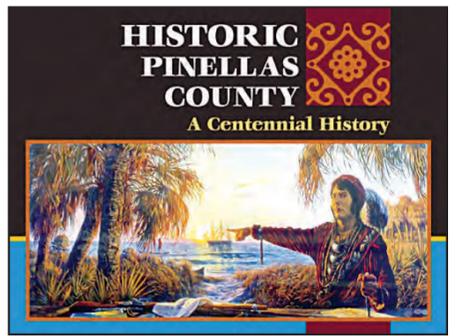


LARGO LEADER

34th County Jubilee comes to Heritage Village this Saturday

Long-awaited book 'Historical Pinellas County' will be available for sale ... Page 3A.



Volume XXXV, No. 14

www.TBNweekly.com

October 25, 2012

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ENTERTAINMENT



'Cloud Atlas' opens

From acclaimed filmmakers Lana Wachowski, Tom Tykwer and Andy Wachowski comes the powerful and inspiring epic "Cloud Atlas," based on the best-selling novel by David Mitchell. ... Page 1B.

HALLOWEEN



Get ghoulish

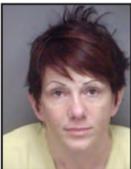
Spooktaculars, treat trails, and more. See Halloween 2012 Around Pinellas. ... Page 8B.

POLICE BEAT

Business owner arrested for drugs

Largo detectives arrested the owner of A Second Look Hair & Nails at 700 East Bay Drive on Oct. 16.

Detectives received a tip that Kimberly Ann LaPorte was selling narcotics from her salon, police said. ... Page 6A.



Kimberly LaPorte

VIEWPOINTS

Tom O'Hara

Columnist weighs in on newspapers' woes. ... Page 11A.



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Largo candidates face off

Longtime residents Robinson, Hunsicker vie for commission seat

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - The primary difference between the two candidates for Largo commission Seat 4 lies in their level of contentment with the city government.

James "Jamie" Robinson, a lifetime Largo resident and manager at the local store Largo Feed and Garden Supply, believes the city is headed in the right direction.

"We just need to continue to go in that direction," he said. "Money is a big issue right now for everybody. With what they've been able to do with what they've had, I think (the commission) is doing a pretty good job."

Robert "Bob" Hunsicker, a self-employed engineering consultant and 25-year Largo resident, said he had a different reason for running for office.

"I think the city has lost sight of the basics, so I wanted to bring it back to police, fire, sewer and solid waste," he said. "The city is raising taxes and fees and giving us less."



Candidates for Largo Commission Seat 4 are Robert Hunsicker, pictured at left in his Largo home, and Jaime Robinson, pictured at right in Largo Feed and Pet Supply Store, where he is the manager.

See CANDIDATES, page 6A

Packers stay undefeated



Despite double coverage, Largo's Reggie Campbell (2) comes down with a 25-yard pass reception in a high school football game against Boca Ciega Oct. 19 at Largo. The Packers rolled past Boca Ciega 42-7, improving to 7-0.

Photo by JIM LAYFIELD

'Orange Belt Railroad' launches Black Box Theater

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

LARGO - "The Orange Belt Railroad," an original play by Richard J. Budin presented by Dick Budin Productions, is celebrating its premiere engagement through Oct. 28 at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo.

Performances are Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15. For reservations, call 518-3131.

Presented in partnership with the Pinellas County Centennial Celebration, Budin's musical revolves around Pinellas pioneer Peter Demens, a Russian immigrant who built a railroad that led to the founding of St. Petersburg.

One man's history

The North Carolina State University offers a thorough sketch of Demens in its Architects & Builders Biographical Dictionary (ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu), noting that he first settled in



Photo courtesy of UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS Top, several men stand on and around an Orange Belt Railway locomotive in Florida, circa 1895. The image comes from the Stokes Photograph Collection found in the University of South Florida Special Collections Library. Above, Peter Demens, the man who built the railroad.

See THEATER, page 2A

Three county seats up for grabs

By SUZETTE PORTER

Four of seven seats on the Pinellas County Commission come open this year. The Nov. 6 election will decide who will fill three of the four positions.

No one stepped up to challenge Karen Seel for the District 5 seat. Without an opponent, Seel, the longest serving on the commission, wins another term by default. Another long-time commissioner Ken Welch, who represents District 7, faces political newcomer Buck Walz.

Former elected officials at the state level are challenging two incumbent commissioners, who are ending their first term in office. Nancy Bostock faces Charlie Justice for the District 3 seat and Neil Brickfield is up against Janet Long for District 1.

Tampa Bay Newspapers asked the candidates to complete a questionnaire to help readers get to know them better and get an idea of their views.

Brickfield versus Long for District 1

Republican Brickfield, 49, is married to Kelley Brickfield. They have two children, ages 18 and 14. He lives in Safety Harbor and has lived in Pinellas County since 1989. He received his bachelor's in sociology from Providence College in 1985.

Democrat Long, 68, is married to Richard L. Long. They have three children, ages 43, 33 and 31. Long's hometown is Kezar Falls, Maine. She has lived in Pinellas since 1972. Long's education includes study at

See COUNTY, page 4A

Largo teen sailing in German regatta

By BRIAN GOFF

CLEARWATER - An elite group of young sailors from the Clearwater Community Sailing Center is now in Germany, competing in a world-class regatta. The five-member team left on Wednesday, Oct. 24 and will return on Monday, Oct. 29. During their time in Berlin, they will be competing against the national champions from 16 different countries.

The group sails Optimist class boats and are between the ages of 12 and 15. They recently won the U.S. National championship, and that earned them the invitation to Germany. Their coach, Eric Barden, 46, of St. Petersburg admits the competition will be stiff, but they have a chance to win it all.

See SAILING, page 9A



Photo courtesy of DEBORAH WARD
Emmet Ward, 14, of Largo in action before leaving for Germany.

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City calendar

New fitness class free first week

LARGO - Inspired by the dances of the Pacific Islands, Highland Recreation Complex is offering Hot Hula Fitness for free on Thursday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. at 400 Highland Ave.

Hot Hula Fitness is a 60-minute total body workout designed to isolate your larger muscle groups, increasing strength and definition to your core with specific emphasis on the abs, glutes, quads, and arms.

All ages and fitness levels are invited to enjoy this exciting dance workout. Hot Hula Fitness is a registered trademark of Anna-Rita Sloss enterprises.

Starting Thursday, Nov. 1, the new class will cost \$5 for residents and \$6.25 for nonresidents.

Visit HighlandRecreation.com or call 518-3016.

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, at 101 Park Central Drive.

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.

Family History Assistance Day

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 history.

Society members also will be giving tours of the library's outstanding Genealogy Center and classes.

For more information, call Bob Bryan at 595-4521 or email to Bbryan84@gmail.com.

School hosts marching band competition

LARGO - Largo High School's Band of Gold will host the 40th annual Golden Invitational Marching Band Competition on Saturday, Oct. 27, 5 p.m., at high school's stadium, 410 Missouri Ave.

Help support the students and experience the thrill of Florida marching bands in competition. There will be about 15 local and statewide marching bands competing this year and hundreds of students.

Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$10 for students or senior citizens. Children younger than 5 are free. Parking is free.

For more information, call 585-4653 or visit www.largo-hs.pinellas.k12.fl.us/BandofGold

Lego Building

Lego Building, for ages 5 to 12, meets on first Saturdays, 10 to 11 a.m., at Southwest Recreation Complex, at 13120 Vonn Road.

Get hands-on experience while learning construction, programming and teamwork. Upcoming themes include Deep Sea Engineering on Nov. 3 and Megatropolis on Dec. 1.

Tickets range from \$5 to \$9.25. Visit PlayLargo.com

The new theater

The production also serves as a debut for the community center's Black Box Theater.

Budin points out that though the city is presenting "Orange Belt Railroad" under its Black Box Productions moniker, the city did not play a role in the show's production.

"This show has no affiliation with, nor does it receive sponsorship or support from the city," said Budin in an email. "Our relationship is established by a rental contract for space. I offered my show as a pattern only."

This first performance revealed a few technical issues with the theater space involving seating, set design limitations and acoustics that can be remedied. The 30,000-square-foot Largo Community Center offers an ideal alternative to the Largo Cultural Center for smaller theatrical productions. The LEED certified center boasts three sprung-floor studio rooms, a center stage ballroom with wooden floors, commercial kitchen, fitness room, art studio, card room, outdoor patio and gazebo and lounge. The addition of the Black Box Theater will add to the center's busy schedule.

Upcoming Black Box Productions include the following:

Nov. 17 - "The Music Man Tribute," The Sunstation Show Chorus

Jan. 12 - "A Night of Magic," Bob Klase and mentalist Robert Simid

Feb. 23 - "Variety Show," Country Cabaret Unlimited

March 9 - "A Night at the Oscars," The Sunstation Show Chorus

April 13 - "A Barbershop Harmony," Florida Suncoast Barbershop Chorus

May 11 - "Mother's Day Show," The Sunstation Show Chorus

Show times and ticket prices vary. Call 518-3131.



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THEATER, from page 1A

Longwood (now in Seminole County). He became involved in the lumber industry, supplying materials and building station houses for a branch of the South Florida Railroad. When the Orange Belt Railway couldn't settle its debt to Demens in 1885, the Russian immigrant took over their charter.

According to the NCSU biography, "between 1886 and 1889 he devoted his energy to construction of the Orange Belt Railway from Sanford, Florida, to the Pinellas Peninsula, the site of present-day St. Petersburg, where he envisioned 'a city of international importance' at the best natural harbor on Florida's Gulf Coast."

Demens, a man of vision, was as a shrewd manager of money, men and materials.

To complete the railroad, Demens faced enormous financial obstacles: Fickle backers postponed investments and credit; edgy creditors beleaguered the enterprise demanding payment.

Angry unpaid laborers once threatened to lynch Demens.

Demens managed to complete the rail connection that made St. Petersburg possible.

Today, a historical marker can be found in the St. Petersburg city park named Demens Landing, near the intersection of Bayshore Drive and First Avenue Southeast.

The marker reads: "This city park is located on the site of the first railroad pier in St. Petersburg, built by Peter Demens in 1889. Peter Demens (pronounced de-MANS) was a Russian nobleman, Pyotr Demen-tjev, who left Russia in 1881,

came to Florida, and changed his name to Demens. He became an entrepreneur, investing in a sawmill and a construction company in Longwood, Florida. Later he took control of the Orange Belt Railroad, which he extended from Sanford, Florida to the west coast of Florida in 1888, to a town he had named St. Petersburg, in honor of the capital city of Imperial Russia. Demens also built the first hotel, the Detroit, and the first railroad depot in St. Petersburg in 1888, and is considered one of the founders of the city. Demens Landing was dedicated as a city park to honor Demens in 1977."

About the playwright

Budin's first inclination toward the arts was in the mid-1980s when he encountered the Gasparilla legend.

"Naively, I thought I could write a play about it," Budin said in an email interview.

His spent time digging through historical texts but found that his research resulted in "a confused and often contradictory collection of stories full of errors."

"The play was amateurish and I decided that I didn't know enough about the environment for which I was writing," Budin said. "So began my on-the-job training in several theaters. These experiences transformed a bad actor into a writer with credits in New York City, Missouri and California."

In crafting "Orange Belt Railroad," the playwright was keenly aware of the immense impact Demens had on the development of Pinellas.

"In those days the population was small and concentrated in a handful of families," Budin explained. "There were no bridges across Tampa Bay, travel was long and arduous and there were no bridges joining Point Pinellas to the mainland."

Budin said that Henry Plant's railroad stopped in Tampa, "thereby isolating the peninsula

from commerce," except via Hamilton Disston's steamboats.

"Although the OBRR dragged along at only 15 miles an hour, it was the ultimate in luxury travel for its time and where it built stations, towns sprung into existence," Budin continued. "The Pier, the city of St. Petersburg, Demens Landing, and the Pinellas Trail - built on the site of the original tracks - are still with us today."

Budin has had several small shows produced locally and has had readings of longer and more complex ones as well.

"This play is the first 'play with music' of mine to be exposed to public scrutiny," Budin said. "I had a vision for this play and with help from people more talented than I, we were able to bring it from a script to a full production and give it life. I'm very grateful for their effort."

The play reviewed

Budin's play covers all the major elements in depicting Demens' struggle.

The blend of history and music evokes "Barnum," a musical with book by Mark Bramble, lyrics by Michael Stewart and music by Cy Coleman. Like "Barnum," "The Orange Belt Railroad" focuses on a single historical figure, restricts itself to a specific time period and features real-life personalities.

"The Orange Belt Railroad" picks up with Peter Demens involuntarily taking over the railroad line when the former owners are unable to pay off their debts. The opening number, "What'll We Do?," conveys the desperation of businessmen - and their inability to convince Peter that the railroad would be a good investment. A few moments later, Peter - now the owner - has to figure out how to sell the idea to his wife Raisa ... and validate the state of affairs in his own mind.

At the heart of Peter's sales pitch is a real-life claim made by a Baltimore's Doctor. In 1885,

W.C. Van Bibber issued a study declaring Point Pinellas the world's healthiest spot. Van Bibber happened to own land on the peninsula.

From a purely analytical perspective, "The Orange Belt Railroad" has a few wrinkles that need to be ironed out - but that isn't unusual in a first showing. The Oct. 21 matinee had its share of flubbed lines, missed cues and prop problems. The first act ends rather unceremoniously and the pacing is inconsistent.

Fortunately, there are plenty of solid performances from an able cast that help to minimize the glitches.

Veteran local actor Bill Harber portrays Peter Demens. Last month, Harber received a STAR award in the Favorite Actor - Comedy category for his role in Neil Simon's "45 Seconds From Broadway" at West Coast Players. In "The Orange Belt Railroad," Harber is effective as the visionary and pioneer. He captures Peter's mulish obstinacy and conveys the character's indomitable confidence.

As Raisa Demens, Mara Martin is equally convincing. Scott Haller's turn as area developer Hamilton Disston is impressive and memorable - Disston being another figure of local history whose life story deserves to be recounted to modern audiences.

Other standout cast members include Lisa Obst as Tanya, Susan O'Gara as Sarah Williams and Dave Cruz as A.M. Taylor.

"The Orange Belt Railroad" succeeds in illustrating the tenacity of 19th century Pinellas pioneers. As Budin states in his playbill comments, Demens and his partners didn't buy their way into the railroad business - they built it.

"Borrowing their way into heavy debt, they put everything on the line each time until they achieved their goal," Budin writes. "The debt they carried is inconceivable even to the average person today."

Upcoming Black Box Productions include the following:

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Jan. 12 - "A Night of Magic," Bob Klase and mentalist Robert Simid

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Country Jubilee ushers in autumn at Heritage Village

LARGO - The 34th Country Jubilee: A Centennial Celebration comes to Pinellas County's Heritage Village on Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For the first time, James Anthony Schnur's long-awaited book, "Historic Pinellas County - A Centennial History" will be available for sale and the author will hold a book signing.

More than 120 food and craft vendors will be lining the walkways in and around Heritage Village, displaying stained-glass items, handcrafted jewelry, wooden items, seasonal crafts, quilts, products made of natural stone, plus soaps, jams, nuts and pickles. Clothes for the American Girl dolls are available as well. The Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections office will be registering voters at this year's Country Jubilee.

Florida folk, bluegrass and country music will be performed live throughout the day. The entertainment will include 13-year-old Carmen Brandy who made her first trip to Nashville in 2011.

The ever-popular flea market is bigger and better this year, organizers say. The Lowe House will contain holiday decorations; the Harris School will be loaded with books, videos and phonograph records; the Safety Harbor Church will have vintage linens and antiques and the Pinellas Room will be loaded to the rafters with bargains.

Of special interest will be the sugar cane processing display, put on by the Largo Historical Society. A truckload of raw sugar cane will be ground and pressed, then boiled down to delectable sugar cane syrup. Bottles of the elixir will be available for a small donation, and the kids can grab a piece of raw sugar cane to see if it really is sweet.

The Morse Telegraph Club, Florida Chapter will be demonstrating how people communicated with Morse code, and one huge area of the train station will be filled with working model railroad displays. In the McMullen House, weavers, spinners, quilters and embroiderers will exhibit traditional skills. Living history

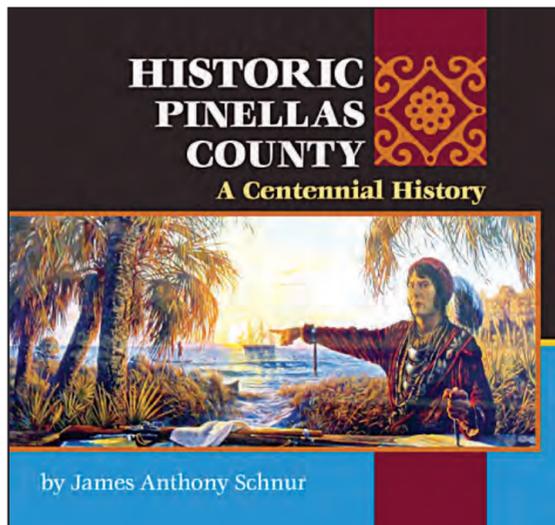


Photo courtesy of HERITAGE VILLAGE
"Historic Pinellas County - A Centennial History" will be available for sale and the author will hold a book signing at Heritage Village's Country Jubilee on Saturday, Oct. 27.

activities for kids will abound and antique cars will be on display. This year's Country Jubilee is sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society and Busch Gardens, and all proceeds will go to support the operation of Heritage Village. Free event parking and shuttle are located at 119th Street between Ulmerton and Walsingham roads; organizers are asking for a \$2 per person donation for admission to the festival.

Heritage Village is located at 11909 125th St. N. in Largo. The living history museum brings more than 150 years of

local history to life. Tour 28 authentic buildings and structures, and experience historic Pinellas County through hands-on exploration. Paths wind through 21 acres and connect with the Florida Botanical Gardens and the Pinewood Cultural Park campus. Heritage Village is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. It is closed Mondays, Tuesdays and all Pinellas County holidays. For more information on Heritage Village, visit www.pinellascounty.org/heritage or call 582-2123.

Largo lets Lego test the imagination

By BRIAN GOFF

LARGO - Relying on the theory that everyone loves Legos, the staff at the Largo Recreation Department is hoping a new program they call Lego Friends will catch on at the Highland Recreation Center.

Though a similar program at the Southwest Recreation Center is already a success, its newly launched counterpart was just in its second week on Oct. 13 for an event themed "Spooky Skyscrapers."

Raina Widmann, 10, arrived early and began to assemble something, but not a skyscraper. Instead she built a Lego mini-car. Was the car spooky?

"It is if I put a scary person beside it," Raina said. The fourth-grade student from Largo's Mildred Helms Elementary School then turned her attention to building some Star Wars figures; still no skyscraper.

No one was bothered. The whole idea is to allow kids to use their imagination, said event organizer Christina Heubel.

"The kids can just come in and assemble Lego stuff," she said. "We give them themes and ideas then it is up to them. They have all the creative free

time they need."

Lego Friends will be a weekly event. "With Legoland opening up, we thought we could get some interest in Legos," she said. "We noticed all the kids like Legos, and we'll continue to have this program all year."

On hand at Highland was counselor Kenny Heatly. Early in the hour Raina was the only participant. Heatly said it was because the program was new.

"We've had a Lego-themed program at Southwest for some time," he said. "It is very successful there, and we're sure it will catch on here too. Everybody loves Lego."

The Lego Friends program at the Highland Recreation Center takes place Saturdays, 11 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$5 for Largo residents with a recreation card, \$6.25 for nonresidents with a card and \$9.25 for anyone without a card.

Resident cards are \$10 per year. Nonresident cards are \$59 a year but can be purchased for three- or six-month periods at a lesser price.

First-timer visitors of Highland Recreation Center should be aware that a new facility is being built, and during construction the only way to get to the center is from Lake Avenue.



Raina Widmann, left, shows the Lego haunted house to Largo counselor Kenny Heatly at the Highland Recreation Center.

Photo by BRIAN GOFF

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Additional ballot drop-off sites open for Nov. 6 general election

LARGO – Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark has announced that completed ballots can be dropped off at any of the three Elections Offices. Starting Oct. 22, 11 remote ballot drop off sites also will be available, as in past elections.

"The ballot is four pages long – two cards per voter – and all voters are eligible to request mail ballots and avoid the lines at the polls," Clark said. "Our voters enjoy the convenience of voting by mail and having the options of either returning their ballots by mail, with 65 cents postage, or dropping them off at a ballot drop-off site."

Supervisor of Elections Offices are located in:

- County Courthouse, Room 117, 315 Court St., Clearwater
 - Starkey Lakes Corporate Center, 13001 Starkey Road, Largo. Residents can drive-through at this location Oct. 22 – Nov. 6.
 - County Building, 501 First Ave. N., St. Petersburg
- Offices hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with these additional extended hours:
- Oct. 27 through Nov. 3, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Nov. 4, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Nov. 6, Election Day, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Remote ballot dropoff sites will be open Oct. 22 to Nov. 6 during

specified hours:

- Five of the Tax Collector Offices: 743 Pinellas Ave. S., Tarpon Springs; 29399 U.S. 19 N. (near Curlew), Clearwater; 1663 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd., Clearwater; 1800 66th St. N., St. Petersburg; and 1067 62nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg
 - Centre of Palm Harbor, 1500 16th St., Palm Harbor
 - Public libraries in East Lake, Oldsmar, Seminole and Pinellas Park, and the James Weldon Johnson Branch Library in St. Petersburg
- Election employees are stationed with secure ballot boxes inside each location. "I Voted" stickers are available. Some dropoff sites are open Saturdays. A complete schedule is included in mail ballot kits and available online at www.voteinellas.com under Mail Ballots in the left menu.

Ballots cannot be dropped off at a polling place, per state law.

Voters may track their ballots online at www.voteinellas.com to find out the date the ballot is mailed and the date the voted ballot is received by the Supervisor of Elections.

All ballots must be received at an Elections Offices or ballot dropoff site by 7 p.m. on Election Day. All accepted mail ballots are included

in election results.

To request a mail ballot visit www.voteinellas.com or call 464-VOTE (8383).

New unofficial voter turnout application

LARGO – A new voter turnout application has been added to www.voteinellas.com. This information is unofficial until the Pinellas County Canvassing Board certifies Final Official Results.

The application provides voter turnout statistics in the following formats:

- Summary page – breakdown of the number of mail, early vote, election day and provisional ballots cast
- By party
- By percentage
- By date
- By precinct

The information is transaction-based and will continue to be updated throughout the election cycle with real-time voter totals.

Election Day voter turnout will be updated after Nov. 6.

Visit www.voteinellas.com/?id=2059.

COUNTY, from page 1A

Fryeburg Academy, Fryeburg, Maine; Nasson College, Springvale, Maine; Berkeley School, New York City, N.Y.; St. Petersburg College, St. Petersburg and Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, among other training.

Brickfield's employment history includes one term as a Pinellas County Commissioner and ownership of Brickfield and Associates Inc.

ong's history includes work as the director of advancement at Clearwater Catholic High School, 2002-2010; her service on the Florida state Legislature, 2006-2010; work as president of JCL & Associates, 1998-2012; service on the Seminole City Council, 2002-2006; and deputy insurance commissioner, 1987-1998.

Qualifications for office

Brickfield's list of qualifications includes being the owner of a small business for more than 20 years and his service on the Board of County Commissioners. Prior to being elected to the county board in 2008, he served on the Safety Harbor City Commission. As a county commissioner, he has served on the board of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, which oversees transportation issues; Tampa Bay Water, which provides clean potable water; and on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, which deals with region-wide issues.

