



Mitch Traphagen reports on the final mission of Atlantis, the future of spaceflight, and what it's like to report on history in the making. See **page 12**



Proposed changes to Ruskin's "Redneck Riviera" will be addressed on Saturday. Read Melody Jameson's report on **page 3**

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New developments in elder care, research to affect South County

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
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SOUTH COUNTY — A new concept for learning about gerontology is being developed by Judith Nolasco, academic dean at Hillsborough Community College's Ruskin campus. Gerontology is the scientific study of aging and its effects.

Originally Nolasco tried to create a program for people in the health care industry who take care of and/or work with the elderly. Her aim was to upgrade people in low-paying jobs to higher paying ones in a field that is growing by leaps and bounds.

With 7,000 Baby Boomers turning 65 every day for 19 years beginning in 2010 – a figure that was given to *The Observer News* in a quote from Patricia Suarez, a spokeswoman for the West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging Inc. earlier this year – there will be many centenarians in the next 40 years. Many more than have ever been on earth at the same time before.

But the course didn't get the sign-up Nolasco had hoped.

"It was non credit, and I suppose I aimed for the wrong market," she said in a telephone interview July 8.

Now she's working on an idea to create a college-credit certificate course in gerontology that would carry a degree.

"It's completely new ground," she said. "This is just in the idea stage right now, but I see the need."

Because Nolasco has not seen such a course being given elsewhere, it is difficult to know just what it should entail.

Four key points she stressed were health, wellness and nutrition; depression and grief loss in later years; cultural competency and communication; and ethical and legal issues in aging.

"The intent is to provide training that would enhance occupational knowledge of anyone working with the elderly," she explained.

Caring for caregivers is a top priority

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
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SOUTH COUNTY — Since attending a health fair in January 1998 Sun City Center resident Dolores Berens has made it her business to see that families coping with Alzheimer's disease get help, support and relief.

Berens, who has collected so many community service awards it would be impossible to list them all here, contacted the Sun City Center Samaritan Services Alzheimer's Association run by Doris Ragland and asked what she could do to help.

Since then, she has been active in all kinds of work connected with Alzheimer's disease, including fundraisers, acting as director on the Samaritan Services board and serving as president of the Samaritan Alzheimer's Respite Auxiliary.

But she's taken the cause

See **CAREGIVERS**, page 6

"Not just in the health care industry but for everyone who deals with older people. People working in banks, stores or whatever may not have knowledge of how to deal with older persons."

Reacting to and communicating with people of different cultures is an important piece of the picture, she said.

"Different cultural attributes mean different reactions," she added.

An advisory board of area residents has been created to help with this task and meets occasionally.

"A lot would have to be done before anything like this could come

See **GERONTOLOGY**, page 2



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Under sail

Whether it's learning the basics of sailing or intermediate racing, youngsters in South County are fortunate to have the waterways, weather and instructors available to partake in these sports. Classes by TSS Youth Sailing are going on now. See **more on page 28**.

Chamber of e-commerce opens virtual doors to Ruskin

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

RUSKIN — Based on buy local, sell global principles, a chamber of e-commerce has been launched here. The Ruskin Commongood Chamber of eCommerce, to help members do real business in the virtual world of the global internet, now is up and running at www.Ruskin-Florida.US, according to its creator, Fred Jacobsen.

The purpose of the new chamber of e-commerce is assisting Ruskin businesses and entrepreneurs with growing their enterprises by using the internet to sell their goods and services worldwide, he said. This assistance will focus initially on optimizing at no charge each member's individual website on the world wide web, Jacobsen said.

The multi-page e-commerce virtual office also allows members to communicate through a blog, to list their businesses, to check out other local enterprises and to link to Ruskin-centric sites.

A former president of the Ruskin Community Development Foundation and active supporter of several community organizations, Jacobsen said this week that he "feels strongly about the financial health of Ruskin and its people"; so strongly, he added, that he wants to encourage local business entities to think in terms of selling to a global audience while buying predominately in Ruskin.

With merger of the former Ruskin chamber and the similarly constructed Apollo Beach business group to make

See **E-COMMERCE**, page 15





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Gerontology

Continued from page 1

about," she explained. The board of directors (at HCC) would have to be consulted, and state agencies and licensing could become involved.

This comes at a time when other area groups are also concentrating on how to deal with special problems of having more elderly in the population.

"Keeping them in their homes longer is always important," Suarez said in April when interviewed about how to keep elderly people in-home instead of assisted living or nursing facilities.

Meanwhile, as the population ages, more and more people get some form of dementia, especially Alzheimer's disease, said Dr. Eric Pfeiffer, former director of the Suncoast Gerontology Center at the University of South Florida.

Material supplied by USF's Byrd Alzheimer's Institute says the institute is making great strides and hopes to have some major improvements for diagnosis and treatment of the disease by 2012.

These too should have a solid affect on residents of South County, Florida and beyond, Pfeiffer said.

According to Byrd Institute, 5.3 million people annually are currently losing their memories and their lives to Alzheimer's disease in the United States, and this number is expected to double, and possibly triple, by mid-century as increasing numbers of people live beyond their 80s and 90s.

Half of all people who reach age 85 now develop the disease, which makes understanding its causes, diagnosis and treatment a serious problem, said Dr. Pfeiffer.

Since he has retired, Pfeiffer has written two books, one of which

is titled "The Art of Caregiving in Alzheimer's Disease," which he considers a tremendously important topic.

"The four most important things I recommend for any caregiver are joining a caregiver's support group; starting to share your responsibilities with someone else, which might require respite care (like taking your patient to day care a couple of times a week); taking care of yourself- getting rest and vacation and relief; and finding a definitive diagnosis and treatment for your loved one."

Although the disease can't be cured, it can be slowed with a combination of drugs, he said.

"I believe the best combination to be Aricept and Namenda," he added. "Taken together I have seen many symptoms reduced and the progression slowed."

Pfeiffer's book may be obtained by emailing him at epfeiffe@health.usf.edu.

Sabina Raymond of Cypress Creek Assisted Living who works with the local Alzheimer's respite care group said putting a family member in day care on a regular basis, whether for a couple of days or a couple of months, gives caregivers a chance to recuperate.

"It can be very emotional. So many families can't face the idea of doing anything that could be permanent. Often a lead comes from a doctor or from the caregiver himself, and once they see it's not so bad in day care they don't hesitate to use facilities geared to taking care of their loved ones," Raymond said.

A recent interview with officials at South Bay Hospital showed many positions, including medical

technicians and pharmacists have job openings now and are expected to have even more in the future.

Between the new courses being drafted at HCC and the new studies at USF, South County could become a leader in caring for many as they enter their elder years.

People who want to find out more about courses currently available at HCC (remember: the gerontology courses are not yet in operation) may call 813-259-6150.

For more information about the Byrd Institute or its studies, research or programs, call 813-974-5697. ♦



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Angelita Martinez, a medical technician at Sun City Senior Living, takes time out to read to some of the people in the facility's Memory Care Unit. Engaging people in a group activity is one way staff gets people to participate in the world around them.

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UPCOMING JULY EVENTS

Thurs., July 14 • 2:30-4 p.m. • Edmond Dubreuil MSW, RCSWI mental health professional facilitates this support group for those **suffering from depression, loss or grief** or are the caregiver of someone facing those issues. Supported by: South Shore Coalition on Mental Health & Aging and The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center.

Tues., July 19 • 2:30-3:30 p.m. • Join Katie Colwell Williams, MA, CMC from Aging Care Advocates for our **Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group**. alzheimer's association

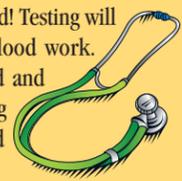
Wed., July 20 • 2:30-4 p.m. • **Parkinson's Support Group** Marcia A. McCall, MTS, ret. Coordinator of Research Dept. of Neurology College of Medicine USF, co-author *100 Questions & Answers about Parkinson's* will facilitate.

Thurs., July 21 • 2:30-3:30 p.m. • **Low Vision Support Group:** Alina Moser, RN, BSN, will facilitate. For those facing the challenges of low vision, this support group is a must! FREE, quick vision health questionnaire assessment.

Fri., July 22 • 2:30-4 p.m. • **C.O.A.P. (Children of Aging Parents)** is an ongoing support group for individuals who are assisting and/or caring for older, adult parents. Facilitated by Mimi Buderan, owner of Right At Home in-home care and assistance. For information visit: www.caps4caregivers.org.

Wed., July 27 • 2:30-4 p.m. • **Diabetes Support Group.** Shelley Tanner, R.N. from Angels Care Home Health facilitates this support group **Everyday Basics of Diabetic Care**. Open discussion, guest speakers and resources.

Thurs., July 28 11 a.m.-3 p.m. • **Sun Towers' HEALTH FAIR!** While you visit the variety of booths, your golf cart can be detailed! Testing will be available for balance, congestive heart failure and blood work. Educational seminars by local physicians will be offered and vendors from major health care companies will be joining together to provide you with the resources to ensure good health. Please RSVP for this event to 813-634-3347.



Thurs., July 28 • 2:30-4 p.m. • Edmond Dubreuil MSW, RCSWI mental health professional facilitates for those **suffering from depression, loss or grief** or are the caregiver of someone facing those issues. Supported by: South Shore Coalition for Mental Health & Aging and The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center.

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Concerns raised about proposed changes at river swimming hole

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

RUSKIN – Proposed changes designed for public safety at a “Redneck Riviera” here are generating questions, if not reddening some local necks.

As a consequence, Hillsborough’s Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department has scheduled a meeting for Saturday in the area.

Responding to complaints about drug use and unacceptable public behavior after dark on and around the north shore of the Little Manatee River at the foot of 24th Street S.E., the department drafted plans for a fenced parking area and a second gate across the roadway some 200 feet north of the riverfront. The plans are intended to encourage orderly parking of vehicles rather than leaving them haphazardly along the roadside and to provide more security by inhibiting vehicle access to the shoreline, particularly after dark.

The proposal also would, however, require river users to hand carry their gear, including boats, the additional distance from the parking area to the water.

The site is a historic natural swimming hole – the sort of place frequently described by southerners as a “Redneck Riviera” – in the middle of acreage acquired as one of the county’s ELAPP (Environmental Lands Acquisition and Preservation Program) purchases. The property is bisected by the roadway, with the Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center located to the east and forested walking trails to the west.

A June 30 article in The Observer outlined the new public safety provisions as well as detailed recent installation of a floating dock with built-in kayak and canoe launching features, along with two regulation handicapped parking pads, located within Camp Bayou and accessible only through the learning center’s 24th street gate. Camp Bayou currently is open for

five hours during the middle of three days per week – Thursday through Saturday.

The outdoor learning center is manned solely by volunteers led by Dolly Cummings, its designated director, under management by the Ruskin Community Development Foundation (RCDF) which has a long term working agreement with Hillsborough County. Both the learning center and RCDF are not-for-profit operations with tax exemption status under the 501(c) 3 section of the federal tax code and with the obligations accompanying the tax exemption. Cummings is a member of the RCDF board of directors. She did not respond to a telephone message from *The Observer*.

The situation has prompted a number of questions. Jim Flynn, a Wimauma area resident who picks up kayakers and canoe enthusiasts ending their river trips at the swimming hole, said he visits the 24th street site four to five times each week. Making the area “less friendly to the public/users will only drive (legitimate) users away,” he told *The Observer*, adding that if he cannot use the riverfront at that point to pick up boaters, fewer “people will be coming into the area to spend money on food/gas/ etc.”

Flynn questioned whether input had been sought from the actual users before plans for change were made. He noted that an existing gate at the northern border of the ELAPP property, originally designed to prohibit access to the area when closed, is unusable and suggested the circumstance could signal future conditions and costs for a second gate.

He also asked whether Camp Bayou would be opened longer hours during more days each week so that the new floating dock could be used by the public, including handicapped boaters, or if it represents a \$16,000 waste because access is so severely limited.

Flynn pointed out, in addition,



MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

Part of the citizen concern over proposed changes at the south end of 24th Street S.E centers on this new floating dock featuring easy use apparatus for handicapped canoe and kayak fans. The \$16,000 facility was installed recently a short distance up river from the swimming hole and can be accessed only through the Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center which is open just five hours each day during only three days of the week.

that he sees citizens regularly picking up and properly disposing of trash, and that he has done the same, in an effort to maintain the area. The three or four trash cans, some of them donated by citizens, he added, are emptied by county personnel twice each week. He said he also has seen patrolling deputy sheriffs in the area.

Asked how he would resolve the dilemma of providing public safety while still preserving public enjoyment of the riverfront, Flynn suggested street lighting to illuminate the area at night and more emphasis on a law enforcement presence.

Margit Redlawsk sounded the same note as she described how

much she and her husband value the river access from 24th Street. The Ruskin couple launch their jon boat and trolling motor at that point on the river at least once a week, she said, and then proceed up river to fish and to enjoy glimpses of the area wildlife in natural habitat. It is the only launch site available to them, she noted. More careful and continual patrolling of the area, Redlawsk added, would improve the situation.

Major Ron Hartley, commander of the sheriff’s office district 4 area encompassing all of the South County, said that deputies do patrol the 24th street sector and noted that there are two deputies assigned solely to work associated with county parks. Both are attached to the sheriff’s Falkenburg Road complex. They did not respond to a telephone inquiry from *The Observer*.

