



It's time for the 2nd Annual Hook 'n' Sink fundraiser and family event! See more details on **page 14**

Citizens may pioneer a new approach for future development in the Ruskin area. See **page 15**  
MELODY JAMESON



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MITCH TRAPHAGEN

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# THE OBSERVER NEWS

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## Projects not too small, or large, for help from local Foundation

Part 1 of a 2-Part Series

By PENNY FLETCHER  
penny@observernews.net

**SUN CITY CENTER** — When the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center was founded as the local arm of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay in 1992, it had a dual purpose: to aid South County's 501(c)(3) organizations lend a hand to their recipients, and to give donors more bang for their buck.

The Sun City Center division is affiliated with the Tampa branch in that it runs under that group's 501(c)(3) tax-free status. It also helped to become an affiliate instead of reinventing the wheel because Tampa Bay's procedures, bylaws and goals were already set up.

But philanthropy and vision run high in South County, especially in the retirement community of Sun City Center, which provides most of the donations.

As of Dec. 31, the local branch had \$30.7 million in its coffers; had donated \$865,000 in grants during the previous 12 months; and had operating expenses of only 0.80 percent of its net assets- less than one percent.

"That's because of the countless hours of volunteers," said Evelyn Lunsford, who sits on the Sun City Center division's 12-member Council and has been on the front-line of reading, examining and approving grants for more years than she can count.

Grants may not be made to individuals, Lunsford explained. Only to organizations and agencies that have been granted 501(c)(3) tax free status by the Internal Revenue Service.

This means they may be faith based; community based, or even places like county schools and libraries, added Beverley McLain who is a member of the Tampa foundation. McLain and Interim Foundation Director Gene Marshall met with representatives of the Sun City Center foundation Feb. 10 to discuss future plans.

The Tampa foundation, which is much larger than the local branch, examines grant applications twice a year, in spring and fall, Marshall said.

But the Sun City Center foundation accepts and accesses grants from September through June, added Lunsford.

Another thing the local branch can do on its own is look around the community for unmet needs and see if there is money in an unrestricted fund to meet them.

As explained to me, there are two main types of grants, restricted and unrestricted, with many variations of each.

"Someone may say, 'I want to help schools,' or more specifically, 'I want to help with literacy,' or in a wider sense, say 'help education,'" Lunsford explained.

"We're helping eight South County schools and the RCMA —which meets the same criteria as the public schools."

See **FOUNDATION**, page 13

## South County documentary film underway

By MELODY JAMESON  
RUSKIN — Wanted: good storytellers. Not the fictional kind. Not merely book readers, please. And not exactly yarn

spinners good at embroidering history, either.

But, rather anyone anywhere in South Hillsborough with camera presence and factual knowledge of the region's particular historic aspects or specific takes on its present or cogent thoughts about its future now is in demand for the second ArtReach Community Arts project here.

The first ArtReach project is the "BLT" or "Best Little Town" mural on the north side of the structure that once housed a barbershop on U.S. 41 in downtown Ruskin, immediately south of the SouthShore Chamber of Commerce office.

The film project, kicked off last month, is a video documentary aimed at capturing essences of the various diverse communities that comprise the South County region, according to Michael Parker, muralist and ArtReach program director. And those communities are not only geographic, but also occupational, social as well as cultural, he noted.

The video production is being undertaken by Shawn Cheatham, an artist who currently teaches in the School of Art and Art History at the University of South Florida. Cheatham, a USF graduate who earned a Masters in Fine Art, has exhibited his video work both nationally and internationally, in such venues as the New York Short Film Festival and the Tromanaic Festival, Berlin, Germany, Parker said.

The final video product is "envisioned as a constellation of individual stories and histories of the people who define the area,

See **DOCUMENTARY**, page 14



### East Bay Little League opening ceremony

Opening Ceremony for the Spring Season at East Bay Little League begins with a night of fun for the entire family. The ceremony will be from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24. There will be many activities including live music, food, dunk tanks, a youth and coach home run derby and more. There will also be prizes, raffles and a door prize for all in attendance. East Bay Little League is home to 800 youth baseball and softball players. The 2012 season will kickoff the Challenger division for physically and mentally challenged youth. For more information call (941) 350-4545 or email wilderboyz3@verizon.net. The Little League is located inside Vance Vogel Park at 13012 Bullfrog Creek Road, Gibsonton.

## Accident claims the life of teenaged bicyclist in Ruskin



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

A damaged bicycle at the scene of a fatal accident on Monday that claimed the life of an 18-year-old Ruskin girl.

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN  
mitch@observernews.net

RUSKIN — An accident between a vehicle and a bicycle claimed the life of a teenage girl on Monday.

Jessica Wortman, 18, of Ruskin, had left the Ruskin Recreation Center on 6th Avenue on Monday afternoon and was riding a bicycle across U.S. Highway 41 at the intersection of 14th Avenue SE when Exuperancio Paderog Potane, 51, also of Ruskin, struck her while driving a 2007 Chrysler PT Cruiser. Miss Wortman died at the scene.

Sgt. Steve Gaskins of the Florida Highway Patrol stated that the young woman was not a student in an area high school.

According to the FHP, Mr. Paderog-Potane was heading southbound on U.S. 41 when he struck the young woman at approximately 2:04 p.m. as she was riding west across the highway. He was not injured. Because of the accident, the southbound lanes of U.S. 41 were temporarily closed on Monday afternoon at State Road 674.

The accident remains under investigation by the FHP.

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# Firehouse Cultural Center names first-ever Artist-in-Residence

*New cultural center and performance artist Leland Faulkner to open door to world-class talent for South Hillsborough residents*

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN  
mitch@observernews.net

RUSKIN — The Firehouse Cultural Center, located at 101 1st Avenue NE near the southeast corner of U.S. 41 and Shell Point Road in Ruskin, has named performance artist Leland Faulkner as the center's first Artist-in-Residence.

Faulkner has been described as a man of a thousand faces. He earned accolades for directing performances at Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, won awards for his work in films and was a consultant on the highly successful film, *The Polar Express*. Over the course of 20 years, he has captured audiences around the world in live performances. As Artist-in-Residence from February 25 to March 2, Faulkner will bring his unique talent to the Firehouse Cultural Center, all designed with intimacy and close interaction with South Hillsborough residents in mind. During his residency, Faulkner will combine Japanese art forms, mime, shadow theatre, illusion, and improvisation with special effects to create unique and imaginative performances, all up

close and personal for everyone in attendance.

As the first Artist-in-Residence, he will also herald in a remarkable achievement by the many volunteers who have poured countless hours of effort into making the Firehouse Cultural Center a reality in South Hillsborough. The new center has the potential to open a door to the arts in ways offered by few venues, providing a unique opportunity for more than 170,000 people living in the region to take part in art and performance.

Faulkner will open his residency with a performance on Feb. 25. On Feb. 27 through March 1, there will be numerous "Residency at the Firehouse" workshops with programming for all ages and experience. The first residency will conclude on March 2 with a final performance that will feature participants from the workshops.

For more information on the artist and a complete schedule of events, see next week's *Observer News*, *SCC Observer* and *Riverview Current* or visit [www.firehouseculturalcenter.org](http://www.firehouseculturalcenter.org).



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The Firehouse Cultural Center is located at 101 1st Avenue NE in Ruskin. Construction on the new facility is still on-going.

## Manatee Heritage Days spans month of March

BRADENTON — The thirty-third annual Manatee County Heritage Days celebration will be from March 1-31, and will focus on the county's history. All month long, historical sites and organizations throughout the county will celebrate the community's heritage by providing opportunities for area residents and visitors to experience the past. Reenactments, special exhibits, lectures, open houses and family

programming will highlight the month's events.

For thirty-three years, the Manatee Heritage Association has sponsored Heritage Days. Originally a week in length, Heritage Days grew to nine days, and in 1995, Manatee Heritage Days expanded to a month long event. The activities are as varied as walking tours and concerts. Events take place throughout Manatee County in many different

communities. Through these events at area historical sites, participants will experience the pioneer lifestyle and learn how Manatee County has grown and developed.

Most events are free, though some require a reservation or admission fee. For general information call 941-741-4070.

One of the daily events available now through April 1 is the self guided tours of the *Crosley*

*Memorabilia Showcase*, Crosley Carriage House, 8374 N. Tamiami Trail, Bradenton, across from the Sarasota Bradenton Airport, west of US 41, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. No reservations required. Access to the Carriage House only. Admission is \$5 at the door. For information call 941-722-3244 during business hours Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. [www.powelcrosleyestate.com](http://www.powelcrosleyestate.com).

On Saturdays, March 3, 10, 17,

24 and 31 enjoy the *Downtown Bradenton Farmers' Market*, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Old Main Street in Historic Downtown Bradenton. Free. The Market will be offering fresh food, produce, plants and flowers, live entertainment, gifts and specialty items and lots of fun for the community. Downtown parking is free on the weekend and dogs on leashes are welcome. Contact Kevin Webb at [kevin@realizebradenton.com](mailto:kevin@realizebradenton.com).



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# Is that 'but' really necessary?

I was at a Toastmasters District Conference where a friend of mine was one of the competitors in a speech contest. She had put a lot of time and effort into the speech and had won at three previous levels prior to competing at the district level. I watched as she put her heart and soul into reciting materials which she had so carefully memorized. It was the same speech I had heard her give at the three previous levels. In this particular competition, the speeches can be the same through



## Positive Talk

By William Hodges

the district level, but speeches at subsequent levels must be new. Since I had watched her give the speech several times before, I was in an excellent position to determine how well she had done; and I really felt her performance wasn't as good this time as at the previous competitions. She lost the contest, and I listened to the comments of other people who had also seen her give the speech. They congratulated her on her effort, then I noticed the

dreaded "but." The comments went like this: "It was a great effort, but your timing was off this time." "I really enjoyed your speech, but it seemed to lack the enthusiasm it had when I heard before." "You did your best, but it just wasn't good enough to win."

This woman had put her heart and soul into this competition. She had just found that she had lost—that someone else was the winner and would represent the district in the regional competition. At that moment, she was in no mood for it to be a learning experience. She didn't need to hear the "but." The first part of any of those three comments would have been sufficient. I question that any of these three people were trying to be of assistance to the speaker. I think some of them were trying to show how smart they were by picking at someone else.

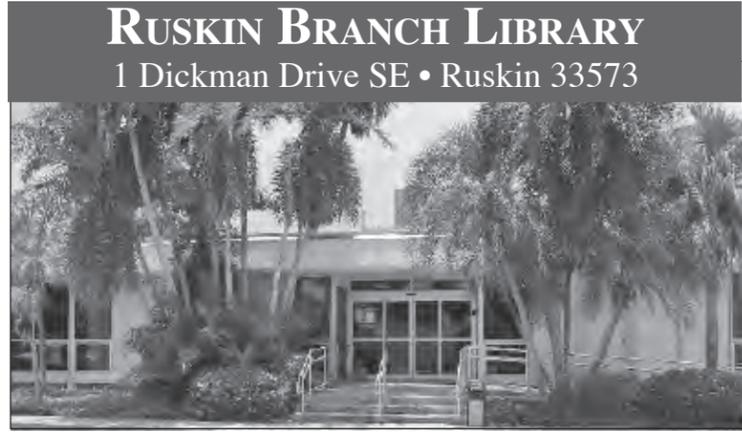
Over the past week, how many times have you heard the dreaded "but"? Some comments I've overheard recently are: "That was a pretty good buy, but I know where to get it cheaper." "It was great that you got all B's, but why didn't you get some A's?" "You're a great basketball player, but just think what you could do if you were six inches taller?" "I really enjoyed that pie, but you should have tasted my mother's." "I really like the fact we spend so much time together, but my ex-wife kept the house so much neater." You get the picture. These statements should have stopped before the dreaded "but."

In the controlled atmosphere of a Toastmasters conference, the "but" may be expected since Toastmasters are taught to provide feedback. Even then, we should consider us-

ing restraint. There is a time for feedback, and we must use our good judgment in determining that time. There is also a time when feedback serves no useful purpose. If I've already bought a set of tires, to tell me I really got a great deal, but you could have gotten them cheaper serves no immediate purpose. I've already bought the tires. I'm not in the market for more. So how can it help me to know you can buy them cheaper? If you really can buy them cheaper, tell me about it later at a time that will not cause me to feel bad about my current purchase but can help in the future. If the child has worked hard to get B's, give him or her your praise and your encouragement to go further. Don't ruin the moment with a "but." Finally, watch the "buts" in situations that can't be changed. To tell someone he is a great basketball player and qualify it with, "but think what you could do if you were six inches taller," is silly. The person cannot be six inches taller.

