Pinellas unemployment down

County unemployment was down to 6.3 percent in August ... Page 9A.

LARGO LEADER

Animated adventure 'The Boxtrolls' opens in local theaters

Also, check out Music in the Park and a West Coast Players production ... Page 1B.

Volume XXXVII, No. 10 www.TBNweekly.com September 25, 2014

INSIDE

Commissioners to censure Holmes

Largo schedules meeting to reprimand official for inappropriate use of iPad

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – A special meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 30, 6 p.m., to censure, or officially reprimand, Largo Commissioner Curtis Holmes for the inappropriate content discovered on his city-issued iPad.

The Largo Commission will vote on a resolution that "expresses its strong disapproval of the improper use of the city's iPad and email account." The resolution also will demand Holmes return the iPad by 5 p.m. the next day, Oct. 1.

In an email responding to the scheduled meeting, Holmes said his fellow commissioners could "do as you see fit."

"Kangaroo court continues," he wrote in all caps. "I have been advised to say nothing … and I will comply with that 'suggestion.'"

As he promised in the last meeting, Holmes has hired an attorney. The special meeting was originally set for Sept. 23, but was rescheduled for the following week at the request of Holmes' attorney.

The content discovered on the iPad, via another city iPad set up with the same Gmail account, violates several city policies: the harassment and discrimination policy, its email policy and the technology and Internet ethics policy, the resolution states.

During their last meeting Sept. 16, commissioners had urged Holmes to resign over the "reprehensible" images and YouTube links, which would have been cause to immediately fire a city employee. However, the violation of city policy was not enough to force the dismissal of a commissioner, City Attorney Alan Zimmet said. He said the commission could only censure Holmes and take away his iPad.

See CENSURE, page 4A

LARGO

Group honors State delegates

The Heisler-Johnson American Legion Post 119 in Largo honored this year's participants at Boys and Girls State in a ceremony Sept. 15.

Participating from Largo this year were Shane Stockings, Aileen Jarvis, Madzid Coric, Matthew Eyer and Dalilia Kolar.

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POLICE BEAT

Truck-RV combo crashes on E. Bay

A pickup truck pulling a fifth-wheel recreation vehicle trailer crashed into a car and then a building on East Bay Drive Sept. 23.

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OUTDOORS

Super boat race is this weekend

The sixth annual Bright House Clearwater Super Boat National Championship and Seafood Festival is zooming into the area on Friday through Sunday, Sept. 26-28.

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VIEWPOINTS

Debra Saunders

Maintain the no-ransom policy, columnist says.

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Defying gravity

Photos by JIM LAYFIELD

Above, Deonte Berrian, 15, of Largo, rides the edge of the bowl Sept. 21. Skateboarders, bikers and those on scooters can hone their skills in the bowl, half pike and on the rails in Largo's Bayhead Action Park, at 375 Seminole Blvd. At right, Angel Demeza, 12, of Largo catches air on his kick scooter. For more photos, see page 4A.

Largo High math teacher wins Yale award

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – Largo High School math teacher Mike Pease didn't know what to expect when he received a package from Yale University this fall.

He was surprised to find the Yale University Educator Recognition Award inside, honoring him for positively influencing a member of the university's freshmen class.

"I just thought they gave me fliers or something to pass out," he said. "You don't hear about stuff like this out of the blue."

Pease, 48, was one of 54 teachers and 30 counselors selected from 306 nominations this year. The nominations represented educators from 39 states and 20 countries.

Pease was nominated by last year's valedictorian Tristan Brockwell, whom he met as a freshman in Algebra II class.

"He stood out from the crowd. He definitely was one of the brightest students I ever taught," Pease said. "I related to him well."

He recognized Brockwell's intelligence right away, he said, and understood his experience. Pease himself was in advanced classes and graduated from high school young.

"I knew he needed to be challenged in class. I knew I got bored easily in school if I wasn't challenged," he explained.

Brockwell took Pease's Advanced Placement statistics class his junior year and earned a 5 out of 5 on the AP test. Pease also coached him in tennis for two years and witnessed the star student and choral performer tackle an activity at which he did not excel.

"He never made the top starting five, but he worked so hard," Pease said.

Once, Brockwell filled in for an injured student during a regional tournament.

"I knew it was not probably going to be his day on the court, but it was so exciting. He went out there and played like a warrior," Pease said.

Always the competitor himself, Pease said he hoped that Brockwell would be the third valedictorian to give him a shout out in his Tampa Bay Times profile. He was not disappointed but didn't expect the Yale award to follow.

Pease is a teacher who prides himself for thinking outside the box and helping his students to do the same.

"I like to be creative. I like to push creativity," he said.

Before the soon-to-be-renovated

See TEACHER, page 4A

Photo by JULIANA A. TORRES

Largo High School teacher Mike Pease poses with his Yale University Educator Recognition Award in front of a collage of current and former students entitled "Why I Teach." Last year's valedictorian and current Yale student Tristan Brockwell, pictured in a photo second to the left of the letter "I" on the wall, nominated Pease for the award.

Prescription drug deaths no longer setting records

By SUZETTE PORTER

CLEARWATER – Record levels of deaths from prescription drug deaths are no more in Pinellas County.

District 6 Medical Examiner Dr. Jon Thogmartin conveyed the good news to Pinellas County Commissioners, who approved the contract with the medical examiner's office for another year during their Sept. 11 meeting.

Thogmartin said regulations the County Commission put in place and enforcement efforts by the Sheriff's Office to combat prescription drug abuse had worked.

"Prescription drug deaths are mostly gone," he said. "It's quite wonderful."

Asked if heroin deaths were on the rise, Thogmartin said "not really."

"After prescription drugs go away, it looks like a lot, but it is not really up or maybe a little bit," he said. "We're back to traffic accidents and the usual stuff."

The medical examiner's office first noticed a dramatic increase in drug-related deaths in 2006. The numbers spiked 28 percent that year – from 169 deaths caused by drugs or toxins in 2005 to 216 in 2006. That year also was when the office noticed that there were more drug-related cases than those from deadly car crashes.

The trend continued. In 2010, prescription drugs in Pinellas County alone accounted for 22 percent more deaths than all fatal vehicle crashes reported in both Pasco and Pinellas counties.

Pinellas County was No. 1 in the state for the number of deaths due to an overdose from prescription drugs. The county also was No. 1 in the number of babies born with an addiction to opiates.

Pill mills – places where doctors handed

See DRUGS, page 4A

TBN GRAPHIC

Pinellas County Commissioner Susan Latvala says the battle against prescription drug abuse is not over.

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American Legion celebrates Boys and Girls State delegates

LARGO – The Heisler-Johnson American Legion Post 119 in Largo honored this year's participants at Boys and Girls State in a ceremony Sept. 15.

Since 1937, girls and boys in their junior year spend an intensive week of studying and working together as self-governing citizens. Participating from Largo this year were Shane Stockings, Aileen Jarvis, Madzid Coric, Matthew Eyer and Dalilia Kolar.

The Heisler-Johnson American Legion Post 119, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 119 and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 119 sponsored the five participants and presented each with a certificate of appreciation Sept. 15.

Boys and Girls State participants are selected with help of high school principles or guidance counselors. More than 500 delegates from Florida learned how to participate in their state government, preparing to be responsible adult citizens. They then attend a national government training program for a week in Tallahassee, where they ran for political office and campaigned for the passage of legislation.

The citizens of each city elect mock municipal officials and representatives to the mock state legislature. If enough citizens are present, a county level is added between city and state.

The Boys and Girls State Legion Organization defray the administrative cost for the program.

Largo High School Principle Bradley Finkbiner was present for the celebration Sept. 15. Largo Commissioner Harriet Crozier presented a proclamation from the city of Largo and extended an invitation for the high school students to see her after graduation for a job at the city.

"This was a truly amazing, inspiring and exciting experience by all that were present," wrote auxiliary public relations chair Sondra Bober. "I would not be surprised that one day we will see one or more of our participants in headlines and in a position in our government!"

Photo courtesy of SONDRA BOBER

Pictured at the American Legion Post 119 ceremony honoring local Boys and Girls State participants are, front row, from left, delegates Shane Stockings, Aileen Jarvis, Madzid Coric and Matthew Eyer; back row, American Legion Post 119 Commander Phil Sowa, First Vice President Sue Heisler, Largo High School Principal Bradley Finkbiner, Largo Commissioner Harriet Crozier, Commander of Sons of the American Legion Mike "Doc" Bowen, post Chaplain Bob Gibbia and Auxiliary President Linda Jackson-Bloomer. Not pictured is delegate Dalilia Kolar.

American Legion to host events

LARGO – The American Legion Post 119, at 130 First Ave. SW. in Largo, will host several events that are open to the public.

Friday Night Dinners are served 5 to 8 p.m., with music by Karaoke DJ Bill Johnson, 7 to 11 p.m. The cost is $7.25 and includes shrimp, four-piece chicken and all-you-can-eat fried fish served with rolls, french fries and coleslaw.

Saturday Night Dinners are served 5 to 8 p.m., with music by various artists weekly, 7 to 11 p.m. The cost is $7.25 and includes bacon-wrapped filet mignon served with a house salad, baked potato and rolls.

Breakfast is served on second Sundays, 8:30 to 11 a.m. The cost is $5 and includes eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, juice and coffee.

Sons of the American Legion Post 119 sponsor "Wing Madness" every Monday night, 5 to 8 p.m. Enjoy chicken wings served hot, mild, BBQ, butter and garlic and spicy BBQ for $4 for six or $7 for 12. French fries and onion rings are available. Bob Swenson donates music from 6 to 8 p.m.

Proceeds benefit All Children's Hospital, Fisher House and the National Child Welfare Foundation.

Thanking first responders

Photo courtesy of LARGO ELKS

Aurora Griesler Jones, Exalted Ruler of the Largo Elks Post 2159, poses with Largo Police Chief Jeff Undestad during a complimentary lunch the post hosted Sept. 11 for all local first responders in memory of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Policemen, firemen, EMTs and first responder staff attended. "They thanked us for the invitation and for the wonderful buffet we set for them," Jones said. "We might do something like this again."

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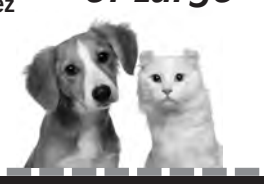
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Largo votes 4-3 to appeal board decision on car dealership sign

By JULIANA A. TORRES

LARGO – Largo commissioners voted 4-3 to overturn the city Planning Board's unanimous decision regarding a bigger sign for a car dealership along U.S. 19 Sept. 18.

Commissioners Michael Smith, Robert Murray and Jamie Robinson voted against the request to allow Dick Norris Pontiac GMC to have a 226-square-foot sign, almost 40 square feet larger than is allowable in the city's codes. The dealership sits at the intersection of U.S. 19 and Belleair Road, under the new overpass for the highway. The altered road configuration constitutes a "hardship" which should allow for the exception in the code, said Tom Pressman, representing the dealership.

"You can see the overpass is completely covering the site, and access points are very far away," he said.

The four votes in favor of his request could prompt a change in the city's overall policy for signs along the highway. Businesses along U.S. 19 have suffered due to the frequent construction on the highway, commissioners conceded.

"I love driving on U.S. 19, but I'm surprised anybody's in business on this road anymore," Mayor Pat Gerard said. "I can never figure out where to get off to get where I want to go. I think there is a hardship here."

City staff argued that the property already enjoyed exceptions to the city's rules on signs.

"In this case, the property is provided the same rights as the other properties along U.S. 19, which are more generous than any other location within the city," said principal planner Christine McLachlan.

Commissioner Woody Brown said that the dealership's position on the road didn't constitute a unique hardship, different than any other business on the highway.

"Perhaps we need to allow more signage," Brown said. "But I don't think it should be a parcel-by-parcel hardship."

Gerard pointed out that such a change could take months "if not years," arguing in favor of granting the request for hardship relief in the meantime. Commissioner Curtis Holmes agreed, explaining that other businesses are set back from the highway, allowing more visibility of their signs. Not so for the Dick Norris dealership.

"They are as close to U.S. 19 as you can get," he said. "That's an optical barrier, where someone looking for the sign, and they're on the bridge – they're going to go right by it. That's why I say: these areas, let them have the larger pole signs."

Holmes was in favor of granting the hardship exception to any business in a similar situation.

Murray said that he didn't understand how 40 square feet would make or break a business, especially in the day and age where most people navigate with a GPS. The commission had already addressed the business exceptions for the highway "numerous times," he said.

"This is what we came up with, and we all thought it was good at the time," he explained.

With his vote, Brown requested that city staff research how other jurisdictions handle signage near overpasses. He also requested they begin the process of amending Largo's sign regulations to reflect the allowance granted to Norris.

Riding the rail

Photos by JIM LAYFIELD

Left, Anthony Biggs, 23, of Clearwater sets up for a tailslide at Largo's Bayhead Action Park, at 375 Seminole Blvd. Right, Johnathan Barreto, 15, of Largo shows his railsliding skills.

Around town

SPAF to host annual gala fundraiser

LARGO – The Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation will present "Dream Makers," the 18th annual fundraiser gala for the Largo Cultural Center, on Saturday, Sept. 27, 6 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive.

The gala will feature a cocktail reception, full course dinner, entertainment, silent auctions and dancing. Tickets are $125 a person. To purchase tickets, call 587-6793 or visit LargoArts.com.

SPAF is passionate about meeting the need for arts education in the community and proceeds from this event go directly to the organization's mission. The Largo Cultural Center – with financial assistance from SPAF – provides experiences, which cuts across cultural, social, ethnic, age, educational and economic barriers.

Club hosts train show

LARGO – Suncoast Model Railroad Club will host a train show Saturday, Sept. 27, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Minnreg Hall, 6340 126th Ave. N.

Admission for adults is $7. Admission for children, ages 12 to 17, is $2 and free for those younger than 12. Parking is free.

The show will feature more than 90 vendor tables selling train layouts and items of all scales. Food and snacks will be available.

At the same time, the club will host an open house, displaying operating HO- and N-scale layouts at 12355 62nd Street N., Unit A.

Admission and parking to the open house is free. Membership information will be available. Visit www.suncoastmrrc.com.

Highland launches new moves, music

LARGO – The Les Mills Body Pump Launch will be Thursday, Oct. 2, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Highland Recreation Complex, 400 Highland Ave.

Join the new release of body pump moves and music. The free event includes a raffle, prizes and bottled water. Call 518-3016.

Soggy Doggy Splash Party set

LARGO – The Soggy Doggy Splash Party will be presented Saturday, Oct. 4, at Highland Family Aquatic Center, 400 Highland Ave. NE.

Dogs less than 20 inches tall will party from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Taller dogs will have pool access from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is $5 per dog.

Pet owners are permitted to bring their dogs to enjoy a swim but as directed by the Pinellas County Health Department, owners will not be permitted to enter the water. However, owners can enjoy concessions from Splash's Snack Bar and sponsor displays. Owners will need to provide proof of vaccination for the dog upon admission. Slides will not be open but the event will feature plenty of activities and a contest.

For information, call 518-3016 or visit LargoPools.com.

Largo Fire Rescue to host chili cook-off

LARGO – Largo Fire Rescue will reintroduce the annual Open House and Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, Oct. 11, 1 to 4 p.m., at Fire Station 41, 180 Fourth St. SW.

Family-friendly activities are scheduled throughout the free event, including a Jaws of Life demonstration, station tours, engine rides, a K-9 demonstration, a visit by Bayflite and chili tasting. Free refreshments will be available; donations will be accepted.

The chili cook-off will feature teams from the city of Largo each competing for the title of Best Tasting, Best Theme, Chef's Choice and the Golden Boot for the most money raised. Bring some extra cash for several chance drawings. All proceeds to benefit the Children's Burn Foundation of Florida.

Parking will be available in the Pinellas County School Administration Board parking lot located across the street from the fire station. For more information, call Largo Fire Rescue at 587-6737.

Armed Forces museum hosts fundraisers

LARGO – Tickets are on sale now for two upcoming fundraisers at the Armed Forces History Museum, at 2050 34th Way N.

All special events act as fundraisers for the museum's community outreach, veteran and youth education programs. Tickets can be purchased at www.armedforcesmuseum.com, by calling 539-8371 or in person at the museum.

The second annual **Wheels for Warriors Bike Fest** rolls in Saturday, Oct. 4, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bikers will receive discount admission at just $15, free T-shirts for the first 100 bikers, free lunch, one free beer, AFHM lapel pins, museum tours and raffles.

The Bomber Girls will be on hand for photo opportunities and World War II re-enactors from the First Infantry Division will conduct drill demonstrations at 1 p.m.

The Bright House Networks third annual **Stars & Stripes USO Show** will return on Saturday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m. Tickets are $24 for general admission. Only 100 VIP tickets are available for $50 and include a full dinner buffet prior to the event at 6 p.m.

The event will feature The Lorrie Hafer Swingin' Band, which has performed with such greats as Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey and Les Brown's Band of Renown. The evening also will feature tribute performances by big band singing sensations by Andy Stefano's cast of all stars, show hostesses, valet parking, vintage attire, era actors, photo opportunities, and a red carpet welcome. There will be group-dancing lessons from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.armedforcesmuseum.com.

Sunset Market open Fridays

LARGO – Sunset Market is open every Friday through May, 3 to 7 p.m., in Largo Central Park's parking lot No. 1, at southwest corner of East Bay and Central Park drives.

Vendors will offer vegetables, fruits, raw local honey, herbal teas and wild-caught seafood as well as organic body products, essential oils, arts and crafts. The focus will be on produce and organic products with about 40 percent of the market dedicated to art and craft vendors.

For more information, contact Jennifer McCafferty at 813-846-1316 or jennifer@jens-market.com.

Historical Society meets monthly

LARGO – The Largo Historical Society invites the public to its meetings on second Mondays through May, 6:30 p.m., at the historic Largo Feed Store, 295 Central Park Drive.

Each meeting will feature a guest speaker at 7 p.m., following the potluck supper, and a 50/50 drawing.

On first Saturdays, the historic Feed Store is open to the public, and Largo Historical Society members are available to answer questions.

For more information, call society president Don Forehand at 709-7382 or first vice president Charlie Harper at 584-4906.

Pumpkin Patch held for children

LARGO – The Pint Sized Pumpkin Patch will be Oct. 11, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at Southwest Recreation Complex, 13120 Vonn Road.

Registration is $5 in advance or $8 the day of the event. Space is limited so register early. Enjoy games, a scarecrow visit, food and crafts during this fun-filled, fall event! Come dressed in costume for a trick-or-treat parade. Call 518-3125.

CENSURE, from page 1A

Commissioner Harriet Crozier called for the citizen charter review committee to be reestablished to consider changing the charter to require commissioners heed city policies. But the commission didn't take up Zimmet's suggestion to censure Holmes, an oversight Crozier sought to correct in an email sent to the city manager and Zimmet Sept. 17, requesting such a resolution be prepared.

"I am also wanting to request that all city computer equipment be removed from his possession," she wrote. "I do realize that he will need to access city emails and I am sure that IT can work with him to make that available."

The following day, City Clerk Diane Bruner emailed fellow clerks of other cities for advice on censuring elected officials.

"Largo has not done this before and we are now in a position where this is a distinct possibility," she wrote.

The inappropriate content the city discovered on Holmes' iPad were mostly images and links from Facebook, which Holmes sent to his personal email address via the Gmail account used to set up the iPad. When another employee saw the outgoing emails from their shared inbox, Zimmet reviewed emails going back three months.

Most of the emailed content was political: right-wing propaganda and anti-Hamas, pro-Israel Facebook posts. Several images, however, were blatantly offensive to Muslims. One YouTube video showed a woman dancing in front of a webcam, dressed only in her underwear and a tank top.

The special meeting will include comments from the public Tuesday, Sept. 30, 6 p.m., at Largo City Hall, 201 Highland Ave.

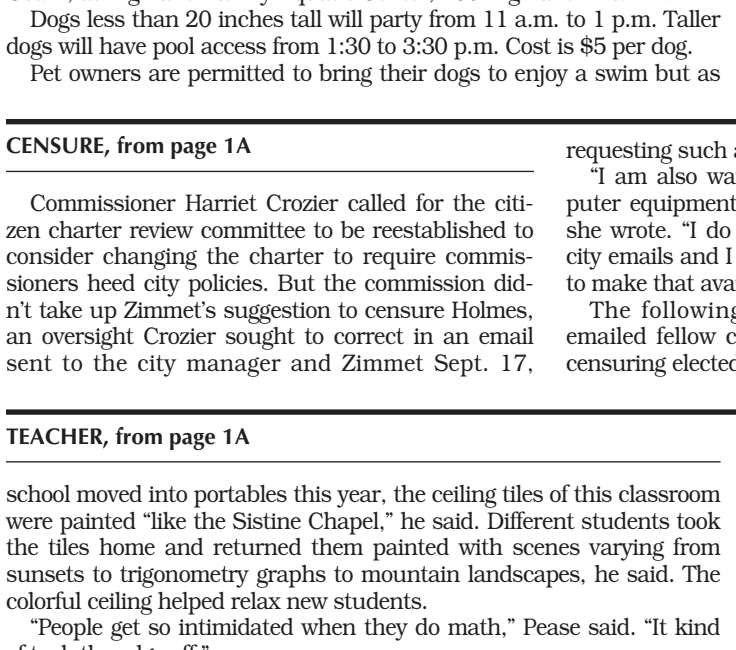
TEACHER, from page 1A

school moved into portables this year, the ceiling tiles of this classroom were painted "like the Sistine Chapel," he said. Different students took the tiles home and returned them painted with scenes varying from sunsets to trigonometry graphs to mountain landscapes, he said. The colorful ceiling helped relax new students.

"People get so intimidated when they do math," Pease said. "It kind of took the edge off."

Pease kept five tiles from his old classroom, but isn't able to duplicate the effect in the portable. The collage on the wall of his classroom did move with him, though he has to use "tape that falls off every day," he said.

The collage features pictures of current and former students, at least 700 by Pease's estimation.



"You just have great stories for all of them. I could pick a picture and tell you a story," he said.

Pease moved to Largo from Wisconsin in 1990. He has been teaching at Largo High School since 2000 and even interned at the school.

He went to the University of South Florida to study writing at first, but found that math came easy. When he began to help his fellow students who were struggling in the subject, a professor urged him to consider becoming a professor.

Pease switched his major to math. After graduating, he decided to put in a year at a high school first. He changed his mind on graduation day that year. A grateful student came to him crying.