Arthur “Mac” Miller, a Ruskin

native, former military officer in charge of security planning and retired university professor, also has been raising an alarm about potentially eliminating the last public river access for boaters. Miller, who is both a RCDF board member and Camp Bayou volunteer, said he was not speaking for either organization but rather as a life-long local citizen when he began questioning feasibility of the parks department plan and raising the possibility of unintended negative consequences.

Father of a young daughter, Miller frequently takes his family for a dip in the river swimming hole which has been popular with locals for at least a half century, he said. The site also is the last public launch point on the river available to more than two small boaters at a time, he added. “And I don’t think the public should have their

See LOCAL SWIMMING HOLE, page 7

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POSITIVE TALK

Gold mine or salt mine -- it's your choice

Your attitude will determine whether you work in a gold mine or a salt mine. I have two friends who both worked for a large automotive manufacturer. Each went to work every day for almost 30 years, but Sam worked in a gold mine and Tim, in a salt mine. Sam blessed the sunrise and Tim dreaded going to bed for fear that the sun would come up quicker. The funny thing was that they worked side by side most of their working days and did the same tasks.



Positive Talk
By William Hodges

he was to have a job that let him pursue his dream.

Both Tim and Sam are now retired from the plant. Tim has cirrhosis of the liver, still drinks too much and tells a thousand sad stories of his years on the line. On the other hand, Sam has three farms totaling over 1,200 acres and looks five years younger than he is. The difference is attitude. Gold mine or salt mine—it's your choice.

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

Both Sam and Tim started their employment shortly after they returned from service in Vietnam. Each of them had a family to support and good jobs were hard to come by. Neither of them wanted to be an automotive assembly line worker, but when the positions were offered, they just could not pass up the good wages. "After all," each of them thought, "I don't have to stay here forever. It will be just until I get on my feet." So, lunch boxes in hand, they reported for work. From the beginning, their attitudes made all the difference.

Tim's dream was to become a portrait photographer and to own a studio. Before he went off to the army, he had dabbled in photography. Several people told him he had a great eye for composition and lighting. He viewed his job at the plant as just a short side trip before he ventured off into business for himself. So what if the job wasn't what he really wanted to do; it paid the bills and provided security for him, his wife and two little girls. In the beginning, each morning as he kissed his wife goodbye, he would leave her with the statement, "Well, I'm off to the salt mine." At first, it was said somewhat lightheartedly but as time went on, it became—at least in his mind—a statement of truth. With the birth of their third child, Tim lost all hope of ever getting out of the plant. He spent his days complaining about work conditions and his attitude grew darker and darker. He began to drink and blamed it on the job. When someone suggested that he could do some photography at night and on the weekends, he said that he was too exhausted to do that. And he was tired; carrying around that much bad attitude is a heavy burden.

Sam, on the other hand, also had a dream. He wanted to be a farmer, but you can't be a farmer without land and equipment. Sam had neither and no money to buy them; but, like Tim, he did have a wife and two children who needed his support. Unlike Tim though, Sam saw the plant as the gold mine from which he could mine his dream. Out of each pay check, he and his wife set aside a small amount of money. In a little over four years, they had enough to make a down payment on a small farm. Over the years, the wages from the plant continued to provide money to buy equipment and livestock. During the rough times, when farm commodity prices were low, those same wages helped Sam not only get through, but to take advantage of the downturn and buy more property. During the days of tedium at the plant, he never complained because he was too busy thinking about what he was going to do next on the farm. He would always say how lucky

Be cool! Support Hillsborough County Animal Shelter

How cool is this: citizen volunteers for Hillsborough County Animal Services have saved an extra 750 unclaimed and endangered pets in a couple of short years. To nurture this spirit of support during summer's sizzle, Hillsborough County Animal Services presents 'Christmas in July' from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 16 at the animal shelter (440 Falkenburg Rd., N. in Tampa).

The event will recruit volunteers, donations and foster homes for shelter pets. Pet owners also will be able to get their questions answered for free about their own pets and have a chance to view hundreds of adoptable pets in person.

The shelter's 'Christmas in July' event will offer something for everyone.

9 to 11:30 a.m.: Meet Santa. Mr. Claus spends summer helping dogs in Hillsborough County learn to be nice, instead of naughty. Bring a picture of your pooch and ask Santa-the-Trainer how to help your pet.

10 a.m. to noon: Adult Shelter Volunteer Orientation (age 18 and up) -- you can make a difference! Reservations accepted by calling 612-8416 or 612-5388.

12:30 to 2 p.m.: Ask-the-Vet with Dr. Bill Zingalie. Speak one-on-one with the amazing 'Doc Z.' Aspiring veterinary students can even tour the surgical suites at the shelter.

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.: Transition-Foster pet parent sign-up for individuals, junior volunteers, and families. Save a life, and help Animal Services without leaving your home.

Animal lovers are invited to stop by during this event, and all month, with gifts from the wish-list including: clean towels, canned pet food, training treats, and sturdy/waterproof toys for cats and dogs of all sizes. Rawhides are generally discouraged, while other toys for large-breed dogs are more preferred. Catnip and home-made 'happy socks' for felines (a favorite of scout troops) are also accepted.

Monetary donations of any amount are desperately needed to assist the sick and injured animals arriving daily to Animal Services. Cash and coin drives save lives in the balance, and checks may be written to 'Hillsborough County Animal Services' with the words 'medical fund' on the memo line.

At the event, residents also will be able to learn more about and sign up for the life-saving Transition-Foster Program.

These volunteers provide temporary animal sheltering in their homes, to those animals whose time has run out in the County shelter. Most animals simply need a safe place to recuperate from a medical procedure in order to find their forever-home. Teen volunteers for the program (age 16+) can even earn Bright Futures hours without driving to the shelter daily! Naturally, parental participation and approval are required.

Transition-Foster pets are given any needed veterinary treatment and dog-training opportunities through the shelter. Pet food assistance is also available.

Hillsborough County Animal Services will be open for normal operations during this special event, including pet adoptions, animal emergencies, and lost-pet search from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call (813) 744-5660 or log on www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animalservices.

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MEETINGS

Men's Auxiliary -- First Thursday at 7 p.m.

Ladies' Auxiliary -- Second Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Post -- Second Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

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

CANTEEN HAPPENINGS

Bar Bingo 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.

Mark OShaughnessy at River of Life

Riverview musician Mark OShaughnessy who has written and produced his own collection of music on CD, is now playing at the River of Life Christian Center at 6605 Krycul Ave., Riverview.

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Kids' Program/Event Highlights Week of July 17 to 23

Toddler Time

Tuesday, July 19 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m. and 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

For ages 2-3 years with a caregiver. Stories, finger plays and songs make up this fun 20-minute program.

Story Time

Tuesday, July 19 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

For ages 3-5 years. Stories, finger plays and songs make up this fun 30-minute program.

Playin' Around*

Tuesday, July 19 • 2 to 3 p.m.

For grades K-5. Score! Touchdown! What's your favorite game to play? What kind of games do children play in other countries? Journey through the world with us as we learn about games and having fun. Groups must register in advance, call 273-3652.

Baby Time

Wednesday, July 20 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m.

For ages 0-24 months with a caregiver. Share books, rhymes, songs, games and quality time together while instilling a love of reading and regular library visits in this 20-minute program.

Toddler Time

Wednesday, July 20 • 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

For ages 2-3 years with a caregiver. Stories, finger plays and songs make up this fun 20-minute program.

Story Time

Wednesday, July 20 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

For ages 3-5 years. Stories, finger plays and songs make up this fun 30-minute program.

Tampa Taiko Japanese Drumming*

Wednesday, July 20 • 2 to 3 p.m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

For grades K-5. Learn the culture and history of Taiko drumming. Groups must register in advance, call 273-3652.

The Amazing Race*

Thursday, July 21 • 3 to 5:30 p.m.

For teens in grades 6-12. Race around the world, find the clues, and complete the tasks in this video scavenger hunt. See if you and your team will win the Amazing Race!

Teen Night: Anime Club*

Thursday, July 21 • 5 to 8 p.m.

For middle and high school students. Come join us for an evening of Anime and Manga! Spend some time with other kids who love to read Japanese Manga and watch Anime straight from Japan!

Bedtime Stories

Thursday, July 21 • 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.

**Free event funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Library*

IN UNIFORM



Miguel C. Franco

Navy Seaman Miguel C. Franco, son of Frances M. and Julio A. Franco of Apollo Beach, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL.

During the eight-week program, Franco completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is 'Battle Stations.' This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. 'Battle Stations' is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly 'Navy' flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor.



Riverview Judoka strong at Sunshine Games

Students from the age of 5 to 50, Judoka (Judo Students) from T-N-T Academy of Judo, came on strong and represented Riverview on June 23 as a powerhouse in Judo in Hillsborough County and the State of Florida.

One of the largest teams fielded to compete at the Sunshine State Games in Lakeland on June 18 and 19; they gave their all and made their Sensei Scott Ferry very proud.

The T-N-T team included Peyton Nisy 5 (1st), Royal Brill 5 (2nd), Darrell (Luke) Brill 6 (1st), Erin Miller 7 (1st), Dylan Rickman 8, Evan Miller 10 (3rd) Gabrielle Otterness 10 (2nd), Emily Naylor 12 (1st), Kiana Lassalle 12 (1st), Jessica Guidry 14 (2nd), Jason Huertas 15 (1st Juniors, 3rd Seniors), Brad Thompson (3rd Seniors), Mike Lynch (4th Seniors), Mark Williams (3rd Seniors), and Kurt Huertas (1st) competing in the Masters Division.

There were some awesome matches this year. Some of the newer Judoka really stepped up and showed their skills. All the students from the after-school program, the Brills and the Millers, were able to make it to the podium, with this event being only their second tournament.

Some of the Judoka walked away with a Gold and others who fought against Black Belts earned every ounce of their 3rd place Bronze medals in an exciting fashion. The female Judoka were outstanding at this event as well. An additional honor and a great surprise to all in attendance, Peyton Nisy (5 years old) was awarded 'Outstanding Judoka Junior Male' of the event as he impressed the officials with his poise and abilities.

Weight Watchers to hold open house

The new Weight Watchers center is holding a 'Slimmer Summer' Open House from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 23 at 10629 Big Bend Road, behind Panera Bread.

The goal of the open house is to attract and enroll new members and to bring back lapsed members.

There will be enrollment specials, a raffle and prizes. There will also be product demos and smoothie tastings.

For more information, call the center at (813) 672-0902.



No-kill shelter offers horseback rides

Napier's Log Cabin Horse & Animal Sanctuary, Inc. offers horseback rides to people with no prior riding experience or age limit for a \$25 donation per person per hour, benefiting all the animals at the sanctuary.



Napier's Log Cabin Horse & Animal Sanctuary Inc. offers horseback riding.

Riding takes place at Napier's Wingate Wilderness, 4957 Wingate Rd., in Myakka City. All rides are by appointment. Call (941) 750-8185 to set up a day and time or visit www.NapierFamilyFarm.com.

Napier's Log Cabin Horse & Animal Sanctuary, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) no-kill Florida corporation that provides loving adoptive homes or permanent homes to needy animals.

Located in east Manatee County, 100 percent of donations go to caring for the animals and are tax deductible as allowed by law. Cash donations or WalMart and Tractor Supply gift cards may be mailed to: Horse & Animal Sanctuary, 20010 East S.R. 64, Bradenton, FL 34212. Credit card donations may be made

on the link on the website or cash donations may be made at any Bank of America in care of the Horse & Animal Sanctuary fundraiser account. For more information, visit www.NapierFamilyFarm.com or call (941) 750-8185.

Caregivers

■ Continued from page 1

to the public as well, bringing together the people who work in the health care industry that come in contact with Alzheimer's

patients and their families on a day-to-day basis.

While Ragland remains in charge of the Alzheimer's Support

Group, Berens has gathered a dedicated Auxiliary Committee composed of the heads of local assisted living communities and nursing care facilities and

members of the community who want to help.

At first, all the money they raised went to Tampa for research through the local branch of the National Alzheimer's Association, but after meeting the leaders from the health care industry, Berens changed her focus.

"I could see the caregivers who live here locally needed relief," she told me in an interview at Samaritan Services last week. "There are times when they have to go into the hospital, or take a vacation, or just run errands. Taking care of a loved one with Alzheimer's is a 24/7 job."

And with that thought, the Alzheimer's Respite Care group was formed.

Help came from a variety of sources.

"Hanson Services and Comfort Keepers have been with me from the start," Berens said. "And Connie Lesko at Freedom Plaza and Bev Hurley at Homewood have been a big help, as have so many others."

Plans for the coming year's events are already in the works with Hangovers consignment shop in Apollo Beach providing fashions for a show Nov. 3 at noon at Freedom Plaza. Last year a similar event brought in \$2,600 Berens said.

Another event now in the planning stage is an all-day education seminar at the Sun City Center Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., Feb. 12, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Alzheimer's where nurses will take care of patients while caregivers and those who want to learn more about the illness learn about various techniques, research and support that can help them.

This free event has been held in past years and hosted between 200 and 300 people each time. It includes a complimentary breakfast and lunch and many expert speakers from across the country and from the University of South Florida Byrd Alzheimer's institute.

