolphin's body. Unhappily, several dolphins have obvious dents along the sides of their



Photo by ANN WEAVER

Local lady Q eyes the camera after gulping down a fish during a recent morning wholly focused on feeding. Winter is a bad time for animals in nature to be thin.

bodies where nice thick padding ought to be. Winter is not a good time to be thin.

In addition to dolphins, we see a lot of cormorants and osprey on our surveys as well. Like the dolphins, they're usually eating too. Would that they could all gorge through the winter the way we gorged through the holidays.

Dr. Weaver studies wild dol-

phins under federal permit 16299, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Send her an email at [dazzled@tam.pabay.ir.com](mailto:dazzled@tam.pabay.ir.com) or visit her website [www.dolphinssuperstore.com](http://www.dolphinssuperstore.com). Read her Dolphin Watch column weekly at [www.TBNweekly.com](http://www.TBNweekly.com). NOAA advises anyone who sees a stranded dolphin in the Gulf of Mexico to call 877-942-5343 or 877-433-8299.

# Largo, speckled trout are a hot commodity this time of year

These cold fronts, as long as their not too dramatic, and we get a quick warm-up afterward, are all part of the natural migration habits of many of our local fish. Namely silver and speckled trout. Speckled trout seem to thrive in high 50- to low 60-degree water.

Right on cue, last week's cold snap followed by a warming trend

has brought an resurgence of big speckled trout into our backwaters. Trout up to 24 inches can be found around spoil islands, as well as the many checkered bottom grass flats that line the mainland side of the Intracoastal Waterway. The one common denominator seems to be that the most productive spots have a sig-



## Fish Tales

Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

nificant amount of hard shell bottom nearby. Bouncing dark red jigs along the bottom on the deep side of these shell bottom dropoffs has been producing awesome catches of trout, especially

in the evening hours.

Trout might be the highlight but redfish are still a good bet right now. Most of the reds that we've been getting have been by catch while targeting trout in the super-shallows. Weighted weedless rigged jerk baits are extremely effective in depths less than 2 feet. Most of the reds have been on the lower end of the slot, anywhere from 16 to 24 inches. The key to the super shallows is lo-

catching the big schools of mullet. The reds and the trout will intermingle with mullet as they search for prey to be kicked up and disoriented by the heard of mullet.

Sheepshead have been hanging around deep docks throughout the Intracoastal Waterway. Small pieces of shrimp, a split shot and a small hook are all you should need. As we continue to get cold shots from the north look for the many

bridges in the bay as well as the Intracoastal Waterway to get loaded up with sheepshead.

Until next week - get bent! Tyson Wallerstein can be reached at [capt.tyson@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:editorial@TBNweekly.com) or mail it to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772.

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## Briefs

### Suncoast Sierra Club to meet

CLEARWATER - The Suncoast Sierra Club of Pinellas will meet Thursday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m., at Moccasin Lake Park, 2750 Park Trail Lane. Richard Smith will share his

adventures of hiking the three longest trails in the United States: the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest and the Continental Divide. At the time he completed The Triple Crown of hiking in 2007, less than 100 people had done so. All three hikes combined for almost 8,000 miles from border to border through 22 states.

Smith has continued hiking in Camino de Santiago in Spain and climbed the 19,340 foot Killmanjaro Mountain in Africa. The public is welcome. Re-

freshments will be served. For information, call Joyce at 526-5065.

### Largo Recreation offers fishing class

LARGO - Largo Recreation will host a four-session family fishing class on Tuesdays, Jan. 24 through Feb. 14, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave.

Adults and youth, ages 8 and older, will learn fish identifica-

tion, angler etiquette, knot-tying, casting, fishing rules and regulations and lures and baits.

Following the conclusion of the class, all participants will meet Saturday, Feb. 18 for a four-hour deep sea fishing excursion on the boat, Double Eagle off of Clearwater Beach.

The first 10 children to register will receive a free fishing pole and tackle. Additional giveaways including fishing gear, lures and more have been generously provided by L&S Bait Company. An adult must accompany children during class and trip.

The cost per participant is \$56 for residents and \$70 for nonresidents. Rate covers everything for the class and deep sea fishing trip, including bait, poles and rigging.

Spots are limited. Registration ends Friday, Jan. 20. For more information or to reserve a spot, call 587-6740, ext 5008.

### Weedon to host Wee-Time

ST. PETERSBURG - Wee-Time at Weedon will be presented Thursday, 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](http://www.weedonislandpreserve.org). For information, call 453-6500.

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Marianne Fisher, CEO

## 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, Jan. 13 - BNI Referral Masters, 7 a.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call Bill Mantoath at 639-6690 or visit [www.bnireferralmasters.com](http://www.bnireferralmasters.com).
- Friday, Jan. 13 - Network Professionals of St. Pete, 7:30 a.m. For information and meeting location, call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.
- Friday, Jan. 13 - Professional Leads Network, Upper Pinellas Chapter, 8 a.m., at Daddy's Grill, 3682 Tampa Road, Oldsmar. Visit [www.pro-leads.net](http://www.pro-leads.net).
- Friday, Jan. 13 - 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](http://www.pro-leads.net).
- Monday, Jan. 16 - Network Professionals Inc., 7:30 a.m., at Perkins Restaurant, 8841 Park Blvd. N., Largo. Call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.
- Monday, Jan. 16 - 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](http://www.pro-leads.net).
- Monday, Jan. 16 - 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 [jamilL@freenetworkinginternational.com](mailto:jamilL@freenetworkinginternational.com).
- Monday, Jan. 16 - 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](mailto:waynep@freenetworkinginternational.com) or visit [twocupconnect.com](http://twocupconnect.com).
- Tuesday, Jan. 17 - Professional Leads Network, First Watch Chapter, 7:30 a.m.,

First Watch, 2569 Village Drive, Clearwater. Visit [www.pro-leads.net](http://www.pro-leads.net).

- Tuesday, Jan. 17 - 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, Jan. 17 - 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, Jan. 17 - Network Professionals Inc., Seminole Chapter, 7:30 a.m., Perkins Family Restaurant, 8841 Park Blvd., Largo. Call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.
- Tuesday, Jan. 17 - Yacht Club Breakfast, sponsored by Creative Business Connections, 7:30 a.m., St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call Darrell Baker, area director, at 586-4999 or visit [www.cbcnet.biz](http://www.cbcnet.biz).
- Tuesday, Jan. 17 - Network Professionals of St. Pete, 7:30 a.m. For information and meeting location, call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.
- Tuesday, Jan. 17 - Free Networking International, Bay-Side 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](mailto:jplady1@hotmail.com) or visit [www.freenetworkinginternational.com](http://www.freenetworkinginternational.com).
- Tuesday, Jan. 17 - Network Professionals Inc., ICOT Lunch Chapter, 11:45 a.m., at Tucson's Southwest Grill, 13563 Icot Blvd., Clearwater. Call Eddie Montoya at 813-477-3533.
- Tuesday, Jan. 17 - Tri-City Network Professionals, 11:45 a.m., at Applebee's Restaurant, 5110 East Bay Drive, Clearwater. First visit is free. Call 492-7921.
- Wednesday, Jan. 18 - Business Network International, Financial Freedom, 7:15 a.m., at Bardmoor Country Club, 8001 Cumberland Road, Largo. Call Phil at 409-1609 or visit [www.BNIFinancialFreedom.com](http://www.BNIFinancialFreedom.com).
- Wednesday, Jan. 18 - Pinellas Executives' Association, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., at Cove Cay Country Club, 2612 Cove

Cay Drive, Clearwater. Call Donna Perry at 784-6507 or visit [www.peall.com](http://www.peall.com).

- Wednesday, Jan. 18 - BNI Business Connections Countryside, 7:30 a.m., at Grillsmith, 2539 Countryside Blvd., Suite 6, Clearwater. Cost is \$11. Call Renee Jones at 813-749-2780, email [bniwcf@gmail.com](mailto:bniwcf@gmail.com) or visit [www.bnibusinessconnections.com](http://www.bnibusinessconnections.com).
- Wednesday, Jan. 18 - Network Professionals Inc., East Lake Breakfast Chapter, 7:30 a.m., at Daddy's Grill, 3682 Tampa Road, Oldsmar. Call Jenny Stone at 776-2829.
- Wednesday, Jan. 18 - Local Business Network Seminole, 7:30 a.m., Perkins Family Restaurant, 8841 Park Blvd. N., Largo. Call 804-6359.
- Wednesday, Jan. 18 - BNI Wealth Builders, 7:30 a.m., Palm Harbor Community Center Parks and Drew Walk Recreation, 1500 16th St., Palm Harbor. Visit [www.bni.com](http://www.bni.com).
- Wednesday, Jan. 18 - BNI Power Team, 7:30 a.m., East Lake Woodlands Country Club, 1055 East Lake Woodlands Pkwy., Oldsmar. Visit [www.bni.com](http://www.bni.com).
- Wednesday, Jan. 18 - Network Professionals Inc., Downtown Clearwater Breakfast Chapter, 7:30 a.m., at the Residence Inn, 940 Court St., Clearwater. Call Kim Anton at 539-7110.
- Wednesday, Jan. 18 - Network Professionals of St. Pete, 7:30 a.m. For information and meeting location, call Ron O'Connor at 367-3737.
- Wednesday, Jan. 18 - Free Networking International, Seminole Christian Hope Team, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Palace of the Orient, 10425 Park Blvd., Seminole. Call Dave Harden at 458-6890 or email [daveh@freenetworkinginternational.com](mailto:daveh@freenetworkinginternational.com).
- Wednesday, Jan. 18 - Free Networking International, Oldsmar Group, 11:30 a.m., at Twisted Bamboo Bar and Bistro, 3687 Tampa Road, Oldsmar. Call Nova Montgomery at 942-0444 or email [nova@freenetworkinginternational.com](mailto:nova@freenetworkinginternational.com).