When asked what made him better qualified than his opponent, Brickfield wrote, "Over the past four years, I have had the honor to be part of a commission that faced the challenge of reducing our budget by 32 percent while delivering services to you. We have been successful and our County's recent poll of our citizens backs us up.

"By a margin of 3 to 1, our residents say Pinellas is a great place to raise a family; by 4 to 1 margins, our residents say Pinellas is a great place to live and retire. Do you agree? I do! We are smaller and more efficient government and our quality of life remains great!"

Long says she offers a lifetime of public policy experience, advocacy and budgeting, as well as common sense, leadership skills, judgment and ability to build consensus on very complex issues. She also says those qualifications make her the better opponent.

Why run for office?

Brickfield said he is running to keep public safety the No. 1 priority, bring better jobs to Pinellas County, improve transportation and "watch our spending dollar by dollar."

"I think Pinellas is a special place to live with the promise of a tomorrow that's better than today. I believe if we stick to basics, we will have a better Pinellas for all of us.

When asked what he hopes to accomplish, he talked about continuing to improve the local job market and economy, as well as tackling and finding a solution to the Emergency Medical Services challenge, while keeping the budget balances, taxes low and government efficient.

Long says she wants to be a county commissioner "because of my deep concern that policy decisions made by my opponent fail to adequately serve the people of Pinellas County."

"Until recently, Pinellas County enjoyed a thoughtful, progressive County Commission that made decisions to benefit everyone, not just an angry vocal minority. My children grew up here. Now I have grandchildren here. I want them to enjoy the quality of life that Pinellas County was known for. My opponent has not demonstrated that he can make decisions that will enable Pinellas to regain its stature in our region."

She said she wants to make certain public tax dollars are "not being wasted on more studies simply because the commission doesn't have the strength or the political will to do what is right."

"I will demand solutions to enable our fire and EMS system to be sustainable and more efficient," she said. "I want to see our public transportation system upgraded and brought into the 21st century. And like most citizens I hear from, I want fluoride put back in our water to ensure the public health and safety of all of our citizens."

Most pressing issue

Candidates were asked to name the most pressing issue facing the Pinellas County Commission and offer their best solution.

Brickfield gave two related issues as the most pressing – jobs and the economy. He said the Commission was actively working to recruit new businesses.

"We combed through our capital budget to get all construction projects we could afford out to bid to put people to work today," he said. "We met for the first time with the Pinellas County School Board and St. Petersburg College to make sure we are all heading in the same economic development direction. We are capitalizing on our strengths like tourism up 17 percent this year; manufacturing jobs are available and new jobs being added to companies today."

He said according to Pinellas County Economic Development Office, the county's workforce has grown by more than 13,000 jobs this year.

Long said that resolving the fire and EMS issues that have "plagued our county for three decades is paramount."

"The commission kicks the can down the road by constantly asking for another study. At some point, you get all of the information and you move forward. We can still have the best system without constantly raising taxes. That will take courage, knowledge and the willingness to do the right thing."

Her solution to the problem depends on a new study currently under way.

"At this point, when the new study is done – important decisions have to be made. I will be able to make a decision."

For more information about Brickfield, visit votebrickfield.com, email votebrickfield@gmail.com or visit Neil Brickfield for Pinellas County Commissioner on Facebook.

For more about Long, visit janetforpinellas.com.

Bostock versus Justice for District 3

Republican Bostock, 44, and her husband, Craig W. Bostock, have three children, ages 15, 16 and 18. She lives in Clearwater and is a lifetime Pinellas County resident. She is a 1986 graduate of Clearwater High School. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Florida in 1989 and her masters from the same school in 1998. She spent a year in graduate studies at Georgetown University Law Center, 1990-1991.

Democrat Justice, 44, and his wife, Kathleen, have two children, ages 7 and 10. He lives in St. Petersburg and also is a lifetime resident of Pinellas. He attended Pinellas County schools before receiving an associate's degree from St. Petersburg College and a bachelor degree from the University of South Florida.

Bostock's employment history includes one term on the County Commission, service on the Pinellas County School Board, 1998-

2008; at-home mom, 1994-1998; part-time graduate school assistant at Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1997-1998; teacher at Oldsmar Christian School, 1991-1993; and probation officer at Salvation Army Correctional Services, 1990.

Justice is coordinator of leadership development and programming at USF St. Petersburg. He served as state senator from 2006-2010 and state representative from 2000-2006.

Qualifications for office

Among her qualifications for office, Bostock lists that she was born and raised in Pinellas and has made the county her home with her husband and children. She names 23 organizations, boards and committees on which she has served and donated her time in a variety of capacities.

"Pinellas citizens elected me three times in countywide elections to serve them and our students on the Pinellas County School Board," she said. "And the School Board members elected me twice to serve as chair of the School Board."

She said her experience on the school board, "balancing the needs of our 100,000-plus students and managing the \$1.2 billion-plus budget within our dynamic county of almost 1 million prepared me well for the challenges we faced during my first term on the County Commission."

Bostock believes she is the best-qualified candidate to represent District 3 because of citizen support.

"In 2008, I asked the citizens of Pinellas County to 'Back Bostock' for County Commission – and they did! We have focused on providing our citizens with the high quality essential services you expect from county in spite of a 30 percent decline in revenues," she said. "We've accomplished this with fiscally responsible decisions, effective and efficient use of taxpayer resources and increased accountability."

She also pointed to her past service in Pinellas.

"Local government is government closest to the people, and we work very differently than the often adversarial, partisan legislature where my opponent has served," she said.

Justice pointed to his native-son status as a qualification to serve as a county commissioner. He pointed to his "lifetime of community service, including 10 years in the Florida Legislature. My life experiences have prepared me for this position."

"I am very proud of my record in the Florida Legislature," he said, as one reason he is the more qualified candidate. "I would compare my record of votes and decision making, I have experience evaluating large amounts of complex information and being able to cast a vote representing our community."

"Unlike my opponent, I will always oppose oil drilling off our beaches. I will support strong standards on fertilizer runoff in our lakes and ponds. I support returning fluoride to our water, and I will never support balancing the county budget by cutting the minimal support that Pinellas provides for Meals on Wheels."

Why run for office?

Bostock said she is running for County Commission "to work together with our citizens to make decisions that are good for our community."

"Sometimes those decisions can be tough, but they are necessary to remain financially sound," she said. "I will continue to focus on providing the high quality essential services on which our citizens depend while not increasing the financial burden of increased taxes on our citizens."

"We must prioritize the services that affect our safety: law enforcement, disaster preparedness and emergency medical services – services we don't necessarily think about but rely upon all the same: sewers, our solid waste facility, stormwater management; and services that affect our quality of life: our beautiful beaches, parks and roads."

When asked what she hopes to accomplish with another term in office, she talked about creating a healthy environment for "our local businesses to be successful and in which to create additional jobs, to continue to provide the high quality of services on which our citizens depend without increasing the tax burden upon those same citizens and to make Pinellas a better place for all of us."

Justice is running because he wants "to restore sound decision making to our commission."

"I think that our quality of life is at stake during this election," he said. "We have the opportunity to move Pinellas forward. I believe the current commission has taken us backwards with some of their policies. I want my children and your grandchildren to enjoy the same wonderful hometown that I am so proud to have growing up here."

What he hopes to accomplish, if elected, is "to better connect our commission to the nearly 300,000 Pinellas residents that live in unincorporated Pinellas to their local government."

"I believe I can play an integral role in improving relations between our county, the 24 municipalities and the many special districts," he said. "There are important issues facing Pinellas over the coming years and we need leaders on the commission who will make decisions that are right for our entire community, not just the loudest voices in the room on a given day."

Most pressing issue

Bostock said the most pressing issue facing the commission "is our tough economy and how it is affecting so many of our citizens."

She listed three areas that she feels are key to helping "citizens during these difficult times."

The first is the budget. She believes making careful financial decisions is "essential to balancing our need to provide essential services to our citizens with the current state of declining property tax revenues."

"We must focus on our most important services, like public safety, without raising taxes on our citizens, so many of whom are struggling in this economy," she said.

Next on her list are jobs.

"Creating a climate which helps, not hinders, our local businesses is essential to creating jobs and expanding economic opportunities for our citizens," she said.

She said one way to help with job creation is working together with other agencies in the community to "eliminate barriers and red tape," something she said is "crucial for the success of our small businesses and the growth of jobs for our citizens."

Lastly, Bostock points to accountability as a major issue for the commission.

"It is essential that we use our taxpayers' resources in the most effective and efficient manner possible and be open and responsive to our citizens, who after all, are the people paying for it all," she said.

Justice said, "Our quality of life is the over-arching issue facing the Commission."

"Included in that are important decisions dealing with transportation, emergency management systems, taxes, emergency preparedness and supporting the needed services provided including those from our Constitutional Officers," he said.

Justice said he is "looking forward to providing leadership and



Nancy Bostock



Charlie Justice



Neil Brickfield



Janet Long



Ken Welch



Buck Walz

sound decision-making aptitude."

"I know that my legislative experience has provided me the skills and judgment to enact the right policies for Pinellas," he said. "I will make decisions that are right for our entire community, not just a loud group with extreme viewpoints."

For more information about Bostock, visit www.nancybostock.com or www.facebook.com/BackBostock.

For more on Justice, visit www.charliejustice.com.

Welch versus Walz for District 7

Democrat Ken Welch, 47, and his wife, Donna, have two children, ages 19 and 10. Welch is a native of Pinellas County and still lives in his hometown of St. Petersburg. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting from the University of South Florida, a master's degree in business administration from Florida A&M University.

Republican Walz, 33, and his fiancée JoAnne Dugan have one son, age 6. He also is a native of Pinellas County and lives in his hometown of St. Petersburg. He did not complete the education portion of the questionnaire, but indicated that he is a college graduate.

Welch's employment history includes representing District 7 since 2000. He was associate vice president of business services at St. Petersburg College from 2006 to 2011; senior accountant, IT analyst, systems administrator at Florida Power Company, 1987-2001; and has owned Welch Accounting Services IT & Electronic Filing Manager from 1993 to present.

Walz said that shortly after graduating college he began managing The Florida Fun Factory "until insurance spikes shut us down permanently. I was quickly picked up by The Concrete Steel Glass Company as a project manager where I found my current position as the operations manager for Carroll's Building Materials here in St. Petersburg."

Qualifications for office

Welch prefaced a long list of service by saying "I bring a strong record of community service, business management experience and proven leadership at the local and state level."

He is currently vice-chair of the County Commission, chair of the Homeless Leadership Board, vice-chair of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Board of Directors, president-elect of the Florida Association of Counties and a member of the Pinellas Career Education Fund Board.

In the past, he has served on the St. Petersburg Junior College Board of Trustees, Pinellas County Tourist Development Council, Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board, WorkNet Pinellas, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, United Way of Tampa Bay Board of Directors, St. Pete YMCA Board of Directors among others.

He said his "strong record of leadership and collaboration, both in Pinellas County and statewide" make him best qualified to represent District 7 on the County Commission.

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

Walz did not complete the section on qualifications for office, but he did talk about why he was the best-qualified candidate.

"I have managed to survive the hard economic downturn we have had these past six-plus years. We went from 65 employees (at Carroll's) down to 23 and back up to over 30," he said. "We have grown 11 to 13 percent for the past four years despite the construction industry becoming decimated here in Pinellas County. I know what it takes to make real, difficult decisions that affect people personally."

"I do not have anything bad to say about my opponent, but he has not lived day in and day out, scratching and clawing a living out of the private sector in more than a decade. We disagree on a number of issues. It is time for a fresh perspective from an honest, educated, hardworking common-man with commonsense."

"In the private sector, you have to be creative to fall within your budget. You do not have the luxury of raising taxes because business is slow. You have to live within your means. Why should local government be allowed to operate any differently at our expense."

Why run for office?

Welch said he is running for another term because "our county needs strong, proven leadership in a time of unprecedented fiscal and community challenges."

When asked what he hopes to accomplish, he said, "There are many areas that I will continue to address. Stabilizing the EMS system and implementing fire-based transport, modernizing our transportation system and continuing our strategic initiative to streamline, consolidate and improve local government services while achieving better outcomes for the taxpayer's dollar."

Walz said he is running for office because he wants "to leave a healthy vibrant Pinellas County to our next generation just like it was handed down to us."

His answer to what he hopes to accomplish was "we need to cultivate an environment that allows small business to flourish while providing the services required to keep our residents safe and secure."

Most pressing issue

"Our greatest challenge is balancing increasing demands for services – from public safety to community development and parks – in an era of declining revenues," Welch said.

"I have a strong record of leadership on difficult issues," he continued, answering the question of what he would do about the county's major issues. "My leadership roles have been countywide and collaborative and have produced real solutions. I will continue to apply that approach to the challenges before us – so that we work smarter, more collaboratively and more strategically."

Walz said the biggest issue facing county leaders is the budget. He then talked about what he would do about it.

"We have made cuts, but we are still facing a budget shortfall," he said. "We need to provide the essential services required by Pinellas County Charter and eliminate anything that is not required. We need to consolidate and streamline services to make our County employees more efficient."

For more information about Welch, visit www.kenwelch.com, reach him on Twitter, @votewelch, or visit www.facebook.com/kenwelchforcommission.

For more information on Walz, visit www.buckwalz.com.

Correction

The story "Referendum to help grow businesses," which ran in the Oct. 18 edition of the *Largo Leader* incorrectly stated the email address for Largo Economic Development Manager Teresa Brydon. To contact Brydon to give input or for more information on the referendum establishing a tax exemption for new or growing businesses, email tbrydon@largo.com.

Pinellas wants Hillsborough to take Friendship Trail Bridge

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County Commissioners unanimously approved a recommendation from the county administrator Oct. 16 to transfer ownership of the Friendship Trail Bridge to Hillsborough County.

If accepted, it would end a relationship dating back to Oct. 15, 1997, when the Florida Department of Transportation transferred ownership of the Old Gandy Bridge to Pinellas and Hillsborough. The counties had lobbied to save the bridge for use as a trail linking Pinellas and Hillsborough, and FDOT eventually agreed to the plan.

When FDOT transferred ownership of the bridge, the counties received \$7 million – the amount the state had planned to spend to demolish the old structure, which opened to traffic in 1956.

The \$7 million was used to refurbish the bridge with some money left over for operating and maintenance.

The Friendship Trail Bridge opened to the public in 1999 with operations and maintenance governed by an interlocal agreement between the two counties. Thousands used the trail over the years and it quickly became a popular attraction for residents and guests.

All was well until an engineering report issued in December 2008 said there was a potential that the bridge could collapse due to structural problems. Not long after, the trail bridge was closed permanently.

In April 2010, engineers reassessed the condition of the bridge and gave a repair estimate of \$48 million. The counties agreed the only course of action was to demolish the structure and started budgeting money to get it done.

Hillsborough County put out a request for proposal for the demolition. American Bridge Company submitted a bid of \$4.195 million to take down about 11,000 linear feet of the bridge, plus a bid of

just over \$1 million to remove the remaining 3,000 linear feet.

Per the interlocal agreement, each county was expected to pay half the costs. Pinellas has already provided \$2 million and agreed to put up an additional \$515,000 to pay its share of the bid amount.

Hillsborough County was expected to award the bid to American Bridge on April 4, 2012, but the matter was deferred to allow a citizen group working on a plan to save the old bridge a chance to present its case.

A draft plan of the citizen's group intent was received in May and, after review, Pinellas County staff expressed numerous concerns. Pinellas County recommended that plans continue to demolish the structure by awarding the bid to American Bridge.

County Administrator Bob LaSala sent a letter to Hillsborough County Administrator June 27, stating concerns that if Hillsborough delayed awarding the bid, the demolition cost could go up, which could result in Hillsborough asking for more money from Pinellas.

"Given Pinellas County's financial situation, I cannot recommend any further increase in contribution for demolition cost from Pinellas County in the future," LaSala wrote.

He also expressed safety and liability concerns. "Any additional delay to the demolition to the structure increases both counties exposure to the risk the deteriorated bridge presents," LaSala wrote.

Merrill responded to LaSala's letter on June 28, writing that the Hillsborough Commission had voted June 27 not to award the bid for demolition.

"As you know there are proposals currently on the table from private groups advocating for the continued operation of the bridge for recreation and tourism," Merrill wrote. "Additional due diligence on these proposals is required before a specific course of action can be recommended. The Hillsborough Commission has now given the advocacy groups



The Friendship Trail Bridge is closed and as far as Pinellas County government is concerned, it should be demolished.

more time to complete their due diligence."

Merrill wrote that he had informed his commission that Pinellas was not willing to pay more than the \$2 million plus the \$515,000 for the demolition.

"Secondly, Hillsborough County should not expect that Pinellas County will agree to share in the construction or maintenance costs of a new bridge," Merrill wrote.

LaSala now recommends that Pinellas transfer ownership of the bridge to Hillsborough County. The move would relieve Pinellas of all rights, obligations and liabilities regarding the bridge.

The transfer would include two gateway towers, adjacent to the western end of the bridge on the condition that if the bridge is ever demolished and Hillsborough wants to dispose of the towers that Pinellas get a chance to move them to another loca-

tion. Pinellas also agrees to move its restroom facility.

If Hillsborough County agrees, the 1999 interlocal agreement would be terminated.

LaSala told commissioners Oct. 16 that from what he's heard from Merrill, the Hillsborough commission "is not likely to accept our offer."

LaSala said if Hillsborough said no, discussions would continue. County Attorney Jim Bennett said Pinellas County's obligation was to the demolition. LaSala added that the county was not obligated to be involved in any revamp, enhancement or rebuild.

Commissioner Neil Brickfield asked if it was possible for Pinellas to take down its half of the bridge.

"We can explore that with the attorneys, engineers and environmentalists," LaSala said.

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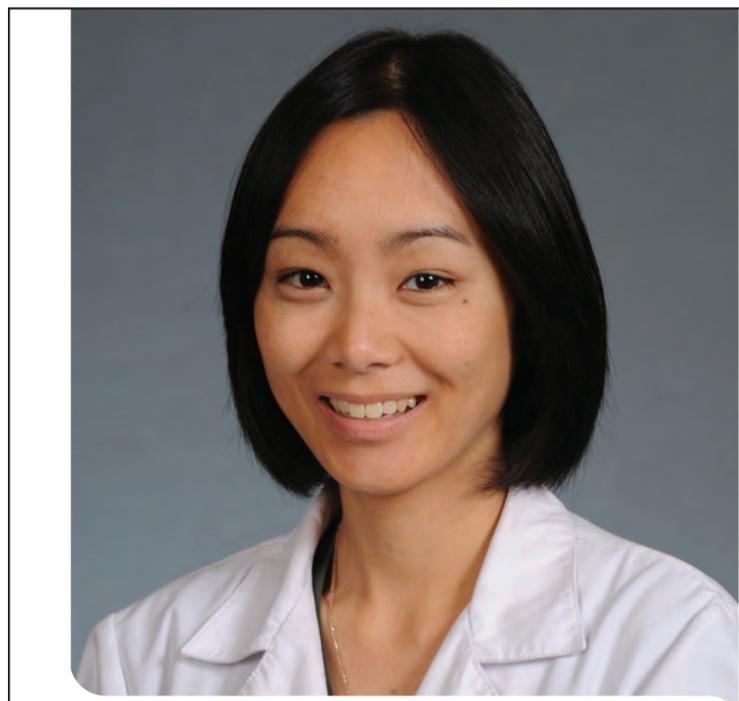
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Police beat

Business owner arrested for drugs

LARGO – Largo detectives arrested the owner of A Second Look Hair & Nails at 700 East Bay Drive on Oct. 16. Detectives received a tip that Kimberly Ann LaPorte was selling narcotics from her salon. A subsequent investigation confirmed that she was selling prescription drugs, police said. She is charged with two counts of the sale of oxycodone and two counts possession of oxycodone. She was booked into the Pinellas County Jail, but later released on \$10,000 bail.



Kimberly LaPorte

DUI checkpoint nets 20 arrests

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County sheriff's deputies conducted a sobriety checkpoint Friday, Oct. 19, 10 p.m. to Saturday, Oct. 20, 3 a.m., at the National Aviation Academy, 6225 Ulmerton Road in Clearwater. Two subjects were arrested on 24 charges including two for driving under the influence, three for driving without a valid driver's license and seven for driving on a suspended or revoked license. Five were arrested for possession of marijuana, one for felony violation of probation, two for possession of a controlled substance, one for disorderly intoxication and two for possession of cocaine. In addition, 13 vehicles were impounded and 20 cita-

tions were issued. Average intrusion time was one minute and 39 seconds.

Three charged with second degree murder

MADEIRA BEACH – Three men suspected of killing a Madeira Beach man were charged with second degree murder Oct. 16. Michael Merrill, 57, a live-aboard commercial fisherman died Oct. 4 from injuries he received in a Sept. 12 beating aboard his vessel docked at a marina just south of the Tom Stuart Causeway on Madeira Beach. Deputies arrested three suspects, all transients, between Sept. 14 and 18. Each was charged with aggravated battery, according to a report by Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. Timothy John Schuyler, 31, and Joshua Eugene Shroyer, 38, have remained in the Pinellas County Jail since their arrests in September. Kord Lynn Tucker, 38, released on a \$10,000 surety bond Sept. 15 and re-arrested Oct. 16. Deputies say a previous disagreement might have triggered the incident that happened about 2 a.m. aboard Merrill's vessel, the Lilly Anne, a 33-foot commercial fishing boat. The three suspects allegedly boarded the Lilly Anne and confronted the 57-year-old man late on the night of Sept. 11. He told them to leave, and reportedly threatened them with a knife. Reports show the three suspects left the boat at that

time, but returned to the boat around 2 a.m. and began beating Merrill with hand tools and other objects. He was able to escape by diving into the water and hiding under the dock. A friend found Merrill a short time later, and called for assistance. Merrill was transported to Bayfront Medical Center for treatment of various internal and head injuries.

Sketch released of assault suspect

PALM HARBOR – Pinellas County sheriff's detectives released a composite sketch of a man wanted in connection with an attack on a 49-year-old Palm Harbor woman. The attack happened about 8:30 p.m. Sept. 26 at 3420 Brian Road South in Palm Harbor. The suspect is a white male, about age 22, who was wearing long light gray cargo shorts and black sneakers. He was not wearing a shirt or socks. According to investigators, the victim had just finished jogging and was walking in the roadway, when an unknown suspect, grabbed her from behind, put his left arm around her neck in a chokehold and brought her to the ground. The suspect then touched her inappropriately. Detectives say the victim began to scream and the suspect got up and ran away ahead of her. She was only able to see him from behind. A neighbor drove past. The victim flagged him down and explained that she had just been assaulted and

provided him with a general description. The neighbor then drove her home and began to circulate the area. He told deputies he saw the suspect running down the road and said he was able to get a look at his face. The Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit responded to track the area with no results. The neighbor has assisted detectives in developing a composite sketch of the suspect. Anyone with information that may assist detectives in identifying the suspect is asked to contact Detective Jeff Capra of the Robbery/Homicide Unit at 582-6200.



Sketch courtesy of PCSO

This composite sketch is being circulated by Pinellas County Sheriff's detectives in hopes of locating a man wanted in connection with an attack on a 49-year-old Palm Harbor woman.

