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The power of lightning hits home



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

A fireball ball builds above a condominium complex in Sarasota, similar but on a much larger scale than the fireball that reportedly built at the top of the mast of my sailboat. Buildings are generally designed to handle a lightning strike. My boat and I weren't so lucky. But things certainly could have been worse.

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

On any given night, South Hillsborough could not generally be considered a hotbed of activity and 10 p.m. on a Thursday in the emergency room was no exception. I didn't want to go but was finally convinced to do so. I told the intake nurse that I wanted to be certain that my presence wouldn't get in the way of a real emergency. "We have 17 people on staff and only three patients right now," she said.

From the deck of my sailboat securely tied to its slip at the Village Marina in Ruskin, I watched the dark clouds form on the horizon. I checked the live radar on my iPhone and saw what appeared to be a typical summer thunderstorm approaching — a narrow band of red indicating a short punch of heavy weather followed by some light rain. I went below and didn't think anything of it until the first gust of wind hit — so hard that I thought the boat had broken loose. I watched the storm out of a porthole and was amazed at the power of it with driving rain and more lightning than I had ever seen in my life. And given the Tampa Bay area's reputation as the lightning capital of the world, that is saying something.

I was so amazed by the storm that I cracked open the boat's companionway and stuck my

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Horsin' around

Riverview trainer delights Sun City Center audience by showing off her animals' skills

By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

One Riverview horse lover took two of her trained favorites to Sun City Center Aug. 14 for residents of an assisted living and an Alzheimer's unit to jointly enjoy. About 30 did.

Despite the heat, most of the residents were filled with smiles as Cathy Moore and her troupe of helpers put Aces and Lucky through their paces, showing off their skills, in a program that lasted about an hour and a half.

Aces, a 21-year-old American Paint, is actually 66 in horse years, Moore explained. Still, Aces performed like a playful youngster for the men and women, many of whom had not been in an environment around animals for many years.

Frances Simmons, resident program coordinator for Brookdale, the company that owns the two facilities, Homewood and Clare Bridge Place (and also Freedom Plaza), said she thought the event would be a welcome addition to August's monthly theme, The Great Frontier.

"Brookdale has themed events throughout the year for the residents to enjoy," Simmons said. "When I heard about the horses, I thought many of our residents



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Cathy Moore, a retired stylist, works part-time at Homewood and Clare Bridge Place with full-time stylist Shelby Takala. On the days she does hair for residents, they often talk about Moore's trained horses and she thought it would be good for them to see.

would enjoy a presentation like this, and they did."

Moore, a retired hair stylist, works occasionally with her friend, Shelby Takala, who is the stylist at the facilities.

"You know how people talk when they're getting their hair done," Moore said in a telephone interview prior to the event. "When they found out I had trained horses, a lot of people said they would really like to see them."

She and her husband Byron are members of the Triple B Riding

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Designing the future South Shore, Hillsborough County

By Kevin Brady
kevin@observernews.net

South Shore, Sept. 4 2040: "Construction continues this week on adding a 10th lane to both sides of I-75 in an attempt to reduce the two-hour commute to Tampa Bay for workers who have flocked to the new 50-story apartment blocks going up in Gibsonton and Riverview. In other news, President Kim Kardashian and vice president Honey Boo Boo will be in Sun

City Center today promoting their new reality show, "I am the president, get me out of here."

While little can be done about a future "Kim-Boo" White House — like hurricanes or really bad gas, they are an unstoppable force — local planners hope they can do something about future development.

With 600,000 new residents (on top of the current 1.3 million) and, it's hoped, 400,000 new jobs coming to the county by 2040

the time is now to start planning, according to Melissa Zornitta, assistant executive director of the Hillsborough County Planning Commission.

"South County has the potential to accommodate additional growth," said Zornitta. "There are a lot of choices about how we grow."

Imagine 2040, a countywide survey of residents' attitudes and ideas for future growth, is about

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KEVIN BRADY PHOTO

More than 30 people turned out Aug. 20 for the first of a series of meetings hosted by the Hillsborough County Planning Commission to discuss the future growth of South County and Hillsborough County.

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Opinions sought on radio station before FCC's October deadline

■ By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

Carl McGary and his wife Cam never expected that Carl would be involved in starting a local radio station when they moved to Sun City Center 14 years ago.

Originally from Indiana and Pennsylvania, the couple traveled the country for five years in their motor home before choosing to move to Sun City Center.

Carl, a former educator, had no experience in public communications but the first friend he made in Sun City Center, John Bowker, had spent a lifetime in broadcasting.

From time to time, Bowker would mention his vision of starting a broadcast station for the

local retirement community.

"I've started a radio station in every town I've lived in," Bowker said. It became a hobby only after he had spent 38 years working in broadcast technology and on weekends as a fill-in on-air host for stations near Trenton, New Jersey.

"The Sun City Center station would be a low-power station. Just 100 watts. Think of it like a light bulb in your house," McGary said in an interview Aug. 20 while manning a table in the Atrium building of the Sun City Center Community Association complex along with John Price and Sam Sudman handing out materials related to the station to interested residents. "We want

to get resident opinion on this, whether good or bad," he said.

Price is on the committee researching the station and will be on the committee to run it if it becomes reality, while Sudman is on the Community Association board of directors and acts as liaison between the board and the radio group.

McGary is chairman of the group and Bowker the vice chair. "Preliminary plans call for a low-power station that would only transmit between U.S. 301 and Interstate 75, with its north-south boundaries the same distance because radio waves go in a circle," McGary said.

To give residents an idea of how that range compares to stations

they listen to now, McGary said he recently contacted a station on a mountaintop in Asheville, N.C. that broadcasts 36,000 watts and reaches seven states.

"The FCC is granting some licenses for small community stations and a private donor who wants to remain anonymous is giving the money to start up," McGary said.

Costs for start-up will run between \$2,500 and \$5,000, he said.

The station would not solicit advertising. Instead, it would be paid for by private donors and individual and business sponsors, much like National Public Broadcasting.

"We would operate with an all volunteer staff," he added.

Operating officers, a station manager, a director of programming and a director of engineering, on-air hosts, reporters, development persons, a visiting dignitary interviewer, and recordkeeping people and a receptionist will be needed; all unpaid.

Resident input is needed now to determine what programming they would like to hear, including music, news, sports, community and club happenings, and homeowner's association events.

The men manning the table and handing out flyers asked residents if they own an FM radio, or if they would buy one if the station gave them hyper-local news.

Most of the response so far has been positive, they said.

Although the Sun City Center Community Association would receive the license from the FCC, Kings Point news would also be covered, although Kings Pointers

would not have control over programming.

Once in operation, a Community Broadcasting Authority would be created, which would govern what is broadcast and when.

In order to comply with FCC regulations to be licensed, the station would have to have at least eight hours of continuous broadcasting daily, but eventual plans are for being on the air 24/7.

"A lot is now almost robotic, with automatic and digital news feeds available from the Internet," McGary explained. "But the best thing about the station would be its ability to warn residents of any danger, such as a hurricane. We also would like to cover town hall meetings and other events people need to hear but can't attend."

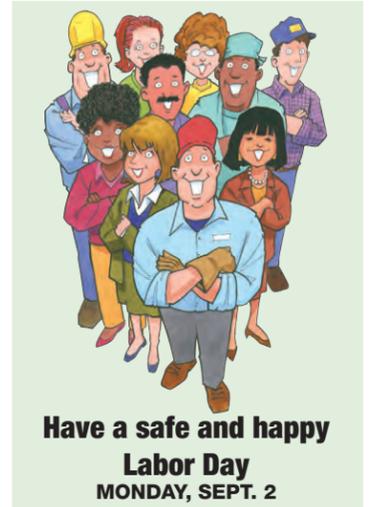
McGary and his group want the residents to make their opinions known soon because the FCC needs to know by the middle of October or they will lose their chance to obtain the license.

Interested persons may email McGary at hear13@mac.com.



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Sam Sudman, John Price, and Carl McGary hand out flyers and take opinion polls to see if there is enough interest in licensing a radio station for Sun City Center from the FCC.





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Lightning strikes

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phone out into the driving rain to take a photo. I sent the photo up to Facebook, mentioning that I had never seen so much lightning. It was near constant. Ten minutes later everything changed.

So far this year, 16 people have been killed by lightning strikes, including three in Florida. At least 181 people have been injured with four months left to go. In a normal year, an average of 54 people are killed across the nation. The National Weather Service strongly urges people to immediately go indoors to a substantial structure, or at a minimum to a car with a metal roof, avoiding contact with anything metal, when thunder is first heard and to remain there for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap. A lightning strike is a massive scale electrical discharge between the atmosphere and an earth-bound object, which could be a building, a tree, the mast of a sailboat, or a person. The bottom line is that when lightning is present, there is simply no safe place to be outdoors.

A lightning strike generally isn't

as simple as a bolt coming down from the sky. Current research indicates that what we think of as a strike is actually much more complex and could include up to 20 or more strikes that occur within milliseconds, fast enough to appear as a single incident. An electric chair used until fairly recently for executions can carry up to 2,000 volts and five amperes of current. A lightning strike, by contrast,

can carry tens of millions of volts, perhaps much more, and up to 200,000 amperes. That it is power that is lethal goes without saying. And it can strike from more than 10 miles away.

I don't know what made me get up from the computer I was working on at the boat's navigation station — a small desk laden with electronics and circuitry. But something did, and inexplicably I



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

My sailboat on a decidedly non-lightning prone day. Although the mast would appear to be an obvious lightning attractor, there is often little rhyme or reason with lightning, and a person standing on the dock could just as easily have been hit.

walked to the center of the boat, standing on the wood floor in the middle of the salon, touching nothing, watching mesmerized the storm that had clearly exploded well beyond the thin red line of heavy weather I had seen earlier on my phone's weather radar app.

And then within seconds I saw an incredibly bright flash and felt an enormous concussion, I imagined it was what a bomb blast would feel like. Although a few seconds might have been lost at that time, I realized that something had been hit hard by a lightning strike. Something nearby. I started towards the companionway to look out and smelled electronics burning. I opened the electrical locker beneath the navigation station I had previously been sitting at and smoke poured out, almost instantly filling the cabin of the boat. Within a few moments, there was no visibility; I could not see details six inches in front of my face but I could see the bright fire that was burning in the locker. I could see the smoke continuing to pour out.

Tourists staying in the condos next to the dock later told me that they saw a giant fireball form above my boat's mast, with small lightning bolts shooting out from that.

Due to the thick smoke I didn't have but fortunately didn't need visibility to find the fire extinguisher I had mounted for an emergency. I emptied it completely and still saw an orange glow from the battery charger through the thick smoke. Through the smoke I found a second extinguisher and the fire finally faded away. The area remained too hot to touch even hours later. The rain was still pouring down but at least 20 minutes had passed with me in a smoke-filled boat cabin so I opened up the boat for air.

People arrived on the dock, including a fireman (complete with a fire truck) and a sheriff's deputy. Someone said I was lucky to be alive. I didn't feel very lucky at the time. It took hours for the smoke to clear, leaving behind a mess of soot, fire extinguisher powder and fried electronics. I ensured the boat wasn't taking on water, disconnected all power and left it, damaged and completely offline.

