

INSIDE:



Mark your calendar for the Festival of Trees from 3-8 p.m. on Dec. 10 at the SouthShore Regional Library. See their announcement on **page 14.**



Many local churches are offering thanks by serving Thanksgiving dinners. Look for their schedules on **pages 20 and 21.**

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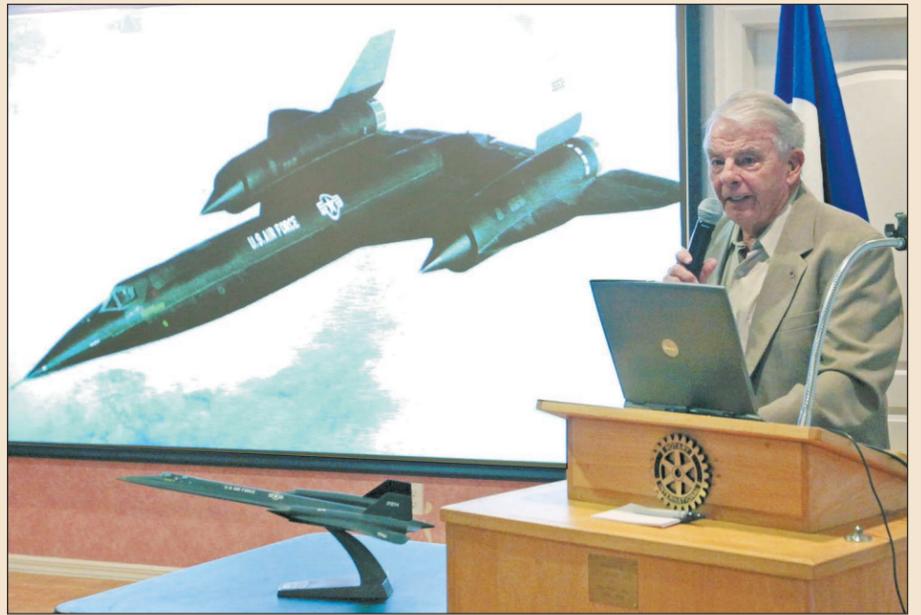
What were once secrets are now stories of achievement, heroism

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

The sky was black above Major Bill Campbell. At 80,000 feet above the earth, he entered the stratosphere at Mach 3.2, leaving sound far behind him. Campbell was on a mission, he knew the enemy was coming with the aim to shoot him down. As the pilot of a SR-71 Blackbird jet, Campbell had a variety of defensive strategies — the first of which was simply to outrun anything that was fired at him. In the history of the aircraft, no Blackbird was ever lost to enemy fire. It was, and still is, the world's fastest jet. No one could hit it, and the pilots, the best of the best, were too skilled to allow for even a lucky shot.

The Blackbird was developed in secret beginning in the late 1950s. It was the first aircraft in the world to use stealth technology and from the pilot's perspective it was a spaceship as much as it was a jet plane. It was not only the world's fastest jet, but also the highest-flying conventional aircraft. The pilots were required to wear protective pressure suits, the design for which was later used by astronauts on the space shuttle. While armed

See **ACHIEVEMENT, HEROISM**, page 14



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Lt. General William Campbell, a former pilot of the once top-secret SR-71 Blackbird speaks of his experiences in flying the world's fastest jet during the monthly meeting of the Silver Osprey Squadron in Sun City Center.



New parks program expanding to two more South County recreation centers

By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

When school opened Aug. 23 parents of many students who had always used facilities at South County parks for after school care had to make other arrangements.

That's because the parks programs for students were — and are still — in flux.

Some parks no longer have the traditional after school care they have had for the last 25 years, although most still have events like karate and dance that students may attend. But signing children up for activities did not assure their parents they would be safe all afternoon until they got in from work.

That is not the same as knowing students leaving school have a place to go until six p.m.

See **NEW PARK PROGRAMS**, page 15

Problem properties among community improvement concerns

By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER — As residents here look ahead to their community's second half century and leaders consider a million-dollar improvements program, renewed interest in private home upkeep is surfacing.

At the top of the priority list are properties which have become community eyesores; particularly unoccupied homes left to deteriorate, surrounded by tangles of overgrown vegetation hosting colonies of rats, snakes and insects.

The SCC Community Association board, at least one candidate in the upcoming directors' election and outraged neighbors all have weighed in on the subject, expressing concerns about community appearances, prospective buyers and property values.

The best possible long term solutions may rest with Hillsborough County's Code Enforcement section.

Some unkempt properties are foreclosures, abandoned by owners unable to meet mortgage obligations and eventually taken back by lenders hoping to recoup with a reduced price resale or the increasingly-used short sale process. In these cases, the property may become unsightly, but usually on a temporary basis until the lender assumes responsibility for maintenance.

Other homes, though, are the legal properties of indifferent absentee owners, uncaring about the effects and ramifications for entire neighborhoods of their intentional neglect, unwilling to rent or sell the houses. Such properties frustrate worried neighbors, plague CA leaders and bedevil code enforcement personnel.

A case in point is the dwelling at 1516 Ft. Duquesna Drive in the heart of Sun City Center's north side.

Once the home of his late mother, James Richard Koch of Martinsville, N.J., is the current owner of record, according to the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser. The decaying dwelling and overgrown lot have been unwelcome neighborhood, community and county problems since 2006 when the first complaints were made, according to code enforcement section records.

While Koch, to whom the property passed when his mother died, does not live in or near the home nor does he check on it or maintain it routinely, he apparently does pay both annual property taxes and CA membership dues. County ad valorem taxes of about \$1,500 on the non-homesteaded, concrete block dwelling of 1,320 square feet have been paid each year, property appraiser records show. And the two-person CA membership dues totaling a little over \$500 each year also are

See **SCC PROBLEM PROPERTIES**, page 17

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Car show a big draw as Ruskin Drive In fundraiser

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



This beautiful 1960 Chevy Impala owned by Jerry Buttons of Gibsonton had an A&W Drive In tray on the driver's side and the movie theater speaker on the passenger side.



A man checks out a 1959 Rambler.



In the case of this perfect 1954 Chevy Bel Air, they definitely don't make them like they used to.

There could not have been a more perfect place for a classic show than the Ruskin Drive In. And there could not have been a more perfect day than last Sunday, with warm temperatures, clear blue skies and sunshine reflecting off the perfect paint of dozens of classic automobiles. There is simply something fitting about seeing a 1960 Chevy Impala parked in front of the big outdoor movie screen. The event, with cars from the Roamin' Oldies Car Club of Sun City Center, included a bake sale, activities for children, and public voting for the most favorite of cars — certainly an extremely difficult choice given the dozens of cars ranging from perfectly restored sedans to Corvettes of all vintages. The event was held as a fundraiser to help the Ruskin Drive In raise the funds necessary to convert to digital movie technology by 2013, when it is expected movies on film will no longer be available. For more information visit www.ruskinfamilydrivein.com.



This is as close to getting behind the wheel of a 1960 Corvette as most of us will get. This car is owned by Bill and Kare Crotty of Apollo Beach

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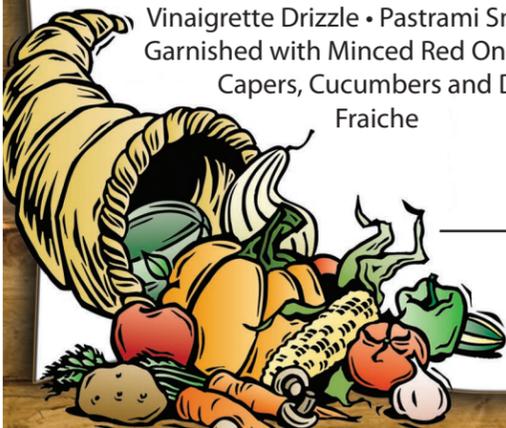
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PETE WOOD

On the road again *Brit makes Florida farming his life*

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

RIVERVIEW — Pete Wood has spent his whole life on the road. Once known as Safari Pete, now he's known as Farmer Pete but he's still taking his show on the road. Born in 1943, Pete grew up in Lancashire, England, where his parents performed circus acts. At 10, he was walking the high wire

and training circus ponies for his dad's acts.

Then, in 1966, he moved to Canada because he had cousins, uncles, aunts and a grandmother there.

"I got off the boat on a Monday and started work at a furniture store on Wednesday. Then I met a guy who worked with a circus and I was off."

Gradually Pete built his own circus. First he purchased a Ferris wheel and some kiddie rides. Then he built a roller coaster and started traveling all of North America; Canada, Mexico and the United States.

He added fun houses and a cotton candy trailer and 17 games and traveled North America from top to bottom.

One day, he decided to sell out and take a job at Farm Fun Park in Ontario. But soon, he put in his own show again- this time, called Circus Fantasy where he clowned and worked with animals and had a petting zoo.

One winter he played in Sarasota and realized how many other show people lived on Florida's Gulf Coast.

He loved it immediately but didn't settle here just yet.

"I had a contract with Boblo Island in Ontario that lasted nine years." He fulfilled it, but spent his winters in Florida. By that time, he had more than 1,000 animals in an act called Old MacDonald's Zoo and it took three semi-trucks to transport them.

"Moving from place to place wasn't easy," Pete said.

Yet he would come to Florida when the northern roads got too cold to travel and work with his animals, costumes and acts. That's when he began doing shows at the Florida State Fair in Tampa.

By then he also had a dog and monkey show and raced roosters and runner ducks.

But then there was a party. A biggggg.... Party.

The morning after that party, he was told he had bought three male lions and five tigers.

He didn't remember it, but the

previous owners showed him the check.

"I'd never worked with big cats, so I hired the Kramers to work them for me," he said. They had been the owners until the deal was made.

At that point, Pete also found that the motor in his truck was blown up, and it would cost him \$11,000 to replace.

"I had a date in Fargo, North Dakota. I called up George Cardin (who he'd booked with) and told him I'd never worked with cats but I'd try it anyway."

He did, but not before he got his animals out of impound where they had been placed by animal welfare sometime during the period between the "party" and the incident with his truck.

It was a wild time but Pete and the Kramers made it into the ring on time and pulled off the show. In fact, they were so good, he booked all over Mexico and West Virginia with them.

"I worked with those cats for nine years," Pete said, laughing as he recalled past events. "I got a telephone call from 'Circus of the Stars' so I went to Northridge, California and rehearsed for four months for that. David Hasselhoff was supposed to be in the show, but his wife wouldn't let him do it. She said she didn't want him to tear up his pretty face."

George Segal ended up doing it instead. We went to Caesar's Palace and filmed for 'Circus of the Stars' there."

After that Pete traveled some with Roberts Brothers Circus, but was now spending more and more time in Florida.

By then he was involved with the International Independent Showman's Association based in Riverview and at one time was its president.

After a show one night in Nebraska, two young boys knocked on his door and asked him if he would show them his elephants and tigers.

"Well, I was tired, but I did. They really seemed to want to see them," Pete said. It was at this point his whole face lit up with a smile. "That's how I met my wife, you know," he explained.

And then he told the whole story. The boys went home, and about

See FARMER PETE, page 22



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Pete Wood, a circus performer since he was a child, now raises produce and sells it at farmer's markets and at his farm in Riverview. He also sells it from a small truck and off a wagon in some neighborhoods where people can't always get to a place that sells fresh fruits and vegetables. "Everyone should have access to freshness," Pete said.

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POSITIVE TALK

Ready to Complain? Then Do It Right!

If you have made up your mind to complain, make your complaint count. Too many times, we complain to those around us about a situation but do nothing constructive about it. Over the past week, I have had people complain to me about such things as the weather, their boss, their job, their spouse, how merchants treated them; and one even complained to me about the lack of intimacy between him



Positive Talk
By William Hodges

told me to butt out. At that point, I advised the young woman to call a manger and I would confirm the abusiveness of the customer. With this, the customer bolted out of the store mumbling about how important she was. Keep in mind, if you have to tell people how important you are, you aren't. Because she got angry, she embarrassed herself and her company. More importantly, she did not get

when he said, "The wheel that squeaks the loudest is the one that gets the grease." But I think it is more important, too, to remember, "It will be the first to be replaced."
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

and his girlfriend. In all honesty, I have no control over any of these subjects, and no need to know any of the information given me. These people were, in fact, wasting their time telling me their complaints.

First rule: When you decide to complain, be sure the person you are complaining to has the ability to act on the problem. When you tell others of the problem, you may get sympathy but little else. Rarely does someone else have the inclination to fight your battles. Keep in mind the old saying: When you tell others your problem, 80 percent of the people do not care and the other 20 percent are glad they are your problems—not theirs. There may be a few people who care, but they are few and far between. Even if they do care but can do nothing about your problem, you just end up making them miserable as well. Complain to the person who can fix the problem and do it in a rational manner.

Rule two: Think before you complain and have your thoughts organized in a rational manner. Anger is one of our worst enemies; it can make us look foolish. For example, when I was at a Sam's Warehouse Club, I watched a young customer service clerk take a very unwarranted tongue lashing from a disgruntled patron. This woman kept yelling at the poor girl and said that she, the customer, was a vice president of her company and that the girl had better do what she told her, even though—as the girl explained several times—it was against Sam's policy. When I offered to mediate, the irate customer told me it was none of my business in no uncertain terms, and in less than genteel language

her problem solved. I am not even sure she knew what would have made her happy.

That brings us to the third rule: Know how you want the problem solved and what will make you happy. I remember seeing a cartoon showing a rather irate customer returning a vacuum cleaner to a harried looking customer service representative. The caption read, "All right, then we are agreed. We will take it back, close the store, shut down the factory, and shoot the designers." Think about what it will take to satisfy your complaints and be reasonable in your request. Try to put yourself in the place of the other person or company. How would you feel if you had to face you and solve your problem? Don't make people guess what you want. In a cool, calm and collected manner, express the problem and how you want it solved. Tell the other person what will make you happy.

