



For those of us in South Hillsborough, the sunsets are priceless... and free of charge. Read Mitch Traphagen's **OBSERVATIONS** *page 20*



Sun City Center's orphan road has a benefactor. The pothole problem is now under control. Read Melody Jameson's report on *page 17*

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THE OBSERVER NEWS

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Cuba Today

■ PART 3 IN A SERIES



MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

With the passage of time and continued population growth, Havana expanded to the west, south and, eventually, east, across her river, belting the old city with newer and newer residential neighborhoods. Not unlike other major cities, her diverse citizenry also created enclaves, among them a Jewish community developing commensurate with Hitler's threats. This once comfortable two-story home sits shuttered in that community, a stone's throw from a tree-lined brick street and a busy metro thoroughfare. Judaism is practiced generally without interference in Cuba but many of the faith are said to have fled to the U.S. as private property was nationalized by the Castro regime.

For Floridians familiar with their state, Havana can be a Déjà vu experience.

There are some striking similarities – particularly in connection with the Tampa Bay area – and next to nothing is lost in the translation.

Tampa's Ybor City and Old Havana, of course, have umbilical cord ties. Cuba's Vicente Martinez Ybor created what would become a

national historic district northeast of downtown Tampa when he moved his cigar manufacturing from Havana northward, settling on an initial 40-acre plot. From it would grow a major industry in a distinct, multi-ethnic community.

But, there are other, more subtle connections. Strolling through Nacional, Havana's pride on a bluff overlooking the Gulf, is an immediate carry back to St. Petersburg's Vinoy Hotel overlooking Tampa Bay. The storied Vinoy, now a Marriott property and part of its flagship Renaissance

Looking like home

Oh, what we have in common

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

line, came first, opened originally in 1928. Nacional, currently owned by the Cuban government and proclaimed a Cuban national historic monument in 1998, puts its genesis in 1930. No matter. Both are authentic of the era. Both have checkered histories. Both are survivors. Both have matured like fine vintage wine.

Vinoy, now with about 350 rooms on seven floors, is the smaller of the two and also probably somewhat better maintained. Nacional, with 425 rooms on eight floors, hasn't gotten the same level of attention – read capital investment – yet certainly holds her own on the island.

See **CUBA TODAY**, page 18



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

In South Hillsborough, nearly 28,000 students returned to school on Tuesday after a long summer break. Area motorists will need to take extra cautions near school zones and at crosswalks near schools. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office has pledged to increase patrols near schools. Fines for speeding in school zones range from \$143 to \$443, with some infractions requiring a court appearance.

Back to school: Slow down, save a child and your wallet

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

RUSKIN - Approximately 190,000 children returned to school in Hillsborough County on Tuesday and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office has a message for motorists: Slow down to save a child and your wallet.

At elementary schools such as Ruskin, Gibsonton and Cypress Creek, all located on heavily traveled roads, the speed limit before and after school hours drops from 45 or 50 mph to 15 mph in the school zones. According to the HCSO, fines for speeding – even a little – in Hillsborough County school zones range from \$143 to \$443 and some infractions include a mandated court appearance.

See **BACK TO SCHOOL**, page 16

Counting the years of coffee and conversation

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

RUSKIN - No Ruskin history would be complete without the story of William T. and Mary Walker, owners of Ruskin's Coffee Cup restaurant for more than 50 years.

When William, known locally to long-time South County residents only as "Willie" - died July 11, his cremation was held quickly and many of his friends have since said they weren't even aware he had died.

Willie's wife Mary also died on

July 11, only in 2002, and with his death last month came the finality that yet another Ruskin icon had passed forever.

Immediately following his short obituary, his friends began to call *The Observer News* with stories of his years in Ruskin and how he, and Mary, had done so much for so long with so little recognition in recent years.

As long-time residents already know, the Coffee Cup was one of the original buildings in Ruskin. Built in the late 1800s, rumor has it that the first structure was originally a tea room, although there is nothing in the historical records today to back that up. Photographs of the building before the famed Coffee Cup sign was hung in front still exist in various places however, including the Internet on several historical sites. These show horse and buggies hitched outside what



This circa 1940s postcard of the Coffee Cup Restaurant features the Pure gas pumps in the front. US 41 was a considerable distance from the building at this time.

See **COFFEE CUP**, page 8

Come in and check out our changes.

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Back to school

■ Continued from page 1

But the fines pale in comparison to the life a child.

According to the HCSO, “drivers should be especially cautious as they approach intersections, with or without marked crosswalks, and pay particular attention to those areas that are designated as school crossings with the bright yellow signs. When approaching traffic signals, especially those designated as school crossings, make note of children who are approaching the roadway. Right turns on red can be extremely dangerous to pedestrians, especially smaller ones who might be more difficult to see from the driver’s seat.”

School bus safety will also be priority this year. School buses transport approximately 90,000 Hillsborough students each school day.

“Every year, there are repeated incidents of drivers failing to obey the laws regarding stopped school buses,” the HCSO said in a press release. “Remember, small bodies are not easily seen as they exit and walk around the front of a bus. These laws are in place to protect the children within our community. Take time to learn the laws and obey them.”

In their new school year press release, the HCSO also asked parents to take an active role in the safety of their children.

“Parents should also take extra care in educating their children about pedestrian and bicycle safety by traveling the route with their child over the weekend or during the first several days of school to insure they know the appropriate places to cross and how to do so safely.

Children should be reminded to ALWAYS look left, right, and left again when crossing the road and to be particularly aware of drivers making turns. Those riding bikes should be reminded to always wear a helmet and to walk their bikes through crosswalks. Student pedestrians and cyclists should be reminded to obey the instructions of School Crossing Guards and deputies stationed along their route.”

The HCSO is planning to increase patrols around South County schools, both in school zones and on the roadways surrounding area schools. After a summer of less traffic and non-active school zones, drivers will need to be alert for children walking and riding bicycles to school and for school buses operating on roadways. Elementary school hours, particularly in the morning, coincide with rush hour. As such, commuters will need to allow for extra travel time.

In South Hillsborough, nearly 28,000 students returned to 16 elementary schools, 6 middle schools and 5 high schools. In all, Hillsborough County Public Schools, the third largest school district in Florida and the eighth largest in the United States, operates 254 schools and 82 adult programs.

Motorists who are uncertain about when to stop for school buses can visit the State’s “Stop on Red, Kids Ahead” website at www.floridaschoolbussafety.gov for more information and great graphics that better explain these laws.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



It is Camille’s very first day at school. She starts kindergarten this year. Fortunately, her big sister Brianna, a 4th grade student will be there to show her around. Camille and Brianna’s mother takes pictures to record the moment.

Left, “I’m so happy to see you!” A student is welcomed back on the first day of school.



Traffic lines up on both U.S. Highway 41 and State Road 674 as parents take their children to the first day of school at Ruskin Elementary School.

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Prep football kicks off on Friday

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

With the 2011-12 school year beginning this week, prep football kicks off a new season on Friday. Kickoff times are typically 7:30 p.m., but check with your local school for the exact time.

For South County high schools, the East Bay Indians, coming off a 1-10 record last year will travel to take on Chamberlain High School in Tampa. Frank LaRosa is the head coach.

The Riverview High School Sharks, coming off a 0-12 season last year, will host Tampa's Wharton High School. Bruce Gifford is the head coach.

Ruskin's Lennard High School Longhorns, coming off a 6-5 season last year, will host Tampa's Leto High School. George Edington is the head coach.

Riverview's Spoto High School Spartans, coming off a 6-4 season last year, will host Tampa's Alonzo High School. Dale Caparaso is the head coach.

Valrico's Bloomingdale High School Bulls, coming off a 2-9 season last year, will host Plant City's Durant High School. John Booth is the head coach. The game is Bloomingdale's Kickoff Fall Classic.

Although classes began on August 23, most fall season athletes have been in practice since at least August 8.

Prep football schedules for area high schools:

East Bay High School Indians

- 08/26: At Chamberlain
- 09/02: Lennard
- 09/09: At Steinbrenner
- 09/16: At Bloomingdale
- 09/23: At Newsome
- 10/06: Riverview
- 10/14: Gaither
- 10/20: Plant City
- 10/28: At Durant
- 11/04: At Brandon
- 11/11: Strawberry Crest

Riverview High School Sharks

- 08/26: Wharton
- 09/02: Spoto
- 09/16: At Leto
- 09/23: Plant City
- 09/30: Bloomingdale
- 10/06: At East Bay
- 10/14: Steinbrenner
- 10/20: Brandon
- 10/28: At Newsome
- 11/04: At Durant
- 11/10: At Gaither

Lennard High School Longhorns

- 08/26: Leto
- 09/02: At East Bay
- 09/09: Gibbs
- 09/16: Middleton
- 09/23: Robinson
- 09/30: Berkeley Prep
- 10/07: At Jesuit
- 10/14: At Lakewood
- 10/20: At Blake
- 10/28: Spoto
- 11/04: At Dunedin



MITCH TRAPHAGEN FILE PHOTOS

Prep football opens on Friday with East Bay on the road to Chamberlain and Riverview, Lennard, Spoto and Bloomingdale all kicking off the season at home.



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Spoto High School Spartans

- 08/26: Alonzo
- 09/02: At Riverview
- 09/16: Gibbs
- 10/07: At Dunedin
- 10/14: Blake
- 10/20: Robinson
- 10/28: At Lennard
- 11/04: Lakewood
- 11/10: Wharton

Bloomingdale High School Bulls

- 08/26: Durant (Fall Kickoff Classic)
- 09/02: At Chamberlain
- 09/09: At Strawberry Crest
- 09/16: East Bay
- 09/23: Tampa Catholic
- 09/30: At Riverview
- 10/06: At Alonzo
- 10/14: Leto
- 10/20: At Wharton
- 11/04: Plant
- 11/10: Newsome

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AUDITIONS!
PACKIDS

Auditions for the PACKids!, a chorus of musically talented children in grades 1-5, will be held **SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 10:AM** at the **ROLLINS THEATER** in SUN CITY CENTER. Auditioners must be prepared to sing a solo, either with a CD accompaniment or acapella, and dressed appropriately to learn a short song and dance routine.

The PACKids, directed by local music teacher, singer and actor, **Ellen Kleinschmidt**, is affiliated with the Performing Arts Company of Sun City Center under the leadership of longtime NY actor, **Law Resseguie**.

For further information and directions to the theater, contact Ellen Kleinschmidt at
813-633-4286
 or via e-mail at **LNLittleSmith@yahoo.com**

POSITIVE TALK

Are you still an original and unique?

In Mark 9:23 of the Bible, Jesus A family member had a baby. As a good uncle, it was my responsibility to visit the mother and new baby in the hospital. The father took me to the nursery, pointed through the glass and said, "There he is!" I know he knew which child was his, but there were 22 children in that room and they all looked pretty much the same to me. Not to let on that I could not even pick out my own nephew, I quickly replied, "He's the most beautiful child I've ever seen." Then the nurse in the room walked over and picked up the baby and brought him to the window for our closer inspection. I was saved, not by the bell, but by the quick actions of that wonderful nurse. Later in the day, I had a chance to talk with that nurse and asked her how she knew which baby went with which parent. She told me that in her 20 years of dealing with infants, she had developed a memory for which parent went with which child.

I wasn't surprised she could remember the parents because they look different from each other, but I asked her how she remembered the babies—since one appeared to be a copy of the other. It was then she told me I was all wrong. She said the babies left in her care were all uniquely different and easily identified. It was the adults who looked and acted like copies of each other and were hard to place. It was her belief we all come into this world as a rare jewel, the likes of which has never been seen on earth before. What happens to us, once we are here, will determine whether we sparkle and shine, or we fade to a poor paste copy of the original.

I agree with her. We are born masterpieces of the first order—no two of us alike. But then it seems everything in society conspires to force us into a mold that tries to make us cookie-cutter copies of each other. I suppose it is simply that society cannot deal with that much original thinking. There is little question that it is easier to deal with a society where the members walk together in lock-step. A mentality that "one set of rules fits all" makes law-making an easy job. It also leads to abuses such as those that occurred in Nazi Germany during WW II, and as a forecast for the future in Aldous Huxley's Brave New World, which describes a nightmarish 25th-century Utopia where original thinking is banned.

As parents, it is our duty to help our children explore new ideas without stifling them. Let them push the limits of their knowledge by trying new things without our interference. I am not saying, however, that we should allow them to experience great hurt when we could prevent it by a few words of reason. I do believe it is important that we let them fall every once in a while so they will learn how to get up. To be unique, we must not only have a knowledge of the failures of others but a few of our own from which to draw.

I like what Herbert B. Swope had to say, "I cannot give you the formula for success, but I can give you the formula for failure, which is: Try to please everybody." The unique individual does not try to

please everyone but endeavors to do what he thinks is right. That one trait by itself will make you stand out in a crowd.

When I was in college, an English instructor introduced me to a this poem by Robert Frost, "I shall be telling this with a sigh, somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled, and that has made all the difference." Well, from then until now, I have traveled that less traveled path and it has made all the difference. I am still an original. How about you?



Positive Talk

By William Hodges

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: 813-641-0816. Email: bill@billhodges.com Website: www.billhodges.com

Tropical menu available on the go



The mobile restaurant craze has reached new heights in Ruskin. New residents, Mike and Karen Dowd, are happy to announce the opening of 'Tiki Time,' a fresh new look at mobile food vending. Located at 1902 W. Shell Point Road in Ruskin, Tiki Time is a must see operation. The fun atmosphere, friendly staff, and healthy menu choices are sure to be a hit with all ages.

