

THE OBSERVER NEWS

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Debby pounds Tampa Bay with wind, rain

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
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RUSKIN — On Sunday morning, residents of the Tampa Bay area woke up to a National Hurricane Center forecast showing Tropical Storm Debby heading west into Texas. By later in the day, that forecast had changed, although by that time it was of little surprise to anyone in the bay area. Heavy rain and strong wind gusts lashed the metro area throughout the day, bringing flooding, power outages and a somewhat rare closing of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge.

Although the eye of Debby remained well offshore, the Tampa Bay area took the brunt of the storm's fury.

Locally, Tampa Electric reported sporadic power outages, pointing primarily to the Sun City area. As of Monday, approximately 200 customers were still without power in Sun City, Ruskin and Wimauma. Also on Monday, more than 2,700 customers in Sun City Center briefly lost power.

According to preliminary data from the National Weather Service office in Ruskin, the



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Winds from Debby brought down a large portion of a tree at the Southshore Chamber of Commerce in Ruskin. The chamber issued a statement that business will, of course, go on.

area received 7.11 inches of rain on Sunday, beating a record of 5.29 inches set in 1995. Sunday alone accounted for nearly a quarter of all rain received thus far in 2012. Additionally, wind gusts as high as 45 miles per hour were reported. Some South Hillsborough streets flooded, and a flood warning was issued for the Little Manatee River until Thursday. With the slow movement of the storm, flooding was of major concern along the Little Manatee River, with a

forecasted crest six feet above flood stage.

The Sunshine Skyway Bridge was closed at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday and remained closed on Monday. The Florida Highway Patrol reported a wind gust of 58 miles per hour and there was persistent flooding on I-275 in the area of the Pinellas Bayway. In Tampa, Davis Island was largely cut off as the bridge was closed due to flooding and the FHP

See **STORM**, page 12



It's magic!

The Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County helped to make magic for up to 160 children at the Firehouse Cultural Center in Ruskin last week. The large theater space in the new cultural center allows

for activities that were previously not possible at area libraries. See more on page 10.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

30-year fireworks tradition carried on after owner's death

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
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RIVERVIEW — Owen Young certainly wasn't famous but thousands — maybe even millions — of people around the world have viewed his work.

In fact, the chances are good that anyone who has watched a Gasparilla Parade or a Tampa Bay Buccaneers game, in the stands or on television, has seen them. And that doesn't count the people who frequented the 30 tents he put up for the Fourth of July and News Year's — or customers at the permanent store he operated as Universe Novelty & Fireworks Co., Inc. at 8818 U.S. 301 in Riverview for more than 30 years.

Until his death in July 2011, Owen Douglas Young sold fireworks for some of the biggest events in and around Tampa Bay and many other cities.

A member of the International Independent Showman's Association and a veteran of the United States Army, Young, who spent most of his adult life in Riverview, died at the age of 64.

People came from miles around to the fireworks store that had become such a well-known stop on Riverview.

I interviewed Young about 10 years ago concerning Florida's contradictory fireworks statute — Florida Statute 791 — that on one hand forbids the public from lighting any fireworks not considered a "sparkler" and yet the state's consistency in allowing people to do so without imposing the penalty (which can include \$1,000 fine and a year in jail).

Under the law, sparklers are defined as "traditional hand-held sparklers, snakes or glow worms, smoke devices, trick noisemakers, party poppers, booby traps, snappers, trick matches that produce a spark, and cigarette loads."

See **FIREWORKS**, page 7

Selfless housing counselor praised for outstanding community service

■ By MELODY JAMESON
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RUSKIN — Some folks are legends in their own minds, rarely losing the opportunity to say so.

Then there are a rare few who are legends in their own time. And everyone but them knows it.

Walter Walker Jr. is one of the

latter. Hundreds of his grateful clients, his appreciative fans, his respectful colleagues said so, publicly, here, last weekend.

This week, Walker, a housing counselor at the non-profit Housing and Education Alliance (HEA) in Tampa, was back at his desk focused on helping first time

homebuyers, insisting "I'm really a shy and withdrawn person."

There's a plaque on his wall, though, that says differently. It's the 2012 Dorothy Duke Award for Outstanding Community Service recognizing Walker's dedication to homebuyer education. On it, in plain and simple English, are forever engraved the words: "Walter Walker, you are a Legend

See **COUNSELOR HONORED**, page 22



MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

A new playground, featuring a variety of activities sure to require some youthful energies, sprang from bare earth Saturday as dozens of volunteers pitched in to build the facility for young Bayou Pass III residents. As the day-long observances planned during the 2012 Home Ownership Month Event drew to a close, all that remained was evenly spreading the mulch. The new playground is located conveniently adjacent the community's swimming pool.

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Celebrate the 4th with a Bullet Free Sky

“When someone shoots randomly into the sky, we are all in danger.” This 4th of July, join a 13-year-old boy in making a difference.

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
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RUSKIN — “Some people have said he was in the wrong place at the wrong time,” Sandy Duran said, referring to her son who was struck by a falling bullet from “celebratory” gunfire on New Year’s Eve. “He was in the front yard of our home. How could that be the wrong place?”

Duran was attracted to the quiet Ruskin home because it was a beautiful and safe place for her children. It still is — Diego was not in the wrong place, he was at home in the best possible place of all. The shooter, however, was very much in the wrong. He or she was in the wrong place and doing the wrong thing to celebrate the New Year. Bullets fired into the sky do not magically disappear. They come tearing back down to earth with lethal force.

Many families celebrate the 4th of July with picnics and barbecues and watching fireworks. Some people choose to shoot their own fireworks, which, within guidelines, are legal in Florida. Other people, however, will choose to fire off weapons. In Hillsborough County, as in most places, that is decidedly not legal. The time has come for the practice to stop because innocent people are being injured and killed. There is nothing celebratory about that.

It would be difficult to imagine a kinder or gentler family than the Durans. Artistic and hardworking, they moved from Puerto Rico to build a quiet life for their

children. The 10-acre property on which they live is the embodiment of peace and tranquility, and they chose to spend holidays there together rather than run the risks of being out. They had every right to their expectation of peace and safety — just as anyone should have that expectation at their own home. In the first few minutes of 2012, however, a bullet, fired from a gun up to a mile or three away, fell from the sky and shattered that expectation; it violated their right to have that expectation. The bullet could have fallen anywhere: through a screened lanai in Sun City Center or through the roof of a house to strike a sleeping family. As long as people fire guns into the sky, no one is safe — not in your yard, not in your home.

To prevent anyone else from suffering that needless tragedy, Sandy and Diego Duran, along with Diego’s godmother, Kat Chiu, have created the Bullet Free Sky awareness campaign. They are currently seeking donors to raise the funds necessary to file as a non-profit organization with the Internal Revenue Service. At press time, approximately \$340 was still needed. In addition, they have begun selling wristbands emblazoned with the words, “Bullet Free Sky” and Diego’s signature, signed while he was still in the hospital, along with Bullet Free Sky t-shirts.

The campaign has garnered nationwide and international attention. A wristband sent to a woman in Minnesota earned a

pledge from the members of her family who are hunters to never fire recklessly into the sky and to help promote the campaign to other hunters. That is but a single example of dozens. Almost certainly, Diego’s tragedy has already saved lives and prevented injuries.

Diego’s recovery has been remarkable. He returned to school, on a limited basis, at Beth Shield’s Middle School in Ruskin before the year ended for the summer. He has endured multiple surgeries and the road ahead is still long, but he is taking each step without complaint, without tears. Along with his family, he is moving forward, getting better and now trying to save lives.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAT CHIU

Sandy, Diego Sr., Diego Jr., and Genesis Duran (far right) with Diego’s godmother, Kat Chiu, wearing Bullet Free Sky t-shirts. The shirts, along with bumper stickers and wristbands, are available at www.bulletfreesky.com.

With the nation’s 236th birthday approaching this July 4th, you can help this young man, who only recently turned 13 years old. First and foremost, you can help by not firing weapons into the sky. In doing so, you could end up shooting someone just as though

you pointed the weapon directly at his or her head. Again, a bullet fired into the sky can travel for up to three miles from where it was shot, and there is no way of knowing where it will land.

You can also help Diego by

See BULLET-FREE SKY, page 5.

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JULY EVENTS

Tues., July 3 • 2:30-4 p.m. • Congestive Heart Failure “CHF” Support Group. Join facilitator Jennifer Petit from Hometown Homecare as she introduces you to cutting edge resources. This group is exclusively for those living with heart failure and their families and caregivers.

Thurs., July 5 • 4-5:30 p.m. • Aging Gracefully Support Group. This is a support group for individuals learning to live with the effects of aging in a graceful, healthy manner. Facilitated by Laura Burch from Hanson Services In-Home Care. This month’s topic: *Laughter is the Best Medicine*. Share your funny story with the group!

Tues., July 10 • 2:30-4 p.m. • COPD Support Group. Joy Barlaan, ARNP and Jan Whitaker, LPN from Ace Homecare have over 50 combined years of experience and will be your facilitators. The available resources are endless!

Thurs., July 12 • 10-11 a.m. Medication Options for Alzheimer’s and Dementia with Dr. Robert H. Trivus, MD, PhD. Dr. Trivus has held teaching positions at Hahnemann Medical College, Harvard Medical School and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He was Superintendent of Mayview State Hospital and Project Director of the University of Pittsburgh’s Long-term Care Gerontology Program. Don’t miss this opportunity! Additional host for this meeting is Hometown Home Care.

Thurs., July 12 • 2:30-4 p.m. • Grief, Loss or Depression Support Group facilitated by Edmond Dubreuil MSW, RCSWI mental health professional. Supported by: South Shore Coalition on Mental Health & Aging and United Methodist Church of Sun City Center

Mon., July 16 • 2:30-3:30 p.m. • Parkinson’s Support Group facilitated by Eden Feldman, MSW, who is the Director of Outreach at the USF Parkinson’s Disease & Movement Disorders Center. If you have Parkinson’s, or are caring for someone with this disease, be sure to attend this support group where needed assistance is readily available!

Tues., July 17 • 10-11 a.m. • Reduce the Chance of Dementia through Diet! Melody Harber, RN, with Gentiva Home Health will present this educational session designed to naturally assist in the prevention of Dementia.

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Apollo Beach Skate Park scheduled to open in July

By PENNY FLETCHER
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APOLLO BEACH — Employees of Team Pain, builders of the new Apollo Beach Skate Park, stopped by the park recently to try out their work after completion of the skating arena. But the park is not yet ready for local skaters as construction is still going on at the site.

“The park has been something many of us in the community have been trying to get for about fifteen years,” said Pat Woolweaver, president of the Apollo Beach Focus Group that works for community betterment.

About two years ago, a dog park and skate park were planned by Hillsborough County, and the dog park was built and opened first.

Then, in mid-February, land clearing began and an eight-foot fence went around the area previously identified in public meetings as the best for a skate park.

The actual skating area is 12,000 square feet, located just south of (behind) the tennis courts at the Apollo Beach Recreation Center, 664 Golf and Sea Blvd., which also has weight rooms, a children’s play area, sports and many scheduled activities.

A new building is being constructed as part of the skate park, said project supervisor Tiger Harver from Hillsborough County’s Construction Department. The building, made of block, will

house several sections, including a small office, restrooms and a rental equipment area.

Shorty Robbins, a supervisor with Parks, Recreation and Conservation, said the rental room will contain safety equipment the skaters who come may not have with them.

“They must check in on the (west) side of the building to enter, and sign their waivers,” Robbins said. “Then the person on duty can see if they have the proper knee pads and helmets. If they don’t, they can be rented there.”

Those who are admitted will then pass through another door to enter the park, which will ensure safety of all skaters, she added.

The park is scheduled to open the third week of July.

Team Pain, designers and builders of the skating area, is a world-famous group that has built skate ramps for the National Skateboard Association as well as many private organizations and parks.

