

INSIDE:



CAUTION: A red light camera at the main entrance to the Westfield Brandon Mall has the dubious distinction of generating more citations than any other in the county. See page 3.



Where's the best place to beat the heat? In Florida, of course. Even though we're nicknamed the Sunshine State, it's cooler here than in many places around the country this week. See page 14.

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

Snooty the Manatee, who lives at the South Florida Museum in Bradenton, celebrated his 65th birthday on Saturday. Thousands of people turned out for the event, which was presented by Mosaic of Riverview. Snooty was born in a Miami aquarium on July 21, 1948. His mother's name was Lady.

Snooty, on his 65th birthday

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

Manatees don't have pockets. That is unfortunate for a manatee named Snooty at the South Florida Museum in Bradenton. If Snooty had pockets, he could carry a Social Security card and cash from his checks. But alas, no pockets. Snooty just celebrated his 65th birthday.

It turns out that Snooty doesn't appear to mind. Thousands of people turned out for his birthday party on Saturday, sponsored by Riverview's Mosaic. With that many friends, who needs pockets?

Snooty was born in a Miami aquarium on July 21, 1948. He is the oldest known manatee born in captivity. While there was birthday cake as part of his party, Snooty didn't partake — not only because he is an herbivore but also because he is on a diet. After once topping the scales at 1,200 pounds, he is now down to a sleek 1,000 pounds. But he did enjoy his favorite sweet treats — pineapples and strawberries. Due to his diet, such indulgences are generally reserved for his one big day each year. And with age more than his diet, Snooty is slowing down a little. Today he generally eats only 70 or so pounds of vegetation a day,

unlike the 100 pounds typically consumed by younger manatees. Snooty is one of only a handful of manatees in Florida that have daily interaction with humans. Born in captivity, people and aquariums are all he knows. He is rarely lonely as he often shares his tank with visiting wild manatees, generally those who are recovering from an injury or illness. Over the years he has had 26 wild tank-mates, including his current friends Longo and Cheeno.

Assuming, of course, you can call any manatee wild. They are gentle and non-aggressive by

Continued on page 9



Walls in the museum leading to Snooty's tank were decorated with birthday cards created by elementary school children.

Better-tasting water on tap for south county, central customers

By KEVIN BRADY
kevin@observernews.net

Toss out that expensive bottled water, a new water treatment plant is making the water coming out your tap better than ever.

A \$34.7 million dollar hydrogen sulfide removal facility beside Newsome High School on Fishhawk Blvd. in Lithia went online this month improving the water quality for 535,000 homes in Hillsborough County.

Water customers in south-central Hillsborough communities such as Apollo Beach, Brandon, Riverview, Ruskin and Sun City Center began receiving water treated with ozone in early July. Ozone is a safe, affordable and efficient method used to disinfect water and improve taste and odor in treatment plants.

In addition to noticing improved

odor and taste, residents may also notice that the tap water occasionally appears cloudy white due to tiny oxygen bubbles. This may be more apparent until the new process is further refined.

The water is safe to drink. The bubbles are created by the new ozone process that is removing hydrogen sulfide and its characteristic rotten egg smell

Continued on page 7



TAMPA BAY WATER

With the start-up and testing of the new plant, above, Hillsborough County's 20-year-old hydrogen sulfide removal process is being retired and, along with it, the rotten egg smell that emanated from the facility.

TGH to open two outpatient clinics in South County

By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

Soon there will be a third option for seeing a doctor in the Riverview area.

Instead of having to make an advance appointment at a private doctor's office, or use a walk-in clinic, Aug. 19, the new Riverview Tampa General Hospital clinic should be open and making same-day appointments.

"The idea is to see people on the day they need to be seen, and yet let them keep the same doctor," said Jana Gardner, vice president of ambulatory services for Tampa General Hospital. Some doctor's offices are so busy it is impossible for people to get in when they are sick, so using walk-in clinics has become a new way to stay out of emergency rooms at hospitals, but patients cannot call the doctors there "their personal physician."

The Riverview office will be at 10647 Big Bend Road in

the plaza on the southwest side of the Big Bend and US 301 intersection, near Sweetbay.

That office telephone number is (813) 844-4600 and is currently taking appointments for Aug. 19 and beyond.

The Riverview office will be manned by two doctors. One, Dr. Prema Ramsahai, is moving to this area from out-of-state but

has not yet arrived. The second physician has not yet been chosen. Staff is also being hired for that office.

The Riverview office will see patients from birth through geriatrics.

Meanwhile, an office is also slated for Sun City Center. It is on schedule to open late this year. It

Continued on page 7



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Tampa General Hospital is preparing to open two clinics in South County, one in Riverview and one in Sun City Center.

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Ruskin quilter accepted into international competition

■ BY PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

Unlike many who wonder what they will do with their time after retirement from a lifetime career, Judy Hasch of Ruskin planned all that early.

"I started learning to quilt about five years before I retired from Verizon," Hasch said July 15. Prior to working at Verizon, she said she had also worked for GTE.

As retirement time approached, Hasch looked into many things she had been curious about but never had time to pursue.

"I really liked the idea of creating something beautiful and lasting," she said.

After exploring many things, she chose to learn to quilt.

Now, ten years later, she shares her knowledge with quilting groups as an instructor and sometimes friend-to-friend, and

one of her works was recently accepted into an international competition.

"When I made my bucket list awhile back, one of the things on it was to enter an international competition," she said. "I began competitively two years ago. The first time I entered, I was rejected. But I was accepted later that same year."

Earlier this year she entered her quilt, "Sailing with Mary," in an international competition to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan Aug. 14-17.

The day after she was interviewed for this story, she put the quilt in the mail. "The quilts all have to be there early so they can prepare the displays," she explained.

Coincidentally, Hasch is originally from Michigan and is looking forward to revisiting her childhood home.

She and her husband Robert moved to Ruskin from Michigan in 1982.

When they first arrived, she continued to work full time.

"After I retired though, most of my friends were still working so I had to find new friends," she said. Since she had already read the book "Make a Quilt in a Weekend," and started quilting, she said it was natural to form her new friendships around quilting groups.

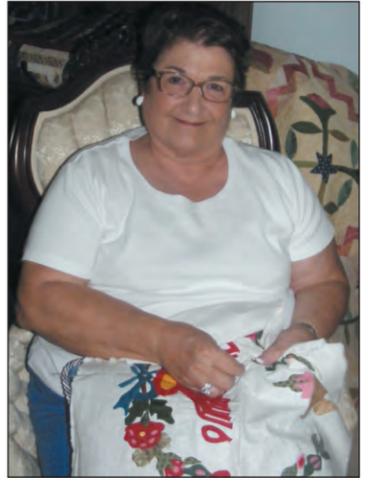
According to Bonnie Browning, executive director of the

American Quilters Show and competition that is being hosted by the American Quilters Society, 328 entries from around the country have been chosen based on photographs sent in and judged earlier this year. "There are also entries from six other countries," Browning said.

There are five categories, with five overall awards. Winners will be announced Aug. 14 during the show.

Cash awards totaling more than \$44,000 will be earned, with

▶ Continued on page 13



Judy Hasch calls the quilt that is entered in the international competition *Sailing with Mary*.



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

Judy Hasch of Ruskin has been chosen by a panel of judges to be allowed to enter an international competition to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan in August.

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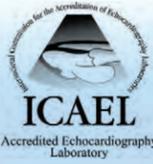
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Brandon tops list for red-light camera citations

By KEVIN BRADY
kevin@riverviewcurrent.com

A red light camera at the main entrance to the Westfield Brandon Mall has generated more citations than any intersection in the county this year.

The camera at Brandon Town Center and Brandon Boulevard saw 4,006 citations issued from Jan. 1 through June 30, according to figures obtained by the Observer from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

Overall, 12,040 citations for red light violations were issued in the county in the first six months of this year. The popular Brandon intersection accounts for 33 percent of those tickets.

However, Brandon drivers do appear to be getting the message, with 865 fewer violations this year compared with the first six months of 2012. The mall camera generated 4,871 citations from January to June in 2012.

A camera at Bell Shoals Road and Bloomingdale Avenue generated 853 citations between January and June this year, down from 1,369 for the first six months of 2012.

The cameras actually flag thousands more drivers than are cited but with each potential citation reviewed by two experienced deputies, 25 to 30 percent of those are tossed out, according to the sheriff's office.

So why so many citations at the Brandon mall entrance?

"That's typically our busiest intersection," said Corp. Adam Brescia, who oversees the red light camera program for the sheriff's office. "There's also a lot of bottlenecks because so many people are exiting the mall at one time. It's a high-transit area."

Drawing shoppers from across the county, many unaware there's a camera eyeing vehicles 24 hours a day, may also play a part, Brescia believes.

"It's close to Interstate 75 so there are also people going there from other areas."

County drivers have been navigating red light cameras since Dec. 29, 2009 when the hidden eyes in the sky were installed at six intersections. Cameras

also monitor traffic at Sligh and Habana Avenues (384 citations so far this year), Waters Avenue at Dale Mabry Highway (1,590 citations so far this year), and Anderson Road (1,801 citations so far this year) and Fletcher Avenue and Bruce B.

Downs Boulevard (3,406 citations so far this year). Tampa uses the cameras to catch red-light runners at 24 intersections in the city.

In all, 21 states and more than 50 Florida counties and cities use the cameras. Statewide, 404 intersections are equipped with red light cameras, according to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

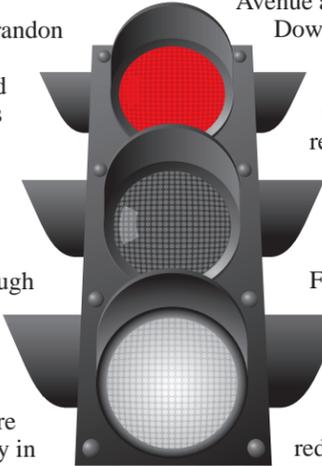
Motorists might avoid getting nabbed on the scene after running a red light but the law makes sure they pay up with a \$158 fine. Of that, \$75 goes to the county or city where the violation occurred with the remainder going to the state. The fine increases to \$264 if not paid within 30 days. No points are assessed on a driver's license and motorists can appeal the tickets in traffic court.

The company that installed the cameras — American Traffic Solutions, in Hillsborough County — is paid \$4,750 per month, per camera. The company maintains 10 cameras at the six intersections.

Complaints over allowing drivers only 30 days to pay fines were addressed by the state legislature earlier this year. Drivers now have 60 days to pay fines — no points are assessed on anyone's license — and can have their case heard before a county hearing officer if they appeal the ticket.

Tallahassee also voted to eliminate tickets for drivers who make a right on red after coming to a full stop although Hillsborough County does not issue citations for making a right on red.

"We have two deputies, one with 35 years of experience and the other with 17 years on the job, who review each and every violation," Brescia said. "They have an expert eye and when they feel there is a reasonable doubt they throw the citation out."



Opponents of the cameras say they make intersections more dangerous, encouraging some drivers to rush while others slam on the brakes at the first sign of a yellow light for fear of a ticket. Nonsense, according to a Florida Highway Patrol report released earlier this year.

"The most common outcome since the installation of red light cameras is a decrease in traffic crashes," said the report. "Forty-three percent [of the agencies overseeing the cameras] noticed a reduction in side-impact crashes, with 41 percent experiencing a reduction in rear-end crashes, while 56 percent of the agencies experienced a total reduction in crashes at red light camera intersections," concluded the report.

"The cameras promote safer driving," Brescia said. "If the camera turns amber and I slow down, that is telling the driver behind me that the light is changing and that I am about to stop."

While cameras are

commonplace in Europe, Americans are getting used to them, said Brescia, who has been overseeing the sheriff's office traffic camera program for seven months.

"I have been here since January and have received just five calls for more than 12,000 citations, and I am the liaison for the program. That tells me our community is accepting of the program."



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A car runs a red light at Brandon Town Center and Brandon Boulevard in this video, one of several red-light camera videos posted to YouTube by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office showing local drivers ignoring red lights.

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in a traditional classroom setting. Join the more than 400 people who have taken these courses and earned an Amateur Radio license during the last few years to help support the community in times of need.

These courses will be held over two Saturdays, Aug. 10 and 15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Testing will occur at the end of the second class. Both classes will meet at the WMNF 88.5FM station facility, located at 1210 E. Martin Luther King Blvd. in Tampa.

There are no training fees for these classes. However, there is a \$14 fee for taking the test and a refundable

deposit of \$20 for class materials. The manual books are \$19.95 and \$29.95, depending upon which course is being taken. Participants need to pay for the test and the book at the start of class. Participants also need to bring a government-issued picture identification card.

The class size is limited. To register, send an email to training@hcaresraces.org to reserve a seat in this class.

Visit the Hillsborough County ARES/RACES website at: www.hcaresraces.org for information related to these classes, as well as other information related to emergency communications in our area.

THE SAVVY SENIOR

How to Choose the Right Executor

Dear Savvy Senior

What are my options for choosing an executor for my will? I was considering asking one of kids to do it but I don't think any of them are up for the job. What can you tell me?