County briefs

Show profiles fight against drug abuse

CLEARWATER – The numbers are alarming. Statistically, every 32 hours in Pinellas County someone dies of a drug overdose. In 2010, 280 people died of accidental drug overdoses with 249 of these deaths being due to abuse of prescription pain medication. A new, four-part series on Pinellas County Connection Television called Fighting Back Against Prescription Drug Abuse profiles the extent of the problem in Pinellas County and what local officials are doing to combat the issue through law enforcement, local ordinances and public education. In part one, guests Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri and



Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS
Fighting Back Against Prescription Drug Abuse are, from left, Investigator Paul Melton, Pinellas County Department of Justice and Consumer Services; Len Ciecieski, Pinellas County Communications Department; Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri and Tim Burns, director, Pinellas County Department of Justice and Consumer Services.

Director of Pinellas County Department of Justice and Consumer Services Tim Burns relate local efforts to control illicit drug pill mills. In part two, Laurie Serra, co-founder of the Pinellas Chapter of Narcotics Overdose Prevention and Education and Jackie Griffin from Operation PAR and the Live Free Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition discuss public education efforts to enlighten parents and young

people to the dangers of prescription drug abuse. Part three finds Dr. Cynthia Lewis-Younger from Tampa General Hospital and Judge Dee Anna Farnell of Pinellas County's Drug Court talking about the dangers of synthetic drugs and the legal problems associated with their control. The program concludes as Sgt. Dan Zsido from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and Jan Tracy from

Pinellas County Solid Waste explain safe ways to dispose of prescription medication including the county's Operation Medicine Cabinet initiative.

Len Ciecieski from Pinellas County Communications and Investigator Paul Melton from the county's Department of Justice and Consumer Services host the program.

Fighting Back Against Prescription Drug Abuse will be airing on PCC-TV on Bright House Channel 622, Verizon Channel 44 and Knology Channel 18 and may be at www.pinellascounty.org/fightingback.

A monthly PCC-TV program schedule may be found at www.pinellascounty.org/tv/schedule.pdf

Vigil remembers overdose victims

LARGO – Narcotics Overdose Prevention and Education and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office will host the fourth annual Candlelight Vigil Thursday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m., at Largo Central Park, located at 105 Central Park Drive in Largo. The candlelight vigil event is to remember those who have died in

Pinellas County from drug and alcohol related abuse. The event also will recognize those still suffering from the disease today.

The vigil will bring together a wide range of groups from the religious, government, and private sectors of the community. Pinellas County School students also will attend. Attendees will hear the personal stories from the families of those who have lost loved ones to drug overdose.

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri is among the scheduled speakers, as are city of Largo Mayor Pat Gerard, the Honorable Dee Anna Farnell, Circuit Judge, 6th Judicial Circuit, and Robin Wikke, Pinellas County School Board chairman.

For more information about the vigil, or to add your story and video to the memorial wall, call Laurie Serra at 424-6906, email nope.pinelas@gmail.com, or follow the link on the NOPE website at www.nopetaskforce.org

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and Operation PAR are hosting the event in partnership with the LiveFree Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Pinellas County (livefree@operpar.org), among many

other community partners.

Health Facilities Authority to open

CLEARWATER – Resumes are now being accepted for a four-year appointment to the Pinellas County Health Facilities Authority. The Health Facilities Authority is a conduit financing authority that issues revenue bonds for nonprofit health care facilities, including hospitals, assisted living facilities, nursing homes and hospice facilities. Meetings of the authority are held as needed to consider applications for financing approval. Applicants must be registered to vote in Pinellas County. Resumes must be received no later than the close of business on Friday, Nov. 2. The Board of County Commissioners will review all resumes and make their selection at the Tuesday, Nov. 27, Board of County Commissioners meeting. Email resumes to cmeinck@pinellascounty.org. Mail resumes to: Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, Pinellas County Courthouse, Fifth Floor, 315 Court St., Clearwater, FL 33756.

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CANDIDATES, from page 1A

Both candidates would like to see the city hire more public safety personnel, specifically adding back the three firefighter positions that were eliminated in this year's budget. "I think the greatest challenge right now is trying to get staffing levels back to where they need to be. The fire and police are definitely low," said Robinson. Hunsicker emphasized a need for four firefighters to staff each fire engine. An engine staffed with Largo's current contingent of three firefighters has to wait for a fourth firefighter in order to fight a fire from inside a building, per federal regulations. Hunsicker was not in favor of recent tax rate increase, which came coupled with overall budget reductions. Robinson said the increase in the tax rate, also called a millage rate, was necessary. "They've raised millage so the budget should be where it needs to be to continue to have all the services we provide now," he said. "Once

we get that straight, we can work on getting the firemen and police staffing where they need to be." In general, Hunsicker said the city had "an overspending problem." While he wouldn't do away with any department, he said the city needed a greater focus on police, fire and the upgrading of its sewer system. "We may have to cut down on some of the vaudeville acts at the (Largo) Culture Center," he said. Hunsicker also recommended leasing out the city-owned golf course to "professionals that know what they're doing" as another cost-saving measure. In contrast, Robinson said that part of the city's job is to balance public safety issues with amenities that attract and retain new residents and businesses, such as parks and recreation centers. "Raising my family in Largo, it definitely gives me a different perspective, as far as knowing how much parks and rec centers are used and how much enjoyment people get out of them," he said. Robinson, his wife Scarlett and their daughters, ages 4 and 12, use the city's recreational facilities as much as possible. His youngest daughter's favorite activity is riding the train at Largo Central Park, he said. "When you can go down and see five or six thousand people in the park on the weekends because the trains are there ... it doesn't get any better than that," he said. Hunsicker has made the opening

of the Southwest Recreation Complex pool and Largo library on Sundays part of his campaign. Robinson, however, said that while "those are things that are great," the city "can't afford to do it." Hunsicker and his wife Christel of 44 years, who have three children and four grandchildren, have lived in the same home in Largo for the last 25 years. "When we moved here 25 years ago, I think the city was more affordable. They provided a high level of service at reasonable cost. But they have become less efficient," he said. One of the major changes that needs to occur is an upgrade of the city's sewer system in the older northwest part of the city, Hunsicker said. He pointed to the odor problem the residents at Paradise Island Mobile Home Park have dealt with for 17 years as an example. "The sewer system really needs to be upgraded," he said. "I can't even get a number on how bad the problem is." The city recently began \$10,000 in improvements to specifically address the problem at Paradise Island and Fairview Village. Hunsicker also said the city is out of touch with the business community, some of whom are "intimidated by the city." "The businesses have been abused horribly," he said. "The bureaucrats at Community Development don't understand business. They're not bad people, but they don't have a clue."

To address the problem, Hunsicker proposes assigning, on a rotating basis, a city staff person to act as a direct contact and guide to each business person seeking a city permit or approval. His plan wouldn't involve hiring anyone new, but utilizing existing personnel. "I'm just proposing that they adopt an accountable system where one person will shepherd each of the businesses through that maze," he said. "We could cut the time it takes to open a restaurant by two-thirds." Robinson said his management style is different than Hunsicker's. "Sometimes you have to make a decision, but I don't think you can go in there bull-headed and try to tell people, 'This is how it's going to be, every single time' and expect to get anything accomplished," Robinson said. "I don't think that's a way you can manage a business or manage a city. I think that you need to be able to work with the people in the city to build a consensus." Robinson said he thought the city could be more business-friendly, "a little bit more understanding in what's going on out in the street." He said a more reactive attitude could help. But he doesn't think the

city is holding businesses back from thriving. "Running a business, you get to understand that you try to do as much as you can to please everybody, but you can't do it," he said. In contrast to Hunsicker, who cites several stories of complaints from businesses and residents, Robinson said he hasn't talked to anybody with any major complaints with the city of Largo. "The ones that really pay attention to the city and know what's going on, I think that they like Largo," he said. "It's just a good place to raise a family, to run a business." The two candidates are hoping to fill Seat 4, currently held by retiring Commissioner Gigi Amutzen. Robinson is making his first run for public office. "I thought I could get out and help. I've always been told to not complain about something if you're not helping to fix it," he said. Hunsicker came in second against incumbent Commissioner Harriet Crozier in 2008. Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 6. For more information about the candidates, visit www.hunsicker4largo.com or robinsonforlargo.com .webs.com.

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Pinellas County's September unemployment down 2 percent

By SUZETTE PORTER

Pinellas County's not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for September was 8.4 percent, down 2 percent compared to 10.4 percent reported for the same month in 2011.

The county's unemployment in August was 8.7 percent. Pinellas' September unemployment was lower than the state's not-seasonally adjusted rate of 8.6 percent, but still higher than the national rate of 7.6 percent. The state's unemployment a year ago was 10.6 percent with the national rate at 8.8 percent.

Pinellas County tied with Orange County for the No. 38 position among the state's 67 counties. Hendry County had the highest unemployment at 14.2 percent and Monroe County had the lowest at 5 percent.

Unemployment is down in the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater

Metropolitan Statistical Area, going from 9.1 percent in August to 8.7 percent in September. Unemployment in the local MSA was 10.9 percent in September 2011.

Compared to other 23 MSA's in the state, the local area tied with Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall for the No. 13 position. The Palm Coast MSA had the highest unemployment at 11.9 percent, and Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin had the lowest at 5.9 percent.

The Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA is comprised of Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties. Hernando County's September unemployment of 10.4 percent was the seventh highest in the state. Pasco County ranks No. 16 with 9.6 percent unemployment. Hillsborough County had 8.6 percent, tying with Escambia County for the No. 36 rank.

Pinellas County had the lowest unemployment rate of the counties in the local MSA in September, and the county's labor force grew to

452,335 compared to last month at 447,818 and 448,787 in 2011.

Twelve metro areas experienced over-the-year job gains last month. The largest gain was reported in Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford with 18,000 new jobs, followed by Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater with 11,900 new jobs and Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall with 6,400 new jobs.

Cape Coral-Fort Myers reported 3,000 over-the-year job losses, the most in the state. Gainesville and Port St. Lucie each lost 2,800 jobs, tying for the second most job losses this year.

The number of jobs statewide was up 63,500 compared to 2011. September was the 26th consecutive month with annual job growth. The industry gaining the most jobs was professional and business services, followed by private education and health services.

Total government is leading the way for the most job losses, followed by construction.

Business notes

City to sponsor business workshop

LARGO - The city of Largo will sponsor a free workshop on business growth Wednesday, Nov. 7, 8 to 10 a.m., in Jenkins Room B of the Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive.

Registration is now open for the workshop, titled The True Customer Experience From the Inside Out: Business Growth Today.

The informative two-hour workshop is intended to provide attendees with practical real-life experience in an interactive setting from local leaders, sharing timely tips for growth of a business. Attendees will learn what their company and staff are doing right and wrong in the pursuit and retention of customers.

Speakers will include Kathy Pabst Robshaw, founder of Spectrum Strategy Resources LLC; and Dick Powell, founder of Leadership Vision 20/20.

They will discuss how to help employees gain a sense of ownership for building customer loyalty and will advise attendees on how to build their company's own personal success team. Afterward, attendees will be able to learn more about the numerous databases and other free business resources offered by the Largo Public Library's Small Business Center.

Attendees must RSVP by Monday, Nov. 5. To RSVP, call 587-6749, ext. 7206, or email ecodev@largo.com. For information, visit www.largo.com/ecodev.

Firehouse Subs opens

LARGO - Firehouse Subs celebrated the grand opening of its new restaurant in Largo with a ribbon-cutting Oct. 17 at Firehouse Subs, in Largo Mall, 10500 Ulmertown Road.

Mayor Patricia Gerard and other city officials joined local franchise owners Sarju Patel and Dilip Kanji and Firehouse Subs area representative Richard Taylor for the event.

Firehouse Subs, founded in Jacksonville by former firefighting brothers Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen, is a 543-unit fast casual restaurant chain.

Holiday Inn hosts bake-off

CLEARWATER - Holiday Inn & Suites Clearwater Beach employees recently participated in the National Lee Denim Day.

Employees donated \$5 to wear jeans to work on the first Friday in October. Funds raised go to the fight against breast cancer.

To add a little twist and fun to the day, Holiday Inn & Suites Clearwater Beach started a bake-off between its departments last year. All entries had to incorporate the color pink. Guests staying at the resort served as judges. The items are judged on creativity, appearance and taste.

Last year, the housekeeping team won with a strawberry cheesecake. This year the winner is the engineering department's dirt pudding.



Guests serve as judges in the Holiday Inn & Suites Clearwater Beach bake-off, part of the resort's observance of National Lee Denim Day. This year's winner was the engineering department's dirt pudding.

REH announces promotions

CLEARWATER - Ruth Eckerd Hall recently announced the promotion of Eric Blankenship to chief marketing officer and the promotion of Megan Brennan to director of marketing.

"In the short amount of time that we have worked together, Eric has shown a tremendous amount of industry knowledge," said Zev Buffman in a press release. Buffman is president and CDO of Ruth Eckerd Hall Inc. "His passion is matched only by his dedication and his desire to succeed. He continues to take on new projects and responsibilities in an effort to drive revenues while building our brand. We look forward to his continued success."

"I am very thankful for the trust and support that I have been given by Zev, our senior staff, the rest of the organization and the board of directors," said Blankenship. "I have been given the necessary resources to make an impact during my first year and I look forward to an even better 2012-13 season. I am also fortunate that we have a fantastic department that works tirelessly in carrying out our vision."

In his new role, Blankenship will continue to lead a marketing department that includes advertising and media buying, promotions, digital media, public relations, group sales, advertising sales and graphic design. He will take on a more active role in various projects including the renovation of the Capitol Theatre and Ruth Eckerd Hall. He also will work more closely with Buffman on the long-term strategic and financial planning for Ruth Eckerd Hall Inc.

Blankenship joined Ruth Eckerd Hall Inc. in September 2011, coming from a vast career in the sports, venue and entertainment industry. Born in Tampa, he is a graduate of the University of South Florida.

Brennan will oversee the day-to-day management of the marketing department staff. She will expand her role, taking on additional responsibilities including strategic planning and revenue goals for Ruth Eckerd Hall Inc. events.

"I work with Megan virtually every day, because of my high appreciation and love for marketing, without her at the helm as director of marketing, Ruth Eckerd Hall would not be able to reach the new heights we are achieving," said Buffman. "She is awesome."

A graduate of Purdue University, Megan joined Ruth Eckerd Hall in 2007, coming from Live Nation, where she was the promotions and marketing manager for the North Florida region.

REH turns to Ovations for food services

CLEARWATER - Ovations Food Services recently was selected to provide food presentation and customer service to Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Capitol Theatre.

Ovations Food Services of Tampa Bay is a subsidiary of Comcast-Spectacor.

Ovations Food Services will take over food and beverage operations on Nov. 1 and will immediately roll out its "Everything's Fresh" philosophy. Ovations plans to introduce the Ultimate Bar Experience, expanding on the theater's already successful wine bar, introduce new pre-show food offerings in the east cafe area with a uniquely branded bistro concept and customize offerings to match the event's theme.

"I have been visiting Ruth Eckerd Hall with my family since moving to Florida in 1991 and have enjoyed the entertainment choices provided by Ruth Eckerd Hall," said Todd Wickner, Ovations Food Services chief operating officer, in a press release. "I am excited to deliver Ovations' creative ideas and services with an already great operating facility."

Pampered Chef awards Ganier

PALM HARBOR - Jeanine Ganier, Palm Harbor resident and independent executive director with The Pampered Chef received the Excellence Award this month in Overall Cluster Sales with team sales

of more than \$1.62 million.

Ganier, who joined The Pampered Chef's sales force as an independent consultant in 1996 was also recognized on stage as a new executive director. She has 12 directors on her team and 395 consultants in her overall organization.

The Pampered Chef is a leading direct seller of items needed to cook and entertain at home.

"I am honored to be recognized for my success with The Pampered Chef," Ganier said in a press release. "During these economic times, it is amazing to be a part of a company that offers a flexible earning opportunity and real solutions, like low cost, high value recipes and products that help families cook at home."

Ganier was honored in front of thousands of peers during the company's annual leadership conference. Conference attendees receive training, motivation and support to maximize their independent businesses.



Jeanine Ganier

Oaks to host retirement program

CLEARWATER - The Professional Speakers Bureau of Tampa Bay Inc. will present a free program on retirement Thursday, Nov. 8, 10 to 11:30 a.m., at The Oaks of Clearwater, 420 Bay Ave.

The speakers will include Cynthia Touchton, vice president of Senior Investment Consultant with Robert W. Baird & Company Inc.; Adrienne Evert, a retirement community specialist; Sue Duhamel, with Redefined Living; and Peg Macaluso, director of client advocacy with the Alzheimer's Association.

This expert panel will be there to enlighten attendees on the steps that are necessary for a healthy retirement and to answer questions.

The event will include door prizes, and refreshments will be served.

For reservations, call 445-4069.

Cooters Crab Fest set

CLEARWATER - Cooters Restaurant & Bar will host its 19th annual Crab Festival Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 25-28, at 423 Poinsettia Ave.

The four-day tent party will kick off Thursday, Oct. 25, 5 p.m. Cooters' special Crab Fest menu will feature fresh Florida stone crab, king crab, snow crab and Dungeness crab all at wholesale prices. There also will be live music under the big tent as well as drink specials.

Stone crab season in Florida runs from Oct. 15 through May 15, and harvesting is highly regulated by the Florida Department of Agriculture. Stone crabs are captured live in traps and returned live to the sea immediately after the claws are removed. This enables the crabs to regenerate their missing claw. The stone crab can regenerate its claws three to four times. Florida law forbids the taking of whole stone crabs. Fishermen are allowed to take

claws at least 2 3/4 inches long and are required to return stone crabs safely to the water.

After the claws are harvested, they are fully cooked in fresh water, and then "flash chilled" in ice water. The cooking of fresh stone crab claws immediately after harvest prevents the delicate meat from sticking to the inside of the shell and the ice water plunge locks in the natural sweet flavor and keeps the freshly cooked claw meat rich and succulent.

Cooters' annual Crab Fest has become a tradition on Clearwater Beach for both locals and visitors.

"While stone crabs are generally the top draw to Crab Fest, we like to offer other crab varieties to our guests as well, so they'll have plenty of options," said Carol Mears, owner of Cooters, in a press release. "Our Crab Feast Platter, which is loaded with an assortment of crab, has always been a popular choice. Our full menu also will be available throughout the weekend."

For event information, call 462-2668.

Critter Control expands

Critter Control Inc., a leading wildlife management firm, recently announced the expansion of its service offering in the greater Tampa area along with the signing of a new franchisee, Ward Culver.

Critter Control has 120 offices nationwide and in Canada providing integrated and ecologically sound wildlife and pest management services to homeowners, businesses, municipalities and property management companies.

Critter Control of Greater Tampa services Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco counties.

WestCMR raises funds, supplies for Feeding America

CLEARWATER - West Coast Medical Resources Inc. recently hosted an open house and fundraiser to benefit Feeding America Tampa Bay.

WestCMR is a civically minded surplus surgical supply company located in Clearwater. The owner, management and employees of WestCMR raised funds and food items that will provide 20,479 meals for the Tampa Bay area.



West Coast Medical Resources Inc. presents Feeding America Tampa Bay with a check. Funds raised by WestCMR will provide more than 20,000 meals for the Tampa Bay area.

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Sports corner



Photo by JIM LAYFIELD

Largo's Derrick Doss (5) is stopped short of the goal in the game against Boca Ciega Oct. 19 at Largo. The Packers won 42-7, increasing their season winnings to seven.

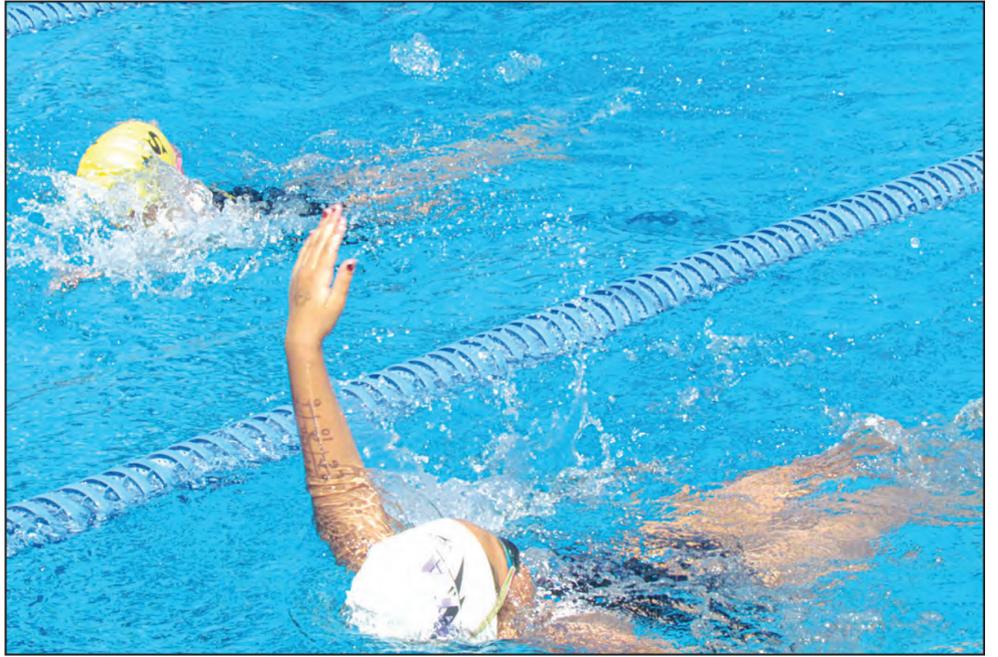


Photo By TOM GERMOND

Swimmers compete in a backstroke event Oct. 20 in the 2012 West Florida Lightning Aquatics' Halloween Invitational at the Southwest Pool Complex, 13120 Vonn Road in Largo. Dozens of swimmers from swim teams in the area participated in the three day event.

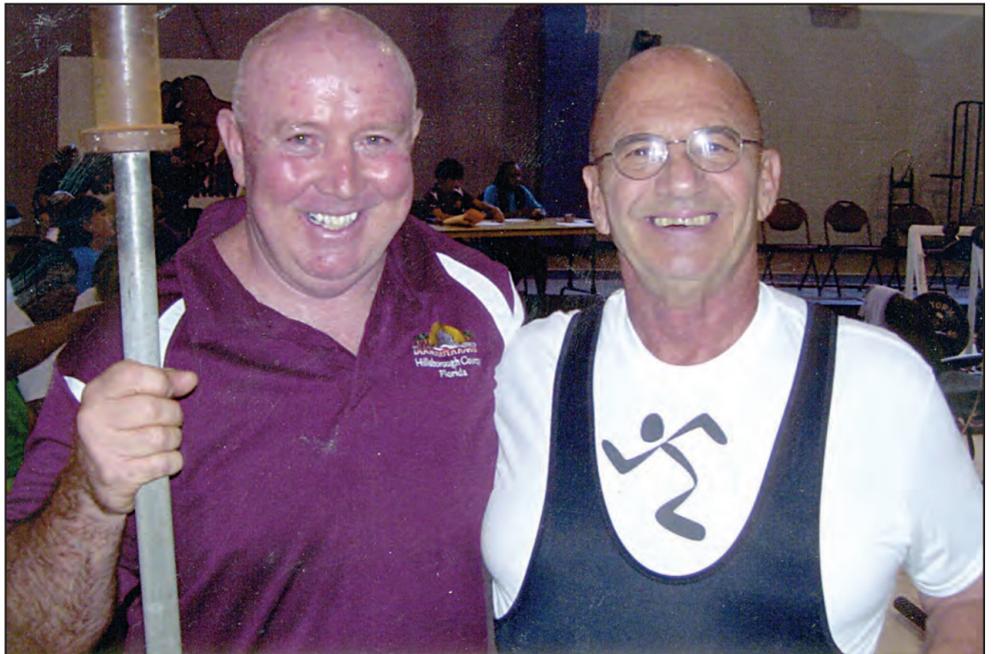


Photo courtesy of WILLIAM BAUER

William "Doc" Bauer of Largo, right, and Bill Beekley, event director of the power lifting competition, are all smiles after Bauer's gold medal finish in the bench press contest on Oct. 5 in Tampa. Bauer has recently began personal training for those 55 years or older.