The next time you are tempted to make a positive comment and then add a "but," think about it. Given the moment, will your "but" be constructive or destructive? When in doubt, butt out.

*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*



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## RUSKIN Moose Lodge #813 UPCOMING EVENTS

The Ruskin Moose Lodge #813 is located at  
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[www.lodge813.moosese.org](http://www.lodge813.moosese.org)

### 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, 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
Friday, March 23	7-11 p.m.	Del and Gary
Saturday, March 24	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, March 30	7-11 p.m.	Shine On
Saturday, March 31	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins

All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests

## Eastern Silverliners International to meet

The members of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of Eastern Airlines Silverliners International will meet at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16 at the Rusty Pelican Restaurant, 2425 Rocky Point Drive North, Tampa for a luncheon and meeting.

Silverliners is an organization composed of former flight attendants for Eastern Airlines. They also invite former flight attendants of other airlines to join.

Hillsborough County residents may call Barbara Reed at (813) 671-3078 or Adrienne Love at (813) 677-2909.



## 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 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 16 -- Bar Games at 1 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 17 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 18 — Horse Races at 2:30 p.m. Meat Loaf Dinner by Becky at 5 p.m. Music by Southern Tied at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 19 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 20 — Bingo at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 21 — Come on down and socialize.

Wednesday, Feb. 22 — 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.



## 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.



## 'Krash Party' to celebrate 9 years of music and festivities

Join the fun after the Knights of Sant' Yago Illuminated Knight Parade on Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Italian Club for the 9th Annual Knight Parade 'Krash Party.' The Italian Club, located at 1731 E. 7th Avenue in Ybor City, will be alive with music and festivities from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. for the best post-parade party ever hosted by Krewes Kare.

You'll be directly on the parade route on 7th Avenue and in the heart of all of the action in Ybor City. The cost is \$40 per person and is fully tax deductible. You'll enjoy a premium open bar, delicious buffet, two floors filled with music and merriment, plus partying with the best crowd ever to celebrate the Knight Parade.

To purchase wristbands, go the Krewes Kare website at [www.kreweskare.org](http://www.kreweskare.org) or visit The Bead Barn at 3015 W. Barcelona St. in south Tampa or Buccaneer Beads

at 3808 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in east Tampa. Reserved tables are available with a ten ticket purchase. Krewes may purchase a block of wristbands by sending a check to: Krash Party c/o Krewes Kares, P.O. Box 975, Seffner, FL 33583-975. This party is always a sell-out event, so purchase your wristbands early. Only a small number of wristbands will be sold at the door.

Krewes Kare, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization founded in 2005 to provide disaster relief assistance to first responders to affected areas inaccessible to the largest relief agencies. Krewes Kare is in partnership with Angel Flight Southeast and volunteers from the parade krewes in the Tampa Bay area. For more information, contact Yvonne Painton at (813) 244-5549 or Nancy Peterson at (813) 767-4112, or go to [www.kreweskare.org](http://www.kreweskare.org).



## Enjoy MOSI's February Special Events and Programs

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

### MOSI Presents Development VRS Fundraising: A Scientific Approach to Success Thursday, Feb. 16 • 10 a.m. to noon

Cost: \$45 per person; \$35 per MOSI member

Participants will learn how to convince their board of directors that they are cultivating an audience and show their staff they are on a mission. They will also learn how to demonstrate to constituents and donors that they are able to establish meaningful relationships. Further, participants will learn how to handle the bottom line while establishing a public relations baseline.

### MOSI Presents Succession Planning: Flash Forward Friday, Feb. 17 • 10 a.m. to noon

Cost: \$50 per person; \$38 per MOSI member

If the organization loses its top talent today, what happens tomorrow? Is the organization ready for success? This session introduces a practical approach for organizational alignment. Take advantage of this opportunity for sustainability, before a crisis happens.

### Flying Monsters Come to MOSI's IMAX Dome Theatre Friday, Feb. 17

In Flying Monsters, David Attenborough, the world's leading naturalist, sets out to uncover the truth about the enigmatic pterosaurs, whose wingspans of up to 40 feet were equal to that of a modern day jet plane. Attenborough works with scientists to understand the incredible story of the evolution of the pterosaurs, a story that unfolds in such stunning locations as New Mexico, the Jurassic Coast of Lyme Regis in Britain, an ancient pterosaur landing site in Southern France, and a fossil pit in Germany where near perfect pterosaur specimens have been found.

Flying Monsters is a groundbreaking film that brings the story of giant flying monsters and their prehistoric world to life. Audiences of all ages will be in awe as they enter the world and experience, as never before, real Flying Monsters. Call for days and times.

### Create a Superhero at MOSI Workshop Saturday, Feb. 18 • 1 to 3 p.m.

Cost: \$25 per person; \$20 per MOSI Member

In this workshop, join other Idea Zone! inventors in the fun and ferocious fantasy of make-believe and make-it-yourself. Then, model awesome costumes and share missions to save the universe. Registration is required.

### Science Works Theater at MOSI Presents Deafness and Hearing: A USF Reel-To-Real Event Tuesday, Feb. 21 • 6 to 9 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per person; FREE for USF students with valid USF I.D.

In Children of a Lesser God, a teacher (played by William Hurt) develops a relationship with a student (played by Marlee Matlin) at a school for the deaf. The 1986 R-rated film raises issues about deafness, deaf and hearing cultures, and sign language. These issues will be tackled in a discussion by a panel of experts on deafness and hearing after the movie. Registration is available by calling (813) 987-6000.

## 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, Feb. 16 — Bar Bingo at 6 p.m. VA District 12 Bingo at Hospital at 6:30 p.m. MAVFW Meeting at 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 17 — Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by Live Wire Top from 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 18 — Turkey Shoot at 1 p.m. Evening Open Juke Box.

Sunday, Feb. 19 — Fire in the Hole from 1 to 4 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy at 5:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 20 — American Legion Riders Meeting at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 21 — Games in Lounge from 1 to 5 p.m. Kitchen open from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 22 — Open.



## Teacher recognized

Each year VFW Post 8108 likes to recognize a teacher who promotes patriotism within their daily teaching. Information was sent out to various schools and they are proud and honored to announce that Mrs. Shirley Redcay from Ippolito Elementary School, has won this year's Teacher Recognition Award at the Post Level.

Mrs. Redcay's information was sent on to their District for District judging and they are once again proud and honored to announce that Mrs. Shirley Redcay took first place at the District level. Mrs. Redcay's information has now been sent on to the State of Florida VFW for judging and will be representing them in the finals at the State Convention in Orlando.

# You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director  
**SCC Chamber News**

Here is a typical call to the Chamber.

“What can you tell me about McGillicutty’s Driveway Cleaning Service? They came to my house this morning, said they were here on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, and they would give me a special deal on pressure washing my driveway. They asked for \$50 up front for supplies and would collect the other \$50 when the job was done. Are they any good?”

Here is the answer. Not only is there no McGillicutty’s Driveway Cleaning Service, but NO business will legitimately be calling you on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. If you give them the \$50 for supplies, you will never see them or your money ever again. This is a very lucrative scam. If they can get 10 of our 12,900 dwellings to fall for it, they can make \$500 in a day.

Every week another scam emerges in the Sun City Center area, and it gets harder and harder to know what is legit and what isn’t. Have you received an e-mail from the IRS telling you they reviewed your last year’s taxes and you were supposed to get a larger refund? All they need is your personal information and they will have the money wired to your account.

The IRS NEVER uses email. And don’t you think they already

have enough of your personal information to send you an extra refund if you deserved it?

Forget the email from the poor man in Nigeria who needs to email you \$5 million. Forget the friend, relative or neighbor who visited England, got mugged and needs you to wire him whatever money you can so he can get back home. Today’s scammers and frauders are much more sophisticated these days.

Fortunately, Sun Towers Retirement and the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office have teamed up with local organizations to bring you a Senior Consumer Fraud Protection and Awareness Expo. It’s being held in the Borini Theater in Kings Point, but it is open to anyone who lives in Sun City Center. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Feb. 28. The expo runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be representatives from the Clerk of the Circuit Court, the Florida Department of Children and Families, and the Attorney General’s Office. You will hear from (and can ask questions of) representatives of the Florida Department of Financial Services, the Tampa Bay Bureau of Investigations and the Elder Consumer Protection Program.

In addition, you can talk to AAA Auto Service, the Carr Law Group, Legal Shield, and the Area Agency on Aging.



## You, Me & Business

By Dana Dittmar

## StrongLife open for business

On Tuesday, January 31, StrongLife Chiropractic and Natural Health, P.A., hosted a Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of their new facility located at 5618 Fishhawk Crossing Blvd., Lithia. Local businesses came out to tour the new office and meet Dr. Justin Scott and his professional staff. Located in the heart of Fishhawk Ranch, StrongLife Chiropractic and Natural Health is dedicated to helping you achieve your health objectives -- combining skill and expertise that spans the entire chiropractic and natural health spectrum. Dr. Justin Scott, D.C. is committed to bringing you improved health and a better quality of life by teaching and practicing the true principles



Ribbon cutting for Stronglife Chiropractic and Natural Health’s Grand Opening.

PHOTO BY HUTH & BOOTH PHOTOGRAPHY

of chiropractic and natural health. Patients seeking treatment are assured of receiving only the finest quality care through the use of

modern chiropractic equipment and technology. For more information call 813-655-5433 or visit [www.stronglifechiropractic.com](http://www.stronglifechiropractic.com).

## Logans describe the world of trucking

Over 60% of US goods are transported by truck, but few of us know what it is like to drive a truck for a living. In their just-published book, Two Million Miles: A Couple Goes Trucking, John and Virginia Logan give us a glimpse into the world of long-haul 18-wheeler driving.

Working for companies based in West Michigan, and driving cross-country trips as a team, this couple experienced the joys of seeing the spectacular variety of landscape this country has to offer, the frustrations of finding out-of-the-way destinations, the hazards of unpre-

dictable weather, and the pride in completing their assignments on time, with accident-free driving.

The Logans are retired now, wintering in Ruskin and spending their summers in Michigan. Check out their book on: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

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**Email correction**

The correct email address for Task Force on Human Trafficking member and Kings Point resident June Wallace is JuneMWallace@gmail.com

**MOWW National Commander to address local Chapter**

The Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) will feature the MOWW National Commander, CAPT Russell R. Vowinkel at 11:30 a.m. at its Feb. 17 luncheon, at the SCC Plaza Club.

Capt Vowinkel was born and raised in Buffalo, New York. He was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Navy in 1962 after completing Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida.

Captain Vowinkel served on active duty from 1962-1967 and served in the Viet Nam War Theater of Operations as a Naval Flight Officer during a portion of this time. He completed 24 years in the Active Naval Reserve, during which time he successfully

served three command tours.

In MOWW, Captain Vowinkel served as Chapter commander, Department Commander, Treasurer and Vice Commander of Region XIV in San Diego, California. He was elected General Staff Officer and National Information and Publicity Chair. At the 2008 National Convention, he was elected Vice Commander-in-Chief (VCINC) of the Order and in July 2011 assumed his current position as MOWW National Commander.

Capt. Vowinkel will provide information pertaining to the state of affairs of MOWW from a national perspective.

For more information call 633-6513.

**Greater Riverview Chamber hosts golf tournament**

The 18th Annual Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament is slated for Saturday, March 17 at Bloomingdale Golfers Club. Enjoy this special St. Patrick's Day celebration with an 8 a.m. shotgun start!

Included with your admission (team and individuals) is the opportunity to attend a Golf Clinic with the pros from the John E. S. Cochrane Golf Schools at 7 a.m.

Become a Hole Sponsor like Century 21 Beggins-Joe Eletto and A+ Hearing Center, Inc. and

promote your business on the golf course. You may have a table with your brochures, business cards, and/or product samples located near one of 18 holes all for \$150.

Have your business represented on the Green like Pivotal Business Services and Blu Marc Printing with a Green Sponsor Sign for \$75.

For more information call Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce (813) 234-5944 or email info@RiverviewChamber.com.

**Moonglow plans valentine theme dance**

Darlene Meadows will provide the dance music for Moonglow dance club from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 24 at the Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. It will be a valentine theme. So put on your dancing shoes and join them.

Singles are welcome. BYOB and snacks. Members are free; guests are \$5 at the door. The club will provide ice, water, cups and napkins. Dressy and dressy casual attire is requested. Hope to see you there.

