

LARGO LEADER

'Les Miserables' and Tarantino's 'Django Unchained' to open

Catch the two highly anticipated movies as they hit theaters this weekend ... Page 1B.



ENTERTAINMENT



Pinellas County rings in 2013

Say goodbye to 2012 and welcome in the New Year in a variety of ways as Pinellas County rings in 2013. ... Page 1B.

COMMUNITY

SilverSneakers at Southwest Rec

The SilverSneakers program – an innovative health, exercise, and wellness plan to help older adults live healthy, active lifestyles – is coming to the Southwest Recreation Center and Pool at 13120 Vonn Road. ... Page 3A.

POLICE BEAT

Man arrested for attempted murder

An 18-year-old Largo man, who himself suffered a gunshot wound, was arrested and accused of attempted murder in a shooting the morning of Dec. 21.



Deonte Williams

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office reported that Deonte Jermaine Williams shot another man and injured himself in the process. ... Page 6A.

PET CONNECTION

Volunteers take the lead at shelter

Pinellas County Animal Services is fortunate to have about 150 volunteers who give of their time and energy to help out at the shelter.

And it is even more fortunate to have volunteers who supervise the volunteers. ... Page 15A.

VIEWPOINTS

Bill Cotterell

Time to fight back against loud car stereos, columnist says. ... Page 13A.



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Reflections on a tough year

Commissioner, cancer survivor reviews the best and worst of 2012

By SUZETTE PORTER

Since September, it's been a pretty darn good year.

That might seem like a strange statement coming from a man who battled cancer and lost his mother and sister during 2012, but it's how Pinellas County Commissioner John Morroni sums up his year.

Just before Christmas last year, Morroni learned that his cancer had returned. He first learned he had non-Hodgkin lymphoma in the fall of 2008. He spent six months undergoing chemotherapy and five weeks of radiation before he could share the good news

that the cancer was gone. Four years later, during a follow-up CAT scan done the second week in December, he found out the cancer had returned.

"We waited until the day after Christmas not to ruin everyone's holiday to tell anyone, including my son," he said.

The only people he told were his wife, Eileen, and his assistant at the time, Scott Kirby.

"I had to tell Scott, so he would know to stop booking all those appointments for me," he said.

Christmas 2011 wasn't much fun. Morroni and his wife stayed home from gatherings except for one party hosted

by a "good friend."

"We were really hurting inside," he said.

Two days after Christmas, Morroni began to share the news and announced it in a press release to the public Dec. 28. At that time, he didn't know what treatment plans his doctors would recommend. He put forth an optimistic front, knowing he had undergone cancer treatment in the past and could do it again.

But, this time, the treatment required more than just chemotherapy and radiation. Morroni underwent a stem cell

See REFLECTIONS, page 4A



John Morroni

A final semester

Longtime Largo High School choir director to retire at the end of the school year

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – The students have known of the inevitable end of a choral era since the fall. But that hasn't made Largo High School's eventual farewell to Choir Director Bill Renfroe, who first came to teach at the school in 1974, any easier.

"We all keep trying to get him to stay, but we all know that he wants to retire. He's got his mind pretty set on that," said choir student Jamie Brightbill.

As the choir program closed the fall semester, its Madrigal Singers, the top performing group of about 16 students, wrapped up their taxing holiday schedule, which included more than a dozen public performances in December alone, caroling in the school halls and the program's most anticipated choral performance: the Madrigal Dinner.

"It's been totally crazy. I wasn't expecting all the stuff that I've had to do and prepare for," said Tristan Jarvis, 17, and a first-year member of the Madrigal Singers.

The students don't begrudge Renfroe's demands on their time, talent and voices. Instead, they revel in the challenge he offers.

"He's the teacher that will work you, because he really, really cares," said Charlie Tsai, a junior, and member of the Singers. "He's inspired many, many people. It's really sad ... I don't get him next year."

Renfroe admitted that his



Largo High School Choir Director Bill Renfroe joins the school's Madrigal Singers as they perform "Silent Night" for guests in the lobby of the Sandpearl Resort in Clearwater Dec. 21. The holiday season is Renfroe's last as director. He will retire at the end of the school year.

final semester will be nostalgic, but insisted that the time is right for his retirement.

"It's time for someone younger to come in with new ideas and to continue many of the traditions that we have," he said.

Financially, retirement will allow the teacher who also is a professional tenor singer and soloist to pursue more musical performances, especially those that are outside the Tampa Bay area.

"It's going to be a new chap-

ter in my life. But it's a double-edged sword. On one hand, I look forward to it, but gosh, I'm going to miss the kids," he said. "It almost makes me kind of teary-eyed because of all the special times that we've had together and all the special mo-

ments over the past years." Renfroe owes his musical beginnings to a teacher in his own school career, one at what was then Dunedin Junior High School.

See CHOIR, page 4A

January concerts line up at the Largo Cultural Center

By SUZETTE PORTER

LARGO – The Largo Cultural Center's January schedule includes a variety of musical entertainment.

The Rat Pack Now starts things off Saturday, Jan. 5, with an 8 p.m. show reliving the swing, swagger and sophisticated fun of those "ring-a-ding-ding" days with the best Frank-Dean-Sammy act since the originals played the Sands.

This Rat Pack Trio, accompanied by their three-piece band, has perfected the voices, mannerism and banter that kept crowds enthralled until the "wee hours of the morning" back in the '60s.

Advance tickets are \$29.50, \$34.50 and \$39.50. Add \$5 to the price for tickets purchased at the door.

Next up is DT Productions presentation of Tribute to the King, featuring Elvis Tribute Artist Dwight Icenhower, on Sunday, Jan. 6. This "intimate gospel show" begins at 2 p.m. A second live band show with the Blue Suede Review Band starts at 7 p.m.

Come celebrate the King's 77th birthday with "King of the World" Grand Champion Dwight Icenhower, who performs across the USA and has toured in Tokyo and England. His 54 first-place

wins in Elvis competitions are unprecedented.

Tickets to the 2 p.m. performance are \$15.50 in advance and \$20.50 at the door.

Tickets to the 7 p.m. live band show are \$20.50 in advance and \$25.50 at the door.

Tom Rush comes to Largo Cultural Center Friday, Jan. 11, 8 p.m.

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. Visit tomrush.com to learn more about the artist.

Advance tickets are \$19.50, \$24.50, \$29.50. Add \$5 to the price for tickets purchased at the door.

The 5th Dimension, featuring Florence LaRue, takes stage Saturday, Jan. 12, for two shows: 4 and 8 p.m.

The 5th Dimension is known for its soulful sophistication and smooth harmonies with a touch of class. The group

See CULTURAL CENTER, page 4A



Marty Stuart and his band, the Fabulous Superlatives, are scheduled to perform at Largo Cultural Center Friday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m.

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City calendar

Largo Community Center

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

Swing anniversary dance

LARGO – Swing Dance Saturdays celebrates its anniversary with a special dance and a live band on Jan. 19, 7 to 11 p.m., at Largo Community Center.

Encore Four will be the featured band. The cost is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.

The Andrews Sisters

LARGO – The Celebrity Showcase Series presents a matinee show on Thursday, Jan. 24, 1 to 3 p.m., at the Largo Community Center.

Come see the Andrews Sisters and the 42nd St. Big Band perform favorite classics of the 1940's, plus music of Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw.

Weekly events

- **Square dancing:** Fridays, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. Spend the evening dancing country-style to professional caller Allen Snell. The cost is \$6.
- **Open Air Market:** Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Browse through a variety of vendors in a market featuring local produce, crafters, food, jewelry, artists and entertainment. The market is made possible by the city of Largo and the Pinellas County Health Department.

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

• **Bay Area Singles dance:** Sundays, 6 to 10 p.m. Dress to impress, and join about 150 singles and friends of all ages to dance to an extensive music library to fit every taste. Cost is \$8.

Largo Central Park

The Largo Central Park is at 101 Central Park Drive. Within the park are Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, and the Largo Public Library, at 120 Central Park Drive. For information about special events, call 587-6740, ext. 5014 or visit LargoEvents.com

Train Weekend

LARGO – Ride miniature trains around Largo Central Park on Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., during the first full weekend of the month.

The next train weekend is Jan 5-6. For more information, visit the "Train Weekend" link at www.LargoEvents.com.

Genealogy classes

LARGO – The Pinellas Genealogy Society offers a variety of free classes every month at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive.

Topics in January include how to get started, how to use family-search.org, military records, the Library of Congress, managing digital photos, protecting your computer data and more. For a complete listing with details of classes and scheduled times, visit www.flpgs.org/classes.aspx. For more information, email Bob Bryan at BBryan84@gmail.com or call 595-4521.

Highland Recreation Complex

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

Shape up for Largo's Shamrock'n Run 5K

LARGO – Highland Recreation Center is offering a group training program to help new runners prepare for the Shamrock'n Run 5K on March 15.

The program is designed for tackling their first 5K, or 3.1-mile, race or those who want to increase their overall fitness level. Participants will meet for group runs and receive homework and training information to help them meet their goals and finish the race.

Classes will meet every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. from Jan. 23 through March 13, at the Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave.

The cost is \$40 for residents and \$50 for nonresidents. Participants ages 12 to 17 are half price with recreation card. Class fee includes the Shamrock'n Run registration cost.

For more information, visit PlayLargo.com or call 518-3016.

Cupid's Cuties

LARGO – The Highland Recreation Complex will host a Valentine-themed event called Cupid's Cuties on Friday, Jan. 25, 11 a.m. to noon.

Dress to the theme as we have fun making a craft, hear a story and enjoy a snack. The cost is \$5 in advance or \$8 the day of the event.

Hot Hula Fitness

LARGO – Inspired by the dances of the Pacific Islands, Highland Recreation Complex is offering Hot Hula Fitness on Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.

Hot Hula Fitness is a 60-minute total body workout designed to iso-

late 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.

The cost is \$5 for residents and \$6.25 for nonresidents.

Tiny Tot Story Time

LARGO – Children ages 5 and younger are invited to dress to the theme for a morning of fun on second Fridays, 10:15 to 11 a.m., at Highland Recreation Center.

Hear a story, make a craft and enjoy a snack. Preregistration two weeks prior is required.

The cost is \$5 for residents or \$6.25 for nonresidents.

Lego Friends

LARGO – Lego Friends, for ages 5 and older, meet to build new projects on third Saturdays, 11 to noon, at Highland Recreation Complex.

January's theme is "Daytona 500."

Meet new friends while exploring the land of Legos. Tickets are, with a recreation card, \$5 for residents and \$6.25 for nonresidents or \$9.25 without a card.

Southwest Recreation Complex

Southwest Recreation Complex, which includes an aquatic complex, is at 13120 Vonn Road. Call 518-3125 for recreation or 518-3126 for the pool. Visit PlayLargo.com.

Indoor community garage sale

LARGO – The Southwest Recreation Center will host a community garage sale, featuring more than 60 sold-out tables on Jan. 19, 8 a.m. to noon.

Come rain or shine and browse the variety of items. Admission is free. Call 518-3125.

Lego Building

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

January's theme is "Extraordinary Creations."

Get hands-on experience while learning construction, programming and teamwork. Tickets range from \$5 to \$9.25.

McGough Nature Park

The center at McGough Nature Park, at 11901 146th St. N., is open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Call 518-3047.

McGough night hike

LARGO – A free night hike will be offered Saturday, Jan. 19, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at George C. McGough Nature Park, 11901 146th St. N.

Attendees will experience an interpretative nature hike through McGough's habitats.

First Friday in Largo

LARGO – Enjoy live entertainment, food trucks, vendors and street performers on First Friday, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., at the corner of Clearwater-Largo Road and First Avenue Southwest.

The event is sponsored by O'Shy's Tap House. Interested vendors and street performers can call 588-4444.

Visit www.discoverlargo.com.

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Train collectors to meet for show

LARGO – The Train Collectors Association Southern Division will host a model toy train show and swap meet on Saturday, Jan. 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Ave.

The show is open to the public. Tickets are \$5; children younger than 12 are free. Parking is free.

The show will feature train layouts, displays, new and antique trains for sale and door prizes for adults and children.

Snacks and refreshments will be available.

For more information, call Charlie Anyan at 345-0288.

www.TBNweekly.com

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Author and child star hosts book signing

BELLEAIR BLUFFS – Melissa Francis, an author and host of "MONEY with Melissa Francis" on the FOX Business Network, will have a book signing Thursday, Dec. 27, 5 to 7 p.m., at the office of The Thorn Collection, 598 N. Indian Rocks Road.

Francis played the role of Cassandra Cooper Ingalls, on the world's most famous prime-time soap opera, "Little House on the Prairie."

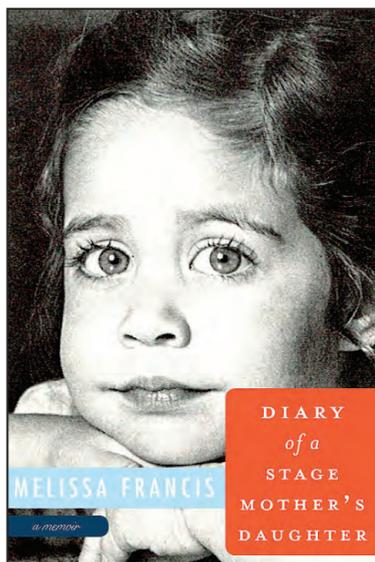
Francis released a memoir in mid-November 2012, titled "Diary of a Stage Mother's Daughter."

"In her memoir, Melissa recounts her life as a child star in the 1980s and the effect that the parenting style of her highly neurotic and dangerously competitive 'tiger mother' had on Melissa and her older sister. Melissa, now a mother of two young boys, wrote the memoir as meditation on motherhood and the value of pushing your children, asking the question: how hard should you push a child to succeed, and at what point does your help turn into harm?" a press release said.

Prior to her role at FOX Business, Francis spent nine years at CNBC, where she anchored



Melissa Francis, shown above, will be signing copies of her book "Diary of a Stage Mother's Daughter," at right, in Belleair Bluffs Thursday, Dec. 27.



"Power Lunch," "The Call" and "On the Money" as well as covering energy and markets.

Francis lives in New York City with her husband and two children.

SilverSneakers starts at Southwest

LARGO – The SilverSneakers program – an innovative health, exercise, and wellness plan to help older adults live healthy, active lifestyles – is coming to the Southwest Recreation Center and Pool at 13120 Vonn Road.

The programs gives members a daily fitness pass, daily pool admission for fitness swimming and classes including Aqua Fit & Trim, yoga, tai chi, chair exercise, muscular strength and range of movement and Fit Over 50. Check with your health plan today to see if you are eligible.

The Southwest Recreation Complex includes an indoor gymnasium, large fitness center, aerobics and dance rooms, eight clay tennis courts, two lighted basketball courts, lighted softball fields and a walking trail. The Southwest pool is an outdoor, heated 50-meter rectangular pool ranging in depths from 4-17 feet. The facility has two one-meter and two three-meter springboards, bathhouse, shade covering and deck chairs.

For more information, call Southwest Recreation at 518-3125 or visit PlayLargo.com.

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.

AARP driver safety program offered
 The AARP driver safety program is for those drivers, ages 16 and up, who wish to refresh their knowledge of U.S. and Florida driving laws. Four hour and six hour classes are taught throughout Pinellas County.
 The cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for nonmembers.
 For more class opportunities in Pinellas County, call the AARP Office at 1-888-227-7669.

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 Children gain confidence in the kitchen and parents get an opportunity to make mealtime family time.
 This is a special 5-week series (designed for children ages 8 and up) that focuses on good nutrition, making healthy choices and gaining valuable culinary skills. Sessions run January 16th to February 13th.. To enroll, families must email Fit4Allkids@allkids.org. For questions, parents can call 727-767-2308.
Space is limited so please email to RSVP!
Classes are offered from 6:30pm to 8pm at the Anona Aftercare Center located at Anona Methodist Church-13233 Indian Rocks Road, Largo.

Briefly

Governor appoints Oliver to SPC board

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Rick Scott announced the appointment of Jeffrey "Dale" Oliver to the St. Petersburg College District Board of Trustees Dec. 17.

Oliver, 53, of St. Petersburg, is the vice president of Power Grid Engineering LLC.

He served as vice president at Progress Energy from 2001 to 2012. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of St. Anthony's Hospital.

Oliver received his bachelor's degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology and his master's degree from Georgia State University.

His term began Dec. 17 and ends May 31, 2015.

The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

Holiday Lights shines through to 2013

The Holiday Lights in the Gardens will continue to sparkle with lights and spread holiday cheer through Jan. 1.

Each evening, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Florida Botanical Gardens, more than 500,000 environmentally friendly lights twinkle and the community gathers in the courtyard to enjoy nightly entertainment.

New this year is a laser light show and an expansion of lights into

the new viney garden and fountains at McKay Creek. A dog parade will take place on Sunday, Dec. 30, starting at 2 p.m. Admission for the event is a recommended minimum donation of \$2 per person and free for children younger than 12. Parking is free.

Visit www.flbg.org. Call 582-2100.

Tax collector encourages early tax payments

Pinellas County Tax Collector Diane Nelson encourages those who plan to pay their property taxes in December, receiving a 3 percent discount, to be aware of holiday office closings and make their payments by Dec. 28, the last business day of December.

Tax collector offices will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

To avoid office wait times, taxpayers can make payments online at www.taxcollect.com. Online payments can be made through the free electronic check feature or by credit card.

Payments also can be made through the mail, at any Pinellas County Tax Collector office, or through one of the drop boxes outside the offices. All payments sent by mail must have a December postmark to receive the 3 percent discount.

For more information on property tax discounts and deadlines, visit

www.taxcollect.com/discounts or call 464-7777 to speak to a customer service representative.

Beach Art Center exhibit celebrates New Year

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – As the first exhibit of each New Year, the Bob Gray Welcome Back Members' Exhibition is a Beach Art Center tradition.

Named for the late Bob Gray, a patron of the center, the show celebrates the arrival of the New Year and the arrival of the remainder of its artists, instructors and students from their northern homes.

The Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony will be held Friday, Jan. 11, 6 to 8 p.m. The public is invited and there is no charge.

Works in a variety of media will be shown including watercolor, oil, acrylic, drawing, photography, mixed media and ceramics. Cash and ribbon awards – \$100, Best of Show; \$75, First Place; \$50, second place; \$35, third place; and Honorable Mention will be chosen by Judge Amanda Cooper. Cooper is the curator of exhibitions for the Morean Art Center in St. Petersburg.

The show will run through Feb. 18. The Beach Art Center is located at 1515 Bay Palm Blvd. Call 596-4331 or visit www.beachartcenter.org

CHOIR, from page 1A

"Once upon a time, a long time ago, there was this little girl who took me to see her chorus teacher," he explained. "At that point, I had hated singing."

An elementary school teacher, who forced her young male students to sing too high, had turned Renfroe off to music. But he had a crush on the little girl who wanted him to join chorus, and so he followed her to Mrs. Moore's class.

"She talked me into joining chorus, and the rest is history. I got hooked on it and stayed with it," Renfroe said.

His mother laughed when the teacher called to ask if young Renfroe could perform the lead in the school show.

"I can't believe you've got him singing," Renfroe said he overheard her saying as she gave her permission.