Marine radar seminar slated

ST. PETERSBURG - The St. Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron will present a two-hour safe boating seminar on marine radar Wednesday, Nov. 14, 7 to 9 p.m., at the St. Petersburg Sailing Center, 250 Second Ave. SE.

The cost is \$35 per family for materials. The seminar covers how radar functions, radar selection, operation under various conditions, using the settings and controls, display interpretation, basic navigation and collision avoidance. Preregistration is required. Visit www.boating-stpete.org.

Team takes home kickboxing championships

PINELLAS PARK - The American Mixed Martial Arts team based in Pinellas Park came home from the International Kickboxing Federation World Classic last month with two junior world championships and a second place in an adult division.

The group traveled to Orlando the weekend of July 20 to compete. In the strawweight international rules open division for 13 to 14 year olds, Kyle Moss was named champion. His teammate Dillon Ottinger was named champion in the junior welterweight international rules open division for 11 and 12 year olds.

Christopher "Chip" Stallo took second place in the adult super heavyweight international rules open division. All three were coached by David Bybee, master instructor and owner of American Mixed Martial Arts, at 10555 66th Street in Pinellas Park.

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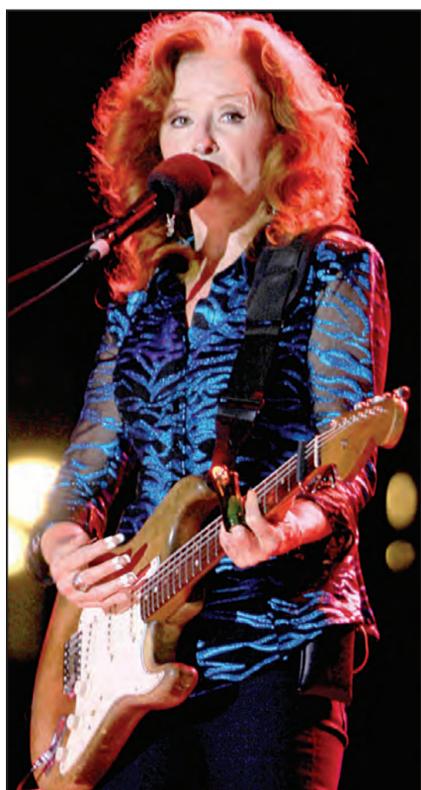
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Jazz Holiday is a hit



Photos by WAYNE CATHEL

Above, crowds of people enjoyed the Clearwater Jazz Holiday Oct. 18 to 21 in Coachman Park. Far left, Bonnie Raitt was the headliner on Oct. 18. Raitt has released 19 albums, is a nine-time Grammy winner, who Rolling Stone named one of the "100 Greatest Singers of All Time." Left, Mindi Abair & Friends headlined on Oct. 19. Abair is a saxophonist, singer and songwriter who has broken boundaries as she continues to define the less traditional future of jazz. A local girl from Clearwater, she has made it big, touring or recording with Aerosmith, Keb' Mo', Lalah Hathaway, Duran Duran, Lee Ritenour, The Backstreet Boys, Mandy Moore, Max Weinberg, Bill Champlin, David Pack, Mocean Worker, Adam Sandler, Rick Braun, Teena Marie, Bobby Lyle, Jonathan Butler, and Peter White.

SAILING, from page 1A

"I know some of the coaches of the other teams, and they are all good, so the kids will be good," Bardes said. "We certainly have the ability to win it or come close, especially if the conditions are good."

Bardes has been coaching sailing since 1986. Before that, he sailed for what seems like a lifetime. "My parents owned a boat, so I've been sailing all my life," he said. "I began sailing competitively when I was 8 years old; I grew up on a boat."

Although the team sails out of Clearwater, only one member is from the local area. Emmet Ward, 14, is from Largo and is a ninth-grader at Osceola High School. The others are: Nick Hernandez, Hai-

ley Schifman and Nico Schultz from Sarasota and Carolyn Corbett from Norfolk, Va. The team practices three out of every four weekends. Carolyn, like the rest, is expected to be in Clearwater for the workout.

Emmet Ward, the young man from Largo, is no doubt typical of the other team members. He began sailing when he was 5 years old. It began with a summer sailing camp.

"It got better from there until I got invited to Team FOR," Ward said.

The FOR stands for Florida Oceanic Racing and it is this team that is going to Berlin.

Overseas trips are nothing new to Ward. "I was in Italy in March of this year," he said.

"That was on Team USA. We've also been to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands twice."

If there is one thing these young sailors have in common, it is their love of the sport.

"I really love going sailing, it is so much fun and it is always different each time you go out, you never have two days the same," Ward said. "It is fun going around the country and meeting new people and seeing different places."

Competitive sailing is not all fun and games, however. Ward admits it takes considerable effort to be successful.

"It is really hard work it takes a lot of strength" he said. "If it is windy it is harder, really hard work."

There also has to be considerable effort on the part of the parents. Coach Bardes says they are crucial to the team's success.

"For my particular program the parents are invaluable," Bardes said. "There has to be cooperation to get things done, they have to organize rides, accommodation and so on."

If the team is to be successful in Berlin, then that hard work is going to have to come into play. Coach Bardes is convinced it will.

"They are a good group of kids, they are very mature," Bardes said. "They had to win the national championship to get there. They are well qualified, they work hard and they are a good group together."



Photo courtesy of DEBORAH WARD

From left, Emmet Ward, Coach Eric Bardes and Hailey Schifman as they prepare to go to Berlin for an international regatta.

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NOAA says winter months could be cooler than normal

By SUZETTE PORTER

Colder-than-normal temperatures could be coming this December through February, so say climatology experts with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Forecasters with NOAA's Climate Prediction Center revealed the annual Winter Outlook Oct. 18. They said cooler-than-average temperatures are possible in Hawaii and most of Florida, excluding the panhandle.

The forecast map shows a 33 percent chance of cooler temperature for all of Pinellas County north to the Panhandle where equal chances of average temperatures are predicted. Southern Florida has a 40 percent chance of cooler temperatures.

Warmer-than-average temperatures are possible in much of Texas, northward through the Central and Northern Plains and westward across the Southwest, the Northern Rockies, and eastern Washington, Oregon and California, as well as the northern two-thirds of Alaska.

This year's forecast comes with a bit of a caveat, with climatologists pointing out that the outlook is less certain than previous years due to a "wandering El Niño, expected to have developed by now."

"This is one of the most challenging outlooks we've produced in recent years because El Niño decided not to show up as expected," said Mike Halpert, deputy director of NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. "In fact, it stalled out last month, leaving neutral conditions in place in the tropical Pacific."

When El Niño is present, "warmer ocean water in the equatorial Pacific shifts the patterns of tropical rainfall that in turn influence the strength and position of the jet stream and storms over the Pacific Ocean and United States," according to a press release from NOAA. "This climate pattern gives seasonal forecasters confidence in how the U.S. winter will unfold. An El Niño watch remains in effect because there's still a window for it to emerge."

December 2010 was the coldest December since record keeping began at most sites around Tampa Bay. A good portion of December 2010 was rather cool with temperatures averaging 7 to 11 degrees below normal for the month.

According to records from the National Weather Service going back to 1914, the average temperature in St. Petersburg for December 2010 was 56.3 degrees - down from 56.9 degrees in 1935, the previous record. The "normal" temperature for St. Petersburg, according to the NWS, is 63.7 degrees.

Precipitation outlook

Wetter-than-average conditions across the Gulf Coast states from the northern half of Florida to eastern Texas are possible for the coming winter, forecasters say. Looking at the map, Pinellas County is split with inland areas getting a 33 percent

chance of a wetter-than-normal winter and the remainder, including the barrier islands, getting an equal chance for above-, near-, or below-normal precipitation. Chances of snow are extremely low. Measurable snowfall has never been recorded since recordkeeping began in St. Petersburg in 1948.

Drier-than-average conditions are forecast for Hawaii, the Pacific Northwest and Northern California, including Idaho, western Montana, and portions of Wyoming, Utah and most of Nevada.

Drier-than-average conditions are possible in the upper Midwest, including Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and northern Missouri and eastern parts of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and western Illinois.

The average annual total precipitation is about 49.58 inches in St. Petersburg. The heaviest one-day rainfall during the period of record was 12.20 inches at St. Petersburg on October 27, 1986.

Winter begins Dec. 21.

Tropical outlook

The 2012 Atlantic Hurricane season continues through Nov. 30. Sally Bishop, director of Pinellas County Emergency Management, reminds residents that hurricane season is certainly not over.

"Not by a long shot," Bishop said. In the late season, October and November, warm tropical Atlantic waters are pushed westward into the western Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico by the trade winds, Bishop said in the latest edition of the county's e-lert newsletter. These areas stay warmer than other areas of the tropics for longer. When the cold fronts arrive from Canada, they can push these storms into Florida's Gulf Coast.

Late season hurricanes and tropical storms can bring storm surge, heavy rain, tornadoes and high winds just like the systems that form in August and September, Bishop said.

"The key is to not let your guard down," she said. The National Hurricane Center was issuing advisory Tropical Depression 18 Monday morning.

The system was expected to strengthen into Tropical Storm Sandy and track over Jamaica Wednesday morning before continuing on a path toward the Bahamas and then possibly Bermuda.

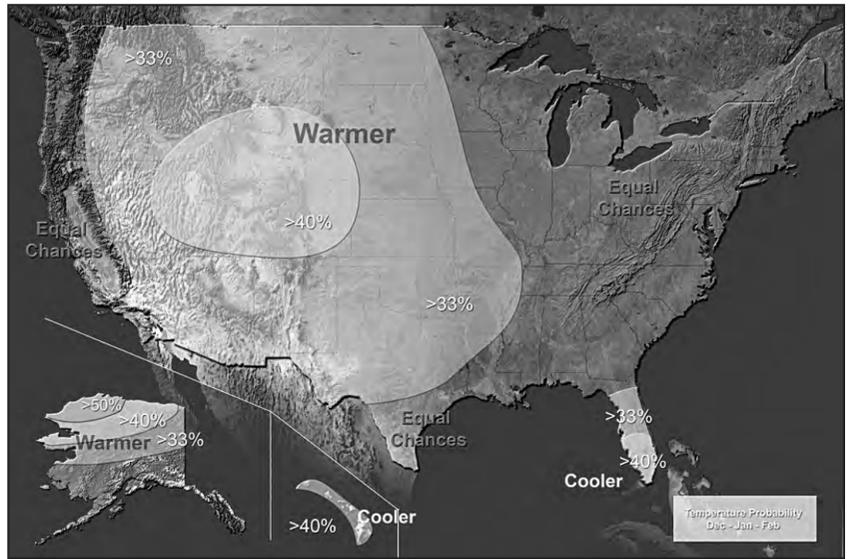
A second system could form later this week, and early forecast tracking models show it moving east over open water, as many of tropical systems have done since September.

Seventeen named storms had formed this year as of Oct. 21, nine hurricanes and one major hurricane, a category 3.

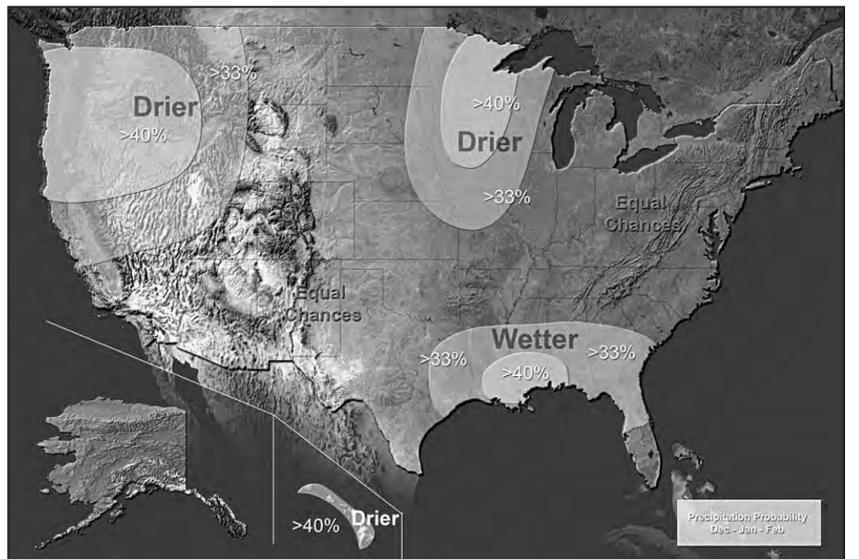
NOAA's outlook, updated in August, calls for a total of 12 to 17 named storms to form in 2012, five to eight hurricanes and two to three major hurricanes.

An average season sees 11 named storms, six hurricanes and two major hurricanes.

For more weather information, visit www.TBNweekly.com.



Above, colder-than-normal temperatures are possible this December through February. Below, looking at this map, Pinellas County's forecast is split with inland areas getting a 33 percent chance of a wetter-than-normal winter and the remainder, including the barrier islands, have an equal chance for above-, near-, or below-normal temperatures and/or precipitation.



Around town

AARP offers driver safety courses

The AARP 55+ Driver Safety Course will be offered in November at various locations.

The cost is \$12 with an AARP card; \$14 without an AARP card. Veterans and spouses may take the course for free.

This is a driving law refresher course. Most automobile insurance companies give a discount to attendees.

Locations, dates and times for the courses follow:

- Oldsmar: Oldsmar Senior Center, 127 State St. W., Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 5-6, 9 a.m. to noon. Call 813 749-1155.
- Largo: Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 1-2, 9 a.m. to noon. Call 581-3131; Oakridge Wesleyan Church, 11000 110th Ave., Thursday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 393-9182.

CSF to host seminar

LARGO - The Community Service Foundation will present a free, two-part household budgeting seminar on Tuesdays, Nov. 8 and 15, 6 to 9 p.m., at Pinellas County Housing Authority, 11479 Ulmerton

Road. The seminar is designed for people who want to live better on less or who want to save to buy a home. For information or to register, call 461-0618, ext. 3, or visit www.csfhome.org.

Bay Pines plans Veterans Day event

SEMINOLE - The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System plans its annual Veterans Day ceremony at the main medical center campus on Sunday, Nov. 11, 10 a.m.

The event is open to all veterans, their family and friends, and the general public.

Highlights of the ceremony will include musical performances by Singers Express and a special presentation by the Suncoast Vietnam Veterans of Pinellas County called "The Last Patrol." The Last Patrol is a theatrical reenactment of a patrol in Vietnam during the last days of the war. While the act centers on Vietnam, it is intended to also honor all of the men and women who have served in uniform throughout the nation's history.

Guest speakers will include Suzanne M. Klinker,

director, Bay Pines VA; Mike Prendergast, executive director, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs; Master Sgt. Jovanny Galiano, U.S. Special Operations Command; and keynote speaker Michael Jernigan, a Marine Corps Veteran and Purple Heart recipient.

The ceremony also will include a firing salute, taps performance, and military vehicle display.

Signage will be posted on campus to direct visitors to the ceremony venue. Reserved and general parking will be available nearby. A shuttle service also is available to provide transportation for guests from parking lots to the ceremony area.

The venue is handicapped accessible. A sign language interpreter will be available for the hearing impaired. The ceremony will be held outdoors.

Wine tasting benefits CASA

BELLEAIR - A wine tasting event that will benefit Community Action Stops Abuse (CASA) is set Friday, Nov. 16, 5 to 8:30 p.m., at the Bellevue Biltmore Golf Club, 1501 Indian Rocks Road.

The evening will include a silent auction, door prizes, hors d'oeuvres, wine tasting and live music.

Admission is \$30 per person and \$50 per couple. Register at www.elceventsonline.com. Sponsorship opportunities are available by calling 452-1300.

Bell ringers needed

The Salvation Army is seeking volunteers to donate two hours during the holiday season to help with its kettle bell drive.

Volunteers are needed to ring the kettle bell at several kettle locations. Two hour time slots are available between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays beginning Nov. 16 through Christmas Eve.

To volunteer or ask questions via email or phone, visit sabellringer@belleaircc.com or call JoAnn Bruner with the Salvation Army at 725-9777, ext. 104 or Paul Umberg at 638-8817.

Parade entrants sought

DUNEDIN - The city of Dunedin's parks and recreation department seeks entrants for this year's Old-Fashioned Christmas and Holiday Parade on Saturday, Dec. 8. The parade begins at 4 p.m. and

will feature festive floats, banners, marching units and bands, fire truck, entertainment, and an appearance by Santa Claus.

Entries are needed for marching bands, marching units, school teams, local groups and nonprofits. There is no entry fee except for commercial entries, which pay \$25. Visit www.dunedingov.com to fill out an application.

Help send a Cougars' calendar to soldiers

Residents can support their armed forces both home and abroad with a 2013 calendar from the Cougars of Florida.

The Florida Cougars, a charitable organization celebrating women over age 40 giving back to the community, are busy selling their third annual charity calendar.

In addition, the group initiated a program last year for sending donated calendars to our active armed forces in honor of Veterans Day. Almost 400 calendars were shipped to servicemen last year.

"They hope to exceed that amount this year but Veterans Day is right around the corner so please purchase your calendars now. Remember, you are not only making a soldier smile but you are also supporting Quantum Leap Farm and the wounded warriors they work with," a Cougars news release said.

Over the past two years the group has raised more than \$12,000 for local charities including the Clearwater Aquarium and the Big Cat Rescue. All the profits from this year's calendar sales will benefit the Quantum Leap Farm: an equine therapy organization working with returning veterans, as well as children and adults suffering from a wide range of physical and mental disabilities.

Calendars can be purchased online at: www.cougarsofflorida.com. Go to the "Purchase" tab, click "Buy Now," and instead of your mailing address enter the words "For A Soldier." The Cougars will make sure donations get to a soldier serving our nation.

Or attend one of the numerous in-person calendar signing and sales events that are being held throughout the area to make your calendar purchases and donations. Check the "Events" tab for dates and locations near you.

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Extend half-mill tax for schools

Buried under the sea of state constitutional amendments on the Nov. 6 election ballot is an important referendum issue that many voters may gloss over.

They shouldn't. Voter approval of the continuation of the half-mill property tax for school operating expenses is critical for the school district to cope with the challenges of providing a good education for students.

Through the end of the 2010-2011 school year, the tax has supplemented teachers' salaries by an average of \$3,180 per year and supplied schools with more than \$38 million in reading materials, wireless mobile computer labs, Smart Boards, up-to-date software, art supplies, band uniforms, musical instruments and many other items that enhance teaching and learning, school officials said.

County voters first approved an additional one-half mill ad valorem (property) tax for school district operating expenses Nov. 2, 2004. The tax period ran from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2009.

Ninety-two percent of high school teachers using laptops said they had witnessed improvement in the quality and completion rate of student assignments, the results of a district poll showed. Ninety-one percent of students said the devices made learning easier and were making them more successful in their academic pursuits.

As a result of the tax, every reading classroom and every content classroom (in Pinellas County) is now equipped with a classroom library filled with diverse and up-to-date materials.

As far as accountability, schools have addressed such concerns about the tax, which generated about \$28.3 million for this school year. An Independent Citizens Referendum Oversight Committee was created to monitor expenditures to make sure the money is spent as directed by the voters.

The cost to the average single-family member is minimal. 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, school officials said.

"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," the website said.

Support is widespread throughout the county for the tax, such as the County Council of PTAs, multiple chambers of commerce and the Pinellas Realtor Organization.

Little, if any, criticism has been levied against the continuation of the tax. That's not surprising, especially in the wake of such compelling arguments put forth by the school district in support on the measure.

Tampa Bay Newspapers recommends that voters vote yes on the school tax issue.

Fla's shrinking newspaper corps

MEMORANDUM FROM: A newspaper dinosaur

TO: Florida citizens
The traditional newspaper is dying. Large cities - New Orleans, Syracuse, Harrisburg - no longer have papers delivered to homes seven days a week.



Tom O'Hara
Florida Voices

There's really nothing that can be done about it. Ink-on-paper newspapers don't make enough money and it's only going to get worse. Eventually, newspaper owners will figure out how to make a decent profit delivering information digitally or simply go out of business.

Most people don't care. After all, you can get your news from your iPhone.

But the tweets and blog posts are not giving you enough of the substantial news you really need. All these dying newspapers are surviving by cutting costs. That means getting rid of journalists. That means there "are fewer of us asking probing questions," said Mary Ellen Klas, the Miami Herald's Tallahassee bureau chief.

Klas has been covering Florida politics since 1988. She pointed out that more than 100 members of the media - TV, radio, newspapers, websites - covered the 2000 session of the Legislature. In 2010, only 40 covered it and "I suspect that last year it was down to 30."

Klas is an optimist by nature and she noted that journalists still wield considerable power in Tallahassee. Twitter and Facebook and iPads transmit information so quickly these days that a story or blog post published on a newspaper's website can affect behavior in the capital with incredible speed, she said.

Also, even though there are fewer journalists covering state government - and far fewer covering local governments - good journalists still produce some powerful public-service journalism. But there just are not enough boots on the ground. An American Society of News Editors survey released in April documented the thinning of the ranks. In 1990, there were 56,900 editors and reporters working at U.S. newspapers; this year there are only 40,600. And the numbers continue to fall.

Also, many reporters today are young, inexperienced and low-paid. They lack the institutional knowledge and vital sources that the departing veteran reporters had.

With fewer talented journalists on the beat, politicians, lobbyists and businessmen have learned they can "wait it out" when they find themselves in a mess, Klas said.

When there were more reporters who had the resources of profitable newspapers behind them, sleazy public officials and their cronies had to endure relentless scrutiny.

If you're a junkie for international and national news, your addictions will be taken care of. The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the TV networks will survive covering presidential campaigns, terrorism and meltdowns in the Middle East.

But if you worry about the judgment, intelligence and ethics of your local school board, you're increasingly out of luck. Streaming the school board meetings live does not provide the same information that a smart and dogged newspaper reporter can. And there probably aren't reporters at your school board meetings these days.

Kudos to Mary Ellen Klas and the others in Florida's shrinking corps of savvy newspaper reporters. They're doing their best to hold public officials accountable. But there are not enough of them these days and there will be fewer in the years ahead.

You'll miss them when they're gone.

A former managing editor of *The Palm Beach Post* and *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Tom O'Hara is a national columnist for *Florida Voices*.

If you move away from the USA

With Election Day less than two weeks from now, many Americans are planning to abandon the USA forever, in case their favored candidate loses the presidential race. Today if you throw twenty rocks into a crowd, ten of them will strike people who believe another four years of Barack Obama will bankrupt America, turn it into a socialist hell, and hand the country over to illegal immigrants. The other ten stones will land on voters who would rather die than live in an America ruled by a fascist dictator, Mitt Romney, who would send poor people (anyone worth less than \$25 million) into poverty camps to starve, die of untreated health problems and be tortured for having received any kind of government aid.

I'm exaggerating, of course, so please don't email me that I've overstated things. I'm only making fun of anyone who believes the sky will fall if the wrong guy wins the White House on Nov. 6. It won't. Life will go on, and will often be a pain in the neck, the way it always has been.

