

Pinellas bed tax breaks records

Tourism revenue increases 12 percent over last year ... Page 16A.

LARGO LEADER

Volume XXXV, No. 13

www.TBNweekly.com

October 18, 2012

LARGO First Black Box production

The Orange Belt Railroad, an original play by Richard J. Budin, premieres at the Black Box Theater for two weekends Friday through Sunday, Oct. 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28, 7 to 9 p.m.

The play is the first to be presented at the new theater.

... Page 2A.

New editor for the Largo Leader

Tampa Bay Newspapers is making editorial changes to better serve readers and make the best use possible of its staff.

Juliana Torres, after being Pinellas Park Beacon editor for two years, has been named editor of the Largo Leader.



Juliana A. Torres

POLICE BEAT Police take down meth lab

The Largo Police Department's Investigative Services Division Special Operations Unit conducted a joint operation with the Drug Enforcement Agency Oct. 10, serving a search warrant on a suspected Methamphetamine lab operating in the Briarwood Mobile Home Park, 2098 Seminole Blvd., Lot 129.

Christopher Michael Blondeau, 37, was arrested.

... Page 7A.



Christopher
Blondeau

SPORTS



Soccer champs

The Celtic F.C. Florida under 14 girls team won the championship game at the Adidas Columbus Day Classic soccer tournament on Oct. 7.

... Page 14A.

VIEWPOINTS Bob Driver

Columnist raises some questions about Obama, Romney.

... Page 10A.



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Lynyrd Skynyrd to perform in Pinellas County this week

Legendary southern rock band scheduled at Ruth Eckerd Hall Oct. 24 ... Page 1B.



Residents protest 'negotiation'

Paradise Island not pleased with Largo's decision to pay half of sewer costs

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO — The residents of the Paradise Island mobile home park came to the Largo Commission meeting in droves to protest Largo's imminent response to their ongoing sewer woes Oct. 16.

The neighborhood is upset that the city will offer to pay Paradise Island Co-op only half of the costs of the \$15,000 repairs to its sewer, the source of a bad smell that has been plaguing the neighborhood for several years.

"Apparently, the city has already decided what

they're going to do with no negotiating," said Nancy Perry, manager for the co-op. "Something's wrong here; something smells."

Earlier this month, City Attorney Alan Zimmet updated the city commission on the status of the ongoing issue. City staff would be responding to the co-op's claim in a letter, he said.

"It was staff's determination that an appropriate offer from the city was to pay 50 percent of the costs which you had submitted a claim for," Zimmet explained again, addressing the co-op leaders. "I never said negotiations were over or complete."

As of yet, the letter had not been sent. However, Paradise Island residents read about the discussion in local newspapers and weren't happy.

"I'm letting the commission know this is not acceptable behavior," Perry said. "(You) negotiate with a human being, the parties involved. You do not do it in the media."

While the city might have preferred to keep the terms of the initial terms of the negotiation under wraps a bit longer, the Florida Sunshine Laws prevent See COMMISSION, page 2A

Patriotic ceremony ... and fun

LARGO — The Palms of Largo unveiled a new community event area on its 88-acre campus called The Plaza, Oct. 13, inviting the community to celebrate with a morning ceremony, meal and day of family-friendly activities.

The Plaza is designed as a gathering place for residents, family, friends, veterans, employees and the Largo community. It is a continuation of The Goodman Group and The Palms of Largo's mission to develop a community that provides stability for seniors and employees by providing life-enriching programs and services while giving back to the Largo area, said owner and developer John B. Goodman.

"We are excited about this gathering area for The Palms of Largo but also for the greater Largo community," Goodman stated. "The Plaza will host a multitude of programs and activities that will contribute to the tapestry of the already vibrant and lively community and integrate programs with the Largo Community Center next door."

The Plaza consists of a rotunda, covered activity ramadas, The Plaza Deli with courtyard dining, a veterans' memorial, vine-shaded trellises, a ceremonial lawn, and a gazebo.

The Plaza, at 385 Alt. Keene Road, will host a full calendar of daily events such as educational and exercise classes, residential and community markets, interactive



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES



Photo courtesy of THE PALMS OF LARGO

Above, the Pinellas County Veterans Council Military Honor Guard prepares the "missing man table" in honor of those remembered during the grand opening of The Plaza, a new community event area at The Palms of Largo Oct. 13. The Plaza includes a veteran's memorial courtyard to help residents remember the past. Top, Aileen Maldonado, 8, of Largo leaps for a high-five from the Uncle Sam on stilts, Robert Carroll of Blair Entertainment, which provided just some of the festive atmosphere for the opening.

Candidates weigh in on businesses' concerns, jobs

By TOM GERMOND

LARGO — Candidates for several state and county officials at an Oct. 11 political forum discussed ways government can help businesses grow during the economic slowdown, among other issues.

The Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce breakfast event was held at Largo Medical Center. All candidates for state and county contested races were invited.

State Rep. Larry Ahern, R-St. Petersburg, who is seeking the District 66 seat, has served for two years in the Legislature.

Ahern serves on the Business and Consumer Affairs Subcommittee, among other committee assignments.

He said the Legislature passed some "great reforms," recently such as lowering the taxes on 15,000 small businesses to help them survive in tough economic times.

Putting Florida back to work has been the Legislature's toughest challenge, he said, especially with the loss of equity in the property tax base.

Noting his experience as a small business owner, Ahern said the House has many lawyers and insurance industry representatives, but "we don't have that many small business owners."

He said his skills help him to understand the "day-to-day struggles" of small business owners.

The private sector, Ahern said, has a lot of solutions

for Florida's problems and the state needs to involve it in the things that government doesn't do so well."

He said in the first session he attended, the state was \$4 billion short of revenue in a \$70 billion budget.

"And we balanced it without raising anyone's taxes or fees," he said.

The Legislature took similar action in his second session.

"It's tough to tell people no — it's not in the budget. It takes leadership to do that," he said.

His opponent, Mary Louise Ambrose of Belleair Bluffs, a Democrat, said she disagreed with most of

See CANDIDATES, page 4A

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City calendar of events

Largo Library and Central Park

The Largo Central Park is at 101 Park Central Drive. The Largo Public Library, within the park, is at 120 Central Park Drive.

Genealogy classes

The Pinellas Genealogy Society offers a variety of free classes every month at Largo Public Library.

Topics for October include: using Ancestry.com, tracing female ancestors, managing digital photos and a four-part series on Family Tree Maker basics.

For a complete listing with details of classes and scheduled times, visit www.flpgs.org/classes.aspx. For more information, email Bob Bryan at BBryan84@gmail.com or call 595-4521.

Halloween Spooktacular

The city of Largo will host the 18th annual Halloween Spooktacular on Saturday, Oct. 27, noon to 6 p.m. in Largo Central Park.

The event will feature a free trick-or-treat path until 4 p.m. Costumes are not required, as they may hinder children from participating in other activities. Enjoy several inflatables, slides, games, activities and concessions throughout the park. Visit the old library field for fun geared to the littlest ones.

Wristbands, required for most games and activities, are available in

advance for \$5 with a recreation card and \$6 without or \$7 at the event. A ropes course, bungee jump, pony rides and brush tattoos will be available for an additional cost.

Limited on-site parking is available for \$5 or walk from Largo High School and Largo Middle School. Dogs are not permitted. Call 587-6740, ext. 5014.

Largo Community Center

Largo Community Center is at 400 Alt. Keene Road. Visit LargoCommunityCenter.com or call 518-3131.

Black Box Productions

The Orange Belt Railroad, an original play by Richard J. Budin, premieres at the Black Box Theater for two weekends Friday through Sunday, Oct. 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28, 7 to 9 p.m.

In 1885, when land was \$25 an acre and Point Pinellas was declared the world's healthiest place to live, Peter Demens created a railroad worth millions out of nothing. Be a part of his heroic struggle at this authentic, live and entertaining play with music! Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

Weekly events

• Square dancing: Every Friday, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. Spend the evening dancing country-style to professional caller Allen Snell. The

Candle Light Vigil will be held Thursday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m., at Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive.

The evening is dedicated to remembering those lost in the Pinellas County area from drug or alcohol abuse and recognizing thousands in the community who are suffering from the disease of addiction. If you have lost a family member or friend to drugs or alcohol, bring a picture to place on the memorial wall the night of the vigil.

Call 424-6906.

Family History Assistance Day held at Largo library

LARGO – The Pinellas Genealogy Society and the Largo Public Library will host a Family History Assistance Day on Saturday, Nov. 10, noon to 4 p.m., in the Jenkins Room on the first floor of the library, 120 Central Park Drive.

Bring information about your ancestors and receive free, one-on-one assistance from a society consultant. Beginners are especially encouraged to attend and experience the process of tracing their genealogical

"The negotiations that you spoke of have not occurred," Commissioner Harriet Crozier explained to the co-op. "The press has a way of knowing things and putting things in the newspaper before we want them to."

"Sometimes government doesn't work as fast as you want it to," she later added.

Zimmet said the letter to the co-op likely would be ready before the end of the week.

The timing of the negotiation, however, does not change the position of the Paradise Islands residents, who want to be compensated in full for the emergency repairs made to the sewer.

"We want our money," Perry said. "It's not half our fault. We did not do anything wrong. We jumped when they told us to jump."

At the conclusion of a study on the sewer problem earlier this year, the city is investing \$10,000 in additional short-term improvements to the sewer as well as long-term upgrades over the next three years.

No raises in union contract

The city agreed to its first union agreement for the current fiscal year. The employees represented by the Communications Workers of America agreed to an upgraded contract that included no pay increases, said Assistant City Manager Henry Schubert.

"We would all like to have a pay increase, every employee would, but they understand the city's financial situation and are willing to work with us. So we do appreciate that," Schubert said.

cost is \$6.

• Open Air Market: Every Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Browse through a variety of vendors in a market featuring local produce, crafters, food, jewelry, artists and entertainment.

• Swing dancing: Every Saturday, 7 to 11 p.m. – Enjoy an evening of dancing and socializing on a 5,600-square-foot sprung hardwood floor. Free lessons from 7 to 8 p.m., followed by a dance with music by DJ Savoy Swing. The cost is \$6 with a recreation card and \$7 without a recreation card.

Highland Recreation Complex

Highland Recreation Complex is at 400 Highland Ave. Visit PlayLargo.com or call 518-3016.

Monster Mash Zumba Bash

Come dressed in costume and enjoy raffle prizes, healthy snacks and non-stop Zumba on Saturday, Oct. 20, 6 to 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door.

Lego Friends

Lego Friends, for ages 5 and older, will meet to build new projects on Saturday, Oct. 20, 11 a.m. to noon.

October's theme is Spooky Skyscrapers. Meet new friends while exploring the land of Legos. Tickets range from \$5 to \$9.25.

Around Largo

Largo police promoting bicycle safety with free lights

LARGO – The Largo Police Department has more than 1,000 bicycle light packages from the Florida Department of Transportation to give away to the public.

Officers will install a LED headlight and taillight to residents' bicycles. The program is part of the department's traffic safety unit's efforts to enforce bicycle safety and stop bicyclists who are riding without lights.

Several bicyclists already have been stopped and issued a written warning for the violation. Traffic safety officers installed new lights on their bicycles before they rode off.

Bicycle lights will be kept at the front desk of the department to give away and install them on bicycles without them.

NOPE candle vigil to remember those lost

LARGO – The Narcotics Overdose Prevention & Education's annual

COMMISSION, from page 1A

Zimmet or any other city representative from discussing governmental business with any more than one elected official at a time, outside of a public meeting.

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The city is still in bargaining process to develop new contracts with the police and firefighter unions.

Roof repair

The city is going to pay more than anticipated for the repair of City Hall roof, after discovering that the roof differed from the original design drawings and would require additional work to update.

The city budgeted \$1.5 million toward the roof repair. However, the city contracted the project with the construction company Eveland Brothers at a cost of \$783,400. The additional work will cost \$22,907 extra.

Commissioner Curtis Holmes questioned the "25 percent increase" in the cost. Facilities Manager Glenn Harwood told him that there was no way to anticipate the increase until the work exposed the difference in the roof's design.

Library donations

The commission proclaimed the week of Oct. 21 in honor of the Friends of Largo Library, which reaches the milestone this year of \$1 million in donations to the library since 1979. Recent donations of note from the organization include \$185,000 toward the new library building between 2003 and 2006, funding for computers in the children's and teen area and \$200,000 slated in 2013 for a new radio frequency identification system, their largest donation to date.

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Photos by JIM LAYFIELD
At left, a green anole stands out in some dying brush at the Largo Central Park Nature Preserve Oct. 13. Above, a silver-dollar-sized soft shell turtle skims the surface along the edge of a pond. The park at 150 Highland Ave. is open daily, from 6:30 a.m. to one hour before sunset.

Tampa Bay Newspapers makes staff changes for Largo Leader

Tampa Bay Newspapers is making editorial department changes to better serve readers and make the best use of its staff.

Tiffany Razzano, who has several years of experience as an editor and reporter, has joined the staff as the Pinellas Park Beacon editor. She succeeds Juliana Torres, who, after being Pinellas Park Beacon editor for two years, has been named editor of the Largo Leader. Torres also has several years of experience as a reporter.

Executive Editor Tom Germond, who also was Largo Leader editor for four years, will now serve as editor of the Belleair Bee.

"I'm confident that these staff changes will ensure that we continue to provide great coverage of the communities we serve and position ourselves for more opportunities to increase readership and consider product expansion," Germond said.

"Tampa Bay Newspapers has enjoyed great readership for years, and we look forward to continued growth in the area," Germond said.

The company publishes six weeklies, The Seminole Beacon,

Beach Beacon, Clearwater Beacon, Pinellas Park Beacon, Largo Leader and Belleair Bee. The weekly papers have a combined circulation of 120,700.

It also maintains a website, www.TBNweekly.com, and has two monthly newspapers, the Dunedin and Palm Harbor Beacons.

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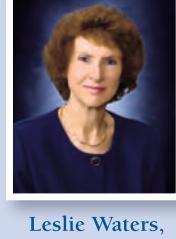
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The tantalizing flavors of Pinellas Park's newest coffee shop

By JULIANA A. TORRES

PINELLAS PARK – Tantalize Your Taste Buds, a new coffee shop at 8260 66th St. in Pinellas Park, is the resulting blend of international travel, ardent study and a carefully crafted business plan, brewed over the last 12 years.

