INSIDE:

First Baptist of Gibsonton celebrates 80+ years beginning with a homecoming.
Melody Jameson tells the story on ***page 14.***

"Mac" McComb, South County's busiest volunteer, is honored at a retirement party.
See ***page 3*** for the full story by Penny Fletcher.

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PERMIT NO. 8

October 6, 2011
Volume 55
Number 37

The Observer News

www.ObserverNews.net

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Using goggles known as Fatal Vision Goggles, young people experience what a drug or alcohol impaired person might see while driving as part of Bruce Murakami's Safe Teen Driver program at Andersen Racepark in Palmetto.

Teen drivers learn hard lessons the safe way

Two men turn tragedies into positives and save lives in the process.

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

PALMETTO — Bruce Murakami spent three years working to ensure the young man who killed his wife and 11-year-old child was punished. He hired a private investigator and crime scene reconstruction experts. He relentlessly pursued prosecutors to bring charges against the 19-year-old who, while street racing in Tampa, slammed into the minivan his wife was driving. He wanted justice.

Standing on the verge of success, with the young man Jason Cabezas pleading guilty to two counts of manslaughter, Murakami chose a different course. He asked the judge to withhold the guilty plea. He had forgiven Cabezas and, instead of a possible 30-year prison sentence, he asked the judge to allow both him and Cabezas to work together to educate teenagers about safe driving.

"Once the idea of forgiveness flowed into my mind and heart, I started thinking how I could turn something so negative into something positive," Murakami said.

His change of heart came after meeting Cabezas alone and he realized that Jason was in as much pain as he was. The result was a nonprofit organization known as Safe Teen Driver, dedicated to teaching young people about the dangers of reckless driving and working towards helping victims and families of all vehicular crimes.

Together Murakami and Cabezas have spoken to students at high schools across Hillsborough County and they have appeared on NBC's Dateline

See TEEN DRIVERS, page 2

Fishing for answers

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

RUSKIN — Groundbreaking research is taking place on a quiet Ruskin street that could affect the rest of the world.

What would happen if non-native species of fish got loose in rivers and lakes? How would they interact with the natural inhabitants? How would the habitat change? Would the species intermingle, or would one overtake the other until none were left?

This is only one of the areas being explored at the University of Florida's Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory on 24th Street.

Following federal budget cuts of $300,000, the lab's director Craig Watson has had to find funding elsewhere to keep answering these questions and diagnosing the diseases of commercially-sold edible and tropical fish.

See FISH LAB, page 13

PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Craig Watson, director of the Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory in Ruskin, shows how eels come to the surface and play with his hand.

Elections office formal opening

RIVERVIEW – Members of the League of Women Voters South County Unit, the Riverview Chamber of Commerce and Sweetbay Supermarkets have combined efforts to welcome the South County's new Hillsborough County's Supervisor of Elections office Tuesday (Oct. 11).

The satellite facility located in the Riverview Town Center east of Lowe's Home Improvement store on Gibsonton Drive will be launched formally at 10 a.m. by Earl Lennard, county elections supervisor. Members of the chamber's Ambassadors and the League unit will be on hand to assist visitors. Light refreshments are being provided by Riverview's Sweetbay Supermarket.

The public is invited to check out the latest county office making access to a full range of voter services more convenient for South County citizens as a busy elections year approaches.

Substantial changes may be in Sun City Center's future

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER – As this community continues celebration of its 50th anniversary, consideration of major alterations that could change its face also is on the horizon.

A series of three town hall meetings focusing on different but related aspects of possible capital improvements across the community has been scheduled by the SCC Community Association board, according to Ed Barnes, its president.

ED BARNES
President SCC CA

The first session is slated for Wednesday, November 16, to sketch out for CA members "the big picture, the what and how and why" of a new multi-million dollar enhancement and expansion program aimed at upgrading the community's famed amenities as it embarks on its next half century, Barnes said.

The second town hall is set for Thursday, December 15, to explore with residents the details of a potential master plan layout. A third meeting is on tap for January 19, 2012, to review the evolving "full blown plan" and to look at the financing options available, he added.

Each session is to be held in Community Hall on South Pebble Beach Boulevard.

The multi-faceted improvements project got underway earlier this year when the CA board proposed a slate of 10 potential additions and

See SCC CHANGES, page 23

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BBB MEMBER WEST FLORIDA

Teen drivers

■ Continued on page 1

and the Oprah Winfrey show. In his wife Cindy's and daughter Chelsea's memory, the mission continues.

Barry Marcone is a different kind of victim of vehicular crime. In 2007, his son, Chris, drove while drunk and killed a 13-year-old girl. Chris was sentenced to 13 years in prison — one year for each year of his victim's life.

He saw the suffering and the grief of the young victim's family. He saw his son agonize over what he had done and the realization that there was no way for him to take it back or to make things right. Barry could not condone what his son had done, but he was still Chris's father.

Like Bruce Murakami, Barry looked for something, anything, positive that could result from the devastation. Today Chris is in prison. On Monday morning, Barry stood before students at East Bay High School to tell his story, to help young people understand that drinking and driving can not only destroy their lives, but also the lives of their families and of innocent victims. It has been four years since his son took the life of a young girl — not enough time to heal the wounds. The pain remains in his eyes and in his words.

Bruce Murakami lost his wife and 11-year-old daughter to an accident caused by a young man who was street racing. After spending three years seeking justice, he ended up forgiving the young man and working with him to educate young people on becoming safe drivers.

On Sunday, Bruce Murakami and Barry Marcone met with teenagers and their parents at Andersen RacePark on U.S. Highway 41 in Palmetto as part of Murakami's Safe Teen Driver program known as TRACK — Teaching Road Awareness and Consequences to Kids. TRACK is designed to give teenagers the opportunity to experience and practice driving skills and to learn from experience how alcohol or drugs can impair their driving abilities.

The program is designed to be not only eye-opening and educational, but also to allow the young people to have some fun on the racetrack. For the young people who take part, Murakami insists that at least one parent or guardian be on hand for the entire program.

"Parents need to understand they play a far more important role than they may realize in educating their children," he said.

Standing next to the racetrack, Mike Shirley, along with Sean Washington, of East Bay High School's Driver Education department, gave the teens the bottom line. Drinking or using drugs while driving will end their lives as they know it. If celebrities and sports stars aren't cool enough to talk their way out of such situations, they shouldn't fool themselves into thinking they'll have the ability. He handed one girl a large pair of goggles, known as Fatal Vision Goggles, designed to simulate what a drug or alcohol impaired person might see. He asked her to walk over to a nearby golf cart and drive a course of orange cones. She staggered to the cart, slowly sat down and took off, running over cones as she went. In a real-world situation, those cones could have been street signs, or an innocent bicyclist, or a 13-year-old girl.

As part of the course, the young people also gained firsthand knowledge of the real dangers of distracted driving, such as what happens when using a cell phone while driving.

Barry Marcone created drivingsober.net, a website filled with the stories of victims and with resources for young people to help guide them away from becoming the next statistic.

"Car crashes are the leading cause of death among teens," Marcone said. "Together we can change that."

Four years ago, Barry Marcone's son was sent to prison for killing a 13-year-old girl while driving drunk. Today Marcone has dedicated himself to educating young people about the dangers of driving while impaired. For Marcone, the pain is still visible in his eyes and heard in his voice.

Also on the website is a letter his son wrote from prison.

My name is Christopher S. Marcone and I am an inmate of the Florida Department of Corrections. I am serving [a] 13-year prison sentence for D.U.I. manslaughter. On April 12, 2007, I made a fatal mistake of getting behind a wheel drunk. Because of my intoxication I ended up running a stop sign and hit an oncoming car. A thirteen year old girl lost her life and three others were critically injured as a result of this accident that I caused. After I serve my time and my sentence is up I will once again be able to reunite with my family and friends. That will never happen for the family and friends of the young girl that was killed due to my reckless actions. Although I will eventually be released and sent home to be with my loved ones, I will live with this accident for the rest of my life.

Chris will be 37-years-old at the end of his sentence.

Marcone's nonprofit organization doesn't earn or seek revenue or donations of any kind, so he continues to work for a paycheck to keep it going, to do what he can to ensure that no other parent will lose a child to a drunk or drug-impaired driver — or to the bars of a state prison. But most of all, he wants to protect young people.

"This is for the kids. That's what it's all about," he said. "It's hard sometimes, but you have to follow your heart."

On Monday morning at East Bay High School standing before a group of students telling a very difficult story, he did just that.

The next TRACK event will take place on Nov. 6, 2011, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is open to young people from 14 to 18 years old. One parent or guardian must be on hand for the entire program. To register, visit www.safeteendriver.org.

Barry Marcone's website contains a wealth of resources for young people to stay safe while driving. Marcone is also available to schools and other organizations as a public speaker. For more information, visit www.drivingsober.net.

Information about Andersen RacePark is available at www.andersenracepark.com.

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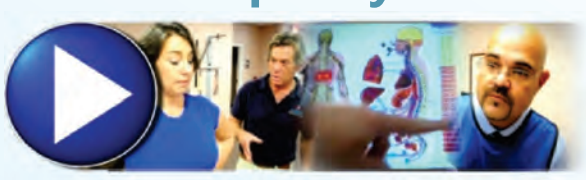

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South County says farewell to long-time volunteer

Kenneth "Mac" McComb retires from "retirement"

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

RUSKIN - Sept. 29 wasn't a run-of-the-mill afternoon at the South County Regional Service Center on Ruskin's 30th Street.

Men, women and children, many in various types of uniforms, toted food from their vehicles into the building for a party given in honor of one of South County's busiest volunteers, Kenneth "Mac" McComb.

Joan Noble of the SouthShore Community Justice Center, Eileen Burke and Mary Valesano from the school system, and Vanessa Ortiz of Florida Home Partnership, had joined forces to throw a bash for McComb as he retires from the jobs he has done during his 15 years of "retirement" while living in Sun City Center.

Later this month McComb is moving to Maryland to be near his daughter Pam and son-in-law Joe who were present at the party.

The trio enlisted help from the various organizations for which Mac has volunteered, including the YES program in Wimauma (Youth Environmental Service), the sheriff's office, several schools at which he has tutored, mentored and otherwise offered his services, and members of the many boards on which he has served.

In the 15 years since he retired and moved from Maryland to Sun City Center, he has held many positions at both the hands-on and advisory levels that have helped hundreds of South County's residents.

People he has known and helped, including children he has tutored, showed up in force.

"I'll never forget him. He greeted me on my first day," said Roy Moral, who is now principal at Cypress Creek Elementary School. That was in 2007 when Moral was assigned to Wimauma Elementary, where McComb spent a great deal of time.

McComb's friend Dorothy Cuttle and her daughter, Carolyn Robinson were among the guests who said they were glad McComb would be with family but were sorry to see him go.

"He's a wonderful person," Cuttle said.

A large projection screen in the front of the room flashed photographs of McComb's volunteer activities over the years; with groups of children; laughing with friends; and at the speaker's podium at events bringing attention to those less fortunate who needed assistance of some kind.

His daughter Pam talked about family things in his past that his South County friends didn't know about, like how he had proposed to their mother seven times.

