

LARGO LEADER

'Lone Survivor' stars Wahlberg, Kitsch; Phoenix stars in 'Her'

Also, Selwyn Birchwood and 'The Addams Family' come to Tampa Bay ... Page 1B.



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LARGO



For the owls

Ocean Unger and Averi Miller celebrated their joint birthday by giving back to the birds of prey program at McGough Nature Park.

Instead of gifts, the girls asked their guests to donate to the program on their behalf. The city of Largo honored their combined donation of just more than \$250 Jan. 8.
... Page 3A.

POLICE BEAT

Two dead after murder-suicide

A man who shot his mother's fiancé and then himself died at 1:22 p.m. after his family decided to remove him from life support, Pinellas Park police reported.

Anthony McClaney, 29, drew a .38 revolver and shot Mitchell Arnold, 48, while he was watching television.
... Page 6A.

BUSINESS

Saddle Up club searches for home

Following legal issues with its landlord, Saddle Up Riding Club is looking for a new home.

The nonprofit, which offers equine therapy to disabled children, adults and veterans, as well as programs for able-bodied riders, has found itself without a permanent home just a month after starting a 90-day campaign to raise the funds to purchase the property it has rented for the past six years.
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FAITH & FAMILY

Genealogy exposed

Why new year's resolutions are a genealogist's friend.

... Page 11A



VIEWPOINTS

Tom Germond

Keep the movie popcorn coming.

... Page 14A.



Mariachi singer at odds with LCC

Largo couple told 'lackluster ticket sales' of Hispanic acts bar future bookings

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – Lily Cortes' transition to the United States has not been a smooth one, and her reception at the Largo Cultural Center, unfortunately, was no exception.

As a member of the Coalition of Hispanic Artists and Tampa Hispanic Heritage Inc., the mariachi singer contacted the center to ask if the city was interested in a performance in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month. She wanted to make the presentation a free event, open to the public.

"We don't do that here," Cortes said a representative told her. There weren't any plans to celebrate the month. In attempts to keep the venue more self-sustaining, the city only books performers that can bring in ticket revenue.



Photo by GEORGE SALMON

Hispanic acts don't sell tickets. Cortes was invited to rent the space for \$2,500.

"Lily was pretty upset," said her husband, Tim McCarthy, a 12-year Largo resident retired from the U.S. Navy. "Art in any society is a reflection of its people. If there's no Hispanics represented in the Cultural Center, therefore, there must be no Hispanics in the community."

According to 2010 census data, 9 percent of Largo's residents identify as Hispanic, 0.5 percent higher than Pinellas County's 2012 projection of its Hispanic population.

Cortes admits that perhaps she didn't understand the concept of the Largo Cultural Center. Back in Mexico, it was a "casa de cultura" where she learned how to sing in the style of Italian opera, training that laid the groundwork for professionally performing the mariachi songs she grew up with.

"Upon arriving here, we thought to do the same," Cortes said in an interview spoken partially in Spanish; the relatively recent immigrant to the United States is still mastering English.

The couple know that other civic venues offer reduced fees for nonprofits, for as much as half the price Largo offered.

"We don't want everything free, no, no," Cortes said. "When automatically you go to some places, they look at you because you're Latin and say, 'OK, she's coming to ask us for money.'"

McCarthy emailed the city mayor and commissioners

See LCC, page 4A

"Hispanics don't really have the public spaces. They don't have places to exhibit their art; they don't have places to perform."
– Tim McCarthy, husband to mariachi singer Lily Cortes



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Above, when Lily Cortes approached the city of Largo about doing a free presentation at the Largo Cultural Center in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, she said she was told, "We don't do that here." At far left, Cortes is a professional mariachi singer who moved from Mexico when she married her husband, a 12-year Largo resident retired from the U.S. Navy, four years ago.

Taking a break



Photo by JIM McAVADDY

A bee gets a sip of water recently off one of the many colorful plants at the Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road. The popular site is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. For more information, call 582-2100.

Early voting opens for Republican primary

By SUZETTE PORTER

Pinellas County's registered Republicans are already casting their ballots in a primary election to decide the candidate to run in the March 11 special election for the open District 13 seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mark Bircher, David Jolly and Kathleen Peters are vying for the seat that was left open when longtime Representative C.W. Bill Young died in Oct. 18. The winner of the primary will face Democrat candidate Alex Sink and Libertarian Party of Florida candidate Lucas Overby in the March 11 special general election.

Early voting continues through Sunday, Jan. 12, in all Supervisor of Elections offices. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Supervisor of Elections offices are located at:

- Election Service Center, 13001 Starkey Road, Largo (Starkey Lakes Corporate Center)
- Pinellas County Courthouse, 315



Mark Bircher



David Jolly



Kathleen Peters

Court St., Room 117, Clearwater (first floor, north side)

- County Building, 501 First Ave. N., St. Petersburg (entrance on Fifth Street)

Voters can check early voting wait times online at www.vote.pinellas.com.

As of Jan. 5, 41 Republicans had cast their ballots during the first two days of early voting. More had taken advantage of mail ballots with 29.5 percent, or 23,165 of 78,454 mail ballots distributed returned to the Elections office.

Mail ballots cannot be returned to the polls. Voters can mail them back or drop them off at an elections office or designated ballot drop-off locations. Ballots must be received by 7 p.m. Jan. 14.

Remote ballot drop-off locations include:

- Three Tax Collector Offices – open weekdays, 29399 U.S. 19 N. (near Curlew), Clearwater; 1663 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd., Clearwater; and 1800 66th St. N., St. Petersburg
- Public libraries – open weekdays and

See VOTING, page 4A

Belleair agrees to lease Belleview Biltmore Golf Club

By BRIAN GOFF

BELLEAIR – Town commissioners agreed Jan. 2 to enter into a long-term lease with Golf Green Partners to operate the Belleview Biltmore Golf Club on Indian Rocks Road.

Back in early December the town opened six proposals for the operation of the club. Four were to lease the property and two were to purchase it. After review the staff recommended to the commission that the lease deal with Golf Green Partners was the best way to go. After much discussion the commissioners agreed and voted unanimously to proceed on a 10-year lease.

When the town bought the golf club in February, it was thought that the club

likely would either be sold or leased. The idea that the town operate the club either by itself or through a hired management team was never really considered.

The reason for buying the club in the first place was two-fold: to remove the development rights from the property so it would remain a green space and to settle accounts with the owners, the Ades brothers of Miami who owed the town \$250,000 because of the deteriorating state of the Belleview Biltmore Hotel. The Ades brothers wanted the lien removed from the property so it could be sold.

Town Manager Micah Maxwell and Town Attorney David Ottinger have until

See GOLF CLUB, page 4A



Photo by BRIAN GOFF

A 10-year lease deal should soon be in place for Belleair's Belleview Biltmore Golf Club.

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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.

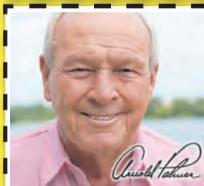
Problems with the inner ear often require surgery or medication. If the damage is irreparable, you'll want to ask about the new cochlea implants that can help restore your ability to hear again.

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.

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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.

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



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!

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Honoring chaplains



Photo courtesy of LARGO KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Largo/Mid-Pinellas again honored the chaplains of the Largo Police Department with a prayer breakfast at the club's first meeting of the new year Jan. 3. Both of the volunteer chaplains received a certificate of appreciation and a \$50 gas gift card to help defray the costs of volunteering their time to counsel and minister to the Largo police. Pictured are, from left, Largo City Manager Mac Craig, Chaplain Philip Gray, Largo Mayor Pat Gerard, Chaplain Arnold Johnson and Largo Kiwanis President Bruce Blazej. The club is accepting new members, and meets at The Royal Palms on Fridays, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., and once a month on Thursday, 6:30 p.m., at a local restaurant. For more information call Blazej at 536-0412.

Students honored for birthday donation

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – Ocean Unger and Averi Miller celebrated their joint birthday by giving back to the birds of prey program at McGough Nature Park Nov. 30.

Instead of gifts, the girls asked their guests to donate to the program on their behalf. The city of Largo honored their combined donation of just more than \$250 during the commission meeting Jan. 7.

"If you raise more than \$250, you get to spend some time with a bird of your choice," explained parks superintendent Greg Brown. "They got to do that this Saturday."

The girls got to help clean the owl cages and prepare food, which involved handling dead rodents. Lisa Unger, Ocean's mother who came to the meeting with her husband Jeffrey, explained. Averi has a pet snake that she feeds similar food already.



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

City Attorney Alan Zimmet reaches down to shake the hand of Ocean Unger, left, and Averi Miller, who were honored Jan. 8 for donating their birthdays to the McGough Nature Park's birds of prey program.

"I used to catch lizards and let them go in the house," Averi said, as her parents, Amanda and Skip Miller of Largo, smiled indulgently.

Ocean and Averi, who both live in Largo, are such fans of the McGough owls, especially Matilda, that they started an owl club at Country Day School in Largo, where they both attend.

"They told me that they both are looking forward to working as adults at McGough, so we're going to be looking for their resumes coming up here soon," Brown said.

The "really wonderful, selfless act," has already been repeated, he added. A second birthday was held at the park recently. In fact, the city now plans to start a program the Natural Gift Birthday Party, where participants will receive a free shelter rental if they donate the "proceeds" of their birthdays to the park.

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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.

Geological Society holds 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 Friday through Sunday, 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 information about the show or 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 Saturday, Jan. 25, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Largo Central Park.

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 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 your family.

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.

Movies shown in Central Park

LARGO – Grab blankets and chairs and join the city of Largo for a free movie on the big screen Friday, Feb. 14, dusk, at Largo Central Park.

Themed activities will be held an hour before each movie. Onsite parking and concessions will be available. No alcohol permitted. This event is free and open to all ages.

For the movie showing at this monthly event, visit largevents.com. Call 587-6751.

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 Friday, 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.

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.

Chorus hosts dinner showcase

LARGO – Tickets are on sale for the Barbershop Chorus' annual Matinee Dinner and Music Showcase, held Sunday, Feb. 2, 2 to 4 p.m., at the Largo Community Center.

See some of the area's best performers light up the stage for this monthly production while enjoying a dinner. Tickets are \$14.

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, with snacks included. Call Joan Waff at 895-9073.

- **Ballroom dancing:** Thursdays, 6:45 to 9 p.m. Carol Baker will lead a lesson from 7 to 8 p.m., followed by open dancing. The cost is \$8.

- **Square dancing:** Fridays, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. Spend the evening dancing country-style to professional caller Allen Snell. The cost is \$6.

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

- **Bay Area Singles 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 Saturday, 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, enjoys a period of free-play.

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

Les Mills Body Pump launches

LARGO – Les Mills Body Pump will launch during a free event Saturday, Feb. 1, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at Highland Recreation Complex.

Join the new music rand new Body Pump moves in this extended class for an increased calorie burn. Raffle prizes given away.

Highland offers deep-sea fishing class

LARGO – Registration is open for a four-week fishing class and deep-sea excursion Wednesdays, Feb. 5-26, 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the Highland Recreation Complex.

Learn fish identification, angler etiquette, knot tying, casting, rules, regulations, types of equipment, lures and baits. After the weekly class, participants will jump aboard the Double Eagle for a deep sea fishing trip Sunday, March 2, 8 a.m. to noon.

All participants must have a valid Largo membership card. The cost is \$56 for residents or \$70 for nonresidents and includes the four classes, half a day of deep-sea fishing out on the Gulf of Mexico and the necessary bait, poles and tackle for the trip.

The deadline to register is Jan. 29. A legal guardian must register and accompany minors during class and excursion.

For more details, call 587-6740, ext. 5008.

Southwest Recreation Complex

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

Southwest hosts garage sale

LARGO – The Southwest Community Garage Sale will be Wednesday, 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.

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.

Complex hosts Valentine event for children

LARGO – Children ages 5 and younger are invited to wear red and celebrate Valentine's Day with themed crafts, snacks and games Wednesday, Feb. 12, 11 a.m. to noon, at the Southwest Recreation Complex.

A parent, grandparent or caregiver is required to participate in the the My Little Valentine event. Early registration is \$5. The cost on the day of the event is \$8.

LCC, from page 1A

to ask why the center "had a long standing reputation for ignoring its Hispanic community."

Mayor Pat Gerard explained in a response that a service helps the center forecast performance bookings. Previous Latin artist brought in "lackluster ticket sales," she wrote.

"Since we have limited funds to hire talent, we have to make selections very carefully," she explained.

The city has scheduled a meeting with the McCarthys on Jan. 14 to address their concerns. Gerard said she was eager to hear what they had to say. The city did not intentionally stop scheduling Hispanic performers.

"It's not something we talked about before. We schedule things that are going to draw people," she said recently.

Over the years, and especially since the city has been financially restrained, the city has been under pressure to subsidize the Cultural Center less and less, Gerard said.

"It's never going to break even. We want to make sure we're not just pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into it every year," she said.

Most organizations approach the city about potential shows or performances; city staff doesn't recruit many acts. Very few of those organizations pull in a profit from their Largo shows, the Eight O'Clock Theatre being one of them, Gerard said.

On a yearly basis, the city reviews requests for city sponsorships, which will result in a lower cost for certain bookings in the center or the surrounding park, but the city can't waive all fees, she said.

"As you probably already know, our biggest success with the Hispanic community has been in our parks," she wrote to McCarthy. "Hispanic families are the dominant group in Largo Central Park nearly every weekend and participate in many of our special events for families. We are anxious to expand their participation."

Cortes was offended by the offer. She wasn't asking for an event in a park, she said.

"I'm good for the dog parks, I'm good for the sidewalks, and I'm good for the grass, but I'm not good for the inside of the building," she said.

The city's policy creates a discriminatory effect, a concept a civic rights activist recently explained to McCarthy, he said. Because the population who would be interested in a Hispanic show at the Largo Cultural Center might not be able to afford the tickets there, the resulting effect is economic discrimination, if nothing else, he said. And the center was built with local taxpayer funds, meaning that it should be more open to the residents who helped pay for it.

The McCarthys hope to work with the city to develop a Hispanic outreach program, modeled after the one the city of Clearwater has. At this point, a token Hispanic event meant to appease their complaints won't be enough, McCarthy said.

"Lily's not going to perform there," he said. "No one is going to show up, because it has a reputation in the area for not welcoming Hispanics or not having Hispanic events there period. Lily's not going to fix that."

But an ongoing effort to reach out to the Hispanic population might eventually bring a more representative mix of artists to the Largo Cultural Center.

"We have nothing to gain from this," McCarthy said. "The reason why we're pushing this is we may have children some day, and who do they have to look up to?"



Photo courtesy of LILY CORTES

Mariachi singer Lily Cortes records a song for her album, "Mi México."

Culture shock

A lack of representation in the arts is just the tip of the iceberg, McCarthy said. As a white American, McCarthy said he didn't believe the type of discrimination his wife was subject to when she first moved to Largo with him four years ago. The work stories she told him seemed far-fetched, not typical of what he understood to be the American experience.

Cortes had a good career in Mexico, as a counselor for an equivalent department of children and families and working at a radio station on afternoons and weekends. She had a recognized degree in her native country, something she has to reprove in the United States.

The couple met in Playa de Carmen, Mexico, right before midnight at a party celebrating Mexican Independence Day in 2006. He was on a diving vacation with his best friend, having just left the Navy. A friend dragged her to the salsa club. Both were unprepared to meet anyone to settle down with.

"I was singing Mexican music. I didn't expect my (American) husband on Sept. 16," Cortes said.

The two started exchanging emails, which they had to run through respective translators because neither spoke the other's language. Cortes thought they might just be friends, and at first didn't even believe him when McCarthy asked her to be his girlfriend.

Cortes was "a mess" when she finally moved to the United States to marry McCarthy.

"She cried every day. It was a very traumatic experience to go to a foreign country," he said.

Cortes enrolled in an English class as a Second Language course and began to apply for jobs. Because she said she was Mexican, people assumed she had come for the housekeeping jobs. She said she felt like her reception was, "Welcome to the United States! Here's a mop."

"That (didn't) break my spirit," she said. "My self was formed in another country."

Still, it was hard. Cortes got a job working as a housekeeper in a nursing home, but wasn't allowed to clean inside the private rooms. Whenever something went missing, the residents "automatically assumed it was the Mexican," she said.