Still Kicking



By Jim Miller

Dear Kicking,

Choosing an executor — the person or institution you put in charge of administering your estate and carrying out your final

wishes — is one of the most important decisions in preparing a will.

Picking the right executor can help ensure the prompt, accurate distribution of your possessions with a minimum of family friction. Some of the duties required include:

- Filing court papers to start the probate process (this is generally required by law to determine the will's validity).
- Taking an inventory of everything in the estate.
- Using your estate's funds to pay bills, including taxes, funeral costs, etc.
- Handling details like terminating credit cards, and notifying banks and government agencies like Social Security and the post office of the death.
- Preparing and filing final income tax returns.
- Distributing assets to the beneficiaries named in the will.

Given all the responsibility, the ideal candidate should be someone who is honest, dependable, well organized, good with paperwork and vigilant about meeting deadlines.

Who to Choose

Most people think first of naming a family member, especially a spouse or child, as executor. If, however, you don't have an obvious family member to choose, you may want to ask a trusted friend, but be sure to choose someone in good health or younger than you who will likely be around after you're gone.

Also, if your executor of choice happens to live in another state, you'll need to check your state's

law to see if it imposes any special requirements. Some states require an out-of-state executor to be a family member or a beneficiary, some require a bond to protect your heirs in case of mismanagement, and some require the appointment of an in-state agent.

Also keep in mind that if the person you choose needs help settling your estate they can always call on an expert like an attorney or tax accountant to guide them through the process, with your estate picking up the cost.

If, however, you don't have a friend or relative you feel comfortable with, you could name a third party executor like a bank, trust company or a professional who has experience dealing with estates. If you need help locating a pro, the National Association of Estate Planners and Councils (naepc.org) and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (naela.org) are great resources that provide directories on their websites to help you find someone.

Executor Fees

Most family members and close friends (especially if they are a beneficiary) serve for free, but if you opt for a third party executor it will cost your estate. Executor fees are set by each state and typically run anywhere from 1 to 5 percent depending on the size of the estate.

Get Approval

Whoever you choose to serve as your executor, be sure you get their approval first before naming him or her in your will. And once you've made your choice, go over your financial details in your will with that person, and let him or her know where you keep all your important documents and financial information. This will make it easier on them after you're gone.

For more information on the duties of an executor, get a copy of the book *The American Bar Association Guide to Wills and Estates*, fourth edition, for \$17 at ambar.org/wills or call 800-285-2221.

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.

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Apollo Beach Woman's Club plans 2013-2014 activities

Under the leadership of President Sharon Vasquez, the Apollo Beach Woman's Club executive board, is preparing activities, including a fund-raising Halloween Party, to benefit the Scholarship program, for the 2013-2014 September – May season. The Halloween event will be open to the public and held at the Elks Club in Ruskin.

The Culture Club, within the ABWC under the leadership of Judy Motta and Lynn Lucido, has planned activities including behind-the-scenes trips to Tampa International Airport, Florida Aquarium and a special Holiday Luncheon

The ABWC was founded in 1959 by a group of women who wished to contribute to community development, including providing college scholarships to Apollo Beach High School graduates. This year, the club awarded \$9,500 in scholarships to 13 college-bound students. Three eight-week scholarships were also awarded to Hillsborough County's Parks summer camps and a tree was planted at Doby Elementary School to celebrate Arbor Day.

Membership in ABWC is open to all women in Apollo Beach and surrounding communities. Dues are \$20 annually. Luncheon meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at Little Harbor in Ruskin, Fla. The next luncheon will be Wednesday, September 11. To learn more, visit www.apollobeachwomensclub.com or contact Sharon Vasquez at 813-641-7856.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SOUTHSHORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SouthShore Chamber gathers to welcome Village Market

The SouthShore Chamber of Commerce gathered on July 17 for a ribbon cutting to welcome the Village Market at Little Harbor. Above are Melanie Morrison, chamber executive director, with Village Market and Village Marinas general manager Kevin Lefler and his wife Peggy, along with members of the chamber present to celebrate the new store. The Village Market serves marina and resort guests along with area residents. For more information, visit <http://www.thelittleharbormarina.com>. For information about the chamber visit www.southshorechamberofcommerce.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/southshore.chamber

SouthShore Regional Library

Kids program/event highlights

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Teen Night - Thursday, July 25 at 5 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 1 at 5 p.m.

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Family Story Time - Thursday, July 25 at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 1 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.

Pee Wee Artists: Let's Create! - Monday, July 29 at 10:30 a.m.

"Pee Wee Artists", 3-6 years with adult, will join Art Instructor, Margit Redlawsk, and create an art project to take home. Limit 15. Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling 813-273-3652. Funding for this program provided by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center.

Baby Time - Monday, July 29 at 1:35 p.m.

Tuesday, July 30 at 11:35 a.m.

Wednesday, July 31 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, July 30 at 10:05 a.m. & 10:35 a.m.

Wednesday, July 31 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, July 30 at 11 a.m.

Wednesday, July 31 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.

Alligator Annie: An Interactive Storytelling Show - Tuesday, July 30 at 1 p.m. & 2:15 p.m.

For children entering grades K-5 ~ Alligator Annie lives in a cabin and knows how to talk to the animals. Annie tells stories of Florida, its wildlife and history. She uses physical comedy, magic and a moving crocodile bringing tons of fun. She also plays the ukulele and dulcimer. This program is part of the Viva Florida 500 celebration, a statewide initiative led by the Florida Department of State to highlight the 500 years of historic people, places and events in Florida since the arrival of Juan Ponce de León in 1513. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

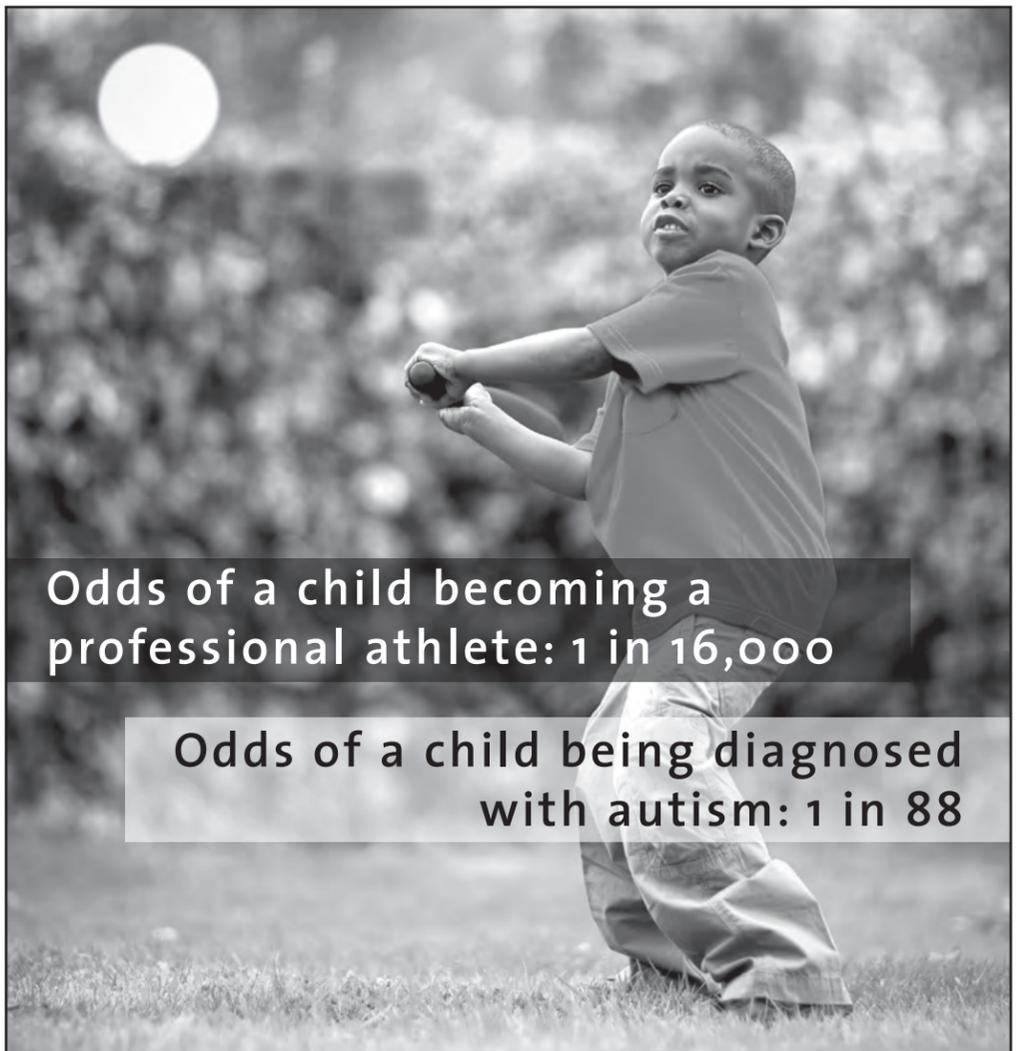
Interactive Adventure Movie - Wednesday, July 31 at 2 p.m.

For children entering grades K-5 ~ Going down, down and down! Characters travel deep down to the center of the Earth, where prehistoric beasts and carnivorous plants are living in abundance. Discover this lost and mysterious world with props, sounds effects, and a whole lot of fun at this showing of a daring movie adventure. Props are limited to the first 48 children. Rated PG, 92 minute.

Teen Movie Matinee - Thursday, Aug. 1 at 4 p.m.

Ages 13-18. Captain Jack Sparrow's latest movie adventure will require the tear of a mermaid to help him find the elusive Fountain of Youth. Rated PG-13, 136 minutes. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional 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.



Odds of a child becoming a professional athlete: 1 in 16,000

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 88

Some signs to look for:

No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months.

No babbling by 12 months.

No words by 16 months.

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Positive Talk: Being part of the team

Whenever I use sports analogies, it turns some people off, but sports are a microcosm of life. Microcosm is from the Greek *mikros kosmos*: *mikros*, small + *kosmos*, world. Sports are a parallel world small enough for us to study and from which to learn some important lessons. Today, let's look at the world of sports and see what we can learn about being a team player in the game of life.



By William Hodges

• **Play your position.** Each player has an assignment. It may be to cover a specific area of the playing field, pay attention to a certain opponent, run interference for another player, or just be at a designated point at the right time. When players leave their assigned areas, collisions with other players can do real damage. Losing track of the competition when it is your job to watch them can be disastrous. Being out of position when others are counting on you to be there can result in many dropped balls. Just this week I watched a shortstop make a great stop, wheel around and throw the ball to first. With uncanny accuracy, the ball went like a shot right to first base. It then bounced into the fence, and careened into the outfield. A great play was ruined and the winning run scored, all because the first baseman was out of position. The first rule of any team player is to know his or her position and to be there when needed.

• **Know your competition.**

Athletes in all sports know the value of watching game videos. Pitchers can tell by watching them how some batters will set up for either solid hits or bunts, and batters can learn the kind of pitch that might be coming at them just from the way a pitcher prepares and delivers the pitch. Boxers watch videos to find out when the opponent drops his guard or how he might telegraph his punches. At

a recent play-off game, I watched while an entire team sat in the bleachers watching and making notes on the actions of a team they would face in a later round. The team that took the time to watch and make notes won the match, and one of the victorious players told me that the personal scouting did a lot to make the victory possible. You may not have videos of your competitors off the field but you can collect their printed materials, you can talk with others about their methods of operation, and you can learn about their products and/or services.

• **Be as versatile as possible.** Some of the greatest players in sports history were not great just because they played one position well, but because the team could call on them to play a number of positions. Babe Ruth pitched, batted and played the outfield. Johnny Bench was a great catcher but he also led the league in home runs twice and RBIs three times. To be a greater asset to your team,

take the time to learn some of the other positions. Start with the one that directly affects you. If one of them cannot perform, could you pick up the slack? If you can, you will be recognized for your value to the team.

• **Never forget that it is a team,** and everyone's contributions are required for success. If it were not for the second string that shows up for scrimmages, the first string could not sharpen their skills. That star quarterback would not walk so tall if the guards and tackles missed their assignments. No matter what your position on the team, take credit for the team's success. I think this is an important thing for team leaders to remember when they are passing out kudos. Never forget to acknowledge the people who showed up to play but might be forgotten by the fans — or management for that matter.

Life is one of the greatest games of all and it is more fun to play if you are a team player. Play ball!

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

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Mosaic Company to host hunger-relief forum at Florida Fairgrounds

In the U.S., including Florida, one in six people struggles with hunger, and more than 850 million people around the world don't know where they will get their next meal. As the world population continues to increase, food security is becoming a growing concern. To raise awareness about this critical issue, the Mosaic Company is hosting a Hunger-Relief Forum to spearhead a regional conversation about hunger relief efforts and the need to create a sustainable food supply.

The event will take place from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, July

26 at the Florida State Fairgrounds Florida Center.

By uniting community leaders and organizations throughout Central Florida, Mosaic intends to ignite community dialogue about food security and the valuable roles various community organizations, companies, educators and industries can play in providing solutions.

The forum will feature keynote speaker John Stanmeyer, who will share photos and insights from his travels as a *National Geographic* photographer documenting the global food crisis.

