



Penny Fletcher gets a blast from the past in **Over Coffee** page 1B



Canoeing down the Ichetucknee in north Florida. Read Warren Resen's latest on page 7B



Turning trash into treasures is what the Recycled Yard Art contest is all about. See page 16B



The South County Rose Group will host a Water Wise speaker at their next meeting. See page 8B

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Historic boats are lovingly restored by hand at boatworks along the Cambridge, Maryland, waterfront. Once the second largest port in Maryland, Cambridge now primarily serves yachts of all sizes.

Saying goodbye

Part two of an Observer News feature series

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

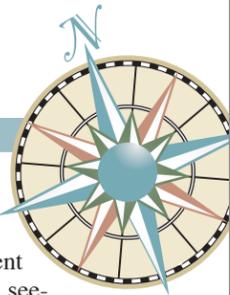
The Chesapeake Bay is beautiful, historic and the entire area is a national treasure. Part of what futurists Herman Kahn and Anthony Wiener termed the BosWash Corridor; 50 million people, nearly 20 percent of the population, live in the region stretching from Washington, D.C. to Boston, on only two percent of the U.S. land area. The Chesapeake Bay, particularly the Eastern Shore, is a respite from the crowding. The bay plays a prominent role in our nation's birth and history. While the Founding Fathers created the concepts in Philadelphia, much of the blood was shed for freedom on these waters.

For a boater, the bay appears to be nirvana. There are hundreds of rivers and creeks offering protection from adverse weather. There are also hundreds of historic, pic-

turesque waterfront communities to visit. Years could be spent cruising here without seeing it all. But the Chesapeake is also temperamental and, in fact, can quickly become downright grumpy.

Last year I sailed for the Chesapeake from Cape Cod, through New York City, then sailing offshore in the Atlantic to Cape May, New Jersey. From there I sailed up the Delaware Bay to the C&D Canal, which brought me to the bay. The stark, desolate landscape and the steel gray water of the Delaware instantly changed to calm, blue water with beautifully wooded shorelines upon arriving in the Chesapeake. On my first day in the bay, I had an idyllic sail to the Sassafras River where I anchored not far from a small town.

See SAYING GOODBYE, page 11



Plants support, nourish, beautify... and change lives

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER – Plants and their produce, long the purview of farmers close to the soil, popular with nutritionists pointing to balanced diets, stock in trade for landscapers into beautification, are coming into their own here as the tools of concentrated therapy.

In the hands of experienced farmers, they grow bigger, more colorful, more flavorful while in the hands of skilled nutritionists they get different cooking treatments for varied tastes and in the hands of dedicated landscapers they make eye-catching patterns enhancing the environment. But, in the hands of trained therapists, they change lives.

Leslie Fleming who, by virtue of complex, university level training and proven practice, See PLANT THERAPY, page 10



MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

Aging hands, often afflicted by arthritis, can be among the first to benefit from the multiple therapeutic advantages of horticulture practices. Physical motions inherent in planting functions and the emotional soothing provided by green life environments have been documented for centuries.

So many choices, so little time

Window of opportunity to change your Medicare plan ends Dec. 31

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

SOUTH COUNTY — For many years I've written about the people in the communities of South County- their issues and challenges- as well as the unusual, and sometimes heroic or wonderful things they do.

I've done several stories about health care; described some of the latest and best procedures; sought out what's available in our area for those with little or no insurance; and done investigation on what residents can expect from the State of Florida and the Federal government as well.

While it's true the United States has some really good health care available, it is not accessible to many who need it most. And the difference between the health care 'haves' and 'have-nots' is painfully evident right here in South County.

I can make that statement without even consulting the World Health Organization because between Nov. 1, 2007 and Nov. 1, 2010, I had no health insurance.

See MEDICARE PLANS, page 18



ED JACOBS
MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

Sun City Center CA candidates take on community questions

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER – In less than two weeks, members of the Community Association here will elect three directors for three-year terms from among a field of five who project little disagreement on issues.

Distinguishing themselves primarily by differences in backgrounds, the group, including a sixth candidate who is a shoo-in, participated in a candidates' forum last week,

answering written questions produced by an audience of about 200 residents.

Fielding queries presented by moderator John Bowker were the field of five consisting of Ed Barnes, current CA president seeking a second term as director, Art Erickson, a newcomer to the community and its governing board, David Floyd, an appointed director fulfilling an unexpired term and now running for his first elected term, Ed Jacobs, 15-year resident active on many

fronts but standing for election the first time, and Sam Sudman, also active in community organizations and running for election for the first time.

The sixth candidate, Bob Black, also a current director and board vice president, is looking toward serving the last year of an unexpired term and has no opposition. Consequently, he is likely to be elected with a single vote.

Perhaps the question that demonstrated the sharpest difference in

perspectives among the candidates concerned potential opening to public access the south side of the community with a roadway linking South Pebble Beach Boulevard and U.S. 301. The question specifically asked whether the north side of the community should vote or have a voice on such an issue.

Several candidates weighed in on the matter. Barnes asserted such a yes or no issue would have to be an entire membership vote and Floyd

See CA CANDIDATES, page 17

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You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director
SCC Chamber News

Often, when you're a small business, you tend to think you're alone in your quest for success and profitability. With all the



You, Me & Business

By Dana Dittmar

pressures, time constraints, and daily administrative tasks that consume your day, it's easy to get tunnel vision. In other words, when you're up to your patootie in all-

igators, it's hard to remember your objective is to drain the swamp.

But you are NOT alone. Even if you aren't a member of a local Chamber of Commerce (which you SHOULD be, for obvious reasons), there are other businesses out there who are also striving to be successful, and who can partner with you. These other businesses are called your Power Partners. Let's say you're an office supply company. A Power Partner might be a computer repair service, a telephone service, or a copier sales person. You share customers and you are often in a position to share referrals to those customers.

This is the whole concept behind networking groups such as BNI, the SouthShore Alliance, the Mon-

day Morning Quarterbackers and all the other groups springing up in the area. By networking with your Power Partners, you aren't walking the marketing pathway by yourself. It's as if you have "hired" a sales team to go out and promote your company. The end result is increased business and profitability for ALL of you.

The key is identifying the other businesses who are your Power Partners. This isn't to say that a hair stylist can't refer a real estate agent to one of her clients. Every business can be a referral source to every other business. But a Power Partner shares your industry with you. Home improvement businesses, real estate agents, lawn care companies, and interior designers are potential Power Partners. Bankers, investment companies, and insurance agents are potential Power Partners. You get the picture.

With the new year coming up, make this a New Year's resolution: find a couple of networking groups and join. Attend regularly, as consistency is key. And work hard to build relationships with your Power Partners. You'll quickly find that you are not alone on the path to success. And isn't it always easier when you have someone along for the ride?

Veteran's Day celebrated in Sun City Center

Sun City Center observed Veterans Day at the Community Association's Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. on Thursday, Nov. 11. The ceremony was sponsored by multiple Sun City Center military veterans organizations in recognition of the many community veterans.

A special tribute was given to Lt. Col. Gordon Bassett, U.S. Air Force (Ret), immediate past president of MOWW for his numerous veteran's activities.

The guest speaker was Bob Black, a dynamic speaker who was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge while serving in the Second Infantry Division during the Korean War. There was a special appearance by Lily Marlane. A musical interlude was presented by the Trinity Singers directed by Rev. James Feist. There was also a tribute to all veterans by well known performers Ellen Kleinschmidt and Lew Resseguie accompanied by the PACKids, including a special rendition of an 'Andrew Sister's Melody.' The Color Guard was composed of JROTC Cadets from East Bay High School.

This ceremony was complemented by the efforts of the Sun City Center Patriots Club which has, through its fundraising efforts, insured that the flags will continue to fly along S.R. 674 during this special period of recognition to veterans and active military forces.



Gordon Bassett on left and Bob Black on right.



Paul Wheat speaks to the crowd from the podium.

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Holiday in the Park

Everyone is invited to the Holiday in the Park from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10 at the Apollo Beach Recreation Center. Every child 12 and younger will receive a gift from Santa. There will be dancing, singing, and a hot dog, drink and chips for \$2. They are looking for entertainment.

This year they will have a free raffle for every child and a money tree raffle for adults. The tree is a palm with \$50 on it. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. For more information, call Jack at the park, (813) 671-7635 or Pat Woolweaver at (813) 645-1950.



Low cost spay/neuter clinic

Feline Folks will conduct its Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic Operation Feline Fix (OFF) for free-roaming cats on Saturday, Dec. 11 at C.A.R.E in Ruskin.

\$10 per cat or kitten (must weigh 4 lbs. and be at least 4 months old).

Reservations are required by calling (813) 633-7302. Drop-off time at C.A.R.E. is 7:30 a.m. with pickup time at 2:30 p.m.

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More joy in the holidays - plan to avoid stress

For most people, the time period which begins with Thanksgiving and ends with New Year's Day is the most stressful time of the year.



Positive Talk

By William Hodges

Here are some ideas you might find helpful in maintaining your sanity and protecting your health throughout the season.

1. Review your to-do list for items that will be causing you to do something with which you are not familiar. If they are not life- or career-threatening, delay them until the new year. High-stress periods are poor times to start something new.

2. Look for days on your calendar when you do not have a meal or party commitment. Circle those days and plan ahead to use them as diet days. Overeating and eating the wrong foods is a very familiar holiday ailment and can cause tremendous stress to our system. Think of your body as a machine which requires fuel. The fuel you give it today is what it will run on tomorrow.

3. Limit your intake of alcohol. One of the most destructive things you can do to your body is overload it with alcohol. I am not telling you that you should not enjoy a glass of wine with your meal or a holiday drink with your friends. What I am telling you is that the average person takes about one hour to metabolize a drink. If you have more than one drink per hour, you begin to multiply the effect of the alcohol. The more alcohol you drink, the more possibility of problems that can result in stress—saying something you shouldn't, falling and hurting yourself physically, getting a ticket for DUI or, even worse, hurting or killing someone while driving under the influence. If you don't take the first drink, you won't have to worry about these stress inducers, but you sure do if you take the second.

4. Don't overspend your income. According to a number of studies, the number one cause of fights between husbands and wives is money. The holidays do not have to be a budget buster. Look at your income and the real needs of those around you. Then determine how much you can spend without losing sleep over it. A parent overstressed with debt worries cannot give a child the most important gift of all—love and attention. What you will give is your fear and tension.

With just a little advance planning, we can approach the holidays with a great deal of anticipation. This period of peace on earth, good will toward men should and can be a respite from the routine of our normal lives. Smile at all you meet, give them the appropriate greeting, and watch how they respond in kind.

There is a magic to this time of year. It is a time when strangers speak and offer good wishes. It is a time the heavens truly do come closer to the earth. It is not a time to be stressed out.

"Hodges is a nationally recognized speaker, trainer and syndicated columnist. He also hosts an interview-format television program, *Spotlight on Government*, on the Tampa Bay Community Network which airs Mondays at 8 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (Bright House channel 950, Verizon channel 30). The shows can also be viewed at www.hodgesvideos.com. Phone: 813-633-1523. Email: bill@billhodges.com Website: www.billhodges.com"

Dove Interiors offers healthier flooring installation

Dove Interiors Carpet One is proud to offer the recently unveiled Healthier Living Carpet Installation -- the first carpet installation system to address growing consumer demand for cleaner, healthier indoor air. In response to rising concern about indoor pollutants and allergies, Carpet One Floor & Home has created the Healthier Living™ Installation, which uses the most advanced technology to clean the air of dust, odor-causing bacteria, mold and mildew that can trigger allergic reactions during and after home-renovation projects.

The way carpeting is installed can dramatically reduce exposure to irritants that can provoke serious allergy and allergy-like symptoms. By minimizing dust and odors, the cleaner, healthier practices of the Healthier Living™ Carpet Installation promote better home air quality, especially for families in which allergies and dust sensitivities are a hindrance. The system also ensures that the subfloor under the carpet is sanitized.

During the Healthier Living™ Installation, extra precautions keep dust, bacteria and particles from becoming airborne and moving throughout the home when old carpet is removed, and new carpet is installed. Coupled with some high-tech steps to remove and prevent mold, mildew and bacteria growth under the carpet, this system is one-of-a-kind.

These steps include:

- HealthinEx™ -- an exclusive antimicrobial agent that disinfects, protects and diminishes mold, mildew and bacteria -- is used to treat subfloors under the carpet. HealthinEx™ also traps microorganisms on the surface so they cannot become airborne, and it provides a lasting, clean



Kimberly Scott (left), vice president along with Joan Miller (right), president of Dove Interiors.

surface that resists mold growth.

- Throughout the installation, our HomeGuard Care System™ ensures that dust and particulates are contained to and removed from the work area. This includes using a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum that will not release dust back into the home before and after the cushion and carpet are installed. Plastic sheeting is used to keep dust out of other rooms. And protective booties prevent tracking of dirt, grit and contaminants in the home.

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in their homes."

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Healthier Living™ Installation is available exclusively through Carpet One Floor & Home stores across the United States and Canada.

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Eagles Set Their Weekly Activities

The Ruskin Eagles, FOE, located at 1205 1st St. S.W. has scheduled the following weekly activities.

The FOE Aerie meet at 7 p.m. the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. The Ladies' Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday. Eagle Riders meet the 2nd Sunday of the month at 11 a.m.

All events and activities of the Eagles Club are supported by the members and members' guests.

Thursday, November 18— Bar Games at 3 p.m.

Friday, November 19 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Saturday, November 20 — Eagle Riders Poker Run at 10 a.m. Benefits Aerie Christmas Kids.

Sunday, November 21 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Monday, November 22 — Bingo at 6 p.m. Food available.

Tuesday, November 23 — Bar Games at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, November 24 — Wings and Things at 5 p.m. Come down and try them!

For more information, call the club at 645-2922.



Take a behind the scenes tour

Brandon Ballet's Home School and Behind the Scenes tours at 161 E. Bloomingdale Ave., Brandon, are approaching quickly. This is a friendly reminder to sign up for one of their educational tours of the Brandon Ballet to get an in-depth look at what goes into making a ballet. Dates and times vary.

There are two separate tours. One is exclusively for home schooled students, and the other is for everyone, and both are free!

The tours will include a question and answer session with the dancers, a look into a company class, a costume tour, and rehearsal viewing. Each participant will receive an educational, interactive packet.

To reserve a spot on the tour, call (813) 684-4282, or email dance@brandonballet.com. The event is free and each participant will receive a coupon for \$5 off each Nutcracker ticket purchased.

Need to learn more about technology?

The Ruskin Branch Library, 1 Dickman Dr. SE in Ruskin, has a series of classes meant to teach everything from email to the internet to those beginning to learn about computers. They are all held in the Pauline Dickman Lawler Community Room. These classes are for adults only.

Email: Open an Account Thursday, Nov. 18 • 3 p.m.

Open an email account, compose and send a letter. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.

Email: Messages

Thursday, Nov. 18 • 4:15 p.m. Read, forward, and delete messages. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.

Email: Attachments and Address Book • Friday, Nov. 19 • 3 p.m.

Learn about sending attachments and creating address books. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.

Computers: An Introduction • Tuesday, Nov. 23 • 3 p.m.

Learn what you can do with a computer and gain a better understanding of the Library's computer class offerings.

Internet: Introduction • Tuesday, Nov. 23 • 4:15 p.m.

Introduction to the Internet and related terminology. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.



Handel's 'Hallelujah' Chorus brings holiday spirit

The Brandon Choral Society proudly performs George Frederick Handel's epic masterpiece 'Messiah,' at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12 at St. Stephen Catholic Church, 5949 Bell Shoals Rd., Valrico.

The program is the 3rd annual in the choral group Christmas series under the direction of Robert Romanski, and accompanied on the organ by Chris Westfall.

'Messiah,' the most well-known of Handel's works, relates the story of the life of Jesus. Perhaps the most famous portion of the work is the 'Hallelujah' chorus.

Robert Romanski currently holds the titles of Director of Music Ministries at Ruskin United Methodist Church, Artistic Direc-

tor and Principal Conductor for the Mostly Pops Orchestra and Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Tampa Bay Opera, and serves as Adjunct Professor of Music at the University of South Florida, and Barry University, as well as the Pinellas County center for the Arts.

Chris Westfall is Director of Music at St. Stephen Catholic Church. Born and raised in central Ohio, he brings over 30 years of directing and accompanying experience to this endeavor.

Tickets for the concert can be purchased in advance at Roydon Music, 939 Oakfield Dr., Brandon, for \$10 and \$12 at the door. Free admission for children under 12.

Hillsborough County census response count exceeds National average

With existing resources and no special funding, Hillsborough County 2010 Census questionnaire mail return rates exceeded the national and state response rates.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the final 2010 Census National Mail Participation Rate in Hillsborough County was 75 percent. That was more than the national response rate (74 percent) and the Florida response rate (74 percent). It also is a vast improvement over the County's Census 2000 response rate of 70 percent.

Hillsborough County Commissioner Rose Ferlita chaired the Hillsborough County Complete Count Committee. Hillsborough County's Liaisons, representing the African-American, Asian American, Disabled, and Hispanic communities, were the central core for outreach to those respective communities. Sandra Sroka, ADA Affairs Liaison, and Joyce Russell, African-American Affairs Liaison, were instrumental in compiling a team of Coordinating Committee Members comprised of community leaders in business, education, community-based organizations, recruiting, faith-based, local government and the media.

A key strategy to the Complete Count Census campaign was in using electronic communications as a low-cost means of reaching large numbers of a variety of audiences.

These included web pages, social media and email campaigns; a television call-in program; and distributing electronic newsletters, flyers and other announcements.

The Complete Count Committee even included low-tech methods of getting county residents to be counted. These included outdoor signage on business venues and school district signage, banners, handout materials, community events, bus bench designs, a school children essay contest, and questionnaire assistance centers.

The response rates within Hillsborough County were:

- City of Plant City -- 75%
- City of Tampa -- 73%
- City of Temple Terrace -- 72%

Response rates of Florida counties of similar municipal size were:

- Broward County -- 73%
- Duval County -- 72%
- Miami-Dade County -- 72%
- Orange County -- 72%
- Pinellas County -- 76%

Riverview Memorial VFW Post #8108

7504 Riverview Dr.
(813) 671-9845

MEALS

Wednesday Spaghetti Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m.

Friday Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m.

