

LARGO LEADER

'Hangover,' 'Fast & Furious' sequels and 'Epic' open in theaters

Also, catch the orchestra, a jazz guitarist trio and opera in Pinellas this week ... Page 1B.



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May 23, 2013

INSIDE



POLICE BEAT

Sheriff reports decrease in crime

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri announced May 17 that there was an 11.44 percent decrease in Part 1 crimes for the Sheriff's entire service area in 2012 as compared to 2011. Part One crimes are murder, forcible sex, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. ... Page 5A.

COUNTY



A milestone blood donation

Richard Sheldon, 76, gave platelets that brought his lifetime blood donation to a total of 72 gallons May 20. ... Page 6A.

BUSINESS

Unemployment continues to fall

The unemployment rate for Pinellas County dropped to 6.5 percent in April, according to the May 17 report from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Meanwhile, the county's labor pool increased to 447,049 in April, compared to 445,508 last month and 437,176 for April 2012. ... Page 9A.

VIEWPOINTS

Tom Germond

Dack had better win the duck derby. ... Page 12A.



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City funds nature preserve again

Largo commissioners approve maintenance costs for reopened park

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – Though previously divided on the issue, Largo commissioners voted 6-1 on May 21 to spend \$8,300 to keep the Largo Central Park Nature Preserve open for the remainder of the fiscal year. Earlier this month, two of the commissioners had urged city staff to use volunteers rather than staff hours to maintain the 31 acres of park, which includes boardwalks, a trail, an observation tower and a kayak route. But volunteers, though valuable, simply can not replace the part-time grounds worker position that staff wanted

to fund, Recreation, Parks and Arts Director Joan Byrne explained this week. "Volunteers still need and want supervision and staff support. And there are certain jobs that volunteers will never, ever do," she said. The nature preserve, first opened in 2003, was partially closed due to required soil and pond clean-ups. Starting in 2010, staff decided to eliminate the full-time grounds worker position that had been responsible for maintaining the preserve. "The recession was in full swing, and it made no sense to fund that staffing when half the park was

closed," Byrne said. The 2012 budget that went into operation Sept. 1 included no funding for the preserve because it wasn't clear when the park would reopen. "The park was never closed as a policy decision," Byrne explained. "But the budget savings during those several years of budget reductions were certainly helpful." The Florida Department of Environmental Protection gave the city the green light to open the park at the end of December, after the soil was remediated. Staff had

See PRESERVE, page 4A

Celebrating success

Largo High becomes county's third IB World School

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – Up until recently, students entered into the International Baccalaureate program at Largo High School on faith alone. Until the school met the qualifications and became an International Baccalaureate World School last month, its current freshman and sophomore classes had to trust that school officials would follow through on their promise to earn certification. To add to the challenge, the high school didn't have a great reputation two years ago. Getting students enrolled and excited about the potential IB program at Largo was a hard sell, said Adam Lane, assistant principal and IB coordinator. "Largo High School at that time was actually a D-rated school. And we had the lowest graduation rate in the county," he explained.



Above, Spanish teacher Kathryn Oliviero looks over the work of a student in her International Baccalaureate class May 9. Below, Largo High School teachers and staff involved in the program pose under the school marquee in celebration of the announced certification. Front row, from left are teacher Latonya Hicks, IB coordinator Adam Lane, Principal Brad Finkbinder, IB clerk Brenda Chévere and Oliviero; middle row: teachers Todd Britton, Christopher Benoit, Brian Frasier and Keith Fedor and back row: Media Specialist Christy Wolfe and teachers Patricia Beck, Heidi Arndt, Lauren Akins, Melanie Whipple and Sommer Paquet.

Until Largo decided to pursue accreditation, Pinellas students who wanted to work toward an IB diploma would be enrolled at one of two high schools. Both boasted a well-established IB program; Palm Harbor University High School was accredited in 1995, while St. Petersburg High School became the first high school in the state to offer the diploma as far back as 1983. But then Largo High decided to offer a more centrally located program. Suddenly, any incoming freshmen zoned for Clearwater, Seminole, Pinellas Park, Dixie Hollins, or Largo high schools had to decide if they would risk enrolling in the IB program at Largo, one that wasn't quite official yet. "You can imagine these parents that were set that their kids (were) either going to go to Palm Harbor or St. Pete," Lane said. "We just asked them to trust that we're going to take care of it and get us there."

Adding Largo gave more students the opportunity to attend the program. Both of the existing programs had waiting lists. "There were a number of qualified students that could enter IB, but we didn't have seats available," Lane said. "So Largo entertained and pursued

of Law Enforcement. "And even more people will be out on the water for the holiday weekend. Both the holiday and National Safe Boating Week (May 18-24) present an opportunity to emphasize the importance of remaining safe while boating." Sixty-seven people lost their lives in Florida last year in boating accidents, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's 2011 Boating Accident Statistical Report. Pinellas County ranked No. 6 among the top 10 counties reporting accidents in 2011. Pinellas ranked No. 4 in 2010. In 2011, three fatality accidents were reported, 13 accidents with injury and 20 without injury. The primary cause was carelessness and inattention,

followed by operator inattention and machinery failure. The most frequently reported type was a collision with another vehicle, then flooding or swamping, and collision with a fixed object. Statewide, inattentiveness of the operator is too often the contributing factor in boating accidents, FWC reports. "Boating smart and safely could result in fewer injuries and deaths each year," Adams said. The FWC advises boaters to remain alert while operating a boat, to wear a life jacket and use an engine shut-off switch. Another safety tip is to designate a sober boat operator.

See SAFETY, page 4A

Judge rules in favor of County Commissioners

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Circuit Court Judge John A. Schaefer has spoken. Term limits approved by referendum in 1996 do not apply to current Pinellas County Commissioners. For months, four longtime commissioners were accused of serving illegally. A select group of residents demanded publicly that Susan Latvala, John Morroni, Karen Seel and Ken Welch step down.

On June 26, 2012, three citizens filed a lawsuit against the Supervisor of Elections and commissioners Latvala, Morroni, Welch and Seel, individually and in their official capacity. The suit, filed by Maria Scruggs, who unsuccessfully ran against Welch in the Aug. 14, 2012 primary, Beverly Billiris and H. Patrick Wheeler, asked the court for a declaratory judgment to reinstate charter term limits for county commissioners as approved by a 1996 referendum. At that time, the board consisted of five commissioners elected from countywide districts. The 1996 term limit amendment was challenged in the courts and declared unconstitutional Sept. 8, 2003. The citizens that filed the lawsuit last year contended that a May 10, 2012, Supreme Court decision on charter-based term limits, *Telli vs. Broward County*, could be applied retroactively in Pinellas, meaning the commissioners named in their suit were no longer eligible to serve. The county attorney's office said all along that the new rules established under the May Supreme Court ruling would be applied going forward from the date of the decision, not retroactively. Judge Schaefer agreed in a ruling issued May 16.

"The current Pinellas County Charter provisions that contain no term limits for the Pinellas County Commissioners are valid and not affected by the recent *Telli vs. Broward County* ... decision," Schaefer wrote in his ruling. "The 2003 final judgment of this court declaring the 1996 referendum for term limits unconstitutional as required by the Florida Supreme Court in *Cook vs. Jacksonville* ... remains binding. Any future referendums would be governed by *Telli*. The charter amendments cannot be revived."

Commissioner Ken Welch posted on his Facebook page shortly after the decision became public, "Truth prevails. Thanks to God, my family and friends for your unwavering support. I'm back to work tomorrow for the citizens of Pinellas." Morroni sent a comment to Tampa Bay Newspapers via email May 17. "I am pleased with the judge's decision and I look forward to continuing my service to the citizens of Pinellas County," Morroni said.



Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS. Pinellas County Commissioners, seated, from left, Karen Seel, Ken Welch and John Morroni; standing, Charlie Justice, Susan Latvala, Janet Long and Norm Roche.

Boating safety campaign preludes Memorial Day

By SUZETTE PORTER

The first day of summer, June 21, is still weeks away. But, for many, the Memorial Day weekend marks the unofficial beginning of the season. One of the preferred holiday activities around Pinellas is boating. Local waterways likely will be crowded, as people take advantage of three days off and what looks like good weather ahead. National Safe Boating Week is May 18-25, and the Florida Wildlife Commission and U.S. Coast Guard are out on area waterways making sure everyone remembers safety rules. "Florida is a great place to enjoy boating year-round," said Col. Calvin Adams, director of the FWC's Division

of Law Enforcement. "And even more people will be out on the water for the holiday weekend. Both the holiday and National Safe Boating Week (May 18-24) present an opportunity to emphasize the importance of remaining safe while boating." Sixty-seven people lost their lives in Florida last year in boating accidents, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's 2011 Boating Accident Statistical Report. Pinellas County ranked No. 6 among the top 10 counties reporting accidents in 2011. Pinellas ranked No. 4 in 2010. In 2011, three fatality accidents were reported, 13 accidents with injury and 20 without injury. The primary cause was carelessness and inattention,

followed by operator inattention and machinery failure. The most frequently reported type was a collision with another vehicle, then flooding or swamping, and collision with a fixed object. Statewide, inattentiveness of the operator is too often the contributing factor in boating accidents, FWC reports. "Boating smart and safely could result in fewer injuries and deaths each year," Adams said. The FWC advises boaters to remain alert while operating a boat, to wear a life jacket and use an engine shut-off switch. Another safety tip is to designate a sober boat operator.

See SAFETY, page 4A

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Traffic delays expected near Largo Middle

LARGO – Some Largo residents and students should plan alternate routes to avoid traffic delays caused by two significant road closures on Rosary Road and Eighth Avenue Southeast during the first week in June.

The closures are due to the scheduled replacement of CSX Railroad's rubberized crossings. The current schedule indicates the Largo crossings will be closed and under construction the week of June 3. This date will be reaffirmed closer to the actual construction. These crossings will be closed for a minimum of three days, most likely on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The closure at Eighth Avenue may impact Largo Middle School during the last week of school. Largo city staff requested CSX to postpone

the closure of that crossing until June 6, the day after school ends. According to the city, CSX did acknowledge the request, but have not committed to accommodating it.

The CSX project of replacing all rubberized crossings in Pinellas County is part of a total replacement of the railroad cross ties on the Pinellas County sections of track from Lakeview Road in Clearwater south to downtown St. Petersburg. There are about 25 crossings in Pinellas County, which will be replaced during a three-week period.

CSX has committed to remove all of the old ties, stone piles and other direct railroad debris following the crossing project.

For more information, call the city's department of public works at 586-7418.

City calendar

Largo Central Park

The Largo Central Park is at 101 Central Park Drive. Within the park are Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, the Largo Public Library, at 120 Central Park Drive, and the historic Largo Feed Store, at 295 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 June 1-2. For more information, visit the "Train Weekend" link at www.LargoEvents.com.

Library closing

LARGO – The Largo Public Library will be closed through Monday, May 27 for an upgrade of the check-out/check-in system, RFID tagging, and improved self-checkout technology.

The library will reopen on Tuesday, May 28. Call or visit the other libraries in the Pinellas County Cooperative while the Largo library is closed. To find member libraries, visit www.pplc.us.

Memorial Day sunset ceremony

LARGO – Join the city of Largo and the Memorial Day Planning Committee for a Memorial Day sunset ceremony Monday, May 27, 7 p.m., at the Largo Central Park Military Court of Honor, 101 Central Park Drive.

Honor those who have lost their lives while fighting for our country. The ceremony will include music, a keynote speaker and a time of remembrance through a wreath presentation. The event is free and open to the public.

Genealogy classes

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

Topics in May include: How to use ancestry.com, immigration and ship's passenger lists, naturalization records, using newspapers in genealogy.

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

Largo Community Center

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

Silver screen classics

LARGO – Enjoy an afternoon viewing a movie for free June 20, noon to 3 p.m., at the Largo Community Center.

Refreshments will be sold and information on the movie will be handed out. The event is sponsored by Imperial Palms Apartments. Call 518-3131 for a listing of movies.

Lunch with a show

LARGO – Enjoy a luncheon and show June 27, noon to 2 p.m., at

Library Friend honored by state association

LARGO – The Florida Library Association honored Iris L. Shalit, president of the Friends of Largo Library, as an "outstanding member" of library Friends, Foundations and Boards, one of two library supporters so honored during the association's across annual conference May 1-3 in Orlando.

Shalit has been president of Friends of Largo Library for nine years. Her work has mitigated the impact of budget reductions, kept libraries open on Sundays, and saved the popular county-wide Short Story Contest, according to the press release announcing the awards. Under her leadership, the Friends of Largo Library earn \$90,000 annually in their bookstore, and this year, will sponsor an RFID system for the library at a cost of more than \$225,000.

Following her 20-year library career, Shalit's leadership of the Friends is a tribute to her lifelong commitment, the release stated. Award recipients were selected for the quality of their service to their local communities and to the library profession.

For more information about the Florida Library Association, visit www.flalib.org.

the Largo Community Center.

Enjoy a meal, dessert and entertainment. Purchase \$12 tickets in advance in the office one month prior to luncheon. No refunds or exchanges.

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.

• **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 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.

Highland Recreation Complex

Highland Recreation Complex is at 400 Highland Ave. Visit HighlandRecreation.com or call 518-3016. During construction, the complex is accessible from Lake Avenue.

Pre-grand opening sale

LARGO – In preparation of the new facility opening in June, the Highland Recreation Complex is selling off desks, filing cabinets, folding

See CALENDAR, page 4A

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Agency awarded \$4,000 to help those with disabilities in Pinellas

LARGO – The Community Foundation of Greater St. Petersburg awarded \$4,000 to the Disability Achievement Center April 8 to purchase equipment for individuals with disabilities.

"These funds will enable our center to serve the needs of many individuals that were placed on a wait list for quite some time. The need for this equipment in our service area is tremendous," stated Joseph DiDomenico, executive director of the Disability Achievement Center.

The equipment is critical to enhancing the health, welfare and community independence of individuals the Center serves. Examples of equipment include shower chairs, walkers, wheelchairs, commode chairs and alerting equipment that uses flashing strobe lights to make deaf individuals aware that a baby is crying or there is a fire.

While Disability Achievement Center serves individuals with disabilities of all ages and disability types in both Pinellas and Pasco counties, recipients of this specific equipment must live south of Ulmerton Road in Pinellas County.

The Center provides programs under four core services: information and referral, independent living skills, self and systemic advocacy and peer mentoring. The center also provides programs for employment, transition from school to work and from nursing home to the community, smoking cessation, emergency planning, medical equipment recycling, and limited home modifications.

For more information, call the center at 539-7550, or email info@disabilityachievementcenter.org. Visit the Disability Achievement Center website at www.disabilityachievementcenter.com.

Eye of the beholder



Photo by JIM LAYFIELD

A southern black racer snake, most commonly called a black snake, peeks out from a shrub growing in Largo Nature Preserve May 19. Black racers are nonvenomous and can be found in natural as well as urban areas.

Summer camps

Bardmoor YMCA opens registration

LARGO – The Bardmoor Branch YMCA will host summer camp June 10 to Aug. 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Bardmoor Golf and Tennis Club, 8001 Cumberland Road.

The cost is \$120 per week for members or \$160 per week for nonmembers.

Join the fun as campers splash in the pool, play fun games outside, learn new activities and build fun, lasting relationships. The YMCA staff fosters new friendships and lifetime memories.

For more information, call 394-9622, visit www.stpeteyymca.org or register at the Bardmoor Branch YMCA.

Basketball Warehouse offers summer camps

LARGO – The Basketball Warehouse, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping children realize their potential through sports, is offering a summer camp for girls and boys in grades 3 through 9 on weekdays, June 3-28, at 6360 118th Ave. N.

The camp is divided into two sessions: the morning session, 9 a.m. to noon, and the afternoon session, 1 to 4 p.m. The cost of



one session is \$90 per week. Both sessions cost \$175 per week.

Children will learn ball handling and shooting, rebounding, defense and overall improvement of their basketball skills. Registration includes a souvenir T-shirt and fun 3-on-3 contests to encourage the spirit of teamwork and competition. The number of participants in Basketball Summer Camp is kept small to maximize individual training time and supervision.

The Basketball Warehouse's mission is to teach life skills through basketball and academic mentoring. The program emphasizes discipline, perseverance, respect and teamwork and how these principles can be applied in everyday life when making healthy life choices.

To register for summer camp, email awilliams@thebasketballwarehouse.com or visit the Warehouse in person. The Basketball

Summer Camp flyer is available for download at www.thebasketballwarehouse.com.

City of Largo offers camps

LARGO – Largo Recreation will offer 10 full day camps, 17 sport camps, 26 specialty camps, theater and dance camps, aquatic camps, as well as pre-camp days this year, beginning June 10.

The city's 60 full and half-day summer camps for preschool, elementary, middle school and teenage children are filling fast, so register today. Mix and match summer camps and locations to plan a fun and exciting summer for your child.

Register at Southwest Recreation Complex, 13120 Vonn Road and, due to construction at Highland Recreation Complex, the Largo Community Center, one block east of Highland at 400 Alt. Keene Road.

Download a copy of Largo's summer camp guide at Largo-Camps.com or pick up a Play Magazine at all Largo recreation facilities, Largo City Hall or Largo Public Library. The website includes information about camp scholarships, before and after-care programs and weekly fees or call 518-3125 or 518-3131.

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CALENDAR, from page 2A

tables and chairs and more in a public sale Friday, May 3, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This sale is cash and carry; all items must be removed at the time of the sale. For more information on the sale, please call Joan Wheaton at 587-6727.

Highland celebrates grand opening

LARGO – The city of Largo will celebrate the grand opening of the new Highland Recreation Complex on Sunday, June 2, noon to 5 p.m.

The new 40,000-square-foot building facility features an indoor walking track, double gymnasium, indoor three story playground, indoor active gaming room, fitness room, party rooms and more.

The city invites residents of all ages to tour the facility. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

The complex will open for business on Monday, June 3 with facility classes and programs beginning on June 10. Call 518-6720.

Aquatic center to reopen

LARGO – The Highland Family Aquatic Center will celebrate its grand reopening on June 8, noon to 4 p.m.

Bring the family and enjoy the center's many features and slides. Splash's Snack Bar will be open. Expect door prizes and giveaways. The cost is \$12 or \$23 per group with a max of five people.

Highland to offer Les Mills class

LARGO – Les Mills Body Pump, the original barbell class, is coming to the new Highland Recreation Complex starting June 10 at 400 Highland Ave.

Body Pump is designed to sculpt, tone and strengthen your entire body, fast. Certified instructors will provide resistance workout training that focuses on low weight loads and high repetition movements to help burn fat, gain strength and quickly produce lean body muscle conditioning.

Highland recognizes fathers

LARGO – Fathers will receive free admission and a gift with one paid child admission at Highland Family Aquatic Center on June 16, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Lego Friends

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

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 Rec 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.

Synchronized swimming

LARGO – Suncoast Water Works will present a synchronized swimming show entitled Synchro Under the Big Top June 1, 6 p.m., at Southwest pool, 13120 Vonn Road.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, students and seniors.

Last year, more than 400 people attended the water show to watch athletes ages 5 to 18 perform routines. A free synchronized swimming try-it clinic for children will begin at 5 p.m. and includes free tickets to the show for participants.

The team and local businesses also are sponsoring dinner and a silent auction to help the athletes raise funds for travel to the national competition in California.

The Suncoast Water Works teams practice for statewide and national competitions at Southwest pool. Last year, the team of 16 to 18 year olds ranked fourth at nationals out of more than 150 teams.

Suncoast Water Works is a nonprofit organization founded in 1985.