"I took math three times," he remembered her saying. "If I didn't pass your class, I wasn't going to graduate. So thank you so much."

She gave Pease a frame for a picture he kept at his desk of his now-late dog, Simba. The former banker had never received such a display of gratitude for his work. He was hooked.

"She tricked me into staying there," he said with a smile.

Brockwell is actually the second of Pease's students to attend Yale University, preceded by Largo High graduate Jenny Shelby. When Pease applied to become an International Baccalaureate teacher, he asked Shelby to write him a recommendation. She wrote a "beautiful letter," he said.

After graduating, Shelby became a recruiter for the university. In fact, it was Shelby's presentation at Largo High that convinced Brockwell to make Yale his top school.

"Tristan was so excited … I could tell immediately after the presentation," Pease said. "He was considering every great school in the country. After the Yale presentation, you knew his No. 1 choice was going to be Yale."

Brockwell got a full scholarship and now is singing in its choir. Pease said he's pleased that both students have found success.

"I'm really happy they moved on," he said.

This year, Pease teaches during all seven periods: two statistics classes, two AP statistics classes, a math for college readiness course and an SAT preparation class. His goal is to keep his students engaged in the subject.

Photos by JULIANA A. TORRES

Above, teacher Mike Pease reads off a Facebook message from a former student who thanked him for helping him pass a math placement test. At far left, Pease explains a trick for quickly solving a long math problem.

"Coming to a math class can be scary," he said. "Keeping people entertained is part of the fun of teaching. Get them laughing, (and) they want to come back."

Five other award recipients were from the state of Florida, including English teacher Jane Cooper from Seminole High School.

DRUGS , from page 1A

out prescriptions by the handful – were blamed for the problem, as were those who doctor-shopped in an effort to get more drugs for themselves or to sell for money.

Commissioners approved the county's first moratorium on pain management clinics in 2010, preventing any new clinics from opening. In addition, regulations required existing clinics to register and follow basic standards. Clinics that did not register were shut down.

The ordinance was scheduled to expire at a certain date after the state legislative session ended, as commissioners had hoped the state would enact laws regulating prescription drugs. The state did not take action.

In 2011, commissioners voted to extend the moratorium another year – again in anticipation of state action. The title of the ordinance was changed from pain management to high prescribing health clinics and a minimum of 34 prescriptions a day was set as the threshold that defined a high prescriber.

By 2012, prescription drug deaths had decreased by nearly 30 percent, going from 249 in 2010 to 175 in 2012.

In 2012, the moratorium was extended again, as the commission continued to wait on the state. The minimum number of prescriptions written a day to define a high prescribing clinic was reduced from 34 to 20.

The moratorium was extended yet again in 2013. Despite a slight decline in annual deaths, 175 to 172, the Prescription Drug Advisory Board recommended the extension due to continued concerns about "high prescribing activity."

Commissioners will consider another one-year extension at a public hearing on Thursday, Sept. 25, 6 p.m., in the fifth floor assembly room of the Pinellas County Court House, 315 Court St., Clearwater.

No action was taken by the state during the 2014 session, so commissioners want to continue the moratorium until 60 days after the close of the 2015 session.

Staff also recommends amendments that would remove some reporting requirements, include measures to secure digital prescription pads and allow doctors to renew registrations so practices can be bought and sold.

Commissioner Susan Latvala, chair of the Prescription Drug Advisory Board, said at last count, the county had 23 registered high prescribing clinics.

She said the state had failed to take action to regulate prescription drugs. She said the moratorium should be extended.

"I strongly support the moratorium," said Commission Chair Karen Seel, who thanked Latvala for her leadership. "We've heard from Dr. Thogmartin about what a difference it has made."

Latvala said the state was planning to try a private service to run the prescription drug database, which is supposed to help identify doctor shoppers or other suspicious activity.

But, doctors aren't required to use it, she said.

"The battle is not over," Latvala added.

Police beat

Police investigating hit-and-run crash

LARGO – Largo police are asking for the public's help in finding a driver involved in a fatal hit-and-run crash on U.S. 19 Sept. 20.

Police were called to the scene at U.S. 19 and 150th Avenue at 12:41 a.m. A silver 2004 Nissan Maxima crashed into the rear of a 2014 Red Bash motor scooter driven by Daniel Irizarry, 37, of Largo. Irizarry was thrown into the road after the impact and was run over by a second vehicle. He was killed. The driver of the Maxima remained at the scene. The second vehicle left.

A witness described the fleeing vehicle as a dark-colored, four-door compact car with missing hubcaps and black, steel wheels. Largo traffic homicide investigators are investigating and looking for additional witnesses or information on the second vehicle.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Officer Keith Snyder at 587-6730.

Man shoots self at Largo Medical

LARGO – An unidentified man shot himself in the ambulance drop off area at Largo Medical Center early Friday morning.

According to a report from Largo police, a call came in about 7:10 a.m. Sept. 19 about a shooting that occurred in the parking lot at 201 14th St. SW.

"Investigation to this point indicates that a male subject drove his car to the Largo Medical Center and parked in the area of the ambulance drop off before subsequently shooting himself," the police report said.

No one else was in the car.

Medical staff treated the man. Police said as of last report he was in critical condition. There are no reports or indications that he posed a threat to anyone other than himself during this incident.

Police are withholding the subject's name while they continue their investigation.

Bicyclist killed after crash with car

SEMINOLE – A Seminole man died Tuesday afternoon from injuries suffered when the bicycle he was riding was struck by a car in Seminole Sept. 20.

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office announced Sept. 23 that Francisco Gutierrez, 37, died about 3:30 p.m.

According to a report from the Sheriff's Major Accident Investigation Team, the crash occurred about 11:45 p.m. Sept. 20 at the intersection of 53rd Avenue North and Seminole Boulevard in Seminole.

Deputies said Gutierrez was riding his bicycle northbound on the sidewalk of Seminole Boulevard. As he crossed 53rd Avenue he was struck by a 2006 Ford Escape that was heading west on 53rd. The driver was Brittany Herrmann, 30, of St. Petersburg.

Gutierrez was taken by ambulance to Bayfront Medical Center. Deputies said he was not wearing a helmet and suffered head injuries as a result of the crash. Neither alcohol nor speed appear to be a factor.

Suspects arrested for grand theft

SEMINOLE – Pinellas County Sheriff's detectives arrested three shoplifting suspects who stole merchandise from a Seminole department store in June.

According to detectives assigned to the Burglary/Pawn Unit, three women entered the Burlington Coat Factory, 7351 Seminole Blvd. in Seminole, at about noon Sunday, June 15. They were observed attempting to conceal the stolen items while walking out of the store.

Dominique Adams, 27, was arrested Sept. 10. Ashley Simmons, 22, and Kendra Adams, 28, were arrested Sept. 17. All three have St. Petersburg addresses. They were charged with one count each of grand theft.

Man charged with child neglect

Jason Walker

ST. PETERSBURG – A St. Petersburg man was charged with one count of child neglect Sept. 17 after a 5 month old in his care died after being left alone.

The 5-month-old boy died July 5 at a local hospital. Pinellas County Sheriff's detectives said the crime occurred on or around July 3. The suspect is accused of leaving the

See POLICE BEAT, page 6A

Truck-RV combo crashes on East Bay

LARGO – A pickup truck pulling a fifth-wheel recreation vehicle trailer crashed into a car and then a building on East Bay Drive Sept. 23.

Largo police responded to the scene that morning, at the intersection of East Bay Drive and Fulton Street. They preliminarily determined that the RV-toting pickup truck, a Ford Dually, was headed east on East Bay Drive. A Lincoln Town Car, facing west, was turning left onto southbound Fulton Street when the truck crashed into it. The truck lost control and struck the building of an insurance company at 3201 E. Bay Drive.

There were three people inside the Town Car. One was taken to the hospital in a helicopter and one in an ambulance.

The third person – and all of the occupants of the pickup truck – did seek medical treatment.

Photo by STEVEN HIRSCHFIELD-IONTB

A pickup truck pulling an RV trailer crashed into another car and then an insurance building the morning of Sept. 23.

Police closed eastbound East Bay Drive while they investigated the crash.

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Preparing for the inevitable: an emergency situation

by Charlene Cobb

No one anticipates an emergency and being transported to the hospital. Emergency injuries are unexpected, and your home, while it may seem like the safest place, is often one of the most dangerous places. One out of every three emergency room visits involves injuries as a result of home accidents or recreation.

So how do you prepare for the unexpected? Think about information that can help emergency responders do their job more efficiently, and quickly notify your loved ones that you've experienced an emergency.

Place your health and emergency contact information on an easily accessible emergency information sheet. The paramedic or emergency medical technician can refer to this for crucial information that can be relayed to the hospital and your emergency contact. This information sheet is especially helpful to first responders if you're unconscious, however, the stress of an emergency can make it difficult to recall and relay information.

What should you include on this emergency information sheet, beyond the contact information for your doctors, health providers and designated contact person? Some things to think about when completing your emergency information list include:

Information for emergency responders

In an emergency situation, it's easy to get flustered and forget important information. Make a list of your medical conditions, allergies and current medications. Specify any implanted medical devices, such as a pacemaker, to alert emergency responders about it. This list will allow the emergency responder to help you in the best way possible, and avoid giving you medications or treatment that might have a negative reaction.

Emergency responders that transport you to the hospital will need your records, including your date of birth and your insurance information. List any medical aids, such as hearing aids, glasses or dentures, so emergency responders know to bring them with you to the hospital.

Indicate your preference for a hospital, if you have one. Provide contact information for your next of kin or designated emergency contact person so paramedics can notify that person about your emergency.

Medical Care Instructions

This section should address important documents that outline your wishes for medical care. Notate if you have a living will, which provides clear instructions about your wishes on life-saving measures, and where it is kept. A living will comes into effect when you are unconscious or unable to communicate your wishes.

Indicate if you have a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order and where it is kept. Your DNR can't be honored if it is not present.

Be sure your emergency contact is aware of your living will and DNR order, if you have one. Their acknowledgement and understanding of your wishes for medical care ensures that they will be followed.

Information on handling your personal affairs

A portion of the list should include information that will help your emergency contact person take care of your children, pets and personal affairs while you are in the hospital. Include contact information for others who should be notified and specify with whom we should leave your house key.

If you have children or pets, designate who should be contacted to take care of them in an emergency where you are unable to communicate. It is very stressful for children to see someone sick or injured and to accompany their parent or caregiver in an ambulance. First responders won't leave children at home alone during an emergency. Choose an emergency caregiver – preferably someone who is nearby and is familiar with your child, perhaps a family member – to take care of him. Note any important information about your child including medications that he may need, where it is kept and how much to give him.

Pets should also be considered during your emergency planning. Include who will take care of your pets while you're in the hospital. Write down care and feeding instructions, veterinarian's contact information, and where you keep their food and medication.

It's crucial that this information sheet is updated often as things change in your life. Put this in a common area, such as hanging on the refrigerator, so that you know exactly where it is and paramedics can spot it easily. It is also a good idea to put this information in your cell phone under the contact name "ICE" (this stands for 'in case of emergency'). Visit StayAlertPinellas.com to download an emergency information sheet.

Charlene Cobb, Community Outreach Coordinator for Sunstar Paramedics, has been a Paramedic, Training Officer, Education Coordinator and Community Education Specialist in her career. She is heavily involved with a new Sunstar initiative designed to promote safety in Pinellas County called "Stay Alert, Stay Alive." Visit www.stayalertpinellas.com for more information.

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Misdemeanor Probation Program reports successful first year

CLEARWATER – The Pinellas County Sheriff's Misdemeanor Probation Unit is celebrating the one-year anniversary since taking over the contract from The Salvation Army in the fall of 2013.

As one of only two Sheriff's Offices in the state to handle misdemeanor probation, PCSO is highlighting several successes and efficiencies including the following:

• Collection of more than $155,000 in restitution for victims and victims' families

• New technology and additional resources to include risk assessments, GPS and continuous alcohol monitoring; cognitive behavior classes; substance abuse evaluations; and urinalysis lab under one roof, used to target high risk probationers to assist them in successfully completing the terms of their probation

• Revenues from probation service fees exceeding expenses by about $400,000 making the program self-sustaining

The Sheriff's Office started operating the Misdemeanor Probation Program on September 2, 2013. PCSO operates the program for all of Pinellas County. The Misdemeanor Probation Office is at 14500 49th St. N., Suite 130.

The Misdemeanor Probation Unit has made the collection of victim restitution a priority. Members of the unit make every attempt to apply money received toward victim restitution, first (prior to other court costs or fees). As a result, in its first year of taking over the program, the Sheriff's Office collected $155,560 in victim restitution.

To avoid a "one size fits all" approach to supervision, a risk assessment is conducted on all probationers. Increased monitoring (GPS and continuous alcohol monitoring) and various other resources then are directed toward those at a higher risk of reoffending, to help them be successful in meeting their sentencing requirements.

For example, probationers are required to take anger management and cognitive behavior classes that focus in areas such as shoplifting prevention. Substance abuse evaluations (some may qualify for reduced rates) and services also are available. The community service component is accomplished with a priority on county government work assignments.

Additionally, the Misdemeanor Probation Unit has a state-of-the-art urinalysis lab on-site. This allows probationers easy access to the lab to provide samples and to stay in compliance of no illegal narcotics or alcohol.

Probation supervision costs an offender approximately $55 a month (not including their court costs) which is at a reduced rate compared to other area counties. With that, the Unit not only pays for itself from offender fees, but this year revenues will exceed expenses by about $400,000.

"When local officials first met with me with the idea of transferring oversight of misdemeanor probation to the Sheriff's Office I admit I was concerned the program had the potential to be a fiscal disaster," said Sheriff Bob Gualtieri. "However, after a year of hard work evaluating and implementing policies, I believe the people of Pinellas are better off because the program now pays for itself and those with misdemeanor crimes have more resources than ever to help them on the path to being productive members of society."

The unit currently supervises about 2,200 individuals on misdemeanor probation and more than 400 individuals on pre-trial diversion. The Unit provides increased hours on weekdays (five days a week, 10 hours a day) and provides Saturday hours as well for those who have weekday jobs. Probationers are required to check-in once a month.

The Sheriff's Office Probation Unit separated the intake facility from the reporting and restitution office, for better service to probationers. This upcoming year the Misdemeanor Probation Unit plans to expand their service in community corrections with the hiring of a deputy and a licensed clinical social worker.

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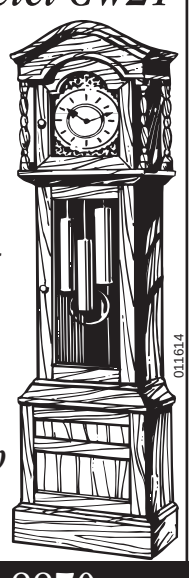

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POLICE BEAT, from page 5A

child alone on two separate occasions. The crime happened at a residence on 47th Avenue North in unincorporated St. Petersburg.

Crimes Against Children detectives began investigating the crime after the 5-month-old male victim was found unresponsive in his cradle on July 3, according to the sheriff's report. The child was transported to a hospital and pronounced dead July 5.

Through various investigative techniques, detectives determined that 29-year-old Jason Walker caring for the 5 month old on July 3, left the victim home alone in his cradle on two occasions for an extended time, while he ran errands around town. When Walker returned to the home the child was unresponsive, lying face down on a blanket in his cradle.

Final autopsy results from the Pinellas County Medical Examiner's Office determined the cause of death to be asphyxiation.

Detectives charged Walker with one count of child neglect. Bond was set at $10,000. He was already in the Pinellas County Jail, after an arrest Sept. 2 on domestic battery charges. Walker has two previous arrests involving domestic abuse, one in 2009 and another in 2012.

Fire destroys apartment

SEMINOLE – A second-story apartment at 9845 Seminole Blvd. was totally destroyed by fire Sept. 21, sending one person to an area hospital.

According to Seminole Fire Rescue, the apartment where the fire started was a total loss. Two other units sustained smoke damage and the apartment directly under the fire apartment had considerable water damage.

Six residents were displaced. The Red Cross was on the scene assisting.

The estimated damage was $55,000.

Submit tips to Crime Stoppers

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 online at www.crimestoppersofpinellas.org.

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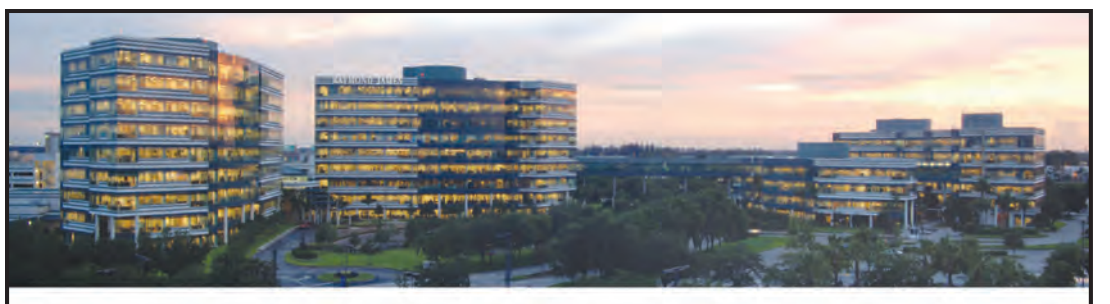

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Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 2 pm
68th Street North, St. Petersburg
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Largo Library
Friday, October 10, 2014 at 2 pm
120 Central Park Drive, Largo
Jenkins Room
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South Shore Regional Library
Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at 2 pm
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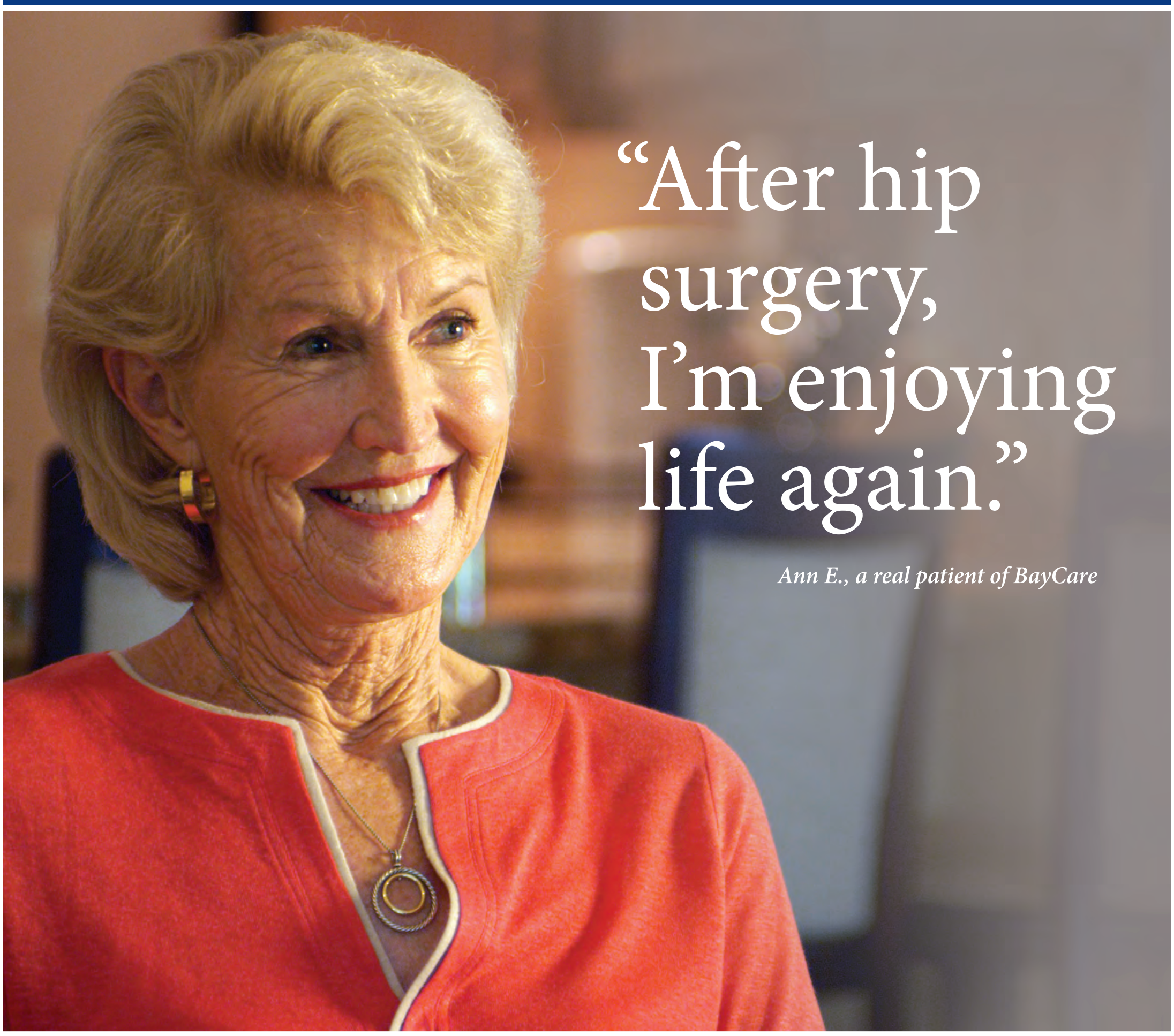

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Briefcase

Palm Garden hosts chili registration drive

LARGO – Palm Garden of Pinellas is having its inaugural Chili Cook-off and Voter's Registration Drive on Friday, Sept. 26, 10:45 a.m., in the classroom on its campus, 200 16th St. SE.

Anyone is welcome to come, taste chili and vote for the best recipe as well as get registered to vote. Bring your ID. Call 585-9377.

Largo LongHorn team member earns award

LARGO – Enrique Silva-Santos, a culinary team member at the LongHorn Steakhouse in Largo, recently was presented with the company's top honor for local restaurant employees, the Team Member of the Year Award.

A LongHorn veteran of 15 years, Silva-Santos is one of just four team members selected this year from the more than 28,000 LongHorn Steakhouse employees in North America.

Presented annually, this award recognizes local team members who consistently demonstrate outstanding results by providing LongHorn guests with expertly grilled steaks and a memorable dining experience.

"Enrique is a phenomenal employee and very deserving of the Team Member of the Year award," said Craig Kiesel in a press release. Kiesel is managing partner of the LongHorn Steakhouse in Largo. "He puts a tremendous effort into every dish he prepares, ensuring it is perfectly grilled to exceed each guest's expectations."

