

THE OBSERVER NEWS



Watch out for trick or treaters

It's Halloween....use extra caution while driving and keep your eyes open for young ghouls, goblins, princes and princesses out trick or treating.

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Taking a walk on the HAUNTED side

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

I don't necessarily believe in ghosts. I use the word "necessarily" as a condition. While I don't live in fear of bumping into disembodied spirits in my closet or bathroom, I also appreciate that we don't know everything there is to know. In my life, I've had a few experiences that I simply can't explain.

In a world of text messages and 140-character tweets, Joe Howden is something of an anachronism. Storytelling is becoming a lost art, it seems. Yet Howden is just that, a teller of tales, a raconteur, a performer and a man who believes in ghosts because, according to him, he has seen them. According to Howden, few places in the Tampa Bay Area are as active for otherworldly spirits as Ybor City. Howden is the guide for the living to hear about — and perhaps encounter — the no longer living. He runs The Official Ybor City Ghost Tour, a walk through the historic community that is more history than cheap thrills.

And the history is fascinating. Brought to life by Howden, a man wearing a worn bowler and carrying an old-fashioned, well-used doctor's bag, his stories are of life and death in days long gone, far removed

See *GHOSTS OF YBOR CITY*, page 12



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Joe Howden of the Official Ybor City Ghost Tour leads a walk on a street filled with stories and, apparently, spirits from the city's past.



Howden speaking to his tour guests in front of the Cuban Club. He described it as one of the most haunted places in Ybor City.

New hospital inaugurated with celebration

By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

Forecasting a future as bright as the morning sun overhead, leaders from around the South County celebrated official beginning of St. Joseph's Hospital —South last week on its centralized site.

Elected representatives, chamber of commerce executives, local community leaders and hospital managers assembled Wednesday morning (October 17) at the new facility's digs on Big Bend Road at Simmons Loop to recognize both the road they've traveled the last half dozen years to get there and the future the hospital foretells for the surrounding area.

Then, eight of them grabbed shovels and, with a recently-silenced grading machine for a backdrop, ceremoniously turned

the dirt to initiate construction of the 352,000-square-foot regional medical facility central to the constellation of South County communities around it.

Congresswoman Kathy Castor, who grew up in Tampa and now sits on health care committees in the U.S. House of Representatives, recalled how she was treated at the original St. Joseph's Hospital on West Buffalo Avenue as a four-year-old sustaining a cut after an accident on her tricycle.

She went on to say "think about it: \$225 million invested here and the ripple effect that will have." During the two to 2.5 year- construction phase, some 300 to 400 jobs are to be created as a free-standing, 40,000 square-foot medical office building takes shape, followed by the four-story hospital itself designed

in a broad curving conformation plus a connected 80,000- square-foot medical testing and office structure.

Small businesses throughout the area will be boosted, different types of medical personnel will relocate to the area and their families will grow up here, Castor said. "This hospital is going to be an anchor for economic development," she declared, "for the SouthShore community and for all of Southern Hillsborough County."

Hospital president and CEO Isaac Mallah noted that his staff worked more than seven years to get approvals necessary to build the facility on land acquired in the 1980s by the hospital's visionaries. "I am struck by what it took to get here," he asserted, adding it's "thanks to

See *HOSPITAL GROUNDBREAKING*, page 2



Vice President Joe Biden was joined on the stage with his daughter Ashley and Senator Bill Nelson during what was billed as a grassroots campaign stop in Sun City Center. The Vice President was welcomed by an enthusiastic crowd of 1,200, but also certainly saw the opinions of the opposition.

Presidential campaign trail winds through South County

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER — Some people may question the tastefulness of dressing up as the grim reaper and walking the streets of a retirement community, but in the closing weeks of a contentious presidential election, all bets are off regarding taste. Mr. Reaper made an appearance to protest the visit of Vice President Joe Biden and he held a sign stating that Obama would be the death of America.

The roughly 1,200 people crammed into the Community Association Community Hall, however, did not seem to agree with that ominous message as they gave the Vice President a rousing welcome to the community on Friday. The Vice President emerged to thunderous applause, joined by his daughter Ashley and Florida Senator Bill Nelson.

Underscoring the importance of the Tampa Bay Area and the I-4 corridor, Republican vice-presidential nominee Congressman Paul Ryan was, at the same time, up the road in



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Tampa, meeting with business people, staff and students at the University of South Florida.

By 9 a.m. on Friday morning, a full two and a half hours before the Vice President was scheduled to speak, traffic on South Pebble Beach Blvd. leading to the Community Hall was backed up for more than a half mile and crawling. The backup helped to create a circus-like atmosphere with pockets of people holding Romney-Ryan signs and a mobile billboard — complete with the Vice President's smiling face — advertising opposition to the Obama-Biden campaign.

Closer to the Community Hall, two women enthusiastically waving Romney-Ryan signs alternately received cheers and jeers, largely from those in passing golf carts, vehicles that were still able to move in the traffic. The cheers outnumbered the jeers, perhaps, but few in the crawling cars seemed to respond at all. Given the slow pace of traffic, any confrontation would have been extended past the point of comfort in a polite society.

Inside the hall, the audience

See *CAMPAIGN TRAIL*, page 10

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Hospital groundbreaking

■ Continued from page 1

the perseverance of our team and the great support of our neighbors and friends from here to Sun City Center.”

The sentiment was echoed by Jim Duffy, SCC leader and very early advocate for keeping South Bay Hospital in its present location for the local population and for locating St. Joseph’s on Big Bend as a regional medical center with a broader scope serving a wider area. “It has been a long and complex effort, with a happy ending,” he said.

Duffy also credited Ronda Storms, state senator representing the South and East County, who “worked hard for the community,” and noted that Hillsborough County commissioners passed a resolution calling for keeping South Bay in Sun City Center that was forwarded to the state’s governor and to the state Agency on Healthcare Administration. “I think this really got the attention of the folks in Tallahassee,” he added.

Residents of Sun City Center should “be proud of their success,” Duffy asserted. “It was a great community effort. The reward is a new regional hospital and an improved community hospital.”

Ed Barnes, president of the SCC Community Association, also expressed satisfaction that the two hospitals less than 10 miles apart are situated to serve the myriad needs of the retirement population as well as meet the

medical requirements of the surrounding area. “I support the existing South Bay community hospital,” he said, and “think this new hospital will mean expanded medical care.” The situation means “an influx of new doctors to the area” plus “an alternative source of medical care” to help serve the anticipated growth over the next 10 years, he summed up.

And medical care is the first mission, emphasized Sister Patricia Shirley OSF, a member of one of the two orders of nuns that have supported St. Joseph’s throughout its history. Currently vice president of mission services, she reminded the assembly “We build a community of women and men who are committed to serve, to use their hearts and their hands for healing.”

St. Joseph’s-South is expected to open as a 112-bed acute care facility in 2015 on its 72-acre campus a half mile east of I-75, offering a wide range of medical specialties. Its private patient suites will include a 14-bed mother-baby unit with private rooms for the newborn, the new parents and family, a 16-bed intensive care section, multiple surgical suites designated for general, orthopedic, urological, women’s and cardiac catheterization procedures and a full-service medical emergency center.

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After years of effort, hospital executives and elected officials were able to celebrate the formal beginning of St. Joseph’s Hospital-South on its 72-acre Big Bend Road campus. Turning the dirt with broad smiles and shiny new shovels were: (from left) John Borecca, hospital board chairman; Dana Young, Florida State Representative, District 57; Isaac Mallah, hospital president and CEO; Paula McGuiness, St. Joseph’s-North CEO and project leader for the new South County facility; Kathy Castor, U.S. Representative, District 11; Sister Patricia Shirley, OSF, vice president, mission services; Steve Mason, president and CEO, Baycare Health System, and Tom Rooney, U.S. Representative, District 16. MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department



3rd Annual
Simmons Park After Dark Party
Saturday, October 27
5-11 p.m.
E.G. Simmons Regional Park, 2401 19th Ave., N.W. in Ruskin

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 – 8 p.m. Games and Activities • 5 – 10 p.m. Food and Beverages for sale • 6:30 – 7 p.m. Dog Costume Contest • 7:30 – 8 p.m. Kids Costume Contest • 8 – 10 p.m. Kids Hayride - \$1 • 8 – 11 p.m. Haunted Trail - \$5 (10 yrs and up) 	
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Got crowns? Caps? You may want to rethink that whitening job

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER- We've all heard the television commercials for various products that whiten teeth.

Take 10 years off your age with a brighter smile!

Lighten your teeth five to six shades in one application!

Yes, we've heard the claims, and some may be true, yet could backfire by calling attention to dark spots in your mouth. Whitening agents, when used improperly, can also increase sensitivity.

So what's the secret to having

white, bright teeth without doing any damage?

According to Dr. Michelle Halcomb at Sun City Center Dental, it's knowing exactly which teeth have crowns, caps and fillings patients may have forgotten about, and understanding the general health of your mouth before you choose a method or product.

Dr. Halcomb says crowns and caps and fillings won't change color, so if they've been matched to your teeth, and you later use a whitening agent, the crowns and caps and fillings will stay the same color and look like dark

spots in your mouth.

"Even the products we use in the dental office won't change the color of porcelain," she said. "Many patients have forgotten where their fillings are too. And these don't change color either."

The dentist said she has seen patients who have whitened at home, and then realized they had "white" permanent fillings right in the front of their mouths that stayed the same darker color.

"It's always good to go into a dental office and have an exam because we can find these things before there are problems," she

said.

Home whitening products don't damage the enamel, as many think, she said. But you can increase sensitivity by trying to lighten too much.

"Years ago, some of the products did (damage the enamel) but they've been improved. Still, there's a danger of the strips moving around in the mouth and whitening unevenly," she said.

Laura French has worked in dental offices as both a dental assistant and hygienist for 15 years.

"There are many cases where people absolutely should not try and whiten their teeth," French said. "Maybe they have sensitive teeth to begin with, or root exposure."

Chances of being able to whiten improve if done in a dental office, she said.

There are several processes patients can choose from that basically use two formulas.

One is an "in-house" whitening, using a laser. A gel is put on teeth and a light source applied. This costs around \$500 to \$600 and gives instant results, she said.

French likes a different method better though, and it is cheaper but won't be as quick.

"I like the one we use so the patients can do it at home after their exam," French said. "It can range anywhere from \$199 to \$400 and gradually, much more gently, whitens."

This is gradual, so that if sensitivity occurs at some level, or a crown, cap or filling begins to show against the newly whitened area, the patient can stop after each level and decide whether to go further.

Dr. Halcomb explained the second process which begins

with dental professionals taking impressions of your mouth, just like they would if they were making partial plates. Then the laboratory makes trays that fit your mouth exactly, that you can keep at home. The trays made this way can be reused as many times as the patient desires, and a generous amount of whitening solution is given when the trays are purchased. More solution can be bought at any dental office when that runs out if and when further whitening is desired.

"People that have sensitive teeth can get fluoride treatments to lessen sensitivity," she continued. "Citrus and other acidic foods often make the teeth sensitive and remineralization is necessary. A lot of this is genetics. What you have to begin with."

Whether done in a dental office or with a home product, most teeth only lighten three shades no matter what claims are made, Halcomb said.



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO
Dental hygienist Laura French checks out the condition of Jeannie Gatke's mouth. There are some things people need to consider before they decide to whiten their teeth.

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Positive Talk: Make Your Vote Count in Every Election

Do you know who your county commissioners are? Can you put a face to them? If you label yourself with a party designation, such as Republican or Democrat, can you name the county chairman of your party, or any of the precinct captains? Don't feel bad if you don't know the answers. Surveys have shown that less than 10 percent of the American public can answer all of these questions. As a result, we are unfamiliar with those who administer our government. Actually, maybe we should all be concerned that a majority of the electorate cannot answer these questions.



By William Hodges

Even the people who do vote do it in a half-hearted manner. British author, G. K. Chesterton said, "The average man votes below himself; he votes with half a mind or a hundredth part of one. A man ought to vote with the whole of himself, as he worships or gets married. A man ought to vote with his head and heart, his soul and stomach (when sufficiently provoked) with his hands and feet...The question is not so much whether only a minority of the electorate votes. The point is that only a minority of the voter votes." When you go into that voting booth, how much of you are you putting into the vote?

Mr. Robert Woodson, president of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprises, was asked what he thought about our preoccupation with the national government. He replied that there is a great deal of preoccupation on the part of the average voter with what is happening in Washington, D. C. He went on to say, "It's not the decisions made in the White House, but those made in your house that

count." He pointed out that if we are truly to have an impact on the political process and regain control of our own lives, we can have the greatest return on our effort by becoming active at the local level.

The columnist, Walter Lippmann, made the statement, "In a free society, the state does not administer the affairs of men. It administers justice among men who conduct their own affairs." The

key words are "conduct their own affairs." In order to do that, we must take an active interest, not only in the flash and glitter of national politics but, more importantly, in those politicians who are directly within our reach. Do not hesitate to make appointments with the candidates who will have an impact on local affairs to learn their stand on the issues. Demand that they give you concrete answers to your questions. It is not reasonable to expect that they will have all the answers or that they will agree with you on all points. After a conscientious review of all the candidates, make a decision to support one or more to the extent that you are able. Support can be in the form of making a financial contribution, addressing envelopes, or simply allowing the candidate to place a sign in your yard. It is easy for each of us to say, "I'm too busy," or "You can't fight city hall," and then sit back and do nothing.

When you do nothing, do not be surprised when you get equivalent value in return. If Lippmann is right, it is imperative that we elect the most qualified people so that we get the best justice, not only in our state and federal elections but also where it will affect us the most—right here at home.

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. (Bright House channel 950, Verizon channel 30) and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (BH channel 949, Verizon channel 36). The shows can also be viewed at www.hodgesvideos.com. Phone : 824-641-0816. Email: bill@billhodges.com Website: www.billhodges.com

Have some family fun after dark

E.G. Simmons Park will hold an After Dark Party on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 5 p.m. – 11 p.m. at 2401 19th Ave., NW in Ruskin.

There will be a \$2 Park Entry per vehicle (up to 8 people), \$1 for a kids hayride and \$5 to hit the Haunted Trail.

Enjoy games, a costume contest for kids, and pets, hayrides and a haunted trail.

For more information, contact the E.G Simmons Regional Park at 813-671-7655.

Golf tournament is fundraiser for East Bay H.S. Chorus

The East Bay High School Chorus Boosters' are sponsoring a golf tournament at Apollo Beach Golf Club, Nov. 3 at 8 a.m.

The event will be a four-person scramble and will last about four hours, plus lunch afterwards. The price is \$40 per golfer with 50 percent of the proceeds going to the East Bay chorus.

Individuals or businesses may be a hole sponsor for \$25 or \$50 per hole. Sponsors will receive one free round of golf for a \$25 sponsorship and two free rounds of golf for a \$50 sponsorship.

Anyone interested in participating in the tournament or sponsoring a hole should contact the east bay booster organization at boostertreasurer@eastbaychorus.com.

Hillsborough County hosts Disability Mentoring Day Nov. 1

Hillsborough County will host its annual Disability Mentoring Day on Thursday, Nov. 1, celebrating the event's 12th anniversary. It's a chance for local students with disabilities to shadow business mentors and achieve hands-on experience in the workplace.