For more information and tickets, call 669-4115 or email roblc1@aol.com

Summer Kick Off

LARGO – The city of Largo invites the public to the Southwest Neighborhood Summer Kick Off June 9, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Southwest pool, 13120 Vonn Road.

Come celebrate summer with friends and family. A hot dog lunch and bottled water will be available, while supplies last, as will floats, inner tubes and diving boards for recreational use. Door prizes will be given away.

The cost with a recreation ID is \$2 for city residents and \$3 for non-city residents or \$6 for everyone else.

Enjoy underwater exploration with Discover Scuba. Scuba participants ages 17 and younger will require a parent signature.

Wing Fling

LARGO – Bring friends and family for a swim at Southwest Pool and enjoy the finest wings in the area

First-place winner



Photo courtesy of CITY OF LARGO

Steven Iovio, center, accepts his first-place certificate for the "What I Love About Largo" video contest from Largo City Manager Mac Craig, left, and Office of Management and Budget Manager Amy Davis at Pinellas Preparatory Middle School May 13. Steven, 12, won a \$250 Amazon gift certificate for his self-made video that names the outdoor basketball court at Southwest Recreation Center, Largo Public Library and Largo Central Park as his favorite places in the city of Largo. The contest was part of the city's annual outreach campaign to gather input on community values from residents.

for Wing Fling June 29, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 13120 Vonn Road.

A variety of restaurants have been invited to compete for the honor of becoming the Wing Fling Champion. Tickets are \$3 or \$5.

Aqua Zumba classes

LARGO – The Largo Aquatics Division offers Aqua Zumba, a high-energy exercise class, on Wednesday evenings, 6:15 p.m., at the Southwest pool.

Zumba is a Latin-inspired cardio dance workout with music that conditions and tones the body. Adding water resistance to Zumba allows individuals

to receive a more intense cardio-based workout in a low-impact environment.

Instructor Angelique Renaud will lead the class in 4 feet of water, so no swimming skills are required. However, participants should be comfortable in waist-deep water and must be at least 12 years old. As with any exercise program, check with your doctor before starting. A lifeguard will be on duty during all class times.

Aqua Zumba is a drop-in class; no preregistration required or punch cards accepted. Classes are \$5 per person for Largo residents, \$6.25 for nonresidents or \$9.25 for guests.

Visit LargoPools.com.

PRESERVE, from page 1A

been receiving weekly calls from the public, asking when the preserve would open, Byrne said. Staff did so in January.

"Frankly, in our effort to respond to the public pressure and restore the park to the public use, we opened the facility with the understanding that we could temporarily maintain it until a budget amendment could restore funding and staffing," she told the commissioners. "We probably should not, in retrospect, have reopened it until we brought this to you. But we thought the time would be very short."

The temporary measures to maintain the preserve diverted supplies and about two and a half hours of staff time per day from Largo Central Park. The landscaping at the city's premier property has suffered in the meantime: flowerbeds left unplanted and projects delayed, Byrne said. The preserve needs its own resources, she concluded.

The part-time staff position and supplies for landscaping at the preserve and maintenance of the restrooms on the property will cost \$22,700 a year. Staff asked the commissioners to approve a budget amendment of \$8,300 needed to fund that expenditure of the remainder of the fiscal year.

Pat Edmund, president of the Friends of Largo Nature Parks volunteer group, urged commissioners to keep the preserve open to the public.

"I'm not sure how many people understand what a precious gem that property is," she said. "It is probably the ultimate outdoor classroom, which we intend to put to use in the fall to teach adults about Florida native fauna and flora."

Quite a few residents are already using the park, even though the restrooms remain closed, a fact that "irritates the dickens out of them," Edmund said. The preserve also is being nominated to the Great Florida Birding Trail, a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission project to identify excellent birding sites.

IB PROGRAM, from page 1A

to be the third IB school in Pinellas County. The main purpose was the make sure that any student that meets the criteria to enter an IB program will not be denied."

Mike Gautreau of Largo said he explored several options for his now-freshman daughter Taylor, before enrolling her in the IB program at Largo High. The more convenient commute did not allay Gautreau's trepidation that the school might not meet its goals for certification.

"As a parent, one couldn't help be a little bit nervous about seeing that happen," he said. "I was part of that group of parents that were a little incredulous on the front end about if Pinellas County's commitment to an IB program at Largo would be robust as the commitment at St. Pete High and at Palm Harbor U."

Gautreau has since been convinced otherwise. Taylor's first year in high school has been challenging and a "great experience" for her, he said. As an added bonus, the newness of the program means there are less IB students at Largo compared to the other schools in the district, which Gautreau said is an advantage.

"From that perspective, there are a lot more one-on-one opportunities for the teachers and students," he said. "Taylor, when she does have a challenge at a given subject, has very good access to the teachers."

The Largo High IB program currently has 55 sophomores and 52 freshmen. Its incoming class will be 58 students.

"We're really happy with that. I think you're going to see our numbers increase," Lane said, explaining that the school can only accommodate 100 students per year.

Freshman Niko Pappas said his neighbor first recommended the program. While he was still in eighth grade, Niko was able to shadow him to get an idea of what the classes would be like.

Now that he's enrolled, the advanced program is better than he expected.

"So far it's great. All the classmates are really kind and all the teachers and staff care about my success," he said.

In general, the program is designed to prepare students for "higher education and life in a global society," according to the IB website. In order to earn an IB diploma, students must make high enough scores on internationally standardized exams in a variety of subjects, given at the end of the program. The classes up to that point equip students with the well-rounded breadth of knowledge emphasized in the program's philosophy.

Physics teacher Sam Chapman said the workload his students tackle is "a little heavy" because the class covers so much in so little time. But the experience is excellent preparation for classes beyond high school.

"They'll be more ready for college than they would be if they just came out of a regular high school," Chapman said. "College is just another day in the races compared to a big change for IB kids."

Spanish IB teacher Kathryn Olivero said the students take an active role in their education. Recently, she and her 10th grade class discussed how they should cover the last two chapters within the remaining weeks of school.

"Because they understand the importance of their education, they understand the importance of learning the material. They recognize that they obviously need to know it ... in order to get their IB diploma, but also so they can be successful in the global economy that we live in," she said. "It's not just me leading the class; it's them working together with me."

The students pick up the lessons quickly, enabling them to speak primarily in Spanish while in class, she added. Almost half of her students are bilingual already, speaking Vietnamese, Laotian, Bosnian, Mandarin Chinese and Gujarati.

"They just understand the importance of learning more than one language, which is really cool," she said.

The students also are heavily involved in sports, clubs and groups

The address for Largo Central Park Nature Preserve is 150 Highland Ave. The park is accessible from Highland Avenue, south of East Bay Drive.

Potential trailhead purchased

Commissioners also debated the purchase of the 1.4 acres at 2850 Roosevelt Blvd. for the amount of \$349,500 during the May 21 meeting. The funds for the land, approved in a 6-1 vote, will come from the city's parkland dedication trust fund, used solely to acquire land for parks.

City staff anticipates using the property as a trailhead for the proposed Progress Energy Trail, a partnership between Pinellas County and the recently renamed utility, Duke Energy.

Holmes voted against the project, saying that the city was dependent on the county as to how or when the trail would materialize. Further, city-owned trailheads along the Pinellas Trail are underutilized unless they're connected to a downtown area, he argued.

"I have no idea why we're going to buy this thing," he said. "It's a county trail, let the county put it in."

Commissioner Woody Brown pointed out that the city of Largo didn't have many opportunities to buy parkland. A little more than \$1 million would be left in the parkland fund after the purchase.

Staff estimated that it might be five years or more before the proposed north-south trail, which will run parallel to the Pinellas Trail on the east side of the county, comes to fruition.

"I really wish that we had a better timeline, but we're talking about the county, so we don't really know," Brown said. "I think if we don't purchase (the property) and the trail comes through in the next few years, we're going to be kicking ourselves."

The purchase is still contingent on the results of an environmental city assessment and a site survey.

within the high school. Lane said it was important to emphasize the integration of the IB classrooms within the rest of the school.

"I didn't want them held in one specific building, where the traditional students at Largo looked at them as being a different group," he said. "We have spread the IB program out across the entire campus. We have IB rooms in every wing."

Lane said the IB program gives students an international perspective. "What you learn in the classroom spreads out into the hallways and community of Largo and then around the world," he said.

The road to certification certainly wasn't easy. The three-year process involved an in-depth application, hiring and training specialized teachers, promotion of the program within community groups and at nearby middle schools and periodic evaluations from the nonprofit organization that oversees the program.

"They do a detailed checklist to make sure you're prepared to be an IB authorized school," Lane said. "We had the dedication and the determination."

Since the IB program was added, Largo High has become an A-rated school and its graduation rate is now "very respectable," Lane said. But he explained that the school already had a lot to help boost its score, including its ExCEL Magnet Program, Advanced Placement classes and a solid traditional program.

"IB's going to help Largo maintain an A school (rating), but it really didn't factor into what brought it to be an A school," Lane said.

Nonetheless, the school's dedication to the IB program has not proved fruitless.

"I'm very pleased with the commitment they've made, and I feel that this school will be just as sought after in the coming years as St. Pete High and at Palm Harbor U," Gautreau said.

The Largo High School currently is reviewing applications for openings in its IB program. For more information, call the school at 588-3758 and ask for Brenda Chévere at ext. 2104 or Lane at ext. 2109.

SAFETY, from page 1A

Wear It!

More than 67 percent of the 55 boating-related deaths confirmed in 2012 were due to drowning, which might have been prevented if life jackets had been in use, according to FWC officials. Almost 85 percent of those who drowned were not wearing a life jacket.

"In an emergency, there might not be enough time to put one on, so wearing one at all times may save your life," Coast Guard officials said.

The Coast Guard is promoting National Boating Safety Week's 2013 campaign slogan – Wear It! The promotion focuses on the availability of comfortable and lightweight life jackets, as well as the safety aspects of wearing a life jacket at all times.

Safety first with passengers is the responsibility of every boat captain. The Coast Guard frowns on bow riding, which officials describe as an "unsafe practice of remaining on the bow of a vessel while it is underway."

Boat inspections are on the official safety list, especially for the beginning of the season, to avoid breakdowns on the water. Local Coast Guard Auxiliaries offer free, no-fault vessel safety checks. Volunteers will verify the presence and condition of safety equipment required by state and federal regulations. For more information, visit cgaux.org/vsc.

FWC strongly advocates the use of an engine shut-off switch. The safety lanyard attaches from the boat operator to the ignition. If the switch is disconnected, the engine will shut down, which could prevent the boat from running over anyone who has fallen overboard and avoid injuries from the propeller of a runaway boat.

Another important safety tip is to file a float plan that details where you are going and how many people are aboard your vessel. The float



Photos courtesy of U.S. COAST GUARD
The U.S. Coast Guard is promoting the Wear It! campaign as part of National Boating Week's message of safe and responsible boating.

keep a watchful eye on the forecast conditions."

Working communication equipment is a must-have. The Coast Guard recommends a VHF-FM radio as the best method of communication while on the water. Cell phones can provide a backup, but should not be your only means of communication due to gaps in coverage area and the potential of a dead battery. Don't forget the nautical charts and global positioning device.

The FWC, Coast Guard and the Pinellas County Sheriff's marine unit will be out in force Memorial Day Weekend. While much of their mission will be promoting boating safety, they'll also be keeping a close eye out for intoxicated boaters. Alcohol use is the leading contributing

plan should include a vessel description, your destination and a timetable of where you expect to be at a certain time. If you must change your float plan, make sure you tell someone who will let others know of your change in plans. In case of an emergency, a good float plan can help the Coast Guard narrow down a search to find you.

Check the weather before taking off. The forecast for the coming Memorial Day weekend is for temperatures near 90 degrees with a slight chance of thunderstorms each day. The Coast Guard reminds residents of how quickly weather can change, "so mariners planning on making way should



A lifejacket for everyone in the boat is the most important safety practice recommended by the U.S. Coast Guard.

factor in fatal boating accidents.

"Boating under the influence or boating while intoxicated is just as deadly as drinking and driving," Coast Guard officials said. "It is illegal to operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs in every state. Penalties for violating BUI and BWI laws can include large fines, suspension or revocation of boat operator privileges and jail terms."

For more boating safety information, visit www.vesselsafetycheck.org, www.uscgoating.org, MyFWC.com/Boating or www.safeboatingcouncil.org. To report people who are operating boats dangerously, call 888-404-FWCC or text Tip@MyFWC.com.

Sheriff reports decrease in crimes

LARGO - Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri announced May 17 that there was an 11.44 percent decrease in Part 1 crimes for the Sheriff's entire service area in 2012 as compared to 2011.

Furthermore, the numbers represent the fourth year in a row that Part 1 crimes have declined. The overall four-year decline is 22.1 percent.

Part One crimes are murder, forcible sex, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Uniform Crime Report system.

Gualtieri said the reduction in Part 1 crimes in 2012 as compared to 2011 represents the fourth consecutive year in which the Sheriff's Office has achieved a decrease in Part 1 Crimes.

"We are very pleased with the continued reduction in crime," Gualtieri said, "and that we have been able to achieve this in spite of the significant budget reductions we have had to make over the last several years."

Gualtieri also announced a high case clearance rate for homicides investigated by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office in 2012. Eighteen of 19 homicide cases were solved during this year.

The sheriff's jurisdiction includes the unincorporated area and 12 cities that have contracted with the sheriff for primary law enforcement services. The cities are Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Belleair Shore, Dunedin, Indian Rocks Beach, Madeira Beach, North Redington Beach, Oldsmar, Redington Beach, Safety Harbor, Seminole, and South Pasadena. (St. Pete Beach became a contract city in January 2013.)

Gualtieri attributed the declining crime rates to the efficient work of Sheriff's Office members and stated the Sheriff's Office would continue to strive to reduce crime even further, using proactive law enforcement strategies and by aggressively targeting hotspots.



Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

Police beat

Four injured in stabbing at local bar

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH - A Belleair Beach man was arrested May 20 after a stabbing incident at the Red Lion Pub located at 1407 Gulf Blvd. in Indian Rocks Beach.

According to a report from the Sheriff's Office, James Klingbeil, 50, was charged with attempted murder, two counts of aggravated assault and one count of battery. He was booked into the Pinellas County Jail. Bond was set at \$160,000.

Deputies responded to the Red Lion about 11:11 p.m. May 19 and found three victims with stab wounds. Klingbeil was being held down by patrons at the bar.

According to deputies, Klingbeil had been at the Red Lion earlier in the evening for a drink. The bartender refused to sell alcohol to him, as he was already highly intoxicated. A verbal altercation ensued and Klingbeil left the bar without further incident.

Klingbeil then walked over to the USA Grocers at 1211 Gulf Blvd. where he purchased a fillet knife. Klingbeil returned to the Red Lion, where he got into a verbal altercation with bartender Rebecca Schaeffer, 32, of Indian Rocks Beach. At some point during the altercation, Klingbeil pulled out the knife and began attacking Schaeffer with it.

According to deputies, bar patrons Nicholas Rees, 35, of Largo, Michael Arnold, 26, of Clearwater, and Gordon Rees, 44, of Largo attempted to help Schaeffer and were injured in the process. Nicholas Rees suffered a laceration to his right forearm, Michael Arnold suffered a laceration to his hand and Gordon Rees was punched in the face by the suspect.

Deputies said patrons were able to take Klingbeil to the ground and get the knife away from him.

Schaeffer was transported by air to Bayfront Medical Center for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. She sustained multiple lacerations.

Nicholas Rees was transported to Largo Medical Center by his brother Gordon Rees for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. Michael Arnold transported himself to Bayfront Medical Center for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

Man arrested for sexual battery of child

SAFETY HARBOR - Detectives assigned to the Pinellas County Sheriff's crimes against children unit arrested a Safety Harbor man May 15 for sexual battery on a child under age 12.

The crime occurred in June 2011 at a private residence in Safety Harbor. John Richard Polgar Jr., 55, a registered sex offender, denies the allegations, according to detectives.

Detectives began their investigation in March of 2013, when the female victim disclosed that the suspect molested her. Through their investigation, detectives determined that Polgar molested her once in 2011. Polgar was booked into the Pinellas County Jail. Bond was set at \$100,000.



John Polgar Jr.

Help needed to ID burglary suspect

PALM HARBOR - Detectives assigned to the Pinellas County sheriff's burglary and pawn unit are seeking the public's assistance in locating a suspect in approximately eight auto burglaries in the Ridgemoor area of Palm Harbor.

The burglaries occurred on Tuesday, May 7, between the hours of 1 and 6 a.m. The suspect is described as a white male, in his late teens to early 20s, approximately 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall with a slender build and short blonde hair. The suspect was last seen wearing a gray long sleeved shirt.

Anyone with information on these burglaries is asked to contact Detective Jonathan Tobeck of the burglary and pawn unit at 727-582-6200 or to remain anonymous and be eligible for a reward contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-873-TIPS or www.crimestoppersofpinellas.org. Surveillance video of the suspect is available at you.tube/Eae_DhpWXQY.



A man wanted in connection with about eight auto burglaries in Palm Harbor is caught on surveillance footage at the scene of the crime.

Police offer anti-phishing tips

CLEARWATER - The Clearwater Police Department offers the following tips to help people not get caught up in phishing scams, where criminals try to get people's personal information online:

- Question authority - always validate the sender's identity before responding to messages.
- Be cool on hot topics - use caution when responding to emails referencing current events, and never click on a link or attachment from an unknown source.
- Don't get too personal - be cautious when posting to social media platforms. Spammers search sites for personal information to add to phishing pitches.
- Watch where you're going - be aware of links that may redirect. Make sure a site is secure, with "https" in the address.
- Stay aware of current Internet risks and scams.

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Floridians making summer vacation plans

TAMPA – Seventy percent of Florida residents plan to take a vacation this summer of four days or more between May and September – a 5 percentage point increase from 2012, according to a recent AAA Consumer Pulse survey on summer travel plans.

Florida consumers place a high value on their summer vacation, with more than 6 in 10 of them saying they think travel is very important to their well-being. The top three reasons Florida residents think travel is important are that it creates experiences (69 percent), lets them recharge (65 percent) and allows for family time (62 percent).

"This year marks the second year that AAA data shows an increase in the number of Floridians who plan to take a summer vacation – a positive sign for the travel industry," said Jessica Brady, spokeswoman, AAA Travel, The Auto Club Group. "A relaxing vacation at a city destination or beach is the No. 1 desire among Florida travelers who look to get away this summer. The great thing about Florida is that travelers don't have to go far to find what they're looking for in a vacation."

The majority of travelers (64 percent) plan to spend \$1,500 or less on their summer va-

cation, about the same amount as last year. The top three vacation destinations for Florida travelers this year are city destinations (47 percent), beach getaways (36 percent) and trips to theme parks/attractions (27 percent).

The AAA Consumer Pulse Survey was conducted online among residents living in the Southern Region of The Auto Club Group, including 407 Floridians, from April 4 through April 8. The survey has a maximum margin of error of 4.9 percentage points. Overall survey responses are weighted by gender and age to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the adult population in Florida.

Briefs

Program teaches community development practices

The Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County is a sponsor of the Certificate in Community Real Estate Development program at the University of South Florida. The program offers practical training for staff responsible for creating successful affordable housing and community based real estate development programs.

Board members, policy makers and community leaders who are engaged in promoting affordable housing will benefit greatly from the program. Students in business, urban studies, architecture and others who desire hands-on experience in project level real estate financial analysis also will find this program beneficial.

James Carras serves as the program's Tampa Bay 2013 lead facilitator. Carras has more than 25 years of experience as principal of his own investment company, concentrating on designing and implementing solutions for community and economic development.

