

THE OBSERVER NEWS

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History of Ruskin Women spotlighted



■ By MELODY JAMESON

RUSKIN – “We are not thinking as much New Thought as we think we are. It is all old. People have thought it before. Again. And again. And again.”

These are the words of Harriet E. Orcutt, journalist, novelist, teacher, campaigner for women’s and worker’s rights, pioneer, organization officer, land owner, Ruskin’s first librarian – and, clearly, something of a philosopher.

She never married; her passions were words, truth, books. She cared deeply about the fledgling community on the eastern shore of Tampa Bay and gave freely of her many talents.

And she’s one of the many women who contributed through the years to build the community of today. They’re all being recognized this month, in the spotlight, at three different venues.

That spotlight began shining first this week at the Tampa Bay History Center in Channelside, as the three-panel exhibit of artifacts went up, tracing Ruskin’s very early years forward to the present.

Produced by The Ruskin History Project, Inc., this display on the center’s second floor tells the Ruskin story through photographs, narratives and rare objects, from the days pre-historic peoples and strange magnificent animals roamed its forests to its turn of the century roots as a cooperative organized on the principles of John Ruskin and centered with the first Ruskin College through the mid century when farming and agricultural ingenuity flourished, when The Coffee Cup restaurant drew visitors from great distances to its present prized for easy living without metropolitan congestion.

The hand-operated meat grinder patented in 1803 that was used regularly in The Coffee Cup to produce fresh hamburger and the antique

Victrola which provided music for young students to dance by on the third floor of the college president’s house and the books handled by pioneering forefathers – they’re all here enticing visitors back a century or more.

The historical exhibit is bookended by two of the community’s groundbreaking journalists — Orcutt at its recorded beginnings and Aleta “Jonie” Maschek who has recorded much of its history known today.

Orcutt covered the Chicago World’s Fair, was published in scores of periodicals and wrote at least three novels before arriving in Ruskin before the first decade of the 20th century had ended.

By 1911, she had joined Ruskin’s Commongood Society, subsequently would serve as its secretary and then president, and would be a charter member of the 20th Century Club from which the Ruskin Woman’s Club would grow.

Maschek began her career in 1949 when female journalists were not particularly welcome in newsrooms.

She worked in early television in Seattle and then in Chicago and ultimately in New York before making her way to Tampa where she was a producer for WFLA, the NBC affiliate.

She recalls interviewing both Presidents Carter and Reagan, as well as Astronaut Buzz Aldrin and actor Vincent Price.

She arrived in Ruskin with her husband, Matthew, in the late 1970s

See **RUSKIN WOMEN**, page 11



Aleta Jonie Maschek

From a tragic incident in Florida, a peaceful rally in Minnesota

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

WORTHINGTON, MINN - A Florida woman who recently moved to a rural community in Minnesota felt compelled to speak out against what she saw as an injustice that had taken place in her hometown.

Patricia Lawrence, formerly of Sanford, Florida, organized a peaceful rally in her adopted community of Worthington, Minnesota, a town nearly 1,600 miles away, to increase awareness for what she saw as an injustice in the shooting death of a 17-year-old boy in Sanford in February. A multi-racial crowd of several dozen people carried signs and demonstrated their support for the Trayvon Martin family that few, if any, in attendance had ever met. Many wore hoodies that served not only as protection from the brisk wind, but also to highlight that people should not be judged simply by what garments they choose to wear. Some people believe that Martin was targeted for both being black and for wearing a hoodie on the night that he was shot to death.

See **RALLY IN MINNESOTA**, page 9



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

A former resident of Sanford, Florida, brought together several dozen people in a rural town in Minnesota for a peaceful rally in support of the family of Trayvon Martin, the 17-year-old boy shot and killed on February 26.



USF Honors College students give their impressions of London trip

■ BY PENNY FLETCHER
penny@pennyfletcher.com

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY — Twenty University of South Florida students in the school’s Honors College recently spent seven days in London. It’s something anyone in the Honors College is eligible to apply for, but it takes hard work and dedication to achieve it.

“Last year (2010) another advisor and I took some students to work on the devastation still remaining from Hurricane Katrina,” said USF Honors College Academic Advisor Amanda Cutchens. “It was so rewarding I said I would do it again in a minute.”

She did, and this year, her husband Josh was also able to go along and chaperone.

“It was hard eliminating the students who applied who didn’t get to go,” Cutchens said. But we were limited to twenty.”

While some of the fees are self-paid, trips taken by Honors College students that are

See **LONDON TRIP**, page 12

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Splintered citizen planners moving on – along different tracks

■ By MELODY JAMESON

UZITA SHORES – With a new local name added to the mix and a new county planning executive anticipated on the scene, splintered South County citizen planners are moving ahead – but on separate tracks.

What was to have been the Little Manatee South Phase II Implementation Group, expected to undertake more precise planning of undeveloped acreage between U.S. 41 and U.S. 301 adjacent to the rural residential community of Sundance, was split apart last month when a majority of the members voted to eliminate the Sundance representation which did not agree with their planning approach.

The two factions – one with interests predominately in large acreage holdings, the other primarily residential lot homeowners – had emphatically disagreed about basic planning objectives, each side accusing the other of trying to overwhelm its opposition.

Subsequently, both a new name has been adopted and a new leader of the planning agency that had been guiding the group has surfaced.

The core citizen planning group now consists of six members, according to Will Redd, its chairman and land manager for the Mormon Church which holds large tracts of land in the area. Bill Casey and Peg Knowles represent residential property interests related to the area west of U.S. 41, plus the area between U.S. 41 and I-75, Redd noted. Gus Muench, a commercial fisherman who lives in the Cockroach Bay area, represents environmental interests. Mike Houghtaling, son of the late

Dooley Houghtaling and with an interest in the family citrus fruit enterprises, is the business representative. Mike Peterson, a land use attorney based in Apollo Beach who numbers large land owners among his clients, is the agricultural representative along with Redd.

This planning committee as now constituted does not include the seventh member that was envisioned when guidelines for the second planning phase implementation were drafted: a representative of residents in Sundance.

It is essentially the six-member group that has agreed to rename the planning area “Uzita Shores.” Muench, explaining the name change to members of Hillsborough’s Planning Commission this week, said that Sundance as a community is effectively built out and added that the remaining acreage now subject to more precise planning has been unnamed, hence the new moniker.

The term incorporates the name of a pre-Columbian Indian tribe known to have lived in the area and variously recorded also as “Ucita” or “Uceta,” along with the second locational word “Shores,” reflecting proximity of Tampa Bay’s eastern shore and adopted, as well, by some organizations in the Ruskin area.

Muench has championed variations of that name for the area during the last several years and early this week encouraged planning commissioners to view the Little Manatee South Plan area now as a “district of different communities.”

The Planning Commission also is bringing something new to the scene as its long-time executive

director, Bob Hunter, retires this month from active leadership of the organization that has guided professional planning efforts at multiple levels around the county for decades.

He is to be succeeded on May 12 by Ray Chiaramonte, a seasoned planning veteran with experience in several Hillsborough County agencies. Chiaramonte has been involved in local planning for more than 35 years and has been leading the Metropolitan Planning Organization, engaged in long range transportation planning, since 2008.

Meanwhile, former members of the citizen planning ensemble who were voted off the first implementation committee in March – residents in the rurally-oriented Sundance community and representatives of its homeowners association – are no less concerned, no less vocal and no less determined to be heard.

Sundance representatives will continue to state their case regarding the ongoing planning process, focusing on county commissioners, Ralph Greenlee, an HOA officer and former citizen planner, said this week. Greenlee also has questioned how a legitimate planning process can continue without including representation for a substantial number of residents living adjacent to and potentially affected by whatever is newly implemented for the planning area.

While still members of the citizen planning group, Sundance representatives such as Greenlee and Bob Iocca expressed the

community’s fears that large scale residential development of the surrounding acreage could very negatively impact their rural lifestyles.

They also had argued that as the second planning process moved ahead agreements among the various factions represented should be reached by general consensus among the membership based on mutually accepted compromise. Other members and professional planners had called instead for consistency with the community plan already hammered out and approved by various authorities.

Since leaving the citizen planning group, Greenlee said the Sundance contingent also has answered, refuting and rebutting point by point, the reasons cited by Peterson as rationale for eliminating the Sundance representation.

In addition, they have met with Hunter to discuss the situation. However, even though Hunter has recommended returning Sundance representation to the planning committee, Greenlee indicated he does not now foresee that transpiring.

“We worked with the planning group for three years (producing the now-approved community plan) and they got everything they wanted. Why the sudden lack of trust now?,” he asked rhetorically.

Redd said the next meeting of the citizen planners considering implementation of additional planning techniques for Uzita Shores is scheduled tentatively for April 17.

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LWW meeting

Members of the League of Women Voters, South County Unit, will meet at 2 P.M. Saturday (April 14), in the computer room of the SouthShore Regional Library.

The session is open to all members as well as visitors interested in public education efforts related to local and state governments.

Unit President Melody Jameson also is available to present League programs for any interested organization in South Hillsborough County. She can be contacted at Mchinnae@aol.com.

Hillsborough Parks seek ideas for improvement

Hillsborough County’s Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department needs your opinions and ideas for improving their services.

The public is invited to complete this online survey that has only 8 questions, and takes less than 5 minutes to complete. The survey asks people questions such as how often they use County Parks and their services, which parks activities they are aware of, and their preferred method of making payments.

The survey is available at svy.mk/PRCSurvey, through the Parks, Recreation and Conservation department website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/parks/. Paper versions of the survey are available at the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, 10119 Windhorst Road, Tampa, FL 33619.

Those wishing to participate should complete the survey by Friday, May 4.

For more info, call the Parks, Recreation and Conservation department at 813-635-3500.

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Don't allow conflict to fester and grow

It seems almost impossible in this modern day and age for us to avoid conflicts with other people. As the planet becomes more populated, there seems to be less space for each of us. Because of this compression, we tend to rub each other wrong sometimes. Most of the conflicts we face each day are not because someone is out to get us. To the contrary, most of the time the conflict is caused just because the other person hasn't considered our desires. If there must be conflict, then it behooves us to learn how to handle it—both what to do and what not to do. Here are some of the behaviors we should avoid if we hope to bring a conflict to a peaceful and quick resolution.

- Don't put your head in the sand and refuse to acknowledge a conflict exists. There are few times this technique will work. More often than not, the conflict will only get worse. By ignoring it, you will be unprepared when it finally flares up.
- Do not surrender when you know you are in the right. If you allow others to take advantage of you, you can bet they will make a practice of it.
- Don't be afraid to discuss the problem with those who are a part of it. There are many times when

a frank and honest discussion will lead to resolution of the conflict.

- Don't blow the conflict into something it is not. As Henry David Thoreau says, "Simplify."
- Don't play the fool or allow a disturbance to be created that draws attention from the conflict and prevents its resolution.
- Don't scream and yell or lose emotional control. One of the first rules of conflict management is to never allow your emotions to do the negotiating.
- Don't use force to bend others to your way of thinking. Somebody once asked the question, "Where does a 500-pound gorilla sleep?" The answer is, "Anywhere he wants." But keep in mind, if he's not a good house guest, he won't be invited back.
- Don't be unreasonable in your quest for a solution to the conflict. Any solution that leaves any party to the conflict injured is not truly a solution, but rather a temporary fix. The injured party will continue the conflict when he or she feels strong enough to penetrate your defenses. Knowing what not to do many times gives us some idea of what we should do. Whenever there is a

conflict, we should recognize it as soon as possible and not allow it to fester and grow. Don't surrender, but also don't be unreasonable. We should bring it up as quickly as possible to the person we see as our adversary. In many cases, even the most complex situation can have a simple solution. Look for that solution, rather than concentrate on the problem. Be sure you remain cool, calm and collected. Use your intellect rather than your emotions to look for an answer. Use force only as a final option—then only when every other option has been exhausted. Force may clear up the situation for now but it will definitely muddy the water for the future. Conflicts are inevitable but they can be resolved by working toward a win-win solution that allows all parties to achieve their goals.

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.hodges-videos.com. Phone: 813-641-0816. Email: bill@billhodges.com Website: www.billhodges.com"



Positive Talk
By William Hodges



Paul Wheat, right, LTC USA (Ret) presents Dr. Susan MacManus with an MOAA shirt.

Political analyst, addresses MOAA

The April Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meeting, held at the Sun City Center Atrium building on April 4, featured Dr. Susan MacManus. Dr. MacManus is nationally renowned for her expert and incisive commentary on public opinion and intergenerational politics.

Dr. MacManus discussed the changes in the Electoral College and noted that Florida is now tied for 3rd as one of the most important swing states in the country. She also noted that people no longer trust NBC, CBS and ABC as a source for their news, but rather depend more on Smart Phones, mobile APS and local newspapers. She provided statistics demonstrating how little respect the general population now has for politicians.

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210 Woodland Estates S.W.
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813-645-3111
Fax: 813-645-4118
www.ObserverNews.net
Published Every Thursday
by M&M Printing Co., Inc. 645-4048

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All press releases, news articles and photos may be emailed to news@observernews.net, faxed to 645-4118, or mailed to Observer News, 210 Woodland Estates Ave. SW, Ruskin, FL 33570

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Hillsborough County celebrates April as water conservation month

April is designated as Water Conservation Month as it is typically the driest month of the year in Florida. With the start of the rainy season still two months away, water demand is often at its highest this time of year as residents put in new plantings for spring and water their lawns to make the grass green. This is the 14th consecutive year that Hillsborough County Commissioners have observed Water Conservation Month.

Hillsborough County promotes smart water use through a wide variety of initiatives. These include educational efforts, community outreach, enforcement of year-round water use restrictions, partnerships with other agencies, and rebate programs. For example, since its inception in 1994, the County's toilet rebate program has seen 81,000 toilets replaced with more water-efficient models, saving an estimated 444 million gallons of water a year. And, the County's residential reclaimed water system is among the largest in the United States.

Hillsborough County water customers have done their part, too. In 1989, when the County began a formal water conservation program, the average water use per person was 146 gallons a day. Today, that number stands at 95 gallons per person, per day. That savings of 26 million gallons of water a day adds up to approximately 10 billion gallons a year.