Just a week or so ago, I was marveling at photos on a science website that showed vine-like "tattoos" left on some victims of lightning strikes. The photos were remarkable. A few hours after arriving home, I noticed my skin turning pink from my eyes down my face. I worried that it would turn black, leaving a permanent reminder of my close call — I would have preferred a vine-like tattoo. I also began to have trouble forming words and coherent sentences and a painful, wheezing cough began that ended in near-convulsions. Michelle wanted to take me to the hospital but since I was still breathing and upright I refused to go. Certainly they had real emergencies to deal with.

She called the fire department down the road and talked to a fireman about their experience with lightning strikes and smoke inhalation, describing my symptoms. He told her to immediately call 911. As the cough and incoherence seemed to get worse, I finally relented. I didn't want her to call 911 but would go to the emergency room if she drove.

Dr. Ervin Anthony and his staff at the hospital were wonderful. I was put into an ill-fitting gown, placed on a gurney and given



MICHELLE TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Me in the emergency room a few hours after the lightning strike and subsequent fire. Although lightning is responsible for an average of 54 deaths a year, many of the injuries result from the shock of the strike and frequent fires caused by strikes.

a battery of tests from an EKG to chest x-rays and a CAT scan, along with an IV port and oxygen. Fifteen minutes after being given oxygen, I noticed feeling much better. Three or four hours of it later, we left the emergency room with a diagnosis of carbon monoxide poisoning and with the knowledge that the strike itself caused no lasting physical damage. Three days later, I was feeling sore but much better.

The damage on the boat was extensive. Two expensive radios were fried beyond repair. Wiring in the electrical locker had blown out and some was badly burned. The central air conditioning system was non-functional and the boat's radar system and numerous smaller electronics were out of service as well. The hit was hard enough to cause light bulbs and LED lamps to literally explode. On the dock I found pieces of an antenna and other equipment that was formerly at the top of the boat's mast. My iPhone had turned into a glass and metal paperweight and a new laptop computer, that remained running throughout the incident, lost the ability to charge, both possible victims to the tremendous electromagnetic pulse that likely blew through the entire boat (and me) immediately following the strike. But it certainly could have been worse. No one died and the boat was still floating. I noticed that at least two fillings in my teeth had apparently been loosened from the strike or the following concussion and the self-winding watch I was wearing that normally dies after 20 hours of non-use ran continuously for four straight days.

I've always seen incredible beauty in lightning, and the opportunities for seeing it are nearly endless on the Gulf coast of Florida. I still see that beauty but now with a newfound respect for its sheer power and utter indifference to what or who it can strike. There is no safe place to be outside while lightning is in the area. The National Weather Service knows this and started a campaign to educate the public on the dangers of lightning. Since the beginning of that campaign, the average number of deaths nationally has dropped from 73 annually to 37 for the most recent years.

The person on the dock was right: I was lucky to be alive. I was fixed, the boat can be fixed and what I feared would be a permanent black reminder on my face has faded away. But my memory won't fade. For me, the reality of lightning has hit home.

For more information, visit www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov

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Smart growth: 3 local voices

■ By KEVIN BRADY
kevin@observernews.net

Anne Madden: Former member of the Planning Commission and Ruskin resident,



"I believe our government works best when we participate and this is a direct opportunity to participate in our future.

I think the concern that was raised about the timing of the next meeting on economic development needs to be brought forward but I heard the county representative saying they would address that.

As former member of the Planning Commission and someone who was involved in developing the community plan for South Shore I believe in the process. I don't always like it or agree with everything but it's important we are engaged in the process.

South County is not the only place (where development can occur). While people might see an open field, what they do not realize is that there have already been uses assigned to that property.

I have heard from day one with the community plan that we do not want to be like Brandon with suburbs and cul-de-sacs where no one can get anywhere. We want something different and better than that.

And we can do better here. If you just look at our roadways, it may not be obvious to people, but they are well planned out."

Alex McLeod: Vice President of Newland Homes, "All the stakeholders need to get together and come up with a really good community plan and develop something that meets everyone's needs through a holistic plan. We need to think about smart growth and building true sense of place and true community.



Let's not be Brandon.

Let's learn from things in the past when perhaps things did not grow the way they were supposed to. We need to develop best management practices to grow the way that will benefit everyone.

I think in the past there were not good forward-thinking community plans as people moved out from the city and into the countryside in Hillsborough County.

Any great city that has grown the right way has a good long-term community plan which looks to the future. Things can change along the way but they at least have these reference points along the way to refer to.

San Diego is a good example. With the long-term plan they had they were able to revitalize their downtown area and develop other areas that needed it in the city and develop a great community lifestyle."

Ed Barnes: President of the Sun City Center Community Association board of directors, "As president of Sun City Center, we developed a community plan that was approved by the county, one of the eight or nine community plans approved by Hillsborough.



I came here tonight because my concern was how would the new review happening here tonight impact that plan and it looks like there will be no impact on our plan. Eventually they will look at our plan but that will be much further down the line to see how ours interfaces

with the other plans.

We are a retirement community so have some transportation issues in our plan. We are not as concerned as much with jobs and jobs growth as other parts of the county might be.

We are certainly interested in economic development and we are certainly interested in transportation infrastructure. We have a lot of our people who are getting older in years and some can drive and some cannot so we are getting more and more in line on public transportation."

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Smart growth: South Shore

► Continued from page 1

starting that discussion of those choices now. An online survey, found at Planhillsborough.org, has already drawn more than 500 responses.

Future development "poses a number of challenges for our area but we are talking about the lives of our children and grandchildren here," Zornitta told an audience of 30 locals at ShoreShore Regional Library last week. The group, which is open to anyone with a serious interest in the future growth of South County, plans to meet monthly until next June to discuss different aspects of future development.

The meeting is one of several planned throughout the county aimed at coming up with ideas on everything from new roadways to preserving the area's cultural and historical resources and economic development.

And new ideas are needed, according to the Planning Commission, which is teaming up with the Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning Organization for Transportation to update the county's long range growth strategy.

While many areas, including

South Shore and Brandon, already have their own long-term community growth plans, Imagine 2040 will complement rather than supercede those plans, according to county officials.

South Shore's community growth plan was developed in 2003. The plan covers 384 square miles and is located south of Bloomingdale Avenue, east of Tampa Bay, north of the Manatee County line and west of Polk County. The monthly meetings at the SouthShore Library will seek to update this plan and, in the process, contribute to the county's overall strategy for growth. Individual community plans have also been adopted for Ruskin, Riverview, Apollo Beach, Gibsonton, Wimauma, Sun City Center, Little Manatee South and Balm.

"The individual community plans help us be more specific for each community's needs," Zornitta said.

And while each community has its own character and different needs, the big picture is that the area cannot continue growing the same way if it is to accommodate future growth, according to county officials.

Continuing with our current

suburban-style neighborhoods, the county only has room for 67,000 new homes or about one third of the expected growth. Today, the Bay area ranks sixth in traffic congestion and first in pedestrian fatality rates, according to Imagine 2040.

Among the different approaches discussed at the meeting were:

Suburban Dream: New homes and businesses spread out around the county.

Bustling Metro: Fill vacant lots and revitalize older areas around rapid transit stations.

New Corporate Centers: Business campuses and housing grow along interstate highways.

While each approach has pluses and minuses, the truth is the final outcome will be a mixture of several ideas, Zornitta said.

"No one of these scenarios is the right one. In the end we will likely come up with a hybrid of these. But the more input we get the better."

Planning Commission representatives are also available to talk to any large community or homeowners group in South Shore about Imagine 2040.

For information, call (813) 273-3774.

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Phoenix Group is featured in latest Art Club exhibit

A reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 4 will open the latest exhibition at the Sun City Center Art Gallery. This show will feature the artwork of the Phoenix Group and will continue through the months of September and October.

The Phoenix Group was formed following the disbanding of the Palleeters, an artist group that had been founded in SCC 35 years ago and whose members would meet monthly for a formal tea service and an educational presentation by one of the members.

The Phoenix Group, which consists of a number of professional artists of both the SCC and Kings Point communities, was founded in 1994 by artist John Crawford, who was instrumental in the creation of a wing of artistic learning at the SouthShore Regional Library.

Club members meet monthly to critique each other's work and discuss painting techniques, both new and old. Art club members who display an intense devotion to their art and involvement in Club activities are invited to become a part of the group, based on a vote-



Night Blooming Cactus by Virginia Laudano

to-admit by the Phoenix Group members.

The new exhibition will offer a diverse presentation of media, subject matter and painting techniques. All are invited to the free reception in the Art Room, and refreshments will be available.

The Gallery is open to visitors each Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Grand opening for locksmith, coins & collectibles, this Friday, Aug. 30

Bay Service Locksmith, a fixture in Ruskin for 22 years, has relocated to the storefront at 918 North Pebble Beach Blvd. in Sun City Center Plaza.

Sun City Center Coins & Collectibles will join Bay Service at the same location from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Thursday and Friday.

The official grand opening will be at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 30, with a ribbon cutting, refreshments, and giveaways.

Dance to the music on Sept. 1

On Sunday, Sept. 1, the Singles Social Dance Club will meet from 7 to 10 p.m. at Community Hall to dance to the music of Buddy Canova.

The cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers. BYOB and snacks; ice, water, cups and napkins will be provided. Proper dress is requested.

For more information, call Janet at 813-633-3558.

Tennessee Club to meet

The Tennessee Club meets at 10:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of every month at Denny's in Sun City Center.

For more information, call 813-633-5069 or 813-642-0466.

Freedom Frolics tickets go on sale

Tickets for Freedom Frolic's *Best Little Horse Town in Texas* will go on sale at Freedom Plaza on Monday, Sept. 2. Show dates are Sept. 16 for dress rehearsal, and September 17 and 18. Tickets are \$10 each. All proceeds benefit the Freedom Plaza Scholarship Fund.

Tickets are also available at the Atrium kiosk, or you may reserve tickets by check; send check to Freedom Plaza, Attn Debbie Frost, 1010 American Eagle Blvd., Sun City Center, 33573. Checks should be made out to: Freedom Plaza Scholarship Fund. Reserved tickets may be picked up at the "Will Call" table in the Atrium after 6:30 p.m. prior to all performances.

Doors open at 7 p.m. Curtain is 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Resident Programs office at 813-642-1213 or 642-1215.

Battle of the Bulge survivor to address MOWW

Harold Heil will be the guest speaker for the Military Officers of the World Wars luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at Freedom Plaza on Thursday, Sept. 19.

Harold joined the Army in January 1943 and trained as a combat engineer. In 1944 he went to England where he attended the Chemical Warfare School, learning to use flame throwers and Bangalore torpedoes as well as decontamination procedures for personnel and equipment. He then experienced 11 months of continuous combat and is a survivor of the Battle of the Bulge, which he will discuss at the MOWW luncheon.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$13 and reservations can be made by calling 813-633-6513; the deadline for reservations is 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 9.

For more information call Frank Kepley at 813-642-0801.



John Breaugh, left, chair of the Community Foundation Grants Committee, presents a check to CA President Ed Barnes.

Community Foundation presents a grant for Florida-friendly plantings

The Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center has awarded a \$5,500 grant to the Sun City Center Community Association in support of a pilot project undertaken with Hillsborough County. The project will convert two of the 31 medians on Pebble Beach Boulevard to Florida-friendly plantings.

Depending on the success of the

pilot project, the remaining medians may be converted over the next five years.

The action comes at a time when it is anticipated that Minto, the current developer, is nearing build-out and may be leaving Sun City Center in the next 2 - 3 years. At that time maintenance of the medians will be the responsibility of the Community Association.



