



JJ Grey joins lineup for Sunshine Music & Blues Festival

Tedeschi Trucks Band again headlines event held in Vinoy Park this weekend ... Page 1B.



OUTDOORS



A diamondback rattlesnake went from basking in the sun along the Botanical Gardens nature trail to a defensive position as his photo was being taken Jan. 11. See page 16A for more.

Largo to begin annexation effort

Commissioners OK push to bring more than 200 properties into the city

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - Every week, the city of Largo receives three to five requests from property owners who want to join the city, agreeing to pay its taxes in exchange for the extra services it provides.

The requests come without any advertising from the city or any active attempt to extend its boundaries, said Teresa Brydon, the city's economic development manager.

It's a good problem to have, but a problem nonetheless: the city currently has a backlog of 240 annexation agreements for properties waiting to be added to the tax roll.

"We have a lot of people that want to be a part of us, the city of Largo. It's a reasonable assumption that we want to be bringing them in," Brydon said.

Given budget constraints, the city

doesn't have a dedicated staff person to handle the issue. But during the Jan. 14 work session, Brydon's two-person department committed to tackling what she called "the beast" to try to get ahead of the curve in the upcoming year. Largo commissioners suggested she solicit the help of other city staff, an intern or a temporary hire to complete the project.

"Don't let us be the hold up," Commissioner Woody Brown said.

"We'll do whatever needs to be done, I think."

The city may schedule extra hearings solely to authorize the ordinances needed to annex the properties, but not until May or June, Brydon said. Each property that's not adjacent to another needs its own annexation ordinance, which must be read by the city clerk during two public hearings. The

See ANNEXATION, page 4A

ONLINE

Republicans pick David Jolly

David Jolly was the clear winner of the Jan. 14 special Republican primary and moves one-step closer to having a new job in Washington, D.C.

Jolly will face Democrat Alex Sink and Libertarian Party of Florida candidate Lucas Overby in the March 11 election for the District 13 seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

For more details about the election, see the story at www.TBNweekly.com.

LARGO

Realtors to help hospitalized agent

Keller Williams Gulfside Realty is organizing two fundraisers to benefit an agent in their office.



Brad Uline

Brad Uline - a well regarded professional in the Largo and Clearwater communities and a father of four children - was hospitalized recently and remains in critical condition.

... Page 3A.

A memorial of fitness



Jemil Hocalar lifts barbells while his friends move tires Jan. 11 at Eagle Lake Park during a memorial workout in honor of Kaleb Shane Moore, who died shortly after birth Jan. 11, 2013. Kaleb is the son of Jacob and Shayna Moore. Family and friends participated in the second memorial workout, wearing special T-shirts and engaging in a variety of physical activities. See page 4A.

Photo by TOM GERMOND

Police catch robbery suspect

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - Police from Largo and Clearwater coordinated to track down and arrest a man Jan. 8 suspected of four armed robberies within both cities.

Willie D. Collins, 48, of Clearwater, continued to fight officers even after he crashed his vehicle that afternoon, Largo police reported. Collins was suspected in two armed robberies in Clearwater on Jan. 5 and 7 before Largo police joined the search.



Willie Collins

In the Jan. 5 robbery, a suspect brandished a large machete at a Dollar General at 1600 N. Myrtle Ave. On Jan. 7, he

See SUSPECT, page 4A

BUSINESS

Tutterow dancers perform at Disney

The Tutterow Stars of Tomorrow members became stars of their own Disney show Dec. 14, when they entertained visitors at Walt Disney World Resort. They traveled from Largo to the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida to take part in a Disney Performing Arts Program.

... Page 10A.

VIEWPOINTS

Bob Driver

Television at its best: "Downton Abbey."

... Page 13A



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Pinellas road updates

Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

The widening of Ulmerton Road, up until the Seminole Bypass Canal, was completed Dec. 23. The next phase of construction includes the south side of the road east of the canal, pictured in the background of this photograph.

Last parts of Ulmerton widening in the works

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO - With the widening of Ulmerton Road around Largo Mall and the busy Seminole Boulevard intersection completed last month, the Florida Department of Transportation is working on the final two portions of the project.

The roadway starting at 119th Street - just before Ulmerton turns south to meet up with Walsingham Road, and extending until the Seminole Bypass Canal, right before the railroad, was completed Dec. 23. The widening of the road to three lanes in each direction was a \$16.9 million project.

The project included additional turn lanes for the two major intersections in the area, namely that of Seminole Boulevard and Ridge Road. Additionally, the road's traffic poles and signals at those intersections, along with the ones at 101st Street and the Largo Mall entrance, are now hurricane resistant.

Medians also were altered. They were closed complete at Palm Avenue, Block Drive, 10th Street Southwest and the west entrance to Lowe's. Full median openings were changed to left-turn-only medians at the entrance into Oak Ridge

See ULMERTON, page 4A

U.S. 19 project on fast track to completion

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER - Good news from Tallahassee should make residents and businesses in Pinellas County very happy.

The current U.S. 19 construction project from north of Whitney Road to State Road 60 in Clearwater has a new estimated completion date - October of this year - instead of the summer of 2015.

Gov. Rick Scott, Sen. Jack Latvala and Ananth Prasad, Florida Department of Transportation secretary, announced that the project had been accelerated Jan. 10 during a meeting at the Embassy Mobile Home Park, 16416 U.S. 19 in Clearwater.

"Thanks to Sen. Latvala and families in the region, I'm proud to announce that FDOT has formed an agreement

with the contractor to accelerate work to get everyone off these service roads sooner," Scott said in a press release.

The cost to accelerate the project is \$4.8 million.

When complete, the 2.7-mile project, which began in November 2009 with an estimated cost of \$113.5 million, will allow for uninterrupted travel from 49th Street to Sunset Point Road, according to FDOT's project description.

Project plans calls for removing traffic signals and replacing them with interchanges at Seville Boulevard and Belleair Road. Frontage roads will provide access to businesses with improvements to the interchange at State Road 60 to improve traffic flow.

See FAST TRACK, page 4A



Photo courtesy of FDOT

Two new interchanges, including one at Belleair Road, are designed to improve traffic movement between U.S. 19 and frontage roads that provide access to businesses.

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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.

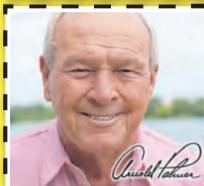
Problems with the inner ear often require surgery or medication. If the damage is irreparable, you'll want to ask about the new cochlea implants that can help restore your ability to hear again.

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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City calendar

Largo Central Park

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

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 Baylight helicopter and more. Kids of all ages can enjoy inflatables, train rides along Largo Central Railroad, Rocketship Car rides around the block and a delicious food court in the middle of the park.

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

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

In conjunction with the event, the city will host its second annual outdoor community wide business expo. Learn about services, products and programs that local businesses and the city of Largo can offer.

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.

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 largoevents.com. Call 587-6751.

Largo Community Center

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

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.

Center holds adults and senior prom

LARGO - The Largo Community Center invites area adults and seniors to "A Starry, Starry Night," the first adult and senior prom on Saturday, March 1, 7 p.m.

Around town

City department begins survey

LARGO - The Florida Institute of Government at the University of South Florida is conducting a scientific survey of Largo residents about the Environmental Services Department, which provides wastewater - or sanitary sewer - collection, treatment and reclaimed water for the city of Largo.

The survey is an effort to evaluate and improve customer satisfaction. A random sample of customers will receive a survey in the mail along with a postage-paid envelope that they can use to return the completed survey to the City of Largo.

In addition to the survey, Environmental Services would like to give all Largo residents the opportunity to provide their feedback. If you have not received a survey in the mail, visit Largo.com/environmentalservices and fill out the survey online.

For more information, call 518-3080.

Train show set Jan. 25

LARGO - The Train Collectors Association Southern Division will host a model train show and swap meet Saturday, Jan. 25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Ave. N.

Admission is \$5, free for children younger than 12 and accompanied by an adult.

The event will feature layouts, displays, train drag races and scavenger hunts with prizes for children. Food and refreshments will be available.

For more information, call Charlie at 345-0288.

Republicans hold political rally

BELLEAIR - The Republican Club of Greater Largo will hold a "We The People Rally" on Saturday, Feb. 15, 6 p.m., at the Belleair Country Club, 1 Country Club Lane.

Numerous Republican candidates for election in November will meet and greet those attending. Tickets for the event are for \$100 on sale now until Tuesday, Feb. 11. Included in the price are appetizers provided by Belleair Country Club, cocktails and a buffet dinner.

The rally will offer fun events such as a "Buckets of Luck" drawing, 50/50 drawing and a silent auction with many fine items to bid on. The candidates' corner will feature items of interest offered by many of the attending candidates.

Tickets will sell out very fast to this first of the season political rally. For additional information or tickets, call club president Casey Cox at 480-9155.

Enjoy a night filled with live music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres, desserts and prom photos. A king and queen of prom will be crowned. Bring back old memories while creating new ones at this semi-formal event.

Tickets are on sale now at the Largo Community Center and cost is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Imperial Palms Apartments, Pinecrest Place and The Barrington are sponsoring this event.

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, everyone 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 and 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

Realtors fundraise to help hospitalized agent

LARGO - Keller Williams Gulfside Realty is organizing two fundraisers to benefit an agent in their office.

Brad Uline - a well regarded professional in the Largo and Clearwater communities and a father of four children - was hospitalized recently and remains in critical condition. He is recovering very slowly and may need a heart transplant. According to his father, he has no medical insurance.

The Keller Williams Gulfside Realty Office is planning two events to help with Uline's medical expenses.

"At Keller Williams, it's not just about selling real estate; we are one big family," said Pam Douberly, culture committee chair for Keller Williams Gulfside Realty. "We care about our fellow agents in need. Throughout Keller Williams Realty across the county, our culture focuses on agents helping agents."

The first fundraiser will be Jan. 25 for in-office agents. The second will follow in early February and will be open to the community.

To give donations of gift baskets for these events or monetary donations to benefit Uline, contact Katie Kasprick at 216-9259 or send mail to Keller Williams Gulfside Realty, 801 West Bay Drive, Suite 200, Largo, FL 33770.



Brad Uline was recently hospitalized and remains in critical condition.

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. Call 587-6740, ext. 5008.

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Developer withdraws application to rezone Tides property

By TIFFANY RAZZANO

SEMINOLE - Developer Taylor Morrison withdrew its application with Pinellas County to rezone the Tides Golf Club for residential development.

The property, 11832 66th Ave. N., is located in an unincorporated part of the County along Boca Ciega Bay. The homebuilder withdrew its proposal to build up to 170 single- and multi-family homes on nearly 96 acres just two days before the Jan. 9 Local Planning Agency meeting, the first of several hearings the county would have held while considering the plan. Just days earlier, a County staff report recommended that the rezoning request be denied because the proposed development was inconsistent with the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan, particularly with the plan's policies regarding open space.

"In a built-out county it is difficult to compensate for such a sizeable loss should these lands be developed," staff wrote in the report. "The economic, environmental, and community (social and quality of life) consequences of conversion of open space to developed uses are at the center" of its recommendation to deny the proposed development. Taylor Morrison's plan designated 18 acres for open space.

"Once that space is gone, it's gone - and it's not coming back," said William Kimpton, the Dunedin-based attorney who represents Save the Tides, a group of citizens who were opposed to the proposed development.

Kimpton expressed his surprise that Taylor Morrison withdrew its application just days prior to when the hearings were supposed to begin.

"We prepared for a very long battle and the battle went away," he said.

Ed Methfessel, president of Save the Tides, said that because of public opposition to the project and the staff's recommendation, "I'm sure the homebuilder recognized it wouldn't get approved."

He added, "It's really great news." Losing the Tides would have affected quality of life in the area, he said. "They wanted to take away something that made Pinellas County great and made Seminole magical. But at the end of the day, [the County staff] stayed true to following the comprehensive plan and protecting green space."



Photo courtesy of WILLIAM KIMPTON

An aerial view of the Tides Golf Course, located in an unincorporated area of Pinellas County in District 9. Developer Taylor Morrison withdrew its application to rezone the property for residential development two days before the Local Planning Agency's first hearing on the proposal.

Ed Armstrong, a Clearwater attorney representing Taylor Morrison, declined to comment on the matter.

Save the Tides formed at the end of 2012 when Tides' neighbors began noticing surveyors on the property. As rumors swirled, Methfessel called the County and learned that Taylor Morrison had submitted a proposal to rezone the parcel.

Tides, which still operates as a golf course, is currently bank-owned, after Wells Fargo took over ownership of the land when it purchased Wachovia and then foreclosed on the property in 2009. At the time, Wells Fargo still owed about \$6.8 million on the mortgage, said Ron

Stephens of Save the Tides.

The organization, opposed to the proposed zoning and land use changes, sprung to action. More than 10,000 people signed a petition circulated by the group and Methfessel said he was expecting between 400 and 500 activists to attend the Jan. 9 meeting if it were to go forward.

One of Save the Tides' primary concerns is that the development would have increased density in an already highly populated area. Pinellas is the most densely populated - and second smallest - county in the state.

The group also was concerned about conservation. The Tides' property makes up 20 percent of recreational open space for the County's District 9, Kimpton said.

The parcel, which serves as a buffer to Boca Ciega Millennium Park, "is a great natural aquifer" and is also home to many different types of wildlife, Methfessel said.

"I've even seen bald eagles nest there occasionally," he added.

The fight to save the Tides isn't over. Just because Taylor Morrison has backed away from the property doesn't mean another developer won't step in, Kimpton said.

"That's why we want a permanent solution for preserving this space," he said, "so future generations don't have to go through what we have."

Kimpton said he's proposing that the County create a special district for the Tides' land. He submitted a letter outlining his proposal and plans to meet with representatives from the County soon. His hopes are that the local community will be able to purchase the property from the bank, with the help of the County government, to preserve the green space.

According to the staff report, there are 5,318 privately owned recreation sites in Pinellas; 5,017 of these acres are golf and country clubs.

As the economy ebbs and flows, these properties could eventually find themselves for sale, Kimpton said, reflecting "the different interests and needs of the people. There may be too many golf courses. Are we going to be able to preserve them all?"

He added, "The Tides is really the perfect case to have this debate. That's why we're going to go forward with additional steps to try to preserve this land for the future."

And they're off ...



Photos by TOM GERMOND

At left, Jemil Hocalar and other participants in the second annual memorial workout Jan. 11 at Eagle Lake Park wore special T-shirts honoring Kaleb Shane Moore, who died shortly after birth Jan. 11, 2013. Above, several women start jogging during the workout.

ANNEXATION, from page 1A

process for the ordinances takes about 45 days.

Brydon said she saw the benefit of getting the annexations "all cleaned up." She wasn't in favor of putting a hold on new annexation agreements until the backlog was cleared, as Commissioner Michael Smith suggested.

"I think we need to continue that to show that we are a friendly city," she said. "If we were to tackle this and get this under our belt, then bringing in annexation agreements in the future ... will be a simple process."

The city has been treading water on annexations since the backlog was first brought to the commissioners' attention in March, fluctuating right around 340 eligible annexation agreements despite completing numerous annexations in the last year.

Of the 340 annexation agreements currently eligible, 125 are "on hold" because they are within a county community development district of some sort, leaving 215 for the city to tackle in the coming months.

The city also has 36 single-parcel and eight multiple-parcel properties that have a "sewer indenture" agreement with the city, which grants residents use of Largo's sewer system but nothing else. Eighteen of those properties are eligible to join the city, including four multi-family properties that account for 143 residential parcels.

Last month, the county drafted an interlocal agreement to resolve Type A enclaves, unincorporated areas that are surrounded on all sides by a single municipality. Should Largo, the county and the other eight cities involved approve the agreement, Largo would be able to annex another 44 properties that are in a Type A enclave but aren't contiguous to current city boundaries.

Largo commissioners will be considering an ordinance to approve the agreement in the next

few months.

To help prevent a future backlog, the city will be eliminating some of the financial incentive residents have to sign annexation agreements, especially when it will be a while until the properties are eligible to join the city. Under new annexation agreements, residents won't receive a waiver of a 25 percent surcharge until they are annexed in or become continuous to a municipal boundary.

Per the commission's previous direction, annexation agreements that are outside the city's planning service area have been canceled, Brydon said.

The commission also agreed with staff's recommendation for a consultant who would examine the fiscal impacts of annexing even more properties within the planning service area. The city has an additional 700 annexation agreements on properties that are not contiguous with city boundaries and can't be annexed in right away, Brydon said.

"There is a greater percentage that are still outside that we haven't touched," she said.

Such a study - which would analyze if the city would need to hire more police officers, for example - could cost between \$50,000 to \$75,000, said Community Development Director Carol Stricklin.

During the Jan. 15 meeting, the commission also:

- Agreed to hire Water Company of America to review the city's utility billing; the company is paid 46 percent of any revenues it discovers are not being paid to the city for three years' worth of billings after the mistake is identified
- Gave suggestions for changes to the charter review committee, much of which involved clarifications of language
- Discussed the merits of enacting term limits within the charter, but ultimately discarded the idea

ULMERTON, from page 1A

Apartments, the east entrance into Lowe's, the west entrance into Pinellas County Sheriff's Department, at 117th Street, at Railroad Avenue and at the Ridge Road west of 113th Street.

Pepper Contracting Services was the state's contractor for the project, which began in 2011.