Finally, do not complain about inconsequential things. If you constantly complain about everything, you will be tagged a "whiner." People will stop listening to what you have to say. Josh Billings, humorist, may have been right

Thank you!

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to thank all the friends and coworkers of Antonio Haddock for coming to his service.

Tony was a great man and a proud one too. He worked as a cleaning captain at Taco Bell in Sun City Center for better than 5 years. The 'Taco Bell' will not be the same without him.

As he used to say and I quote, "No one wants to die, but everyone wants to go to Heaven."

Well, Antonio didn't want to die, but we do know he's in Heaven.

Thank you again for making his day a very special day.

*Darlene and John Lentis
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Thanksgiving dinner for homeless Vets

Joel Markman of Florida Veterans Assistance presented Liberty Manor for Veterans gift certificates for fifty homeless veterans to enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner at Village Inn on Nov. 24.



Left to right: Joel Markman; CEO Connie Blaney, Liberty Manor for Veterans; and CEO Operation Enduring Gratitude Daniel Garza.

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RUSKIN Moose Lodge #813 UPCOMING EVENTS

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WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Wednesday	5-7 p.m.	'Best Spaghetti in Ruskin'
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	11 a.m.	Turkey Shoot
	2 p.m.	Horseshoes
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim

UPCOMING EVENTS

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
Saturday, Nov. 26	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Dec. 2	7-11 p.m.	Charlie Burns
Saturday, Dec. 3	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Dec. 9	7-11 p.m.	Randy McNeilly
Saturday, Dec. 10	5-7 p.m.	Steak Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim
Friday, Dec. 16	7-11 p.m.	Double Barrell
Saturday, Dec. 17	5-11 p.m.	Christmas Dinner and Show
Friday, Dec. 23	7-11 p.m.	Caribbean Cowboys

All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests.

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, Nov. 17 — Bar Bingo at 6 p.m. Men's Auxiliary Meeting at 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 18 — Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by Nightlife from 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 19 — Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen & Teacher Award Dinner at noon. Music by Brother to Brother from 7 to 11 p.m.

Queen of Hearts.

Sunday, Nov. 20 — Music Festival & Food Showcase to benefit Ruskin Drive-in Theater from noon to 6 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 21 — Dart League at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 22 — Games in Lounge from 1 to 5 p.m. Kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. until first break. Bingo at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 23 — American Legion Riders Meeting at 7 p.m.

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MEETINGS

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

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

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

MEALS

Wednesday Spaghetti Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m.

Friday Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m.

Sunday Breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon

CANTEEN HAPPENINGS

Bar Bingo Monday at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Now's the time to check your irrigation timer

The Southwest Florida Water Management District is reminding residents to check the timers on their irrigation system controllers to make sure irrigation system timers are set correctly to ensure that the systems operate consistently with current water restrictions.

Under the District's current year Phase I water shortage restrictions, lawn and landscape watering remains limited to a two-day-per-week schedule, and residents may only water before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. Some local governments have stricter ordinances limiting lawn watering to one day per week or using different watering hours, so always refer to your local government or utility restriction guidelines first.

Know and follow your local watering restrictions, but don't water just because it's your day. Irrigate your lawn when it shows signs of stress from lack of water. Pay attention to signs of stressed grass:

- Grass blades are folded in half lengthwise on at least one-third of your yard.
- Grass blades appear blue-gray.
- Grass blades do not spring back, leaving footprints on the lawn for several minutes after walking on it.

For more information about water restrictions and water conservation, contact your local utility or visit the District's website at www.WaterMatters.org/conservation/.

Brandon Ballet offers production tour

The Brandon Ballet is pleased to offer an educational, Behind the Scenes and Homeschool tour from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 161 E. Bloomingdale Ave., Brandon.

View a rehearsal and company class in preparation for Brandon Ballet's production of The Nutcracker. Participants will learn about the choreographer, music and composer of the ballet. They will also get a costume tour and an exclusive question and answer session with the dancers. Learn what goes into making a full length ballet come to life on stage.

This event is great for all ages; they welcome large groups and home school students to attend this free affair. Sign up at Emaildance@brandonballet.org or call 684-4282 to reserve a spot for your group.

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, Nov. 17 -- Bar Games at 1 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 18 — NO Feather Your Nest Game. Music by Bert & Sassy at 6 p.m. Burgers, etc. being served.

Saturday, Nov. 19 — Baked Goods Sale from noon 'til gone. Pasta Dinner at 5 p.m. Music by the Sister Act from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 20 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 21 — Bingo at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 22 — Come on down and socialize.

Wednesday, Nov. 23 — Wings and Things. OH SO GOOD! Bar Games at 6 p.m.

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



Safe and Smart Holiday Travel

If you're planning to go home for the holidays, it's never too early to start your travel plans. The following tips will help ensure you'll arrive in time to help carve the turkey, open gifts on Christmas morning, or bring in a cheerful New Year.

Flying Home for the Holidays:

- Avoid peak travel days by booking your flights at least two days before and after Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.
- Secure a non-stop flight or one with the fewest connections and stops.
- Book morning flights as they tend to have fewer delays than afternoon departures.
- Check in early for holiday flights:
 - Two hours before departure for domestic flights.
 - Three hours before departure for international flights.
- Don't wrap holiday gifts and place them in checked luggage. Send them by postal mail in advance of your flight.

Driving Home for the Holidays:

- Get your car inspected by a qualified mechanic before travel to make sure brakes, battery, fluid levels, tire pressure, light bulbs and other equipment are all in top working condition.
- Pack emergency equipment including first-aid kit, flashlight, blanket, water, snacks, flares, jumper cables, tire chains and ice scraper if traveling to cold-weather states.
- Lock valuables and gifts in the car trunk.

Tips from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Consumer Services to avoid travel fraud:

- Find out if the seller of travel is registered or licensed and if any complaints have been filed against them at www.800helpfla.com or call 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352).
- Beware of high-pressure sales tactics that require immediate payment or decision.
- Don't sign a contract acknowledging acceptance of terms and conditions if you have any doubts or questions.
- Get all details in writing before you make a purchase and keep a copy of the cancellation and refund policies.
- Use a credit card so you can dispute the charges if you don't get what you pay for.
- Don't provide your credit card number if you didn't initiate the call.
- Be skeptical of unsolicited postcards or telephone calls, faxes or emails telling you that you've been selected to receive a free vacation.
- Obtain travel insurance to minimize the risk of losing large quantities of money. Check state licensing at www.myfloridacfo.com.
- Read the fine print to be aware of any coverage exclusions.
- Get more information, or report travel scams at www.800helpfla.com or call 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352).

School Board and USF formalize alliance

The Hillsborough County School Board approved a three-year memorandum of understanding with the University of South Florida (USF) College of Education (COEDU) formalizing the Tampa Bay Educational Partnership.

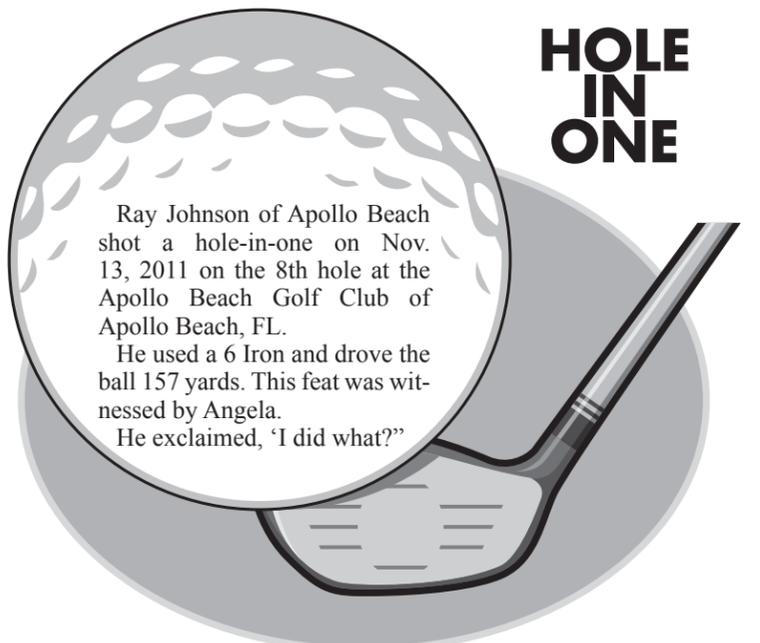
The partnership will be facilitated by a director who also will serve as associate director of the David C. Anchin Center in the COEDU.

The director will act as the link between the school district and USF for research interests, communicating proposed projects, establishing networks, and facilitating contracts and grants.

"It is important to have one point of contact who will align strategies and resources to assist in achieving our respective goals, which will build and enhance our mutually beneficial relationship," said Superintendent MaryEllen Elia.

The agreement was approved by the School Board at a meeting that was attended by USF President Judy Genshaft; USF College of Education Dean Colleen S. Kennedy; Director of the Tampa Bay Educational Partnership Donna Elam; and Professor and Associate Department Chair Gladis Kersaint. Elam has been appointed by USF to serve as the director of the Partnership.

"We recognize that Florida's future depends upon building strong bonds between pre-K-12 schools and institutions of higher education to ensure every child's success," said Dean Kennedy.



Ray Johnson of Apollo Beach shot a hole-in-one on Nov. 13, 2011 on the 8th hole at the Apollo Beach Golf Club of Apollo Beach, FL.

He used a 6 Iron and drove the ball 157 yards. This feat was witnessed by Angela.

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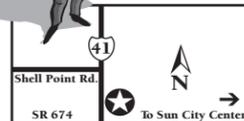
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THE SAVVY SENIOR

How Seniors Can Guard Against Identity Theft

Dear Savvy Senior,

What tips and resources can you recommend to help seniors guard against identity theft? My next door neighbor, who's 79, recently had her identity stolen and I want to make sure it doesn't happen to me.

Cautious Connie



The Savvy Senior

By Jim Miller

Dear Connie,

Identity theft continues to be a big problem in the U.S., affecting around nine million people every year – many of whom are seniors. Identity theft occurs when someone gets access to your Social Security number (SSN), bank or credit card account number, or other identifying information and uses it to steal from you. While there's no iron-clad protection against ID theft, here are some things you can do to minimize your risks.

Guard your SSN: Treat your SSN like your most prized possession. Never carry your Social Security card around in your wallet or purse, don't write your SSN on checks (except those you send to the IRS), and never give your SSN, credit card number, checking or savings account numbers to strangers who call, visit, text, or send e-mail messages to you even if they seem legitimate. And, don't carry around your Medicare card either unless you're going to the doctor. Your Medicare card contains your SSN.

Be wary of emails: If you use the Internet, don't trust emails that claim to be from the Social Security Administration, the IRS or other government agencies. Also be leery of emails that look like they're from your bank, telephone company or credit card company. Remember that only phony e-mails will ask for your credit card number or SSN. For more Internet fraud tips including a list of common online scams see onguardonline.gov.

Secure your mail: Empty your mailbox quickly, or consider getting a P.O. Box or buy a locked mailbox to deter thieves. Also, don't leave outgoing mail in your mailbox. To put a stop to pre-screened credit-card offers that thieves look to intercept, use the consumer credit reporting industry opt-out service at optoutprescreen.com or call 888-567-8688 – they will ask for your SSN and date of birth.

Destroy your trash: Buy a cross-cut paper shredder and shred all records, receipts, statements, preapproved credit offers, mail solicitations or other papers you throw out that has your financial or personal information.

Monitor your accounts: Review your monthly bank and credit card statements carefully, and see if your bank or credit-card issuer offers free alerts that will warn you of suspicious activity as soon as it's detected. If they do, sign up for them.

Watch your credit: Check your credit report at annualcreditreport.com or call 877-322-8228. You can receive one free report a year from each of the three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion), so consider staggering your request so you can get one

free copy every four months.

Set up security freezes: You can help protect yourself by setting up a security freeze on your credit reports at all three credit bureaus – Equifax (equifax.com, 800-685-1111), Experian (experian.com, 888-397-3742) and TransUnion (transunion.com, 877-322-8228). With a freeze in place, no one, including you, can open new lines of credit in your name. This typically costs \$5 to \$10 per person per credit bureau each time you freeze or thaw your credit report. Some states offer free freezes for ID-theft victims.

Take action: If you ever think your identity's been stolen, immediately contact your creditors and financial institutions to report unauthorized charges or debts, and close any compromised accounts. Then place fraud alerts and security freezes with the three credit reporting agencies, and file a report with your local police and with the Federal Trade Commission at ftccomplaintassistant.gov or 877-438-4338.

Savvy tips: For more tips on preventing identity theft visit idtheftinfo.org and idtheftcenter.org. You can also hire an identity theft protection service like ProtectMyID, LifeLock or TrustedID to keep tabs on your identity for you. These companies typically charge around \$10 to \$20 per month, but the services they provide are typically no better than what you can do yourself by following the previously listed tips.

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.

Nonsense, the mega-musical opens this Friday

The Pelican Players Community Theatre's production of "Nonsense, the Mega-Musical" will open at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18 at the Borini Theatre in Kings Point. This hilarious comedy will be full of singing, dancing and fun as the "Little Sisters of Hoboken" stage a "benefit" to raise money to bury four of their "sisters" currently residing in the freezer.



Gymnast Katya Marlowe to join cast of Nonsense.

Three junior Olympic gymnasts from the Tampabay Rhythmics troupe will join the "Nonsense" cast and are certain to amaze, as well as entertain. Mollie Anderson (Odd Couple) will be back as the hilarious Sister Mary Amnesia; Terry Fiset (Odd Couple) is back as the harried and clueless Reverend Mother, and Sun City's own Rosemary Cash will perform a foot stomping gospel number.