Team Pain was begun by Tim Payne in 1980s, beginning with backyard versions and progressing to one of the top builders in the field. Their work may be viewed at <http://teampain.com/team>.

The Team Pain website says the reason they have done so well is that Payne and his crew have always brainstormed with skaters to find out what they want in each area where they build.

Two years ago a meeting was

held at the Apollo Beach Recreation Center and reported in The Observer News where many young skaters talked about the kinds of facilities and ramps they wanted to see.

“It will be such a pleasure to give these kids a place like this to go,” Woolweaver said.

“When it first opens there will be no charge, but once a fee schedule is approved (by County Commissioners) we will have to start charging entrance fees of \$4 per day or people may buy an annual pass of \$150. The annual passes will be reciprocal for all Hillsborough County and City of Tampa skate parks,” Robbins said.

The total project cost was \$600,000 and was paid for out of impact fees which are amounts charged when developers build new housing.

Impact fees are not charged when homes are resold, but when new homes are built on land that has previously been vacant, bringing more people to an area. The impact fee monies paid by builders are used to increase infrastructure and build and/or renovate parks and other necessary things to accommodate having more people in the area.

Team Pain also built a skate park at Providence Park East in Brandon earlier this year, which is now open to the public, but it is a different design than the one going in Apollo Beach. The building that was already there to accommodate the Brandon Bears softball team was divided to give the skate park the office space it needed.

Jack Reeder, Apollo Beach park manager, is also pleased about the new addition to the recreation center. “This will be something kids will come from all over to use,” Reeder said.



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

The Apollo Beach Skate Park has been built and all that is left before its scheduled opening in mid-July is finishing the on-site skater check-in building, fencing, sidewalks, landscaping and construction cleanup.



The building on the Skate Park premises will contain a small office for checking skaters in and signing waivers, restrooms and rental equipment room in case skaters do not have the proper safety equipment of their own.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEAM PAIN

Achievements of Team Pain, the company that built the new Apollo Beach Skate Park at the Apollo Beach Recreation Center, may be seen at <http://teampain.com/team>. The park is part of The Apollo Beach Recreation Center located at 664 Golf and Sea Boulevard Apollo Beach and is slated to open the third week in July.

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POSITIVE TALK

Lighten up and fly

Since this column now goes to more than 16 countries around the world, I am blessed to have friends in many lands. One of them, a fellow from South Africa, sent me an interesting quote attributed to British author G. K. Chesterton: "The reason angels can fly is that they take themselves so lightly." Upon reading this quote, I began to think back on times that I was not at peace with myself or my fellow man—times when my spirit could not fly. As I considered the reason for those discordant times in my life, I realized that in almost every instance, at least a part of the problem was that I was taking myself or the situation too seriously. Ego is a wondrous thing. It causes us to try to look good and do our best in all we attempt. It is, when in control, a driving force for good. However, left unchecked, it can be a very heavy burden that will rob us of our ability to fly.

In everyday life, there are numerous events that can have the effect of putting lead in our pockets, weighing us down so we lose the spring from our step if we let them. We can get angry when our ego is bruised by a sales clerk ignoring us and waiting on someone else, or someone cutting us off in traffic. But, you see, in both cases your getting angry hurts only you. Neither offense was meant as a direct affront to you. Most likely, the clerk and the other driver just had their heads up and locked. Remember, anger is a deflator and deflated people do not fly. Anger is not the only deflator.

Emotional hurt is equally harmful. Emotional hurt comes from many sources. An example would be someone you care about forgets your birthday or an anniversary. We immediately think that because they forgot a date important to us, they care less about us. We very seldom think, as we should, that it is a flaw in their memory system—not a slap at us. Before you get all depressed because of what you perceive as a slight one by a loved one, look to see if it was not just an oversight on their part. Keep in mind

that any time we put more emphasis on "me" rather than on "thee," we are put in a position to have our ego bruised.

None of this is to imply that you should not speak up to the clerk about the service or remind the loved one that the date was missed. Just do it in an appropriate way that does not spring from or project either anger or hurt.

As a final thought, never be afraid to let go of those things you no longer need because of ego. These things, too, can weigh you down and cause you to be chained to the ground. Think of the child who no longer wants a toy but continues to voice the single word "mine" when another child wants to play with it. Are you acting like that with the things you own? Do your possessions represent what you hope others will judge you by, and so you want to be sure that you have plenty? Some shallow people may judge you by what you own, but most worthwhile people will judge you by what you contribute.



Positive Talk

By William Hodges

Do not measure yourself by what you take from life, but rather how much you give to life. Givers rarely have time to take themselves too seriously.

You can soar with the angels or be tethered to the ground. It is your choice. You can choose to be offended when no offense is intended or give others the benefit of the doubt. I do not look for justice; I look for mercy, therefore I must be willing to give it. Lighten up and fly.

Hodges is a nationally recognized speaker, trainer and syndicated columnist. He also hosts an interview-format television program, Spotlight on Government, on the Tampa Bay Community Network which airs Mondays at 8 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (Bright House channel 950, Verizon channel 30). The shows can also be viewed at www.hodgesvideos.com. Phone: 813-641-0816. Email: bill@billhodges.com Website: www.billhodges.com

Voter registration drive planned

A voter registration drive will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 1 at Saint Anne Catholic Church Voter Registration Drive, 106 11th Ave. N.E., Ruskin.

All election-related activities and updates will appear on the main page of www.VoteHillsborough.org.

Pancake breakfast fundraiser planned

Ruskin Women's Club is hosting a pancake breakfast served with sausage and juice or coffee from 8:30 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 30 at the Ruskin Women's Club, 503 U.S. Hwy. 41 S., Ruskin.



The cost will be \$5 for all-you-can-eat with proceeds going to Girl Scout Troop 508's Eurotrip.

Essay contest leads to free sailing lessons

TSS Youth Sailing awarded free sailing classes to the 6th, 7th and 8th grade essay contest winners at LLT Academy, an A-rated charter middle school in Riverview. This is the third summer of awards to three students whose teachers evaluated their essays on "why I would like to learn to sail" as the best in their classes.

TSS Youth Sailing's partnership with LLT Academy grew from a suggestion by a young sailor, Samantha, a graduate of LLT Academy and TSS Youth Sailing. Samantha took lessons with TSS Youth Sailing before attending middle school at LLT Academy and now, she is developing skills as a sailing coach, while assisting Youth Sailing instructors and attending East Bay High School.

TSS Youth Sailing's instructors are certified to teach by U.S. Sailing, the national sailing authority, and they have credentials in CPR, First Aid and boating safety. Class size is limited for safety and personal attention. There are discounts for multiple students and multiple weeks.

To register, visit TSS Youth Sailing's website, www.tssyouthsailing.org.

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Wimauma may get new retail store in near future

By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

WIMAUMA — In keeping with this community's long term plan, a national retail outlet is on the horizon in the downtown district here.

Bullet Free

Continued from page 2 supporting the Bullet Free Sky campaign. Although they are still raising funds to become an official non-profit organization, it is already functioning as such. Information about how to donate to the campaign can be found at www.bulletfreesky.com. In addition to donations, Bullet Free Sky wristbands, t-shirts, stickers and bumper stickers are also available at very reasonable prices. Finally, you can help by being aware. On this 4th of July, if you hear weapons being fired in "celebration," call the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office to report it. Another needless tragedy is no way to celebrate this nation's independence.

Every year people are injured or killed because of celebratory gunfire; tragedies that are entirely unnecessary. This 4th of July, join a brave, gentle, and artistic 13-year-old boy — a young man most definitely in the right place at the right time — in working to end the tradition of "celebratory" gunfire. Together you will make a difference.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO
My wife, Michelle, in her Bullet Free Sky t-shirt. The Bullet Free Sky campaign has received national and international attention.

Construction of a Dollar General Store on S.R. 674 at 7th Street now is pending rezoning of the site, according to Hillsborough County records.

Hillsborough's Board of County Commissioners will be asked in late July to approve waiver of certain locational criteria in order to situate the store on the front portion of the site.

The petition to designate for a planned development (PD) slightly less than two acres of the proposed site on the southwest corner of the intersection was initiated in April by Dennis Carlton and Lee Pallardy as trustees for the owners of record, members of the Carlton family, county records show.

Records also suggest an existing contract for sale of the rezoned site to a St. Petersburg firm, RKM Development Corp., with the ultimate goal being construction of a new 9,100-square-foot retail facility on it. The store would be among the first proposed along Wimauma's primary business artery since its community plan envisioning just such development was hammered out several years ago.

Dollar General (DG), now headquartered in Goodlettsville, TN, posted \$14.8 billion in revenues for fiscal year 2011 and close to \$767 million in net income at the same time. Its network consists of 10,000 stores in 40 states, most of them in the eastern U.S., across the southern states and in the southwest. The company also operates at least a half dozen major distribution centers in various parts of the country and employs about 90,000 workers.

The corporate history states the DG chain of today grew from a single store opened in 1939 in Scottsville, TN, by J.L. and Cal Turner. Sixteen years later in 1955, Turner's Department Store was converted to Dollar General, promoting that it carried no item costing more than \$1. Another 13 years and the store chain became a publicly-traded entity.

Rapid growth occurred during the mid-1980s when a 280-store chain was folded into the DG corporation and again two years later when another 206-store

network was added. By the mid-1990s, the company was reporting \$2 billion in annual sales and \$100 million in net income.

In 2007, after the 5000-store DG chain reported \$5 billion in sales, the company was acquired by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co, a highly active holding company which has bought and sold numerous corporations engaged in a wide range of business areas. KKR took DG private that same year.

The chain once again was listed in the U.S. stock market and publicly traded in 2009. The 10,000th DG store was opened in California earlier this year, its website says.

Now in its eighth decade, the corporate behemoth that traces its beginnings to a single Turner store in Tennessee describes itself as "the nation's largest small box retailer" and sometimes is characterized as favoring "small towns that are off the radar of most discounters."

DG stores stock their shelves with household goods, health and beauty items, as well as some apparel and food, with about 25 percent of it priced at \$1 or less. Aiming for stock that customers use every day, the chain endeavors to "keep it real and keep it simple," it says. Its average customer completes a shopping trip to a DG store in less than 10 minutes, the chain management estimates.

Part of the DG mission, its website asserts, is striving for "a real and lasting impact on individuals and their families" in the communities where it locates stores. The company launched its "GED/Learn to Read" program in 1983 and the DG Literacy Foundation was established in 1993.

Site plans call for situating the single-story retail outlet in the front 220-foot-deep section, facing S.R. 674, with vehicle and bicycle parking on the sides and at the rear of the store. Sidewalk parallel with the roadway is included.

The rezoning petition emphasizes that the prospective store is consistent in function and appearance with the "vision and intent of the Wimauma Village Community Plan," noting that the plan specifically allows waiver of

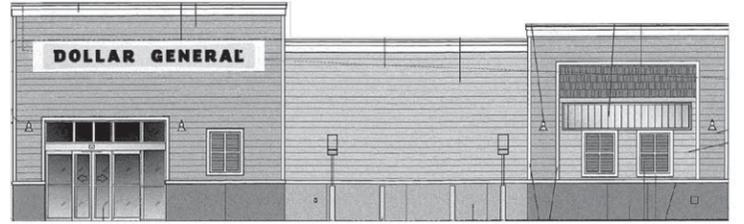
locational criteria for commercial uses serving a Wimauma Village neighborhood.

No reviewing agency has raised objections to the proposed PD rezoning and pending development.

The Dollar General proposal is the second of the type to surface in the South County in recent months. A Family Dollar Store

proposed for the vacant southeast corner of the Shell Point Road and U.S. 41 intersection in Ruskin was reported earlier this year by the Realtor handling the land sales transaction.