Making wise use of water is easy and can be done at little or no cost:

- Fix leaks. A dripping faucet can waste anywhere from several gallons a day, to several hundred.
- Replace worn or poorly-fitting toilet flappers. A bad toilet flapper can waste up to 200 gallons a day.
- Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators. Keep showers under five minutes.
- Replace older toilets with low-flow models.
- Learn to read a water meter. If the numbers are different after a period of time when no water has been used, there may be a leak.
- Practice Florida-friendly landscaping principles.
- Properly maintain irrigation systems. Regularly check and adjust, repair or replace sprinkler heads. Install a rain sensor that overrides the system and turns it off during a rainstorm. Know how much water the system puts down so that you're not overwatering.
- Monitor rainfall and water the lawn only when it needs it, and only as much as it needs -- not just because the calendar says it's your watering day.

For more ideas, as well as complete information on current water restrictions, go to www.hillsboroughcounty.org/water, and click on the "Conservation" link.

GFWC Ruskin Woman's Club hosts Centennial Celebration and Open House

The GFWC Ruskin Woman's Club will host a Centennial Celebration and Open House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 21 at the clubhouse 503 S. Tamiami Trail, Ruskin.

Festivities will include an antique car display, historical records and

displays from the many years of Service of the Ruskin Woman's Club and also historical records and photos of Ruskin.

Light refreshments and fun children's activities will also be available.



FSO-Operations Walt Wagner (right) presents a certificate of appreciation to Marriott Waterside Hotel's Chef Rick Williams (left) and employee cafeteria manager, Malcolm Deamis on behalf of Flotilla 75 Commander Oscar Kramer.

Marriott Waterside Hotel noted for hospitality

Flotilla 75 Ruskin of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary recently awarded a certificate of appreciation to the Marriott Waterside Hotel (Tampa).

Occasionally, while on safety or security missions the rains come or temperatures rise and the Marriott Waterside is gracious enough to provide a safe harbor and safe haven for the boat crews on patrol.

For several years, the cafeteria staff at the Marriott has supported the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary by sheltering boat crews in bad weather, providing hot coffee and allowing volunteer boat crews to enjoy the benefits of hot food in the employee cafeteria.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary conducts security patrols of Tampa's ports under orders from the Coast Guard and the Dept. of Homeland Security.

Flotilla 75 (Ruskin), one of the oldest flotillas in the nation, also provides safety patrols during the day as well as the night for the benefit of the recreational boater.

If you would like to become part of Team Coast Guard, call Flotilla Staff Officer Judy Clapp at (813) 633-5416.

East Bay Watch

by Michael Cooper

Girls' Flag Football Season Update

The varsity flag football team improved to 4-1 with two victories last week. East Bay defeated district rival Spoto 40-6 and Durant 28-0.

Against Spoto QB Stephanie Williams ran for a TD and threw 4 TDs against both Spoto and Durant. Williams has 18 TD passes on the season. East Bay is undefeated in district games, 3-0, with two district games remaining.

Player of the Game against Spoto was Khadijah McCray who ran a punt back 38 yards for a TD, the first TD punt return in school history.

Player of the Game against Durant was Nicole Lock with 3 TD receptions. Lock has 12 TDs on the season. For more team information, visit www.ebhsgirlsflagfootball.com.



NICOLE LOCK



KHADIJAH MCCRAY

USF offers preview of college life

The University of South Florida's University College is kicking off a Pre-College initiative for motivated high school and homeschool students. Thirteen diverse programs comprise Pre-College with commuter and residential options. In addition to the college learning experience, the program offers the guidance and oversight provided by traditional summer programs.

Only 45 percent of American students who enroll in college will ultimately earn a bachelor's degree. USF Pre-College 2012 helps college-bound students prepare for this next big step by building college success skills.

"We believe that the more familiar you are with university life, the better prepared you will be when you enter college in the near future," affirms Stuart Silverman, dean of the University of South Florida's Honors College.

High school students will pursue academic interests, discover career opportunities, and engage with college professors all while taking in the excitement of university life. Students may enroll in one or more of the summer-run programs, selecting from a broad range of academic disciplines:

- STEM Academy (Diabetes Research) – USF Office for Undergraduate Research
- Architecture – USF School of Architecture and Urban Design
- Global Sustainability – USF School of Global Sustainability
- Mechanical Engineering – USF College of Engineering
- Computer Science – USF College of Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering – USF College of Engineering
- American Sign Language – USF College of Behavioral & Community Sciences
- Art and Design – USF School of Art & Art History
- Music – USF School of Music
- Online Music – USF School of Music
- Marine Science – USF College of Marine Science
- Film Studies – USF College of Arts and Sciences
- STEM Mathematics – USF College of Arts and Sciences

Program registration, full schedules, and detailed descriptions are available on the web: <http://usf.edu/precollege>. Application deadline is Friday, June 1. Space is restricted and a special pricing incentive is available through April. There is also an additional 10 percent discount off the program price for USF alumni, faculty and staff.

Tampa Bay parents are encouraged to register their teens for an exciting summer experience at the University of South Florida as soon as possible.

For more information, call (888) 873-4968 or email precollege@usf.edu.

Fishhawk Wolves take second at UTRIP Tournament

The 9u Fishhawk Wolves baseball team placed 2nd in the Florida UTRIP Baseball tournament that was held on March 17-18 in Plant City.

Coach Garateix, Coach Morgan and Coach Stallings were pleased with the turnout and were very happy with the level the boys played the whole weekend.

The team members were Joey Blair, Levi Buzbee, Andrew Garateix, Gabe Garrett, Chase Havener, Ben Kachler, Jackson Morgan, R y a n Skelly, C o l e Stallings, J o s e p h Veri, and Nicholas Villanti.



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, April 12 -- Bar Games at 3 p.m.

Friday, April 13 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 14 — Meat Raffle at 1 p.m. Steak Dinner at 5 p.m. Music by Bro 2 Bro at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 15 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Monday, April 16 — Bingo at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 17 — Come on down and socialize.

Wednesday, April 18 — Wings and Things at 5 p.m. OH SO GOOD! Bar Games at 6 p.m.

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



Riverview Memorial VFW Post #8108

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.

THE SAVVY SENIOR

Medical Alert Devices That Can Help Keep Seniors Safe

Dear Savvy Senior,

I'm interested in getting my mother, who lives alone, a medical alert device with a wearable SOS button that she can push in case she falls or needs help. What kinds of devices can you recommend and how much do they cost?

Searching Daughter



The Savvy Senior

By Jim Miller

Dear Searching,

There's a wide variety of medical alert systems on the market today that can help keep elderly seniors safe, while living in their own home. Here's a breakdown of some different styles and prices to help you choose.

Monitored Alerts

The most popular medical alert systems available today are the ones that will connect your mom to a 24-hour emergency monitoring service when she needs help. These units come with waterproof "SOS" buttons – typically in the form of a necklace pendant or bracelet – and a base station that connects to her home phone line.

At the press of a button, your mom could call and talk to a trained operator through the system's base station receiver which works like a powerful speaker phone. The operator will find out what's wrong, and will notify family members, a neighbor, friend or emergency services as needed.

If you're interested in this type of alert, there are literally dozens of services to choose from. One of the most widely used is the Philips Lifeline Medical Alert Service (lifelinesys.com, 800-380-3111) which costs \$35 per month, plus an \$82 start-up fee. Phillips also offers a new Auto Alert option (for \$48 per month) that has fall detection sensors in the SOS button that can automatically summon help without your mom ever having to press a button.

Some other major players in the industry that are a little less expensive (under \$30 per month) include: LifeFone (lifefone.com, 877-849-8942), LifeStation (lifestation.com, 877-478-3390), Bay

Alarm Medical (bayalarmmedical.com, 877-722-9633), Alert1 (alert-1.com, 888-919-3692), LifeGuardian (lifeguardianmedicalalarms.com, 800-378-2957) and MedicalAlert (medicalalert.com, 800-800-2537).

One other unique product worth consideration is the MediPendant (getmedipendant.com, 888-216-0039) which runs under \$35 a month. This system allows your mom to speak and listen to the operator directly through the SOS pendant, versus the base station speaker phone, which often makes for easier communication.

No-Fee Alerts

If you're looking for a cheaper option, consider a no-fee medical alert device that doesn't have professional monitoring services. These products, which also come with an "SOS" button and a home base station, are pre-programmed to dial personal contacts (relatives, friends, caregivers or 911) if the SOS button is pushed. Most devices store about four phone numbers, and the system dials each number, one-by-one until a connection is made.

If you like this style, the Freedom Alert made by LogicMark (logicmark.com, 800-519-2419) is a good product that allows you to speak through the pendant. The purchase price: \$300, with no ongoing monthly fees. Also check out Telemergency (telemergency.com, 888-558-7420), which offers a variety on no-fee medical alert devices that cost under \$190.

Mobile Alerts

If your mom is interested in a device that works outside the home too, there are several mobile products that will let her call for help anywhere. These pendant-style devices, which fit in the palm of your hand, work like little cell phones with GPS tracking capabilities.

To call for help, your mom would simply push one button, and an operator from the device's emergency monitoring service would be on the line to assist her. And because of the GPS technology they would know her exact location, which is critical in emergency situations.

Top products to check out in this category include the new 5Star Urgent Response sold by GreatCall (greatcall.com, 800-733-6632) for \$50 plus a \$35 activation fee and \$15 monthly service fees,

and MobileHelp (mobilehelpnow.com, 800-800-1710) which runs between \$37 and \$42 per month.

You also need to know that Medicare and most other insurance plans don't cover medical alert systems, although in some states Medicaid will if your mom receives Medicaid-funded home-care services.

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.

Hit Comedy 'Social Security' coming to the Borini Theater

The Pelican Players will present the hit Broadway comedy, *Social Security* at 7 p.m. on April 20 and 21 with an additional matinee on April 21. This funny show focuses on trendy Manhattan art gallery owners Barbara (Linda Halperin) and David Kahn (Jack Parry), whose lives are upended when Barbara's Mineola housewife sister Trudy (Wendy Smith) deposits their eccentric mother Sophie (Delyse Axinn) on the couple's doorstep while she and her husband Martin (Jim Klammer) head to Buffalo to rescue their sexually precocious college student daughter from a menage a trois with two men. Barbara and David introduce Sophie to suave nonagenarian artist Maurice Koenig (Bill Turcotte), who offers to paint her portrait and soon begins to brighten her life in ways she never expected in her twilight years.



Directed by Carlyn Postle, *Social Security* promises to be a great addition to the Pelican Players recent line-up of hits, which include *Nunsense*, *The Follies*, *Odd Couple*, and *Hallelujah Girls*.

Cabaret seating will add to the fun. Tickets are \$12 and are available at the Kings Point Box Office. For more information, call (813) 387-3443 or visit Pelicanplayers.org.

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VFW seeks support

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is a non-profit organization and was founded to ensure that those who have protected our country are protected upon return. This comes in the form of patriotic programs, being an advocate for veteran's entitlements in the State of Florida and in Washington, D.C.

The VFW provides financial assistance to families of deployed troops, assists veterans with benefits claims, and provides free phone calls for soldiers overseas.

The local VFW Post 6287 has made a considerable impact on the local community by contributing to very important community events and programs. Here are a few contributions made the last fiscal year:

- Toys for Tots
- Outdoor Music Festival Fundraiser
- Hosted a 4th of July Celebration
- Provided awards and savings bonds to the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Program and to local Law Enforcement/Fireman/Emergency Medical Technicians of the Year

With the war in Iraq and Afghanistan winding down and more veterans returning home, they need your valuable donations to continue to support local veterans, families, and programs while maintaining a facility that is over 70 years old.

Send your donations to: VFW Post 6278, 5120 U.S. Hwy. 41 N., Ruskin, FL 33572.

For more information, call Chris Young, VFW Post 6287 Commander at (813) 508-0792.

You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director

SCC Chamber News

Bill Cosby once said "Through humor you can soften some of the worst blows that life delivers. And once you find laughter, no matter how painful your situation might be, you can survive it."

That's been my mantra all my life. I was 11 years old when my older sister died in an automobile accident. My family got through it by remembering all the zany antics she was known for and laughing harder with each retelling of the stories.

When I was diagnosed with breast cancer and had to sit for hours attached to an IV full of chemotherapy, we patients would crank up the radio and dance around the treatment room floor with our poles, hooting and hollering until the nurses got agitated.

My mother used to refer to this as "whistling past the graveyard."

A few years back, at a sports bar in North Carolina, the light over a table for two snapped its cord and fell to the table top. It shattered into little pieces and spilled glasses of draft beer into the couple's laps. All conversation in the room stopped as other patrons stared in shock. Without missing a beat, the bartender came over and said "OH! I'm sorry. You wanted a BUD light." (If you don't remember the ad campaign from the late 80s, this won't mean a thing to you.) But immediately, the whole bar was in stitches and there was a round for all on the house. No angry exchanges or mentioning of lawsuits. The laughter immediately

wiped out the "oops!"

Every business has a huge "oops" moment. It's not the mistake that really matters -- it's how the mistake is handled. Handled defensively and with a "too bad" attitude, it's an "oops" with an "oh no" added to it. Handled with a sense of humor and a "I want to make this right" attitude, the "oops" rises to the level of "darn it."



You, Me & Business

By Dana Dittmar

A church down in Port Charlotte was proud of its new newsletter. The graphics were snazzy and they had recently purchased a color printer, making the publication look highly professional. But no amount of slick paper or modern logo could overcome the misprint that read "Dog is always within you." 600 copies were printed before the mistake was noticed. So the following month, the editor slyly created a "letter" thanking the church for recognizing and supporting all of the dyslexic members of the congregation. It was so popular the church's youth group made up t-shirts with "Dog is always within you" to wear whenever they were out doing community service work.

I've often been accused of having a warped sense of humor, and I own up to that. The older I get the more warped I get. But it comes in handy when you're working with 431 businesses and thousands of residents. It's like herding cats. Having a sense of humor helps. I may not be passing a graveyard, but I'm whistling just the same!

