



All things train can be enjoyed at the Palmetto Historical Park and Ag Museum. Best of all...it's free! See **page 7**



Brits get fit: Sun City Center residents host four young British citizens for BBC documentary on healthy lifestyles. See story on **page 13**

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Sixty-eight families aided by grants

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

RUSKIN — It was just a mattress but it made all the difference.

Until they received it from the St. Anne Conference, the family of four had been sleeping on the floor.

"Maybe it isn't ideal, all of them on one mattress, but it's better than sleeping on the floor," said Conference Chairman Rich Ricca.

The mattress was just a small part of what a recent \$6,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center enabled the Catholic Conference to do.

First, the grant was matched by the Conference — immediately making it \$12,000.

Then a series of meetings was held by the Review Committee headed by Sister Rosalie Hennessy to figure out where the money would do the most good.

The Community Foundation grant was given in March. It was part of the Dr. Charles and Iona Mathias Fund.

The money comes from donations and bequests and may be left to spend at the discretion of the Foundation or put into a specific area, such as education, families, animals, environmental, and dozens of other wide categories.

"It leaves us a great deal of discretion," said Sister Rosalie. "We might know it is for families, but what families? And for what reason? We, as a committee must carefully go over each application and decide."

These are weighty decisions, said Rich. "Sometimes the smallest thing — like that mattress — can make a huge difference in someone's life."

The most recent grant was used to help 68 families.

Rich broke it down this way: 37 families were helped in a big way and 31 to a smaller degree.

Forty-seven percent went for rent for 14 families. Thirty-one percent to utilities for 16 families. Then there was the "catch all category" that helps the people who fall between the cracks. This 22 percent helps in various ways that no agency can provide.



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Curt Morgan, a volunteer with the Catholic Conference at St. Anne Catholic Church in Ruskin, helps a family fill out an application for emergency help made available by a recent matching grant.

"This time, a mom called from Massachusetts. Her son had come down for a job but when he got here, there really wasn't any job. He went to a homeless shelter and got mugged and robbed. The mom was calling to see if we could give him the money to send him home."

The bus ticket turned out to cost more than a plane ticket, and so after someone from the church drove the 26-year-old man to the airport, the \$180.40 plane ticket took him on home.

"We never know if we've helped change or save a life," said Rich.

Another thing this particular grant accomplished was to help a father who could not pay his car payment or three month auto insurance. Without those, he could not work.

"Once they get behind, they can't get caught up so sometimes, just a quick fix is all they need," Rich said.

A lot of people are now between places to live too, need to get into an apartment or mobile home and get some furniture so they can qualify for food stamps and other assistance they can't get living in the woods.

The effect of falling behind on electric bills is to turn off electricity after three months and that was averted for a family as well.

"Think of it. No hot water. Maybe no water at all. No refrigerator. No clean clothes or dishes. No baths. This has a dramatic effect on families. How can the children even stay in school?" Rich asked.

So Curt Morgan and other volunteers faithfully volunteer to take applications, day in and day out, praying that the money will continue to come in.

The Conference makes some from the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Ruskin (east on 11th Ave. N.E. just south of St. Anne Catholic church) but most comes from donations.

"If only people would provide for this in their wills so many more people could be helped," Sister Rosalie said.

To do that, you may contact the fund's administrator, Robert Mohr, at 137 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., Sun City Center or call his office 813-634-5500. Mohr, an attorney, is the chairman of the Development Committee for the Community Association and also administrator of the Funds. ♦

Citizen rally on park closures set for next week

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

Disturbed by proposed closure of their neighborhood parks and distrustful of county parks department information, South County citizens this week began shaping up a rally in protest.

About 20 of them, from Balm to Brandon, Ruskin to Gibsonton, met Monday in Brandon with Terry O'Grady, longtime parks athletic programs volunteer and strong advocate of youth after school programs, to organize the multi-community rally.

They set it for 7 p.m., Thursday, August 11, at the Brandon Recreation Center, north of S.R. 60 at Sadie Park, Kingsway and Sadie Street. Weather permitting, the session will be held outdoors, O'Grady said, adding that in the case of an evening rain shower, it will be moved indoors.

South County parents, particularly of school age children, have become increasingly alarmed as Mark Thornton, Hillsborough's parks and recreation department

See **CITIZENS RALLY**, see page 3



This aerial shot of Shell Key by Marea Dorian is but one face of the 400-square-mile Tampa Bay. The photo exhibition includes finalists in the Tampa Bay Estuary program's 2010 photo competition.

MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

Traveling photo exhibit portrays faces of Tampa Bay

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

LITHIA — A little over 20 years ago, a well used Tampa Bay was designated "an estuary of national significance" by congressional decree.

Today, in most segments of Florida's largest open water estuary the water quality is as good as it was 55 years ago.

The evidence has been captured in full natural color with a series of demonstrating photographs by Florida photographers from different backgrounds and now is combined to create a traveling exhibit celebrating not only a highly productive ecosystem but also its appointed guardian, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program.

Also created by the U.S. Congress, TBEP observes its 20th anniversary this year. The exhibit includes finalists from its 2010 photography competition.

The 20-piece touring display now is mounted here, on the first floor of the Mosaic Company's Florida headquarters on FishHawk

See **TRAVELING PHOTO EXHIBIT**, page 11

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Citizens to rally against park closures

■ Continued from page 1

director, has conducted public meetings around the county to promote his plan to close dozens of community parks, terminating their after-school programs on which many working parents depend for safe youth activities filling the time gap between close of school and end of the work day.

The Thornton plan calls for eliminating the 30 or more community park programs as a cost savings measure at a time of budget deficits and replacing them with activities in 12 larger regional recreation centers spotted around the county, some of them yet to be built. The regional centers also would present new transportation difficulties for many parents.

As the group began dividing tasks, setting up a networking telephone tree, designing flyers and planning media contacts, O'Grady outlined a rally program. The accredited and widely experienced basketball, baseball, football and cheerleading coach who also certifies other coaches said he would like to give those attending the rally a brief history of the county's parks programs and follow-up with an explanation of what he calls a sustainable approach to maintaining neighborhood parks and their after-school activities.

O'Grady disputes Thornton's claim that closing community parks and programs represents a savings to taxpayers. Actually, he said, maintaining activities at 27 parks and serving a total of 2040

youngsters countywide, half at a rate of \$48 per week and half at a discounted rate of \$30 each week for 40 weeks, would produce nearly \$3.2 million in revenues. The closely estimated costs involved in keeping the same parks and their programs operating, including salaries, benefits, training and licensing, is \$2.531million, he added. In other words, he asserted it is possible to cover all costs and garner an additional \$650,000 buffer.

The volunteer coach also noted that it has been difficult to get sound department figures for comparison purposes due to the "limited access to the cost and budget line items" needed.

O'Grady suggested that it is poor money management within the parks department that negatively impacts its budget, pointing to two instances. One, he said, involves budgeting \$2 million for refurbishing fairgrounds facilities when the department benefits for only three days out of the year. Another is related to the department's contribution to a school readiness program in the amount of \$400,000 with the expectation of receiving \$1.4 million in return. The return actually was \$165,000, he said, and ultimately the department's net loss as the result of its miscalculations came to \$404,000.

Thornton's department, on the other hand, does not agree with O'Grady's take on the after school programs. Enrollment in the county's after school activi-

ties has declined drastically from a high of nearly 5,300 in 2006 to just 1,882 in 2011, a department written response to O'Grady's positions stated. And, the department insisted, the after school program is not as important to citizens as O'Grady describes.

The department response predicts the fiscal year 2012 total revenues from the after school program to be \$2.096 million and puts the total operating expenses at \$2.282 million, producing, therefore, a loss or budget deficit for the program of \$186,253.

Acknowledging that the after school programs are "a vital part of the community," the department responses go on to state that "The County, however, should not be the provider of this program." Instead, the department's recommendation is "partnership" with other existing after school organized activity.

As for O'Grady's complaint about the parks' budgeted monies spent on fair site infrastructure, Thornton's department noted "The entire county benefits from having the fair site as a program venue"

where the department offers programming for teen agers during three days of the fair run and which is available for rent by citizens the year around.

Regarding losses incurred by the department as part of the readiness program participation, the department admits a recent audit found it had not properly monitored the program waiting list, resulting "in unqualified applicants paying discounted rates to which they were not entitled." The department corrected the matter by increasing the rates to a higher amount which, in turn, resulted in "many applicants who paid the incorrect discounted rates abandoning the program" rather than pay the added amounts.

O'Grady said he interpreted the department responses as "proving my point."

The rally, he added, may encourage concerned parents, seniors volunteering at the various parks and citizens interested in the welfare of the next generation to talk with their county commissioners. *Copyright 2011 Melody Jameson*

Acknowledging that the after school programs are "a vital part of the community," the department responses go on to state that "The County, however, should not be the provider of this program."

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POSITIVE TALK

It's OK to be disappointed

There are those among us who constantly expect the worst to happen. Their rationale is that they won't be disappointed if it happens and they will be pleasantly surprised if something good happens. That's not the way we should lead our lives. Living with positive expectancy provides a lot more happiness to our existence than living with a pessimistic outlook. Many times, I have found that looking forward to something was even more fun than the actual happening.



Positive Talk
By William Hodges

When I was a small child, I wanted a pony very much. My birthday was coming up, and since we lived in a rural area, it was reasonable to expect I might get that pony. My parents had told me time and again that they couldn't afford a pony; but about a month before my birthday, I overheard my father tell my mother, "I know we can't afford it, but he will really enjoy riding it." I just knew they were talking about my pony. For the next 30 days, my mind created visions of my riding across the fields on Trigger. (I was a big Roy Rogers fan.)

What wondrous times I had in my mind. I pictured myself grooming and training this beautiful horse -- soaping down the leather of the saddle and burnishing it until it shone in the sun. I could see myself the envy of all the kids in the neighborhood. My dreams

at night were all of the wondrous present I expected to receive.

On the morning of my birthday, I jumped out of bed and looked out the window, expecting to see my pony tethered in the backyard. It wasn't there. I ran down the stairs and asked my mother, who was in the kitchen, where my birthday present was. With a smile, she and my father took me by the hand and led me toward the garage.

In my mind quickly flashed the picture of our garage being turned into a stable. As we entered the garage, every fiber of my body vibrated with excitement. Dad, his face beaming with pride, pointed to a slightly used bicycle and said, "There it is." I won't tell you that at that moment I wasn't crushed. But I soon got over it, and I enjoyed riding that bicycle. Today, I would not trade that few minutes of disappointment for the many days of positive anticipation I had enjoyed. For 30 days. At least in my mind, I had my pony.

What situations are you facing today that are causing you to carry the burden of worry and despair? Is there a possibility everything will turn out all right, that you will get what you want, whatever it is? Begin today to focus on getting what you want. Let the worry and despair fall from your mind. Picture yourself as a winner. Things will not always turn out as we hope, but we can always

hope they will. It's a strange rule of nature that what we think about the most is most likely to happen. If we think failure, then we work toward failure. If we think about winning, overcoming and succeeding, then we can win, overcome and succeed.

