



Penny Fletcher introduces a talented entrepreneur with a knack for detail. **See page 1B**



Mitch Traphagen's Postcard for the week is from a location near his route home. **See page 6B**



Winter time in Florida means one thing.... oyster season! Check out this enticing recipe on **page 4B**



Experience international flavors at the Festival of Trees at Ruskin Elementary. **See their ad on page 12B**

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December 2, 2010
Volume 54
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2 Sections

THE OBSERVER NEWS

www.ObserverNews.net



PHOTO COURTESY TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY

Numerous cousins of this endearing, gentle manatee are expected as guests of honor in mid-January when Tampa Electric Company celebrates the 25th anniversary of its Manatee Viewing Center adjacent to the Big Bend power plant at Apollo Beach. Harmless and slow moving, the mammal that grazes on plants sometimes is referred to as the sea cow. Manatees are protected by law and are highly vulnerable to injury from boat motor props. This photo was shot by a Tampa Electric photographer of a manatee recovering from injuries in the Lowry Park Zoo's "manatee hospital". The two-day birthday celebration featuring activities and give-a-ways at the MVC is open to the public free of charge.

Balm plan getting underway with community tour

By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

BALM - Looking ahead to onset of their first community planning process, four long-time residents here will show the professional planners their working material next week.

At least one planner from The Planning Commission staff, Lisa Silva, a senior planner, along with Gerald Davis, descendant of one of the community's early settlers, Joel Capps, another settling family member, Beryl Burnett Fernandez, who also grew up in the community, and Marcella O'Steen, president of the local civic association, will spend Wednesday afternoon (December 8) touring the community from one end to the other.

The objective is to acquaint the professional planners with what the locals already grasp, "the lay of the land; what is and what has been," O'Steen said this week.

The community, once a tiny settlement established initially around the turn of the 20th century which grew up on timbering and turpentine to become an agricultural center known for cattle and potato production before diversifying into other crops including citrus and strawberries, has attracted over the years independent folk interested more in rural living than city services. Many Balm residents live on small acreages, keeping horses and cattle for pleasure or profit. They all obtain their water from wells on their property and dispose of sewage through individual septic tanks systems because such municipal services do not exist and have not been desired.

See **BALM PLAN**, page 12

Coming in from the cold

Part four of an Observer News feature series

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

I had never been so cold in my life — and that is saying something coming from a former Minnesotan. The wind blasting across Norfolk harbor shook my spine and instilled fear deep into my heart — not a life-threatening fear so much as a will-I-ever-get-out-of-this fear. I wanted it to end. I wanted a 737 to take me back home. For the first time in days, I didn't miss my wife. I wouldn't want her to endure the cold and choppy waves blasting spray over the deck.

Then slowly, almost imperceptibly, the icy cold hand clutching my heart began to release its grip. By the time I sailed into downtown Norfolk, conditions were almost pleasant — at least as pleasant as things could be with a temperature in the 40s. But as the waves subsided and the sun warmed my skin (what little was exposed) and I remembered why I was

See **SAILING HOME**, page 11



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The Norfolk Rebel, designed and built by Captain Lane Briggs is the world's only sail-assisted, schooner-rigged tugboat.

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You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director

SCC Chamber News

If you will remember last week when I normally would have written a column relating to Thanksgiving and all that goes with the holiday. I was busy ranting against



You, Me & Business

By Dana Dittmar

the decline of common courtesy. But after a long weekend with Husband in the Florida Keys, celebrating Thanksgiving in our own non-traditional way, I realize I

do need to talk about what has now become known simply as Turkey Day.

It really bothers me when people jauntily offer a "Happy Turkey Day" instead of recognizing the significance of Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, we have commercialized and marketed this wonderful day as nothing more than outlandish spreads of food, football, and the Macy's Day Parade. Television ads bombard us with visions of perfectly browned turkeys, pumpkin pie and green bean cas-

seroles, but few remind us of the reason for the season.

In today's world, I am thankful to have this fantastic job. I am thankful for my fantastic co-workers and the Board of Directors here at the Chamber. I am thankful my mother is still alive at 89 and my husband is in good health. I am thankful I was able to go on a brief trip to the mountains to see the leaves turn and another brief trip to the Keys to soak in the beautiful variations of blue.

As we go about our daily grinds and work so hard to make our businesses profitable, let's not forget our co-workers, fellow business owners, customers, vendors, and service people who are part of our circle of life. Be thankful for all the small, seemingly insignificant blessings you have received this past year - they might not have been so insignificant after all.

And as we head into the hectic hustle bustle of the rest of the season, let's not lose sight of what is truly important. Because, we're all in this together. And I'm thankful for each and every one of you.

Cargill supports community through donation to local organization

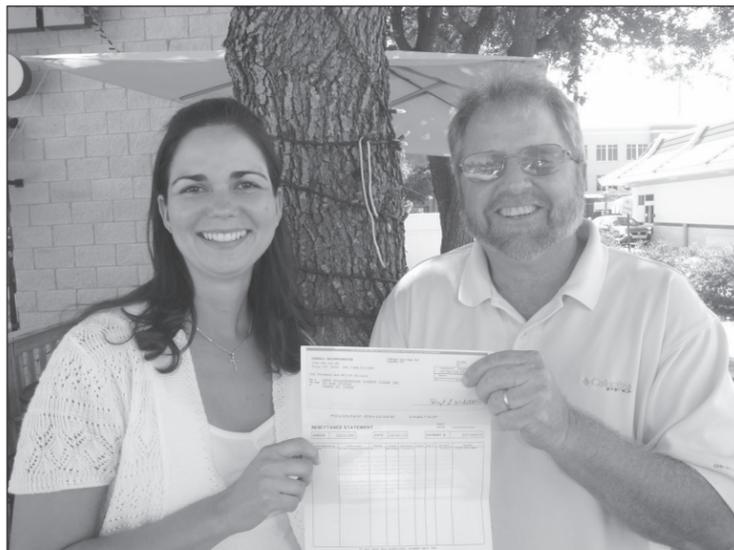
Committed to supporting the communities in which it does business, Cargill announced recently it has donated \$10,000 to Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful.

In support of environmental stewardship, Cargill has partnered with Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful, Inc., a local nonprofit organization dedicated to beautifying and conserving the county's natural resources. Funds from Cargill will be used to support the Great American Cleanup and International Coastal Cleanup.

During the 2010 International Coastal Cleanup recently, more than 4,400 volunteers picked up litter and debris at 40 sites, which included 133 miles of shorelines, rivers and lakes during the cleanup on Sept. 25, collecting an estimated 62,000 pounds of trash and 2,125 pounds of recyclables.

The donation will also go toward the 2011 Great American Cleanup on April 16 next year. The Great American Cleanup is a national campaign organized by nonprofit Keep America Beautiful, which KHCBC coordinates locally to help make our communities cleaner and greener places.

Cargill is an international provider of food, agricultural and risk management products and



Bob Berkahn from Cargill presents a \$10,000 check to Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful Executive Director Christine Commerce to assist with their Great American Cleanup and International Coastal Cleanup efforts. Cargill has been an ongoing sponsor for the Great American Cleanup and Coastal Cleanup events. In addition to providing monetary support, Cargill's employees also show their support by participating in the cleanup events. For more information about sponsoring Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful, call (813) 960-5121.

services. With 160,000 employees in 67 countries, the company is committed to using its knowledge and experience to collaborate with customers to help them succeed. Cargill contributes more than \$44 million a year globally to civic and

charitable organizations that help nourish the people and possibilities in communities where its employees live and work. For more information, visit <http://www.cargill.com>.

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672's Upcoming Activities

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 - 7 p.m. Karaoke by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11, Holiday Anniversary Dinner Dance for all Elks and their guests. 5 - 10 p.m. Appetizers: 5-6 p.m., Dinner: 6 p.m. and Dancing: 7 p.m. Music by Bryan. Menu: Surf & Turf, \$15 per person.

A Foster Angel Tree is now available in the lodge for all Elks and their friends.

Golf Scores - Hogans Golf Club

10/16, Course: SandPiper, Play: nco-Skins

1st : three-way tie @ 6 skins each - Mac Mckay, Fred Mayes & Paul Maki

2nd : two-way tie @ 3 skins each - Bob Layer & Dave Diehl

Low-net: Fred Mayes, 72 (2 skins)

Low-gross: Terry Siepelt, 86, (2 skins)

Also playing: Doug Seipelt, Jerry Egger, Andy Betz, Woody Nelson, Frank Carlin, Jay Sparkman, Don Mowry & Sharlene Peter

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1st Flight	
Linda Smith	12
Bess Hosford	12
Karen Jones	12
2nd Flight	
Mary Ann Speich	13
Lynn Patron	13
HoneyJenks	11
3rd Flight	
Madelyn Scholz	11
Gene Szczepaniak	9

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To lead a happy life; forgive and forget

“It is often better not to see an insult than to avenge it.”—Chinese Proverb

I have always thought it was counterproductive to hold a grudge against those who might have harmed me in some way. That isn't to say that I have always been able to follow the Bible's teachings and examples on the subject of forgiveness. I

feel quite sure that I could not, as Jesus did according to St. Luke, utter the following phrase as nails were being driven into his hands, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” But I have tried diligently to forgive and forget, so that when I get to the line in The Lord's Prayer that says, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,” God will know I'm at least trying and maybe cut me some slack.

Thomas Szasz, an American psychiatrist circa 1920, is quoted to have said the following: “The stupid never forgive nor forget; the naive forgive and forget; the wise forgive but do not forget.” I suppose there is some argument that can be made for holding on to the memory of a hurt so that one can be wary of being hurt in that manner again, but I believe the price of readiness may be too high. As long as we hold the memory of the hurt in our heart and mind, we always live in the shadow of it. It may prevent us from ever having a full relationship with the person we claimed to have forgiven and may even prevent us from availing ourselves of new opportunities because we carry this mental picture of a previous hurt. Most likely, one never truly forgives until they put the wrong behind them and forget it. Clergyman Henry Ward Beecher said it best, “I can forgive but I can-

not forget, is only another way of saying I cannot forgive.”

Forgiving and forgetting has many practical benefits. To forgive an enemy is the first step in making him a friend. If you look at the history of man, it is replete with examples of how today's enemies have become tomorrow's allies. It takes more courage than a coward will ever know to let go of the blanket of hurt that so many who feel they have been wronged wrap around themselves. But that blanket is not a safety blanket. It is not even a blanket at all, but rather a shroud which will in the end smother them. If you are brave, you can refuse to have enemies by refusing to carry the hurt in your heart. You can turn potential enemies into friends by returning their transgressions with forgiveness, thereby eliminating an enemy from your life—and that's important. I like what Ali ibn-Abi-Talib, a Moslem prophet, had to say: “He who has a thousand friends has not a friend to spare, and he who has one enemy will meet him everywhere.”

All of us, at one time or another, will need the forgiveness of our fellowman, not to mention that of our maker. If we are of a forgiving nature and have treated others well, we can hope for the same treatment. Not harboring grudges and dark feelings of hurt is the key to living a full and happy life. Put hurt behind you by both forgiving and forgetting. Only then can you be truly free.

“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”



Positive Talk
By William Hodges



On Monday, Nov. 22, Bob Russell, General Manager of Riverside Club and Gary Wilber, representing the 2010 StreetFest Committee, presented a check for \$3,000 to Suzanne Ancarana, RN, BA, Clinical Manager of LifePath Hospice.

Riverside Club event supports local hospice

Riverside Club Golf and Boating Resort enjoyed their 5th annual StreetFest community block party on Saturday, Nov. 3. This year, money raised through prize raffles was directed to benefit LifePath Hospice of Sun City Center. Special thanks to the following local businesses for their support: Riverside Club, Incognito Lounge, America's Oil Express, Boggs Jewelry, Crowder's Gifts and Gadgets, Southern Grace, Inc., Tom Lavin- The Golf Cart Guy, Paul Bray- Paradise Air Conditioning, John Anzilotti Powerwashing, and Tim's Mobile Home Repair. Thanks also to the many generous residents who were instrumental in the success of this effort. Over the past 5 years, the StreetFest has raised \$11,500 for local charities.



Tournament winners

The Member-Member (CWGA 18) golf tournament at the Caloosa C.C. winners on Oct 12-13 were: Gross top row, l to r, Low Net: Flight 1 Millie Perhoch/Beverly Valentine 127, Flight 2 Terry Cox /Jodie Allison 121, Flight 3 Alberta Sousa/Val Pelkowski 136 and Flight 4 Jackie Wrigley/Mary Ann Wellender 133. Bottom l to R, Low Gross: Low Gross Ann Skinner/Jeanne Kolls 160 ,Flight 2 Jerry Ramsey/Carmen Fields 179, Flight 3 Patty Hersey / Hazel Winklmann 198 and Flight 4 Joan LaMar/Dolores Phelps 202.

Expand warm-water habitat for Manatees at State Park

A new spring run gate will open at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park this Friday, December 3 at 10 a.m., allowing the wild manatee population to swim through for the first time in the park's history and enjoy the warmth and safety of the main spring throughout the winter months.

The event, hosted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Florida State Parks, will commemorate the opening of the gate underneath the bridge that stretches across the spring run and separates captive, rehabilitating manatees in the spring bowl from the wild manatees in the spring run.

Historically, the Club has contributed to various manatee protection efforts at Homosassa, including funding this past winter for heating support tanks, veterinary care, and food to rehabilitate rescued manatees suffering from cold stress.

Other participants at this Friday's event, including representatives from Save the Manatee Club and DEP, are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and other partners. The event is open to the public with regular park admission. For additional details, visit www.floridastateparks.org/homosassasprings/events.cfm.

Find out about the Club's Adopt-A-Manatee® program at Homosassa at www.savethemanatee.org/adopt

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LOREN E. BELL

Loren E. Bell has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as 'Operation Warrior Forge,' at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, WA.

The 32 days of training provide the best possible professional training and evaluation for all cadets in the aspects of military life, administration and logistical support. Although continued military training and leadership development is included in the curriculum, the primary focus of the course is to develop and evaluate each cadet's officer potential as a leader by exercising the cadet's intelligence, common sense, ingenuity and physical stamina. The cadet command assesses each cadet's performance and progress in officer traits, qualities and professionalism while attending the course.

Cadets in their junior and senior year of college must complete the leadership development course. Upon successful completion of the course, the ROTC program, and graduation from college, cadets are commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army, National Guard, or Reserve.

He is the son of Linda and Dave A. Bell of Apollo Beach.

Bell graduated in 2005 from East Bay High School, Gibsonton and received an associate degree in 2007 from Tallahassee Community College.

More than 8,400 square miles of Gulf waters reopen for fishing

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) cleared another 8,403 square miles of Gulf waters for fishing. The area reopened is due south of the Florida/Alabama state line extending west to the Louisiana state water line. This opening leaves just a fraction of the Gulf of Mexico closed to fishing.

The area just reopened has been sampled between Aug. 31 and Nov. 1 for oil or sheen. NOAA workers tested finfish and shrimp, including tuna, swordfish, and royal red shrimp.

They report finding no detectable oil or dispersant odors or flavors. Results of chemical analysis for oil-related compounds and dispersants were well below levels of concern.

"This is the first reopening where we have added a supplemental test to detect dispersants in seafood,

and all the samples passed," said Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D., Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator. "This is yet another indication that our Gulf seafood is safe for consumption."

NOAA continues its work with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on testing to detect any presence of dispersants in Gulf seafood. They are still working a broad scale seafood sampling which includes testing seafood from inside and outside the closure area. They also test dockside and market-based seafood.

An area covering 1,041 square miles immediately surrounding the Deepwater Horizon wellhead remains closed to fishing. To date, NOAA has reopened more than 82,900 square miles of oil-impacted federal waters under this protocol and sampling regime.

Feline Folks receives grant from Community Foundation of Greater SCC

Feline Folks has been awarded a grant of \$7,500 to continue its Community Program of 'Humane Feline Management' to sterilize free roaming and community cats, thereby controlling the population growth in the South Shore area of Hillsborough County. They are on target to spay/neuter over 600 cats and kittens this year. The 'William and Dorothy Bruse Fund' was established to provide direct care to dogs and cats.

The program utilizes a Spay/Neuter Clinic 'Operation Feline Fix' on the 3rd Saturday of every month in partnership with C.A.R.E. They also utilize the spay/neuter services of A.C.T. and the Humane Society of Tampa Bay. Feline Folks loans out humane cat traps to area residents who wish to participate in their control program, from their trap depots in Riverview, and Sun City Center. They charge \$10 per cat or kitten, for spay/neuter, rabies vaccination, ear tip & flea control. Feline Folks absorbs the remaining cost from their Grant Award.

Feline Folks is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2007 to help control the feline population growth explosion in SCC and to eliminate the need for a euthanization program. Since their inception they have spayed/neutered over 1,726 cats and kittens, while socializing and fostering out to forever homes over 506 cats and kittens.

For more information, call 813-944-7651 or visit www.felinefolks.us.



St. Andrew presents one-act play

Riverview resident Peggy Anderson practices for her lead role in 'We Three Kings from Someplace.' Although this production respects the Christmas story, the play does have humor and original music along with traditional Christmas music. This one-act play will be performed at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12 in the sanctuary of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb West, Sun City Center. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 634-6787.

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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, 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.

Rolling Thunder donates to Vietnam Memorial

The Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter 11 will present a \$3000 check to the Vietnam Memorial Committee at the Hillsborough County Veterans Park 7 Museum on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

On Nov. 14, Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter 11 hosted a Poker Run to raise funds for the Vietnam Memorial at the Hillsborough County Veterans Park and Museum on Highway 301.

