

Primates cause a stir in Pinellas Park

Neighbors complain about gibbons ... Page 6A.

LARGO LEADER

'Total Recall,' action, drama, opens this weekend in theaters

Also at the box office will be 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid.' ... Page 1B.

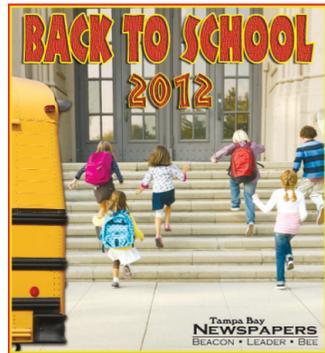


Volume XXXV, No. 2

www.TBNweekly.com

August 2, 2012

INSIDE



School board faces budget cuts

Officials eye \$14 million in reductions for the next fiscal year

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO - The Pinellas County School Board agreed tentatively July 31 to cut its total millage rate by about 1 percent as officials brace for another tough budget year.

Superintendent John Stewart said school districts across the state continue to face financial challenges.

Although the school district has received an additional \$11.3 million in funding for fiscal year 2012-2013, it

is still faced with budget reductions, he said.

"This tentative budget includes a spending reduction in the general fund of approximately \$14 million dollars," Stewart said. "It is important to keep in mind that some of those proposed reductions are subject to the collective bargaining process. We continue to work with the various represented groups in those negotiations."

The board approved a tax rate of 8.30 mills, which is equivalent to \$8.30 for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. Under that proposed rate, a homeowner

whose property has a taxable value of \$75,000 would pay about \$623 in property taxes to help fund the budget for the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1. That same homeowner currently paid about \$629 in school taxes for the current fiscal year.

The board also approved its \$1.2 billion budget for the next fiscal year. A final public hearing on the budget

See BUDGET CUTS, page 4A

COUNTY

Largo puppeteer remains in jail

A Largo man remains in the Pinellas County Jail accused of conspiring to kidnap a child and possession of child pornography.

Ronald Brown, 57, of Largo was arrested July 20 and taken to the Pinellas County Jail.

... Page 3A.

Family recalls early days of Pinellas



Shirley Moravec and Joan Bates, granddaughters of Pinellas pioneer S.S. Coachman, want all Pinellas residents to remember that this year marks our county's 100th anniversary of independence from Hillsborough County.

... Page 7A.

ENTERTAINMENT

Movie review

Through graphic scenes of torment, misery and futility, "Hara-Kiri" director Takashi Miike skillfully illustrates the common thread of human suffering.

"Hara-Kiri: Death of a Samurai" tells the tale of Hanshiro, a mysterious samurai who arrives at the doorstep of a feudal lord with a single request.

... Page 2B.

VIEWPOINTS

Bob Driver

Have a helping of Hummus, columnist says.

... Page 8A



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Dreams come true

Olympic sailing siblings Zach and Paige Railey of Clearwater share unforgettable moments at the opening ceremonies of the 2012 Summer Olympics in London July 27. Zach is competing in the Finn class and Paige is competing in the Laser Radial class at the sailing venue in Weymouth, England. They are shown having some fun outside the ceremonies. Follow their quest for gold at www.paigerailey.com and www.zach2012.com.



Photos courtesy of DAVID BILLING

On the upswing

Golf course's financial shape improving, city officials say

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO - Joe McCaffrey and Jacob Oakes have become regulars at the Largo Golf Course.

"It's a shorter course so it allows you to work on your iron game a lot more than other public courses do," said McCaffrey, who has played at the course twice in the past four weeks.

Besides enjoying the course, both golfers like the price to play.

"They always have little deals you can do," Oakes said.

City officials in recent months have offered special rates and taken other steps through marketing to increase play at the golf course. At a work session in April most city commissioners were pleased with staff's efforts to improve the financial shape of the golf course and refrained from further exploring proposals to turn over the course to private enterprise.

City officials say the Largo Golf Course is on track to meet its revenue projections and have a savings in expenditures for the fiscal year.

The total revenue in the budget for fis-

cal year 2012 was projected at \$800,700. The end of the year projection is now \$909,800. Year-to-date expenditures in June were \$702,166, which is about \$42,000 less than the figure for the same month last year.

The total expenses for fiscal year 2012 were projected to be \$1.05 million. The end of the year projections are now pegged at \$989,400.

"I am very encouraged by the latest report about the golf course," Mayor Pat Gerard said July 25. "It looks like the staff is turning it around. They have cut expenses and increased play in spite of rather unpredictable weather," she said.

Asked if the commission should do



Photo by TOM GERMOND

A Sunday afternoon golfer takes aim at a flag at the city's course on Vonn Road.

anything else to ensure that the golf course's financial status continues to improve, Gerard said. "I don't know that the commission needs to do anything more other than to continue to monitor the situation. The staff has obviously taken our concerns very seriously and is committed to making it work."

Until the economy turns around, the city needs to stay on track by offering deals and being service oriented to its patrons. City Commissioner Harriet Crozier said.

"The staff has stepped up to the plate of running the golf course like a golf course and not just a city recreation facility," Crozier said. "It's a business and

needs to be run that way. It is an enterprise fund and they need to remember they are responsible for their own funding and in that light they will always keep trying to fund the golf course just like any other business."

Enterprise funds are self-supporting and are supported by user charges.

Commissioner Woody Brown said, "staff has made an impressive turnaround in a period where people are still holding on tightly to their pocket-books."

"We have heard the weather get credited

See GOLF COURSE, page 4A

Commission OKs contract with EMS consultant

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - It's a matter of trust, say supporters of a plan for fire-based ambulance transport. County officials argue that it all comes down to cost and quality of service.

Pinellas County Commissioners voted 4-3 July 24 to negotiate a contract with Fitch and Associates LLC, of Platte City, Mo., for an operational analysis of the county's current system for delivery of emergency medical services, a plan presented by local firefighters, a plan from consultant, Integral Performance Solutions, as well as other scenarios.

Commissioners Nancy Bostock, Neil Brickfield and

Norm Roche voted no.

The contract approval was the latest step in an ongoing process to find a more affordable way to deliver countywide emergency services.

A brief history

The county hired Integral Performance Solutions in 2009 to study the issue and make recommendations on ways to curb rising costs of first responder service. The firm delivered its recommendations in 2011.

IPS's proposals, including elimination of advanced life support first responder units and replacing them with the use of larger advanced life support engines,

proved unpopular. The plan to change how fire departments and fire districts would be paid for first responder services was met with stiff resistance.

In response to the IPS plan, Capt. Jim Millican with Lealman Fire Rescue and Lt. Scott Sanford, firefighter and paramedic with Palm Harbor Rescue, put together an alternative plan that advocates allowing firefighters and paramedics employed at local fire departments to provide ambulance service in lieu of the private company the county contracts with for exclusive transport service.

See EMS, page 4A

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Around Largo

Free Genealogy/Family History Classes in August, Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive.

Description: "Free classes this month provided by the Pinellas Genealogy Society. See the complete listing with details of classes and scheduled times at www.flpgs.org/classes.aspx. Email Bob Bryan at BBryan84@gmail.com or call 595-4521 for more information."

Itty Bitty Splashtime, Aug. 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, and 17, 9:45 until 10:45 a.m., at Highland Family Aquatic Center, 400 Highland Ave.

Description: "Parents can spend quality time with their pre-school aged children in a safe and playful aquatic environment. Mom's clubs are welcome. Children not potty-trained must wear a plastic swim diaper under their bathing suit. For more information, call 518-3018 or visit LargoPools.com."

The fee is \$1.50 per person
The Music Man Jr., Aug. 3, 7 p.m., and Aug. 4, at 11 a.m., Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive.

Description: "The Music Man Junior is part of the Largo Cultural Center summer theatre camps. This production will be performed by camp participants ages from 12 through 18. For more information and to purchase tickets visit LargoArts.com."

The cost is \$7.50 adult, \$6.50 children plus applicable service fee. Call 587-6793.

Square Dancing Fridays, Aug. 10 and 24, 7:30 until 9:45 p.m., Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road.

Description: "Like country-style dancing? Square or round?"

Spend the evening dancing to professional caller Allen Snell. Join anytime."

Call 518-3131
 The fee is \$6.
Train Weekend, Aug. 4-5, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive

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

Call 587-6740, ext. 5014.
 The event is free; donations accepted.

Stories in the Park, Aug. 4, 10:30 a.m., McGough Nature Park, 11901 146th St. N.

Description: "Come join our park rangers each month for a morning story, a hike through the park and snacks with your kids. Held the first Saturday of each month. Call (727) 518-3047 to preregister today!"

Call 518-3047.
 The fee is \$3 per family.

Swing Dance Saturdays, Aug. 4, 11, 18, and 25, 7 p.m. until 11 p.m., Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road.

Description: "Come enjoy an evening of dancing and socializing every Saturday night. Enjoy a free lesson from 7 to 8 p.m. and a DJ dance from 8 until 11 p.m. Our resident DJ is Savoy Swing. Don't miss out on our 5600-square foot sprung hardwood floor. For more information, visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131."

The fee is \$6 with a city recreation card, \$7 without a recreation card.

Teen Tidalwave Tuesdays, Aug. 7, 7 until 9 p.m., Highland Family Aquatic Center, 400 Highland Ave.

Description: "Teens can meet up with friends, swim, and catch up on what happened over the weekend. Sponsors will provide snacks and giveaways are planned. For more information, call 518-3018 or visit LargoPools.com."

The fee is \$3 per teen.
Crop 'Til You Drop, Aug. 10, 4 p.m. until Aug. 12, 6 p.m., Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive.

Description: "Join us for a weekend full of scrapbooking at the Largo Cultural Center. The fun begins at 4 p.m. Friday and will continue until 6 p.m. on Sunday (will close from 2 a.m. until 7 a.m.) Registration includes meals, snacks and drinks throughout the weekend.

The fees are \$65 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday before Aug. 1; \$75 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday after Aug. 1; \$35 Saturday only before Aug. 1; \$45 Saturday only after Aug. 1.
 Call 518-3016.

Teen Tidalwave Finale, Aug. 14, 7 until 10 p.m., Highland Family Aquatic Center.

Description: "Middle and high school age kids 11-17 come join us for an end-of-the-summer teen pool party! Come enjoy food, music, activities, games and pool time!"

Call 518-3018.
 The cost is \$5 per teen.

How to contribute

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

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

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

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

Questions? Call 397-5563 or send an email.

Personal photographs can be picked up at the office after publication; however, their safety is not guaranteed (please don't give us the last picture you have of Ol' Uncle Albert.)

Please type letters to the editor (or print legibly) and include your name, town of residence, phone number and signature and mail to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772. E-mails should include town of residence and telephone and be sent to tgermond@TBNweekly.com.

Briefs

Armed Forces Museum Touch-A-Truck set for Aug. 18

LARGO – The Armed Forces History Museum will host its final Touch-A-Truck of the summer on Saturday, Aug. 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

World War II re-enactors from the 1st Infantry Division will be on hand conducting presentations and drills. Additionally, the Florida Blood Services Blood Mobile will be present from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in hopes of receiving much-needed blood donations. Those who donate blood will receive complimentary admission to the museum on that day only.

Michael V. Ralph, historian and artist of "Titanic – A Voyage in Art," will conduct a presentation on the history of the Titanic at 11 a.m. Ralph's exhibit of 27 original acrylic paintings has been extended through to Aug. 27. The presentation is free with the purchase of a museum admission ticket.

Maggi Veterans Solutions will conduct a seminar this Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for veterans and surviving spouses interested in knowing how they may receive aid and attendance. The seminar is free of charge.

Police host VIPs Academy

The Largo Police Department will be hosting another Volunteers In Policing Academy, beginning Tuesday, Sept. 11.

Currently, the department has volunteers who selflessly dedicate their time to help our community.

Volunteers perform a myriad of duties both at the department and throughout the community. From helping out with administrative paperwork, to writing parking enforcement citations and directing traffic at crash scenes; volunteers are a tremendous asset in the police department's goal to provide superior service to our community, police said.

Those interested in becoming a police department volunteer or wishing more information may check the city of Largo website at www.Largo.com or contact Volunteer Coordinator Dick Hageman at 587-6739.

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Largo puppeteer remains in Pinellas County Jail

By SUZETTE PORTER

LARGO – A Largo man remains in the Pinellas County Jail accused of conspiring to kidnap a child and possession of child pornography.

Terri Botterbusch, special agent with the United States Department of Homeland Security Investigations, filed a criminal complaint and request for a search warrant in the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division. United States Magistrate Judge Thomas B. McCoun III signed it on July 20.

Botterbusch, a nine-year employee of HSI and currently assigned to the Tampa office, detailed her investigation into Ronald William Brown in an evidence of findings report.

Brown, 57, of Largo was arrested July 20 and taken to the Pinellas County Jail. Botterbusch said that Brown and another man had conspired to kidnap a child and that Brown possessed child pornography.

The report begins with the May 23 arrest of Michael Arnett, who was taken into custody by HSI in Kansas City for the production of child pornography. Investigators discovered that Arnett had been communicating and exchanging child pornography materials with other individuals, using online chat programs, as well as engaging in "extremely discussions regarding kidnapping, sexually abusing, murdering and eating of children," the report said.

Agents said Arnett used Yahoo chat to discuss the abuse of children and to send and receive images and videos of child pornography. Agents with HSI Boston recovered thousands of lines of chat between Arnett and others and identified one individual with whom Arnett had discussed abuse, abduction, murder and cannibalism of children.

Agents say Arnett and Brown chatted from about April 2011 to October 2011 and provided a sample of the chats. Some are graphic in nature. They re-

ferred to a male child, who Brown said he had been watching, and described in detail what Brown would like to do to the child. Brown also asked for advice on the best methods to use.

According to the logs, at one point in the chat Brown was asked, "Any luck with your boy?" Brown replied, "No, I still want to eat him though. He was looking good in his last pic that I got."

HSI agents requested through the courts that Yahoo provide information about Brown's account. His email address was found listed in the 2011-2012 Pinellas County Schools speaker directory. He was listed as a puppetry speaker for grades kindergarten through eighth grade.

Agents also requested information from local law enforcement for any reports involving Brown. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office reported that Brown had been stopped for a traffic violation on July 23, 1998. The deputy had observed boy's underwear between the front seats. Brown told him that he used the underwear for puppet shows, dressing puppets in underwear.

Largo Police Department reported investigation of a complaint against Brown on June 9, 2010, about suspicious activity with Brown having young boys in his vehicle. Officers determined that Brown had permission from the parents to take the children to church with him. According to the dispatch notes, no written report was filed on the incident, the "complainant believed she observed Brown throwing what she described as a dildo underneath his trailer. The complainant also stated that Brown had all the boys' skateboards and bikes locked inside his trailer. The complainant stated that one of the boys may have been 'violated' by Brown because of how he was defending Brown. The complainant stated that she observed Brown to be 'off.'"

In her report, Botterbusch said she had searched



Ronald William Brown

on Google for Brown's screen name and found his profile on the website, cutedeadguys.net. Brown reportedly stated that he was from Florida and among HSI interests stated, "I love them young and dead. I enjoy them fresh, but like to see them displayed in their caskets too."

His biography reportedly stated, "He has a strong interest in 'necro' since youth." Botterbusch said she "believes that Brown's reference to 'necro' is a reference to necrophilia, an abnormal and deviant sexual interest in sex with dead people and/or an erotic attraction to corpses."

On July 19, a federal search warrant was served at Brown's residence in Whispering Pines Mobile Home Park, 7501 142nd Ave. N. in Largo. Botterbusch reported that when agents and law enforcement made contact with Brown he was "immediately removed from the residence placed on the ground and handcuffed without incident."

Agents seized multiple pieces of electronic media, including a computer, CDs and DVDs, micro disks, VHS tapes and a thumb drive. The report states that agents found "images of child pornography, images of children engaged in bondage and images of children that appeared to be deceased."

Agents also reported finding a CD in Brown's bedroom dresser sock drawer of additional images of child pornography, "child erotica-pre-pubescent boys in underwear, images of what appear to be deceased children and a missing child flier."

During an interview, agents say that Brown did confirm the use of the screen name contained in the chat logs.

"Brown told agents that he chats with several individuals about strangling children and that he was part of a strange group on Yahoo," the report said. "Brown stated that those are HSI fantasies and told the agents he would never really do this."

Police beat

Largo police deputy chief to attend FBI national academy

LARGO – Deputy Chief Jeff Understad has been selected to attend the FBI's National Academy. Internationally known for its academic excellence, the FBI's National Academy Program is held at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va., this fall.

The program offers 10 weeks of advanced investigative, management, and fitness training for selected officers having proven exceptional records within the law enforcement profession. Law enforcement professionals from around the world are selected to attend the academy. On average, selected officers have 19 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive level positions.

Understad began his career with the Largo Police Department as an officer in January 1990. He was promoted to police sergeant in 1999, to police lieutenant in 2001, police captain in 2007 and to his current rank of deputy chief of police in June 2010.

In addition to the above-mentioned professional ranks, he has served in a variety of assignments including evidence technician, K-9 handler, tactical apprehension and control team member, TAC team commander, volunteers policing coordinator, patrol shift commander, investigations commander, and the commander of the office of professional Standards.

Understad is married with two boys, ages 3 and 5.



Jeff Understad

Intoxicated man arrested on several charges

LARGO – Officers of the Largo Police Department responded to assist the Largo Fire Department, which was dealing with an intoxicated male in the area of 66th Street and 131st Avenue. After making contact with the intoxicated subject, officers determined that he had warrants outstanding for his arrest.

Dean Mitchell Caldwell, 24, of Largo was booked into the Pinellas County Jail under a \$91,065 bond for failure to appear warrant for

See POLICE BEAT, page 5A

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District 7 Democrats to pick commission candidate

By SUZETTE PORTER

Registered Democrats in District 7 have a choice between Ken Welch and Maria Scruggs to run against Republican Buck Walz in the Nov. 2 general election.

District 7 includes Gulfport, Kenneth City, South Pasadena, the southern half of St. Petersburg and a portion of Lealman, Pinellas Park and Seminole.

Welch, the incumbent, currently serves as vice-chair on the Pinellas County Commission. He was first elected to serve District 7 in 2000. Welch, 47, and Scruggs, 54, hail from St. Petersburg.

Scruggs has no experience as an elected official, but she lists her 30-plus years in public service among her qualifications to serve as a county commissioner, according to a questionnaire sent to each candidate.

She has served at all levels of management in areas of corrections, law enforcement, special taxing district and the Juvenile Welfare Board. She lists her work as St. Petersburg Housing Authority Hope VI director and project director for St. Anthony's Healthcare.

This is not her first election. She ran unsuccessfully against former county Commissioner Bob Stewart in 2004 and she lost a bid for St. Petersburg mayor in 2001.

Welch lists the 12 different boards and committees on whom he currently serves as his qualifications, including chairing the Homeless Leadership Network, vice-chair of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Board of Directors and first vice-chair of the Florida Association of Counties. He lists an additional 25 boards and committees he has served on in the past, ranging from the St. Petersburg Junior College Board of Trustees to serving as the strategic planning chair or the St. Pete Boys and Girls Clubs Board of Managers.