Frenchy's named fireworks sponsor

CLEARWATER – The Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce recently announced that Frenchy's Restaurants will be the presenting sponsor for the third annual fireworks display on New Year's Eve.

This is the second year in a row that Frenchy's Restaurants has sponsored our festival. Additional sponsorships include Clearwater Gas System, Shephard's Beach Resort and Crabby's Bar & Grill.

For information, visit www.lightitupclearwater.com.

Belleair Teens team up with Roxy's Yogurt

BELLEAIR BLUFFS – In the next year, Belleair's Teen Council hopes to raise $10,000 to build a screened-in porch for a local UPARC cottage.

One way they are working to bring awareness to the community is by teaming up with Roxy's Yogurt for the month of October. Customers, who visit Roxy's Yogurt – at 2838 West Bay Drive, Belleair Bluffs – on Mondays in October, between 6 and 10 p.m., are asked to mention the Belleair Teen Council or UPARC project. Roxy's Yogurt will give 20 percent of the revenue earned to the foundation.

For information, call Danielle Felten at 518-3728.

Hair Cuttery opens Salon

ST. PETERSBURG – Hair Cuttery recently celebrated the grand opening of its newest salon in St. Petersburg. The new salon is located at 5075 34th St. S., in Bay Point Plaza.

"We are so excited to be opening our first salon in St. Petersburg," said founder and CEO Dennis Ratner in a press release. "St. Petersburg is a wonderful community and we are thrilled to be providing jobs and services to people in this area. Our goal is to bring value and style to the entire family through our services and products. We want our clients to not only become lifelong customers but lifelong friends."

The salon will be open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Remodeled Beans About Cooking renamed

BELLEAIR BLUFFS – Pam and Brian Timmons, owners of Beans About Cooking, have completely remodeled their store and re-opened as The Cook's Cottage – A Coastal Kitchen Collection, at 100 Indian Rocks Road in the Plaza 100 shopping center in Belleair Bluffs.

They have broadened the selection of items that makes cooking, baking and entertaining more enjoyable and streamlined the look of the store. The Cook's Cottage is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Christian Chamber to present conference

CLEARWATER – The Christian Chamber of Commerce Tampa Bay will host the God at Work Conference on Friday, Oct. 17, 8 a.m. to noon, at Woodlawn Community Academy Auditorium, 11225 U.S. 19 N.

This conference is designed to help attendees put God back in the workplace. The lineup of the featured speakers will include Os Hillman, president of Marketplace Leaders, an organization whose purpose is to help men and women discover and fulfill God's complete purposes through their work and to view their work as ministry. Also speaking will be Brad Bright, the president and CEO of Bright Media Foundation, an affiliate Campus Crusade for Christ, an interdenominational Christian ministry committed to helping spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations. Other guest speakers will be Laurie Hill, CEO of Christian Chamber of Commerce-Tampa Bay and Geoff Williams, award-winning comedian and illusionist.

Cost is $49 for chamber members and $79 for nonmembers. A continental breakfast and snacks will be catered by Woodlawn Community Academy's Swanky Swine. For information, call Laurie Hill at 424-3429 or email info@c3tb.org. To register, visit c3tb.org/2014-conference.

Mercer joins Synovus

Sharon Mercer

ST. PETERSBURG – Sharon L. Mercer recently joined Synovus Bank as vice president and branch manager of the division's Oldsmar office at 4018 Tampa Road.

Mercer is a seasoned banker bringing more than 20 years experience in the financial services industry to her role at Synovus. She most recently served as assistant vice president, consumer banking specialist/mortgage loan officer at BB&T Bank, New Port Richey. Her areas of expertise include consumer banking, mortgage loan origination, branch management, business development, and customer relationship management.

Mease Manor celebrates 50 years

DUNEDIN – In September 1964, the vision of Dr. John Mease came to life.

His vision was to create a state-of-the-art community within Dunedin for seniors to live active and full lives without the worries of home ownership. Today his dream lives on with more than 400 residents on an expanded campus living vibrant active lifestyles and receiving the highest quality of care.

Mease Manor celebrated 50 years of tradition with two events. On Sept. 17, the residents, board members, family and friends gathered for a reception and gala dinner. Proclamations, letters and videos recognizing the milestone were shared along with a champagne toast.

On Sept. 20, the Cotton Club came to Mease Manor with an evening of jazz, dancing and celebration.

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Pinellas unemployment down in August

By SUZETTE PORTER

TALLAHASSEE – Pinellas County's unemployment was 6.3 percent in August – down from 6.4 in July, according to the Sept. 19 report from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

The not-seasonally-adjusted figures continue to show an improvement in the local unemployment rate. In August 2013, the county's unemployment was 7.2 percent.

The state's not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate showed a slight increase, going from 6.2 percent in July to 6.3 percent in August. Nationally, unemployment decreased to 6.1 percent in August compared to 6.2 percent in July.

The state's not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in August 2013 was 7.4 percent, and the national rate was 7.3 percent.

Gov. Rick Scott touted the growth in manufacturing jobs in the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area. According to a press release from the governor's office, the local MSA added 15,100 new jobs in August compared to 2013 – the fifth highest number of new jobs among all metro areas in the state and the most jobs of all metro areas in the manufacturing industry.

"We're thrilled to continue to see both positive job growth and a decreasing unemployment rate in the Tampa area over the year," Scott said.

The unemployment rate for the local MSA remained unchanged from July, holding steady at 6.8 percent, down from 7.4 percent in August 2013. The MSA includes Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties.

Industries gaining the most jobs in the Tampa Bay MSA were trade, transportation and utilities with 6,100 new jobs and professional and business services with 6,000 new jobs. The manufacturing industry added 2,000 jobs, the most in the state.

The governor's press release also said that the local MSA led the way in online job demand in August with 44,025 openings. It also was first in the state in demand for high way and high skill STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) jobs.

Of the counties in the Tampa Bay MSA, Hernando continues to report the highest unemployment, ranking No. 6 out of 67 with a rate of 8.8 percent. Pasco ranked No. 20 with 7.5 percent unemployment. Hillsborough County ranked No. 33 with 6.7 percent unemployment and Pinellas was ranked at No. 42.

Hendry County continues to rank No. 1 with the highest unemployment rate at 13.1 percent. Monroe County ranks No. 67 with the lowest rate of 3.9 percent.

The Tampa Bay MSA ranked No. 9 out of 23 with the Palm Coast ranking No. 1 with 9.5 percent unemployment and Crestview-Ft. Walton Beach-Destin MSA ranked No. 23 with a rate of 4.9 percent.

Out of a labor force of 453,489, 28,737 were unemployed in Pinellas County in August. In July, 29,132 were unemployed out of a labor force of 455,379. In August 2013, 32,031 were unemployed out of a labor force of 446,303.

The Department of Economic Opportunity continues to point out signs that the economy is improving.

"The creation of 23,000 private-sector jobs in Florida last month is another strong chapter in Florida's economic turnaround story," said DEO Executive Director Jesse Panuccio. "With measurable growth last month in the manufacturing and business and professional services industries, we can see that our efforts to foster the creation of high-skill, high-wage jobs are paying off for Florida families."

But Florida is not out of the recovery phase from the Great Recession. According to Chris McCarty, Survey director, for the University of Florida Survey Research Center's Bureau of Economic and Business Research, an August report shows a "consistent signal that the economy is running at a steady pace."

"It also suggests that the Florida economy is not growing rapidly."

Java's Coffee & More opens

PALM HARBOR – Locally owned and operated Java's Coffee & More opened their doors Sept. 2, hoping to fill a void in the area.

"In addition to a full line of espresso drinks, we are proud to serve 100 percent Arabica Gavina Gourmet Coffee and Q-Bean Organic Coffee", said Java's owner Paul Cianci in a press release.

Java's is on the southeast corner of Alderman Road and Alt. U.S. 19 in the Key West Plaza, three doors from Rum Runners.

Java's Coffee & More is a Wi-Fi hot spot, seats 30 people and a member of the Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Chowder Challenge fundraiser set

PASS-A-GRILLE – The Chowder Challenge will be presented Sunday, Nov. 9, 1 to 5 p.m., in Hurley Park, Pass-A-Grille, 1500 Gulf Way, St. Pete Beach.

The Friends of the Gulf Beaches Historic Museum will host the event as an annual fundraiser. Proceeds will help provide funds for continuing preservation of the Gulf Beaches Historical Museum.

Attendees will be able to sample and judge some of the best chowders in the Tampa Bay area. Local restaurants will compete for the cherished "Golden Ladle" top award in this event.

Restaurants participating in the 2014 event include Lowes Don CeSar Resort & Spa, Rumfish at TradeWinds Resort, Leverocks Seafood House, Bayou Catering, Billy's Stone Crab, Crabby Bills, Paradise Grille, Gennaros, Boardwalk Pasta & Seafood, Brass Monkey, Tequilla Mockingbird, St. Pete Produce & Deli, Crab Daddy's, Nori Thai, Shell's Seafood, Shark Tales of St. Pete Beach, PJ's Oyster Bar, Snappers, Salty Rim and more. Visit www.ChowderChallengePaG.com.

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Why is television so complicated?

Thomas Michalski

It was a big deal to own a television or a party line telephone when I was a kid growing up in 1940s and 1950s Brooklyn, N.Y.

Life was very basic in those days of no air conditioning, coal heat, standard shift Chevys, and spending hot summer nights on tenement stoops or in local parks enjoying the companionship of neighbors and friends.

Our first television was a Dumont with an 11-inch black and white screen that offered a handful of shows like I Love Lucy, Milton Berle and the Late Show ... not with David Letterman, but more of a compilation of old Charlie Chan and Bela Lugosi movies accompanied by primitive commercials.

No one believed back in those innocent days of yesteryear that television would develop into colossal flat screen electronic ogres that swallow entire walls.

Early TV gradually imposed itself across America and the world. Its lifeblood was the rabbit ears or roof antenna, tethered by a long flat wire to trigger images that magically appeared on the living room "video box."

There was no channel surfing in those days. One actually got off the couch, walked across a room, and twisted a dial to change stations. Then you gingerly fondled the tuner knob until the best possible image materialized.

Early TV often was difficult to view and challenging to understand. But, unlike today, it was free.

My television now boasts a 60-inch screen. It is connected to a cable box that offers recording capabilities and close to 200 channels. Many are partially viewed every evening with the flick of a finger on the Star Wars remote control device. We've become addicted to a phenomena known as channel surfing.

We fret over digital adaptors, high definition settings, cable wire, convoluted remotes and deciding which programs to watch.

Some viewers even duck for cover as stampedes of braying animals or hungry locusts leap from 3D screens. I claim more channels in my "favorites" menu than my parents' entire TV offered back in the 1950s when Jackie Gleason threatened to send Alice to the moon and every kid was in love with Annette.

We now choose our video entertainment from scads of venues. My own cable company even offers hard core porn. You can always tell when someone is watching Debbie doing Largo when window curtains are drawn in the middle of a sunny afternoon.

If you don't care for the liberal leanings of CNN your index finger (on the right hand, of course) can transport you to the conservative world of Fox News. If you grow weary of watching the Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, HBO or Showtime, there are government, educational and shopping programs. Non-video music channels play everything from classic country to pop Latino.

Then there are the video game, sports, science fiction and even fishing networks. On Demand allows viewing shows you missed or would like to see again. There is foreign programming emanating from Japan, Great Britain or Hispanic nations. We follow the progress of hurricanes on the Weather Channel, laugh at Rita Rudner at Comedy Central, and visit faraway places through Travel Discovery.

Sometimes the screen goes blank, and an intrusive information box boldly reads, "no signal."

No signal?

That's like being shot between the eyes by a .357 Magnum.

No signal equates to no television. What a nightmare!

Now you must occupy your time by reading a book or, horrors of all horrors, actually talking to other people. We can greet neighbors while walking the dog. Or sit outside and listen to the birds in the back yard.

But none of that will replace the joy of a flat screen television. So we call the cable company and wade through a sea of electronic prompts until a real, live, human voice greets us.

"My television," one gasps as if a large chunk of buffalo steak is lodged in the windpipe. "My television stopped working. ..."

If it can't be repaired by phone instructions someone will be dispatched to your house. He or she usually is a 20-something techie who never heard of roof antennas, or rabbit ears, vacuum tubes, or black and white televisions.

And suddenly the flat screen roars to life as race cars maneuver a sharp curve at some distant speedway, or a crowd cheers over a home run.

No one ever thought back in 1939 when RCA introduced the first commercial "box" that television would invade our homes and take over our lives. Television sets with names like the Andrea 1-F-5, Dumont 180, General Electric 90 and the Marconi 707 flooded the marketplace, especially after World War 2. They settled in our living rooms ... and stayed.

David Sarnott, former president of RCA, in a 1939 Popular Mechanics magazine article predicted that television would become a vital element in the lives of people. He said that it would link together in mind and spirit vast numbers of homes just as roads and airways did back in the day.

But no one ever prophesized that Americans would be connected to a sound and pictorial device that would change the world so dramatically.

Thomas Michalski is a retired Tampa Bay Newspapers editor. He can be reached at thomasamski@yahoo.com.

LETTERS

Hard to feel sorry for condo owners

Editor:

There is usually not much funny on the front page. However, lately condo owners complaining about having to abide by the rules they agreed to is hilarious. Remember the origin of the word condo: rich guys (bankers) needed a con to make more dough so they sell people apartments and then continue to charge them rent.

Call it anything you want, it is still an apartment. "Maintenance fees" and HOA dues are just other phrases for rent. True ownership comes with many responsibilities but it is better than having someone tell you what color to paint you home, when and how to decorate, or throw you out so they can make more money. And don't get me started about renting a car for years.

A.W. Simpson
Clearwater

Driver's reasoning invalid

Re: "A growing weariness of things Islamic," Bob Driver's column, Sept. 18

Editor:

Bob Driver's condemnation of the dastardly deeds of ISIS which is terrorizing Iraq and Syria is valid. His search for an explanation does not emanate solely from the region of the Middle East but he expands it worldwide with the element of fear, the essential ingredient for bias. His statement that "the terms 'terrorist' and 'Muslim' strike synonymous chords in our minds" is shared by too many Americans because the media rarely interview the Islamic scholar or writer or journalist. Driver is the living proof. I and many others who have additional information do not agree that the two terms are synonymous because we have done our research online and on local radio. We have heard Muslims stating emphatically that the behavior of ISIS is non-Islamic and repugnant.

Finally, Driver condemns the countries of Iraq and Afghanistan by pontificating that "treachery and corruption are deep in the DNA of (their) national leadership." There is a country dear to Driver and me that possess the same DNA: "treachery" by not representing the "people" and by ignoring time and again its Constitution; "corruption" by ignoring the "common good" for the private good.

When a small segment of a bona fide religion corrupts the name of its religion, it is illogical and repulsive to include all the members of that religion with the DNA of that small minority. That reasoning is invalid.

Arthur Hebert
Largo

Top tunes of some top politicians

Driver's Seat
Bob Driver

WASHINGTON, D.C. Oct. 7, 2014 – An unidentified White House source today revealed the title of President Obama's favorite song.

It is said to be "Take This Job and Shove It!" Composed by David Allen Coe and made popular in 1977 by singer Johnny Paycheck, the ballad expresses the deep dissatisfaction of a factory worker and his desire to quit his place of employment.

It"s not clear how or from whom Mr. Obama's musical preference was obtained. However, some reports indicate that the First Family"s living quarters and personal sound system have recently been updated. This may have allowed technicians to gain access to Mr. Obama's iPod and iTunes library, which contain his most-played musical selections.

When asked about the unconfirmed rumor, the President said, "I have not yet developed a strategy for dealing with this report, except to state that I am NOT weary of being president. To the contrary, I"m looking forward to every one of the 836 days, three hours and 14 minutes that remain before my successor takes over."

"How do you happen to know the exact time left in your tour of duty?" said Imogene Quiss, a reporter for the Idaho Speck. "That sounds like the attitude of a prisoner in a cell, checking off the days left in his sentence."

The President replied, "That's very observant of you, Miss Quiss, and I will respond to your comment in greater detail at a later date, such as Christmas of 2024."

In recent months Obama has been accused of mishandling the following domestic and international issues: The Mideast mess, the U.S. economy, immigration reform, upcoming Congressional elections, tensions in Ukraine, gun control, Pentagon waste, the future of Obamacare, and the possible spread of the Ebola virus. The most fervent of Obama's enemies also charge him with causing the Spanish-American War, as well as the 1883 eruption of the Indonesian volcano Mt. Krakatoa.

Obama's foreign policy attackers are led by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who demonstrated his own rock-solid judgment and political skills during his 2008 campaign for the presidency. Senator McCain's favorite song is "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition," which reflects his fundamental approach to any foreign policy issue.

Another solution to America's problems, as suggested by Obama critics, is the immediate impeachment of the president. In recent weeks supporters of the impeachment movement have joined in Saturday night rallies near the White House to chant, "Bad boy, bad boy, whatcha gonna do? Whatcha gonna do when they come for you?"

If Mr. Obama were to be impeached or otherwise caused to resign from office, he would be replaced by Vice President Joseph Biden. The prospect of this event usually silences Obama's critics, at least for a few days at a time. Mr. Biden's favorite song is Merle Haggard's "The Fighting Side of Me."

If for some reason both the president and vice president were to suddenly leave office, the Oval Office would be occupied by John Boehner (R-Ohio), Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Boehner is an emotional man, easily moved to tears. His most beloved song, after the National Anthem, is said to be "I Cried for You."

One of President Obama's daily headaches is keeping track of Secretary of State John Kerry's whereabouts. A senior White House official said, "The President allows Kerry enormous leeway in his travels, but occasionally Mr. Kerry forgets to notify the White House of which continent he (Kerry) will be visiting the next day."

One of Secretary Kerry's favorite songs is "Do You Know the Way to San Jose?"

Current surveys reveal that only about one-third of Americans approve of President Obama's handling of the presidency. When asked why they are loyal to Obama, many of his supporters reply, "Can you name one person, in either political party, who you believe could do a better job?" The answers vary. Except for Hillary Clinton, no single name dominates. On today's political horizon, few giants of any political persuasion appear.

One anonymous observer recalled the following comments, all of them attributed to Adlai Stevenson:

"In America, anyone can become president. That's one of the risks you take."

"Your public servants serve you right."

"If the Republicans will stop telling lies about the Democrats, we will stop telling the truth about them."

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

Keep the U.S. no-ransom policy

Debra Saunders

The video of a Syrian captor beheading American freelance journalist James Foley "has done more damage than any ransom ever could," former Iranian hostage Sarah Shourd warned on CNN recently. Foley's parents have been vocal about their frustration in knowing that their son remained a hostage as France and other European countries paid a reported average of $3 million-plus to free their citizens. The family wants to establish an organization to provide information to other families, presumably to get around a no-ransom policy.

The subsequent beheadings of American journalist Steven J. Sotloff and British aid worker David Haines threaten to put pressure on the United States and United Kingdom to ditch their policy of not paying ransom for hostages. I hope that doesn't happen. The Obama administration is right to maintain a no-ransom policy, despite its shortcomings.

"Our government was very clear that no ransom was going to be paid," Foley's mother, Diane, told The New York Times. "It was horrible – and continues to be horrible." I cannot imagine what the Foleys had to endure – seven months of anguish over not being able to help their son, punctuated with horror.

Washington reportedly warned the Foleys that they could face prosecution if they paid a ransom to free their son – a threat that later was withdrawn. Worse, the Foleys say they were advised to stall after captors asked for more than $130 million in ransom for their son. Foley said it was obvious that her son's captors "wanted to engage with the government." She added: "I don't understand how it is that we were not willing to engage at some level. This made them more and more angry." The Islamic State angrier? How could she tell?

At a Senate hearing Wednesday, Secretary of State John Kerry registered frustration over the Foleys' anger at the government. No doubt there are things the State Department could have done better, he said, and Foggy Bottom will try harder in the future. OK, but the no-ransom policy should stand.

There's no question that the policy is imperfect. As Shourd noted, the U.S. government didn't stop Oman's government when it paid $1 million "bail" money to Iran to free two male hikers with whom she had been detained. Also, the Obama administration negotiated a deal with the Taliban to free Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl after five years of captivity. The price was too high: the release of five Guantanamo Bay detainees.

"Everybody is against the payment of ransom in principle" – until a loved one is taken hostage, said Mike Ackerman, CEO of a security company that specializes in recovering kidnap victims. "I think it's an impossible decision. There's an unquestionable interest on the part of any civilized community in not paying a ransom, and I think there's an unquestionable interest of any civilized society in trying to get people back and not get them killed."

He's right, but the first interest also prevents more kidnappings. As Gen. John R. Allen told The New York Times, "what is hard to prove is how many Americans have not been kidnapped as a result of the fact that the enemy knows they will not get a penny from us."

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

What do you think?

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

Here are some more guidelines for letters:

- Letters are printed on a first-come, first-served basis. They may be edited to correct grammar, spelling and factual errors. They also may be edited for clarity.
- Please keep letters to editor to 500 words. Longer letters may be cut due to space limitations.
- Letters should address issues or current events. Please refrain from making unsubstantiated allegations. The newspaper will not print letters that contain slanderous or racial statements.

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Health briefly

Pinecrest events set

LARGO – Pinecrest Place, a Brookdale Senior Living Community located at 1150 Eighth Ave. SW, will host the following programs:

• Life Care Funding Seminar – Tuesday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m. – Attendees will learn how to pay for senior living accommodations by converting life insurance policies to cover their needs. RSVP is required by Oct. 6.

• Fall Fest Open House – Wednesday, Oct. 22, 11 a.m. – Attendees will enjoy seasonal treats such as pumpkin pie and cinnamon ice cream. During the event, guests will have an opportunity to tour residents' homes for a firsthand look at the spacious floor plans. RSVP is required by Oct. 20.

To RSVP, call 581-8142.

Hospital offers tips for traveling with disabilities

LARGO – HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Largo's Passport to Independence, highlightes effective ways to guide patients to their ultimate goal of going home.

HealthSouth hospitals provide the Passport to Independence for patients overcoming challenges after an illness or injury. Whether it's an out of town trip or an excursion around the world, it is important for patients with disabilities and medical conditions and their families to know how to prepare for traveling. Following is a list of tips from www.travel.state.gov to help patients use their independence safely:

• Know before you go – Preparation is critical. If you don't travel frequently, speak to someone with a similar disability who has traveled to your destination before.

• Research medical care and costs – Consult with your physician prior to travel overseas to identify health care needs during your trip.

