



Jackson delivers breathtaking film in 'Desolation of Smaug'

Nonetheless, the second installment in 'The Hobbit' fantasy epic has its flaws ... Page 1B.

LARGO LEADER

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LARGO



Toys for Tots

Next-door neighbors Nancy Bauer, left, and Anita Reed take stock of toys donated by residents of the Island in the Sun, Royal Palms and East Bay Oaks senior communities in Largo Dec. 6. ... Page 3A.

Suspected drug dealer arrested

The Largo Police Department arrested a suspected drug dealer Dec. 13, after about six months of trying to collect evidence against the resident of 2825 Green Acres Ave., Unit B., whom police described as "careful" and "discrete." ... Page 4A.



Frederick Klingelhofer

BUSINESS

Largo author offers short stories

Author Laura L. Sullivan offered free downloads of her short stories, which range from children's stories to science fiction and fantasy. ... Page 11A.



Laura L. Sullivan

COMMUNITY

Seminole star returns for show

Singer Rachel Potter just happened to find herself visiting New York while "The X Factor" was holding auditions this summer. It must have been kismet. The Seminole alum "took a big ol' leap of faith." She had always dreamed of being a country star. ... Page 12A.



Rachel Potter

VIEWPOINTS

Tom Germond

Columnist unveils his chuck-it list. ... Page 15A.



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Largo families get a holiday boost

City police and firefighters help children shop for Christmas presents

By BRIAN GOFF

LARGO - For weeks, 3-year-old Jade Darroch was excited that she has been chosen to take part in Largo's eighth annual Shop with a Cop or Firefighter event.

She couldn't wait to show up at the Walmart on Missouri Avenue with her mom and grandmother Dec. 13. But that was until she got there.

Overwhelmed by the other children and their families, the police officers and firefighters in full uniform, and a huge fire truck parked in front of the store, all she could do was cling to her mother bewildered at the commotion.

"She was so excited about all this," said her mother, Shannyn Darroch. "Once she gets rid of this little bout of

shyness, she'll be all right."

In fact, it only took a few minutes among the aisles in the toy department, full of exactly what she wanted. Jade soon let go of her mother and began roaming from shelf to shelf, from toy to toy.

Shop with a Cop or Firefighter, sponsored by Walmart and the Tampa Bay Times Turkey Trot, invited 22 families to participate this year. When it began, the shopping event just involved the police, as a way to fill a need in the community, said Police Sgt. Chris Burke, its main organizer.

"Every city has families that are struggling during the holiday season," he said. "The thought was to pair them up with law enforcement to give the underprivileged

See SHOP, page 4A



Jade Darroch, 3, clings to her mother, Shannyn Darroch, accompanied by, from left, her grandmother Maria Fisher, Largo Fire Lt. Emmett Sands and Firefighter Jorge Olivera during the eighth annual Shop with a Cop or Firefighter at Walmart Dec. 13. Photo by BRIAN GOFF

Bookstore owner believes in the personal touch

By FRANK DROUZAS

LARGO - In the age of electronic readers, gargantuan chain stores and online retail sites, independent used bookstores are becoming endangered species. Yet Book Bank is one such store that's still managing to keep its head above water.

The store, at 13002 Seminole Blvd., first opened in Largo Mall in 1992 but moved across the street to the Piccadilly Square plaza two and a half years ago. Though about half the size of its original location, it still feels spacious as light floods in through the glass door and windows and fills the 2,000-square-foot shop with Florida sunshine.

Amy Schmaedeke, the owner since 1998, believes her store provides a warm, inviting ambience for her customers.

"It's a very pleasant atmosphere. There's no stress or hassle. People come in because they want to relax and browse," she said.

She admitted that she has noticed a decline in business.

"We are the last independent

See BOOKSTORE, page 4A



Owner Amy Schmaedeke, left, helps a customer at Book Bank, a used bookstore at 13002 Seminole Blvd., in Largo. Photo by FRANK DROUZAS

City commission gets an earful on sewer problems

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - After hearing 17 Largo residents, many representing more of the neighbors, complain about extensive sewer problems in the area around Kent Place Dec. 17, Mayor Pat Gerard turned to city staff for an explanation.

"I'm embarrassed to be sitting here listening to this, because every time I've asked questions about this problem I've gotten, 'Well, people don't complain, it's really not that bad a problem, we have right-of-way issues,'" she said, her voice tense with anger. "I mean, seriously, what the hell?"

City staff had minimized the problem to the commissioners, she said. She offered an apology to the more than 30 residents from Kent Place who came to the commission meeting.

"I know we have legal issues involved, and you know what? I don't care. We need to get it fixed," she said.

For about 50 minutes, the Kent Place residents had described what they called "third-world" conditions: horrible smells while city workers pumped out backed up sewage once a week and stormwater overflows that contaminate the neighborhood and Allen's Creek to hazardous levels. One woman said sewer backwashed out of her toilet, flooding her bathroom 11 months ago. Other speakers said they knew their neighbors had the same problem.

As president of the Allen Creek Property Owners Association, Roberta Hasken said she represented about 73 properties, with an assessed tax value of \$36 million, though 17 of those properties are outside of Largo city limits. The sanitary sewer system has been an "aggravation for 37 years," she said. She and many residents were

See SEWER, page 4A

Citizens' Academy graduates



Citizens' Academy of Largo graduates, from left, Clara Avlonitis, Scarlett Robinson, Louise Ash, Rebecca Paone and Frances Leong accept congratulations Dec. 17 from Largo officials behind the dais including, from left, Commissioners Michael Smith and Curtis Holmes, City Attorney Alan Zimmet, Mayor Pat Gerard, City Manager Mac Craig and Commissioner Harriet Crozier. In total, 14 residents participated in a weekly program between Sept. 16 and Dec. 9, exploring what the employees of each municipal department do in service of the city. Other graduates are Ted Jones, Angela Schimeneck, Julie Bostick, Lindsey Funair, Linda Signor, Zaelys Delgado, Ginny Nelson, Tyler Thompson and David Walker. Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Transit surtax referendum OK'd

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - The fate of the Pinellas County's transportation system is in the hands of the voters.

Supporters of the Greenlight Pinellas plan celebrated what was touted as a "historical vote," after Pinellas County Commissioners approved, 6-1, an ordinance to levy a 1 percent charter county and regional transportation system surtax, upon approval by the voters during a Nov. 14, 2014, referendum election.

Commissioner Norm Roche voted no. Approval of the referendum would allow the county to use a 1 percent sales tax to pay for public transit uses, including expanded bus service, bus rapid transit, and local passenger rail service. If approved, the county would discontinue the ad valorem tax levy, which currently pays for countywide transit services.

Commissioners listened to the public speak for and against for about three hours before voting. About 55 people registered in support, 24 as opposed and two were undecided as the commission took testimony during the Dec. 11 public hearing.

No one spoke against allowing people to vote on the measure. The division is between those in favor of the surtax and Greenlight Pinellas plan and those who prefer to leave the tax as-is and work to improve the current bus system.

In support

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, Greenlight Pinellas Council, the county commission, Metropolitan Planning Organization and most local municipalities support moving forward with a plan to take Pinellas into the future.

They cite a variety of benefits: more transit choices, job creation.

See TRANSIT, page 4A

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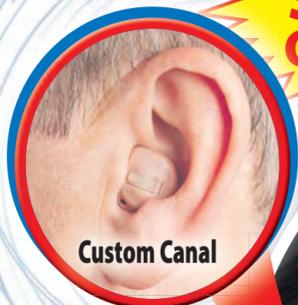
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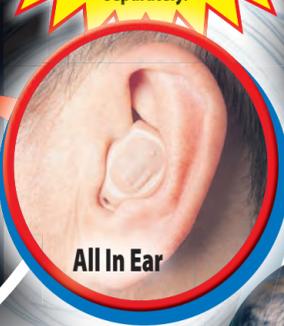
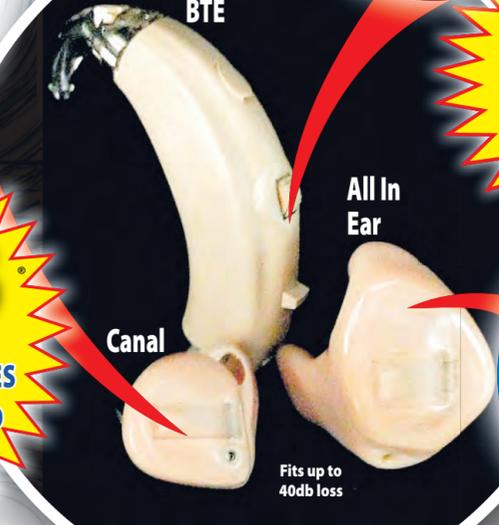
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Central Park calendar

The Largo Central Park is at 101 Central Park Drive. Within the park are the Largo Public Library, at 120 Central Park Drive and Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Visit LargoEvents.com.

Holiday lights

Be sure to visit the holiday light display, featuring more than a million lights in Largo Central Park through Friday, Jan. 3.

It's free to stroll through the park and see the dazzling displays of trains, toy bears, carolers, toy soldiers and many more. There will be a campfire each night to enjoy after strolling through the park.

Library hosts holiday art show

LARGO – The last day of the Greater Largo Library Foundation's inaugural Holiday Art Show and Sale is Saturday, Dec. 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the library, 120 Central Park Drive.

Painters, jewelry artists, potters, woodcrafters and many other artists will be participating in this fundraiser.

Artists include potters Joel and Barbara Ott of Clearwater; woodcrafters John and Fran Britt of Pinellas Park; Largo painters Marge Giroux, Phyllis Murphy and Barbara Conolley; jewelry artists Tanya Pistillo of Largo and Gillian Mosvold; photographer Michelle McCracken and volunteers from Keyline Newsletter Kyoko Japan Relief Fund, making Japanese ornaments made out of eggs.

For more information, call the foundation at 586-7398.

Library Friends to sell gift baskets

LARGO – The Friends of the Largo Library will host a Holiday Gift Basket Sale through Saturday, Dec. 21, in the lobby and the bookstore.

The baskets, featuring various themes, will be on display in the library. All proceeds benefit the library. Call the bookstore at 586-7392.

Society holds gem, jewelry and mineral show

LARGO – The Pinellas Geological Society Inc., a nonprofit gem and mineral hobby club, will hold its 38th annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show and Sale Jan. 10-12 at the Largo Cultural Center, Parkside Room, 105 Central Park Drive.

Times for the show are Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free to the event.

Members of the Geological Society and others will show their cut gems, silver and gold jewelry, wire wrap, beading, cabochons and collections of rocks and minerals for their viewing pleasure and purchase at the show. Attendees can participate in a drawing for \$1.50.

For more information, call Leona at 894-2440.

Create at the library's crafting event

LARGO – Attend a free evening of crafting while taking inspiration from non-fiction books with Crafter Dark at the Largo Public Library on second Wednesdays, 6 p.m., in the Jenkins Community Wing of the library.

Use a variety of materials to create a fun and unique project during this adult program. Families are welcome. The winter crafts will be inspired by the 1970s macramé trend, with a macramé rhinestone bracelet Jan. 8. All materials will be provided.

No registration is required. For information, call 587-6715.

Library Friends host sale

LARGO – The Friends of Largo Public Library will host a semi-annual sale featuring a wide variety of donations and library discards at low prices the weekend of Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, at the library, 120 Central Park Drive.

A preview sale for members of the Friends will be open Thursday, Jan. 30, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Join the Friends to get access to get first

Toys collected for tots



Photo courtesy of MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Next-door neighbors and wives of inactive Marines Nancy Bauer, left, and Anita Reed take stock of toys donated by residents of the Island in the Sun, Royal Palms and East Bay Oaks senior communities in Largo at the Paradise Island Club House Dec. 6. The collection is part of the Marine Corps League's Toys for Tots campaign to benefit needy children of Pinellas County.

pick at the great bargains.

The public sale will be Friday, Jan. 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 1, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Visit www.largopubliclibrary.org.



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Suspected drug dealer arrested

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – The Largo Police Department arrested a suspected drug dealer Dec. 13, after about six months of trying to collect evidence against the man, whom police described as “careful” and “discrete.”

Starting in June, the department's special operations unit received several tips about suspected drug sales at 2825 Green Acres Ave., Unit B. However, the resident – Frederick Klingelhofer, 34, of Largo – was so careful, it was difficult to get a confidential informant or an undercover officer to make a purchase, the department reported.

“He is real discrete about selling to people he doesn't know. That made it difficult for us to get a buy in,” explained Sgt. Keith Baron.

Even surveillance on the house was difficult, because it was located near the ditch line on the far west end of Green Acres Avenue, where the road dead-ends, Baron said. The residents were vigilant in looking for law enforcement.

In an effort to catch the suspect, the special operations unit shared the information with the problem-oriented policing, or POP, which Baron heads.

Recently, a police contact proactively agreed to sign up as a confidential informant for the POP team and buy drugs at the residence. The informant was successful within the last several days, Baron said. With the help of the special operations unit, the team obtained a search warrant for the address.

The search warrant was served the morning of Dec. 13. Snipers began watching the residence at 5 a.m. and counted six drug transactions before the warrant was executed at 10 a.m.

The department's tactical apprehension control team entered and safely secured everyone inside. POP officers and special operations unit detectives searched the home and seized a firearm, several drugs, marijuana and cash.

Klingelhofer and two others were arrested. Klingelhofer is charged with possession of a firearm by convicted felon, child neglect, armed trafficking in oxycodone and hydromorphone, possession of amphetamines, alprazolam and MDMA, felony possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of drug paraphernalia.



Frederick Klingelhofer

The longer a suspect like this evades law enforcement the more dangerous he becomes,” Police Chief Jeff Undstad wrote in a city-wide email. “Great work by the officers!”

Klingelhofer admitted to owning the drugs and firearms, and he signed over \$4,690 worth in cash profits and drug funds to the police department, Baron said.

Klingelhofer already has served two sentences in the Florida Department of Corrections, each time for about a year. His latest felony charges carry bonds between \$5,000 and \$75,000.

“Hopefully he will be gone a long while,” Baron said.

Daryl Barton, 27, of Safety Harbor also was arrested during the search. He is charged with possession of methadone, a felony, and possession of drug paraphernalia. A third occupant of the home – Dana Wells, 42, of Pinellas Park, was arrested and charged with felony child neglect.



Daryl Barton



Dana Wells

tax were approved, Pinellas would have the highest tax in Florida. He agreed that the county needed a better bus system, not more taxes.

“Shame on you,” David McKalip of St. Petersburg said, as he spoke to the commission about burdening the poor and middle class with an 8-cent sales tax. He said the plan would benefit only the “rich and well connected.”

He cited other municipalities with failed transit system due to cost overruns on projects. He also believes the current bus system can be fixed.

“How can we have a system so broken with a budget so large,” he said.

Deb Caso of Palm Harbor called the commission's actions “pure corruption and tyranny.” She said the tax would destroy property values because it would make the “cost of living too high to live here.”

“Businesses would suffer. People would have less money to spend,” she said. “It is a small business killer. People will buy their cars and boats outside the county.”

Kathy Hadden of Largo questioned information from the Greenlight “scheme” that said taxes would be less with the surtax as compared to an ad valorem tax. She said she looked at her tax bills and currently pays only \$19. She worries that the cost of rent on her business will go up, as well as her utility bills due to increased taxes.

“PSTA is quadrupling their funding, but we're the ones footing the bill,” she said.

She admitted to being “jealous” of the shirts worn by Greenlight supporters. No Tax for Tracks supporters wore stickers that said stop.

Barbara Hazelton described an “ugly process that forced this (referendum) to happen.” She said officials had “engineered” Greenlight Pinellas by only allowing supporters on the Greenlight Council and its committees.

Commission vote

Commission Chair Ken Welch thanked all the speakers for attending the meeting but expressed concern about some of the misinformation he had heard.

“After 40 years, we finally going to get to vote on this,” he said.

He talked about the opportunity to transform the county and move forward toward the future with smart growth.

“The vote of the people is important and it should not be withheld no matter what it is,” said Roche, the only commissioner in opposition.

He said it was important that transportation not become an “us against them” issue.

“We have the right to be for or against,” he said. “No side is the villain.”

He added that he did not think it was time to move forward.

“We need to answer all the questions before we vote,” he said.

“This has been a very long and deliberate process,” Commissioner Karen Seel said of the years of planning and public outreach that has gone into the Greenlight Pinellas plan.

“We can't build our way out of congestion,” she said.

SHOP, from page 1A

kids a positive view of the police. It is a way to generate some good will during the holidays.”

Three years ago, Largo Fire Rescue got involved, and “Firefighter” was added to the name of the event. And that was a good thing for little Jade, her mother explained.

“She wants a fireman to help her,” Darroch said. “Her best friend, Logan, wants to be a fireman when he grows up, so she wants a fireman to help her.”

Jade had two firefighters to help her. Lt. Emmett Sands and Firefighter Jorge Olivera followed Jade around the store, pushing the shopping cart and keeping track of what she picked up.

The program gives \$250 to each family chosen to participate. The money can be spent however the child sees fit. Last year, one of the youngsters showed what the holiday spirit was all about, Burke said.

“It was a girl, 12 or 13 years old,” he said. “She took her sweet time going around the store, picking out presents for friends and family on her list. She didn't buy a single thing for herself.”

“That is what we like to see: someone that age, caring more about someone other than themselves.”

One of the things Jade wanted to do right away was head for the pet section to buy treats for her grandmother's dog. It was a happy day for the Darroch family, including Maria Fisher, Jade's grandmother. Just two years ago, her son, Jade's father, was killed in a traffic accident on Indian Rocks Road.

Darroch said it was tough trying to tell a little 3-year-old that her Daddy can't be there at Christmas.

“It is heart-breaking when you are sitting there cuddling before going to bed, and it is time to say good night to Daddy,” she said. “She'll say, ‘I want to go up in the sky with Daddy.’ I tell her Daddy is in her heart and he is there watching her.”

The event brings a lot of joy to the families who participate.

“I'm very thankful. I broke into tears when they told me about it,” said Darroch. “I'm glad they can do this for us. It is going to be a wonderful Christmas. It is helping out so much, because I can't do much.”

“This is the biggest Christmas blessing I've ever had. It is amazing.”



Photos by BRIAN GOFF

Top, Jade Darroch, 3, models a Cinderella dress that she picked out thanks to Shop with a Cop or Firefighter Dec. 13. Above, organizer Largo police Sgt. Chris Burke, center, makes sure everybody is signed in for the event, held at the Walmart at 1111 Missouri Ave. in Largo. Below, the families selected for Shop with a Cop or Firefighter pose for a group photo in front of a Largo fire truck with Largo firefighters and police officers.



SEWER, from page 1A

upset that the city didn't have the Kent Place neighborhood in the budget for capital improvements within the near future.

“Rather than fix the problem, Largo sends two men and a truck into our neighborhood every Friday, so our neighbors get to enjoy the sights, smells and sounds of continual preventative sewer maintenance,” she said. “We don't like it, and after 37 years, we're very tired of it.”

The two workers are in the neighborhood so often that they exchange Christmas cards with some of the residents, she added.

“On any day that the city pumps, for about a day and a half, sometimes for the entire week, the entire area smells like sewer,” said attorney John Brunson, representing several residents. “Does the city of Largo recognize that this is a problem?”

Commissioner Curtis Holmes asked Environmental Services Director Irvin Kety if anything he had heard during the extensive descriptions was new information to him.

“No,” Kety said, adding that he wasn't sure if the complaints pertained to overflows that occurred because of a failed valve in July. “I've not received any telephone calls since we replaced the valve that failed in the system.”

Further, Kety said he in the seven years since he's been working at the city of Largo, he never received a call about Kent Place prior to July.

“If they call, we respond. No call,” he said.

City Manager Mac Craig said he personally could attest that the city had not received any complaints from the neighborhood during his tenure in Kety's position.

Kety did acknowledge that the stormwater system around Kent Place had issues. His department has about 20 other “hot spots” that are pumped out on a weekly, biweekly or monthly basis.

But Kety told the commissioners that he preferred to address Kent Place's problems in the system-wide sanitary sewer upgrades the city currently is working on. Even if the city began the project tomorrow, it would still take about two years for the problems at Kent Place to be addressed.

“That project is not something that can be done quickly,” he said.

Commissioners agreed to hold a work session about the various issues, and asked staff to make the Kent Place problems a priority.

After the meeting, Hasken said she thought the commissioners had heard the residents, but wondered if the complaints resonated with city staff. The residents have called to complain, she said.

“I don't think (the calls) filter up,” she said, adding that her neighbors also have developed apathy after years of the issue going unresolved.

The sewer issue wasn't scheduled on the commission agenda Dec. 17. The Kent Place residents passed around citizen comment cards in the lobby of city hall before the meeting started, consolidating their voices to some of the speakers who were given a longer time at the podium.

Largo Lions set January meetings

LARGO – The Largo Lions Club will begin meeting in a new location in the new year.

The club will meet Wednesdays, Jan. 8 and 22, 6:30 p.m., at Beef O'Brady's, 13847 Walsingham Road.

The club usually meets on first and third Wednesdays, but had to change its January meeting times due to New Year's Day.

For information, visit www.largolionsclub.org.

Troop is selling Christmas trees

LARGO – The Boy Scout Troop 371 is selling Christmas trees, wreaths, door swags and mantelpieces at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 11220 Oakhurst Road.

The sale will be open weekdays, 5 to 9 p.m., Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 9 p.m. through Sunday, Dec. 22. The trees offered will be 5- to 14-foot Fraser firs. The sale is a fundraiser for the troop, based at the church.

For more information, call 365-3986 or 585-5089.

BOOKSTORE, from page 1A

bookstore in this area,” she said.

Schmaedeke speculated that the steady rise of e-readers is a big reason why so many used bookstores are disappearing. She also counted the onslaught of Internet retailers over the past several years as another reason why the relatively few small book stores still around are having a tough time staying afloat.

Furthermore, corporate chain stores pose another obstacle for mom-and-pop operations like Book Bank. Often people gravitate to these super stores to not just pick up the latest Dan Brown offering, but to shop for toys, games, music, electronics and DVDs.

So aside from used books, what is it that small stores can offer the consumer that perhaps the big stores like Barnes & Noble and Books-A-Million can't?

“Personal customer service,” Schmaedeke replied without hesitation. “We have more time for the customer.”

Schmaedeke, with her soft, friendly voice and smiling brown eyes, is a people person who loves her job. Originally from Malaysia, she moved to Europe and lived in Germany for 20 years, but never got used to the cold weather. Seeking a balmy climate, she finally moved to sunny Florida in 1997.

“I love the beach! That's why I came to Florida,” she said. “Malaysia and Florida are not that different. I grew up by the ocean. I love swimming.”

But as much as she loves the outdoors, she believes that spending so much time surrounded by books has been quite rewarding for her.

“It's like getting a free college education,” she said, and laughed. “I'm now probably a Ph.D. I've learned so much from reading, whether it's business, history, cooking, whatever.”

She also has an affinity for learning languages. “I speak fluent German, a little French and a little Spanish,” she said.

As for all the genres of books she stocks, Schmaedeke affirmed that romance sells the best, but suspense/mystery novels are not far behind. Though most of Book Bank's roughly 30,000 titles are used, it does carry a sizeable portion of new fiction, nonfiction and children's books that arrive on the release date.

The store issues credit for trade-ins and will offer anywhere from 5 cents to two dollars of credit per book. The staff is also happy to do special orders for new and used books.

Occasionally the store holds events such as book signings, which have included some well-known authors autographing books and spending actual face time with booklovers.

“Tim Dorsey comes once every year,” Schmaedeke said cheerfully, and mentioned that his next appearance will be in February 2014.