The land use hearing regarding the Wimauma project is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 23, in County Center, Tampa.
Copyright 2012 Melody Jameson



RENDERING COURTESY HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

If a rezoning petition is granted by Hillsborough County for a Wimauma site, this architectural rendering of a Dollar General retail outlet could materialize on the corner of 7th Street and S.R. 674. The proposed development is consistent with the Wimauma Village Plan created by area citizens several years ago and suited to the surrounding area in function and appearance. Dollar General bills itself as "the nation's largest small box retailer," operates 10,000 stores in 40 states and favors locations in small communities.



MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

This Wimauma corner, in the center of the community, may become the site of a new Dollar General Store. The property owners are seeking a rezoning to designate a portion of approximately four acres for planned development. A public land use hearing currently is scheduled for July 23 in Tampa.

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4th of July

SOUTHSHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

15816 Beth Shields Way • Ruskin 33573

Kids' Program/Event Highlights

June 28-July 4

Teen Night: Game Zone
Thursday, June 28 • 5 to 7 p.m.

For middle and high school students. Get in the zone with friends for some gaming fun on the Xbox 360 and Nintendo Wii with games such as Band Hero, Guitar Hero 5, Smash Brothers Brawl and more! Funding provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Family Story Time
Thursday, June 28 • 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.

Baby Time
Monday, July 2 • 1:35 to 1:55 p.m.
Tuesday, July 3 • 11:35 to 11:55 a.m.

For children ages 0-20 months and their caregivers. Early literacy begins at birth. Bond with your baby through stories, bouncy rhymes and songs in this 20-minute lapsit program that introduces early literacy skills and encourages language development.

Toddler Time
Tuesday, July 3 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m.
Tuesday, July 3 • 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, July 3 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Night Shivers
Tuesday, July 3 • 2 to 2:45 p.m.

For children ages 5 to 12. Doors creak, thunder booms, and there are shadows dancing on the walls! Creep and crawl through the night with stories, games, and activities. Groups must register in advance, call 273-3652.

Independence Day Holiday Closing
Wednesday, July 4 • All libraries will be closed

Price is Right to come on down

Hey Lakeland, you could be the next contestant to Come On Down with a chance to win over \$25,000 in cash and prizes as the hit television game show The Price is Right comes to The Lakeland Center at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27. Tickets go on sale to the public at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, June 29 for \$30.50 and \$57 (service charges will apply) and are available at The Lakeland Center Box Office by calling (863) 834-8111, online at thelakelandcenter.com, or by calling the 24-hour ticketing line 888-397-0100.

The Price Is Right Live is the hit interactive stage show that gives contestants pulled right from the audience the chance to 'come on down' to win appliances, vacations and even new cars by playing classic games from television's longest running and most popular game show. From Plinko to Cliffhangers to the Big Wheel, and even the fabulous showcase, all the favorite games are played just like the TV show. Even if your

name is not called to play you still have a chance to win. Audience member's names are called out throughout the show to win prizes just for being there.

Playing to near sold out audiences for 6 years, the Price Is Right Live has given away 10 million dollars in cash and prizes and sold over 1.2 million tickets.

The Lakeland Center is conveniently located minutes between Orlando and Tampa in Lakeland, Florida off I-4 on Lime Street. The Lakeland Center is a short drive from anywhere in Central Florida.

Regular box office hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For ticket information or purchase, call the box office at (863) 834-8111 or visit our website at www.thelakelandcenter.com. Tickets may also be purchased through the 24-hour toll-free phone line at 888-397-0100. Performers, prices, date and times are subject to change without notice. Service charges apply to all transactions.

Eastern Airlines Silverliners to meet

The members of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of Eastern Airlines Silverliners International will meet at 1 p.m. on Thursday, July 19 at the Rusty Pelican Restaurant, 2425 Rocky Point Drive North, Tampa for a luncheon and meeting.

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

Two Florida Gulf Coast Chapter members were elected to international offices at the convention held in Charleston, South Carolina in May. Barbara Bukata from Clearwater was re-elected Vice-President and Barbara Reed, Riverview, was re-elected Secretary.

The chapter also won the Miss Silverliner contest with their skit.

Membership information may be obtained from Barbara Reed at (813) 671-3078 or Janice Henry at (813) 837-4312.

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.

Enjoy free programs at your local library

Wonders Of Nature • Monday, July 2 • 3 p.m.
Riverview Branch Library, 10509 Riverview Drive

Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to learn about birds of prey, like the flying raptor, with Matt Edmonds' Wonders of Nature. They will also have the chance to meet a funny talking parrot and other animals, including one of the largest pythons in the world! The show combines audience participation, conservation and humor.

No Fuss Foods: Budget-Friendly Chinese Take-Out at Home
Saturday, July 14 • 2 p.m.

Riverview Branch Library, 10509 Riverview Drive

Cooking creative, delicious and nutritious meals does not need to take a lot of time or cost a lot of money. In this class, Rowena Sjoval of No Fuss Foods will teach how to easily duplicate budget-friendly take-out Chinese food at home.

For adults. Participants must register in advance at the Reference Desk (Riverview), or by calling 273-3652. Limit of 20 participants at Riverview.

Puppet Show: Sinabouda Lily • Friday, July 20 • 10:30 a.m.

SouthShore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin

Children ages 4 years and up will be transported to the south sea island of Papua New Guinea in this tropical puppet show. Meet Sinabouda Lily, who loves to swing and eat bananas. Find out what happens when she forgets to heed her father's warning and puts herself in danger of becoming lunch for the wicked Sinawakelakela! Relax and let the dance, masks and music provide a tropical island getaway.

For more information about this and other FREE programs at your library®, call (813) 273-3652 or visit www.hcplc.org.

The views expressed in programs are those of the presenter(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or opinions of Hillsborough County, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries, or the Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County, Inc. who do not endorse the presenter(s).

Ballroom/Latin Dance classes offered

Ballroom/Latin Dance classes are offered every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Brandon Recreation Center, 510 E. Sadie St. in Brandon.

The cost is \$25 per month or \$10 per class. This class consists of two teachers, one male and one female teaching the lead and follow of each dance. You do not need a partner...singles and couples are welcome.

They work on basic patterns for beginners and advance them in a timely manner. Each student can develop a repertoire for comfortable social dancing.

For more information, call Donna at (813) 340-9433 or email dogrogan@mindspring.com or visit affordableballroomdance.com.



Left to right: Stephanie Pierce, BJWC Treasurer; Tori Wilson, scholarship winner from Armwood High School; Kendall Sierra MacDonald, scholarship winner from East Bay High School; and Vi Zonfrelli, BJWC President-Elect.

Sandy Waldron scholarship

The GFWC Brandon Junior Woman's Club awarded two \$500 scholarships in April.

Over 30 applications were received. Applicants were scored on their 500 word essay on their most rewarding volunteer experience, community service, college goals, and letters of recommendation.

Kendall Sierra MacDonald from East Bay High School will be attending the University of Pennsylvania. Her goal is to become a nurse anesthetist.

Tori Wilson from Armwood High School will be attending the University of Florida. Her goal is to become a physician's assistant.

Don't miss the boat!

The 2012 Progressive Insurance Tampa Boat Show cruises into Tampa this fall to showcase the marine industry's newest boats and marine accessories for sale, plus provide aquatic attractions for all ages.

From Sept. 28-30, visitors to the bay area's largest boat show can view, board and enjoy one-of-a-kind deals on hundreds of boats from the region's top dealers and cutting-edge marine accessories and electronics.

The three-day boating extravaganza will take fun to new depths with interactive features for families and boaters of all experience levels.

Want to learn to SCUBA? Anyone 10 and older can take the plunge and discover the world of diving in the heated, 15,000-gallon DEMA 'Be a Diver Pool.'

Attendees also can enjoy complimentary boating courses along Tampa Bay or explore Fred's Shed DIY Seminars & Interactive Learning Center for free professional advice and hands-on clinics on boat maintenance, repair and upgrade techniques.

For more features and information, visit TampaBoatShow.com, call (954) 441-3220, or follow the Show on Twitter and Facebook.

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, June 28 — Bar Bingo at 6 p.m.

Friday, June 29 — Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by Sweetwater Band from 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, June 30 — Steak Dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan from 7 to 11 p.m.

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

Monday, July 2 — Open.

Tuesday, July 3 — Games in Lounge from 1 to 5 p.m. Kitchen open from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 4 — Hot Dogs and Hamburgers from noon to 4 p.m. Please bring covered dish.





PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

Nicole and Doug White set up their fireworks tent next door to the closed-up store where their family's friend, Owen Young, sold fireworks until his death in 2011.

Fireworks

Continued from page 1

That's it. All the rest are illegal to set off unless you fit into one of the "specialized categories" listed in the statute; and of course, you have to have obtained all the proper permits for them. Cities and other large entities that put on shows for masses of residents on holidays may get special permits but are required to set them off in specific ways. I remember Young joking about the law and saying that as long as sellers have people sign waivers they're safe selling all kinds of things that are technically not permitted under the law. The waivers say things like "I'm buying them to chase away birds" or "to warn railroad trains." Young saw humor in that. After Young died, his store closed as he had no family in the area. He did have friends, however, that he called his "adopted" family. Ron White called him "Dad" and often helped him with the big events like the Superbowl. White and his wife Rose and two children, now grown, Doug, 24 and Nicole, 17, worked stands for Young and learned the business. But they also became a steady part of his personal life.

Nicole says she remembers him saying he had had a daughter but she wasn't in the area, yet no children are mentioned in Young's obituary printed by Southern Funeral Care in Riverview. "I remember being in the stands with my dad when I was 8 years old," Doug said in an interview last week. "He (Young) was

always a part of our lives." When interviewed, the Whites were setting up a fireworks tent on property adjacent to Young's closed-up store. "We helped liquidate his inventory at New Years," Doug White said. "Then we applied for a permit. There's never been a tent here before." The Whites said they were hoping to be able to satisfy Young's former customers as well as make a living for themselves now that he is gone. "We knew so many of the Bucs. Brad Johnson (the Bucs quarterback in 2001 who set many records) used to come in all the time," he continued. So they've made a deal with Fireworks Unlimited to supply their tent.

The Whites helped Young through his battle with cancer. "We all miss him," Doug Young said. After we finished talking about Young, I checked a copy of the waiver citing Florida Statute 791 to be sure it was still the same as it was when I wrote my original "fireworks" story so long ago. It looked the same to me but to be sure I checked with both the county and state. Although State Fire Marshall Steve McCausland was in meetings and unavailable for an interview, county spokespersons referred me back to the regulations in 791.

The Whites hope they can carry on the tradition that Riverview is the place to buy the best fireworks. A tradition that Young believed in and carried on for many years



For more than 30 years this fireworks store on U.S. 301 in Riverview serviced local events like Gasparilla Parades and games at Raymond James Stadium but closed in 2011 when its owner died.

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60" W x 48" H.....	\$69 Installed
72" W x 72" H.....	\$86 Installed



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36" W x 48" H.....	\$62 Installed
52" W x 48" H.....	\$93 Installed
72" W x 60" H.....	\$131 Installed

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THE SAVVY SENIOR

How to Find Help Paying for Your Hearing Aid

Dear Savvy Senior,

Are there any resources or programs that help seniors with the high cost of hearing aids? Can't Afford To Hear



The Savvy Senior

By Jim Miller

Dear Can't,

It's unfortunate, but millions of Americans with hearing loss don't get hearing aids because they simply can't afford them. Hearing aids are expensive, typically costing between \$1,000 and \$3,500 per ear, and most insurance companies including traditional Medicare don't cover them. While there's no one simple solution to finding affordable hearing aids, there are a variety of options you can look into that can help.

Check Insurance

Your first step is to check with your health insurance provider to see if it provides any hearing aid coverage.

If you're a Medicare beneficiary, you need to know that while original Medicare (Part A and B) and Medicare supplemental policies do not cover hearing aids, some Medicare Advantage (Part C) plans do. If you have an Advantage plan, you'll need to check with your plan administrator.

Medicaid also covers hearing aids in some states to people with very limited means. Your county social service office can give you more information.