I never did get my pony, but now, I'm not sure getting that pony would have been all it was cracked up to be. You see, in my anticipation, I never thought about having to muck out a stall, or how much time and effort it takes to care for an animal. Getting my pony may well have been anticlimactic to my dream of having one. I can still hope for a pony, but if I never get one, I will have had much pleasure in the hoping. Never be afraid to dream, to hope or to want for fear you might fail. It is those who do not dream, hope or want who truly fail.

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



Seniors can get help with their Medicare costs

SHINE(ServingHealthInsurance Needs of Elders) volunteer counselors from the West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging are available to help Medicare beneficiaries learn if they qualify for additional benefits.

If they are eligible, SHINE volunteers can provide application assistance. If you or someone you know needs help with your Medicare costs, you can call 1-800-96-ELDER or 1-800-963-5337 and speak with a SHINE counselor.

More than 86,500 Medicare beneficiaries in Florida are likely eligible for, but are not enrolled in a program called Extra Help. This program offers qualified beneficiaries assistance with their Part D (prescription drug plan) costs.

In addition, many individuals may qualify for assistance paying their Part B premiums. Many of those who need help the most don't know about these valuable benefits and how SHINE can help.

SHINE provides educational materials and free unbiased insurance counseling to Florida elders, caregivers and family members. Their goal is to help elders understand and receive the health insurance coverage they need through Medicare, Medicaid, Prescription Assistance, Long-Term Care Planning and Insurance and other health care issues.

The program is operated by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the state's 11 Area Agencies on Aging. Locally, it's operated by the West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging. If you'd like more information and assistance, call the toll-free Elder Helpline at 1-800-963-5337.

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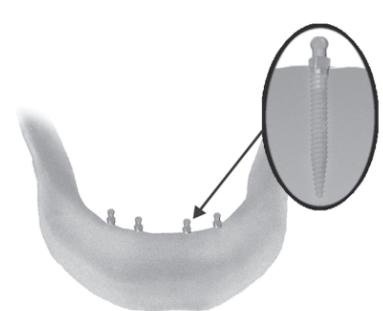
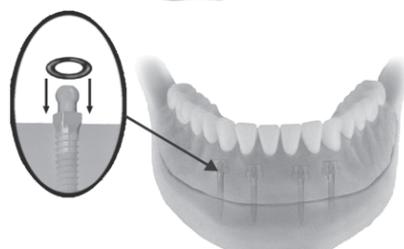
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August/September events and discounts available at MOSI

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Teachers Appreciated At MOSI

Through Aug. 26, teachers in the state of Florida get FREE general admission to MOSI, and up to 6 of their family members will receive \$5 off general admission! Teachers will also save 10 percent at MOSI's Elements Gift Shop on personal purchases or purchases for their classrooms.

Teachers must present school identification or other proof of employment. Admission offer may not be combined with other offers or discounts and excludes special engagement exhibitions, films, events and the Sky Trail Ropes Course. Gift Shop discount excludes gift certificates and telescopes.

Design Zone Exhibit at MOSI through Sept. 5

In Design Zone, visitors go behind the scenes to see how videogame developers, music producers, roller coaster designers and other creative problem solvers use math and science to do the amazing things they do.

MOSI's End of Summer Bash for Teens (ages 12 to 17) on Friday, Aug. 5 from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 for MOSI members; and \$33 for non-members.

Parents can enjoy a night off and drop off their teens for this safe, supervised party celebrating the end of summer. Teens can enjoy an eventful night of food, music, movies and gaming. They will chow down on a fun food buffet featuring pizza, soda and candy; jam out in a rock band; dance to the latest hot songs with a live DJ; take the Sky Trail Ropes Course challenge and even play laser tag in the exhibits!

Family Day at MOSI on Aug. 7

Cost is \$23.95 per adult; \$21.95 per senior; \$19.95 per child age 2-12. Family Day Discount: Two FREE children's tickets with purchase of one adult or senior ticket.

Families enjoy summer savings on Family Day at MOSI, when the purchase of one adult or senior ticket gets two children in free.

Admission offer may not be combined with other offers or discounts and excludes special engagement exhibitions, films, events and the Sky Trail Ropes Course.

MOSI's 2011 Quiddich Cup Tournament and Exhibition from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 13. Cost is \$50 per team of 7; and \$9 per person.

All you need is your broomstick and a pair of athletic shoes to participate in the growing wizardry game of Quiddich. Colleges from around the world have created teams and challenge each other to see who is tops at this sport from the Harry Potter book and movie series. Watch the teams, learn the rules, try your hand at catching the snitch, and challenge others to a game. Costumes are optional.

Senior Citizens' Day at MOSI on Aug. 21. Cost is \$23.95 per adult; \$21.95 per senior; and \$19.95 per child age 2-12.

Senior Citizens' Day Discount: Seniors buy one general admission ticket, get a second one free.

Seniors can buy one general admission ticket, and get a second one free on Aug. 21. Free ticket must be of equal or lesser value. Admission offer may not be combined with other offers or discounts and excludes special engagement exhibitions, films, events and the Sky Trail Ropes Course.

Labor Day Weekend Discount at MOSI on Sept. 3, 4 & 5. Cost is \$23.95 per adult; \$21.95 per senior; and \$19.95 per child age 2-12.

Labor Day Weekend Discount: General admission is buy one get one free. General admission is buy one get one free all Labor Day Weekend. Free ticket must be of equal or lesser value. Admission offer may not be combined with other offers or discounts and excludes special engagement exhibitions, films, events and the Sky Trail Ropes Course.

New MOSI Exhibit: Target America: Opening Eyes to the Damage Drugs Cause arrives Sept. 16, 2011-Sept. 2012. Cost is \$23.95 per adult; \$21.95 per senior; and \$19.95 per child age 2-12.

An interactive exhibit on the costs and consequences of illegal drugs, Target America offers visitors a dynamic journey exploring: the origins of drug production; international distribution; the negative impact drugs have on the mind, communities and the environment; and current practices in prevention and treatment. Target America's exhibit content and supplemental educational materials for teachers enhance the drug prevention programs occurring in schools.

Harvest Moon Night at MOSI from 7 to 10 p.m. on Sept. 10. Cost for MOSI members is \$30 per adult; and \$15 per child. Cost for general public is \$40 per adult; and \$20 per child.

Join them to celebrate the harvest moon. This full moon is the one closest to the September equinox and was a sign to Native Americans to begin harvesting their crops. Eat a Native American-style meal, create authentic feather jewelry, and learn a harvest celebration dance. In the Saunders Planetarium, tour the night sky and learn the science behind the seasons. End the evening with a trip to the highest point at MOSI to peer at the full moon through telescopes.

Rescue at MOSI's IMAX Dome Theatre starting Aug. 12.

Cost of general admission, including movie is \$23.95 per adult; \$21.95 per senior; and \$19.95 per child age 2-12. Cost of movie only: \$8.95 per adult; 7.95 per senior; \$6.95 per child age 2-12.

Rescue is an inspirational and exciting film about international responses to humanitarian crises. It was during the Berlin airlift that the military equipment and personnel of multiple countries were used for the first time to deliver civilian humanitarian aid on a mass scale. Today, the militaries of the world community continue to play a key role, particularly in the first response phase of a natural disaster.

For more information on MOSI, visit www.mosi.org.

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, Aug. 4 — VA Hospital at 5:30 p.m. Bar Bingo at 6 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 5 — Fish Fry at 5:30 p.m. Music by FiFi & Company from 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 6 — Music by Bert & Sassy from 7 to 11 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 7 — Music by Bert & Sassy from 5 to 9 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 8 — Planning Meeting at 6 p.m. House Committee Meeting at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 9 — Games in Lounge from 1 to 5 p.m. Kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 10 — VFW & LAVFW Meeting at 7 p.m.

23rd Annual Ladies' Fishing Tournament

The Old Salt Fishing Foundation of Madeira Beach is proud to announce its 23rd Annual Old Salt and Bill Currie Ford Ladies' Fishing Tournament, Aug. 11 and 13.

Their mission is to involve more women in the wonderful sport of fishing with a fun competitive atmosphere while raising awareness and support for the Celma Mastry Ovarian Cancer Foundation and All Children's Hospital.

This tournament has been held at Madeira Beach Municipal Marina for several years and in 2011 they are proud to incorporate the grand opening and ribbon cutting of the Madeira Beach Marina NEW Ship Store with the tournament. The marina has gone through several renovations over the years and the ship store is their newest.

The Ladies' tournament also includes a Fish-A-Thon, captains party, silent auctions, local restaurants, arts and craft vendors and much more. Whether your fishing, spectating or just want to come out to support great charities and have some fun this is an event for your whole family!

Ladies statewide will compete on Saturday, Aug. 13 in one of the largest fishing events of its kind. While men can captain and mate the boat the angling is all up to the ladies. Species range from redfish and trout to grouper and amberjack, so whether you prefer inshore or offshore, your own boat or a chartered one this is an event anyone can take part in.

This tournament will benefit the Celma Mastry Ovarian Cancer Foundation and All Children's Hospital. With your help, they will exceed previous years' donations and celebrate another outstanding success in 2011.

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.

County to hold 'Back to School Health Fair' in Ruskin

School is out, but not for long. Hillsborough County's Family and Aging Services Department is helping to prepare students for the upcoming school year by teaming up with the Back to School Coalition of Hillsborough County to host several Back to School Health Fairs, one of which is in Ruskin from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20 at the SouthShore Community Resource Center, 201 14th Ave. S.E.

Free physicals and immunizations will be given to school-aged children entering Florida schools for the first time. In addition, Hillsborough County will provide free backpacks with school supplies. An appointment is required. For more information, call (813) 443-3048.

SOUTHSHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

15816 Beth Shields Way • Ruskin 33573

Kids' Program/Event Highlights August 4 to 10

Espresso Yourself!*

Thursday, August 4 • 3 to 5:30 p.m.

For teens in grades 6-12. You are here... but are you awake? Energize your day by painting with coffee! Create caffeinated works of art using espresso and tea as your medium.

Family Time

Thursday, August 4 • 7 to 7:30 p.m.

For ages 2-5 with a caregiver. Make reading time family time. Stories, action rhymes, songs, interactive activities, and crafts make up this fun 30-minute program that celebrates a love of reading. Children may wear pajamas and bring a blanket and favorite cuddly toy.

Teen Night: Teen Advisory Board

Thursday, August 4 • 7 to 8 p.m.

For middle and high school students. Have a voice in creating library programs for teens and earn community service hours toward graduation, scholarships and more! Funding provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library. Refreshments provided by Domino's Pizza and SweetBay Supermarkets.

Toddler Time

Tuesday, August 9 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m. and 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

For children ages 18-36 months and their caregivers.

Stories, fingerplays, songs and interactive activities make up this fun 20-minute program that highlights early literacy skills and encourages reading readiness.