In an increasingly digital world where readers can summon the Scottish moors of Macbeth, the Mississippi River of Huck Finn and the magical world of



Photo by FRANK DROUZAS

Amy Schmaedeke has owned Book Bank in Largo since 1998.

Harry Potter just by tapping smartphone screens, Schmaedeke is glad that some folks still seek the human touch.

“I love the fact that we have a lot of repeat customers, very loyal customers that have been coming

to see us ever since the store opened over 20 years ago,” she said, smiling. “Seeing familiar faces is always nice.”

Contact Book Bank at books@bookbankusa.com or 588-0474.

County OKs draft interlocal service boundary agreement

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – December 6, 2010, Pinellas County staff began negotiations with 10 municipalities and five special districts on an interlocal service boundary agreement for Type A enclaves.

Type A enclaves are defined by state statute as an unincorporated improved or developed area enclosed on all sides by a single municipality. The county wants to use the interlocal agreements to facilitate the municipality's ability to provide services to property in unincorporated areas inside Type A enclaves.

Staff reported during the Dec. 10 County Commission meeting that nine municipalities and two fire districts had agreed to negotiate an interlocal agreement. They include the cities of Clearwater, Dunedin, Kenneth City, Largo, Pinellas Park, Safety Harbor, St. Petersburg, Seminole and Tarpon Springs. Since work began; however, the two fire districts – Lealman and Pinellas Suncoast Rescue District, decided not to participate, said Gordon Beardslee, Planning Department administrator.

"Lealman felt the process was one-sided," he said. He said Pinellas Suncoast believes the agreement could be a conflict with its charter set by state law.

The county approved a revised draft agreement May 21 that set terms and conditions for voluntary annexation of non-contiguous properties inside Type A enclaves. The revised draft was submitted to the municipalities for review.

One of the terms in the revised agreement called for two public hearings on voluntary annexation or-

dinances. Staff learned that all the municipalities have two readings of annexation ordinances but some conduct only one public hearing.

Staff worked with the city of Largo and subsequently removed the requirement for two public hearings from the agreement. However, the agreement still contains the section requiring property owners be notified by certified mail prior to each reading of the ordinance on annexation within non-contiguous area.

The agreement also says that if a current property owner withdraws a petition for annexation before final action is taken by a municipality, voluntary annexation cannot proceed.

Staff will submit the approved draft back to the cities for their review. The final step is adoption by all involved parties.

Surplus property

The commission unanimously agreed to deed county-owned surplus property to the cities of Seminole and Pinellas Park for a nominal value, \$1, as allowed by state statute.

According to a staff report, the city of Seminole requested a "small sliver of land" owned by Pinellas County in the right of way of the Bay Pines Frontage road. The city wants the "non-buildable" strip as part of a development project.

The city of Pinellas Park requested the east 30 feet of Lot 2 in Rockin' "R" Subdivision, which also is "non-buildable and of no current or future use to the county," staff said.

Contract amendment

Commissioners unanimously approved an amendment to a contract with Harvard Jolly Inc. for work on the new Public Safety and Centralized Communications Center, currently under construction off Ulmerton Road near the intersection with Seminole Boulevard.

The amendment provides an additional \$40,000 to redesign a portion of the first floor of the Sheriff's Administration Building for relocation of the fitness center from the basement for Building 400, redesign of the site to accommodate the demolition of Building 400 and design services for relocation of sheriff's personnel from Building 400. With the addition of the \$40,000, the contract for design professional consulting totals just over \$4 million.

When complete, the new 200,000 square foot facility, on 40 acres currently occupied by the Sheriff's Office and Pinellas-Pasco Medical Examiner, will house the Emergency Operations Center, Emergency Communications 911 Dispatch and the Sheriff's Administrative/Operational and Dispatch headquarters.

Existing buildings will be demolished and surface parking for 500 vehicles will be added, as well as structured parking for 800 vehicles. The project also includes landscaping, site amenities, drainage, utility upgrades and a central energy plant.

The capital improvement project is funded by Penny for Pinellas revenue allocated to public safety and hurricane preparedness.

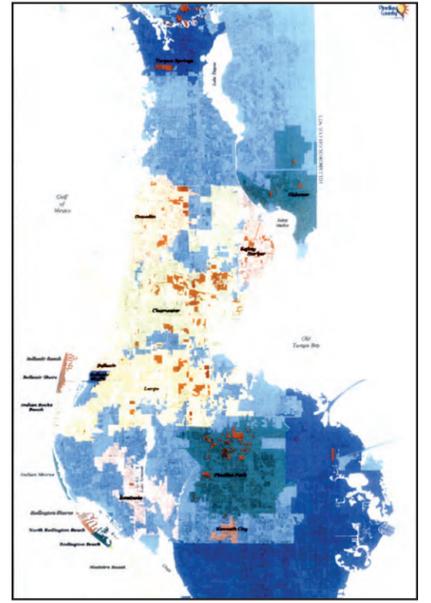


Photo courtesy of PINELLAS COUNTY REAL ESTATE. The areas shown in dark orange represent Type A enclaves located throughout Pinellas County.

Pinellas County employees roll out shiny new bikes

CLEARWATER – Pinellas County employees rolled out 43 new bicycles along the halls and down the stairs of the County Courthouse in Clearwater the morning of Dec. 12.

The bikes were loaded onto Mosquito Control trucks and transported to the Pinellas County Health and Community Services offices in St. Petersburg and Clearwater. They will go to pre-approved families that are clients of the county's Health and Community Services department so that their children will have gleaming new bicycles this holiday season.

Now in its 27th year, the bicycle drive is a team project. County em-

ployees from 16 departments donated money throughout the year to go toward the purchase of the bicycles and helmets. Pinellas County Real Estate Management Department delivered the bicycles to the courthouse.

County employees also donated items to fulfill wish lists offered to eligible clients of Pinellas County Health and Community Services. The wish lists included personal products, household goods and linens.

Video of county employees rolling the bikes out and loading them on the truck can be found at www.youtube.com/pctv1.



Above, Bob LaSala, county administrator, left, joins in the spirit of the season as he helps roll bikes out to the waiting trucks for delivery. At left, the line of gleaming new bikes stretches down the hall of the Pinellas County Courthouse in Clearwater.

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Stress Less This Holiday Season With Tips From Budget Blinds

The holiday are fast approaching, bringing friends and family from near and far into our homes, ready or not! Your local Budget Blinds experts are here to save the day by offering 3 useful tips on how you can make preparing your home for the holidays more enjoyable.

Tip 1 Shop For Your Home In Your Home
 Decorating for the holidays can be a daunting job. With so many custom window coverings to choose from – blinds, shades, shutters, drapes and valances – it can be hard not to feel overwhelmed. That's why we recommend scheduling a free in-home consultation with your local Budget Blinds Style Consultant. Be sure to ask about matching decorative pillows and custom bedding to spice up your guest rooms.

Tip 2 Sit Back & Relax
 We know your time gets limited during the busy holiday season, so our Budget Blinds Style Consultants not only help you select the perfect window coverings for your home, they also will expertly measure and professionally install your window coverings to ensure a perfect fit. All you'll have to do is sit back and enjoy the view along with your holiday guests!

Tip 3 Find Peace Of Mind
 Despite our efforts to make our window coverings as durable as possible, we understand that the occasional accident can be reflective of a good time. Pets get excited, children rough-house, and parties can get rowdy. That's why Budget Blinds backs our window coverings with an exclusive No-Questions-Asked product warranty. If your window coverings get damaged for any reason, we'll replace them-no embarrassing questions asked!

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 Go to www.budgetblinds.com and enter your zip code to find the franchise serving your area.
 Carolyn Tricoli, owner of Budget Blinds of Clearwater, and Tommy Fisher, owner of Budget Blinds of Seminole and Dunedin are ready to serve you.

Duke Energy offers holiday lighting calculator

Duke Energy offers information to help customers save energy and money during the holiday season and cold weather months. "Holiday displays are fun for families and communities, but can also add significantly to monthly power bills," said Gayle Lanier, Duke Energy senior vice president and chief customer officer. "Fortunately, there are a number of efficient, budget-friendly lighting options available to help control costs during the holiday season."

Six 100-bulb sets of large, incandescent bulbs (600 bulbs total) plugged in six hours every evening can add up to \$80 to a monthly power bill.

By comparison, six 100-bulb sets of similarly styled light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs would increase a monthly power bill by only about \$7. Using six 100-bulb sets of mini-LED bulbs would increase a monthly power bill by only \$1.

Customers can estimate their holiday lighting costs using a calculator on Duke Energy's website: www.duke-energy.com/lightscalculator.

Holiday lighting reminders

- Before installing lights, check each set - new and old - for damaged sockets, loose connections and frayed or bare wires. Discard or replace damaged sets before using.
- Never use more than three standard-sized sets of lights per extension cord.
- Plug exterior lights into ground-fault interruptible (GFI) outlets only. If the home lacks outside GFI outlets, call an electrician to install them.
- Dust your light bulbs regularly, as dirt absorbs light and wastes energy.
- Before climbing a ladder, inspect it to ensure it's in good working condition and follow the weight limits specified on the ladder. Ladders that lean against a wall or other support should be angled so the horizontal distance from the top support to the foot of the ladder is about one-quarter the working length of the ladder. Never use a ladder for any purpose other than for what it's designed. Also, never use a ladder on or near power lines.

Cooking Efficiency Reminders

- Open your oven door as little as possible. An oven loses 25 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit each time the door is opened, making it work harder to maintain its temperature.
- Preheat ovens only when necessary.
- Cover pans to reduce the cooking time and amount of heat needed.
- Use smaller appliances, such as crockpots, toaster ovens and electric skillets whenever possible to save energy.
- Operate your dishwasher with a full load and select an energy-saving cycle whenever possible. Use the "air dry" or "overnight dry" setting.
- Don't use the "rinse hold" on your machine for just a few soiled dishes. It uses three to seven gallons of water each time.

Winter Efficiency Reminders

- "Inefficient heating also can add to monthly power bills during cold temperatures," said Lanier. "One of the easiest things customers can do to support heating efficiency is to change air filters regularly. A dirty air filter makes a heating system work harder, which uses more energy."
- Also remember:
- The thermostat is a real culprit of higher winter bills. To help save energy and money, select the lowest comfortable setting when home, and bump the thermostat down a degree or two when leaving home.
 - Regular service calls from a licensed technician will help to properly maintain your heating and cooling system.
 - The ceiling fan in the home is a great way to stay warm in the winter. Simply set the fans to operate in a clockwise direction, which pushes warm air back down into the room.
 - On sunny days, leave your drapes or blinds open to allow the sun's rays to warm the house.
- For more information on how to save energy and money visit www.duke-energy.com.

Legislation addresses increases in flood insurance rates

CLEARWATER - Sen. Jeff Brandes, R-St. Petersburg, and Rep. Larry Ahern, R-Seminole, announced flood insurance legislation Dec. 17 that will provide alternatives to the rising rates in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Pointing to the failed attempt by Congress to delay NFIP rate increases, Brandes filed Senate Bill 542 Dec. 17 and said it is time that Floridians have a free market Florida-based alternative.

"I will not stand on the sidelines while homeowners in our community are being forced out of their home by more 'bait and switch' tactics in Washington," Brandes said, in a release. "Floridians deserve an alternative to the drastic rate increases of Biggert-Waters. This legislation builds a framework for a Florida-based solution that gives flexibility to homeowners. This will put Florida at the forefront of addressing this issue nationwide."

"The flood insurance rate increases have a disproportionate impact on Florida and its housing market; it has a devastating effect on Pinellas County," Ahern said. "We cannot wait for Congress to accomplish anything amongst the gridlock of Washington, but we can focus on private insurance solutions to increase competition and lower premiums."

"Since the federal government is showing no interest in resolving this issue to the benefit of Floridians, Brandes' bill could represent a positive approach relying on the private market," Senate President Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, said. "I am particularly encouraged that this bill allows homeowners to insure for the amount of the mortgage, without mandating insurance that does not meet their needs. I expect the bill will be given serious consideration by the Senate."

The bill creates a wide range of flexible options for policyholders to choose so they can reach an affordable level of coverage for their property. The hallmark of the proposal will allow policyholders the option of covering either the outstanding balance of their mortgage, the replacement cost of their property, or the actual cash value of their property. The companion bill is expected to be filed in the House by Ahern in the coming weeks. Senate Bill 542 will likely face its first hearing in the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee in January.

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Chamber Kicks-Off 2014 with Economic Forecast Breakfast

The harsh nature of national politics played a disruptive role with this year's economy. So what happens now?

Hear what some of the experts have to say at "Focus on 2014: A Tampa Bay Economic Forecast." It takes place on Tuesday, Jan. 21 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort, 1160 Gulf Blvd. Clearwater.

This annual Chamber event features a panel of business leaders who will share predictions and provide insight on significant global, national and regional issues destined to impact the Tampa Bay economy. This year's Focus panelists and their topics include:

Economic Forecast by Philip K. Porter, Professor of Economics at the University of South Florida. He has authored numerous articles in academic journals, including Public Choice, and has held prestigious positions with Advances in the Economics of Sports, the Journal of Sports Management and the Heartland Institute. He received a bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from Auburn University and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University.

Health Care Forecast by Carl Patten, Director of Health Care Policy at Florida Blue in Jacksonville. He oversees the process of aligning Florida Blue's public policy positions with its mission and informing internal and external key stakeholders about a range of public policy issues. Prior to joining Florida Blue, he served as a Staff Attorney at Community Catalyst in Boston, Massachusetts where he advised

health care advocates of medically underserved populations where non-profit hospitals and health plans were in the process of converting to for-profit entities.

Employment Forecast by Ed Peachey, President and CEO of WorkNet Pinellas and the Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance. He oversees a region of more than one-million workers. The agencies' shared mission is to shape a local workforce development plan that is consistent with the region's vision and goals and to balance the needs of workers and employers to constantly changing market conditions.

Energy Forecast by Alex Glenn, President of Duke Energy Florida, which serves 1.7 million electric retail customers in central Florida, including Pinellas County and the greater Orlando area. He is responsible for advancing the company's rate and regulatory initiatives. He also manages state and local regulatory and governmental relations, economic development and community affairs. Duke Energy, the largest U.S. electric power company, is headquartered in Charlotte and is a Fortune 250 company.

Presenting sponsors of the program are Regions Bank, Diagnostic Clinic, Florida Blue, Sheraton Sand Key Resort and WOW Business.

Cost to attend is \$37 for open seating which includes breakfast or reserved tables of eight for \$280. Tickets can be purchased at the Chamber office at 151 3rd Street NW, Largo. For more information, call 727-584-2321.

Chamber Holiday Hours

The Chamber has announced the following hours of operation for the holiday season at its 151 3rd Street NW Largo office location. In observance of Christmas, it will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25.

For New Years, it will close at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31 and will be closed all day Wednesday, Jan. 1.

Businesses needing Chamber services including Certificates of Origin should plan accordingly.

The Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce represents more than 460 businesses and organizations. Its mission is to assist its members to be successful through innovative programs and services; strengthen partnerships between the business community and local, state and federal government; create, inspire and facilitate community leadership; and foster a business climate that promotes integrity and excellence.

For the past 61 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 they can accomplish collectively what they cannot 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.

Exhibit Space Available for 2014 Business After Hours Expo

Dozens of regional businesses will be featured when the Chamber's Women in Business Council presents its 2014 Business After Hours Expo on Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo.

Showcase tables are now

available at an "early bird" price of \$225 for Chamber members until Jan. 31. The cost is \$275 following that date and for non-Chamber members.

Admission to the event is free. Attendees are allowed to bring business cards for networking, but no other materials. Festivities will include door prizes,

giveaways, presentations, food sampling and more.

Largo Medical Center, WOW Business, BB&T and Aaron's on Ulmerton are presenting sponsors to date. To purchase and exhibit space, or to learn more about available sponsorship opportunities, please call the Chamber at 727-584-2321.



More than 250 business leaders attend Focus on 2013 held earlier this year. Tickets are now on sale at the Chamber for Focus on 2014 to be held January 21 at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort.



Dr. K's Largo Clinic & Med Spa celebrates a grand opening at their new Largo Mall location. To learn more about www.largo.clinic.com



The Chamber thanks Matt Dufresne (left), Managing Partner of Buffalo Wild Wings at Largo Mall for hosting the Chamber's B2B Happy Hour and Dr. Craig Baker of Baker Cosmetic and Family Dentistry for being the event's Spotlight Sponsor.



The Royal Palms Theater at the Palms of Largo was filled to capacity during the Chamber's recent Holiday Luncheon. Tammie Brewer of DEX Imaging, Ron & Marya Flurnoy and associates of Creative Design Team and Debbie Jackson of Jackson & Associates CPA, PA enjoy the music of the Dickens Carolers. Special thanks to luncheon sponsors Alexander Spine Center, Chris's Carpet Service & Water Restoration, Largo Medical Center, Senior Home Care and Tutor Doctor.

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 727-584-2321.

Chamber Ambassador of the Month

Congratulations to Ambassador of the Month Glenn Fisher of Modern Business Associates, a human resources management company that removes the burden of HR-related tasks and helps businesses focus their energies on the areas where they excel. Contact Glenn at (813) 420-2570 or visit www.mbahro.com. Modern Business Associates is a Silver Trustee of the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce.

The Ambassadors are a dy-

amic team of business representatives who meet and contact Chamber members to educate and involve them about the organization's many activities. They also provide membership feedback and participate as greeters at Chamber events.



Glenn Fisher

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A New Leads Group Year About to Begin!

If you're a Chamber business member looking to expand your customer base, consider joining a Leads Group as one of your "Business Resolutions" for 2014. Already, more than 75 business people are engaged in one or more of the four Groups now operating. Members meet twice a month to share business leads and build business

contacts. The success of the program is participation so regular meeting attendance is required. Cost to enroll is \$100 for all of 2014 and the price of meals. Call the Chamber at 727-584-2321 for an application and to learn if your business is eligible to become a team player.

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CARDIOVASCULAR SERVICES

Local company, inventor to launch innovative Bowboard

By ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

CLEARWATER – The idea came in a dream after two friends had talked about products and inventions that would be cool to make. Soon it became the real-life dream of the other friend, Chris Miller of Clearwater. It's been life. Now, seven years later, Miller's dream and invention is at last in the final stages before the world can start buying the Bowboard. His baby.

The Bowboard looks a lot like a kick-and-go scooter, but the platform on which the rider stands is curved upwards – or bowed. A rider can choose to ride it like a traditional scooter or use the brand-new, patented technology called a spiral drive that uses the rider's body weight and a bouncing motion to propel the Bowboard and rider forward.

"Gravity gets such a bad rap," said Brian Gallagher, CEO, of Belleair. Everybody hates gravity because everyone starts sagging because of gravity. Joints get worn out because of gravity. But we've taken gravity and harnessed its greatest benefit. The Bowboard harnesses gravity for optimum mobility."

The bouncing motion to make the Bowboard go without touching the ground is similar to bouncing on a trampoline – an exercise called rebounding – except it takes the vertical motion and translates it into forward momentum.

The Boaboard can go much faster than a traditional scooter, yet it does so without using any pedals, chains, motor, batteries, sprockets or engine.

"The invention is uniquely cool because it possesses a couple qualities that there is not another device on the planet that do them," Gallagher said.

Most products improve upon an existing product, Gallagher said, but the Bowboard is a completely new product.

"It's not a scooter, it's not a longboard, it's not a skateboard, and it's not a bike," Gallagher said. "It's a Bowboard. And the performance of a Bowboard is distinctly different from the rest of those products. With a Bowboard, you can carve and cut and have fun in that way, you can cruise, you can go with one foot up, one foot down, you can bow ride with both feet up."

Kids love it because of how fast they can go – up to 10 to 15 miles per hour, compared with 5 to 6 miles per hour on a traditional kick-and-go scooter, Gallagher said. Parents love it because of all the health benefits, he added.

Gallagher has worked as a physical therapist for the last 21 years, so when he learned about all of the health benefits from rebounding – the type of motion associated with the Bowboard – then he was hooked.

"When I saw that, I thought, 'This is really amazing,'" Gallagher said. "I've worked with children my whole career, and even though this isn't specifically made for it, when I work in rehab and you are trying to get children to improve their strength and balance and stability, it's hard to find an activity that they want to do."

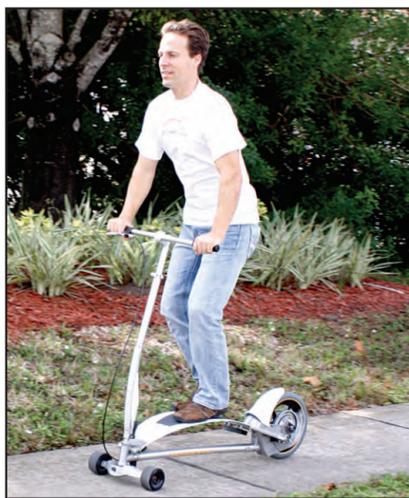


Photo by ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

Brian Gallagher rides the Bowboard using the rebounding technique, by bouncing up and down on the bowed platform without touching the ground, using his own body weight to propel himself forward.

Miller said that before the Bowboard, the only major ways to get rebounding exercise is on a pogo stick or a trampoline, whether it's a full-sized or miniature one. And none of them allowed for travel.

"There's a long list of health benefits (with rebounding) that you can't get anywhere else," Miller said. "It stimulates the endocrine system, it increases blood flow, it works the core muscles, your thighs and all sorts of things. ... This is the first device that you can really use for mobility that uses rebounding. So there's a huge health benefit."

Studies show that there are at least 33 health benefits from this kind of exercise.

The initial – and probably biggest – target market for the Bowboard are kids and teens, but the mobility and health benefits expands the circle to everyone from college students to urban commuters to Boomers and retirees who want a fun way to exercise and be active in the beautiful Florida weather, Gallagher said.

There have been numerous versions of the Bowboard as it evolved from dream to reality. The first started with the mechanism that everyone else uses on similar devices: ratchets and sprockets. The second version also included a ball that sat in a kind of cup under the board's deck, so when the board would press down, the ball would bounce you back

See INVENTOR, page 11A



Image courtesy of BOWBOARD

The evolution of the Bowboard can be seen here, with the first prototype in the top left, progressing to the major breakthrough prototype number 3 on the top right when they invented the spiral drive mechanism. It kept evolving, through prototypes 4 and 5 (bottom left and center) to the final model.

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Real estate news

GTAR installs new officers

The Greater Tampa Association of Realtors Inc. hosted its 102nd annual Installation and Awards Banquet Dec. 6 at the Center Club.

Approximately 125 members and guests attended the event where members who made significant contributions to the association in 2013 were recognized and the installation of the 2014 leadership team took place.

Tina Harris of Future Home Realty Inc. was installed by Florida Realtors past president Nancy Riley as the association's 2014 president along with the 2014 officers and directors. The officers installed included Barbara Jordan of Coldwell Banker Residential, president-elect; Susanna Madden of RE/MAX ACR Elite Group Inc., vice president; Michele Herndon of Keller Williams Realty South Shore, secretary; and Andy Joe Scaglione of Empire Commercial Realty, treasurer.

The directors are Matt Bailey, Florida Executive Realty; Mari Colgan, Ellie & Associates, P.A.; Jeff Daniels, Keller Williams Realty; Darlene Davenport, RE/MAX Action First; Jo Easton, Jo Easton Realty Group; Brad Monroe, Pangea Realty Group Inc.; Anand Patel, Pangea Realty Group Inc.; Jack Rodriguez, Minaret Realty; Tom Scaglione, Future Home Realty Inc.; Laure Taylor, Keller Williams Tampa Properties; and ex-officio members Marie Combs, Hillsborough Title, affiliate/business partner chairman; Shannon Damschen, Charles Rutenberg Realty Inc., Women's Council of Realtors president; and Janet Swilley, Realty2000pa.com Inc., immediate past president.