The search is on

Hillsborough County Extension Services, Tampa Bay Water, and its Member Governments are looking for entries for the 14th Annual Community Water-Wise Awards. These awards recognize individuals and businesses with water-efficient, aesthetically pleasing landscapes. If you think your landscape is water-wise, fill out your free application at www.tampabaywaterwise.org by June 30 to find out!

Did you know?

- Landscape maintenance can account for up to 50 to 75 percent of many homes' water usage during the spring dry season.

- There are nearly 380 plants, trees, shrubs, flowers and more that are recognized as Florida-friendly. To access the database, and even build an online list for your landscape, visit <http://floridayards.org/fyplants/index.php>.

- You don't have to do it alone! To get more information about landscaping in the Sunshine State, visit Florida-Friendly Landscaping's page and click on 'Ask an Expert' in the top-right corner to have your questions answered by Florida-friendly landscaping and gardening experts.

For more information about the awards program or if you would like assistance and information in creating a water-wise landscape, visit www.tampabaywaterwise.org, or contact Hillsborough County Extension Services.

You can also call Virginia Overstreet, Water-Wise Program Coordinator at (813) 744-5519 x54144, or Lynn Barber, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Agent, Hillsborough County Extension Service at (813) 744-5519 x54105.



SOUTHSHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

15816 Beth Shields Way • Ruskin 33573

Adult Program/Event Highlights April 12-18

eBooks for Kindle and Kindle Apps

Thursday, April 12 • 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

Learn how to check out and download free library eBooks to read on the Kindle or any device using the free Kindle app and Overdrive! Also discover how to use library eBooks with an Amazon.com account. Limit: 20. Presented by the Tampa Bay Library Consortium

eBooks for Tablets and SmartPhones

Thursday, April 12 • 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Learn how to check out and download free library eBooks to read on an Android, Blackberry, iPad, iPhone or Windows 7 devices using a free app. Learn how to register for a free Adobe ID to wirelessly check out and download library eBooks to an electronic tablet. Limit: 20. Presented by Tampa Bay Library Consortium.

Internet: Introduction and Google

Tuesday, April 17 • 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.

Genealogy: Immigration and Passenger Lists

Tuesday, April 17 • 1 to 2 p.m.

Peter Summers, from the Pinellas Genealogy Society, will be discussing what immigration records can reveal about one's ancestors and strategies for finding them. Co-sponsored by the South Bay Genealogical Society.

eBooks for PC, MAC Nook, Kobo, Sony and other eReaders

Wednesday, April 18 • 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Learn how to check out and download free library eBooks to read onto a PC, Mac, Nook, Kobo, Sony and other eReaders. Explore Adobe Digital Editions and learn how to check out a library eBook using OverDrive and Freeding. Limit: 20. Presented by Tampa Bay Library Consortium.

Elder Law Seminar

Wednesday, April 18 • 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. Register in advance at the

Mah Jongg Club

Wednesday, April 18

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. The American Rules will be used. 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. Funding provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

SouthShore Needle People

Wednesday, April 18

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Join other needle people to share techniques, tips and experiences about knitting and other fiber.

Teen/Adult Colored Pencils

Wednesday, April 18

6:30 to 8 p.m.

Join Art Instructor, Melissa Miller-Nece, for this popular art class. Colored pencil techniques will be explored. Materials provided. Limit 20. Registration required at either the SouthShore Regional Library Information Desk or by calling 273-3652.

Funding for this program provided by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center.

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SOUTHSHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

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Kids' Program/Event Highlights April 12-18

Teen Night: Game Zone*

Thursday, April 12 • 5 to 7 p.m.

For middle and high school students. Get in the zone and join your friends for gaming fun on the Xbox 360 and Nintendo Wii with games such as Band Hero, Guitar Hero 5, Smash Brothers Brawl and more!

Family Story Time

Thursday, April 12 • 7 to 7:30 p.m.

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

Motion Commotion

Friday, April 13 • 10:05 to 10:35 a.m. and 10:45 to 11:15 a.m.

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

Celebrate Earth Day!

Saturday, April 14 • 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

For school aged children ages 5-12 interested in earth-friendly activities and craft-making with recyclables. Registration is required at the Information Desk or call 273-3652.

Baby Time

Monday, April 16 • 1:35 to 1:55 p.m.

Tuesday, April 17 • 11:35 to 11:55 a.m.

Wednesday, April 18 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m.

For children ages 0-20 months and their caregivers. Bond with your baby through stories, bouncy rhymes and songs in this 20-minute lapsit program.

Teen Writing Workshop

Monday, April 16 • 3 to 5 p.m.

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

"Expressive Artists:" Let's Create!

Monday, April 16 • 4 to 5 p.m.

"Expressive Artists," 11 years and up, will create an art project to take home. Registration required at the Information Desk or by calling 273-3652.

Toddler Time

Tuesday, April 17 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m. and 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

Wednesday, April 18 • 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

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

Story Time

Tuesday, April 17 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 18 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

For children ages 3-5 and their caregivers. This engaging 30-minute program highlights early literacy skills, and encourages reading readiness and social interaction.

Teen Volunteer Orientation

Tuesday, April 17 • 7 to 8 p.m.

Teen topics will include the application process, filling out school forms, shelving guidelines, and volunteer expectations.

*Funding provided by
the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

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, April 12 — Bar Bingo at 6 p.m.

Friday, April 13 — Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by Double Barrell Band from 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, April 14 — Turkey Shoot at 1 p.m. Music by Pepper & Salt from 7 to 11 p.m.

Sunday, April 15 — Fire in the Hole from 1 to 4 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy from 5:30 to 10 p.m.

Monday, April 16 — American Legion Riders Meeting at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 17 — Games in Lounge from 1 to 5 p.m. Kitchen open from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 18 — Service Officer Bob from 1 to 4 p.m. Call for appointment 634-1761. American Legion Auxiliary Nominations at 7 p.m.

36th Eagle Rank Awarded to Troop 661 Scout

Justin Arruda, a sophomore at East Bay High School, passed his Eagle Board of Review to become the 36th scout attaining the highest award in Boy Scouting in Ruskin Troop 661 on March 6.

His award will be presented to him on Saturday, April 14 in an Eagle Court of Honor held at Calvary Lutheran Church.

Justin joined Cub Scout Pack 93 as a first grader in 2001. He earned his Arrow of Light, the highest award for Cub Scouts and then bridged over to Boy Scout Troop 661 of Ruskin in 2005. Since that time, he has had many leadership roles within the troop, including Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader. He's attended summer camp since his induction into Troop 661 and has had the opportunity to participate in those trips to Georgia, Alabama and North Carolina. He is currently planning to attend one of the National High Adventure Camps based, Northern Tier, in MN. Justin has earned the required 21 merit badges and an additional 11 badges and is currently working on his Bronze Palm to supplement his Eagle Rank.



JUSTIN ARRUDA

To attain Eagle, a scout must envision, plan and execute a community service project as a way to demonstrate the leadership skills and abilities learned throughout his scouting years. Justin worked with Dr. Hal Ott, notably of C.A.R.E and Ruskin Animal Hospital, to construct an outdoor dog bath at Dr. Ott's Off the Leach Dog Sanctuary in Ruskin. That project took place December 10 and 11, with 18 members from Troop 661 assisting in the construction.

Justin plans to continue on with Troop 661 as a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and put his leadership skills to work guiding new members of the troop and assisting adult members. After his graduation from East Bay HS, where he is a member of JROTC, he plans on attending college and then entering the U.S. Army.

Girls' Camp begins July 30

The GFWC Brandon Junior Woman's Club will again be hosting the annual Teen Forum from July 30-Aug. 3 at Nativity Catholic Church, 705 E. Brandon Blvd. in Brandon.

The week-long, half-day camp is for girls entering 6th, 7th or 8th grades. Speakers will be provided on topics ranging from self-esteem and fitness to service as well as crafts, team activities, snacks and prizes.

Reserve your spot now by going to www.thebjwc.com to print the form and send it with payment of \$70 to Brandon Junior Woman's Club, P.O. Box 66, Brandon, FL 33509.

For more information, call Donna Griffin at (813) 244-4758.

Driver safety program now in Apollo Beach

AARP is proud to welcome Century 21, Beggins Enterprises, 6542 U.S. Hwy. 41 in Apollo Beach as their newest sponsor of the Driver Safety Program. Thanks to Century 21, Apollo Beach residents will now be able to take the AARP Driver Safety Program in this beautiful, close to home facility!

Have you ever wondered why good, experienced drivers would take this course? Participants learn defensive driving techniques and updates on new traffic laws. It covers strategies to help adapt to changes in cars, roads, and ourselves.

Best of all, Florida participants over 50 qualify for a discount in their auto insurance rate! That equals a win/win program. For just \$12 for AARP members or \$14 for non-members, you can update your driving skills and save money, too.

The first class will be from 9:30 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 21. Class is limited to 25 participants.

To register or for more information, call (813) 645-8481.

New Brandon Skate Park is just a kick-flip away from opening

Hillsborough County invites the community to drop-in to the new Brandon Skate Park for a Grand Opening Ceremony to be held at noon.

Entrance to the Brandon Skate Park will be free through April. Beginning in May, skate fees will be \$4 per day, and annual skate park's passes are available at \$150. Hillsborough County has a reciprocal agreement with the City of Tampa, and annual passes will be honored at all Hillsborough County and City of Tampa skate parks.

All skaters must wear helmets and complete a waiver. **Brandon Skate Park Features**

- **Bowl**
An intermediate/professional bowl with all rounded walls, two hips and two general depths. The shallow end is 6 feet deep and just under-vert, and the deep end is more than 9 feet deep with 1½ feet of vert. The entire bowl has pool coping and tile.

- **The Obstacle Street Section**

The Obstacle Street Section has two main levels that split the park in two sections. The lower section has a few street plaza elements including a granite bench set at an angle, curved ledges, a cone pole jam, a manual pad, a small but long set of 4 stairs, a brick-stamped bank with a flat bar on top, as well as a handrail and flat rail.

This area also has a very wide quarter pipe with steel coping, including a 12 foot pool coping extension, a smaller pyramid with a bull-nose granite flat rail, and a steep bank and hip.

The lower section is connected to the upper section with a series of banks, including a step up that connects to an escalating-transition hip.

Yard sale to benefit historic clubhouse renovations

The GFWC Brandon Jr. Woman's Club will be holding its Annual Yard Sale on Saturday, April 21. The sale will be held at the historic clubhouse located at 129 N. Moon Avenue in Brandon from 8 a.m. until approximately 1 p.m. The club will also have food, drinks and some baked goodies available for purchase. The yard sale is a great place to find wonderful things at bargain prices -- lots of books, clothing, household items, crafts, furniture and much more.

All proceeds from the yard sale will go to the club for historic clubhouse preservation. The historic clubhouse was built in 1928 and is designated a historical building by Hillsborough County. It was once Brandon's first library. The clubhouse is in need of a new roof and new electrical wiring. For more information visit www.thebjwc.com. or email Jeanette Kjos at jfkjos@msn.com.

Reading is fundamental

This April the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library will give new books to some of Hillsborough County's school children through the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program. On April 9, the first gift of books went to the children at Metropolitan Ministries Partnership School, where each child will receive two books to take home. Later this month, kindergarteners and first-graders at Booker T. Washington Elementary School will each receive one new book to keep.

The library system bought new children's books for this effort with a Pine-Sol literacy grant of \$1,411, through RIF. This is part of \$50,000 that Pine-Sol donated to RIF in 2011 to help children gain access to books.

"We're thrilled to take this opportunity to extend the joy of reading and love of books beyond our libraries' walls in partnership with local schools," said Joe Stines, Hillsborough County's Library Director. "Our goal here is to promote literacy, encourage reading, and reach out to children who don't have as much opportunity to select and own high-quality books."

For information about the County's distribution of RIF books, call Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library Administration at (813) 273-3663.

Just say 'Moo!'

When I was a kid during a time when air travel was still exotic and romantic, and air travelers were known as the "jet set", I loved everything about flying. I loved seeing the contrails of airliners paint the sky over my small hometown on the prairie. In those days, many small towns had scheduled air service, including mine with Northwest Orient Airlines flying in and out via DC-3s that were old, even then.

Air travel has changed a lot since those days. There is no romance and the only adventure to speak of is wondering how badly you might be inappropriately groped trying to get through security and then wondering further how badly you'll be smashed into a seat, with space that seems to shrink with each passing flight.

Last weekend, my wife and I flew on a small airline out of St. Petersburg to spend Easter with my family in Minnesota. I had flown the airline before and it was...suitable. They offer nothing but direct flights, which is a big perk, and the seats don't recline, which at six-feet tall, I also consider a perk because it saves my knees. The planes aren't all that new, but they are clean.

The big problem with this airline, however, is that literally everything you can imagine costs extra. Like most airlines, they charge a healthy fee to have luggage. If you want an assigned seat, pull out your credit card.

If you want a glass of water or a soda in-flight, pull out your wallet. If you want to board in time to use the overhead storage racks, put down the cash for it. Snacks, of course, also cost extra and beginning last week they even started charging up to \$35 for carry-ons. In other words, for a round-trip flight with a single suitcase and a carry-on bag, you could potentially pay \$120 just for the stuff most people need while traveling. You could probably FedEx it to yourself for less and let the delivery guy carry your luggage.

Worse still, the airline had just made the local news for stranding a group of 80 and 90-year-old World War II veterans at Dulles International Airport in Washington, DC. Apparently, a luggage truck scratched their plane and the veterans had to wait for another one. They were finally hauled off to a hotel during the late night hours for an unexpected extra night in the nation's capitol. You just don't do that to war heroes, in my opinion — especially not elderly war heroes. But these days, everything is so tight with airlines both big and small, that finding a replacement airplane was no small feat. A Florida Congressman understood that and began working to arrange for an Air Force jet as well as doctors and medication, if needed. It wasn't, but kudos to Congressman C.W. Bill Young.