Tiki Time is open for new business from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Serving lunch, dinner, and delicious treats. The main menu includes Polynesian kabobs served with yellow rice; Hawaiian chicken salad wraps; and pulled pork sandwiches. And don't forget dessert. Try a little slice of heaven in their homemade pineapple pie or choose from sixteen delicious flavors of real Hawaiian Shaved Ice.

In addition to the main menu selections, Tiki Time will be offering daily specials such as Honolulu Hotdog Surprise, Tropical Chicken Salad with made-from-scratch raspberry dressing, and Grilled Shrimp Skewers. You can even call ahead (813) 641-7950 and they'll have your order ready when you get here.

Does your organization have a special event coming up? They'll come to you. From flea markets and arts and craft shows to company picnics and fundraisers, Tiki Time is a crowd pleaser. The attractive trailer, hand painted and brought to life by local mural artist, Wendy Alibosek, is a welcome addition at any event. They strive to provide quality food, friendly service, and a fun atmosphere for a reasonable price. Call or stop by to tell them about your event and how they can customize a plan of action that works for you.

In the highly competitive and growing mobile food business, they wanted to bring new life to the typical concession trailer and the usual menu selections. They want to be part of their new community and provide a neighborhood oasis for cool treats, healthy eats, and friendly conversation. On the road and at special events, they will carve their niche by offering the same high-quality food and healthy choices as they do at their 'home' location in Ruskin.

For more information, call Karen Dowd at (651) 271-9740.

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Kids' Program/Event Highlights August 25 to 31

Teen Night: Game Zone*

Thursday, August 25 • 5 to 7 p.m.

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

Family Time

Thursday, August 25 • 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.

Toddler Time

Tuesday, August 30 • 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 30 • 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 31 • 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 lapsit program that introduces early literacy skills and encourages language development.

Toddler Time

Wednesday, August 31 • 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 31 • 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.

*Free event is provided by the

Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

Riverview Memorial VFW Post #8108

7504 Riverview Dr.
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MEETINGS

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

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

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

MEALS

Wednesday Spaghetti Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m.

Friday Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m.

Sunday Breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon

CANTEEN HAPPENINGS

Bar Bingo Monday at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

County Commissioners to hold Public Safety workshop

Members of the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners will meet with the Executive Team and representatives from the Sheriff's Office to discuss the Public Safety Operations Center. The meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 30 at the Emergency Operations Center, 2711 E. Hanna Ave., Tampa.

For more information, call Ronald Rogers at 272-6600, Ext. 37628 or Preston Cook, Director of Emergency Operations at 276-2364.

Tour of local businesses to be offered monthly through October

Tour de SouthShore is a behind-the-scenes look at businesses people might never have visited or even known existed. This will be a once a month event sponsored by the SouthShore Chamber of Commerce given Fridays through October.

The tour involves five or six businesses and a stop for lunch along the route. The day concludes around 1:30 p.m.

Tour de SouthShore is the perfect chance to learn more about the community and to do business with companies here in South Shore.

Not only chamber members, but the general public will be invited to participate. There is a \$50 participation fee for those who would like their businesses toured and a \$25 cost to those who would like to take the tour to cover the chamber's expenses.

Any business interested in being a stop on the tour may call for details. There are also a few openings left for "tourists."

The \$25 fee for a tourist includes breakfast, snack and lunch. For more information, call (813) 645-3808.

Century 21 Beggins joins OwnAmerica

Century 21 Beggins in Apollo Beach is pleased to announce it has formed a business relationship with OwnAmerica to provide the public free real estate investment training.

"Obviously there has never been a better time to invest in Florida real estate" Craig Beggins, Broker/CEO of Century 21 Beggins said. "Prices are at historical lows, interest rates are at historical lows, and choices are at historical highs. That is the pure definition of a buyer's market!"

Beggins went on to say, "Investors are coming from all over the world and snapping up our deals and renting them, at a profit, to Americans. They clearly see the values. These investors see that property will not only provide a positive cash flow at these prices, they are sure to appreciate over the next 10 years as well. With a huge percentage of our sales being bought by foreigners, if anyone is going to own America, I feel it should be Americans! This is the way we can help make that happen."

We found that Americans want to invest in real estate; but most are just not sure how to begin. Now our free, on-line training program will not only teach them how, it will provide them with the financial analyst tools to evaluate their investments.

Century 21 Beggins is able to provide these free tools and training by aligning with OwnAmerica, a professional real estate investment service, owned and operated by real estate expert, Greg Rand.

Rand is an authority in the real estate market. As the former managing partner at Better Homes and Gardens Rand Realty, a regular Fox TV and news contributor,

host of Rand on Real Estate on 77 WABC Radio, the popular media commentator and author of Crash Boom, Rand understands the intricacies behind real estate. Going on the Century 21 Beggins website, and taking this free training, will allow the public to not only learn real estate investing, but to get professional real estate advice from the CEO of OwnAmerica, himself.

Rand said about the new arrangement with Century 21 Beggins, "We are very excited that Century 21 Beggins has taken this step to educate the American public. Investing in real estate doesn't take a genius. Anyone can do it. And as the marketplace has proven over and over again, anyone can fail at it.

To succeed through the years, one must understand that real estate investing-whether it is a home of your own, office buildings or strip malls-is a science.

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By paying for, and providing the public with a free link to our real estate investor training, directly on the front page of The Century 21 Beggins Web Site www.c21beggins.com. Century 21 Beggins has once again, shown itself as the industry leader in advanced technology and training."

Century 21 Beggins Enterprises is a full service real estate brokerage affiliated with Century 21 since 1992 and is now one of the largest Century 21 companies in Florida with five offices, including mortgage and title services, in the Tampa Bay area.

Ruskin Woman's Club meets

The GFWC Ruskin Woman's Club will have its first club meeting of the new club year at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 7.

Bonnie Cumbey is hostess chairman. She is asking for donations of school supplies to be brought to the meeting. She will take the donations to local schools.

The guest speaker is Nurse Practitioner Terri Philale from Dr. Schultz's office in Apollo Beach. She will discuss diet issues and also women's hormone issues.

For more information, call (813) 781-1959 or (813) 645-3136.

IN UNIFORM



Daniel E. Stewart

Navy Seaman Daniel E. Stewart, son of Virginia L. Connors of West Hartford, Conn. and Scott E. Stewart, of Apollo Beach, FL, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL.

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

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

Stewart is a 2004 graduate of Hall High School of West Hartford, CT. He is a 2009 graduate of Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT with a BA degree.

America's Got Talent performer to sing in Apollo Beach

Shevonne Philidor, as seen on the recent season of NBC's America's Got Talent, will perform with Lester Freeman and "D" Band at Apollo's Bistro, 6520 Richies Way, Apollo Beach, Friday Aug. 26 at 6 p.m. Shevonne has performed as a featured vocalist at Apollo's Bistro on several occasions with Lester Freeman and his band, and will perform as a solo act each Friday night starting in September. In addition, Shevonne will be working with an afterschool camp before her Friday night performances and will teach children about music and pursuing their dreams. Her involvement in this camp was inspired by an 8-year-old girl who, after watching Shevonne's Wild Card Performance on America's Got Talent, told her mom she was going to be on American Idol.

Business building workshops to be offered

The Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce a new partnership with Community Bank in Riverview and Estrada Strategies to provide a series of business owner strategic business building events.

The new alliance will offer the first in this event series on Monday, Aug. 29 at the Community Bank located 10109 U.S. Hwy. 301 S. in Riverview with Professional Business Coach Alex Miranda of Estrada Strategies.

This event is focused on the owners of local businesses and will offer real world, immediately relevant ideas to help growth and build a thriving business right now.

Workshop #1 Topic:

Building on the Core Disciplines of Business

1. The Business Owner's Trap
2. Understanding how the way I think influences the things I do -- the Executive Maturity Curve
3. Creating a Culture for a Secure Foundation in Every Business
4. The Core Disciplines of Business -- A model for businesses of every size
5. Building equity for a successful future

All are welcome (open to the public). There is no charge. Seating is limited; RSVP requested. To RSVP or for more information, visit www.RiverviewChamber.com or call Riverview Chamber office at (813) 234-5944.

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.



New Web sites raise awareness of missing dogs

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

RUSKIN — Missing dogs have become such a problem in the southeastern part of Hillsborough County in the rural Wimauma-Balm area that a second meeting with authorities was held Aug. 15 and a third is planned for Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. at the South Shore Library on Beth Shields Way in Ruskin.

About 25 people showed up at the first meeting held Aug. 3 even though posters were only put up 24 hours ahead of the event and no newspaper notices had yet been sent out.

About 30 new people attended the second meeting, including many in the pet care and grooming

industries that are concerned about the medium and large breed dogs that have been steadily going missing in the area for the last few months.

Since organizing the first meeting, Frances Poirrier who has lost two dogs since January, the latest in May, has garnered the help of Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Cpl. Steve Billor and Cpl. K.A. Vetzal, an investigator from the county's Animal Services department. Both were on hand to give tips for how neighbors can help each other locate the culprits they think may be stealing dogs for illegal dog fighting, and possibly then recover their animals.

Frances has done more than

organize meetings, however. Her niece Leigh Anne Gilbert, a graphic designer, has created a Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/pages/save-our-pets-help-stop-dog-theft-in-tampa-bay/250084758345850> or simply type in Save Our Pets Tampa Bay into Google or Yahoo search engines and then click the entry with those exact words.

The site is filled with photographs of missing dogs, mostly pets that were loved by whole families. Since the area is rural, many of the owners have hundreds of acres of land and let their dogs run free although several have been taken from behind fences in broad daylight.

Because about 75 people have now said they have dogs missing in the specific area since the first posters went up, the sheriff's office has asked that anyone calling in to make a report use the same case number: #11-378158. The number to call to report is (813) 247-8200.

"Microchipping your pet is the best way to be sure you can prove ownership once the dog is found," said Cpl. Vetzal. "The first thing vets and animal control officials do when they find an animal is check to see if it has a microchip."

But going to the shelters and looking in person is always the best way to locate your dog if it is not microchipped.

"It may be in a condition that you don't recognize from photos on the Internet," Vetzal said, "Although every animal is listed on the site, photograph and description, at www.petharbor.com."

On that site, you get to put in your

zip code and then go to the county you are in and see photographs of the animals in the shelter there.

"Representatives from C.A.R.E. in Ruskin have told me that they have never seen so many dogs on their 'Lost Dog' board. Their 'Found' pet board has only two pets on it," Poirrier said. "There is little room for question that we are in an epidemic of stolen dogs. We suspect they are being used for fighting purposes. This is a cruel sport that needs to be stopped. We at Save Our Pets hope to expand our cause to offer education for prevention among other services for the community, families and our pets."

Gilbert is now working on a Web site to offer online help to those who do not wish to use a Facebook page.

Meanwhile, Frances may also be reached by email at www.stopdogtheft@yahoo.com.



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PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

About 20 people attended the first meeting of a group formed to find out what's happening to dogs going missing in the rural Wimauma area and about 30 new faces showed up at a second meeting at the South Shore Library Aug. 15. Concerned about their client's pets are, from left, Linda Cardamone, a pet supply store owner; Shirley Maloof and Sharon Roberts of All About Paws pet services; and Deborah Dodge, mobile groomer and owner of Paws on the Go.



Frances Poirrier and her niece Leigh Anne Gilbert prepare for a second meeting with area residents, a Hillsborough County sheriff's detective and animal control representatives. Gilbert has just set up a Web site and Facebook page to help in the effort to find large numbers of dogs that are apparently being stolen in the southeastern part of the county near Wimauma.



The Observer News office will be closed **Monday, Sept. 5**

in observance of **LABOR DAY**

Deadlines will advance as follows:

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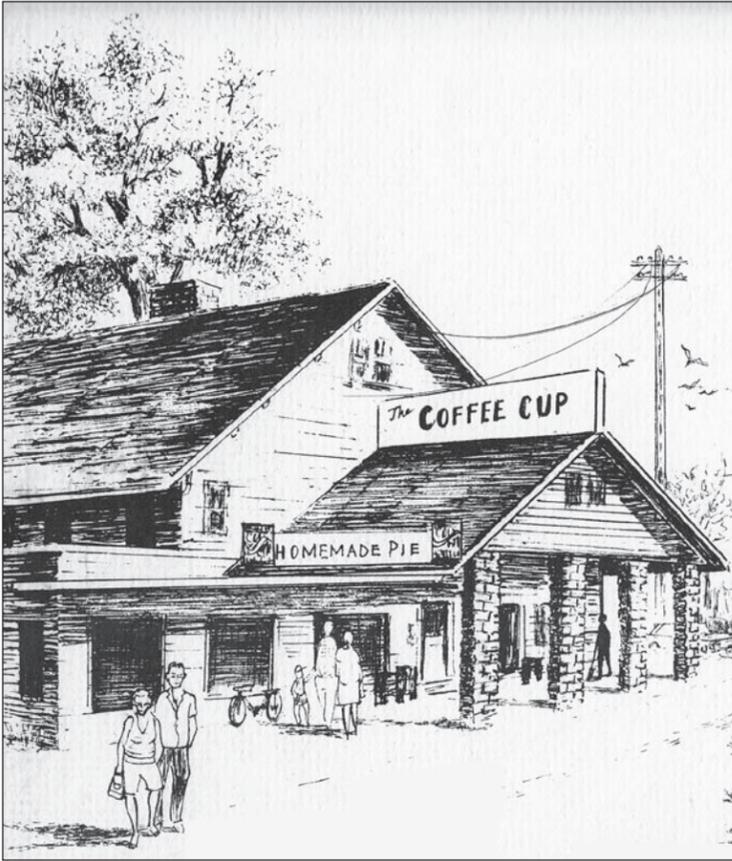
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Coffee Cup

■ Continued from page 1

was obviously the building when it was first constructed of what was later to become the last tongue-and-groove wood frame structure in the area until it was razed.

