



INSIDE:

REMEMBERING SEPT. 11, 2001
with a gripping poem by Sun City Center resident John Foster and an observation from Mitch Traphagen who was on scene in December following the attack. Read more beginning on page 14

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THE OBSERVER NEWS

www.ObserverNews.net

In declining economy, Interfaith Council steps up grants

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER – When the going gets tough, the tough here get going. And, yes, there is shopping involved.

In fact, you might say that this shopping is central to changing lives. There's a young mother, head of a single parent household, enrolled in a state university because of it. Some South County families, hard hit by the lingering recession, have food on their tables thanks to it. A recent high school graduate has become the first in his family to enter college on account of it.

That same shopping practice has underwritten a \$10,000 advanced learning computer lab at Reddick Elementary in Wimauma that, among other things, encourages youngsters whose first language is not English to learn it at their pace, unselfconsciously, using a familiar medium. It paid for a \$50,000 patient room at Life Path Hospice, providing a pleasant, comfortable setting at the end of life. It covered the substantial copyright fees so that Riverview High School's renowned drama department could produce one of Broadway's most iconic plays.

The "tough" in this ongoing, always unfolding scenario are the dozens of volunteers, multiple thoughtful donors, several concerned houses of worship and untold numbers of shoppers behind the Interfaith Council of Sun City Center and its primary funds generator, the Nearly New Shop in the SCC plaza.

Together, they have succeeded in distributing funds now estimated to top easily \$1million to kids and to students, to families and to readers, to the sight impaired and to the dying. All but a fraction of it has gone to South Hillsborough County recipients.

During the current fiscal year, they gave grants totaling \$218,000, notes Naomi Foreman, the council's grants chairperson. In the upcoming fiscal year, they expect to distribute something in the neighborhood of \$235,000, she adds. Repayment is not required, but

See **INTERFAITH COUNCIL**, page 8

WANTED: Just one hour per month



Ron Knight, pictured at left, speaks to members of the SouthShore-Ruskin Rotary Club about the mentoring program during a lunch meeting last week. Knight is the president of the local community service organization.

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

"It's never too late" is an axiom that many people live by, covering everything from quitting smoking or losing weight to returning to college in their middle years. Ron Knight, however, is taking on a different approach in how he wants to help young people in South Hillsborough: "It's not too early."

Knight is the president of the Matthew A. Knight Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization created in the memory of his son, a successful and promising Air Force Academy cadet who tragically lost his life in a car accident at age 19. The purpose of the foundation is to award funds to individuals "who are making the world a better place."

Knight also serves as an admissions liaison for high school students hoping to enter the Air Force Academy. With stringent admissions criteria, it is an institution of higher learning that accepts only the best and the brightest. Knight noticed that even among successful and highly motivated young people interested in the academy, many needed someone to

See **MENTORS**, page 6

Pawn shop clientele changes with the economy

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

RUSKIN — When you own a pawn shop, you never know what you'll see come through the door.

When I visited Douglas and Robin Jewett Aug. 25 at Pawn Pros on the corner of Dickman Drive and U.S. 41 in Ruskin I was amazed at the variety of antiques and treasures that had been pawned and left behind by people who obviously had no idea of their value.

Among the ones I found the most fascinating were a 1,000-year-old Aztec Indian vase made from animal bone that had been authenticated from someone sent by the Ringling Museum; a Cherokee peace pipe that had been through three ceremonies (you can tell by the number of feather-pairs attached) and a gross-looking figure in a glass case with a small plaque saying it had once been part of a display in California that was simply called "the alien."

But the Jewetts say they've loaned money on a race car and all kinds of jewelry as well as tools, spare tires, televisions, computers, cameras and different varieties of "junk."

"We are the credit card of last resort," Douglas Jewett said. "The last 24 months we've seen a whole different kind of customer. We've even had them pull up in Mercedes and Lexus's. Every story is different, but in a way, they're all the same. They all just need some money to pay a bill or get through until the end of the month."

"They need us," he said. "We look at it as a 60-day loan. We have repeaters we can count on like clockwork. Every month, they'll drop something off – with some of them it's the same item every month- and then they'll come back when they're paid

or they get their government check."

Lately they've seen mothers come in and pawn something just to get their children backpacks to start school.

"They'll look at their laptop as their \$100 credit card," said an employee Jeff Fruth. "People tell us all kinds of things. You get to know the regulars."

See **PAWN SHOPS**, page 6



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Not homeless, feeling better

Do you want to feel better right now? I can help with that if you have a computer connected to the Internet. Go to YouTube and search for a video of Carly Simon performing "Anticipation" during a small concert she held near her home on Martha's Vineyard.



Observations
By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net

The lighting, the color, the wind and the

boats in the background all make for stunning visuals. Carly Simon has suffered from extreme stage fright her entire life — but you would never know it in watching this video. She looks like she is having a great time; the entire band looks like they are having a great time. It is magical.

The video is part of a DVD, released last year, of an intimate concert performed in 1987. It shows a beautiful, 40-year-old Ms. Simon performing on stage. The DVD also includes an interview with her, now 60-something-years-old and still beautiful, talking about her memories of it. If watching that video and hearing that song doesn't make you feel better, at least a little, something is seriously wrong.

I've been searching for anything to make me feel better because, for a short time last week, I was homeless — not living-on-the-streets-homeless, but figuratively and definitely emotionally homeless. In order to save some money, my wife and I decided to let the lease expire on our very nice house without first having found a new house.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

I should be packing to move but instead I'm going to pick up a guitar and strum a few chords. After all, these are the good old days.

We are good tenants, but with four dogs, being a good tenant is difficult to convey to a potential landlord. Our dogs are long past their destructive youths and, to be honest, tend to just sleep a lot — but many landlords lose interest shortly after asking, "Did I just hear you say FOUR dogs?"

Our list of needs in a home is specific, mostly because of the dogs but also due to our personal needs. It was only after a nice young couple immediately snatched up our current home with a deposit check that we realized there wasn't much in the rental market for us. Thus,

the deep and dark recesses of my mind began to comprehend that we were, in fact, homeless — or soon to be. I can't begin to describe the profound shock that came with that awareness. I realized in an instant that I was no longer a kid willing to live footloose and fancy-free. I want some stability in my life. That stability begins with something I had always taken for granted: having a home.

When Craigslist failed to pro-

vide a housing solution for us, we turned to the classifieds (not that I should admit it was in that order) of the *Observer* and called Claire Tort at Dickman Realty. After all, who is in a better position to find a good home than someone who works for a company founded by one of the area's founders? Claire was thoughtful and dedicated enough to take time away from plans on a Sunday to show us a house. Then the following Saturday, she did it again. And sudden-

ly, we were no longer homeless. Except now I'm faced with the unpleasant prospect of packing and moving. If that's the most I have to complain about, though, I feel pretty good.

Given the times we are in, feeling good is...well, pretty good. As we drove away from our soon-to-be rented home, drops of rain began falling from a few squall clouds, despite the brilliant sunshine of the evening. It occurred to me that Florida is one of those rare places where you actually need sunglasses even in the rain. There is a corollary to these times in that realization.

There are a lot of dark clouds on Florida's horizon right now, but somehow sunshine always miraculously manages to punch through those clouds. And that will, of course, continue. We'll get through this to take on more storms in the future. And then we'll get through those, too. I know with certainty, it is true.

As I type these words, Carly Simon is just finishing "Anticipation" in the beautiful light and setting on Martha's Vineyard. The video is truly spectacular and it magically makes me feel better. Appropriately enough, the ending of her song has given me the ending of this column.

It may not always look like it, but the sunshine *will* be back again. In fact, it is already coming back. The tide is turning and, like all tides, it will lift all boats. Although I should be packing, I'm going to strum a few chords on the guitar instead. Right now Carly is right, these are the good old days. ♦

New exhibits debut at Manatee Village Historical Park

BRADENTON — Three new exhibits will open at Manatee Village Historical Park, 1404 Manatee Avenue East, Bradenton, this Saturday, September 10.

They came from all walks of life: merchants and seamen, farmers and preachers, the young and the old. The earliest residents of Manatee Village viewed this area

as a promised land, a place for new beginnings. The exhibit highlights the lives of just some of these early pioneers whose fascinating stories inspired the Park's cemetery tour dramatization titled "Spirit Voices from Old Manatee" to be performed at the Old Manatee Burying Grounds this fall. Viewers can see portraits and study copies of land deeds and marriage records, early maps, business invoices, a yellow fever immunization card, and read moving excerpts from family letters that give insight into the period of history from 1840 – 1900.

"Vintage Vogue: Part I" is the first of an exhibit series drawn from the permanent collection of the Manatee County Historical Commission. Throughout the next year, fashion artifacts and tableaus will rotate as the series advances in time. Part I represents fashions from the mid to late Victorian era from 1860 to 1900.

Another new exhibit, of special interest to youth, is the Junior Cow Hunters Corner — located in the Florida Cattle Room. A hands-on interactive display area, custom designed for exploration by tots and primary school children, it offers young ones coloring pages, a dress-up trunk, a cattle brand match game and other engaging tasks. All activities are intended to emphasize what the cattle industry meant to Manatee County's development and the livelihood of many early settlers.

Museum exhibits are located on the 2nd floor of the Wiggins General Store. Parking and admission is free. www.manateeclerk.com.

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POSITIVE TALK

Persistence is a key to success

I was reading one of the news groups on the Internet and was amused to see an argument about the viability of multi-level marketing programs. Both sides of the argument—it was an argument, not an organized debate—tried to prove their view was the only reasonable one. Both sides used lots of numbers to prove their point, and the way they used mathematics to manipulate those numbers was at times mind-boggling.

The numbers don't really matter. The truth is that some people are successful in the field of multi-level marketing and some are not. Some people have made lots of money. Others have lost their investment, and even those have had some fun. Those who have been successful have at least one thing in common. They have learned that in order to be successful and reach your goal, you must be persistent.

Persistence is not the flash of the skyrocket but rather the slow sizzle of a long-burning fuse. The major multi-level marketing companies such as Amway, Mary Kay and Shaklee were started by men and women who had the desire to succeed and the courage to stay with it. Since I grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which is close to the birthplace of Amway in Ada, Michigan, I remember well the names the two founders of that corporation were called and most of them were not very nice. I guarantee you lesser men would have quit, but they persisted and became millionaires many times over. They put the tools in the hands of others who were willing to work,

and those people also achieved financial security. A major part of the renovation of downtown Grand Rapids was the refurbishing of an old hotel into the beautiful Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. All this happened because two men had a dream and persisted until it went from dream to reality.

F. Scott Fitzgerald said, "Vitality shows in not only the ability to persist but the ability to start over." I believe it is persistence that drives us to start over. The people who started the companies named above had to start more than once. In fact, persisting in your dream and having to start over is a common

thread most of the success stories I have read have in common. Alfred C. Fuller had to start over a number of times before the Fuller Brush Company became viable. Thomas Watson, the founder of IBM, persisted even though he had been let go rather roughly by John Patterson of National Cash Register fame, who also had several failures prior to getting it right with NCR.

I am sure if I go back to the Internet tonight, the same two men will be arguing about whether one can be successful in a multi-level company. Their numbers and arguments, based on statistics, will seem very impressive. But no matter what the numbers are, if you have a faint heart, don't get into a business that requires total dedication. On the other hand, if you have limited resources to set yourself up in business and the will to work, endeavors such as this might well be the answer.



Positive Talk

By William Hodges

Also keep in mind that most businesses which start each year in the United States fail within five years, so the failure rate in multi-level marketing may not be that much higher than that of business overall. Surely, if you factor in the cost of doing business, the losses for multi-level businesses that fail will probably be much lower than business in general.

Whatever choice you make, don't start unless you are willing to persist.

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.hodges-videos.com. Phone: 813-641-0816. Email: bill@billhodges.com Website: www.billhodges.com"

Community-wide 9/11 Ceremony of Remembrance to be held

It has been a decade since the worst attack on American soil occurred, and a Hillsborough community-wide effort will bring together citizens, first responders, and members of our Armed Forces for a 9/11 Ceremony of Remembrance.

Hillsborough County, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, the Cities of Tampa, Temple Terrace and Plant City, MacDill Air Force Base and the Veterans Council have joined together to hold this special event on Friday, Sept. 9, at noon in Joe Chillura Courthouse Square in downtown Tampa, at the corner of Kennedy Boulevard and Pierce Street. The date and time was chosen so as not to conflict with religious observances over the Sept. 11 weekend.

The community-wide commemoration will feature the laying of wreaths in memory of those who perished in the terrorist attacks, the survivors, the first responder heroes, our Armed Forces and our nation's Fallen Heroes. The wreaths will be laid on a 14-foot-long steel beam from the World Trade Center by special guests with personal connections to 9/11 and the wars on terror. A design for a permanent memorial to house the beam will also be unveiled at this event. The U.S. Air Force will provide a fly-over.

Reddick Elementary School's SAC Improvement Council needs help

The School Advisory Council (SAC) at Reddick Elementary is an integral part of the school system and is responsible for identifying needs and developing an approved School Improvement Plan each year.

Members of the SAC Team include the principal, teachers, non-instructional staff, parents, students, and business/community leaders.

Members are needed. Their duties involve attending one meeting a month (dates and times to be determined at the first meeting.)

Reddick Elementary's first SAC meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 21 in the media center at the school, located at 325 West Lake Drive, Wimauma.

For more information, call Stacey Kaminski at (813) 634-0809 ext. 237 or email her at Stacey.Kaminski@sdhc.k12.fl.us.

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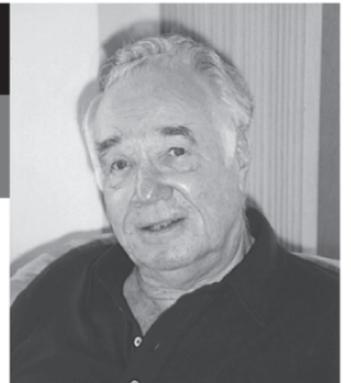
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	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim

UPCOMING EVENTS

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
Friday, Sept. 30	7-11 p.m.	Calvin O
Saturday, Oct. 1		Breast Cancer Walk
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Sunday, Oct. 2		Octoberfest
Friday, Oct. 7	7-11 p.m.	Double Barrel
Saturday, Oct. 8	5-7 p.m.	Christmas in October Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Oct. 14	7-11 p.m.	Bert and Sassie
Saturday, Oct. 15	5-7 p.m.	Steak Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Oct. 21	7-11 p.m.	Top Shelf
Saturday, Oct. 22	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Oct. 28	7-11 p.m.	Southern Tide
Saturday, Oct. 29	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim

Free weekend admission for teachers

The Tampa Bay History Center, 801 Old Water St. in downtown Tampa, is showing its appreciation for Florida's K-12 teachers by offering them free weekend admission this September.

All Florida K-12 teachers presenting valid school identification will receive one free regular-price admission to the Tampa Bay History Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the month of September.

This month-long opportunity allows educators to explore the History Center and familiarize themselves with the unique historical educational opportunities that are offered.