The passion behind the shop, Michelle Warren, sees herself as not only the owner of a business she hopes to franchise one day, but an educator. Her goal is to help customers appreciate the flavor subtleties of different coffee beans, which will vary based on the region where they're grown.

"I'm not just a coffee shop. I'm a regional coffee shop. I want to teach you about the coffee you drink," she said.

Forget about drowning the coffee with 10 shots of sugar and chocolate, as is offered by the industry standard, Starbucks. The coffee giant's sugary drinks bypass the importance of the espresso itself, which should be the focal point, Warren explains.

"You don't know if it's bitter. You don't know if it's mild. You don't even know if it's decaf ... We're all taught today how to drink our coffees based on what Starbucks says," she said. "I want to teach you that you can brew that same cup of coffee or you can drink that espresso and feel ten times better without having the sugar high that goes with it."

Each regional coffee is best paired with a food or pastry to complement it. To enhance the mild blends of Costa Rican coffee, Warren might suggest a Cuban sandwich or a fruit. With a brisk and bold Kenyan blend, one of her dark chocolate gourmet cupcake will even the palette. A hazelnut or praline cookie enhances the natural Brazilian nut tones at the end of a Nicaraguan brew.

The full-bodied, flavor experience Warren hopes to offer is an expression of her general enthusiasm.

"I'm an overachiever. If I learned to scuba dive, I had to become a scuba instructor. If I was an accountant, I had to be a CPA. If I'm a business owner, now I want (to be a) chef and pastier," she said. "So I'm going back to school for both of those."

Twelve years ago, Warren became a business consultant for a company whose clients were Fortune 500 companies. She found herself traveling internationally and experiencing not only the cuisine of different countries, but the varying characteristics and traditions of their coffees. Some cultures frowned upon ordering a cappuccino in the afternoon, while others insisted a latte is the only thing one could enjoy during those afternoon hours. In Italy, espresso must be drunk standing up and all at once.

"Coffee was kind of a passion of mine," she said. "I started studying coffee."

As an expert in reshaping the operations and finances of businesses, Warren said she already knew how to build a business from the ground up. She analyzed the strengths and failings of fast-growing businesses in the food industry: Starbucks, Panera Bread and Tijuana Flats.

She decided to plan out her own business plan for a coffee shop.

"It was all on paper. And I thought, 'It will never make it.' Because it's expensive to start a business," she said.



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Tantalize Your Taste Buds owner Michelle Warren reaches for one of her gourmet chocolate cupcakes at the request of a customer Oct. 5.

But the pursuit of coffee continued. About six years ago, she bought coffee plant seeds to grow in her own backyard in Dunedin. She bought special dirt and fashioned a system made of PVC pipes with screening at adjustable heights so she could create the humidity, sunlight or temperature needed to keep the coffee plants happy in the Florida climate.

Along with the coffee plants, she started to grow hazelnut trees, dwarf bananas, pomegranates, blackberries, blueberries and strawberries so she could experiment in grafting the flavors with the coffee plants.

Two years ago, she began roasting her own coffee beans. She joined a blogging community that shared roasting and cupping experiences to help perfect her personal roasting recipes.

Meanwhile, as a business consultant, Warren steered herself toward the agricultural industry so she could network with coffee growers and roasters, like Boca Java in Deerfield and the coffee roasters at the international company Melitta.

She also connected with companies that would become suppliers for her shop as well as her personal mentors, including Tampa-based Joffrey's Coffee and Monin Gourmet Beverage, the international coffee syrup company with its U.S. operations based in Clearwater. When she told them of her business dreams, leaders in both companies advised Warren that a coffee shop wouldn't make it on its own.

"You need to think the coffee shop is in the box and be on the outside of the box," Warren said, remembering their advice. "So that's where I live today."

Supporting the coffee shop itself are the catering services she offers,

business should create 25 new jobs. A new or expanding office has to create 50 new jobs to qualify.

Finally, the average wage of the new jobs created must be higher than the average wage of the area, which in Pinellas County was \$40,382 as of Jan. 1 this year.

Aside from creating new businesses, the new program could provide incentive for Largo businesses to stay in the city and expand rather than move out of state in order to find more "bang for (their) buck," Brydon said.

"This is an incentive that, for the first time, allows us to help existing Florida businesses grow and remain competitive in the world market.

That's how I look at it," she said.

Of course, Largo has plenty of room for new businesses as well.

"We do have a lot of great opportunities for corporate offices and/or industrial or manufacturing sites," Brydon said.

She added that any time the city looks to offer a business incentive, staff evaluates the value of the investment versus the eventual return, making sure the city will see that return within two years. The potential tax exemption program is a "great opportunity" because it meets that requirement, she said.

"We're going to get our revenues back in a two-year period and after that we're going to get

as well as the sale of her gourmet cupcakes and pastries.

"I like to cook for people. I like to make people fat and happy," Warren said.

Tantalize Your Taste Buds also has become the U.S. East Coast distributor for Barbera Coffee, a fifth-generation Italian coffee roasting company.

"This is the first time the Barbera company is coming to the United States. We're going to be the branding agent for Barbera Coffee," Warren said. "That's going to be the dollars holding the coffee shop up."

Members of the Barbera family flew in from Italy for the grand opening of Tantalize Your Taste Buds on Sept. 19. Warren said she will carry the coffee brand with the future expansion of her own shop.

"What I want to do is eventually get to the point where I can franchise it: cookie-cutter it and put it into the St. Pete College, move it in New York City," she said. "I want Tantalize Your Taste Buds to be recognized for something really special."

Part of that is creating a family environment for everyone that works at the shop, currently seven part-time employees. That meant reaching out to the community for help to replace an employee's bike when it got stolen from in front of the store. Tantalize Your Taste Buds also held a raffle to raise funds so the shop can help provide Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for families.

"I want the community to recognize that we go above and beyond," Warren said.

The journey to open the shop began more than a year ago as Warren and her then-fiancée Perry began to search out a location for the dream to take root. Her daughter Ashley discovered the empty storefront that was originally designed to be a Starbucks after taking an exam in the office plaza on 66th Street that would become the Tantalize Your Taste Buds' home. Warren entered a lease for the space in October last year; construction began in December.

By the beginning of April, Warren had enough equipment to offer free coffee to passersby for a few days until the soft opening on April 13. Building business since then has been slow.

"I thought that it would be a lot busier ... because people wanted it. People like coffee," Warren said. "It's kind of discouraging."

Because of the low sales, Warren launched the distribution side of the business sooner than she had planned. She implemented changes at the suggestion of her mentors, including Monin CEO Bill Lombardo. She added tables and umbrellas outside the shop to enhance its look. She made her pastry showcase look more "yummy" and worked to build a fresh-baked smell in the brand new space. She offered pastry mini cupcake and coffee samples to entice customers. She launched a Thursday "mic night" featuring local musicians.

Sales have gone up, but it's still hard. Warren is hopeful. Her objective is still to transform people's coffee experience.

"I educate lots of people here in coffees. I like my job," she said. "It's always been a dream."

Tantalize Your Taste Buds is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays, 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., with live music starting at 7 p.m., and Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Call 202-6989 or, for a full menu of drinks, sandwiches, wraps, salads, soups and bakery items, visit www.tytb.com.

REFERENDUM, from page 1A

state "target industry," which also are recognized in the Largo Economic Development Plan and include life sciences, specifically health care and medical manufacturing; financial and professional services; homeland security and defense; information technology; aviation or aerospace; manufacturing and corporate headquarter operations.

The minimum amount of jobs the qualifying improvement must create varies depending on the type of business, according to state law. Manufacturing businesses must provide 10 new jobs. An out-of-state or international sales busi-

ness should create 25 new jobs. A new or ex-

panding office has to create 50 new jobs to qualify.

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"We're going to get our revenues back in a two-year period and after that we're going to get

more," she said. "So it makes a lot of sense to leverage the city's revenues to bring in new job opportunities to the community."

The referendum will be listed last on most Largo ballots and is the only other Largo-specific decision to be made by citizens within the city. Seat 4 on the Largo City Commission is the only contested race this year, pitting James Robinson against Robert Hunsicker.

Brydon said if the referendum passed, she would welcome input from residents and businesses on what they think the parameters of Largo's tax exemption program should be. To contact Brydon, call 586-7360 or email tbyton@largo.com

CANDIDATES, from page 1A

Ahern's comments.

"I'm running because I think Tallahassee is broken," she said. "The give and take of ideas and the ability to compromise are the very basis of our government and they are completely absent from Tallahassee. Special interests rule."

She said she is uniquely qualified to represent the district as an attorney and a small business owner, mother, wife and grandmother.

"It's time we started funding our public schools, not taking the money and sending it to businesses that put profit before education," she said.

She said the state needs to support firefighters, police, nurses and teachers.

"The burden of taxes should not be put on the hard-working middle class in order to fund billionaires and large corporations," she said.

It's time for lawmakers to stop claiming they don't raise taxes and fees "when they're dumping unfunded mandates on the cities and the counties," Ambrose said.

Ben Farrell, a Clearwater Democrat running for state representative, District 67, also touted his small business experience. His family has operated a restaurant on U.S. 19 for 35 years and he also was involved in butcher shops that spread to five states. He later became a furniture maker.

"My idea to get things rolling is to go to small business people who can offer real middle class jobs, \$40,000 to \$50,000 jobs, and find out from them what it takes to hire one person, two people, maybe 10 percent of their payroll and help them. Because if we are going to subsidize anybody, we might as well subsidize the things we need," Farrell said.

The middle class jobs provide the income so that people have spending money.

"This state lives and dies on sales taxes," he said, so the state needs people to buy vehicles, houses and other goods.

His opponent, Ed Hooper, R-Clearwater, did not attend the forum.

State Sen. Jack Latvala, R-St. Petersburg, who is running for the District 20 seat, said he recently has worked on economic development issues.

Latvala said he has tried to identify the needs specific companies in Pinellas County have to allow them, either through regulatory changes or state contracting mechanisms, to add new employees.

"We've had a lot of success with that," Latvala said.

He has also worked in consolidating governments, such as combining agencies to reduce police departments within the agencies, saving money, he said.

His opponent, Ashley Rhodes-Courter, a St. Petersburg Democrat, did not attend the forum.

Dwight Dudley, a St. Petersburg Democrat running for state representative, District 68, worked on a legislative committee staff as an analyst for four years. He now runs a law firm.

"So I got to see how the sausage is made," he said.

He was critical of special interests in Tallahassee, singling out utility taxes.

"Progress Energy is taxing us like crazy," Dudley said.

He called a utility tax the Legislature passed that allows utilities to charge Floridians in advance to build power plants "the Farkas fee," saying that his opponent, Frank Farkas, R-St. Petersburg, voted for the tax twice. Dudley wants to repeal the tax.

"We are on the hook for about \$3.5 billion. This isn't just a rant against nuclear power. But why are we citizens paying for that? It's hurting business," he said.

Farkas didn't attend the forum.

Jessica Ehrlich, a St. Petersburg Democrat running for U.S. representative, District 13, said she is "frustrated by what is happening and not happening in Congress."

"After almost five decades of the same leadership under Congressman Young, it is simply time for a change," she said, "and a fresh approach to the problems we are now facing."

Ehrlich, who has practiced law and has worked for a former congressman, worked in New York City on 9/11 and was "on the ground when the Trade Center collapsed."

"It was a hugely transformational time for me, and I decided the next day to go into public service because I wanted to do something I felt would make a difference for our country," she said.

Her opponent, Young, did not attend the forum.

District 1 County Commissioner Neil Brickfield, a Safety Harbor Republican, said to accomplish goals during recent years of declining rev-

enue "we [commissioners] had to question every thing we did as a government – small things to big things."

He talked about consolidating certain functions, such as merging five different GIS divisions into one that serves the whole county.

The county has two buildings with personnel who handle 9-1-1 calls – one for emergency medical operators and the other for police emergency operators.

The 12 county commissioners and the constitutional officers agreed that's "priority one. When we get the sheriff's new operation center open, we're having a 9-1-1 center with one set of operators who are trained for all of it," Brickfield said.

Moving forward, the long-term strategic plan is to determine what core services county government has to provide and how county government can best provide it, Brickfield said.

"If we are not the best at it, how do we find someone who can do it better than we can for the same amount of money?" Brickfield said.

He said the 24 cities in the county are going to collaborate with county government wherever possible to save money. He also said determining how to get a high-performing workforce is a priority.

Janet Long, a Seminole Democrat, is running against Brickfield for the at-large seat.

She said she has served in many different areas of public service for 30 years, including as deputy insurance commissioner, state legislator and Seminole city councilor.

"My leadership skills were honed during the debacle of Hurricane Andrew and no-name storm, and it was our team in Pinellas County that was one of the first people into Homestead after Hurricane Andrew, and I could have cared less then whether people were Republicans or Democrats. All I cared about was [helping people]."

She said there is no question that the "big elephant in the room for our county" is fire and emergency medical services.

"I think that every elected official in the room probably knows what the answers are. In our county we have spent another \$300,000 for another study," Long said.

When the recommendations are made, the county will have to authorize another study to find out how much it will cost to implement the study it had just conducted.

She said that while Brickfield "likes to tell you he has watched everything dollar by dollar, line by line, he fails to tell you that last year they raised the EMS side of the budget by 46 percent, and they will raise it again this year and every year in the future until we make some decisions about

Elections Office extends hours through Nov. 6

By SUZETTE PORTER

LARGO — With less than three weeks left before the Nov. 6 general elections, Pinellas County's Elections offices are gearing up for a busy time.

Extended hours continue through Election Day, with offices remaining open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sunday, through Oct. 26. Starting Oct. 27, the offices will remain open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week through Nov. 3. The hours for Sunday and Monday, Nov. 4-5, are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Offices will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6 - Election Day.

The Elections Call Center will be open until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. During all office hours, voters may pick up mail ballots, vote in the office, update their voter file and check their ballot status.

Supervisor of Elections Office locations:

- 13001 Starkey Road (Starkey Lakes Corporate Center), Largo
- 315 Court St., Room 117 (Courthouse), Clearwater
- 501 First Ave. N. (Fifth Street entrance), St. Petersburg

Early Voting

Statewide, early voting is currently held the 10th day through the third day prior to any federal, state or county election. Times vary among counties, but must be no less than six hours and no more than 12 hours per day.