The candidates were asked what one thing makes them more qualified to serve than their opponent.

"I have a strong record of leadership and collaboration, both in



Ken Welch

Pinellas County and statewide," Welch said. "I've led on public safety, housing, homelessness, youth, economic development, environmental, and other core issues. Along the way, I've received leadership awards from our Florida Association of Counties, County Firefighters, Catholic Charities, the Florida Homeless Coalition, and other organizations for leadership on important issues facing our community."

"I have over 30-plus years working within the public sector," Scruggs said. "Those experiences have adequately prepared me to make policy within the public arena. While my opponent has been an elected official for 12 years, he has had to rely on staff to guide him, as opposed to him guiding policy."

Scruggs said she is running for office because "holding political office is merely the next logical step in my professional career as a public servant."

Welch said he wants to continue to serve because "our county needs strong, proven leadership in a time of unprecedented fiscal and community challenges."

To answer the question of what he hopes to accomplish, Welch said, "There are many areas that I will continue to address. Stabilizing the EMS (emergency medical services) system, and implementing fire based transport, modernizing our transportation system, and continuing our existing strategic initiative to streamline, consolidate and improve local government services while achieving better outcomes for the taxpayer's dollar."

Scruggs said she wants "to utilize my years of public service experience to work with community stakeholders to develop solutions that prepare this community to exist and prosper at a time when public resources are limited. I want to bring innovative solutions to very complex social and political issues."

The candidates were asked to name the biggest challenge they expect to face as a county commissioner. Scruggs answered, "Opposition



Maria Scruggs

from those who have an investment in the status quo."

Welch said, "The biggest challenge is balancing increasing demands for services, in an era of declining revenues."

The candidates were asked a hypothetical question: If you had the power to change one thing about county government, with nothing to stand in your way, what would you change.

Scruggs said she would change the entire organizational structure of county government.

"As a public manager, I have assessed the current organizational structure and believe that if there was a total realignment of job functions with individual's requisite skill sets, the county could reduce its dependency on contractual services," she said.

Welch said he would support an elected county mayor. He said the county's Charter Review Commission reviewed the issue in 2010.

"Best case, an elected county mayor would bring more focus, action and accountability to county government," he said when asked to explain his answer. "I have not always held this belief, but the extraordinary challenges before us require reexamination of our governance and service delivery models across the board."

He pointed to St. Petersburg's success under Mayor Rick Baker and Orange County's successful county mayor model as "two examples of the potential benefit of an elected county or city executive."

When asked what they would do if they lose the election, Scruggs said, "I will do what I have done for the past 30-plus years, that is to continue to serve my community in some capacity." Welch said, "I'll do what I've always done - work!"

Personal information

Welch and his wife Donna have two children, Keonna and Kenya. He has lived in St. Petersburg for 47 years.

Scruggs is divorced and has one daughter, Shelynn M. Weston, 23, and one stepdaughter, Bernetta Weston-Davis, 32. She was born and raised in St. Petersburg and returned to Pinellas County 25 years ago.

GOLF COURSE, from page 1A

for the success (and failures) of our golf course," Brown said. "While weather is certainly a critical factor, I credit the fresh entrepreneurial attitude of the golf course employees for the recent success. I'm confident that they will not be satisfied until this course is making money. Continuing to attract new players and providing them a great experience will be the key to the long-term success of the Largo Golf Course."

Two commissioners, Robert Murray and Curtis Holmes, continue to be in favor of exploring other management options.

Though staff should be commended for their excellent work, Murray believes there are too many variables in running a golf course.

"These variables are beyond the control of staff and include the weather, the economy, and tourism. If one of these variables change, there could be a setback in revenues," Murray said. "I still support leasing the golf course."

Holmes said the commission has to cut millions from the city budget and "yet there is still \$75,000 in the best case scenario going out on the subsidy to the golf course."

"This does not include the heavy rains from June and July," Holmes said.

He said he doesn't think all factors are going to be constant. Consequently, the subsidy could increase.

"Not only that, the city is not in the entertainment business, and I don't care how you cut that," he said, adding that police and fire are understaffed.

"That's the business we are in, public safety. We

are not in the entertainment business," Holmes said.

Since April, city officials undertook several initiatives to increase revenue. In May, through a new system, text alerts are sent to patrons in order to fill empty tee times. More than 130 patrons have signed up to receive the text alerts to date.

Staff reviews the tee sheets daily and develops a special to increase play during available times.

A new league was formed and other leagues have been restructured to increase play. The junior golf program was reformatted to increase the number of sessions from two to eight. A Groupon special was issued in May and sold 760 rounds. To date, 246 have been redeemed and 96 are for new patrons to the Largo Golf Course. A summer special for youth has been developed to increase youth play.

In April city commissioners discussed proposals to lease the golf course to private enterprise or let a management company operate it. However, because of staffing change, marketing, good weather and other factors, they decided to let staff continue to run the golf course.

In the past couple of years commissioners have expressed concerns about the golf course receiving subsidies from the city's operating budget.

From fiscal years 1998 to 2010, net losses were reported at the golf course for every year except 1999. City officials had projected in May 2011 that the golf course would require subsidies for the succeeding five years.

The 18-hole Largo Golf Course is located on about 47 acres of land on Vonn and Walsingham roads. The city bought the course in 1979.

BUDGET CUTS, from page 1A

is set for Sept. 11, 7 p.m., at the School Board administration building.

Only one speaker addressed the board at the meeting July 31. Sara Smith, library and technology coordinator for Gulfport Elementary School, asked that funding for the middle school library program be restored to a full level.

"We know that the reduction in the middle school resulted in libraries being closed for as much as 50 percent, and the circulation of books and resources has dropped precipitously," Smith said.

She said that as a result many students will go to high school not prepared to do research.

In response, Stewart reiterated his initial comments that the budget reflects a \$14 million reduction, and school officials are going to talk about how they achieve that before the final budget comes before the board in September.

He said several workshops would be held, and information will be brought before the board on how to achieve the reductions.

"The (Smith's) request is to add something to the budget. I'm going to be asking you how to cut \$14 million," Stewart said.

Following Stewart's remarks, board Chairwoman Robin Wikle said that the board's share of the revenue portion for budget keeps increasing annually as the state's portion drops.

"It's glaring that the last three years, we go from 51 percent of the revenue that comes from our local (taxes), 54 percent and now we are at 57 percent. So we increasingly are asking our community and local taxes to pay for public education while we are taking decision-making away from local control. It's not balanced," Wikle said.

Board member Peggy O'Shea said looking back a few more years the board provided 40 percent of the total funding.

"It's almost reversed itself," she said.

Under the state law, once the board sets the millage for notices of proposed property taxes, it can lower the rate but not raise it.

As have other local governments, the school district has been trying to cope with a decrease in revenue spurred by declining property values and tax cut measures.

In other matters, board members decided to continue the process it has established for selecting a new superintendent.

The board had decided to interview three candidates for the superintendent's position later this month.

Wikle raised concerns that the board will not meet again until Aug. 21, one day before it begins interviews with candidates.

She acknowledged that the board agreed to that process, but she said she wanted to make sure that board members were "all still on the same page" pertaining to the process.

Board member Linda Lerner said she wanted to have a special meeting to discuss matters pertaining to the superintendent search, but it failed to pass last week by a 5-2 vote.

"It's too late now," she said.

Wikle said "we need to ask ourselves if we are doing everything we can to get the right person for Pinellas County."

Most board members expressed no interest in changing the process. They selected three candidates July 17 out of 50 applicants from a search to interview. Stewart is retiring at the end of the year.

"I think we had this discussion at the board meeting last week, and we determined that we will follow the process that the board has set out and agreed upon," O'Shea said.

The applicants are Michael Grego, former superintendent of the Osceola County School District; Constance Jones, chief academic officer of the Lee County School District; and Christian Cutter, superintendent of the Douglas County District in Colorado.

EMS, from page 1A

The firefighters say their plan will save money. County staff says it will cost more.

The two sides reached an impasse with both asking local state legislators to support amendments to the Special Act.

At a special meeting on Nov. 30, 2011, Sen. Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater, chair of the county's Legislative Delegation, strongly advocated creating a committee, representing both sides, to select a nationally recognized accounting firm to operationalize, analyze and compare costs of three variations of EMS service. Latvala recommended that the county pay for the study, which had a due date for completion of July 1.

The EMS Fire Transport Evaluation Committee met on Dec. 22, 2011, and chose to do the operational study first followed by the cost analysis. According to staff notes, the committee canceled the original RFP and then worked through the county's Purchasing Department to release a new RFP.

Former State Sen. James Sebesta chaired the EMS committee and the subcommittee that evaluated the four RFP responses. Other members included St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster, EMS Manager Craig Hare, Pinellas Park Fire Chief Doug Lewis, Clearwater Finance Director Jay Ravins, Lealman Fire District Capt. Jim Millican and Baycare Healthcare Administrator Kelly Triolo.

Hare replaced Commissioner Karen Seel on the evaluation committee to avoid a voting conflict from serving on the committee to recommend and the commission to approve.

Cost and bidding process

The No. 1 ranked firm, Fitch and Associates, submitted a bid for \$298,600. The firm ranked No. 2, Tri Data, bid \$99,639. The Ludwig Group ranked No. 3. The fourth was Tindale Oliver and Associates. Only four firms bid the job.

According to Joe Lauro, county purchasing director, the EMS committee "short listed" two of the four bidders with Fitch and Associates and Tri Data asked to give an oral presentation.

Before the oral presentation, Tri Data was on top with an average score of 808.57 to Fitch with 804.34. The next highest score was 504.36. At the end of the oral presentations, Fitch was on top with 868.57 to 798.57 for Tri Data.

Lauro said the biggest reason Tri Data came out on top before the oral presentations was cost.

Bostock said she was "dismayed" that in general the RFP process only gives price 15 percent of the bid score.

"Low cost is not dominant," she said. "Price is not much of a factor at 15 percent."

"This is a controversial issue," Commissioner Ken Welch added. "I'm surprised there wasn't much background (on bid process) prior to going into it."

Lauro said he explained the process to the committee more than once, including the process of using an oral presentation if two firms

were very close in points. He said Tri Data was only five points ahead in the end.

"Five out of 1,000 (points) is almost nothing," he said.

"I do agree we need to move forward. The clock is ticking," Welch said. Nevertheless, Welch admitted there was some confusion with the issue.

"We need all to be on the same page or we'll have problems down the road," he said.

Sebesta admitted that the RFP process was confusing and he didn't understand it at first.

"It took me a couple times to understand," he said.

He also said he believed others on the committee had a hard time understanding it. Sebesta said he had expressed his concern to LaSala and county staff.

"I don't know if it was a good way to score or not," he said. "I've not had that much experience with scoring."

Sebesta "finally did figure it out," and said the method should help "eliminate the possibility of fraud."

"It's difficult to manipulate and it's also difficult to understand. It is what it is," he said. "Staff did an excellent job."

He said that on face value, it "doesn't make sense" to pick a bid for \$300,000 over one for \$99,000.

"But it did make sense," he said. "If you watched the oral presentation, it was like night and day. The difference in the one picked is light years over the other one."

Firefighter's objections

"July 14th marked the one-year anniversary of this ugly process we're in," Sanford said.

He said while it was good that officials were starting to look more seriously at different transport methods, "absolutely do not award this bid to Fitch."

Supporters of fire-based transport object to hiring Fitch for several reasons. The first is the firm's history of not recommending fire-based transport.

Jay Fitch, president of Fitch and Associates, said generally his firm did not make recommendations one way or the other, but instead provides needed information so the client can make an informed choice. The firm uses software that allows data to be input to run simulations on a variety of scenarios using the same data to allow officials to compare different factors.

Sanford brought up an implied prior relationship between Fitch and Paramedics Plus, the company that contracts with the county to provide ambulance transport. Paramedics Plus and Fitch have both served as faculty at past Pinnacle EMS Leadership & Management Conferences, he said. He also mentioned that the county had objected to Tri Data due to past work for the St. Petersburg Fire Department.

Sanford questioned the bidding process, saying Hare had given Tri Data the lowest score possible, while giving Fitch and Associates the highest scores. Sanford and Millican prefer The Ludwig Group, but Sanford said Tri Data would be acceptable.

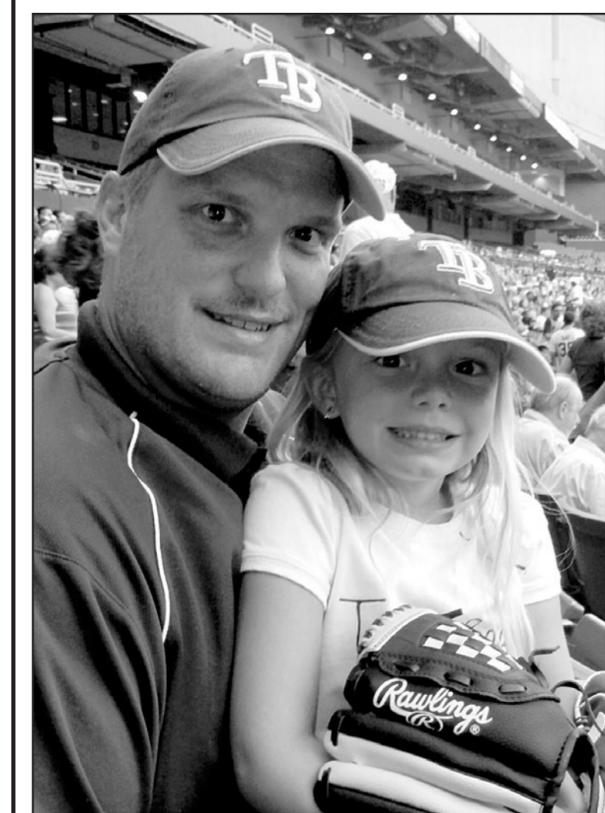


Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

At the game with Dad

Peighton Smith, 6, of Clearwater drew a winning portrait of her father, Mark Smith, in Tampa Bay Newspapers' contest for Father's Day this year, earning her two tickets to a Tampa Bay Rays game. Peighton had been excited about the game for weeks, said her father, who works for the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. For the game against the Seattle Mariners on July 22, she made her own Rays T-shirt, dyed blue streaks in her hair with the help of her mother and had her nails painted blue.

"Staff is driving the process toward Fitch," he said. "If you pick Fitch you're virtually killing the option for fire-based transport. If fire-based won't work, if you pick Tri Data it will come back with the same answer."

Commissioner Susan Latvala asked Sanford what the real problem was behind all the objections.

"Trust," Sanford said.

"It's not trust for us," Latvala replied. "For us it is the budget and cost to provide the service."

Commissioner Karen Seel said if Hare's vote was eliminated from the process, Fitch still came out on top. Welch pointed out that St. Petersburg Mayor Foster and Pinellas Park Fire Chief Doug Lewis had scored Fitch higher.

"Sebesta said it was the best one," Welch said.

Bostock was bogged down in trying to understand the RFP scoring process and questioned staff's numbers. Finally, Latvala made a motion to stop discussion and call the vote. Four of seven commissioners voted in support of Latvala's motion. Then talk moved to how many votes were needed to call the question.

Finally, Welch retracted his vote, allowing the discussion to go forward. Seel's suggestion to take a recess was not approved. Bostock continued to question staff's math.

"I assure you the math on this is right," Lauro said.

Bostock then asked County Attorney Jim Bennett if there was any possibility of a legal problem if the vote went through. Soon after, Brickfield made a motion to table the matter, which was defeated 4-3 with only Bostock and Roche joining Brickfield in the vote to put the decision off to another day.

"I'd like to know how it turned out (bid vote)," Brickfield said. "It goes to all this. I want it to be a clean process."

County administrator takes some heat

The commission took the county administrator to task. Commissioners objected to LaSala's recommendation that Fitch limit its work to the IPS plan due to his opinion "it is the only one that merits being operationalized."

"I'm disappointed that the recommendation only looks toward IPS," Welch said, expressing concern that staff was not following the commission's direction or that of local state legislators.

"I don't like feeling like I'm playing a game of chess with my own staff," Welch said.

The commissioner was adamant that Fitch be contracted to operationalize not only the IPS plan, the firefighter's plan and the current process, but also other scenarios to find the best solution.

Fitch assured the commission that his firm would and could run computer simulations on other alternatives.

"It's a transparent process all can see," Fitch said.

He also said he understood that his "customer" is the board of county commissioners, not staff.

"We'll look at it all objectively," he said. "The goal is to bring people together, looking at multiple ways to do things."

POLICE BEAT, from page 3A

possession of marijuana; failure to appear warrant for sale of marijuana; failure to appear warrant; failure to appear warrant for possession of Oxycodone; sale of marijuana; possession of marijuana and violation of probation

Caldwell is in jail in lieu of \$91,065 bond.

DUI checkpoint nets 17 arrests

LARGO – Seventeen people were arrested on 22 charges July 27-28 at a DUI checkpoint in Largo.

Pinellas County sheriff's deputies and Largo police teamed up for this month's operation, dedicated to Jack Schaffer, who was killed due to the actions of an impaired driver on Dec. 12, 2007. The Largo Police Department's Traffic Homicide Team investigated the crash.

Deputies reported that 822 vehicles passed by with 255 vehicles diverted into the checkpoint set up in the parking lot of Badcock Furniture, 900 Missouri Ave N. Average time was 1 minute, 44 seconds.

Two people were charged with DUI, five for driving with a suspended or revoked driver's license, seven for possession of marijuana, three for possession of paraphernalia, two for violation of probation and three for no valid driver's license.

In addition, 14 vehicles were impounded and 35 citations were issued.

Arrest made in Clearwater woman's murder

LARGO – A Clearwater man was arrested at his place of employment in Largo at about 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 25, on a charge of murder in the first degree and grand theft of a motor vehicle.

Thomas Hampton Frederick, 23, who jail records list as a transient, is accused of murdering Adrienne F. Robert, 29, of unincorporated Clearwater. He is being held without bond in the Pinellas County Jail.

Her male roommate, Jay Laffue, found Robert unresponsive in the bathroom of her apartment, when he came home just after 3:30 a.m., Saturday, July 14.

She was partially clothed – wearing only a bra. She had been stabbed once in the upper left chest.

Homicide detectives backtracked her movements from the night before and determined that she had been out with Laffue, drinking at the bar at Diamond Dolls, an adult establishment located at 16361 U.S. 19 N. The two walked to Diamond Dolls from their shared apartment because they had been drinking earlier at the apartment.

While at Diamond Dolls, they struck up a conversation with a male customer, later identified as Frederick.

Detectives said that Robert and Laffue did not know him prior to the encounter.

Just after 1:30 a.m., Robert decided to walk back home. Video from Diamond Dolls shows her leaving the establishment. The video also shows a black male catching up with her and giving her a black shawl that she had left behind on a chair. The two continue to walk away together on the northbound sidewalk back toward her apartment.

Detectives said there were signs of a struggle on her body and in the apartment. Gualtieri said there was evidence she had been sexually assaulted. A portion of the sheet on her bed had been cut out.

There was no sign of forced entry at the apartment. Her personal car, an orange Jeep was missing

from the apartment complex parking lot. It was found later on July 14 by Largo police officers.