Or, if you're a federal employee or retiree, hearing aid coverage may be available through some insurance plans in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. Or if you're a veteran, the VA provides free hearing aids if you meet certain conditions such as being compensated for any service-connected disability or if your hearing loss is connected to military service. See va.gov or call 877-222-8387 to check your eligibility.

Financial Assistance

Depending on your income level, there are various programs and foundations that provide financial assistance for hearing aids to people in need. Start by contacting your state rehabilitation department (www.parac.org/svrp).

html for contact information), or the nearest chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (hearingloss.org) to find out if there are any city, county or state programs, or local civic organizations that could help.

There are also a number of non-profits that offer hearing aids at deeply discounted prices, or for free. Some good ones to check out include:

HEAR Now: Sponsored by the Starkey Hearing Foundation (starkeyhearingfoundation.org, 800-328-8602), this program provides hearing aids for people with net incomes below \$19,058 for a single or \$25,743 for couples. Your only costs are a hearing test and an application fee of \$125 per hearing aid request.

Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Project: Offered through some Lions clubs throughout the U.S., this program provides the opportunity to purchase new, digital hearing aids manufactured by Rexton for \$200 per aid, plus shipping. To be eligible, most clubs will require your income to be somewhere below 200 percent of the federal poverty level which is \$22,340 for singles, or \$30,260 for couples. Contact your local Lions club (see lionsclubs.org for contact information) to see if they participate in this project.

Sertoma: A civic service organization that runs a hearing aid recycling program through its 500 clubs nationwide, refurbishes them, and distributes them to local people in need. Call 800-593-5646 or visit sertoma.org to locate a club in your area.

Audient: This program (audientalliance.org, 866-956-5400) helps people purchase new, digital hearing aids at reduced prices ranging from \$495 to \$975 for one hearing aid, or \$990 to \$1,575 for a pair. To be eligible, your income must be below \$27,075 for a single or \$36,425 for couples.

For a list of more programs, visit the Better Hearing Institute website at betterhearing.org, and click on "Hearing Loss Resources," then on "Financial Assistance." Or, call the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders at 800-241-1044 and ask them to mail you their list of financial resources for hearing aids.

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.

Fifth Third Bank Tampa Bay receives Business Leader Award

Fifth Third Bank (Tampa Bay) recently received the Business Leader of the Year award from Business Leader Media. The award, presented during a reception at the Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club, honors the top companies in their market. Jim Weiss, a FishHawk community resident, senior vice president and senior commercial banking executive for the bank – accepted the award on behalf of Fifth Third.

Fifth Third Bank won in the 'banking' category, being recognized as the 'best' in its industry.

"It's an honor for our team to be recognized as a banking industry leader in the Tampa Bay market," said Weiss. "Fifth Third Bank works hard to provide the highest quality of financial and customer service for our clients."



JIM WEISS

Drivers wanted

The Sun City Center Emergency Squad is putting out an emergency call to all potential volunteers for ambulance and van drivers. If you can answer yes to at least three of the following questions, you may find that you qualify for our State certified Emergency Medical Responder course.

Have you ever driven anything bigger than your car?

Do you think you can?

Are you getting a little bored with golf or bridge 6 days a week?

Have you ever thought about giving back to the community?

Do you think bright white shirts and pants with lots of pockets are cool?

Have you ever worn a uniform?

Do you want to?

Are you newly retired and looking for something more to fill your time?

Have you been retired for awhile and wondering if "that's all there is?"

Have you ever been on a team?



Would you like to be?

Do you ever wonder just who is behind the "Lights and Sirens" that we see and hear so often?

Would you like to see the inside of an ambulance without having to call 911?

If we have aroused your interest at all, call 633-1411 or visit the web site at www.scc-ems.us or drop in and pick up an application at 720 Ray Watson Drive. The Sun City Emergency Squad is an all-volunteer organization. It is the largest and busiest in the State. Last year, the Squad responded to over 6100 emergency calls and transported almost 3,000 wheelchair bound patients.



Join us for a **FREE**

Hurricane Preparedness Seminar

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Wednesday, July 11, 2012 • 10 am

Presented by **Lindy Blythe, President,**
Accessible Home Health Care East Hillsborough

Discussion will include:

- What to put in your emergency kit
- Plans you can make now
- Evacuation routes • Bring your questions
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Seating is limited! Reservation Required.
(813) 938-2259 • RSVP by 7/9/12

Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30



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HAVE A Sizzling, Sparkling 4th

On July 4th, the perfect party calls for friends, food, fireworks and plenty of red, white and blue.

“It’s an easy party to pull off,” says Nancy Siler, vice president of consumer affairs at Wilton. “Our celebration experts have created a patriotic themed spread of sweet and savory treats to provide star-spangled fun for everyone.”

Start the festivities off with a bang using festive tableware and decorations like 4th of July party pics — a simple way to add spark to any celebration. Play up the Independence Day theme throughout — from beverage to dessert.

All Star Sliders on Cornbread Buns

Makes 12 buns and 12 sliders

Cornbread Buns

- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 3/4 cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray Star Whoopie Pie Pan with vegetable cooking spray.

In medium bowl, combine flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder, salt and pepper. Add sour cream, oil and eggs, stirring just until smooth. Fill cavities 3/4 full, spreading batter to edges of star.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until center of bun springs back when touched. Cool in pan 5 minutes; remove to cooling grid. Repeat with remaining batter.

Sliders

- 3/4 pound ground chuck
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 small yellow onion, minced (about 1/3 cup)
- 1/3 cup shredded pepper-jack cheese
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon chili powder
- 5 to 6 dashes hot sauce, or to taste

Preheat grill or broiler to medium high heat.

In large bowl, combine all ingredients until well incorporated. Form into twelve 2-1/2-inch patties. Cook 2 to 3 minutes per side.

Serve with star buns and your favorite condiments.

Patriot’s Peanut Butter Popcorn

Makes about 8 cups

- 1 bag (3.2 ounces) butter flavored microwave popcorn
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/4 cup firmly-packed brown sugar
- 1 bottle (3 ounces) Patriotic Nonpareils or other patriotic sprinkles
- 1 package (12 ounces) Red Candy Melts Candy

Make popcorn according to package directions. In large bowl, microwave peanut butter and brown sugar for 1 minute; stir to combine.

Add popcorn and stir until well coated. Sprinkle liberally with nonpareils, stirring to distribute. Spread onto parchment-lined sheet pan.

Melt Candy Melts Candy according to package directions. Drizzle over popcorn. Let set at least 10 minutes before serving.



Red and Blue Raspberry Lemonade

Makes about 8 servings

- 1-1/3 cups (about 6 ounces) fresh raspberries, divided
- 1 can (12 ounces) frozen lemonade concentrate
- Water
- Blue Sparkle Gel

Place one raspberry in each cavity of the Star Ice Cube Silicone Mold. Cover with water; freeze several hours to set. Reserve remaining raspberries.

In large pitcher, mix lemonade according to package instructions. In food processor or blender, pulse remaining raspberries until smooth; strain through sieve to remove seeds. Stir raspberry puree into lemonade. Serve with raspberry ice cubes in glasses decorated with Blue Sparkle Gel.



Banana Split Surprise Cake

Makes 8 to 10 servings

- 2-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1-3/4 cups granulated sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3 ripe bananas, mashed (about 1-1/4 cups)
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup (about 8 ounces) hot fudge sauce
- 1 pint (about 2 cups) strawberry ice cream, softened
- 1 box (10 ounces) Vanilla Whipped Icing Mix
- Fresh strawberries, halved
- Star Pics

Preheat oven 350°F. Spray Fancy Fill pans from set with vegetable cooking spray.

In medium bowl, combine flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt; set aside. In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add eggs, vanilla and mashed banana; mix well. Add flour mixture alternately with sour cream; blend thoroughly but do not overmix. Pour into prepared pans.

Bake 33 to 38 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes in pan on rack; remove from pan and cool completely.

Divide fudge sauce and spread evenly into cavities of cake; freeze 10 minutes. At same time, remove strawberry ice cream to soften. Fill cake cavities with ice cream. Assemble cake by inverting top layer onto bottom layer.

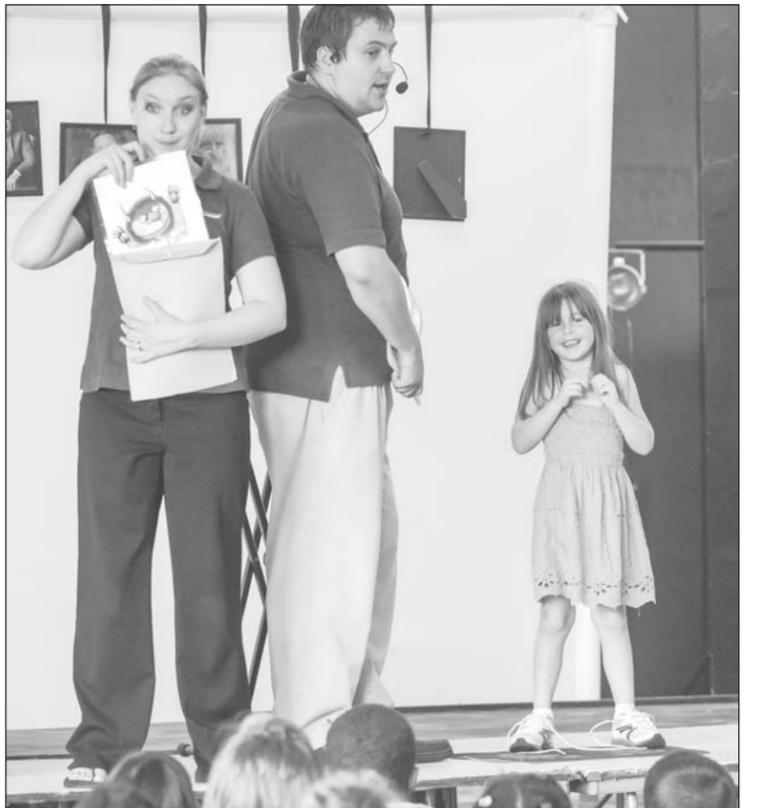
Prepare icing mix according to package directions. Ice top and sides of cake; freeze at least 2 hours or until ready to serve. Garnish with strawberries and star pics.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Friends of Library sponsor magic at the Firehouse Cultural Center

The Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County helped to make magic for up to 160 children at the Firehouse Cultural Center in Ruskin last week. The non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the library system, sponsored Florida magicians and entertainers, Joey and Alexandra Evans for a 45 minute show. The large theater space in the new cultural center allows for activities that were previously not possible at area libraries. The Firehouse Cultural Center will host another performance on Thursday, June 28. For more information about the cultural center, visit www.firehouseculturalcenter.org. For more information about the Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County, visit <http://www.thpl.org/thpl/friends>. Information about Joey and Alexandra Evans may be found at www.evansflorida.com.



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This 4th of July, let's celebrate with a **Bullet Free Sky.**

12-year-old Diego Duran from Ruskin, Florida, was struck in the head by a stray bullet this New Year's Day. Someone thought shooting a gun into the air would be a good way to celebrate. That bullet traveled 1.5 miles away from the shooter and hit Diego. He survived, but many don't.

When someone shoots into the sky we are all in danger.

Together we can prevent this from happening again.

Join us in the effort to keep a **Bullet Free Sky.**

Spread the word.

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www.bulletfreesky.com **BULLET FREE Sky**

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



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

FAITH

Faith is a female Calico cat of extraordinary beauty. Unfortunately she has had a rough time in her recent life. She was found as a stray by a loving C.A.R.E. volunteer. She is a loving and friendly young cat. Faith is now looking for a forever home with a loving owner. As part of her adoption she has been brought up to date on her shots, spayed and microchipped. Won't you visit C.A.R.E. with the idea of keeping the Faith in your family? DOB: Feb. 2, 2010.