Cabaret seating at tables of eight will add to the fun, so bring your friends and the beverage of your choice and join the Little Sisters as they rock the house.

"Nonsense, the Mega-Musical" will run two weekends starting Friday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m., then Saturday, Nov. 19 at 1:30 and 7 p.m. and again on December 2 and 3. Tickets are \$15. Reservations at www.pelicanplayers.org or call the Kings Point Box Office.

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.

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



Senior assaulted in supermarket aisle

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

KINGS POINT – For one retiree here, a recent trip to the supermarket produced nothing but a sharply curtailed ability to eat.

And as a result, a 34-year-old Ruskin man now is front and center on the local Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office radar, facing a felony charge.

The situation began to unfold at mid-afternoon on Tuesday, October 25, when the 61-year-old woman, accompanied by a family member, entered the Winn Dixie store on Sun City Center Boulevard intending to buy groceries. Once inside the supermarket, she allegedly was assaulted in the midst of numerous witnesses without any clear motive or known provocation, according to HCSO reports.

The alleged attacker, described as a Hispanic male, then fled the store and left the parking area in a personal vehicle, witnesses told sheriff's deputies. Officers soon identified him as Steven Bardales, a Ruskin resident, and learned that he checked himself into a local

hospital immediately following the attack, Sgt. Robert LaBarge said this week.

HCSO District IV deputies and detectives have been trying to apprehend him ever since. With Bardales not yet in custody as of publishing deadline this week, LaBarge declined to identify the victim.

The Kings Point retiree apparently was accosted by Bardales without warning, punched in the face and knocked to the floor, LaBarge said. Her jaw was fractured in the attack and subsequent medical treatment required wiring the jaw closed, rendering her temporarily unable to chew or consume most solid foods, reports indicated.

Meanwhile, Bardales, after making use of certain legal protections provided in some medically-related circumstances, was discharged from the hospital and slipped away from detectives. Deputies are continuing to search for him, LaBarge said.

Bardales has no criminal history

in Hillsborough County, but now is wanted under a warrant charging him with felony battery. The warrant is effective anywhere in the United States and would authorize his arrest if he were to be stopped by law enforcement officers in another jurisdiction. Upon conviction of the third degree felony, he could serve up to five years in prison.

HCSO District IV officers also are maintaining routine contact with the victim. On Monday evening this week, Det. Gary Gordon said she is recovering.

The matter remains under investigation. Anyone with information about Bardales' habits or location is urged to contact LaBarge at 813-247-0418.

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Publisher: Introduction and Formatting
Thursday, November 17 • 12:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Introduction to the Publisher window layout, toolbars, creating new documents and insertion of text and picture frames. Manipulating picture and text frames, working with lines, borders and colors. Registration for this program is available when the Library opens at noon.

Smooth Jazz Performance by Sam Allen
Saturday, November 19 • 1 to 3 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of smooth jazz music performed by talented recording artist and saxophonist Sam Allen. Tap, snap and clap your way through this entertaining musical event! Free event is funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

Internet: Introduction and Google
Tuesday, November 22 • 12:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Introduction to the Internet and related terminology. Learn how to use Google to find information and tips for evaluating what you find. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended. Registration is available one hour prior to the beginning of the program.

eBooks and eReaders
Tuesday, November 22 • 6 to 7 p.m.

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

Deaf and Hearing Connection Telephone Distribution
Wednesday, November 23 • 1 to p.m.

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI) provides free specialized equipment and training to qualified Florida residents who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired. The equipment enables them to place and receive phone calls.

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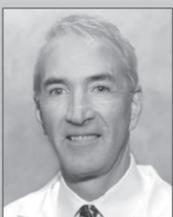
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Operation Feline Fix (OFF) for free-roaming cats is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 3 at C.A.R.E., 1528 27th St., Ruskin.



Charge is \$15 per cat or kitten. Kittens must weigh 4 pounds or be 4 months old. No carriers are allowed. All cats must be in a trap. Only one cat per trap.

Reservations are required. Call (813) 633-7302. Drop-off time at C.A.R.E. is 7:30 a.m. Pick-up time is 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Burri joins Tampa Bay Cancer Center

Tampa Bay Cancer Center, a member of Florida Cancer Physicians Network, is proud to announce, Ryan J. Burri, MD joined Tampa Bay Cancer Center and their outstanding staff of board-certified radiation oncologists, Jamie Cesaretti, MD, MS, Maureen Holasek, MD, Johnny Kao, MD and Janelle Park, MD.

Dr. Ryan Burri joined the practice after having been on the academic faculty in the Radiation Oncology department of Columbia University School of Medicine in New York City. While at Columbia Dr. Burri successfully treated all forms of cancer including Head and Neck, Prostate, Breast, Skin, Lung, Bladder, Cervical Cancer and

Sarcomas with the most modern radiation treatment techniques.

He developed a very skilled approach to using intensity modulated radiation, image guided radiation, brachytherapy and conformal radiation for different cancer sites. He also has worked very closely with many breast surgeons, medical oncologists and urologists in terms of best coordinating patient and family centered cancer care.

Dr. Ryan Burri completed medical school training at Michigan State University and his radiation oncology residency training at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. While at Mount Sinai School of Medicine Dr. Burri was appointed Chief Resident



DR. RYAN BURRI

for the Department of Radiation Oncology. In addition, while at Mount Sinai he published several

important studies about curing intermediate and high risk prostate cancer with radiation while working to have the lowest side effect profile possible.

"While at Columbia University in New York I had many patients from Southern Florida. I am happy to be here now so my patients no longer have to travel so far for their care! I am looking forward to joining this practice; within the field of radiation oncology they are all well known to be great physicians and an outstanding care team!" says Dr. Burri.

He can be contacted for a referral at the Tampa Bay Cancer Center of Sun City Center at (813) 633-5513. Dr. Burri is located at the Sun City Center office at 720 Cortaro Drive, Sun City Center 5 days a week.

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.



TORTIFIR

Tortifir is a lithe female torty, or tortoiseshell kitten. She is a real beauty and is a playful bundle of kinetic energy who will play at the drop of a cat toy. With her sister she was found as a stray and fostered back to health by C.A.R.E. volunteers. See this little star of stage and screen and make her a part of your forever scene. Tortifir has been spayed and brought up-to-date on her shots as well as microchipped. DOB: 6/2/2011.

Dr. Ryan Burri



MAY

May is a beautiful Lab mix puppy who, along with her litter mates, was being peddled at a bar. A patron took pity on her and brought her to C.A.R.E. May is as sweet as puppies come. She loves her green frog and to play fetch. If you sit on the ground with her she will cuddle up in your lap. As part of her adoption, May will be spayed, microchipped, and brought current on her shots. Vet references and a fenced-in yard preferred. DOB: Sept 2011.



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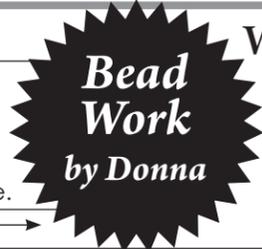
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FISH TALES

Fish recipes for Thanksgiving

How fortunate we are to be in Florida for Thanksgiving. Our sunsets make me wonder if there could be a prettier one some other place in the world. How fortunate we are to have the best fishing in the world.

We have miles of water; we fish in shorts in the winter time. We have many lakes and rivers within a short distance of our homes. We live in nature's showplace. Let's be thankful!

Why not try fish for your Thanksgiving dinner?

If you have a turkey, you could add fish to your fruit salad.

1 cup boiled fish (flounder, or sheepshead) flaked

2 cups sliced oranges

1 avocado, chopped fine

Lettuce with fruit dressing or mayonnaise.

Now that seatrout are being caught, larger than usual size, try cooking them in the microwave. I have a recipe that was given to me by the sheriff's department.

Sheriff's Trout Recipe

Filet the trout

Apply a light coating of mayonnaise on each side

Sprinkle both sides with Italian bread crumbs

Cover with micro-cell-wrap and cook three minutes on high until flaky.

Take micro wrap off and cook until brown.

Black tip shark are roaming around our waterways and are

good to eat. A group of fishermen took off from our dock and came back with one. I cooked it in an electric deep fryer.

Juanita Sehorne gave me the recipe of how to cook and batter our shark steaks.

1 cup of all-purpose flour

1 cup ice water

1 egg, slightly beaten

2 tsp. salad oil

½ tsp. sugar

½ tsp. salt

Soak shark in milk before battering. Let soak for 20 minutes, then batter and deep fry until brown.

Serve your shark with cheese grits and this recipe came from Liz Brown of Plant City.

1 cup grits

4 cups boiling water; cook over slow heat until thickens.

Add 1 cup sharp grated cheddar cheese, stick of margarine, or butter and stir until the butter and cheese melt. Serve with your fish.

The upper waters of both the Little Manatee and the Alafia have plenty of largemouth bass. Fresh-water catfish with hush puppies would make a dinner for anyone to be thankful for.

If you catch a bass that would be wonderful too as they are great fried, served with lots of Ruskin veggies.

If you don't fish, buy a can of tuna fish and make tuna spaghetti or make crab cakes.

For your tuna spaghetti add red and green peppers to your regular recipe.

Crab cakes:

1½ pounds crab meat (you can buy the flaked in cans). The best is in the freezer dept. at the super-market and it costs about five to six dollars.

Small saltines crushed, use at least a cup, depends on size bottle of crab.

1 egg, well beaten

Juice of one lemon

½ to one cup of mayonnaise

Dash of tabasco sauce.

Mix soft dough; shape into cakes

Fry in butter about 5 minutes on each side until brown. Serve.

Sheepshead are plentiful with larger than usual catches being made in the cooler weather. This is a lean white meat fish and great for any dinner table.

Flounder is a popular catch on outgoing and ingoing tides as they surface from the bottom for food. This is a lean white meat fish great for any Thanksgiving dinner table.

Kingfish are on the run. I hope you catch one for your Thanksgiving dinner.

Cobia are still roaming our waters and are a fish that will give you a workout before letting you put him in your boat.

Permit are around old discarded boats and broken piers, a good tablefare.

One of life's blessings is to have a successful, safe, fishing trip.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving from Fish Tales.

Aleta Jonie Maschek is a member of Florida Outdoor Press.



Fish Tales

By Jonie Maschek



How can we keep our pets safe during the holidays?

As the pages of the calendar flip and we move closer to the holiday season, pet owners should be aware of common – but hidden – dangers to their pets as we transform our homes for the celebrations to come.

"The holidays are supposed to be a time of joy for our families, but in preparing for the season, many pet owners run the risk of exposing their pets to household dangers that could present potential life-threatening hazards to their pets," said veterinarian Lori Pasternak, of Helping Hands Affordable Veterinary Surgery and Dental Care (www.helpinghandsvetva.com). "These latent hazards could derail a family's holiday season if their pets become ill as a result of these hidden perils."

Pasternak's list of prospective risks include:

Decorations – While holiday decorations can make a home feel more festive, they can be tantalizing traps for pets. Pet owners should keep decorations and ornaments higher up on trees so they are not consumed by pets. If a pet decides the colorful garland or tree trim might make a tasty snack, they can and will get stuck in your pet's intestines, necessitating immediate surgical removal. Moreover, exposed cords from electric lights can cause electrocution or oral burns if chewed.

Gift Wrap – When it's time to pull all the gifts out of hiding to be wrapped, take care that your pet isn't in the room as you spread out all the wrapping paper, bows and ribbons. If a cat should start gnawing on the ribbon, it will literally "stitch" the cat's intestines together as it is being passed through the gut. Surgery is one holiday gift you don't want to give your family pet.

Holiday Feast – While turkey and ham make up the majority of traditional holiday meals, turkey and ham bones can become lodged in the intestines if swallowed in large pieces. Be careful that your guests don't give in to the holiday spirit too much and choose this time to offer table scraps to your pets. Your pet could become seriously ill or even choke to death.

Flowers – The poinsettias many choose to use as holiday centerpieces are also toxic to most household pets if they are chewed and swallowed in large enough quantities. The level of toxicity is completely proportionate to the size and weight of your pet, but instead of doing the math on that equation, it's better to choose other types of floral arrangements that don't endanger your pets.

"The holidays should be a time for fun, not an unscheduled trip to the animal hospital," Pasternak added. "If something does happen, don't hesitate to take your pet to the nearest animal hospital, and know that if you come to ours, we work with our pet owners on affordable payment structures in emergency cases. But we'd rather not see you this season. The best holiday gift you could give your pet is a hazard-free household so they can enjoy the warmth and joy of your celebrations safely and soundly."

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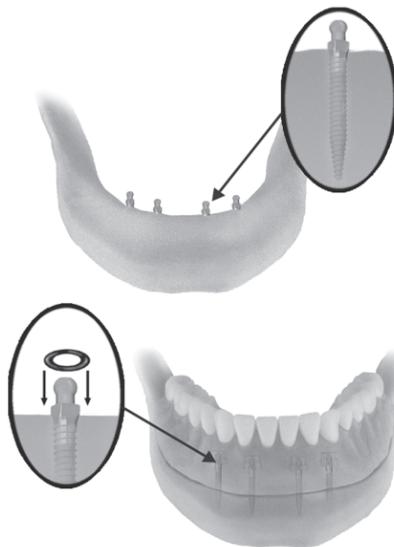
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SOUTHSHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

15816 Beth Shields Way • Ruskin 33573

November marks the 5th Anniversary of SouthShore Regional Library

Join them to celebrate with over 70 programs.
Kids' program highlights this week include:

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
by Mark Haddon

Thursday, November 17 • 2 p.m.

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Teen Night: Anime Club

Thursday, November 17 • 5 to 8 p.m.

