

THE OBSERVER NEWS

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Decades later, a big welcome home for WWII veterans

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN mitch@observernews.net

In the nation's Capitol, they are treated as celebrities or rock stars. Young people approach to shake their hands or give them hugs while young men and women in uniform chat with them as peers with deep respect visible in their eyes and on their faces. Whenever possible, members of Congress show up to greet them. They are veterans of World War II on honor flights, the result of efforts made by communities, residents and businesses to allow the veterans to see the memorial built in their honor.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN FILE PHOTO
The Florida pillar, one of 56 pillars that border the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

On May 7, Honor Flight of West Central Florida completed their 10th mission to the World War II and other memorials in Washington, ferrying 79 WWII veterans up and back on the same day from St. Petersburg / Clearwater International Airport aboard a chartered Allegiant Airlines jet.

Sons and daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren, students in ROTC uniforms, members of the various branches of the military, including officers from U.S. Central Command at MacDill, friends, neighbors, Patriot Guard riders and even bagpipers were at the airport late that night to welcome them home, an estimated 600 people in all.

"This is probably the biggest night some of these guys have had in 68 years," said one volunteer.

Despite the long day of travel, the veterans appeared energized by their



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Christie Dyer of Word O Mouth Referrals in Riverview, along with Debbie Kirkland and Tanya Doran of the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce were among an estimated 600 people at the St. Petersburg / Clearwater International Airport to welcome the veterans home.

► See HONOR FLIGHT, page 2



US CENTCOM exec is keynoter at Memorial event

The Veterans Council of Hillsborough County, Inc. will conduct its annual Memorial Day Celebration at the Veterans Memorial Park & Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins, Jr. Museum at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 26. *More details on page 14.*

Memorial Day ceremony at SCC

Monday, May 27, at 10 a.m. in the Borini Theater, Kings Point Main Clubhouse. Doors open at 9 a.m. for free open seating. Featured speaker: Former Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll, retired US Navy Lieutenant Commander.

The focus of this Memorial Day ceremony is to honor all past or present community veterans with special tribute paid to those veterans who have died since May, 2012.

Holiday deadlines

The Observer News office will be closed Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. Advertising and press release deadlines will advance as follows:

Classified ads 4 p.m., May 24
Display ads..... 11 a.m., May 24
News releases.... 4 p.m., May 23

For more information or questions, call 813-645-3111 or visit our website at www.ObserverNews.net.

Also, a reminder to clubs and organizations: if your group will be suspending or changing its hours of operations or meeting this summer, let your members know by submitting a notice to The Observer News. Email to editor@observernews.net.

District announces Summer Food Service Program

Hillsborough County Public Schools will sponsor the annual "Summer Food Service Program for Children" Monday through Thursday, June 10 through Aug. 8, at schools with extended school year programs.

Parents/guardians should visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org for a list of locations.

Respect for the dead, respect for the law

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN mitch@observernews.net

The physical toll was apparent as volunteers, with sweat running down their faces in the muggy morning sunshine, worked with gloves, shovels, rakes and pitchforks. The aching muscles could be relieved with aspirin or some balm, and a bit of relaxation. The emotional toll, however, was much less obvious. That toll could run deeper than a few sore muscles, and it could last longer. Aspirin would not help.

On Saturday, a few dozen volunteers turned out to clean up Ruskin Memorial Park. The nonprofit association that operates the community-owned cemetery normally holds clean-up events in February and October, but now they had no choice. The state of Florida has cited the cemetery for numerous violations, all contained in a citation composed of a three-inch tall stack of paper. The cemetery, a nonprofit organization running on a shoestring budget, is forced to pay a \$2,000 fine and get the grounds into compliance

immediately. Everyone involved in this place, a place created by community leaders to ensure respect for the dead, is a volunteer.

"We have been fined and if we

don't clean up it is going to get heavier," said cemetery volunteer Debbie Bonebrake.

Mother's Day weekend was a tough time to have to clean up a cemetery. One grave was

overflowing with artificial flowers and balloons labeled, "Happy Mother's Day." The woman had passed away 12 years ago, but she was clearly not forgotten. What would be forgotten are the decorations for that special day. Within a week, perhaps two, those decorations would soon become so much trash littering the hallowed ground, the balloons deflated, the flowers ragged and faded. They would be left for someone else to clean up. The reality is, there is no "someone else". There are only the volunteers. Perhaps that family would be different; perhaps they planned to clean it up later. But not many actually do.

"This is hard," said one volunteer with tears streaming down her face. "We don't want to do this but we have to do it. The state says we have to. I wish people would realize that."

The woman also asked that if people wanted to build memorials for loved ones, doing something

► See CEMETERY CLEAN UP, page 3



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Perhaps most appropriately, some of the younger volunteers removed the bricks, toys and other things left on the grave of a child at Ruskin Memorial Park on Saturday. The state of Florida has fined the non-profit cemetery for numerous violations due to the extravagantly decorated graves.

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Honor Flight returns

► Continued from page 1

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

overwhelming welcome home. Nearly everyone in the crowd reached out to shake their hands and thank them for their service. In response, many of the veterans smiled and simply said, "Thank you for being here." The wife of one veteran jokingly worried that her husband, upon seeing the hundreds of people cheer for him, would forget that he still has to take out the trash at home.

According to Honor Flight of West Central Florida, eight south and east Hillsborough County veterans were onboard for this mission. Riverview veterans include John Mayhall, Thomas Palmer and Marion Seigler. Veterans from Sun City Center include Allen Duncanson, James Hawthorne, Paul Monnette, Donald Phillips and Walter Dunn.

Honor Flight of West Central Florida is operated entirely by volunteers and is facing pressure from the passage of time. The youngest WWII veterans are 85 years old, with an average age of 90. The organization estimates there are approximately 32,000 WWII veterans in their service area, which includes the Tampa Bay Area. According to the organization, nearly 500 veterans are on a waiting list for future flights, with the next planned

for early June. Donations from businesses and individuals will be required to make the future flights possible.

The National World War II Memorial, located on the National Mall next to the Reflecting Pool and between the Lincoln and Washington Memorials, was completed in 2004, nearly 60 years after the end of the war. More than 4.4 million people visit the memorial each year.

According to organizers, donations from several area businesses were instrumental in allowing the 10th Honor Flight to take off, including Mosaic, Walmart, the Brandon area Chick-Fil-A, the Osprey Observer and the FishHawk Barbershop on Boyette Road in Riverview. A donation of approximately \$400 will cover the trip for one veteran.

To donate, sign up for a future Honor Flight, volunteer, or for more information, visit www.honorflightwcf.org. Every dollar donated goes entirely towards the transportation of the veterans to the memorial.

For more photos from the welcome home ceremony, visit The Observer News online at www.observernews.net.



World War II veteran John Mayhall of Riverview was among the first to be welcomed home by an overwhelming crowd at the airport.



A member of the Patriot Guard Riders welcomes a veteran home. Before the plane arrived, the riders assembled out front with their motorcycles.



World War II veteran William Gerlach with his guardian Robert Silver. Guardians are volunteers who assist the veterans, each pays \$400 to make the trip.



Children, grandchildren and great grandchildren awaited the return of the veterans. In all, an estimated 600 people were on hand to welcome them home.



WWII veteran Thomas Palmer is greeted upon his return from the Honor Flight.



Bagpipers play through the baggage area at the airport where an estimated 600 people were gathered.



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MAY EVENTS

Mon., May 20 • 1:30-3:30 p.m. • Parkinson's Support Group of Sun City Center. Sponsored by The Men's Club of SCC. Facilitated by Eden Feldman, MSW, Director of Outreach at the USF Parkinson's Disease & Movement Disorders Center. Are you concerned about issues walking once your disease progresses? If so, Bre Medlock, OTR/L CLT and Barry Estadt, retired Professor at Loyola University will enlighten you to the possibilities available in order to dismiss that concern. If you have Parkinson's, or are caring for someone with this disease, be sure to attend this support group! FREE Valet Parking available at Entrance.

Tues., May 21 • 2:30-3:30 p.m. • Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group. Bring your loved one for a well deserved break. Facilitated by Aging Care Advocates. Receive information while your loved one is cared for in our Secured Memory Care. RSVP no less than 3 days prior to 813-246-4120. alzheimer's.org association

Thurs., May 23 • 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

Sat., May 25 • 1:30-3 p.m. • Hearing Loss Assistance. Join the Cochlear Ear Implant Support Group. Are you having difficulty with your hearing aid, have a cochlear implant or have severe hearing loss? A Doctor of Audiology from Advanced Bionics will be present to address questions and concerns. The CART recorder will provide real-time captioning. Sponsored by the Bionic Ear Association for people with severe-to-profound hearing loss. RSVP to Sheila 1-386-848-5769.

Tues., May 28 • 2-3 p.m. • Amputee Support Group Facilitated by Ty Wilson, Patient Care Advocate with Orthotic & Prosthetic Centers. The group is open to amputees, their family member, friends and involved medical personnel. It is our goal to enrich the lives of amputees and help them reach their full potential. The tools we use are peer support, education and activism.

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Cemetery clean up

► Continued from page 1

at home would be better. It would certainly be easier on those like her who have to clean it up. She doesn't want to remove the decorations, but she has no choice. For her and the other volunteers, the emotional toll is deep. She knows love and grief play a part in what has happened to the cemetery and that makes the task so much more difficult. She hopes people understand, but she wonders about others.

"It's almost like a game to some people," she said. "Please do this at home instead of here."

The grave of a five-year-old boy who died decades ago was elaborately, certainly lovingly, decorated with bricks, landscaping rocks, home-made ceramics, toys, a marble sheep attached to a deeply-buried and heavy concrete base, and even solar-powered lights. It would all have to go. No one wanted to do that, but there was no choice. The state allows each grave to have an approved headstone and one vase of flowers. If the plot were big enough, perhaps a marble bench would be acceptable. But not bricks, not the trees that some people have planted, not the toys or the landscaping rocks, not the solar-powered lights or the beer bottles found by some of the other graves.

"There are solar lights; there is solar music out here!" Bonebrake said. "There are beer bottles and wind chimes. People have planted their own trees. For many months, our mower was a volunteer and they've been out here 10 or 12 hours trying to work around all of this."

Community leaders chose an appropriate place for the cemetery



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Volunteers remove landscape rocks, marble and ceramic figures. The excess decorations made mowing the expansive cemetery a daunting task.

so many decades ago. While not without problems, it is an area of rare beauty, located on the bluff with the Little Manatee River quietly flowing by 30 feet below. It is a place for contemplation, for introspection, for quietly grieving the loss of a loved one. It is a place to remember them. But on some days it has an almost circus-like aura with the many extravagantly decorated graves. Grief is a personal experience as is how it is dealt with. For those seeking introspection, an elaborately decorated grave next to their loved one may be difficult to take.

On the young boy's grave, the

volunteers cleaned it up, and, as they finished, one woman carefully, respectfully, replanted artificial flowers next to the headstone. It was the most she could do. Other graves, however, went beyond what the volunteers could handle. On one grave, someone had laid a cement slab that had three-foot tall rebar sticking out of it.

"It's almost as though the person is trying to build their own mausoleum," Bonebrake said. "They can't do that. We can't do that. We have families who have threatened to take us to court, but there is nothing we can do about it. It is not us making the

decisions here, the state is making the decisions."

The slab was beyond the means of the shovels, but somehow the thick cement would have to be removed. Somehow the grave would have to be returned to its original state, without the rebar sticking out.

As the teams of volunteers moved slowly through the cemetery cleaning up what the state has mandated must be cleaned up, a family could be seen in another part of the expansive cemetery, decorating the grave of loved one.

"It would be nice if people put this much effort into the living, huh?" said Tony, one of the volunteers, referring to some of the elaborate, makeshift graves. And then, he picked up his shovel and solemnly resumed his work, work that showed respect for the dead but also for the law.

According to Debbie

Bonebrake, with a typical plot fee of approximately \$850, Ruskin Memorial Park, located at the end of 1st Street SW near Manatee Drive, is one of the least expensive cemeteries in the area. Approximately 4,000 sites have been sold; the cemetery is currently roughly half-filled. Bonebrake is hoping relatives will consider making an annual donation of \$50 to help with the ongoing cleanup efforts.

For more information about the cemetery, call 813-645-1144 or email ruskincemetery@gmail.com and tax-deductible donations can be made through the Ruskin Woman's Club Cemetery Fund at the BMO Bank in Apollo Beach. For information, call 813-649-0400. In with their great respect for the dead, cemetery volunteers have no choice but to respect the law. They hope others in the community will step forward to help keep both obligations.



A place of introspection, the cemetery sometimes has an almost circus-like aura. The state allows only a headstone and single vase of flowers.

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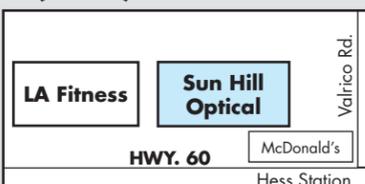
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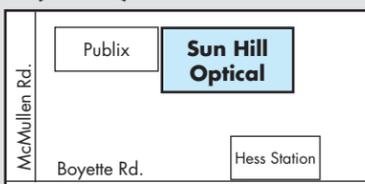
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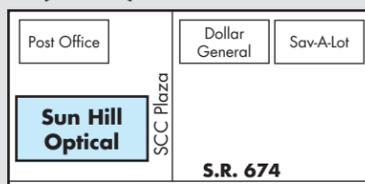
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Positive Talk: PRO-tential (Part 1)

Everyone has potential but do you have PRO-tential? Do you have what it takes to make you a "PRO" in your field?



By William Hodges

To change the latent potential in each of us into the valuable resource that I call PRO-tential takes work.

Potential can be likened to a mountain with a core of gold. Until someone begins working the claim, it is only potential wealth. PRO-tential combines potential and the knowledge and effort required to bring gold out of the mountain and into the marketplace. In our PRO-tential seminar, I suggest to management and sales executives the following ten steps to achieving success. These steps can be applied to your personal life as well.

1. Define your objectives: Begin planning your day, leaving nothing to chance. Know on Friday night what each day of the next week will bring. Take 15 minutes each morning to review and update your schedule. Act rather than react. If you do not take control of your time, someone else will and more often than not it will be time to their benefit, not yours. Here is one more thought on time as expressed by writer Austin Dobson: "Time goes, you say? Ah, no! Alas, time stays. We go." Your time is not infinite, but finite. How and where will you spend it?

2. Establish credibility: Know your company's policies and products. Then promise the client only what you are sure can be delivered. If you will accept

the slogan Underpromise and Overproduce in all your dealings, you will find trust being established between you and your customers, co-workers, supervisors, friends and family. It is difficult to serve two masters, but honesty will pay off for both you and those with whom you interact.

