

LARGO LEADER

Victor Wooten, The Four Freshmen return to Largo this week

Also, check out the other many performers coming to Tampa Bay this month ... Page 1B.



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LARGO



An Elks choir

The Largo Elks, Lodge No. 2159 choir sang for the children and staff at the Magical Christmas Banquet held at the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor Dec 22.

Also, the city of Largo will open all three of its recreation centers for a free open house Jan. 11, 1 to 5 p.m.

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BUSINESS



One woman's journey

For Rebecca, "Becca" Eubanks Heishman's journey has ended where it started, but not without a couple of interesting stops along the way.

She was one of the original Hooters girls, and before that, a Playboy Bunny in the short-lived Playboy Club in downtown St. Petersburg. She remembers it all well.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

Largo recreation

The city of Largo will offer several youth athletic programs starting this month as well as the second annual Play! Dirty Adventure Run.

Also, sign up for a free program designed to help improve balance.

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FAITH & FAMILY

Former pastor passes on

Reverend Bruce Allen Fehl, who served as pastor of the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Largo for 30 years, died Dec. 26 at age 81.

Fehl also served on the ethics board of Largo Medical Center and helped establish Hospice of the Florida Suncoast, which later became Suncoast Hospice.

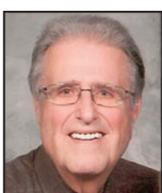
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VIEWPOINTS

Bob Driver

Should old acquaintance be forgot?

... Page 10A.



Rev. Bruce Fehl

Republican candidates face off

Three hit the campaign trail in anticipation of Jan. 14 special primary

By SUZETTE PORTER

Republicans Mark Bircher, David Jolly and Kathleen Peters spent the holidays on the campaign trail, trying to convince fellow Republicans that they are the best candidates to run in the March election for the District 13 Congressional seat.

The winner of the Jan. 14, 2014 special primary election will face Democrat candidate Alex Sink and Libertarian Party of Florida candidate Lucas Overby in the March 11, 2014 special general election. Write-in candidate Michael S. Levinson also qualified for that election. His name will not appear on the ballot, but a space will be provided for voters to write in the candidate's name.

The special election became necessary when longtime Congressman C.W. "Bill" Young died Oct. 18 after serving as District 13's Representative in Congress for 42 years. District 13 encompasses the majority of Pinellas County with the exception of a few precincts in northern and southern areas.

According to the Supervisor of Elections Office, the cost estimate for the special election is just over \$1 million -

\$458,668 for the Republican primary and \$604,021 for the general election. The cost would have been higher had a Democratic primary been necessary, but Democrat Alex Sink is unopposed.

Florida's primary elections are closed, meaning only those registered as a member of the political party having an election can participate. In the case of the Jan. 14 election, only registered Republicans can vote. The deadline to change party affiliations was Dec. 16.

About the candidates

Tampa Bay Newspapers sent the three candidates a questionnaire to complete. The candidates provided the following information, presented in alphabetical order.

Mark Bircher, 60, of Seminole, has lived in Pinellas County for 12 years. He is married to Jackie Spoto Bircher. They have a 10-year-old son. Bircher is a commercial airline pilot.

He received a Juris Doctor degree from Stetson University College of Law in 2008 and a Bachelors of Science from the United States Naval Academy in 1976.

He is a member of the Naval Academy



Mark Bircher



David Jolly



Kathleen Peters

Alumni Association, Blue Angels Association and the Florida Bar.

David Jolly, 41, has resided at his residence in Indian Rocks Beach since 2005. He is divorced. He is vice president at Clearwater-based Boston Finance Group, CEO at Olympus Foundation Management and owner of Three Bridges Advisors, Three Bridges Law and 1924 Communications.

His education includes a Juris Doctor Cum Laude from George Mason University of Law, Arlington, Va., in 2001; Bachelors of Arts in History, Emory Uni-

versity, Atlanta, Ga., in 1994; and Pasco High School, Dade City, 1990.

Jolly is currently on the Tampa Bay Veterans Alliance Board of Advisors, Stetson Law School Elder Law Board of Advisors, Support Jessie's Law Board of Advisors, town of Indian Shores Board of Adjustment and Florida Federal Contractors Association Board of Directors.

Kathleen Peters, 52, of South Pasadena has lived in Pinellas County for 28 years. She is married to Mike Peters.

See CANDIDATES, page 4A

The family support they need

New state legislation allows Pinellas County's teenagers to stay in foster care longer

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - Up until this week, youth aging out of the Florida foster care system faced a rude awakening on their 18th birthday.

On the very day of becoming legally recognized adults, teenagers would have to leave their placement with a foster family or group home. Independent living counselors would help them set up a budget, outline their bills and help them move into an independent life. Many make the transition in the middle of their senior year of high school. At age 18, it didn't matter if they were ready or mature enough to handle the responsibilities of being an adult.

They didn't have a choice; aging out of foster care, while filled with resources to help, was a point of no return.

That is, until recently. As of Jan. 1, new state legislation allows youth to remain in foster care until age 21, if they choose. Any young adults who aged out in the last few years can return and receive the additional support they may desperately need.

Florida's Independent Living bill, signed into law in June, is a necessary improvement to the foster care system, said Shalonda Young, inde-

pendent living program manager for Eckerd Community Alternatives. It creates a smoother transition out of foster care.

"It also allows for those young adults who are still in high school to continue their high school education without having to be out on their own and manage bills and pay rent and all those other things that come along with becoming an adult," she said.

Eckerd Community Alternatives - the lead agency for child welfare services in Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties - has been preparing for the implementation of the new bill. Young has been the local lead in that process, ensuring that the local foster care system is prepared to make the transition.

Eckerd has contracted with the Clearwater-based nonprofit Camelot Community Care to provide the additional services to youth ages 18 to 21.

"Locally, we did that in an effort to not increase our current case load, but to allow those that have history and have working with this population to continue to work with them, just in a different aspect," Young explained.

She's also been working to educate Eckerd's

See FOSTER CARE, page 4A

"A lot of these kids, they can't wait to leave foster care, because they don't want people to tell them what to do ... It's usually around 19 or 20 that they realize, 'God, I need help.'"

- Shadai Simmons, Ready for Life youth specialist



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Laurallyn Segur, left, director of licensing and recruitment for Eckerd Community Alternatives, hugs Shadai Simmons, a former foster youth working as an advocate and resource for teenagers in situations like she used to be, at Eckerd's offices in Largo. New legislation means that teens won't be forced out of foster care at 18, but instead have the option of continual support until they are 21.

Clearwater aquarium beats out Disney as Best Attraction

CLEARWATER - The Clearwater Marine Aquarium has been named the winner of the Best Florida Attraction contest by 10Best.com and promoted by USA Today. It was one of 20 attractions from across Florida competing for a top 10 spot.

"CMA grabbed the lead and never relinquished it from the first day of voting," according to a CMA press release. "Other attractions included The Ringling Museum, Dolphin Cove, The Magic Kingdom, and Miami's South Beach. The list included locations that have been drawing vacationers to the Sunshine State for many years."

The success of the movie, "Dolphin Tale," which was released in September 2011, catapulted CMA to being a major player as an attraction worldwide, the release said. Even as it wins this award, filming is underway for the sequel, "Dolphin Tale 2," which will wrap up in January.

Clearwater has accumulated



Photo courtesy of CMA

Winter and her movie 'Dolphin Tale' helped the Clearwater Marine Aquarium claim the 'Best Florida Attraction' recently.

numerous other number-one spots in 2013 alone. It also won "Best Beach Town in Florida," and "Best Place to Watch a Sunset."

The mission of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium has become known throughout the world as the story of Winter inspires all of us," Clearwater Mayor George Cretokos said.

"This recognition of the CMA as the 'the best attraction in Florida,' gives vacationers another reason to come to Clearwater, already named the 'best beach town in Florida' and the 'best place to watch a sunset.' Truly, 2013 has been a banner year for sparkling Clearwater."

See ATTRACTION, page 4A

County to consider Animal Services needs in new year

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - For months, animal rights activists have attended Pinellas County Commission meetings to speak during the public comment segment.

It all started after a Sept. 10 work session on two topics: trap, neuter, vaccinate and return for the county's feral cat population and mandatory spay and neuter for all dogs and cats in Pinellas County. The commission agreed to look at a volunteer-run program for TNVR but concluded that the current voluntary spay and neuter program was sufficient.

However, a small but passionate and persistent group continues to advocate mandatory spay and neuter, which they say is necessary to control the number of unwanted and uncared for animals in Pinellas County. Thus far, the commission has continued to maintain its stance in favor of continuing a voluntary spay/neuter program.

A group of volunteers has been working on a plan for trap, neuter and release since September. Meow Now is expected to make a presentation to the commission in a work session perhaps as early as February.

Commissioners approved advertising during the Dec. 10 meeting for a Jan. 28 public hearing on changes to the Animal Services Ordinance. The changes don't cover mandatory birth control, except for animals impounded for a second time, and it likely won't cover trap, neuter and release, although commissioners asked staff to try to get

See ANIMAL SERVICES, page 4A

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The Outer Ear When sound waves reach the ear, they are gathered by the funnel-shaped outer ear and channeled into the middle ear. Sometimes hearing loss can be easily and quickly corrected by clearing blockage that can occur from wax build up.

Years of using q-tips to clean your ears can embed layers of wax so tightly that it affects your ability to hear clearly. That's why the first part of your ear exam will be with an otoscope to determine if there is any blockage that can open up your ear canal and allow you to enjoy the beauty of unmuted sound again.

The Middle Ear At the entrance to the middle ear, sound waves hit the eardrum. A damaged eardrum can not only be painful, but it can muffle natural sounds and make it extremely difficult to hear clearly. If you're experiencing hearing loss, it's important to find out if it is a correctable condition involving the middle ear.

The Inner Ear Sound vibrations travel through the middle ear and into the fluid filled inner ear where they are converted into signals that are sent to your brain. Damage to the inner ear can lead to deafness, so it's vital to make sure your inner ear is functioning properly.

Problems with the inner ear often require surgery or medication. If the damage is irreparable, you'll want to ask about the new cochlea implants that can help restore your ability to hear again.

There is also new scientific and medical research with stem cell transplants that can regrow damaged inner ear hair follicles (known as cilia) that send electronic signals to your brain allowing you to translate sounds into language. Researchers at Stanford University say that they are 5-10 years away from a breakthrough that could possibly correct human deafness.

Why Do People Delay Addressing Hearing Loss?

In America, the average person with hearing loss delays dealing with it for 5 to 7 years. The big question is, "Why do people wait so long before confronting the obvious problems that come with an inability to hear clearly?"

Accepting & Correcting Your Hearing Loss Researchers estimate that over 30 million people in the United States suffer from hearing loss, but almost 75% avoid scheduling a hearing test to determine the cause and how to remedy this condition. As the baby boomer generation ages, more people are going to experience hearing loss.

Many people with hearing loss do not take the steps needed to correct the problem. The first step starts with getting a hearing exam when you first notice you are experiencing symptoms. A hearing test can determine the cause of your hearing loss, and which state-of-the-art hearing devices can improve your quality of life. There is often a period of denial or hesitation that must be overcome before the appointment for the hearing test is made.

At first it may seem like you only have very mild hearing loss, if any, because you can hear someone talking to you, or you can hear the TV, radio, or a movie, you just can't catch every word. Or you may have trouble following conversations, but you always come up with a reason why it's too noisy, people are speaking too fast, or there are too many people talking at once.

The truth is that when you have early, mild hearing loss, you will start to have trouble hearing certain higher frequency sounds. Consonant sounds are in the higher range and are the first to go. While you may hear voices, you may find yourself mistaking similar-sounding words, like "rent" and "sent" or "time" and "lime".

If you believe you have mild hearing loss, begin by getting a hearing exam. You can use the results of the hearing test to rule out or fix any correctable conditions, and then you can assess if any of the new and advanced hearing technologies can help you hear more clearly.

After your hearing test you will be able to make a more educated decision about what your options are to prevent further hearing loss

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How Hearing Is Tested To evaluate your hearing a specialist will perform a series of hearing tests. These tests are often performed by using a combination of electronic equipment and headphones.

What Hearing Tests Show Hearing tests can determine whether a hearing impairment exists and what the cause may be. Your

hearing examination will also let you know the degree of hearing loss you are experiencing, from mild to profound, and what technologies are available to help correct your hearing loss.

The results of your hearing exam will provide you with the road map to what you should do next to regain and restore your ability to hear clearly again.



Thomas Edison Suffered From Hearing Loss! One of the most famous people with hearing loss in history is the inventor Thomas Edison (1847-1931), who is credited with inventing the phonograph, light bulb, and movie camera. What many people are not aware of is that Edison became technically deaf in his early teens. It could have been from a childhood illness or the result of a "boxing" of his ears by a train conductor.

and hear more clearly immediately, improving your overall quality of life.

Purchasing a hearing aid is not a decision made lightly. It's important that the person you are working with listens to you and works together with you to address your specific hearing needs. You need to be able to trust their guidance in choosing a solution to match your lifestyle.

Advances In Hearing Care! A hearing specialist with Audibel Hearing Centers will be available to answer all your questions and discuss the latest advances in hearing care. Even with the new technology, your brain still needs time to readjust to hearing sounds it may not have been hearing for years. You will be amazed at your own ability to reconnect with your life with the help of this advanced technology.

In addition, technology is constantly changing. A hearing test can now determine if you have even very mild hearing loss, and the new generation of digital hearing aids has nearly eliminated the problems of feedback, and extraneous noise that was bothersome with earlier models.

Most hearing losses don't require expensive hearing aids to help you with sounds you were missing, including those lost consonants, without introducing additional, distracting noises. Personalized programming adjustments ensure your hearing aid is set to your specific loss and unique needs.

No One Will Know It is true that hearing aids of past years did have a stigma attached to them. They were large and bulky, and usually they were visible to anyone who walked by. But just as the internal technology has changed, so have the external characteristics of digital hearing aids. New models are virtually invisible when worn making your Audibel hearing aid far less noticeable than your hearing loss. With advanced digital technology and miniaturization, nobody else has to know that you're wearing a hearing device.

In addition, hearing aids technology has an exciting future. Even now you can have your hearing aid connected to different external devices, such as an MP3 player, a cell phone, radio, or your TV. As microchips continue to get smaller, the amount of data processing power continues to increase at astronomical rates, allowing for hearing aids to be made smaller while continuing to improve sound quality. If you checked out hearing aids five years ago, you should take a look at the new models - you might be surprised at how far things have come and how easily hearing loss may be corrected.

Hearing loss can affect people of all ages. If you were in the military, law enforcement, or simply exposed to the loud noises of machinery in a factory, you could have developed hearing loss at an early age. Don't be embarrassed by your inability to hear clearly - take action now and get a hearing test to find out what you can do to enhance your ability to hear clearly and prevent continued deterioration.

Start by having a hearing test and then take steps to decide if you feel comfortable with the new technologies. Think about it - how much time and energy are you spending apologizing because you misheard something, or asking someone to speak louder or to repeat themselves? Having a hearing test and wearing a hearing device can alleviate many problems caused by hearing loss - and that is priceless!

Seminole 7501 Seminole Blvd. 1/2 Block North of Park Blvd. next to SunTrust (727) 391-6642

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Clearwater 1932 Drew Street Professional Plaza 1 1/2 blocks West of Hercules (727) 441-3591

St Petersburg 1598 62nd Ave. N. SE corner of 16th St. & 62nd Ave. N. (727) 522-3692

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City calendar

Largo Central Park

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. For information about events, call 587-6740, ext. 5014 or visit LargoEvents.com.

Ride the train this weekend

LARGO – Ride miniature trains around Largo Central Park on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 4-5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rides are free, though donations are accepted. The train opens during the first full weekend of each month. For more information, visit the "Train Weekend" link at www.LargoEvents.com.

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 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. No registration is required. All materials will be provided. Call 587-6715.

Geological Society hosts 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.

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 about the show or joining the club, call Leona at 894-2440.

Touch-a-Truck returns to Largo

LARGO – Bring the whole family out to climb, honk and play around in every vehicle you can imagine at Largo's 19th annual Touch-a-Truck Jan. 25, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive.

The free event will include fire trucks, dump trucks, motorcycles, buses, a Bayflight helicopter and more. Kids of all ages can enjoy inflatables, train rides along Largo Central Railroad, Rocketship Car rides around the block and a delicious food court in the middle of the park.

All ages are welcome. Limited on-site parking is available, and park and walk will be offered from Largo Middle and High School.

Wristbands, on sale for \$5, will be required for some activities including inflatables and Rocketship Car ride.

In conjunction with the event, the city will host its second annual outdoor community wide business expo. Learn about services, products and programs that local businesses and the city of Largo can offer. For more information, call 587-6740, ext. 5014.

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.

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 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.

Correction

In the story "Contest winners take a ride high above Largo," which ran in the Dec. 26 edition of the Largo Leader, Largo's recycling coordinator was incorrectly identified. She is Marissa Segundo.

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Recreation centers host open houses

LARGO – The city of Largo will open all three of its recreation centers for a free open house Jan. 11, 1 to 5 p.m.

Enjoy free hot dogs, activities, inflatables and instructor demonstrations. This event is for all ages. Sign up for a recreation membership and be entered in the drawing for a 32-inch flat screen television. Annual memberships are as low as \$10 and are good at all three centers.

Call Southwest Recreation Complex, 13120 Vonn Road, at 518-3125. Call Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave., at 518-3016. Call Largo Community Center, 400 Alt. Keene Road, at 518-3131.

An Elks choir



The Largo Elks, Lodge No. 2159 choir sang for the children and staff at the Magical Christmas Banquet held at the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor Dec 22. Maria Johannesen organized the banquet, bringing together many volunteers. Pictured are Elks members, from left, Lee Schlaefly, Sharon Schlafley, Joe Fisher, Lu Easter, Evelyn Catuccio and Ron Regan. Wes Schaefer, right, sang and accompanied the choir with his keyboard.
 Photo by CHAD HERMAN

Largo Community Center

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

Sing around the campfire

LARGO – Imperial Palms will sponsor a campfire sing-along Jan. 10, 7 p.m., at the Largo Community Center.

Come sit around the campfire as we make 'smores and listen to great music. Bring chairs, blankets and enthusiasm. Refreshments will be served. The cost is \$3.

Country, BBQ and Beer Fest

LARGO – Join the city of Largo for a fun-filled afternoon filled with country music, barbeque food and beer Jan. 11, 1 to 5 p.m., at the Largo Community Center.

Fair offers volunteer opportunities

LARGO – Find your perfect volunteer opportunity during the Health, Wellness and Volunteer Recruitment Fair Jan. 30, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Largo Community Center.

More than 20 different organizations will be looking for volunteers during this free event. Organizations are geared toward health and wellness showcasing their products.