Construction moves east

Construction has already begun on the next two miles of the road - from the canal until El Centro/Ranchero Boulevard, a few blocks east of Belcher Road. The Florida Department of Transportation hired Conalvias USA for the \$21.5 million job, slated for completion in late 2015.

"The contractor on this project is working on finishing the widening on the south side of the job," department spokeswoman Kris Carson explained in an email. "When the south side is complete, traffic will be shifted to the south side and then the widening on the north side will start."

The south side of the road will be completed in a few months, she added. Both sides will each gain an extra lane, making the road six lanes wide and reducing traffic congestion in the area.

The project includes hurricane-resistance upgrades for traffic signals and poles at Starkey Road, Tall Pines Drive, Belcher Road and replacements for the emergency signals at Rosetree Lane.

Eventually, the project will entail median closures at Washington Avenue, Center Avenue, Clay Avenue, Southwind Lane, 90th Road, Fountain Way, 34th Way and Cumberland Drive. Medians will be altered to prevent left turns onto eastbound Ulmerton from Cheryl Road, Coral Way and Monterey Lakes and onto westbound Ulmerton from 93rd Street and Rosetree Plaza.

Construction is scheduled primarily during the day, with additional lane closures permitted between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The final project

The final portion of the widening project is already underway on the east side - from 38th Street, just past the St. Petersburg-Clearwater Airport, to the on-ramp to Interstate 275. The \$20.5 million price tag covers widening Ulmerton Road to six total lanes and widening Roosevelt Boulevard, between 28th Avenue and Ulmerton Road, to three lanes in each direction.

The construction, contracted to Lane Construction Corporation, also includes replacing the Roosevelt Boulevard bridge over Ulmerton.

"The contractor is working on the bridge deck pours on the new bridge," Carson wrote.

The department estimates that traffic will be switched to the new bridge in either late summer or early fall of this year.

Work also is starting on widening 34th Street,



Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Construction on Ulmerton Road, from 119th Street to the intersection of Seminole Boulevard, pictured here, has been completed and cleared from the six lanes that now make up the major roadway.

just east of Roosevelt Boulevard, Carson added.

The project includes adding sidewalks to the north side of the road, where there are none, and replacing the sidewalks on the south side, between 34th and 38th streets and between Egret Boulevard and Mercury Insurance.

The medians at this portion of Ulmerton will be altered: closing the opening at 35th Street and

changing all the openings at the east end of the road to directional openings.

FDOT advises that detours will be necessary to complete the project, though lane closures will occur mainly at night. The project, which will bring the entire length of Ulmerton Road to three lanes each way, is scheduled to be completed in spring 2016.

FAST TRACK, from page 1A

"This project improves the safety of the traveling public, reduces travel time by eliminating congestion and separates local traffic from through traffic by including frontage roads," Prasad said.

In the summer of 2013, the contractor began construction of the main roadway lanes from south of Harn Boulevard to Whitney Road. Plans called for completion of southbound bridges and approaches for use by northbound and southbound traffic by early 2014. Construction on the northbound bridge over Seville Boulevard was next, followed by removal of the old bridge over State Road 60.

In the spring of this year, plans called for the contractor to begin construction on the northbound bridge and approach with completion of the bridge over Belleair Road and Allen's Creek slated for completion by summer. The entire project was to be finished by summer of 2015.

"Accelerating the U.S. 19 project will not only benefit the business community, but it also will help the motorists who travel this corridor every day," Latvala said, giving credit for fast tracking the project to Scott, FDOT and the contractor, Hubbard Construction.

New plans call for the contractor to shift traffic to a "free flow configuration" by Oct. 15, Scott said. All signals on U.S. 19 within the project area will be removed, creating a signal-free corridor between Republic Drive/Hammock Park Boulevard in Clearwater to Mainlands Boulevard in Pinellas Park.

Pinellas County Commission Chair Karen Seel reacted favorably to the governor's announcement.

"I am very pleased with the news that U.S. 19's construction will be accelerated," Seel said in an email Sunday afternoon.

Seel has long been a champion for improvements to U.S. 19. She chaired the U.S. 19 Task Force, which put forth a list of recommenda-

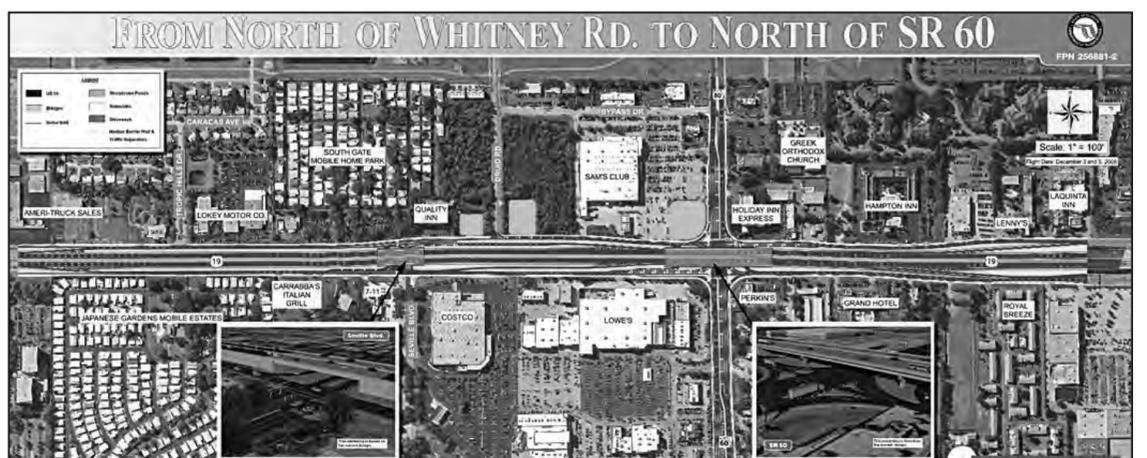


Photo courtesy of FDOT

A U.S. 19 construction project from north of Whitney Road to State Road 60 in Clearwater is expected to be finished by October, months ahead of the original completion date of the summer of 2015.

tions in 2000 to improve the roadway. Many of those recommendations were added to FDOT's work list, including current projects, such as the one from Whitney Road to State Road 60.

However, she acknowledges that the work has been an inconven-

ience for many, which is why acceleration of the project is so important. "Our citizens and businesses have endured this construction far too long," Seel said. "We look forward to the completion of U.S. 19 for safety and traffic reasons. Yeah!"

Sale of Belleview Biltmore Hotel could be pending

By BRIAN GOFF

BELLEAIR – The Belleview Biltmore Hotel soon may be under new ownership.

Details of the sale are nearly finalized and the closing date will be Friday, Jan. 24, said a source, who asked not to be identified.

While the prospective new owners of the hotel have not been identified, the source has indicated it is a Real Estate Investment Trust, which are companies that are interested in developing property, not in preserving historic properties.

Ed Armstrong, the Clearwater Attorney who represents the current owners of the hotel, the Ades brothers of Miami, all but confirmed the sale is pending.

"I cannot say much," he said. "There is potentially a closing date pending, it depends on how things play out, nothing is set in stone yet."

When interviewed on Jan. 13, Armstrong said things should be clearer in 10 days, which would be on or around Jan. 24.

"I think the situation will be clarified in the next 10 days or so," he said. "It will be more real, much more real in 10 days."

Armstrong, who confirmed he is part of the negotiations, would not confirm the possibility of a REIT becoming the new owner of the property, but said that the current talks do not involve preserving the hotel. "The intended use of the property would be residential," he said.

When asked if Miami area architect Richard Heisenbottle was the



The Belleview Biltmore hotel might soon be sold. The hotel, which was built at the turn of the last century, has been closed since 2009.

Photo by BRIAN GOFF

person involved in the talks, Armstrong was quick and to the point.

"No he is not," he said. Back in April 2012 Heisenbottle and two partners appeared before the Belleair Commission and outlined plans to buy the hotel and refurbish it to save it from the wrecking ball. Since then difficulty in raising the estimated \$200 million for the project stalled his bid. All along he

has said he was confident that the money could be raised given enough time. Now it appears time has run out and he isn't happy.

"We'll be hugely disappointed if after taking it this far we're not able to bring it to closing," he said. "I've put more effort into this project than anyone else by far. Frankly, I'm devastated and feel it is unfortunate for the people of Belleair. The hotel was, and is, the identity of this town."

Heisenbottle said he knew nothing about this latest development and potential sale and indicates that it might not be over yet.

"If it goes to a developer I'll obviously be very, very disappointed," he said. "We were close to a deal and getting the financing for the entire property. We believe we are still hugely close and I continue to be in touch with Daniel (Ades)."

Word of the pending sale did not surprise Mayor Gary Katica.

"I said a long time ago that the Ades brothers are not developers so the fact that they might be selling the hotel to a developer doesn't surprise me," he said. "I'm sorry Heisenbottle isn't in the mix. They say the closing date is the 24th; at this point I'll believe it when I see it."

Katica said he has no idea who the potential new buyers are, but he'd been told they are developers.

"I get the feeling that we're getting down to the end run stage," he said. "Enough is enough. You'd love to see the hotel restored but you hate to see it just sitting there. It is not fair to the people of the RPD

See BILTMORE, page 8A

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Target update Hackers take more than credit cards

Target released updated information Jan. 10 on its continuing investigation into the recent data breach.

As part of Target's ongoing forensic investigation, it has been determined that certain guest information - separate from the payment card data previously disclosed - was taken from Target, the company revealed in a press release posted at Target.com.

This theft is not a new breach, but was uncovered as part of the ongoing investigation, company officials said. At this time, the investigation has determined that the stolen information includes names, mailing addresses, phone numbers or email addresses for up to 70 million individuals.

Much of this data is partial in nature, but in cases where Target has an email address, we will attempt to contact affected guests. This communication will be informational, including tips to guard against consumer scams. Target will not ask those guests to provide any personal information as part of that communication. In addition, guests can find the tips at Target.com/databreach, along with updated information in the Data Breach FAQs to help answer questions and provide addi-

tional resources.

"I know that it is frustrating for our guests to learn that this information was taken and we are sorry they are having to endure this," said Gregg Steinhafel, chairman, president and chief executive officer. "Our guests expect more from us and deserve better. And I want them to know that understanding and sharing the facts is important to me and the entire Target team."

Guests will have zero liability for the cost of any fraudulent charges arising from the breach. To provide further peace of mind, Target is offering one year of free credit monitoring and identity theft protection to all Target guests who shopped our U.S. stores. Guests will have three months to enroll in the program.

To report information about a crime anonymously and be eligible for an award, call Crime Stoppers of Pinellas County at 800-873-TIPS (8477) or submit a tip at www.crimestoppersofpinellas.org.



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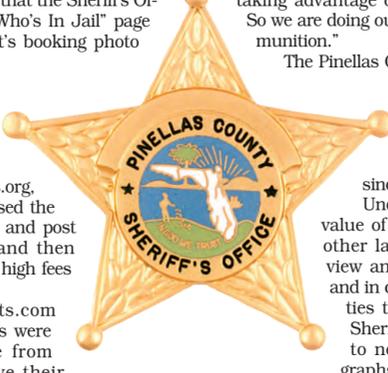
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Online booking photos removed

LARGO - Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri announced Jan. 9 that the Sheriff's Office has restructured the "Who's In Jail" page and eliminated the suspect's booking photo from the record.

unconscionable, verging on blackmail and clearly taking advantage of someone's circumstances. So we are doing our part to take away their ammunition."



The sheriff's decision to eliminate the photos was made due to the activities of several websites, including mugshots.com, just-mugshots.com, and arrests.org, that have in recent years used the Sheriff's Office site to mine and post photos to their website; and then charge citizens exorbitantly high fees for their removal.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has allowed public access to the photographs of incarcerated subjects within the Pinellas County Jail via our "Who's in Jail" page since 2005.

"After visiting mugshots.com myself - I saw that citizens were being charged anywhere from \$399 to \$1,700 to remove their booking photos from just that one site - I decided that it is more than a rip-off - it is extortion," said the sheriff.

Understanding the investigative value of this site, and the needs for other law enforcement agencies to view and elicit inmate photograph; and in consideration that media entities that regularly work with the Sheriff's Office also will continue to need access to these photographs for purposes of their news stories, the Sheriff's Office has established a process by which their access will be maintained through an "authorized members" log-in area.

The changes to the "Who's In Jail" page at www.pcsoweb.com will go live Monday, Jan. 13.

Starting Jan. 13, online public access will be limited to the same inmate demographic information as in the past, however, there will be no photograph displayed, thereby eliminating the mug shots websites' ability to mine the images in bulk. The Sheriff's Office will continue to honor individual public records requests regarding booking photos.

Authorized Members (media entities and law enforcement agencies) may access the clean booking photographs in the following manner:

- Open the "Who's In Jail" page.
 - Click on the "Authorized Members link" tab to logon
 - Click "request an account"
 - Fill out the application to include first and last name, company name, contact phone number and email address and click "submit."
 - You will receive an automatic email, providing a password for your initial access. You may then change your password.
- For more information, contact the Sheriff's Public Information Office at 582-6221.

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What's cooking?



Photo by TOM GERMOND

Wood storks and other waterfowl appear to be having a cookout behind an apartment on Vonn Road. Actually, the birds congregated near a small stream where they fed on small fish.

BILTMORE, from page 5A

who have to look at it every day."

There is little the town can do about the pending sale. It has no jurisdiction or power to stop a sales transaction between two private parties. It can, however, have some say in what goes on the property. Town Manager Micah Maxwell said there is a process that must be followed, particularly because the hotel is an historic property.

"The new owners would have to get a certificate of appropriateness first," he said. "That would then allow them to get a demolition permit, but that can't happen without their presenting a site plan, and that must be approved by the commission."

At the commission meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 21, commissioners are scheduled to vote on the proposed new zoning designation designed especially for the property. The new RM-10 designation would

limit the number of units per acre to 10, but it would allow the height restriction of 32 feet to be increased to 80 feet in some instances. Commissioners were told the new designation would allow a developer more freedom to diversify the type of townhouses or condominiums that can be built on the property.

Residential Planned Development residents recently voted in favor of the new zoning designation but wanted to make sure that no more than 160 units would be built on the property and each would be a minimum of 15 hundred square feet.

Before the sale of the hotel can be finalized the town's lien must be satisfied. There is an \$83,000 lien on the property. It is the result of a \$250 a day fine because of the deteriorating state of the hotel. At one point the fines totaled \$250,000 but they were forgiven when the Ades brothers agreed to sell the Belleview Biltmore Golf Club to the town for \$3.5 million.

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Classes start January 22nd! To enroll, families must call 727-767-2014 or email Fit4Allkids@allkids.org.

Space is limited so please call to RSVP!
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Comfort Keepers
 Hospital to Home: The Importance of Transitional Care
 After a long or even a short hospital stay, anyone appreciates the value of sleeping in one's own bed. No one to wake you during the night, no more pokes, prods or beeps and buzzes. Just you - snuggled up under your own covers within the familiar sights and smells of home.
 As wonderful as that sounds, there are a few things to consider regarding transitioning from a hospital back into the home. For many seniors, this process may be complicated depending on their circumstances.
 Seniors are of special concern during this phase, especially those who suffer medical conditions and are required to take different medications at varying times of the day. Sending someone from a care facility such as a hospital, where around-the-clock monitoring is prevalent, to an environment where little or no interaction occurs requires advance planning to ensure the transition is smooth and safe.
 Some things to consider include:
 • The mobility of the senior
 • Medical conditions that may need monitoring
 • Administration of medicine(s)
 • Future appointments with health care providers
 • Nutrition
 Attention needs to be given to the mobility of the person going home. Challenges in that area should be addressed and solved before less-mobile seniors arrive home. Ensure walkways in the home are clear. Remove trip hazards such as rugs. Rearrange extension cords so they are not a hazard. Handrails in the bathroom can prevent falls.
 Proper administration of medications is essential for seniors required to take them even for a short period of time. Sometimes, if multiple medicines are needed, seniors may need help remembering time schedules. Pill dispensers can be used for this purpose, as well, and are the best option for ultimate safety to keep medications organized and aid in preventing accidental overdose.
 Following the above tips can help pave the way to a positive transition from hospital to home. Successful transitions help eliminate returns to the hospital which are common when transitions are not well planned. If you are unable to assist a senior in need, now might be the time to hire a home health care provider, such as Comfort Keepers®. Comfort Keepers® attend to seniors in need on a full or part-time basis performing such duties as cooking, light cleaning, running errands and simply by providing company to the senior's spirits up.

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Diane Genovese - Owner

SUSPECT, from page 1A

pulled out a knife at the Family Dollar at 1279 S. Missouri Ave. and lunged at the clerk, according to Clearwater police.
Largo patrol received a call on Jan. 8 that a man had brandished a large kitchen knife at the CVS at 2390 Belcher Road. He lunged at the clerk before reaching into the drawer and grabbing money, police said.
The suspect was seen running to and leaving in a maroon Dodge pickup truck. His description matched that of the suspect in Clearwater's two cases.

The Clearwater Police Department had a "solid tip/lead" from Collins' wife, who said she thought her husband was the suspect in their robberies, Largo Detective Jill Freire wrote in a citywide email. Further, the wife said her husband had mentioned committing "suicide by cop," Freire explained.