The program will also feature a live panel that will discuss meeting the challenges facing our local food supply. Panelists will include: Thomas Mantz, executive director of Feeding America Tampa Bay; Patrizia La Trecchia, Ph.D., associate professor at the University of South Florida Patel College of Global Sustainability; David Spivey, Plant City strawberry grower; and Neil Beckingham, sustainability manager for the Mosaic Company.

Food banks from across the region will be recognized for their efforts with a special presentation by Mosaic.

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Letter to the Editor

A Southshore Treasure

Dear Editor,
I had heard of Camp Bayou for many years. Yeah, it was years ago a campground. It was purchased about 20 years ago by Hillsborough County under the ELAPP program. Then I heard it had something to do with education. School children, I guess.

In the June 20, 2013 issue of *The Observer News*, I read an article about a guided canoe tour at Camp Bayou. Being a paddler, this tour looked like something I may be interested in.

On Saturday, July 6, 2013 I visited Camp Bayou to get some information. Did I have a pleasant surprise. I was given great information about the area of long, long ago. The exhibits are very interesting.

My thanks to the volunteers, Jerri, Ann, Dolly and Fred, for their time, tour and information.

This is not a campground. It is an outdoor learning center for everyone. It is a quiet place where we can experience nature and all its beauty.

Dick Hamilton

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Need help with ADA compliance?

From 8 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, July 30, Hillsborough County and the Alliance for Citizens with Disabilities will present a free workshop. Experts will discuss how businesses can avoid costly mistakes by reviewing the latest ADA needs and requirements.

The workshop will be held at the Children's Board, 1002 E. Palm Ave. in Tampa.

For more information, call 813-914-4028.



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Water quality improves for South County

► Continued from page 1

from groundwater supplied to the Lithia plant. The oxygen bubbles should dissipate after the water sits for a few minutes.

"The rotten egg smell is all removed now," said Brandon Moore, Tampa Bay Water's public communications manager.

Students at Newsome High School will be particularly pleased with the changes.

Football players at the school complained about the smell coming from Tampa Bay Water's plant during a public hearing at the school in 2010.

"They were really happy to hear there would no longer be a smell coming from the plant," Moore said. Residents also welcomed the changes. "We had a lot of positive feedback about the new plant."

"It's a higher quality of water residents are now receiving."

Tampa Bay Water meets more than 100 federal, state and local standards for quality. "We actually go above and beyond the standard. I don't know the standards for bottled water but I know our standards are above what is required. And you pay about 1/4 of a penny per gallon for our water."

Hillsborough County Public Utilities made several modifications at the plant in order to integrate the new ozone treatment process into daily operations.

These included reconfiguring chemical feed systems and related piping, upgrading chemical analyzers and controls, and constructing a new segment for the pipeline which brings water into the plant from Tampa Bay Water's regional system.

Hillsborough County is a member of Tampa Bay Water. Hillsborough County Public Utilities Department provides an average of 50 million gallons of drinking water a day to

535,000 people in unincorporated Hillsborough County, and treats about 36 million gallons of wastewater a day.

Construction of the new plant took two years and was funded through construction bonds and Tampa Bay Water's wholesale water rate.

With the start-up and testing of the new facility and plant improvements, Hillsborough County's 20-year-old hydrogen sulfide removal process is being retired.

Tampa Bay Water is Florida's

largest wholesale water provider. The agency provides wholesale drinking water to its member governments of Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties and the cities of New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa.

For more information about the project, go to www.tampabaywater.org.

\$5K scholarship offered by County

The Hillsborough County Social Services Division and Community Action Board are offering a \$5,000 college scholarship to help a low-income resident fulfill post-high school educational interests.

Among other criteria, applicants must:

- be Hillsborough County residents between the ages of 16-22
- be either a high school senior or have obtained a high school or GED diploma
- be a high school senior or enrolled in an institution of higher learning (college/university/vocational)
- have a family income within 125% of the 2013 Federal Poverty Guidelines of the Community Services Block Grant mandated requirements.

The scholarship application must be delivered to the West Tampa Neighborhood Service Center located at 2103 N. Rome Ave., Tampa, FL 33607, by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 26, 2013. The scholarship application and additional criteria are available online at www.HillsboroughCounty.org/cap.

TGH clinic

► Continued from page 1

will be in the Whitcomb Building, the tall pink building at the west end of Sun City Center Plaza by the post office.

"We're going to share the parking lot with the post office," Gardner said. "We'll be in the part of the first floor that was occupied by the bank."

The TGH clinics will both be full service, giving flu shots and regular routine exams as well as seeing sick patients.

There will be one doctor who will man the Sun City Center clinic regularly who will specialize in adult care. This doctor has not yet been chosen. That office, which should open sometime before the end of the year, will not be equipped for pediatrics.

The address of the Sun City Center office is 1647 Sun City Center Plaza, and the telephone number is (813) 844-4700. There is hiring still to be done there as well.

Both offices will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to start. They will not take walk-ins, but if you call, they give same day appointments when patients say they need them, Gardner said.

For employment opportunities, it is advised that applicants go to the Tampa General Hospital website <http://www.tgh.org/searchjobs.htm> under the "About Us" tab on the left at the top of the opening page, where there is a sub-tab that says "Career Opportunities" and under that "Apply."

Garbage and recycling roll cart deliveries begin in August

Are your garbage cans starting to look worse for wear? Can't remember whether plastic bottles go in the blue bin or the green bin? If you live in Hillsborough County's Solid Waste service area, help is on the way.

Improved residential garbage and recycling collection service — with sturdy roll carts to be provided by the County — will begin in September. Sun City Center, however, is on a different schedule, with their new service to start in January 2014.

Starting Aug. 1, gray roll carts for garbage and blue roll carts for recycling will be delivered to more than 260,000 homes. Residents will need to store their carts until the new service begins. Also, residents are encouraged to read the important information that will be delivered with the carts. This will include cart instructions, collection days, and service provider information.

When the new service starts, the carts will be emptied by automated collection, a process that uses a mechanical arm on the collection vehicle instead of workers lifting cans and bins by hand. An automated system keeps neighborhoods cleaner and neater on collection days, increases recycling rates, and is safer for service providers.

Though collection days and service providers may change, the improved service will still include two garbage pickups



every week, one recycling collection every week, and one yard waste collection every week. Yard waste will still be collected manually in containers and cans provided by residents, or in bags and bundles.

According to a news release from Hillsborough County, residential solid waste customers will pay less for service in 2014, as a result of the County's efforts to seek new bids for garbage and recycling collection. Altogether, the County will save nearly \$10 million annually while still keeping twice-a-week pickups.

For more information about the improved collection service, visit www.HillsboroughCounty.org/TalkTrash, or call the Hillsborough County Public Utilities Department at 813-272-5680.

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Educational seminars for all ages at MOSI in August

3D Project Printing – SBU Certification

Saturday, Aug. 3

Ages: 17 - Adult
Program fee: \$24 MOSI member: \$18

Design and print real 3D objects with a high resolution 3D printer. This workshop is great for: artists, designers, hobbyists and inventors! Find out how to take your designs and make them real. We'll print 3D creations and learn special techniques to make them into pieces of art made with science. Participants receive certification to use Idea Zone's industrial 3D printer to create their own prototypes in the future. Advance registration required.

Preschool Science – Let's Make Some Music

M/W Aug. 5, 7 or T/Th Aug. 6, 8, 10 – 10:45 a.m.

Program fee: \$15 per parent/child team
MOSI member: \$12 per parent/child team

We respectfully request that siblings and family members not attend.

Make silly sounds and groovy beats as you learn about sound waves, instruments, and singing. Make your own simple instrument. Express yourself through dance and fun.

Meteor Shower Midnight Madness Family Camp-In

Saturday, Aug. 10, 5 p.m. to Sunday, Aug. 11 at 10 a.m.

Program fee: \$105 per parent-child team; \$60 per additional child
MOSI member: \$79 per parent-child team; \$45 per additional child

Have a starry sleep-over on a night full of astronomical surprises. Enjoy a perfectly beautiful night sky in the comfort of our planetarium to see stars planets and galaxies from around the world. Create craters by shooting meteorites into the Earth. Chill out making comets and feel the tail as it blows through the air. Stay up late and travel to the top of the IMAX Dome to view the Perseids Meteor Shower, one of the best meteor showers to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by comet Swift-Tuttle and is famous for producing a large number of bright meteors. Pizza dinner and cereal breakfast included.

Preschool Science - Puddle Jumping

M/W Aug. 12, 14 or T/Th Aug. 13, 15, 10 – 10:45 a.m.

Program fee: \$15 per parent/child team
MOSI member: \$12 per parent/child team

We respectfully request that siblings and other family members not attend.

Learn about the weather by when you make blowing wind, falling rain, and cold snow. Touch a cloud and go puddle-jumping with your rain boots.

3D Milling and Scanning – SBU Certification

Sunday, Aug. 25 10 a.m. – noon

Ages: 17 - Adult
Program fee: \$15 MOSI member: \$12

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eler's wax and even metals into models, molds, prototype inventions and even circuit boards. You can even use the MDX-15 to scan 3D objects. Participants receive certification to use the MDX-15 miller to create their own projects in the future. Advance registration required.

MOSI is located at 4801 E Fowler Ave. in Tampa. For more information about any of MOSI's programs, call 813-987-6000 or visit MOSI.org.

Feline Folks up for adoption



Flicker is a little gray male kitten seeking a family. He is up to date on shots, neutered, and ready for adoption.



Rascal is a little black male kitten, also up to date on shots and neutered. For more information, call Jackie at Feline Folks: 813-545-7611.

Women's fall study at South Bay

More Than Sisters, the women's group at South Bay Church, Riverview, has chosen *A Woman's Heart God's Dwelling Place* by Beth Moore for its fall study which will begin Tuesday, Sept. 17.

A Woman's Heart God's Dwelling Place (updated edition) is a 10-week study. The 2-hour classes will be offered at 9:15 a.m. and again at 6:45 p.m. every Tuesday. All area women are welcome to attend.

This study will challenge readers to prepare their heart, like the Holy of Holies, to become a home for His love and glory — a dwelling place for the Most High God."

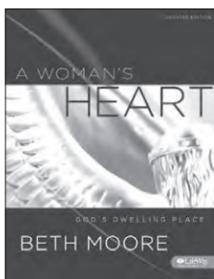
Registration will begin August 11 in the lobby at the church. Workbook is \$15. Childcare is available upon registration for a \$5 donation per family per week. Space is limited so register soon.

Summer book club

The women's summer book club will continue its discussion of *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs, at 7 p.m., August 13 and 27. This will be the wrap up of this group until next summer.

This discussion group is open to all area women. For more information call the church office at 813-677-0721.

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



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Snooty turns 65

► Continued from page 1

nature, and although they have them, they can't even manage to stick out their tongues at you. Over the years, Snooty has been taught to rollover and present a flipper for a handshake. Snooty has proven that manatees can learn from us, as we learn from them. Despite their gentle natures, wild manatees are not pets and neither is Snooty. In Florida it is illegal to harass them in any way, including feeding them fresh water through a hose. As one area woman recently found out through some very public and embarrassing photos and her subsequent arrest, attempting to ride a manatee is absolutely forbidden. But most people have the sense to know that, right?

Manatees are associated with Florida and are a big draw for tourists. But they can wander. They have been known to swim

as far north as Massachusetts and back again in a single summer, swimming roughly as fast as a typical person walks. They cannot, however, tolerate water that is less than 68 degrees and thus can be found locally in large numbers during the winter months congregated at the TECO Manatee Viewing Center, which has warm water year-around courtesy of the cooling system at the adjacent Big Bend Power Plant.

Manatees are not fish (nor are they overly curvaceous mermaids) and females bear live young, known as calves. A typical pregnancy lasts for up to a year and it is rare for a female manatee to give birth to more than one calf. Their lungs run nearly the entire length of their bodies allowing them to hold their breath and submerge for up to 20 minutes at a time, using "nose flaps" to keep

water out of their lungs.

According to one area marine biologist, most wild manatees are identified entirely by the propeller scars on their backs. There are few manatees in Florida that haven't made unfortunate contact with speedboat propellers. Both state and federal laws protect manatees and boating speed restrictions in manatee zones exist for a very good reason. Studies have indicated that relatively few manatees suffer propeller injuries on their heads, while most have them on their backs or near their tails, suggesting that manatees do recognize approaching boats, they just aren't fast enough to avoid them, particularly in the shallow water they inhabit. From the perspective of a boater, their color makes them almost impossible to see. In fact, the majority of manatee deaths involving boats



Jim Johnson of Mosaic in Riverview greets people as they leave the Mosaic mobile interactive environmental exhibit. Mosaic sponsored Snooty's birthday party. MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



Thousands of people gathered at the South Florida Museum to celebrate Snooty the Manatee's 65th birthday. He is pictured with one of his two tank-mates.

are due to impact damage, rather than propeller injuries. When it comes to boats and manatees, speed does indeed kill.

On the manatee's side is time. It is estimated manatees have been around for at least 50 million years and Snooty's modern ancestors have been swimming the coasts for a million years. As they were here first, perhaps us adapting to them cannot really be considered unfair.