Renfroe eventually studied at St. Petersburg Junior College and Stetson University as well as some classes at the University of South Florida. His double major in vocal performance and music education mirrored his intentions to sing professionally and teach at the same time, he said.

His career started at Largo High School in 1974. At the time, he assisted the then-Choral Director James Johnston, until he took a job at the brand new Pinellas Park High School, from 1976 to 1983. Then for a year, he sang with the Voices of Liberty group at Disney World's Epcot. Renfroe returned to teaching at Countryside High School for a year and then worked fulltime at a church.

Johnston called him when he had decided to retire, and talked him into applying for his position. Renfroe has been choral director since 1986. Together Renfroe and Johnston will represent 50 years of the school's chorus history, more than half of the school's total history.

Musical methods

Renfroe says his days usually start when he arrives at the school at 6 a.m. On a good day, he leaves by 3:30 p.m., but that's not usual.

"There are days when I stay well into the evening. It's a very busy program," he said.

Renfroe teaches six classes, including keyboards and music theory, musical theatre, mixed chorus and concert choir. Students from the concert choir class are part of the chamber singers, the women's chorus and a men's chorus this spring.

The Madrigal Singers have their own class too. Every member of the class, and thus the performance group, must re-audition every year, in a two-day process at the end of the proceeding spring semester.

"I look forward to the new sounds," he said. "Every year has their own set of excitements, things

that work well for them ... Every group is different."

In small groups, the students perform a madrigal song Renfroe has given them in advance to prepare. The second day of the audition involves singing in a quartet with Renfroe listening from behind a sheet.

Between 50 and 60 choral students try out for the limited Madrigal Singers spots. Brighthill said she's seen girls in tears because they didn't make it in. But Renfroe doesn't play favorites, she and Tsai insisted.

"He's just going to pick the people he thinks are the best," Brighthill said.

Renfroe said he has a freeform teaching style that encourages his students to think outside the box.

"The music is more than just ink on paper, it's an expression of a composer's idea," he said, explaining that bringing "all the elements into the picture" makes the music come alive.

His favorite moment is watching the "light bulbs come on" for students as they suddenly connect the dots. It makes teaching, which isn't a financially profitable venture, worthwhile, he explained.

"If I were paid based on the successes that I've had in my classroom, I'd be a very wealthy man," Renfroe said. "But I'm wealthy in other ways besides financial. I'm wealthy in the fact that these kids grow up with the knowledge and present to the world what I've given them."

More than singing

Renfroe maintains that over his years of teaching it's not the kids who have changed, but society. Teenagers are still eager to learn and excited. But they have more complicated problems to deal with, from their parents' divorce to abuse in their home, Renfroe said.

"A lot of times they come to me with their hearts broken, and they really hurt," he said. "With society changes, both positive and not so positive, come the perils we have today ... But the kids are still the same."

Students, even the ones not in chorus, feel comfortable coming to Renfroe with their problems.

"I've had friends who've had problems and I turn them to him," Tsai said.

Brighthill agreed, explaining that their chorus teacher is known for being discrete about personal issues.

"It's someone you feel comfortable opening up to other than, like, an administrator," Brighthill said. "He treats everyone like it's his family."

Renfroe remembers a couple that met in the Madrigal Singers group and began dating several years ago.

"At the end of class, they were both sitting in my office. And they looked up at me as I walked in, and I said, 'You're pregnant.' The color left her face," Renfroe recalled. "She said, 'How do you know?'" I said, "Well, it's all over you. Now what are you going

"I had good days and bad," he said. "I couldn't eat. It was hard to keep even soup down."

Morrone was released from Moffitt's care in mid-May. Two weeks later, his mother died.

"June 1, she died in her sleep," he said. "It was just traumatic. My sister, who was 64, had terminal cancer. She passed away in September. I was close to both of them."

Morrone, who is 57, said after his mom died, he fell into a bit of a depression, despite having friends and family to provide support.

"Mom died, and I knew my sister was going to die," he said.

Work is what got him back into life.

"I pushed myself to get back to work," he said. "It was good coming back and seeing everyone; they were so supportive. People kept saying, 'We can't believe you're here.'"

Then "things turned around," he said. "I started feeling good and was able to finish the year as chair (of the commission)."

Morrone looked healthy when he returned to chair his first commission meeting after treatment. If not for the ball cap on his head, one might not have known about his recent struggles.

Several members of the public who spoke June 26 wished him a fast return to good health. Even those who demanded that he and other long-time commissioners step down due to term limits approved in 1996 expressed warm wishes for Morrone's health.

Morrone kept the smile on his face for as long as he could. But finally, he lost his patience.

"I don't want to hear anyone yelling at us – not today," he told the rowdy crowd.

Always among the peacemakers on the commission, Morrone has not lost patience since that day.

and full musical scores that remain as relevant today to millions of music lovers of all ages.

Performing huge hits such as "Close to You," "Top of the World," "Superstar," "We've Only Just Begun," and many more make this show one of the most exciting flashback concert experiences.

Tickets are \$22.50, \$19.50 for groups of 10 or more. Four-show season tickets are \$70 and five-show season tickets are available for \$87.50.

Marty Stuart brings his show to Largo for one night only Friday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m.

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. For more information, visit www.martystuart.net.

Advance tickets are \$34.50, \$39.50 and \$44.50. Add \$5 at the door.

The Machine performs Pink Floyd Saturday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m.

The Machine, America's top Pink Floyd show, has forged a 20-year reputation of excellence, extending the legacy of Pink Floyd, while creating their own legacy. They have appeared at renowned music festivals such as Bonnaroo, Riverbend, Gathering of the Vibes, Buffalo's Artpart, and Germany's Rock of Ages.



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Largo High School Choir Director Bill Renfroe leads Madrigal Singer Haley Lehmann, center, in a practice run of "Silent Night," sung in the original German at the Sandpearl Resort in Clearwater Dec. 21.

to do about it?"

The couple ended up getting married. Their son, also a singer, graduated from Renfroe's program a couple of years ago, and their daughter is currently in his classes.

"It's been neat working with those kinds of families ... to see that love started here and has blossomed all these years," he said.

Along with his personal counsel, Renfroe is a school sponsor for the National Honor Society and an advocate for good grades. A better GPA can factor into a tied audition for the Madrigal Singers, and participation in chorus events can be dependent on poor grades improving.

"Many times, that's quite an incentive for kids," he said.

A legacy to leave behind

Renfroe thinks he's easily taught about 2,000 kids in the last 38 years.

He hasn't made his cancer a big deal either, although sometimes the public still prefaces their remarks with good wishes for his continued good health, especially other cancer survivors.

Words of inspiration

Morrone has a message he wants to get out to "anyone with cancer or any type of disease."

"A positive mental attitude is important. Having faith is even better," he said. "I believe in God, which was a big help, along with having family and friends to check on me. I thank God I was able to get through the year."

Morrone is much more positive than he was this time last year, although he knows that he still has a tumor inside his body. The mass is wrapped around veins and arteries and cannot safely be removed. Surgery won't be an option unless his condition becomes a matter of life or death.

Morrone's doctors are pleased that he "bounced back so quickly," and he attributes his good health to his recovery.

"I don't smoke and at the time I was working with a trainer," he said.

It will be some time before he can return to an exercise program. He still tires easily, but that is getting better as well.

"I can make it through the day without getting tired now," he said.

He also has to take an anti-viral pill and an anti-bacteria pill until his immune system recovers.

"I've been taking them for eight months, so only four months to go now," he said.

Morrone's doctors believe the stem cell treatment should keep his cancer in check for a long time.

"Hopefully until I'm at least 80," he said. "And they're finding out stuff about stem cell transplants

"That's 2,000 ideas that have gone out into the world. And 2,000 different songs that they can take out and share with others," he said.

He admits that he's "a little" worried about his replacement, but is determined to help the school find the right person for the job.

"Somebody that wants to make a career with Largo High School, a person that will be more than a choral director. A person that will be a facility of good performing ethics, and be a part of the school," he said.

Lately, the alumni have been coming back to visit and wish him well. One such Madrigal Singer alumna was Eileen Cardone, who came to the group's performance at the Sandpearl Resort in Clearwater Dec. 21 just to see her old teacher.

"They have big shoes to fill. But I'm happy for him," she said after the performance. "He was amazing."

all the time. It's so exciting and promising. Maybe they'll find the cure in my lifetime."

He says knowing the tumor is still there doesn't really bother him.

"I try not to think about it," he said. "It's part of my body like every other part."

Morrone believes all the things he endured this past year happened for a reason.

"I don't know what it is yet," he said. "Maybe volunteer work with cancer patients."

He said he understands and can help. For example, when he meets people with cancer, he offers his number and tells them to call.

"I let them call me instead of calling them because I know some days you just don't want to talk to anyone," he said.

Morrone said it was easy to feel sorry for yourself, but people should remember there are always others going through similar or more difficult situations.

"That horrible tragedy in Connecticut, my heart goes out to those families who lost somebody just before Christmas. People have a lot worse problems than mine. I can't imagine having your 6-year-old shot to death. We need to keep all those families in our prayers."

Morrone had a special event he used as a goal through his illness – a friend's Jan. 20 wedding date. He found out about the wedding in February and told his friend, and himself, that he was going to make it.

"It gave me a goal and that was important," he said. "Be positive; give yourself a goal to do something by a certain time. It's mind over body to get well."

Reflecting back on the year Dec. 20, Morrone said, "It has a happy ending. Things could have gone so different. This year, after September, it's been a pretty darn good year."

REFLECTIONS, from page 1A

transplant and "toxic" chemotherapy. That treatment was more difficult and took longer. It also required a lengthy hospital stay.

"They took all the blood out of my body two times" before they got the number of stem cells his oncologist wanted, he said. He watched as the blood cells collected into a little bag. After the blood cycled in and out and the stem cells were collected, he had to wait to see if they got enough.

"Finally, they got 2.75 million and my doctor said that was close enough," he said.

He was fortunate. If the count had not been high enough, they would have given him a shot, which costs \$5,000, and he would have had to go through the process again three days later.

Morrone spent six days in the hospital undergoing chemo. The doctors put the stem cells they had collected back into his body and followed up with another round of chemotherapy.

When he was released from the hospital, he had to stay in special patient housing provided by the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa.

"I was back in the hospital two days later for another week," he said.

Then it was another stay in Moffitt's patient's housing. He said he required 24-hour care due to the loss of platelets.

"If I had tripped and fallen and cut myself I could have bled to death," he said.

Morrone's wife took time off work from her job at Morton Plant where she works in the administrative offices.

"Twenty-four hours a day for 30 days, she was a nurse to me," he said.

He admitted that he wasn't always a good patient.

CULTURAL CENTER, from page 1A

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/Let The Sun Shine In." Visit thefifthdimension.org for more information.

Advance tickets are \$34.50, \$39.50, \$44.50. Add \$5 for tickets purchased at the door. Take \$3 off per ticket for groups of 10 or more.

Let's Hang On! – A tribute show to The Jersey Boys and Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons is scheduled on Sunday, Jan. 13, 2 p.m.

Pay tribute to 60s icons in this high energy production. Let's Hang On! features four guys, two gals and a swinging band, who sing and dance their way through some of the best songs of all time including: "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like a Man," "Sherry," "My Eyes Adored You" and many more.

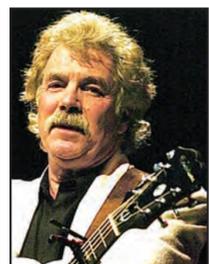
Advance tickets are \$24.50, \$29.50, \$34.50. Add \$5 at the door.

Largo Lions Club presents The Carpenters Tribute Show Monday, Jan. 14, at 2 and 7 p.m.

The timeless and legendary hits of Karen and Richard Carpenter made them the No. 1 selling American Music Act of the 70s. These professional musicians bring to the stage all the rich vocal harmonies



Above, The Rat Pack Now starts things off Saturday, Jan. 5, 8 p.m. At left, Tom Rush comes to Largo Cultural Center Friday, Jan. 11, 8 p.m.



Students fly away with unique internships, training

By AMY HECKLER

CLEARWATER – Pinellas high school students are taking to the sky. Newpoint Pinellas High School in Clearwater began offering an aviation pilot training class this fall as part of its nationally acclaimed professional internship program.

The program allows high school students interested in becoming an airplane pilot to become acquainted with the industry and even earn their pilot's license through the process.

Nick Colon, a 15-year-old sophomore, was understandably nervous as he took the helm of the four-seater Cessna Skylane on Nov. 29 for his first flight. After reviewing the pre-takeoff safety guidelines, Instructor Chip Laskey asked him if he had any questions.

"No. Just keep me safe," Colon replied.

Laskey, a flight instructor for over 30 years, agreed to teach the course and take the five students under his wing after finding out about the program.

"The class was originally designed for two students, but after interviewing, I decided to take all five. They impressed me so much," Laskey said.

The flight was exhilarating for Colon and the other four students taking part in the pilot internship. The class meets off-campus at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater airport for a full day each Friday. The course covers the material necessary to pass the written test required as part of earning a pilot's license. Students may take flying lessons outside of class to log the 40 hours of flight time necessary to complete the overall licensing requirements.

Patrick Bratli, vice president of Flight Excursions, donated the plane and fuel for the day to allow the interns to have the experience of flying a plane.

The aviator internship is only one of many available to Newpoint Pinellas High School students. Others are actively interning at Largo Medical Center, Bright House Field, SPCA of Largo, Law Office of Bill Demus, LA Fitness and Florida Best Quote Insurance Agency. The school also actively seeks out other intern programs based on student interest.

Newpoint Pinellas High School is a tuition-free charter school in Clearwater serving students in grades 9 through 11. The school opened in Sept. 2011 and currently has just fewer than 100 students enrolled in their program. They are able to accept up to 225 students.

The school stresses academic achievement with college preparatory curriculum and, in addition to their unique internship program, offers a high-tech, computer-based environment in class sizes restricted to 25 students.

Tonya May, a language arts teacher at Newpoint Pinellas, said the teaching model they use stresses the importance of working together



Top left, Sophomore Nick Colon, 15, prepares to take off on his first day of in-flight instruction as part of Newpoint Pinellas High School's aviation pilot program. Top right, Colon radios the control tower "Cessna 2091 Alpha, ready for departure."

Photo by AMY HECKLER

to solve problems. This model uses small student groups with peer group tutoring coupled with direct teacher contact and independent learning on the computer.

One result is "we have really well disciplined students," May said.

John Selover, director of the school, initiated the internship program to provide the opportunity for the teens to find a career that they may want to pursue. It also provides a chance for local professionals to get involved and share their knowledge.

"Even if students try something and they don't like it, it's still a successful internship as they found out something that they don't want to do," said Selover.

For example, Selover said, one student envisioned becoming a veterinarian and interned at the SPCA but decided that that wasn't the profession for her.

To be eligible to participate in an internship, students are required to maintain a 2.5 grade-point average, have no disciplinary problems, receive two recommendations from school staff and formally apply and interview with the business or organization offering the internship.

According to Selover, this program teaches the "soft skills" of the real world environment such as "looking an adult in the eye while shaking their hand" as well as the importance of being on time and dealing with conflict in the office.

Ahlohn Wolf, 17, a junior at Newpoint, appreciates the opportunity offered through the internship program.

"It's something that not everyone gets to do. I can say I had fun in high school and learned how to fly a plane," Wolf said.

For more information about enrollment at Newpoint Pinellas High School, visit www.newpointschools.org or call 727-475-1256.

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S35400162	Desert Durango Mosaic Travertine Tile	12in. x 12in.	\$5.99 ea.	\$4.99 ea.	32%
S12200510	Manhattan Porcelain Bullnose	4in. x 23in.	\$8.79 ea.	\$5.99 ea.	42%
S254933	Linen Almond Porcelain Liner	2in. x 10in.	\$11.99 ea.	\$6.99 ea.	24%
	Day & Night Mosaic Marble Tile	Varies	\$10.49 s.f.	\$7.99 s.f.	32%
		12in. x 12in.	\$12.99 ea.	\$8.00 ea.	25%

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Report highlights Clearwater's housing accomplishments

By LESTER R. DAILEY

CLEARWATER – CAPER is the acronym for the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report that must be filed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development by municipalities that receive federal funds under the Community Development Block Grant or HOME Investment Partnership programs. At its Dec. 17 work session, the Clearwater City Council received a preview of this year's CAPER from Geri Campos Lopez, the city's director of economic development and housing.

"The CAPER document serves as the basis for program monitoring for compliance and for financial audits for all activities conducted during Fiscal Year 2011-2012 as outlined in the (city's) consolidated plan," a staff memo to the council explained. "The report provides (the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development) with necessary information for the Department to meet its requirement to assess each grantee's ability to carry out relevant Community Planning and Development programs in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. It also provides information necessary for HUD's annual report to Congress and it provides grantees an opportunity to describe to citizens their successes in revitalizing deteriorated neighborhoods and in

meeting objectives in their Consolidated Planning Document."

With a budget of \$1,338,564 and \$2,807,683 left over from the previous year, Lopez's department had \$4,145,267 to work with in the most recent fiscal year. Of that, it spent \$2,482,656 and carried \$1,663,591 over to the current fiscal year.

Services provided with the funds include down payment assistance, housing rehabilitation, public services, new construction, public facilities, fair housing, and economic development. These services are performed entirely with federal grants, and no Clearwater ad valorem taxes are used.

In fiscal year 2011-2012, 14 owner-occupied rehabilitation loans, totaling \$322,578, and 14 down payment assistance loans, totaling \$197,050, were made. The 208-unit Prospect Towers senior housing complex received an \$800,000 rehabilitation loan, and the 48-unit Norton Apartments rental complex received a similar loan in the amount of \$394,446.

An existing loan to the 192-unit Palmetto Park Apartments was restructured, and the Habitat for Humanity Community Housing Development Organization received a \$225,808 development loan. Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas County, Inc., also received a \$425,000 loan to provide "construction bridge financing" for 25 homes.

SP Country Club Homes Inc. was given a \$475,770 loan for financing the construction of four townhome units and providing down payment assistance on those units. And Boley Centers, Inc. – Sunset Point Apartments, Inc. received a \$346,451 development loan for 14 units.

The city also spent \$370,000 to upgrade an athletic field in the North Greenwood neighborhood. In addition, it purchased the property at 14 South Greenwood Ave. to facilitate the redevelopment of the former Car Pro site in the blighted East Gateway area.

Public services provided with the federal funds in the last fiscal year included helping 80 people through the Community Service Foundation, 162 through Gulf Coast Legal Services, 213 through Personal Enrichment and Mental Health Services, 63 through the Pinellas Opportunity Council, and 690 through the Willa Carson Health Resources Center. The city helped 226 people through Westcare Gulfcoast Florida, 116 through the Kimberly Home and 26 through the Intercoastal Advocacy Institute. In addition, Clearwater helped 418 people through the Safety Harbor Neighborhood Family Center, although the City of Safety Harbor paid a pro-rated share of the cost, based on the percentage of people helped who were Safety Harbor residents.

Around Pinellas

Belleair to proceed with plans for roundabout

BELLEAIR – There is a saying: "The situation can turn on a dime." In Belleair the situation involving constructing a roundabout on Indian Rocks Road nearly turned on a dime at the commission meeting Dec. 18.

