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Number 8

THE OBSERVER NEWS

www.ObserverNews.net

Prime downtown Ruskin location slated for retail use

■ By MELODY JAMESON

RUSKIN – A new retailer soon may be doing business on one of this community’s most desirable commercial corners that once was a site of legendary proportions.

Family Dollar Stores, based in Charlotte, N.C., acting through its long-time representative, The Hutton Company, Chattanooga, TN, has agreed to purchase of the southeast corner at the Shell Point Road and U.S. 41 intersection, according to the Tampa Realtor who assisted in the transaction.

The location is the former venue of The Coffee Cup, an informal, café-style eatery famous for its variety of homemade pies served in large slices to diners coming from around the country as well as from around the county. The aging white, frame structure that housed the historic restaurant and market of 70-years’ duration was opened by the late Paul B. Dickman in the late 1920s and demolished in the late 1990s. The site has been essentially vacant since that time.

The Family Dollar acquisition involves a little less than two acres of the 2.5 –acre site at a price of \$475,000, said Ed Dickenson, a Realtor with Walter

See **FAMILY DOLLAR**, page 9



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Art festival makes a splash

More than five thousand people are estimated to have visited the Manatee Festival of the Arts in Apollo Beach last weekend. Above, New Smyrna Beach artist Carol Elder Napoli took home best of show honors from the juried art festival. For more information on her art visit www.napoliarts.com. For more photos of the festival see page 15.

SCC bank robbed twice, HCSO seeks single suspect



PHOTO FROM HCSO

Photos provided by the HCSO show the suspect during the March 5 robbery of the SunTrust Bank in Sun City Center.

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER — On March 5 at approximately 2:23 p.m., a man described to be 5’2” tall, with a heavy build and in his early 40s, wearing a University of Florida hat and a white “Donate Blood” t-shirt, robbed the SunTrust Bank on Rickenbacker Drive in Sun City Center. According to the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, he walked into the bank with a white plastic bag covering his hands and demanded money from a teller. The teller complied, giving him an undisclosed amount of cash and the man fled the bank, heading westbound on Rickenbacker Drive on foot.

On Friday, March 9, the HCSO believes the man struck again — at the same SunTrust Bank in Sun City Center. At 10:46 a.m. a man of similar description, but without the hat and thus revealing short, blond, curly hair, walked into the bank with a white plastic bag covering his hands and again demanded money from a teller. He fled the bank with an undisclosed amount of cash.

See **BANK ROBBERY**, page 2

When everybody knows your name

Social discovery fires up at SXSW

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

Do you ever wish you could be like Norm on the 1980s television series *Cheers*? I’m not referring to being a rotund man wasting his life in a bar; I’m referring to the fact that whenever he entered the bar,



MITCH TRAPHAGEN FILE PHOTO

Social Discovery or People Discovery as it is sometimes called, would certainly make navigating events such as this multi-chamber mixer a breeze. But is it really for everyone?

everyone would yell out “NORM!” in greeting. As the theme song suggested, it was a place where everyone knew his name.

On Sunday, I walked into Popi’s Restaurant and no one so much as looked up. However, it might have been an entirely different story had I taken the next step in the evolution of social networking. My cell phone could have announced my arrival.

With 865 million users, Facebook has entered the realm of ubiquity with those hundreds of millions of users sharing how their days went or what they had for breakfast. Notice that is all past tense with people generally posting what had already happened. More recently, sites like Foursquare have appeared, allowing people to share where they are at any given time. Facebook has also adopted such a check in. Steve Wozniak, one of the founders of Apple Computer, is a big Foursquare user, thus allowing the world to know that, with the exception of taking his dogs to Outback several times a week, the life of a bazillionaire really isn’t all that different than anyone else’s life, with the exception, perhaps, of massive philanthropy and all-around good cheer. But, like Facebook, Foursquare still requires some effort as part of checking in to the service.

Enter “Social Discovery,” a hot item at this year’s South by Southwest (SXSW) Interactive Conference in Austin, Texas. SXSW is the super cool annual event where the hip make or break the newest and most sophisticated trends while taking in the music and films for which the conference was initially founded. In 2007, Twitter found its mojo there and took off. In 2009, Foursquare was the breakout app of the year. This year it is Social Discovery — and it is live and real-time.

See **SOCIAL DISCOVERY**, page 2

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Social discovery

■ Continued from page 1

With Social Discovery, just a glance at my cell phone alerts me to what friends — or even friends of my friends — are in near proximity and they are alerted to my presence.

Does it sound kind of creepy? Why, yes, it does. But then again, Facebook and Foursquare were also considered kind of creepy when they first kicked off. Privacy in the era of social networking is a nebulous term by choice.

Social Discovery will evolve, of course, into something that supersedes your existing friends and connections. With 3D imaging, no doubt someday people will be able to map an entire nightclub, forever negating pick-up lines. You won't have to ask an attractive stranger "What's your sign?"; you'll already know it along with his or her name, what they had for breakfast, and, most likely, the name of their cat.

What will most likely keep Social Discovery from being merely a fad for those on the prowl, however, are the

immediate and obvious money-making aspects of it. With Social Discovery on a cell phone, any store that you pass can pick up your profile and send you a coupon tailored to your tastes.

It is the ultimate in targeted advertising. With that in mind, Social Discovery not only has the means to take off, in the future it will likely need to be turned off or opted out of by those who seek some measure of anonymity as every business on the planet will want to ensure you are tuned in to what they have to offer.

In an era when millions of people announce every facet of life's hardships from death to divorce on social networking sites, the idea of privacy is being transformed. Social Discovery blurs or, perhaps, shifts the line even further. As it grows into the mainstream, safety concerns, particularly for children and women, will need to be addressed and surprise birthday parties could become a thing of the past.

But then again, should you find yourself looking to escape

the cold by walking into a tavern in Boston on a winter's night, perhaps it will all be worth it. Because, as Gary Portnoy once sang for the Cheers theme,

there will be a place: "Where everybody knows your name." In fact, there might be a lot of places like that.

For more information about

social discovery, visit two startup companies that made waves at this year's SXSW: Glancee at www.glancee.com and Highlight at www.highlight.ht.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

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SUNSET GRILL
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SCC Bank robbery

■ Continued from page 1

The HCSO is asking anyone with information about the suspect to call 247-8200. Also, anyone with information regarding the identity and whereabouts of the suspect and who wants to be eligible for a possible cash reward is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 800-873-TIPS (8477). Reports may also be made anonymously online at www.crimestopperstb.com or via text "CSTB plus your tip" to C-R-I-M-E-S (274637).



PHOTO FROM HCSO

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Thurs., March 15 • 11 a.m.-1 p.m. • St. Patrick's Day Celebration! Enjoy Corned Beef and Cabbage, and Green Beer as you are entertained by the Treble Clefs Band!

Thurs., March 15 • 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., March 20 • 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.org association

Wed., March 21 • 2:30-4 p.m. • Parkinson's Support Group Marcia A. McCall, M.T.S, retired Coordinator of Research Department of Neurology College of Medicine USF and co-author of *100 Questions and Answers about Parkinson's* will be here for our Parkinson's support group.

Thurs., March 22 • 10-11 a.m. • South Bay Hospital Presents: "Tell a Friend: Women & Heart Disease" by Robin Mason, RN, LHRM

Thurs., March 22 • 2:30-4 p.m. • Grief, Loss or Depression Support Group facilitated by Edmond Dubreuil MSW, RCSWI mental health professional. Supported by: South Shore Coalition on Mental Health & Aging and United Methodist Church of SCC.

Tues., March 27 • 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.

Wed., March 28 • 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."

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Ruskin's downtown revitalization: a plan within a plan

By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@pennyfletcher.com

RUSKIN — Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan. Individual community plans. Overlay Plan. Downtown Plan. Town Center Plan.

Why, it's no wonder people get confused!

I've been writing about a proposed Overlay District for an area along U.S. 41 starting at Big Bend Road and ending at the Little Manatee River Bridge in south Ruskin since monthly community Overlay meetings began at the South Shore Regional Library nine months ago.

The Overlay District would put some regulations into effect in that area over and above the county's usual zoning requirements. The proposals that came from community residents and business owners in working groups have finally been put to paper by county zoning staff and will be on hand to view — with maps and other visuals — at an Open House March 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. at that library. County staff will be available for more public input on the Overlay then as well.

Meanwhile, however, hearing comments from people at the Overlay meetings about other plans affecting the same area, using phrases like "duplication of efforts," led me to examine the relationship of all the plans affecting Ruskin.

Why are there so many, and how are they different?

I knew if I had been covering planning and zoning in that area since 1984 and often found myself confused, that others were probably confused as well.

County planners agreed. "Explanation of this is good for

residents," said county planner John Healey in a telephone interview March 9. "We have been very careful to see that there has been no duplication of efforts and a lot of people don't understand what the differences in the plans are."

Information gathered from Healey and from Michael Peterson of Apollo Beach, who has been active in all the planning efforts, explains the sequence of planning and zoning and how it will affect the look of downtown Ruskin in the future.

The Overlay affects both Ruskin and Apollo Beach, because both communities were interested in improving the look of U.S. 41, Healey said.

"This interest in improving the look of U.S. 41 came directly out of the community plans," he explained. And the community plans that evolved from the county's need for a comprehensive plan that covered every community in the county.

Hillsborough County has a comprehensive plan for zoning. Many areas of the county were included before the area south of Brandon because South County was still relatively undeveloped.

Then, in 2003, South County plans began in each community which would (when completed and approved by County Commissioners) become part of the Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan.

The community plan done in Ruskin was adopted into the county's comprehensive plan in 2005.

"It (the community plan) showed real concerns about Ruskin's downtown area, so a separate working group was set up just to work on that," Peterson explained.

So both the Overlay and the

Ruskin Town Center plan are an outgrowth of concerns shown during the community planning process.

"When we were doing the Ruskin Community Plan we saw that there were so many diverse areas in Ruskin we needed more work there. It's tougher to revitalize an area that's already been built than to put zoning regulations in an area where there's nothing," Peterson

continued. "Plus there are multiple property owners involved there."

"The first sifter is the Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan. It sets standards for what can, and cannot be proposed. The second sifter is the Ruskin Community Plan and the third sifter is the Ruskin Town Center plan," Peterson said.

Confusion sometimes happens because people refer to the Town

Center plan as the Ruskin Downtown Plan.

The name of the plan being worked on to revitalize downtown Ruskin is the Ruskin Town Center Plan, or RTC. There is no plan named "Downtown."

The Ruskin Town Center development regulations were approved into the land development code of the county's Comprehensive Plan in 2006 — stemming from the desires shown during the Ruskin Community Planning process, Healey said.

Then in April 2007 County Commissioners approved rezonings in downtown Ruskin changing some plots from "commercial neighborhood" to "general commercial" and others from "multifamily residential" to read, "RTC."

The total area affected by this RTC is 84.64 acres, with the north/south area being between 2nd Avenue S.E. to just above 8th Avenue N.W. and the east/west portion between 1st Street N.W. to 3rd Street N.E.

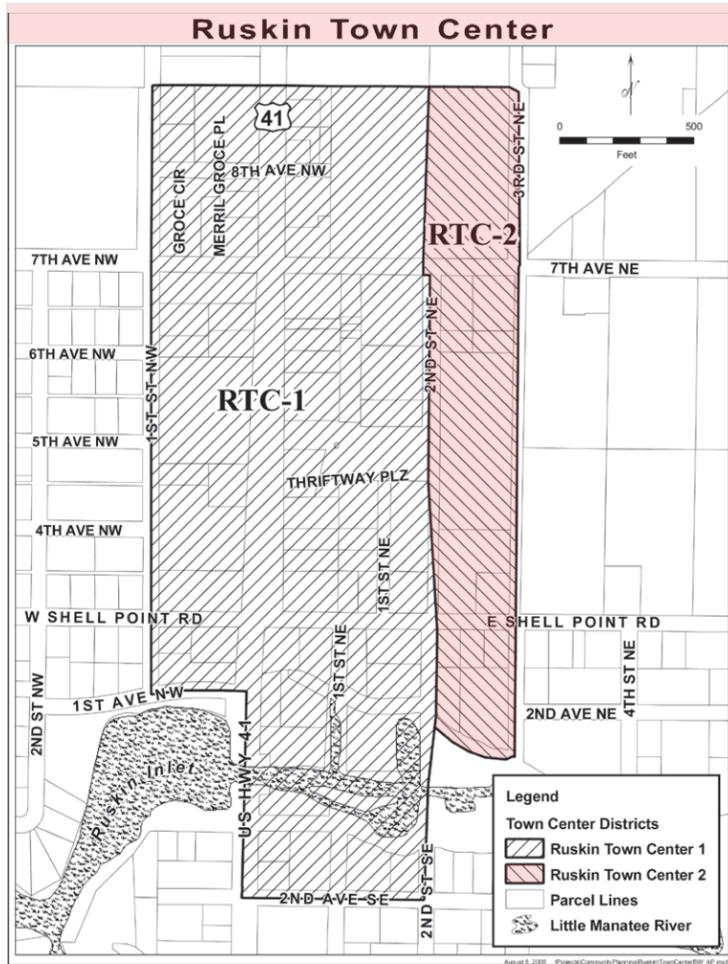
"Hence, beyond the community plan it gets pretty detailed with intensities and public spaces," Peterson said. "There are limits on heights and parking areas on any new development, and special zoning that will say that certain things facing 41 must be screened."