Based upon investigative information, the video, phone records, taxicab company cooperation, and a Field Interview Report from Clearwater Police, Frederick was identified and established as a possible suspect by July 16. However, research showed he had no real criminal record and no DNA evidence of record.

Crime Scene Investigators gathered DNA from the crime scene, and deputies began watching the suspect beginning on July 16. Deputies were then able to obtain other evidence, a cigarette butt, which yielded DNA.

The DNA evidence was sent to the Pinellas County Forensic Lab for evaluation and was returned July 25, establishing Frederick as the murder suspect. Deputies arrested Frederick without incident at his employer, Hit Promotion Products, which is located off Bryan Dairy Road and 114th Avenue in Largo.

Gualtieri said the outcome of this investigation was due to "modern technology and good old-fashioned police work." He said the "horrific violence of this random act" was of great concern to all involved in the case. He credited all agencies and investigators for their hard work and individual contributions.

Police seek help in theft case

LARGO – Police are seeking help to identify the suspect in a store robbery April 20.

The suspect entered the A.S. Food Mart at 1737 Indian Rocks Road and reached into another patron's purse and stole a wallet. Within the wallet were the victim's credit cards and approximately \$900 in cash. The victim tried to stop the suspect; however, the suspect fled in a vehicle. The vehicle was described as a white, four door, older model sedan type vehicle.

The suspect was captured on video. Two clear pictures of the suspect have been posted on the Largo Police Department's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LargoPoliceDepartment

The suspect is described as a black female, about 20-30 years of age. She appears to be between 5 feet, 4 inches to 5 feet, 5 inches in height and 150 to 170 pounds in weight.

Police are asking that anyone who has information related to this incident or to the identity of the suspect in the photos contact Detective Chris Keeler of the police department's Investigative Services Division at 586-7475.

Sheriff schedules volunteer academy

LARGO – The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for the next volunteer patrol and special events programs academy.

The academy is for citizens who want to volunteer to work with deputies in a variety of activities. For more information, call Cpl. Bryan Bingham at 582-6545.

Volunteer Patrol and Special Events applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a citizen of the United States and be a full-time or seasonal Pinellas County resident.
- Be at least 18 years old.
- Have a valid driver's license.
- Successfully complete a volunteer application.
- Pass a Sheriff's Office background investigation.

- Complete a training academy.
- Should be available to volunteer at least 15 hours a month.
- Previous law enforcement experience is not a requirement and uniforms and equipment will be provided by the Sheriff's Office.

"Our volunteers provide an invaluable level of service and support to this agency and our community. We invite those who are interested to apply with us for a very rewarding and important volunteering experience," said Sheriff Bob Gualtieri.

Teen shoots at cops, dies in stranger's apartment

CLEARWATER – A 19-year-old man is dead after shooting at police officers and barricading himself in an apartment on July 25, according to a Clearwater Police Facebook report.

Two Clearwater officers were patrolling the Palmetto Park Apartments at 1001 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. when they saw a possible wanted suspect, the report said. Officers chased him on foot through the apartment complex. During the chase, the suspect, Julius Richard Larrance of Clearwater, brandished a handgun and shot multiple times at the officers. At least one of the officers returned fire, hitting the shooter.

Larrance then entered an apartment where he barricaded himself, the report said. He entered the unlocked apartment through the front door – he did not live in the apartment, nor did he have any connection to the residents, the report said. The resident and his two children were home when Larrance entered the apartment. The resident grabbed his two children and left the apartment through the back door immediately.

Additional officers responded and tried to make

contact with the shooter. Officers took the proper precautions and then entered the apartment, knowing the shooter was still armed, the report said. When it was deemed as safe as possible, officers entered and found the suspect lying on the floor with a handgun near his hand. Paramedics were called and rendered aid, but he was declared dead inside the apartment.

Larrance had an active warrant for a hit and run and was also wanted for questioning in connection to a lewd and lascivious case in Clearwater and a double homicide in Tampa.

The officers involved were Karl Wassamer, 46, hired in October of 1998; and Lauren Josey, 25, who was hired in February of 2012. Officer Wassamer was the one to return fire after the suspect opened fire on them. Wassamer did sustain a minor injury to his foot – what appears to be a bullet fragment. He is okay and was treated and released. He was placed on routine paid administrative leave, as in accordance with department policy, as the investigation is under way.

Burglar caught by K9

CLEARWATER – Clearwater Police received a call about broken glass at the Quick Check Food Mart on N. Fort Harrison Avenue on July 24, according to a police Facebook report. Officers responded and set up a perimeter, but when the suspect tried to flee, he was challenged by K9 Major.

Police quickly arrested John Wesley Clark, 27, of Clearwater. Stolen items – money, cigarettes and incense – were returned to the store.

Clark is charged with petit theft of less than \$100, open container, and burglary of an unoccupied structure. He is being held at the Pinellas County Jail in lieu of \$5,200 bail.

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Neighborhood primates

Residents, city clash over gibbon's cages and noises

By JULIANA A. TORRES

PINELLAS PARK – Some of the Pinellas Park residents who live on or near 63rd Terrace aren't happy with their furry neighbors.

Their dispute is with a pair of white-handed gibbons, a type of primate classified as a "lesser ape," who live in cages built close to and taller than a 6-foot picket fence that divides their backyard with the neighbor who lives behind them. Most of the time, the primates are quiet and keep to themselves. But sometimes one of the gibbons will sing, making a high-pitched sound that on one occasion was determined by a Pinellas County judge to be "loud and raucous noise," punishable by a \$188 fine.

"It's very irritating," said Jim Sullivan who lives with his wife Paula two houses down from the gibbons.

The Sullivans are among sever-

al neighbors who have complained to Pinellas Park officials or the police about the noise, as early as 2005. In March of this year, the city's neighborhood services division began pursuing action against the owner of the animals, Kim Wysong. Gibbons are "Class I" animals, so listed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation, or FWC, because they pose a "significant danger to people," according to the organization's website. Such animals aren't allowed in the residential zoning where they're living in, per city ordinances.

However, Wysong has had a state license to possess the wildlife "for exhibition or public sale" since Oct. 5, 2000, according to city documentation. The FWC license so far has prevailed in allowing Wysong to keep the gibbons at her home on 63rd Terrace.

"The city found out from the state of Florida that we had no jurisdiction," said Susan Walker, city neighborhood services administrator. "The city later received notice that (the city) could not prevent her from having them. The city also could not cite her for any code violation that specifically addressed state-licensed animals."

The city officials have decided that they can regulate the cages set up in Wysong's backyard. After not pursuing a multi-pronged "order to comply" issued in April, the city issued a new order through its building division on July 24. This time, the order only lists Wysong's lack of a permit for the cages as a violation of city code.

"It's just not right to be hounded like this," Wysong said in response to the new order.

Wysong said she is the victim of a targeted campaign against her and the gibbons, incited by only a handful of her neighbors.

"They're bullies," she said. "I feel they are harassing and stalking me, my son and my animals."

Wysong said she has tried to be respectful of her neighbors, telling them to call her immediately if the gibbons disturb them. She said that either she or her

son are always home and will try to calm and distract the primates if they get too loud.

"I don't want my animals making noise. I don't want my neighbors unhappy," she said.

She would not confirm the total number of primates she owns, but did say that a male gibbon named Dean was the only culprit in creating loud noises. Those noises last "not even nine to 10 minutes, 15 minutes tops" and are occasional and "not constant," Wysong said. The primates sleep at night, and usually make noise only between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., she said.

Gibbons, an endangered species, are small primates, only between 10 and 20 pounds.

"They look larger because they have a lot of fur," she said.

Wysong said she thinks the FWC licensing process is justifiably extensive, involved and perfectly adequate without the city's input.

The city's neighborhood services began investigating the complaints against Wysong in March. Paula Sullivan had called the city to complain about noise from the monkeys on March 21, explaining that she no longer had a valid phone number to call Wysong directly. The next day, from the backyard of a neighbor, community compliance specialist Heather Larrison took photos of the three cages in Wysong's backyard. She saw three primates while she was there and reported hearing the noise, "which did cause quite a disturbance," she wrote in her report.

Around April 1, the city ordered Wysong to comply with six listed ordinances: building permits, the city's definition of domestic animals, the unlawful possession of certain animals, animals creating a nuisance, unlawful disturbances and the loud and raucous noise. It required compliance by April 30.

In her investigation, Larrison confirmed with the FWC that Wysong has a non-expired permit for two gibbons as well as a capuchin monkey, a Class III animal requiring a permit. According to city records, she asked FWC officials for documentation on the permits. In an April 23 letter, City Attorney James Denhardt explained to city officials that a FWC representative could not find some of the documentation usually included in the application for such a permit. The FWC's file for Wysong did not include documentation on local zoning or building approval, and the office did not know whether the files were not submitted, misfiled or



Photo courtesy of the CITY OF PINELLAS PARK

Neighbors have complained about periodic loud noises from the gibbons living in the backyard of Pinellas Park resident Kim Wysong, who has a state permit to keep the primates.

lost, the letter stated.

The Sullivans were not the only neighbors to complain about the gibbons, according to city records. Jondalar Rhoads, living down the street on 64th Avenue, complained to police about the noise on April 3, and Patricia Zolciak, the neighbor directly behind Wysong, called police on April 9.

Zolciak told Pinellas Park Officer Matthew Hevel that the animals were making a "constant howling noise on a daily basis" so loud "it sounds like they're in my living room," according to the resulting police report.

"Because the noise (is) so constant, I have to get into my car and leave my house to get away from it," Zolciak said, according to Hevel.

Hevel reported that the animals were making noise for more than 30 minutes while he was at the residence. He issued Wysong a citation, charging her for an animal creating a nuisance.

On April 10, Larrison visited another neighbor, Joy Hawblitzel, who lives two blocks from Wysong. Hawblitzel told Larrison that she also has had to drive away from the noise, or turn up her music louder to drown it out. The noise has been an issue as far back as April 2008, she said, explaining that she called the city to complain about it a few years ago.

Wysong explained that recently she has been away from her home, attending to family matters as two of her sisters battled fatal

cancer diagnoses. She said she was in Largo at her dying sister's side when she received one of the calls from a Pinellas Park police officer, demanding she come home to attend to the noises her animals were making.

In response to the citation charge against her, Wysong pleaded not guilty on May 17 and requested a trial. She said many of her neighbors, including the two who live on either side of her, are fine with the gibbons. In fact, in preparation for the trial, she gathered letters from her neighborhood supporters. Jan Johnson, Tom Hahmann and Oliver Collins all attested in writing that the "monkeys" did not bother them, explaining that the noises occurred during the day and were not constant or irritating.

"Never in the entire time that these lovely little monkeys have been there would it have ever occurred to me that the VERY infrequent singing of these animals ... could ever be described as disruptive or in any way a constant nuisance," wrote another neighbor, Stacy Stephens.

Andrea Herman, a resident of the area since 1977, described a trend that Wysong also pointed out. Herman writes that some of their neighbors "have a long history of making frivolous complaints."

"... (T)hey tend to try to bully these neighbors, utilizing the police department and code enforcement officials to harass the neighbors until they finally give in or move away," she wrote.

Many of Wysong's supporters were not able to attend the trial on June 21, and the judge did not let her submit their letters as testimony, Wysong said. One next-door neighbor did testify that the gibbons didn't bother

him, Jim Sullivan explained.

"He's not retired and home like I am. He may be there five to six hours (a day)," Sullivan later pointed out.

Given the state's preemption in the regulation of the animals, the city amended its court case to include a "loud and raucous noise" violation, Walker said. The judge did find Wysong guilty of the loud violation at the time it was cited, in a similar manner to the way a speeding ticket is judged. The verdict did not require Wysong to make any changes to the gibbons' living situation.

The city held off on further action while it researched their case against Wysong in regards to the lack of permitting for the cages, Walker explained. Meanwhile, Jim Sullivan brought his complaints to Pinellas Park council during their July 12 public meeting.

"I feel that they listened to me," he said the following week. "I'm sure that they're doing what they can do."

Since receiving the city's latest order to comply, this time in regards to the cages instead of the noise, Wysong said she's convinced the opposition against her is unwilling to compromise.

"There's just no pleasing them," she said. "They want to bully me into having to get rid of my animals. Unfortunately, I can't just get rid of them. I owe them more than that."

She said the gibbons will eventually go somewhere else for socialization, not that it's any of her neighbors' business.

"I've had a plan for them for a long time, and I'm going to stick with that," she said. "I have to focus on what's best for them."

She doesn't intend to give up her FWC license.

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Descendants of pioneer family recall the birth of Pinellas

By LESTER R. DAILEY

CLEARWATER - With its budget already stretched nearly to the breaking point, Pinellas County would be hard-pressed to throw itself an extravagant centennial party. But sisters Shirley Moravec and Joan Bates, granddaughters of Pinellas pioneer S.S. Coachman, want all Pinellas residents to remember that this year marks our county's 100th anniversary of independence from Hillsborough County.

When Hillsborough County was chartered, in 1834, it was much larger than it is today, and the Pinellas Peninsula was unofficially known as West Hillsborough. Almost from the start, there were West Hillsborough residents who wanted to secede from Hillsborough. After all, it was a two-day buggy ride from southern Pinellas to the county seat in Tampa. To add insult to injury, West Hillsborough residents paid a disproportionate share of county taxes but were shortchanged when it came to such county amenities as roads and schools.

"The taxes went to Tampa and never made their way back," Bates said.

In 1906, to appease the growing number of secessionists in West Hillsborough, the county built a shell road from Tampa to Ozone, but that was of little use to the residents at the southern end of the peninsula. To appease them, the county built a bridge from mid-peninsula to the barrier islands. But that plan backfired when the flimsy bridge collapsed under the weight of a farm wagon and was never rebuilt.

The secession movement prevailed and, on May 23, 1911, Gov. Albert Gilchrist signed a

proclamation allowing West Hillsborough to become Pinellas County. On November 14, 1911, residents voted nearly 3 to 1 in favor of independence, which became official on January 1, 1912.

When a new county is created, its most populous city usually becomes the county seat. In Pinellas County that would have been St. Petersburg. But because Clearwater is more centrally located, St. Petersburg allowed it to become the temporary county seat until a proper courthouse could be constructed in St. Pe-

The making of Pinellas Centennial stories

tersburg.

But Clearwater residents figured that, if they could build a courthouse before St. Petersburg did, Clearwater would remain the county seat for at least another 20 years. They entered into a contract for a courthouse to be built in 30 days, where Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church now stands, at a cost of \$3,750. S.S. Coachman and his brother, E. Horace Coachman, would supply the lumber from a site near Henry Plant's hotel, which is now called the Bellevue Biltmore.

St. Petersburg residents were furious and tried to stop the construction. They swore out an injunction and tried to have it served on S.S. Coachman, but Coachman heard that a process server was looking for him.

"He got into a rowboat and rowed out into the Gulf, out of sight and out of reach," Moravec said.

When legal methods failed to stop the construction, St. Petersburg residents began to consider illegal actions. But when word that a drunken mob from St. Petersburg might be coming to burn down the unfinished courthouse reached Clearwater, the men of Clearwater got their hunting rifles and took turns guarding the construction site.

"They started building around the clock," Moravec said. "The women made coffee and sandwiches for the workers, and the courthouse that was supposed to take 30 days was completed in 10 days."

A century later, Clearwater is still the Pinellas County seat. S.S. Coachman, a successful Clearwater merchant, was elected the first chairman of the new County Commission. The five-story Coachman Building that he built in downtown Clearwater still stands and its elevator operator, Joseph Hatchett, became one of Florida's first black lawyers and later served as a justice of the Florida Supreme Court.

The downtown land where Coachman Park is now located belonged to E. Horace Coachman, whose house, Bay Hall, stood where Clearwater's main library now stands, and the cedar tree he planted can still be seen. He said that he couldn't afford to donate the land to the city, but would sell it at a bargain price.

When city officials said they couldn't afford even the bargain price, he opined that they would have a good chance of getting a loan from either the Bank of Clearwater or the First National Bank. He didn't mention that he served on the board of directors of both banks.



Photo by LESTER R. DAILEY

Shirley Moravec, left, and Joan Bates, granddaughters of Pinellas pioneer S.S. Coachman, examine a copy of the proclamation that created Pinellas County in 1912.

In 2000, the late S.S. Coachman was honored as one of 100 influential Floridians. The circa 1850 log cabin that he and his wife, Jessie, bought from the pio-

neer McMullen family in 1901 can still be seen at Heritage Village, the county's 21-acre historical museum in Largo.

this story came from Shirley Moravec and Joan Bates and was confirmed through different written historical accounts of Pinellas County.

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LETTERS

Fire engines and U.S. flags

Editor:

Old Glory and firefighting are synonymous. Has one ever witnessed a fire engine at a Memorial Day parade with the bell and siren sounding? Beautiful sound. Don't you agree?

Even more so, the fire engine needs a flag hung on it to further promote the holiday and bolster the sense and pride of being an American, on a day whereby all Americans remember the hardship of military conflict. Mine was Korea.

I admire the effort of those in the Seminole Fire Department for displaying Old Glory on their apparatus. I too did this for over 27 years as a paid captain in North Jersey. This day was special and the flag was so important for the citizens to see while the parade was moving. Thanks for doing this for everyone.

I call it lack of communication, when I read and watched on TV, the problem that was blown up because preplanning was not standard operating procedure. The elected officials of Seminole took it on the chin for something that was not their fault. The fire service is well aware of the term, (preplanning) and this was the reason for the problem. No one gave orders to fly the flag off the right fender of the vehicle. This is the proper place to hang a flag. On the side or rear is discourteous and the left fender causes problems for the chauffeur to see oncoming traffic.

I was glad to see and hear that Leslie Waters, vice mayor of Seminole, had an important part in calming this situation down where everyone on both sides ended up in a harmonious, patriotic mood befitting the meaning of Memorial Day.

God bless our firefighters, our country and the city of Seminole. Each one is so important to the others. All three are needed if we are to remain safe here in the jewel of south Florida ... Seminole.

Say a prayer for the 343 who did not come out of the collapsed towers in NYC.

Art Sholty
Seminole

Wake up, lady Republicans

Re: "Power gets what power wants," by Mary Jo Melon, July 26

Editor:

No, no and no, Mary Jo. No more will women and girls "be forced off the sidewalk for someone who holds us in foul contempt." No more, when the Equal Rights Amendment passes, making all sex discrimination a violation of the U.S. Constitution. And it will pass because the USA must quickly drop its current cruel, dismissal of American females, blacks, and others they've assigned to second-class.

USA will be forced to change, as it grows, aware that this stuff just doesn't "sell" overseas. Every nation since WW II already has ERA wording. Some found it boosted their gross domestic product by 9 percent. The United States will have to change from its Republican image of "we'll do what we want to you, and let the devil take the hindmost."

Accountability? Both political parties share the blame for that image, but it's Republicans who continue to treat us 99 percenters and the 52 percent of the 99 percent who are women, badly, at 72 percent of a man's wage - same job and same credentials or better!

Republicans are most of the ones shutting an eye to the massive numbers of male military rapes of their female comrades: lying to cover them up. And the medical rapes now required by GOP legislation requiring all manner of involuntary vaginal invasions by transvaginal probes, purposeless except to stall pregnancy terminations guaranteed by the Supreme Court.

