

INSIDE:



The Palmetto Historical Museum is hosting a display of Carnival Glass January 25 through mid-March. See **page 16**



Learn more about Florida's feral hog population from sportsman Tony Young on **page 13**

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# THE OBSERVER NEWS

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## Big blue bus brings dental services to South County youth



MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

Welcome to my rolling dental clinic, Kelli Johnson (above) says as she opens the door and the gateway to dental awareness for young people without access to other dental services across South Hillsborough County. A longtime dental hygienist, Johnson now manages dental programs in the Suncoast Community Health Care Center's network. She personally designed the mobile unit's interior after the coach was obtained with a substantial federal grant in 2010. It is supported by additional grants and donations.

■ By MELODY JAMESON  
mj@observernews.net

RUSKIN – More than 1,100 youngsters were treated for dental problems in 10 hospital emergency rooms across Hillsborough County during 2010.

For every dollar spent on preventative measures, \$15 is saved in dental treatments.

Dental disease is the number one childhood ailment, five times more common than asthma, yet childhood dental decay is 100 percent preventable.

These are the figures “that get me up each morning,” says Kelli Johnson, dental programs manager with the Suncoast Clinics network. And, they're the facts that support the passion this widely experienced former dental hygienist brings to the spiffy mobile dental coach she oversees.

The mobile dental unit, about the size of a luxury touring bus, has three treatment stations where staff hygienists and assistants work to prevent those expensive hospital emergency room visits for the children of their low-income clientele and to encourage lifetimes of the dental awareness that can avoid serious problems in the mouth.

See **DENTAL BUS**, page 18



Rear Admiral Larry Chambers at home in Sun City Center.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

## The heart of command

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN  
mitch@observernews.net

He didn't have to save the family with five small children. He could have let them die; no one would have faulted him for it. Given the chaos that was ensuing all around him, it could have been just another sad footnote crowded into another sad chapter in history, and one quickly forgotten.



Rear Admiral Larry Chambers is ageless. His eight decades of life are hidden behind eyes that reveal energy, optimism, youth and vigor. His voice and laughter complete his agelessness. Chambers has few peers, not many people have accomplished what he has. And no doubt some of those peers have eyes clouded with the jaundice of seeing too much of an imperfect world — but not Chambers. He smiles, he laughs and his eyes twinkle. Larry Chambers is a man who has set his own course.

Captain Larry Chambers was just over a month into being the commander of the aircraft carrier, the USS Midway, when he was ordered to make best possible speed to a point 150 miles off the coast of South Vietnam. In a matter of days, his ship would be the focal point of the largest helicopter evacuation in history. Named Operation Frequent Wind, approximately 7,000 people would be evacuated from Saigon as the city was falling to the North Vietnamese.

There is no larger, mightier ship than an aircraft carrier. Only two nations have successfully built them and even the Chinese, with their enormous manufacturing power, have yet to build their own. The Chinese aircraft carrier is one refurbished after purchase from the Russians. It is an airport and a floating

See **THE HEART OF COMMAND**, page 26

## Saving HCI, chapter two, now organizing

■ By MELODY JAMESON  
mj@observernews.net

BALM — Known for its rehabilitation success rate, lauded for its force of volunteers, the pioneering women's prison here with programs that work again is in the sights of a state administration determined to eliminate it.

And once again, its advocates, many of them senior citizens, are preparing for combat in the political trenches.

Late last week, Florida's Department of Corrections (DOC) announced a consolidation plan that calls for closing 11 of its facilities around the state. It gives as reasons for the closures a declining prison admissions rate and excess bed space.

Hillsborough Correctional Institution (HCI) on C.R. 672 near Balm with a population of about 280 female inmates is one of those targeted. Closing date is March 1. DOC officially

See **SAVING HCI**, page 3

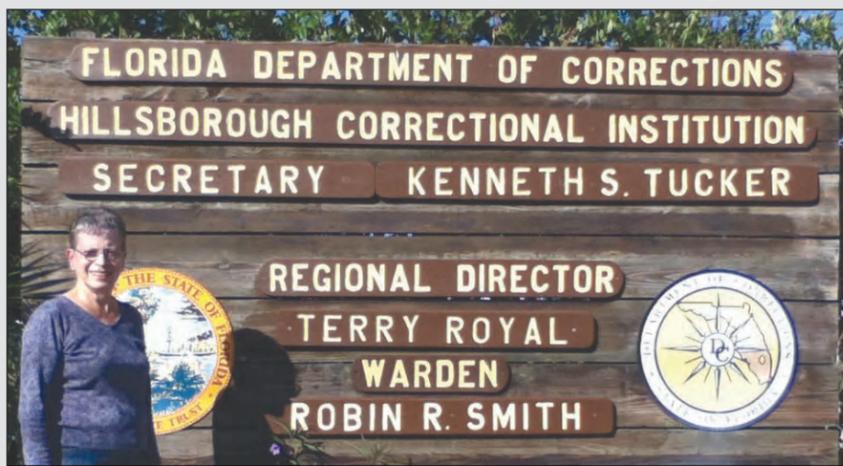


PHOTO COURTESY OF JANET SMITH

Entrance signage at HCI, the faith-based, character-building prison for women near Balm, was changed only a few months ago when a new DOC secretary joined the state administration. The sign could change again soon as the unique and successful facility once more has been targeted for closure. However, if the many volunteers for and advocates of its programs such as Janet Smith (above) have any say, that change may be vigorously opposed.



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**"Get to know my neighbors."**

**"Recycle."**

**"Volunteer at a homeless shelter."**



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# Saving HCI...chapter two

■ Continued from page 1

projects savings of a little over \$8.3 million in the 2012-13 timeframe if the 135-acre HCI campus is shuttered. The department is known for its estimates on the high side and its calculations do not take into account the savings that a functioning HCI represents.

"This is all about money – saving taxpayer dollars," Nancy Williams, a charter HCI volunteer, stated in an initial email to the volunteer network following the closure announcement. It's also about the hundreds of thousands of tax dollars inmates save the state with their work in public venues and about the thousands in contributions their prison production amounts to each year that offset the savings projected by closure, her communication emphasized.

Williams' message, the first of a multi-faceted renewed effort to save the proven successful facility, also provided contact information for various elected officials whose responsibilities include prison funding, from the governor's office to legislative leaders. She urged the volunteer force to make contact, passionately and rapidly.

Approximately a year ago, DOC made a similar move, aiming for HCI's closure by June, 2011, transferring its inmates to other female prisons and relocating or terminating more than 100 employees. Several volunteers along with a couple of HCI's "alumni" who had completed sentences and returned to constructive society advanced on Tallahassee to relate the HCI story to legislators unfamiliar with its programs and successes.

One of the points focused on was the statutory requirement that Florida's DOC maintain at least

one faith-based, character-building prison for women. DOC maintains several such facilities for male inmates around the state, but HCI was the only installation that fulfilled the obligation. Subsequently, DOC reportedly has established a similar female facility in Hernando County.

The effort last year brought HCI through the 2011 budget cycle, stalling closure with the help of Senator Ronda Storms, whose district includes eastern Hillsborough County. Hillsborough County commissioners also weighed in, adjusting zoning to raise the population cap for the facility and thereby paving way for reduction of per-inmate costs.

With closure staved off for 2011, the prison's volunteer force, numbering in the hundreds and coming from surrounding communities including Sun City Center and Valencia Lakes, dug in to raise thousands of dollars in private funds for a variety of needs on the prison campus. They gathered \$5,000 in donations and obtained a \$5,000 matching grant for a \$10,000 failed roof repair on one prison dormitory, then lined up the contractor to do the job. DOC estimated the repair work at \$50,000. The job has been put on hold at the state's request. Volunteers also raised \$7,000 to fill large gift bags for each inmate prior to Christmas, 2011, and have talked about fund-raising campaigns to underwrite other major infrastructure needs on the prison campus.

Similarly, the work performed through the year by inmate crews at the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, a massive agricultural experimentation complex affiliated with the University of Florida and located further east at

Balm, is valued at about \$300,000 annually. Two inmate work details have been donating their services at the complex where food-related research with worldwide impacts is conducted. A third work detail needed at the research center was in the formative stage.

Additionally, the sewing, paper and wood products made by the women in various programs on their compound constitute charitable donations with an estimated value of better than \$200,000, Williams noted.

If the Balm campus is shuttered, most HCI inmates expect to be transferred to the large Lowell Correctional Institution, a female prison with a reputation for inmate abuse and where rehabilitation programs are very limited, noted Janet Smith, another long time HCI advocate and volunteer. At HCI now, "their fear level is off the charts because they know what awaits them," she added.

The HCI programs, considered a model for the nation, range from training for employment to marketable crafts to athletics to religious instruction to one-on-one mentoring with the hundreds of retired area professionals turned volunteers. The results are demonstrated in renewed self confidence as well as commitment to learning and the value of the programs, produced at no cost to tax payers, shows in the low recidivism rate at HCI. More than 85 percent of HCI inmates return to society and constructive lives after serving sentences there.

However, transferring the women who have come so far in their lives back into a general prison population will be equivalent "to sending them to emotional and spiritual death," Smith said, adding "I thought the goal was to reduce repeat offenders and we have a shining example of how to do that at HCI."

Even DOC recognized HCI achievements, designating it the number one volunteer-facilitated

prison in the state — just before it announced the closure.

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PHOTO BY NANCY WILLIAMS

The first and second rows include the Hillsborough C.I. Turnover team who competed against the Sun City Center Vintage Babes softball team, pictured in the back row.

## Everyone's a winner

■ By NANCY WILLIAMS

On a cold January morning, the women's softball action was hot at the Hillsborough Correctional Institution in Balm. The Sun City Center Vintage Babes traveled to the newly renovated softball field at the women's prison. The SCC Softball Club, which has donated softball equipment in the past, recently provided soil to renovate the the 1970s prison softball field.

Each inning the senior players continued to launch big hits that the young inmates would courageously catch. The bleachers were filled with cheering inmates encouraged by the sports teams

from SCC that come to compete in softball, volleyball & tennis on Saturday mornings. After an exciting 8 innings of play, the SCC Vintage Babes prevailed 23 - 15.

The 500 volunteers, which includes the sports teams, help to allow this 1st in the Nation women's faith/character prison have the lowest recidivism rate in the State. This facility was just awarded #1 in the State for the highest number of volunteer hours. Consequently, this is why there is another lobbying effort at the State level by the volunteer force to prevent another possible closure of HCI beginning February 1.



Resolution:

**"Change my hairstyle."**



**PET TIP:** If your cat's coat mats easily, use a medium-toothed comb instead of a brush for daily grooming. Combs move through the hair much more easily than brushes and can remove early matting.

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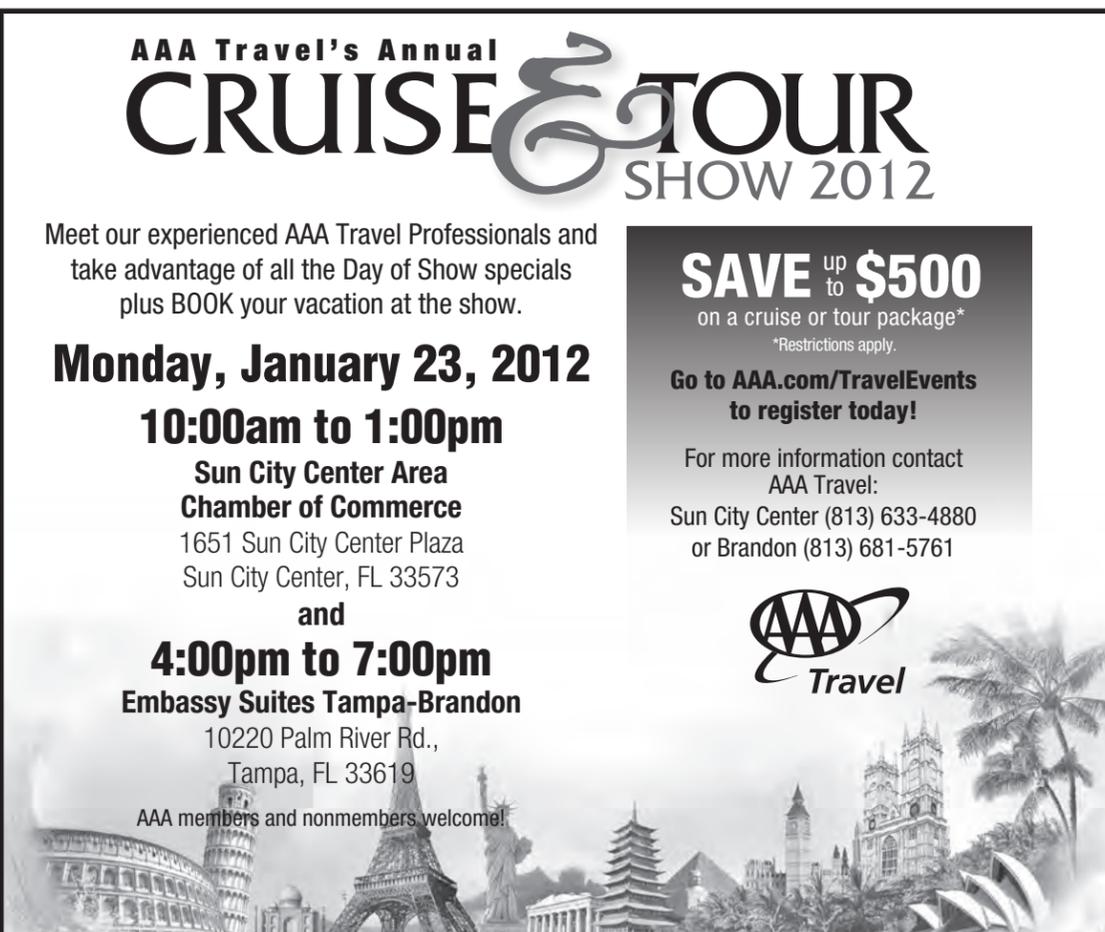
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# Have fun

Someone, somewhere once said, "God does not subtract from a man's lifetime those days when he goes fishing." I don't know whether God deducts days for fishing, but I do believe having fun is one of the essential parts of living a long and happy life. Yes, it is important to do those mundane things in life that must be done in order to buy food and keep a roof over our heads. But someone also said, "All work and no play make Jack a dull boy." I suspect the same is true for Jill. So, if we want to be happy, healthy and not boring, we must incorporate enjoyable activi-

ties into our day.

Take out a piece of lined paper. On that paper, draw several vertical lines from top to bottom. In column one, write Things I like to do. In column two write When I did it last. Column three should be headed Time needed to do it. Column four is Cost to do it. Column five is Special needs. Now begin to fill in the information.

Start listing all the things you like to do or things you would like to do. At this point, ig-

nore all the other columns. Do not make any judgments as to whether the ideas are practical or not. Your list may contain such mundane things as taking a walk in the park or sunbathing in the backyard. Maybe you would like to hike in the forest. But don't stop there. Think big. You might want to list captaining a sailboat to the British Virgin Islands, taking a ride



## Positive Talk

By William Hodges

in a hot-air balloon (both are on my list), or going on a trip around the world. Again, it is very important to not allow any of the other columns enter your thoughts when you make the list. Their time will come.

Now look at your list and go to column two. For those things you have done in the past, try to remember the last time you did them. You might find that the only thing preventing you from doing something you like to do is you forgot that you like to do it, or just got out of the habit of doing it.

For column three, enter the amount of time it will take to enjoy the endeavor. Be sure to include any preparation time. Now whenever you are able to get some free time, you will have a list of activities from which to choose that will relate to the time you have free.

There may be obstacles, however. In this instance, the information you enter in column four may be that obstacle. How much will it cost to enjoy the activity? Obviously, a walk in the park will be a low-cost item, but an around-the-world trip could be a killer. However, I might decide that if I save my entertainment dollars today by walking in the park, ten years from now I may be able to start my world tour. Then again, I may never save enough to go around the world, but I cannot help but be healthier from the walking.