Registered Pinellas County voters can cast an early ballot on any day from Oct. 27 through Nov. 3, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., at any of the three Supervisor of Elections offices.

Voters must present both picture and signature identification. Voters who do not bring both types of ID will be required to vote a provisional ballot. Voters who have moved from another county must update address before going to the polls to vote in a regular ballot.

Mail ballots

The last day to request a mail ballot is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31. Residents can still pick up mail ballots at any Supervisor of Elections Office through Nov. 6. Mail ballots must be received at an Elections Of-

fice by 7 p.m. Election Day to be counted. Ballots also can be turned in at any of the 14 secure drop-off locations throughout the county. A list of locations is included in the mail ballot packet.

To request a mail ballot or to find out if a returned mailed ballot was received, call 464-VOTE (464-8683) or visit www.votepinellas.com. Mail ballot requests are good for two general election cycles. A ballot will be mailed the next business day following the request.

According to information at the Elections Office website, mail ballots have gained in popularity among Pinellas County residents since the practice was approved by the state in 2004. Requests increased more than 400 percent from the 2008 presidential preference primary to the 2008 November general election. During the August 2010 primary election, 59 percent of county residents cast a mail ballot compared to 39 percent at polling places on Election Day. Only 2 percent voted early. In the 2010 general election, 51 percent voted by mail and 46 percent cast a ballot at a polling place. Only 3 percent took advantage of early voting.

As of Oct. 13, 44,152, or 16 percent, of the 275,109 mail ballots sent out had been returned. The Elections Office was reporting that 17,792 of 111,710 Republican ballots mailed had been returned and 18,034 or the 103,311 Democrat ballots. Another 8,326 had been returned of the 60,808 sent out to those registered as other than Democrat or Republican.

The latest figures posted at www.votepinellas.com show that 622,843 residents are registered to vote Nov. 6, including 225,339 Republicans, 231,747 Democrats and 165,757 registered as other.

Long ballot

The general election ballot is four pages long on two ballot cards and includes 11 proposed state constitutional amendments and a Pinellas School District referendum. Residents should remember to vote both sides of the ballot cards.

Send news to Largo Leader Editor Juliana Torres, Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772. Email jtorres@TBNweekly.com or call 397-5563, ext. 324.

Visit www.TBNweekly.com

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Killingsworth challenges Clark to lead Elections Office

By SUZETTE PORTER

Long-time incumbent Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark is facing challenger Jack Killingsworth in the Nov. 6 general election.

It's not the first time the two have faced off for the job; Clark defeated Killingsworth Nov. 4, 2008, with 61 percent of the vote.

Tampa Bay Newspapers asked the candidates to complete a questionnaire to help readers get to know the candidates and their views.

About the candidates

Clark, 63, is the Republican candidate. Originally from Fort Meade, she has lived in Pinellas County since the early 1970s. She is married to Richard A. Clark. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

She has worked for the Elections Office since 1978 and served as deputy supervisor of elections in 1982. She was first elected to the office of Supervisor of Elections in 2000.

Clark has an associate of arts degree from St. Petersburg Junior College.

Killingsworth, 78, is running as a Democrat. He hails from Panama City and has lived in Pinellas County for 42 years. He is married to Robbie Killingsworth. They have three children, ages 50, 47 and 40.

Killingsworth is a Navy veteran. His employment history includes working as project manager for advanced computer development at Honeywell and project manager for telecommunications printers at E-Systems (now Raytheon). He was president of Siliconexon, a programmable logic design and verification company.

He has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and a master's in business administration from the Florida Institute of Technology.

Qualifications

Clark has 35 years of experience supervising



Deborah Clark

Jack Killingsworth

voter registration and elections in Pinellas County. She is a nationally certified elections and registration administrator and state certified supervisor of elections. She is involved in the State Association of Supervisors of Elections and currently serves on the board of directors. She also serves on the Administrative Rules Committee and Budget Committee.

Her past service includes time on the Legislative, Reapportionment, Canvassing Board, training and education; Bylaws and Rules; Vision; Communications & Publications; and Get Out the Vote & Scholarship program. She was an associate board member for Kids Voting Tampa Bay, and she taught election administration classes for new municipal clerks at Florida State University for the Florida Institute of Government.

Killingsworth's qualifications include an "outstanding formal education and directly applicable private sector professional experience to supervise a modern elections office." He also served on the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers Standards Committee on Electronic Voting.

Clark said she is the best-qualified candidate due to her knowledge and experience.

"This includes supervising hundreds of elections: federal, state, county, special district and municipal; implementing a statewide voter registration database; redistricting and reprecincting the county

after national census four times," she said.

She also supervised installation of three voting systems since, participated in voter education for students in grades one through 12, which led to 120,000 students participating in school elections and voter registration for 25,000 high school seniors.

She said she has increased access to voter registration and ballots; implemented online tracking for mail ballots and maintained voter registration records. While in office, voter turnout has increased and over the past six years; the budget has decreased 30 percent.

Killingsworth lists several reasons he is the best person for the job.

"Ms. Clark learned how to conduct elections using punch cards and, after 12 years in office, she and her staff are struggling to master the operation of a modern electronics and computer-based elections office," he said. "I thoroughly understand the voting equipment technologies and how to recruit and train a competent staff."

Why run

When asked why she was running for another term, Clark said, "I have proudly served as supervisor of elections for the past 12 years and would like to continue the tradition of conducting fair and impartial elections in Pinellas County."

She hopes "to continue efforts to expand voter registration and ballot access using the most efficient and cost-effective solutions."

Killingsworth said he is running for office because he has "a deep sense of obligation to our nation and community that began with eight years of service in the U.S. Navy during the Cold War with the Soviet Union."

"Thanks to the Korean War Veterans GI Bill, I obtained an excellent education that prepared me for a long and successful career designing and developing computers for aerospace and defense applications and then to owning my own business," he said.

"Now in retirement, I would be pleased to repay some small part of that obligation in elective office with no other purpose than to serve the best interest of the people."

If elected, Killingsworth said he would eliminate the need for expensive voting equipment consultants.

"By running the office on a non-partisan basis, I will eliminate the need for highly paid partisan-appointed deputy supervisors," he said.

Most pressing issue

Clark said the most pressing issue facing the Elections Office is the budget.

"Budget cuts have been and will continue to be the biggest challenge due to declining resources and increasing federal and state requirements," she said.

Clark said she will "continue to manage the public's money responsibly, respecting the fact that they also face financial challenges and deserve accountability for every taxpayer dollar we spend."

Killingsworth said the most pressing issue facing the Elections Office "is the continuing stream of avoidable errors that result in costly rework and delays in performing critical election office functions, including the handling of mail ballots, the use of unapproved software and computers infected with viruses."

"In the governor's evaluation of the state's 67 Elections Offices, Pinellas was twice underrated on ballot management," he said.

To fix the problem, Killingsworth said, if elected, he would "develop formal and comprehensive quality and configuration control plans and then ensure that the plans were followed."

"Much of my professional career was in a mission critical and 'zero errors' environment," he said.

For more information about Clark, email dclark.soe@verizon.net.

For more information about Killingsworth, visit JackKillingsworth.com.

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Police beat

Bicyclist dies in Largo crash

LARGO - A Clearwater man died about 3:30 p.m. Oct. 14 at a local hospital after the bicycle he was riding was hit by a car.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Quinten Carty, 25, was attempting to cross Roosevelt Boulevard at Bradford Street when he failed to yield to oncoming westbound traffic.

Anastasios F. Poulakis, 58, of Largo was traveling westbound and hit Carty with his 1999 Mercedes. Carty received critical injuries and was transported to Largo Medical Hospital where he later died.

Police take down Largo meth lab

LARGO - The Largo Police Department's Investigative Services Division Special Operations Unit conducted a joint operation with the Drug Enforcement Agency Oct. 10, serving a search warrant on a suspected Methamphetamine lab operating in the Briarwood Mobile Home Park, 2098 Seminole Blvd., Lot 129.

According to a report from Largo police, the location was annexed by the city of Largo Aug. 7. Shortly thereafter intelligence was acquired of the existence of a Methamphetamine lab at the mobile home.

After a thorough investigation, evidence was acquired to obtain a search warrant for the residence from the Pinellas/Pasco State's Attorney's Office.

Partnering with the DEA Methamphetamine Task Force and Largo Fire Rescue, the Largo Police Department executed the search warrant on the residence. Police said within the residence were found "precursor chemicals," a fully functioning meth lab and methamphetamine ready for use.

Christopher Michael Blondeau, 37, was arrested and transported to the Pinellas County Jail. Blondeau was charged with one count of trafficking in methamphetamine, one count of manufacture of methamphetamine, one count of rental for manufacturing/trafficking and one count of unlawful possession of a listed chemical. Bond was set at \$75,000.

Largo police offered some tips to help prevent methamphetamine in the local Community. They advised the public to be on the lookout for suspicious activity and odors. A strong "cat urine" like smell could indicate a meth lab.



Christopher Blondeau



Photos COURTESY OF PCSO

This man shown in a surveillance photograph taken Sept. 26 is wanted in connection with a series of catalytic converter thefts at Largo dealerships.

Motors Inc., 10450 68th St. N. Similar thefts have occurred at various dealerships between Sept. 26 and Oct. 5.

Detectives say that the suspect or suspects have been breaking into the businesses in the evening or early morning hours.

The Sheriff's Office released surveillance photographs of a black male in his late teens or early 20s wearing a black shirt with a tattoo on the right side of his neck at one of the dealerships where a theft occurred.

Anyone who recognizes the individual in the photograph or has information related to the case is asked to contact Detective Michael Hilliard of the Burglary and Pawn Unit at 582-6200, or to remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-873-TIPS.

Unidentified man drowns in creek

LARGO - Pinellas County Sheriff's deputies are seeking information to help identify a man who drowned in Allen's Creek the afternoon of Oct. 14.

The 51-year-old man had reportedly moved to Pinellas County from South Carolina.

According to the sheriff's report, two men fishing in Allen's Creek behind a small shopping center on U.S. 19 saw a man struggling in the water. They said he became unresponsive as they tried to rescue him. Fire Rescue took the man to Largo Medical Center where he was pronounced dead about 3:40 p.m.

Anyone with information about this individual, which may help confirm his identification, is asked to contact the Sheriff's Office at 582-6200.

Police seek catalytic converter thief

LARGO - Detectives from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Burglary and Pawn Unit are seeking the public's assistance in identifying a subject caught on video surveillance stealing catalytic converters from a local auto dealership.

According to the sheriff's report, two Largo dealerships are involved, Car Pros Auto Sales, 8181 Ulmerton Road, and M & D

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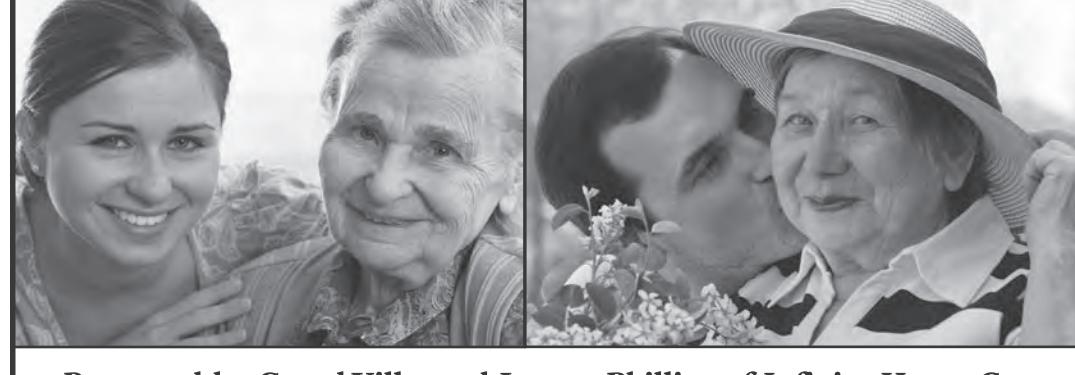
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Tommy "Buzz" Preston

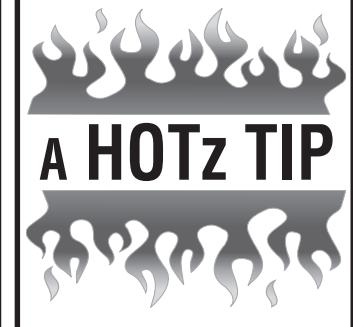
According to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Carey James Hickman, 41, was traveling eastbound on Beltrees Street at a high rate of speed toward the T intersection at Patricia Avenue. Hickman continued across Patricia Avenue, into the parking lot of Dunedin Lanes and across Cedarwood Street before crashing his 2003 Ford F-150 pickup truck into the south side of a barbershop at 463 Patricia Ave., leaving a hole in the concrete wall.

Deputies say no one was inside the barbershop at the time of the crash, about 5:42 p.m. The tenant of the barbershop witnessed the crash while standing outside the building. Hickman refused medical treatment. He was booked into the Pinellas County Jail at 8:05 p.m. and released on

See POLICE, page 8A



Carey James Hickman



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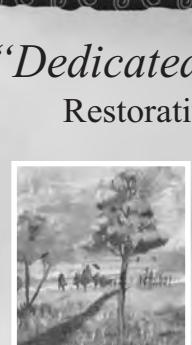
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Founding member of Community Dental Health Foundation.
Past president of Upper Pinellas County Dental Association and member of ADA, FDA, WCDAA, UPCDA

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POLICE, from page 7A

\$500 bond at 4:31 a.m. Oct. 11.

Detectives seek hit-and-run driver

SEMINOLE — Pinellas County sheriff's deputies are seeking the public's help to identify the driver

of a vehicle that struck an elderly woman on Starkey Road in Seminole about 1:50 p.m. Oct. 10 and fled the scene.

According to deputies, Barbara L. Gaymore, 76, of Dunedin was crossing Starkey Road just north of Park Boulevard (in front of Perkins Restaurant). Deputies

said as she crossed pulling a blue suitcase, a northbound traveling vehicle struck her. Gaymore was thrown to the ground. The vehicle fled the scene.

Deputies said a blue suitcase being pulled by the victim may have become lodged in the grill or undercarriage of the suspect's ve-

hicle. Parts of the suitcase were found at the scene.

