

INSIDE:



Local graduate garners a full scholarship to the US Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. Read the full story on **page 19**



Vice President Spiro Agnew coined the phrase "Nattering nabobs of negativism" in 1970... it has never been more useful. See **page 11**

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# THE OBSERVER NEWS

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



STS-135 Atlantis crew members Commander Chris Ferguson, mission specialists Sandra Magnus and Rex Walheim and pilot Doug Hurley at a post-landing press conference.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Atlantis landed for the final time at Kennedy Space center at 5:57 a.m. on July 21. "Mission complete, Houston," commander Chris Ferguson radioed to Johnson Space Center in Houston.

## An era ends; the legacy endures

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN  
mitch@observernews.net

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

Exactly 42 years, seven hours and one minute from the moment astronaut Neil Armstrong's left boot first made contact with the surface of the Moon, the wheels of the Space Shuttle Atlantis stopped, ending America's longest running space program. After a journey of 5.5 million miles and 200 orbits of the Earth, Atlantis returned home to Kennedy Space Center (KSC)

early Thursday morning, ushering in the post-shuttle era in space exploration.

STS-135 Atlantis, the 135th and final space shuttle mission, was an unqualified success. The four astronauts on board, Commander Chris Ferguson, pilot Doug Hurley and mission specialists Sandy Magnus and Rex Walheim, all veterans of previous shuttle flights, docked with the International Space Station (ISS) to transfer more than 8,000 pounds of supplies and

spare parts, enough to stock the station for a year. The shuttle was the only space vehicle currently in existence that is capable of ferrying large cargo to the station.

On Tuesday, Atlantis undocked from the ISS beginning what could be described as an orbital

ballet performance to slow down and begin the descent back to Earth. Fittingly, the International Space Station was as visible as a bright star to the crowd gathered at the KSC runway control tower on Thursday about 10 minutes before the landing. At just over

three minutes remaining, twin sonic booms heralded the arrival of Atlantis. Then, in the pre-dawn darkness, Atlantis silently glided down the runway, coming to a stop at 5:57 a.m.

See **ATLANTIS**, page 28

## South County dogs are valued assets in local businesses

America's big dog shows don't have much on the canines of South County.

By MELODY JAMESON  
mj@observernews.net

Next up, ladies and gentlemen, it's the working class...here they come into the ring now: A Great Pyrenees who looks after a hundred-member family; a non-

judgmental Beagle who supports music students; a five-pound Shih Tzu mini who misses absolutely nothing in the vacuum store, and an English Bulldog with a no-nonsense appearance who keeps things properly lined up in an accounting firm.

Each of them is on the job every day, making appointed rounds, manning — or should we say "dogging" —

specific duty stations, making contributions to their respective businesses according to their individual capabilities.

Every one of them is valued far beyond money by their human companions.

And, incidentally, three of them are rescues; a fourth was considered the least of her litter.

But those not-so-good ole days are history now for Liam, the Great Pyrenees with free run of the Aston Gardens Assisted Living Facility adjacent to The Courtyards.

Liam had been roaming the streets of Bradenton when he was picked up by Manatee County's animal services personnel and was spotted there by humane society staff on the lookout for likely pets, notes Terri Ivey, an ALF staff member and now his chief caretaker. His condition was poor, his snowy

See **A DOG'S LIFE**, page 3



"My name is Diamond, dears, and sitting laps is something I absolutely do better than anyone else."

MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

## Residents encouraged to fill out online surveys before next planning meeting

By PENNY FLETCHER  
penny@observernews.net

RUSKIN — Ideas are starting to come forward at meetings concerning the new county-proposed overlay for properties with frontage along the 8-mile stretch of U.S. 41 between Big Bend Road and the Little Manatee River Bridge.

But they're really preliminary and are coming from a small committee of volunteers who have attended planning meetings.

All residents of Apollo Beach and Ruskin now have a chance to submit their views either by survey online or at a future planning meeting.

"Property and business owners who own along the roadway are especially encouraged to speak out," said county planner Jose Fernandez at a meeting at the

SouthShore Regional Library July 19.

Fernandez was one of five county staffers present at the meeting which was scheduled to get an idea of what residents and business owners want fronting U.S. 41 in their communities.

When asked to briefly explain the purpose of an "overlay" in an interview following the meeting, Fernandez said it is "a set of additional developmental standards for a certain area to achieve the community preferences and desires in a certain area."

The county has several overlay districts in effect now that have accomplished just that, he said.

"We want to make sure the public knows an overlay does not take away any existing property rights, uses, densities or intensities

See **US 41 OVERLAY**, page 6

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# Headlights and rain go together like coffee and cream

■ By MELODY JAMESON  
mj@observernews.net

**SUN CITY CENTER** – Turn on vehicle lights in the rain or get soaked – for more than \$100, that is.

This is the warning now being issued by Hillsborough County Sheriff's Deputies to South County drivers, particularly to those in the retirement community, as the 2011 sub-tropical rainy season gets underway.

Florida Statute, Section 316.217, subsection (1)(b), specifically requires that on any vehicle being operated in the state headlights must be displayed "during any rain, smoke, or fog." Deputy Rob Thornton pointed out this week.

Failure to comply with the statutory requirement can mean a ticket and the fine for the offense is \$104.00, he added.

Thornton, former community resource deputy in Sun City Center and temporarily spending more time in the community during the current short-term absence of CRD Chris Girard, told The Observer early in the week he has been alarmed by the number of SCC drivers seen on the roads during routine rain storms without vehicle headlights activated. The number is great enough, he added, that he has begun stopping the violating drivers he has observed during patrols in his HCSO cruiser through the community.

Many drivers he has spoken with said they believed their headlights were displayed because they assumed their vehicle's dashboard sensors had automatically switched the lamps on, the deputy noted. But, the fact is the sensor, triggered by ambient light through the windshield, may not activate when visually impairing rain begins to fall, he added. In other words, the law may kick in before the sensor does.

There are three possible ways to adequately light a moving modern vehicle, said Sonny Segovino, automotive electrical and electronics specialist with Hancock's Riverview Tire and Auto Service. Probably the two most commonly relied upon are the automatic method set in motion by the light-activated dashboard sensor and the constant lighting method activated day or night, regardless of conditions, when the ignition key starts the engine. The third method is a manual action intentionally undertaken by the driver and, once in times past, the only means of activating headlights, he added.

The automatic sensor process is multi-step and involves calibration, he added, with the dashboard mechanism triggering resistors in turn signaling the computer which sends a message via relay to the lights.

The calibration applied in the automatic systems may vary to a degree from maker to maker, Segovino suggested, a fact that could

account for headlights activated automatically in one vehicle before they are lighted in another vehicle even though both are exposed to the same conditions at the same time. That calibration is done in the factory, he noted, and cannot be changed by a mechanic.

To be safe and to avoid a penalty

for violation of state traffic law, Thornton said the best method to be employed by drivers during rain storms – or any other visually impairing event – is the manual approach.

A good rule of thumb, he added, is: "if you turn on your windshield wipers to clear the windshield of

rain, you need your headlights. Make it a practice under those conditions to reach down and turn on your lights. Then, you won't see my red lights or be looking at a \$104 ticket for an offense that could have been avoided with a single motion."

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# A dog's life

■ Continued from page 1

white coat matted and dirty, his general health in question as he fought a serious ear infection. What's more, he was down to 118 pounds - a low, unhealthy weight for a full grown specimen of the breed originally bred for rugged outdoor mountain work, she adds.

Impressed by his gentle nature and unwilling to consign him to euthanasia due to his condition and lack of claimants, humane society staffers wanted to take the big guy on. With a clean-up, regular meals, veterinary attention and a sheltered environment away from noisy, threatening traffic, in the company of other dogs and caring humans, they figured the extraordinary bulk of a Great Pyrenees would take shape again.

At about that same time, at the Aston Gardens ALF, a search was underway to replace Buttons, the house standard poodle, who had been reclaimed by a former owner. The most important specification: a big dog, tall enough to stand at wheelchair height.

Learning about Liam, ALF Director Michelle Orlando dispatched Candice Brown, a special needs nurse, to check out the four-year-old former stray who suddenly had two interested parties in his camp. "She took one look at Liam and knew he was the one," recalls Ivey. That was more than three years ago.

Today, a fully recovered Liam is

in command of the facility lobby, frequently found at his chosen duty station between the coffee table and the sofa in the living-room-like welcome area. From that vantage point, he has a clear and unobstructed view of the entry foyer, rising to greet - and inspect - all visitors, ready to determine friend or foe. Now at his normal weight - 155 pounds - with a massive head and a nose that knows, Liam's once over is not to be ignored.

But, that's to be expected of a "gentle giant" whose loyalty is to the 100 or so residents and patients who call the ALF home, says Ivey. He visits with many of them on a very regular basis, cadging the treats they carry for him as they get around the facility and sometimes accompanying her on rounds of the ALF's second floor, she adds. He also makes house calls in the special needs/Alzheimer's unit where his presence is a calming influence, coaxing patients to focus on stroking his broad back and lap-filling head.

Not long ago, Liam reached a new height. He has the distinction of being a beneficiary under a will, Ivey says. One of the facility's late residents included Liam as he devised his estate, leaving monies to fund the dog's medical/dental plan, provide food and other necessities.

After a day of greeting and fraternizing, comforting and

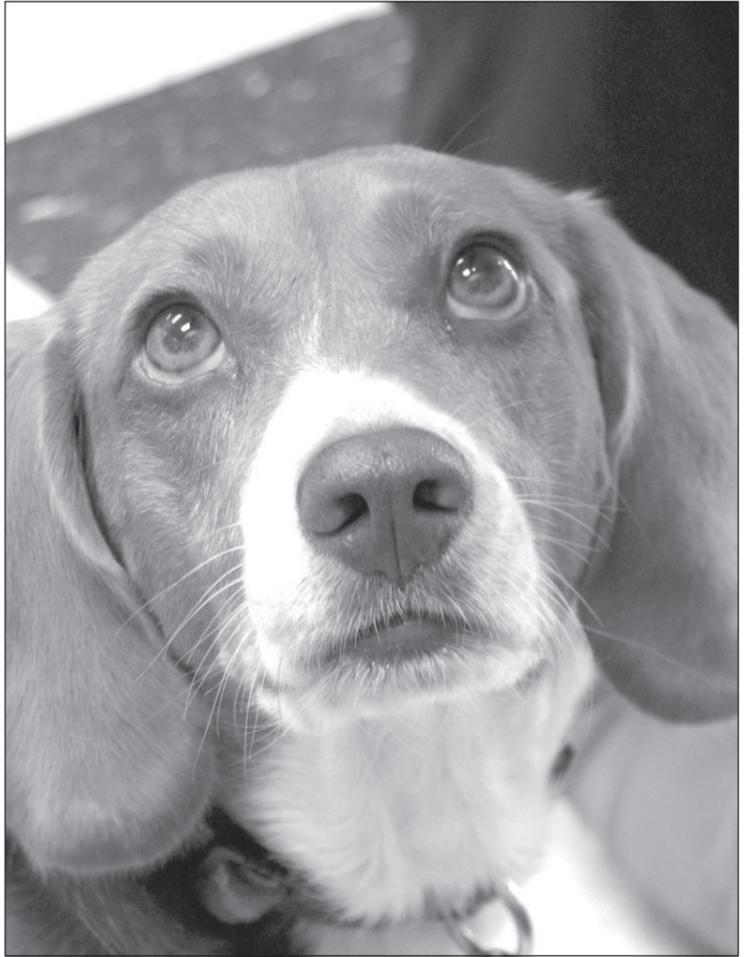
pleasing, Liam and Ivey meet at the front door for their evening walk around the complex. Frequently, she also will cater to one of his other favorite entertainments - a ride in her car - before he retires for the night in a facility office, preparing for yet another day on the job with people who consider him nothing less than family.

Amber, the Beagle, like Liam, stays with her humans through the night - just not at her workplace. She comes and goes each day with Steve and Ruth Downie, proprietors of Music Avenue in the Beall's shopping center.

The full-sized Beagle, named for her glowing eyes, wandered across the Downie's path - into their lives and then into their hearts - about 18 months ago, says Ruth. "We had been thinking about having a dog, but just hadn't done anything about it," she adds with the lilting British accent she brought from Shropshire. So, somehow Amber took care of it.