## Makos opens



Makos On the Rocks, at 14450 Walsingham Road in Largo, celebrates its opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony which included representatives from the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce as well as Mayor Pat Gerard.

## Biz note

### Dance studio offers taste of ballroom

**PALM HARBOR** - A complimentary group class will be offered Friday, Jan. 20, 7:45 p.m., at Arthur Murray Dance Studio, 34930 U.S. 19 N. The free class will feature tango, swing and salsa. Instruction will be provided followed by dancing. There also will be a wine tasting and refreshments. For reservations, call 786-2224 or email [ballroom-palmharbor@yahoo.com](mailto:ballroom-palmharbor@yahoo.com).

### Venue Theatre installs new technology

**PINELLAS PARK** - The Venue Theatre and Actor's Studio is the first theatre in Pinellas County to install the new Hearing Loop System for the benefit of those who have hearing loss, thanks to financial support

from Hardeman Realtime Inc.

The induction loop system magnetically transmits amplified sound that can be received by hearing aids and cochlear implants fitted with telecoils (T-coils). The hearing loop is the only system that transmits performers' voices and/or music from the stage microphone or other source directly into a hearing aid or cochlear implant equipped with telecoils for the clearest sound, allowing wearers to use hearing aids as wireless loudspeakers, delivering customized sound from inside their ears, free of outside interference.

The copper wire of the Venue Theatre's hearing loop is placed at floor height of the hall, and a loop driver drives the electromagnetic field, which allows a hearing aid or cochlear implant's T-coil to function as an antenna, directly linking the listener to the Venue Theatre's sound system.

HRI, which donated the funds for the loop, is a real-time court reporting and voice-to-text captioning and transcription company, specializing in communication access. The Hearing Loop Group Inc. donated installation of the system.

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**Saturday 3:00 pm - 3:50 pm**  
**WEEKEND MASS: Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm**  
**Sunday 7:00 am & 9:00 am (Family Mass)**  
**11:00 am (Traditional Choir) • 6:00 pm (Contemporary Choir)**  
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## Here and there

### Knights hold Roaring Twenties Night

LARGO - The Knights of Columbus celebrates its second annual Roaring Twenties Night Saturday, Feb. 18, 6 to 11 p.m., at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 2121 16th Ave. SW. Cocktails will be served at 6 p.m.; dinner at 7. Each dinner includes a salad, garlic bread and sausage. The music of the 1920s will be provided. For tickets, call Ron Klemm at 804-4804 or John Scozzafava at 422-3753.

### Mineral show and sale planned

The Pinellas Geological Society Inc. will hold its 36th annual Mineral Show and Sale, Jan. 13-15, at the Largo Cultural Center in the Parkside Room, 105 Central Park Drive. Hours of the show are Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The members of the Geological Society and other local gem and mineral clubs will be displaying their cut gems, silver and gold jewelry, wire wrap, beading, cabochons, ornamental mineral eggs and collections of rocks and minerals for viewing pleasure and purchase. Admission is free. Call 894-2440.

### Event pays tribute to late entertainer

LARGO - A tribute to "Jazz & Connie," in honor of the late local entertainer Connie Smith, will be held Wednesday, Jan. 18, 3 to 6 p.m., at Liberty Lanes Lounge, 11401 Starkey Road. The event features musicians, food and dance. Smith, 90, and her late husband owned a New

York country club.

"She was a true entertainer which was reflected in her style, dress and parties. Jazz & Connie motivated her life," said Linda Broeske, who is helping to promote the event.

"She is greatly missed but the jazz big band music she loved will continue every Wednesday, 3 to 6 p.m., at Liberty Lanes."

### Jewish Genealogical Society to present two-part seminar

LARGO - The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will offer a two-session seminar on Sundays, Feb. 12 and March 11, 2 p.m., at Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, 14041 Icot Blvd. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m. on both dates. A seminar booklet summarizing all the material to be presented will be provided. This seminar is an extensive revision of the presentation given two years ago. New genealogical resources and new databases will be demonstrated and all Internet links and sites have been updated.

The course is free to current paid-up members of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay. A one-year family membership will be included in the \$25 course fee for nonmembers. An additional \$10 fee will be charged for seminar materials to defray printing costs, but only one booklet will be needed per couple or family.

Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogical research is invited to attend. To preregister for the class, for further information on the organization, or for directions to the meeting, call Sally Israel at 343-1652.

### Prayer breakfast



The Kiwanis Club of Largo/Mid-Pinellas has a prayer breakfast on the first meeting of each year to honor the city's police and fire Chaplains. The members of the Chaplaincy Corps are volunteers who offer spiritual comfort to City of Largo employees as well as Largo residents. Chaplain Arnold Johnson was the guest speaker for the Jan. 6 meeting. Club President Bruce Blajez presented certificates of appreciation to Fire Department Chaplains Paul Pierce, Ric Nagle, and Bernard Smith. Front row, from left, are chaplains Ric Nagle, Arnold Johnson, and Paul Pierce; back row, Chaplain Bernard Smith, Police Chief John Carroll and Fire Chief Mike Wallace. The Recognition Prayer Breakfast has been an annual tradition of the Kiwanis Club for the last five years. Kiwanis currently meets each Friday for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. The club meets for lunch at noon on the second Friday of each month) at The Royal Palms, 200 Lake Ave. in Largo, and is actively seeking new members who are interested in community service. For more information, call 536-0412.

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**Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**  
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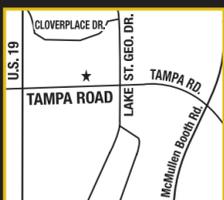
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"Our staff consists of a licensed auctioneer, a Realtor, a certified gemologist, jeweler, and a certified appraiser for general antiques, an art appraiser, sports memorabilia specialist, coins and stamps." According to John, "If it's an antique or collectible, we buy and sell it with honesty and integrity!"

### Selling to McNeal Antiques, Jewelry and Coins:

McNeal Antiques, Jewelry and Coins is *not* a pawn shop, but they still have the same government licensing. The atmosphere is entirely different from conventional pawn shops. It's more of a comfortable waiting area with television, magazines, cookies, etc. You may have heard their slogans throughout the years of advertising: "Come and meet the McNeals. The coffee is always on!" You've heard the advertising campaigns: "What's in your jewelry box?" or, "What's in your safety deposit box?" McNeal Antiques, Jewelry and Coins offers evaluations and appraisals by professional and courteous staff in a comfortable setting.

"Our services are always FREE without pressure or obligation."

The appraisers will display the items you bring in a tray, test or research the items, then evaluate and explain what you have. It's lots of fun! They pay by cash or check, your choice. Bring in your Jewelry, Stamps and Coins, Antiques and Collectibles with confidence. They have armed security – real police officers, for your protection. Other services include a full service jeweler and a watchmaker for anything from a watch battery, custom bridal set, to overhaul a clock or Rolex. They have an art expert, an auctioneer, estate sale specialist, sports memorabilia expert, weapons, military items and artifacts appraiser to give you the best price. As John explains, "We love our jobs."

In the current economic climate, with gold prices continuing to surge, a number of businesses have sprung



Back Row L-R: Steven Kozenieski, Ron Burchard, John McNeal, Dan DeGregorio  
Front Row L-R: Jim Bartlett holding Bronco, Christy Capps holding Charlotte, Scott Capps holding Hazel, Laura McNeal holding Chloe.

up trying to take advantage of the situation. For the average consumer, it is very confusing with all of the "We Buy Gold for Cash" stores and pawn shops. "They need to watch out for the 'out of town hotel buyers' popping up everywhere," says Jim Bartlett, Certified Appraiser. Jim explains, "They have no long term interest or concern for a customers' past, present or future business. We don't even know if they are qualified or licensed. Who verifies they are licensed or certified? They do a 'get rich quick' session and only come back again when things cool off."

Enjoy a comfortable lounge with antique, decorator and coin magazines and television to watch if they get a little backed up. Wait time is usually 15 minutes or less. A water cooler with fresh hot coffee, tea or hot chocolate, cookies and candy.

Laura McNeal says, "Come in and meet The McNeals!"

They buy antiques, collectibles, Genuine 10K, 14K, 18K, 21K and 24-karat and costume jewelry. The bigger and glitzier or designer signed the better. They buy coins and currency, U.S. or foreign. Bring in your wind-up watches, working or not, sterling silver jewelry, flatware, holloware, scrap gold, broken or tangled, single earrings, gold fillings, etc.

"Come in and browse around," Jim says. McNeal Antiques, Jewelry and Coins is bursting with rare, valuable and coveted items – something for everyone, from the casual collector to the serious connoisseur. "You're going to like it here."