Sunday Breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon

ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, Nov. 19 -- Jeff Olsen

Saturday, Nov. 20 -- Calvin O

Friday, Nov. 26 -- Jeff Olsen

Friday, Dec. 3 -- Jeff Olsen

Saturday, Dec. 4 -- Calvin O

Friday, Dec. 10 -- Jeff Olsen

CANTEEN HAPPENINGS

Bar Bingo on Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Bar Poker with Lori on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

Fire in the Hole on Saturdays at 1 p.m.

Dance at Manatee RV Park

The Manatee RV Park will host a social dance from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20 at the Manatee RV Park Hall, 6320 U.S. 41 S.

Music by 'Musical Memories.' Bring your own refreshments; ice is provided. Admission is \$4 per person and the public is invited.

Directions: 4 miles north of I-75 or 7 miles south of Ruskin. For more information, call J. Sullivan at (813) 649-9150.

New Identities Hair Studio stylist sharpens her skills in NYC

Elizabeth Griffin sharpened her professional edge and took her hands-on attention. With classes ranging from color basics to editorial photo-shoots, and dressing the bride among others...it's no wonder that thousands of salon professionals attend The Redken Exchange from all corners of the globe; making it a great venue for exchanging tips and techniques with other stylists -- as well as getting the latest information on Redken haircare, hair color, and styling products.

Elizabeth Griffin was one of the dedicated salon professionals, who attended classes at the Redken Exchange, the hair industry's leading resource for higher learning, and now brings you fresh and exciting salon services. Along with stylists from around the globe, Elizabeth Griffin learned advanced techniques in hair design and hair color from leading experts in the industry, bringing you the latest in wearable fashion hair trends.

The Redken Exchange is the award-winning leading resource for higher learning in the professional salon industry, and allowed Elizabeth to experience interactive,



Consumers interested in fresh, modern, innovative style or color can call Elizabeth Griffin at New Identities Hair Studio - South Shore, at (813) 741-1177 to schedule an appointment. Salon professionals can visit www.redkensalon.com or call 1-800-545-8157 for more information regarding classes at The Redken Exchange.

Riverview student signs with UT

Riverview High School is pleased to announce that Kayleen Boatwright will be signing with the University of Tampa.



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RUSKIN Moose Lodge #813 WEEKLY EVENTS

The Ruskin Moose Lodge #813 is located at 1212 E. Shell Point Road, Ruskin • (813) 645-5919

Friday, Nov. 19	7-11 p.m.	Double Shot
Saturday, Nov. 20	4-7 p.m. 7-11 p.m.	Moose Legion Chicken and Rib Fest Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, Nov. 26	7-11 p.m.	Gypsy Highway
Saturday, Nov. 27	12 noon 5-7 p.m. 7-11 p.m.	Ohio State/Michigan Tailgate Party Cancer Benefit Dinner Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, Dec. 3	7-11 p.m.	Shine On
Saturday, Dec. 4	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Charlie Burns
Friday, Dec. 10	7-11 p.m.	Caribbean Cowboys
Saturday, Dec. 11	5-7 p.m. 7-11 p.m.	WOTM Annual Christmas Party with Ham Dinner Party with Kim Mullins
Friday, Dec. 17	7-11 p.m.	Charlie Burns
Saturday, Dec. 18	4-7 p.m. 7-11 p.m.	Moose Legion Dinner Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, Dec. 24	7-11 p.m.	Candlelight Vigil
Saturday, Dec. 31		New Year's Eve Party with Taylor and Taylor
Every Wednesday	5-7 p.m.	Spaghetti Dinner -- new and delicious
Every Thursday	5-7 p.m.	Wings (except Thanksgiving)
Every Friday	5-7 p.m.	Fish Fry (except Christmas) Live music
Every Saturday	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke by Kim

All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests.



Lennard High School
2002 E. Shell Point Rd., Ruskin, FL 33570
(813) 641-5611

Drama booster club focuses on funds

Recently, drama students at Lennard High School in Ruskin presented 'Dracula,' a short two-act play by Crane Johnson, in the LHS Auditorium under the direction of LHS drama teacher Joie Marsh. "The performance of 'Dracula' was wonderful," said Maria Gsell, Assistant Principal of Curriculum at Lennard. "The set, costumes, story and acting were all top-notch."

This was Joie Marsh's third year at Lennard High School and as a Drama and Reading teacher for the Hillsborough County School District. A graduate of Florida Southern College with a B.A. in Theatre Arts, Joie has produced five plays at LHS and is herself a participant in local theatre productions of the Pelican Players' Club of Sun City Center.

"I am really proud of our drama students; they worked very hard to produce this fall show in only four weeks since district competitions in drama are scheduled to begin soon," said Joie. "They have done a phenomenal job, and I see a growing interest in the theatre arts within our student body as a result."

The school's growing drama program has had a few obstacles to overcome. Joie is the third full-time teacher to supervise the program since Lennard opened its doors in 2006, and funding for sets, costumes, and dramatic events has been scarce. "Lately, we've been breaking even financially from our

performances, but we would really like to enhance our productions," said Joie.

"For example, although the auditorium was originally equipped with a limited sound system that allows for handheld microphones on the stage, that system has not been practical for our dramatic productions and we need a wireless microphone system that will allow our young actors and actresses to be readily heard by the audience. I think that we would expand our audience in the communities of Ruskin and Sun City Center if they could hear our performers more easily." Parents of drama students at LHS agree.

This year, a group of drama parents has organized a new LHS Drama Booster Club to raise funding for the program. Led by Mary Ferguson of Apollo Beach, President of the Drama Booster Club and parent of a drama student at LHS, the group hopes to raise enough money to purchase a new sound system by the school's next theatre production to be performed during the first weekend in March. The new club is looking for local business sponsors and patrons, and has a series of fundraising events planned for the next several months.

For more information about how to assist the new LHS Drama Booster Club, call Mary Ferguson at (813) 641-2884 or Joie Marsh at Lennard High School at (813) 641-5611.

Alley Katzs plan holiday party

The new South Shore senior singles group will meet for a holiday party from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5 at The Alley, 10221 Big Bend Rd. (behind Applebees) in the VIP Suite.

This group was organized for those age 50+ for all the South Shore area, which includes Riverview, Sun City Center, Apollo Beach, Gibsonton, Ruskin, and Brandon, to provide a non-threatening atmosphere for singles to meet and have fun. All 50+ single seniors are invited! The group meet once a month at The Alley for bowling and fun; a local restaurant for dining and dancing; and at other dancing opportunities. The \$20 guest fee includes bowling, food, first drink, music and prize. For more information, call Alice at (216) 577-2278 or Patti at 634-7171.

Rotarians sponsor Alafia Lighted Boat Parade

The Rotary Club of Riverview is pleased to announce corporate sponsorship opportunities for the 27th Annual Alafia Lighted Boat Parade to be held from 5 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4. The celebration will again take place at the International Independent Showmen's Association, 6915 Riverview Drive on the beautiful Alafia River in Riverview.



In the last 2 years their event featured 9 and 16 decorated boats, chili cook-off contestants, festive music, entertainment, silent auction, and affordable food. More than 300 local children received free photos with Santa Claus, and enjoyed the bright holiday lights of the Showmen's Club. This year promises to be bigger and better for 'children' of all ages. They expect to attract over 1,500 people to this annual Riverview tradition. All proceeds will fund charitable activities of Riverview Rotary.

Since its inception, the Riverview Rotary Club has been involved in numerous service projects including College Scholarship Program (\$24,000 awarded to date), The Alafia Lighted Boat Parade, High School Interact (civic volunteering), Student Dictionary Distribution (over 5,800 dictionaries to local elementary school children since program began), Rotary's Camp Florida (camp for special needs children in Brandon), Group Study Exchange, Reading Is Fundamental (more than 800 free books to local Head Start students), S4TL (Seminar For Tomorrow's Leaders), Project C.U.R.E. (collection and distribution of medical supplies to developing nations), Caribbean Partners, Polio Plus and The Rotary Foundation.

Rotary International is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. In more than 165 countries worldwide, approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to over 33,000 Rotary clubs.



Rehearsal funds breast cancer research

Because of the generosity of the standing room only crowd who attended Tropical Spice On Ice Dress Rehearsal show featuring the team, elite skaters and Olympians Mark Ladwig and Amanda Evora, Sarasota Memorial Hospital Breast Care Center was the recipient of many generous donations. The show was free, but donations for SMH were accepted. Tropical Spice On Ice thanks the caring public for their contributions to this important cause.

The skating team went on to Las Vegas to compete in the Ice Skating Institute Adult Nationals. Tropical Spice on Ice and several other Ellenton Ice and Sports Complex skaters placed third overall in team points out of forty-seven teams from eighteen states. TSI won first place in the pattern skate and synchronized dance events and a second place in the production event.

Tropical Spice on Ice will next perform as part of the Ellenton Ice and Sports Complex holiday shows on Dec. 4 and 5. For more information, call (941) 350-5491.

Ruskin VFW Post #6287

Ruskin VFW Post #6287, 5120 U.S. 41 N. has listed the following weekly activities. Meetings are: American Legion on 1st Wednesday each month; VFW and LAVFW on the 2nd Wednesday each month; and MAVFW on the 3rd Thursday each month.



Thursday, November 18— Bar

Bingo at 6 p.m. District 12 Bingo VA Hospital at 7 p.m. MAVFW Meeting at 7 p.m. Leo Cavanaugh Birthday.

Friday, November 19— Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by George Rabb from 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, November 20— Turkey Shoot at 1 p.m. Music by Flip Side from 7 to 11 p.m. Wonda Roberts Birthday.

Sunday, November 21— Music by Bert & Sassy from 3 to 7 p.m. Irish Nachos from 4 to 6 p.m.

Monday, November 22— Taco Night from 5 to 7 p.m. Crew Night at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 23 — Games in Lounge from 1 to 5 p.m. Kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, November 24 — Michelle Dye Birthday.

Ruskin Aglow plans Christmas party

Ruskin Aglow Christmas Party will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4 at the home of Denise Jurdensen, 10423 Ashley Oak Dr., Riverview. Kristen Taylor will minister and Paula Dufford will play on the flute.

Bring covered dish; meat and beverage will be provided. RSVP Denise at (813) 677-9595 or Gloria at (813) 633-9613.

Women's networking group to meet for lunch

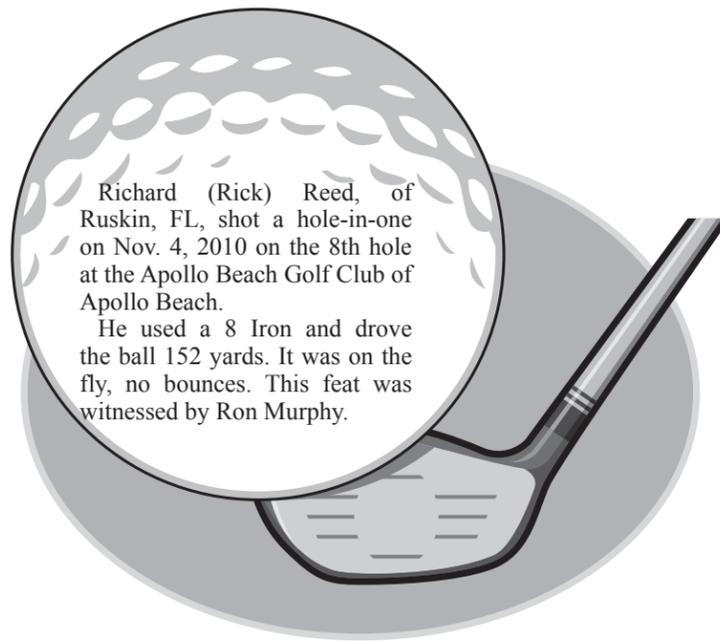
Women on a Mission to Earn a Commission (WOAMTEC) will meet from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 1 at Embassy Suites, 10220 Palm River Rd., Brandon/Tampa.

Join them for lunch and take the work out of networking. Learn more about them at www.woamtec.com. For more information, email aford@hillsborobank.com.

East Hillsborough Democratic Club to meet

The East Hillsborough County Democratic Club will be celebrating their annual Holiday Party at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11 in Brandon at the Hilton Garden Inn Tampa East/Brandon, 10309 Highland Manor Dr., Tampa. Go to www.easthillsboroughdems.org to register to attend by Dec. 3.

Mark your calendar for the next EHCD Club meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 11 at Giordano's Restaurant, 11310 Causeway Blvd. in Brandon.



Richard (Rick) Reed, of Ruskin, FL, shot a hole-in-one on Nov. 4, 2010 on the 8th hole at the Apollo Beach Golf Club of Apollo Beach.

He used a 8 Iron and drove the ball 152 yards. It was on the fly, no bounces. This feat was witnessed by Ron Murphy.

Observations: Coming out on top

By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net

When I arrived in Cambridge, Maryland, after a hectic week and 3,200 miles of driving, I went to a local restaurant for dinner-to-go. I placed my order and waited a few minutes before it was delivered. The cashier apologized for the wait. I realized that I neglected to order a drink so I pulled out my wallet and asked if I could get one. "Don't worry about it, honey," she said as she gave it to me for no charge. That is a place to which I will return. Thanks to that simple encounter, they have earned more of my money.

A few nights later I visited a family restaurant; a cool, retro-looking place offering Greek and Italian fare in a casual setting. I waited and waited. Finally, a waitress came by to ask if anyone had taken my order. When I replied that no one had, she said she would be right back. She never came back. Other people came in and were waited on including a couple at the table right next to me. The very same waitress waited on them, took their order and walked away. I left. Their food looked excellent and the prices were very reasonable but there is just something about being ignored — even for only 15 minutes — that tightens the stomach and brings up feelings

ranging from dejection to anger.

From there I drove a block to a Chinese take-out restaurant. It was the type found in virtually every city of any size in America. Even the menu that could double as a placemat appeared identical to several places in South Hillsborough. They were happy to take my money and the food was good.

When was the last time you saw a Chinese take-out restaurant go out of business? I can think of a few large, buffet-style restaurants that have gone under; but can't think of a single take-out place that has folded up. Restaurants are notorious for going out of business, but the Chinese take-out restaurants appear immune to that.

According to Chinese Restaurant News magazine, there are an estimated 41,000 Chinese restaurants in America — nearly three times the number of McDonald restaurants. With \$17 billion in annual sales, it seems profitable to be in the Chinese restaurant business. Of course, owning a Chinese restaurant isn't a sure pathway to success and I have no doubt there are off-days at Chinese restaurants — even if they do rarely go out of business. Certainly, a young waitress in a family restaurant can have an off day as well. Lord knows I

have plenty of off days.

A waitress ignores you or your Chinese take-out has white rice instead of the fried rice you ordered...such are things that can make you feel as though the world has ripped you off. But in the big scheme of things, it's not a big deal.

It seems the world increasingly rushes to judgment on almost everything. We see something posted on the web or circulated in an email, and if it fits our paradigms, then we believe it regardless of any evidence to the contrary. One such rush to judgment is over the decline of America. I'm sorry to tell those of that paradigm: It simply isn't so. America is certainly going through a rough patch, but there will be an upswing. There is always an upswing. More and more people say, and believe, that the United States doesn't produce anything anymore. The truth is that the U.S. is still the world's largest manufacturer. Yes, China is catching up, but that only means that it is time to stem the outgoing tide of manufacturing jobs. We are the only nation to have put a man on the moon — we can turn that tide.

My personal goal is to stop my own rush to judgment. I need to question more, and discover more,



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

A young waitress at a family restaurant demonstrated that you can still come out on top after hitting a rough patch. Much like a tattered U.S. Flag, the United States is going through a rough patch but will most certainly emerge better and stronger than before.

before I come to conclusions. I don't want to be the judge, jury and executioner over anyone — be they politicians or waitresses.

The next night I went back to that family restaurant. The same waitress immediately came over to my table and was apologetic to a degree that she became incomprehensible.

"Don't worry about it, it's OK — we're good," I told her.

"It's not OK," she said. "I am very sorry about making you wait

like that."

The service was extremely attentive and fast, the seafood lasagna was excellent and, as I left, I tipped more than the customary 15 or 20 percent. The waitress seemed surprised and happy to get a tip at all. She thanked me again as I walked out the door.

That waitress bested the Chinese restaurant down the street and earned more of my money. She went through a rough patch but came out on top.



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Grand opening of Sparkle N Sprinkle

Sparkle N Sprinkle will hold their grand opening on Friday, Nov. 19 from 9am-6pm and Saturday, Nov 20 from 9am -3pm. They provide quality products for card making, scrapbooking and paper crafting including rubber stamps, glitters and embossing powder. The store is located at 2107 College Ave E in Ruskin. For more information, visit sparklensprinkle.com or call 642-0940.

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Diabetes: Have you been screened lately?

Dear Savvy Senior

What can you tell me about diabetes and how can a person know if they have it? My sister and her husband, who are ages 65 and 63 were both recently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and neither had a clue.



The Savvy Senior

By Jim Miller

Surprised Sister

Dear Surprised,

It's called the "silent disease" for a reason. With no significant warning signs, there are millions of people who have diabetes today that don't realize it. Here's what you should know.

Undiagnosed Epidemic

The diabetes epidemic in the U.S. is huge, especially among older adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that over 12 million seniors, age 60 and older – roughly 23 percent of people in this age group – have diabetes today, but nearly half of them don't know it. The danger of undiagnosed diabetes is that, left untreated, it increases the risk of heart disease and stroke and can escalate into kidney failure, blindness, loss of limbs and death.

Who's Vulnerable?

There are a variety of factors that can put you at risk of getting type 2 diabetes, including your:

- Family history: The more relatives you have with the disease, the higher your risk.
- Weight: Being overweight with a body mass index (BMI) of 25 or more. See www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi to calculate your BMI. The heavier you are, the greater your risk. Also, having excess fat around your waist, rather than around the hips and thighs increases your risk.
- Age: Your risk increases as you get older, especially after age 45.
- Blood pressure: Having high blood pressure – 140/90 or higher.
- Cholesterol: Having low HDL (good) cholesterol under 35 mg/

dL or high triglycerides over 250 mg/dL.

• Race: Hispanic, Asian, African or Native Americans are more vulnerable.

To help you determine your risk, the American Diabetes Association has a quick, online quiz you can take for free at www.diabetes.org/risk-test.jsp.