Fred Jacobsen, dedicated founder of the Ruskin Historical Society, has a link to a YouTube video of

Provided by Fred Jacobsen from the Ruskin History Project, RuskinHistory.org

This artist's rendering (left) of the well-known Coffee Cup restaurant was done by Jo Tarabula in 1985. But at that time, the building was already almost 100 years old. Built in the late 1800s, it was the main stop for tourists and truckers along the old Tamiami (Tampa-Miami) Trail, on what is now more commonly known as U.S. 41.

it coming down in 1999 that may be viewed at www.YouTube.com by typing in *Goodbye Coffee Cup Restaurant, A Farewell to an Old Friend*.

When I first moved to Ruskin from Bradenton in 1979, it was the place all the old-timers gathered. My late husband, Robert Fletcher, a third-generation commercial fisherman, ate there often, as had his father and probably grandfather as well.

It is rumored more deals were made there than in any bank, law office or business in town.

But that's not all there is to the story.

The real story is with the people who frequented, and owned, the old clapboard building that served as a restaurant, grocery store, and butcher shop for so many, many years.

People all over town were glad to share their stories with me as Willie and Mary were greatly loved.

"Our earliest memories are of shopping and eating there," said Frances Hereford. "I moved here in 1953 and right away my family learned they had the best coffee and pies in town. We also bought our meats and groceries there. Willie was the butcher, Mary made the pies and cooked fried chicken and other dishes. Every Friday night our family went there for hamburgers and coconut cream pie, it was the big treat of the week because we didn't get to eat out often back then."

Sandy Council remembers that the Walkers sent cards and small gifts to people all over town. "If a child graduated or went in the military, or if somebody had a baby or got married, they sent at least a card, and sometimes a gift," Council said. "These were caring loving people. The kind you were proud to know and call your friends."

Council remembers when Willie also pumped gas and checked the water and oil in their vehicles. "I was a teacher at Ruskin Elementary School and all the teachers went there every day after school for their planning period and pie."

It is not known exactly when the gas pumps were removed from the front of the store.

Polly Rothenbush had a different experience than Council and Hereford, because she was employed there.

Her father owned The Share-cropper, which was another restaurant in town in the early days. But instead of being competitors, the men were friends.

In fact, Rothenbush worked some days at her family's place and others for the Walkers.

"My dad, Leonard, heard somebody talking bad about the Coffee Cup one day in his restaurant and told them to get out. He wouldn't even serve him. Now that's friendship," she told me.

Rothenbush told me of the day Norman Vincent Peale (the famous writer and preacher) came to town and ate there. "He said the key lime pie was so good his brother had to come all the way down here to buy them."

Mary Walker bought fresh lemons and limes for her pies from a Mrs. Baker who lived along the Little Manatee River. She also made apple, strawberry and butterscotch pies, Rothenbush recalled.

"We'd see them snapping beans and shelling peas on the porch, and then donning aprons and working inside. They did everything, but most of all, they made friends and cared about their customers," Rothenbush said.

"He even sent flowers to me when I had my two children," Council remembered.

Before the movie *Fried Green Tomatoes* was produced in 1991, the crew was looking for the perfect place to film as the fictional Whistle Stop Café.

They approached Willie and Mary Walker.

"But Willie said it would inconvenience customers to close down even two days for filming," Council said. "So they didn't do it there."

And so, the well-renowned Coffee Cup in Ruskin did not become the famed Whistle Stop Café of the award-winning film starring Kathy Bates.

It seems Willie knew his customers in the grocery store and butcher shop well enough that if they asked for an extra pork chop he would ask them who was coming for dinner, Council said. "He always knew exactly what we needed. What our regular orders were. He made it his business to know what we needed and have it for us."

The Walkers took over the business from Esther and Paul

See *COFFEE CUP*, page 32



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Photos are part of the "Ruskin History Project" RuskinHistory.org

The Coffee Cup was dismantled in 1999. Over 100 years of history was erased in a matter of hours and the Ruskin landmark is still missed today by many locals.



Write your life story

Have you thought about creating a personal history but don't know how to begin? There's a popular class that's tailor made for you at Hillsborough Community College in Ruskin. Kings Point resident Joan Shallick has been teaching this class for seven years and says it has become a 'mission' for her.



"I think everyone should write about their life in memoir form. Everyone has a unique story to tell. They just need a bit of guidance to help them on their journey" she says.

The small class is held in a comfortable room at the college that assures privacy, so essential because you will be writing about events and experiences that are

very personal. You'll hear stories from others, both published and unpublished, about childhood, school days, friendships, parents and triumphs and tragedies. You'll learn how to enhance your work so that your heirs will actually read them with enjoyment as well as enlightenment.

This twenty-hour Lifelong Learning course will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 16 and continues until Nov. 4. You'll need access to a computer and attendance at all eight sessions is strongly recommended. The cost is \$75. For more information and to register., call Brian England, HCC Lifelong Learning Coordinator at (813) 259-6528.

THE SAVVY SENIOR

A hidden warning sign for heart attack and stroke

Dear Savvy Senior,
I started a walking program a few months ago to help me lose some weight but I've been having some problems with my legs hurting during my walk, although they feel better once I stop. I thought it was just the fact that I am 63, but my friend was telling me about a leg vein disease called PAD and thinks I may have it. What can you tell me?

Hypertensive Helen



The Savvy Senior

By Jim Miller

Dear Helen,

The health condition your friend is telling you about is known as peripheral arterial disease (PAD), and you probably need to be screened for it. Here's what you should know.

PAD Alert

An under-the-radar condition that affects up to 10 million Americans, PAD hap-

pens when the arteries that carry blood to the legs and feet become narrowed or clogged over the years with fatty deposits or plaque, causing poor circulation. But you also need to be aware that because PAD is a systemic disease, people that have it are also much more likely to have clogged arteries in other areas of the body like the heart, neck and brain, which greatly increase the risks of heart attack or stroke.

Few Symptoms

Unfortunately, PAD goes undiagnosed and untreated way too often because most people that have it experience few, if any symptoms. The most common symptom however is what you're experiencing now: leg pain, especially when walking or exercising but usually disappears after resting for a few minutes.

Another reason PAD is underdiagnosed is because many people assume that aches and pains go along with aging and simply live with it instead of reporting it to their doctor. Other possible symptoms to be aware of include numbness, tingling, coldness or skin color changes in the lower legs and feet, or ulcers or sores on the legs or feet that don't heal.

Are You at Risk?

Like most other health conditions, the risk of developing PAD increases with age. Those most vulnerable are people over the age

of 50 who smoke or used to smoke, have elevated cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, are overweight, or have a family history of PAD, heart attack or stroke.

Get Tested

If you're experiencing any of the previously listed symptoms or if you're at increased risk of PAD, you need to be tested by your doctor or a vascular specialist. He or she will perform a quick and painless ankle-brachial index test which is done by measuring your blood pressure in your ankle as well as your arm and compare the two numbers.

With early detection, most cases of PAD can be treated with lifestyle changes, medication or both. For those with severe PAD, treatment options could be angioplasty (inflating a tiny balloon in the artery), clot-busting drugs or bypass surgery.

Savvy Tips: For more information, visit the PAD Coalition website at padcoalition.org. Also, check out Legs For Life (legsforlife.org, 800-488-7284), a national program that offers free PAD screenings in September in around 70 locations nationwide, and the Society for Vascular Surgery (vascularweb.org) which provides a listing on their website of nearly 50 health care facilities that provide free or low-cost screenings.

Life Line Screening is another convenient screening resource to check into. This is a private company that travels all over the country offering PAD screenings for around \$60 per test. To find an upcoming screening in your area visit lifelinescreening.com or call 800-449-2350.

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.

Every Wednesday: Best Spaghetti in Town -- \$7, All You Can Eat, for all Elks and their guests. Music by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.

Every Friday: Seafood and Sandwiches for all Elks and their guests from 5 to 7 p.m. Karaoke by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 28: Boom Ba from 2 to 5 p.m. Food will be available from noon to 2 p.m. Food Menu: Jumbo Hot Dog, Chips and a Cookie for \$3; and Wings 35¢ each or 3 for \$1.

Monday, Sept. 5: \$7 Blue Plate Special. Menu: Pulled Pork with all the trimmings. Only 50 tickets will be sold. Don't miss out.

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10 and 11: Donate your old treasures to the Lodge or rent a table for the 400 Family Bazaar. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. Turn your items in early. For more information, call Bonnie Glass.

Monday, Sept. 19: \$7 Blue Plate Special. Menu: Meat Loaf with all the trimmings. Only 50 tickets will be sold.

Saturday, Nov. 20: Turkey Shoot for all Elks and their guests from 5 to 8 p.m. Menu: \$3 Sandwich Buffet.

Sunday, Nov. 21: Pot Luck Dinner for all Elks and their guests. Bring your favorite dish.

Monday, Nov. 29: Poor Man's Dinner for all Elks and their guests at 5 p.m. \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Menu: American Goulash.

Feb. 12-19, 2012: Join S. Hillsborough Elks Lodge Valentine's Western Caribbean Fundraiser Cruise, 7 days from only \$643.00.

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.

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South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 Upcoming Activities



Governor Scott signs legislation to strengthen, expand Florida's schools

Keeping his promise to make Florida the state with the best-educated workforce, Governor Rick Scott today visited Hope Charter School in Ocoee to highlight education reforms that expand and strengthen charter and virtual schools and increase scholarship opportunities that empower parents to choose schools best suited to student needs.

While visiting, Governor Scott discussed how parents best understand their children's needs and should have the right to choose the schools that meet those needs.

"One of the critical components of creating jobs and turning Florida's economy around is to make sure our state has the best educated workforce, ready to work in our 21st Century economy," Governor Scott said. "The legislation I sign today moves our state closer to having world-class schools that graduate students ready for those jobs."

Earlier this year, the first bill Governor Scott signed into law was the Student Success Act. It empowers principals to keep the best teachers and use merit pay to compensate them more, while also replacing low-performing teachers.

"Florida will now be able to recruit and retain the best educators for our schools," Governor Scott said. "Children should not be locked into going to a failing school just because of where they live, and families should have the right to choose an education best suited to their children."

The bills Governor Scott highlighted are as follows:

• **Senate Bill 1546, Charter Schools** -- Charter schools will now have the opportunity to duplicate their success and grow to serve more students. Charter schools that earn an "A" twice in three years have the opportunity to earn a "high-performing" status, so they can increase enrollment and open more schools.

• **House Bill 7197, Virtual Education** -- Expands the Florida Virtual School to offer full-time instruction to K-12 students and part-time for grades 4-12. District virtual schools will be able to offer part-time instruction in grades 9-12 to more students. Charter schools can also now offer online instruction, either as a virtual charter school, or combined with traditional classroom learning.

• **House Bill 1331, Opportunity Scholarships** -- This bill empowers parents to choose a better school for their students assigned to chronically low-performing schools. It expands the definition of a failing school from those that earn an 'F' two years in a row, to those that earn two 'Fs' in the past four years.

• **House Bill 1329, McKay Scholarships** -- Students with special learning needs will be eligible for McKay Scholarships to attend private schools. Parents with children who receive specialized instructional plans must be notified every year of each student's options, including the McKay Scholarship.

• **House Bill 965, Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program** -- The tax credit scholarship program is updated to help encourage more businesses to participate in the program, thereby helping more students attend the school best suited to them.

Publisher speaks at South Shore Democratic Club

The South Shore Democratic Club will meet on Thursday, Sept. 8, at the South Shore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way in Ruskin. Coffee, refreshments and social interaction are offered at 1 p.m. The meeting begins at 1:30 p.m.

All Democrats and like-minded people are welcome.

This month's featured speaker is Patrick Manteiga, publisher of the weekly newspaper, *La Gaceta*. The paper, headquartered in Tampa, is the only newspaper in the USA that is printed in three languages, Spanish, Italian and English.

Manteiga will speak about the newspaper's readership, ways to reach out to the Hispanic population and how that population views the coming elections in 2012.

A special evening meeting is scheduled at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 11. This is not the normal Thursday meeting date, so make a note; further announcements will be forthcoming.

Spaghetti dinner at VFW Post

The Ruskin Memorial VFW Post 6287 will have a spaghetti dinner which includes salad and roll prepared by Beanie's Family Sports Grill, at the Ruskin post from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 12.

This event will help defray some of the cost of the Post's Veteran's Day Parade. There will be a 50/50 raffle and entertainment.

Tickets are available at the Ruskin VFW or visit the website www.vfwpost6287.com for other distribution locations.

For more information, call Shirley May at (813) 645-3410.

FISH TALES

Baitfish are abundant

Many anglers have mastered the art of cast netting. When the bait shops are closed, it is possible for them to catch their own baitfish. When they are out from shore and run out of bait, they cast their net over a school of baitfish and can stay out another hour or so without going back to shore.

Baitfish is a common word used for a multitude of small schooling fish whose main claim to fame is that they are an important food source for other fish. They are also important as a commercial commodity, when used in fishmeal, oil, dog food and fertilizer.