Snooty can talk. For nearly 30 years, he has had a hydrophone inside his tank, giving biologists the first indication that manatees communicate with each other through high-pitched sounds. Hopefully on Saturday, those sounds were strikingly similar to the birthday song.

Back in Bradenton at the South Florida Museum, children played manatee-related games or searched for fossils in a dig site provided by Mosaic. Inside, Snooty waved his flipper at the crowd gathered above his tank while those watching through glass below saw him roll and flap

his tail. Birthday cards made by elementary school children lined the walls at the museum. If anyone enjoyed their 65th birthday, it would seem to be Snooty. People cheered him on and he happily munched on pineapple chunks and strawberries. Too bad about not having pockets, he probably would have liked to have saved some of the treats for later.

And regarding pockets, it turns out that Snooty is a full-fledged member of the AARP (American Association of Retired People). Fortunately, their membership cards are made of plastic and, thus, are waterproof. Where he keeps it is anyone's guess. Perhaps next to a secret stash of pineapple chunks and strawberries.

The South Florida Museum is located at 201 10th Street West in Bradenton, just across the Manatee River and one block off the U.S. 41 Business route. The museum offers a "Snooty Cam" that is live during regular business hours and on weekends. For more information, visit www.southfloridamuseum.org.

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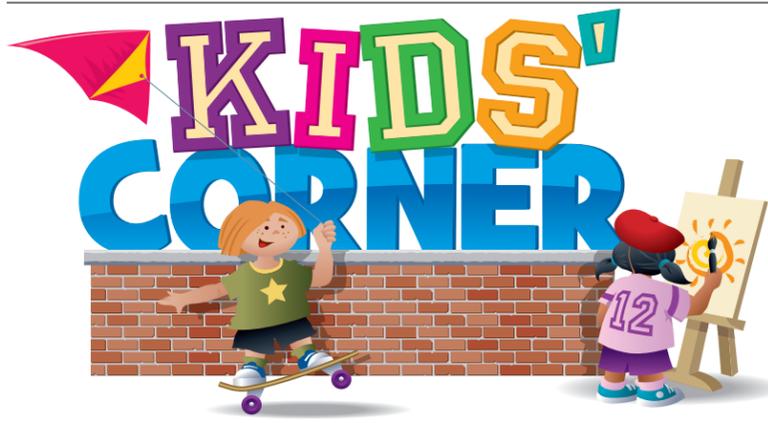
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FROM TOWN TO TOWN

Unlike amusement parks, carnivals come and go. The rides, the food stands, the games—all are made so they can be set up and taken down quickly.

Carnivals started after the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. Otto Schmitt had been a showman at the fair and decided to hire some of the acts for his own carnival touring company. Schmitt's carnival was a lot of fun, but he didn't manage his money well and his company soon went out of business.

Some of the people from Schmitt's company decided to put on their own carnivals, and by 1937, there were over 300 carnivals touring around the country. Today, carnivals continue, with tours in the North during the summer and tours in the South during the winter.



Jokes and Riddles

Q: How do you make a hamburger stand smile?

A: Pickle it gently!

Q: What's a ghost's favorite carnival ride?

A: The roller ghoster!

Name That Food



Carnivals have loads of tasty food to try. Fill in the blanks to name some of the foods found at a carnival.

- ① CO _ N D _ G _
- ② FU _ NNEL CA _ ES
- ③ _ O _ COR _
- ④ LE _ ON S _ A _ EUPS
- ⑤ CO _ _ ON CA _ DY
- ⑥ S _ OW _ ONES
- ⑦ BR _ T _

Answers: 1) Corn dogs, 2) Funnel Cakes, 3) Popcorn, 4) Lemon Shakes, 5) Cotton Candy, 6) Snow Cones, 7) Brats

COLORING PICTURE



Fact or Fiction? Carnival Ride

Challenge



Carnivals have many rides from Ferris wheels to roller coasters. Here are some questions about carnival rides. How many can you answer correctly?

- 1) The Tilt-a-Whirl makes some riders dizzy. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 2) The Zipper moves up and down like a roller coaster. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 3) The Scrambler makes riders feel like they are going to crash into each other. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 4) The Octopus may also be called the Spider. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 5) It can be hard to find your way out of the Farmhouse with its funny mirrors and stuff. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 6) The carousel is filled with large wooden fish that move up and down on poles for kids to ride on. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 7) Another name for the bumper cars is the dodgem cars. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 8) The Wave Swinger takes riders high into the air. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 9) The Fun Slide is much smaller than a regular slide. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 10) The Rock-O-Plane is like the Ferris wheel but with seats in cages. **Fact or Fiction?**

Answers: 1) Fact, 2) False, the Zipper spins round and round, 3) Fact, 4) Fact, 5) Fiction, the Farmhouse, not the Farmhouse, can be hard to find your way out of, 6) Fiction, most carousels have animals other than fish, 7) Fact, 8) Fact, 9) Fact, 10) Fact

What Rhymes with...



List 10 words that rhyme with "fun."

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

Some answers: bun, done, gun, none, pun, run, shun, sun, fun

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.



PHOTOS MARLENE GREENBERG



Tippy

Tippy is a gray and white kitten who was recently born to his mom, Sally, at C.A.R.E. His three siblings, Juliet, Romeo and Grayson, are also at C.A.R.E. Tippy is a curious little guy and is very playful and friendly. But Tippy would like most of all to come to live at a forever home of his own. Go visit this handsome kitten and give him that home. Tippy has been spayed and he is current on his shots. As part of his adoption he will be microchipped.

DOB: Jan. 2, 2013.

Hope

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

DOB: Feb. 2, 2011..



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, July 25 - Bar Bingo 6 p.m.

Friday, July 26 - Fish & Chips 4:30 - 7 p.m. Treasure Hunt 7:30 p.m. Music by Full Circle 7 - 11 p.m.

Saturday, July 27 - Steak Dinner, 4:30 - 7 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 28 - Music by Chuck Cobbs 6:30 p.m.

Monday, July 29 - Crew Games & free hot dogs, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, July 30 - Games in Lounge 1-4 p.m. Kitchen opens 4:30 p.m. Bingo, 6 p.m.

Membership Drive 6:30-7:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays all month long. \$1 draft. \$1.50 beer, wine and well drinks.

Adopt a pet this Saturday

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 27, rain or shine, Manatee County Animal Services will hold Furget Me Not, an emergency dog adoption event, at the shelter at 305 25th St. West in Palmetto.

In addition to adoption specials, there will be music, raffles, giveaways and games, plus free food and drink donated by local businesses and served by the Famous Hit Crew of Manatee County Roller Derby Team. In addition, the first 25 dogs adopted during the event will receive a Doggy Swag bag of gifts for both the dog and the new owner.

The adoption specials are as follows:

- ▶ 0-30 days in the shelter - regular adoption fees, \$80 dogs/\$40 cat
- ▶ 31-60 days in the shelter - half-price adoption fees, \$40 dogs/\$20 cats
- ▶ 61+ days in the shelter - no adoption fee for dogs/cats to approved homes

Also, heartworm positive dogs are available for no adoption fee to approved homes and heartworm treatment will be paid through the medical fund.

The following services are included in the adoption fee:

- Surgical spaying or neutering (sterilization)
- Vaccinations for distemper, hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Bordatella (kennel cough) and Parvovirus
- Occult heartworm test for adult dogs
- Parvovirus testing for all puppies
- Initial deworming for internal parasites
- Rabies vaccination
- Electronic Animal Identification Device (Microchip), which provides permanent and unalterable identification.

You will also receive from the Beach Veterinary Clinic:

- Free office visits for the life of your pet
- Free fecal check
- 50 percent off medications for 14 days after adoption
- \$99 annual vaccinations

During the event sponsorships are available to help cover the adoption fees to approved homes on a case by case basis.

For more information, call 941-345-0900.



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NEED A PLACE TO LIVE IN AND WORK FROM? This 2/1 with large family room might be the answer. Centrally located in Ruskin, easy access to Hwy. 41 and I-75. Zoned GC. Has detached garage and space for 19 to 30 cars. County water. **\$185,000.**

IMPRESSIVE OFFICE SPACE. Move-in ready, custom-built showcases mahogany wood trim. All shelving is Lego style and not attached to floor. Loads of storage, tract lighting, small kitchen with sink and refrigerator. Digital cameras for security, handicap bath and pull down screens over the front door. Must see to appreciate. **\$224,900.**

PRELIMINARY WORK ALREADY DONE on this 3.7 acre vacant lot. CG zoning and lends itself to subdividing nicely. Corner property high and dry. Ample parking. **\$324,900.**

RUN YOUR BUSINESS from this 3/2 home on busy S.R. 674. 300' frontage, 2.1 acres±. Value is in the land. Good opportunity for investment. **\$799,000.**

WANT PRIVACY? PEACE AND QUIET? You would have it in this 2/1 mobile home priced at **\$55,000.** 30'x40' pole barn. Owner will furnish water on a monthly basis with negotiated cost. Total of 2.27 acres.

3/2 MOBILE HOME ON A LARGE CORNER LOT. A/C fairly new, new electric pole and service, screened patio, large shop + detached building. Reflective roof makes for lower electric bills. Lot is 92x130. Nicely landscaped. **\$74,900.**

WATERFRONT WITHOUT HIGH TAXES. Duplex lot across the street from public boat ramp and park. County water and sewer available. Walk to the store, bus stop, or just fish near your front yard. Cleared and ready to build on. **A BEST BUY! \$32,000.**

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME on this very nice 70'x108' lot in beautiful Bimini Bay. Soon to have access to saltwater canal. Gated community with pool. **\$69,900.**

WATER VIEW 2/3 modular home, many upgrades, in excellent condition. Gorgeous kitchen with center island and custom cabinets. A den/sunroom could be used as 3rd BR, master bath with garden tub and separate shower. Large sitting room. Mother-in-law quarters with separate entrance. Landscaped with room for an RV or boat. **\$215,000.**

LOOKING TO BUILD OR INVEST? 4.7 acres (MOL) is currently platted for 15 homes, has a well and 3 septic tanks on property. Water and sewer available. Small pond could be stocked with itty-bitty fish. **\$134,900.**

FISH TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT 1.6 acre corner lot on Blue Heron Lake. Sub-division has 4 lakes of 123 acres each and each has its own boat ramp and gazebo furnished with picnic tables and grills. No time frame to build and choose your own builder. Canoe, hike or just sit and watch birds and wildlife play. 274' frontage. Live the good life for just **\$82,500.**

WATERFRONT LOT! Peaceful and quiet country atmosphere and perfect location for a stilt home. Small canal leads to Bay. **\$29,900.**

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Dance to live music with Moonglow

Moonglow Ballroom Dance Club will feature the live music of local musician Bryan Ashley at its monthly dance on Thursday, July 25 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. in Sun City Center.

Bryan often plays at the Elks Club in Ruskin, and he was a regular attraction at the Sun City Center Inn in the 1990s.

Attire for Moonglow Dances is dressy casual. Members are free; visitors/guests pay \$5 per person at the door. Singles table(s) are always available. BYOB and snacks, and the club will provide the ice, water and paper products.

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

SouthShore Regional Library

Adult program/event highlights

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

Word: Introduction, Font & Page Formatting - Thursday, July 25 at 12:30 p.m.

Learn to create, save, print, and edit documents. Discover the basics of font formatting, changing font type, size and color and page setup, margins, paper orientation. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are required.

Tokyo A-Go-Go - Thursday, July 25 at 4 p.m.

For teens. Konichiwa! Catch some Japanese culture @ your library®. Fold origami, learn to write in kanji, participate in chopstick races, try trivia, watch anime and more.

Teen Night - Thursday, July 25 at 5 p.m.

Three hours of video and anime on our large projector screen.

Fossils in Florida - Friday, July 26 at 4:30 p.m.

Join local naturalist Diana Kyle as she presents this entertaining and educational program on Florida fossils.

Stretch and Strengthen Yoga - Monday, July 29 at 11 a.m.

This basic Hatha yoga class offered by Shore Bliss Yoga will include breath work, meditation, traditional postures, and deep relaxation; all of which help with strength, flexibility and balance on & off the mat. All are welcome. Please bring a yoga mat. Towel and water are optional. (Participants should be able to sit on and rise from the floor). Seating limit: 20. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652.

Internet: Safety and Security - Tuesday, July 30 at 12:30 p.m.

Learn how to surf the Internet while avoiding common scams and pitfalls that can compromise your security. Learn about different types of malicious software, how they get on the personal computer, how to remove them, and precautions to take when using the internet. Limit: 20.

Online Genealogy - Tuesday, July 30 at 3:30 p.m.

Learn how to begin your family history research using Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest.

eBooks for Tablets and Smartphones - Wednesday, July 31 at 10:30 a.m.

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

Paper Crafting for Adults - Wednesday, July 31 at 1 p.m.

Using the latest Stampin' Up products, create a beautiful card and/or 3D creation. All materials will be provided. Seating limit: 15. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652.

SouthShore Needle People - Wednesday, July 31 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 us questions!

Word: Paragraph and Advanced Formatting - Thursday, Aug. 1 at 12:30 p.m.