For more information, visit www.tampabayhistorycenter.org or call the History Center's Curator of Education, Julie Matus, at (813) 675-8981.

Annual teenage Battle of the Bands now accepting registration

The 14th Annual Teenage Battle of the Bands, hosted by the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, will be held from noon to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15 at the Hillsborough County Fairgrounds, 4810 E. State Road 60 in Dover, five miles east of Brandon at the intersection of Sidney-Washer Road and State Road 60. Registration is \$50 entry fee per band by Oct. 7.

Bands can apply now for the competition that provides free studio time to the top two winners. Band and members must be between 13 and 20 years of age. Only one band member can be age 20. Styx of Fire was the winner of Battle of the Bands last year.

For registration information, call Joe Soletti, Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, at (813) 376-5778.

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.

On another note, the USCG Auxiliary FL75 Ruskin will be holding its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 14 at the Ruskin Recreation Center, 901 6th St., Ruskin. New or prospective members are always welcome to attend. For more information, call (813) 633-5416.

Little Manatee River State Park Mystery Map event

Make plans now for a fun day at Little Manatee River State Park, Wimauma on Saturday, Oct. 15, for the 14th annual Mystery Map Event. The theme this year is 'Dry Creek, The First Frontier,' based on the TV show of the same name. A Mystery person will prehike or ride a horse following a map of the trail with obstacles that a Florida cowhunter might encounter on a cattle drive in the mid 1800s.

The Mystery time is sealed until all entries are in and the times nearest the Mystery time win prizes provided by local business. Gift certificates from Canoe Outpost Little Manatee River, Saddle-up Tack, Born to Ride Horse Rental and much more.

Food from the Friends Cafe with a country flair will be included in the \$22 donation to participate. Dinners and other foods will be available for spectators. A Silent Auction with great donated items to bid on, booths and music by local talent will keep you busy as you wait for the results. A special visit by the creator of 'Dry Creek,' Les McDowell will share some of his cowboy poetry, plus there will be a Florida Cracker (pioneer) costume contest with a \$50 gift card from ACE Hardware-Feed-Marine of Riverview as a prize is part of the entertainment.

All proceeds go towards projects in the park. The event starts at 8 a.m. and last entry is out by 11:30 a.m. Awards will be presented around 2 p.m.

RSVP to jneveridge@gmail.com or (813) 634-8716. Persons with special needs call the park office at (813) 671-5005. Location of Little Manatee River State Park is 4 miles south of S.R. 674 in Sun City Center to Lightfoot Road and follow the signs.

For more information, call (813) 677-9291 or (813) 634-2228.

IN UNIFORM



Matthew A. Webb

Navy Seaman Recruit Matthew A. Webb, son of PHEME E. Webb of Wimauma, FL, was recently selected to receive the Academic Excellence Award of his recruit company at Recruiting Training Command, Great Lakes, IL.

Webb was cited for outstanding performance by a single recruit in his company while undergoing recruit training. Webb's commitment to excellence put his performance above all of his peers.

This Academic Excellence Award is presented to the sailor who achieved the highest overall academic score during recruit training.

Webb is a 2006 graduate of South County Career Center of Ruskin.

Riverview Memorial VFW Post #8108

7504 Riverview Dr.
(813) 671-9845

MEETINGS

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

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

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

MEALS

Wednesday Spaghetti Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m.

Friday Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m.

Sunday Breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon

CANTEEN HAPPENINGS

Bar Bingo Monday at 6:30 p.m.

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

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



Free SAT prep courses

Hillsborough County Public Schools is offering free SAT prep courses in two locations in South County and many locations around Hillsborough County.

Each prep course will be facilitated by a highly qualified teacher using the College Board's SAT on-line course. Students will receive a login ID and password and participate via a webinar. Students will be able to continue accessing the online course from school and home.

Student applications to attend a prep course are available in high school guidance offices.

The class will be available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at East Bay High School Sept. 10-24, with test given Oct. 1.

It will also be given at Riverview's Sickles from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from Feb. 11 to March 3, with a test date of March 10.

Attention: all women of the military sea services

Tampa Bay WAVES Unit #55 begins its 24th year of service on Sept. 10. This group functions as a local unit of the national organization known as WAVES National, which was formed in 1987. Currently there are over 100 such units throughout the United States. Their purpose is to support the parent organization and to locate and communicate with former and retired female members of the sea services and to provide assistance and support to local women veterans in need as well as other veterans' organizations whenever possible.

Tampa Bay WAVES Unit #55 meets at 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month (except July and August) at St. Matthew's Anglican Church, 10701 Bloomingdale Ave., Riverview. Meetings are held in St. Anne's Hall located at the rear of the church building. All women who served honorably (including those currently serving) in the U. S. Navy, Navy Nurse Corps, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Maritime Service, or related reserve components, are eligible for membership. Join them and get acquainted with other Sea Services women veterans and retirees. You're sure to enjoy the fellowship and activities that will rekindle memories of your military service days.

For more information, call Jeannette Green at (813) 657-9164.

Pinwheels for Peace

Every student, kindergarten through 5th grade, and every staff and faculty member of Apollo Beach Elementary will make a pinwheel during art class as a symbol of how they feel about peace in the school, community and the world. The pinwheels will be 'planted' on International Day of Peace, Sept. 21, along with millions around the world.

This year, the school hopes to get community involvement in the form of area businesses creating the pinwheels and planting them that day.

The students have started to create them this week and will be working on them in class until Sept. 16. The planting will be Sept. 21.

Liberty Manor sponsors free BBQ

There will be a free BBQ from noon to 2 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 16 at Liberty Manor for Veterans, Inc., 10015 N. 9th Street, Tampa.

Attend this fabulous event that boasts BBQ, pork, brisket, chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings. Good food, music and games. This is a great way to kick off the weekend!

Liberty Manor is a non-profit organization committed to promoting the developmental and social needs of veterans who have served our country, fought for our independence, but fallen victim to homelessness.

For more information, contact Connie Blaney at (813) 900-9422 or LibertyForVets@aol.com.

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, Sept. 8 — Bar Bingo at 6 p.m. Entertainment Meeting at 6 p.m. Membership Meeting at 7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 9 — Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by Nitelife, JT & Ella from 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 10 — Music by Bert Sassy from 7 to 11 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 11 — Planning Meeting at 3 p.m. House Meeting at 4 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy

from 5 to 9 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 12 — Veterans Day Parade. \$6 Spaghetti Dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 13 — Games in Lounge from 1 to 5 p.m. Kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 14 — VFW & LAVFW Meeting at 7 p.m.

Mentors

■ Continued from page 1

talk to. For Knight, that awareness is resulting in the latest and perhaps most far-reaching endeavor of the foundation: creating a program to mentor high school students at all levels to help them find success and happiness in life. It is a lofty goal, to be certain, but one with an achievable plan.

Knight is seeking mentors in South Hillsborough. He has met with students who are excited about the program at East Bay and Lennard high schools. Now he needs people willing to invest one hour per month to make a positive and enduring difference in the life of a young person. Mentors need not be astronauts or scientists, just people who are happy and comfortable in their own lives and, perhaps most importantly, are willing to talk less about themselves and listen more to a young person. An hour a month is all Knight is asking.

"I need people who can shut up and listen," Knight said. "The whole point is the student, not the mentor. I need someone who can help to convince a kid that they can do what they want to do, but they need the will and determination to do it."

In developing this program, Knight found data that shows just how much impact a guiding hand can have — and how earlier is certainly better than later. He found that if a mentor can help keep a student motivated enough to raise their SAT scores; their access to financial aid increases significantly. As another bonus, any additional education will reap big rewards later in life. The impact over a lifetime is enormous.

For instance, a person in their 40s with a high school diploma will on average top out at earning about \$40,000 per year. A person with a college degree, however, will top out at nearly double that amount. The income for a person lacking even a high school diploma will, on average, flatten out early on and never significantly increase.

"I don't believe you have to go to college to improve your lifestyle," Knight said. "But any additional education will certainly help. If you can put up with even an additional two years in school, things can improve dramatically. A good education is a pathway to financial stability, and that is one of the reasons I think mentoring is so important. There is a lot more to life than just money, but it does take a certain amount of money to live."

Knight has created data sheets for both students and mentors. From the information provided, he will match up a young person and an adult for a mentoring partnership. He will expect that all mentors be sworn to secrecy in what the students may tell them about their plans and their concerns the present and the future.

"A kid could say, 'I'm in 10th grade and I'm interested in science or math or even plumbing' or 'I want to be a scientist or an attorney' and I will match them up with an appropriate mentor from the mentor data forms," Knight said. "I'm looking for people to help guide these kids towards what they want to do, to keep them motivated. For instance, they might not be able to get a degree in four years, it might take five or

seven years, but if they want to do it, they can do it."

A college degree is not a requirement to be a mentor, but life experience and a sense of comfort in your own lifestyle is critical. More than anything, Knight is looking for people willing to listen first. He is looking for people who can appreciate the incalculable rewards in having a positive and enduring impact on the life of a young person. He's convinced, an hour a month is all it would take.

"Let's show these students that there are people in the world that are givers, not takers," Knight said. "Show them there are people who can be trusted, and who can be depended upon, and who ask for nothing in return."

Knight will hold two orientation meetings for potential mentors on Sept. 13 and 20th beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the former Apollo Beach Chamber of Commerce office near the Sweet Bay supermarket at MiraBay. Currently 30 students are signed up for the program from both East Bay and Lennard high schools. He is looking for at least 19 mentors, although more mentors will allow more students to join the program. He hopes to have the mentoring program operational by October 1.

Further information about the program will be available at the orientation meetings or by emailing highschoolmentors@gmail.com.

For information about the [Matthew A. Knight Foundation](http://www.matthewaknightfoundation.org), visit www.matthewaknightfoundation.org

Pawn Shops

■ Continued from page 1

What is sad, Douglas explained, is the customers who come in a couple of times a day, when you know it must be to feed a habit but you can't tell them what to use the money for.

"You can actually watch the transformation of these people as they go down," Jeff added. "It's not anything like Antiques Road Show."

Douglas says he has a large safe deposit box where the treasures are kept: like the Indian head dress (valued by the same dealer sent by Ringling) worth more than \$500,000 somebody found while cleaning out a relative's attic after a death in the family.

"We don't know the value when they come in. And when they leave something and don't come back, we can keep it or sell it," Douglas explained.

It looked like a good place to purchase televisions, cameras and electronics. There were dozens of each in every size and shape.

Sometimes, if a customer is late getting back and the item hasn't sold, Douglas says he lets them get it back as though they were on time.

"You get a feeling about these things," he said. "We are often their very last resort."

Until I visited Pawn Pros I didn't know that pawn shops were required by Florida law to send a daily report to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office listing every item taken in on their Florida pawnbroker

transaction form- which means every item that comes through the door.

"We're the reason criminals get caught," Douglas Jewett said. "It's people who steal and we don't know an item is stolen that give pawn shops a bad rap."

When a person comes in, they sign a form and get their thumb print taken, and they have to do it again when they leave so that only the person who pawns the item can retrieve it.

Because of the pawnbroker's form and the reporting system, someone can often locate a missing or stolen item.

Once and awhile it gets dangerous. Twice he has had attempted robberies and once there was a shoot-out in his shop.

In 2009 he shot at the robber and hit him, but the man left on foot and was never found.

"One time a 14-year old was involved," Douglas said. "But he had a mask on so how would I have known he was a kid?"

Pawn Pros has another shop on 15th Street in Bradenton. Neither shop will deal in guns.

Noticing that I have to hold my flash up to use it because the automatic spring no longer works, I was offered a pretty good deal on a new camera. Unfortunately, it was not my day to buy.

But when I do, I think I'll look in pawn shops first. They sure seem to offer some pretty good deals. ♦

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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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Interfaith Council

■ Continued from page 1

personal visits or letters to detail the impacts the monies have had on individual lives always are appreciated.

And it all started with a rummage sale. Forty years ago, three of SCC's Christian congregations united in an outreach effort that combined their separate community assistance programs. They called it the Christian Social Action Council, according to a history compiled by Dr. Ken Barringer, retired psychologist long active in social services. Their first focus was supporting education: tutoring and scholarships. To achieve these goals, they initiated a rummage sale in October, 1971, held at the Wimauma Civic Center.

From that small but successful beginning grew the Nearly New Shop, opened in 1974 in Wimauma. With goods supplied by donors and the helping hands of store volunteers, the retail endeavor prospered, and then prospered more, to the point the shop was relocated to its present, golf-cart friendly SCC plaza site where it expanded again, only to outgrow the current digs, says Pat Pelton, council vice president. Traffic through the shop has continued to steadily increase, posting an uptick in sales as the recession has settled in, she adds.

Along the way, the CSAC was joined by several more SCC churches, worship centers and the Jewish Synagogue. The formal title became the Interfaith Council of Sun City Center, a not-for-profit organization and a 501(c)3 under the federal tax code. Non-denominational, it now involves not only Prince of Peace Catholic, United Community and St. Andrew Presbyterian, but also

Trinity Baptist, United Methodist, Redeemer Lutheran, St. John the Divine Episcopal and the Unitarian Universalists, along with Beth Israel, the Jewish congregation.

The outreach grew as well. Both Meals on Wheels and the hot lunch program at the Senior Center in Wimauma were launched by the council, Barringer asserts. Plus, he goes on, the council had a hand in spearheading the county's medical services in Ruskin as well as development of

South Bay Hospital. It also has supported Mary Martha House in Ruskin, the local Redlands Migrant ministry and Beth-el Mission, while contributing to SCC's own Good Samaritans and the Emergency Squad.

Two endeavors outside the South County that have received Council grants are Kids Place, the Brandon area safe house shelter for youngsters removed for their protection from dangerous situations by authorities and Southeastern Guide Dogs, the Manatee County operation that trains and provides assistance animals to enable greater mobility for sight and physically impaired individuals, including returning war veterans.

It all is supported, almost entirely, by Nearly New, an always changing, ever growing retail outlet favored by shoppers both local and outside the area that offers everything useful for house and family, from clothing to bedding,



PAT PELTON



NAOMI FOREMAN

from electronics to furniture. The shop is open Wednesday and Saturday mornings, except during summer months when hours are cut back to Saturdays only. A relatively small amount of additional income accrues from periodic sale of a recycling bin and some cash donations, Pelton says.

Today, she points out, the Interfaith Council, through its grants committee, focuses its attention in three areas: local food pantries, varied non-profit charitable operations and, of course, educational scholarships.

This year, as economic conditions show no sign of improving, the council anticipates making grants to the three functioning South County food banks, grants that in the past have reached into the mid-four figures range.

In the upcoming cycle, the group also expects to award 20 to 22 scholarships to graduating East Bay and Lennard High School seniors. These grants are in \$2,000 increments sent directly to the school in the student's name and can continue annually during a student's undergraduate career if a 2.5 GPA is maintained. "We look for deserving high school seniors who are not likely to be on the receiving end of multiple other money awards," Pelton says. And, she adds, a Florida college or university is preferred; "there must be a very good reason for the student to choose an out-of-state school." The grants committee

also is interested in a potential scholarship winner's activities in school and in the community.