"He met our mother in church on Easter Sunday, June 29, 1949. When they were courting, he kept asking her if he could see her apartment. She said no over and over. Then one day she said, all right, you can see it. Dad took a look around, and then said, fine, now he had seen it, and left. I think he just wanted to see if she was a good housekeeper," his daughter said.

Many heartwarming stories later, often accompanied by tears, Pam turned the microphone over to her father.

He said he had greatly enjoyed his time in South County.

"I live in Ruskin and Wimauma and sleep in Sun City Center," he said, referring to his volunteerism.

"I've been all over the world and from what I've experienced, the people here have a real heart for the down-and-out," he said. "People here contribute more in this area than I've seen anywhere else in the world. There's a real spirit of community here. I think it's life as it should be lived." And McComb has truly seen the world.

"I talked my mother into lying about my age so I could go into the Marine Corps. Then when the war was over I got out and got my degree in sociology on the GI Bill," he said.

Since then he has worked with children and youth, mostly delinquent youth, before moving to Florida.

PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

Kenneth "Mac" McComb was given a going away party by many of the people from organizations he has helped during his 15-years in South County. People from the school system, Florida Home Partnership, the sheriff's office, and the SouthShore Community Justice Center were all present for a celebration in his honor Sept. 29. He and his friend Dorothy Cuttle, said it was a bittersweet event for them as he will be joining his family in Maryland and she will continue to reside in Sun City Center.

While with the Department of Welfare stationed in Washington, D.C., he was a senior counselor for delinquent and dependent youth. He also served as a personnel officer and assistant to the director for the Department of Corrections.

Here in South County, the father of two, now 83, has served as president of the Wimauma Area Improvement Authority, chairman of Youth Environmental Services Inc., and been a member of the sheriff's office Wimauma Community Council.

He's also on the advisory board of and is a certified community mediator for the SouthShore Community Justice Center; is a member of the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center and the Balm-Wimauma Area Housing Partnership; and is an active substitute teacher at Wimauma, Cypress Creek, Ruskin and Gibsonton elementary schools.

"Volunteers get more out of volunteering than those receiving the help," McComb told the crowd gathered in his honor. "I have enjoyed every minute of helping people turn their lives around."

Joan Noble, coordinator of the SouthShore Community Justice Center, second from right, and her team, Eileen Burke and Vanessa Ortiz of the Florida Home Partnership, and Mary Valesano from the Ruskin School got together to put on the event.

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POSITIVE TALK

Taking the fear out of the phone

Technology is changing the world and it is not hard to understand why many of us develop a fear of some new piece of equipment, especially in the era of the smart phone. If it's something we don't have to deal with regularly, then we can overlook it. But if it is something with which we often come into contact, we have to do everything possible to overcome the fear. Believe it or not, one of the phobias (or fears) that many people have today is telephone phobia—the fear of using the telephone. The Encyclopedia of Phobias—Fears and Anxieties gives this problem a rather large write up and it deserves to be treated seriously.

Positive Talk
By William Hodges

You may not be a person who doesn't fear using the telephone, but I bet you know someone who does. Show this column to them. If you happen to be afflicted with this malady, here are some ideas to make you feel more comfortable while using the telephone. If you're not uncomfortable with the telephone, these ideas may make your use of the telephone more efficient.

1. Know to whom you wish to speak. If you don't know, ask the party who answers, "Who has the authority and knowledge to help me attain my goal."

2. Be assertive in your tone and manner. The best book on assertiveness is called, When I Say No, I feel Guilty. Maintain control of the conversation from the beginning by staying on the subject—which brings us to number three.

3. Make notes on what you want to cover and have them available. When you have covered all the items, close out the conversation—especially in a conflict situation. Staying on the line too long can be a serious mistake. Again, say what you have to say and get off the line as quickly as possible.

4. When the person with whom you must talk to resolve your problem is out, use the call to find when he or she will be in and the best time for you to call back. (If you are in sales, and you are calling a customer, the general rule is NEVER ask a customer to call you back.)

5. Be sure to write down the name and extension number of each person with whom you speak. Make notes about each conversation. Never forget that "the faintest pencil is better than the sharpest of memories."

6. Group your calls so as to maximize your time at the phone. If a line is busy, you can go to the next number on your list but make a note of the time you tried to get through; it might be important later.

7. Always be prepared to leave a succinct message on an answering machine. Your message should include your name, phone number, date and time of call, the subject of your call, and whether you should be called back. In today's world, answering machines are a reality. Be prepared to cope with them.

8. Lastly, if you happen to have one of the new smart phones, spend some time with a person who knows how to use it and learn its functions. During a call is not the time to add stress by pushing the wrong buttons.

Fear can be debilitating and fear of the telephone is as bad as any other fear. The more you understand about the fear, and the better prepared you are, the more likely you are to overcome it. Now go ahead—reach out and touch someone with confidence.

Hodges is a nationally recognized speaker, trainer and syndicated columnist. He also hosts an interview-format television program, Spotlight on Government, on the Tampa Bay Community Network which airs Mondays at 8 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (Bright House channel 950, Verizon channel 30). The shows can also be viewed at www.hodgesvideos.com. Phone: 813-641-0816. Email: bill@billhodges.com Website: www.billhodges.com"

Jazz it up with the Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club SouthShore has engaged three jazz groups to play at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 13 at the Community Association Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd.

The concert's first half will include the six-piece Dixieland group and the four-piece Sax Jazz. The second half will conclude with the 12-piece Jazz Big Band.

Tickets priced at $15 per person may be bought at the Atrium ticket counter weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon, or from the SCC Chamber of Commerce weekdays during business hours or at the door the evening of the concert.

For more information, call Joe Nargolwala at (813) 633-8574.

One-on-one foreclosure prevention workshop scheduled

The world of real estate is evolving and changing daily. The offices of Thomas J. Sherwood are generously donating their time to work one-on-one with individuals with questions about their options regarding their mortgages. People behind on their mortgage or upside down on their mortgage may be wondering what their options are and what government programs may help them. Here is a chance to have your personal situation reviewed and have your questions answered about your specific situation.

You can find out the answer to questions like: Can I do a strategic default? Does it make sense to do a loan modification? What happens after foreclosure? Can I own a house again? If I do a short sale will it cost me anything out of pocket? What happens to my credit?

Thomas J. Sherwood has been a licensed attorney since 1976, and his office specializes in all aspects of mortgage foreclosure including defense of mortgage foreclosure lawsuits. They can assist in loan modifications and the short sale process as well. Current information on the many government programs can also be provided.

The foreclosure workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, October 14 at the Hillsborough Title Office at 833 Cypress Village Blvd., Ruskin, FL 33573. Coffee and homemade treats will be available. For more information or to RSVP, email myforeclosureprevention@gmail.com or call (813) 562-8500 or (813) 421-2015.

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Published Every Thursday
by M&M Printing Co., Inc. 645-4048

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RUSKIN Moose Lodge #813 UPCOMING EVENTS

The Ruskin Moose Lodge #813 is located at
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www.lodge813.moosepages.org

WEEKLY EVENTS

No Spaghetti Dinners 'til October 5

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, Oct. 7	7-11 p.m.	Double Barrell
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
Friday, Nov. 4	7-11 p.m.	Beach Monkeys
Saturday, Nov. 5	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Nov. 11	7-11 p.m.	Bert and Sassie
Saturday, Nov. 12	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Nov. 18	7-11 p.m.	Caribbean Cowboys
Saturday, Nov. 19	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Nov. 25	7-11 p.m.	Top Shelf

All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests.

IN UNIFORM

Terrance L. Kirkland

Son of Latonia E. Kirkland of Riverview, Fla. and Terrance L. Kirkland, Sr of Riverview, FL, recently completed the Naval Intelligence Specialist Course at the Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center in Virginia Beach, VA.

Kirkland received instruction in national security and intelligence organizations, map reading and terrain observation, and counter-intelligence. Kirkland also received training on strategic, electronic, naval, air and ground warfare and on analyzing air defense and intelligence activities for naval planning missions.

Kirkland is a 2010 graduate of Riverview High School of Riverview, FL and joined the Navy in June 2011.

Adam C. Campbell

Coast Guard Seaman Adam C. Campbell, son of Terry D. Campbell of Apollo Beach, FL and Nick W. Campbell, of Riverview, FL, recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, NJ, and was promoted to his present rank.

During the eight-week training program, Campbell completed a vigorous training curriculum consisting of academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival, military customs and courtesies, seamanship skills, physical fitness, health and wellness, first aid, fire fighting and marksmanship.

Men and women train together from the first day in the Coast Guard just as they will work together aboard ships and shore units throughout the world. To reinforce the team concept, all recruits are trained in preventing sexual harassment, drug and alcohol awareness, civil rights training, and the basics of the work-life balance.

Campbell and other recruits also received instruction on the Coast Guard's Core Values -- Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty -- and how to apply them in their military performance and personal conduct. Campbell will join 36, 000 other men and women who comprise the Coast Guard's workforce.

Campbell is a 2011 graduate of East Bay High School of Gibsonton, FL.

Free boat safety inspections held

Free boat safety inspections are held every Saturday by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 75 in Ruskin for recreational boaters.

These safety inspections take about 15 minutes and are available from 10 a.m. to 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.

Seeking volunteers

Looking for a rewarding way to help others? Have some spare time? The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 75 in Ruskin needs your help. You are invited to come to an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Eberhardt Building, 909 North Course Lane in Sun City Center.

Refreshments will be served.

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

Monthly meeting

The Auxiliary Flotilla 75 will hold its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 12 at the Ruskin Rec Center, 901 6th St., Ruskin. New or prospective members are always welcome to attend. For more information, call (813) 938-1746.

Free "Big Draw"events for October

Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27 • 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Drawing Club, ages 6-9 with Cory Wright, Big Draw Studios. Register online at http://www.ruskinbigdraw.com/Site/Big_Draw_Studios.html.

Oct. 8 • 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
International Day of Drawing: Tampa Museum of Art, all ages.

Oct. 11 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Teen/Adult Watercolor with Bruce Marsh, SouthShore Regional Library.

Oct. 14 • 6 to 10 p.m.
Big Draw "Circuit Breaker" Community Event Day 1 at The Firehouse Cultural Center, 101 1st Ave NE, Ruskin.

Oct. 15 • 10:15 to 11 a.m.
Wee Artists, ages 3-6 years, with Laurie Burhop, SouthShore Regional Library.

Oct. 15 • 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Expressive Artists, ages 10 and up, with Laurie Burhop, SouthShore Regional Library.

Oct. 15 • 1 to 6 p.m.
Big Draw "Circuit Breaker"community Event Day 2 at The Firehouse Cultural Center, 101 1st Ave NE, Ruskin.

Oct. 17 • 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.
Pee Wee Artists, ages 3-5 years, with Laurie Burhop, SouthShore Regional Library.

Oct. 19 • 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Teen/Adult Calligraphy, with Minnette Webster, SouthShore Regional Library.

Oct. 22 • 9 a.m. to noon
Drawing en Plein Air Camp Bayou, 4140, 24th St. SE, Ruskin. Bring your own supplies.