The vehicle is described as a small white late-model pickup truck, possible American make and possibly with a chrome rear bumper. Deputies said the vehicle might possibly be a white Ford Ranger with an extended

cab. It is believed to have front right side damage.

Gaymore was transported to Bayfront Medical Center by ambulance for treatment of serious but non-life-threatening injuries. Gaymore suffered an injury to her head, some fractures and various abrasions to her legs and knees.

Anyone with information that may assist deputies in this case is asked to contact Sgt. Nick Lazaris at 582-6200.

Four-year-old girl injured in fall

PALM HARBOR — A 4-year-old Palm Harbor girl injured her wrist when she fell from a second story window about 3:30 p.m. Oct. 13.

Kaylah T. Dambrosio was playing with a cousin in her bedroom near a window when the screen fell off and she fell out the window, according to a report from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. Her mother was downstairs in the kitchen and heard her cry for help. The child was found in the yard near a tree. She complained of an injured wrist. She was airlifted to All Children's Hospital.

Deputies assisted responding fire and rescue units and established a landing zone for the Bay Flight helicopter.

FHP targets unsafe drivers

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Highway Patrol is participating in Operation Safe Driver on Florida highways through Oct. 20.

Operation Safe Driver is a national awareness and enforcement campaign that targets improving both commercial and noncommercial driver behavior through education, awareness and aggressive enforcement strategies.

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement troopers will be out in full force, performing commercial vehicle driver safety inspections and targeting unsafe driving habits on the roadways.

"The campaign aims to educate all motorists on the risks involved with aggressive and distracted driving around large trucks," said Col. David Brierton, director of the Florida Highway Patrol. "Although troopers perform this work daily, we are emphasizing commercial driver safety and reducing crashes that involve commercial vehicles."

While additional funding from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration makes specialized enforcement activities, such as Operation Safe Driver, possible, FHP continues to promote safe driving habits year-round through roadside safety inspections, industry outreach and enforcement of state traffic laws.

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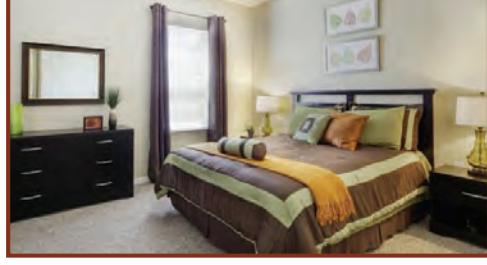
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PLAZA, from page 1A

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Photo courtesy of THE PALMS OF LARGO

The Palms of Largo owner and developer John B. Goodman, right, receives a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol from U.S. Marine and Purple Heart recipient Jake Gauthier during the grand opening of The Plaza, a new community event area at The Palms of Largo Oct. 13.

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Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

Above, Riley Deitrich, 4, of Largo examines a butterfly from inside a butterfly garden, part of the family-friendly activities provided for the opening. Top right, Jeremy O'Steen, 11, of Homosassa carefully holds a duckling so it can eat from the hands of Logan Russell, 6, of Largo. The petting zoo was part of the entertainment surrounding The Plaza at The Palms of Largo.



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*You must continue to pay the Medicare Part B premium. The Zero Monthly Plan Premium only applies to the HMO and RPPO plans. Limitations, copayments and restrictions may apply. The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information, contact the plan. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium and/or co-payments/co-insurance may change on January 1 of each year. A licensed agent will be present with information and applications. Florida Blue is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract. A Medicare-approved Part D sponsor. Florida Blue is a trade name of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Inc., an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Florida GOP's poll-tax nostalgia

Florida may be a deciding state in a presidential election yet again. Many experts say the state's heavily Democratic ranks could tip the state Barack Obama's way – unless enough Democrats are discouraged from voting on Nov. 6.

But the race is close in Florida and it won't take big numbers to make a difference.

So the GOP-dominated Florida Legislature is going out of its way to make voting more of a privilege than a right. It's giving the poll tax – a Florida invention dating back to 1889 – a retro makeover.

Most Old South methods of barring people from voting don't work well anymore. It now requires legalized chicanery to sway an election.

Florida has a tradition of doing just that. The state disenfranchises more than 800,000 former prisoners who have been convicted of a felony, for example.

A disproportionate number of felons are minorities who would support Democrats in elections. So denying swaths of minorities the right to vote is an easy way to ensure that a large bloc of Democratic leaners never votes. And it's not as if former prison inmates can call on powerful politicians to speak up for them.

But like a well-laundered investment portfolio, voter suppression pays dividends only when it's diversified.

So the Legislature reduced the number of early voting days from 14 to eight, even though a fifth of all ballots were cast early in the 2010 election.

It also turned voting registration into an obstacle course designed to keep third-party registration organizations like the League of Women Voters, which routinely registers more Democrats than Republicans, from doing their job.

For a while, the new restrictions worked. Those organizations quit registering because the threat of punishing fines was too high. But a federal judge threw out the constraints in August, calling them harsh and impractical.

Finally the Legislature came up with its strangest voter-suppression scheme yet. It turned the November ballot into a half-hour reading chore worthy of the dullest FCAT test.

The ballot you'll see on Nov. 6 is the longest in history. It'll stretch to four pages, much of it in the sort of fine print you see at the bottom of used-car sales contracts. That's because the Legislature decided to include the full wording of every one of the 11 proposed constitutional amendments it's throwing at voters.

Florida law requires the amendments to be summarized "in clear and unambiguous language," and pass the Florida Supreme Court's review under that standard. Several of them did not. The Supreme Court called them deceiving.

So the legislators simply exempted themselves from the law and forced supervisors of elections to publish all 11 amendments in full. It'll almost certainly lengthen lines on election day and possibly discourage some impatient voters, again achieving what lawmakers have been after all along: a lower voter turnout.

There's an easy way around the Legislature's schemes. You can vote by absentee ballot. You can vote early starting Oct. 27. And the best thing you can do is learn about those 11 amendments ahead of time and decide how you're going to vote on each of them.

You'll discover that they're all brazen attempts to undermine local government, channel public money to religious schools, or supposedly keep Obamacare from being enforced here, though that amendment itself would not be enforceable.

You should vote against all 11 amendments. It'll take 30 seconds.

And the only thing you'll be suppressing is the Legislature's mania for bad and ideological legislation.

Pierre Tristam is editor and publisher of FlaglerLive.com, a nonprofit news service based in Palm Coast, Fla.

© Florida Voices.

LETTERS

Wants positions on term limits

Re: "Three County Commission seats up for grabs," Oct. 11

Editor:

Thank you for the article on the candidates for the Pinellas Board of County Commission, which was most informative.

However, the very important subject of term limits was not addressed by any of the candidates and noticeable by its absence.

In light of the fact that this issue is currently in the courts, perhaps the Beacon can ask each of the candidates their position on this issue and hear from them on why they oppose or support term limits for the office of county commissioner.

Thanks again for covering this important race.

Dan Calabria

South Pasadena

Replace the captain

Editor:

I recall that President Obama said this: if I do not reduce the deficit in half by the end of my first term, I should be a one term President. When Obama took office the national debt was \$10 trillion and it certainly is not \$5 trillion now but instead it's \$16 trillion and rapidly rising.

Many economic experts have been warning us about the looming disaster if this course is not corrected and soon! Like the Captain of the Titanic, our president shows no sign of altering the course with \$1 trillion plus deficits with each budget. We, the voters, must replace the captain, before our nation hits the financial iceberg. The effect of a financial crash will affect everyone.

Mitt Romney has shown the ability to work in a bipartisan manner as the former governor of Massachusetts to solve problems. He can do the same with the national debt problem and other major challenges.

Roney Sorensen

Seminole

Conjuring up a controversy

Editor:

I just read Mr. Hiaasen's column on the subject of the upcoming retention vote for Justices Pariente, Quince and Lewis, which was published in your Oct. 11 edition, and several thoughts come to mind:

1. The comment "they couldn't care less about Florida, but they love to throw their money around." Business people like the Koch Brothers do not attain their wealth by simply throwing their money around. Just ask George Soros.

2. "Stoned chimpanzees have a keener grasp of Constitutional law." Where does Nancy Pelosi appear on that scale – above or below – given her remark that "you need to pass the law so you can find out what's in it." This is in regards to the 2,700+ page behemoth compared to the Constitution, which is a mere 4,000 words.

3. Aside from mentioning the ruling overturning of the Affordable Care Act, you failed to cite any other rulings these three judges made. What about the Joe Elton Nixon case, or the overturning of Jeb Bush's school voucher program? Was the law properly upheld, the public better served in these rulings? Or how do you know that Gov. Rick Scott is keen on filling three court vacancies? If Jeb Bush can nominate a Justice Quince, or if Ronald Reagan can nominate a Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, conservatives have a track record of not being pure ideological when nominating Supreme Court justices. I cannot imagine Barack Obama even remotely considering anyone with any sort of conservative thinking when it comes to nominating justices for the U.S. Supreme Court.

If the only way you can write a column in support of retaining these three justices is to go negative and conjure up another Koch Brother conspiracy in lieu of presenting reasons why these three justices should be retained aside from their educational resume that reinforces my vote even more. Voters have very little to go on when they vote on judges. Why can't the mainstream press counter the charges and present arguments in favor of these justices? Isn't that what goes on in courtrooms anyway?

Walter Steinheimer

Seminole

What Obama, Romney won't tell us



Driver's Seat

Bob Driver

You'd think by now we'd know everything worth knowing about both presidential candidates. But we don't.

As with all previous contenders for the White House, neither Obama nor Romney have stated their policies on dogs. Oh, sure, we've been told that Mitt Romney put a dog on the roof of his car and drove away with it. Beyond that, however, we know nothing. Does either candidate favor laws that would advance the wellbeing of dogs? In the Obamacare package, is there a single word about Medicare for old dogs?

Same thing for cats. In one-third of America's homes, there is a cat. Many of these cat owners will vote on Nov. 6. But have you heard a single reference by Barack and Mitt about their love for kitties? How can any intelligent politician allow all those potential voters not to be pandered to?

The list goes on. For example, does either candidate enjoy eating peanut butter and pickle sandwiches? That may sound weird, but it's not. I have eaten pb&j sandwiches all my life, and I would vote for anyone who also likes them. Remember how Dick Nixon loved cottage cheese with ketchup? Do you know that in the 1972 election, Nixon received the votes of 133,453 people who also believed in putting ketchup on cottage cheese?

Another issue that has gone untouched is the candidates' views on women who wear dark stockings when they dress up. I'm wild about women in dark silk stockings, even if they (the women) are wearing flour-sack blouses. I have learned not to trust men who dislike seeing dark-stockinged women. They (such men) are usually embezzlers or chicken thieves. Don't ask me how I know. Just trust me.

So far, neither candidate has promised to

rein in TV commercials. I would gladly give money, time and/or blood to any politician who took a stand against TV commercial breaks that last more than three minutes. Or any half-hour program that allowed more than six total minutes of advertising. I'm sure that millions of Americans feel, as I do, that the advertising industry is ruining our country. But do the candidates say a word about advertising? Never.

When Romney and Obama shave, do they use a safety razor or an electric razor? Does either man lather up with a shaving brush? When they bang their shin against an open dresser drawer, do they say, "Oh, sugar" or something stronger? You may say, "What does knowing such things have to do with running the country?" The answer: nothing. But it helps us identify who the guy is and what he's like. Unfortunately, the media often won't tell us, or even try to find out.

Does either candidate know the last three verses of "The Star-Spangled Banner"? If so, why don't they quote from them? The lyrics are stirring, noble, uplifting. How can a candidate go wrong by referring to his country's national anthem?

The candidates seem equally scornful of the Scottish vote potential. They will cozy up to Jewish voters, to the Italians, Irish, Polish, gay, transvestite and freckled communities, but America's Scots will burn in hell

before Obama and Romney say a word in their behalf. That is a scandal and a shame.

I believe the voters of Dunedin could very well determine who wins the Nov. 6 balloting. Dunedin (pop. 35,000) is loaded with people of Scottish ancestry. You can tell that by looking at the city's beautiful women and by viewing the medical reports of oafs who foolishly challenge Scottish men to fist fights in neighborhood bars. In 2000 the national election results were kicked into a cocked hat by a few thousand Florida voters. Recent polls show that could happen again. That's how tight the competition is. But will Obama or Romney quote two lines from Bobbie Burns' poetry, or recall the contributions of Andrew Carnegie and other Scots who helped build our nation? Not in a pig's eye will they. If I were Barack or Mitt, I'd wear a kilt to at least half of my public appearances.

The list goes on forever of important issues the two candidates refuse to address. Skateboarding in public is one of them. Throughout the USA are persons (mostly young and male) who insist on speeding along sidewalks and mall areas on skateboards, threatening the health and safety of innocent civilians. Many cities prohibit skateboarding; others permit it. It has long been a bone of contention in American civic life. What did the signers of the U.S. Constitution think about skateboarding? Should this questionable "sport" be regarded as essential to the pursuit of happiness? Why won't Obama and Romney give us their views, and take a firm stand on this issue? Because they are wimpy. And you can tell them both I said so.

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



Don't warehouse drug offenders

As I See It

Gio Iannotti

quence of hardening non-violent, low risk offenders."

Former President Carter stated, "I caution against filling our prisons with young people who are no threat to society. Penalties against possession of a drug should not be more damaging to an individual than the use of the drug itself."

On Oct. 2, 2011, the Tampa Bay Times wrote: "One of every 10 inmates in the Florida prison system is behind bars for using drugs and only a fraction get help for their addiction. The rest languish, get out, reoffend to support their drug habit and are locked up again." That's what happened with my son.

In 2011 he was given probation for doctor shopping. I live on a fixed income. When my boy couldn't pass a random drug test, we turned to the public defender's office.

I tried contacting a public defender to ask that he plead for residential drug rehab. When I asked him in court if I could speak, he said, "It will do no good. This judge will see your son violated probation and will give him a mandatory prison sentence, period."

At the same time, I was also writing to politicians.

I received this from Gov. Scott's Office of Citizen's Services: "Thank you for contacting Governor Rick Scott regarding your son's drug addiction and prison sentencing ... The governor understands the pain a prisoner's family and friends endure and asked me to respond on his behalf. Governor Scott supports Florida's requirement

that persons who are sentenced for felonies serve at least 85 percent of their prison sentence before release. The governor believes that this law has served as a deterrent over the years, as we are now seeing Florida's crime rate at an all time low ..."