Back on Dec. 6, commissioners heard of the plan creating the roundabout at Indian Rocks Road and Ponce De Leon Blvd. The plan also included eliminating a proposal to turn Country Club Road into a cul-de-sac. That proposal had been unveiled some weeks before and upset residents.

Mayor Gary Katka commented at the time: "If the majority of residents on Country Club Road are against the cul-de-sac, then we have to find another way."

Coming into Tuesday's meeting the commission approval of design money to move ahead with the plan for the roundabout and the elimination of the cul-de-sac seemed a foregone conclusion. That is until Mayor Katka said, "I've heard from lots of people who want a cul-de-sac on Country Club. And Vice Mayor Stephen Fowler added: "People have talked to me about reinstating the cul-de-sac."

The matter was about to turn on a dime. Then the residents got up to speak. Judy Ginger has been against the cul-de-sac from the beginning.

"I don't know what happened, last time you made us all so happy and now this?" She wondered who the residents were who wanted a cul-de-sac, then listed off everyone who lives on Country Club and came up with a majority against the change.

One resident who wanted the cul-de-sac was Dennis Eckle.

"A cul-de-sac would be safer," he said. "There are children on the street. By making it a dead end would ensure that only the residents of the street are going to be using it."

Karen Mench took exception to Eckle's remarks about the children on the street.

"There are children all over town," she said. "What, are we going to turn every street into a cul-de-sac because of the children?"

The plan is to have Country Club open onto Ponce De Leon. Residents coming from Country Club to Ponce would be forced to make a right turn. Then if they wish to go north would have to make a U-turn on Palm Avenue.

Once everyone had their say about the cul-de-sac, attention then turned to the roundabout. Several residents spoke out for and against it. Some saying it was dangerous, others saying the opposite. Katka assured the residents that the roundabout would be a single-lane affair and "not like what they installed on Clearwater Beach, a two-lane roundabout with a fountain in the middle," he said.

Commissioner Kevin Piccarreto spoke in favor of the new plan, especially the roundabout portion of it. "If our intention is to reduce speed, reduce traffic and increase safety on Indian Rocks Road, then this meets it."

In the end the situation did not turn on that proverbial dime. Commissioners voted 4-1 to accept the plan and move ahead with the design phase. Fowler voted against it, saying he was concerned with the configuration of Country Club Road.

"I'm concerned that people will ignore the right-turn only requirement and simply jump the median to go left," he said.

– Brian Goff

Bluffs approves less costly fire pension option

BELLEAIR BLUFFS – Faced with a state order to pay its former firefighters annuity payments totaling well over \$1 million, the city has chosen a less expensive option that could save about \$250,000.

The alternative plan, which involves "share money" held by the state to be distributed to the firefighters, would show savings for the city and give the firefighters additional money. Mayor Chris Arbutine has said.

"It's a win-win situation for all," Arbutine said last month.

The commission passed an emergency ordinance approving the share plan at the Dec. 17 regular meeting. The "emergency" designation lets the ordinance take effect immediately upon a two-thirds commission approval, without requiring a second reading. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the plan. The Fire Pension Board was made aware of the city's offer, but took no action at their meeting Dec. 14.

City Attorney Thomas Trask said the state administrative judge's directive that requires the city to pay the annuities also allows the state Department of Management Services, the pension board and the city of Belleair Bluffs to work out a settlement agreement.

"Nothing in the judge's order prevents the parties from settling," Trask said.

Resident George Lawton wanted to know if the city is sure to get the share plan money. Trask said he had spoken with the state's attorney and was assured the funds are still available.

Trask said following the meeting that the pension settlement will require another week or so for the details to be worked out with the DMS and Pension Board attorneys.

– Wayne Ayers

Madeira moves ahead on municipal center

MADEIRA BEACH – The site is not getting any bigger, but the features and amenities of the proposed city government and recreation center are growing, as is the cost.

Officials from Wannemacher Jensen Architects Inc., gave another update on its progress at the Dec. 11 City Commission meeting. This time, true-to-life conceptual drawings were shown that gave residents and commission members a first time look at the proposed Municipal Center's completed appearance.

The latest design incorporates feedback from previous town hall sessions held with residents, as well

as meetings with involved groups such as the Little League and library. Their recommendations have added amenities, while costs are expected to increase beyond the previous estimate of \$9 million.

As the city hall gathering viewed pictures that evoked images of a five-star seaside resort, architects Jason Jensen and Sergio DeSanto presented the Municipal Center's latest features. Jensen said the design upgrades make the complex "a truly world class" facility.

– Wayne Ayers

Associations to sell commemorative bricks for bridges

TREASURE ISLAND – City commissioners gave approval to a plan Dec. 4 that would allow two civic associations to sell commemorative bricks in the city's two new bridges.

The Isle of Capri and Isle of Palms associations are interested in selling the bricks as a fundraiser. Revenue from the sale would be used to help fund each association's budget and the remainder of the money would be donated to the city for various municipal projects.

"It's a good way to raise money and won't cost the city anything," said Commissioner Phil Collins. "The funds could be used in the future for various things like a fire defibulator and Beach Trail beautification. Plus, it gives people a chance for posterity and an opportunity to see their names on the bridge."

Collins said the bricks would be 8 inches square, which would be large enough for six lines of 20 characters each.

John Meagher, project manager of the bridge projects for Johnson Brothers, said about 1,440 bricks would be used in the Capri Bridge and 720 on the Palms Bridge.

The associations will purchase the bricks. Cost to the public will be \$100 each.

Dominique Reiter of the Isle of Capri Civic Association said the early response to the sale has been good.

"The idea has taken off like wildfire," she said. Gail Caldwell of the Isle of Palm Civic Association said the concept would be great for the city.

"It won't cost the city a penny and it won't extend construction time (on the bridges)," she said.

In other action, the commission:

- Moved forward on a resolution to buy a 2013 Ford F-150 four-wheel drive pickup truck for use in Beach Trail maintenance. The cost would be \$20,070.
- Moved forward on a resolution to make permanent a previous temporary firefighter position. The move keep the department at 13 certified firefighters and allow the city to have a backup in the event of vacation or illness. The city currently staffs four firefighters per shift.

– Bob McClure

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New Port Richey Main Library
Wednesday January 9, 2013 at 2 pm
5939 Main Street, New Port Richey
Located near City Hall

Arbor Oaks Assisted Living
Thursday January 10, 2013 at 2pm
1701 68th Street North, St. Petersburg
(Near Tyrone Mall behind Chili's)

Largo Library
Friday January 11, 2013 at 2 pm
120 Central Park Drive, Largo
Jenkins Room
(Just across from The Largo Cultural Arts Center)

The Villages Public Library
Friday January 18, 2013 at 2 pm
325 Belvedere Blvd. (352-259-5739)
The Villages, Florida

South Shore Regional Library
Wednesday January 16, 2013 at 2 pm
15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin, Florida.
(Off 19th Ave. N.E.) (813-273-3652)

Lakes Regional Library
Monday January 28, 2013 at 2 pm
1511 Druid Road, Inverness, Florida 34452
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TJ's Italian Cafe, located in Indian Rocks Beach, FL is and has been a familiar landmark for 20 years. Family owned and operated, TJ's is well-known for serving authentic Italian cuisine and local, fresh seafood. Customers are greeted and served by a friendly, well trained staff and customer service is their number one priority. Come and enjoy the relaxed family ambiance in their beautifully decorated dining area or watch stunning sunsets year-round as you dine from the comfort of their lovely veranda. Dining at TJ's Italian Cafe is always a delicious and memorable experience. The menu always provides a fresh selection of local seafood, hand tossed gourmet pizzas, fresh salads, brick-oven sandwiches, a delicious variety of pastas and many more delightful entrees, all prepared for their customers with a unique personal touch. Come join their family for a wonderful eating experience, "Where Italy Meets Florida!" at TJ's Italian Cafe, 1515 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach, FL. Check the friendly website at www.tjitaliancafe.com. They cater parties of all sizes and also deliver. For reservations, orders or information call 727-596-1515.

Relax and enjoy stunning sunsets from the veranda at TJ's Italian Cafe.

Business notes

Business relocates

CLEARWATER - Tampa Bay Stand Up Paddleboarding and Kayaking is relocating from its former location at Shephard's Beach Resort to Barefoot Bay Resort Motel, 401 East Shore Drive, Clearwater Beach.

The business will reopen in February. Barefoot Bay Resort is across from the Clearwater municipal marina and within a short walk to restaurants, shops and Pier 60.

Tampa Bay Stand Up Paddleboarding and Kayaking offers paddleboard and kayak lessons, rentals, tours and sales.

Backwaters' chef to retire

CLEARWATER - Mark Carey, executive chef at Backwaters, is retiring due to health issues.

Carey joined Backwaters a few weeks before opening in 2000. For more than 12 years, he headed the kitchen and performed an expanded role with all parts of managing the restaurant. Some of his highly praised dishes included Cajun fried chicken, prime rib, chicken enchiladas and butter broiled crab cakes.

Carey's last day will be Dec. 26.

Tim Hadley will take over as executive chef. Hadley has been working as sous chef for several months as he planned for the move to executive management. He comes from his last executive chef position in Key West.

Surf Style to host casting call

CLEARWATER - Surf Style will host a casting call Saturday, Jan. 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Surf Style Megastore, 311 S. Gulfview Blvd., Clearwater Beach.

Surf Style is looking for the next faces of its 2013 marketing cam-

aign to appear online, in social media and print ads. The casting call will be an opportunity for men and women of all ages to get involved with a local, beach lifestyle brand.

For information, visit www.facebook.com/SurfStyle.

Henderson joins Coastal Properties

Janet Henderson recently joined the real estate firm of Coastal Properties Group International, an exclusive affiliate of Christie's International, as a broker associate, specializing in residential properties.

Henderson has formerly been a broker associate for Klein and Heuchan Inc., Clearwater, where she brokered commercial sales and leases for five years. She also has served as a Dunedin City Commissioner for two terms and served as vice chair of the Pinellas Planning Council.



Janet Henderson

Asbell named WOMATEC director

CLEARWATER - Women on a Mission to Earn Commission, a networking organization geared toward business women, recently announced that Lisa Asbell will serve as the new director of its South Pinellas, Florida chapter.

The WOMATEC chapter meets second and fourth Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Bascom's Chop House, 3665 Lumberton Road.

Asbell is a speaker, coach and small business consultant with passion to help people launch their own business or succeed in the business they currently have. Asbell focuses on traditional marketing techniques and launching with very little to no capital.

"My goal as a director of WOAMTEC is to ensure the women who are a part of this group form strong strategic partnerships as well as personal bonds," Asbell said in a press release. "I want them to feel that this group helps them to grow personally and professionally."

For information, visit www.woamtec.com.

Prudential Tropical collects food for families

CLEARWATER - Illustrating the true meaning of Thanksgiving, Prudential Tropical Realty's Clearwater and Indian Rocks Beach offices recently hosted a food drive for needy families in the Tampa Bay area.

Managing broker Lisa Lozano, together with her associates and staff, took part in the spirit of giving by collecting and organizing enough food to feed 55 families.

"Thanks to the overwhelming outpouring of support from our mortgage, title and sales teams, as well as our support staff, we were able to collect and deliver 82 pounds of food," said Lozano. "Giving to others is what the holiday season is all about and we are thankful that we could make a difference in the lives of 55 families."

The office food drive benefitted Religious Community Services of Clearwater.

Folden recognized for production ranking

BELLEAIR - Coldwell Banker, West Central Florida, recently recognized Julie Folden, sales associate, for her production ranking in the top 30 year to date for the West Central Region.

Folden has been a Realtor in the Belleair office for more than 20 years and was recently honored with the Florida 100 Award which placed her in the top 100 Florida Coldwell Banker sales professionals for 2011.

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Wednesday, January 9 • 11:00 a.m.
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Friday, January 11 • 11:00 a.m.
Largo Medical Center • 201 14th Street SW, Largo

Monday, January 14 • 11:00 a.m.
Hampton Inn • 1200 34th Street North, St. Petersburg

Thursday, January 17 • 11:00 a.m.
Gulf Beaches Public Library • 200 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach



Food For Your Brain

Are you what you eat? Learn how what you consume can have a positive or negative effect on your neurologic future, and discover the top foods for helping your brain stay healthy.

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(located on 2nd floor of Medical Office Plaza next to hospital)



Stroke Support Group

Have you or someone you love suffered from a stroke? Meet with people going through similar situations and learn more about dealing with the after affects of strokes and TIAs.

Tuesday, January 8 • 3:00 p.m.

Northside Hospital Auditorium • 6006 49th Street North, St. Petersburg
(located on 2nd floor of Medical Office Plaza next to hospital)



Laughter, Life & Ladies Breast Cancer Support Group

This support group for breast cancer survivors meets monthly at Largo Medical Center. Talk includes experience with the disease and treatment, family and friends and more.

Tuesday, January 8 • 5:30 p.m.

Largo Medical Center • 201 14th Street SW, Largo



Diabetes Support Group

Exercise can significantly improve your diabetes outcome and quality of life. Our physical therapy director will teach you some simple exercises you can do at home.

Thursday, January 10 • 4:00 p.m.

Northside Hospital Auditorium • 6006 49th Street North, St. Petersburg
(located on 2nd floor of Medical Office Plaza next to hospital)



Do You Have Unanswered Questions About Ankle, Knee, Hip Or Arthritis Pain?

Dr. Swick will discuss the latest in total joint treatment options.

Thursday, January 10 • 11:30 a.m.

presented by Matthew Swick, MD • Orthopedic Surgeon
Edward White Hospital Auditorium • 2299 9th Ave. N., Suite 1-G, St. Petersburg
(one-story office building on the east side of hospital)



Knee Pain? We Have Answers!

Physicians at the Florida Knee & Orthopedic Pavilion at Largo Medical Center have performed thousands of minimally invasive surgeries. Learn how Partial or Total Knee Resurfacing can get you back to your active lifestyle.

presented by Pat Kosiba, RN • Florida Knee & Orthopedic Pavilion

Tuesday, January 15 • 11:00 a.m.
Largo Medical Center • 201 14th Street SW, Largo

Tuesday, January 29 • 11:00 a.m.
Hampton Inn • 1200 34th Street North, St. Petersburg



Freedom From Enlarged Prostate

Are you a man who suffers from bladder issues such as frequent urination? You may have an enlarged prostate. Learn about new treatment options to reduce or eliminate the symptoms of this common condition.

Thursday, January 17 • 12:00 p.m. noon

presented by Shaw Zhou, MD • Urologist
Northside Hospital Auditorium • 6006 49th Street North, St. Petersburg
(located on 2nd floor of Medical Office Plaza next to hospital)



Total Joint & Arthritis

Dr. Mixa will discuss treatment of arthritis and present surgical solutions for total joints.

Thursday, January 17 • 11:30 a.m.

presented by Thomas Mixa, MD • Orthopedic Surgeon
Edward White Hospital Auditorium • 2299 9th Ave. N., Suite 1-G, St. Petersburg
(one-story office building on the east side of hospital)



If You Have Osteoporosis And/Or Sudden Back Pain, You May Have Experienced A Spinal Fracture

Balloon Kyphoplasty is a minimally invasive treatment for spinal fractures that can provide significant reduction in back pain, improvement in mobility and improvement in quality of life.

Thursday, January 17 • 6:00 p.m.

presented by Howard Sharf, MD • Orthopedic/Spine Surgeon
Allegro Living • 4600 54th Avenue South • St. Petersburg, FL



Shoulder Treatment Options

Do your shoulders ache from arthritis or injury? Learn all about common shoulder conditions and treatment options for getting you back to a full range of motion.

Monday, January 21 • 12:00 p.m. noon

presented by Albert Anthony, MD • Orthopedic Surgeon
Northside Hospital Auditorium • 6006 49th Street North, St. Petersburg
(located on 2nd floor of Medical Office Plaza next to hospital)



A.W.A.K.E. Sleep Apnea Support Group

A health awareness group for persons with sleep apnea, their family members and friends. The group meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Presented by St. Petersburg General Hospital.

Tuesday, January 22 • 6:00 p.m.

St. Petersburg General Hospital Conference Room
6500 38th Avenue North, St. Petersburg



Let's Talk Spine - Dining With The Doctor

Do you suffer from back pain, hip pain or arthritis? If so, this seminar is for you! Dr. Davis will present a question and answer format.

Wednesday, January 23 • 11:30 a.m.

presented by Clinton Davis, MD • Orthopedic Surgeon
Edward White Hospital Auditorium
2299 9th Ave. N., Suite 1-G, St. Petersburg
(one-story office building on the east side of hospital)



Circulation Problems? Pain in your legs?

Learn what you need to know about Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD). Attend a FREE seminar and PAD Screening!

Tuesday, January 29 • Seminar: 12:00 p.m. noon
Screening: 1:00 p.m. *Registration Required for PAD Screening*

presented by Richard Fansler, MD • Vascular Surgeon
Largo Medical Center • 201 14th Street SW, Largo



New Advances in Hip & Knee Replacement

Dr. Hirshorn, an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in total hip and total knee replacements and revisions, will give an extensive talk about when it is time to stop living with pain and take the next step.

Thursday, January 31 • 12:00 p.m. noon

presented by Kurt Hirshorn, MD • Orthopedic Surgeon
Edward White Hospital Auditorium
2299 9th Ave. N., Suite 1-G, St. Petersburg
(one-story office building on the east side of hospital)



Heart Health/Prevention

Heart disease is the number one killer in the U.S. Learn from cardiologist Dr. Sanchez about the new and exciting ways that you can take the proactive steps to prevent heart attacks and other cardiac health conditions.

Friday, February 1 • 12:00 p.m. noon

presented by Robert Sanchez, MD • Cardiologist
Northside Hospital Auditorium • 6006 49th Street North, St. Petersburg
(located on 2nd floor of Medical Office Plaza next to hospital)

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Military accomplishments

Hannah Heron

LARGO - Navy Seaman Hannah Heron, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Heron is the daughter of Nina M. and William J. Heron of Largo. She is a 2012 graduate of Seminole High School.

Jessica Teal

LARGO - Marine Corps Pvt. Jessica Teal, earned the title of United States Marine after graduating from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Teal is the niece of Suann Lewis of Largo. She also is the granddaughter of Lajuan Teal of Largo. She is a 2012 graduate of Vivian Gaither High School of Tampa.

Kauc Pinto

ST. PETERSBURG - Army Sgt. Kauc Pinto has arrived for duty as an Army recruiter assigned to the Chicago Army Recruiting Battalion at North Riverside Chicago Army Recruiting Station, Ill.

Pinto has served in the military for five years. He is the son of Angela Keglulich of St. Petersburg. He graduated in 2007 from Lakewood High School.



Kauc S. Pinto

Asia Warren

ST. PETE BEACH - Air Force

Airman 1st Class Asia Warren recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Warren is the daughter of Troy Warren III of Palmetto, and granddaughter of Jeanne Warren of St. Pete Beach. She is a 2009 graduate of Palmetto High School.



Asia Warren

Timothy Wright

PALM HARBOR - Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Timothy Wright has graduated from the U.S.

Navy's Nuclear Power School at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Goose Creek, S.C.

Wright is the son of Les and Mary Wright of Palm Harbor. He is a 2003 graduate of Palm Harbor University High School. He earned a master's degree in 2008 from the University of Central Florida.