See **OBSERVATIONS**, page 20



Observations
By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net

Rally in Minnesota

Continued from page 1



The February shooting death of Martin by a neighborhood watch volunteer has ignited a firestorm of interest, controversy and criticism, both nationally and globally. The incident has also appeared to open new racial and even political rifts. The neighborhood watch volunteer who shot Martin in the chest with a 9mm pistol has not yet been charged with a crime and, at present, it is uncertain if charges will be filed. On Monday, special prosecutor Angela Corey, appointed by Gov. Rick Scott, announced she would not convene a grand jury as part of the investigation into the shooting. Corey cautioned that the determination should not be considered a factor in the ongoing case. Martin was returning to a home at which he was a guest from a trip to a nearby convenience store and was carrying only his cell phone, a bag of Skittles candy and a can of iced

tea when he was shot on February 26. The incident has also sparked a national debate over Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law, with lawmakers in Tallahassee closely watching the case to determine if changes need to be made to the law. Far away from Sanford, the 30 to 50 people in attendance at the rally in Minnesota chanted, "Know justice, know peace." Many in attendance were young people and several carried signs in honor of Martin. One young Caucasian man walked with a sign asking if he was safer because he was white and if so, why? The rally served to illustrate the far-reaching nature of the incident. Despite being a small, rural community, Worthington is a highly integrated community with residents from several nationalities. It is estimated that 18 languages are spoken by students in the area schools.

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Students at Summerfield Elementary are treated to a special reading by Lily the Mermaid.

Children's author entertains with interactive story telling

Children's author, Jan DiRuzzo, will be on site at the new Oopsie Daisy Upscale Boutique, Summerfield Shoppes Plaza, 11345 Big Bend Road, Riverview, reading *The Lost Mermaid -- A Shem Creek Moonlight Jamboree*.

There will be a guest appearance by the book's character, Lily the Mermaid, and her pirate friend will join in an interactive musical reading. This is a free event so an RSVP is required and seating is limited. This book is appropriate for ages 1-12. She will be signing books so bring your copy. This event will take place from noon-3 p.m. on Saturday, April 28.

This mythical tale will enrich your child's imagination, immerse them in a coastal landscape and marine life, and provide a valuable lesson about the danger of judging others by appearance or language--a lesson in cultural diversity that your child can apply throughout life's journey.

In February, Lily and her pirate friend had a guest appearance at Summerfield Elementary School and read to the 2nd and 3rd grade classes in the media center. Lily the mermaid and her pirate sidekick are available for school readings, presentations, and signings. For more information visit their website at www.LilyTheLostMermaid.com to order copies of her book and check out past and upcoming events.

Art Gallery to host show opening

Visit the Crawford Gallery for the Opening Reception from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 3 to welcome artists Arthur Dillard and Janice James. Light refreshments will be provided by the Friends of SouthShore Regional Library.

Arthur Dillard is a nationally known watercolorist who specializes in painting famous people and scenes. Janice James is well known in the area for her paintings of local historic places. She was recently selected as one of the artists to have her prints and note cards for sale in the Dali Museum gift shop in St. Petersburg.

The show runs from May 3 through June 24. For more information, call Laurie Burhop at (813) 273-3652.

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Windows-7: Control Panel, Files and CDs • April 12 • 3 p.m.

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Bothersome Leg Veins and Available Treatments

By John V. Dunne, MD, FACS

Almost 50% of men and women in the US suffer from some type of vein problem – that's approximately 80 million Americans! Leg veins are the most common and include the larger, sometimes

bulging varicose veins and the thinner web-like spider veins. Some people have leg pain or aching which prevents them from doing things they love and most don't like the way varicose and spider veins look. And some leg veins are a sign of a more serious health problem.

Thanks to advancements in technology and phlebology (the study of veins), vein specialists can treat leg veins successfully in-office, with little discomfort and essentially no down time. Therapies beyond exercise and compression stockings that work include:

Sclerotherapy (for spider and varicose veins)

The doctor injects a chemical into the vein with a small needle to force it to seal shut, reabsorb and disappear.

Endovenous Laser Ablation (for varicose veins)

The doctor inserts a laser fiber into the vein, heating it and causing it to collapse, shrink and disappear.

Important things to consider if you are seeking treatment:

- Have a board-certified vein specialist examine your legs
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- Ask about insurance - Medicare and most plans cover some vein procedures.
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John V. Dunne of The Vein Center at Erasers is a board-certified vein specialist and vascular/thoracic surgeon in Lakewood Ranch and Sun City Center (established in 1976)

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

Monday, April 16
Blue Plate Special, \$7, Menu: Ham Dinner with all the trimmings. Only 50 tickets will be sold.

Monday, April 30
Blue Plate Special, \$7, Menu: Meat Loaf with all the trimmings. Only 50 tickets will be sold.

The South Hillsborough Elks Lodge is located at 1630 U.S. Hwy. 41 S., Ruskin 33570 and has a clean, smoke-free environment. For more information, call (813) 645-2089.

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Ruskin women

■ Continued from page 1

and soon began to chronicle the area's history through the eyes of settlers' descendants, first in the pages of *The Shopper Observer News* and then by compiling those reports in book form. At last count, she had created nine volumes opening windows on the past.

Through her years in Ruskin, she has been involved in many community endeavors, has operated two clothing boutiques, and been crowned Tomato Festival Queen.

Now nearing her 90th birthday, Maschek still writes a fishing column each week for *The Observers*.

The Tampa Bay History Center exhibit will remain in place through the month of April, according to Mac Miller, an organizer of the Ruskin History Project.

A second venue earmarked for spotlighting Ruskin's outstanding women will be the local library on Sunday (April 15). From 1 to 4 p.m. that day, the Tampa Hillsborough County Public Library System will be staging one of its "road shows" commemorating the facility, its keepers and its founders as it looks ahead to a milestone. Come 2014, the library network will celebrate its centennial, with the Ruskin Branch Library in the vanguard as one of the oldest in the system, according to Jennifer Dietz, a senior librarian managing the system's historical observances.

In preparation, specialists will be on hand Sunday afternoon to video or audio tape all library-related recollections of local residents, Dietz said. "If someone remembers a story hour as a child or discovered a book at the library that impacted a life or met someone special at the library, we'd like to hear the story," she added.

County library personnel also will be scanning any documents related to the library's history which local citizens may have in their possession for saving in its archives, the librarian noted. The scanning process does not harm the documents which are returned immediately to owners.

In addition, a selection of about 20 Burgert Brothers photographs will be on display in the library during the afternoon. Burgert photos, taken by the Tampa professional photographers around the city and its environs through the early 20th century have graced calendars, exhibits and edifices across the region.

And portions of the Ruskin Woman's Club exhibit which was hung in the Tampa Bay History Center last month are to be displayed at the library on Sunday. The RWC panels presented at TBHC in March also traced the club's 100 year history

with photos, narratives and artifacts.

The current Ruskin library building, dedicated in 1966, is a direct outgrowth of the first library cobbled together in Ruskin by Orcutt a century ago.

Light refreshments will be available, courtesy of Friends of the Library.

A third commemoration of Ruskin's women and their achievements is slated for Saturday, April 21, inside and around the historic structure that now is the RWC clubhouse as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The three-story home with architectural touches reminiscent of a Swiss Chalet and located on the west side of U.S. 41 just south of the Ruskin Inlet is the only original building that survived the 1918 fire that destroyed the first Ruskin College campus. It was the home of Dr. George McA. Miller and his wife, Adaline Dickman Miller, as they worked to build the commongood society membership and college student body.

At the same time, the genesis of the contemporary woman's group – the 20th Century Club – was developing, becoming a backbone of the community through the first world war and the subsequent depression. In 1940, Mrs. Miller's family deeded the home to the Ruskin Woman's Club that had evolved from the former organization.

From its initial formation by Orcutt, through the years, Ruskin women sheltered and guided and grew their local library. Books were housed variously in the home of Aurora Edwards, an early pioneer, in the Miller house and in a little chamber of commerce office, before the first permanent library was established in the mid-1920s.

And, on April 21, members of the RWC, many in period dress, will celebrate it all during a public reception between 10 AM and 4 PM. Portions of the elaborate RWC centennial exhibit designed and coordinated by Dr. Tina Trent leading a team of five members will be displayed inside their clubhouse. And activities for children as well as their parents are being planned on the grounds, according to Betty Jo Council, an RWC officer. Light refreshments also are planned.

Orcutt well might be astounded if she could see the results of her labors today. It might even trigger her wry sense of humor which was unleashed at one point as she lamented the loss of a barrel full of books in the inlet. Surely, it was for the instruction of the fish, she suggested, adding meaningfully "that is why they are so hard to catch!"

Copyright 2012 Melody Jameson

It was not exactly a boom box, much less an MP3 with ear buds, but this Victrola (center, left) was the source of music that entertained students enrolled in Ruskin's first college one hundred years ago. They danced on the third floor of their college president's house, the structure near U.S. 41 just south of Ruskin Inlet with the Swiss Chalet touches that now hosts the Ruskin Woman's Club. The old machine is just one of many now on display in a Tampa Bay History Center exhibit during April. What's more, the exhibit is just one of three highlighting local history this month.

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London trip

■ Continued from page 1

tioned to a course are partially paid through Honors College program money.

The London trip cost each student \$1,200 plus their ticket, Cutchens said. But they each got a \$600 scholarship toward that and if they lived in the dorm, they got an additional \$200.

Many had to work either full time or part time jobs to make up their portion of the fees. Some work all year to put themselves through school.

Both the youngest and oldest students who took the trip work more than one job year round.

Brandi Hollis, who recently moved to this area from Fort Lauderdale, has two jobs as well as her work as a student. At 27, she was the oldest student to go on the trip.

Hollis has had to work hard to get her education, and eventually wants to be a magazine journalist.

"People say print news is a thing of the past, but I still believe in it and want to be in the field," Hollis said in a telephone interview April 5. "To work for a magazine like Time would be my dream job."

While in Fort Lauderdale, Hollis began working with A Child is Missing, a group that gets the word out in the early stages when a child or elderly adult is missing. She got a transfer to the Tampa branch, and now takes calls for the 24-hour service nights and weekends from law enforcement agencies across the country. Then she passes those descriptions and leads on in mass "telephone call and text blasts." She also helps organize and present events for families that participate or work with the group.

Besides this, Hollis works three days a week in the Student Center at USF making travel arrangements for individual students and groups.

"Let's say a team has to play in another state, I'll do the travel arrangements, hotels- everything," she said in a telephone interview April 5.

The youngest student to take the trip was 20-year-old Sacia Mullins of Ruskin.

Mullins works hard to stay in the Honors College yet she holds a full time job in the office of M & M Printing Company (owner of The Observer News) and besides this is doing an apprenticeship with Siggibunk Productions as a production assistant and camera woman.

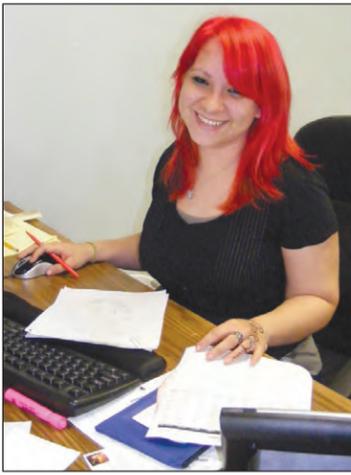
The artsy Liberal Arts major says she hopes working at small, independent film companies will give her the experience she needs to go after an acting career.

Along with her school and jobs, she has studied music, plays the violin, harp, piano and sings; dances and does gymnastics.

Cutchens says all her Honor College students are serious about making something of themselves.

Fortunately, some others were also available for interviews.

"I definitely enjoyed this trip," said Alexandra Parrish. "I think one of the things that I liked the most was that this was the first time that I was able to go on a trip without my parents, and it was fun to make my own decisions. I also learned a lot about budgeting my money. My favorite part of the trip was going to see Phantom of the Opera, followed by the visit to Westminster Abbey. I also enjoyed meeting a bunch of new



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Sacia Mullins of Ruskin works at one of her two jobs and a full time student at the USF Honors College. Part of a group that got to go to London in March, Mullins said it is one of the most exciting experiences she has had to date.

people and getting to experience a different culture."

Even though English is spoken, road signs looked very different because everything is measured in meters, Cutchens reminded me. "And also that people drive on the left side of the road!"

"Traveling to London was the most enriching experience of my life," said Allison Chalifoux. "I feel that it not only strengthened my independence, it enabled me to cultivate my knowledge and better develop my self-sufficiency. I enjoyed getting to immerse myself in another culture and experience what they experience every day. And the food was delicious! The trip helped me gain a deeper appreciation for people different from me. Everything about London was beautiful. The antique buildings gave me the feeling of being hundreds of years in the past. There was so much history surrounding me that it made me feel that I was part of something special. The city reminds me of New York but there is one difference- while the area is constantly bustling with activity, I never once felt rushed or frantic, as a big city often makes me feel. I felt more relaxed and able to take my time and enjoy the things around me. There is no sense of urgency, no sense of time being rushed that I didn't have an opportunity to enjoy myself. And the people there were so friendly."

"One week was not enough to see everything and do everything," Allison continued. "There was so much I wish I could have done. It gave me a passion to travel back there one day and continue the journey I started."

The group stayed at the Imi Hotel in London, near the famous Kensington Park, from March 11 through the 17th.

During that time, they saw the Phantom of the Opera, went to Stonehenge, the Roman baths in Cambridge, Windsor Castle, and the site where the British Royal Air Force (RAF) worked with the Americans during World War II.

Amanda Cutchens had been to England three times prior to chaperoning the students, having studied at Cambridge and then going twice on vacation.

"This whole thing is about the students learning to experience and appreciate other cultures and people," Cutchens said. "I am just so glad to have had the opportunity to be with these students as they experienced London for the first time. It was an amazing trip, but it was the students that made it such a pleasure."



The group of USF students from the Honors College visited Stonehenge while on a 7-day trip to London in March. Some made the Bulls sign deliberately in the group photo, said chaperone Amanda Cutchens, an academic advisor at the Honors College. From the left in the front row are Sacia Mullins, Melissa Mal-lory, Kathleen Sheridan, Marina Saad, Allie Parrish, Neala Kelly, Brandi Hollis. Second row: Sarah Zajd, Charmaine Oliver, Bjorn Nabergall, Jennifer Tejiram, Vince McCoige, Amanda Koslow, Terrence Alleyne, Allison Chalifoux, Kat Rachal, Breezy Paulus, and Rachel Brown.