Stops were at the AMVETS Post 44 in Brandon, the Nam Knights Clubhouse in Plant City, the American Legion Post 148 in Riverview, the VFW Post 6287 in Ruskin and culminated at CJ's Saloon in Riverview. Live music was provided by Code Blues and hosted by Parti Patti and food provided by 'Sandy's Home-Style Cooking.'

This donation goes towards the 6,000 square-foot Vietnam Veterans Memorial Plaza. Upon completion, lighted Cobra and Huey helicopters will be visible to night traffic along U.S. 301 N. To learn more, visit the Memorial website at www.hcmemorials.com.

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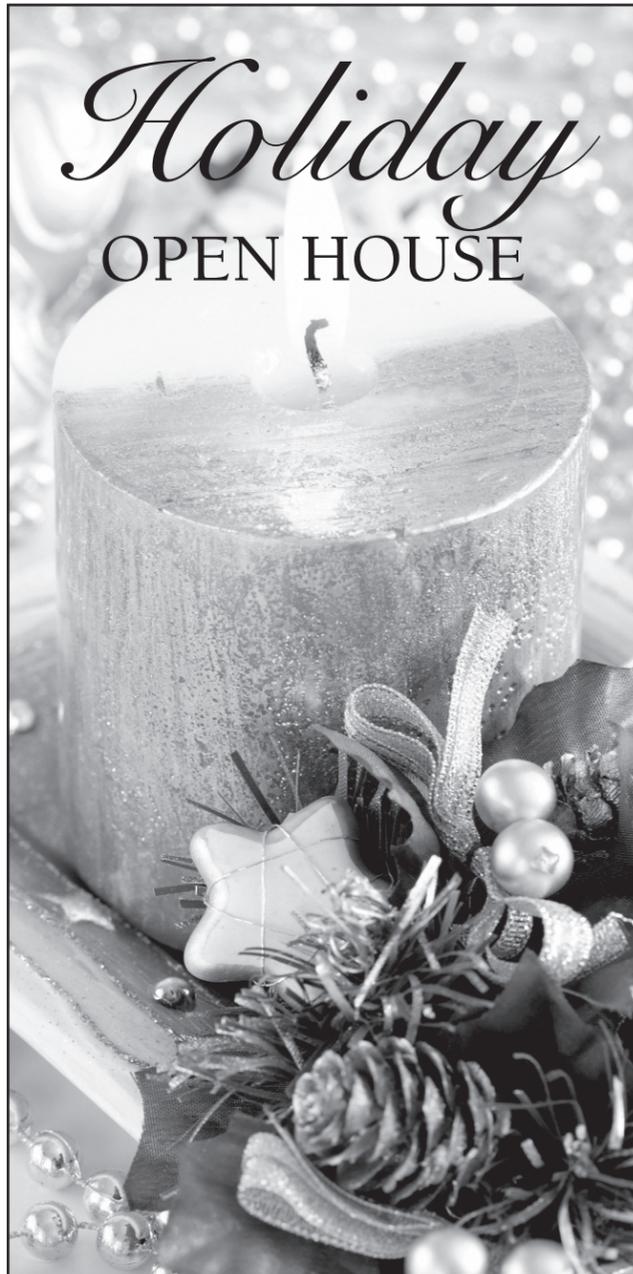
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Thoughtful Giving

I have all my lists and I am checking them twice, just to make sure that everyone gets a gift for the upcoming holiday. I scoured the sales at the mall and walked away empty handed. This year I am having more trouble than ever finding meaningful presents for those on my "nice" list.

Saturation Point

By Karey Burek

Homemade gifts are always well received in my family, because it shows thought and creativity, but sometimes not much skill. Something easy to do, that is cost effective and fun is to create a gardening gift for someone you know who likes to spend the springtime outdoors tending to flowers. Some helpful hints are on the website of HGTV and offer an array of heartfelt ideas to give the gift of gardening a personal touch. Jars of dirt, packets of seeds, a wooden carrier, maybe a



The Best Friends Sanctuary is a rescue center for all types of animals. You do not necessarily need to donate money, you can donate goods as well.

few tools or a set of gloves and wammbamm, you have a unique gift for someone you love.

Another neat idea is to adopt an animal in someone's honor. Animals Asia Foundation is still one of my favorites and a small donation to this organization can go a long way in helping keep rescued bears fed and healthy (animalsasia.org). National Wildlife Federation has over 60 species of animals that

you can adopt in honor of your gift recipient—they get a stuffed version of the chosen animal, along with a certificate and some other cool items depending on the package you pick. By visiting shopnwf.org you can also choose to plant a tree and get a neat gift of ornaments, jewelry or keychains—your choice.

An organization that is very close to my heart, was introduced to me by my mother. We are both avid supporters of the Best Friends Sanctuary (bestfriends.org), a rescue center for all types of animals. There are several options for giving to these animals, either by sponsoring an animal in someone's honor, donating money or even goods. There are lists of items that this group needs for the animals and ranges from bags of jerky treats to harnesses and pillows for all types of rescued critters.

Thoughtful giving is harder to do these days, with all the crazy ads and shop-til-you-drop stress. Why not give a gift that gives back? It's easy on the wallet and even better for the heart.



LR Loren Hofer President of the Caloosa Country Club Board Congratulates the winners: Phyllis Morgan won the Past President's Cup Flight, Pearl Ashe FSG officer won the Super Seniors Division tied for 3rd in 4-Ball & 5th low net in the 1st Flight, Carmen Fields FSG officer 2nd Flight won 2nd Low Net tied for 3rd in 4-Ball, Vicki Barnes won 1st in 4 Ball 2 net of 4, (absent) Maxine Thompson 3rd Flight won 2nd Low Gross. Sue Daveler.

Caloosa competes in the Florida Seniors Golf Championship

(CWGA 18) Caloosa C.C. Women's 18 hole golf league winners in the Florida Senior's Golf Championship at the Naples Beach and Golf Club October 19-21.

Kings Point Ladies 18 Hole League

Home to Home with Caloosa Greens October 25. Game: Best Ball Scramble

1st Place Team: Betty Kuhn, Alice DeSchryver, Evelyn Gates, Agnes Clough Plus 1

2nd Place Team: Lee Leverett, Nancy Mast, Sally Swanson Plus 3

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Couple loans Big Bear to those needing some hugs

It started with a trip to the Mary & Martha House Thrift Shop.

It wasn't like they'd never been there before. Mary and Neal Nightingale of Sun City Center go there a lot because they like to help the Mary & Martha House woman's shelter in Ruskin and also find stuffed animals to take to people suffering from trauma or loss.

"There are so many people in nursing homes and hospitals," Mary told me during an interview in the adorable lakeside cottage they recently bought after "downsizing" from a larger home. "We've been taking stuffed animals to people for a long time."

But one day not long ago Mary was in one room at the thrift shop when she heard her husband's voice loudly say "Sold!" from another room.

"I went in right away and there he was, holding the biggest stuffed bear I've ever seen. I said, "What are we going to do with something that big in our little house?"

But Neal had other plans for Big Bear, knowing his wife had been buying and giving (much smaller) stuffed animals away to friends and neighbors who were having a rough time.

To make Big Bear different from all the rest, they made the rule that he could make visits, but he would always have to come home.

"I had one friend who had lost her husband, and was sick all the time but none of the doctors could find out what was the matter," Mary said. "She was really feeling down. But she smiled when we brought Big Bear to stay with her. I said, 'You can keep him as long as you like but just make sure

he comes home.' I think that was the first time I had ever seen her smile."

Big Bear stayed quite awhile at the first home he visited. But eventually, he came home.

After a couple of visits to people Mary knew who had recently endured trauma or loss, she took him to a meeting of the P.E.O.

The local chapter of the international Philanthropic Educational Organization welcomed him with open arms, as they had with many other stuffed animals Mary had brought for them to take home with them to share.

"I took a lot of stuffed animals but I especially remember a polar bear and a large dog and a 7-or-8-foot snake," Mary told me. "They took them all."

Big Bear, however, only visits the places he travels. Because he needs to visit many others in his future, Mary says he must always come home.

Mary, a former high school English teacher, and Neal, a former physical education coordinator and tennis coach, have now been married 50 years. Both are always on the lookout for something nice they can do for others.

"They're sharing the bear to spread happiness," said their friend Mira Beck. "Recently he was taken to Freedom Plaza, and when he got off the elevator many people just wanted to stop and hug him."

Neal, who keeps his hand in tennis and pickle ball, has volunteered a long time at Hillsborough Correctional Institution, the faith-based women's prison located on

State Road 672 in Balm.

He introduced the women at the prison to the game of pickle ball.

Mary was quick to show me the cards the incarcerated women sent him when he recently got too ill to visit them. He is better now, but waiting for the change of prison management to settle in before resuming his volunteerism there.

For now Big Bear overflows the mid-size chair from which he looks out the window, watching the almost-constant activity in the Nightingale's lakeside backyard.

Their yard is right on Swan Lake and is a haven for black bottom whistlers, seagulls, and of course swans. While I was there, I saw them all. But the one lone wood stork in residence that they've nicknamed Woody tapped his beak against the glass window until Neal went outside and gave him his treat.

"He comes all the time because he knows he'll get treats," Mary said.

Big Bear, however, requires nothing. He is just there to hug.

Mary said anyone who knows of a person who needs a special bear hug is welcome to give her a call.

*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.



Over Coffee
By Penny Fletcher
penny@observernews.net



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Mary and Neal Nightingale of Sun City Center get ready to loan "Big Bear" to another person who needs a smile. Once they bought small stuffed animals to give away to friends and neighbors who had suffered a loss but now they loan the huge bear for however long someone needs him, with the understanding that he will always find his way home.

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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, December 2— VA Hospital at 5:30 p.m. Bar Bingo at 6 p.m.

Friday, December 3— Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan from 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, December 4— District Meeting in Zephyrhills at noon. Turkey Shoot at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 5— Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Awards

at 2 p.m. Dinner at 3 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy from 4 to 8 p.m.

Monday, December 6— Taco Night from 5 to 7 p.m. Planning Meeting at 6 p.m. Crew Games at 6:30 p.m. House Meeting at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 7— Pearl Harbor Day. Little Harbor at 9 a.m. Kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Bingo at 6:30 p.m. John Zelba Birthday.

Wednesday, December 8— VFW and LAVFW Meeting at 7 p.m.

Medicare: helping seniors in the fight against breast cancer

Any woman can get breast cancer, even if she has no family history of the disease, and this risk only increases with age. Unfortunately, many older women are concerned not just about the disease itself, but also about their ability to receive proper treatment because they fear they won't be able to afford it.

Women should know that Medicare provides a range of services to detect and treat breast cancer, which is the second leading cause of cancer death in women in the United States and the most common non-skin cancer in women.

Early detection is a key to surviving the disease, as breast cancer can usually be successfully treated when found early. As state-wide program director of Florida's SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Program, I am urging Floridians to keep their loved ones with Medicare healthy by encouraging them to take advantage of important services covered by Medicare.

Medicare-covered screening mammograms and digital technologies for screening mammograms to check for breast cancer may find developments before you or a doctor can feel them. Medicare provides coverage for an annual screening mammogram for all female beneficiaries age 40 or

older. Medicare also provides coverage for one baseline mammogram for female beneficiaries between the ages of 35 and 39. When breast cancer is detected early, the five-year relative survival rate is 98 percent, but declines dramatically once the cancer has spread to other parts of the body.

Dedicated volunteers with the SHINE Program provide one-on-one counseling to seniors, retirees and disabled individuals. SHINE, which is part of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, empowers elders to make informed health care choices. The program's mission is to offer free, unbiased and confidential guidance on Medicare, Medicaid and other health or prescription drug coverage issues.

Let SHINE be your guide to understanding Medicare-covered services. Medicare's preventive services and prescription drug coverage may be just what you or a loved one needs for good health and independence. For more information about the SHINE program or Medicare preventive services, call the Florida Elder Helpline toll-free at 1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337) or visit www.Floridashine.org.

For more information on National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, visit www.nbcam.org.



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ABWA and Deputies Darlin's receive donations

In tune with the holiday spirit, Mary Ann Wilhelm presented two checks on Nov. 23 to Frances Hereford the Co-President of the South Shore Chapter of the American Business Woman's Association (ABWA) and Officer Donna Budd of Deputies Darlin's.

As the President of Wilhelm Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc. Mary Ann constantly looks to help organizations; in particular those that aid children and promote education, two causes close to her heart.

The donations, amounting to over \$900, were collected during Mary Ann's vie for Honorary Mayor of Ruskin. The money donated to ABWA is put into its education fund that gives scholarships to local female students who would like to pursue higher education. The money donated to Deputies Darlin's helps needy children and elderly in the South Shore area, especially during the Holidays.

For more information on ABWA contact Co-President Dolores Berens at (813) 634-1418, and for more information about Deputies Darlin's Contact Officer Donna Budd at (813) 672-7430.



Mary Ann Wilhelm presents a check to Officer Donna Budd of Deputy Darlins.



Mary Ann Wilhelm presents a check to Frances Hereford, co-president of the ABWA.

Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins, Jr. Veterans Museum Building to be dedicated

Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins, Jr. Veterans Museum Building Dedication ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at Veterans Memorial Park and Museum at 3602 Hwy. 301 N. in Tampa.

The life of Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins, Jr. will be celebrated during a building renaming ceremony hosted by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs and Hillsborough County's Veterans Park and Museum Committee.

In October, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners approved re-naming the County Veterans Memorial Museum in honor of the former executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, retired Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins, Jr. after his sudden passing.

A native of Tallahassee, FL, LeRoy Collins, Jr. received his commission from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1956, and spent the next 10 years on active duty before transferring to the Navy Reserves in 1966.

Following a distinguished military career both ashore and at sea, he retired from the Navy Reserves as a two-star Rear Admiral in October 1990.

In 2007, Rear Admiral Collins was appointed executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs where he was a fierce advocate on behalf of Florida's more than 1.6 million veterans and their families.

Over the past four decades, the Rear Admiral also became a prominent businessman and civic leader in Florida, serving as president of several financial and real estate companies. His sudden passing this year has not only impacted Florida's veterans, but the entire Sunshine State.

The public is encouraged to RSVP with Tracey Coley of the County Veterans Affairs Office at (813) 246-3170 or e-mail Coleyt@hillsboroughcounty.org.

Enjoy a Christmas light show

The community of Symphony Isles in Apollo Beach will open the gates to the community for their annual Christmas Lights Drive-Thru from 6-8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12.

All are invited to this free event featuring the lights of Symphony Isles as well as a special visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Symphony Isles is located at the end of Flamingo Dr. in Apollo Beach. For more information, call Peggy Diaz at (813) 403-9009.

Attend the monthly recitation

St. Matthew's Anglican Church will hold a Recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, followed with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18.

St. Matthew's, located at 10701 Bloomingdale Ave., Riverview, is an Anglican Catholic Parish serving South Hillsborough.

For more information, call (813) 663-0334.

New anti-fraud program launched

Thought you'd won the lottery? Or that multi-million dollar sweepstakes? Or all you have to do for that big prize is send money somewhere for taxes? Don't be fooled. It's a fake check scam.

The Hillsborough County Consumer Protection Agency is joining with Consumer Federation of America (CFA) in launching a new program to protect consumers and financial institutions from fake check scams. Banks and credit unions will hand out a brochure created by the CFA titled 'Don't Become a Target' to every consumer who visits their bank to deposit checks or money orders of \$1,000 or more, or to withdraw \$1,000 or more.

Florida ranks as the 4th most common location for consumers to report fake check scams to the National Consumers League's Fraud Center during the first nine months of this year. The Fraud Center keeps the database for complaints about telemarketing and internet fraud.

In most fake check scams, a consumer receives a genuine-looking check or money order for something and is asked to wire money somewhere in return before claiming the rest of the prize. In another scenario, the consumer is recruited to work at home as a 'mystery shopper' and is instructed to send money somewhere as part of the job. However, the subsequent check or money order sent to the consumer is phony. In most cases, when it bounces, the victim owes the money back to the financial institution where it was deposited or cashed.

"These fake check scams don't seem to be going away," said Kevin Jackson, Chief Investigator, Hillsborough County Consumer Protection Agency. "We are proud to partner with the Consumer Federation of America to aggressively help protect our residents from such scams."

For a copy of the brochure, or to find other ways to protect yourself from being the target of a fake check scam, log onto the Hillsborough County Consumer Protection website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/consumerprotection and click on 'Avoid Fake Check Scams.'



Enjoy the AB Christmas Lighted Boat Parade

The Apollo Beach Christmas Lighted Boat Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 18. The parade will begin at the South Channel at approximately 6 p.m. and proceed through some of the major deep canals in Apollo Beach.

Posters will be displayed within Apollo Beach at many businesses and at the Chamber showing the route. The Parade is a yearly tradition sponsored, hosted and organized by the Tampa Sailing Squadron and the Apollo Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Should you wish to be a participant in the parade, all boaters must attend 'The Captains Meeting' to get their assigned number and directions at 9 a.m. at the Tampa Sailing Squadron on the morning of the Dec. 18.



How Much You'll Pay for Medicare in 2011

Dear Savvy Senior,
I know we won't be getting a cost-of-living increase in our Social Security benefits next year, but I haven't heard about Medicare. What will the Medicare premiums and deductibles cost seniors in 2011?



The Savvy Senior

By Jim Miller

Recently Retired

Dear Recently Retired,
The new Medicare premium, deductible and co-pay charges for 2011 were all announced a few weeks ago and the changes for most seniors will be minimal, unless you're a high-income beneficiary. Here's what you should know.

