



PAGE 15: Warren Resen has been on the road again. Follow him through Utah and the southwest USA.



PAGE 17: There's always something to learn from Diane Alvarez about your own backyard.

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THE OBSERVER NEWS

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Community Development Plan leads to preliminary study in AB

BY PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

It's been a long time since anyone spoke of the Community Plans in South County, and many residents thought all the work they had done between 1998 and 2010 to develop the plans had gone by the wayside.

But recently, things have been going on behind the scenes.

For about 12 years, Hillsborough County planners from both the Development Services Department and the Planning Commission worked jointly with residents to get ideas from each community to see how residents wanted to see their areas develop.

The idea was to discourage sprawl, and keep each community unique so that by the year 2025, Apollo Beach, Gibsonton, Riverview, Ruskin, Sun City, Sun City Center, and Wimauma would each have their own unique brand.

The plans for each area were taken indi-

vidually and worked on in open meetings and by volunteer committees which were open to anyone who lived, worked in, or owned property in the area.

But after the planning stages, county money ran out, said Ed Arnold of the county's Public Utilities Department. That was in 2010.

Now, a very initial first step has been taken in Apollo Beach.

Arnold spoke in a telephone interview about a study that was in progress in June and July along Apollo Beach Boulevard, where subcontractors from Adams Traffic Inc. in Plant City were counting cars, bicycles and pedestrians in the 2.1-mile area between U.S. 41 and Surfside Boulevard.

"We were asked to do a preliminary study to determine the feasibility of a PDE," Arnold said. A PDE is a preliminary Development Environmental Assessment Study.

There isn't much that can be done to widen Apollo Beach Boulevard without going into people's private properties...

► Continued on page 8



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Fear not, it's only Metrocon

Late July in Tampa means that it is time for Metrocon, Florida's largest anime convention, now in its 11th year. Anime characters were roaming the city streets drawn to the Tampa Convention Center last weekend for this annual event. See more photos on page 2.

At area Publix: I can hear you now

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

Abigail's voice rang out clearly. Not only could I hear her, I could understand her.

"It works?" she asked, likely already knowing that it does.

"It's wonderful," I replied. It was wonderful because speaking with Abigail, a young woman and a cashier at the Publix in Sun City Center, was probably the first time I was able to have a normal conversation with a cashier in a grocery store. I could actually hear and understand every word she said.

Auditoriums, theaters and churches are among the worst. Grocery stores are difficult but fairly straightforward — you place items on the belt and you pay for them. I use a credit card because it's easier than repeatedly asking the amount owed. But if questions arise, so, too, do problems. Pharmacies are a challenge and can even be embarrassing as customers line up while questions and requests from clerks go perhaps not unheard, but not understood. Drive-thru windows at fast food restaurants? Forget it — it's a roll of the dice. I once wasted ten minutes of my life at a drive-through restaurant in Massachusetts

merely attempting to order a strawberry shake. I gave up on the tinny-sounding speaker and attempted to read the lips of the restaurant employee at the window,

only to eventually learn the shake machine was out of order.

Hearing loss isn't just for old people.

► Continued on page 14



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Abigail at the SCC Publix store made good use of the hearing loop. It was the first time I have ever been able to clearly hear a cashier in a grocery store.

New program will help feed more students after school

By KEVIN BRADY
kevin@observernews.net

Starting this fall, thousands of additional Florida children will eat a healthy meal after school, thanks to a lobbying campaign supported by childhood hunger advocates.

Florida Impact, a nonprofit group dedicated to reducing hunger and poverty in the Sunshine State, spearheaded the effort.

An amendment to the Legislature's Early Learning Bill, signed into law recently by Gov. Rick Scott, clears the last administrative hurdle for the federal Afterschool Meal Program in Florida. The amendment, championed by Florida Impact, will allow hundreds of afterschool programs in the state, including many run by churches, access to federal funding to buy nutritious dinners for children.

Without the amendment, afterschool programs had to be licensed and meet certain criteria to be eligible for the federal subsidy.

► Continued on page 7

SUN CITY EYE ASSOCIATES

Ask the Experts... The Optical Gallery at SUN CITY EYE ASSOCIATES



Laura Sinisi
Liscensed Optician

Q: Why do my eyes feel tired and strained after I'm on the computer?

A: Spending time staring at a computer screen can cause Digital Eye Fatigue (DEF). Symptoms include blurred vision, eye strain, dry eyes, light sensitivity and headaches. Left untreated, the condition can progress into Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS), a visual stress disorder that, according to the American Optometric Association, affects about 125 million people.

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Don't worry, it was Metrocon

Florida has a hard-earned reputation for being the Weird Capitol of America so, as such, it is possible that not many people who found themselves in downtown Tampa this past weekend so much as batted an eye at the cast of characters crossing streets and congregating at the Tampa Convention Center. Late July in Tampa means that it is time for Metrocon, Florida's largest anime convention, now in its 11th year. Anime is related to Japanese animation, an artistic medium which literally brings to life characters from stories and comics. As of press time, attendance numbers were unavailable but more than 8,000 people attended the convention last year and organizers were hoping for a bigger showing this year. Suffice to say that thousands of people, ranging in age from the single digits to middle and post-middle age let out their inner anime characters over the weekend. Many of the elaborate costumes were made by hand and included props ranging from wild weapons to...well, I'm not sure what some of them were. Regardless, those who attended, and even some spectators, appeared to have a great time. For more information, visit www.metroconventions.com.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



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YMCA plan heads to County Commission Aug. 7



SHORTY ROBBINS

■ BY PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

Attendance was sparse at a public meeting July 22 as representatives from Hillsborough County and officials from the Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA gathered comments on a plan before taking it to County Commissioners Aug. 7.

Two other public meetings have been held in South County beginning in January 2012 to discuss placement of a new YMCA near Big Bend Road.

There was a lot of comment at the hour-long meeting, mostly positive, although a few objections to the location and the idea of a 30-year free lease of 40 acres of county land were voiced.

Plans for the proposed three-phase project were outlined by Tom Looby, CEO of the YMCA and Kurt Gremley, Steve Valdez and Shorty Robbins, representing Hillsborough County.

"This is a public-private project like we have with the Y in Town n' Country," said Robbins, who is a spokeswoman for Parks, Recreation and Conservation. "We don't want to be duplicating services anywhere in the county. It doesn't make sense."

Robbins explained that the county's recreation centers provided many of the same services as the Y but a big advantage to the Y is swimming, swimming lessons and water safety.

"Hillsborough County has the most drowning deaths of any county in the country for children under 4," said Gremley. "We need to provide as much water safety education as possible any way we can."

The location for the proposed facility is a 40-acre area adjacent



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

Representatives of Hillsborough County and the Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA brought handouts, facts and figures, plenty of speakers and maps and preliminary plans to a sparsely attended public meeting at East Bay High School July 22. The two plan a public-private partnership to build a new YMCA on Big Bend Road if it is approved by County Commissioners Aug. 7.

to the Vance Vogel Park in Gibsonton; it would eventually employ 125 people, many of them teenagers getting their first job.

"The Y is known for giving kids their first job and teaching them to get up and go to work and love it," said Jennifer Murphy, who has been a volunteer with the Y since 1998 and on the board. "It is the largest employer of teens in Hillsborough County."

If passed by the Commission, the first phase would consist of three athletic fields; a single-court covered open gym; a pavilion with restrooms, storage and concessions; a playground; site grading, utilities, drainage; parking; permits; and design; all at a cost of about \$3.5 million.

Of that, \$2 mil would be provided by the county and \$1.5 mil by the Y and the land lease would be free.

This phase should be completed by April 2015.

Next would come two multi-purpose athletic fields and a second "air-nasium" court (open gym) at a cost of about \$400,000

of YMCA funds, to be completed by April 2016.

Last would be an aquatics center, a starter multi-purpose family facility followed by an expanded facility as funds allow. The estimated cost of this is about \$5 mil of Y funds to be completed in 2016 or 2017, based on what funds are available.

"The Advisory Board should be under way by December 2013 and eventually we should have a 12-member Leadership Council," Looby said.

Paul Burke is an educator who works at Eisenhower Middle School. "The Y has a Teen Achievers Program that came in and helped us with kids in dropout prevention and really turned them around," Burke said.

Woodrow Wadsworth made the comment that "There is no greater investment a community can make than in its children, and the YMCA has always been about kids."

Rick Hancock thought having a full-service YMCA in the area could hurt small businesses that offer the same services, like after-

school programs (dance, karate, martial arts, arts and more).

Mary Beth Sultenfuss, owner of the Apollo Beach Racquet and Fitness Club objected to the county removing what she described as "prime real estate" off the tax rolls and supplying money to the Y to begin the project.

But the major objection was location, as some in the audience said Wimauma and Ruskin were areas that needed such a facility because the Riverview developments closest to the proposed location had large community centers that were lacking in the more rural areas.

Alan Witt, president of Hillsborough Community College's South Shore campus, said when HCC was first planned, people also objected to its location.

"They said we wouldn't have 400 students where we are," Witt said. "But we started with 1,600 and now we have more than 6,000."

The consensus of the small crowd — of probably about 80 — was that if "you build it, they will come."

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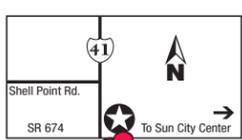
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SouthShore Regional Library
Adult program/event highlights
15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin • 813-273-3652

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.

No-Fuss Foods - Friday, Aug. 2 at 11 a.m.

Cooking delicious and nutritious meals does not need to take a lot of time or cost a lot of money. Join Rowena Sjovall, of No-Fuss Foods, as she demonstrates how to make easy, nutritious meals. Seating limit: 20. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call 273-3652. Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

Cosplay Ball - Saturday, Aug. 3 at 6 p.m.

Come dressed as a popular Anime, Manga, Comic Book, or Video Game character for a night of Anime-themed fun, music, games, and prizes. There will be a special contest for the best costume. Advance tickets are available and ticketholders are entered into a special raffle contest. Funding for this program provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Library

Mouse and Keyboard - Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 12:30 p.m.

In part one, learn how to grip, move and click the buttons on the mouse. In part two, you will learn the keys on the computer keyboard. This is a beginner level class. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

Adult / Teen Painting - Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Join art instructor Bruce Marsh for this two part painting class which meets on Tuesday August 6 and Tuesday August 13. Polish up on your painting techniques and create an art project to take home. All levels welcome. Materials provided. Limit 22. Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling 273-3652. Funding for this program provided by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center.

eBooks for Kindle and Kindle Apps - Wednesday, Aug. 7 at 10:30 a.m.

Learn how to check out and download free library eBooks to read on the Kindle or any device using the free Kindle app and Overdrive! Also discover how to use library eBooks with an Amazon.com account. Limit: 20 Presented by the Tampa Bay Library Consortium.

Paper Crafting for Adults - Wednesday, Aug. 7 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 273-3652.

Mah Jong Club - Wednesday, Aug. 7 at 6:30 p.m.

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

SouthShore Needle People - Wednesday, Aug. 7 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!

Managing Media - Thursday, Aug. 8 at 12:30 p.m.

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

Flower Arrangement Workshop - Thursday, Aug. 8 at 1 p.m.

Learn how to make beautiful floral arrangements. State accredited instructor Joan Lawhead will lecture on the basic elements of flower arranging. Participants will be given the opportunity to create their own floral arrangement to take home. Seating Limit: 20. Flowers and containers will be provided. Participants should bring scissors and garden clippers, if possible. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call 273-3652. 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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SouthShore Regional Library

Kids program/event highlights

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

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.

Teen Night - Thursday, Aug. 1 at 5 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 8 at 5 p.m.

Three hours of video games and anime on the large projector screens.

Family Story Time - Thursday, Aug. 1 at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 8 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! - Saturday, Aug. 3 at 10:30 a.m.

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

Creative Artists: Let's Create! - Saturday, Aug. 3 at 11:30 a.m.

"Creative Artists", 7-10 years, will join Art Instructor, Nicole Lamothe, and create an art project to take home. Limit 22. Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling 273-3652. Funding for this program provided by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center.

Cosplay Ball - Saturday, Aug. 3 at 6 p.m.