She now has charge of the store where the Downies give lessons on a variety of string, percussion and keyboard instruments, sell various instruments and also provide basic repair services. In fact, Steve asserts "If Amber had opposing thumbs she'd run the cash register, too." Lacking the thumbs, she, instead, serves as official greeter, meeting everyone coming through the door - adults and youngsters alike - with a warm canine welcome. "And, she makes the place homey," Ruth adds. "She's very definitely a people dog."

She's also a music aficionado, although it's not known whether that's an innate or an acquired trait. Affectionately called a "sound hound" by one Downie student,



"Got the amber eyes in focus yet? Quick, snap the pic, before I blink."

MELODY JAMESON PHOTOS



"So open the door awreddy! Ya want me ta do it? I can, y'know. I wanna ride...ride...ride...."

See A DOG'S LIFE, page 12

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## POSITIVE TALK

### Your life can make a difference

Have you ever wondered what difference you make in this world? Would it really matter whether you existed or not? Jimmy Stewart's character in the movie *It's A Wonderful Life*, ultimately came to the realization that his existence had made a difference. What about you?

There are many who will tell you that if you want to see how important you are and how hard it would be to replace you, simply put your finger in a bucket of water and then pull it out. The hole which remains in the water is the difference you would make if you left. Their theory is that everyone is expendable and everyone can be replaced. They are probably right, except that by replacing you, nothing will ever be the same. Your replacement won't be you with your unique talents and knowledge.

On the other hand, there is a group of people who believe that the smallest action on earth impacts all of us sooner or later. They believe that the fluttering of a butterfly in the Sahara desert causes wind movements that can multiply and become the hurricanes of the Caribbean. I don't believe this hypothesis is totally true, because energy has a finite life and will ultimately dissipate. It may or may not have any lasting effects.

The truth probably lies somewhere between the two theories.

We can be replaced, but we do make a difference. Our replacement may be good or bad, and the difference we make may be large or small. The change, however, will be apparent.

My inkjet printer is a great example of what happens when something leaves or in this case runs out. The printer contains a cartridge with four colors of ink: red, yellow, blue and black. From these, it creates the multiple colors of the rainbow by mixing them in exact proportions to create the specific hue. As long as they are all working, the picture is very life-like. But when one runs out, the colors shift dramatically. The loss of red may turn the color on the page from a regal purple to a dirty yellow-black. When the blue runs out, royal blue becomes a shocking pink on the page. With the printer, it is easy to see how important each color is to the overall design.

With people, it is not always easy to see. Also, the impact you are making may not be evident for many years. For example, teachers rarely get to see the results of their labor. The children leave school and move away. But I can tell you now that some of my teachers will always be with me and they are continuing to make a difference in my life.

There was a young man who came to my aid in the middle of the night in rural Georgia when my car

broke down. He didn't have much, but he was generous with his help and taught me that it doesn't matter how much you have but how you use it that counts. Today, whenever I stop to help someone, I think of that young man. He doesn't know it, but he is still making a difference.

If you look at your life and come to the conclusion that if you were not here, no one would miss you, I'd bet that you are wrong. But let me hedge my bet with this advice. The best way to be missed is to be a giver—one who does things for others. Giving does not mean that you must give gifts wrapped in beautiful bows. The people I would miss most are those who give me the gift of friendship. Nothing is more precious to me. Circumstance and death have taken several friends from me over the past year, and I can tell you they are sorely missed.

Think of yourself as a color in the portrait of life. With you, the picture will be its brightest.

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



**Positive Talk**  
By William Hodges

### SBE to hold meeting

The Small Business Enterprise (SBE) will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 28 in the medium conference room on the 22nd floor of County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa.

For more information, call Sheila Hudson, Contracts Manager, Economic Development Dept. at (813) 276-2745.

### 5K Riverview Run Sept. 3 to benefit assault victim

The River of Life Christian Center, 6605 Krycul Ave., Riverview, is holding its 1st Annual 5K run to benefit the Bloomingdale Library assault victim.

The high school student was set to go to college the following year, but that was interrupted when she was beaten and raped and left to die in front of the library. Since that time many benefits and donations have been held for this cause because she has a long road to recovery and requires around the clock care, extensive therapy and much medical help.

The run will be held on Saturday, Sept. 3 with registration at 7 a.m. an 8 a.m. start time and an awards ceremony at 9 a.m. Prizes will go to someone in each age group from 'under 9 years old' to 'over 65.' Age groups will be in 4-year increments between 9 and 65. For more information, call 677-4453.

### Negotiations continue

Open negotiations between Hillsborough County Public Schools and the Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association for the 2011-2012 school year will continue at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1 at the Dr. Sam Horton Instructional Services Center, 2920 N. 40th St., Room 141, Tampa.

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## RUSKIN Moose Lodge #813 UPCOMING EVENTS

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	7-11 p.m.	Live Music
Every Saturday		Horseshoes
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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, July 29	7-11 p.m.	Taylor 'n Taylor
Saturday, July 30	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Aug. 5	7-11 p.m.	Calvin O
Saturday, Aug. 6	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Aug. 12	7-11 p.m.	Beach Monkeys
Saturday, Aug. 13	5-7 p.m.	Women of the Moose Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Aug. 19	7-11 p.m.	Del and Gary
Saturday, Aug. 20	5-7 p.m.	Steak Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	Kim Mullins
Friday, Aug. 26	7-11 p.m.	Ted Ennis
Saturday, Aug. 27	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
		Moose Scavenger Hunt
Friday, Sept. 2	7-11 p.m.	Tony John
Saturday, Sept. 3	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Sept. 9	7-11 p.m.	Taylor and Taylor
Saturday, Sept. 10	5-7 p.m.	Women of the Moose Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Sept. 16	7-11 p.m.	Ella and JT
Saturday, Sept. 17	5-7 p.m.	Steak Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Sept. 23	7-11 p.m.	Tone Benders
Saturday, Sept. 24	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim

All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests.

## Five Parade of Homes Awards go to FishHawk Ranch Builders

FishHawk Ranch, by Newland Communities, is proud to announce that two of its esteemed builders recently took home five of the 19 awards given during the 2011 Spring Parade of Homes, sponsored by the Tampa Bay Builders Association.

In their first year in the Parade, Homes by WestBay took home awards for their 'Key Largo II' model located in FishHawk Ranch's Garden District, and the 'Boca Grande II' model in FishHawk Ranch's newest neighborhood, Starling. David Weekley Homes also earned two awards for their new models, 'The Mills' and 'The Anchor,' also located in the Starling neighborhood. Rounding out the awards was Homes by John C. Fowke's 'Villa Ventana' model, which received the Showstopper Award.

"We are proud to have homebuilders in our communities who bring unique and flexible designs that meet the needs of today's families," says Rick Harcrow, senior VP of operations for Newland Communities. "These awards support our dedication to creating desirable, livable communities."

FishHawk Ranch has proudly showcased homes in the TBBA's regional home tour for the past 12 years. This year's tour featured eight FishHawk Ranch homes.

2011 marked the 41st annual Tampa Bay Parade of Homes. This event offers potential homebuyers a look at the latest technology and trends in the building industry. With 69 model homes included in the showcase, this year's Parade offered a wide variety of builders, models and communities that spanned Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco Counties.

### About FishHawk Ranch

FishHawk Ranch by Newland Communities is a 3,000-acre master-planned community located in southeast Hillsborough County. Recently certified by the Florida Green Building Coalition as the first green community in Hillsborough County, FishHawk Ranch features a variety of amenities including more than 25 miles of nature trails. The community offers townhomes, villas, single-family, and custom homes priced from \$100,000 to more than \$1 million. The FishHawk Ranch Welcome Center and 24 model homes are open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. For more information, call (813) 685-7500 or visit our website at www.fishhawkranch.com.

## Aug. 6 event planned for Mayor's race

Gabrielle Perham completed a successful event July 21 and has another planned for Aug. 6.

The Gaby for Mayor table will be at the next Ladies Night Out from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6 at the Winthrop Town Centre.

The event offers free food, wine and beverages and a unique evening of shopping and social networking.

Gaby for Mayor will offer raffle prizes and gifts, with all proceeds going to the Riverview Boys and Girls Club and the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce.

For more information on the Gaby for Mayor campaign, visit [www.gabyformayor.com](http://www.gabyformayor.com) or call (813) 704-0460.



Gabrielle Perham, center, candidate for 2012 Honorary Mayor of Riverview, hosted her kick-off event on July 21 at S&S Tacos in Riverview and is now planning a Saturday, Aug. 6 Ladies Night Out. Helping were her husband and business partner Manny Potter, and campaign manager Erica Berry.

## County reaches out to Hispanics

Hillsborough County Economic Development Department is directly responding to a 2010 U.S. Census Report that shows the County's Hispanic population grew 25 percent over the last 10 years by enhancing services to help Hispanic entrepreneurs succeed with their businesses.

The Department's Small Business Information Center (SBIC) is offering additional business technical assistance to Hispanics including:

- Free bilingual Spanish/English counseling for entrepreneurs who want to start or expand their business and create more jobs.
- Free visits by SBIC Business Counselors to established Hispanic businesses in the community to provide valuable information on business operations.
- Education and assistance to help Hispanic business owners become certified as minority businesses and achieve the Minority Business Enterprise/Small Business Enterprise (MBE/SBE) Certification, increasing opportunities to better tap business prospects with the local government.
- Free informative seminars and workshops as part of the technical assistance education program to enhance the economic development of the Hillsborough County business community.

For more information, call (813) 914-4028 ext. 62007.

## 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 28 — Bar Bingo at 6 p.m.

Friday, July 29 — Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy from 7 to 11 p.m.  
Saturday, July 30 — Steak Dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy from 7 to 11 p.m.  
Sunday, July 31 — Music by Bert & Sassy from 5 to 9 p.m.

Monday, August 1 — Open.

Tuesday, August 2 — Games in Lounge from 1 to 5 p.m. Kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, August 3 — American Legion Meeting at 7 p.m.

## Riverview Memorial VFW Post #8108

7504 Riverview Dr.  
(813) 671-9845

### 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.

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## Adult Computer Classes for the Technologically Challenged

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Open Source: Introduction • July 29 • 3 p.m.

Learn what Open Source is and where to find it on the internet.

# US 41 Overlay

■ Continued from page 1

already in effect," Fernandez continued. "We want to see what people would like to see preserved, changed and created (new)."

The attendees at the meeting divided into two groups, one for Apollo Beach and the other for Ruskin, individually filling out three surveys and then discussing them in roundtable fashion before combining and prioritizing their goals onto one sheet for each community.



Jose Fernandez, principal planner, Development Services of the Hillsborough County Planning and Zoning Division.

Improving the appearance of the highway was one of the main objectives of the Community Plans made several years ago when Hillsborough County planners worked with residents to find out what they wanted in their neighborhood's future.

"We found they wanted to improve the appearance of the corridor, promote community identity and promote economic development and redevelopment," Fernandez said.

July 21, planners put the same survey taken at the recent meeting online. One for Ruskin and one for Apollo Beach. They can be found at <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/pgm/zoning/cpiongoing/us41.cfm>.

County planners are hoping many people will fill out the surveys online before the next planning meeting, which is scheduled for Aug. 25 at 6 p.m.

They expect the planning process for the overlay to last about eight months before planners make recommendations to County Commissioners who will make the final decision on what will occur.

The overlay has nothing to do with the widening of U.S. 41 being done by the Florida Department of Transportation.

"In an overlay, generally areas have regulated architectural design

and features, signage, landscaping and buffers," Fernandez said.

But those factors are not set in stone and the county realizes U.S. 41 in Apollo Beach differs greatly from U.S. 41 in Ruskin, said planner John Healey who has worked on plans in South County for many years.

There was a consensus that U.S. 41 acts as a major roadway through Apollo Beach while Apollo Beach Boulevard is considered the community's hub, but Ruskin U.S. 41 is actually the town's main street. "This makes a huge difference in what people want to see happen," Fernandez said.

So the two groups, one for each community, separated and began to dig into what preservation, change and creating something new can actually accomplish.

County staff pointed out that in the overlay, the definition of these three key points is this: preservation is maintaining and protecting; creating is bringing something in that is not there today and change means to fix something that is present but not currently working for, or pleasing to, residents.

The group talking about Apollo Beach included Michael Peterson, Barbara Compton, Joel Meek and David McDaniel who listed preservation of the landscaping and

See US 41 OVERLAY, page 7



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

Cameron Clark of the Hillsborough County Attorney's Office explains why it is necessary that people attending this meeting not talk together outside meetings about matters that will eventually be voted on. It was explained that they may discuss anything said at meetings with individuals and groups and the sole purpose of this requirement is to assure residents that no "meetings are held in smoke-filled rooms behind closed doors."