For a complete listing of all events, visit http://www.firehouseculturalcenter.org/

For classes at the SouthShore Regional Library, you must register by calling 273-3652

These events are made possible by the Arts Council of Hillsborough County, SouthShore Arts Council, Firehouse Cultural Center and the Tampa Museum of Art.*

Operation Troop Support kicks off

October is the kick off month for the Brandon Junior Woman's Club annual Operation Troop Support running through Nov. 30.

There are two ways the community can support the troops – drop off items at one of the drop off locations indicated below or adopt a box by donating $13.50, which is the price to ship a box to a soldier. Donation can be made at www.THEBJWC.COM or by sending a check payable to Brandon Jr. Woman's Club, P.O. Box 66, Brandon, FL 33509.

Drop off locations for supplies are:

- Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union, 3234 S. Miller Road, Valrico
- Berg & Wheeler Law Firm, 217 E. Robertson St., Brandon
- Pottery Patch, 2551 SR 60 East (Sweetbay shopping center), Valrico
- Clubhouse Sports Café, 1265 Kingsway Road, Valrico

Suggested items for the troops are: thick black socks, gel insole heels, shaving gel, candy that won't melt, pre-packaged snacks, Advil/Tylenol, mouthwash, Cold/Flu tablets (OTC), toothpaste, baby wipes, travel games, Q-tips, lip balm, deodorant, Fabreeze, Beef Jerky, AA batteries, throat Lozenges, eye drops, Power Bars, Pop Tarts, dryer sheets, peanuts, sunflower seeds, cookies, dried fruit, DVD movies – new or used. A comprehensive list of items can be e-mailed by contacting Donna Johnson-Griffin at donnaleegriffin@aol.com. Please indicate Operation Troop Support 2011 on the subject line.

Operation Troop Support in the past has been a huge success with many individuals, schools, church groups, and clubs donating items, money, and letters for the boxes. Let's show the troops that we are still supporting their efforts. If you have any questions, call Donna Johnson-Griffin at (813) 244-4758.

HCC in Ruskin offers diverse non-credit courses

Do you want to learn all about the new social media and its impact on privacy issues? Perhaps you always had a yen to learn how to play chess or need to master the skills of selling on E-Bay and Craig's List. That art activity called "Zentangle" – what's it all about?

These and many other non-credit short term mini-courses are now being offered at the South Shore campus of Hillsborough Community College in Ruskin this fall. Some classes begin the first week of October and continue on through November.

A complete menu of offerings is now available on-line along with dates, times and fees. To learn more go to HCCContinuingEd.edu and click on "Tampa Training Corporate Training Center,"then download the Fall 2011 Catalog" and scroll down to "Personal Enrichment."

For more information and registration, call Brian England, coordinator of Lifelong Learning, at (813) 259-6528.

Avoiding victimization

Learn how to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft through this informative program presented by Gina Vittone from the Elder Justice Center at 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7 at SouthShore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way in Ruskin.

For more information about this and other FREE programs @ your library®, call (813) 273-3652 or visit www.hcplc.org.

The views expressed in this program are those of the presenter(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or opinions of Hillsborough County, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries, or the Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County, Inc. who do not endorse the presenter(s).

Eagles Set Their Weekly Activities

The Ruskin Eagles, FOE, located at 1205 1st St. S.W. has scheduled the following weekly activities.

All events and activities of the Eagles Club are supported by the members and members' guests.

The FOE Aerie meet at 7 p.m. the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. The Ladies' Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday. Eagle Riders meet the 2nd Sunday of the month at 11 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 6 -- Bar Games at 1 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 7 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 8 — Meat Raffle by the Eagle Riders at 1 p.m. Steak Dinner at 5 p.m. Music by Charles Burns from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 9 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 10 — Bingo at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 11 — Come on down and socialize.

Wednesday, Oct. 12 — Wings and Things (oh so good!) at 5 p.m. Bar Games at 6 p.m.

For more information, call the club at 645-2922.

Making it happen

Observations
By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net

This city is ridiculously huge. By "city", I mean the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area. Living in the relative peace and tranquility of South Hillsborough, it's easy to forget that our inhabitance here is part of more than 4.2 million fellow inhabitants in the 19th largest metropolitan area in the United States. But those numbers tell only part of the story — this city is huge.

I was recently reminded of the sheer size of the place because I wanted to buy something from a person in Holiday. If you don't know where Holiday is, I can tell you: it's almost to Mars. Seriously. In driving to Holiday, my wife and I never left an urban area but we drove for more than an hour and a half. The trip took so long we ended up stopping for dinner along the way, lest we would have starved to death among our own fellow inhabitants in this poster child for urban sprawl known as the Tampa Bay area.

What could possibly have been worth driving to Holiday for? A road case — a wooden box, covered in heavy-duty material with big ol' casters and industrial-strength fold-down handles. It is designed to carry the various odds and ends of musical equipment, usually to venues for live performances. Of course, I told myself that I needed the road case in order to flee should our choice of a new-to-us home near the river turns disastrous, with a storm causing the river to join us in our living room. But the real reason wasn't so sensible. The truth is, I harbor a fantasy of sorts that I'll actually perform somewhere someday and that fantasy stretches to the point where I don't horrifically embarrass myself in the process.

I love my wife. I have a job that I love, working for people I respect. I live in a beautiful place and have wonderful friends. Why on earth would I harbor a secret desire to potentially humiliate myself in front of groups of people for no real gain whatsoever? The answer to that is: I haven't a clue.

The weather this past weekend was beautiful. It was, borrowing a word from singer Jimmy Buffet, a perfect example of Floridays. It seemed that festivals sprang up everywhere in response to the first cooler days of the season. At an art and music festival at Valencia Lakes near Sun City Center, Michelle was particularly struck by one artist named Stanly R. Acosta. At the festival, this young man was putting himself out there for all to see without a hint of embarrassment and rightly so. He had talent — lots of it.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Artist Stanly R. Acosta standing with his beautiful art at the Valencia Lakes Music and Arts Festival last weekend.

I'm not so sure the same could be said of me and my music. It was only weeks ago that Michelle came home with an electric guitar, inspiring my return to music after 26 years. It's one thing to impress her from the second-bedroom-turned-music-room of our small house; she is accustomed to dealing with my ego already made somewhat fragile and uncertain by simply writing to 100,000 people each week. It's one thing to write and not see the outcome as newspapers land on driveways, but it's another thing to actually put yourself out there — in person — to stand before the harsh and unforgiving gaze of a potentially indifferent public, such as Mr. Acosta and all of the other artists did at that festival last weekend.

For Mr. Acosta, I have no doubt that it is a calling. In my mind, music now joins writing, photography and sailing in what I've convinced myself is a calling that I can hear with my mind's ear. My concern is whether my calling is less the voice of God or nature or whatever and more the voice of a schizophrenic lunatic living inside my head.

As we journeyed to Holiday-lying-just-short-of-Mars, I noticed the people in the cars that surrounded us. Some of them looked unhappy, some looked downright miserable. Perhaps it was the nightmarish traffic, but I wondered to myself if, in trying to live, they have ignored their calling, and their hearts and souls have paid the price for the money in their wallets. Yes, admittedly that's a stretch to take away from a scowling man or woman sitting behind the wheel of a BMW in a traffic jam on U.S. Highway 19, but maybe not so much. While certainly some of us were meant to be accountants or attorneys, I think many more of us were meant to be something we are currently not. We all have a calling, I think. For the most part, we feel we have to ignore it in order to be sensible or just to survive.

Writing the book that is inside of you or drawing out the images your mind can see aren't things that have to cost money. If we can just get past the naysayer that lives in our own heads, I believe we can live our dreams — or at least take steps towards fulfilling them. What do we have to lose in trying? I can survive a little public humiliation if it comes to that. After all, I have a dream (along with my day job to fall back on, God willing).

This is a big city and potential opportunities are on every street corner and down every avenue or, perhaps, even in your own backyard. What is your dream? What are you going to do to make it happen? You don't have to be miserable in a traffic jam, you can be who you are supposed to be. Just let yourself do it. And then make it happen.

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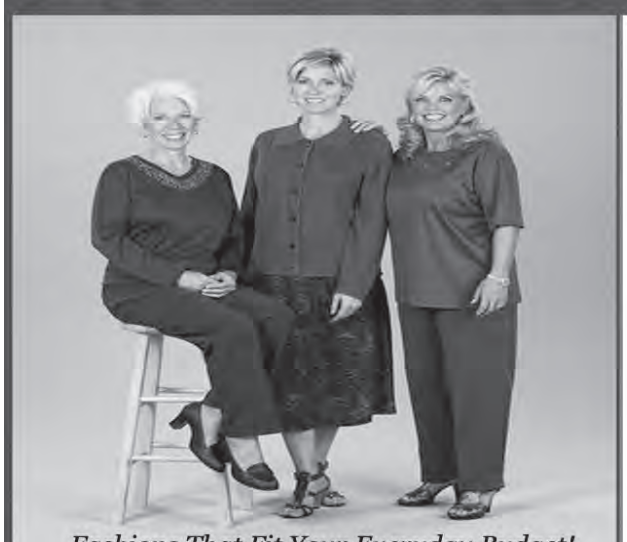

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Adult Program/Event Highlights October 6 to 12

Access: Introduction and Table Design
Thursday, Oct. 6 • 12:15 to 2:30 p.m.
Understand relational databases and learn the basics of database table design. Previous experience with Microsoft Word and Excel is recommended. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

Avoid Victimization
Friday, Oct. 7 • 2 to 3 p.m.
Learn how to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft through this informative program presented by Gina Vittone from the Elder Justice Center.

Keep Your Boat Afloat At Your Library
Saturday, Oct. 8 • 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
The 7th Division of District 7 Coast Guard Auxiliary will host an informational workshop that will cover vessel safety and float plans.

"A Call To All Adult Artists"
for the John Crawford Art Education Studio
The John Crawford Advisory Board is looking for artists (painting or drawing) to display their work in the Crawford Studio. Applications are available for juried shows during the months of May/June; or September/October; or November/December 2012. Pick up an application at the Information Desk at SouthShore Regional Library. Applications are now due December 1, 2011. Questions? Contact Laurie Burhop at 273-3652.

Windows 7: Introduction and Computer Basics
Tuesday, Oct. 11 • 12:15 to 2:30 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.

Adventures in Writing
Tuesday, Oct. 11 • 1 to 3 p.m.
Connect with local writers to discuss all aspects of the writing process. Inspire, encourage, and exchange ideas. Opportunities to share your writings and receive feedback will be available. If you've ever wanted to be a writer, this is the group for you! All levels of writers are welcome.

Adult/Teen Watercolor Class*
Tuesday, Oct. 11 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Join Art Instructor, Bruce Marsh, and explore the many possibilities of watercolors. All levels welcomed. Limit 20. Registration required at the Information Desk or call 273-3652.

SouthShore Needle People
Wednesday, Oct. 12 • 6:30 p.m.
Join other needle people to share techniques, tips and experiences about knitting and other fiber and fabric crafts. Beginners are welcome! Bring a project and ask us questions!