For middle and high school students for an evening of Anime and Manga! Spend some time with other teens who love to read Japanese Manga and watch Anime straight from Japan! Refreshments provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Family Story Time

Thursday, November 17 • 7 to 7:30 p.m.

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



Motion Commotion

Friday, November 18, 10:05 to 10:35 a.m. and 10:45 to 11:15 a.m.

For children ages 2-5 and their caregivers ~ Join us for this fun and very interactive preschool music and movement program as we shake some sillies out.

Once Upon a Time...*

Saturday, November 19 • 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

For children ages 6-11 years old ~ The Three Little Pigs! Little Red Riding Hood! The Gingerbread Man! Celebrate fairy tales with us in this interactive program where everyone will make a special project to take home with them. Registration is required.

Baby Time

Monday, November 21 • 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.

Baby Time

Tuesday, November 22 • 11:35 to 11:55 a.m.

S.A.A.

Teen Advisory Board

Monday, November 21 • 7 to 8 p.m.

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

Toddler Time

Tuesday, November 22 • 10:05 to 10:25 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.

Toddler Time

Tuesday, November 22

10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

S.A.A.

Story Time

Tuesday, November 22 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Baby Time

Wednesday, November 23 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m.

S.A.A.

Toddler Time

Wednesday, November 23 • 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

S.A.A.

Story Time

Wednesday, November 23 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

S.A.A.

*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.

Dredging begins

A local marine contractor, Gator Dredging, has recently mobilized their Ellicott 300 SL Swinging Dragon Dredge into the canals of Caribbean Isles in Apollo Beach. This 56 foot dredge has the capabilities to remove sediment from narrow waterways at a rate of approximately 50 cubic yards an hour.

The project includes hydraulic dredging of six (6) upland cut canals located in Apollo Beach, FL. Gator Dredging engineering staff completed permitting for this project through the Tampa Port Authority, Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Approximately 17,710 cubic yards of sediments are to be dredged along approximately 2 miles of canals to improve navigation and recreational boating safety. A more than 2-acre settling and dewatering basin was designed and constructed on a nearby vacant property. Maintenance dredging will be conducted to a maximum depth approximately 5.0 feet below mean low water (MLW).

Sediments will be pumped to the settling basin for dewatering. After dredging and dewatering, sediments are proposed to be spread to meet pre-construction drainage patterns and are planned for future development of the vacant site.

This project is expected to be completed by January 2012 leaving residents with deeper canals, improving the waterways for residents and boaters.

Gator Dredging is a fully licensed, insured and bondable certified general contractor based in Pinellas Park, FL. Gator Dredg-



Gator Dredging's Ellicott 300 Swinging Dragon Dredge.

ing provides maintenance dredging and permitting for residential, commercial, municipal and industrial projects. These projects can range from beach renourishment to pond/lake restoration.

Gator Dredging has experts in civil/coastal engineering on staff to assist with any dredging proj-

ect. This "design build" company combines engineering skills with state-certified general contractors' abilities and environmentally conscious construction techniques to handle any project from proposal to disposal.

For more information, call Bernadine Coughlin at (727) 527-1300.

IN UNIFORM



James M. Kahl

Marine Corps Pfc. James M. Kahl, whose wife, Amanda, is the daughter of Regina and Roy A. Heiney of Riverview, FL, recently completed the Basic Engineer Equipment Electrical Systems Technician course.

During the classroom instruction and practical application at Marine Corps Engineer School, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, NC, Kahl received training on the operation, maintenance and repair of field power generating equipment.

Kahl also studied electrical theory, operating principles of alternating and direct current generators and control devices.

Enter the Kids' Wildlife Habitat Contest

There is currently great concern among health care specialists, educators, environmentalists, and parents about the shrinking amount of time today's children spend playing outdoors. It is believed that this is increasing obesity as well as other health problems, decreasing first-hand observation of basic scientific lessons to be learned from being outdoors and causing a sad disconnect with nature among our youngsters. Most authorities believe it is imperative to get kids to leave the computer games indoors and get outside for healthy activities.

The Florida Wildlife Federation is committed to Florida's children as well as to Florida's plants and wildlife. They think there is a way to tie them together promoting health for both kids and critters by encouraging youngsters to start and maintain a wildlife habitat.

This is an excellent activity for children 12 and under. It gets them outdoors, keeps them active digging and pulling the inevitable weeds, sparks an interest in gardening, teaches them something about identifying both plants and animals in the natural world, and (important to all parents), keeps them from wandering to places where they might not be safe.

For all the above good reasons, Florida Wildlife Federation is announcing the 3rd Kid's Wildlife Habitat Contest, where they will award a prize of an excellent gardening book on Earth Day in April, 2012 to the best wildlife habitat. Teachers please note that schoolyard habitats are included as long as they are worked in by the children. The prize book will make an excellent addition to the school library.

Though they do encourage certification by National Wildlife Federation, it is not necessary for this contest. Just explain how this habitat provides water, food, cover, and a place to raise young. The Florida Wildlife Federation will send an announcement of winning kids or schools to your this local newspaper (with your permission, of course). Go to www.fwfonline.org and look at the Habitat PowerPoint for help and ideas. All entries must be received by March 31, 2012.

Email patricia@fwfonline.org for more information and to enter by sending photos and a description of your habitat.

Apollo Beach lighted boat parade and chili cook-off

The Tampa Sailing Squadron of Apollo Beach will be hosting its annual Christmas Lighted Boat Parade on Saturday, Dec. 10. Anyone interested in decorating their boats and joining this Parade must register at the Tampa Sailing Squadron, 1250 Apollo Beach Blvd., Apollo Beach. Registration and Skippers Meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning, Dec. 10.

The Parade will conclude with refreshments and their famous chili cook-off immediately after the boats return to the Club. At this time, prizes and awards will be presented to the winners.

All information on the Parade route, time, and meeting location will be addressed at the Registration meeting on Saturday morning.

For more information, call Hugh Moore at 731-9409.

You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director

SCC Chamber News

The second half of the year goes by so much faster than the first half. We go from breathing water and dodging thunderstorms in the humid, sultry summer to the craziness that is the Holiday Season in what seems like just a couple of weeks! Where did the Fall go?

We get a couple of cool days which energize us into breaking out our sweaters and long pants, only to go back to t-shirts and shorts when it inches back into the 80s. What's really frustrating is when it's 65 degrees in the morning and 82 in the afternoon, and we're changing clothes three times a day. The heat is on at night and the air conditioning is on during the day.

What's truly heaven is the perfect Chamber of Commerce weather day when we open up all the windows and sit out on the lanai.

The air is crisp and the breezes are gentle...

September doesn't last at all. Once October gets here, it's all about Halloween. Get the costumes back into the trunk, and it SHOULD be all about Thanksgiving. You know, one holiday at a time...?

But I've noticed more and more the Christmas decorations in the store the same time as the Sponge Bob Square

Pants costumes! Halloween hasn't even happened yet and there are fake trees in the gardening section and commercials on TV offering gift ideas for that perfect someone.

It's difficult to think about turkey and mashed potatoes when they're already playing "Jingle Bells" in the department stores.

Lest I sound like a total Bah Humbug, please let it be known Christmas is my favorite time of



You, Me & Business

By Dana Dittmar

year, and opening the boxes of decorations we have collected over the years is a standard event for the weekend after Thanksgiving. But here's the key word: AFTER.

I feel sorry for Thanksgiving because it seems to be rushed through in the race to get to the Christmas finish line. Your dining room table would look luscious decorated with leaves of burnt orange, yellow and scarlet. Save the fake snow and reindeer for December's festivities.

Smell the pumpkin and apple pies? They're perfect for fall's holiday! There's plenty of time later for sugar cookies, chocolate mousse and sugar plums.

Yes, I know it will probably still be in the 80s next week when we carve the spiral ham and put the fried onions on the green bean casserole. So don't even THINK about wearing your "Kiss me under the mistletoe" sweater quite yet.

Most importantly, love each other, laugh long and loud, and remember your Attitude of Gratitude. That's what the holiday is all about. Be safe, and we can start decorating the tree NEXT weekend.



Holiday Gifts featured at Club Renaissance

Clublink is proud to present their first Club Renaissance Holiday Bazaar from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, in their spa lobby located at 2121 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. in Sun City Center. They will have many vendors displaying a wide variety of merchandise plus hot apple cider, sweet treats and great raffle prizes. Stop by, get into the holiday spirit and purchase a unique gift at the bazaar for someone on your Christmas list.

A few vendor spots are still available so call 813-633-1933 for more information.

City Art program offers interactive art sale

On Saturday, Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hyde Park Art Studio 702 S. Albany Street The Friends of Tampa host "Made by Hand" art show.

Made by Hand is produced by the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department and features one-of-a-kind pieces of art created by students and instructors in the City's art programs. Mediums include pottery, jewelry, painting, and glass. In addition to vendors, there will be art demonstrations

and make-n-take art projects for kids of all ages.

A portion of the proceeds benefits the Friends of Tampa Recreation, Inc. a 501(c)3 charitable organization that supports the programs and activities of the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department through fund raising opportunities.

For more information on the Made by Hand Art Show & Sale or classes offered at the Hyde Park Art Studio call (813) 259-1687

Local poet recognized

At the annual convention of the Florida State Poets Association, John Foster of Sun City Center took first place in a statewide contest for a poem on the subject of relaxation, the theme of the conference. The poet also earned an Honorable Mention on the national level for a free verse poem about bullfighting. Foster is known in the area for his poetry readings and workshops. He has published three collections of poems: Discovery!

A Wordcrafter's Journey by Outskirts Press, Chuckles - - Verses to a-Muse and Where There's A Quill by XLibris. Autographed copies are available at lojofoster@verizon.net.

The poet's winning poem (below) is a "nonet", a 9-line verse in which the first line contains 9 syllables, the second line 8 syllables, the third line 7 syllables, continuing likewise to the final line which has just one syllable.

"Release"

When the taut and teeming coil of day
has eased its fevered self into
the quiet cool of twilight's
pastel pool, then I may
be at last released,
unwound, unbound
unspiraled
into
sleep.

The Pelican Players present...

Nonsense

The Mega-Musical

A musical comedy
Book and lyrics by Dan Goggin
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Friday, Nov. 18th at 7 pm
Saturday, Nov. 19th
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and

Friday, Dec. 2nd at 7 pm
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Sunday, Nov. 20

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Noon - 6 p.m.

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Outdoor event with bands featured: Bert-N-Sassy, Suncoast Band, Top Shelf Blues Band, Brother-to-Brother, and Bump in the Road Band. Food from Smokey Bones, The Boulevard, and San Vito's. Bring your own lawn chairs.

Free admission but Donations are highly encouraged

A life in the past

A guy who has been my friend near forever recently said to me, "The only problem with living in the past is that everything else changes."

Indeed. I have a lot to live for in the past. Sometimes it seems for the future, not so much.

A year ago this week, I had just launched my sailboat from a boatyard in Cambridge, Maryland, in order to sail it home. At the time, I had no idea of what lay ahead: the days of bone-chilling cold, ice and even snow. There were so many days on that trip when I was tempted just to give up — to tie off the boat and take a quick flight home. A few days ago, a reminder popped up on my wife's phone. I had asked her to put it there a year ago. The reminder said, "Aren't you glad the boat is in Florida now?"

On beautiful fall days like today, I'm not so sure I am glad. The sail down last winter was nightmarish in certain respects, but I never lost appreciation for how fortunate I was to be able to do it. While it was occasionally over the top, the sense of adventure was never lost. Standing here today, I wish I was back there again. I wish I was standing on the cusp of another adventure.

When I was in my teens, I had two priorities in my life: playing rock music and meeting cute girls (I had boundless optimism that one would lead to another). Somehow, college managed to be squeezed in, but even that became an adventure. I went to school in Colorado, was able to keep Wednesdays clear of classes, and thus had the occasional quiet day on the slopes or a hike through the woods in

the mountains. Wednesday were always great days — it seemed no one was ever out there.

After that, I spent a few years trying to convince myself that I could become a dedicated corporate executive. That worked somewhat until I read a book about someone sailing around the world. After trying, and failing, to tie my neckties using a bowline (a great sailor's knot) instead of the more traditional double Windsor knot, I knew the corporate route was a lost cause.

I'm more than halfway up the ladder of life and, from an actuary standpoint, there is more stuff to look down at than up towards. Living in the past is so very tempting because it seems to provide all of the perks of great memories without the pain and effort it took to make them. I can feel what it was like when Michelle and I were at anchor off Norman's Cay in the Bahamas. I can remember rowing the dinghy around the crashed DC-3 drug-runner aircraft in the lagoon. No doubt, there was a good bit of terror and some bloodshed in reaching that place that is today a tranquil memory, but the bad stuff is all forgotten now. Time has sanded down the rough edges leaving a warm embrace that reaches through the years to my current-day soul. I want to be there. I want to celebrate New Year's Eve on Staniel Cay. I want to be in Georgetown in the Exuma Islands watching the world go by from the cockpit of my boat. Hell, I'd take being back in Georgetown, South Carolina, as I was a year ago after spending a chilly day sailing down a desolate and far-too-shallow canal through a marsh.



Observations
By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

As I approached the Chesapeake Bay Bridge the future was wide open. On that day, I had no idea where I was going or where I would end up. It wasn't a good feeling then but now it seems like an adventure.

I want. I want. I want. Last year, all I wanted was to get my sailboat home, but having done that, now I want to be back out there again. I am one sorry piece of work. I get everything I want and I'm never happy with it. I always want more.

My friend is exactly right. The problem with living in the past is that everything else changes. Everything keeps moving forward, leaving the past a shadow, not an existence. I can see it in my mind's eye, but it isn't really there anymore. The only thing that is real is what is in front of me — and if I'm looking down, reality and the moment that is right now are lost forever.