Ballroom dancing starts on Thursdays

LARGO – Enjoy an evening of dancing and socializing Thursdays, 6:45 to 9 p.m., at the Largo Community Center.

Carol Baker will lead a lesson from 7 to 8 p.m., followed by open dancing. The cost is \$8.

More weekly events

- **Bridge games:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 to 4 p.m. All players are welcome to join the American Contract Bridge League-sanctioned games. The cost is \$4 with membership or \$5 without, with snacks included. Call Joan Waff at 895-9073.
- **Square dancing:** Fridays, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. Spend the evening dancing country-style to professional caller Allen Snell. The cost is \$6.
- **Bay Area Singles and Couples Dance:** Sundays, 6 to 10 p.m.

Dress to impress, and join about 150 singles and friends of all ages to dance to an extensive music library to fit every taste. Cost is \$8.

Highland Recreation Complex

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

Build with Bricks 4 Kids workshop

LARGO – Kids ages 5-13 are invited to build machines, buildings, vehicles and other structures out of Lego Bricks, using one-of-a-kind model plans designed by Bricks 4 Kidz during the Bricks 4 Kidz Workshop Jan. 25, 1 to 2:30 p.m., at the Highland Recreation Complex.

This parent-and-me workshop will focus on air, land and space. Each workshop begins with an instructor led discussion related to the model of the day, while introducing science, technology, engineering and math. After the model is built, everyone enjoys a period of free-play.

The cost is \$15 per child. Preregistration is required.

Scrapbook all weekend at Highland

LARGO – Join a weekend of scrapbooking fun at Crop Till You Drop, starting Friday, Jan. 31, 4 p.m. until Sunday, Feb. 2, 5 p.m., at the Highland Recreation Complex.

Registration includes six meals, snacks and drinks throughout the weekend. The cost for the whole weekend is \$85 before Jan. 17 or \$100 thereafter. Saturday only is \$55 before Jan. 17 or \$65 thereafter. The event will be closed from midnight to 8 a.m. each night.

Southwest Recreation Complex

Southwest Recreation Complex is at 13120 Vonn Road. Call 518-3125 or visit PlayLargo.com.

Southwest hosts garage sale

LARGO – The Southwest Community Garage Sale will be Jan. 18, 8 a.m. to noon, at Southwest Recreation Complex.

Browse the variety of items at more than 60 tables sold out for this indoor garage sale. Admission is free.

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Around town

Meet the new recycling truck

LARGO – Meet Largo's new mixed recycling truck Saturday, Jan. 11, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Walmart, 1111 Missouri Ave. N.

Find out about the new mixed recycling program coming in February and get recycled goodies. Call 587-6740, ext. 7424.

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.

Ulmer Park festival held

LARGO – The Ulmer Park Market and Community Festival will be held second Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 301 W. Bay Drive

The community festival, organized by the Downtown Largo Merchants Association, will feature live

music, food trucks, gourmet coffee, arts and crafts, games, face painting and raffle prizes.

Join the community and support local businesses. Vendor booths are available as well as sponsorship opportunities. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Youth Fire Explorers in honor of Fire Safety Month.

For information, call Tanya Pistillo at 465-8558.

Toastmasters invite new members

LARGO – Largo Star Toastmasters Club 5933 invites new members to its weekly meeting on Wednesdays, 12:05 to 1:05 p.m., at the Young

Rainey Star Center, 7887 Bryan Dairy Road No. 120 in Largo.

The club is open to all residents and workers in the Largo, Pinellas Park and Seminole areas.

A Toastmasters club provides a supportive and positive environment where members have the opportunity to develop their oral communication and leadership skills. Come watch as members present speeches, develop leadership skills by serving in various club positions and participate in Table Topics sessions in a relaxed yet structured one-hour setting.

For more information, call John Rousseau at 488-8010 or email johnrousseau@yahoo.com.

CANDIDATES, from page 1A

They have four children, Adam, 19; Michael, 23; Steven, 27; and Chris, 30. Peters has served District 69 in the State House of Representatives since 2012.

She has a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development from Eckerd College.

Peters serves on the Board of Directors for the Florida League of Mayors, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority and Pinellas County EMS Advisory Board.

Why are you running?

Bircher answered. "I have a 10-year-old son who I believe cannot reasonably expect to have the opportunity that I had because of the relationship between the States and the Federal Government that has evolved over the last forty years. His choices in life will be restricted by an expansive federal government that is burdening his generation with excessive debt and regulation while restricting personal liberty."

Jolly answered. "The loss of our dear Congressman Young leaves an immeasurable void in the Congress of the United States, but also in our Pinellas County communities. This is what this race is about to me. I've worked on behalf of our community and this Congressional District for 20 years alongside our late Congressman, as he consistently found ways to grow high-tech and defense manufacturing jobs here at home, invest in transportation and infrastructure improvements that affect our quality of life, expand higher education opportunities, protect and nourish our beaches, and support our men and women in uniform. I got into this race because I humbly believe I have the qualifications to step in on day one and be effective for the people of Pinellas County in Congress. I also believe I can bring together Republicans, Independents and Democrats to work together."

Peters answered. "During a time when so many hardworking families in Pinellas County are struggling to make ends meet – we need a leader that understands the real challenges facing this community. For the last 28 years – I have made Pinellas County my home. From starting a small business to raising four boys and serving as your State Representative – I have dedicated my life to serving this community. That's why I decided to run. I am the only candidate that has the experience and the background to get things done locally and in Washington like Congressman Young did for so many years. As a Member of Congress, I will fight every day to create an environment for good-paying jobs right here in Pinellas County and stop this partisan gridlock."

What do you hope to accomplish?

Bircher answered. "I have three primary goals – to rein in the federal debt and deficit; repeal the Affordable Care Act; and restore individual liberty and freedom."

Jolly answered. "My top three priorities are creating jobs and growing our economy, repealing Obamacare and replacing with a market-based solution, and replacing the National Flood Insurance Program with a new Natural Disaster Insurance Program."

Peters answered. "As a mother and protector of future generations – I will fight to get Washington's spending under control and take steps to balance our nation's budget. Here in the State of Florida, we are required to do it yearly and there is no reason why there is not a constitutional requirement that Washington do the same. I also hope to be part of the solution to replacing Obamacare. I am tired of hearing story after story about how ObamaCare is hurting the people of Pinellas County, so I intend to do something about it, not just talk about it."

FOSTER CARE, from page 1A

partners and anyone in the community who works with former foster youth and can inform them of their new rights. The new legislation provides a safety net for young adults, even if they don't immediately recognize the need for it.

"A lot of these kids, they can't wait to leave foster care, because they don't want people to tell them what to do," explained Shadai Simmons, a youth specialist with Ready for Life and a former foster teenager. "It's usually around 19 or 20 that they realize, 'God, I need help.'"

Simmons, 22, and the other Ready for Life board members prepared a skit to help explain how quickly a teenager's independent life can fall apart without the support of a family. During a seminar Oct. 18 designed to help community partners understand the new bill, the young adults acted out how so-called friends and a lack of elderly guidance quickly left a newly aged-out foster teen homeless.

Even at 18, there are lessons teenagers haven't learned yet, especially if their families were less than supportive. Simmons was already a crack cocaine addict when her mom disappeared, leaving her to the foster care system at age 17. Within a year, she found stability, acceptance and love at a group home.

"It was a blessing for me," she said. "I was running from everything that I was already dealing with in life. I didn't want to run no more."

After living on the streets basically on her own, Simmons was beginning to feel like a kid again. There was much she didn't know about responsibility and stability when she aged out of foster care at 18.

"I didn't know how to set up my first bank account; my case worker had to help me do that," she said. "I didn't know how to apply for food stamps. I was devastated to find out that I had to pay a first deposit on my apartment."

And it was more than practical support that young Simmons wanted. "When I got my GED, it was really big, but no one else felt that way, because I didn't have anyone to support me and say 'congratulations' and pat me on the back," she said.

After working two years to earn her GED, Simmons didn't know that

Foster parent candidates must:

- Be at least 21 years old
- Have appropriate housing
- Be able to pass a background screening
- Complete a home study and 36 hours of special training
- Have adequate space and be able to provide for their own existing family

Although foster parents will receive financial assistance to help care for the child, they cannot rely on this to pay their own bills. Foster parents can be single or married, have a family or be an empty-nester. Call 866-233-0790.

she could walk in a graduation ceremony to celebrate the feat. She had no one to cheer for her anyway.

"When I got it, it was just like, 'Yay.' I celebrated by myself," she said.

Simmons now works for Ready for Life, the nonprofit organization that came alongside her with resources and support to start her new life. Partnered with Eckerd, Ready for Life and Camelot Community Care offer independent living services and counselors for foster youth who have aged out.

But that's not the same as a family, who can provide young adults 24-7 structure and support, said Lauralyn Segur, Eckerd's director of licensing and recruitment.

"They need to have the hug of mom and the love of a father or the support of a family behind them," she said. "They deserve to have family. That's what they want."

Eckerd Community Alternatives is always looking for new foster parents, but especially hope to recruit families with a heart for teenagers and young adults, given the new legislation. Older foster youth don't need constant supervision, but rather a mentor, a place to call home when they're on holiday or summer break from college and a place to do laundry on the weekends.

"Normal things that normal teenagers want," Segur said.

ATTRACTION, from page 1A

CMA is a nonprofit organization with the mission, "to preserve marine life and the environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release." It houses dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, nurse sharks and other animals. Its primary goal is to rehabilitate animals and release them back into the wild, but it takes on resident animals, such as Winter, the famous dolphin who lost its tail in a crab trap, who cannot survive in the wild any longer.

The aquarium saw an enormous influx of visitors after the movie's huge success. Even the facility's expansion was not enough to accommodate all the visitors it continues to see, reaching 750,000 last year. Therefore, in November voters approved building a \$160.5 million new aquarium with a 60-year lease on the current Clearwater City Hall site. The current facility, which is a converted sewage treatment plant, will still be used as a rescue and rehabilitation hospital.

ANIMAL SERVICES, from page 1A

an update on the group's progress ready by Jan. 28.

The scheduled topics include change of the county's rules for dangerous animals to bring Pinellas in line with state law. Another change would provide clarification of definitions for animal cruelty and neglect. The commission also will consider changing the hold time for strays and adding mandatory sterilization at the owner's expense for any animal impounded a second time in a 24-month period.

Currently, the county's rules on dangerous animals are more restrictive than state law. The courts have ruled that county law cannot be more restrictive than state law. Commissioners will consider adding a definition for shelter and penalties for those who do not provide adequate food, water, shelter, veterinary services and humane treatment for their animals.

Animal Services staff has suggested changing reclaim hold times, the time an owner can claim their animal after it has been brought to the shelter, to consider the wellbeing of the animal.

Staff said the longer an animal is held at the shelter; the more likely it is to get sick. They say it is important to move animals through the shelter process as fast as possible, so if they are not reclaimed, they can be adopted.

If commissioners approve the changes Jan. 28, hold times for animals with a license or other means of owner identification will be held for at least seven days with day one being the day of impoundment. Dogs 16 weeks of age without identification will be held four days. Individual puppies under 16 weeks of age will be held two days. Litters of puppies under 16 weeks will be held one day.

Impounded cats over 16 weeks of age without identification will be held three days. Impounded kittens under age 16 weeks will be held for one day.

According to information posted at www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices, current hold time is seven days for animals with identification and four days without an ID. There is no provision for animals younger than 16 weeks.

Animals left at the shelter longer than the hold times will be moved to the adoption area if they are healthy and have a "good temperament." Animals may be sent to another shelter. According to the website, animals are not euthanized unless they are unadoptable due to behavioral or medical issues.

All dogs and cats at Pinellas County Animal Services are sterilized before adoption unless a veterinarian determines it would endanger the animal's health.

While mandatory sterilization is not on the agenda for the entire county's animals,



Left, Bruce Moeller, director of Safety and Emergency Services, updates Pinellas County Commissioners Dec. 10 on status of work toward changes with Animal Services. Right, animal activist Andrea Wells talks to commissioners about the necessity of a mandatory spay and neuter program.



Screenshots by SUZETTE PORTER

those who are found running loose and taken to the shelter twice within 24 months will have to be sterilized at their owner's expense before the owner can claim them.

Staff initially proposed that mandatory sterilization be required for any animal brought to the shelter before its owner could claim it. However, during the September work session, the public gave examples of cases where an animal could escape its home without it necessarily

being the owner's fault.

The county attorney agreed that two times would allow animal owners to be warned about the consequences if their animals was found running loose a second time.

The commission holds its public hearings beginning at 6 p.m. during the second regular meeting of the month. Meetings are in the fifth floor Assembly Room of the County Courthouse, 315 Court St., Clearwater.

Congressman's death topped local headlines in 2013

By TBN STAFF

Editor's note: Here are Tampa Bay Newspapers' top stories of the year for the papers' circulation area based on input from staff. TBN's editors and correspondents wrote the stories.

Congressman Bill Young dies

A crowd estimated at about 1,500 paid their respects to U.S. Rep. C.W. "Bill" Young at his funeral service Oct. 24 at the First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks in Largo.

Young, 82, of Indian Shores, the nation's longest serving Republican member of the U.S. Congress died Oct. 18, 2013. Young served more than 50 years in public office - 10 in the Florida State Senate and 42 in the United States Congress.

Speaker of the U.S. House John Boehner told Young's family, "Your loss is our loss," adding that Young loved God, his family, his country and the House Appropriations Committee - in that order.

He said even though they knew they shouldn't have, fellow House members had griped when Young announced he would not run for re-election.

"Bill Young wasn't just a leading man in the House, he was the House," he said, as he took a moment to dry his eyes and regain his composure.

Young died from complications related to a chronic injury, according to a statement from his family. He was buried in Bay Pines Cemetery in a private service.

Three Republican candidates qualified to run in the Jan. 14 special primary election to fill the position left vacant when Young died. Candidates include Mark Bircher of Seminole, David Jolly of Indian Rocks Beach and state Rep. Kathleen Peters of South Pasadena. Alex Sink, who lists her address as a P.O. Box in Clearwater, is the sole candidate for the Democrats.

Lucas Overby of Clearwater, who represents the Libertarian Party of Florida, also qualified by paying a fee. Michael S. Levinson of St. Petersburg qualified as a write-in candidate.

Flood insurance rates increase dramatically

Residents, government officials and community leaders spoke out in numerous meetings in opposition to skyrocketing rate increases for consumers in the national flood insurance program.

The rate increases stem from the implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Act of 2012.

Returning residents who own a second home in Pinellas are probably already aware of the rate changes, as premiums increased Jan. 1 on non-primary residences. A second round of increases on Oct. 1 affected a larger group of people, despite a concerted effort to get Congress to enact a delay.

Pinellas County has more subsidized NFIP policies than any other county in the United States. Many property owners are worried they won't be able to pay their mortgage due to increased insurance premiums. Real estate buys in areas where flood insurance is required is at a standstill, as new owners are unable or unwilling to pay the increased rates. The real estate market is reeling with reports of canceled contracts coming in from all over the county. Property Appraiser Pam Dubov has said property values could decline.

Congress passed BW-12 in an attempt to reduce the debt of the NFIP after claims outpaced revenue following Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Ike, Tropical Storm Debby and super-storm Sandy. BW-12 affects all the major components of the FEMA administered program, including insurance rates, flood maps, grant programs and flood plain management plans.

Efforts continue among county and state officials and in Congress to delay increases.

Dunedin sinkhole takes two homes

DUNEDIN - A sinkhole that caused the loss of two homes in a subdivision off Pinehurst Road continued to expand Nov. 14, but nobody was hurt.

The sinkhole, which was estimated at 96 feet wide and 56 feet deep, formed off Robmar Road, leading to the evacuation of seven homes, four on Robmar Road and three on Mary Jane Lane.

The two homes at 1100 Robmar and 1112 Robmar Road have been removed from the properties and the sinkhole has been filled by the city of Dunedin. Neighboring residents that were evacuated were allowed back into their homes as of Nov. 25 at noon. The sinkhole appears to be stable with no further cracks reported.

About 5,000 cubic yards of dirt were used to fill the hole. About

111 tons (460 cubic yards) of structural debris and contents were trucked from the site and disposed of at Angelos Aggregate.

A banner year for tourism

Pinellas County bed tax collections topped \$31 million during fiscal year 2013 - the highest in the county's history.

The Pinellas County Tax Collector's Office reported Nov. 5 that over a three-year period, 2011 to 2013, bed tax collections have increased, 7.7 percent in 2011, 12.3 percent in 2012 and another 8 percent in 2013.

According to D.T. Minich, Visit St. Pete/Clearwater executive director, reaching the \$30 million level is a "significant milestone." Collecting \$30,000 in bed tax allows Pinellas to meet the state's criteria of a high impact tourism county. Local officials could add an additional penny to its bed tax, an increase from 5 cents to 6 cents.

Bed tax collections pay for tourism marketing, beach restoration, bonds on area sport stadiums and other tourism-related initiatives under the direction of the county's Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Fifty-three percent of the tax goes to marketing and operations, 20 percent to debt service, 16 percent to reserves, 9 percent to beach nourishment and 2 percent pays for the Tax Collector's services.

Minich attributes marketing efforts by Visit St. Pete/Clearwater, the county's destination marketing organization, for the record year.

"This is a result of aggressive marketing and very targeted messaging," Minich said. "A lot has changed during the past several years, including our marketing approach. We're not relying on print as much, which gives us the ability to better target online within our feeder markets."

Biltmore likely to be demolished

BELLEAIR - The fate of the historic Belleview Biltmore Hotel is all but sealed. It appears the only thing that could save it from demolition is what Mayor Gary Katka described at a recent Commission meeting: "a guardian angel who comes from above with \$150 million."

Ed Armstrong, the Clearwater attorney who represents Daniel Aedes, one of the brothers who own the hotel, said in November they are ready to move toward demolishing the hotel and building townhouses on the site. He said the recent discussion by the Belleair Commission on creating a new zoning designation is the first step in that direction.

Katka says he is like most people who hate to see the hotel go, but he said it is something that likely has to happen.

"I feel like I have lived with that hotel my entire life," he said.

Katka said he and Maxwell will be meeting the people who live in the RPD and on Belleview Island to hear what it is they would like on the site of the hotel. He said it is important their views be heard.

The Belleview Biltmore Hotel, located at 25 Belleview Blvd., was



Photo by TERRE PORTER
Pallbearers carry Rep. C.W. "Bill" Young's flag-draped coffin past his family waiting outside the First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks in Largo Oct. 24 where around 1,500 people gathered to pay their respects and say goodbye. Patrick Young comforts his mother, Beverly, while Bill Young II, holding his young son, stands by.

built in 1896 and opened Jan. 15, 1897.

CMA continues plans for new aquarium

About 25 percent of 67,653 registered voters answered the city of Clearwater's referendum question to allow the city to lease city hall property and adjacent city property to the Clearwater

Marine Aquarium. And those voters said yes by nearly 55 percent. Of the 17,183 votes cast, 9,429 said yes and 7,754 said no.