### Buying from McNeal Antiques, Jewelry and Coins:

**ATTENTION INVESTORS:** They have 90 percent U.S. circulated silver coins, pre-1964 or older. There is an inventory of gold modern bullion and large selection of pre-1933 gold coins. Eagle and Double Eagle, Liberties and St. Gaudens, Half Eagle Liberty and Indian, Quarter Eagle Liberty and Indian, etc. If you collect coins, they offer bullion coins for sale all the way up to PCGS slabbed investment coins. They offer gold bars, Krugerrands, maple leaf and foreign and rare U.S. gold coins, mint sets, Morgan, Peace dollars, books and supplies. "Come in and browse around," Jim says. "You'll be glad you came!"

### McNeal Antiques offers other services:

**WRITTEN CERTIFIED APPRAISALS:** For Insurance purposes, tax and probate, inheritance distribution or divorce settlement.

**ESTATE SALES:** They will bid to buy one item or entire estates from your lawyer, bankers, powers of attorney and the general public for on site sales, liquidation or removal.

**HOUSE CALLS:** At no cost or obligation to you, McNeal Antiques representatives will meet you or your family at your home, storage or bank to discuss and evaluate your items for sale. You may not know what you have, so do not throw anything away. Instead, call for an appointment today!

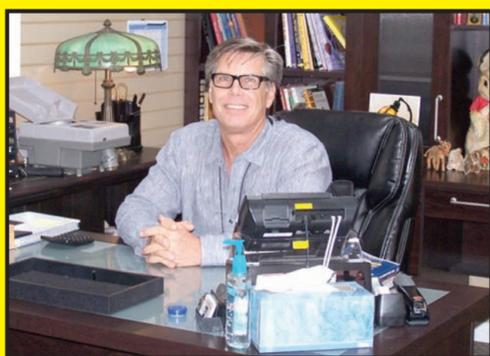
**There are now two locations to serve you:**  
Central Pinellas location – 6206 54th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Call 727-544-6464

**NEW N. Pinellas location – 3209 Tampa Road, Palm Harbor in the Shoppes at Cloverplace. Call 727-785-6464.**

You also may email a photo of your item using the subject line, "I need an appraisal" to [antiques@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:antiques@tampabay.rr.com). For more information and market quotes visit [www.mcnealantiques.com](http://www.mcnealantiques.com).

"Stop in," Jim says. "The coffee is always on!"

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**Ron, Store Manager, Palm Harbor**

## Palm Harbor Store

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# Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County



- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

Leader  
Section B  
January 12, 2012  
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## Top five diversions

• **"Passengers,"** by Sam Bobrick, Jan. 12-29, 2012; at Venue Ensemble Theatre, 9125 U.S. 19 N., Pinellas Park. Performances are Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Call 822-6194 or visit [www.venueactorstudio.org](http://www.venueactorstudio.org). Gayl Harde- man, Devin O'Neill, Owen Robertson and Daniel Rosenstrauch por- tray at least 17 zany and diverse characters at the ticket counter of a small Midwestern bus station. The production is directed by Mary Kay Cyrus. A portion of ticket sales from each show is donated to a benefit organization. Homeless Emergency Project will be the desig- nated benefit organization for this production.

• **The Florida Orchestra: Pictures at an Exhibition,** part of the Masterworks series, Friday, Jan. 13, 8 p.m., at the Straz Center, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Call 813-229-7827 or visit [www.strazcenter.org](http://www.strazcenter.org). The performance will be repeated Saturday, Jan. 14, 8 p.m., at the Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Peters- burg. Call 892-5767 or visit [www.themahaffey.com](http://www.themahaffey.com). A final perfor- mance will be presented Sunday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com). From carefree and spirited to almost over- whelming, it is a night of musical impressions inspired by great art: Botticelli in Respighi's Trittico Botticelliano, Matthias Grunewald in Hindemith's Mathis der Maler and Victor Hartmann in Ravel's or- chestration of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. Tickets range from \$15 to \$45.

• **Voxare String Quartet,** Saturday, Jan. 14, 8 p.m., at the Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets range from \$37 to \$45. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com). The concert will feature a new score played to Dziga Vertov's groundbreaking, avant-garde 1929 silent film "The Man with the Movie Camera." Voxare has methodically selected music of Soviet-era Modernist Rus- sian composers to accompany the screening of the film. The playlist includes work from Mosolov, Prokofiev, Shostakovich and Stravinsky. Known for inventive programming, technical prowess, attention to detail and passionate performances Voxare String Quartet received Chamber Music America's 2010 ASCAP Award for Adventurous Pro- gramming.

• **Gregg Allman,** Saturday, Jan. 14, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets range from \$35 to \$69.50. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com). On tour in support of his critically acclaimed Rounder Records release "Low Country Blues," Allman will make an exclusive Tampa Bay area stop at Ruth Eckerd Hall with special guest Jaimoe's Jasssz Band. As a founding member of the Allman Brothers Band and in his own storied solo career, Allman has long been a gifted natural interpreter of the blues, his soulful and distinctive voice one of the defining sounds in the history of American music. "Low Country Blues" marks the legendary Rock and Roll Hall of Famer's seventh solo recording and first in more than 13 years. Produced by T Bone Burnett, the album finds Allman putting his own stamp on songs by some of the blues giants whose work has long informed his own, from Muddy Waters and B.B. King to Buddy Guy and Magic Sam.

• **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, hand-made art representing a broad range of artistic mediums.



Photo courtesy of HOWARD ALAN EVENTS/AMERICAN CRAFT ENDEAVORS  
**Shoppers walk along Main Street browsing the unique crafts and affordable gift items exhibited by vendors at the Downtown Dunedin Craft Festival.**



Photo by JACK ENGLISH/FOCUS FEATURES

Gary Oldman stars as George Smiley in Focus Features release of Tomas Alfredson's "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy."

## Movie review

'Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy' goes against Hollywood norm

"Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" isn't laden with pulse-pounding chase sequences, fiery earth-shattering explosions or protracted shoot-outs.

Its divergence from all the deep-seated conventions of Hollywood blockbusters makes this low-key, cerebral film appealing and distinctive.

The film's distributor, Focus Features, hasn't exactly gone out of its way to hype it, but "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" is getting noticed — for good reason. It is one of the smartest, most multi-faceted narratives to hit the big screen in some time. A clever espionage thriller, it is based on the 1974 novel of the same name by John le Carré. Set in 1973 at the height of the Cold War, the story opens with a shake-up within Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, code-named "the Circus."

The head of the agency, referred to only as Control (John Hurt), suspects a mole has infiltrated the Circus. He sends agent Jim Prideaux (Mark Strong) to Hungary on a fact-finding job. The mission goes violently awry and, as a result, Control is forced into retirement along with his right-hand-man, George Smiley (Gary Oldman).

Smiley, a reticent, insightful intelligence officer is soon recalled — rehired in secret at the government's request and tasked with



### Reel Time

Lee Clark Zumpe

tracking down a Soviet double agent.

The film begins in medias res. Background information is supplied by sporadic flashbacks.

Aided by younger agent Peter Guillam (Benedict Cumberbatch), and assisted by rogue field Ricki Tarr (Tom Hardy), Smiley eventually establishes a connection to longtime nemesis — a Russian spymaster known only as Karla — and narrows down the list of potential moles to five men. The suspects' codenames include Tinker, Tailor, Soldier and Poor Man.

Oldman's Smiley is taciturn and somber. The actor makes it clear, though, behind every silent scowl, the gears are spinning as he works to solve the puzzle. His performance is beautifully restrained as he portrays a man who symbolizes firm determination and loyalty. Oldman doesn't leave much doubt that Smiley's motive for identifying the mole has more to do with validating his mentor's seeming paranoia and absolving himself as it does with protecting national interests.

Hardy gives an exemplary supporting performance as Tarr, an

agent betrayed by his own country's secret service. Hardy's Tarr may be seething with vengefulness, but he's equally patient and methodical.

Cumberbatch's Guillam is the perfect blend of courage and trepidation. Compared to the veterans Smiley is investigating, Guillam is little more than a rookie, yet his sense of constancy and allegiance are unwavering. Cumberbatch's nuanced performance wonderfully expresses the character's inner turmoil as he helps Smiley spy on fellow spies.

Other key players include the ambitious Percy Alleline, played by Toby Jones; Bill Haydon, played by Colin Firth; Roy Bland, played by Ciaran Hinds; and Toby Esterhase, played by David Denick.

Following Control's expulsion, Alleline takes over as the chief of the Circus. In depicting Alleline, Jones conjures both the idealistic patriot and the ruthless weasel. The actor — perhaps best known for playing Truman Capote in the biopic "Infamous" — is able to evoke empathy even when the motives of his character are questionable.

Haydon is the closest thing to James Bond in this spy film: He's so overconfident, suave and slick, he almost seems out of place. Firth shows the character's gra-

datations, charming one moment and grimly serious the next.

Bland is just that: chronically featureless, predominantly uncommunicative and unrelenting. While Oldman's Smiley is quiet because he is observant and contemplative, Hinds' rendition of Bland goes the opposite direction, depicting an agent who is single-minded and dutifully obedient.

Control apparently saved Esterhase's life and recruited him into the Circus, but the agent abandoned him in favor of the new guard. Denick's Esterhase is appropriately capricious, erratic and visibly nervous.

"Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" is inescapably a period piece — the storyline simply can't be transplanted in time. It is a world of nicotine-heavy conference rooms populated by chain-smokers, office girls unconcerned with sexist comments, bulky file folders overflowing with paper documents and jammed onto shelves in endless library archives and sullen espionage agents prone to wearing trench coats and speaking in hushed voices in bleak wintry venues across Europe. The attention to detail in recreating the 1970s milieu adds to the authenticity and the allure of the film as does the realism that separates it

See REVIEW, page 3B

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<p><b>SPACIOUS LARGO HOME</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3BR/2BA/2CG + LARGE BONUS ROOM</li> <li>• Spacious split floor plan features living room, dining room, family room, master bedroom with oversized walk in closet, and tile throughout</li> </ul> <p><b>\$159,900</b></p>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE SEMINOLE HOME</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3BR/2.5BA/2CG + EXQUISITE DETAIL</li> <li>• Beautiful windows and pocket sliding glass doors open up to reveal a resort style pool, spa, covered patio, outdoor kitchen, &amp; fully fenced yard</li> </ul> <p><b>\$650,000</b></p>	<p><b>IMMACULATE HOME</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2BR/2BA/1CG + GREAT LOCATION</li> <li>• Ideal floor plan features: formal living room, family room, large walk-in hall closet, inside utility</li> <li>• Air conditioned FL rm could be used as 3rd brdm</li> </ul> <p><b>\$123,900</b></p>
<p><b>REMODELED INDIAN SHORES CONDO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2BR/2BA + PETS ALLOWED</li> <li>• Completely updated throughout</li> <li>• Private balcony features views of the pool area, well kept grounds, and the waterway</li> </ul> <p><b>\$229,000</b></p>	<p><b>EXCEPTIONAL WATERFRONT HOME</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3BR/2.5BA/2CG + TREX DOCK</li> <li>• Spacious floor plan features formal dining room, breakfast nook, waterfront sitting area, solarium that opens to pool area, private master suite &amp; bonus "Crew Quarters"</li> </ul> <p><b>\$700,000</b></p>	<p><b>CUSTOM-BUILT SEMINOLE HOME</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3BR/2.5BA/2CG + FENCED YARD</li> <li>• It's easy to relax in the screen enclosed salt water pool surrounded by lush landscaping and beautiful pavers or enjoy the covered sitting area</li> </ul> <p><b>\$349,900</b></p>

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**Largo's Biggest Loser Challenge Planned**

**LARGO** - Want to take part in a community project and lose those unwanted holiday pounds as a result?

The weight-loss challenge "Largo's Biggest Loser" is now registering participants for the challenge starting January 17 at Nutrizone, 13819 Walsingham Road, Largo.

There will be cash prizes awarded to first, second and third place finishers drawn from the \$39 entry fee. The fee also covers 12 weeks of personal coaching and free nutritional information. Over 150 people have lost 1,200 pounds in previous challenges, according to organizers. To register and learn more details, call John at 610-842-3041.

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**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		

- Across**
- Bohemian, e.g.
  - Pasturelands
  - Wood sorrels
  - Assist, in a way
  - "Come here \_\_\_?"
  - Wart
  - Daughter of Zeus
  - Bloviates
  - Picture-taking device
  - Eastern music
  - All excited
  - Australian bush high-pitched call
  - "The Open Window" writer
  - Appraiser
  - Paper folded to make eight leaves
  - Crazily
  - Twill-weave silk with a printed design
  - Gown fabric
  - Cost to cross
  - According to plan of action
  - Evasive
  - \_\_\_-friendly
  - Formerly known as
  - Egg cells
  - Cockeyed
  - Business premises (3 wds)
  - French philosopher, founder of positivism
  - Surrounding glows
  - Farm buildings
  - Away
  - Increase
  - Chief magistrate of Venice
  - About to explode
  - Biochemistry abbr.
  - The fifth of the seven canonical hours
  - Device to extract water from wet laundry
  - Grooved on
  - Casual attire
  - Carries
  - "Darn it!"
  - Bond, for one
  - Adaptable truck, for short
  - Marsh growth
  - Defeat
  - Bucolic
  - Those who study the atomic composition of light
  - Bank offering, for short
  - "Am \_\_\_ believe ...?" (2 wds)
  - Fishing, perhaps
  - Indian coin
  - Improper spacial arrangements
  - Buy-one-get-one-free item?
  - Operatic villains, often
  - Tickler of the ivories
  - French novelist Pierre
  - Pride and prejudice, for example
  - Wading birds, such as herons or storks
  - Saddle seat back
  - Apportion
  - Heavy metal
  - Corker
  - Drone, e.g.
  - Equals
  - "Cast Away" setting
  - Misfortunes
  67. Check
  - Joint problem
  68. Deuce toppler
  - Alpine transport (2 wds)
  59. Protestant denom.
  60. "Your majesty"
  61. "Come to think of it ..."
- Down**
- "\_\_\_ Cried" (1962 hit)

**Sudoku**

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

**Sudoku answers from last week**

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

**Crossword answers from last week**

P	J	T	A	S	A	L	B	F	A	S	N	A	B
A	O	A	G	E	T	I	E	U	T	E	A	L	
R	E	C	O	M	B	I	N	E	O	A	G	R	A
A	S	T	U	T	E	G	R	I	O	I	R	O	N
T	E	S	T	O	S	T	E	R	O	N	E		
E	L	I	X	I	R	S	I	R					
A	N	A	B	I	A	S	G	O	T	T	A		
D	O	U	B	L	E	N	T	E	N	O	R	E	S
O	L	O	J	E	S	T	O	P	A	K			
R	O	E	T	R	O	M	A	D	S				
T	R	A	N	G	E	T	H	E	N	E	R	M	E
P	R	O	T	O	G	E	H	A	M	M	E	T	A
A	S	T	R	C	A	L	U	M	N	I	A	T	E
L	I	J	A	R	S	E	R	N	C	A	N		
T	A	N	S	P	E	N	N	E	G	E	S	T	

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

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**Horoscopes**  
**January 12, 2012**

**Capricorn**  
December 22 - January 19  
Don't look now, Capricorn, but someone young is trying to get your attention. Prepare to amaze and be amazed. A little known fact surfaces and adds fuel to the fire.

**Aquarius**  
January 20 - February 18  
Uh-oh, Aquarius. You're in a pickle, and there's only one person to turn to for help. Admit your mistakes, be earnest in your plea, and they will respond favorably.

**Pisces**  
February 19 - March 20  
What goes around comes around. Remember that, Pisces, as you'll be subject to many pranks. A change in scenery gives a project the big boost it needs.

**Aries**  
March 21 - April 19  
Make no mistake, Aries. The tide is turning at home and you'll want to be front and center. A lovely gift makes for a lovely weekend. Savor the time together.

**Taurus**  
April 20 - May 20  
Tiny steps, Taurus. You took a leap, it didn't pan out and now it's time to scale back. Remember, it was the tortoise, not the hare, that won the race.

**Gemini**  
May 21 - June 21  
A financial opportunity opens up the door to others. Don't miss a one, Gemini. Creative endeavors must take a back seat to a personal problem.

**Cancer**  
June 22 - July 22  
Plan to fail, Cancer, and you most certainly will. Head up, shoulders back and proceed with confidence. You have the goods to get the job done.

**Leo**  
July 23 - August 22  
You've had more than your fair share of drama as of late, but that all comes to an end this week, Leo. Be grateful for what was and what lies ahead.

**Virgo**  
August 23 - September 22  
Doggone it, Virgo. Just when you think you're in the clear, it turns out that you're not. Don't try to pass it off. It was meant for you and only you.

**Libra**  
September 23 - October 22  
Unbelievable, Libra. All eyes are on you to pull off a miracle, and you do not disappoint. Celebrate with those who mean the most to you! A phone call provides clarity.

**Scorpio**  
October 23 - November 21  
Honestly, Scorpio, do you really think you can wing it and win big? Others will be prepared, and you should be too. Time to get down to business.

**Sagittarius**  
November 22 - December 21  
Your star shines this week, Sagittarius, as you go above and beyond to complete the tasks assigned. The reward will be far more than you expect.

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# Opening this weekend

## Disney Studios releases 'Beauty & the Beast' in 3-D

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

### 'Beauty and the Beast 3-D'

Genre: Family, animation, comedy and romance  
 Cast: Paige O'Hara, Robby Benson, Rex Everhart, Richard White and Jesse Corti  
 Director: Kirk Wise and Gary Trousdale  
 Rated: G

Walt Disney Animation Studios' magical classic "Beauty and the Beast" returns to the big screen in Disney Digital 3-D, introducing a whole new generation to the Disney classic with stunning new 3-D imagery.

The film captures the fantastic journey of Belle (voice of Paige O'Hara), a bright and beautiful young woman who's taken prisoner by a hideous beast (voice of Robby Benson) in his castle. Despite her precarious situation, Belle befriends the castle's enchanted staff - a teapot, a candelabra and a mantel clock, among others - and ultimately learns to see beneath the Beast's exterior to discover the heart and soul of a prince.

Featuring unforgettable music by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken, and an enormously talented vocal ensemble, "Beauty and the Beast" was the first animated feature to receive a Best Picture nomination from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

### 'Contraband'

Genre: Action, adventure and thriller

Cast: Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale, Ben Foster, Giovanni Ribisi and Lukas Haas  
 Director: Baltasar Kormákur  
 Rated: R

Mark Wahlberg leads the cast of "Contraband," a white-knuckle action-thriller about a man trying to stay out of a world he worked hard to leave behind and the family he'll do anything to protect.