Mentees are paired with mentors from volunteer businesses, including many Hillsborough County departments, SunTrust Bank, Tampa General Hospital, and the Temple Terrace Police Department. They will learn about the day-to-day responsibilities required of occupations, and the skills and education needed specific to a career field that interests them.

Disability Mentoring Day is implemented in locations around the country and internationally every year. Last year, more than 16,000 students and jobseekers participated in Disability Mentoring Day in every state and 20 international locations. The national campaign began in 1999 as part of a White House effort to increase the profile of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, celebrated every October. Hillsborough County has participated since 2003.

For more information, contact Sandra Sroka, Hillsborough County ADA Coordinator, (813) 276-2742.

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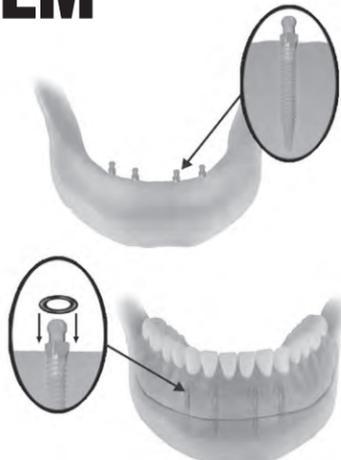
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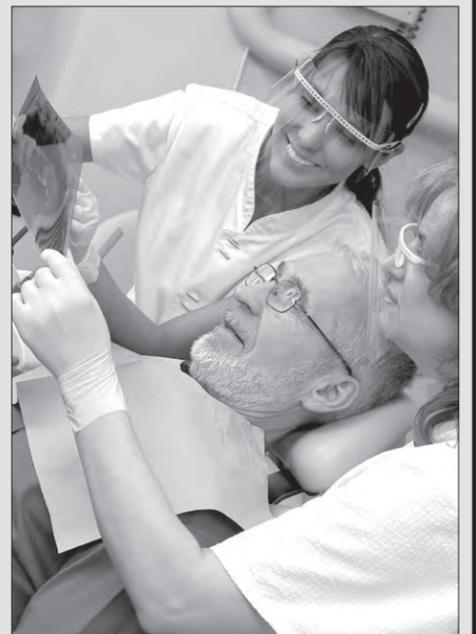


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Michelle Halcomb, DDS

Keller Williams Realty associate makes the national 'Top 50' list

Keller Williams Realty Apollo Beach has recognized top sales associate Joel Brumbach, and Team Brumbach, for reaching the Keller Williams "Top 50 Producing Teams" list.

Gary Kaukonen, Apollo Beach Team Leader, stated, "We're very proud and pleased to see that Joel was the only Keller Williams sales associate in the N. Florida Region to make this prestigious list. His achievements are all that more amazing when you consider the tough economy that we've all been facing. He certainly has raised the bar for all the other sales professionals on our KW team."

According to Joel, the secret to his success derives from hard work. "We have implemented

many of the strategies that Keller Williams Realty includes in its training program, but the key to all the strategies is hard work, combined with follow-up and tenacity," Brumbach states.

Overall, Joel Brumbach is honored to receive such a prestigious award. "It is great being recognized for success in this market. My wife and I have been in the business 13 years, and we continue to find the most rewarding aspect of our job is helping people find the perfect home." Brumbach explains.

"This award should also be attributed to the great agents at the Apollo Beach market center and how well we all work together as a team," he added.



Gibsonton Elementary Terrific Kids for September 2012

The following students were recognized by their peers and teachers as outstanding examples of thoughtful students: Sarah Dulaney, Nicole Nguyen, Rolando Martinez Hernandez, Adan Rodriguez, Mario Cana, Christian Alvarez, Giselle Martinez, Alexis Maund, Evelyn Castillo Cruz, Juliet Dingus, Adenleni Abrams, Timothy Camp, Gysie Clark, Raymundo Flores, Zoey Leonard, Shelby Cummings, Isabella Thomas, Shyanne Wylder, Evelyn Cruz, Kimo David, Tariq Johnson, Jessica Benitez, Ashanni King, Angel Moore, Nyah Hickory, Alberto Chanelo, Breana Ortiz, Leonel Montiel, Estrella Soto, Sahara Cochran, Stephen Allen, Carmelo Vargas, Allison Purcell, and Destiny Potter.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Hello, my name is Betty Pace and I work as an Office Manager / Administrative Assistant at Riverview First United Methodist Church. The Church serves our community and beyond with a Food Pantry and Restore Thrift Store.

I have watched for over four years, families come with and without children, from all walks of life to our Food Pantry and Thrift Store in desperate need of food, clothing, and basic essentials, and stand in long lines for long periods of time (rain or shine) just to get a bag of food so they could feed and clothe their families for another day. We serve at the present between 150-200 people per week.

The reason I am writing this letter to you is to ask you to help me in supplying our Food Pantry with more nonperishable food. It has come down to the problem of supply and demand. The Food Pantry does not have enough food supply to meet the demand of the needy in

our community. I feel a deep need to help find a solution to this problem, and I am asking you to join me in helping feed our community, as much as we can, for as long as there is a need in this community.

If you can donate any amount of nonperishable food, it would be greatly appreciated. I can be reached by telephone at these two phone numbers: (813) 407-6232; or the Church Office (813) 677-5995. If you are not able to deliver your donation, please call me, and I will make arrangements to have your donation picked up.

Thank you so very much for joining my cause and making Riverview, Florida (Our Community) a place that takes care of its own people who are down on their luck and are in desperate need of our help. Please remember... your donations, large or small, makes a difference in someone's life.

God Bless You!

Betty R. Pace
Riverview

C.A.R.E. hosts Boo Bash

Critter Adoption & Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.), a non-profit, no-kill animal shelter in Ruskin will host Boo Bash, a Halloween party for animal lovers and their canine friends at its shelter from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27.

The event will feature vendors' displays, food, music, canine costume contests, prizes, and off-leash play in a fenced-in yard. Guests can be the judge in a pumpkin carving contest and get a behind-the-scenes look through guided tours while volunteers puppy-sit for you.

The proceeds of Boo Bash will benefit C.A.R.E., allowing it to continue its mission. C.A.R.E. is located at 1528 27 St. SE in Ruskin.

Riverview woman is selected as recipient of fundraising efforts

Music Showcase has selected Debbie Morey of Riverview to be the recipient of its proceeds from fundraising efforts made in October during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Debbie's friend Nikole Whitehead submitted the nomination. Whitehead writes that Debbie is now undergoing treatment with an experimental drug for stage 4 breast cancer. Before this, her five-year-old daughter was diagnosed with leukemia and is now in remission. Debbie has two other children: one serves in the Navy and the other has Down Syndrome and needs 24-hour care at home.

Whitehead writes that Debbie stays positive and sews quilts and donates them to the children's cancer center at St. Joseph's Hospital where her daughter had received treatment.

Music Showcase hopes to raise over one-thousand dollars to give to Debbie Morey at the end of October when the fundraising ends.

Music Showcase hosted a Kids Fall Festival and a parents' night out Halloween party this past Saturday.

Throughout the month, Music Showcase has been selling pink cupcakes, cookies, flower pens and ribbons.

Businesses can also donate services such as lawn maintenance, cleaning, etc., to help the Morey family.

For more information, contact Deborah Evans at (813) 685-5998, or by email at debbie@musicshowcaseonline.com.



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A Readiness Learning Academy hosts fall festival

A Readiness Learning Academy's Fifth Annual Fall Festival is at 7 p.m., Oct. 25 at its location at 489 Apollo Beach Blvd. in Apollo Beach (across from Apollo Beach Elementary).

The public is invited for an evening of spooky games and fun-filled events.

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Family Fall Festival

Sat., Oct. 27
6:30 p.m.

Free admission to festival and outdoor movie

- Free Games
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- Free Candy

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Europe's Most Wanted Movie begins at 8 p.m.
Bring your blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy the film under the stars.

Food Vendors will feature
Corn Dogs, French Fries, Desserts, Popcorn, Sandwiches, Cotton Candy, Beverages and more!

KIDS: Wear a costume and pick up treats from booths at the festival
(No scary, bloody or provocative costumes please)

Pumpkin Patch

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SouthBay.cc

You, me and business: Many worthy events on the horizon

The best present I ever received is the Tivo. Husband gave it to me for my birthday years ago. It allows me to record all of my favorite police dramas, from *NCIS* to *The Glades* to *Law & Order: SVU* to *Rizolli and Isles*. I get a squeamish delight in seeing crimes and intrigue far removed from the idyllic life we have living in this resort we call the South Shore Area.



By **Dana Dittmar**,
Executive Director
SCC Chamber of
Commerce

Or are they so far removed? Did you know human sex trafficking is happening right here in Florida? The very idea sounds horrific to me, but amazingly it's true. Children and adults are forced into unpaid labor in sweatshops, commercial agriculture, domestic servitude, and even prostitution due to debt owed to an employer or other entity.

Florida is one of the highest destination states for women and children trafficked into the U.S. Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal activity in the world, soon replacing drug trafficking as number one!

The Sun City Center Community Campaign Against Human Trafficking is presenting a free event, the White Ribbon Against Pornography on Saturday, November 3, at the SCC United Methodist Church. Beginning at 8 a.m. and running until 4 p.m., this "come-and-go-as-you-please" symposium will tackle the issue of how you can help prevent addictive pornography and child sex slavery.

While this is an uncomfortable topic, it is a highly necessary one.

Speakers will include a physician, a judge, FBI agents, and a child sex trafficking survivor who will all share their stories. Topics will include approaches to addiction, innocence lost, morality in the media and more. For more information, call 813-419-4053

■ Another event of importance coming up on Saturday the 3rd is the Foxy Fashions show, presented by the Sun City Center Woman's Club. You can try and buy items from Janet Carr's Accessories and More of Sarasota. Proceeds benefit several local charities, including the Emergency Squad, Patriots' Club, Mental Health Coalition, CARE, the Mary & Martha House, and Relay for Life.

The show will be held at the Community Hall beginning at 11 a.m. with the Try On. Lunch is at noon and the fashion show follows. Tickets are \$22 and can be purchased at the Atrium Kiosk.

■ And don't forget our own Golf Cart Poker Run on Friday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. Bring your cart to the Chamber (or use one on loan from the Golf Cart Shop of Sun City) and head out for a fun ride in pursuit of the best poker hand. Meet new people, discover businesses, enjoy some refreshments and win some prizes!

What better weather to do a poker run in, and what better way to do it than in your golf cart? So grab a buddy and your \$10 ante money. You can't win if you don't enter! (Sorry, *Publisher's Clearinghouse... I didn't mean to steal your tag line.*)



Ruskin Elementary celebrates their Terrific Kids

Recently Ruskin Elementary had their first Kiwanis Terrific Kids Awards ceremony to celebrate the character traits for September, Respect and Responsibility. The following were present for the ceremony and picture: Noelia Diaz, Celeste Gallegos, Atticus Sutherland, Madison Griffin, Andrea Espindola- Maya, Christian Hernandez, Isabella Robledo, Anquon Haggins, Jazel Ramos, Faith Ponce, Alyssa Meyer, Pablo Perez, Jallisa Santiago, Harmony Person, Autumn Jobe, Melanie Garcia-Montoya, Eli Vazquez, Isabella Spoto, Keyla Sanchez, Jennifer Salinas-Lopez, Suany Hernandez- Enrique, Taylor Eck, Denisse Gutierrez, Alayna Jones, Haley Whitzel, Jessica Cormack, Jennah Santos, Khelbe Buelna, Robert Castillo, Celina Torres- Rios, Jacoby Cutter, Yomaira Ortiz, Alexandro Olivera, Adriana Fernandez, Ashley Ortiz, Gloria Cesario, Ivonne Calixtro-Vazquez, Lisa Soto, Maria Calixtro- Lopez, Giovanni Leon- Calixtro, Alexander Navarro- Hortelano, Miguel Dominguez, Eimi Aguado, Lizbet Gomez, Kayleigh Miley, Aura Flores-Diaz, Ian Egleston, Giovanni Galicia, Roberto Torres, Gabriela Reyes, Gabriel Hangen, Savannah Santos, Noel Perez-Leon, Jane Mastroianni, Jessenia Dominguez, Jessica Tamayo, Daisy Rodriguez, Abel Sandoval, Jazlyn Aparicio. Our Kiwanis members: Joe Naragawala, Charlene Wirick, Donna and Tom Braden. Ruskin principal- Lisa Amos and Assistant Principal Rebecca Salgado. Student not present for photo: Maelis Jaimes



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, Oct. 25 - VA Hospital visit 5:30 p.m. everyone welcome to go. Bar Bingo at 6 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 26 - Fish Fry 4:30 p.m. karaoke from 7-11 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 27 - Turkey Shoot at 1 p.m. Steak dinner 6 p.m.

Friday and Saturday - Music by 'You 2 Kan' from 7 p.m. til ???

Every Monday - Treasure Hunt at 7 p.m. Dance lesson from 7-9 p.m.

Every Tuesday - Games in Lounge 1-5 kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.

Meet the Artists

The opening reception for artists Anne Walker and Cory Wright is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 1. Anne Walker is a painter from Sun City Center working primarily in acrylics. Cory Wright is a painter from Apollo Beach who works in acrylics, oils and pastels. Meet the artists in the Crawford Gallery at SouthShore Regional Library located at 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin. Light refreshments will be provided by the Friends of SouthShore Regional Library. Free to the public. For more information, call (813) 273-3652.

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Gateway medians focus of long term planning

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER — They may be labor intensive and sometimes quite thirsty, but this community's landscaped medians in its Pebble Beach Boulevard gateways are widely considered valuable assets.

Aesthetically pleasing features in the roadways that enhance the community's appearance, give visitors with favorable impressions and signal high resident interest in property upkeep, they stretch a third of a mile into the north side and an estimated nine tenths of a mile to the south, pointing to the Renaissance area round-about.

And their plantings, whether colorfully blooming or constantly verdant, require maintenance ranging from irrigation to fertilizing to mulching to trimming to be vigorous and healthy.

So, how can all of that be assured in the years and decades ahead?

To answer this question, a task force of community leaders has

been formed to study long-term options and produce viable recommendations in 2013. It was formally authorized in August by SCC Community Association President Ed Barnes and charged with several objectives, including identification of all alternative means of maintaining the medians and development of a phased plan to implement whatever alternative eventually is chosen. Paul Wheat was named the task force chairman.

The newly organized group is focused solely on the Pebble Beach roadway medians and will not deal with any of those in S.R. 674, also known as Sun City Center Boulevard.

The task force, composed of 13 men and women with specialized areas of expertise and a common interest in the daily impression the community makes, has met to outline its objectives and divvy up specific responsibilities, Wheat said this week. Now periodically touching base with the individual members as they proceed with spe-

cific tasks each is undertaking is replacing routine group sessions, he indicated.

At the present time, the two long medians are being maintained with substantial financial support from Minto Communities, Sun City Center's current — and probably last — developer, Wheat said. Minto, like any developer, has a keen interest in how the community looks as the company continues to build and sell new homes within it, he added.

However, build-out of the community is expected in about five years and at that point Minto, a Canada-based company with interests in several Florida properties, will withdraw from SCC to concentrate on other projects, Wheat noted. Additionally, the company has a contractual agreement with Hillsborough County concerning the medians which will expire in about four years, he said. Consequently, it is in the community's best interests to begin now to generate a replacement plan. The developer, Wheat added, also would like to see a plan in place when it leaves to assure that the medians are kept up for benefit of the community "and that the lights don't go out" following its departure.

