



THE OBSERVER NEWS

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Smith Island is Maryland's last inhabited offshore island group. The population has been in decline since 1910. Now the state may be hurrying that decline.

A canary in the climate coal mine?

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

SMITH ISLAND, MD - The argument over the causes of climate change are ongoing, largely split along partisan lines, however what is becoming much less arguable is that the climate is indeed changing. Global temperature averages are on the rise and that rise appears to be accelerating. Heat trapping carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have reached levels supposedly not seen on this planet in millions of years. Satellites and scientific survey missions are providing proof that glaciers and the polar icecaps are melting. The growing seasons in much of the nation's heartland have changed, sometimes with wild swings in weather conditions from year to year. Storms that were only recently thought of as 100-year events appear to be happening with increasing frequency.

While the argument about whether or not human activity has had an influence in the changing climate will no doubt continue for the foreseeable future, that argument matters little to the few hundred residents of Smith Island, located near the center of the Chesapeake Bay. Smith Island, people say, is sinking.

Smith Island has been inhabited for nearly 400 years. Accessible only by boat, it is Maryland's last remaining inhabited offshore

island group in the Chesapeake Bay. The quiet island, previously best known for a unique variation of a British dialect that stretches back centuries and for extraordinary multi-

layered cakes, is suddenly a newsmaker. Recently, the state decided against using federal funds provided for relief from

▶ See CLIMATE, page 11

Are we killing our pets with 'kindness'?

Experts say pet obesity is on the rise

■ BY PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

Some breeds of dogs love to eat more than others. And some dogs always act like they're hungry.

So we feed them. Not just at mealtimes, but whenever they look hungry.

Maybe it's just a snack, like a packaged doggie treat or cookie-bone.

But our desire to show them love and attention can be dangerous if it backfires and causes disease.

Cats too are likely to suffer from too much "love." Since cats tend to be more sedentary than dogs, experts say they also tend to be heavier than is healthy.

"The dog isn't going to tell you he's already eaten, he's going to jump up and down and act like he's starving when you get home," said Dr. Geoffrey Gardner at Boyette Animal Hospital in Riverview. "My

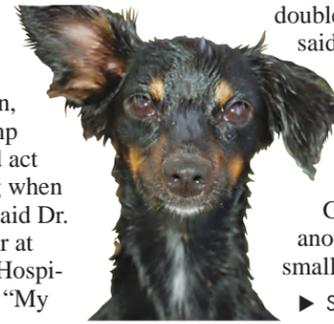
wife's an RN, so both of us are very conscious of what we eat and feed our pets. But what was happening is we were both feeding (their dogs). "We'd come home and they'd be shaking. They even shake when they hear you bringing in grocery bags. They have us well trained."

Their dogs were on a good, balanced diet. Yet they were getting heavier and heavier. What could be happening? The couple could see the fat piling on, and with it the chances for diabetes, arthritis and other diseases that can be brought on or worsened by carrying too much weight.

"We finally realized we were double-feeding," Gardner said. "We were both feeding them! We solved that by assigning a designated feeder, my wife."

Recently the Gardner family added another dog, this time a small poodle that had been

▶ See PET OBESITY, page 9



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

The final day of an icon

The early morning hours on the St. Petersburg Pier's last day were peaceful, downright tranquil with only joggers, a few people fishing and pelicans near the inverted pyramid. An hour or so later, hundreds of people began to arrive for one last visit to the Tampa Bay icon. It closed on May 31. After two weeks, the approach to the Pier is expected to temporarily reopen, although the inverted pyramid will remain off-limits to everyone but the pelicans. *Story and more photos on page 14.*



A Pier employee diligently cleans the outside glass as though it were just another day at the Pier. But it was not just another day, it was the last day.

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Brian Foster, MD
Fellowship Trained
Cornea Specialist
Dry Eye Specialist

Q: What is Dry Eye Syndrome?

A: Dry Eye Syndrome occurs when eyes do not produce enough "normal" tears to lubricate the eye properly, causing redness, scratchiness, a burning sensation, and/or excessive tearing.

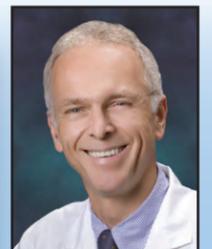
Q: Why do my eyes tear so much if they're "dry"?

A: The body's natural response to irritation and dryness in the eyes is to try to make the eyes more comfortable by producing more tears. These excess tears do not provide effective lubrication

and may overwhelm the eyes' drainage system, causing your eyes to overflow with tears.

Q: What can I do to help my dry eye problem?

A: The easy answer is to use artificial tears, avoid smoke, wear wrap-around sunglasses and turn off ceiling fans. But sometimes this is not enough to alleviate your symptoms. There may be a problem with your eyelids, or some other condition that interferes with tear flow. A **Comprehensive Eye Exam** with a **Dry Eye Consultation** will reveal the best treatment for you.



Richard Hector, MD
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Elaine and John



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Robin



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Residents fight proposed super-store on Bloomingdale Avenue

■ By KEVIN BRADY

Stirring passions like few issues have in recent years, a proposal for a huge Super Walmart-size store on Bloomingdale Avenue is pitting homeowners against local government.

Hundreds are expected to turn out Monday, June 10 when County Commissioner Al Higginbotham hosts a “listening session” with residents on the issue at the Brandon Recreation Center, 502 E. Sadie St. in Brandon.

The prospect of a store like Target or Sam’s Club on a roadway that’s already notorious for morning and afternoon traffic backups has locals fuming.

“There is no demand for this type of retail in the area,” said Dawn McGovern whose online petition against the project has already collected more than 1,100 signatures. “There are already three Walmarts within a 5-mile radius of the proposed building site. We have an overabundance of already developed, vacant real estate from failed grocery chains that could be re-designed into a Walmart instead of developing on the scarce amount of vacant land still left in this area.”

The proposed store will also “increase traffic delays and accidents” as well as decrease property values and hurt small businesses in the area, McGovern said.

The company’s preliminary site plan calls for a 158,800-square-foot shopping center, three restaurants, a bank and another 6,000-square-foot retail center. Blueprints call for one entrance to the shopping center



Hundreds of residents are expected to turn out Monday, June 10 when County Commissioner Al Higginbotham hosts a “listening session” with residents at the Brandon Recreation Center, 502 E. Sadie St. in Brandon.

PHOTO COURTESY BLOOMINGDALE BIG BOX

on Lithia Pinecrest with two on Bloomingdale, one of which, at Blowing Oak Street, would have a traffic light. The plan, which met the requirements in the County’s Land Development Code, was approved February 28.

The 43-acre plot at the corner of Lithia Pinecrest Road and Bloomingdale Avenue is zoned for mixed use development, which would allow a large retail store. The owner of the property, Redstone Properties, need only meet state and federal guidelines for the project and pay for any traffic mitigation measures — turning lanes, traffic lights — to gain the necessary permits for work to begin.

“There’s just no way the roads can handle this,” said

George May, president of the Bloomingdale Homeowners Association. The group is sending out a survey to 5,000 homeowners this month asking their opinion on the issue.

While the proposed store and 261 new apartments will only pour more vehicles onto already congested roads, “bear in mind that this is also a truck route,” said May, warning the traffic situation may be even worse than some imagine.

While many want the county commission to stop the project, any commission-led effort to delay the shopping center will only lead to lawsuits, warn county staff.

“The site development process is governed by the Hillsborough

County Land Development Code which establishes it as an administrative review and approval process that does not include any role for the (county commission),” according to an April letter from the county attorney addressing the issue. “Any attempt by the commission to insert itself into this decision-making process would have the potential to create significant liability for the county and should be avoided.”

Despite the warnings, residents are demanding commissioners address the issue.

“This project is proverbial commercial cancer being foisted upon us. The voters in this community elected you to serve the public needs and demands, and I am at a loss to understand how this planned construction improves this community,” said members of the Consolidated Active Neighborhood Development Organization (CAN-DO) in a form letter sent to commissioners.

Residents could be forgiven for feeling blindsided by the project. In 2011, development

regulations in the Land Development Code were revised, allowing for mixed use development on the site. Although notice of the change was posted in the *Tampa Tribune*, no signs were posted in the area informing residents about the proposal. The changes required two hearings before the county commission and a vote of the planning commission. Both approved the change.

“I don’t like the way this was approved,” May said. “From the way I understand it, it was done in an underhanded way.”

Locals have more than enough similar stores in the area, said Diane Masiello.

“Within a 10-minute drive from this exact intersection you can reach two separate Walmarts, one on Bloomingdale and Bell Shoals and one on State Road 60. Within a 10-minute drive there are also two Publix stores and a Walmart Market, which just sells food. We are blessed with wonderful establishments that cater to our needs for food, clothing and sundries. We do not need any more places to buy things.”



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Positive Talk: Reprogram Your Mind

What have you been telling yourself? The words we say to ourselves and the words we hear others use to describe us become the programming by which our brain directs our lives. Whether the programming was good or bad, true or false, what we have told ourselves or heard from others becomes our reality and results in our adopting a particular belief. This belief sets into action



By William Hodges

be expressed in many ways, such as anger, frustration and a sense of failure. These feelings more than likely will result in unhealthy actions, such as adopting a fad diet or bingeing. None of these actions will give us positive results. We need to plant a different seed in the beginning. My original statement in this paragraph is a poor seed for my mind; it implies that if I can get through this week, I can go back

to my old way of eating. It would have been a better seed if I had said, "I have changed the way I am going to eat from now on." The mind can only act on what you tell it.

We all know it would be silly to plant a watermelon seed and expect to get radishes. Isn't it just as silly to plant a negative thought and expect to grow positive results? Instead of saying to yourself, "I can't lose weight," prepare your mind by saying over and over to yourself, "I can achieve a healthy and well proportioned body." This programming will be reflected in your belief, and your attitude will be

"can do." With a "can do" attitude, you will have a better feeling toward the project. As a result, the winning actions will be generated. You will achieve the healthy and well-proportioned body you desire. It can be a difficult journey and even with all the positive thoughts in the world, it still will not be easy, but the goal is within your reach—if you want it enough.

We set ourselves up for failure with negative programming. Most of us, if not all, have done it to ourselves in the past week. Following are some of the most common negative programming statements we hear and use all the time: I can't remember names. It's going to be another one of those days. Today just isn't my day. I'm just no good at _____. There's just no way! Not one of these statements starts with the premise that we will succeed or even deserve to. You will be surprised when instead of saying, "I cannot remember names," you say, "My mind will give me that name in a minute." More often than not, your mind does it. You gave your mind a job and it did it. Maybe not in a

minute, but it WILL keep working. It shouldn't be a surprise. Instead of telling it that it could not do something, you told it that it could.

Never cease to listen to what you are telling yourself and what you are letting others tell you. Begin to eliminate the negative programming and you will quickly see positive results in your life. Speak well of yourself and shun those who would (for whatever reason) find the need to put you down. You will be what you believe you can be—nothing more and nothing less.

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

Computer-based GED testing now available

For the first time, the GED test can be taken in a computer version. In Hillsborough County the computer version is now available to be taken at the Adult and Career Service Center (ACSC), 5410 N. 20th St., Tampa.

The GED test still will be offered in the traditional paper and pencil version until the end of 2013. Those who have not passed any of the five sections can retest on the computer even if they tested on the paper/pencil version previously.

Registration is available online at PearsonVUE.com. Assistance with online registration is available through the GED Testing Office. The cost of the test is \$26 for each of the five subtests: mathematics, science, social studies, reading and writing. Unofficial results will be available upon completion of the test — except for writing.

The paper/pencil GED test will still be available at ACSC, Aparicio-Levy Technical Center, Gaither Adult High School, Lennard Adult High School, and Plant City Adult High School. Contact the GED Testing Office at 813-231-1650 with any additional questions.

The current version of the test will expire at the end of 2013, when it will be replaced with the new, more expensive 2014 GED test on January 2, 2014.

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Silverliners Intl. meet June 18

The members of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of Eastern Airlines Silverliners International will meet at the Rusty Pelican Restaurant, 2425 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL on Tuesday, June 18 at 1 p.m.

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

Six Florida Gulf Coast Chapter members recently returned from an international board meeting held in Ft. Lauderdale.

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



1st woman conductor at Florida Railroad Museum

The Florida Railroad Museum in Parrish has announced the promotion of its first woman Conductor. Karen Apfel (above) is with FRRM President and Engineer Pat Masterson. Karen recently completed the training program and is now managing weekend train excursions from Parrish. Anyone interested in learning railroad operations can contact the Museum at 941-776-0906 or visit frmm.org.

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TSS Youth Sailing offers 9 weeks of summer sailing classes

TSS (Tampa Sailing Squadron) Youth Sailing will offer nine weeks of summer sailing classes from Monday, June 10 through Friday, Aug. 16 to young sailors, ages 7 to 17, at the Sailing Squadron in Apollo Beach.

Classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced sailors are weekdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. From the first day to the last, young sailors are on the water, sailing in small boats, having fun and learning the ropes in a safe, organized program of sailing activities. They are rigging, launching, sailing and landing a pram or Sunfish, understanding wind direction, steering and points of sail to maneuver the boat upwind (tacking) and downwind (jibing).