There are those who have their favorite bait spots, and try not to let anyone know where they are. Then another type of angler is happy to share a bait spot, polite and patient awaiting their turn.

Worldwide there are more than fifty species of baitfish. Florida has about 24. Baitfish are the most abundant fishes in many of the state's estuaries; the most abundant baitfish is the anchovy.

Baitfish schools are tighter and more compact during daytime hours and more dispersed at night.

Thread herring migrating from North Carolina to Florida were estimated to travel at the rate of six to seven miles per day.

Baitfish are an important component of various useful products, but are most important to the recreational fishing anglers.

Some anglers can read the water and know when a school is passing by. If you can't read the water, look for clear water over grassy

flats where they often are. Be sure to throw your net in a complete circle over the school before they swim away.



Fish Tales
By Jonie Maschek

Mullet are plentiful, in the canals and rivers; they are traveling along with some of the larger schools of fish.

Those living along the Shellpoint canals have been enjoying mullet. This fish is most often smoked or fried.

Flounder are surfacing at high tide to eat. Otherwise they are cooling off on the sandy bottom of the waterways. Some anglers go fishing at high tide only and catch more than one species for their dinner tables.

Sheeps-head could care less about the weather, as they seem to bite for the landlovers daily.

Silvertrout are enjoying the warm weather, and have invaded our waterways. I have seen and heard of catches in the rivers and the bay.

Cobia are still roaming. A fighting big fish for those who want some action.

I heard of a tripletail catch this week. They seem to be a lonely fish out there. It's not often that we see a catch.

Watch the weather; know your boat; always fish together.

Aleta Jonie Maschek is a member of Florida Outdoor Press.



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From the "Java Cow" to "Century 21 Beggins"

You may recognize me as one of the guys dipping ice cream or helping with a "Make Your Own Sundae" from the Java Cow Ice Cream Cafe. To me, they are good memories and I am grateful for the wonderful friendships that were developed. Since then I have been with Century 21 Beggins as a licensed real estate professional and thanks to many of the great people that were our customers at the Java Cow, I have had two very successful years helping them with their real estate needs. SCC has a very active real estate market, so if you are thinking about selling your home or know of anyone looking to buy a home in our area, I would very much appreciate the opportunity to assist you, your friends, and neighbors. Please visit my website: www.jackstevenshomes.com or I can be reached any time on my cell phone at **813-417-1554** or by email at: Jackstevens@c21be.com.
Again, thank you for all your support and have a great summer.

Jack Stevens, Realtor

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RUSKIN Moose Lodge #813 UPCOMING EVENTS

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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. 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.

Camp Bayou lines up events for fall

The Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center in Ruskin has some exciting events lined up for the fall!

Upcoming events through the end of the year:

- First Saturday each month. Family Naturalist Hour; 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. FREE. A different nature topic each month. No reservations required.

- Saturday, Sept 17. International Coastal Cleanup from 8 a.m. to noon. Land and water cleanup. FREE. Register with Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful, <http://www.keeptampabaybeautiful.org/coastal-cleanup.shtml>.

- Saturday, Sept 24. National Public Lands Day from 8 a.m. to noon. Fixup/maintenance for various projects. FREE. Projects include mulching, planting, tree trimming and more. Call (813) 641-8545 for more information and to register.

- Saturday, Oct 8. Observe the Moon Night from 7:30 to 9 p.m.; Night hike ending at fire circle for moon viewing (possibly meteor shower spotting too!) and s'mores. \$5/person. Limit 20 participants. Email campbayou@gmail.com or call (813) 641-8545 with your name, number of people and phone number you can be reached at for confirmation.

- Saturday, Oct 15. Beef 'n Bones Fundraiser from 3 to 8 p.m. An evening of food and entertainment with 'unveiling' of second restored fishing cabin. Tickets can be purchased on line at <http://campbayoubeefnbones.eventbrite.com>.

- Friday-Sunday, Nov. 11-13. A Natural Education Weekend; from



One of the original cabins from the Giant's Camp In Gibsonton has been preserved at the Campa Bayou Learning Center.

1 to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, plus Sunday morning field trips. Enjoy the outdoors responsibly in Florida. Visit <http://anaturaleducation.blogspot.com> for registration costs and more information.

These events are part of a Be Out There! Get Outdoors Florida!, The Nature Center is taking reservations for field trips for the current school year.

Popular programs include River Study, Native People, Rotation Stations (students visit up to 6 nature topic stations during their 2-3 hour trip) plus many more options. Cost is just \$5 per child, adults are free. Contact Dolly at campbayou@gmail.com.

The Paleo Preserve Fossil Museum is taking reservations for fossil programs for school groups. It is open to the general public from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays only. Leave a message for Fred Hendershot at (813) 641-8545 and specify that you are calling about the fossil program.

Land use hearing officer will hold hearing

A Land Use Hearing Officer will hold a hearing at 9 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 26 in the 2nd Floor Boardroom of County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., in downtown Tampa.

For more information, call Dennis Kline, Planning and Growth Management, at 276-8363.

Movie night for mayor's race

Shrek Forever After, the final Shrek movie, will be shown as a fundraiser for Stuart Mackey's race for Honorary Mayor of Riverview at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27 at Serenity Meadows Chapel, 6919 Providence Rd. (south on Providence Road at Bloomingdale Ave.) Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

All proceeds will go to his elected charity, LifeCare of Brandon.

Refreshments and raffle tickets will be available for purchase.

Zoning Overlay District Working Committee will meet

The U.S. 41 Zoning Overlay District Working Committee will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 25 in the South Shore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way in Ruskin.

The U.S. 41 Zoning Overlay District Working Committee is made up of community members and stakeholders that will assist County staff in formulating recommendations to improve the appearance of U.S. 41 within the Apollo Beach and Ruskin communities.

For more information, call Jose Fernandez, Principal Planner, Development Services Department at 307-3435.



Bettinger receives his certification

Bob Bettinger, US Coast Guard Auxiliary member of Flotilla 75 in Ruskin received certification as a Vessel Examiner from Flotilla Commander Guy Mandigo. As a Vessel Examiner, Bob is now qualified to provide Boat Safety inspections on recreational boats and to award a Vessel Safety Decal to those boats that pass. Flotilla 75 conducts free, no-obligation safety checks on the first and third Saturday at Simmons Park and the second and fourth Saturday at Williams Park. To arrange a 15-minute inspection of your boat, call 645-6984.

County to hold opening ceremony for new center for Development Services

Hillsborough County will hold its opening ceremony for Development Services at 2 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 29 on the 19th Floor of County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa.

County Commissioners, County Administration and staff will be joined by members of the construction and development industry to celebrate the opening of 'The Center' for Development Services. Following introductory comments and the ribbon-cutting, refreshments and tours of 'The Center' will be offered.

'The Center' for Development Services is the County's new comprehensive customer service center for the building industry and residents. As part of its reorganization efforts, the County has consolidated all customer-related services associated with property development and permitting into one location.

The new consolidated service center includes staff from the County's Real Estate Department, Public Works Department, and the former Planning and Growth Man-

agement Department's Building Services Division, Planning and Zoning Division, and Development Review Division, all who were previously located on different floors of County Center.

Customers will now be able to visit 'The Center' to receive assistance with zoning counseling, building permitting intake and processing, contractor licensing, site and subdivision reviews, right-of-way use permits, driveway connection permits, public right-of-way information and vacation, and land use application intake.

'The Center' also features an electronic queuing system with television displays around the new waiting area, such as currently used by the Tax Collector's Office. The system helps customers know when they will be served and assists staff in seamlessly transferring customers from one service area to another. 'The Center' also features a floor manager that can direct additional staff to assist as the service area becomes busy, and helps direct residents to the correct service if they are unsure of what they need.

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. 25 — Bar Bingo at 6 p.m. Bruce Scheller Birthday.

Friday, Aug. 26 — Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by Soul R Coaster from 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 27 — Steak Dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by FiFi & Co. from 7 to 11 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 28 — Music by Bert & Sassy from 5 to 9 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 29 — Planning Meeting at 6 p.m. House Committee Meeting at 7 p.m.

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

Wednesday, Aug. 31 — \$7 Country Fried Steak Budget Dinner, from 4:30 to 7 p.m.



Learn about your government

It's easy to find out how your Hillsborough County government works by participating in the 10-week 2011 Government Leadership University (GLU). Orientation begins Sept. 13. GLU is free, and interested residents can apply until Friday, Aug. 31 at 5 p.m. Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations offers GLU as an interactive program designed to give residents insight into the operations of various County departments. The goal of the GLU is to have better informed neighborhood leaders who can bring their specialized knowledge

of how County government works back to their respective communities. Those interested in learning more about Hillsborough County government leadership, unraveling government red tape, and establishing relationships with department directors and staff are encouraged to apply.

Class sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to noon every Tuesday, Sept. 13-Nov. 15. Classes will include visits to several departments or facilities including Animal Services; Code Enforcement's Anti-Graffiti Unit; Communications; Cooperative Extension; the County's

Chiller Plant; Emergency Management; Fire Rescue; Sheriff's Office; Solid Waste Management; Supervisor of Elections; and Water Resource Services.

Several of the sessions will be held at County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. in downtown Tampa. Parking will be provided at the Pierce Street Garage for the County Center sessions.

For more information or an application, call the Office of Neighborhood Relations at (813) 272-5860, or log onto www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr, scroll down and click on Government Leadership University 'GLU.' Residents can fax applications to (813) 276-2621 or mail it to Office of Neighborhood Relations, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 1st Floor, Tampa, FL 33602.



This 1960 Corvette owned by Bill and Karen Crotty is August Cruiser of the Month for the Roamin' Oldies Car Club.

Bright red '60 Corvette earns Cruiser of the Month

A superbly restored 1960 Corvette owned by Bill and Karen Crotty of Apollo Beach is the Roamin' Oldies Cruiser of the Month for August.

The Roman Red Corvette is powered by a 283 cubic-inch V8 with dual 4-barrel carburetors, matched to a 4-speed stick-shift transmission. Bill acquired the car in Pennsylvania in 1996, and has carefully maintained it ever since. The Crotty's brought the car along when they moved to Florida, and are glad they did. "It's my sunny-day car," he said, "and there are a lot more of them in Florida."

The monthly Roamin' Oldies cruise-in is held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month at Cherry's Restaurant in the Apollo Beach Winn-Dixie Plaza on U.S. 41. The event is free to both entrants and spectators, and the public is welcome.

About 90 of the area's finest antique and collectible cars and trucks are typically on display, accompanied by classic 1950s music played by DJ Joey Ferrante. The event is sponsored by Thompson's Auto Parts and Cherry's Restaurant. For information, call Chet at (813) 842-1511.

Silverliners International to meet

The next meeting of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of Eastern Airlines Silverliners International will be at noon on Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Rusty Pelican Restaurant, 2425 Rocky Point Rd. North, Tampa. All former Eastern flight attendants are invited to attend. The chapter also extends an invitation to former flight attendants of other airlines.

The chapter will hold a prospective members' party on Sunday, Oct. 23, at a place and time to be announced at a later date.

Chapter members will be going to Southeastern Guide Dogs in Palmetto to tour the facility and present them with a \$700 check at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19.

Hillsborough County residents may obtain membership information from Adrienne Loveat at (813) 677-2909 or Barbara Reed at (813) 671-3078.

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.



IRIS

Iris is a beautiful Sheltie mix who was seen wandering around a community for several days with another dog. Iris has a sweet personality. Although she is a little shy at first, it only takes her a little warm-up time before she is rolling over to get a belly rub. She seems to like other dogs. As part of her adoption, Iris will be spayed, microchipped, and brought current on her shots. DOB: May 2, 2010.



TORTIFIR

Tortifir is a lithe female torty, or tortoiseshell kitten. She is a real beauty and is a playful bundle of kinetic energy who will play at the drop of a cat toy. She was found with here sister as a stray and fostered back to health by C.A.R.E. volunteers.

Tortifir has been spayed and brought up-to-date on her shots as well as microchipped. Chip #067-861-117. DOB: June 2, 2011.

Brandon area pets go online

Happy Tails to You Rescue, Brandon, has joined other animal welfare organizations in the area that list their homeless pets on Petfinder.com, the oldest and largest database of adoptable animals on the Internet. The site currently has over 359,000 homeless pets listed, and it is updated continuously.

More than 13,500 animal welfare organizations in the U.S., Canada, and other countries post their pets on the site. Happy Tails to You Rescue pets may be viewed at www.petfinder.com/shelters/FL1063.html.

A potential adopter enters search criteria for the kind of pet he or she wants, and a list is returned that ranks the pets in proximity to the Zip code entered. Adoptions are handled by the animal placement group where the pet is housed, and each group has its own policies.

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

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Flu vaccinations available at Winn-Dixie pharmacies

Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. has announced that flu vaccinations are now available in all Winn-Dixie in-store pharmacies to help prepare guests for the upcoming flu season. Guests will receive the flu vaccine for the discounted rate of \$24.99 when purchased using their Winn-Dixie Customer Reward Card.

“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people get a flu vaccine as soon as it becomes available in their community,” said John Fegan, vice president of pharmacy for Winn-Dixie. “With the flu season approaching, our skilled and knowledgeable pharmacists are now able to offer guests quick and easy options to receive the flu vaccine while grocery shopping – either on-the-go or by appointment. This is one of many benefits people will find at their neighborhood Winn-Dixie.” Guests can secure a flu shot in any Winn-Dixie in-store pharmacy on a ‘walk-in’ basis or can schedule an appointment online at www.winndixie.com/pharmacy.