The Right on Crime Coalition cites a different Florida statistic: "Over the past 13 years, the proportion of prisoners who were incarcerated for committing non-violent crimes rose by 189 percent. By contrast, the proportion of inmates who committed violent crimes dropped by 28 percent."

I don't believe the governor understands my pain. My injured addict is in a prison camp tamping down asphalt, instead of getting the treatment needed to reverse the long-term metabolic effect Oxys have had on his brain.

I, like Julie Ebenstein, question why Governor Scott vetoed Bill HB-177. Bill HB-177 was designed to send non-violent drug offenders to rehab. It had almost unanimous support.

I also received this from Senator Bill Nelson: "Thank you for contacting me concerning federal sentencing guidelines. As you may know, the Supreme Court ruled in U.S. v. Booker in 2005 that federal mandatory sentencing guides were unconstitutional and that federal judges should treat the guidelines as advisory rather than mandatory. The court's ruling gives federal judges discretion on how to sentence offenders ..."

If I'd known about U.S. versus Booker before court, I could have countered the PD when he said my son would receive a "mandatory sentence."

While Governor Christie has adjusted the sails of prison reform, our governor has missed the boat.

Great Scott, on the subject of over-crime, I think not.

Gio Iannotti lives in Redington Beach.

Tampa Bay NEWSPAPERS

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Publisher/President: Dan Autrey
dautrey@tbnweekly.com

Accounting Manager: Andrea Marcarelli
tbnandy@yahoo.com

Retail Advertising Manager: Jay Rey
jrey@tbnweekly.com

Classified Advertising Manager: Shelly Fournier
sfournier@tbnweekly.com

Executive Editor: Tom Germond
tgermond@tbnweekly.com

9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772

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

Production Manager: David Brown
production@tbnweekly.com

Internet Services Manager: Suzette Porter
webmaster@tbnweekly.com

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

Largo Leader: Juliana A. Torres
jtorres@tbnweekly.com

Belleair/Beach Bee: Tom Germond
tgermond@tbnweekly.com

Clearwater Beacon: Alexandra Lundahl
alundahl@tbnweekly.com

Pinellas Park Beacon: Tiffany Razzano
trazzano@tbnweekly.com

General Editorial
editorial@tbnweekly.com

Circulation: L. Shiflett
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Take a mom's word for it: lice is no fun and hard to get rid of

It is an experience I hope you never have to go through: your child getting head lice. I remember getting papers sent home from the school about lice, but not paying too much attention to it thinking, "My kids will never get lice." Boy, was I wrong!

My daughter got lice from school last year in kindergarten. She got it from another student in the class. I first noticed during a school singing performance. I saw her scratching her head while singing with her class. It wasn't just a little itch, she was scratching quite a bit while singing her heart out.

I had heard about lice, but never experienced it for myself, so I really didn't know what it looked like or what it really was. I had the misconception that kids that got lice didn't have clean hair, when the truth is lice is attracted to hair that is clean. And it can spread easily.

After the performance, I checked my daughter's head and didn't see anything. We went home, and she was still itching. I thought maybe she was allergic to medicine I had given her for a cold. I called the doctor to tell them. The nurse said she couldn't be allergic, but she might have lice. She told me to check under her hair near the back of her neck.

When I checked the back of her neck, I almost had a heart attack when I saw a little critter in my daughter's hair. My poor child had lice. I just couldn't believe it. And I knew it had to have been there for a while because it had grown from an egg to a louse.

The nurse told me calmly what to do. She told me to put mayonnaise on her head and wrap it with saran wrap to suffocate the lice. She also



Mom 2 Mom
Kadi Hendricks
Tubbs

lice shampoo. You also can get a lice aerosol spray for the house for the couches and beds.

The lice died pretty fast. After washing the mayonnaise out of my daughter's hair and drying her hair, I put the lice shampoo in. You then have to comb the hair with a small pick to get the eggs or nits out. The nits look like dandruff.

It took a long time. My daughter has long hair to her waist, so we spent hours combing her hair to get the nits out. We had to make sure she didn't have any of the eggs in her hair. I have heard of people cutting their kid's hair or shaving it because it takes so long.

I took her to school the next day and they checked her and said she was fine. Thank goodness. I was just worried that someone else in the family or her class would get it. Luckily, no one else did.

Still, we had to check my daughter each day for a week to make sure she didn't have any nits. The directions from the shampoo said to wash her hair again with the special shampoo a few days later just to make sure everything was gone.

My daughter was a trooper. We worked hard at eliminating those

told me to get the lice shampoo at the store to wash her head. I also needed to wash all the bedding in case the lice spread. I had to put all her stuffed animals in a plastic bag for a few weeks.

It was pretty much a nightmare. I must have had at least 10 loads of laundry. I washed everything in hot water. I went to the store to buy the couches and beds.

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My daughter was a trooper. We worked hard at eliminating those

nasty little bugs.

I remember Googling lice to see exactly what they looked like. I found out that these tiny insects can last awhile on the head and can easily spread by contact, by touching the bedding of someone with it or by sharing combs with someone who has it. So if you have young kids, make sure they don't share combs, because that can easily transfer the eggs.

I also learned that the most common age for lice is age 3 to 12, and girls get it more than boys. I now spray my kids' hair with hairspray just to make it not so clean.

Lice can't cause any serious medical problems, but they are truly annoying and a headache to get rid of.

Kadi Hendricks Tubbs, mother of two girls ages 6 and 8, lives in Seminole. Visit her blog at Mom2MomFamilyFun.blogspot.com

Briefs

USF to sponsor conference on aging

LARGO - The University of South Florida Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute will host a workshop on Alzheimer's disease Wednesday, Oct. 24, at Regal Palms at Palms of Largo, 300 Lake Ave.

The workshop, Alzheimer's Disease: What Health Care Professionals Need to Know, is designed for nurses, social workers, nursing home and ALF administrators,

care managers, guardians, service providers, and all others who work in the field of aging. Presentations will include diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease, tips on managing medications for Alzheimer's disease and strategies for preventing and managing behaviors and communicating with an Alzheimer's patient.

Registration is \$40 for the day. Cost includes resource materials, three hours continuing education credits and refreshments. Call 813-974-4357 or 800-633-

4563. Visit alz.health.usf.edu.

HealthSouth to host aging well program

LARGO - HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Largo will present its next feature in the quarterly Aging Well Series on Friday, Nov. 9, 2 to 3 p.m., in Classroom C at 901 Clearwater Largo Road N.

Stress is a known contributor to many illnesses and causes a reduction in quality of life for

young and old. Attendees will learn how to manage stress from two featured speakers, including Dr. Mira Mahajan and Bernadette Homan. Mahajan will discuss relaxation techniques for stress relief. Homan will cover the effects and benefits of massage and compassionate touch.

The event also will include refreshments and a door prize.

To RSVP, call 588-1865 by Thursday, Nov. 1.

Presentation on drinking

ST. PETERSBURG - Mike Green will present "Four Stages of Drinking" on Tuesday, Oct. 23, 6 to 7 p.m., at Fox Hall at Eckerd College, 4200 54th Ave. S.

Green's creative assessment is used to get students to take an accurate look at their own drinking patterns.

This free creative survey lists the most popular times during the academic calendar that social drinking occurs and breaks down to a specific number of times per year that the student devotes to drinking. Over the past 25 years, Green has presented to more than 2,000 campuses nationwide in his effort to make drug and alcohol awareness and education an integral part of every student's life. He serves as a consultant to the student affairs and athletic departments of numerous universities, including Penn State University, Boston College, Princeton University, Hobart College and Wayne State University.

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N2 Nutrition opens



N2 Nutrition celebrated its grand opening with an open house at 2919 West Bay Drive, Belleair Bluffs. Taking part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony, owners Stephanie Wheeler and Carla Staats, center, are joined by family, customers and members of the Bluffs Business Association.

Walk to End Alzheimer's set

ST. PETERSBURG - The Alzheimer's Association will host its Walk to End Alzheimer's Saturday, Oct. 20, at the St. Petersburg Pier, 800 Second Ave. NE.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. The walk will begin at 9 a.m.

Approximately 1,400 St. Petersburg residents will unite in a movement to reclaim the future for millions at the Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's. In 2011, the residents of St. Petersburg raised more than \$140,000 for care, support and research efforts for those impacted by Alzheimer's.

Participants will be able to learn more about Alzheimer's disease, advocacy opportunities, clinical trial enrollment, and support programs and services. Each walker also will join in a meaningful tribute ceremony to honor those affected by Alzheimer's disease.

This year's event will include a special tribute to Dan Wheldon and his family. The late racecar driver and family man gave much of his time to a cause that affected his family. The Florida Gulf Coast Chapter will honor Wheldon and his family.

For information, call 578-2558.

Mobile medical clinic event set

CLEARWATER - St. Joseph's Children's Hospital's Mobile Medical Clinic travels around the county offering free well-child physicals and immunizations to the children of Pinellas County.

The next mobile clinic event will be Thursday, Oct. 18, 3 to 7 p.m., at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Neighborhood Family Center, in the North Greenwood Recreation and Aquatic Complex, 900 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Clearwater.

All services are free, and each child will leave with the necessary forms for school entry. To be eligible for services, children must be 18 years old or younger and have Medicaid or no health insurance. The clinic cannot see children who have Florida KidCare, and it cannot do sports physicals. Services are by appointment only. Parents or legal guardians must accompany children on the mobile clinic and bring each child's most up-to-date immunization record.

The clinic offers all required immunizations for school, plus optional vaccines such as Gardasil and the meningitis vaccine if the child is of age.

For an appointment, call 442-5355.

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Looking for a home



Misty

Misty is a 10-month-old Border collie mix that is 37 pounds. Found as a stray, she's full of energy and waiting for a forever family. Bring this article to Animal Services, 12450 Ulmerton Road, Largo, and adopt Misty for only \$25. Call 582-2600. Prospective families can watch a video of her playing in the pool at bit.ly/T90QtI.



Kanji

Kanji is a 1-year-old male domestic longhair cat. He is a beautiful boy who loves to be brushed and play with his toys. This cuddler will make a great addition to your home and give you lots of love. Kanji has been neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped. Contact Pet Pal Animal Shelter at 328-7738 or visit 405 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg. Visit www.petpalanimalshelter.com.



Binx

Binx is a handsome, 2-year-old boy. He is a black and white tuxedo cat and was injured when he came to the SPCA, but he has been fixed up and is now ready for his forever home. Binx would prefer to be the only cat in the home, but he loves his humans. He enjoys playing with his toys and is especially fond of curling up in a nice, comfy lap for a nap. Adopt him for only \$15, which includes all his vaccinations, microchip, neuter surgery, a bag of food and your new best friend. Visit 9099 130th Ave. N., Largo.

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To request a personalized illustration or to learn more, please contact:

Lydia E. Bailey, CFRE
All Children's Hospital Foundation
727-767-8914
Lydia.Bailey@allkids.org



GENERAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 6, 2012

(Voter Registration Deadline – October 9)

3 Ways to Vote

Whether voting by mail, early or on Election Day, each voter will receive a 4-page ballot (2 ballot cards) with 11 constitutional amendments

1. Vote by Mail – Receive and vote your ballot in the comfort of your home

- To request a mail ballot visit www.votepinellas.com or call (727) 464-VOTE (8683)
- Ballots can be returned by mail or dropped off at any dropoff location

2. Vote Early – Vote at any Pinellas Elections Office

- Early Voting is available:

October 27 – November 3, Saturday – Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Bring photo and signature ID to avoid delays.

- Locations –

- 13001 Starkey Rd., Largo (Starkey Lakes Corporate Center)
- 315 Court St., Room 117, Clearwater (Courthouse)
- 501 1st Ave. N., St. Petersburg

3. Vote on Election Day – Vote in your home precinct polling place

- Polls are Open 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

- To find Election Day precinct and polling place information visit

www.votepinellas.com or call (727) 464-VOTE (8683).

Bring photo and signature ID to avoid delays.

Be "Election Ready" – Voter Education is the Key to Optimizing Your Voting Experience



Voters decide on school district tax question on Nov. 6 ballot

By SUZETTE PORTER

On the back of the second ballot card for the Nov. 6 election is a referendum question asking voters to approve continuing a one-half mill ad valorem tax for school operating expenses.

If approved, the tax period would run from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2017.

According to the ballot language, money generated from the tax would pay for "necessary operating expenses, including funds to recruit and retain quality teachers; preserve reading programs and music and art classes; and provide up-to-date textbooks and technology, with oversight of these expenditures by an independent citizens' financial oversight committee."

Pinellas County voters first approved an additional one-half mill ad valorem (property) tax for school district operating expenses Nov. 2, 2004, according to the district's website, referendum.pcsb.org. The tax period ran from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2009.

The money funded three specific areas: recruiting and retaining quality teachers; preserving reading programs and art and music classes; and providing up-to-date textbooks and technology.

An Independent Citizens Referendum Oversight Committee was created that reviews and monitors expenditures to make sure the money is spent as directed by the voters. Voters approved continuation of the one-half mill tax Jan. 29, 2008, for a period from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2013.

One-half mill equals \$50 per year per \$100,000 in taxable value. In 2012, the average single-family home in Pinellas County was valued at \$137,911. With a \$25,000 homestead exemption, the average homeowner paid \$56.46 per year, or less than \$5 a month or about 15 cents per day. For homes valued at \$250,000, with a \$25,000 homestead exemption, homeowners would pay \$112.50 a year, which amounts to \$9.38 a month or 31 cents per day.

According to the website, "Referendum funds support all Pinellas

County Schools' students through new or expanded classroom libraries, additional supplies, increased training opportunities for teachers and contemporary technology like iPads, laptops, Smart Boards, Kindles and digital cameras.

"Every reading classroom and every content classroom (i.e. math, science, social studies) in Pinellas County is now equipped with a classroom library filled with diverse and up-to-date materials. Studies show that children need access to a diverse selection of reading materials to develop into proficient readers and referendum funds are ensuring that students have plenty of books and periodicals in classrooms and media centers at every school."

Other examples of how the money has been spent over the years, includes funding new sound systems for auditoriums and purchase of digital cameras and visual art computer labs, which help students prepare for careers in graphic design, videography, animation and website design.

The money also funds professional development workshops and classes for teachers.