The RTC area is in the center of the proposed three-part Overlay District. This is because it is a "Main Street" while the areas to be included in the Overlay north and south of it are corridors to move traffic.

During all the planning processes one theme for "downtown Ruskin" has prevailed: that of Old Florida — resembling towns like St. Augustine and Mt. Dora.

Owners of existing buildings will not be subjected to standards that new buildings will, but they will be affected by fencing, landscaping, screening and other standards imposed by the Overlay (if approved) and (those within the specified area) also by the RTC.

While it was once reported in *The Observer News* that a developer was interested in developing the open black-topped area just south of the Ruskin Post Office, Healey said that the recession caused that developer to halt his plans and as of this date there is no change pending for that area.



Team Terrell's Sunday Tour of Homes

You can view up to 6 homes on Sunday, March 18th In Sun City Center

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>1 TIME 1:00-1:20</p>  <p>406 Grand Chateaux Way * 3 bed, 2 baths, 2 car garage * Screened Pool * Corner Lot * \$179,000</p> | <p>2 TIME 1:25-1:40</p>  <p>1119 Signature Dr. * 3 bed, 2 baths, 2 car garage * Large Home on pond * Sitting area in Master * \$246,500</p> | <p>3 TIME 1:45-2:00</p>  <p>339 Club Manor Dr. * 2 bed, 2 baths, 2 car garage * 1/2 of Duplex, Pet friendly * New Appliances 2007 * \$85,000</p> |
| <p>4 TIME 2:10-2:25</p>  <p>1809 Adrean Pl. * 2 bed, 2 baths, 2 car garage * 12'x20' Expanded Lanai * Corian Counters in kitchen * \$110,000</p> | <p>5 TIME 2:30-2:45</p>  <p>2010 East View Dr. * 3 bed, 2 baths, 2 car garage * On Lake * Wet Bar * \$194,000</p> | <p>6 TIME 2:50-3:05</p>  <p>1702 Wedge Ct. * 3 bed, 2 baths, 2 car garage * Shows like model, must see * Plus a Den * \$205,000</p> |

The **Sunday Tour of Homes** is a great way to preview homes in your price range without any pressure or hassle. Meet us at any home on the tour at the time stated. Don't be late, because there will be other buyers on the tour, so **times are exact**. A second private showing can easily be scheduled for you. *See you this Sunday!*

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Enthusiasm

There is no power on earth that can stand against enthusiasm. Transcendentalist Aleister Crowley said, "Roughly speaking, any man with energy and enthusiasm ought to be able to bring at least a dozen others around to his opinion in the course of a year, no matter how absurd that opinion might be. Every day in politics, in business and in social life, we see large masses of people brought to embrace the most revolutionary ideas, sometimes within a few days. It is all a question of getting hold of them in the right way and working on their weak points." Enthusiasm is, in fact, one of the primary keys

to personal power.

Here are some thoughts about enthusiasm.

- Enthusiasm defies reason in its drive to achieve a rational goal. How many times have we seen athletic teams that were picked to lose a particular match rise up to smite the stronger team? They have been said to have played over their head, but what they played with was enthusiasm.

- Enthusiasm is like a virulent virus that infects everyone with

whom it comes into contact, and I am constantly reminded of that. For example, I was walking through the pool area of my hotel in San Diego on a particularly beautiful day. As I walked along, I whistled "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning," and to my amazement, several people in and around the pool took up my melody and expressed the same enthusiasm for the day I had shown. Enthusiasm is indeed contagious.



Positive Talk

By William Hodges

- Enthusiasm is a shiny coat of paint we can apply to dull and routine projects. You can imagine Ed McMahon got tired of saying, "And here's Johnny!" over the 30 years he was with the Carson show. But he always made it sound as though it was the most exciting and important job in the world. McMahon parlayed a rather menial job into a multi-million dollar fortune, because he was able to tap the power of enthusiasm.

- Enthusiasm is one of the most powerful magnets known to man. It is an irresistible force that causes others to move toward it. Men and women with enthusiasm are like lightning rods—all the power of the universe is drawn toward them.

If you saw the movie "Forrest Gump," you already know the primary skill possessed by the hero was his boundless enthusiasm for everything he did. Nothing could stand in his way. Now that may be fiction, but sometimes truth is stranger than fiction. All the victories achieved by Forrest Gump have been surpassed by people who have tapped the power of enthusiasm.

- Enthusiasm is the power that gives you courage to live the line from Kipling's poem, "If," which says, "If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew to serve your turn long after they are gone, and so hold on when there is nothing in you except the will which says to them 'hold on'." I remember several years ago reading of a man who was shipwrecked off the Florida Keys who tread water for almost 48 hours before he was rescued. When he was rescued, someone said to him, "They didn't believe you would survive." He replied, "They didn't know my enthusiasm for life."

If you do nothing else for yourself, get enthusiastic about something. It's one of the best tonics you will ever take and it can add years to your life—not only years, but good years.

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

Business News

New restaurant to open

Changing everything but the location, a new South County café is to open later this month, replacing a once-popular local eatery.

The Sunshine Café, located at the crux of Cypress Village Plaza where Danny Boy's Restaurant formerly operated, will open to the public on Wednesday, March 28, according to Manny Roussos, one of the restaurant's new owners. The café will serve morning and mid-day meals from an entirely revised menu of options, Roussos added.

Roussos and his partner, John Gianoupolos, both have previous Florida restaurant experience, he said; Roussos as part of a family eatery in Bowling Green and Gianoupolos as owner-operator of John's Drive-In, Ft. Meade.

The new café currently is being staffed in most positions, cooks, waiters and dishwashers, the new

owner noted. Managers can be reached by telephone at 813-969-9647 or 813-633-3344, or via email at sunshinecafe3808@yahoo.com.

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Club Team 'The Bandits,' Tyler McFarlane, Alyssa Garcia, Stephanie Williams, Madeline Hornacek, Nicle Lock, Taylor Brown, Tina Hill, Rachel Mitchell, Tiana Hill, Jada Lester, and Destinee Byrd.

Bandits of East Bay compete nationally

The Bandits, a club flag football team made up of East Bay students, participated in the 2nd Annual AAU Women's Flag Football National Championship. The tournament is held in Orlando at Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports. Last year the Bandits placed 4th. This year the team came in 3rd place.

The offense was led by QB Stephanie Williams and Wide Receivers Nicole Lock and Madeline Hornacek. This is the second tournament the Bandits have played in this year. The first was the inaugural East Bay Winter Classic held in early February at Vance Vogel Park where the Bandits also placed 3rd.

For more information on AAU, visit aasports.org or contact Coach Cooper at michael.cooper@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Dance your way to a fitter new you

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

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Mondays at 6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
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Gardenville Recreation Center

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

Providence West Park

5417 Providence Road in Riverview • (813) 635-7452
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Riverview Community Center

11020 Park Drive in Riverview • (813) 671-7600
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\$5 per class • Instructor: Lolita Ortiz

Ruskin Recreation Center

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

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

March is Seagrass Awareness Month

March signals spring time in Florida – the longer days and warmer weather can create ideal conditions for fishing, kayaking, boating, or stand up paddle boarding in Florida's estuaries and other coastal waterways. It is fitting then that March is also Seagrass Awareness Month because seagrass beds are such an important component of our coastal waterways. According to a recent report by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 2.2 million acres of seagrasses have been documented in Florida waters, providing ecological services worth \$20 billion per year. Ecological services include habitat values that cannot be measured by a traditional economic scale – i.e. the value of providing habitat to juvenile sport fish or food for manatees and sea turtles. Seagrass beds also provide direct economic benefits to Florida through fishing charters and ecotourism businesses.

The condition of Florida's seagrasses varies in different regions. Seagrasses in the Keys are believed to be stable while those in certain areas of Southwest Florida and the Panhandle are declining. Seagrasses along Florida's east coast have been showing an increasing trend, and South Florida contains nearly 60% of the state's seagrasses. However, great losses in seagrass abundance in Brevard County in 2011 caused by environmental factors are a reminder that these ecosystems are vulnerable.

Seagrasses are found in clear and relatively shallow waters because their growth is fueled by sunlight. Their occurrence in shallow water makes them susceptible to damage by boats that may try to motor through areas without proper clearance, creating "prop scars" in the grass beds. A churning propeller cuts not only the blades of the grasses, but uproots and destroys the rhizomes (roots) in the sand and it can take years for the sediment to support regrowth and allow the scars to heal. To prevent prop scarring, boats should stay in marked deep water channels while traveling. Flats boats fishing in the seagrass beds should use poles and trolling motors to move through the water, to avoid damaging seagrasses with their engines. If boaters become stuck in a shallow area with seagrasses or other submerged resources, they should never use the engine to try to blast free. Instead, they should turn off the engine, shift passenger weight distribution in the boat, and try to move the boat using a long pole or oar. If necessary, one or more passengers can exit the boat and push it to deeper water. Boaters should also use polarized sunglasses to reduce glare and help them see resources like seagrasses located beneath the water's surface.



Seagrasses are negatively affected by stormwater runoff and algae blooms that block the sun's rays since they need sunlight to grow. Stormwater runoff to coastal waters can be reduced by creating swales and retention ponds and using pervious pavement. Limiting use of fertilizers in landscapes adjacent to coastal waterways can reduce the nutrient loading that contributes to algae blooms. All of us who live and recreate in coastal areas can take steps to make our waters cleaner and protect the seagrasses that are so vitally important to our aquatic ecosystem and economy.

Riverview Memorial VFW Post #8108

7504 Riverview Dr.
(813) 671-9845



MEETINGS

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

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

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

MEALS

Wednesday Spaghetti Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m.

Friday Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m.

Sunday Breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon

CANTEEN HAPPENINGS

Bar Bingo Monday at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Free Business Assistance Program

In partnership with the SouthShore Chamber of Commerce, the Hillsborough County Economic Development Department/Small, Minority Business Development Section is providing free Business Technical Assistance to business owners in SouthShore.

Upcoming Workshop: Business Plan in a Day • Wednesday, April 11 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Business counseling is available at your place of business or at the satellite office. If you would like to schedule a free one-on-one counseling appointment or register for a free workshop(s), call the office at (813) 914-4028 or visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/sbic to register online.

Satellite Office: SouthShore Chamber of Commerce, 137 Harbor Village Lane, Apollo Beach.

IN UNIFORM



TIMOTHY A. UPTON, JR.

Navy Seaman Recruit Timothy A. Upton, Jr., son of Nicole D. Small of Tampa, and Timothy Upton, Sr. of Ruskin, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL.

During the eight-week program, Upton completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is 'Battle Stations.' This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly 'Navy' flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor.

Upton is a 2011 graduate of Lennard High School of Ruskin.



Volunteers participated in the Tampa Bay Watch Oyster Shell Project.

Local project receives national recognition

Field & Stream Magazine has selected Tampa Bay Watch's Oyster Shell Project on March 9 for their annual Hero-for-a-Day program. Hero-for-a-Day was created by *Field & Stream*, in cooperation with Toyota Motor Sales, USA, to connect volunteers with on-the-ground conservation projects.