All graduating sailors are invited

to race in the Joey Meyer Regatta at the end of the season.

Ryan Kresge, TSS Youth Sailing's instructor, is certified to teach by U.S. Sailing, the national sailing authority, and the American Sailing Association. He and TSS sailing assistants have credentials in CPR, First Aid and boating safety.

Classes are \$250 per student per week, but there are discounts for multiple students and multiple weeks. To register, visit TSS Youth Sailing's website, www.tssyouthsailing.org.

TSS Youth Sailing is a federal 501(c)3 and Florida non-profit organization, teaching kids and teens to sail, a fun activity that fosters responsibility, teamwork, and awareness.



Wimauma Elementary wins Battle of the Books

Hillsborough County's fourth graders competed on May 23 at the Tampa Convention Center in the annual contest called **The Battle of the Books**. Wimauma Elementary School won first place for Area 8. Above are Mrs. Greenmun, Media Specialist, Michael Medina, Adrian Carmona, David Ramirez (Captain) and Elida Villegas.



Fritzzy Brothers One-Man Circus comes to Ruskin

At 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, the Ruskin Branch Library will host the Fritzzy Brothers One-Man Circus.

Designed for children ages 5 to 12, the show provokes hysterical laughter as it entertains youngsters through juggling, unicycling and other fantastic circus activities.

The Ruskin Branch Library is located at 26 Dickman Dr. SE.



Ruskin Elementary competes for prizes in Big Lots LOTS2GIVE program

Ruskin Elementary has been selected to participate in the 2013 Big Lots LOTS2GIVE program in which schools are recipients of an in-store donation program. They were also given the opportunity to put their creativity to the test in an online video contest: the winners share in \$120,000 in cash prizes.

Ruskin Elementary would greatly benefit from this financial support that would provide every teacher in the school with a Mimio Pad, a wireless pen tablet that frees teachers to move around the classroom while teaching with a whiteboard.

Starting Monday, June 10, videos will be posted online where viewers can vote up to three times a day for their favorite. The contest continues through Sunday, July 7.

Since public votes will determine the winners, teachers and students at the school encourage the public to vote for Ruskin Elementary ... up to three times a day.

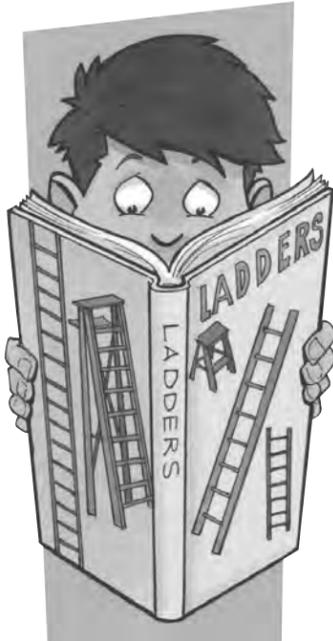
The web address is www.biglots.com/lots2give.



Jokes & Riddles

Q: Why did the boy bring a book about ladders to school?

A: He thought it was a high school.



Q: Where do you go for more information on chickens?

A: A hencyclopedia.

SouthShore Regional Library

Kids program/event highlights

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

Pee Wee Artists: Let's Design a T-Shirt! - Monday, June 10 at 10:30 a.m.

Pee Wee Artists, 3-6 years (adult must be present), will create a design that will be placed on their T-shirt with our art instructor. Please bring in a white or light colored washed T-shirt to class. Limit 15. Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling 813-273-3652.

Baby Time - Monday, June 10 at 1:35 p.m.
Tuesday, June 11 at 11:35 a.m.
Wednesday, June 12 at 10:05 a.m.

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

Toddler Time - Tuesday, June 11 at 10:05 a.m. & 10:35 a.m.
Wednesday, June 5 at 10:35 a.m.

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

Story Time - Tuesday, June 11 at 11 a.m.
Wednesday, June 12 at 11 a.m.

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

Mad Science: Planets and Moons - Tuesday, June 11 at 1 p.m. & 2:15 p.m.

For children entering grades K-5 ~ Explore the farthest reaches of our solar system with Mad Science! Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

Teen Volunteer Orientation - Tuesday, June 11 at 2:15 p.m.

Prospective teen volunteers are invited to attend this informational session. Topics will include the application process, filling out school forms, shelving guidelines, and volunteer expectations.

Creative Artists: Let's Design a T-Shirt! - Thursday, June 13 at 1 p.m.

Creative Artists, 7-10 years, will join our art instructor and create a design that will be placed on their T-Shirt. Please bring in a washed white or light colored T-Shirt to class. Limit 22. Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling 813-273-3652.

Teen Movie Matinee - Thursday, June 13 at 4 p.m.

For ages 13-18 ~ An inexperienced librarian-turned-archeologist and a group of greedy treasure hunters accidentally resurrect Imhotep, a cursed Egyptian high priest, in this movie adventure. Rated PG-13, 125 minutes. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

Family Story Time - Thursday, June 13 at 7 p.m.

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

Festival of Bubbles - Saturday, June 15 at 1-:30 a.m.

For ages 5-12 ~ Bubbles, bubbles, bubbles! Join us for this celebration of small floating air which will include experiments and, of course, blowing bubbles. Registration is required. Please ask at the Information Desk or call 273.3652. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Library.

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.

Fact or Fiction? Book Challenge

There are many books written for kids. Here are some questions about some popular kids' books. How many can you answer correctly?

- 1) In this book, a young boy named Mack imagines a group of monsters called the Wild Things. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 2) In this book, a hungry caterpillar turns into a butterfly. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 3) In this book, a young boy named Alexander has many bad things happen to him, including getting gum in his ears. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 4) In this book, a young boy named Harold gets out of many jams with his green crayon. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 5) In this book, a young girl named Pinkalicious turns yellow after eating too many yellow foods. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 6) In this book, a man named Amos McGee is visited by animals from the veterinarian's office he works at. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 7) In this book, a young girl named Clancy loves everything fancy. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 8) In this book, a little bear named Corduroy looks for an owner. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 9) In this book, Sam urges another to eat green eggs and ham. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 10) In this book, a child tells everything around them good night. **Fact or Fiction?**



Answers: (1) Fiction, the boy's name is Max. (2) Fact. (3) Fiction, Alexander gets gum in his hair. (4) Fiction, Harold's crayon is purple. (5) Fiction, Pinkalicious turns pink and then red after eating too many pink cupcakes. (6) Fiction, Amos works at a zoo. (7) Fiction, the girl's name is Nancy. (8) Fact. (9) Fact. (10) Fact.

Apply for deer quota permits in June

Every hunter knows you have a better chance of catching a monster buck off-guard during the first part of hunting season. That's why many of us enjoy hunting the archery and muzzleloading gun seasons – and why we can't miss opening weekend of the general gun season.

If you hunt public land, you should know that many of Florida's wildlife management areas (WMAs) require a quota permit to hunt during archery, muzzleloading gun and all or part of the general gun season.

A quota is the maximum number of hunters allowed on a particular WMA. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Quota Hunt Program prevents overcrowding on such areas and provides quality hunts. Quotas also help control game harvests. The FWC sets quotas based on an area's size, habitat, game populations and regulations.

There are several types of quota permits, and most are issued by random drawing. The first-phase application period for archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, youth, family, track vehicle (a swamp buggy with tank treads), airboat and mobility-impaired quota hunt permits runs June 1-30, so you've got all month to get 'em in.

You may submit one application for each of the hunt types, and there is no fee to apply. One thing to remember though: Unless exempt, you must have an up-

to-date management area permit (or a license that includes one) when applying for a quota permit, or the system won't accept your application.

Two of these quota hunts are unique to south Florida. An airboat quota permit is required for anyone wishing to hunt out of an airboat on Everglades and Francis S. Taylor WMA in Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

But, if you'd rather hunt off a track vehicle there, or on Rotenberger or Holey Land WMAs in Palm Beach County, you'll need a track vehicle quota permit.

The FWC offers youth deer hunts on Camp Blanding WMA in Clay County and on Andrews WMA in Levy County. If you have children between the ages of 8 and 15, and you want them to have a chance to experience one of these great hunts, apply for a youth quota hunt permit, because only 160 kids will get to participate. During these hunts, only the youngsters may hunt, and they and their adult supervisors are the only people allowed on the area.

To increase hunting opportunities for youths, youngsters may accompany an adult quota permit holder on any WMA – even if the area doesn't allow for exemptions. However, adults and youngsters must share a single bag limit.

This coming season, there will be family quota hunts on 25 WMAs. You must have a family

quota hunt permit to hunt these areas during specific time periods. If you are drawn, the permit requires one adult to take one or two youths hunting. The adult may not hunt without taking along a kid.

Hunters certified by the FWC as mobility-impaired may apply for mobility-impaired quota permits. These permits allow exclusive access to general-gun hunts on nine of the state's better public hunting areas.

If you want to get the jump on one of these hunts, make sure you have the correct quota hunt application worksheet so you can apply for one or more of these great opportunities. All application worksheets can be found at MyFWC.com/License by clicking on "Limited Entry/Quota Hunts" and then looking under "Quota Hunts."

Once you've completed the application worksheet, you may use it to apply at License.MyFWC.com or submit it to any license agent or tax collector's office.

The random drawings to decide who gets these quota hunt permits take place in July. To find out if you've been selected, you can simply log in to your customer account at License.MyFWC.com to view your results.

But there's been a change in how the preference system works. From now on, you can only return your unwanted quota permit online, and you can't do so until Phase III begins and up until 10 days prior to your hunt date. To do this, log in to your customer account at License.MyFWC.com, and click the "Return" link next to the hunt you wish to turn in.



Outta' the Woods

By Tony Young



Returns will only be accepted online and will be reissued every Tuesday throughout the season after the Phase III application period begins. If you return a

permit that was awarded to you in Phase I, you will receive a preference point as well as the restoration of your preference points used to obtain the permit.

Florida Public Boat Ramp Finder

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) Boat Ramp Finder provides descriptive information, maps and photographs for hundreds of public boat ramps throughout Florida. The website is accessible at <https://public.myfwc.com/LE/boatramp/public/default.aspx> or by visiting myfwc.com and type "boat ramp finder" in the search box.

The Find-A-Boat-Ramp menu on the left side of the screen provides several options to search for the particular type of boat ramp you want to visit.

The Boat Ramp Finder provides information about both publically maintained and commercially maintained boat ramps. Some of the boat ramps may require a user fee.

As the condition and operation of boat ramps can change rather quickly, boaters are advised to check ahead before making a trip to an unfamiliar boat ramp.

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Fish Tales: School's out... why not go fishing?

School is out, summer is here. Why not vacation at home and fish in your own backyard?

We live in one of the most favorable fishing spots in the world, sunny Florida. It's a place where others wished they were living. We don't have seasonal fishing, we can fish every day of the year.

We've had some afternoon rains and choppy waters, but the mornings have been great.

Those with large boats and charters fishing in 70+ feet of water found that red grouper (legal measure 20"); mangrove snapper (5 per harvest, 10" legal); and white grunts were hot catches.

Bridge and pier fishing was popular this week by locals as well as tourists. Those I talked to love the pier fishing but it takes a careful hand to bring the fish up on the bridge or pier without breaking the line or letting the fish swim away. Along with the sheephead, trout, and snapper, I saw a lot of trash fish.

Flounder is always a great catch. The meat is lean, white, and boneless, a great table fare. This one-eyed flat fish looks like a fish you would toss back, but don't. Legal is 12" with 10 per harvest, per day.

Redfish catches were numerous, with many caught and released. One per person of 18" or more than 27" is legal per day.

About every angler caught sheephead. They were in schools everywhere. It's a lean white-meated fish which can be cooked in many ways. Legal is 12" with 15 per person, per day

Freshwater fishing in the upper rivers and lakes has been great. The waters have been teeming with panfish, large mouth bass and freshwater catfish.

Father's day is this month. Your gift could be a new fishing reel, pole, castnet, hooks, lures, plugs, floats, bait box, Polaroid glasses, special fishing line, or fishing attire. Most all can be purchased at your local bait shop. A three-hour or all day charter would also be a grand gift.

I have seen reels as high as \$800, but if you take care of your modestly priced reel it will last you a long time. Be careful not to strip the gears. Many anglers catch fish on a cane pole and line, others pay two or three hundred dollars for a pole. Guess it's pride because the fish won't know the difference.

If you purchase your fish at the supermarket, place it in the coldest part of your refrigerator, cook within two days and keep it in the original wrapper.

If your fish is frozen, don't keep longer than two to three months. Canned seafood should not be kept longer than one year.

Enjoy our Florida sun, watch the weather, and always fish together.



By Jonie Maschek
Member: Florida Outdoor Writers Association

New support group targets depression, anxiety

Living Life Fully support group meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at Homewood Residence, 3910 Galen Court in Sun City Center, just off Upper Creek Drive.

Facilitated by Frank Koebrich, MA, and Wendy Burkhard, LCSW, the free support group is designed

to help participants rid themselves of depression, anxiety, fears, frustrations and worries, whether the issues come from children, family, retirement, aging, health, finances, etc.

All is completely confidential and free of charge; no appointment is

necessary. The support group meets in the library across from the elevator on the second floor of the Homewood Residence. The group is sponsored by the South Shore Coalition for Mental Health and Aging.