3. Enjoy your work: To do a job right demands both time and energy. To succeed, one must truly enjoy the challenge and love the work. If you do not, the veneer will rub off and the lack of enthusiasm will show through. Philosopher Kahlil Gibran said, "Work is love made visible. And if you cannot work with love but only with distaste, it is better that you should leave your work and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms of those who work with joy." I agree with him that if you are working at something you do not love, you should move on; however, I would prepare myself for some other labor because we have an abundance of people sitting at the gates waiting for a handout.

4. Practice persistence: No task in all creation requires as much persistence as sales, and we all sell something. If you believe in your product and believe the client should be using it, then you must explain it to him again and again until he or she buys it. I remember early in my career when I was talking to a master salesman. I said, "Boy, is that prospect dense; I just cannot seem to get through to him." He replied, "You know the product. You know what it does and how it can help him. Is that true?" I replied with a resounding, "Yes." To which he said, "The client has the need and you have the knowledge. When you have

done your job of explaining the need and the cure, he will buy. Until then, it is not he who is failing to communicate — it is you." I never forgot that piece of advice and never blame a client from that day to this for a lost sale. Persistence is the key. Remember that water will wear away stone.

Next week some more ideas on how to turn your potential to PRO-tential.

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

SouthShore 5k is fundraiser for Bloomingdale Library survivor

East Bay High School's Student Government Association is sponsoring a 5k Race and 1-Mile Fun Run on Saturday, May 18, to help raise funds for the Bloomingdale Library survivor.

The SouthShore 5k Run starts at 8 a.m. at E.G. Simmons Park, 2401 19th Ave. NW in Ruskin. Admission for the race is \$25, \$20 with student ID. The Fun Run is \$10.

For more information, call Tony Zipperer at 813-645-6130.

Self-protection is topic at business woman's meeting

The Southshore Charter Chapter American Business Woman's next meeting is at 5:45 p.m. on Monday, May 20 at Sandpiper Grille in Sun City Center.

The speaker will be Richard Liebespach, owner of Self-Protection Concepts, LLC, who will talk on "Heads Up — Stay Safe."

A self-protection instructor, Liebespach will help those in attendance analyze their areas of risk, and will briefly demonstrate techniques that may be used to help ensure safety.

Members are encouraged to bring friends, business associates and relatives. The dinner will be ordered off the Sandpiper's regular menu, with wine, beer and cocktails available for purchase.

To reserve a seat, contact Deb Adams at deb.adams@bmo.com or call her at 813-649-0400.

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

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Advertising and press release deadlines will advance as follows:

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Bunco party raises funds for breast cancer research

A fundraiser for breast cancer will be held Saturday, May 25, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Covington Park Club.

It will be a night of fun and games — specifically Bunco. Four rounds will be played, with prizes awarded. There will also be raffle tickets available for purchase.

Tickets are a \$25 donation, which includes food, drinks and games, and 100 percent of all donations will benefit the Susan G. Komen 3-day Walk for the Cure.

Online reservations may be made at www.the3day.org/goto/darlawing or email darwing6@tampabay.rr.com.

Student art and photography on display at SouthShore Library

Cypress Creek Elementary School is displaying 100 pieces of art in the Community Gallery of SouthShore Regional Library. The theme of the display is “Studies in Visual and Texture, and Texture and Movement.” Students in grades one through five have their work on display through May 31. The art teachers are Sandra Shelton and Keith Johnson of Cypress Creek Elementary.

A photography display from the East Bay High School FFA (Future Farmers of America)

Wildlife Photography Contest will be up through the end of the school year in the library’s Café. Photographs are from fifth grade through adult. Sponsors for this contest were the National FFA and CSK through a wildlife education grant. Kimberly Willis, a teacher at East Bay High School, was in charge of this exhibit.

Anyone interested in displaying at SouthShore Regional Library’s Community Exhibit Space should contact Laurie Burhop, Art Coordinator, at 813-273-3652. Space is limited.



Couple celebrates 50 years of marriage

A year after Gene Daniel moved to Ruskin in 1957, so did his future bride-to-be. Their romance began in 1962 while Carolyn worked at the A&W Rootbeer Hut, where she first met Gene. After a year of courtship, they tied the knot on May 2, 1963 at Northside Baptist Church by Reverend Sible. Now, 50 years later, their passionate love still kindles.

For the past 47 years they have had one address: East Shell Point Road in Ruskin, Florida. They extended their home beautifully and personally. Gene built the living room where plenty of warm and chaotic holidays have been spent (neighbors may be privy to the occasional tractor-drawn Christmas caroling hayride). Carolyn spent the majority of her hairdressing days in her very own shop, while Gene worked at Frankland Racing, Kennco Mfg. and Frank Diehl Farms. Together they raised one son, David Daniel (married to Ju-

lie Daniel of Fort Myers), and one daughter, Vicki Daniel. Grandchildren include Melissa, 23, of Fort Myers; Tiffani, 21, of Fort Myers; and Kyle, 16, of Cape Coral. The extended family includes Carolyn’s four brothers, Gene’s two brothers and two sisters, and 41 nieces and nephews.

Carolyn & Gene celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at Dunn-Diehl Farms on May 4, 2013. They would like to extend thanks to all their friends and family who attended.

When asked what it’s like being married for 50 years, Carolyn stated, “We wouldn’t trade each other for anything. The scary part is sometimes you know what the other one is thinking. They say after a while you start looking like each other. God help us, we are in trouble.” In all, they had a great time and will hold those memories in their hearts forever.



JMDOYLE PHOTO

Standing, from left: Jeanette Doyle, Scholarship Committee Chair; Magdalena Grimaldo, University of South Florida - renewal; Emily Morgan, Lennard HS - University of Florida; Edward Eddie Livesay, FL Gulf Coast University - renewal; Christopher Kyle Privette, East Bay HS - Miami University; Emily Smith, Lennard HS - University of Central Florida; and Sharon Vasquez, ABWC President elect. Seated, from left: Dryden Johnson, East Bay HS - Hillsborough Community College; Sara Orvosh, East Bay HS - University of Florida; Heather Hagelberg, Florida Gulf Coast University - renewal; Sijia C.J. Chen, East Bay HS - University of South Florida; and Taylor Ziola, East Bay HS - Florida State University. Absent from photo: Mary Beth Hampe, University of Florida - renewal; Rachel Jeter, Florida State University - renewal; and Flavia Vazquez, Saint Leo University - renewal

Apollo Beach Woman’s Club awards 13 college scholarships

Seven college-bound students graduating from East Bay High School and Lennard High School, along with six renewing college students, were awarded scholarships by the Apollo Beach Woman’s Club. All live in the community of Apollo Beach and will be attending Florida colleges or universities.

The total amount of the scholarships awarded this year was \$9,500. The funds were raised through club activities and donations.

The program for the May Scholarship Luncheon, held at Little Harbor, focused on awarding

\$1,000 college scholarships for high school graduates for a four-year Florida university or \$500 for a two-year Florida college. A renewal student must apply each consecutive year of undergraduate work to be eligible for a \$500 scholarship. In attendance were club members, scholarship recipients, their guests and the high school college and career counselors.

Scholarship Chair, Jeanette Doyle, offered congratulations to the students and introduced her committee: Judy Peck, Beverly Fletchall, Marcia Ward, Sharon Vasquez and Judy Motta. Member

absent: Mary Haggard. Each committee member introduced their assigned students to the membership. After giving a warm welcome to each, they presented a certificate and provided an opportunity for the student to speak directly to the membership.

ABWC mission is to fund scholarships and membership is open to all women in Apollo Beach and the surrounding area. For additional information see their website at www.apollobeachwomanclub.com or contact Judy Peck, VP Membership, judypeck@tampabay.rr.com or 813-746-1072.



Cypress Creek Elementary Terrific Kids April 2013

The Terrific Kids program at Cypress Creek Elementary is sponsored by Sun City Center Kiwanis. They are: Damian Perez, Timmy Herrera-Ochoa, Johnny Harris, Yosmar Ullod, Joel Valenzuela, Jose Salas, Victor Hilerio, Anisa Heredia, Amarr Brown, Michael Espinoza, Amarilys Barrera-Godinez, Jocelyn Fielder, Romiah Felix, Carlynn Williams, Aries Jones, Jordyn Murray, Maria Ramirez, Kevin Molina, James Woodcock, Shayra Moreno-Ortiz, Erica Vazquez, Kamil Cruz, Isabella Lovitch, Jay’len Alcin, Corneliuss Akines, Kendall Melody, Mosimiloluwa Ajani, Illiandra Burney, Alan Chavez, Andrea Galicia-Zavala, Jaylen Bocanegra, Alaina Williams, Brady Ercolina, Alina Bailey, Kayla Ingram, Alexa Linares-Escajadil, Kimberly Smith, Hector Herculano-Sanchez, Ashley Agustin, Crystal Lopez, Marlene Perez-Vazquez, Isabella Estrada, Angel Montero, Christopher Horne, Jennifer Pazanski, Felicia Fuentes, James Felix, Alejandra Carrasquillo, Andrew Mendiola, Anthony Perez, Jessica Gomez, Alex Hamilton, Ernesto Torres-Lopez, Jose Guzman, Alexandra Valles, Destiny Perez, Claudia Ruiseco, Ashley Hills, Bryson O’Dell, Aislynn Newell, Makenna Fox, Jacob Spradlin, and Jose Hernandez.

IN UNIFORM

Marines

Marine Corps Pfc. Christopher J. Barrett, son of Patricia A. and Michael E. Barrett of Apollo Beach, Fla., earned the title of U.S. Marine after graduating from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C.

For 13 weeks, Barrett 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, Barrett 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.

Barrett is a 2007 graduate of Tampa Catholic High School of Tampa, Fla. He is a 2012 graduate of University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla. with a BS degree.



Air Force

Air Force Airman Cory S. Shafer graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Shafer is the son of Rick Shafer of Marco Drive Northeast, St. Petersburg.

He is a 2011 graduate of Riverview High School.

Navy

Civilian Gianna C. Conroy, daughter of Marie Conroy of Fayetteville, NC and Martin Conroy, of Apollo Beach, Fla., recently enlisted in the U.S. Navy under the Delayed Entry Program at the Navy Recruiting District, Raleigh, NC.

The program allows recruits to enter the Navy and take up to one year to complete prior commitments such as high school. Using recruiters as mentors, this program helps recruits ease into the transition from civilian to military life.

Conroy will report for active duty to undergo basic training at the Navy’s Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill.

Conroy is a 2012 graduate of Cross Creek Early College High School of Fayetteville, NC.

THE SAVVY SENIOR

How Married Couples Can Boost Their Social Security Checks

Dear Savvy Senior, I've heard that there are strategies available that can help married couples increase their Social Security benefits when they retire. My wife and I are approaching retirement age and would like to understand these options. What can you tell us?



By Jim Miller

Getting Prepared

Dear Getting, If you're willing to wait to full retirement age and beyond, married couples have several unique

claiming options that could actually add tens of thousands of dollars to your Social Security checks over your retirement. Here's what you should know.

Waiting Strategy

Before we go over the different benefit boosting options for married couples, it's important to know that the most commonly used strategy for increasing retirement benefits is to delay taking them.

While workers can start collecting their Social Security retirement benefits as early as age 62, postponing them to full retirement age (which is 66 if you were born between 1943 and 1954), or better yet to age 70, can make a big difference.

Let's say, for example, that you're eligible for a \$1,200 monthly benefit at age 62. By waiting to 66 your monthly benefit would increase to \$1,600. And by delaying

to age 70, you would boost your benefit a whopping 76 percent to \$2,112. Delaying will also increase your wife's survivor benefit if you die first. Waiting, however, beyond age 70 will not increase your benefits.

Claim and Suspend

In addition to waiting, Social Security also offers two other little known strategies for married couples, but you must be at least full retirement age (currently 66) to use them.

The first one is called "claim and suspend" (see ssa.gov/retire2/suspend.htm) that allows a worker at full retirement age to file for Social Security so their spouse can begin collecting a spousal benefit, but asks to receive their own benefit later.

This is best suited for one-earner couples where one spouse worked full-time and the other spouse did not work outside the home or did not work long enough to qualify for Social Security retirement benefits.

Here's an example of how it works: Let's say that you are age 66, but want to keep working until 70 to collect a higher benefit. Let's also say your wife is a nonworking spouse who just turned 62 and would like to start receiving spousal benefits on your work record. The problem is she can't get them until you sign up. So you file for your Social Security benefits but request an immediate suspension which allows your wife to claim spousal benefits, without locking you into a lower payment for life. Then when you do decide to start

collecting, at age 70, you end the suspension and receive a higher benefit for delaying.

This strategy can also be used if you have children under 18, or 19 if they are still attending high school, or are disabled. Each dependent child is eligible for up to 50 percent of the retiree's full benefit. And, if any child is younger than 16, your spouse can also qualify for additional benefits as a caregiver, even if she's under age 62.

Claim Twice

For two-career couples, the second strategy known as "claim twice," lets you collect Social Security (at full retirement age) first as a spouse and later using your own work record.

Here's how it works: Let's say that you are 66 and would like to continue working until age 70. But, your wife started collecting her benefits on her own work record at age 64. You could file a "restricted" application with Social Security and collect a spousal benefit which is half of what your wife gets. Then, once you reach 70, you stop receiving the spousal benefit and switch to your own benefit, which will be 32 percent higher than the benefit you would have collected at your full retirement age.

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.

Happy Bald Day & Meat-BALD Contest set for June 15

On Saturday, June 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Ybor City Saturday Market will host its first annual Happy Bald Day, sure to be a hair-raising event for everyone. Bald (and almost bald) individuals will have the opportunity to enter their "baldness" in various categories:

- Smoothest
- Youngest/Oldest
- Going Bald
- Best Decorated

In addition, 10-12 contestants will compete in a Meat-BALD Cooking Contest, all vying to earn the title of Best Meat-BALD in Tampa Bay. This culinary competition will require contestants to compete with a 'naked' meatball, no sauce allowed to better taste the seasoned meat. Judges will consist of local food critics and meatball connoisseurs.

Cash prizes, judging slot for 2014 and of course, bragging rights will be awarded to the top three winners. Entry space is still available.

Ybor City Saturday Market is in Centennial Park (corner of 8th Avenue and 19th Street) in Tampa.

Happy Bald Day is hosted by the Ybor City Saturday Market, honoring those who are battling cancer. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Email ybormarket@yahoo.com for details.

See the current issues of The Observer News, as well as past issues, classified advertising, advertising information, and much more!
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PET TIP: Consider a companion for your cat. Interacting through play provides plenty of exercise and combats boredom. Be aware, though, that some cats prefer to be alone. The introduction of a new cat may cause problems.

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Golf tournament benefits Wimauma Elementary

The Frank E. Lowe's Children's Charity held a fundraising golf tournament April 20 at the Apollo Beach Golf & Sea Club. The tournament has funded events for students in South Shore area schools for the past 11 years, with Wimauma Elementary benefiting for the past two. Shown thanking Lowe for his generosity is school Media Specialist Gail Greenmun, who presented him with a tee-shirt and a picture of the students at Wimauma Elementary.