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| | 7-11 p.m. | Live Music |
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Friday, April 13 | 7-11 p.m. | Southern Tied |
| Saturday, April 14 | 7-11 p.m. | Karaoke with Kim Mullins |
| Friday, April 20 | 7-11 p.m. | Red Neck Band |
| Saturday, April 21 | 7-11 p.m. | Karaoke with Kim Mullins |
| Friday, April 2 | 7-11 p.m. | Caribbean Cowboys |
| Saturday, April 28 | 7-11 p.m. | Karaoke with Kim Mullins |

All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests

Lennard High School finalists compete in student announcer contest

During the Wind Ensemble's "Russian Romance" concert at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 22 at Sun City Center's Community Hall 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. the Sarasota Concert Band, with the support of Beef O'Brady's in Sun City Center, is offering Lennard High School students an opportunity to participate in the band's live performance.

By taking on the role of "concert announcer" students will introduce musical selections during the Russian Romance Concert, competing for cash prizes. Winners will be selected by audience vote. Participate in helping high school youth in the Sun City Center area blossom as they compete to master the role of Concert Announcer in the Sarasota Concert Band's April 22 performance at the Community Hall. Listen to three finalists introduce each musical selection, enjoy the majesty of Russian music and vote on the student with the most skill and audience appeal. First prize is \$100; 2nd is \$50; 3rd is \$25.

Tickets are \$18 for reserved seating purchased at the Community Association Office, at the door on the day of the show or call the office in advance at (813) 642-2001.

For more information visit www.SarasotaConcertBand.org. or call Linda Keefe, 941-364-2263 or email Linda@SarasotaConcertBand.org.



March's Terrific Kids from Reddick Elementary School selected

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FISH TALES

Don't sit home wishing -- go fishing

Fishing has been man's pastime for thousand of years. The first book I found on fishing was published in 1849 and was titled *Fish and Fishing*. I also found one on salmon fishing written in 1865.

Today you can find thousands of books on how to catch most any species of fish. Even many celebrities have written books on fishing. This week I saw that Henry Winkler has a new publication entitled, *I Never Met an Idiot on the River*.

You can read all of these books, and then go fishing, forget what you read and become a great angler. By going fishing by trial and error, you will become a great angler. Go fishing, don't sit home wishing. It takes practice, patience, and your own skills.

Listen to the old timer who has fished all of his life; he could show you how to fish with a line, a hook, and a bambo pole. He can fish without any high priced fishing gear.

He is the guy that is on a bike, with his basketful of fried chicken for lunch, and a cane pole in one hand. He doesn't own a boat, or if he does, he isn't buying the gas at the high price that it is today.

He knows where the fishing are and when to catch them. He knows all about the tides, the water flow and when a full moon shows. He will tell you if the cows are laying down, you might as well stay home because the fish are not biting. He knows when to fish and when to stay home.

Catching sheepshead can be tricky, as it is difficult to set a hook in their boney mouths. When first you feel a nudge, count to three, then jerk to set the hook.

Many of the old timers call this fish the convict fish because of the pattern of black stripes on their bodies resembles that of a prison uniform.

They also have a mouth full of teeth very human-like including molars. With all of these teeth they still have a small mouth, so use a #1 hook or smaller to make a catch. This fish will swim close by to your bait and watches. By the time your three count is done he is ready to grab your bait, a live shrimp, crab, oyster, or sea worm. Some anglers break their shrimps in pieces, as they are using a small hook.

Sheepshead is a great tablefare fish with lean white meat. Legal is 12" and 15 per harvest. Those in deeper waters are much larger.

A 683-pound swordfish was caught offshore of Miami this week by using an electric reel. It cannot be recognized as a record catch because of the electric reel used. To make the record book you must use your own strength to bring in your catch.

With so many fish it's difficult for you to focus on just one species, so just fish and take home what you catch, or release carefully those you don't want.

Grouper season is open again and there are many happy anglers out there. Charter boats are all aglow with the season open as their business is great.

It seems that the high price of gasoline was more popular this

week, than fishing. Many were fishing from docks and land. The bridges were also full of anglers. Boats were left home. One angler told me that it took over \$500 dollars to fill his boat. It would be dry-docked until the gas prices go down. Another told me that the cost of one fish was unbelievable if you count the price of gasoline.

Trout are waiting for your catch, swimming happily in the grassy flats.

Redfish are on the prowl in large schools. This fish is still a restricted catch. One per person per day not under 18" or more than 27".

Freshwater has yielded a lot of pan fish with this great summer weather. I saw many catches of largemouth bass and freshwater catfish.

Mullet are jumping in the rivers and canals and in the saltwater of the bay. The redfish and mullet are running together.

Don't overcrowd your boat. There was 10 on board a boat in Miami, adults and children -- the boat tipped over with all in the water. All were saved by some very brave people and the children did have life jackets on, which is the law.

Take along plenty of sunscreen -- please don't come back with a red-sheen.

Aleta Jonie Maschek is a member of Florida Outdoor Press.



Fish Tales
By Jonie Maschek

Art classes offered for elementary school age children

Classes will be offered once again for elementary-age children at the Big Draw Studio. The first series of three classes will focus on drawing skills using different medias. The second series will focus on creating three-dimensional artworks.

The cost for each series is \$45 and includes all supplies.

Series 1:

Monday, April 30, May 7 and 14
4 p.m. to 5 p.m. for ages 6-8
5 p.m. to 6 p.m. for ages 9-11

Series 2

Monday, May 21, June 4 and 11
4 p.m. to 5 p.m. for ages 6-8
5 p.m. to 6 p.m. for ages 9-11

Each class size is limited to 12 children. To register and reserve your spot, email Margit Redlawsk at mmredlawsk@gmail.com. Pre-pay at www.ruskinbigdraw.com.

Travel Europe

Learn about the best of Europe with AAA travel preferred partners Brendan Vacations and Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 12 at 1653 Sun City Center Plaza, SCC For more information call 813-633-4880.

A second opportunity will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 12 at 415 W. Robertson St., Brandon. For more information call 813-681-5761.

Personal shred day planned

Payant Tax Services is holding its annual Personal Shred Day to celebrate the end of tax season.

The Cintas Shred Truck will be in the parking lot of the Payant Financial Plaza located from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18 at 1653 Sun City Center Plaza.

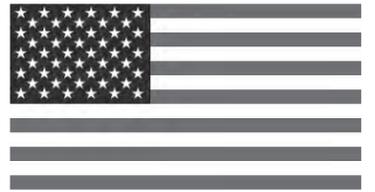
Join them for an around the world wine tasting to celebrate.

Any questions, call Robyn Payant 813-633-7333.

The Russians are coming...

LYRA, a professional group of a cappella singers will perform at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 3 at the Prince of Peace Church. Trained by the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music, this quintet is on a goodwill tour of America, singing selections of sacred music of the Russian Orthodox Church as well as Russian folk and love songs.

The Knights of Columbus are proud to bring you this concert. All seating is reserved and the \$10 tickets are available at Conesa Center from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m., every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. For more information call Joe Frank at 633-1623. To hear a sample visit www.lyra-online.org.



Field of Honor planned

The quarterly Field of Honor Ceremony sponsored by the Veterans Council of Hillsborough County will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at the Veterans Memorial Park located at 3602 US Highway 301, Tampa just south of the Florida State Fairgrounds. This ceremony will honor all the casualties of the last three months who have died while participating in operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn by the reading of their names and the planting of an American Flag in their memory next to the thousands of flags already in the Field of Honor.

Hosting this ceremony will be VFW Post 8108 from Riverview. The Riverview High School JROTC will provide the color guard. Marine Corps League Detachment #1226, Riverview will provide a firing squad and play taps and Chip Shields from Hillsborough County Fire/Rescue will sing the National Anthem. There will also be a special tribute given to an Iraqi Freedom war veteran who is the son of a Gold Star Mom, of the Gold Star Mothers of America, Inc. This ceremony is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend. For further information contact Walt Raysick the Veterans Council president at 813-653-4924 or by e-mail at wraysick@verizon.net.

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Diner's coupon booklet available

The Sun City Center Kiwanis Club is offering their 2012/2013 Diner's Coupon booklet for sale starting Monday, April 16 at the Kiosk in the Atrium Community Association. Kiwanis members will be there from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during April and May 2012. Tickets will also be available from SCC Chamber of Commerce.

This year they have ten excellent restaurants offering discounts. They include: Apollo's Bistro, Beanie's, Beef O' Brady's, Bella Cucina, Copper Penny, The Docks, Ozzies Buffet & Grill, Seafood Dive, Shenaniganz, and Sunshine Cafe (who just opened). Donate \$10 and save up to \$50.



Left to right: Thelma Crosby and Libby Hawbaker. Libby is to be doubly admired, as she is almost legally blind.

SCC ladies walk the walk

Two of the oldest ladies in Sun City Center, Thelma Crosby and Libby Hawbaker, 90 and 91, respectively, had fun proving they are also the fittest. They are shown displaying the shirts presented to them after walking 50 miles in eight weeks. The Friendship Baptist Church fitness club sponsored the event, and the machines (i.e. treadmills and rowing machines) contributed to the aid as well.

Both women are members of the Friendship Baptist Church, 1511 El Rancho Dr., SCC. Many townspeople also were feted. All of their ladies are looking forward to hosting a 'Tea' on Saturday, April 14 at the church. Reservations are necessary.

Caregivers offered support

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group meets from 10 to 11 a.m. every first and third Thursday of the month at Homewood Residence—Personalized Assisted Living and Memory Care, 3910 Galen Ct. (just off Upper Creek Drive).

They will provide you with the education, information and resources you need in a caring, and confidential environment. Anna Lively, MS, Registered Mental Health Counselor, will guide the group and answer questions and concerns. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Bev Hurley at (813) 633-4340 or email burley@brookdaleliving.com.

The Warrens to perform

The Warrens, a musical family that has been traveling and performing for over 25 years will appear on Sunday, April 15 at 6 p.m. at First Baptist in Gibsonton. They capitalize on old-fashioned biblical preaching and 'family style' southern gospel music, with a slight bluegrass influence. They sing and preach in an average of 150 churches a year across the U.S.

The family members are: David and Devanie, Rachel, Brent, Ethan, and Caleb. They specialize in playing live music on the guitar, bass guitar, fiddle, keyboard, banjo, dobro, and steel guitar, along with their singing.



Left to right: Jayne Kirse (Manager of SCC Travelworld), Mike Deeb, Elaine Birkinshaw (library administrator), and Sally Dittman.

SCC Library receives donation

The Sun City Center Library, a community library funded and primarily staffed by Sun City Center residents, recently received an unexpected donation of \$885.65 from a fundraiser cruise, hosted by residents Sally Dittman and Mike Deeb. Sally has been a volunteer at the SCC Library for over 4 years, and decided to designate the library as the recipient of proceeds realized by a fundraiser cruise.

Sally and Mike, along with 8 other couples, took a cruise aboard Holland-America Lines' Eurodam, and worked with Jayne Kirse, Manager of Sun City Center Travelworld, to reward the library with a portion of the group's earned cruise credits.

Elaine Birkinshaw, the vivacious new professional library administrator, was delighted to accept the donation and conveyed that it would be used to purchase additional travel DVDs and new fiction for the busy library. Birkinshaw said that over 72,228 items were circulated from this community library, and donations are welcome. This type of donation, in particular, helps to augment the popular facility for SCC residents.

For more information on sponsoring a fundraiser cruise or tour to help benefit your organization or charity, call Jayne Kirse at SCC Travelworld at (813) 634-3318.

Gas pumping assistance now available

Disabled drivers officially get some assistance at the pump in Hillsborough County, as the County Gas Ordinance goes live on April 1.

While County Ordinance 11-23, Gas Pumping Assistance For Persons With Disabilities, went into effect on Jan. 1, 2012, enforcement was delayed 90 days to allow gas station owners the time necessary to comply as appropriate.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires gas stations, including those offering self-service, to provide equal access for their customers with disabilities. For self-service gas stations, the ADA requires gas stations to provide refueling assistance upon the request of a customer with a disability if there is more than one attendant on duty at the station. At many gas stations, assistance can be received by calling the number on the decal at the pump.

Violations of this Ordinance may subject the violator to civil penalties or criminal prosecution as a misdemeanor, with a fine not to exceed \$500 or by imprisonment for a term not to exceed 60 days, or by both. (We will need to be able to answer how we will check for and enforce violations.)

A copy of County Ordinance 11-23 can be found online at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/liasons/ada/ and click "Gas Pumping Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Ordinance."

1000 mile trek comes to an end

Celebrate Earth Day with the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 22 at Stephen C. Foster State Park, 17515 Highway 177 Fargo, GA.

For more information visit <http://www.floridawildlifecorridor.org/events/earth-day-celebration-closing-event/>.

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Area Obituaries



Nelladele Henke Aldrich

Nelladele Henke Aldrich opened her eyes in Heaven on the morning of April 6, 2012. She was born in Michigan City, Indiana on February 22, 1929, to Harvey and Pearl Henke. Nell married Cleo Todd Aldrich, Jr. on August 12, 1949.

During their 62 years of marriage, Nell and Cleo served as missionaries in Bolivia, SA and worked at Gull Lake Bible Conference in Michigan. Nell earned her degree in Christian Education at what is now Cornerstone University and then worked as a Pre-school director and teacher. After retiring, Nell also had the privilege of teaching English in China for eight weeks. Nell was also instrumental in getting the SCC Observer delivered to the Community in Kings Point.

An active member of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, she enjoyed being involved in Bible studies and sharing her faith with whomever and wherever she could.

Nell is survived by her husband, Cleo; sons, Gary (Judy), Geoff (Debra) and daughter, Gwen; "Adopted" children, Frank and Edith Blaszcak, seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother, Rev. Wilbur Henke (June) and preceded in death by her sister, Mildred Henke Johnson.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to Gideons Int'l, Sun City Camp, PO Box 5462, Sun City Center, FL 33573 or LifePath Hospice, 12973 N Telecom Pkwy, Ste 100, Temple Terrace, FL 33637.

A Celebration of Life will be held at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb Blvd. West, Sun City Center, FL on Friday, April 13 at 1:00 PM.