One of her co-workers, a European, told her to say she was Cuban instead and avoid some of the discrimination. Pride wouldn't allow her to float the lie.

"I answered her, Thank you, because you want to help me, but – I am Mexican," Cortes said. "They're going to realize I am Mexican, and that's it. I cannot tell them I am from another nationality."

Things didn't start getting better until Cortes found the Coalition of Hispanic Artists, a local group that helped her find hope in a foreign country. Through them, she started singing professionally again.

"Singing is my therapy. It's my medicine because the people don't like to see at my job (that) I am Mexican," she said. "But when I am singing Mexican songs, I think, (There's) so much dignity and quality to this art."

But the group had their own troubles. Without much funds to book larger venues, the artists were left to find space to present their songs, paintings and dance at local restaurants looking to bring in more customers with live performances. Booking at private venues often becomes problematic, the couple explained. The artists have been extorted to pay more money at the last minute before their performance. One painter's life work was stolen when an owner closed the restaurant suddenly, packed everything up and moved to Colombia.

Cortes currently performs on a regular basis at Casa Ramos in Tampa, one of a chain of restaurants whose owner believes in promoting and paying artists with the "dignity they deserve," Cortes said. She's happy there, but admits that her experience is rare.

Culturally relevant

Mariachi music is identified by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as a world heritage music.

"It's identified all over the world, but it's also in need of preservation," McCarthy said. "There's a need for education, a need for passing on to the next generation."

But it's a struggle to find a public place to showcase the art to a "community that lives in the shadows," sometimes because they are undocumented or know someone that is, McCarthy said.

"Hispanics don't really have the public spaces. They don't have places to exhibit their art; they don't have places to perform. They're kind of excluded," he said. "That's how this started, with the whole Largo Cultural Center."

Gerard said the purpose of the Cultural Center was to provide low cost, quality entertainment to Largo residents, an alternative to the bigger venues that only sell tickets at around \$100. And the city always is looking for good acts. But the ticket sales are the catch.

"There are 400 seats in there. We're not going to put something in there that's only going to draw 25 people," she said.

She said she does think that there are enough Hispanics in the greater Largo area "to draw in if we did something of quality."

"I think we'd need help from the community," she said, reiterating a desire to work with the McCarthys and any group that wants to spearhead a Hispanic showcase or other performance with the city. "I'll be interested to see what we can put together."

McCarthy emphasizes that he and his wife aren't troublemakers. But the fight is worth pursuing, even if they have to file a lawsuit.

"Society is changing. There are more Hispanics in the community, but they still live in the shadows," he said. "They still live in the dark."

To find Lily Cortes' music, visit www.lilycortes.com.

GOLF CLUB, from page 1A

the middle of the month to work out the specifics of the lease with Golf Green Partners. That company has been operating the course since the town bought it 11 months ago.

The outline of the agreement was revealed at the meeting and shows the town getting \$160,000 annually for the lease, then getting 6.5 percent of all revenue generated over \$1.6 million. Maxwell told the commission that revenue of at least \$2.3 million is expected annually.

As well Golf Green Partners agrees to spend \$500,000 on capital improvements at the facility in the 10 years.

There is also a penalty clause that indicates the town must pay the company \$480,000 if it opts out of the deal in the first three years. The penalty gets less as time goes on.

Matt McIntee, the president of Golf Green Partners, said the penalty clause is necessary because the town has indicated it might opt out of the deal to perhaps sell the course in the future.

The deal with Golf Green Partners was one of two lease proposals that were seriously considered. The other was from a group called Club Pro Golf Group. Their proposal actually promised a little more revenue for the town but Maxwell wrote in his summary that the confidence level in that group was not high.

"Staff felt that the evident lack of experience specifically in running a golf course by the group does not provide the same level of confidence that they will suc-

ceed to the level GGP will, mostly because they are unknown," he wrote.

The document noted that the Club Pro Golf group intended to bring back the former general manager to run the operation but indicated that wasn't enough.

"They have identified intent to bring on former GM Chuck Eade as an employee, his status would have been more impactful as a principal in the ownership group," Maxwell wrote. "The decision should be made on the structure and the principals and not particular employees, because employees can change at a fairly rapid pace."

Of the two proposals to buy the course one was from Golf Green Partners, which offered \$3.4 million, the other from a group led by Richard Heisenbottle, which offered \$3.5 million, the exact price the town paid for the property.

Both offers were rejected in part because both required the town to take back the mortgage.

Heisenbottle, who has been trying to buy the hotel, has said ownership of the golf course is vital to the successful operation of the hotel. That door is still open because of the opt-out clause in the lease agreement.

Not everybody was happy with what they were hearing. The town's Finance Committee, which reviewed the deals earlier in the day, voted 4-3 against the lease agreement with Golf Green Partners. Those who voted against it, including member Tom Kurey, said they did so because of a lack of information.

"Our vote was not a vote against Golf Green Partners," he said. "Seeing more about the lease is doing our due diligence. What are our risks for continuing to

own the course? Revenue could go down. We need more time, a couple of more weeks."

Finance Committee Chair Tom Olson addressed the board's rejecting both offers to buy the property.

"We rejected those offers because they required the town to hold the paper," he said. "If they can't make good on payments, then we're back where we started. They are people with no money; they don't have the money. We're saying show us the money."

Commissioner Kevin Piccarreto indicated he was uneasy with the deal because of there was so little time to study it.

"The timing of the meeting was tight; the holidays were in the way granted, but we need feedback," he said. "Yet, we have to make a decision. As it is now, the management company doesn't know where it is going; they can't generate more membership or do anything else."

Commission Tom Shelly, who is a real estate agent, told the commission that he agreed with the lease deal because now is not the time to sell a golf course. Commissioner Michael Wilkinson agreed with him.

Commissioner Stephen Fowler indicated he would have liked more time to study the lease deal and wondered why the town couldn't keep the status quo and just extend the current deal with Golf Green Partners. In the end he, along with Piccarreto and the others voted to go ahead with the 10-year deal.

Maxwell and Ottinger will be back at another special commission meeting on Jan. 15 at 5 p.m. with the specifics of the lease for final approval by the commission.

VOTING, from page 1A

Saturdays, 9200 113th St. N., Seminole; and 7770 52nd St., Pinellas Park

The last day to request a ballot be mailed was Wednesday, Jan. 8. Visit www.voteinpinellas.com or call 464-VOTE (8383).

Ballots may also be picked up in Supervisor of Elections Offices; however, mail ballot pickup and voting in Elections Offices on Election Day is only permitted in the case of an emergency. A new state law requires that a voter or voter's designee must sign an affidavit affirming that the voter is unable to go to his/her polling place on Election Day due to an emergency and provide the reason for the emergency. This affidavit and the information provided becomes a public record when submitted to the Supervisor of Elections.

Voters may track their ballot status online at www.voteinpinellas.com to find out the date the ballot was mailed and the date the voted ballot was received by the supervisor of elections.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14. For a list of precincts and polling places visit voteinpinellas.com.

Police beat

Two dead after Jan. 1 murder-suicide

PINELLAS PARK – A man who shot his mother's fiancé and then himself died at 1:22 p.m. after his family decided to remove him from life support, Pinellas Park police announced Jan. 2.

According to a report, on Jan. 1, shortly after 9:30 p.m., officers responded to reports of a shooting at the Town Place Suites, 13200 49th St. N. in Pinellas Park. Upon arrival, officers found two male subjects suffering from gunshot wounds to the head.

Spokesman Sgt. Adam Geissenberger said the investigation of the incident had revealed that Anthony McClaney, 29, and his grandmother, mother and mother's fiancé were staying in the same room at the Town Place Suites after they were displaced from their Largo home due to a fire.

At some point before the shooting, McClaney walked into the bathroom and his mother called out and asked him what he was doing. A short while later, he exited the bathroom and walked into the room where his mother was reading a book and her fiancé, Mitchell Arnold, 48, was watching television.

Without a word, McClaney drew a .38 revolver and shot Arnold one time in the face, the report said.

McClaney then turned to his mother and, while holding the revolver to his head, said, "I am going to meet Jesus, momma," and shot himself in the head.

Officers arrived and secured the scene while the Pinellas Park Fire Department rendered aid to the two subjects.

Arnold was pronounced dead at the scene and McClaney was transported to Bayfront Hospital with life-threatening injuries.

He died Jan. 2.

Firefighters cut 5 people out of wreck

CLEARWATER – Clearwater Fire and Rescue and Clearwater Police responded to a two-vehicle wreck on Dec. 31 at Myrtle Avenue and Palm Bluff Street where five people were trapped inside an overturned vehicle. Firefighters had to cut the people out of the wreckage, according to a fire report.

Three people, including a little girl, were taken to Mease Hospital in Dunedin for treatment of minor injuries. Myrtle Avenue was shut down after the collision.



Photos courtesy of CLEARWATER FIRE AND RESCUE
Firefighters work to cut five people out of an overturned vehicle on Dec. 31.

Big Brothers Big Sisters announces new board

LARGO – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County announces its 2014 board of directors, including president of the board David Fox and new members Bethlee McLaughlin, Todd Simmons and Debbie Booth.

Fox, the senior vice president of manufacturing and advertising content for Cox Target Media/Valpak, takes over leadership from the immediate past president, Lisa Letizio, chief human resources officer at HSN. Board co-vice presidents are Joe Murray of Christian International School of Healthcare Profession and Beth Vivio, a community volunteer.

The board's newest members are community leaders in their own right. McLaughlin is the senior vice president of the project management office and partner relations team at HSN, having joined the company in 1999. Simmons serves as the vice president of operational and service effectiveness at Ceridian and is responsible for providing service to more than 500,000 customers. Booth is executive vice president of global operations at Catalina Marketing and oversees operations and human resources. She also serves as chair of the board for the Catalina Charitable Foundation.

Other members of this year's board include: Sergio Cadavid, treasurer of Jabil; Allie Cantonis, community volunteer; Alex Chamberlain, executive director of EasyLiving; Sheri Chancey, representative of Hernando and Citrus counties; Katie Cole, attorney at Hill Ward Henderson; Sean Goodrich, first vice president of investments at Raymond James & Associates; Kevin Hawkins, CEO of Mid-Atlantic Finance; Michael Kalt, senior vice president of Tampa Bay Rays' development and business affairs; James Nichols, president of Nichols Insurance; David Phillips of Macfarlane Ferguson & McMullen, P.A.; George Spowart, chief marketing officer of PODS Enterprises; Joe Trepani, senior vice president and corporate controller of Tech Data Corporation, and Damita Davis Wren, president of DavisWren CPA & Associates.

Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers "Bigs" and children "Littles." Learn how to positively impact a child's life, donate or volunteer at www.bbbspc.org.

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Space is limited so please call to RSVP!

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Hawkeye fans outnumber Tigers on the beach

By ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

CLEARWATER – The University of Iowa Hawkeyes may have vastly outnumbered the Louisiana State University Tigers fans at the Outback Bowl Beach Day in Clearwater on Dec. 30, but that didn't keep the Tigers from toppling the Hawkeyes 21-14 at the game on New Year's Day.

The Outback Bowl pits the third-ranked teams of the Big Ten and the SEC against each other, but fans and team members enjoy several days of activities, fun and tailgating leading up to the big game. This year, those events included a Busch Gardens team outing, a players' hospital visit at Tampa General, a players' night at Splitsville in Channelside for both players and fans, Battle of the Bands, a New Year's Eve gala, and of course, Beach Day on Clearwater Beach.

The fact that they were outnumbered didn't bother hardcore LSU fans. Mona Kelly, originally of Thibodaux, La., and now a Clearwater resident still proudly boasts her Louisiana drawl and has been an LSU fan all her life.

"I was born a fan. Even while still in my mama's womb. We're the tigers. The mighty, mighty tigers," Kelly said, the accent coming through as mah-ty tah-gers. "Forty-seven years I've been a fan. I would walk on coals for my team."

Josh Bellock and his son, Brooks, 8, are Hawkeyes fans from Sac City, Iowa. They were enjoying playing a giant game of chess together, with game pieces half the size of Brooks. They were loving the beach and the Florida weather. They had left the day before, where there was a high of negative 2 degrees at home and it was negative 10 in Minneapolis, where they flew out of.

"So this feels pretty good," Josh said.

Beach Day provided plenty of entertainment, from a chance to pose in front of a giant sand sculpture of the Outback Bowl and both teams' logos, entertainment from both schools' marching bands, cheerleading and dance teams, a cheerleader tug-of-war competition, live music, a trivia contest and appearances by both coaches.



The Hawkeyes' Spirit Squad and Herky show off their skills for throngs of Iowa fans at Beach Day.

Photo by ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

Around town

Become an advocate for abused children

ST. PETERSBURG – Be an advocate for abused and neglected children by learning about the guardian ad litem program Wednesday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m., at the St. Petersburg Main Library, 3745 Ninth Ave. N.

Guardians ad litem advocate in court and in the child welfare system for abused, abandoned, and neglected children. More than 1,000 such children in Pinellas County do not have a guardian ad litem. The guardian ad litem visits the child every month, becomes familiar with the child's case and makes recommendations to the court to help ensure the child has a safe, caring, and stable home.

No prior experience is necessary. You will be well trained and supported by an experienced supervisory and legal staff. Once trained, volunteers give an average of 10 hours a month. Call 647-1858 for or visit www.guardianadlitem6.org to submit an application.

Book signing set

CLEARWATER – Author Robert Banks will have a book signing event on Saturday, Jan. 18, 1 to 3 p.m., at Barnes & Noble, 23654 U.S. 19 N. where he will sign copies of his book, "The Lost Coast Conspiracy."

In this book, Trav helps his old Coast Guard buddy find a mysterious box that has been hidden away for 19 years in a cave embedded in the cliffs along that very coast. This discovery places the unwitting Trav and Carol in the crosshairs of the notorious and ruthless Al Kemp. Call 877-727-0697 or email michelle@keymngc.com.

Military officers plan meeting

ST. PETERSBURG – The St. Petersburg chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will host its installation luncheon Friday, Jan. 17, at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11 Central Ave.

Social hour will begin at 11 a.m. followed by lunch. The speaker will be Vice Admiral Norb Ryan Jr., president of the national MOAA.

The Military Officers Association meets for lunch on third Fridays. Military officers that are retired, active duty or former officers and their spouses or widows are invited to attend.

For reservations, call Bill Bolin at 584-1595.

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Saddle Up searches for a home

By TIFFANY RAZZANO

PINELLAS PARK – Following legal issues with its landlord, Saddle Up Riding Club is looking for a new home.

The nonprofit, which offers equine therapy to disabled children, adults and veterans, as well as programs for able-bodied riders, has found itself without a permanent home just a month after starting a 90-day campaign to raise the funds needed to purchase the property it has rented for the past six years.

Saddle Up wound up in court with Park Ranch, LLC, the owner of the property it rented at 6080 94th Ave., after withholding rent for two months. Kellie Sipos, executive director of Saddle Up, said she and her husband laid out thousands of dollars to renovate a home on the property that was condemned by the city of

Pinellas Park on Aug. 12 and was never reimbursed by the landlord. She said she only withheld the rent to force Keith Johnson of Park Ranch, LLC to meet with her.

At a Dec. 20 court date, which Sipos missed, a judge ordered that Saddle Up vacate the property. Sipos said she called the court and Johnson's lawyer 24 hours in advance to let them know she wouldn't be at the court and would voluntarily leave the property.

"I'm just tired of all this fighting," Sipos said. "Life is short. It's not worth all these battles. ... Now I just want to focus on the positive."

On Dec. 21, with the help of volunteers, Saddle Up relocated onto nearly 5 acres directly east of its former home that are owned by Nancy Sparks.

"The woman's a saint. She's an angel," Sipos said. "She's been phenomenal."

The move onto Sparks' land is just a temporary fix. Sipos is still raising funds to help buy land for Saddle Up's future home.

A bid on property in Safety Harbor fell through, but Sipos said she is making an offer on 2 acres in Pinellas Park not far

from where Saddle Up is located now.

She plans to build an All-Abilities Equestrian Center, which will be a completely disabled-friendly handicap-accessible facility. The total cost to purchase the land and build a new barn and arena will cost about \$350,000, Sipos said.

For information on their fundraising campaign, visit www.youcaring.com/nonprofits/help-us-build-all-abilities-equestrian-center-for-therapy/101371.

She said she also plans to apply for a commercial loan, and has several investors for the project.