A unique component of the program is the development of an actual proposed project. All participants will present their project to a panel of community development professionals, public program staff and lenders who will offer constructive feedback and recommendations for successful implementation.

Anthony M. Jones, executive director of the Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County, said the program "continues to facilitate exceptional professional development opportunities for individuals to make meaningful

impact in community development."

The program begins the end of May. Registration is required. The cost for the program is \$125. Additional information is available at fog.usf.edu/trainings/cred.

For more information on Pinellas County services and programs, visit www.pinellascounty.org.

PSTA offering summer youth Haul Pass

ST. PETERSBURG – Summer vacation is almost here and for many families that means the return of Mom and Dad's taxi service. However, with gas prices well above \$3 a gallon,

See BRIEFS, page 7A

72 gallons donated



Photo courtesy of ONE BLOOD

Holding a license plate that commemorates his achievement, longtime blood donor Richard Sheldon, 76, gives platelets that bring his lifetime blood donation to a total of 72 gallons May 20. Sheldon worked for the city of Clearwater wastewater treatment plant and played Santa Claus during the holidays until his recent retirement. His donation took place at One Blood's Clearwater donor center, at 1680 S. Missouri Ave. For more information about donating, visit www.oneblood.org.

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Bay Pines VA to host Memorial Day ceremony

SEMINOLE – The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System will commemorate Memorial Day with a ceremony on Monday, May 27, 10 a.m., at the Bay Pines National Cemetery.

This is the only National Cemetery in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties and the largest observance of Memorial Day with more than 3,000 expected to attend.

Veterans, their families and friends, and the general public are invited. To mark the occasion, the nearly 32,000 graves at the cemetery will be marked with U.S. flags to honor the men and women who served the nation.

The event will be hosted by ABC Action News Reporter Alison Morrow, and will include musical performances, a firing salute, and taps performance.

A special performance and flag ceremony will be conducted by the

Timber Creek High School Air Force Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Guest speakers for the event include Congressman Bill Young; Bay Pines VAHCS Director Suzanne Klinker; Saint Petersburg VA Regional Office Director Kerrie Witty and Florida National Cemetery Assistant Director Maurice Roan.

Parking for the event is available nearby. Shuttles will provide transportation for guests from parking lots to the national cemetery. The venue is handicapped accessible. A sign language interpreter will be available for the hearing impaired.

The event will take place outdoors. The Bay Pines VAHCS encourages all attendees to dress appropriately in the event of inclement weather.

For further information, contact the cemetery office at 398-9426.

ROTC cadet wins award



Photo courtesy of JOHN SAGERT
Air Force ROTC Cadet Renee Crane, a senior at Clearwater Christian College, receives the Sons of the American Revolution ROTC silver medal from Bob Cundiff, professor at the college and the second vice president of the SAR-Clearwater chapter.

BRIEFS, from page 6A

many parents simply can't afford to drive their kids around all summer long.

That's where PSTA's popular and affordable summer youth Haul Pass comes in. For only \$35, kids 18 and younger can enjoy unlimited rides on PSTA and the Clearwater Jolley Trolley between May 15 and Aug. 31. Haul Passes exclude Routes 100X and 300X to Tampa.

Not only will the Haul Pass save parents time and money, but it gives kids the freedom and independence they crave to commute to work, head to the beach or meet up with friends – all for less than \$.40 a day. Middle and high school aged kids will need a school, government or PSTA issued photo ID to use the Summer Youth Haul Pass. PSTA-issued Youth Photo ID cards can be obtained free of charge at any PSTA Customer Service Center.



Haul Passes are now on sale at select PSTA ticket outlets, online at www.psta.net and at all PSTA Customer Service Centers.

For more information, visit PSTA.net or clearwaterjolleytrolley.com. Call the PSTA InfoLine at 540-1900.

County lowers interest rate for homebuyers

The Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County has lowered the interest rate on its First Time Homebuyers Program to 2.99 percent. The 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage program is for individuals

living in Pinellas, Pasco and Polk counties who have never owned a home, have not owned a home in the last three years or veterans.

Down payment and closing cost assistance also is available with the Home Key Plus second mortgage. Borrowers must have a minimum credit score of 640 and are required to take a free homebuyer education class. Visit www.pinellascounty.org/community/hfa/pdf/first_mortgage.pdf.

Certain income limitations apply. For additional information, contact the Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County at 464-8210.

For more information on Pinellas County services and programs, visit www.pinellascounty.org.



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Understanding Largo's New Sign Code

"Planning for Largo Sign Code Success: What Every Business Needs to Know" is the topic of an informational business program being held on Saturday, June 8 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive.

The program is presented by the Chamber and the City of Largo. It will highlight what businesses must know regarding the sign ordinance before the monument sign compliance deadline ends on June 5, 2017. Topics will include the new sign code, permitting process, sign incentives and hiring a sign contractor. There will be an opportunity for one-on-one assistance following the formal presentations.

There is no cost to attend, but registration is requested. Contact the Chamber at 727-584-2321 or email tom@centralchamber.biz with name and company affiliation.



Bill Arrington Insurance/Nationwide Insurance celebrate their new location at 13801 Walsingham Road, Suite E in Largo with a ribbon-cutting.

Looking for a Business – Visit the Chamber Website

Finding a reputable Central Pinellas business is a mouse click away. Just visit the Chamber website - www.CentralChamber.biz. It's designed for easier visitor navigation specifically in finding a business.

Also, the homepage Calendar of Events makes it quick and easy to find all that's happening at the Chamber. As an introductory offer "Spotlight Ads" are now available at \$500 a year to have your business front and center for the more than 10,000 unique hits the site gets each month. Call the Chamber at 584-2321 for more information.

Welcome

The Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce is the area's leading organization spearheading initiatives to strengthen the regional business community. In addition to its many business-to-business programs and services, its advocacy on behalf of the Chamber's membership and non-aligned businesses is especially significant. The rising tide does lift all ships!

For the past 60 years, this volunteer-driven association has been empowering business by providing the necessary tools and resources to help them succeed. This includes networking leads groups, government advocacy and economic development initiatives in addition to programs and events focused on professional development.

Most importantly, the Chamber consists of people who realize that they can accomplish collectively what they cannot accomplish individually. If a Return on Involvement (ROI) is your approach to business and life in general, then you'd be a welcome addition to the Chamber family. To become a "Preferred Central Pinellas Business" please visit www.CentralChamber.biz or call us at 727-584-2321.



A Chamber Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony celebrates Stevens & Stevens Business Records Management Inc. 20th Year in Business.

B2B Luncheon at Palms of Largo

The Chamber will hold its B2B Luncheon on Tuesday, June 11 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Palms of Largo Royal Palms Theater, 200 Lake Avenue, NE., Largo.

The program will feature informal business networking and a guest speaker presentation. Guests who bring door prizes receive a 60 second infomercial to promote their business.

Cost is \$20 for Chamber members and \$25 for guests. Advance registration is required. Please call the Chamber at 584-2321 or email events@CentralChamber.biz.



Chamber leaders take a tour of Kimberly Home Thrift Shoppe.

Free SCORE Business Counseling

The Chamber hosts business counseling services provided by SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) at its offices by appointment every first and third Thursday monthly. SCORE counselors represent working and retired business executives who volunteer their lifetime experience providing assistance for people looking to start a business and for owners/managers of existing businesses. There is no cost involved. Counseling appointments can be made only by calling 584-2321.

Chamber Ambassador of the Month



Congratulations to Chamber Ambassador of the Month Christine Mancini of BB&T Bank, 350 East Bay Drive. BB&T has been your neighborhood bank since 1872. Christine is dedicated to helping you achieve your financial goals and providing you with the expertise and personal service you deserve. Call Christine at (727) 260-5249 to learn about the BB&T difference.

Exhibit space on sale for Chamber Expo

The Central Pinellas Business Showcase returns to the Largo Community Center, 400 Alternate Keene Road, on Wednesday, June 19 from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Presenting sponsors to date include WOW! Business (formerly Knology), Senior Home Care and Centratel Business Telephone Systems.

This is the ninth year for the signature event which features more than 70 businesses and organizations. It is both a business-to-business and consumer-to-business exposition and attendance is free to the general public.

Exhibit space is now available for businesses and organizations to market their products and services. Cost is \$250 for Chamber members through May 25 and \$300 May 26 to show date. Non Chamber member cost is \$400. There are a limited number of spaces available with electricity for an additional \$10. To reserve exhibit space or to learn about exclusive event sponsorships, call the Chamber at 584-2321.



Chamber volunteers undergo extensive and very fun training for the organization's "Drive It Out of the Park" 2013 World Series of Membership.

Supporting Business & Community

The Chamber salutes the following businesses and organizations that joined or renewed their association with the Chamber during the past month. For a complete listing of Preferred Chamber Businesses, stop by the office for a free copy of the Central Pinellas Business & Community Go-To Guide or visit the Chamber website at www.CentralChamber.biz.

- ABCO Graphics & Printing
- BB&T Bank - Walsingham Road
- Belleair Bluffs Plaza - "The Plaza 100"
- Bender Chiropractic Center
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas
- Commercial Asset Partners Realty
- Dr. Craig Baker, DMD
- Escot Bus Lines, LLC
- Everest University - Pinellas
- Fiduciary Funding LLC
- Hair Design Studio, Inc.

- Heron Publishing
- I Love Cupcakes, LLC
- L. Ruth Berry, D.M.D., P.A.
- Main Street Chiropractic
- Minuteman Press, Largo
- PEACE Wealth Management, Inc.
- Pinellas Academy of Math and Science
- Pinellas Education Foundation
- Pinellas Preparatory Academy
- Pinellas Federal Credit Union
- Ranchero Village, Inc.

- Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay, Inc.
- Servpro of Largo
- Somerset Apartments
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Unemployment continues downward trend in Pinellas

By SUZETTE PORTER

TALLAHASSEE – The unemployment rate for Pinellas County dropped to 6.5 percent in April, according to the May 17 report from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

The not seasonally adjusted rate was down from 6.7 percent reported in March and 8.3 percent for April 2012.

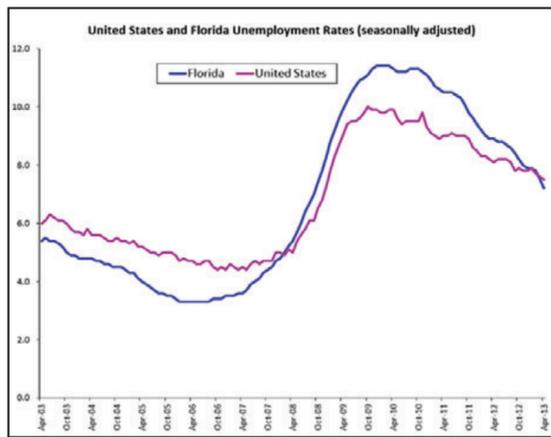
Meanwhile, the county's labor pool increased to 447,049 in April, compared to 445,508 last month and 437,176 for April 2012. Less than 30,000 were reported as unemployed – 29,270, slightly less than the 29,921 reported in March and 7,134 fewer than the 36,404 reported as unemployed for April last year.

In addition, job growth remains on an upswing for the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area, which continues to lead the state in over the year job creation with more than 35,400 new private sector jobs.

According to a press release from Gov. Rick Scott, the local MSA also had a 1.9 percent decline in the unemployment rate compared to last year, down to 6.7 percent from 8.6 percent in April 2012. The governor said since December 2010, the MSA's unemployment has dropped 4.7 percentage points, from 11.4 percent to 6.7 percent.

"The tremendous job growth in the Tampa metro area again demonstrates that our job-creating policies are working," Scott said. "In addition to more than 35,000 new jobs, Forbes recently ranked Tampa as the second best city for young entrepreneurs, and United Airlines inflight magazine will feature Tampa Bay as a thriving region for business."

The local MSA includes Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco and



Graph courtesy of DEO

Unemployment continues on a downward trend for the state of Florida and the United States, according to numbers from the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

Pinellas counties. Hernando ranks No. 8 among the state's 67 counties at 8.1 percent unemployment, which is down from 8.5 percent reported in March. Pasco tied with Brevard County for the No. 18 spot with an unemployment rate of 7.3 percent, down from 7.6 percent reported last month.

Hillsborough County tied with Hardee, Escambia and Orange counties for a rank of No. 35 with an unemployment rate of 6.4 percent, down from 6.7 percent in March. Pinellas tied with Gulf County for No. 33, with 6.5 percent unemployment.

The county ranked No. 1 for the highest unemployment was Hendry County with 9.9 percent unemployment. Monroe County has the lowest rate at 3.7 percent.

Education and health services lead the way in job growth with

more than 9,600 new jobs for the local MSA, followed by professional and business services with more than 8,800 jobs. More than 7,700 jobs were added in the trade, transportation and utilities industry, followed by an upswing of 4,000 new construction jobs.

Job growth is up statewide, according to Scott.

"Florida has experienced positive annual job growth now for 33 consecutive months," he said. "This adds up to 330,000 new private jobs created in Florida since December 2010."

The state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 6.8 percent in April compared to 7 percent in March. United States unemployment fell to 7.1 percent, down from 7.6 percent last month.

The state's unemployment is the lowest since September 2008.

Businesses celebrate opening



Photo courtesy of TRUST BUSINESS SYSTEMS

Local officials and business leaders, including Largo Mayor Pat Gerard, County Commissioner Norm Roche and members of the Central Pinellas Chamber, celebrate the grand opening of PEACE Wealth Management, Trust Business Systems and Fiduciary Funding May 17. The new offices are in Suite 201 at 13201 Walsingham Road. The owner of all three companies is Kristine Hartland.

Veterans Tribute

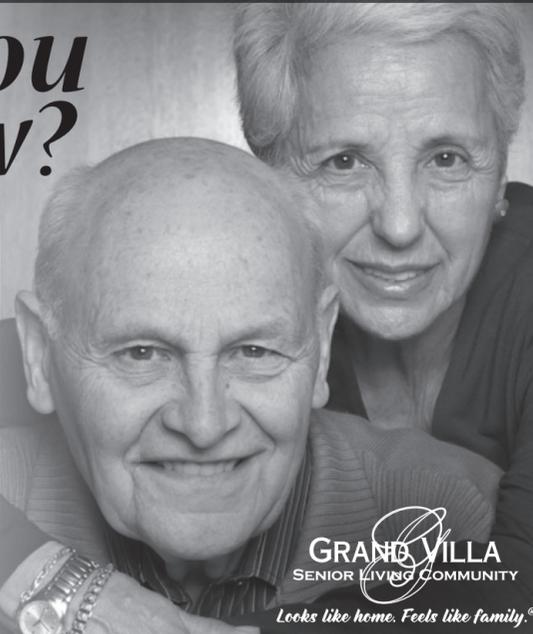
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'Gotta Serve Somebody'

Bob Dylan's 1979 song helps define philosophy of Steve Westphal, restaurateur and 'Person of the Year'

By BOB McCLURE

ST. PETERSBURG - When Steve Westphal describes his years of success operating bars and restaurants in Pinellas County, he points to the 1979 Bob Dylan song "Gotta Serve Somebody."

"This is as straight up as you can get with that," said Westphal, who was named the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce Tourism Person of the Year last week. "It's a responsibility and we take that responsibility very seriously. There's a lot of pride involved in our product."

Westphal, 54, has been taking his craft seriously for 40 years. From his early days as a 14-year-old bus boy at The Pub in Indian Shores to his present day multi-restaurant operation in Pinellas County, customer service, value and quality have been buzzwords to his success.

Westphal now owns The Pub, in addition to the 400 Beach Seafood and Tap House, Parkshore Grill and The Hangar in downtown St. Petersburg. Between the four locations, he has seating for over 1,100 customers.

Westphal also operates Café Gala in the Dali Museum, a catering company out of the Parkshore Grill and will soon break ground on a new "upscale casual" restaurant called the Gulf Grill in Madeira Beach.

"I have a great loyal staff, which makes it easier with a multitude of stores," Westphal said. "People work some of their hours at one place and some of their hours at another. It's like an extended family."

But through it all, three things have been the key, he said. "It takes hard work, dedication and a whole lot of patience," said Westphal. "It's a people business and I enjoy people and caring for people."

After graduating from Seminole High School, Westphal worked 12 years as a waiter at the Wine Cellar in North Redington Beach. At age 29, he purchased the Sports Bar and Grill on Bay Pines Boulevard, which he owned for 20 years.

He purchased The Pub about 10 years later at age 39. "Through the years, when opportunity has presented itself, I've been able to take advantage of it," Westphal said. "The Sports Bar and The Pub were one thing but when it came to opening stores downtown, I'd have to give kudos to chef Tyson Grant."



Steve and Nancy Westphal stand inside the entrance to the 400 Beach Seafood and Tap House at 400 Beach Drive in downtown St. Petersburg.

Photo by BOB McCLURE

Grant and Westphal teamed up to open the 240-seat Parkshore Grill in 2006. It has since developed into a 4-Star restaurant, according to TripAdvisor.com. Two blocks down the street, 400 Beach Seafood and Tap House is ranked 4 1/2 stars.

"He (Grant) was recommended to me when I opened the Parkshore and with Tyson we've been able to expand on these different formats downtown," said Westphal. "Tyson takes care of the menu and I take care of the business. He's my best and closest ally in this business. He takes care of what goes on the plates and I take care of what goes on in the dining room."

Westphal's restaurants have been a major part of the transformation in recent years of Beach Drive turning into a destination.

Visitors from South Tampa and Sarasota are among the regulars now.

"It's a gold mine," Westphal said. "Beach Drive has evolved into the see and be seen area of St. Petersburg where you can enjoy multi-culinary experiences in a beautiful waterfront environment."

So what lies on the horizon for Westphal?

"My wife and I are working to develop a condominium project on Indian Shores, just a block away from The Pub," he said.

The project, located at 20025 Gulf Blvd., is called The Pinnacle and will feature five single-family residences, one per floor.

"That way we can cohabitate on both sides of the coast," said Westphal, who currently resides with his wife Nancy in a Beach Drive high-rise. "We'll maintain our home downtown and one out on the coast."

But his plans don't stop there. Westphal said he has plans to upgrade The Pub.

"We've always continued to improve on what we have along with looking for new opportunities," said Westphal. "I say that because when we go out to The Pub, I have some exciting plans for some expansion."

Without getting into much detail, he said tentative plans call for a new waterfront bar and perhaps a roof-top bar, along with some menu upgrades.

"You know, when I bought The Pub, it was pizza and fried seafood and spaghetti," he said. "The menu has constantly evolved and we want to keep going in that direction."

No timetable is set for The Pub expansion other than some time after the Gulf Grill is open.

Westphal said since purchasing The Pub 15 years ago, the eatery has served more than 5 million customers.

Those numbers are sure to increase.

Business news

Chamber presents scholarships

LARGO - The Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce recently announced its 2013 Largo High School scholarship winners.

Recipients are Jacklyn Marie Spatzer and Louis Diaz.

Jacklyn Marie Spatzer is the daughter of Donald S. Spatzer. She has been accepted by the University of Florida and the University of Central Florida and is considering majoring in veterinary medicine, criminal justice, psychiatry, or psychology. She participated in numerous extracurricular activities including JV volleyball, varsity soccer, Blue Band, National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. In addition, she serves as a volunteer at the Pinellas County Animal Shelter.

Louis Diaz is the son of Antonio Diaz and Carmen M. Diaz. He will attend the University of Florida, majoring in business.

The extra-curricular activities that Diaz participated in include the Science Club, Interact Club, Senior Council and Spanish Honor Society. He volunteered at Mildred Helms Elementary, the RCS Food Bank and the Warren Backpacking Program.