This program takes place across the country on ten separate days this spring including the oyster shell project on March 9. *Field & Stream* is helping spread the word about the project and supplies gift bags to participating volunteers. Extraordinary project leaders may be considered for their Conservation Hero of the Year grand prize. Also, any volunteer who took part is also eligible to enter a sweepstakes for an all-expenses-paid trip to the seventh annual Heroes of Conservation Gala to be held in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2012.

RCMA School Board Meeting notice

The RCMA School Board Meeting for Wimauma Academy will take place at 2 p.m on Monday, March 26 at the iTech, 508 N. 9th St. in Immokalee.

The School Board meeting is open to the public. For more information, call Maria Jimenez at (239) 289-7995.

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, March 15 -- Bar Games at 3 p.m.

Friday, March 16 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Saturday, March 17 — Starting at 2 p.m. Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Music by U 2 Can at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 18 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Monday, March 19 — Bingo at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 20 — Come on down and socialize.

Wednesday, March 21 — 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.

Eastern Airlines Silverliners to meet

The members of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of Eastern Airlines Silverliners International will meet at 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 19 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.

Several members will be attending the biennial convention to be held in Charleston, SC May 20-23. They include: Barbara Bukata, Sharon Campo, Barbara Frascella, Janice Henry, Helen Karpas, Shawn Mills, Barbara Reed, and Trish Schwarzkopf.

For more information Hillsborough County residents may contact Barbara Reed at 671-3078 or Janice Henry at 837-4312.



Weight Watchers extend invite

Weight Watchers meets every Thursday at 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at United Community Church 1501 LaJolla Ave.

Don't miss out on free registration. Pay only meeting fee. For more information, email Sandy at samt1995@yahoo.com.

Buck-a-Bag Used Book Sale

A Buck-a-Bag Used Book Sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 24 in the SouthShore Regional Library Community Room, 15816 Beth Shields Way in Ruskin.

Fill a plastic grocery bag with fiction, non-fiction and paperback books for only \$1. All hardcover books and paperbacks in the Book Sale Room will be half-priced.

A table of special books will be priced from \$2 and up.

For more information, call (813) 273-3652.



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.



SPROCKET

Sprocket is a fantastic Collie mix who has worked his way into every volunteer's heart. Sprocket doesn't seem to realize that he is at a shelter for lost and abandoned animals. He bounces around with a smile on his face like he is at doggy day care. Sprocket gives off such positive energy and loves everyone, human or furry, that he meets. He knows a few basic commands and appears to be housebroken. He also enjoys playing with stuffed animals to pass the time. As part of his adoption, Sprocket will be neutered, microchipped, and brought current on his shots.

DOB: April 2, 2011



FLUFFY

Fluffy is an adorable torti female kitten. She is very playful and loves to play with every cat toy in the shelter. Fluffy is a flying ball of energy. But, she likes her afternoon nap on the cat tower and that is where she can be found most afternoons. Come in and see Fluffy and give her that loving forever home. Fluffy has been spayed and brought up-to-date on her shots as well as microchipped.

DOB: December 2, 2011



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THE SAVVY SENIOR

Tax Help in Caring for an Aging Parent

Dear Savvy Senior,

My wife and I provide a lot of financial support to my elderly mother and are wondering if any of it is tax deductible. What can you tell us?

Stretched Thin



The Savvy Senior

By Jim Miller

Dear Stretched,

There is some tax relief available to adult children who help look after their aging parents or other relatives. But in order to be eligible, both you and your mom will need to meet Uncle Sam's criteria. Here's what you should know.

IRS Eligibility

If you're helping financially support your elderly mother, to get a tax deduction you'll need to claim her as a dependent on your tax return. For the 2011 tax year, claiming an additional personal exemption would reduce your taxable income by \$3,700. But to get this tax break, you'll need to pass the IRS's income and support tests:

Income test: To qualify as a dependent, your mom's 2011 gross income must have been less than \$3,700. Her income from Social Security does not count towards that total, nor do disability payments. But if your mom receives more than \$3,700 from other sources, such as pension benefits, interest and dividends from investments, or withdrawals from

retirement savings plans, you can't claim her as a dependent.

Support test: In addition to the income test, you must provide more than half of your mom's costs for housing, food, medical care, transportation and other necessities. Even if all of your mom's income is from Social Security, you can't claim her as a dependent unless you pay more than half her living expenses.

It's also important to note that your mom doesn't have to live with you to qualify as a dependent, as long as she meets the income test and you provide more than half her financial support. If your mother lives with you, you can include a percentage of your mortgage, utilities and other expenses in calculating how much you contribute to her support. IRS Publication 501 (see www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p501.pdf) has a worksheet that can help you with this. To receive this, or other IRS publications or forms via mail, call 800-829-3676.

Shared Support

If you share the financial responsibility for your mom with other siblings, you may be eligible for the IRS multiple-support declaration. Here's how this works. If one sibling is providing more than half the parent's financial support, only that sibling can claim the parent. But if each sibling provides less than 50 percent support, but their combined assistance exceeds half the parent's support. In that case, any sibling who provides more than 10 percent can claim the parent as a dependent. But only one sibling can claim the tax break in any given year. Siblings can rotate the tax break, with one claiming the parent one year, and another the next. The sibling who claims

the parent as a dependent will need to fill out IRS Form 2120 (www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f2120.pdf) and file it with his or her tax return.

Medical Deductions

If you can't claim your mom as a dependent, you may still get a tax break for helping pay her medical costs. The IRS lets taxpayers deduct money spent on a parent's health care and qualified long-term care services, even if the parent doesn't qualify as a dependent.

To claim this deduction, you still must provide more than half your mom's support, but your mom doesn't have to meet the income test. And the deduction is limited to medical, dental and long-term care expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income. You can include your own medical expenses in calculating the total. See the IRS publication 502 for details.

Check Your State

In addition to the federal tax breaks, more than 20 states offer tax credits and deductions for caregivers on state income taxes too. Check with your state tax agency to see what's available.

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



Jane Keegan, Sun City Center FunFest chair, is on hand as Carol Cook puts the finishing touches on a ceramic chest to be donated for raffling at Sun City Center's FunFest March 17. The chest symbolizes this year's combined theme: St. Patrick's Day and SCC's Golden Anniversary. Cook is president of the SCC Ceramics Club.

SCC FunFest offers free all-day fun

Sun City Center clubs are busily preparing for FunFest 2012, a free event open to the public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 17. It is the community's largest annual event, drawing thousands of residents and visitors from surrounding areas to the Central Campus, 1009 N. Pebble Beach Blvd. Ed Barnes, SCC Community Association president, will start the festivities at the bandstand at 9 a.m.

This year's FunFest will feature free all-day entertainment in eight campus locations; a Health Fair with 29 participants; 62 commercial displays, including 25 cars and 12 golf carts; and 12 food vendors. In addition, 65 clubs will be offering information and selling their unique creations. Many of the dance and exercise clubs—including one of the newest, Latin Dance Fitness—are on the entertainment schedule to demonstrate their activities. One of the additions this year is a 'Let's Dance' tent where DJ Gari Jangraw will be inviting guests to dance or just relax and enjoy the music.

To avoid parking hassles at the Central Campus, guests are encouraged to use the buses that will be continuously shuttling from the South Campus, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. starting at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call (813) 633-3500.

West Coast Porcelain Artists to meet

West Coast Porcelain Artists will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 21 in the South Shore Regional Library art room, at 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin. A demonstration by Joyce Baiss of Tampa will be given. She is a member of "The Academy of Modern Porcelain Artist", which was formed in 1981. Joyce started porcelain painting in Brazil at age 16. All who enjoy china painting, or would like to learn, are encouraged to attend. Also, a table will be set up for those wishing to display a recent painted porcelain piece.

Goin' bananas

The Laureate Zeta Kappa/Beta Sigma Phi's program for the meeting will be "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Bananas...and More!" at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 15.

For more information, call (813) 634-9774.

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• Raffles

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Cypress Creek EASTER MENU Coming Soon

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Fundraiser is organized

A fundraiser is scheduled for Lila Ruiz, a local three-year-old suffering from Megacystis-Microrcolon-Intestinal-Hypoperistalsis syndrome from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 28 at Winthrop Barn, 11349 Bloomingdale Ave., Riverview. This life-threatening genetic disorder is very rare. It is estimated that only 15 to 25 people in the U.S. are currently living with this disease.

During her short life Lila has endured 29 surgeries, monthly hospital stays and visits to specialists in four states. This event will feature music, monster trucks, car shows, bounce houses, balloons, face painting, giveaways, a silent auction, food and fun. To find out more, go to www.staystronglila.com or call Sandy Martinez at (813) 309-2395.

Go fly a kite

Attend the Kite Fest from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 24 at Apollo Beach Nature Park. Rain date is Saturday, March 31.

There will be free kites for kids (new styles), plus hot dogs, cookies, and beverages. Sponsored by Apollo Beach Beautification.



You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director

SCC Chamber News

Last week I was dining with friends at the Seafood Dive in Sun City Center. I was halfway through my scallops when one of my dinner companions noticed a stray cat outside in the parking lot.

Knowing how much of a cat lover I am, my friend knew I would jump up and run outside to see if I could pet it. (Which is exactly what I did.)

Most of the time, you cannot go anywhere near a feral cat, but this one was different. It was skittish and wary, but eventually it let me pet it and even hold it. Maybe not feral, but certainly a stray with a torn ear and a wound on its chin. The cat was solid black and there was a huge full moon poking through the clouds. It had to be an omen!

Of course you know what I did next. I rescued the poor scraggly thing and took it to the Chamber building. (My too precious darlings at home would not have appreciated a squatter in their domain.) We got a litter box and some dry food and left it there for the night.

The next morning SHE was there to greet us and it turned out she is a very lovable and loyal thing. Nonetheless, we had to figure out what to do with her.

Fortunately, Flo Vachon, a realtor with Keller Williams, works with a group called Feline Folks who help round up stray and feral cats. She told me that right now, residents

of southeast Hillsborough County can turn over a feral cat to the group and they will make sure it is neutered or spayed, de-wormed, given its shots and all for FREE!

If you live in zip code 33598, 33573, 33572 or 33570, this program is open to you. It's made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center and the Humane Society of Tampa Bay.



You, Me & Business

By Dana Dittmar

So, on Sunday night, I grabbed Kazy (named after the owner of the Seafood Dive where we found her) and took her to the people who volunteer for the Neuter Scooter. On Monday, she was spayed and fixed up, ready to be adopted by someone who could use a loving companion.

Until the right Forever Family comes along, Kazy will continue to greet our visitors and entertain the members of the All Paths to God Church that meets in our banquet room on Sundays. (She even walked right up the aisle during the collection as if she were an usher!) Feel free to come by and give her a scratch on the head. She'll snuggle with your ankles and purr for you.

Kazy is lucky. We found her and saved her from a rough life on the streets. If you have a feral cat in your area, the Feline Folks are here to help you and the cat. Many thanks to these great folks from us... and from Kazy.

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Summerfield Elementary says thanks

The teachers and students of Summerfield Elementary would like to thank the members of the Interfaith Council of Sun City Center for their generous donation of \$3500. A grant was submitted to the organization requesting funds to purchase books for the school library.

Because of this group's generosity, the Media Center was able to acquire many books written by authors who the children love. The library was also able to purchase an updated book for each of the states in our nation. Current and future students will benefit from the books for several years. The Interfaith Council of Sun City Center gets its funds from the sale of items at the Nearly New Shop, located at 1515 Sun City Center Plaza, Sun City Center. The shop is open every Wednesday and Saturday. For more information, call (813) 642-9099.

Spring Classic Golf tournament recruits golfers

The Bloomingdale Homeowners Association is recruiting players for its Spring Classic Golf Tournament, with proceeds dedicated to continued therapy for the young Riverview woman who survived a 2008 attack at the Bloomingdale Regional Public Library.

The young woman, then 18, had driven up to the library book drop after hours when she was dragged from her car, raped and beaten. Last year, Kendrick Morris of Clair Mel City was convicted of that crime and another rape and sentenced to 65 years in prison. His Bloomingdale victim was left with brain damage that took her vision and keeps her from walking, talking, or eating without a feeding tube.

Proceeds from the tournament will help pay for intensive therapy

and rehabilitation programs for the young woman that are not covered by Medicaid or other insurance.

The tournament, which can accept up to 144 players, will start at 1 p.m. April 14 at the Bloomingdale Golfer's Club, 4113 Great Golfers Place. The cost is \$80 per player or \$300 for a four-some, which includes a round of golf for each player. Dinner will be served at the end of the day for all players at the club's Legends Grill.