The special operations units from both departments got involved Jan. 8. That afternoon, Clearwater detectives "pinged" Collins' cell-phone, which determined that he was in Largo. As detectives in Largo were alerted to his general location, another call for an armed robbery at the Largo Lowes, 11101 Ulmerton Road, came in. A suspect there robbed a clerk in the garden center at knife-point before grabbing money and running back to his vehicle.



Photo courtesy of CLEARWATER POLICE
Clearwater firefighters inspect the damage, after Willie D. Collins tried to elude police and crashed his Dodge pickup truck into a power utility pole, flipping the vehicle into a backyard.

Detectives began searching the area for the Dodge pickup truck identified in the former robberies. An undercover Clearwater detective found the truck and began following it, alerting both agencies to Collins' location.

The suspect spotted the police cars headed toward him and sped away as Clearwater officers tried to pull him over. He headed east on Palmetto Street, losing control of the truck east of Highland Avenue. The truck crashed into a power utility pole, flipped and landed in the backyard of a residence, destroying a fence.

He continued to fight officers trying to arrest him, Largo police reported. He was taken to Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg for injuries suffered in the crash. A passenger who was with him in the truck was not injured.

Clearwater police found the machete, smaller knife and both shirts he wore in the Clearwater robberies in his truck. Clearwater police had matched a shirt worn by the suspect in the Jan. 7 robbery with one Collins was seen wearing in a photo he had posted on Facebook.

Collins is charged with four counts of robbery with a deadly weapon as well as aggravated fleeing and eluding law enforcement, according to Pinellas County Jail records. Largo also charged him with burglary of an unoccupied structure and fraudulent use of a credit card.

Help needed to find missing woman

CLEARWATER - Pinellas County Sheriff's detectives are asking for the public's assistance in locating a missing Clearwater woman, Roberta Rene Cable, 41, who goes by "Rene" has been missing since Dec. 14.

Cable went missing after leaving her home on Owen Drive in Clearwater and has not had contact with friends or family. She was supposed to begin a new job on Dec. 16 and never showed up.

Cable is a white female, 5 foot tall, weighing 115 pounds. She has hazel eyes and blonde hair. She was last seen wearing a yellow tank top, blue jeans and white tennis shoes.

According to detectives, Rene's disappearance is considered suspicious in nature.

Anyone with information that may assist detectives in locating Rene Cable is urged to call Detective Jeff Capra with the Robbery/Homicide Unit at 582-6200 or to remain anonymous and be eligible for a reward contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-873-TIPS or www.crimestoppers.org.



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Briefcase

Tutterow dancers perform at Disney World

LARGO – The Tutterow Dance Academy Tutterow Stars of Tomorrow members became stars of their own Disney show Dec. 14, when they entertained visitors at Walt Disney World Resort. They traveled from Largo to the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida to take part in a Disney Performing Arts Program.

Dance groups, choirs, ensembles and marching bands from around the world apply to perform each year as part of Disney Performing Arts at both the Disneyland and the Walt Disney World Resorts. Once selected, they are given the opportunity to perform at an international audience of theme park guests. Millions of performers have graced the stages of the Disney Resorts in the more than 25-year history of the program.

Bayfront Tower to undergo modernization

ST. PETERSBURG – Bayfront Tower, a well-known anchor in downtown St. Petersburg and widely reputed as a Grande Dame of the area, is undergoing a major two-year renovation project which began Jan. 3.

Visitors and residents can expect to see a 450-foot crane – one of the largest in the Southeastern United States – in front of the 35-year old community through Jan. 19.

Building improvements will include a new roof, replacement and modernization of emergency generators, boilers, fans and designated air conditioning systems. Life safety enhancements will provide improvements to egress systems and fire alarms, as well as the expansion of the automatic sprinkler system for the parking garage and lobby.

Aesthetic improvements to the building include replacing the aluminum screen around the third through the seventh floors, new entrance canopy, enhanced lighting and accessibility to the breezeway, rearrangement and renewal of the lobby and reconstruction of the fitness center and social areas. The building's 29th floor pool deck will receive additional vision panels that will expand its 360-degree views. Additionally, the building will receive a fresh coat of paint in a new color scheme. These improvements are designed to raise Bayfront Tower's profile and enhance its property values in the downtown residential building market.

Curves offers cutting-edge workouts

SEMINOLE – Curves of Seminole is now offering Curves Workouts with Jillian Michaels, cutting-edge total body workouts that feature the Curves Circuit strength training machines in conjunction with func-

tional bodyweight-based exercises that ramp up metabolism and transform physique.

Michaels is best known as a health and wellness expert. The workouts boost intensity, build strength, burn fat and prevent plateaus. The new Curves Workouts with Jillian Michaels are designed for women at every fitness level and include simple modifications for each movement.

"I am so thrilled to be partnered with Curves to provide women with the tools necessary to take control of their health," said Michaels in a press release. "Curves is everywhere – so now my program is accessible, effective and affordable."

Airport surpasses 1 million passenger mark

CLEARWATER – St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport's December monthly passengers totaled 97,098 bringing 2013's totals in at 1,017,049.

December's monthly increase over 2012 was 39 percent and the annual increase was 17 percent. St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport posted eight consecutive months with double-digit increases in passengers over 2012. Beginning in May, the airport has posted 28-percent, 28-percent, 21-percent, 19-percent, 14-percent, 16-percent, 20-percent, and 39-percent increases over the prior year's monthly passengers.

"The growth is astounding," said Noah Lagos in a press release. Lagos is airport director. "This is (the airport's) fourth largest passenger year in its history since beginning commercial passenger service in the 1950s. In a recent survey, Allegiant Airlines now ranks as Tampa Bay's eighth largest airline in passenger numbers and second in non-stop flights with 31 destinations. We are looking forward to an outstanding 2014 with the addition of Airbus A-320 aircraft to the Allegiant fleet based at PIE and more non-stop destinations."

Additional service from Beau Rivage Resort & Casino/Vision Airlines and Sunwing Airlines (posting a 6 percent passenger increase), brings the airport's total nonstop destinations to 34.

Bayside Business Forum set

ST. PETERSBURG – The first Walgreens Bayside Business Forum of 2014 will be presented Friday, Jan. 17, 7:30 to 9 a.m., at Franklin Templeton, 100 Fountain Parkway North, Building 100.

The forum is free and open to the public. Continental breakfast and coffee will be served. Seating is limited, so reservations are requested. To RSVP, call 873-4700 or email cob-events@usfsp.edu by

Grand opening success



Zumba demos give a window into the fun exercises available to ladies at American Woman Fitness Center during the successful grand-opening event Jan. 4. The business is at 9699 Bay Pines Blvd., Seminole, in Bay Pines Plaza.

Thursday, Jan. 16.

The forum will address one of the hottest topics among entrepreneurs, economists, and policy makers today: how to address the various needs of the world's growing aging population.

"Increasingly, people over 50 are moving to Florida to start companies instead of retiring from working life," said Maling Ebrahimipour in a press release. Ebrahimipour is dean of the College of Business at USF St. Petersburg. "In the past few years, Tampa Bay has become a major destination for senior entrepreneurs and a desirable test bed for products and services that help people age in place, successfully manage chronic diseases, and maintain optimal physical performance well into their advanced years. All of this is great news for Florida's future economic growth, which is being fueled by entrepreneurs from multiple generations."

Speakers Bevan Gray-Rogel, president and founder of Encore Tampa Bay, and Stacy Prouty, chief operating officer of the Institute for the Ages in Sarasota, will share some exciting trends in senior entrepreneurship and innovation in the aging market that will have a major impact on Tampa Bay's economy in the coming decade.

A Showcase Spotlight

On Local Businesses

Gain a financial fresh start in the New Year

Many reports tell us that the cost of living today is rising faster than it has in the past. Mortgage payments, left over from higher property values in Florida, are saddling many today. There are government programs available to those with high mortgage payments. *Did you know that you may be able to reduce your mortgage payment to a more affordable level?* I may be able to take advantage of one of these programs to reduce your mortgage payment to a level equal to 31percent of your income. In many situations these high mortgage payments, along with high credit card debt, can cause us to live outside of our means – just to try to keep a steady lifestyle. One way that some deal with these rising costs is with short term high interest



loans, which, in turn, can lead to even more problems trying to keep finances in order.

There are better solutions to your problems, but it can take time to get your finances back under control. You will

want to review your expenses, cutting any spending that is unnecessary and put it back into levels less than your total income. Try to manage short term finances closely. Sometimes your situation may be caused

by circumstances out of your control. Maybe a loss of income due to job loss, illness or even the passing of a loved one can cause spiraling debt problems. *In many cases a simple budget adjustment just won't help.* You may need to seek advice about how to best deal with the debt in these situations.

Sometimes the best solution to your problem may be a fresh start, but every situation is different. What may work for your neighbor might not work for you. *That's why I offer free consultations at any of my three offices located in Clearwater, Pinellas Park, or Tampa.* Contact my office today to set up some time so we can discuss your particular situation. Get the help you need, get the fresh start that you deserve.

About Attorney Jill McDonald

Jill is an attorney with offices in Pinellas County and Tampa. She helps her clients deal with their debt problems through Mortgage Mediation, or Bankruptcy. Jill is a member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys, and a member of the Florida and Oklahoma Bar associations. Contact her office at 727-231-4300 or visit her website for more information. JillMcDonald.com

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Baby Boomers: Is Retirement Still an Option?

Baby Boomers have begun reaching retirement age. For many, the retirement they anticipated is no longer a guarantee. Social Security probably won't meet their needs and most companies do not provide cushy pensions.

"Baby Boomers are living longer, and – in many cases – caring for children, parents, and often even grandchildren," says Elizabeth (Liza, pronounced Lizza) Campa-Flanagan, Certified Financial Planner with Raymond James Financial Services Inc. Liza is keenly attuned to the financial climate. She is focused on providing an integrated advice platform for all clients.

Financial Assessment

According to Liza, Baby Boomers are in need of good financial advice in today's economic climate. She encourages Baby Boomers to begin by assessing their current situation.

"The first thing I ask someone at or near retirement is if they know how much income they need their assets to generate once they retire," she explains. "Realistically determining the income your investments can generate and building in a buffer to preserve your retirement under difficult conditions takes considerable time and work."

Part of building a retirement plan is articulating your priorities and goals for life in retirement. Many factors play a key role in a successful retirement plan, such as:

- Your income sources
- Your assets and anticipated expenses
- The rate at which you'll be able to spend in retirement

"Having a plan and continuing to adjust it over time can help put you on the path to a comfortable retirement," Liza says.

Make a Plan

The next step in the process is making a plan.

"First, make sure your retirement team is in place, starting with your financial advisor," Liza says. "Depending on your situation, the financial advisor may also act as your team's 'quarterback,' coordinating and working with family members, your CPA, an estate attorney, and insurance and trust professionals."

Establishing priorities is an important part of the process.

"The financial advisor can assist you in understanding factors that will impact your retirement plan, such as your retirement lifestyle, risk tolerance, retirement date, unknown risks and your desire to support your family members or a favorite charity."

Managing Risks

"Every investment decision entails some sort of risk," Liza stresses. "I work with my clients to identify the factors and risks most relevant to their situation and plan for them."

Liza lists a number of factors and risks facing Baby Boomers, including:

- Longevity – Baby Boomers may live 20 or 30 years after they retire.
- Inflation – Inflation increases the cost of living, erodes the value of savings and reduces



Liza Campa-Flanagan
Certified Financial Planner

purchasing power.

- Spending and withdrawals – Overspending can adversely affect how long your assets last.
- Market risks – Market declines and the timing of these declines pose risks.
- Unknown risks – Major health events, disability, long-term care needs and other unexpected occurrences can complicate a retirement plan.

The Unexpected

"Many retirees underestimate how much they'll need to cover healthcare expenses," Liza says. "Income from investments and Social Security can go toward paying ongoing medical costs, such as Medicare premiums, deductibles and copays, but as healthcare costs continue to rise, this could place a significant strain on your retirement," Liza says. "I work with my clients to try to anticipate healthcare expenses in retirement and account for them within their overall retirement income plan."

Additionally, widespread economic weakness and market fluctuations have taken a toll on many investors, including Baby Boomers.

"If you are at all concerned your retirement plan may no longer be sufficient to meet your needs, don't delay taking action," Liza says. "While there are no magic fixes, a number of effective strategies do exist for potentially minimizing losses, generating additional income and planning for growth."

Liza can help Baby Boomers:

- Plan for long-term care needs not covered by Medicare or other insurance
- Evaluate and/or reallocate 401K or other employer provided retirement plans
- Review income and expenses and examine the household budget
- Assess insurance coverage to ensure it is cost effective and appropriate for current needs
- Review and update beneficiary designations
- Allocate a portion – or a greater portion – of their portfolio to undervalued, growth-oriented investments
- Address lifetime income needs
- Hedge income against rising inflation with certain investment options.

"We can help you look at your retirement plan comprehensively, determine if you have any gaps, and help you identify ways to potentially minimize losses in order to stay on track in retirement," Liza says. Thus, with proper planning, retirement may still be an option for baby boomers.

The office of Elizabeth (Liza) Campa-Flanagan, Certified Financial Planner with Raymond James Financial Services Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC, is at 645 N. Indian Rocks Road, Belleair Bluffs. She can be reached at 727-585-1212; or visit Liza's Web site at www.raymondjames.com/LizaCampaFlanagan.

"Consult with your Advisor before investing. Any opinions are those of Liza Campa-Flanagan and not necessarily those of Raymond James Financial Services or Raymond James. Any information is not a complete summary or statement of all available data necessary for making an investment decision and does not constitute a recommendation."

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Exhibit Space Available for 2014 Business After Hours Expo

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

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

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

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

Welcome and thanks to our new Trustee Society Members!

The Chamber is very happy to announce that several businesses have recently joined or upgraded their investment in the organization's esteemed Trustee Society. Sincere thanks to them!

Gold Level - Melody Hunter, Realtor (upgraded from Silver), www.mel4u.com

Gold Level - Piper Fire Protection, Inc. (upgraded from Silver), www.piperfire.com

Silver Level - All About Scrubs, www.aascrubs.com

Silver Level - Arbor Terrace, www.at-largo.com

Silver Level - Brown Insurance Services, www.browninsuranceservices.com

Silver Level - Modern Business Associates, www.mbahro.com

Silver Level - One Hour Air Conditioning & Heating, www.onehourairlargo.com

Membership in the Trustee Society is a tremendous way to showcase your business throughout Central Pinellas. It provides a wide variety of marketing and advertising opportunities to increase visibility within the Chamber organization and region.

As importantly, Trustee Society Members demonstrate a heightened level of dedication to the Chamber. In recognition of this support, all Trustees are acknowledged at each Chamber event, on the front page of the Chamber Connection newsletter and on the Chamber website. They also are treated to VIP services including exclusive invitations to a number of special events and activities during the year.

For more information about becoming a part of the Trustee Society, contact Chamber President Tom Morrisette at tom@CentralChamber.biz or call 727-584-2321.

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

For the past 61 years, this volunteer-driven association has been empowering business by providing the necessary tools and resources to help them succeed. This includes networking leads groups, government advocacy and economic development initiatives in addition to programs and events focused on professional development.

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

This Tuesday ... 2014 Economic Forecast Breakfast

"Focus on 2014: A Tampa Bay Economic Forecast" takes place on Tuesday from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort, 1160 Gulf Blvd, Clearwater.

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

Economic Forecast by Philip K. Porter, Ph.D., Professor of Economics at the USF.

Health Care Forecast by Carl Patten, Director of Health Care Policy at Florida Blue.

Employment Forecast by Ed Peachey, President and CEO of WorkNet Pinellas and the Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance.

Energy Forecast by Alex Glenn, President of Duke Energy Florida, which serves 1.7 million electric retail customers in central Florida, including Pinel-

las County and the greater Orlando area.

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

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



Join the crowd at the 2014 Business After Hours Expo, presented by the Chamber's Women in Business Council, Wednesday, February 19 from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. Admission is free. Presenting Sponsors include, Aaron's on Ulmerton, BB&T, Largo Medical Center and HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital. Call (727) 584-2321 for more information.

A New Leads Group Term Underway

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

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



Diana Robertson of All About Scrubs, Chamber Chairman Dr. Jim Rivenbark of Diagnostic Clinic and Jennifer Reynolds of One Hour Air Conditioning & Heating enjoy the Chamber's Holiday Happy Hour on the portico of the Largo Cultural Center.

Free SCORE Business Counseling

The Chamber hosts business counseling services provided by SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) at its offices by appointment every first and third Thursday monthly. SCORE counselors represent working and retired business executives who volunteer their lifetime experience providing assistance for people looking to start a business and for owners/managers of existing businesses. There is no cost involved. Counseling appointments can be made only by calling 727-584-2321.

B2B Luncheon to Address Cutting Wa\$te at Work

"Cutting Wa\$te at Work" is the topic of the Chamber's next B2B Luncheon. It takes place on Tuesday, Feb. 11 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at The Twisted Martini, 13563 Icot Blvd, Clearwater.

Representatives from Pinellas County Solid Waste will discuss the agency's Business Waste Assistance Reduction Program with information on ways that businesses can save substantial amounts of money. Recycling,

chemical/hazardous waste disposal and a variety of "green" tips will be among the topics discussed.

Also featured will be recognition of the Chamber's Students of the Month. Spotlight Luncheon Sponsors are Louis Haskel, CPA and Stevens & Stevens Business Record Management, Inc.

Cost to attend is \$20 a person. Call the Chamber at 584-2321 to register, or email events@CentralChamber.biz.