Among the task force's first goals are pinning down the present maintenance costs for the two medians, determining the irrigation requirements and all associated costs, evaluating lighting requirements and their costs, plus learning precisely what the county maintenance standards are if the medians were not kept up by the community. Commonly, Wheat added, county upkeep of medians is confined to leaving trees in place and mowing whatever grass exists.

Two primary methods of community maintenance are emerging as options are discussed, Wheat said. One is working with Hillsborough County to establish a special district generating monies to pay for the maintenance. Residents would be assessed an annual fee which would become a non-ad valorem assessment included on their yearly property tax bills.

Another option could be management of the medians by the CA, with a probable increase in the annual dues paid by association members to cover the maintenance costs. With this approach, SCC citizens also could donate to or endow a fund earmarked for the median upkeep.

Of the two options, CA management might be the more economical, Barnes noted. The special district approach would entail paying the county a percentage — perhaps three or four percent — for its services in creating the district and SCC residents would cover that amount in addition to the annual fee for the maintenance, he said. But if the CA managed median maintenance, he suggested, members would pay only the actual costs, without the added percentage for service.

The task force is to provide an interim report on its findings by March 1, 2013, Wheat said. Its recommended course of action is to be produced by October 15, 2013.

The first median maintenance task force announcement is on the agenda for tonight's (Wednesday, October 24) community annual meeting at Community Hall.

Task force members, in addition to Wheat, currently are: Roger Aman, Bob Deutel, Dee Giordano, Gary Karkonen, John Luper, Steve McTeague, Susan Muise, Ron Pelton, Tom Schmitt, Sam Sudman, Rolf Sulzberger and Harold Van Eyckens.

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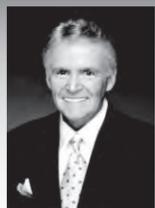
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MOWW sponsors YLC awards ceremony

Youth Leadership Council (YLC) students from 6 local area high schools, Durant, Lennard, Riverview, Bloomingdale, Newsome, and East Bay gathered at the Sun City Center Renaissance Club on Thursday, Oct. 18 for lunch and participation in The Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) recognition and Special Awards program. COL. Roy Conklin, USA (Ret), photo left, and Lt. Col. James Warchol, USAF (Ret), second from left, both MOWW companions, coordinated the affair. Nancy Alguire, far right, represented the Military Family Support Trust, also participating in the ceremony.

Book Fair brings smiles to Apollo Beach Elementary

Free books for each student

The Apollo Beach Elementary PTA has been raising funds collected from membership dues to put toward its book voucher program.

Every child who attends Apollo Beach Elementary School receives a \$5 voucher to use to purchase a book at the scholastic book fair being held at the school this week.

The children can purchase a book of their choosing that they will get to keep. Said Brenda DiFede, a PTA member, "We can't think of a better way to encourage reading and support literacy among our students than to give them the joy of being able to purchase something that they are drawn to and excites them as individuals."

"Our book fair voucher program is a program that we are adamant and unified in supporting and it makes us proud to be a part of an organization that makes reading a priority and supports our children on this level," she stated.

The book fair will conclude at 7:30 p.m. this Friday, Oct. 26, following the school's free Fall Festival event.



Prep football results



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

South Hillsborough Results:
East Bay (3-4) defeated Plant City (3-4) 24-12
Riverview (2-5) fell to Brandon (1-6) 8-16
Lennard (0-8) fell to Blake (3-5) 0-18
Spoto (2-5) fell to Robinson (7-0) 0-47
Bloomingdale (4-4) fell to Wharfton (5-2) 14-28

This week's schedule:
Riverview hosts Newsome
Lennard visits Spoto
East Bay hosts Durant
Brandon hosts Plant City

New bill is designed to help reduce youth sports head injuries

As the result of a new bill signed into law Oct. 12, families of youthful athletes may see a reduction in head injuries.

The legislation, called the HB-291 Youth Athletes bill, requires coaches and others to immediately remove players from a game or practice following a head injury and prevents the student athlete from returning to competition until the player has been cleared by a doctor.

In addition to removing athletes from play, this law also takes preventive measures and requires an informed consent about the risk associated with concussions prior to a student joining an athletic team.

IN UNIFORM

Marine

Marine Corps Pvt. Christian M. Bates, son of Katherine and David D. Bates of Apollo Beach, FL, earned the title of United States Marine after graduating from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C.

For 13 weeks, Bates stayed committed during some of the world's most demanding entry-level military training in order to be transformed from civilian to Marine instilled with pride, discipline and the core values of honor, courage and commitment. Training subjects included close-order drill, marksmanship with an M-16A4 rifle, physical fitness, martial arts, swimming, military history, customs and courtesies.

One week prior to graduation, Bates endured The Crucible, a 54-hour final test of recruits' minds and bodies. Upon completion, recruits are presented the Marine Corps emblem and called Marines for the first time.

Bates is a 2012 graduate of Wiregrass Ranch High School of Wesley Chapel, Fla.

Sailor

Navy Seaman Recruit Desiree T. White, daughter of Rhonda L. White of Jacksonville, FL and Clarence N. White, of Ruskin, FL, recently completed U.S. Navy

East Bay High School Theatre Dept. presents *The Miracle Worker*

Experience a true American classic as East Bay High School Theatre Department presents William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker* on Nov. 1, 2, and 3. *The Miracle Worker* premiered on Broadway in 1959 and was made into a hit movie in the 1960s starring Patty Duke and Anne Bancroft.

The Miracle Worker is the story of Helen Keller, stricken blind, deaf, and mute at 18 months old. Anne Sullivan, a teacher and recent blind student herself, becomes Helen's teacher. This is a heartwarming story of the human spirit that should be shared with audiences of all ages. *The Miracle Worker* won the Tony Award for Best Play, Best Direction, and Best Actress.

The play will be performed at 7 p.m. in the Kathryn Hill Auditorium, 7710 Big Bend Rd. in Gibsonton. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and include dessert and coffee/punch at intermission. Groups of 10 or more that make an advance reservation will receive the student price for the entire party. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. Seats can be reserved over the phone by calling (813) 671-5134, ext. 271.

The Miracle Worker is the first installment of the East Bay Theatre 2012 - 2013 season. Earlier this month East Bay Theatre presented a Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre to support the Elk's Lodge in Ruskin. East Bay Theatre will present the new heartwarming love story *Almost Maine* in February, 2013. The Moving Minds Theatre Co., comprised of Advanced Theatre students at East Bay HS, will present *Middle School Madness 6* in March, 2013 for more than 500 Eisenhower Middle School students. Moving Minds Theatre Co. will celebrate its tenth year serving Hillsborough County Schools with a spectacular musical theatre children's touring production in April, 2013. East Bay Theatre will conclude the 2012 - 2013 season with the hit musical *Little Shop of Horrors* in May, 2013.

The Miracle Worker, as presented by East Bay Theatre, won the Critic's Choice Award for Duet Acting and a Superior Rating at the District 9 Thespian Individual Events Festival on Oct. 20, 2012.

Brandon Hospital offers 'Emergencies 101' Workshop

Brandon Regional Hospital will offer a special informative health education seminar from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at the Osprey Club at FishHawk Ranch.

Joey Ancheta, MD, Medical Director of Brandon Regional Hospital's Pediatric Emergency Department, will present practical and life-saving tips to help parents and guardians in the event of a childhood emergency. The seminar will address the following pediatric emergencies:

- Fractures
- Insect/animal bites
- Choking

In addition, Hillsborough County Fire & Rescue will be on hand to offer tours of a rescue vehicle, and provide CPR demonstrations and important information on drowning prevention and fire safety.

Seating is limited and light refreshments will be served. Reservations are required. Register by emailing sparvin@fhrhoa.com.

The Osprey Club at FishHawk Ranch is located at 15921 Court-side Dr. in Lithia.



Back row: Pam Brady, Nancy Freeman. Front row: Pastor Lewis Brady, Lexi Hancock and Maddy Sullivan. Not pictured are Wanda Roberts, Willie T. Holman, and Ehren Newberry.

New Beginnings Fellowship Holds Annual Fall Hog Killin'

The congregation of New Beginnings Fellowship in Ruskin recently enjoyed Dinner on the Grounds, Old Fashioned Day and the Annual Fall Hog Killin'. The congregation puts aside spare change in their "piggy banks" then brings them to "market". This year the total was \$449 which is a lot of change. The "Top Hog" was Lexi Hancock with a total of \$66.22.

basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

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

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations". This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize

the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor.

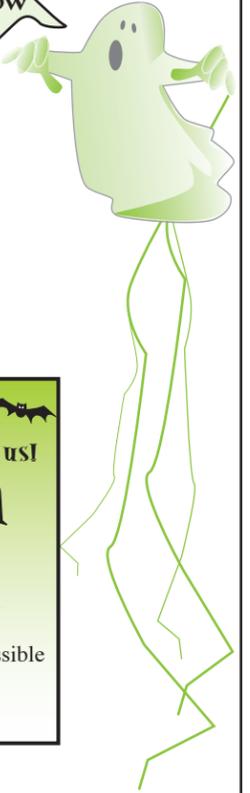
White is a 2010 graduate of Mandarin High School of Jacksonville, FL.

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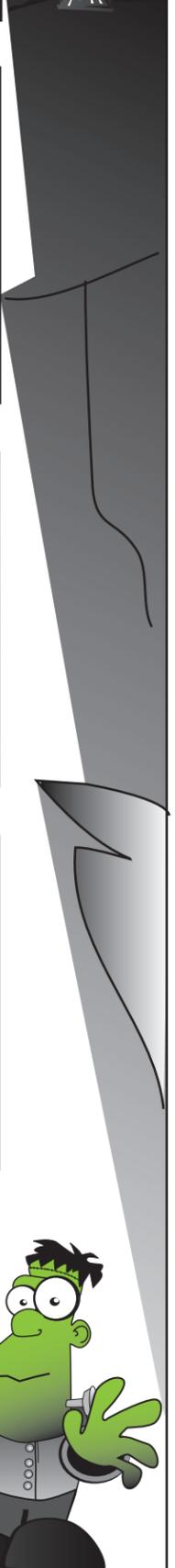
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Observations: About that wisdom thing...

Late on Saturday night while my wife was sleeping, I watched a movie entitled About 50. Perhaps it is no coincidence that in just one short month I will turn 50. Perhaps it is also no coincidence that the protagonist in the film, a 50-year-old man, drove a Porsche. I drive a Porsche.

It wasn't a great film, but I could relate to far too much of it. I dread turning 50. In just a month, I'll no longer check the 35-49 box on questionnaires that ask my age. Instead, I'll be checking the 50-64 box. Being 50 has to be the adult version of adolescence — I'm not entirely a senior, but

I'm not young, either. But I am spending my Saturday nights watching a movie on my iPad while my (younger) wife sleeps.

"Don't fear the years," said one character in the movie. "Getting older makes you wise."

I don't fear the years so much as I regret the lost opportunities. Somehow, wisdom seems

to have escaped me. With each passing day, I seem to have more questions and fewer answers. Life itself is becoming more and more confusing to me. I can't sit back and accept things with the supposed Buddha-like wisdom of the elderly, I almost involuntarily have to ask myself, "What the hell is going on here?"

Brittany Brea Gordon was a 24-year-old woman and a specialist with the U.S. Army serving in Afghanistan when she was killed near Kandahar, along with five others, by a suicide bomber on Oct. 13. She is thought to be the first female soldier from the Tampa Bay Area to be killed in action. Male or female, it is a big deal and, in my opinion, it is incumbent upon all of us to stop and think, and perhaps offer a prayer, whenever we hear such news. As a nation, we sent them into harm's way. As a nation, and more importantly as individuals, we should take a moment to mourn every one that returns home in a casket. They gave their lives for us and that is a debt we cannot repay.

But it is conceivable that some people may have missed that

tragic news. Just before Ms. Gordon gave her life for her country, the news broke that all-star wrestler and media figure Hulk Hogan had a fling with a radio shock-jock's wife, the tryst was videotaped and had surfaced on the web. I don't care who you are, the passing of a United States servicewoman should take great precedence over any story that involves a guy named, "Bubba The Love Sponge."

But that's not how life seems to work. Yes, the woman at the center of the tryst, Heather Clem, is attractive and for as long as PR guys have walked the earth, sex sells. But our priorities are pretty messed up if an all-star wrestler having a videotaped romp with a supposed-friend's wife can bump the passing of an American hero from regional discourse.

Another line from that movie that stuck out was, "The key to life is not figuring out who you are, it's figuring out who you aren't."

The movie was slightly depressing because it uncomfortably mirrored my life, and, no doubt, the lives of many others my age. Money, aging parents, younger, cheaper and more energetic people displacing the older and supposedly wiser in the workplace, a friend with cancer, all have the tendency to be not only depressing but also real day-to-day subjects. With that line, the writers hit the nail on the head.



By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net

At nearly a half-century old, I am actively working on figuring out who I am not. Despite their wealth and fame, I'm glad I am not an all-star wrestler or a shock jock with a ridiculous name. Their lives sound far more miserable than mine does. I may not know what I want to be when I grow up, but at least I think I am growing up a little. I'm not sure Hogan, Bubba The Love Sponge or Ms. Clem are doing the same.

As if the ever-increasing number that acts as a descriptor next to my name wasn't enough to make me aware of the passing of time, the realization that the names of people I grew up with have passed on certainly is enough. Johnny Carson, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Andy Griffith, and, just last week, George McGovern are all gone now. I think all of them found who they were by discovering who they weren't. All of them were successful in doing so.

I'm not certain Ms. Gordon had the opportunity to find out who she wasn't, but I know who she was. To me, she was an American hero, a woman who not only served in the most literal sense of the word but also gave her life for her nation. If I could have given her some of the years I've wasted I would have, but since I can't, I will mourn her passing, and say a prayer for her family and her friends, along with a prayer of thanks for her. She knew her priorities, and she is now helping me with mine. Perhaps getting older does make one wise, it's unfortunate the price is sometimes so high.

Campaign trail

■ Continued from page 1

stood and cheered when a group of men wearing yellow "Firefighters for Obama-Biden" t-shirts entered to take their seats. They were repeatedly asked to stand and pose for photos.

The line of people waiting to enter the hall stretched down the block as each person was subjected to a security screening. As the hall slowly filled, the temperature inside rose uncomfortably as the air conditioning struggled to offset the heat of so many people. Organizing for America volunteers began handing out cups of water, first to the most elderly, and then to anyone who asked.

The audience largely consisted of seniors but also included a significant number of younger people, including children. The chance to see a sitting Vice President of the United States was, perhaps, worth missing a few hours of work or school.

The visit to Sun City Center might seem an odd choice. According to data from the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Office, John McCain handily won the community in 2008. In a close election, however, perhaps the unconventional is what could prove decisive. The filled hall was a strong indication that no single community is owned by anyone, nor can anything be taken for granted.

The Vice President spoke largely but not exclusively to the seniors, addressing issues ranging from Medicare to women's health. After all, seniors have children and grandchildren that will be impacted by actions taken today, tomorrow and next year. The nearly 40-minute speech was mixed with applause and laughter and, as the rising room temperature required a loosening

of the tie, the man at the podium occasionally was less Vice President and more Joe. It was a stump speech, perhaps, but few in the room seemed to doubt the sincerity of the words or the passion in the delivery. At the conclusion of the speech, the Vice President waded into the crowd, shook hands, gave hugs, and posed for photos, with no appearance of being in a hurry to leave Sun City Center.