The election was held Nov. 7.

CMA needs a new location to accommodate an expected influx of visitors. Numbers have gone up dramatically since the release of "A Dolphin Tale," in 2012. Now, a sequel is being filmed, "Dolphin Tale 2," and CMA offi-

cial estimate even bigger numbers in the future.

CMA plans to build a new \$160 million aquarium and move its attractions, including "A Dolphin Tale" star, Winter, and Hope, her dolphin co-star in the sequel, to the new facility while continuing to operate its rescue and rehabilitation operations from the current facility on Island Estates.

Proponents of the plan cited the cost of the project as one reason to say no, as well as the potential value of the city's waterfront property where the aquarium will be built. Others say the area isn't big enough for two aquariums and that the local attraction would have to compete with the Tampa Aquarium. Some don't believe the movie can continue to attract large numbers of visitors over the long term.

CMA plans to pay the city \$7.5 million for construction of a new city hall, and it will pay to demolish the current city hall and build the new aquarium. The city will retain ownership of the land and grant a 60-year lease to the CMA to operate the aquarium. The \$7.5 million pay back will come from a share with the city of 50 cents for each admission to the new aquarium.

Andrea brings tornado to Pinellas

The 2013 Atlantic hurricane season got off to a quick start. Tropical Storm Andrea formed the evening of June 5 in the east-central Gulf of Mexico.

It made landfall in Dixie County about 10 miles south of

See TOP STORIES, page 6A

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Commissioner announces 19th annual Appreciation Luncheon

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County Commissioner John Morroni's 19th annual Appreciation Luncheon for Emergency Personnel is scheduled on Friday, Jan. 24, at the Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park, 950 Lake Carillon Drive, St. Petersburg. The event will begin promptly at 11:30 a.m.



John Morroni

aid agreements with other law enforcement agencies are in place, so that law enforcement officers do not respond to calls alone.

"My pride lies with the men and women who literally put their lives on the line for all of us," said Morroni. "Because of this law, officers are safer because they have backup when they are doing their jobs of keeping us safe."

In 1995, Morroni organized the first Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner. As a Pinellas County commissioner, Morroni continues the tradition every year, expanding it to include firefighters and EMS personnel.

"This is the only event that recognizes the valuable contributions made by members of the law enforcement, fire and emergency medical communities," said Morroni. "It's an honor to be a part of it."

The 2014 luncheon continues Morroni's tradition of honoring the men and women who serve as emergency personnel. Morroni recently announced that the proceeds of this year's luncheon will be donated to Suncoast Hospice and the Florida Veterans Foundation.

The luncheon began in memory of Belleair Police Officer Jeffery Tackett. The 28 year old died from a gunshot wound on June 13, 1993, when he responded to a call alone.

The loss of the officer deeply affected the entire community, and those who attended the memorial services were greatly affected by the tragedy, including then-state Rep. John Morroni, who pledged to help prevent this kind of tragedy from happening again.

Morroni co-sponsored the Tackett Bill with Sen. Dennis Jones in 1995. The state legislation requires two officers be on duty at all times, unless mutual

Public safety personnel and local elected officials will attend the event and the public is invited. Donations are \$50 per ticket, which includes the luncheon and a donation to the charities. For information and to make reservations, call 791-3356. Reservations for this event must be made by Jan. 17.

TOP STORIES, from page 5A

Steinhatchee about 5:40 p.m. June 6. At the time of landfall, maximum sustained winds were 65 mph.

Conditions were improving around Pinellas County that Thursday afternoon. Reports of power outages and some flooding were coming in from different locations. The bulk of the damage was reported from Gulfport where a confirmed tornado touched down about 10 a.m.

The city reported that the waterspout touched down on Shore Boulevard and Clinton Street and moved north on Beach Boulevard South passing the

Public Library, Gulfport Senior Center and Clymer Park. City officials said trees, branches and a power line were down. There was structural damage to Yummy's restaurant on Beach Boulevard.

National Weather Service confirmed the tornado June 7, reporting damage from winds of 60 mph on a path 1.9 miles long and 50 yards wide. The length of time it was on ground was two minutes. Twelve homes had damage to fascia, shingles, awnings and fencing.

Rain totals between 1 inch and 5 inches were reported with some of the highest totals coming from Largo.

A Christmas Eve gift



Photo by NANCY AYERS

Patchy clouds partially shroud the light from the setting sun over Belleair Beach Dec. 24, a nice visual present for visitors and residents who appreciate natural beauty that is abundant in this area.

County: Keep the Rays in Pinellas

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County Commissioners support the Tampa Bay Rays' request to explore stadium locations outside the county.

The commission favors doing whatever is best to keep major league baseball in Tampa Bay - even though the preference is to keep the Rays in Pinellas.

Commission Chair Ken Welch invited Rays' officials to attend the Feb. 29 commission meeting. He said it was time to have an "important conversation for our community and our partners, the Tampa Bay Rays."

"It was a long endeavor to get baseball in our community," he said, while recognizing the county's partnership with the citizens of St. Petersburg and city officials.

Nov. 1 on a 32-foot sperm whale that beached itself in shallow water off Madeira Beach a day earlier.

The 5-ton, female whale was euthanized Oct. 31 and later towed to a remote spot at Fort De Soto beach where the necropsy took place. The remains were buried nearby.

The whale was discovered shortly after sunrise Oct. 31 along a stretch of beach at 132nd Avenue in Madeira Beach.

Shortly thereafter, the sighting attracted large numbers of curious spectators, media, fire fighters and law enforcement and FWC officials.

FWC officials said the whale was almost dead and severely emaciated. Its tail flippin in the air periodically before University of Florida veterinarians sedated the animal and later injected drugs to euthanize it.

Scientists found signs of a severe infection that they said the whale had for months.

According to an FWC officer, the beached whale was the first along the Pinellas beaches since 2009 when another was discovered slightly north of the sighting.

Whale necropsy finds infection

MADEIRA BEACH - Officials from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the University of Florida and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration performed a necropsy

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Mims pleased with situation in IRB

By BRIAN GOFF

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH – Gregg Mims has been city manager of Indian Rocks Beach for nearly six months now, and by all accounts things are going well. But his hiring nearly didn't happen; in fact giving him an interview was a last-minute decision.

When the last city manager, Chuck Coward, retired early last summer the search was on for his replacement. As commissioners whittled down the short list there was some discussion whether the final candidates should all come from within Florida. Two of the dozen finalists were from out of state and the commissioners were concerned with the cost of bringing them in for an interview and whether an outsider would be able to cope with Florida laws governing municipalities.

After much discussion it was decided to include Mims as the lone candidate from outside the state. And his was the last interview of a long day of interviews. Not the most enviable position to be in if you are looking for a job.

He hit a home run. During his interview Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin said, "I've heard enough; we don't need to say any more."

After the interview they quickly decided Mims was the one, and hired him soon after that. They were impressed with Mims' experience and his grasp of what has to be done to run a city. Six months later they aren't disappointed.

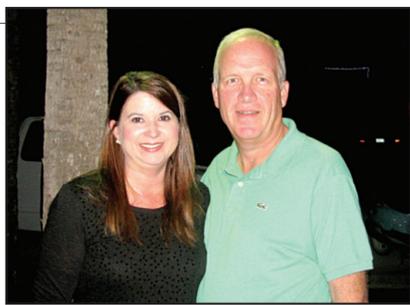
"He's done a good job in reaching out to community leaders and even in the first few weeks he established a personal relationship with the people most active in the town," said Mayor R.B. Johnson. "He's doing a very good job and he's got a good attitude. Department heads have told me that he understands the concept of IRB and he's really grasped it."

Perhaps he is able to grasp the concept of Indian Rocks Beach because in his time as a city administrator he's worked in beach communities. His last position was in Fairhope, Alabama.

"We had an interest in Florida and we really enjoy beach communities," said Mims. "People who are in the business I'm in are always looking for places that is politically stable because a lot of places are not. When I was offered the job Michelle (wife) and I talked about it and we decided we could live and work here for years. It is my commitment to the city and my family."

Mims, 52, has been involved in government for 28 years. He's been a city manager for the last 15 years of that. He has a degree in community and regional planning and began his career, logically enough, as a planner.

Mims said he was pleased with what he found when he began his



Gregg and Michelle Mims at the recent tree lighting ceremony in Indian Rocks Beach.

job in Indian Rocks Beach.

"I think the city was very well run," he said. "I talked with Chuck Coward recently and realized the city had made a lot of headway in the last few years with finances."

Yet, he said, there are always things that can be improved upon and he has begun working on some of them.

"Operationally there are some things we can do internally with the staff to make things more business friendly, especially with our front counter," he said. "If someone who wants a permit and walks in with a set of plans we should help that person get what they need and not have them chasing around after four or five people. We should be coming back to them with their permit and make sure we're friendly about it."

Mims also said he intends to continue to review the budget carefully.

"I'm going to work closely with Finance Director Dan Carpenter on revenues and expenditures, make sure we're spending our money as wisely as we can but make sure the services provided by the city continue to be up to standard," he said.

An upcoming challenge for Mims that he takes most seriously is the pending departure of Public Services Director Dean Scharmen. He's due to retire in July.

"I'll be working on a job announcement in the next week or two to get it out on the street," he said. "Dean has been here for 35 years and we need somebody on board before he goes who can work with him. His will be hard shoes to fill; he has a lot of knowledge and respect and we need somebody compatible to work with him. Public Services take up a third or more of our budget so it is real important to me."

While he is happy with his job, Mims said he and his wife Michelle are just as happy with the city and their quality of life.

"We're thrilled and we decided to lease a home while we got the lay of the land," he said. "We're on the water and it is a joy every morning to pull back those sliding glass doors to watch the birds and dolphins and the occasional manatee happen by. And to have the beach just two blocks from our front door, well we couldn't be happier."

Mims says the best thing about IRB is the people.

"We've lived in a few places but I would put IRB up there as the most friendly place I ever worked. Everybody speaks to you and when we moved in people came from two blocks away to help us unload the truck. Six or seven people asked us to share Thanksgiving dinner with them; they were just neighbors there to help us. This is one of the most friendly places I've ever been in my life."

Michelle agrees. After moving to IRB she quickly got a job as an accounting supervisor and senior staff accountant with the city of Tar-

Stolen items returned



Photo courtesy of CLEARWATER POLICE

Burglary detectives worked with recent burglary victims on Dec. 16 to reunite them with some of their belongings that were taken from their homes. Recovered items included jewelry, electronics, tools and an assortment of other recovered merchandise.

pon Springs. She loves the drive along the water from IRB to Tarpon and especially likes coming home.

"We are blessed to live in such a beautiful place," she said. "We just love IRB; it has been a great move. This is a quaint city with so many diverse people and everyday it seems like we meet someone from a different place. We've grown to love how pretty this place is."

The fact that the Mims moved into a home in the city is something unusual in IRB. Johnson said rarely has a city manager ever lived in the city and he likes it.

"It is unusual in my experience and he intends to stay. Being a resident and being around town most of the time gives him an extra dimension as a city manager," he said.

For Mims a good deal of satisfaction he said comes from the elected officials that he has to work with. He says he's impressed with what he's seen so far.

"I've been around elected officials for 28 years and it is nice to work in a city where they all want to do the right thing," he said. "I'm really impressed that they come at it from the standpoint where they really want to do what is right for the city. In other places there is too much politics; here I get answers that are not political. It has been an enjoyment to work with these people."

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Woman journeyed from Playboy Bunny to Hooters to O'Keefe's

By BRIAN GOFF

CLEARWATER – For Rebecca, “Becca” Eubanks Heishman’s journey has ended where it started, but not without a couple of interesting stops along the way.

Heishman, 59, is a part-time manager, full-time server at O’Keefe’s Irish Pub in Clearwater. She has been there for eight years this time around. She began working there when she was in high school in 1971, and in the ‘90s worked there during the busy St. Patrick’s Day celebrations.

For customers who know her – her energy, her demeanor, and the way she carries herself – they aren’t surprised when they learn of her background. The places she worked in between those stints at O’Keefe’s. She was one of the original Hooters girls, and before that, a Playboy Bunny in the short-lived Playboy Club in downtown St. Petersburg. She remembers it all well.

“Yes, I was a Bunny,” she said. “There were thousands of girls who tried out, and I kept making

the cut all the time. I was the oldest and the only one who was married and I had a child.”

Heishman says it was fun working at the club because of the people she met. It seemed as though there were celebrities around all the time.

“I have a small list of people I met,” she said. “Burt Bacharach, Lionel Richie, Barry Manilow, Alabama, all people who played at the Bayfront Center. During the day, the Bunnies would go over and give them Bunny balloons and encourage them to come to the club at night. It was a lot of fun.”

What wasn’t fun however, was the regimen the girls had to keep in order to keep their jobs.

“You were allowed to gain or lose only 5 pounds from your hiring weight,” said Heishman. “We’d have to weigh in every Friday. Our paycheck depended on it. If you weighed more than 5 pounds, or had lost more than 5 pounds, you were taken off the floor and you didn’t get back on until your weight was back in line. As a result we didn’t eat much all week long, and then on Friday, once we passed the weight test, we’d roller skate after work to a nearby eating place and eat like it was the Last Supper.”

She says there were other rules they had to abide by as well.

“There was no jewelry allowed, you weren’t allowed to have bobby pins in your hair, you had to have your nails painted and we were inspected every time we went on the floor,” she said. “Still it was one of the neatest jobs I ever had.”



Heishman says she still has a couple of sets of Bunny “ears”, a “tail” and the cuff links from her costume. She says they weren’t allowed to keep the actual costume itself but she figures she could still fit into it today.

The Playboy Club opened in St. Petersburg in 1980 and lasted for three years. Heishman said at the time people were saying that the club might have lasted if it had been established in Tampa instead of St. Pete.

Nevertheless she and the other Bunnies had to find a job when the Club closed, and for Heishman it was Hooters.

“Hooters wasn’t even open yet,” she said. “My girlfriend Jan Bradley knew somebody there so I

applied and got the job. That was in October of 1983. It was quite different than Playboy; they weren’t real strict like Playboy was.”

Heishman stayed at Hooters for seven years and celebrated a milestone during her time there.

“I had the first Hooters baby. My youngest son, he’s 26 now and is a paramedic-firefighter,” she said.

Heishman left Hooters in 1990 because she said she had outgrown the job.

“I just felt that way, it had become too corporate and it wasn’t the same when that happened,” she said.

Despite that, one of the men who founded Hooters fondly remembers the girl he called Becky.



Photos courtesy of REBECCA EUBANKS HEISHMAN
Above, Rebecca Eubanks Heishman, right, poses with another Hooters girl in the 1980s. Heishman was one of the first servers when the original location opened in 1983. At left, Heishman was a Playboy Bunny at the St. Petersburg club in 1980.

Ed Droste is still involved in the company today and says Heishman surely was one of the first.

“She was on the early team that opened the original store in Clearwater,” he said. “She had a knack for what she did. I couldn’t see her behind a desk, and it would not have been the best use of her talents.”

Droste said Heishman isn’t the only alumna of Hooters; in fact she is one of many.

“There are 300,000 alumni of Hooters,” he said. “She is one of them, a girl next door, vivacious, attractive and outgoing; someone who contributed to that carefree casual energy that we were looking for.”

Droste said Heishman was somebody he never forgot.

“We stop by all the time to see her, just to get a dose of her delightful energy,” he said.

Becca Heishman is single now, she got divorced nearly 25 years ago and hasn’t remarried, and she said she knows why.

“I had three small children and I could never find a man who thought three little kids were OK,” she said. “Now I run around

with my hair on fire, I’m helping my daughter raise her 8-year-old son, and at my age, nobody wants my life, believe me.”

Now her life comes back around to O’Keefe’s, a place Heishman, who was born at Morton Plant Hospital, says she is delighted to be working.

“I love it. A lot of people think I’m crazy but I always love it. It is about people and in my hometown,” she said. “I have people who come in just to see me; I meet different people every day. I love what I do. I always have. Even when I worked in office jobs I moonlighted as a bartender, I don’t know, it is my therapy.”

It is a therapy that seems to be working for this former Playboy Bunny and Hooters Girl. It is a therapy that seems to have given this woman a purpose and a place to call home.

“I love working at O’Keefe’s. The owners, the Duquesnays, have been awesome. They take care of their people,” she said. “I can’t imagine being anywhere else. I drive from Oldsmar, where I live but that is my choice, I love what I do.”



Photo by BRIAN GOFF
Rebecca Eubanks Heishman poses at her job in O’Keefe’s in Clearwater.

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Briefcase

Largo Community Acupuncture event set

LARGO - The First Free Friday event will be offered Friday, Jan. 3, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Largo Community Acupuncture, 12360 66th St., Suite H-5. For information, call 832-483-7372.

9Round opens

CLEARWATER - 9Round recently opened for business at Clearwater Mall, 2663 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd. 9Round is a 30-minute total body workout that combines boxing, kickboxing, core and weights for an innovative fitness routine on nine stations with a personal 9Round trainer with you every step to motivate you. There are no set class times. Every three minutes a new station begins. Workouts change daily.

REH sets new record for paid attendance

CLEARWATER - Two sold-out performances with Dave Chappelle set two consecutive records Dec. 17. The second show at 10 p.m. sold 2,193 tickets, the most ever for a single performance. That number when combined with 2,171 paid tickets from the 7:30 p.m. show was 4,364 paid tickets, another new record for most paid tickets over two shows by the same performer. This is the highest attendance since the theater was renovated in 2003. The first show sold out to Ruth Eckerd Hall members prior to going on sale to the general public. The previous record was held by Sit Down with Robin Williams and David Steinberg set earlier this year with a total paid attendance of 2,185.

Chamber to host candidate forum

ST. PETE BEACH - The Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce will host a primary candidate forum for Congressional District 13 Seat on Monday, Jan. 6, 8:30 a.m., at the TradeWinds Island Resort, 5500 Gulf Blvd. The purpose of this event is to introduce the vot-

ers to candidates running in the primary election for the Congressional District 13 Seat. Those in attendance will be as follows:

- David Jolly (R)
 - Kathleen Peters (R)
- To RSVP, call Doug at 360-6957 or email Doug@TampaBayBeaches.com.

Capitol opens with three sold-out shows

CLEARWATER - Following its \$10.7 million renovation, the Capitol Theatre opened recently with three sold-out shows, including a concert with five-time Grammy-winner Michael McDonald on Dec. 18.

Other sold-out shows included Rockapella on Dec. 20 and Sinbad on Dec. 21.

According to a press release, Rolling Stone magazine has named the upcoming B.B. King performance at the Capitol Theatre one of New Year's Eve's hottest concerts.