However, if you are serious about finding a new life in a foreign country, you'd better start planning right away, before the Kenyans or the Mormons take full control of our nation next Jan. 20, after which all will be lost.

You should first go on the Web and research the best countries to live in. I've tried that, but it's not much help. You'll find several lists of the ten best countries, and they all vary. The lists are followed by the widely varying comments of people who have lived overseas: most of these folks sound like mental patients, as you will quickly learn when you read their opinions.

So where does that leave you? Confused, to



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

say the least. The picture gets further muddled when you realize that a 30-year-old with lots of money may not want to emigrate to the same place as a 50-year-old with four teenagers and \$300 to his name. Other factors to be considered include these: Do you smoke a lot of marijuana? (Holland's the place for that.) What foreign languages do you speak? Do you require lots of fresh vegetables and salads? If so, stay away from Latvia and Lithuania, whose favorite food is pork sausage, or so I've read. Do you enjoy the change of seasons? If that's the case, scratch Siberia off your list; Siberia is always cold.

If by chance you love to be surrounded by falling-down drunks, put Russia at the top of your rankings. Surveys suggest that Russians drink more vodka than water. Many infants are born with a 0.12 blood alcohol level. If street riots bother you you'd better avoid Spain, Greece and a few other members of the European Union that are now experiencing hard times.

If I had to choose another country to live in, I'd lean toward New Zealand. I don't know why. I look at a world map and New Zealand seems to be tucked snugly down there, a thousand miles from anywhere, safe from all the troublesome goings-on of the world is heir to. The people speak English, although the

native Maoris tend to lapse into Maori after a few beers.

Are you a dog-lover? Then the United Kingdom may be a good home. The English can't stand each other, so they worship dogs. That's a quote I stole from somewhere. I have visited England a few times, and I like the way the Brits are reserved. They are the opposite of Facebook, where everyone wants to be your friend and tell you about their bowel movements. In England, firemen won't rescue someone from a burning building until proper introductions are made.

Many years ago I lived for several months in Italy, and enjoyed it. I was drinking then, and exulted in sitting for hours in a trattoria scarfing pasta and swilling wine. The more I drank the better I spoke Italian, especially if I was with people from Naples or Sicily, where the natives forget to enunciate and merely gargle vowels at you like all those mobsters in "The Sopranos." I don't think I'd like Italy today. I'm not Catholic, but I always felt reassured by the eternal solidity of the Papacy. But today we read that the Pope's secretary has been telling tales out of school, and pretty soon we may learn that the Sistine Chapel ceiling was painted not by Michelangelo but by some fancy faker from Florence.

To anyone planning to seek a new country after Election Day, I wish you good luck and happiness. I intend to stay here in the USA and root for all members of the next Congress, plus whoever ends up in the White House. Those poor devils will need all the support we can give them.

Bob Driver is a former columnist and editorial page editor for the *Clearwater Sun*. Send him an email at tralec71@comcast.net.



Weathering an airport problem

I recently flew a non-stop (round trip) flight from Tampa, Florida to Las Vegas and I was amazed with the incompetence that I experienced on the airline. When the plane left Tampa and landed in Las Vegas, (around 4 1/2 hours later) the pilot was unable to bring his plane up to his assigned gate, due to another plane sitting at his assigned gate, because the ground crews were all inside of the airport terminal, awaiting the passing of some minor lightning flashes, that was seen within 8 miles of the airport that day. We were told that by our pilot.

All of the passengers (including me) had to sit in our seats (for about an hour and a half) before any of those ground crews decided to come out of the terminals again, and continue on with all of their ground crew jobs that day, and before any of us were ever allowed to exit that Southwest jet that day. Eight days later, on Aug. 22, my out-bound flight was scheduled to leave Las Vegas for Tampa at 10 a.m. in the morning, but the airlines wouldn't let any of us board that out-bound flight of theirs that morning, due to all of their ground crews being, once again, inside of the terminals, due to it raining outside the terminal that morning, and due to some lightning flashes that was seen (again) by them within 5 to 8 miles of the airport that morning. As we were waiting the boarding of that plane that morning, (around 3 hours) I looked outside of those terminal windows, and I was amazed at what I was seeing outside. I saw some little luggage trailers outside that were stacked with luggage, all sitting out in the rain. Some of the luggage that was sitting on those "rained on" trailers outside were covered up with tarps,



As I See It
Glen Myers

and some were not covered up with tarps. Needless to say, all of the passengers on that flight were very irritated that morning when they had seen what I had seen out of those windows, and when they had to sit in that Las Vegas airport for hours and hours that morning, awaiting their flight back to Tampa.

No one likes to see his luggage outside getting "rained on," and no one likes to wait for hours and hours in a terminal to board a plane, simply because some ground crews are afraid of a little bit of rain, or afraid of a few lightning flashes in the sky, that have been noticed (on their computers) 5-8 miles away from an airport.

I'm a Florida plumbing contractor, and I have been working out in the rain, and out in the lightning, and out in the wind, and out in the ice, and out in the snow, and out in the heat, and out in the mud, etc. etc., ever since that I have been working in the plumbing trade, (since 1963) and I have never been afraid to work in any of that stuff in all of my many years of working in the plumbing trade, so what's wrong with all of those airline ground crews of today? Are they (and all of their bosses) a bunch of wimps and cowards today, or what?

Plumbers are known as problem solvers in

this world, so (below) is my solution for the above weather problems that I encountered with the airlines recently.

Every airport in America needs to put a simple "carport covering" over all of their gates (and planes) at all of their terminals.

That way, all of the planes in America would be out of the rain, and out of the lightning, and out of all of the storms, etc., when they come into all of those gate ports or those plane ports to do all of their re-fueling and all of their loading and unloading of both passengers and luggage, etc., would they not? If this country can put coverings over most all of their football fields, etc., then why don't the people of this country get together and demand that coverings be placed over all of the airplanes that they have to board in this country? People hate sitting in jets for hours and hours on those airport tarmacs, and they hate sitting for hours and hours in some airport terminal, just because some ground crews are afraid to come out of those terminals and continue on with doing their jobs. So just think of how many millions of happy fliers there would be (again) here in America, if all of the airlines of America would all get together with one another, and start demanding (from all of those airport owners) some simple coverings over all of America's airplanes (and gates) that are in this country, and around this world? When I got back to Tampa, and went to baggage claim, I found that my suitcase was wet on its bottom side. Mine must have been one of those that I had seen out in the rain, there at Las Vegas.

Glen Myers
Pinellas Park

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Rotary Club rides to defeat ALS

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – Nearly 500 cyclists are expected to participate in the third annual Ride to Defeat ALS Saturday, Nov. 3, at Walsingham Park.

The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach has a team in the event again. Riders can join Team IRB Rotary by riding their bicycles for a metric century (62.1 miles), 25 miles or 5 miles. Participants are asked to raise a minimum of \$150 through pledges. There also are volunteer opportunities for those not wishing to ride. The club will handle parking duties as well as staffing a rest stop on Clearwater Beach. Help us win the "Best Rest Stop" award.

ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease," is a fatal neurodegenerative disease that progressively paralyzes its victims, attacking nerve cells and pathways in the brain or spinal cord. Patients are robbed of the ability to walk, eat, speak, and eventually breathe.

The disease has hit close to home for club members.

At the IRB Rotary Officer Installation Luau Dinner on July 16, 2011, Rotary Past President Michael Schulz had concerns about his mother, Herta Schulz. She and Willi, her husband of 51 years, were attending the Luau



Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach members prepare for the start of last year's Ride to Defeat ALS.

that evening.

"Herta was having difficulty speaking and slurring her words. In the weeks to follow, the news was devastating. Herta Schulz, beloved mother, wife, sister, Oma, and friend to so many, was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, a deadly disease that affects the motor neurons the brain and spinal cord. One year later on August 29, 2012, Herta lost her battle with ALS," the Rotary Club's website says.

Riders are asked to raise a minimum of \$150 through pledges. Donations also can be made on behalf of participants in the race.

The funds raised during the cycling event will support research, programs and services for people living with ALS in Florida.

Last year the team raised more than \$5,200 for ALS research.

Visit www.indian-rocks-rotary.org or rideals.org for more information or call 888-257-1717, ext. 131.

Hydrocephalus Walk set in Largo

LARGO – The Hydrocephalus Walk will take place Saturday, Nov. 3, 9 a.m., at Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive.

Proceeds from the event will benefit HUGS of Florida Inc., a nonprofit group supporting families who are affected by hydrocephalus.

The term hydrocephalus – commonly known as "water on the brain" – is derived from the Greek words "hydro" meaning water and "cephalus" meaning head. As its name implies, it is a condition in which the primary characteristic is excessive accumu-

lation of cerebrospinal fluid in the skull. CSF is a clear fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. The excessive accumulation of CSF results in an abnormal dilation of the spaces in the brain called ventricles. This dilation causes potentially harmful pressure on the tissues of the brain.

Hydrocephalus affects a wide range of people from infants and older children to young, middle-aged and older adults.

For information, call Paula Keyser at 851-6705 or email hugsflorida@gmail.com.

Health news

Morton Plant to host diabetes seminars

CLEARWATER – Morton Plant Mease will host a series of educational health seminars focusing on causes of diabetes, how to reduce the risk of developing diabetes and living with diabetes, as part of recognizing American Diabetes Month.

According to the American Diabetes Association, diabetes affects an estimated 25.8 million Americans and by 2050, up to one-third of American adults will have diabetes. Diabetes is a group of diseases characterized by high blood glucose levels that result from defects in the body's ability to produce and/or use insulin.

The following programs are scheduled:

- Living Well With Diabetes – Wednesday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m., at Morton Plant North Bay Hospital, Bekesh Education and Conference Center, 6600 Madison St., New Port Richey. This Seniors Health Awareness Resources and Education program is designed for older adults. Marcos Garcia, M.D., internal medicine, will discuss how diabetes affects other systems of the body and how keeping diabetes under control can influence overall health, including prevention and stress management. Attendees will get information about food selections and labels, weight loss, a diabetic diet and chair exercises. Also, free blood pressure and blood glucose screenings will be offered at this seminar.

- Avoid Diabetes with Diet and Lifestyle Changes – Wednesday, Nov. 14, noon, Aging Well Center, The Long Center, Grand Room, 1501 N. Belcher Road, Clearwater. Valeria Perruci, M.D., internal medicine, will go over the risk factors for developing diabetes. Perruci will discuss how positive lifestyle changes and a healthy diet can reduce the risk for diabetes.

- Panel Discussion for Diabetes Patients – Wednesday, Nov. 28, 10 a.m., at Mease Countryside Hospital, Meeting Rooms 1-3, 3231 McMullen Booth Road, Safety Harbor. Understanding diabetes is the first step to managing it. Participate in an open panel discussion for the causes of diabetes, risk factors, warning signs and prevention tips. The panel will include Munira Siddiqui, M.D., endocrinologist; Sheryl Ferris, RN, CDE; and Schelaine Williams, RN, CDE.

To register for the seminars or for more information, call 953-6877 or visit www.BayCareEvents.org.

Ostomy group to meet

ST. PETERSBURG – The local support group of the United Ostomy Association will meet Wednesday, Oct. 31, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at St. Anthony's Hospital, 1200 Seventh Ave. N.

The monthly meeting offers attendees an opportunity to get needed information and education to help them find the tools so that it will enable them to get back to an active life. Attendees also may share their triumphs and knowledge with those who are now facing surgery. Refreshments are served. Call Leslee Hall at 418-0820.

SHINE seeks volunteers

SHINE (serving health insurance needs of elders) is seeking volunteers to help individuals understand Medicare and to provide free unbiased information and counseling.

Specially trained SHINE volunteer counselors provide free information and assistance. Consumers can speak to a volunteer by phone or meet

with a person for an appointment at community outreach sites.

SHINE volunteers are both active and retired individuals from diverse career and cultural backgrounds. Volunteers will receive initial training, continuing education and a supportive environment with dedicated colleagues.

SHINE is a free service of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, operated locally through the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas Inc. SHINE provides free and unbiased Medicare information and counseling.

For information or to volunteer, call 800-963-5337 or visit www.FloridaSHINE.org.

Ranajee, Carmichael join Pyramid Healthcare

CLEARWATER – Pyramid Healthcare Solutions, a provider of revenue cycle management services for the healthcare industry, recently announced the hiring of two senior-level executives.

Nav Ranajee was hired as vice president of sales and marketing. Angela Carmichael was hired as assistant vice president of coding and auditing.

Ranajee, with more than 20 years of experience in the healthcare industry, offers significant experience in the implementation of patient financial systems and in the reengineering of revenue cycle processes for healthcare providers. In his new role at Pyramid, Ranajee will be responsible for leading the company's sales and marketing strategies focused on healthcare organizations such as hospitals and medical groups.

Carmichael possesses extensive experience in health information management, specializing in various payment methodologies, coding education, compliance and management. She holds multiple certifications, including Registered Health Information Administrator, Clinical Documentation Improvement Practitioner and Certified Coding Specialist for both hospital and physician services.

"Nav and Angela bring to our organization broad healthcare industry backgrounds and deep knowledge of our client base – both of which are valuable assets as we continue to develop product innovations and grow strategically," said Jay Hutchinson in a press release. Hutchinson is COO of Pyramid Healthcare Solutions. "These individuals offer specialized skills within the areas of HIM and revenue cycle services, and they exemplify our core values of quality assurance and customer service expertise."

Red Ribbon funfest set

ST. PETERSBURG – Commemorate Red Ribbon Week and say no to drugs at the Red Ribbon Healthy Family Funfest on Saturday, Oct. 27, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Vinoy Park, 701 Bayshore Drive NE.

There will be arts and crafts, a rock climbing wall, a DJ, contests, food, sports mascots, inflatable rides, video game trucks, healthy community vendors and other fun. Contact Dayle at 545-7564 or datterton@operpar.org.

Roller Derby recruits members

TARPON SPRINGS – Deadly Rival Roller Derby at Astro Skate is recruiting new skaters and referees. Learn what women's roller derby is all about. Beginners are welcome. They meet every Monday, 6 or 7 p.m. at Astro Skate, 875 Cypress St. Call 637-5003 for details.

Faith Presbyterian Church

SEMINOLE – The Fall Flea Market will run Wednesday through Saturday, Oct. 31 through Nov. 3, at Faith Presbyterian Church, 11501 Walker Ave.

The market will kick off with a preview night Wednesday, Oct. 31, 6 to 8 p.m. A donation of \$5 will be collected at the door.

Sales will continue Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

There is no entry fee required Thursday through Saturday. The flea market will feature a wide variety of items such as clothing, collectibles, jewelry, toys, books, household articles, plants, Christmas and other holiday decorations, small appliances, tools and sport-

ing goods.

Food will be available to purchase on Thursday and Friday. For information, call 391-0596.

Pilgrim Congregational UCC

ST. PETERSBURG – The Suncoast Quilting Circle and the Pilgrim Congregational UCC Quilters will present the inaugural Winter Boutique and Bake Sale Saturday, Nov. 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 6315 Central Ave.

The sale will feature handmade items such as quilts, purses, pillowcases, place mats and stuffed animals. Admission is free. Call 343-3637.

Faith briefs

Chapel-By-The-Sea Community Church

CLEARWATER – The first program in this year's Non-Trivial Pursuit series will be presented Monday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m., at Chapel-By-The-Sea Community Church, 54 Bay Esplanade.

The speaker will be Irene Byers. Byers will talk about her experiences in Romania working with orphans.

Byers has spent years traveling to Romania and working with orphans in that country. Her experiences as the adoptive mother of four children and as a survivor of a catastrophic car accident have given her special insights into the spiritual and physical needs of the children she works with. She is active as a writer and speaker.

The Non-Trivial Pursuits series features speakers who come to Chapel-By-The-Sea on select Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. and share their expertise and experiences in Chapel Hall. The speakers cover both religious and non-religious topics. The presentation is followed by a question-and-answer session. The program usually ends between 8:30 and 9 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served.

For reservations and information, call 446-0430 or

email edoffice@chapelbythesea.net. Visit www.chapelbythesea.net.

New Thought Center for Creative Living

CLEARWATER – Let's Repeal Inhibition, a full-day workshop, will be presented Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the New Thought Center for Creative Living, Unity of Clearwater Peace Cottage, 2465 Nursery Road.

Using the philosophy presented in the "Handbook To Higher Consciousness," by Ken Keyes, the workshop will focus on the need for approval with the goal of helping participants become more self-expressive.

The event will be facilitated by the Rev. Marla and Gregg Sanderson who, for more than 30 years, have led workshops throughout the United States and Canada based upon "The Science of Happiness."

The workshop will have some gentle but powerful awareness exercises, and will teach easy, supportive techniques to assure continued progress.

Tuition is \$100 with a full money-back guarantee. Participants are requested to bring an individual sack lunch and must reserve by Friday, Oct. 26. For reservations, call 475-8991.

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Pinellas pioneers build successful automobile dealerships

By BRIAN GOFF

DUNEDIN – In many places in Pinellas County are signs identifying Dimmitt family automobile dealerships. Look beyond the signs however and you will find a family whose history in Pinellas County is as rooted and embedded as any other. In fact the family, going back five generations, has been in the county almost as long as the county itself.

It is difficult to tell the story of the Dimmitt family without including its involvement in the automobile industry. Almost from the moment Larry Dimmitt Sr. arrived in Clearwater in 1924, cars have been part of the family.

Larry Sr. and his wife Hebe arrived in Clearwater from Port St. Joe, where he actually owned a section of railroad. It was common back then to freight supplies down the Atlantic Coast and then send the goods on to New Orleans by railroad. Larry owned part of that railroad.

Before moving to Port St. Joe, Larry lived in Savannah, Ga., and had a Buick distributorship. It wasn't long after he arrived in Clearwater he got back into the car business. He bought the local Ford Dealership and never looked back.

Richard Dimmitt, 60, and his brother Larry III are the third generation of Dimmitts to continue what their grandfather began.

"We and everyone else called him Potsie," said Richard. "Back then Clearwater was small, maybe 5,000 people. There wasn't even a bridge over to the barrier islands. He would stand on the bluff and look over and he thought he was looking at the next West Palm Beach."

Eventually Larry Sr. began buying land and at one point it

The making of Pinellas Centennial stories



Two generations of the Dimmitt family. From left, clockwise, Larry Jr., Richard, Larry III, Ben and Eileen.

was said that next to the county itself, he owned more land in Pinellas than anybody.

Over the years "Potsie" continued to enlarge his automobile business.

"He sold Rio, White, LaSalle and finally got Cadillac and Chevy in the mid-'30s," said Richard. "He did that when there was nothing east of Clearwater

except trees and dirt tracks. Dad tells me downtown Clearwater was two blocks long and two blocks wide."

Larry Jr., Richard's father, already involved in the car business, had to go to war. He fought in World War II under General Patton. He met his wife-to-be Betty Jane Roth as he was recovering from a war wound in New



Downtown Clearwater in 1934. On the right is the first Dimmitt Chevy dealership in Pinellas County. The view is Fort Harrison at Turner Street looking north.

York City. They moved back to Florida and went right back into the business.

"My dad used to tell me stories of how he would go door to door trying to convince people to buy cars during the Depression," said Richard. "Life was a lot slower then. People came for three and four weeks at a time to visit and as the area grew, he grew with it."

In the meantime Larry Sr. was turning his attention to charitable causes.

"He built gyms for schools, additions to hospitals and helped churches," said Richard. "Then he retired in the early '70s."

Larry Sr. died at the age of 96. "Potsie was a strong guy," said Richard of his grandfather. "At 84 he was still painting his own house. They had to get him down off the ladder and convince him to stop."

Eventually the Caddy and Chevy dealerships were split into two separate businesses.

Richard, his older brother Larry III and their sister Eileen were involved in the businesses. Another brother, Ben, wasn't interested and moved to New York City where he became a photographer.

Their father, Larry Jr., died in 2011 at the age of 97. It is his name that graces the Dimmitt Community Center in his hometown of Belleair.

Richard Dimmitt is semi-retired now.

"I'm slowing down and spending most of my time on boards and helping charities," he said. His brother Larry III and his sister Eileen are both retired.

Now the mantle is being passed to yet another generation of Dimmitt's. Larry III's son Larry IV is running the Dimmitt Chevrolet franchise in Clearwater. Larry III's daughters Mallory, Elizabeth and Genevieve are not involved in the business.

Richard's sons Richard Jr. and

Peter are running the Dimmitt Cadillac franchises in Clearwater and Pinellas Park.

None of Eileen's children, Michael, Betty Jane, Andrew or Timothy are involved in the businesses, although Michael has two children Daniel and Abigail, the 5th generation of Dimmitt's in Pinellas County and the great-grandchildren of Larry Dimmitt Sr. It is too early to tell if one or both might follow the family tradition of selling cars.

Richard Dimmitt says he and his family are proud to be counted among the pioneering families of Pinellas County, and for good reason.

"Pinellas is a fabulous place to live," he said. "There are still places where it is quiet, where you can glimpse at the way things used to be. You can still be connected to the big life, yet you can step away from the very intense type of activity. This area offers the perfect blend of life."

Columnist: The War of 1812 proves significant for genealogists

Although The War of 1812 is not in the general conscience as much as the Revolutionary War or World War II, it was significant nonetheless. Just consider these noteworthy consequences.

America became recognized as a force in the world community. Although the war could be considered a "draw" in terms of territory and concessions, the US did hold its own and in many cases prevailed against the arguably best army and navy in the world.

We changed forever the way in which we fought our wars. Although the militia continued to be used in lieu of a large federal army, they were consolidated under central federal control rather than used as individual state-controlled units.

We recognized the need for a stronger military as a means of defense and the exercise of power. The navy was given funds for significant ship increases, and about 48 coastal forts were constructed for defense.

An era of peace and cooperation with Canada and Great Britain was started that exists to this day.

There are other significant things about the War of 1812, but those will give you an idea of its singular place in our history.



Genealogy exposed
Peter Summers

An important aspect of the war for genealogists is the generation of records. As with all of our historical wars (wars up to WWII), you can find compiled service records, pension applications, and bounty land warrants (these were ceased just prior to the Civil War). But singular to the war of 1812 was a group of records called "prize cases." These were court decisions about the disposition of ship cargos taken as "prizes" by privateers. Privateers were ships and crews licensed by the US government to capture enemy merchant ships and benefit from the cargos seized. Because the US Navy was so small during the war, the use of privateers was extensive.

The case files can go on for upwards of 50 pages and describe the circumstances under which the ship was captured, as well as cite individuals involved ... sailors and ship owners alike.

The primary place to go for the service files, pension records, bounty land files, and prize cases is the National Archives. You won't find any of those records digitized there, but you can order them. The National Archives website will provide a form to download to make the request by postal mail, or you can make your order online. There will be a fee for this service.

There are some websites where indexes and digitized documents can be found. One in particular, www.fold3.com, is significant because it has an offering of selected prize cases from the circuit court of New

York. It also is part of a concerted effort by several groups working together to make pension application files for the War of 1812 available online. Fold3 is the group doing the digitizing. About 5 percent of the records have been done so far, and they are free to the public even though Fold3 is a subscription site.

Ancestry.com (a subscription site, free at your public library) also has many index files relating to the war, and familysearch.org (a free site) has many holdings as well (although they will mostly be on microfilm rather than digitized online).

There are other online sources made available by genealogical and historical societies and individual researchers. You have to be creative in using Internet search engines to find them, but portals such as cyndislist.com and usgenweb.org may open some doors. The Pinellas Genealogy Society has recently added a class on the War of 1812 to its curriculum. You can find a list of scheduled classes on its website at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flpgs/index.htm.