Learn paragraph formatting from setting margins to line spacing and how to create bulleted and numbered lists. Tabs, headers and footers, numbering and inserting page numbers, page borders. Previous experience with Microsoft Word is recommended. Limit: 20.

Teen Movie Matinee - Thursday, Aug. 1 at 4 p.m.

Ages 13-18. Captain Jack Sparrow's latest movie adventure will require the tear of a mermaid to help him find the elusive Fountain of Youth. Rated PG-13, 136 minutes. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional 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.

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Tuesday Night \$1 draft beer all day.
Friday Night 6 p.m. Feather Your Nest.
Saturday, July 27 No dinner. 6:30 p.m. music by Brad Fitzgerald and the Myakka Band
Sunday \$1 draft beer all day.
Starting Aug. 1, free hot dogs on Sunday, Monday (Bingo) and Friday nights.
For more information, call (813) 645-2922.

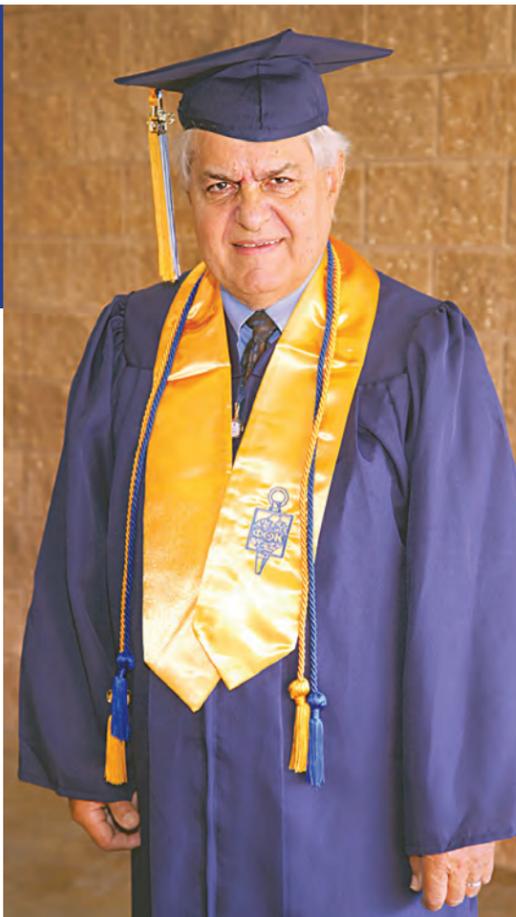
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After retiring from a career in business, 74-year-old John Jardin decided it was time to pursue his college degree. Engaging professors and classmates at Hillsborough Community College inspired him to follow his passion for the arts. Now, as the senior-most member of HCC's Class of 2013, Jardin plans to continue his studies at USF. With small class sizes, affordable tuition and guaranteed transferability to state universities, it's easy to see why more than 47,000 students each year choose HCC.

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Quilt competition

► Continued from page 2

prizes including \$10,000 for Best of Show and \$5,000 each in three categories: handmade; made by machine; and a technique called Longarm/Midarm workmanship, Browning added.

The show is expected to draw more than 2,000 people.

Quilt artists employ a wide range of techniques and design methods ranging from traditional designs to original painted and embellished motifs.

Hasch has sewed for as long as she can remember, which has helped her have a steady hand in designing and placing hand-made appliques. Each panel of her entry quilt is hand-sewed.

She calls this quilt "Sailing with Mary" for two reasons: the style of the quilt is called a "Baltimore Album" and at the time of the Revolutionary War there were ships around the Baltimore area that looked like the sailing ship in her quilt. The "Mary" part of the name comes from the fact that the other blocks in the quilt are copies of a quilt made by Mary Simon that hangs in the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum in Washington, DC.

She entered the quilt into the Quilter's Choice category because of size requirements and the fact that she had made the entire quilt, including the appliques and sashing, by hand.

Her home is filled with other quilts and wall hangings she has made.

At this time she belongs to a neighborhood group of about 50 women who meet at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb Blvd. W., Sun City Center, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second Friday of each month.

"People may come and go any time during those hours," she explained. Men are welcome at any of the association's groups, and she says she has seen men at other sewing and quilting groups, but not the one she currently attends.

To find out more about the quilters, visit www.americanquilter.com or drop in at St. Andrew's on a Friday during sewing and quilting hours.





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Wed., Aug. 7 • 10-11 a.m. • EVERY WEDNESDAY! • Therapeutic Tai Chi open to the public! Our therapists have advanced training in therapeutic Tai Chi for Seniors and will provide guidance in this healthy exercise. Tai Chi has been proven to increase strength and balance!

Thurs., Aug. 8 • 2:30-4 p.m. • Mental Wellness Support Group. Facilitated by Edmond Dubreuil MSW, RCSWI mental health professional. Supported by South Shore Coalition on Mental Health & Aging and United Methodist Church of SCC.

Tues., Aug. 13 • 9-11 a.m. • C.O.P.D. (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Support Group "Better Breathers." Join Lorrie Quistad, RRT facilitator of this growing group. The first half of each meeting consists of education for those learning to live with COPD. During the second half, Physical therapists go through guided exercises to assist in recovery.



Wed., Aug. 14 • 10-11 a.m. • Women and Wealth Monthly Series. Many women spend so much time caring for others they forget to make themselves a priority. A strategy designed to achieve your goals begins with an evaluation of what is most important to you. This seminar gives you actionable strategies for cash management, saving and investing that can help you help yourself as well as those you love. Attend each month (2nd Wed.) Presented by: The Equis Group at Morgan Stanley © 2012 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC.

Wed., Aug. 14 • 2:30-4 p.m. • Diabetes Support Group. Join Susan L Parker-Heitel, RN, Certified Diabetic Educator from Nurse on Call Home Health Care as she facilitates our support group "Everyday Basics of Diabetic Care."

Mon., Aug. 19 • 1:30-3:30 p.m. • Parkinson's Support Group of Sun City Center. Sponsored by The Men's Club of SCC. Facilitated by Eden Feldman, MSW, Director of Outreach at the USF Parkinson's Disease & Movement Disorders Center. Through the summer months, we will have "Sharing is Caring". Come with questions, leave with answers. If you have Parkinson's or are caring for someone with this disease, be sure to attend this support group! **FREE Valet Parking.**

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



Cool Florida. In July?

It is, perhaps, a fairly uncommon situation for mid-July but last week, millions of people in New York could look to Florida for a cool respite from the heat. At one point last week, the Weather Channel reported the temperature in South Hillsborough was 81 degrees while New York was simmering at 102 — a full 21 degrees over the normally balmy summertime temperatures in the Sunshine State. Admittedly, that was after a line of thunderstorms cooled this area off with some rain but despite that, it has never in recorded history reached 100 degrees in this area. The tables have since turned as South Hillsborough has been basking under actual temperatures in the low 90s with “feels like” temperatures in the low 100s, while our friends up north enjoy low to mid 80s. Pictured, children and adults cool off in a fountain in New York’s Washington Square Park.

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Big act on a cool beach

"These guys fill up arenas in Europe," Sunset Grill Tiki Bar manager Jurgen Wochnik said as Sherman Noir and the Highway Surfers began to entertain the crowd at the Little Harbor beach bar in Ruskin. On Sunday evening, the band took a detour from their "West Coast Live Diaries" U.S. tour to enjoy the intimate setting that only a tiki bar can provide. The set up and equipment were minimal, the crowd was close and responsive, and a cool breeze off the bay tempered the heat of the evening. The band seemed to enjoy the crowd as much as the crowd enjoyed their music. The setting, of course, was incomparable. For more information about Sherman Noir and the Highway Surfers (and for a good opportunity to brush up on your German), visit www.sherman-noir.de.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



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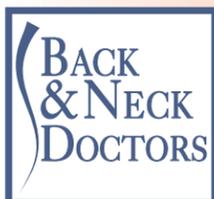
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Observations: Where integrity lies

Michelle and I watched a movie last week in which one character derogatorily referred to another character as “the kind of person who would ban the Internet to save libraries.”

I’ve been heavily into technology since I was a teenager, even before the age of mainstream personal computers. In the late 80s, I was dialing into the Internet before there was a World Wide Web. At that time, the Internet was almost exclusively made up of government agencies and universities around the world. I had to dial long-distance from my apartment in Minneapolis to the one free portal I could find in Washington, DC. I then used a program from the University of Minnesota called Gopher to jump around to different universities. There wasn’t much there but I thought it was cool that I could browse through a database of jokes from a college in Australia.

For years I was a computer programmer, working on systems that involved thousands of retail stores, big mainframes and satellites circling the globe. And now as a photojournalist, I am awash in computers and am constantly tied to the web for news and information about what is going on in the world.

But upon hearing that line in the movie, I realized that I am rapidly becoming the kind of person who, if I had the power, would very well ban the Internet to save libraries. And also to save newspapers, local television stations, radio

stations, photographers, writers, artists, musicians, travel agencies and, most importantly, to save civilization as we know it.

The Internet has given virtually everyone on earth a vast source of knowledge that is incomparable in human history. Everyone now has their own podium. It is credited with kicking off the Arab Spring and so much more (of course, the former isn’t working out so well yet). We now have the ability to communicate with anyone, virtually anywhere on earth.

All of that knowledge should have broadened our horizons, opened our minds to new things, to new ways of making change for the better. Unfortunately, what seems to be happening is that we are using it to watch funny cat videos, and to argue and spew venom upon people we don’t know from behind the anonymity of our keyboards. Instead of seeking new knowledge, we seem to seek out only what will reinforce our own paradigms and existing beliefs — and not just reinforce, but harden them into steel. The Internet certainly makes that possible — no matter how insane the idea, somewhere on the web, there is a justification for it.

And that has turned integrity on its head. Political parties have noticed that effect and they are working overtime to exploit it and to inflame it. Intended or not, it has become a strategy of divide and conquer, and it seems to be working. This nation is divided,

some people claim, as much as we’ve been since the Civil War.

The result is a 24-hour spin cycle, most visibly from political leaders and large corporations. The truth has become relative — a half truth, even outright lies, have become the full truth when repeated often enough, and people, seeking to reinforce their own paradigms fall in as good soldiers to the cause of their choice, drawing battle lines and firing volleys with straw man arguments and hyperbole.

The Internet has made that possible. Now anyone can say anything and call it the truth. There is so much deception and spinning that even when institutions, such as Politifact from the *Tampa Bay Times*, try to find the bottom line of truth versus deception, they are vilified by those who disagree and praised by those who do agree and in the end, the truth is lost to the puffery.

I am beginning to believe that rather than tying the world together, the Internet is tearing us apart. Does anyone in the public eye tell the truth anymore? I don’t know but I’m not sure they are entirely to blame. From the comfort of our own homes, we can now attack and condemn relentlessly and without mercy — and honesty and integrity are the victims.

I once worked for an honest politician. He was the kind of man that you could trust with your home, your spouse, and your children, anything you hold dear. He is a good man but is no longer in office. He made the mistake of trusting others, people who didn’t necessarily share in his integrity.

► Continued on page 17



Observations
By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

These days, there is a fine line between truth and bald-faced deception. In fairness, the Internet and a 24-hour news cycle has made it possible for people to vilify and condemn the truth. As such, public figures must be skilled tightrope walkers. Or, perhaps, just cleverly deceptive.

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JULY UPCOMING EVENTS *REGISTER NOW!

Thu 25:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	9:30 to 10:30 am	Some classes have limited space, call for availability
Fri 26:	SALSA DANCING SLOW-FLOW-YOGA NO CLASSES GENTLE-CHAIR-YOGA NO CLASSES	10 to 11 am UNTIL SEPT 16 UNTIL SEPT 16	
Mon 29:	CHA CHA DANCING (COUPLES) SLOW-FLOW-YOGA NO CLASSES GENTLE-CHAIR-YOGA NO CLASSES	11 am to Noon UNTIL SEPT 16 UNTIL SEPT 16	Dominoes are always available to play at the SCC Activity Center!
Tue 30:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* KIDNEY SMART™ (NEW)	11 am to Noon 2 to 4 PM →	
Wed 31:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1:15 pm	Kidney Smart™ is a series of classes offered through DaVita Dialysis on Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). The program is free and open to the community. For more information: www.davita.com , click on Kidney Smart tab. Next classes are: August 27 September 24

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Mon 05:	CHA-CHA DANCING NO CLASSES SLOW-FLOW-YOGA NO CLASSES GENTLE-CHAIR-YOGA NO CLASSES	DURING AUGUST UNTIL SEPT 16 UNTIL SEPT 16
Tue 06:	SilverSneakers® (MSROM)*	11 am to Noon
Wed 07:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1:15 pm

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Political funnyman Mark Russell comes to Lakeland Center

Long before Jon Stewart and Steven Colbert, Mark Russell dared to joke and sing of the often absurd political process on his popular PBS specials.

Now, fans can see Mark perform live at The Lakeland Center on Friday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for An Evening with Mark Russell go on sale Friday, July 12 for \$27.50, \$37.50 and \$47.50 (service charges will apply) and are available at The Lakeland Center Box Office by calling 863-834-8111, online at thelakelandcenter.com or by calling the 24-hour ticketing line 888-397-0100.