ZOELY

Zoey is a very pretty Lab with an awesome personality. She is loving and fun! If you walk past her kennel without paying attention to her, she will call out to you. She is quite the talker. It is super cute! Zoey loves to go for walks and to have her ears scratched. She would make a great companion in a single pet household. On hot afternoons, you will often find her chillin' out in the doggy pool or playing with her purple ball (check out her video). Zoey is spayed, microchipped, and current on her shots. DOB: February 2, 2011

Governor Scott outlines vision for improving higher education

Governor Rick Scott outlined his vision for Florida's state university system with five goals that would give Florida a competitive edge over other states:

Be #1 in university and college affordability.

Be #1 for graduates finding jobs in their fields of study.

Be #1 in the percentage of students receiving STEM degrees.

Have Florida university graduates be ranked #1 in preparation for the workforce, as named by Florida employers.

Be the #1 place where taxpayers feel they are getting a good return on

their investment in higher education.

Governor Scott expressed his concern that tuition rates have risen 71 percent over the past four years. He also pointed out that the out-of-pocket costs for a student with a Bright Futures Scholarship at the University of Florida has increased by about \$5,000 since the 2007-08 school year.

College graduates are facing unprecedented levels of debt, with the debt of students at public four-year institutions and private non-profit four year institutions averaging \$21,184 statewide.

"Every Floridian wants the same

three things: for government to make sure it doesn't increase the cost of living, the opportunity to get a job, and the opportunity to get good education," Governor Scott said. "Florida's state universities are important to making all three of things available to the people of our state."

Governor Scott addressed the Florida Board of Governors and state university system presidents in Orlando, thanking them for their commitment to hold Florida's university system accountable and urging them to make the tough choices that will give Florida's university graduates and the state of Florida the greatest chance of success.

You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director

SCC Chamber News

It's the first time in known history that we've had four named storms before July. We had been warned it would be a busy season. Two of those storms came before the season even officially started. And still I wasn't prepared when Debby blew by us this week. I didn't have any food in the house. I didn't have water or batteries or anything else in my kit.

I should have known better – the Chamber had just sponsored a hurricane preparedness symposium featuring experts from the National Weather Service, the community emergency response team, and others. All of them told us to be prepared.

So, Sunday I ventured out to church and sat with 23 other people. We had no snacks for afterwards and most of us were dressed down. But we were there, the intrepid few who braved the wind and rain for our weekly lesson for the soul.

bored. With no food.

Once again I ventured out in the downpour to the neighborhood clubhouse for something to eat. Once again, I found kindred souls who live alone and were searching for company while the wind howled outside. After a couple of beers and a sandwich, I finally bid my farewells and drove home, the roads deeper under water than when I headed out earlier.



You, Me & Business

By Dana Dittmar

But it was dark at home. My neighbors had lights glowing in their windows, but for some reason I had no power in my condo. I had no idea where the flashlights were, nor any idea if they would work. I had some candles on the coffee table and lit those to get enough light to see the furniture. It was only 8:00. Too early to go to bed. No TV to watch. Not enough light to read by. So I sat for a couple of hours just staring out the window as Debby churned in the Gulf.

On Monday morning, she was still raging. And I still had no power. Determined not to spend the day with cabin fever, I drove into the Chamber so I could make coffee and find something to eat. I didn't expect anyone to come in for directions to Busch Gardens or the name of a good plumber, and they didn't. It was a quiet day and I got a lot of work done.

But the whole experience reminded me to have a plan A for storms. It wasn't that I didn't have time. I knew the storm was out there for two days. It was that I didn't want to take the time to prepare. And I paid the consequences.

It wasn't horrible, but it sure wasn't anything I want to go through again. With the season just starting, I am going to go THIS WEEK and get my kit together. With a battery-operated lamp and some cans of tuna. I will get bottled water and more candles. And a book of crossword puzzles.

And I'll do all this as soon as it stops raining.



Afterwards, I went home and spent a leisurely afternoon reading the paper, working crossword puzzles and listening to the wonderful sound of rain on the roof. Husband has a special project car in progress, so I was alone. And

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Storm

■ Continued from page 1

issued a weather warning for the Howard Frankland Bridge and the northbound lanes were closed on Monday evening. A stretch of Bayshore Blvd. was closed near downtown Tampa as waves and storm surge, coupled with the high tide, flooded the area on Sunday.

In Highlands County, one woman was killed and a child was injured during a tornado. The woman is credited with saving the life of the child. At least one tornado was also reported in Pinellas County, along with reports of waterspouts just offshore.

Forecasting the storm proved a challenge for the normally accurate National Hurricane Center in Miami. By Monday, Debby weakened and became less organized, and the storm was predicted to remain relatively stationary in the Gulf of Mexico before slowly moving eastward into the Big Bend area north of Tampa Bay by Wednesday evening or Thursday. The Tampa Bay area was under a tropical storm warning on Monday.

Debby was the earliest fourth-named storm since record keeping began, beating out Dennis, a major hurricane that formed on July 5, 2005. That year was the most active hurricane season on record with storms that also included Emily, Katrina, Rita and Wilma. The 2005 season had a total of 28 named storms, 15 hurricanes and 7 major hurricanes. Currently, no one is predicting this season to be a repeat of 2005. Hurricane researchers, including Drs. William Gray and Phil Klotzbach from Colorado State University, however, increased their 2012 season forecast on June 1 to consist of 13 tropical storms, with 5 hurricanes that could include 2 major hurricanes.



18th Street NW, just off Shell Point Road in Ruskin, remained flooded on Monday as Debby's winds and rain continued.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



Water began to top the docks at the Village Marina at Little Harbor. Due to safety concerns, the harbormaster briefly shut off power to the marina on Sunday.



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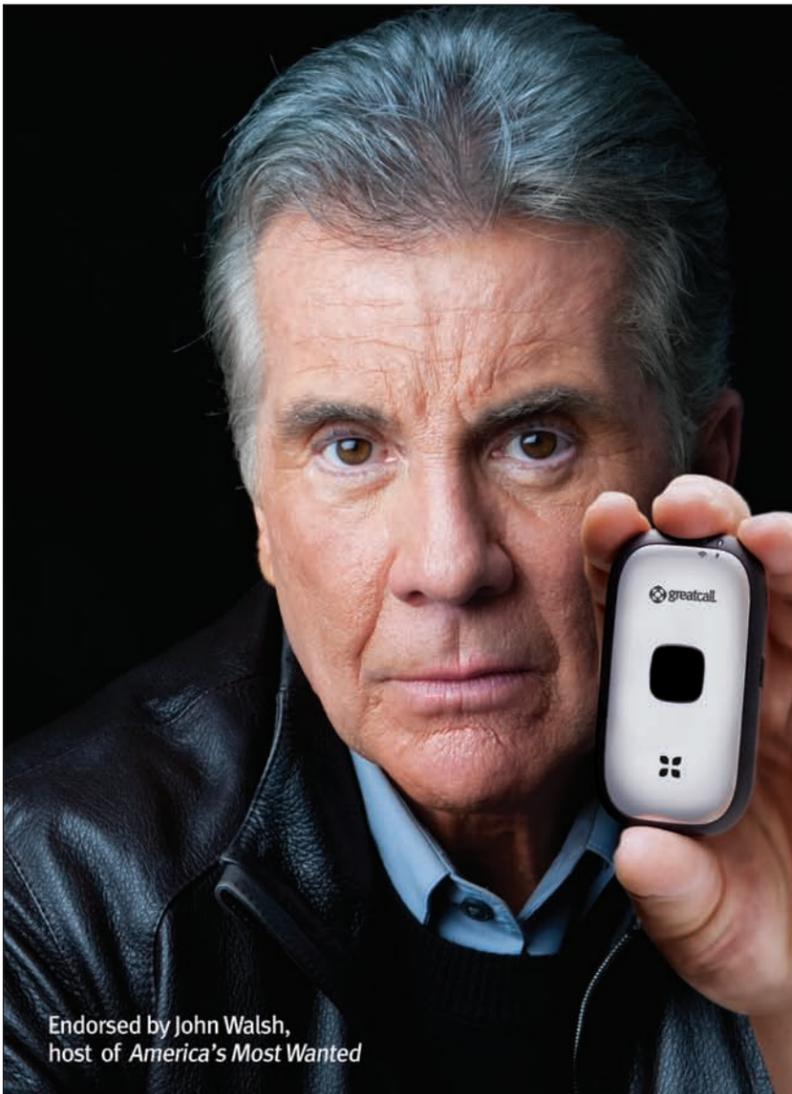
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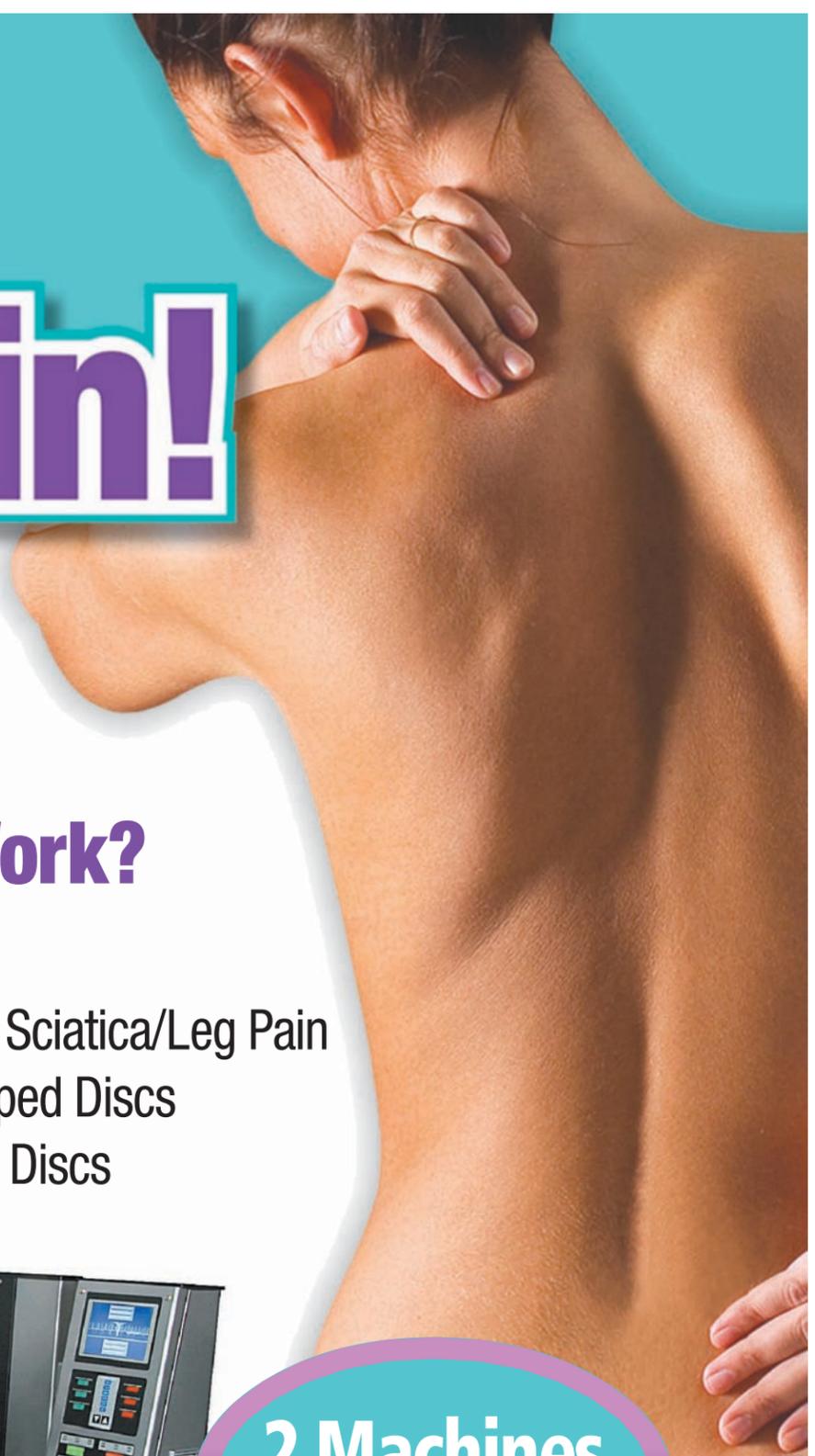
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†According to AHM's year to date reported pre-owned sales. *Based on 2012 EPA highway mileage estimates. Use for comparison purposes only. Do not compare to models before 2008. Your actual mileage will vary depending on how you drive and maintain your vehicle. #2012 Honda Civic LX Automatic 24 month lease. 2012 Honda Accord LX Automatic, Fit Automatic, CR-V LX, Pilot LX, Odyssey LX, and Crosstour LX are 36-month lease. All payments are plus tax with \$4,500 total out of pocket cash or trade down. Must have a 710 beacon credit score and approved credit. Payments include all factory rebates and dealer incentives and do not include any dealer installed equipment. All offers are mutually exclusive. See dealer for complete details. Offers valid through May 31, 2012. **Zero down payment and zero percent financing is offered for 60 months on the following new Honda models: Accord, Civic, Crosstour, Odyssey, Pilot, and Ridgeline. Zero percent financing on CR-V is offered for 60 months with a maximum finance of \$10,000. Financing is offered through designated lender based on a 680 beacon credit score and approved credit. †††Price is plus tax, tag, title, dealer fee and installed dealership options. Payments are based on \$3,000 Down for 72 Months at 3.9% APR. All vehicles subject to prior sale. Artwork for illustration purposes only. Dealer not responsible for typographical errors. All offers are mutually exclusive. See dealer for complete details. All offers expire 07/31/12. SO 6.28.12