Nuclear Power School is a rigorous six-month course that trains officer and enlisted students in the science and engineering fundamental to the design, operation, and maintenance of naval nuclear propulsion plants.

Graduates next undergo additional instruction at a prototype-training unit before serving as a Surface Warfare Officer aboard a nuclear-powered surface ship or as an Electronics Technician aboard a nuclear-powered submarine.

Brelin Hoffman

TARPON SPRINGS - Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Brelin T. Hoffman recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Hoffman is the daughter of Christine Hoffman of Tarpon Springs. She is a 2007 graduate of East Lake High School.



Brelin Hoffman

Christopher Royael

CLEARWATER - Navy Chief Petty Officer Christopher Royael, along with nearly 12,000 past and current crewmembers, family and friends, recently attended the inactivation of aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65).

Royael is the son of Claudia and Art Royael of Clearwater. He is a 1997 graduate of Clearwater High School of Clearwater. He joined the Navy in August 2000.

Enterprise, the world's first nuclear powered aircraft carrier, recently completed its 25th and final deployment and returned to its homeport of Naval Station Norfolk for a scheduled inactivation, held prior to the ship's terminal offload program and subsequent decommissioning.

The inactivation ceremony was the last official public event for the ship, and served as a celebration of life for the ship and the more than 100,000 Sailors who served aboard.

Victoria Perez

PINELLAS PARK - Navy Fireman Victoria Perez, along with nearly 12,000 past and current crewmembers, family and friends, recently attended the inactivation of aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65).

Perez is a 2007 graduate of Pinellas Park High School.

Enterprise, the world's first nuclear powered aircraft carrier, recently completed its 25th and final deployment and returned to its homeport of Naval Station Norfolk for a scheduled inactivation, held prior to the ship's terminal offload program and subsequent decommissioning.

The inactivation ceremony was the last official public event for the ship, and served as a celebration of life for the ship and the more than 100,000 Sailors who served aboard.

Adrian Holton

PALM HARBOR - Air Force Airman Adrian Holton recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Holton is the son of Adrian Holton and Paula Holton, both of Palm Harbor. He is a 2002 graduate of Tarpon Springs High School. He earned a master's degree in 2011 from Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.



Adrian Holton

Michael Kollen

PALM HARBOR - Air Force Airman 1st Class Michael Kollen recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Kollen is the son of Kathleen and Michael Kollen of Palm Harbor. He is a 2005 graduate of Palm Harbor High School. He earned an associate degree in 2011 from St. Petersburg College, Tarpon Springs campus.



Michael Kollen

Cynthia Plaza

PALM HARBOR - Army Reserve Spec. Cynthia Plaza recently graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Plaza is the daughter of Deborah Plaza of Palm Harbor. She is a 2006 graduate of Palm Harbor High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in 2010 from The University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Philip Thach

ST. PETERSBURG - Air Force Airman Philip Thach recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Thach is the son of Huyen Thach of St. Petersburg. He is a 2008 graduate of St. Petersburg

High School.

Laterrius Kitchen

CLEARWATER - Army Pvt. Laterrius Kitchen recently graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Kitchen is a 2009 graduate of Clearwater High School.

Mark Goenett

PALM HARBOR - Air Force Airman Mark Goenett recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Goenett is the nephew of Redgilla Decaire of Palm Harbor. He is a 2011 graduate of East Lake High School.

Karla Orduna

LARGO - Air Force Airman 1st Class Karla Orduna recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Orduna is the daughter of Lilia Reinah-Dinger and stepdaughter of David Dinger, both of Largo. She is a 2002 graduate of Lakewood High School, St. Petersburg. She earned a bachelor's degree in 2010 from University of South Florida, Tampa.

Chris Santos

ST. PETERSBURG - Navy Seaman Apprentice Chris Santos recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Santos is the son of Ana and Gregorio S. Santos of Largo. He is a 2010 graduate of St. Petersburg Catholic High School.

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Taking the initiative in prevention helps prevent spread of flu

With cold and flu season upon us, the transfer of germs and illness in the workplace increases. Better Business Bureau advises business owners to take initiatives in preventing the spread of illness.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says this germ bug costs businesses nearly \$10 billion in employee medical visits every year. Keep your employees healthy by maintaining a clean and productive work environment. The CDC has made it easier with a free employer tool kit, "Make It Your Business to Fight the Flu."

Here are some tips to help protect employees and customers as much as possible:

- Acquire products that ward off germs. Hand sanitizers, tissues and disinfectants are all products that can aid employees in keeping the workspace clean. Make them readily available throughout your workspaces.
- Advise employees to stay home. While sick employees may deem it necessary to attend work, their presence will only expose healthy employees to contagions. If employees are sick, they should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer show symptoms. Consider creating a leave policy that allows employees to work from home should they (or their children) fall ill.
- Enforce good hygiene in the work place. Insti-

tute the cleaning of shared equipment such as phones and computers, and wipe down common areas with disinfectant regularly. Remind employees of the importance of washing their hands, as well as covering their mouth when sneezing and/or coughing. Encourage them to "sneeze in your sleeve," rather than into their hand, to reduce the spread of germs.

- Promote flu shots. Search for on-site flu shots through your local hospital, retail pharmacy or other health care provider, or consider reimbursing some or all of the cost for employees to receive the shot on their own.
- Hold a health fair. Contact your local hospital

to see if they provide health fairs for employers. If your business isn't large enough, you can possibly team up with others in your building, office, park or neighborhood. If you are in a retail location, you can invite the community, as well. You also can contract the coordination of an on-site health fair with a company specializing in the service.

• Be the example. It is important for the employer to follow the same advice being given to the employees. As the boss, it may seem impossible to take a sick day, but it is just as important for you to stay home and keep your germs out of the office.

Visit www.bbb.org for more information.

Briefs

CaPPS to offer creative class for cancer patients

CLEARWATER – Starting in 2013, Morton Plant Mease's Cancer Patient Support Services will offer a new creative arts program to cancer patients and their families.

The program will focus on the connection between creativity and health and how tapping into a person's creative side can impact the healing process and recovery.

The Art of Well-Being will tap into participants' creative side through the arts and discover how creativity can help reduce stress and improve a patient's overall health and well-being. Each month, a different creative experience will be offered in a safe environment for cancer patients and their families. Experiences such as painting, journaling, poetry, music and movement will be explored.

"When a patient has the opportunity to be in a comfortable environment and focus on a creative process, it can help reduce stress and gain focus that can lead to calming the body for mental and physical recovery," said Ben Yan, M.D., Morton Plant Mease oncologist, in a press release. "There have been several recent studies done showing how the arts can benefit the healing process, and mental well-being along with a regular exercise regimen is extremely important for patients undergoing treatment for cancer."

CaPPS will offer The Art of Well-Being program once a month facilitated by Diane McMillen, a nine-year breast cancer survivor, co-facilitator of the Tampa Bay Breast Cancer Support Group and recent graduate of the Ringling College of Art and Design Arts and Healing Certificate program. All supplies will be provided. The classes are scheduled on the following dates:

- Thursday, Jan. 17, 4 p.m., at Morton Plant Hospital, Axelrod Pavilion, 400 Pinellas St., Clearwater
- Thursday, Feb. 21, 4 p.m., at Mease Countryside Hospital, Meeting Room 5, 3231 McMullen Booth Road, Safety Harbor

- Thursday, March 21, 6 p.m., at Morton Plant Hospital, Axelrod Pavilion, 400 Pinellas St., Clearwater
 - Thursday, April 18, 6 p.m., at Mease Countryside Hospital, Meeting Room 5, 3231 McMullen Booth Road, Safety Harbor
- Space is limited and registration is required. To register, call 953-6877.

Florida Hospital North Pinellas earns award

TARPON SPRINGS – Florida Hospital North Pinellas was recently honored with an "A" Hospital Safety Score by The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit run by employers and other large purchasers of health benefits.

The A score was awarded in the latest update to the Hospital Safety Score, the A, B, C, D or F scores assigned to U.S. hospitals based on preventable medical errors, injuries, accidents and infections. The Hospital Safety Score was compiled under the guidance of the nation's leading experts on patient safety and is designed to give the public information they can use to protect themselves and their families.

"Patient safety is and always will be our focus here at Florida Hospital North Pinellas," said Bruce Berghem in a press release. Berghem is president and CEO of Florida Hospital North Pinellas. "We will continue to work hard and do our best to ensure that we conduct our daily tasks free of errors, injuries, accidents and infections. We are honored to have our hospital included on Leapfrog's list for patient safety."

"Hospitals like this that earn an A have demonstrated their commitment to their patients and their community," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "I congratulate Florida Hospital North Pinellas for its safety excellence, and look forward to the day when all hospitals will match this standard."

Tobacco-Free Coalition meets

ST. PETERSBURG – The Tobacco-Free Coalition of Pinellas County meets Monday, Jan. 7, 4 p.m., at West Community Library, 750 66th St. N.

The Pinellas County Tobacco-Free Coalition is a membership group of local youth and adults, dedicated to ending tobacco use and creating a tobacco free environment for citizens. The group is made up of local residents who have a strong commitment to reducing tobacco consumption and public exposure to deadly second hand smoke, and who are dedicated to improving public health.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Call 824-6900, ext. 4322.

Diabetes support group to meet at Northside

ST. PETERSBURG – Northside Hospital offers a free diabetes support group second Thursdays, 4 to 5 p.m., in the Medical Office Plaza auditorium, 6006 49th St. N., Suite 230.

Topics covered include medications, diet, exercise, and more. The group will next meet Thursday, Jan. 10. Call 888-598-9586.

BayCare president receives award

CLEARWATER – Dr. Bruce Flareau, BayCare Physician Partners president, was recently honored with the Robert Graham Physician

Executive Award from the American Academy of Family Physicians for his leadership in the provision of high quality health care.

The prestigious national award was created to honor the outstanding executive contribution of one family physician every year. Flareau's career spans more than two decades in which he has been recognized as a clinician, academician, executive leader and change agent. His passion for health system improvement is evident in the pioneering initiatives he has undertaken at the organizational, regional and statewide levels.

"The family physician is a critical part of the evolution toward a population health model that focuses on keeping people healthy through early detection and education," said Steve Mason, BayCare Health System president/CEO, in a press release. "But we need their involvement at the executive level, too. We need family physicians to innovate, to help plan care models that are practical and scalable, and to lead others. Dr. Flareau is a worthy recipient of this distinguished national award because he's done that and more."

Flareau currently serves as executive vice president at BayCare Health System and president of BayCare Physician Partners, one of the first clinically integrated networks in Florida. He facilitated the strategic planning process with physicians and senior leadership to develop a business plan that includes governance structure, operating principles, financial projections and an implementation timeline. The growing organization is expected to ultimately include 1,000 Bay area physicians who will coordinate patient care for high quality, cost-efficient care.

Flareau has spent the last 17 years of his career with BayCare Health System and Morton Plant Mease Health Care focusing on clinical leadership, quality outcomes and improvement, and physician alignment. During his time at BayCare he oversaw a system wide plan to assist community physicians with the adoption of office electronic medical records (EMR). The system allows more than 400 connected physicians to share records with the full care team when/if their patients are hospitalized, receive lab and imaging results, and view community records that will further their ability to improve community health.

Hospital teams up with Project Thanks

TARPON SPRINGS – Florida Hospital North Pinellas recently partnered with the Tarpon Springs Shepherd Center.

Project Thanks is a program initiated by the Tarpon Springs Shepherd Center that provides a basket of food at Thanksgiving and Christmas to households-in-need in the community that register with the center each season. They serve more than a thousand households annually with their holiday meals.

Naomi Patterson, a 44-year employee of the hospital, is an ambassador for the Tarpon Springs community and for the Shepherd Center. Her sister, Mary Burruss, is a founder of the center.

The hospital has been helping with this annual project for more than 20 years. A number of churches, schools and organizations make up the Shepherd Center family. The community consists of people who really care about others who may be down on their luck and who need a helping hand.

This year's Thanksgiving Project Thanks was made up of more than 800 cans of green beans donated from Florida Hospital North Pinellas employees, family and friends. Additionally, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral donated enough rice to feed the 600 families, and Tarpon Springs High School donated just as much corn to complete the bags.

For information or to donate to the Tarpon Springs Shepherd Center, call 939-1400 or visit www.tsshepherdcenter.org.

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Geezer response to court ruling: Mitch Miller, loud

I have never used the privilege of this columnist's perch to start a campaign for great social change - I comment on movements, don't join them. But Florida faces a grave new crisis of chaos in the streets; a threat that demands organized counter measures.

Last week, the Florida Supreme Court threw out the law against driving around with the volume of your car stereo cranked up to ear-damaging levels. Having made the first mistake issuing driver licenses to cretins, the state is legally powerless to stop them from being inconsiderate jerks.

The seven justices concluded, correctly, that a big bass beat and shouted lyrics are a First Amendment-protected form of free speech and self-expression. The stricken statute allowed police to write a non-moving violation if they could hear your entertainment choices from 25 feet away. Free speech thus means that, except in cases of immediate public peril, you've got the right to say or do it, and I've got the right to think you're stupid - which is as it should be.

In attempting to legislate common decency, civil law lacks anything like Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. That's the catch-all law against "conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline," "breach of custom of the service" or anything "of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces."

It's too bad civilians can't have a "don't be a boor" law. Inflicting your music on people 25 feet away is conduct "to the prejudice of good order and discipline" of society. What about our right to be outdoors without having to sample, even momentarily, a passing motorist's execrable taste in popular entertainment?

Alas, some things are in the ear of the beholder, not definable in the Florida Statutes. Almost 40 years ago, the Florida Supreme Court made one of the nation's first gay-rights rulings, striking down a law against "the abominable and detestable crime against nature." The justices said those words did not warn the average person which acts are abominable and detestable, as opposed to merely adventuresome and imaginative.

Now, the legal concept of personal privacy has swelled to include not only personal, consensual activity, but also such offensive expressions as burning the American flag or picketing a soldier's funeral. It seems contradictory, but listening in your car to something that can be heard on the next block is "privacy" now.

In twin appeals from Pinellas County, our highest court said the high-volume law was "content-based" censorship because it exempted political and commercial speech. If a circus parade can have calliope merrily summoning people to the fairgrounds, or if a candidate for governor can mount a loudspeaker on a vehicle to call passers-by to a rally in the town square, then you and I can cruise the streets with alleged music blasting from our cars.

This ignores reality. In the age of Twitter and Facebook, candidates don't use outboard loudspeakers to draw crowds. And when was the last time you heard an ice cream truck in your neighborhood - that is, one so loud and intrusive as these rolling jukeboxes some guys like to drive?

So it's time to fight fire with fire. They offend us; we offend them. This behavior is most common among young males, so the solution is in the hands of boring white guys over 60 - America's largest, least-abused, most over-privileged minority.

Forsaken by the court system, let's retaliate with loud music of our own. Some of us will have to turn down our hearing aids, and dip into our savings to buy coffin-sized speakers and mega-watt amplifiers for our cars, and maybe we'll have to transfer our old 33-rpm albums to CDs for dashboard use.

No fad can survive old people getting into it. This one has been around too long to still be a fad, but that's just because nobody fought it correctly. Anything we start doing, pretty soon, they won't like any more.

Volume is important but that, alone, won't do it. It's our musical choices that will make the kids stop this stuff.

That's right, I'm talking Mantovani music. Pat Boone, The Kingston Trio, Andy Williams, Perry Como (and not just his annual Christmas favorites). If college-aged drivers don't turn it down fast enough, we may have to dig some Mitch Miller sing-alongs out of the attic. And don't think I won't resort to Lawrence Welk.

Eventually, when enough people who remember Nixon do it, the kids will decide maxing out the volume is not sufficiently shocking any more. Peace and tranquility will return to our streets.

But we're not finished then. Next, the geezer coalition will start walking around with our pants sagging down below our hips, and pretty soon...

Bill Cotterell is a retired Capitol reporter who worked for United Press International and the Tallahassee Democrat. He can be contacted at bilcotterell@gmail.com.

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LETTERS

Sanctity of human life suffers a fatal blow

Editor:
President Obama shed tears over the massacre of 20 little children in the Sandy Hook Elementary School. We also sorrow.

Since Roe vs. Wade, the sanctity of human life has suffered a fatal blow. Those women who feel they are "punished with a baby" - the president should be free to kill it by means of sundry murderous techniques performed by taxpayer-funded Planned Parenthood. A conviction to which he says he will not yield.

Should not true sorrow be evidenced by a change of heart resulting in a conduct that leads to efforts for saving and protecting human life both inside and outside the womb where life begins?

John V. Koontz
St. Petersburg

Gun control not the answer

Editor:
More stringent gun control is not the answer to preventing the senseless mass murdering which is becoming more prevalent in our country. The answer points to more responsible behavior. It's time to insist that the relatives and psychiatrists of nutcases take their head out of the sand and either drug them or lock them up. Society does not deserve otherwise.

Lil Cromer
Belleair

Patriot groups side with conservatives

Editor:
A recent article in our local newspaper associated the Tea Party with anti-government groups, Libertarians and subversive groups and the newspaper will not allow us to contest these falsehoods.

Therefore, I would like to say for the record, the Tea Party believes in God, Country and the Constitution. We also believe in less government, less taxes and a strong national defense.

In addition, the newspaper accuses our Tea Party group of supporting the removal of fluoride in the drinking water in Pinellas County, when in fact, we did not take a stance on this issue. However, a Libertarian group from North Pinellas County did support the removal of fluoride in the drinking water.

Although we may agree with some issues of the Libertarian group, and some Libertarians may belong to our Patriot group, we are not Libertarians, we are Conservatives.

To learn more about the South Pinellas 912 Patriots, please go to: www.912pinellas.org.

Chuck Graham
Pinellas Park.

What do you think?

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

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A valuable tool: the kitchen timer

In organizing one's life, one must not ignore the value of having one or two kitchen timers lying about the house. These are for sale at many outlets. Chinese workers hired by West Bend and other companies make them. They count up from zero, or down from 99 hours and 59 seconds. When they reach zero, a beeper goes off.

A timer can serve as an alarm clock. But make sure you buy a timer with a loud beeper. Beware of one that just clicks quietly. This can cause you to oversleep, miss an important flight to Chicago, fail to appear for the contract signing with a client, get fired, lose your family and home, and end up living in a culvert in Pasco County.

A timer can add direction to your life in other ways. Example: If you are a normal person living alone, you probably loathe housekeeping, especially cleaning up the kitchen the morning after a wild party or even a placid evening of a spaghetti supper followed by popcorn and TV. I used to avoid kitchen cleanup for days. One day a health official knocked on my door and said, "Mr. Driver, large dogs and small children are throwing up when they whiff the aromas emerging from your kitchen window."

So I bought a timer. Problem solved. Now each morning I go to the kitchen, view the carnage and curse at it for a few minutes. Then I estimate the amount of time it will take me to render the kitchen spotless, or at least tolerable. I set the timer and attack the dirty dishes while listening to the singing of Cat Stevens or John Prine from the iPod perched atop the refrigerator. Within a short time the kitchen is cleaned up and I can feel



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

noble. A kitchen timer helps me do that.

I time myself in other ways. The health experts say, "If you are past 70 and remain seated for more than 30 minutes, you will soon die of corrugated corpsuckles. So get up every half hour and walk, you indolent wretch!" So I set my timer for 30 minutes and wait for the bell to ring. When it goes off I spring to my feet and walk to the next town, no matter the weather.