Story Time

Tuesday, August 9 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

For children ages 3-5 and their caregivers. Stories, action rhymes, songs and interactive activities make up this engaging 30-minute program that highlights early literacy skills, and encourages reading readiness and social interaction.

Baby Time

Wednesday, August 10 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m.

For children ages 0-18 months and their caregivers. Early literacy begins at birth. Bond with your baby through stories, bouncy rhymes and songs in this 20-minute lap-sit program that introduces early literacy skills and encourages language development.

Toddler Time

Wednesday, August 10 • 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

For children ages 18-36 months and their caregivers. Stories, fingerplays, songs and interactive activities make up this fun 20-minute program that highlights early literacy skills and encourages reading readiness.

Story Time

Wednesday, August 10 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

For children ages 3-5 and their caregivers. Stories, action rhymes, songs and interactive activities make up this engaging 30-minute program that highlights early literacy skills, and encourages reading readiness and social interaction.

"Creative Artists" Let's Create!*

Wednesday, August 10 • 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

'Creative Artists,' 7-10 years, will have a fun afternoon creating an art project to take home. Limit 20. Registration required at SouthShore Regional Library. Please visit the Information Desk at the Library or call 273-3652.

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

Small area on Gandy Causeway designated for shorebird protection

Shorebirds using a small stretch of beach near the foot of the Gandy Bridge in Pinellas County are getting some needed protection from vehicle traffic.

About 700 feet of beach just west of the south radio tower on the St. Petersburg side will remain open to foot traffic but is closed to motorized vehicles. The Florida Department of Transportation has placed

concrete barriers at the site to prevent vehicular access.

"The portion of the beach next to the radio tower is an important staging area for feeding and migrating shorebirds and seabirds. Places where these birds can safely forage and rest are becoming scarcer — a contributing factor to the decline of some species," said Nancy Douglass, biological supervisor for the

FWC.

Commercial development and high recreational use in prime nesting, feeding and resting areas along Florida's coast make what is already a precarious life for shorebirds even more so.

Visit the "Living with Wildlife" page at MyFWC.com/Wildlife for more information about coexisting with Florida's shorebirds.

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Michael Hollander, owner of WeatherTite Windows, announced a great savings plan. His \$0 down, no interest until Jan. 2015, along with reduced pricing, is great for homeowners who are in need of hurricane resistant, energy efficient, replacement windows and doors.

All homeowners who respond within two weeks from the date of this notice and purchase energy efficient, money-saving WeatherTite windows or sliding doors are eligible to make this purchase with no money down and have a payment plan with fixed minimum and no interest until 2015.

Mr. Hollander emphasized the program is effective immediate-

ly and he will be able to arrange low monthly payments to suit the budgetary needs of every homeowner.

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Adult Program/Event Highlights August 4 to 10

Publisher: Introduction and Formatting*
Thursday, August 4 • 12:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Introduction to the Publisher window layout, toolbars, creating new documents, and insertion of text and picture frames. Manipulating picture and text frames, working with lines, borders and colors. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

Vegetarianism: A Lifestyle You Can Live With and Raw Food Cooking Demonstration*
Saturday, August 6 • 1 to 2 p.m.



If you are thinking about becoming a vegetarian or just want a better understanding, this program is for you. If you are still interested at the end of the program, you can receive a free 'Vegetarian Starter Kit' that provides many useful tips and recipes for health. Presenters are Denise Anderson and Hussein Mourtada.

Windows 7: Introduction and Computer Basics*
Monday, August 8 • 2 to 4:15 p.m.

Learn the parts of a window, how to navigate in the Windows environment, and file management. Learn about the parts and basic terminology of computers. Also covers basic purchasing considerations. Registration is available one hour prior to the beginning of the program.

SouthShore Needle People*
Wednesday, August 10 • 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!

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

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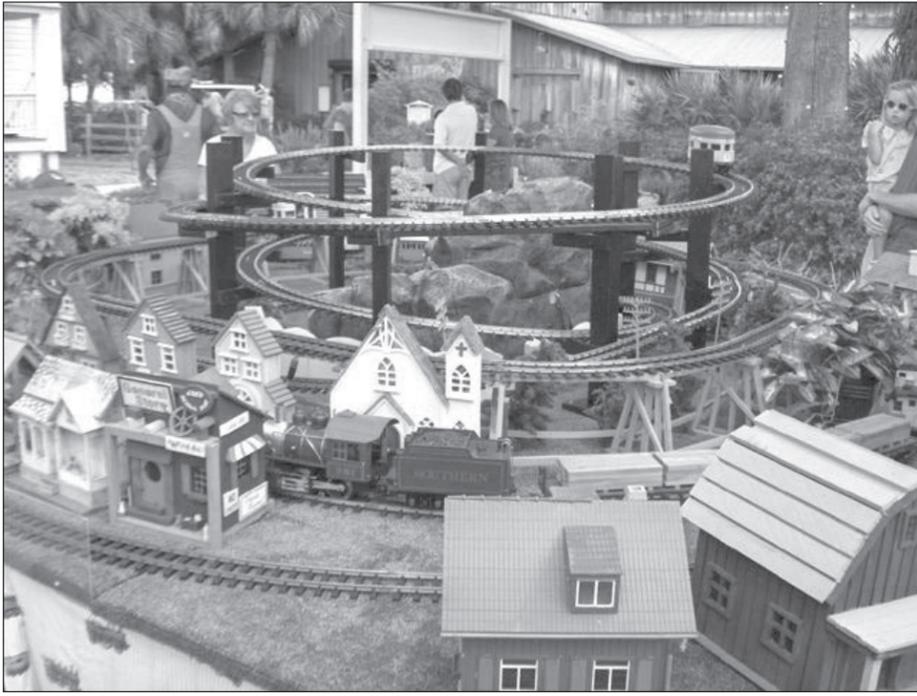
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One of the model train set-ups in Palmetto Historical Park, August 2010

Model train event at Palmetto Historical Park

PALMETTO — Palmetto Historical Park and Manatee County Agricultural Museum's summer social will be a "Model Train Social." Held over two days on Friday, August 5th from 4 – 8 p.m. and Saturday, August 6th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., this family event is sure to please any train enthusiast.

The Florida Garden Railway Society and Real Rail will be visiting and bringing their model trains. There will be trains set up all over the park as well as two Speeders. A hands-on train play area, train crafts, train activities, and train movies are all part of the event. Included will be a Thomas the Tank Engine set-up and a Tropicana set-up. There will even

be several contests to participate in and a swap session that will be open to the public. Come visit the park and have a great time!

Word of Mouth BBQ will be selling lunches on both days and Alex's Lemonade Stand will be raising funds for childhood cancer research.

This family event is FREE! The park is located at 515 - 10th Ave. West, Palmetto. For more information, call 941-721-2034 or 941-723-4991. This event is sponsored by R.B. Chips Shore, Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Palmetto Historical Commission, Manatee County Agricultural Museum, Inc., & the City of Palmetto.

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The Observer News

CARRIER OF THE WEEK



The husband and wife team of Sissy and Harvey Hamrick have been delivering the Observer News for 3 years. They deliver two routes in the SCC area. They are hardworking and always willing to fill in for a vacationing fellow carrier. They are proud grandparents of a beautiful little girl in Jacksonville, FL. Sissy and Harvey are conscientious and dedicated and we're glad they're on our team!

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Hurry! This Special Offer Expires August 31, 2011!

Gaby for Honorary Mayor

Join Gabrielle Perham, candidate for Honorary Mayor of Riverview, at the next Ladies Night Out (free monthly social networking event) from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6 at The Little Shoppes of Winthrop Town Centre, 6032 Winthrop Town Centre Ave., Riverview.

The event will provide free food, wine, and beverages and the 'Gaby for Mayor!' table will have raffles, prizes and items to sell.



All proceeds from Gaby's table will benefit the Riverview Boys & Girls Club (BGC) and the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce. Gaby currently owns and operates a local marketing firm, Mace Multimedia with her husband. She is active in the chamber and is the Marketing Chair of South Shore Young Professionals Association (SSYPA). This is the second event in a 2-month campaign to raise as many funds as possible for her charity of choice, the Riverview BGC. Show your support for Gaby for mayor and have some fun! For more information, visit www.gabyformayor.com or call (813) 704-0460.

'Summer Learning Day' for children to enjoy nature at Camp Bayou

As a part of the 'No Child Left Inside' effort to teach children about nature and get them outdoors, Camp Bayou will hold a 'Summer Learning Day' from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 6. Camp Bayou is located 3 miles south of S.R. 674 at the end of 24th St. SE in Ruskin. Park on 24th St. SE near the entrance to Camp Bayou. No early entry.

Admission is free, but online registration is requested by Thursday, Aug. 4. To register, visit www.campbayou.org. People without internet access may register by telephone at (813) 641-8545. Leave your name, number of children attending and their grade levels on the voice mail service.

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!

For a possible extra bonus, children will be given a raffle ticket when they sign in at the registration table. A ticket will be drawn every 30 minutes for other items, including backpacks, journals, lunch bags, and more.

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
- Hillsborough County Adopt-a-Pond
- Girl Scouts of West Central Florida
- Brandon Homeschool Fellowship
- Facepainters
- Florida Master Naturalists
- League of Environmental Educators in Florida
- Paleo Preserve Fossil Museum

The Camp Bayou Nature Center will be selling a hot dog and drink combo for \$3 as a fundraiser during the event.

This year they will hold a Teacher Materials Exchange -- an area for educators to leave materials they no longer need or pick up something new. Current items available for the Teacher's Materials Exchange include a fish tank with some accessories, posters, colorful nature magazines, water quality test kits and more! Teachers can also learn about field trips to the Nature Center or Fossil Museum, SWFWMD's SPLASH! grants,



Cliff from Hillsborough County Solid Waste and Pat from Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful (now Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful) at last year's event with litter game.

upcoming teacher professional workshops, League of Environmental Educators in Florida information and Florida Master Naturalist Program updates.

Camp Bayou is neither a campground nor a summer camp. It was an RV park before the County's ELAP program purchased the land, but it is now open for day use only and open to the general public. Through volunteers, donations, membership and grants, the RCDF offers pre-scheduled programs to schools, youth groups, adult groups and families plus it's open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday-Saturday for passive recreational pursuits such as wildlife watching, nature photography and trail walks. General admission is still FREE.

The Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center is a public-private partnership between the non-profit Ruskin Community Development Foundation, Inc. (RCDF) and Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation.

For more information, call (813) 641-8545 or visit www.campbayou.com.

Popular pet program to resume in Hillsborough County

The Hillsborough County Spay/Neuter Voucher Program for pet owners on income assistance resumed July 1.

Hillsborough County Animal Services temporarily stopped issuing new vouchers in order to assess available funding a few weeks ago.