The last column is for describing any special requirements the endeavor will require. To safely captain a sailing craft, for instance, I have spent many hours sailing under a competent sailing instructor and have taken the U. S. Coast Guard small boats course. For those who wish to travel extensively, maybe language lessons would help get more out of the trips. If you would like to hike in rough terrain, physical conditioning is a must.

English author Samuel Butler said, "All animals except man know that the principal business of life is to enjoy it." Now you have your list, you can be as smart as the animals. Get busy. Have fun.

*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*



## Community leaders recognized

The Military Family Support Trust (MFST) hosted a luncheon for the community leaders on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Plaza Club at Freedom Plaza. The leaders represented Brookdale Senior Living at Freedom Plaza, District 4 of the Sheriff's Department, Interfaith Social Action Council, Knights of Columbus, Leathernecks, MOAA, MOWW, Patriots Club, Retired Officer's Corporation, SCC Chamber of Commerce, SCC Community Association, SCC Emergency Squad, SCC Security Patrol, SAR and the Seabees.

MFST is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to military families through scholarships, financial assistance grants, guide dogs, Homeless Women Veterans, JROTC awards and other programs. The organization has been in Sun City Center since 1992. Visit the website at mobconline.org.



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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	2 p.m.	Horseshoes

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, Jan. 20	7-11 p.m.	Nickels and Dimes
Saturday, Jan. 21	5-7 p.m.	Steak Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, Jan. 27	7-11 p.m.	Del and Gary
Saturday, Jan. 28	5-7 p.m.	Beef Tips and Noodles
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, Feb. 3	7-11 p.m.	Bert and Sassie
Saturday, Feb. 4	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Sunday, Feb. 5		Super Bowl Party
Friday, Feb. 10		Caribbean Cowboys
Saturday, Feb. 12	5-11 p.m.	Valentine Dinner and Dance with Kim Mullins
Friday, Feb. 17	7-11 p.m.	Redneck Band
Saturday, Feb. 18	5-7 p.m.	Steak Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, Feb. 24	7-11 p.m.	Live Band
Saturday, Feb. 25	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, March 2	7-11 p.m.	Southern Tide
Saturday, March 3	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, March 9	7-11 p.m.	Calvin O
Saturday, March 10	5-7 p.m.	Steak Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, March 16	7-11 p.m.	Live Band
Saturday, March 17	4-7 p.m.	St. Patricks Day Corned Beef Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	St. Patricks Day Party with Kim Mullins

All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests

## IN UNIFORM



### Amy L. Florkiewicz

Air Force Airman Amy L. Florkiewicz graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Florkiewicz is the daughter of Mary and John Florkiewicz of Pilgrim Court, Turnersville, NJ, and sister of Emily Kroen of Skylark Place, Riverview.

She is a 2011 graduate of Fort Walton Beach High School, FL.

## Riverview Memorial VFW Post #8108

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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.

## Dance your way to a fitter new you

Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department offers a great way to have fun, get in shape, and gain confidence. Zumba, often referred to as an exercise in disguise, is offered at the following Hillsborough County recreation centers.

### Apollo Beach Recreation Center

664 Golf & Sea Blvd. in Apollo Beach • (813) 671-7635  
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
\$6 per class • Instructor: Erika Rivere

### Gardenville Recreation Center

6219 Symmes Rd. in Gibsonton • (813) 672-1120  
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Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. and 7:45 p.m.  
\$6 per class • Instructor: Erika Rivere

### Providence West Park

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\$5 per class • Instructor: Lolita Ortiz

### Riverview Community Center

11020 Park Drive in Riverview • (813) 671-7600  
Tuesdays and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
\$5 per class • Instructor: Lolita Ortiz

### Ruskin Recreation Center

901 6th Street S.E. in Ruskin • (813) 672-7881  
Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.  
\$6 per class • Instructor: Erika Rivere

For more information, call Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation at (813) 635-3500, or one of the above recreation centers.

## 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, Jan. 19 -- Bar Games at 1 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 20 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Green Pepper Dinner by Dale at 5 p.m. Music by Tony John at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 22 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 23 — Bingo at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 24 — Come on down and socialize.

Wednesday, Jan. 25 — Wings and Things at 5 p.m. OH SO GOOD! Bar Games at 6 p.m.

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



## Children's Board Family Resource Center - Brandon

The Brandon Family Support & Resource Center has a new name: The Children's Board Family Resource Center -- Brandon. It is still a place that helps families in the area become happier, healthier and stronger, with lots of community outreach, such as tutoring, car seat safety and parent-child play groups.

The Children's Board Family Resource Center -- Brandon offers a warm, homelike environment for individuals from all walks of life that live, work and play in the Brandon community.

Strategically located in the Kingsway Plaza, at the intersection of Windhorst and Kingsway, the Brandon Family Support & Resource Center draws individuals and families from a variety of neighborhoods in Southeastern Hillsborough County. For more information, call (813) 740-4634.

Check out activities at [www.familysupporthc.org](http://www.familysupporthc.org) or <http://www.familysupporthc.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Brandon.Calendar> to find other self-sufficiency groups and various playgroups. All families are encouraged to participate in programs and activities. The staff is bilingual. All programs are free.

Brandon's hours are from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday; and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The Children's Board of Hillsborough County provides funding; Bright Beginnings manages the center; and Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County provides fiscal and program management.



## Corr Elementary Terrific Kids demonstrate Friendship

The following kids demonstrated friendship. Pre-K: Ethan McBride, Awad Khan; Kindergarten: Faith Yearwood, Alyssa Resendez, Evelyn Gallegos, Ryland Tran, Brianna Jordon, Jeremiah Brown-Watson, Lenier Rivera, Kaiden Odlum; 1st Grade -- Aubrey Zapata, Naomi Drummond-Mejia, Matthew Peyton, Katherine Weston, Stephanie Townsell, Tristan Fairchild, Helena Rios, Xyomora Santiago, and Hailey Orcott; 2nd Grade -- Sierra Glenn, Kevin Santana, Jayden Gutierrez, Kaleb Freel, Ethan Stewart, Lillian Geary, and Roger Runyon; 3rd Grade -- Dayanna Rodriguez-Frasco, Ishtar Jimenez, Samuel Hernandez, Marc Kentish, Kody Lane, Julian Rodriguez, Jessica Flowers, Grace Haerther, and Jerry Zapata; 4th Grade -- Brittany Arroyo, Alicemarie Mondragon, Everett Taylor, and Kayla Pierce; and 5th Grade -- Brianna Reed, Jose Rubino, Angel Gonzalez, and Anna Lin.

 Resolution:  
**Attend  
More Events!**

## Required parenting class for divorce offered

A Parenting Class for divorce from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on various dates in Hillsborough County Extension Service, 5339 CR 579 in Seffner, Florida 33584

Hillsborough County Extension Service is offering classes for those who are going through a divorce and have children. The four-hour course is required by the State of Florida when a child is involved in the divorce or custody process, and includes:

Shared parenting and permanency of the parental role, child development stages and impacts of a divorce on children, communicating with your children, communicating with the other parent, child abuse /neglect and spouse abuse, legal concepts and community resources, families in transition and helping children understand and cope with divorce

The 2012 schedule is 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Hillsborough County Extension Service, 5339 CR 579 in Seffner.

- Jan. 12
- Feb. 9 or 23
- March 8 or 22
- April 12 or 26
- May 10 or 24
- June 7 or 21
- July 19
- Aug. 9 or 23
- Sept. 6 or 20
- Oct. 11 or 25
- Nov. 8
- Dec. 6

Participants need to also understand the following:

Couples may only attend the same session with special permission.

- The cost of the class is \$25 and includes a workbook.
- A sliding fee scale is available.
- Children are not permitted in the class.
- Participants must bring picture identification to class, such as a driver's license.
- Participants can register online, or by email or phone.
- A certificate will be given at the end of class.
- Participants must arrive on time. Late arrivals may not be admitted

To register online with a credit card, click on "Divorce Class Registration" at <http://urlmin.com/HillsboroughParenting> To register by phone, call 813-744-5519 x 54140.

## Lt Col Brockmeier to speak to MOAA

The February Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meeting featuring Lt Col Jerry Brockmeier, will be held in the Sun City Center Atrium building in the Florida Room at 11:00 am on Wednesday, Feb. 1. Reservations can be made by calling 877-332-3016 (\$14) no later than the Sunday before the Wednesday meeting.

## Hospital volunteers needed

South Bay Hospital is recruiting volunteers for its new American Cancer Society Cancer Resource Center. Volunteers will provide visitors and caregivers with information about prevention and detection, treatment guidelines and support groups. They will also help visitors find resources that suit their needs such as wigs, prosthetics, camisoles, hats and more.

Volunteers are needed on weekdays and hours are flexible. No experience necessary and training will be provided. If you are interested in volunteering, or for more information on the Cancer Resource Center call 813-634-0496.

## High tea and fashion show



The St. Anne's Council of Catholic Women will hold their annual Tea and Fashion Show at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4 at the St. Joachim Hall, adjacent to St. Anne Catholic Church in Ruskin.

This year's theme is 'International,' with each table decorated to represent countries around the world. Fashions will be provided by The Rose Boutique (which supports the Mary and Martha House), located at 100 E. Shell Point Road in Ruskin. The Mary and Martha House provides emergency and transitional housing to women and children in crisis.

Seating is limited and tickets are \$15 per person and are available at the church office and at The Rose Boutique. For more information, call the church office at 645-1714 or the Boutique at 645-7628.

## Pirates shoot for charity

On Saturday, March 3 invites shooting enthusiasts to participate in their fundraiser, "Get on the Good Foot" at Tampa Bay Sporting Clays located at 10514 Ehrens Cut-off Road in Land -O- Lakes. The day begins with registration and a continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m. followed by a 9 a.m. shotgun start then capped off by a catered lunch at noon!

Entry fees will be \$85 per person or \$320 for a team of 4 (\$300 if registered by Feb. 15). Cost includes 8 stands/ 50 shot round (shooter provides shells) breakfast, lunch, door prize chances and Sporting Clays gift bag. Sponsorship opportunities are available. One hundred percent of profits will be used in support of amputees and their families. Discounts available for military, law enforcement, and amputees.

For more information visit [www.peglepirate.org](http://www.peglepirate.org)

## Scholarships begin with wine and cheese

The Kiwanis Club of South Shore will hold a wine and cheese party from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 19 in the Florida Room.

The ticket price of \$7 will include wine, cheese, crackers, soda and water. There will also be door prizes and a 50-50 raffle.

If you want to donate a door prize, bring it with you, wrapped up, to the party. Ticket sales are available from 9 a.m. to noon until Friday, Feb. 17.

The Club's College Scholarships Fund will benefit.

## Ashleys return to Moonglow

The father and son team of Bryan and Don Ashley will return for the Moonglow dance from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 26 at the Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. Let's welcome Bryan and Don with a good turnout to welcome in the new year.

BYOB and snacks. Water, ice, napkins and cups will be provided. Dressy attire. Ties are optional for the gentlemen. Members are free; guests are \$5 at the door. Singles are welcome.

If your 2012 dues are not in, bring your check *only* to the dance. For more information, call Claire at (813) 642-0171.

## Republicans hold annual meeting

The Greater Sun City Center Republican Club will hold their Annual Meeting and installation of officers on Jan. 26 in the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce Banquet Room. Social time is at 1:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 2 p.m.

The speaker will be Art Wood, the new Chairman of the Hillsborough County Republican Executive Committee. Art will also install the officers.

Membership dues for 2012 are due and payable at this meeting and memberships are available for those wishing to become a member.

The meeting is open to all Republicans and like-minded voters.

## Fun for senior singles

The South Shore Senior Singles group, a ministry of the Sun City Center United Methodist Church (SSUMC), will meet at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21 at The Alpha Pizzeria House in Apollo Beach for dinner and dancing to Thor Stevens.

For more information, or make a reservation, call Patti at (813) 634-7171, or Jim at (813) 938-4835. Reservations and cancellations are required for all events.

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## 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](http://www.CareShelter.org) or call (813) 645-2273.



**Penny**

Penny is an adorable torti female kitten. She is very playful and has shown every volunteer her love by playing with every cat toy in the shelter. Penny is never dull and takes a shine to most visitors, volunteers or passersby. She likes her afternoon nap on the cat tower and that is where she can be found most afternoons unless she is sunning on the lanai. Visit Penny and give her that loving forever home. Penny as part of her adoption will be spayed as well as micro chipped. She has been brought up-to-date on her shots

DOB: 10/1/2011.



**Topper**

Topper is a pretty Chihuahua. This poor gal's owner has spent the last year in a nursing home. A neighbor cared for her in the meantime but was unable to continue long term. A kind soul brought her to the shelter. She is sweet and allows you to hold her with no problem. All she wants is some company since she has had very little human interaction! A loving home would be a great way to start the new year. Topper is spayed and up to date on her shots. As part of her adoption she will be micro-chipped.

DOB: 08/ 2/ 1998



## Health Care Advisory Board to meet

The Hillsborough County Health Care Advisory Board will meet Thursday, Jan. 19 at 3 p.m. at the Lee Davis Neighborhood Service Center, located at 3402 N. 22nd St., Tampa.

For more information Tina Brown, 301-7364.

## Terrorism is topic

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees monthly luncheon meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 25 in the Plaza Club at Freedom Plaza. The cost is \$12. Their guest speaker is Dr. Charles Turner who will speak on Terrorism. For more information call Joyce 938-5279.

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# You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director  
SCC Chamber News

We are expanding and growing here at the Chamber, and with that come the expected growing pains. The ones involving change and restructuring. The changes themselves are necessary and even welcome, but they can take some getting used to.

If you have been to visit us lately, you might have witnessed a scene like this one: several people are in the lobby looking at brochures or having an important document faxed or copied. The volunteer is on the phone giving directions to the Manatee Viewing Center and both Kristy and I are either on the phone or have a Chamber member in our office.

In a word, we are incredibly busy this time of year, as the Snowbirds need assistance. Consequently, we need more volunteers to assist with the demand.

In addition, the Chamber now has over 400 members and we are providing more services than ever before.

The only solution was to divide the front lobby into an Information and Welcome Center with its own volunteer, and create a Chamber Assistant volunteer position on the other side of the room. With this new division of labor and another person helping out, Kristy and I are finding ourselves a lot more productive.

Most often this time of year, our visitors want travel and tourism information. They want to visit our many daytrip destinations, especially when the grandkids are down on spring break. We also as-

sist them with updated maps and directories, copying, faxing, and the occasional typing job. Our Information volunteer (IV) will be assigned the task of working with these visitors to answer their questions and send them to the right place.

Our Chamber Assistant (CA) volunteer will help us update our website, entering in new events and new members. They can pull research reports for us and help us send out anniversary cards to our members. They'll help us set up for events in the banquet room and put together packets for our Ambassadors.

We implemented this new structure last week, and for the most part it went smoothly. We tripped over ourselves a few times and forgot which side of the lobby we were working occasionally. We quickly discovered we need to hold a volunteer training day to make sure everyone knows their job and where to find answers to questions. That training will take place next week.

On the days when we are overloaded with visitors, the CA will pitch in, and on the days when we're gearing up for a big event and it's slow otherwise, the IV will do the same.

Of course, this means we need YOU to be a part of our team. If you are interested in giving us 3 or 4 hours a week, drop in and talk to us. You get to pick which side of the aisle works best for you! You'll meet some new friends, have a few laughs, and be part of something big! I hope you see you soon!



You, Me & Business

By Dana Dittmar

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Small Business Job Creation Program creates 86 jobs

Small businesses in Hillsborough County continue to take advantage of the County's job creation incentive program and more than \$233,000 is still available for small businesses to hire new employees.

Since the Board of County Commissioners launched the Small Business Job Creation program last March, 47 businesses have applied for the funds, creating 86 jobs. The companies have already hired 71 employees, with the average worker making \$15 an hour.

Commissioner Sandra L. Murman spearheaded the Job Creation Program. The Program is designed to promote job creation in Hillsborough County by offering a wage reimbursement to small business owners. The reimbursement would pay small businesses up to 50 percent of three months' total salary for new jobs created, capped at \$3,900 per new employee. It is estimated that this Program will encourage the creation of approximately 200 jobs, offering a total of \$500,000 to local small business owners.