SCC couple celebrate 60th anniversary

Mary and Dick Schultz, 20 year residents of Sun City Center, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 5, 2013. Mary is originally from St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada and Dick is from Brooklyn, NY. They met and were married in St. John's when Dick was working for the U.S. Air Force as a Philco Field Engineer in Newfoundland. Their daughter lives Oviedo, Fla., their son Rick is deceased. They spent time touring St. Augustine for their anniversary, then visited Mary's sister in Mississippi.

Upcoming events with SCC Metaphysical Society

►Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 10 a.m., Atrium's Sandpiper Room • "Samassati Colorlight Therapy"

Speakers Maria Antonietta Revello, of the Reiki Shrine of Tampa, and Jan van der Est, of the European Institute for Light Therapy, introduce COLORLIGHT, a form of energy medicine that pene-

trates the body's DNA and changes energy fields that are hard to address by other therapies. Open to SCC/KP residents and guests. Admission is a love offering. For information, call Holli at 813-419-4704.

►Thursday, Sept. 5 at 11 a.m., Kings Point North Clubhouse South Social Room.

Mike McGoldrick's Discussion Group on "Death and Dying" focuses on any facet of dying or preparing oneself and family for death. Open to SCC/KP residents and guests. Admission is free. For information, call Mike at 813-938-1252.

SCC Metaphysical Society offers various metaphysical presentations and events that deal with the exploration of reality and how this knowledge may benefit human life on earth, both individually and collectively - a Spiritual Philosophy of life.

For membership information, call Ludi at 813 -938-5686 or send e-mail to metaphysicalsociety@gmail.com.

AARP Safe Driver class is offered

Are you worried about the rising cost of auto insurance? Are you even more concerned about driving safely on today's crowded roads?

On Saturday, Sept. 14, Beggins Century 21 will sponsor the AARP Safe Driver course at its Apollo Beach office, 6542 US Hwy 41.

Call 813-645-8481 to make a reservation. Each class is 6 hours, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and requires a check payable to AARP.

Cost for members is \$12, non-members pay \$14. Call soon to reserve a place.



Hogans play A-Skins at Sandpiper

The Hogans Golf Club played A-Skins at Sandpiper Oakes-Lakes on Aug. 24. Above, from left: Bob Jacobs, Mike Brock, Hank Smythe, Ron Leombruno, First Place winner John Apostolou, and Mike McClintic.

Security Patrol group night set for Rays game

It will be out to the ballpark Saturday, Sept. 10 when the Sun City Center Security Patrol enjoys a group night at Tropicana Field to watch the Rays battle the Boston Red Sox.

The Patrol has obtained a special deal on baseline box tickets. They ordinarily sell for \$29, but will be available for \$20. In addition, \$5 of each ticket will be donated to the Patrol.

When the Rays beat the Red Sox and moved into first place in the American League East in late July, rivalry between the two

teams heated up, with fans posting a constant stream of messages on Twitter.

"It should be a great game, whether you're a Boston transplant sticking with the home team or someone who has adopted the Rays," said Chief of Patrol Bob Powers.

Anyone who is interested, not just Patrol members, may buy tickets. Deadline for ordering is Tuesday, Sept. 3. Call Barbara or Donna at 813-642-2020. Bus transportation to and from the game will also be available for \$15 per person.

Genealogy topic is 'From Cradle to Grave'

The Tuesday, Sept. 17 meeting of the South Bay Genealogical Society will feature Sharon Tate Moody, a noted professional genealogist, discussing how to research vital records; her presentation is entitled "From the Cradle to the Grave."

All lives are marked at three significant junctures: birth, marriage, and death. Thorough research in vital records, with all their treasures and flaws, is a standard and key part of genealogical research.

This meeting will be held in the Royal Palm Room of the Little Harbor Resort in Ruskin following a noon luncheon.

Lunch and the presentation are \$13. For reservations or more information, call Terri Cardoza at 813-633-5172.

The Society provides "Ask a Genealogist" assistance at SouthShore Regional Library on a scheduled basis, holds monthly program meetings, as well as workshops and seminars, to assist those tracing their family history. Membership is open to all South County residents who have an interest in genealogy.

Positive Talk: Keep your options open (Part Two)

In last week's column I wrote about being a possibility thinker and looking for ways to keep your options open for actions in the future. I pointed out that although we can enjoy thinking of the past in our quiet moments, we should be very careful to not let nostalgia get the best of us. I also wrote that stress was a great thief of options and that controlling stress through planning would restore



By William Hodges

options. Finally, I pointed out that a good self-analysis is necessary to continue to have options and that continued education would be necessary to take advantage of new options. Here are a few more ideas that will help you to keep your options open and help you recognize them when they appear.

- Know your hot buttons and the things that trigger your biases. Due to environment and early training, many of us have biases that cloud our thinking. It might be that we believe a people of a certain area, color or gender are less capable than other people. By allowing that button to be pushed, we might deprive ourselves of a new friend or a business ally. I grew up in a neighborhood in Canada that promoted the belief that one type of Canadian was inferior to another. This early training is still a hot button with me and I have to be on guard to fight off the prejudicial conditioning. Intellectually, I know now that the prejudice I learned as a child — as with most prejudices — was wrong. Emotionally, however, I still have to deal with it. To deal with emotions and keep your options open, keep your hot

buttons well insulated.

- Don't stay comfortable to the extreme. In my seminars I speak of "moving to" and "moving from" people. The "moving to" people always are on their way to somewhere else, and although they see lots of country, they rarely take time to enjoy where they are. On the other hand, there are the "moving from" people. These people will not move on until

the situation becomes so dire that they have no choice. Most of us have heard the story about the frog that, when put in a pot of tepid water, did not jump out of the pot when the temperature was slowly moved to the boiling point. Look around you and try to see what is really happening. You may be comfortable where you are, but are you on the edge of being boiled? Now may be the time to review your options for a quick jump to safety.

- I started my last column by talking about change and that it was one of the only constants in today's world. With change comes transitions and with transitions come options. Look around at the things that are just now changing in your life. What opportunities are there to do things in a different way if you start that new way now before the situation solidifies? Think of it as you would freshly poured cement. If you try to mark your initials in it too soon, you will find that it just smoothes back out. If you try to make your mark on it when it is too hard, no lasting impression can be made. However, in that short transition time between liquid and solid,

you can make a mark that lasts forever.

- Maintain your sense of humor and keep it with you at all times. It is amazing how your ability to laugh and see humor in things can affect your vision when it comes to seeing options. Laughter is a light that shines in the darkness and helps us to keep the things that happen to us in perspective. The ability to laugh at ourselves is probably one of the greatest ways that we can maintain perspective in an ever-changing world. It has been said, "Laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and you cry alone." One of the greatest ways to ensure yourself of options in the future is to surround yourself with people who can help you. Draw them to you with laughter.

These are several ways to ensure that you have options in the future. You now have the option to make them work for you.

Hodges is a nationally recognized speaker, trainer and syndicated columnist. He also hosts an interview-format television program, Spotlight on Government, on the Tampa Bay Community Network which airs Mondays at 8 p.m. (Bright House channel 950, Verizon channel 30) and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (BH channel 949, Verizon channel 36). The shows can also be viewed at www.hodgesvideos.com. Phone: 824-641-0816. Email: bill@billhodges.com Website: www.billhodges.com

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SHINE program seeks volunteers

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs, along with the West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging, is seeking volunteers to join the award-winning SHINE program that helps elders make informed decisions about Medicare, health insurance and prescription drug plans.

SHINE volunteers provide individual counseling and assistance to elders and their caregivers about Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare plan choices, long-term care planning and prescription discount drug programs. Volunteers may also make educational presentations to community groups and participate in local health fairs, senior fairs and other outreach and educational events.

If you are interested in becoming a SHINE volunteer, call the West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging at 813-740-3888, ext. 5593.

Labor Day weekend hours at Mary & Martha House

The Rose Boutique that supports Mary & Martha House will be closed on Saturday, Aug. 31. The Administrative office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2 for the Labor Day Holiday. Both stores will resume their regular store hours on Wednesday, Sept. 11.

The stores are open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. The Rose Boutique opens at 9 a.m.

Mary & Martha House, Inc. is a shelter for women and children in crisis, and supports emergency shelter as well as transitional housing in South Hillsborough County.

For more information on volunteering or to make a donation, call 813-645-7874.

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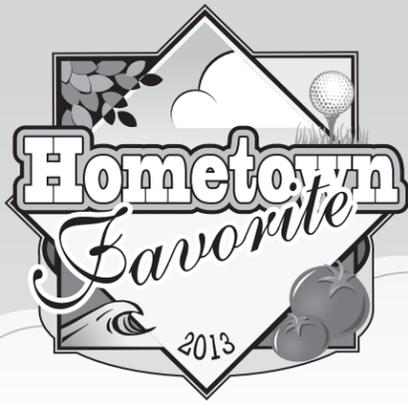
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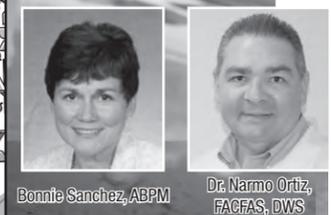
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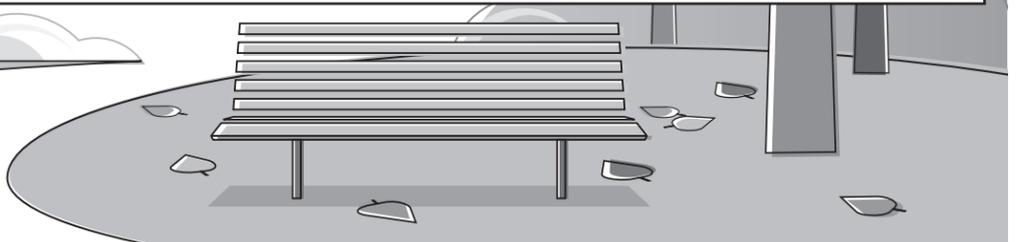
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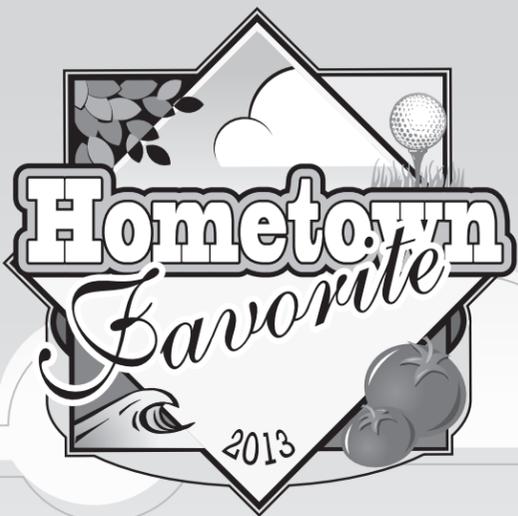
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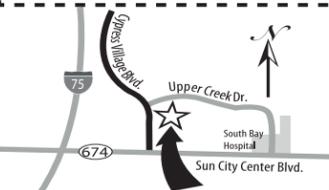


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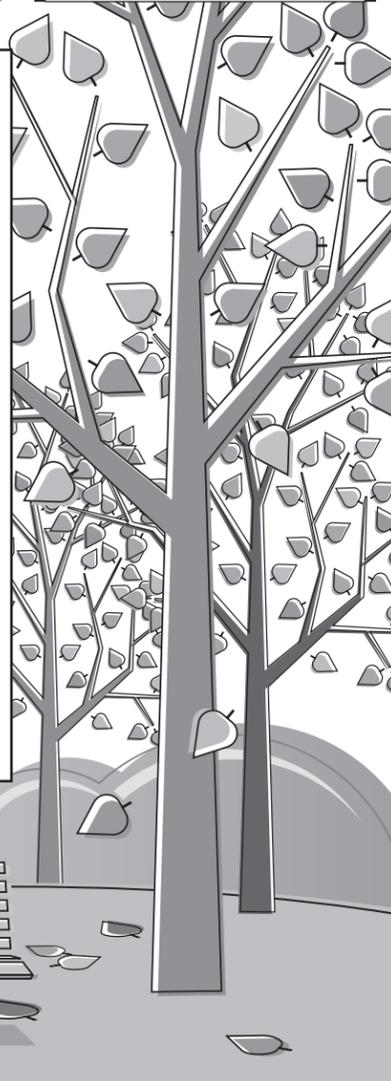
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FWC announces saltwater license-free fishing day

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission announced a saltwater license-free fishing day for Sunday, Sept. 1. On this day, Florida residents and visitors can experience Florida's unique saltwater fishing opportunities first hand without being required to have a recreational saltwater fishing license.