Master Gardener: Plant Identification
Wednesday, Oct. 12 • 7 to 8:30 p.m.
How do plants acquire their names, join them and learn how to identify plants in your yard. Co-sponsored by the Hillsborough County Extension Service.

**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.*

Meet at Alpha Pizza House

The South Shore Senior Singles group, a ministry of the Sun City Center United Methodist Church, will meet at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8 at the Alpha Pizza House, 1312 Apollo Beach Blvd., in Apollo Beach.

Music will be provided by Thor Stevens for your listening and dancing enjoyment. The menu consists of Italian, Greek, and American food. Reservations are requested.

They meet at the Alpha House the second Saturday of each month, and Thor Stevens is scheduled to provide the music. For more information, or to make a reservation, call Patti at (813) 634-7171.

The South Shore Senior Singles group was organized to provide a non-threatening atmosphere for senior singles to meet and have fun.

Photographers are welcomed

Join the Crawford Gallery at SouthShore Regional Library and welcome photographers Stan Lipski and Bryan Weinstein from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 3 at SouthShore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin.

Light refreshments and music will be provided for this free event. The show will run through Dec. 30.

Stan Lipski is from Sun City Center and Bryan Weinstein is from Riverview.

For more information, contact Laurie Burhop, Art Coordinator, Library Services, Hillsborough County BOCC at (813) 672-1155 or email burhopl@hillsborough-county.org or check out their website at http://www.hillsborough-county.org.

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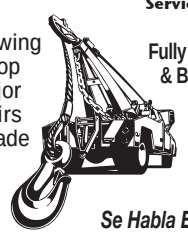

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THE SAVVY SENIOR

How to pick the best Medicare Prescription Drug Plan for you

Dear Savvy Senior,

I recently received a letter from my Medicare "Part D" prescription drug plan provider notifying me that my premiums and co-pays will be increasing next year, and they are dropping coverage on one of the drugs that I take. How can I find a better drug plan?

Frustrated Senior

The Savvy Senior
By Jim Miller

Dear Frustrated,

Because Medicare's prescription drug plans can change their costs and benefits from year-to-year, comparing Part D plans every year during the open enrollment season (which is now Oct. 15-Dec. 7) is always a smart idea. Here are some tips and resources to help you find the best drug coverage at the lowest price.

Do It Yourself

If you have a home computer and Internet access, comparing your current Medicare drug plan with the many other plans that are available, and enrolling in one, is something you can do yourself.

Just go to Medicare's online Plan Finder Tool at www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan, and type in your zip code or your personal information, the drugs you take and their dosages, and select the pharmacies you use and you'll get a cost comparison breakdown for each plan available in your area. This tool also provides a five-star rating system that evaluates each plan based on past customer service records, and suggests generics or older brand name drugs that can reduce your costs.

When comparing drug plans don't judge a plan strictly by its monthly premium cost. Low-premium plans are often associated with higher prescription co-payments and may end up being more expensive. So take a look at the whole pricing package, including premiums, deductibles and co-pays. Also, be sure the plan you're considering covers all of the drugs you take with no restrictions. Some plans may require you to get permission or try a number of cheaper drugs before they will cover certain prescriptions.

Need Help

If you need some help with this or if you don't have Internet access to compare drug plans, you can call Medicare at 800-633-4227 and they will do the comparing for you over the phone for free, and enroll you in a new plan when you're ready.

Some other great resources that can help you are the Medicare Rights Center (medicarerights.org), a nonprofit consumer service organization that maintains a hotline at 800-333-4114 to help answer your Medicare questions. And, your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides free one-on-one Medicare counseling in person or over the phone. To find a local SHIP counselor visit shiptalk.org, or call 800-677-1116.

If you want even more help, consider Allsup Inc. (866-521-7655, medicare.allsup.com). This is a national fee-based company that offers a Medicare Advisor Part D plan selection service that takes your information over the phone or online and does the comparing and analyzing for you, and then helps you choose and enroll in a plan that best meets your needs and budget. The fee for this service is $75.

Shrinking Donut Hole

You also need to know that Medicare's "donut-hole" coverage gap will shrink a little more next year. Thanks to health care reform, Medicare Part D beneficiaries that hit the coverage gap in 2012 will again receive a 50 percent discounts on brand-name drugs, and an increased 14 percent discount on generic medications.

For 2012, the coverage gap begins if your total drug cost exceeds $2,930 (that includes your share and the insurer's share of the costs) and ends when your total costs reach $6,657.50. After that, your Part D plan usually covers around 95 percent of your remaining drug costs for the year.

Savvy Tip: If your income is under $16,335 a year (or $22,065 for married couples) and your assets are below $12,640 (or $25,260 for married couples), may be eligible for "Extra Help" in paying for their Medicare prescription drug coverage. For more information call 800-772-1213 or visit www.ssa.gov/prescriptionhelp.

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.

Hillsborough County Code Enforcement to meet today

The Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate for the Enforcement of Community Codes is scheduled to meet at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 6 in the 2nd Floor Boardroom of County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. in downtown Tampa.

The Special Magistrate is authorized to hear violations concerning all codes and ordinances of Hillsborough County in order to maintain health and safety standards.

Any person who decides to appeal the decision of the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate with respects to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purposes, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. An appeal must be filed within thirty (30) days after the execution of the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate's Order.

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.

PIXIE

Pixie is a sweet little female who was brought to the shelter with three buddies. She has bounced back from her early misadventures to be a real little lover who loves to be held by volunteers and gets her motor going right away. She also has a wonderful orange hue to her fur. Pixie has been spayed, microchipped, and brought up-to-date on her shots. DOB: Sept. 2005.

JADE

Jade is a darling Shiba Inu mix. Her owners moved out of their rental and left her behind. What a crime! Jade has the softest coat and the sweetest disposition. She loves humans and furry friends equally. She enjoys time cuddling. She also has fun chasing balls and squeaky toys. Jade appears to have great house manners too. This is a special little girl. Won't you consider giving her a forever home? Jade will be spayed, microchipped, and brought current on her shots as part of her adoption. DOB: Jan. 2, 2010.

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, Oct. 6 — VA Hospital at 5:30 p.m. Bar Bingo at 6 p.m. Pat MacKaliger Birthday.

Friday, Oct. 7 — Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by George Durham from 5 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 8 — Ladies' 40-Year Anniversary Party by invitation only. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. Music by George Durham from 7 to 11 p.m. Shirley Turner Birthday.

Sunday, Oct. 9 — Fire in the Hole from 1 to 4 p.m. Music by Bump in the Road from 5 to 7 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 10 — Planning meeting at 6 p.m. House Meeting at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 11— Games in Lounge from 1 to 5 p.m. Kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 12 — VFW & LAVFW Meeting at 7 p.m.

Observe the Moon Night at Camp Bayou

Join the naturalists at the Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8 for one of their 'No-Flashlight' Night Hikes. As always, the hike will end at the fire circle with s'mores to enjoy after your adventure. Pre-registration requested, limit 20 people, suitable for ages 6 through adults. A $5 program is requested to help cover costs of supplies. Contact Dolly at campbayou@gmail.com or call (813) 641-8545 to make reservations.

This night hike coincides with some special night sky possibilities.

• The International Observe the Moon Night (InOMN) is a worldwide celebration of our nearest neighbor, the Moon! Each year in the fall, millions of people from hundreds of locations in countries across the globe come together to view the Moon and learn about its diverse roles in culture, history, science, and exploration.

• The Draconid meteor shower, so-named because its meteors appear to radiate from the northern constellation Draco, is normally a weak shower producing perhaps 10 meteors per hour. However, this shower has proved strongly variable in the past, in some years reaching hundreds per hour. Unfortunately this year's peak is expected between 1 and 2 p.m. EST on Saturday, Oct. 8, but they hope for some stragglers during the hike.

This event is part of a Be Out There!-NWF, Get Outdoors Florida!, "Let's GO"- C&N, No Child Left Inside, and Let's Move Outside inspired initiative.

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

The Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center is a public-private partnership between the non-profit Ruskin Community Development Foundation, Inc. (RCDF) and Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation. Camp Bayou is located 3 miles south of S.R. 674 at the end of 24th St. SE in Ruskin. More information is on the web at http://www.campbayou.org or call (813) 641-8545.

Juvenile arrest avoidance program

The Community Meeting for Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Program will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 6, at University Area Community Development Center, 14013 N. 22nd St. in Tampa.

Hillsborough County Commissioner Kevin Beckner, District 6 Countywide, will be hosting informational meetings to educate the community about the Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Program.

The Hillsborough County Juvenile Justice Task Force has been working on this program for nearly a year. The Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Program is a process intended to encourage youth to stay out of trouble, and avoid an arrest record.

"Our youth are the future of our community. It is imperative that we give them every opportunity to complete their education, serve their country and obtain meaningful employment," Commissioner Beckner, Chair of the Juvenile Justice Task Force, stated. "These community meetings will be a great opportunity for parents and kids to learn more about a program which is designed to give those affected by poor judgment a second chance."

A panel consisting of Commissioner Beckner, representatives from law enforcement, the courts system, and the Juvenile Justice Task force will answer questions at community meetings; and provide information about the Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Program.

The remaining informational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 1, Lennard High School, 2342 Shell Point Rd. East in Ruskin

For more information, call Commissioner Beckner's office at (813) 272-5730 or log onto www.hillsboroughJJTF.org.

It's cemetery clean-up time!

It's time to help clean up an old graveyard from the 1800s. Show your appreciation for the people who built Riverview at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 11020 Hackney Dr., Riverview.

Help is needed for weeding/mowing, cleaning off gravestones, and picking up trash.

Donations are welcome. For more information, call Florence at (813) 677-7606.

SouthShore Regional Library

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Kids' Program/Event Highlights October 6 to 12

Family Story Time • Thursday, Oct. 6 • 7 to 7:30 p.m.
For ages 2-5 with a caregiver.Make reading time family time. Stories, action rhymes, songs, interactive activities, and crafts make up this fun 30-minute program that celebrates a love of reading. Children may wear pajamas and bring a blanket and favorite cuddly toy.

Teen Night: Teen Advisory Board*
Thursday, Oct. 6 • 7 to 8 p.m.
For middle and high school students. Have a voice in creating and planning library programs for teens and earn community service hours toward graduation, scholarships and more! Refreshments provided by Domino's Pizza and SweetBay Supermarkets.

Baby Time • Monday, Oct. 10 • 1:35 to 1:55 p.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
Tuesday, Oct. 11 • 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, Oct. 11 • 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 • Tuesday, Oct. 11 • 11:35 to 11:55 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.