To qualify, small business owners have to attend a minimum of four hours of business workshops and/or counseling sessions and meet specific requirements, such as having 10 employees or less; jobs created must be full-time and last for at least the required three-month employment period; businesses must have a Hillsborough County business tax receipt; new employees must be residents of Hillsborough County; businesses must be located in Hillsborough County; and businesses may be reimbursed for up to three created jobs. The applications will be accepted on a first-come/first-serve basis until the program funding runs out.

Additional requirements are listed on the program application. Small business owners can download an application and get more information from the Hillsborough County Small, Minority Business Development web site or by calling (813) 914-4028.

### Rossman joins real estate firm

Century 21 Beggins Enterprises is pleased to announce Sharon Rossman has joined its firm as a sales associate. She will specialize in residential property sales in the Apollo Beach area.

"We are thrilled to have Sharon join our team," said Craig Beggins of Century 21 Beggins Enterprises. "It's an exciting time to be with the CENTURY 21 System as we increase our market presence in Apollo Beach."

Rossman successfully completed extensive training and licensing through Bob Hogue School of Real Estate in November. Located in St. Petersburg, the program covered all the practical and essential elements to becoming a real estate agent.

Rossman graduated from The George Washington University in May 2011 with her Master's degree. She previously worked in municipal law enforcement in Delaware and performed intelligence analyst work for the federal government in Washington, D.C.

### Victoria Ginty joins Keller Williams Realty

Team Leader, Gary Kaukonen has announced that Victoria Ginty, a realtor with 26 years experience, has recently joined the South Shore Keller Williams Realty Office. "We are quite pleased to have Victoria join our team as she has a following of hundreds of past clients that have been delighted with her ability to help them sell or purchase waterfront homes, horse farms, and a wide variety of properties throughout Hillsborough County. It's rare to find a sales partner with such ex-

perience, and Victoria is a welcome addition to our team."

Kaukonen added, "As a Distressed Property Expert, Victoria has become one of the top REALTORS® in the area. Additionally, she is also the lead singer & an amazing fiddler in Gypsy Hyway, a popular blues band, and has also been a World Champion equestrian. With such a broad-base of local contacts and her personal drive for excellence, we're very excited to have Victoria join our Apollo Beach Office."



Victoria Ginty

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### Golden Hawk is Cruiser of the Month

A supercharged 1957 Studebaker Golden Hawk owned by Jim Freed of Palmetto is the January cruiser of the month for the Sun City Center Roamin' Oldies.

Powered by a 289 CID V8 fitted with a McCulloch Jet-Stream supercharger and capable of 130 mph, the Golden Hawk was the fastest U.S. production car in 1957, Freed said. For all its performance, the four-passenger coupe was also very well-appointed and comfortable. Freed's car sports a three-speed automatic transmission, power steering, brakes and windows, and Twin-Traction differential.

Freed is a Studebaker man through and through. His big garage is like a South Bend showroom, with several fine examples of the marque, including a wonderfully preserved pickup from the post-WWII period. "Every time I see a Studebaker, it seems to follow me home," he said.

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

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

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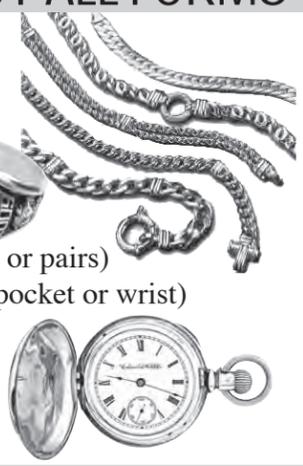
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## New Year Resolutions

By: Daris Howard

It's that time of year when all of my friends are making their New Year resolutions. Most of them are ridiculous and totally unreasonable, like never falling asleep in church or reading the whole book of *Gone With The Wind* in under 12 months. As for me, I am more of a realist. I like to choose goals that I am sure I can obtain.

"Honey," I commented to my wife, as I was listing my new year goals, "I think I will not smoke or drink this year."

"But you don't smoke or drink now," she replied.

"I know that," I told her.

But there is another goal that I have decided I must take on. One that I know will tax my limited abilities. My determination is fixed and my resolve is set.

It all started back when my wife and I were asked to co-direct a community theatre production. We went to meet with the other husband-wife team that we would be working with, whom I will call John and Mary. We had finished tryouts and had the regular people show up. Most of the parts were filled, but we still had a lead male adult role we could not find a person for.

We decided we would look at the tape from the production the year before and see if there was anyone we could coerce into joining our cast. That production the year before had been my first experience with theatre. I myself had been coerced into making a fool of myself on stage in front of thousands of people, instead of the way I normally do it in life, in front of a few at a time.

Anyway, we started watching the tape. As I marched onto stage on the video, making my debut performance, Mary became excited.

"How about him?!" she exclaimed. "How about that short, fat guy?!"

John almost choked. "What did you say?"

"I said, 'how about that short, fat...'"

John cut her off. "Yes, I heard what you said. Do you know who that is?"

She shook her head. John coughed and nodded his head slightly in my direction. Suddenly Mary caught what he was trying to tell her. She looked at me, then back at the video and then at me again. Suddenly her face flamed bright red, outlined by her blond hair, and she took on the appearance of a dim neon light bulb.

She spoke hoarsely, "It's not that I am saying you are fat or anything. No, it's just that you do a good job playing a fat guy."

John coughed and choked.

"What I meant to say is that you cover up well how fat you are when you..."

John didn't even let her finish this sentence before he started choking and gasping like he needed a ventilator.

"What I really was inferring was..." Mary paused and you could see her mind whirling as the video continued to play. "What I really wanted to say was, 'Would anyone like some cookies?'"

With that she fled from the room before anyone could even answer. Shortly she came back with some

warm chocolate chip cookies. She offered them to each of us. I know at that point the proper thing for me to have said was, "No thanks, I'm on a diet," but what I really wanted to say was, "I'm not really hungry so I'll just take five or six."

Anyway, that steered my resolve and I finally realized I had to buckle down and make a tough New Year's resolution.

I'm sure you've guessed it. I've finally decided I need to get more fat friends so it will help me look thinner.

(Daris Howard, award-winning, syndicated columnist and playwright, is author of "Super Cowboy Rides" and can be contacted at [daris@darishoward.com](mailto:daris@darishoward.com); or visit his website at <http://www.darishoward.com>)

### Audubon Society presents adventure film series

The Eagle Audubon Society invites the public to attend the first adventure film of the 29th Annual Outdoor Adventure Film Series, "Majestic Montana" on Saturday, Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Borini Theater of the KP Clubhouse. The film, narrated by award-winning film producer, Steve Gonser, will provide a journey throughout the fourth largest state revealing the scenic wonders and special qualities and history that have led to Montana being called the "Big Sky Country."

Tickets are \$7.50 and are available at the King's Point Box Office Monday thru Friday and just prior to the performance.

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### Adult Computer Classes for the Technologically Challenged

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Learn what hardware and software is required to download eBooks from our library. FallTech.

**PowerPoint: Introduction • Jan. 20 • 3 p.m.**

Learn the basics of slide design and layout to create a professional-looking presentation. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.

**PowerPoint: Text Boxes, Clipart and Autoshapes • Jan. 20 • 3:30 p.m.**

Adding text boxes, clipart and Autoshapes to your presentation. Previous experience with Microsoft PowerPoint is recommended.

**PowerPoint: Effects and Transitions • Jan. 20 • 4:15 p.m.**

Topics include selling, fees, listing types, pricing and research. eBay account required and basic mouse/keyboarding skills are recommended. FallTech.

**Publisher: Introduction • Jan. 24 • 3 p.m.**

Introduction to the Publisher window layout, toolbars, creating new documents, and insertion of text and picture frames. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.

**Publisher: Formatting Techniques • Jan. 24 • 3:45 p.m.**

Manipulating picture and text frames, working with lines, borders and colors. Publisher: Introduction is recommended



### SCC veterans hold sock hop March 3

The annual Sun City Center Veteran's Dinner/Dance will take place Saturday, March 3 in the Community Association's Florida Room. It is sponsored by the combined Sun City Center Veterans Organizations. All veterans and friends are welcome. A social hour with appetizers will start at 5 p.m. with a buffet at 6 p.m. The program will be a mix of patriotism and entertainment. Music and dancing will be provided by (DJ) DARLENE. There will be a mix of special entertainment. Dress is casual — 50s, patriotic, or military. No shorts or flip flops please. BYOB and setups: glasses and ice will be provided. There will be both 50/50 and "Happy Hour Basket" raffles. Cost is \$26 per person. Tickets are available through the American Legion (633-4059); DAV (634-1761); MOWW (642-9820); Leathernecks (634-6375); MOAA (634-7777); VFW (625-7070); or general sales (634-777).

Program Facilitator/Speaker:  
**DARCIE D. SIMS, Ph.D., CHT, CT, GMS and Co-Founder of GRIEF, INC.**

### Surviving the Mid-Winter Gloom

— A Program for the Bereaved —

**January 28 • 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
 at UCC in Sun City Center, FL

You made it through the holiday season, but here in the gloom of winter, how will we survive until the spring thaw? Join Darcie D. Sims, a grief management specialist, as she helps us discover ways to survive the mid-winter gloom of grief.

It is time to challenge the old myths about grief and create a language of hope. We will explore helping strategies and learn how to create a healing environment for ourselves and others.

**Registration fee is \$50** and includes: Continental breakfast, lunch, workbook and the Bird House Project.

**Register online at [www.favebe.com](http://www.favebe.com); call (813) 321-0880; or email [fave@favebe.com](mailto:fave@favebe.com)**

Workshop will be held at: **UCC (United Community Church)**  
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 (\*NOTE: This workshop is limited to 150 participants)

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# A little weirdness goes a long ways

Over the weekend, I read the tragic story of a nine-year-old girl from Michigan who died from a brain disease. Her mother had succumbed to the same disease just two years before. The photo accompanying the story was of the girl, smiling a gap-toothed smile that could melt even the hardest heart. It was a smile that only a child could have. That she had a fatal disease in no way diminished the magic in that smile.



## Observations

By Mitch Traphagen

mitch@observernews.net

What made the story national news was that the death of a child wasn't tragedy enough — both the girl and her mother had been the victims of a cyber-bully, in the form of a 30-something neighbor who saw the need for a feud between the families. The neighbor modified a photo of the young girl, placing her face over a skull and crossbones. She also pasted the mother's face into the skeletal arms of the grim reaper. She posted both of the images on her Facebook page.

Even in a world that appears to be growing accustomed to insanity, that sort of thing set off a firestorm of response. People sent letters and money to the girl and her mother, a toy store in Ann Arbor arranged for the young girl to have a shopping spree. The neighbors, however, kept pushing, modifying their pickup truck into a makeshift hearse with a coffin where the bed would be. She later told a local television station that the "hearse" was just a Halloween display, with no explanation as to why they felt the need to drive it back and forth in front of the young girl's home. When asked why she made and posted the photos, her response was, "Personal satisfaction," spoken in a flat and emotionless voice.

Eventually, the neighbor found herself in court and a restraining order was issued against her. The restraining order was of such a distance, that she had to move from her house and must stay away until September of this year. A few months ago, a newspaper ran an interview with the woman stating a half-hearted apology and that she and her husband hoped to sell their house and move.

My first thought, after recovering from revulsion about the whole sordid tale was, "How much do you want to bet they'll move to Florida?"

Florida is a stunningly beautiful place and, certainly in winter at least, has weather that is the envy of most of the nation, so it is no surprise that lots of people want to move here. In the years I've lived here, the population has increased by roughly three million people and, thus, there should also be no surprise that more than a few of those people are nuts. But it seems like it's more than just a few. What is it about Florida that seems to attract insane people?

When I was in my 20s and still held the belief that the corporate

ladder would lead to some wonderful promised land, Florida was the last place I thought I'd ever live. My impression of it was mosquito-filled swamp filled with angry old people. And then one day I was asked to make a presentation in one of my company's facilities in south Georgia. In those days, big companies tended to be more human and generous and I was told that after the presentation, I could pick anywhere I wanted to go to spend a weekend on the company's tab. To maximize my time off, I chose Florida due to proximity, and a few hours after my presentation, I landed at the airport in Ft. Myers.

I spent the weekend on Sanibel Island. It was February. You can probably guess how motivated I was about returning to Minneapolis. Eight months later, I was on a highway, following a truck carrying my sailboat to the Sunshine State. I then discovered that not all of Florida is Sanibel Island. But that didn't deter me — I came to love living here, despite the insanity that occasionally seems omnipresent.

The signs advertising 24-hour security in rest areas were the first indication, perhaps, that there were big differences between Florida and Minnesota, but the marina I chose in Ft. Myers Beach was the real kicker. It was filled with some incredibly cool and colorful people and most of them were downright bonkers. One guy had a taste for hallucinogenic drugs and was known to lie down in the middle of the one traffic-choked road through Ft. Myers Beach to watch cars come screaming towards him. Another man didn't have a boat but instead lived in a rundown RV in the marina parking lot. He had a penchant for keeping his underwear in his oven. More than one person, in fits of anger, mentioned blowing up the marina. Why would anyone want to blow up a marina?

But for my soon-to-be wife and I, there was something idyllic about it all. Snow was falling in the place we had left, and we were being warmed by tropical breezes through the palm trees just off one of the world's most beautiful coasts. It was magical and the cast of characters made us feel as though we had stepped into a Carl Hiaasen novel.

I'm not the only one to have noticed that there are a lot of lunatics in Florida, of course. The Associated Press has an annual compilation of the weirdest of the weird Florida stories — no other state is bestowed such an honor. This year, another news network piled on with a few of their own stories, asking how the AP could restrict it to an annual event when there are enough weird things going on here in a single day to fill any number of compilations.

Seriously, what is it about Florida? Is it a magnet for insane people or does it just make people go insane? Maybe it's all the natives blaming the Yankees and the Yankees blaming the natives? I don't know, but I do know that even in the eye of the maelstrom of insanity, including both the Tampa and Miami airports, I've had older women call me "darlin'" and thus I knew the real Florida was still here, despite the gunshots and the sounds of cars crashing in the staged-for-

insurance-fraud accidents I could hear in the background. I knew that because those women showed me the kindness and gentility that is the real Florida. They are Florida, not the annual weird news compilations.

I have no idea if that woman and her husband plan to move to here, but it certainly wouldn't surprise me if they did. It is a beautiful day in January and I'm sitting outside typing these words under a perfect blue sky — even mean and insane people can see the value of that. I've now spent more than half of my adult life in this state and I love it here, despite the fact that sometimes it makes me a little crazy. Wait, did I say that out loud? Uh oh.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Florida seems to attract its share of crazy people. Standing at the top of my sailboat's mast, looking over Little Harbor Resort towards St. Petersburg, it's not hard to see why. It's beautiful here.

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## SOUTHSHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

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### Book Discussion: "Caleb's Crossing" by Geraldine Brooks

Thursday, Jan. 19 - 2 p.m.

Bethia Mayfield, growing up in the tiny settlement of Great Harbor in 1665, forges a secret friendship with Caleb, the young son of an Indian chieftain. When she is indentured as a housekeeper, she closely observes Caleb's crossing of cultures as he studies at Harvard among the colonial elite.

### No-Fuss Foods: Creative Tacos

Friday, Jan. 20 - 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Learn how to be creative with what to put between the tortillas with this fun cooking demonstration. Presenter: Rowena Sjovall. Free samples! Seating limit: 20. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call 273.3652. Free event is funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

### Internet: Safe Browsing and Malicious Software

Tuesday, Jan. 24 - 12:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Learn how to surf the Internet while avoiding common scams and pitfalls that can compromise your security. Learn about different types of malicious software, how they get on the personal computer, how to remove them, and precautions to take when using the internet. Registration is available one hour prior to the beginning of the program.

### Teen/Adult Painting

Tuesday, Jan. 24 - 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Please join art instructor Cory Wright and learn various techniques and brush up on your painting skills. Limit 20. Registration required at the Information Desk or call 273.3652. Free event is funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

### eBooks and eReaders

Wednesday, Jan. 25 - 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Learn about the Library's eBook services. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

### Deaf and Hearing Connection Telephone Distribution

Wednesday, Jan. 25 - 1 to 3 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.