For more information, call Claire at (813) 642-0171.

**Play Mah Jongg**

There will be a Mah Jongg Tournament presented by the ladies of Chai Chapter of Hadassah on Tuesday, Feb. 28. Play starts at 10 a.m., with sign in and breakfast from 8:30 a.m.. The tournament will be held and sponsored by prestigious Freedom Plaza in Sun City Center in South Hillsborough County. The cost is \$36 including Tournament play, breakfast, snacks and lunch. Prizes will be awarded and a silent auction will also be available. You must register in advance to play; seating is limited. For more information call Carol at 829-7227.

**C.A.R.E. Pets of the Week**

C.A.R.E. is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For directions, visit www.CareShelter.org or call (813) 645-2273.



**Pixie**

Pixie is a sweet little female who was brought to the shelter with three buddies. She has bounced back from her early misadventures to be a real little lover who loves to be held by volunteers and gets her motor going right away. She also has a wonderful orange hue to her fur. Visit C.A.R.E. soon and take Pixie along to her forever home. Pixie has been spayed, microchipped, and brought up-to-date on her shots.

DOB: September 2, 2005.



**Haley**

Haley is an adorable Chihuahua puppy. She and her dad were relinquished to the shelter due to no fault of their own. Haley is super sweet and affectionate. She is a little shy at first but seems to go to anyone who is kind to her. She doesn't think she is a dog but rather an accessory to her humans. Since arriving at the shelter, Haley has been meeting other dogs and playing in the yard. She has a lot to learn about this big world. It is hard not to fall in love with this little girl, though. As part of her adoption, Haley will be spayed, microchipped, and brought current on her shots. DOB: Sept. 2 2011



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**Tuesday, February 21, 2012**  
**6:30pm**  
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# The successful failure

I took my first vacation in years last week. I know that it sometimes may appear that my entire life is a vacation, but the reality is rarely like that. In this job with The Observer News, work is never very far away — even if it occasionally reads pretty vacation-like.



**Observations**  
By Mitch Traphagen  
mitch@observernews.net

My vacation was spent in a place thousands of people travel to for their vacations: right here in Ruskin, Florida. Did anyone else notice that it seems as though the place filled up starting last weekend? Traffic was heavier and lines were longer everywhere from the grocery stores to the Fish House to the Dog House on Shell Point Road.

I dedicated most of my vacation time to refinishing the woodwork on my boat. I hate painting, and I'm lousy at it. I wouldn't go so far as to say that I'm a painting failure, but my impatience certainly stands in the way of what I would consider success. Painting is time-consuming, and I want nothing more than rush right to the end — something unfortunately not possible with such a pursuit.

The good thing about painting, however, is the copious amount of time available to think; a necessity, it turned out, to keep my brain from imploding as I continuously looked ahead with dread to see how much work I still had left to do.

Somewhere along the aft end of the teak cap rail, as my brush applied a second coat of finish, I tried to think of something, anything that resembled an

achievement that I could point to in my life. The mental list initially came up woefully short. A few moments and brush strokes later, I realized that the perhaps greatest thing I have ever accomplished ended as a failure. On the surface, that's a little discouraging, but as a failure it was sort of a mixed bag.

A few years ago, I started a weekly newspaper in a very small town in Iowa. I was a stranger in a place that few people had ever heard of, let alone would move to. I spent two months preparing and laying the groundwork and then produced my first edition. It was cheaper and faster to mail the newspaper rather than have it delivered to driveways, so I mailed a free copy to the entire town (and a bunch of even smaller towns in the surrounding area).

I worked as hard as I could to cover the surprisingly many things that went on in that town, from city council meetings to the nearly endless school sporting events. Each and every week I did

what I could to make the people in that town the stars of my new production. Within a month or so, nearly 100 percent of the households in town had subscribed to the paper and people graciously treated me as though I had spent my entire life there. Businesses started to advertise, including more than a few that had no real need to advertise. Three local, excellent writers signed on to write columns at no cost, and I hired a reporter to cover county meetings and help with the growing information load. By almost all accounts, things were going great.

But there was a price to pay. Each week on the day I went to press, I would work 30 or more hours straight without the chance to sleep. During football season, I added another overnight to my schedule in getting photo galleries and videos out to the newspaper website. Things looked great on the surface; but the town just wasn't big enough to support what the paper was becoming and I couldn't afford to hire the additional people it needed. I was publisher, editor, reporter, layout artist, and janitor; and I was wearing out. After ten months, I was getting sick every



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The freshly refinished woodwork on the boat isn't perfect but it's better. I'm going to declare it a success.

few weeks until I ended up with pneumonia — but my job offered no sick leave. My doctor said she would be surprised if I would live for another three months unless I changed my ways.

A week or so after that I found myself looking at a sailboat in the Florida Keys (if I was going to die anyway, I was determined to die with a sailboat). A weekend or two later, I was on Cape Cod handing over the cash for my dream boat — a very neglected 32-footer in which I saw the potential to sail to my dreams. Someday.

Two months later, after a year in print, I admitted that I did not have the ability to keep things going and so shut down the newspaper. It was successful, but there is no way around the fact that it was also a successful failure. That it ceased production is a pretty strong indicator of that.

All of my life I've had visions of what I would do "someday". I always assumed I would have time to achieve the success I had envisioned. But now, I'm nearly 50 years old, and I realize that

See **OBSERVATIONS**, page 12



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## Attention all Veterans

Sun City Center Chapter #110 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has opened an outreach center in Conessa Hall at the Prince of Peace Church located at 702 Valley Forge Blvd., Sun City Center.

Bob Gerdes and Darrell Katz are DAV certified service officers who will discuss benefits and assist with claims for all veterans in South Hillsborough County. Male and female Vets are welcome to participate in this non-denominational, and free service. Appointments are available for Tuesday mornings from 9 a.m.- noon.

Drivers also are needed to assist Veterans with transportation to James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa. For more information call Bob at 813-634-1761 or Darrell at 813-260-3692.

# THE SAVVY SENIOR

## How to Help Elderly Drivers Limit or Stop Driving

*Dear Savvy Senior, I'm worried about my father's driving. At age 84, his driving skills have diminished significantly, but I know he's bound and determined to keep going as long as he's alive. What tips can you recommend that can help me help my dad stop driving?*

*Nervous Daughter*

Dear Nervous,

For many families, telling an elderly parent it's time to give up the car keys is a very sensitive and difficult topic. While there's no one simple way to handle this issue, here are a number of tips and

resources you can try to help ease your dad away from driving.

### Take a Ride

To get a clear picture of your dad's driving abilities, the first thing you need to do is take a ride with him watching for problem areas. For example: Does he drive too slow or too fast? Does he tailgate or drift between lanes? Does he have difficulty seeing, backing up or changing lanes? Does he react slowly? Does he get distracted or confused easily? Also, has your dad had any fender benders or tickets lately, or have you noticed any dents or scrapes on his vehicle? These, too,

are red flags.

### Start Talking

After your assessment, you need to have a talk with your dad about your concerns, but don't sound alarmed. If you begin with a dramatic outburst like "Dad, you're going to kill someone!" you're likely to trigger resistance. Start by gently expressing that you're worried about his safety.

For tips on how to talk to your dad about this touchy topic, the Hartford Financial Services Group and MIT AgeLab offers some guides titled "Family Conversations with Older Drivers" and "Family Conversations about Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia & Driving" that can help, along with an online seminar called "We Need to Talk" that was produced by AARP. To access these free resources, visit [safedrivingforalifetime.com](http://safedrivingforalifetime.com).

Like many elderly seniors, your dad may not even realize his driving skills have slipped. If this is the case, consider signing him up for an older driver refresher course through AARP ([aarp.org/drive](http://aarp.org/drive), 888-227-7669), your local AAA or a driving school.

By becoming aware of his driving limitations, your dad may be able to make some simple adjustments – like driving only in daylight or on familiar routes – that can help keep him safe and driving longer. Or, he may decide to hang up the keys on his own.

### Refuses To Quit

If, however, you believe your dad has reached the point that he can no longer drive safely, but he refuses to quit, you have several options. One possible solution is to suggest a



By Jim Miller

visit to his doctor who can give him a medical evaluation, and if warranted, "prescribe" that he stops driving. Older people will often listen to their doctor before they will listen to their own family.

If that doesn't do it, ask him to get a comprehensive driving evaluation done by a driver rehabilitation specialist – this can cost several hundred dollars. A driving evaluation will test your dad's cognition, vision and motor skills, as well as his on-road driving abilities. To locate a specialist in your area, contact the Association of Driver Rehabilitation Specialists ([driver-ed.org](http://driver-ed.org), 866-672-9466) or the American Occupational Therapy Association ([aota.org/older-driver](http://aota.org/older-driver)).

If he still refuses to move to the passenger seat, call your local Department of Motor Vehicles to see if they can help. Or, call in an attorney to discuss with your dad the potential financial and legal consequences of a crash or injury. If all else fails, you may just have to take away his keys.

### Arrange Transportation

Once your dad stops driving he's going to need other ways to get around, so help him create a list of names and phone numbers of family, friends and local transportation services that he can call on. To locate community transportation services call the Area Agency on Aging. Call 800-677-1116 for contact information.

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.

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# Tips for Saving Money on Taxes

FAMILY FEATURES

**W**ho isn't looking to save a little money these days?

Here are some easy ways you can save money on preparing your taxes, as well as ways you might be able to pay out a little less.

## IRS Free File: More Savings, Less Taxing

Looking for a fast, easy and free option to do your taxes? IRS Free File allows everyone to prepare and e-file their federal tax returns for free. And, the step-by-step, brand-name software offered by IRS' commercial partners helps you find the tax breaks you are due.

Each of the approximately 20 private-sector partners tailor their offerings based on criteria such as income, age or state residency. If you need help finding a Free File match, just select the "get help finding a Free File company" as your option. Simply enter a little information about yourself and the matches will appear. Some also offer state returns for free or for a fee.

- While all the companies have different criteria, if you made \$57,000 or less in 2011 — and that's 70 percent of us — you will be eligible for at least one free tax software program.
- If your income was higher than \$57,000, you can still prepare and e-file your return for free by using Free File Fillable Forms. This is the electronic version of IRS paper forms. It's more basic and is probably best for people comfortable preparing their own paper tax returns. It does not support state tax returns.

Just go to [www.irs.gov/freefile](http://www.irs.gov/freefile) to get started.



### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

If you need personal assistance to prepare your tax return, there are 12,000 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites nationwide. These sites offer free help to those earning around \$50,000 or less. To locate the nearest VITA site, search for "VITA" on [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov).

Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), which is supported by AARP, offers free tax help to people who are age 60 and older. To locate the nearest AARP Tax-Aide site, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit [AARP.org](http://AARP.org).

## Find out if you are eligible for the EITC

**N**o tax benefit offers a greater lifeline to working families than EITC. Yet, one out of every five eligible taxpayers fails to claim it, according to the IRS. Because of the economy, even more people may be eligible if they have had changes in their earned income. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- The amount of qualifying income depends on your situation. For example, married workers, who earned \$49,078 or less from wages, self-employment or farm income last year, are filing jointly, and have two qualifying children, could be eligible. The maximum credit for 2011 tax returns is \$5,751 for workers with three or more qualifying children.
- Eligibility for the EITC is determined based on a number of factors including earnings, filing status and eligible children. Workers without qualifying children may be eligible for a smaller credit amount.
- You must file a tax return, even if you do not have a filing requirement, and specifically claim the credit. Those who typically fail to claim the EITC include rural workers and their families; non-traditional families, such as grandparents or foster parents raising children; taxpayers without qualifying children; individuals with limited English proficiency; and taxpayers with disabilities.
- If you claim EITC, it can be complex so try to avoid the common errors such as mistakes on income amounts, filing head of household when you should file as married, or claiming children who have not lived with you for more than half the year.
- If you use a paid tax return preparer, make sure to seek out a reputable one. Tax professionals must sign returns they prepare and use their Preparer Tax Identification Numbers.

To learn more about EITC, go to [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc) and use the EITC Assistant, or ask your tax professional.

All EITC claimants are eligible for free tax help from the 12,000 volunteer sites nationwide or to use Free File at [www.irs.gov/freefile](http://www.irs.gov/freefile).

### Did You Know?

- Because of a holiday, the 2012 tax deadline is April 17.
- Everyone can do their taxes for free with IRS Free File.
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is for working families, yet 20 percent overlook it.
- Eighty percent of taxpayers get a refund.
- IRS2GO is a new smartphone app that lets you track your refund.
- No phone? Visit "Where's My Refund?" at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).
- The official website, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), has a new look, and the latest info.