Awards were presented to GTAR members for

their contributions to the association.

The association's top award, the 2013 Realtor of the Year, was presented to Jack Rodriguez of Minaret Realty. The Edward T. Starr Award, given to the GTAR committee chair who exhibits outstanding leadership and service to the association, was presented to Anand Patel with Pangea Realty Group Inc. Barbara Jordan, Coldwell Banker Residential, is this year's recipient of the LaBarbera & Associates Meritorious Service Award. The award recognizes a GTAR member who has a record of exemplary service to the association over an extended period of time. Don Kuder with Calebro & Associates received the 2013 C. Ed Owings Award, which honors a deserving member for contributions to the community.

A special Presidential Award was presented this year to Darlene Davenport with RE/MAX Action First. Davenport was recognized for going "above and beyond" with guidance, dedication, hard work and tenacity to hold GTAR's very successful inaugural Realtors Political Action Committee Extravaganza in April.

The Greater Tampa Association of Realtors Inc. is the largest professional Realtor association in the Tampa Bay area providing programs, services, continuing education, research and legislative representation to nearly 6,500 members.

Thorn Collection named to NRT Top 100

BELLEAIR BLUFFS - The Thorn Collection of Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate recently was named to the exclusive NRT Top 100 Teams for the third quarter of 2013.

With a nationwide network of 1,300 premier real estate teams comprised of 41,000 sales associates, NRT is the largest residential real estate brokerage company in the country.

"I'm delighted to welcome you to the ranks of a rather exclusive club - the NRT Top 100 Teams for the third quarter of 2013," said Bruce G. Zipf in a press release. Zipf is president and CEO of NRT LLC. "This distinguished achievement places you in the top 10 percent of NRT's Team membership."

Specializing in waterfront homes and luxury properties throughout Pinellas County, the Thorn Collection of Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate is a 10-member real estate team led by Martha Thorn, a 26-year veteran real estate agent.

"We are very proud to be in such a select group," said Thorn. "Our innovative Internet ideas have helped us achieve continued success selling properties throughout the Tampa Bay area."

Adamo names top agents

SEMINOLE - Realty Executives Adamo & Associates recently named its top agents for the month of November.

Tammy Taylor was recognized as the top listing associate. Pam Raymond and Terry Bocchichio were recognized as the top listing team. Lindsay Dicus-Harrison was recognized as the top sales associate. The Vorac Group was recognized as top sales team.



Tammy Taylor



Pam Raymond



Lindsay Dicus-Harrison



The Vorac Group

RE/MAX announces top agents

BELLEAIR - RE/MAX ACR Elite Group Inc. recently recognized its top agents in the Belleair office in closed sales for the month of November.

The No. 1 agent was Dorita Mayeux. The No. 2 agent was Linda Jakobsen. The No. 3 was Regina Ruffner.



Dorita Mayeux



Linda Jakobsen



Regina Ruffner

Coldwell names listing, sales leaders

CLEARWATER - The Coldwell Banker office in Clearwater recently announced its listing and sales leaders for November.

The Marcy Daniels Team was the top sales associate. Michelle Chenault was the top listing associate.



The Marcy Daniels Team



Michelle Chenault

Send us your news, photos

The Largo Leader publishes news and photographs about people and groups. Send items to Largo Leader Editor Juliana Torres, Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772. Email jtorres@TBNweekly.com. or call 397-5563, ext. 324.

Coldwell recognizes top associates

LARGO - The Bayou/Bardmoor office of Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate recently announced the top associates in its office for the month of November.

Randee Carl was recognized as the top listing associate. Jeff Glass was the top sales associate. The top closer for the month was Debi Balogh.



Randee Carl



Jeff Glass



Debi Balogh

Prudential Tropical opens new office

BELLEAIR BLUFFS - Prudential Tropical Realty recently opened a new location at 404 N. Indian Rocks Road in Belleair Bluffs.

The office was previously located at 609 S. Fort Harrison. The announcement was made recently by D. Dewey Mitchell and Allen Crumbley, co-owners of Prudential Tropical Realty, and Ginger McQuigg, vice president of residential sales.

The new facility features approximately 3,100 square feet of sophisticated office space.

"This dynamic new location, together with the company's commitment to growth, and our core group of highly skilled sales executives, will enable us to more conveniently facilitate the real estate needs of clients in Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, and neighboring beach communities," said Lisa Lozano in a press release. Lozano is managing broker of the office.

"The real estate industry is constantly changing and it is Prudential Tropical Realty's goal to ensure our sales executives have the latest tools, resources, and working environment to provide each and every client a world class experience," said McQuigg. "We are especially pleased to have Lisa Lozano on our management team. An established real estate professional in the Clearwater area for more than 22 years, her experience and comprehensive knowledge of this market will enable her to lead her sales team to achieve great success while assuring exceptional real estate services to our customers and clients."

Prudential Tropical Realty will host an open house at its new location on Thursday, Dec. 19, 3:30 to 6 p.m. Area residents, clients, and friends are welcome to attend.

Florida Luxury welcomes agents

BELLEAIR BLUFFS - Florida Luxury Realty recently welcomed two new agents to its Belleair Bluffs office.

Monique Journeay Rundell is a licensed Realtor in both Florida and North Carolina. Her experience includes advising on the sustainability of historic buildings and she has also served as an ECO consultant. Rundell's specialties include listing waterfront condos and luxury estates. Monique was formerly with Keller Williams Realty.

Amy Wallington brings her passion for real estate and local charities. She has served on the Florida Gulf Coast Leadership Board of the American Lung Association for the past four years, and is a research advocate for Moffitt Cancer Center. Wallington enjoys assisting buyers and sellers with all types of properties from upscale homes to condos and fixer uppers.



Monique Journeay Rundell



Amy Wallington

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Largo author offers free downloads of her short stories

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – Author and longtime Largo resident Laura L. Sullivan could be described as a children’s novelist; her middle school fantasies “Under the Green Hill” and “Guardian of the Green Hill” are among her best-known work.

But the description doesn’t cover the scope of genres Sullivan writes within. The Florida native has written science fiction and horror stories. Under the pseudonym Sullivan Lee, she’s published adult thrillers, including “Brightwing,” a criminal love story set in the Everglades. She describes her latest book, “Love by the Morning Star,” as a romantic comedy, set in pre-World War II Germany.

The ability to write about anything is a big reason why Sullivan is a writer in the first place.

“Writing lets me do everything in the world,” she explained in an email interview. “I’ve never been able to specialize – I jump from one interest to another – so writing is the best way to be a generalist. I’m always researching something new.”

If there’s a thread that ties her stories together, it could be her use of the godlike narrator, who can see into all of her characters’ heads. In fact, “The Omniscient Third Person” serves as the title of her blog, at lauralsullivan.blogspot.com.

“I love my characters – even the minor ones, the wicked ones – and I feel like if I invent them, I owe it to them to let the reader get as close to all of them as they can, see the innermost recesses of their hearts,” she said.

Another element to Sullivan’s writing is the usual lack of a happy ending. Sullivan credits this tendency to the fact that she’s a realist at heart.

“Characters can achieve their goals, but there is always at least one thread of unhappiness that isn’t neatly tied up, one little moral quail that is never resolved,” she said.

She tried hard to make “Love by the Morning Star,” the exception. The novel, to be released June 3, ended in disaster and separation in an early draft, but Sullivan rewrote it to give everyone a happy ending.

“Of course, in the end of that book, WWII is just starting, so I suppose there is still unhappiness brewing,” she admitted.

Sullivan is a lifelong Florida resident – aside from a few years when she claimed Kentucky as her legal address, and spent about half of each year in Florida besides. She has lived in Largo since she was 3 years old.

Her most popular children’s titles are set in England, but the adult novel Brightwing is set “entirely and intimately in Florida, in a lightly fictionalized west coast, and the Everglades,” she explained.

“It is my homage to my state – Florida is as much a character in it as the human characters,” she said.

Two other children’s books that haven’t been published yet are set in a fictionalized version of Pinellas County’s barrier islands.

Just this year, “Under the Green Hill” made the Sunshine State Young Readers Award list, which Sullivan takes as a personal compliment.

“As a native Floridian, it amazes me to think that thousands of middle school kids around the state are having my book specifically recommended to them,” she said.

Sullivan said she writes children’s stories because there is nothing more profound than first discoveries.

“I want to be there, vicariously, in book form, when a child has little epiphanies about life,” she explained. “Childhood books form us almost as much as our parents do. Their words stay with us, their lessons guide us, sometimes subtly, true, without us realizing it. But they linger.”

Recently, Sullivan launched a holiday e-book promotion on Amazon.com. Several of her short stories were available to download for free during specific weeks of the season.

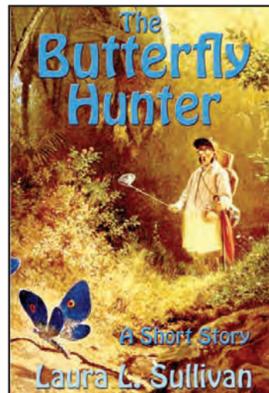
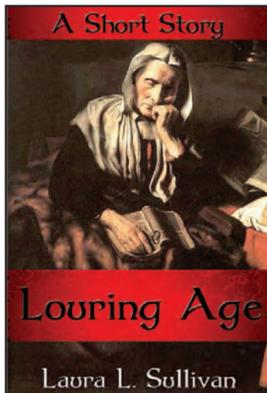


Photo and images courtesy of LAURA L. SULLIVAN

Sullivan said she was pleased with the success so far. During the campaign, the story, “The Ideal Household Appliance” rose to No. 3 in Kindle’s short story list and No. 9 in science fiction.

“I hope these stories can bring in a new audience to my traditionally published books,” she said.

Building readership for short stories is tricky, especially with fewer literary magazines publishing to smaller and smaller audiences, she explained. Alternatively, an author might publish a collection of short stories.

“But most of my stories are in such wildly different genres that they probably wouldn’t work in a collection,” Sullivan said. “Putting them out individually at a low price seemed like a perfect solution.”

“Louring Age” is the final short story available for free downloads until Tuesday, Dec. 24. The story is about an independently living ancient woman, who comes up with a scheme to fleece residents of a nursing home, and then finds herself trapped there, mistaken for someone with Alzheimer’s.

Search for the title and Sullivan’s other work, on Amazon.com.

Author Laura L. Sullivan of Largo is author of the children’s fantasy novels “Under the Green Hill” and “Guardian of the Green Hill.” Her short story, “Louring Age,” the cover of which is pictured below left, is available for free download until Dec. 24 at Amazon.com. Sullivan offered a total of eight short stories for download during different weeks beginning Nov. 10, including the adult horror story, “The Butterfly Hunter,” pictured below right.

Obituaries

Norma Mildred (Moore) MORRILL

age 86, passed away November 28, 2013, in Carlsbad, California. Norma was a former resident of both Madeira Beach and Seminole, Florida and was an avid Tampa Bay Rays fan. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Doctors Peggy and Richard Shaffer, and grandchildren, Eric, Katie and Danny. She was predeceased by her husband, Herbert Morrill and parents, Frank and Rena Moore. Services will be arranged at a later date.

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Sandy Hartmann
 Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

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Caroleanne Vorac
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Clearwater **\$87,200**
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Tom Cato
 Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

INVENTOR, from page 9A

up, Gallagher said. All of those models failed, he said. It wasn’t until model 3 and the initial crude invention of Miller’s spiral drive that things really started coming together.

The initial spiral drive was just blocked out as a test. It and the Bowboard were far too heavy, Gallagher said, but now they had something to work with. From there, they made the spiral out of aluminum, which was far lighter, although it was too soft and ended up getting warped upon continued use.

“So now we have a steel spiral that’s going to be bolted on a carbon fiber backing,” Gallagher said. “Now we’ve progressed from aluminum to steel, but the carbon fiber backing will keep it light yet we’ll have the strength.”

Miller first showed Gallagher his plans for the Bowboard between five and six years ago while the two were sitting on a plane. Gallagher had just sold one of his businesses, and Miller asked if he was interested in investing in the Bowboard. Gallagher immediately was interested, but it was still just in the drawing stage. He wanted more.

“I said, ‘You know what? Make it real. Bring it to life,’” Gallagher said. “Because a lot of people have good ideas. But not everyone can make it real. So then in 2011 he calls me up and says, ‘I did it. I spent all this time, the last 5 years, developing the product.’ He has patents here in the U.S. and in seven other countries. And I was impressed.”

As a final test before getting on board, Gallagher wanted to see how it would interest kids. They brought the latest model of the Bowboard to a local school football field and had Miller’s daughter ride it down the sidelines.

“We had 30 kids chasing after it, he said. “All of the kids and parents are rushing me, saying, ‘Is that a real toy?’”

Since that point, they cut the weight of it in half and made numerous other improvements. The current model is designed for people who weigh 80 to 170 pounds, but they are going to create another version for people who weigh 160 to 250 pounds, Gallagher said. There will also be a mini version, he added. The Bowboard folds up for easy storage and portability, and they are going to make a sling for it so commuters can easily ride it to work all over the world.

While it’s clear that the kids love the Bowboard, it also has a lot of things for parents to like, Gallagher said. The board has a high-profile brake on the handlebar, and it has three wheels which offers more stability than just two wheels, he said. It is made of sturdy materials, with the only plastic component being

the fender, he said.

Bowboard has its final prototype and currently has a Kickstarter campaign to raise funds to take it to the manufacturer for the first run of Bowboards. The Kickstarter campaign runs through Sunday, Dec. 22 at 6:36 p.m., with the goal of \$150,000. After funds have been raised, the final prototype goes to the manufacturer and the first totally machine-made board will be sent to the Bowboard headquarters in Clearwater. There they will take the model out and quality test it, make necessary adjustments.

“Once that fares well, then we are ready to start delivering,” Gallagher said. “Then we say, ‘OK good, run us of a whole container.’ A container is about 750 Bowboards. And that first container will go to Kickstarter folks.”

Manufacturing is expected to begin in the spring, with test models back in the second or third quarter of 2014. The final

products should be able to start showing up in the public’s driveways by the fourth quarter of 2014, Gallagher said.

Gallagher said he hopes the

public will help fund this local, grassroots company.

To learn more, visit www.facebook.com/bowboard.com or www.bowboard.com.

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Home for the holidays

Seminole alum and 'X Factor' competitor returns home for a Dec. 22 holiday show

By TIFFANY RAZZANO

SEMINOLE – Singer Rachel Potter just happened to find herself visiting New York while “The X Factor” was holding auditions this summer.

It must have been kismet, because the Seminole alum had just relocated from the Big Apple to Nashville, Tenn., a few months earlier. She'd earned a few plum roles on Broadway – Wednesday Addams in “The Addams Family”, the mistress in “Evita” – but Potter was ready to change gears.

Music City was calling her name and Potter “took a big ol' leap of faith.” She had always dreamed of being a country star.

So when a friend Tweeted to her about “The X Factor” auditions, Potter couldn't help but wonder if the reality singing competition could help her make the transition from musical theater to country recording artist.

Though she made it through the initial audition rounds as one of the competition's top 12 performers, she was eliminated three weeks into the live results shows. But Potter isn't bitter. The exposure from the show alone made it all worth it, she said.

Now, the Seminole High School grad will be back in town for the holidays and performing at St. Petersburg's Hideaway Café on Sunday, Dec. 22.

Early years

Potter's parents were musicians. In fact, music was the reason they got together in the first place, though they later divorced. The couple performed and toured

together in a New Orleans-based country rock band.

Eventually, Potter was born and the young family relocated to Seminole for a quieter lifestyle.

Still, while growing up, music was a part of her family's everyday life. Her father, Roy Potter, an executive at Progress Energy during the week, used his free time to record songs in the garage and his band Taxi was a mainstay at local pubs; her mother was a vocal coach, teaching her and other students in their living room, and performed locally as well.

“I sang to her before she was even born,” said her mother, Tonya Shaw. “Rachel was singing before she ever spoke. She'd hum little tunes and then eventually she started to learn how to talk.” Potter sang her first solo at Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater when she was 3.

“So I grew up singing church music,” she said. “I never really had any other idea of what I wanted to do other than be a recording artist.”

She began writing her own music at 12, composing her first song, “Because of You,” as a way to emotionally process her mother's Juvenile Diabetes diagnosis.

“It was a method to cope with what she was going through and what I was feeling about it,” she said.

At 16, she focused on writing Christian music. She signed to a small, local label, Narrow Door Records, and released her first album, a collection of 10 original songs called “Come Back Home.”

“I was so excited,” she said. “It was amazing.”

Meanwhile, she performed in chorus throughout her school years – from Bauder Elementary School to Seminole Middle School to Seminole High School. In middle school, she performed in the Music Makers group, and in high school she joined the Seminole Singers, a show choir group.

“Seminole was such a great place to grow up,” she said. “The arts and culture there are incredible.”

Disney princess

After graduating from SHS in



Photos courtesy of RACHEL POTTER

Above, Rachel Potter, a Seminole graduate who went on to perform on Broadway, recently made it into the top 12 of the reality singing competition “The X Factor.” She'll be performing at The Hideaway Café in St. Petersburg on Sunday, Dec. 22. Top right, Potter, right, talks with Kelly Rowland, her coach on “The X Factor.”

2002, Potter headed to Orlando. She was offered a Bright Futures Scholarship from the state to attend the University of Central Florida.

Uncertain of where her music career was headed and not wanting to lose the scholarship money, she decided to earn a bachelor's degree in public relations and advertising.

“It made sense to go ahead and go to college to use that scholarship I worked so hard for,” she said.

Potter had no experience in musical theater, but a friend suggested that since she was so close to Walt Disney World, she should audition to sing in the theme park.

“I needed a job and somebody you can make money singing,” she said. “But musical theater was never really on my

radar until I was an adult working at Disney World.”

She was cast as Ariel in the “Voyage of the Little Mermaid” and went on to play the roles of Belle in “Beauty and the Beast”, Nemo in “Finding Nemo” and other beloved characters.

“For five years I sang ‘A Part of Your World’ seven times a day,” she said. “It was an amazing job.”

Broadway beckons

In 2008, Potter graduated from UCF. That same year, she made it into the top 15 of MTV's reality show “Legally Blonde the Musical: The Search for Elle Woods.” This inspired her to give Broadway a try.

She headed north to New York City, where she got a gig singing in a wedding band. For two years she auditioned for Broadway



shows, and eventually was cast in the second national tour of Wicked as understudy for the part of Glinda.

“That was amazing,” she said. “If you're ever going to go on tour, going on tour with Wicked is the way to do it. It was a huge tour and everything was top notch.”

She added, “Getting that role fresh out of the gate was pretty crazy. I was used to being a part of something that people liked a lot, working at Disney, because people love it so much. But man, it's special to be a part of something so well done and to feel so proud of your work.”

After the tour, though she hoped to focus on her own songwriting, she landed the role of Wednesday Addams in “The Addams Family.” Following this, she was cast as Peron's mistress in the 2012 revival of “Evita” starring Ricky Martin.

“It was an original production with Ricky Martin,” she said. “There was no way I was turning that down.”

But she also wasn't going to let it stop her from releasing her own music. She had two weeks in between the close of “The Addams Family” and the first rehearsals for “Evita.” So she turned to Kickstarter and raised \$20,000 – double what she asked for – to record and release “Live the Dream,” a six-song EP, in that short span of time.

Nashville

Potter was bitten by the Nashville bug while touring with “Wicked.”

While the production was in Memphis, she'd drive to Nashville to see friends on her days off.

“I just thought, ‘Oh wow, I'm meant to be here,’” she said.

She started writing country music while on the road with the show, but being cast in “The Addams Family” and “Evita” kept her from making the move to Tennessee. But when “Evita” closed, the timing was right for her to finally head to Nashville.

“I felt like something was missing [in New York],” she said. “I wanted to be making my own music and expressing the inner voice. And I started writing songs and recording and playing out and realized Nashville is where I needed to be.”

She added, “I saw a window where it was like, I don't have a show happening, I don't have any prospects. What do I have to lose at this point? What other time will I be able to pick up my whole life and give Nashville a shot?”

The X Factor

Less than a year living in Nashville, Potter found herself auditioning for “The X Factor” in New York. After several rounds performing acappella for the show's producers, she landed in front of the celebrity judges – Simon Cowell, creator of “American Idol,” and singers Demi Lovato,

Kelly Rowland and Paulina Rubio – who would determine whether or not she went on to the live results shows.

She wowed them with her countrified version of Queen's “Somebody to Love.” Performing in the over 25 category, with Rowland as her coach, Potter remained in the mix as others were eliminated. Eventually she made it to the show's top 40, then the top 16, and top 12.

Cowell occasionally vocalized his criticism of Potter, “which was kind of a bummer,” she said. “I really love him and wanted him to see me as a Carrie Underwood type.”

The female coaches, however, often spoke highly of her, praising her performances.

But in week three of the live results shows, Potter and the girl group Sweet Suspense were eliminated.

“I was blindsided,” said her mother. “Just the night before Demi Lovato told her, ‘You are so good. I think you're going to win this whole thing.’”

Potter had the chance to sing to save herself, pitted against the young Khaya Cohen. The judges ultimately saved Cohen, claiming she had more potential.

“It's sort of frustrating,” Potter said. “I went on that show to prove my age isn't an issue and then I was eliminated against a 15-year-old girl who wasn't eliminated because of her potential, most likely really because of her age.”

But Potter doesn't let the elimination get her down. The best thing that could have come from the show is the exposure that came with it, she said.

“The idea of winning never entered my mind,” she said. “I didn't even entertain it, to be honest with you. Because I didn't want to be massively disappointed when I didn't win. I was pleasantly surprised I made it as far as I did and grateful for each second I got to go further.”

What's next

Though she's contractually obligated to “The X Factor” into 2016, Potter has a full-length album waiting in the wings, ready to be released. For now, she plans on hitting the road, booking gigs in both bigger venues as well as house concerts, and reaching out to the fans she's made while on the show.

“I just want to give them my music,” she said. “My fans, that's what it's all about.”

She added, “There are doors opening for me.”

One of these gigs will be at The Hideaway Café, 1756 Central Ave., St. Petersburg on Sunday, Dec. 22. She performed there last over the summer, while she starred in Spring Awakening at freeFall Theatre in St. Petersburg. Doors open at 5 p.m.; the show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.hideawaycafe.biz or www.rachelpottermusic.com.

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Christmas 2013 is just around the corner. The stores are busy with shoppers looking for the perfect gifts for family and friends, feeling the pressure as they count down how many shopping days are left! Many are feeling another kind of pressure, that being how to purchase these gifts on a strict budget. There is a precious gift like no other that is free of monetary cost and that is the “Gift of Time.”

Most of us remember as children that it seemed days went on forever. We had so much time to play, go to school, then play some more. You may remember hearing your parents say time flies by so quickly and there are not enough hours in the day! As a child, I could not understand this at all. Now as an adult it clearly hits home that time is truly a “gift” and if we can share some of our time with a senior that lives alone, the heart of that person is rewarded as well as ours.

Seniors who have lost spouses or beloved friends may experience increased loneliness during the holidays. Others may become mildly depressed for the same reasons, which can lead to isolation. Offer to take them to holiday events. Have fun baking holiday goodies together. Addressing Christmas and Hanukah cards and chatting over a cup of coffee can lift everyone's spirits.

The holiday season is the perfect time to consider hiring a temporary caregiver to help with all elements of holiday preparations. Comfort Keepers® offer seniors assistance in areas of light housekeeping (including putting up decorations), meal preparation, accompanying seniors to social functions or taking them shopping. As caregivers who specialize in understanding and working with seniors, Comfort Keepers® can provide help and company to help your loved one have a happy holiday season.

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Photo by JEREMY DANIEL

Rachel Potter plays Wednesday Addams in Broadway musical, The Addams Family.