### SouthShore Needle People

Wednesday, Jan. 25 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Join other needle people to share techniques, tips and experiences about knitting and other fiber and fabric crafts. Beginners are welcome! Bring a project and ask us questions.

## Free legal seminars offered by local attorney

The Law Office of Nicole M. Cameron, P.A. is offering free legal seminars for the public.

A seminar on Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning is scheduled for Jan. 24 at 11 a.m. at the law office at 449 Apollo Beach Blvd. Learn why you need a will and what the benefits of having a trust are. You will receive a free packet "What My Family Should Know" just for attending. This is an invaluable item which helps you organize what your family needs to help administer your estate.

The second seminar this month will discuss Bankruptcy and will be held on Jan. 31 at 11 a.m. at the law office. If you want to learn about how this process could help you or someone you know, join the firm for this free seminar covering the basics of how to qualify, what can be discharged and what can't be discharged.

If you cannot attend these seminars, please contact the office to receive information regarding up-

coming dates. If you would like Mrs. Cameron to present a free seminar for your business or organization, contact Alyssa Beene at 813-645-8787 to schedule a date.

Nicole Cameron has been a resident of Apollo Beach since 1996. Prior to graduating from law school and opening her own firm, she worked as a legal assistant for 17 years in the area of bankruptcy, personal injury, medical malpractice and insurance defense. The law firm represents plaintiffs in the areas of personal injury, bankruptcy, real estate disputes, commercial transactions, business incorporation, will preparation, probate administration, guardianship, contract reviews and serves as corporate counsel to small and medium sized businesses in the Southshore area.

The Law Office of Nicole M. Cameron, P.A. is located at 449 Apollo Beach Blvd, Apollo Beach, Florida 33572 Tel: 813-645-8787 or www.law-cameron.com.

## The Art of Jin Shin Jyutsu Workshop

Jin Shin Jyutsu, is an ancient art of harmonizing the life energy in the body. It brings balance to the body's energy, which promotes optimal health and well-being and facilitates our own profound healing capacity. It is a valuable complement to conventional healing methods, including relaxation and other ways of reducing the effects of stress.

Unity Community of Joy is hosting a one-day Jin Shin Jyutsu workshop in Sun City Center which will be held Saturday, Jan. 28 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Nancy Wolf is a certified Jin Shin Jyutsu practitioner and Self-Help Instructor. She has studied the Art of Jin Shin Jyutsu since 1989 and began teaching Self-Help classes

in 1996. She shares her love of this ancient art with others who are looking to experience a transformation to harmony, balance, and tranquility.

For more information or to register call Nancy Wolf @ 813-985-7043.

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## 2012 Outlook Meeting in the Middle

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Recently we have experienced a market of extremes. In 2012, finding a middle ground, or Meeting in the Middle, is going to be key for growth in the markets and economy. Consumer sentiment, business leaders, policymakers and geopolitics are going to have significant impact on the investment environment.

While moving away from the drastic extremes will be a welcome environment for whipsawed investors, the center offers its own distinct challenges and opportunities. The key hurdle for the market in 2012 will be finding the right balance.

Join Gary Cotter, CFP® for an in-depth appraisal of the economic, capital market, geopolitical and policy-oriented developments likely to impact investments in 2012. Informative handout provided.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday January 24th, 10:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce  
Reservation Required: 634-2000  
Light Refreshments Will be Served



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## SOUTHSHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

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### Kids' Program/Event Highlights January 19-25

#### Teen Night: Anime Club

Thursday, Jan. 19 • 5 to 8 p.m.

For middle and high school students. Join them 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, Jan. 19 • 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.

#### "Pee Wee Artists" Let's Create!

Monday, Jan. 23 • 10:30 to 11 a.m.

"Pee Wee" Artists, 3-5 years, will have a fun morning creating an art project with an art instructor. Limit 15. Adult must be present. Registration required. Please visit the Information Desk or call 273-3652. Free event is funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

#### Baby Time

Monday, Jan. 23 • 1:35 to 1:55 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 24 • 11:35 to 11:55 a.m.

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

For children, ages 0-20 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.

#### Crafternoon

Monday, Jan. 23 • 3 to 4 p.m.

For children, ages 5-12. Join the children's librarian and create colorful and fun crafts to take home with you. Registration is required. Please call 273-3652 or visit the Information Desk.

#### "Expressive Artists" Let's Create!

Monday, Jan. 23 • 4 to 5 p.m.

"Expressive Artists," 11 years and up, will create a painting with an art instructor. Learn some new techniques. Limit 20. Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling 273-3652.

#### Toddler Time

Tuesday, Jan. 24 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m. and 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 25 • 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

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

#### Story Time

Tuesday, Jan. 24 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 25 • 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.



Resolution:

Read More!

### 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, Jan. 19 — Men's Auxiliary Meeting at 7 p.m. Bar Bingo at 6 p.m.



Friday, Jan. 20 — Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan from 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21 — Turkey Shoot at 1 p.m. American Legion Riders Chapter. Music by Del & Gary from 7 to 11 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 22 — Fire in the Hole from 1 to 4 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 23 — Darts at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 24 — Games in Lounge from 1 to 5 p.m. Kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 25 — Open.

### Poker hike, ride and paddle event

Join The Friends of Little Manatee River State Park for their Annual Poker Hike-Ride-Paddle Event on Saturday, Jan. 21 and try to collect the best hand of cards along the trail for a chance to win a \$100 from ACE Hardware-Feed-Marine in Riverview.

The event is \$15 per hand/entry and starts at 9 a.m. with the last person out at 11 p.m. Cuban sandwich and Spanish bean soap and tea will be available for \$5.

A free music concert by Friction Farm at Canoe Outpost on Hwy. 301 begins at 5 p.m.

For more information, call (813) 677-9291 or Canoe Outpost at (813) 634-2228. For special needs, call (813) 671-5005. Free shuttle for those with own canoe or kayak. Rental available at Canoe Outpost.

### Register for Youth Court Hockey League

Calling all boys and girls ages 7-11. Sign up for a team sport that encourages self-esteem, recreation, and physical activity. The Youth Court Hockey League will take place from 5 to 6 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday through March 9.



Cost is \$50 per child and \$25 per child for children registered in the County's Youth Afternoon Recreation Program, or the REC2SIX Program. Each child will receive a shirt and trophy.

Register at the Ruskin Recreation Center, 901 6th Street SE in Ruskin on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

For more information, call Joy Robinson at (813) 672-7881.

### Patience is needed after cold damage to palms

Trying to grow tropical palms in sub-tropical and temperate climates, like that of the Tampa Bay region, means cold damage is inevitable. This year's cold weather is not uncommon for Florida. During late 1970s and early 1980s a series of hard freezes caused severe damage to the citrus industry and landscape palms. The difference between the two events is that there are many new residents in the area who have not experienced the severe damage to palms that occurs during one of our cold snaps.

Tropical palms in containers should be moved into protective structures where heat is partially trapped, such as carports or where heat can be supplied, such as garages. Containerized palms that must be left outdoors should be protected by mulches and pushed together before a freeze to reduce heat loss from container sidewalls. For native perennial plants sensitive to the cold, the root system is all that needs to be protected. These plants can die back to the ground annually and recover following the return of warmer weather.

Covering smaller palms provides protection more from frost than from extreme cold. Monica Elliott Ph.D. with the University of Florida IFAS suggests that 'covers that extend to the ground and are not in contact with plant foliage can lessen cold injury by reducing heat loss from the plant and the ground. Foliage in contact with the cover is often injured because of heat transfer from the foliage to the colder cover'. Examples of coverings commonly used include: cloth sheets, quilts or black plastic. If you use plastic covers remember to remove them during the next warm day to provide ventilation of trapped solar radiation.

Patience is essential with cold-damaged palms. Avoid the temptation to immediately trim damaged leaves. In most cases, the petiole and rachis will still be green and alive. As long as any part of the leaf still remains green, the leaf should not be removed. Damaged leaves provide some protection during subsequent cold events, and the green part of the leaf continues to provide the palm with energy through photosynthesis. Even a completely dead leaf provides some protection from subsequent freezes. Once a palm has produced substantial new growth (2 to 3 leaves), damaged leaf tissue can be removed. If the trunk has noticeable freeze damage, it is likely that there is substantial internal damage to the trunk tissue. Such palms should be removed as they can pose a structural hazard to the landscape.

You may not know if the palm has survived until new growth emerges, which may take 4 to 7 months. Hence, the need for patience. The new growth may be severely malformed or damaged, but the emergence of any living leaf tissue is a sign the palm is alive. Subsequent leaves will gradually improve in quality, but it may take as long as a year before normal leaves emerge.

### New President of Hillsborough Education Foundation appointed

The Board of the Hillsborough Education Foundation has concluded a national search and announced that Bernie Philip "Phil" Jones, Jr. has been appointed president of the organization. He took over operations on



Bernie Philip "Phil" Jones, Jr.

Jan. 17. This follows a six-month transition period in 2011 led by an interim president, Dr. Rebekah Heppner.

Mike Poland, Chairman of the Foundation's Board of Directors, chaired a 12-person search committee composed of board members and community leaders. Poland stated, "We are excited that Phil is joining the Foundation as our next president. His leadership skills, vision and collaborative nature will be instrumental in our

continuing efforts to engage our community to ensure that all of our students have an opportunity to achieve academic success," Poland said.

While Jones is recognized as the founder of Orlando-based Bernie's Coffee & Tea Company, which he grew into a \$60 million, 125 store retail chain at its height when he sold the company, he has significant experience with non-profit organizations. The fifth-generation Floridian was a driving force as a board member and president of the Specialty Coffee Association of America, which became the largest coffee trade organization in the world. He also chaired the Central Florida YMCA during a time when its annual revenue grew from \$9 million to more than \$60 million. A long-time supporter of Habitat for Humanity International, Jones participated in a task force to review the advocacy efforts of that organization with local and national governmental bodies around the world.

"My wife Barbara and I, as well as all of our children, are graduates of public schools in Central Florida. I am a real believer in the importance of public education in helping to create the American democracy and economic prosperity that we know today. It will be an honor to be a part of the Foundation's work to enable Hillsborough County Public Schools with its dedicated teachers to educate the next generation of leaders for our community and nation," said Jones.

Jones holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from the University of Georgia, as well as Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from seminaries in California. While in California, he was involved in youth work and campus ministry at the high school and college level, and was a college chaplain. He has also taught seminars and college courses in both business management and religion.

The Hillsborough Education Foundation is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization whose mission is to engage business and community partners in the support of Hillsborough County Public Schools and the academic achievement of all its students. Serving the students, teachers and schools in our community, the Foundation has invested more than \$80 million towards public education. The Foundation raises more than \$5 million annually and fulfills its mission through five core initiatives: Career & Technical Education, Excellence in Education, Scholarships, School Enrichment, and Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools. For more information on the Hillsborough Education Foundation, visit [www.educationfoundation.com](http://www.educationfoundation.com).

### Children's Board Family Resource Center - South County

The South County Family Support & Resource Center has a new name, Children's Board Family Resource Center -- South County. It is a place that helps families in the Ruskin area become happier, healthier and stronger. The address is 3030 E. College Ave., Ruskin, which is a convenient destination for neighbors from each direction of town.

The Center is a warm, inviting place designed for families in the neighborhood to come and participate in programs and activities on a day-to-day basis.

All families are welcome. Every event is at no cost to the participant. For more information, call (813) 641-5600.

#### Hearing Screening

Friday, Jan. 20  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

St. Joseph's Children's Advocacy Center will offer hearing screenings for children up to 18. There is no charge for the screening, but reservations are required.

South County's hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday; and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

The Children's Board of Hillsborough County provides funding; The Children's Home manages the center; and Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County provides fiscal and program management.



### NCWS offers a community service

Jim Butner, Worship Leader for NCWS (Nondenominational Christian Worship Services) is pleased to announce the 11 a.m. Sunday worship service offered at Aston Gardens/SCC, is now open to the public. Located off Del Webb Blvd West on Emerald Lake Drive, the 30 minute service is held in the ballroom. NCWS is an all-volunteer outreach ministry that is not affiliated with any particular denomination. Jim said, "We are here to bring the Word of the Lord directly to the people in their own communities." Their services are only 30 minutes in length, but, they pack quite a bit in that 30 minute time frame. For many people, an hour service is too long for them to sit through. And, their ministry, although all volunteer, is a full service ministry. If they didn't have a good product they wouldn't be doing so many services in the area. They are thankful that Aston Gardens/SCC is allowing them to open the service to the entire community. There is plenty of guest parking to accommodate additional people. For more information call Jim at 634-3114.

# Wild hogs: nuisance or hunting opportunity?

The white-tailed deer is the most popular game animal pursued each winter by Florida's more than 200,000 hunters. But, there's another big-game species that's hunted quite a bit too and is especially popular with hunters in the southern and central parts of the state: the wild hog.

Wild hogs, also called wild boars or feral pigs, aren't native to Florida. They either were introduced by colonists or may even have been brought over by the Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto as early as 1539. Hogs provided a major food source for the early settlers, and those pigs that escaped or were released adapted and prospered readily in Florida's mild climate and varied habitats.

Though nonnative, you can hardly tell, because wild hogs are plentiful throughout Florida and can be found in all

67 counties. They live in various habitats but prefer moist forests, swamps and pine flatwoods.



**Outta' the Woods**  
By Tony Young

Abundant populations of wild hogs occur west of Lake Okeechobee, between the Kissimmee and lower St. Johns River basins, and farther north along the Gulf coastal marshes between

the Aucilla and Withlacoochee Rivers.

Wild hogs are omnivorous and feed by rooting up the ground with their broad snouts, leaving some areas looking like plowed fields. Because of this, they are considered by many agricultural producers to be nuisance animals. Their diet

consists of grasses and flowering plants in the spring, fruits in the summer and fall, and they eat roots, tubers and



invertebrates throughout the year.

As with all animals, it's against the law to release wild hogs on public lands. It's also not recommended on private lands either, unless the property is surrounded by adequate fencing.

Wild hogs have an annual home range of more than 10 square miles and are prolific reproducers. A healthy female (sow) can breed when only six months old and continue to breed every six months, producing four to 14 piglets per litter.

They're not listed as game animals by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) but are considered wildlife. And even though wild hogs can have negative impacts on native vegetation and wildlife, they're an important food source for several native species, including the alligator, bobcat and black bear, as well as the endangered Florida panther and threatened American crocodile.

Wild hogs also make for a great hunting opportunity. This especially is true in the southern portion of the state where, in some areas, wild hogs actually have replaced deer as the preferred hunting species. Because of the abundance of hogs there and the fact these regions tend to have smaller-bodied deer with lighter racks, hog hunting has gotten pretty popular in those parts.

On private property with the landowner's permission, you may hunt or trap wild hogs year-round. Also, there are no size or bag limits. You may harvest either sex, and you don't even need a hunting license to do so. That goes for nonresidents as well.

Now I do need to make you aware that when hunting one of the state's many wildlife management areas (WMAs), you will need a valid Florida hunting license and a management area permit. On most WMAs, wild hogs may be hunted during all hunting seasons except spring turkey. But if it's during archery season, you must use a bow; during muzzleloading gun season, you'll have to use a muzzleloader. Also, on some WMAs, daily bag limits do apply, and in some cases, there's a minimum size limit on what you can shoot.

During this time of year, many of the WMAs' small-game seasons are going on. The great thing about that is you never need a quota permit to hunt during a WMA's small-game season, and on most of them, hogs are legal game. The only thing is, you can't use a centerfire rifle during that season, but you can use a shotgun with buckshot or a slug, or a rimfire rifle like a .22 magnum, or even a pistol if you want.

In addition to still hunting for hogs from a stand or blind, there are those hunters who prefer to catch them with traps or by the use of dogs. Special pens with trap doors work well when baited with acorns or slightly fermented corn. Dogs, such as black-mouth curs and pit bulls, make good "catch" dogs because they can be trained to capture hogs, which they do by biting down on their ears and pinning them to the ground.