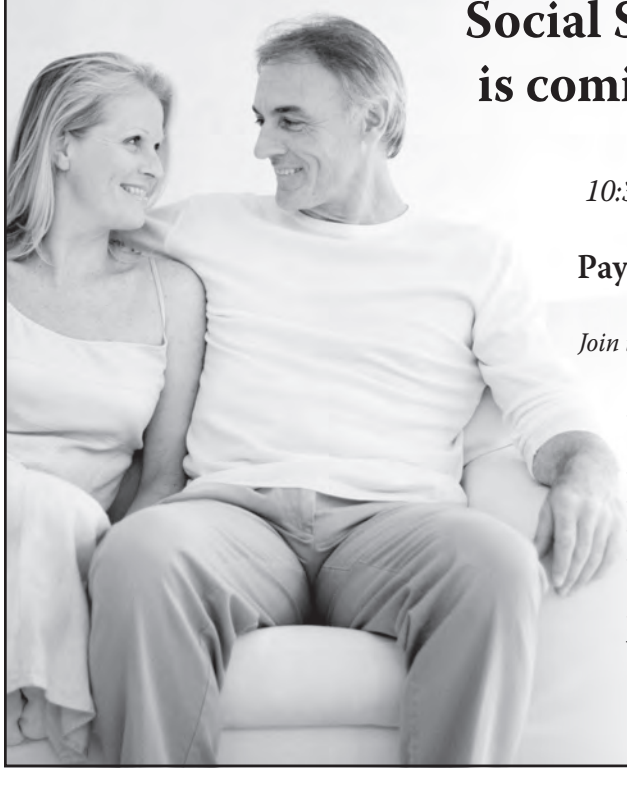
Baby Time • Wednesday, Oct. 12 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m.
For children ages 0-18 months and their caregivers. Early literacy begins at birth. Bond with your baby through stories, bouncy rhymes and songs in this 20-minute lapsit program that introduces early literacy skills and encourages language development.

Toddler Time • Wednesday, Oct. 12 • 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, Oct. 12 • 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.*

Are you turning 65 years old soon?
Do you have questions?



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- What do I need to sign up to receive the benefits? How long does it take? When should I start applying?
- Can I still work and receive benefits?
- Who can get Medicare?
- What does Medicare cover and not cover?
- What happens if I wait until after 65 to apply? Do I receive more?
- How does Social Security determine how much I get?

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You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director

SCC Chamber News

Sometimes an idea is so simple, you wonder why you didn't think of it before. I had one of those moments last week after the fourth person in two days walked into the Chamber, resume in hand, wondering if I knew of anyone who was hiring. That was followed an hour later with an email from Deb Adams at M&I Bank informing me of some new positions they had open. The next day, at a networking event, another regional manager announced he was looking for a sales rep for the area.

You, Me & Business
By Dana Dittmar

"We need a job bank," I said to myself. (Yes, I talk to myself out loud. What? You're surprised?) So I called the company that operates our website and asked them to modify it so we could post jobs. The listings may be few now, but my guess is it won't be long before we have lots of local jobs posted there.

To me, this just makes perfect sense. Our members want to hire people who come recommended to them and they don't want to have to pay Careerbuilder.com a fortune to list a job. And with one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, we need to do all we can to get our local residents back to work.

It strikes many further up the interstate as somewhat ironic: the Chamber of a retirement town has a job bank. Isn't everyone here retired? Well, no.

Some work because retirement bores them and they enjoy the social interaction of dealing with customers. Others still work because their 401(k) became a 101(k), their spouse passed away without much (or any) life insurance, or they need to supplement Social Security or a small pension.

They have lots of experience, an old fashioned work ethic, and they don't want to be relegated to being a greeter at a big box store.

Can mature workers get hired in our current economic environment? Absolutely! But there are ways they can sabotage their job-seeking efforts by using "aging" phrases that take them from "mature executive" to "crabby old dude."

If you're interviewing, you might want to rethink saying such things as: "Been there, done that" or "Back when I was doing that kind of work…" Other aging phrases include "I think that was in…" and "Things are so different nowadays."

Mature job seekers can also run afoul with the "tell me about" questions. If you are asked "Tell me about a situation when you…" make it something that happened in the 2000s, not something from 1983. And please, leave the cell phone in the car. No texting allowed in the interview room!

And you don't need to list your job as a pizza delivery person in college on your resume. Only the most recent experience is relevant to today's managers.

The jobs are out there and mature workers do get hired. (I was hired at the Chamber at the tender age of 52.) So give us a couple of weeks to get those jobs uploaded to the website and polish off your resume! It's time to get to work!

Field of Honor Ceremony planned

The Veterans Council of Hillsborough County, Inc. will be conducting a Field of Honor Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park & Rear Admiral Leroy Collins, Jr., Veterans Museum, located just south of the Florida State Fairgrounds at 3602 U.S. Hwy. 301 N., Tampa at 10 a.m. on Saturday Oct. 15.

In addition to honoring the casualties of the last three months there will be a special tribute paid to the 30 Special Operations Force members that were killed in Afghanistan on Aug. 6, 2011 when their helicopter was shot down. USCENTCOM Color Guard will present the colors and the National Anthem will be sung by Hillsborough County Firefighter 'Chip' Shields.

This ceremony is open to the public and it is conducted every three months to honor those who have given their lives in the War on Terrorism. The names of every Soldier, Sailor, Airmen, Marine and Coast Guardsmen who died during the last three months are read aloud and a flag is placed in the field in their honor. There will be several Gold Star Wives in attendance and AMVETS Post 44 from Brandon will host this ceremony. Following the ceremony, Boy Scouts from Troop 110, Brandon will conduct a Flag Retirement ceremony behind the museum. For more information, contact Walt Raysick at (813) 653-4924 or by e-mail at wraysick@verizon.net.

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Fish lab

■ Continued on page 1

But he is finding the dollars to keep the important research and fish diagnostics going.

Another critical study concerns raising Bala sharks, he said.

"Bala sharks are an aquarium fish we import from Thailand," said Watson. "They're very delicate and hard to handle. We (people in the U.S.) probably spend half a million a year bringing them into this country."

Another issue now being studied is finding a better way to aerate ponds because the technology now being used by fish farmers is more than 40 years old. Researchers at the center are also currently looking at how to produce the anthias in captivity. The anthias is an ornamental marine species from Christmas Island in the Pacific that no one has so far been able to commercially produce anywhere in the world.

PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

Greenhouse No. 3 is filled with tanks belonging to Hillsborough Community College's aquaculture program under the direction of Dr. Craig Casper.

"This fish is called a harem spawner," said Carlos Martinez, extension faculty at the lab. Watson explained that this is because one male stays with a large tank of females, and then when he gets old, he turns into a female. The center is studying how this strange event can happen.

"The anthias represents a whole group of salt water fish," Watson explained. "This is one area where we have secured both government and private funding."

Some research funds are also coming from Busch Gardens, Seaworld and the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, making some projects a combination of private and government funding, he said. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums is also involved in the marine side of the research.

"Hillsborough County funds the office manager position and we build hatcheries through a block grant," he added.

The laboratory is also involved with local farmers and education and it has a veterinary program which has attracted students from all over the world.

There is an internship which can last from two weeks to a year and a longer program for graduated veterinarians as well.

Natalie Steckler, a graduate student of veterinary medicine from Miami is there on an internship, as is Mark Flint.

Flint, who also already has his veterinary license, has come from Australia to do an internship and earn his PhD.

"I am happy to be in the growing field of veterinary medicine and am working on a long-term goal of specializing in fish health," Steckler said.

Flint has spent one year in Florida and says he has learned much he will take back to the laboratory he mans in Australia.

But the lab isn't all about research, study and education.

Local fish farmers may call with their questions and bring samples in for tests as well. This is not a service for hobbyists, who are urged to call the county extension service, and the service is not free.

Farmers may bring in samples from their ponds either singularly or in a group of fish to determine the cause of a symptom or treat a disease.

Craig Watson shows how eels come to the surface and play with his hand.

The laboratory also has its own outdoor ponds.

The lab occupies six-and-a-half acres and has 50 ponds on land that was once a fish farm, Watson explained. And there are also various indoor buildings, each housing tanks for research and disease control.

There are many educational opportunities being provided at the lab as well. Students in aquaculture programs may come to learn, look, listen and study.

Locally there are several opportunities for learning in the aquaculture field.

Martinez gives classes to private citizens (not commercial users) on the use of pesticides so they can obtain the certification to use the restricted materials.

There is a two-year aquaculture program at East Bay High School and an associate degree program at Hillsborough Community College's Brandon campus led by Craig Casper.

There are also opportunities for college and veterinary students to work with the facilities both on and off site and also with the county's extension service.

But not all the things that go on at the lab are directly involved with study and diagnostics.

The sister industry of aquatic plants is also studied as well as health issues of anything that could impact fish and waterways, and researchers are working with farmers to help control problems connected with their work, like how to rid their farms of animals that eat their fish, including raccoons, certain species of birds and alligators.

"We just got a program in Sun City Center to control feral hogs," Watson said.

When asked about future jobs in the industry Watson said it is hard to compete in a world market because a farmer in Indonesia may get 2¢ a fish and a U.S. farmer 25¢ for the same fish.

But there are many new opportunities opening up in marine ornamentals because there are thousands of fish traded that are not in production in the United States now. In the future there will be jobs in hatcheries and with the larvae as that demand increases.

The best way to prepare for these jobs is to earn a bachelors or masters degree but graduates of HCC have been employed with a two-year associate's degree, Watson said.

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UPCOMING OCTOBER EVENTS

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Tues., Oct. 18 • *10-11 a.m.* • Attorneys Robert H. Mohr and Damon C. Glisson will speak about the **Sun City Center Community Foundation**, its programs and benefits of charitable giving to a foundation that benefits local residents, causes and institutions. Learn more about this benevolent organization!

Tues., Oct. 18 • *2:30-3:30 a.m.* • Katie Colwell Williams, MA, CMC from Aging Care Advocates for our **Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group**. The resources are endless! alzheimer's association

Wed., Oct. 19 • *2:30-4 p.m.* • Marcia A. McCall, M.T.S, retired Coordinator of Research Department of Neurology College of Medicine USF and co-author of *100 Questions and Answers about Parkinson's* will be here for our **Parkinson's support group.**

Thurs., Oct. 20 • *10-11 a.m.* • ***Veterans Benefits for Wartime Veterans and their Spouses!*** The Aid & Attendance Pension is offered to wartime Veterans and their surviving spouses if they need home care, assisted living, or skilled nursing. Benefits range from $1056 - $1949 per month and even those with higher net worth may qualify. Speaker Suzanne Stuart will explain who qualifies and how to apply. You served your country, now let your country serve you in your time of need!

Thurs., Oct. 20 • *2:30-3:30 p.m.* • **Low Vision Support Group:** Diane Lawrence, RN from Vital Care Home Health Care will facilitate. If you are facing the challenges of low vision or caring for a loved one facing this issue, this support group is a must! A FREE quick vision health questionnaire assessment will be provided.

Wed., Oct. 26 • *2:30-4 p.m.* • **Diabetes Support Group**. Please join Shelley Tanner, R.N. from Angels Care Home Health as she facilitates our support group *Everyday Basics of Diabetic Care.*

Thurs., Oct. 27 • *10-11 a.m.* • October is **Breast Cancer** Awareness Month. Terri Jefferson, Chief Nursing Office, BSN from South Bay Hospital will present this lecture about Breast Cancer

Fri., Oct. 28 • *2:30-4 p.m.* • **C.O.A.P. (Children of Aging Parents)** is an ongoing support group for individuals who are assisting and/or caring for older, adult parents. Facilitated by Laura Burch of Hanson Services In-Home Care. For more information visit www.caps4caregivers.org

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Gibsonton's First Baptist celebrates eight decades plus

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

GIBSONTON –There is a lot to be said for longevity.