With impeccable timing, twinkling eyes and shock-of-recognition insights into American politics, Mark draws merriment from the pomposity of public life. He spent 30 years on public television as host of the "Mark Russell Comedy Specials," where it was consistently among the top-rated shows on that network. Armed with his piano and a microphone, Mark Russell provides his audience with a scathing commentary on today's hottest political topics. His side-splitting delivery makes audiences laugh, no matter their affiliation.

The Lakeland Center is located between Orlando and Tampa in Lakeland, off I-4 on Lime Street;

For ticket information, call the Box Office at 863-834-8111 or visit its website at www.thelakelandcenter.com. Tickets can be purchased 24 hours a day, seven days a week through www.thelakelandcenter.com or by calling 888-397-0100.

PALMETTO HISTORICAL PARK

Net Benefits: A retrospective on fishing for food and fun in Tampa Bay

On Thursday, Aug. 8, from 11 am. to noon the Palmetto Historical Park & Agricultural Museum hosts Nanette O'Hara from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program as she presents the program "Net Benefits: A retrospective on fishing for food and fun in Tampa Bay — a brief and sometimes amusing history of commercial and sport fishing in our area."

After the program, enjoy the vintage tackle exhibit on display in the Park and Museum. The address for the presentation is 515 10th Ave. West, Palmetto. This event is FREE but RESERVATIONS are required. Call 941-721-2034 to register.

For the model train enthusiast

The Gulfcoast Garden Railroaders will be holding a Swap Meet Saturday, August 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Palmetto Historical Park, 515 10th Ave. West, Palmetto.

Come enjoy a G-scale model train set up and see what the club members have for sale. Also participating in the swap are the Sugar Creek Model Railroaders with N-scale trains and supplies.

For more information call 813-335-4808.

Observations

► Continued from page 16

The end result was a mixed message that cost him his office. Perhaps if he'd gone all out with deceit, deception and spin, he'd still have it. But I prefer to think that if he had simply been his upstanding and honest self, people would have seen that and rewarded him with another term.

Deep down I know that technology isn't to blame — we are. We The People have let this happen, just as we allow elected officials to lie with integrity. And then we dive into the muck, stirring it up. Regardless, maybe, if given the power, I might not ban the Internet (although, in all honesty, I'm not sure that is the truth).

But I am sure of one thing: we can do better and we can expect better from political leaders and public figures. We can start by rewarding honesty and integrity, even if it involves something that we disagree with. We also have to acknowledge that if we hope to keep the American Dream alive, we are going to have to re-learn how to work together.

Last week former President Jimmy Carter reportedly told the German magazine, *Der Spiegel*, that in light of the recent revelations of NSA snooping on Americans, this nation is no longer a functioning democracy. Did he really say that? In all

honesty, I don't know, but if he did, that's a wake up call. If you are okay sacrificing some of your constitutionally guaranteed privacy for a measure of safety, then that is your right and no one can tell you differently. It is possible, perhaps even probable, that our government knows more about the dangers in the world than we do.

On the other hand, if you think that our government is pushing things too far, then have the integrity to acknowledge that it was too far when it began in earnest under President Bush and it is too far as it continues and possibly expands under President Obama. And then start writing letters. There is no court, not the Supreme Court, not a secret court, that can overcome the determined will of the American people. If we want what is described as a democracy, then we should act like it, rather than choosing sides and spewing inane venom on the Internet. The people and companies in power aren't your guys or my guys; they have to be our guys. They need us more than we need them. It's high time we work together as Americans to remind them of that. If truth and integrity lies anywhere, its resurrection must begin with us, and the Internet gives each of us a podium. Use it wisely.

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Fish Tales:

Frequent rains are cooling water temps

Cockroach Bay seemed to be the most popular fishing spot last week. It wasn't long ago that I heard a lot of chatter about this area. Anglers were not fishing there because of all the signs telling them where they could fish and not fish; and how to travel in without destroying the seagrass. All these regulations have kept some anglers away from this favorite fishing spot.

However, those I talked to said between the bad weather and Cockroach Bay's easy access, they were all embarking on it as a convenient place to load if a storm approached.

Redfish are coming out of their hiding spots around the mangrove roots and from behind big, shady rocks as the weather cools. It seems all the recent rain cooled the water temperature and the redfish are on the prowl. It appeared all who entered Cockroach Bay came out with a legal redfish catch. This fish is still restricted to one per person per day of not less than 18 inches or more than 27 inches.

Those fortunate enough to have their own private dock were catching many sheepshead. This black and white striped fish with sharp needle-like fins is often called

the convict fish. It's great table fare as a lean, white meat fish. Difficult to catch, the sheepshead often will take all of your bait if you don't realize that they first give your bait a nudge. When you feel this, count to three then tighten your line. Their boney mouth makes it difficult to set the hook.

I saw some boats docking with mangrove snapper catches this week. The anglers said they caught them around the rocks, but didn't reveal which part of the Bay that was. Legal is 10 inches and not more than 5 per person per day.

Those anglers catching fish this week all had a reason for their success. They caught all of their fish on a fast, high tide.

Spotted seatrout seemed to be more popular this week than usual. Legal is not less than 15 inches or more than 20 inches. There is an allowance of one fish over 20 inches with a four fish per harvest per day regulation.

Freshwater catches have been good in the rain according to the inland anglers. Freshwater catfish love this weather and many dinner tables have been graced with them alongside a mess of hushuppies.

Don't forget to fish together, watch the weather, and tell someone ashore where you plan to fish.



By Jonie Maschek
Member: Florida Outdoor
Writers Association

District launches Instagram contest to raise springs awareness

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) has launched a contest on the social media site Instagram to raise awareness of springs throughout the District.

Springs sites are a popular hot spot with both local residents and tourists during the summer months and especially holiday weekends.

This summer, whether you are tubing, kayaking, swimming or just relaxing near one of the many springs in our District, you can share those experiences for a chance to win a springs prize pack that includes tickets to Weeki Wachee Springs State Park.

To enter, shoot a photo or video while visiting any spring. Then, upload your photo or video to Instagram and tag it #RenewOurSprings through Sept. 2, 2013. Users earn one contest entry for every photo or video tagged.

To learn more about the area's five major springs systems in Citrus, Hernando and Marion counties, and what the District is doing to monitor and restore them, members of the public can visit the District's redesigned springs website WaterMatters.org/Springs.

Members of the public can hear firsthand from the District's team of springs experts about ongoing and future restoration projects at Chassahowitzka Springs, Kings Bay and Three Sisters Springs. Users will find regular project updates, photo galleries and videos. Website visitors can find out about recreational opportunities, what they can do to protect the springs and how to get involved in upcoming volunteer events.

Hurricane preparedness blood drives, with gift cards awarded, this weekend

In order to keep local hospitals stocked with life-supporting blood at all times, especially during tropical storm and hurricane season, the local blood bank has teamed with local businesses to encourage blood donation.

Eligible and prospective blood donors are urged to donate blood on the bloodmobile at the following locations in our area:

Saturday, July 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lowe's

- 10425 Gibsonton Dr. in Riverview
- 1515 East Brandon Blvd. in Brandon

Donors receive a free \$10 Lowe's Gift Card

Sunday, July 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Publix:

- 6434 US Hwy 41 N in Apollo Beach
- 3863 US Hwy 301 S in Riverview
- 11109 Winthrop Market St. in Riverview

Donors receive a free \$10 Publix Gift Card

Monday, July 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at RaceTrac

- 3105 East College Ave. in Ruskin
- 810 East Brandon Blvd. in Brandon

Donors receive a free \$10 RaceTrac Gift Card

Lifesaving donors will also receive a wellness checkup, including a cholesterol screening, and a coupon for \$5 off two entrees from Outback Steakhouse. In addition, all donors who give blood twice between June 1 and Sept. 30, 2013 will receive a voucher for a free steak dinner courtesy of Outback Steakhouse and be entered into a drawing to win "Outback for a Year." For further details and rules visit www.oneblood.org/outback/

Generally, healthy people age 16 or older who weigh at least 110 pounds can donate blood. Blood donations profoundly affect the lives of patients in the community and in many cases one donation can save up to three patients.

Educational nature programs offered at Lettuce Lake Park in August

On Saturdays and Sundays at 10 a.m. and noon, Park Rangers at Lettuce Lake Park will host a series of fun, exciting, hands-on programs that last for one hour each. The park is located at 6920 E. Fletcher Ave. in Tampa (meet inside Visitor Center).

Participation is open to all ages. Walk-ins are welcome; however, large groups, such as home schools, scouts and birthday parties, should pre-register. Participation cost is \$5 per child, and children must be accompanied by an adult, parent(s) or legal guardian. Adults without children may join for \$5 – we're all kids at heart! Only cash payments are accepted at this time.

- **Aug. 3 and 4 – Florida Fossils**—Learn about them, and then hunt for them!
- **Aug. 11 – Otters** - Learn all about the otters at Lettuce Lake Park, and touch an otter pelt!
- **Aug. 17 and 18 – Fall Garden** – Plant vegetable seeds for your fall garden, and take them home!
- **Aug. 24 and 25 – Yogurt and Butter!** – Learn how to make homemade yogurt and butter!

For more information or to register, email Diana Kyle at kyled@hillsboroughcounty.org with date, time and names of those attending, or contact Lettuce Lake Park at 813-987-6204.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

An ounce of prevention is worth....well, a lot!

One of our wisest founding fathers once wrote: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." — Benjamin Franklin. More than two hundred years have passed but this great truth is still as relevant today as ever. Whether you are talking about healthcare, auto maintenance or just about any other aspect of life, it is much easier to maintain something than deal with the ramifications once it is broken.

Home maintenance is an often neglected thing, after all "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." That is the mentality of many but before you take off for the beach this summer there are a few things to consider. Ask yourself "When I return will everything be as I left it"? Consider this situation...a homeowner leaves town for a couple of weeks. Before they left they made sure the home was secured and lastly they shut off the water then hopped in the car and headed away for a short respite. At some point while they were gone someone turned on their water at

the main to use the garden hose and forgot to turn it off. Now enters the antagonist into the story, the homeowner unknowingly has defective polybutylene piping in their attic and in their walls. Within days maybe even hours a pipe bursts overhead and floods the home. No one notices for days that water is pouring out the front door and of course by the time they do it's too late. Mr. and Mrs. homeowner return after a refreshing vacation to find a flooded house. Not only are they horrified to find water in their home but now mold has taken over and covers all their furniture, walls, personal belongings and even the quilt Grandma made for them. When the numbers are laid out they find this could be a \$50-\$100,000 problem!

This scenario is neither fictional nor uncommon. The sad part is that it could all be avoided. Howie's Sun City Center Plumbing is your re-pipe specialist. The owners of Howie's Sun City Center Plumbing have been involved in replacing

polybutylene piping for almost twenty years. If you have a home that was built from the early 1980s through the mid 1990s, there is a high likelihood that you have the "Grey" pipe. Polybutylene pipe has proven to be unstable and subject to rupture at any time. The pipe is unstable due to its reaction with chlorinated water treatment and over time breaks down to the point of rupture.

Are you buying or selling a home? If so then you will also find that in order for the new buyer to obtain insurance, almost certainly the home will need to be re-piped as most insurance companies are no longer writing new policies for homes that still have polybutylene piping. Also, the value of your home will most certainly be lower because of the polybutylene pipe.

Right now is the time to call for a free estimate. With the summer time here and many residents up north, Howie's Sun City Center Plumbing has more availability and a much higher likelihood that they can schedule your job when it is convenient for you.

Howie's Sun City Center Plumbing not only offers re-pipes but 24/7 emergency services in the event that the unexpected happens. Howie's also offers camera inspections of your drain lines using state of the art fiber optic cameras. At the completion of each inspection you will be provided with a copy of your inspection so you can rest assured that your problem is being handled appropriately. These inspections could potentially save you thousands in costly and unnecessary repairs. They also offer backflow testing and repair as well as servicing all your plumbing needs

Howie's Sun City Center Plumbing has a beautiful showroom at 139 S. Pebble Beach, SCC Suite 202. The office is open from 8:30

a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Showroom is stocked with fixtures from companies like Moen, Delta, Kohler as well as many others. Stop by today and enjoy some coffee and refreshments with our friendly office staff while they talk with you about your next home project.

Please make sure to visit SunCityCenterPlumbing.com or click LIKE on Facebook for all the latest happenings. Sun City Center Plumbing Services can be reached by phone 24/7 at 813-633-8923 or fax at 813-633-8930.



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

**\$1000
OFF**
a Service Call
of \$100 or more

**SUN CITY CENTER
PLUMBING SERVICES**
813-633-8923
SunCityCenterPlumbing.com

Don't fall for the Medicare card phone scam!

Advice from the Better Business Bureau

Seniors nationwide are reporting scam phone calls informing them that a new Medicare card is in the mail. Hang up on suspicious callers and don't fall for this attempt to obtain your personal information.

How the Scam Works:

You answer the phone, and the unknown caller, often with an accent, claims to be with Medicare or another government office. He informs you that your new Medicare card is in the mail, and you will receive it in a few days. In the meantime, you need to set up your direct deposit so your Medicare funds can be deposited into your bank account. To do this, you just need to tell the caller your banking information. He/she will take care of the rest.