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Tips to keep pets safe this holiday season

The holiday season is a time for fun with family and friends, but Pinellas County Animal Services reminds members of the community not to forget pets at this time of year.

- Securely anchor the Christmas tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to pets. This will also prevent the tree water, which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset, from spilling. Stagnant tree water is a breeding ground for bacteria and pets could end up with nausea or diarrhea if consumed.
 - Kitties love tinsel, a sparkly, light catching "toy" that is easy to bat around and carry in their mouths. But a nibble can lead to a swallow, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, dehydration and possible surgery. It's best to brighten the holidays with something other than tinsel.
 - Do not feed a pet chocolate or anything sweetened with xylitol. Make sure to keep pets away from the table and unattended food, and be sure to secure the lids on garbage cans.
 - Forget the holly and mistletoe. Holly, when ingested, can cause pets to suffer nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems.
 - Hold the leftovers. Fatty, spicy and other human foods should not be fed to furry friends. Bones from cooked meals cannot be digested and can cause serious and even deadly problems for dogs and cats.
 - Don't leave lighted candles unattended. Pets may burn themselves or cause a fire if they knock candles over. Be sure to use appropriate candleholders, placed on a stable surface. Extinguish candles when leaving the room.
 - If celebrations include adult holiday beverages, be sure to place unattended alcoholic drinks where pets cannot get them. If ingested, a pet could become weak, ill and may even go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure.
 - Give pets their own quiet space to retreat, complete with fresh water and a place to snuggle. Shy pups and cats might want to hide under furniture, in their carrier or in a separate room away from the excitement.
 - Keep in mind that strings of thrown confetti can get lodged in a cat's intestine, if ingested, requiring surgery. Noisy poppers and fireworks can terrify pets and cause possible damage to sensitive ears.
- Pinellas County Animal Services is located at 12450 Ulmerton Road in Largo. For information on how to adopt, donate or volunteer, join Pinellas County Animal Services on Facebook. To learn more about the shelter, visit www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices, or call 582-2600.

Looking for a home



Larry
Larry is an 8-year-old, 5.5-pound male Chihuahua. He is a bit camera shy, but when the camera went away, Larry came out to play. He does well with other dogs and would be best suited for an adult-only home. Larry is neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. To learn more about Larry and other adoptable animals, visit Pet Pal Animal Shelter on 405 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg, call 328-7738 or visit www.petpalanimalshelter.com.



Baby Babe
Baby Babe, above, came to the Suncoast Animal League with her brother, Romeo, after their home was flooded during a storm several months ago. Romeo was adopted, and now 7-year-old Baby Babe is still waiting for someone to discover how special she is. She is the sweetest, most affectionate kitty and just wants to curl up on your lap and purr away. She gets along well with children and dogs but would prefer to be the only cat in the family. Adopt her at the Suncoast Animal League in Palm Harbor. Call 786-1330.



Bane
Bane is a fun loving, 11-month-old pit bull terrier mix. He would do best with a loving family that has time and space for him to run around and play. This energetic pooch would love to be enrolled in a training class at the SPCA's Sniff University. He would also love a family with older children and another energetic dog to play with. His adoption fee is \$125 at the SPCA Tampa Bay, which includes his neuter surgery, microchip, vaccinations and free 30 days of pet insurance. Meet him at 9099 130th Ave. N., Largo. Call 586-3591 or visit www.spcatampabay.org.



Dandy Lion
Dandy Lion, at left, is a snuggle kitty. He enjoys curling up in laps and having attention lavished upon him. He also enjoys ambushing his brother and running after laser lights. Dandy and his brother, Tiger Lou, are handsome 9-month-old boys. They are wonderful with children and other cats. Meet these gold-and-white felines in their foster home in St. Petersburg. Call a Save Our Strays volunteer at 545-1116 for details. Visit www.saveourstraysinc.com.

Paw prints

Santa, HSP partner for special deliveries

Santa has asked the Humane Society of Pinellas to help him deliver pets on Christmas. Any dog or cat adopted from the Humane Society of Pinellas between Dec. 19 and 23 is eligible for special Christmas delivery. The \$100 Santa fee includes delivery on Christmas morning and a pampered pet package including a collar, food dishes, a toy, treats, and more. The delivery area includes Pinellas County, Holiday and New Port Richey. All standard adoption criteria and fees apply. The elves can only deliver a limited number of pets on Christmas morning. The Humane Society of Pinellas is at 3040 State Road 590 in Clearwater. To view available pets, visit HumaneSocietyofPinellas.org.

Microchip clinic set

LARGO – A microchip clinic will be presented Thursday, Dec. 19, 4 to 6 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N. Cost is \$25 for cats, dogs and rabbits. Microchip technology is a great way to locate lost pets. The SPCA's low-cost microchip clinic is offered third Thursdays, 4 to 6 p.m. Call 586-3591.

SPCA dog park sets hours

LARGO – Indoor dog park hours will be offered Friday, Dec. 20, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., in the training room at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N. Friendly dogs will have an opportunity to enjoy some play time out of the Florida weather. The facility boasts cool air conditioning, recycled rubber flooring – which is great for your dog's joints – and a very large play area with the ability to separate large dogs from small. For those who are not too comfortable with bringing a dog to a dog park, there will be a training instructor to help supervise. There is a limit of 10 big dogs and 15 small dogs. Dogs are admitted

on a first come, first served basis. The owner must stay with the dog. Cost is \$5. To pre-pay, visit www.spcatampabay.org/site/c.70eJR PzGdIq/b.8799059/k.8B42/Indoor_Dog_Park.htm.

Pet photo event to benefit nonprofit

ST. PETERSBURG – Pet owners can have their pets professionally photographed with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Jim's Harley-Davidson, 2805 54th Ave. N. Cost is \$10. Proceeds will benefit Gold Coast Greyhound Adoptions Inc., a nonprofit organization. Photos will be printed on site and will be available immediately. Call 365-8436 or visit www.goldcoastgreyhounds.com.

SPCA to host foster orientation

LARGO – Foster Orientation for Homeless Pets will be presented Saturday, Jan. 4, at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N. Those who have room in their home and their heart for a temporary visitor may be good candidates for foster parenting. Some of the animals admitted to SPCA Tampa Bay are not ready to be adopted. They may be too young or have a health problem that must be treated. Foster care homes care for puppies and kittens or injured pets in a

nurturing environment that allows them to heal and socializes them. The typical foster care home is a person or family who has extra time to care for these babies.

For information and to RSVP for the orientation, email foster@spcatampabay.org.

Microchip clinic set

LARGO – A pet micro-chipping clinic will be presented Thursday, Jan. 16, 4 to 6 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N. Cost is \$25 for cats, dogs, and rabbits. Microchip technology is a great way to locate lost pets. The low-cost microchip clinic is offered third Thursdays. For information, call 499-0367.

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School board announces Outstanding Educator finalists

Pinellas County Schools and the Pinellas Education Foundation recently announced the 10 finalists in the 2013-14 Outstanding Educator of the Year recognition program.

District officials, along with representatives and business partners of the Pinellas Education Foundation, notified the finalists of their status during surprise classroom visits.

Following is a list of Outstanding Educator of the Year finalists:

- Sarah Borchardt, a fifth-grade gifted, ESOL and inclusion teacher at Starkey Elementary School in Seminole
- Susan Carney, a kindergarten teacher at Ozona Elementary School in Palm Harbor
- Melissa Colgan, a Supported Varying Exceptionalities teacher at Largo Middle School
- Kevin Ford, a band director, and founder of the Leadership Conservatory for the Arts at Tarpon Springs High School
- Diana Harper, a fourth-grade teacher at Dunedin Elementary School
- Stephanie Martanovic, a seventh-grade civics teacher at Safety Harbor Middle School
- Tracey Raczek, an algebra teacher at Osceola Fundamental High School in Seminole

- Monica Taylor, a media specialist at Woodlawn Elementary School in St. Petersburg
- Gisela Torres, a Spanish teacher for the International Baccalaureate program at St. Petersburg High School
- Robert Sinibaldi, an adapted physical education teacher for students with special needs at Walsingham Elementary School in Largo.

The district received 80 nominations, which were scored by a panel of judges who determined the 10 finalists based on multiple criteria. The finalists will undergo an interview process and a second round of scoring by a different panel of judges, who will select the final winner.

All of the finalists will be honored, and the 2013-14 Outstanding Educator of the Year will be announced, at the annual Evening of Excellence, on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg. The Pinellas Education Foundation sponsors the event.

Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union, Horace Mann Insurance, Clear Channel Outdoor, The Tampa Bay Times, NOVA Southeastern University, KPMG, Bright House Networks, Ajax Building Corporation, Catalina Marketing and the Junior League sponsor the 10 finalists.

Veterans tuition bill passes committee

TALLAHASSEE - Legislation filed by Sen. Jack Latvala passed the Senate Education Committee Dec. 10. The bill, which will waive out-of-state tuition fees for veterans, will be called "The Congressman C.W. Bill Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program."

This bill, if it passes the Legislature, will allow honorably discharged military veterans and reservists to attend schools in the Florida College System or in the State University System and take advantage of in-state tuition costs.

Currently, gaining in-state status for many veterans would

require them to live in Florida for a year to establish residency and then attend college. Veterans must reside in Florida when physically attending the institution or while taking online courses.

Sen. Latvala decided to name his bill after the late Congressman Young because of his many years of support and dedication to veterans.

"I can't think of anything more

meaningful than to have Congressman Young's name attached to our bill which will help veterans returning home attend school and improve their chances at employment," Latvala said.

The Senate Sub-Committee on Education Appropriations and the Committee on Appropriations must still hear the Senate bill. The sponsor of the companion bill, House Bill 35, in the Florida House is Rep. Kathleen Peters.

School notes

Elections Association offers scholarships

College juniors or seniors majoring in political science, public administration or business administration, journalism or mass

communications at an accredited Florida college, may be eligible for a scholarship.

The Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, comprised of the 67 county supervisors, will award \$1,200 scholarships this year to three qualified students.

Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark said the scholarships are named in memory of Dorothy Walker Ruggles, who served as Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections from 1988 until her death in 2000, Joe Oldmixon, former Escambia County supervisor, and Jimmy Whitehouse, former Highlands County supervisor.

"These supervisors of elections are revered by their peers and served the citizens of their counties with distinction and uncompromising integrity," Clark said. "We are looking for students who represent the values of these supervisors and who could benefit financially from these scholarships from our state association."

Old school



Photo courtesy of ELEANOR BAUMNER

During her 33 years as a teacher at Keswick Christian School, Eleanor Baummer has always taken her third-grade students to Heritage Park. There she teaches in the historic school house and allows her students to dress up in old-fashioned clothes. Baummer has also always used the same old report card from 1937 during the lesson, sending home copies with her students. "However, this year a grandmother [of one of the students] saw it and started to cry because it was her Dad's report card," Baummer said. "The report card came from Ohio. How in the world did I ever get this report card from Ohio? [It's] an amazement. The owner of the report card's great-granddaughter is in my class this year." Third-grader Justice St. Clair is pictured with her grandmother Judy Andre holding her father's report card.

Pinellas maintains steady graduation rate

The 2012-13 high school graduation rate in Pinellas County remained steady at 71.8 percent, according to information released recently by the state.

The rate in 2011-12 was 71.96 percent. The rate stayed steady while the number of graduates increased by 152 students.

Eleven out of the 16 high schools in Pinellas increased their graduation rate. The average increase among the 11 schools was 2.2 percent. Boca Ciega High School saw the largest increase of 10.03 percent, going from a graduation rate of 75 percent in 2011-12 to 85.03 percent in 2012-13.

Other high schools with graduation rate increases include Clearwater, Dixie Hollins, Dunedin, East Lake, Gibbs, Lakewood, Osceola Fundamental, Palm Harbor University, St. Petersburg and Tarpon Springs.

"I'm extremely proud of the work our high school teachers, administrators and staff are doing to advance student achievement," said Michael Grego in a press release. Grego is superintendent of Pinellas County Schools. "As a district, we will continue to focus on the specific action steps embedded in our strategic plan to raise the graduation rate over the next three to five years."

Among subgroups, there was a graduation rate increase of 1.65 percent for black students. The rate among black males outpaced the group with an increase of 3 percent. The rate among Hispanic students also increased with a 2.21 percent jump from 2011-12 to 2012-13.

Pinellas district graduation rates for the last three years are 65.15 percent, 2010-11; 71.96 percent, 2011-12; and 71.8 percent, 2012-13.

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For information, email Joyce Walters at jellen1943@yahoo.com.

SPCREA to meet

ST. PETERSBURG - The South Pinellas Retired Teachers Association will meet Thursday, Jan. 9, 11 a.m., at Teppanyaki Grill and Supreme Buffet, 391 34th St. N.

Cost of the buffet is \$6.99. Crime prevention will be the topic for this month's meeting. Attendees will learn how to protect themselves from harm.

The group generally meets second Thursdays October through May. Meetings are open to all who have worked in the field of

the county in which the student is registered to vote.

For a mailed application or additional information, call the Elections office at 464-6108.



Photo courtesy of CLEARWATER CENTRAL CATHOLIC
The Clearwater Central Catholic High School's Marauder football team is the Class 3A State runner-up.

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LETTERS

A national historic treasure

Editor:

Word is out that the Belleview Biltmore Hotel is going to be demolished.

But as Mark Twain reportedly said when he heard he had died, "The rumor of my demise is greatly exaggerated." The 125-year-old White Queen of the Gulf was here before us and will be here long after you and I are gone.

Why do I think so? Because the Historic Preservation Ordinance is in place to protect the hotel; most residents of the RPD and of Belleair would rather have a finely restored hotel on the property than 150 townhomes or condos; the commissioners know that a restored hotel will be a faster, richer path to revenue for the town than any multi-family residential development.

Need more? According to engineers, architects, and other professionals, the structure is sound and restorable; strategic studies indicate the business would be viable; and finally there are investors interested in purchasing and restoration now that the economy has improved.

The Belleview Biltmore Hotel is the reason for the town of Belleair; it is a national historic treasure belonging to Pinellas County, the Tampa Bay region, and all of America, not just to us locals. The sooner the current owners, attorney, and housing developers face up to reality, and the commission holds firm on its commitment to save the hotel, the sooner restoration can begin.

Doris Hanson
Belleair

Save the Biltmore, Santa

Editor:

Dear Santa: We are older and don't exchange gifts anymore, but Santa this year there is one gift I would ask you for. The gift is not just for me but also for the special town of Belleair and for the whole world to share.

Oh Santa, please save our beautiful, historic Belleview Biltmore Hotel. The hotel, you see, is the very heart and soul of Belleair and its restoration would bring back the grace and dignity to not just our area but to the state of Florida and beyond. I know there have been many distortions and negative falsehoods put out in print to discourage folks but our mayor believes in miracles and so do I. So Please, Santa, gift us our miracle.

Thank you, Santa. Merry Christmas.

Bon Johnson
Belleair

Bicyclists say thanks

Editor:

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who came to our aid last Thursday, Dec. 5 when we were knocked off our bicycles by a car at the junction of Blind Pass Road and 75th Avenue, St Pete Beach.

We were so touched by your help and support: calling 911; bringing us water; blocking the traffic with your car to restrict the traffic; and staying with us while we waited for the emergency services. Your kindness is very much appreciated, and reassures us (two Brits) that we have chosen the right place for our part-time retirement home.

Amazingly, nothing was broken, although we suffered a few stitches, abrasions, cuts and bruises. Thanks too to all those in the emergency services who were on the scene to help us out, and the staff at Bayfront Medical Center. Hopefully we will be on the mend by the time you read this.

Mike and Sara Nower
Treasure Island

Don't rezone the Tides

Editor:

Public safety is critical and the first mission of any elected representative of the people. In the most densely populated county in all of Florida, the county commission must realize that waterfront property will be inundated by a hurricane up to 30 feet deep in some areas at some time in the future.

There is no doubt that it will happen and nothing can stop it. Now is the time to stop the development of waterfront areas for residential use and take responsibility for the safety of the people. It may be hard to resist the temptation of increasing tax revenue and a greater population but safety must take priority. The Tides must stay undeveloped. Both the people of Pinellas and the City of Seminole must fight to keep it. Adding the property to Boca Ciega Millennium Park is the best and only option for the county to plan responsibly for the future.

Ron Luck
Seminole

Red light cameras go too far

Editor:

Discussions continue about red light cameras and their purpose: money or safety.

A while back (a polite way of saying I don't remember the source) I read that most of the red light tickets are for right turns and the decline in accidents there is miniscule.

Example: You're heading north on a north-south road, planning to turn right (east).

The east-west road has a westbound left turn lane and an arrow active at the moment, so there's a steady stream of left turners. So, as you approach, legally you're supposed to come to a complete stop before turning. Most drivers slow down, but don't stop, incurring a ticket. By the way, pedestrians aren't the problem because they have a "don't walk" light during that time so the heavy right turn ticketing is clearly a money grab.

My question: Do the camera operators get a commission for each ticket? A simple solution would be to change that system, rendering the supplier neutral on the subject. In fact, the supplier may prefer a more friendly atmosphere with the public and show more flexibility in ticketing.

Les Milewski
Seminole

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 700 words. Longer letters may be cut due to space limitations.
- Letters should address issues or current events. Please refrain from making unsubstantiated allegations. The newspaper will not print letters that contain slanderous or racial statements.
- Please do not use profanity.
- We do not publish poetry or songs in letters to the editor.
- Each writer may submit one letter per month.
- We can't return letters to the editor.
- Please allow two weeks from the time you submitted your letter for it to be published before inquiring as to its status.
- We won't print anonymous letters.

About the cartoonist

John Deering is chief editorial cartoonist for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, the state's largest newspaper. Winner of the National Press Foundation's 1997 Berryman Award, Deering also gained top honors in the 1994 national John Fischetti Cartoon Competition and was the seven-time winner of the Arkansas Press Association's Best Editorial Cartoonist award. Born in 1956 in Little Rock, Deering has been drawing since his childhood fascination with science fiction and dinosaurs. He and his wife, Kathy, have a daughter and two sons, and live in Little Rock. He still draws dinosaurs.

Bathtub sex, coffee-soaked PCs

Following are some notes I jotted down recently during three hours of watching a pro football game on TV.

GABBY COMMENTATORS. The major TV networks hire experienced and informed persons to do color commentary on the sports event in progress. But then the network producers forget to tell these persons, "Every so often, shut up for a minute or two. Let the viewers just watch the game in silence and perfect peace." Constant chatter, no matter how expert, becomes tiresome. Except for rabid sports fans (who probably know all the inside dope already), who need to be told that Kansas City wide receiver Joe Hickey caught passes worth 316 yards during the 2008 season?

THE HUGE BABY GETTING SPRAYED. The Nationwide insurance company is running a TV ad showing a man spraying an oversize infant with a garden hose. Try as I might, I can't grasp what is the point of the ad, and why it should persuade me to buy insurance from Nationwide.

SHOOT THE BANJO PLAYERS. Another insurance firm, Geico, keeps showing us two men strumming a guitar or banjo while talking about happy people or a happy camel on hump day, stuff like that. The ads have been running for weeks. I wish someone would shoot the two musicians, so to speak, as well as that too-cute lizard with the cockney accent.

SEND SYMPATHY CARDS TO ADVERTISING COPYWRITERS who must come up with new ideas for TV automobile ads. It's virtually impossible to do so. Car manufacturers are desperate to make the public prefer one make of car or truck from another. The Honda company has installed a vacuum-



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

cleaner device in their new mini-van. Wow, what a great idea to stimulate sales. A truck ad shows a pickup emerging from a huge cloud of desert dust, while a voice-over says, "I doubt if any boy ever put up a poster of a Passat on his bedroom wall." Or words to that effect. That mysterious ad caused me to look up the meaning of "Passat," which I found is a Volkswagen vehicle. The most memorable auto ads are the ones informing us that the monthly cost of leasing new cars is nearing \$400 or more. Makes me want to go out and kiss the windshield of my paid-for 1998 Subaru station wagon.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE of marketing desperation is the ad run by the Intel people, who make ingredients for computers. The ad says, in effect, "If you want your boss to get you a new computer, just spill coffee all over your old one." You and I have to remain politically correct in all we do or say, but the Big Boys of Business are free to encourage workers to commit sabotage on society's most essential tool, the computer.

PROMOTION IS HEAVY FOR A NEW MOVIE named "Hobbit - the Desolation of Smaug." It's a documentary about air pollution. (Please forgive the pun. I couldn't resist it.)

ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION is sweeping our land and striking younger men as it

goes. Or so it seems to me, from watching the TV ads. I can remember when the ads showed mostly geezers aged 50 and up. But today's penile pitches are populated by men who look no more than 30 years old. Like most of today's pharmaceutical ads, the ED message consists of one sentence telling you how great the medicine is, and then launching into a list of reasons you might not want to take it. A final warning: "Ask your doctor if you are healthy enough to engage in sex." This leads me to wonder if the Affordable Care Act has a sex permission clause included in it. My favorite, although puzzling, ED ad is the one that shows a couple occupying adjoining bathtubs. How kinky can things get, folks? Are we to think pre-coital, post-coital, or are there romantic hijinks most of us have never even heard of?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PRODUCE A BEST-SELLER? If so, just sit down and write a booklet that explains the meanings of all the electronic gadgets and systems that are for sale to the eager public today. During the football game I watched, my under-educated brain was flooded by TV ads talking about iPods, Androids, iPads, MacBook Airs, bundling, texting, Xfinity, Verizon and data backups in the cloud. Is it possible today to buy a telephone that does NOT take motion pictures, connect me to the Internet, tell me the weather on Mars, and allow me to listen to a live broadcast from St. Martin the Fields in London? All that information is wonderful, but what does a person do who simply wants to call his Uncle Charlie in Omaha?

Bob Driver is a former columnist for the Clearwater Sun. His email address is tralee71@comcast.net.



Anything on your 'chuck-it' list?

Joseph Stalin and I share the same birth date - Dec. 18.

Besides unknowingly shoring up his credentials for guaranteed nonexchangeable reservations in the hottest blast furnace in hell, what was the old ox-faced ruler up to when he turned 60 years old. Did he have a bucket list?

Not to worry, readers. I don't have a bucket list to share with you. Instead, based on my life experiences, I would rather share with you my "chuck-it" list: Things I won't do before I die.

Travel usually ranks high on bucket lists. It's also high on my chuck-it list.

Call me narrow-minded, but I'll never step foot on Jamaica again because of bad memories of a trip I took to that tropical tourist trap in 1984.

Traveling to Montego Bay, I thought warm breezes, fruity drinks and the music of Bob Marley would lull me to sedation. Instead, three days later, I had visions of Marlon Brando, in "Apocalypse Now."

"The horror... the horror."

Everywhere I turned, somebody seemed intent on selling me drugs, from the taxi driver, to the bellboy to hotel clerks. I was advised to stay away from the streets of Montego Bay at night because they are dangerous.

Couldn't get a moment's peace, even as I waded into the Caribbean. An islander approached me with a raft full of pineapples, mangos, grapes and other beautiful fruit, asking if I would like to buy some.

"No thanks," I said, since I didn't have my



Tom Germond

wallet with me.

"Something for the nose?" he asked.

Col. Kurtz was near. I couldn't see him, but I could feel him.

So I returned to shore, to the safety of my poolside beach chair, wondering if the bartender would sell me something to drink instead of something illegal to smoke.

Jimmy Buffett is right: "Jamaica Mistaka."

CHUCK IT II: I've heard a lot of people say that they want to write a book, especially when they retire. Not me.

Based on the amount of requests I get to publicize a book - for free, of course - I would say that one out of five people in this country are writing a novel, autobiography or short story.

My advice is simple: Don't. You'll waste a lot of time and money in the process, trying to get it published.