When it comes to giving funds to other charitable groups, the council requires that those recipients be designated as tax exempt operations in the the 501(c)3 classification. And, when a request is initiated by a teacher, the school principal also is expected to sign the document, Pelton adds. In addition, an annual report outlining how the funds were applied is expected from every recipient group.

Moreover, she emphasizes, "we don't go to them, they have to come to us." The grants committee will be considering applications for lump sum contributions on October 19. Deadline for return of

the simple, one-page application is October 5. The application form can be downloaded from the council's website, www.interfaithcouncilofsuncitycenter.com, completed and returned by mail to the address provided. Potential recipients also can contact Foreman by telephone at 813-633-9118.

Funds distributions could begin in November, Foreman notes, as the committee works to, in Pelton's words, "spread the wealth" among as many as possible in keeping with the council mission: "to enhance and enrich lives" while "providing immediate relief when needed" thereby "making our community a more caring place."

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The Observer News

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Olga and Jorge AVECILLAS are a great couple. They have been delivering The SCC Observer and The Observer News for six years. Always on time and really dedicated in doing a good job. *Buen trabajo!*

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THE SAVVY SENIOR

How to detect and prevent telemarketing scams

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you recommend some tips to help protect seniors from telemarketing scams? My 80-year-old mother has been swindled out of several hundred dollars over the past year and keeps getting calls from scam artists.

Worried Daughter



The Savvy Senior

By Jim Miller

of fake charity and fundraising phone scams, home improvement scams, fake checks (see fakechecks.org), grandparent scams, and invitations to free lunch seminars.

What You Can Do

The first thing you should do to help your mom steer clear of phone scams is to alert her to the problem and how to recognize it.

To help you with this, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) offers a consumer education website at ftc.gov/phonefraud that provides a rundown on some of the most common phone scams making the rounds these days and what to watch for. They also offer some helpful publications you can get for her like "Putting Telephone Scams on Hold" and "Who's Calling? Recognize & Report Phone Fraud" that you can order for free by calling 877-382-4357.

The next step is to remind her to never give out her personal information like her credit card number, checking or savings account numbers, Social Security number or mailing address to telemarketers no matter what they promise or tell her. If she's getting calls from telemarketers requesting this information, she should simply hang up the phone because it's a scam.

If, however, your mom is having a hard time recognizing a scam or hanging up on pushy telemarketers, get her a caller ID and tell her not to pick up unless she recognizes the number of the caller. Or,

ask her to let the calls go to voice mail. Telemarketers rarely leave messages.

Also, make sure her phone number is registered with the National Do Not Call Registry which will significantly cut down the number of telemarketing calls she receives. You can register your mom's phone number for free at donotcall.gov, or by calling 888-382-1222 from the number you wish to register.

Unfortunately, being on the registry will not stop calls from political organizations, charities, pollsters and companies that your mom has an existing business relationship with. And, it won't stop telemarketing scams either. If your mom is getting a lot of calls, discuss the possibility of changing her phone number. Scam artists trade and sell what they call "suckers lists" of prior victims, and the only way to get her off these lists may be to change her number.

Report It

It's also important that you or your mom report any suspicious telemarketing calls she gets to the FTC (see ftccomplaintassistant.gov or call 877-382-4357) and to her State Attorney General. Reporting it helps law enforcement officials track down these scam artists and stop them. You'll need to provide the telemarketer's phone number, as well as the date and time of the call.

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.

Dear Worried,

Telemarketing fraud is a big problem in the United States, particularly among seniors who tend to be the most vulnerable and frequently targeted. Here's what you should know, along with some tips to help protect your mom.

Phone Fraud

According to FBI reports, there are around 14,000 illegal telemarketing operations that steal more than \$40 billion from unsuspecting citizens each year – most of whom are over the age of 60.

Telemarketing fraud happens when a con artist calls you up posing as a legitimate telemarketer and tries to cheat you out of your money by offering things like free prizes, vacation packages, sweepstakes or lottery winnings, discount medical or prescription drug plans, buying club memberships, credit and loan promises, investment and work-at-home opportunities and more. They also usually demand that you act right away and require some kind of up-front payment to participate or receive your winnings, which is always a red flag that the call is a scam.

Seniors also need to be careful

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

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

Saturday 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 Chuck Stieb.

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 Upcoming Activities



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

Saturday, Oct. 15: 50s Dance from 6 to 9 p.m. with music by Double Density. \$7 with light snacks.

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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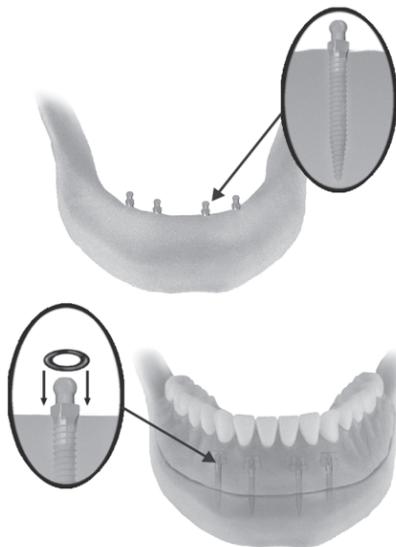
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Alzheimer's and depression workshop offered in Riverview

Hillsborough County Aging Services will offer an Alzheimer's Disease and Depression Workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22 at the Bridges Retirement Community clubhouse, 11350 Bloomingdale Ave., Riverview. There is no cost, but pre-registration is required. This workshop will provide information on the latest developments in Alzheimer's research, information about placement and managing challenging behaviors associated with dementia and depression. Participants will also learn about Hillsborough County's newest resource for those who cannot find their way home.

This workshop is ideal for adult day care or nursing home administrators, aging services network professionals, case managers, family and professional care givers and health care of long term care professionals. Continuing education units are available for nursing home administrators and social workers.

Registration is required and seating is limited. The registration form is also available by clicking on this link. Lunch will be provided. For more information, call the Hillsborough County Division of Aging Services at 272-6261 or visit their website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/aging/.

South Shore Senior Singles meet at Alpha Pizza House

The South Shore Senior Singles, a ministry of the Sun City Center United Methodist Church (SSUMC), will meet at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Alpha Pizza House, 1312 Apollo Beach Blvd. in Apollo Beach. Music will be provided for your listening enjoyment. The menu consists of Italian, Greek, and American food. Reservations are requested. For

more information, or to make a reservation, call Patti at 634-7171.

Upcoming events: Bowling at The Alley in Riverview from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on the 4th Sunday of the month (Sept. 25), then dining at Applebees. A sightseeing lunch cruise has been planned from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1 on the lower deck of the Marina Jack in Sarasota.

You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director

I have one fervent hope for this weekend. I hope all of the events scheduled to recognize the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attack are done with the right amount of sensitivity and empathy towards those who do not want to talk about it, remember it, or commemorate it.

We all approach grief and deal with it differently. And while it is appropriate to remember those who died that day, for some of us it has been a hellish ten years we would give anything to have back.

Office Manager Kristy was in one of the towers two days before the event. It could easily have been her. Both of her sons went into the military afterwards and were put into harm's way fighting the 'war on terror.' My nephew went back into the Army and has done three tours as a medic. His wife and six children didn't know each time he left if he would return.

We have all heard stories of people who were supposed to be on one of the planes that day who,

for whatever divine or coincidental reason, missed their flight. Or of Twin Towers workers who were

The memory of that day is painful enough. But the memories of the past ten years of two wars, restrictive measures, and bureaucratic overkill leave me tired and extremely frustrated.

My fervent hope for this weekend is that after 10 years, maybe we can reverse some of the changes and get America back. We're bringing troops home from Iraq. We will be bringing them home from Afghanistan soon. My hope is that the emotional pall that has covered our country for 10 years will eventually lift. Let's all work to make that happen so the thousands who died that day won't have died in vain.

In the meantime, if you hear someone say "I just wish this 10th anniversary stuff would just go away," please understand where it's coming from. We are certainly not unpatriotic, nor do we in any way minimize the importance of the day. We are just remembering in another way. It is an anniversary we do not want to commemorate and one we wish didn't exist at all.

If you hear those words, offer a hand of support, a smile of understanding, or a hug of empathy. That's what makes America strong and keeps the terrorists from succeeding. And at the end of the day, that is how we want to observe this day.



You, Me & Business

By Dana Dittmar



caught in traffic or didn't make the subway and miraculously were not in the buildings when they were hit. I'm sure they don't really want to be reminded of how close they came.

September 11 changed America, and not in a positive way. Last week I had to show not only my marriage certificate (from five years ago) but my divorce papers from my first husband just to get the address changed on my driver's license. I can't carry a can of hairspray on a plane.

Am I going to get a new flag for my new condo and fly it on Sunday? You bet. Am I going to attend any of the commemorative events scheduled in the area? No.

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**Tuesday September 13th
10:00 a.m.**

**The Golf Club at Cypress Creek
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Caloosa Golf and Country Club The Club is offering a New Member Promotion Program thru the end of September



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- Only pay the prorated fee for the remainder of the 2011 year
- Join by September 1, fee will be \$1,000* for a single and \$1,336* for a couple
- Join by October 1, fee will be \$750* for a single and \$1,003 for a couple
- Single membership includes a social membership for a person living in the same household

Caloosa's current annual dues are \$3,000* for a single and \$4,000* for couples

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*does not include tax and realtors' bonus does not apply during this promotion

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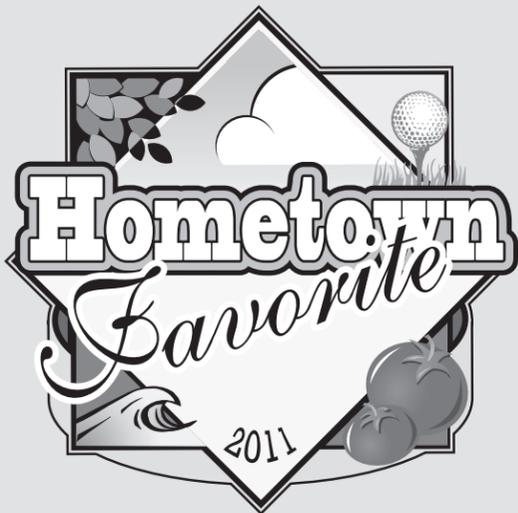
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Kids' Program/Event Highlights September 8 to 14

Teen Night: Anime Club
Thursday, Sept. 8 • 5 to 8 p.m.

For middle and high school students. Come join us for an evening of Anime and Manga! Spend some time with other kids who love to read Japanese Manga and watch Anime straight from Japan! Event and refreshments funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

Family Story Time*
Thursday, Sept. 8 • 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.

Motion Commotion*

Friday, Sept. 9 • 10:05 to 10:35 a.m. and 10:45 to 11:15 a.m.
For children ages 2-5 and their caregivers. Join them for this fun and very interactive preschool music and movement program as you shake some sillies out.

Toddler Time

Tuesday, Sept. 13 • 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, Sept. 13 • 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, Sept. 14 • 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, Sept. 14 • 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, Sept. 14 • 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. Go to www.southshorefriends.com or call (813) 634-1396 for more information about the Friends.



HCC SouthShore campus enrollment hits record levels

Fall enrollment has set a new record at HCC SouthShore, growing by nearly four percent. Enrollment has doubled since the campus opened in 2008. For the new academic year, more than 6,500 students are expected to attend classes on the campus. To meet the needs of a student body, the campus has added a Student Center, Financial Aid Processing Center, Fountain Patio, and Student Activities Pavilion. Beginning in September, the campus will be offering classes in the adjacent buildings of Lennard High School.

Enjoy discounted events at MOSI in September and October

The Museum of Science and Industry is a not-for-profit, community-based institution and educational resource dedicated to advancing public interest, knowledge and understanding of science, industry and technology. Located at 4801 East Fowler Ave. in Tampa, MOSI features educational and entertaining exhibits, activities and special events, and is home to Florida's only IMAX® Dome Theatre. For more information about MOSI and upcoming activities, visit www.mosi.org or call (813) 987-6000.

Harvest Moon Night at MOSI
Sept. 10 • 7 to 10 p.m.

Cost for MOSI members: \$30 per adult; \$15 per child. Cost for general public: \$40 per adult; \$20 per child.

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

Grandparent's Day at MOSI Sunday, Sept. 11

Cost: \$23.95 per adult; \$21.95 per senior; \$19.95 per child age 2-12

Grandparent's Day Discount: Free general admission ticket with the purchase of a full-priced general admission ticket.

Free general admission for a grandparent with the purchase of a full-priced general admission ticket. Limited to one offer per household. Grandparent and grandchild(ren) must be present at time of purchase. Mention offer to receive discount. Admission offer may not be combined with other offers and excludes special engagements and the Sky Trail® Ropes Course. Other restrictions may apply.

MOSI offers \$10 off general admission in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month
Sept. 15 – Oct. 15

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, MOSI will offer \$10 off general admission. Limited to four offers per household. Mention offer to receive discount. Admission offer may not be combined with other offers and excludes special engagements and the Sky Trail® Ropes Course. Other restrictions may apply.

New MOSI Exhibit

Target America: Opening Eyes to the Damage Drugs Cause • Sept. 16 -Sept. 2012

Cost: \$23.95 per adult; \$21.95 per senior; \$19.95 per child age 2-12.

An interactive exhibit on the costs and consequences of illegal drugs, Target America offers visitors a dynamic journey exploring: the origins of drug production; international distribution; the negative

impact drugs have on the mind, communities and the environment; and current practices in prevention and treatment. Target America's exhibit content and supplemental educational materials for teachers enhance the drug prevention programs occurring in schools.

\$5 Admission at MOSI • Saturday, Sept. 24

In honor of National Museum Day, MOSI will offer \$5 admission. May not be combined with other offers. Excludes special engagements and Sky Trail® Ropes Course. Other restrictions may apply.

\$5 Admission at MOSI • Friday, Oct. 21

MOSI kicks off Red Ribbon Week with \$5 general admission. Excludes special engagements and Sky Trail® Ropes Course. Other restrictions may apply.

National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award Gala Ceremony
Saturday, Oct. 22
7 p.m.

Tickets: \$150 per couple; \$80 per individual.

Sponsorship: Platinum \$10,000; Gold \$5,000; Silver \$2,500; Table \$1,500 (8 seats at a table of 10)

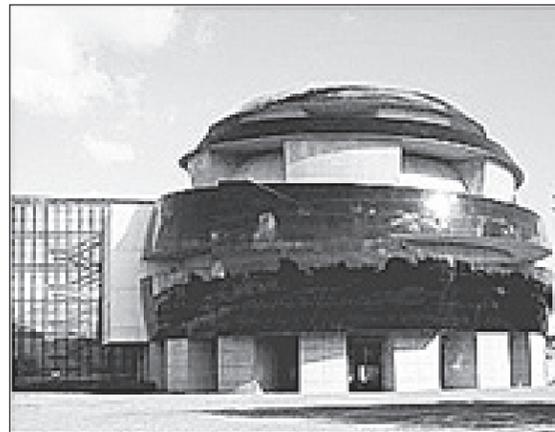
MOSI will present its 2011 National Hispanic Scientist of the Year

award to Cristián Samper, Director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, during the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award Gala Ceremony.