"We are fine and actually going to be better than ever," Sipos said. "We just need the community's support."

Saddle Up will host a concession stand at a Sunday, Jan. 19 riding event at Helen Howarth Park, 6301 94th Ave. N. The event is open to riders of all abilities. The organization also will hold a used tack sale to help raise funds to feed and care for their horses during this transition period. Horse rides will be given to the general public from 10 a.m. to noon and from 2 to 4 p.m. for \$5 a ride.

Lucky winner!



Terry Ostein, right, was the lucky winner in a drawing for this antique copper tub at Havana Harry's Cafe and Market, 14461 Walsingham Road, Largo. George Haber, owner of Havana Harry's, left, helps Ostein display his prize.

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RE/MAX All Star to offer balloon rides

SEMINOLE – RE/MAX All Star will be providing tethered hot air balloon rides Saturday, Jan. 11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., as part of the grand opening of The Cove at Bay Pines, 5000 100th Way N., in Bay Pines.

Balloon rides will be offered – wind and weather permitting – and donations to the Children's Miracle Network will be received in exchange for rides.

For more information, call 391-9599 or visit www.RemaxAll-Star.com.

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5K, 19 & older \$25.00 • 5K, 18 & under \$20.00
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*All registrations after January 17, 2014 are an additional \$5.00 each. Entry fees are non-refundable.

REGISTRATION FORM

One form per participant. \$ _____ Amount Enclosed

I will be participating in the 5K Gallop _____ 1 Mile Fun Trot _____ Party only _____ (how many attending @ \$10 per person). Please list the names on the back of the form for Festival only.

Name _____ Age _____ Grade (if student) _____ Sex: Male Female (circle)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ Home Phone # _____

Are you an alumnus of St. Cecelia Interparochial School? Yes No (circle one) If yes, what year? _____

T-Shirt Size (circle one) YS YM YL or AS AM AL AXL AXXL

I _____ hereby assume all risks and hazards incidental to participation in the Crusader 5K Gallop and 1 Mile Fun Trot including myself physically fit and adequately trained for the 5K Gallop and 1M Fun Trot. I do hereby waive, release and agree to hold harmless the organizers, sponsors, activity supervisors, volunteers, co-sponsoring organizations and participants, St. Cecelia Interparochial School, St. Cecelia Church, Diocese of St. Petersburg, Bishop Robert N. Lynch, and the city of Largo for any claim arising out of an injury. I also acknowledge the city of Largo will not assume costs related to injury or injuries while involved in this activity.

Signature of participant (or of legal guardian if participant is under 18) _____ Date _____

Mail entry form and check to
St. Cecelia Interparochial Catholic School, 1350 Court St., Clearwater, FL 33756
or Register now at IMAthlete.com Please go to www.scsfundraiser.com for more information or call 727-461-1207

Briefcase

Basketball Warehouse to host reopening

LARGO – The Basketball Warehouse, at 6360 118th Ave. N., will host a grand reopening celebration Saturday, Jan. 11, 1 to 3 p.m.

The event will celebrate the newly remodeled Basketball Warehouse, a nonprofit basketball training facility for youth. Attendees may register children in grades four through 11 during the event. All skills levels are welcome. The event will include food, drink, shooting contests and prizes for attendees. Information regarding competitive travel and developmental teams, practice times, and fees also will be available.

Call Allen Williams at 235-4726 or email Belinda@TheBasketballWarehouse.com.

Association to tour cultural center

The Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation will host the January networking meeting of the Belleair Bluffs Business Association.

Members and guests are invited to enjoy a tour of the Largo Cultural Center and learn about the Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation and how their efforts impact our local community. Bring a door prize and introduce your business.

Refreshments will be served. The event will be held Thursday, Jan. 9, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. RSVP to 686-8797.

Quaker Steak and Lube to host motorcycle expo

CLEARWATER – For the fourth year in a row, the annual Florida Motorcycle Expo and Bike Builder Invitational will be presented Friday through Sunday, Jan. 24-26, at Quaker Steak and Lube, 10400 49th St. N.

The event will be the 16th annual expo overall with attendance estimated near 20,000 to 30,000 over the weekend as in the past few years. There will be live bands all weekend long featured on the Jagermeister Stage including The Soul Circus Cowboys, The Greg Billings Band, Jeff Vitolo & The Quarter Mile Rebels, Bobby Friss, The Black Honkeys, The Jaded Band and Stormbringer.

There also will be giveaways sponsored by St. Pete Powersports as well as a man cave giveaway that includes a pool table, TV and much more.

Friday night there will be a LED bike show and burlesque show by Le Teaze. Saturday brings a free fireworks display and Miss Full Throttle Bikini Contest sponsored by XRockxx.

Sunday will have one of the biggest ride-in bike shows in the area and the Bike Builder Invitational awards will be given out including \$10,000 in cash and \$10,000 in prizes including a custom built, one-of-a-kind, championship ring made by Continental Wholesale Diamonds.

Attendees also will have an opportunity to meet Paul Sr. and Rick Petko from Orange County Choppers all weekend long.

The event is free and open to the public. Hours are Friday, 5 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Visit www.floridafullthrottle.com.

Kitchen Solvers franchisees honored

CLEARWATER – Shane Svarczkopf and William Newkirk, owners of the Kitchen Solvers of the Gulf Coast franchise, were honored by the corporate headquarters during the Kitchen Solvers National Convention held in La Crosse, Wis., recently.

Svarczkopf and Newkirk received honors for exceptional sales performance and were presented with the Outstanding Sales Growth, All-Star Team Top Five Sales, and Top Sales Producer awards for 2013. The Outstanding Sales Growth award recognizes franchisees experiencing a 51 percent or more increase in sales from the previous year. Kitchen Solvers of the Gulf Coast was one of just four franchise outlets from among more than 40 to receive this award.

Svarczkopf and Newkirk also received the All-Star Team Top Five Sales award. Franchisees receive All-Star Team designation for ranking among the five best in annual sales system-wide. In addition, the duo received the Top Sales Producer award for ranking first in annual sales for 2013.

Svarczkopf and Newkirk purchased their Kitchen Solvers franchise in March of 2009. The franchise serves Clearwater, Palm Harbor, Tarpon Springs and surrounding communities. Kitchen Solvers of the Gulf Coast offers numerous kitchen and bath remodeling services that include cabinet re-facing, new cabinetry, custom countertops, kitchen planning and design, lighting, flooring and kitchen accessories.

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Why new year's resolutions are a genealogist's friend

OK, it's that time of year again; it's New Year's. It's time for resolutions. I admit that this is a recurring theme for me in this column. Each year I bring the subject up, but that is only because I consider it such an important one.



Genealogy exposed
Peter Summers

cousins as I can in this task. I usually get so wrapped up in finding ancestors (researching back in time), that I can use the nudge of a resolution to help me adjust my usual mode of research. In this case I want to start with my grandfather and work forward in time to the present. Not forward to me, of course, but forward through all those collateral lines of descendants. I could easily end up with scores of cousins using this approach.

New year's is simply a convenient time to reassess our genealogical challenges and do something about them. During the year when normal life activities compete for attention along with our research, it is often easy to lose our way ... to lose track of what is most important to us in our research quests. Some well-considered New Year's resolutions can do a lot to maintain needed focus during the year. And no small reward is the good feelings that come along with being able to cross a completed resolution off the list.

An important side benefit of coming up with resolutions is the thought process that by necessity has to come before the writing of any resolutions. This is the assessment that must be made of the state of our research to date, the review of the data that we have collected already, the documents that we have collected, the interviews we have conducted, etc. It is only through this assessment are we able to see where the holes in our research are, what the overlooked or ignored tasks are that keep us from moving forward. And it is those items, of course, that can benefit from the resolution-making process.

The list does not have to be long, but it does have to contain items that are important to our research. Typically they are items that contain a degree of difficulty and hence may be ones that we would naturally neglect. That is why we benefit from writing them down and keeping them visible as the year progresses.

I won't bore you with the mechanics of writing good resolutions, but suffice it to say that as much as possible the items should be specific and measurable and have a time limit set for them. That ensures that they are doable, and you will be able to tell when you have completed the item. After all, it is only when you have completed them that you get the satisfaction of crossing them off the list.

Let me share with you three of my 10 or so resolutions. One is to read at least one genealogy how-to book each quarter and write a review of it. It is important for me because I could include that review in this column, and most surely include it in a newsletter that I write, and even in a genealogy Blog I contribute to. This item appears on my list every year, and that focus helps me stay on task and accomplish it.

Another is to research my mother's grandfather's line of descendants. I want to uncover as many

The final resolution I will share is to attend at least three genealogy seminars during the year. This requires a bit of planning and preparation: choosing the seminar, arranging travel if needed, budgeting the expenses, etc. This is something that I could easily put off doing until the opportunity has passed and I have missed the event completely. It will require a timely survey of conferences to be sure I identify ones that will be most beneficial to me, and ones that are feasible to attend in light of other obligations I have.

So there you have three from my list. They are not necessarily unique to me, but they are important, and that is what counts. I hope you have been motivated to do a bit of assessment and planning after reading this. Like most travels, our research journey will not end up where we intend without some serious consideration and forethought. Resolutions can give us a roadmap we need to successfully guide key elements of our family history research.

As an end note, and just in case attending a seminar may be on your list also, let me give a plug for the Pinellas Genealogy Society Seminar coming up on Feb. 8. It is co-sponsored by the Largo Public Library and will take place there from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It features a professional genealogist and noted speaker, Jack Butler, who will make four presentations during the day. There will be an additional three break-out speakers as well. In addition to the speakers the registration fee also includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and beverages throughout the day. You also will find a huge book sale, raffles, door prizes, and a wonderful opportunity to network with other researchers, both new and experienced. You can read more about the speakers' topics and get a registration form by going to the Society website at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com or by dropping by the Genealogy Center at the Largo Public Library.

Happy New Year to all.

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

Military achievements

Frankecha Macfie

CLEARWATER – Air Force Airman Frankecha Macfie recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Macfie is the daughter of Marie Fagundo of Clearwater, and Frankie Macfie of Dix Hills, N.Y. She is a 2011 graduate of Clearwater High School.



Frankecha Macfie

Gavin Rogers

PALM HARBOR – Army National Guard Pfc. Gavin Rogers recently graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

Rogers is the son of Danielle and Arthur Rogers and brother of Brittany Rogers, all of Palm Harbor.

He is a 2011 graduate of Tarpon Springs High School. He earned an associate degree in 2013 from the Tarpon Springs campus of St. Petersburg College.

Paul McWade

LARGO – Air Force Airman Paul McWade recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

McWade is the son of Theresa Hubble of St. Petersburg, and Paul McWade of Largo. He is a 2012 graduate of Pinellas Park High School.



Paul McWade

Matthew Henry

ST. PETERSBURG – Army Pvt. Matthew Henry recently graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

Henry is the son of Susan and Glen Henry of St. Petersburg. He is a 2007 graduate of Dixie Hollins High School.

Michael Dealy

PALM HARBOR – Air Force Airman Michael Dealy recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Dealy is the son of David Dealy of Palm Bay, and Patricia McManus of Palm Harbor. He is a 2012 graduate of Bayside High School, Palm Bay.



Michael Dealy

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Worship calendar

Seminole First Baptist Church

SEMINOLE - A Bible Study Coffee will be presented Thursday, Jan. 15, 9:25 to 11 a.m., at Seminole First Baptist Church, 11045 Park Blvd., Seminole.

Presented by the Largo-Seminole Women's Bible Study, the free event will kick off the spring semester. The group is non-denominational. All ladies 18 and older are invited to join as the group studies the lives of Jacob and Joseph in the book of Genesis. There is no charge and childcare is provided.

For information, call Marguerite at 474-7139 or Carol at 398-1254. Visit www.largoseminolewomensbiblestudy.com.

Oakhurst United Methodist Church

SEMINOLE - A GriefShare program will be offered beginning

Jan. 29 at Oakhurst United Methodist Church, 13400 Park Blvd. N.

The program is designed to help attendees travel the journey from mourning to joy. It consists of several components: video, workbook, discussion, support and encouragement. The program will last for 13 weeks and each session is "self-contained," with a new topic each week. Group sessions will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 29 and will conclude on April 23. Each session will run 6 to 7:30 p.m. The group will meet in Room 13 at the church. The program is open to the community.

To register, call 391-4769.

Hope Presbyterian Church

CLEARWATER - A "rummage through your trunk" sale will be presented Saturday, Jan. 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher Road.

Sellers may purchase a car-sized space for \$10. Preregistration is required for sellers. To reserve a spot, call 531-3200. Vendors will keep proceeds from

their sales. Proceeds from Hope's garage sale items sold at the rummage sale in Hambley Hall will benefit the church.

For information, call 531-3200 or visit www.HopeFamily.com.

Unity of Clearwater

CLEARWATER - "Infinite Possibilities - The Art Of Changing Your Life," a seven-week class, will be presented by the New Thought Center For Creative Living, at Unity of Clearwater, 2465 Nursery Road.

The class will begin Wednesday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m. Mike Dooley bases the class on the New York Times bestseller "Infinite Possibilities." Dooley was one of the original presenters in "The Secret," and also created the workbook used in the class. The class will be taught by certified trainer Gregg Sanderson.

The seven sessions will cover many aspects of the metaphysical universe. Subjects of each class will include Thoughts Become Things, Beliefs, Emotions, Taking Action, Instincts and Hunches, Dreams and Desires, Faith and the Magical Universe and The Meaning of Life.

Guild luncheon set for Jan. 15

LARGO - The Martha and Mary Guild's card and game party and luncheon will be held Wednesday, Jan. 15, 11 a.m., at St. Jerome Catholic Church, 10895 Hamlin Blvd.

Tickets are \$15, including lunch, and will not be sold at the door. For reservations, call 214-8666 no later than Sunday, Jan. 12. Bring your own cards and games.

Classes will run from 7 to 9 p.m. The tuition of \$197 includes the workbook. The first session is free to be sure it is appropriate for the student.

"Once the creative spark ignites, one's life can expand without limit," said Sanderson in a press release. "The purpose of the class is to light that spark to give students better control over their lives."

For information or to register, call 475-8991 or email gregg@newthoughtctr.org.

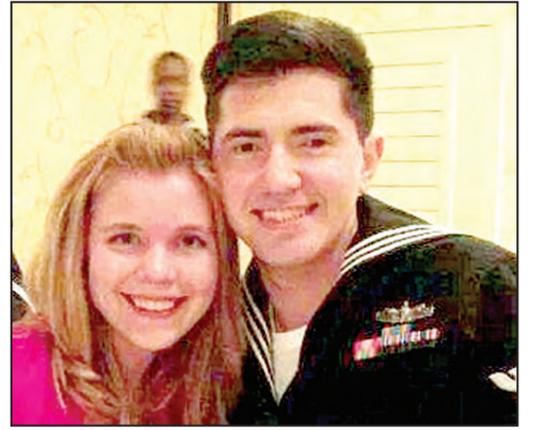
Bethel Lutheran Church

CLEARWATER - Bethel Lutheran Church, Clearwater, will host Tim Zimmerman and The King's Brass will perform Saturday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m., in the sanctuary at Bethel Lutheran Church, 3166 McMullen Booth Road.

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Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. For information, call 799-3010 or email blutheran.church@tampabay.rr.com.

Licata-Resler



Christopher and Lourdes Licata of Seminole recently announced the engagement of their son QM2 (SW) Christopher Louis Licata III to Jennifer Lynn Resler, daughter of Robert and Shelly Resler of Clearwater Beach. The bride-to-be is pursuing a degree in healthcare administration at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville while working as a pharmaceutical technician at Publix. The groom-to-be is currently serving in the United States Navy as a navigational specialist and is stationed in Jacksonville. The couple is planning a July wedding at Lakeview Baptist Church in Clearwater. They will reside in Jacksonville.

Away in a manger



Photo courtesy of KADI HENDRICKS TUBBS
Andrew and Melissa Larsen, with their son, Luke, portrayed Jesus, Mary and Joseph at Faith Presbyterian Church's Christmas Eve service. After the service, the Larsens were featured in a live manger scene while church members sang Christmas carols.