A children's book? Here's a tip: You can't improve upon Dr. Seuss. And that's all I wanted to read when I was 5-7 years old.

Over the years at the various newspapers where I worked, I received dozens of books in the mail from writers asking me to review their works or publicize it. Review a book from an unknown author? Shucks, I barely have enough time to get through my email. I know. That's callous. But more than like-

ly, when you send us a book unsolicited, we'll end up chucking it.

CHUCK IT III: My friends rib me for my refusal to text. To me it's a waste of time and money, especially since email is convenient and easier. My phone rings, too.

Aren't people doing anything these days besides texting and writing books?

I was at a festival recently when a teenager was walking toward me, her face and fingers buried in her phone, or whatever it was. I stopped, and she nearly ran into me. Texting while walking is dangerous, too.

As far as the knuckleheads who text while driving are concerned, why are the laws so weak?

If a cop has probable cause that a motorist is texting behind the wheel, he should be allowed to seize the phone and chuck it as far as he can.

CHUCK IT IV: Since at this stage of my life, I have more than just a toemal in the grave, I'm been mulling over about what I want done with my remains when I die.

No open casket viewing. I've had enough practical jokes played upon me while I'm alive.

I guess, like my father, I prefer to have my ashes scattered over some tranquil sea. Instructions to my survivors: when you toss my ashes, make sure they don't blow back into somebody's face.

And please don't chuck me off the coast of Jamaica.

Tom Germond is executive editor of Tampa Bay Newspapers. Send him an email at tgermond@tbnweekly.com

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Holiday Services

Following is a listing of some holiday services scheduled at places of worship throughout Pinellas County.

Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church

ST. PETE BEACH – Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church, 107 16th Ave., plans a family service at 4 p.m. and traditional candlelight services at 7 and 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 360-5508.

Hope Presbyterian Church

CLEARWATER – Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater. The church's worship choir will present "Morning Star," a Christmas cantata service, on Sunday, Dec. 22, 10:15 a.m. The church also will present a Christmas Eve service Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m. For information, call 531-3200 or visit www.hopefamily.com.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan

CLEARWATER – The Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan, 2165 NE Coachman Road, Clearwater. On Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, the church will present family liturgy including a musical prelude at 5:30 p.m. and family Eucharist at 6 p.m. On Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, liturgy will be presented at 10 a.m. Call 461-1717 or visit www.goodsamaritan-swfla.org.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

CLEARWATER – Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 3200 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Christmas Eve services, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, will include a Christmas pageant and Eucharist, 5 p.m.; and candlelight mass, 11 p.m. On Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, a Christmas Eucharist will be presented at 10 a.m. Call 796-5514 or visit www.holytrinityclw.org.

St. John's Episcopal Church

CLEARWATER – St. John's Episcopal Church, 1676 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater. Christmas Eve services, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, will include a family Eucharist, 5 p.m.; special Christmas music, 9:30 p.m.; and candlelight choral Eucharist, 10 p.m. On Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, the holy Eucharist with carols will be presented at 10 a.m. Call 531-6020 or visit www.stjohnsclearwater.org.

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church

CLEARWATER – Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, 110 S. Fort Harrison Ave., Clearwater. Seasonal programs will include a living nativity, Sunday, Dec. 22, 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve services, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, will include a family service, 5 p.m.; and candlelight Communion, 7 p.m. For information, call 446-3001 or visit www.peacememorial.org.

First United Methodist Church

CLEARWATER – First United Methodist Church, 411 Turner St., Clearwater. Christmas Eve services, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, will include Cross-Wind contemporary worship with candle lighting, 4:30 p.m.; and traditional worship with candle lighting, choirs, harp and organ, 6 p.m. For information, call 446-5955.

Chapel by the Sea

CLEARWATER – Chapel by the Sea, 54 Bay Esplanade, Clearwater Beach. A Christmas Eve family candlelight service will be presented Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m., and will include special music from the chapel choir and instrumentalists as well as a children's sermonette. Call 446-0430 or visit www.chapelbythesea.net.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish Catholic Church

CLEARWATER – St. Catherine of Siena Parish Catholic Church, 1955 S. Belcher Road. Christmas Eve services, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, will include a children's mass, at 4 and 6 p.m.; a midnight musical prelude, from 11:15 to midnight; and a midnight mass. Christmas Day masses, on Wednesday, Dec. 25, will be presented at 7, 9 and 11 a.m. Call 531-7721 or visit www.scosparish.org.

North Bay Community Church

CLEARWATER – North Bay Community Church, 3170 McMullen Booth Road. A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be presented Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m. Call 796-0071.

St. Michael Anglican Church

DUNEDIN – St. Michael Anglican Church, 1297 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin. Christmas Eve services, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, will include a festival of carols, 7:30 p.m.; and Holy Eucharist Rite II, 8 p.m. On Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, the church will present the Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10 a.m. All services will be presented at the Masonic Lodge. Call 542-2051.

Calvary Episcopal Church

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – Calvary Episcopal Church, 1615 First St. Christmas Eve services, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, will include a children's pageant, 4 p.m.; and candlelight service, 7 p.m.

Christmas Day services, on Wednesday, Dec. 25, will be a Holy Eucharist, at 10 a.m. Call 595-2374 or visit calvaryirb.org.

Christ Presbyterian Church

LARGO – Christ Presbyterian Church, 3115 Dryer Ave., Largo. A candlelight service will be presented on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m. Transportation and nursery will be available. Call 584-8695.

First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks

LARGO – First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks, 12685 Ulmerton Road, Largo. Candlelight Christmas Eve services will be presented Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 4, 7 and 11 p.m. in the worship center. For information, call 595-3421 or visit www.indianrocks.org/christmas2013.

St. Dunstan's Anglican Church

LARGO – St. Dunstan's Anglican Church, 2790 Sunny Breeze Ave., Largo. Christmas Eve services, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, will include Holy Communion with traditional worship, 4 p.m.; Holy Communion, a family service with lessons and carols, 7 p.m.; Christmas carols, 10:30 p.m.; and Festal Holy Communion with contemporary worship, 11 p.m. Holy Communion with traditional worship will be presented Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, 10 a.m. For information, call 581-1435 or visit www.stdunstansanglican.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

LARGO – Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 455 Missouri Ave., Largo. Christmas Eve services, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, will include worship with children's choir and youth bells, 5 p.m.; and festival Eucharist with pre-service music beginning at 7:10 and 9:40 p.m. Child care will be available at the 5 and 7:10 services. "Coming of the Wise Men," an Epiphany celebration, will be presented Sunday, Jan. 5, 8:45 and 11 a.m. Call 585-9969 or visit www.poplargo.org.

St. Patrick Catholic Church

LARGO – St. Patrick Catholic Church, 1507 Trotter Road. Christmas Eve services, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, will include a mass at 4:30 p.m.; and a midnight mass. Christmas Day services, on Wednesday, Dec. 25, will include mass at 9 and 11 a.m. On New Year's Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 31, there will be a mass at 4:30 p.m. and a vigil. New Year's Day services, on Wednesday, Jan. 1, will include masses at 8 and 10 a.m. Call 584-2318.

Temple of the Living God
Metaphysical Community Church

Christmas Eve Reader's Theater
"Unto Us A Child Is Born" 7pm
www.TempleoftheLivingGod.org
Merry Christmas and Wonderful New Year

1950 2nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg
727-822-8628 • 727-822-3157

CELEBRATE WITH US!
St Dunstan's Episcopal Church
We Welcome you
With Open Arms • Open Minds • Open Hearts
Christmas Eve Service 7:30pm
Sunday Holy Eucharist 10:15am
Followed by Friendship Buffet
10888 126th Ave. N., Largo • 727.586.6968
www.stdunstansfl.webs.com

Preaching the Message of the Cross
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6pm

Renewed Faith
Full Gospel Church
Pastor's Roger & Sandy Sparks
Sunday Worship 10:30am • Thursday 7-8pm
A Study in the Word with Pastor Roger

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on Facebook & You Tube • 727-735-1977
Find & LIKE US on Facebook from www.RenewedFaith.net

Plaza Centre, 1301 Seminole Blvd., D137, Largo
(between Ulmerton Rd. • 8th Ave., Park in back)

CHRISTMAS 2013
Mass Schedule
Tuesday, Dec. 24th
4:30 PM • Midnight Mass
Wednesday, Dec. 25th
9:00 AM & 11 AM

NEW YEAR'S
Mass Schedule
Tuesday, Dec. 31st
4:30 PM Vigil
Wednesday, Jan. 1st
8 AM & 10 AM

CATHOLICS
COME HOME.org

St. Patrick Catholic Church
1507 Trotter Rd., Largo
727-584-2318

have a Blessed Christmas

Calvary Episcopal Church

Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve
4 p.m. Children's Pageant
and 7 p.m. Candlelight Service
Calvary Episcopal Church
1615 First Street
Indian Rocks Beach
727-595-2374
calvaryirb.org

Dec. 25th, Christmas Day
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

St. John's Episcopal Church
1676 S. Belcher Road, (south of Belleair Rd.)
Clearwater (727) 531-6020 • www.stjohnsclearwater.org

Christmas Eve
5pm-Family Eucharist
9:30pm - Special Christmas Music
10pm - Candlelight Choral Eucharist
Christmas Day
10am - Holy Eucharist with Carols

Christ Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm
3115 Dryer Ave., Largo • 727.584.8695
(Located two blocks east of Indian Rocks Road)
Bus transportation Available ~ Nursery Available

"The blessing of the Lord be upon you."
Psalm 129:8 (KJV)

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
Good Samaritan
"O Come Let Us Adore Him"

Christmas Eve
Family Liturgy
5:30 p.m. Musical Prelude
6:00 p.m. Family Eucharist

Christmas Day
Liturgy
10:00 a.m.

WWW.GOODSAMARITAN-SWFLA.ORG
2165 N.E. Coachman Road • Clearwater
727-461-1717

Celebrate Advent!
Restore Jesus to the center of the Christmas celebration.
All are welcome to worship at 10:30 am and other special services.

A Service of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 15 at 10:30am
Experience a Living Nativity
Sunday, December 22 at 6pm
Christmas Eve Services
Family Service at 5pm
Candlelight Communion at 7pm

PEACE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
110 S. Fort Harrison Ave. in Downtown Clearwater
727-446-3001 www.PeaceMemorial.org

Celebrate Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24
6:30 PM: Family Service with Pageant • Praise Band
9:30 PM: Christmas Carols
10:00 PM: Rite II Service with Incense • Soloist

CHRISTMAS DAY, DEC. 25
9:00 AM: Rite I Service

St. Anne of Grace Episcopal Church
6650 113th Street North
Half mile south of Park Blvd.
Seminole, FL 33772
727-392-4483
www.stanneofgrace.com

St. Catherine of Siena
Catholic Church
1955 South Belcher Road, Clearwater
531-7721 + www.scosparish.org

Tuesday, December 24, 2013
Christmas Eve Vigil
4:00pm, 6:00pm (Children's Mass)
11:15pm to Midnight
String Quartet Musical Prelude
12:00am Midnight Mass

Wednesday, December 25, 2013
Christmas Day Masses
7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am

O Come, Let Us Adore Him!

Christmas Eve
Faith Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, December 24
4:00 p.m. - Especially for families with younger children
8:00 p.m. - Features Chancel Choir
11:00 p.m. - Candles, Carols and Communion

11501 Walker Avenue
Seminole, FL 33772
727.391.0596

Holiday Services

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

LARGO – St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 10888 126th Ave. A Christmas Eve service will be presented Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m. Call 586-6968 or visit www.episcopalswfl.org.

Renewed Faith Full Gospel Church

LARGO – Renewed Faith Full Gospel Church, Plaza Centre, 1301 Seminole Blvd., D137, Largo. On Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, the church will host a candlelight service at 6 p.m. Call 735-1977 or visit www.renewedfaith.net.

Church by the Sea

MADEIRA BEACH – Church by the Sea, 13701 Gulf Blvd., Madeira Beach. Christmas Eve services, presented Tuesday, Dec. 24, will include an early family worship at 5 p.m. and a candlelight service at 11 p.m. Call 391-7706 or visit www.churchbythesea.com.

Friendship Community Church

MADEIRA BEACH – Friendship Community Church, 4321 Duhme Road. On Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, the church will present "A Traveler's Gift," a musical play, at 5:30. Call 410-4121.

New Journey Fellowship

PINELLAS PARK – New Journey Fellowship, 4090 78th Ave., Pinellas Park. Christmas Communion services will be presented Sunday, Dec. 22, at 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be presented Tuesday, Dec. 24, 5 p.m. For information, call 344-1063.

First United Methodist Church of Pinellas Park

PINELLAS PARK – First United Methodist Church of Pinellas Park, 9025 49th St. N., Pinellas Park. A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be presented Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m. Call 546-5741.

Temple of the Living God

ST. PETERSBURG – Temple of the Living God Metaphysical Community Church, 1950 Second Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Christmas Eve Reader's Theater will present "Unto Us a Child is Born" Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m. For information, call 822-8628 or 822-3157.

Gulf Coast Community Church

ST. PETERSBURG – Gulf Coast Community Church, 555 76th Ave. N. A special Christmas Eve celebration will be presented Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 6 and 7:30 p.m. Call 522-7734 or visit www.gccc.net.

Christ the King Presbyterian Church

SEMINOLE – Christ the King Presbyterian Church, 5400 Seminole Blvd., Seminole. A Festival of Lessons and Carols will be presented on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. Call 394-0787 or visit www.ctkpcaseminole.com.

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

SEMINOLE – Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 10891 102nd Ave. N., Seminole. Candlelight services will be presented on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7 and 11 p.m. Call 391-4644.

St. Justin Martyr Roman Catholic Church

SEMINOLE – St. Justin Martyr Roman Catholic Church, 10851 Ridge Road, Seminole. On Tuesday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve services will include a service at 4 p.m., family mass at 6:30 p.m., and candlelight mass at 10 p.m. On Wednesday, Dec. 25, the church will host a mass at 10 a.m. and a special call to worship 15 minutes before the mass. Call 397-3312 or visit www.stjustinmartyr.net.

Chapel on the Hill

SEMINOLE – Chapel on the Hill, 12601 Park Blvd. "A Song is Born" will be presented Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m. Call 391-2919.

Faith Presbyterian Church

SEMINOLE – Faith Presbyterian Church, 11501 Walker Ave. Christmas Eve services, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, will include a service especially for families with younger children, 4 p.m.; a service with chancel choir, 8 p.m.; and candles, carols and Communion, 11 p.m. Call 391-0596.

Seminole United Methodist Church

SEMINOLE – Seminole United Methodist Church, 5400 Seminole Blvd. On Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, the church will present pre-worship music at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Christmas Eve service, 7 p.m., which will feature Christmas carols, music by the Angel Choir, youth nativity and Christmas music by the choir. Call 391-9781.

Bay Ridge Baptist

SEMINOLE – Bay Ridge Baptist, 1655 113th St. A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be presented Tuesday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. Prior to the service, cookies and homemade cider will be served at 5:30 p.m. Call 391-1935.

St. Anne of Grace Episcopal Church

SEMINOLE – St. Anne of Grace Episcopal Church, 6650 113th St. N. Christmas Eve services, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, will include a family service at 6:30 p.m. with Christmas pageant and praise band; Christmas carols at 9:30 p.m.; and Rite II service with incense and soloist at 10 p.m. On Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, there will be a Rite I service at 9 a.m. Call 392-4483 or visit www.stanneofgrace.com.

Paradise Lutheran Church

TREASURE ISLAND – Paradise Lutheran Church, 10255 Paradise Blvd., Treasure Island. Christmas Eve services, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, will include candlelight worship at 7 and 10 p.m. The Christmas Day service will be presented Wednesday, Dec. 25, 10 a.m., and will include lessons and carols. Call 360-5739.

Other holiday events

Chabad of Pinellas County and Chabad of Clearwater

CLEARWATER – As a joint program of Chabad of Pinellas County and Chabad of Clearwater, Rabbi Dr. David Nesenoff will bring his speaking tour to Pinellas on Thursday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Express Clearwater, 2580 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Clearwater. After becoming world-renowned for his famous White House interview with Helen Thomas, Nesenoff will be speaking to the local community as part of his international tour that has taken him to Australia, England, Ireland Canada and most of the states. Nesenoff is known for his delivery, humor and his powerful life-changing messages. Nesenoff's one man show, more than just a lecture, is about everything from his relationship with the Divine, his front row seat in the world media, Israel, anti-Semitism, and his amazing personal journey. It is a story of cyber-hatred, life-threatening danger and oddly enough, incredible humor. Admission is \$10 a person. Sponsorships are \$180. To RSVP, call 265-2770 or 789-0408 or visit www.YICHABAD.com or www.JewishClearwater.com.

Chapel on the Hill

SEMINOLE – "Annie the Musical" will be presented Saturday, Dec. 21, at Chapel on the Hill, 12601 Park Blvd., Seminole. There will be a short encore Christmas performance at 6:30 p.m. leading into the musical. This show will be presented by the Musical Theatre Performing Arts Company. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$15 for children 9 and younger. To purchase tickets, call 391-2919 or visit Annie-the-musical21.eventbrite.com.

Chapel-By-The-Sea

CLEARWATER – A traditional candlelight worship service will be presented on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m., at Chapel-By-The-Sea, 54 Bay Esplanade, Clearwater. The Rev. Herb Freitag will provide the Biblical inspiration in a sermon titled "Christmas at 30,000 Feet." The choir will sing "Messiah Christmas Suite" by G.F. Handel, and will be augmented by additional musicians including Eden Vaning-Rosen, Jasmine Lemon, Jake Bray and Elyse Aaronson on strings, Danzel Dixon on percussion, and Barbara Prescott on flute. "O Holy Night" will be sung by Marilyn Michael and Jared Acuff. The nursery will be available for the little ones. The church coach will make its usual run. Call 446-0430 or visit www.chapelbythesea.net.

Let the Joy Begin with Hope!
Join us for "Morning Star", a Christmas Cantata Service presented by Hope's Worship Choir Sunday, December 22 at 10:15am
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, Tuesday, December 24 at 7pm
Hope Presbyterian Church, Reverend Laura C. Kelsey, Pastor
1696 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater, FL 33763
727.531.3200 • www.HopeFamily.com

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
on Christmas Eve
7pm & 11pm
10891 102nd Ave. N., Seminole • 727-391-4644

Join us this Christmas at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
"O Come Let us adore him, Christ the Lord"
Festival Eucharist - Tuesday, December 24th

- 5:00pm Festival Eucharist** with Children's Choir and Youth Bells/Singers
- 7:10pm Pre-Service Music**
- 7:30pm Festival Eucharist** with Choir, Pipe Organ, Bells, Brass, Flute and Timpani
- 9:40pm Pre-Service Music**
- 10:00pm Festival Eucharist** with Choir, Pipe Organ, Bells, Brass, Flute and Timpani

Candlelight at all services. Childcare available at the 5:00 and 7:30pm services only

Epiphany Celebration Sunday, January 5th
Coming of the Wise Men • 8:45am & 11:00am
A Service of Carols and a retelling of the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany stories with tableau, choirs and Baroque ensemble, all set within Holy Communion Worship.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
455 Missouri Ave. (across from Largo High School)
727.585.9969 | www.poplargo.org

CHAPEL ON THE HILL
United Church of Christ
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7pm "A Song Is Born"
Please Join Us For Our Hallelujah Chorus Sing Along
12601 Park Blvd. in Seminole
727-391-2919 www.coth.org

Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Dec. 24th at 7pm
You are invited to attend the annual Candlelight Communion Service. Celebrate the birth of the Christ child through the presentation of a live Nativity and participate in the singing of Christmas carols.
8505 113th St., Seminole • 727.391.5509

Celebrate Christmas this year at...
First United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Scott A. Baker
411 Turner St.
Corner Ft. Harrison & Turner
Downtown Clearwater • 446-5955
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
4:30 p.m.
CrossWind Contemporary Worship with Candle Lighting
6:00 p.m.
Traditional Worship with Candle Lighting, Choirs, Harp & Organ

St. Dunstan's Anglican Church
2790 Sunny Breeze Ave., Largo
727-581-1435 • www.stdunstansanglican.org

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve., Tue., Dec. 24, 2013

- 4:00pm Holy Communion** Traditional Worship
- 7:00pm Holy Communion** Lessons and Carols Family Service
- 10:30pm Christmas Carols**
- 11:00pm Festal Holy Communion** Contemporary Worship

Christmas Day, Wed., Dec. 25, 2013

- 10:00am Holy Communion** Traditional Worship

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St. Justin Martyr ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Join us for Christmas Services
December 24th Christmas Eve
4:00pm, 6:30pm (Family Mass) and 10:00pm Candlelight Mass
December 25th Christmas Day
10:00am Mass and Special Call To Worship 15 min before Mass

10851 Ridge Road, Seminole • www.stjustinmartyr.net • Mass Times: Sat. 4pm, Sun. 8:45am & 10:45am (Praise & Worship Band)

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All are welcome, learn more about our SCCs and January Bible Study classes • call 727-397-3312 ext. 311

Come Join Us at
Seminole First Baptist Church
Tuesday, December 24
in the Worship Center

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
at 6:00 PM

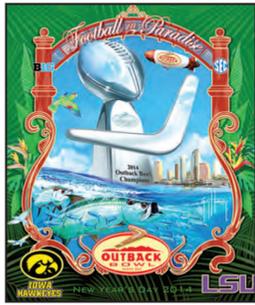
11045 Park Boulevard
Seminole, Florida 33772
(727) 392-7729

Outback Bowl T-shirt sales benefit oyster habitats restoration

The Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation recently announced it will pledge a portion of its revenues from 2014 Outback Bowl T-shirt sales to help rebuild critical oyster populations in coastal areas of Tampa Bay.

This is the fifth consecutive year the Outback Bowl has chosen Guy Harvey to design the game's official program cover and T-shirt. This year, the GHOF through Native Sun Sports, the Outback Bowl's official merchandiser, has pledged \$1 from the sale of each Guy Harvey Outback Bowl T-shirt to Tampa Bay Watch Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the marine and wetland environments of the Tampa Bay estuary.

"We are grateful to once again be working with the Outback Bowl to create the official design for use on their program and bowl T-shirt for what has become one of the country's most exciting bowl games to watch," said Steve Stock in a press release. Stock is president of Guy Harvey Inc. and Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation. Tampa Bay Watch and its oyster restoration program have restored natural shorelines and improved water quality in parts of Tampa Bay. The group's strong education and grassroots community outreach draws



For each Guy Harvey-designed Outback Bowl T-shirt sold, the Guy Harvey Foundation has pledged \$1 to Tampa Bay Watch Inc. for the restoration of marine and wetland environments of the Tampa Bay estuary.

thousands of volunteers. Harvey, celebrated internationally for his marine wildlife artwork and his support of many ocean conservation initiatives, is counting on support from Outback Bowl fans to help raise awareness and funds by purchasing an official Guy Harvey-designed T-shirt.

"Tampa Bay is the largest open water estuary in the state of Florida and is designated as an estuary of national significance," said Harvey, who holds a Ph.D. in marine biology. "I'm honored to be able to help support the efforts of Tampa Bay Watch, which has played a key role in mobilizing the Tampa community to participate in restoration and conservation activities."

Funds raised through the T-shirt give back program will be dedicated to Tampa shorelines to provide habitats for oysters. Also called Reef Balls, the oyster domes allow oysters to attach to a hard structure so they may grow into adults.

According to Tampa Bay Watch, oyster communities help stabilize shorelines, provide hard bottom habitats for fish and wildlife resources and promote water quality improvements in the Tampa Bay ecosystem. These newly created oyster bars and seawall reefs benefit Tampa Bay in many ways.

Full moon brings super low tides

Inshore anglers were treated with some astronomically low tides this week. East winds and a full moon left only enough water in the Intracoastal Waterway to safely navigate the main channel.