The main thing that comes about from these events is that the Auxiliary is able to provide a choice of three gifts to some caregivers: either 50 free hours of in-home care; 50 hours of day care in a facility; or a full week's stay at a facility so the caregiver can get away for a vacation or other purpose.

The Auxiliary does not actively solicit funds, but may receive donations from individuals, groups or from fundraisers held for its benefit.

Claudine Leger of Sun City Senior Living had a fundraiser and seminar recently and brought in experts from as far away as California to speak also.

Leger was able to provide a family member who, although she did not use the respite service of the local group, was able to explain what taking a break from around-the-clock care meant to her.

"Auntie lived by herself until she broke a hip and it wasn't healing," Sherry Anderson said.

Anderson's aunt, Alberta Strickland, now 101, has been with Anderson and her husband for three years.

One day someone in Mississippi where her aunt lived called and told her she wasn't getting any better and could not be released from the hospital to live by herself.

So Anderson brought her



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO
Dolores Berens, president of the Sun City Center Samaritan Services Alzheimer's Auxiliary Committee, talks about the events and supports planned for the coming year.

through the airports in a wheelchair to her own home where she and her husband give her 24-hour care.

"She has not been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, but sometimes she's forgetful. She needs care though," Anderson said.

Anderson said that once her aunt got in the home environment, her health- and her mental capacities- got better and better until one day, the Hospice workers said they would be leaving. "They said they were needed more in other places," said Anderson.

Hospice usually becomes involved in life-limiting illnesses where patients are not expected to get better. In past interviews with the organization I have been told they usually intervene at the request of clergy or medical personnel in what are usually a part of the last 12 months of a patient's life.

As Strickland improved, Anderson saw that there could be many years of care ahead.

"I was apprehensive about putting Auntie anywhere even for the day," Anderson said. "But when I went there (she used Sun City Senior Living but there are many good places in South County) and saw how they loved on the people in that unit my whole perspective changed."

Anderson said she left her aunt there for a few hours of day care, and that convinced her she was safe to stay while she and her husband took a well-deserved five-day vacation.

"I was at peace about Auntie after watching how they're cared for. Now she goes to day care occasionally too which gives me a few hours to get things done. I am so impressed by everything-including the food."

Berens wants to make this type of break possible for many others.

"While we occasionally give to research, we think most of our fundraising should go locally to help caregivers with respite care," Berens said. "We want to make our events fun and successful, and extend the respite hours we are able to provide."

"This is a lifeline to someone who can be drowning," said Dr. Eric Pfeiffer, former director of the Suncoast Gerontology Center at the University of South Florida. "People who don't get care can't give care."

It's like taking the oxygen from the mask yourself before putting it on a child or other helpless loved one in an airplane, he explained.

"Respite is a wonderful and much-needed service, and the group down there (South County) is providing an important piece of the Alzheimer's puzzle." ♦

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Local swimming hole

Continued from page 3

access to the last convenient site so severely limited," he asserted.

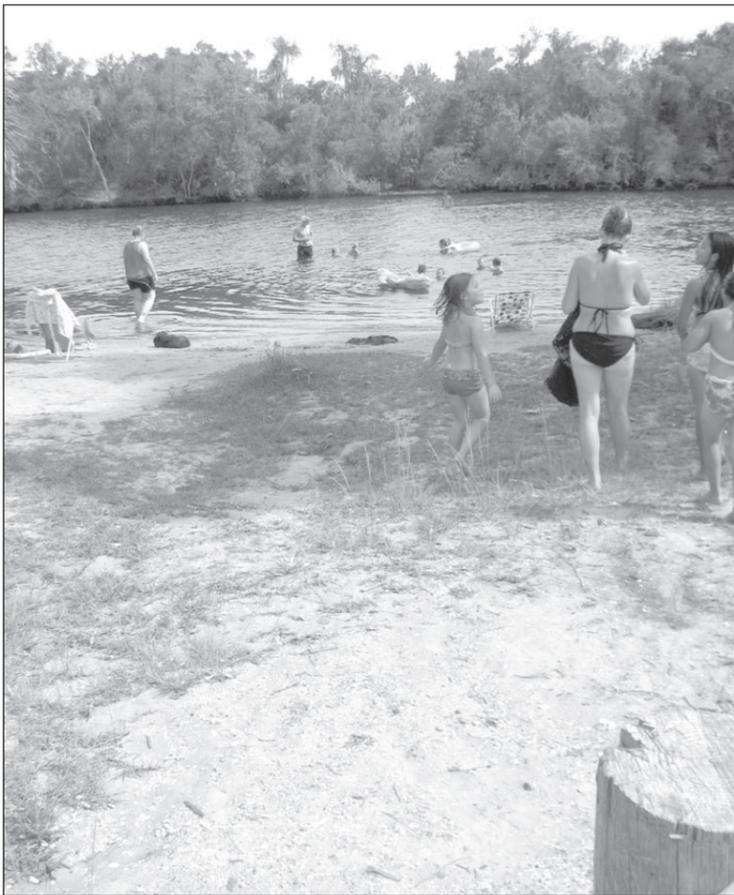
The retired professor told *The Observer* this week he has heard criticism in recent days about use of the term "Redneck Riviera" in connection with the river site, based on assumptions the phrase is intended to be insulting. Actually, "Redneck Riviera" is an "honorific" among southerners who understand its definition, he pointed out, a term of affection. It refers to recreational places off the beaten path which constitute informal, unpretentious, non-resort-like gathering spots. Another example of a popular "Redneck Riviera" is the Myakka River State Park with its rustic cabins, long riverfront and untouched forest. Still others are found in North Florida, he added, suggesting that the Little Manatee River swimming hole qualifies as a true "Redneck Riviera."

Miller also questioned whether a catchment area should be required in connection with the parks department's planned parking lot and whether an archeological survey would be done prior to disturbing the area for the parking facility construction. However, rather than cutting off access to the river for many day-time users with a second gate, he added, repairing and arranging daily opening/closing of the existing gate might be a better investment. In addition, a neighborhood watch might be instituted, he noted.

These are issues he may be able to raise during the Saturday meeting. Miller said he was advised last week by Ross Dickerson, a conservation section manager, that the session is set for 11 AM in Camp Bayou.

The Observer tried but was unable to confirm the meeting before deadline. ELAPP Manager Forest Turbiville was scheduled to be out of the office for most of the week. Dickerson, out of the office much of last week, was unavailable until Tuesday. Ken Bradshaw,

also working in the conservation section, referred The Observer to Richard Sullivan, conservation area manager at Cockroach Bay, who said he had no knowledge of the situation and could only refer to Dickerson, who was unavailable. *Copyright 2011 Melody Jameson*



MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

With no diving boards, water slides or foot ladders and certainly less chemicals than a pool, this Little Manatee River swimming hole at the foot of 24th Street S.E. qualifies as a real "Redneck Riviera," a term often given cherished but unadorned and out-of-the-way recreation spots by many southerners. Hillsborough County has drafted a plan to enhance public safety that also could eliminate the site for boat launching by some locals, a plan that may draw fire during a prospective meeting Saturday.

BUSINESS NEWS

The Dog House & More opens in Ruskin

The public is invited to stop by the area's newest outdoor roadside restaurant located at 204 W. Shellpoint Road (between 2nd and 3rd St.) in Ruskin.

Owner and cook Lisa Csiki was a prior outdoor restaurant owner in Chaplin, Conn. for seven years.

The menu consists of Angus all-beef hot dogs, 100 percent ground chuck burgers, shaved steak Philly cheesesteaks, sausage, pepper and onions, chicken breast, and of course fresh seafood including clam strips, shrimp and fish. Hot buttered lobster rolls are offered Thursday through Saturday (until sold out).

Sides include skin-on fries, jumbo onion rings, sweet potato fries, coleslaw and potato salad.

Lisa's homemade all beef chili, New England clam chowder, turkey burgers and tartar sauce are just some of her specialties. Don't forget the ice cream for desert! Cones, dishes and sundaes are available along with milkshakes and root beer floats for those hot summer days and nights.

All her food is cooked fresh to order with the seafood being hand breaded and lightly fried or for the weight conscience fish and shrimp can be grilled to order. Picnic tables are available on-site for outdoor dining. You can call ahead to 813-419-4325 and have your order ready when you arrive. Free T-shirts are being given out to all customers while they last. Lisa looks forward to serving the public with some of the freshest food Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Grills are shut off 15 minutes prior to closing time.

The Observer News

CARRIER OF THE WEEK



Frank and Edith Blaszczyk, what a great husband and wife team! Together they deliver all of Kings Point (a requested delivery community) on their golf cart. They have been with *The Observer News* for seven years. Frank was in banking when he first started with us. They do a terrific job every week. Thanks Frank and Edith. PS: Our readers are as loyal as our carriers. Last week when Edith's delivery list blew out of the golf cart, a Kings Point resident called our office to let us know. Edith appreciated that very much!

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THE SAVVY SENIOR

How seniors can shape up while sitting down

Dear Savvy Senior,
 What can you tell me about chair exercises for seniors? I have some balance problems along with arthritis in my left knee which limits my mobility. A friend recommended chair exercises as a good way to get moving but I don't know where to start. What can you tell me?

Sedentary Senior



The Savvy Senior

By Jim Miller

Dear Sedentary,
 For seniors with balance problems or other health conditions that restrict their mobility, chair exercises are a gentle and safe way to shape up while you're sitting down. Here's what you should know, along with some tools and resources to help get you started.

Chair Exercises

Many people find it hard to believe, but the health benefits of chair exercises can be significant for seniors. Chair exercises can help you build muscle strength and endurance, improve your flexibility and balance, and boost your circulation and metabolism.

Your doctor or physical therapist can be great resources to help you learn more. All you need is a sturdy, four-legged chair that sits flat on the floor. Don't use a rocking chair or a large cushioned chair that doesn't provide support.

To get you started, there are lots of great instructional DVDs, VHS tapes and books you can purchase to guide you through a wide variety of chair exercises that you can do at home. To find these products try websites like Sit And Be Fit (sitandbefit.org, 888-678-9438), a non-profit organization that has a chair exercise television program on many PBS stations around the country, and sells dozens of DVDs, videotapes, CDs and books on different exercise programs depending on your needs and ailments.

Another great chair fitness option you should check into is "chair yoga," which is ideal for

improving your flexibility and range-of-motion. Some good resources for finding chair yoga instructional videos and DVDs are yogaheart.com, peggycappy.com and strongerseniors.com which also offers chair exercise DVDs.

Also see Chair Dancing International (chairdancing.com, 800-551-4386), a company that offers a variety of chair exercise videos that incorporates gentle no-impact dance moves into their routines.

Group Classes

If you don't like exercising alone or need some motivation, call your local senior center to see if they may offer chair exercise classes - many do. Or, consider joining SilverSneakers (silversneakers.com, 888-423-4632) or Silver&Fit (www.silverandfit.com, 877-427-4788). These are fitness programs offered in fitness centers, gyms and YMCAs throughout the U.S. that offer special exercise classes designed exclusively for seniors including chair exercisers.

Exercise Equipment

There are also several pieces of equipment you might want to purchase to enhance your chair exercises. To boost your circulation, balance and leg strength consider a pedal exerciser (prices range from \$25 to over \$100), which will give you a bicycle-type workout from your chair. It can also be set on a table to exercise your arms. The Sit-N-Stroll Portable Foot Exerciser is another handy tool for stimulating leg circulation.

And for chair strength training exercises, there are elastic bands, small hand weights and medicine balls you can purchase for around \$10 that provide muscle toning resistance. You can find all these products at sporting goods stores, or online at amazon.com. Cans of soup, water bottles or milk containers filled with water or sand

could also be used (like small hand weights) for resistance training.

Another great strength training tool you should know about is the Resistance Chair (it costs \$280). This is an all-in-one home fitness system that helps senior's maintain and improve their strength from a safe, seated position. To learn more see vqactioncare.com or call 800-585-4920.

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

South Shore Singles meet at The Alley in Riverview

The South Shore Senior Singles group will meet from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 24 at The Alley in Riverview for open bowling, then meet at Applebee's (across from The Alley) for dinner afterward. For more information, or make a reservation, call Alice at (216) 577-2278 (cell), or Patti at (813) 634-7171.

The South Shore Senior Singles group was organized for those age 50+, for all the South Shore area, which includes Riverview, Sun City Center, Apollo Beach, Gibsonton, Ruskin, and Brandon, to provide non-threatening atmosphere for singles to meet and have fun.

The group meets once a month at The Alley for bowling and fun (fourth Sunday of each month); a local restaurant for dining and dancing; and other fun events.



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You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director

SCC Chamber News

Last week as I was dressing in the dark for work (Husband sleeps later than I do), groping around in the closet for shoes. Having dressed this way for years, I kinda know the different pairs by feel. Once I found the pair to match my outfit, I shoved my foot inside only to feel warm, lumpy goop squish between my toes.



You, Me & Business

By Dana Dittmar

raped and impregnated twice by her captor, and who raised the two children in the back yard. She is now a grown woman, with two 'home schooled' smart daughters, reclaiming her life and moving on with the most amazing attitude. It humbled me. It made me feel ashamed for last week's tirade over cat puke. If this woman could not just survive but thrive after her 18-year nightmare, she had just jumped to the top of my Most Inspiring and Awesome Women list.