For more information, call 813-642-0773 or 813-401-7452.

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SouthShore Regional Library Adult program/event highlights 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin • 813-273-3652

Adult Writing Group - Monday, June 10 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.

Email: Messages and Attachments - Tuesday, June 11 at 1 p.m.

Read, forward, and delete messages. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended as well as an existing e-mail account. Learn about sending attachments and creating address books. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended. Limit: 20

Mah Jongg Club - Wednesday, June 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of the popular table game, Mah Jongg. Participants are asked to bring their own Mah Jongg set or card. Limited to 28 players. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652.

SouthShore Needle People - Wednesday, June 12 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!

Managing Media - Thursday, June 13 at 1 p.m.

Learn about saving files using cloud storage and USB devices. Learn how to transfer and download digital content. Limit: 20.

eBay: Helpful Bidding and Selling Tips - Friday, June 14 at 1 p.m.

Topics include bidding, proxy bidding and My eBay selling, fees, listing types, pricing and research. eBay account required and basic mouse/keyboard skills are recommended. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended. Seating limit: 18. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

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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Commissioner Beckner holds community office hours

On Wednesday, July 24 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Ruskin Senior Center, County Commissioner Kevin Beckner, Dist. 6, will be available to meet with residents.

Commissioner Beckner will be available, one on one, to share residents' ideas and hear their concerns. He has planned one Wednesday a month for such meetings in locations around the county.

No appointment is necessary, and residents are seen on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Ruskin Senior Center is located at 905 6th St. SE. For more information, call 813-272-5730.



From left: Sharon Vasquez, Judy Peck, Stephanie Betz, Nancy Vance and Phyllis Elsberry.

Apollo Beach Woman's Club installs new officers for 2013-14

At a recent meeting of the Apollo Beach Woman's Club, Phyllis Elsberry presented and installed the new executive board for 2013-14: Sharon Vasquez as President, Beverly Brook as 1st Vice President, Judy Peck as 2nd Vice President, Deanna Anest as 3rd Vice President, Stephanie Betz as Recording Secretary, and Nancy Vance as Treasurer.

Judy Peck, past president, was thanked for her service with a gift.

The Apollo Beach Woman's Club was established in 1959 by a group of women who wished to contribute to the community by providing college scholarships to graduates from Apollo Beach. In addition to funding scholarships, the membership also enjoys special interest activities in Book, Bridge, Garden and Culture Clubs within ABWC.

ABWC extends a warm welcome to women of all ages and backgrounds. Membership, which is \$20 a year, is open to all women in Apollo Beach and surrounding communities. For information contact Judy Peck at 813-746-1072.

Luncheon meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Little Harbor in Ruskin, September through May. To learn more: www.apollobeachwomensclub.com



Presenting a check to Ruskin's Alex Council are, from left, John Braugh of the Community Foundation of Greater SCC; PAC President Ellen Kleinschmidt; Bill Richards of the Community Foundation; and Lew Resseguie, PAC founder and chairman of the board.

SCC groups help young actor to head to the Big Apple

Thanks to a grant submitted by the Performing Arts Company of Sun City Center and awarded by The Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center "Ruby LaNace Hurst Fund and the Sun City Center Unrestricted Fund," Alex Council, 13, of Ruskin, will be spending a week in New York City attending the Broadway Artists Alliance this Summer.

Broadway Artists Alliance provides professional training for promising young musical theatre performers — right in the heart of New York City. Participants study voice, acting, and dance with TONY Award-winners and current Broadway performers, as well as NYC's top casting directors, agents, coaches and choreographers.

One of the missions of the Performing Arts Company is to provide opportunities for area actors to perform in a quality professional community theater environment and to educate, equip and inspire amateur actors in a professional

theater setting.

Founder of the PAC and Chairman of the Board, Lew Resseguie, a former NY actor, knew Alex had a special talent the first time he heard him sing. Alex, along with his mother Teri, are frequent performers at the PAC's resident theater, the Rollins in SCC.

Alex co-starred with his mom in the recent production of *Apartment 14G*, a show which Teri also co-wrote. Other appearances at the Rollins include *An Evening With Fiddler on the Roof* and as member of the company of The PACKids.

On June 1, Alex was presented with his BIG CHECK following a performance by the drama department of Progress Village Magnet School. Alex starred in *The Toybox*, an original musical which was presented at the Rollins Theater to kick-off the PAC Lite Summer Variety Series.

Alex lives in Ruskin with his parents Whit and Teri, and his big brother Jacob.

East Bay Watch

Buffalo Wild Wings supports East Bay HS

by Michael Cooper



Thanks to manager Meril Hummon, framed jerseys honoring two of East Bay High School's best flag football players, Nicole Lock and Stephanie Williams, are hanging on the wall of Buffalo Wild Wings in Summerfield. On each frame is a brass plaque with a list of everything each player has achieved. In the photo above, the girls are shown with Hummon, left, and their coach Michael Cooper. Buffalo Wild Wings is located at Hwy 301 and Big Bend Road.

Tampa 912 Project offers Liberty School this summer

The South Shore Chapter of the Tampa 912 Project will hold Tampa Liberty School in Apollo Beach from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday, June 24-28 at the Faith Worx Baptist Church.

The cost is \$30 per child.

The curriculum is the principles of liberty, free markets and limited government. The Tampa Liberty School is dedicated to teaching youth, ages 8-12, about the fundamental values and beliefs which provided the foundation for the country.

All activities are designed to teach while having fun.

For more information, contact Kathy or Fran Nason at 813-641-9109 or Jeff Lukens at jeff@tampa912.org. To register, go to www.tampalibertyschool.com.

Safe boating classes offered

Flotilla 75 (Ruskin) of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering the basic safe boating course "About Boating Safely" at the Apollo Beach Racquet & Fitness Club on three consecutive Wednesdays, June 19, 26 and July 3 from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Learn safe boating practices. Learn some basic knots. Learn details of docking. Learn more about navigating in local waters.

The cost is \$40 and includes the ABS book, a lifetime reference manual. Many boaters quickly recoup their investment when their insurance company reduces their premium upon successful completion of the course.

Boaters who take safe boating classes, statistically, are not the ones involved in headline getting boating accidents.

Apollo Beach Racquet and Fitness Club is located at 6520 Richies Way, just past Apollo Beach Elementary School on the same side of Apollo Beach Blvd.

Call Guy Mandigo for reservations and information at 813-641-2488.

Happy 102nd, Howard!

On May 28, Howard DeMask of Apollo Beach celebrated his 102nd birthday. The Moose Euchre Group and Hungry Howie's held a pizza party at the Lodge. Louise, Howard's wife of 76 years, and his family helped celebrate.



Ruskin Burger King undergoes remodel and update, adds computers

Quality Dining, Inc., operator of 54 Tampa Bay area Burger King restaurants, is remodeling its restaurant at 3890 Sun City Center Boulevard. The Ruskin remodel is one of many Burger King restaurants that will be rebuilt or remodeled across the Tampa Bay market.

The restaurant will feature the latest in Burger King design and innovation, including café-style and large lounge seating with a contemporary look. The remodeled restaurant will offer an "Internet Cafe" with free Wi-Fi as well as the use of computer terminals, which guests may use while enjoying their dining experience.

The restaurant's remodeling includes a complete refurbishment of both interior and exterior. The new look will include new landscaping, lighting and signage, highlighted by a new double lane for the drive-thru that will provide faster service, especially during peak traffic hours.

Over the past year, Burger King has substantially modified its menu; along with the Whopper® sandwich, menu offerings include salads, wraps, a full line of premium beverages, including smoothies, lattes, frappes and Tasty Treats and desserts. The menu currently offers limited time products including Rib Sandwich, Carolina Whopper, Pulled Pork Sandwich, Sweet Potato fries and more.

The Burger King has been in the Ruskin community since 1990. The chain was founded in 1954, with the Whopper making its debut in 1957. Quality Dining acquired 54 Burger Kings in late 2012.

Pet obesity: Are we killing them with 'kindness'?

► Continued from page 1
rescued off the street by Amanda Marcum, a veterinary technician who works with him.

"It's supposed to be temporary," said Dr. Sarah Anne Balaguer. "But I'll bet you're not looking hard for another home."

"He'll end up keeping her," Balaguer added.

Balaguer said she is almost fanatic about her dog's weight because almost two-thirds of the dogs and cats she sees in her practice are too heavy, and many of those are morbidly obese.

"I'll cut their food in half if I have to, change their food, and weigh them every few weeks until their weight gets back under control," she said.

"There's a psychological factor to over-feeding," she said. "People substitute giving treats for love. It's hard for some pet owners to accept that not giving too many treats is showing their pets love. But touching, talking to, walking, playing, having fun with your pet is so important. If you show love every time with food, what you end up with is a temporarily happy but unhealthy stuffed pet you might not have very long."

She emphasized that treats should be relative to the size of the dog. "People don't recognize that a small piece of cheese might be a huge snack for a tiny dog,"

she said. "Let's say you give a small breed a little square of cheese every time he goes potty outside. How many times a day does that happen? Their stomachs are tiny."

You should be able to see where the ribs are on your dog and he or she should have a place where the "waist" indents.

Obesity is even more acceptable by cat owners than dog owners because cats have a sedentary lifestyle, she added. But they too are in danger of the same types of disease.

Like humans, diet and exercise are important, said Laura Rubin, owner of Adogable Pets in Sun City Center.

About a year ago Rubin opened the shop which is dedicated to a natural and holistic lifestyle for pets from grooming and toys to foods.

"We wash our pets in purified water and use all natural shampoos and conditioners," she said.

But proper foods, natural to the animal, are most important.

"Cats are carnivores. They should be eating meat, not fillers. You have to check the labels on the cans and bags and use an actual measuring cup to determine how much to feed your pet depending on its size."

Rubin says she sees a lot of obese pets in her store.

"I'll ask the owner first if they've checked with their vet to be sure they're (the pet) not

diabetic or have any other disease before I check their diet. If it's a healthy dog or cat, then I ask about their diet. Is what they're feeding full of filler like wheat or corn?"

Most people leave food down all the time for cats, she said. "That's fine as long as the cat isn't obese. Some cats know exactly how much to eat but others don't. You have to know your pet."

Rubin said she always welcomes the chance to help pet owners read and understand the labels on the foods they're using. But before making a drastic change to the pet's diet or feeding habits, she advises making a trip to the vet to be sure there's no disease that requires medicine or treatment.



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

While examining Caroline, who was recently rescued from a life on the streets, Dr. Sarah Anne Balaguer and Amanda Diaz, a certified veterinary technician, point out ways to tell if your dog or cat is overweight. All the experts interviewed for this story say pet obesity is climbing as fast as human obesity and with it, dogs and cats are showing up with diabetes, arthritis and other illnesses that can be brought on or worsened by too much body weight.



Obesity is even more acceptable by cat owners than dog owners because cats have a sedentary lifestyle. But they too are in danger of the same types of disease.

If you show love every time with food, what you end up with is a temporarily happy but unhealthy stuffed pet you might not have very long.
—Dr. Sarah Anne Balaguer

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Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you recommend some easy-to-use television remote controls for seniors? I got my 74-year-old mother a new HDTV for her birthday, but the remote control is very confusing for her to operate.

Shopping Son



By Jim Miller

Dear Shopping,

It seems like most television remote controls today come with

dozens of unnecessary buttons that make them very confusing to operate. Add in the fact that many people use two or three remotes to operate their home entertainment equipment (TV, cable box, VCR and DVD player, etc.) it compounds the problem even further.

Fortunately, there are several universal TV remotes available today that are specifically designed for seniors and the technically challenged. These remote controls have bigger buttons and fewer options that make them much easier to see, program and operate.

Simplified Remotes

Two popular senior-friendly products to consider are the Flip-

per Remote and the Super Remote SR3.

The Flipper works all major TVs including cable, satellite and digital TV receiver boxes with only one remote. Available for \$25 at flipperremote.com, it offers a tapered design that makes it easy to hold, and for simplicity it has only six large color-coded buttons that are exposed (On/Off, Channel Up and Down, Volume Up and Down, and Mute). All others buttons are accessed by sliding the top panel down, so they won't get in the way during day-to-day TV watching.

Flipper also has an optional feature that lets you program up to 30 of your mom's favorite channels for easy access.

The Super Remote SR3 from Universal Remote Control, Inc. (sold through amazon.com for around \$13) is a slightly more sophisticated user-friendly remote that can control three devices — TVs, cable or satellite boxes, and DVD players.

It offers a lightweight ergonomic design, large easy-to-see numeric buttons each in the shape of the number it represents, and a centrally located "My Button" that gives your mom the ability to turn on the TV and set the tuner to her favorite channel with a single button press.

It also provides four "Favorite" buttons for one-touch access

to her favorite channels, and an "All Off" button that lets her shut down the entire home entertainment system with a single button press.

Super-Sized Remotes

There are also a number of oversized TV remotes that are ideal for seniors with vision problems. The "Tek Partner," "Big Button," and "Tek Pal" remotes, all made by the Hy-Tek Manufacturing Company (bigbuttonremotes.com, 630-466-7664) in Sugar Grove, Ill. are three solid options to consider.