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Eating organic is catching on

By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

We may have come a long way since our great-grandparents time, but many say our food isn't nearly as good for us.

Some claim the pesticides and chemicals to lengthen ripening and/or shelf life have made a lot of the things we consume less safe.

That's why organic foods are catching on.

The American Cancer Society has a statement on its website that says food additives are added in small FDA approved amounts, but that many things- including chemicals used in farming and the raising of farm animals- often find their way into the food supply inadvertently and can raise your cancer risk.

"Adding substances to foods to prolong storage life and to enhance color, flavor and

texture is an area of great public interest," said Erin Stawarz, communications manager for the American Cancer Society's Tampa office. "Some food processing, such as freezing and canning vegetables and fruits, can actually preserve vitamins and other components that may decrease cancer risk. Cooking or heat-treating - like with canning-breaks down the plant cell walls and may allow the helpful compounds in these foods to be more easily digested. But some of these methods may also lower the content of some heat-sensitive vitamins, such as vitamin C and some B."

Stawarz added that concern about the possible effects of food additives on health, including cancer, is one reason that many people are now interested in organic foods. "But whether organic foods carry a lower risk of

cancer because they are less likely to be contaminated by compounds that might cause cancer is largely unknown," he said.

Still, many swear growing organically makes a difference. They say that not putting pesticides and ingredients you can't pronounce into your body has to be the best course of action.

Just looking at the growth of organic sections of major chain supermarkets tells a story.

"Many of our customers say they are looking for groceries that are less processed and more pure. They want to avoid foods treated with pesticides, chemicals, hormones and antibiotics," said Shannon Patten, spokeswoman for Publix Southwest Florida stores based in Lakeland. "We strive to meet the needs of our customers and provide them a greater range of choices, so we continue to offer more organic products throughout every category of our store."

Publix has also initiated a different type of store, called GreenWise Market, dedicated completely to organic products although none are yet in the coverage area of this newspaper. "We opened our first Publix GreenWise Market store in Palm Beach Gardens in 2007 and one Tampa location in 2008. These locations have all organic, all natural and earth-friendly products, along with freshly prepared meals, a great selection of artisan cheeses, fine wines, handcrafted fresh breads and



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

Organically-grown fruits and vegetables have gained in popularity during the last 10 years causing many mom-and-pop markets to spring up. Major grocery chains are also adding larger organic and "natural" sections.

much more," she added.

There are no plans to open a GreenWise Market in South County, Brandon or other Tampa locations at this time but Publix (as are other chains) is adding more and more organic choices and whole sections as older stores are remodeled or enlarged. Addresses of existing GreenWise stores are available on the Publix website.

There are several mom and pop organic stores in range of this newspaper however, and additionally there are several roadside stands and Farmer's Markets where organically-grown products are available, including the long-standing Ybor Fresh Market on weekends in Centennial Park in Tampa and the South Shore Sunday Market held the last Sunday every month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the corner of U.S. 41 and Shell Point Road in Ruskin.

My Mother's Garden is a certified organic farm in Wimauma that grows culinary herbs, salad greens, edible flowers and native plants. It also has grass-fed beef cows and hogs that have been raised without antibiotics or animal by-products and hens for fresh brown eggs.

In Tampa, Sweetwater Organic Community Farm gives group tours and organic growers workshops for home gardeners as well. It also has a website for those who are interested. This farm has been in business since 1993 and its published materials say it has served more than 15,000 people.

More information may be found by putting Tampa FL organic farms and/or stores in a web search bar.

Information about this topic is also available online from the American Cancer Society at <http://www.cancer.org/healthy>



Organic coffee is available at many stores. Publix has extended the organic market to a new type of store called GreenWise that sells nothing but organic products, although no GreenWise stores are yet available within the coverage area of this newspaper.

Hillsborough County Fire Rescue offers tips on avoiding fires in dry season

From January to April of this year, approximately 1,100 wildfires have destroyed more than 22,000 acres of land in Florida. As we reach the height of the dry season, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue is urging residents to follow these suggestions to prevent setting an unintentional brush fire:

- Do not discard cigarettes from moving vehicles; use ashtrays.
 - Do not leave your car running over dry grass for a long period of time. The heat from the exhaust could start a fire.
 - Do not use fireworks or other fire-making devices that might set an unintentional fire.
 - Do not operate all-terrain vehicles on dry vegetation areas.
 - Check lawnmowers and farm equipment for properly working spark arresters.
 - Properly extinguish fires when cooking outdoors and never leave fires unattended.
 - Practice fire safety with your family, and discuss these rules with your children.
 - If you see a suspicious fire or smoke, call 911. Be aware of prescribed burns taking place in your area, so you will know whether or not a fire in your area has been intentionally set for maintenance or not.
 - Make your property "firewise" by trimming and removing dead vegetation and mowing to at least 30-50 feet away from your home, and removing flammable materials near your house, such as wood piles.
 - Clearly mark all driveway entrances with name and address, in case Fire Rescue or other emergency services need to locate your house.
- More information about making your house and community "firewise" and preventing wildfires is available on the Florida Division of Forestry website or the Florida Division of Emergency Management website.
- Also, watch a companion PSA recently produced by HTV on preventing brush and wildfires with Fire Rescue Chief Ron Rogers and Commissioner Victor Crist. The PSA was filmed on location at the site in FishHawk where a brush fire recently occurred.
- Additionally, open burning, such as household trash burning, is not allowed in Hillsborough County. The only exceptions to the open burning laws are:
- fires for heat and cooking, such as for camping or grilling. Ceremonial fires can be conducted with a permit from the Hillsborough County Fire Marshal.
 - allowed agricultural burning to maintain land, when it follows the Florida Division of Forestry regulations.
 - land clearing operations prior to commercial development, including the initial clearing of land for agricultural purposes, when approved by the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission (EPC).
- Additional information on allowable open burning is available by calling the Fire Marshal's Office at 813-744-5541.

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As seen in Southern Living Magazine

Mock interview hones skills for job-seekers

On Wednesday, May 29 from 10 a.m. to noon, those seeking a job can hone their interview techniques at a special workshop offered at The Centre, 305 South Hyde Park Ave. in Tampa. Instructor Laura Breitzman, a corporate recruiter, will cover your job

description, interview questions, and follow-up interview questions, and help you with tips on how to answer questions.

A mock interview is one of the very best ways to prepare for an actual employment interview. It will help you

learn what is expected in a real interview, and improve how you present yourself.

It is a safe place to practice interview skills and gain feedback.

There is no cost for this workshop. To reserve a place, call 813-251-8437.

You, me and business: Remodeling leads to upgraded Chamber

After two years of bit-by-bit remodeling, the condo Husband and I bought in 2011 is finally complete. It was a lot of work. All new floors in gorgeous slate. A totally re-designed luxury bathroom with a 36 square foot dual-headed shower stall and dresser converted into a vanity with two raised-bowl sinks. Fresh paint inside and out and lots of sweat equity in the flower bed has turned this quaint bungalow into a really nice place.

white light-weight plastic – easy to move and comfortable to sit on. It elevates the mood just to see them. All of the old chairs and tables were donated to a local church.



By Dana Dittmar, Executive Director SCC Chamber of Commerce

So what do we do now? Buy another one and start the process all over again! This unit will become a rental and we have purchased another, larger unit a few streets over.

When I look at the before and after photos of the condo, I'm amazed how these changes have altered the entire look and feel of the property. The building may be decades old, but the look is all this century.

Similarly, we continue to change the look and feel of the Chamber building. This past month, we put in all new wood floors in the kitchen and purchased all new tables and chairs for our banquet room. The kitchen floor had cracked and settled unevenly. The new light wood (really a laminate but you'd never know) truly modernized the room, which guilted us into cleaning out all of the junk that had accumulated there.

The old banquet tables were heavy wood and difficult to move around when we needed another configuration. The chairs were a faded dusty rose that clashed with the turquoise in the carpet. Now both tables and chairs are a bright

We've been upgrading the Chamber for over two years now, starting with fresh paint inside and out and topped with a new roof. We then repaved the parking lot and added tropical artwork to the windows and doors. Along the way we've added lots of landscaping and cleaned up the outside.

It has made a world of difference to those of us who work here, and we constantly get compliments from our visitors who like what we've done. But we still have more things planned! Next year, we intend to remodel the banquet room with new paint and build a secure storage area for the things we don't use every day.

Our banquet room is home to four different church congregations throughout the week, in addition to serving as the meeting room for Business Networking International. We also host meetings of several non-profits including Critter Area Rescue Effort, AA, OA, our Emergency Squad and now the Community Emergency Rescue Team.

Needless to say, the room gets a lot of traffic which results in lots of wear and tear. It deserves a face-lift!

It's a good thing I love remodeling projects. It looks like my two-year venture at work and on the home front will continue for a while. And that's just fine with me. Hand me the hammer!

District announces Summer Food Service Program

Hillsborough County Public Schools will sponsor the annual "Summer Food Service Program for Children" Monday through Thursday, from June 10 through Aug. 8, at schools with extended school year programs.

The program is similar to the National School Lunch Program. It provides nutritionally balanced meals to children regardless of race, color, sex, disability, age, or national origin during the summer vacation when school breakfast and lunch are not available.

Schools with a summer school program will provide all children 18 years old and younger a breakfast and lunch at no charge, regardless of whether the child is enrolled in summer school. Parents/guardians should call individual sites to verify meal times.

Free child care provider trainings offered this summer

Hillsborough County Extension Service and the University of Florida are conducting free trainings for licensed child care providers in Hillsborough County.

Workshops will be held at the Hillsborough County Extension office, 5339 County Road 579 in Seffner. Participants can receive CEU's from the University of Florida.

Dates and topics:

■ **Thursday, May 30, 6:45 – 8:45 p.m. Avoid Behavior Problems: Teach Self-Control.** Classroom ideas for teaching preschool children about self-control, which can lead to better classroom behavior.

■ **Tuesday, June 4, 7 – 9 p.m. Responsive Environments and Routines.** Strategies for designing a responsive physical and emotional environment that promotes children's social and emotional growth.

■ **Saturday, June 8, 9 – 11 a.m. Building Caring Environments.** Building positive, nurturing, dependable and caring relationships with young children.

■ **Saturday, July 6, 9 – 11 a.m. Creating Special Moments with Infants and Toddlers.** How to create special moments with infants and toddlers while doing daily activities and routines.

■ **Tuesday, July 16, 7 – 9 p.m. What Does Time Mean to Children?** How to help children understand the concept of time through routines, activities and learning concepts.

To register, go to <http://extension.psu.edu/cyttap> and click on the green "state training" tab at bottom of page, then choose "Florida" then "Tampa". Find the workshop you want to register for.

The workshops are free if you click "yes" when asked if you have a child from a military family in your care and you are licensed in Hillsborough County. The cost for non-providers or providers outside of Hillsborough County is \$10 per workshop.

For questions, contact Diana Converse at 813-744-5519 ext. 54140, or visit: www.hillsboroughcounty.org/index.aspx?nid=786.

Saturday, May 18th

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Shampoo & Set Price will vary with length or condition of hair. Haircut extra. Not valid with other offers. OSS1 - EXP. 5/31/13 \$12 ⁰⁰	Senior Cut (60 & up) Free Shampoo & Lite Dry Specialty cuts, blow-dry style, design lines, set or curling iron extra. Not valid with other offers. OA5 - EXP. 5/31/13 \$10 ⁹⁵

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Church at the Bar idea spreading

Young pastor, Brandon woman started group at O'Brien's Irish Pub

■ By KEVIN BRADY

Jesus did change water into wine but few people expect to find him in a bar; however, once a month in Brandon, that's exactly where you will find some of his disciples.

Church at the Bar is the brainchild of Nathan DeWard, a young minister who was looking for ways to bring his message to those who are more comfortable surrounded by Budweisers and bar stools than crosses and pews.

"It's attractive to people who often feel judged by churches," said DeWard, 36, whose idea has caught on with pastors in New York and Iowa. "It's a simple model that doesn't require a lot of programming or money; in fact, it requires no money. I think that simplicity appeals to people."

Born in Grand Rapids, Mich., DeWard, 36, attended Calvin College, meeting his future wife, Andrea, there. He went on to attend Western Theological Seminary in the Wolverine State.

DeWard took pre-seminary courses in college with "the idea that I would go that way but it wasn't until after college that I had a profound experience that saw God speaking to me through a time of prayer that led to seminary."

Graduating in 2003, DeWard and his wife, also a minister, spent eight years as co-pastors at a Michigan church. An offer to join the Reformed Church in America starting a new church in Florida came in 2011.

Holding services in a small room at the corner of Boyette and Bell Shoals Roads, DeWard began to explore his new surroundings. Last April, during Holy Week, he found himself at a Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce event in Riverview where he came across a woman who would inspire him to take a radical new approach to ministry.

Brandon marketing guru Irma Davila was emceeding the event.

"She walked up and said, 'You are a pastor, you don't want to talk to me, I am having a drink,' but I

told her she was exactly the type of person I wanted to talk to."

Discussing ways to attract younger people to faith, Davila jokingly suggested a novel approach.

"I told him 'the only way you are going to get me in a church is if you hold it in a bar.' I figured that was my brushoff line for him," said Davila, CEO of Brandon's ID Marketing & Events.

DeWard called her bluff.

"He asked if I could find a bar, he would do it. Then he kept emailing me and asking when we would hold the first meeting. I knew Sean Rice (co-owner of the pub) would be open to it because it is in line with his idea that O'Brien's should be modeled on an Irish pub, which is a public house where everyone can meet."

The pair agreed on a format, invited a few friends and began meeting in a small side room at O'Brien's Irish Pub and Family Restaurant, 701 W. Lumsden Road, in what DeWard calls a "non-judgment zone." Meetings begin with the reading of a short Bible passage and the discussion flows from there.

"We simply wanted people with no prior faith experience to be able to come and learn about Jesus and his message and not feel like they needed to apologize or feel judged for not having previous experience," DeWard said.

The first meeting last April saw 10 people gathered around a table with Bibles but as many as 30 have shared a table. "It functions like a small group of friends and of course it is open to anyone."

Although his fledgling Brandon church closed in January — DeWard is now working with a new church in Michigan — the innovative ministry is still going strong at O'Brien's.

"I think there's a real hunger for a life with God and when people are reluctant to go to a church worship service but are open to a faith experience it means Christ's followers do exactly what Christ did

and interact with folks," DeWard said.

Tim Dowd is now chairing the monthly gatherings at O'Brien's. "I am an Irish Catholic so drinking and religion are not opposites in my world," said the FishHawk resident. "We grew up in that mindset that just because you drink a beer every once in a while it's not a spiritual death sentence."

Dowd believes it can help a significant part of the population who are hungry for a spiritual experience but are turned off by traditional churches.

"Everyone has an internal mechanism that tells you if you are OK and some of those walking around who are not OK don't know they have a hole in their soul. Our mission is to at least give them an opportunity to come and share with people who will not judge them."