2011 Premiums

Because the Social Security Administration will not be giving out a cost of living increase (or COLA) in 2011, the Medicare Part B premiums for most beneficiaries will not go up either. Thanks to the "hold-harmless" law, which prohibits Part B premiums from rising in any year that there's no COLA, the 2011 monthly premium will remain at \$96.40 for most existing beneficiaries, or \$110.50 if you enrolled in the program this year.

Unfortunately, this law does not protect new Medicare beneficiaries or those who pay a higher

Part B premium based on higher income. New Part B enrollees (those who enroll in 2011) will pay \$115.40 per month. While the premiums for higher-income beneficiaries will vary depending on the income level they reported on their 2009 tax returns. Here's how their Part B premiums break down next year:

- Individuals with incomes of \$85,000 to \$107,000, or married couples filing joint tax returns with incomes of \$170,000 to \$214,000, will pay \$161.50 per month.
- Individuals earning \$107,000 to \$160,000 (couples \$214,000 to \$320,000) will pay \$230.70.
- Individuals with incomes of \$160,000 to \$214,000 (couples \$320,000 to \$428,000) will pay \$299.90.
- Individuals over \$214,000 or couples above \$428,000 will pay \$369.10.

Another change high-income beneficiaries (those with incomes over \$85,000, or \$170,000 for joint filers) need to be aware of is a new surcharge on Part D premiums. High-income seniors that have a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan will pay an additional \$12 to \$69.10 per month, depending on their income, on top of their regular Part D premiums.

Deductibles and Co-Pays

Other Medicare changes you need to know about that will affect all beneficiaries include the Part B deductible, which will increase to

\$162 in 2011 (it's currently \$155). And the Part A (hospital insurance) annual deductible which will go up to \$1,132 (it's currently \$1,100) for hospital stays up to 60 days. That increases to \$283 per day for days 61-90 and to \$566 a day for days 91-150. And the skilled nursing facility co-payment for days 21-100 will increase to \$141.50 per day (it's currently \$137.50). For more information on all the Medicare premiums and coinsurance rates for 2011 see medicare.gov or call 800-633-4227.

Savvy Tip: If you're a high-income beneficiary and your income has fallen since 2009 (the tax year used to determine your 2011 premiums) you may be able to reduce or eliminate your surcharge. To qualify, your income loss must be tied to a life-changing event such as a marriage or divorce, a job loss or reduced work hours (including retirement), loss of income from income-producing property, or cuts in pension benefits. To learn more see SSA publication (No. 05-10161) "Medicare Part B Premiums: Rules for Beneficiaries with Higher Incomes" at www.ssa.gov/pubs/10116.html.

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



Gibsonton students are terrific

Congratulations to the "Terrific Kids" of Gibsonton Elementary who showed their peers what it means to be Respectful.

Timothy Glenn, Jessica Gonzalez-Vargas, Alexia Macias, Allison Purcell, Evette Velasquez, Felicia Fuentes, Alanah McDowell, Kaedyn Love, McKenna Newell, Nicole Nunez-Rodriguez, Jessie Baldrige, Ashanni King, Mat Hall, Mariah Pardo, Hailey Gillette, Alex Pineda, Adriana Hernandez, Savannah Boddie, Jasmine Rock, Joseph Steadman, Griselda Cantoriano-Tolentino, Carmelo Vargas, Juan Martinez, Diane Pineda, Amanda Hardin, Mark Nguyen, Roy De La Cruz, Davier Lopez, Josselin Martinez, Jesus Lemus, Kourtney Kaletta, Andrew Guerrero, Steven Franks.



LR: Carmen Fields Co-Chr and Sally Heffernan Chr.

CWGA-18 Annual Member-Member Tournament

Chairpersons of the (CWGA 18) Annual Member-Member Women's 18 hole golf league. Thirty-four twosomes competed in this fun tournament followed by hand catered refreshments.

Want to see your news in the paper?

Email it to news@observernews.net or send it to 210 Woodland Estates Ave. Ruskin, FL 33570.

Sun City Center Central Campus

Holiday Walk

December 4th

BREAKFAST

7 a.m. to noon

\$5 2 eggs, 2 pancakes (plain or blueberry), toast, 2 sausages, tea or bottomless coffee

CRAFT SHOPPING

9 a.m. to noon

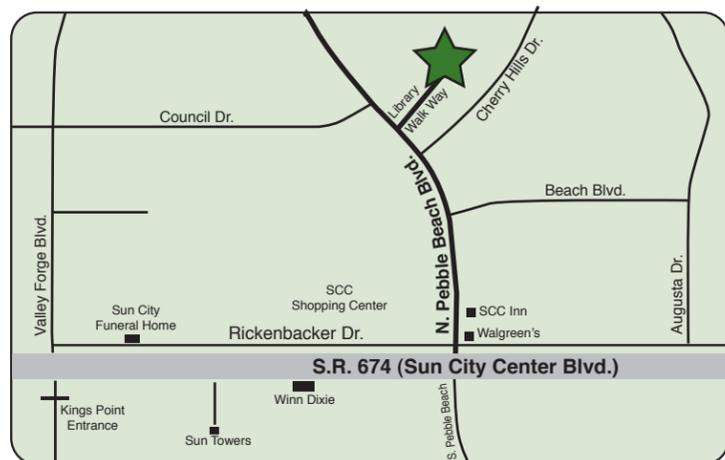
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Letter to the Editor

Dear Readers,
My name is Nicole Liles, and I am a lifelong resident of Ruskin, with deep roots in our community. My family has lived here for generations. In June of 2010, I graduated as Salutatorian from Palmetto High School and am currently serving as a state officer for the Florida FFA Association with the position of Area 5 State Vice President. After a two-day interview process and two months of campaigning, I was elected to this position at the 82nd Annual Florida FFA State Convention held in Orlando in June. Because it is a full-time position, I will be starting college next fall at the University of Florida with the intentions of graduating from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and bringing my knowledge back to our community. In January, I have the opportunity to travel to Argentina to study foreign agriculture, and am asking for your help.

I have been involved in the FFA since my first meeting at Lincoln Middle School, to my senior year as President of Palmetto FFA. I found that my agricultural passions lie in vegetable production and agricultural advocacy on a political level. During my year of service as a State Vice President, it will be my responsibility to serve as a representative for 15,000 FFA members, agricultural education, and Florida's agriculture industry. State FFA Office is a full-time position and my duties will include: presenting numerous leadership conferences to thousands of Florida FFA members, an internship with the Florida Department of Agriculture, serving as a delegate at the National FFA Convention, working at the Florida State Fair, just to name a few.

One of the opportunities that I have as a Florida FFA State Officer is to attend the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO), organized by the National FFA Global Programs. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit the country of Argentina, where I will learn about agriculture on a global scale, and become more culturally aware of the diversity in worldwide agriculture. While in Argentina I will visit grain ports on the Parana River, overlook the auctions of 8-12

thousand head of cattle at a Buenos Aires livestock market, and view the complexes of the highest soybean crushing concentration in the world. I will tour a farm dedicated to the production of corn, soybean and wheat in no till agriculture, and also a full cycle cattle operation, while learning the farming practices, crop rotation, fertilization and herbicide management, and commercial and financial aspects of the operation.

Florida's agriculture industry is competitive with South American agriculture industries and by expanding my knowledge of Argentinian agriculture, I can bring my experiences back to Hillsborough County to enhance and improve our market. After I return from Argentina, I will be more than willing to give a presentation or share my knowledge gained with anyone interested. For more information on this program, you can visit www.ffa.org.

As I prepare for this trip in January, I am in the process of raising funds. Because it is an international trip, there are a lot of expenses involved. In order to participate, I must raise \$4200 and I am asking local individuals and businesses for their monetary support. If you would like to make a contribution or know of any one who might be interested, you can contact me at (813) 601-4190 or LILES LN@gmail.com for more information. Any contributions can be mailed to 110 2nd ST NW Ruskin, FL 33570. I thank you in advance for your support. God Bless.

Nicole Liles, Ruskin

South County Gives Back

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.

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. 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.



Cypress Creek Elementary Terrific Kids

The November Terrific Kids (sponsored by Sun City Kiwanis) at Cypress Creek Elementary include: Joshua Gerstenschlager, Ariel Laporte, Ivan Pineda, Emma Margelowsky, Andrea Galacia-Zavala, Jazmene Flores, Carlos Castillo, Bryanna Bolt, Riley Burdick, Grace Coffman, Michael Yontz, Joseph Francisco-Villalb, Logan Culver, Logan Vancomperolle, Katie Paskert, Kayliana Martinez, Hannah Tracey, Jennifer Espinoza, Erika Vargas, Angel Montero, Jerry Martinez, Malysiana Lee, Kaydin Rimes, Phillip Villarreal, Roxana Morales, Ana Diaz, Christopher Samy, Sandra Godinez, Chamerie White, Alicia Perez-Vasquez, Monajha Brown, Lexi Balderas, Colby Wink, Dakota Sperber, Victoria Diaz, Larissa Saldana-Sanchez, Angel Pineda, Aniya Reaves, Claudia Vazquez, Martha De Los Santos, Francisco Galvan, Jared Taylor, Amira Eldib, Julia MacDonald, Emmanuel Vasquez, Isabel Garcia, Rylan Blaisdell, Kayla Madrid, Alyssa Character, Aaron Peña, Michael Bermudez-Vega, Jonathan Murphy, Jacqueline Holbrook, Brianna Twitty, Julia Alderman, Kristie Hepburn, Jasmine Martinez, Oscar Garcia, Jasmin Sandoval, Destiny Clark



SCC Men's 18 hole golf association

10-7, Individual low net, Sand-piper GC	Green Tees
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	2nd Mike Zwissler -4
	3rd Zack Taylor -2
	4th tie Peter Brock +1
	Al Hamm
	25 golfers
White Tees	
1st Michael Gomes -3	
2nd Dieter Quitsch even	
3rd William Pachler +2	
4th tie Bert Poulin +4	
Jerry Hart	

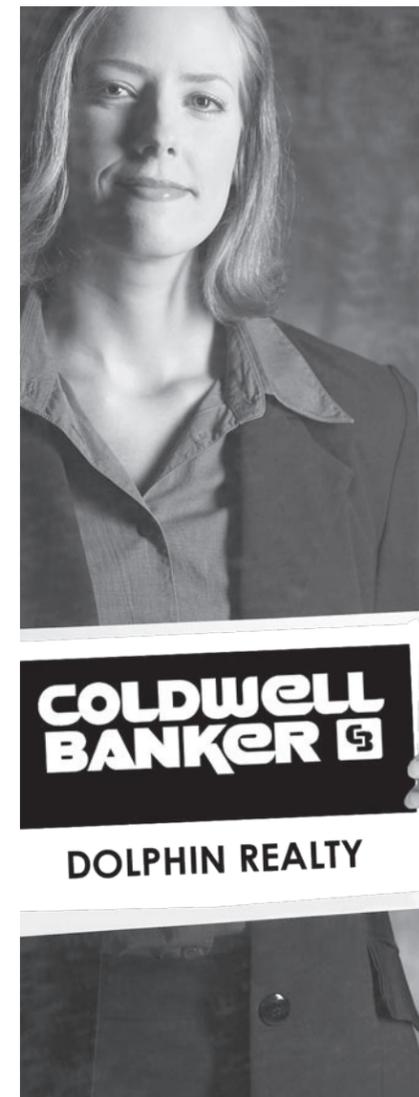


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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

A calm respite for the night after a bitterly cold morning, Shadow Marie is securely tied to a free dock near Great Bridge, Virginia. The bridge is visible in the background.

Sailing home

■ Continued from page 1

doing this, my outlook brightened with the rising temperature.

If you have a bad day or reach a point in your life where you wonder if there is any good left in this world, I can assure you there is. Let me introduce you to Captain David Briggs. He is tall and sun- and wind-tanned with silver hair at a young age. He is an unpretentious man who exudes calm, confidence and utter competence. In short, he is a very good man.

Wind, waves and current were not in my favor as I sailed out of the Chesapeake Bay to Norfolk, Virginia. From the start, my forward

speed hovered at a walking pace and I realized that there was no way I was going to reach my planned anchorage before nightfall. As the bitter cold of the bay reached into my bones, I began to think that spending the night tied to a dock with shore power, under my electric blanket, was the best possible way I could spend Thanksgiving. In the hope of finding a dock, my wife Michelle called the marinas in the Norfolk area; but, as it was a holiday, none answered. She left messages without confidence that anyone would call back.

Then David Briggs called her. He told her I could tie up at a floating dock in his marina just inside the mouth of Norfolk harbor. When she asked for the cost he replied, "I can't charge him, it's Thanksgiving."

Wow. When I arrived at Rebel Marina, Briggs introduced himself and invited me to the marina lounge for Thanksgiving dinner. There I was told to help myself to a feast of turkey, stuffing, green beans, yams, mashed potatoes and several pies for dessert.

David Briggs invited me, a total stranger, to stay at his marina free of charge and to enjoy Thanksgiving with his family and friends. I was cold and tired and they took me in, expecting nothing other than my company in return. He even refused my offer to help with the dishes. I am grateful for who he is and for his considerable generosity in providing a free boat slip and a Thanksgiving dinner. He represents what is good in this world.

It turns out the apple didn't fall far from the tree. His father, Captain Lane Briggs, was widely known for his generosity and kind heart. In the early 1980s he developed the tugantine — a tugboat that uses sail power in addition to fossil-fuel burning engines. He used a tugantine named the *Norfolk Rebel* for towing, commercial fishing, and even occasionally for carrying cargo. The *Norfolk Rebel* remains

as the world's only sail-powered, schooner-rigged tugboat.

One Christmas during the height of an oil crisis, he organized a fleet of carolers, led by the *Norfolk Rebel*, to sing to homesick crewmembers of ships that were at anchor in the harbor, waiting for cargo and better fuel prices. Captain Briggs was a founder of the Great Chesapeake Schooner Race, in which dozens of schooners race from Baltimore to Norfolk. The race has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. He was well known in the world of schooners and tall ships — not just up north but all along the coast. In 1983, he was named an honorary citizen of Tarpon Springs.

Captain Lane Briggs passed away five years ago. His son resisted the fast money of the real-estate boom years to keep the marina his father created as a family-run operation. He stands tall in my eyes, as a kind-hearted man who took in a cold, lonely, and tired stranger on Thanksgiving. It seems it was just what his father would have done.

There are small things that you notice after spending a few hours at the marina. There is the little door in the wall for cats to come in for supper and warmth, there are the dogs that showed up and found a home, there is the gas fireplace in the boater's lounge that is on early to ward off the morning chill, and there is the large ice machine without padlocks but with a sign saying ice is sold on the honor system. The father and now the son have created a special place in this world.

The marina cats were tucked inside the boater's lounge on the morning I set out from the Rebel Marina. The wind was howling out of the northwest and the National Weather Service was predicting overnight low temperatures at freezing. It was hard to leave the comforts of the dock, but I knew that time for going south was running short. I knew that I was pushing my luck being so far north in

See **SAILING HOME**, page 23

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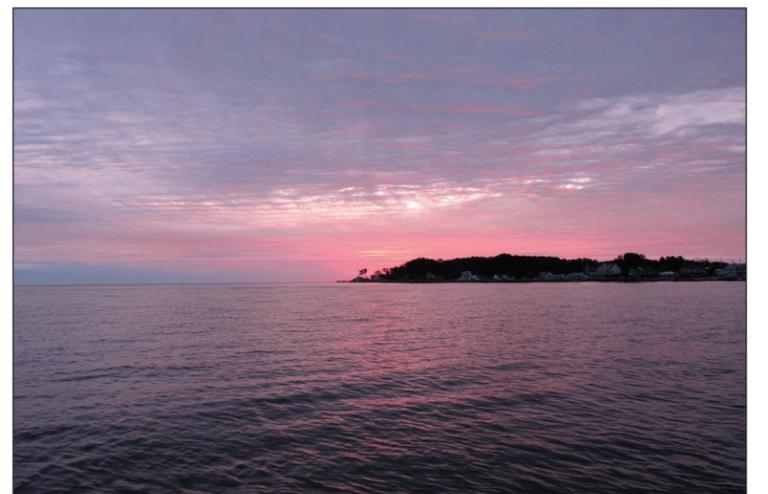
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The sun rises over the Chesapeake Bay on my last day of sailing that beautiful yet moody body of water.



One of the mightiest ships on the sea viewed from one of the smallest: a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier in Norfolk harbor.

Manatee Viewing Center

■ Continued from page 1

wild TECO II along with Howard, named for an MVC staffer, after nursing the two injured males back to health.

Regardless of the number of the slow-moving, seagoing mammals who stop off in the canal this coming January, though, the utility plans to celebrate them with every sense. Disney Radio, a station for kids which broadcasts at 1380 on the AM dial, will be onsite describing the scene, interviewing visitors, perhaps trying to get a travelogue from a particularly outspoken manatee on both days, according to Rick Morera, Tampa Electric spokesman. The station's remote broadcast direct from the MVC on Saturday is set for noon to 2 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m.

And, if none of the manatees in the water want to float in place long enough for an interview, Molly Manatee, the MVC mascot, will be on hand, on land, Morera said. Molly, who well may tip the scales at about the same weight as one of her more aquatic kin, is, however, closer to human size in height and tends to get around in an upright position, Kroh added. Accompanied by her handler, Molly is expected to attend both days, interacting with visitors, providing youngsters of all ages with unforgettable visual impact.

The utility also has ordered large quantities of manatee sugar cookies from Alessi's Bakery, one of Tampa's most popular premier bakers, to tempt the taste buds of visitors, Kroh said. The cookies, shaped like sea cows, are to be frosted in appropriate colors and individually wrapped for protection and convenience. Aromatic hot, buttered popcorn, a proven favorite at previous MVC observances, will be available, too, Kroh said.