James T. Bortell

James T. Bortell, 70, of Ruskin FL, passed away on March 23, 2012. He was born on July 2, 1941 in Knox, IN to Thornton J. and Lois G. (Teufert) Bortell, both deceased. He is survived by his wife of 38 years Betty S. Bortell; son Jacob T. Bortell of Lithia, FL; and stepdaughter, Gina Gonzalez of Baytown, TX; and 3 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his Stepson Harry L. Humphrey. He was buried with his hunting dog Gus in Crownhill Cemetery, Knox, IN, on March 29, 2012.

Paul H. Dauerheim

Paul H. Dauerheim, 80, of Sun City Center passed away on April 1, 2012. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on April 19 at United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Ave., Sun City Center. Services are under the direction of Brewer & Sons South Tampa.

Marion Mariece Hoefgen

Marion Mariece Hoefgen, Sun City Center, Florida, formerly of Springfield, Missouri, with a deep religious conviction, passed away on March 22, 2012. She was born on February 11, 1918 in Osage, Oklahoma. She was preceded in death by Nelson G. Hoefgen, her husband of 54 years, her mother and father, Edna and Clyde Stanley, as well as her twin brother, Charles M. Stanley. Survivors include a daughter, Rebecca S. Bodden of Ruskin, Florida; a son, Samuel R. Hoefgen of Eureka, Missouri; three grandsons; and three great-grandchildren.

Visitation and services were held at National Cremation and Burial Society (the former Lewer Funeral Home) in Ruskin, Florida on Monday, March 26. Interment will be at White Chapel Memorial Gardens in Springfield, Missouri.



Bruno A. Ramella

Bruno A. Ramella, 90, of Ruskin, Fla passed away April 6, 2012. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and retired as a cement mason and was a 50 year member of the Cement Masons Local # 526 in Pittsburgh, PA. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and V.F.W. Post # 7505 in Mars, PA. Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Katherine; a daughter, Pamela Bowen; three sons, E. Gregory (Sarah) Ramella, Gary (Suzanne) Ramella and Stephen (Sunok) Ramella; a brother, Frank (Pari) Ramella, 12 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and 3 nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. with a wake service at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 12, 2012 at Sun City Center Funeral Home, 1851 Rickenbacker Drive, Sun City Center, Fla. Funeral Mass will be celebrated 11 a.m. Friday, April 13, 2012 at St Anne Catholic Church, 106 11th Avenue, N.E., Ruskin, Fla. Memorials may be made in Bruno's name to St Anne Catholic Church Building Fund, 106 11th Avenue, N.E., Ruskin, Fla 33570. Arrangements by Sun City Center Funeral Home, Sun City Center, Fla.



Thomas D. Williamson

Thomas D. Williamson, 80, of Sun City Center passed away April 2, 2012. He was born in Niles, Ohio to George and Laura Williamson; graduated from McKinley High School and retired from Republic Steel in Warren, Ohio. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rae Jean. Thomas had 9 brothers and 4 sisters. He is survived by 2 brothers and 2 sisters, many nieces, nephews and his dog, Truman. A celebration of his life took place Saturday, April 7, 2012.

IN MEMORIUM

In memory of our beloved son and grandson Edward L. Hoskins Jr. July 3, 1980- April 20, 2010.

Holocaust Memorial Service planned

A community wide Yom Hashoa service will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 19 to remember the victims of the Holocaust will take place at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, 1015 Del Webb Blvd. East. The service will include prayers, memorial candle lighting, and survivor's stories of the Holocaust. Songs representing the faith at the time of the Holocaust will be sung by a community choir led by Chuck Wirick.

As a community participants will come together to remember what happened to the victims of Hitler, and to remember the heroes who did not live to tell their stories. The community is encouraged to attend.

Ruskin Aglow to meet

Ruskin Aglow will meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday April 21 at Palm Gardens 3850 Upper Creek Dr., Sun City Center. The guest speaker will be Roberta King from the area board. Come early and enjoy coffee and fellowship. For more information call Gloria at 813-633-9613.

Dueling pianos recital at United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West, is proud to present the Spring 2012 edition of Dueling Pianos: a Four and Eight-Hand Piano Recital on Sunday, April 15 at 3 p.m. in the church sanctuary. This program features eight-hand (two players at two pianos) arrangements of the Triumphal March from Sigurd Jorsalfar by Edvard Grieg, works by Bach, Mozart, Clementi, and others plus popular tunes such as April in Paris and Tea for Two. Concert-goers are encouraged to arrive early for a good seat. A donation of just \$5 is requested at the door.

For more information call Jeff Jordan, Director of Music and the Arts, at 813-634-2539 or visit website at www.sccumc.com.

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

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 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.

Redeemer women to meet

The women's organization of Redeemer Lutheran Church (Women of the ELCA) will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 18 beginning with refreshments, followed by a presentation on limited vision and aids that are available. A salad luncheon will follow the meeting. All Redeemer women guests are invited to attend. Redeemer Lutheran is located at 701 Valley Forge Blvd., Sun City Center.

For more information, call 813-634-1292.

Beth Shalom Sisterhood to meet

Beth Shalom Sisterhood of Sun City Center announces their closing luncheon and installation of officers for 2012-2013, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1. The catering will be provided by the Sandpiper Grille. Carol Ogle will entertain with her musical talent. The luncheon will be \$12 per person. You can call in your reservation, or send your check to Carol Balent at 11449 Crestlake Village Drive, Riverview, 33569. Payment must be in by April 23. The phone number is 813-8209-7227. This is Sisterhood's last hurrah for the season, a great reason to thank present and future Officers, and enjoy good music and a delicious lunch.

Sound the Shofar to meet

Sound the Shofar will meet at 2 p.m. on April 15 in the South Shore Library at 15816 Beth Shields Way in Ruskin. Pastor David Jones of Ruach Ministries in Brandon will continue speaking on the Hebraic Roots of the Christian Faith specifically Shavuot and Pentecost.

For more information, call Pastor David at 477-1517. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Garage sale planned

River of Life Christian Center is sponsoring a garage sale from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 21 at 6605 Krycul Ave. Riverview, just off Hwy. 301 and Duncan Rd. Proceeds of the sale will go to sponsor youth events.

For more information call 813-645-5681.

Brandon Repertoire Chorale to perform

The Brandon Repertoire Chorale will be presenting a program of choral music at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17 at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church in Sun City Center. This is at the East Campus, located at 1015 Del Webb E. There will be a free will offering with all the proceeds to go to the Youth Group at the church so that its members may attend such events as new beginnings and happy endings, a retreat established for the youth of the diocese. There will be a buffet dessert after the concert.

The Brandon Repertoire Chorale consists of approximately 2 dozen men and women from the ages of young adults to 70+. They sing a wide range of music. The director is Debbie Woodfin, a retired chorus director at Burns Middle School. She is a past member of the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, the principal chorus of the Florida Orchestra. The pianist is Debby Mann. This is an opportunity for Sun City Center residents and surrounding community residents to hear an accomplished choral group.



Ladies of the Congregation Beth Shalom enjoying their 2nd annual Woman's Seder.

Woman's Seder held at Beth Shalom

What a wonderful time the women and children had at the Woman's Seder held at Congregation Beth Shalom on Sunday, April 1. The seder was led by Rabbi Torop. The special Haggadahs which were written for woman's seders were unique. They read the prayers, sang the songs, danced, honored the famous Jewish women, and most importantly, had a fantastic time.



'Because He Lives' held at United Methodist Church

As a prelude to the annual Easter Sunday Cantata at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, twenty-five children carrying candlelit crosses processed to join the 60-voice Chancel Choir, Bellissima Bell Choir, chamber orchestra and organ for a rousing rendition of Gaither's popular resurrection song, Because He Lives. The Easter Cantata was the culmination of a full 8 days of Holy Week activities that started with a Palm Sunday concert featuring a joint presentation of The Seven Last Words of Christ by the choirs of Prince of Peace Catholic Church and the UMC Chancel Choir. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the Drama Team at the church presented three original dramas written and directed by parishioner Carol Stewart. Easter Sunday began with a Sunrise service followed by two presentations of the Easter Cantata each of which ended with a live butterfly release. Almost three thousand people attended the various presentations and services this past week.

For more information call Jeff Jordan at 813-634-2539 or visit www.sccumc.com.

Ethnic pot luck dinner planned

The Fun Brigade of the United Community Church is planning an ethnic pot luck at 4 p.m. on April 19 in the Great Hall at 1501 La Jolla Ave. What does that mean? Do you have a special or favorite recipe from your youth or family tradition? Prepare that dish and bring it to share with everyone and some of the family history and background. Be sure to label your dish with your name, nationality, and ethnic background of the dish. Perhaps this was Sunday dinner at Grandma's or a favorite July 4th side dish or Christmas dessert. Let's have fun sharing food, background and stories. There will also be a Silent Auction sponsored by the college. For more information, call Paula Lickfeldt at 633-6739 or Karl Buffington at 634-7062.

Prince of Peace held fashion show

On Thursday March 29 the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) of Prince of Peace Catholic Church held their annual Spring Fashion Show. The show "Singing Into Spring" was held at the Community Hall.

CCW President, Marlene Frederick, presented a check for \$1000 to Annette Bullock to help benefit the Food Pantry of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church at the event. The show featured a catered buffet lunch with Barbara Carlini providing music.

After lunch a style show with fashions was presented. Kimberly Yasin narrated the event. Models were Fran Fallon, Prue Minton, Rosemary Reilly, Fran Rieves, Sharon Nathan, Aine Paik, Pat Bennis and Karen Jean Renzi. Over fifty gifts from local merchants were presented at the show. Karen Sochon and Aine Paik were co-chairpersons of the event.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The romance long gone, “packed into a cattle car” is a good way to describe today’s flying experience. Remarkably, a simple act of kindness from a nice flight attendant can really have a positive impact.

Observations

■ Continued from page 9

He certainly understands the perils of flying commercial these days and he appreciates the value of our veterans.

Our lives have been hectic of late, so for our Easter flight we decided to spring for the extra fees to secure assigned seats. For us it was a little bit of certainty in an increasingly uncertain world. We arrived at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport an hour early for our 6 a.m. flight, which is normally not a problem since that airport is generally not a busy place, especially at 5 a.m. Well, except for that day, anyway. On that day, it was extremely busy. There were problems with some of the passengers getting through security and we were still in a long line just to have our ID checked when we heard the announcement that they would soon be closing the doors to our flight.

We heard a collective moan (and a few muttered threats) from our fellow travelers when a TSA agent ushered us to the front of the line for the ID check. I put our shoes, belts, phones, computer and small bags through the X-Ray while Michelle ran ahead to the gate to see if we would make it and we did, just barely, despite that the groping I had to endure took a few extra minutes. I hadn’t had a chance to put my shoes back on by the time we reached the gate and I noticed that, among other things, I was still carrying Michelle’s purse and belt, along with a handful of cell phones. I’m reasonably certain things were a lot more glamorous in the era of the jet set.

We made it onto the plane, followed by a few other passengers who had also been delayed, only to find that our seats — the seats we had purchased weeks ago — had already been taken. It didn’t matter in the least that we had already checked in for the flight at the ticket desk an hour ago. A very nice flight attendant took pity on us and started asking other single passengers if they would consider moving so Michelle and I could sit together. Every passenger she asked said “No”, every single one.

In the hundreds of thousands of miles that I’ve flown since the

naive dreams of my childhood, I have been asked to move to allow family members to sit together on a handful of occasions. I’ve always agreed to do it, despite that it has always meant losing my aisle seat and being stuffed into a middle seat — usually next to a cougher or a sneezer (somehow things always just work that way). Still, in our case, all the flight attendant was asking was for someone in one aisle seat to move to another aisle seat, yet she was refused. It’s getting to be a cold world.

Despite sitting a few rows apart while people who definitely did not pay for them occupied our reserved seats, Michelle and I were still able to communicate enough to swear off ever flying that airline again. What’s next? A shoe fee? A fee to wear a jacket? A restroom fee? The fees are insidious and the rules are strict and unyielding. Break one, or even bend one just a little, and pay big seems to be the philosophy.

Later, when they were offering beverages and snacks for sale, I sincerely thanked the flight attendant for unsuccessfully trying to make arrangements so Michelle and I could sit together. She smiled and gave me a beverage at no charge. What it boils down to is that the highly paid CEO of this airline has done everything imaginable to ensure that I will never, ever spend a single red cent to fly on this airline again, but an underpaid flight attendant managed to appease my increasingly dim view of the airline with an act of kindness and understanding.

It does make me wonder just who is more valuable for that company: the CEO or the flight attendant. I know what the answer is — it’s too bad the CEO doesn’t. I’m thinking it’s not very likely he’ll share some of his salary or bonuses with her. That’s too bad, too, because she had earned it.

Flying today isn’t anything like the dreams of my childhood, unfortunately. I wish that somehow a modicum of romance and adventure could be returned to it, but I’m fairly certain a CEO would manage to find a way to charge a fee for that, too.

County to improve its health care plan

Hillsborough County Commissioners heard the results of an audit of the County’s Health Care Plan at their regularly-scheduled Board meeting Wednesday and an action plan from staff to streamline and improve the Plan’s client eligibility review. Commissioner Sandra Murman called for the audit last year.

The evaluation of the Hillsborough County Health Care Plan (Plan) showed some current members no longer qualify, and by moving these members to other programs where they do qualify, new eligible individuals could be added. A random sampling of 380 Health Care Plan members found that 18% were no longer eligible and another 18% need better documentation to demonstrate their eligibility.

The County is implementing a number of changes in response to the findings. The new approach features a restructuring of duties to form a health care team dedicated solely to conducting reviews of applicants’ eligibility. This new team recently received advanced training on eligibility screening, enrollment practices, and the new data-gathering technology, as it has the potential to verify a person’s eligibility for other social service programs and county-wide services.

Though Plan participants are reviewed every six months, past enrollment practices included using an older applicant verification system. In addition, social workers were multi-tasking with each applicant to test their eligibility for many different types of social services, each with different

eligibility requirements.