Symptoms

The tricky thing about diabetes is that the symptoms (fatigue, increased hunger, excessive thirst, frequent urination, unexplained weight loss, blurred vision, slow healing cuts or sores, tingling or numbness in the hands and feet) usually seem harmless, and often don't appear for years until significant damage to the blood vessels has already occurred. That's why beginning at age 45, everyone should be tested for diabetes every three years. And you should get tested annually if you have any of the previously listed factors that put you at risk.

The Tests

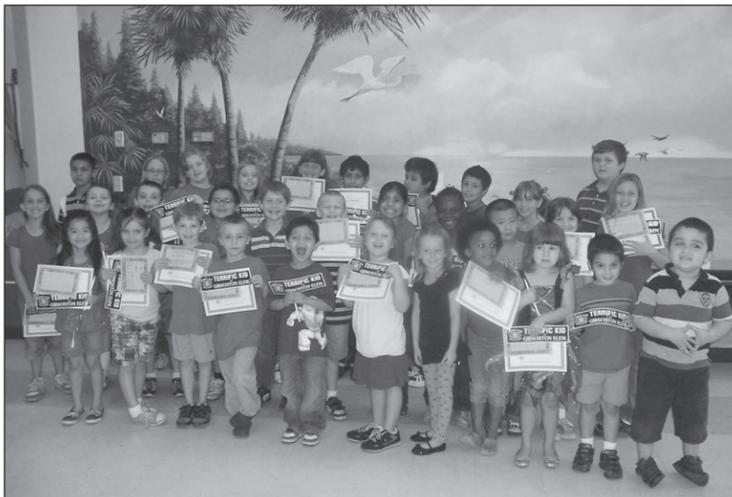
There are several tests your doctor can give you to determine whether you have diabetes including the "fasting blood glucose test" or the "oral glucose tolerance test," that require an eight hour fast before you take it. And the "hemoglobin A1C test" or "random blood glucose test," that can be taken any time regardless of when you ate.

If you're reluctant to visit your

doctor to get tested, an alternative is to test yourself. To do that, go to your pharmacy and buy a blood glucose monitor (many of them cost under \$20). Fast overnight, and check your blood sugar in the morning. If your result is less than 100, you're OK. But if your blood glucose is 100 to 125, then you have prediabetes. And if your reading is higher than 125, you may have diabetes. If your reading is above 100, you need to visit your doctor to develop a plan to get it under control. In many cases lifestyle changes like losing weight, exercising, eating a healthy diet and cutting back on carbohydrates may be all you need to do to get your diabetes under control. For others who need more help, many medications are available.

Savvy Tips: Medicare provides free diabetes screenings to seniors with increased risk factors – see Medicare.gov or call 800-633-4227 to learn more. And for more information including dozens of free publications on all aspects of diabetes visit the National Diabetes Education Program at www.ndep.nih.gov, or call 888-693-6337.

Send your senior questions to: *Savvy Senior*, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the *NBC Today* show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



Terrific Kids at Gibsonton Elementary

Congratulations to the October 'Terrific K' of Gibsonton Elementary! The following students showed their peers what it means to be enthusiastic: Julisa Landahl, Jorge Huapilla, Mariah Wilbon, Haleigh Watson, Triniti Yorks, Emmanuel Urgell, Jimmy Blackmon, Xavier Reome, Brandon Watson, Anne Sandin, Barbara Skeels, Nicole Nguyen, Tracy Cline, Angel Moore, Nyah Hickory, Darren Chen, Alkeythia Watts, Joseph Hester, Nayely Garcia, Logan Dewolf, Jonas Larrabee, Sauge Smith, Austin O'Steen, Sergio Delgado, Carlos Lemus, Briana Potter, Alexis Henry, Roselani Kemplin, Alyssa Delones, Dallas Winslow, Austin Eder, Julio Lemus, Jason Diaz, Damian Freeman, Teagan Horvath.



Baked goodies for sale

The Summerfield Ladies' Club will be sponsoring a Holiday Bake Sale in connection with the arrival of Santa and the Gift and Craft Show on Saturday, Dec. 4.

This bake sale will include cakes, pies, cookies, pastries, fruit breads and much more. All of these items will be modestly priced and make wonderful hostess and teacher gifts.

The proceeds of this bake sale will be donated to the U.S. Marine Corp. 'TOYS FOR TOTS' program. Satisfy your sweet tooth and support this wonderful program.

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&
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MELODY JAMESON PHOTOS

Tubs of dirt, trays of blooming plants and decorative flags were the makings of an afternoon horticulture session recently at Plaza West. Here, Leslie Fleming HTR (left, kneeling), a registered horticulture therapist, talks one on one with "Miss Beverly" (right) about recollections from her early life on a farm.

Plant therapy

■ Continued from page 1

can use HTR after her name for Horticultural Therapist Registered, knows of her own experience.

While horticultural therapies now are being used in a wide variety of settings – hospitals, hospices, correctional centers, rehabilitation facilities, botanical gardens – Fleming's practice in South Hillsborough primarily has been in assisted living environments such as Plaza West on the grounds of Freedom Plaza.

In this situation, the transformations can be comparatively small, but nonetheless life altering for participating individuals and their families. Fleming talks of the wheelchair-bound patient in assisted living visited daily by his

wife of many years – a physically difficult, emotionally wrenching circumstance for any aging, close couple.

Their daily conversation seemed to center on his declining health, her trials in getting to the facility. But when introduced to therapeutic horticulture and the garden, "they both could enjoy one another and the connection to nature," the therapist relates. He became more independent and willing to assume responsibility as the common activities of planting and watering raised beds of blooms or making bird feeders minimized his physical restrictions, she adds. It was "healthier for both of them and their relationship" as they worked together to make "his home as nice as possible" and the tone of their visits was changed markedly, Fleming recalls.

Degreed in a couple of areas related to political science, Fleming did a 180 degree turn into professional gardening as her family grew up. And it was during a decade as a Master Gardener associated with the Hillsborough County Extension Service that she learned of the various types of horticulture therapy, she says.

While horticulture is the art and science of growing plants, she explains, horticultural therapy is the practice of engaging people in plant and gardening activities to improve their bodies, minds and spirits.

The practice has a long, illustrious history dating back centuries. In 1798, Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of America's Declaration of Independence, was documenting how gardening improved the conditions of his mentally ill patients. And gardening was utilized in the U.S. Veterans' Administration rehabilitation programs for returning WWII soldiers.

In the 1970s and '80s, Fleming points out, research demonstrated, for example, that shorter hospital stays and less medication were needed by patients allowed a view of the natural outside environment. And, a recent Wall Street Journal article on the subject notes a 2005 study of 107 cardiac patients which showed their lower heart rates and better dispositions after a one-hour gardening class, compared with similar patients in a generic class.

Today, the therapy is practiced within four general categories: therapeutic horticulture, social horticulture, vocational horticulture as well as the horticultural therapy distinguished from therapeutic, Fleming notes. Her practice is primarily in the therapeutic area, she adds, which takes her into healthcare and residential facilities such as Plaza

West where she tailors programs to individual needs.

Twice a month, the therapist creates a gardening setting on the second floor where residents, both ambulatory and in wheelchairs, gather to practice activities designed to help. They may select blooming plants to be set in individual container gardens or they may make "tuffy muffies," choosing cut flowers from bunches and tying them to produce ribbon-wrapped bouquets, exercising arthritic hands or diminishing decision making skills in the process. They may sow plant seeds in window boxes, thereby improving the pincer grasp, or water small plants in trays with a range of tools and thereby improve eye-hand coordination. Or, they may draw rather than carve faces on pumpkins, enjoying the texture, weight, form of the vegetable. Similar exercises are done with various citrus fruits, Fleming adds.

One of only 10 such therapists in Florida, credentialed by the 37-year-old American Horticultural Therapy Association, Fleming charges for her services, but suggests the satisfactions of witnessing life-altering changes transform and redirect people onto more positive paths also is invaluable reward. She points to just one of those situations eloquently captured in writing by a patient in an addiction program.

A victim of what the woman described as "severe, sadistic childhood physical and sexual abuse at the hands of my father and other relatives," this client had turned to alcohol, trying to drown the pain. Addicted and diagnosed with a post-traumatic disorder, she was on the road back when she wrote gratefully of "the role horticulture played in my recovery." Working "in the greenhouse, or on the grounds, was just what I needed at the end of a long hard day of spiritual, mental and emotional work," she declared. The patient went on to thank the therapist for "your quiet supportive manner," adding "the work in God's earth soothed me tremendously."

On her last day at her treatment center, this patient scattered in her facility garden the petals of a rose she'd saved from her father's coffin cover. She allowed she knew "I had not laid him to rest" and recognized she wanted, needed "to say goodbye to him and move on with my life as a free woman." Move on she did, saying that with the help of the garden she had come to "feel safe and comforted."

"That," Fleming summed up, "makes it worth it."

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Empty plant trays at the end of a horticulture therapy session in Plaza West give Jean Willis HTA (standing, left), a certified assistant in horticulture therapy, a good opportunity to discuss plant care with assisted living residents. Among the primary benefits of such therapies is useful practice for individuals with memory loss.

Saying goodbye

■ Continued from page 1

By evening, things had changed rapidly. The National Weather Service issued storm warnings for my area as the sky turned from blue to a bruised-looking black and blue. As I went forward on the deck to ensure the sails were secured for rough weather, I looked up and saw a wall of white approaching me. It appeared as though the water in the river was being sucked up into the sky. I paused only for a moment to

marvel at that strange and frightening phenomenon and then tore back into the relative safety of the cabin. Within 30 seconds the wall struck, laying my 18,000-pound boat nearly on its side. Looking out through the portholes, I was alarmed to see that the riverbank was gone and I could see nothing but white. I had no idea if my anchor was holding or dragging and there was nothing I could do about it if it were the



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

My wife Michelle flew in to help prepare the boat for the voyage home. The tanks and lockers are full. It is time to sail home. Saying goodbye to Michelle was the hardest part.

latter. It was the first time in my 30 years of boating that I feared I could actually lose my boat.

Although it felt much longer, the wind passed within a minute or two. Outside, the boat was a shambles with full, heavy jugs of water and fuel tossed across the cockpit, a clear plastic windshield destroyed and the American Flag that proudly flew from the stern on a heavy teak pole lost to the wind and rain. The radio reported sightings of tornadoes that downed trees and cut electrical power to more than 50,000 homes in the area. I don't know if it was a tornado that I saw approaching me but I do know that I never want to experience something like that again. I also learned that the calm, beautiful demeanor of the Chesapeake Bay is sometimes an illusion.

I returned to the Chesapeake last week to prepare the boat for the final leg of my voyage south to Florida. The wind was blowing hard and small craft advisories had been in effect on the bay for nearly a week. As the wind continued to blow, my planned launch date came and went. I had no desire to tempt fate, knowing all too well that the bay can be terrifying in a small boat.

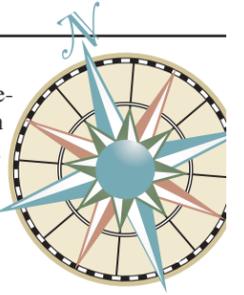
There are certainly worse places to be weathered in. Cambridge, Maryland, is a friendly community on the Choptank River. Founded nearly a century before the Declaration of Independence was written, it is a bustling city with traffic and development that seems to defy its relatively small population. During the age of sail, it was the second largest port in Maryland and today a city park that greets visitors coming from the Baltimore

Washington area is centered upon a large artistic rendition of a sail. Along the waterfront, boat builders restore skipjacks and other historic boats to their former glory and the well-managed city-owned marina is surrounded by parks and historic homes. The housing economy appears diverse with immaculately kept mansions from yesteryear, neglected mansions from the same era, decrepit row houses and brand new condominiums all lining the waterfront.

The diversity is also reflected in the notable residents that hailed from Cambridge. It was the home of Harriet Tubman, an escaped slave and activist on the Underground Railroad. A century later, Tubman's spirit returned through Gloria Richardson, a civil rights leader who made Cambridge the center of the civil rights movement in 1962. The Cambridge Nonviolence Action Committee targeted desegregation in schools and public buildings along with other social injustices. Racial strife in the city reached a point to which the National Guard was called in — and it remained for more than a year. The "Treaty of Cambridge," negotiated by the U.S. Justice Department and Robert F. Kennedy, began the road to recovery in 1963. Today, while it would be naive to think it doesn't exist, there is no evidence of racial strife in this community.

Cambridge was also home to Beatrice Arthur, the actress of the television shows *Maude* and *The Golden Girls*. While attending Cambridge High School, she was named "Wittiest Girl." And with due reflection of the diversity of the community, the city is the birth-

place of Stephen Allen Benson, who in 1856 became the second president of Liberia.



Just down the bay from Cambridge, Tangier Island was the British staging point for the assault on Baltimore in the War of 1812. That battle provided Francis Scott Key with the inspiration to write what would become the National Anthem. Further south is Norfolk, the last stop on the bay before entering the Intracoastal Waterway. Norfolk is home to the world's largest naval base and is replete with American history from the Revolutionary War to World War II.

The winds have calmed on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay but a cold front is barreling across the nation, dumping heavy snow on the northern plains. The National Weather Service is predicting it will lose steam as it approaches the Chesapeake region but I know better and will therefore plan for the worst. It is time to sail out of Cambridge and the Chesapeake Bay for the relatively protected confines of the ICW through Virginia and the Carolinas.

But right now the weather is beautiful. My wife Michelle flew in to help prepare the boat for the long cruise and we spent two days running around town, filling tanks and lockers on the boat. Beneath the frantic activity was teamwork, laughter, and the sharing of a mutual dream; the life we first lived and loved upon moving to Florida 15 years ago. Tomorrow I will have to watch her slowly recede, waving the entire time, as I motor out of the harbor and the frenzied camaraderie of the past two days will be replaced with acute loneliness. For hours, or perhaps days, the laughter we shared will echo in the quiet of the empty cabin. Then slowly, in the emptiness, comes the resolve to get home. The weather is saying go and tomorrow I will have to say goodbye.

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They won! SCC Photo Club tri-club contest

The Sun City Center Photo Club won the second annual Tri-Club competition between the Sarasota Camera Club, the Suncoast Camera Club and the Sun City Center Photo Club. This is a prestigious trophy since each club has many talented photographers.

Their thanks to all who offered their photos for the contest and especially to those whose photos were selected by our panel.

The winning entries were:

Color Prints
 Sunset at Roanoke Island by Matt Batt, Butterfly Flexing His Legs by Doug Moore, Good Morning, Honey by Doug Moore, Overlooking Mt. Rushmore by Sharon Bolton, A Chinese Finger Painter by Wayne Bengston, Banjo Man by Patt Sulzberger, Sugar & Spice by Patt Sulzberger, Dale Chihuly Glass by Rose Stack, Cocktail Hour by Marianne Strehar, Mill by a Stream by Marianne Strehar, Blue Mountains of Australia by Marianne Wexler, Spools of Color by Bill Leasy, Munchin' Lunch by Matt Batt, Colorful Website by Doug Moore, Thumbelina by Joe Pehoushek, Feed Me by Rolf Sulzberger, The Paula Dean Show by Glenn Laucks, Cartagena Window by Marianne Wexler, Caveau by Stan Lipski, Blue Bike by Stan Lipski.

Monochrome Prints
 Grandpa's Barn by Joe Pehoushek, Beach Tree by Stan Lipski, A Beach at Craigleath by Linda Hawkin, Bobcats at Home by

Rolf Sulzberger, Wild Bill Cody by Glenn Laucks, Spires of Inspiration by Matt Batt, Persistence at Yosemite by Rolf Sulzberger, Savannah Frond Weaver by Glenn Laucks, Contrast in Architecture by Unknown, Organist in the Sky by Patt Sulzberger



Blue Bike by Stan Lipski.



Mill by a Stream by Marianne Strehar.



Persistence at Yosemite by Rolf Sulzberger.



Postcards

PHOTO BY BRENDA SEXTON

I think Tampa has a public relations problem. In case you've never heard of it, Tampa is a large city on Florida's Gulf coast conveniently located 20 or so miles north of us. It seems they have trouble getting people to visit — at least based on the fact that no one identified the unidentifiable artwork located on Kennedy Avenue just across from the County Center building. Unfortunately, I still have no idea what it is. This week's photo is thanks to Postcards reader Brenda Sexton. She did an outstanding job capturing a very cool Florida image. And no, the shark isn't a hint and this isn't a Florida image taken inside the commissioner's boardroom at the County Center building. Heck, it's not even in Tampa because, as we all now know, no one goes to Tampa. Tequila Tom of Apollo Beach may well know where this is — do you? Send your best guess or your own postcard (a photo you have personally taken) to where@observernews.net or mail to 210 Woodland Estates Blvd., Ruskin, FL, 33570. Fins to the left! Fins to the right!

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The Small Things

I have always liked little packages, perhaps because I, myself am a small thing. I favor tiny food and tiny creatures. As far as food stuffs, I still drink my daily dose of orange juice out of a small carton with a straw; I like



Saturation Point

By Karey Burek

mini desserts; and am attracted to sample size everything.

Small creatures have always held a special place in my heart. I still crawl around on the ground looking at bugs and snakes, tadpoles and fish. They amaze me because they are so tiny, but they have such detail in their natural design. For instance, I came across a ringneck hatchling that was caught in my pool. It coiled up daintily on the tile just above the water line until my shadow startled it. The tiny snake dove deep out of my reach in an effort to save itself from what it assumed was a predator. I finally managed to scoop the snake out and delivered it to a more suitable wooded habitat in the bushes.

Ringneck snakes are tiny but they have survival skills. This particular species of snake has the largest geographic range of any snake in North America. It can be found up and down the east coast into Canada and across the desert into



The ringneck snake is tiny, but you can clearly see his ring around the neck.

the Pacific coast areas. The average full grown size of the ringneck snake is a little over 12 inches, so it maintains its small size throughout life. It is easily identified by the colorful orange/yellow ring around its neck, with the rest of the body a deep black or grayish color. However, when you flip this snake over, its belly is a bright yellow and it has been known to coil up and show its bright coloration when threatened.

Although tiny, ringneck snakes still have venom in their saliva, which they use to subdue their prey. Some studies have shown that this venom developed for a feeding purpose rather than a predatory defense. They are completely harmless to humans, but because of their large numbers across the

United States, many studies have proven that they are a vital part of a healthy habitat and should be left alone. Due to their high numbers, they are not a protected species, but more research and studies need to be done to determine the impact they have on the environment. They do, however, help maintain the population of invertebrates, other small snakes and lizards locally. They can be found in any type of habitat, however, research has found that they are most abundant in woody areas in the southern region and do not travel above 2200 meters in the northern areas.