Karl House, a pastor at Riverview's JesusChurch, is also assisting with the effort but in the background.

"We don't want (Church at the Bar) to be pastor-run but people-run. It creates a safe place for people to check out a life with God without all the trappings of a church which can intimidate some people. It's taking the church to them," said House who runs a Sunday service for JesusChurch at The Regent, 6437 Watson Road.

Thanks to Facebook, the idea has drawn attention beyond Florida.

"People saw our Facebook page and I am now having conversations with pastors in New York, New Jersey and Iowa who also want to start their own Church at the Bar."

The gatherings have been the start of a new life for Davila.

"It helped me crack open a Bible and explore my faith in a comfortable environment. I am now looking around for a church where I feel comfortable," she said.

For more information, visit Church at the Bar on Facebook or call 813-719-5397.

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

Below is the weekly listing of available jobs in the local readership area. Brought to you by The Observer News, Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance and WorkNet Pinellas.

Looking for a JOB?

Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance and WorkNet Pinellas provide job seekers with essential tools needed to find employment; including:

- training opportunities
- job fairs
- workshops
- and, special programs

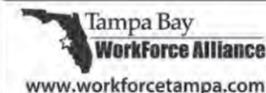


Spray Technician, Ruskin
Ref # 9774164 - Min. 1 yr. of commercial landscape/horticultural spray exp., valid DL. Outdoor env.; hot, humid, cold and inclement. 30-40 hrs./wk., M-F, background/drug testing/ref/motor vehicle check/bonding. **Pay \$8/hr**

Crane Operator, Apollo Beach
Ref # 9774923 - Min. 5 yrs. crane operator experience, NCCCO certified, valid CDL DL (Class B). Will operate mechanical boom and cable or tower and cable equipment. Full-time, day shift, outdoor environment, drug testing/ref/motor vehicle record check. **Pay \$12/hr, DEO**

Account Representative, Riverview
Ref # 9771197 - HS diploma, min. 1 yr. related exp., collections exp. preferred. Inside office environment. Full-time, Sun-Sat w/ some weekends, day shift, background check. **Pay DEO**

TO APPLY for any of the positions above, email: lyonsa@workforcetampa.com with your MS Word resume and include the Ref # above in the subject line.



Local massage therapists complete Cranial Release Technique training

Robin Trotter, LMT (MA61312) and Terrianne Wallace, LMT (MA18542), serving the Tampa Bay South Shore Area, have completed a four-day "Mastery Class" course of study in the Cranial Release Technique, a therapeutic, hands-on procedure designed to improve health by restoring proper function to the nervous system and proper balance to body structure.

The massage therapists participated in the "Master Class" program in Tampa presented by certified instructors affiliated with Cranial Release Technique, Inc.

The "Mastery" program is a 24-hour classroom/lecture and hands-on course. Among a range of topics, participants study the anatomy of the cranium and spinal column,

and engage in a thorough exploration of the principles and mechanics of the process.

In a process lasting only a few minutes, the Cranial Release Technique facilitates a release of long-standing strains within the cranial and nervous systems. The Technique promotes relaxation of the nervous system and muscle tissue tension throughout the body.

As graduates of the Cranial Release Technique Mastery Class program, Trotter and Wallace are now offering the procedure to clients in the local area, in addition to their other therapeutic massage skills. Both massage therapists work. Robin Trotter may be reached at 813-767-3188. Terrianne Wallace may be reached at 813-417-9382.

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Jokes and Riddles

Q: Why are pianos so good at opening doors?

A: They have a lot of keys.

Q: What makes music to your ears?

A: A headband.



Name That Singer

Some kids and teens are great singers and have their own records. Here is a list of some popular kid or teen singers. Fill in the blanks to name the singer.

- 1) JA __ EN S __ IT __
- 2) GR __ Y __ ON
CH __ N __ E
- 3) CYM __ __ ONIQ __ E
- 4) C __ DY SI __ __ SON
- 5) JU __ __ IN BIE __ ER
- 6) JA __ OB LA __ IM __ RE
- 7) WI __ __ OW SM __ TH



Answers: 1) Jaden Smith, 2) Greyson Chance, 3) Cymonique, 4) Cody Simpson, 5) Justin Bieber, 6) Jacob Latimore, 7) Willow Smith

What Rhymes with ...



List 10 words that rhyme with "note."

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Some answers: boat, coat, dote, float, goat, moat, throat, tote, vote, wrote

Fact or Fiction? Lyrics Challenge

Sometimes music is set to words called lyrics. Here are some questions about the lyrics of some popular children's songs. How many can you answer correctly?

- 1) According to the song, "Old MacThomas had a farm." **Fact or Fiction?**
- 2) According to the song, "London Bridge is falling down." **Fact or Fiction?**
- 3) According to the song, "Susannah is lost and gone forever." **Fact or Fiction?**
- 4) According to the song, "There was a farmer who had a cat, and Bingo was his name-o." **Fact or Fiction?**
- 5) According to the song, "Mama's gonna buy you [little baby] a mocking bird." **Fact or Fiction?**
- 6) According to the song, "I've been working on the airplane all the live long day." **Fact or Fiction?**
- 7) According to the song, "The itsy bitsy spider crawled up the water spout." **Fact or Fiction?**
- 8) According to the song, "Pop! goes the cow." **Fact or Fiction?**
- 9) According to the song, "Life is but a dream." **Fact or Fiction?**
- 10) According to the song, "There was an old man who swallowed a fly." **Fact or Fiction?**



Answers: 1) Fiction, the farmer's name was Old MacDonald, 2) Fact, 3) Fiction, the girl's name is Clementine, 4) Fiction, Bingo was a dog, 5) Fact, 6) Fiction, the narrator has been working on the railroad, 7) Fact, 8) Fiction, a weasel pops, 9) Fact, 10) Fiction, an old woman swallowed a fly

COLORING PICTURE





Helping to sort items for the food drive are Fifth Third Bank employees Heather Velez, Jennifer Nicely (and daughter Jessica), Tony Sasso, Holly Brown, Nicole Sterni (and husband Dan Sterni).

Fifth Third Bank - Tampa Bay feeds 5,300 local families

Fifth Third Bank (Tampa Bay) recently wrapped up its month-long "Fifth Third Feeding Families" campaign, reaching its goal of helping to feed more than 5,300 Tampa Bay-area families in need. More than 11,500 pounds of non-perishable food items were delivered to Metropolitan Ministries – a faith-based nonprofit that provides support to hungry children and families in the four-county Tampa Bay region.

In an effort to continue giving back to the community, dozens of Fifth Third employees and their families volunteered, sorting food items at Metropolitan Ministries in Hillsborough County, as well as serving meals to families in need at Safe Harbor in Pinellas County and at Metropolitan Ministries' Holiday location in Pasco county.

"This is the fourth year we have partnered with Metropolitan Ministries on the annual food drive," said Brian Lamb, president and CEO of Fifth Third Bank (Tampa Bay). "Our team is committed to improving the lives of our customers and the well-being of the communities we serve, and I couldn't be more proud to be a part of a group that cares so much about the Tampa Bay region."

Fifth Third banking centers throughout the bank's 12-state footprint also celebrated "Fifth Third Day," an annual celebration on May 3, by providing more than 550,000 meals to fight hunger. For more than 20 years, the Bank has used its holiday to recognize the contribution of its employees, thank its customers and support communities where it operates.

For more information on Fifth Third Bank, visit www.53.com.

South Bay Hospital opens new interventional radiology suite

South Bay Hospital recently unveiled its new interventional radiology suite, designed to meet the needs of patients seeking treatment for vascular diseases. The new interventional radiology suite provides minimally invasive procedures to diagnose and treat all forms of peripheral vascular disease; diseases of the blood vessels outside of the heart.

The hospital made an investment of \$1.2 million to remodel and purchase equipment for the new interventional radiology suite. One of the features of the new suite is a state of the art digital flat panel imaging system. The new system requires fewer x-ray images and contrast injections for the patient, while allowing physicians to do more advanced vascular interventions.

Some of the new vascular services available in the interventional suite include an AngioJet system which removes blood clots from blood vessels, and carotid stenting procedures

which reduce narrowing and blockage of carotid arteries. All of these new procedures and technologies are aimed at treating and reducing the risk of vascular disease.

"Many people mistake the symptoms of peripheral vascular disease for something else," says Christine Helton, Director of Radiology. "If peripheral vascular disease is left untreated, it can increase the risk of heart attack or stroke, and even lead to amputation. That's why it is so important to recognize the symptoms and seek treatment."

The most common symptoms of peripheral vascular disease are cramping, pain or tiredness in the leg or hip muscles while walking or climbing stairs. Typically the pain goes away with rest and returns when you walk again.

For more information on the new interventional radiology suite at South Bay Hospital, call Natalia Diaz at 813-634-0496.

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

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



Hope

Hope is a gorgeous gal with a big personality. Hope had a home not long ago, as she appeared well cared for upon her arrival. She loves squeaky toys, the doggy pool, and to play ball. Hope seems to do well with humans of all ages and has been great when out and about in the community. Hope would prefer to be a single dog at home as she is an attention hog. She is sure to keep you entertained and on the move all by herself. Hope is spayed, microchipped, and current on her shots.

DOB: February 2, 2011

PHOTOS MARLENE GREENBERG



Wolfie

Wolfie is a gray tabby kitten who was recently brought to C.A.R.E. with his three siblings, Nip, Tuck and Buddy. His mom is a beautiful tabby herself, named Angie. Wolfie loves to play with the other kittens at the shelter, and is quite a charmer but he would like to come to live at a forever home of his own. Go and see this handsome guy and give him that home. Wolfie will be spayed and microchipped. He is already current on his shots.

DOB: Sept. 2, 2012

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

The Observer News office will be closed Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

Advertising and press release deadlines will advance as follows:

Classified ads 4 p.m., Fri., May 24
 Display ads 11 a.m., Fri., May 24
 News Releases 4 p.m., Thurs., May 23

Questions? Call: 813-645-3111 www.ObserverNews.net



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SouthShore Regional Library

Adult program/event highlights

15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin • 813-273-3652

Adult Writing Group - Monday, May 20 at 1 p.m.
 Connect with local writers to discuss all aspects of the writing process. Inspire, encourage, and exchange ideas. Opportunities to share your writings and receive feedback will be available. If you've ever wanted to be a writer, this is the group for you! All levels of writers are welcome.

Internet: Introduction and Google - Tuesday, May 21 at 12:15 p.m.
 Introduction to the Internet and related terminology. Learn how to use Google to find information and tips for evaluating what you find. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended. Limit: 20.

Things Your Mother Never Taught You - Tuesday, May 21 at 2 p.m.
 Join local cookbook author, Suzanne Devlin, in this cooking demonstration designed to instill confidence in the aspiring cook. She will be making tarragon chicken with lemon pasta. Her book will be available for sale after the presentation. Seating limit: 20. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

eBooks for Tablets and SmartPhones - Wednesday, May 22 at 10:15 a.m.
 Learn how to check out and download free library eBooks to read on Android, Blackberry, iPad, iPhone or Windows 7 devices using a free app. Learn how to register for a free Adobe ID to wirelessly check out and download library eBooks to an electronic tablet. Presented by the Tampa Bay Library Consortium. Limit: 20.

Family Center on Deafness Telephone Distribution - Wednesday, May 22 at 1 p.m.
 Presented by Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI). FTRI provides free specialized equipment and training to qualified Florida residents who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired. The equipment enables them to place and receive phone calls.

SouthShore Needle People - Wednesday, May 22 at 6:30 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 questions!

Word: Paragraph and Advanced Formatting - Thursday, May 23 at 12:15 p.m.
 Learn paragraph formatting from setting margins to line spacing and how to create bulleted and numbered lists. Tabs, headers and footers, numbering and inserting page numbers, page borders. Previous experience with Microsoft Word is recommended. Limit: 20.

Movie Matinee - Friday, May 24 at 2:30 p.m.
 Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month by enjoying a movie on the Library's big screen. Inspired by true events, Princess Ka'iulani tries to maintain the independence of Hawaii and the rights of her people against the threat of American colonization. Rated PG, runtime 98 minutes.

Membership with the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library helps provide the funding for free programs offered at the Library. If you would be interested in becoming a Member of the Friends of the Library, call Jim Duffy at 813-634-1396, www.southshorefriends.com.

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Arts Council is taking applications for Cultural Development Grants

The Arts Council has opened the application period for the 2013-14 Cultural Development Grant (CDG) program. Grants are available to not-for-profit, 501(c)3 tax-exempt organizations and may be used for general operations or specific projects occurring between Oct. 1, 2013 and Sept. 30, 2014.

The Council awards Cultural Development Grants each year on a competitive basis to organizations that provide cultural programs in Hillsborough County. In the current year, 22 grants were awarded ranging from approximately \$6,000 to \$13,000 for a total of \$194,495.

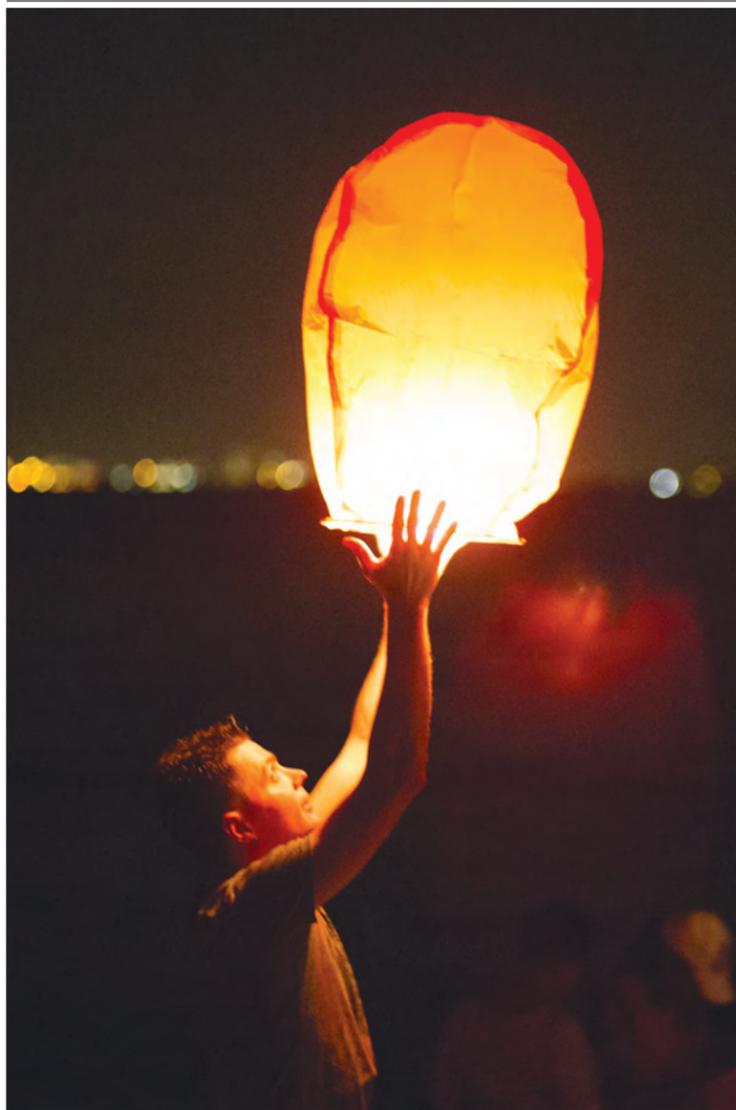
Eligibility and application requirements for the current year can be found in the 2013-14 grant guidelines document. Funding is awarded based on merit in four areas: overall quality, cultural excellence, public impact and outreach, and financial/ administrative with extra points available for collaboration.