The registration deadline is April 7. For more information, call association board member Jane Lee at (813) 477-7120 or email inbloomindalenews@tampabay.rr.com. Donations are tax-deductible. Checks may be mailed to the association at P.O. Box 7221, Brandon, FL 33508.

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Family Dollar

■ Continued from page 1

Dickenson of Tampa Bay. A small "off corner" parcel is not included in the acquisition agreement, Dickenson added.

The retailer is expected to operate one of its standard 8,000-square-foot outlets on the site, the Realtor indicated. He said he did not know when ground would be broken and did not have a date for opening the new store, adding he did not deal directly with corporate headquarters in Charlotte but rather with the representative Hutton Company.

Chattanooga-based Hutton is a multi-faceted real estate, construction and development firm, according to its website, and

has provided services to Family Dollar for several years. It lists five new Family Dollar outlets in various phases of development in Florida, among 30-plus new stores for the retailer expected to open during coming months in eastern, mid-western and southern states. Hutton provides similar services to several other clients doing business in retail.

Family Dollar describes itself as a "neighborhood family discount store" offering health and beauty products, household goods and clothing. Founded in 1959 in Charlotte by a 21-year-old entrepreneur, the store chain has grown in 52 years to include 6,800 units and nine distribution

centers built in 45 states from Maine to Arizona, its website notes. The company employs some 40,000 individuals.

Publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), Family Dollar reported what it called "record earnings" for the first quarter of the company's 2012 fiscal year. Reported net sales of \$2.148 billion for the quarter reflected more than a seven percent increase over the same period in fiscal 2011, the corporation said. It is reporting annual revenues in excess of \$7 billion.

The purchase arrangement with the owners, members of the Dickman family and descendants

of the community's founders more than 100 years ago, followed initial negotiations with the Redlands Christian Migrant Association for part of its parcel a short distance further south on U.S. 41. That deal, involving perhaps another \$200,000 and relocation to the rear of the

property of an existing house with historic significance to the community, did not materialize.

Neither Family Dollar in Charlotte nor the Hutton Company in Chattanooga responded to inquiries early this week from *The Observer*.
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PowerPoint: Text Boxes, Clipart and Autoshapes • Mar. 15 • 3:30 p.m.
Adding text boxes, clipart and Autoshapes to your presentation. Previous experience with Microsoft PowerPoint is recommended.

PowerPoint: Effects and Transitions • Mar. 15 • 3:45 p.m.
Learn about adding effects and transitions to your presentation. Previous experience with Microsoft PowerPoint is recommended.

eBooks: Introduction • Mar. 16 • 3 p.m.
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Kids' Program/Event Highlights March 15-21

Teen Night: Anime Club

Thursday, March 15 • 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, March 15 • 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.

Puppet Show: Little Red Riding Hood

Friday, March 16 • 10:30 to 11 a.m.

For children ages 4 and up. Little Red Riding Hood warns children not to talk to strangers in this favorite fairytale. At the end of this traditional hand puppet performance, learn how the characters from the story come together from foam ball to animated puppet. Presented by Creative Arts Theatre of the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department.

Drum Magic*

Saturday, March 17 • 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

For grades K and up, loud, feet-tapping program features Drummer, Jana Broder, who brings drums for everyone. Play together as a family in a drum circle. Registration is required. Register at the Information Desk or by calling 273-3652.

Baby Time

Monday, March 19 • 1:35 to 1:55 p.m.

Tuesday, March 20 • 11:35 to 11:55 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, March 19 • 3 to 5 p.m.

Grades 9 through 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.

"Creative Artists" Let's Create!*

Monday, March 19 • 4 to 5 p.m.

"Creative Artists," ages 7 through 10 years, will join Art Instructor and create an art project to take home. Limit 20. Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling (813) 273-3652.

"Expressive Artists" Let's Create!*

Monday, March 19 • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

"Expressive Artists," 11 years and up, will join our Art Instructor and create an art project to take home. Limit 20. Registration required at the Information Desk or by calling (813) 273-3652.

Toddler Time

Tuesday, March 20 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m. and 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

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

Story Time

Tuesday, March 20 • 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.

Internet: Introduction and Google

Tuesday, March 20 • 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.

Sources for Irish Research

Tuesday, March 20 • 1 to 2 p.m.

Genealogist Donna Moughty will help decipher the mystery of Irish Records both in Ireland and in America. Donna's focus

will be for Beginner to Intermediate level researchers. Irish or not, this program will have something for all. Co-sponsored by the South Bay Genealogical Society.

Teen/Adult Drawing

Tuesday, March 20 • 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Join Art Educator Bruce Marsh for this interesting drawing class. All levels welcomed. Limit 20. Registration required at the Information Desk or by calling (813) 273-3652.

*Funding for this event provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

Zoning Overlay District meeting scheduled

There will be an Open House for the U.S. Hwy 41 Proposed Zoning Overlay District from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27 at South Shore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin.

There will be a presentation at 7 p.m. describing the process and the main outcomes.

Staff will also be available to provide information and answer questions.

For more information, call Jose Fernandez, Principal Planner Community Design Development Services, Planning and Zoning Division Hillsborough County BOCC at (813) 307-3435 or email fernandezjr@hillsboroughcounty.org or visit <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org>.

Clean-up day is set

The Spring Clean-up for Ruskin Memorial Cemetery will be from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 24. They need people with equipment: weed whippers, saws, and mowers to get things trimmed way back before the rainy season.

This continues to be organized by the ladies of the Ruskin Woman's Club.

Morning Mile Club in progress

6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Tuesdays through Fridays until the end of the year - Apollo Beach Elementary School (501 Apollo Beach Blvd.) students in grades 3 through 5 are participating in the Morning Mile Club. The students run on the school's track each morning from Tuesday through Thursday until the end of the school year.

Students who run 100 miles or more will have the opportunity to throw a pie in P.E. Coach Ski's face on the morning show.

For more information, call Jaime Gerding at (813) 671-5172.



Improperly applied fertilizers are harmful to our water bodies

As more people focus on their lawns and landscaping this time of year, the Southwest Florida Water Management District promotes Florida-friendly fertilizing practices.

Florida-friendly fertilizing is an annual campaign encouraging residents to responsibly maintain their lawns.

Recent studies have shown rising nitrate levels in many local water bodies can be traced to fertilizer. Nitrate is a form of nitrogen found in inorganic fertilizers. When fertilizer is applied correctly, the lawn absorbs the nitrogen. However, fertilizers applied improperly run off lawns and into local water bodies, harming water quality and threatening the plants and animals that depend on clean water for survival.

Florida-friendly fertilizing emphasizes these tips:

- Use slow-release fertilizers.
- Always follow package directions.
- Don't fertilize before a heavy rain.
- Fertilize only when needed and only when grass is actively growing.

Residents can visit www.WaterMatters.org/fertilizing for step-by-step instructions on fertilizing appropriately and to watch corresponding how-to-videos. Residents also can order a free 'Do-It-Yourself Guide to Florida-Friendly Fertilizing' for more information.

Fertilizing appropriately is one of the nine principles Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, a set of guidelines developed by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences to protect our natural resources while promoting beautiful landscapes.

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, March 15 — Bar Bingo at 6 p.m. MAVFW Meeting at 7 p.m.

Friday, March 16 — Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by George Rabb from 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, March 17 — Turkey Shoot at 1 p.m. \$6.50 St. Patrick Dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by Gypsy Highway from 7 to 11 p.m.

Sunday, March 18 — Fire in the Hole from 1 to 4 p.m. Music by Bert

& Sassy from 5:30 to 10 p.m.

Monday, March 19 — American Legion Riders Meeting at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 20 — Games in Lounge from 1 to 4 p.m. Kitchen open from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 21 — American Legion Auxiliary Meeting at 7 p.m.

Area Special Olympics Equestrian Championships

Area Special Olympics Equestrian Championships are being held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, March 30; and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 31 at Bakas Equestrian Center, 11510 Whisper Lake Trail in Tampa. FREE.

Join Hillsborough County's Bakas Equestrian Center as they host the Area Special Olympics Equestrian Championships. Competitions include: Trails obstacle course, showmanship, pole bending speed event, barrel racing speed event, drill team, English and Western equitation, and dressage.

Riders from Hillsborough, Pasco and Hernando counties will compete for top places in order to move up to the State Championships to be held in May. Concessions are available.

For directions, visit www.bakasridingcenter.com. It is not recommended to use MapQuest as this website does not provide accurate directions.

For more information, call Beth Harre-Orr, Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, at (813) 264-3890.

About Bakas Equestrian Center

The Bakas Equestrian Center is part of the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department. It has been part of Hillsborough County's therapeutic recreation program since 1987, and over the years, thousands of disabled riders have benefitted from this program. The Center hosts riding lessons for children and adults who have physical and/or mental disabilities.

The Center offers introductory riding lessons, games on horseback, basic to advanced riding skills, competition in Special Olympics and challenge shows, driving with horse and carriage, trail rides and more. It also offers riding to the general public, including scheduled lessons, trail rides and birthday parties.

Take steps to cure Lou Gehrig's Disease

More than 1,000 people will gather at the University of South Florida in Tampa on Saturday, March 17 to join the fight to find a cure for a deadly illness. ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, progressively paralyzes its victims, attacking nerve cells and pathways in the brain or spinal cord. ALS has no known cause or cure, but the Tampa Bay community is rallying together to change that.

Wheelchair-bound patients along with their families and friends will make a 2-mile trek in The Walk to Defeat ALS™, hoping their steps will make a difference for ALS patients living in the Tampa Bay area. Many who walk have a loved one who is still fighting the deadly disease. Others walk in memory of a loved one who has lost the battle. Many people, without any personal connection, still walk out of a simple concern for those who are suffering with Lou Gehrig's disease.

With only two to five years to live, these patients have an urgent need, and the community is stepping in to fill it by walking for those who can't. The Walk to Defeat ALS™ is The ALS Association's signature event in which all funds directly support cutting-edge research, programs and patient care.

All interested walkers should call 888-257-1717, or register online at www.WalktoDefeatALS.org.

Living in the danger zone

It is amazing to me that I could walk this earth for nearly a half century without knowing that simple, fuzzy little caterpillars can sting the living crap out of you. I learned the long overdue lesson last week after taking the dogs out. I felt something crawling on my neck towards my chest, grabbed at it and saw a small caterpillar. Within a few minutes, my neck felt as though someone had rubbed fiberglass insulation on it. But it was quickly forgotten until two days later when suddenly a horrific pox appeared on my neck where I had felt the caterpillar. It wasn't quite to the degree of full-blown elephantiasis, but it was nasty.

There are a lot of things that want to kill you in Florida, and now I have to add the simple, fuzzy caterpillar to that list.

I've visited 47 states and more than a dozen countries. I've lived in Minnesota, Colorado and Florida. Florida is the only place

in which I have ever been forced to take an ax to a weed — yes, an ax; not a little hatch or a hoe, but a full-blown ax. Even then, the weed fought back. I have no doubt that had I attempted to wrestle with it without being armed with an ax, it would have tried to kill me. Shortly after the ax incident, I bought a chain saw and the weeds have been a little more docile ever since. But I know that if I ever let my guard down (or if my chain saw breaks) they will try to break into my house at night to raid my refrigerator and kill me in my sleep.

It is ironic, given the sheer number of sharks that would like to eat people, that I never realized how deadly Florida truly was in the eight years I lived on a boat. It wasn't until we moved into our first house that I became aware that nature was fighting back.

The battle began only a few weeks after we moved into

our house, first with the weed incident and then with a blatant and vicious assault in the dead of night. Regarding the latter incident, I noticed one evening that our pool pump didn't shut off on schedule so I left the "safe" confines of the screened-in lanai to manually turn the pump off. It was dark so I had to work by feel. Just as I reached towards the electrical panel, something leaped in the darkness and landed smack dab on my face. I was certain that it was positioning itself to suck my brains out of my eye sockets. I ran screaming, tearing at the alien assaulting me until finally I tore myself free. Yeah, it was just a frog but who's to say that it didn't have poisonous little suckers on its feet? I'm thinking it probably even had tattoos. And maybe a weapon.

A few weeks later, I realized how fleeting the safety of that screened-in lanai really was when I had to chase away an extremely

irritable pygmy rattlesnake using a pool net.