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*All Leases are for 36 months with \$0 due at signing and \$0 security deposit. 12,000 miles per year, 18¢ per mile thereafter. With approved credit. All offers exclude tax, tag, title, registration and include dealer fees. All prices on in stock units only, all vehicles are subject to prior sale. Offers cannot be combined. Photos are for illustration purposes only. See dealer for details. Gettel Certified Plus vehicles are 2003 or newer with 90k miles or less. Offers expire 7/1/2012.

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FISH TALES

Fish of all species are around

I am often asked: "What's hot this week?" The month of June has been 'hot.' Fishes of all species are in our waterways. If I asked this question to ten people, I would not get the same answer. I would tell you that it is a mixed bag.

I can tell you I have a recipe for great fishing. I ask you to use this 365 days a year, using one part at a time of kindness, hope, courage, patience, season with a mixture of fun, play and good humor. Blend in some prayer and good deeds, then pour this mixture into a vessel of love joy and garnish with a smile. It will yield happy days of fishing for all.

It is said that the permit follow north in the early part of the summer, but those in our waters haven't gone anywhere according to the anglers that I talked to this week.

If you are looking for a permit, they are out there. You can fish for them with a 25 pound test line. They have a keen eyesight and shy away from your bait, so best to have it swimming around on a long leader, and not let them know that there is a pole on the other end. That is don't spook them. Your daily limit is one per person or two per boat, measuring longer than 20 inches.

I speak often of the seagrasses, as the trout now are vacationing in the deeper seagrass and are not in the shallows. Seagrasses are flowering plants that live underwater with approximately over 2,000,000 acres in Florida waters. They help maintain water clarity, stabilize the bottom, provide shelter for many

fish; and they provide food for many marine animals and water birds.

Redfish are many in our waters, but you can still only keep one a day per person. Legal size for a keeper, not less than 18 inches or more than 27 inches. It, along with the snook, is the sportsman's favorite, and both are restricted catches. Average weight of the redfish is 8 pounds with the largest on record at 83 pounds. Food value of the red is excellent. If you catch one at 8 pounds or over per day, you will have a lot of fish in your freezer. This fish is most often baked, and I like mine stuffed with crabmeat stuffing. Buy a box of your favorite stuffing and add Florida onion chopped fine and a can of real crabmeat.

Black drum seem to like our warm water and have been jumping and playing along shore all week. Some I spoke to have made a lot of catches of this fish, but have released them. This fish often is full of worms. Some insist that the smaller ones are great to eat. I found that usually only the large ones had worms. But the thought of worms in them keep many people from eating this fish.

Sheephead catches have been many by those fishing the bay and gulf. They seem to be everywhere and not only around piers. Many have mastered the technique of catching this fish. They have a boney mouth and it is difficult to set a hook to make a catch. Often those who don't know to count three after the nudge lose their bait. Some fish all day and never

catch one, and come ashore and tell a story about all they did to feed the fish.

I have been told that a lot of the tarpon have moved to Egmont Key. Others tell us that when fishing in the evening, they still see many soaring in the air.

If you are using bait that your fish won't take, I hope that you will try something else, like a jig, a lure, dead bait, or live bait. There are others fishing around you with just plain luck and catching fish.

If you are not familiar with our waterways, go fishing with your neighbor, or go with charter. Many charter captains are in this area.

Many do not like saltwater fishing, and often speak about how fortunate we are to have largemouth bass at our back door. They wonder why there isn't a bass club in Ruskin or Riverview, with both rivers teeming with bass.

Those who love freshwater catfish need only to drop a line in the freshwater in the upper flow of both the Alafia and the Little Manatee Rivers, catches are plentiful daily.

I have seen several boats towed in this week. So many times I have written to have enough gas to go on one third, one third to play on, save a third of your tank to go home on.

Rain or shine, always keep the weather in mind.

Aleta Jonie Maschek is a member of Florida Outdoor Press.



Fish Tales

By Jonie Maschek



Recent graduates of the About Boating Safely course show off their certificates at Tampa Sailing Squadron in Apollo Beach.

Boating safety course to be offered at Tampa Sailing Squadron

Just as many boaters return to enjoying the local waters so do some boaters who recall a not-too-distant situation where more boating skills and knowledge would have provided a smoother experience.

Any boater with a year's experience knows there is something else to learn or master. The sad proof is that 72% of all boaters involved in on-water accidents had never taken a boating safety course.

Flotilla 75 (Ruskin) of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary will be offering a basic boating safety course on July 5, 12 and 19 at the Tampa Sailing Squadron on Apollo Beach Blvd. in Apollo Beach.

The seminars are held in 3 manageable segments of 3 hours each over a 2 week period.

"About Boating Safely" is a beginner boating course that can save boaters and make for a relaxing and safe boating experience.

The first two sessions are instructional and the third session is for reviewing and testing. The cost is \$40 and includes the ABS book.

For more information call 641-2488 or reservations.

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 Upcoming Activities



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

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

Monday, July 9 - Blue Plate Special, 5p.m., Menu: Pot Roast with all the Trimmings, only 50 tickets will be sold, \$7 per person.

Sunday, July 15 - Ice Cream Social, Make your own Sundaes 4 to 5 p.m., only \$5 per person.

Monday, July 23 - Blue Plate Special, 5 p.m., Menu: Baked Ham with all the trimmings, only 50 tickets will be sold, \$7 per person.

See the current issues of

The Observer News,

as well as past issues, classified advertising, advertising information, and much more!

www.ObserverNews.net



PET TIP: Ruskin Animal Hospital wishes you a safe and **Happy 4th of July!** More dogs run away on July 4th than any other day of the year. Ensure your pets are microchipped and have a collar with current information just in case your furry friend gets loose.

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BUSINESS NEWS



PHOTO BY HUTH & BOOTH PHOTOGRAPHY

C1 Bank celebrates their new name

On Friday, June 22, C1 Bank hosted a Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate their name change at their Riverview office, 10109 US Hwy. 301 South, Riverview. Chamber members were treated to a light breakfast and greeted by Mary Boyd Banking Center Manager; Theresa Lewis Sr. Personal Banker; Racquel Ferreira Head Teller; and Gloria Carvajalino Personal Banker.

Special offers at C1 Bank include: When you open a personal or business account with C1 Bank they will credit your account \$25. Personal accounts that are set up with direct deposit will also earn \$5 a month for a year.

Additionally, when you refer someone and they open a new account, C1 Bank will credit your account \$25 plus give your friend \$25.

For more information contact branch manager Mary Boyd 813-672-0999.

New mortgage loan originators join Fifth Third Bank

Fifth Third Bank Tampa Bay recently announced new hires and promotions for six mortgage loan originators. In this role, they will help homebuyers through the mortgage loan process, connect with realtors to help provide mortgage solutions for their clients, and provide refinancing options for current homeowners.



Elisabeth Christenson

Elisabeth Christenson joins Fifth Third's mortgage team and will be located at the Riverview Banking Center. A graduate of the University of South Florida, she has over 9 years of experience in the mortgage industry. Prior to joining Fifth Third Bank, Christenson worked at Bank of America as a mortgage loan originator, where she

received the Chairman's Club award in 2006 and 2007 and President's Club award in 2005. She is also a member of the Greater Tampa Association of REALTORS® and the Tampa Bay Builders Association.



Raymond Serrano

Raymond Serrano joins Fifth Third as a mortgage originator at the Big Bend Banking Center in Riverview. His coverage area will include Ruskin, West and East Tampa. Prior to joining the bank, he operated his own business, Serrano Financial, for 12 years. A native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, Serrano is also a Vietnam War veteran and used to work for the FBI in Washington, D.C

Help your landscape beat the heat

by Melinda Myers

Summer has arrived and for many gardeners that means heat, drought and watering bans. This can be hard on gardeners as well as their landscapes. The good news is that there are ways to help plants thrive despite these seasonal challenges. Adjusting landscape care accordingly during the summer months can not only provide relief for lawns and gardens, but also for the gardener. Here are some low maintenance eco-friendly ways gardeners can keep their landscapes looking their best throughout the summer months, while beating the heat:

Water plants thoroughly to promote deep drought- and pest-resistant roots. Wait until the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist or footprints remain in the lawn before watering again.

Avoid light, frequent watering that encourages shallow roots. Shallow roots are less able to tolerate drought and more susceptible to disease and insect problems.

Spread a 2- to 3-inch layer of shredded leaves, evergreen needles or shredded bark mulch over the soil in garden beds and around trees and shrubs. Mulching conserves moisture, keeps roots cool and moist, and suppresses weeds.

Mow lawns high. Taller grass produces deeper roots that are more drought-tolerant. A deeply rooted lawn is also more resistant to insects, disease and other environmental stresses.

Always mow lawns often enough, so you remove less than one third the total leaf surface.

Free wellness presentation offered

If you could reduce: the risk of Cancer, Heart Disease, Diabetes, Alzheimers, etc... wouldn't you want to know how? Attend a free Wellness Presentation that could save your life, at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 28 at the South Shore Chamber of Commerce, 137 Harbor Village Lane, Apollo Beach.

It is sponsored by Dr. Warren Langer and Patsy Monk, RN Independent Juice Plus Representatives.

Dollar Stretcher

Before You Close On That Home...

Here's something that just caught my parents by surprise after purchasing their new home. If the house has a septic tank/field, have the seller of the home empty the tank. This can save you hundreds of dollars in removal of the waste and in landscaping fees if the previous owners didn't take care of the tank properly.

Dawn N.

Natural Flea Prevention

My father has always added a half of a teaspoon of brewer's yeast to the wet food fed to our cats as a "treat" once a day. We've had seven outdoor cats over 25 years and have never had fleas on them or in the house. My father says it's because the brewer's yeast makes their skin unattractive to the fleas' sense of taste. It's inexpensive, too!

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

RUSKIN
Moose Lodge #813
UPCOMING EVENTS

The Ruskin Moose Lodge #813 is located at 1212 E. Shell Point Road, Ruskin • (813) 645-5919
www.lodge813.mooselodge.org

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Every Wednesday 5-7 p.m. Meatloaf Dinner
- Every Thursday 5-7 p.m. Wings
- Every Friday 5-7 p.m. Fish Fry (baked, beer batter or fried)
- 7-11 p.m. Live Music
- Every Saturday 2 p.m. Horseshoes

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, June 29 7-11 p.m. Redneck Band
- Saturday, June 30 7-11 p.m. Karaoke with Kim

All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests

Holiday Deadlines

The deadlines for advertising in the July 5 publication have been moved up to Friday, June 29 at 11 a.m. for display ads and 4 p.m. for classified due to holiday.