Grant applications will be accepted anytime during ACHC office hours prior to Friday, Aug. 16, 2013. Applications must be in the ACHC offices by 5 p.m. on August 16. The Arts Council's office is located next to Tampa Theatre at 707 N. Franklin St., 6th Floor.

A grant review panel of experts will meet to score applications on Friday, Sept. 20, 2013. Organizations, especially those applying for the first time, are encouraged to take advantage of an early review consultation to ensure their application is complete and ready for submission. Early reviews are conducted prior to Friday, Aug. 9 and can be scheduled by calling the Arts Council at 813-276-8250.

The Arts Council welcomes applications from any eligible organization. Past recipients of Cultural Development Grants have included children's groups, choirs, dance troupes, museums, orchestras, theatres, and community arts organizations. Other recipients have been festival presenters in the areas of art, film, literature, music and multi-cultural events.

Organizations interested in applying for a 2013-14 grant may download the application and guidelines from the Cultural Development Grants page on the Arts Council's website, TampaArts.com, under the "Our Grants" tab.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Sunset Grill customers light up the sky for Mary & Martha House

The band near the tiki bar put down their guitars as more than 100 people gathered on the beach at Little Harbor to light up the sky for the Mary & Martha House. For the second week, Sunset Grill at Little Harbor has offered completely biodegradable lanterns to their customers for \$2, with all of the proceeds going towards the Ruskin-based women's shelter. The crowd cheered as the first lantern heated up and slowly raised into the sky, soon appearing as a bright star in the northeastern sky. Dozens more lanterns soon followed, creating a hush among the locals and vacationers gathered as they watched the lanterns light up the sky. A few of the lanterns had names written on them, apparently in memory or support of a loved one. The event will take place every Friday night at 9 p.m., weather permitting. For information about the Sunset Grill, visit www.sunsetgrillfl.com. For information about the Mary & Martha House, visit www.marymarthahouse.org.



By Daniel J. Mountcastle, MD

Venous Insufficiency and Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) Public Education Series: Vein tip #1: Nighttime Leg Cramps

Summary: Vein valves fail, and this failure is often the underlying cause of nighttime leg cramps.
Problem: Usually this is a missed diagnosis: Vein failure is not considered as a diagnosis, and the patient is simply medicated without adequate testing.

90% of patients over 50 years old with **night-time leg cramps** have vein valve failure as the underlying cause of these cramps. However, when patients are seen for night-time leg cramps, physicians have traditionally jumped to the presumption of low potassium, calcium or magnesium. Vein valve failure as a cause has been ignored because, until recently, diagnostics were limited and there was little to do to fix the real cause of the problem. These patients are seldom referred for a proper standing venous insufficiency exam and definitive treatment. Other clues of venous problems might include symptoms of **standing leg pain** and forms of **restlessness**. Signs of vein disease might include visible **spider** and **varicose veins**, **skin discoloration**

or **swelling**, however many legs with severe cramping have no other symptoms and no surface signs. Vein center diagnostics can find the root cause of the cramping and simple in-office treatments can alleviate this problem of night-time leg cramps.

Contributed by: Daniel J. Mountcastle, MD, FAAEM, Ohio State University

Public education: The Mountcastle Vein Centers offer a free ½ hour, private appointment for vein education, to answer patient questions and to do vein screening. **Mount Castle Vein Center - Sun City Center, 4040 Upper Creek Drive, Suite 105, 813-634-1333.**

More information: Educational information can be found at www.mountcastleveincenters.com

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Marshalls opens in Riverview

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Marshalls, a discount name brand retailer of clothing and accessories, celebrated their grand opening on May 9 in Riverview's Summerfield Crossing, next door to Bealls. The 19,000 square foot store was expected to hire approximately 100 people for the initial opening.

Moonglow Dance Club is open to all

Moonglow Ballroom Dance Club will feature the live music of Mario DeLeon at its monthly dance on Thursday, May 23 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. in Sun City Center.

The attire at Moonglow Dances is dressy casual. Members are free; visitors/guests pay \$5 per person at the door. Singles table(s) are always available. BYOB and snacks; the club provides ice, water, cups and napkins.

Moonglow schedules monthly dances year-round, all with live music. If you have fond memories of the SCC Big Band Dances, you will find that the musicians at Moonglow play some of the same great songs. Visitors are always welcome.

For more information, call 813-633-1297 or 813-642-8845, or if you would like to receive Moonglow information by email, contact gail3357@gmail.com.

Why do knife blades face the plate?

When you set a table, perhaps you wonder why you are expected to follow certain rules; it may be reassuring to realize that not all of them are arbitrary.

Table knives, for example, are always placed to the right of the plate, with the blades turned in. This custom goes back to feudal times, when almost all men were handy with weapons and frequently had cause to use them.

When the landowners of those days gathered in their baronial halls to dine together, the blades of their knives were turned toward their plates as a symbol of peaceful intentions. An outward facing blade was altogether too convenient if one wanted to pick up the knife and carve up one's neighbor.

Excerpted from Vogue's Book of Etiquette and Good Manners, 1969, The Conde Nast Publications, Inc.

US CENTCOM exec is keynoter at Memorial Day event

The Veterans Council of Hillsborough County, Inc. will conduct its annual Memorial Day Celebration at the Veterans Memorial Park & Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins, Jr. Museum at 11 a.m. on Sunday May 26, 2013.

The Park is located at 3602 US Highway 301 in Tampa just south of the Florida State Fairgrounds.

Colors will be presented by the US Central Command Color Guard from MacDill AFB.

Charles Haugabrooks will be performing for his 16th consecutive year a series of patriotic songs emblematic of a somber Memorial

Day tribute.

The Keynote Speaker will be LTC Cynthia Cook, USAR from US CENTCOM, MacDill AFB. Frank Strom, Managing Director, Hillsborough County Veterans Affairs Division, and Walt Raysick, President of the Veterans Council of Hillsborough County, will also speak.

The Scottish American Military Society will conduct the POW/MIA Missing Man Remembrance Celebration, which will be followed by a wreath presentation by the area Gold Star Wives, Mothers and Families to honor our Fallen War-

rriors and pay tribute to the Hillsborough County Fallen Heroes of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. The Riverview Detachment of the Marine Corps League will fire a rifle salute and play taps.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Immediately following this ceremony, there will be a brief groundbreaking ceremony at the future site of the Iraq Veterans Memorial. Refreshments will be provided by VFW Post 8108 Men's and Ladies Auxiliaries, Riverview.

For further information contact Walt Raysick at 813-653-4924 or wraysick@verizon.net.

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Artwork is for representation only.

New four-lane road makes easier commute to Brandon Mall

Gornto Lake Road Extension expected to be completed before holidays

■ By KEVIN BRADY

Christmas shopping list: Toys for kids, honey-baked ham and aspirin for the drive to the Brandon Mall.

South County residents may be able to scrap the last item off that list this year thanks to a new four-lane road that will give drivers a new backdoor route to the mall and State Road 60.

Barring a hurricane, national disaster or a Kardashian wedding, the four-lane road should be finished by the holidays.

Ground broke on the project last October, a response to years of congestion around the popular Westfield Brandon mall on State Road 60 that is home to more than 100 businesses including Macy's, Apple and Dillard's.

One of the busiest intersections in the Bay area, the mall's main entrance is one of only six county roadways equipped with a red-light camera. A testament to the congestion and frustration of drivers, the camera has the highest citation rate in the county.

"Due to the increase in residential and commercial development in the Brandon area, there was a need for an additional north-south corridor between State Road 60 and Lumsden

Road (Causeway Boulevard)," according a county report outlining the project.

The project is on schedule, said C.T. Chen, a project manager with Hillsborough County's Public Works Department.

"So far, so good," Chen said. "Our completion date is Oct. 7 and we would anticipate being finished by then."

The extension will handle about 20,000 vehicles a day, giving relief to congested roads near the mall, Chen said.

"It will definitely make a big difference especially around Christmas time relieving pressure around the mall because most people use just one way in and out now," Chen said.

Local businesses are eager to see the road, according to Chen.

"We have spoken to the manager at the mall and the Hillsboro Memorial Gardens cemetery on State Road 60 beside the mall and they are all very positive about the road, the mall wants it open yesterday," Chen said.

Martin Bebbington, owner of Euro Café, a European deli on State Road 60, has watched work on the project daily with a smile. "I think it's wonderful and

long overdue," Bebbington said. "The congestion around this area is especially bad around the holidays."

Bebbington believes easier access to the area for drivers from places like Riverview will mean more business for him and surrounding stores.

"The traffic coming down that road will help because more people will now see we are here. [The new road] can't come fast enough."

Construction of the Gornto Lake Road Extension will also relieve congestion at the entrance and exits from Interstate 75 on State Road 60 as well as at the shopping mall, officials say.

The \$3.95 million roadway will stretch for 0.7 miles from State Road 60 to about 800 feet south of Town Center Boulevard and has been on the books since 2006.

The road will give South County drivers a straight shot to the mall from U.S. Highway 301 and Bloomingdale Avenue along

Gornto Lake Road into the mall's rear entrance. The road is also expected to help with any new traffic associated with the new Bass Pro Shops store and Taco

Bus slated to open on nearby Falkenburg Road, just north of State Road 60.

QGS Development Inc. is handling construction of the road.



PHOTO BY KEVIN BRADY

Work on the four-lane Gornto Lake Road Extension is due to be completed by Oct. 7. It will give Riverview area drivers a straight shot into the mall's back entrance.

Plan ahead for this popular holiday event:

Moscow Ballet's *Nutcracker* returns to Lakeland Center in December

The Moscow Ballet returns to the Lakeland Center with a performance of the *Great Russian Nutcracker* on Friday, Dec. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets, which went on sale April 12, range from \$27.50 to \$175 (service charges will apply) and are available at Box Office, by calling 863-834-8111, online at thelakelandcenter.com or by calling the 24-hour ticketing line: 888-397-0100.

Moscow Ballet's company of 40 star-studded dancers has delighted audiences with Olympic-worthy leaps and lunges; astonishing lifts and magnificent movement with each performance of the *Great Russian Nutcracker*. The highly lauded troupe includes many International Ballet Competition (IBC) winners and each member brings humor, charm and finesse to Tchaikovsky's timeless score.

Moscow Ballet's *Great Russian Nutcracker* dramatizes the traditional story of a girl meeting her "Prince," and includes a tribute to world peace and harmony. For more information, visit www.nutcracker.com.

The Lakeland Center is located between Orlando and Tampa in Lakeland off I-4 on Lime Street. Regular box office hours are weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

The Observer News office will be **closed Monday, May 27** in observance of **Memorial Day**.

Advertising and press release deadlines will advance as follows:

Classified ads 4 p.m., Fri., May 24
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Questions? Call: 813-645-3111 www.ObserverNews.net



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Mon 20:	RUMBA DANCING (COUPLES ONLY) SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	11 am to Noon 1:30 to 2:30 pm 3 to 4:15 pm	Some classes have limited space and may be full, but waitlists are available! Please call for more information (813) 419-5020
Tue 21:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	11 am to Noon	
Wed 22:	LINE DANCING* : Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1 pm	Please check your insurance coverage for SILVERSNEAKERS class participation eligibility.
Thu 23:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* TAI CHI	9:30 to 10:30 am 2:30 to 3:30 pm	
Fri 24:	SALSA DANCING SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 to 11 am 1:30 to 2:30 pm 3 to 4:15 pm	*MSROM: Muscular Strength & Range of Movement Classes
Mon 27:	MEMORIAL DAY	CLOSED	
Tue 28:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	11 am to Noon	
Wed 29:	LINE DANCING* : Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1 pm	
Thu 30:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* TAI CHI	9:30 to 10:30 am 2:30 to 3:30 pm	
Fri 31:	SALSA DANCING SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 to 11 am 1:30 to 2:30 pm 3 to 4:15 pm	

Please call (813) 419-5020 to RSVP. You can also visit us online for the monthly schedule of classes and events: www.jsahealthcare.com/Events.htm

Observations: Paradise and perspective in the sky

I said, "I love you, Mom", then kissed her on the head and walked down the hallway on the way out the door. I didn't look back, but then immediately began wondering why I didn't. These days, each goodbye could be the last but maybe I'm not ready to fully accept that. But then, I really didn't think it was the last goodbye. I'll be back at some point soon. I'm certain she'll still be there.



Observations
By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net

of living here. But it seems that what once was charm now looks more like desperation. What was once bright color is becoming darker and more ominous.

The moment I saw the photo on the news of the woman who disappeared from her husband and two children in Pennsylvania 11 years ago, I knew Florida had to be involved. The

11-year-old photo of her showed a normal-looking woman, wading through a life of normal joys and problems. The current day photo of her, however, had a washed out, beaten up, and worn down look that is all too common in Florida. Just drive up U.S. 41 or to downtown Tampa and you'll find that exact same look easily enough. There is little in the way of a social safety net here and the fall can be long and hard. It certainly showed on the face of Brenda Heist, the woman from Pennsylvania.

I am a supporter of a social safety net because I appreciate the economics and realities of capitalism. That said, I could understand why there isn't much of one in Florida. If you were going to be homeless, would you prefer to be so on the beach or in Chicago in January? If Florida had the extensive safety net of some northern states, the Sunshine State would be completely overrun. It simply would not be possible.

And yet, for far too many people, it seems that Florida is the end of the road. They come here looking for better days and they end up living a numbed-up nightmare. It is a nightmare so enduring, so long lasting that they stop being afraid of the worst, because they see it day in and day out. They just give up and accept the blows that life delivers. Meanwhile, the tourist agencies show a happy state of bliss that most of the middle-class tourists hope to find but probably can't quite reach. But, for them at least, it is close enough as they go home sunburned, already planning their next trip when that time, dammit, they really will live the dream. For them, hope springs eternal; for others, not so much.

I'm fully aware that I'm lucky to live here. I see the tourists just down the road at Little Harbor and I'm sure a good many of them would love to trade places with me, to live in paradise with a good job. But for a multitude of reasons, I stopped seeing the paradise and began to only see the problems. I needed to find the former, without the latter overly obscuring the view. A person can't live focused only on problems, hope is necessary. The good people I work for at this newspaper understood



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

On her birthday, my Mom holds a watercolor made by my sister Pam. In many ways, she is still that beautiful young woman.

when I asked if I could take off for a week to try to fall in love with Florida again.