Afterwards, the outbound traffic began to stack up again on South Pebble Beach Blvd. Some time later, the Vice President's motorcade departed the Community Hall parking lot. Roughly halfway between the hall and Sun City Center Blvd., one homeowner allowed the mobile billboard to park in his driveway, offering an unrestricted and largely unavoidable view of the campaign ad using Mr. Biden's smiling face, to everyone leaving the event — including, of course, the Vice President himself.

With just under two weeks left in the campaign, it is possible, although as of yet unscheduled, that the trail that leads to the White House will again run through South County. There was no reply from an email sent to the Romney-Ryan campaign about the possibility of a South County visit in the coming days, but President Obama is scheduled to visit Tampa on Thursday. Regardless of the man or the party, should a South County visit take place, there is little doubt that any of the candidates will fail to see the thoughts of both sides. Sun City Center, a normally quiet retirement community, certainly provided it; largely politely, of course, but leaving little doubt that nothing can or should be taken for granted.

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

The historic Don Vicente de Ybor Hotel has a colorful and haunted history. The basement once served as a morgue. Guests at the hotel have reported seeing ghosts and other strange happenings in the establishment.



Inside the Cuban Club, Howden talks of a murder that took place years ago. It is thought that one of the men pictured on the wall was the murderer.



Joe Howden checking his 'Ghost Meter' in the lower level of the Cuban Club. A ghost meter is a sensor used to detect electromagnetic fields.

The ghosts of Ybor City

■ Continued from page 1

from smartphones and computer tablets. Life, even more than today, was often cheap, and if any place can stake a claim to haunting or to restless spirits looking for redemption or closure, it would be Ybor City. In the stampede of progress, innocents — and some not so innocent — were trampled. Perhaps some have business that remains unfinished even today.

A few years ago on a ghost tour of the Queen Mary in Long Beach, California, my wife and I, along with a guide, entered a dark hold at the bottom of the ship. During WWII, people had been killed in that hold and some consider it haunted today. Most of the tour group refused to enter, preferring to wait outside in the light. Four of us sat in the hold in a silence punctuated only by the occasional call from the guide for anyone who may be with us. I was carrying a digital recorder and had my hearing aids turned up on full. With the microphones placed behind my ear, I could distinctly hear whispering that appeared to come directly from behind, but I assumed it was from the guide sitting just to my right. Of course, I could see nothing in the complete darkness. As we left the hold, I asked the guide, "Erika, what were you whispering?"

She looked at me for a moment and said, "I wasn't whispering." Later that night, back in our stateroom on the old, majestic ship, my wife and I listened to the recording. We heard the guide calling out, but we also heard another voice — one asking the question, "Can you see words in the dark?" The voice on the tape

was distinct and there were other words, including, "Tell her." They very clearly did not come from the four of us who ventured into the darkened hold.

As a hearing-impaired person who relies on closed captioning, I took those words as a personal message to me. No, I could not see words in the dark. I have no explanation for that voice on my recording. I have no explanation for the smell of old-world lilac perfume that I frequently noticed outside of my stateroom door, as though someone were just there moments prior, despite seeing no one in the long hallway. I felt perhaps it was a woman waiting for a gentleman who may never appear.

Howden had so much to share, the two-hour ghost walk soon turned into three. We stopped at a purportedly haunted building that had been investigated by the SyFy television show *Ghost Hunters*, and as the hour turned late, we entered another building that many consider haunted — the Cuban Club. Upon entering the historic theater of the building, although I had no sense of an otherworldly presence, my newer, more high-tech hearing aids did pick up some odd whispering. It might have been other guests excitedly exploring the theater in the dark, or it might have been something I simply cannot understand. I will never know.

We then explored the basement of the historic Don Vicente de Ybor Hotel. In the early days of Ybor City, the building served many functions, including that of a clinic. But it also had the distinction of having a basement,

a feature few buildings in this area possess. The basement, being a relatively cool place, became the morgue at one point. According to Howden, it was not only a place for the dead; it was a place for the dying. If a doctor thought a gunshot victim was too far gone, they were taken to the morgue alive, rather than carried upstairs to the clinic. If they survived, they would be cared for, and if they didn't, well, they were already in the right place.

I heard no whispering in the basement of the building. I felt no presence of spirits, but I greatly enjoyed Joe Howden's storytelling skills in bringing the history of the place to life. Some guests of the hotel, however, have had different experiences. On Howden's Facebook page is a photo provided by one hotel guest of what appears to be the ghost of a man in a mirror floating above the beautifully restored grand staircase in the hotel lobby.

More than three hours after we set off on our ghost walk of Ybor City, Michelle and I walked back to our car, lost in thought about all that we had learned, about life as it was, and about things that we cannot understand. Life goes on in Ybor City, as it does elsewhere, but perhaps, just perhaps, for some it goes on a little longer than can be explained. Some of those who have passed before us may still have something to say; they may still have stories to tell. Joe Howden is the perfect man to help with that. He believes.

For information about *The Official Ybor City Ghost Tour*, visit www.yborghosttour.com or call 813-505-6779.



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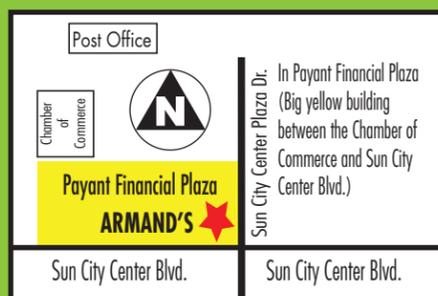
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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

A frightening woman awaited her victims...er, visitors to the Elite Property Booth at Trick or Treat Street.

Thousands turn out for Trick or Treat Street

Thousands of children and their parents crowded into Riverview's annual Trick or Treat Street event on Saturday, held at Riverview High School. It is thought to be one of the largest such family-events in the nation. The event, presented by the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce and Riverview High School included dozens of local businesses providing thrills, chills, candy and toys to the children in attendance. The crowd built early on with a line to enter stretching nearly the length of the school. For children and their parents, the event offered a safe and fun way to enjoy Halloween. It also provided what must be one of the most terrifying of all venues: a haunted school bus. Sponsors of the event included Pepsi, Mosaic, TECO, the Tampa Bay Times, Carr Pediatric Dentistry, Hess Orthodontics, Hull and Booth Photography, Lowes of Riverview, The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and Hillsborough County, South Bay Hospital, Chris's Plumbing Service, SweetBay Supermarkets, Century 21 Beggins, Kona Ice, S&S Tacos / Pizza & Stuff, C1 Bank, You Say When Yogurt Shoppe along with several local churches and other businesses.



Below, Alexa Fermin and her father Juan were having a great time just waiting in the long line to get in.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, Oct. 26, 7-11 p.m. *Nickel and Dime*
 Saturday, Oct. 27, 7-11 p.m. *Karaoke with Kim Mullins*
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 All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests

Old, perhaps. Incomparable, definitely.

The Firehouse Cultural Center capped off their third artist-in-residence with demonstrations to center visitors and local high school students. The residency also included a workshop provided by resident artist and photographer Carl Weese. Weese is an established documentary photographer whose work has appeared in the New York Times as well as national magazines. As part of his residency, he photographed the Ruskin Family Drive-In and documented other points of life in South Hillsborough. Above, Weese is shown giving a demonstration on using a large format camera. Attendees to the demonstration were also given the opportunity to take some pictures with the old-style but still incomparable camera. For more information about upcoming events at the Firehouse Cultural Center, visit www.firehouseculturalcenter.org.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

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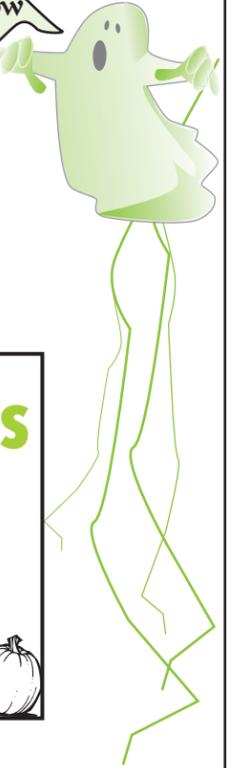
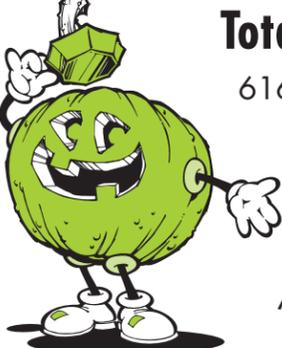
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New talent rocks the Rollins Theater



Eileen Valentino co-stars with Peter Farina in the Performing Arts Company's new musical comedy, *Love on a Bench*.

As founder and president of the Performing Arts Company of Sun City Center, Lew Resseguie has had the opportunity to audition many aspiring actors and actresses over the last six years for his original musical productions. People of all ages have come to the Rollins Theater in SCC from various walks of life in hopes of, in theater terms, an opportunity to 'tread the boards.'

Says Resseguie, "Many talented people have auditioned and been cast in PAC shows, but this year we have discovered a unique talent in a delightful lady named Eileen Valentino. She lights up the stage and exudes a professional attitude on stage and off." Eileen, a professional singer and actress, co-stars in the PAC's new musical comedy

There's no pressure. I'm performing purely for the fun of it now.

"Love on a Bench," which opens at the Rollins today (Oct. 25) and runs through Nov. 10.

Ellen Kleinschmidt, the PAC's Artistic and Musical director, echoes Lew's thoughts, adding "Eileen doesn't flaunt her show business experience, but leads by example and has helped take this show to a new level of excellence."

Says Kleinschmidt, "Eileen has the ability to really connect with her audience, grab them where they live and make them laugh and cry and feel."

Recently Ellen had the opportunity to sit down and talk to Eileen Valentino about her career in show business.

She started out as a singing waitress at the Golden Horseshoe at Disneyland in Anaheim, CA. It helped pay her way through college and, "little did I know what good training it was for my future work as a live performer!" Learning how to tame unruly crowds who pour through the door gave Eileen a confidence, stamina and style that has stayed with her.

"When you can do a 4 a.m. show to seven people and put your whole heart into it, you know you're a pro," she says, laughing at the thought of some tough, if funny, memories.

She also worked in summer stock, where "We did a different show every week - great training, totally exhausting and absolutely wonderful."

She appeared in Los Angeles and San Francisco Civic Light Opera productions and then toured with dancing star Juliet Prowse. But waiting for the next audition was "a bore," so Eileen decided to cre-

ate her own act. Backed by four musicians and two back-up singer/dancers, The Eileen Valentino Show toured the country and even went to Singapore. Atlantic City beckoned and then it was only a hop, skip and a jump to the Big Apple.

"I found an apartment in New York in a day, got an agent in a week and two weeks later a national commercial with Bill Cosby. Whew - what a ride!" Frequent engagements in the lounges of Atlantic City helped support Eileen's new, less lucrative, habit of cabaret appearances and off-off Broadway shows.

"Things were humming along, and then one morning I woke up and said to my husband, 'I want to have a baby.' There was no ignoring the bell that had gone off in my head."

When she held her newborn baby girl in her arms, Eileen remembers thinking, "Why do women want to do it all? I just want to do *this*." That was 22 years ago.

Daughter Caitlin is now a college student and a blossoming singer and songwriter in her own right, living her own life. And Eileen, her mothering nearly complete, has returned to her "other love" - performing. "I saw a production by the Performing Arts Company and it was too good to resist - I just had to get involved."

Playing the mother of a young woman feels right and Eileen is "having a ball." PAC is not what Eileen expected from a little theater tucked away in Sun City Center.

"The caliber of talent and professionalism here is every bit as good as anywhere I've ever worked. It really feels like home."

What's next? "We'll see," Eileen answers. "There's no pressure. I'm performing purely for the fun of it now."

If you go: *Love on a Bench*, a new musical comedy presented by the Performing Arts Company of Sun City Center, opens at the Rollins Theater in Sun City Center Oct. 25. Show dates are Oct. 25, 26, 27; Nov. 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10.

The Rollins is located at 970 Cherry Hills Dr., Sun City Center. All performances are at 7:30 p.m., except for the Nov. 10 show, which is a 4 p.m. twilight show.

Tickets are \$10 and are on sale at the SCC Atrium Ticket Kiosk from 9:00 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. For credit card orders, call (813) 642-0606.



Fall Festival 2012 arrives at Shell Point Marina

Saturday, Oct. 27 brings the family-friendly Fall Festival and Boat Show to Shell Point Marina. The fun starts at 10 a.m. and continues until 6 p.m. Admission is free.

There will be seminars and entertainers, including Larry Malinowski, the Grouper King of Tampa Bay; vocalist Taylor Eve, winner of the American Idol Dream Ticket; DJ and Karaoke star Larry Ludwick, and much more.

Enjoy some BBQ, face painting, popcorn, ice cream social, costume contests or get a free Coast Guard boat safety inspection.

Exhibitors on site will include West Marine, Tampa Power Squadron, South Shore Bait and Tackle, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Sanchez Brothers, Showroom Fresh Detailing, and M & D Upholstery.

The Boat Show and Sale is handled by United Yacht Sales. And there is also the opportunity for individuals to sell their boats themselves, on trailer or by water. You put the sign on and stand by for the perfect buyer! Contact Mike Lesko at (813) 927-5645 or michaellesko@unitedyacht.com.

For more information, send an email to newshellpoint@verizon.net. Shell Point Marina is located 334 W. Shell Point Rd. in Ruskin.

Harvest is magical, but grueling

By David White

From the outside, winemaking seems romantic.

Farm workers lovingly tend to their vineyards throughout the spring and summer, and then hand harvest their grapes in the early fall. Those grapes are then gently crushed - by foot, of course - and turn into wine on their own through the magic of fermentation.

We're led to believe that winemakers simply monitor this process. They're there to make sure the final product winds up on the dinner table, but nature takes care of virtually everything.

This narrative is partially true. But it ignores the grueling, back-breaking work that goes into every bottle of wine we open.

Last week, I took part in that work during a brief visit to California, where I visited 12 wineries in Napa Valley's Stags Leap District. I came equipped with rubber boots and gloves - and offered to help wherever an extra hand was needed. I'm still hurting.

Wherever wine is made, harvest is a special time. But the work is exhausting.

In the evenings and early mornings, vineyards are packed with laborers collecting fruit, as picking while the weather is cool protects workers from daytime heat and ensures the grapes arrive in pristine condition.

The roads are equally busy. In the mornings and evenings, trucks are filled with grapes. Throughout the day, those same trucks haul equipment and vineyard supplies.

Wineries are abuzz with around-the-clock activity.

Forklifts and tractors are in constant use. As grapes come in, they're sorted, de-stemmed, and sorted again, as no winemaker wants leaves, spiders, or rocks to end up in her wine. With white wines, those grapes are crushed and pressed before fermentation.

With reds, most of the grapes are typically left intact before they're placed in barrels or tanks. At this point, yeast gets to work -- gradually converting the sugar into alcohol and imparting a litany of new tastes and aromas. Over about two weeks, what begins as grape juice becomes wine.