Did you know Republicans filed 916 bills in just three months, closing shelters for rape crisis and domestic violence; closed Head Start. Worse: In 2012, Republicans voted down the vaunted Paycheck Fairness Act that would have equalized male and female salaries. They did this again, just as in every other prior year! Maybe they don't need "the woman's vote" because they've already bought the elections; just wondering.

Why do Republicans pretend these are not indisputable facts? Wake up, lady Republicans. Don't they realize there's a price they'll pay in November? These and other cruel Republican realities are fostering a desertion by women from the GOP. In fact, why are you still playing patsy with them, shooting yourself and your daughters (and your sons) in the foot? Facts still matter.

Fact-informed women are enraged. Hundreds of thousands of women and men are determinedly making their way to the U.S. capitol on Aug. 18 where the free WeAreWoman.us Rally will explode with voices too loud to ignore. Up for a women's freewheeling speakout? I'll be the loudest one.

Every day now, women's roars grow stronger, bolder. If you don't hear their chorus and resonate with them, then you are reading and watching the impotent main media! Republicans (and some Dems voting with those trolls, male and female), deserve their misbegotten candidates - smug and cruel. Better wake up. The women's revolution has begun.

Sandy Oestreich
North Redington Beach

A perspective regarding the Biltmore hotel property

Editor:

A few weeks ago, some residents of Belleair and the surrounding community received an email from a former town official urging them to oppose the restoration of the town's distinctive historical landmark, the beloved Belleview Biltmore Hotel.

The writer cited the request by the developers of the restoration project for tax abatement under the town's historical preservation ordinance and the town's need for additional capital to upgrade its infrastructure as the principal reasons for making his request. He indicated the hotel would pay no taxes for 10 years - which is not true - and declined to mention that beginning the eleventh year, property taxes from the hotel would increase dramatically, generating more than twice as much annually than any other authorized use on that property.

His comments sound shortsighted to me and destructive of the very reason that many of us chose to purchase property in Belleair. We must remember that the hotel was here long before most of the rest of the town.

For the past 16 months, I have been a member of an ad hoc committee of approximately a dozen residents of Belleair, representing a cross-section of the town, that has met at least once a month for the purpose of objectively evaluating the various options that could be considered by the owners of the 23-acre parcel upon which the hotel sits. Suggestions have ranged from parkland to single-family residences to townhomes to condominiums to a museum, to an appropriate restoration of the unique, all wooden historical structure. Someone even suggested an indoor shopping mall. The owners themselves developed an attractive site plan for townhomes, but abandoned the idea because they didn't believe it to be economically feasible.

The parkland idea was not seriously considered because it required ownership by the town, which would then incur new maintenance costs, and would totally remove a 23-acre parcel from the property tax duplicate. Development as residential property appeared doubtful because of the depressed state of the market and the land costs - totaling somewhere between \$10 million to \$12 million dollars - that would push the necessary selling price of single family homes or townhomes to a level above what the market would bear.

Condominium towers might be economically feasible - if the units sold - but would put further pressure on already depressed unit values within the RPD. Does it really make sense to add additional housing units to an already severely depressed market?

In addition, to the best of our knowledge, no one had approached the owners with a site plan and purchase offer - including the necessary financing to close a deal - until the Biltmore partners asked to enter into an agreement for an option to buy. An agreement was reached and the option, which expires at the end of September, was granted.

In the committee's opinion, the full restoration of the hotel, as proposed by the Biltmore partners, and its projected future expansion, represent, in the long run, the best opportunity to maximize revenues to the town through water and electrical fees and, once the abatement expires, huge increases in ad valorem property taxes, far more than any other suggested use. In addition, Pinellas County would begin to benefit immediately from sales and bed taxes generated by the economic engine of an elegant, dynamic restored Belleview Biltmore.

And, of course, what many have always considered to be the soul of the town would be brought back to life, providing fine dining, remarkable venues for meetings and social events, and an historic destination site for conventions, seminars and conferences, stunning architecture and fun for the family.

Some who oppose the Hotel - even though they have not offered an

Bok choy, tofu and other mystery foods



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

In another attempt at waistline reduction I'm following the dictates of "Eat to Live" expert Dr. Joel Fuhrman. He is big on fresh fruits and vegetables, some of which I've barely heard of. I did some research on various Fuhrman-recommended foods, and between the real-life sources and my own imagination, here's what I came up with.

BOK CHOY. This is Chinese cabbage. The words mean "white vegetable." Bok choy comes in different forms. I asked the produce guy at my store to show me bok choy, and he abruptly assumed a karate stance and muttered words that sounded like "Fu mwang titsu!" I later learned that "bok choy" is a secret password for an international undercover society aimed at flushing out people who mistakenly believe all Asians have three kidneys. The produce guy later apologized, and gave me his favorite bok choy recipe, which is flavored with lichi nuts.

HUMMUS. When I was a child, we had no hummus. I've tried to blame my personal deficiencies on a hummus-deprived upbringing, but no one listens. By the time I reached 40, hummus was sweeping the USA, thanks mostly to political and military developments in the Mideast, which I would explain if anyone cared, which is unlikely. Hummus is an Arab word meaning "chickpeas." That's exactly what hummus is - cooked and mashed chickpeas, mixed with tahini. And what is tahini, you may ask. It is ground-up sesame seeds. Hummus can be served in many ways, but I usually see it as a dip at cocktail parties, Syrian-Lebanese folk festivals and U.N. wrestling matches. Hummus is beloved by Jews and Arabs alike, and has been suggested as a common ground on which enduring Mideast peace can be built. "That idea is a crock of hummus," according to Secretary of

State Hillary Clinton.

ARUGULA. The word "arugula" is Italian and means "the gurgling sound an old man in Tuscany makes when sampling Chianti wine." Arugula is a spicy herb that is usually mixed with milder salad ingredients. It was popular in Italy and France for many years, but came to the USA in the 1990s. Other names for arugula are rugola, garden rocket, Roman rocket and Trastevere spinach. From the first century onward, arugula seeds have been used as a component in aphrodisiacs. So if your wife suddenly starts feeding you lots of arugula, you're either in trouble or in luck.

SHITAKE. If you're wandering the produce section and spy a collection of dark brown splotches you'd rather not look at, let alone eat, you're probably viewing a display of shitake mushrooms. Don't be deterred - these babies taste great. They have a chewy, meaty flavor that can make you think of that long-ago weekend in Yokosuka when an off-duty chef named Kitty-san took you home and showed you flavors and favors you never dreamed existed. In Japanese, "shii" means "from a hardwood tree" and "take" means "mushroom." These mushrooms grow on oak logs and seldom touch dirt, so a light washing is usually the only preparation you need before tossing them into a sauté pan.

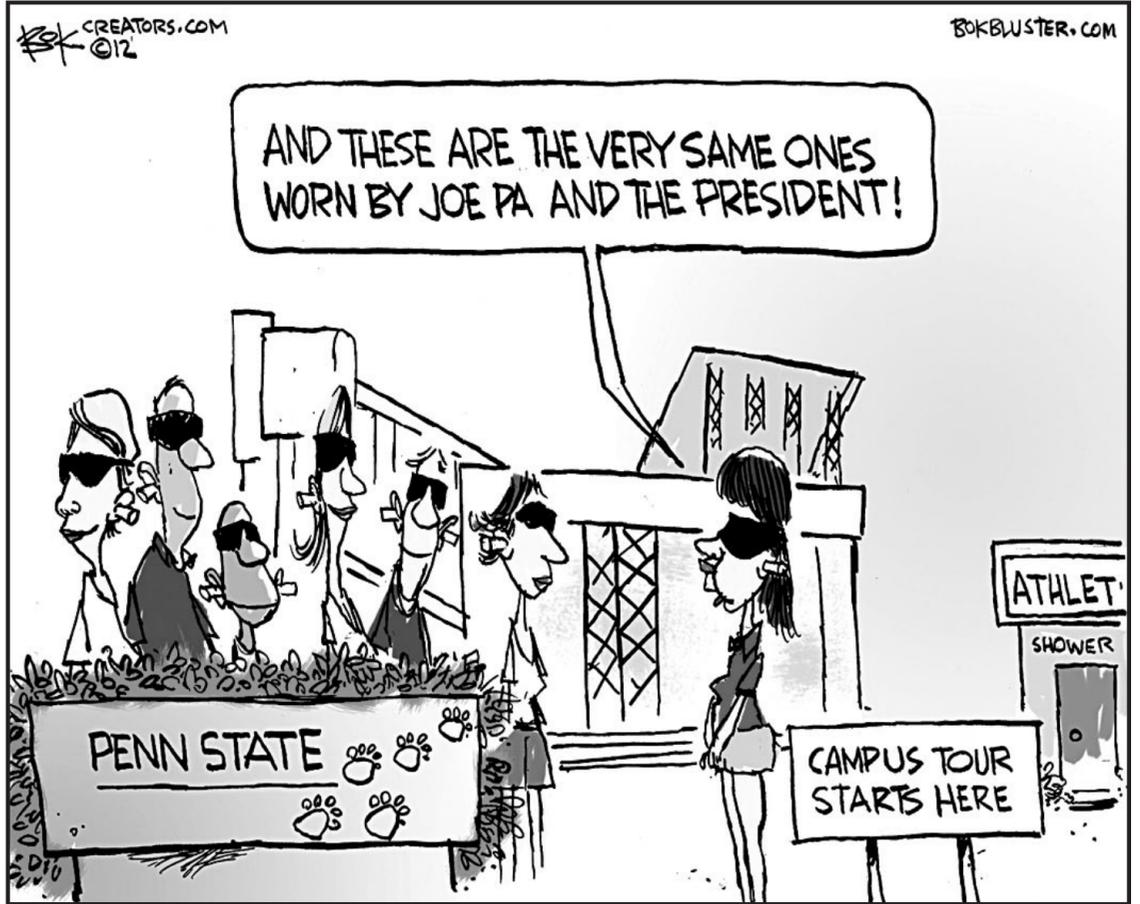
TOFU. Like so many other nutritious

foods, tofu is made from soybeans, water and a coagulant. (If someone showed you a bowlful of soybeans, would you recognize the stuff? I wouldn't. But the diet books and cookbooks are full of soy and soybeans and their spinoffs. For several years there was a tofu festival in Los Angeles, until it got so big they had to disband it for lack of room.) Tofu originated in ancient China. (Didn't any foods ever originate in Pittsburgh, or Duluth?) East Asian Buddhists love tofu, as do most vegans. Tofu comes in soft or regular varieties. So now you know.

FLAXSEED. If you're not already using flaxseed in your diet, you'd better buy some before the supply runs out. A flaxseed boom has taken place in the past few years because of reports that it can protect us from heart disease, diabetes, cancer and terminal conceptions. Flaxseed contains omega-3 fatty acids and lignans (estrogen and antioxidants). The emperor Charlemagne required his subjects to consume flaxseed, which comes in both brown and gold. Besides providing seeds, flax is used to produce linen. Archaeologists tell us flax was grown in 30,000 B.C., both in Babylon and in the vacant lots of East St. Louis, Mo.

CILANTRO. Here's another flavoring agent from ancient China that can be used to spice up your salads with its pungent odor and taste. Cilantro is a member of the carrot family. It's nicknamed Chinese parsley and is actually just coriander, which has long been used as an ingredient of gin. Some psychologists believe that persons who drink gin while ingesting coriander later become disciples of Benny Hinn, and are known as gin Hinners.

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



alternative - want you to question the economic viability of the project. Suffice it to say, the partners and their lenders are willing to assume that risk as evidenced by their investment of both time and money, and that the most highly respected consulting firm in the domestic hotel business has thoroughly studied the project and concluded it can be successful.

We urge you to keep these things in mind as the issues of tax abatement and restoration of the hotel come before the Town Commission in the coming weeks.

Jim Betts
Belleair

Obey the laws of Florida

Re: "Voters should have their say", editorial, July 24

Editor:

The title of this editorial is exactly correct and no thinking person would disagree.

While the editorial makes several valid points relative to every newly elected office holder anywhere in the country - there's no doubt that they all face a learning curve, which has always been the case.

However, Pinellas County faces a different and unique set of challenges that must be addressed. The facts relative to those challenges are clear based on the voters having had their say in 1996 when they passed the "Eight is Enough" charter amendment by more than 72 percent of the voters. While that amendment became part of the charter in 1997 it was challenged in court and the Pinellas County Commission has ignored the amendment ever since.

The Supreme Court in 2002 took up the challenge and made a decision that was completely misread by the Commission. As a result, the

commission has ignored the legally passed and adopted 1996 charter amendment.

On May 12, 2012, this year, the current Supreme Court "receded" from that earlier decision and declared that term limits enacted by county charters are constitutional based on the "home rule" provisions of the Florida Constitution. That decision applies to all 67 Florida counties, including Pinellas County.

Unfortunately, the majority of our county commission has chosen to ignore the Supreme Court's decision, which resulted in a lawsuit filed by residents of the county and is in the courts today.

The question we face today is whether four commissioners have the right to ignore a Supreme Court decision and effectively suppress the voter's overwhelming approval of the "Eight is Enough" Charter Amendment passed in 1996.

Our system is based on the rule of law, not the rule of men. Unfortunately, four members of the commission seem to think that they are above the law and, based on their conduct, have chosen to ignore and defy the Florida Supreme Court for their own personal benefit.

Current Pinellas County Commissioners are paid between \$87,000 and \$99,000 a year, including benefits and "perks," which they are clearly determined to protect, despite the court's decision, which is now the law in Florida. That compensation is well in excess of what most county residents enjoy, particularly with respect to those of us who are retired.

While we may debate and discuss the "need" for term limits in Florida, nevertheless we are all required to obey the laws in Florida, including the 1996 charter amendment as it was passed and became effective in January 1997, more than 15 years ago.

Dan Calabria
South Pasadena

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. E-mails should include town of residence and telephone and be sent to tgermond@TBNweekly.com. We will not print the letter writer's phone number.

Here are some more guidelines for letters:
• Letters are printed on a first-come, first-

served basis. They may be edited to correct grammar, spelling and factual errors. They also may be edited for clarity.

• Please keep letters to editor to 500 words. Longer letters may be cut due to space limitations.

• Letters should address issues or current events. Please refrain from making unsubstantiated allegations. The newspaper will not print letters that contain slanderous or racial

statements.

- Please do not use profanity.
- We do not publish poetry or songs in letters to the editor.
- Each writer may submit one letter per month.
- We can't return letters to the editor.
- Please allow two weeks from the time you submitted your letter for it to be published before inquiring as to its status.

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General Editorial
editorial@tbnweekly.com
Circulation: L. Shifflett
Phone: 727-397-5563
CPF PaperChain CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

The dolphin dance of shadow, light

Life never tires of the yin-yang of existence. The traditional black-and-white Taoist symbol of the bright sun (yang) intertwined with the shadowy moon (yin) represents the idea that polar forces work not in opposition but in complement: Good cheer balances grouching like light informs shadow. One cannot exist without the other.

The other day at sea was a case in point. Even the sky got into the act. Clouds rose out of the horizon like puffy white fingers until we seemed to be cupped in a giant celestial hand. Misty fingertips budded off and ascended, casting shadows across otherwise sunny seas. Six dolphins darted willy-nilly among the shadows, having breakfast on fish shuffled along the flood current flowing several feet below the surface.

LA Stick and the tiny calf she bore during tropical storm Debby stayed clear of the other four dolphins. As a local dolphin, LA Stick is familiar with the undersea architecture of John's Pass. Moving back and forth across its deep bowl, she hunted along a broad oblong path that stretched east west. This is a common pattern among local dolphins, but today it also helped her skirt the

problems of the other dolphin mother.

The other mother, Keyhole Notch, is a seasonal visitor to our local waters. This year she came to John's Pass to have her baby, as in other years (Dolphin Watch's Time for the girls of the Gull). Forming a complementary cross to LA Stick's course of travel, she searched a narrow north-south path.

At least she tried to. Two things distracted her from her hunt. Primary were the clumsy strokes of her tiny shiny newborn, to which she conceded her normally smooth stride by orchestrating her momentum in concert with the baby's faltering efforts. But to keep the helpless newborn tucked safely at her side, she had to keep moving, particularly because of the other distraction: the need to dodge continually the two remaining dolphins roving literally and figuratively among the patches of dark and light.

Strangers to these parts, Hoffman and its shadowy companion seemed more interested in the dark pursuit of Keyhole Notch and her newborn than hunting. She'd vanish beneath the brine in the business of breakfast. Yards from her vanishing point, some unseen force would shove an eruption of water to the surface.



Dolphin Watch
Ann Weaver

Keyhole Notch would scurry out of the froth with the spectral silhouette of Hoffman on her heels, who alternated hunting with threatening her with subsurface sideswipes or explosive blasts of bubbles.

Capt. John Heidemann and I don't yet know if Hoffman is a bull. But it acted like a bull peevishly trying to vent unspent rites of spring on an unlikely but easy target: a mom dolphin with a tiny shiny new baby.

Such rogue behavior may seem understandable considering that few, if any, of the females in our local waters have been available for dating this season. Regardless of the ratio of bulls to available babes, however, rogue behavior is rare among our local dolphins. Capt. Heidemann and I have spent thousands of hours observing the 47 bottlenose dolphin bulls identified to date and 75 calves born to date. We've seen only five testy episodes, which includes Hoffman's rather villainous morning. Bull belligerence toward moms or their calves tends to be

short-lived and, brightly, of no apparent harm to the newborn that we've seen.

Local bulls are more likely to react to newborns in other ways. They can be tender, as when big gorgeous Schnoz swam with Split and her clumsy newborn Seville without a whiff of aggression. They can be companionable, like the times this spring when Bowery Boys BB and DD2 swam sleepily with Face and her baby, or a little mischievous, as when N poked Valiant's newborn Vice lightly in embryonic play some years ago.

Our survey started on the dark side but ended on the bright side with a splashy rendition of an infamous dolphin bait-and-switch. The switch illustrated yet another way bulls can act toward babes with babies. We were heading across a wide bay. Perchance, I glanced behind me in time to see local bull DD2 springing off the transom, asking to surf. Being a boring research boat, we slowed instead of accelerated. DD2 returned to his buddy BB and slid into the hypnotic cadence of snooze swimming.

By and by, a boat passed going at speed. The boys sprinted over and vanished into its wake. Capt. Heidemann paced the boat so that I could snap pictures to iden-



Photo by ANN WEAVER

Local dolphin mother J surfs the wake of a speeding motorboat with her 2-month-old calf, which illustrates the bottlenose dolphins' marvelous adaptations to the aquatic environment.

tify the surfing dolphins when they leapt to breathe.

My obsessive collection of dolphin photo-identification pictures was cheerfully vindicated because it revealed a bait-and-switch! Though big bulls BB and DD2 had vanished into the wake of the speeding boat, it was petite mom J with her 2-month-old baby who leapt out of the wake to breathe!

Do you think bulls BB and DD2 were being polite?

Dr. Weaver studies wild dolphins under federal permit 16299, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Send her an email at dazzled@tampabay.rr.com or visit her website www.dolphin.superstore.com. Read her award-winning Dolphin Watch column weekly at 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.