The first night out, Michelle and I watched the sunset in the Everglades and I started falling back in love with Florida. Later that night in our motel room, we ordered a pizza and for some reason it was the best pizza I have ever had in my life. From there, every place we visited I thought, "I would love to live here."

I started seeing places with eyes, if not filled with wonder, then at least with much less cynicism. The magic in this state has survived overdevelopment and a political system that would sometimes make a third-world dictatorship blush. Florida is beautiful, even in places where it sometimes isn't.

Two weeks later, I flew to Minnesota.

I've come to believe that in death, it is a far easier thing for those leaving than it is for those left behind. But more often than not, in life it is just the opposite. It's hard to leave. If I were a good

son, wouldn't I stay?

Several inches of snow fell in Minnesota on May 1, the day I had to say goodbye to my Mom. After I kissed her on the head, I heard her say, "I love you, too." And then I walked down the hallway, out the door, and stepped out into the cold air and snow, zipping up my too-light jacket. I don't know why I didn't look back, but I will be back. My priorities will shift as needed, but at least I'm beginning to learn what they are. I'll have another chance.

A few hours later, the plane touched down in Florida and Michelle and I watched the sunset from Bahia Beach. Around us, tourists and locals were enjoying life, perhaps forgetting about it for a while in two-for-one beers and margaritas, but enjoying it nonetheless. You could feel the happiness. At that moment, there were no problems that couldn't be put into perspective in simply seeing the beautifully painted sky. It was magical. It was good to be home.



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Wildlife 'rescues' can do more harm than good



Winter is finally over. Trees and flowers are blossoming, birds are building nests and critters are being born.

This is also the time of year when the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) begins getting calls about "abandoned" animals that folks believe may be in need of rescue. The fact is that rescuing these seemingly abandoned youngsters interferes with the very processes that ensure their survival in the wild.

After giving birth, adult wildlife must forage to provide food for themselves and their young. This means leaving their newborns for short periods.

Having some basic knowledge of wildlife and the survival skills animals use can help avoid attempting to rescue animals that don't need rescuing.

Common targets of misplaced rescues are baby deer, temporarily left in a safe place while their mother feeds nearby. Many people who find fawns mistakenly assume they have been abandoned when, in reality, their parents are in the process of ensuring the infants' survival.

"In most cases, it is absolutely not in a fawn's best interest to rescue it," said Angeline Scotten, Wildlife Assistance Biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Scotten says what typically happens is someone discovers a young deer waiting for its mother. Often, those fawns are found in palmetto patches or in recently burned areas, where a doe has placed her new offspring for protection. These settings tend to help mask the fawn's scent, thus providing good protection from the keen nose of a predator.

People become concerned when the parent is nowhere in sight and mistakenly believe the young animal will perish unless they save it or take it to a wildlife rehabilitation center. Unfortunately, actions of this kind usually have the opposite effect of a rescue.

"Stress created by changing the animal's diet and surroundings is often fatal. If the rescued fawn manages to survive, its return to the wild is practically impossible because of human

imprinting and a lack of survival skills, which it would have learned from its mother, had it remained in the wild," Scotten said.

Feeding wild animals to help them survive is another misconceived notion that can have dire consequences for wildlife. Although this may sound odd, feeding causes problems ranging from poor nutrition, dependence on humans for food and nuisance behaviors that can threaten people, property and pets.

"Wildlife has survived for thousands of years without human interference and, frankly, it certainly seems to work out better for the animals that way," Scotten said.

The FWC recommends that if you find a fawn or other baby animal, don't touch it or disturb it and quietly leave the area.

Juvenile birds are also commonly found on the ground at this time of year, looking a bit dazed or confused. The youngster may be trying to hide in tall grass or in low bushes to avoid being seen by predators. These young birds are going through a process called fledging – learning to fly and fend for themselves.

"While fledging, the birds' parents will continue to care for it by feeding it and helping it to learn needed survival skills. The best advice is to not interfere in this crucial learning process and to keep pets that may harm the young birds confined," Scotten said.

According to biologists, the only time a baby songbird should be rescued is when it is on the ground and has almost no feathers, when the bird is injured by pets or its tail is less than a half-inch long and it cannot hop around on its own.

"If you find a baby songbird you are sure needs rescuing, and the nest is low enough for you to safely return it, it's OK to do that. Songbirds have almost no sense of smell, so young birds can be returned to their nest without a chance of rejection," Scotten said.

You can also place the baby bird in a lined, uncovered, shallow box with drainage, and attach the box to the tree from which the bird fell. Sometimes the parents will come to the baby in the new box and feed it there.

When you are sure a bird needs rescuing and care, place the baby in a tissue-lined box that has air holes in the top. Keep the box in a warm spot away from drafts and air conditioning and out of direct sunlight. Do not give it food or water. Call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in your area. Please remember that migratory birds are protected and need to be cared for by a licensed facility.

The FWC's Southwest Region Office, 863-648-3200, has a list of licensed rehabilitators. Many local veterinarians work closely with wildlife rehabilitators and also can be a good source of help.

The FWC asks you to remember that removing an animal from the wild to save it may actually have the opposite effect. Seek advice from wildlife professionals before at-

tempting to rescue any animal.

"Remember that in most cases, it's better to leave wildlife in the wild," Scotten said.

For more information on Florida's wildlife and what you can do to help, go to MyFWC.com/Conservation and select "How You Can Conserve" and then "Wildlife Assistance – Injured or Nuisance Wildlife."

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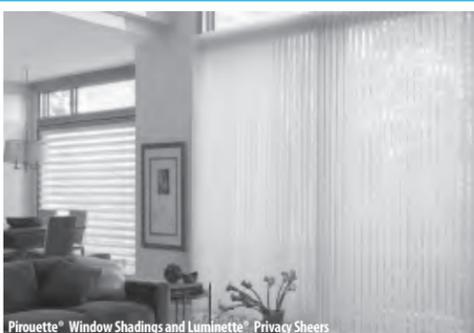
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Fish Tales: Let's go fishing!

MacDill Air Force did its "Give Back to the Community" gesture for the anglers this past Saturday. The two mile strip, which is restricted to fishing around the base, was opened to those who had pre-registered, prior to Saturday to fish all day. This happens every year and if you are fishing out there every day, you probably are one of those that knows when to put your name in the pot.

Fort Desoto Park celebrated its 50th anniversary Sunday with free park access.

Fishing has remained steady this week with a good redfish bite. They like our weather and have been schooling all around the waterways. They are still a restricted game fish catch. You may have in your possession one not less than 18 inches or more than 27 inches per person, per day.

Talking to some anglers at a trailer park, I found that they have been freshwater fishing for many weeks for catfish. They were freezing their catches to have a Mother's Day catfish fry at the park this week. What a great idea. I often hear of mullet fries, but a fresh catfish fry sounds great to me.

I'm wondering if there are enough largemouth bass in the upper Alafia or Little Manatee Rivers for a group fry.

Silver trout are schooling in our bay waters. They were hungry and looking for food. Legal catch is 12 inches with four per person, per day. To my knowledge this legal has not changed. They are a great tablefare.

Our waters are a fishing maze this time of the year, regardless when, or where you fish, you will

make a catch. Time changes everything. It was in 2010 that the famous oil spill hit our waters, and now they are back to normal with fish teeming everywhere.

A trio from Tampa were fishing in open water off of Apollo Beach when they hooked and landed a triple tail. Average weight is 5 pounds. It has a fan shaped full thick tail fin. It is dull black and grey and often called a black perch. Legal is 15 in with 2 per person, per day. They are edible, but I would class them as fair. I don't see many catches made of this fish, they feed on barnacles, often found over wrecks.

I saw plenty of sheepshead which proves that many of you are catching them and not feeding them your shrimp. They are a great food value, lean white meat fish. Some call them a convict fish, because of their black and white stripes. Legal is 12 in. and 15 per harvest, per person, per day.

Find a new adventure, cruise and fish our waterways.



By Jonie Maschek
Member: Florida Outdoor Writers Association

Ruskin selected as site for 50th Annual Florida State Underwater championships

The Florida Skin Divers Association, a nonprofit organization of Florida dive clubs founded in 1952, will celebrate its 50th year hosting the "Southern Open Derby," Florida's State Championships for underwater photography and spearfishing. The association has announced that Sunset Grill at Little Harbor has been chosen as the site for the 2013 event state weigh-in and awards.

The competition has been expanded recently to include a popular underwater video category and a State Lionfish Derby, an effort by Florida divers to help eradicate the invasive lionfish problem that is threatening many native fish and invertebrate species.

The photography and video portions started May 10 and continue until June 7, followed by the Spearfishing competition and Lionfish Derby held June 14-16. Statewide captain's meetings, held Friday, June 14, allow divers to hunt their home waters down to dusk Saturday, June 15, and then competitors from around the state

will come to Sunset Grill at Little Harbor, Ruskin, FL on Sunday, June 16 for weigh-in and awards, with weigh-in closing at noon.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary event, FSDA will be honoring several diving legends and pioneers of the sport — men and women who witnessed and nurtured the growth of all forms of diving in the state of Florida. Several past state and national diving champions, along with officers and community contributors will be in attendance, including well-known sport, SCUBA and skin-divers. Many of these long-time FSDA members, some in their 70s or 80s, were involved in notable FSDA accomplishments, including assisting the transport and placement of the Christ of the Abyss statue in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, establishing some of the first safety and training standards in the state after the invention of SCUBA, and lobbying and providing support for state adoption of diver safety laws and implementation of the red and white "diver down" flag.

The tradition of community support is continued by the 2013 event, with beneficiaries including an artificial reef-building project off local counties, the regional Ocean Pals "Save our Seas" Poster contest held in grade and middle schools around the state, as well as Diver's Rights and a local Marine Conservation endowment named after longtime FSDA contributors Ken and Sonia Smith. The lionfish collected at the State Lionfish Derby will provide valuable scientific information on stomach content and reproductive capacity to the scientific community, thanks to an ongoing partnership with scientist Alex Fogg and the University of Southern Mississippi Coastal Studies department on a long-term study of invasive Gulf lionfish populations.

To get more details or register for the event, go to www.floridaskindivers.com or contact event chairman Bill Van Deman at wvande-man@gmail.com for participation questions or fogg.alex@gmail.com for questions regarding lionfish collection.

South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 Upcoming Activities

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

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

Every Friday - Seafood, Sandwiches, and a Chef's Special for all Elks and their guests from 5 to 7 p.m. Music by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21 - Indoctrination of new members at 7 p.m.

Monday, May 28 - Blue Plate Special for all Elks and their guests, \$7 per person. Menu: Ham dinner with all the trimmings. Only 50 tickets available.

The South Hillsborough Elks Lodge is a clean, smoke-free environment located at 1630 US Hwy 41 S. in Ruskin. Telephone 813-645-2089.

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, May 9 - Bar Bingo 6 p.m.

Friday, May 10 - Fish & Chips 4:30 p.m. Treasure Hunt 7:30 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 11 - Crew Meeting, Free hot dogs

Sunday, May 12 - Music by Bert & Sassy 5:30 - 10 p.m.

Monday, May 13 - Crew Meeting, Free hot dogs

Tuesday, May 14 - Games in Lounge 1 p.m. Doors open 3 p.m. Kitchen opens 4:30 p.m. Bingo 6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 15 - Installation of new officers 6 p.m.

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KINGS POINT	KINGS POINT	SUN CITY CENTER	OTHER AREAS
205 Kings Blvd. #62\$23,000	2066 Inverness Greens\$120,000	1348 Bluewater Drive\$105,600	Apollo Beach
102 Cambridge Trail #226 . \$23,900	1150 Jameson Greens.....\$134,900	1715 Del Webb W Blvd ... \$110,000	904 Birdie Way \$249,000
205 Kings Blvd #53\$27,000	1913 Inverness Greens\$144,900	2036 Berry Roberts Dr.....\$139,900	Valencia Lakes
206 Andover Place #92\$29,500	2303 Brookfield Greens ...\$164,900	1929 Wolf Laurel\$151,900	5008 Clif Bay Way \$266,900
2213 Grenadier\$34,500	1150 Corinth Greens\$169,900	1607 Brookton Green Dr ...\$164,000	16103 Cape Coral \$309,900
2211 Grenadier Drive.....\$40,000	1945 Acadia Greens\$195,900	1409 Jacobson Circle\$165,000	Sundance
411 Lake Point\$49,500	2323 Brookfield Greens ...\$209,000	1508 North Lake Drive\$199,500	1134 Oxbow Road \$159,000
109 Glendower Circle\$57,000		1602 Vincennes W Dr\$229,000	
322 Knottwood Court\$58,900			
1216 Haddington Circle.....\$71,000			
2504 Lambdin Drive\$78,000			
2030 Hawkhurst Circle\$79,000			
1318 Idlewood Drive\$79,600			
1309 Leland Drive\$89,630			
728 Masterpiece Drive\$95,000			
1318 Leland Drive\$97,500			
737 Mc Daniel Street \$119,900			

Contact one of our AGENTS today:

Bill Horobec	Gail Horton	Pat Toler
Bob Kenny	Helen Baron	Pat Wyss
Charlie Cooper	Hugh Allen	Rachel Colvin
Chris Spooner	Karen Lifshin	Rich Cohen (Broker)
Cindy Arnold	Katie Bush	Shelley Copeland
Dolores Bitner	Lois Singer	Trudy Province
Donna Stoner	Mary King	Walt Towner
	Norman Kranz	

SCC Performing Arts Company offers P.A.C. Lite Summer Variety Series

The stage is set for a “Cool Summer of Red Hot Entertainment” at the Rollins Theater in Sun City Center. The Performing Arts Company of SCC will present a series of seven shows as part of its “P.A.C. Lite Summer Variety Series.” The public is invited to attend all shows at the Rollins Theater.

The series kicks off at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 1 with an original musical called *The Toybox*, presented by drama students from Progress Village Middle Magnet School of the Arts, located in Riverview. The evening will also include solos and ensembles by talented 6th, 7th and 8th grade musical theater students from the school. *The Toybox* is a benefit show, with all proceeds going to The Progress Village drama department.

Tickets for the benefit show are \$5. Donations will be accepted with a chance to meet and greet the students following the show.

Other shows in the series include: Southern Express Bluegrass Band, which will take the stage on Saturday, June 15 with foot stompin’ bluegrass favorites; Barbara VanEycken will star in her popular *Patsy Cline Tribute Show* on June 29; singer and songwriter Lisa Palas will present *Life, Love and the Music Business* on July 13; Kathy Straub is *Broadway Baby* in a salute to Rodgers and Hammerstein on July 27; *The Kegg*, starring Kelly Emerson and Gary Garbelman in “Just the Way You Like Them,” will bring down the house with their classic rock show on Aug. 10; and wrapping up

the summer series is *Brotherhood*, a quartet show full of doo wop and pure acapella fun on Aug 24. All of these shows will be presented at 2:30 and 7 p.m. at the Rollins Theater, which is located at 970 Cherry Hills Dr. in SCC.