Throughout this period, winemakers regularly taste the fermenting juice - and bring samples to the laboratory - to make sure the process is progressing as it should.

For every winemaking team, the cleaning never ends. From bins, sorting tables, and de-stemming machines to tanks, pipes, and winemaking equipment, scalding hot water is used, over and over again, to hose down virtually everything. Wineries are very wet during harvest season.

The work seems endless. Har-



vest only lasts about six to ten weeks, depending on the grape variety. But during this period, 12- to 14-hour days are normal. Much of the work is messy and physical. Some is mind-numbingly repetitive. Many tough choices have to be made. And at every step, attention to detail is critical -- one small error could result in hundreds of gallons of lost wine.

Despite all the effort, harvest is magical. The air is filled with energy and the smell of fermenting grapes. Winemakers and their teams beam with joy, knowing their work will bring joy and pleasure to countless people. I can't wait to go back.

David White, a wine writer, is the founder and editor of *Terroirist.com*. His columns are housed at *Wines.com*, the fastest growing wine portal on the Internet.

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Auxiliary	3rd Thursday	7 p.m.

MEALS (Public Welcome)

Fish Fry	Every Friday	5 to 7 p.m.
Breakfast	Every Sunday	9 to 11 a.m.

EVENTS

Bar Poker	Tues. / Thur.	4 to 7 p.m.
Bingo and Food	Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.
Entertainment	Fridays	7:30 to 11 p.m.
Steak Shoot	Saturdays	2 p.m.
Flea Market	Sunday	7 a.m. to noon

HALEY HOUSE POKER RUN - Saturday, Oct. 27 food and entertainment. Registration cost is \$15 at 9 a.m. Kick stands up at 10:30 a.m.
Legion Rider's Dinner - Sunday, Oct. 28 from 2-5 p.m. at \$7 per person



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PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Anita de Biase has turned her garage, shed and outbuildings into a cooking and storage complex and hosts dozens of volunteers to help gather, lift, cook and distribute food clothing, hygiene and other items to homeless and other needy people in the area.

Riverview woman takes feeding the hungry personally

By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

RIVERVIEW - Anita de Biase spends her whole week preparing for Sunday.

She knows people will be waiting for her at all her regular stops and she doesn't ever want to disappoint them.

Anita, who will be 75 in November, doesn't let up for a minute. In fact, she was back out in her kitchen cooking up a storm following open heart surgery in 2004 while she still had staples in her chest.

Feeding the hungry has become her way of life.

Anita spent her childhood in war-torn Germany before marrying her late husband Carl who was with the U.S. Air Force for 20 years. The two moved around the world during his career, finally retiring in Riverview in 1979 after living a long time in Iran.

When Carl died in 2002 Anita wondered what she would do with the rest of her life. Her two sons and grandsons live in Ohio and she found herself alone.

"Then it came to me," she said. "I believe I heard God tell me to feed his sheep. Of course, that could have meant the Bible or anything. But when I thought about it, I knew it meant feed. So I started cooking, and one by one, God sent me volunteers. People think that one person can't make a difference, but each one can. And helping others does as much for the one who's helping as it does for the one who receives."

Anita said it lifted her out of her depression.

A tie-in that had already occurred suddenly made sense to her.

When her husband was sick, a nurse from Brandon came regularly to their house and talked about the T.H.O.R. N. ministry that fed homeless people.

Anita connected the conversations she'd had with

the nurse with the message she felt she had received and joined forces with Kristin Taylor, a singer from Brandon, who had begun T.H.O.R.N. Ministries after doing a concert in Samoa and seeing the tragedy of many poor, homeless people who had no food or medical care.

Kristin's website, www.kristintaylor.com, explains the beginning and concepts of T.H.O.R.N. which was started after she came back from Samoa in 1997 and discovered that there were 7,000 homeless living in Hillsborough County.

T.H.O.R.N., or Thankfully Helping Others Real Needs, uses the symbol of the crown of thorns on Jesus' head as its logo.

Anita gives it everything she has. Besides her time, with the help of volunteers, she has moved her great quantities of German cooking from her home's kitchen to three connected renovated outbuildings where a crew of helpers come and go, bringing food, and help prepare it for delivery to hungry and homeless people most of whom live on the street, behind buildings, in the woods and bushes and under bridges.

"They're all around us," Anita said. "People just have to open their eyes and see."

T.H.O.R.N. is a spiritually-inspired outreach to both the homeless of Tampa Bay and Samoa, Kristin said. She did the paperwork to make it a tax-deductible 501-c-3 organization so gifts would be tax deductible for donors.

Kristin said she has never seen anyone as dedicated as Anita and says the two have forged a bond like a mother and daughter.

"It is like I found a mother," Kristin (who has 12 children, eight of which are adopted) said. "She is a wonderful, kind person and does this with a giving heart."

The poverty of some they feed

See ANITA'S KITCHEN, page 19

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	<p>Shampoo & Set</p> <p>Price will vary with length or condition of hair. Haircut extra.</p> <p>\$12⁰⁰</p> <p>OS51 - EXP. 11/30/12</p> <p><i>Fantastic Sams</i></p>	<p>NuFree Hair Removal The gold standard in hair removal! Only at participating salons.</p> <p>\$5</p> <p>OW2 - EXP. 11/30/12 Per Area Brow, Lip or Chin</p> <p><i>Fantastic Sams</i></p>



On Sundays this mobile feeding station stays on the road but it takes all week to prepare for it.



People may volunteer to help on site or cook dishes at their homes and bring them to Anita's prior to her Sunday venture to stops around the area to feed and give away clothing and other items. Canned foods are always needed but paper cups, plates and fresh vegetables and meat are also welcome.

Anita's kitchen

■ Continued from page 18
 is worse than what Kristin has seen in Haiti and Jamaica. Stories of people living under bridges and behind bushes and in the woods all over the county fill the T.H.O.R.N. website.

"The best way to get out of depression is by helping others," Anita said. "There are so many lonely people who start doing this and realize it is helping them as much - maybe more- than it helps those we feed."

Anita especially likes to cook old family recipes from her childhood in Germany. On any given Sunday they feed from 250 to 400 people in three locations in Tampa. And those who get a hot meal also get a bag lunch to take for another day.

All T.H.O.R.N.'s storage and food preparation takes place at Anita's where volunteers have donated stoves, freezers, refrigerators and all kinds of cooking equipment.

It is no small operation.

Fridays the group she calls her "lunch bunch" comes over and packs brown-bag lunches to send with each person who receives a hot plate. Some prep work is also done for the huge weekly meal.

By Saturday all six of the economy-size slow cookers are full, eight burners on two side-by-side stoves are boiling and sautéing and frying and volunteers are cutting, chopping and cooking fresh vegetables.

Unlike so many shelter meals that are regulated by the government, the food cooked at Anita's is home-style. She tries to plan meals that she would serve her own family and encourages others who can't take part on site to cook at home and drop dishes



Every one of these will have homemade dishes, many made from old family recipes brought by Anita from Germany.

off. Casseroles, cakes or anything they make at home is fine.

"If they call ahead in the week we can schedule volunteers," said Kristin. "Children can do (court-ordered) community service hours or help out to get volunteer hours to earn scholarships."

A lot of the food that's cooked comes from the food pantry at Resurrection Catholic Church in Riverview which is brought in by many churches in the Gibsonton-Riverview area. Other things are brought directly to Anita's house by individuals and groups.

Fresh vegetables and fruits and meat are always needed because these are things government feeding programs don't always provide. Perishable foods are distributed right away.

Besides food to cook, the group always needs lunch bags, Ziploc bags, sandwich bags, paper towels, paper plates, cups, plastic silverware and powdered drink mix.

Some Sundays they go through 40 gallons of drinks between volunteers and recipients.

Salads are also a favorite as many soup kitchens serve only soups, stews and bread.

A lot of Anita's week is spent picking out foods, shopping, and prepping.

Late on Saturdays, volunteers arrive to pack the mobile trailer for Sunday's feedings at three Tampa locations.

Men from the First Methodist Church in Brandon take turns lifting heavy items and pulling the

large donated mobile kitchen with a truck.

"Sometimes when someone takes a plate of food, they say it is the first time they have eaten in two or three days," Anita said. "People think one person can't be a help but each person can make a difference."

Anita said she hopes many people will call and volunteer after reading about the ministry even if it is just to make a casserole or cake.

"Everyone can do something and every single little thing helps," she said.

There are several things people can do besides cook and distribute food because food isn't the only thing the truck has for people when it reaches its destinations. Anita's converted shed is filled with hygiene items, toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, deodorant and shampoo, and all sorts of clothing.

"We especially need men's clothing," Anita said. "Because there are far more men on the streets than women and children."

One of the things they can't get enough of is socks. Some weeks they could use more than 50 pairs.

"We call it Thornmart, like a Wal-Mart on Wheels," Kristin joked. "Some weeks we have towels and other things as well as clothes, depending on donations."

Kristin calls it a ministry. Anita calls it her way of life.

Anyone who wants to donate food, money, or help in any way may call Anita at (813) 677-8058.

October Specials

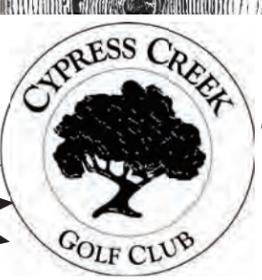
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All served with Rice or Mashed Potatoes and Vegetable. Includes Salad and Dessert.

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Area Obituaries

Chester Watters

Chester Watters, 87, of Sun City Center, Florida passed away on Oct. 17, 2012. He was born on Nov. 3, 1924 in Brandon, Vermont, the son of Euclid S. and Ruth (Churchill) Watters.

After graduating from Brandon High School in 1942, he entered military service with the U.S. Army's elite Ranger Battalion and was transferred to the 104th Timberwolf Division in the European Theater, where he fought with great courage receiving two Bronze Stars for heroic acts and consistently going above and beyond the call of duty.

Six months after his honorable discharge, he married Joyce Ann Black on June 1, 1946, with whom he shared 66 wonderful years.

In 1948 he began working for the U.S. Post Office in Brandon, retiring in 1981 after 33 years of service. He and Joyce traveled extensively throughout the United States before settling in Sun City Center.

Chet was actively involved in various branches of Masonry, including Shrine, Scottish Rites, Red Cross of Constantine, Royal Order of Jesters, Past Worthy Patron of Eastern Star, and achieving status of Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Vermont. He also was active in his local town and church affairs.

He is survived by his wife Joyce; two sons, David of Windham, Maine, Donald (Julie) of Bristol, Vermont; two daughters, Linda (Benedict) Dolan of Claremont, New Hampshire and Sue Ann Watters of Goshen, Vermont; two grandchildren, Amanda Ewell and Jason Watters, and five great-grand children, Aiden and Avery Ewell, Hayley, Mackensie and Jayden Watters.

Memorial services were held in Sun City Center on Oct. 23, and will be in Brandon, Vermont, date pending.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Children's Hospital or a charity of your choice. Arrangements by Sun City Center Funeral Home.

Judith Lemieux Yeatman

Judith (Judi) Lemieux Yeatman, 63, of Sun City Center, FL, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012.

Judi was born Nov. 15, 1948 in Boston, MA. Judi worked in the business office of the Southbay Outpatient Diagnostic and Rehab department in Sun City Center. Judi is survived by her husband Lawrence (Skip), of Sun City Center, FL; five children - Kim Wong of Bradenton, FL; Kerri Myers of Mt Airy, NC; Roger Martin of Waterford, CA; Karen Spillman of Odessa, FL; and Tammy Bird of Westminster, CO; four stepchildren - Lawrence Yeatman II of Ruskin, FL; Russell Yeatman of Ruskin, FL; Arthur Yeatman of OH; and Clifton Yeatman of Ruskin, FL; along with 23 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by siblings Richard Lemieux of Brockton, MA; Janet Crowley of Quincy, MA; Robert Lemieux of Meredith, NH; and Barbara Harold of Hyde Park, MA; as well as an army of cousins, nieces and nephews and friends.

A Memorial Service will be held at Sun City Christian Center, 17566 U.S. Hwy. 301 South, Wimauma, FL at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 28, 2012. A gathering will follow at the Bayou Pass - Dorothy Duke Community Center, 2203 Dorothy Duke Dr. in Ruskin.



Rev. Jean Simpson

New minister arrives at United Community Church

The United Community Church of Sun City Center has announced the appointment of the Reverend Dr. Jean Simpson as its interim minister as of Nov. 1.

Dr. Simpson comes to this new leadership role from her position as Gulf Coast Regional Conference Minister of the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ. In her former position, Dr. Simpson was responsible for supporting the ministry of 40 different churches, from Pensacola to Marco Island.

Dr. Simpson has had extensive experience in leading congregations of various sizes and spiritual needs in New England and Virginia. Her training in mediation skills, interim ministry, planned giving and stewardship development will aid the United Community Church during its search for a new permanent senior minister.

Before entering the ministry, Dr. Simpson was an instrumental music teacher and an accomplished player of the French horn. Having lived and traveled in the Middle East as well as Singapore and Brussels, she has actively studied many faiths and languages. She and her husband recently returned from a two-month trip to Africa.

The United Community Church congregation feels fortunate to have a minister with Dr. Simpson's extensive background of experiences as their new interim minister.

he performed with many symphonies, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Paul greatly enjoys working with the all-volunteer ensemble, which is made up of St. Andrew members and other local musicians. He calls all of them very dedicated musicians. Paul has also found time to sing in the Men's Chorus, lead the Women's Chorus, and perform at other area churches.

St. Andrew is located at 1239 Del Webb Blvd. W in Sun City Center. Visitors are welcome at the 9:30 a.m. traditional worship service and the 11 a.m. contemporary service.



Paul Barrientos

Talented musician leads church ensemble

The St. Andrew Presbyterian Church congregation, at the 9:30 a.m. traditional service, enjoys beautiful instrumental music on the fourth Sunday of the month, August through April. The ensemble is led by Paul Barrientos, a longtime professional musician. Occasionally the congregation also gets to hear Paul's rich baritone voice in solo.

Paul attended Southern Illinois University (SIU) on a full music scholarship. After training with several voice coaches on the East Coast, he performed as soloist and choir director at many churches and with other groups. His musical journey has taken him to St. Louis, New York City and Boston, where

Area Places of Worship

Ruskin United Methodist Church

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ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND WORSHIP WITH US:
SUNDAY MORNINGS: Nov. - April..... 8:30 a.m. **Day Care Available**
Rev. Richard Nussel and All Year..... 10:45 a.m. Mon. - Fri.
Phone: 645-1241 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
call 645-6198

Friendship Baptist Church

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

701 Valley Forge Blvd. • Sun City Center, FL 33573-5354
Rev. Robert G. Wiley, Interim Pastor
Telephone: 813-634-1292 • Website: scredeester.org
Worship Services on Sunday 10 a.m.
Holy Communion First & Third Sunday • Bible Class Thursday 10 a.m.