Director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, Samper is responsible for the largest natural history collection in the world and a museum that welcomes more than six million visitors each year. Proceeds from this fundraising event will help provide more than 1,300 students from underserved communities and low-income schools an exciting day of mentoring with Dr. Samper, and access to more than 450 MOSI hands-on exhibits during MOSI's Meet the Hispanic Scientist Day on Thursday, Oct. 20.

MOSI is a not-for-profit, community-based institution and educational resource dedicated to advancing public interest, knowledge and understanding of science, industry and technology. With a total size of more than 400,000 square feet, MOSI is the largest science center in the southeastern United States, and home to the only IMAX® Dome Theatre in the state of Florida.

Kids In Charge! The Children's Science Center at MOSI is the largest children's science center in the nation. Disasterville, featuring WeatherQuest, combines education and 10,000 square feet of interactive exhibits on the science behind natural disasters. MOSI's newest permanent exhibition, The Amazing You, explores the fascinating world of birth through end of life. MOSI is the proud winner of the 2009 National Medal for Museums by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the nation's highest honor for museums. For more information on MOSI, visit www.mosi.org.



MOSI

September is library card sign-up month

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, and with Hillsborough County's students back in school, the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries want to make sure that all children have one very important school supply -- a library card! As a bonus, new Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library card holders will receive a free Sleek Aero ballpoint pen, while supplies last.

Library cards are free for Hillsborough County residents, and getting a library card is easy. Simply visit any public library in Hillsborough County to apply in person, or visit www.hcplc.org and click on Get a Card for details and to download an application.

Having a library card provides students the resources they need to compete academically. Many public libraries provide students access to databases of news articles, encyclopedias and test preparation materials, as well as homework help and resources. Public libraries are the number

one access point for free Internet, an important resource for families without Internet access at home. All Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries offer Internet access and Wi-Fi.

"Today's libraries provide all types of students with the tools they need to succeed," says Marcee Challener, manager of materials and circulation services. "Libraries provide young readers with exciting and engaging programs that make learning fun. It is for these reasons that now more than ever, a library card is most important school supply of all."

For more information, visit any branch of Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries, visit www.hcplc.org or call (813) 273-3652.



FISH TALES

Bass fishing needs concentration and focus

We not only have saltwater fishing in Florida, but are blessed with 3 million acres of freshwater lakes and more than 12,000 miles of fishable rivers, streams, canals and reservoirs.

Freshwater anglers generate an economic impact of \$2.5 billion and support more than 24,000 jobs.

Because of our great resources, Florida remains the 'Fishing Capital of the World.'

Often tourists visit Florida only to saltwater fish, not knowing about our great freshwater locations that hold some of the best bass fishing in the world.

You can buy a boat for only bass fishing. Our own area of upper rivers, both the Alafia and the Little Manatee have great large mouth bass. I know anglers in the area that only bass fish. You will need concentration and focus, two critical aspects of being a great bass angler. You must keep your mind on what you are doing and focus on the environment.

Are you catching them on the bottom? Are they under the grass? When you find out where they are, then the fun begins.

Many use an artificial worm for bass bait. I wondered how an artificial worm arrived. The only way to catch a worm is to get a shovel and turn some dirt. Why would anyone want an artificial worm?

I decided to find out how the artificial worm came about.

It was back in the year 1940 that a magic and novelty company made a rubber worm. Along came an entrepreneur who thought 'why

not use this for bass fishing.' He also was an angler and was tired of digging for worms and trying to keep them alive. He went through 20 years of time before he finally

perfected the worm. The novelty company's was made of rubber. The rubber made it too heavy. It also twisted the line. It would not cast. Through the years, he came up with a plastic worm, which today you will find on the market in many shapes, variations, and colors. It took him 20 years to figure out how to quit digging worms.

Blue crabs are on the decline. Many blame it on too many traps in the river. Those who are crabbers say because of restrictions and people stealing from their traps, it is no longer a money market business. Some still complain about the net termination and now the blue crabs and the others are upset about the mullet. Do you think it is the weather or did I just run across the wrong people this week?

School has started so you can only take your family fishing on weekends. I saw some children fishing with their parents in the Little Manatee River and they were catching catfish, but having a ball.

Those fishing from piers and land this week caught sheepshead. Those I saw were larger than usual. They probably had been eating bait all summer fed by those who weren't counting one, two, three, and setting the hook.

Flounder has been gracing many dinner tables this week. This flat one-eyed fish has lean white meat

and is mouthwatering, cooked in numerous ways. My favorite is stuffed with crab meat and broiled.

Spanish mackerel are in the catch this week. It takes a few for a dinner table, but well worth the time to make the catch.

Redfish are slow coming into the rivers and bay waters, maybe because of the heat. You may only catch one per person per day not less than 18" or more than 27".

Bass catches have been many in the fresh waters of the Little Manatee and the Alafia rivers.

Freshwater catfish, hush puppies and cheese grits are the dinner menu for many this week. One angler says that's why he lives in Ruskin.

If you are not catching fish this week: Try trolling with a top bait; try rattling jigs, try live bait, crawfish, greenbacks or shrimp. Try a lure; try different colors of artificial bait; and don't forget to move from spot to spot until you find some fish. They are out there, so drop a line.

Aleta Jonie Maschek is a member of Florida Outdoor Press.



Fish Tales
By Jonie Maschek

Attend the annual Blessing of the Animals

The 5th Annual Blessing of the Animals will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 16621 Hwy. 301 S. (southwest corner of Hwy. 301 and SCC Blvd. S.R. 674). Animals should be in crates or on leash.

There will be free snacks for pets and their owners, plus raffles. Music by Gari. Sponsored by Unity Community of Joy.

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Adult Program/Event Highlights September 8 to 14

Word: Advanced Formatting and Mail Merge* Thursday, Sept. 8 • 12:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Tabs, headers and footers, numbering and inserting page numbers, page borders. Discover an easy way to send your letter to multiple people using Mail Merge. Previous experience with Microsoft Word is recommended. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

Windows 7: Introduction and Computer Basics* Monday, Sept. 12 • 2 to 4:15 p.m.

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

Master Gardener: Gardening 101* Wednesday, Sept. 14 • 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Learn how to expand your garden using propagation, a time-honored craft. Co-sponsored by the Hillsborough County Extension Service.

SouthShore Needle People* Wednesday, Sept. 14 • 6:30 p.m.

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COURSE SCHEDULE:

MONDAYS

- 8:30 - 10:00 Digital Photography (102)
- 8:30 - 10:00 Clear the Clutter (106)*
- 10:30 - Noon Writing Literacy (107)*
- 10:30 - Noon Practical Spanish (108)
- 10:30 - Noon Beginning Sign Language (109)
- 10:30 - Noon Myth: What It Is and Why (110)
- 10:30 - Noon An Invitation to Poetry (111)*
- 10:30 - Noon Writing Memoirs: Part 1 (112)*
- 1:00 - 2:30 First Aid & Emergencies (114)
- 1:00 - 2:30 Advanced Sign Language (115)
- 1:00 - 2:30 Karate: Beginning (117)
- 1:00 - 2:30 Writing Memoirs: Part 2 (118)*
- 1:30 - 2:15 Basic Dog Training: Group 1 (125)*
- 3:00 - 4:30 Estate Planning for the Florida Resident (120)
- 3:00 - 4:30 Torah from a Christian's Perspective (121)

TUESDAYS

- 10:30 - Noon Digital Point and Shoot (207)*
- 10:30 - Noon South Bay Health Series (208) n/a 10/25
- 10:30 - Noon Positive Psychology (209)
- 10:30 - Noon When's The Last Time You Retired? (212)
- 1:00 - 2:30 Qigong: Level 1 Form (214) n/a 10/25
- 1:00 - 2:30 Introduction to Weather (215)
- 1:00 - 2:30 Wiley's World and Welcome To It (216)
- 1:00 - 2:30 How to Buy and Sell Jewelry (218)
- 1:30 - 2:15 Basic Dog Training: Group 2 (225)*

WEDNESDAYS

- 8:30 - 10:00 Economic Issues (303)
- 10:30 - Noon India: History, Myth, Culture (307)
- 10:30 - Noon Tampa General Health Series (308)
- 10:30 - Noon Interior Design (309)
- 10:30 - Noon News and Views (310)
- 1:00 - 2:30 Conflict and Resolution (316)
- 1:00 - 2:30 Book Collecting for Beginners (317)
- 1:00 - 2:30 Economics and Investing (318) starts 10/19
- 3:00 - 4:30 Introduction to Great Poetry (322)

THURSDAYS

- 8:30 - 10:00 Event Planning (403)*
- 8:30 - 10:00 The Words We Use (406)
- 10:30 - Noon Give Yourself A Raise (407)
- 10:30 - Noon Write That Family Cookbook (409)
- 10:30 - Noon U.S. History: 1603-1850 (411)
- 10:30 - Noon Dreams and You (412)
- 1:00 - 2:30 MS Office 2007 and 2010 (415)
- 1:00 - 2:30 Death, Dying and the Afterlife (416)
- 1:00 - 2:30 Karate: Advanced (417)

**Indicates limited enrollment*

FALL REGISTRATION

October 10 thru November 17

The Fall Session consists of six 90 minute classes: The cost is \$25 for a six week session.

One day a week: 1-1/2 hour class.

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OPEN REGISTRATION

Tuesday, September 13

9:00 a.m. to Noon • 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

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EARLY REGISTRATION

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Limited courses and trips available on Sept. 13 at registration

LATE REGISTRATION

Continues in the College Office 8:30 a.m. to noon, Monday - Thursday, through the start of classes. Office is closed on Fridays.

TRIPS AND TOURS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

Cooking Demo at Mattison's 41 • Cost: \$56

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

LeBarge Cruise on Sarasota Bay • Cost: \$44
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

Sunken Gardens and Photography • Cost: \$46
Three course luncheon included at St. Pete Yacht Club

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

St. Armand's Circle Arts Festival • Cost: \$43
Lunch at The Beach House on Bradenton Beach

Ten years later...

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

It began as a beautiful late summer day in New York City. A few hours later, everything changed.

"I was the evacuation contact for my floor," said the receptionist from a major Wall Street bank. "One person was in denial, he refused to leave. Another completely freaked out and someone had to escort her out of the building."

In hindsight, denial and panic were understandable. No one could have expected the clear blue sky to turn black that morning. At that time, few could have known that people were capable of creating such senseless and overwhelming destruction and death. No one knew that 19

deranged men armed with box cutters could shake the very foundation of millions of lives.

"When the buildings came down you couldn't see anything or even breathe," she continued. "It was like being covered with a blanket and being told to run while you're completely terrified. I went out with a friend of mine and we ran for a half block or more holding on to each other. We hit some type of railing and my friend went over and fell 15 feet down. I felt my way along the railing and down some steps and could hear her yelling for help. I felt around on my hands and knees pushing rubble around looking for her but couldn't find her. I looked until I couldn't hear her anymore. I didn't find out until ten o'clock that night that she was OK. She had sprained her back when she

fell and someone helped her get out. I ended up walking five and a half miles home to Brooklyn. I don't know how long I was in the black cloud; my sense of time was gone."

When that receptionist told her story just a few months after September 11, 2001, her office was clean, she smiled when people came in, and she cheerfully greeted callers. But the terror of that morning was evident in her eyes. Ten years later, it probably still is.

The morning of September 11, 2001, was the last time anyone would walk to an airport gate with a child or spouse to wave

goodbye. Nobody removed their shoes or other articles of clothing, and neither were Ziploc bags required for shampoo bottles and toothpaste tubes of three ounces

...air travel was simply a means of transportation. A few hours later, it became a means of mass destruction.

or less. The world had long since dealt with a rash of hijackings in the early 1970s — early on that morning, air travel was simply a means of transportation. A few hours later, it became a means of mass destruction.

Just down U.S. Highway 41 from South Hillsborough, President George W. Bush made a

decision not to needlessly terrify a class of elementary school students in Sarasota. Informed that a passenger jet had attacked one of the World Trade Center towers, he quickly finished reading a story to the children and left the room. As he made his way to the school's media center to address more than a hundred teachers and students assembled there, the second tower was hit. Except for the security officers and some members of the media, no one in that room knew what had happened. Few, if any, could possibly have realized that their lives had already changed. The

Continued on following page

Exeunt

Emerging dazed and ashen like stricken miners from a nightmare tunnel, they lurch into the gray soot of mid-morning.

Coughed up from a cauldron of imminent collapse, trembling in unison with the ground, they flee the surreal horror. Zombies choking in a snowstorm.

A blouse torn away, a glimpse of blistered skin. Swollen lips beseeching a cell phone.

A dark suit staggers, clutching a scorched briefcase, necktie askew like his eyes.

Rage of traffic down and out. Unimagined hysteria.

Blurr of yellow slickers works against the tide, putting caution aside for the sake of humanity. Heros are born and die.

Against a cerulean sky, two symbols of America have been cleft and left in agony, their wounds belching fire, spewing terror, rattling death.

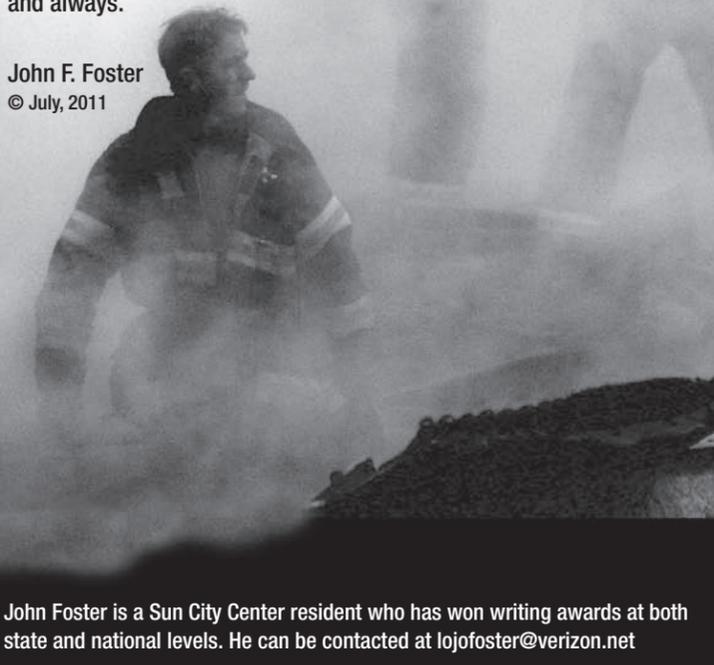
Like the mantel of ash below, a shroud of screams cloaks the streets, screams not only from ground zero, but from above.

Above.

Above the street survivors, Above the din of meltdown Above all of the above,

what remains? It is an indelible hurt. A violation. A tragically defining moment in our country's history. A moment to be remembered in sorrow for victims and in tribute to courage and sacrifice. A moment to be mourned today and always.