Winn-Dixie pharmacies will offer a regular flu shot approved for people ages 6 months and older and a high-dose flu shot approved for people 65 and older. Certain age restrictions may apply in some states regarding pharmacist administration of vaccinations.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the best method of protection against the flu is vaccination and it is recommended that all people age six months and older receive a flu vaccination every year. In addition, Winn-Dixie pharmacists recommend washing your hands frequently; wiping down telephones, remote controls, and door knobs with disinfectant; and keeping tissues handy to stop the spread of viruses.

Winn-Dixie offers guests a wealth of health benefits and services including daily free blood pressure checks, fast and easy prescription refills and/or transfers, convenient refills through the Ready Refill program, low-cost health screenings such as cholesterol or diabetes, and female and male wellness screenings. For information about the Winn-Dixie pharmacy or to schedule a specific appointment time with a certified Winn-Dixie pharmacist visit www.winndixie.com/pharmacy.

You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director



Sometimes it just doesn't pay to take time off from work.

Supposedly, we are encouraged to seek balance in our work and private lives, making sure there is plenty of time for fun, family and friends. In theory, this sounds divine. We leave the job when we turn off the desk lamp and spend quality evenings with loved ones over dinner. On the weekends, we head to the beach or a movie, maybe have friends over for a backyard cookout. This is how it works in the magazines, anyway.

In reality, one or the other spouse often works a little late, which throws off the dinner schedule. (It either gets cold or one of you goes ahead and eats alone in front of the TV.) Chances are you haven't had time to go to the grocery store anyway, so the two of you meet and grab a quick bite somewhere before heading home. The laundry basket is full and you

need something to wear to work tomorrow. Or the litter box needs emptying or the checkbook needs balancing.



You, Me & Business

By Dana Dittmar

If you don't get these little chores done during the week, you have to knock it out on Saturday, which means no cookout in the backyard. No beach either, since you haven't had time to hit the gym and get into bathing suit shape. Sunday you're so wiped out you just want to veg out, work the Sunday crossword puzzles and watch some football.

How is it we seldom get to live the lifestyle they show in the magazines? The ones with perfectly decorated picnic tables and uniquely delicious appetizers whipped up in no time? Where the house is gleaming with a pre-set dinner table, fresh flowers, and the perfect décor?

I missed three days of work when I went with Husband to Kentucky for the national car show. Even though I had daily conversations with Kristy and tried to handle any issues that arose at the Chamber

via email, my desk was buried under scads of mail and post-it notes when I got back. Outlook was full of missives from almost everyone.

It was wonderful to come home. While the show was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and will bring Husband lots of business from all over the country, it was still 30 hours of drive time to work a trade show for four days. I missed the cats. I missed my bed. And I missed all of my friends and members here at the Chamber.

It is vitally important to seek that balance between business and personal life. We still need to give our all to making our businesses profitable and productive. But at the end of the day, even if you're just splitting a sandwich at the local sports bar, make time for the loved ones in your life.

I may never get to live the magazine lifestyle, but I wouldn't give up the chaotic, spontaneous, less than perfect but always-something-to-do life I have now. I just wish we had a washer and dryer at the Chamber so I could at least try to spend Saturdays at the movie theater. And I need to teach the cats how to empty their own litter box!

Sometimes it's nice just to be able to sit, vent our frustration and get a very satisfying “don't you just hate it when that happens?” That's it. That's all we need. Life is so simple sometimes.

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Adult Program/Event Highlights August 25 to 31

Online Genealogy*

Thursday, August 25 • 3 p.m.

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The Real CSI*

Saturday, August 27 • 1 to 3:15 p.m.

Collect evidence and fingerprints like a real CSI. Hands-on. Find out how real CSIs get the job done, compared to what pretend CSIs do on TV. Presenter: Tanja Diederich.

Email: Messages and Attachments*

Monday, August 29 • 2 to 4:15 p.m.

Read, forward, and delete messages. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended. Learn about sending attachments and creating address books. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended. Registration is available one hour prior to the beginning of the program.

eBooks and eReaders*

Tuesday, August 30 • 6 to 7 p.m.

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

SouthShore Needle People*

Wednesday, August 31 • 6:30 p.m.

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Elmira's throws out welcome mat with Thai One On For The Tigers

To celebrate their grand opening after recent USDA approval for public tours, Elmira's Wildlife Sanctuary, a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and providing a permanent home for exotic animals, primarily former pets and zoo animals, that cannot be returned to the wild, held a benefit dinner entitled Thai One On For The Tigers at the Sanctuary on Sunday. The event included an authentic Thai dinner, a silent auction, live entertainment from The Code Blues Band and a twilight tour of the sanctuary itself. The event was sponsored by Trinity Foods, The Canoe Outpost and Mulligan's Pub. Elmira's, home to more than 40 exotic animals ranging from tigers to bears, operates entirely on funds from private donations. For information on upcoming events or how you can help, visit their website at www.elmiraswildlife.org, email info@elmiraswildlife.org or call 813-634-4115.

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Orphaned road gets some TLC

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER – It may not be the forever solution, but this community's potholed, unclaimed road now has a functional fix.

What's more, it was both free and environmentally friendly.

After years of deterioration, numerous complaints, multiple discussions, the last of the potholes in the short but important Sun City Center Plaza road were repaired this week.

No more than a long city block, the road gives access to post office patrons as well as to plaza store

customers, professional office clients and chamber visitors.

The work was done, at no charge as a community service, by a Bradenton-based company using patented technology incorporating thermal heat to seal close and eliminate potholes such as the ones which have endangered golf cart drivers and tested vehicle suspension systems.

While many groups, agencies and individuals have worked to find a solution to repair of the little road for which no established legal ownership could be found, the solution now in place came together with the

help of at-large Hillsborough Commissioner Ken Hagan and through coordination by the SCC Chamber of Commerce.

The increasingly intense problem dates back at least a year when Ed Barnes, president of the SCC Community Association, began looking for a means of arranging repairs as drivers trying to use the road complained loudly. Minto Communities, the current developer, soon stepped up to provide an estimate for resurfacing the road. That cost, engineers said, could top \$40,000, if no sub-surface problems were discovered.

But there was no one to share the cost; no known legal owners. The county's code enforcement office suggested potential solutions forced by legal pressures might evolve if the situation were to go unresolved long enough. A county attorney determined legal ownership would have to accrue to owners of five properties abutting the roadway. And ownership could involve not only financial outlay but also liability and long-term responsibility. As an alternative, the county could take possession of the roadway after a period of years elapsed.

Striving for another perspective, Hagan began thinking in terms of putting a county vendor together with community leaders. Enter B Pothole Free, which does work throughout West Central Florida and has provided services to Hillsborough County.

Hagan said this week he mentioned the project to the Bradenton company, reasoning that left-over materials from one of the company's paid assignments might be applied to the little road no one wanted to claim.

B Pothole Free agreed. The chamber coordinated agreement among the property owners to a standard "hold harmless" waiver. And the pothole specialist began work on the half dozen deep and large holes in the roadway surface late last week, planning to finish up this week.

The crew first cleaned out the holes, filled them with road building materials and then topped the former potholes with asphalt caps larger than the craters and applied under thermal heat, effectively creating an impervious bond with the surrounding solid roadway surface, said Matt Robinson, company vice president. The system is environmentally friendly because it reuses material from removed macadam, reducing landfill discards and highway hauling trips, Robinson added.

Due to their size and depth, the repair was equivalent to 12 routine potholes and one of them had been patched in the past with concrete which had to be dug out in chunks, he said. However, having seen the risks drivers were taking to try to avoid the holes, Robinson added he was glad to be able to provide the service.

Dana Dittmar, chamber executive director, also expressed appreciation for Hagan's help and the B Pothole Free service. "It was a real public safety situation," she noted. "The work this week is not the final solution," she added, "but it gives us time to find that resolution."

The chamber board of directors is to discuss the matter in detail during its annual retreat later this month. Copyright 2011 Melody Jameson

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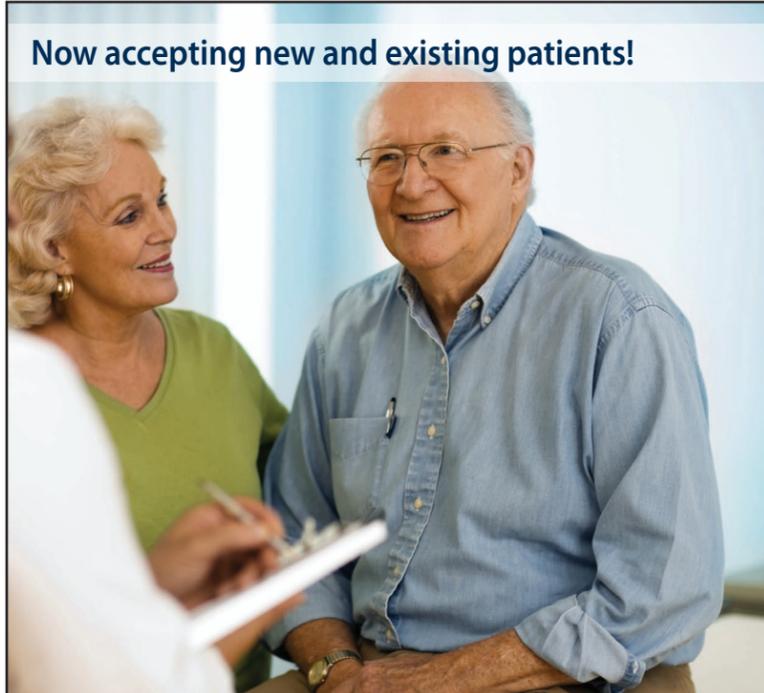
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MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

A lesson in new approaches to repairing old potholes was on tap when Hillsborough County Commissioner Ken Hagan (second from left) checked on efforts to recover the little SCC Plaza road at least for the short term. The patented technology involving thermal sealing of pothole plugs was explained by Bill Halloran (pointing, second from right), a service manager with B Pothole Free, a Bradenton company and county vendor which Hagan alerted to the SCC problem. The company responded as a community service. Technicians on the SCC project were Michael Moshier (right) and Dennis Perez, (left).



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MELODY JAMESON PHOTOS

Cuba Today

Continued from page 1

Both are certified grand dames, designed to bespeak the epitome of turn-of-the-century luxury, with high ceilings, long, broad lobbies, an abundance of Spanish tile, textured plasters, massive wood accents finished in deep rich tones. Variances may exist in their types of amenities offered or in terms of room furnishings or in the number of suites boasted or in rack rates charged, but they also are unmistakably the real deal, throwbacks to another time, restored to preserve that realism. — on separate coasts in two different nations. Each whispers to her guests ever so gently, unforgettably of the other.

Tampa and Havana share other features, too, which come unexpectedly to the first time Florida visitor. Havana's Malecón is Tampa's Bayshore Boulevard

If only they could talk, these two Grand Dames among turn-of-the-century hotels even though of different nationalities could tell tales to challenge anyone's imagination. Nacional (left), formally The Hotel Nacional de Cuba, is about 75 rooms and one floor larger than her close cousin, St. Petersburg's The Renaissance Vinoy, opened in 1928. They were not the only such hostelries for the rich, famous and infamous but they both were among the top venues of choice for the world's elite, from Europe's landed gentry to Hollywood's new fangled motion picture pioneers to America's East Coast mafia figures, they were luxurious playgrounds. Both have seen high times and hard times, survived to remind that age can be gracious - and that some secrets are kept forever.

all over again — or vice versa. Like the Bayshore's wide sidewalk and balustrade following the curve of Tampa Bay, Malecón and its inviting bench-bordered walkway follow the channel leading into Havana's protected inner harbor. Both are people-friendly. Both become magnets at different times of day, drawing visitors and locals; places to meet, to greet, to rest, to ponder, to share, to trust.

Both Malecón and Bayshore Boulevard were initiated in the early 1900s, taking shape gradually over a period of years, the former finally stretching along the Havana waterfront for six kilometers, the latter capped off at

4.5 miles. But, while the Bayshore hosts runners, bikers, skaters beginning early in the morning and even through the day, Malecón seems to come to life shortly before dusk. Seating on the bench wall can be at a premium as the long shadows form and Habanans retreat to their waterfront.

As much as citizens of the two cities treasure their historic promenades, however, Habanans have yet to stage annual free-for-alls commemorating a fictitious pirate on theirs. On the other hand, they have wrestled, it is said, with the issues of not-so-free love along the way.

Another in the realm of similarities involves natural phenomena characterizing the two cities — rivers run through them. The very first Havana settlement is a matter of dispute among Cubans; some say the old city's initial start as San Cristobal de la Havana actually was on the southwest coast close to Cortes Bay or maybe around Batabano, at mid-second decade in the 16th century.

Today, it generally seems to be agreed at least for celebratory purposes, that Old Havana grew from a site close to the north coast mouth of the Almendares River, beginning in 1519. Gradually, it not only spread westward from that point, creating the district of Verdado but also eventually scaled the river to develop eastward as the Miramar district. Meanwhile, Tampa was developing from Fort Brooke at the head of Tampa Bay ultimately to make Hillsborough riverfront highly coveted places

to be.

And then Havana took it a step further, creating its own version of the "chunnel," a vehicle tunnel under its river which daily carries thousands of cars, trucks, busses from one side of the city to the other.

Finally, one more Havana landmark may give the American visitor that "I've been here before" pause — Cuba's capitol building in the heart of the city. Built in the 1925-29 timeframe, it looks for all the world as if it were disassembled in Washington, D.C., and reassembled in Havana. Tour guides escorting Americans, in particular, make it a point to showcase "their" capitol which is reported to house the world's tallest indoor bronze statue.