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PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

County planners brought separate maps of a planned overlay district for Ruskin and Apollo Beach and also one that takes in the entire 8-mile area from its northern beginning at Big Bend Road to the Little Manatee River Bridge at the south end of the proposed project.

# US 41 Overlay

■ Continued from page 6

frontage of major developments like Mira Bay and South Shore Falls, community signs, sidewalks green medians, commercial clusters, and keeping the community look and feel provided by icons that included the Ruskin Drive In and the vegetable stand south of the commercial area of Apollo Beach.

As for new ideas, they brought up a park-and-ride lot, wider walking and biking trails, landscape that could provide better buffers, and new signs marking the entrances to the community at Big Bend Road to the north and 19th Avenue to the south.

Changes of existing elements included screening of open storage, mobile homes and car lots, modernizing Flamingo Plaza and including covered and benched bus stops.

Ruskin talked mainly about preserving the historic nature of neighborhoods and buildings like the Ruskin Woman's Club.

"Let's be sure and keep the historic places and hometown look," said Sam Cook.

The group agreed they did not want to lose their four-lane traffic flow on U.S. 41. (Years ago in planning workshops some had suggested bringing that down to two lanes to make it more like a small town and encourage shops along the highway.)

Putting all utilities underground was an idea brought up by Tom Grimm but he admitted that would be up to the utility companies and almost impossible to include in a plan unless they agreed.

"Every corridor is different. We have to work with what is appropriate," Fernandez said.

He said the county would be checking out the regulations associated with the Florida Department of Transportation as the plan moved forward.

"The most important thing now is for residents to visit the Website, read the brochure about the overlay, fill out the online survey and come to the meetings," Fernandez said.

They are also welcome to call him at 813-307-3435 with their questions.



The group members discussing plans for the look of U.S. 41 in Ruskin with county planner John Healey are Sam Cook, Tom Grimm, Karen Freiwald, Sandy Council, Michael Parker and Tony Zipperer.

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## County seeking nominations for Moral Courage Award

Winners of the Hillsborough County Moral Courage Award are those citizens who have stood up to government, rejected the status quo, and challenged decisions for the betterment of the county and its citizens. If you know someone who has courageously fought for the principle of right and wrong, nominate him or her for the County's 2011 Moral Courage Award.

Deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 15.

The nomination form for the 2011 Moral Courage Award is available at [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/bocc](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/bocc), click on 'Special Awards,' then click on 'Moral Courage Award.' Nominations should be submitted in one of three ways:

- E-mail: [jenkinsad@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:jenkinsad@hillsboroughcounty.org)
- Fax: 813-276-8495
- Mail: Hillsborough County Communications Department  
Re: Moral Courage Award, P.O. Box 1110, Tampa, FL 33601

Anyone may submit a nomination. All Hillsborough County residents -- individuals and

groups -- are eligible to receive the award. The Hillsborough County Citizens Advisory Committee will review nominations at their meeting on Friday, Aug. 26, and may recommend a finalist to the Hillsborough County Commission. Nominees are welcome to appear and speak on their behalf during public comment at the beginning of the meeting. The nomination will then be considered by the County Commission in September.

Commissioners created the Moral Courage Award in 1992 to recognize individuals and groups who have courageously challenged government actions for the good of the county and its residents, and demonstrated the willingness to take a moral or ethical stand against decisions of government.

Past award recipients include a staunch Sun City Center resident advocate, a local government whistleblower, and civic groups that spearheaded efforts to clean up landfills, fought the installation of giant power poles in their neighborhood, and started an affordable housing program.

# THE SAVVY SENIOR

## Resources for job-hunting seniors

Dear Savvy Senior,  
Can you recommend some good resources to help job hunting seniors? I'm 60 years old and have been out of work for nearly six months now and need some help. What can you tell me?  
Seeking Employment



**The Savvy Senior**  
By Jim Miller

Dear Seeking,  
The tough employment market over the past few years has been particularly hard on people over the age of 55. Fortunately, there are a number of online tools and in-person training centers scattered across the country today that can help. Here's what you should know.

### In-Person Help

A good first step to get help finding a job is at a Career One-Stop center. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, these are free job resource centers that can help you explore career options, search for jobs, find training, write a resume, prepare for an interview and much more. There are around 3,000 of these centers located throughout the country. To find one near you, call 877-348-0502 or go to [careeronestop.org](http://careeronestop.org).

Depending on your financial situation, another program that may help is the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Also sponsored by the Department of Labor, SCSEP offers access to training and part time job placements in a wide variety of community service positions such as day care centers, senior centers, governmental agencies, schools, hospitals, libraries and landscaping centers. To qualify, participants must be over 55, unemployed and earning less than 125 percent of the federal poverty level -- \$13,600 a year. Unfortunately, 2011 federal budget cuts have significantly reduced this program funding, but it's still a viable option. To learn more or locate a program in your area visit [www.doleta.gov/seniors](http://www.doleta.gov/seniors) or call 877-872-5627.

In addition to the national resources, some states, communities and local nonprofit organizations may offer their own senior

employment programs. For example, in certain areas in Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Washington state and Wisconsin there are Aging Worker Initiative programs to help local job seekers 55 and older. To find out if your community offers any locally-based senior employment programs, contact the Area Agency on Aging -- call 800-677-1116 or see [www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov) to get your local number.

### AARP WorkSearch

Another resource that offers free job help is the AARP Foundation WorkSearch Virtual Job Coach program.



This is a volunteer-run program that helps any job-seeker (you don't need to be an AARP member), age 40 and older, by connecting you with a trained volunteer to help you search for jobs and get training. The coaching is typically done via e-mail or over the phone. Call 877-659-0969 or visit [aarp-worksearch.org](http://aarp-worksearch.org) to find help.

In addition, AARP also offers a jobs search engine that you can access at [jobs.aarp.org](http://jobs.aarp.org). Or, if you want in-person assistance, AARP has 23 WorkSearch facilities around the country that provide free face-to-face help. To search

for a facility, contact your state AARP office. See [aarp.org/states](http://aarp.org/states) or call 888-687-2277 for contact information.

### Online Resources

There's also a wide array of online employment networks that can help you connect with companies that are interested in hiring older workers. One of the best is [retirementjobs.com](http://retirementjobs.com), which offers a job search engine that lists more than 30,000 jobs nationwide from companies that are actively seeking workers over the age of 50. It also provides job-seeking tips and advice, helps with resume writing and allows you to post your resume online for companies to find you.

Some other 50-plus job seeking sites worth a look are [seniors4hire.com](http://seniors4hire.com), [workforce50.com](http://workforce50.com), [retired-brains.com](http://retired-brains.com), [retireeworkforce.com](http://retireeworkforce.com), [wiseworker.com](http://wiseworker.com), [seniorjobbank.com](http://seniorjobbank.com), [enrge.us](http://enrge.us) (a site devoted to retired government employees) and [yourecore.com](http://yourecore.com) (an online recruitment firm that connects retired scientists, developers and engineers with companies that offer consulting assignments).

### Start a Business

If you're interested in starting a small business but could use some help getting started, turn to the U.S. Small Business Administration which offers tips, tools and free online courses that you can access at [sba.gov](http://sba.gov). Also see [score.org](http://score.org) a nonprofit association that provides free business advice for entrepreneurs.

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

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## Hillsborough County Animal Services hosts disaster training

In recent years, Hillsborough County Animal Services has deployed for rescue and recovery of animals for a variety of named storms, including Hurricanes Charley, Floyd, Katrina and Wilma.

With the most active months of the 2011 hurricane season ahead, Hillsborough County Animal Services will host disaster training to recruit volunteers to assist at emergency pet shelters in the event of local disasters (natural or man-made).

The theme of bay area community preparedness for animals is: Because the ENTIRE family matters! A special one-day course titled Awareness Level Emergency Sheltering is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, July 31 at the Hillsborough County Animal Services facility located at 440 Falkenburg Road, North in Tampa. The course is open to adults 18 years and older, and space is limited.



The awareness level course is designed to familiarize community animal advocates, volunteers, and future animal professionals with the chain-of-command and skills necessary for quick and effective emergency response to animal-related disasters. Wide ranging course topics include: protocols for proper kennel and shelter set-up; cleaning and disease control; animal behavior, personal preparedness and safety; stress management; code of conduct; security procedures, and an overview of FEMA's Incident Command System.

Professional animal responders from both Hillsborough County Animal Services and the Florida State Animal Response Coalition (SARC) will team up for this special day of classroom and hands-on instruction. Attendees should wear closed-toed shoes and comfortable clothing; one-hour lunch is to be self-provided. The Awareness Level Emergency Sheltering course is sanctioned by the State Animal Response Coalition (SARC), and the University of Florida. A \$50 course fee includes a student manual, with proceeds to benefit Florida SARC (registered 501(c)3). To register for the class, go to [www.flarc.org](http://www.flarc.org) or call 352.658.1224.

During disasters, Hillsborough County Animal Services is responsible for ESF 17 (Emergency Support Function for animals). Hillsborough County currently has four approved pet-friendly evacuation shelters located within existing Red Cross Shelters. Reservations for pet shelters are not accepted in Hillsborough County. Pets will be sheltered on a first-come, first-served basis when pet owners stay at the corresponding Red Cross shelter location. Shelters will open upon order of the Hillsborough County Emergency Operations Manager.

Since public shelters offer very limited space for animals, it is vital that residents have an emergency plan to include pets -- because the ENTIRE family matters! For more information on disaster preparedness for pets, the current list of pet-friendly shelters in Hillsborough County, or to learn more about volunteering, log onto [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animalservices](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animalservices) or call Hillsborough County Animal Services at (813) 744-5660.

## Aging and Action

**A**ging — It is a mysterious balance of maturation and decline. Along with a fine cargo of experiences and memories comes the reality that we are silently and slowly starting to fall apart. As awareness of this deterioration dawns on us, we can either do nothing, or we can act to slow it down.

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4. **Vanishing Benefits** - You worked hard for your medical benefits, and they are slowly being denied to you either directly or more indirectly through decreased reimbursements and more restrictions. When you are finally ready to act, it may be too late.

— Daniel J. Mountcastle, MD, FAAEM, Founder of Mountcastle Vein Centers

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## Leg Screening: Your 1 Minute Test

**Summary:** Several signs and symptoms indicate easily treatable vein problems in the legs.

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**If you have one of these signs or symptoms, call us:**

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- Leg Cramps
- Blue Feet or Ankles
- Swelling
- Leg Skin Changes
- Restless Legs
- Itch, Burning, Discoloration
- Spider and Varicose Veins

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Blue Feet and Discoloration

**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.

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

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

**Sunday, Aug. 28:** Boom Ba. Mark your calendars. Details to follow.

The South Hillsborough Elk's Lodge is located at 1630 U.S. Hwy. 41 S., Ruskin, FL 33570. It is a smoke-free environment.

For more information, call (813) 645-2089.

**Grocery help for low-income people over 60**

- Could you use a little help with your grocery bill?
- Do you live in Hillsborough, Manatee, Polk, Highlands or Hardee County?

If so, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as Food Stamps) may be able to help you pay for some of your groceries. The West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging's Aging Resource Center has a team of specialists who can help you complete your Supplemental Nutrition Assistance application over the phone.

For more information, call 800-963-5337 (96-Elder).

**FISH TALES**

**Touch your screen and see your fish**



**Fish Tales**  
By Jonie Maschek

Why not fish with our locals in the beautiful, sparkling waters of our bay which is teeming with a variety of fish?

You will have a great vacation without spending the high price for a place to sleep and eat. You won't spend the day traveling, but will have all day to fish.

As you know, I have written many local history books, and one story I haven't printed is a local legend.

The legend goes like this: In our bay waters, there is a mysterious sound, described to me as 'the most beautiful sound that your ears will ever hear.' This sound can be heard only in the quietest of nights, when there are no motor boats around. You can hear music; it is like none you have ever heard before. Some think it is nature itself singing. These anglers swear that it is out there and their forefathers have handed down this legend from generation to generation.

How many of you know how long it took man to learn to fish? The first settlers used rawhide lines and carved crude hooks, made from shells. They, as the Indians did, took logs and carved them out to make a boat to sit in and had a pole to push them around. We still have a pole to push our boats around the grassy flats, with motor off, to save the flats.