• Carry medical alert information – Carry all necessary medical information and a letter from your health care provider describing your medical condition, medications, potential complications and other pertinent medical information.

• Carry sufficient prescription medication – Carry enough medication to last your entire trip, including extra medicine in case you are delayed.

• Understand your Social Security benefit – If you are thinking about an extended trip abroad, find out if you can receive your Social Security or other federal agency benefits outside the United States.

"Getting patients to their destination of independence is our mission at HealthSouth Largo," said CEO of HealthSouth Largo Tripp Smith in a press release. "National Rehabilitation Week provides a great opportunity for our hospital to provide various tips and precautions when traveling while highlighting the various clinicians and experts who help our patients reach their individual goals."

Pinecrest Place hosts caregiver support groups

LARGO – Pinecrest Place, a Brookdale Senior Living Community, recently announced the expansion of its caregiver support group program.

The program, open to the public, provides information and support for those who are caring for loved ones who have dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

"We try to make things easier for these special people who devote so much of their time to caring for others by giving them the support and information they need to survive the task," said executive director Karen McFarlin in a press release. "We have had so many requests to increase the times we meet each month that we have added another meeting time to the schedule."

The group meets second and fourth Thursdays, 3 p.m., at Pinecrest Place, 1150 Eighth Ave. SW. All are welcome to attend. Call Susan Rodman at 581-8142.

Bike Night to fundraise for Breast Cancer Killers

CLEARWATER – To raise breast cancer awareness, bikers have been challenged by Tony Cianci, owner of Full Throttle Magazine, to dye their facial hair pink at the Quaker Steak and Lube Bike Night Wednesday, Oct. 1, 8 p.m., at Quaker Steak and Lube, 10400 49th St. N.

Bikers from all over the state of Florida will be showing up and dyeing their beards and facial hair pink for breast cancer awareness. The bike night usually has between 2,000 and 3,000 in attendance every Wednesday night. Donations will be given to the Breast Cancer Killers charity group. For information, visit www.floridafullthrottle.com.

Wheel On Up fundraiser set

ST. PETERSBURG – Wheel On Up, a fundraiser for the WalkNRoll for Spina Bifida, will be Saturday, Oct. 11, 2 to 7 p.m., at School Yard Skate Park, 4033 35th St. N. Suite B.

There is no admission but donations are encouraged.

Jimmy Wheelz LLC and friends will host the event that seeks to spread awareness and raise funds for Spina Bifida while celebrating alongside friends who support this wonderful cause such as School Yard Skate Park, Smiley's Deli, The Deadly Rival Roller Derby League, St. Pete Skatepark Alliance, WCMX athletes and Pro Skateboarders and In-liners.

Music will be provided by Not Tonight Josephine and other artists.

Call 787-528-1857 or visit www.walknrollsbacfl.org

Healthcare marketing program set

ST. PETERSBURG – Nationally recognized healthcare marketer, author and speaker and Dan Dunlop will present at American Marketing Association Tampa Bay's event on Thursday, Sept. 25, 7:30 a.m., at the Hilton St. Petersburg, Carillon Park, 950 Lake Carillon Drive, St. Petersburg.

Geared specifically toward healthcare marketers, Dunlop's presentation – "Healthcare Marketing as Community Building – will share groundbreaking ideas for how healthcare organizations can engage in conversations and listen to feedback from key constituencies, including patients and physicians. In addition, attendees will learn how to deepen the connection between audience and brand, bring clinicians into online conversations and integrate new media into the physician-relations marketing mix.

This event is coordinated by AMA Tampa Bay's Healthcare Shared Interest Group, which focuses exclusively on bringing educational opportunities to healthcare marketers in Tampa Bay.

The cost of the event is $35 for AMA Tampa Bay members, $40 for nonmembers and $25 for students, and will include a hot breakfast and networking.

To register, visit www.amatampabay.org. Space is limited.

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108 men to become Big Brothers in annual campaign

LARGO – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay has successfully completed their annual male recruitment campaign, 100 Men in 100 Days, yielding 108 new Big Brother applicants.

Each year, the organization hosts a campaign to increase male engagement in the agency's school- and community-based mentoring programs. Historically, only a third of the volunteer applications are men, which means boys in the program often spend a year on the agency's waiting list.

Although Big Brothers Big Sisters celebrates the achievement, the need for mentors in the community is constant. Right now, more than 1,000 children are waiting to be paired with mentors in the greater Tampa Bay area.

Mentors give four hours of their time per month to a child. Programs include:

• **The "Big" Experience**: Community-based volunteers pick their "Little" and spend quality time together.

• **Sports Buddies**: Get priority access to sporting tickets to see local teams or spend time at the park throwing a ball.

• **School Mentors**: Meet with the child on school grounds for one hour per week to eat lunch together, play on the playground or help with academic work.

To learn more about signing up as a volunteer, call 518-8860 or email volunteer recruiter Alicia Lannom at AliciaL@bbbspc.org. Visit www.bbbspc.org.

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Community calendar

Poker run to benefit Suncoast Voices

LARGO – The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10094 is hosting the fourth annual Suncoast Voices for Children Poker Run Saturday, Sept. 27, at 14268 Walsingham Road.

Sign up at the post starting at 8:30 a.m., where breakfast will be served.

The first bike will leave at 10 a.m. and head to Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 4147, at 6987 54th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. The next stop is the American Veterans Post 8, at 4681 County Road 16, St. Petersburg, followed by a stop at American Legion Post 252, 11433 Park Blvd., Seminole. The poker run will end back at VFW Post 10094.

The event, open to the public, will include a 50/50 raffle, and food will be available. All proceeds benefit the Suncoast Voices for Children.

For more information, call the VFW Post at 596-8959, Cindy at 741-1210 or Pops at 437-9949.

Abilities Guild hosts pig roast fundraiser

LARGO – The Abilities Guild is hosting its inaugural Pig Roast on Saturday, Oct. 18, 5 p.m., at the home of Tom and Joni Cleary, 440 Buttonwood Lane.

Tickets are $60 per person. Seating is limited.

The event is a fundraiser for the Abilities Foundation, which was founded in 1952 and supports more than 10,000 disabled individuals a year. Specifically, the event will benefit the Veterans' Mall and job placement services for homeless or wounded veterans.

The mission of the Abilities Guild is to ensure that people with disabilities have the opportunity to participate with dignity in everything that community life has to offer.

For more information or to make reservations, call Phyllis Schene at 461-5511.

Yacht Club goes pink

CLEARWATER – The Second Annual Totes for Ta-Tas, benefitting Morton Plant Mease's Campaign to Transform Cancer Care, will be held Thursday, Oct. 9, 6 to 9 p.m., at the Clearwater Yacht Club, 830 Bayway Blvd.

The $25 admission cost includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, drink tickets, door prize entry and silent auction.

To donate, drop off gently use purses, totes or wallets at The Yacht Club, the law office of Kinnear K. Smith, Morton Plant Mease Foundation and Sydney & Co.

"Indulge in delicious cocktails and tasty sampling from Clearwater Yacht Club while shopping hundreds of gently used purses, totes, clutches, wallets and handbags from designers like Coach, Chanel, Kate Spade, Dooney & Bourke, Fendi, Michael Kors, Tory Burch and more," a press release for the event said.

For more information and to RSVP visit bit.ly/totesfortatas or email totesfortatasFL@gmail.com.

Candidates' forum set

SEMINOLE – To help citizens go to the polls as informed voters, St. Petersburg College is presenting a debate for local candidates seeking public office in the Nov. 4 general election. The debate, sponsored by SPC's Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions and co-sponsored by the Tampa Bay Times, will be from 5:30 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 2, in the Digitorium of the Seminole campus, 9200 113th St. N.

Admission is free, but advance registration is requested at solutions.spcollege.edu.

Facing off will be candidates for Pinellas County Commission from Districts 2 and 4, and candidates for the eight most highly contested seats in the state Legislature. Also up for debate will be two proposed amendments to the State Constitution.

A distinguished panel of experts will question the candidates and provide background on the issues. They are:

• Frank Alcock, Ph.D., associate professor of political science at New College of Florida, Sarasota

• Adam Smith, political editor, Tampa Bay Times

• Roy Slater, social science professor, St. Petersburg College

• Noah Pransky, investigative reporter, WTSP 10 News, St. Petersburg

• Moderator: Joni James, deputy editor of editorials, Tampa Bay Times

The debates will be split into three one-hour sessions, with the first two combining state legislative races whose district borders are relatively contiguous, for the convenience of voters interested in their home district candidates. A brief discussion of the two constitutional amendments will precede the candidate debates.

The schedule is:

• 5:30-6 p.m.: Constitutional Amendments 1 and 2

• 6-7 p.m.: House Districts 65, 66 and 67

• 7-8 p.m.: Senate District 22, House Districts 68 and 69

• 8-9 p.m.: County Commission Districts 2 and 4

For further information, call 394-6942.

SPCREA to meet

The South Pinellas County Retired Educators Association will meet Thursday, Oct. 9, at Teppanyaki Grill and Supreme Buffet, 391 34th St. N., St. Petersburg.

SPCREA meets second Thursdays, 11 a.m., October through May. Meetings are open to all who have worked in the field of education whether here in Florida or elsewhere, including teachers, support personnel and administrators. Attendees enjoy lunch and visiting with each other. Meetings offer attendees an opportunity to donate to a local charity chosen by the project cheer committee.

For October, the group will collect school supplies and children's clothing, this year focusing on older children who especially need new socks and underwear.

The meeting will begin at noon with an activity planned by the hospitality committee. The meeting is not used for business and adjourns by 1 p.m.

Email Joyce Walters at jellen1943@yahoo.com for more information.

Oktoberfest returns

By JULIANA A. TORRES

PINELLAS PARK – The 2014 edition of Tampa Bay's most authentic Oktoberfest kicks off Friday and Saturday, Sept. 26 and 27, 6:30 to 11 p.m., at the German American Club, 8098 66th St. N. in Pinellas Park.

The German American Friendship Society of Pinellas, which organizes the event every year, is gearing up for the festivities. Once again, Pinellas Park's Oktoberfest will deliver three weekends of food, dance and German-themed entertainment, explained Bob Courtney, the society's first vice president.

"It's a time to come to an ethnic celebration, to sit down and talk to people to have some good food and good beer – or a glass of wine if you prefer – enjoy good music and spend a couple of hours and go home happy," he said.

Oktoberfest runs Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 3-4 and 10-11, 6:30 to 11 p.m. As always, the event will feature the Oktoberfest Village, authentic German food and sweets, imported German beer, live oompah music, dancing, German vendors and nightly raffles. Parking is free and an ATM will be available on site, in case the savory food tempts you to more servings.

Opening night festivities start around 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 26, and include the Schuhplattler folk dance, the parade of flags, a keg tapping ceremony and a masskrugstemmen, or beer mug holding contest.

The Gulf Coast Enzianer Schuplatter Verein, an annual highlight of the event, will perform authentic German folk dances five of the six evenings of the festival, excluding the last evening. This year, a club member suggested a new tradition to the mix of community favorites.

"This is the first year that we'll have an Oktoberfest king and queen. There was a selection process of sorts," Courtney said.

For the German American Club, Oktoberfest is hard work, he said.

"It's a very trying time, with all the work that's involved, but it's also enjoyable," he said. "There are many enjoyable moments."

The weekends mean uniting with old friends or renewing conversations with friends that come to the club only once a year, he said.

The income, which varies year to year, supports the club financially.

"It helps us survive the slow summer months," Courtney said.

For more information, call 541-6782 or visit germantampa.com/Oktoberfest. To reserve a table, call Bob Courtney at 238-8201.

Kellers celebrate 60th anniversary

SEMINOLE – Gene and Maryann Keller of Seminole celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at Giovanni's Table, on a seven day cruise in the Eastern Caribbean, aboard the Oasis of the Seas.

Keller and the former Maryann Brosch were married June 19, 1954, in St. Ann's Catholic Church in Buffalo, N.Y. He is a retired agency manager for MetLife. She is retired from sales at Benton Bridal. They have five children and six grandchildren.

Gene and Maryann Keller

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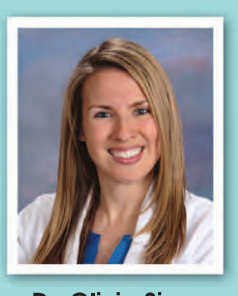

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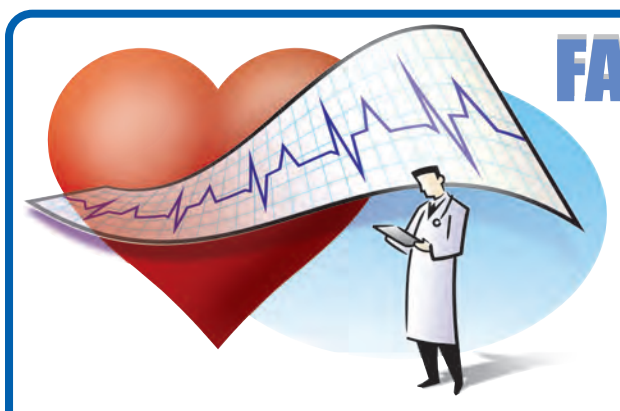

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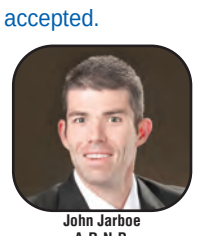

John Jarboe A.R.N.P.

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100114
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Thousands expected at super boat race

By ALEXANDRA LUNDAHL

Photo by WAYNE CATHEL

The Spirit of Qatar won the Superboat category at the 2013 Bright House Clearwater Super Boat National Championship.

CLEARWATER – The sixth annual Bright House Clearwater Super Boat National Championship and Seafood Festival is zooming into the area on Friday through Sunday, Sept. 26-28.

"This year there should be a great list of boats coming out," said Rachel Farinas, events and communication manager for the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce. "Miss Geico will be there again this year, and it should be an exciting race."

The festivities begin at noon on Friday at Baystar Race Village where the public can come for free to see the boats and teams up close, get autographs and photos, talk to the racers, and enjoy delicious food and drinks by the Baystar Restaurant Group. The fun continues that evening with the Baystar Race Village VIP party, 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Clearwater Harbor Marina Promenade, where those with VIP passes can attend a meet and greet with the drivers, get autographs and photos and enjoy a steel drum cocktail party with appetizers.

For those who prefer a free, family-friendly evening on Friday, check out the Star Spectacular free concert in the Cleveland Street District with the Caribbean Chillers band – the premiere Jimmy Buffett tribute band in the area. There also will be the Tampa Bay Times Super Boat Parade on Cleveland Street with contests, games, prizes, vendors and other free family fun.

On Saturday, head back to Baystar Race Village from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. for another chance to meet the teams and get autographs and for more great food, drinks, vendors and live entertainment. Admission is free, and there also will be the opportunity to watch the super boat practice runs.

"It's a fun thing for the people who love the big, powerful boats and the big engines, and the drivers and teams love talking about that to the different spectators and folks to come out to see them," said Brian Aungst, co-founder of the Bright House Super Boat National Championship.

That evening, enjoy some family fun and catch a movie and fireworks and in a festival atmosphere with vendors at Sunsets at Pier 60 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Those with VIP passes can keep partying on Saturday from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. at the Shepherd's VIP Party. There will be entertainment by top 40s bands, and light refreshments will be served.

Sunday is race day, so come out early to get the best spot to view the races. The super boats will launch from 10 a.m. to noon, with the first races beginning at noon, said Aungst, who co-founded the event along with Frank Chivas, owner of the Bay Star Restaurant Group. After a short break, races resume in the second heat at 2 p.m., which typically includes the biggest and fastest boats, Aungst said. Generally the boats average about 140 miles per hour, though the fastest classes of boats can top 200 miles per hour, Aungst said.

Other activities that day include the various VIP viewing area parties and the Miss Clearwater Super Boat Corona Girl Pageant, 4 p.m. until "the party is over" at Shepherd's Beach Resort. There will be a $500 first-place prize to the Corona Girl winner.

Chivas and Aungst started this event six years ago to combat the traditionally slowest time for tourism, and it has proven a big success.

"It was aimed at historically the slowest weekend of the year for tourism," Aungst said. "If not the slowest, one of the slowest. It's debatable, but not by much. I like to joke, seven years ago you could have fired a rocket down the street on Clearwater Beach and not hit anyone, and now we have spring break-type crowds."

Last year, the event brought crowds of more than 180,000 people, Aungst said, with the U.S. Coast Guard counting upwards of 5,500 boats lined up to watch the races, with more than 50,000 people on the boats alone. Thousands more lined up on the shore, wading out into the water, and packing onto Pier 60, which offers a great view as the boats zoom right past the pier.

"When (the boats) line up, it's all the way down the course for over a mile, and they're five to 10 deep all the way down," Aungst said. "It's really an impressive sight."

However, Aungst said people shouldn't let the numbers scare them off. Traffic is generally manageable, he said, and people should remember that a lot of the people will be on boats, so they won't be crowding vehicular traffic on the bridges. People also have the option to park in downtown Clearwater and ride the Jolley Trolley over so they don't have to worry about parking, he said.

The race is a major boon to the local economy, bringing in about $18 million last year alone over the 2.5-day event, Aungst said, as documented by Walter Klages of Research Data, who does all the data collection and statistics for the Pinellas County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"He also documented 6,500 (hotel) room nights that were sold on the beach," Aungst said, "and 79 different hotel properties reported in, which is a large number. The hotels on the beach itself were full. For the occupancy in the entire region, there was 92 percent for that weekend, which is phenomenal. It might have been 30 to 40 percent seven years ago at that same time."

This national championship falls at an exciting time in the super boat season, Aungst said, and it has become one of the favorite race locations of the whole circuit. Those who score enough points can later move on to the annual Super Boat Key West World Championships in November.

People who want to watch the Clearwater event by boat should plan on getting out on the water early, Aungst said, so certainly by 10 a.m., though people start lining up their boats as early as 8 and 8:30 a.m. The U.S. Coast Guard will direct the boats.

Land spectators can either just pick a spot along the beach, or for a closer view, people can pay either $5 or $20 for a spot on Pier 60, which offers an excellent view of the race.

For complete details, visit www.clearwatersuperboat.com.

Steady rains will keep anglers on their toes

Fish Tales
Capt. Tyson Wallerstein

It's been a soggy week so far with the looming cold front. As it finally makes its way out of here we are due for a bit of a cool down.

These first couple of fronts can change the complexion of our fishing in a hurry. Cooling water temperatures will funnel more bait fish into our area and in turn plenty of fish to feed on them.

Kingfish, cobia, tarpon, grouper and redfish will be the highlights in the weeks to come.

Spanish mackerel fishing has been excellent over the past week. Plenty of bait can be found around the passes and the grass flats just inside. Find deep grass patches in 4 to 6 feet of water and chum the fish up with live pilchards. When the tide is moving strong, the action has been non-stop.

Speckled trout also are mixed in with the mackerel. Most have been undersized with a few keepers. The bigger fish will move onto the flats as the water continues to cool.

Redfish have been schooling in good numbers leading up to this new moon phase. Finding low tide edges that are holding bait has been the key. Dipping terns will guide you to the spot within a spot. The terns are following schools of marauding jack crevalle, which can be seen working the surface from time to time, and the redfish have been hanging below the jacks. This deep-water pattern should continue for the next couple of months. On the higher tides look for oyster mounds to attract schools of mullet and the redfish will be mixed in with them. Live chumming with sardines will get the reds looking for an easy meal.

Mangrove snapper fishing also has been good during this new moon phase. Schools of 10- to 14-inch mangos can be found around pass bridges, jetties and near-shore reefs. Deploying a frozen chum block will bring the mangos up from the bottom. Then it's a matter of downsizing your tackle enough to fool the wary fish. The bigger snapper will come right to the surface at times and can be quite tricky to catch.

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.

Outdoors events

Gardens host Discovery Tours

LARGO – Discovery Tours will be offered at the Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road.

Visitors can experience the beauty of the Florida Botanical Gardens on a guided tour. Tours begin at 9 a.m. and last around two and a half to three hours. Tours are limited to four to 10 people. A variety of dates are available.

To reserve a spot or to learn more, call 582-2581 or email to: events@flbg.org. Visit www.flbg.org.

Vegetable, herb and tropical tours set

LARGO – Vegetable, herb a tropicals tours will be offered Thursdays, Oct. 2 and 23, 9 to 11 a.m., at Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road.

Participants will explore the vegetable garden and compost demonstration areas in the Florida Botanical Gardens and learn about growing their own food. Tours are limited to groups of four to 16 people and recommended for adults only.

Tours are free but registration is required. Call 582-2100. Visit tinyurl.com/k78n7vq.

Tennis tournament set at Southwest

LARGO – The seventh annual Southwest Tennis Tournament will be Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 4-5, 8 a.m., at Southwest Recreation Complex, 13120 Vonn Road.

Register by Wednesday, Oct. 1 in time for drawings on Saturday, Oct. 4. The cost is $50 per doubles team or $25 per player.

Call 518-3125.

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What's Selling in Pinellas County

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Susan Gaddis
Coastal Properties Group

Palm Harbor — 3 Bedrooms 3 Baths 2 Half Baths — $1,100,000
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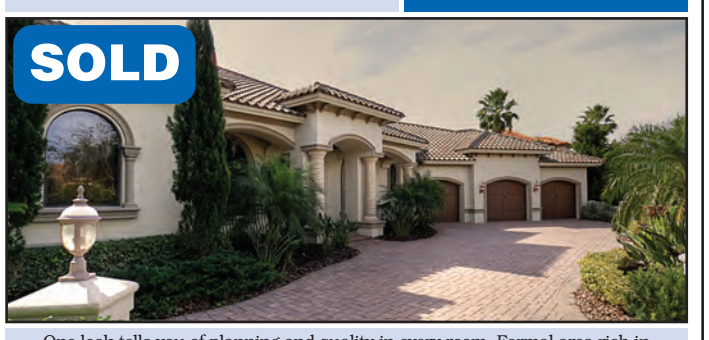
One look tells you of planning and quality in every room. Formal area rich in architectural details from ceiling to cast stone fireplace. Sharing a 2-sided fireplace with family room is a handsome billiards room with bar. Over-sized lanai provides vista of rolling fairway, but landscaped for privacy.
Peggy Mateer
Coastal Properties Group

St. Petersburg — 2 Bedrooms 1 Bath 1 CG — $127,900
SOLD

Amazing 2BR/1BA/1CG home in wonderful family neighborhood with lots to offer starting with the circular paved driveway, updated windows, completely remodeled gorgeous open kitchen, tile floors throughout and much more. Large fenced backyard with open patio for entertaining.
Caroleanne Vorac
Adamo Associates - Realty Executives

Seminole — 2 Bedrooms 2 Baths 2 CG — $120,000
SOLD

Home is located in a great area of Seminole Millennium Park directly across the Main Street.
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Adamo Associates - Realty Executives
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DO YOU HAVE A WOUND THAT WON'T HEAL?

presented by Percy Lo, MD, FACS – Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon

Wednesday, October 8 • 12:00 Noon

Edward White Hospital Auditorium • 2299 9th Ave. N., Suite 1-G, St. Petersburg
(One-story office building on the east side of hospital)

WE OFFER THE BIRTH EXPERIENCE YOU WANT

presented by Elissa Barfoot, CNM – Certified Nurse Midwife

Thursday, October 9 • 11:30 a.m.