Both savvy adults and trend-following youngsters will find a lot to touch during the quarter century anniversary party. Tampa Electric

plans to introduce its new MVC logo with a freshly cast medallion on strings of colored beads, ala Gasparilla style, and there will be plenty of silly bands in manatee shapes for the junior set. "We think the medallion could become a collector's item," Kroh noted.

Several tents will be set up around the viewing center site where activities as well as exhibitors are slated. One will house a variety of arts and crafts designed for children, including picture making and face painting, Kroh said. Others will host a variety of displays from invited exhibitors such as the Lowry Park Zoo, the Florida Aquarium, the Save Our Seabirds Sanctuary and the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

The occasion also gives the utility an opportunity to introduce to the general public its own newly revamped exhibits at the MVC, Kroh indicated. The expanded displays have become considerably more interactive, he said, inviting hands-on participation. Similarly the MVC gift shop has been doubled in size, to give both visitors and area shoppers with manatee lovers on their lists a wider range of souvenir and gift items, he said.

In addition, Tampa Electric will be showing off a new solar power installation near the MVC site. Eight steel utility poles – each supporting ten 210-watt all back contact mono-crystalline panels – were set in place during October, Morera said. The 80 panels produce 16.8 kilowatts and when added to older panels on the roof of the exhibit building, can provide about 37,500 KWh annually. The utility estimates this amount of sun power is equivalent to taking four cars off the road for a year or planting 7.5 acres of trees and generates enough to keep three average homes operating. The solar project was made possible by the company's renewable energy program in which customers volun-

tarily take part of their energy from renewable sources, Morera added. The energy produced also helps power the MVC.

The entire two-day anniversary observance is open to the public and all of its activities, exhibits and almost all of the celebration treats – including all conversations with visiting manatees – are free of charge. The only nominal charge involved is for the manatee cookies, Kroh said. Parking also is free and shuttle buses will ferry visitors from off-site parking lots on both days, he added.

The Manatee viewing Center is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week, between November 1 and April 15, each year.

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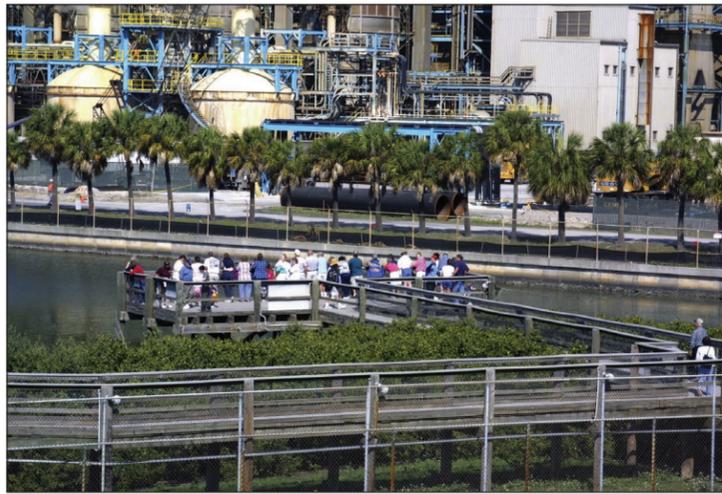


PHOTO COURTESY TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY

On all but the most inclement weather days from Nov. 1 through April 15 each year, visitors line the railings at Tampa Electric's Manatee Viewing Center to observe close-up huge but harmless manatees relaxing in their version of a warm springs resort. Clean, warm water outflowing from the utility's power plant near Apollo Beach attract the mammals when Tampa Bay and Gulf water temperatures dip into the high 60s. The utility will be celebrating a quarter century of manatee viewing and education on January 15 and 16.

Balm plan

■ Continued from page 1

Balm also has come to host, over sometimes strenuous objections, a massive landfill, a state prison, a small mountain of dry disposal matter and numerous commercial dirt pits which fed home, road and public structure builders' need for fill during booming construction years earlier this decade.

On the other hand, it also is home to the sprawling Gulf Coast Research and Education Center affiliated with the University of Florida's College of Agriculture, a growing educational and religious complex for Spanish-speaking migrants, a privately-owned equine exhibition center and a for-profit tree farm where locals still cut their Christmas trees. The community's first residential subdivision sprang up in the last five years.

It is such assets and liabilities, the inherent values and traditions, that the citizens group wants the planners to see and understand from the resident perspective, O'Steen indicated.

Silva, who has been on The Planning Commission staff for seven years and involved with about a dozen community plans over the years, said the community tour prior to beginning the planning process is a welcome opportunity to see the area from the local vantage point. Depending on the demands of their schedules, other planners may accompany her, she noted, adding that she will record photographically what she sees throughout the community.

The working definition of a community plan from her perspective, she added, is development of a vision calling for goals and strategies that can be applied to a specific study area.

Balm's plan, scheduled to start taking shape early in 2011 with Silva as facilitator, is the last of the new South County Community Plans scheduled at this time. Riverview's formal plan encompassing an area north of Balm and Wimauma's plan outlining area south and west of the community both have been completed, approved at state and county levels, and added to the Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan which attempts to impose order on land use in the county.

Boundaries set in the two other plans, O'Steen suggested, may dictate the Balm study area because it is between the other communities. Silva, however, noted that establishing the community boundaries is not necessarily the first objective in the planning process.

The community planning process in Hillsborough County frequently has continued over an 18-month period and has lasted for as long as three years. It is to begin in Balm, as it has in other communities, with an open house hosted by The Planning Commission in the subject community where the process is explained and the local advisory group begins to form.

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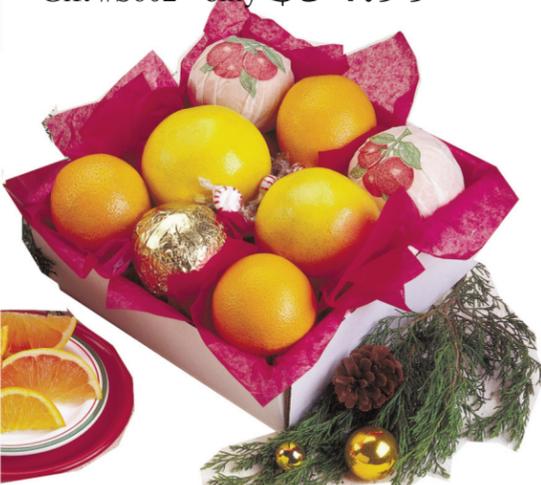


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**Program/Event Highlights
Week of December 5 to 11**

Mouse Skills*

Monday, Dec. 6 • 2 to 3 p.m.

Learn how to grip, move and click the buttons on the mouse. Free event is provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Keyboard Basics*

Monday, Dec. 6 • 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

Learn the keys on the computer keyboard. Free event is provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Holiday Crafts

Monday, Dec. 6 • 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

For children ages 6-12. Make a polymer clay holiday ornament or magnet with Ms. Ashley. Decorate your piece with stamps, molds, & more. Registration is required. Please call 273-3652 or stop by the Information Desk. Free event is provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Teen PopArt Printmaking

Monday, Dec. 6 • 7 to 8:30 p.m.

For Grades 6-12. Use BRIGHT colors and printmaking techniques to create your own work of art! This can get messy, so dress for the mess. Registration is required. Please call 273-3652 or stop by the Information Desk. Free event is provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Toddler Time

Tuesday, Dec. 7 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m., 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 8 • 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, Dec. 7 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday Dec. 8 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

For ages 3-5 years. Stories, finger plays and songs make up this fun program. Seating limit: 20 children plus their parent/caregivers.

Technology Gadgets: "Meet and Greet!"

Tuesday, Dec. 7 • 1 to 3 p.m.

Have you heard of the iPad, iPod and E-Book readers? Have you seen the new generation of digital cameras and camcorders? Do you wish you could see what they actually do?

Join them for this free program to meet some of these wonderful technology tools up close and personal! Free event is provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Poetry Reading

Tuesday, Dec. 7 • 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Local poet and artist, Joyce Uhlir, will read poems from her new book, 'Mysterious Light: Poems, Colorful and Transparent.' She will talk about her journey to becoming a published poet and offer suggestions to others who also wish to become published. Free event is provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Baby Time

Wednesday, Dec. 8 • 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 program. Seating limit: 20 children plus their parents/caregivers.

Holiday Crafts 2

Wednesday, Dec. 8 • 2 to 3 p.m.

For children ages 6-12. Join Ms. Michelle as we create two holiday ornaments to take home with you. Registration is required.

Please call 273.3652 or stop by the Information Desk. (This day is a school early release date.) Free event is provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Online Genealogy

Wednesday, Dec. 8 • 3 to 4 p.m.

Begin your family history research using Ancestry Plus, Heritage

Quest, Cyndi's List and Family Search. Seating limit: 20. Free tickets will be available one hour prior to class. Event is provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Holiday Star Party

Wednesday, Dec. 8 • 7 p.m.

Presenter: Craig MacDougal ~ Come out and join us as we view the night sky with telescopes and binoculars. The Moon and Stars will be there to greet you along with the planets. Free event provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

PowerPoint: Effects and Transitions*

Thursday, Dec. 9 • 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

Learn about adding effects and transitions to your presentation. Previous experience with Microsoft PowerPoint is recommended. Free event is provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Word: Mail Merge*

Thursday, Dec. 9 • 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Discover an easy way to send your letter to multiple people using Mail Merge. Previous experience with Microsoft Word is recommended. Free event is provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Bedtime Stories

Thursday, Dec. 9 • 7 to 7:30 p.m.

For ages 2-5 with a caregiver ~ Make reading a family affair. Children may wear pajamas and bring a blanket and favorite cuddly toy for stories, songs and activities during this 30-minute program.

Holiday Shopping on the Web

Saturday, Dec. 11 • 4 p.m.

Learn how to find bargains and do your holiday shopping safely on the Internet. Free event is provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

*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.

Disposable...Not, Yet!

My tip to keep a disposable razor sharp for months is to store the razor with the blade down in a small cup of olive oil. The oil will keep the razor blade sharp for months. Helen G. in Rock Hill, S.C

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National Cremation & Burial Society will proudly be hosting an **OPEN HOUSE** **December 2, 2010** **3:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

We are located at **308 E. College Ave., Ruskin**

We invite all to stop by and tour our beautiful, newly renovated facility. Refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there.

Do your pipelines and ours a favor this holiday season

If your holiday plans include deep-frying a turkey – or anything else delectable – Hillsborough County has just the place to take cooking oil that is past its useful life.

All three of the County's Household Chemical and Electronics Collection centers accept used and leftover cooking oil. There is no charge.

The Household Chemical and Electronics Collection centers are open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on these days during the upcoming holiday season:

Dec. 11 and Jan. 8 – South County, Powell Road, a quarter-mile north of Big Bend Road and just east of U.S. Highway 41.

Judging from the inner workings of many sewage lift stations, a surprising number of people don't know that cooking oil and grease shouldn't be poured down the kitchen drain, said Kizuwanda Agee, who coordinates the Fats, Oil and Grease Program for Hillsborough County's Water Resource Division.

All cooking oils -- including frying oil, salad oil, meat drippings, bacon fat and greasy leftovers -- can cause problems in the sewer system.

As they cool, oil and grease gel and solidify in plumbing systems and pipes. It's bad enough when your home's plumbing backs up, but the problem is even worse for public utilities when thick layers of grease clog wastewater pipelines and lift stations. The result can cause lift station pumps and other equipment to malfunction, sewage spills, overflows onto streets, and foul odors in homes and neighborhoods, Agee said. It's messy, smelly and costly to clean up.

The best bet for small amounts of grease, like bacon or hamburger drippings, is to pour it into a small can that can be covered and stored in your refrigerator. When the can is full, place it in the regular garbage collection.

For larger quantities -- such as those used in deep-frying -- allow the cooking oil to cool, then carefully pour it into a large, sturdy plastic or wax-coated container, such as the original container or a juice carton. Cap the container, label it as holding cooking oil, and take it to a disposal facility such as one of the County's Household Chemical and Electronics Collection centers. The container can be used to hold additional oil and grease until it's full; just store it in a safe, cool location, and don't mix the grease with any other liquids or products.

Hillsborough County's Household Chemical and Electronics Collection centers accept peanut oil and other cooking oil year-round, not just at the holidays.

The centers are for the convenience of residents and cannot accept commercial waste. For more information about the centers and their schedules, visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/solidwaste, or call (813) 272-5680 during normal business hours.



Look no further for holiday cards

The 2nd Annual Student Holiday Greeting Card Art Contest was held this year during the months September and October. The winners have been picked and the cards are ready for sale!

The Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library are selling holiday greeting cards created by local elementary school students. The participating schools were Cypress Creek, Reddick, Ruskin and Wimauma Elementary Schools. The winning artists' holiday renderings were beautifully transformed into cards by Ruskin printer, M&M Printing Co., Inc.

The Holiday Greeting Cards are now available to the public and can be purchased at the SouthShore Regional Library front desk at a cost of only \$5 for all 10 cards! Proceeds from the sale of the cards will supplement the cost of various programs offered to the public for free at the SouthShore Regional Library is located at 15816 Beth Shields Way (off 19th Avenue) in Ruskin. For more information, call (813) 273-3652.

The gift exchange

I go to garage sales throughout the spring and summer. I buy all the new, still-in-the-box things they have to offer. I also purchase gift paper and gift bags. You can buy them cheaply then. Most were gifts they could not use. Then in October or November, when people start thinking about Christmas, I have an 'in-the-house' sale. They look much better there than in a garage, and people pay twice to three times what you purchased them for.

Pat H. in Independence, MO

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RUSKIN Moose Lodge #813 WEEKLY EVENTS

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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.	WOTM Annual Christmas Party with Ham Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	Party with Kim Mullins
Friday, Dec. 17	7-11 p.m.	Charlie Burns
Saturday, Dec. 18	4-7 p.m.	Moose Legion Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	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.



Wilhelm donates tree to Ruskin Elementary

Wilhelm Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc. employees have been hard at work to create a unique work of art for Ruskin Elementary's multicultural Festival of Trees from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4.

To raise money for the title I, school businesses and individuals have been asked to donate a decorated Christmas tree to be auctioned off in the school's cafeteria. The auction, part of the non-denominational holiday event, will begin at 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The 'Wilhelm tree' is teal, and will boast pink decorations representing the company's colors. The topper for the tree is the real prize -- a free service call (a \$100 value). There will be many trees to bid on, so be sure to stop by with the whole family and choose your favorite.

After choosing your tree you can stop by and visit with Santa Claus from 1 to 4 p.m. or stop by the reading corner that will be going on all day. There will be live entertainment and food from cultures all over the world. For more information, call Cheryl Jones at (813) 340-1831.



Emily Marchant, part of the Wilhelm Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc. staff, is hard at work painting a one-of-a-kind Christmas tree for Ruskin Elementary's multicultural Festival of Trees.

Camp Bayou hosts Holiday open house

Camp Bayou will hold its Holiday Open House from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4. The day's activities reflect programs held throughout the year at Camp Bayou.

Family-friendly Activities:

9 a.m.: Guided walking tour begins at Visitor's Center

9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: Highlight cart tours, 20 minute tours on 7-passenger cart every half hour

10 a.m.: Compost workshop led by Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension

10:30 a.m.: Aquatic explorations. Join a naturalist to net critters in the river.

11 a.m.: Rainbarrel workshop led by Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension

Noon: Holiday BBQ (members only). The main dish will be provided by Camp Bayou with side dishes supplied by members. (Members are folks who have made a recorded donation, or volunteered at least 5 hours, in the last 6 months.) Not a member yet? New members may sign up on the morning of the event for a nominal fee. RSVP to Dolly at campbayou@yahoo.com, and include if you will be bringing a side dish.

1 p.m.: Guided walking tour begins at Visitor's Center.

Throughout the day:

Paleo Preserve Fossil Museum open; Leisey-Casey Discovery Center open; fossil pit dig (for small fee); fossil show and sale, nature center open; art show and sale; photography contest display/



Visitors net critters in the river -- just one of many activities at the Holiday Open House.

awards; nature activity/crafts stations; geocache/letterbox treasure hunt, three trails through varied habitats; native plants for sale; native peoples' camp; fishing cabins showcased; storytelling on the bayou; 'green' information; Eagle Audubon Butterfly Habitat.

Visit <http://www.campbayou.org/> to download a flyer with the schedule of events.

Camp Bayou is located 3 miles south of SR674 at the end of 24th St. SE in Ruskin. More information is on the web at www.campbayou.org or call (813) 641-8545.

Save your home: foreclosure prevention workshop scheduled in Ruskin

"The most obvious and compelling reason why homeowners should attend this workshop is to get honest information about their loans from objective and qualified third-party sources rather than from the banks that are currently under scrutiny for illegal activity," says Florida Foreclosure Defense attorney David C. Hicks.

He will be serving as the Keynote Presenter at this free workshop designed to teach about new legal strategies and the potential solutions for defending against foreclosure eviction. The event is designed to empower homeowners with knowledge and resources that may help them in preventing their foreclosure.

Foreclosure Prevention Workshop will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 9 at Destiny Church Community Room, 2124 11th Ave. SE, Ruskin.

The workshop is free. Advanced RSVP is requested at 877-306-5299.

Why should Florida residents attend this foreclosure prevention workshop?

Following foreclosure moratoriums by PNC Bank, Bank of America, J.P. Morgan Chase, and Ally Financial, the settlement of deceptive marketing charges by Wells Fargo Bank and the Attorney General's investigation into faulty

foreclosure practices at the Florida Default Law Group, the Law Offices of Marshall C. Watson, P.A.; the Law Offices of David J. Stern, P.A.; and Shapiro & Fishman, LLP, a Florida court ruled that banks must provide evidence of ownership when attempting to foreclosure on a property.