My timer is also a writing tool. I follow a program that recommends the writing of Morning Pages first thing each day, even before cleaning up the dirty dishes. Morning Pages are whatever strikes my mind at the moment. I set my timer for 30 minutes and write furiously about life, liberty, sex, politics, manners, language or my favorite topic, the Boer War. When the timer sounds, I stop writing. My definition of "writer" is "someone who writes every day." The timer helps me to be a writer.

A piece of travel advice: When you fly, pack your timer in your suitcase and store it in the cargo hold. Don't keep the timer in your pocket or purse. If it accidentally goes off in flight, nearby passengers will begin to scream "terrorist!" and attack you. Airline travelers are really touchy about ticking

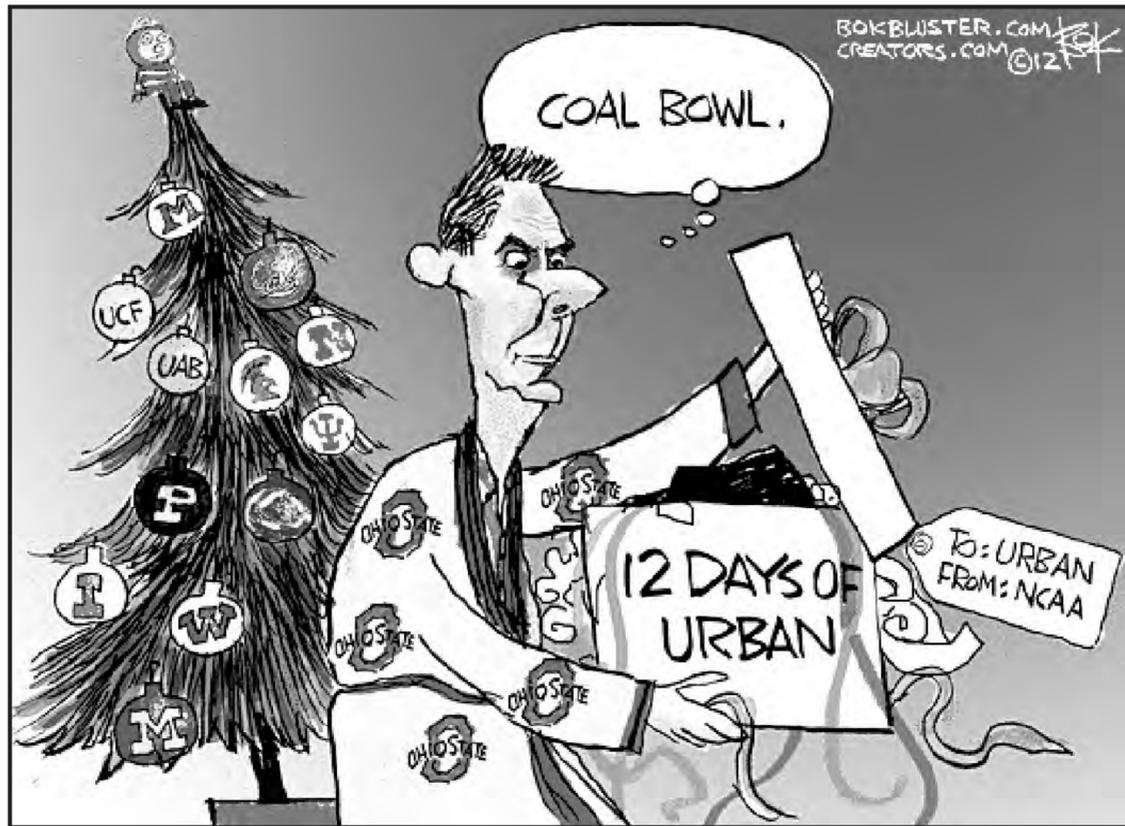
sounds and ringing bells.

A timer at your side when you watch TV can add hours of useable time to your life. Instead of passively watching a commercial, you set your timer to ring in four, five, six or maybe ten minutes. Then you go off and balance your checkbook or read a couple chapters of "Moby Dick." Only when the timer goes off do you return to your TV. I've heard of students who earned their Ph.D.'s just by studying during commercial breaks.

One of my hobbies is timing TV preachers. I switch on Daystar or some other religious channel, and surf until I find Rod Parsley, Mike Murdock, Creflo Dollar or some other righteous spellbinder. With my timer, I clock the number of minutes until the evangelist (1) asks for money (usually employing some sort of verbal hokum about "seed" offerings), or (2) assures the audience that he has personally talked to or heard from God within the past week. Average elapsed time: four minutes and thirty seconds.

Some marriage counselors suggest using a timer as a sort of sex toy. Harry says to Agnes, "I will trade you ten solid minutes of hootchee if you will give me ten minutes of kootchee." (I have substituted these terms for actual nasty and delightful sex practices such as the Seinfeld swirl and the Tolstoy thumb cuddle.) A timer allows each partner to indulge in a favorite erotic diversion, but sets specific limits by getting the show back on the main road to downtown Minneapolis.

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



The failure to provide a safety net

It seems to take a tragedy for lawmakers, the news media and the public to show an interest in addressing the growing national crisis in untreated mental illness. The recent calamity at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., caused millions of Americans to question, how does something like this happen? Weren't there warning signs?

Of course there were warning signs. The sad truth is, in almost every tragedy like Sandy Hook, Aurora, and Virginia Tech, cries for help went unheeded or unfunded. Sometimes it's the person with a serious mental illness (SMI) - schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression - or a family member reaching out to help them. In either case, their pleas for help often fall on deaf ears or on a mental health system that is stressed with too much unmet need and too few resources.

Many experts on mental health lobby Congress and state legislatures to explain the need for treatment to deal with the large number of people suffering with an SMI and to warn of the potential consequences of ignoring that need. Due to the cost of providing treatment and shrinking government budgets, policy makers dismiss adequate mental healthcare funding as something less than a high priority.

They do this at great peril. Without treatment, the mentally ill can become a danger to themselves or others. Many end up in crowded and costly jails and prisons.

According to the Criminal Health Project, Miami-Dade County is home to the largest percentage of people with serious mental illnesses of any urban community in the nation. While 9.1 percent of the population has some form of SMI, fewer than 13 percent of individuals receive the proper care. As a result, law enforcement and correctional officers have increasingly become the responders to people in crisis.

With the annual cost of incarcerating an adult in the Florida prison system at roughly \$20,000, untreated mental illness can be a very expensive burden on taxpayers. It's also



Florida Voices
Paula Dockery

a safety issue or, in the worst-case scenario, a national tragedy.

While serving as chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, I became an ardent and vocal proponent of comprehensive strategies developed by a task force headed by Judge Steve Leifman of Florida's 11th Judicial Circuit.

Judge Leifman served as special adviser on criminal justice and mental health for the Florida Supreme Court from 2007-2010. During that three-year period, Leifman's committee produced a report entitled "Transforming Florida's Mental Health System," which received considerable state and national recognition. The report outlines recommendations to reduce the number of people with mental illness in prison and to develop alternative approaches that offer treatment and support for recovery.

The 165-page report chronicles the history of confinement, first in jails and then in psychiatric hospitals, of the mentally ill. The development of medications led to the community mental health movement. President John F. Kennedy signed a \$3 billion authorization to support federal legislation to move from institutional to community-based treatment. However, funds were never appropriated.

Federal lawsuits led to the deinstitutionalization of public mental health care. Without funding, an adequate network was never established to absorb these newly displaced individuals, leaving enormous gaps in treatment and the potentially dangerous untreated in our communities.

Sadly, Florida ranks near dead last nation-

ally in the level of expenditures for front-end community-based mental health services. Yet, it ranks near the top of the list in the area of forensic mental health services at the tail end.

The justice system is ill-suited to serve as the safety net for the mentally ill. Our jails and prisons have been forced to house an increasing number of individuals who are unable to access needed and competent community care.

The report outlines several consequences of failure to design and implement an appropriate system of community-based care for people who experience the most severe forms of mental illness:

- Substantial and disproportionate cost shifts from considerably less expensive, front-end services in the public health system to much more expensive, back-end services in the juvenile justice, criminal justice and forensic mental health systems;
- Compromised public safety;
- Increased arrest, incarceration, and criminalization of people with mental illness;
- Increased police shootings of people with mental illness;
- Increased police injuries; and
- Increased rates of chronic homelessness.

It shouldn't take another devastating loss of life to spur action on a growing problem in our society - the failure to provide a safety net to those who can be a danger in our communities if their mental illness is left untreated.

The Florida Legislature should quickly embrace the work of Judge Leifman and his expert task force - something that we failed to do in 2010 and each year thereafter. Let's not be penny-wise and pound-foolish when so many precious lives are at risk.

NOTE: The report can be found at www.floridasupremecourt.org/pub_info/documents/11-14-2007_Mental...

Paula Dockery was term-limited as a Republican state senator from Lakeland after 16 years in the Florida Legislature. She can be reached at pdockery@floridavoices.com.
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Tampa Bay Newspapers

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Kilburn-Sloman

Kayleigh Kilburn and Stephen Sloman were married on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012, in Seminole. The Rev. Stephen Hess officiated. The bride is the daughter of Kevin and Mary Kilburn of Seminole. She is employed by Oakhurst Veterinary Hospital. The groom is the son of John and Doreen Sloman of Seminole. He is employed by Aerospace Components. Christine Sloman and Dylan Kilburn were ring bearers. The couple honeymooned in the Florida Keys. They reside in Seminole.



Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Sloman

Young-Ellguth

Shelbey Young and Kenneth Ellguth were married on Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012, at East Bay Country Club, Largo. Pastor Mike Thurau officiated. The bride is the daughter of James and Nancy Young of Largo. She is a graduate of Osceola High School. She is employed by Publix. The groom is the son of Belinda Ellguth of Largo. He is a graduate of Largo High School. He is employed by Publix. The wedding party included Kathleen Romano, maid of honor; Josh Gaubatz, best man; Lauren Talbot, matron of honor; Jennifer Young, bridesmaid; David Watkins, groomsman; and James Talbot, ring bearer. A reception followed the ceremony at East Bay Country Club. The couple honeymooned in the Florida Keys. They reside in Largo.



Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ellguth

Nolsheim-Miller

Amanda Michelle Nolsheim and Matthew Timothy Miller were married on Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012, at St. Jerome Catholic Church, Largo. The Rev. Monsignor Brendan Muldoon officiated. The bride is the daughter of David and Shirley Nolsheim of Seminole. She is a graduate of the University of Central Florida with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts. She is employed by VALIC. The groom is the son of Richard and Sandra Miller of Seminole. He is a graduate of the University of Central Florida with a bachelor's degree in business. He is the owner of Niagara Concrete. The wedding party included Amy L. Nolsheim, maid of honor; Ashley L. Dickey, matron of honor; Ryan Miller, best man; Katelyn Puttick, Morgan Puttick, Nicole Gonzalez, Becca Burnett, Julia Whitaker, Marianne McAlister and Ashley Miller, bridesmaids; Blake Barreiro, Travis Repetto, Tim Schult and Lane Dickey, groomsmen; Matt Poynter and Kevin Kennedy, ushers; Marley Joanne Miller, Delaney Lynn Dickey, flower girls. A reception followed the ceremony at the Treasure Island Yacht Club. The couple resides in Seminole.



Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Timothy Miller

Heiser-Stanley



Rebecca J. Heiser and Tommy Stanley, both of Tampa, will be married on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Tampa.

Faith briefs

St. John Vianney Catholic Parish

ST. PETE BEACH – Awakening Faith: Reconnecting with your Catholic Faith, a six-session series, will begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7 to 9 p.m., at St. John Vianney Center, St. Clare Room, 445 82nd Ave. The program is designed for those who feel as though they have lost faith, haven't been to church in a while or are facing questions from children about faith that they can't answer. All are welcome. For information, call 388-7628 or email info@sjvcc.org.

Oakhurst United Methodist Church

SEMINOLE – GriefShare group sessions will be offered beginning Wednesday, Jan. 23, at Oakhurst United Methodist Church, 13400 Park Blvd. The morning session will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The evening session will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Each group will meet in Room 13. The GriefShare program is designed to help people travel the journey from mourning to joy. The program consists of several components, including video, workbook, discussion, support and encouragement. The program will last for 13 weeks and each session is "self-contained," with a new topic each week. The program is open to the community. To register, call 391-4769 or call Linda Butler at 398-1121.

Clearwater Friends

CLEARWATER – Clearwater Friends will host a series of weekly sessions on Quaker faith and practices beginning Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Scottish American Society Hall, 917 Loudon Ave., Dunedin. The sessions will meet Wednesdays, 7 to 9 p.m., through Feb. 27. Refreshments will be served starting at 6:30 p.m. Local members will talk about their experiences as Quakers. Quakers concern themselves with the practice of peaceful methods and value simplicity, integrity, equality and community. Quakers honor diversity of race, sexual orientation, national origin and religious background. Quakers impose no doctrine, accepting that they need to live ac-

ording to individual theological understanding. For information, call 210-5742 or visit www.clearwaterfriends.org.

Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church

ST. PETE BEACH – As part of its year-long centennial celebration, the Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church will host a Winter Festival Friday, Dec. 28, 6 to 9 p.m., in Hurley Park, 1500 Pass-a-Grille Way. The festival will feature live music and the rhythmic sound of steel drums. The evening's finale will be the lighting of a huge bonfire on the beach at 8 p.m. Food and beverages will be available for purchase from local vendors. Admission is free. Call 360-5508 or visit www.pagchurch.org.

First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG – CRAVE, a young adult based ministry for those college-aged to 30s, will be launched Tuesday, Jan. 29, at First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg, 1900 Gandy Blvd. FBC St. Petersburg sees a growing need for young adult fellowship, connection and spiritual nurturing in the St. Petersburg area based upon input from their current young adult program. "The Christian Young Adults in St Pete tend to get overlooked," said Christyna Richards in a press release. Richards is the young adult pastor at FBC St. Petersburg. "Young adults CRAVE community, maturity, worship and service. My goal is to fulfill those desires and spread the Gospel by providing opportunities where young adults feel comfortable and welcome, gathering to worship, fellowship and impact society through community service. You do not have to be Baptist, just the desire to impact our world for the good." CRAVE will be presented Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for all young adults, ages 18-39. Singles, couples and families are invited and encouraged to participate. The program will consist of worship, fellowship and small group interaction, including mentorship. The small group discussions will address relevant real-life topics and be led by experienced leaders and strong mentors from the local community, including successful professionals. The ministry Launch Party will be Tuesday, Jan. 29. Jeremy Vanderloop, a national contemporary Christian singer-songwriter and recording artist, will take the stage at 6:30 p.m.

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082312

Volunteers take the lead at Pinellas County Animal Services

By BOB COSTIGAN

Pinellas County Animal Services is fortunate to have about 150 volunteers who give of their time and energy to help out at the shelter.

And it is even more fortunate to have volunteers who supervise the volunteers.

Tiffani Oliver and Lindsay Martin spend much of their time at the shelter. Department Volunteer Coordinator Kelli Becraft said that the staff has come to depend on the two St. Petersburg volunteers because they commit to a schedule and are willing to run various events.

Tiffani Oliver works for an insurance company in Largo. She said she was looking for a way to get out of the office for awhile when she thought of Animal Services, located nearby. With a passion for animals and two dogs of her own, she started visiting the center on her lunch break. Soon she was walking the dogs.

That was one and a half years ago. In addition to her lunch hours she now spends weekends at the shelter as well. Oliver said her husband is very supportive of her volunteering and even goes to the shelter every now and then himself.

Oliver admitted that it is somewhat difficult to see an animal leave. "But you know that they're better off in a home environment, and you know what you're doing is making that happen," she said.

Another weekend worker who also is at the shelter four days during

the week, Lindsay Martin performs a variety of tasks, including socializing with all the animals, walking the dogs and assisting the veterinary staff.

While the 19 year old doesn't have any pets of her own, there is one animal that she has grown attached to, a dog that has been at the shelter for several months. It's the first dog she walks when she arrives at the shelter and the last dog she walks before she goes home. These attachments can be difficult to break, but she still hopes he will soon find a new home.

"I love the animals," she said. "They are so sweet."

Becraft is proud of Oliver and Martin and all the volunteers. "About the only prerequisite a person must have to volunteer is be 16 or older and have a love for animals," she said.

Oliver and Martin both encourage others to consider volunteering at Animal Services. Positions can include dog walker/socializer, greeter, clerical assistant, phone operator and more. If you think you would like to assist at Animal Services you can call the Animal Services volunteer coordinator at 582-2648.

Pinellas County volunteers can expect to make a difference in the life of their community, while exploring interests, sharing knowledge, assisting others and making friends.

For more information, visit www.pinellascounty.org/volunteer, email volunteers@pinellascounty.org or call 464-VIPS (8477).



Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS
Tiffani Oliver, left, and Lindsay Martin are volunteers that supervise fellow volunteers at Pinellas County Animal Services in Largo.

Looking for a home



Harley

Harley is a 6-year-old beagle who will get your motor running. He's a friendly pup whose former owner's daughter was allergic to him. Their loss can be your gain. Harley knows commands very well and is going to make a great family friend. Bring this article with you to Pinellas County Animal Services and adopt him for only \$25. He has been neutered and had all his shots. Call 582-2600, visit 12450 Ulmerton Road, Largo or www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices/petfind.htm.



Nico

Nico is a 2-year-old gray domestic shorthaired cat. He is a Hemmingway polydactyl cat, which means he has extra toes on his feet. He's a very friendly boy who loves attention and only wants to be petted, loved and to show you what a sweetheart he is. He is neutered and current with his vaccinations. To adopt him, call Second Chance for Strays at 535-9154 or visit www.secondchanceforstrays.com



Norman

Norman is a 2-year-old male domestic longhair cat. He likes to show off his purring skills when he is brushed. He's a big boy who enjoys to be treated like royalty and needs to be the only cat in your home so your focus will be all on him. Norman has been neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Contact Pet Pal Animal Shelter at 328-7738 or visit 405 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg. Visit www.petpalanimalshelter.com.



Hermione

Hermione is a beautiful, medium-haired tortoiseshell cat with a fluffy tail. She is 6 months old and is very smart, just like her namesake in the Harry Potter books. She is sweet and attentive and follows her foster mom around the house and always wants to sit and lie next to her favorite human. She is somewhat of a princess and might be best suited as the only royalty feline in the house. She has been spayed, microchipped and is current on her shots. Call Save Our Strays at 545-1116 to meet her. Visit www.saveourstraysinc.com.



Dominette

Dominette is a 2-year-old female kitty that loves to play and snuggle and get attention. She is spayed, vaccinated and ready for her forever home. For more information on her or any of the other adoptable cats at Friends of Strays, call 522-6566 or visit the adoption center at 2911 47th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Visit www.friendsofstrays.com.

Briefs

Dog training class set

LARGO - A free dog training class will be offered Saturday, Jan. 5, 10 a.m., at Pinellas County Animal Services, 12450 Ulmerton Road.

Attendees will learn the basics of dog training in a seminar for all who have adopted dogs from Pinellas County Animal Services or other shelters in the county. Topics will include housetraining, loose-leash walking and dealing with challenging dog behaviors. No dogs are allowed at the class.