One typically beautiful Sunday morning in Florida (way off topic here but isn't it amazing that almost all Sunday mornings are beautiful in Florida?), I went out through the front door to pick up the morning paper from the driveway. On that particular house, we had a hardwood inside door along with a screen door and a gap of a few inches between them.

Not more than 20 minutes later, I went back to the front door to get something from my car. I opened the inside door and was just starting to open the screen door when I caught something stir at the very lower end of my vision. I looked down to see a snake curled in between the two doors. And it was no ordinary snake, it was a CORAL SNAKE. I slammed the inside door shut and ran. I would have been screaming, but at the time, in

addition to my wife who is no lover of snake-like-things that can kill you, we had two teenage foster daughters. Can you imagine the sheer volume of screaming that would have resulted had I actually started it? The high-pitched wailing alone would have shattered all of our windows, thus allowing who knows how much lethal stuff into the house to kill us.

Without saying a word, I ran out through the back door and used a rake from the garage to open the screen door from the outside. The coral snake, now obviously annoyed, slithered away. Had it not been for a good friend who was a biologist that would have been mortified by my natural instincts, I would have gone all Florida-serial-killer on that snake using the rake. A photograph I took of it later confirmed that it was indeed a coral snake, rather than the "friendly", similar-looking king snake. I also later found out that nearly every suburban neighborhood in Florida



Observations
By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net

See OBSERVATIONS, page 12

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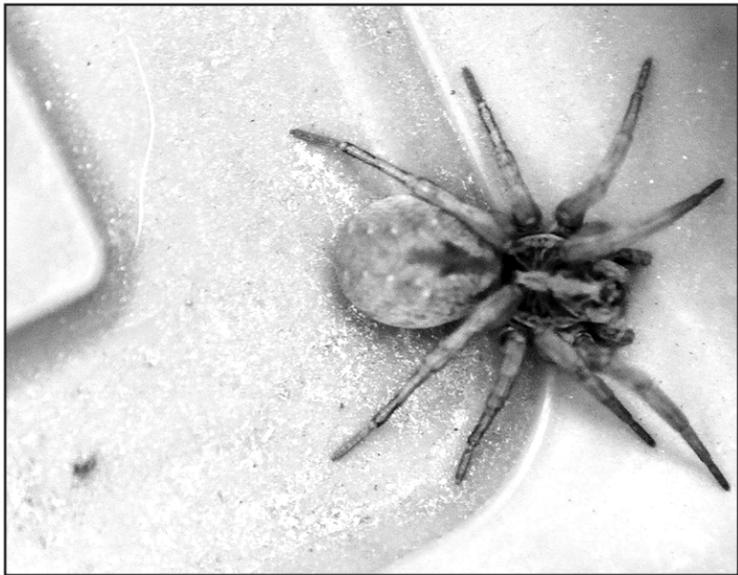
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An arachnologist may say that this wolf spider my wife found in our recycling bin isn't lethal but I can guarantee you that the heart attack I'd have waking up in the middle of the night, walking into the bathroom and seeing him attached to my face would definitely be lethal. We released him into the yard.

Observations

Continued from page 11

has a resident coral snake or six. To this day, I still shudder to think what would have happened had the snake zoomed into the house when I opened the inside door. Absolutely nothing pretty would have come from that.

And, oh yeah, Florida is the only state in the nation with crocodiles. You didn't know that? They are endangered, with an estimated 2,000 of them living mostly on the very southern tip of the state, although they have been found as far north as Sarasota. Why don't you hear of them? Because crocodiles are crafty predators that know how to stay out of the news. Say you are walking the dog down a road next to a swamp and an alligator jumps out to eat both you and Fido. That makes alligators bad, right? Wrong! Because what happens then is a crocodile jumps out to eat the alligator after it has eaten you! Thus, the alligators get the bad press and the crocodiles just get full bellies. Seriously, where else but Florida could that story possibly be true?

In Florida, we have spiders as big as house cats, monkeys that throw rocks, cockroaches that growl, fire ants that kidnap and torture small dogs, and an estimated 50,000 feral pigs. The pigs not only tend to be grouchy and really, really bad things to hit with Honda Civics, but they also carry lethal diseases that they are more than happy to share with all of us (and it's a little ironic that human physiology shares a bunch of commonalities with our swinish brethren).

This city is a metropolitan area of nearly four million people, yet you can drive down Shell Point Road in the early morning hours and not only see wild pigs

grazing, but just a few blocks away you'll also see wild goats grazing. The wild chickens, it seems, prefer to keep U.S. 41 as a barrier between themselves and the pigs and goats. I'm not sure the chickens would kill you, but anything is possible. They have probably gained strength and street smarts while fighting with the cockroaches, so I wouldn't count it out.

If it sounds like I'm complaining, I'll blame that on the caterpillar pox (I honestly had no idea there could be a caterpillar pox!). The truth is that I love Florida and there is a bit of a thrill knowing that life is a little edgy here and that simply walking out to pick up the Sunday newspaper could turn into a death match with a venomous snake. Besides, we also have dolphins (like Flipper!) and otters living here, too. Yes, I'm sure both would love to kill us now and then, but they are smart enough to maintain their hard-earned "cute and lovable image" while biding their time, waiting for the right opportunity to do so.

And even then, even if the crocodiles, fire ants, alligators, otters, cockroaches, spiders, panthers, bobcats, bears, snakes, monkeys, dolphins, wasps, mosquitoes and everything else gang up, they've got nothing on the most horrific, nightmarish, worse-than-a-cheap-slasher-film, gruesome, hideous, unspeakable menace of them all: a text-message-sending-driver in an SUV on I-75. The spiders can only wish they had that kind of power to kill.

Stay safe out there. And please don't pet the crocodiles — it makes them grouchy.

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Enter Lit Wit Humorous poetry contest

March is the time to enter the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System's annual Lit Wit Humorous Poetry Contest, which celebrates April as both National Poetry Month and Jazz Appreciation Month.

The Lit Wit Humorous Poetry Contest invites adults age 18 and older to create a humorous poem, or a parody of a well-known poem, and then enter for a chance to win cash and passes to the Tampa Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theater.

Entry forms are available at any Hillsborough County public library

and online. Participants must submit their completed entry forms and poems by Saturday, March 31 via email to programming@hcplc.org; fax to (813) 273-3634; in person at any Hillsborough County public library; or by mail to Poetry Contest, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries, 900 N. Ashley Dr., Tampa 33602.

Funding provided by the Friends of the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library and The Tampa Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theater. For more information, call (813) 273-3652 or visit www.hcplc.org.

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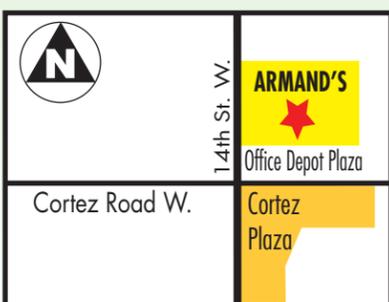
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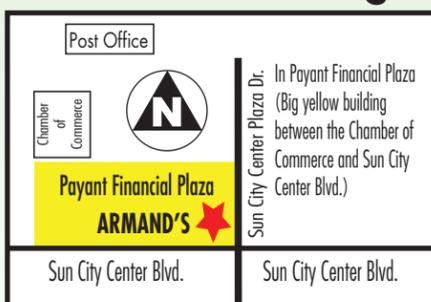
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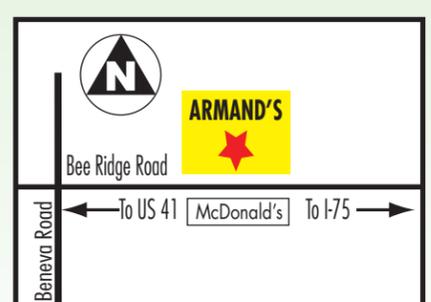
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Thousands visit Manatee Festival of the Arts

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



Artist Bill Darrah at work during the festival. Darrah's art is frequently exhibited in St. Petersburg and on Anna Maria Island.

More than five thousand people are estimated to have visited the Manatee Festival of the Arts in Apollo Beach last weekend. Although the weather service called for the possibility of thunderstorms both Saturday and Sunday, visitors were instead treated to beautiful weather with partly cloudy skies. New Smyrna Beach artist Carol Elder Napoli took home the best of show honors among the approximately 75 juried artists in attendance at the festival.



Fish Rubbings by artist Fred Fisher were a very popular draw during the festival. For more, visit www.aquatic-impressions.com.

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Designer ideas for a cause

MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

Interior designer Sally Morse (black dress) humorously demystified the process of home decorating for more than 75 guests last week when she conducted an evening seminar at Dove Interiors Carpet One. Focusing on "Ten Steps to a Perfect Room," the designer whose work has appeared in several national magazines, shared tips for great lighting and comfortable furniture arrangement, fitting window treatments to room functions and accessorizing with flair during the program attended by both men and women. She also assisted Kim Scott (far right), co-owner of Dove Interiors, and Darla Whitney (center), staff consultant, in picking prize drawing winners. The event raised \$700 for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and guests enjoyed a full buffet of finger foods, fruits, wine and cheese.

More success expected to follow charter school expansion

■ By MELODY JAMESON

WIMAUMA – Long planned and much anticipated, expansion of RCMA's charter Wimauma Academy here to include middle school grades now is close enough to touch – literally.

After years in the making, ground for the \$3.2 million project was broken early this month on the academy campus just north of the Beth El Mission facilities on U.S. 301 South. Work currently is underway on construction of two of three new buildings planned immediately east of the existing grade school.

The new middle school, dubbed the RCMA Leadership Academy, is to encompass grades six through eight, opening in August for the 2012-2013 school year. It will make the South County's only charter school a kindergarten through eighth grade institution for a student body forecast to approach 350.

When finished in early August, the first two new concrete block structures are to house classrooms, a science lab and administration offices, noted Mark Haggett, academy director. One will be configured for six classes – two classrooms each for 6th, 7th and 8th graders – and the lab, while the second structure will provide the space needed for two fifth grade classes, along with faculty and administration offices.

A third building in the complex, to be built as resources allow, will be earmarked for the student cafeteria, Haggett added. In the

meantime, students will continue to have their lunches next door in the Beth El facilities.

All of the structures that comprise the academy campus – the existing kindergarten through fifth grade elementary classrooms and the new middle school facilities – are to be linked by the expansive, partially covered decking that functions as multi-purpose space providing seating and meeting arrangements plus easy access to and unification of the various components in much the same way a university quad does.

About half of the expansion project's \$3-plus million price tag has been accumulated through grants, donations and fund-raising events, according to Maria Jiminez, RCMA's charter school director. And, efforts aimed at raising the remaining \$1.5 million are continuing, she added.

While Hillsborough's charter schools, which are part of the public school district, do receive per-student allotments from state and federal funding sources, Jiminez, pointed out, they are not beneficiaries of ad valorem taxes paid by local property owners at the county level as other public schools are.

Consequently, charter schools, which enjoy a certain latitude in fulfilling the missions of their charters, also must be more resourceful in underwriting costs of big-ticket undertakings such as expansions, Jiminez indicated. RCMA has engaged the services of a Tampa-based consultant to

help with raising the expansion-completion funding needed, she noted.

On the other hand, Haggett emphasized that as academy director he frequently has reason to appreciate his is one of 37 charter schools in Hillsborough

County where the charter concept is valued and encouraged. There are large counties in the state, he added, where no more than a couple of charters exist and their many benefits for students cannot be widely enjoyed there.

According to the National

Education Association, the charter school movement in America grew out of an impetus for educational reform in the 1980s and the first such schools opened in 1991 in Minnesota. Charter schools generally are defined as publicly-

See CHARTER SCHOOL, page 17



MELODY JAMESON PHOTOS

After many years spent in the making, Redlands Christian Migrant Association staff members are eager to see expansion of their Wimauma Academy campus finally taking shape. Using a three-dimensional architectural rendering to demonstrate, Mark Haggett, director of the academy, (right) points out new building placements as he discusses their developing middle school with Maria Jiminez, RCMA charter schools director, (left) and Bill Coats, (center), communications director for the organization based in Immokalee.