The history of the War of 1812 is fascinating, and with records concerning it becoming more easily accessible, you do not want to neglect exploring how it may have impacted your ancestors.

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

Military accomplishments

Kyle Wright

LARGO – Marine Corps Pvt. Kyle Wright recently earned the title of United States Marine after graduating from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Wright is the son of Shela Fite of Largo, and Nain B. Wright II of Prairieville, La. Wright is a 2011 graduate of Dutchtown High School of Dutchtown, La.

Daniel Morgan

CLEARWATER – Air Force Airman Daniel Morgan recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Morgan is the son of Nicole Morgan and brother of Thomas Morgan, both of Clearwater. He is a 2009 graduate of Clearwater High School.

Stephen Hargett

LARGO – Stephen Hargett recently was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

ROTC is an educational program designed to provide college students an opportunity to be Air Force officers after completing military study courses and bachelor's degree requirements at a host college or university. The program is the largest and oldest source of commissioned officers for the Air Force,

with a mission to produce highly qualified military leaders and better citizens for America.

Hargett is the son of Russ and Carla Hargett of Largo. He is a 2002 graduate of Keswick Christian School, St. Petersburg. He received a bachelor's degree in 2012 from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Tampa.

Travis Doyle

PINELLAS PARK – Marine Corps Pvt. Travis Doyle earned the title of United States Marine after graduating recently from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Doyle is a 2012 graduate of Pinellas Park High School.

Tucker Watkins

CLEARWATER – Army Pfc. Tucker Watkins recently graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Watkins is the son of Fred Watkins of Clearwater. He is a 2005 graduate of Palm Harbor University High School.

Andrew Brown

ST. PETERSBURG – Air Force Airman 1st Class Andrew Brown recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

nio, Texas.

Brown is the son of David Brown of St. Petersburg. He is a 2006 graduate of Northeast High School.

Bryttany Gant

ST. PETERSBURG – Army Spec. Bryttany Gant

recently graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Gant is the daughter of Sybyl Gant and Bernard Gant, both of St. Petersburg.

She is a 2005 graduate of Dixie Hollins High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in 2009 from Lane College, Jackson, Tenn.

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Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772

Entries must be received by November 9th. All recipes will be entered in a drawing for \$50.

SEMINOLE BEACON	LARGO LEADER	BELLEAIR BEE	BEACH BEE
BEACH BEACON	CLEARWATER BEACON	PINELLAS PARK BEACON	DUNEDIN BEACON

102512

Online calendar of events

Read about upcoming community, entertainment and live music events throughout Pinellas County by visiting: www.TBNweekly.com. Look for links to the online calendars in the left column.

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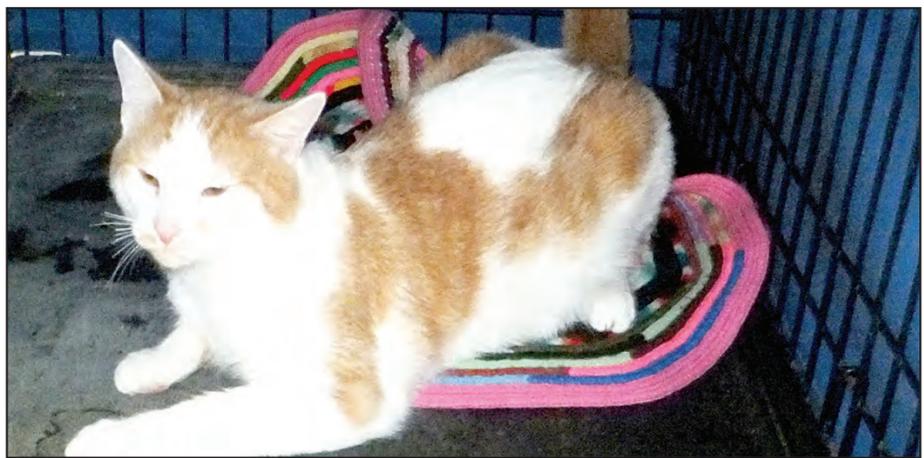
Do you like to play with toys? So does Zeke. This 18-month-old pit bull terrier mix is 40 pounds and loves toys. If you bring this article to Animal Services, Zeke can be yours for only \$25. All pets are spayed or neutered and have all of their shots. Visit him at 12450 Ulmerton Road, Largo. Call 582-2600 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices/petfind.



Emmie Lou

Meet Emmie Lou, a 7-year-old miniature pinscher mix who is 13 pounds. She came to Suncoast Animal League during the Pilots 'n Paws rescue where 300 dogs from high-kill shelters in North Carolina and South Carolina were taken and brought to rescue groups across the country to find forever homes. She is a sweet, love bug and is calm and quiet who loves people and wants to be with her people at all times. She accompanies people in every room of the house, loves to sit on laps and would be happy to sleep in your bed. She's housebroken, walks well on a leash and loves car rides. She is not comfortable with other dogs and would prefer a home without young children. Call 786-1330.

Suncoast Internal Medicine Consultants
IS PLEASED TO WELCOME:
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13644 Walsingham Rd. Largo, FL 33774



Ethan

Ethan is a very sweet, 2-year-old orange and white domestic shorthaired male. He is very friendly and would do well with one other friendly cat. He is neutered and current on his vaccinations. If interested, call Second Chance for Strays' Pat at 535-9141 or visit www.secondchanceforstrays.petfinder.com.

Dig this

Blessing of the Animals set
LARGO - The Rev. Cydne Batreall from St. Petersburg's Temple of Love and Healing will

preside at a blessing of the animals service on Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 to 10:45 a.m., in the barnyard at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N. The service is offered at no charge. Donations of newspapers, sheets, towels and tennis balls are appreciated. For more information, visit www.SPCA TampaBay.org.

day, Oct. 28, 2 to 3:30 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N. The session will be taught by instructors from Yoga4All. The program will include meditation, massage and stretch. Cost is \$25 per session. To enroll, visit www.SPCA TampaBay.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 31, 7 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N. Canine owners will learn how to communicate with and understand their four-legged friends. The weekly one-hour classes provide instruction on leash manners, basic commands and more. Cost is \$80 for the public. SPCA and Pinellas County Animal Services adopters pay \$60. Visit www.SPCATampaBay.org.

Yoga for dogs offered
LARGO - Yoga4All will present Yoga with Your Dog, Sun-

SPCA to host obedience class
LARGO - A six-week K9 obedience class will kick off

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4 - 10 PM • FREE ADMISSION
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Stone crab season opens in state and federal waters

Get your claw crackers ready. Florida's recreational and commercial stone crab claw harvest season opened Oct. 15 in state and federal waters.

To be harvested, stone crab claws must be at least two and three-quarter inches in length when measured from the elbow to the tip of the lower immovable portion of the claw.

Claws may not be taken from egg-bearing female stone crabs. Recreational harvesters can use up to five stone crab traps per person.

Stone crabs may not be harvested with any device that can puncture, crush or injure the crab body. Examples of devices that can cause this kind of damage include spears and hooks. Recreational and commercial traps may be baited and placed in the water 10 days prior to the opening of the season but may not be pulled from the water for harvest purposes until Oct. 15.

Both claws of the stone crab may be taken if the claws are of legal size, but this practice leaves the crab with few alternatives to defend itself from predators. Crabs that are returned to the water with one claw intact will be able to obtain more food in a shorter amount of time and therefore regrow its other claw faster.

There is a recreational daily bag limit of one gallon of claws per person or two gallons per vessel, whichever is less.

The season will be open through May 15, 2013.

Stone crab regulations are the same in state and federal waters.

More information on harvesting stone crabs for recreation, as well as commercial stone crab regulations and licensing information, is available online at MyFWC.com/Fishing, click on "Saltwater."

Visit the Fresh From Florida website at Florida-agriculture.com for ideas on how to turn your stone crab catch into a feast.

How-to-harvest video available on FWC's YouTube site: Go to youtube.be/YTgXTS8LjU.



Photo courtesy of FLORIDA WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Stone crab season is open through May 15, 2013.

Kingfish, Spanish mackerel on the rise

Kingfish and big Spanish mackerel are all the talk right now on the fishing scene. Loads of big Spanish mackerel made their resurgence this week after last week's cold front.



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

Along with the big mackerel have been some quality-sized kingfish. Target hard bottom areas within a couple of miles of shore. Bringing huge quantities of live pilchards that can easily be cast netted right along the beach to the fishing grounds has provided some awesome feeding frenzies right behind the boat.

Using a quality chum block also will make a big difference in action. Light rods loaded with braided line and long shank hooks with a short wire trace are all you need on the terminal end of things.

Inshore redfish are shadowing those big black mullet as they prepare for their upcoming spawn. This is prototypical redfishing. Follow the mullet as they make their way on and off the flats and you're in the game. Cast top-water plugs early and late in the day and gold spoons when the suns high. These fish will be aggressive with the cooling water so move quickly through productive looking areas until you find the concentration of fish.

With gag grouper season coming to a close, the weather was post-card perfect for a couple of days last week and many anglers made the trip offshore for some of the fantastic grouper action that we've been having this fall. I received plenty of reports of anglers catching limits of gag grouper in relatively shallow water. Most people have been hitting the 50- to 60-foot depths, but we've been catching quality-sized fish as shallow as 30 feet. The key is to find those small breaks (3 feet or less will hold gags). Use frozen sardines to start but have plenty of live pinfish, as the bigger fish favor the live stuff.

Until next week - get bent!

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

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.

Institute's MarineQuest 2012 opens Oct. 27

The Fish and Wildlife Research Institute opens its doors to the public Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for MarineQuest 2012. Visitors can explore the world of science at FWRI headquarters, 100 Eighth Ave. SE., in downtown St. Petersburg.

Held in conjunction with the St. Petersburg Science Festival, the 18th annual MarineQuest is a free event that allows visitors of all ages to experience science firsthand with more than 50 exhibits.

People can check out live animals in touch tanks, interact with some of Florida's top scientists and learn about current fish and wildlife research in Florida. Special activities for children include wildlife origami, face painting and the Japanese art of "gyotaku" - fish printing.

FWRI is the research division of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. All levels of government, universities, private organizations and



Photo courtesy of FWRI

A young visitor approaches a display of Bryde's whale baleen. In contrast to toothed marine mammals such as dolphins and killer whales, baleen whales have finely-fringed plates along their jaws that they use as sieves to trap prey.

the public use FWRI's work.

For more on MarineQuest 2012, including photographs

and video from previous years, visit MyFWC.com/Research.

Sponsors include the Tampa

Bay Times, the city of St. Petersburg and the University of South Florida-St. Petersburg.

Volunteers sought for Birds of Prey program

LARGO - The George C. McGough Nature Park is seeking qualified individuals to assist in the maintenance, care and handling of the park's two great horned owls, a barred owl and a red-shouldered hawk.

Volunteers will be required to go through a training program on proper animal care techniques prior to working with these birds of prey.

For profiles on each of the park's birds, along with volunteer applications, visit LargoNature.com. For information about the Birds of Prey volunteer program, call

518-3047.

McGough Nature Center is at 11901 146th St. N. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 6:45 p.m.

Habitat Cleanup Day

LARGO - Habitat Cleanup Day will be Saturday, Nov 10, 9 to 11:30 a.m., at Largo Central Park Nature Preserve, 150 Highland Ave. SE.

Volunteers will help protect Largo nature parks from offshore debris and invasive/exotic plants that choke out native vegetation. Attendees will be working to remove trash and waste from the recently

re-opened Largo Central Park Nature Preserve. Participants also will help to remove invasive air potato and Brazilian pepper from the native habitats.

Water and gloves will be provided. Attendees should wear closed-toe shoes. Call 518-3047.

McGough to host Night Hike

LARGO - A Night Hike will be offered Saturday, Nov. 17, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at George C. McGough Nature Park, 11901 146th St. N.

Attendees will participate in an interpretative nature hike through McGough's habitats. For information, call 518-3047.

What's Selling in Pinellas County

St. Petersburg

\$84,900

4 Bedrooms/3 Baths

SOLD



Versatile 4 bedroom home. Separate living and family rooms. A bonus room off the 1st owner's suite allows for an office, den or nursery. BR#2 also has a private bath. Detached garage in back. Room in back to entertain or put in a pool.

Caroleanne Vorac
Realty Executives Adamo

Seminole

\$325,000

5 Bedrooms/3 Baths

SOLD



Completely updated single family home located in "Crossing of the Narrows" neighborhood. Over 2,500 Sq. Ft. with two master suites, large gourmet kitchen, in-ground pool and meticulously maintained.

Ashleigh Masi
Re/Max All Star

Seminole

\$145,000

3 Bedrooms/2 Baths

SOLD



Wonderful home has a beautifully updated kitchen that includes granite counters, wood cabinetry & breakfast bar. Split floor plan features dining, living & family room w/fireplace. Conveniently located in the Bayhaven subdivision, off Oakhurst & Park Blvd.

Sandy Hartmann
Realty Executives Adamo

Sand Key

\$486,000

2 Bedrooms/2 Baths

SOLD



Luxuriously updated unit in the prestigious Ultimar on Sand Key. Gourmet kitchen, open floor plan and resort style amenities. Listed at \$499,000 and under contract in 41 days.

Belinda Bishop
Keller Williams Gulfside

Obituaries

Lily Irene (nee Kirk) THOMAS

Lily joined the Risen Lord on September 30, 2012. She was born on August 1, 1923 in Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, in England, where she grew up and lived for most of her early life. She was an active member of the Women's Institute, Women's Volunteer Service, Meals on Wheels, and she was also a Brownie Pack Leader. In 1989, Lily and her husband, Peter decided to retire to Florida where they joined Calvary Episcopal Church, Indian Rocks Beach. She then became active in various charities, including Migrant Worker Relief, as well as President of St. Anne's Guild of the ECW. In addition, Lily was a member of the Florida Suncoasters, the American Cancer Discovery Shop, Largo Women's Club, Suncoast Hospital and Abilities Guild, and an aide at Mildred E. Helms School. She leaves her loving husband of 67 years, Peter; sons, Paul Thomas (Ramona) of Largo and Dr. Nigel Thomas (Kathleen) of Largo and Perth, Western Australia; grandchildren, Scott and Ross of Brandon, Florida, Alexander, Christopher and Annalise of Western Australia; great-granddaughter, Nevaya of Albany, Western Australia, and step-grandchildren, Anita and Paul of Perth, Western Australia, Sid of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, Bryan of Washington, D.C., Brahm of New York City, Sean of Boston, Massachusetts, Meghan of St. Louis, Missouri, and Sarah of New York City. Memorial donations in Lily's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society.



Leonard Russell KAGEY

75, of Pinellas Park, Florida, passed away on Monday, October 15, 2012 at Johnson City Medical Center, Johnson City, Tennessee after a short illness. Leonard died peacefully surrounded by his family and close friends. He was born April 21, 1937 in Hyattsville, Maryland to Leonard and Frances Kagey. He was a 1955 graduate of Bladensburg High School in Bladensburg, Virginia. Leonard moved to Florida in his late teens and settled in the St. Petersburg area. He worked for Grissom Printing and then for the Pinellas Park Police Department, where he was a Sergeant. While with the police department, he won numerous awards at the state and national level for his pistol shooting. After nine years on the police department, he opened his own business, Bay Area Printing, in Pinellas Park, which he owned until he retired. During retirement, he worked for Penske Truck Leasing in the St. Petersburg/Clearwater area. He will be missed by all those he worked with. Leonard is survived by his brother, James; sons, David and wife Pamela, Russell and wife Linda; five daughters, Pauline, Ann and husband Doug, Theresa, Diane, Michelle and husband Kenneth, as well as 17 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. His children grew up in Pinellas Park and were frequent visitors and workers at his business, Bay Area Printing. At Leonard's request, no service will be held. He will be cremated and has requested that his ashes be scattered in the North Carolina Mountains by his motorcycle-riding friends. His families will hold private memorials in Pensacola, Florida, Houston, Texas and Phoenix, Arizona.

Church And Temple Directory

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CONFESSION SCHEDULE:
Monday & Wednesday 10:30 am - 10:50 am
Saturday 3:00 pm - 3:50 pm
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm
Sunday 7:00 am & 9:00 am (Family Mass)
11:00 am (Traditional Choir) • 6:00 pm (Contemporary Choir)
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Obituaries

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

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

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

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

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Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County



- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

Leader
Section B
October 25, 2012
Visit www.TBNweekly.com

Top diversions

• **"You Can't Take It With You,"** by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, Oct. 25 through Nov. 4, at Francis Wilson Playhouse, 302 Seminole St., Clearwater. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. The style and glamour of Broadway in its heyday of 1930s is the backdrop for a visit with one of the most irrepressible families ever created for the stage: the Sycamores of Manhattan. Prone to spontaneous eruptions of music, dance, poetry and fireworks, they stop at nothing – after all, "you can't take it with you." Tickets are \$21 for adults and \$11 for students with identification. For reservations, call 446-1360 or visit FrancisWilsonPlayhouse.org.

• The 34th **Heritage Village Country Jubilee**, Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N., Largo. The annual event will feature crafter and artisan vendors, a flea market, musical entertainment, a book sale, food court, living history activities and traditional craft demonstrations and tours of historical homes. Seasonal crafts will be available for purchase. Admission is free but donations are accepted to support Heritage Village operations. Free event parking and shuttle will be available at 119th Street between Ulmerton and Walsingham roads in Largo. For information, call 582-2123. Interested vendors may call 582-2233. Visit www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

• **"Romeo and Juliet,"** by William Shakespeare, Oct. 26 through Nov. 18, at freeFall Theatre, 6099 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Performances will be Thursday, 7 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees will be Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$39 to \$46. Call 498-5205 or visit freefalltheatre.com. freeFall Theatre will present an all-new staging of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," continuing its commitment to present Shakespeare as an integral part of their theatre season. "Two houses, both alike in dignity, in fair Verona where we lay our scene." So begins one of the most widely known and best-loved plays in the English language. An ensemble of eight versatile actors will bring the classic to life in this vibrant staging of Shakespeare's masterpiece. The popularity, power and passion of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" has inspired countless theatrical stagings, operas and ballets, and more than 60 television and film versions. freeFall artistic director Eric Davis will direct this exciting new

See **DIVERSIONS**, page 4B



The cast of freeFall Theatre's production of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet."



Hugo Weaving, left, stars as Old Georgie and Tom Hanks as Zachry in the epic drama "Cloud Atlas," distributed domestically by Warner Bros. Pictures and in select international territories.

Opening this weekend

'Cloud Atlas' stars Hanks, Berry and Broadbent; 'Silent Hill' sequel continues

Compiled by **LEE CLARK ZUMPE**

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

'Chasing Mavericks'

Genre: Biography, drama and sports
Cast: Gerard Butler, Elisabeth Shue, Leven Rambin and Abigail Spencer
Director: Curtis Hanson
Rated: PG

"Chasing Mavericks" is the inspirational true story of real life surfing phenom Jay Moriarity (Jonny Weston).

When 15-year-old Jay discovers that the mythic Mavericks surf break, one of the biggest waves on Earth, is not only real, but exists just miles from his Santa Cruz home, he enlists the help of local legend Frosty Hesson (Gerard Butler) to train him to survive it. As Jay and Frosty embark on their quest to accomplish the impossible, they form a unique friendship that transforms both their lives, and their quest to tame Mavericks becomes about far more than surfing.

"Chasing Mavericks" was made with the help of some of the biggest names in the surfing world, and features some of the most mind-blowing real wave footage ever captured on film.

'Cloud Atlas'

Genre: Drama and science fiction
Cast: Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Jim Broadbent, Hugo Weaving, Jim Sturgess, Doona Bae, Ben Whishaw, James D'Arcy, Xun Zhou, Keith David, David Gyasi, Susan Sarandon and Hugh Grant
Director: Tom Tykwer, Andy Wachowski and Lana Wachowski
Rated: R

From acclaimed filmmakers Lana Wachowski, Tom Tykwer and Andy Wachowski comes the powerful and inspiring epic "Cloud Atlas," based on the best-selling novel by David Mitchell.

Drama, mystery, action and enduring love thread through a single story that unfolds in multiple timelines over the span of 500 years. Characters meet and reunite from one life to the next, born and reborn.

As the consequences of their actions and choices impact one another through the past, the present and the distant future, one soul is shaped from a killer into a hero, and a single act of kindness ripples across centuries to inspire a revolution.

Everything is connected.

'Fun Size'

Genre: Comedy
Cast: Victoria Justice, Thomas Mann, Thomas McDonell, Thomas Middleditch, Jane Levy and Chelsea Handler



Victoria Justice, left, stars as Wren and Jane Levy as April in "Fun Size," from Paramount Pictures.

Director: Josh Schwartz

Rated: PG-13

"Fun Size" is a funny and outrageous family ensemble comedy that all takes place on one Halloween night.

A young girl's popularity is in jeopardy when she is forced to track down her kid brother instead of going to the party of the year. Yet her kid brother shows her what popularity is all about – and her rush to find her brother with her nerd neighbor shows her that popularity might not be exactly what she really wants.

'Silent Hill: Revelation 3D'

Genre: Horror
Cast: Adelaide Clemens, Sean Bean, Kit Harington, Radha Mitchell, Deborah Kara Unger, Carrie-Ann Moss, Malcolm McDowell, Martin Donovan and Heather Marks

See **OPENING**, page 3B



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- Drew & Jennifer Garnes -



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Looking ahead

Largo

- **"The Orange Belt Railroad,"** by Richard J. Budin, through Oct. 28, at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo. Performances will be Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees will be Sunday, 2 p.m. Budin's new original play will premiere at the center. 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, just to get here. Be a part of his heroic struggle at the premiere performance of this authentic, live and entertaining play with music. Tickets are \$15. For reservations, call 518-3131. This play is the first to be presented by the new Community Center Black Box Theatre. Visit LargoCommunityCenter.com for more information.
- **Hallo-Swing Dance with the Venturas,** Saturday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m. to midnight, in the Goodman Ballroom at the Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, Largo. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the show. Call 518-3131. The event will include a community costume dance, costume parade, prizes and dancing.
- **"Sleeping Beauty,"** presented by Stages Productions, Saturday, Nov. 3, 11 a.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and \$6.50 for children. Call 587-6793 or visit LargoArts.com. A sleeping princess, a spellbound prince and plenty of fairies are all part of this quirky adaptation of the popular tale. The evil queen of the fairies exacts her revenge on the royal family by sending the beautiful princess into an everlasting sleep. To the audience's delight, more than one spell is about to be broken by the kiss of a handsome prince.
- **Red, White and Craft Brews Fest,** Saturday, Nov. 3, 5 to 9 p.m., at the Armed Forces History Museum, 2030 34th Way N., Largo. Tickets are \$25. Call 539-8371 or visit www.armedforcesmuseum.com. The event will feature 30 vendors offering samples of more than 60 craft and specialty brews from all over the world. Guests will receive a

souvenir cup upon arrival for taste testing. Complimentary food will be offered by Pappas Ranch and will include pulled pork sliders, fish spread, spanakopita and coleslaw. Water and sodas will be available for purchase and coffee will be available free of charge. Guests must be 21 or older to enter, and the museum asks that everyone drinks responsibly. The museum will close at 2 p.m. that day in preparation of the event.