License-free fishing days, including freshwater days, were held earlier this year on April 13 and June 8 for freshwater and June 1 for saltwater.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will consider adding four additional license-free fishing days to the calendar at the Sept. 5 meeting in Pensacola. If approved, there will be two more saltwater and two more freshwater license-free fishing days before the end of 2013. All other regulations still apply.

An annual license for residents can be purchased at 1-888-FISH-Florida or at License.MyFWC.com. All fishing license fees are used to support Florida fish and wildlife conservation and help attain additional funding for Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration projects.

All bag limits, seasons and size restrictions apply on these dates. For fishing tips, locations and rules, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing.



New explorers trail awaits adventure seeking individuals

Uzita Trail is a Walk, Wade, Swim trail extending from mouth of Little Manatee River to Manatee County Line along western shoreline edge of Uzita Conservation Area in Hillsborough County.

This wilderness trail shows how it feels to walk in shoes of the first Native Americans who survived off the flora and fauna of Tampa Bay for some 700 years. Shell mounds dot islands left by Tocobaga Indian Tribes.

Only adventure seeking individuals should Walk, Wade, Swim this 12-mile unmarked, wilderness shoreline trail. The trail consists of sandy beaches, waist-deep muddy waters, and channels to swim. A kayak or canoe is needed to reach the start and finish points of the trail, and for carrying food, water, camera, fishing rods.

For more information, visit the following websites: www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/sites/cockroach; hillsboroughcounty.org/facilities/Facility/Details/7901; uzitashores.com; or email Gus Muench aybaychopgus@verizon.net.

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Fish Tales: Master the flounder fillet with practice

Fishing slowed down this week, as school started with many returning from summer fun.

Our waterways will soon be filled with winter visitors.

Anglers kept their pattern of morning fishing before the rains and winds approached. Even when normal all-day fishing wasn't feasible, catches were great.

Most boats are staying close to shore because of the weather but I have seen many kayakers in the inshore waterways, some with space for one person, others with seats for two. Some kayakers have told me they will never fish from a power boat again. One angler explained to me that once you have paid the initial fee for the kayak, that is it! You can fish all day without worrying about enough gas to get back to shore. Another said, you don't need a trailer, you can launch it by yourself; if you have a pick-up truck, it goes in the bed, or you can put it on top of your car. You can go to work with a kayak and stop on the way home and fish. You can go into small streams, shallows, canals, lagoons, so many spots where there are lots of fish, because boats are unable to go there. Storage and upkeep is simple. Many anglers said it was the best investment of their lifetime. That says a lot for the kayak, but we still have those who fish from canoes. They stand by them as well as the anglers with the kayaks. Paddling your own kayak or canoe might take more muscle than some have, but once you get one, these paddlers assure me you will be



By Jonie Maschek
Member: Florida Outdoor Writers Association

in shape soon, as there is no better way to exercise than fishing and paddling your own kayak or canoe.

The flounder like the current weather and many were caught this week. I saw more flounder catches than any other species. Legal is 12 inches and 10 per person, per day. Many are perplexed on how to fillet this flat fish and don't want their buddies to watch as they attempt it.

Sheepshead catches were great this week both inshore and offshore. Those who have not mastered this fish have lost all of their bait trying. This fish first approaches and gives your bait a nudge, don't jerk your line yet. Count to three, then set your hook, as it comes back to steal your bait. A white meat fish, the sheepshead has good food value but has many bones and sharp needle fins. Legal catch is 12 inches with 15 per person, per day.

I only saw a few redfish catches this week. It is still restricted with one per person, per day. Legal catch should measure not less than 18 inches or more than 27 inches. A redfish is excellent edible fish, especially when baked.

The continuous afternoon rains have brought many fish from the ray family to our waters. Many are enormous and are frightening as they soar up into the air. I didn't see any catches, just a few "Fish Tales."

Remember, the smell of a freshwater breeze blowing in your face will be a memory for days to come. You are the captain of your vessel and this carries a great responsibility. It is up to you to protect all aboard.

Tampa Bay Waves begins 26th year

Unit #55 of the Tampa Bay WAVES, open to women of the military sea services, past and present, begins its 26th year of service in September.

This group functions as a local unit of the national organization known as WAVES National, which was formed in 1987. Currently there are over 100 such units throughout the United States. Their purpose is to support the parent organization and to locate and communicate with former and retired female members of the seas services and to provide assistance and support to local women veterans in need as well as other veterans' organizations whenever possible.

Following a summer hiatus, Tampa Bay WAVES Unit #55 begins its fall term on Saturday, Sept. 14 at a new location: Hawthorne Village, a retirement community located on W. Lumsden Road in Brandon, just west of Kings Avenue on the south side of Lumsden. The group will meet in the assisted living facility, which is No. 859, the first building on the right side of the entrance road, at 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month.

All women who served honorably (including those currently serving) in the U.S. Navy, Navy Nurse Corps, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Maritime Service, or related reserve components, are eligible for membership.

Go and get acquainted with other Sea Services women veterans and retirees. You're sure to enjoy the fellowship and activities that will rekindle memories of your military service days.

For more information, call Jeannette Green, 813-657-9164.



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. Chapel duty at the VA Hospital every Sunday all month, 8:30 a.m.

- Thursday, Aug. 29** - Bar Bingo with Jerry 6 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 30** - Fish & Chips 4:30-7 p.m. Treasure Chest 7:30 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 31** - Steak dinner 4:30-7 p.m. \$12 / person. Music by Rick Bourbon, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 1** - Music by Bert & Sassy, 5 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 2** - Crew Games & free hot dogs, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 3** - Games in Lounge 1-4 p.m. Kitchen opens 4:30 p.m. Bingo, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 5** - VA Hospital 5 p.m. Bar Bingo 6 p.m.

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Experts talk hurricanes at recent EXPO

Diane Kacmarik, Bay News 9 meteorologist, was one of the experts sharing knowledge at the recent Hurricane EXPO hosted by JSA Medical Group. Also participating were South Bay Hospital, Hillsborough County Emergency Management Department, and The Home Depot. Community Emergency Response Team President Bill Barron was the main speaker.

Get help with Medicare costs

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) volunteer counselors from the West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging are available to help Medicare beneficiaries learn if they qualify for additional benefits. If they are eligible, SHINE volunteers can provide application assistance.

If you or someone you know needs help with Medicare costs, call 1-800-96-ELDER or 1-800-963-5337 and speak with a SHINE counselor.

More than 86,500 Medicare beneficiaries in Florida are likely eligible for, but are not enrolled in a program called Extra Help. This program offers qualified beneficiaries assistance with their Part D (prescription drug plan) costs.

In addition, many individuals may qualify for assistance paying their Part B premiums. Many of those who need help the most don't know about these valuable benefits and how SHINE can help.

SHINE provides educational materials and free unbiased insurance counseling to Florida elders, caregivers and family members. Our goal is to help elders understand and receive the health insurance coverage they need through Medicare, Medicaid, Prescription Assistance, Long-Term Care Planning and Insurance and other health care issues.

The program is operated by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the state's 11 Area Agencies on Aging. Locally, it's operated by the West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging. If you'd like more information and/or assistance, call the toll-free Elder Helpline at 1-800-963-5337.

Plan ahead for great entertainment

► **A Night at the Popera:** Saturday, Sept. 28, 7-9 p.m., nightclub setting, tables of 8, BYOB, AND Sunday, Sept. 29, 2:30-4:30 p.m., theater seating. Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., SCC.

Three classically trained voices perform a mix of pop music and opera. \$12/person. Tickets on sale Wednesday, Sept. 4, 9-11 a.m., at Atrium kiosk. For information: 813-642-2001.

► **Buddy Holly/Fats Domino Dance/Show:** Friday, Oct. 25, 7-9 p.m., nightclub setting, tables of 10, BYOB. Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., SCC.

These two legends of rock 'n' roll will astound you with their look, vocals and musical talent. An incredible "live" musical tribute to two of the greatest rock 'n' roll performers of all time. Two leading impersonators in one spectacular show. Tickets on sale Monday, Sept. 23, 9-noon, Atrium kiosk. For information: 813-642-2001.

Coffee Klatch resumes Sept. 17

There is a new time and place for Coffee Klatch, a free group that lets participants share life's challenges with others and put a positive spin on their lives.

The new time is 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.; the new place is 137 Pebble Beach Blvd. South, 2nd floor conference room. Coffee and snacks are provided.

Upcoming meetings, all on Tuesday, are Sept. 17, Oct. 1, Oct. 17, and Oct. 29.

Coffee Klatch is offered by Wendy Burkhard, LCSW, psychotherapist and counselor. For more information, call 813-401-7452.



BONNIE MULLEN PHOTO

From left: Hartzell Stringer, Lois Kimbrell, John Heimbold and Ken Merrill.

Front Porch Pickers entertain at Sun City Senior Living

Members of the Front Porch Pickers visit Sun City Senior Living on Upper Creek Drive on a monthly basis to entertain with their music and the humor of outreach program director John Heimbold.

The Front Porch Pickers also entertain weekly at the Rollins Theater from 2-4 p.m. every Wednesday. Depending on the day, up to 40 Front Porch Pickers play and sing country, blue grass, traditional and gospel music to a welcoming audience that enjoys the pickin' and grinnin' fun.

For more information, contact David Lickfeldt at 813-633-6739 or by email at davidlickfeldt@rocketmail.com.



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Be proactive, not reactive when it comes to your home

By Kevin Kerbow

Innovation, change, technology, these words have become the buzzwords of the 21st century business. Change can be a good thing when the change is necessary and done at a careful and measured pace. However in the mid 1980s a change occurred that the residents of Sun City Center are still feeling the effects of today. A new product was introduced to the plumbing market that at the time was touted as a time and money saver, that product was polybutylene pipe also known as grey pipe. The grey pipe was meant to be a more affordable replacement for the antiquated copper and galvanized pipe that had been used previously. It was only a short time before problems

became apparent.

It is believed that oxidants in the public water supplies, such as chlorine, react with polybutylene piping and acetal fittings causing them to scale and flake and become brittle. Microfractures result, and the basic structural integrity of the system is reduced. Thus, the system becomes weak and may fail without warning causing damage to the building structure and personal property. It is believed that other factors may also contribute to the failure of polybutylene systems, such as improper installation, but it is virtually impossible to detect installation problems throughout an

These inspections could potentially save you thousands in costly and unnecessary repairs.

entire system.