The recent decisions come amid critical reports of judicial foreclosures receiving 'rocket docket' processing despite missing and/or poorly prepared documents. In October, Wells Fargo admitted making mistakes in 55,000 foreclosure cases but promised to expeditiously address them. Now, a growing number of concerned homeowners, including many who have missed their mortgage payments are now moving to challenge their foreclosure proceedings.

Attorney Hicks states that these and a host of other lender-caused issues may result in the prevention of foreclosure eviction and encourages homeowners to learn the facts about their loan. He emphasizes that lender violations are typically found in 8 out of 10 reviewed loan files. "In many cases, lenders made violations that are actionable in a court of law," said Hicks, "but 95 percent of homeowners don't realize that they also have legal rights that could potentially prevent their foreclosure from continuing."

During the workshop, Hicks will provide free legal information about homeowners' rights and the most recent discoveries in Florida foreclosure defense law. In addition, homeowners will receive information from participating non-profit agencies to help them better assess a practical course of action for their needs. Participating sponsors include Legal Aid, Boys and Girls Club, Goodwill Industries and more.

Topics covered in the free foreclosure prevention workshop include:

- Loan Modifications – Effective techniques in working with banks
- Federal Foreclosure Programs – HAMP and HAFA
- Loan Review – How to identify errors in your loan papers
- Buying More Time in Your Home – Simple steps to postpone your move
- Protecting Against Foreclosure Predators
- County Agency Resources
- Potential Legal Defenses
- Open Question and Answer Session

"I'm encouraged to see that many more people are taking an interest in protecting what's legally theirs," said Hicks. "Taking responsibility to prevent foreclosure will make a difference not only to the family, but to the community-at-large."

East Bay presents holiday play

Celebrate the holiday season at the East Bay High School Theatre Department production of 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.' The story is a hilarious family piece that explores what happens when the town misfits take over the church Christmas pageant. The show is sure to please with holiday music, singing, and a heart-warming message. The production will take place Dec. 9-11, at the East Bay High School Theatre. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with the show starting

at 7 p.m. Run time is 1 hour and complimentary cookies, hot chocolate, and goodies for children will be distributed after the show. Call (813) 671-5134, ext. 271 for reservations.



The annual Middle School Madness festival in its 4th year will take place in February and will be

made available to all Eisenhower Middle School 8th grade students. The East Bay Theatre Department will present a spring musical 'Grease' May 12-14, 2011. In addition to the mainstage productions, the EBHS Moving Minds Theatre Co. will be presenting touring children's theatre free of charge to area elementary schools from November through March. Any school interested should call Krista M. Pelham, Theatre Director at (813) 671-5134, ext. 271.

Reality as not seen on TV

I am seriously behind schedule on a slow journey home to Florida. My goal was to be well into the Intracoastal Waterway in a southern state by my birthday, which was last Monday. Instead, thanks largely to weather and mechanical delays, I crossed the Chesapeake on the date of my birth. I am a very long way from home and my stress level is extraordinarily high. Just as my stress-level went into the stratosphere, I received an email from my boss.



Observations
By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net

It started out with the words to the Happy Birthday song and it concluded by saying that I need to go easy on myself, and that I should make it a short day to relax. What boss does that sort of thing? A great boss – and a great friend.

Brenda Knowles is the editor and publisher of The Observer News. She runs this newspaper with the same heart and passion as she revealed to me in that email. She truly cares about the community and she always wants to do the right thing. Sometimes doing the right thing costs her, but she is OK with that because her soul and her heart remain intact.

The Observer has won literally hundreds of awards since I joined the paper in 2001. Everyone working here has been recognized for excellence. Penny Fletcher, Melody Jameson and I have all won awards for editorial work. The phenomenal graphics artist Chere Simmons has won dozens of

awards, as have others. That recognition by our peers, from an association of newspapers representing six million readers, would not have happened without Brenda.

She not only inspires excellence, she paves the way for it.

A sailboat means more to me than just a hobby or a pastime. My wife and I lived aboard for eight years and bringing Shadow Marie home to Florida will mean that someday we can resume the

lifestyle we loved so much. Brenda sees value that extends well beyond simply sailing a boat home to Florida. She is allowing this to happen because she wants a better writer on her staff. She wants and deserves more awards for excellence. But she is also doing it because she has a good heart and she knows that this is important to me. She cares about me and about everyone who works for her and she cares about you and this community. She has already made one of my dreams come true in giving me this job.

The basic premise of reality TV shows is that one person comes out on top. Everyone else will lose. Despite the fact that teams are created, winning means stabbing everyone else in the back. That is reality TV. But it is not reality. People like Brenda and Captain David Briggs (the man I wrote about in this week's installment on the trip) are real.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Sailing down the country at six miles-per-hour has given me a unique perspective on life. It has also introduced me to the beauty of this nation.

Moving down the length of the country at six miles-per-hour changed my perspective on so many things. I am going slow enough to appreciate the incredible beauty that exists everywhere in this very blessed nation. I have met countless people who would give the shirt off their backs if you needed it. As a journalist, there are benefits in this that are invaluable. Not only does such a journey open my eyes to the beauty of this nation, it also allows me to give a voice to the good and decent people in this world.

On a personal level, this is giving me the opportunity to see if I can still pull something like this off. I entered my 48th year last week and I don't care what the conventional wisdom says, that is well past middle age. More often than not, I'm tired, cold, bloodied and lonely. But I'm also having a blast. It may all end tomorrow due to many different circumstances but for today, I've reached my goals. I am going to be a better person and hopefully a better writer because

of this. The true reality series of life does not involve people plopped onto an island somewhere scheming and plotting against each other. Reality is people like Brenda, who work behind the scenes to make things better for everyone. While to me she is unique in her gifts, I know full well there are people like her all around us. They may not always make the headlines, in fact they may avoid the headlines, but they are reality, as it is not seen on TV.

Visit Ruskin Elementary School's Festival of Trees

Need a fully decorated Christmas tree? On Saturday, Dec. 4 beginning at 9 a.m. look no farther than Ruskin Elementary School PTA's Multicultural Festival of Trees located in the cafeteria. Local businesses, families and organizations are supplying fully decorated trees for the event's Christmas tree auction. The silent auction begins at 9 a.m. and the bidding ends at 4 p.m. The themed trees are from: Wilhelm Heating and Air Conditioning, Dr. Kirk Parrot, Kona Ice, Joy Filters, Destiny Church, M & M Printing Company, Inc., Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union, Harriet's Flowers, the Whitzel family. Kim Mosley and

Tracey Zirfas both have donated a Mary Kay basket for the occasion. One of the best buys will be a tree donated by Mr. and Mrs. Cullen of Sun City that is adorned with more than \$150 worth of gift cards donated by local restaurants and grocery stores as ornaments. There will also be food (with \$.25 ticket purchases), entertainment, face painting, temporary tattoos, singing, a reading corner and visits to booths representing Germany, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Africa, Switzerland, Holland, and Poland.

Santa will visit between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

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■ SANTA PAWS 5 K RUN & PET PARADE

Highlands Hammock State Park
December 11 • 8:00 a.m.

Bring the whole family, including Fido, for this fun event to benefit the Humane Society of Highlands County. Dress up your pet and get your picture taken with Santa Paws. Pre-registration for the 5K run is \$20 day of race. Pre-register at hshcsantapaws5k@live.com

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Retirement is a beginning, not an end

(NewsUSA) - Chances are, you know someone about to enter retirement. Between aging baby boomers and struggling businesses, many seniors find themselves leaving the workplace. And the numbers of new retirees are only going to rise -- nearly 6,000 Americans turn 65 every day.

Retirement is a big transition for a former working stiff, and many people struggle to determine their next step. After all, the retirement age of 65 was established in the late 1800s, when life expectancies were shorter -- today's retirees will live for decades after leaving the workforce.

And longer lives create more expenses. Many retirees will end up pursuing second jobs in order to meet expenses. Only half of all employees earn pensions, and the falling stock market wiped out many a retirement fund.

If you're planning -- or even attending -- a retirement party, you should keep these potential uncertainties in mind. For example, a person being forced into early retirement might not appreciate congratulations. It's more appropriate to express how glad you are to have known or worked with the retiree.

That said, it is still okay to celebrate by acknowledging the retiree's contributions. If you're selecting gifts for a retiree, choose something that will commemorate their work, such as a personalized



Retirement can be a trying time for many people. Make sure retirees in your office feel appreciated and special.

wall plaque or pen holder. The Web site PlaqueMakerPlus.com offers heirloom-quality acrylic pieces that feature engraved images or imbedded photographs. Customers can design their gift themselves, creating a unique and memorable gift that any retiree will appreciate.

Of course, retirees today often choose to stay active, pursuing new careers that suit their personal interests or involving themselves in volunteer work.

With this in mind, treat your coworker's retirement like a transition into a new and rewarding phase of life, rather than just an exit from the workplace. Talk to the retiree's spouse and friends to learn about their post-retirement plans. If they're planning on going back to school, for example, you might want to give them a gift certificate to a book store, as well as a gift that commemorates their contributions to your organization.

Hogans Golf Club meets with ClubLink

The Hogans Golf Club of Sun City Center and Kings Point met with ClubLink's John Luper and Tom Ritenour Monday, 10/11/2010 to discuss how the Hogans could help ClubLink. Hogans Board members attending were President Art Swallow, Vice President Rich Lucidi and Acting Past President Chip Wood. Unable to make the meeting was Treasurer Andy Betz.

The Hogans formed in 2008 to offer an alternative to the developer's, WCI, golf memberships by providing organized play at area public golf courses.

ClubLink, a Canadian company, recently purchased all WCI's courses and primarily will operate them as private courses.

Mr Luper asked the Hogans to meet again on November 15th when ClubLink's posture would be better known. The Hogans agreed to remain at arm's length from community activism and to continue not to advertise for members until that time.



Reservations are required to play with the Hogans. Contact ArtSwallow@aol.com or visit <http://hogans-golf.com/>. The Club is open to all Sun City Center and Kings Point residents and their guests.



From left to right Don Dudek, Russ Stutz, Les Clarke, Bill Noyes & John McDougall

White Tee Division results

1st Flight White Tee Division - Winner (63) Wayne Shaw - Bill Stoces
Tie for 2nd(64) Les Clarke-Norm Wise & Mike Almaguer-Jim Shipley
4th(65) Rick Johnston - Bill Salowitz

2nd Flight White Tee Division-Winner(61) Don Pratt - Bill Yost
2nd Joe Birnbaum -Gary Hookstra -- 3rd Don Dudek -Bob Caceci
Tie 4th(66) Bill Winklmann -Tony Dagrosa & Walt Sousa - Jack Kehl

3rd Flight White Tee Division - Winner(60) Tom Grant - Bob Belanger
Tie for 2nd(64) Bob Dufresne - George Krauss & Mitch Krajewski - Bill Meier.

Home and home Golf Tournament with Falcon Watch

The 9-hole women's golf association of Caloosa Golf and Country Club hosted a golf mixer with the 9-hole women's league of the Falcon Watch golf association. First place winners were Kay Dudek, Lynn Bodner, Emma Gadd, and Becky Benhart. Second place: Mickey Tarrantino, Jo Nieter, Mary McLafferty, and Jenny Ryan. Third place: Doris DeArment, Judy Boyer, Audrey Ercogovich. A luncheon followed at the Caloosa Club. Doby Taney and Margo Stonefield were social chairs for the event and Kay Dudek was the tournament director.

From KAUFMAN MAIL BAG

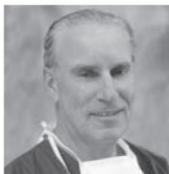


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PET TIP: This holiday season, keep in mind some of the potential dangers for your pets. Festive plants, holiday tree, light strands, tree water, ornaments, decoration hooks, tinsel, ribbons, burning candles and Styrofoam.



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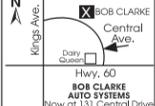
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A crowd gathers under the tent at the festival.

St. Anne Catholic Church draws crowds

Saint Anne Church recently held its annual Fall Festival on the Church grounds in Ruskin. The weather, from Thursday night through Sunday evening, was fantastic and hundreds of South Shore residents took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the rides, games, foods, crafts, and entertainment provided. In addition to the usual carnival activities, Saint Anne offered its own assortment of games and prizes. The "big winners" of the weekend in the Saint Anne tent were Benjimen Aguado, Lucia Segovia-Sarte, and Chris Cooper. Benjimin took home a GPS, Lucia an E-Reader, and Chris a Wii console. The highlight of the festival, the "You Choose the Prize" drawing was won by J. T. Vena of Riverview. Fr. John presented the winner a check for \$1,300 which was 10% of this year's total donations.



Father John presented J.T. Vena of Riverview with a check.

The hundreds of volunteers necessary to ensure the success of this annual event are looking forward to a well-earned rest. They would like to thank all those people who attended this year's festival and hope to see them again next year!



Redeemer Lutheran to hold German Service

The Sun City Center German American Club Singers, in cooperation with Redeemer Lutheran Church will present a German service at 3PM on Sunday, Dec. 5 in the church sanctuary. Readings will be done in the German language and the singers will also present choral numbers in German. Join them in celebrating the German Advent and Christmas season. Refreshments will be served following the service.

The Church is located at 701 Valley Forge Blvd. Sun City Center on the corner of Valley Forge Blvd. and S.R. 674. All are welcome!

Lady of Song concert scheduled

Enjoy a wonderful night of music with the Legendary Lady of Song. This is a limited one night engagement at Apollo Beach Community Church, 6414 Gulf & Sea Blvd, Apollo Beach, Dec. 4, at 6:30pm. Cost of a ticket is \$12.50. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Church at 641-2222 between 9-12, Monday thru Friday or call 645-8202 and leave your name, telephone number and number of tickets you would like.



Women's Connection to hold luncheon meeting

The December South Shore Christian Women's Connection Luncheon will be held on Thursday, Dec. 9. The program and luncheon will be held at Club Renaissance, 2121 South Pebble Beach Blvd. Sun City Center. The doors will open at 11:00am and lunch served at 11:30am.

The program will be presented by Chef Dave West, owner of the Rolling Pin Kitchen Emporium, in Brandon. He will be providing great cooking tips.

Special feature --12 days of Christmas with Shirley Walker and Eleanor Crossley

The inspirational speaker is Pam Santner, former dental assistant, teen model, widow and cancer survivor blends two families with a song in her heart.

Lido Chicken Salad,(grilled chicken breast atop romaine lettuce with mandarin oranges, blue cheese, dried cran-raisins and sweet glazed pecans with a Mandarin-ginger dressing), will be the December entree for the luncheon. The special meal is always tossed salad with grilled chicken. If you request a special meal, please tell your server at the luncheon. You must order the special meal when you make your reservation.

Make your reservation or cancellation before noon on Monday, Dec. 6. The cost is \$17 inclusive.

All ladies welcome, no membership required. sponsored by South Shore Christian Women's Connection, affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries.

To make a reservation for December, please call Pat Butler 813-938-4320 or Tara Flood 813-383-7540 or respond to this email at aunt.butler@gmail.com.

Latkes and dreidles, oh my!

Join the Brandon Chai group of Hadassah for their annual fun-packed Channukah party on Sunday, Dec. 5, at 1p.m. The party will include a pot-luck luncheon and will be held at the home of Janice Perelman in Brandon. Members, husbands and guests are invited, but reservations are a must. Call Janice at (813) 571-2029 to RSVP.

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 Sunday Worship: Blended 8:00 a.m.
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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

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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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Rance Good, Pastor (Southern Baptist)
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 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

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

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 Phone: 634-2328 • Fax: 633-6670
www.popcc.org
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 Saturday Vigil 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.
 Daily.....8:00 a.m.
Confessions:
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 Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.
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Worship Services:
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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)

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Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 5:20

Obituaries



John 'Jack' Bernard

John "Jack" Bernard, 84, of Sun City Center, FL, passed away on November 27, 2010 at Tampa General Hospital. Born on April 11, 1926 in Parma, Ohio, Jack was a retired business owner of Bernard Specialty Company in Cleveland, Ohio and moved to the area in 1998. He was a WWII US Army Veteran and a member of the Woodcarvers of Sun City Center, the Sawdust Engineers of Sun City Center, Rod & Reel Club of Kings Point, the Gadabouts of Sun City Center and the Simmons Lake Association. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Willi and survivors include his wife, Caroline of Sun City Center; three sisters: Rita (Larry) Taddie, Catherine Dunkle & Ruth Wise; 14 nieces and nephews; 5 children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren along with dear friends, Art & Elsie Shirley. A Funeral Service will be held on December 8, 2010 at 2:00 PM at Sun City Center Funeral Home, 1851 Rickenbacker

Drive with family receiving friends prior to services from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jack's memory to a charity of choice. Arrangements are under the care of Sun City Center Funeral Home, Sun City Center, FL



Juan and Sergio Guitron

Juan and Sergio Guitron whose lives were taken short, died on Thanksgiving Day. Juan, 28, was born on July 12, 1982 and Sergio, 22, was born on February 11, 1988. The men were survived solely by mother Paz Quezada. They were preceded in death by their father in January 2004. They were beloved sons, cousins, friends and will never be forgotten.

Memorial contributions are welcomed and should be mailed to 720 Johnson Dr. Ruskin, FL 33570.



Arthur Andrew Muise

Arthur Andrew Muise, 79, of Sun City Center, passed away on Monday, November 22, 2010 after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Born in Boston, MA, Arthur served in the Army during the Korean War. He was extremely proud of his military service.

A retired insurance adjuster, Arthur loved his tools and working on his house and researching his family tree.