Time changes everything. All of the books written on "How to catch and find a fish," are in today's world, just history. I heard from anglers years ago that if you could catch a fish, 'it was pure luck.' I would write about how to have patience and practice, and learn from the past generation. Today's world is all electronics, for those who can afford them.

I will call it 'Touchscreen Fishing,' perhaps the greatest invention since the lighthouse.

Boats have auto-pilot and you thought that was for airplanes only. You don't need a chart plotter. Just touch your screen -- no more maps and paper aboard. With a good radar and a good antenna you can see your fish before you get to them. You can detect rocks and all water conditions ahead. You will be able to see the weather before it arrives.

In this electronic world, our small town of Ruskin is probably the only place that one can still buy a bamboo fishing pole. This goes back to the years of hand line fishing.

We have great freshwater fishing in our state which is not as well known nationwide as our saltwater fishing. Fresh water is a great place to take your children fishing this summer. You can stay at home, and take them to the upper waters of our rivers, either the Little Manatee or the Alafia -- a great place to catch your first fish and to get acquainted with the great outdoors.

They could catch stump knockers, black crappie, redbreast sunfish, blue gill, spotted sunfish, a variety of catfish, bass, watermouth, gar, skipjack, bowfin, herring, and red finned pickerel, to name few.

Even in the hot weather with rain, now and then, I have seen anglers with catches. Many go fishing early in the morning or late at night. Night fishing has been good because it is quiet out there and the fish do not get spooked.

Flounder catches have been many this week. A good catch and a great tablefare. Their white meat is a good diet food without much fat content.

Sheepshead seem to like our area and are most often caught by those pier fishing.

One or two redfish catches have come to our attention this week. I heard from the charters that they have seen some huge ones out on the edge in the deep. They are staying out of the heat and finding a cool spot to hide.

A tip from one of the 'ole local anglers: "If your shrimp gets sluggish in the heat, put a pinch of baking soda in your bucket or bait well and they will start jumping again."

Remember you can tell the story of your 'Big Catch' over and over again, until you make the next big catch.

Aleta Jonie Maschek is a member of Florida Outdoor Press.

**Community Action Board to meet**

The Hillsborough Community Action Board has scheduled a special meeting at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 3 at the Lee Davis Neighborhood Service Center, Second Floor, 3402 N. 22nd St., in Tampa.

For more information, call Luisa Rodriguez-Zmoda at 273-3746.

**Elder Helpline offers support**

The West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging's Elder Helpline provides information for older adults and their caregivers by helping callers make informed decisions about available assistance. It is the starting point in getting connected with programs or services that can meet the needs of the older adult or caregiver.

For more information, call 800-964-5337 (96-Elder).

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### Kids' Program/Event Highlights July 28 to August 3

#### "Expressive Artists" Let's Create!\*

Thursday, July 28 • 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

"Expressive Artists," 11 years and up, will have a creative afternoon. Limit 20. Registration required at SouthShore Regional Library. Please visit the Information Desk or call 273-3652.

#### Poetry Jam\*

Thursday, July 28 • 3 to 5:30 p.m.

For teens in grades 6-12. Bring your work and prepare to throw down in a grand poetry slam. Judges will be selected from the audience. If you're a poet or simply enjoy poetry, come on out to shout, laugh, and clap for your favorite poems.

#### Teen Night: Game Zone\*

Thursday, July 28 • 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

For middle and high school students. Get in the zone and join your friends for some gaming fun on the Xbox 360 and Nintendo Wii with games such as Band Hero, Guitar Hero 5, Smash Brothers Brawl and more! Refreshments provided by Domino's Pizza.

#### Bedtime Stories

Thursday, July 28 • 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.

#### The Ice Cream Social\*

Saturday, July 30 • 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

For grades K-5. As summer winds down, join us for a cool and refreshing treat. Share in stories, crafts, and games all about ice cream! Everyone will also get to create their very own ice cream sundae. Registration is required. Ask at the Information Desk or call 273-3652.

#### Cosplay Ball\*

Saturday, July 30 • 6 to 10 p.m.

Come dressed as your favorite Anime or Manga character for a night of Anime-themed fun, music, games, and prizes. There will be a special contest for the best costume. Advance tickets are available and ticketholders are entered into a special raffle contest.

*\*Free event is provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library*

## U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 75 offers weekend navigator classes

Many boaters have upgraded their boating skills and knowledge by taking a boating course through the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Now they're offering another practical course that should probably be titled, 'How to Get There... From Here' -- in other words, a course on basic navigation.

Let them show you how to confidently and successfully go where you'd like to go on the water.

Learn how to avoid the shallows of St. Petersburg and get to nice restaurants.

Figure out the requirements and tides for going under eight bridges to 'Rick's on the River.'

Find the best and safest anchorages for the annual MacDill Air Show.

Discover the aqua blue headwaters of the Alafia River and the fun restaurants along the way.

Chart a course to Egmont Key and bring friends and family on an adventurous trip.

Plan weekend tours by boat of Tampa's many art shows, festivals, hotels and restaurants.

Let's get on the water and have some fun.

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 water and boating conditions. Each class is two consecutive Saturdays, Aug. 6 and 13 or Sept. 10 and 17.

Students must pre-register for either class by mailing a \$70 check made out to Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 75 to: Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 75, P.O. Box 692, Ruskin, FL 33575-0692.

The deadline for registration submissions for the August 6 and 13 classes is the close of business, Thursday, July 28. The deadline for the Sept. 10 and 17 class is Thursday, Sept. 1.

Let the Coast Guard Auxiliary show you how to start to get where you want to go. Call Guy Mandigo at (813) 641-2488 to register.

## Congratulations on your new arrival



Emma Barbara Krentzman was born May 30, 2011 at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, 2014 Washington St., Newton, MA 02462.

The proud parents are Jenny and Tim Gomeriger. The happy grandparents are Carol and David Krentzman of Natick, MA; and Debbie and George Marsoobian of Apollo Beach, FL.

## Asian & Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund selects Lennard HS student

The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, the nation's largest nonprofit organization solely devoted to providing college scholarships for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), is awarding for the first-time scholarships to more than 500 outstanding students for the next academic school year.

Reyna Theresa Bansil, salutatorian at Lennard High School for the 2011 graduating class, will receive \$2,500 of these funds for the 2011-2012 school year.

Reyna has been taking classes at Hillsborough Community College while a senior in high school. She says her biggest challenge has been learning English as she takes her classes because she came from the Philippines where she spoke a language called Tagalog.

Reyna earned the title of Statewide Volunteer of the Year for 2010 for the ALS Association (Lou Gehrig's disease) for which she raises funds and volunteers.

For more information about AAPI, which is based in Washington, D.C., call (202) 747-7236.



REYNA THERESA BANSIL

## Free boat safety inspections are available

Every Saturday the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 75 Ruskin provides free, no-obligation vessel safety inspections for recreational boaters.

These safety inspections take about 15 minutes and are available from 10 a.m. until noon at Simmons Park in Ruskin on the first and third Saturday of the month; and at Williams Park in Gibsonton on the second and fourth Saturday, also from 10 a.m. to noon.

For more information, call (813) 645-6984.

## Display your work

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.



Proud owner of a new bookbag, courtesy of Camp Bayou's annual Back to School event last year.

## Camp Bayou plans annual Back to School -- Back to Nature Day

Camp Bayou's annual Back to School -- Back to Nature event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 6. Registered families will visit several nature stations where they will learn something about frogs, fossils, forests or one of several nature topics. Before leaving each station, the children will be given a free school supply item. Children will also be given a raffle ticket when they arrive after their family signs in at the registration table. A ticket will be drawn every 30 minutes for other items, including backpacks, journals, lunch bags, and more. As in past years, registration is required, but attendance is free.

This year they will again hold a Teacher Exchange area for educators to leave materials they no longer need or pick up something new. Current items available for the Teacher Exchange include a fish tank with some accessories, posters, colorful nature magazines and water quality test kits. Teachers can also learn about field trips to the Nature Center or Fossil Museum, SWFWMD's SPLASH! grants, upcoming teacher professional workshops, League of Environmental Educators in Florida regional information and Florida Master Naturalist Program updates.

Organizations that will be participating in this year's event include: Hillsborough County Solid Waste Recycling Program; Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful; Florida Division of Forestry; Adopt-a-Pond and West Central Girl Scouts. Register online at [www.campbayou.org](http://www.campbayou.org).

## What are your kids eating this summer?

Hillsborough County is participating in the Summer Food Service Program, going on now through Aug. 12, to provide FREE nutritious lunches and afternoon snacks to children at more than 80 sites throughout Hillsborough County. These sites are in geographical areas of where 50 percent or more of the children qualify for free or reduced price meals during the school year.

Too often, many children are left searching for unhealthy foods to eat when their parents are working or not in the home. When there is not enough food to go around, their nutritional needs are not met and their choices are not always the best.

The purpose of the Summer Food Program is to provide a balanced meal regardless of race, color, sex, disability, age national origin or income during summer vacation when school breakfasts and lunches are not available.

Applications or eligibility are not required. Summer Camp registration is NOT a requirement. Summer Food Program sites are located at schools and other locations in the community to provide meals to all children in the surrounding area, in addition to those enrolled in summer school. Any child age 18 and under can visit a participating site to eat a free lunch and/or afternoon snack.

The Summer Food Service Program for Children is federally funded and operated by the Hillsborough County Family and Aging Services Department. The United State Department of Agriculture is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA-related activity should write or call immediately to:

USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 • (866) 632-9992 (voice or TDD) (800) 845-6136 (Spanish) • (800) 877-8339 (Federal Relay Service).

If any site is interested in serving as a host site, call (813) 272-5220, ext. 357. A list of approved sites is attached or can be found under the Summer Food Program Link at [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hss](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hss).

For more information, call Summer Food Program for Children at (813) 272-5220, ext 357.

## Boating safety courses 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, 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](mailto: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.



# A surplus of nattering nabobs

On September 11, 1970, Vice President Spiro Agnew uttered a famous phrase written for him by William Safire: "Nattering nabobs of negativism." At the time, he was referring to the Democratic Party. Whether he was accurate or not depends on your perspective, but that view has widened considerably over the past four decades. Nattering Nabobs of Negativism has gone bipartisan.



**Observations**  
By Mitch Traphagen

[mitch@observernews.net](mailto:mitch@observernews.net)

I was honored and proud to be an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives from 2009 until earlier this year. I couldn't see how anyone could help but to be proud when walking down the hallowed hallways of the House office buildings, seeing the Capitol and the memorials just across the street. Given the distinguished history of this great nation, how could anyone not give their best for their constituents and their country in such a setting? At the time, I felt that surely everyone was struck by the presence of the same ghosts of our forefathers who I felt visited me. While the people in Washington didn't always see eye to eye on issues, I was certain that no matter what, their eyes were always focused on the objectives

that they felt were in the best interests of the nation.

Now, as I watch the debacle over the debt ceiling unfold, I am no longer certain about that. It seems that people on both sides of the aisle are putting their respective parties before the United States of America. I wonder if the protocol that I so respected while working for the House somehow contributes to what appears to be a tragic comedy of Nero fiddling while Rome burns. While our elected officials revel in their titles of "President," "Speaker," "Senator," "Congressman" and even "Commissioner," have they forgotten about the fact that they were elected as common men and women to represent all of us?

Credit rating agencies have already threatened to downgrade the stellar AAA rating of American debt if the debt ceiling is not raised. Should that happen, the cost of the enormous debt we as taxpayers carry will increase — and that would happen for no good reason other than party politics, where one side wants to win all over the other side.

Keep in mind that we are NOT

talking about new government expenditures here; we are talking about keeping our obligations to pay for things that are already approved by both parties and already charged to the nation's gigantic credit card. Both parties have already said "yes" to the money that has been spent, but now that the bill has arrived, they are fighting over actually paying it. So much for Americans keeping their word.

Confidence is everything in America. Consumer and government spending on health care accounts for nearly 70 percent of the nation's economy. If consumer confidence wanes, so does spending and the economy, as painfully illustrated by the Great Recession, the effects of which linger on in places like Florida even today. Watching this latest political sideshow play out has certainly done nothing for consumer confidence.

And then, of course, there is world confidence in the United States. Yes, it does matter to all of us.