I see the challenges that so many people live with and overcome, and my troubles pale in comparison. I should be planning a party every single day to celebrate my insanely

good fortune. Yet I want. I want an adventure. I want to make some new memories.

Helen Keller, author, traveler, lecturer, and the first blind and deaf person to earn Bachelor of Arts degree said, "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all." The problem, of course, is reconciling the need for adventure with the reality of everyday life. There are bills to pay and commitments to keep.

Author Edward Abbey once said, "Heaven is home. Utopia is here. Nirvana is now." A decade or so later he added what I believe to be a companion quote: "Freedom begins between the ears."

One of the benefits of looking down the ladder of my life is that I can see that adventure in and of itself really isn't worth all that much. To get there, I worked towards the goal, I planned and I

dreamed. The true adventure was in the journey to reach it — the moment of the adventure is merely a memory.

I need an adventure but, more importantly, I need to plan for one and then work towards it. Despite that my knees and elbows hurt a little and that I'm fairly certain arthritis is creeping into my guitar-playing fingers, I'm not dead yet. I can look up the ladder of my life and imagine what will fill that still boundless space. And then, I can work towards making it happen, living in the moment and using the past for inspiration and guidance. Abbey was right — Utopia is here, Nirvana is now. Heaven is home. And the freedom to see all of that begins between my ears.

I don't yet know how or what, but I know it starts with a dream that will involve a lot of hard work: I'm going on an adventure.

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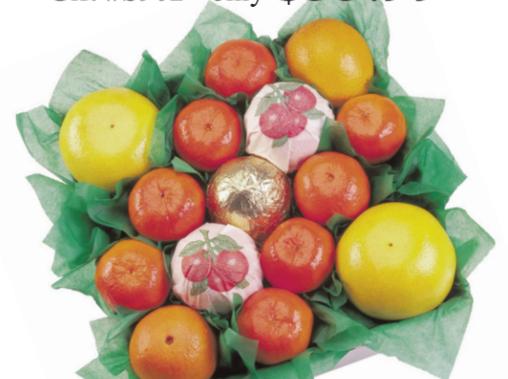
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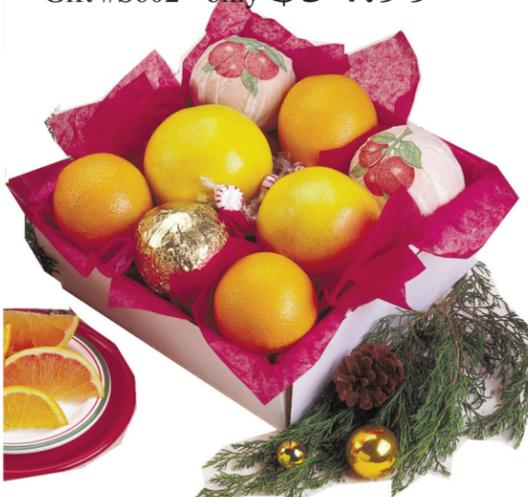
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Achievement, Heroism

■ Continued from page 1

with missiles (that could barely fly faster than the Blackbird itself), its primary armament was high-resolution cameras. The Blackbird was America's eyes in the sky.

Although the world has known about the Blackbird for decades, it has only been recently that the men who flew the ships have been allowed to talk about them. On November 4, at the invitation of the Silver Osprey Squadron of the Association of Naval Aviation in Sun City Center, Campbell told his story.

Campbell was a U.S. Air Force officer who later retired as a Lt. General. In 1963, he graduated from the USAF Experimental Test Pilot School. A year later, he was chosen by the CIA to pilot a secret new aircraft. In 1966, he finally flew a version of that aircraft for the first time, racking up 768 hours

of flying before his last flight in 1971.

The aircraft was so secret that in order to transport it from the manufacturing plant in southern California to the Area 51 test site in Nevada, it was boxed up in large pieces and moved on multiple semi trucks. Only two years passed from the time the Air Force awarded the contract to Lockheed to the first test flight. Just over three years later in 1965, after hitting a speed of Mach 3.29 and an altitude of 90,000 feet in testing, it was declared combat ready.

Such numbers are easy enough to throw around in today's era of computer-simulated reality, but there was nothing simple about creating a machine that could fly so fast, and so high, and then bring the pilot safely home. The resistance cause by such a high speed

created unimaginable temperatures, with the surface of the aircraft potentially ranging from 400 to 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. The pilot's windows could reach 650 degrees in temperature.

With the heat, the entire aircraft would change, literally growing three to four inches in length and one to two inches in width. All of that meant a great deal to the pilots as the same forces would apply to them, should ejecting be necessary at that altitude. At those temperatures without a protective suit, their blood would boil.

At Freedom Plaza in Sun City Center, it was a full house for the monthly Silver Osprey Squadron meeting. While it is typically the place for naval aviators, Lt. General Campbell bridged the divide with the Air Force. Members of both branches of the service

attended, along with many others interested in the rare opportunity to hear from a man who has flown higher and faster than almost anyone, in an aircraft that was once a top secret.

The Blackbird was unique in that it actually became more fuel-efficient as its speed increased.

"Unlike anything else I've ever flown, the maximum fuel efficiency was at maximum speed," Campbell said. "Think about that, think about taking a boat out wide open. But this aircraft flew best at Mach 3.2."

But fuel was always a concern. The 60,000-pound aircraft carried 80,000 pounds of fuel — and a considerable quantity of that was consumed just reaching the normal altitude. At Mach 3.2, the heat was so intense that little additional fuel could be added without the risk of melting components in the engine. The fuel used was unique to the Blackbird — no other aircraft use it.

With only space above him and sound behind him, Campbell spoke of what it was like in the cockpit.

"I thought the airplane was very easy to fly," he said. "It was very stable — even at 90,000 feet. It is very quiet up there, it could be hard to stay awake," he said to laughter. "The only other things up there were other Blackbirds. The sky was black and I could see stars above me."

Of the 32 Blackbirds built, 12 of them were lost in accidents, one of which resulted in the loss of a test pilot's life. In the other accidents, the pilots safely ejected. Through the course of the program, the aircraft flew more than 17,000 sorties, amassing 11,675 hours at Mach 3 or above.

In 1968, primarily due to contractual obligations, then Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara ordered the highly specialized tools used to build the aircraft destroyed, thus eliminating not only any possibility of a successor, but also limiting the availability of parts for the still-flying aircraft. Because the aircraft was developed

in secret, there was little understanding by those in Congress who controlled the purse strings and it was thought that surveillance satellites could do the Blackbird's job better and in a more cost-effective manner. Satellites, however, could not be positioned to look at a specific place and in a specific time. Shortly after it was first retired in the early 1970s, the aircraft was reinstated, still limited to the 32 craft that were originally built.

The aircraft technically remained on active duty until 1998 when it was permanently retired. The two remaining airworthy Blackbirds were given to NASA, the rest were donated to museums. Publicly, at least, no aircraft exists today that can match its speed and altitude. On a single day in 1976, on one aircraft's final flight, several speed records were set that remain in place today.

"You could see things like the Mississippi River and the Rockies, you could sense a little bit of movement, but there wasn't the sense of speed, of moving at Mach 3.2," Campbell said of flying the Blackbird so high and so fast.

Campbell is in an extremely exclusive club of people who have flown so high and so fast. No pilots today are able to match what he achieved 40 years ago at the controls of an SR-71 Blackbird. He said it was a wonderful program to be associated with, now one for the history books. Perhaps most ironically all of it was achieved decades ago, before the emergence of our high technology society. As Lt. General Campbell pointed out, the Blackbird was the last Air Force aircraft designed using a slide rule.

For information about the Sun City Center's Silver Osprey Squadron, contact information for Commander Bo Heining (USN-Ret) is available from the Association of Naval Aviation at www.anahq.org or from squadron public information officer Lt. Barry Dwyer (USN-Ret) at barry.dyer13@gmail.com or by calling 813-508-5671.

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- Saturday**
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- Sunday**
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 Bar Games from 3 to 6 p.m.
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- November 20**
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New Park Programs

■ Continued from page 1

Cost cutting was a deciding factor in devising a new program to replace the traditional after school programs at the parks.

This program is called Rec2Six. Only 18 parks in Hillsborough County have this program at this time. The only one in South County is the Apollo Beach rec center.

Thankfully for parents, however, as of Jan. 2012 the two regional parks in South County, Gardenville and Ruskin, will also have a Rec2Six program.

"Those parks were part of the original transition plan," said county spokesman Willie Puz Nov. 3. "The board (County Commissioners) wanted us (the parks department) to come up with a plan that would show measurable results."

Rec2Six must have done just that, because it will now be implemented by three parks in South County instead of just the one.

The problem now is, however, that Rec2Six started Sept 26 while school started Aug. 23.

The Apollo Beach park only has four students participating at this time, where always before there were long waiting lists for slots.

"This makes it look like parents don't want their children in the program but that isn't true. It just didn't start soon enough," said Pat Woolweaver, president of a focus group that works to better the Apollo Beach park.

"Parents had to find after school care for their children before school opened. They couldn't wait a month," said Joe Buerhop of Gibsonton. "I'm a working single father of a child that was attending Dowdell Middle School. Last year the school district provided bus service from Dowdell to Gardenville Recreation Center but this year, they have discontinued that service."

Since there is no one at home to look after my child and we do not have any relatives in the area that she can go to, I have taken my child out of the school district and enrolled her in a school near my office in Manatee County. This of course has caused some difficulties with my job and additional expenses."

Buerhop went on to explain that he did not want his child to walk home alone from the bus stop the two miles to his home and stay there alone from 3 to 6 p.m. until he got home.

The Rec2Six offered at Apollo Beach, at \$38 per child and \$20 for any child receiving free lunches, offers organized recreation and physical activity while providing

skill-building recreation, social interaction and exposure to culture and the arts.

It's cheaper than private child care facilities and gives a good value for the money. But staff at the regional parks that will be adopting the program wonder if parents will pull their children out of the private care they have previously arranged and send them to the parks program, and if they don't — will those programs be short-lived?

Transportation after school causes a lot of grief for working parents as well. John Franklin, director of transportation for the Hillsborough County School District, said the district supplies only transportation to after school programs for "exceptional students" but not those in regular classes.

Buses from schools to parks programs have been discontinued a little at a time over the last few years until now, none are left.

Mike Russo says he and others like him can solve the transportation issue if enough parents band together.

Russo is owner of Recreation Express in Tampa. For the past five years he has transported children to after school programs all over the county with his eight buses.

But this year, due to low rider ship, he no longer makes South County runs.

"Last year I had a bus go to Summerfield Elementary and Summerfield Crossings and take them to Balm Park, and had another bus go to Dobie and Apollo Beach for the Apollo Beach Rec Center," Russo said. "But I can't send a bus for less than 25 or 30 kids. It would be too much of a loss."

Russo said he has lowered his price from \$60 a month to \$45 a month per child to take them from school to after school programs at the parks. But there just aren't enough kids this year for him to come to South County.

"It's about \$11 a week, and with the park fee of \$38 or even \$20 (for free lunch students) it's still a better deal than most child care facilities. But the parents would have to get together before I could schedule the trips," says Russo.

Other child care programs in South County attribute some of their success to having buses pick up students after school.

"What parent can get off in the middle of a workday and go pick up his kids?" Buerhop asked. "I certainly can't. The people who make the program rules need to think of the families they are supposed to serve."

Roadshow focuses on history

The Library History Roadshow will feature the Hyde Park Branch Library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19 at the Old Hyde Park Art Center, 705 W. Swann Ave. in south Tampa. The library opened in 1922 in a wooden two-room building that previously served as a school. Since the library closed in 1968, the building has been home to the Old Hyde Park Art Center. Visit the Library History Roadshow and bring your Hyde Park Branch Library photographs, memorabilia and stories to share! Prizes will be given for the oldest library items.

Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries will celebrate their 100th Anniversary in 2014. To prepare, the libraries have partnered with the Tampa Bay History Center to bring you the Library History Roadshow. It will make stops at library branches throughout Hillsborough County over the next several years gathering and documenting the communities' library photographs, memorabilia and stories.

Staff and volunteers will work onsite at the Library History Roadshow to digitally scan photos and other printed items that residents bring, and immediately return the originals to their owners. Attendees can delight in recording video and audio stories that share their historical knowledge of and experiences at the libraries.

For more information about the Library History Roadshow, call the Tampa-Hillsborough County Library System at (813) 273-3652 or visit <http://thplhistoryroadshow.blogspot.com>.

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Thousands of people of all ages lined U.S. Highway 41 in Ruskin as dozens of floats, pirate krewes, marching bands, girl and boy scouts, veterans and military organizations paraded in celebration of our nation's veterans as part of the annual Ruskin VFW Veterans Day Parade. The grand marshal for the parade was 88-year-old World War II veteran Pat Buch. Joining the marching bands and local businesses were the Krewe of Charlotte de Berry, the Peg Leg Pirates, the Tampa Bay Rough Riders, Pyrates of the Gulf Coast and the Krewe of the South Shore Mauraders, ensuring that nearly everyone along the parade route was decked out in colorful beads. The parade has been organized by the Ruskin VFW Post 6287 for the past 15 years and has grown significantly over time. For more information, visit www.vfw-post6287.com.



Psychic ability: not just for side shows anymore

By PENNY FLETCHER
 penny@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER- She's appeared on television shows, been used in an eight-year research project, helped blind people to live independent lives, and even done a telepathy experiment with an astronaut while he was on the moon.

Skeptical? Plenty. Until you see the material to back up her claims.

Carol Ann Liaros doesn't believe she's any different from other people even though she can often "see" things before they happen, send telepathic messages, and even do healing work with people in the medical profession helping blind persons learn to live independently. "Psychic? Isn't everyone?" she asked. "Everyone is capable of developing what some call extra sensory abilities, including precognition."