We all have spells in our lives when we feel overwhelmed by even the most minor of things. Whenever I would have one of these moments, my mother would ask me if the incident passed the 'burnt toast test.' Is this something that will have lasting consequences to my life or is it simply burnt toast? If it's the former, then figure out your strategy and deal with it best you can. If it's burnt toast, build yourself a bridge and get over it.

So now when the car in front of me goes so slow I miss the green light, or when the ringing phone keeps derailing my train of thought when I'm trying to write this column, I stop, take a deep breath, and ask myself two questions: Is it burnt toast? If the answer is no, then the second question is 'What would Jaycee do?'

I know the first thing she'd do is change the brand of cat food she buys.

I knew immediately what it was. One of the cats had barfed onto my sandal. I was livid. My loud swearing woke up Husband, I ended up arriving at the Chamber later than normal, and was generally in a foul mood for most of the morning.

It wasn't until a friend of mine stopped by on her lunch hour, complete with wide smile and a warm hug, that I started to come out of my self-imposed slump. This friend has been going through a personal nightmare that would have sent most people to the padded room, but here she was, not just persevering, but actually in a really terrific frame of mind. She brightened my day immediately.

Last night, I watched the Diane Sawyer special interview with Jaycee Dugard, the woman who was kidnapped at the age of 11,



Lady Chameleon opens in Ruskin

Lynn Wise, owner of the Lady Chameleon Boutique, would like to announce the opening of the new Ladies' Specialty and Accessories Boutique located at the former Southern Grace shop at 301 U.S. Hwy. 41 in Ruskin. This is the second location for Lady Chameleon in the South Shore area. Sandra Grenier manages the Lady Chameleon at Winthrop Crossings in Riverview.

The Ruskin location has been remodeled and will offer ladies' specialty items, accessories, and gifts. Lady Chameleon specializes in interchangeable accessories and features the Miche Handbag. Other products are Tyler candles, Viva Beads, and Kameleon Jewelry. Plans are in process to offer a monthly marketplace and an event room at the Ruskin location. The event room will be available for group meetings and catering for small events for a reasonable fee.

The Ruskin location also will be the offices for Premier Accessories Group, an authorized Miche Bag distributor for the Greater Tampa, Sarasota, Manatee, and Orlando areas. Premier will conduct sales meetings, sales training, and special customer events at this location.

Lady Chameleon hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday-Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Brenda Trevino is the store manager and loves her customers. Stop in and see Brenda, their new look, and new product lines. The new phone number is (813) 645-1964.

Feline Folks will conduct low-cost spay/neuter clinic

Operation Feline Fix (OFF) for free-roaming cats will be held on Saturday, July 16 at C.A.R.E in Ruskin.



Cats or kittens must weigh 4 pounds and be at least 4 months old to qualify for the reduced \$10 fee. No soft-sided carriers allowed. Only one cat per trap or hard-sided carrier.

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

O Tannenbaum

Ruskin Elementary School PTA will be hosting its annual multicultural Festival of Trees on Dec. 3. If your business or organization would like to participate, you could donate an artificial decorated Christmas tree that will be auctioned off, or a themed basket for the raffle.

They are also looking for bake sale items and entertainers. If you are a crafter, you may set up a table and donate a percentage of your sales to the Festival.

The money raised will be used to help pay for the students' educational field trips. If you wish to participate or have any questions, contact Cheryl Jones at (813) 634-8019 or Cheryl.Jones@SDHC.K12.FL.US.



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RUSKIN Moose Lodge #813 UPCOMING EVENTS

The Ruskin Moose Lodge #813 is located at 1212 E. Shell Point Road, Ruskin • (813) 645-5919
www.lodge813.moosepages.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, July 15	7-11 p.m.	Fifi and Friends
Saturday, July 16	5-7 p.m. 7-11 p.m.	Steak Dinner Karaoke with Kim
Friday, July 22	7-11 p.m.	Charlie Burns
Saturday, July 23	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, July 29	7-11 p.m.	Taylor 'n Taylor
Saturday, July 30	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim

WEEKLY EVENTS

No Spaghetti Dinners 'til Sept. 7		
Every Thursday	5-7 p.m.	Wings
Every Friday	5-7 p.m.	Fish Fry (baked, beer batter or fried)
	7-11 p.m.	Live Music
Every Saturday		Horseshoes
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim

All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests.

County to hold second budget hearing

Hillsborough County will hold its second budget hearing at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 21 at the Florida Fairgrounds Special Event Center West, 4800 U.S. 301 N., Tampa, accessed by the Martin Luther King Blvd. entrance. Speaker sign-up is at 5:30 p.m.

Open to the public. Parking is free to attendees.

This is part of a series of public hearings to receive input on its upcoming two-year budget cycle (FY2012/2013).

Additionally, residents will be able to view all budget workshops live on Bright House channel 622, Verizon and Comcast channel 22, or on the County's website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/budgetmatters through live streaming video.

Those who cannot attend the public hearings have a variety of opportunities to give their ideas and opinions on budget actions by sending e-mails to hcbudget@hillsboroughcounty.org, or by voice or text to (813) 704-0181.

More information and instructions for all comment options, a link to the dates of the budget hearings and workshops, and a link to the proposed budget document in its entirety are available on the County's website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/budgetmatters/.

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, July 14 — Bar Bingo at 6 p.m.

Friday, July 15 — Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy from 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, July 16 — Music by Sun Coast Band from 7 to 11 p.m.

Sunday, July 17 — Music by Bert & Sassy from 5 to 9 p.m.

Monday, July 18 — American Legion Meeting at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 19 — Games in Lounge from 1 to 5 p.m. Kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 20 — Business After Hours from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Held and hosted by Ruskin VFW Post 6287, Zipperer Funeral Home, Pearson Capital A Ability Professional Business Service.

South Shore Young Professional Association offers Coffee Talk

The South Shore Young Professional Association (SSYPA) is hosting an early morning Coffee Talk to aid in professional development. It will be held from 7:30 to 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 20 at Apollo's Bistro, 6520 Richies Way, off Apollo Beach Boulevard, in Apollo Beach.

This month's topic is 'Make Your Business Work Best For You: Turn Your Time and Investment Into Profit.' Alex Miranda from Estrada Strategies will be discussing what activities you as a business owner should be working on to make the most out of your day and focus on the right activities.

Everyone is welcome. Light

refreshments will be provided. RSVPs are requested, but not required. There is no charge for members. Cost is \$5 for guests.

For more information, visit www.ssypa.com or contact the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce at (813) 234-5944 or email at Director@RiverviewChamber.com.

SSYPA's Mission Statement: The South Shore Young Professionals Association is both a personal and professional development organization in the Hillsborough County South Shore area that allows young business professionals a forum to develop professionally, socially, and civically.

Boating safety courses to be offered

Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Education Courses will be held at Century 21 Beggins Enterprises 6542 N. U.S. Hwy. 41, Apollo Beach.

Courses and Dates:

1) About Boating Safely -- This 8-hour beginner boating class will give the student the knowledge needed to obtain a boat license or safety certification in many states. Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete About Boating Safely. Cost is \$40 per student.

Classes will be held from 9 a.m.



to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 16, or Saturday, Aug. 20.

2) The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's Weekend Navigator

Course is a comprehensive course designed for both experienced and novice powerboat and sailboat operators. The course is divided into two major parts designed to educate the boating enthusiast in skills required for a safe voyage on a variety of waters and boating conditions.

Each class is two (2) consecutive Saturdays. Students must pre-register with Guy Mandigo at (813) 641-2488 or mandigo@earthlink.net. Cost is \$70 per student.

Classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6 and Aug. 13.

Woman's Club to host teen forum

The GFWC Brandon Junior Woman's Club will again be hosting their annual Teen Forum July 25-29 at Nativity Catholic Church.

The one-week, half-day camp is for girls beginning 6th, 7th or 8th grades. Speakers will be provided on topics ranging from self-esteem to cooking classes as well as crafts, team activities, snacks and prizes.

Reserve your spot now by going to www.thebjwc.com and printing the form and sending it and a check for \$70 to Brandon Junior Woman's Club, P.O. Box 66, Brandon, FL 33509.

For more information, call Donna Griffin at (813) 244-4758.

Display your work at library

The John Crawford Advisory Board is looking for artists (painting or drawing) to display their work in the Crawford Gallery at SouthShore Regional Library.

Applications are available for juried shows during the months of March and April; or May and June; or Nov. and Dec. 2012.

Applications may be picked up at the Information Desk at SouthShore Regional Library. Applications are due Oct. 8. For more information, call Laurie Burhop at (813) 273-3652.

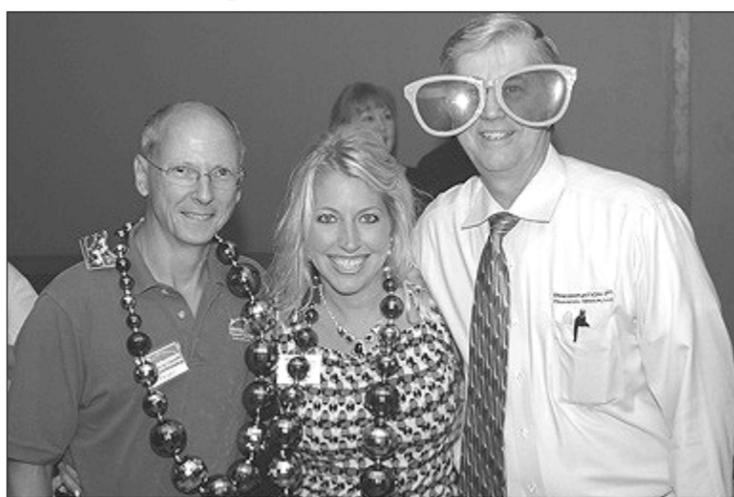
Riverview Chamber holds fun-filled event at The Alley

The Alley at SouthShore hosted the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce Taking Care of Business (TCOB) Network Group meeting on June 30. The TCOB group had great fun enjoying the recently upgraded VIP room with cosmic bowling and the arcade with a wide variety of games for all ages. For more information about The Alley at SouthShore visit www.funatthealley.com or call (813) 672-8353.

The TCOB Network Group meets 7:30 a.m. each Thursday at The Alley at SouthShore, 10221 Big Bend Road in Riverview. This group focuses on building relationships and helping fellow members. Guests are always welcome. For more information about the Taking Care of Business Network Group, contact the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce office (813) 234-5944 or visit online www.RiverviewChamber.com.



Sandy Lee wins a lot of tickets in the arcade.



Photos by Huth and Booth Photography

Peter Farnan, Jennifer Petit, and Mike Beiter, take part in the recent Riverview Chamber event at The Alley at SouthShore.



Donna Lee Fore plays in the arcade.

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Adult Program/Event Highlights Week of July 17 to 23

Adult Color Pencil Class*
Wednesday, July 20 • 1:30 to 3 p.m.
Join Artist Melissa Miller-Nece and learn some techniques using colored pencils. Blending, shading and a few other techniques will be covered. Limit 20. Registration required. Please visit the Information Desk or call 273-3652.

SouthShore Needle People*
Wednesday, July 20 • 6:30 p.m.
Join other needle people to share techniques, tips and experiences about knitting and other fiber and fabric crafts. Beginners are welcome! Bring a project and ask us questions!

Book Discussion:
"The Lady and the Unicorn" by Tracy Chevalier*
Thursday, July 21 • 2 to 3 p.m.
Art Lovers Book Club. Come and view the work of art through the eyes of an author. Then share your thoughts with other art lovers and readers. Tracy Chevalier weaves fact and fiction into a beautiful, timeless, and intriguing literary tapestry. Lives are captured in the tapestries, for those who know where to look. An extraordinary story exquisitely told.

*Free event funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Library

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National Cremation
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is hosting a seminar
Wednesday, July 20
at **308 E. College Ave. • Ruskin**
2:00 p.m.

Topics for discussion are:

- Cremation and Burial • Making Sense to Pre-Plan
- Out-of-State Burial • Anatomical Donation
- Pre-Planning Options • Social Security
- Veteran's Information • Travel Protection

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Commissioner Murman to host community meetings around county

Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandra L. Murman, District 1, is hosting office hours around the county to hear from residents without them having to travel to County Center in downtown Tampa.

Commissioner Murman and her staff welcome this opportunity to meet residents and to discuss their thoughts and concerns on various projects and community issues taking place in Hillsborough County.

No appointment is necessary to meet with Commissioner Sandra Murman and her staff. Residents are seen on a first-come, first-served basis.

The community office hours planned for South County are from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 19 at SouthShore Regional Service Center, 410 30th St. S.E. in Ruskin in the large Community Room.

To learn more about Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandra L. Murman, go to www.hillsboroughcounty.org/bocc/commissioners/murman.cfm.

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Atlantis: The final mission

STS-135 Atlantis successfully launched from Kennedy Space Center on Friday, July 8, 2011, marking the final launch of the 30-year-old space shuttle program. An estimated one million people crowded Florida's Space Coast to view the historic event. Atlantis, visible for approximately one minute before disappearing into the clouds, is expected to return to Earth on July 21.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Atlantis launches the end of an era

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER —

For a launch that was not originally intended to happen, it was flawless. STS-135 Atlantis, the final mission capping the 30-year shuttle program launched successfully at 11:26 a.m. on Friday. Late Sunday morning, the shuttle docked with the International Space Station, greeting the station's crew of two Americans, three Russians and a Japanese doctor with smiles and hugs.