"We had a great group of applicants for these two awards," said Laurie Bunce, chairman of the chamber's Scholarship Review Committee, in a press release. "It was very difficult to narrow our choices to two. We believe that Jacklyn and Louis exemplify the spirit and commitment required to succeed. We look forward to following their progress and sharing in their success."

Other members of the review committee are Debra Jones of Regions Bank, Chris Johnson of Piper Fire Protection, Ryan Clemens of Clemens College Planning, and Rick Donohue of Hampton Inn & Suites-Largo.

Corey Fresh Market to close season

ST. PETE BEACH - Corey Fresh Market's final date of the season will be Sunday, May 26, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Corey Avenue off Gulf Boulevard.

The event will feature live music by Joel & Dakota, the father/son duo from Tarpon Springs. The market boasts more than 40 local vendors selling pro-

duce, plants and flowers, arts and crafts, and specialty foods. Corey merchants also will be open during market hours.

Admission and parking are free. For information, call 498-8778 or visit www.coreyave.com.

Cooters celebrates anniversary

CLEARWATER - Cooters Restaurant & Bar recently celebrated its 20th anniversary with a tent party.

The event featured live music, special theme menus, drink specials, free prizes, and a raffle for a TV.

"We host a big party each year for our anniversary as a way to say 'thank you' to all of our guests who've been coming to Cooters over the years," said Carol Mears, owner of Cooters, in a press release.

Established in 1993, Cooters Restaurant & Bar is known for fresh seafood, hand cut steaks and creative daily specials

Tash elected chair of Pulitzer Prize Board

Paul C. Tash, who began his career as a Tampa Bay Times reporter and rose to become the chairman and chief executive of Florida's leading newspaper, has been elected chair of the Pulitzer Prize Board, Columbia University.

Tash replaces co-chairs Gregory Moore, editor of The Denver Post, and Thomas L. Friedman, foreign affairs columnist for The New York Times.

"Leading such a prestigious group is among the greatest honors of my career," Tash said in a press release. He was a Pulitzer Prize journalism juror four times before becoming a member of the Pulitzer Prize Board in 2005.

A native of South Bend, Ind., Tash graduated summa cum laude in 1976 from Indiana University. He received a Marshall Scholarship and graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of laws degree from Edinburgh University in Scotland in 1978.

He started with the Times that fall as a reporter covering local news. He also has covered state government in Tallahassee and served as city editor, metropolitan editor, Washington bureau chief and, ultimately, editor of the Times. From 1990-91, Tash was the editor and publisher of

Florida Trend, a statewide business magazine owned by Times Publishing.

See BUSINESS, page 11A

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Ford

Ford is a 1.5-year-old, 53-pound male hound mix. This boy was meant for four-wheeling and tail wagging. He is neutered, microchipped and vaccinated. To learn more about Ford and other adoptable animals, contact Pet Pal Animal Shelter at 328-7738 or visit 405 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg.

Visit www.TBNweekly.com

Mickey

Laid-back Mickey was returned recently because of his new dad's allergies. This 2-year-old male adores being petted and craves attention. A great lap cat, Mickey will jump on your lap and make himself at home. He ignores dogs and other cats. This sleek-furred beauty deserves another chance and a new family to love him. To meet him, call a Save Our Strays volunteer at 545-1116. He has been neutered, vetted and microchipped. Visit www.saveourstraysinc.com.





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BUSINESS, from page 10A

Finehout promoted at MBA

ST. PETERSBURG - St. Petersburg-based human resource outsourcing company Modern Business Associates recently announced that Ellie Finehout has been promoted to vice president of transitions and payroll.

Finehout has been with MBA for 13 years and previously served as vice president of sales and marketing and in director-level positions in both operations and client services.

In her new role at MBA, Finehout is responsible for all aspects of MBA's payroll and production departments, ensuring the accurate processing and timely shipping of more than 50,000 client payroll checks or deposits per month. In addition to managing the Payroll Team, Finehout oversees the client services and benefits departments, where she specializes in developing internal processes that promote greater client service and drive strategic corporate growth. Finehout has more than 20 years of experience in sales and marketing; operational, customer service and personnel management; as well as human resource outsourcing and PEO systems and procedures.

Roadside Attraction to host Wedding Trunk Show

BELLEAIR BLUFFS - Roadside Attraction Curiosity Shop & Craft Lounge will host a Wedding Trunk Show on Thursday, May 23, 6 to 9 p.m.

The show will boast "coastal cowgirl flair," and will feature décor and accessories by Tumble & Drift Designs. In addition to purchasing cash and carry items at the event, brides-to-be can consider custom design options and hands-on DIY projects while sampling goodies from up-and-coming bakery star Sugar Me Sweet. Special bridal jewelry and gifts cre-

ated by Roadside Attraction's consignment artisans will be available too.

Guests can sip champagne cocktails while learning ways to use vintage and handcrafted treasures to make their special day a truly memorable event. Admission is free.

Roadside Attraction is at Antique Alley, 596 Indian Rocks Road, A-1. Call 793-8826.

Insurance company wins top award

CLEARWATER - Auto-Owners Insurance has announced that Bouchard-Clearwater has been named as one of the top 10 growth agencies for the company in the Lakeland region for 2012. The agency was recognized at a luncheon meeting in Lakeland and at a reception with all regional associates.

"Their growth and support only help to make the entire community stronger and more secure," said Rod Rupp, Auto-Owners vice president. "We are grateful they chose us to do business with them."

Auto-Owners Insurance was founded in 1916 and has served Florida since 1952. A Fortune 500 company, it is the 18th largest property/casualty insurance company in the nation, based on written premium.



Photo courtesy of AUTO-OWNERS INSURANCE
From left, Greg Shell, regional vice president of Auto-Owners; Kristie Pauly, division manager of Bouchard-Clearwater; and Rod Rupp, executive vice president of Auto-Owners.

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Too much info

Editor's note: Debra Saunders is a columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle. Though considered a conservative she takes shots at both sides. Beginning this week, her column will run regularly on the Viewpoints page.

As a journalist, I am not supposed to admit this, but: I sympathize with the Obama administration's frustration over national security leaks. After a spate of leaks last year – notably, The Associated Press' reporting that national security officials foiled an underwear bomb 2.0 attempt last May – Senate Intelligence Committee Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein joined Republicans to denounce the Beltway's proclivity for leaking classified information. "This has to stop," quote DiFi. "When people say they don't want to work with the United States because they can't trust us to keep a secret, that's serious."



Debra Saunders

Feinstein was concerned about possible harm to a reputed double agent who got a hold of the new underwear bomb or to his family. I presume that when Attorney General Eric Holder made the assertion during a news conference Tuesday that his Department of Justice subpoenaed phone records of AP reporters because Washington had to respond to a serious risk, he was talking about the same thing.

Problem: Holder has not exhibited stellar judgment in this area. When he worked in the Clinton Justice Department, Holder advised the president on pardons and commutations. In 1999, President Bill Clinton commuted the sentences of 16 convicted Puerto Rican independence terrorists despite the department's earlier opposition. During his 2009 confirmation hearing, Holder refused to explain. Holder has a history of putting politics before national security.

Holder also is the swell who issued a "neutral-leaning to positive" recommendation that gave Clinton cover to pardon gazillionaire fugitive Marc Rich.

Problem: There's a protocol for these situations, which Holder's Justice Department ignored in the AP case. The government is supposed to give news organizations a heads-up so they can appeal and show cause why the government should not obtain proprietary information that threatens to reveal the identities of whistle-blowers. Didn't happen.

That's a nasty reward for the AP, which accommodated the administration by delaying publication of the underwear bomb story from May 2 to May 7, when official concerns had been allayed. At the time, the AP reported that the White House wanted to make an official announcement – which makes you wonder why Holder has suggested that secrecy about this episode was so dire.

"Nobody is more against leaks of national security information than I am, and I've seen lots of attempts to track down leakers in the past," former CIA spokesman Bill Harlow told me. "That said, I am surprised that they found it necessary or wise to do this massive sweep of AP phone records. Usually, if you can't find the leaker by other means, other administrations have chosen to not take this draconian step."

For some reason, the Justice Department obtained records for phones used by an estimated 100 journalists. It was a heavy-handed play that was about as smart as stepping on a hornets nest.

Savvy thugs know not to shoot cops, and savvy politicians know not to snoop on journalists. It's bad for business. And though the Washington press corps might come across as self-important, reporters are right to point out that the AP probe is likely to have a chilling effect on whistle-blowers and other sources.

That's why Obama, as a senator during George W. Bush's presidency, supported media shield laws. And that's probably why, as president, he undermined said legislation when Democrats controlled both houses of Congress.

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfnchronicle.com.

LETTERS

City shouldn't subsidize new stadium

Editor:

The City of Dunedin should not subsidize a new Blue Jays stadium or any other big priced projects. It's political scheming to cutting the city's service levels because our city leaders are using our tax dollars for other projects other than the city services, infrastructure and the welfare of the Dunedin's taxpaying citizens. Clearwater, St. Petersburg and the county commission is using the same scheme using bed taxes, so-called \$5 park fees, taxes. Promoting a fee/tax for one purpose and using the funds for another is deceptive political scheming.

During the regular season, do the Blue Jays complain about riding the buses between the hotels and the airports and stadiums of other teams' cities? These private sports corporations feel the citizen taxpayers should provide them with everything. It's "sports corporate welfare." If the teams can pay their players such high salaries, they can pay for their own multimillion-dollar stadiums. The tax-paying citizens of Dunedin should not be subsidizing private sports corporations "corporate welfare." What a lame reasoning.

Why is the city of Dunedin mandating the citizens pay for a stadium for the Blue Jays? Tax dollars are not for corporations.

Walter Gay
Dunedin

Make it a better world

Editor:

One day cannot go by without hearing about rape, sex slaves, kidnapping and other sex cries. We as a society need to ask ourselves, why?

Recently, Ariel Castro was accused of holding three women captive for a decade as sex slaves. During this time he was visited by relatives, yet the crime went undetected until now.

By mothers, grandmothers and religious societies teaching their children that their role in society is to have children, we now have an overabundance of underage children getting pregnant and adding to world starvation as a result.

Just because sex sells and we see it everywhere we look, in magazine ads, billboards, television shows etc., it does not make it right. It shows us that we have choices and need to be a trendsetter and do what we feel is right, not follow along because we want to fit in and be well liked.

It is time to take a stand and make necessary changes to make it a better world with less crime. By grandparents being good role models, their children and grandchildren will follow their example. There are more constructive things to do with one's time than sit around gossiping and ruining people's lives. Volunteer work is a good example of being constructive, not destructive. We have to start somewhere to make it a better world and cut down on sex crimes.

Instead of adding to the problem, it is time for everyone to stop wasting time and get involved and try to eliminate the problem. Put yourself in the victim's shoes before adding to the problem.

Eileen Nece
Palm Harbor

What do you think?

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

Here are some more guidelines for letters:

- Letters are printed on a first-come, first-served basis. They may be edited to correct grammar, spelling and factual errors. They also may be edited for clarity.
- Please keep letters to editor to 500 words. Longer letters may be cut due to space limitations.
- Letters should address issues or current events. Please refrain from making unsubstantiated allegations. The newspaper will not print letters that contain slanderous or racial statements.
- Please do not use profanity.
- We do not publish poetry or songs in letters to the editor.
- Each writer may submit one letter per month.

For graduates, one last ordeal

To paraphrase King Solomon's words, "Spring is here, and the voice of the commencement speaker is heard in the land. Let him who is void of wisdom give heed, or just let him snooze while the imported orator at the podium drones on and on..."

History is not clear on when the first commencement speech was given, or who came up with the idea. The typical graduation ceremony is tedious enough without adding a speaker whose implied duty is to inspire the new graduates. Some commencement addresses have been noteworthy and memorable. Most are not. Can you remember who was the speaker at your high school or college graduation? Did you put his or her advice to good use in the succeeding years? Neither did I.

My high school graduation didn't have a speaker. We were lucky that we even bothered to stage a ceremony. It took place in a dinky little Pennsylvania town not far from where Flight 93 crashed on Sept. 11, 2001. We had 16 graduates. The high point of the evening was when our pompous principal handed out our diplomas to the student at the end of the row and told him to pass each one down the line to its rightful owner. This meant by the time it reached us, our diploma had the fingerprints of maybe a dozen other people on it. Really uplifting.

The speaker at my college graduation was the former Philippine ambassador to the U.S. I clearly remember the best thing he said: "In closing ..." That's when a cheer went up and drowned out the rest of his speech.

To me, the best thing about a college graduation is the customary playing of Brahms' Academic Festival Overture. It's an old chestnut of a piece and lasts only 10 minutes, but it gradu-



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

ally builds to a resounding finish that makes me want to die for my country or my college or that well-rounded history major named Jenny who in four years never once gave me the time of day.

Each year at this time I awake to give thanks that I've not been chosen as a commencement speaker. I'm boring and bombastic enough to fill the bill, but I've never been important or distinguished in any worthwhile way, except to curse at people who carry on inane cell phone conversations within 60 yards of decent citizens.

Another drawback: I'd have to find something worthwhile to tell the new graduates that they didn't already know. I don't even know how to program my cell phone or send a text message. I'm afraid to join Facebook or Twitter for fear I'll libel someone. All I could do is set forth a few random ideas that might prove useful for the new graduates. Such as:

BECOME POLITICALLY ACTIVE, or at least well-informed about public officials and policies at all levels. Democratic government is a good idea, but many of its servants – progressive and conservative alike – are incompetent, corrupt, greedy and intent on staying in power. The default attitude by citizens toward every governmental officer should be benign mistrust.

LEARN SPANISH. Whether we live in San

Antonio or Hibbing, Minn., our nation is becoming bi-lingual. Each passing day, more products and TV channels are using Spanish words, ideas and customs. Which is okay by me. I like most of the Hispanics I meet. While you're at it, you might also want to learn to speak some Chinese.

DON'T GAIN WEIGHT. In the next 20 years we will see an increasing prejudice against persons who are obese or even significantly overweight. Government at all levels may pass laws taxing fat folks for various reasons (good or bad), such as increasing health costs or raising liftoff requirements for airliners.

ASSUME THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS ON CAMERA. You almost certainly will be. As fear of terrorism and crime increase, public and private groups will take steps to ensure that everyone is kept under surveillance 24 hours a day. In time, this may also include mandatory cameras inside the home to record burglaries, spousal abuse, child molesting and failure to put the toilet seat down after use.

PREPARE TO SEE WATER GREATLY INFLUENCE YOUR LIFE. Do not purchase an ocean-side home unless it's at least 30 feet above sea level. Each year you live, polar ice-cap melting will raise coastline tide readings. As global warming and world population increase, available fresh water will become scarcer. Water wars may become more than legal battles; nations may actually start shooting to determine who owns water rights.

BE OF GOOD CHEER. Keep smiling. Despite the worries that humankind faces, life brings just as many solutions as it does problems.

Bob Driver is a former columnist and editorial page editor for the Clearwater Sun. He answers all emails sent to him at tralee71@comcast.net.

Invest in ducks, not the lottery

As a co-worker was my witness, I solemnly swore that the Florida lottery scratch-off card in my hand was the last one I would ever buy.

Had to swear to somebody. I have been faithfully buying one \$2 scratch-off ticket once a week for about four years. Here's why:

- A. As the saying goes, "somebody has to win."
 - B. I want to retire before I'm at risk of being the subject of an end-of-life decision.
 - C. I'm mathematically challenged.
- So I scratched my ticket, and lo and behold, I didn't win \$1,000 a week for life.

In fact, I've never won more than \$4 off any lot-



Tom Germond

tery card in the four years I have been playing the game. When I do win, I usually buy another ticket. And lose again.

Without consulting my accountant, I came to the conclusion recently that I've spent more than \$448 on lottery tickets in the past four years or so. That's a waste of beer money.

Guess I'm just not lucky, either. I don't seem to win at games of chance. Every time I try, I seem to end up in jail. I stink at Monopoly.

Tried betting on the slot machines in Las Vegas a few decades ago, and all I ever got was zapped, thanks to the static electricity. Never seem to get anything higher in poker than a one-of-a-kind. Since I'm no longer going to play the lottery, I have to gamble on something. I've always embraced the competitive spirit.

So, I've decided to gamble on a sport I know something about: the Dunedin Duck Derby, a rubber duck race to be held June 22 at Weaver Park.

I have a lot of experience with fake ducks. In 2006, I took a picture of a decoy on a lake in Seminole, thinking that it was a real duck. A reader sent me a letter pointing out that I had run a picture of a fake duck in our newspaper. Which goes to show you that if it looks like a duck and moves like a duck, it might not be a damn duck.

It didn't quack, which should have tipped me off.

Since then, one of my friends, at least she calls herself that, has been buying me rubber ducks. I have a flock, gaggle or whatever you call a shelf full of ducks, I'm wondering if the duck derby directors will let me bring my own duck. I swear it doesn't have a propeller.

I took the jaws of life to my wallet and spent \$5 to sponsor a rubber duck. Its name is "Dack." After all, the duck derby's for a good cause, the Dunedin Historical Museum's programs. And it certainly is a better investment than a lottery ticket.

And I'll be there rooting for my duck: "Go you dumb @\$ duck! You're lagging behind!"

Maybe I need to bring some cheerleaders to the event.

"Anybody want to sponsor a rubber duck for the derby?" I asked my staff. Nobody even raised an eyebrow.

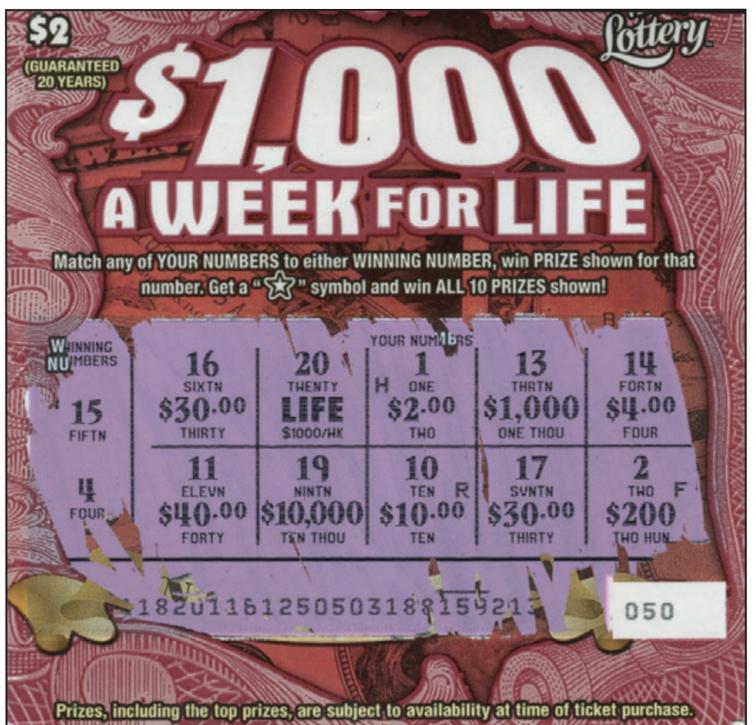
They're going to be soooo jealous when I bring home a prize.

But it would be my luck that my duck does an about face and heads for shore during the race just like the players in the electric football game I had as a kid – running the wrong way to the goal line. If my investment does that, he's going to be a dead Dack.

I'm ready for the race. Up with ducks. Down with the lottery.

Folks will be coming from near and far to compete in the Dunedin Duck Derby.

After all, somebody has to win.
Tom Germond is executive editor of Tampa Bay Newspapers. Email him at tgermond@TBNweekly.com.