Be on the lookout for schools of mangrove snapper

Last week's slow moving tides and mid-week onshore wind flow left anglers few options for targeting fish both inshore and offshore.

However, by the weekend we were able to enjoy some of the most beautiful weather we've had all summer. Light winds and little to no rain made for perfect conditions in the Gulf.

There's no question that often the best late summer fishing occurs in the cooler deeper waters of the near-shore Gulf, especially on the quarter moon phases when there isn't much tidal

movement, making for slow fishing conditions for snook, trout and reds.

Mangrove snapper bunch up in massive schools on the late summer full moons for a spawn. Schools of mangrove snapper ranging in size from one to four pounds can be found on artificial structures from inside Tampa Bay, the Skyway Bridge and surrounding structure found along the shipping channel as well as many areas in the near-shore Gulf waters, including much of the pipeline and deeper artificial reefs in the 30- to 50-foot range.



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

Perhaps the mangrove snapper's biggest asset to anglers is their ability to be chummed up. Frozen chum blocks make up the first step while fresh-scaled sardines and threadfins can be cut up and used for both added chum and bait. The key to fooling the larger mangos is to down size your tackle including hook,

weights and leader. Once the snapper are chummed up, make your offering appear to be one of the cut pieces of chum in every aspect, including size and rate of fall, and you're sure to get bit.

Gag grouper fishing remains good in the 40- to 50-foot depths. Targeting ledges and rock piles with live pinfish and frozen sardines will put you in the game. The bite last weekend wasn't quite as strong as it's been so we opted to start with frozen sardines in order to get the fish more active and to draw them in with the scent. Once the gags

started biting the sardines we switched to big pinfish and quickly secured a nice limit of fish.

Until next week - get bent!
Tyson Wallerstein can be reached at capt.tyson@hotmail.com

.com. To get a fish photo in the paper, send the photo along with your name, when and where it was caught to editorial@TBNweekly.com or mail it to Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772.

Briefs

Triathlon planned for Aug. 4

LARGO - The Bardmoor YMCA Youth and Adult sprint triathlon will be held Saturday, Aug. 4, 7 a.m. to noon, at the Bardmoor Golf and Tennis Club, 8001 Cumberland Road.

All proceeds from the triathlon will benefit the YMCA People Helping People Assistance Program and the Livestrong Cancer Survivor Program at the Bardmoor branch.

Ages 13 and over will start at 7 a.m.; ages 5 to 7 will start at 8 a.m. and ages 8 to 12 will start at 9 a.m. The fee is \$25 for participants who register by Aug. 3. Call 394-9622.

Kids can play golf for \$5

LARGO - The Largo Golf Course is offering youth ages 17 and younger the opportunity to play golf this summer for \$5.

Youths 17 and younger can beat the summer boredom blues by walking 18 holes at Largo Golf Course any day of the week after 11 a.m., a city news release said.

Children 10 and younger must be accompanied by an adult throughout the round. Nonplaying adults can walk with their child for free or choose to rent a cart for a small fee. Largo Golf Course is located at 12500 Vonn Road. Call 518-3024.

Golf tournament benefits youth ranches

LARGO - Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri's charity golf tournament is scheduled on Monday, Sept. 24, at the Belleair County Club. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. with tee time for the shotgun start at 8:30 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. For more information, call Capt. Michael Castine at 464-6321 or Josephine Mattson at 582-6204.

UPARC plans golf tourney

BELLEAIR - The UPARC Foundation plans its 12th annual Christine Bond Memorial Golf Classic Thursday, Oct. 18, noon, at Belleair Country Club.

The format is a scramble with putting contests, a hole-in-one challenge and other opportunities to win prizes.

For more information, call 797-8712.

Shooting Stars soccer signups set

SEMINOLE - The Seminole Shooting Stars soccer program is regis-

tering players for its fall-winter season.

Registration is Wednesday, Aug. 15, 6 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 25, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Wednesday, Aug. 29, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th St. N.

Players ages 4 to 18 are eligible. Returning players can register Saturday, Aug. 11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The fees are under-6, \$100; and under-8 to under-19, \$110 (\$10 sibling discount).

Practice will start the week of Oct. 1. Games begin Nov. 3 and run until February.

A birth certificate is required to register new players. Non-Seminole residents must show a valid Seminole Recreation membership card.

To download forms and more information, visit www.SeminoleShootingStars.com.

For more information, email SeminoleShootingStars@gmail.com.

Crime Stoppers golf event set

GULFPORT - Crime Stoppers of Pinellas County plans its 11th annual Crime Stoppers Classic Golf Tournament Friday, Oct. 12, at Pasadena Yacht and Country Club, 6300 Pasadena Point Blvd.

Registration starts at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Awards, dinner and drawings will follow the tournament at 5 p.m.

The cost is \$100 per player before Aug. 1 and \$125 per player after that date. The event features lunch, a putting contest and hole-in-one challenge, followed by prize drawings, a silent auction, awards and a barbecue dinner in the clubhouse.

For more information on registration or sponsorships, go to www.crimestoppersgolf.com.

Since 2001, Crime Stoppers of Pinellas County, Inc. has been a non-profit organization that partners with our citizens, the media and law enforcement to help solve and prevent crime in our community. Its anonymous tip line can be reached by calling 1-800-873-TIPS.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office employs and houses the Pinellas Crime Stoppers program administrator through a grant from the Office of the Attorney General - Crime Stoppers Trust Fund. No taxpayer dollars are used to fund Crime Stoppers.

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What's Selling in Pinellas County

St. Petersburg **\$290,000**
4 Bedrooms 3 Bath

SOLD

Beautiful 3,170 sq. ft. custom built 2 story home. 4 bedrooms with great room, gourmet kitchen and 1 car garage. Detached 1,000 sq. ft. garage with bath and air conditioning. Walking distance to St. Petersburg Country Club.

The Vorac Group
Realty Executives Adamo

Seminole **\$265,000**
4BR/2.5BA/2CG

SOLD

Nicely updated two story home in the heart of Seminole. Fenced corner lot with deep in-ground pool and large patio with outdoor fireplace. Upgraded kitchen and master bath, crown molding and built-in entertainment center. Hardwood and laminate throughout.

Tom Cato
Realty Executive Adamo

BELLEAIR SHORES **\$1,625,000**
4 Bedrooms 3 Baths

SOLD

Gulf-front. Walk out to the beautiful sandy beach and the Gulf of Mexico as your backyard. Build your magnificent custom designed home or renovate this solidly built home. Home features four bedrooms, spacious storage, wood burning fireplace, and oversized side entry garage.

Martha Thorn & KJ Kein
Coldwell Banker - The Thorn Collection

BELLEAIR BEACH **\$525,000**
3 Bedrooms 3 Baths

SOLD

Fabulous wide open water views throughout. Large covered patio overlooks private fenced yard. Driveway and entry have decorative paving. Recent replacements include: roof, vinyl soffits, dock and trex decking, garage door and opener, front door and A/C unit.

David Gardella
Premier Sotheby's International Realty

Pinellas County's unemployment rate slightly higher in June

By SUZETTE PORTER

Pinellas County unemployment, not seasonally adjusted, climbed to 8.6 percent in June up from 8.2 percent in May, but still well below last year's figure of 10.7 percent.

The state of Florida's not seasonally adjusted rate also went up from 8.5 percent in May to 9 percent in June, according to figures released July 20 from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. The national rate also saw an upward swing going from 7.9 percent to 8.4 percent.

Despite the increase, mostly attributed to schools closing down for the summer, Gov. Rick Scott continues to insist that his job strategy is working. In a press release, he pointed to the 9,000 jobs added in June.

"As companies are choosing to grow and expand in our state, we are continuing to see Florida experience a positive economic recovery. Floridians have more and more opportunities to get back to work, and last month, 9,000 Floridians were able to get a job and provide for their families," Scott said.

The Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater metropolitan statistical area continues to lead in the number of over-the-year job gains with the addition of 23,300 jobs, a 2.1 percent growth. The MSA with the second highest growth is Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall with 10,800 more jobs, a 1.1 percent increase.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment for the local MSA increased from 8.6 percent in May to 9 percent in June. It is considerably lower than 11.2 percent reported in June 2011. The local MSA includes

Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties.

Hernando County tied with Putnam County for the No. 5 rank, reporting 11.1 percent unemployment in June. Pasco County tied with Polk for the No. 14 spot with 10 percent unemployment. Hillsborough tied with Gilchrist and Collier counties for No. 33 with 8.8 percent.

Pinellas tied with Orange County to rank No. 39 – the lowest rank of the counties in the local MSA.

Pinellas County's labor force increased by 3,143 in June as compared to the previous month and 7,075 compared to June 2011. The number of employed workers climbed to 409,131 compared to 407,950 in May and 393,311 last year. The number of unemployed also increased to 38,328 compared to 36,366 in May. However, compared to June 2011, the number of unemployed decreased by 8,745.

Briefs

Surf Style to host Carbon FLOW competition

CLEARWATER – During the month of August, Surf Style, 311 South Gulf View Blvd., will host the ninth stop of the 2012 Carbon FLOW Tour.

This event will showcase the nation's top riders in the disciplines of FLOW boarding and Body boarding. The tour started in early May as a competition for these athletes to win a chance to attend the FLOW Championships.

The competition will be Thursday, Aug. 9, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., on Surf Style's Flowrider, an indoor simulated wave machine.

The event is expected to bring more than 60 competitors to the local area the week of Aug. 9, and will add an extra boost to the tourism sector. The event is free for the public to view; however, there are entry fees required for patrons interested in participating in the contest. There will be more than \$5,000 worth of cash and prizes up for grabs.

Achieva welcomes Till

CLEARWATER – Achieva Credit Union recently announced the addition of Janet Till, a certified senior professional in human resources, as Senior Vice President of People and Corporate Culture.

Till comes to Achieva with more than 25 years of experience in the human resources field. Prior to joining Achieva Credit Union, Till served as vice president, corporate human resources at Bankers Financial Corporation and as vice president, human resources at ABR/Ceridian. She has led her team to success in numerous initiatives, such as the design and implementation of the Pay For Performance program and Employer of Choice programs.

"It is a great pleasure to add Janet to the Achieva team" said Gary Regoli in a press release. Regoli is Achieva Credit Union president and CEO. "Her innovative ideas and hands-on, proactive approach bring new ideas and strategies to the credit union and contribute to our growth and high level of service."

BPW to host Equality Day Tea

ST. PETERSBURG – The Business and Professional Women of St. Petersburg/Pinellas will gather Saturday, Aug. 25, 2 p.m., at Marchand's Bar and Grill inside the Vinoy Renaissance Resort and Golf Club, 501 Fifth Ave. NE.

The group will convene to observe Women's Equality Day with a traditional tea including a hat competition. Proposed by U.S. Representative Bella Abzug in 1971, Women's Equality Day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, the Women's Suffrage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women full voting rights in 1920. Although Equality Day's National observance falls on a Sunday this year,

BPW will host their event the day before on Saturday.

The public is invited to attend and may purchase tickets to the event online at www.BPWStPetePinellas.org.

PODS celebrates two millionth container

CLEARWATER – After 14 years in business, PODS moving and storage recently celebrated its two millionth container delivery in June by providing one year of free storage and a free move to the recipient who resided in Valrico.

As part of their continued celebration, PODS launched a \$10,000 Home Renovation sweepstakes on July 16 to celebrate this important milestone in the history of the company and the industry.

In 1998, PODS revolutionized the landscape of the moving and storage industry with its signature white portable PODS containers, which changed the way people would move and store forever. PODS is based in Clearwater.

The \$10,000 sweepstakes ends on Oct. 15, 2012. For information, visit Facebook.com/PODS.

HealthSouth to offer Aging Well Series

LARGO – The Aging Well Series will be presented Friday, Aug. 10, 2 to 3:30 p.m., in classroom C at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital, 901 Clearwater-Largo Road.

The series will include the following components:

- Drive Able and Community Support Information, with Celisa Bonner, LCSW clinic coordinator at the Madonna Ptak Center for Alzheimer's and Memory Loss at Morton Plant Mease
 - Community Resources and Position Duties, with officer Rayshall Poinsette, Largo Police Department Senior Services Officer
 - Alzheimer's Association Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, with Peggy Macaluso, program specialist
 - Medication Interactions, with Dr. Vakesh Rajani, hospitalist at Mease Countryside Hospital
- Reservations are required. To RSVP, call 588-1865 by Aug. 1.

Fresenius earns award

CLEARWATER – Fresenius Medical Care North America, a leading network of dialysis facilities, recently named its Clearwater facility at 26338 U.S. 19 N., a center of excellence for achieving the highest standards in patient care in 2011.

These annual awards recognize the facilities that perform the best, based on multiple objective measures of dialysis clinical quality.

According to a press release, all Fresenius Medical Care dialysis clinics share the company's UltraCare mission of delivering excellent, patient-centered care through innovative programs, the latest technology, continuous quality improvement and a focus on superior customer service.

"At Fresenius Medical Care, our clinical teams are focused on providing patients with the highest quality of care during each and every treatment," said Carolyn Latham, vice president of Clinical Quality and UltraCare at Fresenius Medical Care. "Our Center of Excellence award distinguishes the facilities that achieve the best clinical results through the dedication and hard work of the staff."

First Bank participates in Love That Dress event

As part of the Pinellas PACE Center's Love That Dress event in September, First Bank branches in Pinellas County will serve as dress donation drop-off sites throughout the summer.

"If you have an evening dress or two that you are no longer able to wear, we encourage you to drop some of them off at one of our eight First Bank locations in Pinellas County," said Anne Lee, First Bank's retail president for Florida. "We want everyone to 'Love That Dress' and put it to good use for a great event."

First Bank locations in Pinellas County include:

- St. Petersburg – 111 Second Ave. NE, Suite 211, St. Petersburg
- Pasadena – 6850 Central Ave., St. Petersburg
- Kenneth City – 5825 54th Ave. N., Kenneth City
- Pinellas Park – 7600 U.S. 19 N., Pinellas Park
- Seminole – 13700 Park Blvd., Seminole
- Walsingham – 13175 Walsingham Road, Largo
- Dunedin – 2046 Bayshore Blvd., Dunedin
- Northwood – 3024 Enterprise Road E., Clearwater

The Love That Dress event will take place Friday, Sept. 21, 4 to 8 p.m., at the Marriott Hotel in St. Petersburg.

PACE is a nonresidential, gender-specific program for girls 12 to 18 that are experiencing difficulty or conflict in school or at home. PACE started in 1985 with 10 girls and now serves 150 Pinellas County girls.

Dermatology Specialists Provides New Skin Cancer Treatment in the Seminole Area



Dermatology Specialists is the **FIRST** in this area to implement a new cutting edge technology for specific types of non-melanoma skin cancer called the **SRT-100**. The mobile superficial radiation therapy (SRT) is designed to provide an alternative to surgical procedures for basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas.

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Going back to work after being a stay-at-home mom

Summer reminds me how much I love being a stay at home mom. I am so fortunate and blessed to have been able to be with my little girls since they were born. I remember telling my boss, the mayor of Fort Myers, that I was "retiring" when my first daughter was born.

It was hard, because I loved working for the mayor as his public relations director, but I knew being at home with my kids while they were growing up was something I wanted to do.

My husband agreed. We rearranged our lives and careers so I could stay at home.

For almost eight years now, I have been a stay-at-home mom with my two little girls. Now that they are both in elementary school, it's time for me to go back to work. It is a little scary trying to find a job when there aren't many out there.

I was fortunate that I was able to fulfill my career "dream" job before having kids. In college, I majored in broadcast journalism



Mom 2 Mom
Kadi Hendricks Tubbs

and soon after college became a television news reporter. Now as I look for jobs, I am not focusing on a television news reporter job, but any kind of job in the journalism field.

The problem is, my heart really hasn't been in finding a job.

I've done my "dream" job and I love being at home with my kids. When they are in school, I volunteer at school, help out in the classroom and eat lunch with my kids. When I work full time, I know I am going to miss things that my kids have at school. What if my child gets sick? How am I going to pick my kids up from school? Who will take them to school? All these questions are in my head as I look for a job.

I am sure working moms

know this all too well. How do you do it? I know it must be hard. I have quite a few friends who work full time, and they are pretty exhausted by the end of the day. They tell me they miss their kids. Some of my friends work long hours and don't see their kids except for maybe a few minutes before their kids go to bed.

What's the secret to having a career and being a great mom? As I get back into the working field, I want to do both. Hopeful-

ly, there is a perfect job out there for me.

When it comes down to it, as moms, we have to do the best we can, whether we stay at home or work. What is important is we take care of our kids and make sure they know we love them. We have to do what's best for our family.

Kadi Hendricks Tubbs, mother of two girls ages 6 and 7, lives in Seminole. Visit her blog at Mom2MomFamilyFun.blogspot.com.

Here and there

Tables, booths available for garage sale, wellness expo

LARGO - The Southwest Recreation Complex's Community Garage Sale and Health and Wellness Expo will be held Saturday, Aug. 18.

Vendor booths at the Health and Wellness Expo will be available for \$15. Both events will be held at the Southwest Recreation Complex, 13120 Vonn Road, and are free to the public. Space sells out quickly, so call and reserve your table today. For more information, contact Southwest Recreation at 518-3125 or email cheubel@largo.com.

Exotic bird fair planned

LARGO - Sun Coast Exotic Bird Fair will be held Sunday, Aug. 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Minnreg Hall, 6340 126th Ave. N.

Admission is \$4; Children 12 and younger are free.

The event features birds, seeds, toys, cages, live entertainment, great food and more, and a grand prize.

Contact Pedro Avila at 813-361-3735. Email: mycarsound@aol.com or visit www.suncoastexoticbirdfair.com

Clothes-to-Kids needs back-to-school help

CLEARWATER - Clothes to Kids is gearing up for the back-to-school rush and needs the public's help.

Clothes to Kids is a nonprofit organization that provide a free week's worth of gently used or new clothing to kids in need in Pinellas County. The organization is in urgent need of gently used

school clothes, especially boys and young men's shorts in all sizes, jeans, uniforms and shoes. The organization asks people to clean out their closets or have a neighborhood clothing drive and help Clothes to Kids build their clothing and shoe inventory for back-to-school.

New and gently used clothes and shoes and new socks and underwear still in the package can be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in Clearwater at 1059 N. Hercules Ave. or at 3251 Third Ave. N., Suite 145, St. Petersburg. Cash donations also are needed for purchasing clothing in short supply and new underwear. Volunteers are always welcomed.

For more information, call 441-5050 or visit www.clothestokids.org.

Clearwater's Hope Thrift Store helps children in need

CLEARWATER - The Hope Thrift Store needs furniture, house wares and clothing. Donations are accepted at the Clearwater store during store hours Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. at 2881 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd.

Donations also can be dropped off at their main campus in Tampa, as well as the Hope Thrift Store on Fowler Avenue in Tampa. Volunteers also are needed!

The Hope Thrift Store is an extension of the Hope Children's Home, which houses more than 70 abused, neglected and orphaned children. Over the past 40 years, the organization has helped more than 5,000 children in need.

Please call 813-712-1893 or visit www.hopechilidrenshome.org.