- **"Santa's Holiday Revue,"** presented by Stages Productions, Saturday, Dec. 1, 11 a.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and \$6.50 for children. Call 587-6793 or visit LargoArts.com. "Santa's Holiday Revue" is a fast-paced, rollicking musical that takes a joyous round-the-world tour of dances, songs and stories from Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and many more. The audience will sing, clap and tap along as they learn new and old traditions, customs and folklore that instill the magic of the season.
- **"It Was a Very Good Year,"** a musical tribute to Frank Sinatra presented by TS Productions, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are \$25.50 in advance and \$30.50 at the door. Call 587-6793 or visit LargoArts.com. Tony Sands has an uncanny talent of portraying Frank Sinatra. His mannerism and singing voice will take the audience on a musical journey. This show incorporates stunning video graphics that will entice you the moment the lights dim and the music begins. It's as if Sinatra walked off of the screen and on to the stage to perform for the audience. Visit www.itwasaverygoodyearshow.com.
- **Hot Club San Francisco,** Sunday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$26.50 in advance or \$31.50 at the door. Call 587-6793 or visit www.largoarts.com. Fire up the holidays with a swinging gypsy wagon trip to the North Pole featuring many favorites and some rarer seasonal gems. This daz-

zling holiday performance has something for everyone. Make this season bright with flames of gypsy jazz.

- **Richard Lustig,** Friday, Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$16.50. Call 587-6793. Lustig has been featured on "The Rachael Ray Show," "The Learning Channel," "Good Morning America," "The Today Show" and many other TV networks around the world. He also has been recognized by "Ripley's Believe it Or Not." Lustig will share his secrets and educate attendees on how to increase their chances to win the lottery.
- **Tom Rush,** Friday, Jan. 11, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$19.50. Call 587-6793 or visit www.largoarts.com. Rush's impact on the American music scene has been profound. He helped shape the folk revival in the '60s and the renaissance of the '80s and '90s. His music has left its stamp on generations of artists. James Taylor, Emmylou Harris, Tom Petty and Garth Brooks have cited Rush as major influences.
- **The 5th Dimension featuring Florence LaRue,** Saturday, Jan. 12, 4 and 8 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$34.50. Call 587-6793. The 5th Dimension is known for its soulful sophistication and smooth harmonies with a touch of class. The group has received 14 gold records, six platinum records and six Grammy Awards with multi-million selling hits including "Up, Up, and Away," "One Less Bell to Answer," "Wedding Bell Blues," "Stone Soul Picnic" and "Aquarius."
- **Marty Stuart,** Friday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$34.50. Call 587-6793. Known for his musical merging of honky tonk, rockabilly, country-rock, traditional country and bluegrass, Grammy-winning music icon Marty Stuart is now accompanied by his band, The Fabulous Superlatives. He has performed with countless music legends such as Merle Haggard and Johnny Cash, and is destined to join their ranks as one of country music's most influential stars. Audiences will have an opportunity to see Stuart's flamboyant showmanship shine with his band in this one-night-only performance in Largo.
- **The Machine,** Saturday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$29.50. Call 587-6793. The Machine will perform music from Pink Floyd's extensive catalog. Tampa Bay area fans who have longed for a live Pink Floyd experience may wish to check out The Machine, America's top Pink Floyd show. Known for performing a diverse mix of The Floyd's extensive 16-album repertoire, fans can expect to see The Machine's dramatic lighting and video, and experience their passionate delivery that sets them apart from the rest.
- **The California Guitar Trio and The Montreal Guitar Trio,** Saturday, Feb. 2, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$29.50 in advance and \$34.50 at the door. Call 587-6793 or visit www.largoarts.com. Featuring virtuoso guitarists from Japan, Canada, Belgium and the United States, the trios will explore intricate original compositions as well as new arrangements of progressive rock, world, jazz and classical music. Come see what the buzz is about and share an evening with these fantastic musicians.

Crossword

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

- Across**
- Extend, in a way
 - Eastern ties
 - Arise
 - Howler
 - Santa __, Calif.
 - 100 cents
 - Katarina Witt, Olympic skater, e.g.
 - Bone-dry
 - Allot
 - Sometimes done with a check
 - Antiques and __
 - An ancient Greece headband
 - "Tarzan" extra
 - Hawaiian dish
 - "Let it stand"
 - Out of fashion
 - Indisposed (3 wds)
 - Itsy-bitsy
 - Brio
 - Anger
 - "Silent Spring" subject (abbrev.)
 - Free (from)
 - Underground
 - Monasteries
 - They're boring
 - Acclivity
 - Aircraft course (2 wds)
 - Knowing, as a secret
 - Grasslands
 - Military slang for exploration of an area
 - Be inclined
 - "Empedocles on __" (Matthew Arnold poem)
 - Crosses with loops
- Down**
- Perlman of "Cheers"
 - Nestling falcons

- 1987 Costner role
- Attract
- Wheeled vehicle drawn by a tractor (British)
- "Catch-22" pilot
- Melon-shaped ice cream dessert
- Bartender on TV's Pacific Princess
- Safe places
- One who does not pay his debts
- Acoustic
- Correspond
- Bumps
- Beat the draft?
- Certain sorority woman
- Carpenter's machine
- Strengthen, with "up"
- Assistant
- Place
- Moray, e.g.
- Tom Sawyer author
- Climb
- Arid
- "... __ he drove out of sight"
- From first to last (3 wds, hyphenated)
- Actress Winona
- Catch, as in a net
- Knickknack
- "Om," e.g.
- Closed
- Nautical pole
- Kidney waste product
- Range rover
- Found a new tenant for
- __ flu
- 15-ball cluster
- Carve in stone
- The Beatles' " __ Leaving Home" (contraction)
- Badge-earning girls' org.

Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers from last week

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

Crossword answers from last week

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

Horoscopes

October 25, 2012

Capricorn

December 22 – January 19

The unthinkable happens, but unlike others, you are not at a loss for words. In fact, you know just what to say and do to alleviate some of the burden. Way to go, Capricorn!

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18

A review sends chills up your spine, but in a good way, Aquarius. Thoughts of yesteryear haunt you into submission and a personal matter is rectified.

Pisces

February 19 – March 20

Breaking a confidence is generally ill advised but not in this case, Pisces. You must let another know in order for the situation to be resolved.

Aries

March 21 – April 19

Cat got your tongue, Aries? Speak up and let your ideas be heard. They're good. You know it and soon everyone else will too. A promotion could be in order.

Taurus

April 20 – May 20

Uh-uh-uh, Taurus. Steer clear of the web of deceit that's building at work. Jobs could be on the line when all is said and done. A sweet treat lightens the mood.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21

A friend is in hot pursuit of the unattainable. Stand back and give way, Gemini. Now is not the time to burst their bubble. A change in perspective brings about results.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22

Attention, Cancer. Your blue moods are isolating you from those who mean the most to you. Snap out of it and make amends. A friend needs you.

Leo

July 23 – August 22

Do you dare, Leo? Of course you do! Pack your bags and prepare for the adventure of a lifetime. A risky financial move proves worth your time.

Virgo

August 23 – September 22

Thinking of calling it quits, Virgo? Think again. You'll find your way out of the maze if you just let go. A culinary masterpiece receives rave reviews.

Libra

September 23 – October 22

Confidence rises with the input of a superior, and before you know it, you finish. Celebrate with a trip to someplace you've been meaning to go, Libra.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 21

Triumph, Scorpio. You said you could do it, and you did. Bring the team together for one last hurrah! A tickle of the ivories gets the party started!

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21

You're full of ideas these days, Sagittarius, and your brain is about to be picked. Pass on what you know, and don't be surprised if your ideas are elaborated on.

See LOOKING AHEAD, page 4B



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Necronomicon 2012

Science fiction, fantasy, horror fans converge on annual convention in St. Petersburg

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

ST. PETERSBURG – The Stone Hill Science Fiction Association will host Necronomicon 2012 – Florida's science fiction, fantasy and horror convention – Friday through Sunday, Oct. 26-28, at the Hilton Bayfront, 333 First St. NE.

This year's guest of honor will be speculative fiction writer Linnea Sinclair.

Sinclair's novel "Gabriel's Ghost" (written under the pseudonym Megan Sybil Baker) earned her the 2006 RITA Award in the Best Paranormal Romance category from the Romance Writers of America.

The convention will feature informative panels and a full schedule of events and programs including the annual Cthulhu Memorial Eye Scream Social, the Ygor Party Gourmet Bheer Tasting, ongoing video and anime rooms, a masquerade, costume contest, trivia contests and an art show.

Attendees also will enjoy plenty of workshops and demonstrations as well as filking. For those unfamiliar with this convention tradition, filk songs, as explained on Stone Hill's Necronomicon website, "are parodies of real songs, and originals, too, all with a 'fanish' bent." Filk songs may be about a favorite book, film, television show, game, comic book or other science fiction or fantasy content. Filkers can participate in song sessions throughout the weekend.

For space buffs, Jeff Mitchell will host a presentation on settling Mars.

Guest of honor

According to her bio, Linnea Sinclair has managed to use all her college degrees (journalism and criminology) but "hasn't soothed the yearning in her soul to travel the galaxy." That's why she writes in the field of science fiction and fantasy romance.

A former news reporter and retired private detective, Sinclair's recent releases from Bantam include the third book and fourth books in the Dock Five series, "Hope's Folly" (2009) and "Rebels and Lovers" (2010).

Her essay column for Futures magazine was a Pushcart Literary nominee in 1998, and in 2002-03 she was a John W. Campbell award nominee for best new science fiction author.

Sinclair resides in Naples in the winter months and in Columbus, Ohio during the summer.

In addition to writing, Sinclair teaches seminars in both the craft of writing for all levels of writers and private investigation techniques for mystery authors via online writing sites and at writing conventions nationwide.

In the author's press kit, Sinclair discusses what led her to a career as a writer.

"I've been writing for so long I honestly can't remember a time when I wasn't writing," Sinclair said. "I'm an only child and making up stories in my head was a favorite pastime. I began putting them on paper in junior high school. In my 20s I was active in ["Star Trek"] fan-fic."

Sinclair didn't actually start writing full time until she had completed successful careers as a news reporter and a private investigator.

"I sold my detective agency in 2000, which was also the year my fantasy novel 'Wintertide' was accepted for publication by LITDBooks, a small Canadian publishing house," Sinclair said.

For those who haven't personally delved into the subgenre of science fiction romance, Sinclair offers her own definition.

"Science fiction romance is, at its core, a science fiction/speculative fiction novel that has –equally at its core and in its theme – the romantic question between the main characters," she explained. "It's written so that if either core element – science/speculative fiction or romance – were removed, the story would collapse – or at the least, not be the same novel."

Many up-and-coming writers attend the annual Necronomicon event, and Sinclair is happy to share her experiences with aspiring writers, answering questions about breaking into the field.

"Read as much as you can in the genre in which you want to write," Sinclair said, offering advice to fledgling writers. "Second, realize that writing is both an art and a craft. Yes, the muse must speak to you. But it's up to you to put that creative inspiration in a grammatically correct form, or you're wasting your and the muse's time."

She encourages new writers to study and understand plot structure, characterization, conflict and dialogue.

"For all that fiction is freewheeling creativity, it's also rules and regulations," Sinclair said.

Now in its 31st year, Necronomicon began back in 1982 and, over the years, has drawn a variety of distinguished guests in the field of speculative literature including Larry Niven, Andre Norton, Piers Anthony, Alan Dean Foster, Robert Bloch, Roger Zelazny, Fred Pohl, Orson Scott Card and Terry Prachett.



Linnea Sinclair

A three-day membership costs \$50. Cost for Friday or Saturday only is \$25. Cost for Sunday only is \$20.

The Stone Hill Science Fiction Association is a nonprofit organization. All workers at the convention are volunteers. Proceeds from the event will benefit a charity organization. In the past, Stone Hill has raised funds for organizations such as the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, Wildlife Rescue, Francis House and Kids and Canines.

Visit www.stonehill.org/necro.htm.

OPENING , from page 1B

Director: Michael J. Bassett
Rated: R

Based on the groundbreaking video game franchise, "Silent Hill: Revelation 3D" is the sequel to the hit film "Silent Hill," which opened to No. 1 at the U.S. box office and took in nearly \$100 million at the worldwide box office.

Featuring an unparalleled horror experience, Konami's "Silent Hill" franchise has captivated fans for more than a decade and has spawned a hit comic book series, graphic novels, collectible action figures and numerous soundtracks from rock bands.

In "Silent Hill: Revelation 3D," Heather Mason (Clemens) and her father (Bean) have been on the run, always one step ahead of dangerous forces that she doesn't fully understand. On the eve of her 18th birthday, plagued by horrific nightmares and the disappearance of her father, Heather discovers she's not who she thinks she is. The revelation leads her deeper into a demonic world that threatens to trap her forever.

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

'The Loneliest Planet'

Genre: Drama
Cast: Hani Furstenberg, Gael Garcia Bernal and Bidzina Gubidze

Director: Julia Loktev
Not rated

Alex and Nica are young, in love and engaged to be married. The summer before their wedding, they are backpacking in the Caucasus Mountains in Georgia. The couple hire a local guide to lead them on a camping trek, and the three set off into a stunning wilderness, a landscape that is both overwhelmingly open and frighteningly closed. Walking for hours, they trade anecdotes, play games to pass the time of moving through space. And then, a momentary misstep, a gesture that takes only two or three seconds, a gesture that's over almost as soon as it begins. But once it is done, it can't be undone. Once it is done, it threatens to undo everything the couple believed about each other and about them-

selves. All the while, they are not alone. They are always with the guide, who witnesses their every move.

The film plays off the relationship between young travelers and the places they travel to, between guide and guided. But at heart, it is a love story – a tale about betrayal, both accidental and deliberate, about masculinity, failure and the ambiguities of forgiveness.

'The Sessions'

Genre: Drama
Cast: John Hawkes, Helen Hunt, William H. Macy and Moon Bloodgood

Director: Ben Lewin
Rated: R

Based on the poignantly optimistic autobiographical writings of California-based journalist and poet Mark O'Brien, THE SESSIONS tells the story of a man who lived most of his life in an

iron lung who is determined – at age 38 – to lose his virginity. With the help of his therapist and the guidance of his priest, he sets out to make his dream a reality.

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

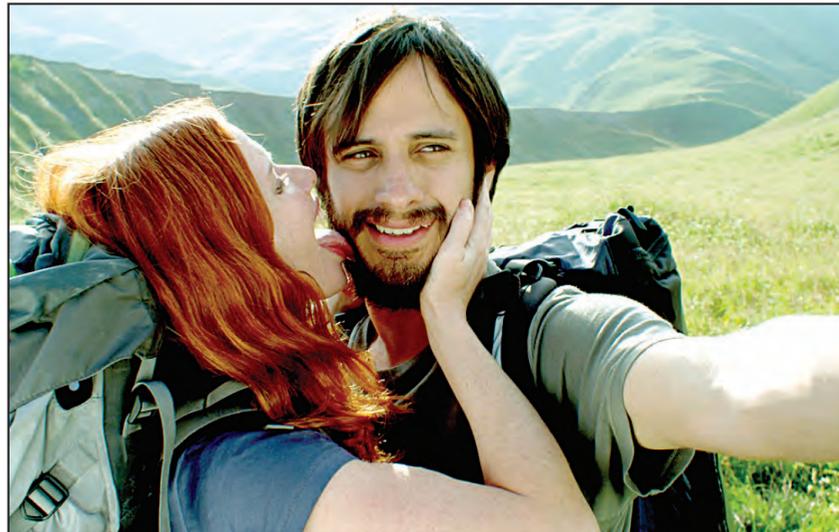


Photo courtesy of IFC FILMS

A mountain trek turns love upside down between Gael Garcia Bernal and Hani Furstenberg in "The Loneliest Planet."

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Music camp planned at Boyd Hill

ST. PETERSBURG – The 23rd annual Sunshine State Acoustic Music Camp is planned Nov. 16-18 at Boyd Hill Environmental Studies Area, 2900 31st St. S.

A wide variety of classes are offered, from guitar playing, both for beginners and in various more advanced styles, to mandolin, harp, lap dulcimer, banjo, fiddle, bass, concertina, harmonica, Autoharp, Irish flute, ukulele, percussion, singing, harmonizing, songwriting, performance techniques and music theory. Carroll Smith, who did not begin playing music until he was in his 50s and is now an award-winning musician, hosts a special class called "Never Too Late" for people wanting to begin making music later in life.

Unlike many camps the instructors do not just teach classes. They are available throughout the camp to offer students one-on-one help.

The camp is open to the public. Preregistration is strongly advised, although walk-ins are welcome.



Photo courtesy of CHARLEY GROTH

Instructor Marc Chauvin teaches a harp class at the Sunshine State Acoustic Music Camp under the trees at Boyd Hill Environmental Studies Area in St. Petersburg.

The Sunshine State camp is designed for all ages. The youngest registered student in the camp's history has been of elementary school age and the oldest, Elsa Jennings, is 98 years old. Beginners are welcome and a special tutoring area is available where they can get one-on-one help.

In addition to classes, there are student shows at lunchtime each day and on Saturday evening a

major concert featuring performances by the camp instructors and special guests. The concert is free to camp registrants and \$15 for the general public.

Complete detailed information, schedule, pictures, directions, are available on the camp website, at www.cgmusicman.com/camp/.

For further information, call camp director Charley Groth at 585-5678 before 10 p.m.

Sunsation Show Chorus seeks talent

PINELLAS PARK – The Sunsation Show Chorus is in search of its next set of talented young artists.

Those selected will perform with the chorus during the group's 2012-13 season, showcased in one of the group's upcoming major concerts. Those performances will be given at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center on Nov. 18, Feb. 10 and April 14.

"We are excited about the continuation and expansion of our Young Artists Program," said Brian Smawley, the group's director, in a press release. "It is an opportunity for generations to come together to bring joyful sounds to local audiences."

Previous young artists featured in Sunsation

Show Chorus performances have included a violinist, a pianist, a 16-year-old coloratura soprano, a stage baritone, and a small dance troupe. While the group's choral repertoire consists mainly of popular music spanning many decades, young artists are encouraged to audition using whatever style of performance they prefer. Nothing is off limits from jazz to Broadway to classical. Those selected will be paid a small stipend, and will need to provide a brief biography to be included in the program.

Instructors who think they may have a candidate among their middle or high school students should contact the group's president, Don Kuzmickas, at 579-9089, to schedule an audition.

LOOKING AHEAD, from page 2B

- **The Classics IV**, Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$29.50. Call 587-6793. One of the most popular and influential groups of the '60s and '70s, The Classics IV have 13 consecutive chart singles to their credit. Their gold records include "Spooky," "Stormy," "Traces of Love" and "Everyday With You Girl." In 1993, The Classics IV were honored for their musical achievements by the state of Georgia and were inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame.
- **Jane Monheit**, Thursday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$34.50. Call 587-6793. Monheit has firmly established as one of the post-

millennial jazz world's foremost vocalists. She has been a featured performer in the nationally televised "Christmas at the White House" and has appeared on numerous television shows including "David Letterman," "The View," "The Today Show" and "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

• **Jim Stafford**, Friday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$24.50. Call 587-6793 or visit www.largoarts.com. Famous for his million-selling records, "Spiders & Snakes," "Cow Patti" and the infamous "My Girl Bill," Stafford satirizes the obvious with his music and comedy. He has made 26 appearances on "The Tonight Show," was a performer and writer for the "Smothers Brothers Show" and even hosted his own TV show on ABC network.

DIVERSIONS, from page 1B

staging, after recently helming the smash hit "Cabaret." Jesse LeNoir and Sarah McAvoy perform as the star-crossed lovers, Romeo and Juliet. LeNoir is a successful theater and film actor, and was also a designer on Season 7 of the hit reality series, "Project Runway." McAvoy, a St. Petersburg native, was in American Stage Theatre Company's acclaimed production of "August: Osage County." Also joining the cast will be freeFall favorites Roxanne Fay, Gene D'Alessandro and Jennifer Christa Palmer as well as local actors Matt Lunsford and Chris Crawford, and newcomer Michael Shenefelt from Orlando.

• **Marty Balin**, Friday, Oct. 26, 6 to 10 p.m., at Horan Park, adjacent to the St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Drive, St. Pete Beach. Part of the sixth annual October concert series presented by Postcard Inn and city of St. Pete Beach

Recreation, this family-friendly event will feature an opening act and headline band. Food, beer, wine and other refreshments are available for purchase and valet parking is available at the Community Center. The events are free with a perfect mix of atmosphere, music and community. For information, call 363-9245 or visit www.spbrec.com. The Oct. 26 featured artist will be Marty Balin. A founding member of Jefferson Airplane, Balin's soulful tenor proved a pivotal element of their sound. After departing Jefferson Airplane, Balin took over lead vocals in 1973 for Bodacious D.F. In 1975 Balin joined Jefferson Starship permanently and in 1981, he released his first solo album, "Balin," featuring two Top 40 hits. In 2009 Balin spent the year on and off in the studio with Slick Aguilar recording new songs for the album "Blue Highway" that came with a rockin' start with the recording of the 2011 release album, "The Witcher."

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• PINELLAS PARK - 2-3BR/1BA & carport. Corner lot. \$875/mo.

100. Real Estate Wanted

I Buy Houses CASH!
Quick Sale - Fair Price (727)266-5200

I BUY HOUSES FAST 4 CASH
Any Reason: Disrepair, Bad Tenant, Estate Sales, Etc. www.selltoscott.us

125. Out of State

Cost-Effective Statewide Advertising
Place Your Ad Of 25 Words or Less In More Than 100 Newspapers Across Florida For Only \$475/week.
You Can Reach Over 5 Million Readers Through Our Network Of Daily & Weekly Florida Newspapers.
Contact Tampa Bay Newspapers Classified Dept. (727) 397-5563

130. Cemetery Lots

SYLVAN ABBEY CEMETARY
Two plots in West Lawn Garden of Prayer. Asking \$3,000 each. (727)518-0506.

135. Rentals

LARGO DUPLEX Side-by-Side
3BR/1.5BA/1CG, Newly Renovated, Tile Floors, C/H/A, W/D Hook-ups, Approved Pet OK, JUST REDUCED RENT!!! Bob, (727)686-8973.

140. Furnished Houses

CLEARWATER NEAR BEACHES
2BR/2BA, Furnished. Seasonal/ Annual. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton, (727)644-0400.

145. Unfurnished Houses

CANTERBURY/ TIDES GOLF
3BR/2BA/2CG W/Genie. W/D, New Kitchen. \$1,295/Month Fred, (727)492-1069 (727)345-6339.

CLEARWATER 3BR/1BA,
Carport, Pets OK. Near Dunedin. Freshly Painted. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton (727)644-0400.

LARGO 2BR/1BA, FIREPLACE
All Utilities Included. \$950/Month, First/ Last. (727)586-2419, (727)586-1566.

LARGO 3BR/2BA, 3290 Hillsdale
Ave. Fenced Yard. Pets OK. Anona Schools. Close To IRB, SW Rec. Need Good Rental History. \$1,050/Mo. Call (941)769-0013.

LARGO, 2BR/1BA
3642 141st Avenue \$750/month + first month deposit includes W/S/G. (727)637-6033

NORTH ST. PETERSBURG,
3BR/1BA, Carport, Fenced Yard. \$375 Weekly Included Electric, Water. First/ Last, \$300 Security. 2594 32nd Ave. N. (727)522-5937.

155. Furnished Condos

BELLEAIR FOREST
1BR/1.5BA, Golf Course View. \$780/month, annual; \$850/month, seasonal with 5-month minimum, negotiable. (773)475-1599.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD,
2BR/2BA, 55+, 2nd Floor, Annual. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton (727)644-0400.