As part of my Thanksgiving ritual of giving thanks, I give thanks to all the small things that are just under our noses and sometimes go without being noticed.

Whit and Whimsey

Jam Those Computers

By: Nancy Porter-Thal

What is this malarkey about being "unique?" Everywhere we go we are categorized, typed, labeled, classified, pigeonholed or grouped at sometime by someone for something, somewhere. We are designated by personality types, body types, blood types and type cast to fit into specific slots of young, old, married, single, fat, skinny, sexy, witty, dull, tall, short, to name a few. Each of us is conveniently separated into sizes, shapes, and types, but never by our "unique" and individual characteristics.



Our bodies, personalities and behaviors are grouped in a universal profile that determines or predicts past or future behaviors. For example: If you're a grumpy old goat now, you will most likely be a grumpy old goat in the future. If you're passive, assertive, tenacious or lazy, there's a predictable profile of who you will be in the future. Change is not in the equation. We are a part of an all encompassing data bank full of categories that group, grab and grasp our "uniqueness" in the bowels of huge computers. But, Rejoice! There is a way to foil those nerdy, algorithm writing programmers.

We CAN reclaim our "uniqueness" by scrambling those computers that sort us into categories based upon age and stage. We have to make ourselves less predictable, less defined by supposition.

1. Don't act your age!!!!
 2. Be outrageous. Wear something that's not your style. Get out those 50's plaid pants and the 70's disco polyester.
 3. Be bold. Try new things. If it's like you, do something that isn't. If you're a recluse, be a bon vivant. Tell a joke, even if you think you can't. If you're an erasable codger, try being a kook. If you're uptight, let it all hang out, (except in the one size fits no one hospital gowns that you never want to be caught dead in.)
 4. Try new things. Be open to changes that can make you "unique". How about changing your hair color, your wardrobe, your exercises, your daily routines, your habits and in some cases, your thinking.
- Jumble up your life and those computers a little, by not prescribing your life to a category. Define your "uniqueness" by exploring a new world of being different than the norm. I don't think there's a category for that. Our changes can scatter the data imposed upon us by those expert nerds manning computers. Remember the only thing you can't change in your life is your blood type. They Got Us There!

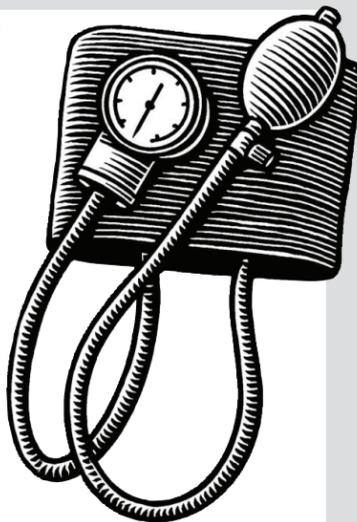
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Christmas festivities unwrapped

The Summerfield Ladies' Club will be holding their 'Annual Christmas Party and Luncheon' on, Wednesday, Dec. 1 at Freedom Plaza, Sun City Center. A car pool will be formed at the Summerfield Community Center with a departure time of 11 a.m.

The members and their guests are asked to bring non-perishable food items for decorating the entryway table and later donated to a Ruskin Food Pantry.

The officers for the club year 2011 will be installed into office at this luncheon and gratitude expressed to the retiring officers.

Three new roofs protect 75 tots

A non-profit childcare center recently received three new roofs, gratis (free), from Service Works, a Tampa-based roofing company.

“What beautiful work, and what a beautiful gift!” said Barbara Mainster, Executive Director of the non-profit Redlands Christian Migrant Association, which operates the re-roofed RCMA Palmetto Child Development Center. Service Works replaced three of the four building roofs at the center, where 22 RCMA staff members care for nearly 75 children of migrant farmworkers.



Service Works replaced three roofs at a non-profit childcare center in Palmetto recently. They are (left to right): Luis Cervantes (top left), Juan Zuniga (bottom left), Juan Campos, Francisco Cilia, Freddy Francisco, Richard Garza, and Tomas Guerra.

Service Works donated all labor and materials for the project, which was completed on Oct. 31. Mike Facundo, RCMA's Director of Facilities, estimated the value at \$21,000 to \$25,000.

“Service Works is proud and honored to have taken part in this very worthy project,” said company President Jeff Anderson. “Many of our valued staff and employees have benefited from programs like the Redlands Christian Migrant Association and this is our small way of giving back. Good luck to RCMA.”



Workers from Service Works prepare a building at RCMA Palmetto Child Development Center for a new roof.

C.A.R.E. Pets of the Week

C.A.R.E. is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For directions, visit www.CareShelter.org or call (813) 645-2273.



Misty

Misty, a hound mix, was found as a stray. She is one adorable little lady. Misty is very affectionate with people and loves the company of other dogs. She also has great house manners. Misty needs an active family and room to run. Misty has been spayed, brought up-to-date on her shots and micro-chipped. Misty's approximate date of birth is March 1, 2010.



Ulysses

Ulysses is a prince among lap cats. He is very friendly and will approach you looking for affection readily. He has a fluffy tail that is constantly in motion and will sit with anyone who will give him the time. Bring home this adventurer to settle into his forever home. He is tired of wandering the globe. Ulysses is neutered and up-to-date on his shots. Ulysses was born on May 1, 2010.

At Home Auto Care and Uniroyal® Tire support Rays AYSO

As part of a successful team effort, Rays AYSO has received more than \$1650 in both funds and equipment from At Home Auto Care and Uniroyal® Tire. The national program, currently in its 11th year, continues to be a major supporter of youth soccer. Partnering with its tire dealers, Uniroyal® Tire has donated nearly

\$13 million in funds and equipment, including over one million soccer balls, since 2000 through the Uniroyal Soccer Program.

“This program is about giving back and helping my community in supporting our local youth,” said Julie Davis from At Home Auto Care. “Everyone at At Home Auto Care is pleased to be taking

part in such a unique initiative. It's great to see families in the store and the parents are as appreciative as the children to receive a free soccer ball.”

“We enjoy being able to offer such a successful program to our dealers and their communities again this year,” said Ashley Ramos, Uniroyal® Tire marketing

communications manager. “Providing a national program, which is implemented on a local level, wouldn't be possible without a solid commitment from dealers like At Home Auto Care.”

For the latest information about the Uniroyal Soccer Program and Uniroyal® Tires, visit the brand's website at www.UniroyalTires.com www.uniroyaltires.com; to find us on Facebook, visit www.facebook.com/UniroyalSoccer. To learn more about At Home Auto Care, call Julie Davis, 645-0339 at 2003 U.S. Hwy. 41 South in Ruskin, or visit www.athomeauto.net.

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Includes: Visual inspection of tires, belts & hoses, horn/lights, brakes, shocks/struts, exhaust, wipers, suspension, air and breather filter.

Most cars/light trucks. Disassembly to perfect inspection may result in additional charges. Present coupon to receive savings. No other discounts apply. Additional charges for shop supplies may be added. See store for details. Exp. 12/23/10

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Includes up to 5 qts 5W/20, 10W/30, or 10W/40 motor oil. Purolator oil filter. Most cars and light trucks. Please call for appointment. Valid only with coupon. Not valid with any other coupons or specials. Coupon expires 12/2/10.

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Manasota Genealogical Society to meet

The Manasota Genealogical Society will meet from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at the Manatee County Central Library for a presentation by the Rev. Herb Loomis titled 'The Genealogy of Santa Claus Post Cards.'

Special interest group to follow with 'Organizing Genealogical Data in Your Computer.' For more information, call Jean Morris at (941) 722-5156 or visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flmgs.

South County Gives Back

Wilhelm Heating and Air Conditioning is a drop site for Deputies Darlin's Toys and clothing donations for children age 10 to 15 can be dropped off weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Wilhelm's, 802 4th St. SW (off College Ave. West) in Ruskin. For more information call Officer Budd at 813-672-7430.

SCC Roamin' Oldies are joining forces with the Braden Street Cruisers for their 7th annual Toys for Tots show, 10-2 at DeSoto Square Mall in Bradenton on Dec. 4. More than 100 collectible and antique vehicles will line the parking lot. Admission is free. Donate a new unwrapped toy to vote for your favorite show vehicle. For more information www.roaminoldies.com.

Proceeds from the Summerfield Ladies Club holiday bake sale on Saturday, Dec. 4 at the subdivision's community center will be donated to the US Marine Corp Toys for Tots program.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry will be the beneficiary of the Sun City Center Community Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 7 p.m. at Prince of Peace Catholic Church. For every 18 cents, the Pantry is able to buy 1 pound of food from "Feed America." The Ministerial Alliance hopes people will give thanks by giving generously to the offering for the Pantry.

Former alumni of East Bay High School are raising money to fund a scholarship in honor of retired drama teacher Lynnette Lota. The Lota Arts Scholarship will be an endowment that awards a \$1,000 scholarship each year to a performing arts student from EBHS or Riverview High School. \$20,000 is needed to establish the endowment. Donations can be made via the Hillsborough Education Foundation website at www.educationfoundation.com. For more information contact Jason Ferguson at jason@fergusonlive.com.

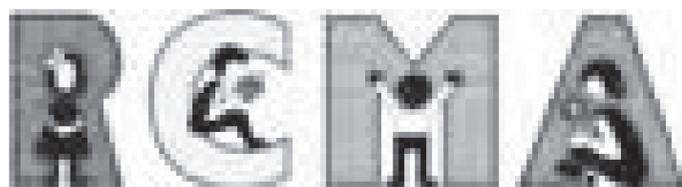
The Shoe Lab, Inc at 1202 1st Street SW in Ruskin is collecting gently worn shoes for Soles4Souls. If you bring your shoes to The Shoe Lab, Inc. for donation to Soles4Souls, they will make minor repairs to the shoes at no cost to the donor. For more information about The Shoe Lab, Inc., visit www.myshoelab.com and/or www.shoerepairbymail.com

RCMA opens Head Start Centers

The Redlands Christian Migrant Association, a local not-for-profit organization, would like to announce that its Migrant Head Start Centers will be open as of Nov. 15, 2010. They serve migrant farm working families with priority given to families of children with special needs. They are accepting applications, and would appreciate referrals of children from migrant families that are in need of childcare services. The following is a list of centers, with age requirements and contact info.

- Ruskin Migrant Child Development Center. Ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Contact: Rebecca Galan at (813) 671-5275.
- RCMA Wimauma Campus Child Development Center. Ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Contact: Hilda Leija at (813) 671-5278.
- RCMA Estancia Child Development Center. Ages 3-5 years. Contact: Juanita Juarez at (813) 671-5285.
- RCMA Beth El Child Development Center. Ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Contact: Sylvia Blanco at (813) 672-5165.
- RCMA Balm Child Development Center. Ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Contact: Evelyn Soto at (813) 672-5332.

The local area office is located at 312 Highway 41 S. in Ruskin. If you have any questions or need more information, call Miguel Fuentes at (813) 671-5264.



South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 Upcoming Activities

- Every Tuesday – Jam Session from 3 to 5 p.m. There is no charge for all Elks and their guests.
- Every Wednesday – Best Spaghetti in Town, \$7, All-You-Can-Eat, for all Elks and their guests. Music by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.
- Every Thursday – Fun Night, Bar Bingo, Wii games available all evening till closing.
- Every Friday – Seafood and Sandwiches for all Elks and their guests from 5 to 7 p.m. Karaoke by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 20 – Turkey Shoot for all Elks and their guests from 5 to 8 p.m. Menu is Sandwich Buffet, \$3.
- Sunday, Nov. 21 – Pot Luck Dinner for all Elks and their guests. Bring your favorite dish.
- Monday, Nov. 29 – Poor Man's Dinner for all Elks and their guests. at 5 p.m., \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Menu: American Goulash.



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Free Florida-friendly landscaping evaluations for neighborhood associations

Creating a low-impact, Florida-friendly landscape can be fun and rewarding. But, where do you start? Hillsborough County Extension offers free evaluation and guidance for neighborhood associations wanting to build beautiful landscapes that help protect Florida's environment.

On-site landscape evaluations offered to officers or board members of neighborhood associations will cover:

- The nine principles to a Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
 - An evaluation of existing landscaping
 - Landscaping recommendations
 - Information on Senate Bill 2080, the legislation of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
- Additional elements in the evaluation include:
- Overall design, selection and placement of plants
 - Pruning practices
 - Problem plants, such as diseased trees and invasive, non-native plants
 - Pest and disease issues; pesticide use on the property
 - Nutritional deficiencies and the application of fertilizers
 - Mulch -- type, quantity and application
 - Irrigation (in-ground) sprinkler system operation and time clock settings

This program is available in many counties. For more information, or to schedule an evaluation, contact Maria Carver, at (813) 744-5519, ext. 142, or carverms@hillsboroughcounty.org. Program information is also available at http://hillsborough_fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/Comm-Assoc-FYN.html.

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Community Association Outreach Program is funded by the Alafia River and Hillsborough River Basin Boards of the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Hillsborough and Polk County Commissions.



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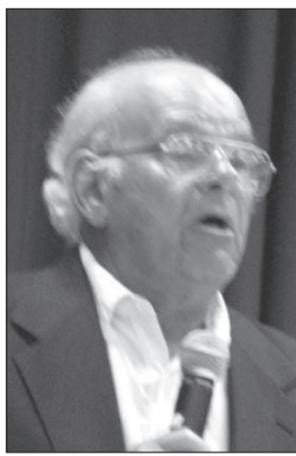
ED BARNES



BOB BLACK



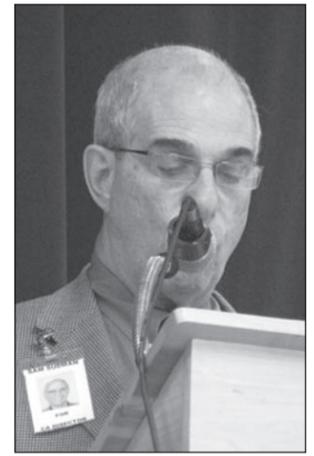
ART ERICKSON



ED JACOBS



DAVID FLOYD



SAM SUDMAN

SCC CA candidates

■ Continued from page 1

agreed, adding that the decision would “affect all of us.” Jacobs, on the other hand, said in his view it would be a south side decision alone and Erickson said he did not disagree with that outlook but emphasized if such an opening occurred it could constitute a “short-cut” for “drive-by criminals.” Black pointed out that under hurricane conditions such an opening would be very useful as a means of exiting the community and suggested a gated entry designated for emergency purposes only.

On several subjects, the candidates clearly demonstrated their basic agreement. Communications – both between the CA board and residents as well as between the community and the world at large – produced considered response among them. Jacobs, a licensed Florida attorney, pinpointed a lack of communications between the

community and its onsite governing board as a big problem. “We’re here to serve the residents of this community and that is the only reason. We’re not here to promote our own ideas unless they are beneficial to community.” He also suggested that all CA board meetings be recorded, with copies made available in the CA office and library as well as published in print and on the community website.

Floyd, who has called for creation of a comprehensive communications plan, also noted that work on information flow within SCC is needed. The chemical and biological scientist pointed out that within months the community will observe its 50th anniversary and from that point looks ahead to a “long future.” He also underscored the opportunity to work with Minto Communities, the new developer, and with ClubLink, new owner of the golf courses, in

promoting the community outside SCC.

Asked for their views on the SCC relationship with Kings Point, Black and Floyd agreed on the advisability of maintaining a close cooperation between the two sets of neighborhoods, with Black noting that many Kings Pointers are active in SCC clubs. He said he believes more cross participation should be encouraged. And Barnes, who did not disagree, offered the view that the two different lifestyles of the two communities probably precludes any full merger of the two.

Sudman, with a background in science, academics and business plus lengthy history managing non-profit entities, observed that SCC is “at a crossroads,” experiencing both changing demographics and changing conditions. He called for exploring opportunities to work with Minto and ClubLink on such matters as uses of the closed North Lake Golf Course

and maintenance of medians along S.R. 674, also known as Sun City Center Boulevard. A key question is, he said, “what can we do to make SCC more attractive?”

And Erickson, an electronics technician who describes himself as “analytical to a fault,” pointed out that at age 57 he offers a new perspective, part of the changing demographic in the community noted by Sudman. He also sounded a note of caution, suggesting

that many new residents come to SCC because of connections by blood or friendship to other, long term Sun City citizens, providing a certain “continuity” in the process. “Some people like the small town atmosphere,” he said, “be careful what you wish for. There are two sides to every issue.”

The election will be conducted Tuesday, November 30, and Wednesday, December 1.

Copyright 2010 Melody Jameson

Manatee decal art contest for high school students

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) invites high school art students across the state to participate in a contest to create a piece of manatee artwork that will be used on the 2011-2012 manatee decal.

Students in grades 9-12 in Florida should coordinate with their

school’s art teacher to submit the artwork, because each school may submit no more than five entries. Home-schooled students also are eligible to enter the contest. Contest details and forms are available online at MyFWC.com/Manatee.

Manatee Decal Art Contest Requirements:

- All entries must be the sole, original work of the artist.
 - Student artists must attend a Florida public, private or home school for high school, grades 9-12.
 - Art teachers may submit no more than five entries per school. Home-school parents may submit one student entry per home-school group.
 - The designs should be in full color, using acrylic, gouache, oil, silkscreen, woodcut and/or digital art. The design may be realistic or abstract, as long as the image depicts a recognizable manatee.
 - Designs must be formatted to an 11-inch by 8.5-inch horizontal format. The winning image will be cropped for an oval or circular border.
 - Artwork should be affixed to a backboard and covered loosely with a protective covering.
- Entries must be postmarked on or before Jan. 28, 2011. Failure to follow any of the requirements will disqualify entries from being considered for the contest. FWC artists and biologists will judge the entries in February. The winning design will be used to create a final decal for distribution through county tax collectors’ offices around the state.

To view previous manatee decals, go to MyFWC.com/Manatee. For more information, please contact Bonnie Abellera at bonnie.abellera@MyFWC.com or call 850-617-6052.

November is Manatee Awareness Month in Florida. Manatees become more visible in the rivers and springs this month as they move from the estuaries and bays seeking warmer waters. As a result, boating speed zones changed in many coastal counties on Nov. 15, and the FWC advises boaters to be on the lookout for the endangered Florida manatee.