"Pinellas County Schools needed approximately 500 reading endorsed or certified teachers to meet the requirements of the 'highly qualified' designation of the federal No Child Left Behind. Referendum funding has helped support 710 teachers who are now reading endorsed, far surpassing the minimum requirements for that designation. More teachers are currently working toward reading endorsement," the website said.

Tax money also has paid for updated computers, software and multimedia devices, "a strategy that is positioning Pinellas County Schools on the cutting edge of 21st century technology in educational settings," officials say.

Use of technology has proven to be a benefit for teachers and students.

Teachers using laptops, iPads and Smart Boards have reported elevated student engagement; increased participation in after-school re-

medial classes needed for graduation; fewer student absences; better collaboration between students; and opportunities to bring greater relevance to lessons through online research and real-time feedback for students," according to information on the school district's website.

Results from a poll of high school teachers using laptops showed that 92 percent reported improvement in students' ability to complete school assignments. A poll of students showed that 91 percent believe the devices make learning easier, more interesting and allow them to learn at their own pace.

"Referendum funds also are supporting our most vulnerable children through dedicated intervention programs for remedial readers; greater access to FCAT preparation software; waived instrument rental fees for students who can't afford them; paid admission for field trips to museums and art galleries that some children would not otherwise be able to visit; and software and other materials to support struggling students," school officials say.

Teachers also get a boost in pay, thanks to the one-half mill in additional taxes. Through the end of the 2010-2011 school year, the tax has supplemented teachers' salaries by an average of \$3,180 per year.

For more information on the Nov. 6 school tax referendum, visit referendum.pcsb.org.

Candidate elections

Two non-partisan run-off elections will decide school board members for the at-large District 1 seat and the single-member District 7 position.

Incumbent Janet R. Clark is facing Elliott Stern for District 1. Rene Flowers is challenging Glenton "Glen" Gilzean, who was appointed by the governor to represent District 7 after the death of Lew Williams, Dec. 3, 2011.

For more information on the Nov. 6 general election, call 464-6788 or visit www.VotePinellas.com.

Rotary recognizes students of the month

The Rotary Club of Clearwater recently celebrated two students of the month, a visit by the Rotary district governor and the honor of having two Rotary International past presidents at the weekly club meeting in the Belleair Country Club. Student of the Month Xio Dan Zhuang, fifth grader, at Belleair Elementary, was praised by Carol Cogwin, community liaison, for her being responsible, helpful to others and for being a great student. Her favorite subject is math. William Billy Grady, a fifth grader at Sandy Lane Elementary, was recognized by School Counselor Terri Dyer for being active in the safety patrol. Math was his favorite subject. Rotarian Yehudy Diaz presented each student with a gift certificate to a bookstore, a medallion and a framed certificate of recognition.



Left, Xio Dan Zhuang, student of the Month at Belleair Elementary, is with her father Xio Dan Zhuang and Carol Cagwin, community liaison at Belleair Elementary. Right, William Billy Grady, student of the month at Sandy Lane Elementary, is shown with his mother, Sylvia Blackman, left, and Terri Dyer, school counselor.

Briefs

Fortis launches RN-BSN degree

LARGO - Fortis College has launched an RN-BSN nursing degree program at its Largo campus, which lets Fortis students graduating with an associate's degree in nursing to continue on to receive a bachelor of science in nursing degree.

It also enables working Bay Area RNs to bridge to a BSN as well. Contact Karen at kdennies@oandgpr.com or 954-964-9098, ext. 1109.

Lions Club host poster contest, beach lunch

ST. PETERSBURG - More than 75 students from three Pinellas County schools will participate in the Lion's Club 2012 art contest competing for a \$5,000 cash award and trip to the United Nations.

Students were asked to create original artwork using charcoal, crayon, pencil or paint to express the theme "Imagine Peace".

Lions Clubs sponsor the International Peace Poster contest for students worldwide to express their visions of peace based on the young artist's life experiences and cultures. Students from Osceola, Thurgood Marshall, and St. John Vianney Catholic School will compete with more than 350,000 students worldwide.

The St. Petersburg Lions Club will recognize one winner and one second place Peoples Choice for each school locally. The international grand prize winner will be announced in February 2013 and recognized in a special award ceremony at the United Nations. In addition to the grand prize, 23 merit award winners will receive cash awards of \$500.

The public is invited to judge the posters on display at the St. Petersburg Lions Club Beach House, 9300 West Gulf Blvd., Treasure Island on Oct. 21 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Guest judges include representatives from other nonprofit organizations such as the St. Petersburg Quakers, Pet Pal Animal Shelter, Miss Florida Pageant and local artist Joanne Os-

born. Lunch will be served surfside on the Club deck at beautiful Sunset Beach. For more information, email LionSally@gmail.com, call 813-965-2534 or visit www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/stpetersburgfl.

Students for exchange program sought

The nonprofit ASSE International Student Exchange Program seeks local high school students interested in becoming exchange students in Europe, Canada, Mexico, China, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand or South Africa.

Exchange students live with a host family while attending high school and learning about the language and culture of the chosen host country. Students interested in an exchange program for an academic year, semester or summer should call 800-473-0696.

Pinellas to be SES provider

Pinellas County Schools has been approved by the Florida Department of Education to be a state-approved Supplemental Educational Services provider. SES provider offer free tutoring outside of normal school hours to children in Title I schools who have scored a level 1 or 2 on their reading and math FCAT tests.

Pinellas SES tutors will be highly qualified or certified teachers, and tutoring sessions will be held at school sites. Sessions will focus on giving students the skills they need to meet academic expectations.

Eligible students will receive 20 one-hour tutoring sessions between Oct. 15 and March. If the number of students requesting services are high or if funds are limited, services may be prioritized for the students with the greatest academic need as determined by assessment scores.

Call Sherry Howard or Diane Wolf, SES Provider Coordinators at 588-6000 ext. 6405 or visit www.pcsb.org.

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mediocre classes needed for graduation; fewer student absences; better collaboration between students; and opportunities to bring greater relevance to lessons through online research and real-time feedback for students," according to information on the school district's website.

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For more information on the Nov. 6 school tax referendum, visit referendum.pcsb.org.

Daniels appointed to coalition
CLEARWATER - Gov. Rick Scott has appointed Julie A. Daniels as the chairwoman of the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County.

Daniels, 48, of Palm Harbor is the president of Handyman Matters. She succeeds Kenneth B. Peluso and is appointed to the Coalition's Board of Directors for a term from Sept. 10, 2012 to April 30, 2013.

"On behalf of the Coalition's Board of Directors and staff, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Julie Daniels," said Janet Chapman, executive director. "Together we will strive to ensure high quality early education services are available for families of Pinellas County."

What's Selling in Pinellas County

Pinellas Park

\$118,000

3 Bedrooms/2 Bath

SOLD



Beautiful remodeled 3/2/1 home, freshly painted in and out, brand new granite kitchen countertop, new sink & faucet, new S/S refrigerator, new A/C, new garage door and opener, deep lot with white PVC fence.

Alex Fung & Vicki Dang
Century 21 Top Sales

Seminole

\$200,000

3 Bedrooms/2 Baths

SOLD



Large master bedroom, enclosed patio, dining room, breakfast nook in the kitchen. Throughout this villa you'll notice accents in every room, rich wood trim, beautiful wall coverings, custom master shower, wood flooring in common areas and stone fireplace. Woodbridge Community

Sandy Hartmann
Realty Executives Adamo

Seminole

\$220,000

3 Bedrooms/4 Baths

SOLD



Townhouse in Tara Cay North Village. Hardwood floors and tile throughout. Custom drapes in living room and family room. Large walk-in closets and garden tub with whirlpool. Roof new in 2005, new A/C system and Stanek Impact Windows in 2011.

Laura Harrison
Realty Executives Adamo

Largo

\$69,900

3 Bedroom/1.5 Bath

SOLD



3BR/1.5BA/1CP on large 65x116 corner lot. Updates include newer carpet, laminate, appliances and roof.

Caroleanne Vorac
Realty Executives Adamo



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All Children's, Kohl's Cares to host Fit4AllMoms

ST. PETERSBURG - All Children's Hospital and Kohl's Cares will offer Fit4AllMoms, a free community class for expectant moms, on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m., at the All Children's Education and Conference Center, 701 Fourth St. S.

This 90-minute class is facilitated by a registered dietitian and culinary expert who will ex-

plain the importance of prenatal nutrition and walk participants through fun cooking demonstrations. All expectant moms are welcome and will receive an information binder, cookbook, yoga mat and journal.

To register, call 767-6923 or email fit4allkids@ allkids.org.

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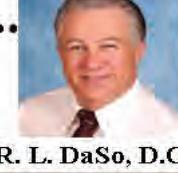
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Now and then dolphin conservation enjoys a triumph

Free-ranging marine mammals like bottlenose dolphins handle many objects at sea, from fish to seaweed toys, but are sometimes most regrettably forced to handle discarded fishing line. They don't "handle" it, of course. Once tangled in it, they can only endure.

In the summer of 2011, a bottlenose dolphin calf less than six months old became entangled in fishing line. Dolphin-like, Vidalia swam continuously. But helplessly encased, each pump of his tail made the fishing line slice into him like a saw cutting wood, slashing the corners of his mouth, right pectoral (arm) fin, left eye and dorsal fin. A trailing wad of fishing line slapped his side unceasingly.

Vidalia sometimes struggled against his noose by leaping around wildly. At other times, wearying of his struggle, he tried to clamber onto his mother's back, a most unusual thing for any but the youngest newborn dolphins to do.

Vidalia endured his body noose of fishing line for four months until November 2011 when he was finally captured in a tiny St. Petersburg cove, cut free of fishing line and set free by a state-wide network of marine mammal biologists led by Dr. Randy Wells, and which included yours truly and Capt. John Heidemann, as told in Dolphin Watch's Baby dolphin rescue is happy ending story.

Vidalia's maritime rescue was particularly successful because Vidalia and his mother Valdina stayed around John's Pass afterwards, which meant that Capt. Heidemann and I have been able to observe them regularly and provide rare follow-up data.

Happily, we can report that, thanks to the rescue, young Vidalia returned to the normal life of a young dolphin growing up at his mother's side. In so doing, he's provided valuable evidence of healing times at sea.

Behaviorally, Vidalia zipped through the stages of healthy calf devel-

Dolphin Watch

Ann Weaver



Photo by ANN WEAVER

Vidalia, a local bottlenose dolphin calf, is a conservation success story. Although he was freed nearly one year ago from the fishing line that had entangled his body for four months, his many scars are still easy to see. This picture shows the scar on the right corner of his mouth.

opment more quickly than normal; after all, he had a lot of catching up to do. While entangled, Vidalia swam at his mother's side. In the months following the rescue, he became progressively bolder, initially swimming near his foraging mom and finally speeding around her at ever-increasing (developmentally normal) distances.

One January day, Vidalia was absolutely animated. To his swift circles around mom, he added a brief bout of surfing the wake of a pass-

ing yacht; catching a fish but watching helplessly as a tern stole it; and goosing a cormorant into flight. His bright energy reminded me of another entangled calf, Juno, who behaved with similar wild abandon following his release from his snare of fishing line (Dolphin Watch's Cutting to the chase).

By May, Vidalia showed more focus on fishing, which left his mother with an extra-large supply of milk for him (Dolphin Watch's Its Time We had a Little Chat).

As spring turned to summer, Vidalia showed a different form of normal dolphin behavior by expanding his social life. He began to intermingle with a variety of dolphin schoolmates besides his mom, from younger calves to big bull members of the Bowery Boys super-alliance.

Physically, Vidalia's delicate dolphin skin is primarily designed to be in contact with seawater, so weeks of fishing line entanglement wounded him in many places. The endless chafing of the trailing wad of fishing line that slapped his side unceasingly produced a hefty patch of big white bumps. This patch showed little sign of healing for three months and took half a year to heal completely (November 2011 to May 2012).

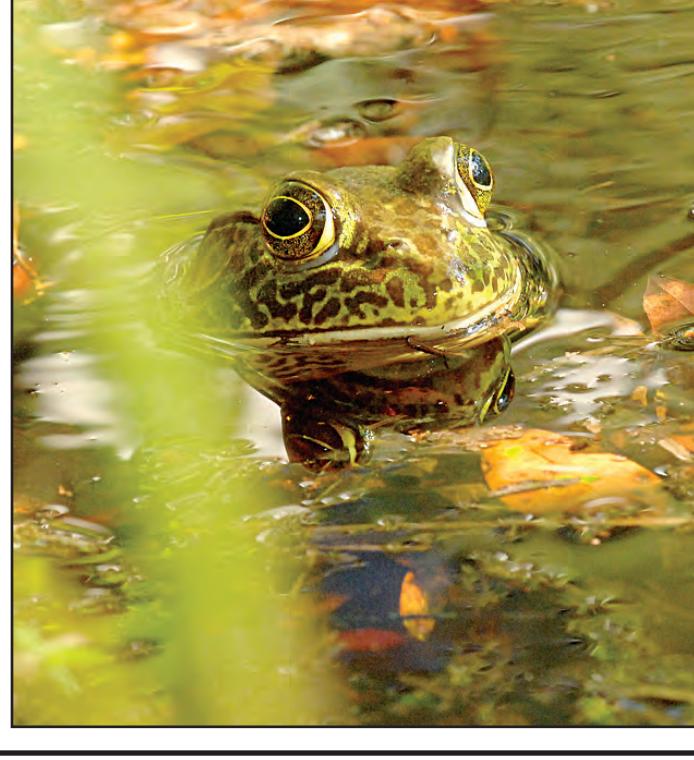
The fishing line left several marks, which may be permanent. The fishing line that slashed his tissues with every pump of his tail cut most deeply into the bottom front of his dorsal fin (the fin on the back that you see when a dolphin surfaces). It took six months for the swelling to go down and the lighter discolored pigment to match the rest of his body color.

The asymmetrical severing action of the fishing line created a large gap in the tissue that, almost a year later, has yet to fill in. This is different than two other dolphins that sustained wounds at the bottom front of the dorsal fin: Juno and Strip's gap filled in within weeks of injury.

The furrow-like dents created by the sawing action of fishing line across the corners of the mouth and left eye are still clearly visible when Vidalia pokes his head out or leaps out of the water, which he now does just like any other normal dolphin.