It was not possible for me to see this wonder or, for that matter, to

inspect the inside of Cuba's capitol so closely resembling mine, as it also was reportedly closed for renovations. Asked where their seat of government was seated during the refurbishing, Cubans answered with "don't know." And, when I asked somewhat seriously how I might find either Fidel or Raul Castro for interview purposes, the responding "we don't even know where they live" came wrapped in peals of laughter.

Working class Cubans, however, do talk knowingly, even passionately, if discreetly, about the effects of government they've lived with under communism for the last half century and more. They want change. Now, there's a bit of Déjà vu.

Next: When bread is not the staff of life
Copyright 2011 Melody Jameson



Anyone familiar with Tampa's wide and multi-functioning Bayshore Boulevard esplanade bordering her bay will feel at home on Havana's Malecón lining the channel to her inner harbor. Constructed in three stages over some 50 years, this promenade may be the vista of tourists during the day, but comes alive as shadows lengthen and Habanans flock to their waterfront to relax and recline, remember and renew along several kilometers of bench wall.



From almost any angle, Havana's skyline reflects the old style and the relatively modern, the gingerbreaded and the utilitarian. As dusk falls and street lights glow along her waterfront, the old city seems to take on a softer hue. The day pauses. Habanans catch their breath. And when the ambient light is extinguished, the tempo picks up. The tourists, showered in their hotel rooms, fed in the restaurants, are out and about in search of Havana after dark.

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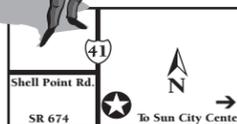
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Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center provides dental care

Thanks to a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center, George A. Lutz fund, and a special offering from the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, over 500 children of South Hillsborough County are returning to school this year with more than new back packs and pencils. The children had oral exams, were instructed in proper oral hygiene and given new toothbrushes and toothpaste. The Suncoast Community Health Center was on site with their magnificent Dental Bus, and the team applied sealants on over 150 teeth! Some children had more complicated dental issues and were given referrals to schedule an appointment with a dentist who will be compensated by this grant. The back-to-school event was held on Aug. 15 at the Good Samaritan Mission in Balm.

Pat Hill, the Director of Ministries at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, was delighted with the outcome. "Our congregation really loves our local kids and feels this was a wonderful way to help them."

For more information about this and other programs at the United Church of Sun City Center, call Jeff Jordan, Director of Music and the Arts, at (813) 634-2539. To learn more about the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, visit the website at www.sccumc.com.



AMANDA AND JEFF JORDAN PHOTOS



Gov. Scott says no to camping at Honeymoon Island State Park

Governor Rick Scott, after consultation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Herschel Vinyard, has instructed the Florida Park Service not to proceed with plans for camping at Honeymoon Island State Park. In addition, the Florida Park Service will be evaluating how to proceed at Fanning Springs, DeLeon Springs, Edward Ball Wakulla Springs and any other parks being considered for campsite expansions.

"After seeing the public's reaction, it is clear that this is not the right time to expand camping at Honeymoon Island State Park," said Governor Rick Scott. "These natural treasures belong to all the tax-paying citizens of this state and it would be unfair to proceed with a plan that so many Floridians are so adamantly opposed to."

Going forward, Governor Scott has instructed DEP and the Florida Park Service to meet with local communities, state park citizen support organizations and other park stakeholders before formally proposing the addition of amenities or services, including family camping, at any state parks.

Florida's award-winning state park system is one of the largest in the country with 160 parks spanning nearly 700,000 acres and 100 miles of sandy white beach. Under the leadership of Governor Scott and DEP Secretary Vinyard, Florida's state parks will continue to be among the best in the nation.

For more information on Florida's state parks, visit www.FloridaStateParks.org, or www.twitter.com/FLStateParks.

Veterans Advantage Cards now recognized by Verizon wireless stores

Veterans Advantage cards will now be recognized in Verizon Wireless Communications Stores nationwide, offering discounts on monthly wireless data and calling plans, as well as accessories. The Veterans Advantage card is a universal military and veteran ID program established to recognize service to the country with benefits and savings from top corporations.

Veterans Advantage members presenting their "VetRewards" cards may receive a 15 percent discount on plans with a monthly access fee \$34.99 or higher and data features with a monthly access fee \$24.99 or higher when added to such plans; accessories are also eligible for a 25 percent discount. "With the addition of Verizon Wireless to the list of companies recognizing the Veterans Advantage Card, cardholders now have a one-stop savings solution with the nation's premier wireless carrier," said H. Scott Higgins, founder and CEO of Veterans Advantage, and an Army Vietnam Veteran.

Veterans Advantage Card members can present their active Veterans Advantage "VetRewards" cards today at any Verizon Wireless owned and operated location and get their discounts direct from Verizon Wireless applied to their monthly bills.

Veterans Advantage also promotes the achievements of our military veterans, often earned with the skills acquired during military service, unique editorial profiles of TopVets, HeroVets and TopRanks. These profiles underscore the company's mission of greater recognition, respect and rewards for all who serve our nation.

Veterans Advantage, organized by U.S. Military Veterans in 1999, has established the nation's leading card benefits program dedicated to "Giving Back to All Who Serve." The program's mission is to deliver new respect, recognition, and rewards for U.S. Active Duty, Military Veterans, Retired Military, Active and Retired National Guard & Reservists, and their family members, who have served in all branches and periods of service. Those who enroll receive a benefits package with a personalized military "VetRewards" ID card, benefits directory, bonus offers, and savings benefits as a thank you for service to the country from top patriotic companies. Qualified applicants can enroll at www.veteransadvantage.com.



MISSY DUNCAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Chamber ambassadors meet

Christmas Spano & Owen, P.A. hosted this team meeting of River-view Chamber ambassadors at their recently relocated offices at 10101 Bloomingdale Avenue, Suite 201 in Riverview on the second floor of the Valrico State Bank Building.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The economy may well crash tomorrow (it probably won't) but for those of us in South Hillsborough, at least the sunsets are priceless...and free of charge.

Fiddling while Rome burns

In my teens, I was a rock and roller, with an electric guitar and ripped-up Levi's as my constant companions. Eventually reality took hold and I followed a path I thought I was supposed to follow.

I was in my 20s when I went to work for one of America's largest corporations. I wore new suits and silk ties, purchased from a high-end department store owned by the corporation, and I had a cubicle with a window in a skyscraper that allowed me to look out at the activity and surprisingly fast pace of downtown Minneapolis. I joined the corporation after working for a national, but relatively small company that specialized in running portrait studios.



Observations
By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net

In my first week on the job, I went to a meeting that included managers from several departments within my division; they were considering realigning part of their vast distribution network. A few

minutes into the meeting, one manager pointed out, "Look, we can do this but it's only going to save us about \$100,000." Everyone laughed, gathered up their notes and papers, and left the meeting. The proposed change wasn't worth the work and the risk for a \$100,000 savings.

I understood the rationale — particularly the risk part — but I was shocked. Two decades later, I'm still shocked. At my previous job with the portrait studio company, I would spend four months analyzing numbers and projections and then another month or two writing up a detailed report and preparing for a formal presentation to the chief executive officers. If the result had been something that saved \$100,000, I would have been given a round of applause and probably a small increase in salary. I also would have heard about it, along with pats on the back, for another few months.

Money, it seems, is relative. That first meeting at the big corporation taught me that.

I guess I should be terrified. Perhaps we all should. According to nearly everything we see on the news today, the economy is in the tank and a big "agitate" switch is about to be flipped on it. Doom and despair are the mantra of these times.

With a renewed interest in playing the guitar, I'm feeling both doom and despair in fits and starts. The electric guitar, of course, wasn't enough. I then needed an amplifier, then a few pedals, then strings, then a little of this and an awful lot of that. It seems that every time I whip out my credit card to buy the next thing I "need", a new headline appears with new and ever gorer details of our impending demise. Thus, of course, I feel the despair — but only until I decide that I need another of this or a few more of that. When that happens, of course, I tell myself that I'm simply doing my part to single-handedly jump start the economy.

On one hand, it doesn't really matter. If we are indeed screwed, we are screwed — I might as well get a few this's and that's before the fall. Certainly, being able to jam on the guitar as the electricity is turned off will make the pain of the fall that much more bearable. Until I realize that an electric guitar needs...well, electricity.

But the point is, what is the point? Should I stockpile my cash waiting for the inevitable dark day of economic Armageddon? Well, not if you believe those doomsayers who are predicting hyperinflation just before a total global economic collapse. Should I invest my cash in the stock market? (OK, yeah, I just threw that one in as a joke.) Should I buy and hoard gold? Well, let's see...if there is a global economic collapse what good is gold (or worse, just a few certificates stating I own some gold) going to do for me? You can't eat gold. And, unlike cash, you can't even burn it to stay warm at night. No, I decided to invest my cash in a really cool pedal for my guitar.

worrying about an economic collapse? If it does happen, there is nothing you nor I can do to stop it. And I'm not sure there's a great way to even prepare for it. I've already mentioned the problems with cash and gold, but even stocking up on two years' worth of canned food won't help much after two years — or after the first week of a collapse when your starving neighbors are increasingly hungry for your SpagettiO's (OK, so that might take more than a week). There is no real point in freaking out at all. I'm beginning to believe that freaking out on the part of our nation's overly-dramatic and sound-bite happy leadership is among the many things that got us into this mess in the first place.

I do think it important to save for a rainy day. I do think it is important to be prepared for things in life. As such, I've decided to sell stuff from previous new-found obsessions to help pay for the guitar obsession, thus reaching for a net-neutral on my meager finances. On the bright side, should the SHTF (doomsayer and conspiracy-theorist talk for "Stuff Hit The Fan" — it is "Stuff", right?), I can always try to sell my services to various economic refugee groups as a traveling minstrel with a really quiet, electric instrument without electricity. Or, perhaps, one of the nation's bazillionaires, for whom being a refugee means flying to St. Bart's on a private jet, will need a guy who still has the ability to appreciate a mere \$100,000 when analyzing their financial portfolio.

Is not freaking out a case of Nero fiddling while Rome burns? Not so much, really. First, the violin was still 1,500 years away from being invented in 64 AD. Second, Nero survived the fire, so even if he could have been fiddling, it worked out for him (at least until he committed suicide four years later). Money, the economy, fear and loathing are all relative. Headlines and talking heads paid to fill the 24-hour news hole on cable shouldn't be the ones to dictate that relativity for you and me. Right now, my relatively is making music again. I can wear a suit if I have to, but I choose to wear shorts and an open-collared, short-sleeved shirt with either a camera or a guitar over my shoulder. If the world ends tomorrow — and I'm fairly certain it won't — at least I'll be the real me if it happens.

Next month will be a full decade since this nation has mentally duct-taped our optimism into dirty-bomb-proofed closets. During that time, it seems we've only peeked out long enough to catch the latest politician freak show or reality-series star gone awry. Ten years is enough, I think. Perhaps we could all use a little more fiddling in our lives. ♦

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 News Releases..... 4 p.m., Thurs., Sept. 1

Questions?
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The Observer News

CARRIER OF THE WEEK



Hilda Rodriguez is the youngest of our delivery persons and has been with The Observer News two years delivering 2,000 Riverview Current issues to retailers. She has six children that help her and sometimes her parents chip in. She also is a caregiver during the day. Hilda is always happy and does the job quickly without any hassles. Good work Hilda, we appreciate you!

Meet at The Alley in Riverview

The South Shore Senior Singles group, a new ministry of the Sun City Center United Methodist Church (SSUMC), will meet from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 28 at The Alley in Riverview for open bowling, then meet at Applebee's (across from The Alley) for dinner afterward. For more information, or make a reservation, call Patti at (813) 634-7171.

A cruise around the bay has been planned for Oct. 1, originating in Sarasota, from noon to 1:30 p.m. Lunch is included. Call for more



information, as your prepaid reservation must be received before your reservation can be honored.

The South Shore Senior Singles group was organized for those age 50+, for all the South Shore area, which includes Riverview, Sun City Center, Apollo Beach, Gibsonton, Ruskin, and Brandon, to provide non-threatening atmosphere for singles to meet and have fun. The group meets once a month at The Alley for bowling and fun (fourth Sunday of each month from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., then to Applebee's for dinner); a local restaurant for dining and dancing; and other fun events as scheduled.

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The Women's Chorus of SCC starts up for season.

Women's Chorus seeks new talent

Recently The Women's Chorus of Sun City Center shared an abundance of exciting news about changes taking place this season. All i's have been dotted, t's crossed and the ducks are all in a row in anticipation of their first rehearsal. Let's see, a new director, a new accompanist and music. What could possibly be missing? Why new members of course. Many singers began their journey with the chorus as audience members.

While enjoying a concert, they made a mental note to watch for announcements on rehearsal dates and times. They took the leap and attended a rehearsal; liked what they saw and heard, and joined. If singing is your passion and fills you with joy, this is the perfect time to join the chorus. Women from Sun City Center, Kings Point and surrounding communities are always welcome. Have a few questions?

Browse their Facebook page, SCC Women's Chorus. It's packed with additional information and pictures.

The Women's Chorus will meet at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb Blvd. W., SCC.

AARP Driver Safety program offered

September Driver Safety Programs in South County will be held in both one- and two-day classes. AARP members cost is \$12 and non-members cost \$14.