Set in New Orleans, the film explores the cutthroat underground world of international smuggling - full of desperate criminals and corrupt officials, high-stakes and

big payoffs - where loyalty rarely exists and death is one wrong turn away.

Chris Farraday (Wahlberg) long ago abandoned his life of crime, but after his brother-in-law, Andy (Caleb Landry Jones), botches a drug deal for his ruthless boss, Tim Briggs (Giovanni Ribisi), Chris is forced back into doing what he does best - running contraband - to settle Andy's debt. Chris is a legendary smuggler and quickly assembles a crew with the help of his best friend, Sebastian (Ben Foster), to head to Panama and return with millions in counterfeit bills.

Things quickly fall apart and with only hours to reach the cash, Chris must use his rusty skills to successfully navigate a treacherous criminal network of brutal drug lords, cops and hit men before his wife, Kate (Kate Beckinsale), and sons become their target.

### 'Joyful Noise'

Genre: Musical, performing arts and drama

Cast: Queen Latifah, Dolly Parton, Keke Palmer, Courtney B. Vance and Jeremy Jordan  
 Director: Todd Graff  
 Rated: PG-13

The small town of Pacashau, Ga., has fallen on hard times, but the people are counting on the Divinity Church Choir to lift their spirits by winning the National Joyful Noise Competition.

The choir has always known how to sing in harmony, but the discord between its two leading ladies now threatens to tear them apart. Their newly appointed director, Vi Rose Hill (Latifah), stubbornly wants to stick with their tried-and-true traditional style, while the fiery G.G. Sparrow (Parton) thinks tried-and-true translates to tired-and-old.

Shaking things up even more is the arrival of G.G.'s rebellious grandson, Randy (Jeremy Jordan). Randy has an ear for music, but he also has an eye for Vi Rose's beautiful and talented daughter, Olivia (Keke Palmer), and the sparks between the two teenagers are causing even more friction between G.G. and Vi Rose. If these two strong-willed women can put aside their differences for the good of the people in their town, they - and their choir

- may make the most joyful noise of all.

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

### 'The Divide'

Genre: Suspense and horror  
 Cast: Milo Ventimiglia, Michael Biehn, Rosanna Arquette, Courtney B. Vance, Lauren German  
 Director: Xavier Gens  
 Not yet rated

In this graphic and violent post-apocalyptic thriller, nine strangers - all tenants of a New York high-rise apartment - escape a nuclear attack by hiding out in the building's bunker-like basement.

Trapped for days underground with no hope for rescue, and only unspeakable horrors awaiting them on the other side of the bunker door, the group begins to descend into madness, each turning on one another with physical and psycho-sexual torment. As supplies dwindle, and tensions flare, and they grow increasingly unhinged by their close quarters



Image courtesy of DISNEY

Belle and the Beast return to the big screen as Disney releases "Beauty and the Beast 3-D."

and hopelessness, each act against one another becomes more depraved than the next. While everyone in the bunker allows themselves to be overcome by desperation and lose their hu-

manity, one survivor holds onto a thin chance for escape even with no promise of salvation on the outside.

For more movie news including

what's playing at local theaters, trailers and an opportunity to purchase tickets online, visit [www.TBNweekly.com](http://www.TBNweekly.com). Click on the "Movie News & Reviews" link on the left-side menu.

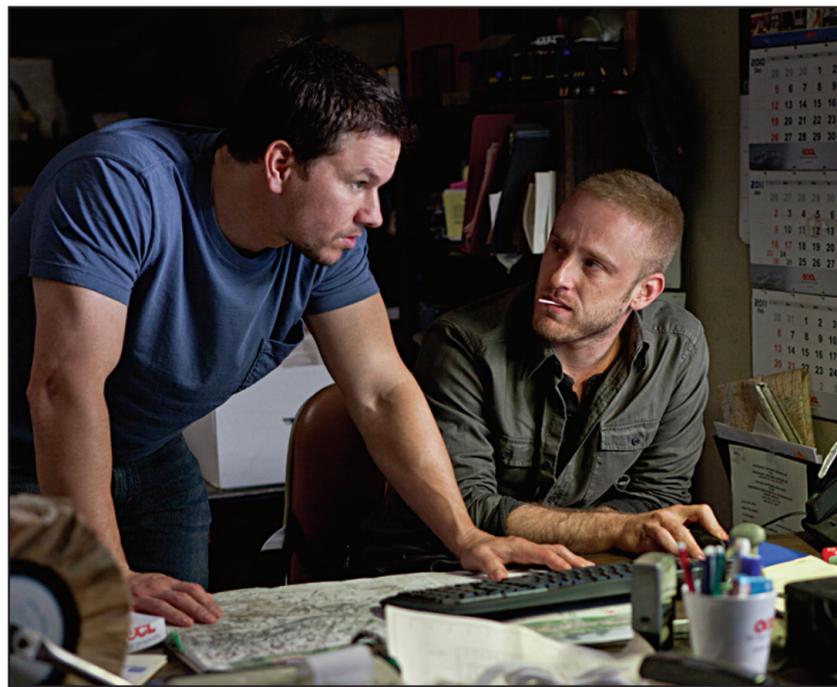


Photo by PATTI PERRET

Chris (Mark Wahlberg), left, and Sebastian (Ben Foster) plot their next move in "Contraband", a white-knuckle action-thriller about a man trying to stay out of a world he worked hard to leave behind and the family he'll do anything to protect.

### REVIEW, from page 1B

from contemporary spy thrillers.

"Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" has little in common with the fantasy spy worlds of the James Bond franchise, the Mission Impossible franchise and the Bourne franchise. Director Tomas Alfredson and cinematographer Hoyte van Hoytema deliberately underscored the fact that the espionage games played by the Circus are neither fast-paced nor adrenaline-laced; the secret agents are not dashing and debonair; and the principles each side values are at best morally ambiguous.

The film's themes of ethical ambiguities, soul-numbing bureaucracy and partisan disillusionment are as meaningful today as they were when the book was written. The author, incidentally, wrote two additional installments in what became known as the Karla Trilogy. The other books are "The Honourable Schoolboy" and "Smiley's People." While this film can stand on its own perfectly well, it would be interesting to see Oldman reprise his role as Smiley should Alfredson decide to adapt le Carré's other novels.

While its drab realism and brooding protagonist don't fit Hollywood's current genre paradigm, "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" delivers a surprisingly forceful dramatic impact right down to its anti-climatic final frames. One warning: The film is labyrinthine in its scope. It is a film that demands - and rewards - focused viewing. Miss a few minutes and the thousand-piece puzzle will be peppered by annoying gaps.

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 American Association of University Women  
**Saturday, January 28, 2012**  
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day minimum. Equity Pro Realty,  
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**SEMINOLE GARDENS,**  
Corner 2BR/2BA, 55+ Recent Up-  
grades. Glass Enclosed Florida  
Room, Cable. Active Community,  
Pool, Jacuzzi. Annual/ Seasonal.  
(727)729-6779, (800)342-3533.

**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.

**Villa Milan On Lake Seminole.**  
2BR/2BA, Great Views, 2nd Floor.  
\$800/Mo. 1st/ Last/ Security. Best  
Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

## 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.

**BEAUTIFUL BARDMOOR**  
Townhouse. 1BR/1.5BA, Fresh  
Paint, Berber, Newer Appliances,  
Private Lanai, Parking, Small Pet.  
Available Immediately.  
\$735/Month. Rob. (727)251-5840.

**BELLEAIR**  
Luxury 1,454 SF, 2BR/2BA  
Directly On Intracoastal.  
Spectacular Setting w/Gated,  
24-Hour Security, Pool, Covered  
Parking. Well Done In Attractive  
Neutral Tones Throughout. No  
Pets Or Smoking. \$1,450/Month,  
Negotiable. Will Guarantee  
No Increase At Renewal.  
(727)420-1397.

**6165 58TH ST. N., 2BR/1BA,**  
Updated. Tile, Granite counter-  
tops. W/D hook-up. C/H/A, 45+.  
\$650/month. (727)430-0607.

**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.

**LAKEVIEW OF LARGO: 55+**  
2BR/2BA. Completely Remodeled.  
Light, Bright, Beautiful Steps To  
All Amenities. \$725/Month.  
(727)644-7061.

**LARGO, RENOVATED 2BR/1BA**  
On Intracoastal. Mile To Beach.  
Gated, Pools, Tennis. Non-smok-  
ing, Petless. Cable Included,  
\$800/Mo. New Atlantic Club.  
(727)443-3691.

**SEMINOLE GARDENS**  
1BR/1BA, 704SF,  
Ground Floor, Sunroom,  
55+, Nicely Furnished.  
Water View \$600/Month -Yearly.  
Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp.  
(727)397-2534

**SEMINOLE, 1BR/1BA, 720SF,**  
Patio, Assigned Parking, Amen-  
ities, Close To Shopping & Beach.  
No Pets. No Age Restriction.  
\$575/Mo. (727)321-3342.

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

**TOWNHOMES OF LAKE**  
Seminole. 2BR/2BA. Carport. En-  
closed Porch, Washer, Dryer,  
Pool, Cable. 3 Miles To Beach.  
Pet Ok. \$850/Mo. (727)398-7383.