Dr. Weaver studies wild dolphins under federal permit 16299, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Send her an email at dazled@tampabay.rr.com or visit her website www.dolphinsuperstore.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.

Up close



Above, a roseate skimmer, a type of dragonfly, rests on a branch over the water's edge Oct. 13. At left, a bullfrog swims in the West Canal of the preserve, a 31-acre nature park with hundreds of plant and wildlife species at 150 Highland Ave. The casual visitor might see squirrels, rabbits, alligators, and a variety of birds. However, closer observation will reveal other, smaller species easily overlooked. The park is open daily, from 6:30 a.m. to one hour before sunset.

Perfect temperatures to increase activity

Well, just like that we're in cold front season. As of last week we only had a couple of brief cool downs from some very weak cold fronts.

Now we're starting to see a good progression of a declining water temperature, if that makes any sense. Mid-70 degree water temperature is perfect for our fishery; fish both offshore and inshore feed well in that temperature range.

Offshore, the stage is set for some amazing kingfishing. Up and down the beach, schools of small fry bait are being ravaged by a combination of Spanish mackerel, Bonita and small jack crevalle. This activity has brought the kingfish to within 100 yards from shore. Slow trolling blue runners, small mackerel or ladyfish around these feeding frenzies have been producing some good kingfish. However, my personal favorite method for capitalizing on all the predators is to anchor and live chum with pilchards.

Using long shank hooks with a small trace of wire will help prevent cut-offs. Also have a rod ready with a stinger rig so that when a small legal mackerel is caught you can quickly transfer it to the stinger rig and slide it back out in your chum slick. Kingfish spend their whole life chasing mackerel and there is no better bait for this situation.

The clock is ticking on a very short gag grouper season. The fishing has been very good for gags in 50- to 80-feet of water. With the declining water temperatures, look for more and more of the quality sized gags to show up even in shallower depths. Big pinfish are still the bait of choice for the hard fighting gags. Remember, that the season closes at the end of the month.

Inshore, redfish numbers are on the rise. Some of those flats that looked good last month but didn't produce might have a few fish on them now.



Fish Tales

Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

Find those clean water flats with good concentrations of mullet and you're on your way. Speckled trout fishing has also improved. Target those deeper flats just inside the passes and with a little help from some live pilchards you should stay busy with trout, Spanish mackerel and ladyfish, a situation tailor-made for taking a kid fishing.

Until next week, get bent!

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

Night hike at nature park

LARGO - Get back to nature with this interpretive hike through the habitats of George C. McGough Nature Park on Saturday, Oct. 20, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at 11901 146th St. N.

For more information, call 518-3047.

Weedon to host guided hikes

ST. PETERSBURG - Guided hikes will be offered Saturdays, Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 9 to 11 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

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

The hike is best for ages 6 and older. Registration is required.

Call 453-6500 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

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Pinellas County bed tax collections reach record highs

By SUZETTE PORTER

Tourism is up – way up, and officials are celebrating a record-breaking year for bed tax collections.

Chad McLeod, manager of Public Affairs & Compliance for the Pinellas County Tax Collector, said bed tax revenue for the first 11 months of 2012 is more than 12 percent above last year's figures.

"So far, we've had five record-breaking months. March, April, June, July and August have been the highest months in the history of the bed tax," McLeod said. "Also, 2012 has already passed the previous yearly record, set in 2008, and we still have another month left to collect (September). Definitely a good sign for Pinellas tourism!"

David Downing, deputy director for Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater, the county's official tourism marketing and management organization, said a number of factors converged to make it a good season.

"We had a string of very good weather," he said, which helped attract visitors wanting a break from the ice and snow.

Visitors flocked to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium to see Winter the dolphin, Pinellas County's most recent Hollywood star. A recent report estimates that the economic impact from the movie in Pinellas at \$5 billion over five years.

Then there was the Republican National Convention in August, which pushed up bed tax collections 22.38 percent over last year. The Tax Collector's office reported it took in just over \$2.2 million compared to nearly \$1.8 million last year. Downing said the RNC proved to be a "nice exclamation point" to an already successful season.

For local hoteliers, the average daily rate increased 24 percent in August and the occupancy rate went up 10 percent, to 64 percent, the fourth highest in the state.

Pinellas hosted delegations from 25 of 50 states, and 37 percent were first-time visitors. Officials are hopeful that many of those who

visited Pinellas for the RNC will come back for some rest and relaxation. Pinellas gets about 65 percent repeat tourism, Downing said.

December wasn't a record-breaking month, but collections were 19.3 percent higher than last year. February was another good month, bringing in 17.2 percent more than 2011.

March is always a great month for the local tourism industry. Bed tax collections in 2012 were up 11.5 percent, bringing in a record \$4.5 million. June was another record-breaking month with collections up 13 percent and a revenue total of \$2.5 million. Downing believes all the signs are pointing to a rebound for the tourism industry.

"This is mostly what recovery looks like to us," Downing said.

Visit St. Petersburg-Clearwater continues making plans to keep Pinellas County visible to markets all over the world through creative and varied advertising campaigns.

"We're a world-class destination," Downing said, pointing to a number of unique attractions found only in Pinellas County. "We have almost an embarrassment of riches and enclaves of culture."

He mentioned the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, unique downtown Gulfport and the authentic waterfront area in Tarpon Springs as examples of the county's special features.

Another attribute is the climate, which makes Pinellas a great place year-round for events, such as the Honda Grand Prix in the spring and Clearwater's Jazz Holiday in the fall.

Pinellas does a brisk convention business despite its lack of a convention center. Downing said about 125,000 room nights each year come from conventions. Sporting events also factor in to give the occupancy rate a healthy boost, especially for non-beach accommodations.

Downing said with so much to offer, Pinellas can attract visitors from all over the world. Key markets in the United States include the Northwest, Midwest and the state of Florida.

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority is enjoying its own record-



Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS
Thanks to the August Republican National Convention, thousands of visitors are aware of Pinellas County's treasures, such as this sunset at Sand Key Beach.

breaking year, reporting the most riders in the 93-year history of public transportation in the county. According to Bob Lasher, manager of community relations for PSTA, leaders attribute at least a portion of the success to the Central Avenue Trolley and the new shuttle service between the CMA and Winter's Dolphin Tale Adventure in downtown Clearwater. They also point to the record-breaking tourist season.

Downing said PSTA's expansion also has benefited the tourism industry.

"The Europeans in particular love the idea of public transportation," Downing said. "They're used to it at home. Now, they can ride all the way from Pass-A-Grille to Clearwater Beach."

Downing said this year's unanticipated gains in bed tax revenue would be used to build up the Tourism Development Council's reserve fund and continue working proactively in key markets.

"It'll be a little bit of a blessing," Downing said. "We always need to be growing."

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Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County



- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

Leader
Section B
October 18, 2012
Visit www.TBNweekly.com

Top five diversions

• **Clearwater Jazz Holiday.** Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 18-21, at Coachman Park on the waterfront in downtown Clearwater. The four-day festival will feature performances by some of the hottest names in the genre as well as emerging talent. Gates will open Thursday and Friday, 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 1:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. Daily general admission tickets are \$10 in advance. Four-day tickets also are available. Children 12 and younger will be admitted free but must be accompanied by a paying adult. For more information, visit www.clearwaterjazz.com or call Clearwater Jazz Holiday office at 461-5200. The 2012 lineup will include performances by headliners Bonnie Raitt, Mindi Abair & Friends featuring Jeff Golub and David Pack, Esperanza Spalding Radio Music City and The Avett Brothers.



Photo by REISIG & TAYLOR/HEADS UP INTERNATIONAL

Mindi Abair is one of several artists at Clearwater Jazz Holiday starting Oct. 18.

• 20th annual **Tampa Bay Times Festival of Reading**, Saturday, Oct. 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the University of South Florida, 140 Seventh Ave. S., St. Petersburg. This free festival is a celebration of literacy featuring nationally renowned authors, book signings, panel discussions and a variety of entertainment. This year's featured artists include Alafair Burke, Robert Olen Butler, Michael Grunwald, Rhoda Janzen, Michael Koryta and Dennis Lehane. In addition to the author appearances, there will be an extensive Book Market featuring local merchants and entertainment, as well as food and drink concessions. For information, visit www.festivalofreading.com.

• **JJ Grey & Mofro**, Friday, Oct. 19, 8 p.m., at Jannus Live, 200 First Ave. N. Tickets are \$24. Visit www.jannuslive.com. Grey is touring in support of his first-ever live DVD/CD two-disc set, "Brighter Days." Grey's ability to tell his thought-provoking stories through original songs, informed by a mixture of old school rhythm and blues and down-home roots rock 'n' roll, has carried JJ Grey & Mofro from the backwoods of Florida to hundreds of concert stages across the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan and Australia. Singing with a passion and fervor directly influenced by his classic soul heroes, Grey's deeply personal songs are steeped in the rhythms of his native home outside of Jacksonville.



Photo courtesy of NEIL O'BRIEN ENTERTAINMENT

JJ Grey is at Jannus Live Oct. 19.

• **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.ruthheckerdhall.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 Slupnick (drums) and Mark

See TOP FIVE, page 2B



Florida's legendary Lynyrd Skynyrd, pioneer of Southern rock, plays Ruth Eckerd Hall Oct. 24.

Photo courtesy of ROADRUNNER RECORDS

Lynyrd Skynyrd to play at REH

Legendary Southern rockers retain energy and enthusiasm on new album

CLEARWATER – The name of the band is synonymous with the genre of music they helped pioneer.

Legendary rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd will perform Wednesday, Oct. 24, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road.

Tickets start at \$61. Call 791-7400 or visit www.ruthheckerdhall.com.

Hearing the name "Lynyrd Skynyrd" immediately evokes the fiery echoes of Southern rock style guitar anthems. Serving as both architects of and an archetype for the classic Southern rock sound, Lynyrd Skynyrd roots can be traced back to Jacksonville in the mid-1960s. There, the core of the band – singer Ronnie Van Zant, guitarist Gary Rossington, guitarist Allen Collins, bassist Leon Wilkeson and drummer Bob Burns – met and founded the group My Backyard.

As most Skynyrd fans know, the name was later changed to immortalize school gym teacher Leonard Skinner, a legendary antagonist of the era's longhaired students.

The band got its first big break in 1969 when it won a battle-of-the-bands contest in Hemming Park, Jacksonville. Lacy Van Zant – Ronnie's father – drove the band to Atlanta to record two songs as the prize. The band recorded "Spoonful" and "Michelle."

A few years later, in 1973, the band's debut album – "Pronounced Leh-Nerd Skin-Nerd" – is released and goes Gold, setting into motion a musical institution that will endure for decades.

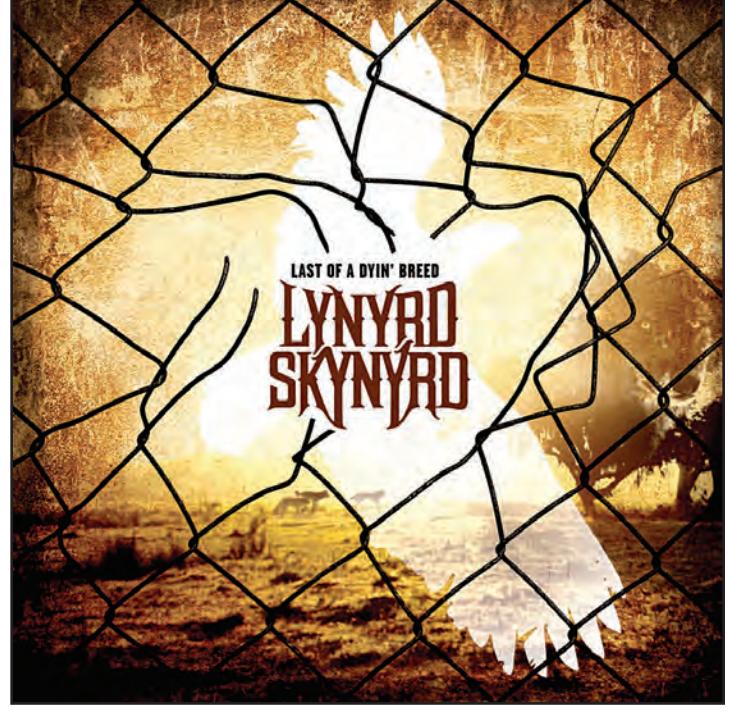
The album features the instant classics "Freebird," "Simple Man," "Tuesday's Gone" and "Gimme Three Steps."

The band's second effort, "Second Helping," spawns their first charting U.S. single "Sweet Home Alabama." The song is seen as a southerner's response to Neil Young's 1971 song "Southern Man." The single reaches No. 8 on the charts, with the album reaching No. 12. This is followed by "Nuthin' Fancy." The single from the album is "Saturday Night Special." "Freebird" is re-released as a single in 1974 and garners notable national airplay, reaching the Top 20 in the charts.

"Street Survivors," the band's second Platinum selling record, is released in 1977 – a year that would forever alter the course of Lynyrd Skynyrd. On Oct. 20, tragedy struck the band: Ronnie Van Zant, Steve Gaines, Cassie Gaines (Steve's sister and one of Skynyrd's back-up singers), and road manager Dean Kilpatrick are all killed when the band's rented plane crashes into a swamp in Gillsburg, Miss., while en route to a concert at Louisiana University.

"Street Survivors" spawns hits with "What's Your Name" and "You Got That Right."

In 1978, the band releases one more album, "Skynyrd's First and Last," which is comprised of previously unreleased recordings from 1970 through 1972.



Lynyrd Skynyrd is touring in support of their recent release, "Last of a Dying Breed," from Roadrunner Records.

The following year, MCA releases the double compilation album "Gold and Platinum." Surviving members of the band, with the exception of Artimus Pyle, form the Rossington-Collins Band, fronted by Dale Krantz.

It isn't until 1991 that Lynyrd Skynyrd returns to the studio.

The band releases "Lynyrd Skynyrd 1991," the first new material in more than 14 years. The album includes the tracks "Smokestack Lightning," "Keeping The Faith," "Southern Women" and "Pure and Simple."

Fast forward to 2012.