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Pets of the week



Alexi

Alexi is a 2-year-old, 23-pound baset hound and pug mix. She has an underbite that gives her character and sad eyes that grab your soul. Alexi is a sweet girl who is fully housebroken, crate trained and walks politely on a leash. She's a pretty mellow girl but does love her squeaky toys. She is fine with dogs comparable to her size and smaller, but large dogs scare her. She is good with children and would do best in a house without cats. For more information, call the Suncoast Animal League in Palm Harbor at 786-1300.



Elsie and Franklin

Elsie, pictured here, and her son, Franklin are an adorable, cuddly mother-son duo. Elsie, the ultimate funny girl, is just a year old. She came to All 'Bout Cats pregnant and is an exceptional mother. She is vocal and adores attention. She is small and compact and gets along great with kids, other cats and even dogs. She would love to be adopted with her cuddly son, Franklin, who is 6 months old. He is all love and enjoys long belly rubs. They are both fully vaccinated, tested for feline diseases, are spayed and neutered and microchipped. Call 712-7773 or visit www.allboutcats.org.



Zandra

Zandra is a beautiful Russian Blue mix with the most gorgeous green eyes. She was born on May 1, 2008. This furry lady is very sweet and gentle and is ready to give her heart and affection to those in her forever home. However, she does not like sharing her family, so she would have to be an only pet. She has been spayed and is up to date on all her vaccinations. Come visit this lovable beauty and welcome in the new year with a new family member. Call Pat with Second Chance for Strays at 535-9154.



Annie

Meet Annie, a 55-pound female American bulldog. She's a sweet girl who is a bit of a couch potato and would do well in almost any family. She walks wonderfully on a leash and has a solid frame. She is spayed, vaccinated and microchipped. To learn more about Annie and other adoptable animals, visit Pet Pal Animal Shelter at 405 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg or call 328-7738. All the animals are also posted online at www.petpalanimalshelter.com.



Lenny

Lenny is a big lover. He adores being petted and is a snuggle bunny at bedtime. He loves his playtime, too. He is 4 years old and was abandoned at a shelter recently and desperately wants to be loved again. Lenny has been neutered, tested for feline diseases, is current on his shots and is microchipped. To meet this great feline, call a Save Our Strays volunteer at 481-5262. Visit www.saveourstraysinc.com.



Cutie

Cutie is 5 years old and can be shy at first but is sweet and gentle. Just give her time to observe her new surroundings and she will warm up to her new family in no time. Cutie lived with other cats and got along well with them, so she would love to have furry siblings. Adopt her at the Humane Society of Pinellas at 3040 S.R. 590, Clearwater. Call 797-7722.



Jeff

Meet Jeff, a 1-year-old terrier/shepherd puppy mix. Jeff would benefit from training classes and learning cool tricks such as "drop it." Jeff would do best in a home with children ages 10 and up, but canine companions would be just fine. Stop by to meet him and sign him up for training at the SPCA's Sniff University today. Adopt him for \$75, which includes his neuter surgery, microchip, vaccinations and free 30 days of insurance. Visit him at 9099 130th Ave. N., Largo. Visit www.spcatampabay.org.

Chunky monkey – health risks of overweight pets

Pet obesity is increasing in prominence, and though many people think that their pet may look cute with a little extra "fluff," there are real health concerns for overweight. Overweight pets are more prone to ailments such as diabetes, hypertension, joint pain, labored breathing, more stress on their heart, more anesthetic risk, and others.

Speaking of Pets
Christen Woodley, D.V.M.



they are ever on twice-daily medication that needs to be given with a meal, such as antibiotics and insulin.

Many pet foods will have a feeding guideline on the back of the bag. In my professional experience, the food companies tend to be over generous with portion advices and many pets only need about 75 percent of the broad recommendations. This is a starting point, but all pets are individuals and may need progressing adjustments based on their age, health requirements, activity level, metabolism level, etc. Also, the goal is to feed the portion advised for your pet's ideal weight and NOT their actual weight if they are overweight.

You do not want to feed the amount listed for the weight they are now if your goal is weight loss. If your pet is overweight now and you are not measuring out how much you feed it, the first step is to accurately measure what you are offering. From there, try to cut back the overall portion offered daily by 25 percent. If after a couple of weeks more weight loss is desired, decrease another 25 percent and so on. In addition, look as if you are being overzealous with the treats!

Often times avoiding obesity is as simple as decreasing amounts fed and increasing exercise. Haven't I heard that before? However, if that alone does not work, there are prescription diet foods we can try, and this is necessary for some pets. Contact us to discuss if a prescription diet is advised for your pet.

I would be lying if I told you weight loss was easy. We battle with that ourselves and know that it takes time and commitment. Nevertheless, the benefit here is that pets cannot eat whenever and whatever they want if we take responsibility and control it. For us to best advise you, bring your pets in and we can weigh them and tailor what diet and body condition score are ideal.

Dr. Christen Woodley, D.V.M. is a veterinarian at the Animal Hospital of Dunedin and graduated summa cum laude from Auburn University in 2005. She grew up always wanting to attend veterinary school like her grandfather.

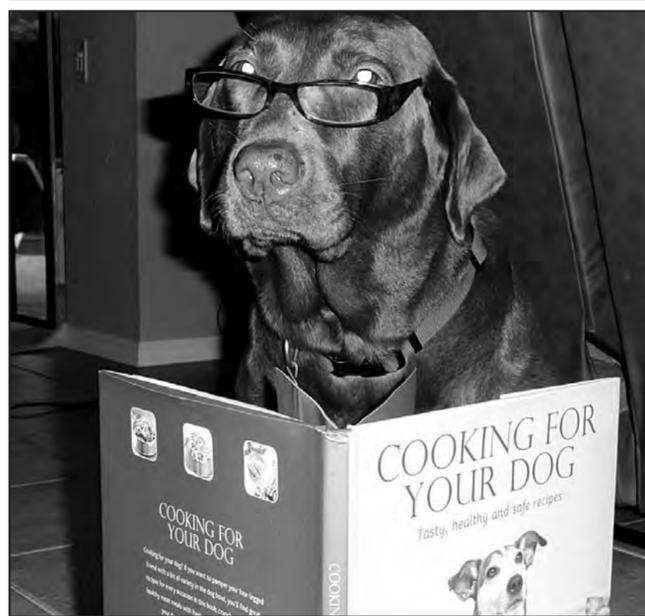
How much should my pet weigh?

After examining and weighing your pet, we can better advise you on what their ideal weight is and the proper feeding guidelines to achieve it. I prefer to monitor body condition score (BCS) and weight together. With an ideal BCS you are able to palpate the ribs, but not visibly see them outlined nor have to dig through an overlying fat layer to feel them. In addition, we aim to keep a peanut or hourglass shaped waist when you are standing over your pet and looking from the ribs to the hips.

How much should I feed my pet?

Measuring out your pet's portions in an actual measuring cup is always advised. Many of our pets do not have a routine exercise regimen, so our tightest regulation on their weight comes in with diet and portion control. I also recommend splitting feeding into at least two meals per day. This helps to avoid increasing glucose levels all at once, helps avoid bloat that can occur by eating too much too fast, and is helpful if

Pet Photo Contest Sponsored by
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Cooking for pups

Meet Lola, January's Pet Photo of the Month winner. She lives in Safety Harbor with her dad, George Billiris. Lola is a 5-year-old chocolate Lab, and Billiris's 10-year-old niece, Nicole, strongly recommended he get her. Thus, Lola is named after Hanna Montana's best friend. Lola has been trained to retrieve items by name, such as socks, shoes, and the TV remote. She is quite intelligent, fun loving and extremely athletic. She loves to swim and retrieve her favorite toy – her floating Kong. She also loves to go out on the boat with her best friend, Max, a 6-year-old boxer. They play on the local islands and love to retrieve their toys from the water. Billiris is a physical therapist, and he sometimes takes Lola to visit patients who have lost their own pet or are feeling down. She always helps bring a smile to their faces, and she knows how to gently place her head in their laps. As this month's winner, Lola and Billiris have won a \$25 gift certificate to Largo Feed or Park Feed in Pinellas Park. Lola has asked that her prize be donated to the needy animals at the Humane Society of Pinellas in her name. Send your pet photos to Alexandra Lundahl at alundahl@TBNweekly.com.

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Free Snowden – are you kidding?

Former CIA Director James Woolsey has pronounced that the proper punishment for National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden would be for him to be “hanged by his neck until he is dead.”



Debra Saunders

The news media want to hand him not a rope but a pedestal. The Guardian editorialized last week that its high-profile source is a hero worthy of a presidential pardon. Likewise, The New York Times opined that the Obama administration should offer Snowden “a plea bargain or some form of clemency that would allow him to return home” and serve less time than the three decades he faces under a pending criminal complaint so that he can enjoy “the hope of a life advocating for greater privacy and far stronger oversight of the runaway intelligence community.”

Who knows? Maybe The Gray Lady can give Snowden a blog whence he can lecture readers about privacy rights, as he did in a recent Christmas greeting video.

In one sense, Snowden, 30, is a sympathetic figure. In an ocean of anonymous leakers, he came forward to put a name on the avalanche of information he shared with Guardian columnist Glenn Greenwald and The Washington Post’s Barton Gellman. That singular act gave credibility to the leaks, ended any debate as to what the NSA is doing and peeled off the gauze that camouflaged an industrial-sized intelligence bureaucracy that couldn’t secure itself.

On the other hand, if Snowden can lift about 1.7 million classified documents without penalty, any contractor can leak state secrets with impunity. No other superpower on the planet would entertain such self-destructive folly.

Snowden has argued that he had a moral duty to challenge an intelligence machinery that was out of control. Hudson Institute senior fellow Gabriel Schoenfeld, author of “Necessary Secrets: National Security, the Media, and the Rule of Law,” is not impressed. Snowden ousted U.S. intelligence “for engaging in activity that almost every state engages in.” The former contractor then went into hiding in China and Russia, where he enjoys temporary asylum. “I think it is disgraceful,” quoted Schoenfeld, that Snowden lectures Washington but “doesn’t have the courage to criticize abuses of free speech in his host country.”

To reach its “free Snowden” position, the Times quoted a federal judge who found the NSA program to be “almost Orwellian” while ignoring another federal judge who upheld the program’s constitutionality. The Times also ignored testimony that “telephony metadata” prevented as many as 50 potential terrorist attacks, including a 2009 plot to blow up the New York subway.

In essence, the Times is stuck in 2007, when then-candidate Barack Obama railed against the “false choice between the liberties we cherish and the security we provide.” Obama abandoned that convenient campaign rhetoric after he won election and became responsible for the nation’s security.

The Times, however, clings to the 2007 fantasy that surveillance is not a national security tool. Snowden shares that fantastic view, so the paper of record doesn’t want him to pay the criminal price for civil disobedience.

Even some intelligence dons entertain the idea. Last month, Rick Ledgett, the head of the NSA’s Snowden task force, told “60 Minutes” that he considers amnesty for Snowden – in exchange for Snowden’s handing over the rest of the secrets he purloined – “worth having a conversation about.” Ever since, I’ve had this sneaking suspicion that some D.C. black hats want to cut a plea bargain or pardon deal that could make the embarrassing press stories disappear.

Former CIA spokesman Bill Harlow is not unfamiliar with that sneaking suspicion. He thinks Snowden is a “traitor.” If the administration is toying with a deal, he said, it would send a catastrophic message to would-be leakers. To wit: “Just make sure you steal enough.”

It’s almost funny when you follow the editorial boards’ logic. The papers argued that Snowden is a hero because he leaked material about which the public has a right to know. Then they supported granting amnesty or leniency if Snowden would agree to hand over any remaining documents rather than share them with the world. A trial would give Snowden the opportunity to tell his story, the American public a chance to find out what exactly Snowden leaked and Washington the burden of proving a criminal case – but the Times and The Guardian apparently prefer a backroom deal.

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

LETTERS

Dubious tax figures

Editor:

A recent letter from Ernest Bach regarding the proposed funding change for Greenlight Pinellas and our transit system included some exceptionally dubious tax figures – for which the author never provides attribution.

He assigns a figure of \$18.26 as the property tax amount currently paid to PSTA by “a Clearwater resident.” PSTA currently levies a property tax of .7305 mills (that’s 73.05 cents for every \$1,000 of taxable property value), so a bill of \$18.26 would be for a parcel with a taxable value of only \$25,000. If the owner is claiming a homestead exemption, that would be a home value of \$75,000.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median home value in Clearwater is \$179,900. With a homestead exemption, the owner of such a home would pay \$94.89 in property taxes to PSTA – not the \$18.26 that the letter writer claims.

The Census Bureau also lists the median household income for Clearwater as \$41,986. According to the IRS online sales tax deduction calculator, that household would pay \$101.74 for a 1 percent sales tax. Less than \$8 a year more than the current property tax for PSTA, which will be eliminated if the Greenlight 1 percent sales tax is approved.

That’s less than \$8 a year more for a vastly improved transit system that will, in many, many ways benefit the members of his Largo-Mid Pinellas County Coalition of Neighborhood Associations.

Bob Lasher

External affairs officer
Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority

Why the love affair with turtle tourist?

Editor:

Nothing is too good for our tourist – “turtle tourist, that is. We are now spending \$184,000 on 142 “turtle friendly” lights to attract more turtle tourist to Clearwater beach.

At about \$1,285 per light – \$985 per light and \$300 for the installation – that seems like a drop in the budget bucket, but I digress. So, we’re now replacing 142 perfectly good working lights to encourage more turtles to nest on the busiest beach in Pinellas County. Really? Just how many commissioners does it take to replace one of these light bulbs? A simple modification to the existing beach walk lights would have been more cost-effective. This begs the question. Who is crazier: the person(s) that came up with this idea or those who approved it? Why the love affair with these turtle tourist and not with our own resident dolphins, the stars of our show? Gone now is the dolphin statue that had been placed next to the big turtle on pier 60, why?

Michael Maribona
Clearwater

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.

USA as the world’s nanny: no more!

The time is long past when the United States should stop viewing itself as a babysitter, cop, fireman and all-purpose rescuer for many nations of the world. We’ve been filling that role for at least a couple of decades now, and it’s time to stop. As 2014 begins, I would give my left arm, or other less useful parts of my body, if on this date one year from now every one of America’s sons and daughters would be home – permanently – from Iraq, Afghanistan, and most of our other self-appointed war zones and outposts in the Mideast and Africa.

And I would not weep if we also reduced our military presence in Germany, Japan and South Korea. For more than 60 years we have kept massive forces in those countries, on alert and prepared for enemy assaults that have become less likely with each passing day.

As long as the Soviet Union was a force to be reckoned with, Washington’s leaders – in either party – could justify flexing our muscles overseas to carry out the containment strategy that was the U.S. foreign policy foundation from 1945 onward. But by 1990 the Soviet Union – and the Communist threat that was part of the package – had begun to crumble. We entered the 1990s with what seemed to many to be military and economic clout to spare.

At about the same time, according to some experts, our longstanding Soviet bugaboo was replaced by the “failed nation” theory of foreign policy. This was the belief that the major threat to our nation lay with regions and countries such as the Mideast, Somalia, Haiti and the Balkans, which were repeatedly areas of turbulence, chaos, conflict, disease and (later) terrorism. Propo-



Driver’s Seat
Bob Driver

ments of the failed nation camp suggested that such nations might eventually export their troubles directly to the United States and to our interests around the world.

These beliefs had relatively few backers until September 2001, when Mideast terrorists took command of four U.S. commercial airliners and caused the death of about 3,000 innocent American lives. From that point on, U.S. foreign policy focused on hate-filled – and very clever – enemies in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and scattered terrorist training centers in northeastern Africa.

The U.S. and some of our allies declared war, not on other governments, but on confirmed and suspected terrorists. The west sent thousands of armed men and women, plus well-paid and sometimes ill-disciplined mercenaries, to find and kill the terrorists. There was a high degree of logic in such a policy. But there soon came an expansion of such a goal. It came to be known as “nation building.” The assumption was that unless a fragmented Humpty Dumpty nation dominated by one or more terrorist groups could be re-organized along democratic lines, the potential for further terrorist attacks on western targets would always be there.