## Organize Records

The IRS recommends keeping all tax-related documents for three years, in case of an audit. Keeping track of income-related documents can help you take full advantage of deductions available to you. If you don't have the information, you might be losing out on money.

What should you have handy when it's time to fill out this year's returns? Records such as:

- A copy of last year's tax return
- Valid Social Security numbers for yourself, spouse and children
- All income statements, i.e. W-2 forms, from all employers
- Interest/dividend statements, i.e. 1099 forms
  - Form 1099-G showing any state refunds
  - Unemployment compensation amount
  - Social Security benefits
  - Expense receipts for deductions
  - Day care provider's identifying number



### EITC Rules: Are You Eligible?

#### Rules for Everyone

- Your adjusted gross income cannot be more than the limit.
- You must have a valid Social Security number.
- Your filing status cannot be "Married filing separately."
- You must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year.
- You cannot file Form 2555 or Form 2555-EZ.
- Your investment income must be \$3,150 or less.



Lt Col Jerry Brockmeier, Lt Col Paul Wheat, President of MOAA.

### Jerry Brockmeier featured speaker at MOAA luncheon.

Lt Col Jerry Brockmeier, USAF, Ret was the featured speaker at the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) luncheon. He served 20 plus years in the USAF retiring at Langley AFB, VA in 1986.

Jerry provided the members with valuable information on the currently available investment strategies, stressing in particular the importance of establishing trusts.

### Boy Scouts offered opportunity

The Florida Academy of Performing Arts is launching a new program to help The Boy Scouts of America. Several times throughout the year, the academy will be conducting workshops for cub scouts in the area to earn badges involving music and theatre. The first 2-hour workshop will be in March at Music Showcase at 402 Oakfield Drive in Brandon. This will help the webelos earn their showman activity badge by participating in activities like making puppets and putting on a puppet show, learning about music terminology and listening to different types of music, and learning about and putting on a play. For information, they can go to faopa.org or musicshowcaseonline.com for information and registration.

### Exhibit Train tours the country

Can you hear the sound of a whistle? That's the free Amtrak Exhibit Train coming to Tampa Union Station from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, February 18 and 19. Amtrak is 40 years old and to commemorate the occasion, the Exhibit Train is touring the country. This special train is a unique traveling display showcasing memorabilia from the national passenger railroad's 40 year history, like vintage advertising, past menus, dinnerware, and period uniforms. The Exhibit Train event will also include a train-themed kids' activity area, Chuggington Depot, based on the popular television series on Disney Junior. For more information, visit Amtrak40th.com.

## FISH TALES

### Redfish are on the move

With cold air approaching us from the north, anglers stayed at home or went to the Florida State Fair, this past weekend.

As I stopped in Gibsonton to view the parking lot at Williams Park, it was a great change from the last week when there was not room for another boat trailer. This week I saw only two trailers -- two brave anglers were determined to fish, cold or not I did not wait for them to return to shore, but I'm sure they caught some fish.

With all of our summer-like weather in the winter we have had a fishing blitz of many fish; some that migrate only in the spring have been in our bay waters. For the two cold days we have had, they didn't leave, but found a hole to hide in or are laying low in the mangrove roots.



**Fish Tales**  
By Jonie Maschek

at the base of its tail. Some have been known to have numerous spots. Food value is excellent up to ten pounds, but those of 20 pounds or more, are not considered as excellent food value. Largest caught on record that I could find was an eighty-three pounder. Don't stop fishing because the tide is going out and the water is low, because your larger fish will be entering the shallows and grassy flats. This is the time to make your great catch of the day.

These large fish are on the prowl and are hungry. The flats are full of small size bait fish, and these larger fish will take a chance of entering the shallows to eat.

While fishing the shallows, silence is a must. Turn off your motor as fish are skittish, and will start moving out of the grassy flats.

I suggest you find a pole about 16 to 18 feet long, and make a rack of hooks to put on the inside of your boat. Each time you go into the flats, use your pole. You will catch fish every time.

Pole the boat silently, be observant, you have a real technique to learn on how to pole a boat. Always pole on the downwind, down-tide of the boat. Once you have mastered this, you will find that some of your better catches will be in the flats on low tide.

For those who like a rod-bending action, try fishing for the cobia.

Now catching this fish isn't for a couch potato. Many who have large boats and travel miles out in the deep, report that they have seen massive cobia playing around. They are foxy and play hard to catch.

Cobia is found all over the world. They will take any kind of bait. Even the largest are good to eat if you cut out the dark meat. Legal is 33 inches -- at least one per harvest or 6 per vessel per day, whichever is less.

Warmer weather has our bait fish arriving early. Look around the grassy flats, and you will see that many are there.

If you have a No. 4 hook in your tackle box, put it on with a ten-pound test line, and fish for mangrove snapper. Tempt them with a live shrimp, a lure or dead bait.

Somewhere along the way in my last twenty-some years writing this column I came upon this fisherman's prayer:

*Lord, please let us be afishin'  
Our last day on earth.  
And when we make that final cast,  
you're bound to see our worth,  
Just ease us in your landing net,  
One from which we will never leap,  
And Lord, We pray you're gonna find  
That we are good enough to keep.*

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



REDFISH

Redfish are on the move and one can easily make a legal catch every day, no less than 18 or more than 27 inches with one per person per day.

Redfish are often called red drum, seabass, saltwater bass, red horse and channel bass. Average weight is 8 pounds. It always has a spot about the size of a half dollar

### Local pet advocate needs help

A Fundraiser has been arranged for Linda Cardamone owner of the 3-Legged Poodle to help with medical bills from 3 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17 at the SCC Chamber of Commerce. There will be raffle

tickets, food and beverages for sale prize donations from: Bogg's Jewelry, Bark Busters, Canoe Outpost and more.

For donation pick up call: 813-507-0509 or 299-1844.

There is also a trust in place at Cadence Bank for gifting. It is titled: "In Trust for Medical Expenses for Linda Cardamone"

Contact Fran at Cadence Bank 813-633-6700.

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

## Observations

Continued from page 8

time is running out. I am now aware that I will never contribute to science, I won't be a rock star, and I will never become the CEO of a Fortune 500 company. I am what I am and, perhaps, this will be the best I can do.

As the newly brushed finish glistened in the sunshine on to the boat's woodwork, I realized that I'm OK with that. I've worked for some incredible companies. I've encountered amazing people and have made lifelong friends—friends who have made me a better person. I have a wonderful, loving family and I'm married to a woman who loves and supports me. I have I job I like, working for and with people I like very much. Also, I managed to sail that "dream boat", scotch-taped together as it was, down from Cape Cod without killing myself or anyone else. Maybe someday it will sail Michelle and me off to new dreams. And I'm still proud of that little defunct weekly newspaper. To me, it feels like a success despite the fact that it was technically a failure. It provided new experiences and opportunities so varied; it led me to a boat on Cape Cod of all places and to walking the hallowed halls

of the House of Representatives. Most importantly, it lead me back to my home in Florida. I'm now old enough and mature enough to know that all of that adds up to a success that I couldn't possibly have imagined when I was younger. Perhaps not a success as defined by the world today where thousands of dollars have been eclipsed by millions of dollars which have been eclipsed by billions, but certainly more than enough to realize that I'm a lucky man. And I'm very grateful for it.

I've met a lot of happy people in this little corner of paradise. I'm thinking the happiness they exude comes from the same awareness that the definition of success is relative and it applies to each of us in our own ways. I like to think I'm finally following their lead.

The woodwork isn't perfect, but it looks a lot better than it did before my vacation. On this beautiful day in February, I'm sitting in the cockpit, watching tourists at Little Harbor enjoy their own vacations while I enjoy the Florida sunshine as it gleams in the newly finished teak surrounding me. I think I'll declare it, too, a success.

## South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672

### Upcoming Activities

**Every Tuesday:** Jam Session, 3 to 5 p.m., no charge for 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.

**Monday, Feb. 20:** Blue Plate Special, \$7, Meat Loaf with all the trimmings. Only 50 tickets will be sold.

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.



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All events are open to qualified Moose Members and guests.

### Upcoming Events

**Wednesday**  
 Chef's Choice Dinners from 5:30 – 7 p.m. Cover-Your-Moose Bar Games 7 p.m.

**Thursday**  
 Tacos/ Burgers 5 – 7 p.m. Draw Darts 7:30 p.m.

**Friday**  
 Steak/Fish Dinners 5 – 7:30 p.m. Karaoke 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday**  
 Various Lodge Events  
 Have to watch the Calendar

**Sunday**  
 Beer Specials  
 Wings 6 @ \$3 / 3 – 6  
 Bar Games 3 – 6 p.m.  
 Free Pool

**Feb. 18**  
 Red Solo Cup Party  
 Pot Luck Dinner at 4 p.m.  
 Entertainment: Double Barrel Band at 6 p.m.

**Feb. 25**  
 Beer Pong at Tiki Bar!  
 BBQ at the Tiki Bar at 3 p.m.

**March 3**  
 Nascar Weekend Camping Camp Fri. 1/24 – Sun. 2/26

**March 3**  
 Del & Gary Show  
 Always a Crowd Pleaser!



# Community Foundation

■ Continued from page 1

RCMA is the Redlands Christian Migrant Association. It provides services including child care, tutoring, and many types of classes as well as filling basic needs including food, clothing and locating shelter.

This story will deal specifically with donations, while Part Two in this 2-part series will highlight various things on a wide spectrum that the grants have provided.

For now, let's simply say cultural events, the arts, schools, libraries, clubs and organizations designated tax-exempt, and even some animal shelters have received funds earmarked for both restricted and unrestricted needs.

The Foundation also provides matching grants and "top off" grants to organizations that do their own fundraising but don't quite make their goal.

"Recently this was the case at Apollo Beach Elementary School when they had fundraisers and PTA events but couldn't make their goal for computer technology improvements," Lunsford said. So the Foundation gave the school a "top off" grant that helped it provide projectors and other devices to upgrade the school's room.

Some grants are unrestricted, giving the Committee complete control over who gets them.

Robert Mohr, also a member of the 12-member Council of the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center, pointed out that it isn't millionaires that provide most of the grants.

Marshall agreed, saying the same thing is true in the Tampa Foundation

"Our median grant is \$68,000 but we'll take any amount," Mohr

said. "Ten thousand is the minimum grant amount to have a fund named after you," Mohr said. "And the smallest grant awarded is \$250."

Aside from that, and the restricted and unrestricted regulations, there are few set rules.

Because only the interest of the money donated is spent and never the principle, every grant enables more to be given and the fund only grows, Mohr explained.

The South Shore grants have more flexibility than Tampa however, because more live donors are in Tampa while the Sun City Center-based organization has benefited from many wills, trusts and annuities.

"Wills and trusts are a way people can leave legacies in a field- like the arts or education- they have always wanted to help but couldn't during their lifetime," Mohr said.

Annuities, however, can provide income while a person is alive and then be designated for a cause after a person dies.

"Even giving a little can mean a lot," said Marshall. "When several people give a little, it leverages the community impact."

Nonprofit organizations bring their donors to the Foundation, Lunsford added. "They know they can get more help for their causes that way."

Although the intent is to help only residents of South County and organizations that help residents who live south of the Alafia River, if a donor specifies he or she wants to leave something to an out-of-state college or possibly and organization that helped them as a youth, that is also possible.

"Grant money may be divided



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Evelyn Lunsford, left, discusses upcoming grants and procedures with officials of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, Beverley McClain and Interim Foundation Director, Gene Marshall, seated at right. Although the Foundation has "Sun City Center" in its name, members want people to know it helps organizations all over South County.

between several organizations as well," Mohr said.

According to McLain, three things that are important are that the Foundation honors the donor's

intent; the Foundation Council stays aware of community needs and that the gifts are perpetual (since only the interest is used.) "People need to know their fund

will continue to help people on and on after they are no longer with us."

To find out more about the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center call (813) 633-6677; send grant applications to P.O. Box 5914 Sun City Center, FL 33571; or visit [www.cftampabay.org](http://www.cftampabay.org).

Next week: A close-up look at how varied the grants can be

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"Love My Pooch" Dog Show





MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

As a local documentary film is taking shape - becoming the second ArtReach Community Arts project - this first project is attracting attention from southbound drivers on U.S. 41. The colorful "BLT" mural is painted on the north side of the building that formerly housed a barbershop in downtown Ruskin, just south of the SouthShore Chamber of Commerce office. The forthcoming film is expected to feature South County citizens with stories to tell.