St. Anne Catholic Church

bingo!

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Medicare plans

■ Continued from page 1

Most people who get sick and go for tests and have treatments assume this is the norm for everyone, but it is not.

As I wandered through the maze of clinics and hospital wards – especially during a cardiac incident in the summer of 2009– I found hundreds of people in the same shape as I, and many far worse.

While it is true hospital emergency rooms must stabilize anyone brought in to keep them from dying, only certain county hospitals that receive a particular type of funding, including Tampa General and Manatee Memorial, admit patients without insurance to a floor after stabilizing them in the ER.

Expensive tests as an outpatient, like MRI's, CAT scans and cardio tests?

Forget it. Show the insurance card that will pay in full or don't let the door hit you on the way out. Unless of course, you're prepared to fork over the \$3,000 to \$10,000 (or more) that these tests cost.

I'm basing these conclusions not only on my own personal experience, but on the other people I've met and written about in previous news stories, like the woman dying of cancer who slipped through the cracks of programs until it was too late for even the Patient Advocacy Center to help her; the heads of clinics like ECHO in Brandon and SunCoast Community Health Center in Ruskin whose CEO's told me outright that Gov. Charlie Crist's "Cover Florida" program didn't give any help to the people who flood their waiting rooms every day.

Cover Florida, initiated in January of this year, costs between \$300 and \$500 a month for a single person, depending on which plan is chosen, but the deductibles are too high for people in the targeted income range and the maximum limits for hospital stays are way below the actual costs, causing bankruptcies and often loss of homes, simply because one family member got sick and thought their insurance policy would cover the bill.

Sure there are those who refuse to pay for health care coverage that make this problem worse. But they're pretty much always young and healthy. People like me – usually between the ages of 55 and 64– or younger with a chronic disease, aren't permitted to purchase policies at any price (even if we could afford to).

So what do we do? Most of us just continue to go without care until we hit the emergency room and that costs everybody more money in the taxes they pay to support the county-funded hospitals that must by law admit and treat the uninsured.

The World Health Organization agrees that our system is far from perfect; with graphs on its Web site showing that the U.S. is far from a

leader in health care and/or mortality rates.

Yet the picture changes radically when you turn 65.

Rich or poor, healthy or riddled with chronic conditions, at 65 Americans can get health care through our Medicare system.

One of my doctors jokingly said I was finally entering the "Holy Land."

Unlike so many people who hate hitting the "Big 65," I was like a kid in a candy store knowing that November 2010 had finally come. No longer could companies say I had too many pre-existing conditions to qualify for an insurance policy.

To me this meant I could finally get tests and treatment when I needed them.

Long before the big day arrived, I began investigating what the choices were and found a lot of things some people I know who were already on Medicare said they didn't know.

There were so many choices: straight Medicare, with Parts A, B and C to consider. And prescription plan D. The supplementary policy issue; and/or Advantage Plans.

It all seemed very confusing which is why Medicare specialists say the majority of people "just say yes" to the government form that gets sent out about six months prior to a person's turning 65. And they never examine the issue any further.

The little red-white-and-blue card simply asks if we want Medicare or not. Saying "yes" means you end up with straight Medicare and you may later find that isn't what suits your particular needs.

Having written so many health care stories and having interviewed people from local agencies, medical doctors, the Florida Governor's office, and even the Department of Health in Washington D.C., you'd think I'd know enough to be able to sign up for my own Medicare plan.

Well, of course I could have done just that, like millions do.

But I understand the basics just well enough to know there are many ways Medicare-eligible residents can get more bang for their buck.

Making comparisons, not just once, but every year, is the key.

Experts explained to me that since a person's health doesn't stay static, it's a good idea to check your coverage out each year during the annual window of opportunity for Medicare recipients to change their policies. This window opens Nov. 15 and closes Dec. 31.

Maybe a new medicine has been added to your daily routine. Or there's been a change; for better or worse- of some condition. Any number of things could be a signal that a different policy could give you more of the benefits you actually use; maybe even for less money than you're paying now.

I had heard about Medicare specialists, but I didn't want to deal

with a government agency or an agent for an insurance company. But was there another choice?

Wandering through the lobby of the Kings Point Clubhouse I found that there was.

There are people who register as independent insurance agents, which means they're freelancers (like I am, only I do writing and editing and they compare policies).

The independent agent I met was Anna Lonas and I spent quite a long time talking with her and allowed her to make the decision for me based on what health conditions I have and what medicines I take.

I have friends who are paying much more than I am for 80/20 deals; where the insurance company pays 80 percent and they're left to pay the remainder of the bill. What I found was that for the same cost as regular Medicare, about \$110 a month, I could purchase an Advantage Plan that would cover 100-percent of my bills (after a rather low deductible) with co pays as low as \$10 for my general practitioner; and most of the cost of all my medicines, even one I take for which there is no generic.

Since I'm not the kind who goes to a doctor for every headache or bruise, I wanted something that would cover the biggies best: like my cardiac event in 2009.

It took about 48 hours for my independent Medicare specialist to find one that fit the bill.

Since I paid nothing for the service, I asked how could this be?

Independent specialists are not paid by any one insurance company but register with all the major (and some smaller) companies that operate in a particular state. They'll be paid by the company – not the client. It's in their best interest to find you the best deal for your particular situation so you'll keep coming back.

Sure, you can go to the Medicare site and do the comparisons yourself.

I tried that. On my third attempt, I realized I was getting different answers each time. One time I got a good price and coverage for the medicines, but the hospital coverage wasn't right. I went back on



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Consulting with independent Medicare Specialist Anna Lonas who comes from St. Petersburg to set up a table in the Kings Point Clubhouse periodically helped me decide which option to take. Everyone is encouraged to find an independent specialist who is not a representative of any one insurance company during their annual opportunity to change plans which falls between Nov. 15 and Dec. 31.

line and tried to get more hospital coverage and ended up with my two most expensive medications left unpaid.

"People need to examine exactly what costs they're paying out of pocket and how often they use that service," Lonas told me. "Every prescription plan has the same standard coverage which is determined by the government. But one company may charge more than another for the same drug. There may be a plan that covers your more expensive drugs but when you see that it isn't covering all your medications you automatically turn it down. That may not be a good solution because you may be able to trade off a couple of cheap prescriptions for a much lower out-

of-pocket cost on something else that will hit you much harder, like specialists or hospital coverage."

Once and awhile organizations like AARP have seminars in South County and bring people who can answer specific questions but I much prefer having a name with a face I recognize that I can call any time, without charge, knowing they don't represent a particular company, but represent me.

To reach Lonas, call (727) 215-6237 or email her at alonas@jrstoner.com.

Or just Google in "Independent Medicare Specialists, Tampa Bay" and find one yourself.

Just be sure to do it before this year's deadline of Dec. 31.



How do you want your money held?
Taxable, Tax-Deferred or...



Reposition your Annuity, IRA or CD in to a Financial Legacy!

Seniors,

If you haven't given much thought to the disposition of your holdings at your death and the income tax that your beneficiaries will be responsible for, you should talk with us now or visit our consumer link!

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We have agent contracts available. Contact me today for our agent-only link and product specifications!

Michael Simpson

National Sales Distributor

(813) 498-0312

roundtablelife@aol.com



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Carl E. Friedman, D.D.S.

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Members: American Dental Association, Florida State Dental Association, Florida West Coast Dental Association, Manatee County Dental Association and Hillsborough County Dental Association.

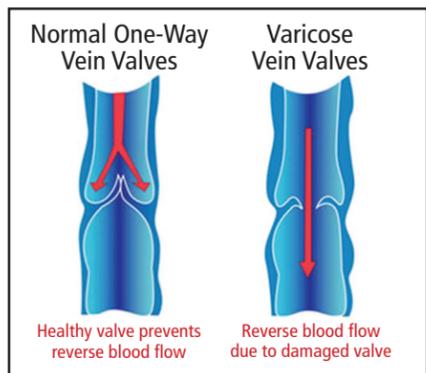
PUT YOUR TIRED, PAINFUL LEGS INTO OUR SKILLED HANDS.

Our free consultation will be your first step to pain-free legs.

The signs of varicose veins aren't always obvious. Even if you don't see veins on the surface of your legs, there's a good chance your discomfort is a symptom of vein disease. Half of all men and women over 50 are affected by a vein problem. And without intervention, the problem will only get worse. Fortunately, the solution is a simple one.

Here's all that's standing between you and healthier, younger looking legs:

All veins have valves. Healthy valves keep blood flowing only upward and support the weight of the column of blood. When



these valves are broken, blood pools below. This congestion and increased pressure result in discomfort and cause fluid to build up and leak from the deeper capillaries. The result – gradual and continuous deterioration of your legs over the years. Both visible and hidden varicose veins are dangerous – they increase your risk of blood clots. Most varicose veins are hidden. Tired, painful legs are a symptom that something is wrong.

Don't take your ultra-sound while lying down.

We test your vein valves while you are standing. If you have ever had an ultrasound of vein valves performed while you were lying

Any of these symptoms can signal dangerous, hidden varicose veins. Schedule a **FREE consultation** to see if our **painless procedures** can help.

- Painful, aching legs
- Tired legs
- Leg cramps
- Swollen ankles
- Skin discoloration
- Restless legs
- Itching, burning skin

A simple procedure will change your life.

There are many different treatments for vein disease, but not all are equal. Some are obsolete, painful and dangerous. Ours are modern, painless and safe.



Before and after photos show dramatic results from advanced vein procedures.

down, you have had inadequate testing. This is a gravity issue, after all! Our more advanced

methods detect valve problems frequently missed by less well-equipped clinics.

Vein testing is easy and painless and takes place right in our office. At your exam appointment, our doctor will explain the ultrasound results and discuss treatment options with you. At Mountcastle Vein Centers, we offer four simple, advanced 20-minute procedures performed in our private, small clinic atmosphere. All four are

painless, effective, minimally invasive and non-surgical. You can expect to return to normal activity the same day.

The sooner you call, the sooner you'll find relief.

Don't let leg discomfort keep you from enjoying life. In most cases, our procedures are considered medically necessary and are covered by health insurance and Medicare. This is a progressive disease. **So call today for your free consultation. Learn how to stop and reverse the deterioration of your legs.**

Sun City Center

4040 Upper Creek Dr., Ste. 105, FL 33573 (next to South Bay Hospital)

St. Petersburg (at Isla del Sol)

Largo (next to Largo Medical Center)

Palm Harbor

(at The Fountains, Alderman & US19)

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Daniel J. Mountcastle, MD
(Ohio State University)

Naushin Jobe, MD
(Chicago Medical School)

Jack Lipps, MD
(University of Louisville)

Kim Truett, BS, Vascular Technology
(Oregon Institute of Technology)

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

If you are purchasing a new air conditioning system that qualifies for the Florida Energy Rebate make sure the company you choose is going to take care of the required load calculations and testing of your duct system. Many AC companies are leaving it up to the customer to pay for the required tests. This is a cost of \$300-\$500 per test, if it fails the first time another full price test will be required. At Apollo Beach Air the required load calculation and duct test is included with the purchase of your qualifying air conditioning system. You may still need to pay a rater to certify your duct system as required by the state but they will already have been tested and you'll know that they will pass before incurring that expense.



Savings up to:

- \$1,000** Lennox® Rebate*
- +\$1,500** Tax Credit**
- + \$500** Instant Trade Rebate***
- + \$275** Teco Rebate***
- +\$1,500** FL Energy Star Rebate***

- \$4,775** Total Savings

Hurry, Act Now!
The Federal Tax Credits are Ending Soon.

It's impossible to save too much money, but this is pretty close.

Get **\$50 OFF**
Your First Repair

12 Years Parts & Labor
Warranty or 12 Months
Same as Cash

\$19.95 18-point
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Get **\$50 OFF**
Duct cleaning
FREE Video Inspection
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Apollo Beach Air
Heating and Cooling



CAC1813763

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(813) 645-0381

Lennox knows you don't compromise. And neither do we. That's why we dedicate ourselves to product innovation and customer service. So go ahead, get comfortable.

Sifting through some Blasts from the past

The other night I was treated to a look through a box of rare finds when my neighbor, Betty Johnson, brought out some of the things she'd found while going through her mother's possessions. Her mother had lived with her until her death earlier this year, and Betty didn't know exactly what was stored in the boxes she'd brought to her garage and store room, just that they were filled with things her mother, Patricia Johnson, had saved. As it turned out, some of the things she found had also belonged to her grandmother Nettie Fern Hannes, who moved to Ruskin from Buffalo, N.Y. around 1962 to be near Betty's family, after her parents had already settled there.

While preparing for the latest community-wide garage sale held in the Summerfield area of Riverview twice a year, Betty decided she would open the boxes and see if there was anything worth putting into the sale. Besides, she said, she needed to get rid of some things to make more room.

I knew that a couple of months back, she had discovered a football, encased in a plastic box, signed by Tony Dungy, former coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and spokesman for the national fatherhood organization, All Pro Dads.

But now, boxes of old magazines and newspapers began to show up. We looked through the November 1963 edition of *The Post* with a young Bob Hope on the cover; a *Lady's Circle* magazine featuring Jacqueline Kennedy's "New Life," dated December 1964, 13 months after the assassination of her husband, and a 1964-1965 *Smoke Signals* (the newspaper for East Bay High School) with a photograph of Hillsborough County's former school superintendent, and current Supervisor of Elections, Earl J. Lennard, when as a (very young) teacher at East Bay he had won

the county's Teacher of the Year award.

Very interesting material turned up in several saved editions of *the Ruskin Shopper and Observer*, which later became *The Observer News*, including announcements of "the new Thriftway grocery store" which would be opening in March 1976 and that same year, a story about the 10 tons of steel used to build what was referred to as the Mixon Building; which would become the future home of this newspaper.

The prices in the full page ads for Thriftway were interesting too, with milk at 98¢ a gallon and bananas 17¢ a pound.

I know a lot of people wonder why the shopping center by the Ruskin Post Office is called Thriftway Plaza. Thriftway was still there for several years after I moved to Ruskin from Bradenton in January 1980, until it was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt.

Meanwhile, Betty continued to pull papers out of the big brown box and we found several copies of what might have been the first existing newspaper in South County, The Ruskin-Sun City News. The content showed it was not talking about Sun City Center, but South County's original Sun City south of Ruskin that was obviously then a bustling place. It also had people reporting events in Balm, Del Webb's Sun City, Gibsonton, and Apollo Beach. Announcements of parties, birthdays, weddings and anniversaries were common then and sometimes ads were mixed in with news so you really had to look to be sure which was which.

The earliest date we could find was July 1960 and we could not find any start-up date but saw that the weekly publication sold for five cents and had a circulation just over 4,500. *The Ruskin-Sun City News* wasn't operating when I moved here from Bradenton, so I know it had gone out of business before 1980. I'm sure if I asked

Jonie Maschek,



Above, the April 4, 1968, edition of *The Shopper & Observer News*, and a 1965 issue of East Bay High School's newspaper *Smoke Signals*, were found by Betty Johnson along with many other keepsakes. At left, the school newspaper featured a story on Earl Lennard who was a teacher at East Bay for many years before becoming a School Board member and presently the county's Supervisor of Elections.

See **BLASTS FROM THE PAST**, page 3B



Over Coffee
By Penny Fletcher
penny@observernews.net



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Betty Johnson of the Summerfield area of Riverview has made some amazing finds in her garage and storage room since her mother's death earlier this year. A third-generation resident of the area, it seems her mother and grandmother kept a lot of things she never knew they had including old newspapers, photographs and a record of title to land she still owns in Ruskin that includes every sale beginning in 1883.

Order NOW for Christmas!



Gifts under \$35

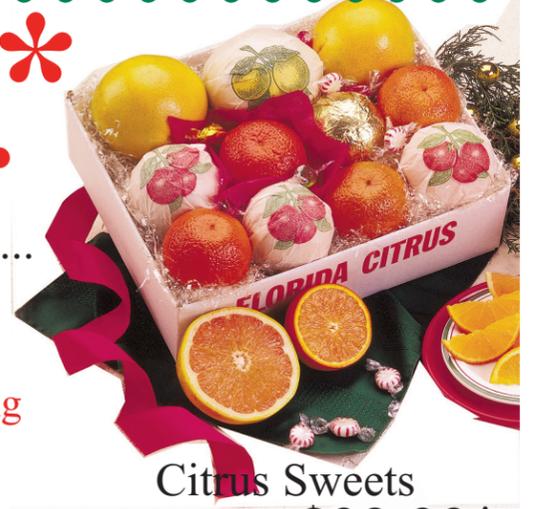
Packed with Navel Oranges, Christmas Tangerines and Red Grapefruit ... ripe and ready for Christmas enjoyment!

WOW! Easy hassle-free Christmas Gift-Giving is just one phone call away! Order NOW for Christmas delivery!

A Friendly Florida Voice will be happy to help you select that PERFECT Holiday Gift! Call Anytime between 9am-5pm



Florida Sweet Combo
Gift #S602 only **\$34.99***



Citrus Sweets
Gift #S902 only **\$32.99***



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Fax 813-645-1827



Citrus Bouquet
Gift # S701 only **\$31.99***



Season Sampler
Gift #S903 only **\$30.99***
**Plus shipping, doorstep delivery by FEDEX*

Timeless tastes... good old-fashioned value and quality, simple and pure... that's what Dooley Groves is all about. We, at Dooley Groves, pledge to continue the old fashioned tradition of providing a good, quality product at a fair price, backed by a satisfaction guarantee, that has been the hallmark for three generations of the Dooley Groves family. For over 43 years in southern Hillsborough County, we pride ourselves on this tradition to keep you coming back for more!

1-tray Navels and Red Grapefruit Gift Box
Gift # 1NR only **\$31.99***



Come to the Grove! It's just a short drive out in the country



US # 1 grade and quality



Fresh Navel Oranges, Tangerines and Red Grapefruit for Home or Travel in mesh bags



Dooley Groves

Country Farm Market

Juicy Savings! 2010 Holiday Season

The Original Grove Store Location

1651 Stephens Road
Old Sun City, Florida
(some folks call it Ruskin)

Directions From Sun City Center / Riverview Area:

Travel WEST on S.R. 674 about 5 miles (past I-75) to U.S. 41. Turn SOUTH (left) on U.S. 41. Travel for about 3 miles to Universal-Stephens Road. (Riverside Club sign on the left corner) Turn LEFT and drive about 1/4 mile to Stephens Road. Turn RIGHT onto Stephen Road. Travel 2 miles. Dooley Groves is on the left.