So whether you think wild hogs are a nuisance or a hunting opportunity, they're a critter some of us are dealing with one way or another. Here's wishing all you hunters a great season and a wonderful new year!

## Businesses can use county's Small Business Enterprise Program

The 2012 Republican National Convention (RNC) organizers are looking for Hillsborough County small businesses to supply goods and services needed for next summer's GOP convention in nearly 50 categories, from balloons to gift baskets to tour services.

Hillsborough County small businesses may register for the 2012 Tampa Bay Host Committee's Small Business Network by applying and meeting the qualifications of Hillsborough County's Disadvantaged Minority/Disadvantaged Women Business Enterprise and Small Business Enterprise (DM/DWBE & SBE) Encouragement Programs.

In order to help Hillsborough

County's small, minority and women-owned businesses with the application process, the County's SBIC will offer a workshop to assist with the application process. The following workshop will be held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12 at the SBIC, 7402 N. 56th St., Building 400, Suite 425 in Tampa.

Not every business that submits an application will be eligible for the program. Additionally, acceptance into the Host Committee's Small Business Network does not imply a promise of procurement. Not all businesses in the program will be awarded business by the RNC or other groups affiliated with the convention. Log onto the Host Committee's Small Business

Network Handbook for a list of goods and services outlined for use during the convention.

Business owners with questions about the Hillsborough County DM/DWBE & SBE Encouragement Programs should contact Hillsborough County's Small Business Information Center at (813) 914-4028.



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All include coffee or iced tea

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Monday ..... Copper Penny Dinner Show, 5:45 p.m.  
Wednesday..... Karaoke, 7-10 p.m.  
Thursday ..... Piano Bar, 6-9 p.m.

# FEBRUARY EVENTS

Kings Point

## HEALTHexpo



Friday, February 3 • 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
KP Clubhouse, Borini Theatre

**OPEN TO SUN CITY CENTER**  
**FREE** ✓ Vendor Booths ✓ Health Screenings  
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### SEMINARS:

- 11:00 a.m. Sun City Eye Associates
- 11:30 a.m. Moffitt Cancer Center
- 12:40 p.m. "Call the Doc"
- 1:10 p.m. Bayada Nurses
- 1:40 p.m. Aging Care Advocates
- 2:10 p.m. Taking Care of the Caregiver with Brenda Wiseman
- 2:40 p.m. Amanda Wolf and "Power of Attorney Laws"

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AT  
KINGS POINT

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### Saturday, Feb. 25

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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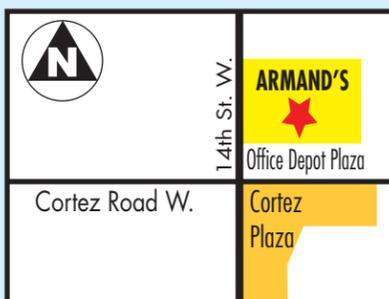
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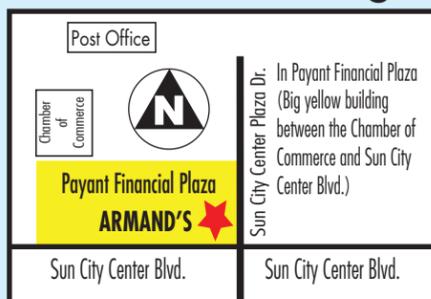
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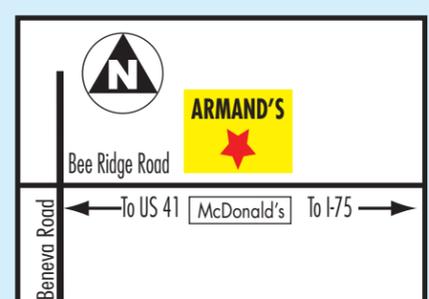
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Examples of the Carnival Glass pieces on exhibit at the Carnegie Library and Manatee County Agricultural Museum.

### Carnival glass presentation

The Palmetto Historical Park and Manatee Agricultural Museum is sponsoring a free presentation, "Carnival Glass – Beginnings to 2012," on Wednesday, January 25, 10 a.m. in the Carnegie Library, 515 10th Ave. West, Palmetto.

Presenters Carl Chapman and J.R. Leach, officers of the Tampa Bay Carnival Glass Club, will speak about the history of Carnival Glass, aspects of collecting the glass, and will have lots of time for questions and answers. Examples of the glass will be available for viewing and attendees are encouraged to bring glass to the presentation for identification and valuation. In addition, an exhibit of Carnival Glass is currently on display in the Carnegie Library and Agricultural Museum until mid-March 2012. For more information, call 941-721-2034.



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Call Kim for details



MELODY JAMESON PHOTOS

Comforted by her mother, Synthia Ramirez (left), three-year-old Allizon got her first dental check up recently from Carmen Laguna (right), a dental hygienist on the big blue bus, the Suncoast Health Center's mobile dental clinic. After the oral risk assessment, Ramirez and Allizon talked in Spanish with Laguna about the benefits of frequent brushing, beginning the little girl's dental awareness that may protect her teeth for a lifetime.

## Dental bus

Continued from page 1

"Our mission," Johnson asserts, "is to connect youngsters who might have no other options with a dental home" and in the process share dental knowledge, catch potential problems early, even stave off life-threatening conditions. Not long ago, she adds, her staff saw a four-year-old with an abscessed tooth so serious he immediately was rushed to clinic treatment. Such a condition, she notes, can be life-threatening if the infection travels to the brain.

At present, the dark blue mobile unit, technicians, office manager and driver aboard, travels the southern part of Hillsborough County three days per week, visiting a network of sites in weekly or monthly routines to see low-income youngsters high school age and younger, Johnson says.

That network includes such sites as the Joyce Ely Clinic on 14th Avenue, now part of the Suncoast family of facilities, and the Wimauma Academy, a charter school serving primarily the Hispanic population, and the Suncoast facility in Brandon and Kids Place, a shelter for children removed from their homes for safety reasons, and the day care center at one of the Good Samaritan missions.

She would like to add all 30 South County Title I schools — those schools where 85 percent of the student body is in the free lunch program — to her network, she adds, but so far Hillsborough's county school system is unwilling to cooperate in the effort. Given that the

objective is encouraging sound dental practices in low-income families, routine coach calls at such schools seems a natural fit, but the school administration does not see it that way, Johnson says, and she has no explanation for that position.

Her mobile dental program does, however, partner with Florida WIC, the Women, Infants and Children system fielded by the Florida Department of Health, to provide services aboard the coach to WIC clients in a campaign dubbed "WIC Smiles 4 U"

Johnson's big blue bus was acquired with a \$500,000 federal grant and was delivered in October, 2010, after she designed it specifically to serve the dental needs of young people. Her program also is supported by grants and by donations from area churches along with caring area residents and organizations.

And, in the 18 months since the coach hit the road, over 1,600 youngsters have cuddled its toys or slipped into its treatment stations or asked questions about its instruments as hygienists and assistants conducted oral screenings, performed cleanings, applied sealants or made referrals to the stationary dental clinic at a Suncoast site.

Johnson's goal is to make the mobile dental program self-sustaining, she says with a note of pride, as she envisions every chair filled by a youngster who, but for the big blue coach, would have no other access to dental care.

Copyright 2012 Melody Jameson



The Suncoast Health Center's mobile dental services coach is becoming a familiar sight around South Hillsborough as it travels a network of sites each week. Big blue, designed to provide screening, cleaning and sealing services to youngsters high school age and younger, is fitted with three stations where hygienists and assistants sometimes catch early problems and even avert life-threatening conditions.

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SIGN UP FOR A **FREE SKIN CANCER SCREENING**  
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## Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Funding Opportunity

The Hillsborough County Criminal Justice Office is accepting Concept Papers from governmental and non-profit agencies for Justice Assistance Grants (JAG). These JAG funds can be used to provide sustainable, innovative, treatment, prevention, intervention, education, enforcement and prosecution services to residents of Hillsborough County to prevent, reduce or control crime and improve the criminal justice system. Concept Papers are requested for planning the use of available Justice Assistance Grant FY 2013 funds in the amount of \$236,992.

A mandatory pre-application meeting is scheduled at 10 a.m. on Jan. 20 at the Hillsborough Code Enforcement/Criminal Justice Training Room located at 10119 Windhorst Road in Tampa. Instructions for the concept paper can be found online by clicking this link.

Selection criteria will rely on application completeness, community need for the initiative, support of Board of County Commissioners' goals, how well developed the initiative is, the agency's capability to implement the initiative, leveraging of additional resources, collaboration and plans for sustainability. Funding shall be available through the Board of County Commissioners from Federal and State Edward Byrne Memorial Formula Justice Assistance Grant Programs.

The Concept Paper is designed to provide a summary of the proposed initiative. This package does not attempt to list the federal, state or county laws, ordinances, rules or regulations that may affect the proposal or performance under any resulting contract. Lack of knowledge will not relieve the respondent from complying with applicable laws. Applicants are encouraged to read the enclosed documents carefully and respond to this request on the forms provided.

It is important to note that the federal funder's guidelines have been narrowed to meet the County's goals and objectives. The applicant cannot plan to use any funds offered to replace funding shortfalls or supplant existing revenue streams. Selected initiatives, regardless of the funding source, are intended to support new programs, additional capacity, significant expansion or other enhancements that improve outcomes and reduce crime.

The submission deadline is 4 p.m., Feb. 10. In fairness to respondents who meet the Feb. 10 deadline, staff will not be able to accept any late submissions.

For more information, or inquiries regarding this proves, contact Rob Parkinson via email [parkinsonr@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:parkinsonr@hillsboroughcounty.org) or at 813-276-2888.

# THE SAVVY SENIOR

## How to Find Senior Airfare Discounts

*Dear Savvy Senior,  
Do airlines still provide discounts to seniors on their airfares? My husband and I are retired and like to travel and are wondering which airlines offer the best discounts to budget conscious seniors.  
Frugal Travelers*



### The Savvy Senior

By Jim Miller

Dear Travelers,  
While senior airfare discounts are not nearly as common as they used to be, there are a handful of carriers that still offer them. Here's a rundown of the different airlines that are currently offering senior airfares, along with some tips to help you find the best deals.

**Senior-Friendly Skies**  
The only U.S. airlines that are currently offering senior airfare discounts are:

- Southwest which has discounts on all domestic routes to passengers 65 and older. For details on fares call 800-435-9792 or you can search online at southwest.com.

- American which offers some senior fares to travelers 65 and older on their American, American Eagle and American Connection domestic flights. Call 800-433-

7300 to find out which flights offer these discounts. You cannot search specifically for senior airfares on American's aa.com website.

- United has some discounts on select flights to those 65-plus but they are few and far between. To search for them, visit [united.com](http://united.com) and select "child or senior" from the dropdown menu. When the site returns your fare quote, the results for your search will indicate the type of discount you are receiving, if one is available. You can also call 800-241-6522 to find out if a senior discount is available for a particular flight.

- Continental which is merging with United in a few months has senior discount fares as well on very few flights to passengers 65 and older. To search, visit [continental.com](http://continental.com) and click on "Advance Search" to access the "seniors" category, or call 800-523-3273.

- Delta has senior discounts that vary by age and apply only to flights from three Latin American nations - Panama, Honduras and Ecuador. Call 800-241-4141 to inquire.

### Shopping Tips

When shopping for cheap plane tickets, it's important to know that many of the airlines regular discount fares or online specials are usually cheaper than the senior discount fares. So, to ensure you get the best price available, you need to compare prices and options from all carriers.

To help you do this, your best resources are online travel sites like

[orbitz.com](http://orbitz.com), [travelocity.com](http://travelocity.com) and [kayak.com](http://kayak.com). These sites will let you search for the lowest priced flights on all the different airlines at the same time. They will not, however, let you search for senior fares.

Once you find a flight with the lowest fare that fits your schedule, look up similar flights on the different airlines that offer senior fares (Southwest, American, United, Continental and Delta) and compare. You can do this either online at their respective website (with exception of American and Delta), or by calling their reservation department number. This will ensure you're getting the best deal.

Another tip that can help you save is to be flexible when you travel. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday are typically the three cheapest days of the week to fly, while Friday and Sunday are the most expensive. And the cheapest time to fly is typically the first flight out in the morning.

The day of the week you purchase your tickets can also affect the price. Airlines usually post their lowest domestic fares on Tuesday at 3 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. Sales typically last three days so you stand a decent chance of getting bargains on Wednesday and Thursday too.

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

## Dollar Stretcher

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I save the containers that cheap TV dinners come in and hand-wash them. I put leftovers in them for portion sizes, cover with foil, and freeze. After the food is frozen, I put the frozen portions into a FoodSaver(r) freezer bag and vacuum seal it with the date and contents listed. I have a home-cooked meal that's convenient. I can also bring a bag over for my widowed Grandfather to make sure he is eating well.

Angie  
Visit [www.stretcher.com/index.cfm?TipsSyn](http://www.stretcher.com/index.cfm?TipsSyn) to find hundreds of articles to help you stretch your day and your dollar! Copyright 2012 Dollar Stretcher, Inc.



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Forest birds like chickadees, titmice, finches, nuthatches and woodpeckers that are used to clinging to limbs as they forage for food will be attracted to tube and wooden feeders as well as suet feeders hung from trees or mounted on poles. Birds that you can attract to ground, platform and elevated feeders include cardinals, grosbeaks and bluejays who are

used to living in marginal habitats and forest edges and feeding both on the ground and in trees.

Feed at different levels and you will attract more birds for your winter enjoyment.

Larry Whiteley is Host of the award-winning internationally syndicated "Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World®" Radio Show. For more tips, log onto

[basspro.com](http://basspro.com)

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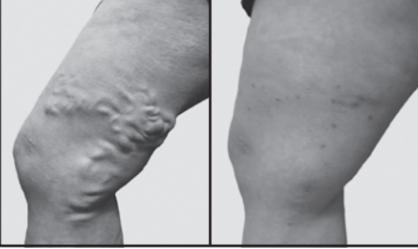


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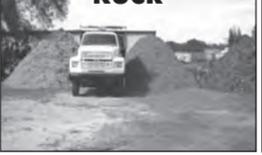
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FISH TALES

## Sitting on the dock of the bay

I caught up with some anglers this week sitting on the dock of the bay. They had been fishing, but had not caught a fish. It was interesting



**Fish Tales**

By Jonie Maschek

listening to their comments about why they didn't catch any fish while out in the bay.

One group related to me that they had lost all of the big ones that they had caught. Others, "We ran out of bait, just as we found a big school."

Among the group was a retiree who said he worked so many years that he had lost his skill, but hoped to improve on the next trip out.

This one I thought was the 'Fish Tale' of them all: "We had some kind of a huge fish on line and was bringing it up to the boat, when a boat came zipping by and cut our line off with the fish on the other end."

It was odd, that because I write 'Fish Tales,' each gave me one excuse after another.

Anglers are making catches out there. I saw a lot of silver trout in bait wells. Silver trout seem to love the colder weather. This looks like a weak fish, as they have a very soft mouth and can get rid of your hook in a second, if you don't set it solid.

They are often called weak fish. They will jump at fresh shrimp, but some would rather fish for them with artificial lures. The average size is 2 pounds, with the largest on record a 19 pound catch. Food value is good and a legal catch must be 12", and one per harvest per day.

Large amberjack are hitting large pinfish or most any plug or artificial bait. The water at some points has been 60° and they seem

to like the cool water and are out there in schools looking for food. Legal catch is 30" with one per harvest per day. Average weight is 18 pounds. If you have one on your line struggling in the water, the whole school will follow. As for food value, some will not eat amberjack unless it is smoked. You must bleed them first.

Snook are out there, but still illegal to catch. Some are making catches and releasing them. I found a photo in 1924 where some anglers posed with 24 snook caught in a few hours out in Tampa Bay waters.

Sheepshead is a good cool weather fish. In fact you can catch them any time of the year. It is a good white, lean meat fish, and a great table fare. It has boney fins, and plenty of bones inside, but still a great eating fish. Legal catch is 12" and 15 per harvest per day.

Many smoke their catches. The most popular is mullet, but others smoked are: redfish, grouper, kingfish, Spanish mackerel, and snook, when legal.