The shuttle era was to end with the launch of Endeavour in May and Atlantis had been prepared for flight as a rescue vehicle, should something happen to Endeavour. In September of last year, however, Congress and President Obama authorized the funds for the 135th mission. In January, Atlantis was added to NASA's launch schedule. While shuttles typically carry a crew of up to seven astronauts, STS-135 Atlantis has a crew of only four, consisting of Commander Chris Ferguson, Pilot Doug Hurley, and Mission Specialists Rex Walheim and Sandy Magnus. The crew is smaller for a reason — there is no rescue shuttle for Atlantis. Should something happen to the ship during the mission, the crew would remain at the space station until Russian Soyuz rockets could rescue them while on resupply missions.

It could take up to a year to return all of the Atlantis astronauts to earth. Both the U.S. and Russian space agencies, along with the astronauts themselves, are prepared for that. Due to the velocity at which a Soyuz capsule returns to earth, each crewmember must have a

custom-built seat liner to provide safe cushioning during re-entry and landing. One seat liner for astronaut Rex Walheim was stowed along with the cargo on Atlantis. The other three liners are in Russia to be carried into space should the need arise.

The Space Shuttle Atlantis was first launched on October 3, 1985. In its 33 missions, it has orbited the earth more than 4,600 times, traveling more than 120 million miles. It was the first shuttle to dock with the Russian space station Mir, docking seven times in all. It was also the first shuttle to launch an interplanetary probe. According to shuttle launch director Mike Leinbach, Atlantis has the lowest incidence of interim problem reports and holds the record for the fastest turnaround between launches, with only 50 days between missions. In May 2009, Atlantis carried a seven-member crew to the Hubble Space Telescope. The crew spent 37 hours on space walks to service and install new equipment on the telescope.

On Monday, Atlantis began to transfer nearly 9,400 pounds of equipment, supplies and food to sustain space operations for the next year. At press time, mission managers at NASA are considering extending the 12-day mission by one additional day. Based on that, Atlantis will return to earth on July 21 with a landing at Kennedy Space Center if the weather in Florida cooperates, or a landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California if it does not.

After landing, Atlantis will be decommissioned but will remain on display at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. The exhibit is expected to open in 2013. ♦



NASA/JERRY ROSS PHOTO

The STS-135 crew ride in the Astrovan to Launch Pad 39A to board space shuttle Atlantis on the morning of Friday, July 8. The launch of Atlantis on the STS-135 mission is the final flight of the Space Shuttle Program. Clockwise from the left are: Sandra Magnus, Rex Walheim, commander Chris Ferguson and pilot Doug Hurley.

The future of American Spaceflight

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER —

When the Space Shuttle Atlantis lands early next week, it will mark the end of the 30-year-old shuttle program and the beginning of a period when the United States will not have the capability to launch astronauts into space. It won't be the first time that has happened. In the 1970s, there was an approximately six-year gap in American human spaceflight capability between the Apollo program and the Space Shuttle program.

But for many space observers, this time is different. From Apollo, NASA was running high after achieving something no other nation on earth, even today, has been able to achieve. Just a few short years after an ambitious challenge by President John F. Kennedy, America put men on the moon. From there,

it seemed that anything was possible and that quantum leaps in technology would open the door to the solar system and the galaxy.

The shuttle, however, was never meant for deep space. It was not designed to leave the earth's orbit. From the start, it was a fragile and highly complex aircraft, the most complicated machine ever devised by humankind, consisting of more than 2.5 million parts. Its mission was to learn more about earth rather than space. It would not and could not fly to the moon, to Mars or to an asteroid.

There is no GPS in deep space. Once outside of the domain of the International Space Station, also known as LEO, the system that people have taken for granted to find their way to a vacation spot or a store does not exist. Despite the incredible technology available to NASA engineers, traveling to Mars is not the same as traveling to a nearby IKEA store. Space travel is

Continued on page 16

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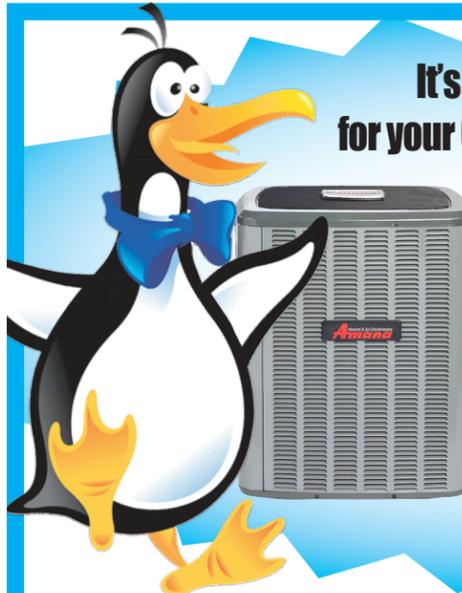


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- Check Drain Pan & Clean Drain Line (if plugged - quote separately)
- Check Thermostat & System Operation
- Check Compressor Amp Draw
- Check Outdoor Fan Motor Amp Draw
- Check Indoor Motor Amp Draw
- Inspect Ductwork For Contamination
- Oil Outdoor Fan Motor
- Oil Indoor Fan Motor
- Check Blower Wheel
- Inspect Safety Controls
- Check Drain Pan Safety Switch
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Chamber of e-commerce formed in Ruskin

■ Continued from page 1

the new SouthShore Chamber of Commerce, Jacobsen noted “a community with more than a century of legendary history to its credit no longer has a dedicated chamber of commerce.”

The new chamber of e-commerce requires no dues, will not pressure members to join a board of

directors nor produce a schedule of regular meetings, its creator said. It will, however, set simple coffee gatherings from time to time, he added. The first such coffee is slated for 8 a.m., Saturday (July 16) in Commongood Park on the north side of the Ruskin Inlet. Those attending should bring the

coffee or tea of their choice.

In addition, one other in-person event is being planned, Jacobsen said. The chamber of e-commerce will present a training series centered on “How to Make Money on the Internet.” The dates and time of these seminars will be announced on the website. And all

of the events, while aimed at the Ruskin business community, are open to the public and presented without charge.

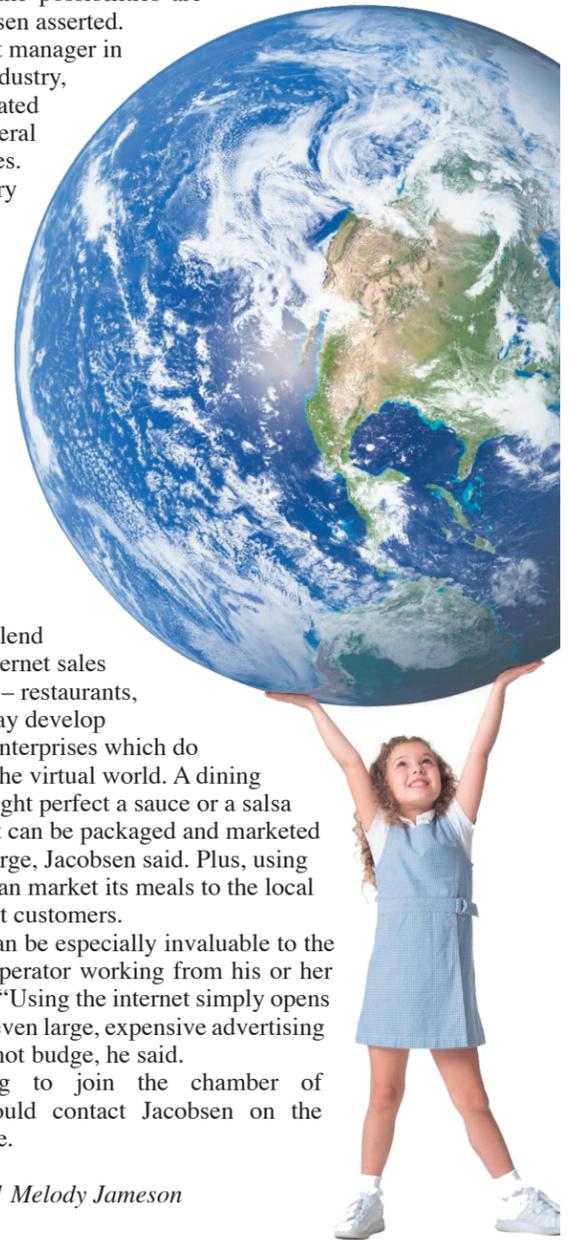
The key objective is “to bring money in from outside the community with products and services generated within the community for buyers beyond it. And the possibilities are limitless,” Jacobsen asserted.

A former credit manager in the publishing industry, Jacobsen has created and operated several for-profit websites. In the 21st century world of electronic communications and internet commerce, he said, “I believe even the smallest, most geographically isolated business can attract and support an international customer base.”

Even business types which may not immediately lend themselves to internet sales of their products – restaurants, for example – may develop aspects of their enterprises which do readily adapt to the virtual world. A dining establishment might perfect a sauce or a salsa or a dressing that can be packaged and marketed to the world at large, Jacobsen said. Plus, using e-commerce, it can market its meals to the local walk-in, take-out customers.

E-commerce can be especially invaluable to the small business operator working from his or her home, he added. “Using the internet simply opens new doors” that even large, expensive advertising campaigns may not budge, he said.

Those wishing to join the chamber of e-commerce should contact Jacobsen on the membership page.





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The future of American Spaceflight

■ Continued from page 12

dangerous, and it almost certainly always will be.

But that wasn't the vision. Astronaut safety was expected to increase in quantum leaps while costs were expected to be dramatically reduced as the program progressed. The original goals of the shuttle program were lofty, with dozens of flights envisioned each year. Legislators in Washington, however, are not scientists or engineers, and they hold the purse strings. The money required to increase safety and cost efficiency did not materialize. In some respects, the shuttle remained mired in its 1970s design.

NASA's problem, perhaps, is that the people working there are so good at their jobs, so highly competent and capable that they have made spaceflight look easy. There was once a time when launching humans into space would make the entire world stop to watch, but eventually a shuttle launch became something that was taken for granted. More than 350 people have been launched into space aboard the shuttle, but few have become household names like the astronauts from the Apollo era. Those at NASA know the truth: spaceflight isn't easy. It is dangerous and daring, and those who take part risk everything on missions that are too often nothing more than minor blips on the news media radar.

Yet the Space Shuttle program has succeeded beyond anyone's imagination. The bulk of the equipment in space, the bulk of the International Space Station

itself, arrived as cargo on a space shuttle. The vast majority of equipment returned from space also came back to earth in the cargo hold of a shuttle. On this mission alone, Atlantis carried 9,400 pounds of supplies to the space station, including nearly 2,700 pounds of food, enough to sustain space station operations for a year. Atlantis will also return 5,700 pounds of discarded gear to earth. There is no other vehicle on earth capable of such a feat.

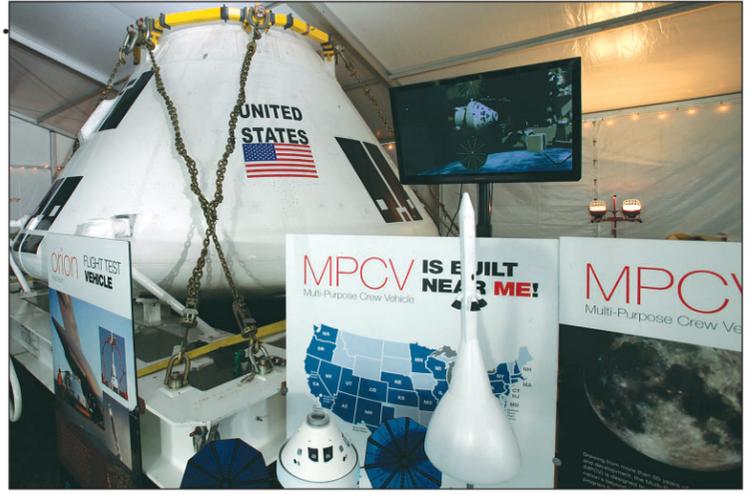
The newest shuttle in the fleet, Endeavour, is nearly 20 years old. After its 25th and final flight in May, it was retired and by late next year it will serve as a display at the California Science Center. The oldest shuttle, Columbia, disintegrated over the skies of the southwestern United States in 2003. In 135 flights thus far, only two have ended in tragedy. Both caused NASA and the nation to pause and reflect, but the flights resumed as before: safer but not necessarily safe.

On the day before the launch of Atlantis last week, Lori Garver, NASA's deputy administrator, presented the Orion capsule to the media. While she detailed the design features that will make human deep-space exploration possible, she focused on astronaut safety. Given the nature of space exploration, NASA's safety record is stellar, but to them it is not good enough. NASA hopes that Orion will overcome some of the safety shortcomings in the space vehicles built over the past 50 years. With a test capsule on a platform behind her, Garver touted Orion as the

future of American human space exploration. This vehicle will someday return Americans to the moon, or land on Mars or a passing asteroid. NASA, she stressed, is not giving up on human spaceflight, it is trying to reach further — as fast and as safely as possible.

"This isn't the beginning of the end," Garver said of the last shuttle launch. "This is the end of what was our beginning."