Riverview/Brandon classes will be held at 11210 Bloomingdale Ave. The Riverview/Brandon coordinator is Roger Block, (813) 629-3365. Those living in Riverview or Brandon may call Pat Manack, at (813) 653-7249 to register. People living in Apollo Beach, Ruskin and Sun City Center may register at Encore Bank, (813) 634-8001. Their district coordinator is Lou Tovey of Sun City Center, (813) 634-7399.

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DEBBIE DOMER

Singer to perform at New Beginnings Fellowship

On Sunday, Sept. 4 at the 10:30 a.m. service New Beginnings Fellowship will be blessed to have Debbie Domer as a guest. Debbie is a local woman that travels all over the country spreading the Gospel through song, preaching and a wonderful puppet ministry. She will have the puppets with her on this visit so come prepared to have a good time in the Lord. The church is located at 1120 27th St. S.E. Ruskin.

For more information, call Pastor Lewis Brady at 813-654-1018.

Cancer Concerns Group

The Cancer Concerns Group will discuss Health Maintenance Through Nutrition.

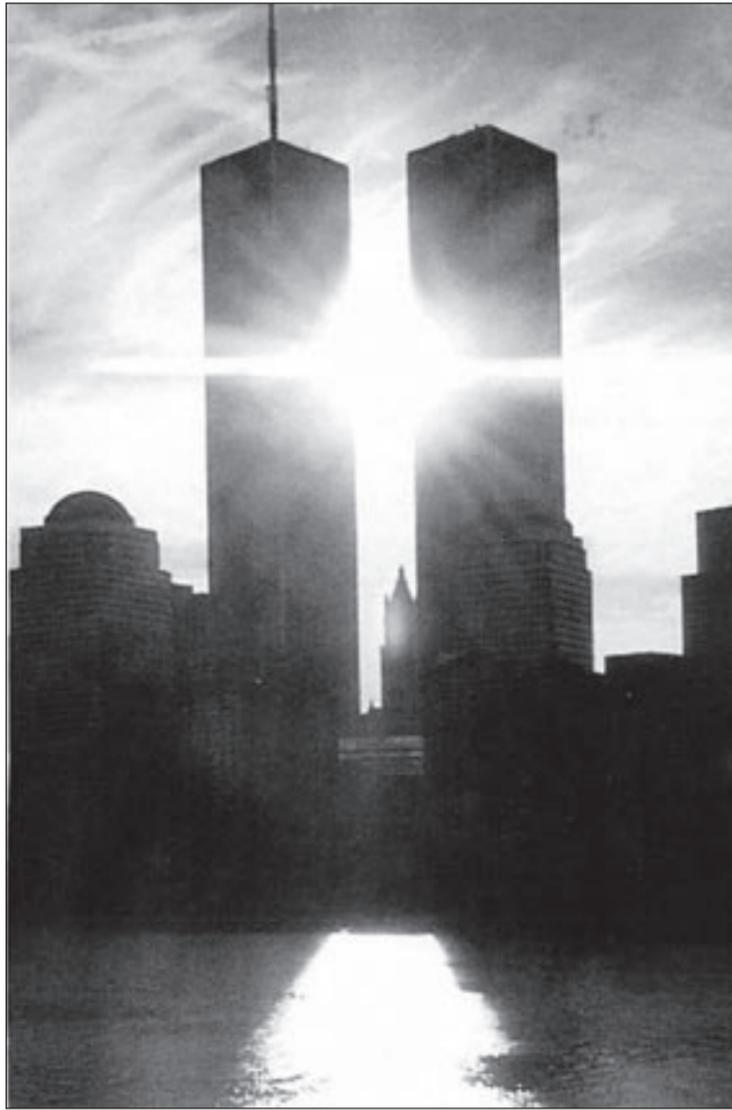
Everyone is welcome at the United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Ave. at 1 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 9.

Registered Dietitian Shirley Allen from South Bay Hospital advises attendees about dining out, in the local restaurants and the latest information about nutrition.

Bring your family, friends and neighbors. There will be information that is valuable to you as a survivor, caregiver and for your general knowledge.

There is no charge or reservations. For more information, call facilitator Hazel Martin at (813) 642-9020.

Special remembrance services at United Methodist of SCC



Remembering 9/11 at the United Methodist Church.

Church movie night

Friendship Baptist Church is sponsoring Movie Night, Saturday, Aug. 27 at 5 p.m. The movie, *Soul Surfer*, is based on a true story.

Bring the family for fun, food and friends. As always, it's free.

As a reminder the congregation is collecting diapers for Florida Baptist Children's Homes until Nov. 6. Friendship Baptist Church is located in Sun City Center at 1511 El Rancho Drive.

A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.
Proverbs 29:23



KEN KETCHUM PHOTO

Dr. Mark E. Salmon is the new pastor at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Sun City Center.

St. Andrew welcomes new pastor

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church welcomes Dr. Mark E. Salmon as its new pastor. His first service was Sunday, Aug 1.

Pastor Mark brings a significant background to St. Andrew. His education consists of a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of South Carolina, Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Doctor of Ministry from Trinity Theological Seminary.

He has had regular continuing education credits through professional associations (Approved by American Psychological Association and National Board for Certified Counselors).

He has served congregations in Belton, Texas and Denison, Texas, and his most recent position was pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church in Corpus Christi, Texas.

He has traveled extensively to Israel (37 times), Guatemala (14 times), South America and Mexico conducting worship and study sessions. While in Texas he was Baseball Chaplain for the Houston Astro Baseball organization.

The pastor has been married to his wife Dee for 37 years and has one daughter, Mariana.

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West, is proud to announce special services and a community observance on the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 entitled Services of Remembrance, Reflection and Recovery.

There will be two special worship services in the morning. The first of these will begin at 8:46 a.m., the time of the first attack on the Twin Towers, and end at 10:03 a.m., the time of the crash of Flight 92.

This early service will feature music, poetry, film, imagery, narration, prayer and scripture. The second worship service at 10:55 a.m. will be similar to the first in content but will also feature choir and orchestra. The choral selections for this service will include works from the Requiems of Mozart, Brahms and Faure as well appropriate pieces for the occasion arranged by Joseph Martin.

The afternoon community

observance at 2 p.m. will include the material presented in the morning worship services and will additionally feature local Fire and Rescue personnel, Law Enforcement officers, a special Color Guard and additional poetry, film and testimony. The choir will also be augmented by more than 40 additional choristers from the community. This afternoon observance should last approximately 90 minutes.

The sanctuary holds approximately 750, so the public is asked to arrive early to be sure to get a seat for the event.

It's not too late to be part of the community choir for these observances.

To join the ensemble or for additional information about this and other events and activities at the United Church of Sun City Center, or for any other information call Jeff Jordan, church Director of Music and the Arts, at 813-634-2539.



HAZEL MARTIN PHOTO

Backpacks of Hope

Metropolitan Ministries Executive Assistant, Linda Shaw, and Associate Pastor Rev. Ruth Richardson, receive backpacks for giveaways to needy children from the United Community Church in Sun City Center.



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EXP 12/31/11

Guest preacher Morning prayer, healing service

Friendship Baptist Church hosted Pastor Toby Gebeh, a teacher visiting from Liberia. Several months ago he and others formed a school in Liberia starting with three students and now boasts more than 150 students.

They are partially supported by the South Baptist Mission. Gebeh's message was: Love God and Neighbor with your whole self; be a good Samaritan and minister to all.

Friendship Baptist church is located at 1511 El Rancho Dr., Sun City Center.

After a great deal of consideration, it was decided that starting Wednesday, Sept. 7, at 10 a.m. and on each Wednesday thereafter, the morning prayer and healing services previously held at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church in Ruskin will now be held at St. John's Sun City Center campus, 1015 Del Webb Blvd.

The decision was based on the fact that there is a greater immediate need in Sun City Center and most of those now attending the service are residents of the SCC

community. The healing service will be held periodically at the Ruskin campus.

Morning prayer from the Prayer Book lasts approximately 30 minutes. The healing service starts after and consists of gentle laying on of hands and prayers of healing by a prayer team with a message of healing. This service provides a mid-week time to pray and be with the Lord.

All in the community are invited to attend Wednesday mornings for individual or intercessory prayers.

Style show to be held Sept. 6

The Fun Brigade will have a Vintage style show at the United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Ave., Sun City Center.

Everyone in the South County area is invited to attend. There will be hors d'oeuvres/appetizers.

The date is Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 2 p.m..

People are encouraged to sign up

to model as well as attend.

They consider "vintage" to be clothing worn before the year 2000.

Those who don't want to dress up may come for fun. There is no charge.

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

Area Obituaries

Sandy Blodgett

Sandy Blodgett, 65, died Aug. 18, 2011.

She is survived by her husband, Clarence Ray Blodgett, Jr., two children, Lisa Blodgett Warden (Robert) and Douglas R. Blodgett, II (Kathleen) four grandchildren, Logan Blodgett, Samuel Warden, Chase Blodgett, Grace Warden; one brother, Kenneth Dotson (Judy); and one sister, Carol Franklin (Darrell).

Her memorial service is scheduled for August 25, 2011 at 1 p.m. at the National Cremation & Burial Society, 308 E. College Avenue, Ruskin, FL 33570.

Donations can be made to American Cancer Society.

Leon Humphrey

Leon Humphrey, 42, of Ruskin, FL, was embraced by the arms of Jesus August 21, 2011. He will be deeply missed. Survivors include his mother, Betty Bortell, step father James Bortell, brother Jacob, and sister Gina.



Karen E. Neal

Karen E. (Wilbert) Neal, 59, of Ruskin, FL, formerly of Big Rapids, Mich., passed away July 25 unexpectedly with her husband Michael while out enjoying a morning motorcycle ride.

Karen was born January 28, 1952 in Cleveland, OH daughter of Robert and Helen (Wiemels) Wilbert. Karen and her large family of brothers and sisters grew up in Cleveland Ohio and relocated to Central Michigan in the 1960's. Karen was employed by the Big Rapids School System for many years and was also very involved with many community organizations. Karen was a member of the Eagles Aerie #2535 and the AmVets Post #1941, both of Big Rapids. Karen retired with husband Mike to Ruskin Fla., in 2006, where they joined the Moose Lodge #813 and the Eagles Aerie #4351. They were both active members of the Eagle Riders and the Moose Riders motorcycle clubs.

Karen's family and friends will remember her most for her fun-loving carefree attitude towards love and life. She was a free spirit who lived her life to the fullest and passed doing what she loved with the man she loved. She is survived by her two daughters Katherine (Noel) Creel and Rebecca (Michael) Bowyer, stepsons Sean (Kimberly) Newman and Joel Newman, all of Big Rapids; a grandson, Ryder Newman and a granddaughter, Gracie Mehlhorn; five brothers Donald (June) Wilbert, James (Nancy) Wilbert, Kenneth Wilbert, Edward (Shannon) Wilbert, and Raymond Wilbert; her sister, Joan Neal; along with many nieces, nephews and cousins. Karen was preceded in death by her father Robert Wilbert and mother Helen Wilbert. Karen chose her final resting place as Mount McKinley, Alaska, which is home to her twin brother Ken, may she be close to him always.

A memorial service will be held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church on Thursday, Aug. 25 at 9 a.m.

Pat Fleming

Pat Fleming, wife of Phil Fleming of Sun City Center, Fla., went home to Jesus Aug. 11, 2011 after a long battle with cancer. She was born on Nov. 20, 1935.

Pat is survived by her five children, Kathy Fleming of Elsie, Michigan; Jean George (Gary) of Beavercreek, Ohio; Julie Denton (Robert) of Vacaville, Calif.; Stephanie Martines (Victor) of Las Crescenta, Calif.; and Philip Fleming, Jr. (Sheila) of Osceola, Ind.; and 16 grandchildren.

Pat graduated from Detroit's Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital School of Nursing as a Registered Nurse. She received her BSN from St. Joseph's College in Windham, Maine. Pat was one of the founders of the Hospice of Hillsdale, and was instrumental in establishing the Volunteer Center of Hillsdale. She also served as a nurse with the Christian Medical Society in Central America and was a presenter for the Retrouvaille program of Southwest Ohio.

A memorial service will be held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church on Thursday, Aug. 25 at 9 a.m.

Robert J. Graves

Robert J. Graves, Sr., 82, died Aug. 19 and is now at rest in the hands of the Lord. He was born in Adamsville, Fla. on April 14, 1928. He is survived by his wife Sylvia, two sons: Robert, Jr. (Marcey) and Richard (Lori) and daughter Susan (Rich). He is also survived by seven grandchildren: Robert III, David (Carrie), Candice, Richard Jr., Melody, Tyler and Patrick; one brother-in-law: Dan Suggs (Rhonda) and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2011 at Sun City Center Funeral Home, Sun City Center.



Michael E. Newman

Michael E. Newman, 60, of Ruskin FL, formerly of Big Rapids, passed away unexpectedly with his wife Karen while enjoying a morning motorcycle ride July 25, 2011.

Michael was born February 19, 1951 in Lansing, Mich., to Ernest Jr. and Helen (Darling) Newman. As a child Mike's family built a cottage at Chippewa Lake and that drew him to this area as an adult. Mike was employed at MichCon for over 34 years, retiring to Ruskin Florida in 2006. Mike was a member of Eagles Aerie #2535 and AmVets Post #1941 both of Big Rapids, as well as Eagles Aerie #4351, Eagle Riders, the Moose Lodge #813 and Moose Riders all of Ruskin, Fla, and the American Legion Post #309 in Palmetto, Fla.

Michael will be forever missed by his loving family and friends. Although his passing was too soon, they do take comfort in knowing he passed while doing what he loved and with the one he loved.