Menchies Yogurt • 196 37th Ave. N, St. Petersburg

presented by St. Petersburg General Hospital

FLU? NOT THIS YEAR!

presented by Fadi Saba, MD – Internal Medicine Specialist

Friday, October 10 • 2:00 p.m.

The Fountains of Boca Ciega Bay • 1255 Pasadena Avenue S., St. Petersburg

presented by St. Petersburg General Hospital

MEDICATION SAFETY

presented by Kristie Wallace, RPh, PharmD – Director of Pharmacy, Edward White Hospital

Wednesday, October 15 • 12:00 Noon

Edward White Hospital Auditorium • 2299 9th Ave. N., Suite 1-G, St. Petersburg
(One-story office building on the east side of hospital)

CIRCULATION PROBLEMS? PAIN IN YOUR LEGS?

presented by Jesse Klein, DO – Interventional Cardiologist

Monday, October 13 • 12:00 Noon

1:00 p.m. • **FREE PAD Screening**

Largo Medical Center • 201 14th St. SW, Largo

DISEASE OF THE HEART VALVES

presented by Curtis Bryan, MD – Cardiothoracic Surgeon

Thursday, October 16 • 12:00 Noon

Northside Hospital Auditorium • 6006 49th Street N., Suite 230, St. Petersburg
(located in the Medical Office Plaza on the North end of campus)

WOMEN AND HEART DISEASE

presented by Samantha Avery, DO – Cardiologist

Friday, October 17 • 12:00 Noon

Jim & Heather Gills YMCA • 3200 1st Avenue South, St. Petersburg

presented by St. Petersburg General Hospital

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HEART FAILURE?

presented by Melinda Coffman MNS, ARNPBC, ACNP – Heart Failure Clinic Practitioner

Thursday, October 23 • 12:00 Noon

Northside Hospital Auditorium • 6006 49th Street N., Suite 230, St. Petersburg
(located in the Medical Office Plaza on the North end of campus)

SURGICAL WEIGHT LOSS: GETTING BACK TO A HEALTHIER, HAPPIER YOU!

presented by Sebastian Tas, DO – Bariatric & General Surgeon
Florida Bariatric Centers at Largo Medical Center & Palms of Pasadena Hospital

Wednesday, October 1 • 6:30 p.m.

Hampton Inn & Suites (Clearwater) • 4050 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater

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presented by Tiffany Jessee, DO – Bariatric & General Surgeon
Florida Bariatric Centers at Largo Medical Center & Palms of Pasadena Hospital

Saturday, October 4 • 10:00 a.m.

Safety Harbor Resort & Spa • 105 North Bayshore Drive, Safety Harbor

Wednesday, October 22 • 6:00 p.m.

Largo Medical Center • 201 14th St. SW, Largo

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presented by Robyn Ache, DO – Bariatric & General Surgeon
Florida Bariatric Centers at Largo Medical Center & Palms of Pasadena Hospital

Tuesday, October 7 • 6:00 p.m.

Palms of Pasadena Hospital Professional Building (Boca Ciega Room)
1609 Pasadena Ave., St. Petersburg

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presented by Richard Gordon, MD – Bariatric & General Surgeon
Florida Bariatric Centers at Largo Medical Center & Palms of Pasadena Hospital

Wednesday, October 8 • 6:00 p.m.

Largo Medical Center • 201 14th St. SW, Largo

Monday, October 20 • 6:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites • 975 Broadway Street, Dunedin

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presented by Ernest Rehnke, MD – Bariatric & General Surgeon
Florida Bariatric Centers at Largo Medical Center & Palms of Pasadena Hospital

Saturday, October 25 • 9:30 a.m.

Palms of Pasadena Hospital Professional Building (Boca Ciega Room)
1609 Pasadena Ave., St. Petersburg

SPINE CARE YOU CAN TRUST!

presented by Paula Jewell – Florida Spine & Neuro Center Representative

Wednesday, October 1 • 11:00 a.m.

Hampton Inn & Suites • 39284 US 19 North, Tarpon Springs

Wednesday, October 8 • 11:00 a.m.

Holiday Inn Express • 975 Broadway St., Dunedin

Wednesday, October 22 • 11:00 a.m.

Hampton Inn • 1200 34th Street N., St. Petersburg

Monday, October 27 • 11:00 a.m.

Largo Medical Center • 201 14th St. SW, Largo

presented by Largo Medical Center

PUTTING YOUR TRUST IN OUR KNEE SURGEONS FOR MORE THAN A DECADE

presented by Pat Kosiba, RN – Florida Knee & Orthopedic Pavilion Representative

Thursday, October 2 • 11:00 a.m.

Residence Inn Marriott • 940 Court St., Clearwater

Wednesday, October 15 • 11:00 a.m.

Largo Medical Center • 201 14th St. SW, Largo

Thursday, October 30 • 11:00 a.m.

Holiday Inn Express • 975 Broadway St., Dunedin

presented by Largo Medical Center

COMMON CAUSES OF HAND AND WRIST PAIN

presented by Daniel Penello, MD – Orthopedic Surgeon

Thursday, October 9 • 12:00 Noon

Brentwood Senior Living Community (The Community Room)
6280 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg

presented by Palms of Pasadena Hospital

SHOULDER PROBLEMS AND TREATMENTS

presented by Anthony Albert, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon with subspecialty of Surgery of the Shoulder

Tuesday, October 14 • 6:00 p.m.

Magnolia Gardens • 3800 62nd Ave. N., Pinellas Park

presented by St. Petersburg General Hospital

WE HAVE YOUR BACK!! YOUR BACK PAIN MAY BE A SPINAL FRACTURE

presented by Howard Sharf, MD – Orthopedic & Spine Surgeon

Monday, October 20 • 12:00 Noon

Lake Seminole Square • 8333 Seminole Blvd., Seminole

presented by St. Petersburg General Hospital

OPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES TO TOTAL KNEE REPLACEMENT

presented by Robert Donnelly, MD – Orthopedic Surgeon

Monday, October 20 • 12:00 Noon

Palms of Pasadena Hospital Professional Building (Boca Ciega Room)
1609 Pasadena Ave. S., St. Petersburg

SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR HIP PAIN!

presented by Pat Kosiba, RN – Florida Knee & Orthopedic Pavilion Representative

Thursday, October 23 • 11:00 a.m.

Hampton Inn & Suites • 39284 US 19 North, Tarpon Springs

presented by Largo Medical Center

NEWS FOR TOTAL JOINT REPLACEMENT

presented by Rafat Nashed, MD – Orthopedic Surgeon

Monday, October 27 • 2:30 p.m.

Gulfport Senior Center • 5501 27th Ave. S., Gulfport

presented by St. Petersburg General Hospital

IF YOU HAVE OSTEOPOROSIS AND/OR SUDDEN BACK PAIN, YOU MAY HAVE A SPINAL FRACTURE

presented by Howard Sharf, MD – Orthopedic & Spine Surgeon

Tuesday, October 28 • 5:30 p.m.

Palms of Pasadena Hospital Professional Building (Boca Ciega Room)
1609 Pasadena Ave. S., St. Petersburg

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Diversions

Events • Movies • Classifieds

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Tarpon Springs (727) 551-4926

Top five diversions

• **"Monkey Monkey Bottle of Beer, How Many Monkeys Have We Here?"**, by Marsha Sheiness, through Oct. 5, at West Coast Players, 21905 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets are $19. Call 437-2363 or visit www.wcplayers.org. This psychodrama is set in the waiting room of a clinic where five mothers await word on the futures of their intellectually disabled children. They have been given the opportunity to change their children into geniuses, and the play explores the hopes, fears and guilt of each woman. As the drama moves forward, the very nature of parent child love is examined.

• **Music in the Park**, Friday, Sept. 26, 7 to 9 p.m., at Seminole City Park, 7464 Ridge Road, Seminole. Admission is free. For information, visit www.myseminole.com. Performing will be Voices of Jazz.

• **Victor Wainwright**, Friday, Sept. 26, 8 p.m., at Skipper's Smokehouse, 910 Skipper Road, Tampa. Tickets are $7 in advance and $10 at the door. Call 813-971-0666 or visit www.skipperssmokehouse.com. Wainwright – the two-time Blues Music Award winner and Memphis-based piano player – will bring his band to the legendary Skipper's Smokehouse in Tampa. Though his career began over a decade ago with genuine rock n' roll honky-tonk, Wainwright has broadened his artistic scope over the years to include music representing virtually every corner of the blues. His insatiable interest in music discovery, sheer love for entertaining, and curiosity have led him all over the world. The resulting perspective is a reflection of his passion for entertaining and creating progressive roots music in an effort to move the art form forward. Composer, producer, vocalist, entertainer, and award winning piano player; Wainwright is a raucous, high-octane, dynamic performer and crowd pleaser with soul to spare.

• **"C.S. Lewis' The Great Divorce,"** Sept. 26-27, at the David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Performances are Friday, 8 p.m.; and Saturday, 4 and 8 p.m. Tickets start at $42.50. Call 813-229-7827 or 800-955-1045, or visit www.strazcenter.org. In this dantesque celestial journey from Hell to Paradise, Lewis draws some of the most fiercely funny characters he ever created. This is C. S. Lewis at his imaginative best. The performance is appropriate for ages 13 and older; children 3 and younger will not be admitted into the theater.

• **Reggae Rise Up Festival**, Saturday, Sept. 27, noon to 11 p.m., at the Raymond James Stadium, 4201 N. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa. General admission passes start at $35. Visit www.reggaeriseup.com. The show will feature performances by Rebelution, Steel Pulse, Collie Buddz, Zion I Crew, Ballyhoo!, Rootz Underground, Los Rakas and Stranger. There also will be a vendor village with unique food trucks as well as local artists and vendors.

Photo courtesy of PARADIGM TALENT AGENCY

Rebelution plays the Reggae Rise Up Festival Sept. 27 at Raymond James Stadium.

Photo by SCOTT GARFIELD

Chloe Grace Moretz stars as Teri and Denzel Washington as McCall in Columbia Pictures' "The Equalizer."

Opening this weekend

Animated 'The Boxtrolls' opens; Denzel Washington is 'The Equalizer'

Compiled by LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

'The Boxtrolls'

Genre: Adventure, animation and fantasy

Cast: Ben Kingsley, Isaac Hempstead Wright, Elle Fanning, Dee Bradley Baker, Steve Blum, Toni Collette, Jared Harris, Nick Frost, Richard Ayoade, Tracy Morgan and Simon Pegg

Director: Anthony Stacchi and Graham Annable

Rated: PG

"The Boxtrolls" is a family event movie from the makers of "Coraline" and "ParaNorman."

"The Boxtrolls" is a stop-motion, hand-drawn, and CG hybrid movie based on Alan Snow's best-selling fantasy adventure book "Here Be Monsters."

The new movie introduces audiences to a new breed of family – The Boxtrolls, a community of quirky, mischievous, fantastical creatures who have lovingly raised a human boy, Eggs (voiced by Isaac Hempstead Wright), since infancy in the amazing cavernous home they've built beneath the cobblestoned streets of Cheesebridge. They live a happy and harmonious existence away from society; the posh Victorian-era town's residents are obsessed with wealth, class, and fine – but stinky – cheeses. Lord Portley-Rind (Jared Harris), the de facto mayor, rules the roost with his snobbish elite crony men in White Hats. Like everyone else, he believes the scary stories about the Boxtrolls that have been spread far and wide for over a decade by the villainous Archibald Snatcher (Ben Kingsley). Determined to be accepted into the White Hats, Snatcher has imprisoned genius inventor and Boxtrolls friend Herbert Trubshaw (Simon Pegg) and is leading a gang known as the Red Hats to capture all the Boxtrolls. The Red Hats include the relentless Mr. Gristle (Tracy Morgan), the awkward Mr. Pickles (Richard Ayoade), and the stolid Mr. Trout (Nick Frost).

Photo courtesy of LAIKA INC./FOCUS FEATURES

Winnie, left, (voiced by Elle Fanning) and Eggs (voiced by Isaac Hempstead Wright) appear in LAIKA and Focus Features' family event movie "The Boxtrolls."

'The Equalizer'

Genre: Action and thriller

Cast: Denzel Washington, Marton Csokas, Chloë Grace Moretz, David Harbour, Bill Pullman and Melissa Leo

Director: Antoine Fuqua

Rated: R

In "The Equalizer," Denzel Washington plays McCall, a man who believes he has put his mysterious past behind him and dedicated himself to beginning a new, quiet life.

But when McCall meets Teri (Chloë Grace Moretz), a young girl under the control of ultra-violent Russian gangsters, he can't stand idly by – he has to help her. Armed with hidden skills that

See OPENING, page 4B

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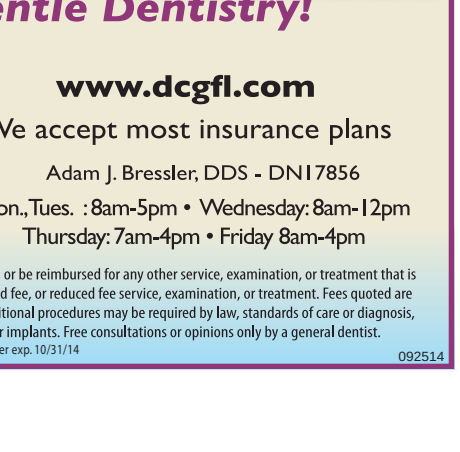

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Looking ahead

Largo

• **Zebra**, Thursday, Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at $24.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. In 1982 Zebra's self-titled debut album went platinum and was the fastest selling debut album in Atlantic Records' history outselling other Atlantic Artists such as Led Zeppelin, Yes and AC/DC. A total of five music videos aired on MTV and gave the band combined album sales of nearly 2 million worldwide with "Who's Behind the Door?", "Tell Me What You Want," "Wait Until the Summer's Gone," "Bears" and "One More Chance." Zebra has been inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame and is acknowledged as Louisiana's No. 1 Rock and Roll band by the Louisiana Music Commission. The band also was inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame on October of 2012. The concert will feature all three original members for a one-night-only performance in Largo.

• **Train weekend**, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 4-5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Drive, Largo. There is no cost to participate, but donations are accepted. For information, call 587-6740, ext. 5014.

• **Peace of Woodstock**, Saturday, Oct. 4, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at $24.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com.

• **The 10 O'Clock Band**, Sunday, Oct. 5, 2 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets are $24.50. Call 587-6793.

• **"Hamlet," by Shakespeare**, Oct. 10 through Nov. 2, at New Stage Theatre and Conservatory, 11650 131st St. N., Largo. Performances will be Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 3 p.m. Tickets are $30. Call 813-817-2585 or visit newstagelargo.org. Starring Chris Jackson as Hamlet, New Stage Theatre and Conservatory's production of one of theater's most iconic works – "Hamlet" – will be presented through an adaption inspired from Laurence Olivier's famous film, and will feature seven transformational actors.

• **Island Blast: An Evening of Good Vibes**, Saturday, Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at $5. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com.

• **Simon and Garfunkel Retrospective**, Sunday, Oct. 12, 2 and 7 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at $24.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com.

• **Circus Electronica**, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at $19.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. Embarking on its debut national tour and only Florida performance, Circus Electronica will take audience members to a world of traditional European-style circus with contemporary Electronic Dance Music. This all-ages show combines both aerial and ground based acrobatics and a live DJ that will seamlessly blend musical styles from multiple artists into a cohesive experience that's greater than the sum of its parts.

• **Country Royalty: A Musical Tribute to Hank Williams and Patsy Cline;** Saturday, Oct. 18, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Tickets start at $24.50. Call 587-6793 or visit LargoArts.com. Grammy nominated singing sensation, Carolyn Martin, gives a jaw-dropping performance as Patsy Cline while 2003 Obie Award winner Jason Petty re-creates the Hank Williams role he is so famous for. Jason and Carolyn, along with a live five-piece band, will take audiences back to a time when Hank and Patsy ruled the airwaves. Over 20 of their chart-topping hits are performed such as "Crazy," "Hey Good Lookin'," "Sweet Dreams," "Your Cheatin' Heart," "Walking After Midnight," "I Saw The Light," "I Fall To Pieces" and "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry."

• **Girls Night: The Musical**; Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 22-23, at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at $24.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com.

• **Andy McKee with special guest Mark Kroos**, Friday, Oct. 24, 8 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo. Tickets start at $19.50. Call 587-6793 or visit largoarts.com. McKee's style of playing and compositions have earned him an international fanbase. Mark Kroos is a rising star in the guitar world that simultaneously utilizes two necks of his double neck guitar to create his unique sound. This is a not to be missed show of world-class guitar talent.

Clearwater

• **"Greater Tuna,"** by Joe Sears, Jaston Williams, and Ed Howard; through Oct. 19, at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre, 13355 49th St. N., Clearwater. Matinees are Thursday and Saturday, 11 a.m. Evening performances are Saturday and Sunday, 4 p.m. Cost is $32 for dinner and the show. Call 446-5898 or visit www.earlybirddinnertheatre.com. In this wonderful and hilarious satire of life in small town Texas, the people who live in this all-to-nosy community are certainly unforgettable.

• **"Overboard,"** Friday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m., at the Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets are $1. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. • The '70s Movie Series, Saturday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m., at the Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets are $7. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. The double feature will include "Rocky" and "Rocky 2."

• **David Gray**, Monday, Sept. 29, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Tickets start at $43.25. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com. Gray has established himself as one of the U.K.'s leading music artists both at home and overseas. Gray's commercial success is also backed up by a critical consensus and countless accolades. His 2009 release "Draw The Line" was met with critical praise and garnered the artist a series of high profile television appearances as well as two sold-out tours of the U.S. "Foundling," Gray's ninth studio album picked up where "Draw The Line" left off and created a new chapter of lush soulful songs that found the artist returning to his folk music roots.

• **Nicki Bluhm and The Gramblers**, Tuesday, Sept. 30, 8 p.m., at Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Tickets start at $22. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com. Nicki Bluhm and the Gramblers made a needle's-eye leap onto the national music circuit in 2012, bringing with them a refreshing sound, spirited stage show and wellspring of good vibes, along with a turntable and milk crates stocked with their favorite vintage vinyl for backstage sustenance. The San Francisco-based band and its striking front woman with a girl-next-door demeanor step out with Nicki Bluhm and the Gramblers, a luminous, heartfelt patchwork of California folk-rock, brisk Americana and show-stopping soul, punctuated with fresh four-part harmonies, crisp rock guitar and Bluhm's soaring nuanced vocals that some critics say remind them of Linda Ronstadt. Their latest album, released on Little Sur, includes the single "Little Too Late," a fun and funky punch of soulful rock with an anthemic quality to the lyrics that quickly made the song a fan favorite.

Gulfport

• **USA Dance**, Monday, Sept. 29, 7 to 10:15 p.m., at Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Blvd., Gulfport. Admission is $7 and includes a dance workshop, professional and amateur exhibitions, dance hosts and snacks. For information, call 397-5754.

Palm Harbor

• The fourth annual P**alm Harbor Rocktoberfest**, Saturday, Oct. 11, 5 to 11 p.m., in historic downtown Palm Harbor. Three rock bands will perform at the event, including Hope Darling, Radio Crime and headliner The Michael Allman Band. Michael Allman is the son of rock star Greg Allman. Attendees also will enjoy great food, craft beer, fine wine and retail vendors on Florida Avenue. No coolers will be permitted at the event. For information, visit www.palmharborcc.org.

Pinellas Park

• **Pinellas Park Civic Orchestra**, Sunday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m., at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave. N., Pinellas Park. The talented, professional musicians will perform a selection of light classical pieces, show tunes and pop. Admission is free but donations are accepted. For information, visit www.pinellasparkorchestra.com.

Redington Beach

• **Fifth annual Oktoberfest**, Saturday, Oct. 4, 6:30 to 10 p.m., at Friendship Park, 164th Avenue and Second Street, Redington Beach. Cost is $30 in advance and $35 at the door. Call Eike and Mark Deighton at 393-0100, or email santasangels@tampabay.rr.com. The event is being presented to raise money to pay for presents for underprivileged children and food baskets for their families at Christmas time. Santa's Angels is a totally volunteer organization. All of the money raised is used to buy presents and food. Attendees will enjoy German sausages, sauerkraut, zwiebelkuchen (onion cake), and more as well as beer and wine, a short raffle and a DJ.

St. Petersburg

• **"Black Comedy,"** by Peter Shaffer, through Sept. 28, at St. Petersburg City Theatre, 4025 31st St. S., St. Petersburg. Tickets are $22 for adults and $10 for students. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. Call 866-1973 or visit www.spcitytheatre.org.

• **Helios Jazz Orchestra with Whitney James**, Tuesday, Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m., at The Palladium, 253 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Admission is $15. Visit www.mypalladium.org or call 822-3590. Singer Whitney James joins the Helios Jazz Orchestra in a special jazz big band concert at the Palladium Side Door venue. James' 2010 debut CD "The Nature of Love" spent 16 weeks on the national jazz charts and received critical acclaim from U.S. and international jazz press. In 2012, she was chosen as one of the top twelve rising stars in the world of jazz and was featured on Marian McPartland's "Piano Jazz Rising Stars" on NPR. The 18-piece Helios Jazz Orchestra, directed by David Manson, has been featured on the Clearwater Jazz Holiday, Ybor Jazz Festival and St. Petersburg Jazz Festival.