Unity COMMUNITY OF JOY
Spirituality Rather Than "Religion"

Henry Gibson Social Hall, Beth Israel Synagogue
1115 Del Webb E. • Sun City Center, FL
www.unitycommunityofjoy.com Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
813-298-7745

First Baptist Church of Gibsonton

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

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

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

NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School (all ages)..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday (all ages) 6:30 p.m.
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Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.
EVERETT TATE, MINISTER

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship: Blended 8:00 a.m.
Nursery Provided Contemporary 9:40 a.m.
Pastor Jack R. Palzer Traditional 11:15 a.m.
Assoc. Pastor Derek Hoven
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(across from MiraBay) www.calvarylutheranchurch.net 645-1305

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center

1210 Del Webb Blvd West • 634-2539
<http://www.sccumc.com>
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Grow & Serve
The United Methodist Church
WORSHIP SERVICES:
SUNDAY
8:15 a.m. Sanctuary (Communion Service)
9:15 a.m. Creason Hall (Oasis Contemporary)
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary (Traditional with Choir & Bells)
11:00 a.m. Hispanic Worship
4:00 p.m. Hispanic Worship
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Nursery Provided
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Assistant Pastor: **Rev. Robert Chaple**

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—Aesop

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 sue@alterways.com



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Evening Service.....	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Service.....	7:00 p.m.
Awana.....	7:00 p.m.



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Sunday Morning Worship.....	10:55 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service.....	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Service.....	7:00 p.m.
Thursday Morning Prayer.....	10:00 a.m.

Dan Collis, Pastor
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Sunday School.....	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Service.....	5:00 p.m.
Reading Room.....	Wednesday 4 to 4:45 p.m.

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Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service 11:00 a.m.
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mark E. Salmon
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 Ruskin
 813-645-1714
 SaintAnneRuskin.org

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

MASSES

Vigil Mass.....	Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass.....	8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Contemporary)
Monday thru Friday.....	8:00 a.m.
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.

Free 'Fall FunFest' at SCC United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1201 Del Webb Blvd. West, is having a free 'Fall FunFest' featuring a Trunk or Treat for children on Wednesday, Oct. 31 from 5 to 7 p.m. on the church grounds.

Beginning at 5 p.m., there will be food, games, prizes and information about volunteer opportunities at local non-profit agencies for adults, as well as the very popular children's Trunk or Treat with candy, a bounce house and slide, popcorn and cotton candy.

The entire event, including food, games and the Trunk or Treat, is free and open to the public.

For additional information about this and other events at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, contact Pat Hill, Director of Ministries, at (813) 634-2539. To learn more about the church, visit its website at www.sccumc.com.

Fun Brigade hosts Style Show and Luncheon

The Fun Brigade of the United Community Church is hosting a Style Show and Luncheon at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 8. Cost is \$10 per person. Everyone is invited to come and see the ladies of the church model clothes from Bon Worth and Rose Boutique.

United Community Church is located at 1501 La Jolla Ave. in Sun City Center.

For further information, contact Paula Lickfeldt at (813) 633-6739 or Karl Buffington at (813) 634-7062.

St. John the Divine hosts SHMA 'sing'

South Hillsborough Ministerial Association [SHMA], an organized, interactive group of local church ministers and congregations committed to the work of the Lord Jesus Christ in South Hillsborough County, will host the monthly "Community Sing" on Monday, Oct. 29 at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church [West Campus], located at 705 9th St. S.E. in Ruskin, beginning at 7 p.m.

The "Prelude" to the SING will begin at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Call (813) 633-3970 for further information.

Friendship Baptist shows October Baby

Saturday, Oct. 27 marks the last film to be shown until January 2013 at Friendship Baptist Church. This weekend's film, *October Baby*, starts at 5 p.m. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

For more information, call (813) 642-0911.



St. Andrew's Fine Arts Concert Series features Florida Orchestra Brass Quintet

The Florida Orchestra Brass Quintet will perform in the second of the Fine Arts Concert Series sponsored by St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. The concert starts at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 4 at the church on Del Webb Blvd. W. in Sun City Center.

Featured artists are Dwight Decker, Principal Trombone; Kenneth Brown, Assistant Principal Utility Trumpet; Robert Smith,

Principal Trumpet; Andrew Karr, Assistant Principal Utility French Horn; and William Mickelsen, Principal Tuba.

Seven concert season tickets are available for \$40; with single-performance tickets at \$10. Tickets are available at the church office at 1239 Del Webb Blvd. W., at the door the day of the concert, or by calling Judy Voorhees at (813) 642-8125.

Guitarist-composer Jonathan Godfrey to perform at United Methodist Church

Guitarist-composer Jonathan Godfrey will present a concert at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16 at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center. In addition to works by and arranged by Godfrey, the concert will feature works by Isaac Albeniz, Fernando Sor, Roland Dyens, Jason Vieaux, Pat Metheny and the well-known *Adagio* from *Concierto de Aranjuez* by Joaquin Rodrigo, with Jeff Jordan at the piano.

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, guitarist and composer Jonathan Godfrey began his collegiate studies in guitar at the age of 16 under renowned performer John Huston. Since then he has been the laureate of several performance and composition competitions and has given recitals throughout the U.S.

His recording credits include solos on a 2010 documentary album of Spanish and Latin American Music produced by the Embassy of Spain and on projects alongside such artists as Grammy-award winning soprano Sylvia McNair. He has been a soloist with a number of prominent ensembles, including members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra, and has performed extensively as the guitar-half of Duo Fritz with acclaimed violinist Colin Sorgi.

Godfrey holds a Bachelor of Music in Performance and Music Technology with a minor in Religion and Philosophy from LaGrange College (GA), where he was the recipient of the highest honors and awards in music bestowed by the

institution, and his Master of Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music, which he attended on an institutional scholarship.

He is currently working on his dissertation for his Doctor of Music in performance, with minors in both composition and music theory, from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he previously taught classes and private lessons as an Associate Instructor of Guitar. He is on track to be the youngest doctoral student to ever graduate from the prestigious guitar department.

Godfrey serves as the Director of Worship Arts at Parrish United Methodist Church in Parrish, FL.

A donation of \$5 is requested at the door on the night of the concert. For additional information about this and other events and activities, contact Jeff Jordan, at (813) 634-2539.



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'Day of the Dead' rituals focus of Oct. 25 service

Lynda and Wayne Conklin, members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC who lived in Mexico for several years, will lead the congregation in "The Day of the Dead" traditional ritual and custom for honoring and remembering the departed at this time of the year. The service begins at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 25. All are welcome.

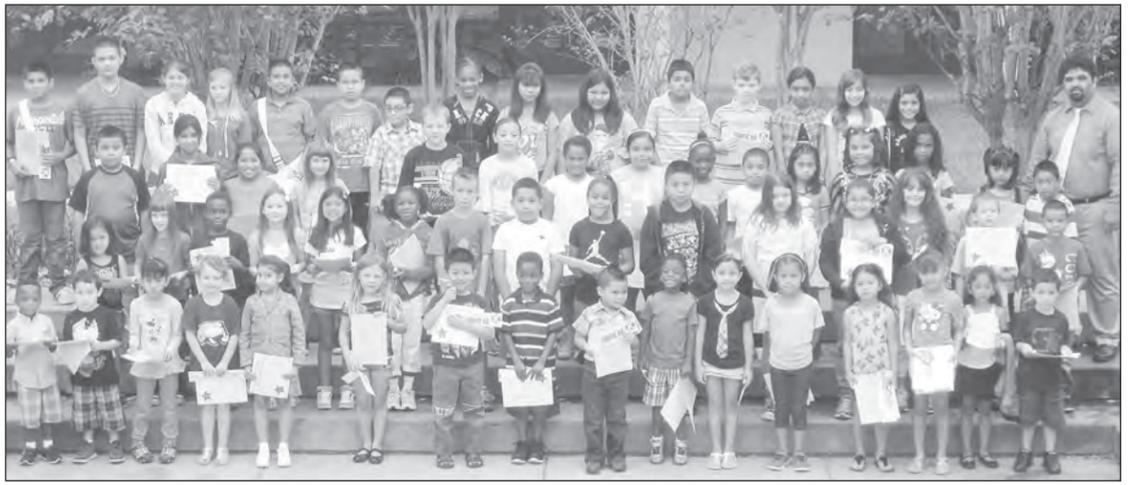
Job openings increase sharply in Florida

The number of available online job openings in Florida increased sharply in September 2012 compared to the previous September by 35,277 (+15.1 percent), for a total of 268,575 openings (seasonally adjusted). Additionally, the number of September 2012 job postings was an increase of more than 4,300 over August 2012.

According to the Help Wanted OnLine data series from The Conference Board, online job demand was strongest in the large metro cities, led by Orlando, Miami, Tampa, and Jacksonville. Among the cities with the most online ads, the highest percentage gain over-the-year in online ads was in Ft. Myers and Lakeland (each +9.0 percent) followed by Ocala (+6.7 percent).

Major occupational groups with the most online ads in September 2012 were sales and related occupations; healthcare practitioners and technical occupations; office and administrative support occupations; and computer and mathematical occupations.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity combines the state's economic, workforce and community development efforts. This new approach helps expedite economic development projects to fuel job creation in competitive communities. For more information, including valuable resources for employers and job seekers, visit www.floridajobs.org.



Cypress Creek announces their Terrific Kids

The October Terrific Kids for Cypress Creek Elementary School who are sponsored by the Sun City Kiwanis are: Julius Jones-Trevil, Karen Ortiz-Garcia, Anthony Spradley, Rhett Rodriguez, Davian Valdovinos, Solange Subiza, Giovanni Palomares, Brian Jimenez, Guadalupe Suastegui, Jeffery Burdick, Dana Mayo, Isadora Morris, Bryanna Palacios, Daniel Harwin, Bryan Arellano, Vianey Fuentes-Fuentes, Ulises Robles-Perez, Hayley Vanwagner, Hayden Johnson, Maria Hernandez, Brianna Nelson, Victoria Velez, Diante Hall, Kayla Juarez, Jocelyn Underwood, Duwayne Lee, William Condron, Simon Zarate, Chole Nguyen, Jaxon Kistler, Jorge Roldan-Miranda, Emma Margelowsky, Diana Maldonado-Escobar, Ajah Mallory, Joselyn Ibarra-Carlin, Chloe Lewis, Juan Castillo, Michelle Malpica, Arturo Rangel, Monserrath Ventura-Aquino, Alicia Vasquez, Evelyn Zapata, Eliana Galvan, Toluwanimi Ajani, Erika Vargas, Katie Paskert, Jaime Hernandez, Casandra Sosa, Payton Stefero, Rylee Sopka, Marianna Cruz, Roxana Morales, Jessica Pesina, Michael Ezell, Jamie Sanchez-Zapata, Mikaila Harrison, Michael Bermudez-Vega, Samantha Judd, Jesus Rodriguez, Jesus Villarreal, Isaac Ponce, Terhyla (Tara) Payne, Larissa Saldana Sanchez.

Top Advertised Occupations for Florida-September 2012	Online Ads September 2012	Online Ads September 2011
Florida Total Ads	268,575	233,298
Registered Nurses	16,166	14,924
Retail Salespersons	9,908	7,925
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	8,797	6,243
Customer Service Representatives	6,603	6,877
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	5,056	3,922
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	4,763	3,680
Web Developers	4,332	3,844
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific	4,149	4,079
Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	4,097	3,736
Computer Systems Analysts	3,959	3,966
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Office and Administrative Support Workers	3,821	2,835
Occupational Therapists	3,796	3,869
Physical Therapists	3,676	4,592
Medical and Health Services Managers	3,466	3,131
Telemarketers	3,430	3,025
Computer Support Specialists	3,387	2,808
Insurance Sales Agents	3,220	2,838
Sales Representatives, Services, All Other	3,012	2,561
Accountants	2,970	2,556
Sales Agents, Financial Services	2,711	2,572

SOURCE: The Conference Board, Help Wanted OnLine, prepared by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Labor Market Statistics Center.

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NOVEMBER EVENTS

Thurs., Nov. 1 • 3-4 p.m. • Aging Gracefully Support Group. This is a support group for individuals who are learning to live with the effects of aging in a graceful, healthy manner. Facilitated by Kay Coburn Dyer, Geriatric Care Manager.



Tues., Nov. 6 • 10-11 a.m. • Veterans Connect! Today, one in four dying Americans is a veteran. These men and women can have experiences related to their military service that present unique challenges at the end of life. Please join Chaplain Rich Behers as he talks about "We Honor Veterans" project at LifePath Hospice and how they are prepared to better identify and meet the unique needs of veterans at the end of life.

Now EVERY Wednesday, Nov. 7 • 10-11 a.m. • Therapeutic Tai Chi open to the public! Our therapists have advanced training in therapeutic Tai Chi for seniors and will provide guidance in this healthy exercise. Tai Chi has been proven to increase strength and balance. Offered EVERY Wednesday due to increased demand.

Thurs., Nov. 8 • 2:30-4 p.m. • Mental Wellness 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

Wed., Nov. 14 • 2:30-4 p.m. • Diabetes Support Group. Please join Cindy Nussbaum from Comprehensive Home Health Care as she facilitates our support group "Everyday Basics of Diabetic Care".



Thurs., Nov. 15 • 10-11 a.m. • What makes us different? Join Dr. Sasha Noe, DO, PhD, Board Certified Family Physician, as she discusses key principles of **Osteopathic Medicine**. Learn about the importance of Preventative Health Care, and what you can do to achieve a healthier body, mind and spirit.

Fri., Nov. 16 • 2-3 p.m. • House of Christmas.

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OCTOBER 25, 2012

THE OBSERVER NEWS

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Santa Fe: America's most artistic city

■ By WARREN RESEN – NATJA
(North American Travel Journalists Association)
Photos by JEANNE O'CONNOR
and La Fonda Hotel

Driving northwest from New Orleans toward Texas is where the climate, culture and the country really changes for an Easterner. Greens turn to beige and the elevation starts its gradual rise as humidity begins to drop. Soon you are thousands of feet above sea level but not yet in the western mountains. Our destination was the *La Fonda On the Plaza* in the heart of the storied city of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

In the city, there are few visually drastic changes from street to street other than the fact that some buildings are newer. Most everything is adobe, stucco and arches. Logs protrude from buildings enhancing the "traditional" southwestern look. Building codes are highly effective in maintaining the city's Santa Fe Style, combining elements of Pueblo Indian and Spanish forms and incorporating Moorish traditions; in other words, a styling all its own. I jokingly told my wife that Santa Fe must have one of the strictest Home Owners Associations I've ever seen.

The most overused word in the real estate lexicon is, "location" and in Santa Fe that would mean the city's historic PLAZA dating back to the time of Spain's dominance over Mexico and the Southwest. On the streets surrounding the PLAZA are more museums, art stores, restaurants, markets and other things of interest to visitors than it is possible to list here. It's easier to just say, "a lot." *La Fonda* is built at the spot where the Santa Fe Trail and the Camino Real, which began in Mexico City, ended.

In Spanish, *la fonda* is the word for inn and the hotel *La Fonda* claims bragging rights with the current inn having been built on the oldest hotel corner in America. There has been an inn for travelers on this spot for over 400 years.

La Fonda is at the cultural heart and historic center of the city. The current hotel was built in the early 1920s and purchased by Sam Ballen in 1968. It is still owned and operated by the Ballen family heirs. Being a guest here is a delightful experience attested to by the fact that generations of families return year after year. The hotel fills an entire city block, its architecture retaining the famous Santa Fe Style. *La Fonda* is not just a hotel, it's an experience.

Guests are transported back to an earlier time when a building's

See SANTA FE, page 2B



Above, statues in front of Santuario de Guadalupe Church, Santa Fe, New Mexico
At right, a spectacular Santa Fe sunset.