Hillsborough County will begin an immediate eligibility review of the approximate 14,000 Plan members using the new data-gathering technology. Should any Plan member be determined to no longer meet the Plan’s eligibility criteria, they will be notified and transitioned to other community resources in a responsible manner and timeframe.

The Hillsborough County Health Care Plan is funded by a ½¢ sales tax. To be eligible, applicants must be a legal U.S. and Hillsborough County resident; have income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level; have assets within established guidelines; not be eligible for other health care coverage; and not be in violation of the “three strikes policy.”

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Protecting your home during wildfire season

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service offered five tips to help Floridians protect themselves against the dangers of wildfire. Wildfire Awareness Week, which recognizes the wildfires that raged through Florida in 1998, burning more than 500,000 acres and damaging or destroying 337 homes and other structures, will be held April 8 through 14.

"Florida is unique in that it experiences a year-round wildfire season, with heightened wildfire activity during the spring months," said Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam. "Although we may receive sporadic rain, extended drought conditions are forecasted to persist throughout spring and into summer. Over the coming weeks and months, it is likely that Florida will experience very high to extreme wildfire danger due to these dry conditions. It is critical for Floridians to take steps to ensure their own safety."

The department's Florida Forest Service manages more than one million acres of public forest land and protects over 26 million acres of homes, forestland and natural re-

sources from the devastating effects of wildfire.

Since January 1, more than 1,100 wildfires have burned nearly 20,000 acres in Florida. Most of these fires were caused by human carelessness. To prevent wildfires, follow these five simple steps:

1. Check with local authorities for any temporary restrictions on burning yard waste
2. Contain fires to an eight-foot diameter pile or non-combustible barrel at least 25 feet from forests, 25 feet from homes, 50 feet from paved public roads and 150 feet from other occupied buildings
3. Do not burn on windy days or when the humidity is below 30 percent
4. Never leave a fire unattended and make sure it is completely out before leaving
5. Keep a shovel and water hose handy in case a small fire escapes containment

In addition to the tips listed above, Floridians should also report any suspicious fires or fire activity to 911 or their local Florida Forest Service office.

In 2011, the Florida Forest Ser-

vice responded to more than 4,700 wildfires that burned over 220,000 acres, a 32 percent increase from the previous year. Firefighters saved more than 1,100 homes and business in Florida.

For statewide wildfire updates and additional wildfire information, visit www.floridaforestservice.com or follow the department's Florida Forest Service on Facebook or Twitter.

For more information about the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, visit www.FreshFromFlorida.com or follow Commissioner Putnam on Facebook or Twitter.

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Florida Blueberry Cobbler

- Filling**
- 1 stick butter
 - 1 teaspoon lemon juice
 - 4 cups fresh blueberries, rinsed and drain
 - 1 cup sugar
- Topping**
- 1 cup self-rising flour
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla flavoring
 - 1/2 cup milk

Filling: Preheat oven to 375° F. Place the butter in an 8x8-inch square glass baking dish (no substitutes), and melt the butter in the microwave. In a mixing bowl, combine lemon juice and blueberries. Add the sugar and mix well. Add the blueberry mixture to the baking dish with the melted butter. Do not stir.

Topping: Combine all of the topping ingredients in a small bowl. Pour this mixture over the blueberries and bake 45 minutes, or until brown. Serve with fresh whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.



Blueberry-Lemon Corn Muffins

- paper muffin cup liners
- 1/2 stick (1/4 cup) unsalted butter
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon freshly grated lemon zest
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 2 large egg yolks
- 1/2 cup blueberries



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Preheat oven to 375° F and line six 1/3-cup muffin cups with paper liners. Melt butter and cool. Into a large bowl sift together flour and baking powder and whisk in cornmeal, 1/2 cup sugar, lemon zest, and a generous pinch salt. In a bowl whisk together melted butter, milk, and yolks and add to flour mixture with half of blueberries, gently stirring until just combined. Divide batter evenly among cups (batter will fill cups) and press remaining blueberries into tops of muffins. Sprinkle tops of muffins evenly with remaining tablespoon sugar. Bake muffins in middle of oven about 15 minutes, or until tops are golden and a tester comes out clean. Remove muffins from cups and cool on a rack.

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Curves® of Ruskin offers diet, exercise, motivation

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The Curves Complete program is designed to help dieters lose up to 20 pounds and 20 inches in just 90 days.

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Diet: Weekly personalized diet plans and shopping lists created through the Curves Complete website. These tools help dieters enjoy the convenience and portion control of expensive mail-order diet food programs while shopping at their own grocery stores - and for a fraction of the cost! The plan even offers a convenient new Heat & Eat option so that dieters can in-

clude healthy frozen food choices like Lean Cuisine® and Healthy Choice® in their diet plans.

Exercise: Workouts at Curves of Ruskin that combine metabolism-boosting cardio with strength-training and stretching while providing a continually more challenging workout experience as fitness improves.

Motivation: Daily motivational videos produced through a partnership with the renowned Cleveland Clinic that offer advice and strategies from a panel of experts to help you make healthy choices and keep the weight off. Plus, one-on-one time with your personal coach each week to support, encourage and motivate.

"Personal coaching is the heart of the program," said Yvonne Sargent, Curves manager. "All Curves Complete participants receive a Health Assessment and a 15-minute, personalized, weekly coaching session with a certified Curves Coach that includes a weigh-in, progress assessment, goal review and monthly body measurements to track results. That extra accountability is very motivating, and the coaches help you develop simple, practical strategies for getting and staying on track."

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FLORIDA RECIPE



FLORIDA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE RECIPE

Florida Snapper Caribe

- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 1/2 cups white onions, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons garlic, minced
- 4 cups plum tomatoes, seeded and chopped
- 1/2 cup yellow bell pepper, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups dry white wine
- 2/3 cup green olives, sliced
- 1/4 cup capers, drained
- 1/8 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 4 6-ounce snapper fillets
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped

In a large sauté pan, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add onions and sauté until soft. Stir in garlic; sauté 1 minute. Add tomatoes and yellow pepper; cook until softened. Stir in wine, olives, capers, and red pepper flakes and bring to a simmer. Place fillets into sauce; cover pan and gently simmer for 10 to 12 minutes until fish flakes easily with a fork. Transfer fillets to a serving plate and keep warm. Add butter to sauce and simmer until thickened. Stir cilantro into sauce and serve over fillets.

Yield: 4 servings



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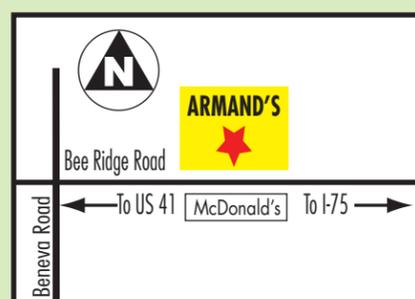
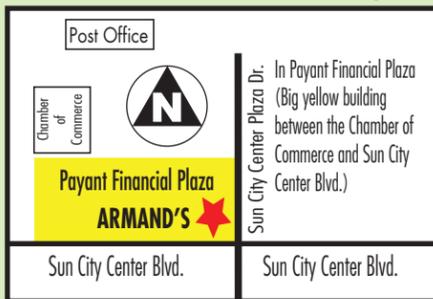
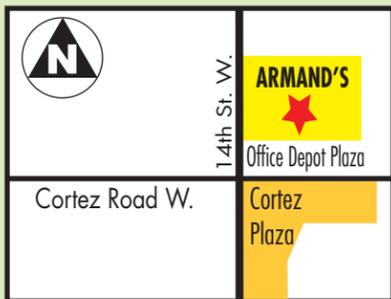


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Andi's Big Day

Stray animals are a heartbreaking and unnecessary problem in South Hillsborough.

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

She arrived at our house as a frighteningly skinny puppy, but certainly not all that frightened. She had (and still has) an annoying habit of greeting people by jumping up to smash noses with whatever unlucky individual happens to even slightly bend over in her presence. Even with all of her bones clearly visible through her thin coat of fur, she bounded about as a happy puppy without a care in the world. I guess she had reason to be — from her perspective, she had found a home.

Within a week or so of her arrival, my wife found her a real home — “real” meaning not our home already overflowing with three dogs. Michelle dropped her off with the adoptive mother and drove home thinking all worked out well. But the next morning, the adoptive mother called asking us to take the dog back. “She cried all night and is still crying,” the woman said. Ruskin’s CARE animal shelter was full so Michelle brought her back home and we named her Andi. She didn’t cry again, unless we made the mistake of trying to take her somewhere in the car without the other dogs. She learned her lesson from the first time.

When she showed up back in 2006, we lived in a part of town we later found out was considered an animal dumping ground. We had been told that some snowbirds enjoyed having a pet for the winter but would not take them back to their homes in the north. Thus, when it was time to head for home in the spring, they would drive down to the country road near our house and let the winter pets go. If there really are people who do such things, I have a feeling they’ll find out that hell is a completely dog-less place. But whatever her circumstances were prior to meeting us, Andi was determined that our home would be hers.

Andi is insane. Of course, there are numerous definitions of insanity and hers would surely be a fringe definition. She has boundless energy, seems eternally happy, and can’t stand to see another dog get some attention without barging in and forcing some attention on herself. It doesn’t matter that she’s the smallest dog in our house, in her mind she’s the biggest of them all. When treats are passed out, we’ve learned to give Andi two while the rest of the dogs get one. Having two will sometimes dissuade Andi from cheerfully, yet earnestly, taking the treats away from the other dogs.

It seems the other dogs have

resigned themselves to it, too. Sammy, the biggest dog, will at most let out a whiny little yelp when she takes his treat away. But he knows that attempting to keep it is futile. Andi is cheerfully relentless. I’m certain her biggest wish is that she had pockets so she could safely stuff away and keep all of the dog treats.

We researched her breed on the web and one person with experience with her type of dog strongly recommended that she be given a job within the household. Having a job would help her to deal with her energy level and obnoxious assertiveness. Unfortunately, I am reasonably certain the only job Andi would want would involve a badge and, quite possibly, a gun. I have a feeling that Andi would love nothing more than to arrest people and dogs at will — sometimes for thinking they should have a treat all to themselves, sometimes just for the fun of it.

After nearly six years of unbounded energy and seemingly endless happiness (that sometimes directly corresponded with the unhappiness of our other dogs), Michelle decided that it was time for Andi to go to school. She signed up for an obedience course in Brandon and painfully loaded Andi up into the car without the other dogs. Andi, of course, cried and shivered convulsively for the entire trip but magically transformed herself into a perfect angel dog once inside the canine classroom. The instructor commented on how well behaved she was and the human parents of the other dogs in the class applauded her good work during the lessons.

Week after week, the same scenario played out, with Andi celebrating her joy at actually being allowed to return to our home by attempting to leap six feet into the air to nose-smash me once back inside the house. And then the day came for her final tests and possible graduation from obedience school. Andi was nearly flawless on the tests that included everything from leaping through a hoop to walking past a treat purposely left on the floor (she was tempted, but she resisted). I’m sure that she was the best dog in the class. Of course, most of the class was made up of impetuous puppies that cared far more about treats and adventure than they did about a diploma.

Andi cared about the diploma. She posed courteously with the little mortarboard on her head as the instructor took her photo. Later in the pet store, she picked out a toy — a stuffed pink gorilla — as a graduation present and was so careful with it that it lasted for



Andi with Michelle after her graduation from obedience school.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

nearly three days before it was completely destroyed. In those three days, she was never seen without it — if she was awake, it was in her mouth while her tail wagged happily; if she was napping, she would be curled up with it.

There are more advanced obedience classes available and I think Andi would like to take them. Who knows, maybe after the next one she’ll get a badge.

Stray dogs and cats are an unnecessary problem in South Hillsborough and almost all of them would, like Andi, prefer to nap on a couch than on the street. Shelters such as CARE are often filled to capacity. For pet owners, the responsibility begins with spaying or neutering your animals. In the Tampa Bay area, there are several no or low cost programs to help. For more information, visit www.aspc.org.

For those looking for the best and most sincere form of companionship, visit CARE at www.careshelter.org or call 813-645-CARE (2273). You won’t find Andi there but certainly a dog or cat is waiting to fill your heart. Treats (and diplomas and badges) are always good, but a formerly stray dog or cat will be happy to just be in the same room as you.



Andi listens intently before class begins. A stray that just wandered into our lives as a skinny puppy, she has certainly made things more interesting for us.



And with her graduation present. It lasted all of three days before it was destroyed -- a new record, perhaps.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

East Bay athlete signs full-ride scholarship to HCC

East Bay High School baseball star Emmanuel Rodriguez signed a full-ride scholarship with Hillsborough Community College on March 29. Rodriguez is the only East Bay athlete to sign a scholarship this year. "I wanted to go there, it is a good opportunity for me," he said after signing the scholarship papers with a room full of family, friends, coaches (both current and future) and teachers looking on. With the exception of playing baseball, Rodriguez is still open on his plans for his course of collegiate study.

'Made in America' concert planned

The community is invited to a spring concert presented by the Eastern Hillsborough Community Band at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 26 at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West. The band will perform music by American composers and arrangers during the concert, titled Made in America.

The event is \$5 at the door and open to the public. Reservations are not required. For more information call (813) 569-1771 or email info@ehcb.org or visit www.ehcb.org.



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 1901 Haverford Plaza, Suite 106, Sun City Center.
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Free meal and giveaways provided to all attendees. To register for the seminars, call 1-888-685-1595.