Under the program, residents of Hillsborough County who meet qualifying guidelines may obtain sterilization surgery for their owned pets from dozens of participating clinics and veterinarians. Residents must supply an approved voucher and \$10 co-payment for service which includes a rabies vaccination and pet registration tag. Application forms, program guidelines, suggested documentation needed for application approval, and a list of participating veterinary clinics are all listed on the County website. The voucher applications (in English and Spanish) are also available at Hillsborough County Animal Services (440 Falkenburg Road, N., Tampa).

Pet owners and participating veterinarians should note an important new difference in the expiration policy for the Hillsborough County Spay/Neuter Program: citizens must now redeem vouchers for their pet's surgery within 30 days of issuance. Pet owners are encouraged to contact any and all participating veterinary clinics as necessary in order to schedule appointments within the 30 day window.

The Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners approved the low-cost spay/neuter voucher program in 2002 to be funded through sales of pet registration tags. Thanks to outreach by the Department of Animal Services and an array of committed community partners, this program soared to unprecedented success in a few short years. A national spay/neuter expert was recently commissioned to assess Hillsborough County's spay/neuter voucher program and declared it one of the most progressive and successful in the nation.

Targeted to economically-challenged residents, the Hillsborough County Spay/Neuter Voucher Program is integral to the core missions for animal welfare and public safety while promoting responsible pet ownership. In addition to reducing pet overpopulation and the spread of disease, spaying and neutering reduces unwanted pet behaviors (including aggression), dog-bites, and the incidence of certain cancers in animals.

For more information on the benefits of spaying/neutering pets or the voucher program, contact Hillsborough County Animal Services at (813) 744-5660 or online at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animalservices.

Coast Guard Auxiliary to meet

The USCG Auxiliary FL75 Ruskin will hold its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 10 at the Ruskin Rec Center, 901 6th St., Ruskin. New or prospective members are always welcome to attend.

For more information, call (813) 633-5416.

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

South Shore Young Professionals hold August 'Coffee Talk'

The Young Professionals will meet from 7:30 to 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 17 at Apollo's Bistro, 6520 Richies Way, Apollo Beach (at the Apollo Beach Racquet and Fitness Club). Free for members, \$5 for guests. The speaker will be SSYPA's Ambassador, Brett Hall, Registered Financial Services Representative with MetLife.

Hall's business objective is to develop long-term relationships. "As a firm believer in saving for an uncertain future, I want to offer my clients the most comprehensive financial services strategies. In an environment characterized by volatility, sound information from a solid institution is an essential variable in reaching one's goals."

Hall will be doing a presentation titled, "Does your Saving match your Goals?" discussing strategies of saving money and investing for retirement. Hall will speak on the following issues: that many people haven't reallocated their portfolios in the past few years (or at all), and that some consumers' investment plans do not match their investment goals based on their level of risk tolerance.

SSYPA is affiliated with the South Shore area Chambers of Commerce and offers two events each month: An After-Hours event on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at a local hot spot as well as 'Coffee Talk' professional development breakfasts on the third Wednesday of each month at Apollo's Bistro. For more information, visit www.ssypa.com.

RUSKIN Moose Lodge #813 UPCOMING EVENTS

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

WEEKLY EVENTS

No Spaghetti Dinners 'til September 7

Every Thursday	5-7 p.m.	Wings
Every Friday	5-7 p.m.	Fish Fry (baked, beer batter or fried)
	7-11 p.m.	Live Music
Every Saturday		Horseshoes
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.



You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director



Nothing proves that women are from Venus and men are from Mars more than watching the two pack for a trip. They approach everything about the process from total opposite directions, yet usually end up where each needs to be.



You, Me & Business

By Dana Dittmar

of hours before we leave and throw some shirts, some pants and his toiletry kit into a bag. That's it. If he finds he needs something he doesn't have once we get to Louisville, he'll simply go to the nearest Walmart and buy it.

Why the difference? Some people are planners and logisticians. We have an idea in our heads of what the event

will be and want to be prepared to look our best no matter what happens. Others are more spontaneous. They're content to just be there and have no preconceived ideas about how they should look or what will be expected of them.

The odd thing is, neither type is wrong and both types are perfectly happy with how things turn out in the end. Despite the fact I have probably over-prepared for the trip and will not wear everything I have packed, I am happy that I'm set for whatever happens. I won't be anxious or constantly fretting over not being ready.

Husband will be perfectly content in whatever he packed, concentrating on the job at hand and not worrying he wore the wrong pants.

Nothing would get done in this world without the planners. But neither would it be very exciting without the carefree spirits who remind us not to take ourselves too seriously.

Husband and I left yesterday for Louisville, KY, for a national car show. A 1923 Rolls Royce roadster -- a one-of-a-kind vehicle worth more than \$4 million -- will be one of the featured cars. Husband did the bodywork, woodwork and paint. It's a stunningly beautiful and extremely unique car.

So, we will be driving more than 13 hours in the clown car to get there, work the show for four days and drive home. Not exactly a vacation, but still an exciting experience as we meet industry people on the national level.

My approach to preparing for the trip is as follows: assess the types of outfits I might need for four days (trade show attire, meet-and-greet dressy attire, evening attire, etc.); purchase anything I might not have; get a manicure and pedicure and haircut; do the laundry; pull all outfits together, complete with jewelry and shoes; pack; go to grocery store for snacks for the trip; arrange for cat sitter; and get gas in the car.

Husband's approach to trip preparation is this: wait until a couple

Duplicate bridge association play

Open Bridge Games: the Sun City Center Duplicate Bridge Association sponsors a flighted open game for all area players each week Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Games begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Horizon Room of the SCC Atrium Building. Game fees are \$2 for Kings Point and SCC residents; \$3 for non-local members; and \$4 for non-members who do not reside in Sun City Center.

Public hearing on comprehensive plan

Hillsborough County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the Transmittal of the Comprehensive Plan Amendments, 2nd Cycle, today, Thursday, Aug. 4 at 6 p.m. on the second floor boardroom of County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. in Tampa. This is a continuation from the July 28 public hearing.

For more information, call Willie Puz, Hillsborough County Communications Department, at (813) 272-5314.

Commissioner Higginbotham to speak

The Tampa 912 South Shore Chapter will meet on Monday, Aug. 15 at Century 21 Beggins Real Estate, 6542 U.S. 41 N., Apollo Beach.

The guest speaker will be Al Higginbotham, District 4, Hillsborough County Commission Chairman.

For more information, call (813) 601-0302.

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.

Monday, Aug. 8: \$7 Blue Plate Special at 5 p.m., Menu: Lu's famous Swiss Steak. Only 50 tickets will be sold.

Sunday, Aug. 28: Boom Ba from 2 to 5 p.m. Food will be available from noon to 2 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10 and 11: Donate your old treasures to the Lodge or rent a table for our 400 Family Bazaar. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

The South Hillsborough Elk's Lodge is located at 1630 U.S. Hwy. 41 S., Ruskin, FL 33570. The Club has a clean, smoke-free environment. For more information, call (813) 645-2089.

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672

Upcoming Activities



ELAPP schedules meeting

Hillsborough County's Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP) Site Selection Team will meet at 4 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 8 at the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Dept., 10119 Windhorst Rd., Tampa. For more information, call Kathleen Stone at (813) 635-3547.

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South Shore Symphony Orchestra celebrates second year

The South Shore Symphony Orchestra is celebrating its second season of great orchestral music in the South Shore area. The ensemble will perform the music of the masters as well as some orchestral arrangements of popular music within the season. Rehearsals have begun at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church in Ruskin and Sun City Center with Dr. Susan Bailey Robinson, Artistic Director and Primary Conductor, along with better than 50 musicians already committed to the orchestra.



Karolyn Silbaugh, cellist, and Shawn Snider, violinist.

A Summer Concert is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 12 at St. Anne Catholic Church, Ruskin. The Summer Concert is called 'Great Composers and Overtures.' This is a free concert with a suggested goodwill offering of \$10. All of the residents of the South Shore and surrounding towns are invited to hear this great music.

The Winter Concert Series schedule for The South Shore Symphony Orchestra is as follows:



Hope Paolotto, violinist for the South Shore Symphony.



The horn section made up of Tim Moore, Ann Malonney and Sarah Capps.

March 23 • Symphony No. 3 'Organ' features Organist Wagner Schultz.

May 4 • A Tribute to America features Dvorak's Symphony No. 9, 'From the New World.'

All concerts listed above will be at St. Anne Catholic Church, 11th Ave. N.E., Ruskin on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. and all concerts will have open seating.

Tickets for the Winter Concert Series will become available on Monday, Aug. 15 by calling the SSSO hot line at (813) 667-7776, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Ticket prices are: \$18 (\$90 for the 5-concert series); \$20 for a single ticket; and \$21 for a ticket purchased at the door. \$10 student tickets (16 and under) may be purchased at the door, with proof of age.

Dominick Galati, President, Founder, and Associate Conductor also said he is always looking for a few more great musicians to add to this great orchestra.

To audition, call the South Shore Symphony Orchestra hot line at (813) 667-7776, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The South Shore Symphony Orchestra is glad to be affiliated with and have the support of several other major artistic and professional business organizations in the South Shore.

Among them are the SouthShore Arts Council (SAC) and the Ruskin Art Assoc. (Firehouse Cultural Center) and has also become a member of the SouthShore Chamber of Commerce.



Oct. 7 • A Fall Fantasy of the Sea. This concert includes: The Moldau, by Smetana, The Hebrides Overture by Mendelssohn, Scheherazade by Rimsky-Korsakov, and features solo violinist Sarah Lind.

Dec. 9 • Happy Holidays features a large South Shore choir with the Symphony.

Feb. 10 • A Celebration of Love features Fantasy Overture from Romeo and Juliet by Tchaikovsky.

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Traveling photo exhibit

■ Continued from page 1

Boulevard, where a public reception is scheduled between 4 and 6 p.m., Tuesday, August 9, according to Chris Smith, Mosaic spokesperson.

The exhibit is slated to move on to the SouthShore Regional Library on 19th Avenue at Beth Shields Way on September 1 and then will open at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa on October 10, said Nanette O'Hara, community outreach coordinator with the estuary program.

From the two related images showing "The Making of A Marsh Mangrove Coast" by "Wimauma's Donna Bollenbach to an Ibis mirrored by the bay water in which it stands – titled Ibis Reflection Awaiting the Storm by Joe Bailey of Riverview - the photographs depict the many faces of a bay that once hosted pre-historic mammals, sustained pre-Columbian natives and floated the ships of conquistadors.

There's the touching image of a black-headed tern sheltering her chick on a sea shelled beach found by noted wildlife photographer Joan Miller of Tierra Verde and a breathtaking sunset illuminating a changing tide by Janessa Cobb, a marine biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in St. Petersburg, and the burrowing Flounder forever recorded by Bradenton lawyer turned underwater photographer, Jimmy White.

From an aerial view of a elongated key to a panorama delivering a full taste of bay islands to a long distance image of the soon-to-be history inverted St. Petersburg pier building, photographers display their diverse

techniques in exploring their visions of a bay measuring 400 square miles in size.