If you are a freshwater angler, we have plenty of fresh water in this area. The upper waters of both the Alafia and Little Manatee Rivers are great for freshwater fishing. Many freshwater lakes and streams are close by.

We have plenty of freshwater catfish now, and many tables have been graced with the Southern catfish feast with hush puppies.

Largemouth bass have been caught by the patient angler who waited for the right time to make a cast without spooking the fish. Freshwater catches have been made with live and artificial worms and some lures.

Our waterways are a happy place; look around -- everyone has a smile on their face. You are in the land of sunshine; happy fishing.

*Aleta Jonie Maschek is a member of Florida Outdoor Press.*



From left to right: Ken Bollenback - Builder, Sharon Kovesdy - Interior Architect, Dr. Kaufman, Debby Kaufman, Jessica Styles - Administrator and Mike Gorden - Architect.

### Wesley Chapel's first Ophthalmology practice opens

As of Tuesday, Jan 3, 2012 the Kaufman Eye Institute is Wesley Chapel / New Tampa's first ophthalmology practice, offering complete eye care for both adults and children. Stuart J. Kaufman, M.D. is the founder of Kaufman Eye Institute and has been practicing ophthalmology in the Tampa area since 1981. Dr. Kaufman has performed well over 70,000 surgeries and 35,000 cataract surgeries. The Kaufman Eye Institute offers comprehensive eye care from glasses and contact lenses to treating cararacts, glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetic eye care, lasik and pediatric eye care.

The New Tampa / Wesley Chapel area is a blend of residential communities, apartment complexes, retail and commercial centers, and a regional mall. A number of medical and diagnostic facilities are also in the area with the notable exception until now of an ophthalmology practice.

The Kaufman Eye Institute is located on the northwest corner of State Route 56 and Cypress Ridge Blvd. in the Synovus Bank Building. The Kaufman Eye Institute has three other area locations in Zephyrhills, Bushnell and Sun City Center. All Kaufman Eye Institute locations have an optical shop for eyeglasses and contact lenses.

To contact the Kaufman Eye Institute, call 1-855-SEE BEST.

# Game-Winning Dips and Healthy Tips

## Enjoy a game-day party and keep your resolutions on track

Two of the most popular New Year's resolutions are losing weight and eating healthier. But by the time the big game rolls around, many people are ready for a break — or looking for an excuse to cheat. But kickoff does not have to be a signal to punt your healthy-eating habits.

Registered dietitian Jodie Shield knows it can be a struggle to celebrate and stay healthy. She's put together some win-win tips and recipes — healthy and delicious — that are sure to keep fans cheering for more:

- Know your game plan. If you're the home team (i.e. the party host), you get to call the plays. Serve entrees that are lean and festive, such as Touchdown Turkey Chili. Or prepare a thin whole wheat crust pizza using reduced-fat mozzarella cheese, tomato sauce and lots of sliced veggies.
- Offer a starting line-up of healthier appetizers. Whip some traditional game day favorites into shape. Instead of nachos, serve baked chips with salsa. Pass on the salt and butter and sprinkle a dash of Parmesan cheese over popcorn. Forget the fried chicken wings and serve baked chicken tenders seasoned with Hidden Valley Salad Dressing & Seasoning Mix.
- Think fresh. Skip the super subs and set up a sandwich bar with lean deli meats such as turkey breast and ham, low-fat cheese slices and prepped veggies — like sliced tomato and shredded lettuce — and low-fat toppings.
- Pass on super big portions. No matter what foods are served, remember you don't have to eat the whole thing. Grab a small plate and load half of it up with fresh veggies and baked chips.
- Get in on the action. During halftime, grab your guests and head outdoors for a quick game of touch football. You can always record the commercials so you don't miss out.

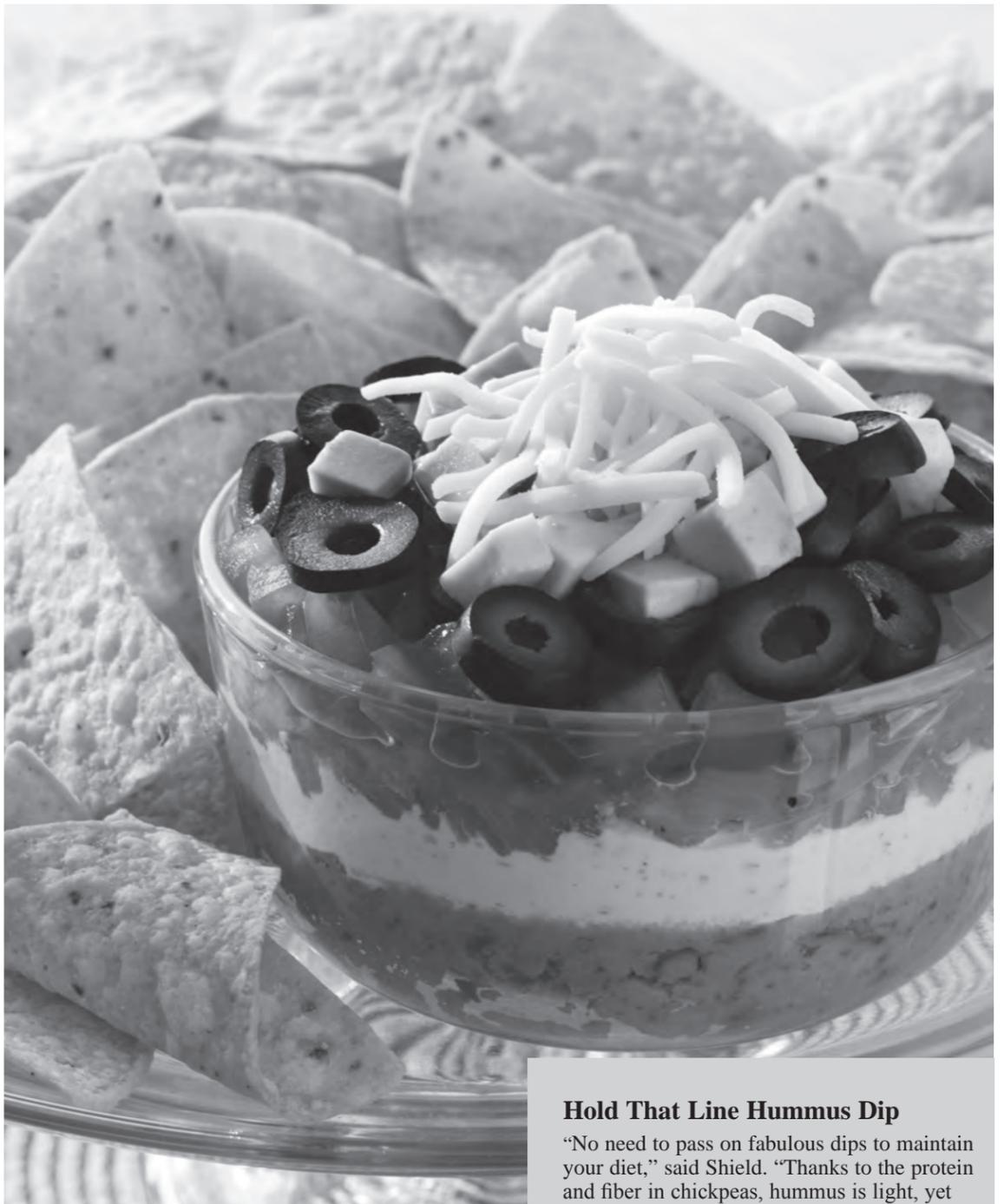
### 7 Layer Fiesta Ranch Dip

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Makes: 10 (1/4 cup) servings

- 1 16-ounce can fat-free refried beans
- 1/2 cup guacamole
- 1 package Hidden Valley Fiesta Ranch Dips Mix
- 1 cup fat-free sour cream or plain nonfat yogurt
- 1 cup shredded reduced-fat cheddar cheese
- 6 green onions, chopped
- 1 medium tomato, chopped
- 1/4 cup sliced black olives (optional)

Spread each of the ingredients in the order listed over a 9-inch serving platter or pie dish. Chill for an hour and serve.



### Touchdown Turkey Chili

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: High heat cooks for 4 hours; Low heat cooks for 8 hours

Makes: 8 (1 cup) servings

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 medium green bell pepper, chopped
- 2 pounds lean ground turkey breast
- 2 cans (14.5 ounces each) Mexican-style diced tomatoes
- 1 can (6 ounces) reduced sodium tomato paste
- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup low sodium tomato juice
- 1 package Hidden Valley Fiesta Ranch Dips Mix

1. Heat olive oil in a large nonstick pan over medium-high heat.
2. Add onions and bell pepper and sauté until crisp-tender, about 5 minutes.
3. Remove and place in slow cooker.
4. Add ground turkey breast to the same pan and cook until crumbled and browned, about 8 to 10 minutes.
5. Add the turkey to the slow cooker along with all of the remaining ingredients.
6. Cover the slow cooker and cook for 4 hours on high heat or 8 hours on low heat.

### Hold That Line Hummus Dip

"No need to pass on fabulous dips to maintain your diet," said Shield. "Thanks to the protein and fiber in chickpeas, hummus is light, yet heart-healthy enough to satisfy hungry sports fans. Try this easy recipe for happy game day guests."

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Makes: 8 (1/4 cup) servings

- 2 cans (15 1/2 ounces each) chickpeas, rinsed and drained
- 4 garlic cloves
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 1 package Hidden Valley Salad Dressing & Seasoning Mix
- 4 tablespoons cold water
- 1/2 cup tahini (sesame seed paste)
- Dash of paprika for garnish

1. In a food processor, puree the chickpeas, garlic, lemon juice, salad dressing and seasoning mix and water until very smooth, about 3 minutes.
2. Add tahini paste and process an additional 2 minutes.
3. Spread hummus into a shallow serving bowl.
4. Sprinkle top with paprika.

For more recipes and tips, visit [www.hiddenvalley.com](http://www.hiddenvalley.com).

### Cheesy Ranch Popcorn

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 3-1/2 minutes

Makes: 6 (2 cup) servings

- 1 bag (3 ounces) reduced-fat, low sodium butter-flavored microwave popcorn
- 1/4 pack (0.25 ounces) Hidden Valley Salad Dressing & Seasoning Mix
- 3 sprays from olive oil mister
- 3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese

1. Pop popcorn according to package directions. Immediately open the bag and pour the popcorn into a large serving bowl.
2. Spray the popcorn with three sprays from the olive oil mister, toss with salad dressing and seasoning mix and then toss with the Parmesan cheese. Serve immediately.

### Play Good Defense and Substitute

The best way to tackle those creamy, high-calorie dips is to make smart substitutions. Here are a few options to help you get started:

<b>Instead of:</b>	<b>Use:</b>
Guacamole	Salsa
Pesto	Chopped tomatoes and basil
Sour cream	Plain fat-free yogurt
Cheese	Reduced-fat cheese
Cream	Fat-free evaporated milk



Resolution:  
**Eat Smarter!**

## Planning Commission action maximizes economic opportunities

The Planning Commission unanimously passed a resolution in December to consolidate the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Procedures Manual for Unincorporated Hillsborough County and the Cities of Tampa, Temple Terrace and Plant City. This monumental decision reduces the cost of plan amendments for both the taxpayers and the applicants.

The simplified Procedures Manual is far more user-friendly and expedites the length of the overall process. "To put it simply, this planning decision reinforces that Hillsborough County is open for business!" said Bob Hunter, FAICP, Executive Director. "This is something we've worked on for over 20 years - to have one procedures manual for all four governments.

Everyone's currently talking about economic development, and with this decision, we have sped things up and boosted our opportunities."

Out with the old legalese and in with the new ease of use, as the consolidated Procedures Manual focuses on what the applicant needs to know. By combining four manuals into one, those in the economic development business will be able to navigate their way around the procedures anywhere in the county with ease. The taxpayers will enjoy the reduced costs of a streamlined process that requires the applicant to post required signage and mail required notices. Legal advertising requirements have been reduced before Planning Commission public hearings to cut those costs in half. "This is a major

accomplishment, saving the public dollars and private sector time," said Planning Commissioner Chair Frank Chillura. "By simplifying the process, businesses will be able to get things done quickly in Hillsborough County."

Planning Commission planners coordinated with their counterparts and attorneys in the county and three cities to build a consensus on how to meet the needs of each jurisdiction while standardizing the format and requirements. The new Plan Amendment Procedures Manual reflects recent state legislative changes, allowing for quarterly application submissions (rather than the just twice per year cycles available previously), small scale amendments submissions anytime, and reduced state agency review times

and oversight. The consolidated manual will be presented to each of local governments early in 2012 for their action.

The new Procedures Manual can be viewed on the Planning Commission web site at [www.theplanningcommission.org](http://www.theplanningcommission.org) or for more information, contact Krista Kelly, AICP, at (813) 273-3774 x328.

The Planning Commission is the official Land Planning Agency for the four jurisdictions, the cities of Plant City, Tampa, Temple Terrace and Unincorporated Hillsborough County. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscrimination laws, public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status.

## The value of composting

In the kitchen, I keep a separate bin (with tight lid) to collect vegetable and fruit scraps. Every other day, I take them out for composting. In this way, we have reduced our trash by 75%. We keep trash for curbside pick up to only once a month (which costs \$3.25).

We save close to \$10 per month (\$3.25 x 3) by reducing the trash. Also, the compost we make helps our vegetable garden in the spring and summer. The parts of fruits and vegetables that we cannot eat we give back to Mother Earth.

A.  
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## A Valentine's Day Worth Remembering...

Manatee gift adoptions from Save the Manatee Club are a way to protect endangered manatees and their aquatic habitat, and also a way to let your loved ones see that your heart is in the right place this Valentine's Day.

Jennifer Vogel, recently retired from a long career of practicing law, in Texas adopted a manatee for her husband, John, last Valentine's Day. "We had just decided to spend part of the summer in the Florida Keys so my two daughters could become certified scuba divers," said Jennifer. "I have always loved manatees, and the whole family knew how excited I was about the possibility of seeing one on our trip. Adopting a real manatee was the perfect way to make our trip more meaningful."

Thirty-three manatees are featured in Save the Manatee Club's adoption programs, including two new manatees, Bama and Zewie, who spend the summer months in Alabama waters. Jennifer chose Brutus for her husband from the adoption program at Blue Spring State Park in Orange City, Florida. "The choice was easy," Jennifer explained. "I loved the very macho name for such a gentle, giant creature."

Tax-deductible gift adoptions from Save the Manatee Club cost \$25 and include a color photo, biography, and adoption certificate of the manatee who is chosen. Also included is a fact-filled membership handbook, subscriptions to the Club's official quarterly newsletter, The Manatee Zone, and the bi-monthly e-newsletter, Paddle Tales, and a year's membership in Save the Manatee Club. A personalized Valentine's Day gift card comes with each adoption, and shipping is free within the United States. An 8-inch manatee plush toy is included with every gift adoption of \$35 or more.

Funds from the adoption program help in the protection of manatees and their ecosystems. Save the Manatee Club is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit conservation organization, established in 1981 by singer/songwriter Jimmy Buffett, and former Florida Governor and U.S. Senator Bob Graham. This past year the Club assisted with rescue, rehabilitation, and release efforts in America and abroad; helped to expand and protect the manatee's winter warm-water habitat; obtained improved boat speed zones in areas frequented by manatees; and conducted research on boater compliance in Kings Bay, Crystal River, Florida to obtain improved protection measures there. The Club raises public awareness; educates; advocates; and supports conservation efforts in other countries.

Patrick Rose, Aquatic Biologist and Executive Director of Save the Manatee Club, said that despite the immense problems facing manatees, there is hope. "As long as people continue to support strong manatee and habitat protection measures, manatees have a chance," said Rose.

Jennifer Vogel and her family are among the many who advocate for the manatees. "The manatee is one of America's treasures," she remarked. "What I love about Save the Manatee Club is that they help you feel personally connected to the manatees through their real live manatee adoption program, and regular updates let you know how the manatees are doing."