Call 582-2600 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices.

SPOT offers spay, neuter special

PINELLAS PARK - Stop Pet Overpopulation Together will offer a black cat special in January at the organization's nonprofit spay and neuter clinic, 4403 62nd Ave. Customers will save \$10 at the

SPOT spay and neuter clinic on solid black cats in January. The black cat special includes male cat neuters for \$25 and female cat spays for \$35. The first 50 people to sign up will receive a kitty blanket.

SPOT's mission is to help every pet have a home and reduce the number of unwanted pets ending up in the shelter. By spaying and neutering pets, the cycle of accidental litters and unwanted behaviors is broken.

As a bonus, fixed pets are healthier and can live up to six years longer.

To reserve an appointment, call 329-8657.

Visit www.SPOTusa.org.

Animal shelter seeks donations

ST. PETERSBURG - Pet Pal Animal Shelter is seeking donations and recently released its holiday wish list.

Required items sought by the

shelter include the following:

- Science Diet Original dog food
- Science Diet Original cat food
- Cat and dog toys
- Cat litter
- Large/extra large Nylabones
- New/used dog crates
- Bleach
- Dawn dish detergent
- Laundry detergent
- Paper towels
- Gift cards to Home Depot, Lowe's, Walmart, etc.
- Outdoor garbage bags
- Tall kitchen garbage bags
- Flax seed oil capsules
- Fish oil capsules

Also sought are donations of office supplies such as HP ink cartridges (78 color, 28 color, 27 color, 27 black, black Q6470A, cyan Q6471A, yellow Q6472A, magenta Q6473A) copy paper, postage stamps or gift cards to Staples, Office Depot, etc.

Pet Animal Shelter donation bins can be found at the following locations:

- World of Beer, 100 Fourth St. S., St. Petersburg
 - Pet Food Warehouse, 6155B 18th St. N., St. Petersburg
 - The Sports Bar and Grill, 9685 Bay Pines Blvd., Seminole
 - Pet Pal Veterinary Clinic, 1900 34th St. S., St. Petersburg
 - Skin Deep Spatique, 3030 MLK St. N., St. Petersburg
 - Pasadena Pet Motel, 6735 Gulf Blvd. S., St. Petersburg
- Pet Pal Animal Shelter is at 405 22nd St. S.
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Winter fishing: It's all about timing

Brrrrr! It looks like no more T-shirts and shorts. Winter officially began last week. According to the calendar we won't see spring for three more months. Now we all know it will probably warm up a bit before that, but in the meantime it's bound to get colder in the coming weeks.



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wellerstein

Winter fishing success is more often based on timing than our other seasons. Cold fronts are more numerous and consequently good fishing days become further apart. There are however plenty of fish to be caught. Inshore anglers can target such species as trout, bluefish and pompano in the deeper grass flats and channel edges, to super shallow redfish that can often be found tailing around the schools of mullet as they work their way onto the flats.

This is also the time of year that local bait shops see a definite increase in shrimp sales. When the water gets cold, baitfish populations begin to thin out. Scaled sardines can't be found in the huge schools as they were a few weeks ago, but can still be chummed up and cast netted over the grass flats (usually near the passes), making live shrimp the best choice for those using live bait.

Free-lining a tail hooked shrimp with an up-current cast would be the preferred presentation, but the current and wind can often be too strong to allow your bait to reach the depth necessary to catch the trout so a small split shot can be added to get the bait down. When fishing shallower flats, the use of a float will help to keep the bait up and out of the grass, making sure that you're still making up-current casts, trout (especially big trout) like the bait to be moving naturally with the tide.

For some anglers, fishing doesn't get good until the water temperature gets down to the low 60s; this is the time when residential dock fishing can be very good. Long dead end canals hold heat and the fish know that. Finding a string of productive docks can yield redfish, black drum and sheepshead time and time again. Think of it as an inshore angler's version of offshore grouper fishing.

Trout season will open next week in our region and we should definitely have a good season. Ever since the red tide a few years ago our trout fishing has improved each year thereafter. Plenty of big trout are lurking the shallows, shadowing the large schools of mullet. Top-water plugs can provide the fish of a lifetime in the weeks to come.

Tyson Wellerstein 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.

Officials discuss 2013 Gulf gag grouper season

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission unanimously decided on a draft 2013 Gulf of Mexico gag grouper recreational season at a Dec. 5 meeting.

After discussing several options and hearing public testimony from 26 people, commissioners chose draft options that, if approved in February, will make most Gulf state waters consistent with the current federal season, with the exception of a four-county region.

The current proposed federal season for Gulf gag grouper is slated to start July 1 and end when the annual catch target (the number of fish that can be harvested for that year within the rebuilding plan) is expected to be met, which will likely be sometime in November or early December. The federal season ending date should be finalized in spring 2013.

The proposal included an April 1 through

June 30 season in state waters off the counties of Taylor, Jefferson, Wakulla and Franklin. According to the proposal, the four-county region will not open during the July 1 through November/December federal season. Monroe County is excluded from the Gulf of Mexico season because it is included in the Atlantic season for gag grouper.

"In terms of effort, this four-county region had an insignificant impact to the resource but a significant impact to the economy and the culture," said Commissioner Brian Yablonski. "We specifically picked less-populated counties and a lot of that had to do with where the fish are when the season is open. This at least gave the Big Bend area a chance to fish. Full consistency takes the Big Bend out."

The Commission asked staff to work with federal fishery managers in gathering data on

the effect this proposal may have on the length of the federal season and bring back this information to the February commission meeting.

"The important thing is it looks like we are going in a positive direction for next year," said Commissioner Ron Bergeron about the proposed federal season, which will potentially be lengthened in 2013.

Other options considered by the Commission included full consistency with the federal season in all state waters, split seasons that would open in spring and winter, and regional seasons.

The 2012 recreational gag grouper season was July 1 through Oct. 31 in all federal and most state waters, with the exception of state waters off Taylor, Jefferson, Wakulla and Franklin counties, which were open April 1 through June 30.

Look for holiday gifts available for the nature lover

Coming up with appropriate holiday presents can be a challenge. The key to gift giving is matching the gift to the individual, while making sure it is something they'll enjoy, is hopefully good for them and not too expensive. And if it helps Mother Nature too, maybe that's the perfect gift.

With that in mind, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has several suggestions for your holiday shopping.

How about an offering guaranteed to create a happier, healthier and more productive lifestyle?

Richard Louv, chairman emeritus of the Children & Nature Network and author of "The Nature Principle" and "Last Child in the Woods," has made a solid case, supported by years of research, that connecting with nature results in those benefits. Being able to spend time in nature brings people of any age back to the roots connecting them with the nurturing earth.

In a time when frantic schedules, enclosed spaces and constant noise tend to drive us a little crazy, it is a real gift to get outdoors and relax with family and friends, get moving to burn off some excess holiday calories and open the door to better communications.

To start, how about planning a nature hike or fishing trip?

"Perhaps more than any other form of recreation, fishing and boating are critical to the health and well-being of America's outdoor heritage," according to the Outdoor Foundation. "By boat and on land, the first outdoor experience for many Americans is fishing, introducing tens of millions of people each year to the wonders of nature. Fishing also serves as an important bridge and top 'gateway' activity that leads participants to other outdoor passions."

So why not invite your family and friends on a fun fishing trip, right here in Florida – the Fishing Capital of the World (FishingCapital.com)?

An annual resident fishing license is easy to obtain at License.MyFWC.com, by calling 888-FISH-FLORIDA or visiting a local retailer that sells fishing tackle and licenses. A five-year freshwater fishing license makes an especially great gift. While you are purchasing the license, you will have the opportunity to make a donation to

the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network to help the FWC with "Creating the next generation that cares."

An annual freshwater fishing license costs just \$17. Since the average angler fishes 17 times a year (U.S. Census Bureau research) and enjoys four to five hours on a typical trip, the cost is less than a quarter per hour of fun and healthy recreation.

When you purchase a license you are also providing a gift to nature and future generations of anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. For 75 years, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program has guaranteed that fishing license fees are protected by law and can only be used for fish and wildlife conservation.

Moreover, fees collected by the federal government on fishing tackle, pleasure boats and motorboat fuels provide additional funding for recreational fishing and conservation.

While putting a fishing-related gift pack together, you can find lots of information about fishing tips and gear at MyFWC.com/Fishing, along with fishing sites and up-to-date forecasts. One of the most fun tips is to have everyone register for Florida's freshwater angler recognition programs, including Trophy Catch and Big Catch, at TrophyCatch-Florida.com. When you register, you become eligible for a Phoenix 619 Pro bass boat and trailer, with a Mercury outboard and Motor Guide trolling motor. That drawing will be in October 2013.

However, for the hard-core freshwater anglers who travel from all across the world to fish Florida's fresh water, the ultimate catch is a trophy largemouth bass. The FWC and corporate partners reward anglers for reporting those fish and then releasing them to challenge another angler and to keep the fishery thriving. To learn more and keep informed, please "like" us at Facebook.com/TrophyCatchFlorida.

Another great gift that will help anglers boast about their sport while supporting conservation is a "Go Fishing" largemouth bass specialty license plate for their vehicle or trailer. Simply go to Buyaplate.com, or purchase a gift certificate at an authorized motor vehicle office.

Enjoy your holidays and a lifetime of active nature-based recreation. Get Outdoors Florida!

Briefs

Power Squadron plans safe boating classes

ST. PETERSBURG – The St. Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron will present a seven-week safe boating program titled "America's Boating Course," beginning Monday, Jan. 7, at the St. Petersburg Sailing Center, 250 Second Ave. SE, Demens Landing.

Classes meet on consecutive Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. The classes cover required safety equipment, boat handling, rules of the road, navigation aids, anchoring, adverse conditions, communications, trailering, PWC operation, knots and lines, introduction to charts and more.

Graduates qualify for a Florida Boating Safety Education ID Card and may qualify for some insurance deduction. Cost of the instruction

is free. Materials are \$35 per family. Preregistration is required. Register online at www.boating-stpete.org.

Run, walk benefits schools

LARGO – Gulf Coast Giving's Upgrade2Success 5K-1M Run/Walk starts Saturday, March 16, 8 a.m., at Walsingham Park.

The event includes a visit from the Easter Bunny and an Easter egg hunt. Perks include race T-shirt, music, food, water stations, silent auction, raffle by bib number, giveaways, finisher medals and arts and crafts for the kids.

Register online at www.GulfCoastGiving.org/run. Proceeds will help select Pinellas County Schools obtain IT equipment and provide training for their staff and students.

Early registration for the 5K run/Walk is \$20 until March 1 and includes all race perks. Each registered adult can enter two children under 18 for free. Regular registration is \$25 from March 2 through March 15. Register online at www.GulfCoastGiving.org/run.

Gulf Coast Giving is a nonprofit organization that provides schools and nonprofit organizations with computer equipment and training.

New farmer's market seeks vendors

CLEARWATER – The soon-to-open outdoor Clearwater Gateway Farmer's Market will celebrate its grand opening on Saturday, Jan. 12 on the 1200 block of Cleveland Street near Missouri Avenue. It will be open to the public each Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The market also seeks vendors, including food, produce and artisan goods. For applications, visit www.myclearwatermarket.com and click on the vendor tab. Call 776-7932 or email myclearwatermarket@gmail.com.

The Clearwater Gateway Farmers' Market is a partnership between the city of Clearwater, the Pinellas County Health Department's Communities Putting Prevention to Work grant, the InterCultural Advocacy Center, and Pinellas County Health and Human Services.

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What's Selling in Pinellas County

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SOLD
Wonderful 4 Bedroom/2 Bath/1 Car Garage pool home in Seminole. One of the upstairs bedrooms has attached office. Updated kitchen that overlooks bird-caged pool.

Caroleanne Vorac
Realty Executives Adamo & Associates

Clearwater **\$475,000**
2 Bedrooms/2 Baths



SOLD
Dan's Island highly desirable corner unit with wrap around balconies offering expansive Gulf and Bay views. This resort like setting has 24 hour security guard, 2 heated pools, heated spa, sauna and steam room, pool table, gym and racquet ball court. Large clubhouse overlooking the Gulf Of Mexico. Live here and enjoy the treasures of life.

Sophia Vasilaros
Smith & Associates

Madeira Beach **\$175,000**
3 Bedrooms/2 Baths



SOLD
Lovely concrete block, split plan home on Madeira Beach. Entire home has been re-plumbed, electric panel updated in 2007 and new hot water heater in 2012. 2 separate A/C systems. Private, screened-in Florida porch.

Debbie Sundell
Century 21 - Real Estate Champions

Seminole **\$125,000**
4 Bedrooms/3 Baths



SOLD
Spacious home has plenty of space. Split plan features: well placed bedrooms, separate bathrooms, living room & family room with wood burning fireplace. The kitchen has new appliances. Large fenced yard.

Sandy Hartmann
Realty Executives Adamo & Associates

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07/05/12

Columnist watches dolphins amid writhing skies and surging seas

Judging from the traffic on the highways and Internet, there's a lot of action out there. Everybody is up and doing. Our U.S. economy dances for the moment, because the action is her heartbeat.



Dolphin Watch

Ann Weaver

The dolphins outside your doorstep are up and doing too. Two recent instances in particular come to mind.

The first was when we came upon two local bottlenose bulls, Scrapefin and Hi W Ski, as they rounded a watery corner in the somewhat somnolent state of simply swimming dolphins. Then they awoke abruptly and sprang into action, kind of like you leaping to life as you realize you need to buy one more Christmas present.

Though separated by some 30 feet, they both came across drifting horsetails, which are mangrove seedpods resembling green-brown pencils. Each whipped their horsetail high in the sky, lunged after it with dramatic flair, and tossed it again.

Horsetail tossing is neat to see, but it was particularly interesting for me to see the atypical coordination with which the two buddies alternately tossed their horsetails: first Hi W Ski stabbing the air with his projectile, then Scrapefin doing the same, then Hi W Ski again, and Scrapefin again, this time pouncing on his horsetail next to the boat.

Why did they do this? The answer zoomed up in short order: local lady Stick. She'd swum over a mile from her luncheon bay to join them, and it's likely their team tossing was a competitive bid for her attention before they all companionably set off side-by-side around another watery corner.

The second instance occurred in a bay far, far away, centered on scattered schools of death-wish fish.

It started when we spied tall columns of white mist against the dark silhouette of a distant mangrove island. These columns are vaporous breaths coming from panting dolphins that are catching their breath after exertion. We headed over to watch and take pictures for the federal record, Capt. John Heidemann navigating us skillfully across the shallows.

The fishermen in the skiff headed over too, but their goal was to net as many fish as they could. The dolphins were already there.

In the emerald seas, the fish schools they harried looked like dark mobile mats against the lighter sands of the sea floor. The shape of the fish schools changed as constantly as their direction, at times resembling round patches of seagrass and other times surging as long sinuous ribbons before melding back into writhing oblongs again.

Curiously, we saw the same kind of supple surging that very night but instead of in emerald seas, in pink-orange skies where a large flock of dark birds entranced us with their flowing shape shifting against the setting sun. No fishermen or dolphins pursued these birds, yet they used the same behavior as the frantic fish.

The fish has plenty of reasons to thrust and stab their way across the emerald waters. A trio of hungry dolphins tightened a school with coordinated rushes - bull BB and local lady DD1 working one side of the fish school and BB's bull buddy DD2 the other. Mother-calf pair P and Paisley worked a different school entirely. Slightwin worked a third school a distance away. In so doing, the three sets of dolphins used a non-compete clause.

I'm being facetious about the fish having a death



Photo by ANN WEAVER

Local bottlenose dolphin bull Scrapefin pounces on a horsetail next to the boat.

wish, of course. The reality was that they were as frantic as you or I under the same circumstances, pursued as they were by natural enemies (hungry dolphins) and a persistent trio of fishermen in a small skiff weighted with lead-trimmed nets.

In their frenzied dashes, the fish often sped over to the boats, in one case without consequence (ours) but fatal in the other case (the fishermen), like a death wish.

When the fish zoomed past our boat, they revealed that the largest of them were well over a foot long. The dolphins had to pick out smaller fish because of the size limits of their mouths, throats and stomachs; dolphin who fail this crucial test choke to

death. The fishermen suffered no similar need to be selective and set their nets until their boat choked with their catch, the air ringing with their shouted curses or spontaneous chorales at the action.

OK, enough vicarious action. Get out there and start some of your own! Merry Christmas!

Dr. Weaver studies wild dolphins under federal permit 16299, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Send her an email at dazzed@tampabay.com or visit her website www.dolphinsuperstore.com. NOAA advises anyone who sees a stranded dolphin in the Gulf of Mexico to call 877-942-5343 or 877-433-8299.

Briefs

Weedon to host guided hikes

ST. PETERSBURG - Guided hikes will be offered Saturdays, Dec. 29, Jan. 5, 12, 9 to 11 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

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

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

Weedon to host Wee-Time

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

This free program is designed to introduce children ages 3 to 5 to the wonders of the natural and cultural world. Every second and fourth Thursday of each month, children are treated to a variety of stories and hands-on activities that connect them to their environment.

Preregistration is required. To register, call 582-2100 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org. For information, call 453-6500.

Brooker to present Book Time

TARPON SPRINGS - Book Time at Brooker will be offered Thursdays, Dec. 27, Jan. 3, 10, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

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

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

Brooker to host guided hikes

TARPON SPRINGS - Guided hikes will be offered Saturdays, Dec. 29, Jan. 5, 9 to 10:30 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

Attendees will take a walk through time on a guided hike. Participants will have an opportunity to look at how the land has changed over time and discuss the ecological footprints left by those changes. Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must, and water and a hat are recommended. All ages are welcome, although children 5 and younger may find this hike challenging.

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

Book club to meet

TARPON SPRINGS - The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve will host Brooker Creek Book Club Saturday, Jan. 5, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

The free program is geared toward adults. The book list includes novels by Florida authors, past and present, with archeology, biography, politics and history storylines. December's book selection for discussion is "Vanishing Florida: A Personal Guide to Sights Rarely Seen" by David T. Warner.

The club meets first Saturdays. Advance registration is required. Seating is limited. Call 453-6500.

Brooker to host bird hike

TARPON SPRINGS - The Birds of Brooker hike will be offered Saturday, Jan. 12, 8 to 10:30 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

Birds seen and heard will be identified while attendees meander along a one-mile trail gathering information.

Closed-toe shoes, water and a hat are recommended. Attendees also may bring binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras.

The free hike is best suited for adults.

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

Fort De Soto to offer guided walks

TIERRA VERDE - Free, guided nature walks will be offered 10 to 11 a.m., on the following days at Fort De Soto Park, 3500 Pinellas Bayway S.

- Saturday, Dec. 29, a guided walk on the beach trail is planned.
- Sunday, Dec. 30, a guided walk on the soldier's hole trail is planned.

Guests will enjoy the beauty of Fort De Soto Park with a one-hour nature walk great for the entire family.

To register and for tour information and meeting locations, call 552-1862. Visit www.pinellascounty.org/park.

Bids welcome on water treatment plant

CLEARWATER - Plans are being finalized for the construction of the city of Clearwater's second reverse osmosis water treatment plant, according to a city press release.

The engineering and utilities departments are preparing to release the contract documents for bidding and construction of the new water treatment plant to potential contractors. The plans and specifications for the proposed project will be available to bid in December, and the bid opening will be held in February 2013. Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2013.