John F. Foster
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John Foster is a Sun City Center resident who has won writing awards at both state and national levels. He can be contacted at lojofoster@verizon.net

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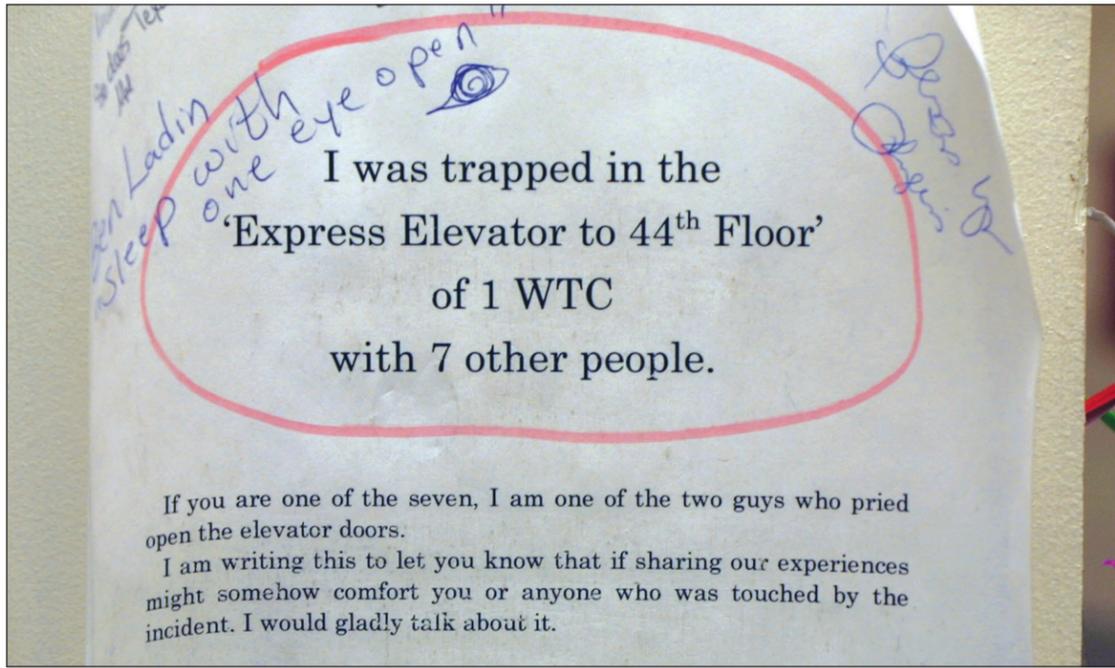
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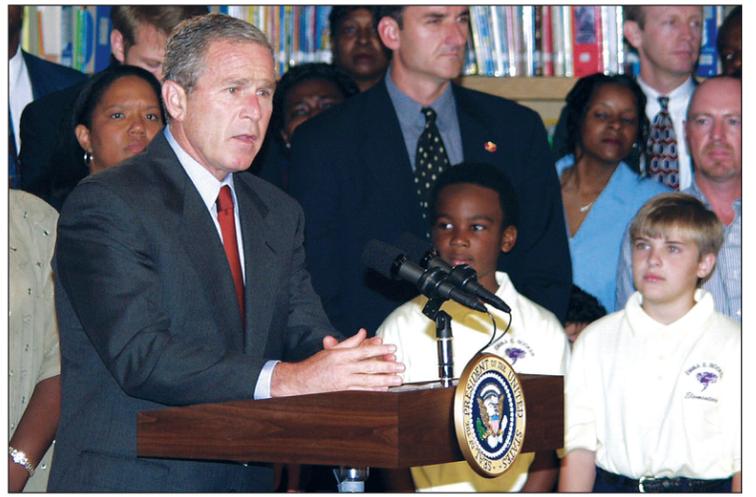
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A notice in New York City looking for support to grapple with the inconceivable.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

On the morning of September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush briefly addressed an audience in the media center of Booker Elementary School in Sarasota. No one in the room at that time knew that their lives had already changed.

Ten years later

Continued from previous page

president made a brief appearance in the media center and quickly left the city as another airliner crashed into the Pentagon, and yet another crashed in rural Pennsylvania.

For three days air travel stopped. The only planes over American skies were military fighter jets on patrol. The nation came to a standstill—an opportunity, perhaps, to absorb shock and grief on a scale that was unimaginable by this generation.

When flights resumed on September 14, air travelers had gone from waving to loved ones at the gate to being anxious and frightened people clinging to each other outside of the security areas. At Tampa International Airport that morning, men in fatigues carried automatic weapons while airport security officers searched potted plants and garbage cans. As the first flights were announced, there were tears, hugs and lingering goodbyes. No one boarding a plane was taking his or her life for granted that morning.

Nineteen deranged and fanatical men with box cutters murdered thousands of people and caused destruction on a scale that was inconceivable when the sun rose on that beautiful September

morning. They kicked off two major wars resulting in a death toll that may never be known. They revealed cracks in the very foundation of civilization, shaking the illusion of security and decency among all of humanity. Yet even before that morning ended, awareness was already sinking in. On United Flight 93, the passengers fought back in what was described as the first victory in the War on Terror.

As the sun set on September 11, 2001, few people, if anyone, understood what had happened that day. Few people, if anyone, resolved in their minds the scale of the tragedy. Ten years later, few people, if anyone, can truly resolve it. But now, everyone knows that life can change within hours. Everyone knows that it is possible for a beautiful sunny day to turn black.

Civilization was diminished that morning. Yet ten years later, even as memorials are erected and tears still flow, faith in the future is returning. The Pentagon has long since been repaired, and a new World Trade Center is reaching into the sky in Lower Manhattan. Life changed that morning, possibly forever, but life goes on with a new and enduring appreciation for those beautiful sunny mornings.



A letter from a child that was posted on a window at a New York City Police Department station in November, 2001. Ten years later there are signs that faith is returning but few have forgotten.



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44th Annual Fall Craft Fair at St. Andrew's

The St. Andrew's United Methodist Women's Craft Fair has become a community tradition. This year is the 44th anniversary of the popular event at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, located at 3315 Bryan Rd., Brandon. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and bring the whole family!

Local crafters and the United Methodist Women of St. Andrew's come together to support local, national and international missions through the Board of Global Ministries. A large selection of holiday gifts and decorations will be available at the many craft booths on the church grounds.

In addition, St. Andrew's Friendship Circle will be sponsoring Granny's Attic - an eclectic collection of items donated by members of the congregation. Come prepared to find some great bargains! Then satisfy your sweet tooth at the famous Bake Sale, dine at the St. Andrew's Missions Cafe, and take home some beautiful pumpkins for your home from the Youth Pumpkin Patch.

"There are so many things you can pick up for Christmas, home and lawn decorating, and other gifts. It is really a fun event. The best part is that proceeds go to United Methodist Women's Missions. These funds help local causes including Cornerstone in Tampa as well as missions in Zambia," says organizer of the event Mary Jane Trimble.

Crafters interested in renting a booth may call Mary Jane Trimble, 689-2572, for information.

This fun community event is part of St. Andrew's commitment to loving Christ, serving others, making a difference! For more information about St. Andrew's, call 813-689-6849 or visit www.standrewsbrandon.org.

Get involved with your chamber

The Ruskin Seafood Festival is returning for the 23rd year this Nov. 5 and 6. As always, the festival will be held at E.G. Simmons Park in Ruskin. With more than 18,000 attendees last year, this event continues to draw people from our very own community along with thousands from surrounding counties.

There are many ways to get involved in the Ruskin Seafood Festival. The most popular way for business members is by having a commercial booth at the event. The festival typically has around

125 vendors.

This is the final opportunity to take advantage of the Early Bird Special, which is available only to members of the SouthShore Chamber.

The cost for a 10-by-10 space is usually \$100. The price for chamber members is only \$85.

The chamber has many other opportunities to get involved, including sponsorship. To see how you may benefit from participating in the Seafood Festival, visit the website at www.ruskinseafoodfestival.org.

UF nature trail project enables smartphone users to hear insect sounds

GAINESVILLE — Visitors to University of Florida nature trails can now hear an ancient form of communication — insect songs — using one of the latest communication technologies.

SevenducationalstationsinUF's Natural Area Teaching Laboratory now feature signs marked with QR codes, the square, black-and-white patterns that are starting to appear in print advertising. By scanning the signs with a mobile device, visitors can access digital recordings of katydids and crickets native to the area.

It may be one of the first uses of QR codes on nature trails anywhere in the U.S., says Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman, incoming chair of the laboratory and an assistant extension scientist with UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

"It's a really cost-effective, easy way to add interactive content to natural areas," Gillett-Kaufman said. She estimated the cost of the first seven signs at about \$26 total — the cost of a software application to produce QR codes and printing the signs.

Additional QR code signs that link to videos, bird calls and other animal sounds will be posted this fall. And Gillett-Kaufman hopes to establish a program to allow visitors without mobile devices to borrow them for use on the trails. The signs include a URL visitors can use to access sounds online: <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/SGNTpage.htm#QRtrail>

The nature trails are located in the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory at the southwest corner of UF's main campus. The trail entrance is in a park west of the entomology building.

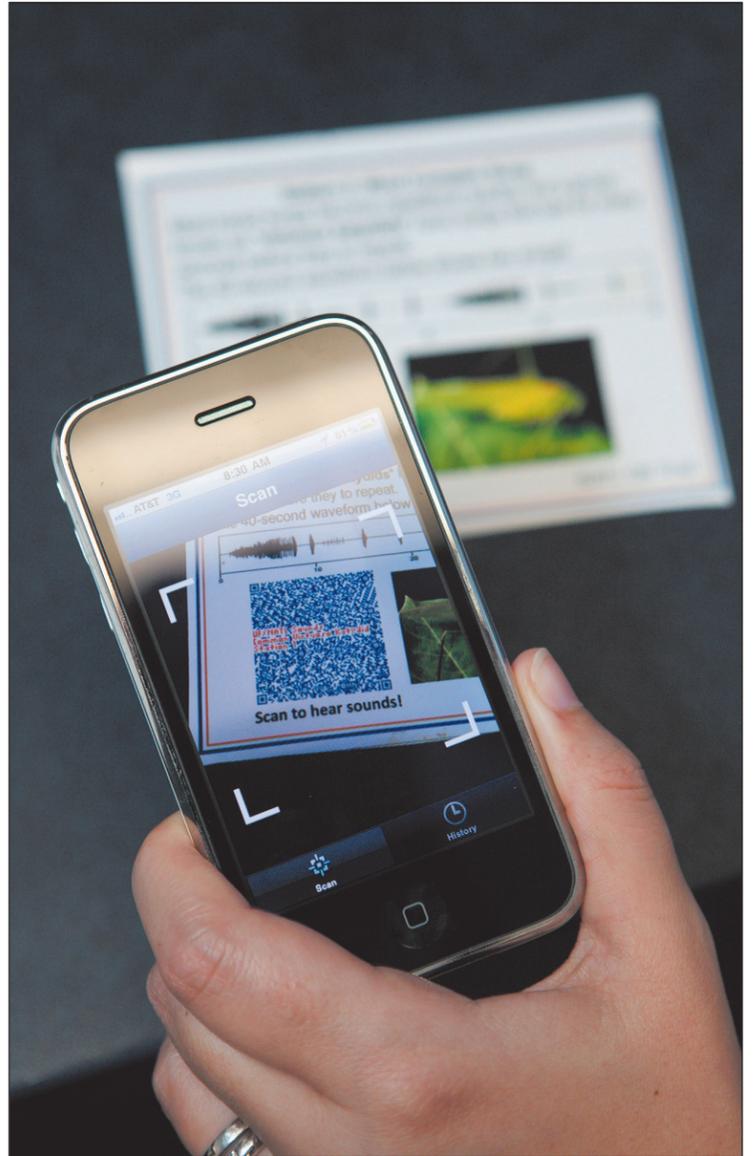


PHOTO BY TYLER L. JONES, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman, an assistant extension scientist with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, holds a smartphone displaying a new type of sign that will appear on some UF nature trails. The sign contains QR code, a geometric pattern that mobile devices can "read" to call up websites and other online material. Gillett-Kaufman leads a team that posted QR coded signs on UF nature trails that enable visitors to hear insect sounds.

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Gibsonton to be home of Olympic Floorball training camp

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

GIBSONTON - Another Olympic training camp has been added to the site plan of Freedom Harbor, a \$180 million project that has been gathering support from the international sports community and sports medicine specialists for the last two years.

Dave Beaudin, who has coached professional hockey all his life and for the past three years has also taught "floorball," states that he is committed to bringing a floorball camp and forming floorball leagues at Freedom Harbor.

The Freedom Harbor project is spearheaded by Rich Mozdzer, one of the five partners in the venture, which is slated to be located on 123 acres on Bullfrog Creek Road between Old Big Bend and Symmes roads.

Freedom Harbor's ever-changing site plan shows a combination of a medical facility, vacation spot and sporting arenas, including ice hockey, tennis, figure skating, swimming and many others. It will also host restaurants, a 4,000-seat auditorium, 350-person banquet hall, 400-meter track over a portion of its 70-acre lake, and an academy with dormitories for students who travel for training in sports competitions, including the Olympics.

The Observer News and Riverview Current have been reporting on the addition of sports and other projects and people for nearly two years since Mozdzer began gathering partners and sports figures in hopes of making Freedom Harbor the "project that

will put South County on the world map."

Many famous names have already signed on, including both NFL football players and NHL hockey stars.

In the previous news story about this project, it was announced that Jakub Pilecky, Austrian Olympic hockey player, and Stanislav "Stan" Neckar, formerly of the Tampa Bay Lightning, have been enlisted to coach and to plan the three ice rinks which are part of the project and that Svetlana Boginskaya, a three-time Olympic Champion, has promised to be present for girl's gymnastics competitions there. Now, Beaudin has joined their ranks.

In an interview Aug. 30, Beaudin said his father Norm Beaudin, now 70, had played professional hockey and been a trainer and that is where he got his love of the game. Norm and Dave are active together in teaching and hockey clinics.

According to his on-line bio, Norm Beaudin played 25 games in the National Hockey League and 335 games in the World Hockey Association. He was with the Winnipeg Jets, Minnesota North Stars, and St. Louis Blues.

Originally from Canada, Dave Beaudin, 46, played hockey in the college ranks and has been coaching ice hockey in the Tampa Bay area for 20 years.

The new venture, however, is now on Beaudin's front burner because "floorball" has just been accepted as an Olympic sport and its debut will be the 2020 Olympics.

"We have been asked by the North American International

Hockey Federation to train men and women for the first U.S. Olympic team in this sport," he said. "Speaking on behalf of Floorball Florida, USA Floorball and the International Floorball Federation we would like to engage in an ongoing development partnership. We see the potential of Freedom Harbor being a leading host facility for floorball events in North America. Globally, floorball is the fastest growing team sport and we are seeing a very encouraging trend to hosting large scale open championships that bring in players, coaches, volunteers and spectators."

So what exactly is floorball?