A bad investment



A good investment

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Swanky Swine school store teaches special needs kids life lessons

By ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

CLEARWATER – When Jennifer Tollefson began meeting with her special needs students at Woodlawn Community Academy in Clearwater, many struggled with basic mathematical concepts, such as counting money, even though most were juniors and seniors in high school. But now, through her teaching and launching a student store that her kids run, her students are not only much better at their math skills, they also are learning many life skills that will help them in the “real world” after they graduate.

Tollefson of Largo is the director of transition services at Woodlawn Community Academy, and this fall she founded the Swanky Swine school store where about 10 special needs students work during lunchtime on Wednesdays and Fridays.

“We thought it would be good for them to get some practical experience, so we started a school store,” Tollefson said. “It’s our first step in a transition program, which is where we take our high schoolers and start switching from basic math and reading to more practical skills. We’re still doing math and reading, but we’re reading menus and doing money math and paying bills and writing checks and things like that.”

Tollefson said she basically started from scratch, with recognizing coins then eventually counting quarters and other change. Then, the students were able to practice those skills in the store.

“There, the students are exposed to it,” Tollefson said. “They’re not going to grasp it completely, but we do inventory before every shift, we do inventory after the shift, and then they do subtraction to figure out how many we sold, and we talk about profit and loss. And it’s more concepts to expose them to at this point, but I think it’s important that they at least understand that a store can’t give things away for free.”

The biggest goal Tollefson has for the store is that it helps prepare her students for employment and life after high school. Special education students can remain in high school until they are 22, but after that, they’re on their own. They can earn special diplomas, but they aren’t necessarily going to pass the FCATs due to their learning challenges, she said. Some have Downs syndrome, others have autism and others have general learning disabilities, among other things. There is a wide variety of skill levels, but hopefully they all will learn things they can take with them in life.

“We want to teach them skills like they have to wear a uniform to work, they have to be on time, working without complaining, standing on your feet for a while. That’s a big part of it, just building stamina for work,” Tollefson said. “Things a lot of us don’t think about. When we first started, for them to work an hour was a big deal. So we slowly expand their times. We used to do two shifts during a lunch, which is an hour and a half, and now we’re trying to slowly build those skills.”

Another big thing working in the store does is to help teach basic people and social skills, she said, including customer service. Even knowing when it is and is not appropriate to share things is a big accomplishment for some of the students.

Woodlawn is a school of about 100 students, and about 75 percent of them are special needs students, Tollefson said. So an added benefit of the Swanky Swine store is that it also teaches the other kids how to shop. Non-special needs students work as student managers to help supervise and assist – which is helpful because some awkward situations can arise.

“It’s kind of funny sometimes – if you have someone who’s not used to working in a store and someone who’s not used to shopping in a store, you can be surprised by some of the situations,” Tollefson said. “We had one time when after a shift we just found \$2 sitting under one of the pigs. And then, we have a little kid, he’s pretty much non-verbal – he’s in kindergarten and has Downs syndrome – he’ll pass out one coin to each person and then they all have to put it together and figure it out. It’s pretty funny. But that’s why we have the student managers.”

They started with just \$100 to start the store, which they have since paid back to the school, and from there, they have been self-funded. They’ve made a profit from the store, and they also have ended up selling T-shirts, because the uniforms have gotten a lot of attention. But then, what else could one expect from a shirt with a piggy bank with a handlebar moustache wearing a monocle?

The pigs and shirts have taken on a life of their own, Tollefson said. It all started in her Money Math class, where she gave all of the kids little piggybanks with their names on them to help them learn more



Photo by ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

The Swanky Swine store at Woodlawn Community Academy has helped special needs students at Woodlawn Community Academy learn skills such as how to count money and be more independent. Here, a student hands Logan Barham, 19, money to pay for his snacks.

about counting change. She envisioned the little pigs would sit on a shelf somewhere when they weren’t being used, but the kids fell in love with them and begged her to let them keep them on their desks. Therefore, when she was trying to think of a name for the school store, she knew it had to have something to do with pigs. To finish out with the name, she went with alliteration. However, it was a few months before she realized some of the kids didn’t know what the name meant.

“At first I didn’t realize that a lot of the kids didn’t realize what swanky swine was, and I thought I’d explained it, and somebody came in and did a story on us and I said something about swanky swine and realized that some of them didn’t know what it meant,” Tollefson said. “So I said, swanky means fancy, and swine means pig, and one of the kids said, ‘Fancy pig, that would be a great name!’ And I was like, well that’s what it means.”

Through this project, Tollefson has been amazed by how much the students have learned and how far they have come.

“Counting coins, opening the store, responsibility – I put out a schedule and they have to check it to know when they work. I don’t go around and say ‘Don’t forget that you’re working tomorrow.’ I did at first, but I don’t do that anymore. So it teaches them responsibility. It’s been really amazing. Even the money counting. Some of them couldn’t do it at all. ...One of our students, he’s never been able to grasp the concept of money, but now that he’s doing it in a practical environment, (it clicks.) I think it’s because it’s no longer theoretical. It’s not just on a worksheet. He’s actually working with it.”

Social skills improvements have also been huge, she said. They have a script for what they are supposed to say when a customer comes in, they’re working on always saying thank you and making eye contact, washing their hands and even just following step-by-step directions. At first, sometimes a special needs customer would walk up to the counter and the customer and cashier would just stare at each other because they didn’t know how to properly interact or converse, Tollefson said. Now, however, her Swanky Swine students know that it is their job to lead the conversation. They also now can pretty much set up the store all by themselves, she said.

“To see where they’ve come from in the beginning of the year until

now has been really amazing to me and a lot of people at the school,” she said. “We’ve had a lot of kids come here for years and for whatever reason couldn’t grasp the counting money thing. But making it real has made a huge difference. That and the confidence building – that’s a great thing too in preparing them for real life. When I first explained all this to them, they didn’t think they could do any of it. They couldn’t dream of ringing up things on a cash register and things like that just overwhelmed them. But now they love it, and they take a lot of pride in it. They really see it as important. To them, it’s their first job and they take it that seriously. We have some who I never would have anticipated have leadership skills but really do.”

Logan Barham, 19, of Clearwater said he enjoys working in the store, especially working as a cashier. He said it helps to teach him math, such as how to add.

“I learned how to do my math better,” Barham said. “(Before,) math wasn’t that good. Like adding and subtracting and stuff were hard.”

Barham said the store has helped him learn math better, and he enjoys using the iPad to ring up customers.

“My favorite part is probably talking to all of the customers,” Barham said, while the hardest part is learning all of the prices.

Lexie Palermo, 18, of Palm Harbor has Downs syndrome and loves working in the store, too.

“I love working at Swanky Swine,” Palermo said. “I like the store and I like my math teacher, she’s really nice”

Palermo said she enjoys socializing with the other kids while at the store and learning helpful skills.

“I’m learning how to be responsible and also math,” Palermo said. She realizes the value of these skills because she has an older brother in college, and she knows that he needs to be able to buy things at the store by himself. Working in the store therefore helps her gain these skills, too, and overcome some of her challenges.

“I have some challenges things in my body because I have Downs syndrome so I have a hard time, like some things that are challenging are speaking and talking,” Palermo said. “...Sometimes I don’t know what to say or what to do. So I learn that kind of better.”

Another student, Dimitri Tyner, 16, also said he enjoys his time working at the school store.

“It’s the best (working at the store),” Tyner said, “and she is a good teacher. (I like) doing the change and seeing customers being happy.”

Before working in the store, he said that money math was hard, especially doing it in his head, but now it’s easier. He, too, loves working with the iPads and being cashier, even though sometimes it can be hectic.

“(The hardest part is) the customers are always coming up to us and handing us money. It makes me stressed out,” Tyner said.

An eventual goal, Tollefson said, is to turn the school store into a small business where students can work even after they graduate. She hopes to be able to afford renting some commercial kitchen space so they can run a catering business. It would be huge to be able to offer these students work opportunities beyond graduation, she said.

For more information, visit www.swankyswine.com.

GED exam to be changed

In an effort to prepare diploma receivers for college and a changing workforce, the agency responsible for administering the General Educational Development exam has upgraded the test and how it will be administered.

The changes will take effect Jan. 1. It is the first change in the test’s content since 2002.

All students currently seeking a GED must have taken and passed all five content area, literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, and writing tests, before December 2013.

If a test has not been completed by that time, the student must start the entire test taking process over, adhering to the new more rigorous standards. To help facilitate this change, Pinellas County Schools will stop administering the current test to first time takers in November 2013.

“It is very important to finish now,” said Laura Sargent, the PCS managing officer for Adult Education, in a press release. “The new test will be a lot more rigorous and completely different.”

Here is what students should know about the GED change:

How will the new test look different?

In addition to measuring a student’s high school equivalency, the GED 2014 test will assess a student’s college and career-readiness performance level. The test will include multiple choice, short-answer, fill in the blank and essay questions.

What standards are being used to create the content of the new test?

In 2010, the Florida Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards for critical subjects. These national standards define the knowledge and skills students should have with in their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs.

Will I be able take the test using a paper book and a pencil?

No. All tests will be administered via the computer. There are no exceptions to this new requirement. In addition, all registration for the test must be done via the computer. The 40 GED testing centers in the Pinellas County will close and PCS is spending more than \$200,000 to create two testing rooms. There will be a testing room at each Pinellas Technical Education Center, which is called a pTEC campus. The Clearwater pTEC testing

room will have 35 computers and St. Petersburg pTEC site will have 60 to 70 computers.

Can I still attend one of the county’s eight adult education centers to prepare for the new GED assessment?

Yes. **Will the cost of the test change?**

Yes. It’s now \$70 to take the GED test. That will increase to approximately \$130 on Jan. 2, 2014. Retakes of certain sections will go from \$14 or \$16 to \$26.

How can I get more information about the GED program and the new standards?

Find more information at the Pinellas County Schools website at www.pcsb.org or call 588-6301.

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Indian Rocks Beach	\$920,000
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Premier Sotheby’s International Realty

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Industry updates

WellCare sponsors construction of multi-sensory room for PARC

ST. PETERSBURG - WellCare Health Plans Inc. recently announced that it has donated \$10,000 to PARC, a nonprofit agency that serves individuals with developmental disabilities.

The donation is being used to construct a multi-sensory room in the organization's soon-to-be-completed Autism Behavioral Center located in St. Petersburg. The room will be available to individuals of all ages who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and is expected to be finished in the coming weeks.

PARC was established in 1953 and currently serves more than 800 individuals with developmental disabilities in Pinellas County. The Autism Behavioral Center will offer this new multi-sensory room, a private therapy room and family observation areas. The center also will offer weekly training seminars to help parents, educators and care providers learn the latest techniques in helping individuals with autism, and will have extended hours for working families.

"With one in every 88 children being diagnosed with autism, WellCare recognizes the tremendous need for services like those offered through PARC," said David McNichols in a press release. McNichols is WellCare of Florida's president. "Like PARC, WellCare is focused on helping people lead better, healthier lives. We look forward to partnering with PARC to help enhance life for those affected with this disorder, and ultimately make a positive difference in the community."

"A multi-sensory room, like the one being sponsored by WellCare, is a key component to assisting

those who have difficulty with sensory stimuli," said Karen Higgins, president and CEO of PARC. "This room will offer children and adults the opportunity for interaction, engagement and training on how to self-regulate and make independent choices that will help them while they are in the community. The concept and equipment for this room are considered the best for sensory stimuli, and we are grateful to WellCare for helping us make it available."

To learn more about PARC's facilities and programs, or ways to support PARC, visit www.parc-fl.org.



WellCare presents \$10,000 to PARC for the construction of a multi-sensory room in the organization's new Autism Behavioral Center, located in St. Petersburg. Pictured are, from left, Karen Higgins, PARC president and CEO; Paul A. Manfrey, PARC treasurer/secretary; Maureen O'Neil, PARC vice president, programs; Tracy Schmidt, WellCare vice president of Florida field sales and marketing; David Carrasco, WellCare director of Florida community relations; Deann Hollister, WellCare of Florida community relations specialist; Drew Hobby, WellCare senior director, Florida healthy kids plans; and David McNichols, WellCare president of Florida.

Elementary earns Asthma-Friendly award

ST. PETERSBURG - The Florida Department of Health presented Sexton Elementary School in St. Petersburg with a silver level Asthma-Friendly School Award May 20.

The award recognizes the work done to create a safe and healthy environment for students with asthma.

DOH and the Florida Asthma Coalition, are a statewide group that works to improve asthma outcomes and reduce associated costs.

Sexton Elementary, 1997 54th Ave. N., is the first school in Pinellas County to receive the award, and one of the first schools in the state. Participating schools are being recognized and awarded as part of Asthma Awareness Month in May.

Partners include the DOH, All Children's Hospital, the American Lung Association and the Suncoast Pediatric Asthma Coalition.

The Sexton staff completed professional development courses in asthma management, formed a team dedicated to this important issue, established clear processes to identify students with asthma, ensure access to medications, increased awareness among all school staff and students, and took other actions to create a safe and

healthy environment, earning them the award.

Schools that earn the Asthma-Friendly School Recognition are better equipped to support students with asthma. Staff at the school completed the Asthma 101 program provided by the American Lung Association, with support from the DOH's Asthma Program. The Asthma 101 program provides school faculty and staff with the knowledge to support students with asthma and prevent and respond to asthma emergencies.

Specific topics include basic asthma information, identifying and controlling asthma triggers in the classroom setting, understanding asthma medications and Asthma Action Plans, and recognizing the warning signs of an asthma episode or attack.

Taking medication and knowing what causes asthma episodes can control asthma. It is also important to avoid asthma triggers and remove asthma triggers from the environment.

For more information on how your school can enroll in the program, visit www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/Asthma/schools.html.

For information about the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, visit www.PinellasHealth.com.

Northside Hospital names new CEO

ST. PETERSBURG - Dia Nichols was recently named CEO of Northside Hospital.

Nichols will start in mid-June. He comes to Northside Hospital with more than 13 years of healthcare leadership experience with HCA.

For the past four years, Nichols served as CEO of the John Randolph Medical Center in Hopewell, Va., where he was responsible for improving the quality of the patient healthcare experience, as well as establishing an internal culture of excellence within the facility. Prior to service at John Randolph, Nichols served as the chief operating officer of Chippenham Hospital in Richmond, Va., and as the associate administrator of West Florida Hospital in Pensacola.

"Dia has proven himself as a dynamic leader and has strong relationships with physicians, staff, and

community," said Peter Marmarstein in a press release. Marmarstein is president of HCA's West Florida Division.

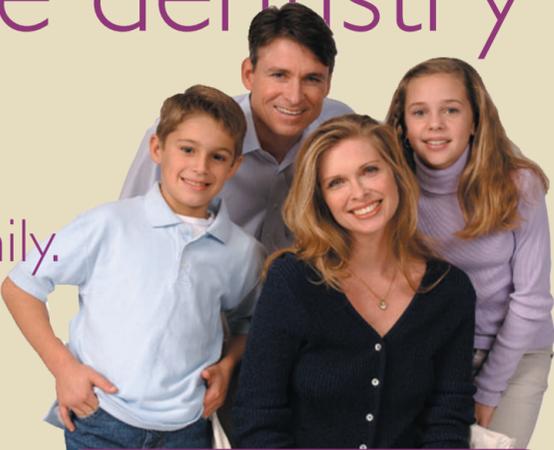
"I am excited about joining the Northside Hospital family and look forward to becoming a part of the community," said Nichols.

Nichols received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from South Carolina State University and his master's degree in Health Care Administration from Indiana University. Nichols is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and a member of the National Association of Health Services Executives. In 2012, Nichols was named an "Up and Comer" by Modern Healthcare Magazine. He also was named as one of Richmond Magazine's Top Health Care Leaders Under 40. He is married with two children.

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Summer is upon us and it won't be long before anglers and fish alike begin to feel the heat. It's time to get out early in order to maximize your opportunities. That first hour of the day of safe light before the sun actually rises can be spectacular. If you are tarpon fishing, this is when you will find schools of unmolested fish laying so close to the surface that their tails look like sickles slicing through the waters.



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wellerstein

The tarpon migration is in full swing. Each day will have more and more fish traveling through our area as they begin to form spawning aggregations. To hook up, stage your boat a cast length away from the approaching fish. Cast pinfish, pumpkin seeds, threadfins and pass crabs either free-lined or suspended underneath a float.

This weekend's full moon's outgoing tide will have the crabs flushing out of the bays. Look for the tarpon to stage up heavily at pass bridges and the 90-foot hole at Egmont Key. Drift live crabs with the tide near the surface or slightly weighted with a split shot for best results.

Summer full moons are prime times to target mangrove snapper.

Those willing to make a night trip out to one of many of the artificial reefs in 30- to 50-feet should do well with the snapper this weekend. Chumming over the reefs with cut pieces of threadfins or pilchards will get the fish under the boat. Lowering down a piece of bait fish on a small hook, light leader and just enough weight to get it to fall is the proper presentation for the wary snapper.

The snook bite should be good on these big outgoing tides this weekend. Target pass shoals and jetties for some trophy sized snook. Live grass grunts or pinfish are big fish baits. You can either free-line them right close to the structure or weight them on the bottom just off the rocks. Use 30- or 40-pound leader so the fish can be landed quickly and released unharmed.

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.

Get outdoors

Soccer organization announces tryouts

LARGO – Celtic FC Florida will hold tryouts for the 2013-2014 competitive and academy soccer season Tuesday, May 28 through Sunday, June 2 at the Seminole Junior Warhawks Soccer Complex, 11500 125th St.

Times vary and depend on the age group of participants. The organization is looking for younger boys and girls for its competitive development program up to under-17 boys and under-19 girls divisions. Rain dates are June 3 and 4, if necessary.

For more details and a complete schedule visit celticfl.net.

Luau fundraiser set

CLEARWATER – The Clearwater Community Sailing Center will host a summer luau fundraiser on Saturday, June 1, noon to 5 p.m., at 1001 Gulf Blvd. A silent auction will be from noon to 4 p.m. and there also will be vendors, food, music, free sailboat and outrigger canoe rides, and fun for all ages. Proceeds will support the sailing center and its community programs. Cost is \$10 for adults, and kids age 12 and younger are free. Visit www.clearwatercommunitysailing.org.

Extension to host rain harvesting workshop

LARGO – A class on rain harvesting will be presented Saturday, June 1, 9 to 10:30 a.m., at Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road.

Attendees will learn how to save rainwater in a recycled plastic barrel. The collected water may be used for plant beds, potted plants and vegetable and herb gardens. In this free class, participants will learn how to make and set up a rain barrel. There is an option to purchase a rain barrel for \$25 with advance registration.

To register, call 582-2108 or visit www.eventbrite.com/event/5724598428/eorg.

McGough to host night hikes

LARGO – Night hikes will be presented on the following months on June 15, July 20, and Aug. 17, Saturdays, 6:30 p.m., at George C. McGough Nature Park, 11901 146th N. St.

This will be a free interpretative nature hike through McGough's habitats. Call 518-3047.

Plant identification program set

TARPON SPRINGS – Introduction to Plant Identification will be presented Saturday, June 1, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

A local extension specialist will examine the basics of plant identification, from using simple keys to identifying critical characteristics that will help any would-be botanist in the field. An emphasis will be placed on flowering plants, but ferns will be included as well.

The program is free but registration is required and all materials will be provided. Attendees should wear comfortable shoes, as part of the class will be outdoors.

To register, call 453-6800 or visit www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

Weedon to host rain harvesting workshop

ST. PETERSBURG – A free rain harvesting workshop will be presented Saturday, June 8, 9 to 10:30 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

Attendees will learn how to make and set up a rain barrel and save rainwater in a recycled plastic barrel. The collected water may be used for plant beds, potted plants and vegetable and herb gardens. There is an option to purchase a rain barrel for \$25 with advance registration.