Chamber Ambassador of the Month

Congratulations to December Ambassador of the Month Christine Mancini of BB&T. Christine is Vice President and Financial Center Leader at the BB&T Bank branch location at 350 East Bay Drive in Largo and is dedicated to helping you achieve your financial goals and providing you with the expertise and personal service you deserve. Contact Christine at (727) 260-5249.

The Ambassadors are a dynamic team of business repre-



Christine Mancini

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

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Chamber members enjoy the ribbon-cutting at Platinum Information Services, celebrating Platinum's great location at 4755 East Bay Drive.

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Pinellas County welcomes two new Walmart stores

New Walmart stores opened in Clearwater and Largo Wednesday, Jan. 15. Opening celebrations are scheduled on Saturday, Jan. 18, noon to 3 p.m.

The Clearwater Walmart Neighborhood Market at 2171 Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Largo store at 2677 Roosevelt Blvd. (at the intersection with U.S. 19) also will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Both stores will offer pharmacy services.

"The Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce is excited to welcome another Walmart Neighborhood Market to our community. New construction and new employment opportunities are always greatly appreciated," said Bob Clifford, president and CEO of the Clearwater Regional Chamber. "Having the worldwide leader in retail business expanding its presence in our community sends a clear signal that Clearwater is a great place to live, work and play."

"We are pleased that Walmart has remained committed, both now and through the recession, to invest in our community," said Largo Mayor Patricia Gerard. "We anticipate the new store will help grow and revitalize the Roosevelt and U.S. 19 corridor, and we look forward to its grand opening."

The new Clearwater Neighborhood Market is approximately one-quarter the size of a Walmart Supercenter. It offers a full grocery department, including organic and natural selections. The store features prepared food options, fresh-baked breads, self-serve deli, a bakery, rotisserie chicken, and beer and wine. The Clearwater store is tailored to the community, offering local favorites, including Mediterranean and kosher items.

The Largo store features general merchandise, including apparel, electronics, toys, sporting goods, and lawn and garden items. It also offers a full line of groceries, including organic and natural selections in addition to local favorites.

The grand-opening celebration at both stores will include presentations of \$8,000 in grants from Walmart to local community groups, including Clothes to Kids, Eckerd Community Alternatives, Fraternal Order of Police - Pinellas Lodge 43, Frontier Elementary, Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce, Lighthouse of Pinellas, WorkNet Pinellas and the city of Largo Police Department.

Largo store

The Largo store employs approximately 300 full- and part-time associates. Store manager Ron Freitas began his Walmart career in 1998 as an assistant manager at a store in Sarasota.

"We're excited to bring this new store with good jobs, great prices and one-stop shopping convenience to Largo," said Freitas. "We hope everyone will stop by on grand-opening day to see the new store and take advantage of vendor promotions and giveaways."

The new Largo Walmart also plans to celebrate with a Big Family Welcome on Saturday, Jan. 18, noon to 3 p.m. Customers can meet Freitas and enjoy family activities the same as those planned in Clearwater. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/walmart3372.

Clearwater store

The Clearwater store employs up to 95 full- and part-time associates. Store manager Sarah Parker began her Walmart career in 2006 as a manager trainee.

"We're excited about bringing value, convenience and new jobs to Clearwater and about becoming involved in this community," said Parker. "We invite all our neighbors to stop by on grand-opening day, see the new store, and take advantage of vendor giveaways and promotions."

On Saturday, Jan. 18, noon to 3 p.m., the Clearwater store will host a Big Family Welcome that will give customers a chance to meet Parker and enjoy family activities such as face painting, cupcake decorating and free food samples while supplies last. Join the celebration from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, visit facebook.com/walmart5670.

Send us your news

Send news to Largo Leader Editor Juliana Torres, Tampa Bay Newspapers, 9911 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772. Email jtortes@TBNweekly.com or call 397-5563, ext. 324

Out with the old



Photo by TIFFANY RAZZANO
The redevelopment of the Wendy's fast-food restaurant at 10751 Park Blvd. is underway. One of the oldest Wendy's in Pinellas County, the building was recently demolished and a new one, consistent with the company's current branding, will be constructed.

Price of postage stamps going up

Pinellas County residents might want to restock their supply of postage stamps before Jan. 26.

The United States Postal Service is increasing the price of a First-Class Mail single-piece letter from 46 cents to 49 cents. The proposed changes are intended to generate \$2 billion in incremental annual revenue for the Postal Service.

Letters that weigh more than one ounce will cost a penny more per ounce and postcards also will cost a penny more with the price increasing to 34 cents. Letters, weighing one ounce or

less, going to all international destinations will cost \$1.15.

Stamp prices have stayed consistent with the average annual rate of inflation of 4.2 percent since the Postal Service was formed in 1971, according to a press release.

The Postal Service recorded a \$15.9 billion net loss last fiscal year and expects to record a loss of roughly \$6 billion in the current fiscal year, and has an intolerably low level of available liquidity even after defaulting on its obligation to make prefunding payments for retiree health benefits.

A self-supporting government enterprise, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service

that reaches every address in the nation: 152 million residences, businesses and Post Office Boxes.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. With more than 31,000 retail locations and the most frequently visited website in the federal government, usps.com, the Postal Service has annual revenue of more than \$65 billion and delivers nearly 40 percent of the world's mail.

Follow the Postal Service at www.twitter.com/USPS and www.facebook.com/USPS.

West Coast PLAYERS presents REX'S EYES

The sequel to last year's hit "The Red Velvet Cake War," this hilariously funny Southern-fried farce finds the Verdeen cousins of Sweet-gum, Texas teetering on the brink of disaster again. Directed by Ashlie Johnson

As Gaynelle stubbornly refuses to face turning the big 50, Peaches and Jimmy Wy are planning a big party to celebrate this event. Many of the same characters appear as well as many new odd relatives and friends.

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LETTERS

Protect Belleair's heritage

Editor:

We urge residents to please attend the Jan. 21 Commission meeting in Belleair at 6:30 p.m. and encourage officials to vote no on the RM-10 zoning change.

This no vote will send a clear message to the hotel owners that the hotel must be saved and that the commission will continue to enforce the preservation ordinance until a buyer is found who will restore the Belleview Biltmore Hotel.

The only place in Belleair where the new R-10 zoning classification would serve any useful purpose would be on the property where the Belleview Biltmore currently sits. Therefore, to pretend that the added classification doesn't promote the demolition of the Belleview Biltmore and the rezoning of the property is preposterous. The new classification would send a clear message to the current owners that the Town is willing to allow the hotel to be demolished and for the property to be rezoned and developed. It increases the value to the property as land that can be developed and provides an incentive to the owners to pursue demolition of the hotel rather than selling the historic hotel for less profit.

When the same owners of the hotel property threatened to sell the golf course property to developers for the construction of town homes, town officials sprang to the defense of town residents who own property surrounding the golf course by actually buying the golf course and classifying it as a green space in perpetuity.

The reasons the commission gave for stopping the developers was that those Belleair residents who purchased homes on the golf course would lose their view, their quality of life and their property values might decrease.

Even though it was a huge cost and a big financial risk for our town, it was deemed necessary to protect the citizens who owned properties surrounding the course. It was the right thing to do because the job of town government is to protect the welfare of residents, even at great cost to the town.

Those who own property surrounding the Belleview Biltmore deserve the same consideration of their view, quality of life and property values.

The Belleview Biltmore used to provide residents with restaurants, a spa, ballrooms, meeting rooms, historic tours and hotel rooms for their out-of-town guests while generating good income for the town. If restored, it could do so again.

If the commission stands firm and lets the current owner know that their plans to destroy the hotel and develop the property will never bear fruit, then they would be more willing to negotiate a fair purchase price with those who want to restore the hotel rather than seeking top-dollar for the property.

The commission should be doing everything possible to prevent the developers from changing the entire landscape and culture of the area by demolishing the hotel and building condos and town homes that would absolutely destroy the view, the quality of life and decrease the property values of those who live near the hotel as well as many others who cherish the Belleview Biltmore Hotel. Incorporating a new R-10 zoning classification sends the opposite message. It says we don't care about protecting the welfare of those residents who own property adjacent to the hotel.

The R-10 classification isn't different enough from the existing R-15 classification to create completely different types or sizes of residences than currently exist in Belleair. Therefore, construction of new condos and townhomes would almost certainly decrease the property values of existing condos by creating a surplus of new and comparable housing in the immediate vicinity.

The current owners have done everything in their power to destroy the historic icon that is responsible for the town of Belleair's existence. We should do nothing to help these people profit from their despicable behavior.

Instead, we should send them a strong message that we will do what it takes to protect Belleair's heritage and the property values of Belleair citizens, even if it costs the town substantial sums in lost income while waiting for them to sell the hotel at a fair price to those who would restore the hotel.

Just like when Belleair decided to buy the golf course from the current owners to protect the property values of our residents and the heritage of our town, refusing to change our land use code to incorporate the new R-10 zoning classification would protect the property values of residents and would force the owners to sell the hotel for a reasonable amount.

You can contact www.savethebiltmore.com for fliers to print and hand out, our one-minute email campaign to the commissioners and mayor with their addresses and for more information. Feel free to sign up for our free email newsletter also.

Diane Hein

President, Save the Biltmore Preservationists
Belleair

Save the Tides; the fight goes on

Editor:

Pinellas County is the most densely populated county in Florida. Our county leaders are currently caught in a struggle between further developing the last vestiges of our county green space or maintaining and protecting what little of it remains.

The Tides Golf Course is a 66-acre golf course located off of 113th Street in Seminole. It is adjacent to Millennium Park and Boca Ciega Bay. The course has been in operation for over 40 years. It is home to varied species of wildlife. It acts as wildlife "spill over" from the park and compliments the entire Seminole and beaches area as a wildlife refuge and manatee sanctuary. The course also serves many tourist visitors who stay on our beaches just 2 miles down the road.

Unfortunately, this land had been targeted for another residential housing project. Taylor Morrison, a residential building company, headquartered in Arizona, previously submitted a contract to purchase the Tides. The contract was contingent upon approval of a rezoning application to rezone the land from recreational open to residential. Taylor Morrison had submitted a housing development plan to county officials to build 172 houses and townhomes on the 66-acres. Their plan proposed a density of 2.5 units per acre. Recently, county officials suggested against approval of this plan.

About three days ago Taylor Morrison withdrew their rezoning application.

The current owner of the property is Wells Fargo bank. Wells Fargo acquired the property after the previous owner defaulted on his mortgage in 2009. The previous owner did not default on the mortgage because the golf course was losing money. The previous owner of the golf course simply paid too much for the Tides in 2003, during the real estate bubble. Like so many of our fellow Americans, the Tides owner suffered from the sluggish economy and could not maintain the burden of an overvalued piece of property. Pinellas County property appraisers now value the course at nearly \$2 million.

Shortly thereafter, the bank assumed responsibility over the property. Ironically, about the same time the Tides owner defaulted on his obligation, Wells Fargo Bank received \$36 billion of your tax dollars to keep the bank from failing.

We were told that the bailout of Wells Fargo and other banks and financial institutions were for our own good. Remember that?

To add insult to injury, about three months ago the New York Attorney General's Office filed a lawsuit in federal court alleging Wells Fargo violated the terms of the recent multi-state mortgage fraud settlement.

Now as 2014 begins, I am happy that we were able to repel Taylor Morrison's application. Many of us worked hard and donated thousands of dollars and hours of time in an organized, professional and effective effort to thwart this multi-state developer that is headquartered in the Cayman Islands.

We won this battle, but not the war. With your help, the Save the Tides movement will continue to work with the county to protect this valuable piece of land. We also will continue to remain ever vigilant in its protection.

Andy G. Strickland
Seminole

Heed Madison's words

Editor:

From the Federalist No. 1, James Madison, Nov. 23, 1787: "The public good is disregarded in the conflicts of rival parties." Please read.

Jeff Shelton
Largo

Curtain rises on 'Downton Abbey'

Although the BBC-PBS series "Downton Abbey" has entered only its fourth season, it seems to me it's been around ever since Queen Victoria died. It's splendid story-telling, which is one big reason PBS has no shame in running each episode about 20 times. This allows you and me to keep from losing track of the plot and characters. It also allows PBS to frequently interrupt each episode and beg for money, and thus keep giving the world top-quality programs.

If you're not familiar with DA (as I'm sure show-biz folks call it) please be assured I won't try to spell out complete details of the goings-on. They are too complex to be captured in any column less than 10,000 words long.

A capsule outline might go this way: Downton Abbey is a 1,000-acre West Berkshire spread whose center is a three- or four-story mansion topped by dozens of prickly spires. Inside this English fortress are a married couple named Robert and Cora Crawley. They have three daughters and several layers of servants whose duties and status rankings would make a Pentagon organizational chart seem like a child's scrawlings.

Ownership and control of the premises depends on who is married to whom, and for how long, provided none of the main characters are killed off in war, childbirth or traffic accidents. The Crawley parents want their daughters to find suitable husbands. Of course they do. If you've read much British fiction you already know that spouse-hunting was the chief activity of the upper-classes from the Battle of Hastings until the end of World War II. But the daughters have minds of their own, and therein lie many of DA's primary plot lines.



Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

One daughter, Mary, dares to do a quick roll in the hay with a visiting Turkish diplomat, who immediately collapses and died. This left Mary vulnerable to later blackmail threats. Her sister Sybil ventures into the new world of women's rights. The third sister, Edith, wants to find the right guy, but keeps getting dumped. Other complications arise from war with Germany, battle wounds, Spanish flu, death from childbirth, and financial disaster when Robert Crawley's investments in railroads go off the tracks. His wife Cora has a miscarriage resulting from her slip on a bar of soap, strategically placed by a vengeful servant, Mrs. O'Brien. Sweetness and light, tinged with acid, stream out of the Abbey's several hundred windows.

DA's talented creator and sole scriptwriter, Julian Fellowes, promises to churn out at least a fifth season, and won't say how many more might follow. Perhaps our grandchildren will slip into adulthood enjoying DA as much as today's fans do. Fellowes has caught flak from several directions because of his abrupt killing off of some major cast members. His defense, in some cases: he had to do it because the actors suddenly quit or their contracts ran out.

For many viewers, part of the fun is figuring out the pecking order of the servants.



Behind the erosion of public trust

If you robbed a bank and got caught, you would go to jail. If you waited in the getaway car while your cohort robbed the bank, you would go to jail as an accomplice, right? Of course you would. That's what the law mandates.

So how come, after a bank stands mute as customers are robbed, do they get "deferred prosecution?"

I ask these questions after this week's decision by the feds to merely fine JPMorgan Chase for failing to report their very real suspicions about mega-fraudster Bernard Madoff. No criminal charges, no one is held responsible and faces jail time – just \$2.5 billion in fines and penalties for an organization that experts say will likely make as much as \$23 billion in profit this year.

Under the settlement agreement, announced by the U.S. Attorney in Manhattan, any criminal charges were deferred for two years – and maybe forever if the bank keeps its nose clean. All JPMorgan had to do was admit its bad conduct, pay the fine and agree to strengthen its anti-money laundering policies.

JPMorgan immediately issued a statement saying, "We recognize we could have done a better job pulling together various pieces of information and concerns about Madoff from different parts of the bank." Really?

Pulitzer Prize-winning business reporter Michael Hiltzik, writing in the Los Angeles Times, declared the JPMorgan admission, "Resembles hay after it's been passed through the digestive system of a horse." Hiltzik also believes JPMorgan has re-written the history of what it knew about Madoff's criminal practices – and when they knew it.

"JPMorgan, where Madoff kept his major bank accounts and which profited handsomely off its relationship in numerous ways, knew Madoff was crooked. Bank executives had him figured out ... early," Hiltzik wrote.

Look, I don't know much about high finance, but let's review some facts about what JPMorgan did – and didn't do – after it had reason to believe Madoff was a conman of mammoth proportions.

Keep in mind the Bank Secrecy Act of 1970 requires banks to file what's called "suspi-



Diane Dimond

cious activity reports" with federal regulators if they think a customer is dealing in ill-gotten gains. JPMorgan consistently stayed mum about its Madoff concerns, and under the law, that is a felony.

In October 2008, the bank's branch in London apparently saw great financial doom looming and finally registered their concerns about Madoff with British regulators. While required to file the same report in the U.S., JPMorgan did not. Over the next few weeks, the bank quietly withdrew some \$300 million of its own money invested in various Madoff funds. By December, Madoff was in handcuffs, paraded as a master Ponzi perp before his horrified investors – and the world.

In other words, JPMorgan never lifted a finger to help protect clients, but when it came to protecting itself against risk, bank executives made sure they were ahead of the curve.

JPMorgan executives likely consider the just-imposed \$2.5 billion fine as simply the cost of doing business. Over the last year the organization has agreed to pay out a collective \$20 billion for various serious banking violations.

Imagine if you robbed a bank of, say, \$1 million, and prosecutors agreed to let you pay \$1,000 to make the criminal charges go away. Being able to pay away your crimes would never happen with an individual, but when it comes to financial institutions, the legal playing field is suddenly different. Why is that?

Because our Department of Justice says that's okay.