Ground has been cleared on the Wimauma Academy campus for its new middle school buildings and foundation work is well underway as the contractor aims for a finish deadline in early August. When complete at that point, eight new classrooms, a science lab and administrative offices will welcome 6th, 7th and 8th graders as the 2012-2013 school year opens. About half of the needed funding has been raised for expansion of the charter school which does not benefit from county property taxes as other public schools do.

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Charter school

■ Continued from page 16

funded elementary and secondary level institutions that are freed of some of the rules, regulations and statutory requirements imposed on other public schools in exchange for producing certain results that are set forth in their charters and verified through ongoing accountability.

At RCMA's Wimauma Academy and forthcoming Leadership Academy, the mission as outlined in the charter, Haggett said, basically is to provide the opportunities for success to youngsters in migrant and low income families. And this objective is reached with creative curriculums appropriate to the varying age levels with emphasis on exposure to new cultural experiences while encouraging suitable goal setting and discipline.

Academy students, for example, all wear simple uniforms - red shirts and dark blue pants, shorts or skirts for elementary age or teal blue shirts and black pants, shorts or skirts for middle schoolers. "It levels the playing field," Haggett asserted, eliminating excesses in the types or expense of school clothing.

In addition, while most students are of Hispanic heritage and Spanish is their first language which may be spoken exclusively at home, all classes are conducted in English. However, Haggett said, "students know that two members of the staff will speak only in Spanish with them and that they can talk with those Spanish speakers at any time."

Academy students, of course, get a full complement of the academics - math, science, reading, social studies, etc., suited to the grade level. They also begin working on computers early in the elementary grades and are given

choices of "electives" which begin to introduce them to ideas and activities they might otherwise not encounter.

They have, for example, learned about healthy cooking and have experimented making specific dishes in their classes. They have learned the rudiments of chess, identifying the pieces, setting up the field, mastering basic strategies of play. They have learned the game of tennis from forehand to backhand, courtesy of their director. They have studied paleontology, learning about the pre-historic world that once characterized Florida and getting hands-on experience with actual ancient artifacts.

What's more, they make field trips aimed at supplementing the classroom education or adding to the range of cultural experiences. They have participated in an annual art show held in Tampa's Hyde Park district and taken in performances at the Straz Performing Arts Center and engaged in athletic competitions and visited Legoland. They soon will be making a field trip to Plant City's Dinosaur World, Haggett said, adding "we've never made a trip that we were not complimented about the good behavior of our students."

From the opportunities have come the successes, the director said. Since the academy's establishment in 2000, numerous students have gone on to a charter school in Progress Village where performing arts are the focus and there now are former Wimauma Academy students earning degrees from the University of South Florida.

The Redlands Christian Migrant Association is headquartered in Immokalee and dedicated to assisting the mostly Hispanic

migrant population attracted initially to Florida's agricultural work, then settling increasingly around the state. It operates two charter schools and 70 educational centers.

Its new Leadership Academy middle school expansion at Wimauma, Haggett suggested, can be anticipated not only to expand the educational opportunities for

more charter school students in higher grades but also to increase the number and range of their successes.

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MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

Third graders at Wimauma Academy become proficient in using computers as part of their learning processes. Here, Oscar Olguin (left) and Angel Valencia (right) get a little guidance from their teacher, Tonia Buchwalter (kneeling behind the boys), as they complete a lesson. The charter school's mission is providing opportunities for success to youngsters from migrant and low income families in the area.

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 Upcoming Activities



Every Tuesday - Jam Session - 3 to 5 p.m. - No charge for all Elks and their guests.

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

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

Saturday, March 17 - St Patrick's Day Celebration, Music by Bryan Ashley, Menu: Corn Beef and Cabbage with all the trimmings, Cocktails 5p.m., Dinner, 6p.m., all for only \$12 per person.

March 19 - Blue Plate Special, \$7 with all the trimmings, 5 p.m.

March 31 - Installation of new officers. Installation will take place at 4 p.m. with prime rib dinner at 5 p.m. Music by Bryan from 6-8 p.m. and the cost is \$15.

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



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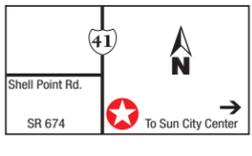


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Adult Program/Event Highlights • March 15-21

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

Introduction to the Publisher window layout, toolbars, creating new documents, and insertion of text and picture frames. Manipulating picture and text frames, working with lines, borders and colors.

Registration in person required at noon on day of program.

Book Discussion: Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen
Thursday, March 15 • 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant, who gave them hope.

Bagpipes & Battle-Axes -- a History of Scandinavian Scots in Ireland
Monday, March 19 • 10 a.m. to noon

Did you know that the origin of the name of the country of "Scotland" is derived from "Land of the Scotti" (Ireland), thus Highland Scots are actually Irish; and, to "muddy the water further," did you know that typical Irish or Scotch names such as: MacDonald, MacDougal, MacSweeny, etc, have Scandinavian roots, and the name, Doyle, is Danish? These questions will be answered during the PowerPoint presentation.

Internet: Introduction and Google
Tuesday, March 20 • 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.

Sources for Irish Research
Tuesday, March 20 • 1 to 2 p.m.

Genealogist, Donna Moughty, will help decipher the mystery of Irish Records both in Ireland and in America. Donna's focus will be for Beginner to Intermediate level researchers. Irish or not, this program will have something for all. Co-sponsored by the South Bay Genealogical Society.

eBooks for the iPad

Wednesday, March 21 • 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Learn how to download eBooks to your iPad, iPad 2, or iPhone.

English Conversation Class

Wednesday, March 21 • 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, call the Hillsborough Literacy Council at 273-3650.

Elder Law Seminar

Wednesday, March 21 • 2 to 4 p.m.

This program will provide information and education regarding legal issues for seniors including planning for incapacities and long term care with emphasis on public benefits. Medicaid, Medicare, and VA programs will be discussed.

Mah Jongg Club

Wednesday, March 21 • 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of the popular table game, Mah Jongg, featuring challenging play for experienced players and instruction for beginners. We will be using the American Rules. Spectators are welcome!

Participants are asked to bring their own Mah Jongg set or card. Limited to 16 players. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call 273.3652.



SouthShore Needle People

Wednesday, March 21 • 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!

St. Patrick's at VFW Post 8108

VFW Post 8108, 7504 Riverview Drive in Riverview, will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Saturday, March 17. Dinner will consist of Pot of Gold corned beef with cabbage, carrot coins, onion jewels and clover potatoes. To top it off you will be served a Leprechaun's Dream for dessert. Dinner will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. After dinner join them for an evening of karaoke which will start at 7 p.m.



Cost of this Pot of Gold dinner is \$7 in advance or \$8 at the door. Tickets may be purchased at the canteen or from the cashier at the cashier's station from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday or Friday evenings or on Sundays during breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon.

Join a youth basketball league

Parks, Recreation and Conservation is hosting a youth basketball league for boys and girls ages 7-12. This program is designed to encourage self-esteem, recreation, and physical activity.

Registration began March 12. Games will be played from 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays March 27 through May 10.

Cost is \$30 per child and \$25 for Rec2Six participants. Cost includes a T-shirt and trophy.

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

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RUSKIN Moose Lodge #813 UPCOMING EVENTS

The Ruskin Moose Lodge #813 is located at 1212 E. Shell Point Road, Ruskin • (813) 645-5919
www.lodge813.moosepages.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 |
| | 7-11 p.m. | Karaoke with Kim Mullins |

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--|
| Friday, March 16 | 7-11 p.m. | Live Band |
| Saturday, March 17 | 4-7 p.m. | St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner |
| | 7-11 p.m. | St. Patty's Day Party with Kim Mullins |

All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests

Hip Hop Line Dance for girls and boys

Parks, Recreation and Conservation is sponsoring a hip hop line dance for girls and boys ages 11 to 17 years old from 5:30 to 7 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, March 22 through May 10 at Apollo Recreation Center, 664 Gulf & Sea Blvd. in Apollo Beach.

Free. Register on Tuesday, March 20. For more information, call Toi Powell, Ruskin Recreation Center, at (813) 672-7881.

Riverview Moose Family Center 2158/Chapter 1031

Loyal Order of Moose • 9000 Honeywell Rd. • Gibsonton

Lodge2158@mooseunits.org • (813) 677-7921

All events are open to qualified Moose Members and guests.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 17

Best St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance EVER!!

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m.

Cost \$6 per person

"The South Shore 4" will be performing following dinner

Special Guest: Sax and Recording Artist Eirinn Abu from "The Miami Sound Machine"



Fishing Charter Raffle for Ana Banana Charter's 10 tickets for \$5

South County Rose Group to meet

The South County Rose Group will meet at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 17 at the Sun City Center United Methodist Church Community Room at 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West, Sun City Center.

It is time to test the alkalinity of your soil to assure the maximum absorption of the fertilizers and organics that you apply. If the pH of your soil is not within the prescribed range for growing roses, they will advise you how to correct the problem.

Bring soil samples from your rose bed to test at the meeting. Take the soil sample from under the drip line of the rose bush after you have pulled back the mulch. Take the soil from about a depth of three inches and put in a plastic zip-lock bag to bring with you to the meeting.

FISH TALES

Kingfish are slowly traveling through our area

Our summer-like weather is great for fishing, but the past week strong west winds have kept many anglers ashore. It has been too windy to cast a line, I heard from many this week.

A cold front passed through our area, and it took a few days for the water temperature to regain its normal temp.

Those who came in with a baitwell full of fish caught them all by trolling. By chumming the water with a slow troll, they caught fish.

Spanish mackerel was a great catch this week for those who put away their lures and used a slow dropping jig.

Those fishing from shore reported muddy waters, due to the winds. It was difficult fishing, but some did not wait for the water to clear and boated a few fish.

I talked to a trio of anglers with a legal redfish catch. All were caught on oyster bars while they were feeding. It is an art to cast into a bar of shells and not get your hook caught.

Redfish is one per person, not less than 18" or more than 27" per day. Food value is great either baked or fried.

Snook have moved into our area and have been seen on the flats at low tide, and in the mangrove roots as the tide rises. This fish is still a no-keeper due to the big freeze a year or so ago. They are legal on the east coast, because none were

killed over there by a freeze.

If you can't locate a fishing spot, look for a school of mullet. Redfish swim along with the mullet, as well as others. If you can't locate a school of mullet, watch for a flock of birds. The birds follow the school and get all of the small bait fish that a school of reds leave behind. The mullet do not eat baitfish. Mullet are vegetarians and have a gizzard like a chicken.

Trout are in the flats and on hard sandy shell bottoms. A fresh shrimp will be good bait for this fish. This fish has a very soft mouth and it is often difficult to set a hook. Many are lost before boated.

Kingfish are slowly traveling through the area. Each week I hear of one or two caught. Spring is the season they come into our waters on their way south.

Triggerfish have been boated by those fishing around buoys and wrecks. Often called a leather-skinned nibbler, they have a small mouth, which often makes this fish difficult to catch. The grey triggerfish has good food value. This fish averages one pound and the largest catch on record is 12 lbs.

Our mild winter has been great for freshwater big bass catches. Florida boasts over a million anglers with more world records than any state or country. You can catch largemouth bass in the upper freshwater of both the Alafia and the Little Manatee Rivers. Why travel out of your own backyard, across the state or south? You are living in the best fishing spot in the world.

Our saltwater has catfish, with most caught and released. Some I'm sure have eaten this fish; I never have. We do have freshwater catfish in our upper rivers which is the best food value ever and has graced many tables with hush puppies.

Fish our salt water or fresh water for the best catches in the nation.

Aleta Jonie Maschek is a member of Florida Outdoor Press.



Fish Tales
By Jonie Maschek



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ADM

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Fax 813-633-6420



South Bay Church to host BBQ chicken dinner

Proceeds to benefit the Haiti Missions trip for students

South Bay Church will be having a BBQ Chicken Dinner Fundraiser from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 18, at 13498 US 301, Riverview. A \$5 donation is suggested for each BBQ chicken meal. There will be give-a-ways, music, and children's activities. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the day.

Take out meals will be available starting at 10:30 a.m.

All proceeds will benefit student Haiti Missions Trip.

For more information visit www.southbay.cc or call 813-677-0271.

Ruskin United Methodist Easter Music Presentation

Ruskin United Methodist Church, will present the Easter music presentation "No Stone Could Hold Him" at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 18 at 105 4th Avenue NW in Ruskin.