Come dressed as a popular Anime, Manga, Comic Book, or Video Game character for a night of Anime-themed fun, music, games, and prizes. There will be a special contest for the best costume. Advance tickets are available and ticketholders are entered into a special raffle contest. Funding for this program provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Library.

Baby Time - Monday, Aug. 5 at 1:35 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 11:35 a.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 7 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, Aug. 6 at 10:05 a.m. & 10:35 a.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 7 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, Aug. 6 at 11 a.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 7 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.

Drum Magic - Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 1 p.m. & 2:15 p.m.

For ages 5-12 ~ Join us for this loud, feet-tapping program that features drummer Jana Broder who brings drums for everyone to play in a drum circle. Registration is required. Register at the Information Desk.

Adult / Teen Painting - Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Join art instructor Bruce Marsh for this two part painting class which meets on Tuesday August 6 and Tuesday August 13. Polish up on your painting techniques and create an art project to take home. All levels welcome. Materials provided. Limit 22. Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling 273-3652. Funding for this program provided by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center.

Bingorama - Wednesday, Aug. 7 at 2 p.m.

For children entering grades K-5 ~ Bingo! Traditional bingo and fun variations of it are just a few of the bingo-themed games to play at your 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.



Last week for TSS Youth Sailing

The last week for summer sailing at the Tampa Sailing Squadron in Apollo Beach starts Monday, Aug. 5. The course is offered for young people, ages 7 to 17, who want to learn to sail in small boats called prams and Sunfish. New sailors start sailing with the fun in fundamentals and experienced sailors fine-tune their skills, because sailing better is faster and more fun.

Sailing fosters responsibility, teamwork, and awareness of others and the environment. Sailing builds bonds across generations and geography and skills and friendships that can last a lifetime.

Classes are weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sailing Squadron, 1250 Apollo Beach Blvd. in Apollo Beach.

TSS Youth Sailing is affordable. For more information, visit www.tssyouthsailing.org.



Little League legacy

In 1978 Steve Linne managed his Little Chief baseball team to an undefeated season. His team, which went on to win the County Championship, was the best team to ever play at East Bay Little League. They went 36 and 0.

One of the best players on that team was Steve's son Marc, who went on to play at East Bay High School. He was Hillsborough County Player of the Year in 1984 and later played baseball at the college level.

Marc now coaches his son Riley, who in 2013 led his team, the Bulldogs, to a County Championship.

This is a family that spans three generations with Little League.



100 free backpacks to be given away

Verizon Wireless location in Apollo Beach is giving away 100 backpacks filled with school supplies, starting Friday, Aug. 9. There is no purchase necessary.

The backpacks will be handed out at the Verizon store at 205 Apollo Beach Blvd., #101 in Apollo Beach (next to Beef O'Brady's).

All school-age children K-12 are welcome; the student must be present to receive the backpacks.

The giveaway will start Aug. 9 and will continue until they are all out. This is a way for the Apollo Beach Verizon Wireless to say thank you to the community that has helped them succeed.

Camp Bayou holds Back to School / Back to Nature event

Before homework, tests and report cards arrive in the coming school days, youngsters in South County are invited to go to a beautiful summer morning filled with learning that is fun and check off some school supplies in the process.

Camp Bayou's 6th Annual Back to School / Back to Nature event will be held Saturday, Aug. 3 from 9 a.m.- noon. The event is free.

Registered families will visit several nature stations where they will learn something about frogs, fossils, forests or other natural topics.

Before leaving each station, the children will be given a free school supply item. For a possible extra bonus, children will be given a free raffle ticket after their family signs in at the registration table. Tickets will be drawn every 30 minutes for other items, including backpacks, journals, lunch bags, and more. As in past years, registration is requested but may be done for free online at www.campbayou.org.

There will be a LEEF Teacher

Resource Exchange - an area for educators to leave materials they no longer need or pick up something new. Teachers can also learn about field trips to the Nature Center or Fossil Museum, upcoming teacher professional workshops, League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF) regional information and Florida Master Naturalist Program updates. Teachers who sign up for the e-newsletter will receive a goody bag of items to help in the classroom.

Organizations that will be participating in this year's event include:

- Sensing Nature/ Florida Youth Conservation Center Network
- UF/IFAS- Gulf Coast Research & Education Center, Balm
- Girl Scouts of West Central Florida
- Florida Division of Forestry
- ConserveItForward.org
- League of Environmental Educators in Florida

A drink cooler will be on hand to help keep participants hydrated

Registration for Rec2Six Children's Program begins Aug. 5

Online registration for new participants in Rec2Six, an after-school care program for children in grades k-5, begins at 1 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 5, 2013.

In addition to registering online, parents or guardians can enroll their child at participating Rec2Six locations Monday through Friday, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Locally, registration for the Rec2Six program is available at these centers:

- Brandon, 502 E. Sadie St. in Brandon, 813-635-8179
- Ruskin, 901 6th St. in Ruskin, 813-672-7881

The start date for the Rec2Six program is Tuesday, Aug. 20.

Rec2Six is offered by the Hillsborough County department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, and joins America's movement to raise a healthier generation of kids by encouraging healthy lifestyle choices through physical activity and nutrition education.

For more information, contact one of the above centers, or visit www.rec2six.org.

Free back-to-school physicals & immunizations

From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17, free physicals and immunizations will be offered in Gibsonton at Eisenhower Middle School, 7620 Old Big Bend Rd. Appointments are required.

This opportunity is part of a program co-sponsored by Hillsborough County Public Schools and the Back-to-School Coalition of Hillsborough County.

Free school physicals are available to any child entering a Florida school for the first time in grades kindergarten through 12. Parents or legal guardians must accompany their children at all times and immunization records are required for children to receive free immunizations. No Head Start or day care physicals will be available.

For more information on other locations or to schedule an appointment, call 813-443-3048.

with free cups of water at the Camp Bayou Support table along with information about Center programs, activities and events. This year the Plant City Lion's Club will have a collection box at the table if you have any old eyeglasses, sunglasses or hearing aids that you'd like to donate to a worthy cause.

Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center is neither a campground nor a summer camp. It was an RV park before the County's ELAP program purchased the land but it is now open for day use only, open to the general public. Through volunteers, donations, supporters and grants, the managing nonprofit B.O.L.D. offers pre-scheduled programs to schools, youth groups, adult groups and families. Monthly canoe tours are now available by reservation only. Check the online calendar for trip dates. The Center is open from Thursday- Saturday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. for passive recreational pursuits such as wildlife watching, nature photography and trail walks. General admission is free.

Positive Talk: When conflict rings, do you answer the bell?

In today's world there are plenty of chances for conflict. From the minute we leave home in the morning until we return at night, it seems that there is almost always someone who is unhappy and, as a result, wants to fight. Random violence on our highways keeps climbing, and authorities warn that we should not react in a negative manner to the person who cuts us off in traffic because that driver may just pull a gun and shoot us. Most sane people don't like conflict. I must admit there are some who seem to take pleasure in it but, for most of us, it is something we avoid.



By William Hodges

The problem is that even the sane people who get things done — the movers and shakers in life — tend to find themselves faced with a conflict situation more often than they like, and find the conflict governing their actions rather than their actions governing the conflict.

Before the bell signals round one of the fight and we go to the center of the ring, we should ask ourselves some questions. If we do, we will find that we may

decide to avoid the conflict or, if we do choose to get into it, we will be better prepared to handle it. The questions are:

- Who is this person with whom I have chosen to fight? What is my opponent's social status or economic power? How often will I have to deal with this individual? It is one thing to choose to get into the ring with a stranger and another to fight with your boss or coworkers.

- Do I understand the true problem? What is the conflict really about? Many times what we identify as the problem is only a symptom of a deeper underlying difficulty. Keep in mind that many fights get started for unrelated causes. As an example, someone snaps at you on the job because of a fight they just had with someone else. Think before you snap back.

- What are the stakes? What do I have to win or lose? What am I willing to give up to win? Before we become involved in any conflict, it is important to know how much is on the table.

- Who else is watching? Forces not directly involved with the conflict and that have no connection with our adversary may sit on the sidelines and judge our actions during the conflict. What impression do you want to give to these people?

- Is there an option as to time and place for the conflict? Where and when will the conflict take place? Will it be on my turf or theirs? We should choose a comfortable environment and the best possible timing.

- Do you have enough staying power to go all ten rounds. How long will the conflict last? It is important to determine how long a conflict may last, and whether we are willing to exert the energy to see it to its conclusion.

If we ask ourselves these six questions each time a conflict situation arises, we will choose more times than not to avoid the fight and stay out of the ring. However, when we do choose to fight, we will have a much better chance of winning, because we will have made a rational decision about whether it's worth the risk.

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

Public forum on transportation scheduled for Aug. 6

Hillsborough County will host the first in a series of public forums to gain input as part of a community-wide effort to foster job creation and retention through strategic investments in transportation.

The first public forum will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 6, at 6 p.m. at County Center, 26th floor, Conference Rooms A and B. County Center is located at 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. in downtown Tampa.

The Transportation for Economic Development in Hillsborough Coun-

ty initiative will develop a roadmap for transportation improvements to enhance the community's ability to successfully compete in the economic marketplace.

A Policy Leadership Group comprised of the mayors of Plant City, Tampa and Temple Terrace; Hillsborough County Commissioners; and the Chair of Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) is meeting monthly to identify where, what and how to pay for transportation improvements that will stimulate

jobs. Through a parallel path, these monthly public forums allow the community to consider the same information and provide valuable feedback to policymakers.

All meeting facilities are accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any additional necessary accommodations will be provided with a 48-hour notice. For more information, call Steve Valdez, Citizen Services Manager, 813-272-5275. TTY: 301-7173.

Tampa Bay Water seeks input through online survey

Tampa Bay Water is seeking community input on the region's future drinking water supply as it updates its Long-Term Master Water Plan.

The agency is asking residents, businesses and community groups to complete an online survey at www.tampabaywater.org/FutureWater. The survey will be available until Aug. 23, 2013.

Tampa Bay Water is asking for input on seven future water project concepts, source water protection and regional water efficiency efforts.

"Community participation is a critical element to everything we do at Tampa Bay Water," said Ivana Blankenship, Planning & Outreach Program Manager for Tampa Bay Water. "More than 2.3 million people in the region receive our drinking water through our member governments. It is important for those residents to have a say in the planning process."

Updated every five years, this 20-year plan takes into account more than what the agency can build. The Long-Term Master Water plan is a holistic approach to understanding the capabilities of its current system, helping its members with water efficiency programs, adhering to regulatory requirements for water quality and protecting regional drinking water sources.

The long-term plan studies the current water supply system to determine if there are operational efficiencies that could yield additional water supply. It also identifies potential water supply projects that could meet the future drinking water needs of the Tampa Bay region.

For more information on the Long-Term Master Water Plan and to participate in the process, visit www.tampabaywater.org/FutureWater.

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New program will help feed more students after school

► Continued from page 1

“That was an exclusion that not many church afterschool programs were able to meet,” said Sandi Vaughn, of the United Methodist Church Association of Preschools. Now that the amendment has passed, she said, “We can feed a lot more hungry children. Thousands of children will benefit.”

Florida ranks 12th in the nation in food hardship, according to Florida Impact. In 2012, the U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Agriculture determined that 29.2 percent of American families with children are struggling with hunger.

A nutritious afterschool meal is not just about hunger, Vaughn said. “If children are hungry, they cannot learn. As adults, we know you can’t function when you get hungry. For some of these children, their evening meal is whatever is on the dollar menu at McDonald’s, so at least with this program they are getting healthy food.”

The county provides more than

8,000 meals when school is out through the Summer Food Service Program.

“There’s no doubt there are a lot of kids who need it,” said Brandon’s Amy Carrier, who oversees the program. “And from what I have seen from the state, there are a lot fewer children in the summer food program than there are kids getting free and reduced meals at schools, so there are even more kids that need it.”

With a menu heavy on vegetables, fruit, grains and protein, the summer food program has the same goal as the afterschool food program: making sure children get a healthy meal at least once a day.

“My guess is the meals are better than many of the children are getting at home,” Carrier said.

Congress expanded the federal Afterschool Meal Program in December 2010 to address hunger and under-nutrition among children who don’t receive a balanced meal except at school. The

program reimburses schools and nonprofits \$3.08 for each nutritious supper provided in afterschool programs in low-income neighborhoods, allowing up to 15 percent to be used for administrative costs.