Tickets for all shows are \$10 each (except the benefit, which are \$5) and go on sale Monday, May 20 at the SCC Atrium Kiosk, which will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. ~ noon, or with credit card by calling 813-220-7913. Season tickets are available for \$60 for 7 shows (a \$5 discount). Season ticket patrons will also receive preferred seating for every show. For further information call the ticket line or visit the PAC website at www.PerformingArtsCompany-SCC.org.



JMDOYLE PHOTO

Apollo Beach Woman's Club awards summer camp scholarships

The Apollo Beach Woman's Club awarded three eight-week scholarships to Hillsborough County's Parks summer camps. Receiving the scholarships were Davarius, and Aaliyah Young, who will attend Gardenville Park, and Kyle Blake who will attend Ruskin Park. The awards were presented by ABWC Community Service Committee, Beverly Fletchall and Marcia Ward. Jack Reeder, Recreation Program Specialist for Apollo Beach Parks, and the parents of the elementary school recipients attended the May presentation. The ABWC membership is open to all women in Apollo Beach and surrounding communities. For membership information contact: Judy Peck, VP of membership, at 813-746-1072.

East Bay Watch

by Michael Cooper

East Bay's Jersey Girls



Stephanie Williams and Nicole Lock are East Bay's Jersey Girls.

At the last regular season home game the East Bay Girls' Flag Football team honored two outstanding players with a presentation of jerseys.

First, Stephanie Williams, #6, who played QB from 2009-2012, was recognized for her accomplishments, which included 2012 Larmon Furniture Outstanding Flag Football Player. This is a prestigious annual trophy awarded to the best senior flag football player in Hillsborough County. Williams was also named to FACA All-State (2nd team-2009, 2012, Honorable Mention 2010-2011), 1st Team All-Western Conference 2009-2012, Parade of Athletes All-Conference (Honorable Mention 2010, 1st Team 2011-2012), and the 2012 Wendy's High School Heisman School representative. In Williams' four-year career, she completed 1,102 passes, passed for 11,619 yards and 153 TDs.

Nicole Lock, #3, played WR from 2010-2013. She is the only East Bay flag football player to make 1st team All-State and she

did it two years in a row. Lock's accolades include FACA All-State (3rd team 2010-2011, 1st team 2012-2013), FACA Senior All-Star Game-2013, 1st Team All-Western Conference 2010-2013, Parade of Athletes All-Conference (Honorable Mention-2010, 1st Team 2012-2013), and the 2013 Wendy's High School Heisman School representative. Lock had 340 receptions for 4,436 yards, 79 TDs and 5,038 all-purpose yards.

The Indians are thankful to Buffalo Wild Wings in Riverview at US 301 and Big Bend Rd, and Managing Partner Meril Hummon, for displaying the jerseys and recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of these two remarkable players. Both Williams and Lock played together in the NZone Sports Youth League and played three years together at East Bay.

By the way, the Indians defeated the Cowboys of Osceola High School on this night, 28-6! A perfect way to honor Lock and Williams.

A NIGHT AT
Casino Royale
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 • 5-8PM

Join us for a Casino Night charity event to benefit Good Samaritan Alzheimer's Auxiliary.

Come and win funny money and then use your funny money to purchase lots of prizes! Tickets are \$15 a person or \$25 a couple. They will be sold at the door or can be purchased before the event at Sun City Senior Living.

LOCATION: Cypress Creek Golf Club
 1011 Cypress Village Blvd., Ruskin, FL 33573

Presented by Sun City Senior Living and sponsored by:

- Infinity Home Care
- Sun Towers
- Sun City Center Funeral Home
- Mountcastle Vein Centers
- The Skin Cancer Centers
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The Paskert family celebrates Justin's ordination as Transitional Deacon in April, 2012.

Justin Paskert of Ruskin to be ordained

Deacon Justin Paskert, son of Christopher and Sheree Paskert of Ruskin, will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Priesthood through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by the Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Saint Petersburg, on Saturday, May 18, 2013, at 11 a.m. at Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Clearwater. Deacon Justin is the

first parishioner of Saint Anne to be ordained a priest.

Justin will celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Anne Catholic Church at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 19. Following the Mass, individuals will have the opportunity to receive then-Reverend Paskert's First Blessing.

Saint Anne Catholic Church is located at 106 11th Ave. N.E. in Ruskin.

Business ethics and values lunch is May 21

The next monthly meeting on Business Ethics and Values will be held at Sun City Center United Methodist Church on Tuesday, May 21 from noon to 1 p.m.

The monthly meeting includes a full lunch for \$10. Reservations must be made by 4 p.m. on Friday, May 17.

The keynote speaker this month is Rev. Sam Rorer, speaking on Core Values. Rev. Rorer is a retired Lt. Col. from the U.S. Air Force Chaplain Corps.

The Business Ethics and Values meetings have been popular, with business owners and managers from throughout south Hillsborough County in attendance.



Pastor Lewis Brady and Lexi Carswell.

New Beginnings Fellowship Holds Spring Hog Killin'

On Sunday, April 21 New Beginnings Fellowship held its annual Spring Hog Killin'.

The congregation has piggy banks that they 'fatten up' for six-months then bring to market. Participants receive certificates with their name and their hog's name on it. The heaviest hog is called the Top Hog and receives a trophy and certificate.

This year the Top Hog belonged to Lexi Carswell whose piggy brought in \$88. The 2nd place winner was Lexi Hancock whose hog, Peach, brought in \$77. In third place were brothers Carter and Chandler Hendricks whose hog, CC Hendricks, brought in \$75.

Summer book club

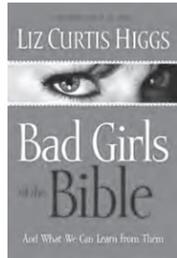
More Than Sisters, the women's group at South Bay Church in Riverview, will be hosting a twice-monthly book club instead of their regular weekly meetings throughout the summer.

The book to be discussed is *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs.

The Club will meet at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on June 11 and 25; July 10 and 24; and wrap up on August 13.

This discussion group is open to all area women, however, space is limited so register soon at info@southbay.cc or call the church office for more information at 813-677-0721.

South Bay Church is located at 13498 U.S. Highway 301 South, Riverview. Visit their website at www.SouthBay.cc.



Prince of Peace has outreach ministry each Friday

On the third Friday of every month, Prince of Peace Catholic Church offers "Come and See," a kind of Catholic Open House in the Conesa Center from 1 to 2 p.m. The next session is Friday, May 17.

This is an opportunity for non-Catholics to learn more about the Catholic faith. The format will be one of informal questions and answers, discussions about the faith, the Church and its traditions. All are invited to come as often as needed.

All inquiries are welcome and there is no cost or obligation. For more information, contact Marilyn Vahovich: 813-634-6900.

Prince of Peace Catholic Church is located at 702 Valley Forge Blvd. in Sun City Center.

Michael Landon Jr. film at United Methodist Church

A film by Michael Landon, Jr. will be shown Friday night, June 14 at the United Methodist Church.

Love's Abiding Joy is the story of a family's faith in the face of tragedy and challenge; it is the fourth of the *Love Comes Softly* film series and takes place in the era when railroads first connected the states.

The doors to the LEC hall will open at 6 p.m. to the aroma of coffee and popcorn. Tea and cookies will also be served. Although the movie is free, a donation to help defray the cost of cookies and treats is welcome.

The movie is captioned for the hearing impaired.

The United Methodist Church is located at 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West in Sun City Center.

St. Anne offers Vacation Bible School

St. Anne Catholic Church will hold Vacation Bible School from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the week of June 17.

Entitled Kingdom Rock, the VBS is designed for youngsters to experience the Bible in fun and unforgettable ways. Each day features a different Bible Point; kids move through activity stations, with each station designed to reinforce that Point in a hands-on-interactive way.

The camp includes lunch, music, snacks, and fun activities. It is open to children from age 5 (by Sept. 1) to 12.

St. Anne Catholic Church is located at 106 11th Ave. NE in Ruskin. For more information or to register, call Cindy at 813-865-8222.

Upcoming Yard Sale at Wimauma Church of God

On Saturday, May 18, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., there will be a yard sale at the Wimauma Church of God, 5504 State Road 674.

Area Places of Worship

Ruskin United Methodist Church

First Street & 4th Ave. NW, Ruskin (behind Suntrust Bank)
ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND WORSHIP WITH US:
SUNDAY MORNINGS: Nov. - April..... 8:30 a.m. **Day Care Available**
Rev. Richard Nussel and All Year..... 10:45 a.m. Mon. - Fri.
Phone: 645-1241 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
call 645-6198

Friendship Baptist Church

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

701 Valley Forge Blvd. • Sun City Center, FL 33573-5354
Reverend David Allman, Pastor
Telephone: 813-634-1292 • Website: sccredeemer.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 9:30 A.M.
Old-Time Gospel Hymns 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 p.m.
Daily 8:00 a.m.
Confessions:
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. and Sat. 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

"Loving God, Loving Others, Serving Beyond Borders"
Sunday School (all ages)..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday (all ages) 6:30 p.m.
Dr. Samuel (Sam) A. Roach, Pastor
1301 U.S. Hwy. 41 N., Ruskin, FL • 645-1121 • www.nbc.org

UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ United Church of Christ

1501 La Jolla AVE, Sun City Center, FL 33573-5329
A Caring Church United in God's Love Serving Others
Rev. Dr. Jean M. Simpson
Worship Services ~ 8:30 and 10 AM
(813) 634-1304 ~ www.uccsunccity.org

Welcome to the: South Hillsborough Church of Christ

1611 First St. SW • Ruskin, FL • 645-7607
—NON-INSTRUMENTAL—
SERVICES: Sunday.....9:30 & 10:30 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.
EVERETT TATE, MINISTER

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Jack R. Palzer
Assoc. Pastor Derek Hoven
5309 U.S. Highway 41 North • Apollo Beach
(across from MiraBay) www.calvalrylutheranchurch.net 645-1305
Nursery Provided
Sunday Worship:
Blended 8:00 a.m.
Contemporary 9:40 a.m.
Traditional 11:15 a.m.

Wimauma Church of God

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Youth Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
Pastor Tom Durrance 5504 S.R. 674, Wimauma, FL 33598 • 813-634-4776

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center

1210 Del Webb Blvd West • 634-2539
http://www.sccumc.com
Come Grow Belong
The United Methodist Church
Pages of Life
Bookstore 633-8595
FREE
Nursery Provided
Senior Pastor: Dr. Warren Langer
Assistant Pastor: Rev. Robert Chaple
WORSHIP SERVICES:
SUNDAY
8:15 a.m. Sanctuary (Communion Service)
9:15 a.m. New Life Enrichment Center (Contemporary)
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary (Traditional with Choir & Bells)
11:00 a.m. Hispanic Worship
4:00 p.m. Hispanic Worship

Area Places of Worship

Southside Baptist Church
"A Warm, Loving & Friendly Church"
 Come join us to learn about God's Word and salvation in Jesus Christ
 Join us on Sunday to come home to the warmth of our church family
 Located in South Hillsborough County, just south of Universal in old Sun City
4208 U.S. Hwy. 41 S • Sun City, FL 33586 • 813-645-4085

Getting to Know You (Donuts/Coffee)..... 9:00 a.m.	Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.	Wednesday Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:55 a.m.	Thursday Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 INVITES YOU TO SERVICES AT OUR NEW LOCATION
1707 33rd Street SE, SCC/Ruskin • 813-938-4955
 10:30 a.m. SUNDAYS
NO CREED...BUT CHRIST
NO BOOK...BUT THE BIBLE
 Minister - DR. DAVID CAMPBELL

CELEBRATING our 75th ANNIVERSARY


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645-6439
 www.fbcruskin.org • A Resource for Families

Sunday School..... 9:45 a.m.	CHRISTIAN SCHOOL K-2 Through 12th Grade
Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	
Evening Service 6:00 p.m.	
Wednesday Night Service 7:00 p.m.	
Awana 7:00 p.m.	

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

RUSKIN 705 9th St. SE / 633-3970 9:00 AM-Contemporary Sunday School—Youth Bible Study Fellowship hour after the service	Fr. Tracy Wilder III Rector Fr. Lee Miller Asst. Rector
SUN CITY CENTER 1015 Dell Webb Blvd. E / 633-3970 8:00 AM-Rite I — 11:00 AM-Rite II & Choir Fellowship hour after both services	

A CARING CHRISTIAN FAMILY—WIGGLY CHILDREN WELCOME

First Church of Christ, Scientist
204 2nd St. N.W. • Ruskin, FL 33570
(813) 645-6102

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

All Are Welcome

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
 Sunday Services
Traditional Service 9:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service 11:00 a.m.
 Prayers with anointing for healing and wholeness during worship the second Sunday of every month.
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mark E. Salmon
 Meet friends in Fellowship Hall after **each** Service.
 Refreshments served.

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

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

U.S. Hwy. 41
 106 11th Ave. NE
 Ruskin
 813-645-1714
 SaintAnneRuskin.org

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

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

Joseph Willis Campbell

Joseph Willis Campbell, 92, of Sun City Center, Fla passed away May 11, 2013. He was born in Stithton, KY to Nora Bates and Charles Campbell on November 22, 1920. He served in the U.S. Navy and retired from Monsanto as a mechanical engineer.

Joe is survived by his wife Margaret; son John William (Julia) Campbell, M.D.; grandchildren Paul and Emma Campbell; stepchildren William B. (Elizabeth) Carmichael and Elizabeth (Kurt) Bullard; daughter-in-law Nancy Carmichael; and nine step-grandchildren.

Services and burial will be in Louisville, KY. Arrangements by Sun City Center Funeral Home.



Edward Chrismer

Edward (Ted) Reneau Chrismer, 70, of Riverview, FL, formerly of Lakeview, Ohio, passed away Wednesday evening, May 8, 2013 at Sun City Center Hospice House in Ruskin, Florida.

Born on March 17, 1943, in Osborn, OH, to the late Russell W. & Martha L. (Bernhardt) Chrismer, Ted was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ann Chrismer (Hines); grandson Andrew Allen Miller; niece Tammi Lynn Hines; brothers Frank E. Chrismer (Betty), Harold W. Chrismer (Jean), Raymond S. Chrismer (Ann), and Clarence L. Chrismer (Beatrice); sisters Mrs. George (Luella) Covert, Mrs. William (Cleo) Haas, and Barbara Ann Berger.

Upon his 1962 graduation from Indian Lake High School, Ted enlisted in the U.S. Navy from 1962 to 1966; he served on the USS Proteus and was honorably discharged with the rank of E5 - Petty Officer Second Class.

On May 29, 1965, he married his high school sweetheart, Mary Ann Hines, at the Indian Lake Community Church in Russell's Point, Ohio. Together they ran the State Farm Insurance - Ted Chrismer agency for over 35 years before retiring.