To register, call 453-6500 or visit www.weedonislandpreserve.org.

Garden club to host orchid program

ST. PETERSBURG – A free program on the orchids and epiphytes of Brooker Creek Preserve will be presented Wednesday, June 26, 2 to 3 p.m., at the Garden Club of St. Petersburg, 500 Sunset Drive, St. Petersburg.

James Stevenson, Pinellas County Extension specialist, will discuss native orchids and epiphytes located in Brooker Creek Preserve. Advance registration is required.

To register, call 582-2603 or visit www.eventbrite.com/event/5260299698/eorg.

Bromeliad society to meet

CLEARWATER – The Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society will meet Tuesday, June 4, 7 p.m., at Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher Road.

Getting a grip



Photo by NICHOLAS S. DESANTIS

A blue jay feeds in a yard in Largo. Jays are common in eastern and central United States and occupy a variety of habitats.

Jay Thurrott will give a presentation titled Why Your Plant Did Not Make It to the Head Table at the Show. Thurrott has been growing bromeliads for about 40 years, and grows more than 700 varieties of bromeliads at his home in Port Orange. He is an internationally accredited bromeliad judge, and has judged bromeliad shows throughout the United States and at world bromeliad conferences.

For information, call 439-7782.

FHS to meet

CLEARWATER – The Florida Herb Society will meet Tuesday, June 18, 6:30 p.m., at the Clearwater Garden Club, 405 Seminole St.

Emily Wenzel, president of the FHS, will share her favorite Emilian herbal drinks for spring and summer. The goal of the FHS is to educate members and the general public in the growing and preservation of herbs for use in culinary, medicinal and decorative purposes.

The meeting also will include refreshments and herbal swaps. Visitors are welcome. The first meeting is free. Membership costs \$25 a year.

Call Emily Wenzel at 365-8574 or email emily@floridaherbsociety.org.

Garden club activities set

ST. PETERSBURG – Creative Crafts of the Garden Club of St. Petersburg recently announced upcoming programs at the Garden Center, 500 Sunset Drive S., St. Petersburg.

The group will host the following activities:

- Monday, June 3 – Hanging mirrors for outside
- Monday, June 10 – Amazing paper jewelry

The programs begin at 10 a.m. The cost of materials is \$3.50 for members and \$4 for nonmembers. Participants take home what they craft.

Plant identification program set
TARPON SPRINGS – Introduction to Plant Identification will be presented Saturday, June 1, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

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Diversions

Things to do around Pinellas County



- Classifieds
- Events
- Movies

Leader
Section B
May 23, 2013

Visit www.TBNweekly.com

Top five diversions

• **The Nate Najar Trio.** Friday, May 24, 8 p.m., at The Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the show. Call 822-3590 or visit www.mypalladium.org. Celebrating the release of the trio's new recording, the Florida-based jazz guitarist pays tribute to an important role model with a collection of tunes either composed by or associated with the late guitarist, Charlie Byrd. Najar is joined in concert by Chuck Redd on vibes and drums, and John Lamb on bass. Redd was Charlie Byrd's drummer for many years. Najar runs the gamut from bossa novas and ballads to urgent and classically influenced numbers on this recording, his sixth outing as a leader. Like the new CD, this concert will showcase Najar's variety of approaches to what is now classic jazz material.



Photo courtesy of NATE NAJAR
Nate Najar performs May 24 at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College.

• **The Florida Orchestra: Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring.** Friday, May 24, 8 p.m., at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa; and Saturday, May 25, 8 p.m., at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$15. Call 892-3337 or visit www.floridaorchestra.org. The concert opens with Messiaen's symphonic meditation *Le offrandes oubliées* (The Forgotten Offerings) ... followed by the raw energy and breathtaking beauty of nature with the surging seas of sound in Debussy's *La Mer*. The evening concludes with the pagan-intoned orchestral power of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. Tito Munoz conducts.

• **"Ain't Retirement Grand."** by Gil Perloth, May 24-26, at West Coast Players Theatre, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Tickets are \$20. Performances are Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org. The lighthearted show pokes fun at retirement in Florida. The songs and patter cover the full range of topics that concern the over-55s: wills, doctors, pets, early-bird specials and "getting up off the couch occasionally." The show stars Mike Arnold, Bob Hines, Susan Taylor and Nancy Wright. Daniel Harris directs.

• **Sunset Music Festival.** Saturday, May 25, 10 a.m., at Raymond James Stadium, 4201 N. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa.

See TOP FIVE, page 2B



MK (voiced by Amanda Seyfried) encounters a slug named Mub (voiced by Aziz Ansari), a self-described "ladies man."

Opening this weekend

'The Hangover' concludes; Knowles, Waltz lend voices to fantasy 'Epic'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

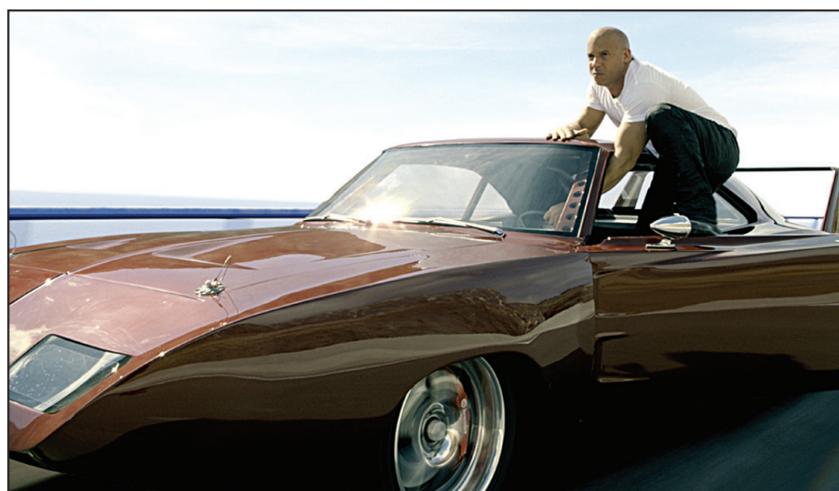
'The Hangover Part III'

Genre: Comedy
Cast: Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms, Zach Galifianakis, Ken Jeong, Heather Graham, Jeffrey Tambor, Justin Bartha, John Goodman, Sasha Barrese, Gillian Vigman and Jamie Chung
Director: Todd Phillips
Rated: R
It's been two years.

Phil (Bradley Cooper), Stu (Ed Helms) and Doug (Justin Bartha) are happily living uneventful lives at home. Tattoos have been lasered off, files purged. The last they heard from disaster-magnet Leslie Chow (Ken Jeong), he'd been tossed into a Thai prison and, with him out of the way, the guys have very nearly recovered from their nights prowling the seamy side of Las Vegas in a roofie'd haze, and being kidnapped, shot at, and chased by drug-dealing mobsters in Bangkok.

The only member of the Wolfpack who's not content is Alan (Zach Galifianakis). Still lacking a sense of purpose, the group's black sheep has ditched his meds and given in to his natural impulses in a big way - which, for Alan, means no boundaries, no filters and no judgment - until a personal crisis forces him to finally seek the help he needs.

And who better than his three best friends to make sure he



Vin Diesel stars as Dom in "Fast & Furious 6," the next installment of the global blockbuster franchise built on speed.

takes the first step. This time, there's no bachelor party. No wedding. What could possibly go wrong? But when the Wolfpack hits the road, all bets are off.

"The Hangover Part III" is the epic conclusion to an incomparable odyssey of mayhem and bad decisions, in which the guys must finish what they started by going back to where it all began: Las Vegas.

One way or another ... it all ends here.

'Epic'

Genre: Action, adventure and animation

Cast: Beyonce Knowles, Colin Farrell, Christoph Waltz, Josh

Hutcherson, Amanda Seyfried, Aziz Ansari, Pitbull, Jason Sudeikis, Steven Tyler, Blake Anderson and Judah Friedlander

Director: Chris Wedge
Rated: PG
"Epic" is a 3D CG adventure comedy that reveals a fantastical world unlike any other.

From the creators of "Ice Age" and "Rio," "Epic" tells the story of an ongoing battle between the forces of good, who keep the natural world alive, and the forces of evil, known as the Boggans, who wish to destroy it. When a teenage girl finds herself magically transported into this secret universe, she teams up with an elite band of warriors known as

the Leafmen, and a crew of comical, larger-than-life figures, to save their world - and ours.

Having brought to life one of the most beloved and successful animated motion picture franchises, "Ice Age," director Chris Wedge and his teams at Blue Sky Studios (of which Wedge is a co-founder) achieve new heights of realism, action, adventure and detail, with "Epic."

'Fast & Furious 6'

Genre: Action and thriller
Cast: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson, Jordana Brewster, Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese

See OPENING, page 8B

Market announces art expo

LARGO - Havana Harry's Market invites local artists to participate in an art exposition and silent auction themed "The Fourth of July Through The Artist's Eyes" on Sunday, June 30, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at 13932 Walsingham Road.

Artists are welcome to create a masterpiece of any form as long as it fits the patriotic theme. The event is designed to promote a local art community as well as celebrate Independence Day.

Artists must bring all of their own supplies and may participate for the whole day or part of the event. Artists may bring and sell any previously made artwork, as long as it relates to the Fourth of July.

Throughout the event, Havana Harry's will accept bids on the artwork in progress in a silent auction. The participating artists will receive half of the proceeds, and the other 50 percent will go to local veteran and first responder groups.

For this inaugural event, Havana Harry's is seeking sponsors for traffic control, tents, portable toilets, posters, musicians and other materials. Several artists are already signed up to participate in the event.

For more information or to get involved, call George Haber at Havana Harry's at 596-5141.

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Looking Ahead

Largo

• **"The Swashbuckling Adventures of Alex Jones,"** with book, music and lyrics by Jason Tucker, July 12-21, presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25.50 for adults and \$12.50 for children 19 and younger. Call 587-6793.

Pinellas Park

• **The seventh annual Pinellas Pepper Fest,** Saturday and Sunday, June 1-2, at England Brothers Park, 5010 81st Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Hours will be Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature hot and fiery foods and sauces to sample and purchase along with an amateur hot sauce competition, spicy lolly lick-a-thon, pepper-eating contest, amateur salsa competition and live bands. Admission is \$2 for adults and kids 12 and younger will be admitted free. Call 423-8433 or visit pinellaspepperfest.webs.com.

St. Pete Beach

• **20th annual St. Pete Beach Corey Area Craft Festival,** Saturday and Sunday, June 1-2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Corey Avenue in St. Pete Beach. Corey Avenue in St. Pete Beach comes alive with the nation's best crafters displaying their handmade pottery, jewelry and paintings. This free open-air craft festival also includes a green market featuring exotic live plants, handmade soaps, savory dips, and gourmet sauces. Visit www.artfestival.com.

St. Petersburg

• **"The 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee,"** by Rachel Sheinkin and William Finn, American Stage Theatre's 28th annual American Stage in the Park, through May 26. The production will be

staged at Demens Landing Park, on the corner of First Avenue North and Bayshore Boulevard Southeast in downtown St. Petersburg. For ticket information and performance times, call 823-PLAY (7529) or visit www.americanstage.org.

• **"John & Jen,"** by Tom Greenwald and Andrew Lipka, through May 26, at freeFall Theatre, 6099 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call 498-5205 or visit www.freefalltheatre.com. Performances are Thursday, 7 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$37 for adults and \$34 for students, seniors and military members. There is a \$7 surcharge for premium seating.

• **"7 Homeless Mammoths Wander New England,"** by Madeleine George, presented by American Stage Theatre, May 31 through June 30; previews May 29-30, at the Raymond James Theatre, 163 Third St. N., St. Petersburg. Call 823-PLAY (7529) or visit www.americanstage.org. Generally, main stage performances are Wednesday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Saturday and Sunday, 3 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$59 depending on the date and time of the performance.

Clearwater

• **"Pippin,"** by Stephen Schwartz and Roger Hirson, through May 26, at Francis Wilson Playhouse, 302 Seminole St., Clearwater. Call 446-1360 or visit www.franciswilsonplayhouse.org. Performances are generally Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets for nonmusicals are \$21 for adults, \$11 for students. Tickets for musicals are \$26 for adults, \$13 for students.

• **"The Rascals: Once Upon a Dream,"** Thursday, May 30, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$55. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. A hybrid of a rock 'n' roll concert and a Broadway show, "The Rascals: Once Upon a Dream" marks the first time The Rascals, America's classic blue-eyed soul band, have played together since 1970. Original band members Felix Cavaliere (keyboard and vocals), Eddie

Brigati (vocals), Dino Danelli (drums) and Gene Cornish (guitar) will present a complete concert performance including songs that captured the spirit of America in the 1960s such as their smash hits "Good Lovin'," "Lonely Too Long," "It's a Beautiful Morning," "How Can I Be Sure" and "Groovin'." The production also will feature the history of the iconic group told through archival footage, narration, and dramatic film segments viewed on the latest LED screen technology. "The Rascals: Once Upon a Dream" made its debut at the Capitol Theatre in Port Chester, N.Y. Originally scheduled to play three performances in December 2012, an additional three shows had to be added to accommodate the demand for this unique concert experience.

• **Bright House Networks' Clearwater Blast Friday,** featuring The Fixx, Friday, May 31, 5:30 p.m., on the 500 block of the Cleveland Street district. The free monthly street festival and outdoor concert will feature a performance by The Fixx. The event will feature a variety of vendors, as well as food, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages. The street fair begins at 5:30 pm with entertainment outside until 10 p.m. Not 60 seconds into "Beautiful Friction" and it is clear: the haunting guitar of Jamie West-Oram, expressive synth of Rupert Greenall, pounding bass of Dan K. Brown, steady beat of Adam Woods and unforgettable vocals of Cy Curmin add up to the undeniable sound that could only be The Fixx. "Beautiful Friction," the band's tenth studio album, finds The Fixx sharper than ever. Never at a loss for what to say, Cy Curmin and company have the same thought-provoking intensity fueling their lyrics and performances as ever. Fired up and hopeful as always, the band continues to take us on a journey, which started in 1982 with the release of "Shuttered Room." After seminal hits such as "One Thing Leads to Another," "Red Skies," "Saved By Zero" and "Stand or Fall," The Fixx has always been very conscious of making sure it had something to say. A limited number of VIP tickets are available in the Budweiser Platinum VIP section priced at \$30. The Budweiser Platinum VIP package includes a general admission ticket in the reserved seating section directly in front of the stage, two free Bud Light Platinum beers and a free slice of pepperoni or cheese pizza from Tony's Pizzeria. Call 791-7400 or visit www.athecap.com.

• **The Indigo Girls,** Saturday, June 1, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. For information about or to purchase tickets for upcoming performances, call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Tickets start at \$39. The Grammy-winning folk duo the Indigo Girls, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers, will bring their national symphony tour to Ruth Eckerd Hall June 1 with a 36-piece symphony orchestra. With 14 albums to their credit and a career that spans decades, the iconic duo continues to challenge themselves creatively, adding to a body of work that contains such hits and fan favorites as "Galileo" and "Love of Our Lives." For this tour, they've brought in musical arrangers Sean O'Loughlin and Stephen Barber to write orchestral charts for a selection of songs spanning their career, from the 1980s through their most recent release, "Beauty Queen Sister," on IG Recordings/Vanguard. For Ray and Saliers, who've been performing together for more than two decades, this is a chance to hear their music performed in a new way and to bring something special to their fans. The Indigo Girls first performed with an orchestra back in 2001, doing a series of shows with the Atlanta Ballet called "Shed Your Skin," which included a set of songs choreographed with a live band, an orchestra and dancers. While each show will be different, each performance will last roughly two hours with the orchestra, an intermission, and then Ray and Saliers will perform one or two songs without the orchestra as an encore.

• **"The Boys in the Band,"** by Mart Crowley, June 7-23, at the West Coast Players Theatre, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Performances are Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees are Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org.

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			

Across

- ___ of sweat
- Drinks in great gulps
- Impede, with "down"
- Cab driver in "It's a Wonderful Life"
- Drudge
- Cable network
- Professional performer
- "A pox on you!"
- Limit access to
- Famous tower in Paris
- A pint, maybe
- Those who try to frighten
- Pinpoint
- Extreme paleness
- Be theatrical
- Diminished by
- Blast
- Kudzu, for one
- People person
- Lady of Lisbon
- "___ alive!" (contraction)
- Frigid
- Philanthropist
- Even more senseless
- Putting areas
- Lack
- ___ green
- Outdo
- Ramparts
- "___ we having fun yet?"
- Sleight of hand
- Big ___ Conference
- A short composition for a solo instrument
- Indian salad
- "Dig in!"
- Crowded
- Lug

Down

- "Cold one"
- Coastal raptor
- Aardvark fare
- Losing proposition?
- Notched
- "The final frontier"
- Habeas corpus, e.g.
- Carbonium, e.g.
- High school choral group (2 wds)
- Novels produced in installments
- A neutral area between two rival powers (2 wds)
- Basket material
- Highlanders, e.g.
- Game piece
- Away
- More rational
- Dolly ___ of "Hello, Dolly!"
- Bypass
- Not contradictory
- Absorbed, as a cost
- Covered with hair
- Donnybrook
- Soon, to a bard
- Links numbers
- Solid, in a sense
- ___-eyed
- Covered, in a way
- Bloomers
- After expenses
- Neuter
- Decrease
- Kentucky college
- Blender button
- Resting places
- Asian nurse
- Commuter line
- Sky box?
- Become unhinged
- Revolver

Horoscopes

May 23, 2013

Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

Look out, Capricorn. A blowout is about to occur, and for once, it will not involve you. Step in and play mediator only if need be. A deadline is moved up.

Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

A reversal in opinions makes everyone at work sigh in relief. You dodged a bullet, Aquarius. Invite the gang over for a little celebration. A plea at home gets louder.

Pisces

February 19 - March 20

Indecision at work impedes progress. Gather the team for a little pep talk. You won't believe what it does for your spirits, Pisces. A package arrives.

Aries

March 21 - April 19

A good friend rebounds, and you have much to celebrate. Invite them out for dinner, Aries. Words are exchanged at home, and the cat is out of the bag!

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Freedom comes at a price. Remember those who have sacrificed, Taurus. A mix-up in communication at home gets tempers flaring. Ease the tensions with a day out.

Gemini

May 21 - June 21

A relative is on the mend, and you are responsible. Transfer your caring skills to another, Gemini. An agreement among friends begins to unravel.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22

Settle down, Cancer. A loved one really does have your best interest at heart. Hear what they have to say, but don't heed it. A health crisis ends.

Leo

July 23 - August 22

Stay low, Leo. Too many things are happening right now for you to take any unnecessary risks. A home improvement project ends with a bang.

Virgo

August 23 - September 22

A change in ownership is no cause for anxiety, Virgo. What's done is done. Do your best to keep your emotions in check and your nose to the grindstone.

Libra

September 23 - October 22

Breathe, Libra, breathe. Your coworker is not out to get you. They want to help, and you could use their help. Two heads are better than one.

Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

Cat got your tongue, Scorpio? Good. Too many opinions have been expressed as is. Keep yours to yourself until a more opportune time arises.

Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

Seriously, Sagittarius. You can pitch a fit all you want, but nothing is going to get done this week. The timing is not right. Next week will be a different story.

Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers

from last week

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

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

TOP FIVE, from page 18

General admission tickets cost \$74. Visit smftampa.com. Headliners will include David Guetta, Steve Aoki and Knife Party. Other featured artists include Alvin Risk, Carnage, Crizzly, Danny Avila, Dillon Francis, Flosstradamus, Herobust, Krewella, Le Castle Vania, Morgan Page, Nerd Rage, Pegboard Nerds and Popeska.

• **The Matinee Opera Players,** Sunday, May 26, 3 p.m., at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Parking is free and cash donations will be accepted. The Matinee Opera Players, under the direction of Mario Laurenti, will be performing. The talented group of singers will perform musical favorites from well-known movies as well as outstanding selections of opera arias, including the last act of "La Traviata." Also featured will be two guest singers: soprano Yelena Levinson and tenor Dino DiLiberti. For information, call Laurenti at 547-0396.



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Despite flaws, 'Star Trek Into Darkness' offers stunning spectacle

It simply isn't possible to review "Star Trek Into Darkness" without revealing several important plot points; therefore, be forewarned — there are spoilers ahead.

J.J. Abrams is back, directing (and producing) "Star Trek Into Darkness," the sequel to his 2009 franchise reboot "Star Trek." It is, in fact, the 12th film of the franchise — and it rests upon a sprawling saga that dates back to the debut of the original series in 1966 and includes several spin-off series. In 2009's "Star Trek," Abrams cleverly liberated his reboot by creating an alternate timeline, meaning he can virtually rewrite Star Trek history.

Let's begin by pretending this is only the second film in the Star Trek franchise.

Oddly enough, "Star Trek Into Darkness" opens with an homage to "Raiders of the Lost Ark," with the indigenous inhabitants of an alien world chasing Kirk and McCoy through a jungle. It's a visually breathtaking rollercoaster-ride of a scene that sets the tone for the film: wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling action. In a nutshell, the film is loud and impetuous, thoroughly vibrant and engaging, and filled with spectacle. It is popcorn-munching, summertime escapism at its best, and, as such, it's an astonishing success.

To make it even more appealing, there's a rudimentary morality play hiding in the narrative, too. A terrorist destroys a Federation facility in London, and then attacks an emergency meeting at Starfleet Command. Kirk leads his crew on a manhunt to kill or capture the person responsible. Along the way, it becomes evident that there are a few unexpected twists in the narrative, and that the mission isn't as simple as it appeared.

The film wouldn't have worked without solid performances from the ensemble cast.

Chris Pine has embraced James Kirk's iconic arrogance and narcissism. He's equally adroit at revealing the character's



Reel Time
Lee Clark Zumpe

inconspicuous compassion as well as his lingering self-doubt.

Zachary Quinto's deadpan one-liners offer an amusing foil to Pine's Kirk. There's a heavy focus on expanding the relationship between Spock and Kirk in this outing, building on the foundation laid in 2009's "Star Trek." Even when the two characters are verbally attacking one another, the actors make clear they share a mutual admiration. Quinto also delivers the definitive Vulcan soliloquy in the second act that is — as it should be — both logical and poignant.

Karl Urban is simply brilliant as Dr. Leonard McCoy. The only complaint is Urban is woefully underutilized in "Star Trek Into Darkness." Whenever he's on screen, though, he dominates the scene.

Zoe Saldana's Nyota Uhura, meanwhile, plays a larger-than-anticipated role in the film. Saldana once again extends the boundaries of this character, giving a well-rounded performance that includes scenes that showcase her intellect, her courage and her humanity. Saldana's Uhura is a strong female protagonist in a film that exasperatingly features few women.

There is one other significant female role: Alice Eve plays Dr. Carol Marcus. Sadly, it's a wasted opportunity. Instead of highlighting another bright, brave Starfleet officer, Eve's contribution is pretty much confined to two scenes: One involves bra and panties, and the other a protracted scream. None of this is Eve's fault. Blame it on Abrams or the writers: The role could have been much more.

The other major crew members are back, too: Simon Pegg returns



Photo courtesy of INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC/PARAMOUNT PICTURES
Karl Urban, left, stars as McCoy and Chris Pine as Kirk in "Star Trek Into Darkness," from Paramount Pictures and Skydance Productions.

as Montgomery Scott, standing in as this film's comic relief. Pegg nails the part. Anton Yelchin plays Pavel Chekov, who mainly runs around and acts frustrated. John Cho's Hikaru Sulu has a small but noteworthy scene, proving he's up to the task.

The villain is played by Benedict Cumberbatch. The actor certainly knows how to do malevolent. Cumberbatch delivers a genuinely menacing, detestable, depraved antagonist. His character is supposed to be appreciably superior — in every way — to Kirk and his crew, and Cumberbatch manages to make the audience feel as though the heroes of the Enterprise are totally outgunned and in a heap of trouble at any given moment.

Warp-speed action, exceptional performances and dazzling visuals all combine to virtually nullify gaping holes in the story. From a narrative standpoint, "Star Trek Into Darkness" has serious structural issues. Its internal logic frequently goes AWOL.

That brings us back to the second part of this review: discussing how "Star Trek Into Darkness" measures up to its predecessors.

Note: Here come the spoilers. When Abrams decided to

make the villain of this film someone instantly recognizable, he accepted the fact that comparisons were inevitable.

Once again, Abrams has rewritten the story.

Originally, it was Kirk's Enterprise who stumbled upon Khan Noonien Singh and his genetically engineered buddies in the original series "Star Trek" episode "Space Seed." Later, Kirk would face Khan a second time, in the film "Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan."

In Abrams' re-imagined timeline, someone else actively searches for Khan and the other cryogenically frozen super megalomaniacs. That person stirs Khan from his ice-pop incarceration to serve his own morally-questionable purposes.

So, is "Star Trek Into Darkness" a better franchise film than "Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan"?

Nope. Is Cumberbatch a better Khan than Ricardo Montalban, the actor who originally portrayed the character?

Nope. What's missing in Abrams' film is narrative meticulousness and attention to detail in storytelling. It's easy to pick this plot apart. The story is predictable and occasionally irrational.

Abrams conceals all that masterfully with exhilarating spectacle and aggressive, blockbuster pacing. This isn't the stop-and-think-about-it Star Trek film of yesteryear. This is edge-of-your-seat, bolding-going-forward-at-warp-speed Star Trek. Intense action — in space and on the ground — has replaced contemplative humanism and insightful storytelling.

The plot flaws aren't limited to "Star Trek Into Darkness," by the way. Future films will have to deal with the ramifications of ideas introduced in this film. Without giving away specific story elements, this screenplay suggests that long-distance space travel is possible without starships — and that immortality is possible.

Abrams also continues to toss

in endless references and allusions to the original series, even as he's dismantling it. This time, there are hat-tips to everything from Harcourt Fenton Mudd to the Gorn. Abrams is toying with diehard fans while he rearranges the furniture.

And yet, "Star Trek Into Darkness" is outstanding — as long as it is viewed for what it is. It is the quintessential summer sci-fi blockbuster, presumptuous and loud and full of explosions and rip-roaring action sequences. It's a rousing comic-book outer-space adventure boasting solid performances from a wonderful cast. Its story is tangled and imperfect, but its intentions are good. The stunning special effects and visceral thrills mercifully woo audiences into enjoying the invigorating escapism.

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1BR/1BA Plus Sunroom, Carport, & Shed. 55+ Lakefront Park, No Pets. Lot Rental, W/S/T, Lawn Included. Furnished, Convenient Location! Only \$3800
Seminole (727)393-0151

CARIBBEAN ISLES: LARGO,
2BR/2BA. New Carpet, Newly Painted. Sacrifice \$12,900! Ralph Huffman, Island In The Sun. (727)432-9582.

Affordable 55+ Living GLENWOOD ESTATES:
5 Star, Land Owned, All 2-3BR/2BA/2CP, Furnished \$170/Mo. Maint. 12501 Ulmerton Rd., Largo. Brochures Available At Clubhouse. #5 - 2/2/2, Lake View, \$65,888. #8 - 2/2/2 Lake View, New A/C & Laminate Floors, \$89,888. #18 - 2/2/2, Lakefront, \$189,888. #25 - 1g 2/2/2, \$89,888. #195 - 2/2/2, Many Upgrades, Laminate Floors, Lg. Inside Laundry, \$74,888.
On Premises Saturdays 9-4
For Viewing Call
John Doyle, Real Estate Group
Ipp Doyle, (727)510-3331

RENT TO OWN WITH \$500
Down, Monthly Payment Of \$600 Includes Lot Rent. Tenant Check Required, 55+. Embassy MHP, (727)531-5386.

TWELVE OAKS MHP
Great Deals On Prewowned Mobile Homes. Priced To Sell! Located In Beautiful Seminole. Close To Beaches & Shopping. All Residents 55+. No Pets. No Rentals. Call Mon-Fri, 9AM-4PM. (727)391-6268.

95. Property Management

LICENSED & INSURED
RR, LLC
"You Book Your Guest, We Do The Rest!"
Maintenance & Repairs, Appliance Services, Home Checks/ On Call 24/7, VRBO Turnovers, Departure Inspections, Housekeeping/ Cleaning Dave, (201)323-5717.

Equal Housing Opportunity
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The Toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

105. Lots & Acreage

5 DUPLEX LOTS. BAY BLVD
at 22nd Avenue, Indian Rocks. Sign on Property. Walk to Beach! Green Rock Realty, Inc. Owner/ Broker. Email: inroccrop@aol.com

Tampa Bay NEWSPAPERS
ACCEPTS VISA, MC, DISCOVER
CALL: 397-5563

5. Real Estate Sales

125. Out of State

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

RENTALS
135. Rentals
INDIAN ROCKS 2BR/2BA Condo For Rent. 55+ Community on Golf Course. No Pets. \$800/mo.
CLEARWATER 2BR/2BA Modular Home For Rent. Huge! 55+ Community. \$900/mo. (727)215-0155

140. Furnished Houses

LARGO, FULLY FURNISHED,
3BR/2BA, Pool, Game Room w/Bar, Fenced Yard. Near Taylor Park, \$1,175/Mo. (727)400-4290.

145. Unfurnished Houses

BEAUTIFUL SAFETY HARBOR:
Updated 3BR/2BA, 1,250 SF, Fenced Yard, W/D, Pets OK. \$1,400/Mo. +Sec. (813)407-1886.

145. Unfurnished Houses

LARGO: 3BR/1BA,
W/D Hook-up, Fenced Yard. \$875/Month. Annual Lease. Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

155. Furnished Condos

DAN'S ISLAND, SAND KEY,
2BR/2BA Penthouse, \$2,500/Month Annual. W/D, All Amenities. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton (727)644-0400.

155. Furnished Condos

LARGO: PENTHOUSE GREENS,
2BR/2BA, W/D, \$795/Month. Annual. Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

LONG BAYOU, SEMINOLE
1BR/1BA, with Den, 55+, Covered Carport, Completely Furnished, \$700/Month, No Pets.
Guetzlaff Realty (727)204-0829

MADIERA BEACH/ SEMINOLE
Condo For Rent 2BR/2BA 55+ Community, Fully Furnished \$1000/mo (203)982-8339

SEMINOLE GARDENS
1BR/1BA, 608SF, 55+, New Floors & Appliances \$675/Month-Yearly. Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp. (727)397-2534

ST. PETE BEACH
Furnished 1BR/1BA Condo. Water View, Large Sunroom, 2 Heated Pools, Clubhouse, 3 mos. minimum. \$1200 incl. Electric, No Dogs. Available Now! (727)403-9684

160. Unfurnished Condos

DELUXE 1BR, SEMINOLE
Gardens, 55+, 1st Floor. Very Clean With Many Updates. Florida Room With Great Views. \$750/Mo. Annual. (727)954-4795.

FIVE TOWNS

2BR/1.5BA/1CP, 55+, Updated. \$750/Mo. Includes Gas Stove/Heat, W/S/T, Cable, Recreational Facilities. 5623 80th St. N. (727)548-7641.

LAKE SEMINOLE, Waterfront/
Dock, 2BR/2BA, W/D, Carport, New A/C. Pool. \$1,000/ Month Annual. (727)954-6640.

RESORT STYLE LIVING!
SEMINOLE, LONG BAYOU, Newly Remodeled. Modern Condo. 2BR/2BA, 1,200SF, 1st Floor. 55+, Gated community. \$925/Month. (727)385-7718.

SEMINOLE
5/Minutes from Beach. Refurbished 1BR/1BA. One Story. 55+, Pool, Rec. Room. No Pets. \$700/Month, includes Cable, W/S/T. (727)515-5871.

SEMINOLE, INTRACOASTAL
2BR/2BA. FREE Cable, Pool, Petless, Non-smoking, 1-month Free Rent. \$1,100/Month, First/Last Security. (727)596-9656.

SEMINOLE COUNTRY GREEN
2BR/2BA/CP, Safe, Pretty Residential Neighborhood. Ground Floor, New Paint/ Floors, Pool/ Fitness, Near Everything. \$850/Month, Annual. (727)639-0918.

SEMINOLE, UPDATED 1BR,
Ground Floor, Corner Unit, W/D, Gated Community. Pool, Tennis, Clubhouse, Gym. \$850/Mo. +\$350 Security. (727)798-2438, (339)201-4667.

SEMINOLE: Deerwood Gardens.
2BR/2BA, 2nd Floor, Vaulted Ceiling, Patio, Balcony, Covered Parking, W/D, Pool, Clubhouse. \$850/Month. Available 6/1/13 (727)397-5571.

170. Furn. Apartments
CLEARWATER: STUDIOS Starting at \$179/Week. No security. No credit check. Free WiFi access. Pets OK. MOVE IN TODAY!! (727)445-7134. precisionpropertymanagement.net

MADEIRA BEACH: 1BRs
& Efficiencies. Fully Equipped. Weekly. No Pets. Includes Utilities. (727)397-4130.

175. Unfurn. Apartments

BELLEAIR BLUFFS
Deluxe 1-2BRs, 1st-2nd Floor. Overlooking Non-smoking Center Courtyard w/Beautiful Pool. Great location 1 block from shopping & Intracoastal. 2942 West Bay Dr. Res. Mgr. #1 (727)483-4853.

160. Unfurnished Condos

SEMINOLE, UPDATED 1BR,
Ground Floor, Corner Unit, W/D, Gated Community. Pool, Tennis, Clubhouse, Gym. \$850/Mo. +\$350 Security. (727)798-2438, (339)201-4667.

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MADEIRA BEACH: 1BRs
& Efficiencies. Fully Equipped. Weekly. No Pets. Includes Utilities. (727)397-4130.

190. Waterfront Rentals
MADEIRA BEACH CONDO 55+, 2BR/2BA. Annual lease only. No pets. Non-smoking. \$1,400/month. (727)391-6407.

195. Seasonal Rentals

SAND KEY CLEARWATER BEACH.
Furnished, Large 1BR or 2BR Condo, Pool, Seasonal/ Annual. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton (727)644-0400.

200. Vacation Rentals

CLEARWATER BEACH/ BELLEAIR BEACH
2700 Gulf Blvd. Gulf Front 1BR/1BA, 2nd Floor, Corner, Overlooks Pool. Beautifully Furnished, King & Pull Out Couch. Weekly/ Monthly Flat Rate, \$700/ \$2,500. After 4/7/13. Call Mark, (727)449-9292 (Office).

210. M.H. Rentals

CARIBBEAN ISLES LARGO
Unit 237 For Rent. 2BR/2BA, Island Kitchen. \$900/mo. Call For Appt. Ralph Huffman, (727)432-9582.

225. Duplex-Triplex Rental

CLEARWATER: EAST OF
Bayside Bridge. Unfurnished, 1BR/1BA/1CG. No Pets. \$750/Month. 1st/Last/Security. Annual. Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

245. Room For Rent

IN SEMINOLE, OFF PARK BLVD.
Nice Bedroom, Private Bath, Refrigerator, Microwave, Cable, Good Area. Near Bus. \$140/Wk. +Security. (727)398-0763.

255. Commercial Rentals

DELI, FULLY EQUIPPED, AT
10651 Gulf Blvd., Treasure Island. Across from Biltmore Resort. Call (727)398-5454.

200SF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

With private lavatory, all utilities included. \$350/Month 2260 West Bay Drive, Belleair Bluffs. (727)518-6551.

NEWLY RENOVATED, TWO
offices/ connecting door. Includes shared signage, parking lot, lobby, kitchen, restrooms and server/ phone room. \$750 plus electric. John (727)631-5900.

OFFICE & RETAIL SPACE

From \$376 Per Month. Ample Parking, Madeira Beach. (727)641-6465.

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE Space
available for rent/lease. PRIME LOCATION in heart of Seminole, 1,000 sq. ft. Located among Medical, Dental, and Financial Advising professionals. Abundant private parking. Contact Trudy (727)748-2049 for more information and exclusive showing.

STORAGE GARAGES, 11'X23'
(\$125/Month) and 23'X23' (\$280/Month). Warehouse/ Storage Combo. 1784 N Hercules Avenue, Clearwater. (727)422-4995.

345. Lost & Found

LOST 3-YEAR OLD BLACK LAB,
on Indian Rocks Road, female. Answers to Casey. Micro chipped. (727)596-7013 or (716)432-0402.

ARE YOU PREGNANT?
A Childless, Married Couple, (in our 30s) seeks to adopt. Will be hands on Mom and devoted Dad. Financially secure. Expenses paid. Nicole & Frank. 1(888)969-6134. FL BAR #150789.

355. Adoption
A Childless, Married Couple, (in our 30s) seeks to adopt. Will be hands on Mom and devoted Dad. Financially secure. Expenses paid. Nicole & Frank. 1(888)969-6134. FL BAR #150789.

375. Career Training

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

375 Career Training

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185. Beach Rentals

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
2BR/2BA, Amenities. 2nd Floor. Windrush Condos. \$950/Month. Annual. Best Beach Rentals, (727)398-1200.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
All renovated furnished duplex, Non Smoking, 1BR/1BA + large office. Clean, Private, 2/Minute walk from Beach. Credit Check. \$1,960/Month. (727)799-1377

SAND KEY CONDO
Facing Gulf! 1BR/1.5BA, Custom Cabinets, Kitchen & Baths w/ Granite Countertops. Flat Screen TVs, WiFi, In-unit Laundry. Beautifully Decorated For The Discerning Renter. Available Multiple Summer Months, \$900/mo. (813)988-1836

SAND KEY: DAN'S ISLAND
Furnished, 2BR/2BA Condo. Beautiful Intracoastal View! \$1,800/Month, Annual. (404)723-5690.

190. Waterfront Rentals

MADEIRA BEACH CONDO
55+, 2BR/2BA. Annual lease only. No pets. Non-smoking. \$1,400/month. (727)391-6407.

195. Seasonal Rentals

SAND KEY CLEARWATER BEACH.
Furnished, Large 1BR or 2BR Condo, Pool, Seasonal/ Annual. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton (727)644-0400.

SAND KEY, CLEARWATER BCH

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

200. Vacation Rentals

CLEARWATER BEACH/ BELLEAIR BEACH
2700 Gulf Blvd. Gulf Front 1BR/1BA, 2nd Floor, Corner, Overlooks Pool. Beautifully Furnished, King & Pull Out Couch. Weekly/ Monthly Flat Rate, \$700/ \$2,500. After 4/7/13. Call Mark, (727)449-9292 (Office).

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NEWLY RENOVATED, TWO
offices/ connecting door. Includes shared signage, parking lot, lobby, kitchen, restrooms and server/ phone room. \$750 plus electric. John (727)631-5900.

485. Help Wanted

SERVERS
Pinecrest Place Retirement Community is looking for "mature" candidates to work in our Dining rooms, to include Assisted Living and Memory Care. We have PT multiple positions open; various hours including weekends & holidays. We are looking for candidates to provide quick, efficient, and pleasant delivery of food to our residents & guests, ensuring all quality standards of food service are being met. We offer competitive wages. Position requires Level II background screening; EOE; Drug-free workplace. Please apply in person at 1150 8th Ave. SW, Largo, FL.