Freshly-squeezed Orange and Grapefruit Juices Gifts, Marmalades, Honey, Candy, Cookies and much more!



Packinghouse Special!



SMALL Navel Oranges... too small to pack and send up North, but GREAT for juicing! PICK 'n' PACK from the Packinghouse bins
1/4 bu bag only **\$6.95**
while supplies last! When they're gone, they're gone.
Cannot be shipped

Country Store Open

Monday- Saturday 9am - 5pm
Open Sundays through Christmas 10am - 5pm
813-645-3256

"Little Squeeze" is a Registered Trademark of the Florida Dept of Citrus 2010

Blasts from the past

Continued from page 1B

It was funny to see (the night before the Nov. 2 election) the name Alex Sink as the signature on the Certificate of Appreciation given to Betty's mother, Pat Johnson, for her work on the 1993 United Way campaign at her place of business, which was then Gardiner Fertilizer, one of the previous names for what is now Mosaic, where Betty has worked in the accounting department for the last 35 years. At that time Sink was campaign manager for the United Way.

There were some old family photographs too, and a brochure about the Hoover Dam which probably belonged to her grandmother because as it turns out, one of Betty's uncles helped build it.

The most interesting thing I saw was a bound book with a soft, moccasin-type leather page for the front, titled *Abstract of Title*.

Now Betty had explained that her mother was from Buffalo, N. Y.,

and had met her dad while he was in the Coast Guard up North. He was from Arcadia, so they moved to Florida after being married; had their first child here; moved back up North and had two children while up there, and then bought property and settled in Ruskin, where two more children, including Betty — who was the youngest and the only girl of the five siblings — were born.

The *Abstract of Title* began with the sale of property (bought by Betty's family in 1954, and which she still owns today) in Ruskin's old Colony Farms area — which is 14th Avenue near First Street S.W.; the area that houses the Joyce Ely Health Center and Ruskin Neighborhood Service Center building.

The earliest recorded deed to it was signed in 1883 in London, England, for a price of \$1 to Sir Edward James and Lady Rosetta Reed. The property changed hands several times in the early days, once being taken over in foreclo-

sure by the Florida Land Bank. The earliest tax recorded on the property is \$31 in the mid 1880s.

Every change of hands from the Reeds to the present day is recorded in the book, which appears quite thick for a land transaction account.

Betty says she knew her mother was a "saver" but she didn't realize some of the papers and magazines had also belonged to her grandmother. Each newspaper evidently had some mention of a family member, although she couldn't find them all.

You never know what you're going to find when going through relatives' things after someone has died. I still haven't figured out

what to do with the record albums that belonged to an uncle who worked on the Radio City Music Hall sound stage center as an engineer for nearly 40 years. Some are pre-date vinyls and cut on only one side because the performers made mistakes and the albums were never released.

So go through your attics and garages. Having grown up in New Jersey I almost said basement and then remembered we don't have basements in Florida.

You never know what you might find!

*Perhaps you have something

you'd like to share. Or maybe you'd rather tell the community about your favorite charity or cause: or sound off about something you think needs change. That's what "Over Coffee" is about. It really doesn't matter whether we actually drink any coffee or not (although I probably will). It's what you have to say that's important. E-mail me any time at penny@observernews.net and suggest a meeting place. No matter what's going on, I'm usually available to share just one more cup.

The equipment shown in the photo at left was state-of-the-art in the 1970s when thieves stole it from the *Shopper & Observer News*. It was recovered by the government in Sarasota when they raided a counterfeit operation in progress. Below, advertisements are interesting to look at in past editions. Some are still advertising in *The Observer News* today.

Shopper And Observer Stolen Equipment Partially Recovered

During the weekend of February 24-25, this year, the *Shopper & Observer News*, Ruskin's weekly newspaper and shopping guide, was burglarized and most of the printed and electronic equipment was stolen. Last weekend most of the stolen equipment was recovered at a Sarasota address, where it was being used to make money (something it had not done very well for its rightful owners). Seems some folks couldn't get rich soon enough, so they decided to make their own spending money without our presence. In addition to the loss of the press, the paper suffered the loss also, of two typewriters, a varisetter and the expensive

See SHOPPER Page 13

HEADLINES, VARIETYTYPE and typewriter shown here were recovered by U.S. Treasury in a raid on a counterfeit operation in Sarasota last weekend. Machines and press (not shown) were stolen from the *Shopper & Observer News* shop week-end of February 24.

...HARDING

Special Sale-- ALL NEW

10 ft. Aluminum Boat Motor AND HEAVY DUTY CARTOP RACK

ONLY \$150.00

Limited Supply

Have the Money When Your Car Arrives...

Our fast, easy loans make buying a car simple! Pick your car, come in to see us, and in no time at all you're in the driver's seat! If you pre-money before you car-shop, we'll lend you the money and our low interest rates make it a breeze to own a car. Take the easy way out..... come see us soon.

FIRST RUSKIN BANK

member FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE corp.

Ruskin Extension Homemakers Meet

The regular meeting of the Ruskin Extension Homemakers was held Tuesday, March 23, at Ruskin Ag Park. Mrs. Leland Kennedy announced that the Chaper Club due to the drive. Mrs. Leland Kennedy, Mrs. Ruby Keene and Mrs. Marie Lette reported on the interesting and educational booth arranged by the Ruskin Extension Homemakers at the Plant City Festival which displayed poisonous plants found around the home.

...HARDING

Gibsonton News

By Duft Tinner - 677-6172

Get well wishes to Mrs. Hazel Stansell in Tampa General Hospital. Also to Frank Sheppard at home.

Assisted Chief Higgins showed movies at the regular meeting of the Fire Department. The topic was national emergency, which was enjoyed by all.

Don't Buy Any Car New Or Used Until You See CONLEY BUICK

2100-9th STREET WEST Bradenton - Ph. 746-6136

Bahia Beach TEEN DANCE

Martha White Sell Rizing

Cornmeal 5 lb 79c

Nestle Chocolate **Quik** 2 lb \$1.79

Jell-O Gelatine All Flavors 3 oz pkg 5/\$1.00

FAB OR GAIN Detergent 49 oz 99c Limit one

Maxwell House Coffee Regular, Drip, Electro Perk. 16 oz Bag 99c

Viva Towels jumbo roll 2/\$1.00

TAMPA ABSTRACT AND TITLE INSURANCE CO.

Sir Edward James Reed of Hextable in the County of Kent, K.C.B.M.P. and Lady Rosetta, his wife.

Deed Book K, page 289

DEED

Dated: Sept. 28th, 1883

Filed: Nov. 19th, 1883

\$1.00 & og & ve

The Florida Land and Mortgage Company, Limited (a Company duly incorporated in England under the Companies Acts 1862 to 1880)

Give, grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm unto the said Company, its successors and assigns for an estate of inheritance in fee simple in possession free from incumbrances etc., the lands described in the following schedule:

The schedule before referred to: In Hillsborough County. All of Section 3 Township 32 South Range 19 East (And other lands)

Signed: E.J. Reed (Seal) Rosetta Reed (Seal)

Two witnesses.

Acknowledged in Kingdom of Great Britain, City of London, England, Sept. 28, 1883, by Sir Edward James Reed K.C.B.M.P. and Lady Rosetta Reed, his wife, with separate examination and before L.H. Mitchell, Vice and Deputy Consul General and Notary Public, ex-officio of the United States of America at London, England, who certifies that the appearers are known to him to be the persons described in and who executed the foregoing instrument. Official seal affixed. Commission expires -----

This deed is the first in the Abstract of Title book listing all sales of Betty's land in Ruskin and is dated 1883. It is deeded to Sir Edward James and Lady Rosetta Reed of London, England, at a cost of \$1. Although no taxes are recorded on this deed, later in the 1800s when it changed hands the first recorded tax is \$31. Below, Harwell's IGA Foodliner ran a two page ad celebrating their 16th anniversary, in the March 11, 1976, issue of *The Shopper & Observer News*.

THE SHOPPER & OBSERVER NEWS Thursday, March 11, 1976

Harwell's 16th Anniversary Sale - America's 200th Anniversary

DOUBLE CELEBRATION

Second Big Week!

Good Thru Thursday, Mar. 11, Friday, Mar. 12, & Saturday, Mar. 13, 1976

USDA Choice Heavy Western Full Cut **Round Steak** lb. \$1.28

USDA Choice **Top Round** lb. \$1.59

USDA Choice Boneless **Rump Roast** lb. \$1.59

USDA Choice **Sirloin Tip Roast** lb. \$1.79

USDA Choice **Cube Steak** lb. \$1.79

Gunsberg Corned Beef **Brisket** lb. \$1.09

Lean Meaty 3-5 lb. avg. **Spare Ribs** lb. \$1.19

Yogurt Borden's All flavors 8 oz. 4/\$1.00

BORDEN'S 12 OZ. SINGLY WRAPPED SLICES 99c

Kraft Philadelphia Cream Cheese

Kraft Strawberry Jam 32 oz \$1.39

Hershey Syrup 16 oz 2/89c

Maxwell House Coffee Regular, Drip, Electro Perk. 16 oz Bag 99c

Viva Towels jumbo roll 2/\$1.00

Community Thanksgiving funds go to Our Lady Food Pantry

The Sun City Center community Thanksgiving service will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 24, at Prince of Peace Catholic Church. The service is sponsored by the Sun City Center Ministerial Association. Rabbi Philip Aronson will be speaking.

Choirs and representatives of Temple Beth Israel, Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, the United Community Church, Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church LifePath Hospice, and the United Methodist Church will all take part.

The offering this year will go to the Our Lady Food Pantry. The food pantry serves an average of 125 families per week. Each one receives a 50 lb. box of food. The pantry has 70 volunteers who work at different times. So far this year, the Pantry has fed approximately 5,000 families and given out 250,000 pounds of food.

All this is due to the good people that give to the pantry. The Interfaith Council, who operates the Nearly New Shop and the Greater Sun City Center Association have provided generous cash contributions which enable the Pantry



Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry: Tom Bullaro, Director; Anita Bullaro, Co-director; Jack and Dot Eifers, the longest workers in the pantry (15 years).

to buy more food. For every 18 cents, the Pantry is able to buy 1 lb. of food from 'Feed America.' That means that for \$20, they can buy 80 lbs. of food. While they are grateful for food donations, money goes a very long way as well. They are very grateful for any kind of donations.

The Ministerial Alliance hopes that many people from the com-

munity will turn out for the Thanksgiving service, because Thanksgiving is the only community religious holiday that is proclaimed by the President, and one that can be shared by people of all faiths. They hope people will bring their offerings of food, and also give generously to the offering for the Pantry.



Irene Banning

Trinity Baptist Audio/Visual Team gathers

Left to right: Ken and Deborah Fanning, Vi Davis, Ray Ellis, Sally Millican, and Bill Reeves. This group is responsible for the preparation and operation of audio/visual activities during worship services and special programs. For more information on the church, call 634-4228.

Join the music

Find yourself singing in the shower or to a favorite tune on the car radio or even in the rain?

If so, don't hide your talent. Why not consider joining the Women's Chorus located in Sun City Center. Women from surrounding communities are always welcome. Rehearsals are Thursdays from 9-11 a.m. at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb W and are currently in full swing for the Christmas Concert scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 28. Sound intriguing? For more information, call Betty at 633-3862 or Mim at 634-1148.



Join MOPS

If you are a mom who is pregnant or has a child newborn thru kindergarten, desires to make new friends, wants to share the challenges and joys of motherhood, is looking for opportunities for personal growth through trusted resources, enjoys giving back to the community then YES! MOPS is for you.

Group Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month until May 18, 2011, from 9:30 am- 11:30am. Cost is \$5 per meeting for refreshments and crafts (as needed) To register for the waiting list, e-mail mops@southbay.cc. or call 813-677-0721.





Come and experience the power of Jesus to change your life.

Sunday @ 9 & 11 AM • Servicio en Español @ 6 PM

www.aplace4everyone.org

2322 11th Ave. SE • Ruskin, FL • 813.645.3337

ATTENTION VETERANS

FREE INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR

Monday, Nov. 22 • 11 a.m.

OZZIE'S BUFFET & GRILL

Sun Point Plaza • 3074 College Ave., Ruskin

Topics Include: Burial and Cremation options at Florida National Cemetery, Travel Protection, Payment Options, Social Security, Veterans Benefits.

EVERYONE IS INVITED

Reserve your seat: 813-763-6480

or **863-944-3629** or bring this ad

Funeral Director: Richard Button (888) 713-1224

Lunch Served • Seating is Limited • First-Time Attendees Only, Please

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Contemporary 9:40 a.m.
Traditional 11:15 a.m.

Nursery Provided
Pastor Jack R. Palzer

5309 U.S. Highway 41 North • Apollo Beach
(across from MiraBay) www.calvarylutheranchurch.net **645-1305**



St. John the Divine Episcopal Church

Growing by Faith from Generation to Generation

Rev. Tracy H. Wider - Church Office 813-645-1521

SUNDAY SERVICES: 9 am - Contemporary Service and Sunday School
at West Campus, S.R. 674 and 9th Street SE, Ruskin
8 am - Traditional Service and 11 am Holy Communion with Choir at East Campus
at 1015 Del Webb Blvd., SCC

All Worship Services with Holy Communion and Healing Holy Oil

Ruskin United Methodist Church

First Street & 4th Ave. NW, Ruskin (Behind Suntrust Bank)

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Phone: 645-1241 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
call 645-6198

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Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion....First & Third Sunday • Bible Class...Thursday 10 am, Guests Welcome

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Ruskin - Sun City Center
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Sunday Service • Sunday School 10 AM
Wednesday Testimony Meeting 5 PM
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Friendship Baptist Church

WEEKLY SERVICES:

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11 a.m. Bible Study
10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Worship

Wednesday
6 p.m. Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

Rance Goad, Pastor (Southern Baptist)

1511 El Rancho Dr.
Sun City Center, FL 33573
Phone/Fax:
813-633-5950

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Wednesday 7:00pm

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Gibsonton, FL 33534

Malcolm S. Clements, Pastor
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—NON-INSTRUMENTAL—

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Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

EVERETT TATE, MINISTER

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www.popcc.org

Masses:
Sunday.....8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon
Saturday Vigil4:00 and 6:00 p.m.
Daily.....8:00 a.m.

Confessions:
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. and Sat. 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

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RUSKIN, FL 33570
645-6439

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Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Service.....7:00 p.m.
Awana7:00 p.m.



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Worship Services:

Saturday.....	4:00 p.m. - Creason Hall (Traditional Service)
Sunday.....	8:15 a.m. in Sanctuary (Traditional Service)
	9:30 a.m. - Creason Hall (The Oasis)
	10:55 a.m. - Sanctuary (Traditional with Chancel Choir)

Fellowship time on Sunday Mornings between 10:15a.m. and 11 a.m. in Creason Hall

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Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.

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Pastor: Dr. Gerald Iwerks

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Sun City Center, FL 33573 For Information visit:
Church is Handicap accessible www.standrewatcc.org

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Fr. John McEvoy
Pastor

813-645-1714
SaintAnneRuskin.org

U.S. Hwy. 41 • 106 11th Ave. NE • Ruskin
SouthShore: Apollo Beach, Ruskin, Sun City and S. Gibsonton

MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass.....	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass.....	8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Holy Days	Contact Parish Office for Schedule
Daily	Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m.
Español.....	Domingo - 12:30 p.m.; Miercoles 7:30 p.m.
Confession.....	Wednesday 6:45 p.m.; Saturday 3:45 p.m.

Nursery Available for 10:00 a.m. Mass

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23

Obituaries

The Honorable Robert C. Ballard

Robert C. Ballard, 88, formerly of Charlotte, Michigan, recently of Sun City Center, Florida, passed away Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010 in Sun City Center, Florida.

Born October 24, 1922 to L. M. and Nellie (Collins) Ballard, Bob was Probate Judge of Eaton County Michigan for 20 years. Prior to being elected Probate Judge, he was Eaton County Prosecuting Attorney and had a law practice in Charlotte, Michigan.

Bob was a member of the First Congregational Church; Past Patron of Maple City Chapter #218 Order of Eastern Star; member of the Masonic Lodge and Shrine Club; and past President of the Lion's Club.

Bob was a devoted family man who loved spending time with family and friends. He enjoyed golfing, reading and traveling.

He is survived by his loving wife Doris of 64 years; daughters, Karen (Steve) Piro and Linda (James) Bird of Plano, Texas, and son Clark (Deb) Ballard of Mason, Michigan; four grandchildren, Allison Piro, Blake Piro and Alex Bird of Plano, and Sarah Bird of Berkeley, California, as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Edwin Ballard of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Hal Ballard of Jackson, Michigan.

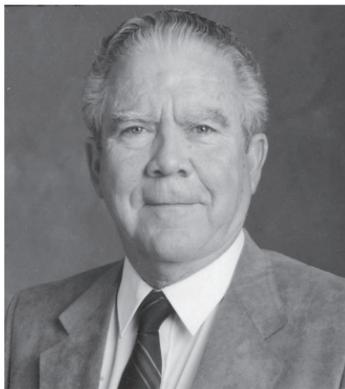
Donations in Bob's memory can be made to the American Heart Association.

http://honor.americanheart.org/site/TR?pxfid=182561&fr_id=1030&pg=fund&et=ripqJVuP5Uf2rjhEvUDb6A..&s_tafid=1061

Marie Joyce Yarborough Hall

Marie Yarborough Hall died November 10, 2010. She was the wife of deceased Legrand Hall. Survivors include her daughter, Teresa Hall Zuromski (Tim) of Apollo Beach, Florida; son, Clifford Lee Hall (Patsy) of Hartsville, S.C.; grandchildren and spouses, Lonnie W. Mozingo, Jr. (Lindsey) Felicia Atkinson (Ronald); Tiffany Zuromski, Joshua Hall, Tara Zuromski.

Graveside services for Joyce Y Hall, 64, were held at 12:00 pm, November 12, 2010 at New Market Methodist Cemetery directed by Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home.