Continued on page 17



An Orion test capsule was on display leading up to the launch of Atlantis. Orion is being designed for deep space exploration with an emphasis on astronaut safety. MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

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The future of American Spaceflight

■ Continued from page 16

When Orion will actually carry American astronauts into space, however, remains to be seen. It does not yet appear on NASA's launch calendar, and it may not appear for years to come. But according to Garver and others at the space center, it most certainly will. Someday.

"Today's kids will not fly on the shuttle but they will walk on Mars," NASA Administrator Charles Bolden said on Tuesday during a House Science Committee hearing.

The space shuttle remains an iconic and uniquely American achievement. A shuttle sitting on a launch pad or orbiting the earth is physical proof of the capabilities and accomplishments of the United States. Like landing on the moon, it is something that no other nation on earth has achieved. It represents a massive investment of money and talent that is also uniquely American. And what is more, it was all done for mainly peaceful purposes, for the advancement of not only the United States, but for all of humankind. The shuttle program's contributions to science and to everyday life will take generations to tally.

Someday, perhaps in the not-too-distant future, Orion will pick up the legacy of Colombia, Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis and Endeavour to reach for the stars in ways that the space shuttles could not. When Atlantis touches down on earth next week, the shuttle program will be over. The quest for exploration into the final frontier of space, however, remains alive. Beginning next week, the desire to get there will be greater than ever. ♦

Reporting on history

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER —

I arrived at the off-base press office near Kennedy Space Center two days before the launch of Atlantis. I waited in line for about 30 minutes, listening to the woman ahead of me get some very bad news. She was holding what appeared to be a Chinese passport, attempting to understand what the man behind the counter was telling her. He was very apologetic in telling her that she didn't have the proper credentials, and that at this late date, there was virtually no way she was going to get them. She stepped back away from the counter as a young man nearby attempted to translate for her. Her hands were trembling, but she didn't really seem to understand what was happening.

How horrific must that have been for her? She had traveled halfway around the world to report on a historically significant event, only to be stopped a few miles from her goal. I know the man behind the counter felt bad for her. I felt bad for her, too. Certainly her boss would not be happy. A few minutes later I was given my credentials so I don't know what happened to her, but I'm fairly certain she didn't get to see Atlantis launch from the press site two days later.

In late May, I completed the application for press credentials to cover the launch. I hit submit on the application form and almost immediately received an automated email saying my request had been received. Then I waited — and waited some more. After nearly two weeks, the press releases touting media events surrounding Atlantis started to arrive and I started getting



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

An on-air reporter from a television station in Finland can't help but to turn away from the camera to watch Atlantis streak into the sky.

worried. I knew there would be a crush of media applications for this, the final shuttle launch, and the application process wasn't simple. Each applicant would have a background check, along with checks to make certain they were legitimate journalists. Finally the email arrived. I was granted access for the entire STS-135 Atlantis mission.

For me, that's when the insanity began. I took stock of my photo equipment and decided I needed more. I looked at new camera bodies and lenses — all very expensive stuff — and a little voice in the back of my mind said, "Remember, this is history. Do it! Do it right!" Of course, I couldn't afford to do it all. With the arrival

of three or four UPS packages from photography shops along with the generous help of a good friend who is a very successful photographer, I collected what I thought I would need.

Two days before the scheduled launch of Atlantis, people were already camping out at Space View Park in Titusville. Chairs lined the park's waterfront — either chained to the rail or actually occupied by people waiting. It was hot and muggy. Certainly there was a sense of adventure for those people, but comfort could not have been part of it. The thunderstorms that arrived later couldn't have been much fun for them, either.

Titusville was a city of Porta-

Potties, television news trucks and space shuttles illustrated in various forms. The excitement in the air was so thick that it was visible. From church signs to junk yards, well wishes were cast to the crew of Atlantis. Even the room number placard on my hotel room door was decorated with a line drawing of a space shuttle. What will this city do once Atlantis returns to earth? Whom will they have to cheer? After Atlantis, Americans will have to hitch a ride on a Soyuz rocket — at a ticket price of \$63 million each. Kennedy Space Center's launch schedule has no further launches for astronauts. It may be years before it happens again.

The best attribute of my hotel was its proximity to Kennedy Space Center, beyond that it was a generic, run-of-the-mill place that, while clean, was not a place in which you would want to eat off the floor. I had no expectation of accidentally bumping into Brian Williams or Anderson Cooper there. Two nights before the launch, my room rate was \$60. The next night and the night after that, the same room cost \$300. But I wasn't worried about the exorbitant rate because I wouldn't be paying it. By dawn the next morning, 30 hours before the scheduled lift-off, I arrived at the KSC press site, just three miles from the launch pad. I remained there until Atlantis lifted off.

Thursday was spent attending press events scheduled by NASA, two of which involved bomb-sniffing dogs. On one of those occasions, for a bus ride to the launch pad, rain came down in buckets just as hundreds of photographers, myself included, were told to lay our equipment on the ground in a straight line for the dogs to check out. We had to step back. Almost all of us used our umbrellas and rain jackets to protect our equipment rather than our bodies. We arrived at Launch Pad 39A soaking wet, but in awe of the amazing ship that stood before us. I knew that we would be among the last people to see it there, ready for flight.

I scouted locations to photograph the actual launch. My first choice of a spot, near a cluster of tripods left by other

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FISH TALES

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Rain came down in sheets this past week, but even though it was a bit rough out there, I heard good reports of fishing.

In between showers some anglers were zip-ping across the bay following the large flocks of birds.

Now you wonder, why were they chasing birds instead of fishing? The birds were chasing schools of amberjacks.

Most unusual was that the black tip shark were swimming along with the fish. Some call the black tip the spinning shark. Black tip and the spinner shark look alike, but the spinner grows larger than the black tip.

Circle hooks were used to cast ahead of the amberjack schools. Many lines have been sheared from casting into these moving schools. Once you have mastered the art of catching them, you will be 'hooked' and continue your chase on amberjacks.

Some catches were kept, but most caught and released. The food value is fair. This dark meat fish is often smoked. Average weight is 18 lbs., but those in schools skipping across the bay this week were giants. Anglers were having such a great time with the amberjack that they spent their entire day on the chase.

I hope that all boats were looking out for the manatees as our waterways are teeming with them in this warm weather. I often remind you to mind your manatee manners: Please resist the urge to feed them; look, but don't touch them when swimming or diving; practice 'passive observation;' and observe them from a distance. Look out below, as that is where manatees go. They are protected by law, as of Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and Endangered Species Act of 1973, which makes it illegal to harass, hunt, kill or capture them. In 1978 came the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act which one can't alter their behavior.

Fishing has been good, the weather beautiful -- it just can't get much better. Yes, I did have a few wet days catching fish. Some were complaining about the rain we had, but aren't you glad that you are living in Florida, the fishing capital of the world?

You can have an entire library on how to set a hook, how to land a fish, how to catch a snook, how to throw a cast net, how to use the right reel, what kind of a rod to use, having the right boat, how to night fish, how to fish in salt and fresh waters, the list goes on and on, but I say throw all of those books aside.

Get out there and figure out yourself, what is best for you. Practice, have patience, try various artificial baits, plugs, and fresh baits. Do it your way!! AND YOU WILL BE A GREAT ANGLER.



If you have a small boat that cannot go out in the bay waters, keep a horn of some type aboard which can be sounded in distress. Some have whistles, some flares -- you need a cell phone. Without all of the modern technology, you

need to have safety equipment aboard. If your boat overturns, keep afloat with your cooler. Of course it is a law, wear a life jacket.

Those with larger crafts are enjoying the big gamefish catches without going south to Key West, Boca Grande, or South America. The 'Fish Tales' of the week from the captains are we have all of those game

fish right here in Tampa Bay. About twenty miles out are the sailfish flying along; the tarpon are plentiful; the dolphin are beautiful. Among the bay catches are the mighty cobia, which will always give you a workout.

If you are fishing from your pier, you are catching sheepshead, whiting, or silver trout. All are edible. You are saving gas and enjoying our Florida living.

Save gas, save travel, take the family, and fish our local parks. Our waterways are full of fish. It is said that one should eat at least three meals a week of fish. What better way to get your own fish than in your own backyard? We are the fishing capital of the world.

Aleta Jonie Maschek is a member of Florida Outdoor Press.



Fish Tales
By Jonie Maschek

Neighborhood mini grants available

Neighborhood associations located in Hillsborough County and the cities of Tampa, Temple Terrace and Plant City can now apply for 2012 mini-grants up to \$2,500 to improve and strengthen their communities. The County's Office of Neighborhood Relations is accepting applications through Friday, Aug. 12 at 5 p.m.

In the past, grant-funded projects have included playground equipment, community festivals, shrub and flower beautification projects, crime watch programs, websites, newsletters, and children's programs.

Applications for the mini-grants are available on the County's website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr/minigrant.

Association representatives applying for the grants must view the mandatory mini-grant orientation video before submitting the application. No applications will be accepted without the Training Video Verification Form acknowledging that it was viewed. The video reviews the application, grant criteria, projects that qualify for the mini-grant, and the scoring process. The video and the Training Video Verification Form are available on the County's website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr/minigrant.

Applicants can fill out the verification form and then click send

to submit it electronically to the County before completing their application.

Applications will be reviewed by the Neighborhood Mini-Grant Evaluation Committee and approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Only one grant will be awarded per neighborhood association.

Completed applications will be due on/or postmarked on Aug.

12, 2011. Completed applications may be mailed to Office of Neighborhood Relations, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 1st Floor, Tampa, FL 33602, or faxed to 276-2621.

The program is co-sponsored by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, Hillsborough County Children's Board and the Frank E. Duckwall Foundation within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay.

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

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



REMY

Remy is a black female domestic shorthair 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. Remy's sister is Victoria, who was adopted from C.A.R.E. a short while ago. Remy has been spayed, microchipped, and brought current on her shots. DOB: Feb. 2010



LILLY

Lilly is a lovely Dachshund mix that was found as a stray and brought to the shelter. This little gal is a happy-go-lucky dog that just needs a little TLC and a place to call home. Lilly loves people and will gladly take her place in your lap if invited. She also likes exploring in the play yard. Lilly walks nicely on a leash and appears to be housebroken. As part of her adoption, Lilly will be spayed, microchipped, treated for heartworm, and brought current on her shots. DOB: Jan. 2, 2009



South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 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 Friday: Seafood and Sandwiches for all Elks and their guests from 5 to 7 p.m. Karaoke by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.

Sunday, July 10, July 24, July 31: Rays Games, Wieners and Wings will be served.

Saturday, July 30: Cyndi Burger -- One Girl Band, from 7 to 10 p.m. \$6 with light snacks.

Sunday, Aug. 28: Boom Ba.

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Reporting on history

Continued from page 17

photographers staking out their own spots, proved to be a bust. A network television crew began to set up directly behind my place-holding tripod; they told me that I would be blocking their cameras and would have to move. Sure, I could have told them tough luck and held my ground, but I prefer the view from the high road so I picked up my tripod and found another location. The new place was lower and closer to KSC's iconic countdown clock and carried the risk of being blocked should a crowd form in front of me. Other photographers told me that the area usually remains clear for all of the cameras.

For two days prior to launch, NASA meteorologists predicted there would be a 70 percent chance that the weather would be unfavorable for lift off. The thunderstorms during the day, along with a heavy layer of clouds into the night only reaffirmed that prediction. As I settled into the front seat of my car for a few hours of sleep, still wet from the rain and dripping sweat from the heat and humidity that lingered into the night hours, I tried to brace myself for more of the same should the launch be scrubbed. I would not even have time to check into a motel, let alone to return to the Tampa Bay area, should the launch be scrubbed, so I had no choice but to stay. While restrooms were available, showers were not; and I harbored no illusion that CNN or CBS would invite me into their elaborate and very comfortable-looking RVs to freshen up.

A few hours later, just before dawn on Friday, I began to lug my equipment to the spot staked out by my tripod. In all, I would have four still cameras pointed towards the launch pad, along with one HD video camera. Between the tripods, lenses, cameras and a host of other accessories, more than 100 pounds of gear was put into place for a launch that NASA was still saying probably wouldn't happen. But as the morning progressed, the iconic clock in front of me kept counting down. As the clock counted down, I nervously chatted with the photographers alongside of me, including a cameraman and on-air personality from Finland's largest television network. The clouds above began to clear slightly while the anticipation intensified.

At 10 minutes before the launch, for the 100th time, I checked my cameras. The blast would throw off auto exposure settings, so both shutter speed and exposure had to be set manually. The speed of the shuttle itself would throw off the autofocus features, so the focus, too, was set manually. The countdown clock continued winding down while my heart rate increased. I worried that everything was set correctly.

And then, the countdown clock stopped at 31 seconds. At that point, someone walked directly into the path of my long lenses and said, "Well,

that's a scrub."

He could not have been more wrong.

I had heard that one of the downsides of being at the press site is that no one cheers, unlike the crowds in the parks around Titusville. At the press site, there was an audible groan when the countdown clock stopped at T-31 seconds. Like me, many members of the press had been on site for 30 or more hours. Everyone had been rained on and mosquito-bitten; they were worn out from lugging heavy camera gear and were just plain tired. To a person, everyone thought first of the safety of the astronauts, but after that, most thought next of a shower and a comfortable bed.