After attending a seminar in 1966 and being told she had the ability to use her brain in a different way than many, she began to have daily experiences that proved the person who told her that was right.

Shortly after that, Liaros took part in an eight-year study on psychic

research at the Human Dimension Institute at Rosary College in Buffalo New York (now a part of Daeman College in Amherst N.Y.) and later conducted seminars at Niagara Community College and State University in Buffalo.

"So much misinformation has been published and spread about extra sensory perception," Liaros said. "Practical application of psychic sensitivity adds a new dimension to someone's life."

But while some psychics are busy talking about the future, Liaros has used her talents to work with the blind, the sick, and members of the medical profession.

People from all walks of life have enrolled in her seminars and classes. But the blind have especially benefited.

In a project she calls "Blind Awareness," she works with blind persons showing how to distinguish color and other details using intuition.

"There have been remarkable strides made in fields like parapsychology," Liaros said. "What used to be thought of as superstition is in many cases now a part of science."

Her Blind Awareness project is a combination of "aura viewing" and dermo-optics (seeing with the skin). The scientific community now calls "auras" "bio-plasmic fields," and has deemed them energy- and definitely fact. Some religious traditions have portrayed pictures of this energy as halos around the head.

Liaros career working with doctors and others in the healing professions began during a talk she was giving in 1971 when one of her students was highly accurate in diagnosing



Carol Ann Liaros

the illnesses of volunteers.

After the seminar was over, she was told the man was totally blind.

This information is backed up by accounts in reports and articles in publications of The Creative Community Institute in Buffalo, N.Y. (dated 1971) and State University's publication dated March 2, 1978.

After much study, Liaros and those working with her determined that images could be transmitted through a place in the middle of the

forehead where a "third eye" is often depicted in ancient hieroglyphic writings.

The story of Samuel Lentine, a Niagra falls psychiatrist who had lost his eyes from cancer is documented in the State University paper as having the ability to "see" auras of color around people.

Blind persons have benefited from training exercises both one-on-one and in groups, using touch, thought, and perception.

Liaros went on to become the

director of the Community Creative Institute, Inc. in Amherst, N.Y., and has since expanded her practice to work with medical doctors in diagnosis.

Having appeared on the television show "That's Incredible," she later worked with astronaut Edgar Mitchell on the movie "Inner Spaces," which talks about their experiment together.

Mitchell, the sixth astronaut to walk on the moon, performed an experiment in telepathy with Liaros while he was on the moon.

"He made it very clear he was doing it on his break so no one could accuse him of using government time and money for it," Liaros said.

An instructor for nearly 20 years at the Edgar Cayce Center, now called A.R.E. (Association for Research and Enlightenment), Liaros and her husband Mario moved to Kings Point in Sun City Center six years ago from Arizona.

She has been lecturing and writing, and has been quoted or referred to in books by more than 20 other authors who work in related subjects, she said.

Now she teaches others to use their psychic abilities and will be signing her latest book, "Intuition Made Easy," Monday, Nov. 21 from 1-3 p.m. at The Chakra Center, 137 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., Suite 201 in Sun City Center.

"When I sign a book, I feel a message for each person so I know just what to write," she said.

She will also be giving seminars in the spring.

Interested persons may reach her by emailing caliaros@msn.com or check out her Web site at www.carolannliaros.com.

SCC Problem Properties

■ Continued from page 1

current, Community Association records indicate. (SCC homes are assumed to be residences of two persons until it is demonstrated a house is occupied by only one person. For unoccupied homes, CA membership dues are assessed on a two-person basis.)

The paid-up CA dues preclude any remedial action that might have been taken under the CA foreclosure policy instituted by directors last year. Motivated initially by a growing backlog of unpaid dues, in 2010 directors established a process allowing for foreclosure action and legal assumption of properties whose owners had run up substantial dues arrearages which still went unsatisfied after warnings. The process could be applied only to homes with no mortgage lender involved.

Although the procedure has brought many delinquent dues accounts current, to date it has not forced any foreclosures, Ed Barnes, CA president, noted this week. And, if the dues account

related to the Ft. Duquesna property is current, the policy leading to foreclosure cannot be made applicable in that case, he indicated.

On the other hand, the tools available to code enforcement personnel might be made useful in connection with the Ft. Duquesna house – if disgruntled neighbors will deal with the timeframes required.

Code enforcement objectives always are focused on creating compliance with county ordinances, Bill Langford, a department manager, told The Observer this week. So, when a complaint about overgrown vegetation is filed and the overgrowth then is mowed, the case is closed as compliance attained – regardless of whether an owner or a neighbor created the compliance. This is a circumstance that has affected the Ft. Duquesna property during its long history as a code offender, Langford said. Neighbors with the best intentions have unwittingly ended a complaint about the property, bringing

it into compliance by voluntarily mowing its overgrowth down, he added.

Complaints about the home and its lot were reported in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, noted Langford, who inspected the property again this week. After a year of no complaints during 2010, the site clearly again is in violation, he added.

Posting a red notice of violation on the property Monday, Langford said that in view of the long history of repeated violations and current unacceptable conditions, he would seek an expedited hearing on the matter before Hillsborough's Code Enforcement Board, aiming for a December session. He cautioned, though, that the Ft. Duquesna matter also competes for attention with a large number of violations related to foreclosure cases around the county coming before the board.

The board, upon hearing the violations case, can forward the matter to a magistrate. Several different penalties can be initiated,



Photo by Melody Jameson

Among the worst of the problem properties in Sun City Center is this decaying, unsightly dwelling on Ft. Duquesna Drive which is a blight on an entire neighborhood. Owned by a New Jersey resident who pays annual property taxes and CA dues but pays little attention to the home, the property has been cited repeatedly for Hillsborough County Code Enforcement violations going back to 2006, Code enforcement personnel posted another violation notice this week and the matter could be headed for a hearing in Tampa.

designed to encourage long term compliance by the owner or reach resolution through a final action by the county attorney's office.

Langford said the range of penalties include fines levied against the property owner of from \$25 to \$1,000 per day to filing a lien against the property ensuring compensation upon its sale for county clean-ups of the site or referring it for legal action brought by county attorneys against the negligent owner.

In the meantime, as the Ft. Duquesna violations work through the process, SCC residents are speaking up. Bruce Arnold, a former CA director who lives one street north of the Ft. Duquesna property, said this week he is filing a formal written complaint with the code enforcement section in

support of efforts aimed at long-term resolution. Ron King, a newcomer and CA board candidate in the December election cycle, has pointed out that potential buyers avoid good home resales located on streets with badly kept properties and he was one of them. Plus, the existing CA board opens community enhancement discussions this week with the first of three town hall meetings on a proposed commons areas building project designed to increase community aesthetics and functionality for anticipated buyers of resale homes as the last new houses are constructed.

All of them eye problem properties like the Ft. Duquesna location, recognizing that such obstacles to a desirable community in its second half century must be overcome.

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Email: Messages • Nov. 17 • 4 p.m.
Read, forward, and delete messages. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.

Email: Attachments and Address Books • Nov. 18 • 3 p.m.
Learn about sending attachments and creating address books. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.

eBooks: Introduction • Nov. 22 • 3 p.m.
Learn what hardware and software is required to download eBooks from our library. FallTech!

Craigslist: Introduction • Dec. 1 • 3 p.m.
Learn how to become a member, browse, search, and buy items on Craigslist. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.

Craigslist: Listing & Selling • Dec. 1 • 4 p.m.
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Forum discloses current, aspiring CA directors' differences

By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER - Avoiding the pitfalls of recent national candidate debates, present and would-be Community Association directors here exhibited no "senior moments" and denied no serious scandals, but did stake out some positions on local issues during a forum last week.



AL ALDERMAN



JANE KEEGAN



PAUL SASVILLE



HOWIE GRIFFIN



ROB KING

What little sparring occurred among the five candidates for three open board seats came late in the Q and A program during the annual Candidates' Night at Community Hall on November 9. The question prompting the exchange centered on how to achieve additional parking

around and near the Atrium building on the Central Campus.

Al Alderman, a current director now seeking his second three-year term, responded by suggesting that useful information on the topic would be unveiled this week during the first of three community Town Hall sessions dedicated to consideration of an extensive board-designed capital improvements project.

To this, Ron King, competing for the first time in the annual election fray, first suggested adequate parking exists but may require a little "healthful" walking and then, referring obliquely to Alderman's indirect reply, retorted questioningly "we're going to expose all the secrets, finally?"

Alderman returned a tight-lipped "no comment."

Jane Keegan, a sitting director appointed last year to fulfill an expired term and now after her first elected three-year term, added the denial that "there are no secrets."

This subject of extensive – and expensive enough to incur debt – capital improvements also underscored differing candidate outlooks in the course of other questions. Weighing in after a question about the community's challenges was posed, both Alderman and Keegan emphasized a need for "updating" and "refreshing" components of the Central Campus.

Again, King expressed an opposing view, saying "Obama called it stimulus," comparing the funding required to underwrite a razing and rebuilding endeavor to federal government loans for big business as a means of curtailing the economic crisis in 2008.

On the same wave length, Paul Sasville, also a first-time candidate, likened the situation to restoring "that '32 Ford in the garage." The vehicle may be decades old, but carefully restored, it will be something beautiful, he said.

On the other hand, Howie Griffin, a former director now wishing to return to the board, allowed "If you put lipstick on a pig, it's still a pig." Pointing to the age of the office complex on the Central campus, Griffin added "I live here and I want to see the place come into the 21st century."

King interjected that "everything ages," adding that it might be wiser to add onto rather than raze and replace.

The exchange wrapped up with Griffin noting "There'll be more on Nov. 16," referring to the first Town Hall meeting in Community Hall.

The same put-off came in connection with query of the candidates regarding their outlooks on incurring debt. King and Sasville, the director election newcomers, both expressed strong views opposing a heavy debt load in an unsteady economy, with Sasville saying forcefully "Let's not go into debt, period!"

The three sitting directors among the candidates did not add anything more to their viewpoints already expressed.

The candidates also dealt with other sensitive but related subjects involving restricting use of SCC amenities and providing a playground for grandchildren.

King, who said he has observed much younger people who could not be residents or visitors using the community's facilities on different occasions, asserted that the amenities are meant for and should be restricted to residents only.

Again, he and Alderman defined the line of demarcation between them. Talking about how to enforce the restricted use, Alderman noted that at one time the CA had looked at a system designed to accomplish that, but rejected it due to a projected cost in the \$180,000 neighborhood. King responded he had experience with a system that managed 4,000 employees and cost less than \$1,000 to install at a central gateway.

As for a grandkids' playground, King turned thumbs down on the idea, saying "Disney is close. Let's keep it that way." Sasville echoed the sentiment, stating he has four beloved grandchildren, but prefers their company "one at a time."

Alderman and King, however, did agree emphatically on one subject. Asked about resident contributions to beautification of S.R. 674 or Sun City Center Boulevard as it bisects the community, both stated a policy fair to and involving all residents should be adopted. "The boulevard is gorgeous," King noted, adding it is one reason visitors become buyers.

The candidates are scheduled to make additional appearances before the election balloting deadline, Dec 7 and 8.

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South Hillsborough Elks Lodge

#2672 Upcoming Activities

Every Tuesday – Jam Session – 3pm -5ish – No Charge for all Elks and their guests.

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

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

Saturday, Nov. 26, Country & Western Dance, The Countrymen, \$8 with light snacks, 6-9 p.m..

Monday, Nov. 28, Blue Plate Special, for all Elks and their guests, \$7, Menu: Special Hawaiian Chicken with all the trimmings

Sunday, Dec. 4, Memorial Service for all our departed Elks, please plan on attending, Nora Baker is the Chairman of this event.

Saturday, Dec. 10, Anniversary / Christmas Dinner Dance for all Elks and their guests, mark your calendars. Menu: Prime Rib dinner with all the trimmings, \$20.00, Music by Buddy Young's 5 piece orchestra.

Feb. 12 to the 19th, 2012, Join S. Hillsborough Elks Lodge Valentine's Western Caribbean Fund Raiser Cruise, 7days from only \$643.00

The South Hillsborough Elk's Lodge is located at 1630 US Hwy 41 S., Ruskin, FL 33570, Telephone (813) 645-2089 and has a clean, smoke free environment.

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holiday traditions
enhanced with

grapes



Cranberry Grape Relish

Yields: 3 cups

- 2 cups red seedless California grapes
- 1 12-ounce package cranberries, fresh or frozen
- 1 orange, juiced and zested
- ½ cup sugar

Place all ingredients in heavy saucepan and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium and cook, stirring occasionally for 10 minutes until thick and shiny.

Let cool thoroughly, then store in airtight container in refrigerator for up to one week. Serve alongside roast turkey, pork or ham.

Wild Rice Stuffing with Grapes and Hazelnuts

Yields: 6-1/4 cups

- 2 cans (28 fluid ounces total) low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup wild rice
- 4 slices bacon, diced 1/4-inch
- 1 tablespoon butter, unsalted
- 1 large onion (1 1/2 cups chopped), diced 1/4-inch
- 2 stalks (3/4 cup chopped) celery, diced 1/4-inch
- 1 1/2 cups button mushrooms, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, fresh, minced
- 1 teaspoon thyme, fresh, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper, ground
- 1/4 cup parsley, fresh chopped
- 1 cup hazelnuts, toasted and coarsely chopped
- 2 cups California seedless grapes, rinsed

In heavy saucepan, bring chicken broth to a boil. Add wild rice and stir. Cover pan and reduce heat to low. Let simmer for one hour, until rice is tender and has popped open.

Meanwhile, cook bacon in fry pan over medium until almost crisp, about 8-10 minutes.

Add butter to bacon pan, then add onions, celery, mushrooms, garlic, thyme and salt and pepper. Cook over medium heat for 5 to 7 minutes, until onions are translucent.