Norman Douglas (Bud) Mallory

Norman Douglas ("Bud") Mallory, 89, of Sun City Center, Florida (and formerly of Melbourne Beach, Florida) died November 11, 2010, at South Bay Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Dr. Mallory was born on January 1, 1921, in Des Moines, Iowa, the son of the late Dr. Meredith and Mary Jones Mallory. Following graduation from Winter Park High School in 1937, he attended the University of Illinois and was graduated in 1941 with a BA degree in Chemistry. Subsequently, he was appointed to the United State Military Academy and was graduated in 1945 with a BS degree in Military Engineering. He earned MS and PhD degrees from the University of Virginia in Nuclear Physics completing his studies in 1952.

During twelve years of Army service, Dr. Mallory specialized in atomic weapons applications and research and development including service on the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos, New Mexico. He later was employed at the RCA Service Company Missile Test Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, as Manager of Quality

Analysis, supervising a staff of 200 technical and professional employees. Later, he served as President of M. A. Smith Ranch, Inc., a large commercial cattle ranch, and President of Mallory Enterprises, Inc., a family-owned citrus operation.

Dr. Mallory served on the Board of Directors of many business enterprises and civic organizations including the Florida National Bank, the St. John's Wire Company, Indian River Cablevision, the South Brevard YMCA, the Red Cross, the Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy, to name a few.

Dr. Mallory was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, Chi Psi, and the Raven fraternal and honorary societies. He was an All-American Lacrosse player and a Silver Master Duplicate Bridge player.

Dr. Mallory's wife of 48 years, Mary Smith ("Smitty") Mallory, and sister, Mary Jane Mallory, predeceased him, both dying in 1993.

He is survived by his wife of 14 years, Norma S. Mallory; a daughter and a son, Sara M. Harned (Patrick), and Dr. Norman D. Mallory, Jr. both of Pass-a-Grille, Florida; three step-children, G. Thomas ("Tommy") Walker (Robin), of Jacksonville, Florida, Curtis A. Walker (Theresa), of St. Augustine, Florida, and Lana Hardaker (William R. "Billy"), of Atlantic Beach, Florida; and a brother, Dr. Meredith ("Speed") Mallory, Jr. of San Antonio, Texas. He is further survived by nieces, nephews, step-grandchildren, other relatives and many friends.

Family and friends are invited to a celebration of Dr. Mallory's well-lived life and his indomitable spirit on Saturday, November 20 at 2581 East Vlna Del Mar Blvd., St. Pete Beach, Florida, between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Memorial contributions to the Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy at 50 West Strawbridge Avenue Melbourne, Florida 32901, or any other charity are requested in lieu of flowers.

George W. Merrell

George W. Merrell, 84, a long-time former resident of Williamsport, died November 10, 2010 in Sun City Center, Florida where he has lived in retirement for several years. He is survived by his wife Betty; sons Raymond, of Yakima, Washington, George, Jr of Tierra Verde, Florida, Charles, of Williamsport, Pennsylvania; granddaughters Ashlee Dominguez of Croston, Maryland; Erin Kosteva of Reston, Virginia, Kathleen Merrell of St. Petersburg, Florida; grandsons George Merrell III of Tierra Verde, Florida, Jonathan, Gregory, and Justin all of Yakima, Washington, and great granddaughters Vanessa, and Lily of Croston, Maryland; and great grandson Maxwell of Reston, Virginia.

George graduated from Williamsport High School and Penn State University. He was a veteran of World War II serving in the Pacific Theater. He was active in the Republican Party serving as Pennsylvania State President of the Young Republicans and National Vice President. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, Penn State football, and being with his children and grandchildren. He will forever be in our hearts and always in our memories. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association in his memory.

Jim John Popovich

Jim Popovich of Ruskin FL. died Saturday November 6, 2010 in his home. He was born October 20, 1946 in Chicago IL, the son of John Popovich and Simone Palpart. Jim grew up in Chicago IL, where he graduated from CVS Vocational high school. After high school Jim moved to Florida where he earned a living as a musician. In 1974, he started Ruskin Pool Service where he worked for the remainder of his life.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents John Popovich, Simone Popovich and second wife Judy Long.

Jim is survived by his son, Jim Popovich; daughter, Angela Popovich; six grandchildren - John Long, Rachael Long, Samantha Long, Luke Popovich, Logan Popovich and Grace Popovich; brothers and sisters, Dennis Popovich, Mark Popovich, John Popovich, Shayle Popovich and Nancy Hoagland.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 A.M. Monday, November 22, 2010 at Destiny Church of Ruskin, 2124 11th Avenue S.E., Ruskin, FL 33570.

Lorraine (Louise) W. Tyner

A memorial service will be held for Lorraine (Louise) W. Tyner on Saturday, November 20, 2010 at 11:00am at Ruskin United Methodist Church, 105 4th Ave. NW, Ruskin, FL. A native of Noblesville, In. Mrs. Tyner moved to the area in 1951. She had lived at Villa Maria Mobile Home Park and Irongate Apartments before moving to Plaza West ALF. She was a bookkeeper and formerly worked for Ruskin Tomato Growers and Sims Farms of Ruskin. She was a member of Palma Ceia Order of Eastern Star #243.

She was preceded in death by her husband B W (Bill) Tyner. She is survived by her daughter, Beth Ann Elsberry of Palmetto, FL; a son, William F. Tyner and his wife Lucinda of Petersburg, TN; a niece, Dorothea K. Dzenis of Bradford, Vermont; seven grandchildren, Lynda K. Williford and husband Allen, Seffner, FL., Renee Gullick and husband Tim, Sarasota, FL., Lori D. Elsberry, Palmetto, FL., Glenn Elsberry and wife Dawn, Ruskin, FL., Justin Tyner and wife Sue, Lincoln, NE., Dean Tyner and wife Tina, Davenport, FL., Tracee Norris and husband Chris, Jackson, MO., and 11 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that those who wish, please make donations to the Ruskin United Methodist Church Building Fund, The Shriners Hospital for Children, 12302 Pine Drive, Tampa, FL 33612 or Life Path Hospice 12973 N Telecom Parkway, Ste. 100, Temple Terrace, FL 33637 in memory of Lorraine (Louise) Tyner.



Earl (Bub) Wiser

Earl (Bub) Wiser, 65, passed away at the Augusta VA Hospital in Georgia, October 8, 2010. He was originally from the Carson City/ Crystal area of MI where he was the owner of Wiser Construction and B&B Cafe. He lived several years in the Ruskin area where he worked for Privetts Tree Farm & Landscaping as a mechanic and troubleshooter.

He is survived by his wife Roberta (Bobbie) and five sons: Stephen of MI, William of CO, James of WA State, Robert of NV, and Martin of GA; four grandchildren, three sisters and brothers-in-law, also several nieces and nephews. He was a member of the USAF during the Vietnam War. Mrs. Wiser and sons can be reached at 1354 Davis Bridge Rd, Williston, SC 29853 or by phone (803) 266-3182.

Plan to attend ministry fair

Discover the vast treasure of talent that makes Prince of Peace a vibrant parish. The Ministry Fair will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 18 in Conesa Center at Prince of Peace Church on Valley Forge and S.R. 674.

The Fair is designed to showcase the many varied ministries at Prince of Peace Parish. There will be creative projects, raffles, door prizes and much, much more. Something for everyone and all are welcome to attend.

For those who are new to the area, Prince of Peace R.C. Parish encompasses the area bounded by I-75 to the west, Big Bend Road to the north, Polk County line to the east and Manatee County line to the south.

South Shore Symphony Orchestra receives gift

At the first concert of their Winter Concert Series on Oct. 17, the South Shore Symphony Orchestra received a gift of the score and parts for Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 25 in C Major from the congregation of United Community Church.

A ministry of the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, the South Shore Symphony Orchestra began performing this past summer with three free concerts that brought in over 2000 area music lovers. The October 17 'Oktoberfest' concert began with a fine reading of Beethoven's timeless 'Symphony No. 5,' as well as music by Bach, Brahms and Strauss.

The South Hillsborough County community has been very supportive of the new regional symphony orchestra whose next season concert is to be held at the church, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West in Sun City Center, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 28. This holiday concert will



Left to right are: Dominick Galati, President of the SSSO; Dudley Baldwin; and Nancy Meissner of the UCC.

include the ever-popular 'Nutcracker Suite' by Tchaikovsky as well as musical favorites like 'Sleigh Ride,' 'Christmas Festival,' and 'Bugler's Holiday.' Guedye St. Jean will join the ensemble singing 'Gesù Bambino' and leading a

sing-along of holiday songs.

To learn more about the South Shore Symphony Orchestra or to purchase tickets, contact Dominick Galati at (813) 667-7776 or visit their website at www.thesso.org.

Concert for cans

Ruskin United Methodist Church will be presenting a "Concert for Cans" on Sunday, Nov. 21 at 2pm. Guest stars will be Greg Sullivan (violinist) and Matt Podschweit (pianist). They will be presenting a concert of great hymns, classical music, jazz, poetry and much more. The concert is free!

Admission is an item of non-perishable food that will be donated to the local Community Cupboard on SR 674. All donations will remain in the local area. A love offering will be taken at the concert.

Greg Sullivan currently lives in Illinois with his wife, Lori and their three children. Mr. Sullivan has a Bachelor's and Master's degree from the University of South Florida. He has been a high school teacher and music and youth minister in Clearwater and at Bethany Baptist Church in Moline, IL.

Matt Podschweit currently resides in Colorado with his wife and two teenage daughters. He is a former minister on the worship arts team at Heritage Church in Rock Island, IL. He is an accomplished jazz keyboard player and regularly performs with a number of bands in the Midwest and in Colorado.

Ruskin United Methodist Church is located at 105 4th Avenue NW in Ruskin. For directions or other information, call the church office at 645-1241.



Shawn, Nicholas, and Lara Applegarth.

Chicken dinner is fundraiser

A chicken dinner, along with a raffle of many wonderful donated items, is being held for the benefit of Lara, Shawn, and Nicholas Applegarth. The dinner will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 19 at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, 1015 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center campus.

Tickets for this chicken dinner can be picked up or 'requested' for pick up at the door from the church office at 645-1521. At the Applegarth's request, all the proceeds from the dinner and raffle will be sent directly to their son Nick's day care facility. The community is welcome.

Presbyterians get looped

No, they didn't spike the communion grape juice!

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Sun City Center recently installed an inductive hearing loop system in both the sanctuary and in Fellowship Hall to make services and programs easier for hearing impaired folks to experience. St. Andrew is the first church in the area to install a loop system in its sanctuary.

Inductive hearing loops transmit sound through a wire loop in the ceiling to telecoils in hearing aids and suitable receivers. This improves speech intelligibility of hearing aid users by eliminating background noise.

The Telecoil feature in hearing aids was introduced by manufacturers many years ago and is known as the 'telephone,' 'telecoil,' or 'T-Coil' position on the hearing aid switch. The feature makes it easier for the hearing aid user to hear over a telephone by picking up the sound via the magnetic field generated by telephone receiver. Inductive loops like the one at St. Andrew exploit this same technology and allow the user to be essentially connected directly to the room's sound system.

If you have been missing out on worship services because of having to wear a hearing aid with the T-coil feature installed, the answer may be found at St. Andrew Presbyterian.



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Seated left to right: Betty Streater, Sandra Noddruff, Hope Rund, Rusty Mc Carty, Jerry Mc Carty, Audrey Vietzke, Pat Stover. Standing left to right: Sr Minister Dr Michael Evans, Dodie Brown, Thom Brown, Nancy Sayer, Bill Broberg, Moderator Anne Ginevan, Mark Vietzke. Absent from photo: Jane Carey.

New members welcomed into church

The United Community Church at 1501 La Jolla Avenue, Sun City Center, welcomed 13 new members into their church family. A reception was held in the Great Hall following the service.

Thanksgiving dinner is served

The community is invited to United Community Church, 1501 LaJolla Ave., Sun City Center for a Traditional Homestyle Thanksgiving dinner.



Share the holiday with them at noon on Thursday, Nov. 25 in the Great Hall.

This catered buffet will include all of your seasonal favorites from turkey and ham to pumpkin pie. Tickets are \$15 per person and are available in the church office from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. Tickets are also available during Fellowship time, 11 to 11:30 a.m., following the Sunday service. The church

office number is 634-1304.

Last day for reservations is Sunday, Nov. 21. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to share the holiday.

Car wash by youth group

The youth from New Beginnings Fellowship will be holding a car wash from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20 at Advanced Auto Parts, 16330 U.S. Hwy. 301 S., Wimauma.

Donations accepted. Support these young people and bring your car out for a good cleaning. For information, call Betty Fountain at 645-3649.



PET TIP Please remember that chocolate is **TOXIC** to pets. If your furry friend treats his/herself to your box of chocolates, call your vet right away. It is important to tell your vet the size of your pet, the type of chocolate, and quantity of chocolate to determine if or how toxic it is for your pet.

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“Way down upon the Suwannee River...”



Kayaking crystal clear water of Ichetucknee River.

■ Article by WARREN RESEN,
Photos by JEANNE O'CONNOR
“Way Down Upon The Suwannee River”

These words were written in a song by Stephen C. Foster, a Northerner, who allegedly never saw the river he made famous. It is also the official song of the State of Florida. The correct name of this song is “Old Folks at Home,” but “Suwannee River” is the name prominently emblazoned in the rotunda of the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee.

Memorializing a different time, it tells of a part of Florida most travelers usually drive through on their way to other places. This is the part of the state that locals call “The Real Florida.”

Starting in Georgia in the Okefenokee Swamp, the Suwannee River meanders southwest for about 266 miles eventually flowing into the Gulf of Mexico at the aptly named town of Suwannee.

From the Florida state-line south to Live Oak, the river is narrow with a section called Big Shoals just above White Springs being one of the very few stretches of whitewater rapids, and the only one with a Class III designation, in the state and Florida. Steep ravines and high limestone bluffs bracket the river in this section, features more typically associated with the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

White Springs is where outdoor activities and the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail begin. From here, the river still has a 170-mile run before emptying into the Gulf of Mexico. Kayaking on the Suwannee River and kayaking or tubing on the crystal clear spring-fed Ichetucknee River are highlights of any visit to this part of Florida.

The banks of the Suwannee River around White Sulphur Springs have been a place of ref-

uge and restoration for visitors and residents for centuries. White Sulphur Springs was considered to be a sacred healing ground to Native Americans. There is evidence of habitation going back at least 7,000 years. This was also a major entry point into Florida for members of the Creek Nation, later called Seminoles.

In the mid to late 1880s, White Springs was the first, and at one time, largest tourist destination in the new state because of the supposedly curative waters of the then mineral springs. The first hotel was built in 1835. At its heyday in the late 1800s, there were 14 luxury hotels and many boarding houses to accommodate the visitors who came by special excursion trains to enjoy the river, the springs, and the climate at White Springs. In 1903, a structure that included treatment rooms, a concession area, and an elevator, was built over the spring, the same year the Telford Hotel was built.

Early in the 1900s, a massive fire destroyed all but the venerable

See **SUWANNEE RIVER**, page 9B

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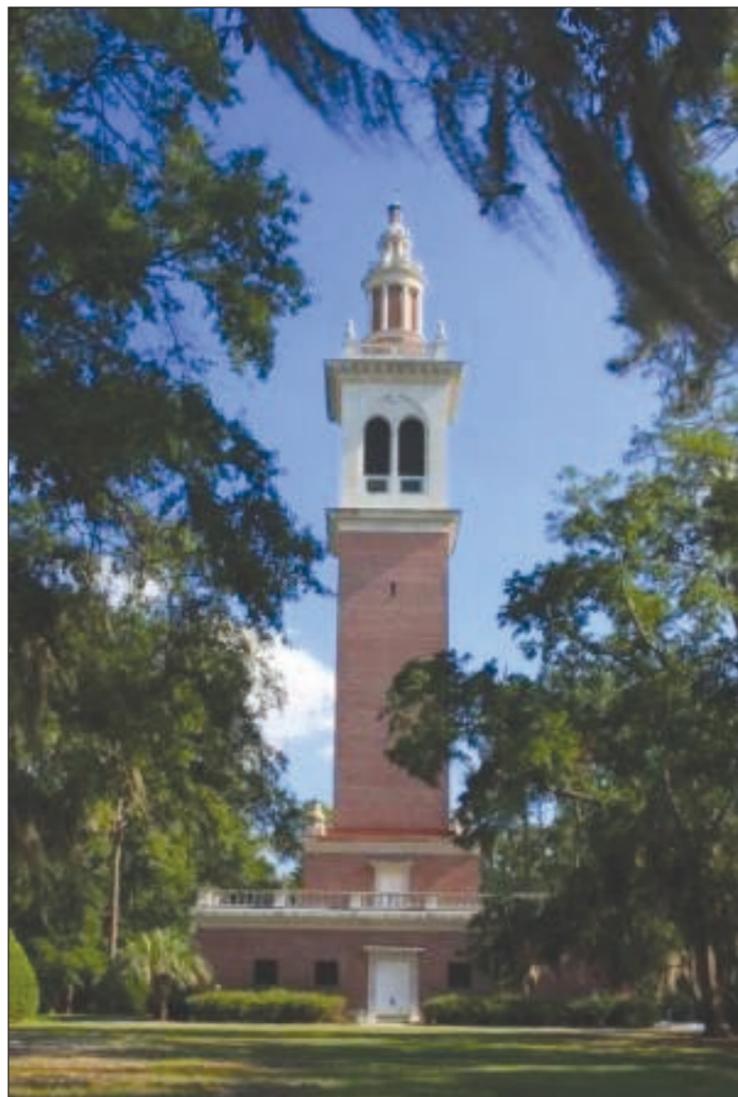
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Sam Cole, biologist, at Ichetucknee Spring State Park.



200 foot Carillon Tower in Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, White Springs.

SOUTHSHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

15816 Beth Shields Way • Ruskin 33573



Program/Event Highlights Week of November 21-27

Santa Forever: Puppet Show

Monday, Nov. 22 • 10:15 to 10:50 a.m. and 11:15 to 11:50 a.m.
Presented by Creative Arts Theatre. For the young and the young at heart. Put some humor into your holiday season. You can never get too much of Santa Claus at this special time. In this amusing episode



of Santa's life, you'll discover that even he has bad days. Things just aren't like they used to be back in the 'good ole days.' Santa is considering retirement! But can anyone take his place? You'll chuckle throughout this bunraku puppet show performed on a full-sized stage. Mr and Mrs. Claus hope you are planning to attend. Free event is provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Internet: Introduction and Searching Techniques*

Monday, Nov. 22 • 2 to 4:15 p.m.