A wide variety of artists will take to the Capitol Theatre stage in the coming months. Scheduled to perform at the venue are Katharine McPhee on Jan. 11, Chris Botti on Jan. 18, Eddie Money on Jan. 22, Edwin McCain on Feb. 20, Art Garfunkel on Feb. 27 and Bob Newhart on March 1.

Anytime Fitness recognized as top club chain

CLEARWATER - Anytime Fitness, a co-ed fitness club chain, is ranked No. 1 on Entrepreneur magazine's annual Franchise 500 list according to a press release.

Anytime Fitness also was named one of America's most promising companies by Forbes earlier this year, and honored as the Best Place to Work by Minnesota Business magazine two years in a row.

"The No. 1 ranking is a credit to our fabulous franchisees," said Chuck Runyon in the press release. Runyon is CEO and co-founder of Anytime Fitness. "In addition to running convenient and affordable gyms, our franchisees and their staffs provide their members with personal service that gets

Toy collection



Photo by HALINA DAVIS

Students at Starkey Elementary School collected over 550 items for the children of Sallie House. Sallie House is a shelter for children who have been abandoned or removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect. The items collected included books, toys, clothing and even two bicycles. This is the 20th year that Starkey Elementary has donated items to Sallie House.

real results. That personal touch and high level of engagement is what differentiates Anytime Fitness from many other gyms and what has strengthened and grown our brand worldwide."

"We're incredibly proud to be part of the world's No. 1 franchise system," said Maggie Loving, owner of the Anytime Fitness gym located on Highland Avenue.

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LETTERS

Arrogance and unawareness

Editor:

I was appalled at the Dec. 17 Belleair Town Commission meeting with a contingency of residents, strangers to town meetings, stood up and berated the commissioners for approving a roundabout on Indian Rocks Road without "informing us." They used phrases like "how in the world did this happen?" "We are due a public meeting!" "I feel like I'm dancing after the music has stopped." "We were not informed!" "I never read the 'Belleair Bee!'"

A former neighbor once chided me for failure to read the New York Times, which she proclaimed the only newspaper worth reading. Yet this woman was clueless about events in her own backyard. Why would folks not care to read about what's happening in their neighborhood? At least four public hearings were held on the roundabout issue. The town website noticed the meetings and the "Belleair Bee" published several articles during the process.

Being a regular attendee at meetings, I can unequivocally say that our commission operates in the sunshine and in a most professional manner. To accuse them of collusion without having all the facts is arrogance at its finest. Town Hall is open and always willing to help residents, dispense information and answer questions. Mayor Katika is in his office Thursday afternoons from 3 to 4 p.m. to talk with residents. If you choose to bury your head in the sand then come out of the woodwork when you're made aware of an issue after the fact, shame on you!

One resident suggested folks from out of town would not know how to use the roundabout. From all indications, he should have included the uninformed residents.

If your schedules don't allow for attendance at town meetings, there's always the website: www.townofbelleair.com, which posts all meeting agendas. There you will find out if any items on the agenda affect you and then become an informed resident.

There must be a happy medium somewhere between being totally informed and blissfully unaware.

Lil Cromer
Belleair

Roundabout isn't the way to go

Editor:

I was new to Belleair last October and November when the proposed roundabout at Indian Rocks Road, Ponce De Leon Road, and Palmview Avenue was supposedly discussed at length in town hearings. It is obvious from the recent "Belleair Bee" article that this is not a common perception. I know about the intersection in question. It is a problem intersection. I understand the need to fix it. There is another one just like it where Rosery and Osceola Roads cross Indian Rocks Road, also which I understand is slated(?) for the same treatment.

First: I believe that the commissioners do not understand the function of a roundabout. The first thing you would notice entering a proper roundabout is there are no stop signs, only yield signs. The purpose of a roundabout is to facilitate the ease of traffic flow, not to stop or reduce it. If you drive in England, there are no stop signs on roundabout - just like the Clearwater Beach roundabout.

Second: Maybe the commissioners are not very familiar with driving around a roundabout. Many people here may not be familiar with the rules of the road concerning roundabouts. Who has the right of way upon entering, exiting and driving in the roundabout? If drivers don't know, that's where problems occur. The police officers will be busy.

Third: The commissioners are right; it is a bad intersection. It is very difficult to pull out into the intersection. Maybe changing the intersection into a four-way stop and block direct access of Palmview Avenue, which may anger those residents, but may make the intersection safer.

Fourth: A roundabout will not make it safe for pedestrians to cross Indian Rocks Road. Traffic will not be stopping at a proper roundabout. It will be moving around the circle unhindered. Remember ease traffic flow - the Clearwater Beach roundabout. You want a safe crossing? Make the intersection a four-way STOP.

If the intent of the exercise is to reduce traffic flow - sounds like the mayor's intent - and to make safer pedestrian crossings, the roundabout(s) is not the way to achieve either. And then there is the matter of the half-million-dollar price tag for each roundabout.

Ross Whitaker
Belleair

Light rail system not the answer

Re: Pinellas County Commissioner Janet Long's letter to the "Tampa Bay Times."

Editor:

Your Dec. 23 letter to the "Tampa Bay Times" leaves doubt and questions about the Greenlight Pinellas project, which you are assumedly in favor of.

1) Tax increase or no tax increase or what you call a "swap."

Using a Clearwater resident's annual county tax bill as the example; the past five years of taxes levied for the Suncoast Transit Authority have been:

- 2009 = \$20.05
- 2010 = \$23.40
- 2011 = \$31.53 (what was this?)
- 2012 = \$18.26
- 2013 = \$18.26

In calculating an average taxable income in Pinellas County, we project that a 1-cent increase in the sales tax would approximate an increase between \$100 on the low end and \$160 on the high end of annual expenditures. Compared to previous tax bills, your statement is totally out of line. Your comment that "many people will actually end up paying less in taxes overall" is a total misnomer. Also, it appears obvious that those who make more in income and pay more taxes will be dunned at even higher totals than the significant increase according to the above figures. So the reality is that this is not a "tax swap" (you suggest as an even swap) in the evidence of the actual taxpayer dollars, which will be significantly increased, and a heavy hit on low end earners.

2) As to the systems fairness compared to the current one, this has a legitimate basis and one that should be discussed in real numbers and results, and while the concept of visitors paying more if more is required sounds good, the basic argument remains as to the significant and negative impact of the increase to full-time Pinellas County tax-paying residents. The validity of your comment that tourists will pay 30 percent of the new revenues raised is questionable. To reach that figure, one must considerably stretch research factors. We would ask how you come by your figures.

3) "A sustainable way for Pinellas County to address its transportation needs into the future."

As you write, "everything is becoming faster paced." Unfortunately a restricted light rail system is not the answer for the demographics, growth and choices Pinellas residents will utilize for that system to be viable, productive to most residents and not become a financial white elephant to Pinellas taxpayers in the future.

As a final note, I could not agree more with your comment that we must "establish a smarter and more nimble approach to our entire county's transportation needs" and you have our full support if this plan were to permit the overwhelming majority of drivers improvement in time (the most important factor), and less stressful methodology to get from point A to point B.

Looking forward to upcoming debates in 2014 and the "fair" Greenlight Pinellas project for which considerable taxpayer dollars are being used to promote this project, how about a grant of those taxpayer dollars for those of us questioning this project for properly addressing those issues others have with it, giving the voters an unbiased information decision when they step up to the voting booth in November, whether they then approve of the project or not. Let's make the discussion "fair."

Ernest Bach

Officer, Largo-Mid Pinellas County Coalition of Neighborhood Associations
Largo

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.

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.

The deadline for letters pertaining to Jan. 14 election has passed.

Answering The Auld Lang Syne question



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

Today "Auld Lang Syne" is played each year in thousands of settings and occasions across the globe. It supplies the melody for the alma mater of the University of Virginia.

plain English, has varied from "old long since" to "days gone by" and "for (the sake of) old times." Take your pick.

Today "Auld Lang Syne" is played each year in thousands of settings and occasions across the globe. It supplies the melody for the alma mater of the University of Virginia. It's a traditional football song in the Netherlands, and is sung at the closing of every international Boy Scout jamboree. In Japan, department stores play "Auld Lang Syne" each night to notify customers that the stores will soon be closing. In November 2009 at the University of Glasgow, students and staff sang the song in 41 different languages.

Perhaps the most tragic and poignant rendering of "Auld Land Syne" took place during World War II, when the Japanese ship, Montivideo Maru, was sunk. The ship had carried 1,053 Australian prisoners of war. As the ship went down, the Aussie soldiers already in the water were heard to sing "Auld Lang Syne" to their doomed comrades still on board the sinking vessel.

For many New Year's eves - until his death in 1977 - Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians orchestra broadcast the song to millions of radio and TV listeners. Today, whatever our personal feelings about old times and old friends, we should use the new year transition as a reason to think of the good times and valued friends that may await us. As some wise person once said, "The future lies ahead." And we should all try to be there when it arrives.

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

To my knowledge, no authority has ever given a straight answer to that important question. The reason for this lapse, in my opinion, is that the only proper reply is, "Well, now, that depends." That's a wobbly, weaselly way to address a vital matter, but sometimes life is like that.

I could easily list the names of dozens of old acquaintances that I should not and will not forget. Some of them were esteemed and solid friends. Others were not that close, but their personalities and behavior were easily distinctive enough to lodge these people permanently in my mind.

On the other hand, I can quickly recall the faces, if not the names, of old acquaintances whose fading into dim history has been a blessing for me ever since it first started. On many days of my life, I have boosted my spirits simply by reminding myself of men and women - once close to me - with whom I will never again have to associate. I should add that most of these same persons are probably just as delighted to be distant from my own acquaintance.

To wrap this matter up: No, we should not forget those persons whose presence once graced our lives. And no, we should feel no guilt or compunction about sweeping other persons under the always-waiting rugs of time and memory. How we can accomplish ei-

ther or both of these tasks will have to wait for other columns, whose arrival I can already picture you pining for.

If you join in the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" this week, be sure to pronounce the "s" sound as in "see" or "since," rather than the softer "z" sound that we have accepted as standard throughout the years. Your doing so will please linguists in Scottish universities who keep track of such matters.

Robert Burns wrote his immortal poem in 1788. After the words were combined with a traditional folk song, "Auld Lang Syne" soon found its way into Scottish custom. It spread into the United Kingdom and then throughout much of the world. The title's meaning, in



Minimum wage should be raised



As I See It
Camille Moran

Most Americans agree that if you work full time you should not be living in poverty. Today's miserly minimum wage doesn't just impoverish workers, it hurts our economy.

nesses need to retain or hire more employees."

That's right. Increasing the minimum wage will boost the sales that drive employment. And with increased wages, businesses also see lower costly employee turnover, increased productivity and better customer service.

No wonder the most rigorous studies of the impact of actual minimum wage increases show they don't cause job loss, reports Business for a Fair Minimum Wage. For example, the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment compared all neighboring counties (we call them parishes) located on different sides of a state border with different minimum-wage levels between 1990 and 2006 and found no adverse employment effects from higher minimum wages.

There's a proposal in Congress to raise the minimum wage by 95 cents a year for three years to \$10.10 an hour, and then adjust it annually to keep up with the cost of living.

If the minimum wage had kept up with the cost of living since 1968, it would already be over \$10. In case you're wondering, the unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in 1968 and 3.5 percent in 1969.

When families come to our farm looking for a Christmas tree, they seek out trees that have a strong, full base and are healthy from top to bottom.

Our minimum wage is the base of our economy. If it's weak, our economy will not be healthy.

At the end of "A Christmas Carol," Scrooge doesn't just give Tiny Tim's family a turkey. He gives his father a raise.

Camille Moran is owner and CEO of Caramor Industries, which includes 4 Seasons Christmas Tree Farm, in Natchitoches Parish, La. She is a member of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage.

Let's bring the spirit of Christmas to Congress. The last time the minimum wage went up was in 2009, and, as the owner of a Christmas tree farm and other businesses, I think it's time for another raise.

Today's \$7.25 an hour minimum wage benefits Scrooge - before he saw the error of his ways. It amounts to just \$15,080 a year for full-time workers.

Workers shouldn't have to depend on food stamps or food banks to put Christmas dinner on their tables.

In my state, Louisiana, which is not a high-cost state, a single adult needed income of \$19,256 to afford basic expenses such as food, housing, transportation, health care and taxes in 2012, according to the MIT Living Wage Calculator. That's \$9.26 an hour at 40 hours a week year-round, which is \$2 more an hour than the current minimum wage.

McDonald's made waves this year by recommending a sample monthly budget to its employees - many of them earning at or near minimum wage - that assumed they needed a second job to make ends meet. Most McDonald's employees, like most minimum-wage workers, are adults. The budget had them working at McDonald's for \$1,105 a month after taxes, and then a second job for \$955 - for a total of \$24,720 yearly after taxes. McDonald's CEO Don Thompson, meanwhile, made \$13.8 million in 2012. That's \$37,808 a day, every day of the year.

Most Americans agree that if you work full time you should not be living in poverty. Today's miserly minimum wage doesn't just impoverish workers, it hurts our economy.

If I don't pay my employees a decent wage, they won't have money to spend at other businesses. And if other businesses don't pay their workers a decent wage, they can't afford to buy my trees, and I can't afford to hire more employees. That's a negative cycle, in-

stead of a positive one.

At 4 Seasons Christmas Tree Farm, our lowest paid employees earn at least \$10 an hour and we provide a better product at competitive prices with big box stores. Raising the minimum wage makes good business sense.

A recent national poll shows that 67 percent of small-business owners support increasing the minimum wage and adjusting it yearly to keep pace with the cost of living. The small-business owners were predominantly Republican in the poll commissioned by Small Business Majority.

Sixty-five percent of small-business owners in the poll agreed that "Increasing the minimum wage will help the economy, because the people with the lowest incomes are the most likely to spend any pay increases buying necessities they could not afford before, which will boost sales at businesses. This will increase the customer demand that busi-

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Publisher/President: Dan Autrey
dautrey@tbnweekly.com

Accounting Manager: Andrea Marcarelli
tbnandy@yahoo.com

Advertising Director: Jay Rey
jrey@tbnweekly.com

Classified Advertising Manager: Wendy Edwards
wedwards@tbnweekly.com

Executive Editor: Tom Germond
tgermond@tbnweekly.com

Production Manager: David Brown
production@tbnweekly.com

Internet Services Manager: Suzette Porter
webmaster@tbnweekly.com

Beach Beacon: Bob McClure
bmccclure@tbnweekly.com

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

Clearwater Beacon: Alexandra Lundahl
alundahl@tbnweekly.com

Dunedin Beacon: Tom Germond
tgermond@tbnweekly.com

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

9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772
727-397-5563 • Fax: 727-397-5900 • www.TBNweekly.com

Palm Harbor/East Lake Beacon: Bob McClure
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Pinellas Park Beacon: Tiffany Razzano
trazzano@tbnweekly.com

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trazzano@tbnweekly.com

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Largo recreation

City offers athletic programs

LARGO – The city of Largo will offer several youth athletic programs starting this month.

Basketball Basics, for ages 6 to 8, will be offered Saturdays, Jan. 4 through April 26, 8:45 to 9:30 a.m., at Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave.

The class reinforces and applies the fundamentals of basketball: dribbling, passing, shooting, defense and team play. It will include drills, skills and informal mini-scrimmages, with instruction as needed. Adam Crawford will coach. The monthly cost is \$24 for residents and \$30 for nonresidents, except March, which will cost \$30 and \$37.50, respectively.

Go Girl Sports, for ages 6 to 10, will be offered Wednesdays, Jan. 9 through April 24, 5:45 to 6:30 p.m., at Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave.

This class introduces girls to sports in a social setting through skill instruction and other activities. Sports include basketball, volleyball, tennis, soccer and more. The monthly cost is \$24 for residents and \$30 for nonresidents.

Indoor Soccer Clinics, for ages 6 to 9, will be offered Tuesdays, Jan. 7 through April 29, 6 to 6:45 p.m.

This introductory class reinforces and applies the fundamentals of soccer including: dribbling, passing, and shooting with Pinellas Indoor Soccer Academy coaches. It will include skills and informal mini-scrimmages, with instruction as needed. The cost is \$24 for residents and \$30 for nonresidents, except April, which will cost \$30 and \$37.50, respectively.

Indoor Volleyball Clinics, for ages 7 to 18, will be offered Mondays, Jan. 6 through April 28.

Classes for ages 7 to 12 will be held 6 to 7 p.m. and cost \$18 for residents and \$22.50 for nonresidents for January or February; March will cost \$30 and \$37.50, respectively, and April will cost \$24 and \$30, respectively.

Classes for ages 13 to 18 will be held 7 to 8:30 p.m. and cost \$30 for residents and \$37.50 for nonresidents for January or February; March will cost \$50 and \$62.50, respectively, and April will cost \$40 and \$50, respectively.

Instructor Dave Carstenson will teach drills to include passing, hitting, setting and serving as well as simulated games with coach commentary. There is no class Jan. 20 and Feb. 17.

Practices for **Instructional Basketball League**, for ages 7 to 12, will be held on Saturdays, Feb. 1 through March 29, at the Southwest Complex, 13120 Vonn Road.

Register Jan. 1 through 31. Evaluations will be held Feb. 1. Coaches are needed for all age groups.

The leagues are designed to teach the skills of basketball through instruction and games. Games begin on Feb. 22 at the Highland Recreation Complex. The cost is \$45. A Largo recreation card is needed for this program.

Registration for **Instructional Soccer** will begin Feb. 1, at Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave.

The program will include 30 minutes of instruction followed by 45 minutes of game time. Evaluations will be held March 1. Games begin March 22. A Largo recreation card is needed for this program.

Youth Track and Field, for ages 5 to 18, will be held Wednesdays, Jan. 15 through May 7, 6 to 7 p.m., at Largo High School, 410 Missouri Ave. N.

This is a great program for those kids interested in track and field. Children from Largo will team up to run against friends and rivals from other local cities. Program includes three practices at Largo High School and one track meet per month at an off-site location, which will require travel. All participants will get an official team shirt and ribbons for their events.

For more details about any of the programs, call athletics specialist Brian Harter at 365-0044.

Adventure run scheduled Feb. 8

LARGO – Test your stamina and skill in Largo's second annual Play! Dirty Adventure Run Feb. 8, 8 to 9 a.m., at the Largo Nature Preserve, 150 Highland Ave. SE.

The 3-mile race goes off-road through Largo Central Park Nature Preserve and over 20 obstacles. This race includes a fun run category and a competitive category. Prizes will be awarded to the top five male and female finishers of the competitive category.

New this year is a 3K kids run for children ages 11 to 17 at 11 a.m. All runners will receive a race T-shirt and goodie bag. Enjoy music, food and fun for all ages. Water and snacks will be provided. Proceeds will support Largo Summer Camp Scholarships.

Preregistration for the 3-mile run is \$30 until Feb. 4 and \$50 after, including the day of the race. Preregistration for the kids 3K is \$15 until Feb. 4 and \$30 after, including the day of the race.