The image of an egret, backlit by a setting sun as it approaches its roost for the night and shot by Peter Lousberg, a retired attorney living in Seminole, was chosen as the TBEP 20th anniversary poster.

Several of the artist photographers are expected to attend the Tuesday reception and therefore would be available to discuss their subject matter, techniques, favorite equipment and bay impressions with

interested visitors, Smith noted. Each photograph also is accompanied by an educational caption spotlighting the progress made in restoring the bay, the variety of plant and wildlife supported by its waters the area's connection with its signature waterway.

Designed to portray the beauty and diversity of Tampa Bay from individual perspectives, the traveling exhibit has been underwritten by the phosphate and potash producer.

Copyright 2011 Melody Jameson



A familiar sight on Florida waterways, the Roseate Spoonbill is the very essence of tropical color and evolved adaptability to its environment. This photographic study by David Kandz of Pinellas County captures the popular avian in a very natural pose - poised on one leg considering perhaps another dip for more dinner.



Birds whose natural environment is the sand and shell edges of a salt water body such as Tampa Bay are not often caught in a mothering pose. But, this shot of a black headed tern sheltering her chick was taken at the perfect moment by Joan Miller, a wildlife photographer who calls Tierra Verde home when not traveling the world.



MELODY JAMESON PHOTOS

Mounted on easels, the 20 photographs by Florida photographers celebrating Tampa Bay now are on display at Mosaic's headquarters on FishHawk Boulevard.. Here, Chris Smith, the phosphate producer's spokesperson, puts final touches on the traveling exhibit before the company hosts a public reception Tuesday. The exhibit next will be displayed at the SouthShore Regional Library.

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Report fish kills, even though they're common this time of year

High temperatures and cloudy, rainy days can spell trouble for fish in Florida's marine and freshwater habitats. These conditions can cause fish kills, which are natural occurrences that typically do not cause permanent damage to the ecosystem or to fish populations.

Nevertheless the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) needs your help in keeping track of these die-offs. FWC scientists record and monitor the location and extent of fish kills in

natural lakes and estuaries to see if there are problems developing in an ecosystem that might require investigation or restorative measures.

Many factors may contribute to a fish kill. Some fish kills are complex and involve a variety of factors that may not be easily discernable. However, most common causes of kills in brackish estuaries, freshwater lakes and man-made retention ponds are well understood by scientists.

Fish kills are commonly caused by weather-related factors. Sudden temperature fluctuations or extreme temperatures can result in fish kills any time of the year. Hot weather during the summer months can cause fish kills because warm water holds less oxygen than cold water. In addition, a lack of rain during hot-weather months lowers the water levels in the system, allowing the water to heat even more, which further depletes oxygen levels.

Fish kills also can occur during extended periods with little

sunshine. The process leading to these types of die-offs begins with overcast skies and rainy weather. During extended periods of overcast, rainy or cloudy weather, the biological system uses the dissolved oxygen in the water faster than it can produce it. Rain water can compound the situation by causing vegetation, such as leaves and grass clippings, to wash into the system and decompose. The decomposition process also can remove oxygen from water.

The good news is that most natural water bodies are resilient

to these types of fish kill events.

Residents can report fish kills in natural water bodies to the FWC at MyFWC.com/FishKill or by calling the FWC Fish Kill Hotline at 800-636-0511. It is not necessary to report fish kills in man-made retention or private ponds to the FWC.



An angel is born

Mira Francesca Evans was born at 2:41 p.m. on July 21, at Brandon Regional Hospital. Mira weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. and measured 20 inches long. She is the daughter of Mike and Brandy Evans of Brandon. She was welcomed into the family by her siblings Nick and Shelby and her paternal grandmother Dianne Schehl of Apollo Beach. The little bundle of joy's maternal grandparents are Brenda Knowles of Apollo Beach and Robin and Peg Knowles of Ruskin.

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UF researchers:

Efforts to control invasive lionfish not likely to curb population

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Lionfish are causing problems for native fish populations in Florida's coastal waters, such as grouper and snapper, prompting efforts to try and curb populations of the invasive species.

But a new University of Florida study suggests that eradicating lionfish isn't likely to happen without a better understanding of the species and better control strategies.

The study, published in the online journal PLoS ONE last month, showed that lionfish reproduce too quickly to be wiped out by short-term harvesting, said Andrew Barbour, a UF fisheries and aquatic sciences graduate student and the study's lead author.

The frilly, red, black and white fish aren't caught easily using hook and line, so lionfish derbies encourage divers and snorkelers to spear or net as many lionfish as possible in a given time frame.

Despite good intentions of those involved in short-term harvesting, lionfish will likely continue gobbling up juvenile grouper, snapper and other economically important species, he said.

The findings should prove helpful for those trying to curb the lionfish problem, Barbour said.

"It's not news a lot of people are going to want to hear, but it's news that needs to be out there," he said.

Native to the Indo-Pacific, lionfish have been causing problems for years in waters off the Southeast United States and Caribbean. More recently they've spread to the Gulf of Mexico and South American waters.

Derbies have resulted in up to 1,400 lionfish being harvested in a day, Barbour said. But a single lionfish can produce as many as 200,000 eggs per month, easily replenishing the population's numbers.

The researchers used mathematical modeling programs to show that 35 to 65 percent of the lionfish would have to be taken from an area every year to keep the lionfish numbers in check. And even if large numbers of lionfish are harvested, that's not likely to happen, said Mike Allen, a UF professor of fisheries ecology and one of the study's authors.

Lionfish populations are able to rebound easily from harvesting efforts because they reach maturity quickly, have eggs and larvae that can be spread over large geographical areas by ocean currents, and thus far, have no natural predators to help keep them in check, said Tom Frazer, a UF professor of aquatic ecology and another author of the study. Allen and Frazer are members of UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

The UF scientists said it might be

possible for those looking to dent the lionfish numbers to do so with intensive spearfishing in small geographic areas — such as coral reefs frequented by scuba diving tourists, Barbour said.

But those efforts will have to be sustained.

"You'd have to fish them hard, and over a long period of time," Frazer said.

Lionfish are edible, although researchers haven't studied the fish long enough to know whether ciguatera, a toxin that can cause human illness, might be a problem.

Thanks to their showy appearance, lionfish are popular with tropical fish hobbyists. They have venomous spines that can cause illness to humans who get poked, but the species is not aggressive and they tend to stick close to reefs or other structures they've claimed as their home.

There are several theories about what caused lionfish to become established in the Western Hemisphere, Frazer said. Some blame irresponsible aquarium enthusiasts for simply releasing the fish into the wild. Others suggest wind and waves from Hurricane Andrew could have freed the fish from South Florida aquariums and swept them into the Atlantic Ocean. Another theory holds that the fish were accidentally transported in seawater used as ship ballast. ♦



A selection of lionfish, collected by IFAS researchers. In the last decade, the invasive fish has caused big problems for native fish, such as grouper and snapper.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW BARBOUR

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FISH TALES

Prepare for the heat of the day

It is the time of the year of hot weather and storms. Before heading out in the bay, you should prepare not only to catch fish, but to protect yourselves from the weather. To keep the water glare down to a minimum wear polarized sunglasses. Wear loose clothing of light weight and color, which will help to reflect some of the hot sunrays. If you burn easily, you should put suntan lotion on before you leave and take extra with you. Be sure to take plenty of water along. Have food aboard, eat while out there as the hot weather will cause fatigue and you will need food to keep your body going.

Don't forget a cap or a hat of some sort to protect your head. Too much sun may cause a headache, upset stomach or you may become dizzy. If this happens, head for shore, get medical attention if needed.

A variety of fish are being caught this time of the year in our local area. I get many questions about these species. Most often is it a fat or a lean fish? Many of you in this area have been told to include fish in your diet, at least three times a week. For some reason, I can't go to the supermarket without someone asking about a fish. Often, "Hey Fish Lady" and I answer. It could be because I have been writing 'Fish Tales' for over twenty years.

Fat fish is the name given to fish that have an oil content of more than 5%. The oil content in this fish may vary with the season of the year, the water, the depth, or the location of the water.

Fat fish do not freeze well, and should not stay in the freezer longer than three months. King and spanish mackerel are fat fish, as well as mullet, pompano, crocker, and jacks, to name a few. Your mullet and jacks should be bled as soon as possible after you make the catch if you plan to eat them.

When cooking fat fish, you will find that they have a stronger flavor than lean fish. Fat fish are great in a stirfry with vegetables. Jacks are often smoked, and mullet is most often fried. All can be used in a stirfry.

Lean fish have less than 5% fat content and some with only five tenths of a percent. Because of this low oil content, these fish may be kept in the freezer for a year.

Flounder and trout are the most popular of the lean fish. These fish will please the palate of most if cooked in a variety of ways. They can be broiled or baked with a crab stuffing, fried in low calorie oil. Since they are a lean fish, you will not gain many calories by adding a cream, lemon, or butter sauce.

You can catch only one redfish per person per day, but they are usually large enough to bake with Ruskin tomatoes, potatoes and onions to make a family meal.

Flounder is filleted without bones and a popular lean fish eaten by many in most all seafood restaurants. It can be served in a variety of ways.

Sheepshead is very boney, but has a pure white meat and is very good lean tablefare. Jewfish, snapper and whiting are also lean fish. All lean fish, boiled and flaked,

are great in a fruit salad, with oranges, strawberries, blueberries or bananas.

Use polyunsaturated oil when frying your fish. Fish cooks quickly. It is ready when flaky. Flesh is opaque not shiny. Flesh does not cling to bone. Cook fish 10 minutes for each one inch thickness, double time for frozen. This does not apply to microwaves. Microwave 3 minutes per pound.

I saw more sheepshead this week than any other species -- guess they don't mind the heat and rain. I was told that anglers were searching for the hiding spots that fish were taking cover from the heat.

We will be celebrating our 53rd wedding anniversary tomorrow and we probably will go fishing in the Gulf of Mexico.

Aleta Jonie Maschek is a member of Florida Outdoor Press.

Weight Watchers has new plan

Feel the excitement with Weight Watchers' new PointsPlus Plan. Thursday meetings are at 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Ave. For more information, visit samt1995@yahoo.com.

Contract negotiations are scheduled

A contract negotiation session between Hillsborough County BOCC and Emergency Medical Personnel, County and Critical Care Technicians, Local 3525, has been set at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 11 at the Medical Examiner's office, located at 11025 N. 46th St., Tampa.

For more information, call John Wever, Labor Relations Manager, Human Resources, at 276-2755.



Fish Tales
By Jonie Maschek

Senior Singles socialize on fourth Sunday of the month

The South Shore Senior Singles group will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 17 at the Asian Fusion Buffet in Apollo Beach. For more information, call Patti at (813) 634-7171.

The South Shore Senior Singles group was organized for those 50+ South Shore seniors who live in Riverview, Sun City Center, Apollo Beach, Gibsonton, Ruskin, and Brandon, and to provide a non-threatening atmosphere for singles to meet and have fun.