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Zsa Zsa Ingram-Fitzpatrick State of Florida Dept of Elder Affairs left and on right Carla Miles President HOPE Fund.

HOPE fund receives lifetime grant

The HOPE Fund has been selected as one of 5 winners from Hillsborough County for a Lifetime grant. The grant money awarded is under the auspices of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. The HOPE Fund was awarded \$5,000 for its intergenerational program which matches senior volunteers from the Sun City Center area with youth in the after school program in Bethune Park, Wimauma.

The HOPE Fund, started in 1995, raises money to provide scholarships, educational assistance, field trips and enrichment programs for Wimauma area school children who could otherwise not afford to participate in an after school program.

Seniors provide mentoring, tutoring, reading and a marathon running program in the after school hours. Partnering with the Redlands Christian Migrant Association, the HOPE Fund has enabled the after school program at Bethune Park to thrive despite Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation cuts to after school programs in Wimauma.

If you like working with children (please note that all participants speak English) and would like to volunteer an hour a week or more, make a donation or gather more information about the HOPE Fund call Carla Miles at 634-4268. Also check out the HOPE Fund's website www.The-Hope-Fund.org

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Adult Program/Event Highlights
June 28-July 4

eBooks for Tablets and SmartPhones
Thursday, June 28 • 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

Learn how to check out and download free library eBooks to read on an Android, Blackberry, iPad, iPhone or Windows 7 device 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.

eBooks for Kindle and Kindle Apps
Thursday, June 28 • 1:30 to 2:30 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 Tampa Bay Library Consortium.

Independence Day Holiday Closing

Wednesday, July 4 • All libraries will be closed

Attention all Veterans

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

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

For more information call Bob at 813-634-1761 or Darrell at 813-260-3692.

Free educational classes offered

The Manatee County Agriculture and Extension Service is offering a variety of free educational classes for July, 2012. The Extension Service is an educational program within county government which brings the resources of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (IFAS) to Manatee County to: solve local problems, provide educational opportunities promote economic enhancement and development, and improve the quality of life for all of our citizens.

Registration instructions

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are free and are held at the Manatee County Agriculture and Extension Service, 1303 17th Street West, Palmetto, Florida 34221. Minimum workshop size is required; workshop size is limited. For workshops that require a fee, make checks payable to "Friends of Extension." Register in advance online via their website at <http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu> or call 941-722-4524 for all workshops.

Manatee County Master Gardeners Open Educational Gardens: Located on the Extension Service grounds at 1303 17th St. W. in Palmetto, the educational gardens are designed to showcase the different ways Manatee County residents can be more successful gardeners and make their yards more Florida-Friendly. The different gardens feature growing vegetables in small spaces and salad tables, recycling fountains for herbs, bird and butterfly attractors, backyard fruit trees, conserving water with native plants, low-volume irrigation, rain barrels and various composting bins display how to recycle yard waste. The Master Gardeners invite you for a tour! To ensure that a Master Gardener can walk you through the gardens, make an appointment by calling 941-722-

4524. Staff may not be available for impromptu visits.

July 5 – Coyotes and Nuisance Wildlife in Florida: 1-3pm; Coyotes expanded their territory into Florida somewhere around the 1920-30s. Learn the behavior and characteristics of coyotes and how man can live in harmony with them. This class will also discuss nuisance wildlife in Florida and how to control them in our gardens and landscape. Program presented by Lisa Hickey, Extension Agent. Location: Braden River Library at 4915 53rd Avenue East, Bradenton.

July 10 – Keeping the Pressure Down: 6-8pm; Begins July 10 and held every Tuesday night for 4 weeks. This class is designed to help people at risk for high blood pressure and those who already have this condition to make healthy lifestyle choices to lower their blood pressure and to reduce their health risks. Class size is limited to 12 people. Register by July 6. Presented by Samantha Kennedy, Extension Agent.

July 11 – Extreme Recipe Makeover: 2-4pm; What is your favorite food? Whatever it is, odds are it's something deliciously decadent and "bad" for you. But, it doesn't have to be! You can be happy and be healthy, too. This class is designed to teach participants how to make healthy substitutions in some of their favorite recipes without sacrificing flavor. Recipes and samples included. Register by July 9. Presented by Samantha Kennedy, Extension Agent.

July 14 – Florida-Friendly Landscaping Combo – Compost & Rain Barrel Workshop: 9am-noon; Let us provide you with great water conservation tips. Learn how to install, paint, and maintain your own rain barrel. Learn to turn your kitchen scraps and yard waste into useful soil amendments, along with details on how to set up a home compost bin. Presented by Michelle Atkinson, Florida-Friendly Landscaping TM Coordinator.

July 26 – Cooking with Herbs: 6-8pm; Throw that salt shaker away! Learn about different kinds of herbs and how to use them to spice up your life. Topics include selecting, drying, storing, and meal preparation. Please register by July 24. Presented by Samantha Kennedy, Extension Agent.

JUNE 21 to JULY 4, 2012

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Area Obituaries

Alberto Velazquez

Alberto Velazquez, 59 of Wimauma, FL, passed away on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, at Memorial Hospital Tampa. Born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, on August 10, 1952, Alberto was a electrician. He is survived by his wife Maria, 5 sons, Jorge (Silviay) Velazquez of Bradenton, Enrique (Lissett) Velazquez of Wimauma, Rene (Maria Elena) Velazquez of Riverview, Bernardo Velazquez of Wimauma and Jose (Rose) Velazquez of Wimauma, 4 daughters Sandra (Rolando) Bass of Ruskin, Rosa (Erik) Rodriguez of Wimauma, Maria (Emilio) Juarez of Ruskin, and Beatriz Velazquez of Wimauma, and three brothers and three sisters. Alberto is also survived by 14 grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was said on Saturday, June 23, 2012 at 11:00 AM at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church and a visitation was held on Friday, June 22, 2012 from 6 to 8 PM at the Church. Arrangements by Sun City Center Funeral Home.

"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD."

Leviticus 19:18

The Gospel of Thomas revealed

Don Smith, one of the scholars studying the Gnostic Scriptures, will reveal truths about "The Gospel of Thomas," one of the many books discovered in Nag Hammadi, Egypt in 1945. It is said to reveal some of the original words spoken by Jesus. This immensely important discovery includes a large number of primary "Gnostic Gospels" -- texts once thought to have been entirely destroyed during the early Christian struggle to define "orthodoxy" -- scriptures such as the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Philip, and the Gospel of Truth. The discovery and translation of the Nag Hammadi library, completed in the 1970s, has provided impetus to a major re-evaluation of early Christian history and the nature of Gnosticism. Mr. Smith will speak on Wednesday, July 18, 10 a.m. in the Heritage Room, Atrium Bldg. Central SCC Campus -- Open to the public and no admission charge.

For information call Ed Leary, 813-383-7594.

Shuffle the cards



The Council of Catholic Women of Prince of Peace Catholic Church invites anyone who likes to play cards or board games to make up your table in advance and attend a monthly Dessert Card Party on Wednesday, July 11, from noon until 3:30 p.m. in Conesa Center.

They furnish cards, pencils and tallies. They also have an assortment of desserts and table and door prizes. Join them as they wish the hostess a happy 90th birthday.

July 4 celebration planned



Looking for something different to do on the 4th of July? Visit Simmons Loop Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 4 at 6610 Simmons Loop in Riverview. They will be celebrating the holiday with a cookout, fireworks, watermelon contest, water balloons and homemade ice cream. It will be a great night of fun and best of all it is all free. Bring your lawn chair and anything that goes good with hot dogs and hamburgers.



Lee Hopkins is about to shake hands with students who attend Bethune Park at a special reception held at the church last April. Looking on is Josie Gracia who is the Coordinator of RCMA. The Hope Fund now works in conjunction with RCMA.

United Community Church gives to the Hope Fund

The Mission Board of United Community Church of SCC has designated April as the month of member donations to The Hope Fund of SCC, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that is run by volunteers. "The flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds planted today" is the theme for this year's April giving. This past April \$3,021 was contributed to The Hope Fund to go toward administering, in conjunction with RCMA, their many programs at Bethune Park in Wimauma. The Fund is committed to giving the children who attend the Park a good start in life so that they will "bloom" later in life. Tutoring, mentoring, a running program, art instruction, a special reading program, a Kids' Cafe that serves healthy snacks are some of the activities sponsored by the Fund. The Hope Fund also provides financial aid to those families that cannot afford the full cost of tuition that it takes to send their children to Bethune Park.

If you want to find out more about The Hope Fund, or if you would be interested in volunteering as a tutor, mentor, or a reader, or if you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution, call Carla Miles at 634-4268, or see the Fund's website at www.the-hope-fund.org.



Left to right Audrey Vietzke, Linda Shaw, and Louise Grabert.

Pentecost Sunday celebrated

It was a festive day as the United Community Church, 501 La Jolla Avenue celebrated Pentecost Sunday. This is the birthday of the Christian church and everyone gathered to pray, prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit and to ask for faith. It was a joyous occasion and the church and Great Hall were decorated in red balloons, flowers and vestments. The congregation also wore red and was quite the sight to behold.

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Area Places of Worship

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 Phone: 645-1241 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 call 645-6198

Friendship Baptist Church

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

WEEKLY SERVICES:

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

Ruskin Foursquare Church

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 106 7th Ave. N.W. **10 a.m. Sunday School**
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 N. Blanton (813) 309-3558 **7 p.m. Wed. Bible Study**

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Masses:

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

Confessions:

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

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 Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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 11:00 a.m. Bilingual
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Evening Service	6:00 p.m.
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Awana	7:00 p.m.



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

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Wednesday Service.....	5:00 p.m.
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All Are Welcome

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

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mark E. Salmon
Meet friends in Fellowship Hall between Services.
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 Sun City Center, FL 33573 For information visit:
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 813-645-1714
 SaintAnneRuskin.org

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

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



Pictured from left to right are: Christine Lewis, Jackie Poplin, Donna Siniff, Melba Strawn, Aileen Engel, Nancy Majorki, and Linda Maslyk.

Trinity Baptist Church Women's Fellowship enjoys high tea

The Trinity Baptist Church Women's Fellowship recently enjoyed high tea as part of their monthly meeting. They were encouraged to wear hats for this special event and enjoyed a menu of tea, sandwiches, scones, cakes and candies. Carol Corcoran was the speaker and she also sang, accompanied by Tom Zuidema.

For information on the church, call 634-4228.



Photo By Diane Skinner Snider

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church welcomes new members

New members June Hendley and Carol Anderson are Sun City Center residents, and Helen Veverka resides in Apollo Beach. St. Andrew Presbyterian is located at 1239 Del Webb Boulevard West in Sun City Center, and welcomes all. The church offers two services each Sunday, a traditional service at 9:30 a.m. and a contemporary service at 11 a.m. For more information, call the church office at 634-1252.



Seated left to right Nancy Wyrick, Marne Zieg, Phyllis Arntzen, Bev Majewski; Standing left to right Lois Stone and Beverly Bassette.

Singles group enjoyed pot luck dinner

The Singles Group of the United Community Church 1501 La Jolla Avenue gathered at the home of Lois Stone for a Memorial Day Pot Luck Dinner. Twenty members enjoyed the pool, visiting, and sharing recipes for the delicious supper fare. No two dishes or desserts were alike and it was truly fellowship, fun and feasting.

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Women gather for fellowship

Women's Interdenominational Bible Study meets each Monday 9:30 to 11 a.m. in Creason Hall, UMC, 1210 W. Del Webb Blvd in Sun City Center for an in-depth study, music and great fellowship.