## Documentary

■ Continued from page 1

intertwined with poetic images of the unique landscape," he added. In order to give viewers "an insight into the dynamic and complex atmosphere" of the South County, the film is to investigate "the lives of its diverse and eclectic inhabitants," Parker explained.

The process intended to reach that end result began with an exercise in identifying key aspects of the region with single-word definitions. From the dozens upon dozens of words contributed by area residents during two community meetings to characterize the area from their perspectives, five emerged as the most frequently mentioned, Parker said. These five identifiers - tomato, drive-in, community, migrant and history - are the first five themes to be pursued as the video documentary begins to take shape, he added.

Therefore, anyone in the area comfortable in front of the camera and able to talk freely about the South County's role in tomato farming, packing, marketing, about the area's connection to its surviving drive-in theater and its former drive-in eateries, about the sense of community that knits together the area's many small, different communities created by occupational, cultural or locational interests, about the arrival and integration of migrants attracted to the area or about the South County's rich historical record from the native Indians and first Spanish conquistadors through its farming and ranching colonists to its emergence as

contemporary suburbia could become the documentary's first story tellers, the ArtReach director indicated.

Cheatham's style, Parker noted, is to ask on camera a question or two of the interviewee related to his or her area of knowledge and then figuratively step back, letting the speaker carry the discourse to a logical conclusion. Cheatham also sometimes incorporates techniques pioneered by academy award-winning film maker Errol Morris, Parker said. Morris is a well known and widely recognized feature documentary film maker and director whose work often is not confined by conventional standards.

Background shots of sites and settings indicative of the South County landscape currently are being collected, Parker noted. No specific date for wrapping up the local documentary has been set, he added, because to some extent the length and direction of the film will be driven by its content.

The film project is being organized by the ArtReach Community Arts Program under sponsorship by the SouthShore Arts Council and the USF School of Art and Art History. Anyone interested in participating can contact Parker via email at Ruskincommunityart@gmail.com.

Parker described the documentary as a "unique opportunity" for South County citizens able "to tell a good story - past, present or future".  
Copyright 2012 Melody Jameson

## Fishing, golf tournaments mean family fun

It's not too late to sign up for family fun at the 2nd Annual Hook N Sink Golf and Fishing Tournament Grand Slam Weekend to benefit the Mary & Martha House in Ruskin. This is the largest fundraiser of the year for the local non-profit which provides emergency shelter and transitional housing for abused and homeless women and their children.

Saturday and Sunday, February 25 and 26, are full of activities for the whole family, so choose your sport and get signed up now.

The weekend begins with a captain's meeting and pre-tournament party Friday night, Feb. 24, complete with food, music and drinks for those registered in the fishing tournament. The meeting will be held at The Resort and Club at Little Harbor, 611 Destiny Drive, Ruskin, and will unveil the tournament rules.

Saturday morning, Feb. 25, the catch and release fishing tournament launches at 7:30 a.m. First place adult winner will receive \$1,000 cash; second place \$750; and third place \$250. Winners will be determined by a point system for different varieties of fish, not their size or weight. Registration is \$50 per adult and \$25 for chil-

dren 12 and under which includes a continental breakfast, goodie bag and awards banquet. Virtually every fish in Tampa Bay is included in the points

list, even those traditionally considered trash fish.

Participants must provide their own digital camera for the scoring. This new points system makes it easy for anyone to win, not just seasoned anglers.

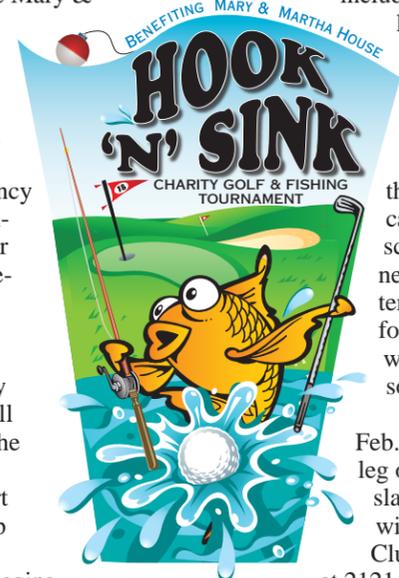
On Sunday, Feb. 26, the second leg of the grand slam weekend will tee off at Club Renaissance

at 2121 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., Sun City Center. Shotgun start at 1 p.m. The \$65 per person (or \$260 per foursome) registration includes green fees, golf cart, heavy hors d'oeuvres, prizes and awards banquet. The tournament will be a 4-man best ball scramble.

All participants will reconvene at Little Harbor for the awards ceremony and banquet Sunday after the golf tournament.

The Grand Slam Weekend is sponsored by The Resort and Club at Little Harbor and Ana Banana Fishing Company.

For more information and to register, visit the website at www.HookNSink.org.



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# Community planners may pioneer a new approach locally

■ By MELODY JAMESON

Considering application of a still novel approach, citizen community planners in the Little Manatee River area may chart new ground as they move into a second phase aimed at creating guidelines for future development south of Ruskin.

If they apply the concepts of SmartCode as part of their community planning, Phase II, the group that hashed out various aspects of their Little Manatee South plan to reach agreement by consensus just two years ago will generate this time a situation unique among the eight South County communities which have completed plans designed to guide development of their areas in future decades.

About 25 Sun City and Sundance area residents along with representatives of owners holding substantial acreages for future development sat down last week with Pedro Parra, a professional planner on The Planning Commission staff, to discuss pros and cons of SmartCode, one of the latest innovations in the world of plan making, as they embark on a continuation of their planning process.



PEDRO PARRA

Of the eight South County plans completed and added to Hillsborough's Comprehensive Plan over the last 10 years, two communities – Riverview and Ruskin – have continued the process to produce, in addition, downtown business district concepts that ultimately became part also of the county's land use code. In so doing, the two communities further defined key geographic locations in their plans and enhanced applicable rezoning restrictions.

The Little Manatee South planners now are moving in a similar direction, but with a few twists.

A nine-member implementation group composed of mixed Little Manatee South local homeowners and large acreage holders has asked The Planning Commission professionals for help in getting a follow-up process in place that would include use of SmartCode. Unlike the additional phases in the Ruskin and Riverview planning, the second LMS phase would involve engagement of a consultant expert in such finely-tuned planning at an estimated cost of \$180,000. Like the Ruskin and Riverview outcomes, the completed LMS, Phase II, would be aimed at inclusion in the land development code.

SmartCode, originally fashioned by the firm of Andres Duany, an internationally renowned but forcefully aggressive and sometimes disputed community planning professional, is defined as a unified land development template for planning and urban design. Duany, known for designing many award-winning communities, including Seaside, Florida, was engaged as a Hillsborough County consultant several years ago to assist with producing the Apollo Beach community plan which was done by the charette method

in a matter of weeks. Some AB residents still complain today that their plan is defective.

The SmartCode approach folds zoning, subdivision regulations, urban design and basic architectural standards into a single compact document. It is a form-based code rather than a use-based code, emphasizing more the control of form, with lesser emphasis on controlling land uses. Urban form features regulated under SmartCode include lot widths, block sizes, building setbacks, building heights, location of parking, placement of buildings on lots, and the like.

While conventional zoning categories are based on different land uses, SmartCode zones are based on rural-urban characteristics and designed to create complete human habitats. A Duany principle has been that cities and towns should be composed of series of walkable neighborhoods. Some mixed uses are allowed in all SmartCode categories. SmartCode is designed to be "calibrated" by professional planners, architects and attorneys.

Cities that have adopted SmartCode include Petaluma, California, for its downtown district in 2003, the City of Miami citywide in 2010, and Montgomery, Alabama, as a parallel option to its conventional zoning code during the same decade.

Not all members among the LMS citizen planners have been completely supportive of the Phase II planning process prospect. Ralph Greenlee, a Sundance resident active in its HOA, raised several concerns last week. He questioned whether funds for the consultant could be raised in the present economic conditions and suggested that only consensus agreement would be the satisfactory standard imposed in the second phase of planning.

Responses came from Will Redd, the implementation group chairman as well as representative for Deseret Farms, an agricultural arm of the Mormon Church which holds considerable acreage in the area, and from Parra. Redd told the group and Parra that he believes the estimated funding needed in the \$180,000 neighborhood could be managed. And Parra said after the session that the funds would be forwarded to the county administration which, in turn, would issue requests for proposals from a list of knowledgeable consultants, eventually engaging the consultant to work with the citizen planners through requested changes to the land use code stemming from the second phase of planning.

As for applying consensus as a method for attaining agreement, Parra explained that the objective in Phase II planning would be ensuring consistency with the community's plan as drafted, approved and adopted. Consensus was appropriate for reaching mutual acceptance among the citizens involved in initial planning, he noted, but could not be mandated as a standard when the different objective of ensuring consistency with what already has been agreed to is the desired result.

The group is expected to reassemble for continued discussion in mid-March.

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## Camp Bayou fishing cabin gets spring sprucing

Thank you to the staff from Walden Lake Car Wash and Service Center of Plant City, who volunteered to paint the Camp Bayou Fishing Cabin. This brings the restoration of the second cabin a bit closer to completion. This was accomplished, after learning that someone had stolen the three ladders that had been at the cabins, thanks to Joe Cook of Ruskin who loaned his own ladders for the day's work. Pictured (L- R): Frank Cummings, Will Rainbolt, Maurice Lamar, Joe Stillitano and Josh Rainbolt.

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## Staged auto accidents decreased by 62 percent

Crackdown on Personal Injury Protection (PIP) fraud - or staged auto accidents - yields dramatic results in just the first six months in Hillsborough County, Florida. Today, the National Insurance Crime Bureau and the County's Consumer Protection Agency are releasing numbers spotlighting a 62 percent decrease in staged auto accidents and questionable insurance claims. This is the first report since passage of the Hillsborough County PIP Medical Providers Ordinance last September.

The Ordinance regulates questionable clinics by requiring them to register with the County and maintain consistent business practices.

The affects of the PIP Ordinance are undeniable. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, staged auto accidents have decreased from 2010 to 2011 in the County by 62 percent, much of this occurring since the passage of the Ordinance. The Hillsborough County Consumer Protection Agency reports that nearly half of the disputed clinics have closed; 79 within one month of the Ordinance's passage, while 32 more closed soon after. Another 22 percent have applied for exemptions or licenses.



The NICB also reports a dramatic decrease in questionable insurance claims. In 2010, there was an average of forty questionable claims per month; in 2011, that number dropped to nearly zero.

County Commissioner Kevin Beckner spearheaded efforts to pass the PIP Medical Providers Ordinance, pulling together experts from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, NICB, and the Fraud Alert Team, a national insurance fraud advocacy group.

"These results speak volumes about the success of this Ordinance and the positive impact it is having on our community," Commissioner Beckner said. "It is my hope that this will serve as a model for other counties and communities across the state to combat the financially devastating impact of PIP Insurance Fraud."

The Hillsborough County PIP Medical Providers Ordinance is the first of its kind passed in the state of Florida to tackle the problem of PIP fraud.

The problem of staged accidents has plagued Florida and the Tampa Bay area in particular. Hillsborough County had become ground zero for staged auto accidents in Florida, directly contributing to higher car insurance premiums for Hillsborough County drivers and causing significant public safety issues.

"The goal is lower car insurance rates for Hillsborough County residents. By cracking down on these corrupt individuals we can reduce insurance fraud and hopefully make Hillsborough County a more affordable place to live," Commissioner Beckner concluded.

## Benefit supports Paws for Patriots

Rolling Thunder's 2012 Paws For Patriots Benefit Ride and Rally brings riders from four directions - north: Harley-Davidson of New Port Richey; south: Manatee River Harley-Davidson, Bradenton; east: Hillsborough County Veterans Memorial Park, Tampa; west: Jim's Harley-Davidson, St. Petersburg - to rally at Quaker Steak and Lube, Pinellas Park.

Registration at the four starting points begins at 9:30 a.m. and kick stands up (KSU) at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25. Rally activities include an opening ceremony at 1 p.m. with introduction of honored guests, exhibits, classic car show, guide dog puppies, vendors, raffle prizes and 50/50. Music by Modern Mayhem with special guest appearance of international singer/songwriter Theresa Sareo.