Loud & Proud/Roadrunner Records recently released "Last Of A

See SKYNYRD, page 4B

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- The fenced back yard is great for entertaining

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'Jekyll & Hyde' comes to Tampa's Straz Center

TAMPA — As part of the Bank of America Best of Broadway Tampa Bay series, Oct. 23-28, Tony Award nominee Constantine Maroulis will star in "Jekyll & Hyde," Oct. 23-28, in the Carol Morsani Hall, at the David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place.

Performances are Tuesday through Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 1 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$44.50. Call 813-229-7827 or 800-955-1045 or visit www.strazcenter.org.

Maroulis stars in the title dual role of Dr. Henry Jekyll and Edward Hyde, alongside Grammy Award nominee and R&B superstar Deborah Cox as Lucy.

Conceived for the stage by Tony and Grammy Award nominee Frank Wildhorn and Steve Cuden, the four time Tony Award nominated musical "Jekyll & Hyde" features a book and lyrics by two-time Oscar winner, Emmy winner and four-time Tony Award nominee Leslie Bricusse, music by Frank Wildhorn. The production is directed and choreographed by Tony Award nominee Jeff Calhoune.

Also starring in the production are Teal Wicks as Emma Carew, Laird Mackintosh as John Utterson and Richard White as Sir Danvers Carew.

Rounding out the cast are David Benoit, Stephen Mitchell Brown, Jerry Christakos, Dana Costello, Wendy Fox, Brian Gallagher, Sean Jennes, Mel Johnson Jr., James Judy, Ashley Loren, Courtney Markowitz, Aaron Ramey, Emmy Raver-Lampman, Rob Richardson, Blair Ross, Doug Storm, Haley Swindal and Jason Wooten.

"Jekyll & Hyde" features scenic and costume design by Tobin Ost, lighting design by Jeff Croiter, sound design by Ken Travis and projection design by Daniel Brodie. Orchestrations are by Kim Scharnberg. Musical supervision and arrangements are by Jason Howland.

According to Nederlander Presentations Inc., the international musical sensation will return to Broadway in Spring 2013 following its 25-

week national tour.

After four thrilling, chilling years on Broadway and multiple worldwide tours, this dark and dangerous love story returns in a stunning new production that includes all the classic songs — such as "This is the Moment," "A New Life" and "Someone Like You" — that first grabbed audiences by the throat and transformed "Jekyll & Hyde" into a theatrical phenomenon.

The musical is based on the acclaimed novella "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" by Robert Louis Stevenson, about a London doctor who accidentally unleashes his evil alternate personality in his quest to cure his father's mental illness.

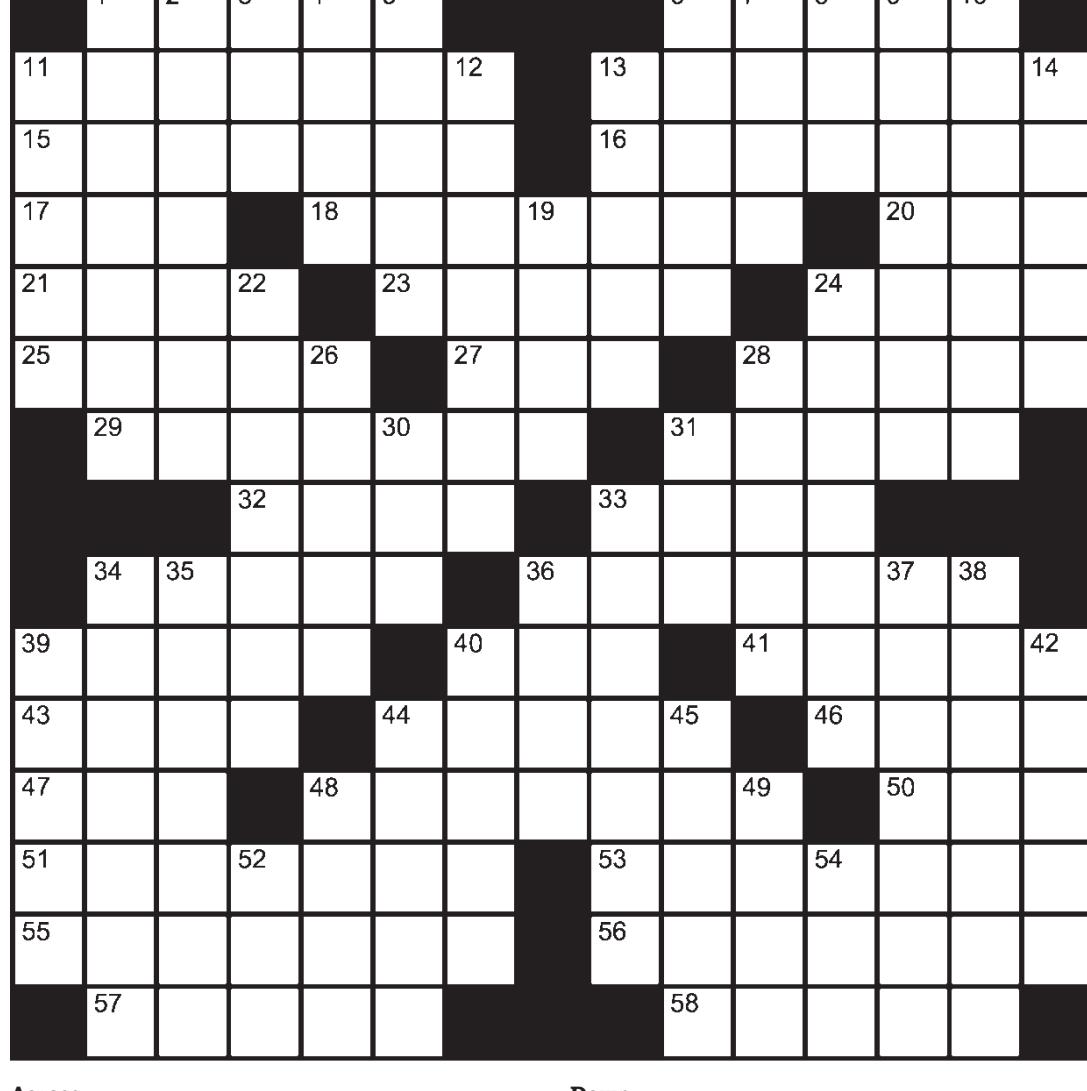
"Jekyll & Hyde" was first introduced as a concept album in 1990 featuring Colm Wilkinson and Linda Eder. Shortly thereafter it had its world premiere at the Alley Theatre in Houston starring Chuck Wagner as Jekyll/Hyde and Linda Eder as Lucy. Following a 30-city national tour, the Broadway production opened at the Plymouth Theatre on April 28, 1997, and earned four Tony Award nominations. Directed by Robin Phillips and choreographed by Joey Pizzi, the production starred Robert Cuccioli, who earned a Tony nomination as well as Joseph Jefferson, Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desk Awards for his portrayal of Jekyll/Hyde; Linda Eder, who won the Theatre World Award for her Broadway debut as Lucy; and Christiane Noll as Emma Carew.

After 1,543 performances, and featuring such replacements as Sebastian Bach and David Hasselhoff in the title role, the production played its final performance on Jan. 7, 2001.

The show's popularity catapulted well beyond the Great White Way and, within the subsequent decade of its world premiere, "Jekyll & Hyde" became an international sensation with multiple tours in the United Kingdom and North America, and over a dozen recordings from Germany, Spain, Austria, Hungary, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Japan and South Korea, among others.

For information, visit www.JekyllandHydeMusical.com.

Crossword



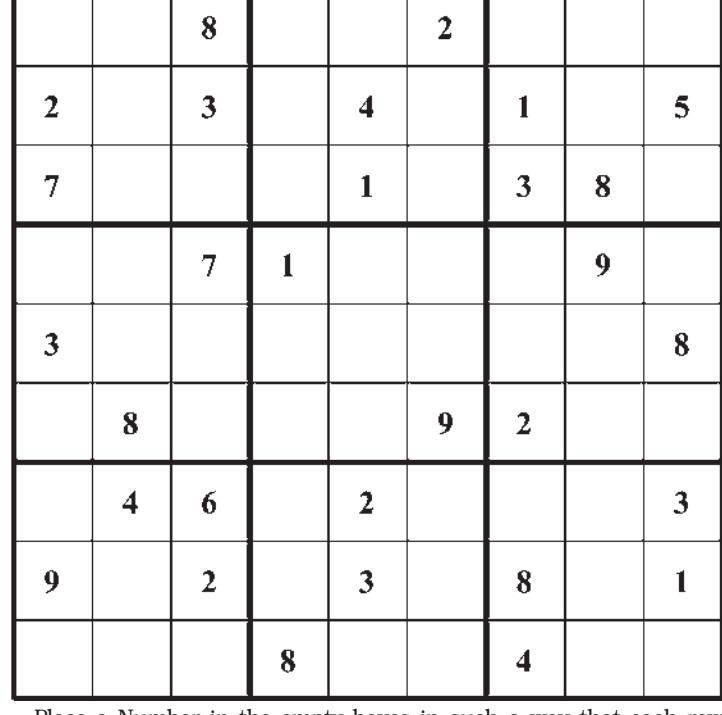
Across

- 1. Hits hard
- 6. Discompose
- 11. Provokes
- 13. Weak
- 15. Timid, childish man
- 16. "So soon?"
- 17. "___ alive!" (contraction)
- 18. College fee
- 20. "Fantasy Island" prop
- 21. Locale
- 23. Apprehensive
- 24. Hacienda hand, maybe
- 25. Fishhook line
- 27. Ballad
- 28. Shoulder gesture
- 29. Mourner
- 31. Category
- 32. Contemptible one
- 33. Grimace
- 34. Letters
- 36. Betting information seller
- 39. "Silly" birds
- 40. Greyhound, e.g.
- 41. Hang
- 43. Absorbed
- 44. Ringlets
- 46. Back of the neck
- 47. "To ___ is human ..." (contraction)
- 48. Layered ice cream dessert
- 50. Blazer, e.g. (acronym)
- 51. Run away lovers
- 53. Not worth using
- 55. Differing from accepted standards
- 56. Thaw
- 57. Email option
- 58. Detroit's county

Down

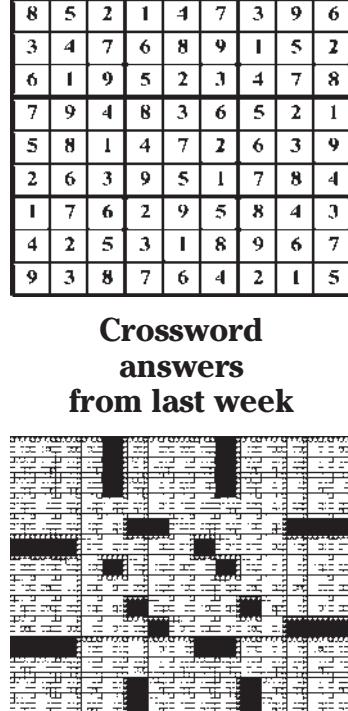
- 1. Literary composition
- 2. Handgun sheath
- 3. Arctic bird
- 4. "Check this out!"
- 5. 1988 Olympics site
- 6. Fusion
- 7. Building near a silo
- 8. Trick taker, often
- 9. Those who climb up and over
- 10. Repulsive
- 11. Awry
- 12. Out of proper order
- 13. Tinker Bell, e.g.
- 14. Eager
- 19. Get misty-eyed
- 22. Snob
- 24. Four-wheeled horse-drawn carriage
- 26. Freetown currency unit
- 28. Kind of fund
- 30. Big wine holder
- 31. Bluecoat
- 33. Lost
- 34. Mollusk diver
- 35. Scold
- 36. Gang land
- 37. Dodging
- 38. Drive back
- 39. Excessive desire for wealth
- 40. Explode
- 42. Retain with stone
- 44. Traveling amusement show
- 45. Strength
- 48. Clap
- 49. Soft porous rock deposited from springs
- 52. Lulu
- 54. "Don't give up!"

Sudoku

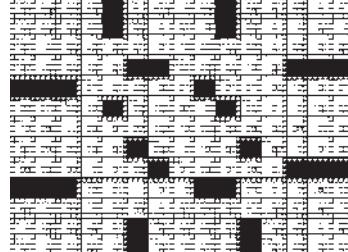


Place a Number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

Sudoku answers from last week



Crossword answers from last week



TOP FIVE, from page 1B

Dutton (bass, vocals) that surprised these seasoned pros as music of unshakeable 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.



Photo by ALISSA ANDERSON

The Chris Robinson Brotherhood play at Capitol Theatre Oct. 20.

Horoscopes

October 18, 2012

Capricorn

December 22 – January 19

Wants and needs are two different things, Capricorn. Don't let a young one fool you into thinking otherwise. Amazing career opportunities are in store.

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18

A review of your finances reveals areas to improve on. Start with something small, Aquarius. A drama plays out at home and peace reigns once again.

Pisces

February 19 – March 20

Taskmaster you're not, Pisces, but taskmaster you must become if you want to get a project off your desk. Step up your efforts and learn to delegate.

Aries

March 21 – April 19

The financial cushion you created will give you peace of mind this week, Aries, when a purchase must be made. Savvy shopping is in order.

Taurus

April 20 – May 20

A last ditch effort to save a project works, and you're on your way up the ladder. Good work, Taurus! An unusual gift from afar perks up the weekend activities.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21

All work and no play makes for a dull Gemini. Rearrange your work schedule and make time for some fun. You will return with a sharper focus.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22

Hands down, you're the most qualified person for the job. Stop waffling and start vying for the position. It is yours for the taking, Cancer.

Leo

July 23 – August 22

Be honest, Leo. When an acquaintance asks for your opinion, give it to them straight. Only then will they be able to make the right decision.

Virgo

August 23 – September 22

Life gets hectic. Roll with it, Virgo! There is much to be learned. An old friend has a crazy idea—cast aside your reservations and lend them a hand.

Libra

September 23 – October 22

Sales heat up, and bargains call your name. Keep tabs of what you spend, else you'll be playing catchup for months, Libra. A health crisis ends.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 21

It's your turn to shine, Scorpio. Cut loose and let your talents unfold. Love letters stir up feelings of old and passion ignites. Let the fun times begin.

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21

You get caught up in a whirlwind of change this week, Sagittarius, and your heart is all aflutter. A do-gooder makes a serious mistake and steps on many toes.

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* If you have not owned a home
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rent includes water, garbage,
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park. No pets. \$4,900.
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6B Classifieds

Leader, October 18, 2012

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