If you're interested in an extra-large remote control, the \$40 Tek Partner — which is 5 1/2" wide and 8 1/2" long — is their biggest. It offers huge brightly lit buttons with big readable characters, and a narrowed center (3 1/2"), which makes it easy to handle for a big remote. It also contains only the essential functions, making it easy to use and program, and it operates any combination of TVs, VCRs, DVD players, cable boxes and satellite dishes.

If you're looking for something a little smaller (2 1/2" X 9 1/2"), there's the \$25, rectangular-shaped Big Button remote that offers the same large and illuminating buttons as the Tek Partner and the exact same features.

Or, if you only want a basic remote for the TV, there's the Tek Pal that comes with just six large buttons (On/Off, Mute, Channel Up and Down, and Volume Up and Down buttons) that light up when pushed. Available for \$19, the Pal will only work with televisions that have cable wired directly into the TV.

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.

Emergency electric bill payment assistance for seniors is available

Hillsborough County's Family and Aging Services Department is accepting applications for its federally-funded Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program. EHEAP assists low-income households who have at least one member who is 60 or older, and an energy emergency resulting from a past due utility bill, or receiving a shut-off notice.

Households may qualify if they meet the following criteria:

- Have a total household gross income below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines;
- Have at least one member who is 60 years or older;
- Reside in Hillsborough County;
- Be a U.S. Citizen, qualified alien or permanent resident of the U.S.;

and

- Have a recent past due or final notice energy bill.
- How to apply:
- Applications are accepted at local Neighborhood Service Centers;
 - Proof of income for all household members for the last 30 days. Proof of income can be a pay check stub, employer letter, public assistance check, supplementary security income check, unemployment check or a pension check stub;

- Proof of home energy obligation or electric bill;
- Social Security Number verification for all household members;
- Picture identification for all adults in the household;
- Identification for all other household members; and
- Proof of Hillsborough County residency, such as: valid driver's license with current address, a letter from your landlord or mortgage company, voter's registration card, etc.

Locally residents can apply at the SouthShore Community Resource Center, 201 14th Ave. SE in Ruskin, 813-671-7647.

For more information, call 813-272-6770.

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. Special price for summer: 2 fish dinners, either fried or baked, for \$14.

Friday, June 7 - The Lodge welcomes SP Brian Burns and 1st Lady Mary Kay and VPAL Danny Tabor and Rachel. All Elks and their guests are welcome, 5 to 8 p.m

Monday, June 10 - Blue Plate Special for all Elks and their guests, \$7 per person. Menu: Roast Beef with all the trimmings, including dessert. Only 50 tickets available.

Monday, June 24 - Blue Plate Special for all Elks and their guests, \$7 per person. Menu: Center Cut Pork Chops with all the trimmings, including dessert. 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.

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A canary in the climate coal mine?

► Continued from page 1

Superstorm Sandy for actual relief on Smith Island. The state instead wants to use some of the money to buy people out, to relocate them off the island, effectively bringing an end to centuries of life—a way of life that is already disappearing.

Viewed from afar, a crisis on Smith Island appears imminent. With the government seemingly throwing up their hands in surrender to nature are articles and editorials in Maryland's largest newspaper suggesting that islanders shouldn't

vent anger at state officials who, for all intents and purposes, are calling for the evacuation of the island, but instead should write to

federal officials and congressional leaders demanding that something be done about climate change. A noble, far-looking sentiment, perhaps, but of little value to those living on the island hoping to maintain their way of life.

Technically, Smith Island isn't sinking—it is eroding. Adding to that problem is a rising sea level. It is estimated that the island has lost more than 3,300 acres over the past 150 years. Roughly 900 acres of the island are habitable.

Today the population of the island, approximately 260 people, is based in three small towns. A road connects two of the towns; the third is accessible to the others only by boat. The population is also eroding, after reaching a peak of more than 800 people in 1910. It has been nearly 40 years since a baby was born on the island, the last practicing doctor closed up

shop in 1987 and there is no law enforcement, nor is there a need for it. The island is a peaceful summer respite for some from the crowded metropolitan area surrounding Washington, DC, but it remains a working island. It is a place where men make a living off the sea, just as their ancestors have done for centuries, and a place where a handful of women make cakes.

Captain Otis Tyler has been running a passenger-only ferry service and mail boat between Crisfield, Maryland, and Smith Island for 30 years. It is a business that has been in his family for more than a century.

Captain Otis knows the way to the island; he knows the island. He is incensed that people in power are making decisions based on something they have never seen. "The governor has never been

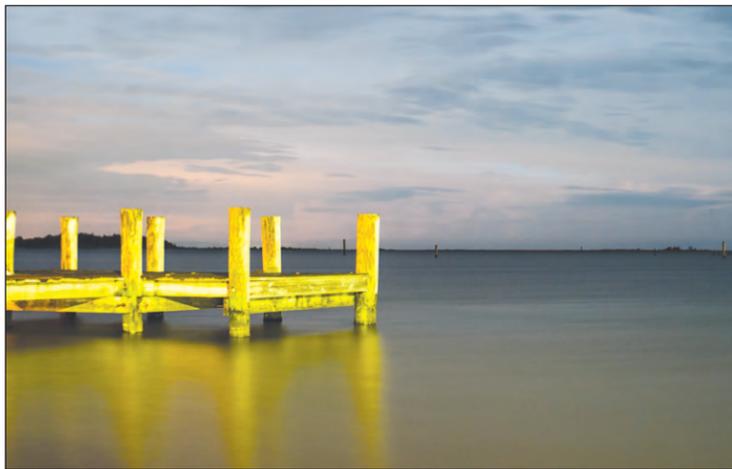
here," Captain Otis said. "Our congressman has never been here. This island is better today than it was years ago."

Also viewed from afar, it was initially difficult to arrange transport to the island. Captain Otis doesn't have a webpage; two ferry captains said they would only make the trip for a group of people, not for one person and I was the only person asking for that day. Susan of Susan's on Smith Island Bed and Breakfast said she would make sure I could get to the island. I met Captain Otis on the dock in Crisfield and an hour later was in the island town of Ewell, wondering if I would be among the last to ever see it.

There are only a few roads on the island, two miles of paved road in total, and the handful of shops close up by 3 p.m. It is a cash island with only the museum accepting credit cards. There are no bars, nor is there alcohol for

► See CLIMATE, page 22

"If they had taken all of the money they spent on studies to actually do something we wouldn't have a problem,"
Captain Otis said.



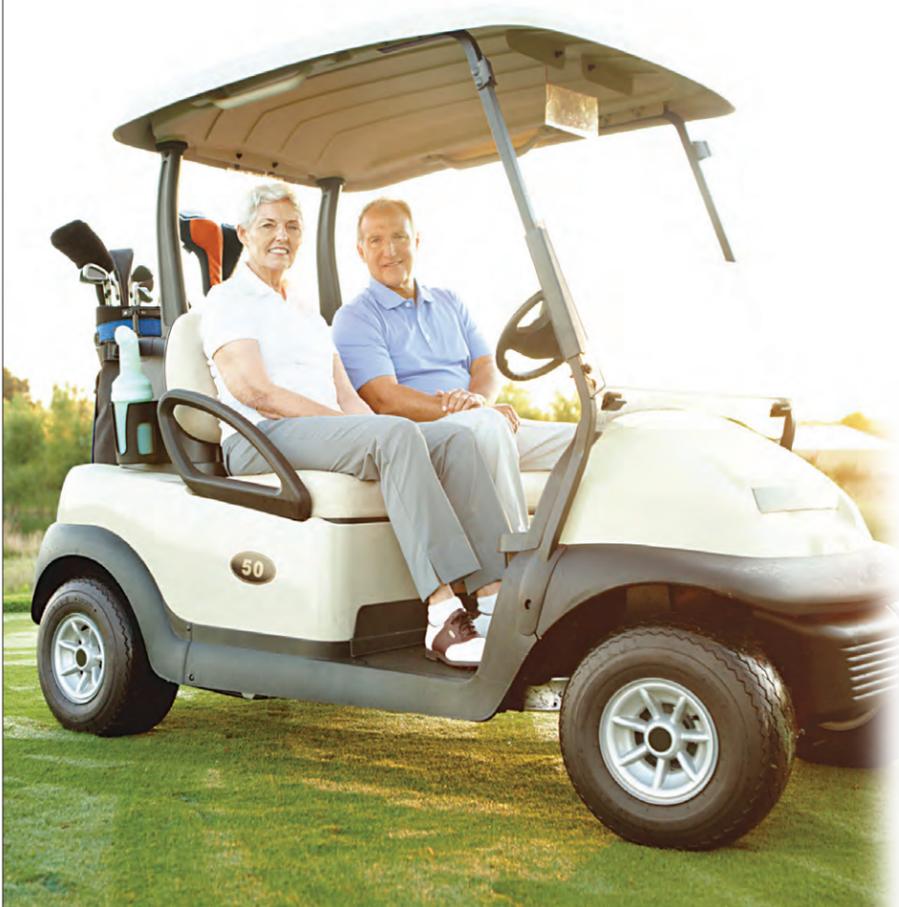
Yellow reflects off this old wooden dock in a radiant sunset on Smith Island, MD.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Perhaps in a place like Smith Island, wishes do come true. There may be perils in the future but today the island isn't going anywhere.

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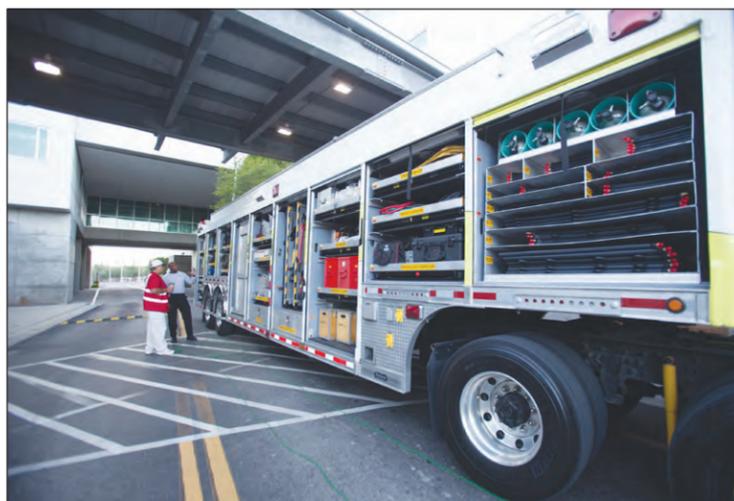
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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

On the day before the start of the 2013 hurricane season a group of people (and one dog) you hope to never meet in an official capacity but who would willingly put themselves in harm's way to save your life gathered at Tampa's Museum of Science and Industry. The county's first responders met the public at the 2013 Hurricane Expo which was held at MOSI to help give residents knowledge about what to do before, during, and after a storm. The event included Chief Tom Forward of Tampa Fire Rescue, Brian LaMarre from the National Weather Service office in Ruskin, Preston Cook from Hillsborough County Emergency Management, an urban search and rescue canine unit, Janet McGuire from the Florida West Coast Red Cross and some very big equipment standing by and ready to help should a hurricane strike the Tampa Bay area. The theme of this year's free annual event was "Thrive, Survive, Stay Alive," focusing on the important actions to take before a storm to ensure you can recover successfully and thrive afterwards. The 2013 hurricane season began on June 1.



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The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail

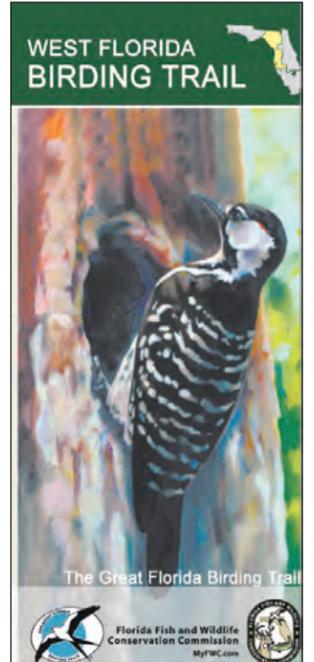
The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail (GFBWT) is a program of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, supported in part by the Florida Department of Transportation and the Wildlife Foundation of Florida. This 2,000-mile, self-guided highway trail connects and unifies 514 birding and wildlife viewing sites throughout Florida. Modeled after the successful Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, this ambitious project features detailed guide booklets, a mobile device application, and special highway signs identifying GFBWT sites. Guide booklets contain site descriptions, directions, and maps showcasing the wonderful birding and wildlife watching opportunities in Florida. Each Trail section consists of a series of clusters, with each cluster containing 1 to 15 sites highlighting communities and special ecosystems like the Lake Wales Ridge.

The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail is divided into four sections. For a list of individual Trail sites, with counties, nearest cities, web links and contact phone numbers, visit <http://floridabirdingtrail.com> to navigate through the East, West, Panhandle or South Florida sections. From there you can download a trail guide for one of the sections.

Gateways

To better introduce visitors to the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail, there are nine "gateway" sites at exceptional birding locations. There are two or three gateways located in each Trail section. Gateways have staffed visitor centers and serve as hubs for Trail information. Each gateway has a special kiosk with birdwatching tips for beginners and introductory information regarding the Trail. Loaner optics can be checked out for free for a day with a driver's license or major credit card at all gateway locations. Or stop by and pick up a copy of the Trail's guide booklets.