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

As we make our way through winter we will probably see this phenomenon again. The upside to this is the fish will get concentrated into smaller areas.

So if you can find where they are holding up chances are you'll have a pretty good day. Finding them, however, may not be so easy.

You'll definitely have to look in areas you may have never fished before, so look for those obvious signs of life, like diving birds, indicating baitfish or mullet traveling up and down a particular edge. If nothing else, seeing some of your favorite flats empty could give you a better idea of how the fish make their way on and off with the tides.

East winds have made it possible to fish the beach for silver trout and flounder. Target near-

shore artificial reefs and jetties for flounder that are lying on the bottom waiting to pounce on a live shrimp or white bait rigged on a drop-shot. Silver trout are schooled up along the beach. The schools can be found as

close as the swim buoys and as far out as a half a mile or so. Look for diving birds to help narrow the search for the trout. If there are no birds around you can simply drift with the wind and tide as you cast soft plastic jigs.

This is the time of year when schools of sheepshead congregate around area bridges. The Gandy Bridge, Skyway piers and most inland bridges are great places to target sheepshead and are open in some capacity to land based anglers. Using pieces of fresh shrimp or fiddler crabs fished on a quarter ounce jighead or a small hook and a sliding egg sinker gives you a good feel for when these crafty bait stealers get a hold of your baits.

Tyson Wallerstein can be reached at capt.tyson@hotmail.com.

They promote water quality benefits through biological filtering of the water (one adult oyster can filter up to 10 gallons of water per hour), provide habitat for small organisms, prevent further erosion, and create foraging areas and sanctuary for many species of fish and wildlife.

The oyster domes - 24 inches in diameter, 18 inches tall and weighing approximately 100 pounds - have been an integral part of Tampa Bay Watch's restoration programs for years and have been previously installed along Bayshore Boulevard, MacDill Air Force Base and Ballast Point Park. Tampa Bay

Watch has built and installed more than 11,000 oyster domes throughout Tampa Bay since 2000.

The Outback Bowl T-Shirts are available online at www.OutbackBowlGear.com. Official T-shirts also will be available at all Outback Bowl pre-events, including Beach Day and Ybor Blast; Marriott Waterside and Hyatt Grande Hotels; 25 game day locations at Raymond James Stadium and across from the ticket window on Tom McEwen Boulevard, Raymond James Stadium beginning Dec. 30; and other select retailers around the Tampa area, including Lids Locker Room.

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• Replace Wipers (Some models extra) **Call For Appointment**
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www.stormfitter.com

Building Your Business...

My name is Aniko Palko and I am the owner of *Tree of Life - Clearwater* - a licensed home Moringa nursery and product business. I have been a gardener all my life and started my Moringa business as an all-natural answer to my life-long pain from back and neck surgeries. After much research I learned the enormous health benefits from the Moringa plant, including the prevention of over 300 diseases. Now I needed a way to get the word out.

I ran an ad for my business in the Clearwater Beacon and the Belleair Bee newspapers announcing that I would have a vendor stand every Wednesday at the Fresh Food Market in downtown Clearwater. After the ad ran, I had so many people come to redeem the ad for a small Moringa plant and ask me all kinds of questions about this "Miracle Tree."

Tampa Bay Newspapers definitely helped me grow my business.

Tree of Life Clearwater
727-776-4752

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2X the Protein of Eggs	9X the Protein of Eggs & Yogurt
3X the Iron of Spinach	25X the Iron of Spinach

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For more information, email info@richardnader.com

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CLEARWATER – When you walk through the front doors of Design Furniture Outlet & Consignment, you'll be utterly astounded by the spectacle set before you. Spread out across the store's sprawling, 17,000- square-foot showroom, appealingly staged, is an extensive selection of fine furniture and accessories from various time periods – but that's just the beginning. The store is a virtual treasure chest, full of fascinating finds at reasonable, realistic prices.

So, what precisely is Design Furniture Outlet & Consignment?

Though the owners have 20 years of experience in the retail furniture industry and carry a wide range of high quality new and used home furnishings, customers will find so much more as they browse the collections displayed in the gallery. Though shoppers may find select vintage pieces as they stroll through the showroom, the business is no stuffy old antique store, either. And though the surprisingly affordable prices might suggest otherwise, Design Furniture Outlet & Consignment most certainly isn't a cluttered thrift store.

The vast selection and professional, attractive style in which the inventory is exhibited truly makes Design Furniture Outlet & Consignment stand out from the competition.

"We have high-end furniture, lighting fixtures, costume jewelry, crystal, art glass and stemware," said Maddie Diaz, owner. "In our boutique, we have designer clothing, purses and footwear."

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The low prices allow for a relatively rapid turnaround, which means new inventory arrives weekly. Shoppers will discover new treasures appear in the showroom regularly.

"The rapport I have with my customers is very important," Maddie said. "If a customer comes in looking for something specific and I don't have it, I try to find it." Maddie keeps a log of customer requests. She's always making connections between buyers and consigners. "We take requests, and we do our best to fill them as quickly as possible."

That kind of commitment to customer service distinguishes Design Furniture Outlet & Consignment.

Interested in consigning?

Design Furniture Outlet & Consignment accepts a wide variety of furniture and accessories from all time periods.

They will come to pick up your furniture and price your pieces at a fair market value. The professional staff at Design Furniture Outlet & Consignment takes great care in artistically staging consignment items, presenting them in their upscale gallery and making them irresistible to the right customer. They will pay you 50 percent of the selling price and automatically mail your proceeds to you on the 15th day of the month following the month in which it was sold.

Whether you are buying or selling, visit the spectacular showroom at Design Furniture Outlet & Consignment to see what kind of treasures await you. Stop by to check out all of the affordable designer and name brand furniture and the unique, quality accessories that this fashionable – yet reasonably priced – outlet has to offer.

Design Outlet & Consignment is at 1928 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Suite B, Clearwater. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 216-6432 or visit www.dfoutlet.com.

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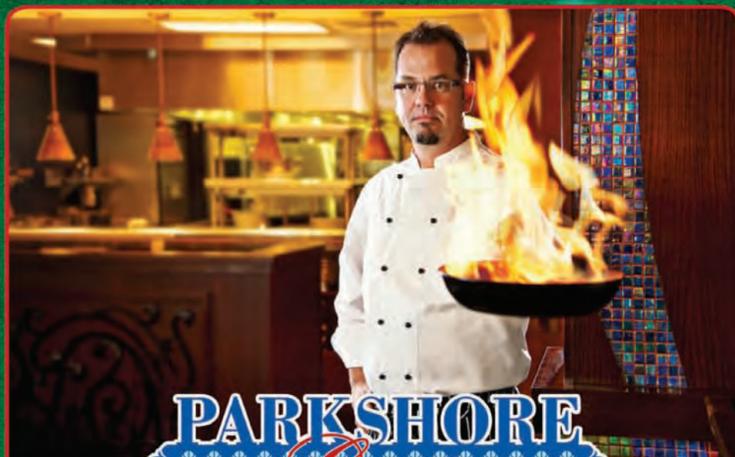
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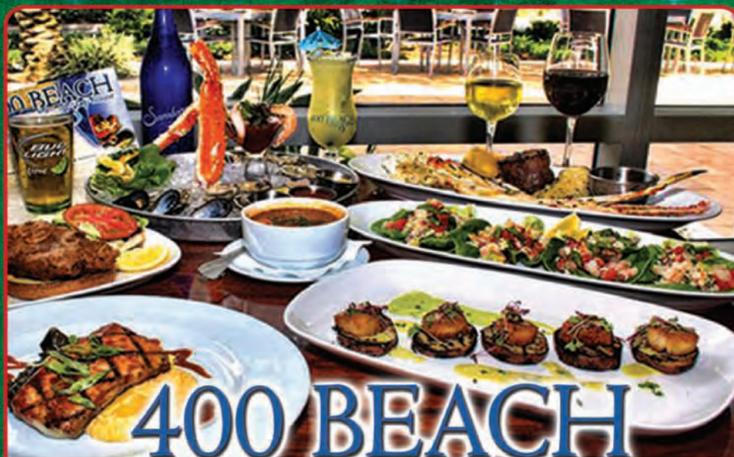
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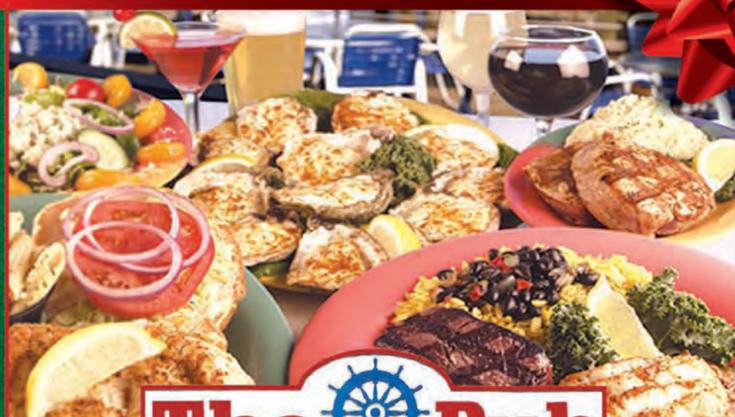
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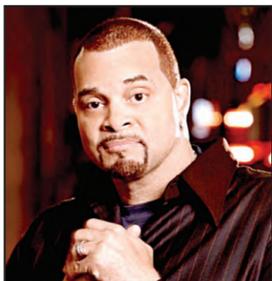
• **Rockapella**, Friday, Dec. 20, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$30. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. The world's most loved five-man contemporary pop vocal phenomenon is known for its astonishing live performances and Rockapella's holiday show is a "must see" event. With their completely original take on the holidays, Rockapella creates a light-hearted and unforgettable holiday experience as they travel the country spreading musical holiday cheer. From unique takes on classic favorites to brand new originals destined to become classics, audiences of all ages can expect to be charmed by a holiday performance like no other.



Photos courtesy of RUTH ECKERD HALL
Rockapella perform at Capitol Theatre Dec. 20.

• **"Annie,"** presented by the Musical Theatre Production Company Inc., Saturday, Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m., at Chapel on the Hill United Church of Christ, 12601 Park Blvd., Seminole. Advance tickets are \$17 for adults and \$15 for children age 10 and younger. Visit www.annie-themusical.eventbrite.com. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$17 for children at the door. The Musical Theatre Production Company Inc. is a local organization that educates children in the art of musical theater and promotes the performing arts in the community. The company and its director Debra Lonsdale are proud to bring this full-length official Broadway version of "Annie" to Pinellas. For information, visit www.facebook.com/MusicalTheatreProductionCompanyInc.

• **Sinbad**, Saturday, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$39. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Ranked by Comedy Central as one of the top 100 standup comedians of all time, Sinbad arrived on the comedy scene with a "hit 'em in the face" style of comedy that has kept audiences laughing in the aisles for over the past two decades. He freely admits that he doesn't know any jokes, except for the ones that his dad told him "back in the day." The basis of his humor comes from everyone he meets, everything he's seen and everything he's done.



Sinbad takes the stage at Capitol Theatre Dec. 21.

• **Florida Orchestra Brass Quintet**, Sunday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m., at Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center, 324 Pine St. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$18 for members and students. Attendees will have an opportunity to ring in the holidays with the Florida Orchestra Brass Quintet, who deliver Christmas cheer with virtuoso flair. The ensemble will perform Handel, Bach, and

See TOP FIVE, page 2B



Photos by MARK POKORNY

Martin Freeman, left, stars as Bilbo and John Callen as Oin in "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug."

Movie review

'Desolation of Smaug' is a breathtaking, albeit blemished, fantasy epic

"The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" certainly satisfies as the second installment of director Peter Jackson's three-film adaptation of "The Hobbit," though the director's deviations from J.R.R. Tolkien's work is beginning to minimize some of the author's themes.

"The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" opens with a brief flashback in which Gandalf the Grey convinces the Dwarf Thorin Oakenshield that he must find and claim the Arkenstone in order to unite the Dwarves. The ensuing scene takes place one year later, as the Hobbit Bilbo Baggins, along with Oakenshield and a company of Dwarves, are being chased by Azog and his Orcs. The action picks up directly from the final moments of the first film, "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey."

The company is on an epic quest to reach the Lonely Mountain and reclaim the lost Dwarf kingdom of Erebor. In this installment, Bilbo and the Dwarves meet the skin-changer Beorn, face giant spiders as they traverse Mirkwood and find themselves in the dungeons of the Wood-elves. Eventually, they reach Lake-town, situated in the shadow of Lonely Mountain, and prepare to face the greatest danger of their journey: Smaug, a merciless dragon who resides in Erebor.

With its epic storyline and well-developed characters, "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" is engrossing and compelling. Martin Freeman is exceptional as Bilbo. Freeman unobtrusively shows how Bilbo evolves, day by day, on his journey, as he grows more bold as he faces each successive challenge. Equally effective — though somewhat less visible in this installment — is Ian McKellen as Gandalf. McKellen always brings just the right blend of authority and impertinence to the Wizard.

Richard Armitage reprises his role as Thorin. Armitage manages to make Thorin seem honorable one moment and corrupt the next. At this point in the story, Thorin is driven by his desire to reclaim the Arkenstone. His covetousness is a tragic flaw — one Armitage manages to competently convey.

Other solid performances include Orlando Bloom as Legolas, Luke Evans as Bard the Bowman, Evangeline Lilly as Tauriel, Stephen Fry as the Master of Lake-town and Mikael Persbrandt as Beorn. Less effective were Lee Pace as Thranduil and Ryan Gage as Alfrid. The latter is a character created by Jackson and evidently patterned after



Reel Time

Lee Clark Zumpe



Ian McKellen stars as Gandalf in the fantasy adventure "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," a production of New Line Cinema and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures, released by Warner Bros. and MGM.

Tolkien's own archetypal sycophant, Grima Wormtongue. Gage is unsuccessfully mimicking Brad Dourif's portrayal of Wormtongue in Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Pace's Thranduil, meanwhile, is exaggeratedly vainglorious and falsehearted.

Aside from a few weak performances, however, the acting in "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" ranges from respectable to impeccable. Likewise, Jackson's trademark action sequences are seamless and exhilarating. The running battle during the barrel-riding scene is wild and breathtaking. Gandalf's confrontation at Dol Guldur is equally electrifying.

And then there's Smaug. Smaug alone may be worth the price of admission. The scene in

See REVIEW, page 4B

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During this wonderful holiday season, it's a great time to reflect on the past, enjoy the present with family & friends and look forward to a bright future. From our family to yours, we wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Looking Ahead

Largo

• **"Holiday Party of One,"** by Alison Burns with musical arrangements by Stan Collins; through Dec. 20, at New Stage Theatre, inside Country Day World School, 11650 131st St. N., Largo. For performance times and ticket information, call 813-817-2585 or visit newstagelargo.org. This Tampa Bay holiday traditional finds a home at New Stage Theatre after its highly acclaimed run in 2012. Written by local talents Alison Burns and Karla Hartley, this hilarious holiday treat follows three overworked, out of touch, people as they, once again, get caught up in the mad rush of the holidays – that is until Lucky, a Christmas elf, comes to the rescue. The second half of the evening is a unique cabaret of holiday favorites. This production is fun for the whole family.

• **Victor Wooten** with special guest Stu Hamm, Friday, Jan. 3, 8 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$29.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Five-time Grammy award winner. Wooten is known for his solo recordings, tours and as a member of the Grammy-winning super group, Bela Fleck & The Flecktones. He has won most every major award given to a bass guitarist. Wooten was voted Bassist of the Year by Bass Player Magazine three times and is the only person to have won the award more than once. Hamm has firmly established himself as one of the most influential electric bassists of the past half-century. Hamm helped to reshape the contemporary concept of the bass guitar as an unaccompanied instrument with the utilization of polyphonic, two-handed tapping, slapping and popping techniques, chords, and harmonics.

• **Monday Monday.** Monday, Jan. 13, 2 and 7 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$22.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. The show will feature hits made famous by The Mamas and the Papas as well as songs from many world-class groups including The 5th Dimension; Crosby, Stills, and Nash; Peter, Paul and Mary; and The Byrds.

• **Linda Eder**, Saturday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$39.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. One of the greatest contemporary voices of our time, Eder's diverse repertoire spans Broadway, standards, pop, country and jazz. As the tragic character Lucy in the Broadway musical "Jekyll & Hyde," Eder was rewarded with a Drama Desk nomination. Her appearances go back to the 1987 season of "Star Search," where she won for an unprecedented 12 weeks and attracted the attention of audiences and record companies alike. Eder has recorded 14 solo albums and has performed for sold-out crowds across the country and around the world.

• **"Title of Show,"** with music and lyrics by Jeff Bowen and book by Hunter Bell; Feb. 6-23, at New Stage Theatre, inside Country Day World School, 11650 131st St. N., Largo. For performance times and ticket information, call 813-817-2585 or visit newstagelargo.org. "Title of Show" is a musical by two guys named Jeff and Hunter about a musical by two guys named Jeff and Hunter. Its very specificity gives it broad appeal, as it takes a thoroughly unique and comical look at the pleasures and perils of the artistic process.

• **Frank Vignola and Vinny Raniolo**, Friday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$24.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Vignola's stunning virtuosity has made him the guitarist of choice for many of the world's top musicians. Guitar legend Les Paul named Vignola to his Five Most Admired Guitarist list for the Wall Street Journal. Raniolo, at the age of 28, has already proven himself to be among the elite having performed and recorded with Bucky Pizzarelli, Tommy Emmanuel and David Grisman just to name a few. Their jaw-dropping technique and incredible showmanship explains why the New York Times deemed them "stars of the guitar."

• **Satchmo:** The Rebirth of Louis Armstrong featuring Dean Simms; Saturday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park

Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$24.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Virtuoso trumpeter Dean Simms, as Satchmo, is the leader of this awesome tribute to the master himself, Louis Armstrong. His singing style as well as his playing, showmanship and on-stage is truly amazing. Hear Simms and his band perform renditions of "Basin Street Blues," "St. Louis Blues," "Wonderful World" and show stopping performance of the "Saints Go Marching In" and "Hello Dolly."

• **Alter Eagles:** The Definitive Eagles Tribute Band; Monday, Feb. 10, 2 and 7 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$22.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Alter Eagles – the most authentic tribute show to The Eagles – have won over countless numbers of fans nationwide with their tight vocal harmonies and exquisite re-creation of those classic songs of the '70s. From "Take It Easy" to "Hotel California," audiences will feel the band's passion.

• **The Sicilian Tenors**, Saturday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$24.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Comedian Joan Rivers describes the Sicilian Tenors as "the Three Tenors meet the Rat Pack." Aaron Caruso, Elio Scaccio and Sam Vitale will take the audience on a romantic journey from Hollywood to Broadway to Italy with marvelous songs and arias combined with lighthearted fun for all ages. The audience is always moved from tears to laughter with their warm nostalgia and soaring voices that hit all the right notes.

• **"Thoroughly Modern Millie,"** with book by Richard Morris and Dick Scanlan, music by Jeanine Tesori and lyrics by Dick Scanlan; presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, Feb. 28 through March 16, 2014, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25.50 for adults and \$12.50 for children 19 and younger with identification. A city of Largo handling charge of \$3.50 will be added to each ticket. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. "Thoroughly Modern Millie" is a fast-paced, energetic musical comedy set in the roaring '20s. Taking place in New York City in 1922, Millie Dillmount has just moved to the city in search of a new life for herself. It's a New York full of intrigue and jazz – a time when women were entering the workforce and the rules of love and social behavior were changing forever. Filled with frisky flappers, dashing leading men and a dragon-lady of a villainess audiences will love to hate, "Thoroughly Modern Millie" is a perfectly constructed evening of madcap merriment. The production will feature Linda Weir as director and Amy Phillips as choreographer.

Pinellas Park

• **"The Last Room,"** by Donna Tripp, through Dec. 22, at Venue Ensemble Theatre, 9125 U.S. 19 N., Pinellas Park. Performances will be Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Reservations are recommended. Call 822-6194 or email VenueActorStudio@gmail.com. The new Christmas musical was written by former Pinellas County resident, Donna Tripp. The play relates her interpretation of the Nativity of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of the Innkeeper. Tripp has handled the subject in a very sensitive way, with the music highlighting the story rather than overtaking it. Director Victor Carr has assembled a talented cast of actors/singers and brings more than 20 years of acting and directing experience to bare to present this touching and spiritual play.

St. Pete Beach

• **Patty Sanphy Jazz**, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 20-21, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Jackie's Bistro, 338 Corey Ave., St. Pete Beach. Diners will enjoy live jazz in a casual atmosphere while dining at the bistro. For information, visit pattysanphy.com.

St. Petersburg

• **"It's a Wonderful Life,"** by Tony Palermo, through Dec. 22, at St. Petersburg City Theatre, 4025 31st St. S., St. Petersburg. Performances are Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$10 for students. Call 866-1973 or visit www.spcitytheatre.org. Directed by David Middleton, the beloved movie comes to life on stage in this show adapted from Frank Capra's film by Tony Palermo. A Christmas feast for the eyes, this is a beautifully staged family classic come to life. Middleton and a cast of 30 characters have brought the much loved movie to the City Theatre stage with freshness and a warm nod to the 1930s nostalgia of the original movie. Follow George on his journey through his own life as he discovered what the little town of Bedford Falls would be without him. There are angels and devils in every life and perhaps we all can learn again the lesson that it's the people we touch and things we do little and large that make our lives "Wonderful."

Clearwater

• **Gilbert Gottfried**, Sunday, Dec. 29, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$25. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. At the young age of 15, Gottfried began doing stand-up in New York City and, after a few short years, became known around town as "the comedian's comedian." After spending several years mastering the art of stand-up comedy, producers of the legendary NBC late night comedy show "Saturday Night Live" became aware of Gottfried and, in 1980, hired him as a cast member. It wasn't until a few years later when his true notoriety would begin when MTV hired him for a series of improvised and hilarious promos for the newly formed channel. This led to several television appearances on "The Cosby Show" and "Late Night with David Letterman." Gottfried's work in television soon led to roles in film. Most notable was his improvised scene as business manager Sidney Bernstein in the hit sequel "Beverly Hills Cop II." Aside from his glowing reputation in comedy clubs, Gottfried began to gain a reputation as the king of quirky roles in both movies and television. He appeared in such movies as "Problem Child," "Problem Child II," "Look Who's Talking II" and "The Adventures of Ford Fairlane." He was also the host of the very popular late night movie series USA Up All Night. After his stellar performance as the wise cracking parrot, Iago, in the Disney classic Aladdin, Gottfried became one of the most recognizable voiceover talents. His signature voice can be heard in several commercials, cartoons and movies including the frustrated duck in the AFLAC Insurance commercials. Gottfried also is the voice of Digit in the long-running PBS series "Cyberchase."

• **B.B. King**, Tuesday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m.; and Thursday, Jan. 2, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$69. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. The legendary blues icon will perform on New Year's Eve at the all-new Capitol Theatre. He will play again on Jan. 2. King will start a new tradition for downtown Clearwater with the first New Year's Eve concert at the newly renovated, 93-year-old Capitol Theatre. Throughout the 1990s as well as the 1980s, 1970s, 1960s and 1950s, there has been only one King of the Blues: Riley B. King, affectionately known as B.B. King. Since King started recording in the late 1940s, he has released more than 60 albums many of them considered blues classics, like 1965's definitive live blues album "Live At The Regal" and 1976's collaboration with Bobby "Blue" Bland, "Together For The First Time." King's most popular crossover hit, 1970s "The Thrill Is Gone" went to No. 15 on the Billboard Pop Charts. Over the years, King has developed one of the world's most readily identified guitar styles. He borrowed from Lonnie Johnson, Blind Lemon Jefferson, T-Bone Walker and others, integrating his precise vocal like string bends and his left hand vibrato, both of which have become indispensable components of rock guitarist's vocabulary. His economy, his every note counts phrasing, has been a model for thousands of players including Eric Clapton, George Harrison and Jeff Beck. King has mixed traditional blues, jazz, swing, mainstream pop and jump into a unique sound. His singing is richly melodic, both vocally and in the "singing" that comes from his guitar.