However, bureaucratic and administrative hurdles delayed the program in Florida. The amendment crafted by Florida Impact erased the last of those hurdles. It was inserted into the Early Learning Bill that had strong bipartisan support in Tallahassee.

“It was an agonizing process,” said Dr. Debra Susie, Florida Impact’s executive director.

“You pass a law, but that is not the end of it. The administrative agency has to write up a set of rules to implement the law.”

Prior to the amendment, afterschool programs were required to secure a full childcare license, even though this is not required by the federal program, she said.

The amendment was the last major battle in a two-year campaign to implement the Afterschool Meal Program in Florida. Previously, Florida Impact helped eliminate a requirement that some nonprofit afterschool programs, otherwise eligible for the federal Afterschool Meal Program, would need a food and safety inspection. Adding 10 words to the Department of Health reorganization bill, which passed in the state Legislature in March, eliminated this hurdle.

Some afterschool programs also cited dual paperwork as a deterrent to signing up. Florida Impact organized a coalition of the state’s health and agriculture departments, along with Broward County Schools, the nation’s sixth largest school district, to help streamline



that process.

“We decided that rather than go with state legislation, which is a big deal, we would try to work this first through the rule promulgation process with no legislators, just state administrators,” Susie said.

However, after waiting for two years for Florida to clear all the barriers to implementing the Afterschool Meal Program, Florida Impact decided to go directly to the Legislature to erase the final barrier: requiring a full childcare license.

“Tucking away just a few words in the Early Learning Bill took care of the problem,” Susie said.

An estimate of how many children will benefit from greater access to the Afterschool Meal Program can be determined by the number currently using the state’s afterschool snack program, with many more nonprofits expected to jump on board in the coming year, Susie said.

“Just using the 29,265 children attending those sites currently, there is the potential of serving 5.2 million suppers over 180 days of the school year, which translates

into approximately \$16 million for the state’s nonprofits operating afterschool programs in the low-income communities of Florida.”

Local sites providing free summer meals

Anyone 18 and younger can get a breakfast and lunch at no charge, regardless of whether they are enrolled in the school’s summer program. No proof of finances is required.

For information on the county program, call (813) 272-5160 or visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org. For information on the school program and to find out if a neighborhood school is participating, call (800) 622-5985 or visit www.summerfoodflorida.org.

Apollo Beach Recreation Center, 664 Golf & Sea Blvd., Apollo Beach

Windermere Boys & Girls Club, 2902 Windermere Oak Lane, Riverview

Riverview Boys & Girls Club, 6809 Krycul Ave., Riverview

Gardenville Recreation Center, 6219 Symmes Road, Gibsonton

Apollo Beach Elementary, 501 Apollo Beach Blvd., Apollo Beach

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Traffic study in Apollo Beach

► Continued from page 1

“We’ve been collecting data,” Arnold said. “And we’re looking at the ‘wish list’ submitted by residents to see how much of it could actually be done if we had the money.”

The ‘wish list’ to which he refers is available at <http://www.docstoc.com/docs/39833294/APOLLO-BEACH-COMMUNITY-PLAN> in case readers want to view it in its entirety.

Basically, the community plan deals with things like community character; public facilities; roads and traffic; future development and retrofitting of older structures, especially in business districts; strengthening community associations; and attracting

economic growth.

But there are other things on Apollo Beach’s plan as well which the county cannot address, Arnold explained.

“People want things like underground utilities and golf cart lanes along the boulevard, and they don’t realize those things can’t be done by the county,” he said. These things must go through various departmental agencies including the Florida Department of Transportation, and some even require legislative action.

Usually Public Works deals with things like intersection improvement, but has dealt with many issues it doesn’t usually

study, Arnold said.

“The small stretch of roadway has 160 properties on it. There are so many parcels that even collecting the preliminary data is an expansive project,” he said.

After the preliminary study, the county will have to do a full-blown PDE, Arnold added. “But there may not be money for that at this time.”

There isn’t much that can be done in the way of widening the boulevard without going into people’s private properties, so mostly the work would have to concentrate on curb and gutter and median changes, he said. “The boulevard is a very tightly constrained area,” he said.

John Healey, a planner with the Development Services Department for many years who has worked on all the community plans in South County, is familiar with the Apollo Beach plan and the constraints of the boulevard.

“We have to assess the existing conditions before we can go into anything more,” he said. “We may get to see the results of the preliminary study go in front of the board (County Commissioners) in August. “Improving the boulevard is only one of many projects in the Apollo Beach plan that people want to see happen.”

So even if residents don’t see or hear much about all the planning work they did, they can be assured the county has not forgotten them and is visiting every request and weighing what can actually be done against how much money is coming as dollars are released into the budget, Healey said.



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Adams Traffic Inc., a subcontractor of Hillsborough County Public Works Department, performed a preliminary study counting bicycles, pedestrians and vehicles traveling on Apollo Beach Boulevard in June and July as a first step in examining the cost of implementing the Apollo Beach Community Plan.

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.



Tuck

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

DOB: Sept. 2, 2012.



Karney

Karney is a spunky little Chihuahua/Terrier mix. She has bounced around from carnival worker to carnival worker due to no fault of her own. Karney is a happy gal who loves to zip around the play yard like a jack rabbit. She also enjoys sitting on the bench for some one-on-one time. Karney seems to be fine with dogs her size, too. If you have space in your heart and home, go meet this little gal! As part of her adoption, Karney will be spayed, microchipped. She has been brought current on her shots.

DOB: October 2, 2012.

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At the Dog House and More, there is still such a thing as a free lunch

On Saturday, the Dog House and More, located at 204 West Shell Point Road in Ruskin, will be offering a free lunch — at least for the light eater and while supplies last. The popular, locally-owned eatery will be testing out the “Pig Pit,” smoked ribs and pulled pork to see if their customers enjoy it enough to add to their already extensive menu. Samples of barbecued pork will be offered with their homemade barbecue sauce and homemade baked beans. As with all good things, the free lunch, too, shall pass. It takes place only on August 3, and, again, only while supplies last. Pictured above are Dog House and More owners Lisa Csiki and Scott Curtis. For more information, search Dog House and More on Facebook.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

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Bookkeeping workshop offered at Apollo Beach Chamber

A free business workshop on Bookkeeping Essentials will be offered by the Small Business Development Center of Hillsborough County on Wednesday, August 7, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the SouthShore Chamber of Commerce in Apollo Beach.

This workshop provides instruction on how to maintain necessary records, accounts receivable/payable, payroll, sales taxes and other procedures.

In addition, business consultants are available every Wednesday at the SouthShore Chamber to provide free one-on-one consulting.

The SouthShore Chamber is located at 137 Harbor Village Lane in Apollo Beach.

For more information or to register for the workshop and/or consulting, visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/sbic.



Apollo Beach stylists join NV Salon and Spa

Amy Burness, left, and Krissy Burks, formerly of Apollo Beach, have joined the staff at NV Salon and Spa, 13107 U.S. 301 in Riverview. Both stylists are Redken trained. Amy, an educator for Bosley Professional Strength, has a passion to help people with fine, thinning hair. Krissy trained at the Aveda school. NV Salon is open Monday-Saturday. For more information, call 813-374-9224.



Ribbon cutting in Apollo Beach

In July the Riverview Chamber of Commerce held a coffee and ribbon cutting for Artful Conceptions, a full-service residential interior design firm located at 200 Frandorson Circle, Suite 104 in Apollo Beach. For more information, call 941-539-4322.

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The Third Act is a three-part workshop series for women 55+ who seek to make the most of this time in their lives.

Women 55+ work on mind, body and spirit at seminar series

In a society that values youth and productivity, how can women continue to add to, not subtract from, their lives as they age? Sometimes called The Third Act — a time of transition into older adulthood — women often struggle with where they are on their life journey. The Centre for Women on Hyde Park Avenue in Tampa is offering a three-part series for women ages 55 and older to explore topics which impact their self-concepts.

►Body segment, Tuesday, Aug. 20 - 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Movement is the basic sign of life. Eat less/move more. Simple, right? Yet the population is gaining weight and getting larger and larger. What is going wrong? Why can't we control our eating and activity levels?

We will teach you what you can do to rewrite your future. Only you can take care of you! This segment will:

- Discuss food challenges
- Explore the power of music and movement
- Discover health and fitness trends and where to find these fun, healthy activities
- Engage in fun and simple movements

►Mind segment, Tuesday, Aug. 27 - 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

You can turn your dreams into an exciting and empowering plan of action using the power of choice and values-based decision making. In this highly interactive segment, participants create a short-term plan for Third Act goals such as relationship building, well-being, encore careers and pursuits as we explore strategies to overcome fears and road blocks to success. This segment will:

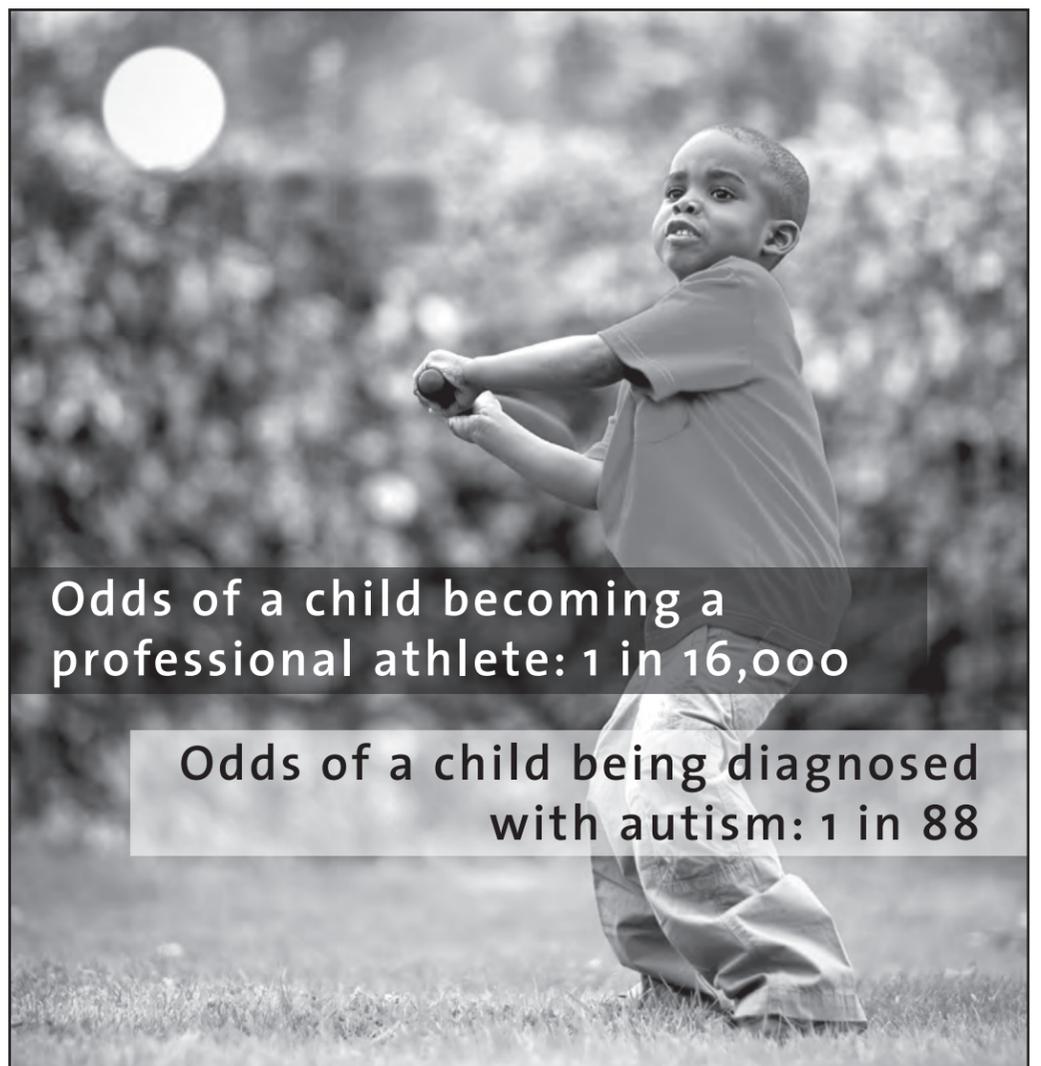
- Explore how to align goals with desires and values
- Create a visual step-by-step action plan using mind-mapping techniques
- Challenge beliefs and assumptions that hold us back from taking control of our lives

►Spirit segment, Tuesday, Sept. 3 - 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

As women age, we find ourselves challenged to revitalize our spirits and create a new attitude. Life presents unforeseen obstacles such as losses through divorce or death, "empty nests" as children and grandchildren no longer have the same needs for our attention. We may have lost jobs or retired; or said farewell to homes due to relocation or foreclosure. Our social scene and support network often change as our priorities take new directions, and we struggle to find a place where we truly belong. This segment will:

- Recognize how losses give way to new opportunities
- Redefine who we are at this point in our lives
- Renew our spirit so that we may flourish at this time of our lives

The Third Act is \$45 for all three segments, \$20 per segment. To register, go to tinyurl.com/observer-workshop. For more information, call 813-251-8437.