Bidder qualifications for submitting project bids are available at tinyurl.com/cxowz4j.

Florida parks participate in First Day Hikes

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Park Service will participate in America's State Parks First Day Hikes 2013 on Tuesday, Jan. 1.

Attendees will have an opportunity to get back to nature and start the New Year out right by participating in the program.

America's State Parks First Day Hikes offer individuals and families the chance to begin the New Year rejuvenating and connecting with the outdoors by taking a healthy hike on Jan. 1 at a state park. First Day Hikes offer a great way to get outside, exercise, enjoy nature and welcome the New Year with friends and family. Currently, there are 627 First Day Hikes spanning all 50 states. The Florida Park Service will be hosting more than 60 events, more than any other state.

"I encourage Florida families and visitors to begin 2013 in our state parks and enjoy the natural world around you," said Donald Forgiore, Florida Park Service director, in a press release. "Join others across Florida and the nation for a First Day Hike as part of a

national health and outdoor awareness movement."

Start times will vary by park. Following is a list of Florida State Parks in the Tampa Bay area participating in the program:

- Myakka River State Park, 13208 State Road 72, Sarasota
- Honeymoon Island State Park, 1 Causeway Blvd., Dunedin
- Caladesi Island State Park, 1 Causeway Blvd., Dunedin
- Hillsborough River State Park, 15402 U.S. 301 N., Thonotosassa

Florida's 171 award-winning state park and trail properties have inspired residents and visitors with recreation opportunities and scenic beauty that helps to strengthen families, educate children, expand local economies and foster community pride. With 161 parks, 10 state trails, nearly 800,000 acres, 100 miles of beaches and more than 1,500 miles of multi-use trails, visit soon and often to enjoy Florida's natural treasures.

For information on the program, visit www.americasstateparks.org/first-day-hikes. For information on Florida State Parks, visit www.floridastateparks.org.

Contractors are invited to review the project's contract documents to prepare submittals for review and approval to bid on the project. Bidder qualification submittals will stop being accepted three weeks prior to the bid opening.

The new facility will be located at 21133 U.S. Hwy. 19 and will treat brackish water using state-of-the-art technology to produce additional potable water for Clearwater customers. The project will include site civil improvements, demolishing selected structures, a reverse osmosis treatment system, an ozone treatment system, an

iron treatment system, a transverse pump system, chemical feed systems, a new finished water ground storage tank, an existing finished water ground storage piping modifications, a new concrete ground storage tank, new high service pumps, motors, and VFDs, electrical, HVAC and plumbing systems, control and alarm system additions and modifications, bulk storage enclosure and buildings to house offices, control room, laboratory, restrooms, meeting rooms, ancillary rooms and process related equipment and chemical handling facilities.

When complete, this project

will impact all residents. For more information, call 562-4827.

Brooker to host orchid program

TARPON SPRINGS - A free program on orchids and epiphytes of Brooker Creek Preserve will be presented Saturday, Jan. 5, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

Brooker Creek Preserve naturalist James Stevenson will explore the fascinating world of orchids and air plants found on the preserve.

This class will introduce participants to identification skills and will include a walk to discover these plants in their natural habitat.

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

Obituaries

Marilee Fricke RICHTER

Marilee Fricke Richter, 76, of Largo, went home to be with her Savior, Jesus Christ, December 7, 2012. Born in Marshalltown, Iowa, September 24, 1936 to Christian and Gertrude Fricke, she was a graduate of Marshalltown High School. She married Robert (Rick) Richter, February 19, 1956 and were the parents of two daughters. They made their home in Rockford and Sterling, Illinois until their move to Largo in the early 1980s. Rick passed away in 2002. Marilee loved her family and friends and for almost 20 years, she served the interest of her friends and neighbors at The Gathering Restaurant. She was a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church. Survivors include two daughters, Debra Grey and Denise Richter of Florida, a sister and brother in Iowa, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband, a sister and a brother. The National Cremation Society in Clearwater, Florida is caring for Marilee. Following cremation, services will be held in Largo with burial in Bay Pines National Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Hospice.

James William (Bill) SCOTT

83, died December 10, 2012 at Northside Hospital, St. Petersburg, Fla. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Joan Hamilton Scott; sons, Timothy Scott and Lee Christopher Scott; daughter, Leslie Scott; brother, Charles Scott; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He was a marine veteran and belonged to the American Legion and Am Vets. His day "gigs" were in finance and restaurant management, but he was a musician all his life. Until his death, he was drummer for the Sunstation Show Chorus where he was a founding member. A musical tribute will be presented by his family at the next Sunstation Show Chorus presentation on February 10 at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Sunstation Show Chorus Bill Scott Memorial Fund, c/o Don Kuzmickas, 82140 C St., Pinellas Park, FL 33781 or at www.sunstationshowchorus.com.

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Sunday 7:00 am & 9:00 am (Family Mass)
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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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SAVE \$300

\$39999 **SAVE \$300**
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(4) Savings range from 5%-25%. (4,5) Offers exclude steam mops, bags, belts, filters, carpet cleaning chemicals, accessories, closeouts and Everyday Great Price items. Offers good thru 1/5/13. Sale prices in effect 12/26/12 thru 1/5/13, unless otherwise noted. Availability of items shown in this advertisement may vary by store. IMPORTANT DEFERRED INTEREST DETAILS (when offered): interest will be charged to your account from the purchase date if the purchase balance is not paid in full within the promotional period or if you make a late payment. Minimum payments required. For qualifying purchases made on a Sears card (Sears Commercial One® accounts excluded) Sears Home Improvement Account™ will be on installed sales only. Offer is not valid for consumer accounts in good standing and is subject to change without notice; see store for details. May not be combined with any other promotional offer. 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Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County



- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

Leader
Section B
December 27, 2012
Visit www.TBNweekly.com

New Year's events

Pinellas rings in 2013

By SUZETTE AND TERRE PORTER

Say goodbye to 2012 and welcome in the New Year in a variety of ways as Pinellas County rings in 2013.

- Ruth Eckerd Hall offers a head start to the celebrations. A long-time tradition, Salute to Vienna, patterned after Vienna's world famous Neujahrskonzert, returns Dec. 31, 8 p.m., for a 14th season with a fresh, new program. Enjoy a festive New Year's concert, featuring a brilliant new cast of more than 75 musicians, European singers and dancers in beautiful costumes. A lighthearted blend of popular Strauss waltzes, polkas and famous operetta excerpts from Die Fledermaus, The Merry Widow and more. Tickets are \$72, \$66, \$56 and \$46 and available at the Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office located at 1111 McMullen Booth Road in Clearwater, by calling 791-7400 and online at www.rutheckerdhall.com.

- One of Pinellas County's biggest events, First Night St. Petersburg, celebrates its 18th annual New Year's Eve celebration of the arts from 5 p.m. to midnight at multiple downtown venues. The event features family-oriented festivities with music stages, entertainment, drama, dance, games, art, fireworks and more.

Tickets will be available on New Year's Eve at all venues where First Night performers or activities are scheduled. The main information booth will be located on the south end of the Museum of Fine Arts at Beach Drive Northeast and Second Avenue.

First Night is supported almost entirely by private funds. Button sales are important to make sure that the tradition of First Night continues. Many venues are only accessible with a button. All artists are paid and a small, part-time staff and volunteers produce the event. Hand stamps will be used at the event after buttons are gone. Buttons are \$10. Children under age 5 admitted free. For more information, visit www.firstnightstpete.com/tickets.php.

- Light It Up Clearwater New Year's Eve Celebration is in the Duval Ballroom at the Holiday Inn & Suites, Clearwater Beach. Enjoy awesome appetizers, music, dancing, party favors, champagne toast and a view of the fireworks. Tickets are \$65 and available at the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce office, 3336 S. Gulfview Blvd., between McDonald's and Crabby's Bar & Grill.

Recommended parking is at the Surf Style Mega Store or Hyatt Regency parking garage. Florida Free Rides is providing transportation to the Duval Ballroom. For more information, visit www.lightitupclearwater.com.

- Swingin' the New Year, a celebration for all ages, at the St. Petersburg Coliseum, features the 20-Piece Swingin' the New Year Orchestra. This all-star big band features vocalists, Lorri Hafer, Emily Gail, and Ron Pond. The evening includes live music, dancing and celebration from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., plus an intro swing-dance lesson from 8 to 9 p.m. (no partner needed). Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

See NEW YEAR, page 2B



Swingin' the New Year, a celebration for all ages, at the St. Petersburg Coliseum, features the 20-Piece Swingin' the New Year Orchestra.



Christoph Waltz, left, stars as Schultz and Jamie Foxx as Django in "Django Unchained."

Photo courtesy of THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

Opening this weekend

'Les Miserables' and Tarantino's 'Django Unchained' hit theaters

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'Django Unchained'

Genre: Action and western
Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio, Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Samuel L. Jackson, Gerald McRaney, Dennis Christopher, Laura Cayouette, M.C. Gainey, Don Johnson, Kerry Washington, Anthony LaPaglia, RZA, Tom Wopat, James Remar, James Russo, Todd Allen and Jonah Hill
Director: Quentin Tarantino

Rated: R

Set in the South two years before the Civil War, "Django Unchained" stars Academy Award-winner Jamie Foxx as Django, a slave whose brutal history with his former owners lands him face-to-face with German-born bounty hunter Dr. King Schultz (Academy Award-winner Christoph Waltz).

Schultz is on the trail of the murderous Brittle brothers, and only Django can lead him to his bounty. The unorthodox Schultz acquires Django with a promise to free him upon the capture of the Brittles - dead or alive. Success leads Schultz to free Django, though the two men choose not to go their separate ways. Instead, Schultz seeks out the South's most wanted criminals with Django by his side. Honing vital hunting skills, Django remains focused on one goal: finding and rescuing Broomhilda (Kerry Washington), the wife he lost to the slave trade long ago.

Django and Schultz's search ultimately leads them to Calvin Candie (Academy Award-nominee Leonardo DiCaprio), the proprietor of "Candyland," an infamous plantation. Exploring the compound under false pretenses, Django and Schultz arouse the suspicion of Stephen (Academy Award-nominee Samuel L. Jackson), Candie's trusted house slave. Their moves are marked, and a treacherous organization closes in on them. If Django and Schultz are to escape with Broomhilda, they must choose between independence and solidarity, between sacrifice and survival ...



Photo by LAURIE SPARHAM

Oscar winner Russell Crowe stars as Javert in "Les Misérables," the motion-picture adaptation of the beloved global stage sensation seen by more than 60 million people in 42 countries and in 21 languages around the globe and still breaking box-office records everywhere in its 28th year.

'Les Misérables'

Genre: Musical epic
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway, Amanda

See OPENING, page 3B

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From our family to yours, we wish you a Prosperous New Year



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CONDO CORNER
• Hidden Creek townhome, 2/2.5 S93,000 Central Location
• The Gardens 55+ condo, 2/2 S74,900 Pets Allowed
• Imperial Point condo, 2/2 S128,900 Price Reduced
• Twin Oaks 55+ villa, 2/2 S49,900 Move In Ready
• Twin Oaks 55+ villa, 2/1 S44,900 Great Location
• Bardmoor condo, 2/2 S69,900 Pets Allowed

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This week's top five diversions

• **"A Christmas Carol: A New Musical,"** through Dec. 30, at freeFall Theatre, 6099 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$39. For information and tickets, visit www.freefalltheatre.com or call 498-5205. A freeFall holiday tradition continues with Keith Ferguson's and Bruce Greer's enchanting new musical adaptation of the Dickens classic. With a soaring and inspirational score, and faithful incarnations of all of the memorable characters, Dickens' ghost story leaps from the page and delights with stunning theatricality, lush scenery and costumes, and surprising special effects. freeFall favorite Steven Patterson will reprise his role as Ebenezer Scrooge. The 22-person cast also features a chorus of talented area children.

• **Blast Friday featuring Molly Hatchet,** Friday, Dec. 28, 5:30 p.m., in the Cleveland Street District in downtown Clearwater. The free street festival will feature a variety of vendors, as well as food, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages. The street fair begins at 5:30 p.m. with entertainment outside until 10 p.m. Blast Friday is produced by Ruth Eckerd Hall On The Road. A limited number of VIP tickets are available in the Budweiser Platinum VIP section priced at \$25. The Budweiser Platinum VIP package includes a general admission ticket

in the reserved seating section directly in front of the stage, two free Bud Platinum beers and a free slice of pepperoni or cheese pizza from Tony's Pizza. For VIP tickets, call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Jacksonville's own Molly Hatchet, an American southern metal band, has been around since 1975. They are best known for their hit song "Flirtin' with Disaster."

• **"Home Alone,"** part of the Capitol Theatre Film Series, Sunday, Dec. 30, 3 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets are \$5. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. The film stars Macaulay Culkin as Kevin McCallister, an 8-year-old boy who is mistakenly left behind when his family flies to Paris for their Christmas vacation. While initially relishing time by himself, he is later greeted by two would-be burglars played by Daniel Stern and Joe Pesci, leaving Kevin to defend their home. "Home Alone" was the No. 1 film at the box office for 12 straight weeks upon its release and was so popular, ticket sales landed it in the Guinness Book of Records as the highest grossing live-action comedy ever.

• **Jack Hanna's Into the Wild Live,** Sunday, Dec. 30, 3 p.m., at The Mahaffey, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$22.50.

Call 892-5767 or visit www.themahaffey.com. Animal lovers can experience all the excitement and education of Into the Wild Live and in person with Jack Hanna and friends. "Jungle Jack" and his animal friends captivate audiences across the country with Into the Wild Live, presented by Nationwide Insurance. He shares fascinating stories from his adventures and his efforts to help preserve the creatures he loves. Through Hanna's on-the-ground experiences at the Columbus Zoo since 1978 and his filming expeditions around the world, he has decades of tales that educate, entertain, and inspire audiences of all ages.

• **Salute to Vienna,** Monday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$46. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Attendees will welcome the New Year with a Salute to Vienna, patterned after Vienna's world famous Neujahrskonzert. This festive New Year's concert will feature a brilliant new cast of more than 75 musicians, stellar European singers and dancers in beautiful costumes. The program will be a light-hearted blend of popular Strauss waltzes, polkas and famous operetta excerpts from Die Fledermaus and The Merry Widow.

NEW YEAR, from page 1B

The celebration features a midnight countdown and balloon drop; a vintage fashion photo shoot and contest; party favors and chocolates, prize giveaways, free parking, and a full cash bar with champagne bottles and toasts available.

The St. Petersburg Coliseum provides historic swing-era ambiance, a smoke-free atmosphere, and a 15,000-square-foot oak dance floor. Dress to impress. New Year's and vintage attire are encouraged.

Tickets are \$29, plus \$1 Coliseum surcharge and available at www.TampaBaySwing.com, by phone at 669-7830 or 773-0064. The St.

Petersburg Coliseum is located at 535 Fourth Ave. N., St. Petersburg.

• **Q Year's Eve Dance Party,** presented by Q105, begins at 9 p.m. Dec. 31 at Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Ring in 2013 with one of Tampa Bay's best party band, The Hunks of Funk. Tickets are \$35 and \$75 and include complimentary champagne toast and great view of the St. Petersburg fireworks display. A limited number of VIP tickets are available and include access to the VIP Lounge, private restrooms, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, champagne toast and view of fireworks from VIP Lounge Terrace.

Tickets may be purchased online at TheMahaffey.com. Charge by phone at 893-7832 or in person at The Mahaffey Box Office. The Box

Office is open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and at least 90 minutes prior to any ticketed event.

• **Rockin' in the Midnight Hour** is the theme of this year's New Year's Eve celebration at the Tradewinds Island Grand on St. Pete Beach. Festivities are happening in the Grand Ballroom from 9 to 1:30 a.m. Partiers 21 and over are invited to don their best duds for an evening of festivities, food, and fun. The locally famous Greg Billings Band will keep everyone on the dance floor until the wee hours. And, no party is complete without a dance contest. Guests will also have access to an open bar and will receive a glass of champagne and noisemakers for the balloon drop at midnight. A gourmet hors d'oeuvres buffet includes lobster shepherd's pies, warm fig and balsamic flat bread, Thai vegetable spring rolls and a pasta station featuring gnocchi in a sweet basil sauce and braised beef ravioli. A dessert display of chocolate fondue and miniature pastries will give the buffet a sweet ending. Entrance to the party is \$140.

Children ages 4 to 12 can also ring in the New Year with their own party complete with games, crafts, dinner and more. Cost is \$60 for the first child and \$30 for each additional. There also will be a Teen Bash for ages 13 to 18 complete with a disc jockey, life-sized video games and mocktails. Cost is \$35 per teen. Both parties are from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Available for guests of the resort and party guests and can be reserved through the TradeWinds activities desk. For party reservations and information, call 363-2258. For overnight room reservations and packages call toll-free 866-JUST LET GO (587-8538) or visit JustLetGo.com.

• **Shepherds' Beach Resort** on Clearwater Beach is planning a Sin City New Year's Eve party, featuring a Las Vegas themed night of gaming and parties. Enjoy a champagne toast and fireworks, plus a premium open bar, two bands, two disc jockeys and three parties all in one place. Tickets for the party are available for advance purchase for \$79 per person until New Year's Eve and at the door. Party Package with buffet dinner is \$120 per person.

VIP pricing is for four people at \$500 and includes a private booth in The Wave Nightclub with choice of liquor bottle or Moet bottle, additional people are \$100 per person. Email Ray for VIP at ray@shephards.com, subject NYE VIP. Partiers must be age 21 and up. Food available until 2 a.m. Shephard's is located at 619 S. Gulfview Blvd., Clearwater Beach. Call 442-5107 or visit www.Sherphards.com for tickets and room reservations.

• **The Club at Treasure Island** invites members and their guests to its 2013 New Year's Eve Spectacular complete with champagne toast, photo booth, dazzling light displays and holiday decor. The night include nonstop entertainment with show bands, Live from Montreal and the world-renowned Boogie Wonder Band, plus America's Got Talent favorites, the Incredible Distinguished Men of Brass and from Rio De Janeiro, DJ Rob2K in the in the Pool Pavilion.

Green Flash will be playing in the Marker 14 Restaurant & Lounge where partiers can enjoy a four-course Prix Fixe gourmet menu. Soft Flamenco sound of pianist Lito Cortez and his trio accompany dining in the Boco Ciega Ballroom where Chef Paul will be serving a grand master dinner buffet.

All-access New Year's Eve dance party tickets are \$75. Buffet and four-course Prix Fixe dinners are \$75. Dance party tickets with dinner are \$135. The Club at Treasure Island is at 400 Treasure Island Causeway, Treasure Island. Call 367-4511 or visit www.theclubti.com.

Local bars and bands set to party

• **Cricketers British Pub & Restaurant,** 2634 Bayshore Blvd., Dunedin. Hope Darling plays from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Call 736-1322 or visit www.cricketerspub.com.

• **Crum's Bar and Grill,** 2924 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Trigger City Trio takes the stage at 8 p.m. Call 827-2831 or visit www.crumbar.com.

• **Cuso's Bar & Grill - 2405 Gulf Blvd.,** Indian Rocks Beach. On The Rocks (OTR) provides the party sounds starting at 9:30 p.m. Call 596-5633 or visit www.facebook.com/cusos.