For more information call 813-633-9083.

It's vacation time!



It is also time to send in your orders to Beth Israel Sisterhood, for their Rosh Hashanah gift package of an 8 ounce jar of honey with gift card included, to wish family and friends a very sweet holiday. Each gift package is \$10 with proceeds going to Beth Israel Sisterhood. You may think it's kind of early to think about it, but this is to remind you that the deadline for orders is July 25! So, make out your check to Beth Israel Sisterhood, and mail it to Rochelle Lafer at 2247 Oakley Green Drive, Sun City Center, 33573. You may call Rochelle at 813-938-3824. She will be happy to take your orders. Don't delay, you know how quickly time passes!

Christmas in July?



The Calvary Lutheran Church will hold a Christmas Fellowship Supper... turkey and all of the trimmings at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 25 at 5309 US Hwy 41 North, Apollo Beach (across from Mira Bay). The cost will be \$7 per person and \$25 per family.

There will be a 7 p.m. Christmas Worship Service to follow the dinner.

All proceeds will benefit: Mary and Martha House (Ruskin), a home for battered and abused women and children. School supply donations will be given to needy children in local area schools.

Bring unwrapped "Back to School" items to be placed under the Christmas tree such as backpacks, notebooks, pens, pencils, paper, highlighters, scissors, binders, erasers, folders, markers, rulers, gift cards, etc...

Community is invited to participate.

For reservations, sign up in the church narthex or call the church office at 645-1305 by July 22.

Seeds from the sower

Everyone seems to love Charlie Brown, the hero of the comic strip Peanuts. One day he and Lucy were strolling along when she stopped and picked up a daisy and began to pluck the petals one by one, saying, "He loves me, he loves me not. He loves me, he loves me not." Plucking the last petal she said, "He loves me! Charlie Brown, you love me!"

"Well," he said, "I could have told you that."

Sadly she asked, "But why didn't you?"

We often neglect to tell those whom we love that we do indeed love them - that they are important to us, that we care for them deeply and that they mean as much to us as life itself. It is important that we speak and share our love with others. And if the love of God is in our hearts, then the love of God will be seen in our lives.

Visit us at: www.SowerMinistries.org

Counselor honored

Continued from page 1 in Hillsborough County.”

Walker, says Earl Pfeiffer, executive director of Florida Home Partnership, the local developer of several affordable housing communities, is an extremely competent housing counselor who relates well to people, talks anyone’s language and genuinely cares about homebuyers before and after their purchases. Pfeiffer knows because Walker has taught hundreds of FHP home buyers the intricacies and responsibilities of home ownership.

But, the depth and intensity of Walker’s dedication goes way above and beyond, Pfeiffer relates. If proof were needed, it came when HEA lost a substantial portion of its funding a while back. Disappearance of the money meant one thing immediately: layoff of personnel. When the sad announcement was made to the HEA staff though, Pfeiffer recalls, Walker declined to leave, saying that if it was all the same to everyone, he’d stay in place, doing the job, without pay. Other staffers followed his lead, making the same commitment. The dry spell lasted for weeks, Pfeiffer notes. However, together, inspired by Walker, they weathered the fiscal storm. The agency continued delivering its multiple, invaluable services.

None of this, naturally, was mentioned by the counselor as Walker responded to questions from *The Observer* this week. Instead, he spoke of the important broad spectrum impacts of home ownership; the social and economic and personal stability that exists when people have legal possession of and responsibility for their own homes. “Home,” he said, “is a place to retreat, a place where everyone feels comfortable, even a place to leave to children.” And it’s something everyone needs, he suggested.

As a housing counselor, Walker deals with another spectrum of related subject areas. His role, he said, primarily is teaching home

buyer education. That includes instructing them about financial capability, responsible use of credit, getting established in the marketplace. Then, there are the lessons to be learned about navigating the home purchase process and getting a handle on the meanings of myriad closing documents. And, sometimes there are the matters of loss mitigation; finding a solution for keeping a home when financial disaster threatens or, if nothing else, implementing the best exit strategy, be it deed-in-lieu-of-payment or short sale or foreclosure.

In a single, eight-hour class, Walker may cover budgeting to create solid family financial foundations, credit from the lender perspective, types of mortgages, dealing with real estate agents, obtaining home inspections separate from appraisals and getting acquainted with the players at a transaction closing. For this, the prospective buyer pays \$25. For the homeowner with a property “under water” - a market value less than the mortgage due - or otherwise out of his depth financially and facing foreclosure, there is no charge for counseling, Walker added.

He got his start during the banking crisis of the 1980s with the Resolution Trust Corporation, helping liquidate troubled banks. And later, after acquiring “seat of the pants” education in connection with the pitfalls of home buying, joined a former colleague in 2002 to help get HEA off the ground. He learned, he said, he could command a podium and “found



MELODY JAMESON PHOTOS

“What’s important to you about your new home?” This was the question put to a group of youngsters in varying age ranges now living in the neighborhoods of neat and growing Bayou Pass by Tammy Trevino, a USDA official (far right). And they had answers as Earl Pfeiffer (second from right), manager of the communities’ non-profit developer, passed around the microphone. Trevino heads a USDA rural communities development section which recently granted more than \$2 million for continuation of the local affordable housing project.

my calling. I come out of my shell and I’m compelled to share what I’ve learned.”

Over the years, he figured he’s touched the lives of an estimated 10,000 individuals in families of all sizes. And it still gives him a thrill, he added, when former students spot him and rush “across the mall to tell me about their new home and how much it means to them and how what they learned from me made it possible.”

It may not be outlined in so many words on the plaque, but this, too, backs Walker’s award which led the presentations Saturday during the annual FHP Home Ownership Month Event in Bayou Pass Village III. The celebration featured a full Sonny’s meal of barbecued chicken or pork underwritten by TD Bank.

Walker shared the day

with Tammy Trevino, rural development administrator in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who ceremoniously signed a large replica of the \$2.04 million grant check from the agency, and with Moises Loza, executive director of the Housing Assistance Council in Washington, who formally presented another \$2-plus million in grant monies for the local affordable housing program.

Florida Home Partnership, too, came in for kudos, receiving a Certificate of Commendation signed by all seven Hillsborough County Commissioners and formally given FHP by Commissioner Sandy Murman. The commendation, Murman said, expresses the gratitude of commissioners for making home ownership a reality as low and

modest income buyers “build the dream they call home.”

And before it was over, a group of youngsters now living in Bayou Pass neighborhoods told Trevino in their own words what their homes mean to them, from the joy of a claimed bedroom to safety and security. Then, they gave her a framed collection of their small handprints.

The day that also saw several new homeowners receive the keys to their abodes began with a “playground build” adjacent to the community swimming pool and involving dozens of volunteers including local Home Depot store employees. It was completed by day’s end and praised heartily by Murman who noted “this is what it’s all about. This is community.”

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For helping low and moderate income families make their dreams of home ownership realities, a signed and sealed Certificate of Commendation was presented Florida Home Partnership, not-for-profit developer of the Bayou Pass communities, during annual observances celebrating the advantages of local affordable housing projects. Earl Pfeiffer (center), FHP executive director, and Don Shea (left), the developer’s president, received the commendation from Commissioner Sandy Murman (right). It was signed by all seven sitting county commissioners.



Walter Walker Jr. (left) was completely surprised by presentation of the 2012 Dorothy Duke Community Service Award Saturday, but the modest housing counselor who has helped thousands into their own homes broke out in smiles as Brook Maturo, (right) Duke’s granddaughter, handed over the plaque honoring him as a “Legend in Hillsborough County.” Earl Pfeiffer, (center), executive director of the non-profit developer of the multiple Bayou Pass affordable housing communities, moderated the awards program, one highlight of the day-long 2012 Home Ownership Month Event.

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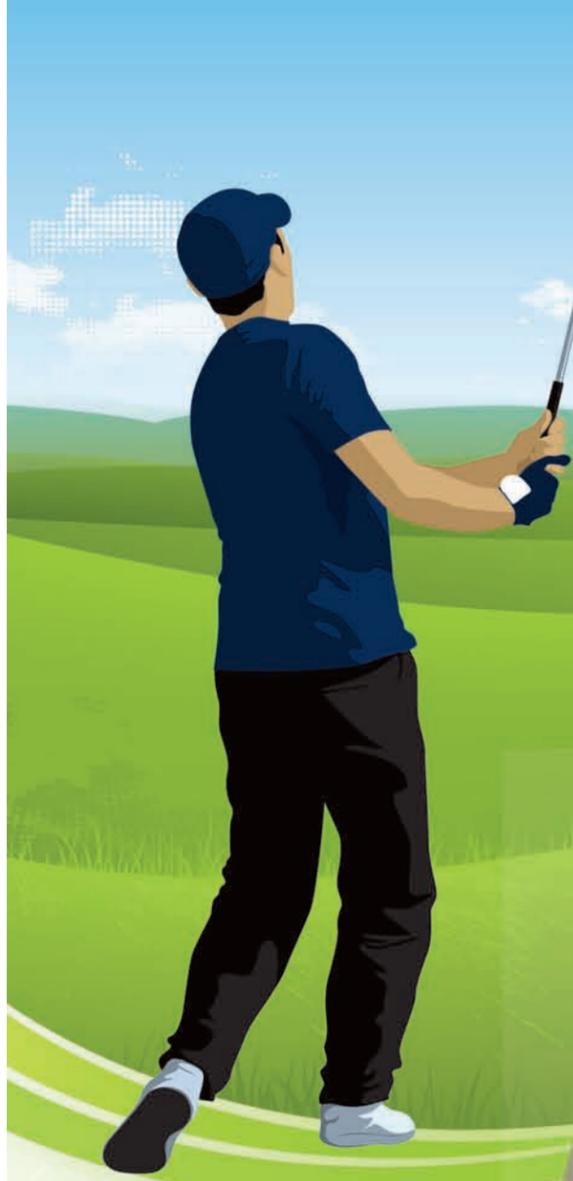
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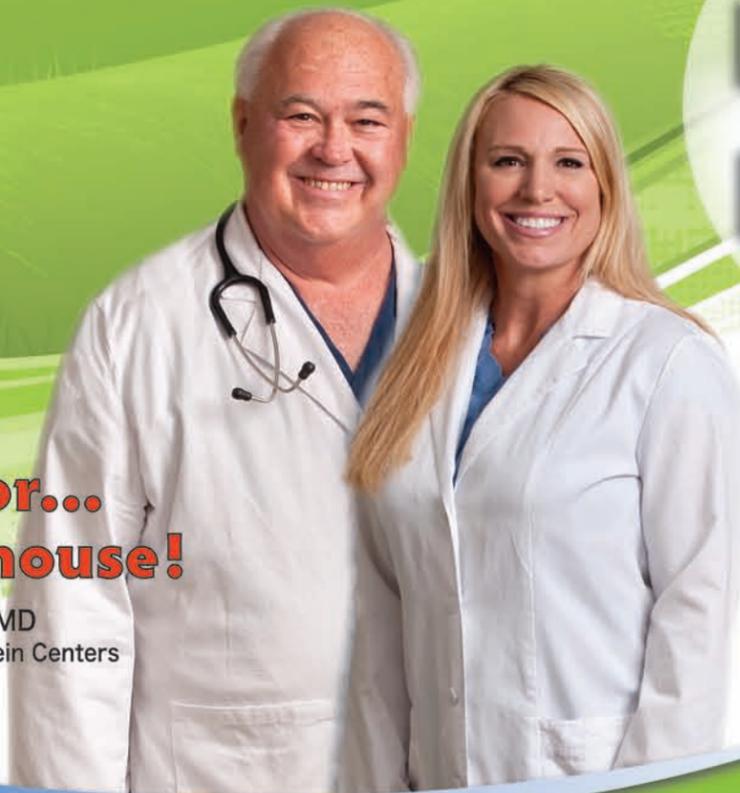
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