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

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

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You, me and business: My annual explanation

Guess what? They're back. I'm referring to new – and very deep – potholes on Sun City Center Plaza.

When I took this position three years ago (yes, it's been that long!), I knew I would face a host of challenges. You can't run a non-profit organization that supports over 450 businesses without a few headaches along the way. Trying to get all of those businesses moving in the same direction is much like herding cats, but with worse results. Still, it's an honor to represent these wonderful, hardworking people and to support their efforts.

But I digress. The biggest challenge I have faced in this position is the pothole situation on the road that runs from S.R. 674 to the post office. Every year around this time, we have one or two visitors a week come to the Chamber to ask who is responsible for having the road fixed. As the holes get deep enough to swallow a Mini Cooper and burp up a golf cart for change, the visitors become several a day and the inquiries become more demanding that we, the Chamber, do something.

Since new holes are being created, it's time for my annual explanation of this situation. Unfortunately, the road is still technically owned by the trustee of the old WCI, who went through Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The road should have been discharged in the bankruptcy, but it wasn't. The County has declined to take it over and fix it. It is one of the most frustrating situations I have ever personally

had to deal with.

A study by an engineering firm showed that fixing the road will cost tens of thousands of dollars. The piping under the road that handles run-off rainwater is seriously compromised and the entire road needs to be dug up and the piping replaced. It's an enormous expense our local small businesses can't afford, even if they all pool together. Not to mention, whoever steps up and fixes this road assumes liability for future maintenance issues. This means that, while we are all in agreement that SOMETHING has to be done before someone is seriously injured, a solution to finding a funding source is an elusive thing.

Two years ago, a local paving company donated its time and materials to fix the road. Last year, someone anonymously patched new holes. I am currently working with anyone and everyone to get the newest holes patched. This will be, however, another bandaid, and we will have this issue to face again next year.

We understand everyone's frustration and justifiable anger that the holes are still there. We also understand that you are tired of hearing from everyone "it isn't our responsibility" and "we're working on it." But the truth of the matter is, there is no one who is directly responsible and we are ALL working on it.

In the meantime, be aware the potholes are there, drive slowly and carefully, and take an alternate route if you can.



By Dana Dittmar, Executive Director SCC Chamber of Commerce

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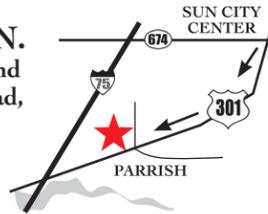
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iPad/iPhone: Demonstration & Open Lab • Friday, Aug. 2 at 3 p.m.

Bring an iPad/iPhone and operation questions to the class. Will demonstrate how to install the required software for eBooks, open an Apple account, and how to download an eBook to the device.

Excel I: Introduction • Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 3 p.m.

Layout, entering data, inserting rows and columns, and other techniques. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.

Excel II: Formatting • Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 3:45 p.m.

Learn different formats for expressing numbers in a spreadsheet. Excel I is recommended.

Computer Tutor • Wednesday, Aug. 7 at 5:30 p.m.

Tutoring in Microsoft software, email and the Internet.

Excel III: Performing Calculations • Thursday, Aug. 8 at 3 p.m.

Learn about functions and formulas and how to use them in calculations. Excel II is recommended.

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Kelly Emerson, left, and Gary Garbelman will be featured when The KEGG appears Aug. 10 at the Rollins Theater.

The KEGG comes to the Rollins Aug. 10

The Rollins Theater in SCC is ready to rock and roll on August 10 when the Performing Arts Company presents the next show in its "Cool Summer of Red Hot Entertainment" series. The public is invited to attend all shows at the Rollins Theater.

On Saturday, Aug. 10, The KEGG rolls into the Rollins with their classic rock show and more. The KEGG, composed of pop duo Gary Garbelman and Kelly Emerson, is comfortable with electrified rock music and acoustic country songs. They even feature a nod to

Sinatra as well as a touch of jazz and the blues in their varied repertoire.

THE K.E.G.G. will be presented at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets for each show are \$10 and are available at the SCC Atrium Kiosk, which will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, or via credit card by calling 813-220-7913.

For further information and details on all shows call the ticket line or visit the PAC website at www.PerformingArtsCompany-SCC.org.

THE SAVVY SENIOR

How to Help Seniors Extend Their Driving Years

Dear Savvy Senior,
What tips or resources can you recommend to help seniors with their driving skills? My 84-year-old mother is still a capable driver, but she has declined a little in recent years and could definitely use some help.



By Jim Miller

Concerned Daughter Concerned, Dear Concerned, With more and more Americans driving well into their 70s, 80s and beyond, there are lots of tips, tools and programs available today to help elderly seniors drive safer and longer. Here are several that may help.

Schedule an eye exam: Because about 90 percent of the information necessary to drive is received through our eyes, this is a good

first step in ensuring your mom's driving safety. So get your mom's eyes checked every year to be sure her vision is up to par.

Check her meds: Does your mom take any medicine or combination of medicines that could impair her driving? A new resource that can help with this is Roadwise Rx, an online assessment tool at roadwisersx.com that provides personalized feedback on how the medications your mom is taking can impact her safety behind the wheel.

Evaluate her driving: A do-it-yourself driving assessment is a simple way to help your mom get a handle on her driving abilities and vulnerabilities. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety has some great resources on their website to help with this. Just go to seniordriving.aaa.com, click on "Evaluate Your Driving Ability," then on "Self-Rating Tool," and have her take the Drivers 65-Plus self-rating exercise. Then, click on "Interactive Driving Evaluation" and download the AAA Roadwise Review. This is a free confidential online screening tool that will test her vision and reaction time, which are very important for safe driving.

Take a refresher course: AARP and AAA both have older driver refresher courses that can help your mom brush up her driving skills, and learn how to manage and accommodate common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time. Taking a class may also earn her a discount on her auto insurance. To locate a class contact your local AAA (aaa.com) or AARP (aarp.org/drive, 888-227-7669). Most courses cost under \$20 and can be taken in the classroom or online.

Another good resource to look into is CarFit. This is a free assessment program that will help your mom adjust her vehicle for a better fit, making it easier and safer to drive. CarFit events are held

around the country in select locations. See car-fit.org to look for one near you.

Get a professional assessment: If your mom needs some extra help, consider getting a professional assessment done by a driver rehabilitation specialist. They will evaluate her driving ability and test for things like reaction time, decision-making skills, as well as how well she and her car fit together, pinpointing trouble areas and offering solutions. This type of assessment can cost several hundred dollars. To locate a professional, contact the Association of Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (driver-ed.org, 866-672-9466) or the American Occupational Therapy Association (www.aota.org).

Make some adjustments: Recognizing vulnerabilities and adapting her driving habits to compensate for them can go a long way in helping keep your mom safe and driving longer. Some simple adjustments include not driving after dark or during rush hour traffic, avoiding major highways or other busy roads, and not driving in poor weather conditions.

It's also good to know if there are any older driver's license renewal provisions in your mom's state, which you can get by calling her nearby driver's license office or at ihs.org/laws/olderdrivers.aspx.

When to quit: If it gets to the point that your mom's driving isn't safe anymore and she needs to quit, The Hartford Financial Services Group and MIT AgeLab provides online resources and free publications like "We Need to Talk: Family Conversations with Older Drivers" that you can access at safedrivingforalifetime.com.

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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Upcoming Events

Monday Night	6 p.m. Bingo. Free hot dogs.
Tuesday Night	\$1 draft beer all day.
Friday Night	6 p.m. Feather Your Nest. Free hot dogs, starting Aug. 2.
Saturday, Aug. 3	No dinner. 6:30 p.m. music by Calvin O
Sunday	\$1 draft beer all day. Free hot dogs during NASCAR

For more information, call (813) 645-2922.

RUSKIN VFW POST #6287

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

- Thursday, July 25** - Bar Bingo 6 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 2** - Fish & Chips 4:30 - 7 p.m. Treasure Chest 7:30 p.m. Music by Sun Coaster 7:30 - 11 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 3** - Crew Games in Lounge, 6 p.m. free hot dogs. Music by You 2 Kan 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 4** - Music by Bert & Sassy 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 5** - Crew Games & free hot dogs, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 6** - 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.

Happy Belated International Tiger Day

Monday was International Tiger Day, bringing recognition to the unique wild animal and to the oft-cited statistic that nearly 97 percent of all tigers have been lost over the past century, with a number of tiger species already extinct. The biggest threat faced by the world's remaining wild tigers, estimated to be fewer than 4,000, is the destruction of their natural habitats due to growing cities, agriculture and poaching. Although the United States is not part of the tiger's natural habitat, it is still possible to personally wish a tiger a Happy International Tiger Day. Pictured right is one tiger who has been rescued and has found a home at Elmira's Wildlife Sanctuary in Wimauma. The non-profit organization offers tours each weekend and their website even provides a wish list for those visitors who would like to bring a tiger (or their other animals) a gift (tigers like Jolly Balls — very hard toys they can play with). For information, visit www.elmiraswildlife.org.

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Water shortage orders expire

The Southwest Florida Water Management District's (District) Governing Board voted earlier this week to let all water shortage orders expire July 31.

Residents living within the District's boundaries are asked to observe the District's year-round conservation measures beginning August 1. However, some local governments may impose different schedules or retain stricter measures. Residents should check with their local governments before changing their irrigation schedule.

The Governing Board allowed the water shortage orders to expire in response to significant improvements in aquifer and river levels as a result of this summer's above-average rainfall. The region's major public water suppli-

ers have also been able to capture and store large supplies of water to meet the needs of residents.

Year-round conservation measures include watering up to twice-per-week, and allow residents additional flexibility for determining when to water. Residents are encouraged to water only if their lawn and landscape needs it and turn off their irrigation system if it has rained or rain is predicted in the next 24-hours. Some of the signs that a lawn needs water include a blue-gray appearance, blades folded in half lengthwise and footprints remaining on the lawn for several minutes after walking on it.

For more information on the District's year-round conservation measures, visit watermatters.org

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At area Publix: I can hear you now

► Continued from page 1

Today, up to 48 million Americans suffer from some form of hearing loss, yet only one in five of those who would benefit from hearing aids actually have them. But as technology advances, so do the benefits and the number of people taking advantage of them. Increasingly, hearing loss is showing up in new populations including teenagers and in veterans who have returned from active duty. Hearing loss is an invisible disability. No one can see it and sometimes repeating what wasn't heard or understood in the first place doesn't help. The common response to my standard, "I'm sorry, I'm hearing impaired, could you repeat that?" is often followed by, "Oh, that's okay."

Left untreated, hearing loss can result in a host of problems, not the least of which are feelings of isolation and, eventually, the increased possibility of clinical depression. As a growing public health issue, hearing loss is third in line behind heart disease and arthritis in frequency among Americans.

My hearing loss is significant but my hearing aids are of the latest technology and, to me, are a miracle. Yet churches, auditoriums, theaters and even the ability to understand a cashier in a noisy grocery store are all things that are often beyond their capabilities. That isn't necessary. As Abigail at the Sun City Center Publix store so wonderfully demonstrated, normal, everyday communication is possible for the hearing impaired.