School receives accreditation



St. Jerome Early Childhood Center in Largo recently received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Most recently the program received commendations for the areas of relationships, curriculum, assessment, and family and community relationships. Maleah Godfrey, 5, left, and Jack Rozance, 5, are students at the school. The upcoming school year begins on Aug. 20, with space available in all age groups. Visit www.stjeromeearlychildhoodcenter.org or contact the school at 596-9491.

Calendar of events

Tampa Bay Computer Society, meets third Tuesdays, 6:45 p.m., Resource Center, 1510 Barry Road, Clearwater. Call 443-4433 or visit www.tampabay.com.

Tampa Bay Grady White Club, meets second Wednesdays. New members welcome. Call Capt. Ralph Wolf, president, at 531-6324 or visit tampabaygradywhiteclub.com.

Tampa Bay Storytellers Guild, meets third Sundays of odd-numbered months, 2 p.m., at Seminole Community Library, 9200 113th St. N, Seminole. Call 785-3041.

Tampa Bay Vegetarians, meets fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., for dinner at various area restaurants. Call 392-0268.

Telephone Pioneers - Clearwater Life Member Club, meets third Fridays, 11 a.m., at different locations, except for June, July, August and September. Call Eleanor Brasted at 725-4118.

Toastmasters:

- Donoghue-Dunedin Toastmasters Club meets weekly from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Unity Community Church, 1315 Bayshore Blvd. Call Marie at 455-7539.

- Pinellas County, for times and locations, call Pat D. at 224-9771.

- Realtalkers' meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m., at the Pinellas Realtor Organization Building, 4790 Ulmertown Road. Call Donna Moore at 831-3416.

- Seminole/SPC Club 5899 meets Tuesdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at the Seminole Community Library, 9200 113th St. N, Seminole. Guests welcome. Call Cathy at 578-0109 or visit seminole.spc.free-toasthost.com.

- Speak Easy Club 4698 meets Mondays, 6:15 p.m., at the King Buffet Restaurant, 7610 49th St. N, Pinellas Park. Call 536-3392 or email james.e.martin1@juno.com.

- Suncoast Caring Community Toastmasters meets Thursdays, 5:45 p.m., at the Suncoast Hospice Garden House, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd. Call Kelly Siegel at 410-4322.

- Tampa Bay Women Speakers meets first and third Mondays, 6:30 to 8 p.m., at Countryside Mall, Bright House Demo Center, second floor, next to Sears. Email tampabaywomenspeakers@yahoo.com.

- Tarpon Springs meets second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at North Lake Family Church, 300 N. Highland Ave., Tarpon Springs. Visit tampabaywomen.free-toasthost.org.

- Temple Talkers Club 7295 meets Mondays, 7 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, 2470 Nursery Road. Visit tem-

pletalkers.free-toasthost.org.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly):

- Clearwater 0296, meets Thursdays, 9 to 11 a.m., at Union Methodist Church, 1625 Union St., in the Fellowship Hall. Call 461-7101.

- Largo 287, meets Tuesdays, 6 p.m., at Highland Presbyterian Church, 1885 S. Highland, Largo. Call Carol Wegener at 581-0250.

- Largo 726, meets Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., at St. Dunstons Anglican Church, 403 First Ave. SW, Largo. Call 581-1435.

Travel is Fun Senior Travel Club, meets fourth Wednesdays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., at Lake Seminole Square, 8333 Seminole Blvd. Meetings include complimentary continental breakfast, photo trivia, raffles and contests. Call 391-0500, ext. 1211.

Treasure Island Action Club, meets second Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m., at the T.I. Community Center, One Park Place, and offers membership to senior citizens who live in Treasure Island at least three months annually. No meetings June, July and August. Call 547-4575.

Treasure Islettes, meets fourth Mondays, 7 p.m., at the Treasure Island City Hall, 120 108th Ave. Bingo is offered Thursdays, 6:45 p.m., at City Hall. Call Beverly Russian at 363-3165.

Trinity Christian Community Center and Club is open Monday through Saturday, 4 to 6 p.m., at 1590 Seminole Blvd., Largo. The center offers fun, new friends and live music, after-school youth and community classes, art gallery and family evening entertainment. Call 858-4177 or visit www.trinity.7p.com.

USEM-CA, a forum for unincorporated county residents, meets last Thursdays, except June, July, August, November and December, 7 p.m., at the Seminole Community Library, 9200 113th St. N. Call Betty at 393-0187 or Art at 595-6834.

United Daughters of the Confederacy, Mary Custis Lee Chapter 1451, meets fourth Saturdays, September through June, 10 a.m., at the UDC Memorial Building, 3158 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd., Clearwater. Call Dorris at 585-5813.

University of Massachusetts Tampa Bay Alumni Club, meets fourth Thursdays (except November and December when the group meets third Thursdays), 6:30 p.m., at various local restaurants. Call 538-3519.

Upper Pinellas African Violet Society, meets monthly first Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Palms of Largo, Cypress Palms. For information email shelgl@yahoo.com.

Upper Pinellas Singles, a nondenominational group for active

seniors 50 and older, meets Tuesdays, 6 p.m., at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 750 San Salvatore Drive. Dinner is served, followed by entertainment or a speaker. Call Leslie at 725-7453.

U.S. Coast Guard Enlisted Association, Tampa Bay Chapter, meets first Mondays, 7 p.m., at the Coast Guard Air Station, at St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport, Clearwater. Call 631-5161.

U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps and Navy League Cadet Corps, Suncoast Squadron, for ages 11 to 17, meets third weekends, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Navy Operational Support Center, 15300 Fairchild Drive, Clearwater, and at the USCG Clearwater Air Station.

USA DANCE has dances fourth Mondays, 7 to 10:15 p.m., at the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Blvd. Admission is \$7 and includes a dance workshop, professional and amateur exhibitions and snacks. Beverages are available for purchase. On the event that the fourth Monday falls on a holiday, the monthly dance may be rescheduled to the second or third Monday. Call 345-5884.

Westside Church of the Nazarene will feature camp meeting services on Sundays, 6 p.m., at 13650 Walsingham Road in Largo. The meeting will include preaching, music and refreshments following the service. Call 595-6338.

West Bay Community Verse-by-Verse Bible Teaching, meets Sundays, 11 a.m., at The Hampton Inn, 100 East Bay Drive, Largo. Verse-by-verse Bible study, coffee and communion. Call 595-3991.

West Coast Swing Club of Tampa Bay dances Sundays, 6 p.m., at Gunslinger's Saloon, 3885 East Bay Drive, Suite 100, Largo. Free

See EVENTS, page 12A

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Obituaries

Mrs. Inez Rebecca Hammer
went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, July 21, 2012. Inez was born in Philadelphia, PA on October 21, 1935. She lived in North Wales, PA before moving to Beach Haven West, NJ and later Barnegat, NJ. She worked for Shop Rite Super Market in Manahawkin, NJ for 26 years before retiring in 1998. She then moved with her husband Ron to Doral Village in Dunedin, FL where she was very active in the community and she resided there until recently. She was a member of Crystal Beach Community Church in Crystal Beach, FL. She enjoyed golfing, playing bingo, bowling and the time she spent with her grandchildren and she adored being with her great grandchildren. Mrs. Hammer is predeceased by her husband Ronald Gene Hammer, who passed away in 2009, her sister Betty Band and her brother Harry Crockett. She is survived by her sister Josephine of Pendergrass, GA, her son Ronald and wife Jeni of West Creek, NJ, daughter Bonnie Perry and husband Bill of Delanco, NJ, daughter Laura and husband Bill of Waretown, NJ, and her son Scott and wife Joan of Tyngsboro, MA. Mrs. Hammer had 14 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, July 28, 2012 at 1:00pm at Bayside Chapel, 965 West Bay Ave. Barnegat, NJ. In lieu of flowers please make donations to: Deborah Foundation, 20 Pine Mill Rd., Browns Mills, NJ 08015 or www.deborahfoundation.org.

Obituaries

Recognizing that some readers wish to share the life and loss of a loved one with the community, Tampa Bay Newspapers publishes paid obituaries in our weekly papers.

The deadline for submitting obituary information is 9 a.m. on Monday, for that week's papers. Obituaries will publish in all six of our papers.

Obituary information should include: full name, age, city and date of death. You may also choose to include the names of living and/or predeceased relatives, work history, clubs and/or activities that they participated in. If you wish to include the name of the funeral home handling arrangements keep in mind that we are a weekly publication and the paper may publish after the services have taken place.

For further information, including cost, please call Tampa Bay Newspapers at 727-397-5563, or you can submit your information through our Web site, www.TBNweekly.com, or by e-mail at: obits@TBNweekly.com.

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Looking for a home

Augusti

Augusti is a 2-year-old female kitty that is very active and playful. She likes being brushed and having her chin tickled. Augusti is spayed, current on all her vaccines, microchipped, and ready for adoption. 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.



Chessie

Chessie is a 2-year-old Chesapeake Bay retriever. She had a difficult start in life, but is now ready to be adopted into a loving home. Chessie suffered a serious facial injury but has had two corrective surgeries and is doing great! Her loyalty and graceful demeanor are her best characteristics. She will lie at your feet and though cuddling is not her style, you will never doubt her devotion to you. Chessie is living with a foster family, so to make an appointment to meet her, call the Suncoast Animal League in Palm Harbor at 786-1330.



EVENTS, from page 11A

dance lesson at 6 p.m., intermediate lesson at 6:30 and open dancing at 7:30. Beginner and intermediate two-step lessons are offered Tuesdays, 6:30 and 7:15 p.m., followed by open couples dancing at 8:30 p.m. Music by Bobby Caudill. No cover. Call 804-6612.

West Virginia State Society, meets first Mondays, 11:30 a.m., at Piccadilly Cafeteria, 1900 34th St. N. St. Petersburg. Call "Buddy" Roush at 544-6543.

Widowed Social Club of St. Petersburg, meets last Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m., at Palm Lake Christian Church, 5401 22nd Ave. N. Attendees should bring a \$2 donation, a covered dish for six-to-eight people and a place setting. Call Joe at 397-0920 or Fran at 896-9207.

World Circle Language Club, meets second Saturdays, 11:30 a.m., at Cove Cay Country Clubhouse, 2612 Cove Cay Drive, Clearwater. Call 787-3344.

YogaWorks of Pinellas offers beginning and continuing yoga on Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.; and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., at Calvary Episcopal Church, 1615 First St., Indian Rocks Beach. Call 596-9226 or email yoga4fr@tampabay.rr.com.

ZONTA Club of Upper Pinellas, meets last

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Call 733-3405

Actors Networking Group meets Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., at 1653 Monterey Drive, Clearwater. Reservations required. Call 581-1677.

AARP

• 55 Alive Mature Driving Classes, for drivers over 50, are taught by trained volunteers in two four-hour sessions. Graduates may be eligible for auto insurance discounts for the following three years. Cost is \$10. Call 888-227-7669.

American Legion Post 7 plays bingo on Thursdays at noon. Cef Alteri serves dinner on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 5 to 8 p.m., at 1760 Turner St., Clearwater. Music for dancing is offered Mondays 7 to 10 p.m. Call 447-9204.

American Legion Post 273, 600 American Legion Drive, Madeira Beach, hosts a fish and fry on Fridays. Call 391-3670.

American Legion Post 119 hosts dances featuring music from the '50s second and fourth Wednesdays, at the Post, 130 First Ave. SW., Largo. Call 585-1225.

American Legion Post 104 serves dinner Fridays, 5 to 7:30 p.m., at the post, 7550 60th St. N., Pinellas Park. Call 544-5137.

Ballroom Dances and Instruction, meets Mondays, 2 to 4 p.m., at the Treasure Island Community Center, Gulf Boulevard at 106th Ave.; and

Thursdays, 7:45 to 9:30 p.m., at City Hall Auditorium, 120 108th Ave. Cost is \$5 a session. Call John Tebo at 410-0251.

Bay Area Macintosh User Group, Clearwater chapter, meets fourth Mondays, 1 to 3 p.m., at Clearwater East Library, 2251 Drew St., Clearwater. Email vicepresident@bamcentral.org.

Bay Area Macintosh User Group, Largo chapter, meets second Wednesdays, 6:15 to 8:45 p.m., at St. Petersburg College EpiCenter, corporate training room, 13805 58th St. N., Largo. An iPad SIG meets at 6:15 p.m., followed by the main meeting. Email president@bamcentral.org.

Bay Bouquet Garden Club, meets the third Wednesday September to May, 9:30 a.m., at Dunedin Library, 223 Douglas Ave. Call 736-5593.

Begin With Me AFG, meets Sundays, 7:30 p.m., followed by a regular meeting at 8 p.m., at the Lutheran Church of the Palms, 2250 Nebraska Ave., Second Floor, Room 10, Palm Harbor. Call 548-6811.

British Floridian Club, meets the first Saturday of the month at VFW Post 10174, 10997 72nd Ave., Seminole. All people of British heritage are invited. Call Vera at 394-2767 or Dorinda at 578-5471 for details.

Bay Area Button Society, meets the fourth Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Safety

Harbor library meeting room, 101 Second St. N. The society meets the fourth Monday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Pinellas Park Library meeting room, 7750 52nd St. Call 581-7068.

Central Pinellas Republican Club, meets second Thursdays, 11:30 a.m., at Super Buffet, Seminole Mall (Park Boulevard and 113th Street). Luncheon meeting features speakers and timely political topics. Call Karen Donovan at 687-1318.

CHADD: Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, meets first Tuesdays, 7 to 8:45 p.m., at Bay Pines VA Medical Center, 10000 Bay Pines Blvd., Building 20, in the medical auditorium. Visit www.chaddonline.org/chapters/chadd601.html.

The Clearwater GFWC Community Woman's Club, meets third Tuesdays, September to May, 10 a.m., at Clearwater Main Library, 100 N. Osceola St. Call 394-2229.

Announcements are submitted by the public; information is subject to change. To place an item in the ongoing calendar or networking leads, send it at least two weeks in advance to Calendar-Leads, Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772, or e-mail editorial@TBNweekly.com. Please include date, time, place and phone number and don't forget to send a notification when the information changes, or the group stops meeting.

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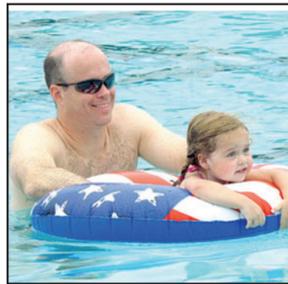
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Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County



- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

Leader
Section B
August 2, 2012

Visit www.TBNweekly.com

Top five diversions

• **Disney's Beauty and the Beast**, through Aug. 5, at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Performances are Wednesday and Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 and 7 p.m. A romantic Broadway musical for all generations, "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" has won the hearts of millions worldwide. This classic love story based on the Academy Award-winning animated film is filled with unforgettable characters, lavish sets and costumes, and dazzling production numbers including "Be Our Guest" and the beloved title song.

• **Chris Tucker**, Friday, Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m., at The Mahaffey, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$45.75. Call 893-7832 or visit TheMahaffey.com. Bay Area Productions will present Chris Tucker's Guess Who's Back Tour. Known as one of the funniest men in film, Tucker returns to his stand-up roots for a night of tear-filled laughter. The actor and comedian, best known for his role as Detective James Carter in the "Rush Hour" film series, is making his comedic comeback after a five-year hiatus. With his unique voice, fast paced humor, and animated facial expressions, Tucker continues to entertain the masses. The "motor-mouth talker" is known for doing "clean," non-vulgar stand-up comedy routines, but says his comical inspirations are Eddie Murphy and Richard Pryor, who coincidentally, are known for their foul-mouthed antics and routines. The funnyman is also a generous humanitarian and spends much of his spare time traveling and working with his own foundation, the Chris Tucker Foundation, which pledges to improve the quality of life and advocate for South African youth that are affected by HIV/AIDS.

• **Ted Nugent**, Monday, Aug. 6, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$39.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. With incomparable guitar genius and fire-breathing intensity, Nugent has carved a permanent place among the legends of rock. Hailing from Detroit, the guitarist's prodigious talents, ear-shattering volume and over-the-top onstage antics quickly earned the rocker the moniker of "Motor City Madman," along with international acclaim. Recognized as the world's leading guitar showman, Nugent's no-holds-barred career spans five decades of multi-platinum hits. From the groundbreaking Amboy Dukes' "Journey to the Center of the Mind," to classics such as "Stranglehold" and "Cat Scratch Fever," Nugent's rapid-fire sonic assaults continue to sell out venues around the globe. As part of the super-group Damn Yankees, Nugent's signature style was evident on chartbusters such as "High Enough" and cult classic "Fred Bear." The sounds he wrings from his almighty Gibson Byrdland leave audiences gasping for breath and begging for more.

• **Ledisi with Eric Benet**, Saturday, Aug. 4, 8 p.m., The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets range from \$25.50 to \$49.50. Call 892-5798. Seven-time Grammy-nominated Verve Forecast recording artist Ledisi is hitting the road on her 27-city headline tour, Be Good To Yourself 2012. She also recently released a book, "Better Than Alright: Finding Peace, Love and Power." Eric Benet will be opening the show for a perfect musical pairing. Benet consistently makes music that speaks to love and speaks from the soul.

• **WaZoo Beer Fest**, Saturday, Aug. 4, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, 1101 W. Sligh Ave., Tampa. Tickets are \$60 in advance or \$65 at the door the night of the event. Call 813-935-8552, ext. 276, or visit LowryParkZoo.com. Event proceeds benefit animal care and education programs at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, a private nonprofit organization. Presented by J.J. Taylor Distributing Florida Inc., the event will offer beer aficionados an opportunity to sample a "safari of brews including lagers, porters, stouts, browns, ambers, wheats, ales, ciders, pilsners, draughts and more from international and independent brewers," according to a press release. Hundreds of vendors and event volunteers will pour more than 250 types of beer from 70 breweries worldwide. Guests also may graze on sure-to-please snacks and pub-friendly finger foods from favorite local eateries like Datz Deli, IKEA Tampa Restaurant, Tijuana Flats, Tampa Bay Brewing Company, Whole Foods Market and more. Entertainment will include performances by One Mile Final, Early Morning Project, The Paper Stanleys, Kim Harpo and The Hawks, and Colt Clark (BBC).



Quaid (Colin Farrell) takes a seat in the Mind Trip Chair inside the ReCall Tripping Den in Columbia Pictures' action thriller "Total Recall." Photo by MICHAEL GIBSON/COLUMBIA PICTURES

Opening this weekend Farrell, Beckinsale mess with memories in 'Total Recall'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'Total Recall'

Genre: Action and thriller
Cast: Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel, Bryan Cranston, John Cho and Bill Nighy
Director: Len Wiseman
Rated: PG-13
"Total Recall" is an action thriller about reality and memory, inspired anew by the famous short story "We Can Remember It For You Wholesale" by Philip K. Dick.

Welcome to ReCall, the company that can turn your dreams into real memories. For a factory worker named Douglas Quaid (Colin Farrell), even though he's got a beautiful wife (Kate Beckinsale) whom he loves, the mind-trip sounds like the perfect vacation from his frustrating life - real memories of life as a super-spy might be just what he needs.