Howie's Sun City Center Plumbing has been involved in replacing and re-piping homes that have the suspect grey pipe for the last 30 YEARS. You can be assured that they will be as quick and noninvasive as possible while in your home. They are the best at what they do and it will show in the finished product.

So you may be asking why replace the pipe if I have never had problems?

In order to sell your home a prospective buyer must be able to insure the new home. Almost all insurance companies are not writing new policies unless a full replacement of the polybutylene pipe has been done.

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

Howie's Sun City Center Plumbing has a beautiful showroom at 139 S. Pebble Beach Blvd., SCC Suite

202. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F. The Showroom is stocked with fixtures from companies like Moen, Delta, Kohler as well as many others. Stop by today and enjoy some coffee and refreshments with our friendly office staff while they talk with you about your next home project.

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



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Lithia campsite closed temporarily

Hillsborough County's work on the electrical and plumbing upgrades at the Lithia Springs Park continue, but have impacted the project timeline. Both camping loops (22 campsites each loop) will be temporarily closed for camping until further notice due to unanticipated delays.

County staff has placed signs to keep park patrons up-to-date regarding construction closures.

Camping is available at the following parks:

- Edward Medard Regional Park, 6140 Edward Medard Parkway in Plant City, 813-757-3802

- E.G. Simmons Regional Park, 2401 19th Ave. NW in Ruskin, 813-671-7655

This project's latest news is available online. For additional information, contact the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department at 813-635-3500.

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.

Monday, Sept. 16 – Blue Plate Special for all Elks and their guests, 5 p.m. \$7 per person. Menu: Meat Loaf with all the trimmings. Only 50 tickets available.

Monday, Sept. 30 – Blue Plate Special for all Elks and their guests, 5 p.m. \$7 per person. Menu: Oven Fried Chicken with all the trimmings. Only 50 tickets available.

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.

You, me and business: Find out what customers need... then provide it

To me, nothing symbolizes frustration quite as much as watching someone try to free their new purchase from its plastic packaging. Nothing short of vice grips and a blow torch will get that stuff off of a new razor, a thumb drive or an economy-sized twofer of vitamins!

No doubt you've wrestled with products that are impossible to pry open and electronic device tags even the clerk at Walmart can't remove. Even hot dogs come in packages of 10 and the buns come in packages of eight. Why do companies do this? Because they're so focused on what is important to them that they don't consider what's important to you.

How do you keep your business from falling into the customer-unfriendly trap? Think about your product or service as if YOU were purchasing it. If you can't do the mental switch, ask someone – or several someones – to do it for you. You need the customer's perspective to make your product work.

You want my business? Before you can sell me anything, you have to know what my needs and wants are. Ask me questions to determine which of your products and services I need. Makeup for oily skin will not work on my dry skin. Likewise, I don't need a massive all-the-bells-and-whistles washing machine for me and Husband. Just give me one that can handle our two loads a week.

It should be easy for me to understand what you sell. You know your products, but I don't. Talk to me in layman's terms so I truly know

what you can do for me. But don't tell me TOO MUCH. Have you ever read a book and then gone to see the movie? Often, the movie was not at all what you expected. The characters don't look at all like you imagined them, nor do the sets resemble what your mind conjured up. If you give me too many details of your product, it won't match what I envision the answer to my needs to be. Let my mind create my own impression and fill in the gaps.

And if purchasing what you are selling takes too much of an effort, I will go elsewhere, even if what I end up with costs more or isn't exactly what I wanted. If it's easy for me to do business with you, I'll stay. Do I have ways to contact you? Will you come to me instead of making me come to you? Is your website user-friendly?

Is it easy for me to use your products? Make sure I have all the tools to use your product. Is some assembly required? You do it. Will I need batteries? Provide them. Does it utilize a clock? Set it. It's not that I'm lazy or can't do these things for myself. But these extra touches will make me a loyal customer for life!

And please make it easy for me to return your products. It happens. If you make this process easy for me, I won't become an unsatisfied customer who quits doing business with you.

Are you doing all this? Fantastic! Then I want to do business with YOU! Now, what do you have that I need...?



By Dana Dittmar,
Executive Director
SCC Chamber of
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Blood drives over Labor Day weekend offer movie vouchers, gift cards

Over the long Labor Day holiday weekend, OneBlood will hold special blood drives at all Tampa Bay Donor Centers, as well as at select Walmart stores and AMC Theatres.

Donors can also participate in the 2013 Outback Summer Campaign. For details see oneblood.org/outback.

Donors will also get a wellness checkup of blood pressure, pulse and iron count, including a cholesterol screening.

For two free vouchers for movie tickets, visit AMC Theatre at 116 Grand Regency Blvd. in Brandon between 2 and 8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 30 or on Saturday, Aug. 31.

For a free \$10 gift card, visit the Gibsonton Walmart at 9205 Gibsonton Dr. between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday or Monday, Sept. 1 or 2. In Brandon, you can visit the Walmart at 11110 Causeway Blvd. between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 1; or the store at 1208 East Brandon Blvd. on Monday, Sept. 2, also between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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"It's the heart—the focal point—of a home, so why not have a kitchen that's beautiful as well as functional?" asked Ted Pollock of Apollo Beach. "Especially since it's the home improvement that returns the most value when you sell."

Pollock, whose Remica Kitchens is the area's oldest kitchen company, has installed "probably more kitchens" in the area than anyone else.

In business since the mid-1990s, the firm offers a wide selection of premium products with higher quality and better prices than the big box stores. "There's no particle board in any of our cabinets and our drawers feature dove-tail joints," Pollock asserted.

"Offering cabinets from 17 different manufacturers, we have a style and price point for almost everyone," he added. In addition, Remica builds custom cabinets and—for the budget minded—does cabinet refacing.

When existing cabinets are sound and owners don't want to change the layout, refacing is a money-saving alternative, advised Pollock. The process involves covering cabinet exteriors with new laminate and new drawer fronts and doors.

"We're the only ones to offer a replacement door covered by a lifetime warranty," he said. The Remica door is a laminate that looks like, but outperforms, wood.

"They can enjoy a new, updated look for about 25-30 percent less than the cost of new cabinets.

The firm offers countertops in a variety of materials—including a large selection of granite-- to compliment the new kitchen's look.

If your kitchen isn't giving you the satisfaction you're looking for, Call Ted Pollock of Remica Kitchens at 813-641-7711 for a free consultation. Mention this story and ad for a \$500 discount on new cabinets.

DEVCON SECURITY PROTECTS YOUR HOME & FAMILY FROM FIRE, THEFT...\$1 A DAY

Just one day after a \$6,000 break in and burglary at his home, the schoolteacher called John Severns to arrange a long postponed alarm system installation.

The Devcon Security representative has heard that story many times during his 28 years with the company. "Unfortunately," he said, "it seems to be human nature. People believe 'it won't happen to me,' and so put off getting an alarm until it's too late.

"The cost of a new system pales in comparison with a loss like that school teacher's. In addition, a burglary inflicts an emotional toll that an alarm system can prevent."

Devcon has done business in the area for 40 years. It offers residential systems starting at \$99 installation with a \$24.99 monthly service fee that covers monitoring by a professionally staffed 5-diamond central station, ensuring quick response, usually less than 20 seconds.

Another home system relies on the cell phone network, eliminating the need for a landline. Users can monitor and control their systems remotely via mobile apps and the Internet. It's \$199 to install and \$30.99 a month to monitor.

Optional upgrades give these systems smoke/fire detection and video surveillance capabilities.

Homeowners with systems installed by others can turn to Devcon for monitoring of systems installed by others.

To protect your home and family for about a dollar a day, call John Severns of Devcon at 941-650-5356 for a security consultation.

LOCAL ELECTRICIAN: OLD ELECTRICAL PANEL COULD DESTROY YOUR HOUSE

Many local homeowners may not know they have a dangerous condition that should be fixed as soon as possible, warned electrician Shane Penny, a partner in Ruskin-based Pullara's Electric.

Homes with Sylvania or Zinsco main power-distribution panels made and installed during the 1970's are at risk for serious, virtually unstoppable fires, due to design flaws.

"These flaws may cause internal parts to fuse, and prevent the panels from performing their intended function—disconnecting a defective circuit from the power source in the event of a malfunction."

Penny, who's been an electrician for 17 years, said that it's particularly urgent to replace these devices in homes for sale. "Due to the high probability of failure, insurance companies won't issue policies for homes where inspectors discover them. Without insurance, buyers won't be able to get a mortgage and sellers won't be able to sell."

Pullara's Electric will replace these panels in most homes for a package price of \$950, considerably cheaper than other local electrical firms, according to Penny.

The firm also installs ceiling fans and lights, as well as running new circuits and updating appliance circuits to the new 4-wire standard.

It also offers service calls with no overtime or after-hours surcharge. "It's the same whether we come at noon or 4 a.m.," Penny said.

To find out if your home has the affected electrical panel, arrange an update of your wiring or solve an electrical problem, call Shane Penny of Pullara's Electric at 813-760-4925.

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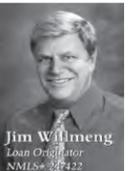
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SPECIAL: First month's dispensing FEE WAIVED with this ad.

Observations: When a backpack could mean the world

The number of children in line clearly exceeded the number of backpacks that St. Vincent de Paul in Ruskin had to give away. They were just, empty backpacks, 100 of them in all, with the giveaway scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. By 9 a.m., people were already lining up at the gate. By 10 a.m., most of the backpacks were already gone.

I am a photojournalist. I enjoy visually documenting life and displaying it on the pages of the newspaper. At that event, the most compelling and impactful (and painful) image would have been the face of the child after the last kid to get a backpack. A face of disappointment, sadness and, perhaps, even resignation. Those kids were far too young to be resigned about anything but the face of that child — the one that was told there were no more backpacks to give — would have possibly have brought about some help.

But I couldn't do it. I couldn't be there to see that child. I felt as though a balloon were growing in my chest and rather than ask one of the volunteers to call an ambulance, I left, driving away from the long line of people, with even more people showing up. It was just a few minutes after 10 a.m. — the time the event was supposed to start — and somewhere in that crowd was the child that would be told, "I'm sorry, there are no more backpacks left."

I didn't know it at the time but the good people at St. Vincent de

Paul had the situation covered. Yes, they ran out of backpacks and immediately they began issuing rain checks to those who did not get one. Beyond the 100 backpacks they gave away that morning, there were another 112 rain checks given, with the additional backpacks procured by the weekend. They weren't about to let a child go without if there was something they could do about it.

It's all in vogue these days to blame the poor for being poor. I'm sorry, that's just not reality anymore, even if it ever was. Sure the economy is improving and jobs are coming back but they aren't the same jobs that disappeared in the Great Recession. The new jobs tend to be low-paying service jobs. There is currently no state in the nation where a family can secure housing and food and survive on minimum wage — and yet, even minimum wage is under attack.

I grew up in the 1960s and 70s and most of the kids I knew were just like me. We weren't rich but we weren't desperately poor, either. I never had to worry about missing a meal. Never. There were a handful of kids from what we thought were rich families and a larger handful from truly poor families. We didn't have a lot, particularly in comparison to today, but we had what we needed and a little bit more. As the youngest of four children, I benefited the most as my parent's

income kept increasing.