Remember the days when prosecutors actually came to the aid of cheated investors to punish those responsible? The days when charlatan convicts actually went to prison and names like Mike Milken, Ivan Boesky, Jeffery Skilling and Charles Keating made the news? Today, swindlers such as former Country-

wide Financial Services CEO Angelo Mozilo – a man widely considered to have been a kingpin of the sub-prime mortgage crisis – can walk away from the financial messes they create by simply opening up their fattened wallets. Mozilo was four days away from the opening of his criminal fraud trial when the Security and Exchange Commission suddenly dropped the charges in exchange for his payment of a \$67.5 million fine.

That's justice? Is it any wonder so many Americans have grown distrustful of both the federal government and big institutions? This is why so many citizens have come to believe that there are two justice systems in this country – one for the average citizen and one for those with money and connections.

While watching the U.S. Attorney's news conference announcing the latest settlement, I couldn't help but notice not one word was said regarding the federal government's failure to monitor Madoff's years-long misdeeds. Certainly the bank was wrong, but where had the SEC, the FBI and other government agencies been all those years that Madoff was scamming people? If someone as blatant as Madoff slipped through the cracks, how many other financial fraudsters are operating unnoticed today?

There seems to be no end to the number of fingers of blame that can rightfully be pointed. Yet, hardly anyone has been held personally responsible for the myriad of financial crimes we've seen over the last few years.

U.S. District Court judge Jed Rakoff recently wrote a brave essay about Wall Street's watchdogs. Rakoff, who has an expertise in securities law, wrote that exacting fines and promises to do better from institutions is, "little more than window dressing," and he lambasts the shift in DOJ policy toward negotiating with companies.

"Companies do not commit crimes," the judge wrote. "Only their agents do. ... So why not prosecute the agent who actually committed the crime?"

Is anyone at the Justice Department listening?

Visit Diane Dimond's official website at www.dianedimond.com for investigative reporting, polls and more.

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Church hosts concert

LARGO - A free concert, featuring King's Brass, will be presented Sunday, Jan. 19, during the regular worship service at Christ Presbyterian Church, 3115 Dryer Ave.

The Kings Brass will deliver a delightful blend of tasteful variety, light-hearted fun and musical excellence.

For more information, call 518-7134 or email hnew@tampabay.rr.com.

Business Mamas meet, network on a mother's schedule

Over the past few weeks, I have talked to more and more moms who have reinforced what I have always believed: being home with my kids while they are young is important, but with today's economy, most moms have to work.

The problem is it's hard to find a job that works around children. Most jobs are not the kind that allow for you to take off when your child is sick or go on a class field trip or other school events during the day. Most full-time jobs are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and it's hard for moms who work full-time for a company to get off during the day.

Because some mom's don't want to be constrained to a set schedule, I have noticed a lot of them are starting their own companies or working for businesses



Mom 2 Mom
Kadi Hendricks
Tubbs

where you can be your own boss like Pampered Chef, Thirty-One, Origami Owl and Mary Kay Cosmetics. This way they can work from home or work when their husband gets home from his job.

I recently ran into a bunch of moms at a networking group called Business Mama's Referral Group Pinellas County. I had heard about the group from my sister-in-law and then again through a co-worker. I wanted to find out what this group was all about, and I thought I could maybe get some leads. For me, small businesses like this would be great for the marketing, public relations and social media that I do for small businesses.

Since my co-worker couldn't attend, she asked me to fill in for her. You see, with this group, you can't miss more than two meetings a year without someone substituting in your place at the meeting.

I thought how neat an idea it is to have moms gather and talk about their businesses and refer clients to each other. The Business Mama's was started by Realtor Lindsay Discus-Harrison, a mom with a young child who wanted to create leads for her business but couldn't get to the other referral groups and organizations because they didn't fit her schedule or her needs. She decided to create her own group with a few other business moms a little over a year ago and now they



Photo by KADI HEKDRICKS TUBBS

The Business Mamas meet at Panera Bread, 10801 Starkey Road in Largo on the first Wednesdays. At a recent meeting are, front row, from left, Melissa Goodnow with Barefoot Birth, Gladis Rubio with The Fourth Trimester and her daughter Penelope, Jennifer Sullivan of Baby Bootcamp, and Greta Green with Green Pearl Photography and Lindsay Dicus-Harrison of Realty Executives; back row, guest Brittany Moore, Jennifer Savarese with Origami Owl, Jenni McKay with Perceptivity Studio, Dr. Laura Meyer with Partners and Pediatrics, and Natasha Gwatney with Mary Kay Cosmetics.

have about 28 members and are growing.

They have a group in the Largo/Seminole area that meets once a month on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Panera Bread in Bardmoor. The group is expanding and forming another group in the northern part of the county that will meet the second Thursday of the month.

I thought it was fun listening to the moms give a 30-second elevator pitch about their company and giving one about the company I work for. The group does this to give each person time to introduce their business, so fellow

members can get to know each company a little better. They feel that everyone in the group is a salesperson for each member in the group.

Part of the rules and regulations of the group include that they can't have more than one person of the same business in the group. The members also have to make one referral a month to another Business Mama member or bring a potential new member to the monthly meeting.

It seems to be working for these women. Some of the other businesses include moms who work as a photographer, pedi-

atrician, hairdresser, professional organizer and fitness instructor.

I found it also great to see they have business play dates. A lot of the moms in this group have young kids, so this is a way for them to socialize and network at the same time. What a great way for moms to join forces and help each other so they can work and be able to be with their kids.

For more information about the Business Mamas, call Lindsay Dicus-Harrison at 656-1584.

Kadi Hendricks Tubbs, mother of two girls ages 8 and 9, lives in Seminole. Visit her at Mom2Mom FamilyFun.blogspot.com.

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Military achievements

Laurin P. Phillips

SAFETY HARBOR - Air Force Airman Laurin P. Phillips recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Phillips is the daughter of Ashley Adams of Safety Harbor, and granddaughter of James Adams of Fayetteville, N.C. She is a 2012 graduate of Tarpon Springs High School.

Alec P. Fleicher

CLEARWATER - Air Force Reserve Airman Alec P. Fleicher recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

Fleicher is the son of Charles Fox of Clearwater Beach, and grandson of Thomas Fleicher of Chenango Forks, N.Y. He is a 2012 graduate of Chenango Forks High School, Binghamton, N.Y.

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Heritage Village presents history lecture

LARGO – As part of the Speaking of History lecture series, author and graphic designer Rick Kilby will present "Finding the Fountain of Youth: Ponce de Leon and Florida's Magical Waters" on Sunday, Jan. 19. The lecture and book signing is at 2 p.m. in the Pinellas Room at Heritage Village, 11909 125th St. N.

Kilby's book, published in 2013 by the University Press of Florida, describes how the search for treasures along Florida's waters 500 years ago continues to remain part of the mystique of Florida.

Dreamers, opportunists, developers, young families, tourists, and retirees often seek to enrich themselves and enjoy Florida's bountiful wealth. Kilby illustrates that the fictional mythology that has sustained the legend has actually transformed the historical record of our populous peninsula.

For more than 25 years, Orlando graphic designer Rick Kilby has

studied Florida's popular history and helped his clients in presenting historical topics in interesting, visual ways.

A 1986 graduate of the University of Florida, he was creative director of the Church Street Station attraction in Orlando before launching his own design studio, Kilby Creative. In 2008, Kilby launched a blog about Florida history and culture, "Visual Ephemera: Musings from the State I'm In," on which he's posted more than 400 articles and received more than 200,000 page views.

He also has contributed articles to the Society for Commercial Archeology's "Road Notes" and presented papers at the Society's conferences, including one on Florida's Fountain of Youth as a roadside attraction.

For more information about Heritage Village, visit www.pinellascounty.org/heritage, or call 582-2123.

Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church to celebrate 50 years

SEMINOLE – Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church, 8505 113th St., will hold its Golden Jubilee celebration, commemorating 50 years in the community, on Sunday, Jan. 19, 10 a.m.

The church's first worship service was held Jan. 19, 1964 at the Seminole Elementary School.

Guest speakers will include Seminole Mayor Leslie Waters and Rev. Dr. Nancy Kahaian, the head official for the 71 churches in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay. After the worship service, there will be a display of historic items in Smead Hall.



Photo courtesy of PASTOR BOB WIERENGA
Members of the Golden Jubilee Committee, from left, Roger Waun, Bonnie Cook and Rhonda Alvarez stand by Smead Hall and look over its building plan. Smead Hall was the first building on the church's campus at 8505 113th St.

Big Brothers Big Sisters celebrates its mentoring 'superstars'

LARGO – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay celebrates National Mentoring Month this January by recognizing the "superstars" of mentoring: volunteers in the program, called "Bigs," who spend time helping kids, called "Littles."

Former Little Brother Anwar Richardson said he was tough and rebellious growing up in the area. When he enrolled in Big Brothers Big Sisters and was first matched with his Big Brother Derrick Jackson, he didn't listen and resisted his Big Brother's advice.

But over time, their relationship grew stronger. Now 30 years later, Richardson and Jackson are still in contact. Richardson continues to look up to his Big Brother and even followed in his footsteps. Jackson is a former sports writer and now an award-winning columnist for the Boston Globe. Richardson has become a successful sports writer for Yahoo! NFL.

Richardson's story is just one example of the thousands of children the program serves every year. Bigs are ordinary people in regular professions who have something in common: a desire to help kids succeed. The organization has learned former Littles that to them, Bigs were "superstars."

Longstanding independent research and Big Brothers Big Sisters Youth Outcomes Survey data find children enrolled in the program improve academically and socially. According to the latest data, 94 percent of Littles in the program maintained or improved in their attitudes toward risky behaviors; 88 percent maintained or improved in parental trust and 83 percent maintained or improved in scholastic competence.

However, the reality is more than 800 children in the community are

on waiting lists for a Big. Part of the challenge is money: each of the Big/Little matches is professionally supported and costs the program more than \$1,000 a year. Yet the results are truly priceless: happy, healthy, confident and successful children who had previously been at risk for failure.

National Mentoring Month is a great time to join the ranks of superstars, by volunteering or donating today at www.bbbs.org.

Salvation Army to present training course

TAMPA – The Salvation Army provides free training to adults who wish to volunteer during emergency disaster responses.

An eight-hour introductory course to canteen (mobile kitchen) operations will be presented

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, at The Salvation Army, 1100 W. Sligh Ave., Tampa.

The course will provide an overview of the cornerstone of The Salvation Army's disaster response program – mass feeding. Participants will learn what it means to serve on a Salvation Army mobile kitchen and the essentials of safe and sanitary food preparation. This course incorporates ServSafe food safety standards.

Training is free, but preregistration is required. To register, email jennifer_dodd@uss.salvationarmy.org. Attendees must be 18 years old or older. A prerequisite to this course is Intro to The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services.

Visit www.SalvationArmyTampa.org.

Worship calendar

Our Savior Lutheran Church

CLEARWATER – An Evening of Magic and Comedy will be presented Friday, Jan. 17, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 4825 East Bay Drive.

Advance tickets are \$20 a person or \$35 per couple. Tickets are \$25 a person or \$45 per couple at the door. Kids age 7 to 12 will be admitted for half price.

Award-winning illusionist/comedian/writer Geoff Williams will perform his full-evening comedy and magic show to benefit Women With Purpose and Our Savior Lutheran Church. The event also will feature door prizes and refreshments.

Williams is a three-time "Magician of the Year," an honor bestowed by the International Brotherhood of Magicians. He is a performing member of the world-famous Magic Castle in Hollywood. He has lectured and performed in more than 18 countries and all over the United States and he has written Top Ten Lists for "The Late Show With David Letterman."

For information, call 641-3171.

Hope Presbyterian Church

CLEARWATER – A soup and salad luncheon will be presented Sunday, Jan. 26, 11:45 a.m., at Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher Road.

Cost is \$6. Proceeds will benefit the mission and ministries of Hope Church.

For information, call 531-3200.

Countryside Christian Center

CLEARWATER – The second annual Tampa Bay Celebration of Life Rally, a two-day community event to bring awareness, provide education, and call everyone to action, will take place Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7-8, at Countryside Christian Center, 1850 N McMullen Booth Road.

Event hours will be Friday, 6:30 to 9 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday will open with a choir led by Rick Starrett of Silverwind and including Rick Evans of the Classic Imperials. Pastor Andy Merritt, a pro-life pioneer who established the nation's first church sponsored crisis pregnancy center and adoption agency, will deliver the keynote address.

Saturday morning events include an address from Msgr. R. Morris, Vicar General of the Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg, educational workshops, and a special free luncheon with David Bereit, national director of 40 Days for Life.

A youth rally for middle and high school students will coincide with the main rally on Friday night and Saturday. Youth will enjoy great music, comedy, dance, drama, and many surprises.

Limited childcare will be available both days. For information, call Sabrina Burton Schultz at 813-246-6916 or email Phyllis Esposito at pespo@tampabay.rr.com. To register, visit tampabayprolife.org.

Good Samaritan Church

PINELLAS PARK – A workshop on what the Bible really says about homosexuality will be presented Mondays, 7 p.m., through Feb. 10, at

the Center for Spiritual Development at Good Samaritan Church, 6085 Park Blvd.

Led by the Rev. Jean Cooley, the group uses the book "Jesus, The Bible, and Homosexuality" as its text. The author, Jack Rogers, is a professor emeritus at San Francisco Theological Seminary and a former Moderator of the PCUSA General Assembly. In his book, he charts the church's history of using biblical passages to oppress marginalized groups, and refutes the conventional wisdom about the texts often used against LGBT persons. Cooley is a recently retired Presbyterian pastor who has also been a Christian educator and clinical social worker. She and her husband, Bill, co-pastored an open and affirming congregation in Lakeland before moving to St. Petersburg.

The workshops are open to the public at no cost. For information, call 544-8558 or visit www.goodsam-church.org.

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01/09/14

Cold-blooded reptiles



Photos by JIM LAYFIELD

Above, a diamondback rattlesnake, about 5 feet in length, went from basking in the sun along the Botanical Gardens nature trail to a defensive position as his photo was being taken Jan. 11. After the photo, the snake and photographer went in separate directions. At left, a juvenile gopher tortoise, about 3 inches in length, suns himself on the apron of his burrow along the edge of the same nature trail. Cold-blooded reptiles burrow underground, under logs and dense vegetation to protect themselves from cold such as the area has experienced in the past week. They emerge to warm their bodies and search for food when the temperature rises.

A heavy dose of winter will keep the anglers guessing



Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

Big changes have been taking place in our inshore waters; last week's cold front dropped our water temperature nearly 10 degrees, and if dealing with those frigid temps wasn't enough to keep you inside, the bone-chilling north winds might have done it. Unfortunately, it appears this week we'll have yet another cold front and possibly windy conditions until late into the weekend.

Speckled trout anglers may want to target those deeper mud bottom areas near to the flats that have been holding trout. When it gets super cold like this the trout will often school up right on the bottom, trying to warm up over the mud. Work quarter-ounce soft plastic jigs very slowly through the area, always remaining in good contact with the bottom, kind of like bass fishing. Dark colored jigs like D.O.A.'s 4-inch C.A.L. jerk shad in the gold and cream or root beer would be good options for the darker water.

Redfish have been more structure oriented, docks especially. Stretches of docks that have good concentrations of mullet are ones to look for. Cast Berkley Gulp! underneath docks and let the baits soak and

wait for the bite. Look for those extreme low tides next week to provide some tailing redfish opportunities. Channel edges as well as the outside of the flats (often marked by no combustion motor zone signs) are good places to find the redfish bunched up, waiting for the tide to come in.

Windy, inconsistent weather will keep many off the water this weekend. Those willing to brave the elements should focus their attention to the inland bridges and docks. Sheepshead fishing is in full swing right now and anglers looking to bring home some dinner should capitalize. Scrape barnacles around the bridges, and free-line them back behind the pilings for easy action. Around the docks try live or frozen shrimp fished on the bottom around the pilings.

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

Briefs

Extension to host aquatic plant program

LARGO - Some Like It Wet: Aquatic Plants will be presented Wednesday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m., at Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road.

Jan Allyn will speak about the role aquatic plants play in freshwater ecosystems and profile some species that are commonly used in landscaping around retention ponds and backyard water features, such as iris, pickerelweed, cardinal flower, bacopa, water lilies, canna, bulrush, and others.

For information, call 867-9149.

previous sales experience is required. This is a low-stress opportunity in a beautiful place with wonderful people. Prospects must be reliable.

Botanical Bounty is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Shifts are 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; and 1:30 to 5 p.m.

For information, call Stacey Zidi at 582-2251.

Violet society to meet

LARGO - The African Violet Society of Pinellas will meet Monday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m., at Cypress Palms, 400 Lake Ave. NE.

The program will be Why Don't Violet Growers Have Any Trash? Meetings are open to anyone who has an interest in African violets. Parking and admission are free. Refreshments will be served. There also will be a brief business meeting and a plant raffle.

For more information, call 813-920-7270.

FHS to meet

CLEARWATER - The Florida Herb Society will meet Tuesday,

Jan. 21, 6:30 p.m., at the Clearwater Garden Club, 405 Seminole St.

The herb of the month is lemongrass. Pam Sidlinger and Yetta Jaworski will deliver a presentation on harvesting fresh herbs. Refreshments and herbal swaps will be between 6:30 to 7 p.m.

The meeting is designed for those interested in the culinary, medicinal and cultural aspects of growing and enjoying herbs. The group meets third Tuesdays.

Visitors can check out a meeting for free. Cost is \$25 a year to join the group.

Email membership@floridaherbsociety.org or call Emily Wenzel at 365-8574.