Care to adopt a manatee this Valentine's Day? Visit Save the Manatee Club's website at [www.savethemanatee.org](http://www.savethemanatee.org), or call 1-800-432-JOIN (5646). Also, sign up for the Club's free E-Newsletter.



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Resolution:

Start Spring  
Cleaning Early!

# Commissioners seek applications for citizen boards and councils

Hillsborough County Commissioners are seeking residents to serve on several County citizen advisory boards and councils. Residents interested in seeking appointment must be registered voters in Hillsborough County. These are voluntary positions, and members serve without compensation. Applicants may apply to more than one board, but may only serve on one board at a time.

The deadline for applying is Feb 9. Appointments will be scheduled for a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners in March or April.

An application is available in the Commissioners' reception area on the second floor of County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. in downtown Tampa; by calling the Boards and Councils Coordinator at 813-272-5826; or on the County's website at: [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org). Click on the "County Commission" link on the left-hand side of the page, then the "Advisory Boards and Committees" sublink. The "Application Questionnaire For County Appointments" is in the middle of the page. The form can be filled out, and then scanned and emailed, faxed, hand-delivered or mailed.

If you apply to a Board that requires a background check, you must also submit a Background Investigation Disclosure and Authorization Form, which also is

available on the website. Forms must be signed and dated. Additional directions for submission are listed on the form.

The Boards and Councils that have openings are:

**Historic Preservation Challenge Grant Program, Grant Review Committee** - newly created committee that will review grant applications submitted in response to two annual grant application periods for the County's Historic Preservation Challenge Grant Program. Committee will rank and prioritize the applications and make funding recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

There are nine positions. Terms are for two years. No member shall serve more than two successive terms. At least three members must be residents of the cities of Temple Terrace, Tampa and Plant City, with the remainder of the members residing in the unincorporated area of Hillsborough County. Members should have expertise in one or more of the following areas: historic preservation; architecture; heritage tourism, destination marketing; marketing and economic development; landscape architecture; and interior design. Meeting schedule: To be determined.

**Electrical Board Of Adjustment, Appeals And Examiners** - confirms the competency and integrity of applicants applying for electrical certification in the County, and

takes disciplinary action against those contractors that fail to comply with the Electrical Code.

One position is vacant due to resignation. Position is for remainder of term which expires Dec. 31, 2013. Position is specified as an electrical utility company representative. Citizens appointed to this Board will be required to file an annual financial disclosure. Meeting schedule: Quarterly, third Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

**Child Care Licensing Hearing Officer** - conducts hearings and makes findings and recommendations in situations where an applicant for license or a current licensee requests a hearing because a license has been placed on probation, suspended, revoked, or an administrative fine has been imposed by a hearing officer, pursuant to the Hillsborough County Child Care Homes Licensing Or-

dinance 05-9 and the Hillsborough County Child Care Facilities Ordinance 03-25, as amended by Hillsborough County Ordinance 04-25.

One position is vacant due to resignation. Position is for remainder of term which expires Sept. 30, 2014. Hearing Officers must be members in good standing of the Florida Bar and may not be employees of the County Attorney's Office. Appointment as a Hearing Officer is contingent upon passing a criminal background check. Meeting schedule: When requested.

**Code Enforcement Board** - has jurisdiction to hear violations of all codes and ordinances of Hillsborough County with most cases arising out of violations of the County's housing, building, zoning and sign codes and ordinances to maintain minimum health and safety standards.

One position is vacant. Term is for three years. Position is specified as an alternate. Citizens appointed to this Board must reside in the unincorporated area of Hillsborough County. Citizens appointed to this Board will be required to file an annual financial disclosure. After two consecutive terms, a member shall not be eligible for reappointment until one calendar year has elapsed from date of termination of the second term. Meeting schedule: Monthly, generally second or third Friday, 9 a.m.

For more information, contact Luann Finley, Director of Board Services, at 813-272-5826.



**South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 Upcoming Activities**

**Every Tuesday** - Jam Session - 3 to 5 p.m. - 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 to 7 p.m. Karaoke by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m..  
**Saturday, Jan. 14** - Elvis is coming to the Lodge for all Elks and their guests, \$8, Menu: Baked potato with all the trimmings and salad, This event is a must.  
**Feb. 12 to Feb. 19, 2012** - Join S. Hillsborough Elks Lodge Valentine's Western Caribbean Fund Raiser Cruise, 7 days only \$643.  
*The South Hillsborough Elk's Lodge is located at 1630 U.S. Hwy. 41 S., Ruskin, FL 33570, and has a clean, smoke free environment. For more information, call (813) 645-2089.*



**Riverview Moose Family Center 2158/Chapter 1031**  
**Loyal Order of Moose • 9000 Honeywell Rd. • Gibsonton**  
**Lodge2158@mooseunits.org • (813) 677-7921**  
*All events are open to qualified Moose Members and guests.*

**Upcoming Events**

<b>January 21</b> Post Holiday Revival Party. Open-face roast beef sandwiches. Dinner starts at 4:30 and entertainment will be The Tonebenders.	<b>February 5</b> Super Bowl Sunday! <b>February 10, 17, 24</b> Moose Idol. Finals March 3 <b>February 11</b> Valentines Sweetheart Ball. Elegant dinner starts at 6 p.m. with the Flip Side Band.
<b>Jan. 27 thru Mar. 3</b> Moose Idol, starting dates Friday, Jan. 27 and Saturday, Jan. 28.	<b>March 3</b> Moose Idol, final show. <b>March 10</b> Moose Charities, dinner and entertainment
<b>February 3</b> Steak, fish or shrimp dinner from 5 - 7 p.m. Taylor & Taylor will start at 7:30 p.m.	<b>April 1</b> Drawing for Weekend Getaway. See bar stewards or Linda Peltier for tickets. Treasure Island room for 2 and \$100 gift card
<b>February 4</b> Dinner & Magic Show by "Bones" wear your best pirate attire.	

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**Honor All Competitor's Coupons**

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 Mon.-Fri. 7:15am-6pm • Sat. 7:15am-5pm  
**813.685.2939**

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**Monday, Jan. 23 is National Pie Day**

Enjoy a free half slice of Our Homemade Key Lime Pie with purchase of any entrée.

**HAPPY HOUR EVERYDAY 11AM-5PM & 8PM-CLOSE**

**FREE** Onion Straw Appetizer or Margarita On Us!

With purchase of an entrée & this coupon. Limit one per person, per visit. Expires 2/29/2012. Good at all 3 Restaurants.

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[www.oysterbar.net](http://www.oysterbar.net)

## Area Obituaries

### Charles D. Boylan

Charles D. Boylan, 77, of Sun City Center, FL passed away January 15, 2012.

He retired from General Motors as Assistant Superintendent of Pressed Metals after 35 years of service. Survivors include his wife, Alice; three daughters, Susan (Elias) Peters, Cynthia (Timothy) Good and Sally Louise Boylan; two sisters, Frances Ellen Magill and Frances Irene (Burt) Plumb; two brothers, Thomas and John Boylan; step granddaughter, Tracey Lynn Peters and numerous nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at the funeral home.

Memorial services will be Thursday, January 19, 2012 at Sun City Center Funeral Home, 1851 Rickenbacker Drive, Sun City Center, Fla. Burial will be Flint Memorial Park, Flint, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to March of Dimes, Attn: DRFR, 1275 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10605

Arrangements by Sun City Center Funeral Home.



### Danny Drymon

Daniel W. Drymon (Danny) went to his final rest on January 14, 2012. Danny was born in Sarasota, FL. on June 23, 1941 and lived his lifetime in Ruskin, FL., where he's fondly remembered as the mayor of Doodle Hill. Danny (Boone) was preceded in death by his son, David Wayne and is survived by his wife, Kay; his son, Jason, and his brother, Cliff (Lynette) along with many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at Destiny Church, from 10 a.m. - noon followed by a service from noon - 1 p.m. Danny will be laid to rest at 3 p.m. at Fellowship Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to Life Path Hospice or Destiny Church.

Development Dept. Lifepath Hospice 12973 N. Telecom Pkwy. Suite 100 Temple Terrace, FL. 33637

Destiny Church  
2322 11th Ave. SE  
Ruskin, FL 33570

Arrangements made by Zipperer's Funeral Home.



### Carl Hirneisen

Carl Hirneisen, 78, went to be with the Lord on January 7, 2012. Carl served 4 years in the U.S. Air Force. He worked at Schick Electric and Yellow Freight Systems in Lancaster, PA. He moved to Sun City Center, FL in 2001.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Verla and children, Carla Texter wife of Bruce, Brad Hirneisen and wife Cindy; step children Judith Krantz wife of Michael, Veryl Ed Geltz and partner Gary Lancaster; grandchildren Karen Ellmaker wife of Ronnie, Leslie McCollough wife of Ken, Holly Reynolds wife of Anthony, Jarred Texter, and 7 great grandchildren.

Memorial service will be held on January 28, 2012 at 3 p.m. at Sun City Christian Center Church, 17566 Highway 301 South, Wimauma, FL 33598.

Interment will be at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at Sarasota National Cemetery 9810 State Road 72 Sarasota, FL 34241.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial contributions be sent to Sun City Christian Center Church.

### Lucille A. Johnson

Lucille A. Johnson of Sun City Center, Florida, formerly of Aurora, Illinois passed away on January 3, 2012. She was born in La Grange, Illinois on February 28, 1926 to William and Manilla (Sayles) Wagoner. She was a long-time parishioner of St. Rita of Cascia Church and an employee of the Valley Industrial Association. She was preceded in death by her husband, John K. Johnson. She is survived by her daughters Terry (Charlie) Beck of Seattle, WA and Karen (Craig) Latto of Naperville, son James Reed Johnson of Chicago; grandchildren Katie (Bill) Allan, Elynn (Mark) Hutchinson, Beth Latto, and Mark Latto; great-grandchildren Angus and Oskar Allan and Sabina Hutchinson. She is also survived by her brother, William J. Wagoner of Lansing, MI. A memorial service is planned for spring. Memorials may be sent to St. Rita of Cascia Home & School Association, 770 W. Old Indian Trail, Auroa, IL 60506.

### Ronald Harding Moore

March 14, 1945 - January 8, 2012  
Ronald Harding Moore, 66, of Seale, AL passed away Sunday, January 8, 2012 at his home.

Mr. Moore was born March 14, 1945 in Columbus, OH, son of the late Warren Harding Moore and Mildred Parsons Moore. He worked in the construction industry as a carpet and flooring installer for many years and was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Phenix City, AL.

Other than his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, David Moore.

Mr. Moore is survived by his loving wife Lisa Crouch Moore of Seale, AL; two daughters, Heather Potter and husband Tom of Gibsonton, FL and Theresa Miller Goldsmith and husband Scott of Columbus, OH ; one son, Ronnie Moore of Salem, AL; one sister, Nancy Fischer; two brothers, John Moore of Ruskin, FL and Gerald Moore of Savannah, GA; seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and many other loving family members.



*Resolution:*  
Go visit my family

## Area Places of Worship

### 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

### Friendship Baptist Church

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

### Ruskin Foursquare Church

Building Community Thru God's Love  
106 7th Ave. N.W. 10 a.m. Sunday School  
Ruskin, FL 33570 11 a.m. Worship Service  
N. Blanton (813) 309-3558 7 p.m. Wed. Bible Study  
Pastor Norman & Sherri Blanton

### REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

701 Valley Forge Blvd. • Sun City Center, FL 33573-5354  
Rev. Dr. Peter Stiller, Pastor  
Telephone: 813-634-1292 • Website: sccredeemer.org  
Worship Services on Sunday 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.  
Holy Communion First & Third Sunday • Bible Class Thursday 10 a.m., Guests Welcome

### 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  
To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often. — Cardinal Newman

### FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

INVITES YOU TO SERVICES AT OUR NEW LOCATION  
1707 33rd Street SE, SCC/Ruskin • 813-938-4955  
10:30 a.m. SUNDAYS  
NO CREED...BUT CHRIST  
NO BOOK...BUT THE BIBLE  
Minister - DR. DAVID CAMPBELL

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of RUSKIN, FL

820 COLLEGE AVE. W.  
RUSKIN, FL 33570  
645-6439  
www.fbcfruskin.org  
A Resource for Families  
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.  
Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Service.....7:00 p.m.  
Awana .....7:00 p.m.  
Dr. Barry Rumsey  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
K-2  
THROUGH 12TH  
GRADE

### Southside Baptist Church

"A Warm, Loving & Friendly Church"  
Looking for a church home?  
Need the comfort of a warm and loving family?  
Join us on Sunday to come home to the warmth of our church family.  
Located in South Hillsborough County, just south of Stephens Road in old Sun City.  
4208 U.S. Hwy. 41 S • Sun City, FL 33586 • 813-645-4085

"Getting to Know You" (Donuts & Coffee) ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
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  
Come join us to learn about God's Word and salvation in Jesus Christ

### The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center

1210 Del Webb Blvd West • 634-2539  
http://www.sccumc.com  
Come Belong Grow & Serve  
The United Methodist Church  
Worship Services  
Saturday 4:00 PM Creason Hall (Casual Service)  
Sunday 8:15 AM Sanctuary (Communion Service)  
9:15 AM Creason Hall (Oasis Contemporary)  
10:55 AM Sanctuary (Traditional with Choir & Bells)  
PAGES OF LIFE Bookstore 633-8595  
PASTOR: DR. WARREN LANGER  
PASTOR: DR. DANIEL WHITE

### Jane Yearsley Cilley

Jane Yearsley Cilley, 97, passed on to be with our Lord on January 8, 2012. She will be greatly missed by her loving family and her many friends at Palm Garden of Sun City Center. She is survived by a son from Greensboro, NC, a daughter from Sun City Center, FL, four grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Teacher, wife, mother, traveler, reader, crafter, and friend to so many, her long life was an inspiration for all she touched.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.  
1 John 4:7

### Annual yard sale returns

The Ruskin United Methodist Men's Annual Yard Sale, will be Saturday, Feb. 4 from 8 a.m. 'til 1 p.m. at 105 4th Avenue NW, Ruskin.

There will be appliances, some furniture, clothes, Christmas decorations, and lots of miscellaneous household items. Biscuits and gravy will be available for breakfast and hot dogs will be available at lunch time. Baked goods will be "while supplies last."

Anyone wishing to donate items for the yard sale, call the church office at 645-1241 before 2:30 p.m. any weekday for assistance in transportation of items or you may bring the items to the church yourself.

Proceeds will go for church projects. Left over items will be donated to The Salvation Army.

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Sunday @ 9 & 11 AM • Servicio en Español @ 6 PM  
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2322 11th Ave. SE • Ruskin, FL • 813.645.3337

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Only onsite Crematory in South Hillsborough County  
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EXP. 3/31/12

**Resolution:**  
Go visit my family

# Area Places of Worship

**Unity** COMMUNITY OF JOY  
 Spirituality Rather Than "Religion"  
 Henry Gibson Social Hall, Beth Israel Synagogue  
 1115 Del Webb E. • Sun City Center, FL  
 www.unitycommunityofjoy.com  
 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
 813-298-7745

**First Baptist Church of Gibsonton**  
 "We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19  
 Traditional Worship Service 9:30 A.M.  
 Old-Time Gospel Hymns \*Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.  
 Nursery Available Sunday Evening 6:00 P.M.  
 \* Interpreter for the Deaf Mid-Week (Wed.) 7:00 P.M.  
 9912 Indiana St. • Hwy 41 & Estelle Avenue  
 Gibsonton, FL 33534 Malcolm S. Clements, Pastor  
 813-677-1301

**Prince of Peace Catholic Church**  
 702 Valley Forge Blvd., SCC, FL 33573  
 Phone: 634-2328 • Fax: 633-6670  
 www.popcc.org  
**Masses:**  
 Sunday..... 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon  
 Saturday Vigil ..... 4:00 & 6:00 p.m.  
 Daily..... 8:00 a.m.  
**Confessions:**  
 Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. and Sat. 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

**NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 "Loving God, Loving Others, Serving Beyond Borders"  
 Sunday School (all ages)..... 9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday Morning Worship .... 10:45 a.m.  
 Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday (all ages) ..... 6:30 p.m.  
 Dr. Samuel (Sam) A. Roach, Pastor  
 1301 U.S. Hwy. 41 N., Ruskin, FL • 645-1121 • www.nbc.org

**UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ United Church of Christ**  
 1501 La Jolla AVE, Sun City Center, FL 33573-5329  
 A Caring Church United in God's Love Serving Our Community  
 All Are Welcome!  
 Rev. Dr. Michael F. Evans ~ Worship Service ~ 10 AM  
 (813) 634-1304 ~ www.uccinscc.org

Welcome to the: EVERETT TATE, MINISTER  
**South Hillsborough Church of Christ**  
 1611 First St. SW • Ruskin, FL • 645-7607  
 —NON-INSTRUMENTAL—  
 SERVICES: Sunday..... 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday..... 7:00 p.m.