See **FLOORBALL**, page 21



Cody Hodgson, Brendan and Cameron Gaunce, and Steven Stamkos pose for a photo during floorball practice.



Local Hockey mentor Norm Beaudin teaching the kids, the finer skills of Hockey at Floorball Camp.

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Cuba Today

■ PART 5 IN A SERIES

There's more to it than Havana

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

As appealing, intriguing, even beckoning as Havana may be to her foreign visitors, there is life beyond the capital city.

Cuba the island lies like a sharp nosed fish with a flat whale-like flipper tail between the Atlantic and the Caribbean. At her western end, close to her "nose," Havana looks out on the Gulf of Mexico. Some 500 miles to the east, on her flipper tail are Guantanamo and Santiago de Cuba, gazing toward Port au Prince, Haiti, and Kingston, Jamaica, respectively.

Few Cuba visitors head for "Gitmo", a heavily secured, longtime U.S. Navy base which has played a prominent role in America's Middle East wars. But, Santiago de Cuba is another story. While smaller in population and, therefore, in geographic size, her history, her architecture, her cultural color, nonetheless, can rival Havana's.

Santiago de Cuba, the "de Cuba" - or of Cuba - to distinguish her from Santiago in the neighboring Dominican Republic, actually is Cuba's second largest city in what once was Cuba's Oriente Province. Fidel and Raul Castro, as well as other Castro siblings, were born in

Oriente. And it was to Oriente area that Fidel returned after earning a law degree from the University of Havana to stage one of his "revolution's" early but unsuccessful attacks on an army barracks at Moncada.

The history of Cuba's Santiago, however, dates back much farther. The city was founded in 1514, a few years before siting of the settlement on the island's north coast that would become Old Havana. Two years later, the little community burned to the ground. It was rebuilt, according to its official history, in the same location and by 1518 well known Spanish explorers were anchoring their fleets in her harbor. Hernan Cortes, for one, plotted his expedition that ultimately would take him to the coasts of Mexico from what then was a Spanish colony. Two decades later, Hernando de Soto is said to have dropped anchor at Santiago de Cuba before sailing westward, eventually to offload herds of livestock and hundreds of conquistadors on the west central coast of La Florida - in what would become the Ruskin area - for his final, fatal expedition up the peninsula in 1539.

Cuba's Santiago was the island colony's first capital until late in the 16th century. The very first dwelling for human habitation in the Americas was built here. The island's first cathedral was erected here in 1528. Santiago de Cuba claims the first copper mine to be dug in the Americas.

Settled by the expansionist Spanish, plundered by the French in 1553 and then overrun by the British in 1662, Cuba's Santiago boasts architecture reflecting the various



MELODY JAMESON PHOTOS

Swimming, boating, kayaking and other water sports are popular among visitors and residents alike in the Sierra del Rosario biosphere reserve west of Havana in Pinar de Rios. Like Baconao Park, another biosphere reserve near Santiago de Cuba at the island's eastern end, Sierra del Rosario offers its visitors a number of options from a canopy tour through the tree tops to stays in Las Terrazas, a self-contained community in a regrowth forest designed to demonstrate harmonious development while maintaining ecological balance.

influences. From baroque to neo-classical, its elaborately balconied colonial homes and buildings for other functions are as worthy as Havana's from the historian's perspective, if fewer in number. The city also offers a waterfront district of tin-roofed stilt dwellings at and over the shoreline reminiscent of many old, old seaports, steep streets rising from its waterfront and wooded parks that would arouse the interest of American environmentalists.

Racially mixed but perhaps more distinctly so than in Havana - Africans from Haiti, French, Spanish/Cuban - Santiago de Cuba's culture also reflects their native practices: the traditional dances from which salsa evolved, a July street carnival heavily accented with the conga, and santaria, the African-Cuban religion from which stems "vodun."

The province also is home of the

See CUBA, page 32



Visitors in tune with the biosphere objectives are welcome to stay overnight or longer within the self-sustaining community of Las Terrazas. Either this three-story apartment style structure built in the trees on the rolling landscape or the hotel moka, a 26-room hostelry complete with AC, room service and pool, would provide comfortable accommodations.

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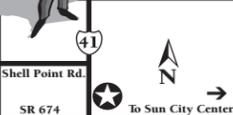
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South Shore Symphony Orchestra plans new season

After both a successful and great free Summer Concert on Aug. 12 at St. Anne Catholic Church, the South Shore Symphony Orchestra is poised upon the precipice of a new series of winter concerts. With their new Artistic Director and Primary Conductor, Dr. Susan Bailey Robinson, the SSSO will present its first concert of the winter season at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7 at St. Anne Catholic Church.

The orchestra, in only its second season, has been recognized throughout the state as an up-and-coming Symphony Orchestra. The South Shore Symphony Orchestra is comprised of 55 to 60 professional musicians that just love to perform classical and semi-classical music.

The Oct. 7 concert will be the first concert in a series of five presentations. In its first concert, 'A Fall Fantasy of the Sea,' the orchestra will perform 'The Moldau' by Smetana and 'The Hebrides Overture' by Mendelssohn and 'Scheherazade' by Rimsky Korsakov, featuring Solo Violinist and Concertmistress, Sarah Lind.

When asked about the orchestra, Mr. Galati, President, Founder and associate conductor said, "The SSSO has gained a lot of recognition and has gained a non-profit status. It is now looking forward to its second Winter Series."

He added, "The SSSO has come a long way in the year and eight

months of its existence. Not only in size, but in the quality and style of music it plays. They are proud to play in the South Shore area and invite all those that live in Ruskin, Apollo Beach, Riverview, Sun City Center, Gibsonton, Wimauma, and Brandon to our concerts and hope they will come along on our musical journey. Most of all, it needs the support from last year's patrons that enjoyed the SSSO's great music, to again become a part of this year's musical journey."

Galati also went on to say that the SSSO needs the support from its growing musical family as 'Friends of the Symphony' and business sponsors through program ads. Donations range from \$10-49 as a Friend; \$50-99 as Silver Friends; \$100-199 as Gold Friends; \$200-\$299 as Platinum Friends; \$300-\$500 and above as Diamond Friends.

For program ads: \$175 one-eighth page; \$300 for one-fourth page; \$500 for half a page; and \$900 for a full page.

Tickets for all of the concerts are on sale now: \$90 for the five concert series tickets at \$18 each; \$20 for the single concert tickets and \$21 for tickets at the door. Student tickets will also be available, for 16 and under, at the door with proof of age. All tickets are for open seating.

Tickets are available by calling the Ticket Hot Line: (813) 667-7776 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets may also be purchased by sending a check to the SSSO, P.O. Box 5867 Sun City Center, FL, 33571-5867, or at the door.

After the Oct. 7, 'A Fall Fantasy of the Sea' concert, the remaining Winter Series dates are Dec. 9 'Happy Holidays,' Feb. 10; March 23; and May 4.

St. Anne Catholic Church is located at 106 11th Ave N.E., just off U.S. 41 north of S.R. 674, which is College Ave. in Ruskin.

Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. and the concert will begin at 7 p.m. There is plenty of parking for all.

Kings Point residents may call their bus office and make arrangements if there are 12 or more.

The SSSO has announced its plans to start a student music instrumental program for students throughout the South Shore area when the Firehouse Cultural Center in Ruskin becomes available. The SSSO is proud to be a part of both the South Shore and Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce.

The SSSO also joins the SouthShore Arts Council and the Ruskin Community Development Foundation in bringing all types of Fine Arts and Musical programs to the whole of the South Shore Area.

For more information, call (813) 667-7776.

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.



MARLENE GREENBERG PHOTOS

IVY

Ivy is a black and white female domestic short hair mix. She and her two siblings were brought to C.A.R.E. as scared little kittens. Ivy is fully grown now and is looking for a forever home where she can continue to receive lots of TLC. She can be on the shy side. Ivy has been spayed, brought up to date on her shots, and micro-chipped. DOB: Oct. 2, 2009.



MERLIN

Merlin is a gorgeous Blue Merle Corgi who was found lost and alone. After a month of searching for his owner, he was brought to C.A.R.E. Merlin is housebroken, has great manners, and seems to love people. As part of his adoption, he will be neutered, micro-chipped, and brought current on his shots. Approximately three years of age. DOB: Aug. 2, 2008.

Low cost spay/neuter clinic is coming

Feline Folks will conduct its low cost spay/neuter clinic at C.A.R.E., 1528 27th St., Ruskin, during Operation Feline Fix for free-roaming cats, on Saturday, Oct. 8.

The charge is \$15 per cat or kitten. Cats must weigh four pounds or be four months old. Soft-sided carriers are not permitted and only one cat may be in each carrier. Reservations are required.

Drop-off time is 7:30 a.m. with pick-up at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (813) 633-7302.



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Traveling photo exhibit moves to south Hillsborough

"Tampa Bay: 20/20," a traveling photo exhibit celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, will be on display throughout September at the South Shore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way in Ruskin. The exhibit features 20 images by local photographers depicting the beauty and diversity of Tampa Bay. It is free and available for public viewing during library hours.

"Tampa Bay: 20/20" features finalists from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program's 2010 Photo Contest, as well as select additional images from local photographers. Together, the photos tell a story of Tampa Bay's recovery over the past two decades as shown in clearer water, increased fish and wildlife populations and expanding recreational use of the bay.

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Women's Quilting Club makes donation

Seniors residing in Cypress Creek Assisted Living Residence in Sun City Center won't have to worry about keeping warm because of the generous donation of 19 hand-made quilts by The Valencia Lakes West Women's Quilting Club. This donation was made in memory of Ed Kapusta, husband of Ann-Mary Kapusta, a member of Valencia Lakes West Women's Club.

Ed Kapusta was a retired Lieutenant Commander who served in the US Navy for 23 years. Ed, a native of Derby, Connecticut, lived in Washington DC for 37 years before moving to Valencia Lakes with his wife. A voracious reader, with an interest in history, Ed took pride in his children and grandchildren. He spent the last year of his life at Cypress Creek Assisted Living where he died of complications from Alzheimer's disease.

Valencia Lakes West Women's Club members Debby Cohen, President, Patty Hibsher, Ann-Mary Kapusta, Cassandra Kriley and Addie Unterlack made the presentation to James Biggins who oversees the family run facility. He commented, "Many residents are without visitors or family support. They often don't get anything other than what the facility provides. It's nice when people reach out like this."

The Quilting Club is an arm of the Valencia Lakes West Women's Club whose mission is striving to help others.

Hillsborough County Animal Services offers reduced fees

As classes resume for another school year, Hillsborough County Animal Services has teamed up with the Best Friends Animal Society to go 'Back in Black,' by offering reduced adoption fees on darker animals.

Hillsborough County Animal Services has acknowledged that dark animals are harder to adopt out and it is part of a national program that goes through Sept. 17.

All black and mostly black-colored dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens will be offered at 50 percent off their regular adoption fee. Like all of the county's adoptable pets, 'Back in Black' animals will come spayed/neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, health checked, and receive the required Hillsborough County tag. Shelter dogs now in obedience classes can even continue their training free of charge.

The shelter is open for adoptions Tuesday-Saturday at 440 N. Falkenburg Road in Tampa. With a large selection of animals in every size and shade waiting, adopters need only bring valid photo ID, proof of address, a happy heart, and an open mind.

For more information, contact Hillsborough County Animal Services at (813) 744-5660 or visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animalservices.

Former Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard fliers to meet

The Silver Osprey Squadron based in Sun City Center is one of 68 squadrons that make up the Association of Naval Aviation.

Local members have scheduled two fall meetings which will commemorate the end of the 2011 Centennial Year for U.S. Naval Aviation. The luncheon meetings will be held on the first Fridays of October and November. (Oct. 7, and Nov. 4) at the Plaza Club, Freedom Plaza, 3932 Upper Creek Dr, Sun City Center.

The speaker for the October 7 meeting will be CAPT Richard J. Petrucci, USN Ret. He will discuss the current status of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, which will be used by the Navy, Marines, and Air Force of the United States, plus several other countries.

Most meeting attendees are retired aviators and air crewmen, but all persons with interests in Military aviation are welcome. They often have Air Force retirees as guests and occasionally as speakers. If you would like to receive additional information about The Silver Osprey Squadron and its schedule, e-mail silverosprey@yahoo.com.

CDR Howard "Bo" Heinger USN Ret., Squadron Skipper, hopes that this press release will be seen by three other groups of retirees as well:

1. Women Aviators
2. Non-Commissioned and Commissioned Officers who were essential to keep the aircraft flying. These include men and women with the ratings that maintained, armed, launched, and retrieved the aircraft. Air Controllers would also be part of that group.
3. Relatives of any of the above who live in the Sun City Center area.

For example, do you have a daughter who is a Naval Aviator on active duty or retired? They would like to invite her as a guest speaker if she is in town for a home visit during one of our meeting dates.

To give information about the above people, e-mail silverosprey@yahoo.com. To make reservations for the October 7 meeting, contact Bill Shanks by mail, phone, or e-mail. Write to 1010 American Eagle Blvd. #750, Sun City Center, FL 33573 or call (813) 634-3194 or e-mail b.shanx@verizon.net.

Embrace your goddess within at the Chakra Center seminar

The Chakra Center, 137 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., Suite 201, Sun City Center, is having a full-day program, 'Embrace Your Goddess Within,' on Saturday, Oct. 1 with morning events from 9:30 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch; and afternoon programs and a 3 p.m. tea with sweets before the closing program.

Cost is \$44 which includes

supplies and food. Advance registration is required with a deposit of \$20 and full payment in by Saturday, Oct. 1

The event will include presentations by Dr. Cathy Hoffman, R.N., A.P.; Marcia K. Wilson, C.N.H.P.; and the Rev. Cindy Castillo.

For more information call (813) 633-9400 or visit www.thechakra-center.net.

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Crossbow season expanded on private lands

Even though you can hardly tell, summer is almost over. Kids have returned to school, football is back on TV and hunting season's already been going on a month now in South Florida. Most of us have already finished our preseason scouting, and we've hung our tree stands along well-traveled deer trails - we hope next to a mature oak tree that'll soon begin dropping acorns. Finally, the time of year we've been waiting for is here!

Bowhunting continues to be popular in our state. Beginning this year, even more folks are bound to take to the woods earlier, because on private lands, crossbow season has been extended; it now opens the same day as archery in each of the four hunting zones.

Just like last year on private lands, hunting season still comes in first in Zone A, which is that part of the state south of State Road 70. Archery and crossbow seasons there started July 30.

The fourth hunting zone, which was added last year and is made up in part by the Green Swamp Basin, is called Zone B and lies south of S.R. 50, west of U.S. 441 and the Kissimmee Waterway, north of S.R. 60 and east of the Gulf of Mexico. Archery and crossbow seasons in Zone B always begin on the third Saturday of October. This year, that falls on Oct. 15.

The line that divides zones C and D begins at U.S. 27 at the (Gadsden County) Florida-Georgia state line and runs south on U.S. 27 until

it meets S.R. 61 in Tallahassee. From there, it follows S.R. 61, running south until it hits U.S. 319. There, the line follows U.S. 319, continuing south to U.S. 98; it then runs east along U.S. 98 before turning south on Spring Creek Highway and continuing to the Gulf of Mexico.