Inductive hearing loops are not new and are considered basic technology. It is not rocket science but the benefits are immeasurable for those suffering from hearing loss. At the Sun City Center Publix, and in two other stores in Florida, the company is testing hearing loops on one aisle (aisle 8 in Sun City Center), at the customer service desk and at the pharmacy.

As of press time, Publix was unable to respond to questions about how long the test will continue or whether the program will be rolled out to other stores.

According to the Hearing Loss Association of America, the

United States lags behind other developed nations in the implementation of hearing loops but progress is slowly being made. In Sarasota County, nearly a dozen theaters were equipped with hearing loops for those wearing hearing aids, and made hearing devices available to those with some hearing loss but without hearing aids. Earlier this year, Amtrak installed hearing loops at ticket and customer service desks in New York and Washington and a handful of area churches have installed loops, as has Community Hall in Sun City Center. Virtually all modern hearing aids and cochlear implants have the capability of working with hearing loops.

Most people would think the last place that would need inductive hearing loops would be movie theaters, with incredibly loud sound systems with booming bass notes that can vibrate the stadium seating. But for many hearing impaired people, the volume, coupled with echoes, results in hearing nothing but deep, muddy



The Publix store in Sun City Center is one of three stores in which the company is testing hearing loops, technology that allows a cashier's voice to be transmitted directly into hearing aids, vastly improving clarity while reducing background noise. The loops are located on aisle 8, at the customer service desk and at the pharmacy.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

noise. Although some movie theaters have installed hearing loops, they remain relatively few, thus those without are potentially cutting off the big screen experience for millions of would-be moviegoers.

As a result, the growing population of people suffering from the seemingly invisible disability of hearing loss is potentially costing some businesses money. For businesses, the installation of hearing loops can range from just over a thousand dollars to more than ten thousand dollars, depending upon the nature and size of the site. At the Kings Crossing Publix in Sun City Center, the loops are specifically localized and a hearing impaired person must stand within a few feet of the universal symbol depicting the availability of the loop. Such installations on an individual store level would generally be less expensive, although in the case of Publix, with a large number of stores, it would incur significant cost for implementing loops across the company.

But for a hearing impaired customer, the results are priceless. The hearing loop allows the voice of the cashier, pharmacist or customer service representative to be piped directly into the hearing aids, greatly reducing background noise while increasing clarity. It brings with it the somewhat rare possibility of normal communication for the hearing impaired,

where it would otherwise be impossible.

Dr. Heather Untied-Leonard, an audiologist with Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center, directed the project at Publix. Dr. Leonard has experience in the community as, according to her bio, she completed her fellowship at Physician's Choice Hearing and Dizziness Center, with an office in Sun City Center. The two other Publix test stores are located in Lakeland and in The Villages.

According to Shirley Nauman of the Sun City Center chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, whether or not Publix expands the availability of hearing loops in their stores depends upon the feedback received from customers in the three test stores. Survey brochures are available at the customer service desk or online at www.tinyurl.com/observerpublix.

Back in Sun City Center, Abigail was knowledgeable about the system and seemed gratified that it was appreciated. She has a beautiful voice and it was a pleasure to actually hear it. For my next grocery-shopping trip, I'll be waiting in line on aisle 8.

For more information about hearing loss, visit the Hearing Loss Association of America at www.hearingloss.org or the Sun City Center chapter at www.hla-scc.com

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On the road again...*(or, How not to waste your precious time)*

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

BLANDING, UT — Southeast Utah is the gateway to much of the splendor for which this part of the USA is famous. The ever-changing high desert scenery and the national parks are here. This is a place where people come for vacation and to see and experience the wonders of nature.

Vacations are special times to which people look forward each year. Lots of money is spent by tourists supporting local economies. Millions of digital pictures are taken for mementoes and to show the folks back home. The most precious commodity for tourists, though, is time. It is something not to be unnecessarily wasted.

As a travel writer, my time is precious, too, trying to cover as much ground as possible to bring readers information and helpful hints. So when I take the time to do the tourist thing and am thwarted by lack of proper information which wastes my time, in this case information

supplied by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), I attempt to point out the things you should avoid so as not to waste *your* time.

Arriving in Blanding early one weekday morning, I went directly to the Visitors Center for information and talked to a polite lady behind the counter, who apparently had very little concrete information about attractions beyond a 10-mile radius of the town and practically nothing about accommodations outside of the city. So she piled me with maps and brochures, including an area discount book inside of which were offers that had expired months before, and sent me on my way.

My credo has always been for travelers to do their homework so they will be prepared to see and do the things most interesting to them during their limited vacation time. I thought I had done just that before heading out from my motel, armed with brochures, for

a day of sightseeing.

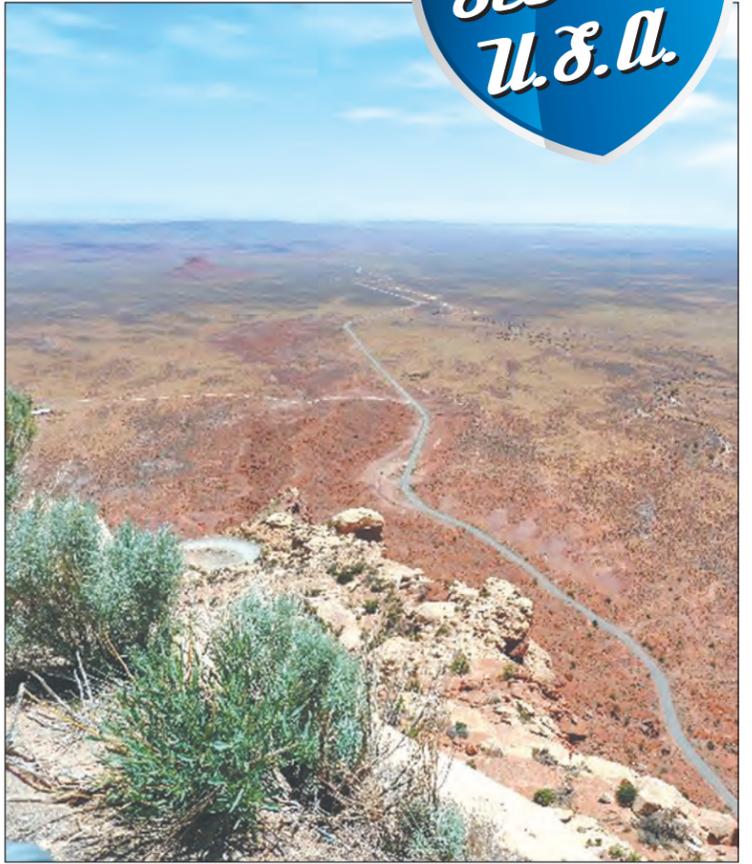
Using state and local maps and brochures supplied by the BLM, we plotted our activities starting with the nearby Natural Bridges. It was a drive through breathtaking scenery of mountains, mesas, ever-changing colors and straight-line roads practically devoid of traffic.

After Natural Bridges we headed in the direction of Valley of the Gods, something my wife really wanted to see, an attraction promoted by the locals and in brochures at the Visitors Center published by the BLM. Nothing had prepared us for what lay ahead.

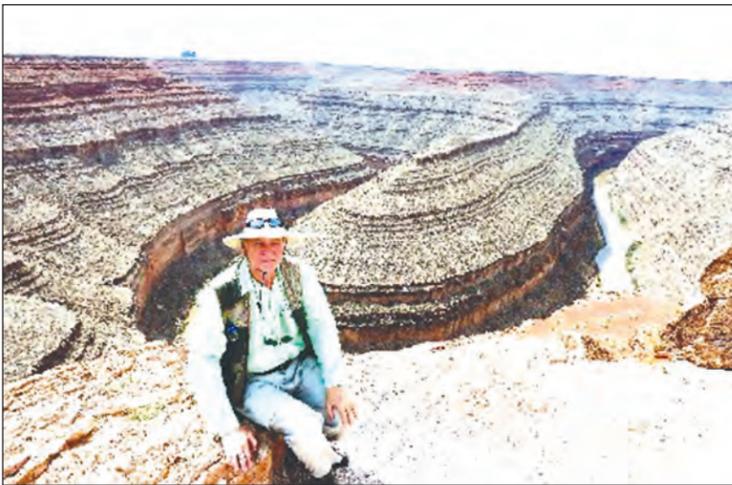
After driving for miles on a paved road to reach the West Entrance of the Valley of the Gods, the paved road ended at the edge of a mesa far above the valley below. Ahead of us was an unpaved 2.2 mile stretch of a gravel washboard road going down at a grade of 10 percent with multiple switch backs. This section of "road" is called the Moqui Dugway. I elected not to make this drive with my new sedan. Nothing in their printed brochure alerted us to this situation.

The second unfortunate occurrence on leaving the first one that day was a failed visit to Hovenweep, the ruins of an ancient people, ancestors of today's Pueblo Indians. The ruins were abandoned over 700 years ago. The site was 20 plus miles off the nearest highway and the colorful brochure says they can be reached by a paved road. In

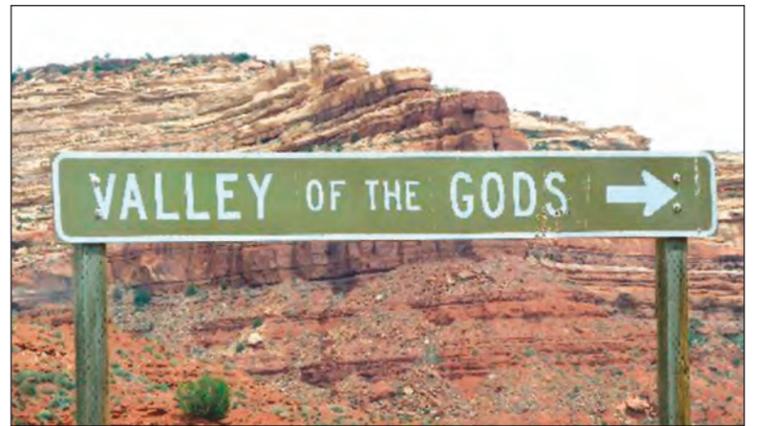
▶ Continued on page 22



Valley of the Gods from the top of a mesa. The road to the park is straight down.



Goosenecks State Park in SE Utah.



This sign was almost invisible at highway speeds.

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Observations: Congress, ignorance, and better angels

My dress shoes clacked in echoes as I walked down the hallway of the Longworth Congressional Office Building in Washington, DC. The noise felt disrespectful somehow but my efforts at silencing it were for naught. Walking down that hallway, or just looking out across the street at the United States Capitol Building, I could feel the weight of history on my shoulders. It was an awesome feeling. I was a mere staffer, one in a sea of staffers, but being there, seeing that, made me want to be a better person, a better American.

Inside the Capitol itself that feeling was magnified to infinity. The history of that place is so thick I can't begin to imagine how anyone could not see it for

themselves. I could not begin to understand how anyone could get caught up in a political scandal. The words of some of the greatest leaders of this great nation still echo in the chambers and in the halls. Those echoes should do nothing but drive people to further greatness.

Stretching out in front of the Capitol Building, the monuments on the National Mall inspire respect and hope. They are a permanent record of great men and women who risked all in the quest for a more perfect union. The war memorials, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial are all things that should be seen firsthand by every American. A short distance away near the Tidal Basin, the Jefferson

Memorial, filled with the words of a founding father and the nation's third president, inspires a silent awe.

Last week, someone filled Mountain Dew cans with green paint and vandalized the Lincoln Memorial, spreading the paint on the President's leg and lap and on the granite floor. What is wrong with such a person or persons? Are we truly so lost as a nation that one of



Observations
By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net

our greatest presidents could become fodder for a mere prank, an act of idiocy?

The Lincoln Memorial is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day. It is there for a reason. It stands for us to remember and to be inspired. This nation

has prospered and suffered but through even the worst of things, we always emerge better than before. Now I'm starting to wonder

if we are capable of continuing that historic trend.