He is survived by daughter Julie Ann (K.C. Campbell) Chrismer of Phoenix, AZ; son Michael E. Chrismer; grandson Ennis M. Chrismer; brother Gene Chrismer of Riverview, Florida; and several nieces and nephews.

Characterizing Ted as a "social butterfly" would be an understatement. There was nothing he loved more than entertaining or philosophizing with friends and family, preferably with a dry Tanqueray Martini. Fishing, golfing, gardening, snowmobiling, motorcycling, morel mushroom hunting, turtle trapping and Buckeye Basketball were also on his top list of favorite pastimes, especially when friends and family came along to keep him company.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, June 8, 2013 at Shoffstall Funeral Home, Lakeview, Ohio, with visitation one hour prior to services. Internment is at Huntsville Cemetery, Huntsville, Ohio.

Condolences can be expressed at shoffstallfuneralhome.com. In lieu of

Area Obituaries

flowers, the family asks that a memorial contribution be made to the Humane Society Serving Logan County, 2521 US 68 N, Bellefontaine, OH 43311. Arrangements are in the care of Shoffstall Funeral Home, Lakeview.



Jessie Strawn Grant

Jessie Strawn Grant, 97, passed away peacefully on March 4, 2013 at Hospice House, Sun City Center, FL.

Jessie was born to Mary and Chester Strawn on September 10, 1915 in Dana, IL. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister and her husband Alexander John Grant.

Jessie grew up in Glen Ellyn, IL, attending Glenbard West High School, from which she graduated in 1934. She also attended North Central College in Naperville, IL.

Jessie and husband John Grant met each other in second grade at Main St. School in Glen Ellyn, IL. They moved to Sun City Center from Quincy, MI in 1988.

Jessie is survived by brother Eugene in Ohio; children Mary Lou (Herb) McKittrick of Sun City Center, Alex Grant of Chicago, and Nancy Reid of Blountville, TN; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at Redeemer Lutheran Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sun City Center Emergency Squad or Hospice House, Sun City Center.



Louise Hutt

Louise Rich Fraser Hutt was born on July 3, 1905, in an apartment on Niagara Street in the Black Rock area of Buffalo, New York. She died on April 4, 2013, in Sun City Center, Florida, at age 107.

Her parents, Theresa Dayton and Joseph Fraser, met on the opening day of the Buffalo Pan-American Exposition in 1901. Louise was a direct descendant of Benjamin Barton, who came to the Niagara Frontier in 1787, was one of the founders of Lewiston, New York, and became one of the three partners who during 1805-1820 owned

the portage around Niagara Falls that opened up the West to commercial traffic.

Louise attended Buffalo Public Schools Nos. 20 and 51. She was a teenager during World War I. Her aunt and uncle died within a day of each other in the Flu Epidemic of 1918. Louise graduated from Lafayette High School in 1922. One of her favorite classmates was Fran Striker, the creator of *The Lone Ranger*.

Following graduation from high school, she entered the Buffalo Normal School (now Buffalo State College) to obtain an elementary teaching degree. She joined the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority and enjoyed the connections it brought for the rest of her life. She graduated in 1925 and taught first and second grade students in Buffalo Public Schools Nos. 45 and 66. When she married in November, 1928, she was forced under the rules applicable at that time to give up her teaching career, because there were so few jobs available for single women. She greatly enjoyed her teaching experience and always regretted that she had to give it up.

Louise married Lester Ralph Hutt, whom she had known from childhood, following his graduation from Syracuse University. They lived for 40 years in Kenmore, then a newly developing suburb north of Buffalo. Lester was President of Hutts' Dairy, located in the Riverside area of Buffalo, and was deeply involved in community and dairy industry activities. He pioneered pasteurized and homogenized milk in the Niagara Frontier and brought Reddi-Wip to the area.

The Great Depression had a devastating impact on all commercial business and on the lives of the friends of the Hutts. Louise often said that it created the worst problems she ever encountered during her life, and accounts for the very conservative fiscal attitude of her generation.

During World War II, as Louise said, everything changed. Hutts' Dairy had bought a dairy store on Main Street in Williamsville, near the Bell Aircraft and Westinghouse factories. Those factories began producing products for the war effort, using three 8-hour shifts each day. At the request of the government, the dairy store was kept operating 24 hours a day in order to help feed the workers. Louise spent 12 hours a day supervising the dairy store, delegating her home responsibilities to her 72-year old aunt who had just retired from 52 consecutive years of teaching in the Buffalo school system.

Louise was a leader in numerous community organizations. She co-chaired the fundraising drive to construct Kenmore Mercy Hospital, the first hospital in the northern suburbs of Buffalo. She was President of the Kenmore Mercy Hospital Guild, where she established the precedent that the presidency would alternate between a Catholic and a Protestant. She was Chair of the Kenmore Division of the Community Chest, President of the Alumna Chapter of her sorority, a volunteer at Buffalo General Hospital and Kenmore Mercy Hospital, and a member of the Kenmore Girl Scouts Board and the Erie County Girl Scouts Council. She chaired the first area Girl Scouts cookie drive. She became President of the Altar Guild at the Episcopal Church of the Advent and President of the Episcopal Church Home Associate Board of Managers. At the conclusion of her term on the Church Home Board, she was instrumental in combining the men's and women's boards into one joint board.

Lester retired in 1966. They moved to Sun City Center, Florida. Their oldest son, Henry Robert, died in 1967 from a brain tumor at the age of 36, and Lester died seven months later, in 1968, at age 61. For the past 45 years, Louise continued to live in Sun City Center and to lead an active life. She played golf into her 80s, swam throughout her 90s, and was still playing bridge when she was 105. At age 90, Louise researched the family genealogy and published a 319-page autobiography titled *Life is for the Living*.

Louise never suffered from a chronic illness of any type and never needed

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Obituaries

► continued from page 21

surgery. She died of natural causes in Sun City Center on April 4, 2013. She led an exemplary life and has been an inspiration for those fortunate to know her.

Louise leaves two children, Peter Barton Hutt of Washington, D.C., and Sally Nelson of Portland, Maine; eleven grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Louise R. Hutt Altar Guild Fund at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, 1015 Del Webb East, Sun City Center, Florida, 33573.



Joyce E. Sandusky

Joyce E. Sandusky, 85, of Kings Point, passed away on April 28, 2013. She was preceded in death by her parents Frederick and Ethel Reimsnyder and her brother Robert. She lived and attended school in Bucyrus, Ohio and briefly attended Ohio State University.

She and her husband Jerome became snowbirds and, during this time, achieved Master Gardener status in Hillsborough County. They both served on the Sun City Center Security Patrol. She also ran the Meals on Wheels program for many years, coordinating with the various organizations to schedule delivery drivers for both Sun City Center and Kings Point.

She joined the Sun City Center Woman's Club and one of her duties was to deliver excess books to the Veterans Center. She participated in numerous other charitable duties and was honored as Woman of the Year by the Woman's Club at one point. Moving to Kings Point for permanent residence, she actively participated in exercise programs and later ran an exercise class.

Survivors are her husband Jerome, son Steven West, daughters LuAnn Albert and Lynn West, and stepson Timothy Sandusky.

Memorial Service will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, May 20 at the United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Ave. in SCC.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to LifePath Hospice, 3725 Upper Creek Dr., Ruskin, FL 33573.

Advice from the Better Business Bureau Toss or save a financial record?

Now that you have finished your tax return, how long should you keep all of those records? Keeping them forever could pose a security risk as these records contain personal and financial information. The question is which documents should you keep?

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) says it can't tell you when it is safe to throw away financial documents. They do say to keep the information as long as the IRS can assess you additional taxes. Right now, that is approximately seven years. Laws change. Always check with your CPA for the latest laws.

Credit Card Statements: FDIC says to save the statements for one year, unless they have tax significance. Some people save theirs for seven years if they have purchased a big item. If there is a fire or other disaster that affects personal property, they can prove to the insurance company and/or the IRS that they did have the item and how much it was worth at time of purchase.

Bank Account Statements: Check with your financial institution and determine how far back they keep statements available to you.

Canceled Checks: Again, if purchases are tax related, keep canceled checks seven years. If they are related to your house purchase, renovations or big items that you purchased, keep the canceled checks in a file just for those things --- and keep them indefinitely. If you sell the house, keep them seven years longer.

Banks are required to keep copies of checks for seven years.

Deposit, ATM, credit card and debit card receipts: FDIC reminds us to save them until the transaction appears on a statement, and you know the amount is correct. If it is for a big item and it has a warranty, save the receipt at least until the warranty is up. Remember, you might want to save it longer for insurance and/or IRS reasons, if there is a disaster.

Electronic Records: Make sure you back up your data. Technology is always changing. Make sure you are using a method that is safe and allows the information to be easily retrieved.

To check the reliability of a company and find trustworthy businesses, visit BBB.org.



Cecile Joyce Taylor

Cecile Joyce Taylor, age 77 of Murfreesboro, TN, went to be with her Heavenly Father on May 10, 2013. A native of Bandana, KY, she was the daughter of the late Cecil and Margaret Hall Warner. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Rev. William L. Taylor, and a brother, William Warner.

Mrs. Taylor is survived by five children: Dawn Walker, Jann McDonald and husband, Steven all of Nashville, TN; Susanne Taylor of Dickson, TN; Michael Taylor and wife Vivian of Buford, GA; and Stephen Taylor and wife Lisa of Taiwan; 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; sister Ann Bigg and husband Linwood of Leslie, MI; brother Kenard Warner and wife Jeannie of Ruskin, FL; and sister-in-law Shirley Warner of Jackson, MI.

Visitation will be Thursday from 10 a.m. until noon at Franklin Road Baptist Church, 3148 Franklin Rd., Murfreesboro, TN 37128. The funeral service will be at noon, with Pastor Mike Norris officiating. A graveside service will follow at 2 p.m. at the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, Pegram, TN with family and friends serving as pallbearers.

Mrs. Taylor was dedicated to a life of serving the Lord as a pastor's wife for 43 years at various locations including Nashville, TN, Union City, TN, Ottumwa, IA, and Ruskin, FL, along with numerous mission work in foreign countries. In her honor, Mrs. Taylor has a school named after her in India. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the printing ministry at Franklin Road Baptist Church in memory of Mrs. Taylor. Online condolences may be made at www.woodfinchapel.com.

*Many are the woes of the
wicked, but the LORD's
unfailing love surrounds the
man who trusts in him.*

Psalm 32:10



Wimauma Elementary gave warm thanks to volunteers

On April 25, Wimauma Elementary School thanked volunteers for their time and hard work by inviting them to lunch and entertainment at the school. First graders serenaded the guests, and Principal Astacio and Assistant Principal Delgado thanked everyone for their dedication to the children. The school welcomes new volunteers and will hold a Volunteer Breakfast at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12 to discuss various opportunities for volunteers. For information, call 813-671-5159.

6:00am GET BATH READY FOR DAD *6:30am* PACK LUNCH FOR THE KIDS *10:00am* GIVE DAD HIS MEDICINE *1:00pm* FOLD EVERYONE'S LAUNDRY *2:00pm* SORT DAD'S BILLS *3:30pm* PICK UP THE KIDS *4:20pm* TAKE DAD OUT FOR FRESH AIR *5:30pm* REMEMBER THE DAYS WHEN DAD TOOK CARE OF ME *6:00pm* MAKE DINNER *8:00pm* HELP DAD TO BED *11:00pm* FINALLY GO TO SLEEP

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MERCHANDISE 300

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

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

3 family yard sale. Riverview. Friday May 17 & Saturday May 18, 8am-2pm. Clothing, housewares & misc. 8335 Fantasia Parkway, Lake Fantasia

Linens, household decor, purses, shoes, ladies clothes, large & small, 8am-1pm 642 Allegheny Dr., SCC. 5/17 & 5/18. Come see

Yard sale. Saturday, 5/18, 7am-? Bayou Pass, 2207 Pleasant View Ave., Furniture, children's & adult clothes, toys, trailers, etc.

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Estate sale. Friday & Saturday, 8am-2pm. Last chance. 2907 Jasmine Run Lane, Ruskin. (Little Manatee Isle) 813-506-2336, inside sale.

Moving sale 10804 Brick Side Court, Summerfield. Thursday. Noon-6pm. Furniture, collectibles, clothes, housewares & lots of stuff.

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5 family yard sale. 8802 Richmond St, Gibsonton. 5/15. 5/16 & 5/17. Follow signs with balloons.

Yard sale. Tools, fishing rods, home goods. Saturday & Sunday, May 18 & 19, 8am-1pm. 123 18th St., NW, Ruskin.

Garage/ moving-in sale. May 17 & 18, Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm. Furniture, clothes, household & more. 309 Stroll Lane, SCC.

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY
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7a.m. - NOON

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Please don't miss our other sale this weekend at 1410 Jacobson Circle Fri. & Sat. • May 17-18 See You There!

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY
May 17th & 18th
7 a.m. - NOON

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The Observer news will be closed Monday May 27 in observance of Memorial Day. Deadline for classified line ads will move to Friday, May 24 at 4pm. for the May 30 edition

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The strength of the small

■ By DIANE STRAUSSER ALVAREZ, Master Naturalist and Camp Bayou Supporter

“Take any Florida city, and certain neighborhoods will contain more Carolina Wrens or Red-tailed Hawks than other neighborhoods” (Hostetler ifas.

ufl.edu). The Carolina wren and the red-shouldered hawks are numerous here. My favorite bird is now the Carolina wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). The brown thrasher is the best and most frequent and varied singer, but they stay near the tops of trees, so it’s hard to get to know them. The cardinal male is always a bright spot, and the hummingbird is a wonder all summer long. However, the Carolina wren allows close scrutiny because it flits and runs on the ground near the house and loves to investigate open patios, fences, plant pots, and even the tops of cars. I watched a pair build their nest on an open ledge on my front patio. They worked so hard only to see most of the nest fall to the floor when one of them shifted too close to the edge. After watching the same two years in a row, I wondered why they would try again. It may be the same pair or another one. An article in National Geographic says that Carolina wrens are monogamous, and breeding pairs may stay together for years and have several broods each year. I watched the pair near my front door work together to construct the

ill-fated nest. They worked fast and strong, sometimes carrying a dried twig that was bigger than they were!

Though all birds eat seeds, berries and fruits, these wrens also eat insects, lizards and frogs. This April

from my back porch, I watched a Carolina wren chase a lizard up and down two fence posts, catch it, rip it apart at first pounce, carry half to the nearest tree to gobble up, then return for the other half that flew off at the powerful snap of the beak. The lizard was as big as the bird and didn’t have a chance! We expect that in a powerful predator such as the hawk, but it was quite remarkable to see it in one so small.

This column is sponsored by Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center located in Ruskin at 4140 24th Street SE, 3 miles south of S.R. 674 off exit 240 W. on I-75. Email: campbayou@gmail.com or call (813) 641-8545 for more information.



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