It so often is the foundation of stability, the source of useful knowledge found nowhere else, the springboard for achievements in the future. It offers the comforts of familiarity, the confidence derived from meeting challenges, the security of the known in an uncertain world.

On Sunday at First Baptist Church here, they'll be honoring it all, observing it, celebrating it. It's homecoming and they have much to cherish.

This community's missionary Baptist church this year claims 81 years of history, almost half of those years led by the same pastor who has served no other congregation for 36 of his 68 years.

Out of those years together have come a striking sanctuary building that is a local landmark as well as a church home, a school graduating outstanding student achievers, a thrift shop that helps untold numbers of area residents, a growing network of missionaries circling the globe, a portfolio of property surrounding the church buildings ready for future expansion, a firm financial footing.

It's the result of longevity, of staying put, in one place, doing what could be done. Yet, it is not the course Pastor Mac Clements and his wife, Patty, first charted for themselves.

Malcom, "Mac" Clements, the son of Fred and Bernice Clements who once operated a Gibsonton feed store, was born as World War II raged across Europe and the Pacific. He grew up in a home a short distance from the church where his family was well known. His maternal grandparents, Malcom and Ruby Sweat, were charter members of the little church organized in 1930 as the nation plunged into a great economic depression.

He swam in Bullfrog Creek and romped on the white sands of Gardenville Beach, both the swimming hole and the beach now only memories. He rode horses on Gibsonton roads that were more like trails and took in baseball games with neighbor Cliff Prevatt. In 1961, he was graduated from East Bay High School, number 24 on the championship East Bay football team in the '60-61 season.

Young Clements, a South County country boy fond of mullet, smoked or fried, and of fishing, followed his dad to U.S. Phosphoric, the phosphate processing plant at the mouth of the Alafia River, just over the bridge. There his life was altered; he met Patty Sumner, not knowing what the future held for them, but with full knowledge, he says today, that somehow he would marry her.

Patty, born in Tifton, Georgia, but probably related a generation or two back to the pioneering South Hillsborough Sumners, also was an East Bay graduate, before Mac, and already was working in the processing plant office when he arrived. He wasted no time; they were married in the old First Baptist sanctuary in 1962. Come 2012, it will be 50 years, side by side.

Mac left Phosphoric, went to work

See CLEMENTS, page 15

When members of Gibsonton's First Baptist Church assemble Sunday, it will be their first homecoming observance in 21 years. In that span of time, their eye-catching church (above) that is a landmark as well as sanctuary has survived a destructive hurricane, extended its outreach in several directions plus expanded its property boundaries for future growth. They have much to celebrate this homecoming, including a church history of 81 years, almost half of it with Pastor Mac Clements (below) as their spiritual leader and counselor, their vigorous church protector and forward looking friend. Yet, Clements, who grew up in Gibsonton, a third generation native, reached this, his sanctuary so close to his beginnings, by a circuitous route.

MELODY JAMESON PHOTOS

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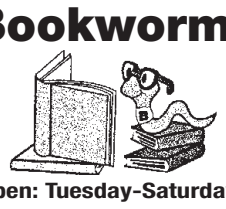

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Clements

■ From page 14

for Reynolds Aluminum in Tampa and quickly came to question whether it was a good move. Lucking into an extraordinary 10-week paid vacation due to company policy changes, Mac and Patty opted to try running a tractoring business. And then along came the opportunity to own and operate an ornamental fish farm. It was a full time commitment, a venture into the unknown, and they did it for 10 years.

At this point, with two young daughters, a wealth of new business savvy and a successful fish farm, Mac Clements experienced an unanticipated stirring; a calling to pastor a church and not just any church, but the one that was historically his family's. First Baptist's leader was leaving for another assignment. Mac offered himself. What the church got was a package deal.

Mac and Patty Clements sold the fish farm and began devoting themselves full time to the Gibsonton congregation. It was 1975.

During the ensuing years, they both would earn bachelor degrees, hers in childhood education, his in bible studies. He would perform the full range of pastoral duties – Sunday and Wednesday services, sick and homebound visits, marriages, funerals, counseling – as she managed the church office, keeping a handle on its myriad details, maintaining financial records, cataloguing and scheduling and communicating.

Seeing his role also as giving a voice to Gibsonton, he ran for public office twice, once for the state house, later for the state senate. Those were among the few times that Mac Clements did not attain the original objectives.

Yet, the lessons learned, the contacts made, the friendships formed as a result of those defeats have been highly beneficial to the church, he notes today. They played a role, for example, in the acquisition of property east of the church at a price it could afford, thereby adding to its present and future value.

In 1985, the church opened the First Baptist Christian School, kindergarten through 12th grade. Of its 140 graduates, most have obtained college degrees. One has become a CIA agent, another bought into and built a fast food empire, another has been awarded a full scholarship to St. Leo College in San Antonio, yet another now is headed to medical internship in Miami, Patty recalls.

In the same timeframe, the church of today was built, an airy, two-story structure designed by Clements to encompass part of the old building and enclosing the new red, grey and mahogany sanctuary within a walkway that permits entrance to it from inside the building and from several sides.

The new church building, though, was targeted by Hurricane Jeanne in 2004 and an estimated $350,000 in damage was done when wind gusts collapsed the Plexiglas west wall and water cascaded into the entrance hall. The situation then was complicated by an incompetent insurance agent. The Gibsonton country boy, however, knew how to protect his church and, going around the agent to the insurance carrier management, resolved the difficulties. The cost to the carrier doubled. First Baptist was repaired satisfactorily.

During the last decade, the church also has opened a thrift store on its grounds which is kept stocked with clothing for the entire family, household goods and baby accessories by church members as well as others, the Clements say. The store has been especially helpful recently as unemployment has lingered, offering useful merchandise at bargain prices.

Gibsonton's First Baptist, in addition, was one of the first churches to join with HELP Ministries (Help Evangelize Lost People) which now consists of more than 1.000 churches supporting missionary work around the world, Mac emphasizes, proud that his church can focus particularly on the efforts of native missionaries in far flung nations.

It is this work, and its fruits, that several hundred congregants and invited guests are expected to commemorate during the homecoming service at 10 a.m. Sunday. Then, they will sit down together to a full barbecue dinner, sharing memories of early church history, enjoying the continuum that succeeding generations always represent, reflecting on that longevity that gives them the stability for further progress.

"The brightest, the best days," their pastor said this week," are still ahead of us."

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MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

Theirs is a partnership that has thrived for nearly a half century and today still is sustained by a togetherness that encompasses both their personal and professional lives. Patty and Mac Clements (above) work together every day as First Baptist's finance secretary and pastor, usually in sync. "Someone has to make the final decisions," he says of a husband's, father's, pastor's role.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Annual Big Draw kicks off

Ruskin's annual Big Draw celebration kicked off last week with the Big Picture Party at the SouthShore Regional Library. On Saturday, some of the area's youngest artists gathered to learn about the importance of illustrations and to create some of their own in accordion books. Art classes for kids will be held on each Wednesday and Thursday throughout the month of October. For more information, visit www.ruskinbigdraw.com. Coming up at the SouthShore Regional Library are the Children's Spooktacular Spectacle at 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 15 and Exploring the Night Sky at 7 p.m. on Oct. 24. The library is located at 15816 Beth Shields Way. Above, Children's Librarian Michelle Weinstein helps children learn about illustrations. Below, Art Coordinator Laurie Bishop demonstrates how to make an accordion book.

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Robyn and Thomas Payant of Payant Financial were among the several area businesses at the festival.

A visitor meets artist Nava Mentkow at her booth.

A Weekend made for art and music

Singer Richie Merritt took the stage to open the festival.

With the first cool weather of autumn on hand, it was a perfect weekend for an art and music festival, such as the one held at Valencia Lakes near Sun City Center. Presented in part with the Mary and Martha House, the 2011 Music and Arts Festival featured live entertainment on a stage set up before a picture perfect lake, appearances by some of the best in area artists and offerings from local businesses. For more information about the Mary and Martha House, visit www.marymarthahouse.org. For more information about Valencia Lakes, visit www.glhomes.com/valencia-lakes.

PHOTOS BY MITCH TRAPHAGEN

There were numerous Elvis sightings at the festival over the weekend. Singer Bill Lindsey could provide confirmation.

Senator Mike Fasano responds to ruling

State Senator Mike Fasano applauds the decision by Circuit Judge Jackie Fulford declaring Florida's attempt to privatize a portion of the state's prison system unconstitutional. The provision, placed into the state budget via proviso language, authorized the privatization of 30 prisons. Senator Fasano was a vocal opponent of this effort and spoke against the attempt during the 2011 session of the Florida Legislature.

"I applaud the judge for her wise decision to declare the attempt at privatizing these prisons unconstitutional," Senator Fasano states. "The Florida Legislature should not be making major policy decisions by inserting last minute proviso language into the budget, thus circumventing the committee process. An issue as important as prison privatization should have been given the chance for thoughtful debate in the substantive committees that oversee this issue."

"I congratulate the hard working correctional officers who have scored a major victory with this ruling," Senator Fasano continues. "These fine individuals, who put their lives at stake each day as they run Florida's prisons, deserve the ruling that has been handed down today."

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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, Oct. 15: 50s Dance for all Elks and their guests from 6 to 9 p.m. with music by Double Density. $7 with light snacks. Dress up in your 50s outfits.

Monday, Oct. 17: $7 Blue Plate Special. Menu: Chicken & Noodles with all the trimmings. Only 50 tickets will be sold.

Saturday, Oct. 29: ENF Fundraiser. Entertainment is the Crazy Carol Show. Hors d'oeuvres at 5 p.m. and the show is scheduled for 6 p.m.. The cost is $8. Carol has put together a completely new program.

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

The South Hillsborough Elks 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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Layout, entering data, inserting rows and columns, and other techniques. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.

Excel II: Formatting • Oct. 6 • 4 to 4:45 p.m.
Learn different formats for expressing numbers in a spreadsheet. Excel I is recommended.

Excel III: Performing Calculations • Oct. 7 • 3 to 4 p.m.
Learn about functions and formulas and how to use them in calculations. Excel II is recommended.

Excel: Charts and Graphs • Oct. 11 • 3 to 4 p.m.
Create and format charts from data for visual emphasis. Previous experience with Microsoft Excel is recommended.

eBooks: Introduction • Oct. 14 • 3 to 4 p.m.
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Craigslist: Introduction • Oct. 18 • 3 to 4 p.m.
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Craiglist: Listing & Selling • Oct. 18 • 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.
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Start a new hobby

Fish Tales
By Jonie Maschek

You are so lucky to live in this area with all of our great waterways. We have both fresh and saltwater fish and we can fish in all seasons.

It seems odd that those who come ashore without fish, after spending a day on the water, always have a excuse of why they didn't make the catch.

Overheard at the boat ramp, "Hi buddy, you sure got some nice ones there, I really didn't go fishing, I was just trying out my boat."

Another: We did get giants, but we lost them trying to get them in the boat."