Seminole

• **Bacchus Bike Fest**, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 27-28, at Screwie Louie's Porpoise Pub, 8701 Seminole Blvd., Seminole. Events get underway Saturday, 10 a.m., with the start of a poker run. Gates open at 11 a.m. on Sunday. General admission passes start at $25. Visit www.bacchusbikefest.com. The event will feature three stages of live music with 12 bands, including headliner Quit Riot. The Black Honkeys, one of Tampa's staple soul, rock 'n' roll and funk bands, will open for Quiet Riot. Entertainment also will feature performances by supporting acts such as The Lovdogz, Twinkle and Rock Soul Radio Noon, Comfort Zone Band, Ann P, Rockjoint featuring Johnny Lee Middelton, Any Given Soul aka Scilter, Tom Spittle & the Tri-Chrome Trio and Retribution. Saturday night will feature the Adrian Ray Band starting at 9 p.m. Saturday will feature different trophy classes for a Bad Ass Bike contest and poker run sponsored by Toren Magazine. Bacchus for Charity organizes multiple events in the Tampa Bay area every year leveraging strategic partnerships to benefit other not-for-profit charities that support underprivileged children through sports training, tutoring and mentoring.

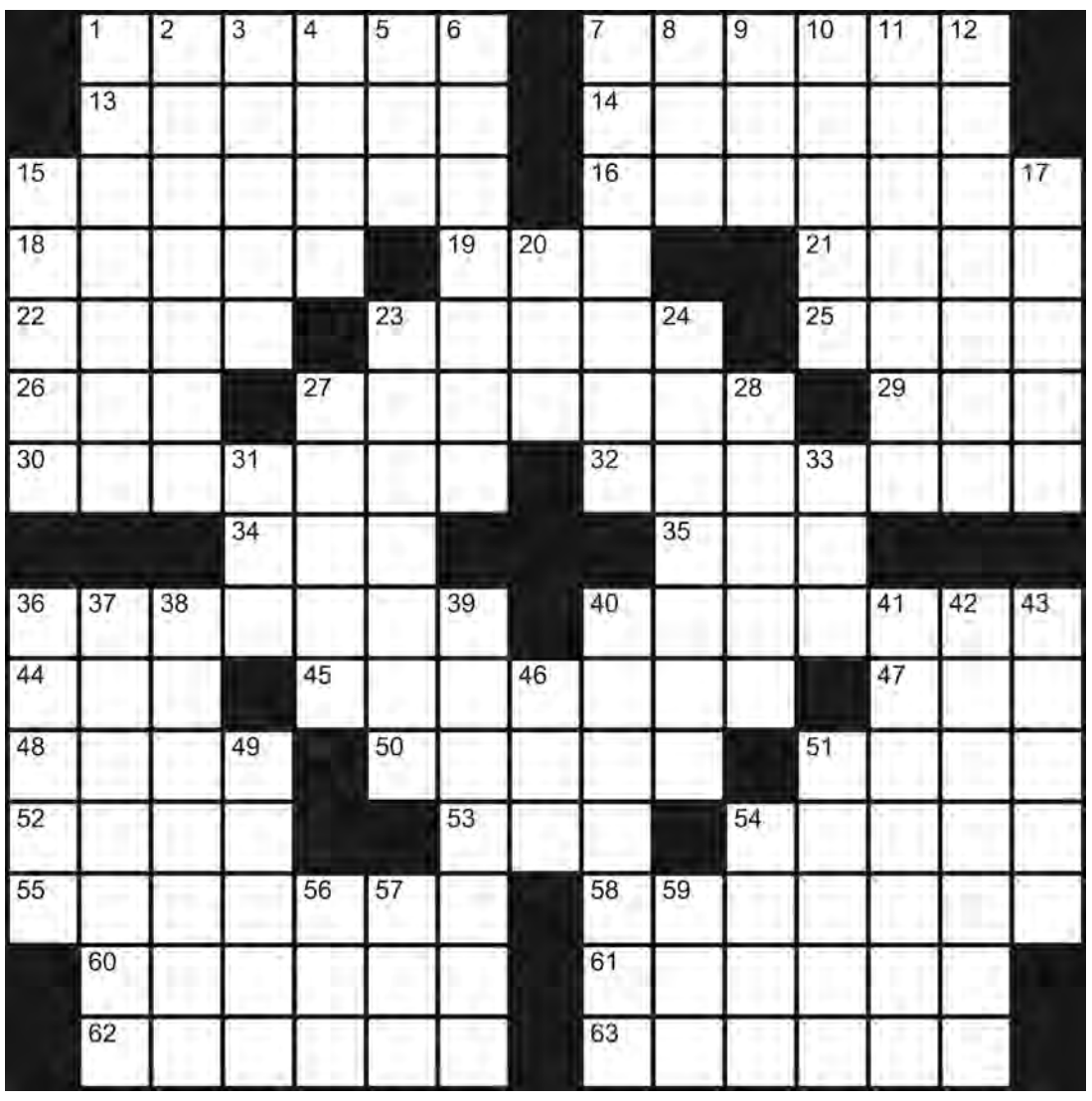
Tampa

• **"The Last Night of Ballyhoo,"** by Alfred Uhry, presented by Jobsite Theater; through Sept. 28, at the David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 4 p.m. Tickets start at $34.53. Call 813-229-7827 or 800-955-1045, or visit www.strazcenter.org. The play is set in Atlanta, Georgia, in December 1939. Adolph Freitag, his sister Boo, and nieces Lala and Sunny – a Jewish family so highly assimilated they have a Christmas tree in the front parlor – are obsessed with preparing for Ballyhoo, a lavish cotillion ball sponsored by their elite country club. Adolph's employee Joe Farkas is an eligible bachelor and an Eastern European Jew down from Brooklyn, familiar with prejudice but unable to fathom its existence within his own religious community. His presence prompts college student Sunny to examine intra-ethnic bias, her Jewish identity (or lack thereof), and the beliefs with which she's been raised. The family gets pulled apart and mended back together with plenty of comedy, romance, and unexpected revelations along the way.

Safety Harbor

• Harbor Sounds Music Festival, Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., in downtown Safety Harbor. The festival will feature three stages, arts and crafts vendors and food vendors. As part of this year's festival, Ruff, Ride and Roll for Heroes car show will cruise into the city hall parking lot from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, call 726-2890.

Crossword



Across

1. Bouquets
7. Prejudices
13. Emissary
14. Cause of hereditary variation
15. Spruce up
16. Power tools for smoothing wood
18. "Unforgettable" singers
19. Decide to leave, with "out"
21. Arch type
22. Cuckoos
23. Pigtail, e.g.
25. Bluster
26. Affranchise
27. Fixed
29. After expenses
30. Aridity
32. Baton wielder
34. Appropriate
35. Charge
36. Sack
40. ___ Island, TV show
44. Backstabber
45. Vine-supporting latticework
47. "So ___ me!"
48. ___ acid, a product of protein metabolism
50. Lieu
51. "Empedocles on ___" (Matthew Arnold poem)
52. Data
53. Sylvester, to Tweety
54. Ishmael's people
55. Collapse
58. Some theater
60. Farmer, at times
61. Sacred Zoroastrian writings
62. Fitting room endeavors
63. Cash in

Down

1. One who distributes charity
2. That which exists
3. Baddies
4. Foot pads
5. Absorbed, as a cost
6. Married women (Spanish)
7. Christian rite involving water
8. Down with the flu
9. ___ king, food (2 wds)
10. Man of La Mancha
11. Chic
12. More tranquil
15. Almost boil
17. Begin
20. Crash site?
23. Rouses to action
24. Hearing impairment device (2 wds)
27. Cache
28. Parenting challenges
31. 40 winks
33. Undertake, with "out"
36. Ancient Celtic priest
37. Heartfelt
38. More rigid
39. A through Z
40. Freight car without sides or roof (2 wds)
41. Ancient fertility goddess
42. Ray of sunlight
43. Bakery supply
46. Grassland
49. England Dan and John Ford ___, singing duo
51. Clear, as a disk
54. Lying, maybe
56. "Much ___ About Nothing"
57. Big ___ Conference
59. "___ Maria"

Sudoku

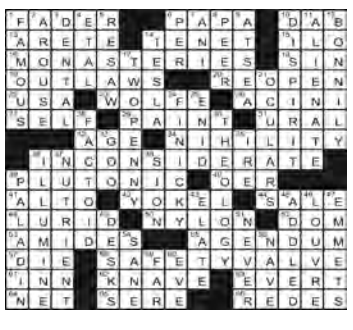
		1		2	4			
4	2	5			8			
9						4	5	2
8	1				5			
	7						3	
			2				1	6
1	4	7						3
			3			7	2	8
			6	9		1		

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.

Sudoku answers from last week

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

Crossword answers from last week



Horoscopes

September 25, 2014

Capricorn

December 22 – January 19

Love blossoms and many kind words are exchanged. A heated debate at work proves the need for regular meetings. Be the first to suggest it, Capricorn.

Aquarius

January 20 – February 18

Rumors fly this week. Pay them no heed, Aquarius. The truth will be revealed soon. A friend invites you on an outing. Say yes. You will have fun.

Pisces

February 19 – March 20

Tsk-tsk, Pisces. You can't have your cake and eat it too, not in this instance. Complaints stack up at home. Take them seriously. There is an easy fix.

Aries

March 21 – April 19

Worries compound at the office, and it turns out to be all for naught. Celebrate with a trip to an out-of-the-way place. A cause is worth fighting for, Aries.

Taurus

April 20 – May 20

Come on, Taurus. Take the leap. You will profit. A change in venue proves better all around. A young friend makes an offer out of this world.

Gemini

May 21 – June 21

Psst, Gemini. A little kindness will go a long way toward opening a door. A check of the finances reveals that you are close to meeting a goal.

Cancer

June 22 – July 22

Relationships come and go, but this one is worth saving, Cancer. A megawatt smile brightens your week and clues you in to a situation.

Leo

July 23 – August 22

Your moment in the sun comes to an end, but lucky for you, Leo, there is another one around the corner. A health problem is resolved.

Virgo

August 23 – September 22

Persistence pays off, Virgo. Don't give up no matter what the feedback. The idea is good. It just needs some work. A project concludes.

Libra

September 23 – October 22

Step on it, Libra. Time is of the essence. A family member changes direction midstream. Keep your reservations to yourself. It is the right move.

Scorpio

October 23 – November 21

This week is all about enjoying the fruits of your labor. There are lunches, games and more. Don't miss out, Scorpio. Attend every function.

Sagittarius

November 22 – December 21

Ask once, ask twice, ask thrice, and you will finally get it, Sagittarius. Painstaking efforts to restore a piece begin to take a toll on a loved one. Help them out.

Music scene

Clearwater Jazz Holiday lineup set; Lovett plays Mahaffey; Frampton plays REH

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

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

Seminole's annual **Music in the Park** series will continue at Seminole City Park, 7464 Ridge Road, Seminole. The music runs 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is free. Six concerts are planned, including the following:

• Oct. 3 – Comfort Zone

• Oct. 10 – D.A. Smith and the Soul Injectors

For information, visit www.myseminole.com.

The **Clearwater Jazz Holiday** runs Oct. 16-19, at Coachman Park on the waterfront in downtown Clearwater.

Daily general admission tickets are $15 in advance and $25 the day of the show. Children 12 and younger will be admitted free but must be accompanied by a paying adult. Four-day tickets also are available. Reserved seating prices start at $40 a day in advance.

Visit www.clearwaterjazz.com or call Clearwater Jazz Holiday office at 461-5200.

The four-day festival will feature performances by some of the hottest names in the genre as well as emerging talent.

The 2014 lineup is as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 16

Gates open at 4 p.m.

• Buster Cooper Quartet – 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

• Changing Keys – 6 to 7:45 p.m.

• Earth, Wind & Fire – 8:15 to 10 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 17

Gates open at 4 p.m.

• Al Downing Jazz All-Stars – 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

• Theo Valentin – 6 to 7 p.m.

• Dirty Dozen Brass Band – 7:30 to 9 p.m.

• Spyro Gyro – 9:30 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 18

Gates open at 1 p.m.

• TomKats Jazz Orchestra with Katt Hefner – 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

• Julie Black – 3 to 4 p.m.

• Belinda & Kool Reflektions – 4:30 to 6 p.m.

• Marcia Ball and Terrance Simien & The Zydeco Experience – 6:30 to 8:45 p.m.

• Dr. John & The Nite Trippers – 9:15 to 10:45 p.m.

A fireworks show will begin at 10:45 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 19

Gates open at 1:30 p.m.

• REH/CJH Youth Jazz Band – 2 to 3 p.m.

• Crash – 3:30 to 4 p.m.

• Spirit Family Reunion – 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

• Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue – 6 to 7:30 p.m.

• Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros – 8 to 9:30 p.m.

The Florida Orchestra will present **Pops in the Park** Saturday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m., at Vinoy Park, 501 Fifth Ave. NE, St. Petersburg.

Attendees will have an opportunity to enjoy a picnic under the stars with guest conductor Damon Gupton and The Florida Orchestra. The evening will feature a varied program of pop tunes, film scores, patriotic themes, Broadway hits and more with an Armed Forces Salute, Bernstein's Candide Overture, Shostakovich's Festival Overture and Sousa's El Capitan March, along with music from Grofé's Mississippi Suite, Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake and Rodgers' South Pacific. The evening will conclude with Tchaikovsky's explosive 1812 Overture.

The **Coral Skies Music Festival** is set for Saturday, Oct. 25, noon, at the Mid Florida Credit Union Amphitheatre, at the Florida State Fairgrounds, 4802 U.S. 301 N., Tampa.

General admission tickets start at $30. Call 813-740-2446 or visit www.livenation.com. The all-day music festival will feature two stages, art and craft beer.

The performance lineup will include Cage the Elephant, Bombay Bicycle Club, Bleachers, Tokyo Police Club, Good Graeff, The Hold Steady and Benjamin Booker.

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

Capitol Theatre

• Richard Marx, Saturday, Oct. 11, 8 p.m.

• Clearwater Jazz Holiday After Party featuring the Clearwater Jazz Holiday Jam Band, Friday, Oct. 17, 10 p.m.

• Clearwater Jazz Holiday After Party featuring the Clearwater Jazz Holiday Jam Band, Saturday, Oct. 18, 10 p.m.

• Justin Hayward, Monday, Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m.

• Los Lonely Boys, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m.

• Jorma Kaukonen, Thursday, Oct. 23, 8 p.m.

• Kidz Bop, Saturday, Oct. 25, 2 p.m.

Capitol Theatre is at 405 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Call 791-7400 or visit www.atthecap.com.

Crowbar

• This Legend featuring Ben Harper and LP, Sunday, Oct. 26, 8 p.m.

• Mike Doughty, Tuesday, Oct. 28, 8 p.m.

Crowbar is at 1812 N. 17th St., Tampa. Call 813-241-8600.

Jannus Live

• Citizen Cop, Saturday, Oct. 4, 9 p.m.

• Rise Against, Sunday, Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m.

• Gov't Mule, Saturday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m.

• Macy Gray, Saturday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.

• Brand New, Sunday, Oct. 26, 6 p.m.

Jannus Live is at 16 Second St. N., St. Petersburg. Call 565-0550 or visit www.jannuslive.com.

The Local 662

• The Mojo Gurus and Selwyn Birchwood, Saturday, Oct. 4, 8 p.m.

• Jellyroll, Monday, Oct. 6, 8 p.m.

• Jon Bellion, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.

• Authority Zero, Saturday, Oct. 25, 6 p.m.

• New Kingston, Friday, Oct. 31, 8 p.m.

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

The Mahaffey

• The Florida Orchestra: Beethoven & Rachmaninoff; Saturday, Oct. 11, 8 p.m.

• The Florida Orchestra: The Music of The Rolling Stones; Friday, Oct. 17, 8 p.m.

• Lyle Lovett, Sunday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.

• Arrival: The Music of ABBA; Friday, Oct. 24, 8 p.m.

• The Florida Orchestra: Barber's Violin Concerto; Saturday, Oct. 25, 8 p.m.

• The Florida Orchestra: Magic Mystery and Music; Thursday, Oct. 30, 11 a.m.

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

Mid Florida Credit Union Amphitheatre

• Jason Aldean, Friday, Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m.

• Coral Skies Music Festival, Saturday, Oct. 25, noon

The Amphitheatre is at the Florida State Fairgrounds, 4802 U.S. 301 N., Tampa. Call 813-740-2446 or visit www.livenation.com.

The Palladium

• Damon Fowler Band, Saturday, Oct. 4, 8 p.m.

• Pieces of a Dream, Friday, Oct. 24, 8 p.m.

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

Raymond James Stadium

• One Direction, Friday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m.

Raymond James Stadium is at 4201 N. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa.

The Ritz Ybor

• CHVRCHES, Monday, Oct. 6, 8 p.m.

• Capital Cities, Thursday, Oct. 23, 8 p.m.

• Yellowcard and Memphis May Fire, Sunday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m.

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

Ruth Eckerd Hall

• Chicago, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.

• Peter Frampton, Friday, Oct. 3, 8 p.m.

• The Australian Pink Floyd Show, Wednesday, Oct. 8, 8 p.m.

• Rodrigo y Gabriela, Thursday, Oct. 9, 8 p.m.

• The Florida Orchestra: Beethoven & Rachmaninoff; Sunday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.

• Ringo Starr & The All-Starr Band, Thursday, Oct. 23, 8 p.m.

• The Florida Orchestra: Barber's Violin Concerto; Sunday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m.

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

Skipper's Smokehouse

• Sean Chambers Band, Friday, Oct. 3, 8 p.m.

• John Nemeth, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.

• Samantha Fish, Saturday, Oct. 11, 8 p.m.

• Jimmy Thackery and the Drivers, Sunday, Oct. 12, 8 p.m.

• The Red Elvises, Saturday, Oct. 18, 8 p.m.

• Chris Duarte, Saturday, Oct. 25, 8 p.m.

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

State Theatre

• You Me At Six, Thursday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m.

• Old 97's, Saturday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m.

• Emery with Norma Jean, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 6 p.m.

• Eyes Set To Kill, Saturday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m.

• Jackyl, Friday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m.

• The Toasters, Sunday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.

• Dumpstaphunk, Thursday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m.

• The Devil Makes Three, Saturday, Oct. 25, 8 p.m.

• Watsky, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 8 p.m.

• Amaranthe, Thursday, Oct. 30, 8 p.m.

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

The Straz Center for the Performing Arts

• The Florida Orchestra: Beethoven & Rachmaninoff; Friday, Oct. 10, 8 p.m.

• Tiempo Libre, Saturday, Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m., in Carol Morsani Hall

• The Florida Orchestra: Barber's Violin Concerto; Friday, Oct. 24, 8 p.m.

• The Florida Orchestra: Fiesta! An Evening with The Mambo Kings; Friday, Oct. 31, 8 p.m.

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

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

Photo by LISA HOULGRAVE/TED KURLAND ASSOCIATES

Dr. John plays Clearwater Jazz Holiday Oct. 18.

Photo by MICHAEL WILSON

Lyle Lovett visits The Mahaffey Theater on Oct. 19.

Photo by LeANN MUELLER/REYBEE PRODUCTIONS

Jannus Live welcomes Rise Against Oct. 5.

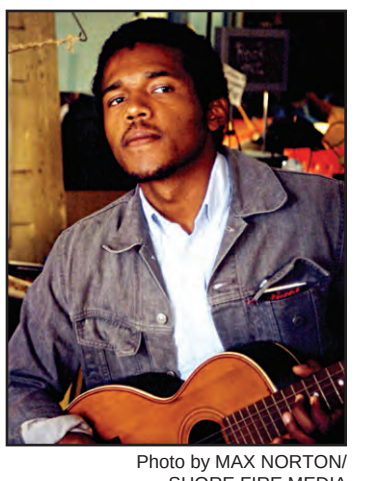


Photo by MAX NORTON/ SHORE FIRE MEDIA

Benjamin Booker is one of many artists set to perform at the Coral Skies Music Festival on Oct. 25.

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A dejected heart prompts him to return home in hopes of a menial job on his father's estate. He nears home, Father runs to meet him with open arms. Repentance, reconciliation, and rejoicing conclude the story. *(Luke 15:11-32)*

Humanity, experiencing times of unprecedented trouble, is in similar straits. But it will finally realize the reasons for its utter failures: ignoring God's truths when solving life's problems, casting aside His laws, excluding Him from their thoughts…

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Contributor: "Joy Cometh in the Morning"

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Necronomicon 2014

Tampa Bay area's science fiction, fantasy and horror convention welcomes Eric Flint

By LEE CLARK ZUMPE

TAMPA – Author Eric Flint will be the guest of honor at Stone Hill Science Fiction Association's Necronomicon 2014, running Friday through Sunday, Oct. 3-5, at Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, 2900 Bayport Drive, Tampa.

Three-day memberships cost $50. One-day memberships are $25 a day for Friday and Saturday and $20 for Sunday. To purchase tickets, visit necronomicon2014.com.

The convention will feature informative panels and a full schedule of events and programs including the annual Cthulhu Memorial Eye Scream Social, the Necronomi-Prom, the Ygor Party Ghourmet Bheer Tasting, ongoing video and anime rooms, a masquerade, costume contest, trivia contests and an art show.

Attendees also will enjoy plenty of workshops and demonstrations as well as filking. For those unfamiliar with this convention tradition, filk songs, as explained on Stone Hill's Necronomicon website, "are parodies of real songs, and originals, too, all with a 'fanish' bent." Filk songs may be about a favorite book, film, television show, game, comic book or other science fiction or fantasy content. Filkers can participate in song sessions throughout the weekend.

Convention organizers have selected dozens of panel topics for Necronomicon 2014. The schedule is still being finalized, but among the anticipated topics to be covered are programs on the enduring popularity of Lovecraftian fiction, writing in shared worlds, developing a "great villain" and writing with a "Florida flair." Necronomicon panels traditionally include discussions on writing, costuming, social media and the author, game design, self-publishing and art.

Guest of honor

Born in 1947, Eric Flint is an author as well as an editor and e-publisher.

Flint writes primarily in the genre of alternate history science fiction and is best known for his 1632 book series that launched with the publication of "1632" in 2000.

His career as a writer began in the early 1990s. His short story "Entropy, and the Strangler" won first place in the Winter 1992 Writers of the Future contest – a quarterly story contest established by L. Ron Hubbard in the 1980s.

"The coordinator of the contest in 1992 was Dave Wolverton, and the panel of judges consisted of Anne McCaffrey, Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle and Algys Budrys," Flint writes in a biography on his website. "The story was published in the 1993 anthology, which the contest puts out on an annual basis."