If you hunt west of that line, you're in Zone D, where archery and crossbow seasons begin on Oct. 22 this year. In Zone C, archery and crossbow seasons open on the third Saturday in September. This year, that date is Sept. 17.

To hunt during archery season, you'll need a Florida hunting license and an archery permit. During crossbow season, you'll need a hunting license and crossbow permit. If you're a Florida resident, an annual hunting license will cost \$17. Nonresidents have the choice of paying \$46.50 for a 10-day license or \$151.50 for 12 months. Archery and crossbow permits cost just \$5 each, and all deer hunters must have the \$5 deer permit. Anyone planning on hunting one of Florida's many WMAs must purchase a management area permit for \$26.50.

And don't forget to pick up the WMA brochure for the area you wish to hunt, because the hunting season dates have changed since last year on many of them. The seasons this year have been adjusted on many of the areas

to more closely align with the new zonal season dates that were modified last season on private lands. You can pick up a copy of these WMA brochures at your local tax collector's office or read them at MyFWC.com/Hunting.

During archery season and that part of crossbow season that is concurrent with archery, you can take deer of either sex, regardless of antler size (except for spotted fawns). After archery ends, during the remaining portion of the crossbow season, only legal bucks (having at least one antler that is at least 5 inches long) may be taken. The daily bag limit on deer is two. Bag limits for deer on WMAs can differ, so check the specifics of the area before you hunt.

You can hunt wild hogs on private lands year-round with no bag or size limits. On most WMAs, there's also no bag or size limits, and hogs are legal to take during most hunting seasons except spring

turkey. On a few WMAs, bag and size limits do apply, so be sure to check the brochure for the specific area to be certain.

It's also legal to shoot gobblers and bearded turkeys during archery and crossbow seasons, given you have a turkey permit (\$10 for residents, \$125 for nonresidents). You can take only one turkey per day, and there's a two-bird fall-season limit. It's against the law to hunt turkeys in Holmes County in the fall, and it's illegal to shoot them while they're on the roost, over bait, when you're within 100 yards of a game-feeding station when bait is present or with the aid

of recorded turkey calls.

If you're hunting during the archery season, you may hunt only with a bow and must have the \$5 archery permit. During crossbow season, you may use either a crossbow or bow but must have the \$5 crossbow permit. On WMAs, only hunters with a disabled crossbow permit are allowed to use crossbows during archery season. All bows must have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds, and hand-held releases are permitted. For hunting deer, hogs and turkeys, broadheads must have at least two sharpened edges with a minimum width of 7/8 inch.



Outta' the Woods
By Tony Young



Floorball

Continued from page 17

Where did it originate and how is it played?

"The grass roots origin of floorball is a game called uni bandy that was born in Norway, Sweden and Finland. In fact, it is now their main sport," Beaudin said. "Uni bandy started in the 1950s and then was adapted into floorball in the '70s. It's gained traction in the last 20 years because in Europe, games draw crowds of 20,000-30,000 fans."

Now that 35 Olympic team committees have voted to have it as a league sport in their country to qualify as a sport in the Olympics, it can become one. But it takes several years of preparation to add a new sport so it can't begin until 2020, he explained.

"Most of the European guys on the Tampa Bay Lightning grew up playing floorball," he said. "I like it because it's a no-contact sport for families, men and women, and it's a transitional sport to ice hockey."

Floorball is hockey on a solid surface that can be played on a gym floor.

"Steven Stamkos of the Lightning - maybe the top North American hockey player of this day - plays floorball," Beaudin added. "What we're trying to promote here is that it is kid friendly and the cost is less than ice hockey. All it is is sticks and a whistle ball. It's healthy, family-friendly and cost effective," Beaudin said.

Mozdzer said he is proud to have brought Beaudin on board.

More about Beaudin's current projects, including his hockey school, hockey store and training camps can be found at www.beaudinshockeyzone.com.

"The fact that players like Beaudin are still coming on board has made it impossible to submit a

completed site plan to the county," Mozdzer said. "We are still adding sports and some of these make minor changes to where something else should go."

Debbie Reynolds, another partner in the Freedom Harbor venture, said there are more additions besides floorball. "We have increased the number of tennis courts from 21 to 36 because of the tennis pros we are working with, and added a second football field. We are also talking with NFL players to do football training camps and we need a second one for a practice field."

Another recent addition to the plan is Laura Mitchell's intuitive medicine, Reynolds said.

"Laura has worked with more than 300 players and with sports trainers of NFL teams."

Mitchell's profile and testimonials may be viewed at <http://www.linkedin.com/in/sportsdreammakers>.

Reynolds said that the total project cost has gone from \$150 million in the last news report to \$180 million because of the additions mentioned in this story.

"Freedom Harbor will transform southern Hillsborough County into a sports mecca, offering Cabletow Wakeboard/Waterski on the lake as well as all forms of sports, have a full health club and medical facility," Mozdzer said. "We are looking forward to a grand opening sometime in 2013."

The site plan has been published several times in The Observer News and Riverview Current, but is currently being redrawn to add the new things that have come on board in the last six months so there is no artist's rendering offered with this story.

Interested persons may visit www.freedomharborlive.com for more details.

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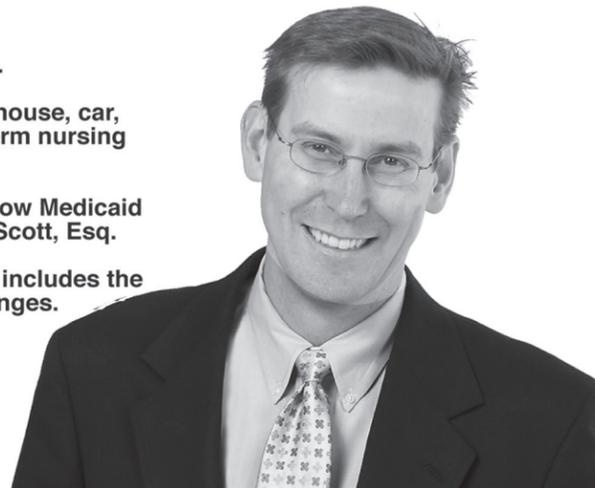
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Proposals sought to reconnect downtown to the Hillsborough River

So many of the world's greatest cities are connected to iconic waterways. Tampa should be one of them with its meandering Hillsborough River. But the patchwork of hits and misses along its banks has never made its way into the popular imagination as the Seine, the Thames, the Danube, the Chicago River, the Hudson River or San Antonio's Riverwalk have. Tampa's downtown waterfront has an identity crisis. Change is coming. The resolve is there. Now it's time for imaginations to run rampant.

An international ideas competition, is inviting designers everywhere to compete with proposals that work to connect Tampa to its riverfront using the area's underutilized public spaces. It is

supported in part by a National Endowment for the Arts Access to Artistic Excellence grant and sponsored by the University of South Florida School of Architecture and Community Design. (SACD). Additional support is being sought.

This national and international competition launches with a reception at the Tampa Museum Sept. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m., with commentary about the competition starting at 7 p.m.

The deadline for submissions is the first week of December. The first round of winners will be announced in the middle of December. In April 2012, the second stage of submissions will be due on the 6th and there will be an awards ceremony and exhibition

reception on the 13th. The reception will feature presentations and lectures by the jurors followed by workshops Dec. 14 by jurors, professors from USF SACD and members of the community.

"We're looking at this project through the lens of landscape urbanism to refocus the Hillsborough River as a social, economic and ecologic spine for our city," said Shannon Bassett, an assistant professor of architecture and urbanism at USF SACD. "But first we have to create a setting and an atmosphere that draws people to the riverfront, making it a destination where there's a variety of experiences to take in again and again."

The competition will be judged by a renowned International jury,

as well as local stakeholders, and includes competition prize money.

Among the jurors are Charles Waldheim, principal, Urban Agency; John E. Irving professor and chair of landscape architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design; Juhani Pallasmaa of Arkkitehtitoimisto Juhani Pallasmaa KY; Ruth & Norman Moore visiting professor at Washington University and Plym Professor at the University of Illinois; and Chad Oppenheim, principal of Oppenheim Architecture + Design in Miami and professor at Florida International University.

"This is not to say we will build the winner's design but it will serve as an important catalyst," Bassett said. "We're looking for ways to shape the future development of the waterfront with the designing of public urban spaces of the city," she said. "We hope that this will be an envisioning process for city officials and developers, constituents and stakeholders, particularly with the \$1.8 million HUD grant being awarded for an urban master plan for the city."

Bassett's landscape architecture students completed designs as a class project in a course she gave this summer. The drawings and models will be on display at the

Tampa Museum, providing a bit of a jump start to a field of entrants organizers hope will attract a great deal of attention.

"This is a rare opportunity," Bassett said. "As architects and urban designers we love the challenge of finding solutions for real world problems and there aren't that many cities left on which to have this kind of impact."

"We expect the designs to be more than just walkways skirting or crossing the river, we're looking for a sustainable balance between the built and natural environments. They will need to address issues of storm water management and ways to promote green infrastructure throughout downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as keeping and maintaining biodiversity along the blue artery."

The competition is seeking community sponsors through the USF Foundation. Visit http://restitchtampa.org/sponsor_info.php for more information. Or contributions can be sent to Mary Daley/Florida Center, SACD [re]stitch Tampa, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., HMS 301 Tampa, FL 33620. Competition information and registration materials are available at <http://www.restitchtampa.org/>.



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Hillsborough County offers free homeowner association board member training

Hillsborough County is offering free Homeowner Association Board Member Training Saturday, Oct. 8 and 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., in Tampa in the 26th Floor Conference Room.

Hillsborough County's Office of Neighborhood Relations is offering free training to help homeowner association (HOA) board members become knowledgeable leaders and build strong communities.

Parking will be provided at the Pierce Street Parking Garage.

This is the third year Neighborhood Relations has offered the free workshop for HOA members. The sessions include community management, legal responsibilities, rule making, insurance, budgets, reserves, and audits.

The interactive training program is designed to demonstrate the responsibilities of being an HOA board member. The goal is to have better informed board members who will bring their specialized knowledge of how to participate in constructive board meetings back to their respective neighborhoods and condominium groups.

Anyone applying must be a resident of Hillsborough County, a member of the board of an HOA located within Hillsborough County, and able to attend both sessions.

Applications are available by calling the County's Office of Neighborhood Relations at (813) 272-5860 or by logging onto Neighborhood Relations at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr and clicking on 'Seminars/Training Opportunities.'

County Fair committee seeks Harvest Awards nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the Greater Hillsborough County Fair's annual Harvest Awards to be presented from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at the County Fairgrounds. Deadline for nominations is Thursday, Sept. 19.

Tickets are \$20 and are available on the website.

The purpose of the awards is to "recognize individuals, organizations, corporations and other entities that have made significant or outstanding contributions to the fabric of Hillsborough County," says Ken Anderson, president of the fair.

Nomination categories are as follows:

- Farm Family of the Year
- Urban Agriculturalist of the Year
- Outstanding Public & Community Service
- Agribusiness of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award

The nomination form is attached and can be submitted through mail, fax or e-mail using the following information:

Mail to the Hillsborough County Fair, P.O. Box 100, Sydney, FL 33587; fax to (813) 737-4889; or email to hillsboroughcountyfair@verizon.net.

EXERCISE

Does Your Heart Good.





Katie Arp and Shirley Luxana give the children's sermon at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church's 9 a.m. contemporary service which is geared to families.

Service geared to families with kids

The 9 a.m. contemporary service held at the Ruskin Campus of St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, 705 9th Street, S.E., is especially tailored for families with young children. The children read the Scripture lessons, lead the prayers, and serve as acolytes. The children's sermon, using puppets, drama, and object lessons to bring Bible stories to life, is often presented by the older youth. Sunday School with a Bible lesson, videos, music and crafts is held in newly refurbished classrooms.

A sign over the door to the sanctuary says, "Wiggly Children are Welcome Here." Rocking chairs and baskets of toys have been placed in the back of the church.

The Youth Group (6th grade and higher) meets every Wednesday from 6 - 8:00, beginning with dinner.

At the Sun City Center Campus, 1015 E. Del Webb Blvd., St. John the Divine offers Sunday services at 8 and 11 a.m.

For information 813-633-3970.

Jewish high holidays to be celebrated

Beth Israel Jewish Congregation of Sun City Center announces its High Holiday schedule. Rabbi Philip Aronson and Cantorial Soloist Dr. Sam Isaak will be leading services.

Erev Rosh Hashanah will start at 7:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28.

Day 1 of Rosh Hashanah will start at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 29.

Day 2 of Rosh Hashanah will start at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 30.

Kol Nidre Service for Yom Kippur begins at 7:45 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7.

Yom Kippur day will begin at 10: a.m. Saturday, Oct. 8.

Afternoon service will start at 3 p.m.

Yiskor service will start at approximately 5 p.m. and will be followed by concluding services, the blowing of the shofar and Havdalah service.

Members will receive tickets in the mail. There is no charge for members' spouses.

Time to register for fall semester

The Community Church College, 1501 La Jolla Avenue, Sun City Center is busy preparing for the fall session of classes. The College was established by Dr. Robert Gingery in 1976 for the purpose of enriching the lives of the seniors in the community.

It is an exciting season, as there are eight new courses this year, for a total of 43 classes and four trips/tours. It is impressive that over 2600 individuals enriched their lives last year attending these great classes. Several new courses this year are "First Aid and Emergency Response" and "Book Collecting For Beginners" and "Writing Your Family Cookbook."

Returning favorites are "Clear the Clutter," "Dog Training" and "QiGong." The Fall session consists of six 90 minute classes. The cost is \$25 for a six week session.

Open Registration is Tuesday, Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. -Noon and 1 to 3 p.m. The classes will be in session from Oct. 10 through Nov.

17. Late registration is available in the college office from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday, Sept. 14 through Oct. 20.

The catalogs are available in the College and throughout the community.

For information visit www.4lifelearning.org or call 813-634-8607.



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Disciples of Christ Christian Fellowship plans several upcoming events

Disciples of Christ Christian Fellowship, 7732 Gibsonton Drive, Gibsonton, (across the street from Gibsonton Elementary School) is having a Men's Conference titled "Men of Faith: Putting on the Spiritual Armor of God," Sept. 9-10.

It will also have a free wellness seminar entitled "Healthy Eating on a Budget" Saturday, Sept. 17, at 10 a.m. Seminar presenter is Mary A. Keith, PhD, LD with University of Florida and Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension. Light refreshments will be served.

Intercessory prayer is held Saturday mornings at 9 a.m.

For more information call 813-677-8600 or email prayer requests to DisciplesofChristChristianFellowship@prayers.doccf.org

Calvary Lutheran reflects on 9/11

Calvary Lutheran Church will remember and reflect on the tragedy of Sept. 11, during all three worship services Sunday, Sept. 11.

There will be special music, prayers and messages to commemorate the ten year anniversary of the senseless loss of lives.