Congress is a mess. Some of the mess is by design. The House of Representatives was meant to be a body that argued and fought things out. Ours is a government by consensus and few get entirely what they want from any piece of legislation. But the rancor has seemingly reached new lows, at least in modern times. From all appearances, party matters more than country and the American

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

I cannot understand how anyone could stand inside of the Lincoln Memorial and not be awe-struck, let alone how someone could vandalize it, splashing green paint from a soda can during the overnight hours. On Monday, two other sites in DC, the National Cathedral and the "Castle" at the Smithsonian, were also discovered to have been damaged with green paint. Police have arrested a 58-year-old woman in connection with the latter two incidents.

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Achy, breaky heart of the air potato

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

Both air potato and Dutchman's Pipe are vines with large heart-shaped leaves. We showed a picture of the second in "Valentines in Nature" in the February column. Unlike Dutchman's pipe, however, air potato is far from friendly to Florida. In fact, it's so bad that the Florida Exotic Plant Council in a 48-page article on Air Potato Management says: "One of Florida's most troublesome invaders is air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*), a member of the family of true yams" (Overholt, IFAS website). I have both of these vines in my backyard, and though the leaves are similar, the method of growth is far different. I planted Dutchman's pipe next to a fence about 10 years ago when we first moved in. I also noticed other heart-shaped vines nearby but didn't identify it until I began to see multiple vines.

The Dutchman's pipe (*Aristolochiaceae elegans*) has grown to cover about 20 feet of the fence. It has one root and one main stem. The air potato has



"spaghetti-like roots" and one long vine that comes from each tiny potato, with as many as 20 to 30 new vines in one small area. After almost ten years of digging up potatoes, called bulbils, believe me, air potato can break your heart!

Because of my vigilance, the air potato has not escaped a small area about 10 feet square and has not ever grown enough to get into the oak trees nearby. The vines die back in winter, but underground bulbils remain. This year in April, I noted in my nature journal that there was NO AIR POTATO! Every March has been my annual air potato dig, so I was ecstatic. My husband said to just wait for the late rains, and he was right. By the end of April, I saw air potato vines in the usual place. By June, amidst heat and mosquitoes, I was back squatting, sitting, and digging a

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Observations

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people. And it is the American people who are victimized by it. During President Lincoln's time in office, the mess that is the House had been the scene of physical altercations between Members of Congress. At least today, Democrats and Republicans aren't duking it out on the House floor, captured live by CSPAN, although perhaps more than a few of us would pay a few bucks to see something like that happen.

Acts of vandalism on the National Mall are extremely rare. In the past decades, only a few incidents have occurred, all involving the Vietnam Memorial (also inexplicable). Yes, there is a strong police presence on Capitol Hill but I prefer to think that we've retained some of the decency and respect of our forebears, despite all of the changes over the centuries. At one time, people could walk freely into the White House to ask to speak with the President. Whether or not you would get to speak with him was another matter. Regardless, at one time, we the people could be trusted with such things. Today, it seems some of us are increasingly ignoring our better angels. It seems some of us just don't care, choosing ignorance, and that lack of care is easily turned to anger by the constant feed of the 24-hour news cycle that in itself is becoming increasingly partisan — taking the sides of parties over the cause of America.

With a popularity rating as low as 12 percent, it seems the only people rating Congress favorably are their own family members — and perhaps not even some of them. Disagreement over issues is one of the fundamentals of this nation, but so is compromise. With all of the really smart (seriously) staffers and consultants running around DC, you'd think someone would point out to the members of Congress that Americans would be a lot happier with less posturing and more respect. It's not a stretch to assume that

we'd feel better about our nation if the nation were the priority again over party, lobbyist money and personal power.

The Lincoln Memorial sits prominently at the far end of the National Mall. On any given day, it is crawling with tourists yet standing inside, gazing up at the President as he gazes out over the Washington Monument to the Capitol Building, is an intensely personal, church-like experience. Rancor and even sound fall away in the presence of one of our greatest leaders. It is inspiring.

At the Jefferson Memorial, his words are literally carved in stone. Among them is an 1816 quote in which he stated, "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

We are witnessing ignorance today. That comes in the form of party politics expertly crafted to maximize effect using television, newspapers and social media. It comes in the form of an idiot or idiots who somehow think it would be cool to splatter paint on a monument dedicated to one of our nation's greatest presidents. Perhaps we the people should demand that our leaders pair up with members across the aisle and take a day to visit the memorials (in the case of House Speaker John Boehner and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, we should probably force them to hold hands). Maybe Members of Congress could even help to clean off some of the green paint. But they should stand in awe of shoes they are expected to fill and of what they have been elected (and honored) to represent. They should be reminded at the war memorials of the sacrifices made for their partisan sound bites on Fox or CNN. They should be reminded that the weight of a great and noble history rests on their shoulders. And then they should convene and get back to work for a change, helping to form a more perfect union.



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“Many people who want a more stylish home hesitate to work with an interior decorator. They think it will cost too much or won't reflect their own taste—but they don't have to worry when they work with me,” observed decorator Gabriele Jones, of Gabilee Interior Decoration, LLC.

“First of all,” she said, “It's not about me but about clients. ‘I develop an understanding of their goals, tastes and budget. Then,’ she continued, “we look at what the client already owns to decide if it can be incorporated into the new decor. It saves money and helps produce a result that reflects clients' personalities.”

Gabi, who has decorated homes in Germany, Florida, Virginia and Massachusetts, offers a full range of services for projects of all sizes. She also manages home improvement projects—assisting clients with negotiating contracts and supervising contractors.

A native of Germany and naturalized U.S. citizen, she has lived and traveled widely in Europe, the Mediterranean and the U.S., where she's lived since 1997.

Gabi is a hit with clients. “...Our house really makes a good impression... It's really good having someone who knows what she's doing,” Steve and Olga Thompson said.

“[She] is a dedicated professional...who does an awesome job...I recommend her highly,” said Debbie Brew of Dover Fl.

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“People often move here and think they should buy special windows or shutters for hurricane protection,” observed Florida native Arthur DeAngelis, who owns Design One Garage Doors in Ruskin.

“Yet, he warned, “80% of the structural damage to a home in a windstorm begins with the loss of a garage door.”

Bracing an older door by backing a car up to it is not effective. “It's a mistake,” DeAngelis said. “In a severe storm, they'll just end up with a garage door wrapped around the back of their car.”

After-market products for reinforcing older doors don't offer the protection of a new, code-approved wind-resistant garage door. It gives peace of mind, increases security and adds value to a home.

A new door may be cheaper than repairing or reinforcing an old one, near the end of its useful life—typically 10-15 years, DeAngelis said. A licensed Garage Door Contractor, the firm always files for building permits and has every new garage door inspected by the County.

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According to Crofton, who has decades of experience with the material, failure generally comes without warning and can be catastrophic—particularly if it occurs when no one is home.

“Damage can occur quickly,” the second-generation plumber explained, “Repairs can cost almost as much as a new house.”

With failure a virtual certainty, it's wise to re-pipe as soon as possible to avoid costly damage.

Starting this fall, insurance companies will not renew policies for homes piped with the material. If denied coverage, homeowners will need their homes re-piped by a licensed plumber within 30 days.

It's not always easy to know if one has gray pipes. They may be hidden in the structure. Good visible parts could connect to unseen gray pipes. Even in re-piped houses some polybutylene may remain in difficult-to-replace runs.

Homeowners of re-piped homes who are facing insurance or pre-sale inspections should know that if inactive gray pipe was left in the structure they might need it removed to pass inspection.

Re-piping typically takes 3-4 days. The firm inspects for presence of gray pipe and offers free estimate of replacement costs.

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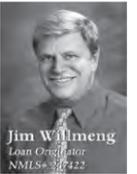
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Fish Tales: Fish for fun and food

This past week proves the point that I have been writing about for years — we are the fishing capital of the world.

Although the weather has changed some fishing habits, many have worked with fishing in the mornings before the afternoon rains.

I saw so many different species of fish this week. There was not a boat that came ashore without a catch.

The anglers who know our waterways came in with a vast variety of fish, others just dropped a line and made a catch. There were a lot of hungry fish out there. So everyone was using a different bait: frozen, live, and artificial.

Some anglers told me they caught a lot of saltwater catfish, and had lots of fun thinking they had a monster of a fish fighting, jumping and jerking on the line.

Redfish even though still restricted to one per person per day seemed to be the most popular catch this week. It is considered a game fish, and will give you a workout before you make the catch. This fish has a round black spot about the size of a half dollar at the base of its tail. Average size is 8 pounds. Legal is not less than 18 inches or more than 27 inches. A good table fare, it is most often baked.

If you are one that doesn't have the patience to sit on the dock of the bay and wait for a fish to bite, I suggest you learn to throw

a cast net. Watch the water, learn to know when a school of mullet are churning by and throw your net in a complete circle over the school. As you pull up your net, if you covered the school, you will have enough fish to feed a crowd with one cast. Mullet can be found in the rivers, canals, and gulf waters. Mullet is often fried and served with hush puppies or cheese grits.

Perhaps you like to fish the grassy flats, where you will catch a variety of trout (sand, speckled, or silver). Trout have a soft mouth so be careful when setting the hook, or it will tear loose and you will lose your catch. All varieties are great dressed whole and fried with a light batter served with sliced lemons.

Tarpon are still jumping and soaring in the air. You need a special tag on your license to land one of these giants. Not a good edible fish. Release after you snap a 'bragging rights' photo of your catch. Most often the taxidermist can make you a replica of your fish from your photo.

A fun fish to catch is the ladyfish. It will give you a fighting workout before the catch. Often called a big eyed herring, or flip flap its average weight is 2 pounds. Food value is poor, so catch and release.

I saw such a variety of catches from tripletail, flounder, and sheepshead, to black tip shark this week that substantiates our claim to the fishing capital of the world.

Remember: Don't be a couch potato, go fishing.



By Jonie Maschek
Member: Florida Outdoor Writers Association

MOSI kicks off Shark Week

MOSI kicks off Shark Week with a big chomp on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The celebration will continue throughout the week with the first 50 people of each day, Aug. 3-9, receiving free MOSI admission when they buy a ticket to Sea Monsters Revealed.

On Saturday, Aug. 3 and throughout the week, guests will be able to view real shark dissections in MOSI's grand lobby.

Additionally, Dr. Daniel Huber, shark expert, consultant for Dis-

covery Channel, and University of Tampa professor, will be at MOSI to speak about some of the myths and mysteries associated with these fascinating creatures.

Guests will be able to view the night sky over some of the world's most active great white shark feeding grounds inside The Saunders Planetarium, and build their own Lego® sharks inside MOSI's inventor's studio, Idea Zone.

For an additional fee, guests can experience Sea Monsters Revealed, where they will see not

only the outside, but also the inside of the most elusive aquatic life ever discovered, including a 15-foot-long mako shark, a pregnant silky shark, and an 18-foot-long, 3,000-pound whale shark.

The Shark Week celebration is included with MOSI admission and is free for members. Tickets for Sea Monsters Revealed are \$18.95 for adults, \$16.95 for seniors (60+) and \$12.95 for children (2-12).

For more information, visit mosi.org.

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PACE has been selected by Edna McConnell Clark Foundation (EMCF) for a three-year investment of \$3.5 million, consisting of funding from EMCF and the federal Social Innovation Fund (SIF).

The statewide PACE Center for Girls organization was chosen in an open, national competition that drew nearly 200 applications from leading nonprofits across the country.

PACE Center for Girls will utilize this investment to provide more services to more girls in Florida and conduct a rigorous study of the PACE model's effectiveness and cost benefit over a long period of time. With this study, PACE will be the only gender responsive program in the country with proven results.

The local PACE Center for Girls is headquartered at 1933 E. Hillsborough Ave., Suite 300, in Tampa. Its phone number is 813-739-0410.

For more information on PACE Center for Girls, visit www.pacecenter.org.

Letter to the Editor

Don't starve the poor

Dear Editor,

Earlier this month the U.S. House of Representatives, on a party-line vote, broke with tradition by stripping from the farm bill the Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps). What's left in the bill is billions of dollars of subsidies mostly for farming conglomerates. The U.S. Senate passed a much more balanced bill last month. The farm bill sets U.S. agricultural, food, and resource conservation policy for the next five years.