Gateway for Western Florida are at Fort De Soto Park (St. Petersburg) and Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park (Gainesville).



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The Last Day

■ By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net

On Friday at the St. Petersburg Pier, the early morning hours were quiet, with a few joggers, some people fishing, including one with a small, dead shark, and the cleaning crew carefully washing the windows as though it were simply another day at work. But it wasn't just another day.

It was the last day. Less than 15 hours later, the Pier would close forever. But in the early hours, the pelicans far outnumbered humans. It was peaceful, quiet and beautiful. The temperature on the bay side felt several degrees cooler than on the land, just a few hundred yards away.

As the hour for opening drew near, people began lining up. Not

big mobs, just a healthy number of people, most carrying cameras. The Pier Bait House had closed on the Sunday before and the sign for pelican food that, apparently, pelicans knew all too well, was gone. The pelicans generally stuck to the pilings. At the ticket office for the Pier Dolphin Cruises, a man removed a sign announcing times and rates, while signs stating "Stop the Lens" adorned the windows that would be forever closed.

Soon, people were riding the glass elevator to the fifth deck of the inverted pyramid, both the elevator and the deck offered some of the best free views in Florida. The 25 cent viewing binoculars were already gone. People lingered for what would be a last look.

More people arrived and Pier workers continued to clean windows and wipe down tables, although there were few customers in the food court. Some of the counters had already closed. At Morrow's a few people

gathered, appearing as though it would open but there were only a few pretzels in the display case topped by a handwritten sign that said, "Cash Only." Before long, no one was at Morrow's. It simply seemed to fade away.

The Pier Logo Store began doing a brisk business offering souvenir Pier items, including t-shirts with an aerial photograph. At other shops, people flitted in and out, cameras in hand, searching for last moments to capture forever.

The news media was out in force with photographers and reporters capturing words and moments. Television cameras from local news stations roamed in search of people and their opinions about everything from the closing of the Pier to "The Lens," as the expected new pier has been called.

Despite the best efforts of the Pier workers, on the last day the iconic 40-year-old inverted pyramid somehow seemed tired, as though the strife and fighting over the issue had taken a toll.

At 11 p.m., the last drinks had been served in the restaurants,

the toasts had been made, and the glass elevator made its last scenic trip to the ground level carrying visitors. And then the Pier closed for the last time.

After two weeks, the approach to the Pier is expected to temporarily reopen, although the inverted pyramid will remain off-limits to everyone but the pelicans. Demolition of the entire pier is expected to take place in September.

For more photos, visit www.observernews.net or www.riverviewcurrent.com



A child walks along the glass columns inside the Pier that pointed towards the second floor aquarium. MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



Hundreds began to arrive to say goodbye to a Tampa Bay icon.

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The early morning hours on the St. Petersburg Pier's last day were peaceful, downright tranquil with only joggers, a few people fishing and pelicans near the inverted pyramid. An hour or so later, hundreds of people began to arrive for one last visit to the Tampa Bay icon. It closed on May 31.



Despite a lack of customers, a worker cleans tables at the food court.



A man waits at a trolley stop that has only hours left. A sign announces the bus stop would be closed as of June 1.

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4th Annual Risky Business Bike Ride raised funds for Moffitt Cancer Center

On May 19, Manny Alamo and a group of 60+ friends took off in the heat of a sunny Sunday afternoon to participate in the 4th annual Risky Business Bike Ride.

What made this bike ride a little more interesting was that all riders were in their "tighty whities" underwear topped with white button-down business shirts.

This event was organized to raise money for Moffitt Cancer Center; there was a small (\$5) registration

fee and contributions were gratefully accepted as the bike riders pedaled through such stops as The New World Brewery, Lee's Grocery, and The Independent Café, Anise, and ending up at The Bricks.

Many riders were asked why they were out in the heat of the day riding on their bikes in their underwear and the reply was, "We're raising money for Moffitt."

Lauren Columbo, in charge of

the donation jar, said onlookers willingly added their cash to the cause, cheering riders on as they pedaled away — en masse — to the next location. Total money raised was \$1,000.

At least half of the group participated in the Risky Business Bike Ride last year. At the end of the event many were tired, thirsty, and sore — but pleased to be part of such a fun way to raise money for Moffitt Cancer Center.

Coin & Currency Shows set for Brandon

The Brandon Coin Club will hold Coin & Currency Shows on Saturdays, June 22, Aug. 17 and Oct. 26 at the Brandon Elks Lodge #2383, 800 Centennial Lodge Dr. in Brandon.

The shows, which run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., feature 30 dealers, 45 tables, free appraisals, free coin grab

bags for children under 12 and food available on site.

ICG Grading Service will be there, offering free verbal opinions and \$10 slabbing.

The Brandon Coin Club is a non-profit 501(c)7 organization that meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday

of every month at the Brandon Elks Lodge.

For more information, contact Mark Palermo at 813-361-0740, email brandoncoinclub@tampabay.rr.com, or write to Brandon Coin Club, P.O. Box 1987, Seffner, FL 33583-1987.

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*Actual Fee May Vary Depending Upon Degree of Complexity in a Given Case

Americans urged to take action against skin cancer

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, joined by the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourage Americans to take a few simple steps to protect their health and prevent skin cancer throughout the summer.

“While we’re making progress toward restoring the Earth’s ozone layer, Americans need to take steps now for extra protection from harmful UV rays and skin cancer,” said Janet McCabe, deputy assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation. “Americans can stay safe under the sun and enjoy the outdoors by taking simple steps such as using sunscreen and wearing UV-blocking sunglasses.”

“If current trends continue, one in five Americans will get skin cancer in their lifetime, and many of these skin cancers could be prevented by reducing UV exposure from the sun and indoor tanning devices,” said CDC Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. “Of particular concern is the increase we are seeing in rates of melanoma, a potentially deadly form of skin cancer. In the United States, melanoma is one of the most common cancers among people ages 15 to 29 years.”

“Spending time in the sun increases the risk of skin cancer. Everyone can get sunburned and suffer harmful effects of exposure to UV radiation from time spent outdoors,” said FDA Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D. “Consumers can protect themselves by choosing a sunscreen that is right for them, wearing protective clothing and limiting time in the sun.”

New labeling rules for sunscreen products

To make it easier for people to choose products that effectively reduce the health risks of UV overexposure, the FDA has issued new labeling rules for sunscreen products. These include:



Skin cancer remains the most common cancer in the U.S.

■ Sunscreens proven to protect against both ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays can be labeled “Broad Spectrum.” Both UVB and UVA radiation contribute to the sun’s damaging effects.

■ Sunscreen products that meet the criteria for being called “Broad Spectrum,” and have a Sunscreen Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 or higher may state that they reduce the risk of skin cancer and early skin aging when used as directed with other sun protection measures.

■ Any product that is not “Broad Spectrum,” or has an SPF below 15, must have a warning stating that the product has not been shown to help prevent skin cancer or early skin aging.

■ New water-resistance claims on the front label must indicate whether the sunscreen remains effective for 40 minutes or 80 minutes while swimming or sweating.

In addition to using Broad Spectrum sunscreen, here are some tips to help enjoy the outdoors safely this summer:

■ **Seek shade, not sun:** Seek the shade when the sun’s rays are strongest; avoid sunburns, intentional tanning and use of tanning beds; use extra caution near reflective surfaces like water and sand.

■ **Wear protective clothing:** Wear sun-protective clothing, a wide-brimmed hat, and UV-blocking sunglasses.

■ **Check the UV Index:** EPA and the National Weather Service offer the UV Index — an hourly forecast of UV radiation that allows Americans to plan outdoor activities in ways that prevent overexposure to the sun. Download EPA’s free UV Index app at www.epa.gov/enviro/mobile/.

Nations across the globe have made steady progress toward restoring the Earth’s protective ozone layer through the groundbreaking environmental treaty called the Montreal Protocol. Signed by 197 countries, including the U.S. government, the Protocol is successfully working to phase out ozone-depleting substances. Scientists predict that the ozone layer will recover later this century.

According to the CDC, the states with the highest melanoma death rates include Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Montana, Oregon, Utah and West Virginia. Americans are encouraged to learn more about skin cancer in their states at www2.epa.gov/sun-wise/skin-cancer-facts-your-state.

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.



Zac

Zac is all-black kitten who was recently brought to C.A.R.E. Zac is a curious little guy and is very, very cute and even a little feisty. He loves to play with the other kittens at the shelter. But Zac would like most of all to come to live at a forever home of his own. Go and see this handsome kitten and give him that home. Zac will be spayed and microchipped. He is current on his shots.

Approx. DOB: April 1, 2013.



Chase

Chase is a handsome Lab mix that was found abandoned on the streets of Ruskin. His rough start hasn’t affected his love for people. Chase has started obedience training at the shelter and is doing great! He also knows how to retrieve balls. He has come a long way since he first arrived at CARE but is still a work in progress. He would do best in a home with only older children. As part of Chase’s adoption, he has been neutered, microchipped, and brought current on his shots.

DOB: December 2, 2011.

MOSI hosts World Oceans Day on Saturday

MOSI will host a World Oceans Day celebration on Saturday, June 8, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. with Dr. Seuss-themed activities and a 15-ton sand sculpture.

Guests can celebrate the world’s oceans *One Fish, Two Fish*-style, with a 15-ton sand sculpture to kick it off. After viewing a giant sea creature in the sand, guests can explore *Sea Monsters Revealed* and learn about the abundance of life that lives in the ocean. They can also take the Seas the Day – 7C’s pledge and commit to making a real difference to protect the ocean, its incredible inhabitants, and our own community.

World Oceans Day is included with MOSI admission and is free for members. Tickets for *Sea Monsters Revealed* are \$18.95 for adults, \$16.95 for seniors (60+) and \$12.95 for children (2-12). Guests can add MOSI general admission or a documentary IMAX film to their *Sea Monsters Revealed* ticket for \$5 each.

For more information, visit mosi.org.

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Ringling International Arts Festival launches arts season on Florida's Cultural Coast Oct. 9-12

The fifth annual Ringling International Arts Festival, Oct. 9-12, 2013, in Sarasota, launches the 2014 arts season on Florida's "Cultural Coast."

The four-day festival showcases a variety of dance, music, and theater presented in intimate performance venues at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art.

In its fifth year, the Festival is under the artistic direction of the Baryshnikov Arts Center. Tickets range from \$30 to \$40, excluding opening night. Ticket packages are available.

Spain's Rocío Molina, one of the most brilliant bailaoras of our time, embodies the new forms of expression to be experienced at the Festival. Credited with revolutionizing Flamenco Art, Molina is the recipient of her nation's most

coveted award in the arts, the National Prize for Dance. Her uplifting dance style integrates different artistic schools, such as Flamenco, classical, Spanish classical or the "bolero," and traditional popular dance. The result is an energetic display of styles that holistically presented creates a "danceable universe" with its own unique language and meaning.

The Festival will further engage audiences across the 66-acre estate with Jazz Sunsets on the Bay, featuring live jazz music and dancing, Thursday, Oct. 10 and Friday, Oct. 11 from 5 to 8 p.m. on the Bolger-Campiello. It is free of charge with Museum admission.

To purchase tickets, contact the Ringling Historic Asolo Theater Box Office at 941-360-7399.

HUD & VA team up to provide permanent homes to 915 homeless vets in Florida

Approximately 915 homeless veterans living on the streets and in shelters in Florida will soon find a permanent place to call home. U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Eric K. Shinseki announced today that HUD will provide \$60 million to local public housing agencies across the country to provide permanent supportive housing to homeless veterans, many of whom are living with chronic disabling conditions. Florida will receive \$6,000,620 to assist its homeless veterans.

The supportive housing assistance announced today is provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA. Since 2008, a total of 48,385 vouchers have been awarded and 42,557 formerly homeless veterans are currently in homes because of

this program.

HUD-VASH is part of the Obama Administration's commitment to end Veteran and long-term chronic homelessness by 2015. Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness serves as a roadmap for how the federal government will work with state and local communities to confront the root causes of homelessness, especially among former servicemen and women. HUD's annual "point in time" estimate of the number of homeless persons and families for 2012 found that veteran homelessness fell by 7.2 percent (or 4,876 people) since January 2011 and by 17.2 percent since January 2009. On a single night in January 2012, 62,619 veterans were homeless.

The grants announced today are part of \$75 million appropriated this year to support the housing needs of homeless veterans. Local public housing authorities provide rental assistance to homeless veterans while nearby VA Medical Cen-

ters (VAMC) offer supportive services and case management. This is the first round of the 2013 HUD-VASH funding. HUD expects to announce more HUD-VASH funding this summer.

VAMCs work closely with homeless veterans then refer them to public housing agencies for these vouchers, based upon a variety of factors, most importantly the duration of the homelessness and the need for longer term more intensive support to obtain and maintain permanent housing. The HUD-VASH program includes both the rental assistance the voucher provides and the comprehensive case management that VAMC staff provides.

Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent. VA offers eligible homeless veterans clinical and supportive services through its medical centers across the U.S., Guam and Puerto Rico.