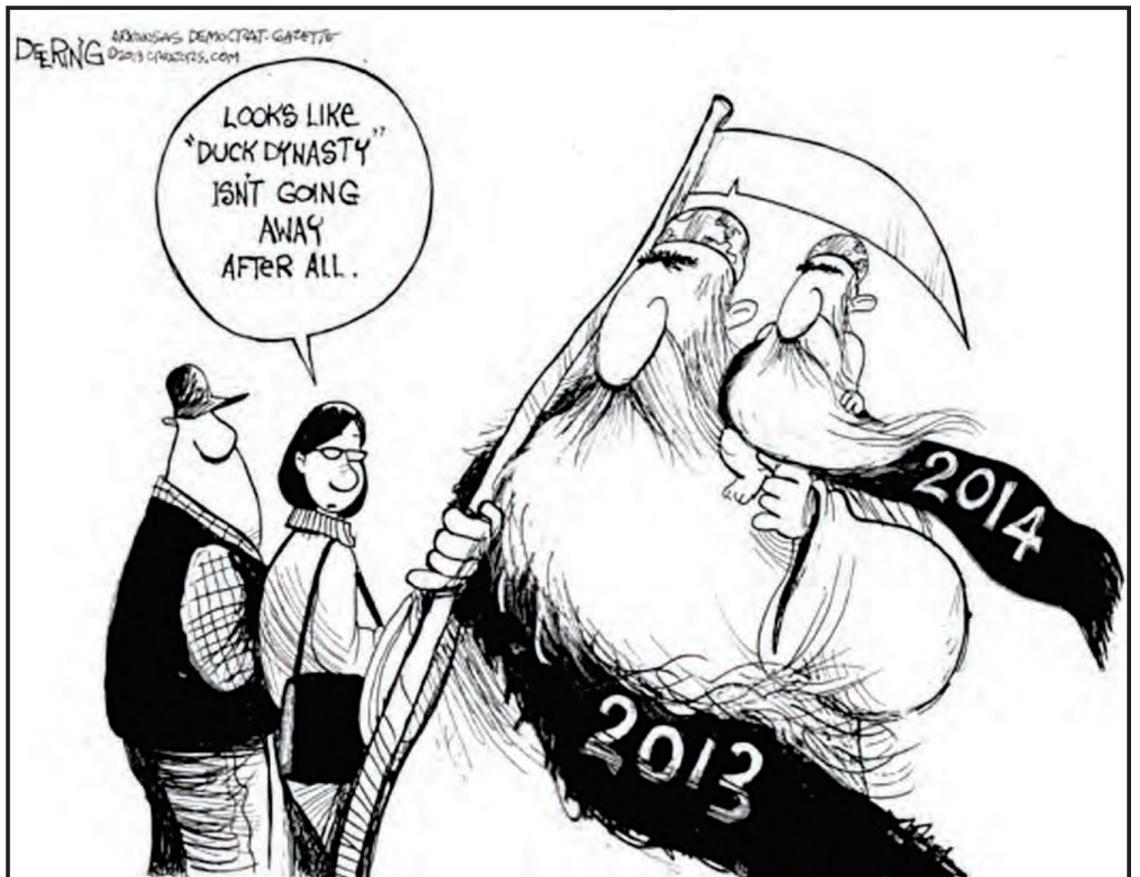
Now, a dozen years later, it’s clear that

nation-building hasn’t worked, especially in the Mideast, where tribal and religious loyalties (and conflicts) are far stronger than any democratic instincts that might be instilled. The allies have lost thousands of our warriors in battle and have spent many billions of dollars in warfare costs, training of foreign militia and payment of bribes to cooperative native leaders. Some improvements have been made. But current indicators point toward the likelihood that, as western troops are brought home, chaos, corruption and terrorist domination will again reign supreme.

By now the U.S. and our partners in nation-building should have learned our lesson: it is virtually impossible for outsiders to invade a shambled nation or region and re-construct it, with any realistic hope that it will endure. Such a hope is even more unrealistic when the invaders have caused the death of thousands of civilians in the course of “liberating” them from the terrorists who may or may not have been among them.

In decades to come, the USA will continue to wage war on terrorists, both foreign and domestic. New methods of fighting those battles will evolve. None of them will be perfect. But none of them should permit our sending large contingents of troops on ill-defined missions, for undetermined lengths of time, into semi-civilized regions whose occupants may not need, want, or even know how to be saved. This is not isolationism. In view of world history since 2001, it is simply common sense.

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



He’s only there for the popcorn

Timing is essential to make the most of the great American pastime of overeating high-priced, overbattered popcorn at the movies.

If you get in the line at the concession stand too early, you may speed eat most of your popcorn before half the previews are over.

And then what are you going to do? No fun smelling and listening to others munch on their popcorn.

You also don’t want to be in line when the popcorn machine is almost empty and your server has to scrape the popcorn from the bottom of it to fill your bag. Yuk. Might as well bite into acorns.

I learned the hard way. Serving stale popcorn should be a felony, punishable by making the concession manager eat an entire tub of it – before the previews begin.

Just can’t seem to resist the temptation of buying movie popcorn, despite the findings of a study by Center for Science in the Public Interest.

The study said that “popcorn and soda, sold at one of the country’s largest movie chains, contains the equivalent amount of calories and fat as three McDonald’s Quarter Pounders with 12 pats of butter. This adds up to 1,610 calories (one day’s worth of calories for many people) and 60 grams of saturated fat.”

The study was hardly objective. What it didn’t take into account was how damn good movie popcorn tastes.



Tom Germond

At least I consume only a medium bag of buttered popcorn by the time the movie is over. When I was at a theater recently, a woman asked the snack guy to put the butter in her popcorn tub in increments, instead of lathering just the top of the kernels. Monkey see, monkey do. The next person in line asked for the same. I wonder what the pointy heads at the Center for Science would have to say about that?

I asked my staff if they buy popcorn at the movies and got mixed answers.

“I buy it whenever I can afford the popcorn and the calories,” an editor said.

Some people bring their own popcorn to the movies, whether they are allowed to or not.

Buying popcorn is not part of “of the social contract that goes with buying a ticket,” a co-worker said, disgusted at the cost of the stuff.

I don’t bring popcorn from home. If I did, by the time I get to the theater it will be cold and devoid of its intoxicating aroma. But the least the theaters could do is allow you to use one of their mi-

crowaves – for a slight fee, of course – to heat up your popcorn from home – or a Quarter Pounder.

About did a double take recently when one of our local theaters was giving away small bags of popcorn. Not sure why they were doing that. It wasn’t Orville’s birthday. Of course, I had to upsize mine to a medium bag.

Perhaps that’s why the theater was packed on that day. I saw “Saving Mr. Banks.” At the end of the movie, people applauded the show. Not me. I was only there for the popcorn.

Hearing the applause you’d think that Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson were in the audience. Wonder if they eat movie popcorn?

Instead of applauding at a theater screen, people should react to the popcorn, such as by leaving signs on their seats for the management to review:

“Great popcorn. I ate so much I threw up.”
“Yummy. Went back for seconds.”
“Bad popcorn. I ate so much I threw up.”
“Love the popcorn; it sticks to the colon.”
“Yuk. The popcorn tasted like acorns.”

The Center for Science in the Public Interest didn’t mince words in 2009 in its comments on movie theater popcorn, saying lab tests show “it’s still the Godzilla of snacks.” Maybe so, but I’ve yet to see a surgeon general’s warning on a tub of popcorn.

Far be it for me to tell anyone to stop eating popcorn at theaters.

Just go easy on the salt. That stuff will kill you.

Tom Germond is executive editor of Tampa Bay Newspapers. Email tgermond@TBNweekly.com.

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Seminole Elementary Reflections winners chosen

SEMINOLE - Seminole Elementary School had close to 50 entries in the Seminole Elementary School PTA Reflections Program this year. The program is part of the National PTA Reflections Program to bring arts into the schools.

This year's theme was "Believe, Dream, Inspire." Students had to use the theme and could enter in categories for visual arts, literature, film production, music composition, dance choreography and photography.

Entries were judged on artistic merit, creativity and interpretation of the theme. The competition was broken down into two age divisions: primary (pre-k to second grade) and intermediate (third to fifth grade).

The Award of Excellence in each category will advance to the county-wide competition.

The Award of Excellence was given to the following students:

- Special Artist, primary: Yair Dezha, Kameron Durham, Nathan Britt.
- Visual Arts, primary: Brooke Vitito, Hana Weeks, Ethan Nadeau; intermediate: Janae Pope, Charles Ladjimi, Randi Tubbs
- Literature, primary: Graci Tubbs; intermediate: Sophia Bostick, Alexis Gniwosz, Randi Tubbs
- Photography, primary: Noah Powers, Graci Tubbs, Davaney Tavano; intermediate: Anna Ladjimi, Randi Tubbs, Arianna Ritzke
- Film Production, intermediate: Emily Sherman
- Music Composition, primary: Graci Tubbs

To see a display of the student's work, visit the Seminole Elementary PTA website at www.seminolepta.wordpress.com.



Above, Seminole Elementary School PTA Reflections Program winners in the primary division. At right, Reflections Program winners in the intermediate division.



Photos by JARNAE POPE-ORIO

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Diane Genovese - Owner

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Alzheimer Disease Facts

According to the most recent Alzheimer Disease Facts and Figures, one out of eight older Americans has Alzheimer's, therefore it is likely you have a loved one or close friend touched by this disease. The more you learn to better understand this disease will help in how you communicate with your loved ones. As tempting as it might be to say, "Mom/Dad, you just said that," this is not helpful. If his/her statement seems to beg for a response, just say, "Oh, OK, Mom/Dad," or "Thanks for telling me," in a positive way, and move onto something else. When you remind him/her they are repeating themselves, what you're really doing is lowering their self-esteem. It is best not to make a person with Alzheimer's disease feel impaired or ashamed. Try to respond in a positive manner, directing conversation to focus on a memory topic they are still familiar with, thereby supporting their self worth.

Caring for a person with dementia is stressful. Seeking the help of support groups, and finding a responsible caregiver who can give you a break when needed is important. It is one thing to finally realize someone close to you has Alzheimer's. It's a completely different thing to accept that fact.

Comfort Keepers provides our caregivers with extensive, hands-on training, which includes preparing them to care for persons with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Comfort Keepers in-home care services are available in all of Pinellas County. Loved ones who need special Alzheimer's care can benefit from Comfort Keepers' services because the caregivers are specially trained to address the needs of people from early on-set to late stages of dementia and Alzheimer's.

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Belleair resident puts heart into medical business, community

By BRIAN GOFF

CLEARWATER – In an unusual twist of fate the very thing that has given Belleair resident Randy Ware the means to own and operate a successful business also taught him the value and importance of giving.

Ware is the founder and CEO of West Coast Medical Resources Inc. of Clearwater. Otherwise known as WestCMR, the company specializes in buying and selling surplus surgical supplies. Ware said it wouldn't be possible without the wasteful society we live in.

"As humans we're a wasteful society," he said. "Our eyes are bigger than our stomachs and we end up throwing food away. We buy too many legal pads for the office and then don't have what we really need. The medical profession is no different."

Ware said hospitals will buy supplies based on what the doctors or other professionals want or need.

"Then the doctor changes his mind and wants something new, so what was in stock is no longer needed. Or a sale rep changes jobs and has a competitive line to offer and the doctor or hospital being loyal to the rep will buy the new offering, again leaving plenty of the other brands in the stock room." He said. "It is not rocket science: there is a lot of waste out there."

Taking that waste and selling it or redistributing it as Ware likes to say, is a win-win situation.

"We allow hospitals to liquidate to us and they recover some money and they are happy because these days everyone needs money," he said. "Then we sell it to other hospitals and surgical centers that use the stuff."

Ware said his company doesn't act as a middleman in that they buy the product, take possession of it, and then sell it. He said 20 percent of the company's sales are outside the United States.



Photo by BRIAN GOFF

Randy Ware is the founder and CEO of West Coast Medical Resources Inc. of Clearwater. The company's facility is undergoing an expansion of 11,000 square feet.

Ware, 51, and his wife Shannon live in Belleair. They have two adult children Sarah and Ryan. His career buying and selling surplus medical equipment happened by accident he said.

"I was working in a customized orthotic lab so I was exposed to the hospital market," he said. "I knew about the waste so I started West Coast Medical Resources on a shoestring in 1997. Now we have 30 employees and are the largest company at what we do in the United States. Hospitals across the country recognize us for what we do and we're growing because as the general population grows there are more people, more people mean products and more reps and more waste. We just sit on the sidelines and benefit from it."

But Ware just doesn't sit on the sidelines when it comes to his community. Recently when he heard the annual Thanksgiving food basket drive in Belleair needed help, he made a phone call and without knowing how much was needed told the organizers that he would buy and pay for whatever was required.

It was a gesture that amazed Sara Borger, Belleair's director of special events.

"I have nothing but great things to say about Randy," she said. "He has a huge heart; he cares about the community and is doing some unique and great things with his company that are really important."

Borger said Ware didn't just help the Thanksgiving cause; he did it in such a way that was above and beyond what was required.

"He was in the airport on his way to an important business meeting when he made the call. He's a busy guy but in about 20 seconds he said I'll buy the rest of the list, and it was a lot," she said. "He had his people call and they took care of everything that was on the list. It was a lot, it took a lot of time, and probably a whole day's work for one of his staff to go buy everything and deliver it."

That type of help is something Ware says is important to his life and he hopes to the people around him.

"I want my staff to know that we have to leave a footprint that matters," he said.

From the business point of view Ware's company is about to leave an even bigger footprint in the community. WestCMR is undergoing a major expansion. Eleven thousand square feet is being added to the company's facility, giving it a total of 27,000 square feet at its Howard Court location. It should be open by April and it gives Ware a new challenge.

"My biggest challenge now is finding the 10 new people we need to hire as part of the expansion," he said. "This is a very logical business, doing it and making it happen is the magic."

Ware has also taken on a new challenge outside of work, something that is near and dear to his heart.

"I've recently been asked to serve on the Board of Directors of the Children's Dream Fund in St. Petersburg," he said. "When my son was born he was very sick. We almost lost him, so I have a special place in my heart for Children's Hospitals and sick children. The fund is important for the families with sick children. I was honored when I was asked to create awareness and help raise money for the cause. Eighty-one percent of what we raise goes directly to those families in need."

None of that would have likely happened without Ware's success at business.

"I'm very fortunate. This business has exposed me to things in my life and has given me the financial freedom and security I never thought I would have," he said. "Paying things forward is something that I do. How I'm remembered is important to me and I want to make sure in the second half of my life that I'm doing things the right way."

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Flu vaccine recommended for pregnant women

The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County urges pregnant women to receive the flu vaccination due to the increased impact that influenza infections are having on pregnant women and their babies in Florida this year.

"The flu vaccine is the single best way to prevent flu," said Dr. Claude M. Dharamraj, Pinellas County Health Department director. "We want to make sure people understand how important it is for pregnant women to receive the influenza vaccination to protect themselves and their babies."

DOH-Pinellas recommends that all individuals six months of age and older receive the flu vaccination each year. It is especially important for pregnant women to be vaccinated due to the increased risk of complications associated with contracting the flu while pregnant. The flu vaccination is safe and will protect the mother, the unborn child, and also will help protect babies during the first months after birth.

Additional flu prevention steps include washing your hands often,

keeping your hands away from your face and covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing and coughing.

Symptoms of the flu include headache, fever, severe cough, runny nose or body aches. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, see your primary care provider immediately for guidance on treatment. For more information on pregnant women and influenza, visit www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/pregnant.htm

Flu vaccines are offered in many locations, including doctor's offices, clinics, health departments, retail stores, pharmacies, health centers, and by many employers and schools.

Visit www.floridahealth.gov/prevention-safety-and-wellness/flu-prevention/locate-a-flu-shot.html.

Events

Program designed 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.

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.

MPM to host seminars

Morton Plant Mease will host several free health seminars in January focusing on elder care

law, fatigue and diabetes.

The health seminars will be presented at various Morton Plant Mease facilities and community centers. Following is a summary of scheduled programs:

- **Laws Affecting Elders** – Monday, Jan. 13, 10 a.m., at Ptak Orthopaedic & Neuroscience Pavilion, Suite 114, 430 Morton Plant St., Clearwater. Caregivers can ask questions of an attorney who specializes in elder care law. Attendees also will learn about long-term care issues and the 2014 state Medicaid changes.

- **Is Your Blood Making You Tired?** – Wednesday, Jan. 22, 12:30 p.m., at the YMCA of the Suncoast, Teen Room, 1005 S. Highland Ave., Clearwater. Oncologist Ben Yan, M.D., will review common conditions that affect the blood and bone marrow, and may contribute to fatigue. Attendees will learn what treatments are available to improve fatigue caused by these conditions.