Bottom right, an overhead view of La Plazuela dining room at La Fonda.

Bottom left, pueblo-style entrance to the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts.





Hand painted headboard in La Fonda.

■ Continued from page 1B

design was distinctive, usually mirroring the architecture of the area. The hotel's interior is filled with original Spanish Colonial, Mexican and Native American art, hand-carved, hand-painted furniture and other ornamentation created by local artists. Hand-crafted chandeliers, tin and copper lighting fixtures, colorful tile and textiles are featured throughout the hotel's public spaces. Hallways, stairwells, even guest room furnishings are treated with original hand painted designs. Archways and beamed ceilings complete *La Fonda's* overall ambience. The entire hotel could be classified as an art gallery.

La Fonda is a proud member of Historic Hotels of America, an organization whose participants have agreed "to preserve the authenticity of America's most prominent lodging addresses" and offer visitors a remarkable travel experience..."

Standard guest rooms are spacious and bathtubs, installed in another era, easily accommodate a 6 foot guest. Since this is one of the tallest buildings in the PLAZA area, almost all windows allow unobstructed views of the city. A private rooftop retreat, The Terrace at *La Fonda*, offers guests dedicated concierge service. Each of its 14 rooms and suites has a private balcony with views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Exceptional in-room amenities

Santa Fe: America's most artistic city

include spacious seating areas, large bathrooms with separate bath and shower areas, a kiva fireplace and much more.

Just off the main lobby is the historic La Plazuela dining room, an open, airy, two-story atrium filled with natural light and surrounded with 460 hand-painted windows. We found their local food offerings excellent, portions overly generous, and reasonably priced.

There are shopping and additional dining opportunities for all in the hotel's meandering lobby. A big surprise for many guests is the large outdoor swimming almost hidden in the center of the hotel. It's worth the effort to search for its entrance.

When it's time to enjoy the daytime activities of Santa Fe, the best way to find out where everything is located is to ask for "The Original Santa Fe & Canyon Road Walking Map" at the front desk or from the concierge. Use a marking pen and circle anything of interest, taking into consideration your length of stay.

There is always something happening in this city which is home to major art markets, performing arts groups and major museums.

Unique to Santa Fe is the Palace of the Governors located on

the north side of the PLAZA. It served as the seat of government for the state of New Mexico for centuries and is the oldest continuously occupied public building in the United States. Today its exhibits tell visitors of Santa Fe's and New Mexico's past. Outside the Palace, Native Americans line the sidewalks in areas specifically reserved for them to display and sell their handcrafts under the Native American Vendors Program of the Palace of the Governors.

Finish off your day with a famous *La Fonda* margarita at *La Fonda's* Bell Tower Bar while celebrating a Santa Fe sunset over the western mountains. Then head to the La Fiesta Lounge just past the registration desk. During the week, Santa Fe is rather

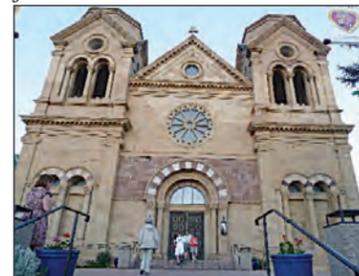
quiet after the sun sets and this is one of the few public places providing live music six nights a week. A three piece band plays a modified type of country-western/swing music for your dancing and listening pleasure and thankfully it is not highly amplified.

The art for which Santa Fe is known surrounds the city extends to all points of the compass. Taos, a town made famous by Georgia O'Keefe is about an hour's pilgrimage into the mountains. But there is a Georgia O'Keefe Museum, reportedly one of the city's most visited places, right in downtown Santa Fe.

Santa Fe is more than a center of art and culture although it often appears that way. It is also a four-season, out-of-doors destination. The area is a paradise for hiking,

skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, river rafting, fishing and horseback riding. In summer you can hike miles of mountain wilderness, enjoying dramatic, panoramic vistas or just wander through miles of open country.

A visit to Santa Fe, New Mexico at any time of the year is a delight and should include *La Fonda On the Plaza* whether as a guest or just a tourist.



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Fish Tales: Correct releasing of fish

The fishing world has many regulations on limits and sizes and it is only logical that you will catch and release a fish or more during your time out on the water. So it is important to release them correctly. As soon as you know that you have hooked a fish that will be released, don't play it to exhaustion as it will not be able to swim quickly away.



By Jonie Maschek

It is equally critical that he be handled as little as possible. Keep him in the water during the release process. Several release tools are available on the market, but many make their own. You can make one with a mop or broom handle by screwing a hook in the end with the barb sawed off. This makes you a long handle to reach the fish, if you leave him in the water.

The tides fall lower and lower this time of the year and this brings the redfish into the grassy flats. They will be tailing, early in the

mornings and the late afternoons. What a sight to see as they eat and flip their tails in the air. If you plan on approaching tailing redfish, turn off your motor and pole in, as they will spook with the sound of your motor and swim away before you get close enough to cast your line. Redfish are a good fish to smoke. They have heavy skin and thick scales.

The ideal and probably the most popular fish to smoke is the mullet. He has large heavy scales, thick skin, and a natural oil between the skin and the meat. Through the years I have never met an angler who has revealed the ingredients of the mixture that they brush on their fish for smoking. Nine out of ten, say that it was handed down by their family through generations and it is a family secret.

Other fish found good for smoking are kingfish, Spanish mackerel, grouper, scamp, snook and trout. Shrimp, oysters, clams, and scallops are also smoked.

Smokers can be made out of barrels, bricks, metal drawers, or old refrigerators. And who hasn't bought smoked clams, or oysters at the super market.

October and fall months are

great to catch cobia. Average size is 12 pounds; largest on record 149 pounds. This fish is found all over the world. Legal catch is one per harvester or six per vessel per day, but must measure 33 inches or more.

Flounder are showing up almost everywhere this time of the year. Some are being caught around artificial reefs with a 25 pound test line and a circle hook. Look for them around the sandy patches. This is a flat fish with one eye, which some throw back, but it is a white meat fish.

All of the giant tarpon, have migrated south, but there seems to be plenty of smaller ones even in the rivers.

Pier and landside catches were plenty this week with silver trout, sheepshead, and flounder.

Don't stop fishing, because the tide is out and the water is low. Though it takes more skill, fish can be caught on low tide. With the shallow waters and grassy flats, large fish enter on the prowl for food and are hungry enough to forsake the safety of deeper waters to take a chance on bait size and small fish that call these grassy flats their home.

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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, Sandwiches, and a Chef's Special for all Elks and their guests from 5 to 7 p.m. Karaoke by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 29 - Blue Plate Special for all Elks and their guests, \$7 a person, Menu: Sweet & Sour Pork with all the trimmings and dessert, only 50 tickets will be sold.

Wednesday, Oct. 31st - Show up in your best costume.

Eastern Caribbean Fund Raiser Cruise - Jan. 13 to 20, 2013, contact Howard Elkin at Discover Travel for details.

The South Hillsborough Elk's Lodge is a clean, smoke free environment located at 1630 US Hwy 41 S., Ruskin, Telephone (813) 645-2089.

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The Savvy Senior: Help for seniors who worry about memory problems

Dear Savvy Senior,

My mother, who's 72, has become very forgetful lately and is worried she may have Alzheimer's. Is her forgetfulness really something we should worry about? What should we do?

Worried Daughter

Dear Worried,

Many seniors worry about memory lapses as they get older, fearing it may be the first signs of Alzheimer's disease or some other type of dementia. To get some insight on the seriousness of your mom's problem, here are some key warning signs to be vigilant of and some resources you can turn to for help.

Warning Signs

As we grow older, some memory difficulties – such as trouble remembering names of people or places or forgetting where you put your glasses – are associated with normal aging. But the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease are much more than simple memory lapses. Knowing the early warning signs is a good first step in recognizing the difference between typical age-related memory loss and a more serious problem. To help you evaluate your mom's condition, here's a checklist of some common early symptoms to watch for:

- Asking the same questions repeatedly.
- Getting lost in familiar areas.
- Failing to recognize familiar people.
- Having difficulty following directions.
- Misplaces items in inappropriate places, for example putting her keys in the microwave.
- Having difficulty completing familiar tasks like cooking a meal or paying a bill.
- Having trouble remembering common words when speaking, or mixing up words.

For more information, the Alzheimer's Association provides a list of 10 warning signs that you can access at 10signs.org, or call 800-272-3900 and request a free copy of their booklet "Basics of Alzheimer's Disease: What it is and what you can do."

Another good screening tool is the self-administered cognitive screening (SAGE) test that was developed at The Ohio State University Medical Center. This test helps identify mild cognitive impairment and early dementia, and can be taken at home in about 10 to 15 minutes. You can download the SAGE test along with scoring instructions at sagetest.osu.edu.

Get Help

After going through the warning

signs and/or testing of your mom, if you're still concerned, get her in to see her doctor for a thorough medical examination. Her doctor may then refer her to a geriatrician or neurologist who specializes in diagnosing and treating memory loss or Alzheimer's disease.

Keep in mind that even if your mom is experiencing some memory problems, it doesn't necessarily mean she has early stage Alzheimer's. Many memory problems are brought on by other factors like stress, depression, thyroid disease, side effects of medications, sleep disorders, vitamin deficiencies and other medical conditions. And by treating these conditions she can reduce or

eliminate the problem.

Free Memory Screening

Another option you should know about is National Memory Screening Day on Nov. 13, where your mom can get her memory tested for free. Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA), this free service provides a confidential, face-to-face memory screening that takes about 10 minutes to complete and consists of questions and/or tasks to evaluate her memory status.

The screening is given by doctors, nurse practitioners, psychologists, social workers or other healthcare professionals in more than 2,500 sites across the country. It's also important to know that

this screening is not a diagnosis. Instead, its goal is to detect problems and refer individuals with these problems for further evaluation.

To find a screening site in your area visit nationalmemoryscreening.org or call 866-232-8484. The AFA recommends checking for a screening location shortly before Nov. 13, because new sites are constantly being added.

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.



By Jim Miller

C.A.R.E. pets of the week

C.A.R.E., a non-profit, no-kill animal shelter for abused and abandoned cats and dogs, is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For directions, visit www.CareShelter.org or call (813) 645-2273.

Abe

Abe is a white cat with black on his back and top of his head. Abe also has a black beard giving him that presidential look. Abe was found abandoned but is looking for that forever home and some tender loving care. Won't you give him your vote and stop in to C.A.R.E. Abe has been neutered, brought current on his shots, and microchipped. DOB: April 13, 2012.



Aunt Bea

She is a sweet Dachshund mix. She seems to have come from a home not long ago but was found wandering alone in Kings Point. Aunt Bea enjoys keeping the volunteers company while they make food, set up kennels for the night, and do paperwork. She is happy just tagging along. Every now and then she will steal a treat from a made up kennel when she thinks no one is looking. When not doing chores, Aunt Bea loves to have some cuddle time in your lap. As part of her adoption, Aunt Bea will be brought current on her shots, spayed and microchipped. DOB: July 2 2008.



SouthShore Regional Library

Adult program/event highlights

SouthShore Regional Library is located at 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin, www.hcplc.org/hcplc/locations/so/

■ PowerPoint: Introduction, ClipArt and AutoShapes

Thurs., October 25 - 12:15 to 2:30 p.m. Learn the basics of slide design and layout to create a professional-looking presentation. Adding text boxes, ClipArt and AutoShapes to your presentation. Previous experience with Microsoft PowerPoint is recommended. Limit: 20

■ Email: Messages and Attachments

Tues., Oct. 30 - 12:15 to 2:30 p.m. Read, forward and delete messages. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills recommended as well as an existing e-mail account. Learn to send attachments and create address books.

■ On-Line Genealogy

Tues., Oct. 30 - 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Learn how to begin your family history research using Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest.

■ Mah Jongg Club

Wed., Oct. 31 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy an evening of the popular table game, Mah Jongg, featuring challenging play for experienced players and instruction for beginners. The American Rules will be used. Spectators are welcome! Participants are asked to bring their own Mah Jongg card. Limited to 16 players. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call 273.3652. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

■ SouthShore Needle People

Wed., Oct. 31 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join other needle people to share techniques, tips and experiences about knitting and other fiber and fabric crafts. Beginners are welcome! Bring a project and ask us questions!

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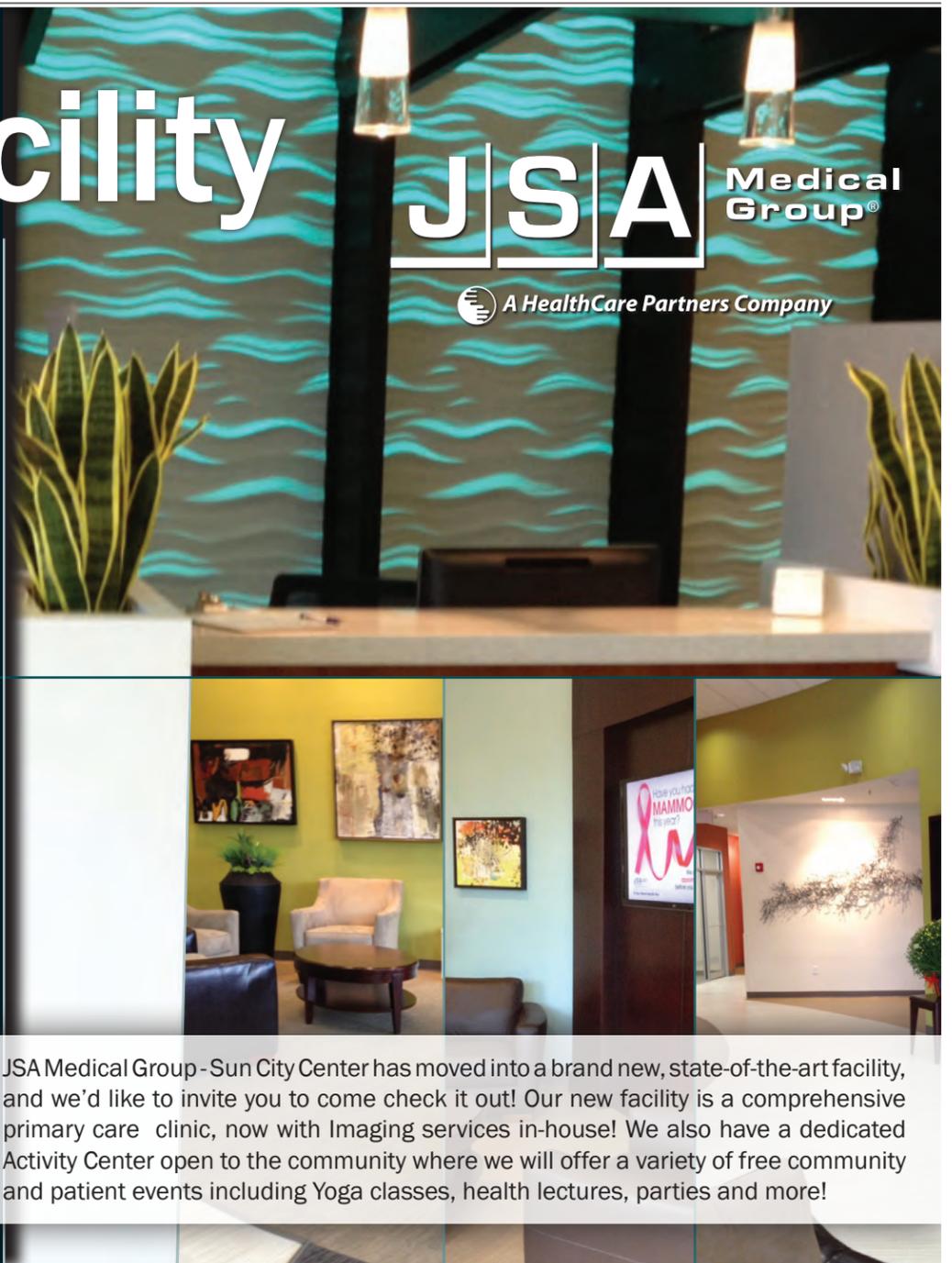
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	<p><i>All You Can Eat</i> Snow Crab</p>	<p>Served with Drawn Butter, Lemon, Garlic Bread and Your Choice of Fries, Cole Slaw, Corn on the Cob, or Fresh Fruit.</p>	<p>\$19⁹⁵</p>	<p>First order, 1 pound. Second and all other orders, 1/4 pound.</p>
	<p><i>All You Can Eat</i> Fried Fish</p>	<p>Served with Tartar Sauce, Lemon, Garlic Bread and Your Choice of Fries, Cole Slaw, Corn on the Cob, or Fresh Fruit.</p>	<p>\$13⁹⁵</p>	<p>First order, 1/2 pound. Second and all other orders, 1/4 pound.</p>
	<p><i>All You Can Eat</i> Combo Snow Crab & Fried Fish</p>	<p>Served with Tartar Sauce, Drawn Butter, Lemon, Garlic Bread and Your Choice of Fries, Cole Slaw, Corn on the Cob, or Fresh Fruit.</p>	<p>\$19⁹⁵</p>	<p>First order, 1/2 pound snow crab and 1/2 pound fish. Second and all other orders, 1/4 pound snow crab and 1/4 pound fish OR 1/4 pound one or the other</p>
	<p><i>Peel and Eat</i> Shrimp Special</p>	<p>Old Bay Steamed and Chilled Jumbo Shrimp Served With Lemon and Cocktail Sauce.</p>	<p>\$7⁵⁰ Half Order</p> <p>\$11⁹⁵ Full Order</p>	