He is survived by two sons; Sean (Kimberly) Newman and Joel Newman all of Big Rapids; a grandson, Ryder Newman; granddaughter, Gracie Mehlhorn; step-daughters, Katherine (Noel) Creel of Antioch, TN; Rebecca (Michael) Bowyer of Battle Creek; stepson, Darrell Pollaski of Big Rapids; his parents, Ernest "Ike" and Delores Newman of Chippewa Lake; two sisters, Pamela Rock of Ruskin, FL, and Cindy Mikula of Mt. Pleasant along with several nieces and nephews.

Mike was preceded in death by wife, Victoria (DeCraene) Newman; wife, Jana (Wineger) Newman; grandson, Seth Michael Newman; granddaughter, Autumn Leigh Newman; brother-in-law, Robert Rock.

A memorial service for Mike took place at the Daggett-Gilbert Funeral Home in Big Rapids. Memorial contributions in Mike's name may be made to The Eagles Club # 2535 of Big Rapids or to the Mecosta County Animal Shelter.

Share a memory or leave a condolence for the family at www.daggettgilbertfuneralhome.com.

*The LORD is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?
When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me they stumbled and fell.
Psalm 27:1-2*

Area Places of Worship

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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

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 Sunday
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 www.popcc.org

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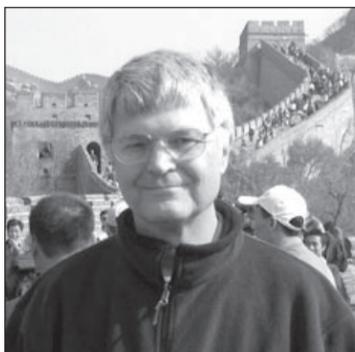
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 Español Domingo - 12:30 p.m.; Jueves 7:30 p.m.
 Confession Wednesday 6:45 p.m.; Saturday 3:45 p.m.

Area Obituary

David W. Oliver



Dr. Oliver started his career at the research center studying material sciences and process development with a focus on identifying materials which could be used in the production of semiconductors. He also conducted research into microwave acoustic materials which were developed for radar jamming and used to develop microwave ovens. He also developed new high temperature crystal growing techniques and control systems for crystal growing and evaluated new crystal types for the ultrasonic propagation characteristics. He holds over 20 patents, published twenty two papers on systems engineering and authored a book entitled Engineering Complex Systems with Models and Objects, McGraw Hill 1997.

Later in his career, Oliver left research and took on a number of management positions at the GE CRD. He managed the initial development of the Cross-Omega Machine, a massively parallel SIMD computer sponsored by DARPA. Dr. Oliver managed over one hundred scientists and engineers in the Automation and Control Laboratory with a focus on factory automation. At GE he led the development of Systems Engineering tools and processes, the Teamwork Ada software tool sold by Cadre Technologies, and an X-Ray tomographic inspection system for turbine blades. He has contributed to medical and quality real-time diagnostic systems, high temperature crystal growth and materials processing. He managed the Quality Branch for quality inspection, the CRD Microwave Branch, the CRD Computer Science Branch and the GE-CRD Liaison Group for technical transition and liaison to all the GE businesses. He performed liaison to the Aircraft Engine Business establishing new programs, and evaluated the annual strategic plans for many GE businesses.

The programs he contributed to and managed, led to the development of unprecedented materials, factory automation systems and products as well as the deployment of a number of significant new technologies. His work resulted in the development of medical ultrasonic imaging systems for real-time cardiac imaging, the development of an ultrasonic microscopy system for the inspection of powder metallurgy alloys for turbine disks and the development of a computer tomographic X-ray inspection system for turbine blade inspection for GE aircraft engine division. Some of his research directly made possible materials used for microwave ovens, stealth fighter technology, radar jamming equipment, stealth submarine technology and non-destructive testing equipment that lead to safer more reliable jet engines.

While he managed the Computer Science Branch at GE CRD, members of this organization won the 1993 Turing Award for creating complexity theory. He was a charter member of the GE Aerospace Systems Engineering and Software Engineering Sub-councils of engineering Productivity Improvements which is now pervasive through Lockheed-Martin.

Dr. Oliver retired from GE in June 1994 but continued to consult and write extensively on systems engineering. Oliver provided consulting and training in the model based development of complex systems - products, processes, and organizations. He was the INCOSE liaison to the ISO/SC4 AP233 standards body generating an international standard information model for the automated exchange of systems engineering information among tools. He was acting liaison from

INCOSE to the Object Management Group that develops UML as a standard for software engineering. In 2001 International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) named Dr. Oliver a fellow for his contributions to the art and practice of Systems Engineering.

Outside of the Lab, Oliver loved the outdoors and loved camping, hiking and canoeing in the Adirondacks with his family and friends. One of Oliver's grandson's, William Oliver, said his grandfather instilled in him a love and respect for the outdoors and for the need to protect the ecosystems which comprise our planet. Dr. Oliver was passionate and outspoken about the effects of global warming on the planet, gave numerous lectures on the topic and worked on a local political level to encourage the adoption of planet friendly policies. He loved poetry and belonged to a number of poetry groups. Dr. Oliver was also very involved in Interfaith Power and Light in both Rhode Island and Florida. He spoke most recently on the topics of Global Climate Change and on Divisions in the Islamic World and Approaches to Islam.

Oliver was born in the kitchen of his grandparent's home in Falls Church, Virginia in 1932 and lived in a small log cabin built by his father during the great depression. He attended Roanoke College in Salem Virginia and then attended the United States Naval Academy. He served as a midshipman on the USS weeks, Aircraft carrier Ticonderoga and the Battleship Missouri. He received a Master's Degree in physics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1956 and his PhD in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1961.

Dave and his second wife Diane lived for many years in Ballston Lake New York and relocated to Wakefield, RI and Sun City, Florida. He is survived by his wife Diane and her two sons, Corey and Jason Lexell; and four grandchildren; Ava Lexell, John Lexell, Ethan Lexell, Chase Lexell.

In addition, Oliver is survived by his first wife Anne Oliver Webb and his children, David Oliver, James Oliver, Barbara Oliver Forth and Carol Oliver; and seven grandchildren; Laura Forth, Andrew Forth, William Oliver, Grace Oliver, Michael Oliver, Elizabeth Oliver, Margaret Oliver.

There will be two memorial services to honor David's memory. The first service will be held on Aug. 27 at 11 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Creason Hall 1210 Del Webb Blvd.W, Sun City Center, FL 33573. The second service will be held on Sept. 10 at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, East Beach Rd., Charlestown, RI 02813.

Donations in Dave's name may be made to either of these churches or to Sunshine State Interfaith Power and Light, attention: Andy Bell, 5995 Dr. Martin Luther King South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705. The Interfaith Power and Light's mission is to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. This campaign intends to protect the earth's ecosystems, safeguard the health of a Creation, and ensure sufficient, sustainable energy for all.

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Listening provides the connection between our thoughts and our actions. Listening allows us to have the two-way communication with the Universe that is absolutely necessary in order to co-create the lives that we've always imagined. The more we listen, the more we'll co-create.

A two-hour workshop that same day, begins at noon and is titled "The Key to a Co-created Life."

It is a discussion on the nature of the Universe's messages, our role as recipients and the importance of looking beyond the message's packaging to discover its guidance. Discussed also will be ways to open a receptive mind and heart, consciously removing all barriers, boundaries or blockages that might hinder or deflect the messages directed towards us. Learn to meditate with your eyes open, using the technique of 'flowing meditation.' This ensures that our channels of listening, our intellect and our intuition, are always focused on the Universe and its messages of guidance. In addition, we'll explore several other methods to raise our 'listening awareness.' A basket will be passed for a love offering. For more information, call (813) 298-7745.

United Community Church supports 'Backpacks for Hope'

Metropolitan Ministries is one of the special missions sponsored by the United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Ave., Sun City Center.

The "Backpacks of Hope" project endeavors to meet the needs for over 5300 children in the Tampa Bay area.

Donations of backpacks and school supplies may be deposited at any time in the collection barrels found in the church.

Monetary contributions can be made using the special envelopes found in the Narthex. Just remember, "Backpacks carry more than school supplies-----they carry dreams."

For information about Metropolitan Ministries call 813-209-1000 or log on to www.metromin.org for further information.

Vacation Bible school a success

The members at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church say God was working through them to reach children at the recent PandaMania and Teen Takeover! Vacation Bible School was offered to all children in South Shore for free.

There were 96 children who attended PandaMania Vacation Bible School at the Ruskin Campus, and 24 youth attended TeenTakeover VBS at the Sun City Center Campus.

More than 50 parishioners of St. John the Divine and The Lord's Lighthouse Ministry volunteered. More than \$900 in cash plus at least another 400 were donated.



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The University of Florida newspaper archive website can be found at ufdc.ufl.edu/newspapers

Once you're there, type in The Observer News in the search box and click "Go." Archives from January 2010 through the current issue will become available. While you're at the site, view some of Florida's historical news in the form of printed newspapers and periodicals.



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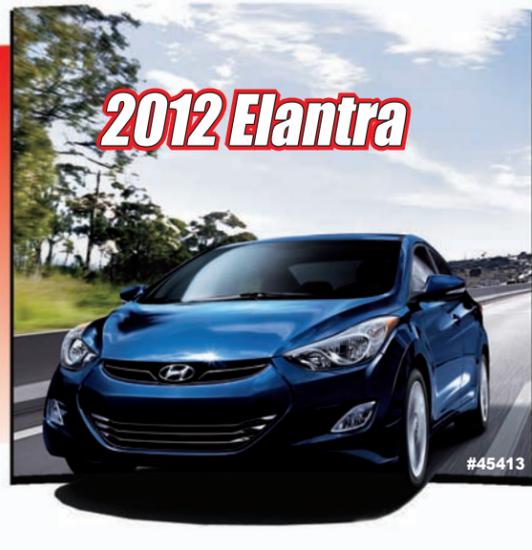
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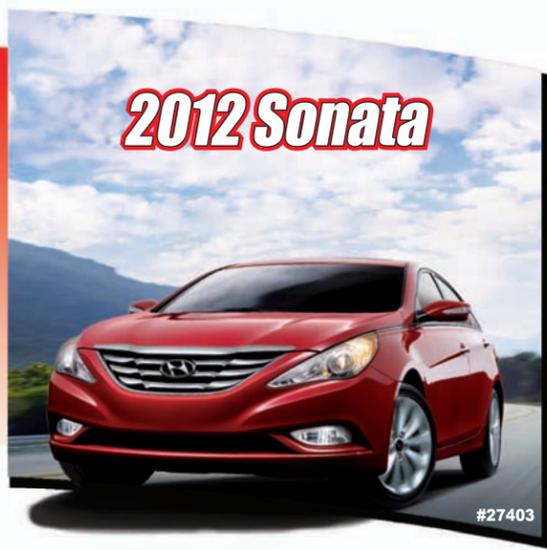
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JONIE MASCHKE PHOTO

William T. and Mary Walker ran the Coffee Cup restaurant on the southeast corner of U.S. 41 and Shell Point Road in Ruskin from 1936 until it was torn down in 1999.



Provided by Fred Jacobsen from the Ruskin History Project, RuskinHistory.org

The town of Ruskin practically shut down that day in 1999 when the Coffee Cup, a landmark for more than 100 years, was razed.

Coffee Cup

■ Continued from page 8

Dickman who started it in the already-existing building and hung the first Coffee Cup sign in 1929.

According to Aleta Jonie Maschek's historical series available for view at libraries all over Hillsborough County, Piece of History, the Dickmans owned the restaurant from 1929 to 1936 when they sold it to the Walkers

who ran it until it was condemned by the county and razed in the spring of 1999.

For more information about

Ruskin history, visit the Ruskin Historical Society, P.O. Box 879 Ruskin, FL 33575-0879 or see it on line at www.ruskinhistory.org.

Sign up now for International Coastal Cleanup Day

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

RUSKIN - International Coastal Cleanup day, organized by Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization, will take place on Saturday, September 17.

In South Hillsborough, clean up locations include the Apollo Beach Nature Preserve and Camp Bayou Learning Center, and Shell Point Marina in Ruskin. Additional neighborhood cleanup sites in both coastal communities may be announced prior to Sept. 17.

International Coastal Cleanup Day, a project of the Ocean Conservancy, has become the world's largest volunteer effort for ocean health. Last year nearly nine million volunteers from 152 countries cleaned up 145 million pounds of trash from ocean and bay beaches, rivers and lakes. Every item found is recorded and catalogued for analysis by the Ocean Conservancy in hopes of finding ways to solve the problem of coastal pollution before it begins. In 2009 according to the Ocean Conservancy, 60 percent of the debris collected were single-



MITCH TRAPHAGEN FILE PHOTO

International Coastal Cleanup Day, sponsored by Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17. In South Hillsborough, both Apollo Beach and Ruskin will have organized cleanup sites. Around the world, nine million people are expected to volunteer for the global effort.

use, disposable items, such as 1.1 million plastic bags and "enough cups, plates, knives and forks, and spoons for a picnic for 100,000 people.

Most International Coastal Cleanup Day volunteers will walk shoulder to shoulder with their neighbors collecting trash from the water's edge, although hundreds of others will collect trash from

boats, and some will even collect trash below the surface using SCUBA gear.

The sign-up form for this year's event is available online at www.keeptampabaybeautiful.org or by calling 813-221-8733. More information about organizing your own cleanup site is available from the Ocean Conservancy at www.signuptocleanup.org.

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