The groans turned to cheers when the clock started again a few moments later. The cheers grew louder as smoke began to shoot out from the launch pad. Even the on-air television reporters broadcasting live could not help but to shout and applaud as Atlantis streaked into the sky.

I expected to feel the initial blast instantly, but the shuttle was already in the air as the first wave of sound hit me. It was so powerful I could feel my clothes moving. I didn't really get a chance to see the big picture of the launch. I saw short pieces of it through a 600mm lens. But I felt it. It felt amazing.

More than an hour after the launch, the news center at the press site was packed. Long rows of desks were already taken so I found a place on the floor, next to a journalist from South America. Wait! It looked like the guy from CNN, sitting at a desk nearby, was going to leave. I could take his place! But no, he lingered. There was such an enormous rush of adrenaline within the span of a few seconds that, almost two hours later, most people were still processing it. It can't be over yet, right? There is still stuff going on! By that time, Atlantis was already in space and the estimated million people who turned out for the launch were idling in traffic jams. Yet at the news center, no one seemed to want to leave while the adrenaline was still flowing.

Three hours after the launch and 33 hours after arriving at the space center, I finally got in my car for the drive home. The roads were still jammed all the way to Orlando. I was exhausted but wide-awake. I spent the hours in traffic reflecting on what had just happened. I had just witnessed history and felt privileged to have done so. I said a silent prayer for the crew of Atlantis and for everyone involved with the mission and then thought about the woman from China. I hoped she was OK.

For more photos and launch video of Atlantis, visit us online at www.observernews.net.

For more information about STS-135, visit NASA at www.nasa.gov/shuttle

For a live video feed of the mission, visit www.nasa.gov/multimedia/nasatv



The crowd in front of NASA's iconic countdown clock cheers as Atlantis roars into space.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

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NCWS makes patriotic contribution

Phyllis Butner, pianist, left, and Ev Villa, liturgist, right, present checks from the Nondenominational Christian Worship Services to Uta Kuhn, President of the Patriots Club of SCC. The donation of \$1,477 was given from love offerings for the month of June. Uta Kuhn said, "The donation from NCWS will help to fund the installation and removal of and replacement of faded and tattered flags. It will also help the Patriots Club to expand its projects in order to promote patriotism in our community. We are very thankful and grateful to NCWS for their continued support to this worthy project."

Vacation Bible School at Northside Baptist Church to begin July 18

The Big Apple Adventure: Where Faith and Life Connect! Get your bags packed! You're going to the big city! This trip is sure to be full of fun adventures, all enjoyed while learning some amazing truths about Jesus! So dust off your camera, fill up your gas tank, and load up your car! Enjoy a week of adventure at Northside Baptist Church! Vacation Bible School will be held July 18-22 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Ages: Completed Kindergarten – Adults. Light snacks will be provided. Pre-register online at www.nbcor.org pre-registration is encouraged but not required. Northside Baptist Church is located at 1301 US Hwy. 41 N. Ruskin. For more information call 813- 645-1121.



United Community sponsors summer "Christmas" Carla Miles, President of The Hope Fund for the Children in Wimau-ma, puts the finishing touches on the Christmas in July display, which is the Mission of the Month for United Community Church. The Church has sponsored the Christmas in July fundraiser for more than 10 years. The Hope Fund provides scholarships, educational and cultural opportunities for children age six to 12 in Wimau-ma's after-school program.

Vacation Bible School to be held at St. John the Divine

Vacation Bible School at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church is as follows: August 1-5 for children 5-11 years old will be held at the Ruskin campus, 705 9th St, SE. from 5:45 - 8:45 p.m. There is no charge for VBS and it is for all the children in the community.

At PandaMania VBS, children will explore a bamboo forest full of fun-loving pandas as Psalm 139 comes to life!

PandaMania begins with dinner. The children enjoy Bible stories, crafts, video visits from Chad-der Chipmunk, catchy songs, and games. They share God Sightings and decorate "Jesus Loves Me" backpacks for homeless children the South Shore area.

Youth Group Program: for youth entering 6th Grade and higher, is held at the Sun City Center Cam-pus, 1015 Del Webb Blvd Aug. 1-5, from 6-8:30 p.m. This program begins with dinner and in-

cludes games, singing, Bible lessons, crafts, and Prayer and Share time.

For further information or to register for either program, call the church at 645-1521.

Lutheran youth to hold dinner theater

The Journey, the senior high and middle school youth of Calvary Lutheran Church, will be presenting a dinner theater Friday, July 29 and Saturday, July 30 in the church Fellowship Hall, located on US 41 N., between Apollo Beach and Ruskin, across from Mira Bay.

The two act comedy, "Murder

Me Always," is by Play Dead Murder Mysteries, a company that specializes in murder mystery scripts. "Murder Me Always" features a group putting on a play when one of the actors is shot. The remaining actors become the suspects.

The dinner, with the main course being spaghetti, will begin at 7 p.m.

There will be a Silent Auction with many items including some trips will be featured. Proceeds from the event will be used to send the youth to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next year.

For more information or to buy tickets call Jordan Palzer at the church office, 813-645-1305.

Sound of the Shofar to meet

Sound the Shofar will meet July 17, 2011 in the South Shore Library at 2 p.m. The address of the Library is 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin.

Pastor David Jones of Ruach Ministries in Brandon will speak on "Teaching Torah from a Mes-sianic Perspective."

For more information, call Pas-tor Jones at 477-1517. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Craft show

Crafters are needed for a craft show at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City Center on Oc-tober 21 and 22, 2011. Call Lynn at 941-723-8431 for more infor-mation and an application.

Christmas in July

Christmas in July will be cele-brated July 20 at Calvary Lutheran Church, located on US 41 N. be-tween Apollo Beach and Ruskin, across from Mira Bay. The annual event will include a turkey and all the trimmings dinner at 6 p.m. for \$7 a person, or \$25 for a family of parent(s) and pre-adult children. A special jolly man on vacation from the North Pole will stop by for a visit. The Christmas worship service will follow at 7 p.m. with carols, lessons and candle light-ing.

A freewill offering will be ac-cepted for the Mary and Martha House in Ruskin, a home for bat-tered and abused women and chil-dren. Thrivent Financial services for Lutherans will match funds received.

Everyone is asked to bring un-wrapped "Back to School" items to place under the Christmas tree. These items will be donated to several area schools and teachers. Suggestions include, but aren't limited to backpacks, notebooks, pens pencils, paper, highlighters, scissors, binders, erasers, folders, markers and rulers.

Everyone is welcome to partici-pate. Dinner reservations must be made no later than July 18 by con-tacting the church office at 645-1305. If you are unable to attend, but would like to make a monetary donation or that of school supplies, the church office is open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m..

Area Places of Worship

Welcome to the: EVERETT TATE, MINISTER
South Hillsborough Church of Christ
 1611 First St. SW • Ruskin, FL • 645-7607
 —NON-INSTRUMENTAL—
 SERVICES: Sunday.....9:30 & 10:30 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH-ELCA
 701 Valley Forge Blvd., Sun City Center, FL 33573-5354
Rev. Dr. Peter Stiller, Pastor • 634-1292
 Saturday Worship: 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.
 Holy Communion....First & Third Sunday • Bible Class...Thursday 10 am, Guests Welcome

Friendship Baptist Church
 Rance Good, Pastor (Southern Baptist)
 1511 El Rancho Dr.
 Sun City Center, FL 33573
 Phone/Fax: 813-633-5950

WEEKLY SERVICES:
Sunday
 9 a.m. Bible Study
 11 a.m. Bible Study
 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Worship
Wednesday
 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

Ruskin United Methodist Church
 First Street & 4th Ave. NW, Ruskin (behind Suntrust Bank)
ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND WORSHIP WITH US:
SUNDAY MORNINGS: Nov. - April..... 8:30 a.m. Day Care Available
 and All Year..... 10:45 a.m. Mon. - Fri.
 Rev. Dr. Hank Galloway Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Phone: 645-1241 call 645-6198

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church
Growing by Faith from Generation to Generation
Rev. Tracy H. Wilder • Church Office: 813-645-1521
Sunday Services: 9:00 a.m. - Contemporary Service and Sunday School
 at West Campus (S.R. 674 and 9th Street SE, Ruskin)
 8:00 a.m. - Traditional Service and 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion with Choir at
 East Campus (1015 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center)
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 (across from MiraBay) www.calvarylutheranchurch.net 645-1305

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"Getting to Know You" (Donuts & Coffee)9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School9:30 a.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship10:55 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Evening Service7:00 p.m.
 Thursday Morning Prayer.....10:00 a.m.

Dan Collis, Pastor
Come join us to learn about God's Word and salvation in Jesus Christ

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 1210 Del Webb Blvd West • 634-2539
<http://www.sccumc.com>

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 The United Methodist Church
 Serving South Hillsborough County

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 Saturday
 4:00 PM Creason Hall (Casual Service)
 Sunday
 8:15 AM Sanctuary (Communion Service)
 9:15 AM Creason Hall (Oasis Contemporary)
 10:55 AM Sanctuary (Traditional with Choir & Bells)

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 Morning Worship.....8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
 Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Night Service.....7:00 p.m.
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Area Places of Worship

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

702 Valley Forge Blvd., SCC, FL 33573
Phone: 634-2328 • Fax: 633-6670
www.popcc.org



Masses:
Sunday..... 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon
Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m.
Daily..... 8:00 a.m.
Confessions:
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. and Sat. 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

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Sunday School (all ages)..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday (all ages) 6:30 p.m.

Rev. Samuel Roach, Pastor

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*Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
Sunday Evening 6:00 P.M.
Mid-Week (Wed.) 7:00 P.M.

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First Church of Christ, Scientist

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Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Service 5:00 p.m.

Reading Room..... Wed. 4-4:45 p.m. • Sat. 1-4 p.m.

All Are Welcome



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Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.

Casual Service 11:00 a.m.

Prayers with anointing for healing and wholeness during worship the second Sunday of every month.

Pastor: Dr. Gerald Iwerks

Meet friends in Fellowship Hall after the Service.

Refreshments served.

1239 Del Webb Blvd. West
Sun City Center, FL 33573
Church is Handicap accessible

Phone: 813-634-1252
For Information visit:
www.standrewatssc.org

Saint Anne Catholic Church



Fr. John McEvoy
Pastor

813-645-1714

SaintAnneRuskin.org

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

MASSES

Vigil Mass..... Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Mass..... 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Contemporary)

Daily Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m.

Holy Days Contact Parish Office for Schedule

Español Domingo - 12:30 p.m.; Miercoles 7:30 p.m.

Confession..... Wednesday 6:45 p.m.; Saturday 3:45 p.m.

Area Obituaries



Donald Edward Everhart

Donald Edward Everhart born March 14, 1928, passed away June 30, 2011. He attended school in Tecumseh, MI, and college at MI Tech. He served in the USAF during the Korean War. He married Selma (Sally) Cole, Nov. 5, 1950. He worked for Tecumseh Products Co. and retired as Plant Engineer in Somerset, KY after 39 years. He was Pres. of Resource Realty Co., affiliated with Tecumseh Chieftains Club, Director of Foreman's Club, Scout leader for Explorers, member of KY Beekeepers Assoc., Commander of Post #38 in Somerset, and member of American Society of Heating & Air Conditioning Engineers. Don was appointed to the Advisory Council for Somerset Humana Regional Hosp. He was a selfless advocate for children and senior citizens. He was a foster parent for children of Oakwood, a volunteer with Parker Mill Fire Dept., was Pres. of Somerset Kiwanis, honored with outstanding leadership award, Lt. Gov. of KY-TN Kiwanis International. In Ruskin he volunteered for Meals On Wheels and was involved with the Senior Center. He enjoyed vacationing in other countries and his summer home on the lake where he could water ski and fish with family and friends. He has two children, Robert and Carolyn, grandchildren Nadia and Jason, and great-grandchildren Jeremy and Olivia. Donald had a severe stroke in 2000, heart attack and cancer later. Sally was constantly at his side to encourage him and make life more fulfilling. Special thanks to Dr. Jason Stibich and Ray Winder.



Bill Herzberg

Bill Herzberg, of Sun City Center, entered the Gates of Heaven on Thursday, July 7, 2011. The family is sure he was met with much rejoicing by his parents and loved ones. Bill is survived by his wife of 45 years, Pat; son, Randy and daughter, Barb; sister, Betty Lou Jorden of Dallas Texas and grandchildren Dylan and Breianne.

Bill was born in Davenport, Iowa and during his lifetime lived in Bettendorf, Iowa and Fort Myers, Florida.

Private memorial services were held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to LifePath Hospice, 3725 Upper Creek Dr, Ruskin, Florida 33573.

Hutton

Richard H. Hutton, 80, passed away July 2, 2011 at his home in Ruskin. He is survived by his bride of 55 years, Betty (Pooh Bear); children: Gary Lane, Chuck Hunt, Conrad Hutton, Cindy Palmer, Sandy Thornton and Cathy Ramos; 12 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by son, Scott Hutton; granddaughter, Sara Palmer.

Arrangements by Zipperer's Funeral Home, Ruskin.