According to Flint, "Entropy, and the Strangler" sprang from a major fantasy series he had been working on since 1969. In 1993, Flint had completed – along with co-author Richard Roach – the first volume in the Joe's World series. Titled "The Philosophical Strangler," the book would not be published until 2001. Because of the difficulty he faced in finding a publisher for the book, Flint turned his attention to writing more straightforward science fiction and fantasy.

The first product to come from this new direction was "Mother of Demons," published in 1997 by Baen Books. "Mother of Demons" was Flint's debut novel and it led directly to his next project: a collaboration with David Drake on a series of alternate history/military science fiction novels revolving around the Roman general Flavius Belisarius, a real historical figure.

The Belisarius series kicked off with "An Oblique Approach" in 1998. The following year, Flint pitched the novel "1632" to Baen Books. Jim Baen – the founder and owner of Baen Books – bought it. "1632" is about a fictional town named Grantville, West Virginia. Grantville is displaced in the space-time continuum, relocated from April 2000 to central Germany, May 1631. The story shows how the town's residents cope with the situation in the midst of the Thirty Years' War in Europe.

"'1632' came out in February of 2000 and has since sold very well," Flint writes on his website. "Well enough, in fact, that what I had originally intended to be a stand-alone novel (and does work as such) has now become a burgeoning series."

In fact, the series has become a collective collaborative effort, involving several other established science fiction writers as well as fan-written material which appears on an online message board called Baen's Bar (bar.baen.com) and in the Grantville Gazette (www. grantvillegazette.com). Among the subsequent novels in the series as "1633," co-written by Flint and David Weber; "1634: The Galileo Affair" and "1635: The Cannon Law," co-written by Flint and Andrew Dennis; and "1634: The Bavarian Crisis," co-written by Flint and Virginia DeMarce. The series also has produced several anthologies featuring the works of other authors, all edited by Flint.

In addition to Flint, several other authors will be in attendance, taking part in various panels. Writers currently listed on the Necronomicon website include Richard Lee Byers, Tampa Bay area resident and author of more than 30 fantasy and horror novels, including a number set in the Forgotten Realms universe; Pete Rawlik, author of the Cthulhu mythos novels "Reanimators" and "The Weird Company" as well as short stories appearing in anthologies such as "World War Cthulhu" and "Steampunk Cthulhu"; Rick Wilber, Tampa Bay area resident and author of more than 35 short stories in magazines such as "Aboriginal SF," "Analog," "Asimov's Science Fiction" and "Fantasy & Science Fiction"; Timothy Zahn, author of more than 40 science fiction novels including works in the Dragonback series and the bestselling Star Wars novel "Heir to the Empire"; Glenda Finkelstein, an award-winning science fiction writer who has published six novels, including "The Edge of the Universe" and "Nemesis Rising"; and Kat Heckenbach, author of the young adult fantasy novels "Finding Angel" and "Seeking Unseen."

Iver Cooper, a contributor to Flint's 1632 shared universe, also will be on hand. Cooper has written and published 22 short stories and more than 40 articles in the online Grantville Gazette. His anthology of braided short stories – "1636: Seas of Fortune" – was published in January 2014 by Baen and Simon & Schuster.

Art show

Necronomicon's annual art show features works in many genres such as science fiction, fantasy, horror, astronomical, comedy, Celtic and anime. Attendees will find work in a variety of media, such as jewelry, sculpture, wall hangings, armor, wood carvings, etched glass and pottery.

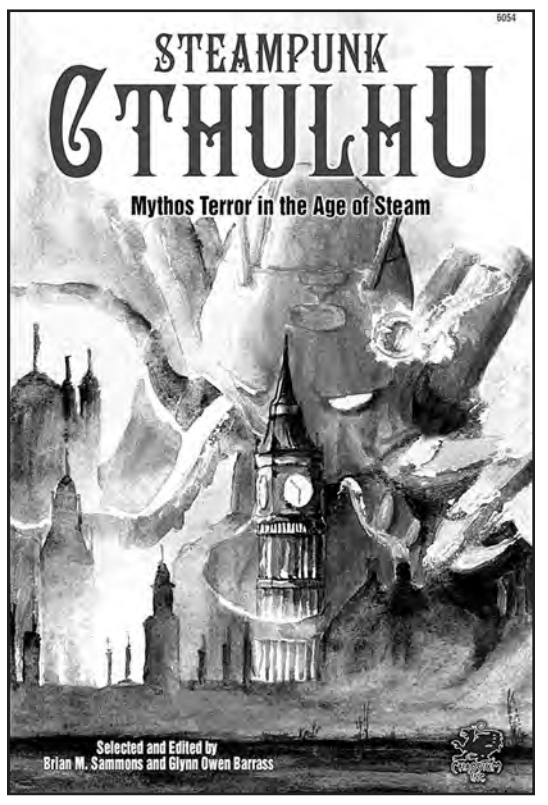
Art items are sold for "quick sale" (a fixed price to buy it immediately), or written bids.

The art show is split into two distinct areas:

• The Art Gallery – The gallery features six-foot tables for 3-D work, as well as vertical panels for hanging space. There is a 10 percent commission charged on all artwork sold. The commission goes entirely to the convention's chosen charitable organization.

• The Print Shop – This area, located inside the Art Gallery, is used to display multiple copies of fixed price prints and 3-D works. There is a 10 percent commission charged on all artwork sold here, with the commission benefiting the charity.

Necronomicon offers ribbons for first, second and third place in color, black and white and 3-D, as well as an award for Best in Show. The attendees do the judging and winners will be announced during the costume contest on Saturday night.



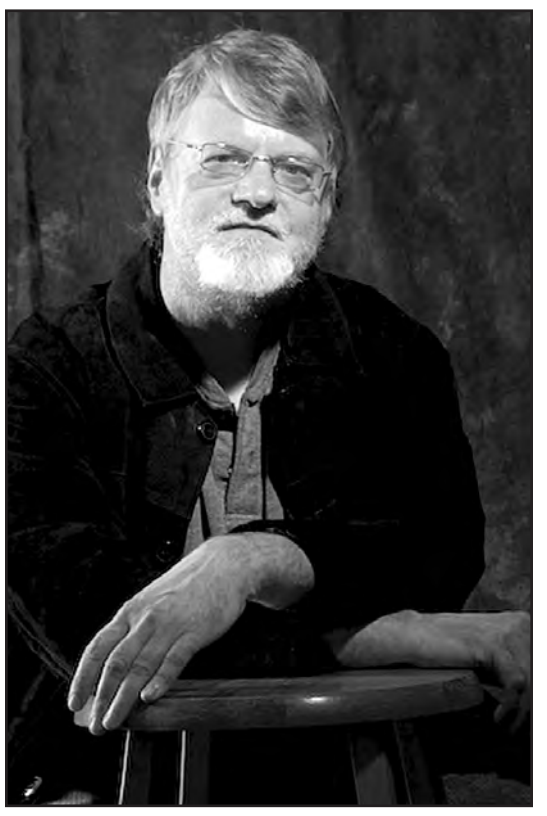


Image courtesy of CHAOSIUM

Above left, Pete Rawlik – scheduled to be a guest and panelist at this year's Necronomicon convention in Tampa – contributed to the recent Chaosium anthology "Steampunk Cthulhu." Edited by Brian M. Sammons and Glynn Owen Barrass, the collection also features work by authors such as Jeffrey Thomas, William Meikle, John Goodrich and Lee Clark Zumpe. Above right, Tampa Bay area resident Richard Lee Byers is the author of more than 30 novels, including 10 set in the Forgotten Realms universe. Byers will be a guest and panelist at this year's Necronomicon. At left, Kat Heckenbach, author of the young adult fantasy novels "Finding Angel" and "Seeking Unseen," is on the list of guests and panelists attending this year's Necronomicon convention in Tampa Oct. 3-5.

Gaming at the con

Necronomicon 2014 will present a wide variety of gaming opportunities for attendees. The first games will begin Friday at 4 p.m. and the last games will end Sunday at 4 p.m.

Game play will include roleplaying games, board and miniature games and collectible card games, Live Action Role Playing and Computer LAN gaming.

Once again, Necro Gaming will provide its Gaming Library. Attendees can visit the gaming information table, ask to see the library and pick a game to play.

Programs are planned using a variety of gaming systems and manufacturers such as Steve Jackson's Munchkin, Call of Cthulhu, GURPS Steampunk, Avalon Hill, Dungeons and Dragons 5.0 and Lords of the Waterdeep.

For information and a schedule, visit www.rjritchie.com/necro/index.cfm.

History of Necronomicon

Now in its 32ndt year, Necronomicon began back in 1982 and, over the years, has drawn a number of distinguished guests in the field of speculative literature. The first year's guests of honor were Andrew Offutt and Marv Wolfman. Past guests of honor have including Larry Niven, Andre Norton, Piers Anthony, Alan Dean Foster, Robert Bloch, Roger Zelazny, Fred Pohl, Orson Scott Card and Terry Prachett.

The Stone Hill Science Fiction Association is a nonprofit organization. All workers at the convention are volunteers. Proceeds from the event will benefit a charity organization. In the past, Stone Hill has raised funds for organizations such as the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, Wildlife Rescue, Francis House and Kids and Canines.

Visit necronomicon2014.com.

OPENING, from page 1B

allow him to serve vengeance against anyone who would brutalize the helpless, McCall comes out of his self-imposed retirement and finds his desire for justice reawakened. If someone has a problem, if the odds are stacked against them, if they have nowhere else to turn, McCall will help. He is The Equalizer.

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

'Asmodexia'

Genre: Horror and thriller

Cast: Albert Baró, Marta Belmonte and Pepo Blasco

Director: Marc Carreté

Not rated

"Asmodexia" concerns Eloy de Palma, an exorcist pastor roaming the darkest corners of the country with his granddaughter Alba.

Their mission is to help those possessed by The Evil One, an infection of the soul that is spreading fast, especially among the most vulnerable members of society: children, mental patients, and drug addicts. There is also a mysterious cult following them, making it more difficult to help those in need. Each exorcism is tougher than the one before, and every battle with Evil reveals a piece of young Alba's forgotten past – an enigma that if unconcealed could change the world as we know it.

'Days and Nights'

Genre: Drama

Cast: Katie Holes, Christian Camargo, William Hurt, Allison Janney, Cherry Jones, Russell Means, Michael Nyqvist, Jean Reno, Juliet Rylance, Mark Rylance and Ben Whishaw

Director: Christian Camargo

Not rated

"Days and Nights" is writer/director Christian Camargo's directorial debut, inspired by Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull" and set in rural New England in the 1980s.

The film centers around Elizabeth (Allison Janney), a movie star, who brings her paramour Peter (Christian Camargo) to her lakeside estate to visit her family on Memorial Day weekend. The household includes her ailing brother (William Hurt), her artist son (Ben Whishaw), his ethereal muse (Juliet Rylance), the family doctor (Jean Reno) and the estate's custodian (Russell Means), the careless caretaker (Michael Nyqvist) and his wife (Cherry Jones), their temperamental daughter (Katie Holmes) and her long suffering ornithologist husband (Mark Rylance) – the keeper of the sacred land where a bald eagle is trying to raise its young.

During the weekend a disastrous turn of events leads the family from dysfunction to heartbreak and, ultimately, salvation.

'Good People'

Genre: Crime and drama

Cast: James Franco, Kate Hudson, Omar Sy and, Tom Wilkinson

Director: Henrik Ruben Genz

Not rated

"Good People" is a contemporary thriller about an American couple living in London who fall into severe debt renovating his family's home.

And then they find the tenant in their downstairs apartment has passed away and left 200,000 pounds in cash. All they have to do is take the money and all their problems will be solved. So they do, and that's when very bad things start happening to good people.

'Jimi: All Is By My Side'

Genre: Drama and music

Cast: Andre Benjamin, Hayley Atwell, Imogen Poots, Andrew Buckley and Ruth Negga

Director: John Ridley

Not rated

OutKast's André Benjamin stars as Jimi Hendrix in this revealing biopic from Academy Award-winning writer-director John Ridley.

Covering a year in Hendrix's life from 1966 to 1967 as an unknown backup guitarist playing New York's Cheetah Club to making his mark in London's music scene up until his Monterey Pop triumph, the film presents an intimate portrait of the sensitive young musician on the verge of becoming a rock legend.

'The Song'

Genre: Drama and Romance

Cast: Alan Powell, Ali Faulkner and Caitlin Nicol-Thomas

Director: Richard Ramsey

Rated: PG-13

"The Song" follows aspiring singer-songwriter Jed King (Alan Powell) as he struggles to catch a break and escape the long shadow of his father, a country music legend.

After reluctantly accepting a gig at a local vineyard harvest festival, Jed is love-struck by the vineyard owner's daughter, Rose (Ali Faulkner), and a romance quickly blooms. Soon after their wedding, Jed writes Rose "The Song," which becomes a breakout hit. Thrust into a life of stardom and a world of temptation in the form of fellow performer Shelby Bale (Caitlin Nicol-Thomas), Jed's life and marriage begin to fall apart.

'The Two Faces of January'

Genre: Drama and thriller

Cast: Viggo Mortensen, Kirsten Dunst and Oscar Isaac

Director: Hossein Amini

Rated: PG-13

Screenwriter Hossein Amini makes a stylish directing debut with this sleek thriller set in Greece and Istanbul, 1962, and adapted from a novel by Patricia Highsmith.

"The Two Faces of January" centers on a wealthy American couple – portrayed by Viggo Mortensen and Kristen Dunst – on a tour of Greece in the 1960s. There they meet a con-artist (Oscar Isaac) who becomes entranced with the couple's wealth and beauty. A sudden accident puts all three in danger. As they set off through Greece, the trio's allegiance is put to the test.

Photo courtesy of MAGNOLIA PICTURES

Viggo Mortensen stars in "The Two Faces of January."

'Pride'

Genre: Comedy and drama

Cast: Bill Nighy, Imelda Staunton, Dominic West, Paddy Considine, Andrew Scott, Joseph Gilgun, George MacKay and Ben Schnetzer

Director: Matthew Warchus

Rated: R

"Pride" is inspired by an extraordinary true story.

It's the summer of 1984, Margaret Thatcher is in power and the National Union of Mineworkers is on strike, prompting a London-based group of gay and lesbian activists to raise money to support the strikers' families. Initially rebuffed by the union, the group identifies a tiny mining village in Wales and sets off to make their donation in person. As the strike drags on, the two groups discover that standing together makes for the strongest union of all.

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#183 – 2/2, Furn., Shed or Garage, $79,888

$175/Mo. Maintenance
No Flood Insurance Required!
12501 Ulmerton Rd., Largo.
Brochures Available At Clubhouse.
For Viewing Call
IMapp Realty Group
John Doles, 727-510-3331

091814

BAY PINES MARINA COMMUNITY
55+ 2BR/2BA, in Unrestricted Pet Section. Completely Updated Throughout, Large Master W/En-suite, Fenced Yard, Screened Porch. Active Community W/Pool. $34,900 (270)302-6623

95. Property Mgmt.

GOT VACANCIES?
Let Us Fill & Manage Your Properties.
Seasonal & Annual.
Staging Services Available.
Florida Dreams R.E. Sales & Rentals, (727)266-3767.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

100. R.E. Wanted

072414-2

$$ WE BUY HOUSES $$
And Fix Problems!
See If We Can Help YOU!
(727)537-6150

130. Cemetery Lots

ANONA PIONEER CEMETERY
Inside Serenity Gardens. 2 Lots, Lot 68. Make Offer! (727)585-8877, (678)513-1177.

DOUBLE MAUSOLEUM CRYPT
At Garden Sanctuary, In Seminole. Retails $7,195, Asking $4,000/OBO. (727)399-8191

SYLVAN ABBEY
Interior Companion Crypt, In Lovely Chapel Hall, Valued $10,000! Will Sell For $5,000. (727)586-040

RENTALS

155. Furnished Condos

SEMINOLE GARDENS
1BR/1BA, 874SF,
Newly Renovated
$800/Month-Yearly.
Ridge Seminole Mgmt. Corp.
(727)397-2534

KNOW SOMEONE WHO WANTS
To Get Out of the Snow for December? Call Barbara
(727)481-8891

160. Unfurnished Condos

SHIPWATCH 2BR/2BA,
Vaulted Ceilings, W/D, Bonus Room, Near Pool. $1,300/Mo.
www.ShipwatchRealty.com
Shipwatch Realty, (727)596-6508.

A Renter's Dream

SEMINOLE, LONG BAYOU
2BR/1BA, 55+, Second Floor, Gated Community, Newly Remodeled, Quiet, Clean. Resort Style Living. $900/Month. Available 12/1/14. (727)385-7718.

SEMINOLE VERY LARGE 2BR/2BA, 1,150SF
Pool, W/D, Carport. 2/blocks to St. Pete College. $800/Month, Security deposit. (727)647-1609.

SEMINOLE GARDENS 55+
2BR/2BA, Corner Unit. Newly Remodeled. No Smoking or Pets. $825/Month, Annual. Bill (727)397-5512, (727)641-6681.

165. Villa Rentals

TIMBERWOODS, LARGO
2BR/2BA, $895/Month, Annual +Electric and Cable. First, Last and $500 Security Deposit. 1 Small Dog or Cat. Nonsmoking. Stephanie See, Results Real Estate, Inc. (727)580-6275.

170. Furnished Apts.

CLEARWATER STUDIO
Starting at $189/Week.
No security. No Credit Check.
Free WIFI access. Pets OK.
MOVE IN TODAY!! (727)445-7134.
precisionpropertymanagement.net

175. Unfurnished Apts.

AFFORDABLE & NICE!
Dunedin Room, $85/Wkly, Free Water, Electric. Clearwater Studio, $495/Mo. Won't Last! Call Or Click www.586-2412.com

SEMINOLE GARDENS, 55+.
Large 1BR, Furnished, Corner Apt. No Pets. Nonsmokers Only. Robert G. Castles, P.A. Broker. (727)319-8229
www.SeminoleGarden.com

BELLEAIR BLUFFS
Call For Move-in Special:
Deluxe 1-2BRs, 1st-2nd Floor. Non-smoking, Courtyard W/Beautiful Pool. Walking Distance to Neighborhood Shopping and Restaurants. 2942 W Bay Dr. (727)510-9085

INDIAN SHORES 1BR
C/H/A, Includes E/W/S, Beach Access. 19235 Whispering Pines Drive. $1,000/Month. (727)631-5484. Owner/ Agent.

SW LARGO: LARGE 1BR/1BA,
$500/Month. Quiet. Laundry on Premises. Petless. $400 security. Yearly lease. (727)595-2228. Last Month FREE!

081814

Imperial Palms Meet & Greet Carnival!
September 25th
Open House 2-4pm
Carnival 4-6pm
Open to the Public
1 & 2 Bedroom Apts.
Screened-In Lanais, Resort Sized Pools, Monthly Calendar Full of Activities & Much More.
Take a tour! All applicants on the day receive free admission into the Carnival
Call for more details
(727)585-3723
MyImperialPalmsHome.com

St. Giles Manor II
Apartments for the Elderly
Applications available at
7650 58th Street, N.
Pinellas Park, FL 33781
One Bedroom Apartments
Rent Based on Income
(727) 623-9886
TTY - 800 955-8771

091312

185. Beach Rentals

FALL SPECIALS!
INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
Cozy, Clean, Furnished Cottages.
1-2BRs starting at:
$329/week +tax
Steps to Gulf Beach.
Pet Friendly.
(727)595-3000.
www.SunshineCozyCottages.com

MADEIRA BEACH EFFICIENCY
w/Kitchen, Furnished, Phone, Cable, Laundry, Pool. Across From Beach. No Pets. $280/Week, FL Residents. 14711 Gulf Blvd. (866)394-0751.

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.

FIRST MONTH HALF OFF!
Indian Rocks Beach, Beautiful Condo, 1BR/1BA, Hardwood Floors, Stainless Appliances, W/D, Granite. No Pets. $995/Mo. Annual. First/ Last/ Security. (727)596-4056.

185. Beach Rentals

CLEARWATER/ SAND KEY
Landmark Towers, 2BR/2BA. Gulf-Front & Intracoastal Views, Nicely Furnished. 24/7 Security, Incl. Amenities. No Pets. Available For Short or Long Term Lease. Owner, (813)431-9381, (813)909-9370.

MADEIRA BEACH APARTMENTS,
Fully Furnished. 1BRs & Efficiencies. Starting At $200/Wk. Most Utilities Included. Call For Availability, (727)397-4130.

INDIAN SHORES!

TOTALLY RENOVATED
2BR/2.5BA Furnished Townhome with Private W/D and Garage. Walk to Beach! No Pets/ No Smoking. Pool. Weekly or Monthly. (877)518-9190

MADEIRA BEACH
Furnished, 1 & 2 Bedrooms, 1/2 Block from Beach, Spotless. Long/ Short Term. (727)347-5330

NORTH CLEARWATER BEACH
Quiet, Clean 1BR Furnished, Efficiency. Includes All Utilities and WIFI. Great Beach Location! NS, No Pets, $900/Month. Jack (727)412-5005.

REDINGTON SHORES 2BR/2BA,
Fully Furnished, Recently Renovated, New Carpet, Patio Overlooking Pool, Directly Across from the Gulf. No Pets. $1,500/Mo. 6-12 Months Available. Includes W/S/T, Basic Cable. Just Bring Your Toothbrush & Your Clothes. Call Today (617)839-1508.

MADEIRA BEACH 1BR/1BA,
Unfurnished. Beach Front Complex Near John's Pass. Heated Pool. Annual Lease, Must Be Primary Residence. $1,200/Mo. 1st, Last, Security. No Sublet, Background Check Required. (727)391-1341.

190. Waterfront Rentals

MADEIRA BEACH CONDO
55+. 2BR/2BA. Annual Lease Only. No Pets. Non-Smoking. $1,400/Mo. (727)391-6407.

SAND KEY CONDO
Best Location on Intracoastal. Walk to Beach. 2BR/2BA Unfurnished. New Appliances, Remodeled. W/D. Nonsmoking. Petless. $1,650/Mo. Annual. Available 11/1. (727)593-0644.

195. Seasonal Rentals

SAND KEY, CLEARWATER BCH
Furnished 2BR/2BA Condos Available 1-12 Months.
Florida Dreams RE Sales & Rentals, Inc. (727)266-3767.