For many people, incomes aren't increasing anymore. In fact, on average and accounting for the minimal inflation of the past years, they are decreasing. For anyone well fed, I'm not sure that it is entirely attractive to complain about social safety nets and cheer on the partisan games of cutting nutrition programs with your mouth full. People, we're talking about five or ten dollar backpacks for children being an expense that is simply too much to afford. Something is wrong and getting wronger.

Personal responsibility is all fine and dandy and makes for a good phrase to shout from the podiums of those who have regular good meals, but how do you force that overnight without impacting innocent children? They absolutely cannot understand the political divisiveness that is consuming this nation's soul. They cannot begin to understand the calls for cuts in food assistance programs and even school lunch programs. They won't learn anything from that but hunger. Is that really what we want for this nation? If we are still the land of the brave, we, and our elected leaders, should be brave enough to tackle such problems. Instead, we sweep them under the rug, knowing full well the poor are sometimes unfortunately seen but rarely heard. All the better for the rest of us, right?

Yes, I'm whining now but I am including myself in my own complaints. I don't do nearly enough to help those in need. But I know full well a lot of you out there do help, and to



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

In an era and culture of smartphones, electronic games and consumption, I was shown that an inexpensive, simple backpack could mean the world to a child in need.

a great degree. No, unlimited handouts aren't the answer and, in fact, I believe they contribute (sometimes greatly) to the problem, but neither are the heartless, soulless political games played in Washington and Tallahassee that immediately serves to cut aid to those who need it most. This is not a change that can happen instantly without some serious suffering — it must be gradual and it must be done with compassion and the recognition that not all poor people are to blame for being poor. Yet those politicians advocating for such things do so with their mouths full of food and wallets full of cash. To them it perhaps makes some sense as we have shown ourselves to not be the most patient generation. "Gradual" doesn't work well for a

generation who screams, "Hurry up!" at the microwave oven. I am grateful to St. Vincent de Paul and the numerous other area organizations that are dedicated to helping people in need. I am grateful to the many of you who set the example of helping others, often without bringing attention to yourselves. I learned something that week, watching children pick from the dwindling supply of backpacks. I will try harder to follow your example. I will try harder to help those who need it.

The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store is located on Third Street, directly behind St. Anne's Catholic Church in Ruskin. For more information, visit www.svdpruskin.org.

Classified ads begin on page 24

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| Thu 29: | SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* | 9:30 to 10:30 am | *MSROM: Muscular Strength & Range of Movement Classes |
| Fri 30: | SALSA DANCING SLOW-FLOW-YOGA NO CLASSES GENTLE-CHAIR-YOGA NO CLASSES | 10 to 11 am UNTIL SEPT 16 UNTIL SEPT 16 | |
| SEPTEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS | | | |
| Mon 02: | CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY | CLOSED | Please check your insurance coverage for SILVER Sneakers class participation eligibility. |
| Tue 03: | SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* | 11 am to Noon | |
| Wed 04: | LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl) | 11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1:15 pm | Kidney SmartSM is a series of classes offered through DaVita Dialysis on Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). The program is free and open to the community. For more information: www.davita.com , click on Kidney Smart tab. Next class is: September 24 |
| Thu 05: | SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* | 9:30 to 10:30 am | |
| Fri 06: | SALSA DANCING SLOW-FLOW-YOGA NO CLASSES GENTLE-CHAIR-YOGA NO CLASSES | 10 to 11 am UNTIL SEPT 16 UNTIL SEPT 16 | |
| Mon 09: | FOXTROT BALLROOM DANCE (COUPLES ONLY) SLOW-FLOW-YOGA NO CLASSES GENTLE-CHAIR-YOGA NO CLASSES | 11 am to Noon UNTIL SEPT 16 UNTIL SEPT 16 | |
| Tue 10: | SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* | 11 am to Noon | |
| Wed 11: | LINE DANCING*: Beginners Advanced Class cancelled today only | 11 am to Noon CANCELLED | OUR BBQ BASH IS COMING! September 19, 4 to 7 pm Outside in our parking lot! Food, music, prizes, and much more! |
| Thu 12: | SilverSneakers® (MSROM)* | 9:30 to 10:30 am | |
| Fri 13: | SALSA DANCING SLOW-FLOW-YOGA NO CLASSES GENTLE-CHAIR-YOGA NO CLASSES | 10 to 11 am UNTIL SEPT 16 UNTIL SEPT 16 | |

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PHOTO BY DAVID BAKER

Where the eagles fly: Riverview

Riverview resident David Baker was walking his dogs on Riverlachen Way when he looked up into a neighbor's tree and saw the living symbol of America: a Bald Eagle, the national bird. Bald Eagles were once nearly eradicated in the United States but have since made an astounding recovery. The majestic birds were removed from the endangered species list in 2007. Bald Eagles may now be found in all of the lower 48 states and Alaska and are frequently seen in Florida. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission is responsible for the management of the birds in the Sunshine State and offers a nest locator website for those interested in seeing them. For more information, visit www.tinyurl.com/observer-eagle.



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SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- WED., SEPT. 4 • 10-11 a.m.** • NOW EVERY WEDNESDAY! **Therapeutic Tai Chi** open to the public! Our therapists have advanced training in therapeutic Tai Chi for Seniors and will provide guidance in this healthy exercise. Tai Chi has been proven to increase strength and balance!
- THURS., SEPT. 5 • 3-4 p.m.** • **Aging Gracefully Support Group.** Support group for individuals who are learning to live with the effects of aging in a graceful, healthy manner. Facilitated by Kay Coburn Dyer, Geriatric Care Manager.
- TUES., SEPT. 10 • 1:30-3:30 p.m.** • **"Better Breathers" Support Group, C.O.P.D.** Lorrie Quistad, RRT facilitates this group. The first half of each meeting is education for those learning to live with COPD. The second half is Physical therapists guiding exercises to assist in recovery.
- WED., SEPT. 11 • 10-11 a.m.** • **"Women & Wealth" Monthly Series.** Many women spend so much time caring for others they forget to make themselves a priority. A strategy designed to achieve your goals begins with an evaluation of what is most important to you. This seminar gives you actionable strategies for cash management, saving and investing that can help you help yourself as well as those you love. 2nd Wed. of the month. Presented by The Equis Group at Morgan Stanley ©2012 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC Member SIPC.
- WED., SEPT. 11 • 2:30-4 p.m.** • **Diabetes Support Group.** Join Susan L Parker- Heitel, RN, Certified Diabetic Educator from Nurse on Call Home Health Care will facilitate this support group "Everyday Basics of Diabetic Care."
- THURS., SEPT. 12 • 10-11 a.m.** • **Reassessing Risk in Your Portfolio.** How much risk are you comfortable with? Has your risk tolerance changed? This workshop will help you reassess your level of risk tolerance, identify risk areas in your portfolio, and learn how to manage risk using diversification strategies. We'll show you Schwab's tools and resources that can help you stick to your plan. Sponsored by Charles Schwab. To register, please call Ann Mackay 813-636-1311 or email ann.mackay@schwab.com
- THURS., SEPT. 12 • 1-2 p.m.** • **Neuropathy Support Group** at the Community Association in the Caper Room on N. Pebble Beach. Are you suffering from pain and numbness in your extremities? Elissa Deusner, DPT will facilitate. This month's speaker will be Jennifer Lenoir, COTA a certified aquatic therapist. She will discuss the benefits of aquatic therapy. For more information, call Debbie Caneen at Sun Towers 813-892-2990.
- THURS., SEPT. 12 • 2:30-4 p.m.** • **Mental Wellness Support Group** facilitated by Edmond Dubreuil MSW, RCSWI mental health professional. Supported by: South Shore Coalition on Mental Health & Aging & United Methodist Church of SCC.

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The Observer News office will be **closed Monday, Sept. 2** in observance of **Labor Day**
Advertising and press release deadlines will advance as follows:

Classified ads..... 4 p.m., Fri., Aug. 30
Display ads..... 11 a.m., Fri., Aug. 30
BTD..... 11 a.m., Fri., Aug.30
News4 p.m., Thurs., Aug. 29

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



Horsin' around

► Continued from page 1

Club and she is also president of the Friends of the Little Manatee River State Park in Wimauma, Byron, and vice president from "Friends," Judy Everidge, also helped present, transport, and watch over the horses and coordinate the event.

During the presentation, Simmons handed out large cards with numbers printed on them for residents to hold up for Aces to see.

Then Moore would ask Aces what the card said, and Aces would paw the ground the right amount of times.

After that a more difficult skill was shown. Two cards were held up at one time and the horse was asked the sum of them.

Again, the totals were all correct.

Aces later "hugged" residents with her neck and bowed on cue.

After this, Moore showed the group Lucky, an 8-year-old American Quarter horse, who she has had just a few years, and residents were given a chance to ask questions about horses, and Moore's life with them.

She explained that she rode in parades locally and around the state, with the next ones scheduled in Lakeland and Brooksville.

When she rides, she dresses in American Indian clothing, and wears an original hand-made headdress that reaches clear to the ground.

Moore said she has always loved horses.

"When I got my first job at 18, the first thing I bought was a car and the next thing I got was a horse," she said. "I grew up in

Palm River, when it was very rural, and a neighbor had horses so I was always around them when I was a child," she said.

"When I met my husband, I got him a horse too and we ride together."

The two are Florida natives, and often use their horses for the enjoyment of groups as they did in Sun City Center Aug. 14.



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

Residents held up numbers and Aces stomped the numbers using his right front foot. Then two numbers were added together and the horse counted out the total.



While watching the horses perform many talked about memories they had from childhood or other times they had owned or ridden horses.



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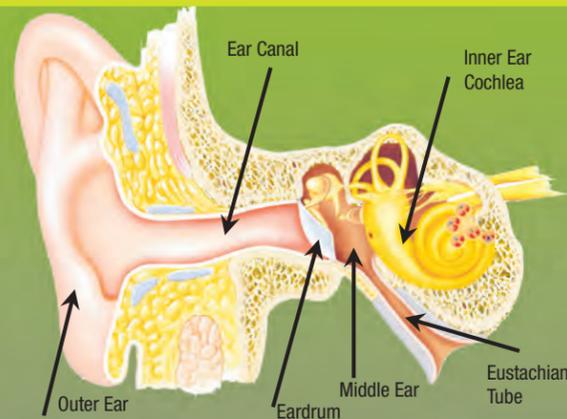
When sound waves reach the ear, they are gathered by the funnel-shaped outer ear and channeled into the middle ear. Sometimes hearing loss can be easily and quickly corrected by clearing blockage that can occur from wax build up. Years of using q-tips to clean your ears can embed layers of wax so tightly that it affects your ability to hear clearly. That's why the first part of your ear exam will be with an otoscope to determine if there is any blockage that can open up your ear canal and allow you to enjoy the beauty of unmuted sound again.

• The Middle Ear

At the entrance to the middle ear, sound waves hit the eardrum. A damaged eardrum can not only be painful, but it can muffle natural sounds and make it extremely difficult to hear clearly. If you're experiencing hearing loss, it's important to find out if it is a correctable condition involving the middle ear.