Sprout Healthy Vending, Bandit Fitness, JLA Sports and Barley Mow Brewing Company sponsor this event.

Visit www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=2067667 to register online, download the registration form or visit Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave.

For more information, visit Largo.com/playdirty or call 518-3016.

Largo Recreation solicits feedback

LARGO – The Largo Recreation, Parks and Arts Department is interested in hearing ideas, comments and suggestions to help improve the recreation facilities and the services they provide.

Through Jan. 13, participants will be asked to fill out a brief survey that will take less than 10 minutes to complete. The department values input and wants to be responsive to the community's needs and desires.

To participate or for more information, visit PlayLargo.com or call 587-6720.

Health briefly

Free program to help balance

LARGO – Enrollment is now open for "A Matter of Balance," offered in eight sessions Mondays and Wednesdays, starting Feb. 3, at Regal Palms Premier Assisted Living, 300 Lake Ave. NE in Largo.

The free program is designed to help older adults learn methods to reduce falling and the fear of falling. The sessions include group discussion, problem solving strategies, videos and gentle physical exercise.

Space is limited for this free program, so register early. Call 437-1350.

CrossFit Rebels to host free monthly workout

CLEARWATER – CrossFit Rebels will host a free community-based workout first Saturdays, 10 a.m., at 2077 Sunnydale Blvd.

The workout is tailored and scalable to all levels of fitness. Families, with children age 4 and older – all fitness levels will be educated and coached on proper movement form, and will work through a fun, team-oriented workout that will stimulate interest in and compliance with health and fitness.

The first Commit2B:Fit workout will be offered Saturday, Jan. 4, 10 a.m. It will be the first of 12 months of workouts tailored toward families in the community to embrace the concept that fitness can be a fun, family-oriented activity. Each month will have a different theme. February's theme will be Commit2B:HeartHealthy in honor of Heart Health Month. Call 253-4971.

Golf event proceeds benefit MPM program

OLDSMAR – The Mammography Voucher Program at Morton Plant Mease will benefit from the upcoming 2014 Drive for a Cure golf tournament.

The golf benefit is presented to raise awareness about breast health and support efforts to offer free mammograms through the Mammography Voucher Program.

The Drive for a Cure golf event, organized by the East Lake Woodlands golfers, will be Friday, Feb. 28, at the East Lake Woodlands Country Club, 1055 East Lake Woodlands Parkway.

Check-in starts at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The dinner and auction will begin at 5 p.m.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Mammography Voucher Program services at Morton Plant Mease, as well as the Florida Suncoast Affiliate of Susan G. Komen. The Mammography Voucher Program provides free breast screenings, diagnostics, and treatments for uninsured or underinsured women in Pinellas County.

Last year, event organizers donated more than \$24,000 to help provide breast health education and screenings.

Registration is \$75 for golf, cart, snacks, and dinner if signed up by Feb. 10. Registration after Feb. 10 is \$85. Dinner only is \$35.

To register or for information, call 215-9862 or visit www.ELW-DriveforaCure.com.

Sam's Club to host health screenings

Sam's Club will host free New Year, New You health screenings to kick off a year of healthy resolutions and healthy living.

Screenings will be open to Sam's Club members and the public. The screenings are valued at up to \$100 and focus on five different tests, including glucose, total cholesterol, blood pressure, body mass index and vision screening/testing.

The screenings will be offered Saturday, Jan. 11, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at all Sam's Club locations with a pharmacy.

To find a list of participating clubs, visit www.SamsClub.com/clublocator.

Affordable Healthcare programs set

ST. PETERSBURG – Pinellas County Health and Community Services will provide a series of opportunities for members of the community to learn about the Affordable Care Act Healthcare Marketplace through designated Healthcare Navigators.

The following information sessions are free and open to the public:

- Tuesday, Jan. 14, 6:30 p.m., at the St. Petersburg Main Library, 3745 Ninth Ave. N.

- Saturday, Jan. 25, 11 a.m., at the North Community Library, 861 79th Ave. N.

- Monday, Feb. 3, 2 p.m., at the Mirror Lake Community Library, 280 Fifth St. N.

- Monday, Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m., at the James Weldon Johnson Community Library, 1059 18th Ave. S.

- Thursday, Feb. 13, 2 p.m., at the South Community Library, 2300 Roy Hanna Drive S.

Auxiliary donates \$36,000 to foundation

TARPON SPRINGS – At the Florida Hospital North Pinellas Auxiliary and Volunteer Services annual Christmas luncheon, board members of the hospital's auxiliary gave a donation of \$36,000 to the Helen Ellis Memorial Foundation.

Phyllis Coates, board president, and other board members were in attendance to support the presentation of the check to Terry Smither, foundation director.

"It is our extreme pleasure to donate to the hospital's foundation," said Coates in a press release. "Through our annual donations, we are able to support the efforts of the hospital and the health of the community."

"I have a true passion for what I do through the foundation, and the generous support of the auxiliary just gives me that much more enthusiasm," said Smither. "Their annual support enables the Foundation to meet its mission of developing funds which enable Florida Hospital North Pinellas to provide compassionate, faith-based healthcare to our patients."

The auxiliary and volunteers are active in the community, hosting annual events such as the Lights of Love Christmas Celebration and a fashion show. A portion of the proceeds raised is donated to the Helen Ellis Memorial Foundation in support of

Florida Hospital North Pinellas.

"I'm very thankful to have the volunteers and auxiliary as a part of our hospital family," said Bruce Bergherm, hospital CEO/president. "They are such an asset to our hospital and help to make sure we are doing our best to serve the visitors and patients of our hospital."

The auxiliary and volunteer program at Florida Hospital North Pinellas is currently seeking individuals interested in making a difference in the lives of patients, visitors and hospital team members.

For information, call 942-5072 or visit www.flnorthpinellas.com.



Taking part in the Florida Hospital North Pinellas Auxiliary and Volunteer Services annual Christmas luncheon are, from left, Terry Smither, Helen Ellis Memorial Foundation director; Christine Longley, manager of Community Outreach and Volunteer Services; Phyllis Coates, president of the auxiliary; Bruce Bergherm, president/CEO of Florida Hospital North Pinellas.

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Winter more brutal for asthma and allergy sufferers

As the winter months drag on, cabin fever sets in for many people. However, being cooped up inside is even harder for people suffering from asthma and allergies because more time indoors means greater exposure to indoor allergens. Although mold, pet dander and dust mites are often blamed for sneezing and itchy eyes this time of year, the National Pest Management Association warns that winter pests such as cockroaches and rodents also can be common asthma and allergy triggers.

"The saliva, urine and fecal droppings from cockroaches and rodents contain allergen proteins known to elicit allergic reactions and asthma attacks," said Dr. Jorge Parada, medical adviser for the NPMA. "During the winter months, cockroaches and rodents seek shelter from the elements inside homes, thereby increasing allergic reactions among those people who suffer from allergies and asthma."

According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, cockroach allergens are present in 63 percent of American homes, and mouse allergens in 82 percent. Moreover, the number of homes containing cockroach allergens increases to as many as 78 to 98 percent in urban areas.

"It's important for a person suffering from allergy or asthma symptoms to see his or her doctor. A medical professional. Although there is no cure for asthma, asthma can be controlled through medical treatment and management of environmental triggers. A doctor may recommend the use of antihistamines and decongestant medications to manage symptoms, and may also prescribe an anti-inflammatory medication and bronchodilators."

The NPMA recommends the following tips to help keep allergy-causing pests out:

- Seal cracks and holes around the outside of the home, including utility pipes.
- Properly ventilate basements and crawl spaces to prevent moisture buildup.
- Keep counters free of crumbs, and vacuum floors often to reduce the accumulation of allergens.
- Keep garbage in a sealed container, and dispose of it regularly.
- Pay extra attention to kitchens and bathrooms – especially under appliances and sinks – as these areas are particularly vulnerable to cockroach infestations.

For more information about health risks of pests and to find a pest professional in your neighborhood, visit www.pestworld.org. –NewsUSA

What's Selling in Pinellas County

St. Petersburg

Studio 1Bath

\$59,900

SOLD

SeaTowers

Terrific 4th floor studio with fabulous views of the Intracoastal and Lagoon. Fully furnished, sleeps 8 comfortably. 55+ waterfront community with resort amenities.

Caroleanne Vorac
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

Seminole

3 Bedrooms 2 Baths 2CP

\$150,000

SOLD

Split floor plan, dining area, bonus room and tons of storage space. Master bedroom has a private bathroom, walk-in closet and easy access to the laundry area. Bonus room leads out to the fully fenced backyard and BBQ deck, and full workshop with electric. Plenty of parking with double driveway and room to park a boat or trailer.

Sandy Hartmann
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

Largo

2 Bedrooms 1 Bath 2 CG

\$102,000

SOLD

Open floor plan with fresh paint, newer A/C and roof. In the heart of activity. Great for the investor to come right in and have instant rental income.

Tom Cato
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

Island Estates

3 Bedrooms 3 Baths

\$450,000

SOLD

310 Palm Island, Island Estates. Sold on 11/7/13.

Jeanne Horne O'Brien
Coastal Properties Group International

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www.tbweekly.com

Paw prints

SPCA to offer indoor dog park hours

LARGO - Indoor dog park hours will be offered Sundays through January 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 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 prepay, visit www.spcatampa.org.

SPCA to host feline workshop

LARGO - A feline delinquents workshop will be offered Sunday, Jan. 5, 2 to 3 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N.

This workshop is designed for owners of cats that have not outgrown their kitten behaviors. Topics covered will include litter box problems, darting out the door, inappropriate scratching and counter surfing. The instructor will address individual concerns and needs.

Cats are not allowed at the workshop. Preregistration and payment are required.

Cost is \$20 for SPCA Tampa Bay adopters and \$25 for the public. Call 388-0452 or visit www.spcatampabay.org.

Concert proceeds to benefit shelter

SEMINOLE - Devon Allman will perform Sunday, Jan. 5, 6 p.m., at Screwie Louie's Famous Porpoise Pub, 8701 Seminole Blvd.

Screwie Louie's Porpoise Pub has donated tickets to Pet Pal Animal Shelter. Proceeds from tickets purchased through the shelter go to the shelter. Tickets may be purchased at the door the day of the event or in person at Pet Pal Animal Shelter. Tickets are limited.

To purchase tickets and for information, visit www.petpalanimalshelter.com.

At the event, Pet Pal Animal Shelter will have adoptable dogs, 50/50 split and raffle basket items. To donate a raffle basket or item, email Gracie@petpalanimalshelter.com.

Pet Pal Animal Shelter is a nonprofit, no-kill 501(c)(3) organization that has operated in the Tampa Bay area for more than 15 years.

Agility workshop set

LARGO - Agility, a sporting dog workshop, will be presented Friday, Jan. 10, 6 to 7 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N.

Designed for those who have high-energy dogs, the workshop releases pent-up energy and stimulates learning.

Agility is the ultimate dog sport that combines speed, precision, teamwork and independence.

This sport works on a dog's obedience and an owner's skills as a handler. People decide to teach their dog agility for many different reasons from having fun to exercise and enrichment. In the sport of agility, the dog and owner have two different jobs: The owner's job is to tell the dog where to go and the dog's job is to perform the obstacles correctly.

Preregistration and payment are required to participate. Cost is \$25 per dog. Call 388-0452 or visit www.spcatampabay.org.

SPCA to host puppy socialization

LARGO - A puppy socialization workshop will be offered Thursday, Jan. 11, 1 to 1:30 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N.

This class provides a start to socializing puppies. Puppies from 3 months to 1 year can come and meet other puppies to play and socialize. The training instructor will go over proper introductions and body language. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Preregistration and payment preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

Cost is \$15 per puppy. Call 388-0452 or visit www.spcatampa.org.

SPCA to offer Flyball workshop

LARGO - Flyball, a sporting dog workshop, will be presented Friday, Jan. 17, 6 to 7 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N.

Designed for those who have high-energy dogs, the workshop releases pent-up energy and stimulates learning.

Flyball is a dog sport that is set up like a relay race. This sport started in the 1960s as an adaptation of the sport of scent hurdles. Two teams will race against each other to achieve the fastest time. The teams are made up of four dogs each and the dogs are expected to jump four hurdles, get a ball from the flyball box, and jump the same four hurdles back carrying the ball.

Preregistration and payment are required to participate.

Cost is \$25 per dog. Call 388-0452 or visit www.spcatampa.org.

SPCA workshop set

LARGO - A canine delinquents workshop will be offered Saturday, Jan. 18, 2 to 3 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N.

This workshop is designed for owners of dogs that have not grown out of their puppy behaviors. The workshop will cover behaviors such as inappropriate chewing, darting out the door, barking and elimination. The instructor will address individual concerns and needs.

Preregistration and payment are required to participate.

Cost is \$25 per dog. Call 388-0452 or visit www.spcatampa.org.

structor will address individual concerns and needs. Dogs are welcome to attend.

Cost is \$20 for SPCA Tampa Bay adopters and \$25 for the public. Call 388-0452 or visit www.spcatampabay.org.

SPCA to host Doga program

LARGO - A program on Doga - partner yoga with dogs - will be presented Sunday, Jan. 19, 2 to 3 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N.

Doga is an effective form of partner yoga that pairs people and their canine companions in a soothing practice to de-stress and calm while building connection. Dogs and humans benefit from the one-on-one attention, massage and stretching. The practice is taught by yoga instructor Lisa Recchione, MA, E-RYT, KRI certified.

Preregistration is required. Cost is \$15 per dog. Call 388-0452 or visit www.spcatampa.org.

Dog massage program set

LARGO - A two-part program on dog massage will be offered Sundays, Jan. 19 and 26, 4 to 5 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N.

This unique two-part communication experience for dogs and their owners will help stimulate intelligence, strengthen confidence and teach dogs to think rather than react.

The first class is for owners only. Attendees will learn the ins and outs of soothing massage, including musculoskeletal structure and pressure points. The instructor also will share aromatherapy tips and discuss what oils are good for dogs.

Canines may attend the second class as participants learn hands-on massage techniques.

Preregistration and payment are required to participate. Cost is \$35 per dog. Call 388-0452 or visit www.spcatampabay.org.

SPCA to present Scentwork workshop

LARGO - Scentwork, a sporting dog workshop, will be presented Friday, Jan. 31, 7 to 8 p.m., at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N.

This workshop is for those with high-energy dogs. The workshop helps dogs release pent-up energy and stimulates learning. Scent work is a wonderful way to tap into a dog's natural instincts and stimulate their mind at the same time. Scent work is used in many job fields such as the military for scenting out explosives, the police for scenting out drugs, and for search and rescue.

Cost is \$25 per dog. Call 388-0452.

Looking for a home



Tina

If you're looking for a sweet, calm, adult kitty to share your life with, Tina is the girl for you. This tortoiseshell girl has the most beautiful, round, saucer-like eyes that draw you in immediately. Tina is quite petite and dainty and acts younger than her years. She enjoys human attention and will gently head butt your hand for some bonding time. Tina would make a perfect companion pet for someone looking to spend time with a soft, unassuming but attentive cat. Tina is spayed and current on her vaccinations. She has been waiting for a long time to find her forever home. Visit her at the Suncoast Animal League in Palm Harbor. Call 786-1330.



Comet

Meet Comet, a 1-year 7-month-old beagle/basset hound mix. Comet would make a great companion for any active family that enjoys outdoor activities. Comet is a nervous boy and would do best in a home with children over age 8. Other canines in the house would be fine with him. Adopt him today for \$75, which includes his neuters surgery, microchip, vaccinations and 30 days of pet insurance. Meet him and the other adoptable pets at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N., Largo. Visit www.spcatampa.org.

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Marianne Fisher, CEO

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Expect great trout fishing with the start of the winter season

Winter time is definitely upon us and with that said for inshore anglers we set our sights on some of the great trout fishing that this area is known for.

In the northern part of the region, Dunedin/St. Joseph's Sound is prime trout habitat. The many spoil islands that line the main channel are full of trout this time of year. The water is clean and the bottom is diverse, laden with grass, hard-bottom and rocks. Drift fishing around these islands is an effective way to cover water and find the schools of fish. Soft-plastic jigs are easy to fish and work as good as live bait for the trout. Using a quarter ounce jig-head will help you get your jig down quick, color is up to you.

In the southern part of the region spoil islands give way to lush grass, peppered with potholes that make great ambush stations for trout. Fort De Soto Park is a great place for boaters and non-boaters alike to enjoy the expansive grass flats. Cast live or



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

artificial shrimp in any of the sand holes and you're likely to get bit.

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 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.

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

Get outdoors

Largo to host nature hike

LARGO - A free guided walk will be offered Saturday, Jan. 18, 5:30 p.m., at McGough Nature Park, 11901 146th St. N.

Participants will seek out animals such as raccoons, birds, alligators and more. Flashlights are optional. Donations are accepted. All ages are welcome. Monthly nature hikes are presented third Saturdays at various Largo parks.

Reservations are required. Call 518-3047.

Brooker to present Book Time

TARPON SPRINGS - Book Time at Brooker will be offered Thursday, Jan. 2, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

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

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

Brooker to host guided hike

TARPON SPRINGS - A free, guided hike will explore the preserve's ecosystems Saturday, Jan. 4, 9 to 10:30 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

Certified guides will lead participants on a 0.75-mile walk along the education center trail. Attendees will have an opportunity to observe the forested wetland, oak hammock and pine flatwood ecosystems. Closed-toe shoes, water and hat are recommended. An adult must accompany children under the age of 16. Those younger than 6 may find the hike challenging.

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

Fort De Soto to offer guided walk

TIERRA VERDE - A free, guided nature walk will be offered Saturday, Jan. 4, 10 to 11 a.m., at Fort De Soto Park, 3500 Pinellas Bayway S.

Guests will enjoy the beauty of Fort De Soto Park with a one-hour nature walk great for the entire family. A guided walk on the mangrove trail is planned.

To register and for tour information and meeting

locations, call 552-1862. Visit www.pinellascounty.org/park.

Weedon to host guided hike

ST. PETERSBURG - A guided hike will be offered Saturday, Jan. 4, 9 to 11 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

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

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

Weedon to host Wee-Time

ST. PETERSBURG - Wee-Time at Weedon will be presented Thursday, Jan. 9, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

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

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

Botany hike set

TARPON SPRINGS - A botany hike will be offered Friday, Jan. 10, 9 to 11 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

Attendees will join a Brooker Creek naturalist to explore the fascinating plants found on the preserve while identifying wildflowers, ferns, epiphytes, trees and more. The ecology of various plant communities also will be examined.

The free hike is best suited for adult participants. Advance registration is required. Call 453-6800 or visit www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

Great Weedon Bird Quest set

ST. PETERSBURG - The Great Weedon Bird Quest will be Friday, Jan. 10, 8 to 10 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

Guests will learn to identify marks and behaviors of the island birds while taking advantage of this free guided hike. Binoculars will be available.