I know there are plenty of people out there who will say that there really will be no default, that if enough entitlement programs are gutted the U.S. government revenue is enough to meet the government's obligations. But that's not true when you look at the big picture. The big picture includes some really big



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

**From my perspective, our nation's capitol is becoming less a hallowed ground of honorable representatives with this great nation's history on their shoulders and more a city filled with nattering nabobs of negativism.**

printing presses from which the dollars in your wallet emerge. The U.S. can run those presses night and day, printing more and more money because the world believes the United States is a stable and honest leader. As long as the world believes in America, they'll keep taking our money and investing in our nation. As long as that belief continues, the United States will never go broke. We can't — we produce money. The fact that we can run those presses 24/7 means that, as a society, we get to live indoors; drive cars on paved roads; have nice television sets, iPods and computers; and have world-class law enforcement officers and first responders. However, once that belief stops, or is even eroded a little bit, the game changes and those presses would have to be shut down — the only thing they'd be printing is Monopoly money. The politicizing of and the theatrics involved in the debate over the debt ceiling makes the world lose faith in us — and deservedly so because it is becoming clear that we've already lost faith in ourselves.

The deadline for the debt ceiling decision, set by the Treasury

Secretary, is approaching like a slow-motion train wreck. Perhaps, hopefully, by the time you read this a compromise will have been reached with a clear and definitive resolution on the horizon. But even so, there has been damage done. Certainly, the world is seeing America as less a shining and stable beacon on the hill and more an angry nation of bewildering people who bicker and point fingers while their economy rushes towards the edge of a cliff.

It is more than metaphoric. Just last weekend 4,000 FAA employees were furloughed because Congress could not get its act together to continue funding for the agency, something that up until now Congress has managed to do without dispute for more than a decade. And that Congress could not get their act together doesn't just affect the FAA employees, it also hits government revenue as airline taxes won't be collected until a reauthorization bill passes. While that may appear to be good news if you are a passenger, it isn't — most airlines quickly raised their fares to pick up some easy profit from the unexpected tax holiday. The bottom line is that the already in-debt government is the big loser, which, of course, translates to the American taxpayers.

It doesn't matter if you are a Democrat or a Republican. It doesn't matter if you are for or against entitlements such as Medicare and Social Security. That's not what this argument is about. America should be a nation that keeps its word. We should be good for our debts. The debate over the debt ceiling is a little like kidnapping your neighbor's wife and holding her at gunpoint because his dog barks and keeps you up at night. Yes, that might be an effective resolution to the problem, but the cost of handling it that way would be extremely high.

One of the primary responsibilities of Congress is to manage the nation's money. Everyone with a lick of common sense knows that this country can't continue to pile up debt as it has, nor can it continue to print money full time. But that's what the budget is for and Congress needs to address that reality in the proper place. It's time they stop playing politics and do their job as best they can for the American people, without the games, drama, posturing and theatrics. From my perspective, our nation's capitol is becoming less a hallowed ground of honorable representatives shouldering the weight of great history and more a place filled with nattering nabobs of negativism. That needs to stop now.

Yes, our nation is facing monumental problems but I still believe in America and in the unlimited potential of my fellow Americans. It's time our elected officials show some faith as well.

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# A dog's life

■ Continued from page 3

Amber habitually settles under the key boards or the piano during lessons. In this position, she listens uncritically throughout the lesson, raising neither her voice nor a paw if a wrong note is struck, offering encouraging companionship to those trying to acquire a new skill.

Frequently complimented for her intelligence, her soft sleek tri-color coat and her willingness to humor humans, Amber also is a hit. Steve points out, with people who do no business at Music Avenue. One of her admirers is a gentleman who brings his wife to a nearby beauty salon every week and then drops into the store to spend the wait time visiting with the friendly Beagle who never tires of the attention.

Down the walkway a few doors, there's another canine on the job – an assertive if tiny handful named Diamond, about eight years old. No more than five pounds after a full meal, Diamond has been “door dog” at Cypress Vac and Sew for two years. She shares her life – and zest for life – with Sherri Huffman, store manager. She also monitors the shop door like a cat watching a bird, Huffman notes, “but never tries to go through it.” The predominately Shih Tzu miniature, through whose veins also may course the blood of the imperial Japanese or Chinese Chins, captured Huffman's attention when she visited C.A.R.E., the South County's no-kill shelter, after losing a beloved pet. “She needed attention,” Huffman recalls, she was noticeably underweight; looked as though she'd not had much concern directed her way. And, she had not been in the shelter long enough to recover. Huffman saw “a diamond in the rough.” She initiated the adoption and took home her three-pound, black and white handful.

“Handful” in Diamond's case, Huffman indicates, refers to both her small size physically and her outsized personality. Diamond today rules both her store and home roosts, Huffman allows. “She's very territorial,” adds her admiring human. Gaining back two pounds, taking her to her natural healthy weight, not only added size, it added spirit.

Playful, consistently pleased with toys, Diamond regularly receives gifts from store customers and visitors, Huffman says, adding “it may be Christmas, it may be no occasion at all.” What's more, Diamond is spoken to in different languages, - French, Spanish, English - “but always interprets the words as loving.” Her capability, her contribution to her workplace, Huffman indicates, is that she's simply irresistible and irrepressible.

Those probably are not terms

often used to describe Rosie, the English Bulldog, intrepid greeter at Confidential Accounting in Ruskin. But Rosie's pugnacious appearance actually camouflages a big heart and a sunny personality.

In fact, Rosie, at five years, is a sun lover extraordinaire. Her post, as she sees it, is immediately inside the exterior glass door to the accounting firm's offices, according to Teddi Aberle owner of the practice that serves small businesses and Rosie's human parent. Here she will rest in a pool of sunlight until the door rattles her to duty and she rouses to welcome clients, new and old.

Aberle, an English bulldog fan, purchased Rosie from a breeder. The pup had been labeled “runt of the litter,” she remembers, and to this day, at 35 pounds, is considerably lighter than most mature members of her breed. No matter, with her smooth fawn coat and her aggressively inquisitive expression, she is an office dog to be reckoned with.



“Oh yeah! My nose tells me we've met before. So, what can I do for ya?”

MELODY JAMESON PHOTOS

It's that expression that got her the moniker. “Remember Rosie the riveter from the World War II posters; the female in a jumpsuit, ready to do her part for the war effort?” Aberle asks rhetorically. Rosie, she adds, naturally looks ready to go to war. She even wears a neck scarf.

If Rosie does battle, though, it's with her toys and treats. Like all of South County's working dogs, she has the run of her office, checking on staff working in their private spaces, escorting clients to the appropriate specialist, sometimes even performing a trick or two on command. She will happily pounce on a rag bone in a faux example of capture or catch in mid-air a tossed tasty morsel with the help of her jutting lower jaw. Among her very favorites are those strips that look and smell like old bacon.

At home, Rosie is the last child in the household of Aberle and her husband. There are six grown children, all launched, so Rosie now is the young'un to be raised, Aberle admits a mite ruefully. There never



Liam, the Great Pyrenees of Aston Gardens Assisted Living Facility had been roaming the streets of Bradenton when he was picked up by Manatee County's animal services personnel and was spotted there by humane society staff on the lookout for likely pets.

are any disputes over the vegetables, however. “Rosie loves her raw carrots and cauliflower and cucumbers,” the accountant adds. Maybe she gets that they keep a bulldog fit for her work at the office.

While neither Liam nor Diamond, Amber nor Rosie are trained for the show ring, each is special. Liam, says Ivey, “has touched a

lot of lives” and Huffman calls Diamond “the best dog in the world.” Downies think of Amber as “a real asset” who “has changed our lives although we would not have believed it before” and Aberle asserts Rosie spreads “lots of love and joy.”

Such, too, are gifts South County canines bring to their jobs.

Copyright 2011 Melody Jameson

**PET TIP:** A cat's whiskers are 2 to 3 times thicker than other hairs, and taper to a fine, flexible tip. The tip of the whisker contains a sensory organ called a proprioceptor, which sends a message to your cat in response to stimuli.

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## UPCOMING AUGUST EVENTS

**Tues., Aug. 2 • 2:30-4:00 pm • Congestive Heart Failure “CHF” Support Group.** Shayne Kull, MSR, from Hometown Homecare introduces you to cutting edge resources. Exclusively for those living with heart failure and their families and caregivers.

**Wed., Aug. 3 • NOW EVERY WEDNESDAY! 10:00-11:00 am • Therapeutic Tai Chi open to the public!** Our therapists have advanced training in therapeutic Tai Chi for Seniors and will provide guidance in this healthy exercise. This class offered EVERY Wednesday due to increased demand. Number of guests limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible!

**Tues., Aug. 9 • 2:30-4:00 pm • COPD Support Group.** Joy Barlaan, ARNP and Jan Whitaker, LPN from Ace Homecare have over 50 combined years of experience and will be your facilitators. Your available resources are endless!

**Wed., Aug. 10 • 1:30-2:30 pm • Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social** with music from the 50s performed by Eddie Fisher. Join us for this cool summer time event!

**Thurs., Aug 11 • 10:00-11:00 am • Alicia C. Garner PT, PMDB presents “Stop Incontinence!”** This informative session is for you or someone you love who suffers from urinary or bowel incontinence. You will be surprised at the results available to you without medications or surgery. Don't miss this opportunity for answers!

**Thurs., Aug. 11 • 2:30-4:00 pm • 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 & The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center.

**Tues., Aug. 16 • 2:30-3:30 pm • Join Katie Colwell Williams, MA, CMC** from Aging Care Advocates for our **Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group.** The needed resources are endless! [alzheimer's association](http://alzheimer'sassociation.org)

**Wed., Aug. 17 • 2:30-4:00 pm • Parkinson's Support Group.** Marcia A. McCall, M.T.S, retired Coordinator of Research Department of Neurology College of Medicine USF and co-author of *100 Questions and Answers about Parkinson's* will be here for our Parkinson's support group.

RSVP 2 days prior to event to... **813-634-3347**

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# Apollo Beach bank closed by FDIC

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN  
mitch@observernews.net

APOLLO BEACH - Regulators from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) closed the SouthShore Community Bank on Friday. On Saturday, the bank branches in Apollo Beach and Sun City Center reopened under the ownership of Tampa-based American Momentum Bank. Also on Friday, the FDIC closed LandMark Bank of Florida in Sarasota. American Momentum Bank agreed to assume the deposits and purchase the assets of that bank as well. The FDIC does not give advance notice when a bank is taken into receivership.

SouthShore Community Bank had total assets of approximately \$46.3 million and about \$45.3 million in deposits. According to the FDIC, all deposit accounts have been transferred to American Momentum Bank and are available immediately. For those who already have accounts with American Momentum Bank, the transferred accounts will be fully insured separately for a period of six months after the closing of SouthShore Community Bank. All ATM machines remain available



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

**Apollo Beach-based SouthShore Community Bank was closed by the FDIC on Friday. On Saturday, it reopened under the ownership of American Momentum Bank of Tampa.**

and any checks that did not clear before the closure of SouthShore Community Bank will be honored as long as there are sufficient funds in the account. Loan payments should continue to be made as usual, and the terms of loans will not change. On interest bearing accounts, interest accrued through July 22 will be paid at the same rate, but American

Momentum Bank is reviewing rates and will notify customers of any changes.

Nationally, the failure of SouthShore Community Bank is the 57th FDIC-insured bank failure this year and the 9th in Florida. The FDIC has estimated the cost of the failure to the Deposit Insurance Fund will be \$8.3 million.

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7. Comparative Religions
8. Selling On E-Bay & Craig's List

In the Continuing Ed Division the emphasis is on lifelong learning, where both the students and the teacher create an atmosphere of mutual enjoyment. The classes are not age restricted and there are no exams, credits or grades. Some experience as a mentor or teacher in your chosen subject is preferred.

To learn more about this opportunity call Brian England, HCC, at (813) 259-6528.

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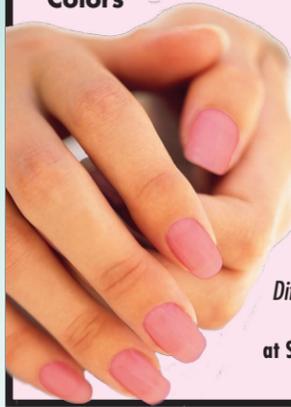
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## C.A.R.E. Pets of the Week

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



### MAGGIE

Maggie is an adorable Jack Russell/Shih Tzu mix. She was brought to the shelter with her sister Jo Jo when her owner could no longer care for them. Maggie is smart, active, and enjoys the company of people. She has also been socialized with cats and other dogs. Maggie's owner was heartbroken that she had to leave them behind. She said they were wonderful family members. She is desperate to know that Maggie has found a forever home. Maggie is spayed, housebroken, and current on her shots. DOB: July '06.