The group meets once a month at The Alley in Riverview for bowling and fun from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month (Aug. 28), then to Applebee's for dinner; a local restaurant for dining and dancing and other fun events as scheduled.

A sightseeing cruise in Sarasota is being planned for late summer.

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

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



JASMINE

Jasmine is a darling Shih Tzu who was brought to the shelter with two other family members (Kennedy and Meghan). Sadly, the human family that cared for and loved them their whole lives recently experienced a tragic event and can no longer keep them. Jasmine's family revealed that even though she is the smallest of the pack, she usually takes on the role of 'queen bee.' She probably would do best if adopted by a family or as an only pet. For fun, Jasmine loves to chase tennis balls and go for walks. Jasmine is housebroken, spayed, and current on her shots. As part of her adoption she will be microchipped. DOB: June 2, 2003.



MERLIN

Merlin is a black and white tuxedo male domestic long hair. Merlin was originally a kitten at C.A.R.E. who had been rescued from a storm drain. After some ups and downs he was adopted, but returned to the shelter because his owner was moving. He is very friendly and loves to be petted and get attention from the volunteers. Merlin has been neutered and brought up to date on shots. As part of his adoption he will also be microchipped. Won't you visit C.A.R.E. with the idea of making this handsome guy part of your family? DOB: Nov. 1, 2008.



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At-risk girls is topic at South Shore Christian Woman's meeting

South Shore Christian Women's Connection presents Cindy Churchill, director of Steppin' Stone Farm. Cindy will share information about their program for "at risk" teenage girls, a program that redirects their lives to become successful and productive adults.

The presentation and luncheon will be held at Club Renaissance, 2121 South Pebble Beach Blvd., Sun City Center, Thursday, Aug. 11. Doors open at 11 a.m. luncheon

Sound The Shofar to meet Aug. 14

Sound the Shofar will meet on Sunday, Aug. 14 at 2 p.m. in the South Shore Library. The address of the library is 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin. Pastor David Jones of Ruach Ministries in Brandon will speak on "Hebraic Roots of the Christian Faith: Teaching Torah from a Messianic Perspective." Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information call Pastor David at 813-477-15167.

Unity to invite new speakers

Unity in Brandon is welcoming guest speakers to fill the pulpit this summer. They are in the process of securing a new spiritual leader.

The speakers for August:
Aug. 7: Rev. Ernestine Butler-Beatitudes Part 4

Aug. 14: David & Pam Cooper
Aug. 21: Valleri Crabtree
Aug. 28: Bob & Ruth Fatur

Unity welcomes people of all faiths. Unity in Brandon is located at 129 N. Moon Ave., Brandon at the Brandon Woman's Club building.

Worship Services are held Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

For more information call For more information call 813-263-6155 or visit www.unityinbrandon.org.

Fun Brigade plans events

The Fun Brigade of the United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Ave., Sun City Center is featuring many events for the community where everyone is invited and welcomed. The Summer Cinema continues with "Seabiscuit" on Thursday, Aug. 4 at 1 p.m. and the film "The Bucket List" on Thursday, Aug. 11 at 1 p.m. There is no admission charge and snacks/beverages are available for purchase.

On Thursday, Aug. 18, at 1 p.m., enjoy an afternoon of Bingo. There is no admission charge and there will be grab fun prizes.

There will be a Vintage Style Show Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 2 p.m. People are being sought to sign-up in the Narthex or church office. They are referring to "vintage" as anything worn before the year 2000.

A great feature of the day will be the pot luck hors d'oeuvres party, after the show, starting Sept. 6 at 2 p.m.

For more information, call Paula Lickfeldt at 813-633-6739 or Karl Buffington at 813-634-7062.



But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

—James 1:22

Take a mystery trip on Aug. 4

Friendship Baptist Church's first trip a month ago was so much fun, they're doing it again. A trip to somewhere -- with lunch later at a restaurant in anywhere. Bring \$15 to \$20.

Meet at 9 a.m. in front of the church, 1511 El Rancho Rd., Sun City Center. There is a sign-up sheet in the church lobby. Make a reservation. For more information, call 633-5950.

and program 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Reservations or cancellations must be made before noon Aug. 8. Cost is \$17 inclusive.

All ladies welcome, no membership required.

Sponsored by South Shore Christian Women's Connection, Affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries.

For more information call 813-938-4320 or 813-383-7540, or email aunt.butler@gmail.com.



Bob Gerdes and Mike Albanese show off the new van that will transport veterans from all over South County to the Tampa VA medical center.

Daily runs to Tampa VA medical center

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 110, Sun City Center, reports that for the 12 months ending April 2011, the chapter service van logged 14,185 miles and transported 562 veterans to the James A. Haley Veterans Medical Center in Tampa.

Chapter Commander Bob Gerdes would like to remind all veterans that the DAV is a veterans' service organization and that membership in the DAV is not necessary to utilize this service. The van is available to all veterans in need

of transportation to the Tampa VA medical center. However, the van is not handicapped accessible; passengers must be ambulatory and able to enter and exit the van without assistance. The van makes daily morning runs stopping in Sun City Center, Kings Point, Ruskin, and Gibsonton with stops at the main hospital and all off-site clinics as required. For more information and to reserve a seat, call (813) 642-0302. When calling to reserve a seat, call seven days in advance.

Be prepared

The Disaster Team of the Riverview United Methodist Church is selling Disaster Cleaning Supply Buckets. The 5-gallon buckets with lids are filled with cleaning supplies in the event of a disaster.

Included is a 5-gallon bucket with seal-tight lid, cleaning towels, clothesline and pins, disinfectant dish soap, dust masks, hand sanitizer, heavy duty trash bags, household cleaner, latex gloves, liquid laundry soap, scouring pads, scrub brush, sponges and work gloves -- all this for \$25.

To purchase your bucket, call the Riverview United Methodist Church at (813) 677-5995 or Lois Gorbe at (813) 672-0374.

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

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

Ruskin United Methodist Church
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ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND WORSHIP WITH US:
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Growing by Faith from Generation to Generation
Rev. Tracy H. Wilder • Church Office: 813-645-1521
Sunday Services: 9:00 a.m. - Contemporary Service and Sunday School
 at West Campus (S.R. 674 and 9th Street SE, Ruskin)
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 Sunday Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Evening Service7:00 p.m.
 Thursday Morning Prayer.....10:00 a.m.

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 Holy Days Contact Parish Office for Schedule
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 Confession Wednesday 6:45 p.m.; Saturday 3:45 p.m.

Obituary



Ronald Fletcher

In loving memory of Ronald Fletcher, 78, who passed away on July 20, 2011. Ron was from Toldeo, Ohio, and worked for Conrail. He and his wife Lavonne moved to Florida after retiring. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lavonne, and daughter, Debra Blackford. Survivors include his son Ron Jr.; granddaughter, Ginger Thornton and family; and grandson, Daniel Barnett and family. Donations may be made in his memory to the Humane Society.

In Memory Of

Marie Lenore Rafield

AUG. 14, 1962-
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 — Romans 15:13



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Valerie Southwell is the new accompanist for the SCC Woman's Chorus and the organist at the United Methodist Church in Sun City Center. She is already planning and practicing for fall events.

New chorus leader

The Women's Chorus of Sun City Center welcomes Valerie Southwell as its new accompanist.

When you meet Valerie the conversation just naturally turns to music and it is apparent how deep her love of music is. That love manifested itself at age five. Her uncle had a grand piano in his living room and would pay her 25 cents each time she would play a song. When her sister purchased a piano, it was difficult for her to pass by without sitting down to play. Valerie had to be extraordinarily persistent about her music. The piano was in the living room along with the television

and she had to deal with her brothers in order to find practice time.

Her high school years found Valerie playing the clarinet in the band, accompanying the chorus and taking organ lessons.

Valerie received her B.S. in Music Education from Warner Pacific College in Portland, Oregon. During her college years she learned to play percussion, trumpet, flute, and violin. She has taught private lessons on both the piano and organ as well as classroom piano to students of all ages. Currently she serves as organist at the United Methodist Church in Sun City Center.

How Self Esteem can be more powerful than bullies

Dr. Bill Page would rather teach than do just about anything else any day of the week.

"During my career I was an educator and administrator in elementary, middle and high schools, as well as college, for 33 years," Page said. "During that time I enjoyed serving as a Boy and Cub Scout master, and a Sunday school teacher. Through all that time, I have seen just about everything children can experience, both positive and negative, and helped these kids solve what many today see as practically unsolvable problems. For the most part, I didn't have any special technology or divine wisdom. All I had was the head on my shoulders and the heart beating in my chest, and for 33 years those were the only tools I needed."

Page, a PhD who in retirement became a children's book author known as Billy D, said that he has dealt with the absolute worst kids in his school and the best ones, too. In most cases, he said that they were

one and the same, just on different days.

"It doesn't take a PhD to figure out why a kid bullies another kid, or why that kid lets the other one bully him," said Page, author of the children's book *Boy Scouts, Bullies & Indian Creek*. "Both kids are scared of something. The kid who is being bullied is afraid of getting beat up, and the bully is afraid of most everything. The secret is being able to connect with them and figure out what both kids are afraid of and helping them face and defeat those fears. The heart of the matter is really one of the most basic truths I know: every child is special. If you want to prevent problems, then parents and teachers simply need to remind kids of this fact on a regular basis. If you tell them often enough, they'll begin to believe it and feel it, too."

"I put the characters in my books through some paces," he said. "They encounter the challenges of responsibility, honesty, self-pride, peer pressure, sibling rivalry, and race relations. They experience the consequences of drug use, overconfidence and facing ridicule. On the other hand, my characters also see the benefits from loving people, befriending them and cooperating with others. My characters are grounded by events that are true-to-life, so that the kids who read them, who are also dealing with the realism in their lives, can relate, understand and learn."

"Is the bully somehow less special than the bullied?" he asked. "Or are both simply good kids in a bad situation who need to see that their lives can be better if they only see how special they are and the difference they can make in other lives? We all need to know where we keep our strength, the parts of ourselves that help us overcome adversities. If our children don't learn where those places are when they're kids, they won't know where to find those places as adults."

County's watering restrictions to remain same for now

Hillsborough County's current water restrictions will not change as a result of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's decision July 26 to extend a Phase I water shortage declaration. The irrigation of established lawns and landscaping will remain limited to two days a week.

In unincorporated Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa, the watering schedule remains:

Addresses ending in 0, 1, 2 or 3 -- Mondays and Thursdays.

Addresses ending in 4, 5 or 6 -- Tuesdays and Fridays.

Addresses ending in 7, 8 or 9, locations with no address, and locations with mixed addresses (such as office complexes and shopping centers) -- Wednesdays and Saturdays.

All watering must be done before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. These hours are already more strict than those set by SWFWMD. The restrictions apply to most water sources, including private wells, and ponds or lakes that are used as alternate irrigation supplies.

Residents may hand-water plants and shrubs, or use a drip irrigation system in landscaping beds, at any time. There are also special rules for watering new sod and plantings. There are no restrictions on fountains, car washing and pressure washing.