A trio of birds



Photo by JIM LAYFIELD

On a dreary morning Dec. 28, a belted kingfisher, top left, red-bellied woodpecker, bottom center, and a downy woodpecker, top right, use a dead tree along the edge of the pond in Largo Nature Preserve to find insects buried in the nooks and crannies of the dead wood.

Safe boating seminar set

ST. PETERSBURG - The St. Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron will present its safe boating program, Emergencies on Board, to the public on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 7 to 9 p.m., at the St. Petersburg Sailing Center, 250 Second Ave. SE, Demens Landing.

Boating is intended to be challenging, but fun. Inevitably, no matter how careful the skipper and crew, emergencies will happen. Each boater must be prepared to protect the people and equipment involved should an emergency arise. The St. Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron's two-hour seminar will help acquaint boaters with the actions necessary to cope with the most common difficulties. Available to anyone 12 or older, it deals with both preparing for and managing emergencies such as accident prevention, emergency calls and signals, running aground, man overboard, fire, loss of power, medical conditions, steering failure and getting lost.

Instruction is free. Materials cost \$30 per family. The seminar is open to a maximum of 20 students. Preregistration is required. Visit www.boating-stpete.org.

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

Brooker to host bird hike

TARPON SPRINGS - The Birds of Brooker hike will be offered Saturday, Jan. 11, 8 to 10:30 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

Birds seen and heard will be identified while attendees meander along a 1-mile trail gathering information. Closed-toe shoes, water and a hat are recommended. Attendees also may bring binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras. The free hike is best suited for adults.

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

Weedon to host photography hike

ST. PETERSBURG - A wildflower photography hike will be offered Saturday, Jan. 18, 8 to 10 a.m., at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE.

The free event will offer participants the perfect opportunity to hone their skills. After a brief classroom session, highlighting specific wildlife behaviors, guides will assist participants in capturing the natural beauty in photos. Registration is required.

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

Philippe to host nature walk

SAFETY HARBOR - A guided nature walk will be offered Saturday, Jan. 18, 9 to 10:30 a.m., at Philippe Park, 2525 Philippe Parkway.

The hike is limited to 12 participants. Attendees will learn park history while exploring nature. Participants should meet at the Philippe gravesite at 9 a.m. Closed-toe shoes, water, sunscreen a hat and insect repellent are recommended.

Reservations will be accepted through the Friday prior to the hike. An adult must accompany children.

To register, call 669-1947 or email dickestes76@yahoo.com.

Brooker to present Book Time

TARPON SPRINGS - Book Time at Brooker will be offered Thursday, Jan. 23, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., at Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road.

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

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

Kohl's Cooks for Kids!

FREE Family Cooking Classes

The tastiest place to learn about healthy foods!



We'll be measuring spices, grating cheese, washing lettuce, drizzling olive oil and much more!

This is a special 5-week series designed for children ages 8 and up that focuses on good nutrition, making healthy choices and gaining valuable culinary skills.

Kids are more likely to try new foods if they play an active role in choosing and preparing them.

Together, parents and children can help each other form lifelong healthy eating habits.

Children gain confidence in the kitchen and parents get an opportunity to make mealtime family time.

Classes start January 22nd! To enroll, families

must call 727-767-2014 or email

Fit4Allkids@allkids.org.

Space is limited so please call to RSVP!

Classes are offered from 6:30pm to 8pm at
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Comfort Keepers

The Gift of Time

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.

Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas. ~Peg Bracken



Diane Genovese - Owner

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Diversions

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Top five diversions

• **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.



Photo courtesy of SGENT NATION
Victor Wooten plays Largo Cultural Center Jan. 3.

• **The Four Freshmen**, Saturday, Jan. 4, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at \$34.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Back by popular demand, this group continues to sell out every time they visit Largo. The Four Freshmen's unique sound is based on open-harmony vocals, which builds on the barbershop tradition. The quartet accompanies itself on guitar, trumpet, bass and drums. Hits include "It's a Blue World," "Mood Indigo," "Day by Day" and many more.

• **Cristina and Quinn Bachand**, Saturday, Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the show. Call 822-3590 or visit www.mypalladium.org. With deep Asturian and Breton roots, Canadian born siblings Cristina and Quinn Bachand have quickly emerged at the top of the international Celtic music world. Cristina's spirited performance showcases fiddling and vocal talents. Quinn, a gifted and creative guitar player, adds a contemporary edge to traditional Celtic music. His unique harmonies, hard-driving strumming, inventive chord voicing and powerful rhythmic effects make even the most well-worn tunes seem new and exciting. Quinn has toured nationally and internationally with Ashley MacIsaac and Natalie MacMaster. Blending sizzling hot instrumentals and captivating vocals, Cristina and Quinn have moved far past their niche as Celtic artists with their wide-ranging musical folk, roots and jazz music.

• **Neil Sedaka**, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$39.

See TOP FIVE, page 2B

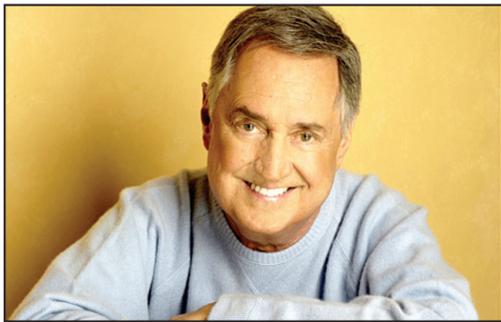


Photo by FADIL BERISHA/RAZOR & TIE PUBLICITY
Neil Sedaka plays Ruth Eckerd Hall Jan. 5.

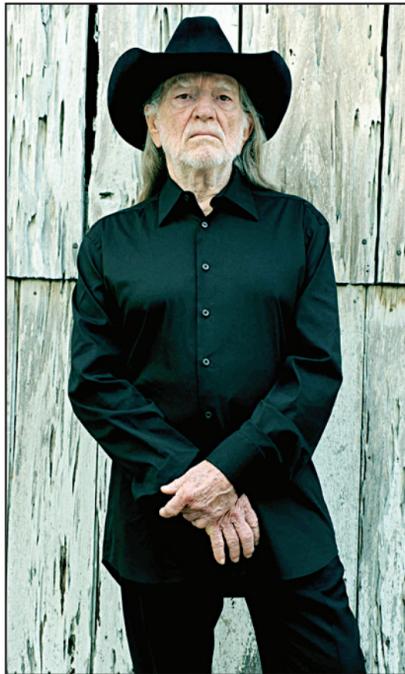


Photo by DAVID McCLISTER/SHOCK INK
Above, Ruth Eckerd Hall welcomes Willie Nelson Jan. 29. Top right, Cherish the Ladies plays Jan. 31 at Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center. Middle right, MarchFourth Marching Band comes to Skipper's Smokehouse Jan. 10. At right, Tampa's The Ritz welcomes Blackberry Smoke Jan. 9.



Photo courtesy of INTERNATIONAL MUSIC NETWORK



Photo courtesy of SKYLINE MUSIC



Photo courtesy of BIG HASSLE

Music scene

January concert lineup includes Eddie Money, Tony Orlando, Willie Nelson

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

Tampa Bay area venues, both large and small, will welcome a diverse selection of musical artists in the coming weeks.

The second annual Sunshine Music and Blues Festival will take place Sunday, Jan. 19, 11:30 a.m., at Vinoy Park, 701 Bayshore Drive, St. Petersburg.

Tickets start at \$49.50. For tickets, call 800-745-3000 or visit www.livenation.com. For information, visit www.sunshinemusicandblues.com.

This year the festival headliner will be the Tedeschi Trucks Band. The stellar lineup also will feature performances by JJ Grey, Galactic, Leon Russell, Acoustic Hot Tuna, Stanley Clarke, The Ringers featuring Jimmy Herring, Wayne Krantz, Michael Landau, Keith Carlock and Etienne Mbappe, Bobby Lee Rogers and Oli Brown.

The festival also will include craft beers and food.

Blast Friday, Clearwater's free, family-friendly street festival, will feature a performance by Pure Prairie League on Friday, Jan. 31, in the Cleveland Street District. The street festival kicks off at 5:30 p.m.

Supported by the city of Clearwater, the Cleveland Street District and the Downtown Development Board and produced by Ruth Eckerd Hall On The Road, Blast Friday hosts 10 events per year bringing more than 40,000

people to downtown Clearwater.

A limited number of VIP tickets are available priced at \$25. The VIP package includes a general admission ticket in the reserved seating section directly in front of the stage, one free beer and a free slice of pepperoni or cheese pizza from Tony's Pizzeria. VIP tickets are available at the Ruth Eckerd Hall ticket office, 1111 McMullen Booth Road. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com.

When Pure Prairie League formed in the late 1960s, no one had put a label on the music they played. Although the band drew heavily from 1960s rock, the group added a heavy dose of country and high-flying harmony that gave it a unique sound soon to be known as country-rock. Pure Prairie League, along with groups like the Eagles, reached mainstream radio listeners by the mid-1970s, as singles like "Amie" climbed the Billboard charts. Pure Prairie League continued to record, tour, and place singles on the charts.

Following is a list of other music scene events in the coming weeks:

- Capitol Theatre**
- B.B. King, Thursday, Jan. 2, 8 p.m.
 - Katharine McPhee, Saturday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.
 - Leo Kottke, Sunday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.
 - Queensryche, Thursday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.

- Chris Botti, Saturday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m.
 - Eddie Money, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.
 - Manhattan Transfer, Thursday, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.
 - Don Williams, Friday, Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.
 - Shawn Colvin, Saturday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.
 - Richard Thompson Electric Trio, Monday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.
 - Keb Mo, Thursday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m.
 - Jake Shimabukuro, Friday, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m.
- Capitol Theatre is at 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com.

Jannus Live

- Falling in Reverse, Friday, Jan. 24, 6 p.m.
 - Yonder Mountain String Band, Friday, Jan. 31, 8 p.m.
- Jannus Live is at 16 Second St. N., St. Petersburg. Call 565-0550 or visit www.jannuslive.com.

Largo Cultural Center

- Victor Wooten, Friday, Jan. 3, 8 p.m.
- The Four Freshmen, Saturday, Jan. 4, 8 p.m.

See MUSIC, page 4B

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"(Sandy Hartmann & Associates) is an outstanding team of professionals. (They) are honest in their evaluations and utilized their expertise in marketing our home."
- Dennis & Jean Doughman

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On the stage in Largo

• **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, 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.

• **"The Rainmaker,"** by N. Richard Nash; April 3-27, 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. Belief, hopes, and dreams are never as far away as we may sometimes think. Taking place during a great drought, we discover a girl whose father and two brothers are worried as much about her potential future as an old maid as they are about their dying cattle. When a man comes to town promising rain for a \$100 fee, he unintentionally changes more than just the weather. "The Rainmaker" is a feel good play for all ages.

• **"Grease,"** with book, music and lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey; presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, May 2-11, 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. Here is Rydell High's senior class of 1959: duck-tailed, hot-rod-ding "Burger Palace Boys" and their gum-snapping, hip-shaking "Pink Ladies" in bobby socks and pedal pushers, evoking the look and sound of the 1950s in this rollicking musical. Head "greaser" Danny Zuko and new (good) girl Sandy Dumbrowski try to relive the high romance of their "Summer Nights" as the rest of the gang sings and dances its way through such songs as "Greased Lightnin'," "We Go Together," "There Are Worse Things I Could Do" and "You're the One That I Want" recalling the music of Buddy Holly, Little Richard and Elvis Presley that became the soundtrack of a generation. An eight-year run on Broadway and two subsequent revivals place "Grease" among the world's most popular musicals. This production will feature James Grenelle as director and choreographer.

• **"Hair,"** with book and lyrics by James Rado and Jerome Ragni, and music by Galt MacDermot; presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, July 11-20, 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. "Hair" – the Broadway musical live on stage – is at once both a joyous celebration of youth and a poignant journey through a tumultuous 1960s America. This exuberant musical about a group of teenagers searching for truth, peace and love in a Vietnam War era America has struck a resonant chord with audiences of all ages. "Hair" features a long list of chart-topping hit songs such as "Aquarius," "Let the Sun Shine In," "Good Morning," "Starshine" and "Easy To Be Hard." The themes and struggles in "Hair," although from another era, seem vital and relevant to modern times. This performance contains strong language, adult content and nudity and is recommended for mature audiences. This production will feature Michael Newton-Brown as director and James Grenelle as choreographer.

Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15								16						
17								18						
19						20	21			22				
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44				45		46						47		
48			49		50						51			
52				53		54					55			
56					57				58	59				
60									61					
62									63					

Across

1. Read the riot act to
8. Sluggish inactivity (pl.)
15. Treeless, grassy plain
16. Extraordinary
17. Sandwich meats
18. Circular cluster of leaves
19. ___ Fargo, 4th largest U.S. bank
20. "Chicago" lyricist
22. Gown fabric
23. Flight data, briefly
24. Bailiwicks
26. "Go ahead!" (2 wds)
27. Detachable container
28. Eighths of a circle
30. "___ moment"
31. Wooden carving board
33. Grunted, as a pig would
35. Forever
37. Wicker material
40. Set apart for a special purpose
44. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
45. Leo ___, French composer
47. Courteney ___ of "Friends"
48. It holds a yard
50. Early iconic role for Madonna
51. Egyptian Christian
52. Kind of nerve
54. "Hold on a ___!"
55. Pop
56. Conform to different conditions
58. View
60. Ancient fertility goddess
61. Knock (hyphenated)
62. First-rate
63. Small holes with finely stitched edges

2. Annually elected magistrate of the ancient Roman Republic
3. Poem with three stanzas and an envoy
4. Iranian money
5. Kind of dealer
6. "Rocky ___"
7. No-show
8. Muslim headdress
9. "Walking on Thin Ice" singer
10. Deteriorate
11. Pretentious sort
12. Point of view
13. Small horizontal rope between the shrouds of a sailing ship
14. Rained hard?
21. ___ sauce on steak
24. Strawberry "seeds"
25. Bread-like fruitcake
28. Group of eight
29. Cylindrical farm structures
32. After expenses
34. Big Apple inits.
36. Long-finned tuna
37. Suckerfish
38. Metrical foot with two short syllables and one long
39. Having a will
41. Wolfsbane, for one
42. Last layer of paint
43. Ranges
46. Sheen
49. Kind of wave
51. Ear part
53. Sagan of "Cosmos"
55. Dietary, in ads
57. "Harper Valley ___"
59. Be worthwhile

Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers

from last week

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

Crossword answers

from last week

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15								16						
17								18						
19						20	21			22				
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52				53		54					55			
56					57				58	59				
60									61					
62									63					

Horoscopes

January 2, 2014

Capricorn

December 22 – January 19

The debate continues. Don't take part unless you have something legitimate to contribute, Capricorn. You might glean more from listening. Hopes rise at home.

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18

Sink or swim, Aquarius. Helping hands are all around. Don't say no. The web of deceit builds at work. Be careful you don't get caught in it.

Pisces

February 19 – March 20

Health woes ease for a friend. Invite them out to celebrate. Pisces. The mad dash to meet a deadline begins. Pick up the pace! A phone call settles a matter.

Aries

March 21 – April 19

Horse feathers. Aries. There are two sides to everything. Listen to both before you make a decision. A coworker pushes the envelope one too many times.

Taurus

April 20 – May 20

An old chum is at a crossroads. Be there for them, Taurus, but watch your step. It is their life, not yours. Motivation at work comes from an unlikely source.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21

Some goals take longer to reach than others. Be patient, Gemini, and that which you seek will come. A convoluted message misses the mark.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22

An article inspires you to do more with less. Mother Nature approves! Spread the word, Cancer. A casual conversation at home proves insightful.

Leo

July 23 – August 22

Victory will be yours, if you let it, Leo. A chance meeting with an acquaintance provides the impetus you need to complete a project.

Virgo

August 23 – September 22

Painstaking efforts to enhance the quality of a piece and still meet the deadline reap many rewards. A senior offers sage advice. Listen closely, Virgo.

Libra

September 23 – October 22

Give of yourself freely, Libra, and others will be inspired. A fashion trend begs to be followed. Personal troubles ease with the insight of a youngster.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 21

Face it, Scorpio. You're not one for criticism. That all changes this week when you are forced to speak up and let others know what you really think.

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21

Drat, Sagittarius. Just when you thought you had cleared your desk, something else pops up. Get a move on and don't be afraid to ask for help.

Conny Center presents ABBA tribute band

DUNEDIN – The Conny Center will present ABBA GIRLZ for the very first time on Saturday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m. The Conny Center is located at 750 San Salvador Drive, on the campus of Our Lady Of Lourdes Church.

"The Conny Center is proud to bring ABBA GIRLZ tribute band, one of the best ABBA Tributes since ABBA itself. This New York City based ABBA Tribute Band features beautiful harmonies, elaborate costumes and exciting choreography guaranteed to captivate all audiences making every show a night to remember. Their charisma electrifies audiences of all ages," a Conny Center press release said.

Tickets are \$15 and are available online at www.connycenter.com or call 738-6159. A pre-show dinner buffet is available for \$10. Reservations before Jan. 9 are required.

The Conny Center is a nonprofit, multi-functional facility offering rental space for private or corporate events.

TOP FIVE, from page 1B

Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Sedaka's impressive 50-year career ranges from being one of the first teen pop sensations of the '50s, a relevant songwriter for himself and other artists in the '60s, a superstar in the '70s and remaining a constant force in writing and performing presently. Thanks to all the countless songs he has written, performed and produced, he continues to inspire artists and audiences around the world. The accolades showered on Sedaka have been numerous: He was inducted into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame, a street was named after him in his hometown of Brooklyn and he earned a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In 2004, he received the Sammy Cahn Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Popular Music/Songwriters Hall of Fame at the organization's 35th annual induction and awards ceremony in New York. Named for the former president of the Songwriters Hall of Fame, this award is given to individuals in recognition of their outstanding achievements in furthering the successes of songwriters. With a career spanning six decades, a rare feat in the entertainment world, Neil never ceases to amaze. He shows no signs of slowing down. He's appeared on FOX's hit television show "American Idol" as a guest judge. In 2006, Sedaka concluded a 10-city tour of the United Kingdom, where he filmed a live concert at London's Royal Albert Hall for PBS. During this historical evening, he was presented with The Guinness Award for his song "Is This The Way to Amarillo," as the best-selling single of the 21st century in the UK, a song that was originally performed by Tony Christie more than 40 years ago.

• **"The Sleeping Beauty,"** performed by the Rudolf Nureyev State Ballet Theatre; Sunday, Jan. 5, 3 p.m., at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$27.50. Call 893-7832 or visit TheMahaffey.com. Marius Petipa choreographs the fairy tale ballet of "The Sleeping Beauty," set to the music of Tchaikovsky. The Rudolf Nureyev State Ballet Theatre is the youngest among the Russian theater companies and from Nureyev's childhood home of Ufa.