### BUNNY

Bunny is a female orange and white domestic shorthair mix. She is a real beauty! When entering the room, she will lock eyes with you to ensure that you come her way. She loves her chin scratched and will roll on her side for a belly rub. Please check her out so she can hop to her forever home ASAP. Bunny is spayed, microchipped, and current on her shots. DOB: Sept. 1, 2009.



## Learn about vegetarianism

Check out this free event at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6 at Southshore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin.

Learn about vegetarianism and the many health benefits associated with it. View a raw food cooking demonstration. Literature, snacks, and beverages will be provided.

For more information, contact Denise Anderson at (941) 284-4612 or email [SilverbackPeaceGroup@gmail.com](mailto:SilverbackPeaceGroup@gmail.com).

## O Tannenbaum

Ruskin Elementary School PTA will be hosting its annual multi-cultural 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, call Cheryl Jones at 634-8019.

The Observer News

## CARRIER OF THE WEEK



Graciella Guerra is a mother, grandmother and health care worker, and she also has delivered The Observer News for five years in the Ruskin area. She does a marvelous job and we're glad she's on our team! Thanks Graciella.

## Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center donates to Elmira's Wildlife Sanctuary

This spring, the Community Foundation of Sun City Center donated a walk-in freezer to Elmira's Wildlife Sanctuary. The new freezer allows the sanctuary staff to accept large food donations and purchase meat and other perishables in bulk, reducing their feeding costs and saving them a great deal of time, not to mention electricity.

The William and Dorothy Bruse fund supplied the funds for the project and the freezer was purchased from and installed by Raynor Refrigeration of Sarasota. The volunteers and animals at Elmira are very grateful for this donation.

Elmira's Wildlife Sanctuary is open for tours at 11 a.m. and 12 noon on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.

For more information, visit their website at [www.elmiraswildlife.org](http://www.elmiraswildlife.org).



## Hillsborough County lists lost pets on line

Pibbles to the Rescue, Lutz and SouthEast Beagle Rescue, Inc., Tampa, have joined other animal welfare organizations in the area that list homeless pets on Petfinder.com, the oldest and largest database of adoptable animals on the Internet. The site currently has more than 324,700 homeless pets listed, and it is updated continuously.

More than 13,500 animal welfare organizations in the U.S., Canada, and other countries post their pets on the site. Pibbles to the Rescue pets may be viewed at <http://www.petfinder.com>. A potential adopter enters search criteria for the kind of pet he or she wants, and a list is returned that ranks the pets in proximity to the zip code entered. Adoptions are handled by the animal placement group where the pet is housed, and each group has its own policies.

Petfinder.com was created in early 1996 as a grassroots project by Jared and Betsy Saul to end the euthanasia of adoptable pets. Since its inception, the site has facilitated approximately 20 million adoptions, making it the most life-saving initiative in animal welfare.

Sponsors include The Animal Rescue Site, BISSELL Homecare, Inc., a manufacturer of home cleaning and floor care products, PETCO, a national pet supply retailer that sponsors in-store adoptions and provides coupon books for new adopters, and PetFirst Healthcare pet insurance.

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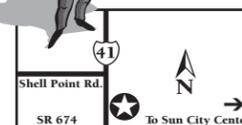
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## SCC residents help students build vocabulary through Family Learning

The family of David Ramirez, a second grade student at Wimauma Elementary School, is just one of the families benefitted by the generosity of The Interfaith Council of Sun City Center. At the beginning of this 2010 – 2011 school year, each 2nd grade student was given two vocabulary building books to take home as reference books to be used during the school year and then to keep. The books were part of a project called, "The Family Learning Project."

The goal of the project was to get parents and their children talking about things in their own surroundings. Research indicates that the quantity and quality of the conversation in a home has a huge impact on a child's vocabulary and success in reading.

Each Thursday, the students would have an assignment that they were to do with their parents or another adult. To do the assignment they would use one or both of the books provided to them and a worksheet to fill out or blank paper to trace and label an object

from the book. The next day, the students would bring their completed assignments back to their class and would put it in their personal folder called, "Me and My World." They continued adding to their own folder throughout the year.

Teachers are aware that many children do not know the parts of common things around them. If they build their vocabulary, they will also be building their pool of general knowledge both of which are necessary for successful reading. One week they learned about parts of a door. After drawing and labeling the parts of a door (hinges, threshold, doorknob, door jam, trim), the student and parent had to count all the hinges in their house. Now, the students know what hinges are. They were also challenged to find hinges in other places like on a pair of glasses. Another week, they compared the parts of a horse and a cow. Some weeks they learned about opposites. Each week they expanded their vocabulary.

When surveyed, 100 percent of the students said they liked the project. Some of the comments about what they liked best about the "Family Learning Project" were: "I liked all of the project because I got to learn more about stuff." "What I liked best was working with my mom." "Yes, I liked it. I like learning with my family. I thought it was fantastic and when my mom helps I feel like doing it again."

At the end of the project, when told to look through their "Me and My World" folders and write down some things they had learned, the teachers were pleased with their responses: "I did not know that a group of snakes is called a bed. I learned that I have a crown at the top of my head and a door has a threshold. I learned about the palm of my hand, hinges of the door, and an earlobe on my head. I learned about parts of a boat. I like the hull. I did not know that a female goat is called a nanny."

The Interfaith Council of Sun City Center was instrumental in increasing these students' vocabulary and pool of general knowledge. Because of this grant, each student has a folder with worksheets and drawings they did each week. This folder is evidence of their learning and something they can refer to later. Also, their homes now have two reference books which could have a positive impact for years to come.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about this exciting project, call Janet Caruthers, Wimauma Elementary School, at (813) 671-5159.

## You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director

### SCC Chamber News

Saturday night, Husband and I were out for dinner, chatting with one of our favorite bartenders. I noted to her she had been serving us for several years. She responded she was thinking about going back to school but she had no idea what she wanted to do. I asked her what she was passionate about -- what did she enjoy doing? I was amazed when she couldn't think of anything. We offered ideas and kept prodding, but nothing we mentioned brought even a flicker of interest to her face. Husband and I were stunned. We can't imagine what it must be like to not know what turns you on in life.

Husband's father, two brothers and son all work in the autobody business. He grew up learning the trade and it never occurred to him to do anything else. Cars are his life blood and making them showpieces is his mistress. I knew when I met him, "she" would always come first.

Likewise, I grew up "on the stage." From the age of two, I had Grandma's soup ladle microphone in my hand belting out tunes in nursery school. I was in every community theater and school play, and twirled a rifle in the marching band. My first job out of college was as a weathercaster for the local TV station. I've had two radio shows and written for newspapers and magazines. I never wanted to do anything else. I was born a ham and never outgrew it. Never wanted to.

One of my favorite songs is from the musical "South Pacific." A Tonganese native, Bloody Mary, is teaching two young lovers about, well, love. In the song, she sings "You got to have a dream or how you gonna have a dream come true?"

Saturday night, I felt truly sorry for my bartender buddy. How can she have a dream come true if she hasn't anything to dream for? Sometimes you have to do some serious soul searching to find what makes you happy.

I used to coach job seekers. In this economy, anyone looking for work needs to hone their job

hunting skills to place themselves above all of the other applicants applying for the same position.

Most of my students knew what their career field would be. But some were absolutely clueless as to what they wanted to do when they grew up.

This is where I had to get creative. By using some personality profiling and testing, I would often find a passion in an area the student never even thought of. I once had an accountant who wanted to change her career, but knew she was really good at what she had done for over 30 years. I asked her what she loved and she told me gardening. Within a month, we found her a job doing accounts receivable at a local floral shop and learning how to make arrangements. She's thrilled.

I hope my bartender buddy finds a class that sparks her interest. Just one course, taught by the right instructor, can change a life. In the meantime, I have no problem if she stays my local bartender, pouring my two-for-one drafts on a Saturday night. Someone has to do it and I tip well.



**You, Me & Business**  
By Dana Dittmar

## SOUTHSHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

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### Adult Program/Event Highlights July 28 to August 3

'A Call To All Adult Artists' for the John Crawford Gallery  
Monday, August 1 • All Day

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/April, May/June, or November/December, 2012. Please pick up an application at the Information Desk at the Library. Applications are due October 8, 2011. Questions? Contact Laurie Burhop at 273-3652.



Mouse and Keyboard\*

Monday, August 1 • 2 to 4:15 p.m.

In part one, learn how to grip, move and click the buttons on the mouse. In part two, you will learn the keys on the computer keyboard. This is a beginner level class. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

eBooks and eReaders\*

Tuesday, August 2 • 6 to 7 p.m.

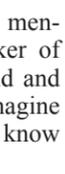
Want to read eBooks? Don't fret, help is on the way! Demonstration of the Overdrive Media Console and Adobe Digital Editions; learn how to check out and download eBooks to your PC or eReader. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program. Presented by the Tampa Bay Library Consortium.

SouthShore Needle People\*

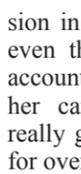
Wednesday, August 3 • 6:30 p.m.

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!

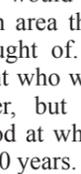
\*Free event is provided by  
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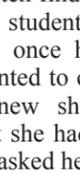
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# EBHS grad snags full U.S. Coast Guard scholarship

■ By PENNY FLETCHER  
penny@observernews.net

APOLLO BEACH — A recent East Bay High School graduate has snagged one of the highest ranking scholarships in the country.

Catherine D. Flocken, now 18, known to her family and friends as “Cathy,” has earned a full scholarship valued at \$365,000 to the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT.

The Academy is the smallest of the four military academies with 1,030 cadets. Admission is by a national competitive evaluation based on a wide variety of factors.

Now in her fifth of a seven-week Swab Summer (boot camp) that ends following a week’s training on the USS Eagle, a 300-foot sailing vessel, Cathy plans to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree while at the academy so she can work in government intelligence and international affairs.

Cathy has pushed for excellence ever since arriving in Apollo Beach with her mother, Idalya, from Central America on her sixth birthday after Idalya was granted political refugee status from Nicaragua where her family had been involved in the revolutions against both the Somoza Family dictatorship and the Communist Sandinistas. Her mother has since married Walter Flocken, and the family still lives in Apollo Beach.

While at East Bay, Cathy was ninth in her graduating class with a grade-point-average of 3.750. Her academic honors include College Board AP Scholar; National Honor Society; National Spanish Honor Society; the *Tampa Tribune* Honor Scholar and the National Scholar/Athlete Award. She reads and writes Mandarin Chinese and is also fluent in spoken and written Spanish.

“She took private lessons at the Clearwater Chinese School on



Cathy was a three-sport athlete earning two varsity letters each year, playing on the 2008- and 2009 Flag Football District Champion Teams. Here she is in her East Bay Indians uniform.



These photographs were taken on Cathy’s first day at the Coast Guard Academy the last week of June.

Sundays for several years, making the 85-mile round trip,” her father said.

Cathy was a three-sport athlete - swimming, football and softball and earned two varsity letters each year at East Bay. In 2010, she played on the State Softball Championship Team and was selected for the Florida 5A All-Star Softball 2nd Team.

Somehow, she also managed to belong to the Chess Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

In May she was awarded the Brighthouse Sports Network David Logan Scholarship for excelling in both athletics and academics.

But Cathy still managed to find time for other things- including community service.

“She volunteered Saturday mornings all through middle school as translator/clerk at the Calvary Lutheran Church’s thrift store, Angel Attic in Ruskin,” said Idalya Flocken. “Then in high school she volunteered 300 hours at C.A.R.E. (Critic Animal and Rescue Effort) in Ruskin.”

CARE is a no-kill animal shelter. Cathy also did community service at Habitat for Humanity and answered telephones for the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon, her mother added.

Winning a David Logan Scholarship was the icing on the

cake, Cathy added.

Logan was a former Tampa Bay Buccaneer and later the anchor of Sports Connection on Bay News 9. He died from a blood clot at the age of 42 in 1999.

The tie-breaker for the scholarship was her essay in which she wrote why she believed she deserved the scholarship.

She says it is because her ambition is a rewarding career in intelligence or the Diplomatic Corp.

“Either career will require dedication, determination, a superior education, and being of exceptional character. To prepare myself, I’ve set high goals. They are, to excel in science and math, to excel in more than one foreign language, and to excel in multiple varsity sports,” she said.

In her interview, she went on to say, “Balancing my goals of achieving academic excellence, proficiency in two foreign languages, excelling in multiple varsity athletics, and continued community volunteering, while keeping a sense of perspective in my personal, home and social life has been a challenge. A rewarding career in service to my country is worth the challenge.”