But when the procedure goes horribly wrong, Quaid becomes a hunted man. Finding himself on the run from the police - controlled by Chancellor Coahaagen (Bryan Cranston) - there is no one Quaid can trust, except possibly a rebel fighter (Jessica Biel) working for the head of the underground resistance (Bill Nighy). The line between fantasy and reality gets blurred and the fate of his world hangs in the balance as Quaid discovers his true identity, his true love, and his true fate.

'Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days'

Genre: Comedy and family
Cast: Zachary Gordon, Robert Capron, Rachael Harris, Devon Bostick and Steve Zahn
Director: David Bowers
Rated: PG
Greg Heffley, the kid who made "wimpy" cool, is back in "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days," an all-new family comedy in the hit movie franchise based on the publishing phenomenon by Jeff Kin-

ney. School's out and Greg is looking forward to enjoying the best summer of all time. But when his dad decides that some father-son bonding is in order, Greg must do everything he can to keep him from ruining his vacation. So he hatches a plan to pretend he has a job at a ritzy country club - but even that fails to keep Greg away from the season's dog days, including embarrassing mishaps at a public pool and a camping trip that goes horribly wrong.

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

'360'

Genre: Drama
Cast: Rachel Weisz, Anthony Hopkins, Jude Law, Ben Foster, Jamel Debbouze and Moritz Bleibtreu
Director: Fernando Meirelles
Rated: R
A sexy dramatic thriller about interconnected romantic life in the 21st century, "360" starts in Vienna, weaving stories set in Paris, London, Bratislava, Rio, Denver and Phoenix into a single, mesmerizing narrative.

A businessman tempted to be unfaithful to his wife sets into motion a series of events which ripple around the globe with dramatic consequences, set against the backdrop of international banking crisis, the domino-effect of the Arab Spring, the threat of global flu pandemics and Euro-Zone instability.

'Celeste & Jesse Forever'

Genre: Comedy and romance
Cast: Rashida Jones, Andy Samberg, Chris Messina, Ari Graynor, Will McCormack, Emma Roberts and Elijah Wood
Director: Lee Toland Krieger
Not rated
Celeste (Rashida Jones) and Jesse (Andy Samberg) met in high

See OPENING, page 2B

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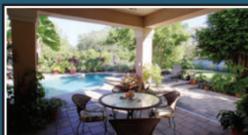
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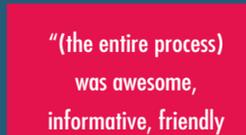
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Movie review

Beautiful but bleak, 'Hara-Kiri' is not the standard Samurai story

In his new film "Hara-Kiri: Death of a Samurai," director Takashi Miike downplays the importance of sporadic episodes of well-choreographed swordplay in favor of exploring facets of the human condition, touching on elements of perseverance and poverty, joy and tragedy.



Reel Time
Lee Clark Zumpe

Dishonored, Motome meets a ghastly end.

Through graphic scenes of torment, misery and futility, Miike skillfully illustrates the common thread of human suffering.

The samurai seeks an honorable death by ritual suicide.

In an attempt to dissuade Hanshiro, Lord Kageyu recounts the brutal tale of Motome, a desperate young ronin who made a similar request. Motome, it is revealed, had ulterior motives: His request was only a ruse to shame the lord into giving him alms and sending him on his way.

Recognizing the bluff, the house of the feudal lord decides to make an example of Motome.

ter Miho as well as the life of Motome. Formerly prosperous, the house of Hanshiro's lord had been toppled by the shogunate because it was considered a threat. Faced with an era of peace, Hanshiro could not profit from his skills as a samurai and was forced to rely on other means to eke out a living. Living in poverty, Hanshiro abided modestly – even happily – until calamity befell his family.

Ebizo Ichikawa plays Hanshiro. Ichikawa's brooding resentment is brilliantly offset by interspersed scenes of bliss and contentment as flashbacks show glimpses of what might have been. As Hanshiro seeks to settle the score, Ichikawa simmers subtly, his seething anger gradually coming to the surface.

As Motome, Eita delivers one of the most visually unsettling sequences in recent memory. Motome's demise is brutal – and Eita effectively brings the charac-

ter's physical and emotional agony to the viewer. Kikari Mitsushima stars as Miho. Mitsushima becomes the embodiment of anguish. As Lord Kageyu, Koji Yakusho is similarly efficient. Kageyu represents the hypocrisy of the feudal system – preferring the pretext of honor to genuine honor. Interestingly, Yakusho introduces a deeper layer into the character by hinting at suppressed sympathies. Ultimately, though, Lord Kageyu is guided by his own uncompromising retinue.

Composer Ryuichi Sakamoto provides a gorgeous original score that accentuates the intricacies of Miike's storytelling.

Those expecting frequent fights, blood-drenched swords and epic carnage may be disappointed: Brimming with stunning cinematography and conveyed with patient plotting, Miike's evocative new film is more cerebral than bloody.

Miike lays bare the vanity of a



Photo courtesy of TRIBECA FILM

Kikari Mitsushima stars as Miho in "Hara-Kiri: Death of a Samurai," distributed by Tribeca Film.

pitiless ruling class, incapable of compassion and devoid of ethical individuals willing to take a stand for evenhandedness. As such, "Hara-Kiri: Death of a Samurai" is a condemnation of authoritarianism as well as a call to question traditional definitions of honor. Such motifs are clearly applicable in the modern world. Viewers are left to draw parallels to the deteriorating middle class, to autocratic corporations and to the erosion of integrity.

For Miike, Hanshiro personifies authentic honor. While watching

the film's climactic fight sequence, the viewer is compelled to ask whether or not the director believes challenging dictatorial regimes is practical.

"Hara-Kiri: Death of a Samurai" was released theatrically July 27, premiering in New York City, Los Angeles and Boston. Following this limited release, the film will appear in theaters across the United States over the coming months. It also is currently screening on Video On Demand, available on Bright House, Verizon and other cable providers.

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

- Factory
- Kuwaiti, e.g.
- In need of resupply, maybe
- Cliffside dwelling
- "Buona ___" (Italian greeting)
- Holly
- Parenting challenges
- Acclaim
- Central points
- 190 proof (2 wds)
- Bristles
- Esoteric
- Comprehensive reference book
- Campaigner, for short
- Alpine call
- Bedim
- Persia, now
- Three-___ fork
- Achy
- Large constellation near Pisces and Aquarius
- Open, as a bottle
- Mr., abroad (India)
- Configuration specialist
- Gym wear
- Itsy-bitsy
- Wrinkle remover (2 wds)
- ___-European
- Four-star review
- Produce
- At no time, poetically
- Ashtabula's lake
- Banana oil, e.g.
- Christian Science founder
- Canine cry
- Break down

Down

- Congratulations, of a sort
- "Malcolm X" director
- "___ we having fun yet?"
- XC
- Leaving a will at death
- Far from ruddy
- "Get ___!"
- "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.
- Narrative poem
- Type of eyeglasses
- ___ Bowl in HI
- Scout's mission
- Deposed leader, perhaps
- Serf
- Baby holder
- Dorm annoyance
- Enthusiastic approval
- "Beowulf," e.g.
- Disgrace
- Pasta choice
- Bumper sticker word
- Red fluorescent dye
- Deck out
- Curb, with "in"
- Of no real value
- Pub game
- Adjusts, as a clock
- Stiff
- Fish hawk
- Red shade
- Gumption
- Abated
- Broke off
- Pink, as a steak
- "... there is no ___ angel but Love": Shakespeare
- Escape, in a way
- "Yadda, yadda, yadda," abbrev.
- Grassland
- Arid

Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers from last week

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

Crossword answers from last week

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75

Horoscopes

August 2, 2012

Capricorn

December 22 – January 19
Memories come flooding back at the sight of an old face. Invite them over for a visit. You'll share some laughs and learn some interesting tidbits, Capricorn.

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18
A break in the action gets the home fires burning. Time for a date night, Aquarius. Small favors are returned in a big way. Enjoy! An order is placed.

Pisces

February 19 – March 20
A decision is made, and it takes you back for a second. Yes, Pisces, the rules have finally relaxed, giving you more leeway. Take advantage of it.

Aries

March 21 – April 19
Pleas for help do not fall upon deaf ears, and you gather a small army to get the ball rolling on a project. Assignments are completed with ease with an innovation, Aries.

Taurus

April 20 – May 20
A special occasion draws near. Get a jump on it, Taurus. Gifts make for a fun weekend for one and all. Travel is on the agenda, and money will not be an issue.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21
You like to live lean, but that could turn out to be a source of conflict if you aren't careful, Gemini. Treat a loved one and their stuff with respect.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22
Overboard is a good word to describe your actions these days, Cancer. You work hard and you play hard, and it begins to take a toll on your body.

Leo

July 23 – August 22
The time is right, Leo. Go ahead and pitch your idea. Not only will it be heard, but it will be heard by all the right people. A letter piques your curiosity

Virgo

August 23 – September 22
Connections are fostered at a special event and relationships grow deeper. Debate at work brings about resolution, and you have an acquaintance to thank, Virgo.

Libra

September 23 – October 22
Change is in the air, Libra. Go with it, and you will benefit in more ways than one. A business associate makes you an offer you can't refuse.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 21
Challenges confront you from every side, but this is your week to shine, Scorpio. You know just what to say and do to solve one problem after another.

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21
Stand back, Sagittarius. A whirlwind comes to town and puts everyone to task. Don't question—just do—and you will reap the rewards.

OPENING, from page 1B

school, married young and are growing apart.
Now 30, Celeste is the driven owner of her own media consulting firm, Jesse is once again unemployed and in no particular rush to do anything with his life. Celeste is convinced that divorcing Jesse is the right thing to do – she is on her way up, he is on his way nowhere, and if they do it now instead of later, they can remain supportive friends.
Jesse passively accepts this transition into friendship, even though he is still in love with her. As the reality of their separation sets in, Celeste slowly and painfully realizes she has been cavalier about their relationship, and her decision, which once seemed mature and progressive, now seems impulsive and selfish. But her timing with Jesse is less than fortuitous. While navigating the turbulent changes in their lives and in their hearts, these two learn that in order to truly love someone, you may have to let them go.

'Soldiers of Fortune'

Genre: Action and adventure
Cast: Christian Slater, Ving Rhames, Dominic Monaghan, Sean Bean and James Cromwell
Director: Maxim Korostyshevsky
Rated: R
Captain Craig McCenzie (Christian Slater) has an unblemished record in Afghanistan until he chooses to save the life of his best friend in defiance of a direct order and is dishonorably discharged from the Army. Reduced to running a struggling security firm, he agrees to train and guide some of the world's wealthiest men on a top-secret mission to deliver state-of-the-art weapons to an isolated rebel force.
Charles Herbert Vanderbeer (Charlie Bewley), a hedge fund founder and American aristocrat; Roman St. John (Sean Bean), a ruthless British mining magnate; Sam Haussmann (James Cromwell), a cell phone pioneer and Texas outdoorsman; Grimaud Torneur (Ving Rhames), an African arms dealer also known as the Grim Reaper; and Tommy Sin (Dominic Monahan), the designer of ultraviolent video games, all have their own very personal reasons for paying stratospheric fees to participate in a real-life revolution. Their goal is to free Snake Island, a mineral-rich atoll in the Black Sea, from its brutal dictator, Colonel Lupo (Gennadi Vengerov) and his ex-CIA chief of security (Colm Meaney).
McCenzie must transform a handful of arrogant, hypercompetitive egotists into a crew of professional soldiers who can survive in a "hot zone," and guarantee their safety once in combat. But their foolproof mission is betrayed from the start, and when the team's bodyguards and supply boat are destroyed before reaching shore, the wealthy warriors are trapped in enemy territory. As each struggles for dominance, Lupo's forces close in, taking them hostage and demanding half of their considerable fortunes in exchange for their release. While McCenzie tries to infiltrate the tyrant's mountain fortress and rescue his hapless charges, their lives depend on their ability to finally figure out what it means to be a team.

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

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Looking ahead

Clearwater

• **Disney's Beauty and the Beast**, through Aug. 5, at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Performances are Wednesday and Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 and 7 p.m. A romantic Broadway musical for all generations, "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" has won the hearts of millions worldwide. This classic love story based on the Academy Award-winning animated film is filled with unforgettable characters, lavish sets and costumes, and dazzling production numbers including "Be Our Guest" and the beloved title song.

• **"Some Like It Hot,"** Thursday, Aug. 2, 7 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets are \$5. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Part of the Capitol Classics film series, "Some Like It Hot" stars Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemon. This screwball comedy follows two male musicians who witness a mob hit and flee gangster dominated 1920's Chicago disguised as women in an all female band just as further complications set in. The film has been acclaimed worldwide as one of the greatest films ever made.

• **First Friday Open Studio**, Friday, Aug. 3, 4 to 8 p.m., at Art Trysts Studio, 1190 Kapp Drive, Clearwater. The free event will showcase work by local artists and share art techniques with the public. Participating studio artists will include Donna Frost, Lorraine Ulen, Lee Canalizo, Kathy Fessenbecker and Toni Young. Guest artist Judy Martindale will offer a free art demo on techniques with acrylic and gouache. Visit www.arttrysts.com.

• **Lindsey Buckingham**, Monday, Aug. 6, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets start at \$59. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. The legendary guitarist, singer/songwriter, Grammy winner, producer and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member is touring in support of his sixth solo album, "Seeds We Sow." The album is Buckingham's first self-release. The iconic Fleetwood Mac guitarist took a do-it-yourself approach to creating the album, not only writing and performing every song on the record but producing and mixing them as well.

• **Ted Nugent**, Monday, Aug. 6, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$39.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. With incomparable guitar genius and fire-breathing intensity, Nugent has carved a permanent place among the legends of rock. Hailing from Detroit, the guitarist's prodigious talents, ear-shattering volume and over-the-top onstage antics quickly earned the rocker the moniker of "Motor City Madman," along with international acclaim. Recognized as the world's leading guitar showman, Nugent's no-holds-barred career spans five decades of multi-platinum hits. From the groundbreaking Amboy Dukes' "Journey to the Center of the Mind," to classics such as "Stranglehold" and "Cat Scratch Fever," Nugent's rapid-fire sonic assaults continue to sell out venues around the globe. As part of the super-group Damn Yankees, Nugent's signature style was evident on chartbusters such as "High Enough" and cult classic "Fred Bear." The sounds he wrings from his almighty Gibson Byrdland leave audiences gasping for breath and begging for more.

• **"Jaws,"** Friday, Aug. 10, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets are \$5. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Part of the Capitol Classics film series, "Jaws" is Steven Spielberg's 1975 shark saga that set the standard for Hollywood summer blockbusters while frightening millions of moviegoers out of the water. When a gigantic great white shark begins to menace the small island community of Amity, a police chief, a marine scientist and grizzled fisherman set out to stop it. "Jaws" won three Academy Awards for Best Film Editing, Best Original Dramatic Score, Best Sound and has been frequently cited by film critics and industry professionals as one of the greatest movies of all time.

• **Meat Loaf**, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$49.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Iconic singer Meat Loaf is hitting the road for his Mad, Mad World Tour in support of his new released, "Hell in a Handbasket." The concert will be his first performance at Ruth Eckerd Hall since his 2008 appearance. "People who come to Meat Loaf shows know what to expect," said Meat Loaf in a press release. "They know they're going to get full-on energy with the best rock 'n' roll band in the world. That's not an opinion. That's the

truth." Joining Meat Loaf onstage will be his longtime band The Neverland Express, featuring Paul Crook, guitar; John Miceli, drums and percussion; Patti Russo, lead and backing vocals; Randy Flowers, guitars and vocals; David Luther, saxophone and vocals; Justin Avery, piano, organ, keyboard and vocals; Danny Miranda, electric and upright bass; and Ginny Luke, violin and vocals.

• **"The Notebook,"** Saturday, Aug. 18, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets are \$5. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Presented by the American Alzheimer's Association, this 2004 romantic drama is directed by Nick Cassavetes. The film is based on the romance novel of the same name by Nicholas Sparks and stars Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams as a young couple who fall in love during the early 1940s. Their story is narrated from the present day by an elderly man played by James Garner, telling the tale to a fellow nursing home resident, played by Gena Rowlands.

• **"Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory,"** Saturday, Aug. 25, 3 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets are \$5. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Part of the Capitol Classics Family Movie Series sponsored by Tampa Bay Parenting Magazine, the film stars Gene Wilder. Having proven itself as a favorite film of children, "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" has transcended the family genre becoming a worldwide cult film phenomenon. There's a timeless appeal to Roald Dahl's classic novel, which was playfully preserved in this charming musical, originally released in 1971, from the colorful carnival-like splendor of its production design to the infectious melody of the Oompah-Loompah songs that punctuate the story.

• **Hippiefest**, Saturday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets range from \$45 to \$79. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Hippiefest will present five well-known players who were initially inspired to pick up their instruments due to their love for rock and blues: Johnny Winter, Edgar Winter, Rick Derringer, Leslie West and Kim Simmonds. Audiences will have an opportunity to hear five great musicians all in one incredible tour of rock and blues music. Ruth Eckerd Hall will again feature a Hippiefest marketplace offering beads, tie dyes and other iconic reminders of Woodstock, San Francisco and a generation that brought a whole new outlook to life.

• **Bill Maher**, Saturday, Sept. 1, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Host of the Emmy nominated "HBO's Real Time with Bill Maher," the comedian and political commentator will bring his notoriously candid stand-up comedy to Ruth Eckerd Hall. With more than 18 years in television, Maher has earned more than 20 Emmy nominations for his hit TV shows and specials. Maher's first creation, the late night talk show "Politically Incorrect," ran from 1993 to 2002 and featured a round-table discussion of current events with four guests coming from pop culture, politics and news. "Politically Incorrect" and "Real Time with Bill Maher" have featured many well known guests including Ben Affleck, Robin Williams, Chris Rock, John Edwards, the Rev. Al Sharpton, Larry King, and Ann Coulter. Along with his two hit shows, Maher also has written four bestsellers.

• **"Aurora Borealis,"** Sunday, Sept. 9, 3 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets are \$5. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Presented by the American Alzheimer's Association, "Aurora Borealis" stars Joshua Jackson, Donald Sutherland and Juliette Lewis. The film follows a troubled young man struggling to right himself after the premature death of his father. This moving coming of age story is set against the frigid backdrop of a Minnesota winter where

love begins to grow.

• **Shaun Hopper**, Friday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m., at the Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$20. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. The acoustic guitar wizard is known for his "fingerstyle" guitar playing. Hopper is at first glance an unassuming presence, a true southern gentleman whose humility stands in stark contrast to the prodigious talents he unveils on stage. An unparalleled master of the fret-board Hopper merges complex melodies, harmonies and bass lines along with a one of a kind mix of percussive elements captivating everyone within earshot. His original compositions and arrangements of well loved pop tunes are infused with cutting edge techniques resulting in a signature style which crosses over a full range of musical genres. Years of honing his craft led Hopper to the Winfield National Fingerpicking Championship where he won Best Instrumental Song in 2007 for his seminal piece "Autumn of Any Year." Later that same year, he won second place in the singer-songwriter competition at Atlanta's famed Eddie's Attic Shootout Competition without singing a single note being the first and only instrumentalist ever to achieve such recognition.