Alice Koproski

Alice Clara (Bancer) Koproski of Sun City Center, Fla., died July 4, 2011. She was born November 7, 1922 in Toledo, OH. In 1943 she married her husband, Paul (deceased). They had 2 children: Ron (Nancy) Koproski of Ashtabula, OH and Deb (Mike) Kosko of Mattawan, MI. Because of Paul's occupation, they lived in Toledo, Lima, Cincinnati and Troy, OH as well as Oshkosh, WI before retiring to Sun City Center, FL. After Paul passed in 1989, Alice continued to make her home in FL. Alice was making a move to live with Deb and Mike to be closer to her children, grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She was to begin a new life in Michigan on June 24. A different plan was in the works as Alice was taken directly to Bronson Hospital from the airport. She had her wish and was able to spend time with each of her children and grandchildren before her death. Alice will be remembered for her work ethic, family dedication and volunteer work with the St. Vincent DePaul Society. She was a faithful member of Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City Center and looking forward to becoming a parishioner of St. Catherine of Siena in Portage, MI. Her love and spirit will live on in the hearts of her children, grandchildren: Steve (Elizabeth), Scott (Amy), Kerry Koproski and Mike, Matt, Nick and Katie Kosko. Her final resting place will be next to her husband. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Julie (Wyrembek) Bancer; her sister, Eleanor; and her brothers: Walter and Leonard all of Toledo.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday, July 8, at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church. Her family received friends one hour prior to the mass. Following the mass, food and fellowship was shared in the Life Story Center at the Life Story Funeral Homes, Betzler - Kalamazoo, MI; (800) 822-7594. Burial took place at Calvary Cemetery, Toledo, OH, on Monday, July 11, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the St. Vincent DePaul Society, 1311 3rd Street, NE; Ruskin, FL 33570 or to Rose Arbor Hospice, 5473 Croyden Avenue; Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Please visit Alice's personal web page at www.lifestorynet.com, where you can archive a favorite memory or photo and sign her online guestbook.

Holley Russ

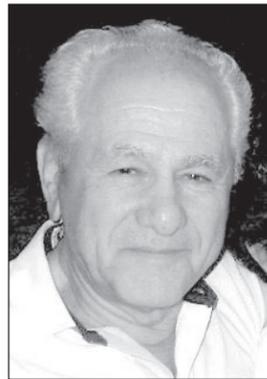
Holley Russ of Ruskin passed away on Wednesday, July 6. She was survived by her daughter, Jeanie, and three grandchildren, her brother and sisters, Wayne, Sally and Pam and many nieces and nephews. Services will be announced to family members.

...It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. — Matthew 4:4 NIV

Albert James Rothe

Albert James Rothe, 91, passed away June 29 at Woodside Hospice, Pinellas Park, Fla. He was born in Flint, Mich., where he met his wife, Bertha. He was employed at the family dairy farm and later worked at Buick Motor Company. In 1956, the family moved to Mansfield, Ohio, where he worked as a supervisor at the General Motors stamping plant until his retirement in 1980. In 1981, he moved to Sun City Center, Fla., where he was a member and avid golfer at the Caloosa Golf and Country Club. In 2010, he moved to Largo, Fla. During his retirement, he and his wife enjoyed many travels, including a trip to his father's native New Zealand. He was pre-deceased by Bertha Morrish Rothe, his wife of 65 years, and three brothers; Leo, Thomas, and Robert. He is survived by four children: Alberta J. (Gary) Bradrick of Mansfield, Ohio; Thomas E. (Hilda) Rothe of Westerville, Ohio; Joy A. Rothe of Mansfield, Ohio; and William J. (Gail Elder) Rothe of Clearwater, Fla. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and ten great grandchildren as well as many nephews and nieces.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 16 at 2 p.m. at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center, Fla. Place of final rest will be the Garden at St. Andrew's Church. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the Sun City Center Emergency Squad, 720 Ray Watson Drive, Sun City Center, FL 33573, in his name, would be appreciated.



Joseph Vinci, Jr.

Feb. 8, 1925 - July 8, 2011

Joseph Vinci, Jr., 86, of Sun City Center, Florida, formerly of North Haven, Connecticut, was born in Bernice (Mildred), Pennsylvania. He was the son of Josephine Monde Vinci and Joseph Vinci, Sr., originally of Mistretta, Messina, Sicily.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps, serving in the 4th Division as a Corporal, stationed in the Mariana Islands and Saipan during World War II.

Joseph worked most of his career at Geometric Tool Company, New Haven, Connecticut and retired after 36 years of service.

His best enjoyment came from his wife, family, friends, dancing, laughter, a good joke, golf and as a volunteer at South Bay Hospital. He was a member of the Falcon Watch Golf Club, the Americans of Italian Heritage and Prince of Peace Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife Mary Ann, four daughters; Catherine Vinci Germar (Edward) of New London, New Hampshire; Janice Vinci of Laguna Beach, California; Mary Ellen DeRosa of Orange, Connecticut; Angela Vinci of Aliso Viejo, California; four grandchildren; August Germar, Michael and Mariana Vinci Germar, and Shelby DeRosa; his sisters Mary Tramantano, Madeline Tramantano, Grace St. John (Wint) and many loving nieces, nephews and in-laws. He was predeceased by his parents, brother Salvatore (Norman) Vinci and his sister Josephine Beach.

A Memorial Service will be held Friday, July 15, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. at Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 702 Valley Forge Boulevard, Sun City Center.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in memory of Joseph Vinci to Life Path Hospice, 2723 Upper Creek Drive, Ruskin, Florida 33573.



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Palmetto High School veterinary assisting class springs to the rescue

An unexpected situation tested the skills and commitment of Mrs. Julie Tillett's Vet Assisting classes. In late March, five puppies were found abandoned by their mother shortly after birth, these puppies were adopted by FFA students and cared for over the past two months. At first students were required to bottle feed the puppies every two hours. As their eyes opened and weeks passed, students were able to return to normal sleeping patterns. Each day students would show up at school in the morning with text books in one hand and pet carrier in the other.



The class provided a "Puppy Day Care" for the young puppies throughout the balance of the school year. Theuli Vet Assisting classes provided the initial inoculation and worming. The puppies provided a hands-on opportunity for students to practice the skills required to work in a Veterinarian's office. All of Mrs. Tillett's students worked

with each of the puppies, not just the adopted parents. "It was really a lot of fun and we learned a lot from the experience," said Kristin Hutton, a junior.

As students prepare to leave school

for the summer five students will leave with their summer projects at the end of a leash. Mrs. Tillett said, "The dogs will be invited back from time to time next year for a "puppy reunion."

Neighborhood mini grants available

Neighborhood associations located in Hillsborough County and the cities of Tampa, Temple Terrace and Plant City can now apply for 2012 mini-grants up to \$2,500 to improve and strengthen their communities. The County's Office of Neighborhood Relations is accepting applications through Friday, Aug. 12 at 5 p.m.

In the past, grant-funded projects have included playground equipment, community festivals, shrub and flower beautification projects, crime watch programs, websites, newsletters, and children's programs. Applications for the mini-grants are available on the County's website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr/minigrant.

Association representatives applying for the grants must view the mandatory mini-grant orientation video before submitting the application. No applications will be accepted without the Training Video Verification Form acknowledging that it was viewed. The video reviews the application, grant criteria, projects that qualify for the mini-grant, and the scoring process. The video and the Training Video Verification Form are available on the County's website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr/minigrant.

Applicants can fill out the veri-

What caregivers need to know

The USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute is sponsoring a free community program, 'Alzheimer's Disease: What Caregivers Need to Know' on Tuesday, July 26 at the Windsor of Lakewood Ranch, 8220 Natures Way in Bradenton.

The program is designed for individuals caring for a family member or friend with Alzheimer's disease. Topics will include Understanding Alzheimer's Disease, Progress in Treatment, Communication Strategies, Managing Troublesome Behaviors and more. Whether you have just received the diagnosis or have been a caregiver for many years, this will be a day well spent. The program is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and lunch will be provided by Windsor of Lakewood Ranch.

There is no charge, but advanced registration is requested to reserve a seat. For more information or to register, call (813) 974-4355 or toll free in Florida (800) 633-4563.

fication form and then click send to submit it electronically to the County before completing their application.

Applications will be reviewed by the Neighborhood Mini-Grant Evaluation Committee and approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Only one grant will be awarded per neighborhood association.

Completed applications will be due on/or postmarked on August 12, 2011. Completed applications may be mailed to Office of Neighborhood Relations, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 1st Floor, Tampa, FL 33602, or faxed to (813) 276-2621.

The program is co-sponsored by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, Hillsborough County Children's Board and the Frank E. Duckwall Foundation within the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay.

County to hold second budget hearing

Hillsborough County will hold its second budget hearing which is open to the public at 6 p.m. Thurs., July 21. Speaker sign-up is at 5:30 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Florida Fairgrounds Special Event Center West, 4800 U.S. 301 N., Tampa. Use the Martin Luther King Boulevard entrance. Parking is free to attendees.

This is part of a series of public hearings to receive input on its upcoming two-year budget cycle (FY2012/2013).

Information and instructions for all comment options, a link to the dates of the budget hearings and workshops, and a link to the proposed budget document in its entirety are available on the County's Web site at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/budgetmatters/

E.G. Simmons Park events publicized

Hillsborough County has an abundance of Regional Parks to discover, explore and enjoy during July, National Park and Recreation Month. This week's featured park is E.G. Simmons Regional Park, 2401 19th Ave. N.W. in Ruskin.

E.G. Simmons Park, located only three miles north of Ruskin, has been a popular area for outdoor enthusiasts since the mid-1960s. The Park was developed from 258 acres of native mangroves and open land areas, intertwined with waterways. An additional 200 acres of mangrove swamp has been preserved as a bird and wildlife sanctuary.

Undoubtedly, the most popular features of the park are the picnic areas and campground, which boasts beautiful waterfront views. E.G. Simmons Park has 87 individual camp sites and one group site. Bird watching in the shallow waters and surrounding mangroves are also a popular pastime of park visitors.

A public beach provides visitors with a perfect setting for sunbathing and swimming, while a boat launch provides access for saltwater fishing and boating. The park also offers fishing piers and areas for bank fishing.

Hours in the spring and summer are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and in the fall and winter are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fees for entry are \$2 per vehicle carrying up to eight people and \$1

each additional person.

There is an annual entrance pass available for \$50 individual, \$100 family; boat launch is \$5 per boat. An annual boat launch pass is \$100.

Camping fees are \$24 per night, \$18 per night for seniors. Camping is on a first come, first served basis. Reservations are not accepted, and campers must register with the office before taking a campsite.

Canoe/Kayak Rental - \$25 for four hours.

Shelter Rental is \$40 per day for small; medium is \$70 per day and large is \$125 per day.

The extra large shelter is \$225 per day.

Activities and features are: a beach volleyball court, boat ramp, camping, canoe launch, canoe rentals, electrical hookups for camping, fishing, grills, hiking, picnic tables, playground, potable water, restrooms with hot and cold showers near camp sites, RV/camper sewage dump stations, swimming, and waterfront camping sites.

E.G. Simmons Regional Park is an excellent place to have a good time on a tight budget and escape summer crowds. View E.G. Simmons Regional Park photos on Facebook at HillsboroughFL.

For more information on E. G. Simmons Park, call (813) 671-7655; to rent a shelter, call (813) 931-RENT.

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714 Bunkerview Dr., Apollo Beach. Saturday, July 16, 7am-2pm. Clothes, children's, books, boys toys, I-pods, cell phones, electronics, furniture.

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TSS Youth Sailing offers fun and learning on the water

■ By PAT AUSTIN

President, TSS Youth Sailing

APOLLO BEACH — Young sailors, ages 7 to 17, are enjoying sailing classes by TSS Youth Sailing, Inc., in beautiful Bal Harbor, at 1250 Apollo Beach Blvd., in Apollo Beach.

In TSS Youth Sailing's sailing classes and racing clinics, young sailors are learning the basics of sailing, intermediate sailors are improving their sailing skills and advanced sailors are learning to compete in sailboat races.

Sailing classes are Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., during the weeks of July 18, and 25, and weeks of August 1 and 8.

Racing clinics are on Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon until the Joey Meyer Regatta, an annual event of sailboat races, on August 27.

From the first day, young sailors are on the water, sailing in small boats, having fun and learning the ropes in a safe, organized program of sailing activities. They are rigging, launching, sailing and landing a pram or Sunfish, understanding wind direction, steering and points of sail to maneuver the boat upwind (tacking) and downwind (jibing).

Intermediate and advanced students are sharpening their skills for enhanced performance. All graduating students are invited to race in the Joey Meyer Regatta at the end of the season.

TSS Youth Sailing's instructors are certified to teach by U.S. Sailing, the national sailing authority, and they are also certified for CPR, First Aid and boating safety. Class size is limited for safety and personal attention.

TSS Youth Sailing is hosted by

Tampa Sailing Squadron, a sailing club. Tampa Sailing Squadron welcomes new members. Visit TSS at 1250 Apollo Beach Boulevard or their web-site at www.sail-tss.org. TSS also sponsors Sea Scout Ship 185, a year 'round coed program for ages 14 - 20, with a focus on

boating and sailing.

Visit TSS Youth Sailing's website, www.tssyouthsailing.org for more information about sailing and racing classes. TSS Youth Sailing, Inc., is a Florida nonprofit and federal 501(c)(3) educational organization.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Kids take part in the TSS Youth Sailing Racing Clinic at the Tampa Sailing Squadron in Apollo Beach on July 9, 2011.

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