Outback Steakhouse to give free steak dinner to blood donors

This summer Outback Steakhouse and OneBlood, the local blood center, are thanking blood donors by giving them free steak dinners. Anyone who donates blood or platelets at least two times between June 1 and Sept. 30 will receive a free steak dinner courtesy of Outback Steakhouse. Plus blood donors will also be entered into a drawing to win Outback for a Year."

Outback Steakhouse is partnering with OneBlood in an effort to increase summer donations and help shine a spotlight on the constant need for blood donations. A surprising statistic is that 39 percent of us are eligible to donate blood, but only about 5 percent give.

Blood donations are always needed, especially during the summer months when donations become more challenging due to vacations, school breaks and a snowbird population that returns north.

Every two seconds someone

needs a blood transfusion in the United States. Blood donations profoundly affect the lives of patients in the community and in many cases one donation can save up to three patients.

All donors receive a wellness check-up including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and a cholesterol screening each time they give blood. Generally, healthy people age 16 or older who weigh at least 110 pounds can donate blood. For more information about donating blood, center locations and hours, go to www.oneblood.org.

Upcoming dates and local locations:

- ▶ Sunday, June 9, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Destiny Church Bloodmobile, 2322 11th Ave. SE, in Ruskin.
- ▶ Monday, June 10, 1-7 p.m., Walmart Bloodmobile, 9205 Gibsonton Dr. in Gibsonton.
- ▶ Tuesday, June 11, 1-3:30 p.m., Tampa Armature Works Bloodmobile, 6312 78th St. in Riverview.
- ▶ Wednesday, June 12, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Progressive Insurance Company Bloodmobile, 4030 Crescent Park Dr. in Riverview.
- ▶ Thursday, June 13, 8 a.m.-noon, Bright House Networks Bloodmobile, 4145 S. Falkenburg Rd. in Riverview.
- ▶ Sunday, June 16, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Calvary Lutheran Church Bloodmobile, 5309 N. US Highway 41 in Apollo Beach.
- ▶ Monday, June 17, 1-7 p.m., Walmart Bloodmobile, 4928 SR 674 in Wimauma.

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Upcoming Events

Monday Night..... 6 p.m. Bingo.
Tuesday Night..... \$1 draft beer all day.
Friday Night 6 p.m. Feather Your Nest. No food till Fall.
Saturday, June 8..... 5 p.m. Steak Dinner
 6:30 p.m. music by Chicago Rich
Sunday Feather Your Nest game canceled until
 Fall. \$1 draft beer all day.
 For more information, call (813) 645-2922.

RUSKIN VFW POST #6287

Ruskin VFW Post #6287, 5120 U.S. 41 N. has listed the following weekly activities. Meetings are: VFW and LAVFW on the 2nd Wednesday each month; and MAVFW on the 3rd Thursday each month.

Thursday, June 6 - VA Hospital 5 p.m. Bar Bingo 6 p.m.
Friday, June 7 - Fish & Chips 4:30 p.m. Eat in.
Saturday, June 8 - Crew Games, free hot dogs 6 p.m.
Sunday, June 9 - Music by Bert & Sassy 6:30 p.m.
Monday, June 10 - Planning meeting 6 p.m. Crew Games 6 p.m. House meeting 7 p.m.
Tuesday, June 11 - Games in Lounge 1 p.m. Kitchen opens 4:30 p.m. Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday, June 13 - Bar Bingo with Jerry 6 p.m.



Area Obituaries



Marian E. Grover

Marian E. Grover of Sun City Center, Florida, passed away on May 20, 2013 at the age of 78. Marian is predeceased by her father Harry S. Grover, mother Esther K. Grover, sister Ruth, brothers Richard, Buddy (Alvin), Martin and Byron.

Marian is survived by her loving sisters-in-law Rita (Martin) Grover and Jean (Byron) Grover Buchanan; nephews Richard Grover, Scott (Nina) Grover, Jeffery (Kimberley) Grover, and Eric (Bethany) Grover; and nieces Sharon (Joseph) Grover-Renda and Jennifer Grover.

Marian was born in Baldwin, NY on May 28, 1934. She graduated from Van Etten Central High School in 1952 and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree at SUNY Buffalo in 1957 and a Master's degree from Cornell University in 1962. She worked as a nutritionist for the State of New Jersey, after which she relocated to Sun City Center, Florida.

Marian enjoyed world travel and was known to go on major excursions that included such outdoor activities as hiking, white-water rafting, river boat trips and many other activities. She was very active in her nephews' and nieces' lives, traveling to see school concerts, plays and graduations. She was an active member of the United Community Church of Sun City Center. She also loved her cats very much.

Friends can call at Allen Manzer Funeral Home in Spencer, NY on Saturday, June 8, 2013 at 12 p.m. A memorial service will follow at 2 p.m. A Christian burial service will take place directly after the memorial service at the Hicks Cemetery, Hickstown, NY. Friends and family are invited for fellowship and light fare at Jeff Grover's home in Spencer following the burial.

A separate memorial service will be held for Marian's fellow worshipers and friends at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 29 at the United Community Church in Sun City Center, 1501 La Jolla Ave.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the National Park Foundation in memory of Marian.



Todd L. Overholt

Todd L. Overholt, 42, of Centreville, MI, passed away May 23 in Centreville.

He was born at Sturgis Hospital on Nov. 11, 1970, the son of Melvin and Shirley Ann (Cossairt) Overholt.

He moved to Florida at an early age. On Feb. 14, 2000 he married Debra L. Bradwell in Ruskin, FL. Todd returned to Michigan with his wife and three youngest sons six years ago, settling in Centreville. He made many friends in the area through his church and his sons' school and sports activities, in which he was involved.

Todd was also active in the community, serving on the Village of Centreville Planning Commission and village council and devoting a lot of his time to Centreville Little League. Todd was most recently employed at Nottawa Lumber and Community Action agency as a weatherization inspector.

Todd had many talents and was a regular jack of all trades. He was an outstanding cook and a great residential contractor, doing many remodeling jobs over the years with many happy customers. Todd was about helping people, "anybody anytime." He will be missed by his family and friends, and his memory will live in their hearts forever.

Todd is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Debra Overholt, Centreville; parents Melvin and Shirley

Overholt, Ruskin; sons Jacob, Tyler and Justin Overholt, at home, and son Jason Pratt, Alabama; stepsons Jay Rimes Jr., Wimauma, Deric Rimes, Ruskin, and Jordan Rimes, Riverview; stepdaughter Robin (Rimes) Prince, Centreville; sisters Amy Morris, Riverview, and Wendy Blake, Apollo Beach; four step grandchildren; mother-in-law Joan Bradwell, Centreville; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his grandparents and granddaughter Kaylie Rimes.

Religious services were on May 29; interment was at Leonidas Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Eley Funeral Home, P.O. Box 185, Centreville, MI 49032 to assist the family with funeral expenses. Online messages may be left for the family at www.eleyfuneralhomes.com.



Wiley C. Raynes

Wiley C. Raynes, 73, of Wimauma passed away on May 25, 2013.

He was born on November 15, 1939 in Monticello, Kentucky to the late Wiley P. and Zella (Stringer) Raynes.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 47 years Barbara (Yost) Raynes. Wiley owned a cabinet shop, Wiley Wood Products, in Indiana and then moved to Florida, where he worked as a owner/operator of a tractor trailer.

He was known as a family man and loved his family dearly, and will be missed by all. Along with his wife, Wiley is survived by sons George (Amy) Raynes, Ronnie Allen, David (Rose) Allen, and Jon (Rita) Allen; daughter Jackie (Roger) McMillan; brother Robert Lee Raynes; and eight grandchildren.

Services are private and will be held at the convenience of the family.



Iola R. Turner

July 4, 1911 - May 5, 2013

Iola R. Turner, 101, formerly of Martinsburg, PA, passed away at her daughter's home in Sun City Center, FL, where Iola was currently residing.

She was born in Altoona, daughter of the late Arthur and May (Smith) Paul. She married Gerald S. Turner on May 5, 1934. He preceded her in death on May 4, 1974.

Surviving are daughter Rosalie Kelleher and husband Jerry, of Sun City Center; son Robert and wife Delores of Sun City Center; son Paul and wife Teresa of Tyrone, PA; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-granddaughter.

Iola attended elementary school in Altoona and Martinsburg, PA, and was a 1928 graduate of Morrison Cove High School. She attended Penn State

University for a year and then graduated from Zeth Business School in Altoona.

Iola was a current member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sun City Center, and a former member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Martinsburg. Iola was a member of the Sun City Center Low Vision Club and the Accordion Club.

In March she took part in the Centennial Celebration at the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce. She enjoyed making rag rugs, knitting scarves, and taking accordion lessons.

Iola was a woman of strong faith, love and trust in God. She also was very active in numerous community affairs when she lived in Martinsburg.

The funeral service was held May 11 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Martinsburg, with Pastor Schul officiating. Interment was at Fairview Cemetery in Martinsburg. Memorial contributions may be made to the Music Ministry of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sun City Center.

Calvary Cares Support Group continues in summer

Calvary Cares will continue to meet over the summer but with a revised schedule. Everyone is welcome to attend: it is free, fun, helpful and a good way to not only get support but also to give it.

To request additional information call the church office at 813-645-1305 or Judy Shepherd at 813-546-5415.

In September Calvary Cares will return to its regular schedule of 1 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

- Wednesday, June 5, 1-3 p.m. - Regular Support Group meeting in the Youth Room at Calvary Lutheran Church.

- Wednesday, June 26, 4-6 p.m. - Happy Hour at Judy Shepherd's house. RSVP to 813-546-5414.

- Wednesday, July 10, 1-3 p.m. - Regular Support Group meeting in the Youth Room at the church.

- Wednesday, July 31, time tba - Movie afternoon at a matinee in Brandon. Carpool from church.

- Wednesday, Aug. 7, 1-3 p.m. - Regular Support Group meeting in the Youth Room at the church.

- Wednesday, Aug. 21, 11:30 a.m. - Calvary Cares Lunch. Meet at church to carpool to a local restaurant.

Summer hours for Pages of Life book store

The Pages of Life Book and Gift Shop, located on the campus of the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, has begun its summer operating hours:

The Shop will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. On Sundays the hours will be 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

The entrance to the Shop faces 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West and the telephone number is 813-633-8595.

Winter hours begin again Wednesday, September 4; open weekdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday hours will remain the same. All area residents are welcome.

Area Places of Worship

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 call 645-6198

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Rance Goad, Pastor (Southern Baptist)

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 Phone/Fax: 813-633-5950

WEEKLY SERVICES:

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 11 a.m. Bible Study
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Wednesday
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--	--

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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.

Introducing Father Viet Nguyen

Deacon Viet Nguyen was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priesthood for the Diocese of St. Petersburg on May 18 at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Largo.

Following his calling to the priesthood was not always an easy road for Father Viet.

Viet Vu Nguyen was born in Vietnam and had a desire to be a priest since he was very young. In 1992, he registered at the Phu Cuong Diocese in Vietnam as a candidate for Seminary. From 1993 to 2001, the Bishop of Phu Cuong Diocese sent Viet to St. Joseph Seminary in Saigon three times, but the communist authority in Vietnam did not allow him to enter the Seminary.

In June 2001, Viet, his sister and his brother were arrested and imprisoned because of the blood relation with his uncle, Father Nguyen Van Ly, who has fought for religious freedom and human rights for the Vietnamese since 1976.

They were released in 2004 and in September, 2005, with the intervention of the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of State, they had the privilege to live in the United States as refugees.

Valentino & Winslow to present music of Cole Porter

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West, is proud to host *Anything Goes - An Evening with Eileen Valentino and Cole Porter* on Friday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Eileen Valentino started her career singing at Disneyland, toured with dancer Juliet Prowse, then left to create her own act, opening for stars in Atlantic City and packing cabarets and theaters in New York City.

Relatively new to Sun City Center, Eileen performed recently with **Eileen Valentino** the Performing Arts Company at the Rollins Theater in *Love on a Bench*.

The singer will be accompanied by Robert Winslow, one of the finest keyboardists in the Tampa area. A donation of just \$5 is requested at the door on the evening of the concert.

For additional information



From left, Prince of Peace Pastor, Father Joel Kovanis; Father Viet Nguyen; and Prince of Peace Parochial Vicar, Father Augustine Mailadiyil.

In April, 2012, Viet was ordained a deacon at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary Chapel in Boynton Beach.

In June, 2012 Deacon Viet kept his dream alive at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City Center as he entered the final stages of Ordination to the Priesthood.

On May 25 Father Viet offered a Mass of Thanksgiving at Prince of Peace Catholic Church.

After the Mass of Thanksgiving, a reception for all parishioners was

held, where Father Viet delivered his Blessing.

What is next for Father Viet? His journey in priesthood continues at St. Paul Catholic Church in St. Petersburg, starting July 1, 2013.

For information about Prince of Peace Catholic Church, visit www.popcc.org, www.facebook.com/popccsc.

Calvary's Kingdom Rock VBS is June 17-21

Calvary Lutheran Church in Apollo Beach offers Kingdom Rock Vacation Bible School, Monday through Friday, June 17-21, 2013.

Kingdom Rock offers electrifying Bible adventures, heart-pumping music and exciting group activities.