“She is very dedicated and works extremely hard. We are looking forward to seeing more good things from her,” her father said.



Now in her fifth of a seven-week Swab Summer (boot camp) Cathy will follow that experience with a week’s training on the USS Eagle, a 300-foot sailing vessel.

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## Movie features SCC residents

The movie "Are You Fitter than a Pensioner" is being shown again July 29 at the United Methodist Church, 1210 Del Webb West, Sun City Center. The movie features four British young people, who had social and personal problems and their Sun City Center mentors, Rolande and Bert Poulin and Bruce and Joan Andersen. The young Brits and the Sun City Center retirees were challenged to have a contest to see which group was the fittest. Carolyn Miller, one of the young people, involved with the movie, will be on hand to answer questions after the movie. Guess which group won? You may be surprised.

The movie will begin at 6:30 p.m. with doors opening at 6 p.m. There will be refreshments before the show.

## VBS in Gibsonton

Vacation Bible School is scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. Aug. 8-12 for ages 5-12.

Join them and get ready to put on the Armor of God.

Lessons, crafts, games, food and music will all be a part of Bible School at the Vaughn Street Bible Church, 10018 Vaughn Street in Gibsonton.

For more information, call Sandy at (813) 486-3130.

## CCW Card Party

The Council of Catholic Women of Prince of Peace Catholic Church invites anyone who likes to play cards or board games to make up a table in advance and come to the Dessert Card Party Wednesday, August 10 from noon until 3:30 p.m. in Conesa Center. Cards, pencils and tallies are furnished. They will have an assortment of desserts, table and door prizes.

For more information call 633-2460.

## Singers, poets, and storytellers needed

For their community presentation on the 10th Anniversary of 9-11-01 entitled 'A Service of Remembrance, Reflection and Recovery,' the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center is seeking singers for a community choir as well as poets and storytellers who were present or personally impacted by the tragic events of that day.

Jeff Jordan, Minister of Worship Arts at the church, has put together a program of music, poetry, video, scripture, imagery, dance and storytelling to commemorate this important occasion.

The community chorus will be performing excerpts from the Requiems of Brahms, Fauré, and Mozart as well as music appropriate to the occasion by Joseph Martin. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays Aug. 25 and Sept. 1, and on Saturday morning, Sept. 10.

Music will be provided and there are no auditions. Interested singers should call (813) 634-2539, ext. 207 or visit the church office at 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West in Sun City Center.

Part of the program will also be dedicated to personal testimony and poetry. If you or someone you know was personally impacted by the events of 9-11 or you have written or would like to write a



HAZEL MARTIN PHOTO

Paula Lickfeldt of the United Community Church presents a check to Darren Rivera, development associate at Southeastern Guide Dogs.

## Mission of the Month

A mission that the United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Avenue in Sun City Center, fully supports is Southeastern Guide Dogs. A special program Southeastern provides is the Paws for Patriots. This is a service provided free of charge for qualified veterans and very meaningful to the church. Paula Lickfeldt, member of the Mission Board presented a donation to Development Associate Darren Rivera from the congregation for this cause.

For more information call Southeastern Guide Dogs at 941-729-5665 or check out the Web site at [www.guidedogs.org](http://www.guidedogs.org).

## Bible study geared to people unfamiliar with Scripture

Jim Butner, Worship Leader for NCWS (Nondenominational Christian Worship Services) will be starting a Bible study for those individuals who have never had the opportunity or taken advantage of an opportunity to become familiar with the Scriptures.

Jim is a well-known local worship leader, heading up an all-volunteer itinerant outreach ministry that is currently providing 11 weekly worship services throughout Sun City Center and Ruskin.

The Bible study will be topical in nature, based upon a word, for example, like "Restoration." Attendees will research the word with references from the Old and New Testaments.

"I'm excited about providing this

opportunity to expose individuals to the Bible that will be their first time to become familiar with the Scriptures. This will be a very casual, laid back, Bible study with no pressure placed on people to respond unless they are comfortable. There will neither be a workbook to purchase nor any donations requested or accepted; just bring a Bible. Also, there will be no weekly reading assignments. Since it's topical in nature, if one misses a week, it won't be a problem because each session is a separate entity," Jim said.

The day, location and time of the study will be determined based upon community response.

For more information call Butner at 813-634-3114 to register for the study.

## Congregation Beth Shalom hosts open house

Congregation Beth Shalom will hold its annual Open House and bagel brunch Sunday, Aug. 21 from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Beth Shalom is located at 706 Bryan Road in Brandon.

This event is free and open to the public, with no reservations or tickets required. Join them for brunch and view their showcase of activities, groups and committees available to the membership. There will be representatives from all aspects of the congregation's many and varied endeavors to answer questions about what they do in the community, how to join and how to get tickets for the High Holydays. There is also a free bagel brunch.

For more information call Rudina Richter 813-690-1436.

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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

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Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:55 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening Service ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday Morning Prayer..... 10:00 a.m.

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**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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 "Loving God, Loving Others,  
 Serving Beyond Borders"  
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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.

Dr. Samuel (Sam) A. Roach, Pastor

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

Malcolm S. Clements, Pastor  
 813-677-1301

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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**

**St. Andrew Presbyterian Church**  
 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 Phone: 813-634-1252  
 Sun City Center, FL 33573 For Information visit:  
 Church is Handicap accessible 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.; Jueves 7:30 p.m.  
 Confession ..... Wednesday 6:45 p.m.; Saturday 3:45 p.m.

## Area Obituaries



### Caryl "Pat" Keeler

Caryl "Pat" Keeler, 85, of Sun City Center, Fla., passed away July 24 at her home from kidney failure. Pat was born in Chicago, Ill., and graduated from Morgan Park high school and subsequently St. Lukes Hospital as a Registered Nurse. She joined the U.S. Army Cadet Corps and was stationed at V.A. hospitals in San Francisco, Calif., and then Biloxi, Miss., where she met the love of her life, Curt. Curt was a pilot in the Air Force, stationed at Keesler AFB. Pat and Curt were married and went on to enjoy a blissful life together for 62 years. Pat loved her life as a military wife and mother, and when Curt retired from the Air Force, they lived in Miami, Fla., for 22 years, and then made their final move to Sun City Center in 1987. Pat is survived by her devoted husband, Curt, her daughter Jill, and sons Craig, Jay (Annica), Scott (Gracy), as well as her grandchildren Jessie, Jack, and Mona-Lisa. Her memorial service will be held at the United Community Church in SCC next week. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in her name to Shriners Hospitals <http://support.shrinershospitals.org>.



### Evelyn M. Petraus

Evelyn M. Petraus, 100, of Sun City Center, passed away on Sunday, July 24, 2011 at South Bay Hospital. Born in Bemidji, Minnesota on January 9, 1911, Evelyn was a retired Diamond Grader employed by Seattle Jewelry chain. Evelyn is preceded in death by husbands Irving Lusk and Charles Petraus, and her parents. Evelyn was Presbyterian by faith. Survivors include her daughter Joan L. Scheerer of Palm Coast, Fla., four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and a great-great grandson.

Inurnment will be held at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Seattle, Washington at a later date.

Arrangements by Sun City Center Funeral Home, Sun City Center, Florida.

## Don't forget!

Friendship Baptist Church, 1511 El Rancho Dr., Sun City Center, is presenting another of their monthly movie episodes, as well as a beautiful buffet of goodies during the intermission break.

There is never any charge for anyone. Join them at 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 30.

## St. John the Divine to hold VBS

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church is offering two separate Vacation Bible School programs from August 1-5.

PandaMania, for young children five to 11 years old, will be held at the Ruskin Campus, 705 9th Street, S.E., from 5:45 - 8:45 p.m.

A program for youth entering the 6th grade and higher will be held at the Sun City Center Campus, 1015 E. Del Webb Boulevard, from 6 - 8:30 p.m. Both programs begin with dinner and feature Bible-learning, crafts, music, games, and a mission project.

There is no charge to attend. To register, call 645-1521.



*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. — Galatians 6:9*

## Domestic violence education program aimed at teens wins award

Verizon Wireless of Florida's Teen Technology Panel was named 'Best Community Relations Program' in this year's Impact Awards, an international strategic communications competition, created by the League of American Communications Professionals LLC (LACP). The program was created locally to address and help prevent the emerging issue of teen dating violence, and the role that today's technology can play in inappropriate behaviors.

"The Teen Technology Panel has proven to be unique and remarkable, even among tremendous competition," said Christine Kennedy, LACP Managing Director. "Nearly 100 entries were received for the 2010 Impact Awards, comprising the very best in communications from eight countries."

The Verizon Wireless Teen Technology Panel brings peers, law enforcement representatives and domestic violence experts together for an open discussion in front of a teen audience, uncovering the harsh realities of teen dating violence. The program also teaches teens how to establish healthy relationships and boundaries while using cell phones, social media and other technology. At the conclusion of each panel, teens in attendance are encouraged to text in their pledge against violence.

"We are very pleased with the impact that the Teen Technology

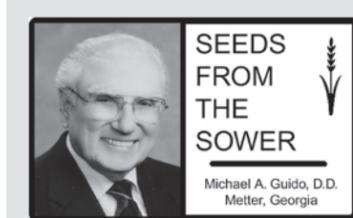
Panel is making throughout our Florida communities and among our youth," says Pam Tope, Verizon Wireless president for the Florida region. "In its first year, the program already has reached hundreds of teens, helping them build positive habits - and break bad ones."

Verizon has continued to be a corporate leader in the effort against domestic violence and in the support of abuse survivors. Verizon's HopeLine® program is one visible example of the company's efforts. Through HopeLine bins located inside every Verizon Wireless store, the company collects no-longer-used wireless phones, batteries and accessories that are refurbished or recycled for cash. Verizon Wireless then provides the refurbished phones, airtime and recycling proceeds to local domestic violence shelters and other organizations.

Since its inception, HopeLine has collected more than 8 million phones and provided \$10 million in grants. In addition to HopeLine, the Verizon Foundation has awarded more than \$21 million in the past four years to nonprofit organizations that assist domestic violence survivors.

The Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon, uses its technology, financial resources and partnerships to address critical social issues, with a focus on education and domestic violence prevention. In 2010, the foundation awarded nearly \$67 million to nonprofit agencies in the U.S. and abroad. Through Verizon Volunteers, one of the nation's largest employee volunteer programs, Verizon employees and retirees have volunteered nearly 6 million hours of community service since 2000.

For grant requests and other information, visit [www.verizonfoundation.org](http://www.verizonfoundation.org).



Mr. and Mrs. George Chanzuk of Canada decided to keep all the empty cereal boxes and food jars from which they fed their daughter, Shawana.

In her first year she ate 182 pounds of groceries. This included 569 jars of food.

Interesting, isn't it?  
 Babies need food. So do believers.

You eat, rest and exercise for the good of your body. But do you leave your souls undernourished?

Bodily health is important. Soul health is more important.

The Bible says, Like newborn babies, crave spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow.

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## Beware of car dealer loan rate markups

If you're relying on a dealer arranged loan to finance your next vehicle, you could end up paying hundreds of dollars more than if you financed elsewhere. The Center for Responsible Lending issued a report that ranked Florida 4th in the nation for rate markup volume in 2009. A dealer that provides financing can markup the interest rate above what the consumer's credit would qualify for. That markup can be a hidden cost to the consumer since most consumers don't know what they qualify for. The report found that dealership interest rate markups can lead to more expensive loans and more default and repossession for borrowers. Consumers who finance their cars through the dealership will pay more than \$25.8 billion in interest rate markups during their loan according to the report.

You can avoid higher interest rates on your next car loan with these tips from the Center for Responsible Lending:

- Know your credit score. Obtain annual free credit reports at the Federal website [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call 1-877-322-8228. They tell consumers their credit worthiness. Avoid paying for credit reporting services.
- Get a loan quote from your nearest bank or credit union. Find out the interest rates they are offering on new or used car loans. Ask to be pre-approved, if you know what make and model vehicle you intend to purchase. You will then know exactly what interest rate and monthly payments you can expect.
- Negotiate for a better rate. Consumers unsatisfied with rates quoted should attempt to negotiate a lower interest rate. An informed consumer can better negotiate with a dealer and know whether a dealership's claim that a given rate is truly the best one available. Compare auto loan rates in your area at [www.bankrate.com](http://www.bankrate.com) and calculate your loan payment.