Of course, there is no new card and no direct deposit. The caller just wants you to share your banking information so he/she can steal from your account.

A Twist on the Medicare Card Scam:

This is just one twist on the Medicare card scam. Scammers may also ask you to verify your identity in order to receive the new card. They will ask for your Medicare card number, which is the same as your Social Security number, as well as other personal information. With that info, a scammer can easily steal your identity.

How to Avoid Medicare Card Identity Theft:

Protect yourself from scammers by following these tips:

▶Don't carry your Medicare card around in your wallet. If the card is lost or stolen a scammer can use information to commit identity theft.

▶Don't give your information out over the Internet, over the phone, or to anyone who comes to your home uninvited. Only give personal information to doctors or other providers approved by Medicare

▶If you suspect identity theft, or feel like you gave your personal information to someone you shouldn't have, call the Federal Trade Commission's ID Theft Hotline at 1-877-438-4338.

Business slow? Need to advertise?
Call The Observer News
813-645-3111 or visit
www.observernews.net

You, me and business:

What if there was no Chamber of Commerce?

What if we just didn't exist? No, I doubt seriously we'll ever close the doors, but sometimes we need to take a step back to think about the value our organization brings to our businesses and community.

The Chamber's function is broad. The mission of the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce is to promote commercial, professional, financial, and general business interests in the area and to promote the general interests and welfare of the community. As I said, it's pretty broad. But just what does that mean?

Most people don't truly understand the function of the Chamber. They come here to complain about an increase in their HOA dues. They want to get a ballot here. Sometimes it's directions they're after, often it's for a phone book.

We've even been asked to find an estranged aunt who has remarried and moved, leaving no new last name and no address. We've been asked for referrals for emu farmers, organic gardens, shamans, psychics, feng shui practitioners and book publishers. Some say we're the closest thing there is to a local city hall.

But what we do for the community is truly important. We give residents referrals to legitimate, honest contractors and workers who have current business licenses and aren't out to scam someone. We offer resources to those needing legal, financial, medical and advisory services. We give maps, directions and resource guides. We fax, copy and notarize.

If there were no Chamber, who

would answer the thousands of questions about our community made in person, by mail, email or phone? Who would maintain an office with professional staff dedicated to the civic, commercial and business concerns of this area?

Without the Chamber there would be no forum wherein the business community could exchange views and positions, and no voice to express those to other agencies. There would be no one to orient newcomers to the local businesses who will be taking care of their needs. No one to engage the business community in the public education process and actively seek its input.

We serve as a focal point for social gatherings of the business community where they can form partnerships, exchange leads and referrals and assist one another.

We are a rallying point and instrument for the promotion of plans, ideas and projects that build and sustain an environment conducive to economic growth.

We're positive and upbeat, proud of our community and its businesses, and have the ability to promote local commerce.

No, we can't lower your monthly dues or keep your neighbor from watering on the wrong days. We don't get involved in politics on any level and you can't get your driver's license here.

But we can continue to work for the general welfare of the community and promote our local businesses. Because remember, you can't get to Ruskin or Brandon on your golf cart!



By Dana Dittmar,
Executive Director
SCC Chamber of
Commerce

My mom needs more care than I can give to her at home. *Memory Care at Pacifica Sun City* is best for both of us.



Our Memory Care staff is trained to provide the services you may need in a supportive environment.

Our separate, secured memory care community offers:

- Secured and safe environment
- Dedicated, specially-trained 24 hour staff
- Variety of life enrichment programs
- Activity program specific to dementia care
- Weekly housekeeping and laundry services
- Courtyard with walking path
- Medication management
- Individualized care plans
- Assistance with all activities of daily living
- Family-style dining
- Incontinence care
- Family support meetings
- Transportation assistance

Call to arrange a personal tour of our community!



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3855 Upper Creek Dr.
Sun City Center, FL 33570
813-938-2259
www.PacificaSunCity.com



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PACIFICA SENIOR LIVING
Assisted Living & Memory Care



RUSKIN BRANCH LIBRARY

1 Dickman Drive SE • Ruskin 33573

Adult Computer Classes for the Technologically Challenged

Word: Mail Merge • Friday, July 26 at 3 p.m.

Discover an easy way to send your letter to multiple people using Mail Merge. Previous experience with Microsoft Word is recommended.

eBooks and eReaders: Introduction • Tuesday, July 30 at 3 p.m.

Have a new eReader or interested in getting one? Learn which devices can download the library's free eBooks and how to load eBooks onto various types of eReaders. Discover the library's large selection of eBooks in various formats!

Computer Tutor • Wednesday, July 31 at 5:30 p.m.

Tutoring in Microsoft software, email and the Internet.

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.

The South Hillsborough Elks Lodge is a clean, smoke-free environment that accepts all major credit and debit cards and is located at 1630 US Hwy 41 S. in Ruskin. Telephone 813-645-2089.

Area Obituaries



Linda Cannarella

Linda Cannarella of Sun City Center, born Oct. 18, 1937, passed away July 1, 2013. She is survived by three sisters and many friends.

A memorial ceremony will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 28 at Community Hall on South Pebble Beach in Sun City Center.



Daisy Ruth Mobley

Daisy Ruth Mobley, 89, of Sun City Center, Fla. went home to be with the Lord on July 21, 2013. Daisy was preceded in death by her husband of 46 years, E.B. Mobley, her parents Edgar and Lottie Castillo and eight siblings.

She is survived by her two sons, Joseph Mobley and his wife, Jo Ellen, and Timothy Mobley. Daisy is also survived by her granddaughter Michellene Linenberger and her husband Greg; great-grandchildren Lauren, Nicholas and Taryn; and brother Jack Castillo.

A lifetime resident of the area, Daisy worked for 35 years as a hairdresser out of her home and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Ruskin for over 70 years.

Daisy loved to travel, take her boat out to fish, and visit with family and friends. She was a beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, as well as a dear friend to so many.

Family and friends will receive visitors from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24, 2013 at Sun City Center Funeral Home, 1851 Rickenbacker Dr. in Sun City Center, Fla.

The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 25, 2013 at the First Baptist Church of Ruskin, 820 College Ave. West in Ruskin. Burial will be at Fellowship Cemetery in Lithia.

Flowers are accepted or donations may be made to the First Baptist Church of Ruskin in her memory.

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die" – Daisy will be around for a long time.

Ralph D. Waters

Ralph D Waters of Sudbury Mass. died Sunday, July 14, 2013 at MetroWest Medical Center in Framingham, Mass. following a period of declining health.

Ralph was 80 and had formerly lived in Limerick, Maine and Palmetto, Florida, where he owned Waters Garage Doors, before moving to Sudbury in 2002.

He was the husband of the late Barbara A. Waters.

He leaves eight children, 27 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. Ralph Waters is also survived by his beloved companion Elizabeth Racicot, her two children and their five children.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 27, 2013 at Grover Funeral Home, 1400 36th Ave. East in Ellenton, Fla. Entombment at Mansion Memorial will follow the service.

For additional information, tributes and guest book, please visit <http://www.duckett-waterman.com/>.



Elsie A. Green

Elsie A. Green, 101, of Wimauma, Fla. passed away July 19, 2013. She was a member and organist at the Wimauma Church of God for over 30 years.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Walter Ray Parton, by her second husband, Flavius Green, and by her daughter Anna Jewell Yuningner.

Survivors include daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and Floyd Anderson, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandson, numerous stepchildren, step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were Tuesday, July 23 at the Wimauma Church of God, with burial at Fellowship Cemetery in Lithia.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Elsie Green's name to Wimauma Church of God Campground, P.O. Box 630, Wimauma, Fla. 33598. Arrangements by Sun City Center Funeral Home.



Carl Isaacs

Carl Isaacs of Balm, formerly of Irvine, Ky., died July 18, 2013. He was born July 26, 1931. Carl was preceded in death by parents Leonard and Addy Isaacs, grandson Edward Lawrence, Jr., and brother Hubert Isaacs.

Carl is survived by his wife of 62 years, Edessa Marie Reece Isaacs of Balm; daughters Linda Sue Gofinch and Barbara Michelle Hoskins; grandson Matthew Daniel Hoskins (Gerri) of Johnstown, Tenn.; granddaughters Barbara Sue Jackson, Margarette Marie Gofinch, and Hailey Sewell; and great-grandsons Ethan Angell, Ryan Edward Hoskins, and Jeff Sewell.

Matthew Maschek

A Memorial Service

will be at
11 a.m.

Saturday, July 27
Ruskin United
Methodist Church
Rev. David B. Looney
presiding

In Memoriam

Patrick B. Finnerty



*You will always be in our hearts.
Your loving family
and friends.*

VBS at South Bay Church

Round up the kids for Vacation Bible School at South Bay Church in Riverview. The SonWest Roundup will be held Aug. 5 - 9, finishing with a hoe-down and family fun night on Friday.

VBS is open to children who will be entering kindergarten in the fall through the 5th grade. The fun starts at 6 p.m. Register in the church lobby or in the children's area.

Students will have a great time singing songs, watching skits, creating crafts and playing games. But most important, they'll discover Jesus provides what they need in every challenge of life.

For more information call the church at 813-677-0721 or visit www.southbay.cc. South Bay Church is located at 13498 U.S. Highway 301 South, Riverview.

Sound the Shofar meets Aug. 18

Sound the Shofar will meet at 2 p.m. on Aug. 18 in the SouthShore Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin.

Pastor David Jones of Ruach Ministries in Brandon will be speaking on "The Prophetic Nature of the Fall Feasts of the Lord."

Everyone is invited to attend. There will be a time of Praise and Worship with Hebraic dancing.

Area Places of Worship

Ruskin United Methodist Church

First Street & 4th Ave. NW, Ruskin (behind Suntrust Bank)

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND WORSHIP WITH US:

SUNDAY MORNINGS: Nov. - April..... 8:30 a.m. **Day Care Available**
Rev. Richard Nussel and All Year..... 10:45 a.m. Mon. - Fri.
6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Phone: 645-1241 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. call 645-6198

Friendship Baptist Church

Rance Goad, Pastor (Southern Baptist)

1511 El Rancho Dr.
Sun City Center, FL 33573

Phone/Fax:
813-633-5950

WEEKLY SERVICES:

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

701 Valley Forge Blvd. • Sun City Center, FL 33573-5354

Reverend David Allman, Pastor

Telephone: 813-634-1292 • Website: sccredeemer.org

Worship Services on Sunday 10 a.m.

Holy Communion First & Third Sunday • Bible Class Thursday 10 a.m.

Unity COMMUNITY OF JOY
Spirituality Rather Than "Religion"

Henry Gibson Social Hall, Beth Israel Synagogue

1115 Del Webb E. • Sun City Center, FL

www.unitycommunityofjoy.com

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

813-298-7745

First Baptist Church of Gibsonton

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Traditional Worship Service *Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Old-Time Gospel Hymns *Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
Nursery Available Sunday Evening 6:00 P.M.
* Interpreter for the Deaf Mid-Week (Wed.) 7:00 P.M.

9912 Indiana St. • Hwy 41 & Estelle Avenue
Gibsonton, FL 33534

Malcolm S. Clements, Pastor
813-677-1301

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

702 Valley Forge Blvd., SCC, FL 33573

Phone: 634-2328 • Fax: 633-6670

www.popcc.org

Masses:

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

Confessions:

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

NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

"Loving God, Loving Others,
Serving Beyond Borders"

1301 U.S. Hwy. 41 N., Ruskin, FL • 645-1121 • www.nbc.org

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

Dr. Samuel (Sam) A. Roach, Pastor

UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ United Church of Christ

1501 La Jolla AVE, Sun City Center, FL 33573-5329

A Caring Church United in God's Love Serving Others

Rev. Dr. Jean M. Simpson

Worship Services ~ 8:30 and 10 AM

(813) 634-1304 ~ www.uccsuncity.org

Welcome to the: South Hillsborough Church of Christ

1611 First St. SW • Ruskin, FL • 645-7607

—NON-INSTRUMENTAL—

SERVICES: Sunday.....9:30 & 10:30 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

EVERETT TATE, MINISTER

Wimauma Church of God

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Youth Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Tom Durrance 5504 S.R. 674, Wimauma, FL 33598 • 813-634-4776

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center

1210 Del Webb Blvd West • 634-2539

<http://www.sccumc.com>

Come Belong
Grow Serve

WORSHIP SERVICES: SUNDAY

8:15 a.m. Sanctuary (Communion Service)
9:15 a.m. New Life Enrichment Center (Contemporary)
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary (Traditional with Choir & Bells)
11:00 a.m. Hispanic Worship
4:00 p.m. Hispanic Worship

Senior Pastor: **Dr. Warren Langer**
Assistant Pastor: **Rev. Robert Chaple**

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Come and experience the power of
Jesus to change your life.
Sunday @ 9 & 11 AM • Servicio en Español @ 6 PM
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2322 11th Ave. SE • Ruskin, FL • 813.645.3337

Pages of Life

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FREE
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Area Places of Worship

Southside Baptist Church
"A Warm, Loving & Friendly Church"
 4208 U.S. Hwy. 41 S • Sun City, FL 33586 • 813-645-4085
 "Getting to Know You" (Donuts & Coffee).... 9:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Service..... 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Evening Service..... 7:00 p.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship..... 10:55 a.m. Thursday Morning Prayer..... 10:00 a.m.