A big 'Fish Tale' by four anglers was that all of them caught huge fish, a cobia, a tarpon, and so on, but they released them.

A true angler will rise at an unearthly hour, travel in the most miserable weather, risk sunburn or a sunstroke, drowning, or exhaustion all for a fish!

If you can't go fishing, go to garage and estate sales or the flea market to look for old fishing gear. I have a lure from Eagle Bait who covered their lures with real snake and frog skins.

The antiques and the unusual are out there, so go searching, sell them, or start a new hobby. If you are from Ohio, you might remember a lure shaped like a mermaid. If you find one or have one in your old tackle box, you're in the money.

If you are from Chicago you might have one that looks like a frog, or if you are from Tampa you could remember or have a lure made by Kinney Bait Co. who made wooden birds and each had a real glass eye. Some may be in your grandfather's tackle box.

Start a collection of fishing gear. Work on it when you can't go fishing. You could make a lot of money selling to collectors.

The weather is perfect for fishing. I saw more catches coming in on boats at Williams Park than I have seen all summer.

Many boats were launched there over the weekend. Anglers come off the interstate and put their boats in at the mouth of the Alafia River and go out to the bay waters for a great day of fishing. They have a vast area there to park a trailer.

There is good fishing at Cockroach Bay, but your car isn't safe when parking along that narrow road to the bay. I have heard of many being vandalized.

The usual sheepshead catches were made this week. A few redfish of good size came ashore on a sailboat.

Good size flounder were among most all catches. This is a great tablefare fish.

Freshwater catfish were popular this week as were largemouth bass.

The redfish tournament at Doug Fox's Bait Shop is in full swing. Stop by and get in this "Count the Spots" Tournament which goes on each month.

Need food? Get a line and a pole and go to your favorite fishing hole.

Aleta Jonie Maschek is a member of Florida Outdoor Press.

Huntin' season is crankin' up!

Outta' the Woods
By Tony Young

Football season is in full swing, and the 2011-12 hunting season is cranking up. Heck, in Zone A, they're already into general gun season. But for the rest of us, I'd like to cover the rules and regulations regarding two hunting seasons that are just around the corner: muzzleloading gun and the first phase of dove.

Immediately following the close of crossbow season in each zone, the muzzleloading gun season begins. Season dates run Nov. 19 - Dec. 2 in Zone B, Oct. 22 - Nov. 4 in Zone C and Dec. 3-9 in Zone D.

During muzzleloading gun season, bows and crossbows are also legal methods of taking game on private lands, in addition to muzzleloaders. But on wildlife management areas (WMAs), only muzzleloaders may be used.

The most common types of game to take during muzzleloader season are deer and wild hog. Only bucks may be taken, and one antler must be at least 5 inches long above the hairline. The daily bag limit on antlered deer is two. You can hunt wild hogs year-round on private lands, and there are no bag or size limits.

It's also legal to shoot gobblers and bearded turkeys during muzzleloading gun season. You may take only one per day, and there's a two-bird fall-season limit. But you can't hunt turkeys in Holmes County during the fall and winter. On WMAs, bag limits and antler/size restrictions can differ, so check the specifics of the area before you hunt.

Legal shooting hours are a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset. Except for turkeys, hunters may take resident game over feed such as corn on private lands. No baiting is allowed on WMAs, however.

For hunting deer, muzzleloaders firing single bullets must be at least .40-caliber. Guns firing two or more balls must be 20-gauge or larger. You may not use muzzleloaders that take smokeless powder, ones that can be loaded from the breech or those with self-contained cartridge ammunition capabilities during muzzleloading gun season.

The first phase of the mourning and white-winged dove season begins Oct. 1 and ends Oct. 24 statewide. Shooting hours during this first phase are noon to sunset, and there's a 15-bird daily bag limit.

The only firearm you're allowed to use for hunting doves is a shotgun, but you can't use one larger than a 10-gauge. Shotguns must be plugged to a three-shell capacity (magazine and chamber combined).

You may hunt doves over an agricultural field, as long as the crop has been planted and manipulated under normal agricultural practices. However, it's against the law to scatter agricultural products over an area for the purpose of baiting.

Some things you can't do while dove hunting include using rifles, pistols or crossbows; shooting from a moving vehicle; and herding or driving doves with a vehicle.

In addition to a Florida hunting license, you'll need a $5 muzzleloading gun permit to hunt during muzzleloader season. To hunt deer, you need a $5 deer permit, and if you'd like to take a fall turkey, you'll need a $10 turkey permit ($125 for nonresidents). If you're going to hunt doves, you'll need a no-cost migratory bird permit, and if you hunt on a WMA, you also must have a management area permit, which costs $26.50.

All are available at your local county tax collector's office, through license agents, by calling 888-HUNT-FLORIDA or by going online to www.fl.wildlifelicense.com.

So if you're going after that monster buck during the muzzleloading gun season or dove hunting with friends and family, I hope I've helped explain some of Florida's rules and regulations.

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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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Johanna Fincher

Sun City Chamber Players to perform

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West, is proud to present the newly formed Sun City Chamber Players in their first concert of the new season performing Strings Plus One on Friday Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. The concert features Mozart's Flute Quartet in D Major, K. 285 with Gayle Heskett on flute, selected arias for soprano and string quintet performed by soprano Johanna Fincher, Debussy's Sacred & Profane Dances for Harp & String Quartet with Tasha Scot taking the solo instrument, and Mozart's Piano Quartet in G Minor, K. 478 with pianist, Jeff Jordan. Sun City Chamber string players include Founder and Artistic Director Shawn Snider on violin, Karen Tuttle on violin, Amy Menard on viola, Karolyn Silbaugh on cello and Jerome Butler on bass. Concert-goers are encouraged to arrive early for a good seat. You may view a video of the ensemble on YouTube by entering Sun City Chamber Players Present: "The Art of the String Quartet."

A donation of just $5 is requested at the door. For additional information about this and other concerts and recitals at the United Church of Sun City Center, call Jeff Jordan, Director of Music and the Arts, at 813-634-2539. To learn more about the United Methodist Church of Sun City center please visit their website at www.sccumc.com.

Kings Point artist donates painting

Glenna Collins of Kings Point, a former art teacher, has painted her first painting since recovering from a stroke and has chosen to donate it to the First Christian Church of Sun City Center led by Pastor David Campbell.

Multi-Cultural event celebrates unity in diversity

The Diocese of St. Petersburg invites all to gather for a day of celebrating the great diversity among the people of God. Celebrate this diversity at Nativity Catholic Church on Brandon Avenue (Route 60) in Brandon on Saturday, Oct. 29.

The day will begin at 9 a.m. with Mass. Guest homilist, who will also preside for the Mass, is the Most Reverend Ricardo Ramirez C.S.B., Bishop of Las Cruces, New Mexico.

The event will conclude with food, music and dance featuring the various cultures present within the diocese.

For more information call, the multi-cultural office at the Diocese 727 344-1611, ex. 337.

Fantastic Friday dinner theater begins

Great news—the start of another exciting Fantastic Friday Dinner Theater season begins at the United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Avenue, Sun City Center. Entertainment for the evening will be Homer Noodleman, who will wow the audience with his comedy, magic, impressions, and instrumental talents. Everyone in the community and surrounding areas is invited on Friday, Oct. 21, at 6 p.m. The menu offers pork loin, stuffed cabbage, salad, vegetables, beverages and German chocolate cake. The Dinner/Show package begins at 6 p.m. and the cost is $17 per person. Tickets may be purchased following the 10 a.m. worship service and on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon in the church Narthex. Tickets for the entertainment only are $5 and may be purchased at the above times or at the door the night of the performance at 7 p.m. For further information, call Paula Lickfeldt at 633-6739 or Karl Buffington at 634-7062.

Jesus Christ gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.
Titus 2:14

PHOTO BY HAZEL MARTIN

Seated are: Jean and Tom Mitchell, Standing Lee Cline, Karl Buffington, Bernadette Mueller, Roz Cruthis

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Sunday Services: 9:00 a.m. - Contemporary Service and Sunday School at West Campus (S.R. 674 and 9th Street SE, Ruskin)
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WEEKLY SERVICES:
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11 a.m. ..... Bible Study
10 a.m. & 6 p.m. ..... Worship
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6 p.m. ... Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

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

Accepting a loved one's loss

There will be a New Grief Recovery Support Group beginning at St. Anne Catholic Church, located on US 41 in Ruskin, on Sat. Oct. 22, 9-11 a.m. It will be facilitated by a Certified Grief Specialist, Anne McGuire, who has been doing this work for 11 years. There will be 10 sessions. The dates are: October 22 and 29; Nov 5, 12, and 19; Dec 3, 10 and 17; and Jan 7 and 14. The breaks for Thanksgiving and Christmas are necessary and the return after the holidays will be a good time for evaluating how the holidays went and making future plans. The aim of the program is to achieve, in time, through teaching and group work, acceptance of one's loss. Concepts, papers and books will be used to help one deal with the feelings engendered by loss with the goal of developing a deeper faith in oneself and a positive outlook for the future.

The program is open to all South Shore residents. If interested in joining this group call the St. Anne Office at 813-645-1714.

Classes for everyone

The United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Ave, Sun City Center has opportunities for everyone to join, learn, and participate in Christian fellowship.

New member orientation classes are scheduled for Tuesday Oct 11, at 4 p.m. and Tuesday , Oct 18 at 4 p.m. Learn about our church , history and missions. This is an informal gathering and please call the church office at 634-1304 to be included.

The "Small Group Gatherings" will begin this fall. Groups will be meeting at the church or the leader's home offering a great opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Material cost is ten dollars.

It's not too late to register

The Community College of Sun City Center, located at the United Community Church, is registering students until Thursday, Oct. 13.

Most classes are available, including trips to St. Armand's Art Festival, LaBarge Cruise, Cooking Demo at Mattison's 41 (includes lunch), and the St. Petersburg's Sunken Gardens.

Classes begin Monday, Oct. 10 with a menu of more than 40 interesting classes offered. You can learn sign language, interior design, all about India, how to buy and sell jewelry, train your dog or invest your money.

You can still register online at www.4lifelearning.org or call (813) 634-8607 Monday through Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and noon.

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Obituary

Frank A. Caulkins

Frank A. Caulkins, 93, passed away Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011 at Palm Garden in Sun City Center, FL Born in Columbus, Ohio, he was a resident of the Akron area for most of his life, moving to Florida in 1996 where he was a member of Ruskin Church of Christ for 14 years and served as their organist for the last 12 years. He also taught history at the University of South Florida in 1997-1998. Frank was a U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II, retiring as a Major. He was a graduate of the University of Akron with a Phd. in History, head of flight operations at Goodyear Aerospace and retired from Goodyear Tire as an Executive pilot. Frank was a former member of Lakeview Church of Christ, a charter member of Hump Pilots Association, member of American Radio Relay League, American Historical Association and was an avid Ham Radio operator. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy M. Caulkins; daughters, Dr. Ann Caulkins Ogg, M.D. (Ray); Dr. Dorothy Jean Caulkins Erb, Phd.; L. Sue Caulkins Marian, CPA (John); Cynthia Caulkins, BS and RN; Lisa K. Caulkins McLaughlin, BA (Patrick); eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren; and brother-in-law, Dave Starkweather of Alliance, Ohio. Funeral services were held Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011 at Campfield-Hickman-Collier Funeral Home, Barberton, Ohio, with Dr. Charles Beckett officiating. Buriel was at Greenlawn Memorial Park. He will be greatly missed by his wife Dorothy, five daughters and many friends and neighbors.