The church is located on US Highway 41 North, between Apollo Beach and Ruskin, across from Mira Bay. The blended worship service is at 8 a.m., contemporary at 9:40 a.m. and traditional at 11:15 a.m. All are invited to attend.

For more information call the church office at 645-1305.

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.
—John 14:23

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Love,
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11 a.m. Bible Study
10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Worship

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

Life's Outtakes

The Mechanics Test

■ By DARIS HOWARD

Mr. Johns finished passing out the exams and turned to face the class. "Gentlemen, you will see that your scores are very disappointing. I expected much better from you than this."

David raised his hand, and after Mr. Johns called on him, he spoke the feelings of all the students. "But we show we know how to do the mechanics. We have rebuilt cars nearly from the ground up. Demonstrating that understanding is what really should matter."

It was obvious that Mr. Johns didn't agree. He spoke forcefully to him. "I feel a person only really knows something if he can explain it. Until you can explain things on an exam, you are not really mechanics, just backyard tinkerers."

He then turned to the whole class. "I am going on a vacation this weekend, but you, Gentlemen, are going to spend your time preparing to show me you are more than backyard tinkerers. I am going to give you a retake."

Everyone groaned, but Mr. Johns made it clear it was not up for discussion. By Friday the test was ready, and he took his family out of town to visit relatives. Sunday evening, as he pulled into his driveway, his young son yelled, "Dad, the V.W. is gone!"

Sure enough, the V.W. he had been rebuilding was missing. He hurried into the house and quickly called the police. When the officer arrived, Mr. Johns took him out to the driveway to show him where it

had been. "...And when we arrived home, it was stolen."

The officer glanced up, and for an instant he froze. Then he smiled. "Perhaps not stolen, just moved." Mr. Johns looked in the direction the officer was looking, and there, on the top of the old, three-story high school, was his V.W. He gasped. "How the devil did it get up there?"

The police officer laughed. "Maybe someone drove it up there."

Mr. Johns didn't think it was funny. "It doesn't even run. It has some electrical or some fuel problems, or both. I haven't been able to figure it out yet. And obviously it isn't going to just fit up the stairwell."

"Maybe this has to do with the assignment you gave your class," the policeman said.

Mr. Johns was puzzled. "What assignment?"

"Yesterday, as I was making my rounds, I came across a whole bunch of boys by the high school with a pile of car parts. I asked them what they were doing, and they said they were working on a project to show you they were true mechanics, as you had requested. They must have taken the car apart, taken it up on the roof piece by piece, and put it back together."

Mr. Johns snorted with disgust. "Just wait until I get them in class on Monday!" He then turned to the police officer. "I expect you will file a stolen vehicle report?"

"How can I file a stolen vehicle report when it isn't stolen, only

moved?"

"Well, what am I supposed to do?!"

"Maybe we should go look at it before we decide."

Mr. Johns agreed, and they made their way up the narrow stairway to the roof. Mr. Johns climbed in the car, and instinctively turned the key. To his surprise, it started and ran perfectly.

"I thought you said it didn't run," the policeman said.

"It didn't."

"It looks like they did their assignment well."

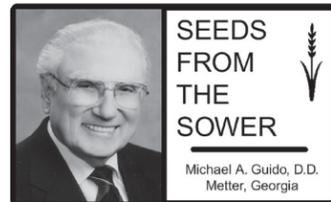
Mr. Johns swallowed his pride. "Perhaps they did. But how do I get it down?"

"I would suggest you have them take it apart and rebuild it on the ground. And I would do it soon before I have to give you a parking ticket."

"A parking ticket?"

"It is definitely parked in a no parking zone."

And so on Monday, the mechanics test changed to a demonstration of how well they could take apart a V.W. and reassemble again from the ground up. On the ground.



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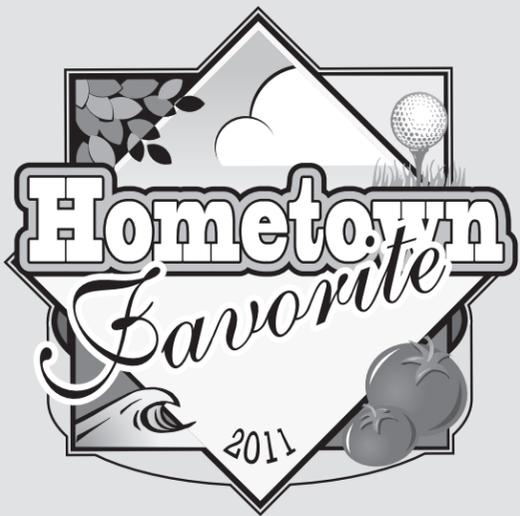
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TRIPS WORTH TAKING

The Bed & Breakfast on Tiffany Hill

■ By WARREN RESEN International Food Wine Travel Writers Association (IFWTWA)

MILLS RIVER, NC — This is the story of one woman's 25 years of dedication, planning and prayer to achieve her dream. This is also the story of a singular bed and breakfast in the rolling hills of Western North Carolina, an area steeped in history, tourist attractions, cooler summer temperatures (for Floridians) and magnificent fall colors.

Selena Einwechter grew up in the Tampa area. Her father, an Air Force Captain, was stationed at MacDill AFB.



She attended Tinker and Westshore Elementary Schools and graduated from Robinson High School going on to graduate from a well known Florida college whose identity will be kept secret in the interests of bi-partisanship.

After graduating from college, Selena and a friend left on a European backpacking trip and as she told me, "It was on this trip that the seed was planted to have my own, properly run, bed and breakfast." Selena spent the next quarter century working in Government and Corporate America, gaining business experience and saving money, while keeping her dream alive.

There is a saying that goes, "It's the journey not the destination..." In this case though, it was ALL about the destination. Selena's journey started 25 long years before her destination was reached though she now admits that once construction started on her bed and breakfast, "it was fun watching my dream grow and take physical form." The inn took one year to build and opened in June 2009. She had finally reached her destination.

"One night I went to bed as a B&B wanna-be and the next morning woke up as an Innkeeper with breakfast to make. My dream had come true," she said. The people who supported and encouraged her to follow her dream were the inn's first guests.

Less than two years after opening, the Bed and Breakfast on Tiffany Hill in Mills River, NC, it was named one of the top 10 Romantic Inns in North America. There are over 3,000 B&Bs and Country Inns in North America, but only 10 receive this annual designation and Tiffany Hill was one of only three so designated in the Southeastern United States. The Inn has also been admitted into the Select Registry, Distinguished Inns of North America. The February 2011 issue of "Every Day with Rachael Ray" named Bed & Breakfast on Tiffany Hill as one of the top 10

romantic places to stay in the United States! Quite a singular achievement in such a brief time.

Historically, a bed and breakfast was a small home with a few converted bedrooms which were rented out to travelers. However today this terminology is also used by facilities with multiple structures and a hired staff, stretching the credibility of the term "bed and breakfast." Having

experienced many different types of B&Bs, I found my stay at the Bed & Breakfast on Tiffany Hill a singular and delightful experience. Tiffany Hill was designed with the

express purpose of being a bed and breakfast. It is not a couple of rooms for rent in someone's home or an old structure retrofitted with oddly shaped spaces, squeaky wooden floors, "quirky" antique plumbing, "cutsie" decorating and beds needing a ladder for entry and exit. Nor is it a rambling property with off-site management. Tiffany Hill was designed with impeccable attention to details for a specific purpose.

Nestled into the rolling landscape, the inn looks like it has always been there. Nothing was overlooked or deemed too insignificant for the comfort of its guests. The inn has the amenities of a 5-star hotel but with the charm of a country bed and breakfast.

There are just five beautifully furnished suites each with its own luxurious en suite bath, not a shared facility down the hall. The inn also provides the modern technologies to which travelers have become accustomed.

All rooms have wall mounted flat screen HDTVs with built in DVD players and there is a large selection of DVDs for guests to enjoy. WiFi Internet access is available anywhere in the house and keyless entry provides security for each suite.

Mornings start with a candlelit three-course gourmet breakfast. Complimentary beverages and snacks are at hand twenty-four hours a day. Selena is always there to help her guests make the most of their stay, but her presence is never intrusive.

Using the inn as your base of operations, the rolling hills and mountains of Western North Carolina are yours to enjoy at your own pace. Asheville with all of its big city culture and restaurants is less than a half-hour away. The charming pedestrian friendly city of Hendersonville with its theatres, restaurants, and antique shops is a short 10 mile drive. Flat Rock Playhouse is also near by. And then there's the



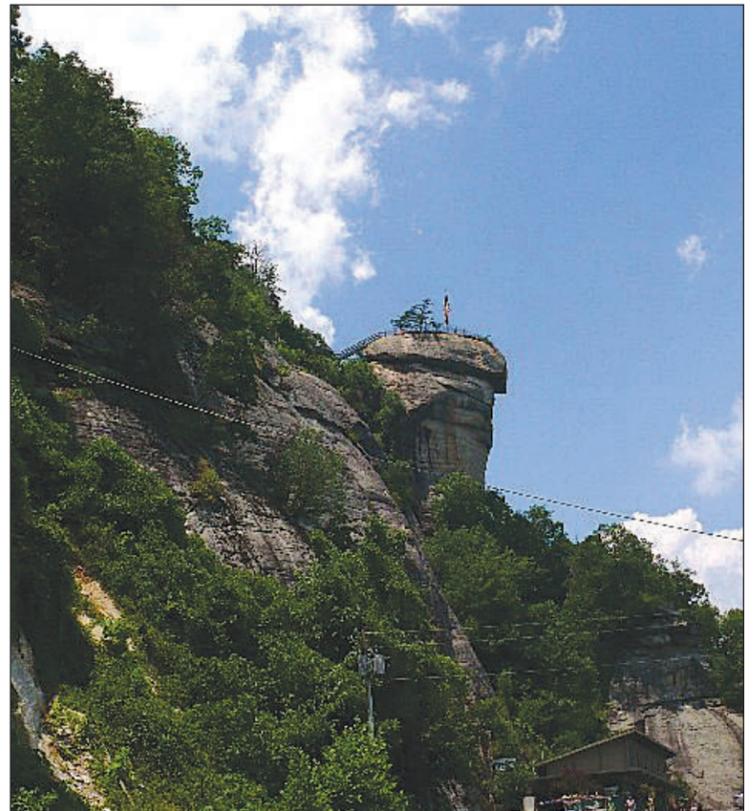
Biltmore Estate, but that is a story all by itself.

A must see for anyone visiting the area is the famous Chimney Rock. Driving up, and up, to the parking lot, the contours of the road on my GPS looked like the squiggles on a seismograph during an earthquake. The top of the rock is about 500 feet above the parking lot and an elevator is available; but call first to learn if it is working the day of your intended visit. I had to walk to the top, but the spectacular views made it worthwhile.

Should you feel the need of a late afternoon break from touring, head back to Tiffany Hill and enjoy a glass of wine in one of the sitting rooms or outdoor patios. Take time to stroll the 6 pastoral acres with its paths and secret gardens. In summer, sit on the front porch at dusk and watch uncountable numbers of fire flies put on a dazzling show as they rise from the grass.

The Bed and Breakfast on Tiffany Hill is about a woman and a dream fulfilled. It should be on your list of places to visit if you are in the area and want to linger awhile in elegant comfort. Innkeeper Selena Einwechter says that her inn represents, "Casual elegance filled with Southern hospitality offering personal service in a romantic setting."

For complete information about this B&B go to the web page: www.BBonTiffanyHill.com and be sure to click on the Specials tab to see the packages available for guests at Tiffany Hill. ♦



JEANNE O'CONNOR PHOTO

Chimney Rock from the upper parking lot at the Bed & Breakfast on Tiffany Hill in Mills River, North Carolina.



JEANNE O'CONNOR PHOTO

Innkeeper Selena Einwechter near the sign for her dream come true in North Carolina.





MELODY JAMESON PHOTOS

Cuba Today

In the early 1800s, large tracts of Cuba's natural forest was cut and destroyed to make way for highly profitable coffee plantations, many of them French-owned. The typical French farmhouse (far left) of stone and tile is preserved as part of a long-since idled plantation for demonstration purposes. The preserved plantation elements include the coffee bean drying terraces (above center) and the farm's slave quarters which were extremely primitive, even for the times. Life is considerably more comfortable in the self-contained community of Las Terrazas which is home to about 1,000 residents. Some 220 families use the winding lanes and reside in the simple but adequate housing (above right) surrounded by rolling land and navigable lakes against a mountainous backdrop. The community is aimed at showing how human development can exist side-by-side with nature.

Continued from page 18
 Baconao Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Biosphere Reserve. Baconao contains several features : a prehistoric valley of life-size dinosaurs and other creatures sculpted in stone, numbering in the dozens; a botanical garden from 1860, its sections color coded and offering unique scents; an aquarium nearly 100 feet deep with a submarine tunnel and a dolphinarium; a great rock more than 80 feet high, weighing an estimated 63,000 tons with stone steps and a breathtaking panoramic view; the old farm where the Castros rested before the Moncada attack; a lagoon with a Taino (pre-Columbian Indian)

village reproduced, plus wildlife refuges and old coffee plantations.
 At the opposite end of the island, west of Havana in Pinar del Rio is another such biosphere reserve, Sierra Del Rosario with its Las Terrazas Community. Built on the rolling hillsides deforested in the early 1800s by French coffee plantation owners, the biosphere encompasses some 25,000 acres now, much of it replanted . It also offers adventure, comfort and new experiences for the visitor.
 Among its features is a canopy tour, the only one in Cuba. The arrangement consists of five platforms atop wooden towers of varying heights and connected by

steel cables. Strapped onto a seat, visitors get a birdseye view of the landscape as they descend along 800 meters of tight cable.
 This biosphere also has a self-contained "eco-community" called Las Terrazas, named for the terrace-style reconstruction designed to stop soil erosion following the coffee plantation deforestations. In an idyllic setting of wooded lands, winding unpaved lanes and mountain backdrops, more than 225 households exist in the community which puts its total population at 1,000. The community has its own schools – kindergarten through secondary level – medical services, stores, a gym and a caf-

eteria. In addition, it has its own electricity, gas, telephone, sewage, and potable water systems. It is touted as a long functioning, successful example of sustainable development that does not upset ecological balances.
 The community's commercial district includes a library, museum, motion picture theater, bakery, and a bazaar, as well as artists' studios and restaurants.
 Visitors with an appreciation of the reserve and its objectives are welcomed in the biosphere. Hotel Moka offers 26 air conditioned rooms, complete with television, room service, pools and tennis courts. Visitors also can stay in the

village, sharing the LasTerrazas lifestyle.
 Boat rides, water bikes and kayaks can be arranged on the Palmar or San Juan lakes. Swimming and horse back riding are available in prescribed areas as is hiking, with a guide.
 The biosphere experience likely is another option closed to native Cubans such as those living in Old Havana, but for visitors compelled to get out of the city, it is yet another aspect of Cuba, equally appealing, intriguing, beckoning.
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 Next week: final installment: Cuba past, Cuba's future

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