Everyone is invited to share in the special Easter celebration of music and worship – a collection of solo music, readings, instrumentals, and a mini cantata. Their quartets "4-4-Him" and "Cross Connection" will take part.

The program is under the direction of Director of Music Ministries, Robert Romanski. There is no admission charge as the price has already been paid. They are accepting donations of non-perishable food for the Community Cupboard in Ruskin.

For more information, call the church office at 645-1241.

Beth Israel to host Women's Seder

April brings us freshly budding flowers and trees, and Floridians stow away their "winter wardrobe", and prepare for one of the happiest holidays in April, Passover.

Beth Israel Sisterhood Women's Seder will be held at noon on Tuesday, April 3 in the Henry Gibson Social Hall in the Temple located at 1115 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center. Members of Sisterhood pay \$5 per person and non members pay \$8.

Call the President of the Sisterhood, Sandra Hurwitz for reservations at 634-4444 or mail it to 1704 Tremont Court, Sun City Center.

Ruskin Aglow, to meet

Ruskin Aglow, a spirit filled ladies group will meet at 10 a.m. on March 17 at Palm Gardens facility, 3850 Upper Creek Dr., Sun City Ctr, Fl. Guest Word Teacher is Clarice Pennington. Info Gloria 813 633 9613

Easter season activities at First United Methodist Church of Brandon

Palm Sunday, April 1, features special music and media at 9:30 and 11 a.m. with their regular service at 8 a.m.

The 'Living Last Supper' is a live re-creation of daVinci's famous painting, with heartfelt music, moving drama and Communion taken from the disciples. It begins promptly at 7 p.m. on April 5.

Easter Sunrise Service will be led by Emmaus Community, at Camp Rotary Florida from 6:30 - 7:15 a.m.

The Easter Morning Services are at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. on April 8. This year, they will also offer an evening service in the Chapel at 6 p.m. featuring the Bridge band.

First United Methodist Church of Brandon is located one block north of S.R. 60 (Brandon Blvd.), at 121 North Knights Avenue, between Kings and Parsons. Call the church office at 813-689-4161 for more details, or visit www.fumcbrandon.org.

Saturday Night sing planned

Vaughn Street Bible Church to host a Saturday Night Sing featuring the "Gospel Truth Quartet" at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 17 at 10018 Vaughn Street, Gibsonton. The Gospel Truth Quartet has been singing for many years and is from the Tampa Bay area. They are well known and provide a beautiful Southern Gospel Blend in their concerts. This group will bring honor and praise as they sing. Don't miss this concert. Everyone is welcome. A love offering will be taken during the concert. For more information call 813-677-1189 or visit www.vaughnstreetbiblechurch.com.

Parkinson's Support Group to meet

The Sun City Center Parkinson's Disease Support Group will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. on Friday, March 16 at the United Community Church on the corner of LaJolla and Pebble Beach N.

There's plenty to do at Friendship

More than 40 members of the Friendship Baptist Church, 1511 El Rancho, Sun City Center, celebrated at their Valentine banquet Feb. 11. Everyone enjoyed the homemade spaghetti prepared by Robin and Bill Marshall, while desserts were the donations of the ladies.

Keep the dates of March 16, 17, and 18 open for the 3-day Revival. There will be special, visiting inspirational music and speakers.

Once a month the men of Friendship meet for breakfast at Denny's, while every Tuesday the ladies meet up at McDonald's. They have visitation to newcomers to welcome them to town, and invite them to worship at Friendship Baptist Church. There are three Sunday School classes: two are at 9 a.m., and one at 11 a.m., following the 10 a.m. worship service.

You can see, ages notwithstanding, Friendship Baptist is not a do-nothing church. They support three missions and have a Women's Mission Union meeting once a month.



Lots of smiles at Friendship Baptist Church's spaghetti feed.

Men and Women's Bible Studies

Visit www.SouthBay.cc to register online and for more details.
Childcare is available by reservation, call 677-0721.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>MEN: Every Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Beginning March 13 "Every Man's Battle"</p> | <p>WOMEN: Tuesdays 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Beginning March 27 (6 week study) "The Virtuous Woman: Shattering the Superwoman Myth" by Vicki Courtney. Workbook \$10. Tuesdays 7 p.m. Beginning March 27 "Experiencing God"</p> |
|--|--|

SOUTH BAY CHURCH Sunday Services: 9 & 11 a.m.
13498 US 301 S. • Riverview, FL 33578 • 677-0721
www.southbay.cc • Pastor: David Speicher

Visit SouthBay.cc for details on Celebrate Recovery Training; Youth/Kids Summer Camp; much more

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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 Goad, Pastor (Southern Baptist)

1511 El Rancho Dr.
Sun City Center, FL 33573
Phone/Fax: 813-633-5950

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

Ruskin 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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

701 Valley Forge Blvd. • Sun City Center, FL 33573-5354

Rev. Dr. Peter Stiller, Pastor

Telephone: 813-634-1292 • Website: sccredeemer.org
Worship Services on Sunday 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Holy Communion First & Third Sunday • Bible Class Thursday 10 a.m., Guests Welcome

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC

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

Doubt is the whetstone of understanding.
— John Dos Passos

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Henry Gibson Social Hall, Beth Israel Synagogue
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www.unitycommunityofjoy.com

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
813-298-7745

First Baptist Church of Gibsonton

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Traditional Worship Service | *Sunday School | 9:30 A.M. |
| Old-Time Gospel Hymns | *Morning Worship | 10:30 A.M. |
| Nursery Available | Sunday Evening | 6:00 P.M. |
| * Interpreter for the Deaf | Mid-Week (Wed.) | 7:00 P.M. |

9912 Indiana St. • Hwy 41 & Estelle Avenue
Gibson, FL 33534

Malcolm S. Clements, Pastor
813-677-1301

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

702 Valley Forge Blvd., SCC, FL 33573
Phone: 634-2328 • Fax: 633-6670
www.popc.org

Masses:
Sunday 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon
Saturday Vigil 4:00 & 6:00 p.m.
Daily 8:00 a.m.

Confessions:
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. and Sat. 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

"Loving God, Loving Others,
Serving Beyond Borders"

Sunday School (all ages)..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday (all ages) 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Samuel (Sam) A. Roach, Pastor
1301 U.S. Hwy. 41 N., Ruskin, FL • 645-1121 • www.nbcor.org

UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ United Church of Christ

1501 La Jolla AVE, Sun City Center, FL 33573-5329
A Caring Church United in God's Love Serving Our Community
All Are Welcome!

Rev. Dr. Michael F. Evans ~ Worship Service ~ 10 AM
(813) 634-1304 ~ www.uccinsec.org

Welcome to the: EVERETT TATE, MINISTER

South Hillsborough Church of Christ

1611 First St. SW • Ruskin, FL • 645-7607
—NON-INSTRUMENTAL—

SERVICES: Sunday..... 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday..... 7:00 p.m.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship: Blended 8:00 a.m.
Contemporary 9:40 a.m.
Traditional 11:15 a.m.

Nursery Provided
Pastor Jack R. Palzer
5309 U.S. Highway 41 North • Apollo Beach
(across from MiraBay) www.calvarylutheranchurch.net 645-1305

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10:30 a.m. SUNDAYS

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Minister - DR. DAVID CAMPBELL

Area Places of Worship

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



Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.
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<http://www.sccumc.com>

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Serving South Hillsborough County

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)

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 Bookstore 633-8595

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

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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.
 Awana7:00 p.m.

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 Need the comfort of a warm and loving family?
 Join us on Sunday to come home to the warmth of our church family.
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"Getting to Know You" (Donuts & Coffee)9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School9:30 a.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship10:55 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Evening Service7:00 p.m.
 Thursday Morning Prayer10:00 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 School10:00 a.m.
 Wednesday Service.....5:00 p.m.
 Reading Room..... Wednesday 4 to 4:45 p.m.

All Are Welcome

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.
Casual Service 11:00 a.m.

Prayers with anointing for healing and wholeness during worship the second Sunday of every month.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mark E. Salmon
Meet friends in Fellowship Hall after the Service.
Refreshments served.

1239 Del Webb Blvd. West Phone: 813-634-1252
 Sun City Center, FL 33573 For information visit:
 Church is Handicap accessible www.standrewatssc.org

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

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 Friday8:00 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.

Foursquare to host Healing Conference

The Foursquare Gospel Church will be hosting "Encounter the Healing Presence of God" on Friday night March 23 and will end on Saturday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. Rev. Howard Roshaven, former pastor and current worship leader at the Foursquare Church, will lead this conference.

Pastor Norm Blanton invites the public to attend and experience the healing power of the Lord. The church is located at 106 7th Ave. NW in Ruskin. Doors open at 6:30 p.m for registration and conference will begin at 7 p.m. There is no charge for this conference but offerings will be received in the conference. For more information call 813-309-3558.

Area Obituaries

Victoria Lynn 'Vicky' Clark

Victoria Lynn 'Vicky' Clark, 56, of Ruskin passed away March 9, 2012. She will be forever in the hearts of her friends and family.
 Zipperer's Funeral Home

June "Rosie" Courtney

June "Rosie" Courtney, of Kings Point, passed September 23, 2011 suddenly and unexpectedly at her home. She was a wonderful, loving wife to Robert Courtney, who preceded her in death. She was beautiful, funny and full of life. She dedicated many of her years taking care of loved ones who needed her. She was a loving, caring mother to Jerri Renee Vail, who also preceded her in death. She is survived by her sister "Joyce Hessler", who was her kindred-spirit; sister "Jeanette Love, whom she shared many laughs and her quick wit; grand-daughter "Cina Perry", whom loved her unconditionally; grand-son, "Christian Vail" whom she thought hung the moon & stars; niece "Amy Gregory", whom loved and treated her as a second Mom and god-daughter/great niece, "Alexus Gregory", whom she adored with all her heart. She was a loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, great aunt and friend to many. Although, her final wishes here on earth were not honored, we are sure her every wish has been granted by our mighty father in heaven. She will be missed and thought of each and every day of our lives. Special thanks to the ones who were there for her in-life and in-death; Terri Carrol, Nancy Diamond, Debbie Hartley and Victoria Hall.

United Methodists to host spring concert

The community is invited to a spring concert presented by the Eastern Hillsborough Community Band Thursday, March 29, 7 p.m., at First United Methodist Church of Brandon. The band will perform

music by American composers and arrangers during the concert, titled Made in America.

The concert will be in the chapel at 115 N. Knights Ave., Brandon. The event is \$5 at the door and

open to the public. Reservations are not required.

For more information about the band, call (813) 569-1771, email info@ehcb.org or visit www.ehcb.org.

Enjoy eggs and Easter

The United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Avenue, Sun City Center invites you to celebrate Easter with them on Sunday, April 8. There will be an Easter Sunday Morning Watch Service at 8 a.m. in the Great Hall. Scriptures will be read and Easter hymns sung. Following the service, a catered breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. Scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage, biscuits and country gravy, fried potatoes, fresh fruit cup, waffles and syrup, muffins, orange and tomato juice and coffee and tea. Reservations are necessary and the tickets are \$10 and may be purchased in the church office Monday thru Friday. Please note, the \$10 per person price covers food, tax, tip and beverage. The deadline is April 2 for reservations and ticket purchase. They also invite you to stay for the Festival Service at 10 a.m. to complete your Easter celebration. Everyone is invited and will be welcomed to celebrate in this joyous day.



The United Methodist Church of SCC's new children's choir – J.A.M. (Jesus and Me).

New Children's Choir debut

The United Methodist Church of SCC took another step forward on Sunday, March 11 premiering their new children's choir – J.A.M. (Jesus and Me). Twenty-two children, in sparkly vests and logo shirts, danced down the aisles to sing and sign "Kum Bah Ya," accompanied by a children's chime choir. Student directors for the group are preteens, Julia Jordan and Isabelle Jordan. J.A.M. will perform the second Sunday of each month at the 9:15 a.m. and 10:55 a.m. services. If you seek an intergenerational experience in worship, come visit the United Methodist Church and experience J.A.M. For more information call 813-634-2539 or visit www.sccumc.com.

More Church News on page 22

Thursday, March 15th
 From 5:00 until 8:00 p.m.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Prince of Peace Catholic Church
 702 Valley Forge Blvd. • Sun City Center, FL 33573
www.popcc.org • (813) 634-2328

The Sacrament of Reconciliation
 (Confessions)

The Light Is On For You:
Thursday, March 15th • 5-8 p.m.
 Daily Confessions: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.