Learn the basics of the Internet and World Wide Web. Learn how to use search engines to find information and tips for evaluating what you find. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended. Free event is provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Toddler Time

Tuesday, Nov. 23 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m. and 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.
For ages 2-3 years with a caregiver. Stories, finger plays and songs make up this fun 20-minute program.

Story Time

Tuesday, Nov. 23 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.
For ages 3-5 years. Stories, finger plays and songs make up this fun 30-minute program. Seating limit: 20 children plus their parent/caregivers.

Game Zone

Tuesday, Nov. 23 • 5 to 7 p.m.
For middle and high school students. Get in the zone and join your friends for some gaming fun with games such as Dance, Dance Revolution, Guitar Hero 2, Rock Band and other great games. Co-sponsored by Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library and Domino's Pizza.

Baby Time

Wednesday, Nov. 24 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m.
For ages 0-24 months. Share books, rhymes, songs, games and quality time together while instilling a love of reading and regular library visits in this 20-minute program. Seating limit: 20 children plus their parents/caregivers.

Toddler Time

Wednesday, Nov. 24 • 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.
For ages 2-3 years with a caregiver. Stories, finger plays and songs make up this fun 20-minute program.

Story Time

Wednesday, Nov. 24 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.
For ages 3-5 years. Stories, finger plays and songs make up this fun 30-minute program. Seating limit: 20 children plus their parent/caregivers.

Deaf and Hearing Connection Telephone Distribution

Wednesday, Nov. 24 • 1 to 3 p.m.

Presented by Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI). FTRI provides free specialized equipment and training to qualified Florida residents who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired. The equipment enables them to place and receive phone calls.

All HCPLC Libraries Closed – November 25 and 26 for Thanksgiving Holiday

*Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

Interested in joining Friends of the South Shore library, visit the Book Sale Room at the Library for a membership application. For any additional information, visit www.southshorefriends.com. SouthShore Regional Library is located at 15816 Beth Shields Way (off 19th Avenue between U.S. 301 and I-75). (813) 273-3652.

South County Rose Group meeting

The South County Rose Group will meet at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 21 at the Sun City Center United Methodist Church Community Room at 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West, Sun City Center. The program this month will feature guest speaker Virginia Overstreet with the Hillsborough County Extension Services.

She is the Water-Wise Coordinator for the agency and will present a Water-Wise Workshop on the use of irrigation in the landscape and an introduction to micro-irrigation. You will receive a free voucher for a micro-irrigation kit that you can try in your rose garden. Meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.



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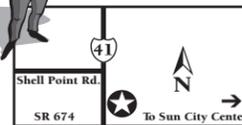
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Suwannee River

■ Continued from page 7B

Telford Hotel. It was the only one made of brick, not wood. The Telford has been upgraded and today is still receiving guests. It's advertised as a Bed & Breakfast, and it's a delightful place to stay but the public is invited to dine there also. The dining room is a delight and their food is delicious and reasonably priced. I found menu prices for food in most area restaurants considerably cheaper than many other parts of the state.

White Springs, surrounded by thousands of acres of public and

private lands, offers multiple recreational activities: canoeing, biking and hiking trails, and excellent hunting and fishing. The Historic District, with lovely homes, crafts, folk art and antique shops, offers visitors a relaxing chance to browse.

The most famous attraction in the area is Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, honoring one of this country's most influential composers. The park is a leader in celebrating Florida's cultural traditions. (floridastateparks.org/stephenfoster)

As a gateway to the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail and the Florida National Scenic Trail, the park offers riverside cabins, a beautiful campground, cultural events, educational programs and outdoor activities. The Museum and striking 200 foot Carillon Tower house exhibits and dioramas from some of Foster's most popular songs.

The event for which the park is probably most noted is the annual "Florida Folk Festival Memorial Day Weekend." Over 400 singers, dancers and storytellers entertain on 15 stages with the addition of

hundreds of artists and crafters and much more.

A few miles south of White Springs near Lake City, is the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park. Privately owned, and with more than 800 acres, it offers many activities similar to Stephen Foster Park except that there are music events throughout the year. The facility was named "Best Live Music Venue in Florida" by Florida Monthly magazine. Their offerings are too extensive to list here. To learn more, go to their web site at musiclivershere.com.

Returning to the Suwannee River, the middle stretch from Suwannee River State Park to the town of Branford is spring country. The river widens, with numerous crystal clear springs adding to the river's character and volume. Did you know that as a state, Florida has more springs than any country in the world?

The lower Suwannee River, past the town of Branford, runs wide and deep making it a favorite area for motor boats and paddlers. The

sandy banks become lower, sloping gently towards the river. Anglers on the lower Suwannee have their choice of fishing for fresh or salt-water species. This part of the Suwannee River supports the largest population of Gulf sturgeon among the region's coastal rivers.

All along the river, activities are available for almost anyone: kayaking, canoeing, motor boating, fishing, tubing, hiking, birding and equestrian. River camps are available for visitors who plan multi-day paddling trips. RV and tent camping sites are in abundance. Then there are the hotels, motels and B&Bs, most all of which are reasonably priced. This of course is a purely subjective observation. You should check them out for yourself.

On this trip, I only had time to do the upper section of the Suwannee River. Hopefully I will soon return and finish the journey.

Now go back to the top of this article and reread the title. How long do you think it will take before the song stops running through your head?

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I grew up bussing tables at this restaurant. Last year, my wife, Brooke, and I bought it. We were working hard to build a business, then the spill hit. BP said they would try to make things right. But how was an energy company going to help our restaurant?

Keeping Businesses Open

We figured they would tell us to take a number and wait in line. Instead, they asked us if we could serve food to the workers, engineers, scientists, and local residents they had hired to cleanup the spill. It kept us busy round the clock. And we weren't the only ones. They hired a lot of local businesses and kept a lot of people working. They have kept businesses up and down the Gulf open and it's still making a difference.

Open for Business

BP asked us to share our story with you to keep you informed. Our restaurant's open six days a week. Customers are filling our restaurant again and we think it's a good time to come down to the Gulf Coast. And if we could make just one request, please think of us when planning your next vacation. We're still here and while it's been tough, we are still cooking. And we are just one of the hundreds of great places ready to welcome you when you come down. So don't wait. We're looking forward to seeing you.

For information visit: bp.com
restorethegulf.gov
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twitter.com/bp_america
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MERCHANDISE 300

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

Almost New Thrift Store. 10008 Indiana St., Gibsonton (1 block off US 41, 1 block north Gibsonton Dr.) Wednesday thru Saturday, 9am-3pm. Clothing, furniture, lots misc. Ministry First Baptist Gibsonton. 813-671-0036 to donate

SCC Lions Club Multifamily Yard Sale: Friday, November 19 and Saturday, November 20, 8am-2pm. Items large, small and in between. Good stuff cheap! Two blocks east of Walgreens off Rickenbacker at Quiet Place center courtyard Gazebo.

Large yard sale. Nov. 19 & 20, 8am-3pm. Nail tech table, large nail polisher holder, baby girls items, lot of goodies. 6065 Golf & Sea Blvd., Apollo Beach.

Community yard sale. (22 households) Saturday Nov. 20, 8am-2pm. New Bedford Dr. area, SCC. Something for everyone. 38 new NFL jackets, refrigerator, sewing machine, electric organ, craft supplies, tools, TV stand, small household appliances, artwork, clothing, computer monitor, decorative items, outdoor furniture & misc. Watch for signs.

310 GARAGE /YARD SALE

Calvary's
Angel Attic
 Thrift Store
Wed., Fri. & Sat.
9 a.m. - Noon

Men's
Mix & Match Sale
Buy 1 Shirt, Get
1 Pair of Pants FREE
Also 'Secret Sale'

1424 E. College Ave. • Ruskin
813-641-7790
Ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church

Multi garage sale. Don't miss this one! Friday Nov. 19 & Saturday Nov. 20. 8am-2pm. 2008 Captiva Court, SCC (Cul-de-sac off New Bedford Drive, near community hall). Household goods, furniture, clothing, collectibles, Christmas decorations, stereo, garden equipment, rugs, artificial tree, men's bike.

2 family moving sale: Nov. 19 & 20, 8am-noon, 1217 Fordham Dr. SCC. Roll out trundle bed, pop-up frame, new bedding, lamps, new croquet set, tent, games, pictures, household items.

Holiday boutique. Saturday, 11/20. Noon-5pm. Beaded jewelry, hand painted objects, shop, visit. Refreshment served. 1308 Lenox Greens, SCC. 813-634-1415

Muti family garage sale. Friday /Saturday, Nov. 19 & 20, 9am-2pm. Bryce Court (off E. Del Webb), SCC. Household, tools, electronics.

Yard sale: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 8-2. Collectibles, something for everyone. 11834 Cedar Field Dr. Riverview (off Big Bend Road.)

Garage sale: Saturday, Nov. 20, 8am-noon. Household and miscellaneous items. 1744 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., SCC.

832 Oakmont Ave, SCC. Lots of collectibles, lots of misc. & much more. 7am-? Thursday & Friday, 11/18 & 11/19

Garage sale: Thursday 11/18 Saturday, 11/20, 9am-1pm. Many new Christmas decorations, lots of new Avon items and gifts. Lots of miscellaneous. 1003 Ardmore Way, SCC.

310 GARAGE /YARD SALE

Above the Rest
 New hours, closed Monday. Tuesday-Thursday, 10am-4pm. Friday & Saturday, 10am-5pm. 139 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. SCC. King trumpet tempo w/case and accessories.

Yard sale: Friday & Saturday, Nov. 19-20, 2207 Pleasant View Ave. in Ruskin (Bayou Pass), 7am-2pm

Garage sale. SCC 1731 Coco Palm Circle. Nov. 19 & 20, 8am-2pm. Variety of new & used items. Come see!

Renaissance area garage sale, individual households. Saturday, Nov. 20, 8am-2pm. Follow signs on S. Pebble Beach Dr.

DVD. fax. copier, photo cell phone, tools, linens, bath & kitchen items & misc. Friday, Nov. 19, 8am-3pm. 1703 Aura Court (off Del Webb West) SCC.

Friday & Saturday, 8am-3pm. Gold chandelier, mens sports coats, clothing size 40, other small items. 1403 Del Webb Blvd., W, SCC.

Apollo Beach. Caribbean Isles. 20+ park wide sale. 11/20, 9am-1pm. Large Mickey Mouse memorabilia, tools, drills, rowder, table saw, TVs, furniture. Big Bend Rd. south on US 41/ First right on Elsberry Rd., Follow signs

Estate/Garage Sale
 2219 New Bedford off Pebble Beach SCC. Collection of Department 56 lighted houses & accessories. Love-seat sleeper, some antiques, craft items, art work, Bombay chest, game table, large entertainment center, very unusual handcarved chairs w/faces, much more. Friday & Saturday, Nov. 19-20, 8am-1pm.

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Big family yard sale: 7am-2pm., Sat. & Sun, Nov. 20 & 21, 10608 Dixon Dr., Riverview. Lots of stuff, antiques, furniture, tools, clothes, sewing machines, dishes, toys, books.

Yard sale: Ruskin, Saturday, Nov. 20, 8am-noon, black desk & chair, vinyl shutters, Palm Casual Bay chairs, misc. items, 102 E. North Branch Rd., west Shell Point to 17th St. NW to east North Branch

Moving Sale: 203 Cactus Flower Dr. Kitchen, furniture, tools, misc. Thursday & Friday, Nov. 18 & 19.

Huge yard sale. Saturday, 11/20, 7am-? 3304 Arrowsmith Rd, Sundance Community. Directions: 301 S. to Lightfoot (turn right) go to Arrowsmith Rd & turn left.

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UNLIMITED POTENTIAL!! Great commercial acreage located near Highway 41 in Ruskin and close to planned shopping center. 3BR/1BA house with detached garage on 1.4 acres (mol) **\$ 299,000 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

GREAT BUSINESS LOCATION! Commercial site located close to Highway 41 in Ruskin with over 200 feet of road frontage. Zoned General Commercial with county water & sewer. Mobile home on property brings rental income. **\$234,900 KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201 FOR DETAILS.**

RUSKIN RENTAL! 3BR/2BA single family home with a two car garage. Brand new home with nice split floor plan. Granite countertops and ceramic tile throughout. **\$950.00 per month with one year lease and approved application. CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

REDUCED PRICE!! 5 ACRES with 10 greenhouses! 3BR/2BA MH built in 2001. Special features include: 20 x 30 workshop, 2 free standing double carports, 190 foot well, electric gate and much more. Zoning is AR. **\$139,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

JUST REDUCED !! PLENTY OF ROOM! 3BR/2BA home on 4.55 acres. Room to expand or enjoy the quiet. In-ground pool, green belted, zoned for horses and could be a fish farm as tanks are set up. **\$250,000 CALL KATHY JACOBSON 624-2225**

LAND 3.5 ACRES More or less on Hwy 674 or College Ave., zoned AR that could possibly be rezoned for your business. Property has two septic, water and electric. NOW REDUCED TO **\$175,000 CALL KATHY JACOBSON 624-2225**

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WATERFRONT - NEW LISTING! This 2BR/2BA 2-car garage is just waiting for you to come and finish the renovations! Property is complete with a nice in-ground pool and plenty of parking for your boat both on land and water. Located just off the Ruskin Inlet this property has a lot of potential but needs some TLC. **\$191,000 CALL CATHY GRIGGS 391-8653**

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(Evening phone numbers)

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Claire Tort	363-7250	Kenn Antonelli	786-3124
Kay Pye	361-3672	Kathy Jacobson	624-2225
Cathy Griggs	391-8653	Jo Ellen Mobley.....	645-1540
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First Place: Orchid and Hummingbird Sculpture by Bob Dickey.



Second Place: Backyard Bling by Myrtle Cail.



Third Place and People's Choice Award: The Night Watchman by Stephen Taylor.

Hillsborough County Announces 2010 Recycled Yard Art Winners

Hillsborough County Extension is proud to announce the winners of the 2010 Recycled Yard Art Contest held at the Hillsborough County Fairgrounds Oct. 13 - 17. This contest was open to all County residents and all age groups. Entries were created mostly with recycled or recyclable materials and were able to withstand the elements for outdoor display. The results are:

First Place Prize \$100 - Bob Dickey for his Orchid and Hummingbird Sculpture. Bob created his Orchid and Hummingbird Sculpture from shovels and a tree limb from his garden.

Second Place Prize \$75 - Myrtle Cail for her Backyard Bling. Myrtle created her Backyard Bling with old vases, bowls, saucers, a paint bucket, and metal rods.

Third Place Prize \$50 - Stephen Taylor for his Ubilam - The Night Watchman. Stephen created the Night Watchman from used auto parts and scrap shipyard metal.

People's Choice Award Prize \$100 - Stephen Taylor for Ubilam - The Night Watchman.

Elementary School First Place Prize \$100 - Ethan Fernandez for his Snowman.

Middle School First Place Prize \$100 - Dowdell Middle School for

their School of Recycled Bottle Fish.

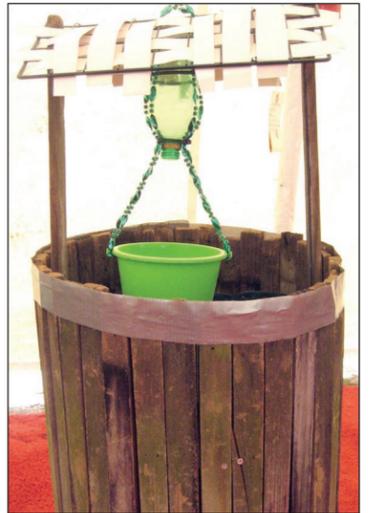
High School First Place Prize \$100 - Tiffany Goller for her Recycled Wishing Well/Water System for Indoor Plants.

For more information on the 2010 Recycled Yard Art Contest and other programs held by the County's Extension Office call (813) 744-5519.

The 2010 Recycled Yard Art Contest is a yearly contest sponsored by Hillsborough County Extension, the County's Solid Waste Management Division, and by the Hillsborough County Fair.

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Right, High School First Place: Wishing Well/Water System for Indoor Plants by Tiffany Goller.



Thanksgiving Holiday Menu

SOUP

Roasted Butternut Squash Chowder

IMPORTED & DOMESTIC CHEESE DISPLAY

Selection Of Fine Imported And Domestic Cheeses Accompanied By Assorted Breads, Lavish Crackers, Fresh Berries, Grapes, Fruit Dips And Spreads

GARDE MANAGER DISPLAYS

A Fine Showcase of Displays Featuring a Montage of Whole and Sliced Fruits Accompanied by a Mango Coulis and Coconut Yogurt

Roasted Vegetable Display with Freshly Roasted Vegetables, and Marinated Vegetables

Grilled French Bread with Balsamic Syrup and Sun Dried Tomato Basil Dipping Sauce

Hours: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

ENDLESS SALAD BAR

ENTRÉE SELECTIONS

Carved Oven Roasted Turkey Breast with Pan Gravy

Carved Honey Glazed Bone-In Ham

Filet of Basa with a Lemon Caper Sauce

ACCOMPANIMENTS

Homemade Apple and Walnut Stuffing

Garlic and Herb Mashed Potatoes

Green Bean Casserole

Skillet Corn

Cranberry Sauce

Assorted Freshly Baked Rolls

DESSERTS

Homemade Key Lime Pie

Pumpkin Cheesecake Swirl

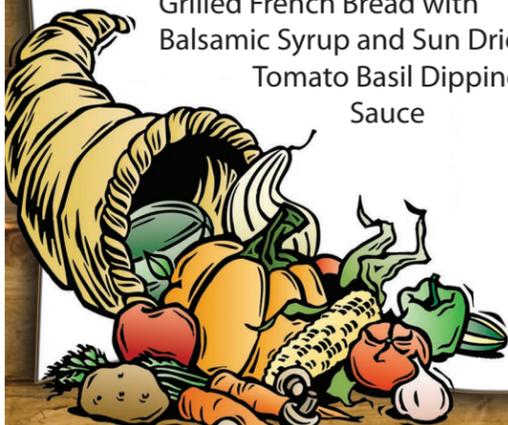
Pecan Bourbon Pie

Chocolate Truffle Cake

Our Signature Chocolate Fountain

Adults
\$24.99

Children (12 and under)
\$12.99



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