Squadron to host safe boating program

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

The two-hour seminar will acquaint boaters with the actions necessary to cope with the most common boating difficulties. The program is available to anyone 12 or older and deals with both preparing for and managing emergencies such as accident prevention, emergency calls and signals, running aground, man overboard, fire, loss of power, medical conditions, steering failure and getting lost.

Instruction is free. Cost for materials is \$30 per family. There is a maximum of 20 students. Pre-registration is required. For information and to register, visit www.boating-stpete.org.

Clearwater Garden Club to meet

CLEARWATER - Clearwater Garden Club will host its annual games and card party luncheon Thursday, Jan. 30, noon to 3 p.m., at the CGC, 405 Seminole St.

The event will feature raffles, games and luncheon. Guests are encouraged to bring a favorite game to play. Cost is \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door.

To RSVP, call Hilda Sinnett at 586-0117 or Gladys Seney at 442-7889.

Violet society to host Valentine show

DUNEDIN - The African Violet Society of Pinellas will host its annual Valentine sale Saturday, Feb. 8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd; 639 Edgewater Drive.

The sale will be in Kirk Hall. Parking can be found in the rear of the church. Admission is free. The sale will feature gorgeous African violets and other plants. Members will be available to answer growing questions and show how to repot violets. Supplies will be available for sale.

Call 813-920-7270.

Violet society to meet

SEFFNER - The Tampa African Violet Society will meet Friday, Jan. 17, 10 a.m., at the meeting room at the Seffner-Mango Library, 410 N. Kingsway Road, Seffner.

Award-winning grower Glenn Shelton will present a program on growing African violets for show. The event will feature a plant raffle and growing tips will be offered. Visitors are welcome. Parking and admission are free.

For information, call Jim Boyer at 871-2014 or email jasb39@gmail.com.

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

What's Selling in Pinellas County

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Tom Cato
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

Clearwater

2BR/2BA

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Gulf front condo with Northwest views from the Intracoastal Waterway to the tropical shores of Sand Key Beach and the Gulf of Mexico. Impressive 2,154 Sq. Ft., separate utility room, organized closets, updated kitchen with granite, wood cabinets and under cabinet lighting. Both bathrooms have been upgraded and the large master bedroom features dual sinks and XL jetted tub.

Tom Smith
Coastal Properties Group International

Pinellas Park

3BR/2BA

\$106,000

SOLD



Spacious corner family home in the heart of Pinellas Park. Home has lots to offer with newer A/C, roof, some windows replaced plus new fence installed in 2013.

Caroleanne Vorac
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

Seminole

5BR/3BA/2CG

\$400,000

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Courtyard home in Bardmoor. Large courtyard features a pool, several sunny sitting areas, covered patio and a pool house. Pool house has its own bathroom and could be used as an in-law suite, pool party changing room or office. Main house boasts split floor plan w/family room, formal living room, casual dining area, laundry room and centrally located kitchen.

Sandy Hartmann
Realty Executives - Adamo & Associates

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Applications sought for student ambassador exchange program

ST. PETERSBURG - High school juniors residing in St. Petersburg are invited to broaden their cultural horizons by applying to serve as one of St. Petersburg's student ambassadors to Takamatsu, Japan, next summer.

The deadline to apply is March 14, 2014. Following interviews by the city's International Relations Committee, a citizen group charged with cultivating relationships between St. Petersburg and cities around the world, one or two students will be selected to live with host families in Takamatsu and experience Japanese life and culture.

During their three-week visit, student ambassadors will meet local government officials, including Takamatsu's mayor; attend high school and participate in daily activities with their host families. During past visits, student ambassadors have tried their hand at Japanese cooking, honed noodle-making skills, practiced Kendo, attended sporting events, and visited some of the area's historic landmarks.

Upon their return to St. Petersburg, the student

ambassadors will share information about their overseas visit with City Council and IRC members, as well as with schools, civic groups and others interested in the cultural exchange program.

To apply, students must be a resident of St. Petersburg and have completed their junior year by summer 2014. Along with the official application, available online at www.stpete.org/irc/ambassadors.asp, students should submit an original essay and introduction letter to their host family as well as a class photo; a copy of their high school transcript, including verification of honors and/or activity involvement; an introduction letter to the host parents written by the applicant's parents and two reference letters, including one from a school faculty member, must accompany the application. All students meeting eligibility requirements are encouraged to apply, regardless of their financial situation.

Applications may be hand-delivered to the Marketing and Communications Department, City Hall, 175 Fifth St. N.; or mailed with a postmark of 5

p.m., Friday, March 14. Applications submitted via email will not be considered.

While all international travel arrangements, costs, including round-trip airfare and insurance and home stays are complimentary, students should be prepared to cover personal living expenses abroad, including local transportation, visits to local attractions, restaurant meals or other incidentals.

Since the program's inception, 48 students have visited Takamatsu as student ambassadors. Past participants have used the experience to pursue studies in international relations, Japanese studies, and international business, while others have deepened their understanding of world cultures.

Host families also are needed for late July through early August when St. Petersburg welcomes students from Takamatsu for two weeks during the

annual student exchange. Families of current and previous applicants and ambassadors are encouraged to participate in the sister city relationship by serving as a host family.

Since becoming a sister city in 1961, St. Petersburg is believed to have one of the longest continuous relationships in the organization, commemorating its 50th anniversary with Takamatsu in 2011. Following official delegations to both cities, an informal sister schools relationship was formed in 2012 for younger students. For the last two years, students attending St. Petersburg's Perkins Elementary and Kinashi Elementary schools have participated in a virtual arts and culture exchange to commemorate the opening of Takamatsu's annual Bonsai Festival.

For information, visit www.stpete.org/irc.

School notes

SPC professor receives honor

SEMINOLE - St. Petersburg College professor Christine Patel was recently selected by her college as a 2013 John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Awards recipient.

The League for Innovation in the Community College, a consortium of more than 750 community colleges and universities worldwide, is recognizing Patel for her outstanding contributions to teaching, leadership and learning. Patel has been teaching at St. Petersburg College for the past 22 years. She teaches dental hygiene at the College of Health Services. She is a graduate of Seminole High School, St. Petersburg Junior College, North Carolina University and received her master's degree from University of South Florida. In addition she is a member of the Pinellas Park Rotary Club.

Patel is the daughter of Joan and Jerry Krauss. She has been asked to participate in the celebratory activities provided to all Excellence Awards recipients during the league's innovations conference March 2-5, in Anaheim, Calif.

USF/SPC online MBA program recognized

ST. PETERSBURG - The University of South Florida St. Petersburg College of Business online MBA program is ranked in the top 100 nationally and fourth among Florida universities for Best Online Graduate Business Programs according to the U.S. News and World Report.

It is the first time the program, which began three years ago, has been ranked by the magazine, best known for its annual Best Colleges report, which ranked USF St. Petersburg 38th among the top regional public universities in the South last year. The online rankings were released Wednesday.

The USFSP online MBA program was one of four in Florida to make the list, joining the University of Florida, Florida State University and Florida International. Nationally, the USFSP program placed 91st among 225 online graduate business programs in the country.

The program, the first of its kind by an accredited university in the Tampa Bay area, offers students a full array of options, including obtaining an MBA completely online or through a mixture of online and in-person classroom courses.

"The ranking by U.S. News and World Report underscores the innovative thinking that drives the College of Business," said Vivian Fueyo, Ph.D., in a press release. Fueyo is interim regional vice chancellor for academic affairs. "It reflects the excellence of our faculty and the high caliber of the students we attract."



Christine Patel

Ridgecrest to host parent workshop

LARGO - Licensed Clinical Psychologist Katherine McKay will present a parent workshop on how to manage defiant children on Thursday, Feb. 20, 6 to

6:45 p.m., in the media center at Ridgecrest Elementary, 1901 119th St. N.

Childcare is free for children ages 4 and older.

For information, call 588-3580.

Welch named to dean's list

SEMINOLE - James Welch III recently was named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Stetson University, Deland, with a 3.52 grade-point-average.

A sophomore student, Welch is majoring in psychology and is a member of the Stetson University cross-country team, the Stetson men's concert choir and Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He also works as a team assistant for the Stetson University tennis program.

A 2012 graduate of Keswick Christian School, he is a son of James and Lori Welch of Seminole.

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Nature photographer to speak at SPC Seminole

SEMINOLE – Nature photographer Clyde Butcher will speak Wednesday, Jan. 29, 6 to 8:15 p.m., in the conference center at St. Petersburg College's Seminole campus, 9200 113th St. N.

Butcher, who has the ability to make Florida's wild places resemble scenes from the Garden of Eden, will be January's featured speaker at the St. Petersburg College Village Square Series. Butcher has been called "the Ansel Adams of Florida" and "a national treasure." He will speak on the subject of "Preserving Eden."

Advance reservation is required. Registration is \$25 for Village Square members, \$30 for guests, and \$20 for educators and students.

Visit spcollege.edu/solutions, click on the Village Square tab. By mail, send checks to Institute for Strategic Policy So-

lutions, P.O. Box 13489, St. Petersburg, FL 33733.

For information, call 394-6251. Butcher, who in a digital age relies upon simple, old-fashioned box cameras to capture his large-scale images, is being sponsored by SPC's Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions through a grant from the Florida Humanities Council. Media co-sponsors are the Tampa Bay Times and WEDU Television.

An exhibit of 36 of Butcher's photographs hangs at the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art at SPC's Tarpon Springs campus through Feb. 16. The exhibit includes photographs that express the personal bond between Butcher and Florida's natural landscapes. Some are as large as 4-by-5 feet.

Butcher's dramatic black-and-white photographs of Florida wilderness land-

scapes have been said to "make your heart beat faster" or even "to change your life." Florida has recognized Butcher's talent by giving him the highest award offered to a private citizen: the Artist Hall of Fame Award.

He has also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the North American Nature Photography Association and was named Humanitarian of the Year for 2005 from the International University. In 2011, he received the 2011 Distinguished Artist Award from the Florida House in Washington, D.C.

Butcher is meticulous, and deliberately slow, in choosing and then executing his shots. He often takes months to scout out the right location, and often the shot involves standing in waist-deep swamp water for hours waiting for just the right

light or the right cloud formation, sharing the swamp with alligators, snakes and other wildlife.

His goal, he says, is "to take pictures that make people feel like they want to walk into them. I want people to be drawn in and feel their way through the environment." He considers wilderness areas to be "a sacred necessity", and that "the mysterious experience of being close to nature is restorative ... healing to the human soul."

The Village Square at SPC is a forum for nonpartisan debate of key state and national issues that operates under the Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions at SPC. The Institute serves as a resource for academic enrichment, a non-partisan venue for civil debate and civic engagement.

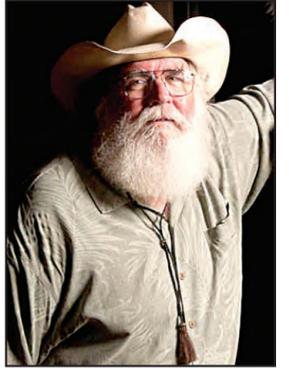


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Nature photographer Clyde Butcher comes to the Seminole campus of St. Petersburg College to take part in the Village Square Series.

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Top five diversions

• **"Bullshot Crummond,"** by Derek Cunningham, John Neville-Andrews, Alan Shearman, Diz White and Ronald E. House; Jan. 16-26, at Francis Wilson Playhouse, 302 Seminole St., Clearwater. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$21 for adults and \$11 for students. Call 446-1360 or visit www.franciswilson-playhouse.org. "Bullshot Crummond" is a parody of low-budget 1930s detective movies that typifies British heroism at its most ridiculously funny levels. A Teutonic villain and his evil mistress crash their plane in the English countryside and kidnap Professor Fenton, who has discovered a formula for making synthetic diamonds. Bullshot Crummond is called to the rescue.

• **"Rex's Exes,"** a comedy by Nicholas Hope, Jamie Wooten and Jessie Jones; presented by West Coast Players, Jan. 17 through Feb. 2, at West Coast Players Theatre, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org. "Rex's Exes" is a sequel to "The Red Velvet Cake War," presented last year by West Coast Players. They're back! This deliriously funny Southern-fried farce finds the Verdeen cousins of Sweetgum, Texas, teetering on the brink of disaster again. As Gaynelle stubbornly refuses to face turning the Big 5-0, Peaches and Jimmy Wy, who is riding high on the success of her new wedding gown boutique for big gals - Wide Bride - are planning a surprise party. But the surprise is on them when party plans shift to a quick funeral, a visit from an ex-husband come back to life, and a hostage situation involving a jilted bride. Add in Aunt LeMerle, Uncle Aubrey and the rest of their wacky friends and family and audiences will find themselves hoping their next family celebration is even half this much fun.

• **ABBA The Concert,** Saturday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$39. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. ABBA The Concert, a tribute to ABBA, one of the greatest pop phenomena, will return to Ruth Eckerd Hall in January. This

See TOP FIVE, page 2B



Photo courtesy of ENTOURAGE TALENT ASSOCIATES

Tedeschi Trucks Band headlines this year's Sunshine Music and Blues Festival, set for Jan. 19 at Vinoy Park in St. Petersburg.

Sunshine Music & Blues Festival

Tedeschi Trucks Band returns as headliner; JJ Grey joins the lineup

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

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

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

Festival-goers also will be able to purchase craft beers and food. The Vinoy Park event is the second of two dates in Florida. The second annual Sunshine Music and Blues Festival also will be presented Saturday, Jan. 18, at Mizner Park Amphitheatre in Boca Raton.

Tedeschi Trucks Band

While last year was an amazing year for the Tedeschi Trucks Band, or TTB as their loyal prefer to call them, this year has been another strong showing as well.

They have just released their second studio album, "Made Up Mind." The band's previous album, "Revelator," won the Grammy Award for Best Blues Album in 2012. Now, with the release of "Made Up Mind," there isn't a shred of doubt that Susan Tedeschi, her husband and creative collaborator, Derek Trucks, and their superb bandmates are on to something - something very big.

For Derek and Susan, TTB's strength in numbers - the band presently comprises 10 members - virtually guaranteed that a wide range of influences would steer the music to new, previously unexplored places. That diversity is evident throughout "Made Up Mind."

"I felt that with the personnel in this band, it was just a matter of time before all of these ideas started leaking out," said Trucks in a press release promoting the Sunshine Music and Blues Festival. "But we had a lot of confidence that it was going to be really good right out of the gate."

Today, as the result of carefully building it from scratch, Tedeschi Trucks Band is nothing less than one big happy family ... a traveling roots music circus of sorts, roving from town to town and pulling out all the stops along the way, never knowing just what will be the highlight of tonight's show or which band member will be the one to shine in the next moment. Each member of TTB is a strong enough force to be a bandleader in his own right, but the chemical reaction that takes



Photo by JENSEN HANDE/ALLIGATOR RECORDS

JJ Grey joins the lineup on this year's Sunshine Music and Blues Festival, set for Jan. 19 at Vinoy Park in St. Petersburg.

place when they all come together results in a mighty sound that's even greater than the sum of its considerable parts.

JJ Grey

Singer/songwriter/musician JJ Grey - leader of JJ Grey & Mofro - will give a special solo performance at the Sunshine Music and Blues Festival.

Grey's latest release with his band Mofro is "This River." This is Grey's seventh album - his fifth for Alligator Records - and his first

See SUNSHINE, page 4B

Renowned organist comes to Largo

LARGO - Grammy-award winning organist Paul Jacobs will return to Largo with a recital on Sunday, Jan. 26, 3 p.m., at the Prince of Peace Church, 455 Missouri Ave.

The program features works by Vierne, Schumann, Stanley, Durufle, Bach, Mozart and Guilman.

An eloquent champion of his instrument, arguing that the organ for too long has been excluded from the mainstream of classical music, Jacobs is known for his imaginative interpretations and charismatic stage presence. He has also been an important influence in the revival of symphonic music featuring the organ.

The first and only organist ever to have won a Grammy Award - in 2011 for Messiaen's challenging "Livre du Saint-Sacrement" - Jacobs combines a probing intellect and extraordinary technical skills with a repertoire that spans the gamut of music written for his instrument, both old and new. He has transfixed audiences, colleagues, and critics with landmark performances of the complete works for solo organ by J.S. Bach and Messiaen, as well as a vast array of other composers.

The concert is free and open to the public. For information, visit polargo.org or call 585-9969.



Paul Jacobs performs Jan. 26 at Prince of Peace Church.

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Looking Ahead

Largo

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

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

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

• **Satchmo:** The Rebirth of Louis Armstrong featuring Dean Simms;

Saturday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets are \$24.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Virtuoso trumpeter Dean Simms, as Satchmo, is the leader of this awesome tribute to the master himself, Louis Armstrong. His singing style as well as his playing, showmanship and on-stage is truly amazing. Hear Simms and his band perform renditions of "Basin Street Blues," "St. Louis Blues," "Wonderful World" and show stopping performance of the "Saints Go Marching In" and "Hello Dolly."