- **Type 2 Diabetes Risk** – Wednesday, Jan. 15, noon, at Aging Well Center at the Long Center, Grand Room, 1501 N. Belcher Road, Clearwater. Endocrinologist Payal Patel, M.D., will discuss risk factors, symptoms, diagnosis and basis management for type 2 diabetes. Attendees also will learn about the distinction between pre-diabetes and diabetes.

- **Diagnosis and Treatment of Insomnia** – Wednesday, Jan. 15, 6 p.m., at Mease Countryside Hospital, Meeting Rooms 1 through 5, 3231 McMullen Booth Road, Safety Harbor. Approximately 10 percent of adults experience persistent insomnia and may have difficulty falling asleep, maintaining sleep, waking up too early, and/or having unrefreshing sleep. These sleep disturbances lead to daytime consequences such as fatigue, lack of energy, difficulty concentrating, and irritability. This presentation, by Alfonso Castro, M.D., will address the causes and symptoms of insomnia, and offer up-to-date information on management and treatment. Discussion topics will include behavioral approaches, such as relaxation therapy, sleep restriction therapy and stimulus control therapy, along with appropriate medication options.

- **Relief Options for Chronic Sinus Pain** – Thursday, Jan. 16, 5:30 p.m., at Bardmoor Medical Arts Building, Conference Center, Room 120, 8839 Bryan Dairy Road, Largo. Jonathan Morgan, M.D., an ear nose throat specialist and facial plastic surgeon, will discuss the common underlying causes and symptoms of chronic sinusitis and chronic sinus pain. Participants will get an in-depth explanation of one of the major advancements in sinus surgery, the balloon sinuplasty procedure. An allergy testing demonstration will be performed and a questionnaire will be offered regarding sinus issues.

To preregister for a health seminar, call 953-6877, or visit www.BayCareEvents.org.

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Ours out of the many was as good as any

Growing up on the water in Florida was remarkably different from inland-locked suburbia.

In land-locked suburbia where I grew up, pet dogs and cats were still allowed to run freely so land-locked kids had some exposure to "wildlife." But pet dogs and cats were nothing like the literal wildlife that Florida kids were exposed to!

For example, one of my Florida-born students played catch with wild dolphins from her boat as a kid. She and her brothers kept a beach ball in their boat for those times when the wild dolphins asked to play catch by jumping out of the water near the boat.

One time, they played catch with dolphins for so long that they were late for dinner. The kids rushed home to one very doubtful mother. The dolphins saved the day by following them and jumping as mom got to the dock, verifying the kids' fishy story.

Capt. John Heidemann and I study free-ranging dolphins for the government. There have been just three - very precious - times when the dolphins have undeniably followed us to the next stop on our survey route.

However, they have never clearly followed us home ... until yesterday! What a Christmas gift!

Wintry overcast skies and choppy gray seas yielded only two sightings. The second sighting was local bulls BB and DD2. They darted into the study area and swam wildly across the bay like some maritime Baskerville hound was on their tail. They surfaced so briefly and unpredictably between long submergences that it took us many minutes to verify that we were actually seeing dorsal fins, that those fins belonged to dolphins and then finally to which dolphins they belonged. The two big bulls were tough and tricky to track in those sloppy seas.

Though their behavior was irksome, it was not about us. Today, it was most likely about food. If so, their animated search either yielded nothing or food on the run. The primary reason to think their erratic behavior was about food was that DD2 lurched up holding a fish at one point. I happened to be glancing at the hovering osprey preparing to dive bomb him and missed the picture.

After 40 exasperating minutes, I had vague data on dolphin behavior and a handful of mostly unusable pictures. Finally the dolphins slowed and once even surfaced slightly closer to us, only to appear in the distance again.

"That is fine," I said to Capt. Heidemann. "We have today's data. We do not want to bother them any further."

The dolphins had kept their distance between us, leaving Capt. Heidemann free to accelerate enthusiastically. We covered the mile between us and home briskly and tied off 15 minutes later.

Fifteen minutes after that, Capt. Heidemann was cleaning



Dolphin Watch
Ann Weaver

the boat when the unapproachable pair of bulls surfaced at our dock. BB floated off the engine and locked eyes with John. I got to the seawall in time to see DD2 slowly swim out from under our dock at my feet!

Those tricky-to-track bulls had changed course, covered the mile to our house briskly and directly, and then stayed for several minutes. They raced up and down the seawall, creating swells while sweeping past its treacherous shelf of shells and executing tight U-turns under the dock to power back in the other direction.

It was a magnificent observation. The dolphins do not come into the finger often. When they do, they hunt on the other side where they systematically work the entire length of the finger and then melt away. They do not stay in one spot. You cannot get a sustained look at them. They certainly do not stay in one spot off our seawall where we can get a sustained look at them! What a gift!

And they had followed us! It was a humbling and most appreciated addition to the list of Christmas presents Dolphin Watch has reported over the years. Many are startling demonstrations of how dolphins use objects. Starting in 2006, Oyster showed us that dolphins wear whelk egg cases. The next



Photo by ANN WEAVER

Cullas provides a rare glimpse of a stationary dolphin contemplating an object of curiosity. Bottlenose dolphin curiosity and intellect is unparalleled in the animal kingdom.

year, Bet revealed that some dolphins use grapefruits during the hunt. After that, Babyface poked a cormorant, showing that the behavior was not coincidence. Then Stick demonstrated tool use, using sharp shells growing on an abandoned ship like a saw to cut off catfish spines. In 2010, the Bovey Boys and female Slightwin verified that dolphins wear grass in a context that land-locked suburbanites call dating. Doodle demonstrated that calves surf just like their mothers.

Last year, there were two gifts, PC and his mysterious "maypole" foraging and Slightwin's remarkable aerobatics show, again in a context that land-locked subur-

banites call dating. This year, the gift is clearly seeing dolphins as conscious creatures that make purposeful decisions.

You can argue that this year's gift of following us home was not a gift but coincidence. They merely took our route out of the many because it was as good as any. If true, following us home was still a gift. It was a rich and powerful reinforcer, thanks to the ladyfish sheltering under our dock upon which the dolphins briefly dined. Positive reinforcements encourage individuals to repeat the behavior that preceded the reinforcement.

May we all remember the relationship between a positive reinforcer and repeated behavior in the coming year to our advantage.

Dr. Ann Weaver studies wild dolphins under federal permit 16299, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Send her an email at annstats54@gmail.com or visit her website www.goodnaturestatistics.com.

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Top five diversions

• **Selwyn Birchwood Band**, Friday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the show. Call 822-3590 or visit www.mypalladium.org. Having opened for Buddy Guy, Robert Cray, John Lee Hooker Jr., and Joe Louis Walker, among others, the Selwyn Birchwood Band performs a hip shaking, roof rattling mix of blues that has won over countless fans. Birchwood (guitar and vocals) got his start with Texas blues legend Sonny Rhodes touring throughout the United States and Canada at the age of 19. Curtis Nutall (drums) traveled internationally with many bands including The Blind Boys of Alabama and a five-year stint with Joe Louis Walker. Bass player Huff Wright and Regi Oliver (saxophone) have found themselves backing several notable blues artists all over the world including Lucky Peterson and Joey Gilmore.



Photo courtesy of INTREPID ARTISTS
Selwyn Birchwood performs Jan. 10 at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College.

• **"The Addams Family,"** Saturday, Jan. 11, 2 and 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$35. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhal.com. "The Addams Family" features an original story, and it's every father's nightmare. Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family. A man her parents have never met. And if that weren't upsetting enough, she confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before - keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents. "The Addams Family" features a book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice and music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa. The production is directed by Jerry Zaks with choreography by Sergio Trujillo. In a prolific career spanning six decades, Charles Addams created several thousand cartoons, sketches and drawings, many of which were published in "The New Yorker." But it was his creation of characters that came to be known as The Addams Family that brought Addams his greatest acclaim. With a unique style that combined the twisted, macabre and just plain weird with charm, wit and enchantment, Addams' drawings have entertained millions worldwide and served as the inspiration for multiple television series and motion pictures.

• **Katharine McPhee**, Saturday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Actress and Columbia recording artist Katharine McPhee spent the past two years shooting the highly anticipated Steven Spielberg/NBC TV series "Smash" in New York City. McPhee is currently in the studio working on her next solo record, due out later this year. McPhee's self-titled debut album exploded on the Billboard 200 and was the best charting debut for a female artist within a two-year period. She has co-starred in the hit Adam Sandler comedy "House Bunny" and co-starred in episodes of "CSI-NY," "Community" and "The Family Guy." McPhee was featured on two hit PBS specials: "Foster and Friends" and "Chris Botti in Boston" alongside Sting, Andrea Bocelli and John Mayer.

See TOP FIVE, page 2B



Photo courtesy of UNIVERSAL PICTURES
Mark Wahlberg stars as Marcus Luttrell in "Lone Survivor," the incredible story of four Navy SEALs on a covert mission to neutralize a high-level Taliban operative who are ambushed by enemy forces in the mountains of Afghanistan.

Opening this weekend

'Lone Survivor' features Wahlberg, Kitsch; Phoenix stars in 'Her'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'Lone Survivor'

Genre: Action and drama
Cast: Mark Wahlberg, Taylor Kitsch, Emile Hirsch, Ben Foster, Ali Suliman, Alexander Ludwig and Eric Bana

Director: Peter Berg
Rated: R
Based on The New York Times bestselling true story of heroism, courage and survival, "Lone Survivor" tells the incredible tale of four Navy SEALs on a covert mission to neutralize a high-level al-Qaeda operative who are ambushed by the enemy in the mountains of Afghanistan.

Faced with an impossible moral decision, the small band is isolated from help and surrounded by a much larger force of Taliban ready for war. As they confront unthinkable odds together, the four men find reserves of strength and resilience as they stay in the fight to the finish.

Mark Wahlberg stars as Marcus Luttrell, the author of the first-person memoir "Lone Survivor," whose book has become a motivational resource for its lessons on how the power of the human spirit is tested when we are pushed beyond our mental and physical limits. Starring alongside Wahlberg as the other members of the SEAL team are



Photo courtesy of WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Joaquin Phoenix stars as Theodore in "Her," from Warner Bros. Pictures.

Taylor Kitsch, Emile Hirsch and Ben Foster.

'Her'

Genre: Drama and romance
Cast: Joaquin Phoenix, Amy Adams, Rooney Mara, Olivia Wilde and Scarlett Johansson
Director: Spike Jonze
Rated: R

Set in Los Angeles in the slight future, "Her" follows Theodore (Joaquin Phoenix), a complex, soulful man who makes his living writing touching, personal letters

for other people. Heartbroken after the end of a long relationship, he becomes intrigued with a new, advanced operating system, which promises to be an intuitive and unique entity in its own right. Upon initiating it, he is delighted to meet "Samantha," a bright, female voice (Scarlett Johansson) who is insightful, sensitive and surprisingly funny. As her needs and desires grow, in tandem with his own, their friendship deepens into an eventual love for each other.

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

'The Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box'

Genre: Action, adventure and fantasy
Cast: Michael Sheen, Lena Headey, Sam Neill, Ioan Gruffudd and Aneurin Barnard

See OPENING, page 4B

Dr. Syeda Rizvi Welcomes Dr. Mairaj Uddin

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Looking Ahead

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.

Clearwater

• **Steve Lippia** in "Simply Swingin'" with Sinatra & Friends," Thurs-

day, Jan. 9, 1 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Tickets start at \$18. Steve Lippia, one of the most prominent interpreters of standards and swing music, returns to Ruth Eckerd Hall with his swinging, hot big band behind him! His youthful vitality lends itself perfectly to this brisk, exhilarating production. This show is part of Ruth Eckerd Hall's Adults at Leisure Series.

• **Leo Kottke**, Sunday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$35. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Guitar virtuoso Leo Kottke is widely known for his innovative finger-picking style, which draws on influences from blues, jazz and folk music. He intersperses humorous monologues during his concerts with vocal and instrumental selections from throughout his career, playing solo on his signature six- and 12-string guitars.

• **Blue Suede Shoes: The One and Only Double Elvis Birthday Bash**, Sunday, Jan. 12, 1 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Tickets start at \$18. The show will feature Scot Bruce and Mike Albert. Back by popular demand, the top two "Elvises" return with one phenomenal show. Bruce stars as the young Elvis and Albert as the Las Vegas Elvis. Along with the Big "E" Band, the performers offer a rockin' birthday party celebration of America's first rock 'n' roll icon. This show is part of Ruth Eckerd Hall's Adults at Leisure Series.

• **RAIN**, Monday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$35. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. RAIN performs the full range of The Beatles' discography live onstage, including the most complex and challenging songs that The Beatles themselves recorded in the studio but never performed for an audience. Together longer than The Beatles, RAIN has mastered every song, gesture and nuance of the legendary foursome, delivering a totally live, note-for-note performance in this multi-media concert, that's as infectious as it is transporting. From the early hits to later classics – "I Want To Hold Your Hand," "Hard Day's Night," "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," "Let It Be," "Come Together," "Hey Jude" and more – this adoring tribute will take you back to a time when all you needed was love, and a little help from your friends.

• **In The Mood**, Wednesday, Jan. 15, 1 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Tickets start at \$18. In The Mood returns for one afternoon celebrating the big band rhythms and intimate ballads of the Swing Era. Much more than a concert, the retro 1940s musical revue features singers and dancers with a sensational big band orchestra. The music and arrangements of America's "greatest generation" are as authentic as it gets. This show is part of Ruth Eckerd Hall's Adults at Leisure Series.

Pinellas Park

• **Sock Hop**, Friday, Jan. 10, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m., at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Tampa Bay's own The Impacs and guest artist Ken Brady of the original Casinos will perform oldies and sock hop music. For information, call 800-9880.

• **Movies in the Park**, Saturday, Jan. 11, dusk, at England Brothers Park, 5010 81st Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Hosted by the Pinellas Park Firefighters, this monthly, family-friendly event helps raise funds for the Benevolent Fund by selling hot dogs and hamburgers. Candy, popcorn, nachos and drinks also are available for purchase. The Benevolent Fund is used to help victims and families in the community. For information, call 687-4494.

St. Petersburg

• **Nicki Parrott and Rossano Sportiello**, Thursday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m., at the Palladium at St. Petersburg College, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Tickets are \$21 in advance and \$26 the day of the show. Call 822-3590 or visit www.mypalladium.org. Arbors Records recording artists Nicki Parrott and Rossano Sportiello, two of the top jazz musicians working today, return to the Side Door following a sold-out show last January. Sportiello is on piano, Parrott on bass and vocals, and Ed Metz on drums.

• **A Bobby Short Celebration**, Friday, Jan. 10 and Saturday, Jan. 11, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 12, 6 p.m.; at American Stage Theatre Company, in the Raymond James Theatre, 163 Third St. N., St. Petersburg. Pay-What-You-Can tickets are a suggested \$15 in advance and a suggested donation of \$10 to \$20 at the door. Call 823-7529 or visit www.americanstage.org. Part of the Cabaret Music Series, the show stars Paul Wilborn and Blue Roses, and features Ms. Eugenie Bondurant and Frank Bowman. Paul Wilborn and Blue Roses spend an evening at the Café Carlyle, with the great saloon singer, Bobby Short. Bobby loved Gershwin, Cole Porter, Mercer and the hot jazz from Harlem. Guests will hear songs like "I Can't Get Started," "Night and Day," and more, plus stories of Bobby from New York City and his visit to Tampa Bay.

• **Bunnies to Bridges**, a traditional mail art show, Jan. 11-31, at eve-N-odd gallery, 645 Central Ave., No. 11, St. Petersburg. The show will feature the them of Ray Johnson: the father of mail art. This will be the final show at the gallery which is closing at the end of January. For information, visit www.eve-n-odd.blogspot.com.