• **Frenchy's Rockaway,** 7 Rockaway St., Clearwater features Sweet Spot from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. with a break for a fireworks show from 11:45 p.m. to 12:15 a.m. Call 446-4844 or visit www.frenchysonline.com.

• **Gators Cafe & Saloon,** 12754 Kingfish Drive, Treasure Island is hosting a New Year's Eve Ball with Black & White playing from 6:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Call 367-8951 or visit gatorscafe.com.

• **JD's Restaurant & Lounge,** 125 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach is featuring a full schedule of music for the last day of 2012 with Jelvis playing from noon to 4 p.m.; John Ellis, 4 to 8 p.m.; North 2 South, 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.; and Phil Tolotta at the piano bar, 8:30 p.m. Call 595-1320 or visit www.jdsrestaurant.com.

• **Jimmy B's Beach Bar,** 6200 Gulf Boulevard, St. Pete Beach, is hosting a New Year's Eve party with free cover charge. Josh Horton plays from 2 to 7:30 p.m. and Phoenix takes over for the main event, 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Call 367-1902 or visit www.beachcomberflorida.com/entertainment.asp.

• **Jimmy's Sports Lounge,** 1200 Clearwater-Largo Road, Largo is partying with the Jenna Stone Band, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Call 400-6803.

• **Mako's on the Rocks,** 14450 Walsingham Road, Largo is featuring the band Cellfish for its New Year's Eve Party. Call 727-595-6256 or visit www.makosontherocks.com.

• **Porpoise Pub,** 8701 Seminole Boulevard, Seminole is hosting a New Year's Eve party with Big Deal on the main stage. Call 727-393-7616 or visit www.screwieouiesbarandgrille.com.

• **State Theatre,** 687 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg booked Less Than Jake to provide entertainment for its New Year's Eve party. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets \$20. Visit www.StateTheatreConcerts.com.

• **Two Buds,** 1915 N. Hercules Ave., Clearwater is partying with Shakes Society. Call 727-442-0812 or visit www.twobuds.com.

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				

- Across**
- Climb up and over again
 - More domineering
 - Attitudes of a culture of era (pl.)
 - Throw
 - Break into pieces (2 wds)
 - Take back
 - Continental money
 - A pint, maybe
 - Asian capital
 - Western blue flag, e.g.
 - Complain
 - Bar order
 - A.T.M. need
 - Unoccupied
 - "It's no ___!"
 - Slogans
 - Having winglike extensions
 - Arabic for "commander"
 - Ancient greetings
 - Free
 - Spider, e.g.
 - ___ gestae
 - Mechanic's equipment box
 - "Aladdin" prince
 - "Hamlet" has five
 - Area of South Africa
 - Assayers' stuff
 - Sounds raucously
 - Howard of "Happy Days"
 - Gold braid
 - Indian dish with seasoned rice and meat (var. spelling)
 - Arranged in rows
 - The alimentary canal
 - One who leads a Spartan lifestyle
 - The milling on coin edges
 - Having lost the most freshness

- Down**
- Proof of purchase
 - An ancient country in west-central Italy
 - Using something jointly or in turns
 - Coconut palms
 - Says "When?"
 - Basic unit of money in Romania
 - Trellis on which ornamental shrubs grow flat
 - News office
 - "___ moment"
 - Literally, "king"
 - Bubbly drinks
 - To settle a problem through discussion (2 wds)
 - Champion
 - Having finished one's active working life
 - Amount to make do with
 - A spoken blessing
 - Agonizing work
 - Calculus calculation
 - Bumper sticker word
 - Franchise
 - ___ Wednesday
 - 25th U.S. state
 - Long-handled device to grasp hard-to-reach items
 - To lie back or down
 - Ancient fertility goddess
 - A chorus line
 - Recount
 - Inflammation of the small intestines
 - Analyze
 - Move forward by rowing
 - Enclosed in a pigpen
 - Architectural projection
 - Delhi dress
 - Boat in "Jaws"
 - "Smoking or ___?"
 - "C"___ la vie!

Sudoku

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

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

Sudoku answers from last week

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

Crossword answers from last week

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

Horoscopes

December 27, 2012

Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

Woo-hoo, Capricorn. It's a brand new year, and motivation is at an all-time high. Reach for the stars. There is nothing you can't accomplish this week.

Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

Drat, Aquarius. Plans you made some time ago fall through, and you're not sure what to do next. An old pal drops by with a tantalizing offer. Take them up on it.

Pisces

February 19 - March 20

Perk up, Pisces. You're more resourceful than you realize. Look at the situation from another angle, and a solution will arise. Thanks will be abundant.

Aries

March 21 - April 19

Go ahead and pull out all of the stops, Aries. This could be your one and only chance to make an impression. A youngster asks a question. Be honest.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Uh-uh-uh, Taurus. Now is not the time to splurge on something so frivolous. Take the plunge later when there will be more to spare. A relative comes calling.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21

Golden Gemini. You have the magic touch, and people around you are starting to notice. Prepare for many opportunities to come your way, some better than others.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22

Crabby Cancer. That's what people will think of you this week unless you change your tune. Take a break from the action to refresh your spirits.

Leo

July 23 - August 22

Oh boy, Leo. Lady luck is on your side, and great changes are in store. Go with the flow and enjoy whatever comes your way. A memo picks up the pace.

Virgo

August 23 - September 22

Vigilance, Virgo. Pay attention to what is going on around you, even if it does not directly involve you. Something is amiss, and you need to find out what.

Libra

September 23 - October 22

Confession time, Libra. What's done is done, and the sooner you admit to that fact and pay the piper, the better off you will be. A deadline is extended.

Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

Shucks, Scorpio. You always put in 110%, and everyone knows it. Stop questioning what more you could have done and start focusing on what has yet to be done.

Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

Make no mistake, Sagittarius. There is a wrinkle, but it is not yours to iron out. A series of miracles at home gets the ball rolling on a project of long ago.



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OPENING, from page 1B

Seyfried, Eddie Redmayne, Aaron Tveit, Samantha Barks, Helena Bonham Carter and Sacha Baron Cohen

Director: Tom Hooper
 Rated: PG-13
 "Les Misérables" is the motion-picture adaptation of the beloved global stage sensation seen by more than 60 million people in 42 countries and in 21 languages around the globe and still breaking box-office records everywhere in its 27th year.

Helmed by The King's Speech's Academy Award-winning director, Tom Hooper, the Working Title/Cameron Mackintosh production stars Hugh Jackman, Oscar winner Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway, Amanda Seyfried, Eddie Redmayne, Aaron Tveit, Samantha Barks, with Helena Bonham Carter and Sacha Baron Cohen.

Set against the backdrop of 19th-century France, "Les Misérables" tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption - a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. Jackman plays ex-prisoner Jean Valjean, hunted for decades by the ruthless policeman Javert (Crowe) after he breaks parole. When Valjean agrees to care for factory worker Fantine's (Hathaway) young daughter, Cosette, their lives change forever.

'Parental Guidance'

Genre: Comedy
 Cast: Billy Crystal, Bette Midler, Marisa Tomei and Bailee Madison

Director: Andy Fickman
 Rated: PG
 Old school grandfather Artie, who is accustomed to calling the shots, meets his match when he and his eager-to-please wife

Diane agree to babysit their three grandkids when their type-A helicopter parents go away for work.

But when 21st century problems collide with Artie and Diane's old school methods of tough rules, lots of love and old-fashioned games, it's learning to bend - and not holding your ground - that binds a family together.

'Quartet'

Genre: Comedy
 Cast: Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Michael Gambon, Pauline Collins, Tom Courtenay and Sheridan Smith

Director: Dustin Hoffman
 Rated: PG-13
 Beecham House is abuzz.

The rumor circling the halls is that the home for retired musicians is soon to play host to a new resident. Word is, it's a star. For Reginald Paget (Tom Courtenay), Wilfred Bond (Billy Connolly) and Cecily Robson (Pauline Collins) this sort of talk is par for the course at the gossipy home. But they're in for a special shock when the new arrival turns out to be none other than their former singing partner, Jean Horton (Maggie Smith). Her subsequent career as a star soloist, and the ego that accompanied it, split up their long friendship and ended her marriage to Reggie, who takes the news of her arrival particularly hard. Can the passage of time heal old wounds? And will the famous quartet be able to patch up their differences in time for Beecham House's gala concert?

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

'West of Memphis'

Genre: Documentary
 Cast: Damien Echols, Lorri Davis, Jason Baldwin, Jesse



Photo by PHIL CARUSO
 Billy Crystal realizes his grandson Kyle Harrison Breitkopf has had a tad too much sugar in "Parental Guidance."

Misskelley, Jr. and Pam Hicks
 Director: Amy Berg
 Rated: R

A new documentary written and directed by Academy Award nominated filmmaker Amy Berg and produced by first-time filmmakers Damien Echols and Lorri Davis, in collaboration with the multiple Academy Award-winning team of Peter Jackson and Fran Walsh, "West of Memphis" tells the untold story behind an extraordinary and desperate fight to bring the truth to light; a fight to stop the state of Arkansas from killing an innocent man.

Starting with a searing examination of the police investigation into the 1993 murders of three, eight year old boys Christopher Byers, Steven Branch and Michael Moore in the small town of West Memphis, Arkansas, the film goes on to uncover new evi-

dence surrounding the arrest and conviction of the other three victims of this shocking crime - Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley. All three were teenagers when they became the target of the police investigation; all three went on to lose 18 years of their lives - imprisoned for crimes they did not commit.

How the documentary came to be, is in itself a key part of the story of Damien Echols' fight to save his own life. The film reveals how close he, his wife Lorri Davis, along with his legal team, friends and supporters, came to losing that battle.

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

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Coming attractions: 2013

Hollywood plans reboots of Superman, Lone Ranger; Abrams helms 'Star Trek' sequel

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

As the curtain falls on 2012, moviegoers are eager to get a glimpse at what next year's cavalcade of films will bring to local cinema theaters.

Not surprisingly, Hollywood has already begun pushing forthcoming titles with teasers, trailers and strategically placed viral marketing campaigns. The hype will be heavy for some of the anticipated blockbusters and armchair critics will be busy blogging predictions on which cinematic selections will succeed and which flicks will flop.

First ... what were the best movies of 2012?

To date, the top box office moneymaker is "Marvel's The Avengers." As of Dec. 14, the film had taken in \$1.5 billion worldwide. In second place is another comic book franchise: Warner Brothers' "The Dark Knight Rises" has earned just over \$1 billion worldwide. The newest installment of the James Bond franchise, "Skyfall," rounds out the top three as it has made \$921 million.

Keep in mind that the Dec. 14 release of "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" will likely shake up the top 10 by the end of the year.

In 2011, four of the top 10 highest-grossing films were rated PG or lower. This year, three animated PG films made the top 10, including "Ice Age: Continental Drift," "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted" and "Brave." "The Hunger Games," rated PG-13, was directed at younger audiences and was based on the young adult novel of the same name by writer Suzanne Collins.

Six out of the top 10 highest-grossing films were continuations of pre-existing franchises. Of the four films that were not sequels, three now have sequels in the works, including "Marvel's The Avengers," "The Amazing Spider-Man" and "The Hunger Games."

Another trend this year came in the form of films re-released in 3-D and IMAX. So far, moviegoers have been treated to re-releases of five films, including "Beauty and the Beast," "Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace," "Titanic," "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Finding Nemo" and "Monsters, Inc."

Some might claim the year's biggest flop was "John Carter." Disney's perceived failure in fact made \$282 million worldwide — just enough to make a modest profit above its \$250 million budget. Better marketing and franchising might have helped broaden the appeal of the film, but Disney executives seemed determined to spend their time apologizing to stockholders, instead.

The real 2012 underachievers include "Cloud Atlas," "Dredd," "Rock of Ages" and "Red Tails."

So, what's around the corner? Following is a list of 25 of the most anticipated films of 2012, grouped according to genre.

Sensational superheroes

- "Iron Man 3" — Release date: May 3. Robert Downey Jr. reprises his role as billionaire playboy Tony Stark ... and his invincible alter ego, Iron Man. This time around, old Shellhead will tangle with The Mandarin, played by Ben Kingsley.

- "Man of Steel" — Release date: June 14. Henry Cavill will don Superman's cape for this franchise reboot directed by Zack Snyder and produced by Christopher Nolan — best known as the director of The Dark Knight trilogy. Early promo material suggests alienation as a central theme. Michael Shannon will portray megalomaniac General Zod.

- "The Wolverine" — Release date: July 26. Hugh Jackman continues to portray the character in the next installment of the X-Men family franchise. Based on the celebrated comic book arc by Chris Claremont and Frank Miller, the film will follow Logan to Japan where he confronts a mysterious figure from his past.

- "Thor: The Dark World" — Release date: Nov. 8. When a mysterious enemy older than the universe itself threatens the Nine Realms, the God of Thunder must intervene. Goldilocks is portrayed once again by Chris Hemsworth, with Tom Hiddleston as Loki and Christopher Eccleston joining the fray as Malekith the Accursed.

Startling sci-fi

- "Star Trek into Darkness" — Release date: May 17. J.J. Abrams will boldly go back to the franchise he rebooted in 2009. Kirk, Spock, McCoy and the rest of the Enterprise crew return to find the Earth in chaos after an attack by a seemingly unstoppable force.

- "Pacific Rim" — Release date: July 12. First, there will be monsters, kaiju-style. Second, there will be giant robots fighting to save humanity. Third, there will be scenes of devastation and destruction. Sounds like an impending big-budget bomb, except for one thing: "Pacific Rim" is directed Guillermo del Toro, the genius behind "Pan's Labyrinth." Fingers are crossed.

- "Elysium" — Release date: Aug. 9. Neill Blomkamp is back! For those who've already forgotten the name, Blomkamp co-



Photo by ZADE ROSENTHAL

Above, from left, Zachary Quinto is Spock, Benedict Cumberbatch is John Harrison, and Chris Pine is Kirk in "Star Trek into Darkness," from Paramount Pictures and Skydance Productions. At left, Harrison Ford, center, and Asa Butterfield star in "Ender's Game." Below, Carey Mulligan stars as Daisy Buchanan and Leonardo DiCaprio as Jay Gatsby in Warner Bros. Pictures' and Village Roadshow Pictures' drama "The Great Gatsby," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.



Photo by RICHARD FOREMAN JR./SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT

wrote and directed "District 9," the critically 2009 science fiction thriller emphasizing themes of social segregation and xenophobia. Set in 2159, "Elysium" sounds like another sociological sci-fi outing. The world has been broken down into two classes: a handful of wealthy elite who live on a pristine man-made space station orbiting the planet ... and the impoverished masses who live on an overpopulated, polluted earth.

- "Ender's Game" — Release date: Nov. 1. Based on the novel of the same name by Orson Scott Card, the film will follow Andrew "Ender" Wiggin as he is shipped off to an advanced military school in space to prepare for an imminent alien invasion.

Fabulous fantasy

- "Jack the Giant Slayer" — Release date: March 1. The classic fairy tale gets Hollywood treatment as a young farmhand inadvertently rekindles an ancient feud between humans and giants.

- "Oz: The Great and Powerful" — Release date: March 8. The film's premise is, obviously, suggested by L. Frank Baum's 1900 book as well as the 1939 film starring Judy Garland as Dorothy. This time around, though, looks like Dorothy's out of the picture. Director Sam Raimi directs the film which tells the tale of a Kansas magician swept off to Oz. Raimi fans will be pleased to note the inclusion of longtime Raimi collaborator Bruce Campbell in the cast, playing Gore, the Dark Wizard.

- "Percy Jackson: Sea of Mon-

sters" — Release date: Aug. 16. Surprise! A sequel to "Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief." Logan Lerman will reprise his role as Percy Jackson, the demigod son of Poseidon. Interestingly, Mark Hamill (of "Star Wars" fame) will portray Tantalus.

- "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" — Release date: Dec. 13. Bilbo will continue his journey toward the Lonely Mountain where he and his companions will face the Dragon Smaug.

Amazing action

- "A Good Day to Die Hard" — Release date: Feb. 7. It's been five years since John McClane (Bruce Willis) yipped ki-yayed. This time, the setting is Russia. McClane's son Jack gets into trouble in Moscow. John arrives just in time to get caught up in a terrorist plot.

- "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" — Release date: March 29. The G.I. Joe Team faces Zartan, Storm Shadow and Firefly, all serving the Cobra Commander. Helping the team take back the world and defeat Cobra is the original G.I. Joe, General Joseph Colton, played by Bruce Willis.

- "Fast and Furious 6" — Release date: May 24. The cast of "Fast Five" returns for another heist. Filming locations include London, the Canary Islands, Scotland and Los Angeles.

- "The Lone Ranger" — Release date: July 3. Johnny Depp stars as Tonto. Further commentary is probably unnecessary.

Fun for the family

- "Monsters University" — Re-

lease date: June 21. This prequel to "Monsters, Inc." follows rivals James P. "Sulley" Sullivan (voiced by John Goodman) Michael "Mike" Wazowski (voiced by Billy Crystal) as they attend college and prepare for careers at Monsters, Inc.

- "Despicable Me 2" — Release date: July 3. Gru and his three girls return. This time they'll face an as-yet unnamed nemesis, voiced by Al Pacino.

- "Epic" — Release date: May 24. Based loosely on William Joyce's children's book "The Leaf Men and the Brave Good Bugs," a teenage girl is transported into a secret world filled with whimsical characters. She must help them save their world in a battle between good and evil.

- "Frozen" — Release date: Nov. 27. Disney's next big animation project is based on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale "The Snow Queen." The film will feature the voices of Kristen Bell and Idina Menzel in speaking as well as singing roles

Scary stuff

- "Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters" — Release date: Jan. 25. Set 15 years after Hansel (Jeremy Renner) and Gretel (Gemma Arterton) escape a certain gingerbread house, the brother-and-sister team now stalks witches across the countryside. Famke Janssen plays an evil sorceress who is planning to sacrifice children at an upcoming witches' jamboree.

- "Evil Dead" — Release date: April 12. The filmmakers behind this remake of Sam Raimi's 1981 cult horror classic "Evil Dead"

aren't exactly modest: They have billed it as "the most terrifying film you will ever experience." Of course, the director of the remake — Fede Alvarez — was selected by Raimi, who co-wrote and co-produced the film. If the promotional trailer is any indication, this "Evil Dead" will be far more violent and disturbing than the original.

- "World War Z" — Release date: June 21. Brad Pitt wades into the zombie apocalypse subgenre playing Gerry Lane, a United Nations worker who travels the world interviewing survivors of the pandemic. The film is based on the novel of the same name by Max Brooks, who also wrote "The Zombie Survival Guide."

Drama

- "The Great Gatsby" — Release date: May 10. The latest adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire and Carey Mulligan. Baz Luhrmann — known for "William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet" and "Moulin Rouge!" — directs.

- "Much Ado About Nothing" — Release date: June 7. Like so many exceptional movies that don't quite meet Hollywood's blockbuster standards, this independent film adaptation of William Shakespeare's play — distributed by Lionsgate Films and Roadside Attractions — might just fly by under the radar ... except for one thing. Joss Whedon produced and directed it and wrote the screenplay. Joss Whedon who? Joss Whedon, director of "Marvel's The Avengers" — that's Joss Whedon who.

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