Remove from heat and fold in parsley, hazelnuts and grapes.

Add rice with any remaining liquid in pan to vegetable mixture and toss well to combine.

Stuffing may be used to fill turkey, game hens, or chicken. Stuffing may also be baked separately in a casserole dish covered with foil; bake at 350°F for 20 to 30 minutes until hot throughout.

To toast hazelnuts, place in 350°F oven for 9 to 12 minutes. Rub in a clean dishtowel to remove skins.

Note: If you make ahead and refrigerate, cook time will be 30 to 40 minutes until hot.

What can possibly make the holidays easier and fun, more delicious and sweet, more festive and bright, and yet traditional all at the same time? The answer is fresh grapes. Luckily, grapes from California are in plentiful supply in all colors — red, green and black — throughout the holiday season.

For a dinner or buffet, fresh grapes can be added to two favorite sides, stuffing and cranberry relish, with delightful and satisfying results. There are many familiar stuffing ingredients in Wild Rice Stuffing with Grapes and Hazelnuts, but the distinction in the dish is the wild rice, the toasted hazelnuts and fresh grapes. The grapes add a warm, still-juicy brightness to the stuffing, one that's perfect with any kind of poultry, from turkey to game hens to goose.

In Grape Cranberry Relish, two seasonal fruits work very well together. Grapes provide natural sweetness, so the amount of sugar that's added to quiet the strong tartness of cranberries is much reduced compared to similar recipes. The relish is a nice blend of still-noticeable grapes in a sauce that's remarkably luscious.

Pluck the gift of grapes this holiday season and you'll enjoy every juicy bite no matter how you choose to serve them. For more recipes, visit www.grapesfromcalifornia.com.

Make Grapes Your Healthy Holiday Ally

- Fresh grapes are low in calories — just 90 per 3/4 cup serving — yet are satisfying and very, very good for you. Grapes of all colors are a natural source of beneficial antioxidants known as polyphenols, which may help contribute to a healthy heart.
- Snack on grapes before going out. They'll fill you up, so you can graze in moderation.
- Offer grapes on appetizer plates and as a side so friends and family can share in the goodness of this beautiful fruit.

Quick Tips for Holiday Entertaining with Grapes

Fresh grapes are a versatile fruit with multiple uses.

- Grapes make for easy decorations and centerpieces in bowls and on platters or draped from a cake plate.
- Grapes can be easily "frosted" with sugar, spices and finely chopped nuts. Simply wet or dip clusters in liquid gelatin before rolling grapes in your favorite mixture. Use them to decorate cookie plates, cakes, puddings, mousses and more.
- Looking for an easy hostess gift? Wrap grape clusters — multiple colors work best — in tissue paper and place in a pretty basket, tied with a ribbon.
- Grapes are a quick and easy potluck treat, guaranteed to please, especially when you have very little time to throw something together.



RUMC offers free Thanksgiving dinners

For the second year, the Ruskin United Methodist Youth Group is stepping up and serving free Thanksgiving Day dinners to the homeless, needy, shut-ins and folks that are just lonely.

Many of their church family will also pitch in and help by serving food, assisting with clean up, donating desserts and delivering meals to all the folks that can't join them in their Fellowship Hall.

They will serve a full turkey dinner including dessert. They will start at 11 a.m. Thanksgiving Day making deliveries. Please start checking in your neighborhoods, mobile home parks, check with any shut ins that you know of, maybe a couple that just does not want to go through the trouble of preparing a full meal for just the two of them, or anyone that you may know that is struggling to make ends meet or join them at the RUMC Fellowship Hall for the meal and fellowship.

Call the Church Office, 813-645-1241 and reserve meals. They also need help in delivering the meals. Let the office know if you will be able to assist with the deliveries.

The church address is 105 4th Avenue, N.W. in Ruskin.

Christian Science Church holds annual Thanksgiving Service

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Ruskin-Sun City Center invites all to share its annual Thanksgiving Day service at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 24 when they pause to reflect and give gratitude for blessings they have received.

The Bible text will be "Sing joyful songs to the Lord . . . Come worship with him with thankful hearts and songs of praise" from Psalms 95. The Thanksgiving proclamation by the President of the United States will be read. Readings of thanksgiving and gratitude will be from The Bible and from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy. The service will provide time for expressions of gratitude by individuals in the congregation. No collection will be taken.

Readers are Lynn Knapp and Betty Kuemmerling, Sun City Center, Sun City Center. The soloist is Betty Bishop, also of Sun City Center. The Church is located at 201 Second Street NW in Ruskin. For more information call 633-6459.

Thanksgiving dinner shared

The United Community Church invites everyone to gather together and spend Thanksgiving Dinner with family, friends, and neighbors.

The entire community is invited to share the holiday with them for a wonderful Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner. It is a joy to be together at the United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Avenue, Sun City Center at noon on Thursday, Nov. 24 in their Great Hall. Cost of the dinner is \$14 per person. Tickets are available through the church office 634-1304. Last day for reservations is Tuesday, Nov. 22.

A delicious catered home style dinner will include salad, turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, ham and sweet potatoes, beans, cranberries, rolls, beverages, and assorted pastries.

BBQ chicken dinner for sale

On Saturday Nov. 19 from noon to 3 p.m. the congregation of New Beginnings Fellowship will be selling BBQ chicken dinners for the low price of \$5. The dinner will consist of chicken, two sides, drink and a dessert. The dinner can be enjoyed at the church or carried home. For more information or to pre-order your dinner call Betty Fountain at 645-8848.

Ymmm...Pasta

Knights of Columbus 4th degree is planning a Pasta dinner from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20.

Ticket prices are \$8 each or two for \$15 and can be purchased from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, until Nov. 18 at Conesa Hall.

For more information, call Mike Wagner at (813) 633-6239.



NCWS makes record monthly donation

Dolores Berens, President of Samaritan Alzheimer's Auxiliary, center, is pictured receiving checks totaling \$2545 from Jim and Phyllis Butner, co-founders of NCWS (Nondenominational Christian Worship Services). The love offering was given from donations for the month of October. The Butners said, "We are so blessed to have the folks who attend our worship services see the need of financially supporting our local non-profit organizations." NCWS is an all-volunteer itinerant outreach ministry, where every penny received from love offerings goes back to the community to support those who are also, in many cases, volunteering their time and talent to serve others in some capacity. If interested in starting a Bible study or worship service in your community or neighborhood, call Jim Butner at 634-3114.



Pictured from left to right are: Fred and Shirley Joest, Marge Weber, Pastor Ron Churchill, Carol Corcoran, Chris and Jim Davis, and Millie Aumack. For information on the church, call 634-4228.

New Members welcomed

Trinity Baptist Church recently welcomed several new members. The variety of Sunday school class opportunities and other programs has resulted in a high level of new members joining the church.



PET TIP: Healthy gums are pink and moist. Know what your pet's normal gum color is. Gums that are pale, white or blue in color can signal a problem. The best place to check gum color is a few millimeters above the canine tooth. Lift the lip and press lightly with your finger; the color should return pink in a few seconds.

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Area Places of Worship



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC

Meets in the Henry Gibson Social Hall of the Beth Israel Synagogue • 1115 E. Del Webb Blvd. Thursday, 7:00 PM • Call 633-0396

Accomplishments have no color.
 — Leontyne Price

Friendship Baptist Church

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

WEEKLY SERVICES:

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

Ruskin United Methodist Church

First Street & 4th Ave. NW, Ruskin (behind Suntrust Bank)

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND WORSHIP WITH US:

SUNDAY MORNINGS: Nov. - April 8:30 a.m. **Day Care Available**
 Rev. Richard Nussel and All Year 10:45 a.m. Mon. - Fri.
 Phone: 645-1241 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 call 645-6198

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church

Growing by Faith from Generation to Generation

Rev. Tracy H. Wilder • Church Office: 813-645-1521

Sunday Services: 9:00 a.m. - Contemporary Service and Sunday School
 at West Campus (S.R. 674 and 9th Street SE, Ruskin)

8:00 a.m. - Traditional Service and 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion with Choir at
 East Campus (1015 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center)

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 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.



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Rev. Dr. Peter Stiller, Pastor

Telephone: 813-634-1292 • Website: www.scredeemer.org

Worship Services on Sunday 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Holy Communion First & Third Sunday • Bible Class Thursday 10 a.m., Guests Welcome



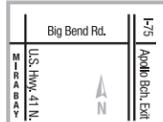
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Contemporary 9:40 a.m.

Traditional 11:15 a.m.

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

Dan Collis, Pastor

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The United Methodist Church

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Sunday

8:15 AM Sanctuary (Communion Service)

9:15 AM Creason Hall (Oasis Contemporary)

10:55 AM Sanctuary (Traditional with Choir & Bells)

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 Wednesday Night Service 7:00 p.m.
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 Phone: 634-2328 • Fax: 633-6670
 www.popcc.org

Masses:
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 Saturday Vigil 4:00 & 6:00 p.m.
 Daily..... 8:00 a.m.

Confessions:
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 Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
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 Wednesday (all ages) 6:30 p.m.
 Dr. Samuel (Sam) A. Roach, Pastor

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 Wednesday Service..... 5:00 p.m.
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 Daily Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m.
 Holy Days Contact Parish Office for Schedule
 Español Domingo - 12:30 p.m.; Jueves 7:30 p.m.
 Confession..... Thursday 6:45 p.m.; Saturday 3:45 p.m.

Area Obituaries

Richard "Chumley" Denney

Richard "Chumley" Denney of Ruskin passed away on October 24, 2011. He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Tina Marie and a daughter, Mary Margaret Denney.

Frank C. Depinet

Frank C. Depinet, age 76, of Sun City Center, FL. Passed away on 11/11/11 Frank was a member of Prince of Peace Parish in Sun City Center, FL. Frank served in the US Air Force reserves from 1953 - 1961. He is survived by his wife, Rita Falter Depinet, Sun City Center, FL.; daughter, Deb Depinet Kosmela, Seffner, FL.; sister, Jean Depinet Piar of Mount Vernon, Ohio; brother, James M. Depinet of Sun City Center, FL.; grandchildren, Brad M. Depinet, Sycamore, Ohio; Amber Branham, Walbridge, Ohio; Nick Kosmela, Seffner, FL., and great grandchildren, Frank, Jaydin, Lewis, Avery and Camryn. Frank is predeceased by his children, Leo V. Depinet, Elizabeth Depinet and Rose Depinet; his parents, Madeline Cook Depinet, and Leo James Depinet.

There will be a memorial mass for Frank in Florida at Prince of Peace Catholic Church 702 Valley Forge Blvd, Sun City Center, FL. 33573 on Monday, Dec. 5 at 11 a.m. with a luncheon to follow.



Robert Jefferson Whitmire

Robert Jefferson (Whit) Whitmire, 79, Ruskin, died Nov. 6, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Connie Maxine, and his daughter, Nancy Whitmire Sale (Donall), two granddaughters, Kaitlyn Marie and Amy Leigh-Ann Sale, and a son, Jay Whitney Whitmire, all of Lynchburg, VA. A memorial service will be held on Friday, November 25, at 11 a.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church, Apollo Beach, FL. Condolences may be offered at www.zipperfuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Care, Inc., a no-kill animal shelter at 1528 27th St. SE, Ruskin, FL 33570, www.careshelter.org.

Church to hold ministry fair

Prince of Peace Catholic Church is holding their annual Ministry Fair from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. this Thursday, Nov. 17 in Conesa Center. The theme of this year's fair is "Get Connected" and will showcase the vast treasure of talent that makes Prince of Peace such a vibrant parish. There will be prize drawings at every ministry booth and food and beverages for purchase from the Knights of Columbus. The public is invited for fellowship, food and prizes. Prince of Peace is located at 702 Valley Forge Blvd. in Sun City Center. For more information call the parish office at (813) 634-2328.



In Loving Memory



Sean Parrot

May 25th, 1972-Aug. 28th 2011

You are dearly missed by all who knew you. Customers and Co-workers alike. Work will never be the same, you were a friend to everyone you met. There will always be a special place in our hearts for you. Til we meet again Sean. We love you, your friends at Publix, Apollo Beach.

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Please join us
Sunday, November 20 • 6 p.m.
John & Lucy Long will be telling us about their missionary work in Belgium.
 Jesus said His intent was to seek and save that which was lost. They join Him in doing that in Flanders. A love offering will be accepted.

Southside Baptist Church
 4208 U.S. Hwy. 41 S
 Sun City, FL 33586 • 813-645-4085
 (approx. 4 miles south of College Ave.)

SHMA "Community Sing"

South Hillsborough Ministerial Association [SHMA], an organized, interactive group of local church ministers and congregations committed to the work of the Lord Jesus Christ in South Hillsborough County, will conduct its monthly "Community Sing" on Monday, Nov. 28 at the Ruskin United Methodist Church, located at 105 4th Ave NW, Ruskin beginning at 7 p.m. The "prelude" to the Sing begins at 6:30 p.m. For more information call (813) 645-1241 www.shmasouthshores.org

Presbyterians celebrate St. Andrew's Day

Saint Andrew was a Christian Apostle and the brother of Saint Peter. The name "Andrew," like other Greek names, appears to have been common among the Jews from the 3rd or 2nd century BC. No Hebrew or Aramaic name is recorded for him. He is considered the founder and first bishop of the Church of Byzantium and is consequently the patron saint of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Andrew is said to have been martyred by crucifixion. Early texts describe Andrew as bound, not nailed, to a Latin cross of the kind on which Jesus is said to have been crucified; yet a tradition developed that Andrew had been crucified on an X-shaped now commonly known as a "Saint Andrew's Cross" — supposedly at his own request, as he deemed himself unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus.

