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Mom makes smart move
Flexible job makes raising two boys easier, Turbo mom says. » **Page 14A**

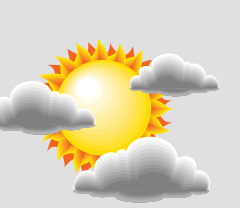


Picking at the pot vote
Politi-fact takes on several arguments for and against medical marijuana. » **Page 11A**



Heritage gains coach
Holy Trinity football coach Mark Ainsley is moving to Heritage. » **Page 1C**

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WEATHER
Clouds and sun, rain possible
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HOLLYWOOD CONNECTION



Melvin Weinberg, 89, lives in Titusville. He is portrayed by actor Christian Bale in the critically acclaimed film "American Hustle." Here, he stands next to a poster signed by the cast. **TIM SHORTT/FLORIDA TODAY**

Brevard man inspires 'American Hustle'

Characters portrayed by Oscar-nominated Christian Bale and Amy Adams live in Titusville

By Jennifer Sangalang and Pam Harbaugh
FLORIDA TODAY

Mel Weinberg sums up life in a sentence: "At 89, I got one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel, and everybody's pushin'." He lives in Titusville, but his story is global, thanks to the attention focused on "American Hustle," the critically acclaimed, Oscar-nominated film loosely based on Weinberg's involvement with Abscam, a federal sting operation in the late 1970s and early '80s. Oscar-winner Christian Bale portrays Weinberg, renamed Irving Rosenfeld in the movie.

The former con man (he calls himself that) speaks frankly — many of his tales are unprintable — as he reflects on his time working for the FBI, Abscam and his ex-wives. He makes no secret of the fact that he's loving the attention.

Best actress nominee Amy Adams plays Sydney Prosser in the movie, and she's based on Weinberg's third ex-wife, Evelyn. They divorced in 1998, but were on-again, off-again until she eventually bought a house a few streets away in Titusville in 2009. Weinberg remains protective of Evelyn and did not want to talk about her.

See **HUSTLE**, Page 6A

AT THE MOVIES

"American Hustle" (R): A con man, Irving Rosenfeld, along with his seductive British partner, Sydney Prosser, is forced to work for a wild FBI agent, Richie DiMaso. DiMaso pushes them into a world of New Jersey powerbrokers and mafia. 138 minutes. Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper co-star. **Local theaters:** Merritt Square 16, Avenue 16, Cinemaworld 16



Christian Bale, left, as Irving Rosenfeld, Amy Adams as Sydney Prosser, and Bradley Cooper as Richie Dimaso in a scene from "American Hustle." **SONY PICTURES**

ONLINE
Scan the code or visit **floridatoday.com** to see our video interview with Mel Weinberg

See **GUNS**, Page 6A

Airport, FAA seek solution to construction conflict

By Stacey Barchenger
FLORIDA TODAY

Federal authorities have asked the Melbourne International Airport to stop construction on a hangar, citing concerns the building would impair a signal from a navigation system.

Airport officials say they are working with the Federal Aviation Administration and expect to reach an agreement within a week to prevent any delay of construction of the MidairUSA

hangar, valued at about \$8 million. The FAA in November sent the airport an objection letter halting "vertical construction" indefinitely.

"As a result of the aeronautical study, the FAA determined that the proposed structure would be a hazard to air navigation," an FAA statement says. "The FAA has requested additional information, and is working on a plan to mitigate the

See **AIRPORT**, Page 7A



MidairUSA services large jets at Melbourne International Airport. FAA officials are concerned construction of a hangar for the company will obstruct a navigational aid at the airport. **FILE**

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