Reclaimed water customers are exempt from the watering restrictions, although these customers are encouraged to use only what they need.

For complete information on the watering restrictions, visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/water, call

(813) 275-7094 for a recorded message, or call the Water Conservation Team at (813) 272-5977, ext. 43991, during regular business hours.

The Phase I water shortage declaration has been in effect since Dec. 1, 2010. SWFWMD's Governing Board voted to extend the declaration as the summer rainy season got off to a slow start, and the region's water resources have not yet been replenished. The declaration is intended to raise public awareness about dry conditions and to direct water utilities and local governments to prepare for potential future action.

Under Phase I, SWFWMD is asking residents to check their irrigation systems to ensure they are working properly.

To avoid getting a citation if you perform this check during a time other than allowed by the restrictions, limit the testing to no more than 10 minutes, and stay outdoors and visible while monitoring the system.

THE SAVVY SENIOR

Discount options for retirees headed back to school

Dear Savvy Senior, Are there any financial resources available to retirees who are interested in going back to college? Since I retired, I've been thinking about going back to school to study some topics of interest to me, but living on a fixed income I could use some financial help.

College-Bound Senior



The Savvy Senior

By Jim Miller

Dear Senior, There are actually numerous discounts, tuition waivers, tax credits and other deals that can help retirees go back to school a little cheaper. Here's what you should know.

Back to School

From continuing education and enrichment classes to graduate school, more and more retirees are heading back to the classroom looking to pursue their interest, connect with other people or retool for a new career. But with the high cost of college these days, paying tuition, fees and books can be a big strain for many older adults living on a fixed income. Here are some tips that can help you save.

Discounted Tuition

Your first step is to contact your nearby college to find out what, if any, deals they offer retirees. Many community colleges and some four-year colleges for example, allow senior citizens to audit classes for free and many offer significantly discounted tuition rates for those who take them for credit. In

fact, according to Fastweb, a college financial aid resource, 21 states and Washington, D.C., offer free tuition for senior citizens at some or all of their public colleges. (Textbook costs and sometimes fees are however not covered.)

Credits and Deductions

Uncle Sam can offer some assistance too in the form of tax credits and deductions. For credits, check out the Lifetime Learning tax credit that allows students of any age to claim up to a \$2,000 credit each year for college or other post-secondary school expenses. And the American Opportunity credit, which allows an annual tax credit up to \$2,500. The government also provides tuition and fees deductions for students that can cover up to \$4,000 in expenses. But, you can choose only one of these three tax breaks - Lifetime Learning credit, American Opportunity credit, or the tuition and fees deduction. To learn more about these benefits, visit the IRS's Tax Benefits for Education Information Center, which you can access at TaxBenefitsForEducation.info.

Scholarships

While most scholarships are aimed at traditional undergraduates, there are a number of scholarships offered specifically to adult

and non-traditional students. Two good websites to help you find them are fastweb.com and scholarships.com, both of which offer huge scholarship databases and easy-to-use search tools.

Lifelong Learning

Beyond college classes, another popular and inexpensive option for retirees is Lifelong Learning Institutes (LLIs). These are non-credit educational programs that involve no tests or grades, just learning for the pure joy of it.

Usually affiliated with colleges and universities, LLIs offer a wide array of academic courses in such areas as literature, history, religion, philosophy, science, art and architecture, economics, finance, computers, lifestyle issues and more.

To find an LLI, call your closest college or search the websites of the two organizations that support and facilitate them - Osher (osher.net) and Elderhostel (www.roadsscholar.org/ein/intro.asp). Together they support more than 500 LLI programs nationwide.

If you don't find an LLI in your area, depending on where you live, there are other organizations that offer non-credit older adult education courses like Oasis (oasisnet.org, 314-862-2933), Shepherd's Centers of America (shepherd-centers.org, 816-960-2022), and SeniorNet (seniornet.org, 571-203-7100), which offers computer courses at learning centers around the country. Also, be sure to contact your local public library to see if it offers any programs for seniors.

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

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ANY FLUSH Brakes, Transmission, Coolant, Power Steering Most vehicles. No other discounts apply. Additional charges for shop supplies may be added. Environmental disposal fee may apply in some areas. See store for details. Exp. 9/8/11

FULL ENGINE DIAGNOSTIC SPECIAL

\$49.95 Value \$91

Check Engine Light On?

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A/C SERVICE

\$9.97

Includes: Inspect belts, compressor & hoses, leak test entire system. (Freon extra). Most cars and light trucks. Valid only with coupon. Not valid with other coupons or specials. Exp. 9/8/11

2-WHEEL FRONT DISC BRAKE SERV.

\$20 OFF

FREE BRAKE CHECK: New brake pads, resurface front rotors, repack front wheel bearing (if applicable), add brake fluid, inspect hydraulic system. Additional parts/service often needed at extra cost. Limited warranty - 12 months or 12,000 miles whichever comes first. No other discounts apply. Valid only with coupon. Not valid with other coupons. Exp. 9/8/11

MAINTENANCE INSPECTION

FREE Value \$39.95

Includes: Visual inspection of tires, belts & hoses, horn/lights, brakes, shocks/struts, exhaust, wipers, suspension, air and breather filter. Most cars/light trucks. Disassembly to perfect inspection may result in additional charges. Present coupon to receive savings. No other discounts apply. Additional charges for shop supplies may be added. See store for details. Exp. 9/8/11

OIL CHANGE & LUBRICATION

\$10.95

Includes up to 5 qts 5W20, 10W30, or 10W40 motor oil. Purolator oil filter. Most cars and light trucks. Please call for appointment. Valid only with coupon. Not valid with any other coupons or specials. Coupon expires 8/18/11

CALL FOR LOWEST PRICES ON TIRES

MON.-FRI. 7:15-6pm • SAT. 7:15-5pm

813.685.2939

MVD1266 • A fee will be added: 4% (\$2.50 min.) not to exceed \$20 to cover the disposal of hazardous waste materials & supplies

Ombudsman program announces need for volunteers in the Tampa Bay Area

Florida's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program announced the need for more volunteers in the Tampa Bay Area. The volunteer-based organization advocates for the health, safety, rights and welfare of elders who live in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family-care homes.

When an elder is admitted to a long-term care facility, federal and state laws provide each resident with a special set of residents' rights covering issues ranging from dignity and respect to measurable quality of life and care. Volunteer ombudsmen, who are trained by the program and approved by the State Ombudsman, each spend approximately 20 hours per month visiting local facilities and responding to residents' individual complaints to ensure that their rights are respected. Volunteers receive mileage and meal reimbursement, as well as support from state and local staff. Volunteers with the program are given a chance to meet and interact with others who share a passion for volunteering, personal fulfillment and growth.

"We are just one of the 17 district councils that make up the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Currently, we only have 11 volunteers in a district with over 13,000 long-term care resident beds, which works out to just one volunteer for every 1,182 residents," said West Central Ombudsman Manager, Robin Baker. "It takes a special person to give so much time and energy to a program like this, to really act as the residents' voice to protect their rights. To continue our efforts to serve Florida's most vulnerable population, we are seeking dedicated individuals to join our team."



Residents, family members, friends and concerned people contact the program for help in resolving the issues they face at long-term care facilities, and ombudsmen personally visit the residents in their facilities to look into their concerns and provide empowerment and assistance in resolving them.

All program services, including individualized response to residents' concerns, are free.

Individuals interested in volunteering or learning more about the program may call toll-free 1-888-831-0404 or visit <http://ombudsman.myflorida.com> online.



To place an ad call
813.645.3111 ext. 201
 Fax: 813.645.1792
\$17.00
 up to 20 words
 30¢ addl. word
 Deadline is Monday
 at 4pm

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ANNOUNCEMENTS 100

105 PERSONAL

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

FARMER'S MKT 200

260 FRUITS/VEG.

Read the entire newspaper online including the classified by going to Observernews.net. Community news & advertising 24/7 is only 1 click away.

MERCHANDISE 300

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

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

Calvary's Angel Attic
 Thrift Store
Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
9 a.m. - Noon
BEAT THE HEAT Summer Sale
50% OFF all Swimwear
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1424 E. College Ave. • Ruskin
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 Ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church

310 GARAGE/ YARD SALE

Ruskin United Methodist Church
THRIFT HOUSE
SPECIALS EVERY WEEK!
 • Household Items
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 • Much, more
 Open Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 109 W. Shell Point Road • Ruskin

Garage sale. Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 8am-noon. Bedroom set, couch, recliners & more. Huxley Place, SCC.

Community yard & bake sale. Indoor, air conditioned. Benefit: World Vision, Inside Faith Worx Church. 202 Flamingo Dr., Apollo Beach. Saturday, Aug. 6, 8am-noon.

Friday & Saturday, Aug. 5 & 6, 8am-noon. Collectibles, art, household, misc. items. 911 August Dr., SCC. Rain date Aug. 12/13

Friday & Saturday, Aug. 5 & 6, 8am-2pm. Hideaway RV Resort, Rec. hall. 2 miles south of Ruskin on US 41. Multi family sale.

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 Cell: 382-7536
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Sun City Center
Thurs. & Fri., Aug. 4 & 5
7 a.m. to Noon

Don't Miss This Sale!
Something For Everyone!
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 PLEASE PARK ON SIDE OF SALE DUE TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES.
 See You There!

312 ESTATE SALES

Anne's Estate Sales
Fri. & Sat., Aug. 5 & 6
7 a.m. to noon
211 Linger Lane, SCC
(off Del Webb East)
 • PARK ON SIDE OF SALE ONLY •
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Grandfather Clock, Thomasville Dining Room Suite, Beacon Square King Bedroom Suite, Red Velvet Full Bed w/Elvis-style Headboard, Large Screen TV, Clocks, Artwork, Oriental Furniture & Oriental Items, Rocking Chair, Desk w/Chair, Bar Stools, Hummels, Large Set Franciscan Desert Rose Dishes; Doll Collections: Madam Alexander, Danbury Mint, Paradise Galleries, Cabbage Patch; Lenox, Lots of Collectables, Ladies' Clothing, Jewelry (Vintage & Costume), Pocket Knives, Tools, Household, Kitchen and Misc.
www.AnnesEstateSales.blogspot.com

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 Furniture, Antiques, China, Collectibles, Household Items, Regulation Pool Table, Electronics, Recumbent Bike, Trek 6200 Road Bicycle, and much more!