Crossword

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

Across

- Salad ingredient
- Voting groups
- Hole in the head
- Info about one's education and work history
- Rice cooked in broth
- Irate
- Sightseeing excursions
- The "L" of XXL
- "Dear old" guy
- "... or _!"
- Fast talk
- Filmsy, as an excuse
- "Comprende?"
- Certain print
- Molecule consisting of two identical, simpler molecules

- Bar offering
- Men in Spain
- Manned artificial satellites (2 wds)
- Low, indistinct, continuous sound
- Laugh-a-minute folks
- Ishmael's people
- Get a wife
- Impede, with "down"
- Ancient Andean
- Rice ___
- Honey
- "Welcome" site
- Library device
- Poisonous substance in a snake bite
- Territory ruled by an Islamic chieftain
- Run
- Without doubt
- Associate
- Botherer
- "The English Patient" setting

Down

- Rich cakes, in Austria
- Brooks Robinson, e.g.
- Treat badly
- Prior to, old-style
- Small songbirds
- Columbus Day mo.
- "That's it!"
- Balcony section
- "___ to Billie Joe"
- Indian herb having aromatic seeds
- Soft-shell clams
- Crude stone artifacts
- Trash hauler
- Venomous Old World snakes
- Westerly wind above the tropical prevailing wind
- ___-guided
- A floor covering (shortened, pl.)
- Slimy protective secretion
- Pan, e.g.
- Brazilian dance
- Alibi
- Called by a family identifier, such as Smith
- "___ makes perfect"
- Delivery by parachute
- Injured
- Bred
- ___ split
- ___ dictum
- Family subdivisions
- Eucharistic plate
- Space for a ship to dock
- Carpenter's groove
- Actress Miles
- Backboard attachment
- ___ de deux

Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers from last week

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

Crossword answers from last week

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

Horoscopes January 9, 2014

Capricorn

December 22 – January 19
Dreams do come true, Capricorn. Reach for the stars, and all that you hope for will be yours. An old friend drops by with an intriguing offer. Consider it.

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18
Use it or lose it, Aquarius. You've kept a talent hidden for far too long. It is your turn to shine. A memo at work sets forth a long list of challenges.

Pisces

February 19 – March 20
Poor Pisces. You've been chomping at the bit to get started on a project, and there is yet another delay. Be patient. Your time will come.

Aries

March 21 – April 19
Awesome, Aries. The budget crunching pays off, and you begin to show a surplus. Stash a bit and spend the rest on whatever your heart desires.

Taurus

April 20 – May 20
Save it, Taurus. Nothing you say or do matters. Your loved one has their mind made up. Turn your attention to an issue you can tackle.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21
Wealth and fame are not all that they are cracked up to be. Know the pitfalls before you sign on the dotted line, Gemini. A youngster makes a plea. Be kind.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22
Ahoy, Cancer. Many challenges lie ahead, but as usual, you will be up to the task. A loved one could use some time away. Arrange it for them.

Leo

July 23 – August 22
Tsk-tsk, Leo. You suspect it won't work, and you're right. Some people have to learn the hard way, however. A shift in opinion eases conflict at home.

Virgo

August 23 – September 22
Step up or step out, Virgo. Demand has grown, and the pace is quickening. A relative makes an announcement. Be there for them.

Libra

September 23 – October 22
Methods are challenged, and you must hold firm if any progress is to be made. Be bold and be brave, Libra. A text adds to the intrigue at home.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 21
Uh-uh-uh, Scorpio. Now is not the time to bow out. You promised to help, and many people are counting on you. Do what you must to fulfill your commitment.

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21
Faith, Sagittarius. This week is all about faith. Believe in those around you and trust their instincts, and the deadline will be met. A cause is worthy.

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Movie review

'The Curse of the Midas Box' dials back action, favors mystery

Since "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2" hit the big screen in the summer of 2011, bringing an end to the franchise about the Boy Who Lived, Hollywood has been searching for a suitable cinematic vehicle to attract all those eager viewers.



Reel Time
Lee Clark Zumpe

Most recently, this search led to the young adult series by author G.P. Taylor centering on Mariah Mundi. The first film in a planned series is "The Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box," opening in limited release Jan. 10. Locally, the film will be playing at AMC Woodlands Square 20, 3128 Tampa Road, Oldsma.

Rated PG, "The Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box" is appealing and enjoyable despite slow pacing and plot inconsistencies.

As the film opens, young Mariah Mundi's privileged life is cast into chaos following a series of incidents including the disappearance of his parents and the abduction of his younger brother, Felix. Mariah only avoids being kidnapped thanks to the help of Captain Will Charity, who explains that Otto Luger - a villain devoted to uncovering the mystical and powerful Midas Box, is threatening his family.

Charity sends Mariah to the Prince Regent Hotel, an island resort known for its restorative thermal baths. Luger has taken up residence at the hotel and Charity suspects that the Midas Box must therefore be nearby. As he tries to uncover clues that will lead him to his family, Mariah discovers all kinds of mysterious goings-on at the Prince Regent Hotel. With the aid of a young servant girl, Sacha, and an eccentric magician, Mariah struggles to find out the truth behind Luger's intentions and to save his family.

Viewed strictly as a family-friendly adventure, "The Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box" has a lot going for it. It borrows heavily from early Indiana Jones films, depicting a world in which ancient secrets and arcane lore have tangible, supernatural power. In this kind of film, legend must be more than myth: The filmmaker must make the unbelievable believable, if only for the duration of the story.

Director Jonathan Newman has taken considerable care in crafting "The Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box" so that it will appeal to several subsets of moviegoers. The tale is set in Victorian England, and features an episodic style that evokes Dickensian stories. Mariah and his brother Felix even end up in the courtyard of a workhouse at one point and are accosted by a ruffian who could well have been one of Fagin's pickpockets - perhaps even the Artful Dodger himself. There are the obvious aforementioned allusions to "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," particularly with the introduction of a secretive department of the British government - the Bureau of Antiquities - charged with securing dangerous relics and handling all things of a supernatural nature.

When the action moves to the Prince Regent Hotel, Newman cleverly inserts a steampunk ambiance, reveling in the glimmering steam-powered machinery Luger has employed to find the Midas Box.

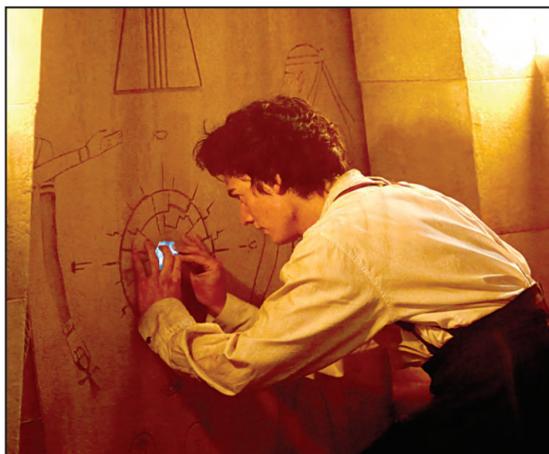
"The Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box" most significant weakness is its sluggishness. The plot moves at a snail's pace through much of the film without generating much excitement. While many would agree that today's movies too often over-extend chase sequences, in "The Adventurer: Curse of the Midas Box," some pursuit scenes literally take mere seconds to conclude.

The acting overall is exemplary. Aneurin Barnard stars as Mariah Mundi. His performance is oddly reminiscent of Elijah Wood's Frodo Baggins - he gives the character an inconspicuous bravery and general sense of decency without making him seem trite.

Michael Sheen portrays Captain Will Charity. He imbues the character with just the right amount of vanity to call to mind Indiana Jones. Mella Carron plays Sacha. While the role initially seems to be incidental, Carron manages to express both motivation and depth and ultimately makes this character one of the most thoroughly developed ones in the entire film.

Sam Neill gives a solid performance as Otto Luger. With a name like that, one might expect an over-the-top German accent, but Neill plays the antagonist with quiet, methodical belligerence instead of making him some nutty megalomaniac. Lena Headey is less effective as his accomplice, Monica. Her portrayal is stilted and stale.

Another flaw in "The Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box" is that the film almost never sufficiently conveys any great peril.



Above, Sam Neill, left, and Lena Headey star in the fantasy adventure film "The Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box," an RLJ Entertainment release. Top left, Aneurin Barnard stars as Mariah Mundi, giving "the character an inconspicuous bravery and general sense of decency without making him seem trite," Zumpe explains. At left, Michael Sheen stars as Captain Will Charity in the film.

From its earliest scenes of abduction and pursuit, there is rarely a great sense of danger. Otto Luger's henchmen, the thuggish Grendel and Grimm, are physically menacing but seem easy to outwit. Meanwhile, Luger, while malevolent and immoral, does not appear to pose any significant threat unless he is carrying a weapon. There are a number of instances when Mariah might have brought a swift end to the entire predicament simply by punching old Otto in the kisser.

Of course, that's one of the things that makes "The Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box" rather unique. Newman is counting on audiences to thrive on the mystery and to play along as Mariah collects the pieces to the puzzle. Mariah is as much a young Sherlock Holmes as he is a young Indiana Jones, in that regard.

"The Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box" boasts no bone-rattling explosions, no cling-to-the-edge-of-the-seat chase sequences through Victorian London and relatively few special effects - CGI or otherwise - compared to most modern Hollywood fare. Instead, it offers a fascinating mystery, an entertaining story and compelling characters. It evokes a variety of iconic adventure films, but - in order to appeal to wider audiences and younger viewers - dials back the intensity of the action. It's fun, suspenseful and satisfying.

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Guitar virtuoso to play Capitol Theatre

CLEARWATER – Guitar virtuoso Leo Kottke will perform Sunday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St.

Tickets start at \$35. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com.

Kottke is widely known for his innovative finger-picking style, which draws on influences from blues, jazz and folk music. He intersperses humorous monologues during his concerts with vocal and instrumental selections from throughout his career, playing solo on his signature six- and 12-string guitars.

According to a press release, he was born in Athens, Ga., but left town after a year and a half.

Kottke was raised in 12 different states, and, as a child, he absorbed a variety of musical influences. He flirted with both violin and trombone, before abandoning Stravinsky for the guitar at age 11. Early on, he embraced both the country-blues of Mississippi John Hurt as well as the music of John Phillip Sousa and Preston Epps.

Kottke's youth is an odd collection of eccentric adventures. He dropped out of the University of Missouri to hitchhike across the country, ending up in South Carolina and then New London.

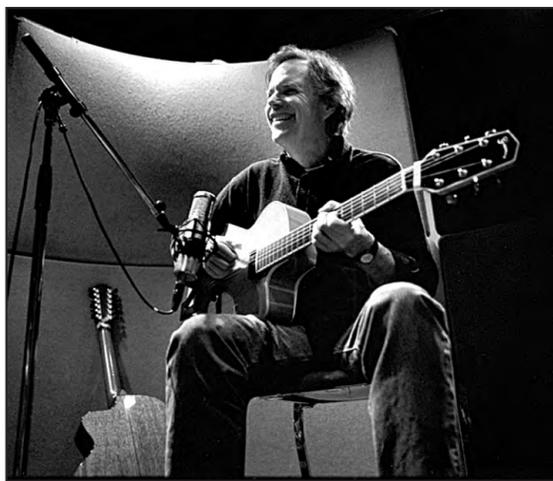


Photo courtesy of PARADIGM TALENT AGENCY

Leo Kottke will perform at the Capitol Theatre on Jan. 12.

"The trip was not something I enjoyed," he states in the biography. "I was broke and met too many interesting people."

He joined the Navy to be underwater. His service stint eventually led to hearing loss, caused by shooting at light bulbs in the Atlantic while serving aboard the USS Halbeak, a diesel submarine.

After being discharged from the Navy in 1964, Kottke settled in the Twin Cities area and became

a fixture at Minneapolis' Scholar Coffeehouse, which had been home to Bob Dylan and John Kerner. He issued his 1968 recording debut LP "Twelve String Blues," recorded on a Viking quarter-inch tape recorder, for the Scholar's tiny Oblivion label.

After sending tapes to guitarist John Fahey, Kottke was signed to Fahey's Takoma label, releasing what has come to be called the Armadillo record. Fahey and his

manager Denny Bruce soon secured a production deal for Kottke with Capitol Records.

Kottke's released his major-label debut, "Mudlark," in 1971. The album positioned him somewhat uneasily in the singer/songwriter vein, despite his own wishes to remain an instrumental performer. Still, despite arguments with label heads as well as with Bruce, Kottke flourished during his tenure on Capitol, as records like 1972's "Greenhouse" and 1973's live "My Feet Are Smiling" and "Ice Water" found him branching out with guest musicians and honing his guitar technique.

With 1975's "Chewing Pine," Kottke reached the U.S. Top 30 for the second time. He also gained an international following thanks to his continuing tours in Europe and Australia.

More recently, Kottke's 2002 collaboration with Phish bassist Mike Gordon, "Clone," earned him a new set of fans. The two followed with a recording in the Bahamas called "Sixty Six Steps," produced by Kottke's old friend and Prince producer David Z.

Kottke has been awarded two Grammy nominations as well as a Doctorate in Music Performance by the Peck School of Music at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

A&E

Belly dance showcase set

ST. PETE BEACH – Hip Expressions Belly Dance Studio will host its January 1001 Nights dance show on Friday, Jan. 10, at St. Petersburg Nights Russian Restaurant & Dinner Theatre, 6800 Sunset Way.

The live dance show is at 8 p.m., followed by a dance party with live music by Boris & Sax. This month there is also a special concert from 7 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$15 for the public, \$10 for Hip Expressions members, and \$5 for children.

This month's showcase features Cumie Dunio and DEEPWAVE Tribal Fusion. 1001 Nights shows take place on the second Friday of each month. A full menu is available at the show, as well as a full bar with Eastern European vodkas and beer.

For reservations, call 363-3832.

Decorative artists invite new members

LARGO – The Heart of Pinellas Decorative Artists, the local chapter of the Society of Decorative Painters, invites anyone interested in the decorative arts to join them at a monthly meeting on second Saturdays, 9 a.m., at Oak Ridge Wesleyan Church, 11000 110th Ave. N., Largo.

All skill levels are welcome from the beginner to the advanced artist. After a business meeting at 10 p.m., an art project is taught utilizing various mediums.

In addition to hosting painting workshops and encouraging art education in the community, the group has participated in various philanthropic projects including painting and filling ditty bags for the homeless, painting treasure boxes for Shriner's Hospital, Habitat for Humanity and donating to local food pantries and the SPCA.

The Heart of Pinellas Decorative Artists installed new officers during their Christmas banquet on Dec. 14 at Banquet Masters in Pinellas Park. Newly installed officers are Toni Hoffer, president; Kathy Kelly and Ruth Johnson, first vice presidents; Gail Kautz and Jennifer Hoffer, second vice presidents; Chris Wolfe, secretary, and Debi McClure, treasurer.

For more information, visit the HPDA website at www.hpdafl.com.

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OPENING, from page 1B

Director: Jonathan Newman
 Rated: PG

Jonathan Newman's new film "The Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box" features a mix of ancient mysteries, powerful evil and a fearless hero's quest through a fantastical realm of steam-powered wonders and sinister magic.

In the film, 17-year-old Mariah Mundi's life is turned upside down when his parents vanish and his younger brother is kidnapped. Following a trail of clues to the darkly majestic Prince Regent Hotel, Mariah discovers a hidden realm of child-stealing monsters, deadly secrets and a long-lost artifact that grants limitless wealth – but also devastating supernatural power.

With the fate of his world, and his family at stake, Mariah will risk everything to unravel the Curse of the Midas Box.

'Raze'

Genre: Action and horror
 Cast: Zoë Bell, Rachel Nichols, Doug Jones, Sherrilyn Fenn, Tracie Thoms and Bailey Borders
 Director: Josh Waller
 Not yet rated

Awakening after being abducted, Jamie finds herself in a concrete bunker, and she discovers that she is not alone.

She and Sabrina, a fellow abductee, both soon realize that they are in a modern day "coliseum" where, along with 48 other women, they are condemned to kill each other in order to protect their very own loved ones.

'The Truth About Emanuel'

Genre: Drama
 Cast: Kaya Scodelario, Jessica Biel, Alfred Molina, Frances O'Connor, Jimmi Simpson and Aneurin Barnard
 Director: Francesca Gregorini
 Not yet rated

Emanuel (Kaya Scodelario), a troubled girl, becomes preoccupied with her mysterious, new neighbor (Jessica Biel), who bears a striking resemblance to her deceased mother.

In offering to babysit her newborn, Emanuel unwittingly enters a fragile, fictional world, of which she becomes the gatekeeper.

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



Photo courtesy of TRIBECA FILM

Jessica Biel, left, and Frances O'Connor star in "The Truth About Emanuel," distributed by Tribeca Film and Well Go USA Entertainment.

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Gorgeous TI 1BR/1BA. Pets Okay. Can Rent Out! Walk To Beach. \$175,000. Virginia Wyman, Coldwell Banker, (813)610-0074.