Arthur is survived by his wife Susan of Sun City Center; sister, Margaret Ennis of Boyton Beach, FL; children, Stephen Muise of Norcross, GA, Gary Muise of Chelmsford, MA, Carolanne Lanouette of Danville, NH, Corinne Tosti of Framingham, MA, and Jacqueline Hart of Salem, MA..

He also had 14 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. Arthur's ashes will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Palm Garden of Sun City Center, 3850 Upper Creek Drive, Sun City Center, or to your local military organization.



Join the festivities at SCC Methodist

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West, will present A Christmas Madrigal Dinner III on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Dec. 2, 3 and 4 at 6pm in Creason Hall. This traditional Elizabethan madrigal dinner is an evening of dinner theatre in which diners join a 16th century English court in its celebration of Christmas dinner, typically a four-course meal that is eaten along with a royal family and their immediate friends. The emphasis is on silliness, slapstick

comedy, good music and period food. Besides toasting and eating, diners are also encouraged to participate in the festivities by singing and dancing. The main plot of this third installment of the show revolves about Prince Claudius and Princess Christina who are about to have a baby. The evening of comedy ends with dessert and a short concert of Christmas madrigals, 16th century a cappella choral pieces. The experience of a madrigal dinner is unlike that of any other dinner theatre. "So the

story unfolds before ye this night; watch and enjoy as it all comes to light!"

The players in this year's Madrigal include Bill Turcotte, Jene Evans, David and Katy Style, Al Moorman, Pat Johnson, Scott LaRue, Rod Peterson, Dianne Turcotte, Shane Canfield, Mike Sekol, Kathy Straub, Isabelle Jordan, Tom & Sue Montgomery, Julia Jordan, Linda Whitt, Donna Van Dreser, Dennis & Sydney LaRue, Linda Sanford, Shirley Bengston, Shirley Walker, Barbara Kanoza and Mary Bushong. Costumes are by Carol Stewart, dinner by Amanda Jordan and the play is written and directed by Jeff Jordan.

There are still several tickets available for these special performances. Tickets are \$15 each include a home-cooked four-course meal and may be purchased in the church office during business hours. For more information about this and other concerts and special events at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, please contact Jeff Jordan, Minister of Worship Arts at 813-634-2539.

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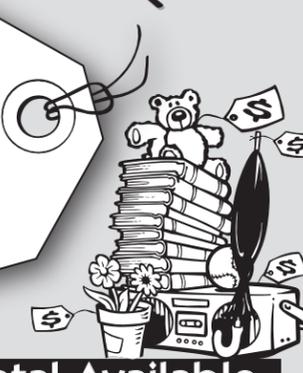
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Christmas Oratorio

The choir of St. John the Divine will present Camille Saint Saens magnificent Christmas Oratorio on Dec. 12 at 4pm. The extensive solo work in the oratorio will be sung by Bridgie Brelsford, Vince Robbio, Mary K. Merrill, Paul Bariantos, Alyson Barrett. The SCC campus of St. John the Divine will host the event.

Dessert Card Party

The Prince of Peace Council of Catholic Women invite everyone who likes to play cards or any board game to make up a table in advance and come to the dessert card party on Wednesday, Dec. 8, noon to 3:30 PM. They furnish cards, pencils and tallies. They have an assortment of desserts, table and door prizes. For more information, call 633-2460.



They raised over \$4000, allowing the Community Cupboard to give each family a \$10 gift card to purchase a turkey for their Thanksgiving meal and purchase additional food.

ThanksForGiving project a success

Thanks to Calvary Lutheran congregants and friends for making the 2010 ThanksForGiving Bag project a huge success! Their generosity produced over 275 bags filled with all of the necessities for a great Thanksgiving meal. Combined with generous donations of food from Destiny Church and from the Walston family's daycare, and The Peacock's Plume, these bags of food were given to over 300 needy families in the local area through the Community Cupboard. It was truly God's work, through their hands!



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church welcomes nine new members

Front row: Associate Member Rosie Clifton, Roberta Ackerman, Carol Quam, Lori Bossman, David Bossman. Back row: Carl Selavka, Janet Selavka, Janet Carter, Raymond Carter

First Christian Church breaks ground

One year ago the congregation of the First Christian Church of Sun City Center held a ceremony to celebrate the burning of the mortgage on their land. Now they are inviting you to gather with them to celebrate the breaking of ground to begin the construction of their new church. They are hoping for occupancy by Easter.

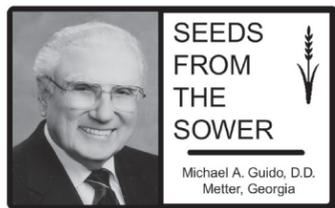


The ground breaking will take place on Dec. 5, at 1711 33rd Street, SE. Plan to arrive by 1:30 pm. The ceremony will begin promptly at 2 pm followed by light refreshments. Please bring lawn chairs. The public is invited.



RUMC veterans display quilts earmarked for military

Ruskin United Methodist Church has a prayer quilt ministry. After each quilt is completed, individual church members and friends say a prayer and tie a bow on the quilt. When all the bows have been completed, the quilt is given to a person in need of prayer, many times a terminally ill congregant or neighbor. The prayer quilt ministry also makes several patriotic quilts annually that are sent to Afghanistan military bases. Two patriotic quilts sent for Veteran's Day are shown by 3 of the church's Vietnam veterans -- Rev. John M. Bartha, Renee Gausche and Mark Rupert.



SEEDS FROM THE SOWER
Michael A. Guido, D.D.
Metter, Georgia

A man came down from the hills all dressed up and carrying his Bible. "Where are you going?" asked a friend.

"I've been hearing about the gambling, drinking, pretty girls, and partying in Las Vegas," said John, "and I'm going there to find out about it."

"But why the Bible?" he asked. "If it's as good as they say it is," answered John, "I'll stay over Sunday and go to church."

Many of us "stay over" Sunday after Sunday to hear the sermons, but the Word of God goes in one ear and out the other. We read without responding and hear without heeding.

But the Bible says, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Visit us at: www.TheSower.com

Taize evensong

The Advent season will begin with a Taize Evensong Dec. 5 at 4pm. This service will be held in conjunction with St. Anne Roman Catholic Church in Ruskin and will be led by organ builder Wayne Warren. This service will feature the children's choir of St. Anne's church as well as their own musicians and singers. The Ruskin campus of St. John the Divine will host the event.



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Judy


Rosemary


Liza


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Barbara

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Sailing home

■ Continued from page 11

late November and so I untied the lines and powered into Norfolk harbor.

The harsh conditions I encountered aside, Norfolk harbor is an amazing place. As the home of the world's largest naval base, it is a truly awesome display of America's military might. Almost everything the United States Navy has to offer passes through here, from submarines to aircraft carriers. The collection of ships is stunning and the aircraft carriers dwarf them all. At the far end of the harbor in Newport News is the newest of them: the USS Gerald R. Ford, expected to be placed into service in 2015. This is the only place in

the world in which that ship could be built. Seeing the ships with flags flying, knowing everything is run at the highest professional level was a warm thought on that cold day.

Just entering the harbor is awe-inspiring. Norfolk is part of the Hampton Roads metropolitan area with 1.8 million people. Bridges are as much a way of life here as they are in Tampa Bay. Upon entering the harbor, all vessels, large and small, cross over the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel. The bridge-tunnel consists of a bridge at both ends with a tunnel in the middle. Man-made islands form the mouths of the tunnel. It is an unusual sight to sail in and see the

headlights of cars barreling towards the water, only to disappear beneath the surface.

But the most awe-inspiring sight after a cold day spent out of sight of land in heavy gray clouds is the American Flag flying over Fort Wool. Seeing the flag flying as large commercial ships entered and left the harbor, welcoming all who come from the sea, caused me to shiver — and that had nothing to do with the cold weather.

That flag, along with Captain David Briggs, made for a warm welcome to the city. I had expected to spend Thanksgiving alone at anchor having only canned soup or a cold sandwich — and even that is much to be thankful for. But

in Norfolk, I was given so much more. How do you say "thank you" for bolstering faith in your fellow man?

Past Norfolk, into the Intracoastal Waterway, the scenery changes from urban and industrial to serene and picturesque. Twelve miles south of the city I was lowered three feet closer to Florida via the Great Bridge Lock, the only lock of the entire voyage. Past the lock is a canal bulkhead where visiting boaters are invited to dock over-

night, free of charge. On this night, there are three sailboats at the bulkhead. We are all sailing for Florida, but I'm the only one aboard alone. That will soon change as Michelle is making plans to meet me in Wilmington, Charleston or some other city down the line near a major airport.

The compass is pointed south and I am sailing home as fast as I can. Sailing away from winter. Sailing towards Michelle, wherever she may be.



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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Boats are a way of life in communities along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. Built in 1924, the F.D. Crockett is among the last large log boats built. The boat is berthed at the Deltaville Maritime Museum in Virginia.

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*Energy savings based on inside-mounted shades in all windows. Savings vary with such factors as specific Architella fabric, window R-value and climate. For tax credit details and restrictions and a list of qualifying products, see the Manufacturer's Certification Statement and FAQs at hunterdouglas.com/taxcredit. Hunter Douglas and its dealers are not tax advisors. Consult a tax professional regarding your individual tax situation and ability to claim a tax credit related to the purchase of the qualifying Duette Architella honeycomb shades. © 2010 Hunter Douglas. ® Registered trademark of Hunter Douglas.

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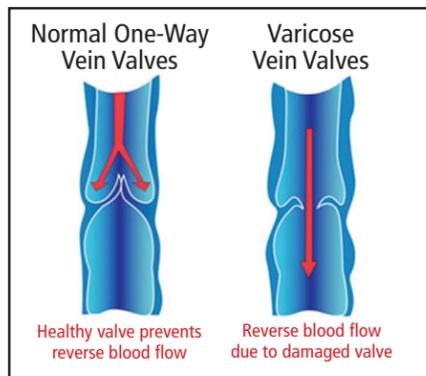
PUT YOUR TIRED, PAINFUL LEGS INTO OUR SKILLED HANDS.

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.

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- 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.**

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www.ObserverNews.net

PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

Harold Mudry of Gibsonton has painted and put together replicas of battle scenes using more than 30,000 military figures from every war he could find record of, from Roman armies to the present day.



Creativity takes center stage in this man's tent

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

GIBSONTON — When I first got the call about Harold Mudry's unusual calling, I was told he was the set up king for such area events as Guavaveen in Ybor City, the annual Showman's Circus in Gibsonton, and the Blues Fest at St. Petersburg's Vinoy Renaissance Resort Hotel.

I met him the day after he and his three-man crew had taken down the big tent at the yearly festival at St. Anne Catholic Church in Ruskin.

But when I got to Harold's place, I found a lot more than tents and food concessions because when Harold does a "set-up" it can mean anything from bringing one of his many styles of fencing to hundreds of tables and chairs.

If it's indoors, he also could have to supply carpet, draperies, table settings and may even have to set up a stage.

Harold, now 69, who moved to the area in 1955 from Connecticut, seems to be a jack-of-all trades. Somehow he keeps track of thousands of feet of tent poles and pipes and drapes, a warehouse filled with deep fryers and ice cream machines, a semi-truck filled with various props, portable wet bars, 3,500 feet of different styles of fencing, and 24 trailers filled with ready-to-go tables, chairs and other widely-used items.

He keeps a golf cart for making his way through crowds at the events he works, tents from 4-foot by-4-foot to 4,000-square feet and can supply dance floors and stages.

But Harold is also an inventor. When I arrived at the large spot where he keeps his equipment, he showed me a machine he is working on now that when finished will pressure wash hundreds of tables

with the push of a button.

"I work mostly by word of mouth," Harold told me. "For a long time I had an unlisted phone number. But when I wanted a line of credit the bank didn't understand how a business could operate that way so I ended up listing in the telephone book."

Once he explained his "barter and trade" arrangements and other unique traits though, it wasn't hard to understand.

"Sometimes I don't pay- like at the Levy County Fair - and then they get a percentage off the food I sell. Most of the time bartering like that is a win-win for everybody, unless, of course, the turn-out's bad and we don't sell much."

Most set-up companies just put up tents and stages and then come back and pick them up after the event, he explained. His service is different because someone might get there at 4 a.m. one day and not leave until after 4 p.m. the following day. "Not many people still work that way," he said.

Harold has even let people make up their own invoice.

"If they aren't sure what they want to pay, I've told them just to give me what they think it was worth after the event is over," he said. "So far, I've done just fine on my word, and on word-of-mouth."

Naturally, he gets a lot of repeat events. Right now, he has three employees but often hires more than 20 temporary workers for an event.

His biggest loss doesn't come from letting people make up their own price, or from bartering and hoping for good turnouts.

"Lately it's because my regular customers, like Bennigans and Albertsons (grocery) are going out of business," he said.



See CENTER STAGE, page 5B

Mudry studies the uniforms from each period before working on his displays.



Period Christmas decorations adorn the homes and buildings at Cracker Country for its annual Christmas in the Country event. Cracker Country is located inside the Florida State Fairgrounds. Visit the website at www.crackercountry.org.

Fine art show

The first Art Show of the season at the Florida Maritime Museum at Cortez will take place with a reception on December 3, 2010 from 5 to 7PM. The show will display the work of Lucia van den Berg Klein, artist with a studio in Bradenton. van den Berg Klein was born in the Netherlands and studied in the Netherlands and Italy. She feels that the true value of a thing and, indeed, its beauty lies in its history and its use. She captures the essence of her subjects in an impressionistic style utilizing brush work or a palette knife. The artist also travels frequently to Europe for inspiration. Many of the paintings in this show are of the Cortez area and the artist will be on hand at the reception to answer any questions.

For information contact Ted Adams 941-708-6120 or ted.adams@manateeclerk.com



Belt-pack life jackets are very comfortable and make a great holiday gift. FWC PHOTO

FWC suggests life-saving holiday gift for boaters

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has a suggestion for anyone shopping for a boater this holiday. A new, comfortable, life jacket makes an ideal gift, and it could save someone's life.

As FWC officers patrol Florida's waterways, one of their main responsibilities is to help residents and visitors boat safely. Officers often check boaters for adherence to safety regulations and educate them about safe boating practices. Unfortunately, at other times, FWC officers are called to the scene of boating accidents.

"Frequently, a life jacket can save a life during a boating accident," said Capt. Tom Shipp, of the FWC's Boating and Waterways Section.

Many of the boating accidents the FWC investigates involve drowning deaths. Last year, there were 65 boating fatalities - 45 of them by drowning. The FWC confirms that life jackets may have saved those lives and recommends boaters wear one at all times on the water.

"A lot of people don't wear life jackets because they feel they're uncomfortable," Shipp said. "However, with newer models, such as belt packs or suspenders, you hardly feel them. Replacing an old, bulky life jacket with a newer model makes a great gift."

Belt-pack and suspender life jackets are inflatable. Some inflate automatically when a person falls into the water, while others inflate after the wearer pulls a cord. Prices of the belt-pack and suspender life jackets start at approximately \$60.

"Many people don't expect to need a life jacket, particularly if they feel they are good swimmers," Shipp said. "However, when boating accidents happen, you may not be able to rely on your swimming skills."

Bottom line: If you fall overboard with a life jacket, your chances of survival are greatly enhanced. This holiday season, the gift of a life jacket could be a gift of life.

For more boating safety information, visit MyFWC.com/Boating or call 850-488-5600.

Cracker Country Celebrates 'Christmas in the Country'

TAMPA — 'Tis the season for Cracker Country's annual Christmas celebration; Christmas in the Country. Bring the family for a great day experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of an old fashion country Christmas.

Christmas in the Country is now offered twice, Saturday December 4th and Saturday December 18th, 2011. Learn how the holiday traditions of the 19th century differ from those of the 21st through hands-on historical interpretations, carols, traditional decorations and more! Enjoy making old fashion ornaments, and then try your hand

at decorating your own salt dough ornament.

Christmas in the Country is a themed event within the Discover the Past program. These events are designed to awaken your senses and bring you into Florida's rural past. Discover the Past is offered the first and third Saturday of the month (October-December and March-April) between 10am and 4pm.

Saint Ann's Children's Choir will be performing in our Church on Saturday, December 4th, singing time-honored Christmas carols. In addition to traditional Christmas

activities, Christmas in the Country will also feature country chores and hands-on activities, including butter making, laundry, and historic toys.

Adult admission tickets are \$ 7.00 each; students six to twelve years old and senior citizens tickets are \$ 6.00 each. Children five and under are admitted free. Parking is free for this event when visitors enter the Fairgrounds via the Orient Road entrance.

For more information, contact: Dan Marshall at 813-627-4225 or by email at marshad@doacs.state.fl.us

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G- Hangin' By A String

Does anyone know where g has gone? He's been missin' for a while. He used to hang out on ing words, but no more. Seems folks don't much care 'bout the words they're sayin' and pronouncin'. G is gettin' no respect at all! How would you like to be waitin' 'round to finish a word only to be left danglin' with no place to go – all alone, as your buddies are goin', seein', bein', and doin' without you.

G spent centuries livin' the good life workin' on dignifyin' words with his signature g only to end up tossed off and unwanted. When you hear our leaders droppin' gs how do you think the 'lil guy feels? He used to have dignity when people recognized the importance of speaking with clarity and properly enunciating their words. Do speakers think they are capturing the masses by droppin' the g? Do they think droppin' gs makes them sound more like "us" – more common and less articulate – less in the know 'bout speakin' good? This may sound like sour gs, but droppin' g in speech may have been a blessin' to our guy g. You see, he secretly wanted to hang with more sophisticated words like discombobulating, ruminating and pontificating; words you can't say without a definitive g. He was kinda snooty that way.