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

CELEBRATING our 75th ANNIVERSARY

820 College Ave. W. • Ruskin, FL 33570
645-6439
 www.fbcuskin.org • A Resource for Families
 Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship..... 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Service..... 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Night Service..... 7:00 p.m.
 Awana..... 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Barry Rumsey
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
K-2 Through 12th Grade

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 SUNDAY SERVICES
RUSKIN
 705 9th St. SE / 633-3970
 9:00 AM-Contemporary
 Sunday School—Youth Bible Study
 Fellowship hour after the service
 Fr. Lee Miller
 Priest

SUN CITY CENTER
 1015 Del Webb Blvd. E / 633-3970
 8:00 AM-Rite I — 11:00 AM-Rite II
 & Choir
 Fellowship hour after both services

A CARING CHRISTIAN FAMILY—WIGGLY CHILDREN WELCOME

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

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

All Are Welcome

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

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

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


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

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

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

Community Church College to hold kick-off September 10

The Community Church College is having a gala "kick-off" for the fall semester from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at United Community Church, located at 1501 LaJolla Ave. in Sun City Center. Refreshments will be served. There will also be a guest speaker.

The purpose of kick-off is to bring awareness of the college and the broad curriculum of classes that will be offered.

The College will be offering 44 different classes, some of which are new to the program: Ancient Roman History, Android Tablets and Smartphones, Civics in America, Interactive Cooking, American Jazz History and Zentangle.

In addition to the classes, there will also be five bus trips planned to various places of interest. All classes are non-credit, and no previous education is required.

Regular classes begin on Monday, Oct. 21 and run for five weeks through Thursday, Nov. 21.

Open Registration Day will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 24 in the Great Hall of United Community Church. Early registration for the unlimited classes may be done by computer.

More information will be available at the College website at www.4lifelearning.org in September. Late registration will be at the church through Thursday, Oct. 24. All classes, excluding the trips, will cost \$25. Classes may be audited for \$6 per session.

St. Andrew Presbyterian offers 'Sunday School'

The Christian Education Committee of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is offering two new Sunday classes between the 9 a.m. traditional service and the 11 a.m. contemporary service.

The first class, entitled "New Beginnings," is a video exploration of forgiveness; it continues next Sunday, July 28, in Room 4 from 10:20 to 10:45 a.m.

The second class, entitled "In the Faith," will be an exploration of inspirational quotes and Psalms that reflect Christian faith, and will be offered on consecutive Sundays, Aug. 4, 11, 18, and 25, in Room 4 from 10:20 to 10:45 a.m.

Visitors are invited to join these classes, along with members of St. Andrew. The church is located at 1239 Del Webb Blvd. West in Sun City Center.



Pictured from bottom left to top right: Jennah Santos, Johnny Potter, Trey Carswell, Audrianna Potter, Lexus Thomas, Maddy Sullivan, Savannah Santos, Dylan Carswell, Colin Potter, Pastor Lewis Brady, Sara Peel, Ashley Hicks, Aaron Bostick, Chris Giddens, Brandon Brady, Robyn Santos, Tyler Santos, Lexi Carswell and Russell Miller.

New Beginnings Fellowship sends 18 to Youth Camp

Early Monday morning July 15 a caravan of cars headed out from New Beginnings Fellowship church. There were 18 youth headed for a week of fun and fellowship at Youth Camp in Brooksville, Fla. The young people want to thank everyone in the community who had their car washed, bought a candy bar, purchased a spaghetti dinner or gave a cash donation to make this week possible for them. A week at Youth Camp can be a life-changing experience for any young person.

Rev. Doctor Warren Langer celebrates a decade at United Methodist of SCC

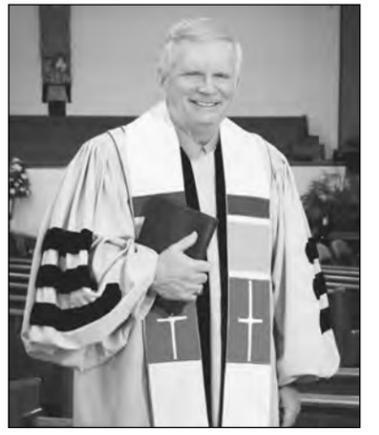
On July 7 The Rev. Doctor Warren Langer celebrated a decade of serving the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center as Sr. Pastor. He currently has the longest pastorate in the history of the church.

A Children's ministry, Youth ministry, Christian Book store, Counseling Center, Singles Ministry, Emergency Response Ministry, and Hispanic Ministry are just a few of the ministries begun by the church over the last ten years.

During the same period the church greatly expanded its outreach into the community. The church has developed partnerships with the four elementary schools in South Hillsborough County, joined both Chambers of Commerce, and expanded its assistance to other nonprofit groups in South Hillsborough County.

Under Rev. Langer's tenure, South Shore United Methodist Church in the Summerfield area was founded and regularly welcomes over 400 in worship.

Over the last 10 years the church has greatly expanded its mission work, sending mission teams to Jamaica, Uganda (twice) and four states in the Southeast. The church is currently preparing mission groups to go to Cuba and Peru.



Rev. Langer has accomplished much during his tenure here by empowering staff, congregation members and volunteers, and has been receiving an increasing number of opportunities to speak about the empowerment of retirees in ministry.

The church, located at 1210 Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City Center, will be adding an additional Sunday morning service this fall to provide additional room since two of its three services last winter were at capacity. The church currently offers a Traditional Service at 8:15 a.m. and 10:55 a.m., a Contemporary Service at 9:15 a.m., and an Hispanic Service at 4 p.m.

Christian Women's Connection luncheon is Aug. 8

Christian Women's Connection will present the August Luncheon and Program on Thursday, Aug. 8 at Club Renaissance, 2121 So. Pebble Beach Blvd. in SCC.

Inspirational speaker Carolyn McCort will share "About finding a missing piece/peace." The program will feature Eye Associates' Dr. Edwin Detweiler III, OD, who will speak on eye care.

Seating begins at 11 a.m.; the program at 11:30 a.m. The menu is Asian chicken salad plus beverage and dessert. An alternate meal of tossed salad with grilled chicken may be ordered when you make your reservation.

The cost is \$17 inclusive, reservations required. Call Pat Butler at 813-938-4320 or email aunt.butler@gmail.com. Make reservations or cancellations before noon on Monday, Aug. 5.

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 South Bay Kids.....Sundays 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. LifeFocus Support Groups.....Mondays 7:00 p.m.
 Bible Study in Creole.....Sundays 11:00 a.m. Collide Student Ministry.....Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

First rehabilitated manatees rescued from recent red tide are released

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and partners released two rehabilitated manatees rescued during the recent red tide bloom in Boca Grande in southwest Florida. These are the first rescued manatees affected by the red tide to be released.

“Our staff and partners worked tirelessly on response efforts throughout the red tide event,” said Leslie Ward-Geiger, the FWC’s Marine Mammal Research Program leader. “It is gratifying to see those efforts pay off with the release of these rehabilitated animals.”

Through extensive response efforts, the FWC and partners rescued 16 manatees suffering from the effects of a red tide bloom that was documented from late last September to April. Fifteen manatees survived after they were initially taken to Tampa’s Lowry Park Zoo for treatment.

Once rescued manatees are rehabilitated, marine mammal

researchers aim to release them near their rescue location, due to the manatees’ familiarity with the area. As harmful effects of the recent bloom have waned, FWC biologists have determined these rehabilitated manatees can now be released safely. More manatee releases are planned in the next two months.

The larger male released Thursday was the first rescued suffering from red tide effects during the recent bloom in October. That manatee was moved from the zoo to SeaWorld Orlando earlier this year for care until its release to ensure the zoo had space for critical care cases. The FWC and partners rescued the smaller female manatee in March, and it remained at the zoo until this release.

Red tide is the preliminary cause of death for 270 manatees in 2013, a single-year record. Manatees are mainly exposed to the red tide toxin through ingestion of food such as seagrass with accumulated toxin levels.



This female manatee was rescued in Placida Harbor, Florida.

Response efforts are aided by citizen observers. The public is asked to report distressed or dead manatees by calling the FWC’s Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922), dialing #FWC or *FWC on a cell phone, or texting Tip@MyFWC.com.

Florida residents can support manatee research and conservation through the purchase of the Save the Manatee license plate. For more

information, visit www.buyaplate.com. To learn more about manatee conservation, go to MyFWC.com/Manatee.



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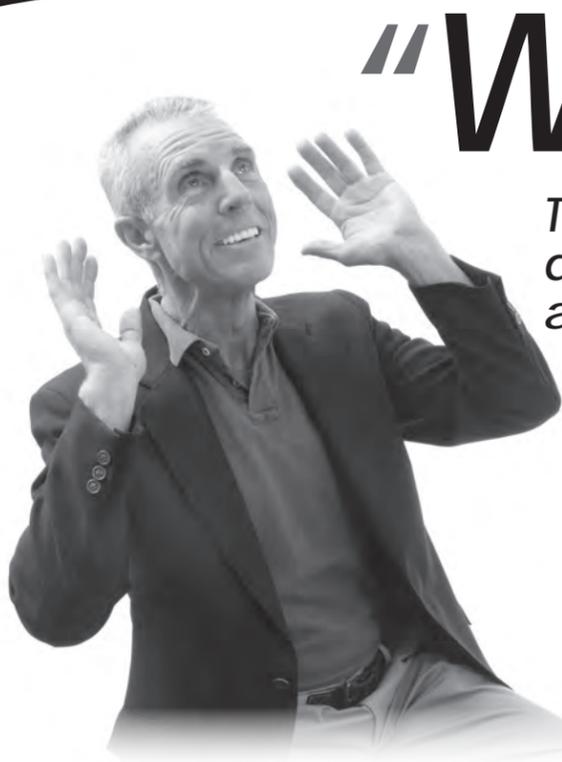
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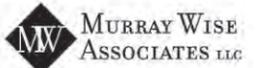
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HEARING LOSS The Hidden Dangers To The Brain When Hearing Loss Is Left Untreated

The consequences of an untreated hearing loss are real. Since we collect sound with our ears and process the sound in our brain, over time and without hearing assistance, we can lose the ability to understand the spoken word. This documented process is called "auditory deprivation."

According to Teri James Bellis, PhD, in her landmark book on Auditory Processing Disorder, *When the Brain Can't Hear*, "As sound travels through an imperfect auditory pathway, words spoken to the afflicted listener may become jumbled, distorting original meaning and rendering the words unintelligible." When you think about a conversation with all the sounds, the inflections and tempo changes, it makes communication extremely complicated. When a hearing loss has been present and untreated, the ability to follow the conversation can become extremely difficult. Without receiving the appropriate stimuli, the brain stops processing sounds like background noise and can no longer filter speech clearly. You may answer a question incorrectly, withdraw, smile and pretend you understood the conversation. This can be particularly troublesome when you are visiting the doctor, and important information is being relayed. In some cases, people have been "misdiagnosed" with Alzheimer's disease because they were unable to follow the conversation.

According to world renowned otolaryngologist, Dr. John Shea Jr., of the famed Shea Ear Clinic, "If a person is hard of hearing and they don't get amplification, they are not hearing and they lose the ability to understand." Once familiar sounds, like the hum of a refrigerator, slowly fade and become unrecognizable noise competing with spoken words.

Dr. Shea went on to say, "When presented with amplification, or hearing aids, speech understanding becomes clearer. However, it is a continual process of improvement. Stimulating the brain with sound may help to overcome the auditory deprivation process, and getting help early is critical to a long term success."

Now, the goal is to do everything we can to maintain the speech recognition you have. You need to wear the best hearing aids you can afford, full time in both ears to hear correctly. Hearing aids solve the problems people have with communication, and they help to preserve and protect the brain's ability to recognize speech.

Hearing loss ranks number three behind hypertension and arthritis. Often called the invisible disability, hearing loss happens slowly over time and may go unnoticed for years. According to an article in *Post Graduate Medicine*, by Drs. Shohet and Bent, "Loss of hearing is a national health problem with significant physical and psychological repercussions. Although there is no cure for certain forms of hearing loss, many patients can be helped, especially when the problem is recognized early." Wearing amplification (hearing aids) has been proven to help preserve the remaining hearing and speech clarity.

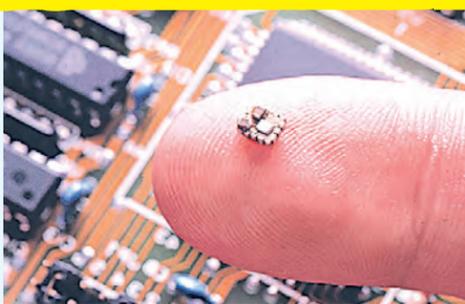
If you think you may have hearing loss, the most important first step is to have your hearing tested. Your results will identify which frequencies or pitches you do or do not hear and, if you do have a hearing loss, getting help has never been easier and with today's advanced technology - you will get clear, crisp, more natural sound.

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