Rolling Thunder® is a National organization focused on educating the public about the POW/MIA issue. On a local level they support a variety of veterans charities. Their operating budget is minimal as they are an all-volunteer organization. Their total donations for 2011 amounted to more than \$30,000 to the following charities:

- Haley House and Fisher House for families of severely injured patients at James Haley VA Hospital;
- Special Operations Warrior Foundation providing scholarships and educational assistance to children of our fallen warriors;
- Bay Pines VA Center Homeless

### ♥♥♥ Square dancers honor their "Sweethearts"

The Sun City Center Swingers Square Dance Club will honor their sweethearts at a "Sweetheart" Mainstream/Plus Square Dance Friday, Feb. 17. Members will provide their favorite sweets and appropriate beverages will also be served.

Special dances, along with the club's regular Friday dances are held in the SCC Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd.

There will not be a dance on Friday, Feb. 24, and Friday, March 2.

For more information call Geri at 633-9742 or Leah 633-3986.



Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 11 presents \$10,000 raised from the 2011 event. From left: Jim Linesberry, President; Fran Harrison, event coordinator; Titus Herman, Chief Executive Officer South-eastern Guide Dogs; LtCol Kathy Champion and trusted companion Angel, event chairman.

#### Veterans Stand-down;

- Freedom Excursions for recreational therapy for long-term VA hospital patients;
- The Ride Home honoring MIAs and former POWs;
- Liberty Manor for homeless veterans;
- Hearts and Heroes Benefit Ride honoring local severely injured servicemen or women;

- MacDill AFB Children's Christmas Party;
- Hillsborough County Veterans Memorial Park;
- Wreaths Across America honors veterans interred at Bushnell and Bay Pines National Cemeteries;
- Local Toy Runs.

Jim Linesberry, President of Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 11 said, "Our 2011 event raised \$10,000 through the generosity and support of riders and businesses in the Tampa Bay area. This donation provided two visually impaired veterans with a 26-day on-campus training session. Our goal for 2012 is to match that and hopefully raise enough funds to sponsor a third veteran."

**February 20 is Cherry Pie Day.**  
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#### FEBRUARY EVENTS

**Thurs., Feb. 16 • 2:30-3:30 p.m. • Low Vision Support Group** Diane Lawrence, RN from Vital Care Home Health Care will facilitate. If you are facing the challenges of low vision or caring for a loved one facing this issue, this support group is a must! FREE quick vision health questionnaire assessment will be provided.

**Tues., Feb. 21 • 2:30-3:30 p.m. • Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group.** Join Katie Colwell Williams, MA, CMC from Aging Care Advocates. The needed resources are endless! alzheimer's association

**Wed., Feb. 22 • 2:30-4 p.m. • Diabetes Support Group.** Please join Rachele Hatcher, LPN, Comprehensive Home Health Care as she facilitates our support group "Everyday Basics of Diabetic Care."

**Thurs., Feb. 23 • 10-11 a.m. • South Bay Hospital Presents: Shirley Allen, MS RD/RDLD, Registered Dietitian at South Bay Hospital will present "Nutrients for Brain Health"**

**Tues., Feb. 28 • 2:30-4 p.m. • Cancer Support Group.** Dr. Craig Amshell from Absolute Surgical Specialists and Dr. Randy Kahn from Tampa Bay Radiation Oncology along with Gregg Mazza from BrightStar Lifecare will be facilitating this group for you. Attend and learn about the most innovative technologies available to fight and prevent cancer. If you are dealing with a diagnosis of cancer or know someone who might be facing this disease, be sure to attend this group that will take place on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

**Tues., Feb. 28 • 9 a.m.-2 p.m. • Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department and Sun Towers Retirement Community present: Senior Consumer Fraud Protection & Awareness Expo at Kings Point, Borini Theater.** All SCC residents welcome! Learn how to protect yourself! Attorney General Pam Bondi's office with Seniors vs Crime, AARP, AAA, Elder Affairs, Adult Protective Services, BrightStar Lifecare, Attorney Lee Carr II, Lieutenant John Womer from the Florida Dept of Financial Services.



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### PowerPoint: Introduction, ClipArt and AutoShapes

Thursday, Feb. 16 - 12:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Learn the basics of slide design and layout to create a professional-looking presentation.

Adding text boxes, ClipArt and AutoShapes to your presentation. Previous experience with Microsoft PowerPoint is recommended. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

### Book Discussion: "The Thirteenth Tale" by Diane Setterfield

Thursday, Feb. 16 - 2 to 3:30 p.m.

"The Thirteenth Tale" is a love letter to reading, a book for the feral reader in all of us, a return to that rich vein of storytelling that our parents loved and that we loved as children. Diane Setterfield will keep you guessing, make you wonder, move you to tears and laughter and, in the end, deposit you breathless yet satisfied back upon the shore of your everyday life.

### Internet: Introduction and Google

Tuesday, Feb. 21 - 12:15 to 2:30 p.m.

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

### Newspaper Resources: Following the Lead

Tuesday, Feb. 21 - 1 to 2 p.m.

Learn how to sift through newspaper sources for those all important, but often overlooked, clues to your family's heritage with Genealogy Detective, Debra Fleming. Co-sponsored by the South Bay Genealogy Society.

### eBooks and eReaders

Tuesday, Feb. 21 - 6 to 7 p.m.

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

### Digital Cameras, MP3s and More!

Wednesday, Feb. 22 - 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Learn to transfer media from CDs and digital cameras to your PC. Learn about creating MP3s and MP3 players. Registration for this program is available when the Library opens at 10 a.m.

### Deaf and Hearing Connection Telephone Distribution

Wednesday, Feb. 22 - 1 to 3 p.m.

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI) will provide 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.

### English Conversation Class

Wednesday, Feb. 22 - 1 to 2 p.m.

Adults (18 years or older) are invited to practice their English conversational skills with English speakers. No registration is required to participate. Co-sponsored by the Hillsborough Literacy Council and the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System. For more information, contact the Hillsborough Literacy Council at 273-3650.

### SouthShore Needle People

Wednesday, Feb. 22 - 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!

## Children's Festival to be held at USF

"Learning is WonderBull!" is the theme of the University of South Florida College of Education's annual Children's Festival, slated for Saturday, March 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Children of all ages can interact with small, tame animals at the "Busch Gardens Live" booth and enjoy a variety of other fun-filled learning activities. The Children's Festival is free and open to the public. Free parking is available in the unreserved spaces surrounding the College of Education (Lot 1).

The Children's Festival at the USF College of Education was launched 33 years ago, in 1979, held annually through 1996 and attended by thousands of Tampa Bay area children and their families, who participated in approximately 100 learning activities sponsored by classes, clubs and organizations. The festival was revived in 2006.

## Are you Tampa Bay's Top Chef?

Join the who's who of Tampa Bay's elite chefs and sign up to participate in the Child Abuse Council's 3rd Annual Top Chef of the Year Tampa Bay event, to be held at the A La Carte Pavilion on March 26.

Do you know a wonderful chef? The Child Abuse Council (CAC) is currently seeking applicants to participate in this one-of-a-kind annual event. Up to twenty five of Tampa Bay's premier chefs will participate in this culinary adventure, competing side by side to

take home the coveted Top Chef of the Year Tampa Bay trophy. Many will try and only one will win – are you the next Top Chef of the Year Tampa Bay?

This event gives chefs complete freedom to create a dining experience like no other. With no prior restraints or requirements, Top Chef of the Year Tampa Bay encourages chefs to channel their inner creativity to design everything from menu to décor. Each chef prepares – tableside – a five course meal with accompanying

wines (or other libations) for a table of 12 or 15 people. Chefs also provide their own linens, china, centerpieces and more to create a world within the venue specific to each chef's unique vision.

Participating chefs provide an auction item to help raise much needed funds for the Child Abuse Council. The chef that raises the most money for the CAC will be named "Top Philanthropic Chef of the Year Tampa Bay" and recognized the evening of the event. Returning this year as Master of

Ceremonies is media personality Jack Harris from AM Tampa Bay.

If you think your culinary skills are a "cut-above" the rest, visit the Top Chef of the Year Tampa Bay website at [www.topcheftampabay.org](http://www.topcheftampabay.org) to learn more about the event, print a copy of the chef application and see an up-to-date list of participating chefs and restaurants. Perspective chefs may also contact Development Director, Maria Lewis, at (813) 673-4646 x224 for any other questions or event information.

Since 1977, the Child Abuse Council has worked to build stronger families in the Tampa Bay region through prevention and family education programs. We envision a world without child abuse, where children grow up in nurturing families that are free from violence. For more information on the CAC, please visit [www.childabusecouncil.com](http://www.childabusecouncil.com).

## Kiwanis Spaghetti Dinner

The Kiwanis Club of SouthShore will host a Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser on Thursday, March 1 from 5-7 p.m. at the Sun City Center Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. The \$10 ticket price includes spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, roll, dessert and drink (BYOB) plus entertainment by the fantastic "Dueling Pianos." Tickets are available Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-noon, at the Atrium Kiosk. Proceeds will benefit Kiwanis Youth Programs.

For more information, call Helen Halm 633-9065.

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## Scholarship funds available for Apollo Beach graduates

The Scholarship Committee of the Apollo Beach Woman's Club is accepting applications for college scholarships made possible through the club's yearly fundraising. To be eligible, the graduating high school senior must live in Apollo Beach (zip code 33572). Recipients must attend a Florida accredited two- or a four-year college or university and meet the criteria set up by the committee. The application and the criteria will be available at East Bay and Lennard High Schools Career and College Guidance Counselor's offices by mid-February. It is available now on the club's website: [www.apollobeachwomensclub.com](http://www.apollobeachwomensclub.com). Awards to each recipient will be \$500 for a student attending a two-year Florida College and \$1000 if attending a four-year Florida college/university. Current recipients may apply for a renewal \$500 scholarship. The scholarship awards will be selected in April and presented to the recipient at the club's May Membership Luncheon.

The scholarship application must be completed and mailed to be received no later than Friday, March 16, to be considered. Contact information is listed on the criteria sheet. For more information, email [apollobeach5@gmail.com](mailto:apollobeach5@gmail.com). The ABWC Scholarship Committee is chaired by Jeanette Doyle and her committee members are Judy Peck, ABWC Club President, Sharon Vasquez, 2d VP of Membership, Marcia Ward, Judy Motta, Sylvia Gordon and Beverly Fletchall.

## Scholarship applications available

The GFWC Brandon Junior Woman's Club will again award a \$500 scholarship to a senior high school girl who has volunteered in the community.

The scholarship application can be found at [www.thebjwc.com](http://www.thebjwc.com). Print the application, supply a 500-word essay on your most rewarding volunteer experience, list your community service, college goals, and provide two letters of recommendation. Applications have to be postmarked on or before Sunday, April 1.

If you have any questions, contact Donna at (813) 244-4758 or e-mail [donna.johnsongriffin@gmail.com](mailto:donna.johnsongriffin@gmail.com).

## SOUTHSHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

15816 Beth Shields Way • Ruskin 33573

### Kids' Program/Event Highlights February 16-22

**Teen Night: Anime Club**  
Thursday, Feb. 16 • 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, Feb. 16 • 7 to 7:30 p.m.

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

**Teen/Adult Watercolor Crayons\***  
Saturday, Feb. 18 • 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Join Art Instructor, Melissa Miller-Nece, and learn some new techniques with watercolor crayons. All abilities are welcome. Limit 20.

**CSI: Kids\***  
Saturday, Feb. 18 • 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

For children in grades 1-5 is a special crime-fighting program. Use the clues, fingerprints, secret codes and CSI techniques to see if you can solve this Library mystery.

**Baby Time**  
Monday, Feb. 20 • 1:35 to 1:55 p.m.  
Tuesday, Feb. 21 • 11:35 to 11:55 a.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 22 • 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.

**Teen Writing Workshop**  
Monday, Feb. 20 • 3 to 5 p.m.

For grades 9-12. Do you like to write stories, poetry, comics, screenplays, or song lyrics? Connect with other teen writers to discuss the writing process, share your work, and receive constructive feedback and encouragement. All levels of writers are welcome.

**"Expressive Artists" Let's Create!**  
Monday, Feb. 20 • 4 to 5 p.m.

"Expressive Artists," 11 years and up, will create an art project with our art instructor. Come for an afternoon of creativity and fun. Limit 20.

**Toddler Time**  
Tuesday, Feb. 21 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m. and 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 22 • 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

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

**Story Time**  
Tuesday, Feb. 21 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 22 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

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

**"Creative Artists" Let's Create!\***  
Wednesday, Feb. 22 • 4 to 5 p.m.

"Creative Artists," 7-10 years, will join our art instructor and create an art project to take home. These afternoon art classes will explore painting, drawing or printing. Limit 20.