Congregation of Beth Shalom host Women's Seder

What a wonderful time the women and children had at the first Women's Seder held at Congregation Beth Shalom. The Seder was led by our own Rabbi Torop. The special Haggadahs written for women's seders were unique. They read the prayers, sang the songs, honored the famous Jewish women, and most importantly, had a fantastic time. All agreed that it was a great beginning of a tradition at CBS which will enhance the annual celebration of the Pass-over holiday.

The Women of CBS will sponsor its second annual Women's Seder led by Rabbi Betsy Torop at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 1.

The Seder is open to all women of CBS—young, old, and in the

middle, and other women and their daughters who wish to have this experience. The Seder will be held at the Temple. Each family will be asked to bring one dairy luncheon food item to share.

There is a charge of \$10 per CBS family, \$15 for non-member families to attend. If you have a Haggadah from last year, please bring it. For those who do not have one, there will be a \$15 charge for the Haggadahs for members of CBS (\$20 for non-members). Children of the attendees can share the Haggadahs.

Contact Phylis at phylnew@verizon.net to receive a listing of what food items are required for the potluck. Additionally, if you are willing to help with prepara-

tion, set-up and clean-up please let her know.

For more information call Phylis and Sheila 813-651-1707; phylnew@verizon.net



"You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Micah 5:2 (NIV)



From left to right: Senior Pastor Ron Churchill, Missions chairman Jim Shumway, Christie and Mark Davenport and daughter Lauren in front.

Trinity Baptist Church extends helping hand

Trinity Baptist Church, in Sun City Center, recently hosted church planter Mark Davenport and his family at their Sunday evening service, with a reception following. Pastor Davenport is starting a church in Palm Beach Gardens, FL and he related the struggles, issues, and victories that he and his family have experienced in this endeavor. He and his wife have both taken jobs to support their family financially, while the church is being started. The initial members of the church have tended to be people who are not currently in a church and who are going through struggles in their lives. The attendees now number around 100. Trinity Baptist has used several thousand dollars from the earnings of their mission endowment fund as well as the missions budget to support Pastor Davenport's effort. If you would like to support this pastor's effort or would like more information, call 634-4228.

'Aged To Perfection'

encore performance planned

"Aged to Perfection", the new musical that took the Rollins Theater by storm in January playing to sell-out crowds, returns for a one night only encore performance at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 16 at SCC United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$10 and are only available at the door the night of the show.

Co-written by and starring Teri Council, Ellen Kleinschmidt and Kathy Straub, the story centers on three sisters who grew up together at a vineyard in California and who are as different as three varieties of fine wine. Victoria, a magazine publisher and the oldest, is strong like merlot; Amy, an actress and middle sister, is bubbly like champagne; Lizzie, the proprietor of the vineyard, mother of five and the baby of the family, is sweet like riesling. After years of drifting apart, the sisters are called back home where they must come together as never before in a tender story of family conflict, forgiveness and unconditional love filled with some of the finest, yet seldom heard, Broadway songs. Featured as the aunts are Fran Eckert and Jeanne Naish.

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310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

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

March 17, Saturday, 300 Flamingo Dr. Apollo Beach. Tons of new women's clothes and barely used shoes and clothes, some household items. 9:30a.m. til 4 p.m.

Garage Sale: Antiques, collectibles, furniture, Johnson outboard motor 9.5 HP. New clothing men & woman, housewares, jewelry, books. Thursday, Friday, Saturday March 15, 16, 17. 1416 Seton Hall Drive. Follow signs on SR 674 and W. Del Webb.

Summerfield Community Wide YARD SALE
(one mile east of Big Bend Rd. & U.S. 301)
Saturday, March 17
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Many participants. Great things, great prices! Come find tons of bargains.

March 15, Thursday only. 7am-1pm. Block sale. Indian Wells Ave., Sun City Center (off Augusta Drive)

Garage sale SCC, 810 El Rancho. Antiques, collectibles, fishing, comics, old buttons, Western paperbacks. 15th, 16th & 17th, 8-?

Apollo Beach Caribbean Isles Parkwide Sale. Saturday 3/17, 8-1, 20+ homes. Big Bend Rd. south on US 41, take first right on Elsberry Rd. Follow signs. From Ruskin north on US 41 past Apollo Beach Blvd. to first left, Elsberry Rd.

Yard sale: 1509 7th St. SW, Ruskin, FL Tools, clothing, furniture, 16th & 17th, 9-3.

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310 GARAGE/ YARD SALE

Garage Indoor Estate Sale: Apollo Beach, 6446 Lake Sunrise Dr., Thursday, Friday & Saturday, March 15, 16 & 17, 8-1. Unique items, glassware, Lenox, Wedgewood crystal, kitchenware, pottery, pillows, African art, clay pots, crafts, linens, office supplies, chandeliers, some furniture, artwork, French country items, landscape lighting, tools, hardware, sewing machine, needlepoint, rugs, designer clothes, shoes, handbags, many items are brand new.

6220 Fox Run Trail. Apollo Beach. Saturday, 7am. Clothes, ladies & men's large sizes, antiques.

Garage sale. 1318 Misty Greens off Platinum, SCC. Saturday, 3/17, 8am-1pm. Cheap & reasonable

Garage Sale: Nice church clothes, size 2x, reasonable price. Lots of miscellaneous items. Saturday, 8-1, 126 St. Pierre's Caribbean Isles Mobile Home Park, Apollo Beach.

Community Garage Sale
 Mira Lago. 604 Yorkdale Dr. (clubhouse) Ruskin. 8am-noon. March 17 & 18. Something for everyone.

Daylight Savings
 VCR and DVD movies, kitchen items, aquarium and large plasma TV, Friday & Saturday March 16 & 17, 8-? 1756 Atrium Dr. Cypress View 1, SCC (off W. Del Webb)

Yard sale: Friday & Saturdays, 7-?, 1105 15th St. SE, Ruskin.

Moving sale: Everything must go! Furniture, electronics, clothes and household items. Thursday-Sunday March 15-18, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 1441 Delano Trent Street just north of Shell Point off 15th

BBQ CHICKEN DINNER
\$5
 Suggested Donation
 Take-out meals available starting at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 18
 South Bay Church
 13498 U.S. Hwy. 301 South Riverview
 (just south of Big Bend Road)
Bring your lawn chair and join us from 12:30 to 2 p.m.
 • Giveaways • Music
 • Children's Activities
All proceeds benefit student Haiti missions trip

Furniture, books, kitchen & office items, clothes, shoes, TVs, bed spreads, rugs & other misc. Friday & Saturday, March 16 & 17, 8am-noon. 6350 Cocoa Lane, Apollo Beach.

3 family garage sale. March 16, 17 & 18. 7 am - 3 pm. 801 Kingswood Place (off Kings Ave.) Brandon. Something for everyone

Yard Sale: Saturday, March 17, 8-?, household items, jewelry, books, pictures, 803 10th St. SW, Ruskin

310 GARAGE/ YARD SALE

Shell Point Extravaganza
 Jeff's Huge Yard Sale. Thurs. Fri. Sat., 8-1, 1709 W. Shell Point Rd. Look for colorful signs. Antiques, nautical, military, tools, fishing equipment, boat parts, collectibles. No early birds please.

Big Yearly Spring Sale In Sundance
 All name brand clothes, kids, womens, men's all sizes Tommy, Levi, Hollister, South Pole, Aeropostale, & many Echo, Dickies, Guy Harvey & more brands. Great kids & ladies \$ 1 tables & men's \$2 table. VHS Disney & kids movies, \$50. New CDs & DVDs. Linend, lots of household misc. Bikes, some guy stuff. Free clothes table. Something for everyone, don't miss this one. Friday, Saturday & Sunday 8am-5pm. 1106 Oxbow Rd (4.5 miles south of SR 674 on US 301 to Lightfoot Rd). Follow signs & balloons. See you there.

312 ESTATE SALES

Friday only: Estate sale by owner, 1411 Jacobson Circle, Sun City Center. Bedroom suites, dining room table, rising cocktail table, miscellaneous furniture, bookcases, artwork, TVs, storage cabinets, bikes, lawn equipment, etc. Cash only.

Estate Sale: Entire contents of home, March 16, 17 and 18, 11111 Corlett Road, Riverview. License # AB2840

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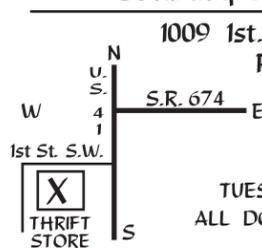
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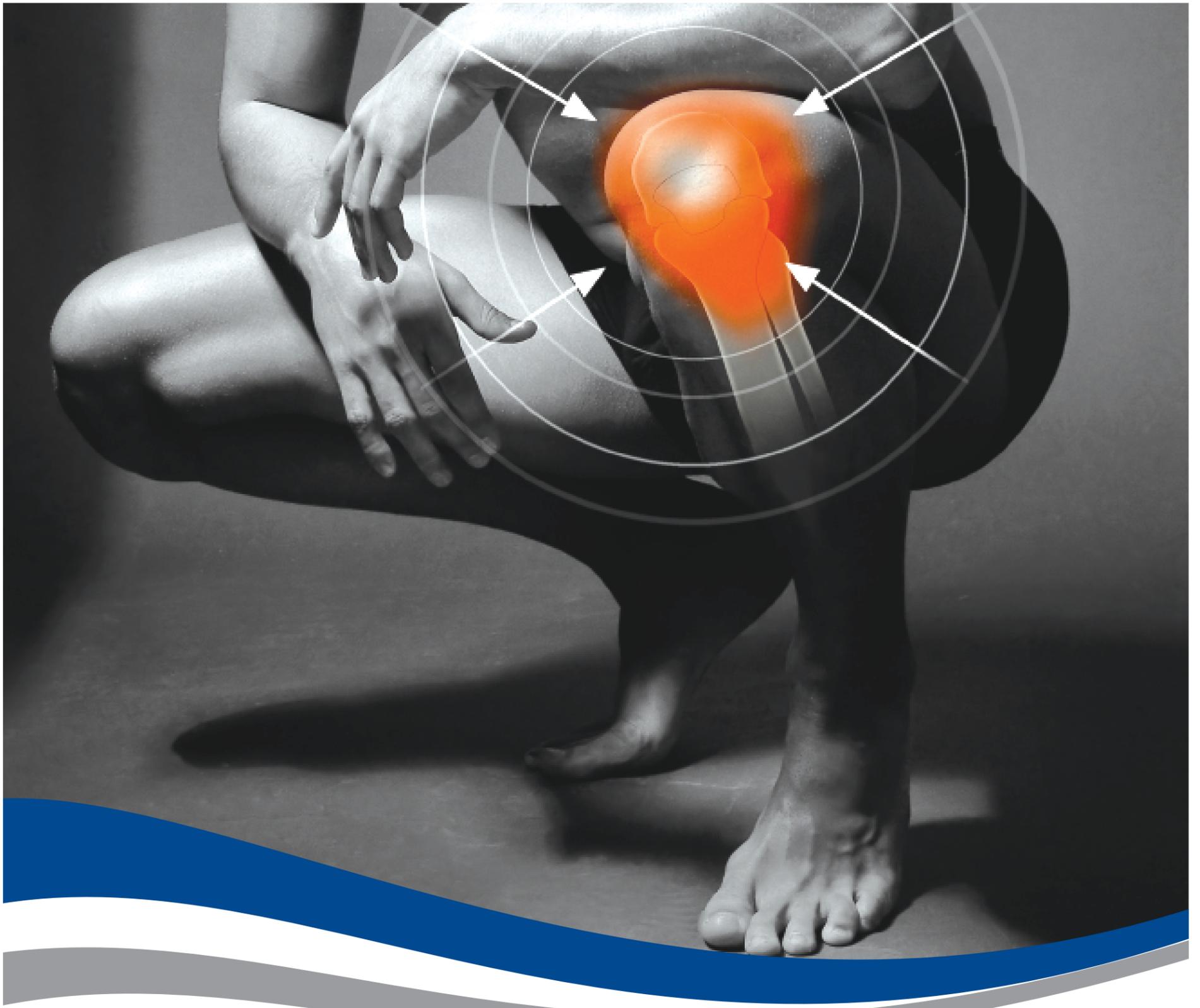


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