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 Check out the **500 Real Estate Section**

314 ANTIQUES/COLLECTIBLE

1921 Antique Singer treadle sewing machine, model 127. Egyptian Sphinx decal. Serial #G9062418. In fair condition, would be great for decorative piece in a home or shop. Can email photos, chere1212@mac.com

330 FURNITURE

Ethan Allen sleeper sofa, double bed. Excellent condition. Max 69.5" wide \$225. 1042 Regal Manor Way, SCC. 813-634-0657

360 GOLF CARTS

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

390 MISC. FOR SALE

Nice clothing size 6 petite various prices, 4 section German shrunk \$700. (2) curio/trophy cabinet \$350 each. Wheel chair \$100, walker w/ seat \$100. Call for appointment 813-641-3428

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 - No money down, easy to qualify
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South Bay RV & Boat Storage. Specializing in outside storage for RVs, boats & trailers. 813-677-2000 www.SouthBayStorage.com

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465 RV LOT RENTAL

RV lot for rent in Ruskin. \$275 monthly includes water & sewer plus deposit. 941-737-1944 or 813-345-6860

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500**

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2/2 Windsor, walk-in tub, \$68,000
SCC 3BR (split) SPA and therapy pool ... \$199,000

RENTALS in KP, incl. W/S, lawn care & cable
1/1.5 York \$700/month
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2/2 Siesta, furnished, GC \$850/month

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3 (split)/2 Worthington, salt spa. \$1200/month
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**RENTALS
600**

610 WATERFRONT RENTALS

The Dolphin House, 768 Gran Kaymen Way, Apollo Beach, efficiency apartments on water. Boat docking / fishing. Pool, laundry. \$185 weekly, plus deposit. No pets. 813-850-5217, 813-863-6123

Bahia Beach, Ruskin. Furnished waterfront condo 2br/2ba/2cg. \$1,250 monthly plus deposit. Call Dave 813-645-4991

611 HOUSES FOR RENT

Ruskin, quaint 3/2 home with front covered porch. Well suited for 1-3 people. Monthly rent is \$925.00 with signed lease. No smoking. No pets. Security Deposit and references required. Please call 813-649-1599

Sun City Center. 2br/2ba/2cg, duplex, family room, enclosed patio. Cul-de-sac. 55+ community. \$895 monthly, furnished. 813-951-7193

House for rent. Ruskin 2br/1ba fenced yard. \$700 monthly. Close to Manatee River & boat ramp. Available now. 813-610-3485 or 813-641-7791

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Ruskin

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613 CONDOS FOR RENT

Kings Point 1br/1.5ba. furnished nicely, covered parking, all amenities \$700 monthly or for sale. \$25,000, owner financing. 813-634-1162

Spacious, furnished, 1br/1.5ba, gated, 55+, Kings Point, SCC. Includes all utilities, except electric, all activities, transportation. \$600 monthly, annual lease. 813-944-2884

630 M.H. RENTALS

Mobile homes & RV lots for rent. Mobile homes for sale. E-Z terms. Eastwood Estates Mobile Home Park, Gibsonton. Call Heather 813-677-5726

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EXCELLENT STARTER HOME with a great location. 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**

QUAINT & COZY COTTAGE on a large corner lot surrounded by oak trees! This 2BR/1BA home has 1,352 sq ft and has been meticulously maintained. Other features include beautiful wood floors, stained glass windows, and a nice inviting deck area. **\$89,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

AWESOME COMMERCIAL LOCATION ON BUSY HIGHWAY 41 IN RUSKIN! .84 Acre with 150 feet on Highway 41. Easy access to I-75. Property is zoned CG/General. **\$164,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

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

GREAT LOCATION on 4.7 Acre Parcel(MOL) in a very convenient location, minutes from Hwy. 674 and I-75. Great area for a small development or your own private estate. **\$129,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

5 ACRES with 10 greenhouses! 3BR/2BA MH built in 2001. Special features include: 20x30 workshop, 2 free standing double carports, 190 foot well, electric gate and much more. Zoning is AR. **\$134,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

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COUNTRY BUT CLOSE! Looking for room to roam? Put your home on this 8+ acres piece with no close neighbors. Priced at **\$115,000** and septic in place. Property zoned for 5 homes. Have your whole family close. **CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 OR ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

GREAT BUSINESS LOCATION! Commercial site located close to Highway 41 in Ruskin with over 200 feet of road frontage, Zoned General Commercial with county water & sewer. Mobile home on property brings rental income, **\$198,900 KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201** for details.

2.1 ACRES COMMERCIAL on busy State Road 674. 3BR/2BA house but value is in the land. SMU6 land use. Buy now and build later. Multiple possibilities. **\$799,900 KAY PYE 361-3672**

GREAT LOCATION!! 2BR/2BA 1-car garage home on .99 acre (MOL) with river frontage! Beautiful setting with a wonderful view of the river. **\$185,000 CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201 or KAY PYE 361-3672**

HISTORIC RUSKIN HOME BUILT IN 1910. A must see to appreciate the uniqueness of this home. Lots of room for kids and toys, storage galore, mobile home hook up, large shade and fruit trees. Beautiful interior that has to be seen to appreciate. **\$349,000. CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY - PRIME LOCATION ON HIGHWAY 41!! This property has 200 ft on U.S. Hwy 41 and is set up for both office and warehouse space. The property is completely fenced in with parking for over 30 vehicles. This is a great location for a business that needs easy highway access and flexible space. Owner will also consider a lease or lease purchase. Don't miss this opportunity! **\$499,000. CALL CATHY GRIGGS 391-8653**

AWESOME HOME IN SUN CITY CENTER!! 2BR/2BA 2-car garage and conveniently located to all of the amenities that Sun City Center has to offer. Built in 1994 this home has been meticulously maintained with new a/c in 2006, a new roof in 2007 and much, much more. You don't even have to mow your lawn as lawn maintenance is part of the homeowner's association agreement!! Sun City Center has much to offer with golf courses, tennis, softball, two indoor pools plus over 200 clubs and various other activities. A golf cart friendly community to local shopping and activities and it is conveniently located to airports, beaches, Tampa, Sarasota & St. Petersburg. All this for only **\$135,000.** Come and enjoy the Florida lifestyle today!! **CALL CATHY GRIGGS 391-8653**

HARD TO BELIEVE BARGAIN. Two duplexes, side by side, asking less than \$40,000 each. Tenants currently being charged \$1300 monthly rent. Near school, shopping, transportation. **Two for \$79,900 CALL JUDY ERICKSON 468-0288**

BAYSIDE FURNISHED CONDO RENTAL. Beautiful upgrades and furnishings to enjoy while taking in spectacular bayfront views and sounds. **\$1200 monthly off season. CALL JUDY ERICKSON 468-0288**

SUN CITY CENTER, ELEGANTLY FURNISHED HOME: 2BR/2BA 2-car-garage, enclosed Fla-Rm, and large utility-room. Split BR plan, tiles in both BA, large kitchen with breakfast nook, Family-Rm with built-in-shelves, and formal dining-living room make this home very attractive. **\$122,500. CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

RUSKIN POOL HOUSE, WITH 10 FT. CANAL FRONT! Extensively remodeled, this 2BR/2.5BA +Den (3rd BR) and garage, offers a brand new kitchen (new granite countertops, wood cabinets and stainless steel appliances), new wood floors & CHA, 3-years-new pool, roof & windows and more! **\$175,000. CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

RUSKIN RIVERFRONT LOT: Deep water, unique view of river and nature, great fishing or boating spot. PD-MU zoning allows homes, manufactured homes, and more. Lot is deep, fenced and gated, utilities are already in place. **\$199,000. CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

1 ACRE LOT, zoned for Mobile-Home or house, possible owner financing. Cleared, secluded, facing nature preserve, just minutes from town & shopping. No association fees. **\$44,900.** Adjacent 1 acre lot for sale as well, same price, same conditions. **CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

PRIVACY ABOUNDs at this darling 3BR/2BA home on 3 country acres. Features include large screened porch, fenced and cross fenced acreage, large 2-car detached garage, no homeowner association or deed restrictions, and treesy yard just to name a few. Must see! **\$129,900. CALL JO ELLEN MOBLEY 645-1540.**

MUST SETTLE ESTATE. 1BR/1BA condo in gated retirement community with many amenities. The perfect answer for active or not so active retirees. Minimal upkeep and cozy quiet location. **\$16,000. CALL JO ELLEN MOBLEY 645-1540.**

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630 M. H. FOR RENT

One bedroom RV on private property. References. \$125 weekly plus deposit. includes utilities. 813-363-6001

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

Clean, small 2br/1ba mobile on private country lot near SCC. CHA. \$130 weekly. Call owner after 6pm. 813-633-5978

Riverhouse 2br/1ba, Little Manatee River. Fish off dock, boat lift. Ruskin. No pets. \$950 monthly. \$500 security. 813-690-1836,

646 WAREHOUSE SPACE

Garage & mini storage rooms for rent. Pirates Treasure Cove, Gibsonton. 813-677-1137

PROF. SERVICES 650

651 BOOKKEEPING

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680 ADULT/CHILD CARE

Now accepting applications for enrollment. Age 6 weeks -12yrs. Half or full day. Ruskin United Methodist pre school. Call 813-645-6198. CHC110087

Ruskin United Methodist preschool, approved VPK provider is now accepting applications for the fall school starting Aug. 23 Call 813-645-6198, CHC-110087

Need a female (or male) companion? 24hr availability for errands, driving to appointment, etc. Starting at \$15. Reference & background check available 813-789-2022 leave message

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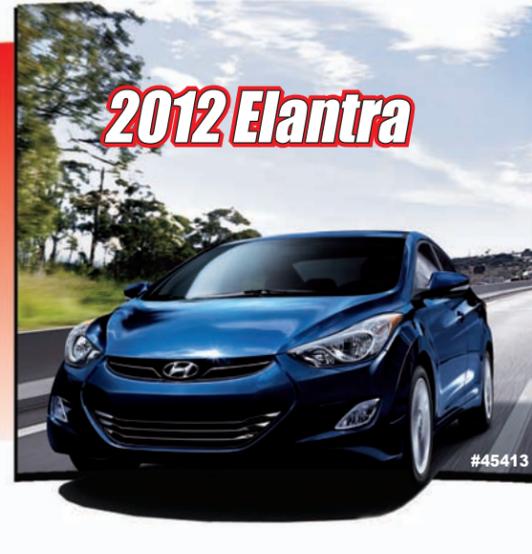
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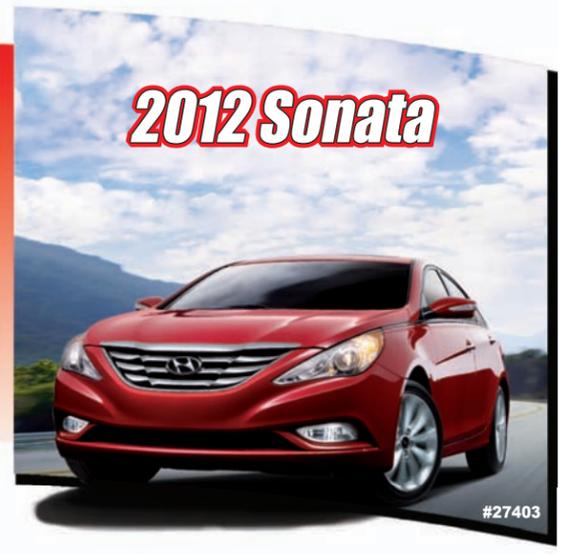
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