Breast Cancer Discussion

Join The Cancer Concerns Group for a candid discussion and presentation about breast cancer. You might be pleasantly surprised what you will learn. The presenter is Terrie Jefferson, Chief Nursing Officer of South Bay Hospital. Bring your family, friends and neighbors. There will be information that is valuable to you as a survivor or caregiver. There is no admission and no reservations. For more information, contact facilitator, Hazel Martin at 642-9020. The meeting will be at the United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Ave, Sun City Center on Friday, Oct. 14 at 1 p.m.

"If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me."
Jeremiah 29:13

In Memory of
ANNE BENNETT
11/10/38 - 10/6/10

It has been one year since God called you home, but words cannot express how much our hearts ache for you and how much we miss you every day, but find comfort that we will see you again. We miss you.

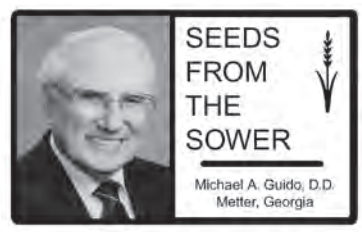
Love,
Gil, Keavin, Sherell, Ron, Kim, Kelly, Lori, Ryan, and Krisi

Look for craft fair in November

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Nov. 5 and remember the time is 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the place is The United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Ave., Sun City Center. The great Annual Craft Fair welcomes you to start your morning with coffee, tea and treats from the famous bake sale, while shopping the talented vendors and enjoying an delicious luncheon.

One of our talented vendors is Shirley Crist. Shirley creates custom designed jewelry from special stones, rocks and gems. This allows her to create one of a kind chains and earrings for you. Shirley is also a renowned artist who works with oil and water color and teaches locally. For Craft Fair information, call Terry Hood at 493-4957.

Shirley Crist displays her jewelry.



Ray Valine of California lost his job. It made so many wrinkles on his head that he had to screw his hat off.

Then he thought of a novel way to support his family. He turned his head into a billboard.

He shaved it, printed four ads on it, and wandered through the streets of Sacramento. He made $100 a day.

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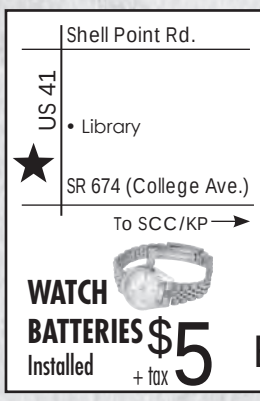
(next to Kidz Time)

BRANDON
Signature Cleaners
798 W. Lumsden 'La Viva Plaza'
(corner of Kings & Lumsden)



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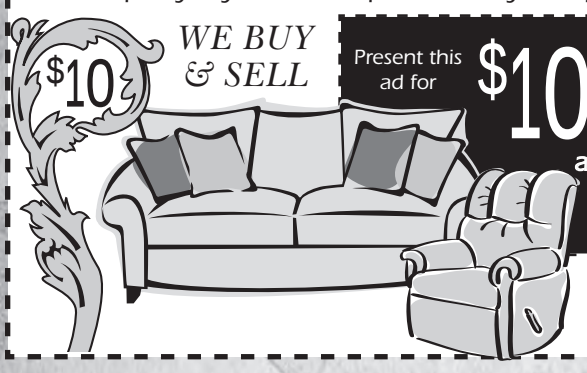

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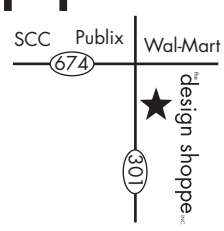

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SCC changes

■ Continued from page 1

renovations designed to enhance or enlarge many aspects of the community's amenities that residents use frequently or rate as high on their attractions list.

In March, residents were provided a paper ballot and asked to prioritize the list, to add any other amenities improvements they deemed worthy of investment and to express opinions as to financing potentials. Hundreds of SCC homeowners responded . And, in May, Martin Hurwitz , one of the board directors most involved with capital improvements planning, reported that another 35 suggestions for changes to current facilities or construction of new ones had been pinpointed. Hurwitz also said at the time that a residents' preference in financing mechanisms was taking shape.

Barnes declined this week to describe exactly which among the 45 or so possible improvement projects seem to have surfaced as most likely from the standpoints of desirability and feasibility. Ultimately, he indicated, the number, size and type could be driven by available and projected funding, in turn, influenced by economic conditions and CA membership commitment.

While not yet precisely ranked publicly, the board's originally proposed 10 projects have been detailed. Two of them – a café located in the Atrium complex as well as a lobby and ticket booth for the Rollins Theater on the Central Campus - would continue the projects proposed and approved in a 2004 community-wide referendum. Both would affect current golf cart parking space. The café, possibly in combination with a recreational retreat for Wii users, proved a popular choice among the 2011 survey responders, Hurwitz has said.

Among the board's eight other suggestions are several dealing with creation of new space. These include new construction to produce medium and larger sized meeting accommodations for a number of community users – homeowner associations, clubs, discussion groups, social organizations, CA committees and task forces – in order to relieve an ongoing shortage.

Such construction also could include facilities for the community library, the SCC Security Patrol and the CA offices, some of which functions now are shoehorned into an increasingly inadequate building on the Central Campus.

Additionally, in terms of more space, the board noted the possibility of a new and larger theater-style structure designed with a rising floor levels for better viewing of live performances, motion pictures, lectures and visitor presentations. If this design were to be constructed, the existing small theater would be converted to another use.

Another project might be adding pull-out style graduated seating in the Community Hall building in order to produce better viewing options during large community sessions there, but pushed back against the walls for banquets or dances.

Other possibilities are acquisition of more land for outdoor recreational features such as picnic areas, walking trails, bicycling and for additional parking adjacent to the Atrium.

As for financing these or other amenities features, the foundation has to be the $1,200 per dwelling transfer fee accruing when a home is sold to a new owner, Barnes said. A pay-as-it-goes scenario would begin with a substantial portion of the $800,000 in currently accrued transfer fees but limit what could be accomplished, while a loan secured by pledging future transfer fee monies could set in motion a number of projects but add the expense of interest on the debt. Hurwitz has stated survey responders favored the latter approach by two to one.

Regardless of the improvements wrapped into the ultimate master plan or the funding method finally accepted, CA directors generally agree that expanding the community's superior number and grade of amenities made available to all SCC residents for nominal annual membership dues is crucial to the community's future as the area's retirement center of choice.

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Garage sale. Furniture, lamps, household, some antiques, & more 1505 Allegheny Dr, SCC. Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm.

Big Yard Sale.
Saturday, Oct. 8, Helping Hands Thrift Shop, 2 miles south of SCC on US 301. All clothes 50¢ each. Furniture, collectible & jewelry

Calvary's Angel Attic Thrift Store
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2nd Saturday of the month
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vegetables • Plants • Arts/Crafts • Flea/Garage Items
Vendor Line/Questions 645-8366

Community wide yard sale. Saturday, Oct. 8. Cypress View II, Atrium Dr., off Del Webb West. 8am-1pm. Furniture & misc.

Yard sale. Oct. 7 & 8. Moving many items must be sold. 134 Lookout Dr. Apollo Beach. Bedroom set, dinette set, family room set, patio furniture, various accent tables, complete set office furniture, entertainment center, TV, many accessories, clothes.

Yard sale. Oct. 8, 8am. 707 Oak St. SW, Ruskin. Tools, lawn equipment, ladies & children clothing, toys, books & misc.

Come join Century 21 Beggins, 6542 N. US 41, Apollo Beach. Saturday Oct. 8, 8am-1pm.
Huge Yard Sale
Lots of great clothes, furniture, books, DVDs. Need a wedding dress, we have 18 from size 6-24 for only $50 each. Need a Homecoming gown, we have 200 gowns up to $25 each. While shopping get your car washed & when finished have lunch at the Barbecue pit.

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310 GARAGE/ YARD SALE

4 families. 1921 East View Dr., SCC. Queen size lattice wood headboard, clothes size 10, dishes, mirrors, glass work, silk flower arrangements, fall decorations. King bedspreads, side by side refrigerator ice & water, gun cabinet, leather queen sleeper sofa & leather queen sofa, glass top wicker table w/ 4 chairs, 2 glass top coffee tables, 3x5 & 3x6 mirrors, wicker love seat, bath vanity, sinks, etc, electric lift reclining chair. Too much to mention. Friday & Saturday, 7am-2pm.

Wimauma Church of God Campgrounds, 5408 SR 674. 10 family yard & craft sale. 7am-? Saturday. Furniture, king size sheets, bed spread, pictures, small appliances, much more. Breakfast & lunch also available.

10405 Brussels Dr. (33578). US 301 to Symmes. Look for signs. Brighton jewelry, Longaberger baskets, Vera Bradley & Coach purses & accessories. Teen clothes A&S, AE, Hollister etc. Ladies 14-18. Christmas decor, antiques, lots more, don't miss it. Saturday, 8am-2pm.

Framed art, dishes, Christmas decorations, recliner, misc. motorcycle parts, trailer & more. Plus screened printing, pad printer & button machine. Saturday, 8am-2pm. 1119 Opal Lane, SCC.

Riverview. 10413 Summerview Circle. North of Big Bend, behind Advance Auto. Housewares & more! Priced to sell!. 8am. Saturday.

Moving sale. 211 Stoneham, St Andrews, SCC. Friday & Saturday, 9a,-noon. Dishwasher, petal sink, entertainment center, 46" TV, wicker furniture

2621 Universal Dr., Ruskin. Saturday & Sunday. New CDs. DVDs, jewelry. 50¢ each (3) for $1, lots of misc. 8am-?

Yard sale. Friday 10/7 & Saturday 10/8. 1810 Atrium Dr., SCC. HP Printer, shredder, misc. kitchen & much more

Moving sale. Furniture, baby items, scrubs. Everything must go. 1630 Oracle Dr., Ruskin. Oct. 7 & 8, 8am-?

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Big yard sale. Clothes all sizes, tools, kitchenware, kids toys & more. Bayou-Pass, 2207 Pleasant View Ave., Ruskin. 7am-3pm. Friday & Saturday

Riverview. Osprey Run community yard sale. Oct 8, 8am-2pm. (US 301 & Bloomingdale Ave.). Little bit of everything. Come & see!

Garage sale. Clothes, lounge chair, shoes, purses, household items & more. 8:30am-2pm. Oct. 7 & 8. 2204 New Bedford Dr., SCC/

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PRICE REDUCTION!! HISTORIC RUSKIN HOME BUILT IN 1910. A must see to appreciate the uniqueness of this home. Lots of room for kids and toys , storage galore , mobile home hook up, large shade and fruit trees. Beautiful interior that has to be seen to appreciate. **$299,900. CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

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

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