• The Inner Ear

Sound vibrations travel through the middle ear and into the fluid filled inner ear where they are converted into signals that are sent to your brain. Damage to the inner ear can lead to deafness, so it's vital to make sure your inner ear is functioning properly. Problems with the inner ear often require surgery or medication. If the damage is irreparable, you'll want to ask about the new cochlea implants that can help restore your ability to hear again. There is also new scientific and medical research with stem cell transplants that can regrow damaged inner ear hair follicles (known as cilia) that send electronic signals to your brain allowing you to translate sounds into language. Researchers at Stanford University say that they are 5-10 years away from a breakthrough that could possibly correct human deafness.



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Fall events at South Bay Church

The women's ministry at South Bay Church, Riverview, has chosen *A Woman's Heart God's Dwelling Place* by Beth Moore for its fall study which will begin Tuesday, Sept. 10.

A Woman's Heart God's Dwelling Place (updated edition) is a 10-week study. The two hour classes will be offered at 9:15 a.m. and again at 6:45 p.m. every Tuesday. Workbook is \$16. Information and registration is available in the church lobby or by email to faith@southbay.cc

The men's ministry began their study of the popular book *Not a Fan* by Kyle Idleman two weeks ago, but feel free to drop in at any point. The men meet every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. Join them as they take a deeper look at what it means to be a completely, committed, follower of Jesus. For more information contact Joe Dietrich at Jodtrik@aol.com.

Both studies are open to all men and women in the area. Childcare is available upon registration for a \$5 donation per family, per week.

Great Commandment Ministries workshop

Led by Dr. David Ferguson, this one-day workshop will be held Saturday, Sept. 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This workshop is open to everyone in the area, and is especially aimed at ministry leaders.

Great Commandment ministries teaches how to love God and our neighbors through deepening our intimacy with Him and others in all relationships including our family, church, marriage, friendships and community.

Seating and childcare is limited. The cost is \$30 per person, or \$50 per couple which includes lunch and a workbook. Childcare is provided with a donation and reservation for infants through fifth grade. Register by calling South Bay Church at 813-677-0721 or stop by the church at 13498 U.S. 301 South (one block south of Big Bend Road) Riverview.

Karaoke for the Kure event is Aug. 31

Unleash your inner rock star! Local pediatric cancer non-profit Because of Ezra (BoE) hosts its Second Annual Karaoke for the Kure Saturday, Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. at The Ritz in Ybor City. Guests will have the opportunity to sing their favorite songs with the accompaniment of Rockkaraoke, a live music jam-band. For the shy attendees, there will also be the chance to bid on other guests to sing the song of the bidders' choice.

Last year at the inaugural Kara-

oke for the Kure in Beverly Hills, Calif., BoE raised \$110,000 toward research and clinical trials devoted to children suffering from solid-mass cancers like Neuroblastoma.

This year there are to be two events, one in Hollywood, and one in BoE's hometown of Tampa. With \$75 tickets, guests will enjoy open bar and great music — though organizers can't vouch for all the vocals.

Because of Ezra is a nonprofit organization that raises awareness

and funding to combat pediatric solid mass cancers. It is named in honor of the son of the organization's founders Kyle and Robyn Matthews, who was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma at the age of 13 months and died after tumor-removal and stem cell transplants. His parents now fight so that the thousands of kids who live with this cancer — that has an under-30 percent survival rate — stand a fighting chance.

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Led by experienced psychotherapists, the Living Life Fully support group meets every Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m. at Homewood Residence, 3910 Galen Court, just off Upper Creek Drive.

Designed to help participants rid themselves of depression, anxiety, fears, frustrations, worries or other of life's challenges, the support group offers relief through sharing and through formulating positive plans of action.

All are welcome in complete confidence and free of charge. No appointment is necessary.

The facilitators are Frank Koebrich, MA (813-642-0773) and Wendy Burkhard, LCSW (813-401-7452).

The support group is sponsored by the South Shore Coalition for Mental Health and Aging.



Be sure to search our classified section starting on **page 24**

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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.



Huey

Huey is approximately four years old. He is a friendly, full-size boy and enjoys interacting with the volunteers. He was way up on the cat tree and we were able to coax him down with a few treats for his pic. But he can be friendly or coy as the case may be and as his mood strikes. Huey is neutered and current on his shots. As part of his adoption he will be microchipped.

DOB: Feb. 2, 2009.



Ernie

Ernie is an adorable Hound mix puppy. He came into the shelter with his brother Bert. Both boys love each other and the attention they are getting from the volunteers. They are both very playful and curious puppies but Ernie is the more adventurous one. Ernie and Bert's favorite toys are rope toys and tennis balls. When back in their kennels, you will typically find them cuddled up to one another. As part of Ernie's adoption, he will be neutered, microchipped, and brought current on his shots.

DOB: June 2, 2013.

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SouthShore Regional Library

Adult program/event highlights

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

Windows Movie Maker - Thursday, Aug. 29 at 12:30 p.m.

Introduction to Microsoft Movie Maker. Learn how to create, edit and save a video. Learn the Windows Movie Maker layout. Import pictures, video, and audio. Arrange scenes and images on the storyboard. Save as a project or movie. Using Microsoft Movie Maker, learn to add credits, video effects and transitions to a video. Adding credits and narrations. Apply video effects. Apply video transitions. Limit: 20.

Mouse and Keyboard - Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 12:30 p.m.

This is a beginning level course for adults. 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. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

eBooks for Kindle and Kindle Apps - Wednesday, Sept. 4 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, Sept. 4 at 1 p.m.

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

SouthShore Needle People - Wednesday, Sept. 4 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!

Master Gardener: 9 Steps to a Florida Yard - Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 7 p.m.

For adults. Master gardener Lynn Barber will discuss the nine principles of a Florida yard and ways residents can implement these principles in their home landscape. Presented in partnership with Hillsborough County Extension Service.

Introduction to Android - Thursday, Sept. 5 at 12:30 p.m.

An introduction to the Android operating system frequently used on smartphones and tablets. Limit: 20.

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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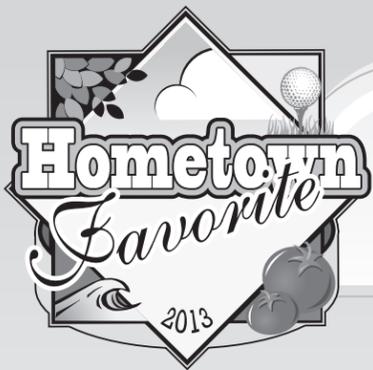


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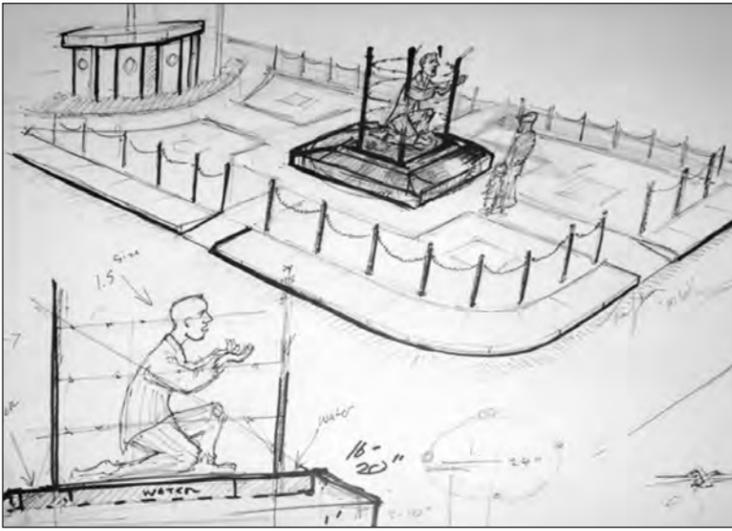
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An artist's rendition of the new POW/MIA Memorial. Groundbreaking ceremonies will take place following POW/MIA Remembrance Day events.

POW/MIA Remembrance Day is Sept. 13

The Annual POW/MIA Remembrance Day ceremony will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 13 at Veterans Memorial Park and Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins Veterans Museum. The park is at 3602 U.S. Hwy. 301 N in Tampa, just south of the Fairgrounds.

The event is sponsored by the Veterans Council of Hillsborough County, Hillsborough County Government, and the Veterans Museum & Parks Committee.

The colors will be presented by Riverview High School JROTC, followed by the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Veterans Council chaplain Mary Ellen Harlan will conduct the invocation, followed by the POW/MIA Missing Man ceremony conducted by Rolling Thunder, chapter 11, of Tampa. Jim Moyer will present Honor, Release, Return, Inc. and The Ride Home, which addresses the lack of accountability of prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Keynote speaker is former Korean War POW Sgt. Bill Allen, USA.

Gold Star families will place a memorial wreath, followed by a rifle salute and TAPS.

A ground-breaking ceremony for the future site of the POW/MIA Memorial will take place at the conclusion of the ceremony.

For more information, contact Walt Raysick at 813-653-4924.

Art instructor's exhibit opens at SouthShore Library

An opening reception for the Art Instructor's Exhibit at the Crawford Gallery in SouthShore Regional Library will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday Sept. 12 at the Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way in Ruskin.

The following art instructors will have their work on display: Phyllis Alexandroff, Laurie Burhop, Arthur Dillard, Brenda Eastep, Tim Gibbons, Susan Hess, Nicole Lamothe, Bruce Marsh, Patsy Monk, Melissa Miller-Nece, Michael Parker, Margit Redlawsk, Diane Simone, Anne Walker and Cory Wright.

Light refreshments will be available in the Crawford Reference Room.

The show runs from Sept. 5 through Oct. 30.

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Area Obituaries



Arnold James Akerley

Arnold James Akerley, 78, of Sun City Center, Florida and North Hampton, New Hampshire passed away quietly on August 17, 2013, after a sudden and brief battle with cancer. Arn is survived by his loving wife and best friend of 47 years, Dolores (Dee) Akerley, and his four children: Brian J. Akerley and his wife, Sandy Wong; Christopher A. Akerley; Katherine A. Akerley and her husband, Ronald Beirouti; and Elizabeth T. Gallagher and her husband, Jon Gallagher. He also leaves behind two cherished grandchildren: Emily Marie Budrys and Lillianne Akerley Beirouti.

Arnold was born in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania on February 13, 1935. He spent most of his childhood in Farmington, Maine, close to his favorite ski hill, Sugarloaf, where he later taught skiing. Arnold married Dolores Lamontagne on April 22, 1966, and they had four children together. A graduate of Boston University, Arn also served in the U.S. Army as a chaplain's assistant in Portier, France. He went on to work in sales, his last position being vice-president of sales and marketing at Kendall-Polyken. He retired at 55, kicking off 20 years of travel, reading and family time.

Arn's calm and easygoing demeanor made it easy for him to make friends. Always up for an engaging discussion or tales from American history, Arnold had a curiosity that seemed insatiable. His patience, kindness and easy laugh will be missed by many.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be

sent in Arnold's memory to the Hyder Family Hospice, 285 County Farm Rd., Dover, NH 03820, which provided gentle, attentive care and comfort in his last days. For more information, please call Ellie Akerley at 435-659-4324.



Kenneth C. Schiffert

Kenneth C. Schiffert, age 92, of Sun City Center passed away on August 20, 2013 to be with the Lord and his wife Jean, who pre-deceased him in 2006. He is survived by sons Timothy (Paula) and Christopher (Karen), five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

He learned the machinist trade at Bethlehem Steel Company in Bethlehem, PA, and retired after 42 years. At the Bethlehem Steelworkers Memorial, a brick commemorating his years of service and position as Order Control Supervisor of Plant and Corporation Maintenance remains with his name engraved. He had been a member of the Bethlehem Area Chamber of Commerce and enjoyed his role as superintendent of St. Thomas Sunday school during his lifetime.