Over the past 18 years, our government has doled out an average of \$7 billion per year of taxpayer funds to support the livestock and dairy industries. Instead, their products should be taxed to reimburse state and federal governments for the uncounted billions in increased medical costs and lost productivity associated with their consumption. Conversely, a sound national nutrition program based on vegetables, whole grains, legumes, fruits, and nuts can save additional billions in reduced social costs.

I am all in favor of reducing our national deficit, government waste, and medical costs. But that's not gonna happen by taking nutritious food from the mouths of 47 million of our society's least privileged members.

Rex Cover
Ruskin

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.

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Area Obituaries

Charles Cathcart

Charles Cathcart, 96, of Sun City Center passed away July 24, 2013. He is survived by sons Larry and Norman, daughter Rosemary Cathcart, loving family and many friends. Arrangements by Zipperer's Funeral Home.



Alvin Windham

Alvin (AC) Windham, 80, went home to the Lord on July 13, 2013, along with his pet Charlie Bear. Services were held on July 17, 2013.

He is survived by son Doug Windham; daughters Tammy Tindall, Linda Blair, Ann DeHaan, and Mary Myers; 11 grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

His love, hugs and sense of humor will be missed by all.

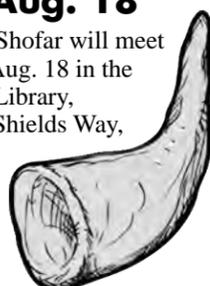
Remembering Art Lucchesi



My dear Art, you would have been 80 years old this August 1. You are missed and loved. The 27th of August will mark your one year anniversary. Your singing, love of music and people, your charming, youthful smile and ready humor — we miss you and your stories, especially "Next!" You managed to make us laugh even at some of your disappointments. We enjoyed your company and thank you for loving us and making us feel loved. Most of all, thank you for sharing your faith in God with us. We thank you. And we thank You, dear God, for Art being a part of our lives.

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.



Local residents invited to meet at the Sunshine Café in Sun City Center

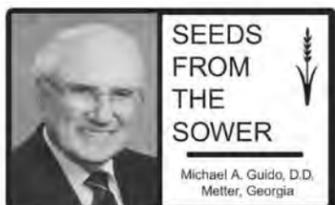
Members and guests of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church will gather at the Sunshine Café at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 3, to have fun by meeting new people. The Sunshine Café is located near Home Depot on SCC Boulevard.

The purpose of the get-together is for parishioners to meet new members, those they don't already know, and guests. Singles and couples are asked to sit at tables for four or six with someone they haven't met.

After an opening prayer, everyone orders off the menu (and later pays for his or her own meal), after which conversations ensue. A different church member acts as host or hostess for each breakfast.

If you would like to attend this get-together, call the church secretary at 813-634-1252 to make a reservation so a seat will be saved for you.

Recent attendees must have really enjoyed themselves, because the size of the group keeps growing. St. Andrew Presbyterian is located at 1239 Del Webb Blvd. West in Sun City Center.



Are you a fan, or a follower?

Are you a fan of Jesus Christ?

The Men's Ministry at South Bay Church in Riverview will begin their study of the popular book *Not a Fan* by Kyle

Idleman beginning Tuesday, Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. Join them weekly as they take a deeper look at what it means to be a completely, committed, follower of Jesus.

This group, known as the 3 o'clock Men, is open to all men in the community and meets every Tuesday night at 7 p.m.

Luke 9:23 says "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Call the church office for more information at 677-0721.

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

Visit us at: SowerMinistries.org.

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Rev. Richard Nussel and All Year..... 10:45 a.m. 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. call 645-6198
Phone: 645-1241 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.

Friendship Baptist Church

Rance Good, 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

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www.popcc.org
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Saturday Vigil..... 4:00 p.m.
Daily 8:00 a.m.
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Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday (all ages) 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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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.

VBS offered at Northside Baptist

Northside Baptist Church in Ruskin will hold its Vacation Bible School program from 6 to 8:30 p.m. the week of Aug. 5. This adventure is packed with Bible teaching, exciting music, crafts, games and snacks. From children who have completed kindergarten up to adults, all are invited to join in the excitement. Register online at northsideruskin.com. For more information, call the church office at 813-645-1121.

St. Vincent de Paul offers assistance program

The St. Vincent de Paul Society offers assistance to those in the community who have fallen on difficult times. Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. until noon at Prince of Peace Catholic Church, members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society are on hand to help those who are in need of financial assistance. All information is kept confidential. For more information, call 813-385-6110. Prince of Peace Catholic Church is located at 702 Valley Forge Blvd. in Sun City Center.



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.

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— Mrs. Middleton, 4th grade teacher



Friendship Baptist welcomes new members
Jane and David Hanson, shown flanking Pastor Rance Goad, are new members of Friendship Baptist Church in Sun City Center. Other new members include Cherly and Feely Wingate, and Wyma Perry.



Summer cinema at United Community Church

One hundred twenty-seven people enjoyed the movie *Lincoln* at UCC last week. Before the movie, Patti Andrews, center, got some freshly popped popcorn from Karl Buffington and Pat Czeck, right. The popcorn machine was given to the Fun Brigade by a church member, and it adds enjoyment to the movies. UCC hosts movies at 1 p.m. each Thursday in August at the church, 1501 La Jolla Ave. in SCC. There is no charge to see the movie and all are welcome.



Trinity Baptist group oversees missionaries

The missions committee at Trinity Baptist Church oversees the nearly 30 missionaries that are supported. Committee members coordinate communications between the missionaries and the congregation. From left are Dave Green, Gerry Cook, Betty James, and Frank Blasczak, who serves as chairman. For more information on the church, call 813-634-4228.

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.

On the road again... (or, How not to waste your precious time)

► Continued from page 15

this case "paved" was used in its broadest sense.

Following a BLM directional sign, we turned off the main road. After bouncing along the "paved" road for many miles without seeing another directional sign we gave up. Having wasted the afternoon on this useless venture, we headed back to our hotel more than 50 miles away in Blanding.

Next day we headed for the East Entrance to the Valley of the Gods. Driving US-163 at 70 mph, we passed the almost invisible sign to the unpaved entrance road to the Valley without seeing it. Eventually we realized our mistake and doubled back. The 17-mile loop road around the named monoliths is graded gravel and clay accessible only in dry weather. Taking this

road into the park for about four miles was more than enough in my new car. I made a U-turn and left, telling my wife that the following day in Monument Park, in the neighboring state of Arizona, would make up for this unfortunate experience.

We did our homework but were blind-sided by the Bureau of Land Management's printed brochures. My recommendation is to by-pass this "attraction" and stick with Monument Valley. It is easier to reach, has optional modes of transportation through the park and is much more majestic than the Valley of the Gods. Monument Valley is on Navajo land. They control and manage the attraction. Golden Age Passports are not accepted and there is a nominal fee per person.

Another grievous lack of proper information postulated by the BLM is their description of the degree of difficulty of hikes. They are obviously meant for someone in peak physical condition, used to high altitudes and rough terrain. Easy, Moderate and Strenuous labels applied by the Bureau to the hikes to them means something quite different to Flatlanders from Florida struggling to negotiate uneven paths at 5,000 to 9,000 feet above sea level.

Now, what is the lesson to be learned from our experience? Do your homework. If you are on vacation you usually don't have a lot of time to waste. And, unless you are an off-the-road person with a bent for visiting historic markers, out-of-the-way ruins or piles of stones, stick to the popular attractions close to the

main roads. There is a reason for their popularity.

There was a highlight for us during this early part of our long road trip. It was stopping in Bluff Fort, UT and visiting the re-created historic Mormon Village and meeting the wonderful, warm, friendly volunteers keeping alive the history of the hardships faced by some of the early settlers of this area. In comparison, the major hardship today's travelers face is finding a hot spot for computers and phones.

Travel Hints:

- (1) The back roads of New Mexico, Utah and Arizona are more suited to 4WD vehicles. You will not be happy or comfortable on the unpaved roads in your family sedan or RV.
- (2) If you will be spending time touring Utah and like a beer, wine or something stronger with dinner, bring your own supply.



Sand Island petroglyphs near Bluff, Utah. The rock art panels are extensive and represents images from 800 to 2500 years old.



► Continued from page 17

bucketful of tiny potatoes. Some years, I have sprayed the leaves with round-up, but that only slowed down the vines, while not killing the underground potatoes. I hired a professional who sprayed with Garlon, but again it only slowed the growth. Another year, I hired a neighbor boy to dig up the potatoes at \$10 an hour. I gave him a slender spade and a bucket and showed him how to follow the stem of the vine down 3 to 4 inches to find the potato (anywhere from pea size to an inch across; they get much bigger if allowed to grow several years). He worked for \$20 and never came back.

Dutchman's pipe has value because it is the larval plant for the gold-rim swallowtail, and though exotic, it is also Florida friendly, which means not invasive in such a way that crowds out the native plants. Air potato, from Africa and southeast Asia, is so invasive that if it gets into the trees, the aerial tubers grow bigger and more profuse and drop into the ground starting a new host of vines that can cover a massive area, actually changing the natural environment while adding no value at all. My aching legs and back-breaking work testify to the wicked heart of air potato.

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



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Correction

In last week's article, "TGH to open two outpatient clinics in South County," the official name of the tan, not pink, building is "The Center Plaza Building." Also parking will not be shared with the Post Office. Parking for the Center Plaza Building is for their tenants and patrons only. Post Office patrons will continue to use the designated Post Office parking areas.

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MERCHANDISE 300

310 GARAGE/YARD SALES

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

Plant sale: 8/3, 8 a.m. Crepe Myrtles, Mexican petunias, others. Come early for best selection. 716 Desert Hills Way, SCC.

Moving/estate sale. Living room couch, chairs, Stiffel lamps, Heritage cocktail & end tables, household items, framed pictures, bar stools, costume jewelry & more. Saturday Aug. 3, 9am-2pm. 6602 Seabird Way, Cobia Cay, Apollo Beach.

Large & small appliances, books, miscellaneous, kitchen & other items. Dinette set. Bedroom suite. Friday & Saturday, 8-4, 1204 Peridot Lane, SCC.

Liquidation sale: 1107 Kingfish Place Dolphin Cove plus on Craig's List, Friday-Sunday 2nd to the 4th, 10-?

1208 Neptune Dr. Gulf City Rd. U.S. 41. (Ruskin), July 30- Aug. 6. Everything must go! Tables, glassware, paintings, Christmas items, furniture, fridge, antique sewing machines, 50 -piece stoneware valley pottery.

Moving sale: Furniture, housewares, 2523 Scuttlebutt, Chulavista Park, Gulf City Rd, Ruskin. Fri & Sat, Aug. 2-3, 8-12. No early birds please.

Garage sale: Friday & Saturday, 8-4, 1018 Spindle Palm Way. Tools, fishing equipment, clothes, misc.

Ruskin United Methodist Church THRIFT STORE
• Household Items
• Furniture
• Clothing
• Much, much more
Open Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
109 W. Shell Point Road • Ruskin

310 GARAGE/YARD SALES



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Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Antique & Period Furniture

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Quality Twin, Full, & Queen Sizes

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1311 3rd St. NE • Ruskin

Behind St. Anne Church and next to Kennco Mfg.

312 ESTATE SALES

Summer Clearance Sale
Furniture & accessories. The Perfect Piece. Quality used furniture. 2406 College Ave. E., Ruskin. 813-645-1800

Above the Rest Winner of 2 Gold Awards

Come in and see why. Table lamps & all pictures 20% off. Teacups \$5/set. Friday 8/2 and Saturday 8/3 only. 139 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. SCC. 813-633-5013

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Let us get done in one day what it takes the other guys a week to do. We will pack-up and pick-up one room or the entire house for a QUICK, PROFITABLE, TROUBLE-FREE EXPERIENCE.

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312 ESTATE SALES

J & P Thrift Shop

93 7th Ave. NE • Ruskin

Old Clark's Furniture bldg.

Now accepting major credit cards

Tues thru Sat • 10 am - 6 pm

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8 x 10 cook's shed w/warranty, genuine strands of pearls w/ certificate of auth., pottery kiln, Avon collectibles, large wrought-iron wine rack, vintage cameras, display cases, clothing racks, paint ball gun, vintage gate-leg table, various pocket knives, lots of glassware & household items, tools and much more.