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Opening this weekend

New year kicks off with horror film 'Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones'

Genre: Horror
 Cast: Richard Cabral, Carlos Pratts, Eddie J. Fernandez, Jorge Diaz, David Fernandez Jr., Kimberly Ables Jindra, Tonja Kahlen and Frank Salinas
 Director: Christopher Landon
 Not yet rated

"Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones" is the first spin-off film spawned by the Paranormal Activity franchise.

The story begins at a party in Oxnard, Calif., in 2012. When a woman dies in a nearby apartment, a group of young adults decide to investigate the crime scene, recording what they discover. Amidst items that suggest some sort of black magic ritual, they find a photograph of one of the partygoers.

Soon, strange things begin happening to that individual – and the horror begins.

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

'The Best Offer'

Genre: Drama
 Cast: Geoffrey Rush, Jim Sturgess, Donald Sutherland and Sylvia Hoeks
 Director: Giuseppe Tornatore
 Not yet rated

Virgil Oldman is a solitary, cultured man whose reluctance to engage with others, especially women, is matched only by the dogged obsessiveness with which he practices his profession of antiques dealer.

He's never been close to another human being, not even Robert, his only friend – a young, skillful restorer of mechanical devices from every era.

The day he turns 63, Virgil receives a phone call from a young woman who asks him to handle the disposal of some family works of art. But when the time comes for his first site visit, the girl fails to ap-

pear, nor, for various reasons, is she present for the taking of the inventory or for the transportation and restoration of the pieces.

More than once Virgil is tempted to bow out of what appears to be nothing but a bothersome mess, but on each occasion, the mysterious young woman, locked in her own obsessional world, convinces him to continue. And with this, the old antique dealer's life begins to take an unexpected turn. It is Robert who shows him, step-by-step, how to win the heart of a young woman who is afraid of the world and, caught in the middle of this puzzling game of chess, Virgil soon finds himself enveloped by a passion that will transform his grey existence forever.

'Open Grave'

Genre: Thriller
 Cast: Sharlto Copley, Joseph Morgan, Thomas Kretschmann, Josie Ho, Erin Richards and Maxim Wrottesley
 Director: Gonzalo Lopez-Gallego
 Unrated

A man (Sharlto Copley) wakes up in a pit of dead bodies with no memory of who he is or how he got there.

Fleeing the scene, he breaks into a nearby house and is met at gunpoint by a group of terrified strangers, all suffering from memory loss. Suspicion gives way to violence as the group starts to piece together clues about their identities, but when they uncover a threat that's more vicious – and hungry – than each other, they are forced to figure out what brought them all together – before it's too late.

'Beyond Outrage'

Genre: Action, drama and thriller
 Cast: Beat Takeshi, Ryo Kase, Toshiyuki Nishida, Shun Sugata, Machiko Ono and Ken Mitsushi
 Director: Takeshi Kitano
 Rated: R

With "Beyond Outrage," action cinema master Takeshi Kitano returns to the hard-boiled characters, black comedy and unflinching violence of his yakuza saga, "Outrage."

This time, a manipulative police crackdown on organized crime has ignited a tricky power struggle in the yakuza underworld. The Sanno crime family has grown into a massive organization dominated by



Above, Geoffrey Rush, seated, stars in "Best Offer," from IFC Films. Below, "Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones" is the first spin off from the popular Paranormal Activity franchise.



Photo courtesy of PARAMOUNT PICTURES

young executives whose new approach to running the family is causing frustration and pent-up resentment with the old-guard members. This vulnerability in the Sanno hierarchy is exactly what anti-gang detective Kataoka has been looking for, as the police force prepares a full-scale crackdown.

Kataoka wants start a war between Sanno and the neighboring Hanabishi crime family in the hopes that they destroy each other. His trump card is Otomo (Takeshi) – the rumored-dead boss of a defunct family that was destroyed by the Sanno, who has just been released from prison. Otomo wants to retire from a life of crime, but finds himself drawn back in through Kataoka's manipulations as the Sanno and Hanabishi clans teeter on the brink of an all-out war.

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

Around town

Venue announces class schedule

PINELLAS PARK – Venue Theatre and Actors Studio recently announced the schedule for upcoming acting classes.

Saturday classes for the Future Stars Program will begin Jan. 11, 10 a.m., for ages 4 to 7; and at 11 a.m., for ages 8 to 12. Musical Stars, ages 10 to 17, will meet Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m., for training and rehearsals for the show "Grease!" Teen Stars will meet Thursdays, 5 to 7 p.m., beginning Jan. 9. Adult workshops will meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 7 to 10 p.m., beginning Jan. 13.

Monthly fees vary. An 18-week commitment is required.

There will be an open house and registration event Saturday, Jan. 4, 1 to 4 p.m. Interested students should plan to come to that open house to register and for class placement. Musical students are requested to sing any song of their choice – not from the show – on key.

Venue Theatre is at 9125 U.S. 19 N. Call 822-6194 or email VenueActorStudio@gmail.com.

2nd Friday Dunedin Wine/Art Walk Jan. 10

DUNEDIN – The Second Friday Dunedin Wine/Art Walk will be held Jan. 10, with more than 40 merchants offering specials, discounts and more.

People who buy a \$10 wristband will receive merchants' promotions and be eligible for a drawing that will now be held at different locations each month.

Some of the participating merchants that have wine tastings begin at 5:30 p.m.

The Second Friday information and wristband booth will be located in front of the Dunedin Historical Museum on Main Street and the Pinellas Trail at 5:30 p.m. The drawing location will be on Main Street between #4 and #43 on the 2nd Friday map at 8:30 p.m.

More map and information is at www.2ndFridayDunedin.com

The event is presented by the Downtown Dunedin Merchants Association and promoted by Orange Blossom Creative Group.

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Calidore String Quartet to perform

ST. PETERSBURG – The Calidore String Quartet will perform Tuesday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$28 the day of the show. Call 822-3590 or visit www.mypalladium.org.

After last year's triumphant performance, the Calidore String Quartet returns to the Palladium for their only Tampa Bay performance.

The Calidore String Quartet has established itself an international reputation for its informed, polished and captivating performances. The Calidore has already made debuts in such prestigious festivals as Verbier and Ravinia and the Schneider Concert Series in New York City and is a featured Young Artist-in-Residence on American Public Media's "Performance Today."

Formed at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles in 2010, the Calidore String Quartet quickly won grand prize in virtually all American chamber music competitions including the Fischhoff, Coleman, Chesapeake and Yellow Springs competitions. Internationally, the quartet captured top prizes at the 2012 ARD Munich International String Quartet Competition and the 2012 Hamburg International Chamber Music Competition. Their performances and interviews were broadcast on Bayerischer Rundfunk in Munich and Norddeutscher Rundfunk in Hamburg as well as being featured on German national television as part of a documentary produced by ARD public broadcasting.

Highlights of the 2013-14 season include a collaboration with Jean-Yves Thibaudet, a return to the renowned Schneider Concert Series at the New School and their Asian debut at the Kumho Arts Center in Seoul, Korea. Other engagements include a



Photo courtesy of CALIDORE STRING QUARTET
The Palladium welcomes the Calidore String Quartet Jan. 7.

tour of Florida and Maine, a collaboration with Rob Kapilow on his series "What Makes it Great?" and numerous performances throughout Southern California. Summer 2014 will mark the Calidore String Quartet's inaugural season as the quartet-in-residence at the Bellingham Festival of Music.

Past summers included residencies and fellowships at the Banff Centre, Verbier Festival Academy, Aspen Music Festival and McGill International String Quartet Academy. In summer 2013, the Calidore worked closely with Edward Nesbit and premiered his "Night Dances" at the Verbier Festival which was broadcast on Medici.tv. In 2012, the Calidore made its European debut at the esteemed Emilia Romagna Festival in Italy.

The Calidore has collaborated with many esteemed artists and ensembles including Joshua Bell, Menahem Pressler, Quatuor Ebene, Angel Romero and the Calder String Quartet, among others. Currently the graduate string quartet in residence at the Colburn School, the Calidore has studied closely with such luminaries as Andre Roy, Arnold Steinhardt, Guillaume Sutre, Gunter Pichler, Gerhard Schulz, Gabor Takacs Nagy, Paul Coletti, Ronald Leonard, and the

Quatuor Ebene.

Ardent supporters of music education, the Calidore String Quartet is deeply committed to sharing their passion for chamber music with students and audiences. This has taken the form of pre-concert talks, post-concert question-and-answer sessions, classroom visits, public school assemblies, traditional master classes and multi-day community residencies. The quartet has held residencies in conjunction with their performances in Arlington, Va.; Chicago, Ill.; Riverside, Calif.; South Bend, Ind.; St. Petersburg, and at the 2011 and 2012 Laguna Beach Chamber Music Festival.

In May 2012, the quartet partnered with the Bellingham Music Festival and the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra in Bellingham, Wash., for a two-week residency of more than 20 concerts in public schools of Northwest Washington.

Using an amalgamation of "California" and "doré" (French for "golden"), the ensemble's name represents a reverence for the diversity of culture and the strong support it has received from its home base in Los Angeles, Calif., the "golden state." The Calidore String Quartet aims to present performances that share the passion and joy of the string quartet chamber music repertoire.

Duo De Twang to play State Theatre

ST. PETERSBURG – Primus frontman Les Claypool will bring his acoustic project Duo De Twang to the Tampa Bay area Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m., at State Theatre, 687 Central Ave., St. Petersburg.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$27 at the door. Call 895-3045 or visit www.statetheatreconcerts.com.

One of the busiest men in the industry, Claypool is pulling double duty this winter, playing dates with his primary band Primus even as he heads out on the road with one of his many side projects – an acoustic ensemble known as Les Claypool's Duo De Twang. Duo De Twang is all about musical deconstruction. According to ATO Records, the group's upcoming album is "just one vocal, one bass, one guitar and a basic beat supplied by stomping on a mini-tambourine-doo-hickey." Unlike Primus, DDT focuses more on the Americana/rooty side of things – as heard throughout the band's debut recording, "Four Foot Shack."



Photo courtesy of THE WINDISH AGENCY
Les Claypool's Duo De Twang plays State Theatre Jan. 8.

'Four Foot Shack'

Les Claypool's Duo De Twang will release "Four Foot Shack" on Feb. 4.

According to a press release from ATO Records, Claypool somehow managed to find time to partner with his old buddy, Bryan Kehoe, to found DDT. Kehoe has been involved in several past Claypool projects. He also was one of the main actors from Claypool's hilarious jam band mockumentary, "Electric Apricot: Quest for Festeroo."

Claypool explains the formation of DDT in the press release.

"I was asked a year before last to put together a project for the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival in San Francisco," he says. "So I thought, 'I'll do a little duo thing,' and I originally thought, 'Well, Mike Dillon, he can bang on some stuff, and I can twang away on my dobro bass.' Then I got to talking to Mirv, and he ended up doing it. But then he couldn't continue on, and I still really enjoyed it – it was a great thing. We did a couple of shows, so I got a hold of my old buddy, Kehoe, who I've known since high school, and it kind of just turned into he and I sitting there in front of the campfire, playing hillbilly versions of my songs and some other people's songs. And drinking. It's an intimate thing – you sit there and hobnob with the crowd, and play a couple of tunes ... and do some more hobnobbing."

Audiences can expect the State Theatre performance to be one the most laid back, charming, and

fun performances they'll ever witness.

"My son and I went on a camping trip up to Kernville this last year and we brought my twang bass and his banjo and at night we'd sit around the campfire with the dog and twang away," Claypool explains. "It was one of the greatest times of my life and I thought, hell, I need to do this on stage."

Claypool summoned up a little Hollywood magic and some backwoods ingenuity to set the scene for the tour.

"We now have two guys sitting around the campfire, having a couple of beers, playing tunes," he says. "We are literally sitting around the campfire – it's more of a hang than a show. So, bring your s'mores and wieners."

Claypool and Kehoe mix traditional tunes and popular covers as well as adaptations of Primus classics – all of which are usually barely recognizable when compared to the original versions. The album track list includes everything from "Battle of New Orleans" and "Stayin' Alive" to "Man in the Box," "Wynona's Big Brown Beaver" and "Jerry Was A Race Car Driver."

"A lot of it is just stumbling across it," explains Claypool about the songs that were chosen to be "twang-ified." "You're twanging away, and then all of a sudden, something just comes out. And then you laugh about it ... or you don't. And then you move on. There are tons of songs that we've stumbled across, and these ones just happened to be the ones that stuck."

Leslie Edward "Les" Claypool was born in 1963 in Richmond, Calif.

Claypool – singer, lyricist, bassist, multi-instrumentalist and composer – is best known for his work with the alternative rock band Primus. His mastery of the electric bass has brought him into the spotlight with his funky, creative playing style. According to a biography provided by the Windish Agency, Claypool mixes finger-tapping, flamenco-like strumming, and a Larry Graham-like slap technique to develop his own unique style. He has earned respect as one of rock's premier bass talents, becoming an influence for younger bassists in recent years.

Claypool has also self produced and engineered his solo releases from his own studio "Rancho Relaxo." In 2006, he released the full-length feature film "Electric Apricot," which he both wrote and directed. The same year, Claypool also published his debut novella, "South of the Pumphouse," through Akashic Books.

MUSIC, from page 1B

Monday Monday, a tribute to the Mamas & the Papas; Monday, Jan. 13, 2 and 7 p.m.
Largo Cultural Center is at 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com.

The Mahaffey

- The Florida Orchestra: Bravo Beethoven; Saturday, Jan. 11, 8 p.m.
- The Florida Orchestra: Musicians in the Spotlight; Thursday, Jan. 16, 11 a.m.
- The Florida Orchestra: Bond & Beyond; Saturday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m.
- The Florida Orchestra: Bartok & Brahms; Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m.

The Mahaffey is at 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Call 892-5767 or visit www.themahaffey.com.

The Palladium at St. Petersburg College

- Christina & Quinn Bachand, Saturday, Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m.
- The Calidore String Quartet, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.
- Kenny Vance and the Planotones: Doo Wop Downtown, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.
- Nicki Parrott and Rossano Sportiello, Thursday, Jan. 9 7:30 p.m.
- Selwyn Birchwood Band, Friday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m.
- The Wailers, Saturday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.

- Southern Hospitality, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 17-18, 8 p.m.
- Roy Book Binder Trio, Friday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m.

The Palladium at St. Petersburg College is at 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Call 822-3590 or visit www.mypalladium.org.

The Ritz Ybor

- Blackberry Smoke, Thursday, Jan. 9, 8 p.m.
- AFI, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.
- Amon Amarth, Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m.
- Disclosure, Sunday, Jan. 26, 8 p.m.

The Ritz Ybor is at 1503 E. Seventh Ave., Tampa. Call 813-247-2518.

Ruth Eckerd Hall

- Neil Sedaka, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2 p.m.
- Steve Lippia, Thursday, Jan. 9, 1 p.m.
- The Florida Orchestra: Bravo Beethoven; Sunday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.
- Moscow City Symphony, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 8 p.m.
- ABBA the Concert, Saturday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m.
- Tony Orlando, Sunday, Jan. 19, 1 p.m.
- The Florida Orchestra: Bond & Beyond; Sunday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m.
- Tribute to Pavarotti, Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m.
- The Florida Orchestra: Bartok & Brahms; Sunday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m.
- Glenn Miller Orchestra, Monday, Jan. 27, 1 p.m.

- Willie Nelson and Family, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 8 p.m.
- The Orchestra starring Electric Light Orchestra former members, Friday, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m.

Ruth Eckerd Hall is at 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com.

Skipper's Smokehouse

- Kettle of Fish, Saturday, Jan. 4, 8 p.m.
- MarchFourth Marching Band, Friday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m.
- Paul Geremia, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
- Tab Benoit, Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m.
- Ellie Lee & Blues Fury, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.

Skipper's Smokehouse is at 910 Skipper Road, Tampa. Call 813-971-0666 or visit www.skipperssmokehouse.com.

State Theatre

- Les Claypool's Duo De Twang, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m.
- The Machine, Thursday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.
- Against Me, Friday, Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.
- Sevendust, Friday, Jan. 31, 8 p.m.

State Theatre is at 687 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call 895-3045 or visit www.statetheatreconcerts.com.

The Local 662

- Sylhh 8.0, Saturday, Jan. 11, 9 p.m.

The Local 662 is at 662 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. Call 258-4829.

The Straz Center for the Performing Arts

- The Florida Orchestra: Bravo Beethoven; Friday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m.
- The Florida Orchestra: Bond & Beyond; Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m.
- The Florida Orchestra: Bartok & Brahms; Friday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m.

The David A Straz Jr. Center is at 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org.

Tampa Bay Times Forum

- Billy Joel, Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m.

Tampa Bay Times Forum is at 401 Channelside Drive, Tampa. Call 813-301-2500 or visit www.tampabaytimesforum.com.

Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center

- Tom Rush, Friday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m.
- Vox Audio, Friday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.
- Amernet String Quartet, Sunday, Jan. 26, 3 p.m.
- Cherish the Ladies, Friday, Jan. 31, 8 p.m.

The center is at 324 Pine St., Tarpon Springs. Call 942-5605 or visit www.tarponarts.org.

For more music and concert information, visit TBNweekly.com.

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 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)585-2161.



START THE NEW YEAR IN A NEW HOME!

2 bedrooms / 1 bathroom
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 From \$865/month
 Includes water/sewer & trash. Pet friendly.

APARTMENTS GOING FAST!

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 www.imperialpalms.com

DOWNTOWN CLEARWATER
 Unfurnished Efficiency, Close To Bus Terminal. \$425/Mo. Call Bob, (727)515-0994.

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. February through Easter Starting at \$595/week. 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.

Let us help you with your advertising needs. Call today! 397-5563

90. 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. (727)593-0644.

SEA TOWERS
 Lexington Bldg 7th Floor 2BR/2BA, Million Dollar View Totally Renovated. w/Hardwood Floors. Available 2/1/14, Full-Time/ Seasonal Donna (508)326-6097 Lee (727)391-3900

REDINGTON SHORES
 3BR/2BA, 1,581 sq ft Overlooking the Gulf. Pet Friendly. Best Pool in the Area, and the Beach is your Backyard! \$1,850/Month. Serious inquiries E-mail: ipage@glassratner.com

195. Seasonal Rentals

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

CLEARWATER, GARDEN LEVEL,
 2BR/2BA, Waterfront/ Resort Style Condo. Overlooking Tampa Bay, 55+ Community w/Clubhouse, Pool. Fully Furnished. \$1,400/Mo. 3 Month Minimum. (781)985-0559. JodyAviges@gmail.com

CLEARWATER MOBILE HOME
 On Tampa Bay Canal, 2BR/1.5BA, Sunroom. \$1,500/Mo. January Through April. (727)463-5152.