20. Condo Sales

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

1BR/1BA 704 sq. ft.
Nicely Updated, Canal View, Updated Kitchen, 55+ \$29,900

1BR/1BA, 704 sq. ft.
Crown Molding, Furnished \$24,900

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

MADEIRA BEACH
Sea Towers, Waterfront, High Floor, 1BR/1BA, Completely Remodeled, Partially Furnished, +Carpot. (727)546-0215, (727)512-3520.

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

2BR, LANDINGS GOLF COURSE,
Central Clearwater. Minutes From Beaches, Restaurants, Shopping, Hardwood Floors. New Carpet, Paint, Blinds, A/C & Water Heater. Pool & Laundry On Premise. Pets & Children Welcome. Priced To Sell At \$44,950. Linda Twitty, Sales Assoc, Entrenken Associates, Inc. (727)460-7043.

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1BR FURNISHED Condo
Oversized Glass Enclosed Lanai, \$73,900

1BR/1.5BA, Updated, Enclosed Porch, New Appliances, Windows \$79,500
Lots of Community Activities. Heated Pool

LAKEVIEW of LARGO SOUTH
2BR, W/D. Enclosed Lanai, Covered Parking, Activities. No Flood Great Budget. No car needed. \$77,500.

Maureen Stilwell,
Charles Rutenberg Realty
(727)596-2965, (727)458-2246

35. Mobile Home Sales

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

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

Affordable 55+ Living GLENWOOD ESTATES: 5 Star, Land Owned. All 2-3BR/2BA/2CP, Furnished \$175/Mo. Maint. No Flood Insurance Required 12501 Ulmerton Rd., Largo. Brochures Available At Clubhouse.

#5 - 2/2/2, Lake View, Furnished, \$65,888.

For Viewing Call
iMapp Realty Group
John Doles, 727-510-3331

55. Open House

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, 1-4,
2274 17TH AVE SW &
2173 17TH TERRACE SW
Completely Updated 3BR/2BA/2CG Homes With Pools. Close To Beach, Dining & Shopping. Both At \$214,900! Call Tammi Browning, Prudential Tropical Realty, (727)430-0019.

85. Commercial Sales

DOWNTOWN LARGO
Free-standing Office Space, 792SF, For Sale. New Roof, Flooring, Windows, A/C; \$119,000. Call (727)776-9119

95. Property Mgmt.

ALL REAL ESTATE ADVERTISING in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-8777. The Toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



145. Unfurnished Houses

LARGO: 3BR/1.5BA/1CG, Close To Beach! Screen Enclosed Patio. Pet OK w/Deposit. \$1,125/Mo. Annual. Florida's Best Accommodations. (727)517-9404.

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ST. PETE, 2BR, LARGE KITCHEN,
LR, DR, W/D Hook-Up, 6010 17th Ave. N. \$775/Mo. \$775 Security. (727)253-0523.

155. Furnished Condos

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

SEA TOWERS, 55+, 2BR/2BA
Corner Unit, Annual, Partially Furnished, Cute & Clean. (847)639-5969.

155. Furnished Condos

SEMINOLE 2BR/2BA, 55+.
Close To Beach, Pool, Clubhouse, Carport, On Golf Course. \$1,200/Mo. Annual. (317)862-1922.

160. Unfurnished Condos

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

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175. Unfurnished Apts.

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Studio Apartment, \$175/Wkly. Room, \$90/Wkly. Clean & Affordable. Free Utilities. Call Or Click 586-2412.com

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Spacious, W/D Hook-Up. Small Fenced Yard. Close To Shopping. Small Dog OK. \$820/Mo. (727)530-0335

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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

185. Beach Rentals

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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.

TERRIFIC GULF VIEWS
Redington Shores, Large 2BR/2.5BA, W/D, Patio, Newer Tile, Carpet, Paint Throughout. \$1,225/Mo. 18131 Gulf Blvd. Jeff. (727)391-1203.

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Walk To Gulf, 1BR Unfurnished, \$625/Mo. Includes Water. (727)460-3306.

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Gulf-front, 2BR/2BA, Includes Utilities, W/D, Pool, Reserved Parking, Petless, Monthly/ Seasonal. Owner (813)973-7105.

190. Waterfront Rentals

SAND KEY 2BR/2BA CONDO
On The Intracoastal. Remodeled, New Appliances, W/D, Heated Pool, Short Walk To Beach. Nonsmoking. \$1,450/Mo. Annual. (727)593-0644.

SAND KEY DAN'S ISLAND
Furnished 2BR/2BA, Annual, W/D, Clubhouse. Equity Pro Realty, Rosalyn Carlton (727)644-0400.

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)942-5756. JodyAvtges@gmail.com

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

210. Mobile Hm. Rentals

AFFORDABLE - CONVENIENT
1BRs from \$135/Week. Large 2BR just \$160/Week. Pet Friendly, All Ages. Gulf Breeze MHP (727)474-1074

245. Room For Rent

SEEKING FEMALE
Room, Bath, Privileges. Quiet. Nonsmoker. Largo Area. Must Have Car/ Job. \$400/Mo. (727)584-0826.

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

QUITE SEMINOLE HOME
3 Rooms Utilities and Cable Included. Off Street Parking. Mature Non-Smoker. \$550/Month +Security. (727)397-6521.

265. Commercial Rentals

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

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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.

290. Storage Space

WORKSHOP FOR RENT
Good for Storage or Work. 34'x17' with Electric. Largo off West Bay. \$350. (727)581-3849.

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REAL ESTATE RENTALS
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AUTO & BOAT SALES
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

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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?
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Free Medical Care
Free Counseling
Experienced Adoption Entity
(727)421-2514
FL BAR #0967841

410. Massage Therapy

LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST
Therapeutic Massage. 20+ Years Experience. Will Make House Calls. Reasonable Rates, \$75 For 1-Hour. Bonnie, #MA6760, (305)849-1121.

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.

485. Help Wanted

THRIFT STORE MANAGER II in Dunedin
Applicants must have at least five (5) successful years of work experience in a supervisory, retail position.
\$41,000 Annually Full-Time EXCELLENT BENEFITS
APPLY IN PERSON AT: 2622 Bayshore Blvd., Dunedin, FL 32698
EOE/DFWP 010914

485. Help Wanted

SERVERS
Pinecrest Place Retirement Community is looking for "mature" candidates to work in our Dining rooms, to include Assisted Living and Memory Care. 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.

EMPLOYMENT

485. Help Wanted

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



485. Help Wanted

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485. Help Wanted

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

485. Help Wanted

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Needed Part-time. Able to Work Flexible Hours.
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
Pincrest Place retirement community, located in Largo, has an opening for a PT Security Guard, 2pm-10pm, including weekends and holidays. Greets 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 patrons 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.

PART-TIME CNA'S
Pincrest 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 Pincrest Place, 1150 8th Ave. SW; Largo, FL 33770 or fax resume to (727)581-8409. Drug free workplace; EOE; Must have valid CNA certification

RETIRED? LOOKING FOR EXTRA INCOME?
DoubleTree Beach Resort is Seeking An Experienced HVAC Maintenance Tech w/Air Conditioning/Refrigeration Experience.
Jamie, (727)393-2813.

485. Help Wanted

PERSON TO CHANGE TIRES, 5 1/2 Days Per Week. Good Pay. Experienced Only. (727)678-8539, 8:00AM-5:30PM.

RETAIL SALES: SUNGLASS
Store, John's Pass. Part-Time, 8-15 Hours/Week. Evenings/ Weekends. Call Nancy, (813)221-6655.

RECREATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR:
\$32,541 to \$47,184.
Details/application: myseminole.com or at City Hall, City of Seminole, 9199 113th Street N, Seminole, 33772. DFWP, EOE, VP.

RECREATION LEADER I
Range \$11.15/hour to \$16.17/hour. Details/application: myseminole.com or at City Hall, City of Seminole, 9199 113th Street N, Seminole, 33772. DFWP, EOE, VP.

CELL PHONE/IPAD TECHNICIAN CLEARWATER/ LARGO
*Must have a minimum of 1 year experience repairing devices like cell phones (iPhones, Samsungs).
*The ability to troubleshoot and diagnose issues with various consumer electronics such as tablets and cell phones.
*Inventory control, organizational skills and electronics parts understanding and sourcing knowledge.
*Excellent personal and professional growth potential for self starter
*Outstanding income potential
Email resume to: cellphonetech@live.com

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.

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. Shiflett at 727-530-5521.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!

505. Part-Time Help

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References, Reliability, Quality and Transportation Required. (727)595-7006.

CLEANER
Private school is currently seeking a part-time cleaning person. This position requires successful completion of a Level II background screening. Please submit your resume via fax or email to St. Cecelia School, Fax (727)466-9140, Email: scscoffice@st-cecelia.org or call the school at (727)461-1200.

510. Home Care Help

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

515. Hospitality Help

LAUNDRY, PREP COOK
Line Cook, F&B Assistant Manager, Night Security, Doubletree Beach Resort/ Restaurant. Apply At: 17120 Gulf Blvd. North Redington Beach, (727)369-7101.

525. Medical Help

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

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505. Part-Time Help

522. Careers

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525. Medical Help

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

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597. Coins & Stamps

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600. Merchandise

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660. Wanted to Buy

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

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810. Auto Sales

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830. Van & SUV Sales

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

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'Porgy and Bess' comes to Straz

TAMPA – The national tour of "The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess," winner of the 2012 Tony Award for Best Musical Revival, will make its Tampa premiere in the Carol Morsani Hall at the David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place.

The show will run Jan. 14 through 19 as part of the Bank of American Best of Broadway Tampa Bay series. Performances are Tuesday through Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Regularly priced tickets range from \$46.50 to \$81.50. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org.

Joining Alicia Hall Moran as Bess and Nathaniel Stampley as Porgy will be Alvin Crawford as Crown, Kingsley Leggs as Sporting Life, Sumayya Ali as Clara, Denisha Ballew as Serena, Danielle Lee Greaves as Mariah and David Hughey as Jake.

The cast also includes Dan Barnhill, Vanjah Boikai, Adriana M. Cleveland, Roosevelt André Credit, Cicily Daniels, Dwelvan David, Nkrumah Gatling, Tamar Greene, Nicole Adell Johnson, James Earl Jones II, Quentin Oliver Lee, Cheryse McLeod Lewis, Sarita Rachele Lilly, Kent Overshown, Chauncey Packer, Lindsay Roberts, Fred Rose and Soara-Joye Ross.

"The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess" by George Gershwin, DuBose and Dorothy Heyward, and Ira Gershwin, features one of Broadway's most accomplished creative teams, led by Tony Award-winning director Diane Paulus, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks and two-time Obie Award-winning composer Diedre L. Murray.

The creative team also includes choreographer Ronald K. Brown, set designer Riccardo Hernandez, costume designer Esosa, lighting designer Christopher Akerlind, sound designer Acme Sound Partners, music supervisor Constantine Kitsopoulos and music director/conductor Dale Rieling. Based on DuBose Heyward's novel "Porgy" and the play of the



Photo by MICHAEL J. LUTCH/STRAZ CENTER
Alicia Hall Moran stars as Bess and Nathaniel Stampley as Porgy in the "The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess," running Jan. 14-19 at the David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts.

same name, which he co-wrote with his wife Dorothy Heyward, the Broadway revival of "The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess" is a stunning and stirring new staging with a magnificent 23-piece orchestra, including such legendary songs as "Summertime," "It Ain't Necessarily So" and "I Got Plenty of Nothing." The classic story is set in Charleston's fabled Catfish Row, where the beautiful Bess struggles to break free from her scandalous past, and the only one who can rescue her is the courageous Porgy. Threatened by her formidable former lover Crown, and the seductive enticements of the colorful troublemaker Sporting Life, Porgy and Bess' relationship evolves into a deep romance that triumphs as one of theater's most exhilarating love stories.

Following a sold-out engagement as part of the American Repertory Theater at Harvard University's 2011-12 season, "The Gershwins' Porgy and

Bess" moved to the Richard Rodgers Theatre on Broadway for a limited engagement with an official opening on Jan. 12, 2012. After extending the show twice, "The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess" closed on Sept. 23, 2012 after 322 performances, making it the longest running production of "The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess" to ever play Broadway. The 2012 Broadway cast recording of "The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess" is now available on PS Classics.

"Porgy and Bess" first premiered at the Colonial Theatre in Boston on Sept. 30, 1935. Broadway performances followed featuring a cast of classically trained African-American singers – a daring and visionary artistic choice at the time. This new adaptation of "The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess" was specifically created for Broadway and features a revised book in a musical theater format and jazz-oriented musical arrangements.

Tampa's Jobsite Theater to stage 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'

TAMPA – Jobsite Theater will bring to the stage a tongue-in-cheek treatment of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles," running now through Feb. 2, in the Shimberg Playhouse at The David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa.

Performances will be Thursdays through Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 4 p.m. Regularly priced tickets are \$28. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org.

Featuring an ancient family curse, a desolate moor, a spectral hound and a deranged killer on the loose, "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is the most celebrated Holmes story of all – a masterpiece of mystery and suspense. One after another, the male heirs of the Baskerville family are being knocked off. Sherlock Holmes, self-proclaimed "greatest detective of all time," sends Dr. Watson to the countryside in order to prevent more bloodshed, and naturally mayhem – and, in this production, wackiness – of various kinds ensues. Fans of Jobsite's previous sold-out productions of "The 39 Steps" and the (abridged) plays will not want to miss this similarly-veined three-person

tour-de-force starring Giles Davies as Sherlock Holmes, et al, David Jenkins as Dr. Watson and Shawn Paonessa as Sir Henry Baskerville, et al.

In no way a stranger to theatrical roles with a strong literary bent, Davies has appeared with Jobsite as Macbeth as well as in "Fahrenheit 451" (Beatty) and "Quills" (The Marquis). Davies has also performed one-man shows focused on Edgar Allan Poe, Charles Dickens and Shelley's "Frankenstein." Jenkins was last seen as Coleman in "The Lonesome West" and is the producing artistic director of the company. Paonessa last graced the Jobsite stage as CB in "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead." Jenkins and Paonessa have also appeared onstage together in comedies ranging from the (abridged) plays to the title pair in "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead." The production is directed by Katrina Stevenson, who helmed Jobsite's "The 39 Steps" and all of the company's (abridged) plays: "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare



Image courtesy of THE STRAZ CENTER
Jobsite Theater, the resident theater company of the David A. Straz, Jr. Center, brings its adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" to the stage, running Jan. 8 through Feb. 2 in the Shimberg Playhouse.

(abridged)," "The Bible: The Complete Word of God (abridged)," "The Complete History of America (abridged)" and "All The Great Books (abridged)." Sets and lights are designed by Brian Smallheer with a sound design by Dave Steinweg.

Stephen Canny and John Nicholson adapted the play from the story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Straz to present evening with Garrison Keillor

TAMPA – Writer, humorist and author Garrison Keillor will visit the Tampa Bay area, appearing Sunday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m., in the Carol Morsani Hall at the David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place.

Regularly priced tickets range from \$35.50 to \$55.50. Call 813-229-7827 or visit www.strazcenter.org.

Keillor will present an evening of wryly thoughtful musing and whimsical conversation. He was born in 1942 in Anoka, Minn., and began his radio career as a freshman at the University of Minnesota, from which he graduated in 1966. He went to work for Minnesota Public Radio in 1969, and on July 6, 1974, he hosted the first broadcast of "A Prairie Home Companion" in St. Paul.

Today, some 4 million listeners on more than 600 public radio stations coast to coast and beyond tune in to the show each week. "A Prairie Home

Companion" features comedy sketches, music and Keillor's signature monologue, "The News from Lake Wobegon."

Keillor has been honored with Grammy, ACE and George Foster Peabody awards, the National Humanities Medal, and election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

His many books include "Lake Wobegon Days," "The Book of Guys," "Pilgrims: A Wobegon Romance" and "Guy Noir and the Straight Skinny." He is the host of the daily program "The Writer's Almanac" and the editor of several anthologies of poetry, most recently, "Good Poems: American Places."

In 2006, Keillor played himself in the movie adaptation of his show, a film directed by Robert Altman.

He has two grandsons and in 2007, he opened an independent bookstore, Common Good Books, in St. Paul, the city where he and his wife and daughter make their home.

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