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 2011 TOYOTA PRIUS \$21,582 <small>Fresh Trade, 1 Owner, 13K Miles!</small>	 2010 TOYOTA VENZA \$21,893 <small>Leather, Sunroof, Very Nice!</small>	 2011 TOYOTA RAV4 LIMITED \$21,984 <small>18K Miles, Loaded W/ Navigation</small>	 2008 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER \$21,991 <small>Very Nice! Only 22K Miles!</small>	 2010 TOYOTA RAV4 LIMITED 4X4 \$22,782 <small>Only 38K Miles!</small>	 2010 TOYOTA FJ CRUISER 4X4 \$28,981 <small>Auto Double Sharp!</small>	 2011 TOYOTA SIENNA XLE \$29,591 <small>Very Nice! Loaded!</small>	 2010 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LTD \$29,791 <small>Nav, Roof, JBL Stereo</small>

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 2010 CHEVROLET IMPALA LS \$13,892 <small>Only 44K Miles!</small>	 2004 TOYOTA TUNDRA DOUBLE CAB \$13,993 <small>Rare Limited Edition</small>	 2009 HYUNDAI SONATA LIMITED \$14,694 <small>Leather, Sunroof</small>	 2005 TOYOTA AVALON LIMITED \$14,951 <small>Loaded! Only 97K Miles!</small>	 2005 LEXUS ES 330 \$14,991 <small>Loaded! 63K Miles</small>	 2008 NISSAN XTERRA S \$15,292 <small>Only 68K Miles!</small>	 2008 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4X4 \$15,723 <small>Room For The Family</small>	 2008 HYUNDAI SANTA FE \$16,843 <small>Very Low Miles, Sunroof</small>

†Example: New 2012 Toyota Tundra Crew Max Model#8374. Discount includes \$3000 Toyota Cash + \$4000 Dealer Cash = \$7000 Total Savings. All factory incentives and rebates to dealer. Discount excludes tax, tag, title, registration and includes dealer fees. *With approved credit on select models for a limited term. All used car prices exclude tax, tag, title and registration. All prices are on in-stock units only, all vehicles are subject to prior sale. Offers cannot be combined. Photos are for illustration purposes only, may not be actual vehicle. All offers expire end of day 10/28/2012.

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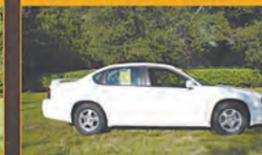
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Large garage sale. 1223 Wild Feather Lane, SCC. Oct. 25, 26 & 27, 8am-2pm. Tools, sequins, Cabbage Patch dolls, antique iron kettle, old records. Something for everyone.

Oct. 26 & 27, 8am-1pm. Caloosa Trace Garage sale. Del Webb W & Lyndhurst Dr.

Garage Sale

Men & women's clothing, queen size sleigh bed w/ mattress, queen bedspread, valances, decorative pillows, riding lawn mower, stroller, toys, decorations, glasses, elliptical, motor scooter & misc. Friday, Oct. 26, 8am-2pm. Saturday Oct. 27, 8am-noon. 3801 Cardenal Ave., Ruskin (Village of Cypress Creek, LaPaloma)

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Oct. 26 & 27, Garage sale. 334 Northway Dr, SCC. 8am-2pm. Lots of tools, price to sell. Some household, dishes, cookware etc.

Neighborhood sale. 915 & 917 Windton Oak Dr. College Chase subdivision, 8am-2pm. Friday & Saturday. Something for everyone.

Garage sale. SCC. 810 El Rancho Dr., Antiques, collectibles, fishing rods & reels, tools, household. Thursday 10/25, Friday 10/26, Saturday, 10/27, 8am-1pm.

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Fall Clean-out & decorating sale. Custom entertainment cabinet, tin can collection, too many items to mention. 1709 Meridian St., Ruskin. Friday 10/27 & Saturday 10/28, 8am-2pm.

Southern Company Chorus, fundraiser yard sale. Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm 1403 Brattleboro, SCC. (off Bunker hill). Lots of great stuff.

Not to miss! Neighborhood sale. Oct. 26 & 27, 8am-2pm. Caloosa Creek Ct., SCC E/W Del Webb. Lots of everything.

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330 FURNITURE

Furniture sale. Saturday 27, 1134 Emerald Dunes Drive SCC. Excellent condition: couches, love seat, chair, Queen bed, china cabinet, hutch, dining table & chairs.

Electric lift chair, blue cloth, \$195. Queen electric Craftmatic bed, head & foot elevation & time massage \$300. Dark Bamboo glass top round dinette set w/ 4 chairs \$150. Small antique desk \$100. SCC area. Brian 727-259-3697

360 GOLF CARTS

Golf carts wanted. Buy sell, trade. Chargers, parts all related. Ronny's Carts & Parts. 813-484-9855 or 813-645-4515

395 WANTED TO BUY

I buy pre-1965 kitchenware, fishing gear, pocketknives, tools, toys, books, cans, tins, Singer sewing machines & more. Jeff. 813-645-4337

MARINE 400

425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

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REAL ESTATE 500

511 HOUSE FOR SALE

■ **RUSKIN DUPLEX:** 3BR/1.5BA on one side, remodeled kitchen, new appliances, inside utility, covered deck for barbecues, and 1BR/1BA on other side. New roof, CHA, large fenced corner lot and circular driveway, close to school and shopping. \$68,500.

■ **STARTER/RETIREMENT HOUSE, RUSKIN:** Nicely maintained 2BR/1BA concrete-block home, with central heat and air, attached utility-room, shed in backyard. Convenient location close to everything, a block from river. \$59,900.

■ **LARGE DOUBLEWIDE ON EXTRA LARGE LOT:** Nicely maintained 2BR/2BA + small den, offers huge MBR & MBA, "L" shaped living/dining room, insulated sunroom, screened porch, carport, utility shed + other shed for tools. Almost 1/2 acre lot! Immediate occupancy if needed. \$65,000.



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RE/MAX South Shore Realty
Roberta Rowe, Realtor
Cell: 813-215-7127

HAMPTON exp., KP on golf course, screened lanai, large laundry room, carport..... \$57,500
1BR/1.5BA Andover, WD, furn..... \$16,000
2BR/2BA Bedford, furnished, enclosed lanai, washer/dryer..... \$29,000

RENTALS
2BR/2BA furn., close to clubhouse..... from \$700 month
1BR/1.5BA W/D hook-up..... \$550 month

M.H. HOUSING 550

555 M.H. FOR SALE

Reconditioned mobile homes from 8K to 35K also rentals in park. 813-671-1615 6644 US 301 S. Riverview.

565 M.H. IN PARKS

One bedroom mobile home, completely furnished. \$3,000 55+ park, Ruskin. Call 813-400-7042

3br/1ba MH in 55+ park. Furnished or unfurnished. Washer/ dryer, (2) large attached enclosed rooms, carport, close to clubhouse & pool. Reduced \$9,000 Ruskin. Call Dave 813-447-6123

Rent to own, renovated with A/C, small down payment \$235 monthly rent. 205 Yost Park, Ruskin. W. Shell Point Rd. Phone 317-645-3851

RENTALS 600

610 WATERFRONT RENTALS

The Dolphin House, 768 Gran Kaymen Way, Apollo Beach, efficiency apartments on water. Boat docking/ fishing, laundry. \$185 weekly, plus \$300 deposit, utilities included. No pets. 813-863-6123

611 HOUSES FOR RENT

4br/2ba Apollo Beach home, large privacy fence. \$1,150 monthly plus deposit. 813-482-6374

4br/2ba, fully furnished, w/ appliances. no pets/ smoking. Lithia area. \$2000 monthly (excludes utilities). One month security deposit required. 401-369-2991

Small 1br/1ba house on 1/2 acre. Ruskin area. \$750 monthly includes utilities \$500 deposit. No pets. 813-741-0949

Sun City 55+
2br/2ba/ 1br/1ba. Includes: yard care, water, sewer, trash collection, recreation card. No smoking, no pets 813-634-9695

612 APTS FOR RENT

For rent: Efficiency apartments. Weekly rates, utilities furnished 813-677-8789, 813-601-1542 or 813-516-0896

614 DUPLEX FOR RENT

Riverview apt, 2br/1ba, CHA, water, maintenance included. Tile floors. \$600 monthly \$600 security. Ask for Vicky 813-548-8178 or 813-641-8400

Large 3br/1ba, with office, all appliances, fireplace, large fenced yard. Ruskin area. Pet negotiable. \$900 monthly plus deposit. Call 813-641-9511

620 ROOMS FOR RENT

Room for rent \$100 weekly. Utilities inclusive. Southeast Riverview, pool, private bath. 813-965-4085 Brenda

630 M.H. RENTALS

For Rent: Clean Mobile Homes With A/C. 813-677-1086

For lease. 1br/1br mobile home in quiet park on river. No pets, \$500 monthly plus deposit. 813-645-2446

One bedroom mobile home on water. Fish off dock. Utilities included \$175 weekly \$400 deposit. Ruskin 813-363-6001

For rent. 2 bedroom mobile home near shopping center in Gibsonton. 813-677-8789, 813-601-1542 or 813-516-0896

Mobile home for rent. 1-3 bedroom, Family friendly, quiet park, Gibsonton. (Alafia St) 813-574-9103, Ruskin 813-919-0375. Se habla espanol

646 WAREHOUSE SPACE

Garage & mini storage, RV lots & mobile home lots for rent. Call Pirates Treasure Cove, Gibsonton. 813-677-1137

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RUSKIN DUPLEX: 3BR/1.5BA on one side, remodeled kitchen, new appliances, inside utility, covered deck for barbecues, and 1BR/1BA on other side. New roof, CHA, large fenced corner lot and circular driveway, close to school and shopping. \$68,500. Call CLAIRES 363-7250

STARTER/RETIREMENT HOUSE, RUSKIN Nicely maintained 2BR/1BA Concrete block home, with central heat and air, attached utility-room, shed in back yard. Convenient location close to everything, a block from river. \$59,900. Call CLAIRES 363-7250

LARGE DOUBLEWIDE ON EXTRA LARGE LOT! This 2BR/2BA + little den offers huge MBR & MBA, "L" shaped living/dining-room, insulated sun room, screened porch, carport, utility shed + other shed for tools. Almost ½ acre lot! Immediate occupancy if needed. \$65,000. Call CLAIRES 363-7250

CARIBBEAN ISLES IN APOLLO BEACH! Very well-maintained 3BR/2BA MH in gated waterfront community. Special features include: nice open floor plan with split bedrooms, extra large kitchen with tons of cabinets, wet bar, new insulated windows, new flooring & carpet, remodeled bathrooms, workshop, fruit trees and much more! OWNER FINANCING A POSSIBILITY. \$79,000 Call ROXANNE WESTBROOK 813-748-2201

COUNTRY CHARM – KEY WEST FLAVOR. 3BR, 2-1/2BA, Mexican tile throughout, wet bar with icemaker & sink, glass doors on kitchen cabinets, French doors to patio. Plantation shutters in front bedroom, vaulted ceilings. Koi pond with waterfall, wrap-around porch & private screened cat porch. Loads of storage & closet space. 1.59 acres with fruit trees, oak trees & lots of parking space. Garage with workshop. Truly one of a kind. Priced at \$349,900. Call KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201

COMMERCIAL ACREAGE IN RUSKIN! 3.7 acres (MOL) with CG Zoning. The initial work has been done for office buildings. This property has a great location, on corner of 10th St SW and Woodland Estates. \$374,900 Call KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201

BEAUTIFUL LAKEFRONT LOT 1.6 acres to build your dream home and not be too near your neighbors. 123 acres of Lake and 900 acres of wetlands to enjoy every day. Call KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201 \$94,900.

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CLOSE IN TIME TO ENJOY BALMY WINTER WORRY-FREE Great 2BR/2BA plus den/library/office condo where someone else maintains landscaping, pool, clubhouse and exteriors. If you don't want to hang around all year, rent it. Fireplace, vaulted ceilings, central vacuum, screened porch, lots of storage, 1.5 car garage. \$105,000. JUDY ERICKSON 468-0288

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TIRED OF A BIG HOME or JUST TIRED OF THE WEATHER? Imagine a home in a lovely over 55 gated mobile home park where you can travel at will, walk out the door and not worry. This manufactured home has it all, lots of space, three bedrooms, two full baths, great room and gathering room and a large kitchen with nice, new or almost new appliances and an inside laundry room. This is no average place, with a vacant lot adjoining. 105 St. George Circle, Caribbean Isles. Price negotiable.

BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM GOLFER'S DREAM, 2/2 on the golf course with spectacular view of course and waterways. Light and bright with volume ceilings, large rooms, gourmet kitchen; nice lanai with lots of windows. Interior is handicapped accessible, and the master closet is large enough to be a nursery. The shower room is huge. This custom builder knew how to build a fine home. \$196,000.

WHAT A LOT OF LOT, dual zoning, general commercial or buyer can build multiple residential. Location is minutes from the expressway for delivery or access. Flat and all the utilities are close by. Corner of W. College and 4th Street, Ruskin, near Hwy 41. Two plus acres. Asking only \$150,000.