## 170. Furn. Apartments

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

## 265. Commercial Rentals

# Classifieds Index

1-130 Real Estate Sales  
135-290 Rentals  
300 Notices  
302 Tickets  
305 Fun Things To Do  
310 Good Things To Eat  
315 Personals  
320 Religious Personals  
340 Happy Ads  
345 Lost & Found  
355 Adoption  
360 Legal Services  
370 Instructions/Tutors

375 Career Training  
385 Beauty Services  
390 Counseling  
400 Health & Fitness  
410 Massage Therapy  
420 Babysitting  
425 Child Care  
430 Wheelchair & Sr. Transport  
435 Adult Care & Services  
455 Travel Services  
470 Entertainment  
485-530 Help/Work Wanted  
535 Business Opportunity

545-582 Financial & Insurance  
Services  
585 Auctions  
590 Antiques & Collectibles  
597 Coins & Stamps  
599 Rental Equipment  
600-750 Merchandise to Buy/Sell  
755-805 Campers/RVs/Trailers  
810-885 Automotive  
890-915 Boats & Marine  
970-980 Estate, Garage, Yard,  
Moving Sales  
Professional Services Directory

## 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.

## 175. Unfurn. Apartments

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

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

**BELLEAIR BLUFFS, 2BR/2BA,**  
Carport. Recently Remodeled  
Close to everything, \$800/Month.  
(727)593-9212.

**BELLEAIR BLUFFS, LOVELY**  
2BR/1BA. Private parking. Walk to  
Belleair Shopping. Nonsmoking.  
No Pets. (727)584-2813.

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

**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

55+ Rental Community

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

**INDIAN SHORES: 1BR APTS.**  
19235 Whispering Pines Drive.  
\$650/Month, 1 person,  
\$700/Month, 2 persons.  
Includes Electric, Garbage,  
Water, Lawn Service. Annual.  
Owner/ Agent, (727)328-2957,  
(727)599-5814.

**WATERFRONT, Large 2BR/2BA**  
Newly Remodeled, Madeira  
Beach. Boat Dock Available.  
Includes utilities. No Pets.  
Also, remodeled 2BR/1BA avail.  
References. (727)398-3916.

**LARGO 2BR/1BA, DUPLEX**  
Updated, wood floors, painted,  
fenced yard. \$750/Month, includes  
W/S/T, yard. Fred, (727)776-2799.

**LARGO EFFICIENCY, \$425/MO.**  
Includes Water. Renovated. Nice  
Neighborhood. Petless. Refer-  
ences. Annual. (727)584-6925

**LARGO, STUDIO APARTMENT,**  
\$135/Wk. All utilities included.  
Very clean. Close to bus service.  
Call after 6 pm (727)504-3520.

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

**MOVE IN SPECIAL**  
  
**PINELLAS VILLAGE**  
NOW ACCEPTING FAMILIES  
1ST MONTH FREE!!  
2/BED \$625, 3/BED \$747  
CALL TODAY!!! (727)399-2500

**SEMINOLE: EFFICIENCY,**  
\$185/Wk. 1BR/1BA, \$200/Wk.  
Pool. Includes Utilities & Cable.  
No Credit Check. (727)564-3374.

**SEMINOLE: 55+ 2BR/2BA,**  
Enclosed Patio, Waterview.  
Completely Redecorated! Great  
Amenities & Location. No  
Smoking, No Pets. \$850/Month,  
Includes W/S/G. (727)639-9801.

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

**SEMINOLE. 2BR/2BA/2CP. NEW**  
Carpet. Cable. Quiet. \$745/Mo.  
+\$700 Deposit. \$25 Application  
Fee. No Pets. (727)744-9500.

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

## 185. Beach Rentals

**INDIAN ROCKS BEACH.**  
Cozy, Clean, Furnished Cottages.  
1-2BRs, starting at \$420/week.  
Steps to Gulf Beach. Pet Friendly.  
(727)595-8013.  
www.UncleMillsCottages.com.

**FIRST MONTH FREE!**  
I.R.B. CONDO, 1BR/1BA,  
Hardwood Floors, Stainless  
Appliances, W/D, Granite.  
\$895/Month, Last. \$600 Security.  
Annual. (727)596-4056.

## 185. Beach Rentals

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

**GULF-FRONT 1BR/1BA**  
North Redington Beach.  
Furnished. Patio with direct Gulf  
view. \$900 Monthly. Available  
February 1st. (813)294-7140.  
tonysae72@gmail.com

**THE BEST VALUE**  
**ON THE BEACHES!**  
We have MORE: Amenities, Fun Activities  
& include more Services.  
Spacious, Clean 1,

485. Help Wanted



**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE**  
For Inside Phone Sales Part-Time / Full-Time

**REQUIRES:**

- Excellent verbal skills
- Proper grammar/spelling
- Strong customer service and computer skills
- Energy, Enthusiasm
- Good attendance history
- Relative sales experience

E-mail: [classified@tbnweekly.com](mailto:classified@tbnweekly.com)  
**PLEASE...No Phone Calls or Walk-ins!**

**FRONT DESK CHECK IN/OUT,** Full-time, Needed for fast paced Pinellas Co. Primary Care office. Experience preferred. Customer Service A MUST. Benefits offered. Fax resume to (352)597-0552.

**GLOBAL CONNECTIONS** Customer Service/ Clerical for a travel club. Starting at \$8.50/hr. F/T 9AM-5PM M-F. Insurance, 401K, travel benefits, plus booking incentives. Must have computer, customer service skills. Fax resume: (727)467-9097, E-mail: [kbrrazier@gcitravel.net](mailto:kbrrazier@gcitravel.net)

**HYATT CLEARWATER BEACH RESORT AND SPA**

The Hyatt Clearwater Beach is gearing up for the season with many exciting opportunities. We are currently hiring for the following full time positions: Mechanic, Cocktail Servers, Front Office Agent, Bussers, Room Service Order Taker. We are offering a full benefit package with discounted hotel room nights at any Hyatt location world-wide. Apply online at: [www.clearwaterbeach.hyatt.com](http://www.clearwaterbeach.hyatt.com) EOE 011212

**HELP WANTED WITH DD** Clients in a group home and community setting. Experience preferred. Valid driver's license required. Weekend shift. (727)391-9555..

**NOW HIRING CNAs/HHAs Great Cases All Hours Experience Required COMPETITIVE PAY**

**Bayshore Health & Homemaker Services, Inc.**  
**Celebrating 25 Years!**  
**(727) 586-0044**

Notice To Employers

**AARP FOUNDATION WORKSEARCH**  
Senior Community Service Employment Program

**ATTENTION ALL EMPLOYERS**

**A NEW HIRING CONCEPT TRIAL EMPLOYMENT**  
**AT NO COST TO YOU**

We provide the services of an employee for 2 weeks on our payroll. Ensure it's a good match before you hire at no risk to you!

Contact Us 727-547-0534 Or [scstpete@aol.com](mailto:scstpete@aol.com)

485. Help Wanted

485. Help Wanted

**RECEPTIONIST/CLERICAL** Busy condo office. Phones, filing & general clerical skills. Computer literate/ MS Word/ Excel. 10 hours per week. (727)391-7414.

**REGAL PALMS PREMIER ASSISTED LIVING** on the Palms of Largo campus is seeking an overnight receptionist to work four to five shifts per week. Phone and computer skills are necessary, dependability a must. Apply online at [regalfal.com](http://regalfal.com). EOE.

**SECRETARY 20/HOURS PER** Week Looking for computer literate (PC environment - Microsoft Office Suite and Word Press) individual with excellent spelling and grammar skills. Must be organized and attentive to detail. If this describes you and you have a heart for people, have great telephone skills and lots of patience consider joining our team. Email resume to [tbianco@stjustinmartyr.net](mailto:tbianco@stjustinmartyr.net) or Fax to Brian Hug (727)392-6653. Stringent background check.

**SMILING FACE WANTED** Front Office. Phone, Computer, Filing and more. Small Assisted Living Facility in Largo. (727)586-1969.

**Summer Camp Program Director** Seeking an energetic leader to supervise program staff, create and implement curriculum, plan and direct daily camp activities in local catholic school. Background in recreation or education preferred. Minimum age 21 and background check required. Fax or email resume with salary requirements to (727)446-9140 or [sdale@st-cecelia.org](mailto:sdale@st-cecelia.org)

**EARN \$1000s From Home? Be careful of Work-At-Home Schemes.**

- Hidden costs can add up
- Requirements may be unrealistic.

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

**505. Part-time Help**

**EXP. CLEANING PERSON.** 3 Hrs. Per Day, 3 Days Per Wk. For Largo Condo Complex. Call (727)397-5676 between 4pm-6pm.

**Tampa Bay Times**

**BECOME A HOME Delivery** independent distributor for the UNRN TN NNX TIMES See ad in Business Opportunity section Or go to: [tampabay.com/contractor](http://tampabay.com/contractor)

**525. Medical Help**

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

Notice To Employers

530. Jobs & Work Wanted

**I'M A HOME HEALTH CARE** Provider. Experienced, trustworthy, with great references. Holistic care a specialty, juicing, meal prep, pets, plants, bill paying, appointments, move-in, move-out, night duty. **CALL HELEN NOW!** (727)235-3257

**535. Business Opportun.**

**50-YEAR-OLD DISTRIBUTION** Company Looking For On-line Trainers. Flexible Hours, Work From Home. [www.miniofficeoutlets.com/jericho](http://www.miniofficeoutlets.com/jericho)

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

**Tampa Bay Times**

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

600. Merchandise

**CARPET INSTALLER HAS** Rolls of UNUSED carpet, many colors and sizes, also laminate. Why pay store prices? Save \$\$ (727)535-8286.