**Teen/Adult Acrylic Painting\***  
Wednesday, Feb. 22 • 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Teens and adults will have an interesting art lesson creating a painting with acrylic paint. Join art educator Phyllis Alexandroff. All levels of abilities welcome. Limit 20.

\*Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling (813) 273-3652.

Event funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

### Buzbee-McGriff reunion planned

The Buzbee-McGriff reunion will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Ruskin Recreation Center, 901 6th St., Ruskin. Dinner will begin at 4 p.m.

Family and friends are invited to come and share food, fun and fellowship. You are asked to bring your favorite covered dish along with recipes and memorabilia to share.

The playground is available for the youngsters to play. The inside game room is not available.

For more information or questions, call Tracey Buzbee at 645-0354 or Terri Buzbee at 645-3896.

### 55+ basketball league forming

Hillsborough County's Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department is looking for adults 50+ years old to compete in a 5-on-5 Full Court Adult Basketball League at All Peoples Life Center, 6105 E. Sligh Ave. in Tampa. The games will be played from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays from March-May.

Registration will be from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, March 6. A \$10 registration fee includes trophies for the winning team.

For more information, call Joe Soletti, Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation at (813) 744-5871.

# AIR DUCT CLEANING

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Excess Dust? Allergies?  
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**LOWEST PRICE EVER**

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## ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING SERVICES

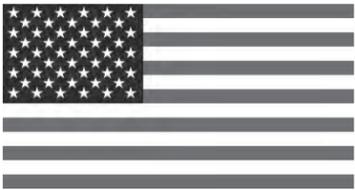
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## Area Obituaries



### Robert M. Ekker

Robert M. Ekker, 89, passed away January 25, 2012 at his home in Inverness, Florida. Bob was born in Flint, Michigan and raised in Gardenville, Florida. Bob served in WWII at Ledo, India where he worked on the railroad. He was the owner of Ekk-Will Tropical Fish Farm in Gibsonton, Florida.

Bob was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Rita, and survived by his son, Chuck (Joann), Elijah, Georgia, daughter, Donna Allmond, Sun City Center, Florida, and son, Ray, Floral City, Florida, nine grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Bob enjoyed fishing in the local lakes and continues to hold the 1984 world's record for a 12 lb 9 oz bass caught on a fly rod in Lake Tsala Apopka. At his request no services will be held. Donations may be made to HPH Hospice, 12107 Majestic Boulevard, Hudson, FL 34667.



### Shirley Ann McCormick Peterson Gingery

Shirley Ann McCormick Peterson Gingery of Freedom Plaza, Sun City Center, FL, died Feb. 4 2012. Shirley was born March 16, 1921 in Fairmount, IN, and graduated from Fairmount High School and Earlham College in Richmond, IN. She married John William Peterson in 1956 in Ann Arbor, MI. He now lives in Salem OR. John and Shirley have two children Susan Arbor and William. Divorced in 1976, Shirley married Joseph William Gingery in 2003. She and Joe took a four-month cruise around the world and trips to Ireland, Scotland, England, Scandinavia, a cruise down the Danube River to the Black Sea, and a cruise to Alaska to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of sister Phyllis and her husband Jack.

Shirley worked for the American Friends Service Committee in Pasadena, CA; at the School of Social Work and other departments of the University of Michigan; for the Unitarian Church in Orlando, FL, and Florida State University and the State of Florida in Tallahassee, FL, before retiring to Sun City Center. At Freedom Plaza, she was a member of the Writers Group and the Artists League.

Shirley was a member of the Friends Church in Fairmount, Richmond, and Pasadena and a Unitarian in Ann Arbor, Orlando, Tallahassee, and Sun City Center

Shirley is predeceased by her parents Wyatt and Edna (nee McKelleb) McCormick, three sisters: Mary Marjorie, who died shortly after birth, Ruth Sappenfield, and Marjorie Shaffer, two sisters-in-law: Beverly (first wife of Paul) and Charris McCormick (wife of Edward), three brothers-in-law: Bud Little (Patricia), Bill Sappenfield (Ruth), and Donald Shaffer (Marjorie), and one step-son, Nelson Gingery.

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*

Isaiah 52:7

### Shirley Ann McCormick Peterson Gingery continued-

Survivors include husband, Joseph William; three brothers: Edward, James (Lois), and Paul (Linda); two sisters: Patricia Little (Don Peck) and Phyllis Banther (Jack); and two other brothers-in-law: Robert (Betty) Gingery, and Richard (June) Gingery; two children: Susan Annette Arbor of Salem, OR, and William (Bill) Theodore Peterson (Barbara Hollonquest) of Marietta, GA, and two grandchildren: Zenaida Elena Peterson of Simmons College, Boston, MA, and Zephaniah William Johnson Peterson of Marietta, GA, five step-sons: Walter, of Seattle, WA; Joel, of Plymouth, MN; Robben (Sandy) of Rio Rancho, NM; Lars (Sherry Rasmussen), of Chicago, IL, and Andrew (Wei Liu), of Brookline, MA, and several nieces and nephews and step-grandchildren and step-great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in the Auditorium at Freedom Plaza at 1010 American Eagle Blvd, Sun City Center at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18.

### Harry E. Hoopes

Harry E. Hoopes, age 97, of Sun City Center, FL, passed away peacefully on February 6, 2012.

Born in Ventnor City, NJ to the late William Eldredge Hoopes and Mary Royal Hoopes, he moved to Pennsville, NJ in 1942 and resided there until 1996 before moving to Florida. He retired from DuPont Chambers Works, Deepwater, NJ, in 1975.

He was predeceased by his loving wife, Marie Carr Hoopes in 1996, and brothers, Richard R. Hoopes and Thomas C. Hoopes. He is survived by a son, Richard C. Hoopes and wife Barbara of Pennsville, NJ, a daughter, Eileen M. Disbrow and husband Russell with whom he resided in Sun City Center. He is also survived by grandchildren, Christine Ayares (Mark), Theresa Neiling (Ron) of Pennsville, NJ; Robert Robinson (Marie) of Aldan, PA; Randall Robinson of Hamilton, NJ; and David Robinson (Heidi) of Pennsville, NJ and many great-grandchildren. He will also be missed by extended family, Stephanie (Richard) Atkinson of Cape Coral, FL and Tracey (Glenn) Gralley of Carneys Point, NJ and their children. Interment will be private at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to LifePath Hospice 12973 N. Telecom Parkway, Ste. 100, Temple Terrace Fl 33637 [www.lifepath-hospice.org](http://www.lifepath-hospice.org) (Sun City Center Hospice House) or the Sun City Center Library.

### Jerrell "Pete" Johnson

Jerrell "Pete" Johnson, 77, of Ruskin passed away peacefully on January 24, 2012. He is survived by his loving wife, Lorene, several stepdaughters and grandchildren.

He retired from Gardinier, was an avid hunter and a member of the NRA.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Clarence and Alena "Skeet" Johnson and his son, Jerrell Johnson.

He was a kind man and will be sadly missed.



## Unitarian Universalists announce upcoming events

Feb. 16

The Unitarian Universalists of Sun City Center are pleased to be led down "The Yellow Brick Road" this week, by the Rev. Don Beaudreault. His poetic and prose writings have appeared in newspapers, journals, and books. Known as a jazz pianist, he has performed numerous concerts for charitable causes. Don is an openly gay parent of two adult daughters. Don describes his theological perspective as "mystical humanist" and says of his concept of ministry: "I serve a church. I do not work for it. Ministry for me is a calling, not a job."

Feb. 23

Melody Jameson - The League of Women Voters, what it is and what it has accomplished.

A warm welcome awaits you and will temp your interest. Join them for coffee and conversation 7 p.m., in the Social Hall at 1115 Del Webb Blvd. East, Sun City Center. Both programs begin at 7:30 p.m. Visitors are welcome. For information call 813-633-2349.

### Friendship Baptist to host movie night

Friendship Baptist Church is staying busy as usual. Saturday, February 11 they enjoyed their annual Valentine's Dinner complete with a spaghetti dinner, a dessert buffet and games with prizes. Coming up at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 1511 El Rancho Drive, Sun City Center "Movie Night" will be hosted by FBC and everyone is invited. The movie of the month is "Wildfire." Refreshments will be served during the intermission.

### Simmons Loop Baptist Church to host run

Simmons Loop Baptist Church is sponsoring a 5k family fun run for missions, "Whatever it Takes" starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 10 at 6610 Simmons Loop Road, Riverview, FL

Registration is \$5 per participant and no more than \$25 per family. Donations will be accepted to support Southern Baptist North American Missionaries. For more information call run coordinator Wanda Carlton at 813-735-7529.

### Trinity Baptist Church to host concert

Trinity Baptist Church in Sun City Center will host the South Shore Concert Band at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23. The band, under the direction of Ken Easton, brings a breath of fresh air with a variety of music from Bach to Hoagy Carmichael. Admission is free, all are welcome and a love offering will be taken. For more information call 634-4228.

## 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

**Rance Good, Pastor** (Southern Baptist)  
1511 El Rancho Dr.  
Sun City Center, FL 33573  
Phone/Fax: 813-633-5950  
WEEKLY SERVICES:  
**Sunday**  
9 a.m. .... Bible Study  
11 a.m. .... Bible Study  
10 a.m. & 6 p.m. .... Worship  
**Wednesday**  
6 p.m. .... Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

### Ruskin Foursquare Church

Building Community Thru God's Love  
106 7th Ave. N.W.  
Ruskin, FL 33570  
N. Blanton (813) 309-3558  
**10 a.m. Sunday School**  
**11 a.m. Worship Service**  
**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](http://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  
*The depth of man's questioning is more important than his answers. — André Malraux*

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

**First Baptist Church of Gibsonton**  
"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19  
Traditional Worship Service  
Old-Time Gospel Hymns  
Nursery Available  
\* Interpreter for the Deaf  
9912 Indiana St. • Hwy 41 & Estelle Avenue  
Gibson, FL 33534  
\*Sunday School 9:30 A.M.  
\*Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Sunday Evening 6:00 P.M.  
Mid-Week (Wed.) 7:00 P.M.  
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](http://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"  
Dr. Samuel (Sam) A. Roach, Pastor  
1301 U.S. Hwy. 41 N., Ruskin, FL • 645-1121 • [www.nbc.org](http://www.nbc.org)  
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.

**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.uccinccc.org](http://www.uccinccc.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](http://www.calvarylutheranchurch.net) 645-1305

**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

**Are you ready to listen?**  
God is speaking in your own spiritual language - a language you can hear  
Come to a **FREE** talk:  
**"God is Speaking - Are We Listening?"**  
by **Jill Grimes**, practitioner of Christian Science healing and a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship  
**Sunday, Feb. 26 • 3 p.m.**  
Florida Room, SCC CA Building  
N. Pebble Beach at Cherry Hills Drive  
(945-D North Course Lane) Sun City Center

## Area Places of Worship

*Spiritual Leader*  
**Rev. Sue Meixner**  
**813-362-0806**  
 sue@alterways.com



**Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.**  
 Sun City Center  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 1651 Sun City Center Plaza

*Turning problems into lessons, lessons into wisdom and wisdom into freedom.*

**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 p.m. Sanctuary (Casual Service)  
 5:00 p.m. Creason Hall (Oasis Contemporary)  
**SUNDAY**  
 8:15 a.m. Sanctuary (Communion Service)  
 9:15 a.m. Creason Hall (Oasis Contemporary)  
 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary (Traditional with Choir & Bells)

**Pages of Life**  
 Bookstore 633-8595

**Pastor: Dr. Warren Langer**  
**Pastor: Dr. Daniel White**

**FIRST BAPTIST of CHURCH**  
 of RUSKIN, FL

**820 COLLEGE AVE. W.**  
**RUSKIN, FL 33570**  
**645-6439**  
[www.fbcfruskin.org](http://www.fbcfruskin.org)  
 A Resource for Families



Dr. Barry Rumsey  
**CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
 K-2  
**THROUGH 12TH GRADE**

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.

**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*

**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.standrewatcc.org](http://www.standrewatcc.org)

**Saint Anne Catholic Church**  
 SouthShore: Apollo Beach, Ruskin, Sun City and S. Gibsonton



U.S. Hwy. 41  
 106 11th Ave. NE  
 Ruskin  
 813-645-1714  
[SaintAnneRuskin.org](http://SaintAnneRuskin.org)

Very Rev. John F. McEvoy, V.F.  
 MASSES

Vigil Mass.....Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday Mass.....8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Contemporary)  
 Monday thru Friday .....8:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday and Friday.....12 noon  
 Holy Days ..... Contact Parish Office for Schedule  
 Español..... Domingo - 12:30 p.m.; Jueves 7:00 p.m.  
 Confession..... Thursday 6:15 p.m.; Saturday 3:45 p.m.