• **Ian Anderson**, Sunday, Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$59.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Anderson, of Jethro Tull fame, will be performing both "Thick as a Brick" in its entirety for the first time since 1972. The concert also will include Anderson's new album, "Thick as a Brick 2." This tour will feature a more theatrical production with video and additional musicians, including Anderson's band. The band includes bassist David Goodier, keyboardist John O'Hara, drummer Scott Hammond and guitarist Florian Opahle. All of the members have performed with Anderson on his solo dates over the years as well as having performed at various times as members of Jethro Tull. "Thick as a Brick 2" was produced by Anderson and mixed by Porcupine Tree's Steven Wilson. The album answers the question 40 years later, whatever happened to Gerald Bostock, the person credited with writing the lyrics for "Thick as a Brick," which hit No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Pop Albums chart.

• **Fiona Apple**, Saturday, Sept. 29, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$51.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. The Clean Slate/Epic Records recording artist is touring in support her first album in seven years, "The Idler Wheel Is Wiser Than the Driver of the Screw and Whipping Cords Will Serve You More Than Ropes Will Ever Do." Apple made her debut at age 19 with 1996's "Tidal," which is certified triple Platinum. "Rolling Stone" named her Artist of the Year in 1997 and in 1998 she won a Grammy for Best Female Rock Vocal Performance for one of the album's singles, "Criminal." "When the Pawn ..." followed in 1999. After fans organized a massive "Free Fiona" letter-writing campaign, insisting that her label release the long-delayed follow-up album, "Extraordinary Machine" was released in the fall of 2005 and was named the top album of the year by The New York Times.

• **"The Goonies,"** Sunday, Sept. 30, 3 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets are \$5. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Presented by Tampa Bay Parenting Magazine and Magic 94.9, the '80s classic "The Goonies" combines talents of two of today's most prominent filmmakers - Academy Award, Emmy and Golden Globe winner Steven Spielberg and Richard Donner, who created this

See LOOKING AHEAD, page 8B

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Appliances. \$1,895/Month Annual.
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145. Unfurnished Houses

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To Beach, Shopping, Immaculate,
Fenced Yard, No Pets. Annual
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13203 Dorchester, Seminole.
Near Schools. 3BR/2BA/2CG,
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22'X12'. Tile floors, C/H/A,
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155. Furnished Condos

BELLEAIR FOREST
1BR/1.5BA, Golf Course View.
\$800/Mo. annual. \$950/Mo. Sea-
sonal w/ 5 Month. Minimum.
(Negotiable). (773) 475-1599.

GULFPORT, 55+ 2BR/1BA,
Bayou View. Pool. Shuffleboard.
Cats Okay. \$850/Mo. (3 Month
Minimum). bgodejr@yahoo.com
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160. Unfurnished Condos

2BR/2BA IN SHIPWATCH
Beautiful gated community, two
pools, sauna/gym, free tennis.
New kitchen, ceramic & wood
floors. \$1,200/mo. Annual lease.
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CORDOVA GREENS, 2BR/2BA
In Bardmoor, 2nd Floor end unit,
W/D, carport, elevator, pool,
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(727)515-4443
Century 21/Top Sales

FIVE TOWNS, LAKE FRONT
2BR/2BA, 1,300SF, Gas Range,
W/D, Carport, Cable, Pools, Club-
house. \$900/Mo. (727)480-0793.

160. Unfurnished Condos

LARGO, 2BR/2BA
End unit. Pool Access. Covered
parking. W/D. No pets. \$800/mo. +
dep. includes Water, Trash, Cable.
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LARGO, HARBORCREST 400
55+ , Remodeled/ Painted,
2BR/1BA, Beautiful Clubhouse,
Heated Pool. No Pets. Long term.
\$750/Month Includes water, trash.
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Pool. Non-smoker. \$750/ Month
+Security. Includes W/S/G &
Cable. (727)593-9703.

MADEIRA BEACH, 2BR/2BA,
Gulf view, W/D connection,
community pool, no smoking,
no pets. W/S/G included.
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Florida's Best Accommodations.
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2BR/2BA, 1,056SF, 55+,
New Flooring.
Nice! \$725/Month-Yearly.
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(727)397-2534

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Non-smokers Only, Bill
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Carport. No Smoking. Small Pet
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170. Furn. Apartments

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Starting at \$179/Week. No
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WiFi access. PETS OK. MOVE IN
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ties. (727)397-4130.

175. Unfurn. Apartments

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P.A., Broker. (727)595-8229
www.SeminoleGarden.com

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Deluxe 1-2BRs, 1st-2nd Floor.
New Carpet. Overlooking Pool &
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185. Beach Rentals

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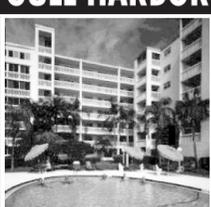
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Beautiful sunsets w/ panoramic
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Spacious, completely furnished
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Sleeps 10. Inside laundry. Pets
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190. Waterfront Rentals

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Redington Shrs. Fantastic Views!
Renovated 1,350-2,000SF.
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12th Floor. Great water views.
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Pappas Realty & Mgmt.

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265. Commercial Rentals

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485. Help Wanted

To find what you
need, take
"Time Out"
to read the
Classifieds!

190. Waterfront Rentals

TREASURE ISLAND 2BR/2BA,
Condo, Furnished/ Unfurnished,
Adults, No Pets, Pool, Dock. Fan-
tastic Water Views, One Block to
Beach. \$1,200/Month 1/Year
Lease. (763)458-7401.

195. Seasonal Rentals

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

210. M.H. Rentals

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2BR starting \$135/week, 28-week
lease, includes W/S/G. Move-in
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in a quiet community. Unfurnished.
Any age. Starting at \$650/month.
Background check required.
First month & security deposit.
Call Indian Rocks Estates,
(727)593-7796

225. Duplex-Triplex Rental

BAY PINES, 1BR/1BA,
newly renovated. 650SF, includes
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Petless/ Smokeless. \$600/mo +
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Exp. Ostomy & Urological
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RESERVATIONIST**
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COMPETITIVE PAY**

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And SAVE!**

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Packer/ Unpacker/ Organizer needed for a "white glove" move
management and organizing service. This is a flex-time position and
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physical 6-8 hour day and pass an extensive criminal background
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are looking for someone who demonstrates leadership qualities.
Applications will be accepted in person only,
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Apply at:
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visitors and residents coming and
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assist residents & family members
with minor maintenance issues;
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dependable, experienced
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Tampa Bay Newspapers
and the FTC.**

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Light lifting, 11AM-3PM,
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Ask for Dr. Roy.

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Packer/ Unpacker/ Organizer needed for a "white glove" move
management and organizing service. This is a flex-time position and
can range from 3-5 days per week. Applicants must be able to work a
physical 6-8 hour day and pass an extensive criminal background
& drug test. Prior packing or organizing experience is preferred. We
are looking for someone who demonstrates leadership qualities.
Applications will be accepted in person only,
Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Apply at:
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1115 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite A-5, Belleair, FL 33756
No phone calls
Visit our website at:
www.welcomehomerelocation.com

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885. Autos Wanted

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LOOKING AHEAD, from page 3B

box office hit that delights the young and the young at heart. When a group of ordinary kids discover a secret treasure map, their sleepy seaport lives are suddenly transformed into a fun-filled, roller-coaster ride filled with heart-pounding adventure and peril.

• **Joe Cocker with Dave Mason**, Thursday, Oct. 4, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$49.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerd-hall.com. For more than 40 years, Cocker has been a major player in the music business, releasing more than 20 studio and four live albums. His unmistakable bluesy soul voice is a musical trademark in its own right. He's sold millions of records and had massive hit singles such as "I'm So Glad I'm Standing Here," "Up Where We Belong" (a duet with Jennifer Warnes that reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and earned him a Grammy for Best Pop Performance by a Duo and an Academy Award for Best Original Song), "Unchain My Heart" and "You Are So Beautiful." Joining Cocker is special guest Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Dave Mason, co-founder and original member of the band Traffic. Mason will be bringing his guitar and performing hits from Traffic along with those from his impressive solo career.

• **"Rock of Ages,"** Saturday, Oct. 6, 5 and 9 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerd-hall.com. In 1987 on the Sunset Strip, a small-town girl met a big-city dreamer and in L.A.'s most legendary rock club, they fell in love to the greatest songs of the 1980s "Rock of Ages," is a hilarious, feel-good love story told through the hit songs of iconic rockers Journey, Styx, REO Speedwagon, Foreigner, Pat Benatar, Whitesnake, and many more. This five-time Tony nominated musical is all about dreaming big, playing loud and partying on.

• **The Chris Robinson Brotherhood**, Saturday, Oct. 20, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets start at \$45. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerd-hall.com. After more than 20 years of intense gigging and recording, Robinson brings his latest project - The Chris Robinson Brotherhood - to the Capitol Theatre. What began as an experiment without expectations turned into a 118-show journey for Robinson (lead vocals, guitar), Neal Casal (guitar, vocals), Adam MacDougall (keys, vocals), George Sluppick (drums) and Mark Dutton (bass, vocals) that surprised these seasoned pros as music of unshakable solidity and exuberant reach poured out of them. This New Cosmic California sound finds its fruition on the CRB's studio debut "Big Moon Ritual" which was released in June. For a full year, the CRB road tested their ideas, and in the process turned into an empathetic, limber congregation of talents, something different than any of their previous work with the likes of Phil Lesh and Friends, Ryan Adams and The Cardinals and JJ Grey and Mofro. By the time of their sold-out four-night run at San Francisco's Great American

Music Hall last December, the Brotherhood were fully switched-on. This is the band that entered Sunset Sound in Los Angeles in January 2012, setting up shop in Studio B and came out the other side of a six-day session with 27 different songs with 97 takes, most of it captured straight off-the-floor with only minor enhancements after the fact. The fruits of this hard-charging January session are heard on kindred albums "Big Moon Ritual" and soon-to-be-released "The Magic Door," with each song cycle spotlighting seven tunes, including a cover of Hank Ballard's "Let's Go Let's Go Let's Go." The Chris Robinson Brotherhood is also a torchbearer for rock's 1950s roots, tapping the catalogs of greats like the Everly Brothers and Elvis Presley for their ever-changing cover tune selections.

• **Celtic Thunder**, Saturday, Nov. 3, 2 and 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerd-hall.com. The musical phenomenon that is Celtic Thunder is touring in support of their recently released CD and DVD "Voyage," on Decca. "Voyage" continues to pay homage to the musical culture of Ireland, while exploring the musical journey each soloist has undertaken since the beginning of Celtic Thunder four years ago. Former members Damian McGinty and Paul Byrnom have moved on - McGinty's star continues to rise after securing a recurring role on Fox's hit show "Glee" while Byrnom has been busy launching a solo career. Keith Harkin also is working on a solo project while maintaining his integral role in Celtic Thunder. The rest of the ensemble remains the same including Ryan Kelly, Neil Byrne, George Donaldson and Emmet Cahill. The group's performances highlight the diversity of Irish music and song. From the powerful rendition of "Dulaman" to the love song "Maid of Culmore," the collection also features a rousing performance of "Galway Girl" and beloved Irish party song "My Irish Molly-O."

• **Benise**, Saturday, Nov. 10, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$42.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerd-hall.com. Benise's fiery Spanish guitar and International Dance Troupe returns to the area with En Fuego. En Fuego showcases classic songs from Led Zepelin, Queen, Bach, and The Eagles - to name a few - and marries them with Spanish guitar and Spanish dance. Benise's love of both Spanish guitar and rock brings a fierce intensity to these new interpretations of his favorite classic anthems. Since appearing on "Dancing with the Stars," Benise has embarked on a world tour. Fans of dance will witness some of the most renowned Flamenco dancers, Broadway dancers, and featured soloists from Madonna, Celine Dion, and Lady GaGa tours. Benise's international cast of dancers will flawlessly execute Spanish flamenco, Cuban salsa, Argentinean tango, Brazilian samba, Indian Bollywood, waltz and more.

• **The Tampa Bay Symphony: From the New World**; Saturday, Nov. 10, 8 p.m., at the Arts Auditorium, St. Petersburg College Clearwater campus, 2465 Drew



Photo courtesy of THE BEACH ART CENTER

"White Egret," by Dick Caldwell, is one of the works featured in an exhibit of Photographic Art Society of Florida members at the Beach Art Center, Indian Rocks Beach.

St., Clearwater. The symphony will perform Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 "From the New World," Aaron Copland's Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo, Edward MacDowell's Woodland Sketches, including "To a Wild Rose," and Morton Gould's Red Cavalry March. Tickets are \$20 at the door. Visit www.TampaBaySymphony.org.

• **Richard Marx**, Saturday, Dec. 1, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. Tickets start at \$42.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerd-hall.com. Marx is on tour in support of his recent release, "A Night Out With Friends," a live concert CD/DVD release featuring special guests Hugh Jackman, J.C. Chazez, Matt Scannell and Sara Niemietz. For more than 20 years, Marx has consistently and powerfully made his mark on the music industry. His debut single "Don't Mean Nothing" and self-titled debut album kicked off his career as a solo artist in 1987 and went on to sell 3 million copies. His 1989 follow-up CD, "Repeat Offender," became even more successful, selling more than 7 million copies worldwide. From 1987 to 1990, he became the first male solo artist in history to have his first seven singles reach the top 5 on Billboard's singles chart, including the No. 1 hit songs "Hold On to the Nights," "Satisfied" and the classic, "Right Here Waiting."

• **The 5th Dimension** featuring Florence LaRue, Saturday, Jan. 12, 4 and 8 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$34.50. Call 587-6793. The 5th Dimension is known for its soulful sophistication and smooth harmonies with a touch of class. The group has received 14 gold records, six platinum records and six Grammy Awards with multi-million selling hits including "Up, Up, and Away," "One Less Bell to Answer," "Wedding Bell Blues," "Stone Soul Picnic" and "Aquarius."

• **Marty Stuart**, Friday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$34.50. Call 587-6793. Known for his musical merging of honky tonk, rockabilly, country-rock, traditional country and bluegrass, Grammy-winning music icon Marty Stuart is now accompanied by his band, The Fabulous Superlatives. He has performed with countless music legends such as Merle Haggard and Johnny Cash,

and is destined to join their ranks as one of country music's most influential stars. Audiences will have an opportunity to see Stuart's flamboyant showmanship shine with his band in this one-night-only performance in Largo.

• **The Machine**, Saturday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$29.50. Call 587-6793. The Machine will perform music from Pink Floyd's extensive catalog. Tampa Bay area fans who have longed for a live Pink Floyd experience may wish to check out The Machine, America's top Pink Floyd show. Known for performing a diverse mix of The Floyd's extensive 16-album repertoire, fans can expect to see The Machine's dramatic lighting and video, and experience their passionate delivery that sets them apart from the rest.

Dunedin

• **Wearable ART Fashion Show**, Saturday, Aug. 11, at Dunedin Fine Art Center, 1143 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin. The pre-party will start at 7 p.m. The runway show will begin at 8:30 p.m. Wearable ART was indeed one of the first in the area eight years ago to showcase a growing contingent of artists working in fashion related ways. It continues that tradition in its eighth year featuring an exciting new collaboration with local artistic legend Rocky Bridges and his wife Kathleen Bridges, as well as work by Johnny Hunt, Mark Byrne, Scott Durfee and George Medeiros, the Garden Fairies, Michael Della Penna and perennial crowd pleaser Rogerio Martins with new work. Tickets are \$20 general admission, with reserved seating going for \$35 or \$75. Call 298-DFAC or visit www.dfac.org.

Indian Rocks Beach

• **Exhibit opening**, Thursday, Aug. 9, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Beach Art Center, 1515 Bay Palm Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach. Members of the Photographic Art Society of Florida will exhibit artworks at the Beach Art Center from Aug. 8 through October 13. The Aug. 9 opening reception will include awards. The public is welcome. The Photographic Art Society of

Florida is a nonprofit organization for photographers who wish to expand their knowledge of photography as an art form. Artists exhibiting in the show include Alex Spassoff, Candace Webb, Charmaine Martinez, Cheryl Anne Day-Swallow, Christopher Sheppard, David Mathre, Debbie Stubbs, Dick Caldwell, Donna Linder, Elizabeth Kraker, Fred Borgianini, Glen Desthers, Glenn Nielsen, Gloria Matyszyk, Jane Egbert, Jim Pennington, Jim Swallow, JoAnn Lousberg, Joe Martin, John Sager, Karen Mason, Kari Sheppard, Lee Brand, Manny Bonewitz, Nils Sheppard, Peter Lousberg, Prudy Olsen, Sandy Thomas, Sonia Smith, Terri Gross and Tom Carnahan. For information about the Photographic Art Society of Florida, visit www.photographicartsociety.org. For information about the Beach Art Center, call 596-4331 or visit at www.beachartcenter.org.

Largo

• **Moxy Concert** - Believe in Miracles, Saturday, Aug. 24, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$27 in advance and \$32 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. This concert and variety show will feature the area's most talented performers, vocalists and musicians including singer/songwriter and musician Jayne Kelli, award winning performer Rebecca Zapen, American Idol Experience Dream Ticket winner Vanessa Quillao, actress and singer Becca McCoy and singer/songwriter and musician A.J. Swearingen. There also will be a special performance by Moving Arts of Tampa Bay, and the talented vocalists Jennifer Real, Rossana Spallino, Chantelle Ashby and Reggie Dockens.

• **Blackberry Smoke**, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Atlanta-based Blackberry Smoke continues to grow into the premiere Southern Rock band of America. Over the last 24 months they have shared

the stage with Zac Brown Band, ZZ Top, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Kid Rock, Jamey Johnson, Travis Tritt and countless others. Their video "Good One Comin' On" was No. 1 on CMT for two weeks and No. 3 for seven weeks straight.

• **Keiko Matsui**, Saturday, Oct. 13, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$45.50 in advance and \$50.50 the day of the show. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. After selling out her show at the center last year, the contemporary jazz icon returns. Matsui creates music both powerful and introspective, blending Western and Eastern musical influences. Her exquisite style of Japanese jazz spans three decades of international acclaim. Elegant piano melodies, a free spirit and creative genius mark her return to the Largo stage.

Madeira Beach

• **Casino Royale**, Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2:30 p.m., at Gulf Beaches Public Library, 200 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach. Part of the Summer Film Series, this 2006 film is the 21st installment in the James Bond film series. It stars Daniel Craig as Bond as well as Eva Green, Mads Mikkelsen, Judi Dench and Jeffrey Wright.

• **"Million Dollar Baby,"** Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2:30 p.m., at Gulf Beaches Public Library, 200 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach. Part of the Summer Film Series, this 2004 sports drama directed by Clint Eastwood stars Hilary Swank, Morgan Freeman and Eastwood.

• **"Catch Me If You Can,"** Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2:30 p.m., at Gulf Beaches Public Library, 200 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach. Part of the Summer Film Series, this 2002 comedy-drama directed by Steven Spielberg stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks, Christopher Walken and Amy Adams.

• **"My Sister's Keeper,"** Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2:30 p.m., at Gulf Beaches Public Library, 200 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach. Part of the Summer Film Series, this 2009 drama stars Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin, Sofia Vassilieva and Alec Baldwin.

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