210. Mobile Hm. Rentals

MOVE-IN SPECIAL!
$200 Plus Rent.
28 Week Lease.
Includes W/S/T/L.
Gulf Breeze MHP (727)474-1074

215. Efficiency Rentals

STUDIO, LARGO,
848 3rd Ave. NW, #3.
Petless. Single Occupancy, $600/Month Includes Utilities, +$350 Security. (727)768-1143

225. Duplex/Triplex Rentals

LARGO, BY BEACH
2BR/1BA, 900SF, W/D Hook-Ups, Tile, Fenced Yard, Carport. W/S/G, Lawn Included. $850/Mo. First, Last, Security. (727)542-7571.

SEMINOLE, QUIET 2BR/1BA
W/D Hook-up, No Pets, $700/MO, +Security, Includes Some Utilities, Credit Check. (727)586-5378

245. Room For Rent

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

SEMINOLE HEARTBREAK HOUSE
Quiet, Furnished, 2.5/Bath. Pool, Cable, Electric, Pet?, W/D Included. $130/Wk & Up. Security Required, BGC. Patriot Guard Riders Discount S.R. (210)560-4943.

SEMINOLE, OFF PARK BLVD
Nicely furnished, w/private bath, microwave, small refrigerator, cable. $145/week +security. (727)398-0763

LARGE POOL HOME
Pinellas Park, Includes Utilities, Cable, W/D, Internet, No Pets or Smoking. Lots Of Parking (727)541-2173

255. Accom. To Share

RETIRED SHIP CAPTAIN
Has House to Share. Seeking Nonsmoking, Female House Mate. Terms Negotiable. (727)549-1035. Pinellas Park

265. Commercial Rentals

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

PROFESSIONAL/ MEDICAL OFFICE
2260 West Bay Drive, Belleair Bluffs/ Largo Line, 1,450SF, 20 Years Medical Office. (727)518-6551.

MISCELLANEOUS

345. Lost & Found

FOUND: Kayak, vicinity of Indian Rocks Bridge, approx. Aug. 30. Call to identify. (727)460-2580.

LOST: Apple IPhone, 9/14, in Redington Shores. REWARD. (727)420-8636, anytime.

345. Lost & Found

FOUND: GOULDIN FINCH
Five Towns Area, 9/21/14.
(727)452-1350.

AT YOUR SERVICE

355. Adoption

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

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

435. Adult Care & Svcs.

EXPERIENCED CARE PROVIDER
Available as Companion. Mature, Professional, Non-Smoker, Light Housekeeping, Cooking, Transportation. (727)637-7457

EXPERIENCED CAREGIVER
Appointments, Travel, Errands, Light Cooking and Cleaning. Very Dependable. References. Available 7 Days. (727)657-6316

EXPERIENCED, COMPASSIONATE
Care Giver & Companion.
Any Shifts, Overnights, Weekends. Light Housekeeping, Great Cooking, Drive to Appointments and Errands. (727)871-9835

CERTIFIED PRIVATE DUTY CNA
Available For Work. Professional, 20 Years Exp. CPR, First Aid. Excellent References. Mary, (630)201-3790.

HOME HEALTHCARE PROVIDER
Your Personal Assistant & Caregiver! Companionship, Light Housekeeping, Errands, Etc. Honest & Dependable! References Available. Becky, (727)424-5409.

EMPLOYMENT

485. Help Wanted

EARN $1000s From Home? Be careful of Work-At-Home Schemes.
- Hidden costs can add up
- Requirements may be unrealistic.

Learn how you can avoid Work-At- Home Scams.
Call: Federal Trade Comm. 1-877-FTC-HELP.
A message from Tampa Bay Newspapers and the FTC.

02307

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
Agents/ Reservations, Monday-Thursday, 10:30AM-7:00PM and Saturday, 9:00AM-5:00PM, $10/Hour. Insurance, 401K, travel benefits, plus booking incentives. Must have computer, customer service skills. Fax resume: (727)467-9097, E-mail: kbrazier@gcitravel.net

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

HANSON CLEANERS
Now Hiring self-motivated person for counter help. Apply at 12963 Walsingham Road, Largo 33774

Deliver the Tampa Bay Times
Home Delivery Independent Distributor Opportunities
$800-$1,700/month
Paid Weekly
Opportunities throughout Pinellas County
Early Morning Hours
Must be at least 18
Valid driver's license
Reliable vehicle & car insurance
Tampabay.com/distributor
866-498-4637

LEGACY VACATION CLUB
Is looking for a dynamic experienced Front Desk Agent/ Activities Coordinator to deliver outstanding guest service and activities to create a pleasurable vacation experience for our guests. Full-Time. Apply in person: Legacy Vacation Club, 19607 Gulf Blvd, Indian Shores, FL 33785

GENERAL MAINTENANCE
FULL-TIME
$10/ Hour. Fax Resume to (727)394-2727.

MARINA MANAGER
Tierra Verde Marina is Seeking a Leader to Oversee All Facets of Operations And Staff For High and Dry, Wet Slips and Properties. Please Send Resumes To Jobs@HCPCI.com.

485. Help Wanted

CLOTHING SALES ASSOCIATE
Full-Time Position. Duties: Inventory, Sales, Fulfillment & Customer Service. Reliable Transportation Required! Please Call (727)542-0005.

SPACE RENTAL FOR STYLIST
In Established Seminole Salon With New Addition.
(727)599-5376.

SKILLED TRADES-CARPENTERS/ PIPEFITTERS
JOB ID 2014-1160
Wharton-Smith, Inc. Tampa location. Experience w/building water/ wastewater treatment plant projects. Must be able to shoot grades, be mechanically inclined and have a working knowledge of flanges and mechanical joint (MJ) type ductile iron pipe. Understanding of different types of concrete forming systems (Symons, Peri, Doka, Mea, EFCO, Alisply, job built, etc). Pumps setting, equipment setting and concrete finishing skills a plus. Must have the communication skills to lead craftspeople in all of the above mentioned tasks. **E-mail hrogers@whartonsmith.com or Apply jobs-whartonsmith.icims.com No Phone Calls Please!**

505. Part-Time Help

UTILITY WORKER
Pinecrest Place, a premier retirement community located in Largo, is seeking reliable individuals to become members of our kitchen staff. PT positions available. Includes evenings, weekends & holidays. Interested candidates can apply in person at: 1150 8th Ave. SW, Largo, or fax resume to M. Kristall @ (727)581-8409. EOE, DFWP.

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

505. Part-Time Help

LPNs: PINECREST PLACE
A Premier Brookdale Retirement Community, is seeking P-T LPN for Memory Care 6am-2pm & P-T Assisted Living LPN 2pm-10pm. Both positions weekend hours. 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 part of our team. Candidates can apply in person at 1150 8th Ave. SW, Largo. Send resume to Margaret.Kristall@Brookdale.com or fax to (727)581-8409. EOE, DFWP.

JANITORIAL
Attention to Detail a Must. Mon-Fri, 8am-12pm. Wage Depending on Experience. Apply At Long Bayou Condo Office Between 9am-1pm, 9777 62nd Terrace N, St. Pete. (727)391-7414.

510. Home Care Help

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

C.N.A.s & H.H.A.s
Part-Time/Full-Time
Needed In The...
Largo, Seminole Areas
092712
Private Duty, In-Home-Care
Flexible hours/days/nights
Competitive pay
Visiting Angels
727-797-8600
Come join our team of Angels today!

515. Hospitality Help

CLEARWATER HOTEL NOW
Hiring Breakfast Ambassador & Room Attendent. Great Atmosphere, Competitive Wages! Apply In Person: Springhill Suites By Marriott, 3485 Ulmerton Rd, Clearwater.

Your Best Buys Can Be Found In the Classifieds!!

485. Help Wanted

Interviews being held
Monday & Tuesday
September 29 & 30, 9:30am-6:00pm
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
210 Seminole Blvd, Largo, FL 33770
HIRING EVENT

New Store Opening Soon!
Largo, FL

Consistent growth and excellent staying power has made TJ Maxx the place for your career. You'll enjoy professional advancement, individual recognition, and flexible schedules. Full and part-time positions available include:

- **Cashiers**
- **Back Room**
- **Dressing Room**
- **Customer Service**
- **Loss Prevention**
- **Sales Associates**

T.J.maxx®

TJX is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to workplace diversity.

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EARN EXTRA MONEY!

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

As we continue to grow, you will too!

Tampa Bay Times

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

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

505. Part-Time Help

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

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!

061214

522. Careers

Go to Work and Get a KISS!

Train to be a Professional Pet Groomer at Florida's Premiere Pet and Show grooming vocational trade school.

- Offering Hands on Training
- Job Placement Service
- Approved for Veteran Training
- Easy Qualifying School Loans

042414

Academy of Animal Arts, Inc.
... a program beyond grooming

727-517-9546
academyofanimalarts.com

535. Business Opportunities

RESTAUARANT FOR SALE OR LEASE
Located in Horseshoe Beach. The Small Town On The Gulf Of Mexico. Last Tenant Here 10 Years. Strong Seafood Background Preferred. Selling Price $235,000 Or Lease $245/Wkly. (352)498-5986, (352)498-5405.

LOOK!

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY FOR SALE
License For Six, Handicap Accessible. Centrally Located, Seminole.
Serious Inquiries, (727)204-6549.

LOOKING TO INCREASE YOUR INCOME?
If you are looking to make some extra cash, the Times is looking for you. We are searching for independent distributors to sell and deliver our newspapers to stores and news racks during early morning hours. Must be able to pass background and credit check.
We currently have business opportunities in
Pinellas County
If you're interested in managing your own business we invite you to contact us to learn more.
Tampa Bay Times
CALL 1-866-396-5585 TODAY
121913

FINANCIAL/ INSURANCE

565. Loans & Mortgages

ACCESS REVERSE MORTGAGE
Reverse Mortgage Specialists
Your Fast & Friendly Local Reverse Mortgage Experts. BBB A+ Accredited Business. NMLS 4566.
www.AccessReverse.com
(727388-4105

AUCTIONS

585. Auctions

Granny's Auction
WWW.GRANNYSAUCTION.NET
Auction 1st Sunday Of Month 1PM. Buying And Consigning Antiques. Free Appraisals Tuesday 12-4PM. (727)572-1567 AB1769
5175 Ulmerton Rd, Clearwater 33760

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Reverse Mortgage Specialists
BBB A+ ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Your Fast & Friendly Local Reverse Mortgage Experts

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NMLS 4566
082814

Call Classified 397-5563 or visit www.TBNweekly.com

MERCHANDISE

600. Merchandise

BILL BLASS SPRINGMAID
Queen Comforter, Pale Green, Floral, $39. 3 Speed Table Fan Hometrends In Box $25. 2 Prom Dresses, Tafeta, Periwinkle, Size 14, $50. Pale Blue, Size 12, $15. Worn Once. (727)586-5572

FOUR PIPELINE PATIO
Chairs, Need New Seat Slings. $25 for All. (727)596-2965.

615. Appliance Sales

GE DISHWASHER
Bisque Color, Works Great, Good Condition $100/OBO (727)480-7696

KENMORE CERAMIC TOP STOVE
With Warming Drawer, Bisque Color. $200/OBO (727)480-7696

MAYTAG MICROWAVE
Bisque Color, Turntable. $75/OBO (727)480-7696

617. Art

FRAMED ORCHID PRINTS
Set of 3, Mellow Greens and Tans. 42"H x 18"W Each. $50/All. (727)596-0538

565. Loans & Mortgages

640. Furniture

NEW 2014 SOFA, LOVESEAT
Ottoman, 2 Lamps, 3 Tables And Rug. Dark Brown Fabric, Excellent Condition. $750/OBO (727)415-4880

660. Wanted to Buy

WANTED: OLD RECORDS
$$$ WANTED $$$ OLD RECORDS
LP's - 45's - 78's
Call (727)755-1201
or
(727)793-7231

693. Exercise Equipment

KEYS FITNESS HEALTH TRAINER TREADMILL
Model #502T, Like Brand New, 1.75HP Motor, 0-10 Incline, Fold Up Design, 4 Window LCD, EKG Pulse Grips, Handle Bar Toggle Switches. Asking $400. Please Call (727)392-2329 & Leave Message If No Answer, Will Return Call.

CALL EARLY TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD

565. Loans & Mortgages

TRAILERS/RVS

775. Trailers Work-Misc.

8'x5' UTILITY TRAILER,
Brand New, Wooden Ramp, Spare Tire, $550. (727)443-4933.

AUTOMOTIVE

810. Auto Sales

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 2001
Be First, Ice Cold Air!

$595 DOWN
Many More to Choose From.
www.ValueFirstAuto.com
VALUE FIRST AUTO SALES
8021 1st St N, St Pete
***(727)578-2345**

2005 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX
62K Original Miles, 3.8 V6, Never Smoked In, Looks Garaged, Nicely Equipped, No Accidents, Excellent Condition, Warranty, Financing $7,950. (727)571-1753.
JDGossAutoHouse.com

2007 MAZDA 6i SPORT
85K Original Miles, Auto, 4cyl, Ice Cold A/C, Fully Equipped, No Accidents, Never Smoked In, Warranty, Financing. $7,950. (727)571-1753.
JDGossAutoHouse.com

827. Auto Repair

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

830. Van & SUV Sales

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VANS NEW & USED
Free In Home Demos!
Call Ben For More Info,
(727)644-6101.

852. Auto-Boat Detailing

M.A.D. Mobile Auto Detailing
DIRTY CAR? CALL M.A.D.
MOBILE AUTO DETAILING
We Will Make Your Car Shine Like New.
(727)483-8153

885. Autos Wanted

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

CA$H NOW
Top Dollar Paid
We Buy Clean Quality Trucks, Vans, SUV's & Cars
NO JUNK!
727-798-2921
NOBODY Pays More!
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WE BUY CARS
Any Condition, New, Old or Junk. No Title & Liens OK!
(813)418-7927 or (727)493-5302

Got a Car You Wanna Sell
The Good, The Bad The Ugly
Call Now
727-400-1910
022113

UP T0 $1,000 CASH
For Junk Cars & Trucks In Pinellas Cty. Top $ Paid. All Tampa Bay. State Approved Disposal Site. Free Tow.
(727)710-1702.

JUNK VEHICLES WANTED!
$400 And Up Depending Upon Condition. Title or No Title Is Okay.
(813)997-3300

885. Autos Wanted

CARS & TRUCKS WANTED!
Good, Clean, Low Mileage.
Will Pay Top Dollar, **CASH!**
Don't Trade Your Car, Sell To Me!
Wayne Or Kevin,
(727)851-2973, (727)520-6173.

BOATS/MARINE

910. Boat Slips

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

GARAGE/ESTATE SALES

975. Garage-Yard Sales

Bayside Event Rentals, LLC
NEED TABLES FOR
YOUR GARAGE SALE?
TENTS, TABLES, CHAIRS & MORE. (727)522-8368
www.BaysideEventRentals.com

HUGE NEIGHBORHOOD SALE
NEWPORT NEIGHBORHOOD
Semi-Annual Garage Sale. East Bay Drive at Newport Road. Over 500+ Homes! Saturday, 9AM-2PM

ST. PETERSBURG GENERAL HOSPITAL'S 4TH ANNUAL HOPE FUND SALE
Saturday, 9/27, 8am-12pm.
6450 38th Ave N, St. Pete, 33710.
The Brick Building Next Door To The Hospital. 100% Of The Proceeds Go To The HCA Hope Fund.

LARGO, SAT-SUN, 9AM-3PM.
Household, Clothes, Shoes, Leaf Blower, Camp Stove, Magnovox Surround Sound Speaker (new), Much More! 724-A Heritage Lane, Off of Mehlenbacher Rd, Near Clearwater-Largo Rd.

970. Estate Sales

FRIDAY, 9-5. SATURDAY, 9-3.
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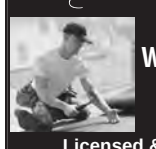
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Rodrigo y Gabriela to play Ruth Eckerd Hall

CLEARWATER – Mexican acoustic rock guitar duo Rodrigo y Gabriela are back on the road bringing their unique instrumental blend of metal, jazz and world music to audiences across the United States.

The tour makes a stop in the Tampa Bay area on Thursday, Oct. 9, 8 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road.

Tickets start at $32.50. Call 791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com.

Rodrigo Sanchez and Gabriela Quintero have been playing together for more than 15 years. Beginning with their humble roots busking in Dublin, playing Metallica songs with acoustic Latin influences in hotel bars for their own amusement; before they became one of the biggest selling acoustic instrumental acts in the world.

Known for exhilarating live shows, Rodrigo y Gabriela have won the hearts of music lovers from the haciendas of Cuba to the Hollywood Bowl and festival fields of Europe, as they continue to weave their unique six-string magic. The interplay between Sanchez's fiery lead lines and Quintero's rhythmic battery is truly universal.

The duo has reloaded their arsenal following the worldwide release this spring of "9 Dead Alive," their first studio album in five years. The new songs are intimate, the playing intuitive, and the results are bursting with melodic energy and rhythmic invention.

Recorded at their Pacific Coast hideaway in late summer, the album captures the warmth and spontaneity of two great musicians riffing and jamming together, perfectly distilled into nine new songs teeming with desire, elegance and gusto. Each song on the album is a personal celebration of individuals who have passed on – but, through their deeds and words, still resonate in the 21st century. The nonet celebrated in this diverse list will strike a chord with anyone familiar with the duo's passion for human rights, literature, history and philosophy.

Rodrigo y Gabriela left Mexico at the end of the millennium.

Since then, they have played for presidents, toured the world many times over, written soundtracks for Hollywood block-busters and sold more than 1.5 million albums. "9 Dead Alive" sees them bring their timeless music all the way back home.

Over the course of their career, Rodrigo y Gabriela have released five studio albums, three live albums and one EP. The duo also collaborated with Hans Zimmer on the soundtrack for "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" and contributed to the soundtrack for the Shrek prequel "Puss in Boots."

Their last album, "Area 52," they revisited nine of their compositions and reinterpreted them in a new and dramatic fashion.

The album was arranged by Rodrigo y Gabriela working closely with Switzerland based pianist Alex Wilson, who did the Cuban arrangements for the orchestra. He has worked with Courtney Pine, Ernest Ranglin and Mali Latino. Recording took place during the summer at Abdala Studios in Havana and later at Lumbini Studios in Ixtapa, Mexico. Guests on the album include Anoushka Shankar on sitar, rock drummer John Tempesta on two tracks, jazz bass player Carles Benavent on two tracks, Palestinian group Le Trio Joubran and Samuel Formell Alfonso from Los Van Van.

After finishing the successful "Area 52" album in Cuba, and taking it on the road with Cuban musicians, Rodrigo y Gabriela decided to downsize.

"My idea was to record it as if we were playing a live gig in your living room," Gabriela said in a biography provided by ATO Records.

The duo sought to rediscover the joy of playing face-to-face, guitar versus guitar, rhythm and melody.

The inspiration for tracks featured on "9 Dead Alive" springs from a personal celebration of various historic individuals. These people achieved a kind of immortality through the legacy of their actions, their pronouncements and their ideals.

Going as far back as Eleanor of Acquitaine (1122–1204) to more recent figures such as Viktor Frankl (1905–1997), Rodrigo y Gabriela included tributes to many individuals as well as animals and nature.

The track listing for "9 Dead Alive" features the following songs:

1. "The Soundmaker," inspired by Antonio de Torres Jurado (1817-1892)
2. "Torito," inspired by animals and nature

Photo by TINA KORHONEN

Ruth Eckerd Hall welcomes Rodrigo y Gabriela Oct. 9.

3. "Sunday Neurosis," inspired by Viktor Frank (1905-1997)
4. "Misty Moses," inspired by Harriet Tubman (1820-1913)
5. "Somnium," inspired by Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz (1651-1695)
6. "Fram," inspired by Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930)
7. "Megalopolis," inspired by Gabriela Mistral (1889-1957)
8. "The Russian Messenger," inspired by Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881)
9. "La Salle Des Pas Perdus," inspired by Eleanor of Acquitane (1122-1204)

A&E news

Alliance to launch Pianos in Pinellas

CLEARWATER – The Clearwater Arts Alliance will present the inaugural season of Pianos in Pinellas, running Nov. 25 through Dec. 31.

The alliance is seeking 10 choice high foot-traffic locations throughout Pinellas to participate in the project.

Ten upright pianos have been donated by Randy's Wholesale Pianos. The pianos will be sanded in preparation for selected artists from the area to paint in a theme depicting music, the arts or simply portraying Pinellas. Artists wishing to be considered should visit pianosinpinellas.org to download the Call for Artists. There is a $300 stipend along with the chance of a One Man Show at Gallery 1356, on S. Fort Harrison, for the most outstanding artist to be juried.

Ten local sponsors are being sought to host the pianos in bustling public/private locations where the public has access to play and perform on the pianos. The cost of sponsorship is $1,800.

"This is a very exciting project that will appeal to musicians and artists alike," said Colin Bissett, board president of the alliance. "We will help develop themes to motivate public participation ... small choirs, impersonators, there's an abundance of Elvis wannabes in Pinellas, jazz jams, blues to Beethoven, the list is endless."

Another aspect of the project is the talent competition where contestants are encouraged to make music and video their performance. Upload a copy to Youtube and email link to pianosinpinellas@gmail.com.

Pianos in Pinellas is designed to promote Clearwater as an arts and cultural friendly city.

West Coast Players plan auditions

CLEARWATER – West Coast Players will host auditions for "Don't Dress for Dinner," by Marc Camoletti, on Sunday and Monday, Oct. 12-13, 7 p.m., at the theater, 21905 U.S. 19 N.

Director Rand Smith will be looking for three men and three women aged mid-20s to 40s for this farce, a sequel to last year's production of "Boeing, Boeing." Auditions will be cold readings from the script. No performers will be paid. Production dates are Jan. 16 through Feb. 1, 2015.

In "Don't Dress for Dinner," Bernard is planning a romantic weekend with his chic Parisian mistress in his charming converted French farmhouse, while his wife, Jacqueline, is away. He has arranged for a cordon bleu cook to prepare gourmet delights and has invited his best friend, Robert, along to provide an alibi. What could possibly go wrong?

Well ... suppose Robert turns up not realizing quite why he has been invited. Suppose Robert and Jacqueline are secret lovers and consequently determined that Jacqueline will NOT leave for the weekend. Suppose the cook has to pretend to be the mistress and the mistress is unable to cook. An evening of hilarious confusion ensues as Bernard and Robert improvise at breakneck speed. Visit www.wcplayers.org.

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