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TOP FIVE, from page 1B

a glorious fanfare of Christmas favorites such as "Joy to the World" and "White Christmas." Known for their great versatility, entertaining narratives, and musical skill, the quintet is made up of principal players from The Florida Orchestra, including Robert Smith, trumpet; Kenneth Brown, trumpet; Andrew Karr, French horn; Dwight Decker, trombone; and William Mickelsen, tuba. Call 942-5605 or visit TaronArts.org.

• **Nebraska Theatre Caravan presents "A Christmas Carol,"** Monday, Dec. 23, 2 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Tickets start at \$35. A cherished tradition, this is the longest-running production of "A Christmas Carol" in the United States. In this beloved Dickens classic, ghosts of Christmases past, present and future guide Scrooge on a journey of redemption as he discovers the spirit of Christmas and a new life filled with joy and love. This show is part of Ruth Eckerd Hall's Adults at Leisure Series.

Crossword

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

Across

- "zoiic" things
- Come together
- "Oh, ___!"
- Bowed
- Strategy board game
- And others, for short
- ___ carotene
- Circle
- Honky-___
- In a tactful manner
- It's a snap
- Not quite
- Alias (abbrev.)
- Benefit
- Oolong, for one
- ___ and outs
- Houses and land (2 wds)
- "Likewise"
- "The ___ Daba Honeymoon"
- "Rabbit food"
- Cumulonimbus, e.g. (2 wds)
- "... ___ he drove out of sight"
- ___ blood group system
- Highlands hillside
- Ballpoint, e.g.
- Stone mounds erected as markers
- Methuselah's father
- Post-diaper discipline (2 wds)
- Bridge toll unit
- Beat
- Be a monarch
- Equal
- Architectural projection
- The Kennedys, e.g.
- Annexes
- Contact, e.g.
- "___ for the poor"

Down

- "Chicago" lyricist
- Bassoon, e.g.
- Italian appetizer
- Kind of infection
- Resembling marble
- Goya's "Duchess of ___"
- Forger
- Gorge
- Information about information
- Bikini, e.g.
- Hairy-chested
- Excessive drinker
- Owl, e.g.
- Chop (off)
- Salad green
- Boosts
- Jersey, e.g.
- Shish ___
- Those honored for great achievements
- The first transfinite cardinal (mathematics)
- Container weight
- "Our Time in ___" (10,000 Maniacs album)
- Excerpts advertising new films
- 18th-century card game
- Check
- 1973 Elton John hit
- Long, long time
- Served as helmsman
- Had a bug
- Abundance
- About
- Spanish appetizer
- Archaeological site
- ___ rock, e.g. David Bowie
- "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.

Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers from last week

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

Crossword answers from last week

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108
109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120

Horoscopes

December 19, 2013

Capricorn

December 22 – January 19

Festive times call for festive foods, Capricorn. If the kitchen is not your domain, look to a pro. If it is your domain, get out the pots and pans and start cooking.

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18

Believe, Aquarius, and the dream you hold most dear will come true. A youngster is going through a phase. Pay them no attention. Less is more at a party.

Pisces

February 19 – March 20

Get-togethers with friends and family are the highlight of the week, Pisces. A business connection strengthens, and many big opportunities are in store.

Aries

March 21 – April 19

Old traditions give way to new ones, as new faces enter the fold. Embrace the change, Aries. The to-do list list nears completion thanks to a shipment.

Taurus

April 20 – May 20

You receive more invites than you can count, but only one that marks the spot. A letter from home renews ties with long-lost friends. Enjoy, Taurus.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21

Family feasts begin, and fitness and diet are more important than ever. Work to keep the pounds off and the bad foods away, Gemini.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22

A health crisis passes, finances improve and gifts abound. You are blessed beyond belief, Cancer. Make sure you pay it forward. A friend comes around.

Leo

July 23 – August 22

Stand back, Leo. A blast from the past returns to make a party sizzle. Deadlines are met and a major project is finished, just in time for a new one to begin.

Virgo

August 23 – September 22

Oh dear, Virgo. You're making a mountain out of a molehill. Stop it! What's done is done. Time to move on and focus on matters you can change.

Libra

September 23 – October 22

The glitz and glamour of the holiday season put you in a festive frame of mind. Spread the cheer, Libra. An old friend could use some kind words.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 21

An organization could use your help. Get out there, Scorpio, and bring along some buddies. A truce is reached at home, allowing for a peaceful celebration.

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21

A mission in organization is not a lost cause, Sagittarius. Rally the troops and divide and conquer before the revelry begins. A gift warms the heart.

Opening this week: Hanks portrays Disney in 'Saving Mr. Banks'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues'

Genre: Comedy
 Cast: Will Ferrell, Christina Applegate, Steve Carell, David Koechner, Paul Rudd, Kristen Wiig, James Marsden, Dylan Baker, Meagan Good, Harrison Ford, Greg Kinnear, Josh Lawson, Vince Vaughn, Luke Wilson and Nicole Kidman
 Director: Adam McKay
 Rated: PG-13
 With the '70s behind him, San Diego's top rated newsman, Ron Burgundy (Will Ferrell), returns to the news desk in "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues."
 Also back for more are Ron's co-anchor and wife, Veronica Corningstone (Christina Applegate), weather man Brick Tamland (Steve Carell), man on the street reporter Brian Fantana (Paul Rudd) and sports guy Champ Kind (David Koechner) - all of whom won't make it easy to stay classy ... while taking New York and the nation's first 24-hour news channel by storm.



Photo courtesy of GEMMA LaMANA
 Will Ferrell stars as Ron Burgundy and Christina Applegate as Veronica Corningstone in "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues," from Paramount Pictures.

'Saving Mr. Banks'

Genre: Biography, comedy and drama
 Cast: Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks, Colin Farrell, Paul Giamatti, Jason Schwartzman, Bradley Whitford, Annie Rose Buckley, Ruth Wilson, B.J. Novak, Rachel Griffiths and Kathy Baker
 Director: John Lee Hancock
 Rated: PG-13
 In 1961, Walt Disney invited "Mary Poppins" author P.L. Travers to his studio in Los Angeles to discuss, in person, his continued interest in obtaining the movie rights to her beloved book and character - a pitch he first made to her in the 1940s.
 Still hesitant and disinterested after all those years, Travers wanted to tell the Hollywood impresario to go fly a kite but with dwindling sales of her books and a bleak economic future looming, P.L. Travers said yes and embarked on a two-week sojourn in Los Angeles that would ultimately set the wheels of the beloved film in motion.
 In "Saving Mr. Banks," audiences will discover how Walt Disney worked his magic on P.L. Travers to bring her book to the big screen.



Photo courtesy of WALT DISNEY STUDIOS



Photo by FRANCOIS DUHAMEL

Above, Sydney Prosser (Amy Adams) and Irving Rosenfeld (Christian Bale) attempt to scam an undercover agent in Columbia Pictures' "American Hustle." At left, Tom Hanks stars as Walt Disney in "Saving Mr. Banks."

'American Hustle'

Genre: Drama
 Cast: Christian Bale, Bradley Cooper, Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner and Jennifer Lawrence
 Director: David O. Russell
 Rated: R
 A fictional film set in the alluring world of one of the most stunning scandals to rock our nation, "American Hustle" tells the story of brilliant con man Irving Rosenfeld (Christian Bale), who along with his equally cunning and seductive British partner Sydney Prosser (Amy Adams) is forced to work for a wild FBI agent Richie DiMaso (Bradley Cooper).
 DiMaso pushes them into a world of Jersey powerbrokers and mafia that's as dangerous as it is enchanting. Jeremy Renner is Carmine Polito, the passionate, volatile, New Jersey political operator caught between the con-artists and Feds. Irving's unpredictable wife Rosalyn (Jennifer Lawrence) could be the one to pull the thread that brings the entire world crashing down. Like David O. Russell's previous films, American Hustle defies genre, hanging on raw emotion, and life and death stakes.

See OPENING, page 4B

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Upcoming events

Clearwater Beach fireworks show set for Dec. 31

CLEARWATER - Light It Up Clearwater Beach, a fireworks show, is set for midnight on the south end of the beach on New Year's Eve Tuesday, Dec. 31.

"These majestic fireworks are so high and so magnificent that they can be viewed from the south end of the beach and Sand Key all the way up to the north near the Sandpearl," said a Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce news release.

The fireworks are free to the public. The Clearwater Beach Chamber provides the community event through many sponsorships. This year's presenting sponsor is Frenchy's.

Grand finale sponsors are Shephard's Beach Resort and the Sandpearl. The media sponsor is WOW Business. Community sponsors include The Sheraton Sand Key Resort, Clearwater Gas System and Whirlwind Events and Entertainment. Additional sponsorships include Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach, Quality Inn on the Beach, The Tropics Boat Tours, Coconut Cove, Holiday Inn & Suites Clearwater Beach, Hilton Clearwater Beach, Griffin Productions, Island Estates Yacht Club, and Segway Adventures.

Visit www.lightitupclearwater.com.

Voters select 2014 Gecko Ball theme

GULFPORT - Organizers of Gulfport's annual Gecko Ball recently announced the results of public voting for the theme of the 2014 Gecko Ball.

The theme of the sixth annual Gecko Ball will be "Roaring Geckos." The event will be presented Saturday, Aug. 23, at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom.

The Gecko Ball is one of a trio of whimsical, celebratory Gecko-themed events in late summer each year, beginning with the Gecko Pub Crawl, and ending with Gecko Fest, Gulfport's largest annual street festival which takes place on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend.

All events are sponsored by the Gulfport Merchants Association and a portion of proceeds from events are dedicated each year to various community charities and public art projects. Other themes up for consideration during the online public vote were "Gecko Mardi Gras" and "Gecko Sock Hop."

The "Roaring Geckos" theme will evoke the American Roaring '20s, including its music, dance moves, hairstyles, clothing and costumes, fads, movies and other elements of popular culture. Attendees can expect to experience costumes, music and décor celebrating flappers, hair bobs, Charlie Chaplin, The Great Gatsby, Guys and Dolls, the Charleston, the Jazz Age, Louis Armstrong, Rudolph Valentino, swing music and big bands, Art Deco and many other touchstones of the 1920s. Gecko Ball-goers are encouraged to develop costumes relating to the theme. A costume contest during the evening will help decide some of the best outfits in the house. Each year, the Gecko Ball theme also lends itself to costumes that participants of the Gecko Fest street festival are encouraged to wear and flaunt during the Fest's walking parade.

The Gecko Ball also includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, cocktail specials, cash bar, music and dancing, silent auctions and a live auction of artist-created geckos.

Tickets to Gecko Ball go on sale a few weeks prior to the event. For information, visit www.facebook.com/geckoball.

REVIEW, from page 1B

which Bilbo conducts his verbal sparring with the dragon is sensationally depicted. In an age of impressive CGI-dominated films, Jackson manages to take the digital medium to the next level delivering a fire-breathing, winged beast that is disarmingly vibrant and intense. Benedict Cumberbatch adds even more depth to the antagonist with his vocal performance, dished out with a glut of overconfidence and condescension befitting the kingdom-smashing Smaug the Magnificent.

Still, even with the stunning visuals, the dazzling cinematography, the unrivaled special effects and



Photo courtesy of WARNER BROS. PICTURES
Orlando Bloom stars as Legolas in "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug."

the marvelous set design (Lake-town is as fastidiously and lovingly conceived as Rivendell, though far more similar to a 19th century British port-of-call), there is still something not quite right with "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug."

Jackson's deep affection for Tolkien's creation is both a source of creative inspiration and an impediment to articulate storytelling. If Jackson had a similar amount of passion for, say, the Florida Botanical Gardens and wished to document it in a coffee table book, he would likely try to photograph each individual branch, blossom and leaf on the grounds. While his work would be considered comprehensive, it nevertheless might fail to convey the intrinsic beauty and diversity displayed amidst the broad pallet of trees, groundcover, shrubs and assorted cultivated flora.

In "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," Jackson has not only supplemented the narrative with bits and pieces found elsewhere in Tolkien's works but he has also created characters, engineered events and implanted motivation within existing characters that does not always seem consistent with the source material. In particular, in a scene in Mirkwood, Jackson suggests Bilbo may already be yielding to the corrupting power of the One Ring, fighting foes in an effort to protect it and not the company of Dwarves.

In his effort to re-imagine "The Hobbit" as an expansive survey of Tolkien's sprawling Middle Earth and calculated prequel to "The Lord of the Rings," Jackson has lost sight of the book's uplifting coming-of-age theme as well as its discreet assessment of heroism and warfare. Perhaps the latter will be more evident in the final installment, "The Hobbit: There and Back Again," due for release on Dec. 17, 2014.

For now, let's forgive Jackson for his overzealousness and accept "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" for what it is: one of the most impressive, entertaining fantasy films ever made.

OPENING, from page 3B

'Walking with Dinosaurs'

Genre: Adventure and family
Cast: Justin Long and John Leguizamo
Director: Barry Cook and Neil Nightingale
Rated: PG

For the first time in movie history, audiences will truly see and feel what it was like when dinosaurs ruled the Earth.

"Walking with Dinosaurs" is the ultimate immersive, big-screen adventure for families. The film depicts dinosaurs more real than any ever seen on screen and revolves around a thrilling prehistoric journey featuring Patchi, an underdog dino, who triumphs against all odds to become a hero for the ages.

Patchi's heroics and antics resonate in any era, but he is also a product of his times and stomping grounds - the latter part of the Cretaceous Period, about 70 million years ago in a land we now call Alaska.

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

'The Past'

Genre: Drama
Cast: Bérénice Bejo, Tahar Rahim, Ali Mosaffa, Pauline Burlet, Elyes Aguis, Jeanne Jestin, Sabrina Ouazani, Babak Karmi and Valeria Cavalli
Director: Asghar Farhadi

Rated: PG-13

Following a four year separation, Ahmad (Ali Mosaffa) returns to Paris from Tehran, upon the request of his estranged French wife Marie (Bérénice Bejo), in order to finalize their divorce procedure so she can marry her new boyfriend Samir (Tahar Rahim).

During his tense brief stay, Ahmad discovers the conflicting nature of Marie's relationship with her teenage daughter Lucie (Pauline Burlet). Ahmad's efforts to improve this relationship soon unveil a secret from their past.

'Wrong Cops'

Genre: Comedy
Cast: Mark Burnham, Marilyn Manson, Grace Zabriskie, Daniel Quinn, Eddie Tapia, Steve Little, Daniel Quinn, Isabella Palmier, Hillary Tuck, Alyssa Preston, Norton Leuven, Pete Cross, Steve Howey, Arden Myrin, Eric Wareheim, Don Stark, Agnes Bruckner, Brandon Beemer and Jon Lajoie
Director: Quentin Dupieux
Not rated

"Wrong Cops" chronicles a group of cops behaving badly in a not too-distant future where crime has been all but eradicated.

This hilarious ensemble comedy features an amazing cast that includes Marilyn Manson, Steve Little, Eric Wareheim, Jon Lajoie and many more.

For more movie news, visit www.TBNweekly.com. Click on the "Movie News & Reviews" link on the left-side menu.

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Sunset Menu, Mon.-Thurs. 4:30-6pm
(except Holiday Eves & Holidays)

Reserve Now for New Year's Eve and Enjoy our Special Menu

www.villagallace.com
Open, Mon.-Sat. • 4:30-10:30pm • Sun. 4-10pm
Reservations Recommended

727-596-0200 • 109 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach

Casual Waterfront Dining on the Intracoastal
HAPPY HOUR • 8AM-6PM • CHEAP DRINKS • Live Music

JD's Restaurant & Lounge
Celebrating 28 Years!

Breakfast Specials! from \$2 & Up Tues.-Fri.

White Clothes Party
Sat., Dec. 21 @ 8:30
Prize for Best Dressed Person in White!
Drink Specials
Live Music

New Years Eve Party
Tuesday, Dec. 31
Bands on the Back Porch
All Day starting @ Noon
Midnight Champagne Toast

OPEN Christmas Day @ 8am Live Music 1-10pm

TUESDAY Customer Appreciation Early Birds ALL DAY & NIGHT Exp. 12/26/13

THURSDAY \$1 Tacos & Hot Dogs NOON - 6pm With Purchase of Drink. In Lounge Only. Exp. 12/26/13

SUNDAY Chicken Wings Specials With Purchase of Drink. Dine in only. Exp. 12/26/13

LUNCH BASKETS \$6.75 And Under! Noon-4pm Call ahead and take your lunch to the beach!

125 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach
727-595-1320
www.jdsrestaurant.com

Capo De Monte Italian Market
Visit us for all your Italian Grocery Deli needs

FULL CATERING MENU FOR ALL YOUR HOLIDAY EVENTS!

- Delicious Subs & Paninis • Gourmet & Italian Foods
- Prepared Meals-To-Go
- Beer and Wine • Homemade Soups • Pasta Sauce
- Crostini made fresh daily • Specialty Meats & Cheeses
- Homemade Sausage • Fresh Italian Bread
- Homemade Dips, Spreads
- Mozzarella Cheese & Much More!

\$5 OFF Any purchase of \$30 or more. Must present coupon. Dine in or Take out. Not valid with other offers. Exp. 12-30-13

8400 Seminole Boulevard
Seminole • 394-7800

ADVERTISE IN

ACTIVE LIVING

ACT YOUNG • THINK YOUNG • FEEL YOUNG

A Tabloid Supplement Geared Towards Active Seniors & Retirees

Every Tue. 6-8pm MAGICIAN

BEEF O'BRADY'S Est. 1985 SEMINOLE

Watch College & Pro Football Games Here on Sat., Sun. & Mon. Nights

HAPPY HOUR MON.-SAT. 4-7 BONELESS WINGS NLB LIVE VIA SATELLITE

LUNCH COUPON: 11am-4pm • Mon.-Fri. only Buy One Get One of equal or lesser value 1/2 OFF

TOTAL TAB SPECIAL \$3.00 OFF \$15.00 or more \$5.00 OFF \$25.00 or more Excluding alcohol, tax & Happy Hour

10799 PARK BLVD., SEMINOLE 393-2880

ISSUE DATE: JANUARY 30TH
ADVERTISING DEADLINE: JANUARY 17TH

Inserted Into:

CLEARWATER BEACON BELLEAIR BEE LARGO LEADER SEMINOLE BEACON BELLEAIR BEE BEACH BEACON

Call **727.397.5563**

Pick-Up Your Advertisement from the Welcome Back Special and Receive an Additional 10% Discount

EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINES FOR ADVERTISING & EDITORIAL

DECEMBER 26, 2013 PAPER:
Retail & Classified Display Ads: Thursday, December 19 • 5pm
Classified Line Ads: Friday, December 20 • Noon
Editorial Copy: Thursday, December 19 • Noon

JANUARY 2, 2014 PAPER:
Retail & Classified Display Ads: Thursday, December 26 • 5pm
Classified Line Ads: Friday, December 27 • Noon
Editorial Copy: Thursday, December 26 • Noon

CLASSIFIEDS

www.TBNweekly.com

To Place An Ad Call (727) 397-5563 Fax (727) 399-2042
or order your ad online 24/7 @ TBNweekly.com
Deadlines: Display, Friday-5 p.m. • Line Ads, Monday-Noon

REAL ESTATE

5. R.E. Sales

First Time Homebuyer Program*

Low Interest Rate Mortgage

Down Payment Assistance Available

Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County

1-800-806-5154

www.pinellascounty.org/community/hfa

Programs available in Pinellas, Polk and Pasco counties.

* If you have not owned a home in the last 3 years

10. Waterfront Sales

TREASURE ISLAND,
Gorgeous 1BR/1BA, Deeded Boat Slip! Minutes To John's Pass. Walking Distance To Beach!
\$175,000. Virginia Wyman, Coldwell Banker, (813)610-0074.

20. Condo Sales

SEMINOLE GARDENS
NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY WHILE THE PRICES ARE STILL LOW!
BEAUTIFUL 56-ACRE COMPLEX

1BR/1BA, 1,012 sq. ft.
Nicely Updated, Waterview, 55+
New Listing \$48,900

1BR/1BA, 704 sq. ft.
Everything has been updated. Great View!
\$38,900

Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp. Cassius L. Peacor, IV, Broker Your On-SITE Specialist (727)397-2534 MySeminoleGardens.com

SEMINOLE GARDENS

Extra large 1BR/1BA First Floor. End unit, extra windows. Screened Porch. Storage Closet. \$37,900. Call Diane (727)410-6388.

35. Mobile Home Sales

SEMINOLE. CLEAN? QUIET? CONVENIENT? EASY TO OWN?
YES! 55+ Several Homes To Choose From. Starting At \$2,500. Background Check Required, \$60. Call Now! (727)393-0151

TWELVE OAKS MHP

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

95. Property Mgmt.

ESQUAL 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.

130. Cemetery Lots

SERENITY GARDENS MEMORIAL
Park, Two Side-By-Side Burial Ground Spaces, \$2,500 Each. Call Gene (865)696-4925.

ASK ABOUT OUR EYE STOPPER LOGOS



RENTALS

145. Unfurnished Houses

LARGO: 3BR/1.5BA/1CG, Close To Beach! Screen Enclosed Patio. Pet OK w/Deposit. \$1,200/Mo. Annual. Florida's Best Accommodations. (727)517-9404.

LARGO: NEAR BEACH 3BR/2BA/2CG. Screened Porch, Fireplace. \$1,250/Month +1st, Last, Security. Lawn Maintenance Included. (727)593-9773

ST. PETE 2BR/1BA/2CG, LR, DR, New Kitchen, Utility Room, Tile Floors Throughout. Section 8 OK. No Pets. 3560 Burlington Ave. \$825/Mo. (727)415-0660.

HEART OF BELLEAIR 2BR/1.5BA/1CG, 1,700 SF. Hardwood Floors, Fireplace, Large Private Yard, Screened Patio \$1,500/Mo. Lawn Included. 403 Althea Rd. (727)536-4422.

155. Furnished Condos

SEMINOLE GARDENS 1BR/1BA, 914SF, 55+, Laminate Floors, Updated Kitchen. \$700/Month-Yearly. Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp. (727)397-2534

LARGO, CORNER UNIT 2BR/2BA, Great Location. All Amenities, No Pets/Smoking. \$850/Per Month. Year Lease Plus Deposit. Seasonal \$1,200/Month. (727)481-8891

160. Unfurnished Condos

SEMINOLE, VILLA MILAN 1BR/1BA, on West side of Lake Seminole, Pool, Dock, No Pets. \$625/Month Annual.

Guetzlaff Realty (727)204-0829, (727)392-2339

NEW ATLANTIS CLUB 2BR/1BA First Floor, New Carpeting, Freshly Painted. Walk To Shopping. No Pets. \$750/Mo. Shipwatch Realty, (727)596-6508. www.ShipwatchRealty.com

SEMINOLE, 2BR/2BA, 2nd Floor, Corner Unit, W/D Hookup, Garden Tub, Walk-in Closets, Screened Patio, 5/Minutes from Beach, Gated, Clubhouse, Fitness Center, Resort-style Pool, Tennis Court, Beautiful Views, Internet access. \$1,045/Month. (727)480-0927.

SEMINOLE, LONG BAYOU, Renovated Modern Condo. 1BR/1BA, 800SF, 2nd Floor. 55+, gated community. Many amenities. Resort Style Living! \$750/Month. (727)385-7718.