520. Sales Help

**Advertising-Sales-Position**

Need a change? Want to work close to home? Need better earning potential? Are you outgoing, professional, a strong communicator and goal oriented?

Tampa Bay Newspapers, publishers of the Seminole Beacon, Beach Beacon, Belleair Bee, Largo Leader, Pinellas Park Beacon, Clearwater Beacon, Dunedin Beacon and Palm Harbor Beacon has an immediate opening in Pinellas County for an **Advertising Sales Representative.**

Prior print sales experience not needed. We offer a comprehensive benefits package and competitive salary.

If you have an aptitude for sales, an assertive demeanor and a strong desire to succeed, **please fax resume to (727) 397-5900 or email: [Jrey@TBNweekly.com](mailto:Jrey@TBNweekly.com)**

**Tampa Bay NEWSPAPERS**  
BEACON • LEADER • BEE

505. Part-time Help



**Wondering How To Pay Off All Of Those Bills?**

We are looking for men and women to deliver FREE community newspapers in Pinellas County. Must be available either Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Experience preferred but will train the right person. This is a supplemental income. Applicant must have good transportation; preferably a van, large car, SUV or pickup truck. For more information, please contact Mr. Shiflett at 727-530-5521.

**Tampa Bay Times**

The Tampa Bay Times, Florida's largest and best newspaper, is seeking dynamic leaders for our Home Delivery department which is responsible for delivering our newspaper products to subscribers.

**Immediate part time openings available in Pinellas, Hillsborough and Pasco counties!**

Candidates must have good driving, criminal and credit records, must be able to safely perform all physical and lifting aspects of position, such as ability to safely and repeatedly push and pull carts, repeatedly lift newspaper bundles up to 40 lbs and similar physical movements, be self directed, reliable and perform with the highest levels of integrity, respect and urgency.

**Field Assistant:** This key position will assist in the fulfillment of day-to-day business and distribution operations in assigned geographical areas and distribution centers. Assists in coordinating resources and relationships with customers, staff, independent contractors, and public.

**Starting pay of \$11.22/hr with excellent benefits!** Schedules are typically 5 days per week. Must be able to work weekdays and weekends between midnight and 11:00am.

**Product Coordinator:** Responsible for coordinating distribution activities and the correct staging of various newspaper products to individual workstations in our delivery centers, interacts with independent contractors, and maintains product control.

**Starting pay of \$10.24/hr!** Schedules are typically 4 days per week. Must be able to work weekdays and weekends between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

To apply please visit [www.Joinus.tampabay.com](http://www.Joinus.tampabay.com)

600. Merchandise



**32" SONY TV, \$65 OBO;** Child's Inflatable Sea Doo, No pump, \$45; \*Queen air mattress w/pump, \$35; \*7' Christmas tree, \$25, \*Books, 40 hard-bound, 15 paper-backs, Make Offer; \*(2) 25-gal. tubs, plastic, \$25/both. (727)595-5712.

**FREE: 2 HEALTHY 8FT BOTTLE** Palms. Free to anyone that wants to extract and transport. (727)288-6656.

615. Appliance Sales

**HAIER MINI REFRIGERATOR/** Freezer. 31"x17". 6 months old. Temperature control. Can dispenser, operators manual & warranty. \$89. (727)289-6447.

625. TVs, Electronics

**SHARP 32" TV, LIKE NEW.** Works Perfect, P.I.P. Color, \$150. (727)210-3334 or (919)996-0260.

635. Bargain Corner

**DELL 22" MONITOR For Desk-** top, mint condition. Paid \$175, sell \$60. (727)392-8055, (727)771-5297

**CLASSIFIEDS ROCK!**

520. Sales Help

640. Furniture

**BEAUTIFUL GENTLY USED** Leather Sofa/ Loveseat Living Room Set Plus Matching Tables. \$625 O.B.O. (727)397-6123.

**BEAUTIFUL Light Pink Leather** Couch, Sectional, Approx. 96"x106". High Quality. Excellent Condition! \$1,200. Largo. (727)584-6952.

**BRAND NEW CHERRY 5-PIECE** Queen Bedroom Set; Headboard, Dresser, Mirror, Nightstand, Chest. \$350. (727)667-8288.

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

**LIVING ROOM SET: 78" Floral** Couch, Side/ Coffee Table, 5x8' Rug. Cranberry/ Beige. \$150. (727)393-5800.

**QUEEN PILLOW-TOP SET: \$259** New Pillow-Top King Set \$399. Warranty. Six-piece, 800-count sheets, \$20, all sizes! Designer Shop. (727)687-0213.

**X-ETAGERE, 67"Hx48"Wx12"D.** Dark Walnut Finish, Excellent Condition. Great Bookshelf/ Display Items. \$99. (727)289-6447.

655. Musical Instruments

**HARDMAN ELECTRIC DUO** Player Piano & Bench, Antique, 20 Rolls, Just Tuned, \$1,600. (727)656-4472, (727)581-6230.

660. Want to Buy

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

693. Exercise Equipment

**SMITH MACHINE: HIGH, LOW** Cables. Butterfly, bench, lat pull, etc. Iron weights, Paid \$1,200. Sell \$350. (727)385-8068.

700. Pets & Animals

**SHELTIES: 3 Male Brothers,** 7 years old, needing good home. Prefer to keep together. Well-trained loving dogs. (813)841-0706 email: [bruce@fccreative.com](mailto:bruce@fccreative.com)

705. Nursery & Garden

**PLUMERIA STARTS, \$5 EACH.** (727)392-0522.

735. Office Equipment

**OOMA TELEPHONE SYSTEM.** \$50. (727)392-0544.

755. RV Sales

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

**Classified Deadlines:**  
Line Ads: Monday Noon  
Display: Friday 5PM  
Call Early! 397-5563

585. Auctions

**Absolute AUCTION**  
**SELLING FOR RUDY'S EQUIPMENT RENTAL & SALES**  
**5867 54 AVENUE NORTH • ST. PETERSBURG 33709**

**JANUARY 14, 2012 9:00 a.m.**

**INSPECTION: FRIDAY, JAN. 13 FROM 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

**Auctioneers Note\* After 47 years of a successful rental business, Rudy's Rentals has decided to liquidate all rental equipment, tools, assets and inventory, trucks and trailers at ABSOLUTE AUCTION.**

**TERMS:** All purchases are to be paid in full in U.S. funds on day of the auction in BANK WIRE, CASH, or CASHIER'S CHECK (Company checks only when accompanied by a bank guarantee letter). No exceptions. **Buyers Premium: 10% Buyer's Premium on all purchases.**

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**Sales Representative: Jerry Bowlin 865-805-3637**

890. Boats, PWC Sales



**910. Boat Slips**

**6 WET SLIPS FOR RENT** From 25'-55'. Sail Or Power. From \$7.55 A Foot. (727)641-6465.

**915. Boat & Marine Svc.**

**L&M DOCKSIDE** Complete Boat Repairs. Mercruiser, Crusader, Volvo-Penta, etc. Electrical and Engine Repair or Replacement! Mercury and Yamaha certified. [lmdocksideboatrepair.com](http://lmdocksideboatrepair.com). (727)501-1727.

**DAVIT SPREAD BAR, CRADLE** to lift boat out of water. New, \$450. \$100 O.B.O. (727)587-7794

**TOM'S OUTBOARD SERVICE** Certified Marine Technician. Electronics Installation. Full Service Outboard Repair. (727)744-4352 For parts & accessories visit: [marinesupplydock.com](http://marinesupplydock.com)

970. Estate Sales



**975. Garage & Yard Sales**

**13599 88TH AVE. N. Seminole.** Saturday, 8-4. China, Collectible, Housewares, and Shop Tools, Refrigerator.

**CHAPEL THRESHOPS!** An Unusual Thrift Shop Full Of Fine Things. Friday & Saturday, 8AM-12PM, 12601 Park Blvd. Seminole. (727)391-2919. We Accept Donations And Drop Offs As Well. [coth@coth.org](mailto:coth@coth.org)

**LARGO, SATURDAY 8AM-3PM,** Big Moving Sale. Lots of Refined Furniture. 8355 76th Ave. N.

**GARAGE SALE**

**SAT. JAN. 14TH. 8AM-NOON,** Seminole High School parking lot, Corner of 86th Ave. & 131st St. Benefits SHS and SMS Band and Color Guard. **Space available for rent \$10.**

**SEMINOLE, SATURDAY** 7:00AM-4:00PM. Furniture, Tools and Much More. 14598 Anchorage Circle, off Hamlin Blvd.

**ST. JUSTIN MARTYR** Catholic Church. The Newly Expanded Famous Thrift Shop! Every Wed. & Sat. 9AM-2PM. 10851 Ridge Road, Seminole. (727)397-3312.