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

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

• **"Thoroughly Modern Millie,"** with book by Richard Morris and Dick Scanlan, music by Jeanine Tesori and lyrics by Dick Scanlan; presented by Eight O'Clock Theatre, Feb. 28 through March 16, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25.50 for adults and \$12.50 for children 19 and younger with identification. A city of Largo handling charge of \$3.50 will be added to each ticket. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. "Thoroughly Modern

Millie" is a fast-paced, energetic musical comedy set in the roaring '20s. Taking place in New York City in 1922, Millie Dillmount has just moved to the city in search of a new life for herself. It's a New York full of intrigue and jazz – a time when women were entering the workforce and the rules of love and social behavior were changing forever. Filled with frisky flappers, dashing leading men and a dragon-lady of a villainess audiences will love to hate, "Thoroughly Modern Millie" is a perfectly constructed evening of madcap merriment. The production will feature Linda Weir as director and Amy Phillips as choreographer.

Clearwater

• **Queensryche**, Thursday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at \$59. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Further laying down the gauntlet and keeping the music he's created for more than three decades alive, Queensryche vocalist and founding member Geoff Tate will be taking the newly-announced line-up on the road to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the band's epic 1988 release, "Operation: Mindcrime." The tour will feature an arsenal of bassist Rudy Sarzo, drummer Bobby Blotzer, guitarist Kelly Gray and keyboardist Randy Kane along with special guest appearances and plenty of surprises. The performance of "Operation: Mindcrime" will cover all 15 songs from the album including such fan favorites as "Revolution Calling," "Operation: Mindcrime," "I Don't Believe in Love" and the closing track, "Eyes of a Stranger." It will also feature other selections from the Queensryche catalog including songs from "Operation: Mindcrime II." In 2006, Queensryche brought the theatrical interpretation of the Mindcrime saga to audiences all over the world. A year later, the band would release "Mindcrime at the Moore," a double DVD featuring the theatrical performances of both "Operation: Mindcrime" I and II albums that debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Music DVD Chart. The DVD set would mark the band's first No. 1 chart debut, quickly achieving gold status, selling more than 50,000 units. The news of the 25th anniversary Mindcrime Tour comes just after Tate's eagerly-awaited sophomore solo release, "Kings & Thieves," was released on InsideOut Music. His first solo release in more than a decade, "Kings & Thieves" is a journey into the mind of one of rock's most dynamic vocalists.

• **"Rock of Ages,"** Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at \$35. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. The worldwide party musical "Rock of Ages" features a mix of 28 rockin' '80s tunes including "Don't Stop Believin'," "We Built This City," "The Final Countdown," "Wanted Dead or Alive," "Here I Go Again," "Can't Fight This Feeling" and "I Want To Know What Love Is." In 1987 on the Sunset Strip, a small town girl met a big city rocker and in LA's most famous rock club, they fell in love to the greatest songs of the '80s. It's five-time 2009 Tony nominee "Rock of Ages," an arena-rock love story told through the mind-blowing, face-melting hits of Journey, Night Ranger, STYX, REO Speedwagon, Pat Benatar, Twisted Sister, Poison, ASIA, Whitesnake and many more. Don't miss this awesomely good time about dreaming big, playing loud and partying on.

St. Petersburg

• **"MoonCity: A Historic Tale Regarding A Historic Man in a Florida Swamp,"** presented by Miniature Curiosa, Jan. 16-18, 8 p.m., at The Studio@620, 620 First Ave. S., St. Petersburg. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$15 for students. The show will be a multi-media puppet spectacle. Miniature Curiosa will present a story about a man who's got dreams so big they can only fit in the swamp. "MoonCity: A Historic Tale Regarding a Historic Man in a Florida Swamp" promises puppets, precariously hung light bulbs, and, of course, an entire miniature amusement park in less than 10 feet of space. Reservations are recommended. Call 895-6620 or visit www.studio620.org.

• **Jamey Johnson**, Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m., at The Mahaffey Theatre, 400 First St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets start at \$29.50. The Platinum-selling singer/songwriter is one of the most respected singer/songwriters in country music today. Johnson's 2008 album, "That Lonesome Song," was certified platinum for \$1 million in sales, and his 2010 ambitious double album, "The Guitar Song," received a gold certification. In addition, he won two Song of the Year trophies, for "Give It Away" and "In Color," both from the Academy of Country Music and the Country Music Association, and has received five Grammy nominations. Last year Johnson released his fourth studio album, a duet tribute album to late songwriter Hank Cochran. The Grammy-nominated "Living for a Song: A Tribute to Hank Cochran" paired him with Willie Nelson, Alison Krauss, Emmylou Harris, Ray Price, Elvis Costello, George Strait, Vince Gill and Merle Haggard.

• **"The Vagina Monologues,"** by Eve Ensler, Saturday, Jan. 18, 8 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 Drama Series, the show features American Stage board members Diane Bailey-Morton, Robin Sollie, and Gretchen Letterman. Obie Award-winner Eve Ensler's whirlwind tour of a forbidden zone, "The Vagina Monologues" introduces a wildly divergent gathering of female voices, including a 6-year-old girl, a septuagenarian New Yorker, a vagina workshop participant, a woman who witnesses the birth of her granddaughter, and a feminist happy to have found a man who "liked to look at it."

Tampa

• **Chris Cagle**, Friday, Jan. 17, at the Dallas Bull, 3322 U.S. 301 N., Tampa. Doors will open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 the day of the show. Call 813-373-0700. Cagle will return to the Dallas Bull, performing hits such as "I Breathe In, I Breathe Out," "My Love Goes On and On," "What a Beautiful Day," "Chicks Dig It," "What Kinda Gone," "Got My Country On" and "Let There Be Cowgirls." This show is for ages 18 and older only.

TOP FIVE, from page 1B

group has been touring North America for more than a decade and audiences and press agree: "this is the closest to ABBA you'll ever get." The concept, originally created in collaboration with Swedish company Viva Arts, combines the best ABBA tribute groups with members of the original ABBA band. The group sells out concerts across the United States, dazzling audiences with fantastic performances while playing the most iconic hits from ABBA, including "Mamma Mia," "S.O.S.," "Money, Money, Money," "The Winner Takes All," "Waterloo," "Gimme, Gimme, Gimme" and "Dancing Queen."

• **"Hello Dolly,"** by Jerry Herman and Michael Stewart, Jan. 17 through Feb. 2, at St. Petersburg City Theatre, 4025 31st St. S., St. Petersburg. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$24. Call 866-1973 or visit www.spicytheatre.org. It is America's favorite matchmaker, Dolly Levi, taking the stage by storm with all the glitz and razzle dazzle St. Petersburg City Theatre can muster. The show is a high-stepping gala salute to the Broadway masterpiece.

• **"Dial 'M' for Murder,"** by Frederick Knott, directed by Rick Butcher; Jan. 16-26, at Tarpon Springs Cultural Center, 101 S. Pinellas Ave. Performances will be Thursdays through Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Call 942-5605 or visit TarponArts.org.



Photo by RON ELKHAM

ABBA The Concert comes to Ruth Eckerd Hall Jan. 18.

Crossword

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Across

- Bottle gourd
- On the move
- Each menu item priced separately (3 wds)
- Hard to lift
- More blackened by smoke or grime
- Druid, e.g.
- Atlantic catch
- Catnip and loveage, e.g.
- Carry away, in a way
- Cuckoos
- Installed in a position of authority
- Bolivian export
- Kidney-related
- Arch type
- Cost of living?
- Bicker
- Brandy flavor
- Halftime lead, e.g.
- Bills, e.g.
- Basic unit of money in Myanmar
- ___-bodied
- Sulk
- Star in Orion
- Back
- "___ and the King of Siam"
- Annoy
- Battering device
- Unhappy babies
- Remnant
- "All My Children" vixen
- Handle the food for a party
- Car accessory
- State bordering Arizona
- Police arrest record (2 wds)
- A member of a nomadic Berber people of the Sahara
- Cross
- Layers

Down

- ___ buckthorn bearwood
- One who distributes charity
- Giving praise
- Appear
- Shellacking
- Astrological ram
- Using two separate channels for sound reproduction
- Pasture vegetation
- Matterhorn, e.g.
- Wrapped the dead in a waxed cloth
- Detective, at times
- Thought
- Granting pension benefits regardless of retirement age
- Accord
- Ground beef mixed with raw egg (2 wds)
- Cup holder
- Mysterious; Var.
- Grassland
- Fastened shoelaces again
- Bandy words
- Dadaism founder
- Picks up
- Support (2 wds)
- Layered
- Discover
- African daisies
- High point
- Beneficiary
- Addition symbol
- Calyx part
- "The Last of the Mohicans" girl
- Invitation letters
- ___ Khan
- Alter, in a way

Sudoku

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

Sudoku answers from last week

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

Crossword answers from last week

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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Place a Number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

Opening this weekend

'Ride Along' stars Kevin Hart, Ice Cube; Pine stars as Jack Ryan in 'Shadow Recruit'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'Ride Along'

Genre: Action and comedy
 Cast: Ice Cube, Kevin Hart, John Leguizamo, Bruce McGill, Tika Sumpter, Bryan Callen and Laurence Fishburne
 Director: Tim Story
 Rated: PG-13

When a fast-talking guy joins his girlfriend's brother - a hot-tempered cop - to patrol the streets of Atlanta, he gets entangled in the officer's latest case. Now, in order to prove that he deserves his future bride, he must survive the most insane 24 hours of his life.

For the past two years, high-school security guard Ben (Hart) has been trying to show decorated APD detective James (Ice Cube) that he's more than just a video-game junkie who's unworthy of James' sister, Angela (Tika Sumpter). When Ben finally gets accepted into the academy, he thinks he's earned the seasoned policeman's respect and asks for his blessing to marry Angela.

Knowing that a ride along will demonstrate if Ben has what it takes to take care of his sister, James invites him on a shift designed to scare the hell out of the trainee. But when the wild night leads them to the most notorious criminal in the city, James will find that his new partner's rapid-fire mouth is just as dangerous as the bullets speeding at it.

'Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit'

Genre: Action, adventure and suspense
 Cast: Chris Pine, Keira Knightley, Kevin Costner, Peter Andersson, Kenneth Branagh, David Paymer and Colm Feore
 Director: Kenneth Branagh
 Rated: PG-13

Tom Clancy's most iconic character, Jack Ryan, returns to the big screen in this taut suspense thriller.

When a global terrorist network is about to be activated, brilliant CIA analyst Jack Ryan (Chris Pine) has no choice but to become operational. Yet when everyone who could stop the impending international catastrophe has something to lose or something to hide, who can Ryan possibly trust?

Caught between his tight-lipped handler Harper (Academy Award-winner Kevin Costner), his in-the-dark fiancée Cathy (Keira Knightley) and a fearsome Russian oligarch (Kenneth Branagh), Jack must confront a new reality where secrets and lies are everywhere, yet the fate of millions rests on his finding the truth. With the urgency of a lit fuse, he's in a race to stay one step ahead of everyone around him.

'Devil's Due'

Genre: Horror
 Cast: Allison Miller and Zach Gilford
 Director: Matt Bettinelli-Olpin and Tyler Gillet
 Rated: R

After a mysterious, lost night on their honeymoon, a newlywed couple finds themselves dealing with an earlier-than-planned pregnancy.

While recording everything for posterity, the husband begins to notice odd behavior in his wife that they initially write off to nerves, but, as the months pass, it becomes evident that the dark changes to her body and mind have a much more sinister origin.

'The Nut Job'

Genre: Animation and family
 Cast: Will Arnett, Brendan Fraser, Liam Neeson, Katherine Heigl, Stephen Lang, Sarah Gadon and Jeff Dunham
 Director: Peter Lepeniotis
 Rated: PG

In animated 3D, "The Nut Job" is an action-packed comedy in fictional Oakton that follows the travails of Surly (voiced by Will Arnett), a mischievous squirrel, and his rat friend Buddy, who plan a nut store heist of outrageous proportions and unwittingly find themselves embroiled in a much more complicated and hilarious adventure.

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

'Generation War'

Genre: Drama
 Cast: Volker Bruch, Tom Schilling, Miriam Stein, Katherina Schütler and Ludwig Trepte
 Director: Philipp Kadelbach
 Not rated

Valor, courage, and betrayal come to the fore in this remarkable epic that shows the everyday realities of wartime life from a deeply personal perspective. Billed as a German "Band of Brothers," "Generation War" vividly depicts the lives of five young German friends forced to navigate the unconscionable moral compromises of life under Hitler.

In Berlin in 1941, on the eve of Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union, level-headed officer Wilhelm (Volker Bruch) is full of patriotic fervor as he heads for the eastern front with his sensitive younger brother Friedhelm (Tom Schilling). Charlotte (Miriam Stein) is a young nurse in love with Wilhelm who is serving in the Red Cross. Greta (Katherina Schütler) is an ambitious singer who longs to become another Marlene Diet-



Photo by QUANTRELL COLBERT

Kevin Hart, left, and Ice Cube lead the lineup in "Ride Along", the new film from the director and the producer of the blockbuster comedy "Think Like a Man."

rich, while her boyfriend Viktor (Ludwig Trepte) faces a daily struggle for survival as a Jew in an increasingly oppressive regime.

'Big Bad Wolves'

Genre: Crime and thriller
 Cast: Lior Ashkenazi, Rotem Keinan, Tzahi Grad and Dov Glickman
 Director: Aharon Keshales and Navot Papushado
 Not rated

A series of brutal murders puts the lives of three men on a collision course: The father of the latest victim now out for revenge, a vigilante police detective operating outside the boundaries of law, and the main suspect in the killings - a religious studies teacher arrested and released due to a police blunder.

'Reasonable Doubt'

Genre: Crime and thriller
 Cast: Dominic Cooper, Samuel L. Jackson, Gloria Reuben, Erin Karpluk, Ryan Robbins and Dylan Taylor
 Director: Peter Howitt
 Rated: R

When up-and-coming District Attorney Mitch Brockden (Cooper) commits a fatal hit-and-run, he feels compelled to manipulate the case to acquit the accused criminal who was found with the body and blamed for the crime.

Following the trial, Mitch's worst fears come true when he realizes that his actions freed a guilty man, and he soon finds himself on the hunt for the killer before more victims pile up.

'Summer in February'

Genre: Drama and romance
 Cast: Dominic Cooper, Dan Stevens and Emily Browning
 Director: Christopher Menaul
 Not rated

A sweeping romance set at a bohemian artist colony on the picturesque coasts of pre-war England, "Summer in February" is based on the true story of painter sir Alfred Munnings (Dominic Cooper) and his blue-blood best friend Gilbert (Dan Stevens).



Photo by LARRY HORRICKS

Above, Chris Pine, left, stars as Jack Ryan and Kevin Costner is Thomas Harper in "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit," from Paramount Pictures and Skydance Productions. Below, Volker Bruch stars as Wilhelm Winter in Phillip Kadelbach's "Generation War," from Music Box Films.



Photo courtesy of MUSIC BOX FILMS

Born into a working-class family, Munnings rises to become one of the premiere British artists of his time, winning the affection of aristocratic beauty Florence Carter-Wood (Emily Browning). But when Gilbert falls for Florence as well, a love triangle emerges with tragic consequences.

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

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Teenage Wasteland, a literary and music event, planned

ST. PETERSBURG – Keep St. Pete Lit presents Teenage Wasteland, a music and literary event, Thursday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m., at The Local 662, 662 Central Ave.

The event will feature local writers reading their unedited teenage works including poems, diaries and love letters, as well as original works inspired by the angst and isolation of adolescence.

Readers include KSPL president Maureen McDole, Lynn Waddell, Sheree Greer, Cathy Wos, Kat Lyles, Jeffrey Skatsky, Shae Krispinsky, Sorella Andersen, Elizabeth Augustine, Tommy Slade, Craig Young and Samira Obeid.

The event also will include local musical acts Tom's Ragdoll, Y Los Dos Pistoles and Slade & the Wasters.

Cost is \$7 at the door; there will be drink specials throughout the night. Attendees must be 18 or older to enter. All proceeds will benefit Keep St. Pete Lit.

Founded in October 2012, Keep St. Pete Lit is dedicated to preserving the literary past and fostering the literary future of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County through arts, education and community events. The group celebrates and promotes reading and writing by creating accessible, innovative local events that educate the community about literature, authors and the writing process, while contributing to St. Petersburg's role as a vibrant arts destination.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/keepstpetelit.

Miniature Art Society exhibit opens Jan. 19

DUNEDIN – The Miniature Art Society of Florida's Annual Competition opens for exhibit at the Dunedin Fine Art Center Sunday, Jan. 19 through Feb. 9.

Approximately 800 works of art will be shown, in addition to the society's permanent collection of more than 100 miniatures. Entries from around the world and across the country provide a wonderful diversity of subject matter and framing techniques.

In addition to the nearly 1,000 works on display, starting Monday, Jan. 20, through the end of the show, artists from England, Canada and many

states including Florida will be on hand to demonstrate and discuss their techniques.

Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

For more information about this and other DFAC programs visit www.dfac.org, call 298-DFAC, or email info@dfac.org.

Admission is \$7 adults and \$5 for seniors, 65+ DFAC and MASF members and students under 18 are admitted free.

The Dunedin Fine Art Center is located at 1143 Michigan Blvd.



Photo courtesy of ANTI-

Galactic brings the flavor of Mardi Gras to this year's Sunshine Music and Blues Festival, set for Jan. 19 at Vinoy Park in St. Petersburg.

SUNSHINE, from page 1B

studio album since 2010's acclaimed "Georgia Warhorse."

"This River," like his previous releases, was produced by Grey and Dan Prothero, and recorded at Retrophonics Studio in St. Augustine, with additional recording done in Grey's home studio, known as The Egg Room.