G was a tough little guy, and tried to keep everyday words on track by bein' a good caboose, but when bumblin' speech makers and textin' geniuses threw him off the train, he had to find another place to hang is g hat. I was hopin' he might find a slot with the g men to fight crime on sloppy language, but I suspect he's where he belongs; with the sophisticates and the "regular" people who realize the beauty of the English language. That's where g really belongs: where he can give words distinction and speakers credibility with an appropriately placed g. Ahhhh it's a sad day in the life of the word when a g can be so easily dropped. What's next, the vwels?



Whit N' Whimsey

By Nancy Porter-Thal

Cheaper Airline Tickets

When some airlines have "sales," I'm never sure when to purchase for an upcoming trip. Sometimes a better "sale" comes out later. It's not a guarantee, but this time I went ahead to booking and looked how full the particular airplane was. This gave me an idea if I should jump on the current sale or not.

S.
Want to live better on the money you already make? Visit <www.stretcher.com/index.cfm?TipsSyn> to find hundreds of articles to help you stretch your day and your dollar! Copyright 2010 Dollar Stretcher, Inc.



Back row: Pastor Cliff Mattox, Becky Mattox. Front Row: Charlie Zipperer, helper, Bonnie Glass-Dix, Elk Chairman.

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 delivered food baskets

The South Hillsborough Elks Lodge Distributed 25 Thanksgiving baskets to needy families on Nov. 20. Six were given to Pastor Mattox and his wife Becky for their distribution to needy families. The food was donated by Elk members and the lodge provided the turkeys.

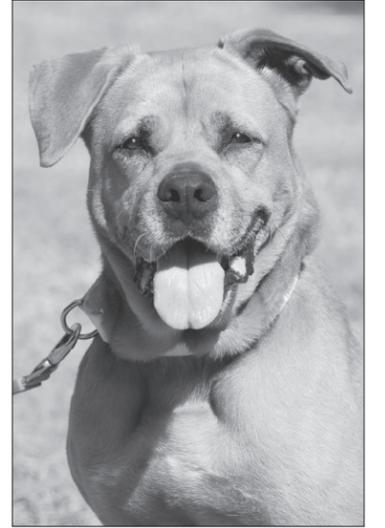
Falcon Watch Ladies 9-hole League

Weekly winners 10/15. Game Throw out worse hole

Flt A		Flt C	
1st	Judi Gannon 38	1st	Lorraine Fritzel 29
2nd	Shirley Walker 31	2nd	Nancy Stevens 31
2nd	Sally Swanson 31	3rd	Audrey Ercegovich 32
3rd	Pat Morton 33	3rd	Connie Kehl 32
3rd	Judy Delaney 33	3rd	Mimi Meszaros 32
Flt B		3rd	Bett Stierna 32
1st	June Krueger 32	Flt D	
1st	Donna Petersen 32	1st	Rosie Ricciardi 25
2nd	Marilyn McCormick 33	2nd	Nancy Scott 33
2nd	Nancy Wason 33	2nd	Barb Laino 33
3rd	Susanne Buck 34	3rd	Ingrid Hecht 34
3rd	Becky Burgardt 34		
3rd	Elle Warming 34		

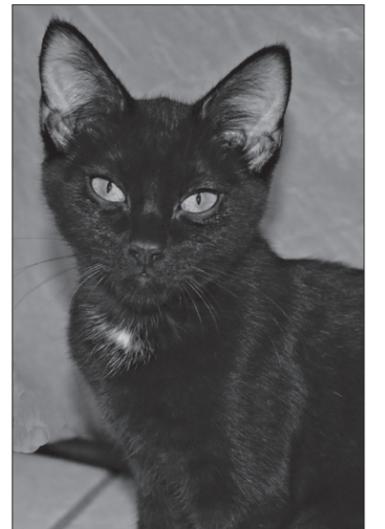
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C.A.R.E. is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For directions, visit www.CareShelter.org or call (813) 645-2273.



PARIS

Paris thought she had a forever home. She lived with her family for over five years. Unfortunately, her owner is now working and going to school full-time and can't find time for her anymore. What a shame! This is a great gal with an awesome personality. Paris loves people and other dogs. She is playful, but also appreciates snuggle time too. Paris is spayed, microchipped, and current on her shots. She will be treated for heartworm as part of her adoption. Paris was born in February, 2003.



REMY

Remy is a black female domestic short hair cat. Her mom is Kettle who had 5 adorable kittens. Remy loves to play with the other kittens at the shelter, but she is growing up now and would like to come to live at a forever home of her own. Please come and see this beauty and give her that home. Remy is the sister of Victoria. Remy has been spayed, microchipped, and brought current on her shots. Remy was born in February, 2010.

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As the weather cools down, Florida's oyster season heats up

Now is the perfect time to enjoy Florida's famous oysters. Florida oysters are available year round, but harvest really gears up in fall as water temperatures begin to drop. The cool months are when oysters taste the best. Head to your favorite seafood market or restaurant now and you'll find delicious Florida oysters in abundance.

Florida's oyster industry is based on the Eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), which is found from the Yucatan Peninsula in the Gulf of Mexico to the St. Lawrence River in Canada. Ninety percent of Florida's oysters are harvested in Apalachicola Bay in Franklin County, one of the most productive, pristine estuaries in the country. In the warm, nutrient-rich waters of the bay, oysters grow quickly and can reach market size in less than two years. (Farther north, in colder waters, this process might take up to six years.)

Oysters are among Florida's top commercial seafood products in terms of dockside value, with last season's harvest totaling over \$6 million. And oysters are valuable in many other ways too. They play a critical role in their ecosystems, filtering and cleaning the water, helping to stabilize the coastline, and providing habitat for fish, shrimp, crabs, and other animals.

In Florida, shell or "cultch" planting -- the placement of processed oyster shell on depleted oyster reefs and suitable bay bottom areas -- is an important resource management tool for maintaining and enhancing productive oyster habitat. Shell plantings provide an excellent base upon which free-swimming oyster larvae can attach and grow.

"Florida has maintained an effective shell-planting program since the early 1900s," Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles H. Bronson said. "Since the program began, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has collected and planted more than 10 million bushels of shucked oyster shells. This practice mitigates resource losses and contributes direct economic benefit to Florida's oyster fishery."

Florida's top three oyster-producing counties are Franklin, Levy, and Wakulla. Along Florida's Gulf Coast, oysters are still harvested in the same way they have been for over a century: from small boats



The recipe for lemon-garlic oysters is simple and delicious.

by fishermen using large, long-handled tongs to scoop them up from their beds in the shallow water. Hand-tonging for oysters is backbreaking work, but it's much more sustainable than other harvest methods, such as dredging, which heavily damages oyster beds.

Fresh oysters are sold live or shucked. Live oysters should have a mild sea-breeze aroma, and their shells should be free of cracks. Live oysters should close tightly when their shells are tapped, and oysters that do not close should be discarded. Live oysters should be stored in the refrigerator at a constant 41 degrees Fahrenheit in a container with the lid slightly open. Excess liquid should be drained daily. Live oysters should be eaten within seven days of purchase and washed thoroughly before cooking.

Fresh-shucked oysters should also have a mild sea-breeze aroma. They can be stored on ice or in the coldest part of the refrigerator for up to five days from the date of purchase. Expect to see a clear or

slightly milky, light gray liquid in the container.

People with compromised immune systems should avoid consumption of raw oysters due to the possible presence of *Vibrio vulnificus*, a bacterium that occurs naturally in marine waters (it is not the result of pollution or poor handling). *Vibrio vulnificus* is not a threat to most healthy people, but it can be dangerous to people with certain medical conditions, including liver disease, diabetes, and cancer. It is a myth that eating raw oysters with hot sauce or while drinking alcohol will kill the bacteria. However, heat will destroy *Vibrio vulnificus*, so everyone, even people in high-risk groups, can safely consume oysters that have been thoroughly cooked.

Oysters can be steamed, boiled, oven-roasted, baked, grilled, or fried. When fully cooked, they become plump and opaque and their edges begin to curl.

Oysters are highly nutritious. They are a low-calorie, low-cholesterol source of protein; an ex-

ceptional source of zinc, which strengthens the immune system; and a prime source of omega-3 fatty acids, which are linked to reduced risk of heart attack, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and stroke.

Lemon Garlic Oysters

Ingredients:

- 36 Florida oysters in the shell
- 6 ounces butter, melted
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon chopped garlic

Preparation:

Wash oysters thoroughly. Shuck and place oyster meat on deep half of shell; remove any remaining shell particles. Arrange on baking sheet, cover and refrigerate. Combine remaining ingredients in sauce pot and simmer on low heat for 10 minutes, let cool. Top each oyster with 1/2 teaspoon of butter mixture and bake in a preheated 350-degree F oven for 10 minutes or until edges begin to curl.

Yield:

6 servings

Local Golf Scores



Hole in One

Beverly Heil had a hole in one on Thursday, Oct. 14, during WGA Ladies Day. This was at Sandpiper, on the Lakes Course, hole # 5. She used a seven iron. The witnesses were Stacia Connors and Insook Kim.

Bill Devine Group Winners

Caloosa Country Club Bill Devine Men's Group. October 14. Game "54" plus chip-ins
 First Place: +14,
 Dick Lanese, Sala Halm, Gene Johnson, Mitch Krajewski
 Second Place: +10,
 Joe Birnbaum, Chet Kendall, Jesse Wilson, Carl Greeno
 Third Place: 0,
 Jim Bodner, Jose Rodriguez, Arnold Schuppert, Bob Cleary
 Chip-ins: Don Lawhorn, Sala Halm 2

Golf Scores - Hogans Golf Club

10/15. Course: Imperial Lake-woods, Play: Match

- 1st : Jerry Egger, 76
- 2nd : Art Swallow, 77
- 3rd : Gene Terry, 82



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More of the thousands of replica soldiers, armament, vehicles and all other military paraphernalia from every era are neatly organized on shelves. Below, one of Mudry's tents being erected for an event.



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

What may look like just trailers and containers to others are really ready-made set ups for large events. One trailer is kept loaded with 100 tables; a container is filled with 100 chairs. Others are pre-packed to include deep fryers and ice cream machines, tents of various sizes and even draperies and carpet so that when an event is booked, the amount needed can easily be adjusted before hauling to the site.



Harold is also an inventor. This is a machine he is working on now that will automatically pressure wash hundreds of tables with the push of a button when he and his crew are breaking down their tents and food concessions after events.

Center stage

■ Continued from page 1B

Still, he has more irons in the fire than his huge stock of events. On the property is a unique workshop and storage area devoted to more than 30,000 military figures and associated battlefield props.

Having been in the Army at the highest security level during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1960, assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency, he has been interested in battles and armies ever since.

"I don't use the computer," he explained. "I use these books."

Books on armies and their gear and battles from pre-Roman empire times through the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq fill shelves in the workshop where he paints miniature military figures to match the pages in the books. He also makes castles and houses and barracks and other props from wood and plasterboard to create entire scenes.

Many of these can be seen in the Midway at the annual Showman's Circus at the International Independent Showman's Association held in January.

"I picked this up as a hobby during the Cuban Crisis," he told me. And he's been at it ever since.

As we walked out through the rows of deep freezers and fryers, rows of folded tents and frames and poles, I saw a large erasable calendar filled with upcoming events.

"I do everything from revivals to beach parties and weddings," he said.

Now that he has a listed telephone number, people may reach him at (813) 677-4105.

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Postcards

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The Tampa Theater is a pretty amazing place. Just walk into the place and you can feel the history descend upon you. It's not overwhelming, it's comfortable. The cool little signs telling you to not wait for the ushers because they are all dead is a nice touch, too. In fact, if I were to haunt a place someday, that might be high on the list. Ralph Del Castillo (thanks for the note, it's good to hear from you!) got it as did Pat Bush (you would think but I'm not sure anyone actually goes to Tampa! Thanks for writing!), Robin Greenwood (it was a heartwarming Thanksgiving! I hope you had a wonderful day, too!) and Bill and Margie Galbreath (a belated Happy Thanksgiving to you, too! Thanks for the note!). Juanita Sehorne (very cool story! Thanks for writing!) came in just under the deadline in recognizing The Dive photo from two weeks ago. This week we have a piece of paradise I hope to soon be enjoying. Where is this place? Send your best guess to where@observernews.net or mail to 210 Woodland Estates Ave., Ruskin, FL, 33570. I hope the bridge tender is nice.



Evening Christmas Tour of Palmetto Historical Park

PALMETTO — Palmetto Historical Park and Manatee County Agricultural Museum will be open for an Evening Christmas Tour Friday, December 10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Learn about Palmetto's history and enjoy the park and buildings which will be decorated for the holidays. While on the tour, honor family and friends who have served our country by hanging an ornament on the Military Museum's Memory Tree and collect the special recipes available in all of the buildings. Children can enter the reindeer trivia contest.

Cookies and coffee will be served afterwards. The park is located at 515 – 10th Ave. West, Palmetto. The tour is free, but reservations are needed. Call 941-721-2034 for

more information and to make reservations by December 9.

About Palmetto Historical Park Where the Past Comes Alive!

The Palmetto Historical Park offers children of all ages the opportunity to learn about the history of Palmetto and the area on the north side of the Manatee River. While touring the park, visitors can check for mail at the 1880 Post Office, write on slates in the Schoolhouse and try on pioneer clothing in the cottage. The Chapel, Military Museum and 1914 Carnegie Library add to visitors' experience. The Palmetto Historical Park is a joint project of the Palmetto Historical Commission, Manatee County Clerk of Circuit Court, the Manatee County Board of County Commission, and the City of Palmetto.



The historical 1914 Carnegie Library is decked out for Christmas in the Palmetto Historical Park.

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105 PERSONAL

Prayer to the Blessed Mother. Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel's fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven. Blessed Mother of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh star of the sea, help me & show me here, in you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary Mother of God, queen of heaven & earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request) There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee (say 3 times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days, then you must publish it and it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks. bgm

Bon Worth's Customer appreciation day. Dec. 4, 9am-5:30pm. 1517 Sun City Center Plaza, SCC. Refreshments, prizes. 10% of total purchase

115 LOST & FOUND

Found dog in vicinity of Gulf & Sea Blvd., Apollo Beach. Call 813-625-8832 to identify.

120 ENTERTAINMENT

SouthShore Senior Singles
 Holiday party, Dec. 5, Sunday, 4-6pm.
 The Alley on Big Bend Rd. All 50+ single seniors welcome! 216-577-2278 or 813-634-7171

FARMER'S MKT 200

260 FRUITS/VEG.

Dansby Citrus, 115 Castillo Rd., Ruskin. 813-645-1541. Red & White Navel oranges, pink grapefruit. \$5 per bucket. (bucket 1/2 bushel).

261 FARM EQUIPMENT

Trudy's
Fresh Blue Crabs
 for sale. By the dozen or bushel. Call today 813-641-1522 or 813-541-3670 leave message.

When am I required to turn on my headlamps? Headlamp Regulations More often than not you'll find the following sentence: "By law, your vehicle's headlights must be turned on from a half hour after sunset until a half hour before sunrise." That sentence is taken from Washington's drivers handbook and is the standard law for every state.

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

Moving sale. Furniture & misc. items. Saturday, Dec. 4, 7am-4pm. Sunday Dec. 5, 7am-2pm. 757 Flamingo Dr., Apollo Beach.

Neighborhood Garage Sale.
 Saturday, Dec. 4, 7am-3pm. West end of Sago Palm Way, Apollo Beach. 2nd Left of Abaco Dr.

Moving /garage sale. Furniture, Hydroponic garden, ceramic, dishes, yard fountain, household items. 1621 Brookton Green Dr., (off West Del Webb) SCC. Friday & Saturday, 12/3 & 12/4, 8am-?

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

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M-F 9 to 5:30 • Sat 9 to 4:30

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SCC Mother ode sale. 704 Indian Wells, 12/3 & 12/4 Antique tables & dresser, quilts, 40 pillows, pictures, bolt of material, jewelry, massive eloquent Christmas decorations & trees, clothes. So much more. All must. go. 8am

Yard sale. Manatee RV Park, lot 338. US41 South, 8am-noon. Saturday, 12/4. Tools, propane gas heater. No early birds.

Yard sale. Friday, Dec. 3, 8am-2pm. Golf clubs & bags, furniture, stained glass, electronics, pictures. 672 Allegheny SCC.

Yard sale. Saturday & Sunday, 7:30am-4:30pm. 804 7th St., SW, Ruskin. Christmas items, dolls, lots of misc.

310 GARAGE /YARD SALE

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 109 W. Shell Point Road • Ruskin

Yard sale. 3 families. Saturday, 12/4, 8am-? 803 10th St., SW, Ruskin (off College Ave). Jewelry, furniture, lots of stuff.

Moving sale. King size bedroom set, dining room set, bureau, desk. 211 Rick-enbacker Dr., SCC. Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 8am-2pm.

25+ park wide sale. King Richards MHP. 10382 Big Bend Rd., Riverview. Saturday & Sunday, 12/4 & 12/5, Something for everyone.

Dec.. 2, 3 4 & 5, 8am-4pm. No early sales. 611 Allegheny Drive., SCC. Best prices around.

Yard sale. 12/4 & 12/5, 8am-4pm. Sunday 12/6, 8am-3pm. (US41 South) 3611 Petrovia Circle, Ruskin. Nascar, clothing, knickknacks & misc.

Garage sale. Misc. household, misses clothes, misc men clothes, Christmas lights & decorations. Friday 12/3 & Saturday 12/4, 8am-1:30pm. 1515 Allegheny Drive, SCC.

Upscale electronics (camera, video, Karaoke), golf clubs, clothes, books, etc. Come see early. Saturday 7am-2pm. 2046 Berry Roberts Dr., SCC.