**OUT** what you can find in the **CLASSIFIEDS!**

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classifieds

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For  
\$50 Per Week

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# Looking ahead

## Clearwater

• **The Exhibiting Society of Artists exhibit**, through Feb. 29, at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. TESA will be exhibiting this winter season for three full months at Ruth Eckerd Hall. Artwork by TESA's 50 professional artist members, most of who reside in and around Pinellas County, includes all-media works available for purchase. TESA has been exhibiting at Ruth Eckerd Hall for nearly 10 years, in the East and West Galleries located on the upper level of the main theater area. The galleries are open for viewing by Ruth Eckerd Hall ticket holders during scheduled performances. For information, call Gayle DeCoste at 474-3386.

• **"Lie, Cheat and Genuflect,"** by Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore, presented by Early Bird Dinner Theatre, through Feb. 26, at the Italian-American Club, 200 S. McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. 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](http://www.earlybirddinnertheatre.com). The Buckle brothers, Billy and Tom, are in big trouble: Tom's infallible eye for slow horses has drained away all of Billy's savings and he has borrowed from loan shark Pizza Face Petrillo, who now wants his money back or else. There's plenty of money in grandfather Buckle's will, but these two black sheep are pretty sure they'll never see any of that. What else to do but dress Billy up as a nun and have him pose as their cousin who is to inherit the entire fortune?

• **Gregg Allman**, Saturday, Jan. 14, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets range from \$35 to \$69.50. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com). On tour in support of his critically acclaimed Rounder Records release "Low Country Blues," Allman will make an exclusive Tampa Bay area stop at Ruth Eckerd Hall with special guest Jaimoe's Jasssz Band. As a founding member of the Allman Brothers Band and in his own storied solo career, Allman has long been a gifted natural interpreter of the blues, his soulful and distinctive voice one of the defining sounds in the history of American music. "Low Country Blues" marks the legendary Rock and Roll Hall of Famer's seventh solo recording and first in more than 13 years. Produced by T Bone Burnett, the album finds Allman putting his own stamp on songs by some of the blues giants whose work has long informed his own, from Muddy Waters and B.B. King to Buddy Guy and Magic Sam.

• **Voxare String Quartet**, Saturday, Jan. 14, 8 p.m., at the Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets range from \$37 to \$45. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com). The

concert will feature a new score played to Dziga Vertov's groundbreaking, avant-garde 1929 silent film "The Man with the Movie Camera." Voxare has methodically selected music of Soviet-era Modernist Russian composers to accompany the screening of the film. The playlist includes work from Mosolov, Prokofiev, Shostakovich and Stravinsky. Known for inventive programming, technical prowess, attention to detail and passionate performances Voxare String Quartet received Chamber Music America's 2010 ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming.

• **Spencers: Theatre of Illusion**; Sunday, Jan. 15, 1 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets range from \$18 to \$25. Call 791-7400 or visit [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com). The show will showcase breathtaking illusions, dazzling special effects, drama, comedy, danger and magnificent set design. Like modern-day Houdinis, Kevin and Cindy Spencer have created a high-tech wonder that is one of the largest touring illusion productions today. The Spencers have been named International Magicians of the Year and six times Performing Arts Entertainers of the Year. Artistry and theater converge in this production as this engaging duo offers an unforgettable theatrical experience.

## Largo

• **The Nowhere Band**, Saturday, Jan. 14, 8 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit [www.largoarts.com](http://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, Largo. Tickets are \$32 in advance and \$37 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit [www.largoarts.com](http://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 Buble 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, Largo. 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, Largo. 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, Largo. 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, Largo. 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.

• **Patsy Cline the Concert**, featuring CJ Harding, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$23 in advance and \$25 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit [www.largoarts.com](http://www.largoarts.com). Harding recreates the sentimental sound, style, mannerisms and personality of the legendary Patsy Cline.

• **The Kingston Trio**, Friday, Jan. 27, 8 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$23 in advance and \$25 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit [www.largoarts.com](http://www.largoarts.com). In 1957, The Kingston Trio emerged from San Francisco's club scene to take the country by storm, bringing the rich tradition of American folk music into the mainstream for the first time. Now the trio is bringing back all the great memories and making new ones. The trio is known for hits such as "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," "Tom Dooley" and "Goodnight Irene."

• **Saturday Afternoon Movies**, Saturday, Jan. 28, 2 p.m., at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive, Largo. The featured film will be "Happy Feet." Call 587-6715.

• **Pinellas Folk Festival**, Saturday, Jan. 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N., Largo. Sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society, the festival will feature dozens of the Tampa Bay area's premier folk musicians performing traditional folk, gospel, country and bluegrass music on stages throughout the village. Attendees also will enjoy historical demonstrations, a food court, old-time games, storytelling, traditional craft demonstrations, traditional fiber arts show, "fleece to shawl" activities and antique cars. Free parking and shuttle to event entrance will be available on

119th Street between Ulmerton and Walsingham roads. Handicapped parking and drop-off will be found at the former Gulf Coast Museum of Art, 12211 Walsingham Road. A suggested contribution of \$5 or more is greatly appreciated and will help support this festival. The event is free for children age 11 and younger. Call 582-2123 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/heritage](http://www.pinellascounty.org/heritage).

• **Monday Matinee**, Monday, Jan. 30, 12:30 p.m., at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive, Largo. In January, the library will present movies filmed in Florida. This week's featured film will be "Key Largo." Call 587-6715.

• **Music of the Night: The Andrew Lloyd Webber Songbook**, presented by Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation; Saturday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 29, 2 and 7 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$22 in advance and \$25 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit [www.largoarts.com](http://www.largoarts.com). A cast of Tampa Bay's best performers sing the tunes from Broadway's legendary composer Andrew Lloyd Webber. Accompanied by live musicians, the cast will sing and dance to notable tunes from "The Phantom of the Opera," "Evita," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Proceeds will benefit the Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation.

• **Sunday Matinee Music Program Series**, Sunday, Feb. 12, at Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo. The featured entertainment will be a Valentine Spectacular with the Four Tune Nuts Barbershop Quartet. Each show in the series will feature a meal, live entertainment and dancing. Dinner is served at 3:30 p.m. Entertainment starts at 4 p.m. Dancing follows the entertainment from 6 to 10 p.m. A cash bar is available. Advance tickets are \$12 for dinner and show; \$18 for dinner, show and dance; or \$8 for the dance only. Dinner tickets must be purchased by the Wednesday prior to the show. Call 518-3131 or visit [LargoCommunityCenter.com](http://LargoCommunityCenter.com).

• **"Funny Girl,"** with book by Isobel Lannart, music by Julie Styne and lyrics by Bob Merrill; presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, Feb. 24 through March 11, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$12 for students age 19 and younger with identification. Call 587-6793 or visit [www.eightoclocktheatre.com](http://www.eightoclocktheatre.com). "Funny Girl" is the semi-autobiographical tale of Fanny Brice's meteoric rise to fame and her stormy relationship with Nick Arnstein, a wealthy and charming gambler. From her start as a gawky Brooklyn teen fast-talking her way into show business to becoming the toast of New York to the unraveling of her personal life, "Funny Girl" is a stunning, richly told tour de force about one of Broadway's biggest stars.

• **Kings of Country**, Monday, Feb. 27, 2 and 7 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$22. Call 587-6793. Part of the Largo Lions Spotlight Series, the show will feature some of America's top artists performing the music of Kenny Rogers, Johnny Cash and Willie Nelson. The show will feature great songs the artists made famous, such as "She Believes in Me," "Lady," "Man in Black," "Walk the Line," "Always on My Mind" and "On the Road Again." All proceeds from these events go directly to Lions volunteer projects, such as sight conservation, eye operation and glasses.

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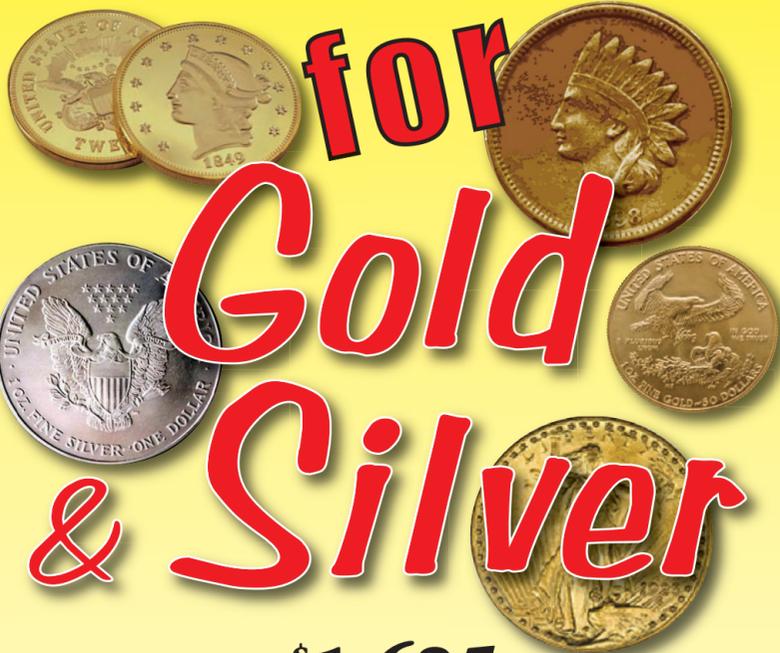
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