Cypress Creek Elementary Terrific Kids selected

Sponsored by Sun City Kiwanis the Cypress Creek Elementary Terrific Kids for March 2012 are: Samuel Alcantara, Willie Humphrey, Kyler Bowling, Dalton Worthington, William Chu-Crider, Serenity Burns, Alma Castillo, Adriana Orta, Diosmary Barreiro Alpizar, Jaiden Clinkscales, Ayelen Penayo, Vellenia Peña, Orlando Campos, Maycon DeLeon-Diaz, Abel Ayala, Neviah Black, Ian Garcia, Chloe Nguyen, Jocelyn Reducindo, Landen Walker, Jaylen Bocanegra, Fernando Perez, Brandon Dillon, Alara Rimes, Julieta Rodriguez, Marleni Perez- Vasquez, Jacquelin Arellano-Castro, Katie O'Dell, Keyanna Joseph, Rosaura Diaz-Hower, Jovaughn Quirino, Anthony Rampersad, Ashley Agustin, Shamiya Humphrey, Kylie McCumber, Payton Stefero, Kristen Elliott, Angel Lopez, Jose Guzman, Elizabeth Cormey, Jennifer Pazanski, Alicia Vasquez, Valerie Flores, Fatima Guia, Anna Solis, Allen Chen, Breanna Zager, Nicole Zamarripa-Teran, Larissa Sanchez, Krystal Elizarraras, Jerimiah Marlow, Jacob Spradlin, Aislynn Newell, Melanye Magana, Monique Crummer, Kelany Cruz, Joshua Vega, Aaron Peña, Giana Graham, Allison Hudson, Abigail Witte, Bryan Timothee, Leenna Shannon, Corbin Smith.

Celebrate life

LifeLink of Florida® invites the community to Link Hands for Life on Saturday, April 14 in Centro Ybor. Free food, crafts for children and adults, face painting and more will be available from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., and the main event, where transplants recipients, family members of organ donors and the community will be encouraged

to link hands in celebration of organ and tissue donation, will occur between noon and 12:30 p.m. Free tshirts will be given out on a first come first served basis until they are gone.

Also, The Casey Connection, a short documentary detailing the unexpected connection between two families after organ donation and

transplantation, will show at Centro Ybor Muvico at 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. and admission will be free.

For more information call LifeLink® at 813-253-2640.

LifeLink of Florida is a non-profit community service organization dedicated to the recovery of organs and tissues for transplantation.

Spring Fest showcases the best of Riverview!

The Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce will hold its 4th Annual Community Festival. This year's event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 14 at Riverview High School, 11311 Boyette Road in Riverview.

This year's Spring Fest will include a High Rollers car show, a kids' play area with inflatables, games, face painting, pony rides and much more! There will be a variety of food vendors, live music, martial arts and dance performances, singing by local high school performers as well as merchandise vendors. Spirit FM 90.5 will also be onsite. There will be something for everyone!

There is no charge for parking and admission is free. Make a difference by attending and showing your support of your community! For more information, call the Riverview Chamber office (813) 234-5944 or visit www.Riverview-Chamber.com.

Area poet featured at Southshore Library

Award-winning poet John Foster of Sun City Center has been invited by the Southshore Regional Library to celebrate National Poetry Month with a presentation at 2 p.m. on April 12 in the Community Room. Through the medium of PowerPoint, the poet will share his work in a program entitled "Patterns in Poetry." The audio-visual presentation will feature examples of more than a dozen popular forms of poetry. Unlike most readings, this event will allow listeners to view Foster's poems and hear them simultaneously. Admission is free.

Known for his instructive and entertaining programs, John Foster has given workshops and readings throughout west central Florida. His poetry, which has been featured in newspapers, magazines and professional journals, has won awards at both state and national levels. He is currently at work on a fourth collection of poems.

Democratic Club to meet

The South Shore Democratic Club will meet at 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 12 at the South Shore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way in Ruskin.

The featured speaker is Barbara Zdravecky, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida. Her topic will be "Women are Watching: An Update on Women's Health Care."

Coffee and refreshments will be served at 1 p.m.; the meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Pancake Brunch

The Sun City Shrine Club are hosting a pancake brunch benefit from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 15 at the South Community Hall on S. Pebble Beach Blvd., Sun City Center. Tickets are \$5 and will be sold at the door. The payments are not tax deductible or charitable contributions.

Performer announces gigs

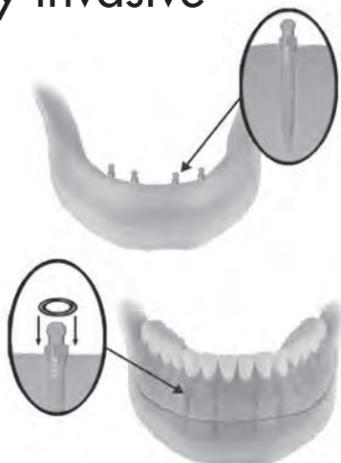
Local musician Randy McNeely and his band invite the public to Mango Jo's, 2626 College Ave., Ruskin, at 9 p.m. any Wednesday during April. For more information call 813-516-3424 or email randymcneely20@yahoo.com.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Copper Bell celebrates second location

On Thursday, March 15 the Copper Bell Cafe hosted a Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of their 2nd location located at 11228 Boyette Road, Riverview, Florida. This award winning restaurant offers a great, casual dining atmosphere with quality homemade food for breakfast, lunch and catering. A private party room is also available for special occasions or business meetings. For more information, visit the Copper Bell Café's website www.copperbellcafe.com or call (813) 671-1100 or email copperbellcafe@verizon.net.



Chamber members turned out for the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of the Copper Bell's 2nd location.

Riverview Plumbing, LLC. opens

On Monday, March 19 Riverview Plumbing, LLC. hosted a Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate their grand opening. A fully licensed and bonded plumbing company, Riverview Plumbing, LLC, services all of Hillsborough County. Owner, Randy Ramos, holds one guiding principle which is to treat the customer with honesty and respect while providing the absolute best service possible. To see a listing of services provided, visit www.riverviewplumbingllc.com or call (813) 671-0557 or email randy@riverviewplumbingllc.com.



Ribbon cutting ceremony for Riverview Plumbing, LLC.

Weichert, Realtors® Southshore changes locations

Weichert, Realtors® - SouthShore has announced that the company's new address at 6160 North U.S. Highway 41 in Apollo Beach is easily accessible. The new location makes the office more geographically convenient for realtors and clients alike, plus additional amenities include expanded parking.

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Weichert, Realtors® - SouthShore's telephone number remains the same, 813-649-1002 and the Web address is www.wrsouthshore.com.

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Gopher tortoises move slowly through 'spring training' of grazing, burrow-digging

Like a baseball player stretching muscles and practicing skills during spring training, the gopher tortoise is emerging from winter dormancy and moving slowly and steadily through the landscape in search of greenery to eat and a new place to dig its burrow.

Look for gopher tortoises' distinctive domed brown shells and stumpy legs, as these land-dwellers make their way through Florida's open canopy forests and sandy areas. The Florida

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) asks people to remember that gopher tortoises are good neighbors, so leave them and their burrows alone.

"The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission works with, and is grateful to, the homeowners, landowners, businesses and public agencies willing to share their lands with gopher tortoises and their burrows," said Deborah Burr, the FWC's gopher tortoise plan

coordinator. "This state has made progress in reversing the decline of gopher tortoises by providing direction to developers, including re-locating tortoises if necessary, and help to people interested in making room for tortoises."

Florida's first Gopher Tortoise Management Plan was adopted by the FWC in 2007 and is being updated this year as scheduled. More than 50 individuals and stakeholders already have made suggestions on improving the 2007 plan, and proposed draft revisions to the plan are available online at the GTTAG SharePoint site for review and public comment. To comment, go to MyFWC.com/GopherTortoise and click on the "Management Plan" link.

Since the Gopher Tortoise Management Plan took effect in 2007, an annual average of 36,000 acres of gopher tortoise habitat has been restored and managed; protected tortoise habitat expanded by more than 6,500 acres; and more than 4,000 gopher tortoises were humanely relocated from development sites.

"In addition to changes in Florida's economy, the needs of the gopher tortoise have changed since the plan was first approved in 2007," Burr said. "The proposed revisions to the plan include new actions that the FWC and our partners can implement together to improve the status of the species, and help secure viable populations well into the future."

She added, "We accepted written comments on the first draft of the revisions until April 10. There will be additional public-comment opportunities through July on each improved draft of the plan."

In Florida, it is illegal to harm gopher tortoises or their extensive burrows, which provide shelter to more than 350 other native species. Generally, the only time people should pick up and move a gopher tortoise is to help it get across a road. Remember, though, not to put the tortoise in your car. Do point the tortoise in the same direction it was going when you picked it up, but never put it in the water because it is a land animal.

The best long-term protection for this state-threatened species is the people who are aware of gopher tortoises' needs and happy to share their lawns and lands with the tortoise that can live to 40 to 60 years in the wild.

For more information, please visit MyFWC.com/GopherTortoise.



FWC PHOTOS

Study reveals new information about tarpon movement

Seven years into the Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study, biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Mote Marine Laboratory are gaining new insights into tarpon movement and seasonal habitat preferences. With the help of anglers participating in the study, researchers have confirmed that some tarpon move long distances, and others stay close to home. Biologists have also found evidence of a connection between tarpon habitats in southwest Florida and those of the Florida Keys.

Anglers sampled two tarpon in Charlotte Harbor during August 2010. Both fish were caught the following spring in the Florida Keys – more than 150 miles away. These tarpon were initially sampled inshore at the end of a spawning season, in close proximity to offshore areas in the Gulf where spawning is presumed to occur.

Sampling of another tarpon showed the fish can travel a similar distance in a shorter time. That tarpon was caught near Islamorada in July 2011, about one month after an angler reeled it in during peak spawning season near Sarasota.

Researchers can track these tarpon thanks to volunteer anglers who submit tarpon DNA samples to the FWC. When an angler catches and samples a tarpon that was previously sampled, a recapture occurs. Through recaptures, biologists can compare catch times and locations to determine movement.

In the study, the farthest distance recorded between an initial catch and a recapture is approximately 280 miles. That tarpon was reeled in near Apalachicola in July 2007 before it was recaptured near Captiva in May 2009.

Anglers have submitted over 13,000 tarpon DNA samples to the FWC, including more than 4,000 in 2011. Among the samples, researchers have documented about 100 recaptured tarpon.

Anglers who would like to assist the study can obtain a free, easy-to-use tarpon DNA sampling kit by emailing TarponGenetics@MyFWC.com or by calling 800-367-4461.

A new video provides a step-by-step look at how an angler takes a tarpon DNA sample for the study. The video, produced by Florida Sea Grant and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Communications, can be viewed at www.YouTube.com/user/MyFWCSocial.

For more information on the Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study, visit MyFWC.com/Research, click on "Saltwater," and select "Tarpon Genetics" under "Tarpon."

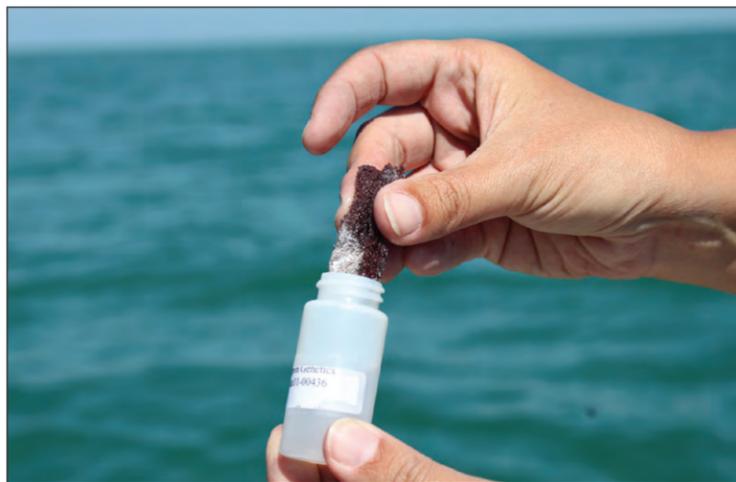


FWC PHOTOS

A tarpon jumps out of the water after it is hooked by an angler.



An angler takes a DNA scrape from the outer jaw of a tarpon.



Placing a sponge with the silver tarpon skin sample into a vial.



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Home decor & accessories, Christmas decorations, candle holders, Fiesta ware & more 4/14, 8am-2pm. 809 Chipaway Dr., Apollo Beach.

Yard sale. Saturday & Sunday 7am-3pm. Something for everyone. CDs, furniture & more. 1618 Wagon Wheel Rd., Sundance

501 Flamingo Dr., Apollo Beach. Saturday, 8:30am-noon. Furniture, microwave, misc kitchen & household items, handbags, fish bowls, area rugs, misc.

Apollo Beach. 6310 Wisteria Lane. Friday & Saturday, 4/13 & 4/14. Collectable & hard to find items. Fuji 26" folding bike, Griswald cast irons, old tube radios, antique outboards, wine making, fishing marine & the list goes on. Other sales on Block.

Collectibles, lamps, ceramic molds, paints, brushes, magazines, Kiln, CD's, etc. 1813 Allegheny Dr., SCC. Saturday only. 9am-2pm

Neighborhood sale. Apollo Beach. Furniture, desk, dishes, tools, fishing gear, boating supplies, hammock, wine making, Kirby vacuum. Friday & Saturday, April 13 & 14, 8am-1pm. Wisteria Lane

310 GARAGE/ YARD SALE

Neighborhood. sale Friday & Saturday, 4/13 & 4/14, 8am-2pm. Emerald Lake, Caloosa Creek, Caloosa Lake. Don't miss this one!

831 Kings Leon, SCC. Everything must go including kitchenware, small appliances, TVs, furniture, other items.. April 12 -14. 941-755-5706

Yard sale. April 14, Saturday, 9am-2pm. 3623 Petrova Circle, Ruskin (off Universal Dr) Everything must go. Baby stuff, TVs & more.

Down sizing. Everything must go. 1701 Flamingo Lane, SCC. April 12, 13 & 14. Golf cart, tools, patio set, lamps, etc.

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6308 WISTERIA Lane
(Apollo Beach Blvd., left on Lake Sunrise Dr., left on Bal Harbour, left on Wisteria Lane)

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7 a.m. to Noon

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www.AnnesEstateSales.blogspot.com

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Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC
Motion Church
Music On The Move DJ's
OneChurch
Osprey Observer
P.F. Auto Glass, Inc.
Rita's Ice
Ritter's This N That Mini Donuts
RVR Horse Rescue
S&S Tacos/Pizzas & Stuff
Scroll n Roll Ads
Spirit FM 90.50
SportClips Haircuts
Take Out Butler.Com
Take Shape for Life Health Coach
Tampa Bay Times - Riverview Bureau
Tampa Electric Co.
The BOSS
Traventours Events & Excursions, Inc
Valrico State Bank
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Wellcare Healthcare
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