Big Christmas Sale household items, Lowell Davis collectibles, 2302 Metro Dr. Ruskin off Universal, Friday & Saturday, Dec. 3 & 4, 8am-noon

212 Amesbury Circle, St. Andrews, SCC. Patio set, table & chairs, dryer, lots of misc. Friday & Saturday, 12/3 & 12/4, 8am-1pm.

Gigantic yard sale. 10 or more families, over 200 handcrafted earrings, TV, computer, golf clubs, bread machine, juice & more. 1910 N. Pebble Beach Blvd., Dec. 3 & 4, 8am-2pm.

Craft sale. ChulaVista Landings Mobile Home Park clubhouse. Dec. 11, 9am-1pm. Lunch served. Great food. 1702 Gulf City Rd., Ruskin.

Shop for Christmas. Hand bags, scarfs, sports bags along w/ 4 family yard sale. Small appliances, Christmas decorations, toys, jewelry, sports cards & misc. 9022 Gibsonton Drive. Dec. 3, 4, 5, 9am-3pm.

Summerfield Holiday Market
 Summerfield Community Center, 13011 Summerfield Blvd, 813-671-2005. Saturday, Dec. 4, 10am-2am. (Santa will arrive at 1pm)

Don't miss this one. Laureate Zeta Pi yard sale. Saturday, 12/4, 8am-2pm. 223 W. College Ave., Ruskin. Household items, clothes, odds & ends.

Saturday only, 8am-1pm. Clothes accessories, furniture, toys, home decor, holiday items. Price to sell. 515 Red Mangrove Lane, Apollo Beach.

310 GARAGE/ YARD SALE

712 Sahara Dr., SCC. Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 12/2, 12/3 & 12/4, 7am-3pm. Personal items, carpentry tools, saws, hammers, queen mattress & box spring, card tables, books, jewelry, foot stools, Coleman gas latern, exocitic tile (many sizes, over100 pieces, camera gear.

SCC 1504 Danbury Dr. Garage /moving sale. Dec. 2-4. Thursday, 8am-noon, Friday & Saturday 8am-1pm. Sofa, love seat, chest of drawers, night stand, Broyhill dresser & mirror. Christmas & household goods.

North Lake Community Yard Sale
 Household between Bunker Hill & Allegheny. Collectibles, clothing, seasonal, fishing, household, misc items & more. Friday 12/3 & Saturday, 12/ 4 8am-1pm.

Dec. 2, 3 & 4. Glassware, dining set, pictures, tools, good misc. 1220 Del Webb Blvd., W. SCC

Estate/ Garage Sale
 1921 East View Dr., Caloosa Golf Course (off N. Pebble Beach). New York central engines (trains). Top of the line mens clothing, shirts, shorts, dress pants, suits. Johnson & Murphy shoes size 8-W, beautiful oak bar, sofa table, 2 end tables, luggage, picture frames, area rugs, bags of jewelry, Christmas & more, 8am-1pm. Friday & Saturday.

Yard sale & bake sale. Lots of Christmas items, lots of variety. Saturday only. 12/4 8:30am-2pm. SR 674 to 7th St., to 5527 Hillsborough Street, Wimauma

Multi family. 1832, 1833 & 1901 Del Webb Blvd., East. SCC. 7am-2pm. Dec. 2, 3 & 4. Wheel chair, microwave, AB Lounger, Christmas & household goods, square dance, adult & child clothing, tools.

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310 GARAGE /YARD SALE

Garage sale. SCC
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Golf carts wanted. Buy sell, trade. Chargers, parts all related. Ronny's Carts & Parts. 813-645-4515 or 813-484-9855

We buy golf carts, any condition. We pay top dollar for used carts, running or not. Same day pickup. 813-300-0114

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2 bicycles, new 26" single speed w/ lights & accessories. Cost \$191.55 each. Sell \$55 each, 2 bicycles helmets. New Livestrong. Cost \$43 each, sell for \$15 each. 813-634-0793

MARINE
400

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450

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500

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M/Homes on their own lots; low taxes, no association fees!

- 1BR/1.5BA, cleaned, furnished, sofa bed in living room for company. Screened porch, carport, utility shed + tool shed. Large lot. **\$35,000.**
- 2BR/2BA across from golf course. New laminate/new carpet, freshly painted, inside utility, screened porch, carport, shed. **\$42,500.**
- 2BR/2BA doublewide, inside utility room, carport and great attached workshop. Large lot and extra parking for your boat or truck. **\$55,900.**

Claire Tort

 OFFICE:
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When should or shouldn't I use a horn? Car Horns and Defensive Driving The use of car horns is governed by common-sense rather than actual legislation. With driver safety in mind, you'll find many DMV driver manuals recommend using a car horn in the following situations: To alert a bicyclist who appears ready to stray into your lane.

511 HOUSES FOR SALE

RE/MAX SOUTH SHORE REALTY
Roberta Rowe
 Realtor
 Cell: 813-215-7127

KP Augusta on Lancaster, 2BR/2BA/2CG on Golf Course, remodeled (ready to move in)..... **\$89,500**
SCC Worthington on Berry Roberts, NEW A/C and flooring, SPA..... **\$249,000**
SCC 2BR + Den, split bedrooms, 37x12 enclosed lanai, valuted ceilings..... **\$187,500**

RENTALS
 2BR/2BA, near clubhouse, furnished..... **\$575/month**
 2BR/2BA Lanc., furnished, seasonal..... **\$1600/month**
 SCC 3BR furnished home (annual)..... **\$1200/month**

M. H. HOUSING
550

560 M.H. ON LOTS

Mobile home for sale Eastwood Mobile Home Park, Gibsonton. Call Heather 813-677-5726

What is the cell phone law in my state? Before trying to contact a friend or family member while driving, know the cell phone law of the state you're in. Otherwise you may receive a traffic ticket with a hefty fine. This also applies to text messaging, which many states, over the last year, have enacted laws banning this practice.

- 319 KELSEY WAY.** Model perfect, charming 2BR/2BA Condo in the Knolls. Upgraded appliances are all included. Beautiful tile floors, nice cabinetry. Not a Short Sale -- can close immediately if desired. Bright and pretty and the Knolls has a private pool in Kings Point for its residents, and Seller says "SELL." **\$64,900.**
- 2008 HALMROCK PLACE.** Immaculate, pretty water view from lanai, 2BR/2BA Condo, completely furnished condo in Highgate, golf cart available, gated community with 24-hr. security and every imaginable recreational facility for you -- just bring your toothbrush. **\$60,000.**
- 218 S. PEBBLE BEACH.** Lovely, spacious with open floor plan, well cared for and Mrs. Clean lives here. 2BR/2BA, 1224 sq. ft. inside utility room, private rear drive and large carport, close in convenient location. Shows so nicely, **\$62,000.**
- 1025 BLUEWATER DRIVE.** Awesome water view. Desirable 2BR/2BA Twintree floor plan with 2 master suites. Nice appliances and has been perfectly maintained. **\$119,000** or best offer.


Sharon Van Loan

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KELLER WILLIAMS
 South Shore

RENTALS
600

610 WATERFRONT RENTALS

The Dolphin House, Apollo Beach, efficiency apartments on water. Boat docking /fishing. Pool, laundry. \$185 weekly, \$185 deposit. No pets. 813-850-5217

611 HOUSES FOR RENT

House for rent. Ruskin 2br/1ba house, fenced yard. \$735 monthly. One month security. Waterfront neighborhood. 813-610-3485 or 813-641-7791

S & R Properties

3, 2 & 1 bedrooms. No pets. Ruskin, Gibsonton area. RV lots available 813-310-1888 or 813-849-1469

House for rent. 3 bedrooms. Gibsonton area. \$150 weekly \$500 deposit. Garbage included. First & last week. Background check. 813-671-1184

Ruskin 3br/2ba, 3rd bedroom suited for office or baby. Nice home with front porch & large backyard. Great for couple or small family. References & application required. No smoking, no pets. Monthly rent \$875 plus security deposit. 1yr lease. 813-649-1599


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PRICE REDUCED!! Beautiful building lot in Ruskin situated on a quiet street with water views. Close to schools, shopping and much, much more! The lot is 80 x 160 MOL and utilities are available. Owner will consider financing - call today for more details. **\$27,000. CALL CATHY GRIGGS 391-8653**

RUSKIN ACREAGE!! Over 9 acres in an area of new homes, close to I-75, just waiting to be developed. **\$275,000 CALL CATHY GRIGGS 391-8653**

OWNER FINANCING available with \$5000 down. 2BR/2BA manufactured home on nice fenced lot. **\$45,000 CALL CATHY GRIGGS 391-8653**

DUPLEX - Great opportunity to own an income property! Built in 2003 this property has been meticulously maintained and is waiting for a new owner. Both units have 2BR/2BA with ample parking and a huge fenced in yard. New air conditioners in both this year and utilities are on separate meters. **\$195,000 CALL CATHY GRIGGS 391-8653**

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**

PUT THIS AT THE TOP OF YOUR SHOPPING LIST and be moved in and ready for carefree holidays. Cheerful 2BR/2BA Kings Point condo with over 1100 square feet. Covered parking just outside door and enclosed golf cart storage attached. Quiet surroundings close to clubhouse, pool, hobby rooms, tennis, shuffleboard, numerous activities and opportunities. Best buy at **\$42,900 JUDY ERICKSON 468-0288**

RUSKIN RENTALS: Unfurnished 2BR/2BA Bahia Beach waterfront condo **\$900**; Furnished 2BR/2BA duplex **\$800**; Furnished 1BR/1BA duplex **\$700. JUDY ERICKSON 468-0288**

DECK THE DOCK with bright lights that reflect off wide waterway. Festive 1BR/1BA waterfront house at end of street with views of water from 3 sides of house and fitting Florida furnishings. **\$219,000 JUDY ERICKSON 468-0288**

PERFECT FOR ENTERTAINING. 4BR/2.5BA riverfront home with flowing floor plan that allows for large or small crowds. Mingle in over-sized updated kitchen, in formal living and dining rooms, family room, screened porch, pool area, or dock. Private setting on 2 plus acres. Dare to compare at **\$439,000 JUDY ERICKSON 468-0288**

WATERFRONT FANTASIA! 3BR/2BA 2-car garage on wide Ruskin Inlet w/ Tampa Bay access. Clean & neat, tile & hardwood floors, fresh paint, great location! Call to see today. **\$285,000. JO ELLEN MOBLEY 645-1540.**

POLISHED TO PERFECTION! Darling 4BR/2BA 2-car garage home in lovely community, move in ready, hardwood floors, fresh paint, great room plan with split bedrooms, eat-in kitchen, inside utility, great family home. Asking **\$149,000. JO ELLEN MOBLEY 645-1540.**

FOURTEEN ACRES with 6" deep well, cleared, clean and green belted for reduced taxes. Currently used for fish farm, but seller will consider filling in ponds for other uses. Asking **\$395,000. JO ELLEN MOBLEY 645-1540.**

NEW LISTING! GREATLY MAINTAINED 2BR/2BA, 14' wide m-home with enclosed A/C addition, enclosed screen porch, carport, and detached shed & carport in back. 1 year new CHA, newer refrigerator, washer & dryer in utility-rm, shingle roof, cement driveway. Home is handicap accessible. Nice lot across from golf course. **\$49,900. CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

OWNER WILL LISTEN TO OFFERS for this 3BR/2BA (1995) doublewide in Ruskin, with large screen porch, detached barn, on 1.34 acre fenced lot. Split BR plan, beautiful kitchen with new cabinets, inside utility, brand new roof! **\$79,000. CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

MOVE-IN-READY! Beautiful home in Kings Point, 2BR/2BA + Den (3rd BR), elegantly furnished. High ceilings, split BR plan, bright open living area, modern kitchen, breakfast nook, wrap-around screened patio and 2-car-garage. Offered at **\$117,900. CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

FABULOUS WATERFRONT LOT, GREAT FISHING/BOATING! Deep water, huge new dock, spectacular riverfront . All utilities on site include sewer. Fenced lot, PD-MU zoning (good for M/H or house). **\$239,000. Owner financing. CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

FANTASTIC WATERFRONT HOME! Relaxing water, quick access to Beautiful Tampa Bay. 3BR/2BA with boat dock, woodburning fireplace, storage, fruit trees and much more. Very well maintained . Owner very motivated -- bring all offers!! **\$210,000 CALL KATHY JACOBSON 624-2225**

LAND 3.5 ACRES (mol) on Hwy 674 or College Ave zoned AR that could possibly be rezoned for your business. Property has two septic's, water and electric. Now reduced to **\$175,000 CALL KATHY JACOBSON 624-2225**

SPEND WINTER OR YEAR-ROUND in this 2BR/2BA condo in Sun City Center. Close to the clubhouse where activities abound. Peaceful and quiet on a deadend street. Community heated pool, racquetball, shuffleboard -- it's all there + security. Priced to sell at **\$32,900. KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

HUGE PRIVATE LOT! 3BR/2BA on over 1/3 acre lot in non-deed restricted community. Split floor plan with a nice big lanai overlooking a very private backyard! **\$89,900 SHORT SALE CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201 or KAY PYE 361-3672**

2.5 ACRES REDUCED TO \$114,900. Mobile on property does not remain. Peace and quiet in the country on 21st Ave SE. Motivated seller. **CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 OR ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

5 ACRES with easy access to I-75. Perfect for Landscape/Nursery business. Property complete with irrigation & commercial grade well. 2000 sq. ft. metal building & an 1800 sq. ft. gutted home & shop. Reduced **\$374,900 KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201** for details.

NEED SOME ROOM TO SPREAD OUT? Fenced one acre lot (MOL) like new 2BR/2BA doublewide & 20 x 26 shop with a carport, electric hookup for a RV, new roof in 2005. Country living close to town! **\$119,900 KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201** for details.

THIS ONE IS A MUST SEE... 3BR/2BA with 2-car garage. It sparkles and shines with too many upgrades to list. Brand new 135 MPH storm windows protect this near perfect home. It is unique in every way. Private backyard with large patio for backyard fun!! Priced at **\$179,900. CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

JUST REDUCED!!! OVER 6 ACRES of beautiful secluded, wooded acreage, one of a kind waterfront view. Property has M/M , well & septic. Two folio numbers. 165' riverfront. **\$ 399,000 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

COMMERCIAL LISTING! Great commercial property with 158 ft of frontage on Highway 41 (1.04 acres MOL). Property is zoned CI (commercial intensive) and is currently rented to an auto/service/repair garage. Special features include: huge building (3,192 sq.ft.) with new roof, three bays, two offices, and lots of room for storage. Adjacent property with 128 feet (MOL) of waterfront is also for sale. **\$279,000 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

NEW LISTING! 3BR/2BA doublewide home that has been extensively remodeled and updated. Special features include: laminate floors in all rooms except the bathrooms which have ceramic tile, master bath has double sinks, separate shower & garden tub, large bedrooms with walk-in closets, extra large laundry room, huge walk-in pantry, new appliances, fenced back yard & much more! Public boat ramp is just minutes away. **\$67,000 CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

VERY NICE 70x108 LOT on a nice pond in beautiful Bimini Bay. Ready to build your dream home and choose your own builder. **\$69,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

REDUCED!!! WATERFRONT DUPLEX ON THE LITTLE MANATEE RIVER in Ruskin. Quiet area with dock on a spring fed pond and river frontage. Beautiful sunsets! Great saltwater and fresh water fishing! 15 minutes by boat to Tampa Bay! 1BR/1BA on each side. **\$124,900 CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201 or KAY PYE 361-3672**

SHORT SALE!! Gorgeous 4.81 acres with tons of trees, two storage sheds and a barn. Special features include: completely fenced, state of the art water system, and water softener, extra attic storage, large walk in closet in Master BR, garden tub with separate shower, wood burning fireplace, nice open floor plan and much more. **\$199,000 CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201 or KAY PYE 361-3672**

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630 M.H. RENTALS

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Ruskin 2 bedroom, 1 bath, single wide on acre. \$650 monthly, one month security. 813-641-7791 or 813-610-3485

630 M. H. RENTALS

2br/2ba private lot. South of Gibsonton, US 41. Call 813-927-2065

For Rent: Clean Mobile Homes With A/C. 813-677-1086

For rent. 2 bedroom mobile home near shopping center in Gibsonton. 813-677-8789, 813-601-1542 or 813-516-0896

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"My family's been fishing for eight generations. It's just a way of life. That's why we've got to get this cleaned up."

*Pete Floyd
Commercial Fisherman,
Pascagoula, Mississippi*

Making This Right

Beaches
Claims
Cleanup

**Economic Investment
Environmental
Restoration**

Health and Safety
Wildlife

When the spill hit, a lot of people said it would be the end. BP said they would try to make this right. But how was an energy company going to help a fisherman?

Putting People to Work

The first thing they did was rent my boat and hire me to help with the cleanup. They made up my losses so I could pay my bills. And they worked with all kinds of people here from fishermen and shrimpers to restaurant owners. It helped us keep our businesses open. And it helped us make ends meet so we could support our families.

Staying for the Long Haul

When they capped the well in July and finally killed it, we were all relieved. But would BP stick around? Well, they did. The beaches are clean and we're back on the water fishing so things are getting a whole lot better. They are still here and have said they will keep working for as long as it takes.

Getting Back to Normal

BP asked me to share my story with you to keep you informed. If you still need help, please call 1-866-448-5816 or go to bp.com. If you're wondering what you can do, well – the next time you're shopping, buy a little Gulf seafood. There is none finer.

For information visit: bp.com
restothegulf.gov
facebook.com/bpamerica
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For assistance, please call:
To report impacted wildlife: (866) 557-1401
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Saturday, December 4, 2010

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Entry fee gets you a passport to the

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Pictures
with me
from
1 to 4 p.m.