CLEARWATER, GREENBRIAR

Nice 1BR/1BA Ground Floor, Walk-in Closet, Porch, Quiet 55+ Pool, Clubhouse, Shuffleboard, Water. \$595/Mo. (727)734-0069.

170. Furnished Apts.

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

CLEARWATER STUDIO Starting at \$179/Week. No security. No Credit Check. Free WiFi access. Pets OK. MOVE IN TODAY!! (727)445-7134. precisionpropertymanagement.net

175. Unfurnished Apts.

SEMINOLE GARDENS, 55+ Winter Rentals: 1BR Deluxe & 2BR/2BA. No Pets. Nonsmokers Only. Robert G. Castles, P.A. Broker. (727)319-8229 www.SeminoleGarden.com

BELLEAIR BLUFFS Deluxe 1 & 2 Bedrooms, 1st & 2nd Floor. Overlooking Non-smoking Center Courtyard w/Beautiful Pool. Great Location 1 Block From Shopping & Intracoastal. 2942 West Bay Dr. Call for Info (727)754-0444.

175. Unfurnished Apts.

THE PALMS OF LARGO
A SENIOR RENTAL COMMUNITY

AVAILABLE NOW!
2 bedroom / 1 bathroom
950 sq. ft.
\$865/month

Walk-in closet, galley kitchen & screened porch. Includes expanded cable, water/sewer & trash.

APARTMENTS GOING FAST!
Call Imperial Palms Today!
(727)585-3723
www.imperialpalms.com

BELLEAIR BLUFFS

Great Quiet Location. Ranch Style, Unfurnished 2BR/1BA, No Traffic Cul-de-Sac. \$825/Mo. Neg. (412)741-6339.

185. Beach Rentals

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
Cozy, Clean, Furnished Cottages. 1-2BRs January rates starting at \$395/week +tax. Steps to Gulf Beach. Pet Friendly. (727)595-3000. www.SunshineCozyCottages.com

FURNISHED/UNFURNISHED 1-5 Bedrooms
Condos, Houses, Duplexes Weekly/Monthly/Annual Bob Schmidt, (727)580-9797 Tropical Isles Realty, Inc. (727)593-0744, (800)655-0744.

SAND KEY Clearwater Beach,

Furnished, Large 2BR/2BA. Pool, Annual. \$2,200/Month. Under Ground Parking. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton (727)644-0400.

190. Waterfront Rentals

SAND KEY CONDO
Best Location On Intracoastal. Walk To Beach. 2BR/2BA Unfurnished. New Appliances, Remodeled. W/D. Nonsmoking. \$1,750/Mo. Annual. (201)323-5717.

195. Seasonal Rentals

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

205. Townhouse Rentals

203 Brigadoon Dr, Clearwater 3BR/3BA, W/D Hook-up, Condo Swimming Pool, Walking Trails. \$1,000/Mo. (727)253-0523

210. Mobile Hm. Rentals

NEAR BAY PINES VA & Madeira Beach, 1BR. Includes W/S/G, Cable. Pets OK. \$575/Mo. +\$300 Sec. (727)393-1628.

245. Room For Rent

SAFE, CLEAN, QUIET. Fully Furnished. Utilities, Cable Included. Deposit, References, ID Required. From \$150/Week. (727)547-1199.

SEMINOLE, HEARTBREAK HOTEL A PEACE MAKER.

Quiet, Furnished, Share House, Pool, Cable, Electric, W/D, All Included. \$130/Week and Up. Security Required. B.G.C. (210)560-4943.

255. Accom. To Share

Female Needs To Find Roommate To Share Apt Or House In Indian Rocks Beach, 35-60, Lets Talk. (727)729-9659.

175. Unfurnished Apts.

265. Commercial Rentals

OFFICE SPACE
Starting At \$482 Per Month. Ample Parking. Madeira Beach. (727)641-6465.

VERY UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

For Retail/Service/Office. High Traffic Visibility In Great Location Of Indian Rocks/ Belleair/ Largo Area. Perfect For Dog Grooming, Massage, Nails, Yoga, Etc. Etc. Use Your Creativity! Approx. 1,300SF. 13042 Indian Rocks Rd. Largo, 33774. Also Has A 2BR/1BA Apt. On Property To Oversee Your Business If Desired. Must See Only \$1,245/Mo. Call (727)224-8690.

MISCELLANEOUS

302. Tickets

TIX TICKETS
CONCERTS * SPORTS * THEATER
SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE * WORLD SERIES
KANYE WEST * DRAKE * SUPERBOWL
LUKE BRYAN * WWE - NASCAR * FINAL FOUR
THE EAGLES * BOWL GAMES * THE MASTERS
JOSH GORDON * RAYS * BULLS * NBA
BUCS * LIGHTNING
ALL EVENTS STARTS TO THE HIGHEST SHARE
CALL OR CLICK
813-818-TIXX
TIXTICKETS.COM

345. Lost & Found

FOUND DOG: Male Yorkie, 12/14, vicinity of 131st St. & 102nd Ave., Seminole. Call with proof of ownership. (727)385-9272.

FOUND CAT:

Large male, mostly white w/some gray, affectionate, 12/9, vicinity of Evelyn Ave., Clearwater. (727)520-4593.

AT YOUR SERVICE

355. Adoption

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. (888)969-6134. FL BAR #150789

PREGNANT?
Thinking about Adoption? Choose the Perfect Family For Your Baby
Benefits may include:
Free Apartment
Free Medical Care
Free Counseling
Experienced Adoption Entity
(727)421-2514
FL BAR #0967841

ADOPTION Unplanned Pregnancy?

Provide your baby with a loving, financially secure family.
Living / Medical / Counseling Expenses Paid
You choose the family you want for your baby / open adoption available.
Call compassionate attorney
Lauren Feingold
866.633.0397
24 Hours / 7 Days
FL Bar #0858107 120513

435. Adult Care & Svcs.

CNA/ HOME HEALTH AIDE For Private Patient. 20 Years Experience. Excellent References. Honest, Kind, Reliable, Medical, Errands, Doctor Visits, Etc. (727)266-4496.

485. Help Wanted

LABORERS
Experienced With Roofing, Tearing Off & Cleanups. Helpful, Business Located in Largo. (727)330-7820

485. Help Wanted

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- Professional Services Directory

435. Adult Care & Svcs.

CNA WILL TAKE CARE of your loved ones with breakfast, lunch, dinner. Doctor appointments, light cooking, laundry, errands 4-5 days. Excellent References. Call (727)678-6740. Largo

DO YOU NEED A LIVE-IN CAREGIVER?

I'm Available Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays. Have Excellent References. Call Angie, (727)365-2386.

472. Wedding Services

Holiday Inn Harbourside From Intimate Destination Weddings for two to gala affairs for 200 www.HIHarbourside.com (727)595-9484

Special Moments

"Casually Fun, Totally Traditional and All-Out Adventurous Events" EventsBySpecialMoments.com (727)343-0800

Largo Cultural Center

"A Room With A View" ...Overlooking Largo Central Park! www.LargoArts.com 727-587-6751

The Venue at Beso Del Sol

Waterfront and Wonderful for your Dream Wedding. www.BesoDelSolResort.com 800-331-2548

BAYPONTE GOLF COURSE

Scenic Room, Perfect For Venues Up To 130. www.Baypontegolfcourse.com (727)593-3900, (727)595-2095.

EMPLOYMENT

485. Help Wanted

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.

RESIDENT AIDES

Pincrest Place, a premier retirement community, is seeking aides to provide daily care to our AL & Memory Care residents. We are looking for enthusiastic, energetic and caring people to become a part of our team. Part-time, various shifts. Must be available to work weekends and holidays. Candidates can apply in person at 1150 8th Ave. SW, Largo, or send resume to Margaret.Kristall@brookdaleliving.com or fax to M. Kristall at (727)581-8409. EOE, DFWP

SERVERS

Pincrest Place Retirement Community is looking for "mature" candidates to work in our Dining rooms, to include Assisted

535. Business Opportunities

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

AUCTIONS

585. Auctions

GRANNYS AUCTION(AB1769) Buying & Consigning, Free Antique Appraisals Tuesday's 12-4. Furniture, jewelry, paintings, sculpture, pottery, glass, military, sterling, gold, etc. (727)572-1567

5175 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater

CALL EARLY TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD

CHECK YOUR ADS THE FIRST DAY

In the event of error in any advertising, this publication will not be financially responsible beyond the cost of the advertisement in which the error appears. For advertisement scheduled to run more than one time, this publication will not issue credit for errors beyond the first publication week.

Tampa Bay Newspapers, Inc. reserves the right to refuse advertising copy deemed by the Publisher as objectionable in any sense and to change the classification from that ordered to conform to the policy of the publisher.

SUBMIT YOUR CLASSIFIED AD ONLINE

Too busy to call in to our office? Can't visit in person?

Order your classified ad online, 24/7, quickly and easily. Visit www.TBNweekly.com, click on "Place A Classified," complete & submit the form. A representative from the classified dept. will follow up with you during regular office hours to confirm your order and obtain payment information.

ADS WILL NOT BE PLACED WITHOUT CONFIRMATION AND PAYMENT DETAILS FROM YOU.

MERCHANDISE

600. Merchandise

MOVING MUST SELL THIS WEEK! MAKE OFFERS!

Large Wooden Shed, Well Built, Has Dbl. Doors & Window w/Screen, Price Reduced To \$750. Aprilia Sport City 250 Motor Scooter w/Warranty, \$3,200. Buy The Scooter, Get The Shed FREE! LR Small Maple Table w/Drawer, \$15. Large Loveseat, Green, Dbl. Reclining, \$50. Rug, 4'x6', Green w/Leaf Pattern, \$25. Large Armoire w/Shelves & Drawers, \$75. Maple Night Stand, \$10. Lawn Mower, Great Shape, \$100. Other Misc. Items. Come Look! (727)459-4220.

635. Bargain Corner

NEW MONGOOSE BICYCLE
Red, 16 inch for 10 Year Old Boy. \$100. Pick-up Only. (727)596-2003

660. Wanted to Buy

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

CASH PAID BY NEW ENGLAND

Collector for Quality Old Items. Dishes, Books, Dolls, Paintings, Watches, Cameras, Coins, Stamps. Dave (207)649-9130.

700. Pets & Animals

FREE TO LOVING HOME: 2 male tabby cats, 3-year old brothers, neutered w/all shots. Need a forever home together. Heartbroken owner. (727)420-4380.

CHRISTMAS BABIES!
Chihuahua/Yorkie, One Tea Cup Female, \$800. One Male, \$600. HURRY! (727)595-0727.

HIMALAYAN/PERSIAN CAT
Needs Loving Home. Must Be Indoor Cat Only. Great With Dogs, Not Other Cats. Great Companion! Moving This Week. (727)459-4220.

810. Auto Sales

FORD 1992 TAURUS
A/C, 70,000 Miles. Looks & Runs Excellent. \$1,895. (727)656-4472, (727)210-7262.

BMW 2004 330CI
Color White, 55,000 Miles, 1 Owner, Absolute Mint. Clean CarFax, Full Services, Amazing Car. \$11,750. (727)452-0194.

OLDSMOBILE 2000 INTRIGUE
Cold Air, Silver, 122,000 Miles, Great Shape, \$2,250. (727)452-0194.

815. Classic Cars

CHEVY 1986 MONTE CARLO
78K Miles, Perfect Mechanically Inside & Out, Original Owner, Mint Condition, \$5,995. Call (727)738-4454.

827. Auto Repair

Power Window & Lock Repair
Licensed, Mobile, Guaranteed, Free Estimates. (727)322-3050 AllPowerAuto.com Jim Sailor

830. Van & SUV Sales

DODGE 2013 GRAND CARAVAN
Wheelchair Van With 10" Lowered Floor, Ramp & Tie Downs. For More Info Please Call Ben At (727)644-6101.

850. Auto & Truck Access.

CAR HAULER
Heavy Duty With Ramps, \$1,050. (727)452-0194.

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

CASH NOW
TOP DOLLAR PAID WE BUY CLEAN QUALITY TRUCKS, VANS, SUV'S & CARS NO JUNK! 727-798-2921 NOBODY PAYS MORE!

WE BUY CARS
Any Condition, New, Old or Junk. No Title & Liens OK! (813)418-7927 or (727)493-5302

Got a Car You Wanna Sell

The Good, The Bad The Ugly

Call Now 727-400-1910

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With or without title. Any condition, make, year or model. We pay up to \$20,000. Free Towing. (813)516-0847, (727)495-3516.

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286-3209
www.WBGFast.com

Classified Deadlines:
Line Ads: Monday Noon Display: Friday 5PM
Call Early! 397-5563

BOATS/MARINE

890. Boats & PWC Sales

14' FISHING BOAT
Seats 6, With Trailer, 2 Motors, \$1,295. (727)452-0194.

910. Boat Slips

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

915. Boat-Marine Svc.

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Yamaha and Mercury Outboard Repair & Repowering. Custom Electronics & Rigging. Winterizing & Seasonal Service. Authorized Land/Sea Distributor. Reasonable Rates. (727)744-4352

GARAGE/STATE SALES

975. Garage-Yard Sales

CHAPEL TREASURES!
An Unusual Thrift Shop Full Of Fine Things, Friday & Saturday, 8AM-12PM, 12601 Park Blvd, Seminole. (727)391-2919. We Accept Donations And Drop Offs As Well. coth.coth.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 21, 8AM-2PM.
Furniture, Patio Furniture, Dishes, Household Items, Bike. 11174 57th Ave, Seminole.

WOOD CRAFT & ORIGINAL ACRYLIC ARTWORK
Saturday, 12/21, 9am-2pm. 10340 Majestic Dr, Imperial Point, Largo. West End Of 102nd Ave.

980. Moving Sales

MOVING MUST SELL THIS WEEK! MAKE OFFERS!
Large Wooden Shed, Well Built, Has Dbl. Doors & Window w/Screen, Price Reduced To \$750. Aprilia Sport City Motor Scooter 250 w/Warranty, \$3,200. Buy The Scooter, Get The Shed FREE! LR Small Maple Table w/Drawer, \$15. Large Loveseat, Green, Dbl. Reclining, \$50. Rug, 4'x6', Green w/Leaf Pattern, \$25. Large Armoire w/Shelves & Drawers, \$75. Maple Night Stand, \$10. Lawn Mower, Great Shape, \$100. Other Misc. Items. Come Look! (727)459-4220.

Draw...

...the reader's attention with an Eyestopper Logo. Choose from those shown here, provide your own, or we can create one for you.

20% OFF

\$10 OFF

APARTMENTS For Rent

BRAND-NEW LISTING

LOOK!

BY OWNER

one day only!

A Renter's Dream

10% OFF ANY ACCESSORY
EXPIRES 8/30/13

Annual Bazaar & Bake Sale

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

OPEN HOUSE BY OWNER

\$20-\$50 OFF

Aloha SOD & LAWNSCAPING

CARPORT SALE

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Tender Hearts Pet Sitters
"Where your pets are treated like family..."

We offer stress-free pet sitting in the comfort of your own home. Let our professional staff give your pets plenty of love and attention while you're away!

Insured, bonded and NAPPS certified. (727)637-6361 Reasonable rates!

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Call 397-5563 Fax 399-2042
24 Hour Classifieds
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Line Ads, Monday-Noon

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Pinellas County celebrates the holidays with glee, events

By SUZETTE PORTER

There's one more chance to see a holiday boat parade in Pinellas County this year, and light displays will continue to the New Year. No snow is in the forecast, but who cares? Holiday fun is aplenty in Tampa Bay.

Holiday boat parade

Treasure Island Christmas Boat Parade and Holiday Celebration

TREASURE ISLAND – The city of Treasure Island's Christmas Boat Parade and Holiday Celebration is Saturday, Dec. 21 at The Club at Treasure Island, 400 Treasure Island Causeway. The holiday celebration begins at 4:30 p.m. followed by the boat parade at 6:20 p.m. Live entertainment, a visit by Santa Claus, and complimentary hot dogs, chowder, hot cider and cookies will be served poolside. A rain date is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 22. For additional information, call The Club at 367-4511.

Holiday events and light displays

Boy Scout Troop 371 Christmas tree sale

LARGO – Boy Scout Troop 371 is selling Christmas trees, wreaths, door swags and mantelpieces at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 11220 Oakhurst Road, Largo. The sale will be open weekdays, 5 to 9 p.m., Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 9 p.m. through Sunday, Dec. 22. The trees offered will be 5- to 14-foot Fraser firs. The sale is a troop fundraiser. For more information, call 365-3986 or 585-5089.

Kiwanis of Seminole Christmas tree sale

SEMINOLE – The Kiwanis Club of Seminole is selling Christmas trees through Dec. 23 at 84th Avenue and 113th Street. Trees will be sold on Fridays, 5 to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 12 to 6 p.m. Trees range from 4 to 10 feet tall. Prices start at \$30.

Holiday lights in Largo Central Park

LARGO – Families can enjoy an amazing light display of more than a million lights in Largo Central Park through Friday, Jan. 3. It's free to stroll through the park and see the dazzling displays of trains, toy bears, carolers, toy soldiers and many more. There will be a campfire each night to enjoy after strolling through the park. Call the Largo parks department at 586-7415 or visit LargoParks.com.

Holiday Lights in the Gardens

LARGO – The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation's Holiday Lights in the Gardens continues through Wednesday, Jan. 1, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Stroll through this year's display of more than 750,000 twinkling lights and holiday decorations. A donation of \$2 per person (13 years and older) is recommended. The Florida Botanical Gardens is located at 12520 Ulmerton Road in Largo, with an alternate entrance at 12211 Walsingham Road. The gardens remain open from 7 a.m. until dusk every day, with free admission during daylight hours. For more information, visit www.flbg.org or call 582-2100.

Oakdale Christmas Light display

ST. PETERSBURG – The Oakdale Christmas Light continues through Jan. 3, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., at 2719

Oakdale St. S., St. Petersburg. The display includes about 500,000 lights on a half-acre lot. A walking yard tour includes an 18-train HO scale model railroad, moving and animated items, inflatables, lighted figures and displays. Enjoy hands-on games and bubble machines for the kids. Several trees tower over the display, including one rising to 70 feet.

The free Christmas display started in 1977 and was among the top three finalists on NBC's Today Show, "I'll Be Home for Christmas." It also was featured on HGTV's All Out Christmas Special and in People Magazine. It takes 10 people about three months to install. About 10 trailer loads bring items from storage. The display is powered by three electrical meters.

To get to the display, take I-275 to exit 22 (old exit 9), which is 175 E. Turn right on Fourth Street, heading south. Go 1 mile, crossing over 22nd Avenue South. The next street on the left is Oakdale. Go two blocks, park or look. For more information, visit ChristmasDisplay.org.

Holiday entertainment

Holiday Party of One

LARGO – "Holiday Party of One," by Alison Burns with musical arrangements by Stan Collins, continues through Dec. 20, at New Stage Theatre, inside Country Day World School, 11650 131st St. N., Largo. For performance times and ticket information, call 813-817-2585 or visit newstagelargo.org. This Tampa Bay holiday traditional finds a home at New Stage Theatre after its highly acclaimed run in 2012. Written by local talents Alison Burns and Karla Hartley, this hilarious holiday treat follows three overworked, out of touch, people as they, once again, get caught up in the mad rush of the holidays – that is until Lucky, a Christmas elf, comes to the rescue. The second half of the evening is a unique cabaret of holiday favorites. This production is fun for the whole family.

The Last Room

PINELLAS PARK – Venue Theatre presents a new Christmas musical, "The Last Room," through Sunday, Dec. 22. This story, written by former Pinellas County resident, Donna Tripp, relates her interpretation of the Nativity of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of the Innkeeper. The show will run Friday through Sunday through Dec. 22. Show times are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 with group rates available. Venue Theatre is located at 9125 U.S. 19 N. in the Hudson's Furniture Plaza at Mainlands Boulevard. Reservations can be made by calling 727-822-6194 or email VenueActorStudio@gmail.com.

It's a Wonderful Life

ST. PETERSBURG – It's a Wonderful Life runs through Dec. 22 at St. Petersburg City Theatre. Show times are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$22 and available by calling 727-866-1973 or visit www.spctytheatre.org. The theatre is located just off I-275 at 4025 31st St. S., St. Petersburg.

Santaland Diaries

ST. PETERSBURG – Santaland Diaries by David Sedaris plays through Dec. 29 on the Mainstage at



Photos by NANCY AYERS
At left, Daniel, 5, left, and Joseph Fithian, 4, look like Santa's elves for the Bluffs Christmas event Dec. 13 at the Belleair Bluffs Community Center. Above, Largo Fire Rescue firefighters/EMTs, from left, Steven Rollo, Cody Johnson and Tim Garten check out the cookies after delivering Santa to the holiday event.

American Stage Theatre, 163 Third St. N., St. Petersburg. The holiday season has been called the most wonderful time of the year. Not so says Crummet, the unemployed, chemically dependent writer who takes a job as a "helper elf" at Macy's Santaland in NYC! His tale of mass marketing, stressed out sales clerks, drunken Santas, screaming kids and the general insanity of the holidays is hilarious. The show is meant for mature audiences only. The Santaland Diaries plays Dec. 15-17, 22-23, 27-29 at 8 p.m. with a 3 p.m. matinee on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and Dec. 29. Tickets are \$19. Full cash bar service is available. For tickets or more information, call the box office at 727-823-PLAY (7529).

A Christmas Carol

ST. PETERSBURG – A freeFall holiday tradition continues with Keith Ferguson's and Bruce Greer's enchanting new musical adaptation of the Dickens classic. A Christmas Carol runs through Dec. 24 with special holiday performances on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 23-24. Ticket prices range from \$16 to \$44 plus ticketing fee (waived for members). freeFall Theatre is located at 6099 Central Ave. in St. Petersburg. Visit www.freefalltheatre.com for show times and exact ticket prices.

The Nutcracker Twist

ST. PETERSBURG – Artz 4 Life Academy brings back its annual production, a spin on Tchaikovsky's classic Russian Nutcracker two-act ballet, for two shows at The Mahaffey Theater Saturday, Dec. 21, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Formerly The Chocolate Nutcracker, The Nutcracker Twist has been, over the years, a community project consisting of more than 200 children from the Tampa

Bay Area. Tickets are \$17, \$27 and \$37; groups of 30 or more can save by calling 813-451-4410. Tickets may be purchased online at TheMahaffey.com, charge by phone at 727-893-832 or in person at The Mahaffey Theater Box Office.

Scott & Patti Christmas Special

ST. PETERSBURG – Put on the Andy Williams sweaters and join Scott & Patti (Matthew McGee and Scott Daniel) as they present The Scott & Patti Christmas Special Dec. 22, 7 p.m., at freeFall Theatre, 6099 Central Ave. in St. Petersburg. Scott & Patti put on their final show for 2013 with a cornucopia of classic carols and a bevy of favorite local guest stars. Join Scott & Patti as they sing all your favorite hits and delight in their being joined onstage by Eric Davis, Kelly Pekar, Susan Haldeman, Coya Bailey Jones, Emanuel Carrero and more. General admission tickets are \$18 and available by visiting freefalltheatre.com or by calling the freeFall box office at 727-498-5205.

A Christmas Carol

CLEARWATER – Nebraska Theatre Caravan presents "A Christmas Carol," Monday, Dec. 23, 2 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerd-hall.com. Tickets start at \$35. A cherished tradition, this is the longest-running production of "A Christmas Carol" in the United States. In this beloved Dickens classic, ghosts of Christmases past, present and future guide Scrooge on a journey of redemption as he discovers the spirit of Christmas and a new life filled with joy and love. This show is part of Ruth Eckerd Hall's Adults at Leisure Series.

Holiday Dining Guide

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Christmas Dinner

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