More great tips for car buyers:

- Beware of deceptive ads. Many new and used car dealers advertise low interest rates, special promotions, high trade-in allowances and free or low-cost options. Many times these ads are nothing but bait to lure you into the dealership. Carefully examine the small print and details of the offer.
- High pressure sales tactics. Remember everything from how you're greeted to where you sit is designed to sell you a car when you walk into a dealership.
- Do your research! Read several reviews in newspapers, auto magazines or consumer reports. Check out auto-buying websites: [www.edmunds.com](http://www.edmunds.com), [www.kbb.com](http://www.kbb.com), [www.nadaguides.com](http://www.nadaguides.com).
- Shop around to get the best price. Know what features you want and don't want. Know how much you're willing to pay and plan to negotiate.
- Hold off on your trade-in. Keep your trade-in out of the price negotiation. If you want to trade-in your current vehicle, bring it up after you've agreed on a price for the new car. Research and know the value of your trade-in. If the dealer's offer is too low, call them on it.
- Never drive off the lot without a copy of your contract. Make sure all blank spaces are filled in, or ask why not.
- Extended Warranties are really service contracts. Keep in mind that new vehicles, as well as many used vehicles, come with a warranty. New car warranties are FREE. Service contracts or extended warranties cost extra and may duplicate something covered in the warranty. Service contracts can cost less if purchased from other sources rather than the dealership. Always shop for the best price and coverage.
- Never buy a vehicle "as is." "As is" means no warranty. You must pay for all repairs, even if the car breaks down on the way home from the dealership.

## Shorebird nesting site vandalized, community response swift

A well-marked shorebird nesting site on Ft. Myers Beach was vandalized during the early morning of June 28. Community leaders, local landowners and wildlife volunteers are upset.

Calls to the Wildlife Alert Hotline at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) dispatch center in Tampa indicated the markers and signs were ripped out and some nest destruction occurred on the protected portion of the beach, just west of the Carlos Pointe Condominiums.

"One least tern nest was lost due to the vandalism and 50 wooden stakes, hundreds of yards of twine, attached flagging tape and signs marking the shorebird nesting site were uprooted. It is very fortunate that the colony did not abandon the site entirely," said FWC wildlife biologist Brie Ochoa.



Because many of Florida's shorebird species are listed as threatened or endangered, the nesting area was posted by the state. It is a violation of state and federal laws to harass or take any endangered or threatened birds, their eggs or young.

Shorebirds such as least terns and snowy plovers lay their well-camouflaged eggs directly on the sand, making them nearly invisible to predators and to the untrained human eye. Any disturbance by people, pets or vehicles - accidental or otherwise - can cause these birds to abandon their nests, resulting in unhatched eggs and the death of young chicks.

The town of Ft. Myers Beach has replaced the signs, stakes and twine, and the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement is investigating the incident. Maintenance of the posted area, monitoring of the birds and outreach to visitors is accomplished by a local network of partners, including the town of Ft. Myers Beach and Audubon Society volunteers.

"The community supports the protection of these birds, and they are interested in seeing them thrive. Several organizations have partnered together to organize the bird steward program, which is supported by volunteers and expanding each year," said Ochoa.

Anyone having information about this incident is encouraged to call the Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922. Citizens may remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if their information leads to an arrest.

## Republican Club's Summer Picnic to feature candidates

The Fifth Annual Old Fashioned South Shore Republican Club's Summer Picnic will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6 at Ruskin's Simmons Park.

"We will have a number of current elected officials and candidates for the 2012 election cycle," said Club President Brian Holland. "We are excited that this is our fifth anniversary of the event and it has grown each year. With more and more people beginning to get excited about the 2012 elections this will be the first chance to meet candidates in an informal environment."

Many GOP Presidential candidates have already started targeting Florida for the 2012 primary season. "We have been informed by most Presidential candidates

staffers that they'll have some presence at the event. A few of the candidates are trying to work this event into their schedules so we're optimistic that we might see a Presidential candidate at Simmons Park," added Holland.



The Florida Senate seat is up for grabs, too and a wide open field is apparent. "We expect that we'll have a few of the candidates for the Senate seat on hand, again, it's

a matter of adjusting schedules. In 2011 current Senator Marco Rubio attended, at a time when his candidacy was being questioned," said Holland.

Locally, the County Commission District 6 race is developing as three people have indicated they will challenge incumbent Kevin Beckner. All three candidates Steve Cono, Brad Faircloth and Margaret Iculano have confirmed they will attend.

The picnic gets under way at 10 a.m. and lunch will be served starting at 11:30 a.m. A small fee of \$5 will be collected from non-club members. All registered Republican and Independent are welcome to attend. For more information, call President Holland at (813) 672-4408.

# Life with Low Vision

vision that leads or show initiative or capacity to lead a superior to be in a position of authority

**vision** \ˈvɪz-ən\ *n.* 1 : unusual competence in discernment or perception; intelligent foresight

2 : the perceptual experience of seeing

"the runners emerged from the tunnel with clear vision"; "he had a visual sensation of a intense light" 3 : a religious or mystical experience of a supernatural appearance such as a ghost

**visit** \ˈvɪz-ɪt\ *v.* 1 : to go, or come, to see

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**Dr. Walter Moscoso,**

Retina & Macular Degeneration Specialist



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- Vitamins and supplements proven to help
- How Macular Degeneration can be monitored
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Cleaning out sheds. Refreshments available. Priced right. Friday & Saturday, 8am-? Corner of 1st St SW & 17th Ave., (Cemetery road)

Big moving sale. Anything & everything. Must see! Antique bed frame \$350, antique stand upright stereo cabinet \$100 & more July 29, 30 & 31. 125 18th St., NW, Ruskin.

Big sale. Saturday, July 30, 8am-noon. Hundreds of great items. No junk! Very low prices, everything negotiable. 10327 Avelar Ridge Dr, Riverview,. Look for signs US 301/ Cowley Rd to Avelar Creek.

Church wide yard sale. Sun City Christian Center, US 301 south. Saturday, 9am-2pm. Furniture, building supplies, clothes, etc.

11720 Stonewood Gate Dr., Summerfield Crossing. Multi family sale, Saturday July 30, 8am-1pm. Lots of clothes, furniture, cribs, etc.

Garage sale. Craftman 10" table saw, Craftman 30 gal compressor, golf clubs, misc tools, clothes, misc housewares. 2204 Myrtle Vista Ct., SCC. Friday 8am-1pm. & Saturday, 8am-noon

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**BACK ON THE MARKET:** Older 2BR/1BA Mobile-home, enclosed Fla-Rm, well maintained, sold furnished, including washer & dryer. Extended living-rm, dining area in kitchen, screen porch, shed, roof over. No HOA, very affordable at \$30,000. **CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

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**GET YOUR WISH LIST TOGETHER.** And get ready to start planning a brand new dream home on this bargain lot in Apollo Beach. Building here where house once existed is very affordable. No CDD fees, close to schools, park, beach, transportation. \$18,500 **JUDY ERICKSON 468-0288**

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**PRICE REDUCED ON THIS 3BR/2BA** on a gorgeous corner lot with mature landscaping. Adjoining lot (82x135) with separate folio included. Special features include: nice open floor plan, plenty of cabinets and center island in kitchen, nice deck off living area overlooking a huge yard, double walk-in closets in master, freshly painted interior and much more! \$94,900 **CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

**GREAT COMMERCIAL LOCATION!** 2052 sq.ft. building with a great location on busy Shell Point Road in Ruskin. Nice size lot (72x170) with a circular driveway and parking for 6-12 vehicles. Large reception area, 6 private offices, kitchen area, 1 full bath and 1 half bath. \$150,000 **CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

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

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Claire Tort .....	363-7250	Roxanne Westbrook .....	748-2201
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■ Continued from page 1

“Mission complete, Houston,” Ferguson said to Houston control. “After serving the world for 30 years, the space shuttle has earned its place in history and has come to a final stop.”

Houston control confirmed the stop and thanked the Atlantis crew and the American people for a job well done.

“The space shuttle has changed the way we view the world and view the universe,” Ferguson responded. “There is a lot of emotion today, but one thing is indisputable: America is not going to stop exploring. Thank you, Columbia, Challenger, Discovery, Endeavour and our ship, Atlantis. Thank you for protecting us and for bringing this program to such a fitting end. God bless all of you and God bless the United States of America.”

The shuttle commander thanked Mission Control in Houston and concluded by saying, “We’re going to sign off here. It’s going to be hard, but we’re going to walk off Atlantis.”

Shortly after landing, emotions ran high as NASA administrators and shuttle program employees gathered around Atlantis before it was towed to the orbital processing facility where thousands of NASA employees were gathered to welcome the crew and shuttle home for the final time.

“Out on the runway, I found myself just taking in the beauty of the vehicle,” said NASA Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach. “I took pictures of the vehicle and the workers; I asked for pictures to be taken of me with the vehicle. It was a family event out there today. It’s hard to describe the emotions. There were good emotions that we

brought the crew home safely and sadness that it’s over. I saw grown men and grown women crying today — tears of joy, to be sure. Human emotions came out on the runway today, you couldn’t suppress it.”

For thousands of people working in the shuttle program, the landing meant an end to their jobs. In 2008, 15,000 people worked at KSC. That number is expected to decrease to 8,200 in the coming months; although NASA is predicting the number will rise again to 10,000 employees in the coming years to support new programs. The layoffs thus far have been almost exclusively NASA contractors rather than government employees.

“I can’t say enough good things about the team at KSC and how they’ve performed these last few flights,” Kennedy Space Center Director Bob Cabana said. “When you consider that folks know they are going to be out of work here (tomorrow will be their last day) they’ve performed flawlessly, right up to the very end. I have extreme pride in each and every one of them.”

Cabana later added, “You can’t keep doing the same thing and expect something to change. In today’s times, we can’t afford to keep flying the space shuttle and still work on those future programs.”

“I want to thank the space shuttle team for a tremendous effort, today and throughout the history of the program,” said NASA Associate Administrator of Space Operations Bill Gerstenmaier. “I recognize that change is very hard, but huge growth, huge improvement will come from change. They should be very proud of what they have done; they’ve accomplished everything we asked them to do.”

Gerstenmaier then said, “I’d also like to thank the nation for allowing us 30 years for the shuttle program. This is a tremendous vehicle. As I stood out on the runway and stared at the vehicle, I thought about all of the systems and when they were designed back in the 70s, and it was a true marvel, looking at that machine out on the runway. It was a true marvel and it has allowed us to do amazing things.”

Although the space shuttle program ended the moment the wheels of Atlantis stopped on the runway, the legacy will live on, not only through the inspiration the program provided to millions of people around the world but also in its technological advancements, many of which are now part of everyday life. Research and development from the shuttle program have given the world everything from an improved form of LASIK eye surgery to a miniature, implantable heart pump that has extended

or saved the lives of 450 people to date. The diversity of spinoffs from the program also ranges from home insulation that is many times more effective than fiberglass insulation to lens stabilization software that is incorporated into home video cameras. Today there exist hundreds of products in health and medicine, transportation, public safety, consumer electronics, computer technology, environmental conservation, and industrial productivity, thanks exclusively to the space shuttle program.

The shuttle program has launched 355 individuals representing 16 countries into space. The five space probes (orbiters) in the program flew 541 million miles and orbited the earth more than 21,000 times. Shuttles docked nine times with the former Russian space station Mir and thirty-seven times with the International Space Station. Fourteen astronauts gave up their lives in the tragedies on

Challenger in 1986 and Columbia in 2003.

Today Atlantis is lined up behind Discovery and Endeavour, ready to be converted from spacecraft to museum pieces. Discovery will reside at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Air and Space Museum and Endeavour will go to the California Science Center in Los Angeles. Atlantis, still fresh from her final mission, will remain in Florida at Kennedy Space Center and is expected to be on display at the visitor complex in 2013.

Although the shuttle era is over, NASA is committed to further space exploration beyond Earth’s orbit with the Orion capsule, still in development. Although Orion is not expected to launch before 2016, Americans will return to space much sooner than that. NASA astronaut Dan Burbank is scheduled to lift off aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket bound for the ISS on Sept. 22.



NASA administrators and shuttle program employees gather around the Space Shuttle Atlantis, holding a banner commemorating the program’s final flight shortly after landing at Kennedy Space Center on Thursday. The banner includes mission badges from each of Atlantis’ 33 flights into space. Emotions ran high on the runway with employees celebrating the successful last mission while mourning the end of the program.

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