He spent two years at Lehigh University Civil Engineering Lab, as well as two years in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific arena. Interestingly, he came to live on Granville Lane in Sun City Center, and served on the USS Granville during WWII.

Interment will be at a later date in Pennsylvania.

Golf tournament for UMC Missions set for Nov. 9

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center seeks golfers and sponsors for its 9th Annual UMC Mission Golf Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 9 at the Riverside Golf Club located at 1 Pier Dr. in Ruskin.

This year's mission is a trip to the remote Amazon region of Peru to build a church and to lead Bible studies in July 2014. All monies raised at the event will go to the Peru trip.

The par-70 regulation course is one of the nicest in the area, and the day will begin with a chipping and putting contest at noon with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Ladies, men and mixed foursomes are welcome to play in this scramble with captain's choice (best ball chosen after all 4 players have hit each shot). Mulligans will also be available. Prizes will be awarded to all winners, and there will be several door prizes.

A full course dinner and golf cart are included in the \$50 donation. Additional diners are welcome to join the golfers after the game for \$15 each.

Churches in the area are encouraged to bring a foursome representing their church that will compete for a rotating church trophy. SCCUMC golf tournaments are always a relaxed and friendly way to spend an afternoon and evening — even for those who only golf a few times a year!

The Mission Team is also looking for corporate and individual sponsors for the event.

Registration flyers and sponsorship opportunity flyers are available in the church office during the weekdays and before and after worship services on Sunday mornings.

For more information about this and other events and activities at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, contact Jeff Jordan, Director of Worship Arts, at 813-634-2539.

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

Prince of Peace Dessert Card Party adds a light lunch

The Council of Catholic Women of SCC has added a light lunch to the Dessert Card Party scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 12.

If you enjoy playing cards or any board game, go to an afternoon of fun, Make up your own table in advance. Or go, join a table and make some new friends.

The group furnishes cards, pencils and tallies. And this month, in addition to the usual assortment of desserts, table and door prizes, they will have a light lunch.

The Dessert Card Party is scheduled for the second Thursday of the month at Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Conesa Center, 702 Valley Forge Blvd. in Sun City Center.

The event runs from noon to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 813-633-2460.

Area Places of Worship

Ruskin United Methodist Church

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

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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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Wednesday (all ages) 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Samuel (Sam) A. Roach, Pastor

Beth Shalom's youth take part in sounding the Shofar on the Jewish New Year

In Brandon, Congregation Beth Shalom's youngest members will take part in sounding the shofar (ram's horn) on Rosh Hashanah morning. Children as young as the fourth grade will audition for the honor of sounding the ancient instrument on Judaism's holy holiday.



the shofar for the entire holiday service, is conducted by a Ba'al Tekiah. The Ba'al Tekiah at Beth Shalom is Joel Edelson, who has been sounding the shofar on Rosh Hashanah at the synagogue since 1993.

The shofar is an instrument made from the horn of a ram, and in ancient Israel was used to announce the new moon and call people together. Today, it is sounded in synagogues on Rosh Hashanah morning as a call to repentance.

The children will each use their individual shofar to join in with the last, long shofar blast of the morning known in Hebrew as tekiyah gedolah.

Sounding the shofar is not easy as the different shofarot (plural of shofar) have different sounds and require an ability to consistently blow a long, strong sound.

The children will audition this year for Beth Shalom Rabbi Betsy Torop, and if they can get a good sound, she will send them home with a shofar to practice.

"The shofar is the essential symbol of the New Year and the sounding of shofar is the highlight of the worship service," said Rabbi Torop, "For young people to be part of this key experience is not only exciting for them, but inspirational for our entire community gathered at this sacred occasion."

The honor of leading the children in this special event, and sounding

Edelson first picked up a shofar in 1988, and immediately was able to produce its special sound. "I am quite amazed that I am able to produce the sound that I do, and I love watching the faces of the congregation as they hear the shofar blasts," said Mr. Edelson, "It is a very powerful moment of the holiday for everyone, and I'm glad to be able to be a part of it."

Rosh Hashanah marks the start of the New Year on the Jewish calendar, and is part of the High Holy Days. Jews attend synagogue to hear special prayers, and hear the sound of the shofar which is considered a commandment.

This year Rosh Hashanah begins the evening of Sept. 4 and will last for two days.

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 Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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

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 8:15 a.m. Sanctuary (Communion Service)
 9:15 a.m. New Life Enrichment Center (Contemporary)
 10:55 a.m. Sanctuary (Traditional with Choir & Bells)
 11:00 a.m. Hispanic Worship
 4:00 p.m. Hispanic Worship
 Senior Pastor: **Dr. Warren Langer**
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| | |
|---|--|
| "Getting to Know You" (Donuts & Coffee).... 9:00 a.m. | Sunday Evening Service..... 6:00 p.m. |
| Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. | Wednesday Evening Service..... 7:00 p.m. |
| Sunday Morning Worship..... 10:55 a.m. | Thursday Morning Prayer..... 10:00 a.m. |

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| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday School..... | 9:45 a.m. |
| Morning Worship..... | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. |
| Evening Service..... | 6:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday Night Service..... | 7:00 p.m. |
| Awana..... | 7:00 p.m. |

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RUSKIN

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9:00 AM—Contemporary
Sunday School—Youth Bible Study
Fellowship hour after the service

Fr. Lee Miller
Priest

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8:00 AM—Rite I — 11:00 AM—Rite II
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| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday Service..... | 10:00 a.m. |
| Sunday School..... | 10:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday Service..... | 5:00 p.m. |
| Reading Room..... | Wednesday 4 to 4:45 p.m. |

All Are Welcome

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Sunday Services

Traditional Service 9:00 a.m.

Contemporary Service 11:00 a.m.

Prayers with anointing for healing and wholeness during worship the second Sunday of every month.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mark E. Salmon

Meet friends in Fellowship Hall after each Service.
Refreshments served.

1239 Del Webb Blvd. West
Sun City Center, FL 33573
Church is Handicap accessible

Phone: 813-634-1252
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106 11th Ave. NE
Ruskin
813-645-1714
SaintAnneRuskin.org

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

☞ MASSES ☞

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

Northside Baptist hosts Family Fun Day

Northside Baptist Church in Ruskin will host Family Fun Day on Saturday, Sept. 14 at 4 p.m.

Attendees should expect fun, excitement, and organized mass chaos! This will include Ultimate Frisbee, soccer, football and other field games. The afternoon of games and excitement will end with a picnic-style cookout.

Northside Baptist is located at 1301 N US Hwy. 41 in Ruskin. For more information, call the church office at 813-645-1121.

Gospel music convention this weekend

The Florida Gospel Music Association celebrates its 24th Annual Convention from Friday, Aug. 30 through Sunday, Sept. 1 at the Wimauma Convention Center. Doors open nightly at 5 p.m., with concerts starting at 6:30 p.m. The cost is a \$5 donation plus a love offering. For information: 813-634-7537 or 407-788-6556.



Yvonne Ponsor to speak at Community Church College kick-off open house

The Community Church College will have a "kick-off" Open House to introduce the innovative classes being offered this Fall Semester.

The event will take place at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10 in the United Community Church's Great Hall, 1501 La Jolla Ave. in

Sun City Center. Refreshments will be served.

This event is open to the public and will feature a brief talk by Dean Emeritus Yvonne Ponsor. Dr. Ponsor served as Dean of the College for 15 years and is still teaching at Freedom Plaza, where she and her husband Ward now reside.

She has seen a few changes in her five-year absence, but most of the programs she put into place continue to serve the public well. After hearing about the importance of the continuation of learning, the guests will have the opportunity to visit with some of the instructors, who will be available to answer any questions regarding their courses.

Have you heard of Zentangle? What do you know about arranging flowers, or beautifying your home, or Ancient Roman History, or health care?

They will also offer a free Diabetes Management class, given by a registered dietician from the Hillsborough County Department of Health.

No exams, and no previous education needed — for \$25 per course you can't go wrong.



Linnea Barbery Norsworthy St. Andrew welcomes new organist

Members of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb West, Sun City Center welcomed Linnea Barbery Norsworthy, their new organist, at the 9 a.m. traditional service on Aug. 18.

Her musical background, both on the organ and the piano, is very impressive. Linnea holds a BA degree in music from the University of South Florida and Master of Music from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. She has served as Adjunct Instructor of Music at Mesa Community College in Arizona; at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania; at the University of South Florida; and at the University of New Hampshire.

Visitors are welcome to join members of St. Andrew to enjoy the beautiful music of organist Linnea Norsworthy and new Choir Director Raymond Ocampo each Sunday at the 9 a.m. traditional service.

Alafia holds fall volunteer luncheon

The Alafia Ministerial Association is holding its fall volunteer luncheon on Thursday, Sept. 19 at 12:30 p.m. at Beef O'Brady's 13326 Lincoln Rd. in Riverview.

The presentation will deal with the upcoming "Community Unity under God" event scheduled for November 2015. All are invited.

Beth Israel, The Jewish Congregation of Sun City Center

1115 Del Webb Blvd. • P.O. Box 5203 • Sun City Center, FL

HIGH HOLY DAY SCHEDULE:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>ROSH HASHANAH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erev Rosh Hashanah, Wed., Sept. 4 Services will start at 7:30 p.m. • Day 1 of Rosh Hashanah, Thurs., Sept. 5 Services will start at 10 a.m. Tashlich Service 1:30 p.m. Evening Service 7:30 p.m. • Day 2 of Rosh Hashanah, Friday, Sept. 6 Services will start at 10 a.m. | | <p>YOM KIPPUR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erev Tom Kippur / Kol Nidre, Fri., Sept. 13 Services will start at 7:30 p.m. • Yom Kippur Day, Sat., Sept. 14 Morning Services start at 10 a.m. Afternoon Services start at 3 p.m. |
|---|--|--|

Rabbi Carla Freedman and Cantor Sam Isaak will officiate these services.

Tickets for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur:

All members, spouses, parents, children and their spouses and grandchildren and their spouses — there will be no charge.

Call or email Fred Levine for additional tickets (813) 672-7656 • flevine@tampabay.rr.com

For extended family members: \$50 each for each of the two Holidays.
Community members: \$100 each for each of the two Holidays.
Members of the military and college students are welcome at no charge.

The Observer News • The SCC Observer • The Current

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Ruskin, FL 33870



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105 PERSONAL

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300

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

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Garage sale. Saturday August 31st. 8am-3pm. 8417 SR 674. Men's tools, women's clothing, antique glassware, small appliances, vacuum cleaner, 50" screen TV, & much more.

4" deep, King memory foam mattress pad. \$175, obo. Like new. (2) matching wing back chairs \$125 each, chaise lounge \$100. 813-634-2068

Moving sale. 1506 & 1507 Cloister Dr., SCC. 8/30 & 8/31. 8am-1pm. (Variety) furniture, household items & much much more.

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Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
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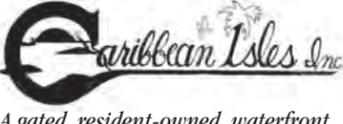
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3/2 MOBILE HOME ON A LARGE CORNER LOT. A/C fairly new, new electric pole and service, screened patio, large shop + detached building. Reflective roof makes for lower electric bills. Lot is 92x130. Nicely landscaped. **\$69,000 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

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Advertising and press release deadlines will advance as follows:
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