AAA Furniture

New & Gently Used Furniture

BUY & SELL Daily Trips to SCC

Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Riverview's Best Kept Secret

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(813) 677-8180

BEVERLY'S ESTATE SALES Sun City Center

Aug. 2nd & 3rd 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

1522 Faxton Drive
(off Del Webb W or Pebble Beach N to Bentwood to Meadowlark to Faxton)
Do not park on side of street with cones. Thank you.

Sony 40", LG 46" flatscreen TV, refrigerator, bottom freezer, 2 recliners, La-Z-Boy twin-size sleep sofa, honey-colored square table, 2 leaves, 6 castor caneback chairs, server & china cabinet. Dark formal dining table, 4 chairs, country white and honey kitchen table, 4 chairs, sm. & std. size computer desk, coffee & end table, Ikea king bed, dresser chest & nightstand, queen mattress & headboard, king Sleep Number mattress, sewing machine in cabinet, desk chairs, Sony stereo equipment, lamps, linens, kitchen, grill, patio furniture, NordicTrack Commercial (under warranty), clothes, men & women, large, sm. cedar chest, bowed. Psaltery musical instrument.
508-0307 or 633-1173

312 ESTATE SALES

Anne's Estate Sales

1811 Burlington Circle Sun City Center

• PARK ON DEL WEBB WEST •

Aug. 2 & 3 • 7 am-noon
(813) 758-7952 (813) 758-7954

2002 Golf Cart

Dodge NASCAR special

Furniture: Norwalk sofa & matching loveseat, Queen bed, recliners, King bdrm suite, Sorrento dining rm suite w/ server, desk w/chair, cedar chest, sofa, swivel rockers, library cabinet, patio furn. ; **Musical:** Cable-Nelson player piano w/rolls, like new; **Appliances:** Refrigerator, microwave; **Jewelry:** Costume & vintage, gold, sterling, opal, Vera Bradley purses; **Tools:** Lots of hand tools, large Craftsman power tools, 12" bandsaw, drill press, router w/table, table saw, workbenches, bench sander, bench grinder, vises, DeWalt chop saw; **Misc.:** Extension & step ladders, shop fan, fishing equipment, garage cabinets, lots of live plants, household, kitchen & misc.
www.AnnesEstateSales.blogspot.com

NETTIE'S ESTATE SALES

Cell: (813) 382-7536

2107 West View Dr. Sun City Center
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
Aug. 2nd & 3rd
7 a.m. - NOON

Contents Include: Beautiful Conant Ball Dining Room Table w/Chairs, Matching China Cabinet, Leather Rocker/Recliners, Sleeper Sofa and Loveseat, Step End Tables, Coffee Table, Kitchen Table w/Two Chairs, Rocking Chair, Twin Brass Bed, Kroehler Bedroom Furniture, Conant Ball Bedroom Furniture, (2) Matching Twin Beds, Mitsubishi Stereo w/Speakers, Household Items, Home Décor, Glassware, Collectibles, Ladies Clothing, Kitchenware, Garage Items, Tools, and More.

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Fax: 813-645-1792 • Call Beverly for more info 645-3111 x201

East Coast Brokers & Packers, Inc. Chapter 11

BANKRUPTCY AUCTION

Lakeland, Plant City and Mulberry, Florida

- Residential home and lots
 - Luxury hotel
 - Commercial property
- Case No. 8:13-bk-2894-KRM



MurrayWiseAssociates.com **800.607.6888**

AUCTION DATE:
Friday, Aug. 16
3 p.m. EDT
AUCTION SITE:
The Lakeland Center,
Lakeland, FL 33815

In Cooperation with **Cresby Associates, Inc.**

Mary & Martha House

THRIFT STORE

1009 1st Street SW • Ruskin

Open Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m. - noon

WE HAVE FURNITURE, TOO!

Donation drop offs accepted
TUESDAY thru FRIDAY ONLY

All donations must be clean and in usable condition
All proceeds benefit the Mary & Martha House a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing emergency shelter and transitional housing for homeless and abused women and their children.

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650**

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After school care/ tutor. Experience & wisdom is offered by a semi-retired teacher. Reserve me for the upcoming school year (in your home). 860-713-9313

After school care/ tutor. Experience & wisdom is offered by a semi-retired teacher. Reserve me for the upcoming school year (in your home). 860-713-9313

**SERVICES
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Hauling/ moving. Anything you don't need, unwanted items or move to your new home. Appliances, furniture, trash yard debris, construction junk. No job too small. Licensed/ Insured. Free estimate. Dave 813-447-6123

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Dawn's Crystal Cleaning

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720 HOME MAINTENANCE

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Chapter 11**

BANKRUPTCY AUCTION

Martin, Manatee, Hillsborough and Polk Counties, Florida

- 7, 377± Total acres offered in 17 tracts
- 3,730± Tillable acres
- Produce packing facilities
- Labor housing
- Commercial lots

MURRAY WISE ASSOCIATES LLC

MurrayWiseAssociates.com

800.607.6888

Case No. 8:13-bk-2894-KRM

AUCTION DATE:
Thurs., Aug. 15
10 a.m. EDT
AUCTION SITE:
The Lakeland Center,
Lakeland, FL 33815
OPEN HOUSE:
July 30 • 10 a.m. to noon
Courtyard Marriott, Lakeland, FL 33803

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Shopper Observer

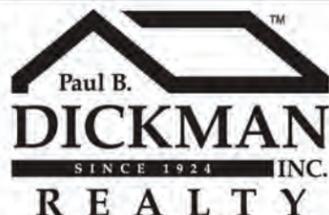
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FABULOUS HOME in SUN CITY CENTER!! Newly updated home with new appliances, laminate floors and plenty of storage. Large walk-in closets with this 2BR/2BA split bedroom plan home. New tile roof with transferable warranty. Great location. 2-car garage with extra attic storage. Golf cart shopping a breeze! A must see! **\$159,000 CALL LINDA BADGEROW 695-5515**

RENTALS IN RUSKIN! 3BR/2.5BA townhouse with one-car garage. Water and basic cable are included in the rent. \$1100 per month with a one-year lease. 3BR/2BA condo on 1st floor with a nice open floor plan and screened lanai. Water & basic cable are included in the rent. \$950 per month. Fully furnished **BAYFRONT CONDO** with awesome views of Tampa Bay. \$1400 per month. **CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 813-748-2201**

LOVELY ALMOST NEW HOME in CYPRESS CREEK! 3BR/2BA split plan, bright open dining-living area, cathedral ceilings, kitchen w/ granite countertops & stainless steel appliances, 2-car attached garage. Beautifully maintained and move-in ready! **\$134,900 CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

PERFECT LOCATION FOR A HOME AND BUSINESS! 1/2 acre lot property a block from U.S. 301 in Riverview. House is a 2BR+Den/1BA with great room, kitchen, inside utility room and carport, security system in home. Detached 14x28 storage building with electric. Zoned PD. **\$159,900 CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

GREAT COMMERCIAL BUILDING, APOLLO BEACH! One block to Hwy 41. 3800 sq ft on 1/2 acre lot. Property has 3 entrances from both front and back, 3 restrooms, plenty of parking. Zoned CG, can accommodate a large business or 3 separate businesses! Beauty salon, professional services, pet care? Newer CHA and roof, new drywall, fresh paint. **\$299,000 CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

BEAUTIFUL CANAL FRONT LOT with direct access to Tampa Bay's best fishing! Has newer dock, boat ramp, all utilities are in place including sewer! Zoned PD-H. Bring your house plans or invest in a duplex! **\$110,000 CALL CLAIRE TORT 363-7250**

BUSY OR QUIET !! Your choice This 2BR/1BA in a gated community with screened porch, carport and storage. **JUST \$39,000 CALL LINDA BADGEROW 695-5515**

NO CDD BUT PLENTY OF AMENITIES IN SOUTH POINT. Very nice 3BR/2BA home with great layout is located near pool, playground, recreation and close to anything you might need or want. Formal living and dining rooms, eat-in kitchen, family room, enclosed porch, pavers and grassy play area. Fenced yard with fountain. Must see at **\$175,000 JUDY ERICKSON 468-0288**

BAHIA-RIFIC! Spectacular bayfront condo at lower level on end. 2BR/2BA, balcony with both glass and screen doors, new carpet, some updating. Beautiful views by day or by night, near pool, restaurant. **\$190,000 JUDY ERICKSON 468-0288**

PRICE REDUCTION!! Peace and quiet in country setting. 3BR/2BA doublewide, almost completely furnished. Many upgrades, new A/C, New electric service, workshop, large corner lot with lots of space for kids to romp and play. 1344 SQ. FT., 1978 Bring the whole family. Cash talks! Not many look this good. **Just \$69,000 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672**

VALRICO BEAUTY! Awesome location on a cul-de-sac with a park-like yard! This spacious 4BR/3BA home has been meticulously maintained and is loaded with special features including: an almost new 26 x 33 screened lanai with a ceramic tile floor overlooking a very large and private, fenced yard and pond, oak hardwood floors, security system, almost new roof & AC and much more! **CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK \$269,000**

NEW LISTINGS!! 3BR/2BA with an attached 2 car garage and built in 2010. Great Location - Close to Hwy 41 and only 3 miles from I-75! This home is located in a non-deed restricted neighborhood with no HOA or CDD fees. Special features include: ceramic tile throughout, granite counter tops, coffered ceilings in master bedroom with walk-in closet, nice open floor plan and an attached 2-car garage. There are four homes available! **\$134,900 CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 813-748-2201**

IF PEACE AND QUIET are a requisite then this may be your lucky day. Mobile home on 2.7 acres. 30 x 40 pole barn and oak trees for shade. Sold "as is" so some TLC is required. Possible owner financing. **\$55,000. KAY PYE 361-3672 OR ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

NEW LISTING! SHORT SALE! 4BR/2BA home on an huge 1 acre lot with fenced backyard. Split bedroom plan, eating space in kitchen, with master suite which has large closets and double closets. Needs some TLC. **CALL 813-645-3211. \$99,000**

4.7 ACRES MOL WITH COUNTY WATER AND SEWER AVAILABLE AT THE CURB. GREAT LOCATION. This property is currently zoned for 15 single family homes. It can be yours for **\$134,900**. Check it out and then **CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 OR ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**.

RUN YOUR BUSINESS from this 3/2 home on busy State Road 674. 300 feet frontage. 2.1 acres (MOL) Value is in the land. A good opportunity for a good investment. It can only get better. **\$799,000 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672**

IMPRESSIVE OFFICE SPACE which is move-in ready. Top of the line custom-built showcases with mahogany wood trim. All shelving is Lego style and not attached to floor. Loads of storage, track lighting, and small kitchen with sink and refrigerator. Digital cameras for security, handicap bath and pull-down screens over the front door. Must really see to appreciate. **\$224,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 OR ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

WATERFRONT WITHOUT HIGH TAXES. This duplex lot is across the street from a public boat ramp and a park. County water & 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 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672**

FISH TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT on this 1.6 acre corner lot on Blue Heron Lake. Subdivision 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 & watch birds and wildlife play in every direction. 274 ft. frontage. Live the good life for just **\$82,500 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672**

WATERFRONT LOT! Peaceful and quiet country atmosphere and perfect location for a still home. Small canal leads to Bay. Can be yours for just **\$29,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672**

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**EMPLOYMENT
800**

870 GENERAL

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Needed Experienced

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Give your baby a loving, financially secure family. Living expenses paid. Call Attorney Charlotte Danciu 28 years experience. 1-800-395-5449 www.adoption-surrogacy.com ; FL Bar # 307084

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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.

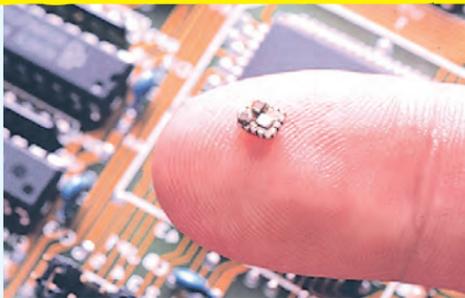
If you think you may have hearing loss, the most important first step is to have your hearing tested. Your results will identify which frequencies or pitches you do or do not hear and, if you do have a hearing loss, getting help has never been easier and with today's advanced technology - you will get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

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