Calvary's Kingdom Rocks VBS conveniently runs from 6-8 p.m. each night and is open to all children from preschool to 5th grade.

Also, this free VBS program includes complimentary dinner starting at 5:15 p.m. Adults are welcome to participate in an onsite Bible study running concurrently.

Everyone meets at the conclusion of each day for an exciting and memorable Fanfare Finale. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at 7:45 p.m.

VBS is held at Calvary, located at 5309 US 41 North in Apollo Beach. To register, go online at Calvarylutheranchurch.net or call the church office at 813-645-1305. Registrations are requested by June 10.

Lunch Bunch heads for Brandon

The Lunch Bunch - A Group of Jewish Friends is planning a lunch get-together at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18 at Mimi's Café in Brandon, 804 Providence Road.

If you plan to attend, you must RSVP to Carol Balent at monkeyandwife@yahoo.com or 813-829-7227 by June 13 so organizers make sure the restaurant can accommodate the group. You can discuss the possibility of carpooling when you RSVP.

Movie Night at the United Methodist Church

On Friday, June 14 the United Methodist Church will show *Love's Abiding Joy* as part of its Friday night movie series.

It is the fourth film in the *Love Comes Softly* series by Michael Landon, Jr. The doors of the church's LEC hall will open at 6 p.m.

Love's Abiding Joy is captioned for the hard of hearing.

Christian Women's Connection meets June 13

The Christian Women's Connection will hold its June Luncheon and Program on Thursday, June 13 at Club Renaissance, 2121 So. Pebble Beach Blvd. in SCC.

Inspirational speaker Kelly Stigliano will speak on "Incomparable, Unequivocal, Unconditional Love." The program will be "The Kidz Klub," with exciting, high-energy music. Seating begins at 11 a.m.; the program runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Menu is Greek Salad plus beverage and dessert. An alternate meal of tossed salad with grilled chicken is available; be sure to order it when you make your reservation.

The cost is \$17 inclusive, and reservations are required. Call Tara Flood at 813-383-7540 or e-mail aunt.butler@gmail.com.

Make reservations or cancellations before noon on Monday, June 10.

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Upcoming events in June at Hillsborough County's Parks & Recreation Centers

Join Hillsborough County's Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department in June for fun and exciting programs.

►Lettuce Lake Park • Every weekend in June • 10 a.m. & noon

What: Park Ranger Nature Educational Programs
Where: Lettuce Lake Park, 6920 E. Fletcher Ave. in Tampa (Meet inside the Visitor Center)

When: Every weekend in the month of June for one hour at 10 a.m. and again at noon

Who: People of all ages; home schools, organizations and birthday parties are welcome and strongly encouraged to register early.

Cost: \$5 per child and one adult; \$5 per adult without children; \$2 per vehicle up to eight people in one vehicle.

Lettuce Lake Park continues its Park Ranger Nature Educational Program every weekend in June. Activities range from fire-making and survival skills, to learning how to handle non-venomous snakes. Participation is \$5 per child, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Only cash payments are accepted at this time.

Program themes include:

- June 1 and 2 – Fire-making and Survival Skills/ Making Fire Eggs
- June 9 – Make a Father's Day Gift Fish Print
- June 15 and 16 – Non-venomous Snakes
- June 22 and 23 – Let's Talk BUGS and Create Your Very Own Bug to Take Home

- June 29 and 30 – Raising Chickens in Your Back Yard

To register, email your requested date, time, names and ages of those attending to Diana Kyle. For more information, contact Lettuce Lake Park at 813-987-6204.

Center, 1605 E. Sligh Ave. Co-ed teams are allowed, but not mandatory.

►Visit Camp Bayou during National Trails Day

What: Guided canoe tour, walk a trail

When: Saturday, June 1 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Where: Camp Bayou – 4202 24th Street SE in Ruskin

Who: All ages

Cost: \$25 rental per canoe; \$5 if you have your own canoe or kayak

In honor of National Trails Day on Saturday, June 1, Camp Bayou is offering a series of nature-related events for Hillsborough County residents. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Camp Bayou staff is offering guided kayak tours on the park's lake. Canoe rentals are \$25, and will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis starting at 9 a.m.

On June 1, the Camp Bayou staff is also offering a free trail walk through 160 acres on the Big Lawn. Whether participants choose to walk or paddle, all are invited to take and submit pictures for the 2013 photo contest. This year's winners will receive a prize and award ribbon.

For more information, visit Camp Bayou's website at <http://www.campbayou.org> or call 813-641-8545.

►3-D Archery Shoot at Lake Park Archery Area

What: 3-D Gasparilla Bowmen Shoot

When: Sunday, June 23 at 8 a.m.

Where: Lake Park Archery Area 17302 N. Dale Mabry in Lutz

Who: All Ages

Cost: \$2 per vehicle up to eight people per car.

The Gasparilla Bowmen are hosting a 3-D archery shoot for Hillsborough County residents of all ages. The Bowmen will provide 3-D targets ranging from bears to turkeys. Participants are required to bring their own archery equipment.

►Hillsborough County Summer Camp Online Registrations

What: Summer Camp Registration Online

When: Now until slots are filled

Where: Online at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/summercamps

Cost: Traditional Day camps - \$76 per two-week session

Specialty Nature camps - \$120 per two-week session

Bakas Equestrian camp - \$50 per day

Camp Sparks - \$38 per week

Income-based discounts are available. Those wishing a discount must build an online profile, and must take their Free/Reduced Lunch Letter to any Rec2Six location before they complete registration.

Online payments can be made with a credit/debit card.

For additional details and registration information, visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/summercamps, or call the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department at 813-635-3500.

Free Women's Fishing Clinic in St. Petersburg

Learn the skills to successfully cast your line into the sea by attending the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Women's Fishing Clinic in St. Petersburg on Saturday, June 8.

Participants will not only be able to take home a lifelong hobby, but also they could leave with a new appreciation for the marine environment. Women will learn the basics of environmental stewardship, fishing ethics, angling skills, safety and the vulnerability of Florida's marine ecosystems in a fun, laid-back atmosphere.

The free, day-long clinic is from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Dr. NE, St. Petersburg. Advance registration is required, and the event is capped at 20 participants.

Lessons include knot tying, cast netting, rod and reel rigging, boat-

ing safety, how to be a responsible marine resource steward, marine fish and habitat identification, catch-and-release techniques and more.

If conditions allow, women will have the opportunity to practice their newly learned skills by fishing from the shore. This event is a catch-and-release activity. All participants must have a valid recreational saltwater fishing license unless exempt. Saltwater fishing licenses can be purchased at tackle shops and departments or online. Learn more by visiting MyFWC.com/License.

Fishing equipment and bait will be provided during the clinic, but participants are encouraged to bring their own gear.

To register or get more information, email Jennifer Saranzak at Jennifer.Saranzak@MyFWC.com, or call 352-543-9219, ext. 216.

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A canary in the climate coal mine?

► Continued from page 11

sale. The few roads, however, are active with a handful of cars and a number of golf carts. Some people drive around to pass the time and, as such, as a visitor you'll see the same people over and over again while walking or riding a bike around town. Despite that, each time you see them, they will wave to you.

At the Smith Island Baking Company, three women formed a production line of sorts producing

Smith Island cakes, a distinctive cake of 10 to 17 thin layers with a fudge frosting. The cakes are unique to the island and date back to the 1800s with wives making something special to send husbands off for a hard day of working the water. Today, the baking company, headquartered in an old house across the street from the small post office, is owned by an investor in Washington who reportedly regularly makes the long drive to Crisfield, followed by the nearly hour ferry ride to the island. He also manages the intricate task of getting supplies to his business using the ferries and his cakes shipped out to customers around the world. In theory, he could save a lot of time and trouble by relocating the baking company to Baltimore or another major city but then, as he has been quoted saying, they wouldn't be Smith Island cakes.

I was the only guest at Susan's Bed and Breakfast on a recent Thursday night but the following weekend all three of her rooms were booked. It took less than an hour to tour the island on one of Susan's bicycles and also less than an hour to realize that while Smith Island may well be imperiled by the future, it is not imperiled by the present. The island is functioning now as it has for the past four

centuries. Perhaps even better, as it is increasingly an island of respite from the madness that can exist just 12 miles away on the mainland. What is more imperiled is the way of life. Many of the islanders see the offer of buyouts as a sure-fire way to accelerate what is already in slow decline. Like the cakes, ironically Maryland's State Cake, some things simply can't be replicated elsewhere.

Smith Island is, perhaps, the canary in the climate coal mine; an indicator of what could be to come for millions of Americans living along the coasts, including Florida.

According to the Center for Environmental Studies at Florida Atlantic University, sea level had been rising an average of 1.8 millimeters per year from the end of what is known as the "Little Ice Age" of the mid 1800s until 1990. Since 1990, however, sea level has been rising an average of 3.1 millimeters per year and that rate is expected to increase. Furthermore, 4.9 million people in the nation live at an elevation of four feet or less above sea level. Of those, 2.4 million are in Florida. There are 107 towns and cities in the state in which half or more of the population lives at four feet or less. If there is indeed an imminent risk from rising waters, Florida is Smith Island on



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



Time passes quietly on Smith Island. Today it would seem the way of life is far more imperiled than is the island itself.

Additional photos are on the next page (23) and also on The Observer News website at www.ObserverNews.net



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steroids in terms of that risk. To put it in different terms, if you bought waterfront property and built a dock in 1990, your dock, like Smith Island, is sinking. Today it could be as much as 2.8 inches "lower" in the water than it was 23 years ago. When built, it may have been dry for most high tides but today it is likely topped more often. Even a moderate storm surge from passing tropical systems could put it underwater. And your dock can be extrapolated to much of coastal South Hillsborough and the tens of thousands of people here living on low ground.

Unlike Smith Island, however, no one is calling for the evacuation of 2.4 million people in Florida, nor would that be possible in any given instant. But if the water continues to rise, it may happen gradually, of course. A summit of environmental scientists held by the Center for Environmental Studies at FAU concluded that short term measures, such as mangrove buffers, will be needed but they aren't a long-term solution, they merely buy time. But in a world of uncertainty, there is little more valuable than time.

"If they [state and federal governments] had taken all of the money they spent on studies to actually do something we wouldn't have a problem," Captain Otis said. The erosion on the island is evident and pockmarked around the habitable coast is evidence of people attempting to do something about it, with pockets of riprap consisting of everything from broken chunks of concrete to old, rusted engines protecting sections of the coastline.

The FAU summit concluded that measures will need to be taken as parts of Florida's infrastructure, including the fresh water supply, are already being impacted by higher tides. They also pointed to the Gulf Coast city of Punta Gorda, with an adaptation plan that includes planned relocation.

It is possible a climatic tipping point has already passed. It is also possible there was no tipping point, that nothing can change the inevitable of a changing climate. Planning for and accommodating

climate changes are necessary and that is already happening by the nation's food producers and others. If predictions hold true, even if governments don't act, insurance companies most certainly eventually would.

Today, as it has for much of its long history, almost everything in the Smith Island town of Ewell is centered around the church. It is a gathering place; it is the dominant structure and the physical center of the community. Faith is important here. While life in an isolated place can be idyllic, it can also be hard. Yet there is faith here in today and in tomorrow. You can stand in front of the church and stomp your foot on the ground and it feels solid, just as it did when British settlers arrived 400 years ago. Perhaps things will be different in the next decade or in the next ten decades but today, Smith Island is as real as are the homes and communities of 2.4 million people in low-lying Florida.

People pass by and wave, a few stop to chat. "You're staying at Susan's, right?" they ask. It's a small town; of course they would know that. Ten or twenty minutes later, they'll pass by and wave again. The fishing boats come and go and Captain Otis loads up mail on the Island Belle II to take to Crisfield. By 3 p.m., all five businesses are closed for the day. It is a special place, an increasingly rare place in a fast-paced world. Smith Island has, perhaps, always been imperiled, but there is faith in today.

Today, Smith Island isn't going anywhere. For information about Smith Island, visit www.visitsmithisland.com.

For information about Susan's On Smith Island Bed & Breakfast, visit www.susansonsmithisland.com

For information about the 2012 FAU CES summit, visit www.ces.fau.edu/SLR2012

An interesting interactive map showing the possible effects of rising sea levels may be found at www.geology.com/sea-level-rise/florida.shtml.

For more photos, visit www.observernews.net or www.riverviewcurrent.com.

A canary in the climate coal mine?

► Continued from page 22



The three stores on the island close up by 3 p.m. but one place offers 24-hour service — in the form of two vending machines.



Students attend school in Ewell up to the 7th grade. After that, children are picked up by a “school boat” and taken to the mainland for classes. Ten children are currently enrolled in the school.