**60 years seated L to R: Helen Schuster, Marilyn Bristol, Kitty Talcott and Blanche Jensen; standing L to R: Don Schuster, Charles Bristol, Charles Talcott, and Jerry Jensen.**



**63 and 64 years seated L to R: Joyce Roeding, Carolyn Schultes, Rosabelle Timm and Muriel Rackliff; standing L to R: Howard Roeding, Louis Schultes, Richard Timm and Roger Rackliff**

**Wedding Anniversary Sunday**

Anniversary Sunday is a very special day at the United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Avenue. Forty two couples celebrating their 50th, 60th, or 60 plus wedding anniversaries this year were recognized and honored during the service. The women were adorn with corsages and the men boutonnières and group pictures were taken.

Following the service, delicious wedding cupcakes were served, and the congregation congratulated and visited with the couples. The Deacons visited the couples unable to attend surprising them with cupcakes and flowers. A joyous day!

**Suncoast Trio to give concert at Prince of Peace**

The Suncoast Trio will give a 90 minute concert at the Prince of Peace, beginning at 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18. The talented trio consists of Kathryn Master, flute, Christopher Schnell, cello and Joyce Valentine, piano. If you enjoy chamber music you will not want to miss this event. The concert is open to the public and a suggested donation of \$10 can be made at the door. Prince of Peace Catholic Church is located at 702 Valley Forge Blvd. in Sun City Center. For more information contact the parish office at 813-634-2328.

**RUMC sponsors chicken dinner**

The Ruskin United Methodist Church from 4 - 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 105 4th Ave. NW will be serving a chicken dinner. The dinner will feature mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll, salad, dessert, and a drink for \$6.

**destiny CHURCH**

**Come and experience the power of Jesus to change your life.**

Sunday @ 9 & 11 AM • Servicio en Español @ 6 PM

[www.aplace4everyone.org](http://www.aplace4everyone.org)

2322 11th Ave. SE • Ruskin, FL • 813.645.3337

**'Immersive' Ash Wednesday service planned**

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center will be celebrating their annual Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. on Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. in Creason Hall. This special service that ushers in the Christian 40-day season of Lent will celebrate the day with song, prayer and video as well as a time of 'hands on' reflection. Entitled "A Service of Creed, Confession and Cleansing," those assembled will first focus on the Apostles' Creed in both English and Latin, move into a time of personal and corporate confession, and conclude with a cleansing ritual from which each parishioner will be given a glass stone to remind them of their Lenten journey ahead. The service is open to all and ashes will be imposed on those wishing to receive them at the end of the service. Special music will be provided by Amanda and Jeff Jordan, worship leaders at the church.

For more information call 813-634-2539 or visit [www.sccumc.com](http://www.sccumc.com).

**Girls of Steppin' Stone to perform**

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church at 1239 Del Webb Boulevard West in Sun City Center will host an entertaining program presented by "Girls From Steppin' Stone Farm" at 6 p.m. on Sunday Feb. 26. The program is free and the public is invited.

Steppin' Stone Farm is a Christian residential home for at-risk or troubled teenage girls that offers help for parents with problem teenage girls. The "Farm" is registered with the state of Florida and located on a beautiful 85 acre tract of land with the Alafia River cutting through the middle of the property. They participate as a full member of the Florida Association of Christian Child Caring Agencies. Their program offers counseling within a Christian environment and includes activities such as year round academics, 4-H with plants and animals, homemaking projects, chorus, interpretive dance, and art projects. More information on Steppin' Stone Farm is available on their website, [steppinstonefarm.org](http://steppinstonefarm.org). For more information call the church office at 813-634-1252.

**Sun City Chamber Players to perform Music of the Masters**

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center is proud to present the Sun City Chamber Players performing Music of the Masters at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17 in the church sanctuary.

The Sun City Chamber Players are proud to welcome world class violin soloist Michael Jorgensen from Cincinnati, Ohio to perform two concerts in Florida with the Sun City Chamber Players. As a member of the IRIS Orchestra in Memphis, he recently served as concertmaster for the 75th-anniversary national tour of Porgy and Bess.

Tickets are just \$5/person and can be purchased at the door on the evening of the concert. For more information about this concert, call Shawn Snider at 941-323-9434 or visit the Sun City Chamber Players Webpage: [www.suncitychamberplayers.com](http://www.suncitychamberplayers.com)

For more information call 813-634-2539 or visit [www.sccumc.com](http://www.sccumc.com).

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EXP. 3/31/12

# Tips for avoiding cruise scams

As the winter months set in, nothing sounds better than relaxing under a tropical sun. Winter and spring are prime cruising months, but Better Business Bureau is advising consumers to read all of the fine print before signing up for a special cruise deal.

In 2011, BBB received more than 1,300 complaints nationally against cruises. While many cruise deals are legitimate, there are always those sneaky few that end up sucking thousands of dollars from victims. BBB is urging consumers to be cautious of unsolicited mail with offers of free or discounted cruises.

"Many times, the scheme begins with numerous e-mails, postcards, and other mailings trying to get you to call in order to claim your 'free cruise,'" said Karen Nalven, President of BBB Serving West Florida. "Gather as much information as you can about the business, and ask a lot of questions before signing on the dotted line."

BBB and CruiseCritic.com recommend the following tips to consumers who are looking to book a cruise getaway:

Don't be a victim. Oftentimes, vacation scammers will use high-pressure sales tactics and make you feel coerced to buy the limited-time deal on the spot. A reputable business or travel agent will provide any information that you

request, and give you time to decide before booking a vacation.

Always check the business first. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it usually is. Before giving a business any personal information, check out their BBB Business Review at [www.bbb.org/search](http://www.bbb.org/search). Consumers can also contact the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) for information on finding a reputable travel agent.

Pay with a credit card. For your best protection against a dishonest seller of travel, always pay for your cruise fare -- both the initial deposit and the final payment -- with a major credit card such as Mastercard, Visa or American Express. If problems arise, you may be able to dispute the charges with your credit card company. Important note: This protection may not apply to those using debit or check cards; it's important to confirm policies with your issuing bank before you charge.

Ensure your money is in the right hands. After you've made a payment, review your credit card or bank statement and make sure that any applicable charges originate directly with the cruise line, not with the travel agency. That way, you'll know that the cruise line has definitely received your money. If you must pay by check or money order, it should be made payable to the cruise line -- not to the agency

or to an individual.

Get proper confirmation of your booking. Insist on getting the actual cruise line's confirmation numbers, not just a confirmation number from your agency. Not only will you then know that your information and money is in the right hands, but you'll also be able to pre-reserve shore excursions, restaurant reservations and spa appointments (where available) on the cruise line's website.

Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions. Before signing on the dotted line make sure all of the details have been clearly outlined and the pricing has been thoroughly explained. Double check whether there are hidden cancellation fees, port charges, or insurance processing fees that haven't been covered.

Consider investing in travel insurance. Travel insurance can provide protection in the event of an accident, an illness, lost luggage, or a canceled or interrupted trip, among other things. Follow the same steps outlined here when buying travel insurance.

For more consumer tips you can trust, visit [www.bbb.org/us/bbb-news](http://www.bbb.org/us/bbb-news).

About BBB Serving West Florida

As the leader in advancing marketplace trust, Better Business Bureau is an unbiased non-profit organization that sets and upholds high



standards for fair and honest business behavior. Every year, more than 87 million consumers rely on BBB Business Reviews® and BBB Wise Giving Reports® to help them find trustworthy businesses and

charities across North America. Visit [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) for more information. To contact BBB serving West Florida about this release, call (727) 535-5609 ext. 3317 or [jjzajac@bbbwestflorida.org](mailto:jjzajac@bbbwestflorida.org).

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A set of dentures were found on Apollo Beach Golf Course on Jan. 28. Please claim them at the Pro Shop or call 813-645-6212

### MERCHANDISE 300

#### 310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

Huge yard sale. Thursday 2/16 8am-4pm Friday 2/17 8am-3pm. Destiny Church, 2322 11th Ave SE, Ruskin

Moving sale. Feb. 18 & 19, 9am-? 304 4th Ave., SW, Ruskin. Fenton glass & other collectibles.

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

**Neptune Village Penny Sale**  
2525 Gulf City Rd., Ruskin. Saturday, Feb. 18, 9am-1pm. Coffee, lunch. Quilt & \$100 bill raffles. Local business donations, baked goods, treasures. Drawings starts at 1pm. Everyone welcome!

Saturday, Feb. 18, 8am-noon. 2332 W. Del Webb Blvd., SCC. Couch, TV stand, lamps, pictures, baskets & misc. items.

### RUSKIN WOMAN'S CLUB Annual Bazaar & Rummage Sale

**Friday & Saturday  
Feb. 24 & 25  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Homemade Assorted Bake Sale  
Plant Sale • Rummage Sale

Come and enjoy some home cooking  
Black Beans and Yellow Rice  
Collard Green Soup (Fri. only)  
Spanish Bean Soup  
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#### 310 GARAGE/YARD SALE



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Ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church

Little Manatee Springs Annual Park wide (50+) yard sale. 3 1/2 miles south of SCC on 301. Saturday 2/18, 8am-1pm. Watch for balloons/signs. Please observe marked traffic pattern & parking. No large trucks or trailer until after sale. Beverages, donuts, hotdogs available.

#### Estate/ Garage Sale

Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm. 1702 Wedge Court, SCC. Metal porch furniture, large picnic table w/ 4 benches, Bakers rack, Thomasville dining set, hutch, LR chairs, exercise equipment, Spinet piano, wicker bedroom set, Mahogany side tables, lamps, refrigerator, pressure washer, tools, air conditioner, 8,000 watt generator, vintage chairs, braided rugs, glassware, pictures, linens, clothing & collectibles. Park on La olla near El Rancho.

Holiday Palms RV Parks annual park-wide sale. 424 19th Ave., NE, Ruskin. Bake sale & lunch available. 8am-?

Thursday, 2/16, 8am-1pm. Entire street of yard sales. Oakmont Dr., SCC. Tools, fishing. Watch for balloons. Something for everyone.

1226 Valley Forge Blvd., SCC. Friday & Saturday, 9am-1pm. Kitchen, pet, household misc. A little of everything.

Greenbriar Entire neighborhood sale. Friday & Saturday, Feb. 24 & 25, 8am-2pm. SR 674 to S. Pebble Beach Blvd., 1 mile down & take a right. Parking on one side of the street only.

Yard sale. Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm. Washer, dryer, TVs, furniture, tapes, DVDs, store pictures. 105 La Jolla Ave., SCC

River Oak Park sale. Something for everyone. 201 Stephens Rd., Ruskin. Past Dooley Groves. Saturday, Feb. 18, 8am-2pm.

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#### 311 AUCTIONS

Auction. Elks Lodge, 1630 Hwy 41 S. Ruskin. Thursday, Feb. 16. Preview at 6pm. Auction starts 6:30pm. 813-403-0069 AB1230AU3055

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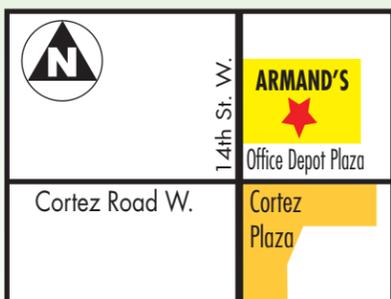


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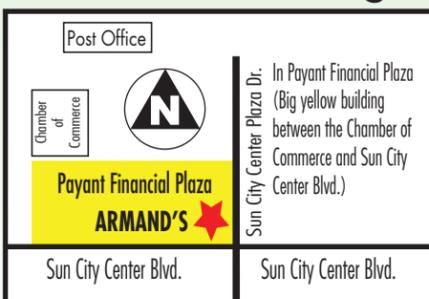


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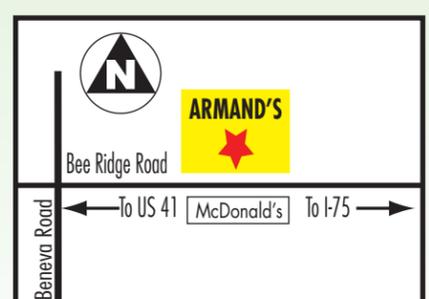
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