**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 Sunday Worship: Blended 8:00 a.m.  
 Contemporary 9:40 a.m.  
 Traditional 11:15 a.m.  
 Nursery Provided  
 Pastor Jack R. Palzer  
 5309 U.S. Highway 41 North • Apollo Beach  
 (across from MiraBay) www.calvarylutheranchurch.net 645-1305

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
 204 2nd St. N.W. • Ruskin, FL 33570 • (813) 645-6102  
**Christian Science Heals**  
 Sunday Service..... 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday Service..... 5:00 p.m.  
 Reading Room..... Wednesday 4 to 4:45 p.m.  
**All Are Welcome**

**St. Andrew Presbyterian Church**  
 Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.  
 Casual Service 11:00 a.m.  
 Prayers with anointing for healing and wholeness during worship the second Sunday of every month.  
**Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mark E. Salmon**  
 Meet friends in Fellowship Hall after the Service.  
 Refreshments served.  
 1239 Del Webb Blvd. West Phone: 813-634-1252  
 Sun City Center, FL 33573 For information visit:  
 Church is Handicap accessible www.standrewatssc.org

**2012 Resolution:**  
 Go to Church more often

## Brandon Unity

Rev. Roxanne Riley and guest musician Jan Littlehawk will be guest speakers at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 22 Unity in Brandon, 129 N. Moon Ave., Brandon.  
 Rev. Roxanne Riley, BSN, MPA, MDiv (Ordained Unity Minister) is executive director of LifePath Hospice. She oversees the end-of-life care to approximately 1,200 patients each day in Hillsborough County.  
 For more information call 813-263-6155.

## Bargains galore!

Lots of bargains and treasures will be found from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 27 and from 9 a.m. - noon on Saturday, Jan. 28 at St. John the Divine Ruskin campus SR 674 and 9th St. Their rummage sale will contain furniture, appliances, glassware, clothes, etc.  
 Coffee, doughnuts, hot dogs and cold drinks will be available for purchase.

## Parkinson's Group to meet

The Parkinson's Disease Support Group will hold their monthly meeting on Friday, Jan. 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the United Community Church on the corner of LaJolla and Pebble Beach Blvd., North. They will have a speaker, a meeting for Caregivers, and exercises with Bruce Grant.

## Local church offers free programs

The Disciples of Christ Christian Fellowship Church located at 7732 Gibsonton Drive, Gibsonton is offering the following services.  
**Sunday, Jan. 21 - 7 p.m.**  
 All men are welcome to join Disciples of Christ Christian Fellowship men as they view the film "Courageous" by Sherwood Baptist Church the producers of "Fireproof." Be inspired to become the husband and father you were meant to be. Discussion and refreshments will follow the film.  
**Sunday, Feb. 5 - 6 p.m.**  
 Don't have any Super Bowl plans? Join the Disciples of Christ Christian Fellowship men for a Super Bowl Party. Refreshments will be served.  
**Saturday, Feb. 13 - noon**  
 Strengthen your marriage by attending "Love Me the Way I Need You To" at the Disciples of Christ Christian Fellowship. Refreshments will be served.  
 For more information call 677-8600 or visit website at dccc.org.



## The McDonald Family Singers to perform

The Fun Brigade has invited the McDonald Family Singers to perform in the church's sanctuary on Sunday, March 4 at 2 p.m. The United Community Church is located at 1501 LaJolla Ave. in Sun City Center.  
 The McDonald Family will be presenting a free concert with various styles of music by Victor and Laurie and their 7 homeschooled children ages 11-26 from Orange, Massachusetts. Working together in family harmony their musical presentation includes bluegrass gospel, acapella, brass, instrumentals, sacred classical and more!  
 Everyone is welcome and admission is free. There will be members of the Fun Brigade collecting a free will offering for the family. Church doors will open 1 hour prior to the concert.  
 For more information, contact Paula Lickfeldt at 633-6739 or Karl Buffington at 634-7062

## Be a part of an Easter Cantata

The Ruskin United Methodist Church will present "O, What A Savior," an Easter Cantata on Sunday, April 1 at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. The Director of Music, Robert Romanski, is opening the performance to the community and invites any interested singers to join with the RUMC Chancel Choir for the presentation. He states that there will be "minimal" rehearsal. Anyone with an interest in joining the group for this performance should contact Robert Romanski at 813-789-5354 or at promusic@tampabay.rr.com. Practices are starting soon....music is available.  
 For more information, you may also call the church office at 813-645-1241.

## Celtic Irish show to be held

At 7 p.m. on Feb. 17 in Prince of Peace Conesa Hall, Sun City Center, the men and ladies of the Ancient Order of Hibernians are presenting a Traditional Celtic music show by Marcille Wallis & Friends.  
 There will be traditional Irish, Scottish, Celtic Jigs, Reels, Soft shoe dancing and much more.  
 Tickets are only \$10 per person, cabaret style (BYOB). Individual tickets and tables of 8 are available.  
 For more information and tickets call Tom Bennis 813-633-5188.

## Church to be dedicated

The First Christian Church of Sun City Center is dedicating their new Church Building at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 22, 1707 33rd Street S.E. Ruskin, FL.  
 Everyone is invited to the dedication.

*Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*  
 James 3:18



## Volunteers prepare for rummage sale

Dorothy Paulson, Jane Trefren, and Mike Trefren are preparing for the Rummage Sale to be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church on Friday, Feb. 3 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 4 from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Many household items, clothing, crafts, jewelry, baked goods, and collectibles will be available for the sale.

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Walter Moscoso, M.D.

Robert Edelman, M.D.

Eric Berman, M.D.

Jeffrey Davis, M.D.

# The heart of command

■ Continued from page 1

city with a crew of roughly 5,000 people. Being in command of one is an accomplishment few men can claim. An argument could be made that there is no higher honor or greater responsibility. On the ocean, you are on your own and the captain is responsible for everything from the people to the spare parts.

Chambers found a Vietnamese translator to attempt radio contact with the small Cessna that was circling his ship as they arrived off the coast of Vietnam. There was no answer. Through the binoculars, he could see the pilot, another adult and some very small heads peering out the windows of the aircraft. Finally, on the third try, the pilot managed to land a note on the deck of the carrier. The note read verbatim:

*Can you move the helicopters to the other side, I can land on your runway, I can fly one hour more, we have enough time to move, please rescue me.*

The note was signed, "Major Bung wife and 5 child."

With one hour of fuel remaining in the Cessna Bird Dog, the coast of Vietnam was an hour and a half away. Helicopters filled the Midway's runway and many were out of fuel. As opposed to having to go back to Saigon, running out of fuel on the deck of an aircraft carrier certainly had appeal. There was nothing good going on in Saigon.

"The guys would always run out of fuel on my deck," Chambers said. "I mean, wouldn't you?"

Short of a miracle, the only option for the South Vietnamese Major, his wife and five children would be to ditch the Cessna into the ocean. The aircraft, however, had fixed struts for the landing gear. Chambers knew that ditching would almost certainly be a death sentence for the children, if not the entire family. The moment those struts hit the water, the plane would likely flip over and sink. There would be no time to evacuate. There would be no rescue.

Larry Chambers wanted to fly airplanes and that is just what he did, landing them on aircraft carriers in the middle of the world's oceans.

"When you are 20 years old, you don't think anything is going to happen to you," he said with a laugh. "You don't think this could be hazardous to your health."

"I never had any goals," Chambers said in the den of his comfortable home at Freedom Plaza in Sun City Center. "I wanted to fly airplanes."

But goals have a way of appearing on their own.

"The goal of any carrier aviator is to sit in that big chair one day," he said, referring to the captain's chair on the bridge of the mightiest ship in the world. "And then when you are sitting in that big chair, you wonder, 'Oh my God, what have I done?'"

He had never before heard the order to make best speed. That is no small feat on an aircraft carrier. Cruising at over 30 knots, the ship consumes three-quarters of a million gallons of fuel each day.

"They'll run on anything, though," Chambers said of the fuel, "Even jet fuel in a pinch." (He laughed when I asked him if he ever reached the point of raiding the galley for the peanut oil.)

"It's a 24/7 job," he said. "I had more hours sleeping in that chair than in my rack [the berth in his quarters]. You can't delegate the responsibility, you can't pass it along."

On April 29, 1975, when a Cessna Bird Dog was an hour and a half of flying time from the coast of Vietnam, the note landed on his deck. Chambers knew what needed to be done. He didn't consider what it might cost him or his career, he didn't need to look anything up in a regulation book. He knew what he had to do.

Although only little more than a month in command, he had already been tested in a high stakes game of chicken with a Soviet ship. He won that game because he was confident in himself, his ship and his crew. Winning it wasn't a goal as much as it was something he needed to do, not just for himself but for his men. Yet he had no desire to start World War III. He was in the right and that was where he stayed (with only a slight alteration in course to ensure that the other ship would read his intent clearly).

As the Cessna circled, big helicopters were all over the deck of the Midway and there were many more to come. In the time it took to retrieve the note and bring it to Chambers on the bridge, two more helicopters landed.

With his deck cluttered with helicopters, out of fuel and with nowhere to go, Chambers didn't hesitate. He ordered that helicopters be pushed overboard. On the bridge, he was asked to repeat that order and he did — while someone faithfully wrote his words into the ship's logbook. Responsibility would not be passed along. An admiral was on board "second guessing everything I did" but it was



US NAVY IMAGE

Chambers in the big chair.

"I ordered that helicopters be pushed over the side. Of course, they made me repeat it. I didn't want to know the exact number, I wanted to be able to say, 'Hey, we pushed a couple of things over the side,'" he said with a smile and a twinkle in his eye.

When he made the call for help, it seemed that everyone on the ship, regardless of station or position, turned out to answer him.

"Look at the compassion on this man's face," Chambers said while holding a black and white military photo taken as helicopters filled to the brim with people landed on the deck of the Midway. "That man was trained to kill and just look at the compassion." The photo was of a bosun's mate in full gear, gently carrying an infant off a helicopter.

To say it was a difficult time would be an understatement to the extreme. If there are ideal circumstances under which a war could end, that was not it. Saigon, the capitol city, was falling. On the deck of his ship, a place that under normal circumstances is exacting in precision, hundreds of people, almost all civilians who were terrified, were emptying out of helicopters.

"The flight deck under normal conditions is controlled chaos," Chambers said. "Under these conditions... there were people everywhere. There were elderly people and mothers with babies and we were just trying to get them out of harm's way. We had no idea who was coming. One Huey landed with nearly 50 people. They were using cargo nets over the people just trying to protect them."

Unlike the jets that landed on the flight decks of carriers, the Cessna Bird Dog had no tail hook to catch a wire that would stop the aircraft before it ran out of runway. Also, Major Bung-Ly had never landed on a carrier before.

"His wife is in the backseat, he's in the front seat," Chambers said. "His wife was holding a baby, he was holding a baby. We could see through the binoculars little heads looking around. My thought was that this guy was going to crash on deck. He can't put it into the water and the plane had no tail hook."

While the helicopters were being pushed overboard, Chambers ordered the engineer to make way at 25 knots into the wind. In order to do that, literally all of the power on the ship needed to be diverted to making the propellers turn.

"We had a 15 knot wind so moving at 25 knots would give him a 40 knot headwind. I knew we could stop him. I've done my part, the deck is clear and I'm heading into the wind. Now he just has to land it."

He landed. Black and white photos show the jubilation as crew members raced to the Cessna. Today Major Bung-Ly and his wife are American citizens living in Florida. The Bird Dog is on display at the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola.

From Vietnam to Thailand to Guam, Chambers spent most of his time in the big chair on the bridge of the Midway. In Guam, the press flooding his ship, Chambers was on the *Today Show*.

"When the press came aboard, I was in my white dress uniform, trying to look like I'd had some sleep when I hadn't," he said. "My only claim to fame is that I was on the *Today Show* once." (That is another understatement — to the extreme.)

Already with few peers in being the captain of an aircraft carrier, Chambers was later promoted to admiral. He would go on to work on systems that would change the way carriers and the pilots who land on them operate, making them safer and more precise. A modest man, he deflected credit to his crew and others. From an outside perspective, he has so many claims to fame that it would be impossible to choose just one.

But from the standpoint of history, perhaps his greatest claim is that he had the heart of command. He didn't flinch, he didn't hesitate, he didn't worry what pushing millions of dollars in helicopters overboard could do to his career. He saved the lives of an entire family. No one else on that ship could have done that; perhaps few men would have had the courage. It was in his heart.

"There's always something you could get court-martialed for," Chambers said with a chuckle. "If you're going to get court-

martialed for anything...."

Yes, saving the lives of a young family would be it.

Chambers was quoted as saying that Major Bung-Ly was the bravest man he had ever met. He flew his family out of a situation that probably would have meant death or worse for all of them and into the unknown. He didn't know where the Midway was. He didn't know that he could or would be able to land on it.

Although I've never met Major Bung-Ly, I've met many people I've considered brave and heroic. Of them all, Larry Chambers is the bravest man I've ever met. He is a man who put his heart into his command. At a time when all seemed lost, Chambers gave his crew and his country victory. It was a win for the human spirit. Chambers is a man of few peers.

*It is impossible to put Larry Chambers' story into a newspaper article of 2,000 words. It is simply not enough to do justice to him, to his crew and to his accomplishments. On Feb. 3, Rear Admiral Larry Chambers (USN Ret.) will share his story during the monthly meeting of the Silver Osprey Squadron. For information, email silverosprey@yahoo.com. Although the lunch meeting is sold out, contact Bill Shanks at 813-634-3194, by email at wshanks@tampabay.rr.com or via mail at 1010 American Eagle Blvd. #750, Sun City Center, FL 33573, for information about a standby list or reservations for future meetings.*

*The USS Midway began service as a museum in San Diego in 2004. In her first year, the museum saw double the projected attendance with nearly 900,000 visitors.*



US NAVY IMAGE



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Multi family garage sale. Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm. Jan. 19, 20 & 21 at 2050 Prestancia Lane, SCC

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Over 60 families participating. Riverside Club, Ruskin. Saturday only, Jan. 21, 8am-2pm. No sales after 2pm. From US 41 turn onto Universal Dr, right onto Stephens Rd, to gate entrance. No early birds. Breakfast available.

Yard sale. 1812 Ft. Duquesna, SCC. Jan. 20 & 21, 8am-3pm. Lots of Christmas stuff, 7 1/2ft lighted tree, decorations, linens, pillows, misc. items, 7pc comforter set.

Antiques, vintage items & collectibles. Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm. 1906 East View Dr., SCC. Park on same side only.

#### Parkwide Sale

Manatee RV Park, 6302 US 41 S. Ruskin. Saturday. Jan. 21, 8am-? Look for barn door entrance

Leukemia benefit sale. 202 Flamingo Dr., Apollo Beach, Saturday, Jan. 21, 8am-noon. Multiple families. Antiques, tools, fishing, household items

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Huge yard sale. Held outside Above The Rest. The SCC upscaled resale shop. Saturday, 10am-2pm. 813-633-5013

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#### 312 ESTATE SALES

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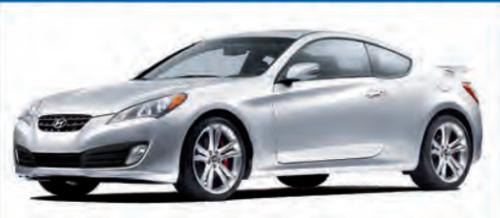
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