As proven by his previous albums, Grey is a meticulous storyteller.

"Many of the new songs are about being your own worst enemy, and about normal folks pushing themselves over the edge," says Grey in a press release from Alligator Records.

Grey's lyrics and slice-of-life scenarios are filled with honest detail, helping to bring his emotionally complex characters to life in songs such as "Somebody Else," "99 Shades Of Crazy," "The Ballad Of Larry Webb" and "This River."

"I see a little bit of myself in these songs," Grey said. "The difference is in the choices people make."

His gritty vocals and punchy horn arrangements add even more depth to the lyrical album. Grey's fervent delivery and the expert musicianship of the band pull the listener deep inside each track, making "This River" a deeply moving and engaging musical statement.

"I took my time and I'm happy for it," said Grey.

JJ Grey is from Jacksonville. He made his recording debut in 2001 with "Blackwater," following up in 2004 with "Lochloosa." In 2007, Grey released his Alligator debut, "Country Ghetto," followed by 2008's "Orange Blossoms." With the release of 2010's "Georgia Warhorse," Grey stepped further into the mainstream view with the AAA radio breakthrough single "The Sweetest Thing."

In 2011 the full fury of the band's live show was captured on the live CD/DVD "Brighter Days."

From his early days playing cover music behind chicken wire at a Jacksonville juke joint to playing sold-out shows and some of the largest music festivals in the world, it's been a long road. But Grey has no illusions about where he's headed or where he's been. When prompted with questions about his past accomplishments or future plans, he lays down a little backwoods wisdom:

"I'm just a salmon swimming upstream," Grey said. "Going back home, I reckon. I don't know why and I quit caring why a long time ago. I guess there is no 'why' that my mind could understand anyway. All I do know is that I've enjoyed and I'm still enjoying every second of just being here and doing whatever it is I'm doing."

More blues on the bill

Also appearing at this year's festival are New Orleans' favorites Galactic, legendary Leon Russell, the great acoustic blues of Hot Tuna with Jorma Kaukonen and Jack Casady; the incredible jazz bassist Stanley Clarke, guitar virtuoso Bobby Lee Rogers and British blues guitarist and singer Oli Brown as well as The Ringers.

Jimmy Herring, Wayne Krantz, Michael Landau, Gary Novak and Etienne Mbappe will join forces as The Ringers to perform at the festival.

The Ringers first debuted in early 2013 for a very exclusive tour on the east coast. The tour proved quite fulfilling for the iconic five-piece, bringing together their varied backgrounds of rock, funk, jazz, blues and African styles.

The original concept behind The Ringers was to bring five guys together, not to just perform as a super-group, but to work "as a unifying artistic force, one where people put music ahead of their egos to collectively create great music."

These five veteran musicians will perform together on new Ringers material written exclusively for this band, as well as each individual's solo material, covers tunes chosen by the players and brand new tunes each artist will debut for the live audience. The Ringers are also planning to record an album of originals, for release in 2014.

Jimmy Herring, as the founding member of The Aquarium Rescue Unit, Project Z and Jazz is Dead, in addition to playing with everyone from The Allman Brothers Band, The Grateful Dead to Phil Lesh and Friends, and Béla Fleck, has made his indelible impact on the music world. He currently serves as the lead guitarist for the very popular American band Widespread Panic and released his second solo album, "Subject To Change Without Notice," last year.

Wayne Krantz released his tenth album, "Howie 61," last year to glowing critical praise. Krantz has played with Randy Brecker, Leni Stern and Steely Dan, among others.

Musician and composer Michael Landau is a prolific session guitarist and performer who has played on hundreds of records since the 1980s, some session highlights include: Pink Floyd, Miles Davis, B.B. King, Ray Charles, Joni Mitchell and James Taylor. He has toured with Robben Ford, the Steve Gadd Band, James Taylor, Joni Mitchell and his own project The Michael Landau Group.

Bass player Etienne Mbappe, is best known for his years with the Zawinul Syndicate. In the '80s, he was the masterpiece of the jazz fusion band Ultramarine which incorporated jazz with elements of African and Caribbean influences. He also played with Ray Charles on his last album and is currently a member of John McLaughlin's 4th Dimension.

Gary Novak, an amazing drummer, began his career at the young age of 10, playing in his famous pianist father's trio in Chicago. Novak has recorded and/or toured with such musical luminaries as Chick Corea, Alanis Morissette, Allan Holdsworth, Andrew WK, Michael McDonald, Natalie Cole, David Sanborn, George Benson and Anita Baker along with many more.

Galactic was formed 18 years ago in New Orleans, and they cut their teeth playing the biggest party in America: Mardi Gras, when the town shuts down entirely to celebrate.

Galactic is a collaborative band with a unique format. It's a stable quintet that plays together with high musicianship. Though the band hasn't had a lead singer for years, it is not purely an instrumental group. Galactic is part of a diverse community of musicians, and in their own studio they have the luxury of experimenting. So on their albums, they do something that's unusual in rock but not so controversial an idea in, say, hip-hop: they create something that's a little like a revue, a virtual show featuring different vocalists (mostly from New Orleans) and instrumental soloists each taking their turn on stage in the Galactic sound universe.

Leon Russell is a music legend and perhaps the most accomplished and versatile musician in the history of rock 'n roll. In his distinguished and unique 50 year career, he has played on, arranged, written and/or produced some of the best records in popular music.

For more information about the festival, visit www.sunshinemusicandblues.com or www.live.nation.com.



Photo courtesy of THE AGENCY GROUP

Leon Russell appears on the bill at this year's Sunshine Music and Blues Festival, set for Jan. 19 at Vinoy Park in St. Petersburg.

Online calendar of events

Read about upcoming community, entertainment and live music events throughout Pinellas County by visiting: www.TBNweekly.com. Look for links to the online calendars in the left column.

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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.

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

ST. PETE, 3BR/2BA Fenced Backyard, \$950/Mo. 2BR/1BA. Large Kitchen, LR, DR, Laundry, \$750/Mo. (727)253-0523.

NORTH CLEARWATER \$1,200, 1,600SF, Office, Fireplace, Hardwood Floors, W/D. Nice Backyard, Mother-in-law Apartment, Pinellas Trail, 4 Block Off Intracoastal. (727)515-7278.

155. Furnished Condos

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

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

160. Unfurnished Condos

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

SHIPWATCH 2BR/2BA w/LOFT, W/D. Great Room w/Skylight. Many Amenities. Near IRB. \$1,400/Mo. +Security. (727)710-2093.

BARDMOOR 2BR/2BA 1,500SF, Bonus Room. Patio w/Storage Shed, First Floor. Beautiful Clean Unit. \$1,475/Month. (727)385-7718.

ST PETE TENNIS & YACHT Club, 2BR/2BA, Waterview, Updates, Gated, \$1,500/Month. Best Beach Rentals. (727)398-1200.

IMPERIAL POINT 1BR Enclosed Lanai. Unfurnished, Non-smoker, Community Activities. Annual Lease \$725/Month Maureen Stilwell, Charles Rutenberg Realty. (727)596-2965

170. Furnished Apts.

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175. Unfurnished Apts.

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185. Beach Rentals

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

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190. Waterfront Rentals

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195. Seasonal Rentals

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210. Mobile Hm. Rentals

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245. Room For Rent

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

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265. Commercial Rentals

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355. Adoption

ARE YOU PREGNANT?

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435. Adult Care & Svcs.

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472. Wedding Services

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RESIDENT AIDES

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

485. Help Wanted

SERVERS

Pincrest 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

485. Help Wanted

CARPENTER
Experienced Only. Build Sheds & Garages. Need Truck & Tools.
Reliability a Must!
Call Gary at (727)524-9191.

GENERAL CONTRUCTION
Laborers needed. Part/ Full Time, Equipment Experience a Plus. DFWP, EOE. (727)585-3482

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.

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: scooffice@st-cecelia.org or call the school at (727)461-1200.

510. Home Care Help

HHAs, CNAs & HOME MAKERS
Always There is seeking male and female caregivers for immediate assignments. Must be dedicated, reliable & experienced. If you enjoy working with seniors, please call (727)547-2500 or you may fax your resume to: (727)547-2555

505. Part-Time Help



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

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!

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.

522. Careers

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525. Medical Help

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505. Part-Time Help

535. Business Opportunities

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585. Auctions

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830. Van & SUV Sales

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970. Estate Sales

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975. Garage-Yard Sales

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St. Pete Beach welcomes 20th annual Corey Area Craft Festival

ST. PETE BEACH – The 20th annual St. Pete Beach Corey Area Craft Festival will be presented Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 18-19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Corey Avenue and Gulf Boulevard in downtown St. Pete Beach.

Presented by American Craft Endeavors, the festival is free and open to the public.

The finest crafters in the country will return to St. Pete Beach for the event. This two-day juried event features a wide variety of handmade art and crafts as well as affordable gift items. There will be many local and regional exhibitors as well as artists from as many as 30 different states.

This juried outdoor craft showcase will present a wide variety of original crafts, handmade in America. Shoppers will find prices set to suit all budgets, ranging from as little as \$3 to \$3,000. The crafters have been hand-selected from hundreds of applicants. All crafters will be on site for duration of festival.

Attendees will discover a vast array of craft media including folk art, pottery, personalized gifts, handmade clothing, basket weaving, beaded utensils, candles, cork assemblage, fabric design, fiber quilts, fused wax and glass, hair accessories, handbags & accessories, handmade cards, leather, mosaic, wood, painted wood, plaster craft and stained glass.

Participating crafters

- More than 100 crafters will be exhibiting their creations. Following is a partial list of participants:
- Chris and Nancy Adamo, East Falmouth, Mass. – Jewelry
- Steve and Judy Archbold, Ossian, Ind. – Wood names
- John Arnold, Peterborough, N.H. – Wood
- Mike Awalt, Mt. Plymouth – Copper
- Tim Bailey, Bradenton – Clothing
- Connie and Paul Balcom, Iowa Falls, Iowa – Bag dispensers and oven mits
- Gissell and William Barbour, Sebring – Jewelry and ear cuffs
- Donna Berry and Richard

- DeSimone, Ellenton – Olive oil blends
- Ronald Bognar, Sarasota – Pet treats
- Russ and Janine Bono – St. Charles, Mo. – Personalized children's music
- Sheila Bouwman, Matlacha – Shell flowers on wood
- Carole Bowns, Sandy Springs, Md. – Wood with polymer
- Micky and Mike Bradham, Homosassa – Plastercraft
- John and Deb Branning, Navarre – Clothing
- Charisse Bundesen, Clarkston, Mich. – Jewelry
- Janet Campagna, South Orleans, Mass. – Clothing, kids
- Carlos and Pat Campuzano, Florida – Artificial food and flowers
- Kathy Carnevale, Largo – Jewelry
- Lonnie Cataldo, Stuart – Candles
- Walter Catts, Palmetto – Furniture
- Jerry and Angela Cole, Huddleston, Va. – Metal
- Brent and Cicily Coleman, Powder Springs, Ga. – Sewn items
- Shawn Conway, North Fort Myers – Terra cotta fragrance diffusers
- Allen Demichele and Kelly Zimmer, North Port – Sand castings
- Bob and Sandra Dennison, Ellenton – Hats
- Beth Douglas, St. Pete Beach – Plants
- Wayne DuBois and Jonathan Dominguez, Ocala – Jewelry
- Lorna and Nelson Forest, Ocala – PVC birds
- Randy Giamporcaro, Tampa – Jewelry
- Segundo (Luis) Gomez, Miami – Jewelry
- Lori Green, Brooksville – Jewelry
- Nancy and Barry Greenleaf, Spring Hill – Mixed media
- Carolyn Guenter, Bradenton – Hats
- Lia Harmon, Middle River, Md. – Jewelry
- Cynthia Heumann, San Diego, Calif. – Jewelry
- Mark and Yvonne Hollingworth, Ellenton – Jewelry, Victorian



Photographer Richard Wise – who captured this group of pelicans on the beach in one of his images – is one of the artists and crafters scheduled to participate in the 20th annual St. Pete Beach Corey Area Craft Festival Jan. 18-19.

- Max Howard, Huntersville, N.C. – Metal sculpture
- Jim and Susie Huckaby, Sanger, Texas – Pottery
- Karen and Jerry Hull, Bartow – Jewelry, glass
- Leah Jamison, Winter Garden – Aprons
- Gail Jordan, Palm Beach Gardens – Glass votives for candles
- Ken and Patty Karpinski, Merritt Island – Jewelry
- John Kavosick, Rio Grande, N.J. – Metal bugs
- Lawrence Kearns, Oxford, Ohio – Pottery
- Paul King, North Port – Post office door banks
- Sidney and Lee Klein, Fruitland Park – Jewelry, coin
- Denny Knight and Sylvia Corban, Mobile, Ala. – Fabric
- Gilbert Lage, Venice – Jewelry
- Peter Lakiotis, Clearwater – Pet products, leashes
- Gary Lawrence, Orlando – Green market
- Helene Lawrence, Port St. Lucie – Nightlights
- Nancy Mann, Kissimmee – Oil blends
- Sarena Mann, Placitas, N.M. – Mixed media fabrics

- Zack Marks, West Palm Beach – Jewelry
- Terry Markwardt, Austin, Texas – Tools
- Carol Marnik, Jefferson Hills, Penn. – Pressed flowers and sayings
- Robert McCoy, Sebring – Nautical furnishings
- Michael McLaughlin, Longboat Key – Jewelry
- Sawai and George McLaughlin, Zephyrhills – Clothing
- Valeria Merrell, Williamsport – Fiber accessories
- Jim and Judy Miller, Port St. Lucie – Music boxes
- Christopher Morris, New Alexandria, Pa. – Photography
- Kris Naradzay, Gainesville, Va. – Stained glass
- Linda and Phil Olson, Rockford, Mich. Dolls with clothing
- Kasey Ortoski and Kerry Cleaver, Wesley Chapel – Hair accessories
- Linda Parker, Delray Beach – Hair accessories
- Ken Patrizzi, Manchester, Conn. – Wood signs
- Kerri Perucki, Rochester, N.Y. – Nightlights
- Liz Pierce, Lakeland – Fiber
- Cindy Pinyard, West Peterborough, N.H. – Ladies' accessories, scarves and slides
- Bonnie Reilly, St. Petersburg – Canvas bags
- Rosalind Rich, Naples – Clothing; sarongs
- Melissa Rioux – Saco, Maine – Greek products
- Terry Ross, Deerfield Beach – Jewelry
- Robert and Barbara Sabolefski, Templeton, Mass. – Wood salad servers
- Karl Wendy Sandgren, Cadillac, Mich. – Clothing
- Mazhar and Sabera Sardharwalla, Plantation – Jewelry: gold
- Jim Saylor, Lakewood, Colo. –

- Photography
- Carole Shiber, Kingston, N.Y. – Table linens
- Robin Short, Gulfport – Fiber crafts
- Dustin and Noel Shultz, Gatlinburg, Tenn. – Candles
- Michelle Siggins, Brooksville – Jewelry
- Carol Smith and Tami Mount, Merritt Island – Jewelry
- Diana and Gary Snee, Raymond, Maine – Dried florals country
- Sharon and Bob Spry, Merritt Island – Jewelry
- Joel Tesch, Chapel Hill, N.C. – Acrylics
- James and Avra Thomas, Leesburg – Jewelry
- Kathy Toledo, Fort Lauderdale – Quilts and bags
- Annie Turner, New Smyrna Beach – Acrylics
- Linda Turner, Glen Arbor, Mich. – Cards
- Patti Van Tonder, Punta Gorda – Hair accessories
- David Vasquez, Scarborough, Ontario – Painting
- Kumiko Walker and Stephen Brown, Bradenton – Jewelry
- Nancy Walsh, Longboat Key – Jewelry
- Katherine Weisinger, Reynoldsburg, Ohio – Jewelry with flowers
- Steve Whitlock, Sarasota – Acrylics
- Lori and Paul Wilkinson, Marshville, N.C. – Mosaic/wood
- Richard Wise, Lady Lake – Photography
- Eugen Zah, Fort Mill, S.C. – Nail files
- Gulfport's Robin Short has been quilting and sewing for most of her life and has been inspired by her mother, Ellen Plankey, who is a well-known award winning artist.
- Short loves putting together

great fabrics, colors and high quality products to create usable, and unique items for her customers. A lot of her ideas come from customers who can't find exactly what they are looking for. She then goes home, develops a pattern that will be useful and fun. She has been working with American Craft Endeavors for just over four years and truly enjoys working with them and the customers they bring out to the craft fairs.

Richard D. Wise is a nature photographer based in Northeastern Ohio.

Wise has been in the photographic business for 40 years in one form or another. He was a Navy photographer in Vietnam. He served as an aerial photographer in the Pacific and in Washington, D.C.

Wise photographed former President Nixon's inaugural and other political events in the Washington, D.C. area. He worked as a photographic technician for NASA in Greenbelt, Md. He has worked at numerous studios, producing images for advertising, model's portfolios, weddings, and portraits.

At times, looking for refuge from the pressures of everyday commercial work, Wise would step lightly into the quiet world of photo art. Working with still lifes and nudes, he found relief from the routine of commercial work. Although he enjoyed his work, he was searching for photographic satisfaction on a higher level. Because of his lifelong outdoor background, he gravitated to the world of nature photography.

Wise's photographs have been published in magazines, calendars, and have earned high honors in regional photography competitions.

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