About the middle of the 10th century, Andrew became the patron saint of Scotland. Several legends state that the relics of Andrew were brought under supernatural guidance from Constantinople to the place where the modern town of St Andrews stands today.

The flag of Scotland which consists of a St. Andrew cross on a blue background flies just below the American flag in front of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church at 1239 Del Webb Blvd in Sun City Center. To help with this celebration on Nov. 20 Charles Murray will be playing the pipes from 9 until 9:30 a.m. and again from 10:30 until 11 a.m. Services start at 9:30 and 11 a.m.

For more information call 634-1252.



Charles murray playing the pipes

A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.
 Proverbs 18:2



Farmer Pete

■ Continued from page 3

an hour later a woman came to his door and asked if he was Safari Pete. He said he was and she said she was there to thank him for showing her boys his animals.

They talked awhile, and he took her to dinner.

"When I asked her what she wanted out of life, she said she just wanted to find a good man and be a housewife," he said.

He never forgot her. After his current contract was over, he went back to Nebraska and knocked on her door.

"You still want to be a housewife for a good man?" he asked.

So Nina and her two boys left with him and moved to Florida.

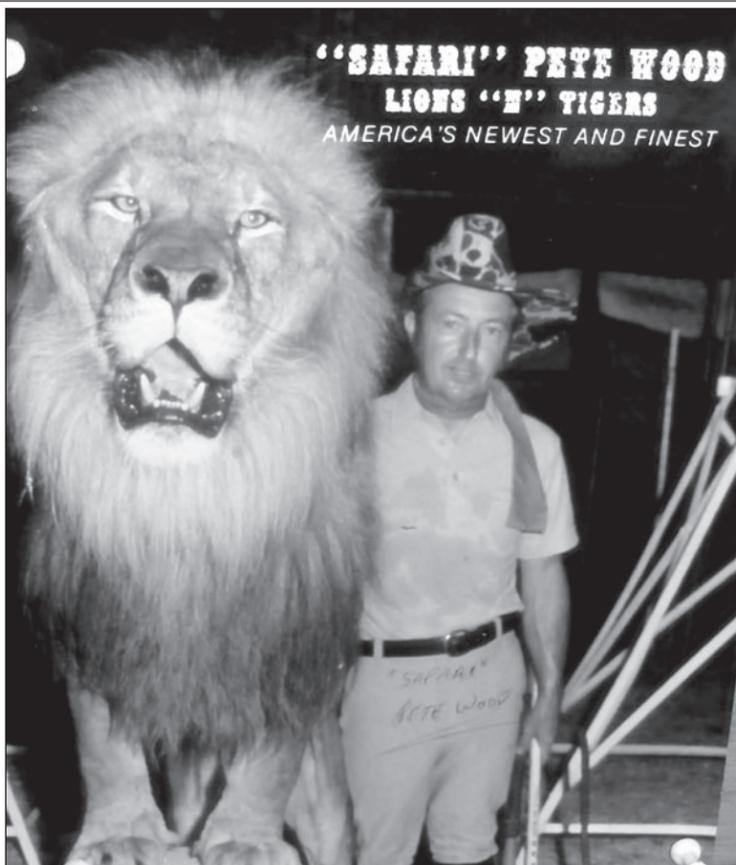
That was 22 years ago, he said.

Now that he had a family, he said he didn't want to travel on the road so he went back to something else he had learned from his family in England: raising fruits and vegetables.

He had been to school for fixing gas appliances and was also a good woodworker, but he said he remembered liking farming better.

So Safari Pete became Farmer Pete.

"In England my grandfather had three acres and we grew all kinds of things and sold them at a roadside stand," he said. Pete had even worked in retail awhile, at Woolworth's, and at 19 had managed a deli.



Pete worked a circus act with big cats for nine years after buying them from a friend while they were partying together. He says he didn't remember anything about it in the morning but he learned real fast it was true!

He didn't like working indoors though so he bought a Willis Jeep and sold his family's vegetables door to door instead.

That's how he got the idea for Farmer Pete's Produce he operates today, using both a truck and a small pull-along trailer.

Now he sells door-to-door in neighborhoods where people can't get out often, and also at farmer's markets.

and group photographs in the Museum's Secret Garden. The photos are free.

The great line-up of entertainment on stage this year includes the Myakka Blue Grass Band, Brain Smalley, Burke Brothers, Soupy Davis and Friends, and Main Hatch Motley Crew. Admission is free. Parking is available in Cortez village and just east of the Village off of Cortez Road.

Manatee County commercial fishermen annually harvest over 3 million pounds of fish valued at over \$5 million, and Cortez maintains its long-supported heritage as a working waterfront. The Cortez Folk Arts and Music Festival falls on the final day of Manatee County's annual Farm City Week celebration of agriculture.

The Festival Address is 4415 119th St. W., Bradenton, FL 34215



Mike Langjahr and Paula Lickfeldt present a check to Pastor William Cruz, his wife Dora and his daughter, Laura Cruz.

Party for a purpose

Party organizers Paula and David Lickfeldt of the United Community Church and Mike and Yvonne Langjahr of Sun City Center Funeral Home held their annual Halloween party October 28, where they collected over 1,000 pounds of food and \$ 2,000.

The food collected was divided between Our Lady of Gaudalupe Food Pantry and The Lord's Lighthouse Ministry with each of them receiving over 500 pounds of food. The cash proceeds went to The Lord's Lighthouse Ministry. Mike and Paula presented a check to Pastor William Cruz of the Lord's Lighthouse Ministry in Ruskin.

Business women to meet

The night begins for the American Business Woman's Association with networking and sign-in at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the program at 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 21 at Apollo Beach Tennis & Raquet Club.

Tickets are \$16 per person and include dinner, dessert, tea and coffee. Wine and beer will be available for purchase.

RSVP early so the restaurant can prepare accordingly; cash or check only. For more information, call 649-0400 or 716-3912.

See the current issues of *The Observer News*, as well as past issues, classified advertising, advertising information, and much more!
www.ObserverNews.net

Cortez Festival this weekend

On Saturday, Nov. 19 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. have a fun-filled family day of entertainment in the historic fishing village of Cortez.

In addition to great music, food and crafts, there are a number of really outstanding special events. Treat yourself to guided tours of the Fish Preserve and the Florida Maritime Museum. Tyler's Ice Cream of Cortez will again be holding their wildly popular ice cream eating contest for children and adults.

Over twenty arts and craft vendors will be on hand to sell their wares and showcase their talents. This is a great opportunity to pick up some holiday gifts. Local photographer Richard Estabrook will be on hand to take family

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310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

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

Carol & Deb Croll's

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Holiday sale. Decorative durable eggshell ornaments for Christmas, Mother's Day, Birthdays, etc. Gift boxed. Nov. 18, 19, 8am-3pm. 1605 Flamingo Lane., SCC. 813-938-5461

Garage sale. SCC. 810 El Rancho Dr. Some antiques, collectibles, fishing, Louis Lamour westerns. 8am-? Thursday, 11/17, Friday 11/18, Saturday 11/19.



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4120 Cockroach Bay Rd.
Ruskin

Friday & Saturday, 11/18 & 11/19, 8am-? Clothes, toys, Christmas, Depends, etc. 1501 North Lake Dr., SCC.

3 family garage sale. SCC, 1509 Weatherford Dr. Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm. Dept 56 houses, bike, sewing machine, patterns, rowing machine, desk chair. Too much to list. Something for everyone.

Multi family yard/ carport sales. Nov. 17 & 18, 8am-? 2601 11th Ave., SE, Ruskin. Nov 18, 19, 20, 8am-? 2409 11th Ave., SE, Ruskin. Christmas decor, Owl collection, Gaither VCR tapes & cassettes, misc. items, books, clothes, furniture, TV, tools, Building materials.

Garage sale. Friday Nov. 18, 8am-3pm. 2321 Lyndhurst Dr., SCC. (off Del Webb West). Computer cabinet, silk plants & more

344 Northway Dr., (corner of Northway & Del Webb East) Sofa, matching love-seat, coffee table, dining table, cedar chest, etc. 8:30am-3pm. Friday, Nov. 18 only.

Multi family yard sale. Saturday, Nov. 19, 8am-2pm. Lots of clothes, household items. 1110 US 41. Casa Don Juan Restaurant.

Moving sale. Small refrigerator, end tables, lamps, bedding, rugs, glassware, clothes, linens, pictures. Saturday 11/19, 8am-1pm. 1215 Bluewater Dr., SCC.

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310 GARAGE/ YARD SALE

133 & 138 19th St., NW, Ruskin. Riverhaven MH Park. Nov. 18 & 19, 8am-? Household & misc. items.

Estate/ moving sale. Friday & Saturday, 11/18 & 11/19, 8am-4pm. 2508 Mc Arthur Rd., Wimauma. Lots of furniture, dishes, appliances, books, clothing, misc

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Garage sale. Saturday 11/19 8am-2pm. Lots of kitchen & household items. All new, fryers, steamers, lots of dishes, quilts, etc. 13235 Prestwick Dr., Summerfield.

803 10th St., SW, Ruskin (off College Ave). 2 family sale. Saturday 11/19, 8am-1pm. Furniture, knickknacks, jewelry. Too much to mention.

House full of treasures, books, DVDs, small appliances. 11/18 & 11/19, 8am-noon. St Andrews Estates. 424 Smithfield Lane.

Garage sale. Christmas items, collectibles, household items, silver chafing dishes. Nov. 19, 8am-2pm. 1002 Ventana Dr., (Cypress Creek Village Blvd).

Golf clubs, tools, pictures, Christmas decorations & misc. 216 Stoneham Dr, St. Andrews, SCC. Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm.

Moving sale. Saturday, Nov. 19. One day only. 1811 Butterfly Place, SCC. 8am-? Lots of nice stuff.

Apollo Beach Caribbean Isles Park wide carport sale. Saturday, 11/19, 9am-1pm. Big Bend Rd & US 41. Take 1st right. Elsberry Rd. Follow signs. North on US 41 from Ruskin pass Apollo Beach Blvd., to 1st left Elsberry Rd. & follow signs.

Neighborhood garage sale. Saturday, 11/19, 8am-2pm. Sago Palm Way, (west side), Apollo Beach. Scrap booking materials plus something for everyone.

Hoarders garage sale. Many new QVC items, jewelry, comforters, new gadgets, housecoats & slippers. Friday 11/18, Saturday 11/19, 8am-2pm. 652 Ft Duquesna Dr., SCC

310 GARAGE/ YARD SALE

1935 & 1937 East View Dr., SCC. Clothing, jewelry, Vera Bradley purses, linens, bed frames & much more. Friday, Nov. 18, 7am-3pm. Saturday, 7am-noon

SCC 1001 El Rancho. Nov. 19, 8am-2pm. Christmas, women's plus, mini refrigerator, small microwave, storage bins & misc.

Yard sale, throughout Hideaway RV Resort park & in rec hall. Ruskin. Nov. 19, 8am-1pm. Lunch available in rec. hall.

SCC 1601 Bentwood Dr. Big sale. Too much to mention. Friday, 11/18 & Saturday, 11/19. 8am-2pm.

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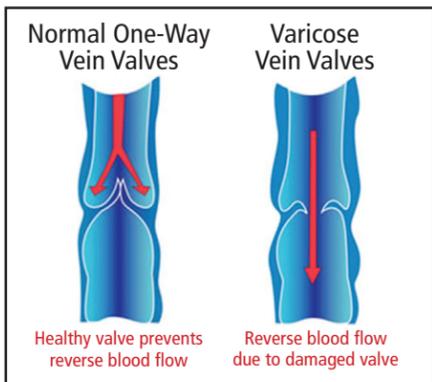
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All veins have valves. Healthy valves keep blood flowing only upward and support the weight of the column of blood. When



these valves are broken, blood pools below. This congestion and increased pressure result in discomfort and cause fluid to build up and leak from the deeper capillaries. The result – gradual and continuous deterioration of your legs over the years. Both visible and hidden varicose veins are dangerous – they increase your risk of blood clots. Most varicose veins are hidden. Tired, painful legs are a symptom that something is wrong.

Don't take your ultra-sound while lying down.

We test your vein valves while you are standing. If you have ever had an ultrasound of vein valves performed while you were lying

Any of these symptoms can signal dangerous, hidden varicose veins. Schedule a **FREE consultation** to see if our **painless procedures** can help.

- Painful, aching legs
- Tired legs
- Leg cramps
- Swollen ankles
- Skin discoloration
- Restless legs
- Itching, burning skin

A simple procedure will change your life.

There are many different treatments for vein disease, but not all are equal. Some are obsolete, painful and dangerous. Ours are modern, painless and safe.



Before and after photos show dramatic results from advanced vein procedures.

down, you have had inadequate testing. This is a gravity issue, after all! Our more advanced

methods detect valve problems frequently missed by less well-equipped clinics.

Vein testing is easy and painless and takes place right in our office. At your exam appointment, our doctor will explain the ultrasound results and discuss treatment options with you. At Mountcastle Vein Centers, we offer four simple, advanced 20-minute procedures performed in our private, small clinic atmosphere. All four are

painless, effective, minimally invasive and non-surgical. You can expect to return to normal activity the same day.

The sooner you call, the sooner you'll find relief.

Don't let leg discomfort keep you from enjoying life. In most cases, our procedures are considered medically necessary and are covered by health insurance and Medicare. This is a progressive disease. **So call today for your free consultation. Learn how to stop and reverse the deterioration of your legs.**

Sun City Center

4040 Upper Creek Dr., Ste. 105, FL 33573 (next to South Bay Hospital)

St. Petersburg (at Isla del Sol)

Largo (next to Largo Medical Center)

Palm Harbor

(at The Fountains, Alderman & US19)

Mountcastle vein centers

Never stop living!™

Call 813-634-1333

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