WIGS BY ABBY, LARGO MALL
Seeking P/T Help. Hair Styling a Plus. Apply at 10500 Ulmerton Rd, Suite 698. Monday-Saturday 10am-7pm.

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

505. Part-time Help

BOOKKEEPER
For Aldersgate UMC, 15 Hours, Strong Knowledge of Quickbooks, Excel & Accounting Principles. dweekees@aldersgate.com

CLASSIFIED
Information Is At YOUR DISPOSAL

505. Part-time Help

RESPONSIBLE STUDENT? Need a GREAT JOB?
Consulting firm now hiring student interns (GPA 3.0+, 16yrs+) to assist w/office duties including data entry, research & filing. School friendly hours. Must be a local student with your own transportation. Year-round part-time position. NO exp. needed. Largo/Belleair area.
Please call Mrs. Risner, 581-8702
Our intern program has given many high school & college students unsurpassed learning opportunities for over 20 years.

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

505. Part-time Help

DRIVERS
Multiple positions available. PT Hours. Some weekend hours required. Must have clean driving record, Dept. Of Transportation physical required. CDL license required. Looking for enthusiastic, energetic and caring people to transport our residents to appointments, banking, shopping and worship services. Must follow all company guidelines regarding residence & vehicle safety. Please e-mail resumes to Margaret.Kristall@brookdaleliving.com or fax M. Kristall @ (727)581-8409. Applications can be obtained at the Concierge desk in the main lobby of Pinecrest Place, 1150 8th Ave. SW, Largo

PT TECH. SYSTEM SPECIALIST
City of Gulfport: Position provides technical assistance, support and solutions in the installation, maintenance and utilization of computer systems and other related technology within our Police Department. Must possess excellent communication/interpersonal skills with above-average analytical skills. Advanced knowledge of PC, software applications, multi-function copier machines, associated networking and operating system concepts. Proficient in Microsoft Windows platform, municipal technical operations and Law Enforcement software. Documented experience with MS Office and MS Internet Explorer required. Min Req: Associate's Degree in computer related field, or Microsoft Certification, along with one year directly related experience installing, maintaining, or repairing PC equipment. Entry: \$17.55 PH. Background, drug screening, and physical will be conducted. Applications accepted at City Hall, 2401 53rd Street So., Gulfport, FL or via fax at (727)893-1005. EOE.

510. Home Care Help

CAREGIVERS FOR ELDERLY
Immediate P-T Openings In Pinellas County. Must Be Able To Do Overnights & Weekends. Clear Criminal Background, FL Driver's License & Experience A Must. Call (727)392-4243.

505. Part-time Help

BOOKKEEPER
For Aldersgate UMC, 15 Hours, Strong Knowledge of Quickbooks, Excel & Accounting Principles. dweekees@aldersgate.com

515. Hospitality Help

LINE COOK
Doubletree Beach Resort/Restaurant. Apply At: 17120 Gulf Blvd. North Redington Beach (727)393-2813.

525. Medical Help

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

CNAs & HHAs NEEDED.
All days and hours. Live-in and Weekend availability a PLUS! Call Griswold Home Care. (727)547-7000.

530. Jobs & Work Wanted

HOMEMAKER/COMPANION/HELPER. Available To Help You With Your Daily Needs, Shopping, Transportation, Meals, Etc. References Available. Call Diane, (727)643-5326.

535. Business Opportun.

Tampa Bay Times

Home Delivery Independent Distributor Opportunities
\$800-\$1,500 per month profit potential, paid weekly. Early morning hours. Be your own boss!
Areas now available:
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* St. Petersburg - Tierra Verde
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* Clearwater - Palm Harbor - Tarpon Springs
Must be at least 18 Valid driver's license. Reliable vehicle and car insurance.
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UNBEATABLE PRICES! FAST RESULTS!
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CALL TODAY! 397-5563

535. Business Opportun.

585. Auctions

GRANNYS AUCTION (AB1769)
Buying & Consigning. Free Antique Appraisals Tuesdays 12-4. Furniture, jewelry, paintings, sculpture, pottery, glass, military, sterling, gold, etc. (727)572-1567 5175 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater.

590. Antiques-Collectibles

NORITAKE VINTAGE CHINA.
Old Blue Dawn, Pattern 622, #100331. Made 1947-1951. 80 Pieces, \$150. (727)481-1697.

MERCHANDISE
ANTIQUE DRESSER, NATURAL wood, four drawers; 3.5HP Briggs & Stratton lawn mower, \$115; Ladies 3-speed Schwinn bike, \$85. (727)734-7289

600. Merchandise

ANTIQUE DRESSER, NATURAL
wood, four drawers; 3.5HP Briggs & Stratton lawn mower, \$115; Ladies 3-speed Schwinn bike, \$85. (727)734-7289

LAWNMOWERS FOR SALE. (6) TRADES ACCEPTED!
4 Self-propelled, 2 Push. My Hobby. Reconditioned. \$65-\$135. Save Hundreds. Also Other Equipment. (727)391-6937.

ZEN 2009 250CC SCOOTER,
2,400 miles. Bought brand new. 80MPG/ 3.5 tank. \$1,800 OBO. **TRAILER, 8x6,** rear & side gate, extra tires. One tall side. \$350. (727)581-0648

610. Computer Equipment

QUAD-CORE PC
Athlon II 631 processor, 6GB DDR3 Ram (support for up to 16GB), 500GB HDD, DVD/CD writer, Dedicated Direct X 11 Radeon HD5450. Graphics card in 16X PCI Express slot, This powerful PC has valid Manufacturer 1-Year Warranty. ONLY \$349!! (727)688-0215

535. Business Opportun.

617. Art

PORSCHE PRINTS
Professionally Framed, 30"x40". Nine To Choose From. \$50 Each. (727)244-4241.

640. Furniture

1920's MAHOAGANY Secretary.
Beautifully refinished w/bookcase on top, hidden cubbies, claw feet. Downsizing, must sell. Photos available. \$999. (727)421-9018

A BRAND NEW Queen Mattress,
\$79. New In Plastic. Must Sell! Can Deliver. (727)667-8288.

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

DINING TABLE w/4 Arrowback
Chairs, Light Oak, Nice Condition. \$150 Call (727)397-9383

LOOK HERE and save

QUEEN PILLOW-TOP Set: \$259,
Warranty. 6 piece, 800-count sheets: \$20, all sizes! Home Design Shop - Clearwater 700 Court St. By Appointment (727)687-0213.

TWO (2) BAR STOOLS, Adjustable swivel, cloth w/armrests, good condition \$60/ pair. (727)596-8239

655. Musical Instruments

KWAI UPRIGHT STUDIO PIANO
w/Bench, Excellent Condition. Just Tuned, \$900. Call Ken (727)393-6085

705. Nursery & Garden

BISMARCK PALM TREE, 6' TALL,
In Pot, \$70. Sells for \$150 at Home Depot. (727)559-1256.

740. Tools & Machines

2006 HONDA GENERATOR
EM6500SX. Needs Carburetor Rebuilt, Otherwise Like New. \$1,200. (727)365-2788.

535. Business Opportun.

CREATE YOUR OWN CASH STIMULUS PLAN!
Need to pay off credit card bills? Sending teens off to college? Want to add to your savings? Need extra spending money?
Earn \$800 to \$1,500 per month as an independent distributor for the Tampa Bay Times. Must be 18 years of age or older with valid Florida driver's license, proof of insurance and dependable vehicle.
Call 866-498-4637 or visit tampabay.com/distributor

830. Van & SUV Sales

DODGE 2007 GRAND CARAVAN
Wheelchair Van With 10" Lowered Floor, Ramp & Tie Downs. For More Info Please Call Ben At (727)644-6101.

845. Golf Carts

Ameri-Carts.com
727-533-6836
New & Used Golf Carts & LSV's Sales, Service, Parts, Batteries, Customization, Rentals & Accessories
8340 Ulmerton Road, Suite 230 Largo, Florida 33771

885. Autos Wanted

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

ALL AUTOS WANTED
With or without title. Any condition, make, year or model. We pay up to \$20,000. Free towing. (813)516-0847

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for Junk Vehicles, State Approved Disposal. Serving Pinellas 25 Years. (727)458-3721.

For the BEST selection of used vehicles, check our classified pages

885. Autos Wanted

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NO JUNK!

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910. Boat Slips

WET SLIPS FOR RENT
From 25'-55'. Sail Or Power. Easy Access To Gulf. Manatee Beach. Ample Parking. \$7.55/ Foot. (727)641-6465.

915. Boat & Marine Svc.

L&M DOCKSIDE BOAT REPAIR
Full Mobile and Shop Service. All makes/ models. Factory-certified technicians. Licensed, Insured, since 1985. lmdocksideboatrepair.com. (727)501-1727.

GARAGE/ESTATE SALES

975. Garage & Yard Sales

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Sevendust to play State Theatre May 26

ST. PETERSBURG - Having wrapped up their first batch of concert dates promoting their ninth studio album, "Black Out the Sun," Sevendust will make a stop in the Tampa Bay area, performing Sunday, May 26, 8 p.m., at State Theatre, 687 Central Ave.

Tickets are \$22. Call 895-3045 or visit statetheatreconcerts.com. Current Sevendust members include Lajon Witherspoon (vocals), Morgan Rose (drums/vocals), Clint Lowery (guitar/vocals), John Connolly (guitar/vocals) and Vince Hornsby (bass/vocals).

Sevendust has a history of growing stronger with each successive album. The band's ninth full-length offering, "Black Out the Sun," upholds the tradition. While careful not to stray from the bruising hallmarks of their patented style, Sevendust doesn't exactly stick to a script either. The band delivers what their diehard fan base has loved since day one while continuing to challenge themselves in the process. As a result, "Black Out the Sun" sees Sevendust at their most uncompromising, unwavering, and undeniable.

Fans agree, apparently. The album debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Top Hard Music Albums chart. Moreover, it debuted at No. 18 on Billboard's Top 200 Albums chart.

According to publicist ABC Public Relations, this marks the band's first-ever No. 1.

The triumph follows a much-needed break. The band took time off after touring for almost two years behind 2010's "Cold Day Memory." That record served as a milestone for a few reasons. It welcomed founding guitarist Lowery back into the fold after a six-year absence and it yielded the band's highest first-week debut ever on the Billboard Top 200, reaching No. 12 on the chart.

After the rollercoaster tour cycle, the group enjoyed a working vacation. Lowery and Rose joined forces for Call Me No One, dropping their debut "The Last Parade." Connolly and Hornsby formed Projected and released "Human."

By the summer of 2012, everyone in Sevendust began chomping at the bit to return to the studio.

"It was cool to recharge for a minute and come back hungry again," says Connolly in an updated biography provided by ABC Public Relations. "We needed to hit the reset button and remember how important this band was to us. The juices started flowing, and we were thrilled to do it."

"Taking a break helped tremendously," Lowery agrees. "We're family, and we missed each other. We were ready to write, record, and laugh together again."

That excitement carried over to the studio. The band retreated to Architekt Music Studios in Butler, N.J. where Call Me No One recorded and immediately got back in the groove, self-producing alongside engineer Mike Ferretti. Writing and recording as they went along, the entire album was finished in merely 31 days, only breaking to enjoy a beverage or two at "The Murder Bar."



Photo by DAVO/ABC PUBLIC RELATIONS
Sevendust performs May 26 at St. Petersburg's State Theatre.

"There was this bar that looked like a house across the street from Architekt," Connolly explains. "The first day we got there, the studio owner George Roskos told us if we went there we'd get murdered. Within five minutes of checking into our hotel, Lajon, Vinnie, Morgan, and I were in there checking it out. It happened to be the most unassuming and harmless place on the planet, but it's part of the album's story."

That story also happens to be the band's deepest to date. Prior to recording, Lowery endured the loss of his father Willie, a patriarch for the group as a whole. The title track went on to serve as a tribute to him.

"Lajon kept saying the line 'Black Out the Sun' over and over again, and I attached that title to my experience with my dad," says Lowery. "He was a huge part of my musical history. He was a great musician, and I idolized him. The song is about the anger I had over losing him. It's not lashing out, but it's dealing with that sadness positively. Life gives and it takes. It was important for me to give him this one last message about how much he means to me."

The album's first single "Decay" directly reflects upon the state of the world today.

Primed with an explosive groove and guttural distortion, it's Sevendust at their heaviest.

"That song deals with what's going on around us," says Witherspoon. "There is so much decay, but we're trying to get to a better place together. It's a hard-hitting track that really defines what Sevendust is."

12 bands come to Treasure Island's Bands on the Sand

TREASURE ISLAND - Bands on the Sand 5 in Treasure Island this year is jam-packed with all-stars from the Tampa Bay music scene, including Saturday night headliners Cope and the Black Honkeys on Sunday evening.

The popular Memorial Day weekend beach concert, now in its fifth year, is set this year for Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26 on the beach behind the Bilmar Beach Resort.

Music, food and drink flows at noon each day until 9 p.m.

"The powerhouse combination of so many headliner-quality acts, a 'let the good times roll' audience, and the laid-back atmosphere of our gulf front community, make Bands on the Sand the only place to be on Memorial Day weekend," said Cathy Hayduke, Treasure Island's Parks and Recreation director.

With fiery guitar, blistering sax and keys, thumping bass and monster drums winding thru every music genre, Tampa Bay jam band masters Cope headline the event at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Bonnaroo veterans and ukulele funksters Applebutter Express play at 5:15 p.m. and guitarist Bobby Lee Rogers fuses rock and blues into a musical tapestry beginning at 3:45pm.

Reggae popsters Shoeless Soul take the stage at 2:30 p.m., the adventurous, soaring country-folk of Between Bluffs at 1:15 p.m. and hometown favorites Sunza Beaches bring their Spring Break party on at noon.

Headlining at 7 p.m. on Sunday is arguably the hottest band in Tampa Bay right now, the Black Honkeys, with their Motown/soul sound.

Funky Seeds smokes the beach at 5:15 p.m. with reggae grooves, funk and blues and Talk to Mark takes the stage at 3:45 p.m. From Tallahassee, Grant Peoples brings his Peoples Republik Band onstage at 2:15 with songs about being a true Floridian and the journey that goes with it. Sunset Bridge, a splendid alternative country rock four-piece with clever original songs and delicious instrumentation, play at 1 p.m. and Spark Notes, a Sarasota trio with gorgeous harmonies and wicked mashups, open the day at noon.

The nine-hour festival, produced by the city of Treasure Island Parks and Recreation Department, also includes dozens of arts and crafts vendors, a fireworks display at 8:50 p.m. on May 25 and plenty of food and drink.

Parking is \$5. For more information, call 547-4575, ext. 237 or visit mytreasureisland.org.

OPENING, from page 1B

Gibson, Sung Kang, Gal Gadot, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Elsa Pataky, Luke Evans and Gina Carano

Director: Justin Lin
Rated: PG-13

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker and Dwayne Johnson lead the returning cast of all-stars as the global blockbuster franchise built on speed races to its next continent in "Fast & Furious 6."

Reuniting for their most high-stakes adventure yet, fan favorites Jordana Brewster, Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese Gibson, Sung Kang, Gal Gadot, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges and Elsa Pataky are joined by badass series newcomers Luke Evans and Gina Carano.

Since Dom (Diesel) and Brian's (Walker) Rio heist toppled a kingpin's empire and left their crew with \$100 million, our heroes have scattered across the globe. But their inability to return home and living forever on the lam have left their lives incomplete.

Meanwhile, Hobbs (Johnson) has been tracking an organization of lethally skilled mercenary drivers across 12 countries, whose mastermind (Evans) is aided by a ruthless second-in-command revealed to be the love Dom thought was dead, Letty (Rodriguez). The only way to stop the criminal outfit is to outmatch them at street level, so Hobbs asks Dom to assemble his elite team in London. Payment? Full pardons for all of them so they can return home and make their families whole again.

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

'Before Midnight'

Genre: Drama
Cast: Julie Delpy, Ethan Hawke, Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick, Ariane Labed, Athina Rachel Tsigari, Xenia Kalogeropoulou, Walter Lassally and Yannis Papadopoulos
Director: Richard Linklater
Rated: R

An American father, Jesse, (Ethan Hawke) is seeing off his son Hank (Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick) at the Kalamata Airport in Greece. Hank's returning to his mother and life in the United States after spending the "best summer ever" with Jesse and his family.

The middle-schooler is more composed than his 40ish father, who hovers anxiously as their separation draws near.

Geography weighs heavily on Jesse. Outside the airport, he rejoins his family: Celine (Julie Delpy) and their young twin daughters Ella and Nina (Jennifer and Charlotte Prior). As they drive through the austere beautiful rocky hillsides of Messinia, Jesse and Celine talk - about living so far from Hank, about her career as an environmentalist and hopes for a new job, about the swirl of ancient and modern Greece around them. Jesse hints at wanting to move back to America from their home in Paris, but Celine has done her U.S. time - they lived in New York for a spell - and has no wish to return. Their long history together bubbles between them.

Jesse's a successful novelist, and they're in Greece at a writer's retreat, staying in the bucolic country villa of an older expat writer, Patrick (Walter Lassally). Jesse's given to flights of creative fancy which charm the assembled company, warmly hospitable Greek couples, but Celine - whose own past has played a starring role in Jesse's semi-autobiographical novels - is perhaps a bit weary of serving as alluring French muse to Jesse's fiction career.

As a treat, their Greek friends have gifted Jesse and Celine with a night at a luxurious seaside hotel while they babysit the twins. Feeling the undercurrent of friction between them, Celine wants to beg off, but their friends insist. They set off on foot through the spectacular countryside, meandering through meadows and villages, enjoying each others' company, talking, teasing, debating, flirting.

What does a long-term couple do in a sleek hotel room besides throw off their worries, responsibilities, and clothes and make love? But for Jesse and Celine, realities intrude: the weight of children, work, ambitions, disappointments; the ebb and flow of romantic love; the strains of an evolving, deepening relationship.



Photo by DESPINA SPYROU/SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Julie Delpy stars as Celine and Ethan Hawke as Jesse in "Before Midnight."

Their idyllic night tests them in unexpected ways. Jesse and Celine first met in their 20s in "Before Sunrise" (1995), reunited in their 30s in "Before Sunset" (2004), and now, in "Before Midnight," they face the past, present and future; family, romance, and love. Before the clock strikes midnight, their story again unfolds.

'Fill the Void'

Genre: Drama
Cast: Hadas Yaron, Yiftach Klein, Irit Sheleg and Chaim Sharir
Director: Rama Burshtein
Rated: PG
"Fill the Void" tells the story of an Orthodox Hasidic family from Tel Aviv.
At age 18, Shira is the youngest daughter of the family. She is about to be married off to a promising young man of the same age and background. It

is a dream-come-true, and Shira feels prepared and excited.

On Purim, her 28-year-old sister, Esther, dies while giving birth to her first child. The pain and grief that overwhelm the family postpone Shira's promised match.

Everything changes when an offer is proposed to match Yochay - the late Esther's husband - to a widow from Belgium. Yochay feels it's too early, although he realizes that sooner or later he must seriously consider getting married again. When the girls' mother finds out that Yochay may leave the country with her only grandchild, she proposes a match between Shira and the widower. Shira will have to choose between her heart's wish and her family duty.

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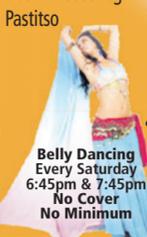
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