SEMINOLE, MISSION OAKS, 55+
2BR/2BA, Petless/ Non-smoking, newly remodeled. Pool/laundry/ cable. \$850/month + security. (727)397-0975.

160. Unfurnished Condos

A BEAUTIFUL SEMINOLE,
2BR/2BA, nicely upgraded, 2nd floor, Living/ Dining Room, Eat-in Kitchen, W/D, Pool/ Spa, Carport. \$775/Month, 1st month/ security. Annual. (727)482-9139.

PENNWOOD MANOR, RATED A
Largo, 1BR/1BA, Sunroom, 55+, Ground Floor. No Pets. Includes: Cable, W/S/T Heated Pool. \$595/Month. (727)585-9492.

5. Real Estate Sales

FOR RENT
• LARGO - Commercial lot with 731SF building. Zoned M1. \$950/mo.
• SEMINOLE - 3/2/2 and in-law Suite with 2/1. Caged pool. Walk to Seminole Park. \$2,000/mo.
• PALM HARBOR - 1/1 condo with full washer/dryer, fireplace. Enjoy pool fitness & racquetball. \$700/mo.
• PINELLAS PARK - 2-3BR/1BA & carport. Corner lot. \$875/mo.

160. Unfurnished Condos

BELLEAIR BLUFFS: 1BR/1BA
Excellent location. Non-smoker. Newly remodeled, Pool, Laundry, Cable, Assigned parking, Petless. \$590/Mo. (727)593-7708.

CORDOVA GREENS, 2BR/2BA
In Bardmoor, 2nd Floor end unit, W/D, carport, elevator, pool, \$950/mo. Glen Webb, (727)515-4443 Century 21/Top Sales

DELIGHTFUL DUNEDIN, 55+
2BR/2BA, Newly Renovated, W/D, Walk To Town, Stores, Pool, Clubhouse. No Pets. \$850/Mo. Annual Lease. (727)734-2488, (201)323-5717.

LAKEVIEW OF LARGO: 55+
2BR/2BA, 2nd floor, overlooking pool & lake. New Appliances. Steps to laundry & elevator. \$900/Month, Patriot Realty. (727)417-6870

MADEIRA BEACH, 2BR/2BA
Gulf view, W/D connection, community pool, no smoking, no pets. W/S/G included. \$1300/mo. + security deposit. Florida's Best Accommodations. (727)517-9404.

SEMINOLE 1BR/1BA, 55+, Close
to Beach/ Shopping. Updated, Nonsmoker, No Pets. \$650/Month Annual, First/ Last/ Security. (727)560-1264.

SEMINOLE GARDENS
1BR/1BA, 608SF, 55+, Great Unit, 2nd Floor. W/OV \$500/Month-Yearly. Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp. (727)397-2534

SEMINOLE GARDENS
2BR/1BA, 874SF, 55+, Unit, Ground Floor. Just Updated. \$750/Month-Yearly. Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp. (727)397-2534

SEMINOLE, UPDATED 1BR,
Ground Floor, Corner Unit, W/D, Gated Community, Pool, Tennis, Clubhouse, Gym. Available 11/1. \$850/Mo. +\$250 Security. (727)798-2438.

SEMINOLE, VILLA MILAN
1BR/1BA, on West side of Lake Seminole, Pool, Dock, No Pets. \$595/Month Annual. Guetzlaff Realty (727)204-0829, (727)392-2339.

SEMINOLE, UPDATED 1BR,
Ground Floor, Corner Unit, W/D, Gated Community, Pool, Tennis, Clubhouse, Gym. Available 11/1. \$850/Mo. +\$250 Security. (727)798-2438.

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175. Unfurn. Apartments

DUNEDIN: ROOM, \$80/WKLY.
LARGO: 1BR, \$145/Wkly, 152 3rd Street NW or \$515/Mthly, 919 10th Street SW. Call Or Click www.586-2412.com

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1-2BR, \$299 move-in special. Pet Friendly, Sparkling Pool, Logato Apts. (727)733-0423.

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Apartments, Includes E/W/G, Beach Access. 19235 Whispering Pines Drive. (727)599-5814, (727)302-1375. Owner/ Agent. Starting at \$700/Month, \$1,100/Month Lease.

LARGO: 1BR/1BA, BEAUTIFUL
Landscape Courtyard, W/D, Petless. \$750/Month, First, Last. \$200 Security. Includes All Util. (727)586-1566 Or (727)586-2419.

LARGO: VERY CLOSE TO
Transportation, Shopping, Hospital. 1BR/1BA, \$600/month, 2BR/1BA, \$650/month, 2BR/2BA, \$700/month. (727)280-6001.

SEMINOLE GARDENS 55+
(Two - 2 Bedroom Units) 1/Corner Unit. Newly Remodeled. Only \$800/Month Bill (727)397-5512, (727)641-6681.

185. Beach Rentals

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
Cozy, Clean, Furnished Cottages. 1-2BRs starting at \$315/wk. +tax. Steps to Gulf Beach. Pet Friendly. (727)595-8013. www.UncleMitsCottages.com.

CONTINENTAL TOWERS: South
Clearwater Beach. Furnished, Large 2BR/2BA condo, pool, carport. Seasonal/ Annual. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton (727)644-0400.

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

CONDO, HOUSES, DUPLEXES
Weekly/ Monthly/ Annual Bob Schmidt, (727)580-9797 Tropical Isles Realty, Inc. (727)593-0744, (800)655-

485. Help Wanted
EXPERIENCED HAIRSTYLIST
 Booth Rental, Seminole.
 (727)398-6600.

FUN IN THE SUN
 Full-time Pay For Part-time Work. Must Have Outgoing Personality, Transportation & Cell Phone. No Experience Required. Will Train. Hourly Plus Bonus. More Info Call Don (727)710-4826.

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Great Cases
All Hours
Experience Required
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 Health & Homecare Services, Inc.
Celebrating 25 Years!
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 and hand tools; also transportation to our Largo shop. (727)330-7820.

EARN \$1000s
From Home? Be careful of Work-At-Home Schemes.
 •Hidden costs can add up
 •Requirements may be unrealistic.
 Learn how you can avoid Work-At-Home Scams. Call: Federal Trade Comm. 1-877-FTC-HELP.
A message from Tampa Bay Newspapers and the FTC.

505. Part-time Help
CERTIFIED DIESEL MECHANIC
 P-T, Nights & Saturdays. Medium Size Fleet Of Diesel Trucks, Small Engines & Pumps. Must Have Clean CDL-B w/Tanker Endorsement, Minimum 3-Yrs Exp. & References. FEO-AA, DFWP, USDOT Regulated. Call For Appt. (727)528-1998.

505. Part-time Help



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

CHECK YOUR ADS THE FIRST DAY
 In the event of error in any advertising, this publication will not be financially responsible beyond the cost of the advertisement in which the error appears. For advertisement scheduled to run more than one time, this publication will not issue credit for errors beyond the first publication week.
 Tampa Bay Newspapers, Inc. reserves the right to refuse advertising copy deemed by the Publisher as objectionable in any sense and to change the classification from that ordered to conform to the policy of the publisher.

505. Part-time Help
PART-TIME HOUSEKEEPER,
 2 Homes, \$12 Per Hour.
 (402)660-2112

525. Medical Help
CNA's, HHAs NEEDED FOR
 Pinellas County Area. Choose Your Hours. \$10-\$13.50 Per Hour. (727)822-3034

LPN: Pincrest Place,
 A Premier Retirement Community in Largo, has immediate opening for an LPN. We are looking for a qualified individual to become a member of our dynamic team. Candidate should have previous experience working in a geriatric environment and have a commitment to making a difference in the lives they touch. Position is F/T, 3rd shift, 10pm-6am. We are looking for an enthusiastic, energetic and caring person. We offer a competitive salary. Send resumes to Margaret.kristall@brookdaleliving.com or fax to 727-581-8409. EOE, Drug-free workplace.

C.N.A.s & H.H.A.s
Part-Time/Full-Time
 Needed In The...
 Largo, Seminole Areas

Private Duty, In-Home-Care Flexible hours/days/nights Competitive pay

Visiting Angels
 Home Care Services

727-797-8600
 Come join our team of Angels today!

530. Jobs & Work Wanted
NEED A PERSONAL ASST.
 Property Manager or Seasonal Decorator, For Your Home/Office. 20-Yrs. Experience. (727)258-8884.

Great Deals Are In The Classifieds!!

505. Part-time Help

535. Business Opportun.
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Areas now available:
 • Seminole - Largo - Kenneth City
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 • Madeira Bch. - Indian Rks. Bch.
 • Clearwater - Palm Harbor - Tarpon Springs
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 1-866-498-4637.

600. Merchandise
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600. Merchandise
NEW CENTRAL A/C
 10-YR warranty, still in box. \$1,449 OBO. (727)678-4339.

HOT TUB, 5 PERSON, NEVER Used, Lounger, Light, Can Deliver.
 \$1,595. (727)851-3217.

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

610. Computer Equipment
QUAD-CORE PC
 Athlon II 631 processor, 6GB DDR3 Ram (support for up to 16GB), 500GB HDD, DVD/CD writer, Dedicated Direct X 11 Radeon HD5450. Graphics card in 16X PCI Express slot. This powerhouse PC has valid Manufacturer 1/Year Warranty. ONLY \$399!! (727)688-0215

610. Computer Equipment
ATHLON II 631 PROCESSOR, 6GB DDR3 RAM (support for up to 16GB), 500GB HDD, DVD/CD writer, Dedicated Direct X 11 Radeon HD5450. Graphics card in 16X PCI Express slot. This powerhouse PC has valid Manufacturer 1/Year Warranty. ONLY \$399!! (727)688-0215

617. Art
SIX P. BUCKLEY MOSS Framed Prints. \$5 to \$15/Each or all 6 for \$50. No checks please. (727)430-3538.

640. Furniture

A BRAND NEW Queen Mattress, \$95. New In Plastic. Must Sell! Can Deliver. (727)667-8288.

BRAND NEW, CHERRY 5-PIECE
 Queen Bedroom Set; Headboard, Frame, Dresser, Mirror, Nightstand, \$295. (727)667-8288.

535. Business Opportun.

640. Furniture
BROWN SUEDE RECLING
 Coach, Mint Condition, \$100 OBO. (727)385-9550, (727)954-3793.

COMPLETE QUEEN BEDROOM
 Set. Excellent Condition! Bed, Dresser, Chest, Mirror, Light Wood, \$425. (727)584-2780.

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REMODELING SALE, CUSTOM
 Silk Drapes, Wood Blinds, Chairs, Tables, Large Area Rugs. All items are in excellent condition. Please call (727)735-5591.

660. Want to Buy
DIABETIC TEST STRIPS
 Fast Local Pick-Up "Top Dollar Paid!" Any Type, Any Brand, We Come To You!! Call Bob, (727)204-0478

705. Nursery & Garden
WELCOME BACK
SEMINOLE NURSERIES
 Garden Center & Boutique. Home & Garden Decor Annuals, Perennials, Plants, Trees, Firewood, Organic Fertilizer. 11403 Seminole Blvd. (727)398-5599.

715. Med. Eqpt.-Supplies
HEAVY DUTY MOBILITY Wheel-
 chair, 6/Wheels, 2/Motors, 2/Batteries. Never used, death in family. Asking \$1,500. (727)637-6017.

810. Auto Sales
CADILLAC CTS, 2003, Sage
 Green, Tan leather, 119,000 miles. Good Condition. \$4,500. OBO. (727)585-8382.

845. Golf Carts

EZGO, 5-6 PASSENGER, NEW
 Batteries w/Warranty. Lift Kit, Chrome Centercap, Monster Tires, Aluminum Rims, 4" Spoke. "Custom Made" Ignition Switch, Sony AM/FM CD Player, MARINE Water Speakers, High Speed Motor. New Storage Cover, Lock. All Receipts. \$3,300 OBO. (954)649-3756.

535. Business Opportun.

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Discover the many benefits of becoming a distributor for Florida's largest and best newspaper.

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- Access to low cost accident insurance and prescription drug card

Paid Weekly

Tampa Bay Times
 tampabay.com

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

\$400 & UP Minimum Guaranteed
 for Junk Vehicles, State Approved Disposal. Serving Pinellas for 25/Years. (727)564-0831, (727)458-3721.

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 Any Condition. No Title & Liens OK. (813)410-9067 or (727)565-9320

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 Certified Marine Technician. Electronics Installation. Full Service Outboard Repair. (727)744-4352
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GARAGE/ESTATE SALES

970. Estate Sales
LARGO, FRIDAY, SATURDAY,
 Sunday, 9AM-3PM. Collectibles, Signs, Figurines, Porcelain, Tools Golf, Lawn. 9613 Leeward Ave.

975. Garage & Yard Sales

CHAPEL TREASURES!
 An Unusual Thrift Shop Full Of Fine Things. Friday & Saturday, 9AM-12PM. 12601 Park Blvd. Seminole. (727)391-2919. We Accept Donations And Drop Offs As Well. coth@coth.org

CHRISTMAS FAIR

CHRISTMAS FAIR
 Sponsored by St. Brendan's Council of Catholic Women (Island Estates, behind Publix, Clearwater Beach) Saturday, November 3, 9am-6pm Sunday, November 4, 8am-1pm Beautiful Arts/ Crafts, Children's Items, Vendors, Christmas Gifting Merchandise, New! Nearly New Treasures, Bake Sale & Raffles

COMMUNITY YARD SALE
 Saturday, October 27th 7am-12pm. Sawgrass Village, SE corner 49th St. & 70th Avenue, Pinellas Park.

4 DAY SUPER FLEA MARKET

Household Articles Clothing, Plants, Toys Books, Baskets, Furniture, Jewelry & other special items.

Wed. Evening: Oct. 31 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Preview Night - \$5 per person)

Thursday: Nov. 1 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday: Nov. 2 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday: Nov. 3 - 9 a.m. to noon

For More Information Call **391-0596**

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Ghosts, ghouls and goblins seek frightfully fun affairs this October

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

Be wary: Halloween is just around the creepy corner. Pumpkin patches are materializing in vacant lots and devilish decorations have taken possession of typically tidy front lawns. In the coming weeks, communities throughout Pinellas and beyond will play host to horrifying haunted houses, fiendishly fun festivals and tantalizing trick-or-treating.

Following is a list of community events around the area:

Clearwater
Spooktacular will take place Friday, Oct. 26, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at Countryside Recreation Center, 2640 Sabal Springs Drive, Clearwater. Entertainment will include the Trail of Terror, a pumpkin patch, costume contest, inflatables, carnival games with prizes, and music. Call 669-1914.

"Ghostbusters" will be screened Sunday, Oct. 28, 3 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets are \$5. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Part of the Family Movie Series, the film stars Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Sigourney Weaver. "Ghostbusters" became a cultural phenomenon and an instant classic upon its release in 1984. Constantly ranked high on lists of the funniest movies of all time, "Ghostbusters" paranormal adventures launched a multi-media franchise that continues to delight fans of all ages.

The city will sponsor a **Halloween Carnival** Tuesday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m., at Clearwater Beach Library and Recreation Center, 69 Bay Esplanade, Clearwater. Admission is free. Carnival game tickets will be five for \$1. The event will feature small carnival games, costume contests, crafts, story time and light refreshments. For information, call 462-6138 or visit www.myclearwater.com.

"Halloween" will be screened Wednesday, Oct. 31, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets are \$5. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Directed by John Carpenter and featuring Jamie Lee Curtis in her big screen debut, "Halloween" is the quintessential slasher film spawning an entire horror film sub-genre. The film follows an escaped psychotic murderer who has been institutionalized since childhood for the murder of his sister as he stalks a bookish teenage girl and her friends while his doctor chases him through the streets. More than 30 years after its debut, Halloween enjoys a reputation as a classic and is widely considered one of the best films of the '70s.

Boo Bash will be Wednesday, Oct. 31, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Bright House Field, 601 N. Old Coachman Road, Clearwater. This free event will feature interactive areas for kids, games, hayrides, a haunted house, costume parade on the field, and plenty of candy. For information, call 467-4457 or visit www.thresherbaseball.com.

Dunedin
 The **Haunted Tavern of Terror** will be presented Friday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m., at Rosie's Tavern of Dunedin, 730 Broadway, Dunedin. Rosie's Tavern of Dunedin will transform into a Haunted Tavern of Terror. The event will include live music by Razed by Wolves, a costume contest with a \$50 bar tab prize for best costume and a pumpkin-carving contest. Pumpkin entries will be accepted at the Dragonfly Garden next door. The party is in conjunction with Dunedin's Downtown Trick or Treat. For information, call 724-4209.

Halloween in the Park XV will be Friday and Saturday, Oct. 26-27, 6 to 10 p.m., at Honeymoon Island State Park, 1 Causeway Blvd., Dunedin. The Florida Park Service and Friends of the Island Parks Inc. sponsor this annual event. This year's theme will focus on the Wild West complete with a haunted house as well as scenes along the scary trail. There will be a family area for the younger ones where children and adults will be entertained with Halloween themed arts and crafts, games, music and freeze dance. There also will be face painting for the kids, fortune telling for the parents, games, bungee jump, a dunk tank, storytelling with the Dunedin library, food and fun. A donation of \$10 per carload will include 10 free game tickets. Annual passes are not valid for this after hours event. The event will take place in the picnic area. Participants should wear their costumes (not required), walking shoes and bring insect repellent and a small flashlight. For information, call 462-6187.

The Dunedin Parks & Recreation Department will host its annual **Halloween Happening** event on Saturday, Oct. 27, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Highlander Park, 1920 Pinehurst Road, Dunedin. This family-friendly event will feature child-focused games and crafts, Boo in the Zoo, bounce houses, spooky storytelling and a costume contest. Attendees looking for a good scare may want to check out the event's signature Haunted Hayride. This year, the hayride will test visitors' scare and thrill limits. With this year's hayride theme, Zombie Apocalypse, riders are sure to experience a host of scary creatures lurking in the night. Wristbands cost \$10 and include all game booths, crafts, inflatables, costume contest and Boo in the Zoo. Hayride tickets are \$5. Concessions will be available. Parking is \$5, cash only. An ATM will be available during event. Proceeds will benefit the Dunedin For Youth Scholarship Fund. Volunteers are needed. For information, call 812-4530 or visit us online www.dunedingov.com.

The annual **Trunk-or-Treat** event will be Friday, Oct. 26, 7 to 9 p.m., in the front parking lot at First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks, 12685 Ulmerton Road, Largo. This fun, safe, and free event for the whole family will feature a "candy trail" and inflatables. Kids of all ages are invited to come in costume.

tume. Call 595-3421.

The **Halloween Spooktacular for Kids** will take place Saturday, Oct. 27, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Armed Forces History Museum, 2050 34th Way N., Largo. Children will be able to go on a scavenger hunt for treats throughout the museum, enjoy decorating cupcakes and cookies, participate in take-home arts and crafts projects, play games, take part in a costume contest. The event is sponsored in part by Publix. Discounted tickets are priced at \$10 for adults and \$5 for youths 4 to 12. Call 539-8371 or visit www.armedforcesmuseum.com.

This year's **Halloween Spooktacular** will be Saturday, Oct. 27, noon to 6 p.m., at Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive, Largo. This family-friendly event will feature fun and games for kids 14 and younger as well as a free trick-or-treat trail, open from noon to 4 p.m. In addition to games, there will be music, concessions, bounce houses, ropes course, a petting zoo and strolling entertainment. Event wristbands cost \$5 in advance for recreation card holders and \$6 without a card. All wristbands purchased the day of the event will be \$7. Wristbands are required for all inflatables, games and activities. Children must meet height requirements for bounce houses and rides. Limited on-site parking will be available for \$5. There will be free park-and-walk areas at Everest University, Largo Middle School and the School Board parking lot. For more information, call 587-6775 or visit LargoEvents.com.

Palm Harbor
 The sixth annual **Witchstock 2012** will be Saturday, Oct. 27, 3 p.m. to midnight, at Witch's Brew, 1219 Florida Ave., Palm Harbor. Witchstock will feature a Pet Costume Contest at 3:30 p.m.; Kids Costume Contest at 5 p.m. and an Adult Costume Contest with a sexiest costume category at 9 p.m. Winners will receive customized Witchstock trophies and prizes. Adult costume contest winners receive cash prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 for first and second place and sexiest costume. There is no entry fee and participants are encouraged to arrive a half hour prior to contest to register. Terry Premru will fingerpick songs from "The Wizard of Oz" on his acoustic guitar at 4:30 p.m.; Higher Tides will play songs from the '60s at 6 p.m. The Defendants rock the house from 7:30 to 11 p.m. The event will be streamed live on www.livestream.com/thewitchsbrew and archived on the Internet for on demand viewing. Call 483-9210, email info@thewitchsbrew.com or visit www.Witchstock.com.

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark, a special story time for ages 6 and older, will be offered Tuesday, Oct. 30, 7 p.m., at the Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave., Palm Harbor. No preregistration is necessary. For information, call 784-3332, ext. 3018.

Pinellas Park
 The Pinellas Park **Halloween Treat Trail** will be Wednesday, Oct. 31, 6 p.m., at England Brothers Park, 5010 81st Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Girls and boys of all ages may collect candy donated by local businesses and community organizations. The free event kicks off at 6 p.m. Radio Disney will provide activities, costume contest and prizes. Refreshments and popcorn will be provided. For information, call 541-0895.

The **pumpkin patch** will run through Oct. 31, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., at First United Church of Pinellas Park, 9025 49th St. N., Pinellas Park. Trunk or Treating will be Sunday, Oct. 28, 6 to 8 p.m., at the church. For information, call 546-5741.

St. Pete Beach
Halloween Bash activities will include a carved pumpkin contest (bring a pre-carved pumpkin for judging), both an adult and kids costume contest, a kids hand-on craft table, music and safe trick-or-treating at participating merchants. Judging for contests will end at 8 p.m. Participants need not be present to win. The food truck lineup will include Keepin' It Reel, Wicked Witches (which was voted best of the bay), 2 Asians & A Grille, American-wiener, Tasty Stacy, Jimmy Meatballs, The Cheesesteak Truck, Mobile Munchiez, Veggin' Out, Whatever Pops, Gorilla Gurt, Lemon Bar Florida and M-N-M BBQ. There also will be a fun raffle table. Proceeds will go to Friends of The Library of St. Pete Beach. Call 498-8778 or visit www.coreyave.com.

Seminole
 The eighth annual **Field of Screams** will be Friday, Oct. 26, 6 to 9 p.m., at the Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th St., Seminole. The event will include Seminole's unique "Spook Zone," which includes bounce houses, inflatable slides and carnival games, Lazer Tag, a costume contest, family photo area, and free Halloween candy. The festive event appeals to all ages. Those attending should come dressed in costumes. Food and beverage will be available for purchase. Cost of participation in the spook zone is \$5 and includes unlimited play in bounce houses and carnival games. For information, call 391-8345.

Pandemonium II: Return of the Horde, will be presented Friday, Oct. 26, 6 to 10 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 27, 6 to 11 p.m., at the Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 113th St., Seminole. Admission is \$5. A portion of the receipts benefits Kiwanis Clubs of Seminole's community projects. The event is intense and may not be good for small children. Call 391-8345 or visit www.myseminole.com.

The **Shepherd Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival** will take place Saturday, Oct. 27, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 10891 102nd Ave., Seminole. Activities will include a pumpkin patch, free food, carnival games, crafts, pumpkin decorating, and bounce houses. Pumpkin sales support the youth group. Call 391-4644 or visit mygoodshepherd.net.

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