245. Room For Rent

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

ROOMMATE WANTED
 Redington Beach. Unfurnished. Smoker, Non-drinker OK. MUST Have Job, Car, Drivers License. \$400/Month. (727)253-2317

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.

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- Professional Services Directory



345. Lost & Found

LOST BIRD: African Grey parrot, with red tail and red band on leg. Responds to "Emma." Last seen 12/23, vicinity of Perth Dr. in Largo (between Belcher & Starkey Rds.) Owner heartbroken. Large REWARD. (727)239-6268.



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. Call/ Text 1(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

435. Adult Care & Svcs.

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

BayPointe Golf Course

SCENIC ROOM, PERFECT FOR VENUES UP TO 130.
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397-5563

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.

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.

Our Classified Dept. is currently running great advertising specials in:

- REAL ESTATE SALES
 - REAL ESTATE RENTALS
 - HELP WANTED
 - ARTICLES FOR SALE
 - AUTO & BOAT SALES
 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
- Call our Classified advisers today for more details. Deadline is noon on Mondays.

(727) 397-5563

Tampa Bay NEWSPAPERS
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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

Pinecrest 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

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

Deliver the Tampa Bay Times

Home Delivery Independent Distributor Opportunities

\$800-\$1,700/month Paid Weekly

Opportunities throughout Pinellas County

Early Morning Hours

Must be at least 18

Valid driver's license

Reliable vehicle & car insurance

Tampabay.com/distributor

866-498-4637

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE: Noon Monday Call 397-5563

485. Help Wanted

EARN EXTRA MONEY!

Whether you're sending your teen off to college, paying your bills or just adding extra cash to your pockets, you can earn **\$800 to \$1,700 per month** as an independent distributor for the Tampa Bay Times.

As we continue to grow, you will too!



Must be 18 years of age or older with valid Florida driver's license, proof of insurance and dependable vehicle.

For more information, visit tampabay.com/distributor or call **866-498-4637**.

485. Help Wanted

THE BARRINGTON ESTATES
 Is Currently Seeking The Following:
 Resident Care Aide, Servers, Housekeeper And Experienced Sales Counselor. Apply in Person At 901 Seminole Blvd, 33770 Or Fax Resume To (727)586-1347.

CERTIFIED MED TECH
 Needed ASAP. 3rd Shift 11pm-7am. Must have past Level II Background Check. 1/Year Experience Preferred. Contact office (727)586-1969

PRINTING OPERATORS NEEDED
 PrimeNet is a fast growing, Direct Marketing Service Organization in Largo. We currently have FT/ PT openings available in: Offset and Digital Printing, and Machine Operators. Experience a plus, but we can train. Send resume to HR@primenet.com

Experienced Energy Reps Work for the #1 Room in the Market Place! (Clearwater FL)

Come find out for yourself why our agents make this room the best place to work! We buy leads constantly! \$20 per deal! Guaranteed Minimum of \$400 per week or your commissions whatever is greater! Limited space available so call or stop by now to secure your space on the team! If you are tired of how little money you are making at your current room come and check us out! Level2Direct LLC "A Level Above" (727)216-7491

SECURITY GUARD

Pinecrest Place retirement community, located in Largo, has an opening for a P/T Security Guard, 2pm-10pm, including weekends and holidays. Greet and monitors visitors and residents coming and going from the building. Monitors pre established schedules emergency and safety equipment; assist residents & family members with minor maintenance issues patrols property; answers phone lines and dispatches calls; completes appropriate forms as required. We are looking for a dependable, experienced candidate that has great customer service skills and a desire to serve. Please send resume to: Margaret.kristall@brookdaleliving.com or fax to (727)581-8409. Apply in person at: Concierge Desk, 1150 8th Ave. SW, Largo, FL. EOE; Drug free workplace.

CAREGIVER NEEDED

Live In CNA, 7am Thursday To 7am Saturday. ADL, Dementia Care For 125lb non-weight-bearing man. Waterfront, Madeira Beach. (352)542-2562. Leave Message.

PART-TIME DRIVER WANTED FOR BUSY FAMILY

Starting Jan. 6, 2014. Vehicle provided. CLEAN DRIVING RECORD, CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK, 3 REFERENCES REQUIRED. \$10/hour / Pick up: 3PM, M-F. Basic computer skills a plus. Leave message: (727)686-7777

NOW HIRING!

APPOINTMENT SETTERS/ TELEMARKETERS

Must Be Reliable, Fast Paced. People Needed For Setting Travel Club Appointments. Weekly Pay \$8-\$10 Per Hour Or Commission 26-35 Hr/ Wk. Apply In Person; Sun-Thurs, 3-9. (727)393-6000 Ext. 0. American Travel, 9466 Seminole Blvd.

Calling All Classified Advertisers!

Sell Your Unwanted Item For Less!

ARTICLES SELLING FOR: ADVERTISE FOR:

\$101 - \$500	\$8
\$501 - \$2,000	\$10
\$2,001 - \$10,000	\$14

Call 727-397-5563

Tampa Bay NEWSPAPERS CLASSIFIEDS
 www.TBNweekly.com

NEED VACATION CASH?

Easy! Sell your Items In the Classifieds!

Tampa Bay NEWSPAPERS 397-5563

485. Help Wanted

PART-TIME CNA'S
Pinecrest Place, an upscale retirement community located in Largo is seeking PT CNA's for our Personalized Living Home Healthcare office. The position requires candidates to assist residents with ADL's based on their individualized plan of care. Escort residents to Dr. appointment; possess excellent customer service skills; able to communicate effectively with resident, visitors, members of health care team. Must be flexible with hours available to include weekend & holidays as required by resident needs. Candidates can apply in person at Pinecrest Place, 1150 8th Ave. SW, Largo, FL 33770 or fax resume to (727)581-8409. Drug free workplace; EOE; Must have valid CNA certification

525. Medical Help

CNAs, HHAs NEEDED FOR Pinellas County Area. Choose Your Hours. \$10-15 Per Hour. (727)822-3034

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

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

Private Duty, In-Home-Care
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Come join our team of Angels today!
727-797-8600

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

505. Part-Time Help

LPN: PINECREST PLACE
A Premier retirement community, is seeking an LPN for our Memory Care area. Weekends Only 2pm-10pm. Candidate should have previous experience working in a geriatric environment and have a commitment to making a difference in the lives they touch. We are looking for enthusiastic, energetic and caring people to become a part of our team. Candidates can apply in person at 1150 8th Ave. SW, Largo, Send resume to Margaret.kristall@brookdaleliving.com or fax to (727)581-8409. EOE, DFWP.

515. Hospitality Help

LAUNDRY, PREP COOK, Line Cook, Maintenance w/Air Conditioning/ Refrigeration Experience & Night Security. Doubletree Beach Resort/ Restaurant. Apply At: 11720 Gulf Blvd. North Redington Beach, (727)369-7101.

SELL YOUR HOME IN THE CLASSIFIEDS. SPECIAL BY-OWNER RATES. CALL 397-5563 TODAY!

505. Part-Time Help

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

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!

535. Business Opportunities

LOOKING TO INCREASE YOUR INCOME?
If you are looking to make some extra cash, the Times is looking for you. We are searching for independent distributors to sell and deliver our newspapers to stores and news racks during early morning hours. Must be able to pass background and credit check. We currently have business opportunities in **Pinellas County** If you're interested in managing your own business we invite you to contact us to learn more.

Tampa Bay Times
CALL 1-866-396-5585 TODAY

522. Careers

LOVE DOGS?
Go to work and fall in love. Academyofanimalarts.com Enrolling now! (866)517-9546

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

597. Coins & Stamps

COIN SPECIAL!
Indian Head Pennies, Buffalo Nickels, V Nickels, .98¢ Each. Silver Certificates, \$1.98. Buying Gold, Silver, Jewelry, Old Comic Books. Buy/ Sell/ Trade. (727)967-1482

MERCHANDISE

600. Merchandise

CARPET INSTALLER HAS
Unused carpet various sizes, colors. Also boxes of laminate. Save \$\$\$ (727)535-8286.

CHRISTMAS YARD ORNAMENTS
Train Set, Little Racing Car, Christmas Presents. \$50 For All. (727)581-0319.

640. Furniture

GLASS TOP TABLE
6 Chairs On Casters, 4 Stools. Paid \$1,500+. Asking \$550. (727)238-8873.

CLASSIFIED Information Is At YOUR DISPOSAL

660. Wanted to Buy

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

CHRISTMAS BABIES!
Chihuahua/ Yorkie, One Tea Cup Female, \$200. One Male, \$150. HURRY! (727)595-0727.

AUTOMOTIVE

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.

CALL EARLY TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD

885. Autos Wanted

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

CASH NOW
TOP DOLLAR PAID
WE BUY CLEAN QUALITY TRUCKS, VANS, SUV'S & CARS NO JUNK!
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Any Condition, New, Old or Junk. No Title & Liens OK! (813)418-7927 or (727)493-5302

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The Good, The Bad The Ugly

Call Now 727-400-1910

885. Autos Wanted

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\$400 & Up Minimum Guaranteed
For Junk Cars & Trucks In Pinellas Cty. Top \$ Paid. All Tampa Bay. State Approved Disposal Site. Free Tow. (727)710-1702.

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

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910. Boat Slips

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TOM'S SPECIALIZED MARINE LLC
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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

St. Justin Martyr
Catholic Church. The Newly Expanded Famous Thrift Shop! Every Wed. & Sat. 9AM-2PM. 10851 Ridge Road, Seminole. 727)397-3312.

The baby graduated from high school. It's time to let go.

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What can you sell?

ARTICLES SELLING FOR:	ADVERTISE FOR:
\$101 - \$500	\$8
\$501 - \$2,000	\$10
\$2,001 - \$10,000	\$14

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Coming attractions in 2014

Godzilla returns, Vesuvius erupts, apes battle humans and Maleficent is betrayed

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

Even as the curtain falls, Hollywood has already begun hyping its 2014 lineup with teasers, trailers and strategically placed viral marketing campaigns.

As usual, moviegoers are eager to get a glimpse at the forthcoming cavalcade of films. The buzz surrounding some anticipated blockbusters is growing louder by the minute as cinema aficionados blog blogging predictions about which big screen selections will succeed and which faulty flicks will flop.

First ... what were the best movies of 2013?

To date, the top box office moneymaker is "Iron Man 3." As of Dec. 19, the film had taken in \$1.2 billion worldwide according to Box Office Mojo. In second place is the animated family film "Despicable Me 2" which has earned \$918 million. The No. 3 top grossing film of the year is currently "Fast & Furious 6," with a worldwide haul of \$788 million. "Monsters University" holds fourth place with \$743 million followed by "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire," with \$734 million.

"The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," which was released Dec. 12, has earned \$226 million in one week and will probably reach the top 10 list by the end of the year.

Three animated family films made the top 10 highest grossing films this year, including "Despicable Me 2," "Monsters University" and "The Croods." These films were rated PG or lower. The remaining films in the top ten are all rated PG-13.

Hollywood continues to enjoy success in bringing material gleaned from comic books to the big screen. In addition to "Iron Man 3," the top 10 list includes the Superman reboot "Man of Steel" as well as the second Thor installment, "Thor: The Dark World."

Six out of the top 10 highest-grossing films were continuations of pre-existing franchises. Of the four films that were not sequels, three now have sequels in the works, including "Man of Steel," "The Croods" and "World War Z."

And then there were the flops.

The studio that turns out some of the biggest moneymakers also turns out some of the biggest financial losers. Walt Disney Studios' "The Lone Ranger" cost an estimated \$375 million to produce and market. As of Dec. 19, it had grossed \$260 million worldwide, according to Box Office Mojo.

"Jack the Giant Slayer" faced similarly disappointing figures at the box office. It has earned \$197 million - slightly less than Warner Bros. spent producing and marketing the film.

So, what's around the corner? Following is a list of 22 of the most anticipated films of 2014, grouped - more or less - according to genre.

Startling sci-fi

- "RoboCop" - It's 2028 and OmniCorp is about to unleash its futuristic peacekeeper upon the unsuspecting Detroit citizenry. This remake of the 1987 film stars Joel Kinnamen in the title role. Gary Oldman plays the scientist who develops the RoboCop technology. "RoboCop" begins his beat Feb. 12.

- "Godzilla" - Legendary Pictures is resurrecting Toho's iconic kaiju. Directed by Gareth Edwards, the film will explore the origin of Godzilla as a "terrifying force of nature" - and, with luck, it will fare better than director Roland Emmerich's 1998 reimagining of the legend. The reptilian monster with atomic breath smashes his way into theaters May 16.

- "Transformers: Age of Extinction" - This summer will see the fourth installment of the film franchise based on the Transformers toy line - which dates back to 1984. This chapter serves as a direct sequel to "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" and stars Mark Wahlberg, Nicola Peltz, Jack Reynor and Kelsey Grammer. The film will be released June 27.

- "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" - Caesar is back, leading a growing nation of genetically evolved apes. A sequel to "Rise of the Planet of the Apes," this film finds civilization in ruins and humanity struggling to survive. The revolution in evolution continues July 11.

- "Jupiter Ascending" - This science fiction film written and directed by The Wachowskis stars Mila Kunis as a Russian immigrant menial laborer who discovers she may be connected to a much grander destiny. This sci-fi vehicle launches July 18.

Sensational superheroes

- "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" - The Marvel Cinematic Universe continues to expand as the sequel to "Captain America: The First Avenger" hits screens April 4. S.H.I.E.L.D. taps Captain America to investigate after one of its agents is assassinated. Chris Evans reprises his role as the lead character. Scarlett Johansson stars as Natasha Romanoff/Black Widow and Anthony Mackie portrays Sam Wilson/Falcon. The Captain fights for democracy beginning April 4.

- "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" - Spidey-sense tingling? That's because the next installment of the rebooted Spider-Man franchise is set to open May 2. This time around, the webslinger will face several antagonists, including Electro, played by Jamie Foxx; Harry Osborn, portrayed by Dane DeHaan; and The Rhino, played by Paul Giamatti. The web will ensnare audiences beginning May 2.

- "X-Men: Days of Future Past" - This film will bridge the gap between the two branches of the franchise, acting as a sequel to both 2006's "X-Men: The Last Stand" and 2011's "X-Men: First Class." Facing a brutal future in which mutants are detained in internment camps, the ensemble must battle for survival across two time periods. The film opens May 23.

- "Guardians of the Galaxy" - This will be the 10th film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. As the title infers, the setting is the deepest reaches of outer space - and the guardians include a Star-Lord, Gamora, Drax the Destroyer and Rocket Raccoon. Look for it in theaters Aug. 1.

Fabulous fantasy

- "Maleficent" - Disney explores the evolution of a villain. The film features the untold story of Disney's most iconic villain from the 1959 clas-



Photo courtesy of WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

Above, Angelina Jolie stars in the title role in Disney's film "Maleficent." At left, Kit Harington stars as Milo and Emily Browning as Cassia in TriStar Pictures' "Pompeii." Bottom left, Joel Kinnaman stars in MGM/Columbia Pictures' "RoboCop." Below, Kellan Lutz stars in "The Legend of Hercules."



Photo by CAITLIN CRONENBERG



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sic "Sleeping Beauty." Her wickedness will emerge in theaters May 30.

- "The Legend of Hercules" - This is one of two films about the son of Zeus coming to the big screen this year, the other being "Hercules: The Thracian Wars" from Paramount. This one, from Summit Entertainment, stars Kellan Lutz as Hercules and is directed by Renny Harlin. Poor Hercules is exiled and sold into slavery because of a forbidden love. The film promises gladiators, odysseys and baklava. Well, not baklava. Hercules flexes his muscles Jan. 10.

- "The Hobbit: There and Back Again" - Opened Dec. 17. This will be the final installment of director Peter Jackson's adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's works. Probably.

Amazing action

- "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit" - From Paramount Pictures, Kenneth Branagh directs this new film based on bestselling author Tom Clancy's famous character. Set for release Jan. 17, Chris Pine will be playing Jack Ryan this time around. Will he outshine Harrison Ford?

- "The Monuments Men" - Director George Clooney also stars in this film about seven over-the-hill, out-of-shape museum directors, artists, architects, curators, and art historians who went to the front lines of WWII to rescue the world's artistic masterpieces from Nazi thieves and return them to their rightful owners. The artistic endeavor will be liberated Feb. 7.

- "Pompeii" - Because apocalyptic films aren't just for the modern world, audiences will have a chance to see what old school end-of-the-world scenarios were like. Not even the most advanced doomsday prepper could have been ready for Mount Vesuvius. This film will erupt on screens Feb. 21.

Fun for the family

- "Mr. Peabody & Sherman" - Remember watching Rocky and Bullwinkle in syndication as a kid? The shows included filler segments about a talking dog and a little boy called "Peabody's Improbable History." Well, Hollywood apparently believes there's enough there to make a feature film - and now we have "Mr. Peabody & Sherman." Plan to go back in time Feb. 7.

- "Muppets Most Wanted" - The Muppets are back and audiences once more will pretend not to notice that their voices don't sound quite the same. Ricky Gervais and Tina Fey join the cast this time. Expect a plethora of cameos, too. The Muppets return to the big screen March 21.

- "Dolphin Tale 2" - A sequel to 2011's "Dolphin Tale" about Clearwater Marine Aquarium's dolphin Winter, this film sees most of the principal cast returning for a continuation of the story. New to the cast is Bethany Hamilton, a professional American surfer who survived a shark attack. She will be portraying herself in the movie. "Dolphin Tale 2" swims into theaters Sept. 19.

Scary stuff

- "I, Frankenstein" - Not your average Mary Shelly adaptation, Lionsgate presents a new twist on the tale. Frankenstein's monster becomes entangled in a war between two immortal clans in an ancient city. Aaron Eckhart and Bill Nighy star. "I, Frankenstein" comes to life in theaters Jan. 24.

- "The Green Inferno" - Eli Roth directs this cannibal horror-thriller, which was inspired by the cult classic 1980 Italian film "Cannibal Holocaust." The story follows a group of student activists who travel to the Amazon to save a dying tribe - only to find themselves prisoners of those they sought to protect. The bloodbath spatters theaters beginning Sept. 5.

Drama

- "Grace of Monaco" - The film is focused on the personal story of former Hollywood star Grace Kelly during a dispute between Monaco's Prince Rainier III, and France's Charles De Gaulle over tax laws in the early 1960s. Nicole Kidman stars as Grace Kelly with Tim Roth as Prince Rainier III. The film will be released March 14.

- "Unbroken" - This war drama, scripted by Joel and Ethan Coen, follows the story of Olympic athlete Louis Zamperini. Angelina Jolie will direct. Following a B-24 plane crash, Zamperini and his surviving crewmates spent 47 days adrift at sea before being captured by the Japanese Navy and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp. The film reaches theaters next December.

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