Smith Island is Maryland’s last inhabited offshore island group. The church is the center for much of the small population.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



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JSA Medical Group Sun City Center Activity Center EVENTS CALENDAR



JSA Medical Group - Sun City Center Activity Center is open to the community & offers a variety of FREE community & patient events including Yoga, Tai Chi, health lectures, parties, line dancing & more! (*Classes are subject to change)

JUNE UPCOMING EVENTS *REGISTER NOW! (813) 419-5020

Mon 03:	RUMBA DANCE SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	11 am to Noon 1:30 to 2:30 pm 3 to 4:15 pm
Tue 04:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* BEAD CRAFT CLASS (NEW!)	11 am to Noon 2 to 3 pm
Wed 05:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1:15 pm
Thu 06:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* TAI CHI	9:30 to 10:30 am 2:30 to 3:30 pm
Fri 07:	SALSA DANCING SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 to 11 am 1:30 to 2:30 pm 3 to 4:15 pm
Mon 10:	RUMBA DANCE SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	11 am to Noon 1:30 to 2:30 pm 3 to 4:15 pm
Tue 11:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	11 am to Noon
Wed 12:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1:15 pm
Thu 13:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* TAI CHI	9:30 to 10:30 am 2:30 to 3:30 pm
Fri 14:	SALSA DANCING SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	10 to 11 am 1:30 to 2:30 pm 3 to 4:15 pm
Mon 17:	RUMBA DANCE SLOW FLOW YOGA GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	11 am to Noon 1:30 to 2:30 pm 3 to 4:15 pm
Tue 18:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* MEET & GREET Field Rep Erin Welch	11 am to Noon 2 to 3 pm →

Please check your insurance coverage for SILVER Sneakers class participation eligibility.

*MSROM: Muscular Strength & Range of Movement Classes

Some classes have limited space, call for availability

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MEET & GREET
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IN YOUR BACKYARD

On the road again...*Thank you Willie Nelson!*

■ By WARREN RESEN - North American Travel Writers Association
Photos by Jeanne O'Connor

In 2012 we did a two month road trip from south Florida to Yellowstone National Park, WY with many side trips. This year we have expanded the road trip to three months from West Palm Beach, FL to California with lots of stops coming and going.

After years of foreign travel, viewing endless stained glass windows in now forgotten churches, touring parts of this great country last year whetted our appetites to experience more of the majesty and diversity here at home. As Dorothy said in the Wizard of OZ, "There's no place like home." The USA is so large and diverse that in many areas of the world, each section of this country could be considered a separate country.

The odyssey starts when a Floridian heads west to the Florida/Alabama border. An extreme example is driving from Key West to Pensacola, a distance of 834 miles. That's more than half the distance from my home in West Palm Beach to New York City. The same trip from Jacksonville is a mere 357 miles. At an average of 50 mph that's still about seven hours on the road just to leave the state.

The Interstate system was started under President Eisenhower for national defense,

getting men and material where needed as quickly as possible. It quickly changed the way of life for Americans making us the most mobile nation in the world and fueled Detroit's engines.

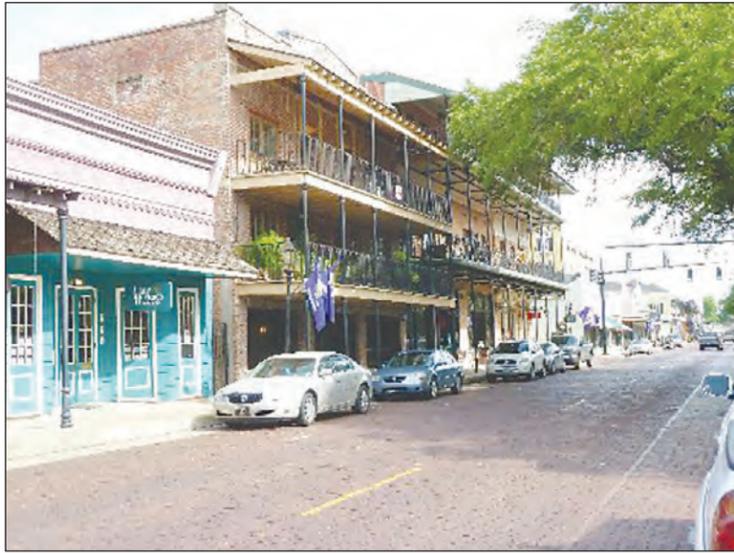
The Interstates generally went in straight lines bypassing many smaller cities and towns and draining the economic life from them while allowing others to grow and flourish. It was also the birth of the glazed eye driver with kids in the back seat whining, "Are we there yet?"

Yet today's drivers, possessing

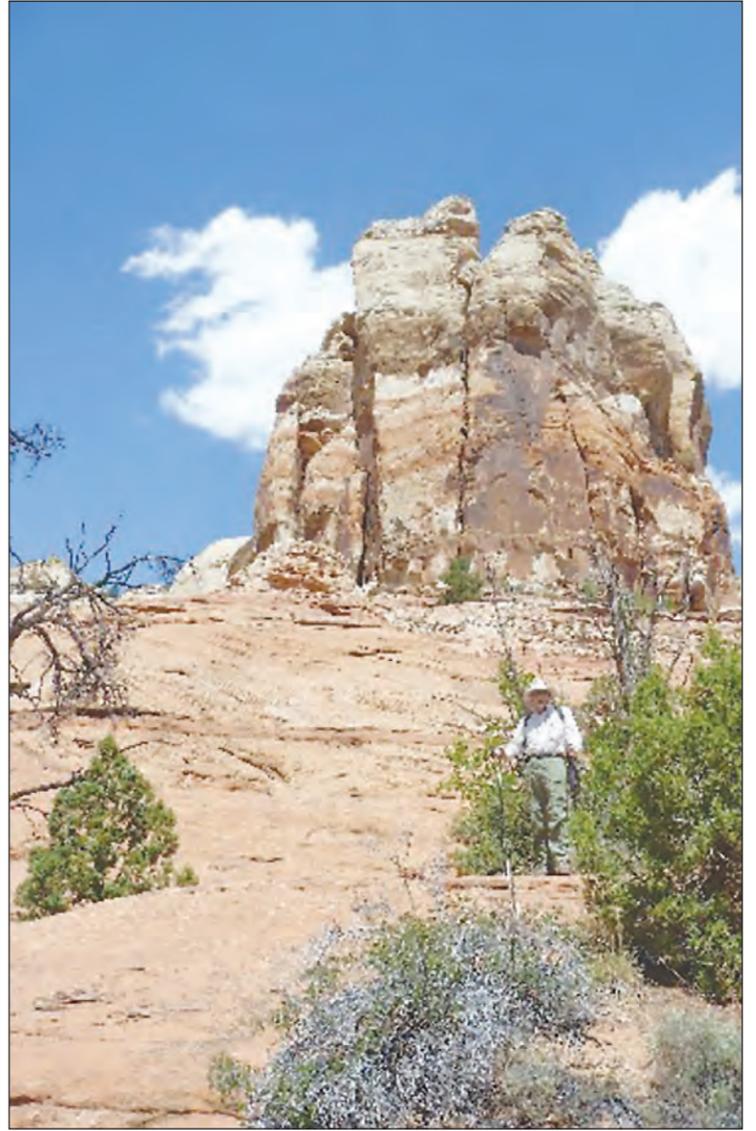
the ubiquitous navigation devices built in or portable, have the option of fearlessly leaving the comfort zone of the concrete ribbon and boldly going where previously they wouldn't dare.

On the Interstates, signs for Historic Districts come quickly telling you to get off the next exit to visit Historic Downtown (wherever). Some historic downtowns are feeble attempts to recreate by-gone times and bring a little economic benefit to towns by-passed by the Interstate. But

► Continued on page 2B



Part of historic downtown Natchitoches, Louisiana.



The Park Service and Bureau of Land management classified this hike as 'easy' to 'moderate' — meaning we use different dictionaries. This trail is in the Escalante area of Utah. Magnificent scenery.

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Patient Jim D. getting fit with new hearing devices.

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New Mexico highway.



This waterfall was along the hike taken in the Escalante area of Utah.

On the road again...

► Continued from page 1B

then there are the gems.

In the middle of Louisiana on I-49, the sign announced Historic NATCHITOCHEs (same degree of difficulty in pronouncing as Caloosahatchee) "Oldest Town in Louisiana, established in 1714." It was worth a look.

As we know though, Florida can boast of St. Augustine the oldest continuously occupied European city in the USA. Founded in 1565 it is celebrating the 500th anniversary of its founding this year. The detour though was definitely worthwhile.

On the banks of the Cane River, block after block of historic houses and mercantile buildings line the streets. Brick buildings with second story iron balconies, festooned with flags and pots of flowering plants remind you of the New Orleans French Quarter.

Charming restaurants and shops make strolling the main street a delightful break from the hurry of the nearby Interstate. Several universities are in the city limits including a campus of LSU.

A late breakfast in one of the restaurants, a short stroll, some picture taking and then following our GPS, we were back on the road heading for points west. Natchitoches is where much of the movie Steel Magnolias was filmed. There are other gems like this to be discovered on your road trips but you have to do some research to find them

Stops at fast food chain restaurants are understandable and frequently unavoidable with their no-need to read menus, cheap foods, quick in-and-out service and Wi-fi. But do pick some special stops for evening meals that feature local foods, culture

and sometimes regional music. You will always remember that stop, not a national fast food pit stop.

On long road trips we try to economize as much as possible, looking for the least expensive accommodations, taking food with us, tailgating, and eating in our room. We have even slept in our car in motel parking lots or in Truck Stops, using the available

showers.

Unless your travels include extended stays in campgrounds, renting an RV can be an expensive luxury. Costs include rental fees, gas, insurance, campground fees, extras for items not included in the base rental price, drop-off fee, etc. We discovered it was much more economical for us to drive our own car. But then we are two

► Continued on next page



Tourist stop somewhere on I-40 in Oklahoma.

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► Continued from page 2B

adults with no kids to take along on trips.

Billboards announcing the upcoming trading post, outlet mall or other such diversion stretch for miles along the Interstates. They are the top time and money wasters for travelers.

Having conducted an unscientific study, we found that the more billboards there are announcing the upcoming destination, the more "touristy" the stop will be.

These stops can be an interesting diversion with their offerings of trinkets and trading beads made in foreign countries. Their specialty restaurants feature everyday foods but with exotic local names. When trying to cover

miles, these stops can seriously cut into your travel planning and make for unplanned expenses.

Do pick up the hotel/motel booklets at fast food restaurants and welcome centers. There are many money saving opportunities for overnight stays.

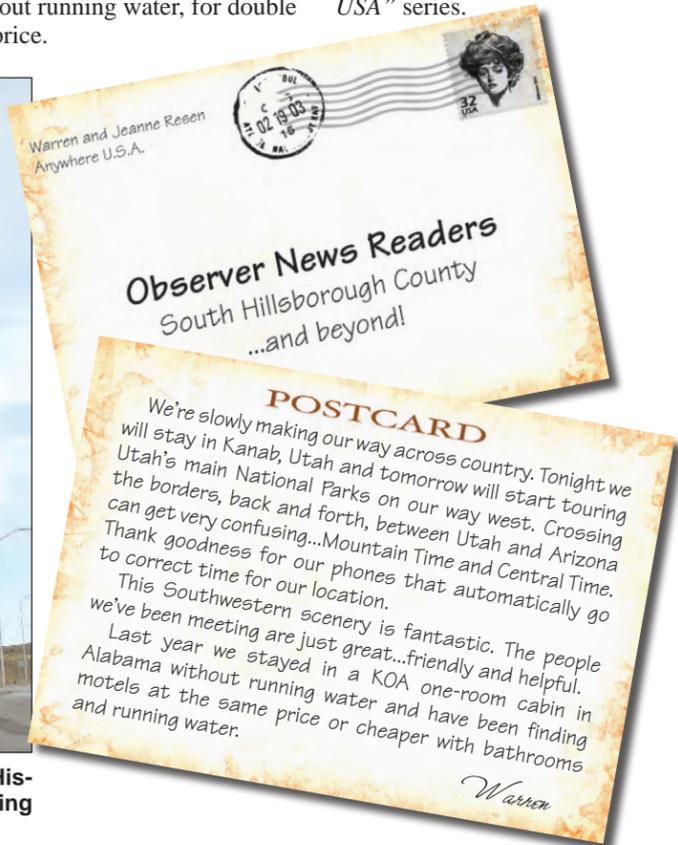
On this trip after an exceedingly long tiring drive through the high desert of New Mexico, we stayed overnight at an old, barely adequate motel. It had hot water as long as someone on the line didn't turn on their faucet at the same time. The hook for us was the sign listing a night's stay at just \$35. Last year we stayed at a one room KOA cabin in Alabama, without running water, for double the price.

An odd practice I discovered — it was odd to me anyway — was in the Texas Panhandle. Some gas stations offer TWO types of regular gas at the same pump. One hose pumped regular with 10% Ethanol and another dispensed the old kind without Ethanol for 20¢ more per gallon. You learn amazing things when traveling, some of them even helpful.

After the long drive from south Florida it was almost time to pull into our first real stop, the Bishop's Lodge Resort & Spa in Santa Fe, NM. This will be the subject of another article in this second generation of the "See the USA" series.



Santa Rosa, NM. Cheapest stop on Historic Route 66. At least it had hot running water.



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7011 Nundy Ave., Gibsonton. Something for everyone. Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 6/7, 6/8 & 6/9. Follow Florescent green signs.

Huge yard sale. Saturday, June 8, 8am-3pm. Little bit of everything. Clothes, household, decorative, collectibles, kitchen & misc. 808 Ojai Ave., SCC.

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